

SUNlite

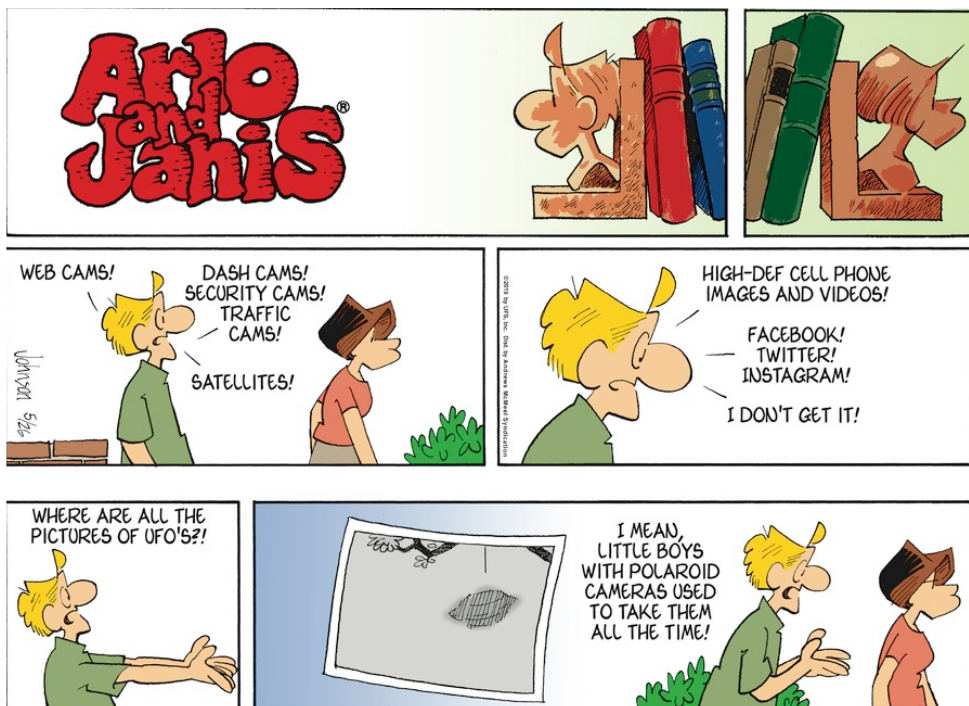
Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

My UFOlogical motto is, Consider everything, believe nothing.

James Moseley

Volume 11 Number 4

July-August 2019



Trust is something that needs to be earned

Cover: Photograph of geosynchronous satellites that I observed in March of 2019. The brightest flared to about magnitude +2 and were visible as "stars" for about five minutes before fading. Notice how the stars are trailing but the satellites are not.

Left: One of my favorite comic strips chose to take on the topic of UFOs. I keep asking the same questions.

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In late May, there was an orchestrated media blitz to promote the "To the Stars Academy" (TTSA) and their upcoming television program. Meanwhile, serious UFOlogists and skeptics continued to ask probing questions about the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) and TTSA. Some of the answers they had received, if accurate, indicated that Luis Elizondro has inflated his role in the AATIP and that the three videos the TTSA had presented were never released for public use. These are questions that should have been asked, and answered, prior to publishing articles in major newspapers and on television. The fact they were not has brought into question the objectivity of those promoting the TTSA. Principle among the individuals questioning the reporting is the Black Vault's John Greenwald Jr. who, after saying that he was only interested in the truth, commented:

"I've been around the UFO field of research long enough to know that the number of lies by the feds that I can prove by legal means, arguably are dwarfed by the number of lies that have come from everyday individuals and former government employees injecting themselves into their own UFO-related legacy. Not to steal a line from the X-Files, but, "Trust no one, Mr. Mulder."

The sycophantic journalists, who have been promoting the TTSA, attempted to muddy the waters with their own interpretations instead of trying to look further and clarify the situation. They are "all in" with the TTSA and have no desire to investigate anything other than what the TTSA tells them to write. Many in UFOlogy are not going to listen to any skeptics but they might listen to UFO proponents with credibility. It is up to people like Greenwald to set the record straight. Perhaps, if the rest of the UFO community's "leaders" stepped up and followed his lead, maybe all the facts will be revealed.

The TTSA has been presenting evidence that, they say, indicates something exotic, and unknown to modern science, is flying through the Earth's atmosphere. This has been UFO gospel for decades. Those that had stated this in the past tried to present everything they had with little success. The TTSA hopes that a few technical experts and scientists, who have made a living off of UFOs, will alter this narrative. At the same time they are obfuscating the facts and withholding details, the TTSA asks the public/UFO community to "trust them". The history of UFOlogy has demonstrated that trust is something that should not be given so willingly. Is the TTSA going to earn this trust by presenting all their evidence or is what they have presented all that they have? Are they trying to play UFO aficionados for fools or are they a serious research organization? So far, I have seen little in the way of serious research and a lot in the way of promotional gimmickry.

The TTSA could easily resolve all of this by presenting actual verifiable evidence that supports their claims and directly address the critics. If it is what they say, they should have the documentation and could easily explain everything. Instead, the TTSA appears to be asking everyone not to "look behind the curtain". If this is their approach, you might as well throw them into the pile of other failed UFO organizations, who resort to smoke and mirrors to promote themselves.

I want to thank Marty Kottmeyer for his work on Roman UFOs. This issue, I present the second part of his research. It is a wealth of information that is well-sourced.

As many already know, Stanton Friedman died in May. It is sad to see anyone pass no matter how much you disagree with their ideas/beliefs. I suppose, if there is an after life, both he and Phil Klass can now debate UFOs endlessly to their heart's content.

Colonel Robert Friend also passed away. He was the last surviving head of Project Blue Book and a war hero. He leaves behind an impressive legacy.

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions

[The 2018 Canadian UFO Survey was released a few months ago.](#) As usual, I disagree with some of the classifications involving alien entities. How does somebody with an alien in their freezer rate a "U" (see 2/27/18)? Either they have the dead alien or not (AKA Hoax or no Hoax)! I still commend them for their attempts to evaluate all of the cases and publish their results. If only other UFO groups would follow their lead.

[In part of the TTSA publicity campaign, Chris Mellon wrote an article which asked congress to investigate UFOs.](#) Where have we heard this before? [A few senators did have time for a closed door briefing by the Pentagon in June.](#) This seemed to be more of a response by the Pentagon to explain to the Senators the background behind the stories told to the media in late May. As previously mentioned in SUNlite 11-3, they seemed to be concerned about unidentified aircraft entering military airspace and not chasing after alien spaceships. If Congress is not concerned about a serious threat of something like climate change, why would they be interested in investing money to investigate UFOs?

[The NY times published another article written by UFO promoters Ralph Blumenthal and Leslie Kean \(both have written UFO pieces before that promoted the videos of the Chilean Air Force that could be explained\).](#) They added Helene Cooper, a pentagon correspondent, to the mix, which gave it a bit more credibility. This article was one of many that were produced in the last week of May in an effort to prime the pump for the upcoming TTSA show on the History Channel. Some points I think need to be considered:

1. The Navy pilots never saw anything. All they had were radar contacts, which apparently did not appear until the new radar system was installed. Every time they closed to where they could supposedly see the targets, there was nothing there. This sounds awfully familiar. Either the targets were very small such they could not be seen by the pilots or the targets are something else. Maybe the new system is registering ice particles or some other atmospheric phenomenon. Without more data it is hard to say. I would not be surprised if the developers of the radar are examining the data from these events. It is too bad we won't be privy to the communications regarding their analyses. I suspect the radar will be modified in the future if these are false returns or atmospheric in nature.
2. None of the pilots interviewed claimed to have been directly involved in the "Gimbal" or "Go fast" videos.
3. The one time anybody reported seeing something, it was reported second hand when a pilot had a near collision with an object that flew between him and his wingman. He described it as a transparent sphere with a cube in it. It did not sound large since the two planes were only 100 feet apart. In the case of a near collision, the best the pilot in a fast moving aircraft could have had was a brief glance at the object (maybe a second or two?). I don't care what kind of pilot you are; this is little more than a blur and could have been anything airborne and not some form of exotic craft. I have to wonder if it weren't some kind of balloon.

[Jason Colavito noted that the slew of articles that appeared in late May were written by known promoters of the TTSA.](#) This was no surprise since it was part of a co-ordinated publicity campaign for the TTSA's television program (the NY times piece even mentioned the program with channel and air date!).

[Keith Kloor noted that Luis Elizondo's claim about being one of the leaders of the AATIP \(Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program\) is suspect.](#) He quoted Pentagon spokesperson Christopher Sherwood, who stated that the AATIP existed but *"Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI [the Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence], up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017."* Kloor also indicated that UFO promoters, like George Knapp, have become closely involved with the TTSA and cannot be considered objective when reporting about the TTSA.

[John Greenewald wrote several articles about the TTSA.](#) [His first involved the videos that have been "released".](#) It seems that they may not have been released for public use but the TTSA did it anyway. The DOD seems not to care, which makes me continue to believe that the videos did not come directly from the Navy but through Bigelow.

[Greenewald also commented about Kloor's revelation that Elizondo was never in charge of the AATIP.](#) Is this a case of Elizondo being involved in the AATIP but, after leaving, claiming greater responsibilities. It would not be the first time somebody exaggerated their resume. Some UFO proponents/promoters have taken Greenewald to task about his desire to discover the truth. George Knapp presented a document that supposedly refutes Greenewald/Kloor's claims. [Greenewald rebutted this "evidence".](#) So far, Elizondo has remained mute and has asked his public relations puppets to stick up for him. This is no surprise.

[Looking into the Gimbal footage, Mick West has discovered an infrared video that closely mimics what was seen in the clip.](#) This supports the claim that what was recorded was nothing more than another aircraft and the rotation is due to the gimbal inside the camera pod that was rotating. [In another video clip, West used all of the data in the display for the "Go fast" clip and explained that this was probably a balloon.](#) The video is a summary of the work that was done in the thread over at Metabunk. Mr. West's presentation demonstrated that the TTSA's "expert" interpretation of the video on their television program was wrong. Had the TTSA been interested in real science, they would have presented a detailed analysis. Instead, they had pilots watch the video multiple times and comment about what was they thought it was. Their observations were not accurate. I guess that, even when in a controlled environment, pilots can still make errors in perception. That says a lot about pilots being "expert" witnesses.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

As I continue to wade through the Blue Book and NICAP case files, another UFO catalogue was brought to my attention recently. That is the Dominique F. Weinstein catalogue of UFO sightings made by pilots. Like the NICAP list, it is mostly a listing of sightings. Some have times, some do not. Many have dates but, like the "Best evidence", other dates are so vague, they are worthless. How can sightings that have no specific date or time be worth including in any catalogue? This is another case of padding a list with poor quality cases to make it seem significant. One has to wonder, how many of the cases on the list, that have actual dates and times, can stand up to critical analysis?

IFOs

There seemed to be some effort by the project 1947 group to correct mistakes on the list but it does not appear to be very thorough. They identified only two cases that they considered to be IFOs.

1969.01.22 1600Z, Pacific 20 deg 22' N, 166 deg 12'W - Slick and Saturn Airway.

This observation was a missile firing from Vandenberg AFB, California. VFON Report # 642.

1969.04.29-05.03 Puerto Rico and vicinity.

Pyramid-shaped object seen for several days over Puerto Rico, photographed, detected on radar and observed from National Guard and other aircraft. Inquiry by the Weather Bureau for Dr. James McDonald found no agency that had released such a balloon. Suggestions were that it was a balloon released in the southern hemisphere that left that circulation pattern and moved north. (Or possibly an intelligence gathering balloon.)'

Considering all the effort that I, and others, have put forth to help weed out the IFOs, one would think the project 1947 group would follow-up and see if such identifications had merit. It seems they either did not bother to look or felt that they did not agree with any of the explanations. While some of these identifications may not be 100% positive, I do think that they certainly have merit and should not be dismissed with a mere wave of the hand because a skeptic proposed them.

Case	Description	IFO	Source ²
48.07.24	Near Montgomery, AL. Near-collision with cigar-shaped object with two rows of portholes.	Probable fireball	SUNlite 8-2
50.02.01	Arizona. An object with a trail of smoke	Probable fireball	SUNlite 8-1
50.03.20	Stuttgart, AR. A disc with 9-12 portholes and a light on top	Possible fireball	SUNlite 10-2
50.06.24	Mojave Desert, CA. A cigar shaped object	Possible fireball	SUNlite 6-3
51.09.23/51.07.23	March AFB, CA. A round silvery object at high altitude	Probable research balloon	SUNlite 9-5
52.04.29	Goodland, KS. A white blinking light.	Possible fireball	SUNlite 8-2
52.06.02	Fulda, Germany. A white object flew at great speed	Possible balloon	SUNlite 8-3
52.12.29	Japan. A UFO emitted 3 beams of light.	Probably Venus	SUNlite 8-6
53.02.06	Rosalia, WA. Blinking white light turned and disappeared	Possible weather balloon	SUNlite 10-1
53.02.11	Libya. A disc passed the plane	Probably Venus or Jupiter	SUNlite 6-1
54.05.24	Dayton, OH. Circular object below plane	Subsun	SUNlite 7-1
54.06.01	Boston, MA. A big white disc flew against the wind	Probable research balloon	SUNlite 11-3
54.11.12	Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana. Interceptors chased targets tracked on radar	Probable research balloon	SUNlite 5-2
56.01.22	Gulf of Mexico. A big elongated light with yellow lights	Possible fireball	SUNlite 11-1
56.04.08	Schenectady, NY.	Probably Venus	SUNlite 9-2
57.03.09	150 mi. east of Jacksonville. Pilot made abrupt turn to avoid white-greenish object.	Probable fireball	SUNlite 5-1
57.03.29	Bahamas. A bright pulsating object.	Probably Jupiter	SUNlite 8-2
57.06.30	Belo Horizonte, Brazil. A bright red orange disc maneuvered around the plane	Possibly related to known daylight fireball	SUNlite 6-5

59.02.24	Pennsylvania. Three bright yellow-orange lights changing colors	Refueling operation	SUNlite 9-1
59.07.11	800 nm east of Hawaii. Pilot saw bright light and two smaller lights	Probable fireball	SUNlite 8-4
59.09.13	Bunker Hill AFB, IN. White pear shaped object observed for 3 hours	Probable research balloon	SUNlite 5-6
60.07.02	Near Puerto Rico. Aircraft followed by bright object for twenty minutes	ICBM test launch	SUNlite 7-3
61.05.20	Tyndall AFB, FL. White-orange object observed. Disappeared when craft approached	Probably Venus	SUNlite 6-4
61.09.21	Aircraft near Wake Island. Bright object with halo	Soviet ICBM test	SUNlite 5-5 and 7-1
62.12.22	Argentina. A bright object hovered near the ground, climbed and went away	Possible moon rise	SUNlite 4-6
63.03.11	Oahu. National Guard pilots report bright light with a trail flying at high speed	Vandenberg ICBM test	SUNlite 4-5
66.06.26	Between Hawaii and Wake island. One bright light seemed to expand like a gas bubble with bright blinking light in center	Vandenberg ICBM test	SUNlite 4-6
74.1.26	Portugal. V-formation of 10-15 orange saucers	Molniya 1-25 BOZ re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
75.1.15	Japan. 15-16 greyish-blue object flying in two formations	Cosmos 701 KDU re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
76.09.19	Portugal. Near collision with blue oval-shaped object with rows of red and white lights	Molniya 1-35 BOZ re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
79.08.20	Poland. Four light radiating objects flying in triangular formation.	Cosmos 1122r re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
80.11.05	Lake Berryessa, CA. An object like a saturn rocket followed the plane	Cosmos 1220r re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
83.12.02	Poland. An object with a light in front and a flaming trail	Gorizont 18r re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
84.07.27	Pennsylvania and Michigan. A rocket shaped object paced a plane and three metal looking spheres with a luminous trail pass the plane.	Cosmos 1569r re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
87.12.12	Fort Wayne, IN. Two object both with two rows of lights approached rapidly.	Raduga 21r re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
89.10.24	Northern IN. A boomerang-shaped object with a beam of light passed the plane	Molniya 1-76 BOZ re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites

90.11.05	Germany and North Sea. A formation of UFOs and two mysterious lights. *	Gorizont 21r re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
93.03.31	Ireland/UK. Two bright whitish spots with vapor trails (possible Russian rocket re-entry)	Cosmos 2238r re-entry	Molczan, Ted: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites

*The time listed in the table is off the re-entry time by two hours. However, the source used by the table is Timothy Good's book and not a verifiable source of information. DEFE-24-2055-1-1 indicates the time was 1900 hours, which is the re-entry time (assuming the time is CET).³

While this list is far from complete and some of these are only "possible" explanations, it is apparent that a good number of these cases can be explained. If the purpose of the list was to be a serious collection of reports that cannot be explained, one would think there would be an honest effort to sweep out the IFOs and potential IFOs. Instead, the list is padded with bad reports, which mask any possible signal with a bunch of noise.

Future evaluations

In future issues of SUNlite, I intend on examining a case from the list to see if there is a potential explanation. It is my desire to perform the task of filtering out the IFOs so people can focus their attention on the remaining cases, which MIGHT contain something of interest.

Notes and references

1. Aldrich, Jan. Aircraft UFO encounters summaries from Project 1947 research. Available WWW: <http://www.project1947.com/47cats/acupdt.htm>
2. Molczan, Ted. Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites
3. DEFE-24-2055-1-1. The Black Vault. Available WWW: <http://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/ufos/UK/defe-24-2055-1-1.pdf>

August 1, 1963 Garston, Hertfordshire, England

August 1, 1963--Garston, Herts., England. A former RAF pilot, and flying instructor, observed a triangular UFO which hovered for a 'long period of time, then climbed out of sight. An air traffic controller four miles away also observed the UFO. [FLIGHT International, 15 August 1963.]'

Besides this statement, there is no other comment about this case.

Other sources

Fortunately, Flight International is accessible on the web and I found the letter to the editor describing the sighting.² However, it seems that NICAP omitted to add the response in the next issue by another observer.³ In that letter, the author had contacted the air ministry and stated it was a cosmic ray research balloon launched from France.

Flying saucer review for Sept-Oct 1963⁴ and Nov-Dec 1963⁵ had articles describing the same sighting (See following page). The September-October 1963 article mentions the air ministry and balloons from "the continent", implying the source was another European country. The November-December 1963 article mentions a fourteen year old observing the UFO with a telescope for two hours. He said it was not a balloon because he had seen balloons before. However, he also described the object as revolving and being diamond shaped. The witness also mentioned that the edges were transparent and, because of the revolving nature of the object, the object varied in brightness.

UFO Over Hertfordshire

SIR,—At about 8 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, I saw a stationary object in the sky and at first this appeared to be roughly the shape of a barrage balloon in a pronounced tail-down attitude (see Fig 1). I assumed that one had broken loose and thought little more about it, except that it was still in the same relative position ten minutes later, when I examined it through binoculars. It still appeared to have "fins" as in the sketch, but soon assumed a more delta form. However, this apparent change of shape could have been due to a declining sun which might have altered the parts visible from the ground. In delta form it resembled a Vulcan, and if it had been moving I would have been happy to accept it as such.

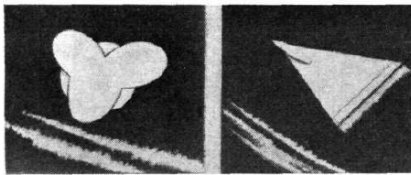


Fig 1

In a second sketch (Fig 2) I have endeavoured to include the various features I saw. Under the nose (?) was a pod and just in front of the trailing edge (?) a long protrusion most easily described as resembling full-span flaps. Behind the trailing edge there appeared a red glow, although it was not present all the time and could have been some form of reflection from the (by then) very low sun. The object itself appeared to be white all over.

Assuming that the pod was at the nose, the "machine"

FLIGHT International, 15 August 1963

was facing about 300°T for most of the time, but turned very slowly, and (as far as I could tell) without changing heading three 240°T. It altered course (?) between these headings three times in a period of about one hour, but remained at about 300° for the greater part of the time.

I rang the Air Ministry, a very interested official of which stated that the object had been reported by other people and that it was a net balloon from France. When I cross-examined him he said very little, and appeared to have been braced to keep quiet. With an aircraftman that was probably north-easterly it could not have come from France, nor would a balloon remain stationary for so long a period.

At this time I was at my home in Garston, between Watford and St. Albans. I rang Elmore, Watlington and spoke to the day air traffic controller. He, too, could see the object and gave me the following information:—

(1) An unknown person, claiming to be speaking from No 5 Group, Royal Observer Corps, Watford, had phoned him and claimed that a UKAF F-100 from Bournemouth had encountered the UFO but had failed to climb high enough. (2) Southern Air Traffic Control seemed aware of the existence of this phenomenon and, through the ROC post at Elmore, had logged it as an "unidentified object".

I continued to watch it until just before dark, when (although difficult to observe in any detail by then) it seemed to gain height. As far as I could see it disappeared in its original head attitude, i.e. on the VTO principle, but I would not swear that this is correct. The exercise was silent throughout.

Other information that may be relevant is: (1) Two ATC calls at Elmore Aerodrome had reported seeing an object that might have been a net balloon, in early or 2 p.m. on that day.

(2) As I have not read the daily newspapers recently, due to pressure of work, I knew nothing about the alleged landing of a data-shedder object in Watlington, and first heard about this after witnessing the event I have just described. However, I am sure that the description of the object's shape is very similar to that made by the one and only witness of the Watlington incident.

(3) The object came obviously very large and at a considerable height. This is supported by the fact that direction and elevation from Watlington and Garston (four miles apart) were almost identical. Although I am reluctant to estimate its altitude, it could have been at about 60,000 ft and have had a span of 4000 ft or so. I had no means of measuring size, but from experience would compare its appearance with that of a Vulcan at 20,000 ft, which I have observed with the naked eye and through binoculars on a few occasions.

(4) Altogether I know of at least eight witnesses, including the two calls, two flying instructors and the day controller at Elmore, my wife and two neighbours. My wife and I jointly made a detailed study of this object and made sketches at the time, and we agree on all points mentioned. The controller and both instructors concerned also agree, except that they did not notice the red glow behind the trailing edge. It may be significant that whereas my wife and I were at Garston, the other three observers were at Watlington.

The weather at the time was excellent, with clear blue sky and very little haze to obstruct vertical visibility. When an isolated wedge of very thin high cloud appeared for a few minutes, the object disappeared from view, thus proving that it was at a considerable altitude.

For the benefit of any person who may be wary of this report, I may add that 24 years ago I was a "dab hand" and now have an open mind on the subject of UFOs. I would not make any attempt to guess what this was or where it originated, and I have stuck strictly to the facts. I do not suffer from an excessively imaginative mind, and so I was a high-altitude PR pilot in the RAF for several years and have been a qualified flying instructor for the last 14. I have some idea of what to expect to see in the sky and certainly know a net balloon when I meet one!

Garston, Herts.

D. F. OGILVY

FLIGHT International, 22 August 1963

Vyotsk named the farm after him. Some monuments were erected; in Gorki Museum the Nesterov Department was founded.

Nesterov was also an aircraft constructor. In 1914 he designed a Blériot type two-seater monoplane, which was in production at the Dux factories at Moscow. This monoplane was fitted with an air-brake on its tail. He also designed an aileron. In September 1913 he shortened the fuselage of an old Nieuport 4 and designed and built a new tailplane. In this dock-tailed "coffin on wheels" he made some test flights over Syzrak aerodrome.

Nesterov's eldest brother is a General of the Soviet Army; his younger brother, a military pilot, was killed in 1914. Torus, USSR

Detering the Birds

Sir,—I read in *Flight International* for August 8 that both the RAF and Royal Navy are concerned about the damage done to aircraft by birds, and in accordance with your plea for suggestions from readers I put the following one forward.

According to one of the BBC news bulletins on August 8 a Canadian firm has developed a chemical that limits the growth of grass. Unfortunately—though fortunately for those concerned, I think—the chemical turns the grass purple, and birds dislike this color. The main objection to this is obviously the cost of the chemical.

However, if the chemical were used, the cost would probably be lower than that required to pay a civilian company to mow the grass over a 12-month period; although I appreciate that the grass would probably have to be reseeded.

Wolverhampton, Staffs

PETER J. ARNOLD

["The *Financial Times* reported on August 12 that Ontario Agricultural College had developed a chemical which would stop larvae growing, calling 'There is the toffins concede, a side effect: the grass turns purple.' In 'The Navy and the Sunbirds' (FLIGHT International, 22 August 63) it was suggested that grass on airfields should be dyed purple or violet as birds apparently avoid these colours.—Ed.]

Herts UFO: Essex Identification

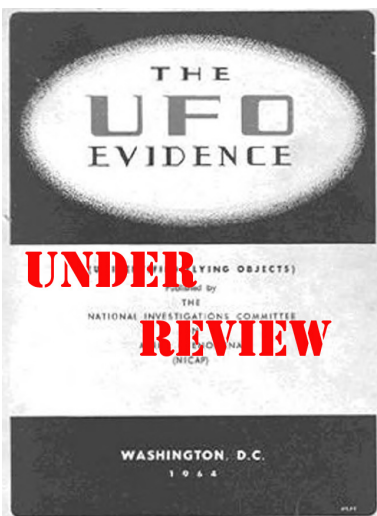
Sir,—I was among many others who observed the object which Mr Ogilvy described in his letter in *Flight International* last week. The following details may interest you. Bearings and elevations relate to Thrydon Road—or more accurately, to a point 0.4 miles on a true bearing of 228° from Thrydon Bus station.

I noticed and sketched the object between 2103 and 2104H, BST on August 1. It was very bright. Bearing was 295°M, elevation 45°. I estimated one dimension as 140th of the apparent field of a high-power binoculars—a 40°/70 instrument—with a field of view of 1°, making the actual angle subtended by the object about 1/10th of arc.

I made a number of later sketches, as the object changed its appearance, and at 2112 recorded the bearing as 302°M and elevation as 42°. As the intense initial brightness diminished, the main area had a greyish-white, rather translucent texture. It looked like a partly opened roll of tracing paper, the edges still rolling back and looking whiter. At 2117 it did not seem visible to the naked eye, but at 2122 was faintly visible to the naked eye.

I later obtained an approximation of the height of the object as follows. I assumed that it ceased to be illuminated by the sun's rays at or shortly after 2122. This was 23min later than local sunset time at ground level, 2040H. It corresponds to sunset at a point some 350 miles West. The horizon for the object was therefore at a distance of about 350 miles, and the height was correspondingly about 81,000ft.

Ground range would therefore be about 17-18 miles,



line of sight range 120,000-125,000ft, and the size of the object about 56ft.

Next morning I rang the Air Ministry. They told me it was a radio-sound launched from France for the study of cosmic rays; a group in this country was involved in the research and information was being received. It was the second such object seen in the last few days (i.e. at August 2). Intended height was 110,000ft and size about 70ft.

I could not help observing that if I had got the height out to 110,000ft I should have had the size at 70ft. This must reflect the fact that my simple calculation left out a number of refinements, and that the object possibly con-

These sketches illustrate Mr Ogilvy's observations at 2103/04 ("very bright"), 2110 ("new Vulcan"), 2112, 2117 ("no longer visible to the naked eye") and 2222 ("looking much as at first observed; faintly visible to naked eye").

tioned to glow faintly for a few minutes after 2122—it was difficult at best to pinpoint the precise time at which the sun set on it. On the other hand the object may well have fallen from its intended altitude, and the dimension apparent to me would probably have been less than the full 70ft.

If Mr Ogilvy can recollect the approximate bearing of the object at any time, it should enable us to obtain a reasonably accurate "fix." At about 2100H I should have thought it would be about 40° from true north to him; but quite a large variation would be possible. I did not see it in the configuration shown in his first drawing, but I recognized the second one the moment I turned over the page.

Thrydon Road, Essex

TOMMY DAVENLOCK

IN BRIEF

The address of Mr John E. Underhill, who in a letter published on August 8 appealed for World War Two aircraft for static display at Bucknell Field, Reading, is Reading Aviation Service, 11-12 Gun Street, Reading, Berks (Reading S14 3Q or S1225).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 24/31 *Aviation Union of Yugoslavia: International parachuting competition, fortress.*
- Aug 25 *Heavy Type Corps: 4-day fly-in, Steenbek, Norfolk.*
- Aug 28 *RAF Club: "History of the Glider Pilot Regiment," by Philip Cooper.*
- Sept 4 *American Embassy: Film on Space Research.*
- Sept 7-8 *RAF: Aeronautical and Space Film Festival, Deventle.*
- Sept 9-13 *PAU: Aeronautical Society: Symposium on "Satellite Meteorology."*
- Sept 10 *RAF: Flying Association and Tiger Club: Rally, Rochester.*
- Sept 14 *Royal Air Force: Battle of Britain "At home" day.*
- Sept 19 *British Inauguration Society: Symposium on "Satellite Meteorology."*
- Sept 20 *Aeronautical Inspection Directorate: 50th anniversary dinner.*
- Sept 23 *RAF: Electronic Engineering Assn: Electronic symposium, at RBE Malvern, Sept 23-25; RAE Farnborough, Sept 26-30; London, Oct 1.*
- Sept 29 *Tiger Club: Air display, Farn Oke.*

I examined the Stratocat database⁶ but could not find any record of a balloon launched from France. However, the database is not complete since a lot of documentation is missing. It is not uncommon to see Blue Book listing confirmation of balloon launches that do not appear in Stratocat's database. Interestingly, Stratocat does list Thule Air Force Base, in Greenland, launching high altitude research balloons in the summer of 1963 for cosmic ray research. Stratocat has records of at least two being launched in late July (July 28 and 30). Stratocat also has records of a balloon launched from Kiruna Geophysical Observatory, Sweden for Aurora research on July 23. Any of these could have been the source of the balloon.

Conclusion

The description of the object does appear to match that of a high altitude research balloon. It behaved like a balloon and was visible for a long period of time around sunset, just like a high altitude balloon. It seems very likely that the source of this UFO report was a high altitude research balloon. This is not "Best evidence" for UFOs and should be eliminated from the list.

London and Home Counties

The English "wave" of sightings continues unabated. The *Daily Sketch* on August 2 reported:

"For the second night in succession, scores of people telephoned the Air Ministry and the B.B.C. to report a mysterious triangular-shaped object in the sky over London and the Home Counties.

The B.B.C. had over 100 calls about it, and the Air Ministry had "a considerable number."

Callers to the Ministry were mainly from Hertfordshire. A spokesman said they could give no explanation.

One man described it as close to the North Star and 'brighter than the brightest planet.'

On the same day *The Times*, referring to similar incidents which took place on August 1 quoted the Air Ministry as saying that weather balloons released "on the Continent" might have caused the sightings. The Air Ministry is beginning to realise that it must make its statements vaguer and vaguer in view of the fact that investigators are becoming shrewder and more persistent.

to have seen the flying saucer land, and he would like the woman to get in touch with him. She reported it to the constable while he was patrolling the common with his dog—but, upon investigation, he found nothing. The woman saw it at about 2 a.m. and described it as being the size of a double decker bus and added that she had 'never seen anything like it before in her life'.

"The constable asked her what she was doing out at that time of the morning and she replied that, not being able to sleep, she had decided to take a short walk. After her experience he suggested she should return home and go to bed. 'Unfortunately he did not take her name and address,' says Mr. Briggs, 'but had heard since that other people said they had seen this object flying over the common on the same morning.'"

Diamond shape

The *West Herts and Watford Observer* on August 9 reported a well-attested sighting over Oxhey which occurred on August 1, the same day that Mr. David Ogilvy of the London Flying School saw an object not far away at his home at Garston, Herts—an incident reported elsewhere in this issue. The Oxhey report runs as follows: "Fourteen-year-old Hampden schoolboy John Castelete saw a flying saucer in the sky last Thursday through his telescope, bought last October in the Portobello Road. At least, it might have been a flying saucer, but it could have been anything. John said it was not saucer shaped and all his friends from around his home in Oakdale Road, South Oxhey, agreed that it was 'very odd'.

"For nearly two hours John watched it, as the crowd around him became larger and larger. It appeared to be stationary, but John, with the wisdom of several months' plane spotting, remarked that it must be moving to keep up with the turn of the earth.

"Dennis Haisman, 14, John's next-door neighbour, was among

the observers. 'Very strange,' was his comment. 'I have never seen anything like it before.'

"John dismissed the idea that it was a balloon. He had watched balloons before, he said, and they never remained so long. The object he described was revolving, solid in the middle, diamond-shaped and he said he could see through it at the edges. As it revolved, he said, it was at first bright and then dull alternately."

Seven UFOs over Blackpool

Mr. L. Booth, of Northumberland Avenue, Blackpool, wrote to the *West Lancashire Evening Gazette* about his strange experience. His letter was published on August 8 and reads as follows: "I have been reading your paper of August 1 and note with interest the article about lights in the sky. I have also seen some similar things, only on a different date. On July 25 as I was returning to Anchorsholme from work at about 12.50 a.m. I happened to look up at the sky when all of a sudden I observed a formation of seven objects passing over me and out to sea. They were very low and gave the appearance of being round in shape and, although there was no sound from them, they were emitting a pale orange light, and they were visible for only about ten seconds and moving very fast."

Activity over Gloucester

The *Gloucester Citizen* on August 21 returned to the subject of UFOs after a report had appeared in its August 17 issue: "More strange objects in the Gloucester sky! This time they were seen by Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Riley, who are staying at 35 Teddington Gardens, Gloucester. Mr. Riley told *The Citizen* today: 'My wife Doreen and I were walking towards our parked van in Brunswick Road after a visit to the cinema last night when, to

Notes and references

1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) *The UFO evidence*. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 141
2. "Letters: UFO Over Hertfordshire". *Flight International*. 15 August 1963. P. 262-3
3. "Letters: Herts UFO: Essex Identification". *Flight International*. 22 August 1963. P. 291.
4. "World Round-up". *Flying Saucer Review*. September-October 1963. P. 20
5. "World Round-up". *Flying Saucer Review*. November-December 1963. P. 20
6. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" *StratoCat*. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>



THE 701 CLUB: CASE 1501: JULY 16, 1952 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

July 16, 1952; Beverly, Massachusetts. 9:35 a.m. Witness: U.S. Coast Guard photographer Shell Alpert. Four roughly elliptical blobs of light in formation photographed through window of photo lab.¹

Sparks states the following:

July 16, 1952. Beverly, Mass. 9:35 a.m. U.S. Coast Guard photographer Seaman Shell R. Alpert saw several bright lights through a window screen (no glass) from his position inside the air station photo lab while cleaning a camera, watched them for 5-6 secs, called out to another Coast Guardsman, Hospitalman 1st Class Thomas E. Flaherty from sick bay to see. Objects dimmed then brightened suddenly, Alpert grabbed a camera and filmed 4 roughly elliptical irregular blobs of light in formation through the screen, on Super XX cut film 4 x 5 inch format, lens set at infinity, aperture f/4.7, 1/30 sec exposure. (Sparks; Berliner; etc.)²

I was actually surprised to see this case on the list of unknowns. It was always my opinion the case was explained.

The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file lists this as UNIDENTIFIED but they had plenty of reason to classify it as something else. In a reported written August 28, 1952³, the follow items were noted:

1. While the sun is reflecting in the automobiles, the UFOs do not reflect in them. The USAF attempted to replicate this using a photo flood light. The cars reflected this light.
2. The USAF was able to reasonably replicate the images using a double exposure with some lights (see following page).
3. The USAF, in their report, stated there was reason to doubt the authenticity of the photographs.

In another section of the file, the following is written about the photographs:

"It is believed that the photographs represent light reflections from an interior source (probably the ceiling lights) on the window through which the photograph was taken...."⁴

The witnesses were interviewed and the following is a summary of what transpired⁵:

1. The photographer was sitting in his office examining negatives. When he turned slightly towards the window, he noticed the lights.
2. He grabbed the camera from his desk and tried to photograph the lights. At this point, he noticed they were dimmer.
3. He went into the next room and got the Corpsman first class (HM1) to come look at what he was seeing. When he returned, he



noticed the lights were very bright again and took the photograph.

4. When the Corpsman arrived, he reported seeing nothing more than a quick flash of light and the lights were now gone⁶. He never saw the four lights and thought what he had seen was nothing more than a reflection of light from passing cars or off the ocean.

Analysis

The photographs have been discussed in various texts over the decades. Skeptics have stated that they were reflections and some proponents seemed to think they were authentic. Hynek, in his book "The UFO report", agreed with the Air Force conclusion that it was a reflection in the window that was photographed.⁷

In my opinion, there is no reason to accept these photographs as being images of 'true UFOs'. Instead, they are probably either "reflections" or a deliberate hoax perpetrated by Alpert. I find it difficult that Alpert, as a knowledgeable photographer, could be easily fooled by reflections. While it may have been possible, I think he probably knew what he was photographing or had planned this ahead of time (with the first half of a double exposure already in the camera or by positioning himself so the reflections were visible). His desire to have a witness run in and "just miss" what he photographed could have been part of the plan to create a convincing image. It is important to note that Alpert had attended the Art Center school at Los Angeles⁸, where he might have learned the art of double exposure photography. Even if he had not learned it there, learning to create a hoax would not be hard. All it would have taken was some experimentation prior to conducting the exercise. Had the resultant photograph not looked convincing, he would never have had to come forward and would have told the corpsman that the photograph did not turn out.

Conclusion

In my opinion, this case can be explained as a reflection on the window or a hoax. Either the witness did not recognize these were reflections or he thought he could get away with a hoax. I am not sure why Project Blue Book did not follow its instincts on this case but it probably had to do with negative publicity. This case should be listed as explained.

Notes and references

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2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List-NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.26. Jan. 31, 2016. P. 135.
3. Avery, Delwin B. "Analysis of photos" 1 August 1952. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8580342> and <https://www.fold3.com/image/8580343>
4. "UFO sighting Salem, Massachusetts 16 July 1952" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8580334>
5. "Statement of unusual occurrences observed and photographed at approximately 0935, 16 July, 1952 from photo office window, US Coast Guard Air Station, Salem, Mass. by station photographer." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8580337>
6. "Statement of unusual occurrences observed by Base Hospitalman at approximately 0930, 16 July, 1952 from photo lab window, CG Air Station, Salem, Mass." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8580338>
7. Hynek, J. Allen. The Hynek UFO Report. New York: Barnes & Nobles, 1997 P. 223-4
8. Wayland Jr., Robert H. "Report of information on unconventional aircraft". P. 2. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8580340>

Project Blue Book case review: July-October 1957

This is the sixth edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the July to October of 1957. 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 1957

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
July	Shiloh, OH	Meteorite	Originally thought to be meteorite but further examination determined it to be a rock.
1	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Hamilton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Seattle, WA	Ship Light	Agreed
5	Canton, OH	Star	Venus
5	Parkton, MD	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter
5	Buffalo, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
6	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD	Star	Agreed. No positional data to determine which star/planet
7	Kokomo, IN	Balloon	Possible stars. No positional data to determine which stars.
7	Peoria, IL	Arcturus	Not Arcturus. Time listed was before sunset. Observed for two hours moving west with binoculars. At some point it became two objects. Possibly Venus along with Mars
9	Amarillo, TX	Balloon	Agreed
10	Los Angeles, CA	Balloon	Agreed. Probable prank balloons.
10	Hartford, CT	Balloon	Agreed
10-11	Del Rio, TX	Star	Venus
11	Emira, NY	Balloon	Agreed
11	Wellsboro, PA	Insufficient data	Possible Research balloon. Multiple balloons launched from Minnesota in early July. Research balloon identified over New England on July 10.
13	Newport Beach, CA	Meteor	Agreed
13	Deming-Columbus, NM	Hoax/Unreliable	Agreed with unreliable source.
15	Covington, KY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time or duration.
16	Hastings, MI	Aircraft refueling Op	Agreed
16	New York, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Lorain, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Cheyenne, WY	Contrails	Agreed
16	Las Vegas, NV	ECM	Insufficient data based on analysis by Electronics division.
17	Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	Aircraft	RB-47 incident. See SUNlite 4-1 Visual object left as "UNIDENTIFIED" but could be possible aircraft. Electronic signals have potential explanations.
17	Trenton, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
17	New York, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Sighting time very brief.
17	Schenectady-Albany, NY	Meteor	Agreed
17	Sarasota, FL	Balloon	Agreed
18	Hamilton, MT	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed
18	Mt. Lemmon AFS, AZ	Target simulation	Agreed
19	Waupun, WI	Insufficient data	Possible balloon

19	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed
19	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed
21	Hawthorn, CA	Arcturus	Agreed
21-22	Los Angeles, CA	Balloon	Agreed
22	Fishkill, NY	Meteor	Agreed
22	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Wild Rice, ND	Star	Probably Vega
22	Amarillo-El Paso, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
23	Thompson, IA	Insufficient data	Possible Aircraft
23	Conway, NH	Vega	Agreed
23	Shelby, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Norway	Reflection	Agreed. According to Fotocat report #4 : Mrs. W. Felton Barrett, an American tourist, shot landscape photos of a fjord. One of the photographs was ruined by a saucer-shaped reflection from a diamond ring she was wearing.
24	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Glen Burnie, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Albany, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
25	Niagara Falls, NY	Balloon	Agreed
25	Fairborn, OH	Balloon	Agreed
25	North Harve, MT	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Marietta, OH	Meteor	Agreed
26	Iran	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Longmont, CO	UNIDENTIFIED	Insufficient information. Report made three years after event.. Witness could not even remember date.
28	Baltimore, MD	Meteor	Agreed
28	Stamford, CT	Insufficient data	Possibly Saturn and Antares seen through clouds.
28	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Las Cruces, NM	Unreliable report	Agreed
29	Piedmont, SD	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
29	Cleveland, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Oldsmar, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30	Rockford, MI	Aurora	Capella, Saturn, Antares
30	Wilmington, DE	Insufficient data	Agreed. No directions of observation.
30	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Santa Maria, CA	Mirage	Possibly Jupiter, Moon, Venus in fog bank.
30	Bakersfield, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
30	Claremont, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Pacoima, CA	Arcturus	Possibly Jupiter
31	Antigo, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed.

August 1957

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
August	US and Canada	Comet Mrkos	Agreed. Observations of Comet listed.
1	Jacksonville, FL	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report made in letter to president four years after event.

1	Goffstown, NH	Insufficient data	Agreed
1	Livingston, MT	Meteor	Agreed
1	Arlington, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
1	California,Oregon, Wash- ington, Idaho	Meteor Showers	Agreed. Reports of several meteors seen at various dates/times across western US.
3	Northern California	Anomalous Propa- gation	Agreed
5	Fogelsville, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed
5	Silver Springs, MD	Unreliable report	Agreed
5	Atlanta, GA	Meteor	Agreed
7	Indiana	Aircraft	Multiple sightings. Some probably of Capella rising. Others of aircraft.
7	Bunker Hill AFB, IN	Meteor	Agreed
7	Livingston Manor, NY	Balloon	Agreed
7	Dayton, OH	Venus and Jupiter	Agreed
7	Lakehurst, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
8	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
9	Pauling, Balmville, NY	Balloon	Agreed
9	Sand Point, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
9-13	Bakersfield, CA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Syracuse, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed
12	New Haven, CT	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Victoria, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Knoxville, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Belton, MO	Meteor	Agreed
13	Fresno, CA	Hallucination	Unreliable report
13	Eugene, OR	Insufficient data	Agreed
14	New York, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Severna Park, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Woodland Hills, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
15	Pineville, LA	Balloon	Agreed
18	Hawthorne, NV	Unreliable report	Agreed
18	Myrtle Creek, OR	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
18	Tacoma, WA	Meteor	Agreed
19	Neosho, MO	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
19	Cambria AFS, CA	Jupiter	Jupiter and Venus
20	Warner Robbins AFB, GA	Inconsistent data	Possible aircraft
20	Helena, MT	Aircraft	Possibly Jupiter and Venus. Report not completed by witness but by officer on base. Description sounded like Venus and Jupiter in west (witness described taking down clothes from clothesline indicating time being sooner than described).
21	Bulgaria	Military Operation	Agreed
21	Niagara Falls AFB, NY	Venus and Jupiter	Agreed
21	Atlantic Ocean	Meteor	Agreed

21	Beverly, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Confusing report with time varying between 20 seconds and 2 minutes. Report made by 16 year old at Ground observer post.
21	Centerville, OH	Venus and Jupiter	Agreed
21	Colorado Springs, CO	Venus and Jupiter	Agreed
21	Pueblo, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Santa Monica, CA	Venus and Jupiter	Agreed
22	Hollywood, Van Nuys, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Bedford, Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data.
22	Black Smighport, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Cecil Field NAS, FL	Helicopter	Agreed
22	Kingston, PA	Venus and Jupiter	Agreed
22	Philadelphia, PA	Insufficient data	Venus and Jupiter
22	Dayton, OH	Venus and Jupiter	Agreed
22-3	Cambria AFS, CA	1. Venus and Jupiter 2. Anomalous Propagation	Agreed
23	Camden, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
23	Olean, NY	Balloon	Arcturus
23	Bel Air, MD	Aurora	Insufficient information. Report is jumbled with multiple objects seen in various parts of sky. Could not find any evidence that Aurora was visible that night. These all sound like stars but the information is inadequate to draw accurate conclusions.
24	Farmington, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed
27	NNE Boston, MA	Balloon	Agreed
27	Dry Tortugas, Caribbean	1. Venus 2. Spurious returns	Agreed
27	Anandale-on-Hudson, NY	Balloon	Agreed
27	Oklahoma City, OK	Balloon	Agreed
27	Eglin AFB, FL	Balloon	Agreed
29	Wichita, KS	Insufficient data	Agreed
29-30	Paso Robles, CA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft and balloon
30	NE of Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Palm Springs, CA	Occultation of Saturn	Agreed

September 1957

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Chitose AFB, Japan	Negative flaw	Agreed
1	Canton, OH	Aircraft	Possible meteor
2	Fort Myers, FL	Star	Agreed. No report on file but record card suggests stars.
2	Kelly AFB, TX	Venus	Agreed
3	Yuma, AZ	Tow Target	Agreed
3	Presque Isle, ME	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
4	Ohio, Wisconsin area	Aurora	Agreed
5	Ney-Archbold, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Duration missing. Very little positional data.
5	Wales, ND	Meteor	Agreed
5-6	Upland, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed

7	West Germany	Meteors	Agreed
9-10	Philadelphia, PA	Chaff	Agreed
10	Portland, OR	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Wheelus AFB, Libya	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Lackland AFB, TX	Birds	Agreed
12	NE France	Balloon	Agreed
12	Tulsa, OK	Radar malfunction	Agreed
12	Bellwood, NE	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. No accurate time.
14	Osan AFB, Korea	Balloon	Agreed
14	San Antonio, TX	Insufficient data	Possible birds
15	Lincoln County, NV	Inconsistent data	Possible moon rise. Witness missed that moon was visible and rose in ENE around 0530Z (sighting listed as 0700Z). Report made six weeks after event. Possible confusion in conversion to Zulu. Nevada on PDT, which could make the time of the event 0600Z (closer to moon rise and more consistent with report).
16	Southern Italy	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Pecos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
17	St. Louis, MO	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
17	Columbus, OH	Balloon	Possibly Venus
17	Graville, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Kansas City, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Gresham, OR	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
19	Hollis, Long Island, NY	Balloon	Agreed
19	Point Pleasant, NJ	Hallucination	Agreed
20	Montauk, NY/Benson, PA	1. Equip. Malfunction 2. Chaff drop	Agreed
20	San Antonio, TX	Stars/planets	Agreed. Probably Venus
20	Kadena AFB	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	New Carlisle, OH	Auto Lights	Agreed
21	Panama Canal zone	Meteor	Agreed
23	Montezuma, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Harve, MT	Star	Agreed. Possibly Arcturus
23	Virginia Beach, VA	Balloon	Insufficient data. No direction or duration.
24	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
24	Fall River, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed no direction (possibly Venus setting)
24	Sanderson, TX	Balloon	Agreed
24	Egg Harbor, WI	Arcturus	Agreed
24	Perrin AFB, TX	Aircraft	Possible birds
24-5	New York, NY	Meteor	Agreed
26	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
26	Washington DC	Blimp	Agreed
27	West Jefferson, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Kokomo, IN	1. Aircraft 2. Stars	Agreed
29	Piqua, OH	Aircraft	Agreed

29	Colorado Springs, CO	Aircraft	Possible birds
29	N. Turo, MA	Meteor	Agreed
29	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Possibly Venus
29	Palm Springs, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
30	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
30	Claremont, CA	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
30	Cashmere, WA	Kites	Possible balloons
30	Navy Chase, TX	Venus	Agreed

October 1957

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	United States	Comet Encke	Poor evaluation. Comet Encke barely visible to naked eye under good conditions. Most observations listed are astronomical with stars and Venus as the likely source.
Oct	Los Angeles, CA	Hoax	Agreed
Oct	Dolinsk, USSR	Insufficient data	Agreed No date
1	SE Lompoc, CA	Venus	Agreed
3	Green Bay, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed
4	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Possibly Venus
4	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
5	Dayton, OH	Ground lights	Agreed
5	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
5-7	Toucamen, Panama Canal Zone	Venus	Agreed
6	North Bend, OR	Meteor	Agreed
6	Des Moines, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Kremmling, CO	Balloon	Agreed
7	Overland, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Presque Isle, ME	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Elmendorf, AK	Sputnik 1	Agreed
8	Seattle, WA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
8	San Antonio	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Bremerton, WA	Aircraft	Possibly Capella
8	Lakehurst, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
9	Garden City, NY	Balloon	Agreed
9	New London, New Britain, CT	Insufficient data	Probably Venus
9	Parkersburg, WV	Aircraft	Possible meteor
9	Long Island, NY	Meteor	Agreed
9	Salisbury, NC	Meteor	Agreed
10	Western US, UT, WY	Meteor	Agreed
11	Levittown, NY	Meteor	Agreed
12	Philadelphia, PA	Aircraft	Possible meteor
12	Martha's Vine yard, MA	Balloon	Agreed
13	New York, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Great Falls, VA	Insufficient data	Possible bird
13	Indian Trails, MI	Meteor	Agreed

14	Eugene, OR	Meteor	Agreed
14	Iran	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specifics on several of these observations. Possibly related to Soviet missile tests at Kapustin Yar or just meteors.
14	Fairmont, WV	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon. Winds from SE consistent with objects track. BB did not have wind data.
14	New Platz, NY	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
14	Stewart AFB, TN	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data but time and duration indicate it may have been Venus.
14	Camp Hill, AL	Meteor	Agreed
14	San Bernardino, CA	Moon	Agreed
14	San Diego, CA	1. Astro 2. Radr (WX)	Record card shows possible balloon. Comments suggest Arcturus. Both are wrong. This is probably Venus. Bearing changing between 220 and 240 degrees magnetic, which corresponds to 235 and 255 degrees true azimuth. Venus at azimuth 238 degrees +4 degrees at 0300Z Venus set at azimuth 242 (227 mag) degrees around 0325Z. Sighting lasted from 0300 to approx 0330Z. Apparent movement of object and fading in an out probably had to do with low clouds mentioned being present. Radar contact recorded on S2F radar only. There is no mention of other radars in the area recording the target. Contact was possibly due to atmospheric conditions and unrelated to visual.
15	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Meteor	Agreed
15	San Antonio, TX	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus and Saturn
15	La Jolla, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Almogordo, NM	Lenticular Cloud	Agreed
17	Green Bay, WI	Balloon	Agreed
17	Greenville, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Lackland AFB, TX	Sputnik Rocket	Agreed
18	Avon Park, FL	Meteor	Agreed
18	Odebolt, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Benson, AZ	Artificial Meteor	Possible aircraft
19	Ardmore, PA	Meteor	Agreed
19	Mildenhall, England	1. Venus 2. Aircraft	Agreed that Venus was primary sighting. Second visual (@1928) appears to have been Arcturus. Radar contacts unrelated to visual and probably aircraft/AP
19	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Multiple objects reported at various positions in the sky. Information is confusing.
19	Long Island, NY	Meteor	Agreed
20	Washington DC	Meteor	Agreed
20	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
21	N. Luffingham, England	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
21	Neptune, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Kennesaw, GA	Searchlights	Agreed
22	Wiesbaden, Germany	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed
22	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
22	Haviland, KS	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
23	Teheran, Iran	Contrails	Agreed
23	Mannasquam, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed

23	Polk County, FL	Balloon	Agreed
23	St. Louis, MO	Balloon	Agreed
23	Ovalde, TX	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data.
23	Atlanta, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Fall City, TX	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
23	Corpus Christi, TX	Meteor	Agreed
23	Red Oak, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed
24	N. Hollywood, CA	Balloon	Insufficient data. Only record card with little information for analysis.
24	Phillips, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
25	Kodiak, AK	Balloon	Sirius
25	Bismark, ND	Balloon	Agreed
25	Milwaukee, WI	Meteor	Agreed
26	Kassell, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
26-29	S. of Caja Marca, Peru	Venus	Agreed
27	Carlinville, MO	Venus	Agreed
27	Minot, ND	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Canada	Insufficient data	Agreed. Reported in 1961.
27	St. Louis, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Kisalon, Mindinao	Meteor	Agreed
28	Wilmington, DE	Meteor	Agreed
28	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
28	E. of Kerhonkson, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
28	Peru	Meteor	Agreed
28	Piedmont, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
28	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
28	Charleroi, PA	Venus	Agreed
28	Mindanao, Philippines	Meteor	Agreed
29	Baker, FL	Balloon	Agreed
29	Attapulugus, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Ely, NV	Meteor	Agreed
30	Metairie, LA	Meteor	Agreed
30	Hutton, ME	Meteor	Agreed
30	McDill AFB, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
31	Japan	Insufficient data	Possible sighting of Venus
31	Bartlesville AFS, OK	Balloon	Jupiter
31	Kanepolis, KS	Balloon	Agreed
31	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
31	Massapequa Park, NY	Meteor	Agreed

Reclassification

There were 296 cases in the Blue Book files from July through October 1957, that I evaluated. In my opinion, 65 were improperly classified (about 22%). 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
July	Shiloh, OH	Meteorite	Originally thought to be meteorite but further examination determined it to be a rock.
7/5	Parkton, MD	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter
7/5	Buffalo, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/7	Kokomo, IN	Balloon	Possible stars. No positional data to determine which stars.
7/7	Peoria, IL	Arcturus	Not Arcturus. Time listed was before sunset. Observed for two hours moving west with binoculars. At some point it became two objects. Possibly Venus along with Mars
7/11	Wellsboro, PA	Insufficient data	Possible Research balloon. Multiple balloons launched from Minnesota in early July. Research balloon identified over New England on July 10.
7/16	Las Vegas, NV	ECM	Insufficient data based on analysis by Electronics division.
7/17	Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	Aircraft	RB-47 incident. See SUNlite 4-1 Visual object left as "UNIDENTIFIED" but could be possible aircraft. Electronic signals have potential explanations.
7/19	Waupun, WI	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
7/23	Thompson, IA	Insufficient data	Possible Aircraft
7/27	Longmont, CO	UNIDENTIFIED	Insufficient information. Report made three years after event.. Witness could not even remember date.
7/28	Stamford, CT	Insufficient data	Possibly Saturn and Antares seen through clouds.
7/29	Piedmont, SD	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/30	Rockford, MI	Aurora	Capella, Saturn, Antares
7/30	Wilmington, DE	Insufficient data	Agreed. No directions of observation.
7/30	Santa Maria, CA	Mirage	Possibly Jupiter, Moon, Venus in fog bank.
7/30	Bakersfield, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
7/30	Pacoima, CA	Arcturus	Possibly Jupiter
8/7	Indiana	Aircraft	Multiple sightings. Some probably of Capella rising. Others of aircraft.
8/13	Fresno, CA	Hallucination	Unreliable report
8/14	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
8/18	Myrtle Creek, OR	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
8/19	Neosho, MO	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
8/19	Cambria AFS, CA	Jupiter	Jupiter and Venus
8/20	Warner Robbins AFB, GA	Inconsistent data	Possible aircraft
8/20	Helena, MT	Aircraft	Possibly Jupiter and Venus. Report not completed by witness but by officer on base. Description sounded like Venus and Jupiter in west (witness described taking down clothes from clothesline indicating time being sooner than described).
8/22	Philadelphia, PA	Insufficient data	Venus and Jupiter
8/23	Olean, NY	Balloon	Arcturus
8/23	Bel Air, MD	Aurora	Insufficient information. Report is jumbled with multiple objects seen in various parts of sky. Could not find any evidence that Aurora was visible that night. These all sound like stars but the information is inadequate to draw accurate conclusions.
8/29-30	Paso Robles, CA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft and balloon
9/1	Canton, OH	Aircraft	Possible meteor
9/3	Presque Isle, ME	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
9/14	San Antonio, TX	Insufficient data	Possible birds

9/15	Lincoln County, NV	Inconsistent data	Possible moon rise. Witness missed that moon was visible and rose in ENE around 0530Z (sighting listed as 0700Z). Report made six weeks after event. Possible confusion in conversion to Zulu. Nevada on PDT, which could make the time of the event 0600Z (closer to moon rise and more consistent with report).
9/17	St. Louis, MO	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
9/17	Columbus, OH	Balloon	Possibly Venus
9/18	Gresham, OR	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
9/23	Virginia Beach, VA	Balloon	Insufficient data. No direction or duration.
9/24	Perrin AFB, TX	Aircraft	Possible birds
9/26	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
9/29	Colorado Springs, CO	Aircraft	Possible birds
9/29	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Possibly Venus
9/29	Palm Springs, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
9/30	Cashmere, WA	Kites	Possible balloons
Oct	United States	Comet Encke	Poor evaluation. Comet Encke barely visible to naked eye under good conditions. Most observations listed are astronomical with stars and Venus as the likely source.
10/4	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Possibly Venus
10/8	Bremerton, WA	Aircraft	Possibly Capella
10/9	New London, New Britain, CT	Insufficient data	Probably Venus
10/9	Parkersburg, WV	Aircraft	Possible meteor
10/12	Philadelphia, PA	Aircraft	Possible meteor
10/13	Great Falls, VA	Insufficient data	Possible bird
10/14	Fairmont, WV	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon. Winds from SE consistent with objects track. BB did not have wind data.
10/14	San Diego, CA	1. Astro 2. Radar (WX)	Record card shows possible balloon. Comments suggest Arcturus. Both are wrong. This is probably Venus. Bearing changing between 220 and 240 degrees magnetic, which corresponds to 235 and 255 degrees true azimuth. Venus at azimuth 238 degrees +4 degrees at 0300Z Venus set at azimuth 242 (227 mag) degrees around 0325Z. Sighting lasted from 0300 to approx 0330Z. Apparent movement of object and fading in an out probably had to do with low clouds mentioned being present. Radar contact recorded on S2F radar only. There is no mention of other radars in the area recording the target. Contact was possibly due to atmospheric conditions and unrelated to visual.
10/15	San Antonio, TX	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus and Saturn
10/18	Benson, AZ	Artificial Meteor	Possible aircraft
10/19	Mildenhall, England	1. Venus 2. Aircraft	Agreed that Venus was primary sighting. Second visual (@1928) appears to have been Arcturus. Radar contacts unrelated to visual and probably aircraft/AP
10/21	N. Luffingham, England	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10/22	Haviland, KS	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
10/23	Ovalde, TX	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data.
10/23	Fall City, TX	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
10/24	N. Hollywood, CA	Balloon	Insufficient data. Only record card with little information for analysis.
10/25	Kodiak, AK	Balloon	Sirius

10/28	E. of Kerhonkson, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
10/30	McDill AFB, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10/31	Japan	Insufficient data	Possible sighting of Venus

Summary

This period was marked by a lot of sightings of Venus. A lot of these Venus cases I reclassified were listed as “possible” because there was very little data, which would permit positive identification. While Blue Book was pretty good at identifying Venus, they missed over a dozen cases. Most notable is the October 14 sighting in San Diego, which they had classified as Arcturus. I expanded on my comments about this event in the article on the next page.

It is interesting to see the hand written notes of investigators, and Captain Gregory, complaining about the lack of data in the messages or the incompetence of the investigating officer. Missing in a lot of these documents are comments by Blue Book’s consultant, Dr. Hynek. I can only assume that he was too busy or Blue Book did not want him around. This may have had something to do with a personality conflict he might have had with Captain Gregory. Next issue, I will attempt to attack the large amount of sightings between November and December of 1957.

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2. Project Blue Book archive. Available WWW:<http://bluebookarchive.org/>
3. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>
4. “Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947” StratoCat. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>
5. “Space History Chronology”. Astronautix. Available WWW: <http://www.astronautix.com/s/spacehistorychronology.html>
6. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968.

October 14, 1957 Radar-Visual case

This case was presented by Dr. James McDonald as a convincing radar-visual UFO case. However, he seems to have ignored some basic problems. It is true that he destroyed the USAF's explanation for the case but he did not consider all the possibilities in his presentation.

Project Blue Book's case file and conclusion¹

The events that night started just before 1900 on the 14th of October. A tower operator saw a stationary bright light at a bearing of 210 degrees magnetic (225 true). It faded and then reappeared a little to the north and slightly lower in elevation. It faded again and, once again, reappeared slightly north of the previous position and lower in elevation. For the most part the object was white but there seemed to be a hint of blue.

An S2F sub-hunter aircraft was about to take off and the controller directed it towards the object. The pilot saw the object prior to take off and proceeded towards the object at an altitude of 200 feet after taking off on Runway 29. The pilot, thinking the object was close and near Point Loma, hoped to get behind the object and silhouette it against the lights of San Diego. Once airborne and approaching Point Loma, he quickly discovered that the object was not in front of him but on his right wingtip and rapidly accelerated away. The pilot turned west towards a bearing of 230 degrees magnetic (245 true). At this point the radar had finished warming up and the operator reported a target ahead at 17 miles and above the plane.

The pilot reported the sky was clear but there were low clouds close to the horizon. The stars were dim compared to the object they were following.

The plane slowly ascended to an altitude of 4500 feet. At that point the radar target was 12 miles ahead. The object then moved rapidly to the right 10 degrees. The pilot changed course to 240 degrees magnetic (255 true) and accelerated in attempt to close with the target. They closed to within 10 miles according to the radar but, after that, they could not close the distance despite accelerating and decelerating. The object then moved to the left 20 degrees at an azimuth of 220 degrees magnetic (235 true). After the radar indicated they were closing to 8 miles, the pilot chose to climb to 8000 feet.

Between 40 and 50 miles from Point Loma, the object disappeared off of radar and the light faded. Within a short period of time, the light reappeared visually but did not reappear on radar. They pursued to a distance of 58 miles from Point Loma when the object faded away at a bearing of 230 degrees magnetic (245 true).

Project Blue Book wrote on the record card that the object being pursued was the star Arcturus and the radar returns were due to an inversion or weather. They also checked off "possible balloon" on the record card.

Dr. McDonald's case²

Dr. James McDonald did not like Blue Book's evaluation. He correctly points out that Arcturus fails as an explanation because Arcturus was at a true azimuth of 290 degrees (275 degrees magnetic), which is too far away from the position of the object. He also criticized the weather/inversion explanation for the radar returns because Blue Book had no data presented for this conclusion and it did not seem possible that it could produce the radar returns described.

My analysis and explanation

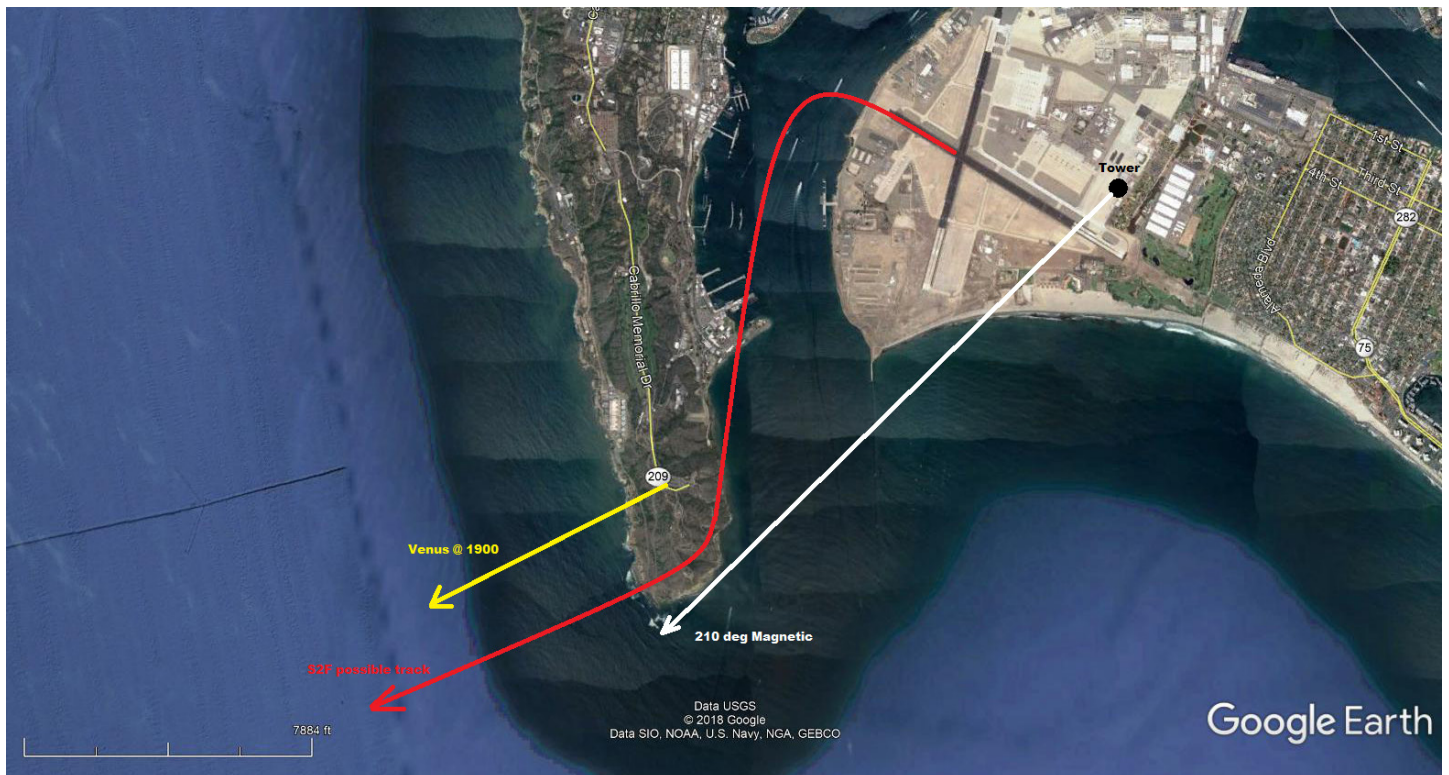
As noted in my Blue Book summary, I concluded the optical sighting was of the planet Venus, which was a brilliant -4.1 magnitude object at a bearing of 223 degrees magnetic. I think there is good reason to conclude this. Examine the following table regarding the sighting and the positions of Venus:

Time	Bearing of UFO (true/mag)	Bearing of Venus (true/mag)
1900	225/210	238/223
S2F begins pursuit	235-255/220-240	238-242/223-227
S2F ends pursuit (1920-1925)	245/230	242/227

The headings/bearings for the sighting all seem to fall within the same range. Despite the pilot reporting the shifting position of the object back and forth, it seems that the object always came back to a bearing of 230 degrees magnetic (245 true). This was very close to the bearing of Venus.

The pilot remarked that there were low clouds towards the west, which would explain why it was seen to fade and then reappear. The most important thing to mention is that not once is the planet Venus mentioned by the pilot or tower operator. They should have seen it AND the object. Instead, it was as if Venus was not present and the only thing visible was the light. That should be convincing evidence that Venus probably was the object that was pursued.

The S2F's track was that he departed on runway 29 and had to turn to port in order to fly down the channel in an attempt to get the object between the plane and the lights of San Diego. After completing his banking turn to port, and leveling off, the pilot expected to see the object in front of him. Instead, he saw the object towards the southwest off his starboard wingtip. He concluded that the



UFO had suddenly accelerated away from Point Loma towards the southwest. He now began his pursuit on a 230 degree magnetic bearing (245 true azimuth).

The radar returns are not as easy to explain. It is important to note that the AN/APS-38 radar was in a retractable radar dome that hung below the belly of the aircraft.³ The aircraft was designed to hunt submarines, which means the radar was built primarily to detect surface targets below the aircraft. I am sure it could track aircraft but how well could it do so?



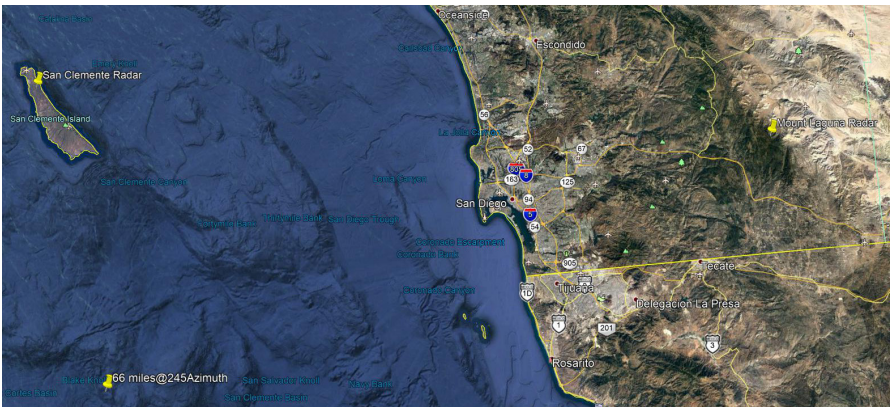
Both McDonald and the USAF did not contain any radiosonde data for their evaluations. I checked the radiosonde database⁴ and found that San Diego had launched a balloon at 0000Z (three hours prior to the event). The data indicates that there was a tem-

perature inversion around 7500 feet. It does not appear severe enough to produce trapping/ducting but it would have resulted in refraction of radar waves and could possibly produce false targets.

Alt (m)	Alt (ft)	Temp C	Dewpoint C
510	1673	13.9	12.8
982	3222	11.2	10.1
1458	4783	8.3	7.2
1720	5643	7.1	4.2
1956	6417	5.7	4.0
2270	7448	7.6	-11.6
2490	8169	3.3	0.5
3043	9984	3.7	No data
3640	11942	2.0	No data
4286	14062	0.1	No data
4980	16339	-4.9	No data

It seems possible that this might have played a role in generating potential false radar returns. It is difficult to say without knowing more about the radar and conditions under which it was operating.

Missing in all of this is the fact that no nearby Navy or USAF radars picked up this target. If North Island did not have an air search radar, naval ships at sea would have. The USAF had a radar site about 50 miles east of North Island on Mount Laguna.⁵ The AN/GPS-3 radar (A modification of the AN/FPS-8) operating there, with a range of about 220 nautical miles, should have detected an intruder. The last known location of the UFO would have been about 50 miles south of San Clemente Air Force Station⁶, which also had an AN/GPS-3 search radar. The lack of any reports indicates these various radars either did not detect the UFO or did not report it. The fact that the only radar that reported detecting this target was the S2F pursuing it indicates the target registered may have been isolated to that particular radar unit and may have not been an actual physical object at all.



Conclusion

Venus seems to be the primary culprit in this sighting. It is rather frustrating that McDonald and the USAF never bothered to look to see if any bright astronomical object was in the vicinity of the target. It is equally frustrating that nobody seemed interested to see what the actual atmospheric conditions were before proclaiming there was, or was not, an inversion that evening. While somebody at Blue Book seemed fixated on Arcturus, McDonald appeared too busy trying to prove the USAF wrong. In both instances, there was a failure to do nothing more than a cursory examination.

References

1. "October 14, 1957 - San Diego California." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6972326>
2. McDonald, James E. Meteorological Factors in Unidentified Radar Returns. 14th Radar Meteorology Conference American Meteorological Society November 17-20, 1970 Available WWW: <http://www.project1947.com/shg/articles/metfac70.html>
3. CS2F Tracker in Canadian service - Electronics suite Available WWW: http://jproc.ca/rrp/rrp3/tracker_equipment_details.html
4. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>
5. Winkler, David F. Searching the skies. HQ Air Combat Command. June 1997. P. 104
6. *ibid*. P. 103.

Revisions for the Classical period

by

Marty Kottmeyer

What follows is a list of historical events of the classical period cited in the ufo literature. They have been corrected using the best scholarship I am aware of. Bold fonts within quotes are the parts that have drawn the focus of ufo thinkers. I have often given more of the context of the quote than prior efforts.

☞ The finger points to Facebook postings that present image copies of the sources used in the revisions along with discussions of the ambiguities and naturalistic interpretations that seem most plausible to those interested in such things. This particular list confines itself mostly to just getting the dates and quotes corrected and avoid things that are matters for argument.

c. 580-576 B.C. Province of Regio Calabria and the Olympian games

"Castor and Pollux were seen fighting in our army on horseback... Nor do we forget that when the Locrians defeated the people at Crotona in a battle on the banks of the river Sagra, it was known the same day at the Olympian games. The voices of the Fauns have been heard and deities have appeared in forms so visible that they compelled everyone who is not senseless or hardened by impiety to confess the presence of the Gods."

Source:

Cicero, Of the Nature of the Gods, Book 1, Ch.2.

<https://archive.org/details/denaturadeorumac00ciceuoft/page/126>

https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Battle_of_the_Sagra

"But the Gods have appeared to us, as to Posthumius at the Lake Regillus, and to Vatienuus in the Salarian Way; something you mentioned, too, I know not what, of a battle of the Locrians at Sagra"

Source:

Cicero, Of the Nature of Gods, Book III, Ch. 5

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2203587306550188>

464 B.C. Rome, Italy

"The heavens were seen to blaze with numerous fires, and other portents were actually seen or were due to the illusions of the terror-stricken observers."

Source:

B.O Foster, trans., Livy, with an English Translation in 14 volumes, volume 2: Books III and IV, (Loeb Classic Library, 1968 edition of 1922), pp. 18-21.

<https://archive.org/details/livy02livy/page/18>

<https://archive.org/details/livy02livy/page/20>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2197601577148761>

404 or 403 B.C. Phyle, Attica (now: Fyli, Attica, Greece)

"To-day, therefore, I repeat, the gods do visibly fight upon our side; the great gods, who raise a tempest even in the midst of calm for our benefit, and when we lay to our hand to fight, enable our little company to set up the trophy of victory over the multitude of our foes. On this day they have brought us hither to a place where the steep ascent must needs hinder our foes..."

Source:

H. G. Dakyns, trans. Hellenica (Xenophon) by Xenophon, Book 2, Chapter 4

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Hellenica_\(Xenophon\)/Book_2/Chapter_4?fbclid=IwAR1rl1uw6_-Q6YRFMSN4Pizr8KEFcNsn-aqUsTys0RK0hRZdjZ00Rth3GEK4](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Hellenica_(Xenophon)/Book_2/Chapter_4?fbclid=IwAR1rl1uw6_-Q6YRFMSN4Pizr8KEFcNsn-aqUsTys0RK0hRZdjZ00Rth3GEK4)

*"But further, when Thrasybulus was bringing back the exiles from Phyla, and wished to elude observation, **a pillar** became his guide as he marched over a trackless region. To Thrasybulus by night, the sky being moonless and stormy, **a fire appeared leading the way**, which, having conducted them safely, left them near Munychia, where is now the altar of the light-bringer.(Phosphorus)"*

Source:

Rev. Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson, ed., Ante-Nicene Christian Library: Translations of the Writings of the Fathers Down to A.D. 325, volume IV: Clement of Alexandria, volume 1, Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 1868, pp. 457-8

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2198229930419259>

c.345 to 343 B.C. Mediterranean off Sicily

*"(Timoleon) put to sea only with seven ships of Corinth, two of Corcyra, and a tenth which was furnished by the Leucadians; and when he was now entered into the deep by night, and carried with a prosperous gale, **the heaven seemed all on a sudden to break open, and a bright spreading flame to issue forth from it**, and hover over the ship he was in; and, having formed itself into **a torch**, not unlike those that are used in the mysteries, it began to steer the same course, and run along in their company, guiding them by its light to that quarter of Italy where they designed to go ashore. The soothsayers affirmed, that this apparition agreed with the dream of the holy women, since the goddesses were now visibly joining in the expedition, and sending this light from heaven before them: Sicily being thought sacred to Proserpina, as poets feign that the rape was committed there, and that the island was given her in dowry when she married Pluto. These early demonstrations of divine favor greatly encouraged his whole army; so that, making all the speed they were able, by a voyage across the open sea, they were soon passing along the coast of Italy."*

Source:

A. H. Clough, Plutarch's Lives, 1859.

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/674/674-h/674-h.htm#2H_4_0018

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Plutarch%27s_Lives_\(Clough\)/Timoleon](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Plutarch%27s_Lives_(Clough)/Timoleon)

<http://oncle-dom.fr/paranormal/ovni/catalogue/prod-345.htm>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2198772863698299>

340 B.C. Near Capua

*"The senate also agreed on war; and the consuls, enrolling two armies, marched out through the country of the Marsi and Paeligni, and having added to their forces the army of the Samnites, went into camp near Capua, where the Latins and their allies had already assembled. **There in the stillness of the night both consuls are said to have been visited by the same apparition, a man of greater than human stature and more majestic, who declared that the commander of one side, and the army of the other, must be offered up to the Manes and to Mother Earth**; and that in whichever host the general should devote to death the enemy's legions, and himself with them, that nation and that side would have the victory. When the consuls had compared these **visions of the night**, they resolved that victims should be slain to turn away the wrath of Heaven; and at the same time that if the warning of the entrails should coincide with what they had seen in their dream, one or other of the consuls should fulfil the decrees of fate. The report of the soothsayers agreed with the secret conviction which had already found lodgment in their breasts; whereupon they sent for their lieutenants and the tribunes and having openly declared the pleasure of the gods, that so the consul's voluntary death might not terrify the soldiers in the fray, they agreed with one another that on whichever flank the Roman army should begin to yield, there the consul should devote himself in behalf of the Roman People and Quirites.*

Source:

Livy, book 8, ch. 11

B.O. Foster, trans., Livy, in 13 volumes, IV, Books VIII – X, William Heinemann & G.P. Putnam's Sons [Loeb Classical Library], 1926, pp. 21-3

<https://archive.org/details/livywithenglisht04livyuoft/page/20>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2204725879769664>

332 B.C. Tyre, Phoenicia (now: Lebanon)

● *"However their pressing Necessity, which is more efficaciously ingenious than Art, made them not only put in practice the usual Methods of Defence, but inspir'd 'em also with new ones: For, to annoy the Ships that approach'd the Walls, they contriv'd long Rasters, to which they fasten'd Crows, Grappling Irons, Hooks and Scythes, which they discharg'd from their Engines, letting go the Ropes to which they were fasten'd, that they might recover 'em again. These Hooks and Scythes tore to Pieces the Men, and very much damag'd the Ships. They had, besides, another Contrivance; they heated Brass Bucklers as hot as Fire could make 'em, and then fill'd 'em with burning Sand, and boiling Mud, which they pour'd down from the Walls upon the Macedonians. None of their Machines were more terrible than this; for if the burning Sand got between the Armour and the Body, as it was impossible to shake it off, it fail'd not to burn whatever it touch'd; so that flinging down their Arms, and tearing every thing off that was to protect their Bodies, they lay expos'd to all manner of Mischief without being able to do any."*

Source:

John Digby, trans., Quintus Curtius - His History of the Wars of Alexander, vol. 1, London: W.B. for Bernard Lintott, 1714, p. 201

<https://archive.org/details/quintuscurtiushi00curt/page/n207>

● *"Furthermore, they [the Tyrians] would heat **bronze shields** in a blazing fire, fill them with hot sand and boiling excrement and suddenly **hurl them** from the walls. None of their deterrents aroused greater fear than this. The hot sand would make its way between the*

breastplate and the body; there was no way to shake it out and it would burn through whatever it touched. The soldiers would throw away their weapons, tear off all their protective clothing and thus expose themselves to wounds without being able to retaliate."

Source:

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/270291118/Alexander-the-Great-Historical-Sources-in-Translation-Waldemar-Heckel-J-C-Yardley>
Heckel and Yardley, *Alexander the Great: Historical Texts in Translation*, 2004, p. 151.

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2210328589209393>

223 B.C - Ariminum (Now: Rimini) and Italian peninsula, Italy.

*"Meanwhile portents had occurred which threw the people of Rome into great fear. A river in Picenum ran the color of blood, in Etruria a good part of the heavens seemed to be on fire, **at Ariminum a light like daylight blazed out at night, in many portions of Italy the shapes of three moons became visible in the night time**, and in the Forum a vulture perched for several days."*

Source:

http://y.deliyannis.free.fr/clipeus_old/case.php?id=BC223 [Also has original texts]

<http://fondosdigitales.us.es/fondos/libros/711/grabados/12131/iulii-obsequentis-prodigiorum-liber-polydori-vergilii-de-prodigiis-libri-iii/>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2193400434235542>

222 B.C. (see 122 B.C)

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2202955013280084>

218 B.C. Rome and Amiternum, Italy

*"During this winter many portents occurred in Rome and the neighbourhood, or at all events, many were reported and easily gained credence, for when once men's minds have been excited by superstitious fears they easily believe these things. A six-months-old child, of freeborn parents, is said to have shouted "Io Triumphe" in the vegetable market, whilst in the Forum Boarium an ox is reported to have climbed up of its own accord to the third story of a house, and then, frightened by the noisy crowd which gathered, it threw itself down. **A phantom navy was seen shining in the sky**; the temple of Hope in the vegetable market was struck by lightning; at Lanuvium Juno's spear had moved of itself, and a crow had flown down to her temple and settled upon her couch; in the territory of **Amiternum beings in human shape and clothed in white were seen at a distance**, but no one came close to them; in the neighbourhood of Picenum there was a shower of stones; at Caere the oracular tablets had shrunk in size; in Gaul a wolf had snatched a sentinel's sword from its scabbard and run off with it."*

Source:

Livy, Book 21, ch. 62.

D. Spillan & Cyrus Edmonds, trans., *The History of Rome by Titus Livius*, Books 9 to 26, (1868).

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/10907/10907-h/10907-h.htm#f10>

Rev. Canon Roberts, trans., *The History of Rome, Vol. 3*, J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, 1905.

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/txt/ah/Livy/Livy21.html>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2197022577206661>

217 or 216 B.C. Arpi, Praeneste (now: Palestrina), Capena, Falerii (now: Civita Castellana)

*"To add to the general feeling of apprehension, information was received of portents having occurred simultaneously in several places. In Sicily several of the soldiers' darts were covered with flames; in Sardinia the same thing happened to the staff in the hand of an officer who was going his rounds to inspect the sentinels on the wall; the shores had been lit up by numerous fires; a couple of shields had sweat-ed blood; some soldiers had been struck by lightning; an eclipse of the sun had been observed; at Praeneste there had been a shower of red-hot stones; at Arpi **shields had been seen in the sky and the sun had appeared to be fighting with the moon**; at Capena **two moons were visible in the daytime**; at Caere the waters ran mingled with blood, and even the spring of Hercules had bubbled up with drops of blood on the water; at Antium the ears of corn which fell into the reapers' basket were blood-stained; at Falerii **the sky seemed to be cleft asunder as with an enormous rift and all over the opening there was a blazing light**; the oracular tablets shrank and shrivelled without being touched and one had fallen out with this inscription, "MARS IS SHAKING HIS SPEAR"; and at the same time the statue of Mars on the Appian Way and the images of the Wolves sweated blood. Finally, at Capua the sight was seen of the sky on fire and the moon falling in the midst of a shower of rain."*

Livy, Book 22, ch. 1

Rev. Canon Roberts, trans., *The History of Rome, Vol. 3*, J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, 1905.

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/txt/ah/Livy/Livy22.html>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2195175694058016>

<https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2195726334002952>

213 B.C.Hadria (now: Atri)

*"at Hadria, **that an altar, with appearances as of men surrounding it in white clothing, was seen in the heavens.** Nay, even in the city of Rome itself, after a swarm of bees had been seen in the forum, some persons roused the citizens to arms, affirming that they saw armed legions on the Janiculum; but those who were on the Janiculum at the time, declared that they had seen no person there besides the usual cultivators of the hill. These prodigies were expiated by victims of the larger kind, according to the response of the aruspices; and a supplication was ordered to all the deities who had shrines at Rome."*

Source:

Livy, Book 24, ch. 10

D. Spillan & Cyrus Edmonds, trans., The History of Rome by Titus Livius, Books 9 to 26, (1868).

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/10907/10907-h/10907-h.htm#f10>

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/txt/ah/Livy/Livy24.html>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2197022577206661>

174 B.C.Rome

*A quasi-translation of Livy: "In the district of Veii, a boy was born with two heads; at Sinuess, one with a single hand; and at Oximum, a girl with teeth; **in the middle of the day, the sky being perfectly clear, an [arcus] was seen, stretching over the temple of Saturn, in the Roman forum, and three suns shone at once; and the following night many lights were seen gliding through the air, about Lanuvium.** The people of Cære affirmed that there had appeared in their town a snake with a mane, having its body marked with spots like gold; and it was fully proved that an ox had spoken in Campania."*

Livy 41, 21

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/44318/44318-h/44318-h.htm#e21>

Livy 41, 20 above it states the election of Sp. Postumius Albinus Paullulus and Q. Mucius Scaevola eo, that means 174 B.C.

John Briscoe's Commentary on Livy, Oxford, 2012, p. 116:

- "arcus...caelo": so not a normal rainbow (as claimed by Krauss, 68). The prodigy is unique."

https://books.google.com/books?id=YTggAQAAQBAJ&pg=PA116&lpg=PA116&dq=a+bow+stretched+over+the+temple+of+Saturn&source=bl&ots=p3ilFtK3V4&sig=FM_I7amWtp1zfw_SYJ7Ec0-bESw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiAj9ughlffAhXDdN8KHW5d-Bv8Q6AEwDnoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=a%20bow%20stretched%20over%20the%20temple%20of%20Saturn&f=false

Wiktionary accepts arcus can be

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/arcus>

1. arc

2. bow (arc-shaped weapon used for archery)

3. rainbow

- "Our ancestors have frequently seen three suns at the same time, as was the case in the consulship of Sp. Postumius and L. Mucius..."

Source:

Pliny, Book 2, ch. 31:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0137%3Abook%3D2%3Achapter%3D31>

<https://archive.org/stream/plinysnaturalhis00plinrich#page/n77/mode/1up>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2207189419523310>

173 B.C.Lanuvium (NOT Lanupium)

"At Lanuvium the sight of a great fleet had been witnessed in the heavens;"

Livy, Book 42, ch. 2.

Rev. Canon Roberts, trans., The History of Rome, Vol. 3, J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, 1905.

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/txt/ah/Livy/Livy42.html>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2194014674174118>

166 B.C. Cassinum (now: Cassino)

"In Campania it rained earth in many places. In Praenestine territory showers of blood fell. At Veii wool sprouted from trees. At Tarracina in the temple of Minvera, three women, who were seated working, were killed by lightning. At the grove of Libitina water poured for a long time from the mouth and foot of a bronze equestrian statue. The Ligurian Gauls were destroyed.

*There were assemblies that were overly competitive? and because of this the senate was held on the Capitol, a flying kite sent a weasel that had been snatched up from the cella of Jupiter into the middle of the senator's meeting. Around the same time the temple of Salus was struck from the sky. On the Quirinal hill blood drenched the earth. **At Lanuvium a torch was seen in the night sky.** Many places at Cassinum were shattered by lightning and **the sun was seen at night for some hours.** At Teanum Sidicinum a boy with four hands the same number of feet was born. After the city had been lustrated there was peace at home and abroad."*

Source:

Julii Obsequentis Ab Anno Urbis Conditae Dv Prodigorum Liber, ch 12.

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/12.html>

<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/obsequens.html>

<https://archive.org/details/bibliothecaclas99lemagoog/page/n94>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2192934620948790>

163 B.C. Capua, Formiae (now: Formice)

Time of Tiberius Graccho Manius Juventio consulship. AUC 591/163 BC

*"At Capua **the sun was seen at night.** In the territory of Stellate part of a flock of wethers [castrated billy goats or rams or sheep] was killed by lightning. At Terracina triplet boys were born. At Formiae **two suns were seen during the day. The sky blazed with fire.** At Concia **a man was burnt alive by a beam which was generated from a burning mirror.** At Gabiae it rained milk. On the Palatium many places were shaken by lightning. In the Temple of Victory a swan slipped through the hands of its captors and escaped. At Priver-num a girl was born without a hand. In Cephallenia a trumpet seemed to sound in the sky. A tempestuous storm destroyed buildings and created carnage on the land. It thundered frequently. At night at Pisaurum **an image of the sun shone forth.** At Caere a pig was born with human hands and feet, and boys with four-feet and four-hands. In the forum of Aesum flames which came from its very mouth did not harm a bull."*

Source:

Julii Obsequentis Ab Anno Urbis Conditae Dv Prodigorum Liber, ch 14.

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/14.html>

<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/obsequens.html>

<https://archive.org/details/bibliothecaclas99lemagoog/page/n96>

In the above I altered a term "spy glass" [an anachronism] to "burning mirror" to reflect the concepts of the era as discussed here:

<http://www.hellenicaworld.com/Greece/Science/en/Mirrors.html>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2192934620948790>

122 B.C. Gaul (now: France)

"Three moons have also been seen, as was the case in the consulship of Cn. Domitius and C. Fannius; they have generally been named nocturnal suns."

The Natural History. Pliny the Elder. John Bostock, M.D., F.R.S. H.T. Riley, Esq., B.A. London. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street. 1855.

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0137%3Abook%3D2%3Achapter%3D32>

<https://www.resourcesforlivingwell.com/Education/Origin%20Stories/Pliny%20Natural%20History.html#2-32>

"In the forum at Vessano a hermaphrodite was born and was carried down to the sea. In Gaul ~~three suns and~~ three moons were seen. A two-headed calf was born. An owl was seen on the Capitol. (Three suns was a likely misreading of Pliny's remark that triple moons were termed 'nocturnal suns')

Julii Obsequentis Ab Anno Urbis Conditae Dv Prodigorum Liber, ch 32.

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/32.html>

<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/obsequens.html>

<https://archive.org/details/bibliothecaclas99lemagoog/page/n128>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2193400434235542>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2202955013280084>

103 B.C. Ameria (Now: Amelia, Umbria, Italy), Tuder (Now: Todi)

"We have heard, that during the war with the Cimbri, the rattling of arms and the sound of trumpets were heard through the sky, and that the same thing has frequently happened before and since. Also, that in the third consulship of Marius, armies were seen in the heavens by the Amerini and the Tudertes, encountering each other, as if from the east and west, and that those from the east were repelled. It is not at all wonderful for the heavens themselves to be in flames, and it has been more frequently observed when the clouds have taken up a great deal of fire."

Source:

Pliny, Book 2, ch. 58

The Natural History. Pliny the Elder. John Bostock, M.D., F.R.S. H.T. Riley, Esq., B.A. London. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street. 1855.

http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0137%3Abook%3D2%3Achapter%3D58&fbclid=IwAR31ipcQcYALm4JrxoV8DXY5W-_luYeYN4W2LNnNYMiXAPxOjprF-capURo

<https://archive.org/details/caiipliniisecund01plin/page/166>

● *"Though there were many signs about this time, all of them were of an ordinary kind, except what was reported from Ameria and Tud-
er, two towns of Italy, where at night there was the appearance in the heavens of fiery spears and shields, which at first moved about in
various directions, and then closed together, exhibiting the attitudes and movements of men in battle; at last part gave way, and the rest
pressed on in pursuit, and all moved away to the west."*

Source:

Bernadotte Perrin, trans., Plutarch's Lives, in eleven volumes IX, Demetrius and Antony, Pyrrhus and Caius Marius, William Heineman, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1920, p. 508.

<https://archive.org/details/plutarchslives21plutgoog/page/n528>

Aubrey Stewart, trans. Plutarch's Lives, in 4 volumes, vol. 2, George Bell & Sons, 1899, "Life of Caius Marius," ch. XVII, p. 243.

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14114/14114-h/14114-h.htm#LIFE_OF_CAIUS_MARIUS

● *"An owl was seen outside the city. A bull spoke. At Trebula Mutusca a statue in the temple, whose head had been covered, was found
uncovered. At Nuceria an elm-tree overturned by wind straightened of its own accord and grew strong roots. In Lucania it rained milk,
at Luna blood. At Ariminum a dog spoke. **Celestial armies from the east and the west were seen fighting at both times, and those
from the west were being defeated.** On the response of the haruspices the people bore a contribution to Ceres and Proserpina. Twenty
seven singing maidens bore gifts. The moon with a star appeared for a long time between the third until the seventh hour. Regions were
ransacked by runaways and deserters in Thurii. The Cimbri after crossing the Alps and after Spain had been devastated joined the Teu-
tones. A wolf entered the city. Vultures on a tower were killed by a lightning bolt. At the third hour of the day the disappearance of the sun
obscured the light. A swarm of bees settled in front of the temple of Salus. In the comitium it rained milk, in Picenum **three suns were
seen.** In the territory of Vulsinii flames rose out of the earth and seemed to touch the sky. In Lucania two lambs were born with horse's
feet, another with the head of a monkey. At Tarquinium fivers of milk arose gushing out over the land. On the response of the haruspices,
olivewood standards, two armed statues and a supplication. In Macedonia the Thracians were subdued."*

Source:

Julii Obsequentis Ab Anno Urbis Conditae Dv Prodigorum Liber, ch 43.

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/43.html>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2191812147727704>

100 B.C. Tarquinii (now: Tarquinia)

"A burning shield darted across at sunset, from west to east, throwing out sparks, in the consulship of L. Valerius and G. Marius."

The Natural History. Pliny the Elder. John Bostock, M.D., F.R.S. H.T. Riley, Esq., B.A. London. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street. 1855.

http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0137%3Abook%3D2%3Achapter%3D34&fbclid=IwAR16hh7vhNv3ZGDOWtN3knjNZ4vEVII-LVVjyHymnL27vrucZGtJ_7wZ6N8

● *"At Tarquinii **a blazing torch was seen far and wide and fell suddenly dropping. Around the setting of the sun an orb similar to
a shield seemed to be borne across [the sky] from the west to the east.** In Picenum houses were reduced to ruins by an earth tremor,
after their foundations had been destroyed some remained in their own devastated/sunken?? state. The cries of armies was heard from
the depths of the earth. A gilded four horsed chariot in the forum perspired from its feet. The runaway slaves in Sicily were slaughtered in*

battle."

Source:

Julii Obsequentis Ab Anno Urbis Conditae Dv Prodigorum Liber, ch 45.

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/45.html>

● "A blazing meteor was seen far and wide at Tarquinii, falling in a sudden plunge. At sunset a circular object like a shield was seen to sweep across from west to east (Obsequens 45)"

Source:

A.D. Gheorghe & A. McBeath, "Meteor Beliefs Project: Meteoric portents from Livy and Julius Obsequens" WGN Journal of the International Meteor Organization, vol. 34, no. 3, p. 94-100

<http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/full/2006JIMO...34...94G>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2189349791307273>

93 B.C. Lucania and Vulsinium

"At Rome and around many places were shattered by lightning. A slave girl gave birth to a one-handed boy. At Fregellae the temple of Neptune opened up at night. When the entrails of a male calf were being removed, twin calves were found in its stomach. At Arretium a bronze standard of Mercury perspired. **In the territory of Lucania flames surrounded a flock of wethers, when it was grazing, and at night in the stable, and nothing was burnt.** At Carseoli a torrent of blood flowed. Wolves entered the city. At Praeneste **wool flew.** In Apulia a mule gave birth. A **kite** was caught in the temple of Apollo at Rome. When the consul Herennius was making a sacrifice, twice the head of the liver was lacking. During a nine-day festival the dinner placed before the goddess was eaten by a dog, before it had been tasted. **At Vulsinium at daybreak flames were seen bursting from the sky. When it had come together, the flames displayed a dark-red appearance, and the sky seemed to divide, and from this opening, coils of flame appeared.** It was expiated successfully through ceremonies of lustration. For the whole year there was concord at home and abroad."

Source:

Obsequens, ch. 52

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/52.html>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2205980912977494>

91 B.C. Spoletum (Italian: Spoleto)

"When Livius Drusus, tribune of the people, was passing his laws, and the Italian War began, many prodigies appeared in the city. Around sunrise **a ball of fire flashed out of the sky with a mighty sound from the northern regions.** At Arretium as they were breaking bread blood flowed from the middle of the loaves. In the territory of the Vestini for seven days it rained stones and potsherds. At Aenaria a flame which came out of a cleft in the earth flashed out to the sky. Around Regium part of the city and the walls were destroyed by an earth tremor. **At Spoletum a ball of fire with a golden hue rolled down to earth. It increased in size and after it was seen being carried from the land to the east it covered the sun with its magnitude.** At Cumae on the citadel the statue of Apollo perspired. In the Circus Flaminius the temple of Piety which was closed was struck by lightning. At Asculum Romans were killed because of the games. When the Latins drove flocks and herds from the fields into the city, it caused a butchery of men everywhere. The herds were agitated into such a state of madness that by ravaging them they represented the hostile war and tearfully with their many loved ones they foretold the calamitous event to their own people."

Source:

Julii Obsequentis Ab Anno Urbis Conditae Dv Prodigorum Liber, ch 54.

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/54.html>

● "probably at Rome, "About sunrise a ball of fire flashed forth from the northern heavens with a great noise in the sky.... Among the Vestini there was a rain of stones and sherds for seven days. No nine-day ritual was reported. "Near Spoletium a gold-colored fireball rolled down to the ground; increased in size, it seemed to move off the ground towards the east, and was big enough to blot out the sun." --

Source:

Obsequens 54.(alternate translation) in A.D. Gheorghe & A. McBeath, "Meteor Beliefs Project: Meteoric portents from Livy and Julius Obsequens" WGN Journal of the International Meteor Organization, vol. 34, no. 3, p. 94-100

<http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/full/2006JIMO...34...94G>

● "Things came to such a pass that awful prodigies terrified the saddened city. At sunrise a ball of fire, accompanied by a tremendous clap of thunder, shone forth from the northern region. While the inhabitants of Arretium were breaking bread at banquets, blood flowed from the center of the loaves as if from bodily wounds. Moreover, a shower of stones, intermingled with pieces of brick, lashed the earth far and wide for seven continuous days. Among the Samnites, a flame broke forth from a vast fissure in the ground and seemed to shoot upwards

into the sky. Furthermore, **several Romans on a journey saw a golden globe falling headlong from the sky to the earth; when it had become large in appearance, they saw it again carried aloft from the earth toward the rising sun, where its huge bulk hid the sun itself from view.** Drusus, who was worried by these ill-boding portents, was killed by an unidentified assassin in his own house."

Paulus Orosius, A History, against the Pagans, Book 5, ch. 18

https://sites.google.com/site/demontortoise2000/orosius_book5

Portal to other chapters including preface: <https://sites.google.com/site/demontortoise2000/>

<http://www.attalus.org/latin/orosius5.html?fbclid=IwAR1w39klrjgmaf3Y0pr9VJISqmhe0QL00qwzbA41Dm9O5surBAGR7Mr7-mc>

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85 B.C. (see 100 B.C. Tarquinia)

66 B.C. (see 76 B.C Rome)

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2202955013280084>

76 B.C. Rome, Italy

"By report there was once seen, and never but once, when Cn. Octavius and C. Scribonius were Consuls, a Spark to fall from a Star: and as it approached the Earth it waxed greater, and after it came to the Bigness of the Moon, it shone out and gave Light, as in a cloudy Day: then, being retired again into the Sky, it became a burning Lamp (Lampas). This, Licinius Syllanus, the Pro-consul, saw, together with his Attendants."

Source:

C. Plinius Secundus, Natural History, Book 2, Ch. 35.

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0137%3Abook%3D2%3Achapter%3D35>

Wernerian Club, trans., Pliny's Natural history. In thirty-seven books, (translation published 1847-49, originally written, 77 to 79 A.D.), p. 71.

<https://archive.org/stream/plinysnaturalhis00plinrich#page/n78/mode/1up>

R.B. Stothers, "The Roman fireball of 76 BC," The Observatory, vol. 107, (1987), pp. 211-213

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☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2202955013280084>

74 B.C. Otryae, Phrygia (now north central Turkey)

● *"as they were on the point of joining battle, [Lucullus v. Mithradates] with no apparent change of weather, but all on a sudden, the sky burst asunder, and a huge, flame-like body was seen to fall between the two armies. In shape, it was most like a wine-jar, and in colour, like molten silver. Both sides were astonished at the sight, and separated. This marvel, as they say, occurred in Phrygia, at a place called Otryae."*

Source:

Bernadotte Perrin, trans., Plutarch's Lives, in eleven volumes, volume 2: THEMISTOCLES AND CAMILLUS & ARISTIDES AND CATO MAJOR; CIMON AND LUCULLUS, William Heinemann & Harvard University Press, 1959, pp. 495-7.

<https://archive.org/details/plutarchslives02plutuoft/page/495>

<https://archive.org/details/plutarchslives02plutuoft/page/497>

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Plut.%20Luc.%208&lang=original>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2209095502666035>

10 August 48 B.C. Pharsalos, Thessaly (now: Farsala, Greece)

"Moreover, on the night before the battle, as Caesar was making the round of his sentries, a fiery torch was seen in the heavens, which seemed to be carried over his camp, blazing out brightly, and then to fall into Pompey's. And during the morning watch it was noticed that there was actually a panic confusion among the enemy."

Source:

Bernadotte Perrin, trans., Plutarch's Lives, in Eleven volumes, VII: Demosthenes and Cicero, Alexander and Caesar, William Heinemann Ltd, Harvard University, Loeb Classic Series, 1958, p. 547.

<https://archive.org/details/liveswithenglish07plut/page/546>

● *"Thereupon a flame from heaven flew through the air from Caesar's camp to Pompey's, where it was extinguished. Pompey's men said that it signified a brilliant victory for them over their enemies, but Caesar interpreted it as a meaning that he should fall upon and extin-*

guish the power of Pompey."

Source:

Horace White, trans., Appian's Roman History, in Four Volumes, III, Harvard University Press & William Heinemann, 1964, pp. 353-5.

<https://archive.org/details/appiansromanhist03appi/page/352>

<https://archive.org/details/appiansromanhist03appi/page/354>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2199992676909651>

44 B.C. Rome

The Roman statesman and philosopher Cicero speaking generically of the Roman belief in prodigies, writes,

"But I return to the divination of the Romans. How often has our senate enjoined the decemvirs to consult the books of the Sibyls! For instance, when two suns had been seen, or when three moons had appeared, and when flames of fire were noticed in the sky; or on that other occasion, when the sun was beheld in the night, when noises were heard in the sky, and the heaven itself seemed to burst open, and strange globes were remarked in it."

Source:

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC – 43 BC), "On Divination," Book 1, ch. 43.

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/On_Divination/Book_1#43

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2203587306550188>

43 B.C. Rome

*"While these transactions were taking place many fearful prodigies and portents were observed at Rome. Dogs continuously like wolves – a fearful sign. Wolves darted through the forum – an animal unused to the city. Cattle uttered a human voice. A newly born infant. Sweat issued from statues; some even sweated blood. **Loud voices of men were heard and the clashing of arms and the tramp of horse where none could be seen. Many fearful signs were observed around the sun, there were showers of stones** and continuous lightning fell upon sacred temples and images; and in consequence of these things the Senate sent for diviners and soothsayers from Etruria."*

Source:

Horace White, trans. Appian's Roman History, in four volumes, IV, "The Civil Wars, Book IV" Harvard Univ. Press, 1961, pp. 144-47.

<https://archive.org/details/appiansromanhist04appi/page/144>

<https://archive.org/details/appiansromanhist04appi/page/146>

● *"...pieces of armour were seen to rise up from the earth to the sky and a great clashing that came from them was heard;"*

Source:

Cassius Dio, Book 47, ch 2. Line 3:

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/47*.html

● *"An appearance of arms and weapons seemed to be borne from the land to the sky with a loud tumult."*

Source:

Obsequens, ch 69:

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/69.html>

● *"In 43 BC at Rome "a spectacle of defensive and offensive weapons (armorum telorumque species) was seen to rise from the earth to the sky with a clashing noise."*

Source:

Obsequens, ch. 69 (alternate translation):

Richard Stothers, "Unidentified Flying Objects in Classical Antiquity" The Classical Journal 103.1 (2007): 79–92; @ p. 84.

https://pubs.giss.nasa.gov/docs/2007/2007_Stothers_st02710y.pdf

42 B.C. Rome and Mutinensi (present-day English: Modena)

*"And again, many suns have been seen at the same time; not above or below the real sun, but in an oblique direction, never near nor opposite to the earth, nor in the night, but either in the east or in the west. They are said to have been seen once at noon in the Bosphorus, and to have continued from morning until sunset. **Our ancestors have frequently seen three suns at the same time**, as was the case in the consulship of Sp. Postumius and L. Mucius, [174 B.C.] of L. Marcius and M. Portius, [118 B.C.] that of M. Antony and Dolabella, [44*

B.C.] and that of **M. Lepidus and L. Plancus**. And we have ourselves seen one during the reign of the late Emperor Claudius, when he was consul along with Corn. Orfitus [51 A.D.]. We have no account transmitted to us of more than three having been seen at the same time."

Source:

Pliny, Book 2, ch. 31:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0137%3Abook%3D2%3Achapter%3D31>

<https://archive.org/stream/plinysnaturalhis00plinrich#page/n77/mode/1up>

● "Thus, in the city the sun at one time would be diminished and grow extremely small, and again would show itself huge and trebled in size, and once it even shone forth at night;"

Source:

Cassius Dio, Book 47, ch. 40

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/47*.html

● "**Light so shone at night, that it seemed that people woke up for work as though it was daybreak.** At Mutinensi the south facing standard of the Marian victory, of its own accord, turned northward at the fourth hour. When these things were being expiated by sacrificial victims, **three suns** were seen at around the third hour of the day, then they drew together as one globe

Source:

Obsequens, ch. 70.

<http://www.alexthenice.com/obsequens/text/70.html>

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12 B.C. Rome

"The death of Agrippa, far from being merely a private loss to his own household, was at any rate such a public loss to all the Romans that portents occurred on this occasion in such numbers as are wont to happen to them before the greatest calamities. Owls kept flitting about the city, and lightning struck the house on the Alban Mount where the consuls lodge during the sacred rites. The star called the comet hung for several days over the city and was finally dissolved into flashes resembling torches. Many buildings in the city were destroyed by fire, among them the hut of Romulus, which was set ablaze by crows which dropped upon it burning meat from some altar."

Source:

Cassius Dio, Roman History, Book 54

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/54*.html

Agrippa died 12 B.C.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Vipsanius_Agrippa

This has been identified as Halley's Comet.

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21 May 70 A.D. Jerusalem

"...not many days after the festival, on the twenty-first of the month Artemisium, there appeared a miraculous phenomenon, passing belief. Indeed, what I am about to relate would, I imagine, have been deemed a fable, were it not for the narratives of eyewitnesses and for the subsequent calamities which deserved to be so signalized. For before sunset throughout all parts of the country **chariots were seen in the air and armed battalions hurtling through the clouds and encompassing the cities.**"

Source:

H. St. J. Thackeray, trans., Josephus, in nine volumes: III - The Jewish War, Books IV-VII, William Heineman & Harvard University (Loeb Classical Library), 1961, p. 463.

<https://archive.org/details/josephuswithengl03joseuoft/.../462>

<https://archive.org/details/josephuswithengl03joseuoft/page/n5>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2200612030181049>

80 A.D. Caledon Wood, Scotland

"Our annals record that a large variety of prodigies had occurred in Albion (Britain) a little before Galdus' battle with the Romans. Flaming brands were seen to fly through the air, a great part of Caledonia appeared to be ablaze at night, but to be untroubled by fire in the day-time. Phantom ships appeared in the sky, in Athol it rained stones, and in Horestia there was a torrential downpour of frogs."

Source:

Hector Boece, The History of Scotland, Book IV, ch. 58.

http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/boece/4eng.html?fbclid=IwAR1tZGmmcirG46J2XFPpf4PVEblw6pJb_4QRDHivSiTm-wQCAoyQyqgS5L8c

A version with more brogue:

John Bellenden, trans., The History and Chronicles of Scotland by Hector Boece, volume 1, Edinburgh: W. & C. Taft, 1821, p. 155.

<https://archive.org/stream/historychronicle01boec#page/155/mode/1up/search/Agricola>

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Between March and May 193 A.D. Rome

*"These were the occurrences in Rome. I shall now speak of what happened outside, and of the various rebellions. For three men at this time, each commanding three legions of citizens and many foreigners besides, attempted to secure the control of affairs — Severus, Niger and Albinus. The last-named was governor of Britain, Severus of Pannonia, and Niger of Syria. These, then, were the three men portended by the **three stars that suddenly came to view surrounding the sun** when Julianus in our presence was offering the Sacrifices of Entrance in front of the senate-house. **These stars were so very distinct that the soldiers kept continually looking at them and pointing them out to one another**, while declaring that some dreadful fate would befall the emperor."*

Source:

Cassius Dio, Roman History, Epitome of Book LXXIV

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/74*.html?fbclid=IwAR2bDIb-tr3hpxqTC9d_odn1Y4nQxya_fn-HepD2ipErAlr3jpPeq4JWNhRI

<https://archive.org/stream/L177CassiusDioCocceianusRomanHistoryIX7180/L177-Cassius%20Dio%20Cocceianus%20Roman%20History%20IX%3A71-80#page/n159/mode/2up/search/stars>

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2060334787542108>

191 A.D. Rome

"In that time of crisis a number of divine portents occurred. Stars remained visible during the day; other stars, extending to an enormous length, seemed to be hanging in the middle of the sky."

Source:

Herodian 1:14:1

Edward C. Echols, trans. Herodian of Antioch's History of the Roman Empire from the Death of Marcus Aurelius to the Accession of Gordian III

http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/herodian_01_book1.htm

http://www.livius.org/sources/content/herodian-s-roman-history/herodian-1.14/?fbclid=IwAR0UnxGSQSLsNs_NZsG_Zck1EbBtFg-J5xUHir8hOsuwOwsZNhg9e_L-1s0w

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2058093187766268>

217 A.D. Rome

● *"Besides these prodigies, a little while before his death a great fire, as I have heard, suddenly filled the entire interior of the temple of Serapis at Alexandria, but did no damage beyond destroying the sword with which Antoninus [Caracalla (186–217)] had slain his brother; and later, when the fire had stopped, many stars became visible. **In Rome, moreover, a spirit having the appearance of a man led an ass up to the Capitol and afterwards to the palace, seeking its master, as he claimed, and stating that Antoninus was dead and Jupiter was now emperor. Upon being arrested for this and sent by Maternianus to Antoninus, he said: "I go, as you bid; but I shall face, not this emperor, but another."** And when he reached Capua a little later, he vanished. This took place while Antoninus was still alive; and at the horse-race held in honour of Severus' reign the statue of Mars, while being borne in the procession, fell down. This perhaps would not cause so much astonishment; but now comes the greatest marvel of all. The Green faction had been defeated, whereupon, catching sight of a jackdaw, which was cawing very loudly on the top of the obelisk, they all looked toward him and suddenly, as if by pre-arrangement, all cried out: "Martialis, hail! Martialis, it is a long time since we saw you last." It was not that the jackdaw was ever thus called, but that through him they were greeting, apparently under some divine inspiration, Martialis, the slayer of Antoninus."*

Antoninus was replaced as emperor by Macrinus who was a "Moor by birth, from Caesarea, and the son of most obscure parents, so that he was very appropriately likened to the ass that was led up to the palace by the spirit; in particular, one of his ears had been bored in accordance with the custom followed by most of the Moors."

Source:

Cassius Dio, Roman History, ch. 79. 7

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/79*.html

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2209728365936082>

c. 333/4 A.D. Antioch, Turkey

"In Antioch a star appeared in the eastern part of the sky during the day, emitting much smoke as though from a furnace, from the third to the fifth hour."

Source:

Cyril Mango and Roger Scott with assistance of Geoffrey Greatrex, The Chronicle of Theophanes Confessor: Byzantine and Near Eastern History: AD 284-813, Clarendon Press & Oxford, 1997, pp. 49-50.

The Chronicle of Theophanes Confessor - Wildfire Games pdf.

☞ <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/2201244026784516>