SUNtice

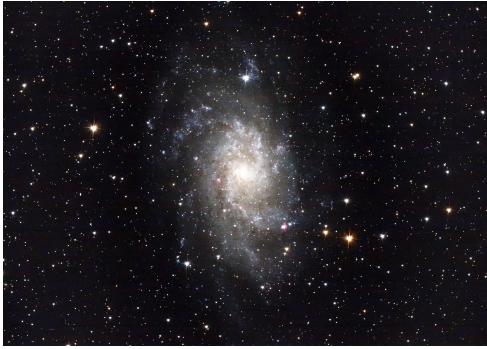
Shedding some light on ULOlogy and ULOs

I often am asked, "Do you believe in UFOs?" I am always struck by how the question is phrased, the suggestion that this is a matter of belief and not of evidence. I'm almost never asked, "How good is the evidence that UFOs are alien spaceships?"

Carl Sagan - The demon haunted world

November-Oecember 2019

Volume II Number 6



Alien metallurgy

Cover: I was at a local fair in late September and saw a helium balloon rising up into the sky. It danced about and rose high into the sky. before disappearing in the distance. Balloons, of various types, can, and do, produce UFO reports.

Left: An image i recently took of M33, the Triangulum galaxy. I was in Florida for the second half of October and enjoyed a week of warm, dark skies.

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This issue came out a little late because I spent some time in Florida with my telescope near the end of October. The observing field had quite a few observers with various telescopes all enjoying the night sky. I saw a bright fireball, quite a few Orionids, and many deep sky objects. As demonstrated above, I also got some much needed imaging accomplished. Finally, I saw Venus for the first time since its conjunction with the sun. It would have been practically invisible from my home in NH but thirteen degrees of latitude made the difference. It will get higher in the sky, become brighter over the next six months, and probably produce multiple UFO reports in the spring.

Readers will notice that the "Who's blogging" section is no longer present. I decided that I was just repeating myself over and over again. It seemed like a waste of time. If there is anything new in UFOlogy, I will write an article or mention it in this commentary here. I will provide hyper-links to those sites that continue to contribute something interesting or meaningful.

As usual, the "To The Stars Academy" (TTSA) is making headlines in the UFO community. Bruce Fenton uncovered a TTSA secret in that they were publishing Bob Lazar's autobiography. I am not sure where everybody stands on Lazar but I find his story highly suspect. Skeptics have long considered that Lazarfabricated it. However, it was not just debunkers who did not believe his story. Stanton Friedman also considered Lazar a Fraud. Despite these opinions that the story is a fairy tale concocted by Lazar, the TTSA is more than willing to publish the book. I suspect that this is a money thing.

Meanwhile, the TTSA's scientific research team is still analyzing "metametals". Of course, they have been claiming that they have samples of exotic materials for some time. One of these items, which used to belong to Linda Moulton Howe/Art Bell, was apparently bought by Tom Delonge. We have no idea how much he paid for it but, according to Robert Sheaffer, the TTSA paid him \$35,000. In 1996, these items were analyzed and nothing unusual was revealed. One has to wonder if anything has changed.

To top it off, the TTSA announced the US Army was interested in their "metametals". <u>As best I can tell, the TTSA will use the Army's</u> <u>labs to test their specimens</u>. The Army is only paying for the testing and both the TTSA and Army will receive any reports produced. That is where the agreement ends unless something unique is discovered. If the results indicate something Earthly, I have to wonder how quickly those results will be released to the public. Will the TTSA attempt to hide them in an effort to keep the charade going? Last issue, I mentioned I was going to try and do something about the Levelland case. I was hoping to take that on right away and put it in this issue but my astronomy hobby interfered. As a result, readers will have to wait until I have more time to devote to the matter.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINGTEIN CATALOGUE

November 17, 1995 2220 EST - Long Island, New York

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95.11.17	22:20LT	USA	near Long Island, New York	Α	British Airways and Lufthansa B-747 pilots	one bright light with a green tail passing very fast from South to North		G	х		N326 03 / 450
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According to the catalogue, two B747's saw a bright light going from south to north.¹ The source of this information was a UFO news clipping service, reports to Project 1947, and a Richard Haines "Aviation Safety in America - A previously neglected factor". I checked the Haines source and he referenced a link at the National UFO reporting center (NUFORC) web site.

NUFORC had a transcript of the events involving the aircraft mentioned in the list.³ Lufthansa 405 reported that an object had passed on their left wing in the opposite direction they were flying. Speedbird 226 also reported seeing the object going in the opposite direction. They stated that it *"...looked like a green trail on it, and a very bright light on the front of it."* They would later state:

"But then it did have a very strong trail to it...a vapor trail, which looked more like smoke. And the light on the front was very, very bright, and as it went past us, it seemed to ((just?)) disappear and ((went)) 5 miles behind us."

NUFORC also had multiple reports from different witnesses in the northeast on that date and time:⁴

Witness location	Time	Duration	Description
Basking Ridge, NJ	22:20	4 sec.	Young man, while driving N, witnesses dramatic white fireball to east streak N to S. Sees similar red streak N to S in W sky!
Orange, VT	22:20	15 min.	Woman was driving east from Barre, VT, and saw "a cluster" of very bright lights appar- ently hovering to the east of her position eastbound on the highway out of Barre. The closer to her property she got, the more alarmed she became that the objects were near, or above, her property. Just at the moment she pulled off the highway to go up her driveway, she witnessed an immense flash, that illuminated the countryside with white light. At the same instant as the flash, she saw a streak of light shoot across the sky. It was not clear to her whether the streak was from an object ascending from ground level, or whether it had come over the horizon, from behind the hill on which her farm is located. She immediately drove down the road, in some state of alarm, to talk to her neighbor. The neighbor had seen the flash, and the both of them stood outside and looked at "red and blue flashing" lights in several points of the sky. (Note: Were those lights twinkling stars??)
Lower Nazareth, PA	22:25	3 min	Woman witnesses huge, triangular-shaped ship, covered w/ bizarre lights, "like traffic lights." Very dramatic sighting. ((NUFORC Note: We spoke via telephone with this young woman, on the night of her sighting. She was returning home with a load of groceries, at the time of the sighting. We cannot emphasize with words how upset the witness sounded, when she called. Her sighting may have been of the same object that had just passed down the coast of Maine, across New England, and then further down the eastern seaboard. This is one of the cases that I lecture on, during public presentations. PD))
Yarmouth, ME	22:26	5 sec.	Young man reports huge, bright white light, "w/ green wake," pass overhead very fast. Other witnesses stopped cars.
York, ME	22:27	5 sec.	Father, son, & many bystanders witness incredible "starlike" obj. w/ "white aura, long green tail," STREAK FAST from NE to SW.
Fall River, MA	22:30	10 sec.	Young woman saw extremely bright white light with green tail streak toward the south. No sound.
Biddeford, ME	22:35	2 min	Observer had left work about one hour early, and drove home along the Maine Turnpike

All of this information indicates what was seen that night was probably a bright fireball that appeared over New England and was widely visible to casual observers. The direction appears to have been from North or Northeast to South or Southwest (not south to north as stated in the catalogue entry). The aircraft were probably flying northeastward and saw the meteor off their port wings.

- 1. Aldrich, Jan. Aircraft UFO encounters summaries from Project 1947 research. Available WWW: <u>http://www.project1947.com/</u> <u>47cats/acupdt.htm</u>
- 2. Haines, Richard F. <u>Aviation safety in America A previously neglected factor</u>. National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP). October 15, 2000. P. 76

- 3. Davenport, Peter. <u>National UFO Reporting Center Case Brief off Long Island, NY November 17, 1995.</u> Available WWW: <u>http://www.nuforc.org/CB951117.html</u>
- 4. Davenport, Peter. <u>National UFO Reporting Center November 1995 reports</u>. Available WWW: <u>http://www.nuforc.org/webre-ports/ndxe199511.html</u>

Correction to a Weinstein catalogue entry in SUNlite 11-4

received an e-mail from Ted Molczan regarding the Lake Berryessa, Ca sighting as the Cosmos 1220r decay on November 5, 1980. He determined that the date and time were not a match. After re-examining what I had listed, I saw the error I had made. I had linked the sighting because the time difference only appeared to be an hour and a half. This did not seem to be a significant issue since many UFO reports can have errors in the time reported. However, as Ted pointed out, I made an error about the date. The Cosmos decay was on the 5th UTC (the 4th PDT) and the sighting was on the 5th PDT. While I feel it is possible that there was a time error of an hour and a half, I can't reconcile the date difference. Therefore, we can put that sighting back on the list as "unidentified"... for now.

September 8, 1958 Offut AFB case update

My article about this sighting in the last issue sparked a flurry of e-mails, which shed a lot more light on the case. Almost all of this information came from private correspondence, which was not readily available during my initial examination of the case. For instance, Wim Van Utrecht and Martin Shough had discussed it and thought the research balloon explanation was just not good enough because the angular size was too large and the shifting from vertical to horizontal position was an unlikely balloon characteristic. Instead, they felt what was seen was some sort of unusual contrail, which I had rejected because of the duration. After reading their arguments, I began to rethink my research balloon explanation and why I had rejected the contrail hypothesis. While the duration is a bit long, it seems that the contrail hypothesis seems more likely.

A second revelation came when Barry Greenwood passed his case file on to Herb Taylor. This included the original correspondence between the witness, Paul Duich, and Richard Hall. Herb forwarded it to me and there were some very interesting pieces of information in that file.

- 1. It seems that this report surfaced sometime in 1964. This confirms what I had surmised in the article that the author did not tell his story until five years later.
- 2. The author wrote a long letter describing the sighting.¹ Interestingly, he originally stated the sighting was on 22 September and but it is crossed it out and an "8" was substituted in its place. Apparently, he had told Richard Hall on the phone it was the 8th but could not remember if it was the 8th or 22nd. Is either date correct?

COLO.V DICK Check Thisdate REPORT OF UFD SIGHTING. REA FROM WHICH OBSERVED: DFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA (ABOUT 13 MILES SOUTH OF OMAHA) TIME: APPROX 1750-1810 CST (APPROX 20 MINUTES) (OBJECT IN FULL VIEW DURING ENTIRE PERIOD)

- 3. The author also stated there was no news of the sighting the next day in the paper but there was a report of a peculiar odor.
- 4. His original time of the event supposedly happened between 1750-1810 CST. He later changed the time to 1840.
- 5. The witness stated that he had seen UFOs before. He saw a "foo fighter" over Japan in 1945 but, after the crew reported it, the entire crew was sent to Honolulu for rest. Paul Duich also stated he saw a meandering light in 1952, which he tried to report but was laughed at by people in his office. He also had a UFO sighting while driving across lowa in 1955 (He asked Dick Hall not to mention this case but did not elaborate why). Mr. Duich added that he saw an event from Sacramento, California in 1955. He stated that event was widely seen over northern California and had extensive notes about this case. Despite the copious notes, he could only mention the year and gave no date. The description and drawing sounds like a fireball sighting. This could have been the July 11, 1955 bright meteor reported in the California news papers on July 12, 1955.²

1955: SACRAMENTO, CALIF. Boy, that was a lulu traffic-light

- 6. He seemed to have a strong belief in the writings of Frank Edwards, a UFO writer.
- 7. After explaining why it could not be a balloon, contrail, asteroid, comet, etc., the author declared it was a huge "Space Liner" that was deploying smaller spaceships to various locations.

It appears that the individual making the report had a strong belief in flying saucers, had mistaken a possible meteor as a UFO, and might exaggerate a bit (the foo fighter story sounds contrived and I doubt that during wartime an entire crew would be pulled out of combat for reporting they saw an unusual object during a mission). This brings into question the details of the report. I do not doubt that he saw something but, based on this information, we have to wonder what date the object was seen and how long it was visible. It seems possible that it was a contrail the witness perceived to be exotic but others had simply dismissed as nothing out of the ordinary.

The bottom line is that this case has a bunch of red flags that make the details highly suspect. This is not "best evidence" and should be rejected.

- 1. Duich, Paul. "Report of UFO sighting 22 (8) September 1958". 8 April 1964.
- 2. "Fireball in sky starts air search". Oakland Tribune. Oakland, California. 12 July 1955. P. E31.

November 7, 1951

November 7, 1951--Lake Superior. Steamship Captain and crew watched elongated orange object with six glowing "portholes" speed towards Ontario. [XII]¹

C ection XII does not give us much more information than the summary.² It states:

It was evening

- It exhibited horizontal flight
- It was a bright orange
- It was oval shaped
- It traveled at high speed
- The "portholes" were in two rows of three each on the underside of the UFO.

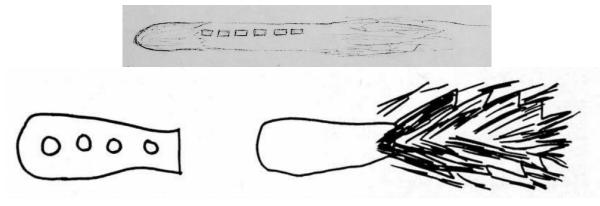
There is no source for any of this information and I can only assume it came from a newspaper clipping of some kind.

Other sources

There are no cases that match this in the Blue Book archives. The only other possible source that contains information from that time period are the news papers. I could not find any report of this in the newspaper archive and Loren Gross does not mention the case in his UFO history either. Most of the on-line databases reference "The UFO Evidence". Therefore, the trail ends with what was written there.

Analysis

We have no real data to go with here. There is no time. There is no exact location for the observer since "Lake Superior" is a rather large lake. We don't even know the name of the steamship! Additionally the direction of travel was listed as "Ontario". There is no city of "Ontario" in Canada. There is only a province. That province borders the entire northern and eastern shore of Lake Superior. With such meager data, all we can say is that the event happened in twilight or darkness (Sunset was around 5 PM local time) and the object was traveling anywhere towards the west east depending on the location of the "steamship".



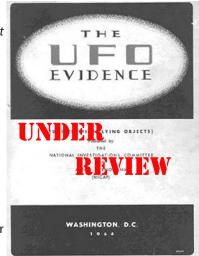
Zond IV³ and April 26, 1966⁴ fireball sketch showing "portholes" being perceived by the witness

With the information we do have, I can only compare this with known IFO cases that described a rapidly moving object that had portholes. Many turn out to be meteor fireballs or satellite re-entries. This is before the space age, so it was not a re-entry. Therefore, one has to consider the possibility that it was a meteor. I searched the newspaper archives for reports of bright meteors but there wasn't any for the region. That is not surprising. Lake Superior is very large and the coastal area was sparsely populated. A bright meteor could have happened and be only seen by a small group of people. Back in SUNlite 9-6, I demonstrated that 60-70% of American Meteor Society's on-line database for fireball report contained only one report! Therefore, it is not surprising that a fireball meteor were not reported in the news media or astronomical journals from such a remote location.

Conclusion

he description of the object does appear to match that of a meteor. It behaved like a meteor and there is no good argument that states it was no a meteor. This is not "Best evidence" for UFOs and should be eliminated from the list.

- 1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) <u>The UFO evidence</u>. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble.1997. P. 131
- 2. ibid. P. 146



- 3. Sketch from letter to Project Blue Book dtd March 4, 1968. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: https://www.fold3.com/im-age/6958251
- 4. Schwarz, Berthold Eric. "UFOs; Delusion or Dilemma?" <u>Flying Saucer Review: Beyond Condon Special Issue no. 2</u>. Bowen, Charles ed. June 1969. Page 49.

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 5559: DECEMBER 17, 1957 FRUITA, NEAR GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

on Berlinner lists the case as follows:

Dec. 17, 1957; near Grand Junction, Colorado. 7:20 p.m. Witness: F.G. Hickman, 17. One round object changed from yellow to white to green to red; red tail was twice as long as the body. It stopped, started, backed up for 45 minutes.¹

Sparks description mirrors Berlinner's.²

The Blue Book file

he Blue Book file is a bit disappointing since it includes a one page UFOB report and a record card. The two do not exactly agree with each other because the card has information that does not appear in the UFOB report.

Tail I same compared to size of object

· · ·	PROJECT 10073 REC	ORD CARD		
1. DATE 17 December 1957 3. DATE-TINE GROUP Level 	2. LOCATION Pruita, Colora mear Gra 4. Type of observation 2. Source Civilian B. Numer of Objects	nd Junction H C Ground-Radar C Air-Intercept Redar	12. CONCLUSIONS	 Information on object() deserves An An<
45 minutes	ODe	SW to S	B Insufficient Data for Evaluation BXUnknown	 Bound, if any, describe: More 3. Other pertinent or unsuch feature Description of course of object(s):
45 minutes one to be round yellow, white, green, red object seen moving SW then S for 45 minutes. Passed Yenus.		same area. Mo set. Astronom passed. Contr ble, indicati	th for 45 minutes in on was down & sun had nical twilight also rails would not be visi- ing object possibly own . Unidentified.	 Rear first allow the strength of the strength of
ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 68P 53)				 F. Weather conditions at time of sightin 6. Location of any air traffic in the arr plane for this area. 190th 4166

The record card states the object moved from Southwest to South over a 45 minute period and that it had passed in near Venus during that time period.³ The UFOB report makes no mention of Venus and it states the object was initially to the south at an elevation angle of 70 degrees and then went Southwest at an elevation of "eye level". It added that the object disappeared over the mountains.⁴

The observer added that he had seen a red vapor trail behind the object. Most importantly, it was noted that the observer used binoculars to observe the object.⁵



Analysis

t seems strange the record card mentioned Venus as being seen as well as the UFO. However, the UFOB report never mentions such a detail. Was this due to missing information (perhaps a phone call?) or is it due to some piece of information that was misinterpreted by those writing the information down on the record card?

6

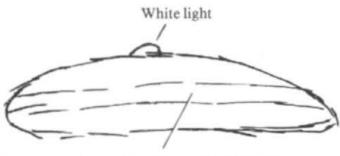
The reason that Venus' location is important is because this appears to be the source of the UFO report. Arguments for Venus are that Venus set around 0311Z at an azimuth of 245 degrees around the same time the witness stated the object disappeared over the mountains towards the Southwest. This coincidence is difficult to ignore. Venus was near greatest brilliancy at magnitude -4.65 making it a brilliant object in the Southwestern sky that would have stood out.

The arguments against Venus are the following:

- The record card states Venus was near the UFO at some point
- The object was initially observed at an elevation of 70 degrees to the south. At 0220Z, Venus was at an azimuth of 236 degrees and elevation angle of 8 degrees.
- The object had a red vapor trail

My rebuttal to these arguments are:

- Venus was only mentioned in the record card. It is not stated in the UFOB report.
- Angles of elevation are often overestimated. Directions can be inaccurate as well. The observer was a 17-year old and, despite being visible for 45 minutes, there were no other reports received of the object being visible.
- Using hand-held binoculars is never an easy task. Getting a correct focus, setting the diopter lens correctly, and holding them
 steady is difficult unless you are familiar with the equipment. Seeing a "vapor trail" or other effects could have been nothing
 more than a perception issue amplified by poor or misaligned optics. This sketch from Alan Hendry's handbook is of the star
 Antares as viewed through binoculars and demonstrates that optics can introduce effects in a report that are not really there.⁵



Red, blue, green and yellow lights

Conclusion

n my opinion, this case can be explained as possibly Venus. I would have it classified as probably Venus if there wasn't mention of Venus being seen with the object on the record card. Since, much of the information leans towards Venus, I conclude that this was the possible source of the report.

- 1. Berlinner, Don. "The Bluebook unknowns". NICAP. Available WWW: http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm
- 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. 226.
- 3. Project 10073 record card 17 December 1957. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: https://www.fold3.com/image/6970809
- 4. UFOB report 17 December 1957. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: https://www.fold3.com/image/6970815
- 5. Hendry, Allan. The UFO Investigators Handbook. London: Sphere Books Ltd. 1980. P. 197

Project Blue Book case review: January-June 1958

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the January to June of 1958. 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.

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jan	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Based on description it appears to have been an observation of a fireball.
1-9	River Force, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Huntsville, AL	Meteor	Agreed
2	Scott AFB, IL	Meteor	Agreed
2	Hillsboro, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed
2	Tachikawa, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
2	Woodridge, England	Venus	Agreed
2	Yosemite, KY	Meteor	Agreed
2	N. of New Orleans, LA	Meteor	Agreed
3	Boise, ID	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing information like duration and positional data.
3	Houston, TX	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
3	W. of Marietta, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Old Westbury, NY	Misinterpretation	BB simply listed this as a "misinterpretation of a conventional object". Object was round, seen during daylight, and was traveling with the wind. Possible balloon.
3	Le Compte, Forest Hill, LA	Venus	Agreed
3	Rushville, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed
4	Mankato, KS	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Over SW Libya	Meteor	Agreed
4	Tachikawa/Yakota, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
4	Chattanooga, TN	Meteor	Agreed
5	University City, MO	Meteor	Agreed
6	Great Neck, NY	Insufficient data	Supposed to have included photograph. No photograph provid- ed. Observed through 350X telescope? Assuming it was a small telescope, 350X would have been a magnification that would have produced a blurry and unstable image. Possible balloon.
6	Dayton, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness reported strange car coming to house.
7	Los Angeles, CA	Balloon	Agreed
8	Deland, FL	Insufficient data	Two round objects moving with wind. Possible balloon
8	Harbor Springs, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Itazuke AB, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
9	Biggs AFB El Paso, TX	Birds	Agreed
9-12	Tabor City, NC/Myrtle beach, SC	Venus	Agreed
10	Green Castle, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
10	Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
10	O'Fallon, MO	Venus	Agreed
10	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed

January 1958

11	Bering Sea, AK	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Baxley, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data.
12	Houston, TX	Ground fire	Contrail
12	Atlanta, GA	Meteor	Agreed
12	Spring Hope NC/Salem VA	Meteor	Agreed
12	Peoria, IL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft viewed from rear. Airport 5 miles to Southwest. Object traveling west in middle of day but nobody noticed other than witnesses.
13	Montere, CA	Balloon	Agreed
14	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
14	Bearing Sea, AK	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
14	Houston, TX	Unreliable report	Possible birds
15	Ypsilanti, Ml	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional information.
16	Trinidade Island	Hoax	Agreed. See SUNlite 2-1, 2-5, 3-2, 3-3
16	Columbus, GA	Contrails	Agreed
17-18	Tulsa, OK	Anode	Agreed
19	Mecca, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Oxford, NC	Jupiter	Agreed.
22	Sea of Okhotsk, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
23	Farmington, MI	Venus	Possibly Venus. Time not given but direction of travel consistent with Venus.
23	Ft. Worth, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Las Vegas, NV	Unreliable Report	Agreed
27	Odessa, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
27	San Bernardino, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Wallenburg, Bitburg, Ger- many	Meteor	Agreed
30	Montivideo, Uruguay	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter
30	Bitburg, Germany	Balloon	Agreed
30	Tokyo Japan	Missile activity	Agreed
31	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Agreed

February 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Victoria, TX	Balloon	Agreed. Grab bag balloon launched on February 1 from Good- fellow AFB (approx 300 miles to WNW with winds from the WNW).
1	Camp Carson, CO	Contrails	Agreed
1	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. This report was based on a phone call from a weather observer, who read a telex about UFO sightings, which lacked specific information.
2	Albuquerque, NM	Insufficient data	Possible Meteor
2	Ashland, NH	Aircraft	Possible military flare drop. Witness reported hearing jets during the night. Witness described 30 lights high in the sky. Each light had 'fire' in the rear. Location is in current Yankee 1 & 2 Mili- tary Operating Area.
2	Whidby Island, WA	Meteor	Agreed

3	Hortense, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Along Ohio River (IN)	Magnetometer	Agreed
4	Colorado Springs, CO	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or positional data. Sighting sounds like a meteor.
7	Dover AFB, DE	Meteor	Agreed
8	Melbourne, Australia	Contrail	Agreed
9	Chingmai, Bangkok	Meteor	Agreed
9-17	Ostan, Iran	Aircraft	Agreed
11	East Weymouth, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
13	West of Wake Island	1. Meteor	Agreed
		2. Aircraft	
16	Calliente, NV	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
16	Columbus, OH	Meteor	Agreed
16	Lexington, Lutterll, TN, KY	Meteor	Agreed. Probably same fireball as Columbus, OH sighting.
16	Paynesville, WV	Meteor	Agreed
19	Hokkaido, Japan	Explosion	Agreed
19	Sweet Springs, MO	Meteor	Agreed
19	Topeka, KS	Insufficient data	Probably same meteor as Sweet Springs, MO.
20	Winslow, Flagstaff, AZ	Balloon	Agreed
21	Selma, AL, Chattanooga, TN	Meteor	Agreed
22	Andrews AFB, Cabin John, MD	Meteor	Agreed
22	MN, WI	Meteor	Agreed
23	Ann Arbor, MI	Meteor	Agreed
23	Brewer, Bangor, ME	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data. This could have been Venus or Jupiter.
23	Cleveland, OH	Meteor	Agreed
23	Winston-Salem, NC	Balloon	Agreed
25	Glenwood, Newfoundland	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
25	Gander AFB,Newfoundland	1. Hoax	Agreed. Hoax had to do with supposed saucer landing site.
		2. Arcturus	
25	Gander AFB,Newfoundland	1. Insufficient data	Agreed. Insufficient data had to do with possible radar targets.
		2. Arcturus	Description in report was inadequate.
25	Hampton, VA	Meteor	Birds
26	Travis AFB, CA	Meteor	Agreed
27	Novorossisk, USSR	Aircraft Gun	Agreed. Russian military activity in Black sea area.
28	St. Lawrence Island, AK	Ground light	Agreed
28	Lake City, TN	Meteor	Agreed

March 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Kunashiri Island, Japan	Insufficient data	Agreed. Brief message mentioning rising of luminous objects over the island. Island was occupied by USSR and could have been military test firings.
2	Tampa, FL	Inconsistent data	Agreed. Conflicting reports that something landed at Tampa airport and the later denial that such an event happened.

4	Dugway, UT	Lenticular Cloud	Agreed that these were probably clouds (probably not lenticu- lar).
5	Akron, OH	Chaff	Agreed
5	NE of Louisville, KY	Meteor	Agreed
5	Harrisburg, PA	Aircraft	Same approximate time as Louisville, KY sighting. Possible me- teor with 13 year old observer overestimating duration.
5	George AFB, CA	Meteor	Agreed
5	Holloman AFB, NM	Balloon	Agreed
5-6	Ft. Monmouth, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data missing.
6	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
6	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
7	Wantagh, NY	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
7	Lawton, OK	Meteor	Agreed
9	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed. The report appears to be missing positional data.
9-11	Panama Canal Zone	1. Balloon	Agreed
		2. False radar targets	
10	E. of Sakhalin Island, USSR	Parachute flare	NO CASE FILE
10	Alsea, OR	Reflection of ground light	Daylight sighting of Venus
10	Roslyn Harbor, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Off coast of Taichung, Taiwan	Float Valve	Agreed
11	Springfield, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Verbal reports with no positional data or details.
11	Bar Harbor, ME	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data/details other than it was visible for 45 minutes.
11	Greenwood, LA	Balloon	Agreed
12	Adana, Turkey	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Kalamazoo, MI	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report made seven months after event.
13	Sitka, AK	Meteor	Agreed
14	New Orleans, LA	Balloon	Agreed
14	Healdsburg, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	San Antonio, Three Rivers, ESE Corpus Christi, TX	Meteor	Agreed
16	Tampa, FL	Balloon	Agreed
17	Northern Norway	Insufficient data	Agreed. Very limited information from media report.
17	Modoc Point, OR	Meteor	Agreed
18	Ogallala, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Moscow, USSR	Aircraft	Insufficient information. Information obtained from Radio Mos- cow broadcast with very few details.
19	Laurium, MI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
21	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
21-2	Seaside Park, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. BB originally suggested that this was Vega. Hynek agreed the positional data indicated it was Vega but did not agree with conclusion. Instead, he suggested that Venus, rising in the southeast may have been the source. The data is insuffi- cient to draw a conclusion on this one.

22	Enola, PA	Insufficient data	Sirius
23	Alexandria, VA	Meteor	Agreed
24	Great Bend, KS	Meteor	Agreed
24	Carrolton, MO	Meteor	Agreed
26	Vero Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Short letter with very little information.
27	Saranac Lake, NY	Meteor	Agreed
28	Hartford, CT	Balloon	Agreed
28	Buffalo, NY	Arcturus	Agreed
29	Yukon, AK	Meteor	Agreed
31	Walnut Ridge AFS, AR	Insufficient data	Agreed. Little data in message for evaluation.

April 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Apr	4 Mi. NE Shelby, IA	Chaff	Agreed
1	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Miami, FL	Meteor	Agreed
3	Xenia, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. Although it could have been a meteor with an overesti- mate on duration.
4	Morro Bay, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing time of day.
7	Cuzik, KY	Ordnance Shell	Agreed
7	Dayton, OH	Misinterpretation	Possible cloud
7	Canton, Austinberg, OH	Meteor	Agreed
7	Boonville, MO	Insufficient data	Arcturus
8	Greens Fork, IN	Rock	Agreed
8	NE of Palm Springs, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction given but object sounds like Venus.
7	Barbados, BWI	Missile	Sputnik 2 Re-entry. Listed as Sunday by writer of report, which was either Apr 6 or 13 since the date in the letter read April 13. Letter probably written shortly after event. Description and time fit for Sputnik decay on the 13th.
8	Mesa, AZ	Aircraft	Meteor
9	Thurston,Pierce Counties, WA	Venus	Agreed
10	Birmingham, AL	Practice Bombs	Aircraft
10	Louisiana	Meteor	Agreed
10	5 mi W of Pecos, TX	Unreliable report	Possible balloon
11	60 mi W of Argentin, NF	Meteor	Agreed
11	Indio, CA	Meteor	Agreed
12	Brownsville, TN	Balloon	Agreed
12	Bakersville, NC	Meteor	Agreed
12	Manitowoe, WI	Pollux/Betelgeuse	Sirius and Betelgeuse
12	N. of Selfridge AFS, MI	Unreliable report	Insufficient information. No photos received. Report not made until 3 May with information missing.
13	West Indies	Sputnik Decay	Agreed
13	Wantagh, NY	Meteor	Agreed
14	Uruguay	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
14	Lynchburg, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	Denton, NE	Aircraft	Agreed

15	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
15	Jutland, Denmark	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report based on news telex with little in the way of details. Could have been a meteor.
17	10 mi S of Cape Makkovik, NF	Helicopter	Agreed
17	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
17	Colorado River, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
18	Van Wert, OH	Capella	Agreed
18	Hamilton Ontario, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
19	Syracuse, NY/Conway, NH	Balloon	Agreed
20	N. of Lowry AFB, CO	Balloon	Agreed
20	Kentucky, W. Va.,Georgia	Meteor	Agreed
21	El Centro, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Spangdehlem, Germany	Aircraft and Contrail	Agreed
22	Bellflower, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	West Port, WA	Meteor	Agreed
23	Long Beach, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Probably stars/planets
23	Pelham, GA	Insufficient data	Daylight sighting of Venus
23	NW of Bermuda	Searchlight	Agreed.
23	SE of Newfoundland	Meteor	Agreed
25	Midway Island	Balloon	Agreed.
25	Between Fresno & Merced, CA	Aircraft	Object observed above or near research balloon by three air- craft (one was a U-2). Aircraft were at 45,000 feet. Object would have had to be much higher based on description. UNIDENTI- FIED
25	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Meteor
25	Ottawa, OH	1. Meteor	1. Agreed
		2. Moon	2. Agreed
26	Seminole, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Pacific	Aircraft	Object seen below aircraft. Moon setting in west. Possible reflection of moon on ocean.
29	Seattle, WA	Meteor	Agreed
29	Burlington, IA	Meteor	Agreed
30	Miami, FL	Meteor	Agreed
30	Lowry AFB, Co	Satellite	Explorer 3 orbit not high enough inclination to match observa- tions. Possible aircraft.

May 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Spain	Satellite	Explorer 3 not visible. Possible aircraft
3	Flagstaff, AZ	Balloon	Agreed
4	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witnesses not interviewed. Report based on letters.
7	Spring City, TN	Sirius	Agreed
7	Fresno, San Francisco, CA	Venus and Arcturus	Seen before sunset. Stars and Venus not visible. Probable re- search balloon.
9	Bohol Island, Philippines	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Marietta, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed that witness does not appear reliable. Observations probably aircraft.

30	W. of North Africa	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
29	Trenton, NJ	Photo Flaw	Agreed
29	N. Of Puerto Rico	Meteor	Agreed
29	Cockburn Harbor, Carrib- bean	Insufficient data	Possible flare
28	Templehof, Germany	Balloon	NO CASE FILE
27-8	Nuncia, MI	Insufficient data	Possible Meteors
27	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
26	Hubbard, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration.
25	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed. Probable meteor but no duration.
24	San Diego, CA	Balloon	Agreed
23-24	National City, CA	Insufficient data	Jupiter
22	S. of Nogales, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
21	Frenchman's Bayou, AR	Rock	Agreed
20	Mount Prospect, IL	Mirage	Agreed (although illusion is probably a more accurate descrip- tion). Object seen while driving towards sun. When car was stopped, object disappeared.
20	Canton, OH	Meteor	NO CASE FILE
18	Albuquerque, NM	Meteor	Agreed
17	23 mi SE of Belle Glade, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
17	Red Springs, NC	Refueling Operation	Agreed
17	Mindanao, Philippines	Meteor	Agreed
16-17	Drummond, WI	Star	Photos showed nothing. Probably Capella.
16	Parma, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
16	Tuscaloosa, AL	Meteor	Agreed
15	Ft. Bragg, NC	Satellite	Aircraft
15	Caracas, Venezuela	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time of sighting/duration.
14	Farmington, NM	Meteor	Agreed
14	Yuma, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
13-14	Willis, VA	Chaff	Agreed
13	Wauwatosa, Wl	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Cheyenne, WY	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Canton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
11	Chillicothe, MO	Balloon	Agreed
11	Saigon, Viet Nam	Meteor	Agreed
10	Colt's Neck, NJ	Balloon	Agreed

June 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Summer	North Turner, ME	Unreliable report	NO CASE FILE
Jun	Tokmak, Kirgiz, USSR	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
1	Salt Lake City, UT	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Eunice, NM, Pecos, TX	Meteor	Agreed
3	Marshalltown, IA	Volcanic rock	Agreed
4	Kansas City, MO	Spica/Jupiter	Agreed
5	New York, NY	Balloon	Agreed

5	Uruguay	Meteor	Agreed
6	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Yellow Springs, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
8	N. Of Philadelphia, PA	Balloon	Agreed
9	Puget Sound Area, WA	Balloon	Agreed
9	S. Bethpage, NY	Meteor	NO CASE FILE
12	10 mi W of Huntsville, TX	Satellite (sputnik 3)	Agreed
12	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Las Cruces, NM	Meteor	Agreed
13	Hong Kong, China	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
14	Pueblo, CO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Portland, OR	Reflection	Possible aircraft reflecting sun
18	Pecos, TX	Venus	Agreed
18	Oak Ridge, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
20	Fort Bragg, NC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Walker AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
22	Bremerton, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Knoxville, TN	Meteor	Agreed
23	Alexandria, LA	Camera Leak	Agreed
24	Dallas, TX	Moon	Arcturus
26	Tacoma, WA	Meteor	Agreed
26-9 Jul	Belfast, ME	Arcturus	Agreed
28	Mid-Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
28	S. of Charleston, WV	Meteor	Agreed
28	Nome, AK	Meteor	Agreed
30	North Park, CO	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Moon setting at time of sighting. Mars rising.
30	Climax, CO	Meteor	Agreed
30	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Possible meteor

Reclassification

evaluated 270 cases in the Blue Book files from January to June 1958. In my opinion, 49 were improperly classified (about 18%). Over half of these (27) were originally classified as "Insufficient data". I did reclassify one case as "UNIDENTIFIED" because it seemed that there could be no conventional explanation for the report. 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
Jan	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Based on description it appears to have been an observation of a fireball.
1/3	Houston, TX	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
1/6	Great Neck, NY	Insufficient data	Supposed to have included photograph. No photograph provided. Observed through 350X telescope? Assuming it was a small telescope, 350X would have been a magnification that would have produced an unusually distorted image. Possible balloon.
1/8	Deland, FL	Insufficient data	Two round objects moving with wind. Possible balloon

1/12	Peoria, IL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft viewed from rear. Airport 5 miles to Southwest. Object traveling west in middle of day but nobody noticed other than witnesses.
1/30	Montivideo, Uruguay	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter
2/2	Albuquerque, NM	Insufficient data	Possible Meteor
2/2	Ashland, NH	Aircraft	Possible military flare drop. Witness reported hearing jets during the night. Witness described 30 lights high in the sky. Each light had 'fire' in the rear. Location is in current Yankee 1 & 2 Military Operating Area.
2/16	Calliente, NV	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
2/19	Topeka, KS	Insufficient data	Probably same meteor as Sweet Springs, MO.
2/23	Brewer, Bangor, ME	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data. This could have been Venus or Jupiter.
2/25	Glenwood, Newfoundland	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
2/25	Hampton, VA	Meteor	Birds
3/5	Harrisburg, PA	Aircraft	Same approximate time as Louisville, KY sighting. Possible me- teor with 13 year old observer overestimating duration.
3/7	Wantagh, NY	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
3/10	Alsea, OR	Reflection of ground light	Daylight sighting of Venus
3/11	Springfield, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Verbal reports with no positional data or details.
3/19	Moscow, USSR	Aircraft	Insufficient information. Information obtained from Radio Moscow broadcast with very few details.
3/19	Laurium, MI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
3/22	Enola, PA	Insufficient data	Sirius
4/7	Dayton, OH	Misinterpretation	Possible cloud
4/7	Boonville, MO	Insufficient data	Arcturus
4/7	Barbados, BWI	Missile	Sputnik 2 Re-entry. Listed as Sunday by writer of report, which was either Apr 6 or 13 since the date in the letter read April 13. Letter probably written shortly after event. Description and time fit for Sputnik decay on the 13th.
4/8	Mesa, AZ	Aircraft	Meteor
4/10	Birmingham, AL	Practice Bombs	Aircraft
4/10	5 mi W of Pecos, TX	Unreliable report	Possible balloon
4/12	Manitowoe, WI	Pollux/Betelgeuse	Sirius and Betelgeuse
4/12	N. of Selfridge AFS, MI	Unreliable report	Insufficient information. No photos received. Report not made until 3 May with information missing.
4/23	Pelham, GA	Insufficient data	Daylight sighting of Venus
4/25	Between Fresno & Merced, CA	Aircraft	Object observed above or near research balloon by three aircraft (one was a U-2). Aircraft were at 45,000 feet. Object would have had to be much higher based on description. UN- IDENTIFIED
4/25	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Meteor
4/27	Pacific	Aircraft	Object seen below aircraft. Moon setting in west. Possible reflection of moon on ocean.
4/30	Lowry AFB, Co	Satellite	Explorer 3 orbit not high enough inclination to match observa- tions. Possible aircraft.
5/2	Spain	Satellite	Explorer 3 not visible. Possible aircraft

5/7	Fresno, San Francisco, CA	Venus and Arcturus	Seen before sunset. Stars and Venus not visible. Probable re- search balloon.
5/14	Yuma, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
5/15	Ft. Bragg, NC	Satellite	Aircraft
5/16	Parma, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
5/17	23 mi SE of Belle Glade, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
5/23-24	National City, CA	Insufficient data	Jupiter
5/26	Hubbard, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration.
5/27-8	Nuncia, MI	Insufficient data	Possible Meteors
5/29	Cockburn Harbor, Carrib- bean	Insufficient data	Possible flare
5/30	W. of North Africa	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
Jun	Tokmak, Kirgiz, USSR	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
6/19	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
6/21	Walker AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
6/24	Dallas, TX	Moon	Arcturus
6/30	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Possible meteor

Summary

A fter the landslide of UFO reports in November and December 1957, it seems that the quantity diminished in the first half of 1958 but the "failure rate" seemed to be about the same. Most of these cases tend to be "insufficient data" classifications that had potential explanations. Blue Book also seemed interested in classifying some cases as satellites. That is not surprising since that seemed to be fascinated by this new source of UFO reports. However, they needed to learn more about such classifications since satellites follow a predictable path and, in early 1958, there weren't that many satellites in orbit. Several of the cases they listed were not satellites. There were also a few cases simply labeled "misinterpretation". That seemed to be a poor answer and one should suggest what the misinterpreted object was instead of simply listing the case as such.

In 1958, Major Friend had assumed the role as the head of Project Blue Book. It will be interesting to see if his influence may have altered the efficiency of the case evaluations in next installment of the review covering July-December 1958.

References

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- 2. Project Blue Book archive. Available WWW:http://bluebookarchive.org/
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- 4. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" <u>StratoCat</u>. Available WWW: http://stratocat.com. ar/globos/indexe.html
- 5. "Space History Chronology". <u>Astronautix</u>. Available WWW: http://www.astronautix.com/s/spacehistorychronology.html
- 6. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. <u>Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects</u>. New York: Bantam 1968.

Project Blue Book reports from France

Eric Maillot recently contacted me regarding the August 30, 1954 Blue Book file describing a report from Paris France. I had statted I agreed with the case being considered insufficient information since the file only contained a single sentence describing a sighting of a circular object over the city. Eric informed me that there is much more information available elsewhere and that it was considered to be a bright meteor.

Per his request, I provided him a list of cases that were from France in my previous Blue Book reviews. He offered the following explanations for them:

September 7, 1954 had two cases that Blue Book listed as insufficient information:

Harponville-Contay (Somme), 07h30: gray UFO that takes off from a field and emits smoke => Very probably take off of a heavy helicopter type S55 or H34 going to the Doullens radar station....

See: <u>http://ufo-scepticisme.forumactif.com/t6287-observation-d-ovni-entre-harponville-et-contay-somme-le-7-septembre-1954-classe-d1#104546</u>

Origny or Pont de buire (Aisne) 00h30: orange UFO seen at 300-400m => certainly moon mistake...

See:

http://agence-martienne.ajaris.com/Martienne/media/2866;jsessionid=A994E0E7627D6253D3977810FE6C3F7A

https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/1954/6sep1954orignyenthierachef.htm

April 14, 1957 involved an alien landing case, which Blue Book listed as an Unreliable report.

Vins sur Caramy (Var), 15h00 - CE2. I have published on this famous case who is very probably an light helicopter SO1221 Djinn used for uranium prospection (registred) or after spreading the vineyard who are near the witness...

See: http://ufo-scepticisme.forumactif.com/t5887-rr2-diurne-de-vins-sur-caramy-14-avril-1957-a-60-ans

September 12, 1957: NE France. BB explained as balloon.

I found no data or report on this case. I ask my friends from CNEGU this weekend...

I got no further response regarding the last case but I suspect it probably was a balloon.