

# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

*Skeptical scrutiny is the means, in both science and religion, by which deep thoughts can be winnowed from deep nonsense.*

*Carl Sagan*

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Cover: Birds may seem like an unlikely source of UFO reports but I have seen some interesting formations while driving. Seen from a distance they appear as formations of objects that shift and move irregularly.

Left: During my recent trip to Florida I saw a swarm of starlings form a ball and then shift in shape. From a distance, I could not tell what it was until the vehicle got closer. I then realized what I was seeing. The one image I grabbed of it was not very clear since we were driving through rain.

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# Happy 2020!!!

With the arrival of 2020, one has to reflect upon what the new year will bring. While time marches onward, is UFOlogy moving forward as well? My observations are that the more things change, the more they stay the same. New names and new organizations appear but we still see the same disappointing results. Will the critical evidence suddenly appear this year or will we continue to be exposed to stories that cannot be completely verified, blurry images of nocturnal lights, and promotional “smoking gun” videos that usually can be explained? Do not expect to see any significant changes in UFOlogy’s methods or results.

A recent series of images I saw on facebook confirmed that there are very few events that escape being recorded. A launch of an Ariane rocket produced a display of a venting booster over Myanmar. An amateur astronomer recorded it and posted it in one of the [Amateur astronomy Facebook Forums](#). Compare this to the standard UFO imagery. Besides the obvious hoaxes, the rest of the UFO sightings often contain blurry or shaky imagery. One cannot determine what was seen other than some lights or indistinct shapes. Considering the fact that the average UFO sighting lasts about 3-5 minutes, it seems likely that a “true” UFO would have been convincingly recorded by now.

I have mentioned in the past that UFOlogy needs to more proactive in their research but it seems that this is not happening anytime soon. While there are groups developing equipment for gathering UFO data, they seemed to have produce little in the way of results. Is this because there aren’t enough stations working or is it because the truly unidentifiable UFOs are not as common as the UFO databases indicate?

The other UFOlogical evidence that seems to be of recent interest involves the To The Stars Academy’s (TTSA) “Art’s parts” collection. While one of the pieces is being presented as something truly extraordinary, another part has been examined by the Metabunk forum. [It appears to be nothing more than some aluminum heat exchanger fins](#). Since the parts all came from the same source, can we expect that the other fragments are anything special or do they have mundane explanations as well?

[John Greenwald presented evidence that the FAA is collecting UFO reports in a database](#). While it seems that the FAA is collecting these reports, they seem uninterested in investigating them unless they appear to be drones being illegally operated. I think it is important to note that in over seventy years, there is not one UFO case that appears to conclusively show that any aircraft has ever collided with a “UFO” that could not be explained. Based on this information, one can assume that the FAA is less concerned about UFOs, which are commonly defined as craft that are not made or flown by man, and more concerned about man made/flown drones that could pose a known hazard to air traffic.

May all my readers have a happy new year!



# WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

January 22, 1967

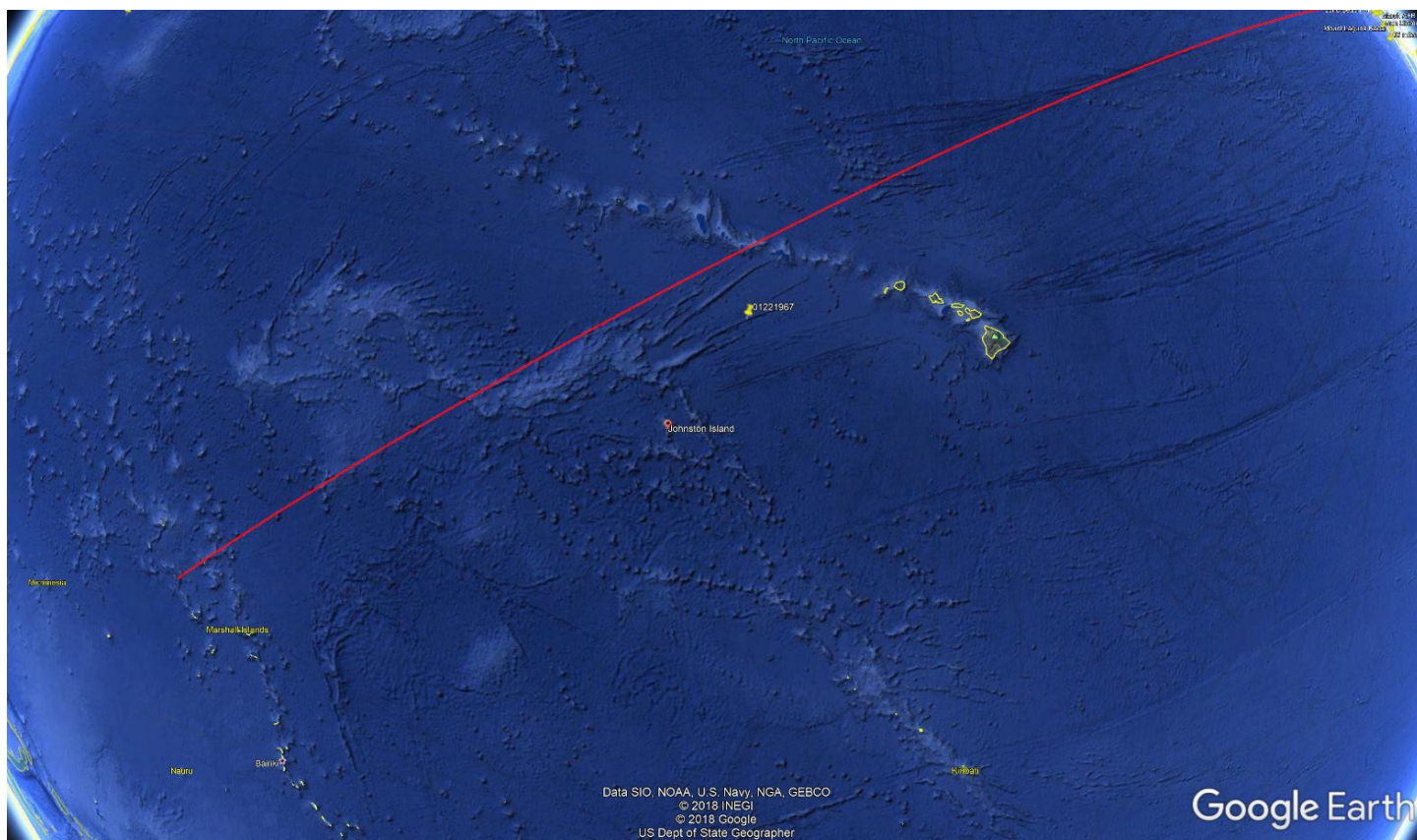
67.01.22	16:00 ZT	Pacific Ocean	20°55N/166°12W	A	minus a Slick Airways aircraft (flight 31C) pilot + crew	one milky pulsating light surrounded by a glowing bubble of gas				03 23 AN
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The sources listed come from the project 1947 list.<sup>1</sup> Strangely, it does not list Project Blue Book as a source of information. This is too bad because Project Blue Book explained it and there were several observations made from locations other than the pilot and the crew.

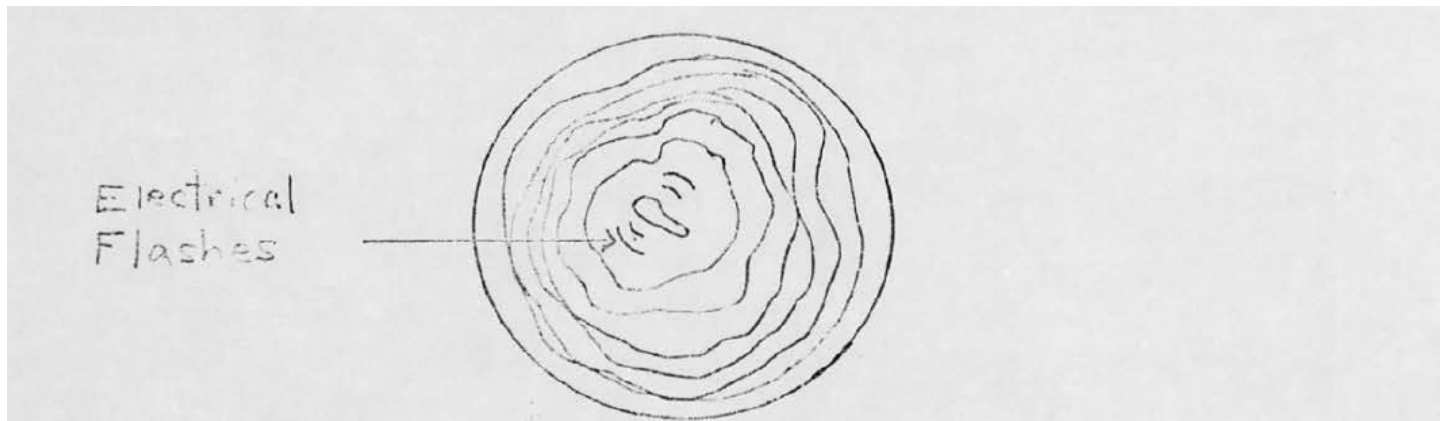
## Project Blue Book file

The project Blue Book card says that the incident can be described as missile activity and aircraft.<sup>2</sup> The aircraft explanation has to do with another sighting in the area on the same date.

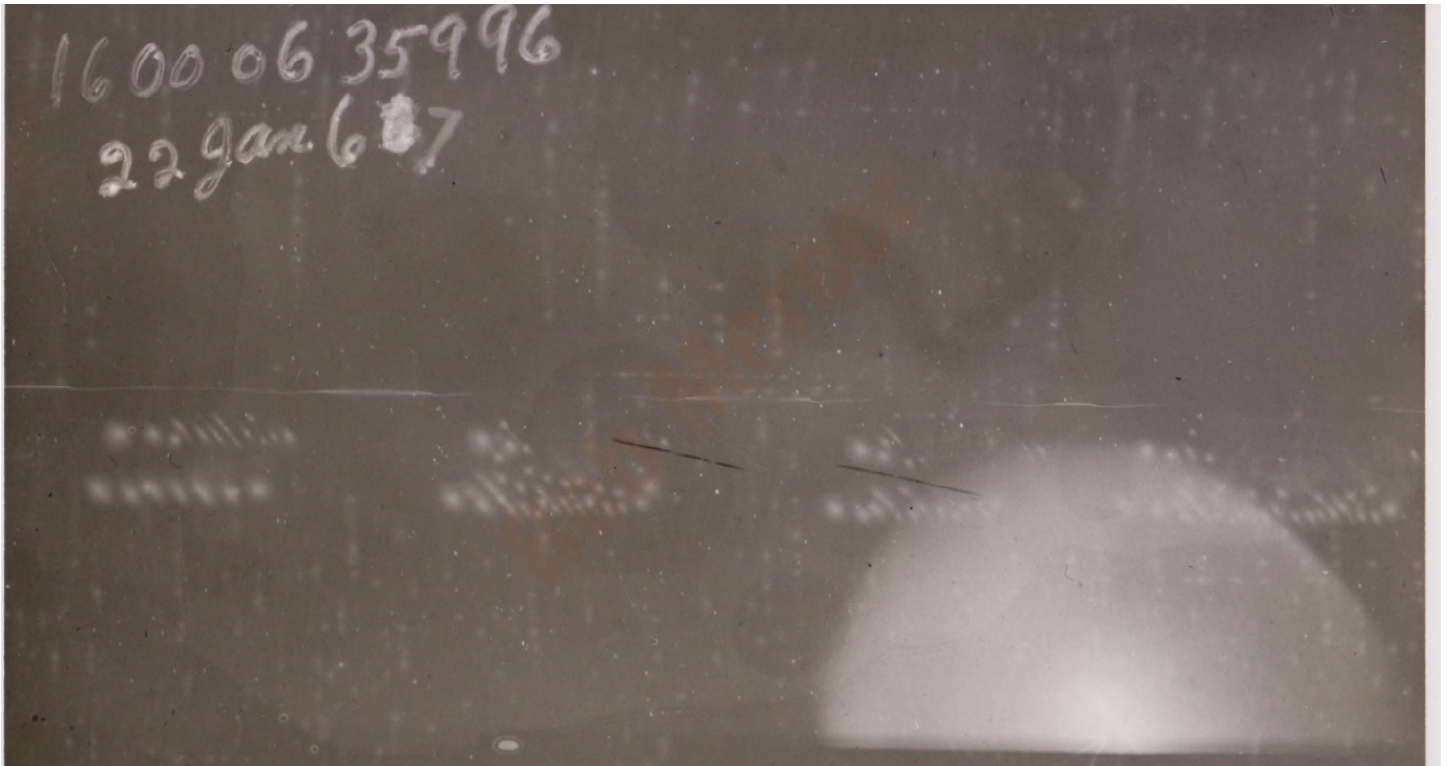
The missile came from Vandenberg AFB. An Atlas missile had been launched at 1544Z, which was sixteen minutes before the sighting. The location given is about 530 miles west of Honolulu and about two-thirds of the distance from Vandenberg to Kwajalein. Therefore, the time is about right being first seen sixteen minutes after launch.



The observation listed in the Weinstein entry is very similar to the descriptions in Blue Book. This is a witness sketch of the sighting.



There is also a photograph taken by a Baker-Nunn Camera at Johnston island at 1600Z.<sup>3</sup>



It is interesting to point out that Johnston Island is close to the position of the aircraft in the Weinstein entry.

#### Conclusion

The general description of this sighting matches the usual descriptions one reads regarding sightings of these kinds of missile tests. The photographic evidence also matches the description. Considering the fact that a missile/warhead was passing over the area at the time of the sighting, there is little doubt that this was an observation of that ICBM missile test. This sighting needs to be removed from the list.

#### Notes and references

1. Aldrich, Jan. Aircraft UFO encounters summaries from Project 1947 research. Available WWW: <http://www.project1947.com/47cats/acupdt.htm>
2. "Witness statement A2C William D. Ray 22 January 1967." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8541348>
3. "From the Desks of Project Blue Book". The Black Vault. Available WWW: <https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/desks-project-blue-book-photo-cases-1953-1966/>

## February 14, 1960: Nome, Alaska

February 14, 1960--Nome, Alaska. Airline employee, others, saw a silvery Rocket like object with orange flame trail curving up and away "as if it were manned and controlled." A similar second UFO was sighted at Unalakleet moving rapidly NW leaving contrails. [X]<sup>1</sup>

Section X is not very informative:

Alaska has had many UFO sightings [See Section X[: Chronology]. In a typical case February 14, 1960, airline employees and others in Nome about 4:40 p.m. saw a silvery tube-shaped object spouting orange flame from the tail, The UFO moved ENE, then curved up and away 'as if it were manned and controlled.' Another similar UFO was sighted at Unalakleet the same day, moving rapidly NW and leaving contrails. (Five days later the U.S. Air Force stated the objects were meteors.)<sup>2</sup>

The source of this information came from local news reports.

### The Blue Book file

Project Blue Book investigated this case and determined they were all reports of a bright meteor. The file is extensive and has forty pages. Some of those are copies of the news media reports cited in the UFO evidence. Details about the case file include the information from the initial reporting (MSG DTG 160314Z)<sup>3</sup>:

- Nome sighting had direction from NW to SE
- Unalakleet sighting had from W to E
- Sighting lasted 1-2 minutes
- Nome reported the sighting at 0400Z and Unalakleet reported at 0355Z on the 15th (local time was the 14th)

Additional details came from later information and interviews:

- Nome Wein airline station manager had object to the SE moving E. (DTG 160509Z)<sup>4</sup> (This was Peter Walsh)
- Unalakleet observer Begin: AZ 250 EL 20 End: Az 210 El 20. 7-8 Second duration (DTG 160510Z)<sup>5</sup>
- Weather observer at Unalakleet saw a trail in the sky at azimuth 212 degrees (DTG 160510Z)

A message with DTG of 170245Z stated the following<sup>6</sup>:

- They concluded it was a meteor
- It was seen from the following locations: Nome, Unalakleet, St. Michael, and Holikachuk.

A letter was sent by Peter Walsh to the Air Force on February 22, 1960.<sup>7</sup> He complained about the meteor explanation and wanted to know when meteors traveled horizontally and parallel a coastline. He also suggested it was some sort of classified mission by the US or USSR. Mr. Walsh repeated this claim in the news media.

An internal memo written by Colonel Philip Evans stated the following:

*"Of all the information provided to ATIC concerning an UFO sighting the most reliable is usually the general description (not to include the size), direction from the observer, approximate angle of elevation, duration of the sighting (for very short periods), and the time of the sighting. Using only these factors, it was possible by trigonometric methods to determine that the object was approximately 100 miles high."<sup>8</sup>*

It also added:

*"Subsequent to the ATIC conclusion on this case Dr. Christian Elway, Director of Geophysics Institute, Alaska University, concluded that the object of this sighting was a very bright meteor."*

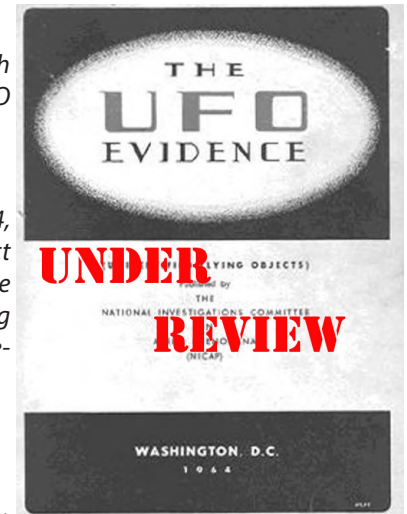
Major Friend may have been the source of the object being 100 miles high since he performed a calculation on one of the documents (he calculated 98 miles).<sup>9</sup>

## Analysis

I think Blue Book's analysis was spot on and there is no need to examine it much further. It is important to note that object was visible over an area of 200 miles indicating the object was not at low altitude but, instead, was in the upper atmosphere.

Arguments made by Peter Walsh/NICAP that it could not have been a meteor were:

1. Meteors don't travel horizontally or parallel a coastline. - Meteors do travel horizontally and, because of the meteor's trajectory, it appeared to parallel the coastline to the observer. The belief it was purposefully traveling along the coastline was based solely on the witness' perception of the trajectory.
2. The object curved upward and away as if it were under control. - This was an illusion. To the observer, it probably appeared to







Based on the information for azimuth found in the messages, this is a possible trajectory for the meteor

curve upward. None of the observers in Unalakleet reported such a maneuver indicating it was an error in observation.

3. In the March 1960 UFO investigator, there seemed to be confusion about the reports since they claimed that the witnesses reported seeing objects traveling in opposite directions.<sup>10</sup> The Blue Book file has no observations indicating different directions. All indicated motion towards the east. One can only assume that NICAP misinterpreted statements by witnesses that they saw the object to the southwest in Unalakleet but to the southeast in Nome meant they saw the object going in two different directions.

#### 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. 138
2. *ibid.* P. 118
3. "MSG from CDR Elemendorf AFB to CDR NORAD DTG 160314Z." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6969386>
4. "MSG from CDR Elemendorf AFB to CDR NORAD DTG 160509Z." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6969396>
5. "MSG from CDR Elemendorf AFB to CDR NORAD DTG 160510Z." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6969404>
6. "MSG from 11 Air Division to HQ AAC /USAF DTG 1170245Z." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6969332>
7. "LTR FM Peter Walsh to Colonel James Isabell dtd 22 February 1960." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6969447>
8. "Memo from Colonel Philip Evans to Major L. J. Tacker." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6969480>
9. "UFO analysis sheet 14 February 1960." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6969343>
10. "Other recent sightings". UFO Investigator. NICAP March 1960. P. 8

## THE 701 CLUB: CASE 10193: FEBRUARY 2, 1966 SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

*Feb. 2, 1966; Salisbury, North Carolina. 11:15 p.m. Witnesses: Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Wise. One silver, diamond-shaped object with several balls constantly in very fast motion around it, and much light. Object hovered over the trees for 3-4 minutes, while a dog barked, and then zipped out of sight. Sighting lasted 1 hour.<sup>1</sup>*

The description by Sparks mirrors Berliner's.<sup>2</sup>

### The Blue Book file

The description on the record card is not quite what Berliner states. It describes an object that was bright and changed colors rapidly. The primary colors being red, green, and white. The object hovered in the position for 3-4 minutes but then moved NE where it hovered for an hour. It did not "zip out of sight".

The record card is based on a letter by the witness to Dr. Hynek on March 24, 1966.<sup>3</sup> The witness stated the sighting happened around 11:15 PM after they heard a dog barking. After describing the object, the witness stated it moved NE and then began to recede away. The witness added that when her husband came home, around 11:50 PM, they observed the object move in an arc towards the east and observed the object with binoculars until about 1AM. There is no indication that the object disappeared. I can only suspect they simply went to bed with the object still visible.

### Analysis

I find it somewhat amazing that Hynek did not consider the possibility that this might have an astronomical explanation. It is possible that he may have been "snake bit" by the "swamp gas" incident because the witness, in the letter, felt it important to emphasize that there were "no swamps" in her area.

As far as astronomical objects go, the bright star Arcturus was visible at azimuth 70 degrees and elevation 5 degrees at 11:15 PM EST on the 2nd. At 1 AM on the 3rd, it was at azimuth 84 degrees and elevation 26 degrees. The change in azimuth was from the Northeast to the East with an increase in elevation. This is similar to the path described by the witness.

The description of the object being diamond-shaped and having balls revolving around it can be explained by scintillation effects. It is not unusual to read reports of witnesses misperceiving stars in various ways.

As Hynek had learned in his investigation of the Michigan case, even Police officers can misinterpret Arcturus as a UFO .

*The entire region was gripped with near-hysteria. One night at midnight I found myself in a police car racing toward a reported sighting. We had radio contact with other squad cars in the area. "I see it" from one car, "there it is" from another, "it's east of the river near Dexter" from a third. Occasionally even I thought I glimpsed "it."*

*Finally several squad cars met at an intersection. Men spilled out and pointed excitedly at the sky. "See--there it is! It's moving!"*

*But it wasn't moving. "It" was the star Arcturus, undeniably identified by its position in relation to the handle of the Big Dipper. A sobering demonstration for me.<sup>4</sup>*

If police officers can easily be fooled by Arcturus, one can assume that the witnesses in this case could have been mistaken as well.

### Conclusion

Whenever a witness sees an object that lasts over an hour, an astronomical object has to be considered to be a possible source. In my opinion, this case has to be classified as "probably Arcturus". Hynek probably considered it but, at this point, I can only assume that he did not want any more negative publicity regarding his explanations for UFO reports.

#### Notes and references

1. Berliner, 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. 267.
3. "Letter from Witness to Dr. Hynek dated March 24, 1966." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8722910>
4. Hynek, J. Allen. "Are flying saucers real?" Saturday Evening Post. 17 December 1966.

## Project Blue Book case review: July-December 1958

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering July through December 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.

### July 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jul	Little Neck, NY	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report made in 1963. Witness was 12 years old at the time of the sighting.
1	Springfield, OH	Meteor	Agreed
1	Philadelphia, PA	Meteor	Agreed
1	Norfolk, VA	Arcturus	Jupiter
2	E. of Ascension Island	Meteor	Agreed
2	Columbia, SC	Meteor	Agreed
2	W. of Germantown, OH	Star	Jupiter (Driver was traveling SW towards object. Jupiter was to SW).
3	White Cloud, MI	Balloon	Agreed
5	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
5	Seattle, WA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data and duration.
7	Uruguay	Meteor	Agreed
8	Beaver Falls, PA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
8	W of Boreland, MI	Meteor	Agreed
8	Devils River, TX	Balloon	Agreed
9	Massilon, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data. Some data inconsistent.
10	KY, TN, IN	Meteor	Agreed
10	Billings, MT	Illusion	Possible contrails
11	Lincoln, NE	Reflections	Film analyzed by ATIC. Agreed based on report of analysis.
11	Amarillo AFB, TX	Aircraft tests	Agreed
11	Etain AFB, France	Sputnik III	Agreed
12	13 mi SW of Buffalo, WY	Balloon	Agreed
12	Randolph AFB, TX	Sputnik III	Agreed
12	MI, OH	Sputnik III	Agreed
12	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Wellington, Randolph AFB, TX	Sputnik III	Agreed
13	Grand Rapids, MI	Insufficient data	Sputnik III. According to BB file for 13 July Wellington/Randolph AFB, Sputnik III was over OK city at 0235Z heading NE towards Grand Rapids.
13	St. Louis, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Xenia, Bellbrook, OH	Venus	Agreed
14	Seoul, Korea	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
14	Pyonteak Aux Afd, Korea	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
14	SW of Bermuda	Meteor	Agreed
15	Oliver Springs, Knoxville, TN	Sputnik III	Sputnik III made pass in opposite direction one hour later. Aircraft.
16	Spanaway, WA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Direction of flight was towards Gray AAF.
16	Oregon City, OR	Insufficient data	Agreed. Elevation given but no direction.



17	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Object seen from south of Jamaica heading from NNE to NE 6 minutes after Jupiter IRBM test launch from Cape Canaveral. Description indicates it was this missile test.
17	Miami, FL	Aldebaran	Seen 40 minutes after Jupiter missile test. Description indicates it was the missile test with a time error.
18	Dayton, OH	Hoax	Possible aircraft. Multiple reports made by teenage boys. All indicated lights moving about the sky. Aircraft reported to be in the area.
18	Oklahoma City, OK	Insufficient data	Possible Grab Bag balloon launched from Goodfellow AFB (350 mi to SW).
18	Detroit, MI	Balloon	Agreed
18	Midwest City, OK	Balloon	Agreed
19	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time given
19	Dayton, OH	Prankster	Blue Book had difficulty contacting witness after initial report. This is why it was listed as "prankster". Looking at the report, the witness stated there was an oblong object in the NW for twenty minutes. Crescent moon visible in west at time of sighting. Possible moon.
20	100-135 mi SE of Azores	Meteor	Agreed
20	Nuncia, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of initial sighting given
20	Glennie, MI	Underwater disturbance	Agreed. Witness reported something falling into the water.
20	N of Namar, Norway	Meteor	Agreed
20	NW of Chicago, Crystal Lake, IL	Balloon	Agreed
20	Gryder Buff, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction given other than circling over Buffalo.
20	Midwest city, OK	Jupiter	Agreed
24	Riga, USSR	Meteor	Agreed
24	West Nyack, NY	Meteor	Agreed
24	Las Cruces, NM	Meteor	Agreed
24	Portland, OR	Aircraft	Possible Birds
25	Alexandria, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Mt. Holly, Riverside, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
27	La Mesa, CA	Meteor	Agreed
28	Duncanville, TX	Mars	Agreed
28	Raytown, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
28	W. of Boreland, MI	Meteor	Agreed
29	Elmont, NY	Insufficient data	Aircraft
29	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Zahl, ND	Venus	Agreed
Jul-Aug	Udine, Italy	Satellite	Agreed

### August 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Aug	Phoenix, AZ	Poor Photo Processing	Agreed
Aug	Central, NJ	Unreliable report	Agreed. Reported two years after the fact.

1	Tacoma, WA	Conflicting data	Two different sightings in one message. One involved and object going west to east in 25 seconds. This was probably a meteor. The second involved an object visible for 45 minutes going from North to South. Description indicates possible balloon.
1	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
2	Salamanca, NY	Chaff	Agreed
2	Spring Lake, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
3	Tioga, ND	Mars	Venus
3	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
3	Houston, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
3	New York State	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
4	Ponca City, OK	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Sighting sounds like Venus.
4	Rapid City, SD	Aircraft	Possible balloon
4	Port Lavaca, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data.
4	Marlboro, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Troy Hill, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
4	Malmstrom AFB, MT	Aircraft	Roving security guard is only person to see this for 30 seconds pass over the air base. Air search radar reported no contact but approach radar reported seeing some sort of contact for four sweeps. It is strange that no attempt was made by the fighter wing to scramble an intercept. One can only assume that the object was probably something smaller than described and a bird is a possible source for this sighting.
5	Dayton, OH	Navigation Lights	Agreed
5	Flushing, Great Neck, Levittown, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Texarkana, AR	Meteor	Agreed
6	Shrewsbury, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible reflection of aircraft or weather balloon
6	Warwick Parrish, Bermuda	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
6-7	Tripoli, Libya	Meteor	Agreed
7	Chalmette, LA	Aircraft	Possible birds
7	St. Louis, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Concord, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. The only thing mentioned was that four flying saucers had been sighted.
8	Wadsworth, OH	Brass Tubing	Agreed
8	Flat Rock, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. No duration.
8	St. Louis, MO	Balloon	Agreed
9	Minot, ND	Meteor	Agreed
9	Roswell, NM	Meteor	Agreed
10	Trent, TX	Meteor	Agreed
10	Uruguay	Meteor	Agreed
10	Collinsville, IL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10	Arvada, CO	Meteor	Agreed
11	Osel Island, Gulf of Finland	Missile	Agreed
11	Olean, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11	Montauk, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Erie, PA	Refueling Op	Agreed
11	Breckenridge, TX	Meteor	Agreed

11	Lincoln, Omaha, NE	Meteor	Agreed
11	Rock Springs & Rawlins, WY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Probably astronomical.
12	Madras, OR	Meteor	Agreed
12	Atlantic City, NJ	Insufficient data	Time given was before moon rose but witness reported object near the moon. Venus was 12 degrees to the lower left of moon and rose about 30 minutes after moon. Possibly Venus. Probable error in time given.
12	Beebeetown, IA	Meteor	Agreed
12	San Antonio, TX	Balloon	Agreed
12	Cleveland, OH	Meteor	Agreed
12	Las Vegas, NV	Ground light	Possibly Capella seen through trees
13	Atlantic, N. of Azores	Insufficient data	Possible Sputnik 3
13	Long Island, NY	Insufficient data	Airplane contrail
13	Ponca City, OK	Meteor	Agreed
13	Burbank, CA	Balloon	Witness reported seeing object for five days straight and had a flight path that went in various directions for 30 minutes. BB suggested it was a regular balloon launch, which could be possible. The poor descriptions and various directions for an object seen for five days straight make this an unreliable report.
14	New Port, AR	Meteor	Agreed
14	Newburgh, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Angel's Peak, NV	Inconsistent data	Observations of weather inconsistent with weather report. Possible aircraft or the star Capella seen through clouds.
14	West Point, MS	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
14	Dayton, OH	Sputnik III	Agreed
15	Brookfield, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Sputnik III
15	Roswell, NM	Meteor	Agreed
16	Detroit, MI	Aircraft	Possibly Sputnik III
17	Warren, MI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Birmingham, MI	Sputnik III	Aircraft. Sun had not set at time of sighting.
17	Essex, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
18	Columbus AFB, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Bismark, ND	Balloon	Possibly Venus
18	Fort Monmouth, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Minot, ND	Refueling Op	Agreed
19	Beacon, NY	Insufficient data	Aircraft
19	Steward AFB, NY	Sputnik III	Agreed
20	Eastern Mediterranean	Sputnik III	Agreed
20	Dayton, OH	Arcturus	Agreed
21	Vinton, Oelwein, IA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
21	Kansas City, KS	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Rock Springs, WY	Meteor	Agreed
22	USSR (north Pacific)	Meteor	Agreed
24	Ridgefield, WA	Meteor	Agreed
24	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
26	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
26	Lexington, KY	Insufficient data	Possible cloud/contrail
26	Park Ridge, IL	Aircraft	Agreed



27	Deering, NH	Unreliable report	Agreed. Reported two years after the event.
27	Old Bridge, NJ	Mars	Capella. Mars did not rise for an hour after the sighting began.
29	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Gray AFB, Killeen, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed
31	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus

### September 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Sep	Washington D.C.	Aircraft	Report made in 1965 with no specific date or time. Insufficient data.
Sep	Kuldja, China	Missile	<b>No Case File.</b>
Sep-Oct	Danby, CA	Reflection	Agreed
1	Wheelus AFB, Tripoli	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
1	Dallas, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
2	San Antonio, TX	1. Balloon 2. Meteor	Agreed
4	Killeen, TX	Insufficient data	Meteor
5	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
5	Thermopolis, WY	Vega	Agreed
7	Crosby, ND	Mars	Possibly Venus. Report has confusing information about azimuth. All indications are that it was Venus other than azimuth.
7	MT, SD, ND	1. Stars/planets 2. Anomalous Propagation 3. Balloon	All appear to be related to Project Ash Can balloon launched from Sioux City, IA.
7	Kansas City, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Ellsworth, SD	Arcturus	No positional data. It probably was a star but one cannot determine which.
7	Hastings, MI	Stars/planets	Agreed. No positional data to determine which stars/planets.
7	Larson AFB, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Sharpsville, PA	Mars	No positional data. It probably was an astronomical object but cannot identify without more information.
8	Toledo, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	<b>No case file</b>
9	Euclid, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Lovells, MI	Insufficient data	Capella
10	Highland, CA	Mars	Agreed. Second object was probably Aldebaran approximately 12 degrees below Mars.
11	Cartwright, Labrador	Aurora	Crescent moon rising in East.
11	Hopa, Turkey	Ground fire-gun	Agreed
11	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Sputnik III
13	Collins, MO	Meteor	Agreed
14	Baileys Bay, Bermuda	Sputnik III	Aircraft
14	Wheelus AFB, Libya	WX	Agreed
14	Dallas, TX	Unreliable report	Agreed. No positional data. Viewed through telescope for 1-1/2 hours.

14	Lakewood, OH	Capella	Could be Capella but could have been Mars as well.
15	St. Joseph, MI	Insufficient data	Possibly Mars
16	Moody AFB, GA	Sirius	Agreed
16	San Diego, Ca	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Westbury, Long Island, NY	Meteor	Agreed
17	Atlantic	Insufficient data	There was enough information to evaluate but it was meager. This is a possible Sputnik III observation
18-20	Derby, CO	Emulsion Flaw	Agreed
18	Aviano AB, Italy	Balloon	Agreed
18-19	St. George, Bermuda	Arcturus/Venus	Arcturus/Vega (incorrectly identified as Venus on record card but correctly identified in case file).
18	Heurfano Mesa, NM	Parahelia	Agreed
18	East Meadow, Long Island, NY	Reflection	Insufficient information. No positional information.
19	USSR	Aircraft	<b>No Case file</b>
20	New York City, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Thule AFB, Greenland	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report had two different times making it unreliable.
21	Sheffield Lake, OH	Light reflection	This case is highly contested. Blue Book's investigation had some errors but the arguments against Blue Book are addressed in the file. There was a passing train that could have produced the initial lighting of the windows. However, the rest of the sighting cannot be adequately explained since the primary witness reports a close encounter with an unknown craft. UNIDENTIFIED. (See summary on page 21-23)
22	Uruguay	Balloon	<b>No case file</b>
22	Indianapolis, IN	Mars	Agreed
23	Kindley AFS, Bermuda	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Details missing about visual sighting.
23	S. of Oregon, WI	Aircraft	Insufficient information. No positional data.
24	Dayton, OH	Refueling op	Agreed
25	Craswell AFS, Bath, ME	Aurora	Antares. Crew reported Saturn 15 degrees above object. Antares about 12 degrees below Saturn.
25	MS, GA, AL, TN	Meteor	Agreed
26	Southwick, MA	Meteor	Agreed. Photograph was of sketch made by witness.
26	Kansas City, MO	Aircraft	<b>No case file</b>
27	Glasgow AFS, MT	Arcturus	Capella
27	Alaska	Meteor	Agreed
28	New York and Seford Long Island, NY	Meteor	Agreed
28	Houston, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
28	New York, NY	Meteor	Agreed
28	Bristol, TN	Meteor	Agreed
29	Derwood, MD	1. Meteor 2. Ground Light	Agreed
29	Andrews AFB, Washington D. C.	1. Meteor 2. Arc welders	Agreed
29	Washington DC, Pittsburgh, PA, Milan, IN, Columbus, PA, DE, MD	Meteor	Agreed

## October 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made in 1960 with no date. The witness thought it was a Sunday morning at 6AM. The duration was 15 minutes but considering the time lapse between sighting and report, this could be in error. It sounds like a Sputnik 3 sighting but there is not enough information to identify it.
1	Bell Buckle, TN	Meteor	Agreed
1	Foxholm, ND	Arcturus	<b>No Case File</b>
2	Stroudsburg, PA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Deming, NM	Reflection	Agreed
5	Warren, OH	Meteor	<b>No Case File</b>
5	Norton, CT	Meteor	Possible Bird (observer saw gray shape pass through binocular field of view)
6	Xenia, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Alexandria, VA	Reflection	Object described as round and rose up rapidly before disappearing. Witness looking south. Winds from SE and SSW. Possible balloon
8	Pleasant Hill, CA	Helicopter	Agreed
9	Gulf of Campeche, Mexico	Weather Buoy	Agreed
9	Groveland, MA	Aircraft	<b>No Case File</b>
9	Barehona, Dominican Rep.	Meteor	Agreed
9	Green River Lakes, WY	Fomalhaut	Agreed
10	Temple, OK	Hoax	Weather balloon found. Note attached was hoax. Agreed
10	Holloman AFB, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Laredo, TX	Meteor	Agreed
12	Valparaiso, Chile	Meteor	<b>No Case file</b>
12	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed. Lacks positional data
12	Elkhorn, Williams bay, WI	Balloon	Agreed
12	Egg Harbor City, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Northern Ohio	Chaff	Agreed
13	Kleinostheim, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
13	Uruguay	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Cameron, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
13-31 Mar 59	Black Sea, Turkey	Chaff	<b>No Case file</b>
14	Calhoun, LA	Meteor	Agreed
14	Rockford, MI	Balloon	Agreed
14	Custer AFS, MI	Balloon	Agreed (possibly same balloon seen at Rockford)
14	Maysville, Lexington, Budkley, KY	Balloon	Agreed (possibly same balloon seen at Rockford and Custer AFS)
14	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
15	Montevideo, Uruguay	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Greenwood Lake, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
16	Resolution Island, Canada	Saturn	Not Saturn, which had already set. Indications are they had seen the setting moon (which set one hour prior to event) Possible error in time of sighting based on computation for GMT.



16	Newark, OH	No Classification	Pictures are in a file but there appears to be no investigation by ATIC that I could find. The photographs show some out of focus point sources as well as some large bright objects. Without the details one can't draw a conclusion. Insufficient information.
17	Olympic National Park, WA	Capella	Agreed
17	Grand Rapids, MI	Meteor	Possible birds
17	New York, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
18	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
19	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Wenatchee, WA	Arcturus	Possible aircraft
19	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	Meteor	Agreed
20	Sweetwater, TX	Meteor	Agreed
20	Kerrville Valverde, TX	Meteor	Agreed (probably same meteor seen in Sweetwater)
21	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Karlaruke, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
21	NE of Brazil	Meteor	Agreed
22	Soap Lake, WA	Meteor	Agreed
22	Midland, TX	Vega	Arcturus
25	Oklahoma City, OK Gulf of Mexico	Sputnik III	Agreed
25	Yucca Valley, CA	Reflection	Agreed
27	Uniondale, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Story was second hand and primary witnesses not interviewed.
27	Lock Raven Dam, MD	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED (Pictures are not of UFO)
28	FL, SC, GA	Meteor	Agreed
29	Montevideo, Uruguay	Meteor	Agreed
29	Eddyville, Broken Bow, Miller, NE	Inversion Reflection	Possibly Mars
30	Oblong, IL	Parahelia	Possible Birds
30	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration.
31	Put in Bay, Lake Erie, OH	Mars	Witnesses reporting light that was to the north or northwest in pre-dawn sky. Object faded out. Witnesses stated they had seen in three weeks prior. Looking towards Detroit. Possible aircraft.
31	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration.
31	Caledon East Ontario, Canada	Hallucination	Agreed
31	Long Beach, NY	Meteor	Agreed
Oct-Nov	USSR/Finland	Insufficient data	<b>No Case File</b>

### November 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Nov	NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Reported four years later.
Nov	Dayton, OH	Stars/Planets	Insufficient information. No date.
2	Fairfax, OK	Meteor	Agreed
3	Northern Honshu, Japan	Missile	Meteor
3	Minot, ND	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
3	Pope AFB, NC	Balloon	Agreed

4	Columbus, OH	Meteor	Agreed
4	Watertown, NY	Meteor	Agreed
7	Poteau, OK	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Sirius
7	El Paso, TX	Sirius	Agreed
9	Brasilia, Brazil	Insufficient data	Probably Ashcan balloon launched on same date from Bauru Airport.
10	Wantagh, Long Island, NY	Meteor	Agreed
13	Volos, Greece	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Piqua, OH	Insufficient data	Probable meteor
13	Tonopah, NV and Troy Peak	Balloon	Agreed
14	Baffin Island, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
15-17	Loa-Richfield, UT	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Shady Oaks, LA	Helicopter	Possible aircraft
19	Montauk AFS, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. ATIC felt there was missing information from report.
19	Darwin, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Brooklyn, NY	Mars	Agreed
20	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
20	N. of Matrah Oman, Saudia Arabia, Greece	Meteor	Agreed
20	Pineville, LA	Aircraft	Agreed.
20	Trenton, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Palmdale, CA	Flare	Meteor
21	New Brunswick, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
22	Eglin AFB, FL	Meteor	Agreed
22	Albertson, Long Island, NY	Balloon	Possibly Mars
24	90 MI NE of Iceland	Satellite	Agreed. Probably Sputnik 3
24	Wilkes Barre, PA	Sub Sun	Airplane contrail. Object to SSE
25	Dover-Foxcroft, ME	Altair	Object went from W to NW in 90 seconds before fading out. Montreal 200 mi to west and Quebec city 150 mi to NW. Possible aircraft
27	Baffin Island, Canada	Meteor	Agreed

### December 1958

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Mid	Van Leer, TN	Hoax	Agreed
1	Washington DC	Hoax	Agreed
1	Iran	Meteor	Agreed
1	Ladd AFB, Fairbanks, AK	Meteor	Agreed
1	Whittier, AK	Meteor	Agreed
1	Matawan, NJ	Contrail	Agreed
2	Elmira, NY	Meteor	Agreed
2	Wales, AK	Meteor	Agreed
2	Argentina	Flares	<b>No Case file</b>
2	Wildwood AS, AK	Contrails	Agreed
3	Nurnberg, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
3	Vejle, Jutland, Denmark	Satellite	Sun above horizon. Aircraft.

3	St. Lawrence Island, AK	Meteor	Agreed
4	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Sounds like lightning and thunder with a window reflection or afterimage. No positional data.
5	Little Rock AFB, AR	Meteor	Agreed
6	Bynum, AL	Balloon	Agreed
6	Off Norway	Meteor	<b>No Case file</b>
7	Montevideo, Uruguay	Insufficient data	Possible birds
10	Cleveland, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed
10	Uniontown, PA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Lincoln, Omaha, NE	Meteor	Agreed
11	Omaha, NE	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Fomalhaut or Altair. Insufficient data to determine which.
13	Redlands, CA	Lenticular Cloud	Confusing report. Witness stated object was not seen until after film was developed. Witness also stated it was visible for 20 seconds. Object could be a film flaw, a bug, airborne debris, or some form of hoax. Insufficient information to determine which. Probably not a cloud.
13	Cold Springs, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
13-14	East Coast US	Meteor shower	Agreed. Multiple reports of meteors during Geminid meteor shower peak. Brightest was around 0540Z and visible over large area.
14	Syracuse, NY	Arcturus	Agreed
14	Levittown, NY	Reflection within lens	Agreed
14	Berkeley, CA	Balloon	Agreed
14	Little Rock AFB, AR	Meteor	Agreed.
17	Tuscaloosa, AL	Meteor	Agreed
18	Atlantic, Marshallberg, NC	Missile	Agreed. Probably Score rocket launch from Cape Canaveral.
19	Oceanside, Long Island, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Halsingberg, Sweden	Hoax	Agreed
23	Harrisburg, PA	Star	Agreed. Insufficient information to tell which star but Sirius is most likely culprit.
25	Russellville, AL	Tracking device	Agreed
27	Rockville Center, NY	Balloon	Agreed
31	Incirlik AFB, Turkey	Aircraft	Agreed

### Reclassification

I evaluated 330 cases in the Blue Book files from July to December 1958. In my opinion, 82 were improperly classified (about 25%). Thirty-two (about 10% of the total number of cases/40% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient information". This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been reclassified. Some of the sightings really did not have enough information for evaluation and other cases that had been listed as "insufficient information" had potential explanations.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
7/1	Norfolk, VA	Arcturus	Jupiter
7/2	W. of Germantown, OH	Star	Jupiter (Driver was traveling SW towards object. Jupiter was to SW).
7/8	Beaver Falls, PA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
7/10	Billings, MT	Illusion	Possible contrails
7/13	Grand Rapids, MI	Insufficient data	Sputnik III. According to BB file for 13 July Wellington/Randolph AFB, Sputnik III was over OK city at 0235Z heading NE towards Grand Rapids.



7/14	Seoul, Korea	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
7/14	Pyonteak Aux Afd, Korea	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/15	Oliver Springs, Knoxville,TN	Sputnik III	Sputnik III made pass in opposite direction one hour later. Aircraft.
7/16	Spanaway, WA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Direction of flight was towards Gray AAF.
7/17	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Object seen from south of Jamaica heading from NNE to NE 6 minutes after Jupiter IRBM test launch from Cape Canaveral. Description indicates it was this missile test.
7/17	Miami, FL	Aldebaran	Seen 40 minutes after Jupiter missile test. Description indicates it was the missile test with a time error.
7/18	Dayton, OH	Hoax	Possible aircraft. Multiple reports made by teenage boys. All indicated lights moving about the sky. Aircraft reported to be in the area.
7/18	Oklahoma City, OK	Insufficient data	Possible Grab Bag balloon launched from Goodfellow AFB (350 mi to SW).
7/19	Dayton, OH	Prankster	Blue Book had difficulty contacting witness after initial report. This is why it was listed as "prankster". Looking at the report, the witness stated there was an oblong object in the NW for twenty minutes. Crescent moon visible in west at time of sighting. Possible moon.
7/24	Portland, OR	Aircraft	Possible Birds
7/29	Elmont, NY	Insufficient data	Aircraft
8/1	Tacoma, WA	Conflicting data	Two different sightings in one message. One involved an object going west to east in 25 seconds. This was probably a meteor. The second involved an object visible for 45 minutes going from North to South. Description indicates possible balloon.
8/1	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
8/3	Tioga, ND	Mars	Venus
8/3	New York State	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8/4	Rapid City, SD	Aircraft	Possible balloon
8/4	Malmstrom AFB, MT	Aircraft	Roving security guard is only person to see this for 30 seconds pass over the air base. Air search radar reported no contact but approach radar reported seeing some sort of contact for four sweeps. It is strange that no attempt was made by the fighter wing to scramble an intercept. One can only assume that the object was probably something smaller than described and a bird is a possible source for this sighting.
8/6	Shrewsbury, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible reflection of aircraft or weather balloon
8/6	Warwick Parrish, Bermuda	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8/7	Chalmette, LA	Aircraft	Possible birds
8/10	Collinsville, IL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8/11	Olean, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
8/12	Atlantic City, NJ	Insufficient data	Time given was before moon rose but witness reported object near the moon. Venus was 12 degrees to the lower left of moon and rose about 30 minutes after moon. Possibly Venus. Probable error in time given.
8/12	Las Vegas, NV	Ground light	Possibly Capella seen through trees
8/13	Atlantic, N. of Azores	Insufficient data	Possible Sputnik 3
8/13	Long Island, NY	Insufficient data	Airplane contrail

8/13	Burbank, CA	Balloon	Witness reported seeing object for five days straight and had a flight path that went in various directions for 30 minutes. BB suggested it was a regular balloon launch, which could be possible. The poor descriptions and various directions for an object seen for five days straight make this an unreliable report.
8/14	Angel's Peak, NV	Inconsistent data	Observations of weather inconsistent with weather report. Possible aircraft or the star Capella seen through clouds.
8/15	Brookfield, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Sputnik III
8/16	Detroit, MI	Aircraft	Possibly Sputnik III
8/17	Birmingham, MI	Sputnik III	Aircraft. Sun had not set at time of sighting.
8/18	Bismark, ND	Balloon	Possibly Venus
8/19	Beacon, NY	Insufficient data	Aircraft
8/21	Vinton, Oelwein, IA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
8/24	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8/26	Lexington, KY	Insufficient data	Possible cloud/contrail
8/27	Old Bridge, NJ	Mars	Capella. Mars did not rise for an hour after the sighting began.
8/31	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus
Sep	Washington D.C.	Aircraft	Report made in 1965 with no specific date or time. Insufficient data.
9/4	Killeen, TX	Insufficient data	Meteor
9/5	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
9/7	Crosby, ND	Mars	Possibly Venus. Report has confusing information about azimuth. All indications are that it was Venus other than azimuth.
9/7	MT, SD, ND	1. Stars/planets 2. Anomalous Propagation 3. Balloon	All appear to be related to Project Ash Can balloon launched from Sioux City, IA.
9/10	Lovells, MI	Insufficient data	Capella
9/11	Cartwright, Labrador	Aurora	Crescent moon rising in East.
9/11	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Sputnik III
9/14	Baileys Bay, Bermuda	Sputnik III	Aircraft
9/15	St. Joseph, MI	Insufficient data	Possibly Mars
9/17	Atlantic	Insufficient data	There was enough information to evaluate but it was meager. This is a possible Sputnik III observation
9/18-19	St. George, Bermuda	Arcturus/Venus	Arcturus/Vega (incorrectly identified as Venus on record card but correctly identified in case file).
9/18	East Meadow, Long Island, NY	Reflection	Insufficient information. No positional information.
9/21	Sheffield Lake, OH	Light reflection	This case is highly contested. Blue Book's investigation had some errors but the arguments against Blue Book are addressed in the file. There was a passing train that could have produced the initial lighting of the windows. However, the rest of the sighting cannot be adequately explained since the primary witness reports a close encounter with an unknown craft. UNIDENTIFIED. (See summary on page 21-23)
9/23	S. of Oregon, WI	Aircraft	Insufficient information. No positional data.
9/25	Craswell AFS, Bath, ME	Aurora	Antares. Crew reported Saturn 15 degrees above object. Antares about 12 degrees below Saturn.
9/27	Glasgow AFS, MT	Arcturus	Capella

10/5	Norton, CT	Meteor	Possible Bird (observer saw gray shape pass through binocular field of view)
10/7	Alexandria, VA	Reflection	Object described as round and rose up rapidly before disappearing. Possible balloon
10/15	Greenwood Lake, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
10/16	Resolution Island, Canada	Saturn	Not Saturn, which had already set. Indications are they had seen the setting moon (which set one hour prior to event) Possible error in time of sighting based on computation for GMT.
10/17	Grand Rapids, MI	Meteor	Possible birds
10/19	Wenatchee, WA	Arcturus	Possible aircraft
10/22	Midland, TX	Vega	Arcturus
10/29	Eddyville, Broken Bow, Miller, NE	Inversion Reflection	Possibly Mars
10/30	Oblong, IL	Parahelia	Possible Birds
10/31	Put in Bay, Lake Erie, OH	Mars	Witnesses reporting light that was to the north or northwest in pre-dawn sky. Object faded out. Witnesses stated they had seen in three weeks prior. Looking towards Detroit. Possible aircraft.
Nov	Dayton, OH	Stars/Planets	Insufficient information. No date.
11/3	Northern Honshu, Japan	Missile	Meteor
11/9	Brasilia, Brazil	Insufficient data	Probably Ashcan balloon launched on same date from Bauru Airport.
11/13	Piqua, OH	Insufficient data	Probable meteor
11/18	Shady Oaks, LA	Helicopter	Possible aircraft
11/21	Palmdale, CA	Flare	Meteor
11/22	Albertson, Long Island, NY	Balloon	Possibly Mars
11/24	Wilkes Barre, PA	Sub Sun	Airplane contrail. Object to SSE
11/25	Dover-Foxcroft, ME	Altair	Object went from W to NW in 90 seconds before fading out. Montreal 200 mi to west and Quebec city 150 mi to NW. Possible aircraft
12/3	Vejle, Jutland, Denmark	Satellite	Sun above horizon. Aircraft.
12/7	Montevideo, Uruguay	Insufficient data	Possible birds
12/13	Redlands, CA	Lenticular Cloud	Confusing report. Witness stated object was not seen until after film was developed. Witness also stated it was visible for 20 seconds. Object could be a film flaw, a bug, airborne debris, or some form of hoax. Insufficient information to determine which. Probably not a cloud.

## Summary

I was very surprised at the large number of sightings during this period and the number that needed reclassification. Identifying Sputnik 3 was difficult as the Two-Line Elements (TLE) I had for 1958 were shortly after launch. I checked the TLE against the news media reports and Blue Book files to see how well they matched and discovered that my two programs (Heavensat and Orbitron) were sometimes off as much as 30 minutes. This made classifications difficult and I had to rely heavily on the predictions I found in the newspaper archive. When I had no predictions, I ran the programs and, if it was close (considering the fact that the time of the sighting could be off as well), I decided to classify it as possibly Sputnik III.

I continue to be disappointed in the Blue Book explanations that use terms like "Mirage", "Reflection", "Illusion", or "Inversion". To me, they are poor choices and seem to be an explanation of last resort. I only agree with these explanations when it appears there is good reason to do so.

As far as Major/Lt.Col. Friend's leadership, there seemed to be little in the way of his involvement at this point. Perhaps in 1959, he will make his presence felt.



## Bright Sputnik III To Make Passes Across Texas

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—A Smithsonian Observatory spokesman reported early Sunday that Russia's satellite Sputnik III is clearly visible as it orbits slightly more than 130 miles above the earth.

John White said the satellite is "very bright—about as bright as anything in the sky with the exception of the moon."

### Largest Satellite

Sputnik III, the largest of the Russian and U. S. satellites launched, was seen over much of the Western half of the United States in southwest to northeast passages.

The Observatory Sunday released this timetable for U. S. passes of Sputnik III in the next two days (all times CST):

### MONDAY

8:50 p. m.—Comes into sight over Mexico, moves over Central Texas in northeasterly line to Wisconsin and Michigan.

10:40 p. m.—Comes into sight off California coast, moves northeasterly.

### TUESDAY

7:15 p. m.—Moves up over Central Florida, up East Coast, nearly directly over

See SPUTNIK Page 8

## Sputnik Passes

(Continued From Page One)  
Washington, D. C., and passes over western Maine (over New York area about 7:20 p. m.)

9 p. m.—Comes out of earth's shadow over northwestern Mexico, splits line between West Texas and New Mexico, passes over western tip of Lake Superior to Hudson's Bay.

10:45 p. m.—Appears over Pacific, cuts northwestern tip of California, passes across western Oregon, and eastern Washington to western Montana and out over

## Sputnik 3 Will Be Visible This Week

The final-stage rocket that put the Russian Sputnik III into orbit will be visible in the early morning two days this week, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory announced today at Cambridge, Mass. The rocket, which was sighted in this area three nights last week, will look like a bright star with its light fluctuating as it tumbles end over end.

The observatory listed these predicted passages visible in this area: today, over Northern Lake Superior at 5:10 a. m., passing out to sea over North Carolina five minutes later, visible to virtually entire Northeast and as far west as Montana; Tuesday, over Western Lake Superior 5:15 a. m., passing out to sea over South Carolina five minutes later; visible to nation east of line between Montana and Texas.

The rocket's course will be from north-northwest to south-southeast. It will be visible over a path more than 1,000 miles wide, Dr. John White, Smithsonian Observatory information officer, estimated, according to The Associated Press. Its course in the night passages this week was from southwest to northeast.

Some examples of news media reports regarding the visibility of Sputnik 3.

### References

1. "Project Blue Book investigations." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/title/461/project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>
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.
7. Lubbock Morning Avalanche July 14, 1958 Lubbock, TX P.1 and 8 of section II
8. The News. July 21, 1958 Fredrick, MD. P. 14.

# Sheffield Lake Summary

This case was part of the list and I wanted to summarize what we know about the case from the Blue Book Case file and the Fitzgerald report issued by a civilian saucer group that investigated the case.

## The sighting

At 0300 AM EDT on September 21, 1958, the witness had just finished watching a late night movie (Dracula's daughter) and had gone to bed. A bright light then illuminated the bedroom. The witness tried to wake her husband but he was too sound a sleeper. She looked out the bedroom window and saw a large disc-shaped object (approximately 20X6 feet) illuminating the front lawn. It shot out gas or steam from some vents and slowly floated in a northerly direction across the yard. It then rose and disappeared. The sequence of events lasted about 5 minutes. The next day, her 10-year-old stepson revealed he had gotten up around the same time and saw the UFO out the window by stepping onto top of a heat register.

## The Blue Book investigation<sup>1</sup>

Blue Book sent two technical sergeants (TSGT/E-6s) from the local Air Force Base to investigate the event on October 3, 1958. According to Blue Book records, one of the Sergeants interviewed the witness for two and a half hours. They discovered that a train had passed south of the home around 0254 AM EDT and that it operated a high beam light, called a Mars light, that oscillated in a figure 8 pattern (one can see a video of a Mars light [here](#) and [here](#)). They also inquired for activities at the local coast guard station (over 3 miles to the west). Coast Guard Chief Schott reported that they had been operating a search light on a boat that may have directed the light in the direction of the Fitzgerald home. The weather that morning was misty with haze and smoke.

## The Fitzgerald Report<sup>2</sup>

This report was written on December 1, 1958 by UFO research committee of Akron, Ohio. In that report the witness stated the visual part of the sighting lasted 36 seconds. We also learned that the stepson reported the sighting to his father before his mother awoke and revealed she had seen the UFO. The report also stated that she compared the UFO to the object in case 8 of the Blue Book's Special Report #14. Additionally, the report mentioned other supporting witnesses. Some were three miles away in Lorain and the times/directions did not really match. I did not see any locations for the other two witnesses but I assume they were in Sheffield lake area and much closer to the location of the sighting. However, their sightings were very vague on details and they only reported seeing illumination of their windows or hearing noises. Nobody reported actually seeing the craft except the primary witness and her stepson.

As expected, the report criticized the AF investigators. They claimed the TSGT only asked six questions of the witness. The Fitzgerald report also stated that the train's lights never strike the house.

## Blue Book response<sup>3</sup>

Blue Book was forced to respond to the report and some of the comments regarding the Fitzgerald report's criticisms were:

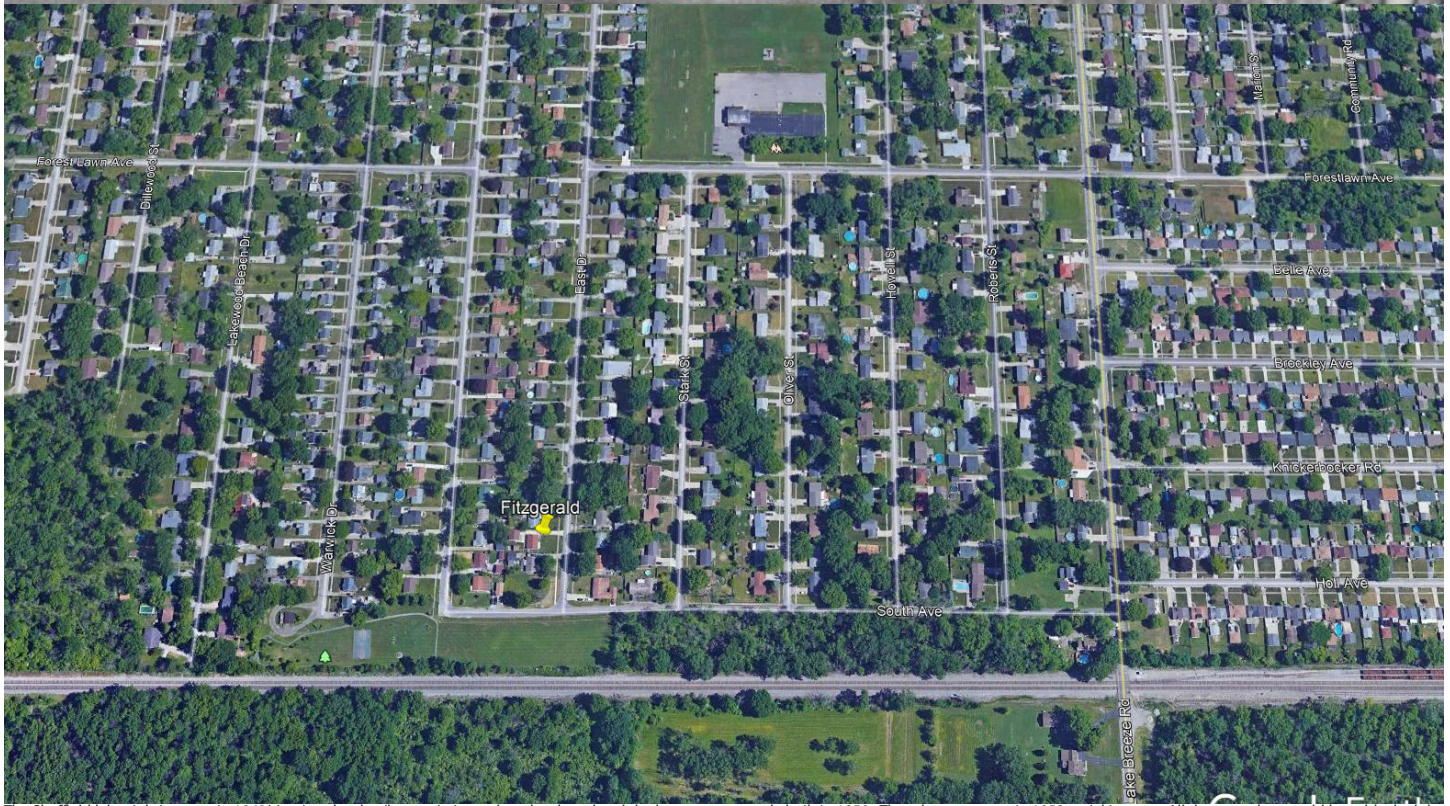
- There was no mention that the witness had just finished watching the movie, "Dracula's Daughter" and that this might have affected her state of mind during the events that followed.
- The TSGTs reported that the UFO committee was not present during half of the interview and that they asked many more questions than those listed.
- The TSGTs reported they did not bother to do a house to house check because they felt they had enough information already. They apparently did try to check up with somebody's house that was nearby but nobody was home.
- It was no surprise that she compared her UFO to one of the Blue Book Special Report 14 UFOs when shown all the various images. Instead of sketching it independently, she was given a choice of sketches that best fit what she saw.
- There seemed to be confusion about EST and EDT regarding the train schedules.
- Despite the claim that the light could not strike the house, the Blue Book investigators stated that about 100 feet of track was visible from the house and that they determined that the light could strike the house.

There were other comments regarding the Coast Guard search light and other minor details. I think it is important to note that the TSGTs were sent to gather information and report what they had found. It would be up to officers at Blue Book to ask for additional information or confirm their conclusions. In my opinion, the criticisms leveled at these enlisted men, who could not spend an inordinate amount of time investigating the case, was unjustified.

## Commentary

I don't think this case is that good. The story about the 10-year-old stepson was never followed up by either the civilian UFO organization or Blue Book. The other supporting witnesses, in the immediate vicinity of the Fitzgerald home, were not very convincing and their observations could be explained by the train that was in the area. In my opinion, I think the passing train's light was the source of the windows being illuminated (see next page's aerial image from 1962) and could have been the source of the noises. The





The Sheffield lake sighting area in 1962<sup>4</sup> (top) and today (bottom). It was less developed and the homes were newly built in 1958. They do not appear in 1952 aerial images. All the trees that would have blocked the trains light do not appear in the 1962 aerial. This could have been due to the image being taken in winter or early spring but the 1952 aerial appears to have been taken in summer and, while the ground appears to have plenty of grass, there are no bushy trees. The trees along the railroad tracks start to appear in the 1969-70 images. The lack of bushy trees would make it more likely that the train's light could have been visible from the house with the train some distance away.

misty evening could have scattered the light of the train as well to make it more likely to illuminate the windows.

The second half of the sighting involved the witness' description of a craft hovering in her yard as she peered through her window. Looking at the photographs of the front of the house on Google Earth and, based on what was written in the Fitzgerald report, it





Headlights of a car being scattered by a low fog



seems that the windows are still the same as they were in 1958. They are very small and require somebody being tall to look through them. The witnesses both stated they needed to stand up on top of something to see into the yard. One has to wonder if this did not play a role in their perceptions of what they saw. One could not tell without more information.

Based on the information that we do have from both sources, there are several possibilities:

1. The witness saw an actual alien spaceship that left absolutely no trace of its presence on the ground even though it is claimed that other UFOs do leave physical traces.
2. This was some form of illusion of light that was due to the train and/or CG search light that both saw and misinterpreted.
3. The witness had made up the story and convinced her 10-year-old stepson to confirm her tale.
4. The witness thought she saw something unusual. She then repeated her observations to the 10-year-old some time between the event and before he talked to his father in the morning. Having seen the train light illuminating the window, the stepson stated that he had seen the UFO as well.

I am not satisfied that any of these possibilities are satisfactory enough to explain the case. We just don't know enough of how a passing train might appear from the house and if it might illuminate the lawn as well as the side of the house. As with many of these types of cases, any solution resides in the mind of those who reported what they saw. Since there is no solution that explains everything to my satisfaction, the case should be listed as unidentified.

#### Notes and references

1. "Sheffield Lake sighting case file". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/7199236>
2. UFO research committee of Akron, Ohio. The Fitzgerald report. December 1, 1958.
3. Memo from Col. H. K. Gilbert to Major L.J. Tacker. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/7199593>
4. Historical aerals on-line. Available WWW: <https://www.historicaerials.com/>