


# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



*I'm embarrassed to say that the brilliant light we watched moving across the sky turned out to be the ECHO balloon satellite, seen under rather unusual circumstances. Also, Stanley and I were in a rather exalted mood, and perhaps not as critical as we should have been.*

Arthur C. Clarke describing a UFO sighting he had with Stanley Kubrick





Front: The Starlink constellation of satellites have been very prominent as of late. This is from the most recent launch of late April. The satellites were very close together (The wavy lines are due to the mirror vibrating the camera during the 1/3 second exposure). A week prior, I saw another pass from a previous launch. The satellites were all bright and only about 30 seconds apart. Based on what I have seen in the NUFORC database, these generated some UFO reports.

Left: Venus was out in force again this spring and probably generated UFO reports as well. This image was taken on the 25th of April when it was near the moon

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## Feeling isolated?

The recent pandemic of COVID-19 has put a lot of stress on people and I was not immune as I wait for my place of work to reopen. Thankfully, my family and I are all healthy as I write this. While one might think I could spend more time writing about UFOs, I haven't. Despite having more free time, I dedicated it more towards astronomy and my family. It seems that my youngest grandchildren enjoy having their grandfather sit next to them or hold them as they color, play with toys, or watch their favorite television programs. I keep remembering what somebody once told me, "Remember, it is only UFOs". Some things are far more important. I was pleased to see Sarah Scoles release her book on UFOs. Unlike most UFO books, where we get sensational stories or a lot of self-promotion, Sarah focused on her experience in talking to all of the UFO personalities she has met in her journey to investigate the subject. We had a wonderful chat on the phone and was pleased that I got a mention in the Roswell section. Sarah provides those not familiar with the subject an objective view. I recommend that readers buy the book and read it.

On the "To the stars academy" (TTSA)/Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program(AATIP) subject, Curt Collins and Roger Glassel wrote [two excellent articles](#) about how [Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies \(BAASS\)](#) and the AATIP. This should be required reading. I still would love to see their 10-month report. I would be very interested in what "data" was presented as "evidence" to AATIP. For some reason, this report remains hidden from public view. One can only wonder what the TTSA and BAASS have to hide. Is it because the data in this report is highly suspect/inaccurate?

Another [UFO video](#) made the rounds on the Internet. It showed some objects moving across the crescent moon. The first red flag was that it came from a "friend" of another party, who wanted to remain anonymous. [Analysis by many indicated this was nothing more than a computer generated hoax](#). The old axiom of "If it is too good to be true, it probably isn't" applies here. Luckily, for UFOlogy, it was not promoted as anything significant by the major UFO groups.

[In more news related to the TTSA, John Greenwald investigated a sighting that involved Tom Delonge](#). Most of the sightings from southern California on this date involved illumination flares dropped over the ocean. Delonge's video from that date seems different as it shows a single point of light that was mostly out of focus. The conclusion by Greenwald and Jim Kerr is that it was Venus. Making analysis difficult was the fact that Delonge did not know how to make his camera work in a mode that uses a manual focus (my I-phone has an app that allows professional mode where one can use a manual focus). Even worse is that Delonge, who has an expressed interest in the subject of UFOs/UAPs, admitted he could not figure out how to determine angles of elevation and azimuth (or at least general direction). That means that anything he reported was essentially worthless. Hooray for the new "scientific UFOlogy"!

Greenwald also managed to finally get the Department of Defense (DOD) to officially release the three AATIP videos promoted by the TTSA. There really was nothing better about the videos. They appeared to be the same resolution presented by the TTSA. [Mick West posted a video about how metabunk had given potential explanations for all three](#). Once the videos were released, the DOD spokesperson, Susan Gough told Roger Glassel that she would release a new statement about the AATIP soon. As of May 1, nothing was released. I am sure in the first week or so of May, we will be hearing from her. I doubt it will be anything earth shattering but you never know.

# WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

June 8, 1949: Haines Alaska<sup>1</sup>

49.06.08	08:45ZT	USA	Haines, Alaska	M	military aircraft pilot	one very bright blue-green ball of light gradually disappeared.				13.6
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## Case file

The source document is the Project Blue Book file. Blue Book listed this as "Insufficient data". There major reasons why this label was given were because no length of observation was given and only minimal positional data was presented. The case file contains only one page, which is a summary written by the investigating officer.

The aircraft was a C-46 being flown on a direction of 165 degrees magnetic at an altitude of 12,000 feet. The pilot, a Mr. Bray, saw the object coming towards him and he had to swerve to avoid a collision. He also woke up the co-pilot. The summary of their sighting was documented on a one page report identified as IR-31-49:

*"Object was a very bright ball of light of a blue-green color. There was no tail such as a meteorite would have. It did not appear to be an exhaust from a jet engine. Course of objects flight was about 255 deg. Observation was made through 45 deg of horizon and then object gradually disappeared from view in the same manner as a rear light on a train going away from the observer. Speed could not accurately be determined. However, both observers described it as extremely fast, faster than jet aircraft they had observed, and if they were to hazard an estimate of speed, they stated it would be in the vicinity of 800 mph. The observers aircraft was 2000 feet above the undercast and object was on the same level....."*<sup>2</sup>

There was mention of a passenger seeing the object as well but that person was never interviewed/could not be contacted.

The preparing officer could not come up with a conclusion and compared the sighting to IR-18-49.

## Analysis

One has to first examine the astronomical conditions. 0845Z translates to 2345 local time. Sunset was around 0600Z and the sky was twilight with stars visible. There was no cloud cover since the aircraft was above it. This makes one wonder about a possible astronomical explanation.

While I could not locate IR-18-49 referenced in the file, I did locate IR-16-49 and IR-13-49. Both involved sightings of meteors.

This case sounds a lot like Chiles-Whitted, where the pilots swerved to avoid an apparent imminent collision with an object that was not as close as perceived. We have no time duration but it seems like it was on the order of less than one minute. I suspect it was only a matter of ten to twenty seconds but we can't be sure since that information was never obtained. This short time period is consistent with the descriptions of air speed given by the witnesses.

## Conclusion

There seems to be no good reason to dismiss the possibility that this was a fireball meteor. The description was nothing more than a big ball of light, with a straight trajectory, which appeared to have faded out at the end of its flight. That description is consistent with a fireball meteor. In my opinion, there is no reason for this to be in the Weinstein catalogue and it should be removed.

## Notes and references

1. Aldrich, Jan. Aircraft UFO encounters summaries from Project 1947 research. Available WWW: <http://www.project1947.com/47cats/acupdt.htm>
2. "IR-31-49" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6314274>

# June 21, 1950: Hamilton AFB, California

June 21, 1950--Hamilton AFB, Calif. UFO buzzed control tower several times. [III]<sup>1</sup>

Section III has the case listed in a table<sup>2</sup>:

6/21/1950 Hamilton AFB, Calif.	S/Sgt Ellis Lorimer (control tower operator), Cpl. Garland Pryor (cto), and S/Sgt. Virgil Cappuro	Fiery object made several passes at the control tower:[14.]
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The source of this information came from an AP story that appeared on June 21.

## The Blue Book file

Blue Book has a case file for this event. However, it appears to have been generated in 1963, or later.<sup>3</sup> Somebody sent them a bunch of newspaper clippings and a section of a UFO comic strip.

A further search revealed that there was a spot intelligence report on 27 June. There was also a memorandum written on 22 June. The spot intelligence report seems to have been no different than the memo and it may have simply taken its information from that document. The memorandum seems to have the same information that appeared in the news media. Some of the more important items mentioned were:<sup>4</sup>

*Duration of sighting: 0135-0200 hours 21 June 1950*

*Shape: The reported shape of the object was elliptical, as that of a fan marker symbol. The object was traversing with the elongated edges to either side of its course. A blue flame similar to that of an acetylene torch was seen to protrude from the rear of the object.*

*Speed: Estimated over 1000 miles per hour.*

*Altitude: Estimated from 2000 to 5000 feet.*

*Sighting: By Binoculars*

*Heading: This object made three passes over Hamilton AFB, California. The first pass was on a north-east heading, the second on a north-west heading, and on the third it made an arc of (sic) the field, and disappeared towards the sea to the west.*

*Maneuverability: All flights were straight and level, except as previously stated, when the object made the third flight over the field, when it traveled in a lateral arc.*

*Sound: None heard.*

The memo also noted that there was no radar contact since all the radars of the 28th air division were not operating. The memo included the log extract of the tower operator. However, I could not locate this in the files.

## Media accounts

The initial media reports contained a kernel of truth but, unfortunately, the news media got some of the information wrong and made some incorrect statements. This is how the initial report by the Oakland Tribune read:

*The unidentified object which flew near Hamilton Field today was first seen at 1:35 a.m. by Corp. Roger Pryor, a control tower operator, who said he saw a blue flame shooting out as the object flashed from southwest to northeast.*

*"I thought it was a falling star, but it didn't fall—it just kept on going," he said. .*

*Pryor watched it speed out of sight. It returned from the same direction in which it disappeared, roaring, like thunder, but Pryor said it was going so fast he failed to see it.*

*His report was verified, however, by Staff Sgt. Ellis R. Lorimer, another control tower operator, and Staff Sgt. Virgil Cappuro, of the Airways Communications staff, who saw the strange disc on its subsequent passes over the field.*

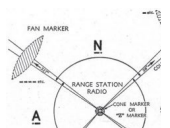
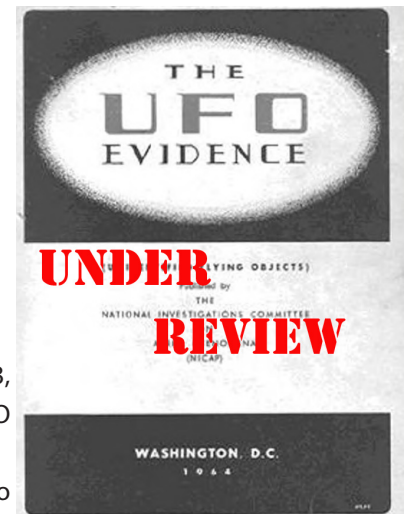
*The three men said it was flying between 2000 and 5000 feet altitude. They said the object appeared circular, thick in the center and tapering to the edges, similar to a cone or fan.*

## CONTROLLED FLIGHT

*The airmen used binoculars to watch it and said that it definitely was in controlled flight. Three times it appeared to pass over the Hamilton Field radio beacon, which is just north of the field, they said.*

*The blue flame looked like an acetylene torch. Its maneuvers in the area lasted about 25 minutes, Pryor said.<sup>5</sup>*

Some errors that were made in reporting was that the object "roared, like thunder" and that the object was similar to a fan or cone. As the memo indicates there was no sound and that it was elliptical like a "fan marker symbol". A fan marker symbol is found on an aeronautical chart and is just a narrow ellipse.<sup>6</sup> It is not fan or cone shaped. Eventually, the media received more information that corrected some the errors in the initial reporting.



*Garland was the first to report the flame. He said he was on duty with Lorimer in the control tower when he sighted the flame about two miles north of the tower at 1:35 a.m. yesterday. Capurro was standing outside nearby.*

*Lorimer said he saw it several times, traveling in opposite directions. All three agreed it finally curved out toward the ocean. Lorimer said it "looked like a falling star, then more like a flame of light on a horizontal plane, or like an acetylene torch."*

*They agreed they saw three streaks of light, lasting about a half a second each but said they were unable to make out any object connected with the flashes.<sup>8</sup>*

*Pryor said the first pass was at 1:35 a. m., and the object traveled so fast he couldn't see the subsequent approaches...They said the saucer returned from the northwest and made another pass north of the field, then later made three more approaches.<sup>9</sup>*

Several early headlines indicated that there was a "roaring noise" associated with the sighting and an object was seen producing flames. However, these appear to have been misinterpretations of the initial descriptions. During the press conference, the airmen stated there was no noise and they saw no actual object:

*At first, they said it made noise like "thunder," and appeared to be traveling between 1000 and 1500 miles an hour. Later, however, they modified their story and said it was soundless, traveled fast and was about 2000 to 5000 feet in the air.*

*They also first reported seeing an "object" spouting a tail of flame. This story they changed to a "streak of flame."<sup>10</sup>*

### Analysis/summary

The combined accounts indicate that the airmen had 3-5 sightings over 25 minutes. Each sighting only lasted a fraction of a second. The object was always elliptical in shape. They all agreed that the object(s) traveled very fast (1000-1500 mph). The object(s) did not "hover", did not reverse direction, or make right angle turns.

The object(s) went in varying directions. The initial sighting had the object traveling from southwest to northeast. The second observation had an object originating in the northeast (or northwest depending on the source). The last sighting had an object going towards the west over the ocean.

Initial claims describing a roaring noise were not accurate. This was probably some misinterpretation of what was stated to the news reporter. Initial reports also mentioned them seeing a shape in binoculars. It appears that, while binoculars were available, the rapid motion (they were only visible for less than a second each time) of the object prevented any detailed observations with them.

### Conclusion

There seems to be a logical explanation for what was seen. The initial sighting probably was a fireball that was extremely bright. This was followed by observations of more meteors. The subsequent meteors probably were less bright but bright enough to notice. The rate of one every five to eight minutes is about 7-12 meteors per hour. This is not much higher than the usual sporadic rate of around 6-16 an hour.<sup>11</sup> The conclusion they were probably meteors means that this is not best evidence and should be removed from the list.

### 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. 131
2. *ibid.* P. 20
3. "Project 10073 record card 21 June 1950" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9615059>
4. "Memorandum from Detachment Commander Hamilton detachment 19th air district OSI (IG) USAF to District commander 11th air district OSI (IG) USAF Fairfield-Suisan AFB California". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/12224513>
5. "Flying disc spotted at bay air base". Oakland Tribune. Oakland, California. June 21, 1950 P. 1
6. Thompson, Scott. "From Airway Beacons to Radio Navigation: 1920 and 1930s". Radio Marker Beacons. Available WWW: <http://eaa1541.org/members/newsletters/january-2017/from-airway-beacons-to-radio-navigation-1920-and-1930s/>
7. "Flying disc description to capital". Berkely daily gazette. Berkeley, California. June 22, 1950 P. 5
8. "Hamilton field airmen report strange sky flashes." The Long Beach Independent. Long Beach, California. June 22, 1950 P. 4A
9. "Flying saucer spotted by Air Force trio in California." Lowell Sun. Lowell, Massachusetts. June 21, 1950 P. 1
10. "Flying disc description to capital". Berkely daily gazette. Berkeley, California. June 22, 1950 P. 5
11. King, Bob. Is there such a thing as a random meteor? Sky and Telescope February 11, 2015 Available WWW: <https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-blogs/explore-night-bob-king/random-meteors-arent-random0211201>



## THE 701 CLUB: CASE 6409 JUNE 30, 1959 PATUXENT RIVER NAS, MARYLAND.

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

*Witness: USN Cdr. D. Connolly. One gold, oblate-shaped object, nine times as wide as it was thick, metallic and with sharp edges, flew straight and level for 20-30 seconds.<sup>1</sup>*

The description by Sparks is essentially the same.<sup>2</sup>

### The Blue Book file

The file consists of a single message describing the sighting.<sup>3</sup> The highlights of the message were:

- Generally oblate shape
- Ratio length to depth: Approximately nine to one
- Uniform brilliant gold in color
- Metallic, sharp edges, single object
- Negative on sound or exhaust
- Speed <100 knots
- Straight and level flight at approximately 4000 feet. Distance from observer was estimated at one mile.
- Visually observed from ground at approximately 2023 EDT on 30 June 1959.
- Observed for approximately 20-30 seconds.
- Object was to the north.

Blue Book also mentioned that there were four aircraft in the traffic pattern. An RD-6/R-6D (top left), a P2V (top right), a WV (bottom left), and a WF2 tracer aircraft (bottom right). The witness stated it was not the WF-2. They also stated that it was not the "evening star", a meteor, balloon, afterburner, or the setting sun.



## Analysis

The time of the sighting, was at 8:24 PM EDT. The sun set at 8:34 PM EDT on June 30th. Patuxent river is about halfway between Newport News, Virginia and Baltimore, Maryland. The location is under the airway between Norfolk/Newport News towards Washington DC/Baltimore/Philadelphia. In addition to civilian air traffic there probably were aircraft flying routinely from the military bases in the Tidewater region towards the various military bases in the Washington, DC and Maryland area. It seems that the region had a lot of potential air traffic for the time in question.

It seems likely that a naked eye sighting of an aircraft reflecting the sun and seen from a long distance would give the impression of a cigar-like object without wings. These images were taken by me before sunset showing an aircraft reflecting the sun. It was in the east and traveling northward. The 18mm lens shows a cigar like object with the hint that it is an aircraft. When zoomed in to 200mm, the aircraft is clearly visible.



## Conclusion

This report is an interesting one but the file has limited information. Considering the fact that the witness was the only one who noticed the object indicates it was small and not that impressive. Despite the witness' military background, they really did not provide a very thorough report. We have no real positional data or direction of travel. It is too bad the investigating officer did not ask for it. It is also disheartening to see that the investigating officer did not look beyond the immediate aircraft that were in the vicinity of the base.

One must remember that the definition of unidentified/unknown in 1952 was:

*If the report contains a relatively good amount of data, it is then checked against the location of known objects, phenomena, etc. If none of these explain the sighting, it is classed as unknown<sup>4</sup>*

Quintanilla would later clarify this statement to mean:

*A sighting was considered UNIDENTIFIED when a report apparently contained all the data necessary to suggest a valid hypothesis, but its description could not be correlated with any known object or phenomenon.<sup>5</sup>*

The important factor to note is that the report needed to contain the necessary data to make an evaluation. This case does not have any good positional data or direction of travel. Based on the lack of information from the observer, I would list this as "insufficient information" with a potential of this being an aircraft reflecting the setting sun (i.e. possible aircraft).

## 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 1.30. Jan. 26, 2020. P. 275.
3. "FLYOBRT DTG 021236Z". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8406906>
4. "Project Blue Book Special briefing to Air Defense Command. March 1953 P. 9". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/1/12428151>
5. Quintanilla, Hector. UFOs: An Air Force Dilemma. Unpublished Manuscript. National Institute for Discovery Science, 1974. P. 27

## Project Blue Book case review: July-December 1959

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering July through December of 1959. 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 1959

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jul	Red Devil, AK	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report filed in 1966 with no exact date
Jul	Switzerland	Reflection	Agreed
1	New Church, VA	Refueling ops	Agreed. Either refueling operations or aircraft operations over Chesapeake bay.
1	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Record card says it was in NE but witness report states west. Witness states clouds but weather data suggests skies were clearing. Possibly Venus.
3	Williams Bay, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Needles, CA	Mirage	Clouds
4	S. of Macao, China	Fishing craft	Appears to be continuation of June 21, 1959 sighting analysis. Agreed.
5	New Albany, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Emmons, MN	Anode	Agreed
7	Houstontown, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data missing.
7	Surfside Pier, SC	Refueling ops	Agreed
8	Moraine, OH	Aircraft	Possible meteor
8	Pikesville, MD	Reflection/inversion	Possible aircraft
9	SE of Florida and Bahama Is	Missile	Agreed (Jupiter missile launch - see SUNlite 7-5)
9	Nitro, WV	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Chicago, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Potsdam, NY	Aircraft w/contrail	Agreed
10	Oak, NE	Unreliable report	Venus. Witness driving west and saw object. Object appeared to follow him as he changed direction. Venus setting in west during the time given.
11	North Pacific (HI)	Meteor	Agreed
13	Brazil	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
14	New Delhi, India	Meteor	Agreed. Witness appears to have seen seven bright meteors during 15 minute period.
14	Yakima, WA	Meteor	Agreed
15	Salt Lake City, UT	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Mooseheart, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Not enough information to draw a conclusion. It is possible that it was the Moon or Jupiter. Both Moon and Jupiter in that area of the sky. Witness gave no other description than silver object to south.
15	Yakima, WA	Refueling ops	Agreed
19	Ceresco, NE	Insufficient data	Multiple sightings. One sighting appears to have been T-33 on approach to Lincoln AFB. Other sightings difficult to identify. UNIDENTIFIED.
19	Webb AFB, TX	Venus	Agreed
20	SE of Cheju Do Island	Sonobuoy and smoke light	Agreed



21	New Orleans, LA	Amusement Park Light	Agreed
21	Berea, KY	Insufficient data	Time incorrect in that it was 0115 local time (not 1315 listed on card). Description indicates possible aircraft.
21	Henderson, NY	Balloon	Agreed
22	Madera, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
24-5	Yakima, Bellingham, Bremerton, WA	Refueling ops	Agreed
25	Iroadequoit, NY	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
26	Pensacola, FL	anti-collision light	Arcturus
28	Corpus Christi, TX	Venus	Agreed
28	SE of Dayton, OH	Slag	Agreed
28	Dayton, OH	Spotlight	Agreed
28	Atlantic/East of FL	Missiles	Agreed. Atlas missile launch
29	Bellingham, WA	Refuel ops	Agreed
30	Assamet, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made in May of 1966.

### August 1959

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Aug	Coeburn, VA	Hoax	Report is insufficient information since no date is given. Report made in December 1959. Development flaws were in the film. BB declared it was a hoax because witness mentioned receiving \$100 for a UFO photograph.
1	SE of Madrid, Spain	Meteor	Agreed
2	Washington D.C.	Insufficient data	Single light moving erratically over downtown Washington DC. No radar track and only seen by witness. Possible bird.
3	Silver Spring, MD	Balloon	Agreed
3	Woodside, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Possible moon. Object described as "V" shaped and red moving towards the west. Crescent moon in WSW setting.
10	Goose AFB, Labrador	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11	Upper Greenwood Lake, NJ	Balloon	Possible meteor
11	Lincoln, NE	Meteor	<b>No case file</b>
12	Ocean Beach, NJ	Reflection	Possibly Capella. Object moved from North to NE over an hour and 45 minutes. It then faded out. Capella was rising over the ocean (witness was near ocean) at time of start of sighting. Clouds in area could have obscured star.
13	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
13	Long Island, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
14	Frying Pan Shoals, SC	Missile	Agreed
15	North Pacific, (HI)	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed. Limited information.
16	Macon & Forsyth, GA	Balloon	Agreed
17	Donaldson AFB, SC	Meteor	Agreed
17	NE of West Indies, SE of NC	Rocket	Agreed. Nike aeronomy mission from Wallops Island, Va. Released sodium into upper atmosphere.
18	Terre Haute, IN	Meteor	Agreed

18	New Milford, NJ	Balloon	Object flying over NYC. Probable aircraft.
19	80 Mi. East of US	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed
19	Dallas, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
19	6 Mi. W. of Mitchell AFB, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Trenton, NJ	Insufficient data	Witness saw objects traveling towards the NE for twenty-five minutes. Possible aircraft traveling towards New York.
19	Shelton, CT	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
19	Elburn, IL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
19	Roddington, Newfoundland	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration and only a direction of "easterly".
21	Marysville, OH	Glass	Agreed
22	St Johns, Newfoundland	Meteor	Agreed
25	New York, NY	Balloon	No positional data. Insufficient data.
26	Lake Winnebago, WI	Insufficient data	Observations of lights going "faster than a jet" while out on a lake at night. Possible meteor observations and observation of Sputnik 3 (one sighting listed as lasting 5 minutes and faded).
26	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
27	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
28	Charlotte Isle, Canada	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Mobile, AL	Meteor	Agreed
29	Hoquaim, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed

### September 1959

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Mid Sept	Toledo, OH	Film Flaw	Agreed
1	10 Mi. S. of Monterey, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Trotwood, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Naha, Okinawa	Meteor	Agreed
5	Malden, MO	Stars/planets	Agreed. Probably Vega.
7	Wallingford, KY	Hoax	Agreed
7	Lexington, KY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported seeing multiple objects during 25 minute period but details of each individual sighting were missing. No durations and specifics to analyze.
7	Ottawa, OH	Capella	Agreed
7	Pacific S. of Aleutian Islands	Meteor	<b>No case file</b>
9	Miami, FL	Missile	Agreed. Time listed as 0720Z. News media reports state it was launched at 0319 AM EDT (0719Z) (Error on time at Astronautix website) and it had a stage failure but capsule made it to a location several hundred miles north of Barbados.
10	Camp Kinser, Okinawa	Meteor	Agreed
10	Vicinity of Wake Island	Atlas missile	Agreed. Original analysis was meteor/contrail but it was lined out and listed as an Atlas missile. Atlas missile launched on 9 September at 1750Z. Record card states it was the 10th but Air intelligence report and message states it was the 9th. Photos taken but not in Kettering Ohio file.
10	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed

13	Gills Rock, WI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
13	Bunker Hill AFB, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible balloon (see SUNlite 5-6)
13-15	Detroit, MI	Insufficient data	Possible birds crossing in front of the moon seen on multiple nights.
13-27	Ripley, WV	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Witness reports seeing object move from east to west for an hour every other night. No photographs or details.
14	Maple Heights, OH	Reflection	Balloon
14	Philadelphia, PA	Altair	Agreed
15	Okinawa	Weather	Agreed. Typhoon Sara in region causing returns on radar.
15	Frick Park, Pittsburg, PA	Hoax	Agreed
15	Azores	Meteor	Agreed
17	Jamaica, Long Island, NY	Insufficient data	Venus
20	Rutland, VT	Insufficient data	Aircraft
21	Naha, Okinawa	Meteor	Agreed
21	Larson AFB, WA	Regulus	Venus. Venus was near Regulus and much brighter.
22	South Charleston, WV	Meteor	Agreed
22	E. of Goose Bay, Labrador	Insufficient data	Meteor
22	8 mi. E of St George, UT	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Positional data missing azimuth values for analysis.
24	Redmond, OR	Venus	Agreed
24	NC, VA	Meteor	Agreed
25	Burlington, Proctor, VT	Balloon	Agreed
25	Adama, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
27	San Jose, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
27	Woodlawn, OH	Planet	Witness reported two objects. First object was Jupiter. Second object was Capella.
27	Springfield, Fayetteville, OH	Meteor	Agreed
28	Carrolton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
29	RAF Edinburgh Scotland	Aircraft	Possibly stars Arcturus and Capella. Report is confusing as it included two sightings. Azimuth in one sighting was listed as 40 degrees and 125 degrees.
30	W. Coast of FL	Flare	Card lists as flare but mentions that it was described as flare by observers. BB lists actual source as Cape Canaveral launch. Agreed. Jupiter missile launch at time and direction reported.
30	Camp Pendleton, CA	Meteor	Agreed

### October 1959

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Telephone Ridge, OR	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
1	Keesler AFB, MS	Insufficient data	Nike Cajun Aeronomy launch from Eglin AFB.
2	Seattle, WA	Inversion	Inversion explains radar contacts. Visual sighting appears to have been Fomalhaut.
4	Randolph AFB, TX	Balloon	Agreed
4	Philippines	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	E. Of Garretson, SD	Venus	Agreed



5	Cincinnati, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed. BB stated there was insufficient information in the report but subsequent correspondence by 13-year old witness indicated he had a tendency to exaggerate.
6	Woodruff, WI	Meteor	Agreed
6	E. of Cape Canaveral, FL	Missile	Agreed. Atlas missile launch
6	Lincoln, NE	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7	Red Key and Bunker Hill AFB, IN	Balloon	Venus
8	Bunker Hill AFB and Kokomo, IN	Venus	Agreed
8	Ft. Sill and Lawson, OK	Balloon	Agreed
8- Nov 9	Mobile, AL	Natural Objects	Agreed. Probably birds seen near the moon. Report submitted six years later.
9	W. of Castroville, TX	Cloud	Contrail
9	Biscayne Bay, FL	Missile	Agreed. Atlas missile launch.
11	Blue Ash, OH	Venus	Agreed
11	Eastbourne, England	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
12	Washington, GA	Cloud seeding	Agreed. Physical specimen.
12	Elke, NV	Hoax/psychological	Agreed. Negative not submitted. Witness reported multiple UFOs between September 1959 and May 1960.
13	Terre Haute, IN	Meteor	Agreed
15	Terre Haute, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Reports submitted by UFO organization with very little data to analyze. Times listed do not state AM or PM.
15	Dover AFB, FL	Meteor	Agreed
17	Franklin, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Vega.
19	N. of Langley AFB, VA	Hoax	Agreed
19	Republic of Korea	Venus	Agreed
19	Great Mills, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed . No positional information. Probably Venus rising in east.
19	Near Cartagena, Columbia	Insufficient data	Agreed. Limited data. Possible moon setting in west.
19	Plainville, KS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
20	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possible meteors
20	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Atlantic Ocean E of VA	Meteor	Agreed
21	Warsaw, NY	Inversion	Various stars/planets. Witness reported four objects that changed color and disappeared when daylight came. Castor and Pollux were probably the "pair" of UFOs. Venus, Sirius and other bright winter stars probably were involved. Insufficient information available to determine which stars were the source of the sightings.
21	Olcott, NY	Venus	Agreed
22	Prescott, AZ	Insufficient data	Jupiter. Witness reported object disappearing towards west.
22-23	Loring AFB, Ft. Fairfield, ME	Balloon	Stars. Multiple sightings from different observers. Most sightings appear to be stars but no directions given to ascertain which stars although both Sirius and Procyon were rising and probably were the sources of those sightings.
23	Carswell GCI site, ME	Insufficient data	Radar reported contacts for sightings. F102s sent to intercept and found nothing but a star. Temperature inversion present. Anomalous propagation.
25	Mansfield, PA	Meteor	Agreed

26	Mobile, AL	Meteor	Agreed. Sighting in evening but description appears to be daylight meteor observation.
26	Toccoa, GA	Ice fall	Agreed
28	Pacific (Wake-HI)	Meteor	Agreed
28	Ozona, TX	Venus	Agreed
28	New England/Atlantic	Balloon rocket	Agreed. Echo flight test from Wallops Island.
29	Vandalia, OH	Meteor	Agreed
29	N. Kamloops, British Columbia	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
30	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed

### November 1959

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Nov-Dec	Clarkson, MI	Balloon	Insufficient information. Photograph shows just a black dot. BB determined it was a balloon based on description and photograph appears to show something like a balloon. Report made in April 1960.
1	Eugene, OR	Venus	Agreed.
1	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
2	20 Mi. N of Statesville, NC	Venus	Agreed
3	Utica, NY	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
4	Baghdad, Iraq	Meteor	Agreed
4	E. of Trinidad, West Indies	Missile	Agreed. Atlas missile launch.
5	Montauk AFS, Long Island, NY	Balloon	Agreed
7	NNW of San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
7	N of Hawaiian Islands	Meteor	Agreed
10	Phoenix, AZ	Unreliable report	Possible birds
11	Portland, ME	Insufficient data	Possible daylight meteor
12	Garden City, Long Island, NY	Balloon	Agreed
12	S. of Punta Campas, Mexico	Meteor	Agreed
13	260 Mi. E. of Resolution Island	Venus	Agreed
13	Indian House NWT, Canada	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
16	320 Mi. E. of Manteo, NC	Meteor	Agreed
17	Duncanville, TX	Balloon	Agreed
18	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
18	100 mi. N. of Guam	Meteor	Agreed
18	S. of Crystal Springs, MS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
25	Farmington, MI	Insufficient data	Possible birds
25	Boundbrook, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Roanoke Rapids, NC	Meteor	Agreed
29	West Branch, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Three second sighting made from moving car

## December 1959

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Kalispell, MT	Refueling ops	Agreed
2	Greenville, MS	Insufficient data	Possible daylight meteor
3	Alpha, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Riviera Beach, FL	Missile	Agreed. Atlas missile test.
11	N. Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
14	New York, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
18	Victoria Island, Canada	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
19	Burgoon, OH	Insufficient data	Possible sun dog
21	Berlin, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
23	W. of Albuquerque, NM	Balloon	Agreed
31	Quantico, VA	Grimes Beacon/aircraft	Agreed

## Reclassification

I evaluated 200 cases in the Blue Book files from July to December 1959. In my opinion, fifty-two were improperly classified (26%). Twenty- nine (about 15% of the total number of cases/56% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient information". This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been reclassified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
7/1	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Record card says it was in NE but witness report states west. Witness states clouds but weather data suggests skies were clearing. Possibly Venus.
3	Needles, CA	Mirage	Clouds
8	Moraine, OH	Aircraft	Possible meteor
8	Pikesville, MD	Reflection/inversion	Possible aircraft
10	Oak, NE	Unreliable report	Venus. Witness driving west and saw object. Object appeared to follow him as he changed direction. Venus setting in west during the time given.
13	Brazil	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
19	Ceresco, NE	Insufficient data	Multiple sightings. One sighting appears to have been T-33 on approach to Lincoln AFB. Other sightings difficult to identify. UNIDENTIFIED.
21	Berea, KY	Insufficient data	Time incorrect in that it was 0115 local time (not 1315 listed on card). Description indicates possible aircraft.
26	Pensacola, FL	anti-collision light	Arcturus
Aug	Coeburn, VA	Hoax	Report is insufficient information since no date is given. Report made in December 1959. Development flaws were in the film. BB declared it was a hoax because witness mentioned receiving \$100 for a UFO photograph.
2	Washington D.C.	Insufficient data	Single light moving erratically over downtown Washington DC. No radar track and only seen by witness. Possible bird.
9	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Possible moon. Object described as "V" shaped and red moving towards the west. Crescent moon in WSW setting.
11	Upper Greenwood Lake, NJ	Balloon	Possible meteor
12	Ocean Beach, NJ	Reflection	Possibly Capella. Object moved from North to NE over an hour and 45 minutes. It then faded out. Capella was rising over the ocean (witness was near ocean) at time of start of sighting. Clouds in area could have obscured star.



18	New Milford, NJ	Balloon	Object flying over NYC. Probable aircraft.
19	Trenton, NJ	Insufficient data	Witness saw objects traveling towards the NE for twenty-five minutes. Possible aircraft traveling towards New York.
19	Shelton, CT	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
19	Elburn, IL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
25	New York, NY	Balloon	No positional data. Insufficient data.
26	Lake Winnebago, WI	Insufficient data	Observations of lights going "faster than a jet" while out on a lake at night. Possible meteor observations and observation of Sputnik 3 (one sighting listed as lasting 5 minutes and faded).
9/13	Bunker Hill AFB, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible balloon (see SUNlite 5-6)
13-15	Detroit, MI	Insufficient data	Possible birds crossing in front of the moon seen on multiple nights.
13-27	Ripley, WV	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Witness reports seeing object move from east to west for an hour every other night. No photographs or details.
14	Maple Heights, OH	Reflection	Balloon
17	Jamaica, Long Island, NY	Insufficient data	Venus
20	Rutland, VT	Insufficient data	Aircraft
21	Larson AFB, WA	Regulus	Venus. Venus was near Regulus and much brighter.
22	E. of Goose Bay, Labrador	Insufficient data	Meteor
22	8 mi. E of St George, UT	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Positional data missing azimuth values for analysis.
27	San Jose, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
27	Woodlawn, OH	Planet	Witness reported two objects. First object was Jupiter. Second object was Capella.
29	RAF Edinburgh Scotland	Aircraft	Possibly stars Arcturus and Capella. Report is confusing as it included two sightings. Azimuth in one sighting was listed as 40 degrees and 125 degrees.
10/1	Keesler AFB, MS	Insufficient data	Nike Cajun Aeronomy launch from Eglin AFB.
2	Seattle, WA	Inversion	Inversion explains radar contacts. Visual sighting appears to have been Fomalhaut.
7	Red Key and Bunker Hill AFB, IN	Balloon	Venus
9	W. of Castroville, TX	Cloud	Contrail
11	Eastbourne, England	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
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22	Prescott, AZ	Insufficient data	Jupiter. Witness reported object disappearing towards west.
22-23	Loring AFB, Ft. Fairfield, ME	Balloon	Stars. Multiple sightings from different observers. Most sightings appear to be stars but no directions given to ascertain which stars although both Sirius and Procyon were rising and probably were the sources of those sightings.
23	Carswell GCI site, ME	Insufficient data	Radar reported contacts for sightings. F102s sent to intercept and found nothing but a star. Temperature inversion present. Anomalous propagation.

29	N. Kamloops, British Columbia	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
Nov-Dec	Clarkson, MI	Balloon	Insufficient information. Photograph shows just a black dot. BB determined it was a balloon based on description and photograph appears to show something like a balloon. Report made in April 1960.
3	Utica, NY	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10	Phoenix, AZ	Unreliable report	Possible birds
11	Portland, ME	Insufficient data	Possible daylight meteor
25	Farmington, MI	Insufficient data	Possible birds
12/2	Greenville, MS	Insufficient data	Possible daylight meteor
14	New York, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
18	Victoria Island, Canada	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
19	Burgoon, OH	Insufficient data	Possible sun dog

## Summary

The cases during this time period, while minimal in number, still contained some challenging events. The major UFOlogical case was in Redmond, California. There seems to have been confusion about what transpired and Major Friend's telephone conversation with the principle witnesses seemed to confirm that Venus was the explanation. The radar contact was explained as a contact regularly seen by operators and the aircraft intercept reported nothing. As a result, I can find no reason to dismiss the Venus explanation.

The Ceresco, Nebraska sightings seem to have plenty of data available and one of the sightings may have been an aircraft. The other sighting by an amateur astronomer cannot be explained. It could have been a balloon but the report is somewhat confusing so I will list it as UNIDENTIFIED. In my opinion, it should never have been listed as "insufficient data".

Another series of interesting, and possibly linked, sightings happened in the northeast on August 19, 1959. There were three sightings that suggested a possible object in orbit that was traveling northeast. The sequence indicated to me that it might have been a satellite. Since my efforts indicated no satellite in the area, I asked Ted Molczan to check my work. He agreed there was nothing in orbit that could produce the sighting. Blue Book listed them as insufficient data and I agreed with that classification for the New Foundland case, which just listed an easterly course. The New Jersey event, which lasted 25 minutes, was very confusing but based on the course, I suspect that these were all aircraft traveling towards New York in the evening that the witness merged into one sighting. The Connecticut case involved an object with erratic behavior and a relatively steady northeast course. These characteristics indicated it could have been a balloon.

There were also quite a lot of rocket launches that produced UFO reports during this time period. I suspect that would have been the case since observers were probably not familiar with how a rocket launch appears from a distance at night. The late 50s and early 60s had a lot of rocket launches as Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg were testing a lot of booster rockets for use in space/weapons research.

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