

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

*...an investigator of any unidentified phenomenon is likely to learn much about that phenomenon from people who were in a **position** to experience it, but who saw or heard nothing they considered unusual. Listening only to those who reported a strange experience may keep one from learning the true identity of the cause.*

Dr. Roy Craig - UFOs: An Insider's View of the Official Quest for Evidence

Volume 12 Number 5

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DULIEU, FRANCE, latitude and longitude are 43.928 degrees North and 3.792 d



Front: Comet NEOWISE put on quite a display in July. Many people went out to look at it and, not surprisingly, probably reported seeing other strange lights in the sky.

Left: A de-orbit burn of a Falcon second stage rocket, produced a UFO report from some pilots. Surprisingly, NARCAP thought it was a "true UFO" and wrote a report about it. These images are from James Oberg's report on the event.

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A new Project Blue Book?

I guess the biggest headline for the last two months is the announcement of the formation of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force (UAPTF). Some may think that this puts the military back in the business of investigating UFO reports. This is not exactly the case. The [Department of Defense \(DOD\) stated that](#), *The Department of Defense established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAPs. The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S. national security. As DOD has stated previously, the safety of our personnel and the security of our operations are of paramount concern. The Department of Defense and the military departments take any incursions by unauthorized aircraft into our training ranges or designated airspace very seriously and examine each report. This includes examinations of incursions that are initially reported as UAP when the observer cannot immediately identify what he or she is observing.*

In other words, they are only interested in any unexplained/unknown craft entering military airspace. [Roger Glassel had conducted an interview with DOD spokesperson, Susan Gough and she stated the same thing](#): *The Department of Defense established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace. The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze and catalog UAP incursions that could potentially pose a threat to U.S. national security.*

The DOD seems uninterested in examining cases that happen outside of these areas or are not perceived as a threat. Susan Gough also told Roger that the results of any investigations will probably be classified and unavailable to the general public.

Of course, even if the DOD announced the results of any investigations, one really has to wonder if UFO proponents will even accept them. I suspect that there will be plenty of FOIA requests about the results of these investigations. We will have to see how this all pans out over the next few years but don't expect to hear anybody at the DOD suggesting that UAPs are some sort of exotic craft that are not made by man. The best UFO proponents will get is that they will simply say, "Unidentified" and leave it at that.

As far as other UFO news, I really did not pay that much attention because of Comet NEOWISE occupying a great deal of my time for most of mid to late July. [I understand that there was supposed to be some sort of earth shattering news in July that turned out to be, as Robert Sheaffer described it, another dud.](#) It was just another fluff piece by Ralph Blumenthal and Leslie Kean in the NY times that promotes the usual cast of characters. The bottom line is there were no new revelations.

Before I published this issue, [Robert Sheaffer updated his blog to discuss the old Jimmy Carter sighting](#). I have always been accepting of the Venus explanation but it seems that Robert presents a good case that it was actually a high altitude barium cloud release by a rocket launched from Eglin AFB in Florida. This explanation has been suggested before and I was willing to consider it but felt Venus was a more acceptable answer. However, I am beginning to think that the aeronomy mission explanation is the likely answer here. The article to the right was from the Panama City News of January 8, 1969 (two days after the Carter sighting). It mentions hundreds of reports being made to local TV/Radio stations and newspapers on the previous two nights (January 6 and 7). I give a thumbs up for those who pursued this explanation over the years.

High Altitude Test Causing Odd Clouds

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE (AP)—Smoke and cloud trails appearing high above the Gulf of Mexico this week have left many coast residents puzzled, but the Air Force said Tuesday there is no need for alarm. Officials at Eglin AFB said the multi-colored clouds are the result of high altitude chemical tests. Rockets are being launched from Santa Rosa Island to altitudes of between 50 and 125 miles in order to measure wind speeds and directions at various altitudes in the upper atmosphere, a spokesman said. Two Nike-Iroquois missiles carrying chemical payloads are being launched twice nightly through Wednesday. One final missile will be launched Thursday. The rockets are being fired at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The odd cloud color formations prompted hundreds of telephone calls to various newspaper and broadcasting stations Monday and Tuesday nights.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

September 30, 1966 Virginia¹

13:57 ZT	USA	above Virginia 38°44 N / 75°06 W	A	a Northeast Airlines aircraft pilot	one light seen for 20 seconds.			X	03/40
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Case file

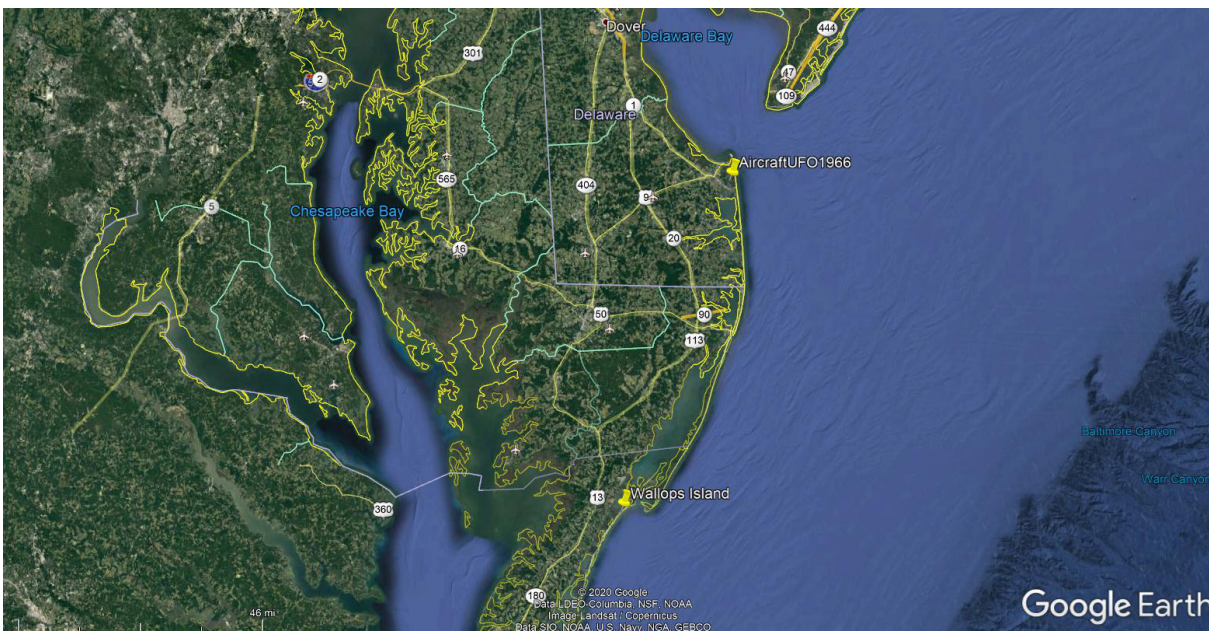
The source of this information came from Project 1947's files and reference Jan Aldrich and Barry Greenwood as sources. There is also mention of the source being the Volunteer Flight Officer's network (UAL). I inquired to both Greenwood and Aldrich about the file. Greenwood stated that the file probably exists at CUFOS but he did not have any copies. Mr. Aldrich was able to locate it and stated it was probably a barium cloud experiment. Unfortunately, Mr. Aldrich did not provide me with the physical report before I published this issue, so I can't present it here.

Analysis

The location isn't actually in Virginia but over the east coast of Delaware in the vicinity of Wallops Island. It just so happens that at 2350 UTC (within seven minutes of the time listed), a Nike-Ajax was launched on an aeronomy mission from Wallops Island.² The distance between the aircraft and Wallops Island was about 65 miles. Just as I had surmised, prior to discussing it with Mr. Aldrich, this is what probably produced the report.

Conclusion

There seems to be no good reason to dismiss the possibility that this was the Nike-Ajax missile launch. This should be reclassified as probable rocket launch and removed from the Weinstein catalogue.



Pruning vs. Weed Whacking

In my discussion with Mr. Aldrich, he mentioned that the Weinstein catalogue does not really provide evidence of anything (yet various UFO enthusiasts seem to think it does). He also added that Project 1947 is attempting to "prune" the list. They list only two cases that had explanations, which indicates that the effort is half-hearted at best. In my opinion, a pruning is inadequate and a weed whacking is more appropriate. In SUNlite 11-4, I listed all the cases that, in my opinion, had potential explanations (although one was incorrect, which I mentioned in SUNlite 11-6). Since that issue, I have taken on other cases and offered explanations. I will continue this effort until I am satisfied I can no longer find any that have potential explanations.

Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 40

October 7, 1954: Isles-sur-Suippe, France

October 7, 1954--Isles-sur-Suippes, France. UFO shaped like "giant artillery shell" with "portholes"; landing or near-landing case. [XII].¹

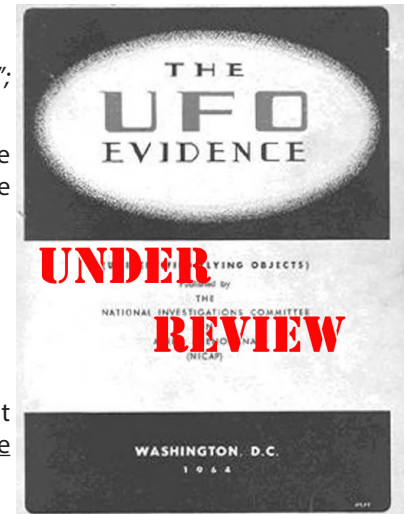
Section XII has the case listed in a table with basically the same description but it mentions the portholes were dim and that it was "early am" when the sighting occurred.² It has no footnote so we don't know the source.

The Blue Book file

There is no Blue Book file for this case.

Media accounts

There are no US media accounts but it is documented in the French press. It seems that the primary source of this information comes from Aime Michel's, Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery.³



"M. Joseph Roy, mechanic in the Panhard factory, was riding his bicycle along Route N-51 when directly in front of him and very low there was a burst of intense light which he at first mistook for car headlights. The light moved little in the darkness, then went out. M. Roy continued to pedal and soon came to the place where the light had disappeared. In the field near the road an object about three yards long, shaped like 'a giant artillery shell,' could be seen by the dim light emanating from its 'portholes.' In front of this object moved a small dark form which the frightened bicyclist did not stop to examine, and which he could not describe. He pedaled for dear life to the nearest police station. The police went back with him to the road where he had passed the apparition, and found strange marks in the soft earth of the field. Subsequent investigations revealed that three other workmen a few miles away, bicycling to their night jobs, had seen a ball of fire descending toward the place where M. Roy saw the 'shell' and the dark form."

Patrick Gross' web site has a bit on this case and it seems to have been examined by others. Gross mentions that Michel Figuet had identified the source of the sighting and that it had been revealed a few days later in the newspaper from nearby Reims.⁴

*But in fact, the case was apparently explained by the newspaper L'Union of Reims after just a few days: English military personal had parked there. This will be stated again by a reader of Science et Vie magazine in 1958, which source Michel Figuet would quote in 1985.*⁴

Later writers, would add that a helicopter was there as well but it is unclear where this information originated.

Analysis/summary

It seems that this was another case of listing a case from a UFOlogical source without any further checking. According to Patrick Gross, the explanation had been published in 1958, which is long before the UFO evidence was published. The theory that a helicopter was also involved seems to be speculation. It must be noted that Mr. Roy mentioned only seeing a bright light on, or near, the ground. The other report made by the three workmen, could have been a meteor unrelated to what Roy had seen. There really is no reason to add the helicopter. The vehicle seen could have simply been one or two trucks and a tent or two that were set up. The lighting of this grouping could have created an appearance that confused Joseph Roy and resulted in the description given.

Conclusion

The report of a landed UFO should have more evidence than an anecdotal story to qualify as "good" evidence that UFOs are some form of flying craft not built by man. It seems that a few British soldiers on military maneuvers is an adequate explanation for what was seen and it should be reclassified as such. This case does not belong in The UFO evidence and should be removed..

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. 134
2. *ibid.* P. 146.
3. Gross, Patrick. "October 6, 1954, Isles-sur-Suippe, Marne". Available WWW: <https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/1954/6oct1954isles-sursuippe.htm>
4. *ibid.*

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 3222 SEPTEMBER 21, 1954 BARSTOW, CA.

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

*Sept. 21, 1954; Barstow, California. 1 a.m. Witnesses: two local policemen, four U.S. Marine Corps police, one highway patrolman. One red-orange ball giving off sparks, and a smaller light, made a zigzag descent and then hovered. Total of 20 minutes.*¹

The description by Sparks is essentially the same.²

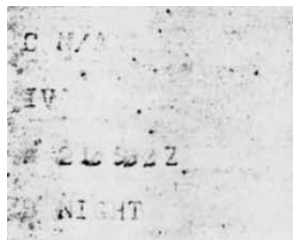
The Blue Book file

The file contains a faded copy of the message report and nothing else.³ It is interesting to note the record card was a version from 1963 and not the 1952 version of the card. This means that the card was either lost or replaced.

Analysis

The time of the sighting was 0900Z, which everyone has assumed was 1AM PST. However, California was on DST in 1954 and the time should be 0200 AM PDT.

However, I have to question the time of 0900Z. The time only appears once on the faded document we do have. The time shows the 9 being very close to the 0 like the message had some sort of error when it was printed out. Was it supposed to be a 9 or could it have been something else?



There is reason to question the time because at 0700Z, the bright planet Mars (magnitude -0.7) was setting in the southwest. By my computations it set around 0726Z. What is significant about Mars on this night was that it was only 0.25 degrees away from the second magnitude star Nunki. This conjunction fits the description of a red-orange ball and smaller light descending in the SW for twenty minutes.



The message states that they received all of this information from a Daggett radio station teletype. This indicates this was information that was second hand with the potential for the time being incorrectly reported. I attempted to locate news media accounts, hoping for additional information, but I was unable to locate any. All UFO sources documenting this sighting trace their information back to this single message. Without any additional information we can only speculate that there might have been an error in recording the time.

Conclusion

In my opinion, it is possible that the Mars/Nunki conjunction was the source of this sighting and that the time listed was incorrect. That does not give me a firm solution to the case but I think it is enough to reclassify this as "possibly Mars and Nunki".

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. 220.
3. "21 September 1954, Barstow California." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8726875>

NARCAP CASE SOLVED

I am beginning to think that NARCAP is incapable of properly evaluating simple cases. The latest case was obvious to most people familiar with rocket booster in low earth orbit conducting a de-orbit burn or venting fuel. Ted Roe was aware of, and mentioned, the Falcon rocket launch a few hours before the event but dismissed the possibility it was involved.¹

The actual source of the report

James Oberg documented the event with a report of observations from Western Europe at the time of this sighting.² According to his report, the second stage of the Falcon 9 rocket had performed a burn to de-orbit and crash into the Indian Ocean. This de-orbit burn began at 16:50 UTC. Mr. Oberg documents multiple sightings from various locations with plenty of images and videos. All of these look exactly like those published in NARCAP's Technical Report Number 19.

The only discrepancy appears to be that NARCAP stated the event happened at 1733 UTC. This is forty-three minutes after the event. One has to wonder why there is a discrepancy other than Roe got the information wrong or the pilots did not bother to record the event properly (possibly using the time zone for France and not UTC). This makes one wonder how good these reports are if they can't even get the time correct within a reasonable margin of error.

NARCAP technical report No. 19

In Ted Roe's "technical report no. 19", we once again are missing even the basic data one should be able to acquire through simple interviews with witnesses. Like his "technical report no. 20", we have no azimuth's, elevations, durations, or angular size. These are pilots for goodness sakes. They certainly should be able to provide such information. Is there a reason that Roe decided to omit this information or not obtain it? How can something be called a "Technical report" if the basic data associated with the sighting is not even listed? Either this is being done on purpose or Roe just does not feel that such information is necessary to evaluate the case.

Despite having no data to evaluate the case, Roe, in his initial report, completely dismissed any conventional explanation and, in his closing of the technical report, wrote the following:

Based on this UAP's appearance and luminosity, its flight dynamics, and its movements, and it can be reasonably concluded that:

1. *This UAP is an object masked by plasma that it is generating.*
2. *This UAP flying in an unconventional manner that is not consistent with aircraft and known aerial phenomena. However, its flight dynamics and physical characteristics are consistent with flight dynamics and characteristics of UAP/Lights as described by pilots and other witnesses since before WWII (Roe 2019, et al).*
3. *This UAP is a technical device under intelligent control.*

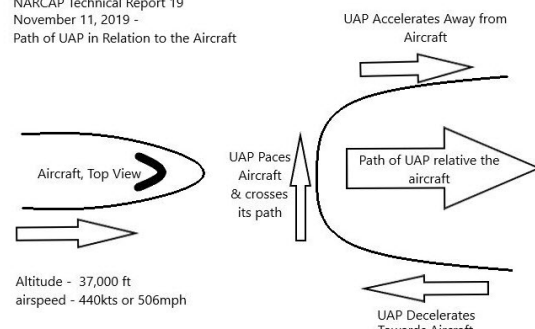
This case and UAP description is typical and similar to hundreds of cases reported over, at least, the last 8 decades (Weinstein /NARCAP 2001) The primary difference being that, with the proliferation of cell phones with cameras, aircrews are beginning to photograph and video their observations and incidents. This is the second cockpit photo/video case presented to NARCAP in the last year. This case, and the many hundreds of other aviation cases involving UAP/lights, raises many questions, some of them uncomfortable or even disturbing.

This incident provides more evidence that UAP are a global threat to safe aviation. The lack of preparation for aircrews, and the failure to collect and analyze data for safety factors are contributing to an unsafe situation. It is unfortunate that global aviation authorities seem to have no interest in examining these cases and are not exercising due diligence to mitigate safety factors. Observations and incidents involving suspected UAP should be very thoroughly examined by the aviation safety research community and science in general.³

The first conclusion about the UAP generating a plasma was obviously incorrect. The second conclusion was based solely on how the pilots and Roe perceived the trajectory of the object⁴ and not the actual trajectory.⁵

Incident Analysis: Movements of UAP Relative the Aircraft and Safety Factors

NARCAP Technical Report 19
November 11, 2019 -
Path of UAP in Relation to the Aircraft



This brings us to a conclusion that Roe makes based on how he had interpreted the information. What Roe fails to understand is that Identified Flying Objects (IFOs) misperceived as UFOs have the same characteristics as UFO reports! If all of the UAP reports are possible IFO reports, one has to wonder if a threat exists at all. In fact, I am unaware of any airplane crash/major accident being caused by a UAP encounter. How serious a threat can they be, if they have never caused any accidents?

The report was quickly removed by Roe once he discovered there was an obvious explanation for the case. The one thing that differentiates science between pseudoscience is that science attempts to prevent mistakes by thorough review BEFORE publishing. If a mistake is published, there is often an effort to publicly admit the mistake and promptly correct it. In this case, the only review seems to have been done by Roe himself. Additionally, over a month has passed and, at the time of this writing, no correction to the report has appeared. There is a Technical Report no. 19 listed on NARCAP's site but there is no hyper link. To be fair, Mr. Roe did update the video on You-tube but one would think he would publish a formal correction to the actual report on his blog.

Learning from past mistakes

This type of error is something that continues to happen in UFOlogy. Videos, photographs, and reports of, apparently, "exotic phenomena" are reported and UFO proponents promote them as evidence of something that deserve scientific study. Unfortunately, they ignore the first step in process. The first thing to do is to check and see if there might be an explanation. For instance, one could see if others also reported the same event. As Oberg demonstrated, there were plenty of such reports made in various forums. It only took a small amount of effort to locate them. Of course, one should look at the evidence critically when it is first presented. In this case, when I saw the video, I immediately thought it resembled videos I had seen of booster rockets venting fuel. Why didn't Roe, who should be an expert in various phenomena in the sky to help his research, aware of this? Allan Hendry once wrote:

...for a field that is composed of individuals who profess to be intrigued by aerial anomalies, there is widespread ignorance about even the most basic characteristics or sources like meteors, ad planes, and balloons. This ignorance is likely to be a deliberate suppression by each UFO researcher, for reasons that are reflected in the motives they demonstrate for their involvement with UFOs.⁶

Therefore, Roe either was not educated/familiar with this type of phenomenon or was but ignored it because of his belief in UFOs. Either scenario makes one wonder about Ted Roe's expertise as a UFO investigator.

Notes and references

1. Roe, Ted. NARCAP Technical Report 19: Analysis of a November 11, 2019 Aviation Safety-related Incident Involving a Commercial Airliner and a UAP Over Europe. National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP). July 30, 2020.
2. Oberg, James. Opportunistic Observations and Mass Misinterpretations of Falcon 9 second stage deorbit burn over Western Europe, 14:56 GMT Nov 11, 2019. Available WWW: http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/misc/191111-spacex_pdf1.pdf
3. Roe, Ted. NARCAP Technical Report 19: Analysis of a November 11, 2019 Aviation Safety-related Incident Involving a Commercial Airliner and a UAP Over Europe. National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP). July 30, 2020.
4. ibid.
5. Oberg, James. Opportunistic Observations and Mass Misinterpretations of Falcon 9 second stage deorbit burn over Western Europe, 14:56 GMT Nov 11, 2019. Available WWW: http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/misc/191111-spacex_pdf1.pdf
6. Hendry, Allan. The UFO Investigators Handbook. London: Sphere Books Ltd. 1980. P. 272

Project Blue Book case review: July - December 1960

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering July through December of 1960. 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 1960

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Moron AB, Spain	Meteor	Agreed
1	Lake Nottewa, MI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
1	Oak Hill, WV	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Chanute AFB, IL	Meteor	Agreed
1	Biggs AFB, TX	Meteor	Agreed
1	Mather AFB, CA	Reflection	Agreed
2	Kettering, OH	Meteor	Agreed
2	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. Report was not very good. Witness stated it was flying at a "high rate of speed" but was visible for over 2 minutes.
2	Tel Aviv, Israel	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration/weather report. Witness reported bright light in SSW direction that was stationary. First quarter moon was in that direction. It is possible this was the moon but there is not enough information to draw that conclusion.
3	Richfield, ID	Venus	Report made a year after the event. Sighting was in daylight and Venus was close to sun so it probably was not Venus. This is insufficient data.
4	Brookville, Long Island, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Pacific	Missile	Agreed. USSR ICBM test launched approximately 30 minutes before sighting from Baikonur. Missile launched towards Pacific ocean.
5	TX, LA	Meteor	Agreed
6	Misawa AFB, Japan	Balloon	Same USSR ICBM test as 5 July Pacific. Seen going NW to SE 25 minutes after launch. Local time was the 6th. GMT is the 5th.
6	S. of Portland, OR	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Minot, ND	Vega	Agreed
8	Hawthorne, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
8	Mason, OH	Arcturus	Agreed
8	Big Delta, AK	Meteor	Agreed
9	Portland, OR	Meteor	Agreed
10	Marlin, TX	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloon
11	Independence, MO	Meteor	Agreed
11	Kansas City, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Williston, ND	Conflicting Info	Possible birds
13	Truk atoll	Balloon	Agreed
14	Mitho AB, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
14	Portland, OR	Unreliable report	Possible birds
14	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Two separate sightings of two different objects at different times. Aircraft ID was because witness claimed they could see sweptback wings. However, when asked the size, the witness described it as the size of a pinhead at arm's length. Observations are probably of Arcturus and Antares.
15	Pensacola Bay, FL	Meteor	Agreed

16	Chico, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not provide specific information in letter and did not return report form to ATIC.
16	Syosset, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Devils Lake, ND	Insufficient data	Agreed. Observer simply reported "a streak of light". Observed at night. Probably a meteor but insufficient information available.
16-20	West Babylon, NY	Balloon	Agreed. Observed on successive nights at the same time. Probably weather balloon launched at standard time taking similar tracks each night. Description matches bursting balloon. Seen through telescope.
17	Behshahr, Iran	Meteor	No case file
18	Mineral Wells, TX	Insufficient data	Probably observations of Saturn and Jupiter in southwest.
18	Verona, Italy	Meteor	Agreed
19	Misawa AB, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
19	Tacoma, WA	Meteor	Agreed
19,20,21	St. Louis MO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
20-21	Charleston, WV	Meteor	Agreed
21	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
21	Hyattsville, MD	Meteor	Agreed
21	Fort Worth, TX	Meteor	Agreed
23	Alexandria, LA	Meteor	Agreed
24	Dayton/Columbus, OH	Meteor	Agreed
25	Kodiak, AK	Meteor	Agreed
24-4Aug	Moose Lake, MN	Capella	Agreed
26	Monticello, IL	Moon	Agreed
27	Poyce, LA	Mars	Capella
27	Chanute AFB, IL	Meteor	Agreed
27	Flores Island	Meteor	Agreed
28	Ankara, Turkey	Meteor	Agreed
28	Lorain, OH	Vega	Arcturus
28	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Atlantic Ocean	Missile	Confusing report. Witnesses on ship referred to it as a missile. No Missile launch that can account for observations. No positional data. No specific location. Insufficient data.
29	Springfield, OH	Occultation Gamma Virginis	Not an occultation of Gamma Virginis. Objects near moon seen by 13-year old in 40X telescope (probably a 2.4 inch refractor). Gamma Virginis 8 degrees from moon. Theta Virginis grazed the southern edge of the moon 30 minutes before sighting. However, it seems unlikely that a small telescope would see a fourth magnitude star before sunset. Possible balloon from Dayton. (Winds from SW/W)
29	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Report is faded but, based on description, this could possibly have been Arcturus. Not enough information to confirm. Insufficient data.
31	Los Angeles, CA	Meteor	Agreed
31	Arnold, CA	Meteor	Unidentified

August 1960

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
AUG	Essex, IL	Chaff	Agreed

4	Glover, VT	Meteor	Agreed
4	North Concord AFS, VT	Meteor	Agreed. Same meteor reported in Glover, VT
4	Dexter, ME	Meteor	Agreed. Same meteor reported in Glover, VT
4	Plattsburg AFB, NY	Parachute Flare	Agreed
4	Dayton, OH	Unreliable report	Possible birds
5	Lewisburg, WV	Meteor	Agreed
6	Atlantic	Sonobuoy	Agreed
6	Sandersville, GA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
8	Kirtland AFB, NM	Meteor	Agreed
10	Cleveland, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made in December 1960 and involved a newspaper story as the source of information.
10	Atlantic	Missile	Agreed. Titan Missile launch.
11	E. of Kyushu Island, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
11	Madison, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Description matches path of Echo satellite 24 hours later (which was launched 6 hours after this report). Report mentions object passing near Regulus, which had set long before this event. File contains only corrected message and not original message. It is possible that this was an error in the date.
11	Sioux Falls, SD	Insufficient data	Aircraft
12	Quincy, MA	Aircraft-Helicopter	Agreed
12-20	Red Bluff area, CA	Inversion	Echo satellite/meteor and moon. See SUNlite 9-4
13	Virginia	Water Beacon	Agreed
13	Terre Haute, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
14	30 mi S of Ketchikan, AK	Meteor	Agreed
14	Tobago Island, CZ	Arcturus	Agreed
16	Fairborn, OH	Altair	Possibly Saturn and nearby stars
16	Lakeland, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
17	E. of Corpus Christi, TX	Echo I satellite	Agreed
18	Elberon, VA	Electronic equipment container	Agreed. Photographs are of object.
18	Melbourne, FL	Insufficient data	Possible cloud (witness reported part of sky being obscured by dark object traveling towards SW. Low level winds from north. I have seen similar phenomena in the Florida keys caused by clouds).
18	Fairfield, CA	Meteor	Agreed
19	Nome, AK	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite.
20	Galena, AK	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite.
20	Concord, CA	Vega	Agreed
20	Littleton, CO	Insufficient data	Altair. Position agrees with the star Altair and Beta/Gamma Aquila as pair of lights on each side of object.
21	Hachijo-Jima Island	Echo I	Agreed
22	Durenville, TX	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
22	NNW Lebrerville, Africa	Meteor	Agreed
23	Miamisburg, OH	Meteor	Agreed
23	Wichita, KS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Sitka, AK	Meteor	Agreed
24	McCoomb, OH	Meteor	Agreed

25	Uniontown, OH	Aircraft	Possible balloon and reflector (upper level winds from SE, which was direction of travel of object(s))
25	Western Mediterranean	Insufficient data	Echo satellite.
25	Sioux Narrows, Ontario, Canada	Insufficient data	Possible Echo satellite.
25	N. of Midway Island	Echo I	Agreed
26	Andover, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Springville, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Elkhart Lake, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Shawano, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Stoughton, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Centerville, OH	Altair	Agreed
28	Zaragoz AB, Spain	Meteor	Agreed
29	Vicinity Taiwan	Echo I	Agreed
29	Crete, IL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Pontiac, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed.
29	Dedham, MA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
29	Blackwood, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed.
29	West Roxbury, MA	Meteor	Agreed
30	South Tewksbury, MA	Insufficient data	Possible meteors
31	Indianapolis, IN	Mars/stars	Capella
31	Yokohama, Japan	Echo I	Echo not visible. Satellite. Delta RB (Sat ID 50)
31	Wilmington, NC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Object observed falling into swamp. Failed to find object.
31	Chicago, IL	Capella	Agreed (time on record card is incorrect)
31	Glenview, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specific information.
31-Sep 6	David City, NE	Refraction	Agreed. Multiple observers seeing objects on different dates and times. All appear to describe stars that were scintillating.

September 1960

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Sep	St. Louis, MO	Venus	Venus was setting in W or SW shortly after sunset. Witness stated it was visible until 10PM. Arcturus.
1 Sep & 15 Nov	Gurnee, IL	Refraction	1 September object was probably Arcturus. 15 November object was probably Vega.
1	Englewood, CO	Aircraft	Echo satellite.
2	Akron, OH	Insufficient data	Aircraft (possible refueling operation or aircraft landing and taking off. Witness looking in direction of Cleveland airport)
3	Vicinity of Taiwan	Echo I	Agreed
3	Harbor Springs, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed. Second hand report with no positional data or duration.
3	Dayton, OH	Andromeda	Possibly Capella
4	Hartford, CT	Furnace Slag	Agreed. Photographs are of debris recovered.
4	Otterbein/Terra Haute, IN	Altair	Fomalhaut
5	Islip, Long Island, NY	Aurora	Agreed
5-7	Kadena AB, Okinawa	Echo I	Agreed
6	Scranton, PA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Lower level winds from SE. Object traveling NW.

7	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
7	N. of Hawaiian Islands	Meteor	Agreed
8	Trout Creek/Ontonagon, MI	Meteor	Agreed
9	Duluth, MN	Meteor	Agreed
9	Fargo/Grand Forks, ND	Meteor	Agreed
9	111 mi. E of Kansas City, MO	Meteor	Agreed
9	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
9	Milwaukee, OR	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
10	Ridgecrest, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
10&21	Lincoln Park, MI	Insufficient data	Slides in file are incapable of being viewed. BB states that there was nothing on them. Witness gave confusing report but it appears he was observing Arcturus.
12	Ft. Sill, OK	Meteor	Agreed
12	Grand Portage, MN	Helicopter	Agreed
12	Los Angeles, CA	Meteor	Agreed
13	SW of Nashua, MT	D/K 1960	Meteor
14	Lorain, OH	Insufficient data	Possible birds
14	40 mi. E Misawa AB, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
14	Dayton, OH	Hallucination	Agreed
15	Morocco	Meteor	Agreed
15	Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico	D/K 1960	Agreed. Re-entry of Discoverer 14 (See Ted Molczan's: Visually Observed Natural Re-entries of Earth Satellites)
15	Tulsa, OK	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Tronton, OH	Jupiter	Initial observation was at 2200 (EST). Witness called AFB at 0030 and stated it was still visible. Jupiter had set by then. Description sounds like star. The description of it being two o'clock in the western sky indicates it could possibly have been Vega.
15	Tuscon, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible birds
16	Shreveport, LA/Memphis, TN	Missile	Agreed. High flying aircraft saw Atlas missile launch at same time as sighting. (Media accounts describe an Atlas missile test on this date but it is not listed in the astronautix space chronology-contacted web master for astronautix and he confirmed there was a launch and they had missed it).
16	E. Of Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Missile. Seen by aircraft at same time frame as Atlas missile launch (see above). Sounds like trail of missile observed reflected by the rising sun.
16	Saratoga Springs, NY	Satellites	Agreed. Transit 2A rocket body (Sat ID 47)
16	El Campo, TX	Meteor	Agreed
16	Salina, KS	D/K Disc.	Meteor
16	Eastern WA	Meteor	Agreed
17	W. of Azores Islands	Meteor	Agreed
17	New London, OH	Meteor	Agreed
17	Kirksville AFS, MO	Weather	Agreed
17	N. of Midway Island	Missile	Possible meteor
18	Mexico	Hoax	No case file

18	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Possible pass of Transit Satellite
18	Tyndall AFB, FL	Echo I	Agreed. Echo visible but direction of travel does not match. Witness should have noticed Echo and made mention of it. Possible error in reporting of direction.
18	E. of Mt. Whitney, CA	Meteor	Agreed
19	N. of Susanville, CA	Inversion	Possibly Capella. File contains faded message which is difficult to read. Record card indicates object was seen in vehicle that was traveling down a road and was to the ENE.
19	Fort Knox, KY	Meteor	Agreed
19	NW of Lioga, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Lincoln AFB, NE	Meteor	Agreed
20	Grand Junction, CO	Meteor	Agreed
20	Kirksville AFS, MO	Weather	Agreed
20	Morocco	Meteor	Agreed
20	Farmington, NM	Meteor	Agreed
20	Louisville, KY	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Spokane, WA	Meteor	Agreed
20	Seattle, Portland, OR	Meteor	Agreed (Same meteor as Spokane, WA)
20	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (duration 1-2 minutes but witness reports high speed towards west)
21	San Angelo, TX	Meteor	Agreed
21,22,23	Bermuda	Insufficient data	Agreed. Second hand reports of a light and noise by local populace.
22	Fort Mill, SC	Flare	Agreed
22	Champaign, IL	Aircraft	Venus
22	Dedham, MA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
22-23	Pensacola, FL	Balloon	Arcturus (seen low in NNW on two successive nights - Arcturus setting WNW)
23	Bitburg AB, Germany	Rocket re-entry	Meteor. No rocket re-entry this date.
23	Cook Island, South Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
23	North Coast, Labrador	Meteor	Agreed
23	Wendover, Salt Lake City, UT	Venus	Agreed
23	Winchester Bay, OR	Jupiter	Arcturus
24	Thule AB, Greenland	Meteor	Agreed
24	Point Arena, CA	Meteor	Agreed
24	Wethersfield, England	Insufficient data	Meteor (same as Greenham common)
24	Greenham Common, England	Meteor	Agreed
24	Coos Bay, OR	Parachute	Agreed
24	Denver, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Columbus, OH	Meteor	Agreed
25	Windsor, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
25	S. of Midway island	Arcturus	Agreed
26	NE Bermuda	Meteor	Agreed

26	Camp Irwin, CA	Missile	Meteor. No missile test. Duration in conflict with reported speed. Time is within 15 minutes of meteor reported from Jean, Nevada, which had similar green color.
26	Jean, NV	Meteor	Agreed
26	Italy	Hoax	Agreed
26	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	Meteor	Agreed
26	Silver Lake, MI	Aircraft	Agreed. Observation of contrail at sunset.
27	New Mexico area	Meteor	Agreed
27	Janesville, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Aurora, CO	Insufficient data	Possible birds
28	Kirksville AFS, MO	Weather	Agreed
28	Wichita Falls, TX	Meteor	Agreed
28	Roswell, NM	Meteor	Agreed
28	Agress, OR	Aircraft	Agreed. Witness reported aircraft exploded and pilot ejected. No such event had occurred.
28	Urbana, IL	Meteor	Agreed
28	Grand Junction, CO	Inversion	Alpha Ceti (observations from Farmington and Eagle were probably of different stars/planets - probably Capella and Saturn). Motion of 15 degrees to SW in 40 minutes similar to expected diurnal motion.
28	Pacific	Aircraft	Agreed. Air crew stated it looked like aircraft. This sounds like a launch from Vandenberg but there is no rocket launch for the time in question.
28,29	Okinawa	Meteor	Satellite Possibly Sat ID 44 (Midas debris)
28-9Oct	Douglasville, GA	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Arcturus or Vega, Jupiter and Fomalhaut
29	Wolfe City, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Direction not given. Possibly Vega.
29	Guam	1. Anomalous Propagation 2. Aircraft	Agreed
29	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (duration listed as 2-3 minutes but description indicates shorter duration).
30	Boulder, CO	Vega	Agreed
30	Kansas City, MO	Venus	Arcturus
30, 28, 31 Oct	Melrose, NM	Stars/planets	Agreed. Venus

October 1960

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Northern OH	Light	Agreed. No photograph in file. Witness claimed it was of the moon with lights/objects on it. Size of object was too large for moon according to analysis. It was assumed that what was photographed was a light. Analysis indicated the objects/lights were probably due to a light or reflective surface moving about during the exposure.
Oct	Paterson, NJ	Meteor	Insufficient data. Report made in February 61. No date/time given. Description sounds like of a meteor.

2,3,4,5	Paulding, OH	Jupiter	Agreed. Witness gave varying directions (SW, E, NW) but claimed it was the same object each night. Arcturus was in NW. Capella was in NE. BB indicated Sirius may be involved but Sirius did not rise until much later.
3	Wheaton, MD	Fomalhaut	Agreed
4	Denver, CO	Balloon	Agreed
5	Clear Lake, ME	Shotgun blast	Agreed
5	Marion, IN	Meteor	Agreed
5	Wright Patterson AFB, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
5	Mount Kisko, NY	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	Point Lookout, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
5-12	Boulder, CO	Venus	Agreed
6	Thule, Greenland	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
6	500 mi W of CA	Meteor	Agreed
7	250 mi W of SF, CA	Meteor	Agreed
8	Westford, MA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Time and dates are listed as "on or about" and "approx". Witness described inspecting a landed UFO. Witness also mentioned multiple sightings. Story does not appear credible. Submitted to NICAP but does not appear in UFO best evidence.
8	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
9	Deberry, TX	Meteor	Agreed
9	Kerrville, TX	Meteor	Agreed
10	Tonawanda, NY	1. Meteor 2. Aircraft	Agreed. Meteor reportedly seen by pilots of two aircraft that resulted in second sighting.
10	Kenton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Misawa, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
11	Organ Pass, NM	Aircraft	Possible birds
12	Egypt	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
12	Sweetwater, SC	1. Meteor 2. Deodorant roll on marble	Agreed. Photograph is of plastic ball recovered.
12	Boston Harbor, MA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
13	Saskatoon, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
14	Abilene, TX	Insufficient data	Aircraft
14	Petropavlovsk, USSR	Satellite	Echo Satellite
15	Worland, WY	Aircraft	Agreed, Probably a contrail
16	MT, SD, Canada	Insufficient data	This sounds like a satellite or rocket body but there are no passes that matched this description - Unidentified
17	Toledo, OH	Balloon	Agreed
17	Indonesia	Satellite decay	Meteor
18	Honshu, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
18	NE of Bermuda	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
18	Smethport, PA	Meteor	Agreed
19	Langley, VA Hatteras inlet, NC	Meteor	Agreed
20	Moody AFB, GA	Aircraft	Possible balloon
21	Leominster, MA	Meteor	Agreed
21	E. of Formosa	Meteor	Agreed

21	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
22	Fayetteville, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Shreveport, LA	1. Contrail 2.Venus	Agreed
22	Gary, IN	Insufficient data	Conflicting data. Witness stated it was night but gave a time before sunset.
23	Waco, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Avoca, WI	Chaff	Agreed
24	Richmond-Norfolk, VA	Titan Missile	Agreed
24	Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico	Missile	Agreed. Same Titan missile seen from Va.
25	Okinawa	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Ft. Seneca, OH	Mirage	Probable stars/planets. Witness reported various sightings of lights on multiple nights that moved and were initially visible in the east and north.
27	Hickham AFB, HI	Meteor	Agreed
30	Crescent City, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
31	Arkansas	Balloon	Agreed

November 1960

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Princeton, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Monticello, IL	Searchlight	Vega and Altair.
3	Lafayette & Goshen, IN	Meteor	Agreed
4	Christiansburg, OH	Insufficient data	Jupiter
4	Cedarville, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
6	Thule AFB, Greenland	Balloon	Agreed
6	Seattle, WA	Saturn	Venus and Jupiter
7	W. of Luzon, Philippines	Meteor	Agreed
11	30 mi W Goodland, KS	Meteor	Agreed
12	50 NM N Louisville, KY	Meteor	Agreed
12	Mariciabo, Venezuela	Echo I	Agreed
14	99 Mi. N of Midway	Meteor	Agreed
14	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed.
14	Lake Ozark, MO	Meteor	Agreed
15	Oakwood, OH	Meteor	Agreed
16	Cincinnati, OH	Meteor	Agreed
17	Covina, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
17	Hendersonville, KY	1. Aircraft 2. Nylon thread	Agreed
19	Tyndall AFB, FL, New Orleans, LA	Echo I	Agreed
20	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Roswell, NM	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
21	England AFB, LA	Reflection of light	Agreed. Searchlight reflection.
23	Midwestern US	Tiros II Launch	Agreed. Rocket launch at sunrise and trajectory was up the east coast making it visible from Midwest.
23	Kansas City, KS	Contrails	Agreed

23	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
24	Sault Ste Marie, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Great Barrington, MA	1. Stars 2. Aircraft	Agreed
27	Chula Vista, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	S. of Kyushu, Japan	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30	Bothell, WA	Capella	Agreed

December 1960

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Wheelus AB, Tripoli, Africa	Meteor	Agreed
2	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Possible cloud. Described as "smoky". Full moon illuminated cloud as it drifted towards SE and changed shape. Upper level winds from W and NW.
3	Keesler AFS, MS	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite
3	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega setting
4	San Diego, CA	Meteor	Agreed
5	Banks Island, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
5	Randolph AFB, TX	Meteor	Agreed
5	Japan	Meteor	Agreed
5	Herman, PA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
6	Fort Yukon, AK	Meteor	Agreed
6	Japan	Meteor	Agreed
6	350 mi W. Los Angeles, CA	Meteor	Agreed
6	Leticia, Columbia	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
6	Fort Bragg, NC	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
6	Caribbean Sea	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7	Vandalia, OH	Emulsion Flaw	Film not available. Based on description in report., Agreed.
8	Wallops Island, VA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Lynbrook, NY	Reflection	Agreed. Possible glints of Transit one satellite
10	VA, MN	Vega	Agreed
10	Cleveland, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time of event.
11	Sault Ste Marie, MI	Meteor	Agreed
12	Waynesville, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Petersburg, AK	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite
12-13	Seminole, TX	Rotating beacon	Agreed
13	Bitburg AB, Germany	Balloon	Possible aurora (Display recorded on the morning of the 16th in US. Large displays in November and October)
13	ESE Massachusetts	Meteor	Agreed
13	Atlantic Ocean	Meteor	Agreed
13	Ketchikan, AK	1. Venus 2. Searchlight	Agreed
14	Marietta/Duncamon, PA	Meteor	Agreed
14	Spokane, WA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite
16	Hutchison, KS	Meteor	Agreed
16	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible bird or aircraft. Witness saw object from inside of building but gave description of varying directions.

16-20	Tyndall AFB, FL	Balloon	Echo satellite
17	Aquadilla, Puerto Rico	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite
17	Sutton, AK	Satellite	Agreed. Juno II Rocket body (Sat ID 62)
17	Anchorage, AK	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite
17	N of Midway	Insufficient data	Agreed. Final position/heading of aircraft not given for 44 minute sighting with object changing position.
18	Sterling, AK	Arcturus	Regulus
18	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Contrails
19	SE Guam	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite
22	Bentwaters, England	Meteor	Agreed
22	Buckingham, Iowa	Meteor	Agreed
25	Arlington Heights, IL	Insufficient data	Light reflection on low clouds
26-9Jan	Buffalo, NY	Venus	Photos show blobs of light. Description matches Venus.
27	New York, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Crescent City, CA	Meteor	Agreed
28	Rushville, NE	Meteor	Agreed
29	Coral Sea Nandi, Australia	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration given. Description sounds like possible meteor.
29	Japan	D/K Discoverer 17	Aircraft
31	Nashua, NH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time or positional data.

Reclassification

I evaluated 354 cases in the Blue Book files from July to December 1960. In my opinion, 91 were improperly classified (26%). Forty-six (about 13% of the total number of cases/50% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient information". This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
7/1	Lake Nottewa, MI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
7/3	Richfield, ID	Venus	Report made a year after the event. Sighting was in daylight and Venus was close to sun so it probably was not Venus. This is insufficient data.
7/6	Misawa AFB, Japan	Balloon	Same USSR ICBM test as 5 July Pacific. Seen going NW to SE 25 minutes after launch. Local time was the 6th. GMT is the 5th.
7/10	Marlin, TX	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloon
7/11	Williston, ND	Conflicting Info	Possible birds
7/14	Portland, OR	Unreliable report	Possible birds
7/14	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Two separate sightings of two different objects at different times. Aircraft ID was because witness claimed they could see sweptback wings. However, when asked the size, the witness described it as the size of a pinhead at arm's length. Observations are probably of Arcturus and Antares.
7/18	Mineral Wells, TX	Insufficient data	Probably observations of Saturn and Jupiter in southwest.
7/29	Atlantic Ocean	Missile	Confusing report. Witnesses on ship referred to it as a missile. No Missile launch that can account for observations. No positional data. No specific location. Insufficient data.

7/29	Springfield, OH	Occultation Gamma Virginis	Not an occultation of Gamma Virginis. Objects near moon seen by 13-year old in 40X telescope (probably a 2.4 inch refractor). Gamma Virginis 8 degrees from moon. Theta Virginis grazed the southern edge of the moon 30 minutes before sighting. However, it seems unlikely that a small telescope would see a fourth magnitude star before sunset. Possible balloon from Dayton. (Winds from SW/W)
7/29	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Report is faded but, based on description, this could possibly have been Arcturus. Not enough information to confirm. Insufficient data.
7/31	Arnold, CA	Meteor	Unidentified
8/4	Dayton, OH	Unreliable report	Possible birds
8/6	Sandersville, GA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
8/12-20	Red Bluff area, CA	Inversion	Echo satellite/meteor and moon. See SUNlite 9-4
8/16	Fairborn, OH	Altair	Possibly Saturn and nearby stars
8/18	Melbourne, FL	Insufficient data	Possible cloud (witness reported part of sky being obscured by dark object traveling towards SW. Low level winds from north. I have seen similar phenomena in the Florida keys caused by clouds).
8/20	Littleton, CO	Insufficient data	Altair. Position agrees with the star Altair and Beta/Gamma Aquila as pair of lights on each side of object.
8/22	Durenville, TX	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
8/25	Uniontown, OH	Aircraft	Possible balloon and reflector (upper level winds from SE, which was direction of travel of object(s))
8/25	Western Mediterranean	Insufficient data	Echo satellite.
8/25	Sioux Narrows, Ontario, Canada	Insufficient data	Possible Echo satellite.
8/29	Dedham, MA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
8/30	South Tewksbury, MA	Insufficient data	Possible meteors
8/31	Indianapolis, IN	Mars/stars	Capella
8/31	Yokohama, Japan	Echo I	Echo not visible. Satellite. Delta RB (Sat ID 50)
Sep	St. Louis, MO	Venus	Venus was setting in W or SW shortly after sunset. Witness stated it was visible until 10PM. Arcturus.
1 Sep & 15 Nov	Gurnee, IL	Refraction	1 September object was probably Arcturus. 15 November object was probably Vega.
9/1	Englewood, CO	Aircraft	Echo satellite.
9/2	Akron, OH	Insufficient data	Aircraft (possible refueling operation or aircraft landing and taking off. Witness looking in direction of Cleveland airport)
9/3	Dayton, OH	Andromeda	Possibly Capella
9/4	Otterbein/Terra Haute, IN	Altair	Fomalhaut
9/6	Scranton, PA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Lower level winds from SE. Object traveling NW.
9/9	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
9/9	Milwaukee, OR	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
9/10&21	Lincoln Park, MI	Insufficient data	Slides in file are incapable of being viewed. BB states that there was nothing on them. Witness gave confusing report but it appears he was observing Arcturus.
9/13	SW of Nashua, MT	D/K 1960	Meteor
9/14	Lorain, OH	Insufficient data	Possible birds

9/15	Tronton, OH	Jupiter	Initial observation was at 2200 (EST). Witness called AFB at 0030 and stated it was still visible. Jupiter had set by then. Description sounds like star. The description of it being two o'clock in the western sky indicates it could possibly have been Vega.
9/15	Tuscon, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible birds
9/16	E. Of Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Missile. Seen by aircraft at same time frame as Atlas missile launch. Sounds like trail of missile observed reflected by the rising sun.
9/16	Salina, KS	D/K Disc.	Meteor
9/17	N. of Midway Island	Missile	Possible meteor
9/18	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Possible pass of Transit Satellite
9/19	N. of Susanville, CA	Inversion	Possibly Capella. File contains faded message which is difficult to read. Record card indicates object was seen in vehicle that was traveling down a road and was to the ENE.
9/20	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (duration 1-2 minutes but witness reports high speed towards west)
9/22	Champaign, IL	Aircraft	Venus
9/22	Dedham, MA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
9/22-23	Pensacola, FL	Balloon	Arcturus (seen low in NNW on two successive nights - Arcturus setting WNW)
9/23	Bitburg AB, Germany	Rocket re-entry	Meteor. No rocket re-entry this date.
9/23	Winchester Bay, OR	Jupiter	Arcturus
9/24	Wethersfield, England	Insufficient data	Meteor (same as Greenham common)
9/26	Camp Irwin, CA	Missile	Meteor. No missile test. Duration in conflict with reported speed. Time is within 15 minutes of meteor reported from Jean, Nevada, which had similar green color.
9/27	Aurora, CO	Insufficient data	Possible birds
9/28	Grand Junction, CO	Inversion	Alpha Ceti (observations from Farmington and Eagle were probably of different stars/planets - probably Capella and Saturn). Motion of 15 degrees to SW in 40 minutes similar to expected diurnal motion.
9/28,29	Okinawa	Meteor	Satellite Possibly Sat ID 44 (Midas debris)
9/29	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (duration listed as 2-3 minutes but description indicates shorter duration).
9/30	Kansas City, MO	Venus	Arcturus
Oct	Paterson, NJ	Meteor	Insufficient data. Report made in February 61. No date/time given. Description sounds like of a meteor.
10/5	Wright Patterson AFB, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10/5	Point Lookout, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
10/6	Thule, Greenland	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10/8	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
10/11	Organ Pass, NM	Aircraft	Possible birds
10/12	Egypt	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
10/12	Boston Harbor, MA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
10/14	Abilene, TX	Insufficient data	Aircraft
10/16	MT, SD, Canada	Insufficient data	This sounds like a satellite or rocket body but there are no passes that matched this description - Unidentified
10/17	Indonesia	Satellite decay	Meteor
10/18	NE of Bermuda	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite

10/20	Moody AFB, GA	Aircraft	Possible balloon
10/22	Gary, IN	Insufficient data	Conflicting data. Witness stated it was night but gave a time before sunset.
10/25	Ft. Seneca, OH	Mirage	Probable stars/planets. Witness reported various sightings of lights on multiple nights that moved and were initially visible in the east and north.
10/30	Crescent City, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
11/2	Monticello, IL	Searchlight	Vega and Altair.
11/4	Christiansburg, OH	Insufficient data	Jupiter
11/4	Cedarville, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
11/6	Seattle, WA	Saturn	Venus and Jupiter
11/21	Roswell, NM	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
12/2	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Possible cloud. Described as "smoky". Full moon illuminated cloud as it drifted towards SE and changed shape. Upper level winds from W and NW.
12/3	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega setting
12/5	Herman, PA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
12/6	Fort Bragg, NC	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
12/6	Caribbean Sea	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
12/13	Bitburg AB, Germany	Balloon	Possible aurora (Display recorded on the morning of the 16th in US. Large displays in November and October)
12/16	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible bird or aircraft. Witness saw object from inside of building but gave description of varying directions.
12/16-20	Tyndall AFB, FL	Balloon	Echo satellite
12/18	Sterling, AK	Arcturus	Regulus
12/18	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Contrails
12/25	Arlington Heights, IL	Insufficient data	Light reflection on low clouds
12/29	Japan	D/K Discoverer 17	Aircraft

Summary

The cases during this time period, were very interesting. It seems that Blue Book became very interested in space debris re-entries and classified multiple meteors as potential re-entries. In several of those cases, Blue Book mentioned Project Moondust in the messages. They probably were hoping to recover some Soviet space debris for evaluation.

There were also a significant number of reports between August and October. I think that a contributing factor for the increased number of reports was the Echo satellite being launched. The visibility of Echo was something of a sensation and it was widely mentioned in the newspapers. People going out to look for the satellite probably saw things they were not used to and reported them as UFOs.

I also reclassified two reports as UNIDENTIFIED. The July 31, 1960 sighting from Arnold California, based on the report, can only be explained as a craft of some kind that appeared to crash into some hills. It was seen in daylight, which means the Blue Book explanation that it was a meteor does not quite fit. The description just did not sound like a meteor to me, so I decided to put it into the unidentified category. The other case was October 16, 1960. It was widely seen over Montana and South Dakota heading towards the North East. To me, it seems like some sort of satellite or rocket body. However, I could not find any suitable candidate that made a pass over that region at that time. Blue Book listed it as Insufficient information but I feel there was enough data to determine the source. Perhaps somebody else could take a look and see if they can present a potential solution.

Next issue, I will continue the review with the first half of 1961. It should be interesting to see how space activities affect the explanations for those cases.

March 2, 1960 Lebnitz, Austria case reclassification

Last issue, I evaluated the March 2, 1960 Lebnitz, Austria case as "insufficient data" because there really was not enough in the Blue Book file to make a judgment. [Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos sent me a link for his analysis of the photograph, which included a better image.](#) After reading his analysis, I agree that it probably was a hoax.

References

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