

# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

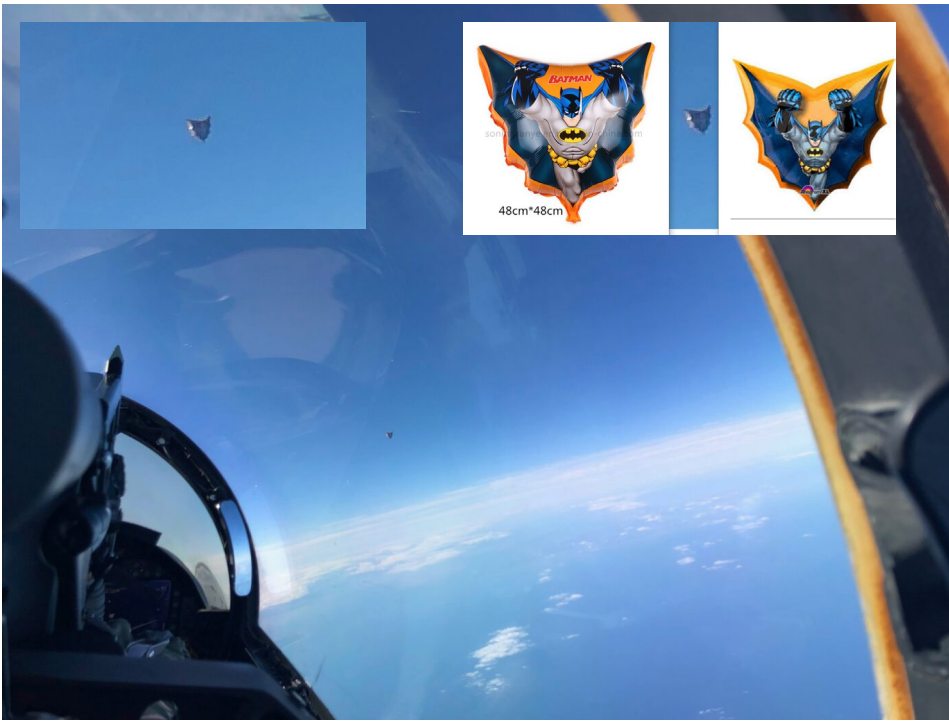
*"Many letter writers concluded that since I had worked on the possibility of extraterrestrial life, I must 'believe' in UFOs; or conversely that, if I was skeptical about UFOs, I must embrace the absurd belief that humans are the only intelligent beings in the Universe. There's something about this subject un-conducive to clear thinking."*

*Dr. Carl Sagan - The Demon Haunted World*

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Front: Jupiter and Saturn were in conjunction on December 21. This photograph was taken on December 22 while they were still close (it was cloudy on the 21st). The pair were close over several days and created an interesting sight in the night sky.

Left: Was this UFO photograph just a toy mylar balloon that managed to drift into a military operating area? It sort of looks like it.

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# UFO news alert falls flat....again

On November 11, there was a Facebook post stating the UAP task force was going to make a big statement. The source of this information was UFO promoter James Fox. I was immediately skeptical and, as expected, little of significance has yet to be revealed. About the biggest thing that was presented appears to have been a photograph of an object taken from a military jet. No disclosure....again. How many times has this happened since 1947? One would think that UFO aficionados would learn after the second...third....fourth....fifth.....umpteenth time. For those promoting these "alerts", I suggest they heed the words of Abraham Lincoln, who was commenting on General Hooker's statement that he was going to defeat Robert E. Lee, "The hen is the wisest of all the animal creation, because she never cackles until the egg is laid."

The photograph that did surface was taken from another US Navy fighter aircraft. Close examination indicated that the object could have been some sort of toy mylar balloon. [John Greenwald Jr. makes some very astute observations regarding this photograph and you can check out his video on the subject.](#)

[It appears that the To The Stars Academy \(TTSA\) team lost some of its founding members.](#) Luis Elizondo, Chris Mellon and Steve Justice have left for their own reasons. I am not sure why all three would leave at the same time but that indicates something more than an individual decision. Elizondo stated that he wanted to move on and that the TTSA had completed its "mission". In my opinion, I don't think we are any closer today in understanding UFOs than we were in the 1950s when NICAP was constantly suggesting they were close to disclosure. So, stating that it is "mission accomplished", is a bit of a stretch and sounds like an excuse to leave. Based on the statements made by Elizondo, it seems the next step may be to form a larger UFO organization that can pursue UFO cases to the point they can prove something more than what they have proven so far. Is he going to compete with MUFON, CUFOS, and the SCU? They have been doing it for some time and have not gotten very far. I guess my biggest question is who will pay for them to study UFOs? Only time will tell if they can be successful but I have my doubts.

[Kevin Randle was promoting a video that was identified as re-entering space debris.](#) For some reason, Randle was reluctant to accept that explanation [even though it was identified as such by various experts.](#) He tried to compare this video with meteor videos to see if they look the same. What Kevin Randle is doing is comparing an apple to an orange. They both are re-entering the earth's atmosphere but they don't behave the same way when they do. Sure, some meteors can appear like a satellite re-entry when they break up (see the Peekskill meteor videos) but most do not last that long or break up the way space debris does. Because of his false comparison, Randle would declare that the event in the video was "unidentified". It seems to me that UFOlogists, like Mr. Randle, need to spend more time researching a case before drawing false conclusions based on poor comparisons and opinions of unqualified individuals, who have problems being objective in their analysis. It seems that UFOlogy is more interested in promoting mysteries than trying to solve them. [James Oberg wrote an extensive piece about this event and identified it as re-entering space debris.](#) Oberg's article was posted on the SEASAT discussion forum where there are some very brilliant individuals familiar with tracking space debris. Had his analysis been incorrect, it would have been identified as such by people like Ted Molczan and Marco Langbroek. These individuals are real experts on the subject and they are the ones who should be consulted prior to drawing conclusions about such videos.

# WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

January 15, 1975 Groton, CT and Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>

## Case file

The time of the sightings were listed as 17:20 and 17:22 and the source of the information was the APRO bulletin of September 1975. The author of this investigation was Donald Todd and he made note that the event happened near the time of a Wallops Island Aeronomy test, which was also visible. However, Todd states that these UFO sightings appear to be unrelated to that event because, according to him, many of the reports were made before the launch. These are the sightings that Todd collected.<sup>2</sup>

Source	Location	Time (EST)	Description
Mr. and Mrs. T	South Kingstown, RI	1750	A large, round, blue-greenish sphere moving slowly in from the west.
Air controller	Groton, CT	1720	Second hand report of ANG helicopter stating, "...to HS...at one eight hundred feet...heading 051...I have an unidentified at three o'clock high....Large greenish light...solid...heading approximately due east...mod."
Air controller	Groton, CT	1722	Allegheny airlines flight from NYC to Providence RI stated, "T this is Allegheny...immediately northeast of you at three two hundred feet.... heading 066....I have an unidentified at four o'clock low....large green disk...heading east...."
Air Controller	Groton, CT	1726	Ronson airline pilot, on a westerly heading towards Newburgh, NY, reported a green unidentified moving east at seven o'clock
Connecticut state police	Montville, CT	1730	Mrs. B reports, "A funny looking, fuzzy blue light stationary in the sky". After watching it for some time, she noted it drifted eastward towards Rhode Island
Groton City Police	Groton, CT	1715-1730	Multiple reports of a green, greenish-blue, bluish circular object moving slowly eastward.
Mr. Gannon	Old Mystic CT	1740	Large bluish disc shaped object moving east towards Rhode Island.
Mr. W	Ashaway, RI	1745	Turquoise circle of light south of him moving east.
T Family	Tower Hill, RI	1750	Saw a sphere moving slowly northward over five minute time period.
Mr. S	Driving east on US 1 in RI	1750	Bluish green disc moving northward. Later saw Wallops island test from home and stated they were not the same object.
Mr and Mrs. D	Conventry, RI	Prior to 1800	Bright blue circular light to the east and moving slowly north.
Officers H and D	South Kingstown, RI	Just after 1800	Officers traveling south on route 95 (SW of Hillsgrove airport), observed to the southeast a large bluish-white object stationary in the sky. It eventually moved rapidly northwards.

David Todd was not the only person to receive UFO reports. According to the Newport Daily News, The Providence Journal had received about thirty-five calls of people inquiring about this object in the sky.<sup>3</sup>

## Analysis

While Todd rejects the possibility that these UFO reports were of the Aeronomy mission, one has to wonder if he was allowing his belief to get in the way of objectively looking at the reports he collected. According to the Space Chronology web site, the launch was at 1746 EST.<sup>4</sup> Most of the descriptions match that of the Boron-Titanium-Aluminum cloud release experiment. The photograph on the next page was taken by Philip Harrington from Rowayton, Connecticut (near Norwalk) and was published in the May 1975 issue of Sky and Telescope.<sup>5</sup> It shows how the object appeared in the initial phases of the event. It is a good match to what most of these individuals in Todd's article were describing so it is difficult to reject this as the potential explanation. Something all of the witnesses had in common was that they were either in aircraft, with a clear horizon, or along the coast. Those that gave positional data indicated the object was to the south, or southeast, of them. Most indicated an eastward drift.

## Watchers may view a rocket

PROVIDENCE, (AP) - Weather permitting, Rhode Island skywatchers may get another chance tonight to see a rocket launched from Wallops Island, Va.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Scientists fired a rocket laden with blue-green chemicals from their Virginia site about 5:45 p.m. Wednesday.

The test was designed to trace air currents at the edge of the earth's atmosphere.

Some Rhode Islanders spotted the rocket in the sky and the Providence Journal-Bulletin reported they received about 35 calls from people asking what the "green thing" in the sky was.

Another rocket is scheduled to be launched at 5:45 tonight and should be visible again in Rhode Island depending on the weather.

The principle reason Todd rejected the Wallops island experiment was because he had multiple sightings that were before 1746 EST. All of these appeared to have been second hand sources and we don't know how accurate they really are. In SUNlite 10-2, I noted that times were not accurate when witnesses reported observing a venting Falcon IX booster. In SUNlite 9-4, I noted a similar problem when I examined the NUFORC database for a fireball event on April 25, 2017. It is not unusual to have reports with time of the observations being off by 20-30 minutes.

Another reason that Todd apparently rejected this explanation was the comment made by the witness, Mr. S. He stated that he could not confuse the two events. He had seen the blue sphere when he was driving his vehicle and later saw the "cloud", that resulted as the chemicals were dispersed by upper level winds, from his home. He is right that the two observations would not appear the same but the initial start of the test would be a blue ball shaped object (see the photograph of the same event below). After several minutes, the gases would disperse and look completely different. One always has to be skeptical of witnesses who claim that "they know what they saw" and what they say they saw was something unknown to science.

### Conclusion

I can understand why Todd felt there might have been something else in the sky that night but the bulk of these observations he used appear to indicate that what was visible was just the chemical release from the Aeronomy mission. It is my opinion that any arguments against that explanation have been addressed and this case should be removed from the Weinstein catalogue.

#### Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 45
2. Todd, Robert. "Rhode Island Sightings". APRO bulletin. Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). Tuscon, AZ. September 1975. P. 4-5
3. "Watchers may view a rocket." Newport Daily News. Newport, Rhode Island. January 16, 1975. P. 2
4. "1975 Space History Chronology". Astronautix. Available WWW: <http://www.astronautix.com/1/1975chronology.html>
5. "Amateurs photograph atmospheric experiments". Sky and Telescope. Sky publishing Corporation. Cambridge, MA. May 1975. p. 335



## January 20, 1952 Fairchild AFB, Washington

January 20, 1952--Fairchild AFB, Wash. Two master sergeants (intelligence specialists), reported a large, bluish-white spherical object with a long blue tail which flew below a solid overcast. [III].<sup>1</sup>

Section III has the case listed in a table which states the following:

*Blue-white spherical object sped below overcast; speed computed at 1400 mph.[18].<sup>2</sup>*

The footnote lists Ruppelt's book, The report on Unidentified Flying Objects. Ruppelt described the event as follows:

*On January 20, 1952, at seven-twenty in the evening, two master sergeants, both intelligence specialists, were walking down a street on the Fairchild Air Force Base, close to Spokane, Washington.*

*Suddenly both men noticed a large, bluish-white, spherical-shaped object approaching from the east. They stopped and watched the object carefully, because several of these UFO's had been reported by pilots from the air base over the past few months. The sergeants had written up the reports on these earlier sightings.*

*The object was traveling at a moderately fast speed on a horizontal path. As it passed to the north of their position and disappeared in the west, the sergeants noted that it had a long blue tail. At no time did they hear any sound. They noted certain landmarks that the object had crossed and estimated the time taken in passing these landmarks. The next day they went out and measured the angles between these landmarks in order to include them in their report.*

*When we got the report at ATIC, our first reaction was that the master sergeants had seen a large meteor. From the evidence I had written off, as meteors, all previous similar UFO reports from this air base.*

*The sergeants' report, however, contained one bit of information that completely changed the previous picture. At the time of the sighting there had been a solid 6,000-foot-thick overcast at 4,700 feet. And meteors don't go that low.*

*A few quick calculations gave a rather fantastic answer. If the object was just at the base of the clouds it would have been 10,000 feet from the two observers and traveling 1,400 miles per hour.*

*But regardless of the speed, the story was still fantastic. The object was no jet airplane because there was no sound. It was not a searchlight because there were none on the air base. It was not an automobile spotlight because a spotlight will not produce the type of light the sergeants described. As a double check, however, both men were questioned on this point. They stated firmly that they had seen hundreds of searchlights and spotlights playing on clouds, and that this was not what they saw.<sup>3</sup>*

### The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file contains descriptions by the two sergeants. The event happened at 1920 local time. Both indicated the object moved in a straight path, was visible only for a few seconds, and that it seemed to pulse in brightness.<sup>4</sup>

It also includes a report from the 57th air division at Fairchild AFB. Ruppelt was not exactly correct in his statement that it was a solid overcast. The report states that at 1830:

*Single seven tenths (0.7) cloud layer at three thousand (3,000) feet (est); Visibility: Twenty-five (25) miles...<sup>5</sup>*

At 1930, the weather was described as:

*Single eight tenths (0.8) broken layer at four thousand seven hundred (4,700) feet (est); Visibility: Twenty (20) miles.....<sup>6</sup>*

Blue Book did not classify this as Unidentified. They determined, in 1952, that it was a meteor.

### Analysis/summary

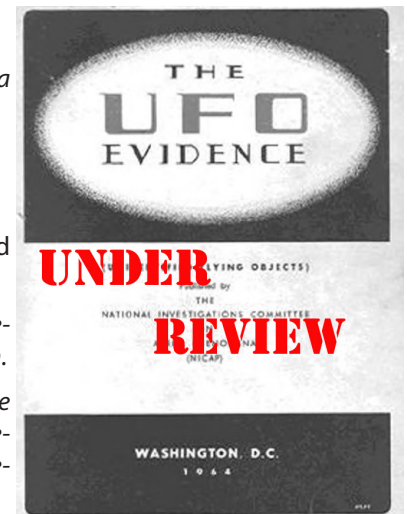
The speed computation of 1400 mph assumed that the object was below the cloud layer but there is no such statement in the Blue Book file. Ruppelt stated this value in his book and the UFO evidence accepted it as a fact.

The best hypothesis for this event is a bright meteor. Everything, except for the cloud layer, indicates a bright meteor. There was no deviation in path, it traveled at great speed, and it was only visible for a few seconds.

Is the cloud layer a disqualifying condition for a meteor? I don't think so. First of all, contrary to what Ruppelt wrote, it was not a solid overcast but a broken one with seven to eight tenths coverage. There is also no mention on how thick the cloud layer was so I am not sure where Ruppelt got his 6000 foot value. Like the 1400 mph value, it seems to have been something Ruppelt wanted to believe and not what was known to be a fact. The information we do have about the cloud coverage indicates it is possible that what was seen could have been meteor visible through breaks in the clouds [like this fireball on July 1, 2020 over Japan](#).

### Conclusion

Once again, it is hard to draw a definitive conclusion on a case like this. However, I can't see any disqualifying factors that nullify the meteor explanation. As a result, I agree with project Blue Book's conclusion and this event can be listed as a "possible me-





teor”.

#### 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. Ruppelt, Edward. The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Doubleday 1956. p. 12-13
4. “Case file January 20, 1952 Fairchild AFB, Washington”. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6310061>
5. “Memo from HQ 57th air division to Chief, Air Intelligence Center dated 13 March 1952” Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6310090>
6. *ibid.*

### **THE 701 CLUB: CASE 275 JANUARY 4, 1949 HICKAM FIELD, HAWAII.**

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

*Jan. 4, 1949; Hickam Field, Hawaii. 2 p.m. Witness: USAF pilot Capt. Paul Storey, on ground. one flat white, elliptical object with a matte top circled while oscillating to the right and left, and then sped away.<sup>1</sup>*

The description by Sparks adds the witness location, that it blinked once per second, and that the object sped away in a climb towards the Northeast.<sup>2</sup>

#### **The Blue Book file**

The file contains about as much information as can be expected for the time period the incident happened. Project Grudge did not give too much guidance on getting the important information like radiosonde data but the description does contain enough observational information<sup>3</sup>:

- Time: 1407-1435
- Weather: Scattered clouds
- It was described as a large piece of round white flat cardboard, which oscillated. It was white on the underside with a dark non- reflective top.
- Its size was approximated to be the size of an AT-6 at an altitude of 3000 feet. (Wingspan of 42 feet = 0.8 degree angular size)
- Speed estimated at 85 mph.
- Object “circled” the area doing right and left circles.
- First seen approximately 25 miles east of the base. It came within 6 miles of the observer.
- Maximum elevation was listed as 40 degrees. Estimated altitude was listed as 3000 feet.
- Disappeared on a bearing of 25 degrees magnetic.
- It disappeared by rapidly increasing in altitude and seems to have risen out of sight at the last bearing.



The sighting lines for the observer. The UFO could have taken any path between these two lines if his directions were accurate. While this is a current map, the 1952 aerial<sup>4</sup> (right) shows the layout of buildings, airport, and other terrain were similar.

- It did seem to pulse about once per second.

## Analysis

Missing from the file are winds data. There is mention of “light” in the weather data. I can only assume this means light winds. However, there is no detailed wind data for analysis. Luckily, the RAOBS database does have wind data for Honolulu, Hawaii on the date in question, which I present here. I only list the wind information up to 2000 meters<sup>5</sup>. Weather underground also has hourly surface wind data for January 4, 1949<sup>6</sup>, which I placed in the right four columns and highlighted in gray.

Time HST	Altitude (m)	Wind from	Speed (kts)	Time HST	Altitude (m)	Wind from	Speed (kts)	Time HST	Altitude (M)	Wind from	Speed (kts)
5AM	5	130	12	6PM	5	320	4	12PM	0	ENE	9
5AM	133	130	12	6PM	10	300	4	1PM	0	SSE	9
5AM	580	110	10	6PM	150	240	8	2PM	0	S	13
5AM	1037	110	13	6PM	1007	230	12	3PM	0	SSE	13
5AM	1518	120	13	6PM	1488	220	15	4PM	0	S	13
5AM	2026	120	8	6PM	1991	200	17	5PM	0	SSE	9

The winds at the surface were blowing at 13 knots from the South. One can draw the conclusion that winds up to 2000 meters were probably coming from a southerly (SE or SW) direction as well. This gives us an indication that the object could have been wind driven since it was going northward.

Wind speeds above 150 meters seem to have been around 10 knots, which present something of a problem with the wind driven theory. It would take about 6 minutes for an object to travel 1 nautical mile, which means it should not have been visible for more than 10 or 15 minutes.

However, the summary report states it was only visible for 15 minutes and the observer stated it kept turning around in circles. If we assume that the object was moving in a manner because of crosswinds, the displacement would have been much more than 1-2 nautical miles and could be visible for a longer period of time.

The initial direction of observation was towards the airport/air base (they share a common strip), the military golf course, and the Navy base facilities. It seems odd that this officer was the only person, who saw the object. Is it because others did see it and noted that it had an explanation?

All of this suggests that the object could have been a balloon of some kind. Perhaps there was an unusual object below the balloon that gave it the “white cardboard” appearance.

## Conclusion

In my opinion this object was a possible balloon. It was moving in the direction of the wind, it acted like a balloon with an oscillating motion, and it eventually rose out of sight. Other than the duration of the sighting (15-23 minutes depending on what part of the case file you read), there seems to be no reason to reject this explanation. It should be removed from the list of unknowns.

### 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. 47.
3. “Case file January 4, 1949 Hickam AFB, Hawaii.” Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6792163>
4. Historical Aerials website. Available WWW: <http://historicaerials.com/>
5. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>
6. Honolulu weather history January 4, 1949. Weather underground. Available WWW: <https://www.wunderground.com/history/daily/us/hi/honolulu/PHNL/date/1949-1-4>

## Project Blue Book case review: July - December 1961

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering July through December 1961. 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 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
July	Baltimore, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed. Hand written letter written years later, with no specifics.
1	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
1	Columbus, OH	Venus	Arcturus
1	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
2	Ferdinanda Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Venus
2	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
2	Fairborn/Dayton, OH	Searchlight	Agreed
4	Bering Sea	Meteor	<b>No case file</b>
4	Bethlehem, CT	Balloon	Agreed
4-5	Cleveland, OH	Capella	Possible balloon
6	Manchester, TN	Meteor	Agreed
6	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
6	Glen Spay, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Nevada (s. of Reno)	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Capemish, MI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
8	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Arcturus
9	Ocean City, NJ	Aircraft	Meteor
9	Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Canada	Insufficient data	Meteor
10	Atlantic	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration.
10	Golden, CO	Ball Lightning	Insufficient data. No direction of observation other than it went behind Lookout Mountain, which could have been any where in SW, W, or NW.
10-21	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter describing multiple sightings with very few specifics. Most sound like aircraft.
11	Washington, DC	Balloon	Agreed
11	Springfield, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11	Nagshead, NC	Meteor	Agreed
12	Carmi, British Columbia, Canada	Insufficient data	Venus
12	Palatka, FL	Unreliable Report	Confusing report by 14-year old. In letter described sighting as being on 29 June but then filled out report as 12 July. Conflicting data.
13	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
15	E. of Monticello, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Nevada	Flare/Alcohol/Imagination	Agreed. Aircraft that dropped flare part of observation.
18	Camp Wolters, TX	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
18	Pacific	Satellite	Not Echo Satellite. Possible Aircraft en route to Samoa
18	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed



19	Raymondville, TX	Insufficient data	Possible ashcan balloon from Goodfellow AFB.
19	Hamilton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
20	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
20	Houston, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Helena, MT	Aircraft	Agreed
22	60 Mi S of Louisville, KY	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
22	Kane, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. This is a second hand report with no information from the primary observers.
22-3	North Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
23	Fairborn, OH	Sunspot	Agreed
23	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Texarkana, TX	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
24	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
25	Palatka, FL	Unreliable Report	Same witness as 12 July. Description sounds like contrails of aircraft. Possible aircraft.
25	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
24-6	Midwest/SW US	Comet	Agreed. Comet Wilson-Hubbard was visual magnitude comet (+3-+4) in location described.
25	Cameron, LA	Balloon	Agreed
25	Metuchen, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft contrail
26	Cape Thompson, AK	Flare	Agreed
26	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
26	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
26	N. of Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Probably Mirfak (alpha Perseii). Could have been Capella but Capella had not risen yet.
26	McClellan AFB, CA	Meteor	Agreed
27	Gardnerville, NV	Flare	Agreed
27	Techikawa AB, Japan	Balloon	Agreed
27	Oakland, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed but description indicates possible aircraft.
28	Misawa AB, Japan	Meteor	Echo Satellite (BB misinterpreted duration as 1 minute. Actual duration was 3 minutes)
29	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
29	Columbus, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
29	Eatonton, GA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
30	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
30	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
30-31	Vincennes, IN	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
30-1Aug	Brooklyn, NY	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
31	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
31	Fundamori, Japan	Satellite	<b>No case file</b>
31-1Aug	Plainview, NY	1. Meteor 2. Aircraft	Agreed with 1. 2. Echo Satellite

## August 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Aug	Fontana, CA	Hoax	Agreed. Photographs are not in file but report from analysts indicate it was a hoax. There seems to be no reason not to accept this since the photographs are not promoted by an UFO organizations.
Mid Aug	Ostrada, Poland	Insufficient data	<b>No case file</b>
Mid Aug to 6 Sept	Chippewa Falls, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness described seeing UFOs on various dates. Many sound like stars but the information in the letters do not contain much in the way of specific information that can be analyzed.
1	Stockbridge, MA	Aircraft	Echo Satellite
1	Quebec, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
1	Phoenix, AZ	Balloon	Agreed. Possible Ashcan balloon from Goodfellow AFB.
1	Northampton, MA	Aircraft	<b>No case file</b>
1	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
3	Far East	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
3	Sasebo, Japan	Insufficient data	Meteor
3	Dayton, OH	Light Reflection	Fomalhaut
3	Dayton, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
3	Kentland, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
4	Seattle, WA	Balloon	Agreed. Press apparently determined it was a balloon. Report in media indicates balloon launched on 3 Aug from SD was visible in Montana on 4 Aug and was heading west. This report mentions witness had photograph of object that proves it was not balloon but the photograph was never submitted.
4	Ashland, KY	1. Meteor 2. Aircraft	Agreed
4	Far East	Satellite	<b>No case file</b>
4	Caribbean Sea	Missile	<b>No case file</b>
4	Hardinsburg, KY	Aircraft	Agreed
5-9	Fort Edward, NY	Balloon	Agreed
6	Far East	Insufficient data	Meteor
6	Fairborn, OH	Balloon	Agreed
6	Suffolk, VA	Reflection off bird	Agreed
6	Las Vegas, NV	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
6-22	Middletown, OH	Capella	Agreed
7	Far East	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
7	Dayton, OH	Antares	Agreed
8	Cape Canaveral, FL	Meteor	Agreed
8	SW of Carlisle, PA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
8	North Highlands, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
9	Point Pleasant, NJ	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
9	Newport News & Carrollton, VA	Balloon	Agreed

9	Cyprus Gardens, FL	Aircraft	Atlas rocket launch was at the correct time on 8 August (witness reported 4 years after the event and probably got the date wrong - Witness actually gave a date range of 8-10 August later in his letter).
10	Dayton, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
12	Roscoe, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time, duration, positional data, or course.
12	Kansas City, KS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
13	Clayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Lake Charles, LA	Parachute Flare	Agreed (Physical specimen)
13	Springfield, MA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite (Time listed on card not correct)
14	Webb AFB, TX	Meteor	Agreed (duration listed as one minute but description indicates a meteor - duration probably an overestimate).
14	New York, NY	Poor photo processing	Agreed
14	Cleveland, OH	Balloon	Agreed
14	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
14-16	Inwood, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor observations
15	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
16	Flushing, NY	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
18	Santa Fe, Argentina	Unreliable report	Agreed. Second hand story told on radio program about a 200 foot spaceship with 15 people on board.
18	Pacific	Missile	Aircraft contrail
23	Cape Canaveral, Cuba	Missile	Agreed for Marine observers in Cuba. Observer at Cape Canaveral probably saw a balloon used to evaluate winds during launch.
25	Wilmington, DE	Balloon	Agreed
25	Brooklyn, NY	Balloon	Agreed
27	Osan, Korea	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
28	Redondo Beach, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
29	Gibson City, IL	Refuel Op	Agreed
29	Fremont, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Naha, Okinawa	Meteor	Possible birds
30	Fairborn, OH	Satellite	Not a satellite. Echo over Pacific. Possible aircraft
30	Pleasant Garden, NC	Satellite	Not a satellite. Echo over Pacific. Possibly Midas 3 Satellite
30	Monroe, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Ashland-Richmond, VA	Refuel Op	Agreed

### September 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Sandusky, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Film not available in file. However, there are photographs of a physical specimen that seems unrelated with the case. Description indicates this was probably an airplane contrail at sunset.
2	Las Lunas, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or positional data.
2	Albuquerque, NM	Mirage/Inversion	Balloon
3	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
3	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite



4	Columbus, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
4	Springfield, OH	Antares	Agreed
5	Sidney, OH	Antares	Agreed
5	Kelowna, BC, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
7	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
7	Troy, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Cape Canaveral, FL	Star	Agreed. Interesting sighting involving the BU telescope tracking a Titan missile and recording a star pass through the field of view as the scope was following the rocket.
7	Dayton, OH	1. Balloon 2. Aircraft	1. Capella 2. Arcturus
8	Dayton, OH	Capella	Agreed
8	Vandalia, OH	Meteor	Agreed
10	Hammon, IN	Capella	Agreed
11	Englewood Hills, OH	Stars/planets	Agreed. Probably Vega and Arcturus
11	San Diego, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Submitted in February 1962. No positional data. Possibly a meteor.
11	Dawson Creek, BC, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
12	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Aircraft
13	East Coast/Midwest US	NASA rocket	Agreed. Aeronomy mission from Wallops Island
13	Belmont, OH	Insufficient data	Jupiter
14	Osan, Korea	Aircraft	Possible balloon
14	Far East	Meteor	Agreed
14	Hillard, OH	Mars	Arcturus
14	Bering Sea	Venus	Pilot reported strange cloud low on western horizon. Cloud.
15	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
16	Valpariso, IN	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness wrote short letter with minimal information. Positional data insufficient. Descriptions of duration inadequate/confusing.
17	Raleigh, NC	Balloon	Agreed
17	Johnson Island	Meteor	Agreed
18	Middletown, OH	Sirius	Agreed
18	WSW of Muroran, Hokaido, Japan	Antares	<b>No Case File</b>
18	Green Bay, WI	Balloon	Agreed
19	North Concord AFS, VT	Balloon	Agreed
20	Lincoln, NH	1. Insufficient data 2. Insufficient data	Agreed. The file is very incomplete and I could find no radar data or details about the sighting. The radiosonde data was from Portland, Maine and any claims of an inversion can't be based on this data. That being said, the Hill sighting has been discussed in many ways and I made my opinion about the Hill sighting in SUNlite 4-2.
20	Huntingon, IN	Satellite	Not Echo satellite. Possible aircraft.

21	Oahu, HI	Insufficient data	Capella. Witness stated object was to the right of Polaris (21 degrees elevation) but then indicated it was 45 degrees in elevation. Capella was to the right of Polaris in azimuth (19 degrees) and was at an elevation of 63 degrees. The description matches Capella. The "dark object" was probably an illusion or possible cloud.
21	Misawa, Japan	Balloon	<b>No Case File</b>
21	Pacific	Missile	Agreed (see SUNlite 5-5 and 7-1)
21	Madison, WI	Reflection	Agreed. Reflection of aircraft by setting sun for short duration
22	Danbury, CT	Flare	Agreed
22	Washington, DC	Insufficient data	Procyon
22	Pacific	Satellite	<b>No Case File</b>
22	Bering Sea	Venus	Sunset. Witness described a red ball that was oblong with white streamers one degree above the western horizon at 0459Z. Sunset was around 0455Z at an azimuth of 270 degrees. Either he saw the setting sun or some sort of phenomena associated with sunset.
24	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
24	N. of Tonopah, NV	1. Jupiter 2. UNIDENTIFIED	1. Agreed 2. Possible aircraft
25	Grafton, ND	Balloon	Possibly Venus. Venus was rising at the time of the sighting. Witness described Venus' motion in azimuth. Initial angle of elevation may have been in error.
25	Charleston, WV	Meteor	Agreed
25	Pacific near Guam	Meteor	Agreed
25	Guam	Meteor	Agreed (same meteor as seen in Pacific near Guam)
25	Pine Mountain, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Duration not identified. Possible cloud.
25	Detroit Lakes, MN	Contrails	Agreed
25	Ukiah, CA	Meteor	Agreed
26	Gathersburg, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Pacific Coast	ECM	Insufficient data. Confusing report. Radar operator was recording multiple objects but could only track them with IFF selected on the radar. The position of the aircraft was not listed and the position of the targets (relative to the aircraft or actual position) were not given. Only course and measured speed.
27	NY City, NY	Aircraft with Contrail	Agreed
29	Waterton, CT	Insufficient data	14-year old observing sun's corona by blocking sun with goal post. Saw objects moving very fast through the glare of the sun. Possible birds
30	Indian Springs & Las Vegas, NV	1. Venus 2. Balloon	Agreed
30	Cape May, NJ	Aurora	Agreed. Auroral storm on September 30-October 1

### October 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Danbury, CT	Ball Lightning	Insufficient data. I doubt it was ball lightning. However, witness does not provide a specific date to check weather or other activity that could have been the source. (#180)

2	Salt Lake City, UT	Sun Dog	Agreed. Witnesses were looking in the direction of the sun and object was reported below the sun.
4	Roswell, NM	Meteor	Agreed
5	Johnson Island	Reflections	Agreed. Photographs appear to show some sort of reflection. Object not seen when photographs were taken.
5	Waynesville, NC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration of sighting. Positional data limited. Additional information in 10/14 Las Vegas NM file for sighting around same time from NC with similar course description. This could have been a KC-97 aircraft in region.
6	Sharon, MA	Light Refraction	Possible birds
6	Arlington, VA	Insufficient data	Contrails
7	Albany, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Very short letter with no specifics other than they saw a UFO. Form sent but witness did not return completed form.
8	Grand Forks, ND	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
10	Middle Village, NY	Meteor	Agreed
11	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report was two months old and witness did not give duration or detailed description of objects motion.
11	Duluth, MN	Refueling Operation	Agreed
12	Ferndale, MI	Contrails	Agreed
12	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Los Angeles, CA	Balloon	Agreed
14	Las Vegas, NM	Jupiter	Agreed
16	Dayton, OH	Sirius	Agreed
16	Gettysburg, SD	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Jensen, UT	Mirage	Insufficient data. Duration of observations not sufficient. No angle of elevation listed so could not verify it was a mirage close to mountain tops or something higher in the sky.
17	Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible birds
17	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
17	West Florence, OH	Arcturus	Insufficient data. Very possible that it was Arcturus but witness report is very confusing and does not indicate which direction they were observing. I could not follow the witness' notes.
18	Philadelphia, PA	Meteor	Contrail
19-20	Grand Cayman, West Indies	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time of observation.
21	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
21	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Patrick AFB, FL	Meteor	Agreed
23	Pacific	Insufficient data	Meteor
23	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed. Possibly same meteor as previous sighting. Difference in time is 39 minutes but in same region of Pacific.
24	Succasunna, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
24	Greenwich, CT	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Baltimore, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data or duration
25	Sheboygan, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data or duration
25	Akron, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
26	McAllen, TX	Meteor	Agreed
27	Grand Rapids AFS, MI	Balloon	Agreed
27	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Kadena AB, Naha, Okinawa	Meteor	Agreed



29	Far East	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
31	Canton, OH	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness reported two objects but gave a confusing report that makes it difficult (if not impossible) to properly evaluate. The positional data is confusing and there is no duration for either event.

### November 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Diboll, TX	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
2	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
2-11	Del Mar, CA	1. Meteor 2. Naval Gunfire	Agreed. The meteor explanation satisfies all the sightings. The Naval Gunfire was added because somebody got a report that there was naval activity off the coast about 50-70 miles away. Based on the reports, it appears that Naval Gunfire was not involved.
3	NY City, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
4	N. of Cape Canaveral, FL	Meteor	Agreed
5	Scott AFB, IL	Meteor	Agreed
7	Arlington Heights, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Radar only case. Not seen visually. Details about radar were not submitted, making evaluation difficult.
7	Washington DC	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Far East	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
9	Cassville, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. The report is a letter written describing an object that varied course across the sky. It is not clear on the positional data (azimuth/elevation) during these course changes and angular speeds of the object.
10	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
11	Catalina, CA	Dropsonde	Agreed
11	Dayton, OH	Sirius	Agreed
11	Guam	Meteor	Agreed
11	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
11-13	Manning, ND	Venus	Agreed
12	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
13	Canton, OH	Hallucination	Agreed. Witness described a spacecraft hovering over him and shooting him with some sort of ray.
13	San Mateo, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. However, description may have been Venus and Mercury, which were in conjunction and visible to the east at the time of the report.
13	Roseburg, OR	Insufficient data	Agreed. Photographs do not show any object even though witness stated it was visible. Description given indicates it could have been an aircraft.
15	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
15	Atlantic	Missile	Agreed. Transit 4B launch.
15	Collins, Ontario, Canada	Meteor	BB listed this as a meteor but sky was overcast indicating an object below the cloud layer. Event lasted "a few minutes". Possible aircraft.
15	Gettysburg, SD	Meteor	Agreed
16	Dawson City, Canada	Meteor	Agreed

16	Bryan, TX	Missile	Insufficient data. The witness was a pilot in an aircraft but the positional data was missing in report. Only a course and angle of attack was listed. Pilot suspected it was a missile fired from a military exercise but there is no evidence to confirm this.
17	Lake Charles, LA	Meteor	Agreed
17	Raleigh, NC	Meteor	Agreed
17	Pacific	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Columbus, OH	Balloon	Agreed
19	Makinaw, IL	Aircraft	Agreed. BB listed this as a refueling operation but the command responsible for refueling in the area denied any such operation existed on the date (19th) of the sighting. However, Hynek (or some other investigating officer) determined the date was in error and it was on the 20th. Possible refueling operation.
20	60 mi. W. of Newport, OR	Meteor	Agreed
21	Oldtown, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	Titan Missile Launch (See SUNlite 4-5)
23	Sioux City, IA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
25	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
26	Kew Gardens, NY	Balloon	Agreed
28	Gulf of Aden	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
29	Englewood, OH	Occultation of Regulus	Conflicting information. The moon did not rise until about 55 minutes after event. Occultation happened on the morning of the 29th. This was the evening of the 29th. Witness report is conflicting. They state they completed the form on the 29th. Does this mean the date of the event is incorrect? There is no other information to verify the true date of the sighting. Was it the evening/morning of the 28/29 or 29/30? If the event was the night of the 28th, then this could have been the moon.
29	Pacific	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite

### December 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
3	Vandenberg AFB, CA	Meteor	Agreed
4	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
6	St. Thomas, Virgin Islands	Missile	Agreed. Jupiter missile test.
12	20 Mi W. of Junction, TX	Satellite decay	Meteor
13	Goshen, IN	Meteor	Agreed
13	Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
13	Chicago, IL	Meteor	Agreed
14	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed but probably a meteor.
14	Amityville, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft from NYC going east. The track described matched flight paths coming from Idlewild (now JFK) airport and heading east.
15	Pacific	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
16	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
17	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
20	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
20	Far east	Meteor	Agreed
21	Tyndall AFB, FL	Betelgeuse	Echo Satellite (Time listed was incorrect - Tyndall was CST not EST)
26	Chicago, IL	Refraction of Moon	Agreed

29	Goodletsville, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Bartlett, IL	Contrails	Agreed
30	Pacific	Sirius	Procyon
31	Dayton, OH	Sirius	Procyon

### Reclassification

I evaluated 279 cases in the Blue Book files from July through December 1961. In my opinion, 70 were improperly classified (about 25%). 27 (about 38.6% of the total number of cases/9.6% 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	Columbus, OH	Venus	Arcturus
7/2	Ferdinanda Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Venus
7/4-5	Cleveland, OH	Capella	Possible balloon
7/8	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Arcturus
7/9	Ocean City, NJ	Aircraft	Meteor
7/9	Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Canada	Insufficient data	Meteor
7/10	Atlantic	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration.
7/10	Golden, CO	Ball Lightning	Insufficient data. No direction of observation other than it went behind Lookout Mountain, which could have been any where in SW, W, or NW.
7/12	Carmi, British Columbia, Canada	Insufficient data	Venus
7/12	Palatka, FL	Unreliable Report	Confusing report by 14-year old. In letter described sighting as being on 29 June but then filled out report as 12 July. Conflicting data.
7/18	Pacific	Satellite	Not Echo Satellite. Possible Aircraft en route to Samoa
7/19	Raymondville, TX	Insufficient data	Possible ashcan balloon from Goodfellow AFB.
7/19	Hamilton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
7/25	Palatka, FL	Unreliable Report	Same witness as 12 July. Description sounds like contrails of aircraft. Possible aircraft.
7/25	Metuchen, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft contrail
7/26	N. of Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Probably Mirfak (alpha Perseii). Could have been Capella but Capella had not risen yet.
7/28	Misawa AB, Japan	Meteor	Echo Satellite (BB misinterpreted duration as 1 minute. Actual duration was 3 minutes)
7/31-8/1	Plainview, NY	1. Meteor 2. Aircraft	1. Agreed 2. Echo Satellite
8/1	Stockbridge, MA	Aircraft	Echo Satellite
8/1	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
8/3	Sasebo, Japan	Insufficient data	Meteor
8/3	Dayton, OH	Light Reflection	Fomalhaut
8/6	Far East	Insufficient data	Meteor
8/8	SW of Carlisle, PA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
8/9	Cyprus Gardens, FL	Aircraft	Atlas rocket launch was at the correct time on 8 August (witness reported 4 years after the event and probably got the date wrong - Witness actually gave a date range of 8-10 August later in his letter).



8/14-16	Inwood, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor observations
8/18	Pacific	Missile	Aircraft contrail
8/23	Cape Canaveral, Cuba	Missile	Agreed for Marine observers in Cuba. Observer at Cape Canaveral probably saw a balloon used to evaluate winds during launch.
8/28	Redondo Beach, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
8/30	Naha, Okinawa	Meteor	Possible birds
8/30	Fairborn, OH	Satellite	Not a satellite. Echo over Pacific. Possible aircraft
8/30	Pleasant Garden, NC	Satellite	Not a satellite. Echo over Pacific. Possibly Midas 3 Satellite
9/2	Albuquerque, NM	Mirage/Inversion	Balloon
9/7	Dayton, OH	1. Balloon 2. Aircraft	1. Capella 2. Arcturus
9/12	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Aircraft
9/13	Belmont, OH	Insufficient data	Jupiter
9/14	Osan, Korea	Aircraft	Possible balloon
9/14	Hillard, OH	Mars	Arcturus
9/14	Bering Sea	Venus	Pilot reported strange cloud low on western horizon. Cloud.
9/16	Valpariso, IN	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness wrote short letter with minimal information. Positional data insufficient. Descriptions of duration inadequate/confusing.
9/20	Huntington, IN	Satellite	Not Echo satellite. Possible aircraft.
9/21	Oahu, HI	Insufficient data	Capella. Witness stated object was to the right of Polaris (21 degrees elevation) but then indicated it was 45 degrees in elevation. Capella was to the right of Polaris in azimuth (19 degrees) and was at an elevation of 63 degrees. The description matches Capella. The "dark object" was probably an illusion or possible cloud.
9/22	Washington, DC	Insufficient data	Procyon
9/22	Bering Sea	Venus	Sunset. Witness described a red ball that was oblong with white streamers one degree above the western horizon at 0459Z. Sunset was around 0455Z at an azimuth of 270 degrees. Either he saw the setting sun or some sort of phenomena associated with sunset.
9/24	N. of Tonopah, NV	1. Jupiter 2. UNIDENTIFIED	1. Agreed 2. Possible aircraft
9/25	Grafton, ND	Balloon	Possibly Venus. Venus was rising at the time of the sighting. Witness described Venus' motion in azimuth. Initial angle of elevation may have been in error.
9/27	Pacific Coast	ECM	Insufficient data. Confusing report. Radar operator was recording multiple objects but could only track them with IFF selected on the radar. The position of the aircraft was not listed and the position of the targets (relative to the aircraft or actual position) were not given. Only course and measured speed.
9/29	Waterton, CT	Insufficient data	14-year old observing sun's corona by blocking sun with goal post. Saw objects moving very fast through the glare of the sun. Possible birds
Oct	Danbury, CT	Ball Lightning	Insufficient data. I doubt it was ball lightning. However, witness does not provide a specific date to check weather or other activity that could have been the source. (#180)
10/6	Sharon, MA	Light Refraction	Possible birds
10/6	Arlington, VA	Insufficient data	Contrails

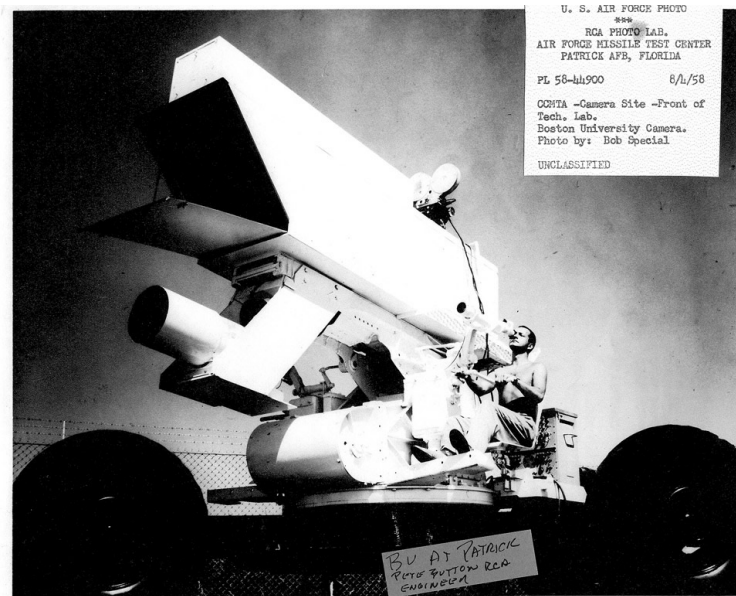
10/8	Grand Forks, ND	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
10/16	Jensen, UT	Mirage	Insufficient data. Duration of observations not sufficient. No angle of elevation listed so could not verify it was a mirage close to mountain tops or something higher in the sky.
10/17	Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible birds
10/17	West Florence, OH	Arcturus	Insufficient data. Very possible that it was Arcturus but witness report is very confusing and does not indicate which direction they were observing. I could not follow the witness' notes.
10/18	Philadelphia, PA	Meteor	Contrail
10/23	Pacific	Insufficient data	Meteor
10/31	Canton, OH	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness reported two objects but gave a confusing report that makes it difficult (if not impossible) to properly evaluate. The positional data is confusing and there is no duration for either event.
11/15	Collins, Ontario, Canada	Meteor	BB listed this as a meteor but sky was overcast indicating an object below the cloud layer. Event lasted "a few minutes". Possible aircraft.
11/16	Bryan, TX	Missile	Insufficient data. The witness was a pilot in an aircraft but the positional data was missing in report. Only a course and angle of attack was listed. Pilot suspected it was a missile fired from a military exercise but there is no evidence to confirm this.
11/21	Oldtown, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	Titan Missile Launch (See SUNlite 4-5)
11/29	Englewood, OH	Occultation of Regulus	Conflicting information. The moon did not rise until about 55 minutes after event. Occultation happened on the morning of the 29th. This was the evening of the 29th. Witness report is conflicting. They state they completed the form on the 29th. Does this mean the date of the event is incorrect? There is no other information to verify the true date of the sighting. Was it the evening/morning of the 28/29 or 29/30? If the event was the night of the 28th, then this could have been the moon.
11/29	Pacific	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
12/12	20 Mi W. of Junction, TX	Satellite decay	Meteor
12/14	Amityville, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft from NYC going east. The track described matched flight paths coming from Idlewild (now JFK) airport and heading east.
12/15	Pacific	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
12/16	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
12/21	Tyndall AFB, FL	Betelgeuse	Echo Satellite (Time listed was incorrect - Tyndall was CST not EST)
12/30	Pacific	Sirius	Procyon
12/31	Dayton, OH	Sirius	Procyon

## Summary

As usual, I found the reclassification of these cases challenging. The Echo satellite continued to play heavily in many of the sightings (about 14% of the total). There were quite a few from young teens or pre-teens. Several of them were a bit exaggerated and that made evaluation difficult. Not to be outdone, there were some adult reports that were just as bad. It does not make evaluation easy when the witnesses get emotional about their sighting to the point that they can't convey the important details about their sighting.

The one case that I found most interesting was the sighting at Cape Canaveral on September 7, 1961. That case was classified as Gamma Piscium, which might set off some alarm bells because the star is not very bright. It is only third to fourth magnitude. Writing in his book, "The Hynek UFO report", Dr. Hynek made the comment:

*Gamma Piscium is a relatively faint star, and quite stationary. It is absurd to think that a person professionally qualified to track missile*



*launches would be puzzled by one particular star out of a great many.<sup>7</sup>*

Hynek seems to have not researched the case very well. The UFO was not visually seen but recorded on a film of the launch by the Boston University Telescope. Readers of SUNlite might recall that this is the same telescope involved in the Big Sur UFO event (See SUNlite 6-4). It was recording the rockets launch using a Image Orthicon photomultiplier tube and film camera. The person operating the telescope was tracking the missile with a 40X guiding scope and operating hand controls to keep the scope centered on the rocket (see the image above). He was not focused on anything else during the event. The rocket would have passed many stars during its track and he would have ignored them. Because the image orthicon intensifier tube amplified the light of faint stars, they would appear much brighter than they normally would appear to the eye. In the case file, the launch azimuth of the Rocket was 105.5 degrees. Unfortunately, the BU scope did not record azimuth and elevation on this launch so it is difficult to say what the actual position was at the time of the sighting. However, it would have been tracking along this approximate line of azimuth (the rocket would slowly move towards this azimuth from the telescope's point of view as it traveled down range). Gamma Piscum was at azimuth 103.5, which puts it in the vicinity of that track. It would be no surprise that the rocket could have crossed that position. Analysis of the tracking rate indicated that the object was probably stationary and that no other tracking camera/radar had recorded it. All of this indicates that the object could have been Gamma Piscum (or some other star). If only Hynek had read the entire report, he might have formed a different opinion about the explanation.

Next issue, I will continue the review with the first half of 1962.

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## **The Roswell corner: History's lamest mysteries**

Like Bigfoot, the Holy Grail, the Loch Ness Monster, and dinosaurs in the Congo, Roswell refuses to die. The latest effort to resurrect this American myth was conducted by the television program, History's Greatest Mysteries. Instead of summarizing everything they had in one or two hours, they managed to stretch out their case over three two-hour episodes. To be honest, it was mind-numbing as I watched them parade all the same old witness testimonies (including the rejected testimonies of Glenn Dennis and Frank Kaufmann) and new second-hand/third-hand testimonies made by individuals, who said they talked to Jesse Marcel Sr. Some of these stories (like the material hid in the water heater) were difficult to believe.

### **The Marcel Journal**

Jesse Marcel Sr's grandchildren presented a journal they found in his effects. At first glance, the journal seemed to contained nothing more than just a bunch of rambling thoughts with absolutely no mention of the greatest event known to mankind. However, in the second episode, it was determined that it was not written by Marcel. This means he obtained it from somebody else. It was suggested that this individual must have written it in code in order to convey a secret message to Marcel. They gave the journal to a code breaking expert but, after spending significant time on a computer, they could not decode it. Despite the inability to decode the secret message with a fancy computer program, it was suggested that it still could be some very complicated code that members of the 509th used when secretly communicating with each other. So, the investigators decided to narrow down who in the 509th leadership could have been the author. After their handwriting expert looked at handwriting of various officers in the 509th, it was suggested that Patrick Saunders might have been the author of the journal. The program then presented testimony from Saunders' children to make him into a critical figure in the Roswell cover-up. Of course, none of this was ever recorded anywhere (other than his one cryptic note in a copy of one book). Saunders' children then began reciting the stories they say their father privately told them over the years but they sounded a lot like the stories told by Frank Kaufmann (i.e. the stealth plane was built on Roswell technology) and others found in the Roswell books.

I don't think whoever wrote in the journal was some sort of coding genius, who could defeat modern computers. Sometimes, a bunch of rambling writings are just a bunch of rambling writings.

### **Marcel's testimony**

Marcel's recorded testimony was given a lot of air time. An expert on detecting lies was allowed to evaluate Marcel's testimony and she could detect no lies. However, all she was doing was determining that Marcel believed what he was telling was true. I am sure Dr. Elizabeth Loftus could argue about the problem with memory and testimony told decades later.

There is little doubt, in most people's minds, that Marcel believed what he was telling was the truth. Yet, in his retelling, some important details were mentioned by Marcel that indicated what he found was not so exotic after all. For instance, in recorded testimony, he had stated that some of the actual debris was seen by the newspapers reporters. That means that some of the debris he recovered was actually in the photographs. Of course, we know what the photographs show and it is not debris from an alien spaceship.

Linda Corely was also on the show. Surprisingly, the show discussed Marcel stating that the "I-beams" mentioned by Jesse Marcel Jr. were not accurate and they were just square beams that "looked like wood" but "would not burn". Corely also tried to decipher his writings, that he had sketched for her, and stated that she determined they were a form of Roman shorthand from over two thousand years ago. Who would have thought the aliens were using ancient writing? It is also possible that Marcel just drew random marks that looked like this ancient short hand. I doubt his memory was so good that he could accurately remember figures he saw for a few hours over three decades previous.

Missing in those Corely interviews is that Marcel, once again, suggested that the real debris was in the photographs. However, he stated he had placed the real debris underneath the brown paper on the floor. The photographs show nothing beneath the paper, which makes one wonder what Marcel was talking about.

I have mentioned Jesse Marcel Sr.'s testimony multiple times over the years (most notably in SUNlite 4-4 and 4-6) and it is essentially a dead end because people never bothered to ask Marcel critical questions like what did he mean when he said that the newspaper reporters saw some of the material but not the important pieces or that one of the photographs showed him with the real debris. This program did the usual cherry picking of the testimony that told the story they wanted to present.

### **Multiple debris fields**

**T**he analysis of the debris field revealed...surprise....something anomalous. They found a small geomagnetic anomaly but that seemed to be a small area and not very significant.

Former FAA investigator, David Soucie examined the debris field and found confusing gamma ray readings that did not match the readings of ground penetrating radar. I am not sure what the gamma ray levels were in this instance. Showing a color coded map, without numbers, on television does not really make a good argument. Soucie suggested the difference might be a sign of neoprene from balloons. As much as I want to say this is compelling, I am not buying this idea because most of the neoprene from flight #4 would have degraded or had been picked up.

They also examined another impact site, 40 miles north of Roswell, where, according to Don Schmitt, witnesses had described the final resting place of the spacecraft. So, instead of paying for the archaeologists to come back and examine this site, they opted to have Frank Kimbler go around with his metal detector. They dug up some fragments but, apparently, there was nothing earth shattering about them because they never revealed any results.

We were also introduced to an individual named, Chuck Wade, who claims there were multiple crashes, which resulted in multiple crash locations. He even had debris he had collected from one of those crash sites. Luckily, the material could be cut easily, and a sample was taken to be tested. I was not shocked to learn they discovered it was not from an extraterrestrial craft.

### **Trying to debunk flight #4**

**I**n the second episode, the program presented a brief presentation of the flight #4 explanation. David Soucie examined the Brazel debris site and decided that a balloon debris field was not possible based on what he saw of the lay of the land, the way the wind moved around the area he was shown, and the descriptions he was given. He felt something lightweight could not end up in the pattern described. He seemed to be basing his analysis on how witnesses described the debris field decades later and not what was described by Brazel in 1947. Is this a case of GIGO (garbage in = garbage out)? I would like to see Soucie make a written presentation to see how he drew his conclusions.

### **The Ramey Memo again**

**T**he program also examined the "Ramey Memo". SUNlite 10-1 recorded the last time the memo was publicly examined was in the program "Expedition Unknown" and they determined the word "Victims" was probably "viewing". In this version, the "V" in "Victims" now appeared to be a "P" and they implied that it could have been the word "Pending". What we continue to learn about the Ramey memo is that there is no way to read the memo with any confidence because there is just too much noise in the film grain.

### **Trying to prop up a myth**

**F**ive years after the Roswell Slides debacle, Don Schmitt is still the "go-to guy" on telling the Roswell fable for these television shows. Kevin Randle had a few moments but he was basically second fiddle to Schmitt peddling all the tall tales he has collected over the years. All these shows are doing is enabling Schmitt's fantasies about Roswell and his ego.

This program was just another crashed saucer show with a slight twist. It tried to appear objective in their efforts but, even when faced with negative evidence, they always tried to find a remote possibility that this evidence did not disprove their claims. After all, solving a mystery does not sell as well as maintaining one.