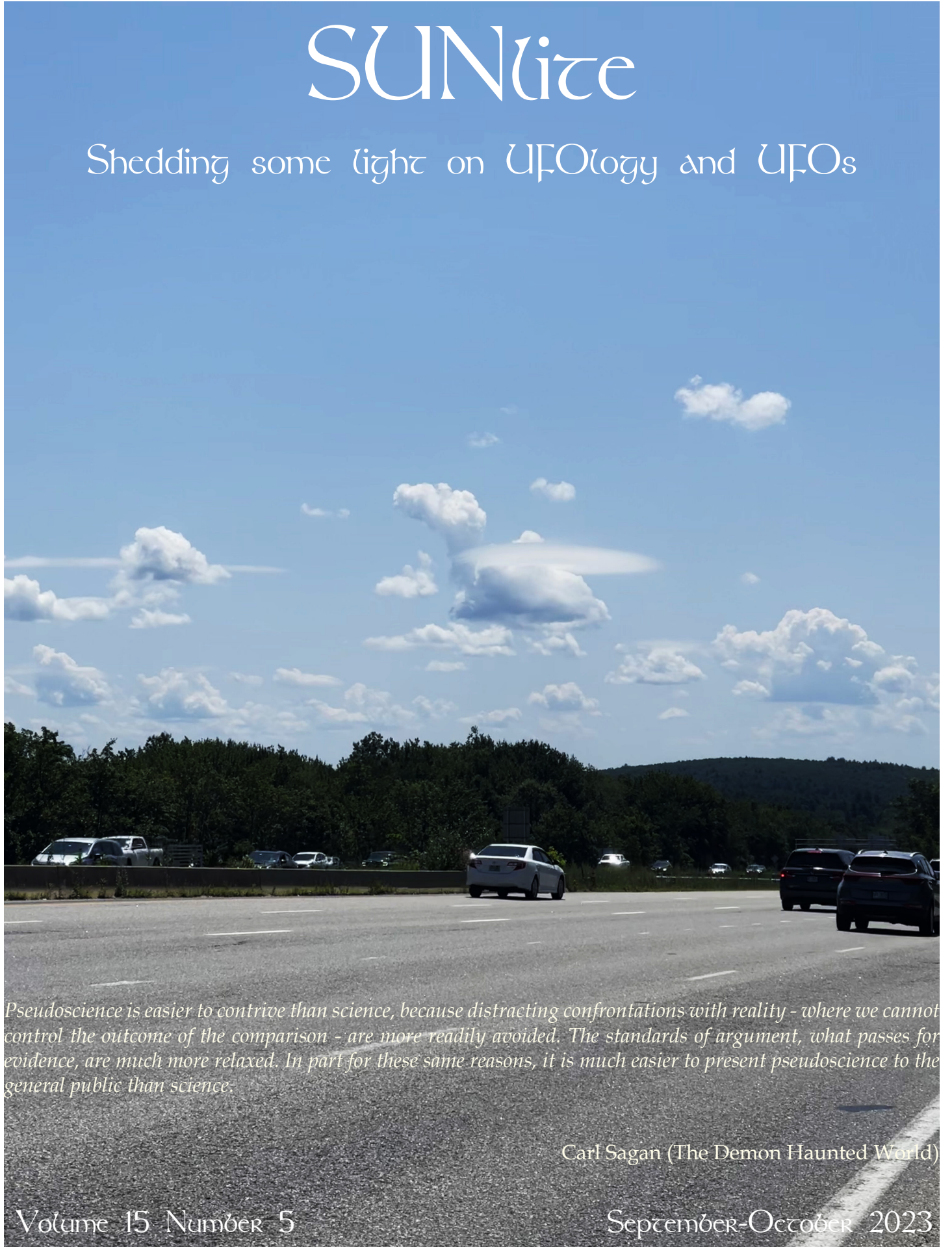


SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



Pseudoscience is easier to contrive than science, because distracting confrontations with reality - where we cannot control the outcome of the comparison - are more readily avoided. The standards of argument, what passes for evidence, are much more relaxed. In part for these same reasons, it is much easier to present pseudoscience to the general public than science.

Carl Sagan (The Demon Haunted World)

Volume 15 Number 5

September-October 2023



Cover: An interesting saucer shaped cloud (maybe lenticular) was visible on my way to work one day. I had to pull over and photograph it with my phone. I knew it was a cloud but it did have an interesting shape.

Left: David Grusch testifying before congress was just more of the same UFO stories without any evidence.

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Another dud in Congress

I am sure that others might think the testimony in congress was earth shattering but I did not find David Grusch very credible. [Every time details were asked for, he said that he could not publicly talk about it.](#) He also suggested that people were threatened, or even killed, when it came down to revealing information about recovered materials/spaceships/alien bodies. Again, Grusch provided no information to support these claims and never gave specifics. He did admit that he did not have first hand knowledge of these events and never saw aliens or their craft. For those familiar with UFOlogy, these types of stories have been circulating for decades. So what makes his stories more credible than those we have heard in the past? We don't know since he did not give sources or specifics. His credibility is the only thing supporting his claims. All he can say is, "trust me" and that is not good enough.

[In response to Grusch's testimony, the head of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office \(AARO\), Sean Kirkpatrick, stated that he is unaware of any evidence of or program designed for recovering and reverse engineering alien technology.](#) He also stated Grusch's testimony was insulting to those people working at AARO and that Grusch had not seen it worth his time to tell them all he knew. If accurate, this implies Grusch's motivations seem to be based on personal interests instead of national ones.

Grusch claims he is a whistle blower. If he really were a whistle blower, he would not resort to the statements that basically say, "I could tell you but then I would have to kill you" or he would not appear in public at all. Grusch would also give us something to demonstrate that what he was saying had some truth to it. For instance, he claimed that alien bodies have been recovered but did not even give an event when this transpired. Like all the other crashed UFO claimants before him, he is only credible to those willing to believe the story. One would've hoped that at least one representative would have asked some critical questions that put Grusch on the spot. I guess that was asking too much.

I was under the impression that NASA was going to release a formal report about their UFO study but I have not seen it. It may be a case of the entire panel having difficulty in agreeing on wording or the promise of a future report has been delayed. If the presentation at the end of May is any sign, I would not expect any great revelations. The bottom line there was "we need better data". That has been the comment by the scientific community for decades.

Just as I was closing out this issue, [I saw an article, which stated that AARO was putting up a website for government personnel to report UFO sightings.](#) That [website](#) states, "AARO will be accepting reports from current or former U.S. Government employees, service members, or contractors with direct knowledge of U.S. Government programs or activities related to UAP dating back to 1945*." The asterisk mentions that AARO can receive information about UFOs that is classified at any level. I wonder how many individuals, that have told stories in the past to eager UFO investigators, will take the time to tell their story to AARO? How many crashed UFO recoveries, UFOs and Nukes, alien abductions, Men in black, etc. tales will suddenly populate their database? How many resources are going to be wasted chasing bogus claims. As I predicted, AARO is not far from becoming Blue Book 2.0. It won't be long before they start collecting UFO reports/stories from the general public. Then they will be stuck in the quagmire of UFOlogy for good. They should have read Hector Quintanilla's manuscript and his opinions about his time at Blue Book. How much money and resources are going to be wasted this time before the Department of Defense recognizes this is a publicity nightmare and waste of time?

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

October 17, 1976 Akita Airport, Japan¹

76.10.17	10:40	Japan	Akita airport	A	a TOA airliner pilot	a golden bright disc above the airport, motionless, flew away toward sea	G		M282 01
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The source listed is the MUFON journal number 282 (October 1991).

Source material

One would think the MUFON journal would have a thorough investigation of the sighting. This is not the case and it was just a reprint of a national Enquirer article from 1977:

A brilliant golden UFO hung like a miniature sun in the late morning sky over northern Japan on the 17th, dazzling observers at Akita Airport including a veteran airline pilot and air traffic controllers. The shining disc-shaped craft hovered motionless for five minutes in broad daylight. Newspapers reported that about 50 people saw it. Kenichi Waga, who is a telecommunications officer at Akita Airport's control tower, was one of the first people to spot the disc at 10:40 a.m.

"It was south of the airport, about five miles away from it. I watched it for about five minutes," Waga said. "It was disc-shaped, larger than a car, but smaller than an airplane. It was very bright, golden in color, with white lights. I immediately warned all pilots in the area to watch out for the UFO."

About the same time, Capt. Masara Saito, 34, a Toa Domestic Airlines pilot with 12 years experience, was preparing to take off in a passenger jet when he noticed "a strange looking disc shaped object 5000 feet from the ground. It was something I had never seen before. I believe in UFOs now, although I had been very skeptical before." Tazawa Takumi, an air traffic controller, was on duty at Akita tower when he noticed the object. "I grabbed a pair of binoculars and got a very close look at it. It looked like two plates placed together, with the top one inverted. I wasn't sure of their existence before, but after what I saw I certainly believe in them now." A television reporter, Masaki Machida, had been assigned by Akita Broadcasting Co. to do a story on pilot training. "I watched the object descending from the east," Machida said. After staying in a fixed position for five minutes, the UFO flew off in the direction of the sea. The whole thing was the most incredible experience that ever happened to me on the job." (The National Enquirer, 1/4/77)²

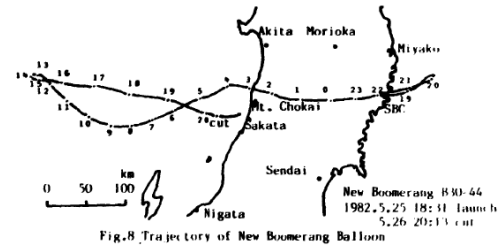
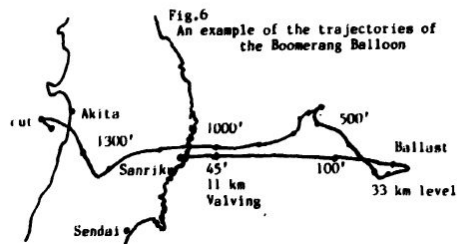
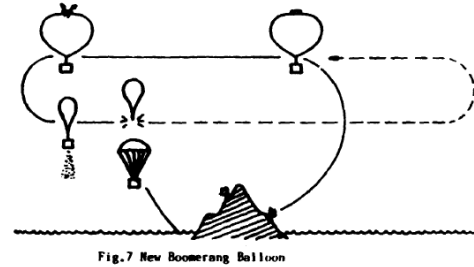
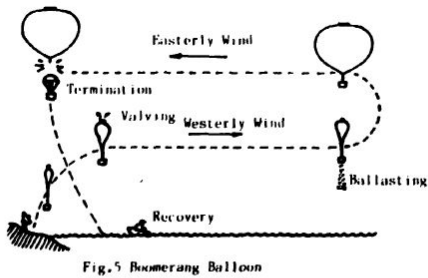
I could find no other sources of information about this sighting.

Analysis

It appears that what was seen that morning was large and moving slowly. This makes one suspect it might be a research balloon of some kind. The stratospheric database³, which is not complete, does not have any balloons launched in the region for this date but something did catch my eye. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) was launching balloons from a location called Sanriku in the Iwate district of Japan. That site was only about 100 miles ESE of Akita airport.⁴ This made me wonder if balloon activity from this area might have been the source of the sighting.

Looking into the work of Sanriku reveals that had developed an interesting technique of launching their research balloons.⁵ Since Japan is a narrow island, recovery of materials from long duration flights would be difficult. As a result, the balloon group developed what they called "Boomerang balloons". These balloons would be launched and moved eastward with the prevailing winds. When the balloon reached the limit of the telemetry, the balloon would drop ballast and rise into the stratosphere, where the prevailing winds would move the balloon towards the west and return the balloon back towards the launch site. When the balloon reached the limits of the western range, the balloon would be directed to vent, lower altitude, and return to an eastern flight direction. This could be repeated. Some flights in the mid-1970s were lasting two to three days and still being recovered on or near the Japanese Islands. In the document, I discovered, there were examples of trajectories from such flights. Both ended up passing just south Akita.

The only problem with this technique is it was confined to two time periods during the year when the winds supported it. That was in the late spring/early summer (May-June) and early to mid-autumn (September-October). Looking at the stratospheric records for Sanriku in the 1970s, balloon activity occurred during those time periods annually. The only exception is the fall of 1976.⁵ It seems unlikely that JAXA would shut down the balloon launches during optimal conditions and more likely that the records from this time period are not readily available.



Conclusion

I could not locate the “smoking gun” of the exact balloon flight from this time period but there is enough circumstantial evidence to suggest that what was seen was possibly a balloon launched from Sanriku. The description of the UFO’s trajectory matched the standard trajectory of balloons launched from Sanriku and the characteristics of the sighting are what one would expect from a research balloon. I would list this as possible balloon and remove it from the list.

Notes and references

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2. Gribble, Bob. Looking back. MUFON Journal October 1991. P. 22 and 26
3. “Stratospheric balloons launched worldwide in 1976”. Stratocat. Available WWW: <https://stratocat.com.ar/globos/1976e.htm>
4. “Stratospheric Balloon Bases in the world: Sanriku Balloon Center, Iwate, Japan.” Stratocat. Available WWW: <https://stratocat.com.ar/bases/58e.htm>
5. J. Nisimura and H. Hiroswawa. Recent Activities on the scientific ballooning in Japan. Institute of Space and Astronautical Science Tokyo, Japan P.35-37, 43-44.
6. “Stratospheric Balloon Bases in the world: Sanriku Balloon Center, Iwate, Japan.” Stratocat. Available WWW: <https://stratocat.com.ar/bases/58e.htm>

October 18, 1953 - English Channel

October 18, 1953--English Channel. Airline pilots saw a UFO "like two shallow saucers with their rims together." [V].¹

Section V does not elaborate much. It mentions Captain Peter Fletcher and flight officer R. L. Lemon:

*UFO "like two shallow saucers with their rims together."*²

The UFO evidence does not provide us with a source of their information.

Additional Sources

The Blue Book files make no mention of the incident. Loren Gross does mention the incident in his UFO history.³ The only thing is the date was not October 18th but October 9th:

What was parked in the atmosphere high over the English Channel?

Source of report: Airline Captain Peter Fletcher who lived in Putney, England; and First Officer R.L. Lemon of Iver, Bucks, England.

Date: 9 October 1953.

Captain Fletcher took off from London airport and set a course of 150 degrees en route to Paris. The air was so clear Captain Fletcher could make out aircraft traffic over Orly Field, his destination 100 miles to the south.

While flying over the English Channel, London air control notified Captain Fletcher of faster traffic to his left. Looking left, Captain Fletcher sighted a big Constellation climbing passed him and quickly reaching an altitude well ahead and much higher than his own plane. The Constellation was now cruising at 13,000 feet. Studying the other airliner, Captain Fletcher suddenly caught sight of what he at first thought was "another aircraft," a bit to the left of the Constellation but much higher, perhaps at 20,000 feet. He estimated that this "other aircraft" and the Constellation were about the same distance away, aside from the height difference, yet while the irregularities of the Constellation's shape were discernible and were reflecting the strong sunlight, the "other aircraft's" reflecting surface showed no such irregularities. The intensity of the light reflected from the "other aircraft" was steady. Peering closer Captain Fletcher saw 'that the "other aircraft" had a smooth, polished-like surface, and its shape like that of two shallow saucers, glued rim-to-rim. The "thing" was under observation for some 30 minutes and appeared to be "parked" in the sky.[115]

Footnote 115 states the information came from Bea Mahaffey and Ray Palmer's magazine/newsletter "Mystic" from March of 1954.

The May, 1954 issue of the APRO bulletin contains a summary and also gives the date as 9 October.⁴

I found a copy of the Mystic magazine article.⁵ Gross had copied most of the information except the time of day, which was 9AM.

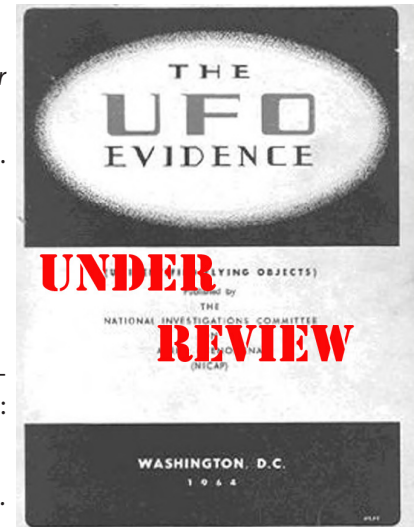
Looking at the Weinstein catalog, there is a listing for October 17, which contains references to this entry in the UFO evidence. Additionally, there is an entry for October 9th that states there were two BEA pilots over southern England who saw an object that was tracked on ground radar for two hours. Unfortunately, this information apparently comes from the CUFOS/Project 1947 files, which are not readily available. The radar addition is also different.⁶ Wikipedia has some source material for this sighting.⁷ It lists the Daily Herald of November 19, 1953 and Weekly Dispatch of October 18, 1953.

Looking at the British newspaper archive gave me both stories. The October 18 Weekly Dispatch story was the original sighting by Captain Fletcher and First Officer Lemon.⁸ This probably is where the UFO evidence got their date for the event. They simply listed the date from the weekly newspaper that reported the story. The November 19 Daily Herald story documented another sighting and then made reference to this sighting as well. That mentions that Captain Fletcher later checked about possible radar tracking.⁹ He stated there was a radar track from Northolt (near Heathrow airport) of an object at 50,000 feet. There is no mention of a two hour duration. I present both articles on the following page. This demonstrates that both Weinstein entries are of the same event and the two BEA pilots mentioned are Fletcher and Lemon.

Analysis

Probably the one thing that stands out about the observations of Captain Fletcher is not the physical description but the statement that it was stationary for 30 minutes. This tends to indicate something astronomical, meteorological, or a possible research balloon. The 9AM time indicates the object was illuminated by the sun. In the Weekly Standard article, Captain Fletcher confirmed that it was the sun reflecting off of it that made it noticeable. He also mentioned that it only disappeared when the sun reflection had decreased and the brightness of the object diminished. Captain Fletcher stated he thought it might be a balloon but dismissed this explanation because such a balloon would have to be enormous and the shape (looking like a large aircraft wing) did not look like a balloon.

It is my opinion that Fletcher probably did see a research balloon. Because of the time of day, the balloon's top surface would have been reflecting light and the lower part was not. This resulted in the observer seeing it as something like a flat semicircle or disc. This might be interpreted as a wing-shaped object. Even the 50,000 foot altitude, where Northolt supposedly tracked their target,



Two Experienced British Airline Pilots Tell

The Detailed, Expert Story Of How They Saw

THE FLYING SAUCER OVER THE CHANNEL

TWO experienced British European Airways pilots have reported to London Airport that on a recent flight to Paris they watched FOR 30 MINUTES a mysterious object in the sky that might have been a "flying saucer."

Captain Peter Fletcher, of Pinner, has been a pilot for 18 years, first with the R.A.F. and, since the beginning, with B.E.A.; First Officer R. L. Lemon, of Iwer, Bucks, became a pilot in the R.A.F. 14 years ago. Both are therefore trained observers as well as skilled pilots.

EACH DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT TECHNICALLY AND DISPASSIONATELY. NEITHER HAS THE LEAST DOUBT THAT HE SAW AN "UNUSUAL AIRCRAFT" OF SOME DESCRIPTION.

They agree, although they cannot prove it, that they were not deceived by a trick of light.

Here is their story, factual and unvarnished. It is told by Captain Fletcher:

OUR Elizabethan flight left London Airport at nine o'clock on the morning of October 9. There was a certain amount of low cloud and fog, but when we climbed we found ourselves in an absolutely clear atmosphere.

The sky was intensely blue. There was not a cloud. The sun shone brilliantly. It was one of those rare days when you could see an aircraft 50 or 60 miles away.

A Clear Day

IT was no clear that when we were over the English Channel we could see aircraft over the airport at Orly 100 miles away and if we had been high enough we could have seen the Alps.

I had reported our position to Control when we were over Bedford, Sussex. A few minutes later, on a course of about 150 degrees, London radar said that an aircraft was over-taking me on my left.

This aircraft, a Constellation flying some 50 knots faster than ourselves, passed on ahead and a few minutes later reached its cruising altitude of 13,500 feet and was in a position immediately ahead of me and above.

20,000 Feet Up

AT this stage the relative position of my aircraft to the Constellation and the sun was such that the sun's light was reflected to me from the top surface of the aircraft's wing making the its surface very clear to see while a darker shadow etched in the lower part.

This is important in view of later observations.

It was then that I first noticed the "flying saucer." It was apparently another aircraft above the Constellation and a little away to the left, and it seemed to have similar sun reflections.

Bearing in mind that all air-liners flying around Europe are basically of similar linear size—that is a wing span of 100 feet

to 150 feet, I judged this other aircraft was flying at approximately 20,000 feet, and was about the same distance from me as the Constellation, or probably a further 20 miles away.

After watching the two aircraft—and I had no reason up to now to think that the other object was not an aircraft—it became apparent that there was a subtle difference between the two.

I must get a little technical here. Both my aircraft and the Constellation were on precisely the same course and therefore its bearing from me remained exactly the same, but as it was drawing away from me at a greater speed its relative position to me slowly changed.

As I might, irregularities occurred in the path of the Con-

TWO R.A.F. officers and three airmen reported seeing a silvery circular object following a Meteor jet which was landing at a Yorkshire aerodrome during exercise Mainbrace last year.

They said that the "flying saucer" was at about 10,000 feet and after apparently revolving on its axis it sped to the westward at a terrific speed.

The Sunday Dispatch then revealed that the R.A.F. made a serious investigation into the report and did not dismiss it as a "meteorological phenomena."

Last week the Air Ministry said that the special department which was set up to investigate reports of flying saucers "has received Captain Fletcher's report and experts are now evaluating it."

stellation's light, the intensity of light reflected from the upper surface varied.

Even when the Constellation was getting on for 40 miles ahead of me the irregularities of fuselage, engine and tail could still be distinguished breaking up the reflecting surface of the top wing.

But it was quite different with our "flying saucer."

First Officer Lemon and I studied it intently. We had plenty of time.

It had the appearance of two

They Watched It, Measured It, Discussed It Technically For Over Half An Hour



Captain Peter Fletcher and First Officer Lemon

shallow saucers with their rims together. We noticed that 30 minutes a course exactly the same without showing some variation in apparent position relative to our own aircraft for they would be flying twice as fast.

1. Its relative position to ourselves remained completely unchanged for the whole of the 30 minutes that we had it under observation. It appeared to be still.

2. The intensity of reflected light from the top surface remained absolutely steady until the last ten minutes of observation when it gradually dwindled away at a speed consistent with the changing position of the sun.

3. The top reflecting surface was smooth and unbroken. It was more highly polished than is normally the case with an aircraft's "skin."

Check On Planes

AT THIS I had automatically classified the "stranger" as a Meteor that had taken off two or three minutes before me bound for Nice and reporting its cruising altitude as 19,500ft. But on crossing the French coast at Digne this aircraft reported its position behind me.

No aircraft reported crossing the French coast at a time that would have put it in the position of the mystery craft.

I was at once interested in my unchanging neighbour and began to check up on the other aircraft in the vicinity.

I noted the following facts:

1. Low fog had prevented aircraft not only leaving London Airport, but by and large most of the U.K. aerodromes up to approximately 8.40 a.m. and I was the fourth to take off from London.

2. The three preceding me were a D.C.4 to Amsterdam, the Elizabethan to Nice, and a D.C.3 to Brussels.

3. No civilian aircraft leaving Northolt would comply with the heart, direction, etc., of the mystery craft.

This eliminated all civilian aircraft flying from U.K. to France. I was left with the possibilities of a Service jet or an Air France Comet.

We ruled out the latter possibility because neither a jet nor a Comet would maintain for

Remember also that we could see variation in the apparent position in the Constellation.

The most striking thing to both of us was the absence of fluctuation in the intensity of the reflected light.

I admit that at one time I agreed with the idea that it might be a balloon. But it would obviously have had to be an enormous balloon and later observation confirmed the elliptical shape. In this it had the properties of an aircraft wing, being roughly one-fourth as deep as it was long.

It was impossible to estimate the size of the object because we did not know how far away it was from us. The day was so clear that it could have been an extremely large craft up to 100 miles away.

How Big?

GIVEN the size of an object one can estimate its distance. Given the distance one can estimate size. We knew neither.

It certainly looked as big as the Constellation and was farther away from us. How far we could not judge but we estimated that it was somewhere over Northern France.

Neither of us has any doubt

about one thing: We were not deceived by a trick of light.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT THE OBJECT WAS SOLID, HAVING A SHAPE APPROXIMATELY THAT OF AN AIRCRAFT WING AND THAT IT WAS CONSTRUCTED OF A METAL SIMILAR TO THAT USED FOR AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION ONLY MUCH MORE HIGHLY POLISHED.

In 18 years of flight I have never seen anything like it. It had been visible for a few seconds or even for a few minutes I would have dismissed it as an illusion or a trick of light.

But we had our "saucer" under observation for a full half-hour. We had time to consider it, to estimate its size. Our radio officer saw it and we brought along the steward to confirm what we saw.

Certainly we saw something material in the sky. Whether or not it was a "flying saucer" we cannot say.

But we will not dismiss it as a trick of imagination. It was 30 minutes of wondering what it could be.

It wasn't another conventional aircraft, and I have given my reasons why we do not think it was, then what was it?

Maybe your guess is as good as mine—but we saw it.

res is to be in with a view to National Service.

KENTUCKY—1947



Hundreds saw these flying saucers. Press photographer took this picture.

BOSTON—1952



Four in formation. Spotted by a U.S. coastguard.

BULAWAYO—1953



In broad daylight. A farmer took this one.

Acid splashes schoolgirls

Eight schoolgirls were splashed by sulphuric acid in an explosion during a science lesson yesterday.

It happened at La Retraite Roman Catholic girls school, near Tansmere, Sussex, airfield.

TO UIRY

res is to be in with a view to National Service.

Sergeant said: look—a flying saucer—

Herald Reporter
An object seen and tracked in the skies near London by five trained men with a radar telescope has set R.A.F. Intelligence men on a new flying saucer "trail."

For many months, R.A.F. and American Air Force Intelligence have been exchanging information on reported "saucers."

All reports are taken seriously and a preliminary diagnosis. Last night, it was revealed that a senior R.A.F. officer was sent to investigate the latest report, which came from 2nd Green, R.E.

35 MINUTES

The five men were testing new radar equipment when they saw something register on the screen. It was nearly motionless, apparently hovering somewhere over Kent.

One of the five was Sergeant Harry Waller, an instructor in the Royal Artillery. His sergeant.

It was a bright, sunny afternoon. We got this thing in our telescope.

It was spherical, and stayed stationary for 15 minutes at about 80,000ft. I called to a colleague: "Do you believe in flying saucers? Have a look at this."

"It moved very slowly, almost at walking speed, until a cloud came over and we lost it after 35 minutes of observation."

SIGNALS

Sergeant Waller said that the radar signal was three to four times the strength that a heavy bomber would have created at similar height.

"The object," he said, "could not have been a balloon. It was dead white and at times it seemed to glow."

The other men who saw the object with Sergeant Waller were: Sgt. Ron Fryer, A. J. Jeffrey, Mr. Denis Fuller, and Mr. S. Russell—all civilian staff.

Last night, an Air Ministry official said: "All reports about unidentified objects which might be flying saucers are now investigated."

In 99 per cent. of the cases there is a natural explanation—weather balloons, or reflections on aircraft.

NO ANSWER
"But in the remaining cases there is no explanation."

"There is no conclusive evidence for saying that flying saucers do or do not exist."

In the past few weeks there have been several reports of "flying saucers" over England.

On October 9, two B.E.A. pilots saw an object in the sky on their way from London to Paris.

Later, they heard that the radar screen at Northolt had plotted an unidentified object circling at 50,000 feet.

Several R.A.F. men reported "a circular and whitish object" over Tangmere, Sussex, airfield.

The October 18, 1953 Weekly Standard article (above) and the November 19, 1953 Daily Herald article, which mentions the October 9 sighting at the end (above right and right).

In the past few weeks there have been several reports of "flying saucers" over England.

On October 9, two B.E.A. pilots saw an object in the sky on their way from London to Paris.

Later, they heard that the radar screen at Northolt had plotted an unidentified object circling at 50,000 feet.

Several R.A.F. men reported "a circular and whitish object" over Tangmere, Sussex, airfield.

is consistent with a research balloon.

Balloons launched from the United States did drift over England and Europe. A Moby Dick balloon, launched on October 26, 1953 from Holloman AFB, was seen and tracked on radar in England. Between October 2nd and October 8, ten balloons were released in the United States.¹⁰ Three were accounted for and the other seven were not recovered. This table indicates the balloons launched and their last known position with date.

Date of release	Location	Last known position	Date of last known position	Project
10/2	St. Paul, MN	Unknown	Unknown	Gopher
10/3	NAAS Vernalis, CA	SW of San Francisco	10/4	Moby Dick
10/5	Tillamook, OR	Southwestern UT	10/7	Moby Dick
10/5	St. Paul, MN	Unknown	Unknown	NA-192 (ONR)
10/6	Tillamook, OR	Approx 100 mi east of Delaware coast.	10/9	Moby Dick
10/7	Tillamook, OR	Northern Idaho	10/8	Moby Dick
10/8	St. Paul, MN	Unknown	Unknown	Toastmaster

None of these indicate they made it to Europe. The 10/6 launch was interesting but it had not gone far enough by the 9th. There are two balloons that could have the potential for reaching Europe. These were the balloons launched from St. Paul on the 2nd and 5th.

According to the log, the October 2nd Gopher flight involved a 73 foot diameter balloon with a gross inflation of 574 ft³. The October 5th balloon was for an Office of Naval Research program NA-128 and it was a 92.5 foot diameter balloon that had a gross inflation of 704 ft³.¹¹

The distance from St. Paul to Cherbourg was approximately 4000 miles. One could suggest a travel distance of about 5000 miles. If one assumes the balloon was launched on the morning of the 5th (7-9 AM CST or 1300-1500GMT), the elapsed time would have been roughly 160 hours for the Gopher flight and 90 hours for the ONR flight. The Gopher's balloon speed would have been about 31mph/27 knots and the ONR flight would have been around 55 mph/48 knots. These are the kinds of speeds one would expect from the jet stream in the upper levels of the atmosphere. However, Stratospheric winds are usually lower speeds than those found in the jet stream.

Unfortunately, the radiosonde data from 1953 only was good up to about 16,000 meters (about 52,000 feet). Project Gopher was designed to fly at a constant level of 21,000 meters (about 70,000 feet).¹² One can assume that the ONR balloon would also end up in that region of the stratosphere. Looking at the two Tillamook balloons that flew eastward, on 10/6 and 10/7, they had rough speeds of about 25 knots. More modern balloon radiosonde data goes much higher. I sampled the same range of dates (October 2-5) for 2015 to 2020 for direction of winds/wind speeds at approximately 21,000 meters from Minneapolis, Minnesota¹³:

Date/time	2015 wind dir/spd	2016 wind dir/spd	2017 wind dir/spd	2018 wind dir/spd	2019 wind dir/spd	2020 wind dir/spd
10/2 1200Z	265/5	329/15	267/11	290/34	276/13	274/13
10/3 1200Z	195/4	311/8	197/10	249/18	197/3	262/13
10/4 1200Z	0/4	177/7	306/11	250/41	280/16	290/13
10/5 1200Z	255/6	241/12	317/21	262/33	299/13	333/24

Based on these samples, the numbers indicate that the winds were predominately from the west,northwest, or southwest (average bearing of about 270 degrees) and speeds ranged from 3-41 knots (average of 14.5 knots). These values are similar to those seen from stratospheric speeds of the Tillamook balloons of 1953. While the speeds did reach 41 knots and might have been higher over the ocean, I think these values tend to reduce the possibility that the October 5th balloon could have made it to England. As a result, we can suggest the possibility that the potential source of the balloon was the Gopher launched on 2 October. There were also some balloons launched from Tillamook on September 24th and Vernalis, California on September 27th that might have been the source. These balloons were not recovered and the Tillamook balloon was last recorded being over Pennsylvania on September 26th. However, the best candidate seems to be the Gopher launch from Minnesota on 10/2.

Conclusion

There is the possibility that what was seen was a Project Gopher balloon launched on October 2nd from St. Paul, Minnesota. We can't prove that this balloon was the source but the description, and behavior, is consistent with a high altitude balloon. There were a few other balloon launches from the United States in the fall of 1953 that might have produced the source. It is important to note that the Stratospheric database is incomplete and it is also possible that a balloon may have been launched from the UK , France, or some other European nation. In my opinion, there is enough circumstantial evidence to classify this case as a "possible high altitude balloon" and remove it from the UFO evidence list and the Weinstein catalog.

Commentary

Since I have been going through all these cases in the Weinstein catalog and UFO evidence document, I continue to be amazed at the sloppy work. It is not unusual to discover that NICAP's document has the date of an event wrong. This is usually because they simply copy the date of the news clipping instead of actually determining the true date. This document was meant to be presented to politicians with facts about UFOs. How good could the work be if the simple fact of the date an event happened is wrong? The Weinstein catalog is equally guilty of sloppy work. All Weinstein apparently did is merely list a bunch of UFO cases involving pilots. I doubt he even bothered to look closely at the cases. He just copied what others had documented. This case is a perfect example. He listed it twice and still got the NICAP date wrong. It is bad enough that Weinstein padded his list with a bunch of cases that had no dates or times. Now I discover he padded his list with duplicate entries of the same incident! If UFOlogy wants science to take their work seriously, they should stop relying on these documents as evidence of anything. As I pointed out in my article in the book, "The reliability of UFO witness testimony", UFOlogy needs to set higher standards. They need to make lists that are worth something by only listing cases that have adequate information, have been thoroughly examined, and present compelling evidence. Anything short of that should be classified as garbage.

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THE 701 CLUB: CASE 2085: ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, SEPTEMBER 13, 1952

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

Sept. 13, 1952; Allentown, Pennsylvania. 7:40 p.m. Witness: private pilot W.A. Hobler, flying a Beech Bonanza. One object, shaped like a fat football, flaming orange-red color, descended and then pulled up in front of the witness' airplane. Seen for 2 seconds.¹

Sparks' entry is basically a repeat of Berliner's. He lists the duration as being <15 seconds but adds a question mark. He also gives a more descriptive entry of the pilot's reactions.

The Blue Book file³

The case file consists of a record card and a report from Mitchell AFB in New York, which summarized/quoted a letter from the witness dated September 23rd. The event reported by the witness contains the following information:

- The date was listed as September 13, 1952
- The time was listed as about 19:40 EDT
- The witness was a pilot in a plane flying at 10,000 feet over Allentown, Pennsylvania. The direction he was flying towards appears to be northeast.
- The pilot was located 15-20 miles NE of Allentown when he saw the UFO.
- The pilot described the object as a "fat football and three feet in diameter". He also noted it was very bright and flaming orange-red in color.
- The object was at 11 o'clock high and descending at a 30 degree angle.
- He thought it was a falling star. To avoid collision, he pulled up.
- The object then rose in a 65 degree climb and flew over the aircraft's windshield.
- The pilot did a 180 degree turn but the object was gone by the time he completed the turn.
- The event lasted no longer than 2 seconds by the witness' estimate.
- The witness spent the next twenty minutes thinking about the sighting and verifying it was not a reflection in his windshield.
- The witness then mentioned he was prompted to report his sighting based on a 18 September 1952 Newark Evening news article describing a flaming object that hovered a town for twenty minutes.

Analysis

The record card mentions that this could be a meteor but the change in direction seemed to rule out this possibility. I disagree. The change in direction is what the pilot perceived. This was an observation that, based on the estimate of the pilot, was only two seconds in duration. That seems like a short period of time to observe details and get them correct. If he saw a meteor, it might appear to be descending towards him in a collision but the meteor would actually pass over his aircraft. The change in direction would be a perception issue and not an actual physical change in direction. Based on the description, the meteor went from NE to SW.

A search of the newspaper archive reveals that there was a fireball meteor seen between 7 and 8 PM on September 12th (see next page).^{4,5,6,7} It was visible in Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee. Its motion was towards the west and many people described it as very bright. The time of the meteor, the direction of travel, and the area of visibility seem to match what the witness reported. The only difference is the date. It is important to point out that the pilot submitted his report on the 23rd, ten days after the event. It is possible the witness may have gotten the date incorrect in his letter.

Conclusion

This event should be listed as a "possible meteor" with the chance of it being "probable" if we assume the date listed was incorrect and what was seen was the September 12 fireball. We cannot be sure if he got the date wrong but, based on the similarities of the observed meteor on the 12th, it is plausible. In either case, the observation was characteristic of a bright meteor and it should be removed from the listed of unidentifieds and the Weinstein list.

Notes and references

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Strange Sky Object Viewed By Many People In This Area

People all over this area saw the unusual fiery object that floated across the northern sky about 7 o'clock Friday night. Most of them professed to believe that it was a meteor and they failed to pay much attention to the popular idea of flying saucers.

Howard P. Rinehart, who is associated with The Evening Telegram, said he saw the phenomenon quite plainly. Mitchell Russ, ACL fireman, said he saw it from the cab of his engine in the vicinity of Fayetteville. When he returned home to Rocky Mount his wife reported that she also had seen it. W. H. Stevens, the engineer, also a Rocky Mount resident, witnessed the spectacle with Russ.

Joe Newman, filling station attendant, said he saw the flaming object slowly wend its way across the sky. Several others in Rocky Mount also said they saw it. All agreed that it was moving from east to west and that it was almost as brilliant as the sun. Most said they thought it was of a bluish-greenish hue.

An Arcola farmer putting in hay was amazed but not excited when he witnessed what appeared to him to be "a bright meteor" at dusk dark Friday.

Residents of four states from Maryland to Tennessee viewed a fiery object as it streaked through a clear night sky, but descriptions were varied. Some identified the ball of fire as "a flying saucer," while others thought of it more as "a big star" or "a flaming jet plane."

Radar screens in Washington failed to pick up a blip to record the passing of the object.

said here Saturday afternoon it was sometime before 8 p. m. when he noticed the unusual object in the region of the North Star. "It looked like it would have hit the ground in the northwest if it had reached that far."

Hunter said the object travelled slowly enough to enable him to call his father's attention to it. Hunter's son and two neighbors in the same distance field from the barn also witnessed the streak of fire.

What did it look like? "It was like a bright meteor—brighter than any I've ever seen before. It was almost as wide as the moon when the moon's up in the sky and it was about five times as long. And it had a short tapered tail."

Hunter feels that he probably would have seen the light from the object even with his back turned. As it happened, however, he was looking directly at the object as it streaked towards the earth. Just as it went out of sight, some distance above the horizon, Hunter said there was a shower of sparks.

Arcola is located on NC 43 between Rocky Mount and Warren-ton.

A weather bureau observer indicated the object was a meteor, although at Kingsport, Tenn., the fiery streak set off a fruitless search for a wrecked plane. Official observers at both military and civilian airports in four states expressed the belief that the object was a meteor.

Radar screens in Washington failed to pick up a blip to record the passing of the object.

Lots Of People Refuse To Accept Flaming Object In Sky As Meteor

A lot of people around here aren't satisfied with the meteor explanation of that strange thing that flashed across the sky Friday night.

"When lots of people see something strange, they tell us it's a meteor. If only a few people see something they tell us it's imagination." That's the way disgruntled observers summed up the situation. One woman who had called the Herald Friday night to report the flash in the sky phoned a second time, a half-hour later. After thinking it over, she had decided that no meteor could have been so bright without making a crash or landing nearby.

Leroy Mowen, 1336 Fairchild Avenue, gave the Herald the most detailed account of the thing in the sky. He had a perfect view, because he was driving slowly in this direction, from Fayetteville, Pa., when the whalchamacallit tore across the sky.

Mowen said that a magazine recently published a new theory of flying saucers which claimed that they are occasionally caused to explode by whoever controls them. The sight Friday night tallied exactly with the magazine's description of an exploded flying saucer, he said.

There's one certain thing. The thing, if it landed at all, didn't come down around here, even though some local observers were sure it must have crashed just beyond the nearest hill. It was also seen in the southern sky as far away as Kingsport, Tenn., Front Royal, Va., and Wheeling, W. Va., which means that it couldn't have landed north of those cities.

SURGEON DIES

Chestertown, Md., Sept. 14 (A.P.)—Dr. Anthony George Retina, nationally known Baltimore surgeon and urologist, died at a hospital near his summer home here yesterday. He was 79.

QUALITY AT LOW COST!

Bond's Wines. All sizes. At better stores in Hagerstown. Adv.

'Object' Stirs Dixie States

BALTIMORE — (A.P.) — A fiery object that streaked through the night sky with a "great greenish-white light" stirred "flying saucer" talk among residents of four states from Maryland to Tennessee.

Weather Bureau observers here saw the object but made no official report of it. One observer, who wished to remain anonymous, said it probably was a meteor.

The streak of fire first was reported over Baltimore shortly after dusk. In quick succession came reports from the west from Frederick, Hagerstown and Cumberland, Md., and Charleston, Wheeling and Parkersburg, W. Va.

Washington viewports flooded the Weather Bureau, Naval Observatory and even the Pentagon there with calls.

No blips showed on Washington area radar screens to record the object's passing.

Persons throughout Virginia saw what they variously described as "a big star," "a flying saucer" and something "like a flaming jet plane."

They said it ranged in color from pale yellow to greenish and reddish and was noiseless. It moved from east to west.

Human Interest

Sidelights and Comments on Happenings Out of the Ordinary.

YOUNGSTERS ON WEST SIDE SEE STRANGE 'OBJECT' IN SKY

"I was just reading The Courier this afternoon (Saturday) and saw that story about flying saucers," said Mrs. Edward Wandel of 109 South Fourth street to a member of the newspaper's reportorial staff in a telephone conversation. Then she went on: "My daughter saw that object too. But we thought she must have seen a falling star or a meteor and gave it no more thought. Now that I am reading the paper I guess she saw the same thing these other people did."

Mrs. Wandel explained:

"The children and I were sitting on the front porch. Suddenly my daughter Margie, she's nine years old, said, 'O-o-h look, Mommy,' but I paid no particular attention. Then she said she had seen some 'large' object traveling through the sky and I just guessed maybe it was a shooting star. She replied, 'no it wasn't Mommy, I know what they look like and this wasn't one of them.' Another youngster, Catherine Ann Lipovsky, who lives on Third street, was also with us and she also saw the object. In fact, she is the one who called Catherine Ann's attention to it. They said it fell 'behind the foundry' (the Woodward Foundry in North Sixth street) and one of them cried out, 'let's go see if we can find it.'"

The "flying saucer" story also brought another communication to this office—a written one. It was an ignore mail that has no signature, this letter makes good reading, it has nothing "fanciful" about it, and probably speaks for some others who saw the "thing" Friday evening.

The letter says:

"I am writing in response to your article about that 'flying saucer'. My friend and I were walking on Breakneck road sometime between 8 and 8:30. (It was Friday night). My friend remarked about how bright this one particular star looked. As he watched it, it suddenly grew brighter and brighter, then suddenly seemed to explode. He shouted, 'Holy Moses, look, a meteor'. I turned and saw a flaming 'white object' hurtling through the sky. It looked to be going quite fast, but I couldn't be sure. The scene lasted about six seconds. Then it either went out of sight, exploded, or went back to the moon or wherever the centrifugation came from. I can be SURE that it was definitely not a 'flying saucer'. I agree with the police about it being a meteor."

"I am not sending in my name or my friend's name because my friends would laugh at me. But believe me, every word of this is true. You can print this if you wish or throw it away, but it was no 'flying saucer'."

[town-pa-blank-page-1-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations](#)

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Project Blue Book case review: January-September 1968

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering January through September 1968. 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. Items marked with red highlighting had photographs in the case file.

January 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jan	Elizabeth City, NC	Confusing data	Agreed. 18-year old writing to Blue Book describing multiple sightings but there was not enough information to evaluate them and some of the information was not clear.
1	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloons.
2	Castle Rock, CO	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloons.
5	Osgood, IN	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
7	Bourbon, MO	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness wrote letter describing multiple UFO reports. Police officer went to witness' home and observed many airplanes. Witness felt at least one was a UFO.
8	Hawaii	Jupiter	Agreed
10	Eaton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter. Witness called in sighting to duty officer but did not return report form. Duty officer's notes on sighting indicate object was in East and visible for 20 minutes. Jupiter was in that direction.
10	Newburgh, NJ	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloons.
10	Islip Terrace, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter, which did not contain any positional data. Witness did not return report forms.
11	Mayville, OR	Sirius	Agreed
12	Miller, PA	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella. 13-year old.
12	Westport, CT	Aircraft	Agreed. 18-year old.
14	Torrance, CA	Aircraft	Agreed. 11-year old.
15	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
16	Canaan, NH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report submitted in December 1968 and did not contain sufficient information for evaluation.
20	Portland, ME	Unreliable report	Agreed. 9-year old. Mother indicated he had an active imagination.
23	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed.
23-4	Edwards AFB, CA	Balloon with light	Agreed
24	Calhoun Co., MI	Satellite decay	Possible aircraft
24	Annapolis, MD	Reflection of Searchlight	Agreed.
25	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Sirius. Witness called duty officer but did not fill out form. Visible for 25 minutes and Officer's notes indicate what was seen was possibly Sirius.
25	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Sirius. Witness called duty officer but did not fill out form. Visible for 15 minutes and Officer's notes indicate what was seen was possibly Sirius.
27	Upper Darby, PA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. 14-year old.
27	100 mi. W. of Milwaukee, WI	Bolide	Agreed
27	OH, KY, VA	Meteor	Agreed
30	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Light briefly seen at 8AM. Possible reflection of aircraft from sunrise.

February 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Feb	Fostroia, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed. Letter written by teen/tween describing they had seen 9 UFOs in the past month with very little in the way of details. Witness requested forms and forms were sent. Witness did not return forms.
Feb	Miami, FL	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
Feb	Cincinnati, OH	Meteor	Agreed. Witness was teen/tween, who woke up at night and saw objects that sounded like meteors.
2 or 3	Vista, CA	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloons.
4	Redlands, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Medway, OH	Insufficient data	Venus. Witness did not return form but duty officer was thorough enough to get positional data and enough information for evaluation.
4	Appleton, WI	Aircraft	Agreed. 13-year old
4	Dayton, OH	Arcturus	Agreed
5	Maysville, KY	Arcturus	Agreed
6	Edwards AFB, CA	Jupiter	Agreed
6	Miamisburg, OH	Altair	Venus
6	Fayetteville, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Toledo, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter but form was never returned. Data in letter not clear on positional data
6	Walker, MN	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter. Witness' report is confusing. They saw the object several times while driving around in car to different locations over a 30 minute period. Witness described it as stationary but slowly increasing in elevation over time. Object was usually observed in NE. Jupiter rising in ENE.
7	Jeffersonville, Bowersville, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Sirius.
7	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Pageos 1. 12-year olds
9	Groveton, MO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Clewiston, FL	Conflicting data	Possibly Echo 2. Witnesses disagreed on what was seen/not seen. 14-year old.
14	Garden City, MI	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2
15	Norfolk, MA	Aircraft	Agreed. 10-year old.
16	Citrus Heights, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Echo 1. 12-year old
17-18	Miami, FL	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloons.
18	Lyndhurst, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness, who appeared to be a tween/teen, sent letter stating they saw a UFO. Form sent but not returned.
20,21	Avon, NY	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness made report of multiple sightings centered around sightings he, and his family, had while driving south through NC and Florida. All could be classified as possible/probable aircraft.
23	Evansville, IL	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1. 14-year old
23	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloons.
25	Waco, TX	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1
26	Irvington, NY	Balloon	Agreed

March 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Mar or Apr	Dayton, OH	Conflicting data	Agreed. 14-year old, when filling out report form, gave different date/time than that given to duty officer on initial report.
Mar	Wilmington, DE	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
1	Albuquerque, NM	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
1	Rosburg, OH	Satellite	Insufficient data. Witness reported they saw an object on this date that looked like Zond IV re-entry. Nothing in Molczan's database and there was no other information in note.
2	Fryeburg, ME	Conflicting data	NO CASE FILE
3	Northeastern US	Satellite decay	Agreed. Zond IV (See Molczan)
3	Austin, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not return report form after making verbal report.
3	Between Corpus Christi and Robstown, TX	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness had made reports in past and classified as unreliable.
3	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Worthington, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Davenport, IA	V: Unreliable report P: Insufficient data	V: Agreed. Witness gave varying accounts of event. P: Possible hoax. Witness did not provide original Polaroid. Object in photograph looks like photograph of something close.
4	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Limited information in file regarding sighting.
4	Fairborn, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Arcturus, Procyon, Jupiter, and Capella.
4	Bay City, MI	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
5	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness stated there was no moon or stars but sky conditions were only Cirrus clouds and moon was visible. Duty officer suggested witness sounded like they were intoxicated.
5	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. 13-year old stating his friend saw UFO and he thought he saw it too.
6	Amarillo, TX	Aircraft	Multiple sightings. 0530 sighting possible satellite (Apollo module 1468). 0630 sighting possibly Venus. 0700 sighting possible aircraft.
6	Centerville, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Possibly Jupiter.
6	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. 16-year old.
6	Tarentum, PA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 14-year old.
6	Pleasant Valley, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. 17-year old.
6	Traverse City, MI	Stars/Planets	NO CASE FILE
7	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
7	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witness saw two objects going east.
13	Salem, OH	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. Conflicting due to differences in details (duration and distance from observer) between initial report and final report.
13	Cincinnati, OH	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Agreed
14	Newark, OH	Balloon	Agreed. 18-year old.
14	Aiken, SC	Insufficient data	Agreed. 12-year old.
15 or 22	Dayton, OH	Processing Aberration	NO CASE FILE

17	New Port Richie, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter on May 31 and only gave vague details of sighting.
17	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness called base and duty officer unable to obtain pertinent details.
18	New Carlisle, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. It is possible these were stars Sirius and Rigel.
19	Miamisburg, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
19	Wilson, OH	Hoax	Agreed. 12-year old says a UFO burned his jacket.
19	Minden, NE	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report was a letter with pertinent details missing.
21	Winston-Salem, NC	Unreliable report	Possibly Cosmos 44. Witness classified as unreliable because they had reported multiple UFOs as part of a class UFO study group and was 13-years old.
23	Sandia Mtns, NM		NO CASE FILE
23	Atlantic	Satellite Decay	Agreed. Agena D (See Molczan)
24	Wiggins, MS	Psychological	Unreliable report. Witness was 20-year old who saw a saucer flying at 10-12,000 mph but visible for ten minutes.
24	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Aiken, SC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness just described seeing light. When asked for more information, witness responded in letter stating they had already given all the information they had. They also accused AF of knowing what UFOs really were.
25	Jackson Gap, AL	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness sent letter stating they had seen an object. Did not return form.
26	South Charleston, OH	Insufficient data	Echo-1 satellite. Record card states 5 objects but form only records one.
26	Colonia, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter stating they saw a UFO but never returned report form.
26	Dexter, MO	Satellite	Aircraft. No bright satellites visible with trajectory described.
28	Grand Valley, CO	Missile launch	Agreed. Athena missile launch from Green River.
29	Richmond, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness made phone call to base duty officer but officer was unable to obtain pertinent information. Witness did not return report form.

April 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Apr	Smithtown, NY	Meteor	Agreed
1	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Duty officer notes were adequate to make potential identification.
1	Frankfort, KY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
2	Foster, KY	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Agreed
4	Cochrane, WI	Moon	Agreed. Hynek felt it was unidentified but it is possible the moon was the source.
4	Shenandoah, IA	Mars	Possible aircraft landing lights. Direction was towards Offutt AFB (40 miles away) and aligned with airstrip. Mars unlikely at magnitude 1.47 to be misclassified as bright as full moon. 13-year old
5	Lynbrook, NY	Green Meteor	Agreed
6 & 13	Reynoldsville, PA	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Agreed. Helicopter with lights used for political candidate running for office.

8	Pottstown, PA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Youth stated he was camping in backyard with brother and cousin and saw a UFO on the ground. No other details given.
8	San Luis Obispo, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	St. Louis, MO	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon. 9-year old.
9	Dayton, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Sirius.
10	Chicago Ridge, IL	Insufficient data	Probably Sirius
12	Warren, OH	Meteors	Agreed. Witness reported sighting multiple short duration lights that lasted only 3-4 seconds each.
12	Bronx, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
12	Littleton, CO	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
12	Cape Neddick, ME	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Youngstown, OH	Insufficient data	Meteor
15	Greenville, OH	Satellite Decay	NO CASE FILE (no decay in Molczan's list)
15	West Carrollton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Cosmos 158 rocket
16	Gastonia, NC	Satellite	Agreed. Echo1. 15-year old.
16-19	Winona, MS	Unreliable report	Stars. Probably Sirius, Rigel, and Capella.
17	Mandan, ND	V: Meteor PS: Ordinary metal	V: Agreed PS: Agreed
19	Atlantic	Satellite debris	Agreed. Cosmos 213 RB (see Molczan)
19	Natrona, PA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo1. 15-year old.
20	Cincinnati, OH	Jupiter	Agreed. 12-year old.
20	Springfield, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo1.
21	New Mexico	No classification	Possible meteor. 16-year old.
21	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
23	San Bernardino, CA	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
23	Pacific	Satellite	NO CASE FILE
25	Wabasha, MN	Balloon	Satellite. Echo 1
25	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported two sightings to duty officer, who obtained some information. Form sent but returned stating the address did not exist.
26	Palo Alto, CA	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
27	Arcanum, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo 1. Duty officer notes indicates west to east motion over 10 minutes. Echo1 made pass during this time. Witness never filled out report form.

May 1968

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
May	Columbia, SC	P: Water spots	Agreed
2	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
2	Covington, KY	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
4	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
8	Garrett, IN	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. 15-year old.
9	Vandalia, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
9	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
12	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
12-18	Bowler, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed no specific date given. Witness reported in letter dated December 1968.

14	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
14	Albuquerque, NM	No classification	Possible aircraft
14	New Mexico	No classification	Appears to be same sighting as Albuquerque.
18	Clewiston, FL	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness making report of multiple UFOs with no specifics. During time of report, Echo 1 and Echo 2 satellites (in addition to several others) were visible. This is same witness who made a report on 9 February. 14-year old.
20	Duluth, MN	Balloon	Agreed
31	Near Philippines	Meteor	NO CASE FILE
31	Wyoming, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.

June 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jun	Reliance, WY	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	V: Agreed. No information about sighting. P: Agreed. The image is little more than a point source of light. NOTE: Witness refused to make a detailed report or submit the negatives unless they were properly studied. The photos were submitted to Condon but Condon responded the study was closed and finishing their final report.
4	East Northport, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 54
4	Centerville, OH	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
8	Brooklyn, NY	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness appeared young and gave no details of their sighting. Photograph was determined to be an object on negative holder since the UFO appeared in the same location and orientation while the field of view changed in the two images.
9	Milton-Freewater, OR	Aircraft	Agreed.
11	Fairborn, OH	Sun Spot	Agreed. Hynek identified it as potential sunspot
12	Oak Lawn, IL	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
13	Wilmington, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Two observers gave a slightly different description of course but overall description are consistent with aircraft. 18-year olds.
13	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Havertown, PA	Insufficient data	Possible fire balloon. 10-year old.
14	Sterling, ID	Capella	Agreed
16	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
17	Brandenton, FL	Satellite decay	Meteor
18	Ashland, WI	Aerial flares	Agreed
18 or 19	Rocky, OK	Conflicting data	UNIDENTIFIED. Listed as Conflicting data because one witness confused dates as 18th while other concluded it was the 19th. It is possible this was an observation of Centaur Rocket Body. Some of comments made by witness in Hynek interview about moon position made one question accuracy of their recall of events. 16 and 18-year old. Despite the inconsistencies and potential explanation, I list this as UNIDENTIFIED.
19	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Indianapolis, IN	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witnesses sent letter that was not as detailed as it should have been to make an analysis.

21	Flushing Queens, NY	Insufficient data	Possible Hoax. Blue Book listed this as insufficient data since the photo analysis group wanted more information about the photographs. Images look like double exposure or reflections on pane of glass. The UFOs do not match the lighting conditions and appear to have a transparent look to them.
21	Walbash, IL	Conflicting data	Possibly satellites Echo 2 and Cosmos 58 rocket body.
22 Jun-Jul	Dayton, OH	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Agreed
22	Marietta, OH	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft (conflicting because letter and report form do not agree). 12-year old.
23	Rego Park, NY	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. 13-year old proclaiming they have seen many UFOs.
24	Cleveland, OH	Unreliable report	Possible Echo 2 sighting. Witness reporting multiple sightings and cars parking near her home.
24	Davenport, IA	V: Hoax P: Small man-made object	V: Agreed. 18-year old P: Agreed
26	Wausau, WI	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
26	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
28	Auburn, WA	Satellite	Agreed. Cosmos 103RB
30	New Albany, IN	Aircraft	Agreed

July 1968

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
Jul	Bellbrook, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Case is just a single letter with very little information.
Jul	Tolland, MA	Conflicting data	Possible sighting of Pageos 1. Witness gave two different dates (July 1 in letter and 5 on report form) for sighting, which is why it was classified conflicting data. However, Pageos 1 was in the same approximate location on both dates moving slowly north. Witness indicated object was in the same location over two minute period. This is typical of Pageos 1 satellite. 12-year old.
Jul	Thousand Palms, CA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Hynek wrote on the record card that the report did not inspire confidence. Witness filled out two forms because he had seen two different UFOs on two different occasions. Second record card indicates that this observer sees too many UFOs. 17-year old.
Jul-Aug	Brooklyn, NY	Unreliable report	Agreed. Multiple Teenagers reporting UFOs. Many of the reports appeared to be exaggerations/hoaxes.
Jul or Aug	Dayton, OH	Conflicting data	Possible sighting of Centaur Rocket Body. Witness indicated it would be appear every other night.
1	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witness was on bike and saw object to north. 14-year old.
1	Shephardsville, KY	Insufficient data	Satellite. Echo 2.
1	Near New Philadelphia, OH	Paper in wind	Agreed. Winds gusting at time of sighting and description indicated an object that was erratically moving, small and had varying shapes.
2	Tucson, AZ	Balloon	Agreed
2	Pennsylvania, Ohio	Meteor	Agreed
3	Kingsville, OH	Satellite	Aircraft. 14-year old
6	Clayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time. Witness did not return report form.

6	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time given.
7	Medford, OR	Conflicting data	Possible meteor. Data conflicting because witness' position plots indicate stationary object but description and sketches indicate motion over significant part of sky.
7	Woodridge, NY	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2. 15-year old.
7	New Britain, CT	Stars/planets	NO CASE FILE
8	Jonston, RI	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
8	Andover, MA	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 44 rocket body. 14-year old.
11	South Zainesville, OH	Lightning bugs	Agreed. 13-year old.
11	Eielson AFB, AK	V: Moon R: Anomalous Propagation	V: Agreed R: Agreed
12	Thousand Palms, CA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Second sighting by 17-year old from July Thousand Palms sighting. No time listed.
12	Ft. Benning, GA	Insufficient data	Probably Cosmos 192 rocket body.
12	Omaha, NE	Aircraft	Echo 2 satellite
17	Springfield, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Cosmos 58 Rocket Body
18	Mt. Angel, OR	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Object was overhead and witnesses in moving vehicle making detailed observations difficult.
19	Lima, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter describing multiple lights while at a drive-in. No specifics other than time are in the letter. In the report form, the positional data is missing and witness mentioned one sighting over an hour period and did not give specific time of the sighting. Echo 2 and Pageos 1 made passes during this time period and could have been source of the sighting.
20	Huntington, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Witness appeared young and time can be associated with Echo 2, Cosmos 44, and Cosmos 103 rocket body passes.
20	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
20	Litchfield, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made second hand from local fire station that received report. No form completed and no direction given in report from fire station.
20	Springfield, MA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2
20	Yellow Springs, OH	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloon.
20	Seven Hills, OH	Possible reflection of sunlight from aircraft	Agreed. 14-year old.
21	Garfield, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 184
23	Southampton, NY	V: Conflicting data P: Small man-made object PS: Pumice like glass	V: Hoax. Photograph indicates a hoax. P: Agreed PS: Agreed
26	Bridge City, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Young individual saw object in sky for 12 minutes but then fell asleep. No positional data or specific time listed other than it was early morning.
28	Cuming County, NE	Plasma	Possible daylight meteor
28	Attanista, VA	Moon	Agreed

28	Iowa City, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Pottstown, PA	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
28	Sierra Vista, AZ	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported via letter and never filled out form. Not enough details in letter. 17-year old
28	Chicago, IL	Satellites	No case file. Pageos 1, Echo 2, Cosmos 44, Cosmos 103 Rocket all visible that evening.
29	Northridge, OH	Insufficient data	Echo 2
29	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Echo 2
29	Medway, OH	Insufficient data	Echo 2
30	Binghamton, NY	Insufficient data	Possible Echo 2 pass. 16-year old
31	Bridge City, TX	Satellite	Agreed. Probably Echo 2.
31	Boise, ID	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
31	Antigo, WI	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2

August 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Aug	Hopewell Junction, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. 16-year old submitting report in December of 1968. In letter, witness could not determine month (July or August) but when form was returned, they wrote "about 11 August".
Aug	Folcroft, PA	Conflicting data	Agreed. Witness said they submitted initial report to NASA on 28 August but listed sighting as 31 August. 14-year old.
Aug	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness had multiple sightings. Some had no dates or specifics.
1	Winona, MS	Unreliable report	NO CASE FILE
2	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1
2	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
3	Lynchburg, VA	Satellite	NO CASE FILE
3	Jeffersonville, IN	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
3	Talladega, AL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
5	San Angelo, TX	Insufficient data	Probably Pegasus 2 satellite
9	Selma, CA	Aircraft	Agreed. 15-year old.
10	Tuscon, AZ	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
11	Port Orchard, WA	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
11	Pound Ridge, NY	Debris in wind	Agreed. Possibly a small balloon.
12	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 220RB
12	Dayton, OH	Stars	NO CASE FILE
13	Albuquerque, NM	No classification	Possibly Echo 2 satellite
14	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 151
15	Yellow Springs, OH	Moon	Agreed
16	Craig AFB, AL	Rocket launch	Agreed. Poseidon missile launch from Cape Canaveral
16-7	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. 13-year old
17	Dayton, KY	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Agreed
19	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Antares
19	Moatsville, WV	Capella	Agreed
20	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Contrails
20	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Saturn

20	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 156
20	West Carrollton, OH	Insufficient data	Probably Arcturus
20	Middletown, OH	Insufficient data	Probably Arcturus
21	Ottsville, PA	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not complete photograph form or sighting form. BB would not analyze without more data. The Photograph looks like it might have been staged. The UFO is just a blob of light and the individuals in the photograph appear to be reacting to it.
21	Robstown, TX	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness making reports of multiple UFOs be observed over time. Saw an object only visible with binoculars described as moving fast but it was visible for twenty minutes in initial letter. Witness stated 2 hours in report form. It is possible they saw Echo 2.
21	Freeville, NY	V: Conflicting data P: Frisbees	Report is conflicting regarding directions between initial report and report form. 15-year old. Objects do appear to be Frisbees, or some other objects thrown in air. The two objects are no more than lines in the photograph with little shape visible.
21-7	Yakima, WA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Multiple sightings by 11-year old over the listed time period.
25	Rocky Hill, CT	Conflicting data	NO CASE FILE
26	Colorado Springs, CO	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
26	Waterloo, IA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
28	East Brunswick, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not give time of observation.
28	Athens, OH	Conflicting data	Possibly Cosmos 54. Witness reported to duty officer. When form returned, it contained a completely different sighting on 25 September, which could have been Pegasus 2. 14-year old.
28	Yorba Linda, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter but never returned report form.
28	Camarillo, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
29	Miamisburg, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 158 rocket body. 13-year old.
29	Atlanta, LA	Conflicting data	Agreed. In initial report witness indicated they were in Georgia but when returning form, they indicated they were in Louisiana. 14-year old.
29	Bristol, VA	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloon.
29	Natrona, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness appeared to be young and gave data but not enough for evaluation. Witness stated object did not turn but also stated object went from East to West and then went west to east. It is possible they confused two different events into one.
30	Near Grissom AFB, IN	1. Aircraft 2. Aircraft	Agreed
30	Hamilton, OH	Moon	Agreed

September 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Sep	Monrovia, CA	Psychological	Agreed. After describing sighting, witness then mentioned it was a Venusian ship Adamaski had seen and they had seen two Venusians walking around Los Angeles and they were 6-7 feet tall with blonde hair.
1	San Francisco, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter stating they saw a UFO but no other information and did not return form.

4	Blanchester, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness called duty officer to report seeing a bright light that moved very fast. He also reported it was visible for 15 minutes. Witness did not fill out/return report form.
5	Albuquerque, NM	No classification	NO CASE FILE
6	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness called to report his daughter saw and photographed a UFO. Forms sent but not returned.
6	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
6	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. 11-year old
6-7	Charlestown, IN	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Witness wrote letter describing multiple UFOs seen over two years. Mentioned that objects look star-like but if one stares long enough, one can determine which "stars" are UFOs and which are not because they "cavort" about. Description of event on the 6th is consistent with star.
7	Brooklyn, NY	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
7	Aiken, SC	Insufficient data	Agreed. No forms completed by witnesses. Message did not contain enough information. It is possible the object(s) seen were prank fire balloons.
10	Miami, FL	Insufficient data	Witness took time exposure and did not see UFO. Object visible in photograph after developing. No negative submitted. Object is an internal reflection from exterior light on house
10	Las Vega, NV	Stars/planets	Agreed. Probably Vega.
11	Green Bay, WI	Balloon	Possibly Cosmos 58 or Cosmos 58 Rocket body
11	Memphis, TN	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
13	Huntington, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 12-year old.
14	Kewonna, IN	Arcturus	Agreed
15	Ocala, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Nellis AFB, NV	Balloon	Agreed
18	Silver Springs, MD	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness wrote about other UFO sightings over the years in the comments section of report form.
19	New Mexico	No classification	NO CASE FILE
19 or 30	Dayton, OH	Conflicting data	Arcturus. 13-year old called duty officer on the 30th reporting UFO. When form was returned, witness stated it was on 19 September. Both reports contained essentially the same positional data allowing for identifying the object.
20	Waynesboro, PA	Aircraft	Agreed. It is also possible that Echo 2 and Cosmos 151 were involved. Witness reported multiple objects going from SW to NE.
20	Ewa Beach, HI	Unreliable report	Possible balloon. Witness saw a small object that went behind a cloud. 12-year old.
21	Boothbay Harbor, ME	Arcturus	Agreed
24	Greenville, NY	Conflicting data	Agreed. Witness switched directions between letter and report form. Additionally, witness stated they were looking at moon with telescope but moon had set over two hours before sighting. Witness gave no age but appeared to be young
25	Near Santa Barbara, CA	Insufficient data	Possible Atlas rocket launch from Vandenberg. Witness saw object that had characteristics of Vandenberg launch. Atlas missile launch on this date but no time available. Sighting was at 4:30 AM. Evening edition of Oakland Tribune on September 25 mentioned launch indicating launch was in the morning. Photograph of launch shows it was in darkness.

26	Winston-Salem, NC	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness wrote letter reporting seeing multiple UFOs over the years including a when crashing into the ground near their home.
27	Presque Isle, ME	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report phoned in but no details recorded. Form not returned.
27	Morgantown, WV	Conflicting data	Possibly Arcturus. Witness reported to NW in initial report but changed location to SE in report form (completed 12 days later).
27	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported stationary black object to the south for 30 minutes. No other information available to clarify how large the object was and if optical aid was used to determine shape or if there were any lights attached to object.
27	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
27	Milwaukee, WI	Balloon	NO CASE FILE
28	Dayton, OH		Photos showing lights. Insufficient data.
29	Staten Island, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report was just a letter from witness stating they saw a UFO with a brief description of what it looked like. No form was returned.
30	Memphis, TN	Unreliable report	Conflicting data. Witness filed report form giving the date as 22 October but made initial report in letter stating date was 30 September. Data for 30 September was insufficient for evaluation. No positional data.

Reclassification

I evaluated 274 cases in the Blue Book files from January through September of 1968. In my opinion, 98 were improperly classified (about 36%). 52 (about 19% of the total number of cases/53% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient data". This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
1/10	Eaton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter. Witness called in sighting to duty officer but did not return report form. Duty officer's notes on sighting indicate object was in East and visible for 20 minutes. Jupiter was in that direction.
1/12	Miller, PA	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella. 13-year old.
1/24	Calhoun Co., MI	Satellite decay	Possible aircraft
1/25	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Sirius. Witness called duty officer but did not fill out form. Visible for 25 minutes and Officer's notes indicate what was seen was possibly Sirius.
1/25	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Sirius. Witness called duty officer but did not fill out form. Visible for 15 minutes and Officer's notes indicate what was seen was possibly Sirius.
1/27	Upper Darby, PA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. 14-year old.
1/30	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Light briefly seen at 8AM. Possible reflection of aircraft from sunrise.
2/4	Medway, OH	Insufficient data	Venus. Witness did not return form but duty officer was thorough enough to get positional data and enough information for evaluation.
2/6	Miamisburg, OH	Altair	Venus

2/6	Walker, MN	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter. Witness' report is confusing. They saw the object several times while driving around in car to different locations over a 30 minute period. Witness described it as stationary but slowly increasing in elevation over time. Object was usually observed in NE. Jupiter rising in ENE.
2/9	Clewiston, FL	Conflicting data	Possibly Echo 2. Witnesses disagreed on what was seen/not seen. 14-year old.
2/16	Citrus Heights, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Echo 1. 12-year old
2/20,21	Avon, NY	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness made report of multiple sightings centered around sightings he, and his family, had while driving south through NC and Florida. All could be classified as possible/probable aircraft.
3/1	Rosburg, OH	Satellite	Insufficient data. Witness reported they saw an object on this date that looked like Zond IV re-entry. Nothing in Molczan's database and there was no other information in note.
3/3	Between Corpus Christi and Robstown, TX	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness had made reports in past and classified as unreliable.
3/4	Davenport, IA	V: Unreliable report P: Insufficient data	V: Agreed. Witness gave varying accounts of event. P: Possible hoax. Witness did not provide original Polaroid. Object in photograph looks like photograph of something close.
3/6	Amarillo, TX	Aircraft	Multiple sightings. 0530 sighting possible satellite (Apollo module 1468). 0630 sighting possibly Venus. 0700 sighting possible aircraft.
3/6	Tarentum, PA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 14-year old.
3/7	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
3/7	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witness saw two objects going east.
3/13	Salem, OH	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. Conflicting due to differences in details (duration and distance from observer) between initial report and final report.
3/21	Winston-Salem, NC	Unreliable report	Possibly Cosmos 44. Witness classified as unreliable because they had reported multiple UFOs as part of a class UFO study group and was 13-years old.
3/24	Wiggins, MS	Psychological	Unreliable report. Witness was 20-year old who saw a saucer flying at 10-12,000 mph but visible for ten minutes.
3/25	Jackson Gap, AL	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness sent letter stating they had seen an object. Did not return form.
3/26	South Charleston, OH	Insufficient data	Echo-1 satellite. Record card states 5 objects but form only records one.
3/26	Dexter, MO	Satellite	Aircraft. No bright satellites visible with trajectory described.
4/1	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Duty officer notes were adequate to make potential identification.
4/1	Frankfort, KY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
4/4	Shenandoah, IA	Mars	Possible aircraft landing lights. Direction was towards Offutt AFB (40 miles away) and aligned with airstrip. Mars unlikely at magnitude 1.47 to be misclassified as bright as full moon. 13-year old
4/8	Pottstown, PA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Youth stated he was camping in backyard with brother and cousin and saw a UFO on the ground. No other details given.
4/10	Chicago Ridge, IL	Insufficient data	Probably Sirius
4/12	Bronx, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft

4/12	Yongstown, OH	Insufficient data	Meteor
4/16-19	Winona, MS	Unreliable report	Stars. Probably Sirius, Rigel, and Capella.
4/25	Wabasha, MN	Balloon	Satellite. Echo 1
4/27	Arcanum, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo 1. Duty officer notes indicates west to east motion over 10 minutes. Echo1 made pass during this time. Witness never filled out report form.
5/8	Garrett, IN	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. 15-year old.
5/18	Clewiston, FL	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness making report of multiple UFOs with no specifics. During time of report, Echo 1 and Echo 2 satellites (in addition to several others) were visible. This is same witness who made a report on 9 February. 14-year old.
6/4	East Northport, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 54
6/4	Centerville, OH	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
6/8	Brooklyn, NY	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Witness appeared young and gave no details of their sighting. Photograph was determined to be an object on negative holder since the UFO appeared in the same location and orientation while the field of view changed in the two images.
6/13	Wilmington, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Two observers gave a slightly different description of course but overall description are consistent with aircraft. 18-year olds.
6/14	Havertown, PA	Insufficient data	Possible fire balloon. 10-year old.
6/17	Brandenton, FL	Satellite decay	Meteor
6/18 or 19	Rocky, OK	Conflicting data	UNIDENTIFIED. Listed as Conflicting data because one witness confused dates as 18th while other concluded it was the 19th. It is possible this was an observation of Centaur Rocket Body. Some of comments made by witness in Hynek interview about moon position made one question accuracy of their recall of events. 16 and 18-year old. Despite the inconsistencies and potential explanation, I list this as UNIDENTIFIED.
6/20	Indianapolis, IN	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witnesses sent letter that was not as detailed as it should have been to make an analysis.
6/21	Flushing Queens, NY	Insufficient data	Possible Hoax. Blue Book listed this as insufficient data since the photo analysis group wanted more information about the photographs. Images look like double exposure or reflections on pane of glass. The UFOs do not match the lighting conditions and appear to have a transparent look to them.
6/21	Walbash, IL	Conflicting data	Possibly satellites Echo 2 and Cosmos 58 rocket body.
6/22	Marietta, OH	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft (conflicting because letter and report form do not agree). 12-year old.
6/23	Rego Park, NY	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. 13-year old proclaiming they have seen many UFOs.
6/24	Cleveland, OH	Unreliable report	Possible Echo 2 sighting. Witness reporting multiple sightings and cars parking near her home.
6/24	Davenport, IA	V: Hoax P: Small man-made object	V: Agreed. 18-year old P: Agreed
6/28	Auburn, WA	Satellite	Agreed. Cosmos 103RB

Jul	Tolland, MA	Conflicting data	Possible sighting of Pageos 1. Witness gave two different dates (July 1 in letter and 5 on report form) for sighting, which is why it was classified conflicting data. However, Pageos 1 was in the same approximate location on both dates moving slowly north. Witness indicated object was in the same location over two minute period. This is typical of Pageos 1 satellite. 12-year old.
Jul or Aug	Dayton, OH	Conflicting data	Possible sighting of Centaur Rocket Body. Witness indicated it would be appear every other night.
7/1	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witness was on bike and saw object to north. 14-year old.
7/1	Shephardsville, KY	Insufficient data	Satellite. Echo 2.
7/3	Kingsville, OH	Satellite	Aircraft. 14-year old
7/7	Medford, OR	Conflicting data	Possible meteor. Data conflicting because witness' position plots indicate stationary object but description and sketches indicate motion over significant part of sky.
7/8	Andover, MA	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 44 rocket body. 14-year old.
7/12	Thousand Palms, CA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. Second sighting by 17-year old from July Thousand Palms sighting. No time listed.
7/12	Ft. Benning, GA	Insufficient data	Probably Cosmos 192 rocket body.
7/12	Omaha, NE	Aircraft	Echo 2 satellite
7/18	Mt. Angel, OR	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Object was overhead and witnesses in moving vehicle making detailed observations difficult.
7/20	Yellow Springs, OH	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloon.
7/21	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 184
7/23	Southampton, NY	V: Conflicting data P: Small man-made object PS: Pumice like glass	V: Hoax. Photograph indicates a hoax. P: Agreed PS: Agreed
7/28	Cuming County, NE	Plasma	Possible daylight meteor
7/29	Northridge, OH	Insufficient data	Echo 2
7/29	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Echo 2
7/29	Medway, OH	Insufficient data	Echo 2
7/30	Binghamton, NY	Insufficient data	Possible Echo 2 pass. 16-year old
8/3	Talladega, AL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8/5	San Angelo, TX	Insufficient data	Probably Pegasus 2 satellite
8/12	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 220RB
8/14	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 151
8/16-7	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. 13-year old
8/19	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Antares
8/20	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Contrails
8/20	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Saturn
8/20	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 156
8/20	West Carrollton, OH	Insufficient data	Probably Arcturus
8/20	Middletown, OH	Insufficient data	Probably Arcturus
8/26	Waterloo, IA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
8/28	Athens, OH	Conflicting data	Possibly Cosmos 54. Witness reported to duty officer. When form returned, it contained a completely different sighting on 25 September, which could have been Pegasus 2. 14-year old.

8/28	Camarillo, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
8/29	Miamisburg, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 158 rocket body. 13-year old.
8/29	Bristol, VA	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloon.
9/6-7	Charlestown, IN	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Witness wrote letter describing multiple UFOs seen over two years. Mentioned that objects look star-like but if one stares long enough, one can determine which "stars" are UFOs and which are not because they "cavort" about. Description of event on the 6th is consistent with star.
9/10	Miami, FL	Insufficient data	Witness took time exposure and did not see UFO. Object visible in photograph after developing. No negative submitted. Object is an internal reflection from exterior light on house.
9/11	Green Bay, WI	Balloon	Possibly Cosmos 58 or Cosmos 58 Rocket body
9/13	Huntington, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 12-year old.
9/18	Silver Springs, MD	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness wrote about other UFO sightings over the years in the comments section of report form.
9/19 or 30	Dayton, OH	Conflicting data	Arcturus. 13-year old called duty officer on the 30th reporting UFO. When form was returned, witness stated it was on 19 September. Both reports contained essentially the same positional data allowing for identifying the object.
9/20	Ewa Beach, HI	Unreliable report	Possible balloon. Witness saw a small object that went behind a cloud. 12-year old.
9/25	Near Santa Barbara, CA	Insufficient data	Possible Atlas rocket launch from Vandenberg. Witness saw object that had characteristics of Vandenberg launch. Atlas missile launch on this date but no time available. Sighting was at 4:30 AM. Evening addition of Oakland Tribune on September 25 mentioned launch indicating launch was in the morning. Photograph of launch shows it was in darkness.
9/27	Morgantown, WV	Conflicting data	Possibly Arcturus. Witness reported to NW in initial report but changed location to SE in report form (completed 12 days later).
9/30	Memphis, TN	Unreliable report	Conflicting data. Witness filed report form giving the date as 22 October but made initial report in letter stating date was 30 September. Data for 30 September was insufficient for evaluation. No positional data.

Summary

As I began to list the cases this issue, I quickly noticed that there was significant increase in the number of "Insufficient" and "conflicting" data cases. There also seemed to be an increase in "Unreliable" reports. At this point in time, the Condon committee was wrapping up their study and putting together a final report. It seems like the Blue Book staff was just tired of looking at cases where the witness sent them a letter and did not bother to fill out the form that was sent them. There were a lot of letters. A lot of these were from teens/tweens. Others were from people, who would ramble on and talk about various UFO observations or theories instead of sticking to facts. The large number of these types of classifications resulted in the increased number of reclassifications on my part. I can understand Blue Book's listing many of these cases as "insufficient information" but I felt that if there was enough information in the file, I should attempt to see if there is a potential explanation.

Satellites produced some reports. We got to say goodbye to Echo 1 as it re-entered the atmosphere in June of 1968. Echo 1 produced a lot of UFO reports while it was in orbit and Echo 2 continued to do so. The Echos were being replaced by a myriad of satellites and rocket bodies. Many of them were Soviet in origin.

Teens and Tweens continue to be a significant source of UFO reports. Out of all the reports 51 (about 19%) were known to have been made by individuals of 18-years or less. There were other cases, where the age was not known but could have been people that fell into this age group.

There continued to be a lot of files missing. There were 35 cases out of 309 that had no files (about 11%). I am not sure why this is the case but I noticed that, at one point, Blue Book asked Hynek to return some case files he had taken with him. This may mean

that the missing case files may have ended up in Dr. Hynek's, Dr. McDonald's, or the Colorado project's hands. They may have been borrowed but never returned. It is hard to say.

There were some cases from New Mexico that were hand written into the lists. Some were even given a case number listing with an "A" on the end. They had no classifications on the summary and no record card. I found some of them intermixed in other case files. Others I did not find. I am not sure why they were added to the monthly listing but it is strange.

Photographs continue to be less than compelling. Either they look like small objects thrown/suspended in front of the camera, double exposures, or are too blurry/small to evaluate. Over fifty years later, despite high quality cell phone cameras being readily available just about everywhere, we are still being treated to the same type of images.

I reclassified one case as Unidentified. This was the June 18/19 sighting from Rocky Oklahoma. I did not know what to make of the sighting. There was plenty of data to make a classification but Blue Book listed this as "conflicting data" because the witnesses got confused about the date. I could not really come up with an explanation but, it is my belief that it was just over active imaginations of young witnesses or possibly a hoax. The witnesses ran into the barn because they were afraid of the UFO. Considering the response of most UFO witnesses, I found that odd and made me wonder about the accuracy of what they reported seeing. Still, I can't label something based on a feeling and, because I could not come up with an adequate explanation, I labeled it "Unidentified". Maybe some reader might be able to look at the case and suggest a solution.

I should be able to finish up with the 1968-1969 files next issue. Then I can go back to the 1947-1952 time frame to finish up the Blue Book case review.

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