

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

The greatest derangement of the mind is to believe in something because one wishes it to be so.

Louis Pasteur

Volume 15 Number 6

November-December 2023



Cover: The latest in the line of satellites that are alarming astronomers. This is Blue Walker 3. It has an array of panels that cover an area of about 64 square meters. That makes it an incredibly large reflector. While reports have the satellite being as bright as magnitude 0, my photograph was taken when it was between 2nd and 3rd magnitude. I managed to catch it before the clouds interfered.

Left: Jaimie Maussan's latest publicity stunt involved alien mummies.

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Will NASA jump into the UAP quagmire?

The final report from the NASA panel was finally released. It was not that impressive and was more fluff than substance. It appeared to recommend that NASA dedicate resources to study UAPs. The panel made the following recommendation, "We recommend that NASA play a prominent role in the whole-of-government effort to understand UAP by leveraging its extensive expertise to contribute to a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that is rooted in the scientific method." It was then announced that Mark McNerney is going to be named "director of UAP research". McNerney seems to be a good choice in that he is a meteorologist and familiar with atmospheric phenomena. More importantly, he is not somebody who has had any ties with the UFO subject. My biggest fear is that NASA will become Blue Book version 3.0 (the current DOD program is evolving into Blue Book 2.0). Will they take reports, photographs, letters, etc. from every individual, who sees a strange light in the sky or will they set up instruments to try and obtain data on the subject? If it is the former, it will be a publicity nightmare. Every time somebody complains that NASA is not taking their sighting seriously or NASA explains a sighting as something mundane, UFO proponents will proclaim that NASA is part of the cover-up. If NASA plans on setting up sensors all over the country looking for UAP activity, I don't think it will capture anything significant. They currently have [a fireball network](#) that hasn't recorded anything unusual. Maybe more sophisticated sensors will but, based on past experience, I don't expect much. If they don't provide the "smoking gun", UFO proponents will just proclaim that UAP are avoiding or jamming these sensors or the sensors are not in the correct locations. At best, one can expect more inconclusive videos of lights or blurry objects just at the limits of resolution. In the end, the only thing that will be accomplished is the wasting of taxpayer's money to discover what is already known - UAP/UFOs are elusive to study and can be mostly explained by misinterpretation of man-made objects or natural phenomena.

[Jaimie Maussan is the P.T. Barnum of UFOlogy.](#) After promoting the Roswell slides and other hoaxes, he still continues to push the envelope of credulity. Maussan is now promoting alien mummies found in Peru! Promoting hoaxes is nothing new for him. My first recollections of Maussan's UFO promotions happened in the early 90s when he promoted videos of Venus, during a solar eclipse over Mexico City, as an alien spaceship. In the late 90s, he promoted an alien spaceship video over Mexico City, which turned out to be a hoax. One would think such failures would make him be a bit more skeptical but it did not. If he can get publicity and make a buck off it, he will promote it as absolute proof of aliens. Despite his abysmal track record, people still want to believe him. The man is a con artist and I would not trust him even if he had something that appeared to be compelling. In the end, it would probably be something manufactured to appear alien in nature. This is probably the case here and Maussan's claims of scientific verification is probably coming from the same individuals, who claimed the body in the Roswell slide was alien. Despite Maussan's track record, people are still buying it and are posting that this is the proof of alien bodies. I will believe it when Maussan has a respected scientific organization outside of his clique of individuals, who make a living out of promoting this sort of thing, verify they are indeed "not of this earth".

The claims of recovered alien spaceships are still part of the UFO rumor mill coming from "whistle blowers" with no convincing evidence presented to demonstrate their claims are true. Perhaps a spaceship will land on my front lawn over the holidays and put this all to rest. That would be news to discuss.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

December 26, 1999 Springfield Missouri¹

99.12.26	19:00LT	USA	Springfield, Missouri	A	one B-757 two pilots	one white lighted object passed the airliner at a distance of 2-5 miles.				10
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The source of this information is from George Filer. He used to post a digital bulletin called "Filer's files" and I found the information he published in his Filer's files #2 for 2000.

Source material

The Filer's file describes the event as:

MISSOURI UFO SPOTTED BY AIRLINE CREW

SPRINGFIELD -- While flying a B757 a commercial flight at 33,000 feet from LAX to CLT on December 26, 1999, the two pilots and two flight attendants were observing an earth satellite-passing overhead from the cockpit. It was well past sunset at about 7:00 PM CST. The earth satellite apparently flew into the terminator and disappeared while high overhead. The witness stated, "Within a moment or so, a white-lighted object overtook and passed us in fairly close proximity making at least 200 knots more than we were." Our airspeed was .80 Mach and our ground speed was 483 knots or 550mph. The object was first noted south of our west to east course at a distance estimated to be from about 2 to 5 miles. It appeared to be at nearly the same or a slightly higher altitude. The object showed only a bright white light that appeared to be slightly disturbed by turbulence, or very slightly pulsating. Its course appeared constant, as did its altitude. It passed us and faded rather quickly from sight in about forty seconds.

A query was made to Memphis Center ARRTC as to any possible traffic. The controller said he had nothing on his scope that could be what we saw. We saw nothing on our TCAS, set to observe other transponders within 4,000 feet of our altitude and within 20 miles of horizontal distance. No red (left wing) position light and no fuselage red rotating beacons were sighted by any of the witnesses. No magnetic or electrical disturbances on our aircraft occurred. At least one passenger noted the object pass by our craft from the passenger cabin. Thanks to Peter Davenport at the National UFO Reporting Center, www.ufocenter.com Editor's Note: Generally, radar operators are told not to confirm UFOs and to keep other traffic away.

The reference to NUFORC had me searching that database and I found the report that was made. I also found several other sightings that seemed to be of the same event.

Crew of B757 at FL330 passed on south side by white light making at least 200 knots more than we were. We were at .80 Mach and G/S of 483knots. Queried ATC about possible military target passing us, Memphis Center had nothing there.

While flying at 33,000 feet on a commercial flight from LAX to CLT on Dec 26, the 2 pilot crewmembers and 2 flight attendants were observing an earth satellite passing overhead from the cockpit of a B757. It was well past sunset at about 0100Z 27 Dec 1999. The earth satellite apparently flew into the terminator (it disappeared while high overhead). Within a moment or so, a white lighted object overtook and passed us in fairly close proximity. The object was first noted south of our west to east course at a distance estimated to be from about 2 to 5 miles. It appeared to be at nearly the same or a slightly higher altitude. The object showed only a bright white light that appeared to be slightly disturbed by turbulence, or very slightly pulsating. It's course appeared constant as did its altitude. It passed us and faded rather quickly from sight in a very brief amount of time, perhaps as long as forty seconds. A query was made to Memphis Center ARRTC as to any possible traffic. The controller said he had nothing on his scope that could be what we saw. We saw nothing on our TCAS, set to observe other transponders within 4,000 feet of our altitude and within 20 miles of horizontal distance. No red (left wing) position light and no fuselage red rotating beacons were sighted by any of the witnesses. No magnetic or electrical disturbances on our aircraft occurred. At least one passenger noted the object pass by our craft from the passenger cabin.

Another report happened at 1930 on the same night. The location was in Arkansas south of Little Rock (Dallas and Grant counties. The duration was 15 seconds.

At ten degrees above the horizon, above treeline on 200 ft. above sea level hills (70 ft. pine trees.) Globular Orange fireball size at my position, the size of a dime at arms'length. Object held level course at the speed of an airliner in daytime at level and constant flight. After completing 3/4 of horizon from the SW to SE it developed a tail and then a second fireball of the same size. Neither object being effected by gravity of headed downward. Both proceeded over the horizon and out of sight. At no time were red, green, white landing or strobe lights seen. Only the orange tail to form the second fireball of the same size flying level courses in tandem.

There was one additional sighting from New Orleans at 2000. The duration was 15-20 seconds.

ufo streaked across the sky, like to know what we saw.

My wife and I were sitting outside when she noticed a light in the sky behind me and exclaimed "look at that." I looked up and observed a bright light moving rapidly North in a straight line. I watched the object until trees on the horizon blocked it from view. I thought the object was probably something burning up entering the atmosphere as it streaked across the sky, and when it was almost out of sight I thought I saw a splinter of light separate. There were no navigation lights and it was larger than any meteor I ever saw. I have seen satellites but this was larger and brighter. This object left no tail, which is curious to me as I witnessed the space shuttle reentering the atmosphere to land in Florida. I am a pilot and my wife is a nurse.

I could find no other UFO reports related to this sighting.

Analysis

My first instinct is that this was probably a meteor fireball or satellite decay. There is no decay in Ted Molczan's database and I examined the SEESAT mailing list for any observations of a decay. There was much discussion about Cosmos 2367's rocket re-entering during this time period but it did not follow the track described. If this were a decay, I would have expected the group would have been looking for it and somebody would have concluded a decay had happened. This leaves us with a fireball meteor. Unfortunately, the fireball database from the late 90s is very incomplete. The Internationale Meteor Organization did have a fireball database but it was from the early in mid-90s and did not cover 1999. The American Meteor Society's on-line fireball database was not in full operation at the time. There were only 9 reports from the entire year (compared to over 10,000 in 2022).

I then remembered that there was a meteorobs mailing list I used to receive when I was an active observer in the 90s. A quick search found the mailing list database and there was a mention of a fireball seen and reported to a local astronomy club for the same date and time:

I saw what seemed to be a huge meteor burning up over Hattiesburg, MS on 12/26/99 at 7PM. Hattiesburg is about 55 miles north of the coast. The object was burning a bright red color and had a long tail. Random explosions were occurring in the tail as pieces must have been breaking off. It was on a trajectory that seemed to be moving across the sky and not towards the earth. I know it wasn't very close, because it made no sound that I could hear. It looked similar to giant roman candle and burned very bright from horizon to horizon in about 5 to 10 seconds. Definitely the most amazing thing I have ever seen. Did anyone else see it? It looked like it was going around the world.

It turns out that one of the members on the list performed an investigation. Dave Hostetter wrote the following about his findings on January 11, 2000:

....Back at the end of the year there were some media reports involving a meteor seen from Lafourche Parish in far southeastern Louisiana, near the towns of Larose and Cut Off. They reported a fireball seen moving west to east around 7:55 PM Central Standard Time on December 26. A piece was seen to break off, and some suggested that was responsible for a marsh fire about a mile long just northeast of Cut Off. During the last week of the year, I was contacted by several people looking for information.

There were other reports of a bright meteor that night, one moving roughly south to north at about 7 to 7:30 PM CST. I found first and second hand reports of that ranging from the small town of Jennings, Louisiana, to the area around Pensacola, Florida, and throughout southern and central Mississippi and Alabama. There has been some discussion on meteorobs lately about an object seen from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and that seems to have been this object.

Two such fireballs within an hour of each other seemed like a lot, and I suspected they were really reports of the same object. That's what turned out to be true.

The time of 7:55 PM from the Lafourche reports turned out to be the time logged by the sheriff's office when they were getting calls, not the time of the meteor. The times reported to me by the observers I spoke with were shakey, but it looks like the observations were indeed more like 7 to 7:30 PM. The object seen there was in fact not going west to east -- they all agreed it was going from south southwest to north northeast. It was described as brighter than Jupiter and about the brightness of Venus, pretty consistent with the reports of the other object. I'm absolutely convinced everyone was looking at the same thing.

The piece that fragmented appeared to do so only 10 to 15 degrees above the horizon as the object was moving away from Lafourche Parish, and is clearly not responsible for the marsh fire. The sheriff's department there indicated that marsh fires are not very unusual, and have a number of different causes. One observer noted that it was a windy night, and that the wind is what blew the fire eastward for about a mile.

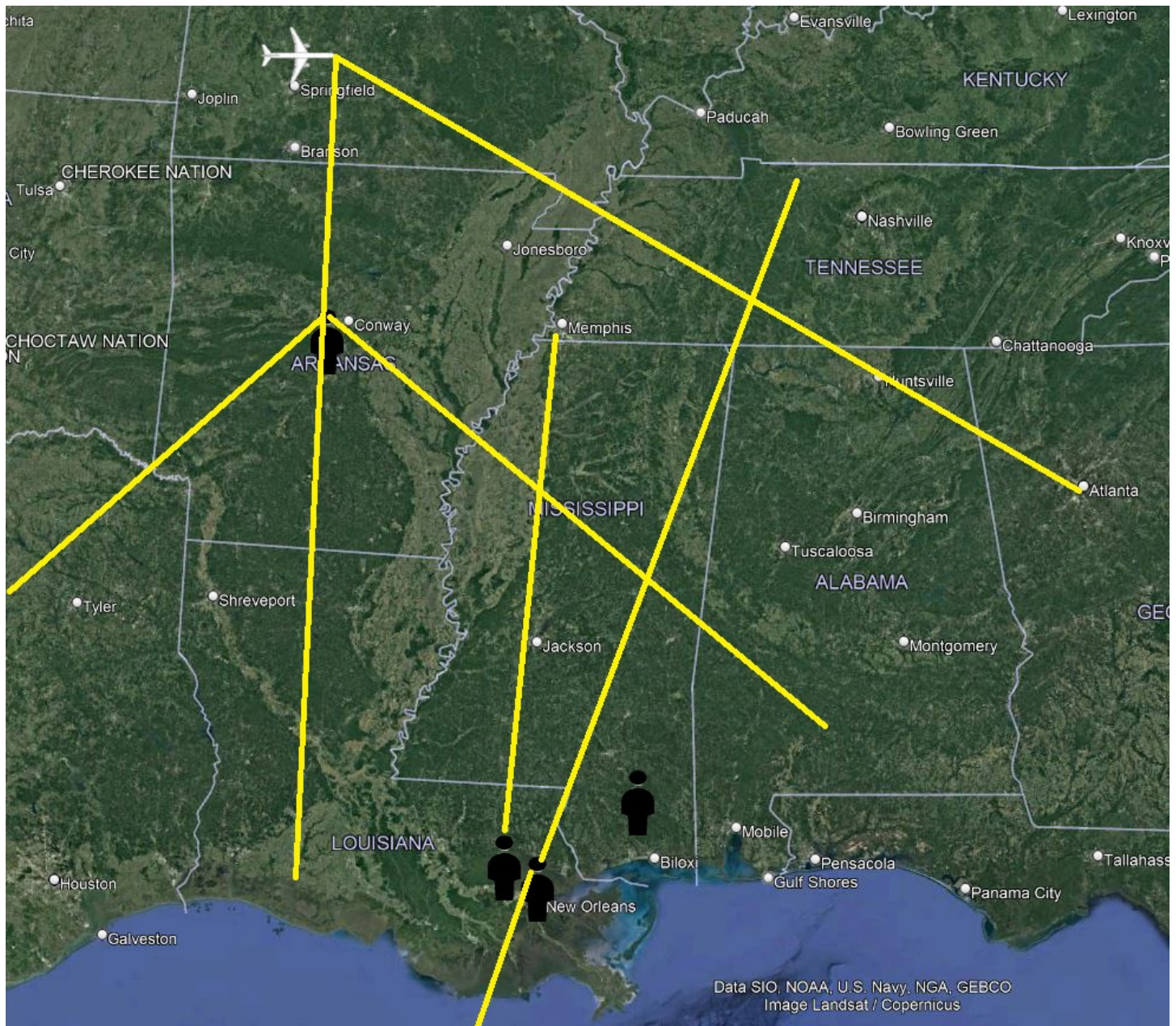
I thought it might be possible that the object was re-entering space debris, but I no longer believe that to be the case. There were three

Russian re-entries expected for December 26/27, but none of them fit the bill. I think this was your basic natural fireball, visible from over the Gulf of Mexico, going approximately across the Mississippi Delta region, and then over Mississippi or Alabama....

There was also a report of a fireball seen in the vicinity of Atmore, Alabama in the December 29th edition of the Atmore Advance. The article is limited on details but they gave a time of one of the observations as 7PM. The article gave brief descriptions of various witnesses. Many of the common meteor observation mistakes were made. A patrolman said it was not a meteor and thought it changed direction. He also gave it's altitude as close to the ground. Many thought it was a crashing plane. Some helicopter pilots thought it might have been a missile from Eglin AFB. One observer did feel it was a bright meteor. When you look at the all the descriptions as a whole, they all seem to have seen a bright fireball meteor.

The only problem with the meteor explanation is the duration of "about 40 seconds" by the aircrew. There are plenty of fireball meteors that have had long durations. I wrote about one observed in Florida on April 25, 2017 in SUNlite 9-4. That meteor was recorded on video as lasting 20 seconds. In that event, most of the observers estimated the duration between 10-30 seconds. However, some gave their estimates as a minute or greater. Looking at the December 26, 1999 event, the bulk of the reports have durations that were shorter indicating the 40 second time scale was probably an overestimate. With a duration of 10-20 seconds, the chance of this being a fireball meteor increases.

I attempted to make a plot of the observations from NUFORC and the meteor observers list. The information was very limited but



one can come up with a crude plot based on the basic azimuths found in the descriptions. While the data was limited, there was a reasonable correlation between the observations. Based on this information, the meteor was traveling East or North East and passed over the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

One final observation is that the pilots in the Boeing 757 indicated the object was close to the southern horizon because they stated it was about the same altitude as , or slightly above, their aircraft. This is what one would expect for an observation of a meteor that passed over Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and was about 400-500 miles away. Since most meteors burn up between 50-75 miles altitude, the elevation angle would have been 10 degrees or less above the horizon.

Conclusion

The fact that there was a meteor observed to the south of the aircraft around the same time the aircraft reported seeing their UAP in that direction cannot be ignored. Add to this, the fact that the meteor was traveling in the correct direction and the location the aircrew reported makes a convincing argument that what was seen was this fireball meteor. I would classify this as a probable fireball meteor and remove this case from the Weinstein catalog.

Notes and references

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3. The NATIONAL UFO Reporting Center Online Database. Available WWW: <https://nuforc.org/webreports/reports/011/S11508.html>
4. The NATIONAL UFO Reporting Center Online Database. Available WWW: <https://nuforc.org/webreports/reports/012/S12040.html>
5. The NATIONAL UFO Reporting Center Online Database. Available WWW: <https://nuforc.org/webreports/reports/011/S11507.html>
6. Meteor Observers Mailing List Available WWW: <http://arch.lamacchia.us/meteorobs/www.meteorobs.org/maillist/msg17061.html>
7. Meteor Observers Mailing List Available WWW: <http://arch.lamacchia.us/meteorobs/www.meteorobs.org/maillist/msg17260.html>
8. Sherry Digmon. "Fireball in sky baffles authorities" Atmore Advance. Atmore, Alabama. December 29, 1999 Available WWW: <https://www.atmoreadvance.com/1999/12/29/fireball-in-sky-baffles-authorities/>

December 4, 1952 - Laredo, Texas

December 4, 1952--Laredo, Texas. USAF F-51 pilot chased glowing white object which made tight turns, head-on passes at plane. [III].¹

Section III states:

Glowing object made several passes at plane, maneuvered in tight turns, climbed steeply at high speed.[35].²

Footnote 35 states that the information comes from USAF intelligence reports³

Additional Sources

Blue Book has a case file. Loren Gross mentions it in his UFO history.⁴

On the night of 4 Dec 52 an Air Force pilot was flying locally in a T-28 -type a/c. It was at this time he noticed a rapidly moving bluish light at approximate traffic altitude (1500' to 2000'). It was approximately 8 o'clock low to his position, which was about 2 miles SE of the base at 6000' directly SW of the base traveling on a SE course. The pilot considered the object to be a 4th jet a/c outside the traffic pattern until he noticed the absence of position, passing, and fuselage lights. The pilot steepened his turn to the left to keep the object in sight. The object continued on a SE course until approximately 6 miles SE of his position which was approximately where he had originally sighted the object. At this time the object rose immediately to the pilot's altitude of 6000' and began a wide sweeping counter clockwise orbit of the base. The terrific speed of the object still led the pilot to think it was a jet aircraft until he realized from previous jet experience that the speed should have been considerably dissipated after such a maneuver. At a position approximately 3 miles N of the air field in the object's orbit, it immediately descended to approximately 19,000 ... (?) ... 1500 to 200' again and continued its orbit to the left around the city of Laredo, Texas, until it reached approximately the center of the business district, at which time the object made a very rapid flitting ascent due S to approximately 15,000'. The rate of climb was terrific. At this point, the object was approximately 6 to 8 miles SW of the pilot's position (which was directly over the ramp on a S heading). The object then turned Eastward and immediately descended to the pilot's altitude of 6,000' again and proceeded Eastward until approximately 6 miles SE of the base again and it seemed to stop as if it were hovering, going straight away or coming straight toward the pilot's aircraft. At this the pilot added full power and proceeded directly SE toward the object. The pilot's intentions were merely curiosity. Approximately 2 seconds after this action was taken by the pilot, the object appeared to close at a terrific rate in a head-on approach. At approximately 100 yards in front of the pilot's a/c the object seemed to waver slightly in a vertical plane as if determining on which side of his aircraft to pass. The object passed very closely off the left wing of the a/c within 50 yards distance and the pilot noted a blurred reddish-blueish haze of undetermined size and shape but definitely no larger than his a/c. This action happened so rapidly that the pilot was unable to take any evasive action. Immediately after the object passed, the pilot broke sharply to the left in order to keep the object in sight. The object rapidly made a flitting ascent again to approximately 15,000' and circled to the left and began to descent as if positioning itself for another pass on the pilot's a/c. At this point, out of sheer fright, the pilot turned off all his running lights and spiraled steeply to the left, keeping the object in sight and leveled off at 1500'. At this time the object seemed to level off from its circling descent towards the pilot's a/c, turned sharply to the right on a S heading and made another rapid flitting ascent into the atmosphere until out of sight. The object was observed by the pilot for approximately 7 minutes and the exact time of the head-on-pass was 2053. The object has been referred to as an 'object' because it was identifiable only by the small, flickering blueish light by which the observer was able to track its flight path, the size of the light was described by the observer as approximately 1/2 the size of the glow emitted by normal position light on a T-33 type aircraft. Its speed was estimated to be in excess of 500 MPH and its maneuvers, which consisted mainly of rapid flitting ascents and descents, were unusually outstanding, because they were certainly not conventional. The observer parked his a/c on the Laredo AB ramp at exactly 2105 and shortly thereafter reported the incident to the proper authority.

"ATIC COMMENT: ATIC believes that it was an a/c and that the maneuvers were exaggerated." 166

Note 166 comes from an Air Intelligence report in the Blue Book file.

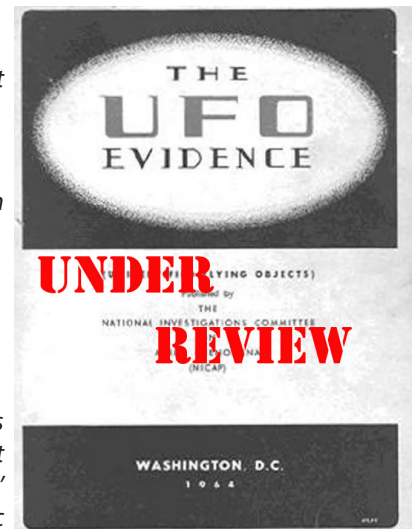
The Blue Book file is consistent with this description.⁵ Some details that are not clear are:

- The pilot was flying around the base in a counter-clockwise pattern when he saw the object.
- The sighting started at approximately 2045-2048 depending on which document you examine in the file.
- There is a mentioned plot of the aircraft and the object in the file but I could not locate such a plot.

Analysis

There is a potential astronomical explanation for the sighting. Venus was had set in the SW just before the time listed for the sighting. It is important to note that the pilot's first sighting was towards the west. That being said, the motion of the object during the sighting tends to rule out astronomical object. Venus may have played an initial role that drew the pilot's attention towards that direction and he later picked up another source that explains the rest of the event.

The Blue Book file revealed that a lighted weather balloon had been released at 2053 CST (0253Z) from the Laredo AFB.⁶ Observers



stated they did not see an aircraft near the balloon. While we did not get the data from that balloon, it did state that “low altitude” winds were from the northwest at “low velocity”. The teletype message states the winds at the pilots level were from 15 degrees at 25 knots. There is some historic radiosonde data from Brownsville 0300Z on 5 December and San Antonio at 0400Z on 5 December.⁷

San Antonio Altitude (meters)	Wind Dir	Wind Spd (kts)	Brownsville Altitude (meters)	Wind Dir	Wind Spd (kts)
243	315	4	7	338	10
251	315	4	232	360	23
680	338	17	670	360	35
1127	338	29	1116	360	39
1594	338	27	1589	360	39
2082	315	21	2086	338	31
2600	315	21	2630	315	39
3150	315	23	3170	293	33
3730	315	25	3780	225	25
4351	315	33	4415	270	31
5010	315	46	5110	270	23
5771	293	50	5842	270	23
6570	293	56	XXXX	XXX	XX

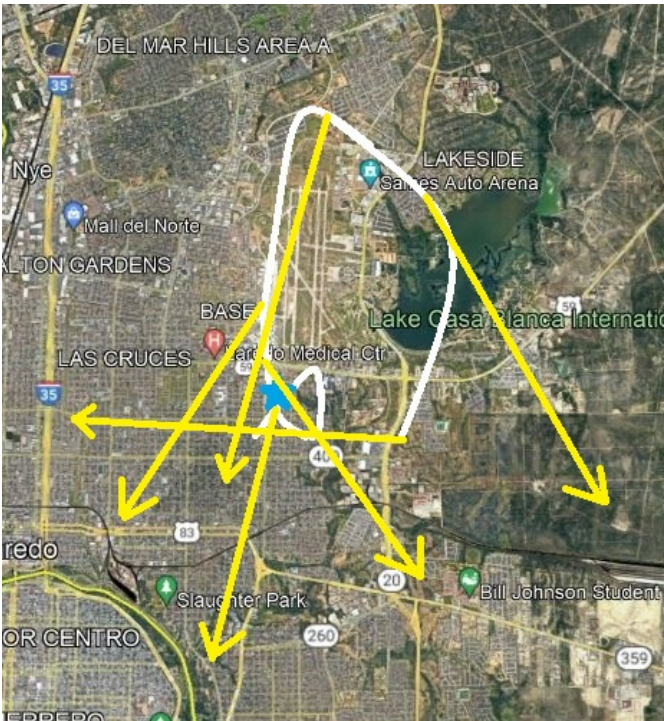
These values are consistent with the statements made about the winds in Laredo that night in the Blue Book file. Most of the winds were from the NW or North, which means the balloon that was released would have been traveling to the SE or South at a speed of around 20-30 knots.

The missing track diagram means we don’t have all the data. However, one can create a plot based on the description of events. I performed this to the right. The White track is the aircraft. The Blue Star is the approximate location of the “intercept”. The yellow lines are sight lines reported by the pilot. All of these tracks and sightlines are approximate values. It is interesting to note that the pilot always observed the object towards the south of the base.

Initially, the pilot was SE of the base and observed the object towards the west. As the pilot continued his counterclockwise orbit and moved to the north side of the base, he noticed the object was also orbiting the base in a counter-clockwise motion. The object shifted from the west towards the southeast as the pilot moved in a north-northwesterly direction. When the pilot began flying south, the object was again, south of the base. At this point he attempted the intercept. He passed very close to the object and then began, a tight counter-clockwise turn. The UFO appeared to perform the same maneuver and then suddenly went south and rapidly rose into the sky.

Some of the reported positions of the object seemed to be poor estimates made by the pilot. The pilot was orbiting counterclockwise in a 2-3 mile radius around the base. When an aircraft is moving in a circle, a stationary or slowly moving target will appear to be also moving in a circle in the same direction against the background due to parallax. The same could be said about the changing altitude of the object. The object was performing yo-yo like maneuvers in altitude. The aircraft banking and changing altitude could make an object appear lower or higher when compared to background objects.

One point that I think is also important is that, In all of these maneuvers reported by the pilot, no other pilots in the landing pattern or tower personnel/weather observers/ground personnel noticed this object. While some might suggest that the object was not a prominent object, one must remember, based on the pilot’s estimates, it could be seen from miles away.



Conclusion

There is the possibility that what was seen was a balloon. Venus might have played a role in the initial sighting but it could not have been involved in the rest of what was reported. The aerobatics and speed of the object can be mostly attributed to the observing aircraft moving about and the pilots perception of the motion being not from his aircraft but of the observed object. A balloon was released around the time of the incident. There is a few minute time discrepancy but this could have been due to reporting error. There is also the comment that the weather personnel did not see the pilot approach the balloon. It could have been the pilot was not as close as he guessed or they may have missed this brief interaction, which probably lasted less than one minute. One cannot be sure but the characteristics of the event are that of a balloon. We can't prove that the balloon was the source but it is possible. This should be classified as a possible balloon and removed from "best evidence" and Weinstein catalog.

Notes and references

1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 133
2. *ibid.* P. 21
3. *ibid.* P. 27
4. Gross, Loren. UFOS: A history November-December 1952. Freemont, California. 1986. P. 53-4
5. "Case file - Laredo, Texas. December 4, 1952. ". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9170173/illegal-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
6. *ibid*
7. Mark Govett. NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/ Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL)/ Global Systems Division (GSD) Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 7742: NOVEMBER 23, 1961 SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

Nov. 23, 1961; Sioux City, Iowa. 9:30 p.m. Witness: F. Braunger. One bright red star flew straight and level for 15 minutes.¹

Sparks' entry is basically a repeat of Berliner's.

The Blue Book file³

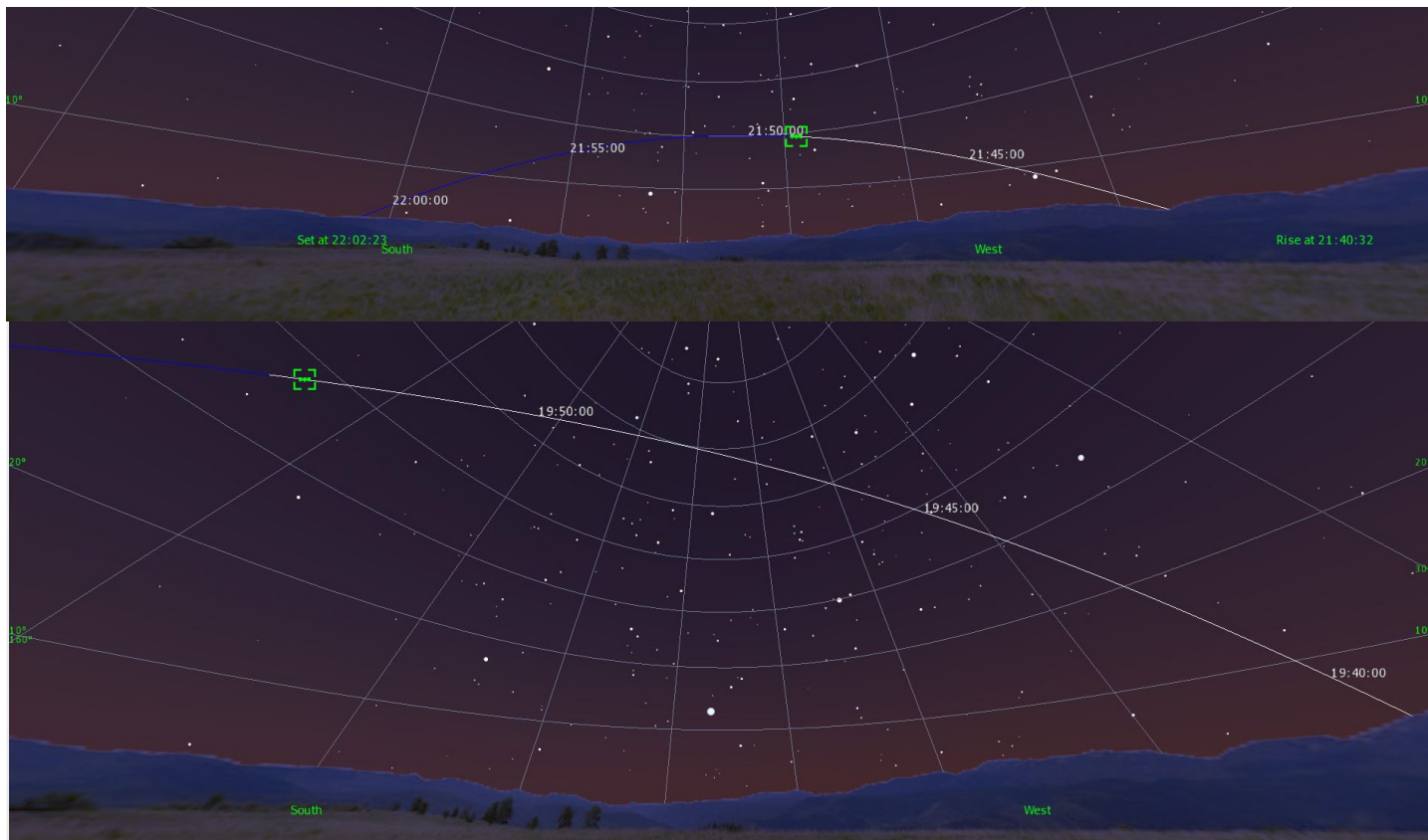
The case file consists of the teletype message documenting the sighting and a two paragraph memo discussing the sighting and the possible source. Counting the record card, there are a total of six pages. Details about the sighting:

- Red. Large star.
- Initially observed 40 degrees above horizon.
- Lower than 40 degrees above horizon when it disappeared.
- North to south trajectory
- 15 minute duration (approx.).
- Observed on 24th at 0330Z
- No cloud cover
- Winds were NW at 30-70 knots from 6000 - 20000 feet. Above 50,000 feet, winds were from the west at 40 knots.

In the memo, it stated, *"Echo 1 crossed the equator headed north at 24/0310Z and would have been over Japan heading north at the time of the reported sighting."* The memo also appeared to eliminate balloons or aircraft. The elimination of aircraft was based on the duration reported.

Analysis

The record card mentions that the Echo satellite was eliminated because the satellite was on the other side of the planet at 0330Z. However, it was visible from Iowa 20 minutes later at 0350Z going from NW to South. It would have disappeared in the SW as it passed into shadow after 10 minutes visibility (see top image). An even more interesting pass happened around 0145Z (see bottom image). This appeared in the WNW and disappeared in the SE. It was visible for about 15 minutes and disappeared into shadow at 0153Z at an elevation angle of 35-40 degrees and azimuth of about 155 degrees. It is interesting that the two Echo passes



had similar trajectories to the one described. The 0140-0153Z pass fits the description most accurately, while the 0340-0350Z pass is closer to the time reported.

When one looks at these reports it is hard to determine if the time given for the event was the actual time, an estimated time, or the time the USAF received the report. The message was completed by the duty officer based on a report (probably a phone call) from civilians in town who reported the event. These kinds of reports can often be prone to error. Maybe the duty officer, who collected the data got the time wrong or wrote down the time the witness made the report. There is also going to be some margin for error in when the witness states the time occurred. Looking at meteor fireball reports, the time listed can often deviate up to an hour from the actual event though the bulk of the reports are usually within 10-20 minutes. The DTG for the message was 0530Z. This means, the event was reported before this. One has to at least consider the possibility that the time may have been incorrect and the Echo pass at 0345 or 0145Z might have been the source of the sighting.

Conclusion

This event could have been an observation of the Echo satellite. This is based on the possibility that the time given was could be in error. One must remember that all this was a sighting of a light moving across the sky and nothing more. There was no distinct shape reported other than a point of light that moved in a straight line. The Echo satellite made two passes that night, which were visible from that location, and moved in the same direction described by the witnesses. The duration of the passes were within the range of the duration estimate made by the witness. I would classify this as a possible Echo sighting and remove it from the list of unidentifieds.

Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook Unknowns". NICAP Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List -NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.30. Jan. 26, 2020. P. 290
3. "Case file - Sioux City, Iowa November 23, 1961". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8698104/sioux-city-iowa-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
4. McDowell, Jonathan. Historical TLE Elements Echo Satellite. Available WWW: <https://www.planet4589.org/space/elements/00000/S00049>

Project Blue Book case review: October 1968 - December 1969

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering October 1968 through December 1969. 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.

October 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Lackland AFB, TX	Unreliable report	Agreed. According to Blue Book, this is the witness' fourth report filed. The letter contains theories about what he had seen but it did not really contain any specific information.
Oct	Riverdale, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date given. 11-year old
Oct	Chattanooga, TN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Just a brief letter with very little information.
Oct	Burnham, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date given
Oct	Delmar, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Date appears to be October 14th. However, witness did not give any direction. It is possible this was Sirius.
Oct	Hudson, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. The date of sighting is unclear. It could have been the 22nd. Object could have been Cosmos 58 or the Cosmos 58 rocket. Without a date, it is difficult to say. 14-year old
4	Near Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Witness did not fill out report form but duty officer recorded enough in notes to give possible ID.
5	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft near sunset. 12-year old.
7	Fairview, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon. 17-year old.
9	Columbia, KY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported UFO to Fort Knox but duty officer took no notes and witness did not complete or return the report form.
9	Near Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella. 14-year old.
12	State College, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
13	North Forestville, MD	V: Hoax P: Small man-made object	Agreed. Object is directly below branch and looks like a small object made to look distant. According to duty officer, the witness or somebody in the background was "giggling" when they made their initial report. 15-year old.
14	Milford, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Second hand report with no positional information.
15	St. Paris, OH	Insufficient data	Possible fire balloon. Witness did not fill out report form.
17	Parkersburgh, WV	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
19	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
19	Fort Mill, SC	Insufficient data	Venus. No directions given but witnesses described direction they were driving, which was west or southwest. Witnesses in moving car. Two 16-year olds.
19	Leavenworth, WA	Insufficient data	Possible stars/planets. Witness indicated they had seen objects over several week and they were visible for hours.
20	Memphis, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Memphis, TN	Venus	Agreed
20 or 21	Decatur, IL	Conflicting data	Venus
21	Richmond, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
23	South Lebanon, OH	Unreliable Report	Agreed. Witness reported multiple sightings over the past year. The sightings on this date appear to have been aircraft.
24	Kalamazoo, MI	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.

24	Riverside, NY	V: Insufficient data P: No Image	V: Agreed. Witness did not provide any specifics about sighting in letter P: Agreed. Nothing but cloudy skies and smudges on the film are visible.
24	Minot AFB, ND	1. Aircraft 2. Sirius R: Plasma V: Plasma	This is a confusing case. For now, I will list this as UNIDENTIFIED. However, the radar photographs appear inconclusive. It appears that some of the observations by ground personnel were of stars. Tim Hebert seems to believe that the observations from the B-52 were of ground lights from one of the missile sites and not "plasmas". Tim has stated he is going to perform another re-evaluation but will not post it until he completes it. See http://timhebert.blogspot.com/
25	Lake Michigan	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
26	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
26	Manchester, NH	Unreliable Report	Possible aircraft
26	Boone, NC	Aircraft	Agreed

November 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Nov	Bronx, NY	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. Witness gave conflicting dates. November 20 and 21. 13-year old.
8	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 158 rocket
9	North Merrick, NY	Ground lights	Possible meteor through thin clouds. Witness saw a light cross the sky for one second on a cloudy night. 13-year old.
9	Fallon, NV	Balloon	Agreed
13	Arcanum, OH	Ground lights	Agreed. Identified as search light on clouds.
13	Sommerville, OH	Insufficient data	Possible advertising aircraft
14	Duluth, MN	Confusing report	Possible aircraft
15	Duluth, MN	Meteor	Agreed
16	Memphis, TN	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
17	Bridgeport, OH	Ground lights	Agreed. Witness later called and identified object as lights on microwave station.
17	Waterloo, IL	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
18	Portage, PA	Insufficient data	No case file
19	Hickory, NC	Conflicting data	Possibly Venus. Witness got months confused. At one point, witness stated sighting was in November and then stated it happened in October. 13-year old.
19	Acton, TX	Film processing defect	Agreed
21	Memphis, TN	Altair	Vega
21	Silver Bay, MN	Venus	Agreed
21	Fairfield, CA	Balloon	Agreed
23	Newton, GA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Collinsville, IL	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Echo 2
25	Bismark, ND	1. Satellite 2. Balloon	1. Agreed. Possibly Cosmos 250 2. Possibly Cosmos 54 (Record card states object disappear in NE but form indicates SE)
27	Cascopolis, MI	Satellite	Agreed. Cosmos 250. (Time listed for Zulu on record card is incorrect - actual time was 2335Z). 14-year old.

27	Brattleboro, VT	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness stated that they had seen multiple UFOs and that they are easy to see.
28	Ontario, CA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness is reporting 22nd UFO they have sighted. 17-year old
29	Hazelwood, MO	Conflicting data	Agreed. Witness reported two objects but did not make clear which object was which and the times associated with sighting.

December 1968

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Dec	Memphis, TN	Conflicting data	Agreed. Witness gave conflicting data between initial report and form. 17-year old
3	Greenfield, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Helena, AR	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
5	Bellefontaine, OH	Unreliable report	Possible Moon
6	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. 16-year old.
8	Centerville, OH	Venus	Agreed
11	Clayton, AL	Balloon	Agreed. Possible Gamma Ray detector balloon launched from Palestine, TX.
12	Germantown, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Iowa City, IA	Satellite	Agreed. Probably Echo 2. 12-year old.
15	St. Louis, MT	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon
15	Palmyra, MI	Balloon	Aircraft
16	Morgantown, WV	Venus	Agreed
17	Williams, MN	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
23	Saratoga, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Venus. 15-year old
28	Manchester, PA	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. 9-year old.
30	Natrona, PA	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Cosmos 58 or Cosmos 58 rocket.
31	New Carlisle, IN	Confusing data	Possibly Jupiter. Seen for four hours moving East to West.

January 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jan	Cleveland, OH	Balloon	Insufficient data. No date.
Jan	Coolville, OH	V: Unreliable report P: No image	V: Agreed. Witness is a multiple reporter and investigators felt they were confusing satellites and aircraft as UFOs. P: Agreed. Just specs on the photograph.
4	Greenville, OH	Aircraft	Vega. 17-year old.
4	Cupertino, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
5 or 8	Memphis, TN	Conflicting data	Agreed. Witness could not remember exact date. 13-year old
8	Sacramento, CA	Balloon	Possibly Jupiter.
8-10	Norfolk, VA	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No directions given. It is very possible witness was seeing Venus. Object disappeared after Venus had set.
10	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed. 15-year old.
10	Germantown, OH	Venus	Agreed
11	Gettysburg, OH	Venus	Agreed
11	Covington, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Garwood, NJ	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness had reported UFOs previously but report is clear enough to identify likely source. 12-year old

16-17	New Mexico		Possible meteor. Duration is faded but appears to be three seconds. The rest of the description sounds like a meteor.
17	Bradenton, FL	Unreliable report	Possible prank fire balloons. 15-year old.
17	Crittenden, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Los Alamos, NM	Sirius	Agreed
21	Andrews, SC	Reflection	Agreed. Witness saw a moving light against clouds for 5 seconds. 14-year old.
22	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Indiana area	Balloon	Possibly Arcturus.
27	Boyston, VA	Balloon	Insufficient data. There is very little information about this sighting in the file other than the record card.

February 1969

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
Feb	Hamburg, NY	P: Light source	Agreed. A bunch of light streaks on photograph.
Feb	Miamisburg, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness called duty officer and stated they had photograph of UFO but never sent photograph.
Feb	Grosse Ile, MI	Satellite	Insufficient data. No date given. 12-year old.
Feb	Shingel Spring, CA	Satellite	Insufficient data. No date given.
4	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter stating they saw a UFO at 9:07PM. No other data available.
4	Marango, IN	Aircraft	Agreed. 16-year old.
5	Virginia Beach, VA	Aircraft	Agreed. 15-year old.
7	Auburn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed.
7	Fairfax, VA	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
9	Natrona, PA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness has made multiple UFO reports. 16-year old.
9	Kettering, OH	Venus	Agreed
10	Kettering, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter but did not include positional data. Witness did not return report form.
10	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
10	St. Louis, MO	Meteor	Agreed
10	Pine Bluff, AR	Aircraft	Conflicting data. Witness' initial report appears to have been an aircraft (5-20 min duration). However, report form is indicative of a meteor (4 sec).
11	Belridge, MO	Meteor	Agreed
14	Vandalia, OH	Balloon	Possibly Echo 2. Witness driving car and caught glimpses of object in East. Object faded. Echo 2 in the vicinity.
15	Dallastown, PA	Satellite	Agreed. Probably Cosmos 44 rocket body
15	Clifton, OH	Altair	Agreed
17	Twinsburg, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. 15-year old.
18	Dayton, OH	Kite	Agreed. Identified by other observers.
28	Springfield, OH	Unreliable report	Possibly Cosmos 103 Rocket body. 15-year old

March 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
4	Silver Springs, MD	Aircraft	Agreed

4	Billings, OK	Venus	Agreed
12	Dayton, OH	Stars/planets	Agreed. Probably Vega and Deneb.
13	Benton, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Illinois, OH	Meteor	Agreed
15	New Carlisle, OH	Ground lights	Agreed. Witness later called to report sighting was of a barn light.
16	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. Witness driving in car and saw an apparently stationary object in north visible for two minutes. Probably saw a landing light of an aircraft. Witness was looking in the direction of the Dayton Airport.
17	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
17	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Venus
18	New Carlisle, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Fall River, MA	1. Meteor 2. Stars/planets	1. Agreed 2. Agreed. Possibly Sirius. 11-year old.
28	Davenport, IA	V: Hoax P: Small man-made object	Agreed. Image showed a large object that was not fully shown and appeared to be held off frame by the edge. Witness had submitted UFO photographs before.

April 1969

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
6	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report form was not filled out properly. No duration, no positional data, no direction of motion.
7	Athens, OH	Balloon	No Case File
7	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon. 15-year old.
10	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed.
18	McClellan AFB, CA	Jupiter	Agreed
22	Joppatowne, MD	Insufficient clarity	Agreed. Photograph of moon taken through eyepiece of telescope by 14-year old.
22	Risten, LA	Balloon	Agreed. Appears to have been research balloon. Palestine Texas was launching several balloons during this time period.
26	Highland Park, NJ	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon. 14-year old.
27	St. Clair, PA	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
29	Dallas, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter which basically stated that they saw a UFO with no details. Form was sent but not returned.

May 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
May	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	No Case File
May	Allentown, PA	Conflicting data	Meteor. Witness confused dates from initial report and report form. 11-year old.
2	NE of Dayton, OH	Satellite decay	Meteor. Listed as decay of Explorer 34. Not on Molczan's list.
3	Cambridge City, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing details. Witness did not return form.
4	Davenport, IA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness is a "repeater" and report does not contain any details for analysis.
12	South Berwick, ME	Jupiter	Agreed. 16-year old.
13	Pine Ridge, SD	Aircraft	Agreed

15	Near Pikesville, KY	Venus	Vega. Venus had not risen yet and witness stated object was in NNE.
27	New York, NY	Mars	Agreed
29	Navarre, OH	Mars	Agreed. 17-year old.

June 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jun	West Carrollton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Date missing. Positional data and duration also missing.
4	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness made report of three different sightings but gave no pertinent data. Witness did not return form. One sighting might have been Capella.
5	IL, IA, MO area	Meteor	Agreed
6	West Babylon, NY	Balloon	No Case File
8	New Richmond, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness made report to duty officer but never returned form. Data gathered by duty officer insufficient.
8	Kettering, OH	Mars	Agreed
10	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Jacksonville, FL	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Apollo module-1. 13-year old.
28	Fort Myer, VA	Meteor	Agreed
30	CA and OR	Missile	No Case File There was a launch of a Minuteman at 0436 UTC on July 1 that probably produced UFO reports.

July 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jul/Aug	Littlerock, CA	Meteor	No Case File
Jul	Yellow Springs, OH	Insufficient data	No Case File
1	Pensacola, FL	Kite	No Case File
4	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Satellite. Witness did not fill out/return form. Gave conflicting information about sighting regarding end of sighting. Using start time of sighting and duration, object was either Cosmos 58 or the Cosmos 158 rocket body.
12	Near Smithfield, PA	Balloon	No Case File
13	Castlewood, VA	Psychological	Agreed. Witness stated the object hovered them and he could hear the computer and a radar that hurt his flesh.
15	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Stars/planets (insufficient information to determine which). Witness, in their phone call to base, implied the object was moving about the sky. It appears they initially saw it in the SW. Both Jupiter and Mars were in the west and southwest. Duty officer went outside and could see no objects moving about but did see Mars.
22	Painesville, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
25	Near Johnsonburg, PA	Balloon	Agreed
26	Denver, CO	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Possibly Fomalhaut.

August 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
3	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed. 14-year old

3	Kettering, OH	Hot Air balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
5	OH, KY, WV area	Meteor	Agreed
5	Dayton, OH	Confusing report	No Case File
8	Kirtland AFB, NM	Meteor	No Case File
9	Riverdale, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported seeing UFO in letter but gave no additional information. Did not complete or return form.
11	Near Crittenden, KY	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Lacked positional data to determine which star.
11	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter
12	St. Louis, MO	Meteors	Agreed
12	High View, WV	Stars/planets	Agreed. Probably Arcturus. 15-year old.
19	Near Fairborn, OH	Stars/planets	Agreed. Probably Mars and Antares. 15-year old.
21	Alliance, OH	Aircraft	No Case File
21	Westland, MI	Capella	Agreed
23	Dayton, OH	Balloon	No Case File
23	Marion, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Paegos A
24	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
26	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
26	Manchester, TN	Meteor	Agreed
26	Algoma, WI	1. Moon 2. Insufficient data	1. Agreed 2. Agreed. Radar gave spurious return but there was no data to determine what caused it.
26	Skaneateles, NY	Aircraft	Agreed. 17-year old.
26	CA	Satellite decay	Agreed. Cosmos 294 Rocket

September 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Sep	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specific information in file to analyze.
Sep	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specific information in file to analyze. 15-year old.
14	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 15-year old.
22	Dayton, OH	Capella	Agreed
22	Cleveland, OH	Aircraft	No Case File
25	Near Hanksville, UT	Missile	Agreed. Green River Athena launch
25	St. Louis, MO	Venus	Agreed
28	East Lake, OH	Satellite	Aircraft

October 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
4	Hartsdale, NY	Conflicting data	Agreed. Initial report by witness was for a sighting on a different date and duration, which appeared to be a meteor. The witness returned the form with a completely different sighting. 13-year old.
4	Shilow, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
7	Newport News, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
9/27-10/10	San Francisco, CA	Venus	Agreed
10	Vinton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed

12	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
14	Attica, IN	1. Capella 2. Aircraft	1. Agreed 2. Agreed
20	Near Defuniak Springs, FL	Satellite decay	Meteor. No decay on Molczan's list and duration was given as 3-4 seconds.
21	15 mi SW of Twin Falls, ID	1. Rocket launch 2. Stars/Planets	1. Agreed Minuteman launch from Vandenberg 2. Agreed. Probably Capella.
23	Vandalia, OH	Balloon	Agreed. 12-year old.
25	New Mexico		Insufficient data. This sighting consists of a log entry from the duty officer about a sighting from Zuni, NM. It could have been a star or an aircraft. The description is vague and no duration was given.
26	Commack, Long Island, NY	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
29	Chicago, IL	Conflicting data	Possible helicopter. Witness gave conflicting reports during follow-up investigation. Object was light that moved about. Witness in vicinity of O'Hare airport and NAS Glenview.

November 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
10	Gainesville, FL	Balloon	Agreed. Possible prank fire balloon.
19	Acton, TX	Film Processing defect	Agreed. This is a duplicate entry. The actual entry is November 19, 1968.
25	Gallipolis, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed

December 1969

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Dec	Hartsdale, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft and meteor. Same 13-year old as 4 Oct
Dec	Round Lake, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness gave no date. 13-year old.

Reclassification

I evaluated 202 cases in the Blue Book files from October 1968 through December 1969. In my opinion, 54 were improperly classified (about 27%). 19 (about 9% of the total number of cases/35% 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
10/4	Near Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Witness did not fill out report form but duty officer recorded enough in notes to give possible ID.
5	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft near sunset. 12-year old.
9	Near Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella. 14-year old.
15	St. Paris, OH	Insufficient data	Possible fire balloon. Witness did not fill out report form.
17	Parkersburgh, WV	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
19	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
19	Fort Mill, SC	Insufficient data	Venus. No directions given but witnesses described direction they were driving, which was west or southwest. Witnesses in moving car. Two 16-year olds.
19	Leavenworth, WA	Insufficient data	Possible stars/planets. Witness indicated they had seen objects over several week and they were visible for hours.
20 or 21	Decatur, IL	Conflicting data	Venus

24	Minot AFB, ND	1. Aircraft 2. Sirius R: Plasma V: Plasma	This is a confusing case. For now, I will list this as UNIDENTIFIED. However, the radar photographs appear inconclusive. It appears that some of the observations by ground personnel were of stars. Tim Hebert seems to believe that the observations from the B-52 were of ground lights from one of the missile sites and not "plasmas". Tim has stated he is going to perform another reevaluation but will not post it until he completes it. See http://timhebert.blogspot.com/
25	Lake Michigan	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
26	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
26	Manchester, NH	Unreliable Report	Possible aircraft
Nov	Bronx, NY	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. Witness gave conflicting dates. November 20 and 21. 13-year old.
8	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 158 rocket
9	North Merrick, NY	Ground lights	Possible meteor through thin clouds. Witness saw a light cross the sky for one second on a cloudy night. 13-year old.
13	Sommerville, OH	Insufficient data	Possible advertising aircraft
14	Duluth, MN	Confusing report	Possible aircraft
19	Hickory, NC	Conflicting data	Possibly Venus. Witness got months confused. At one point, witness stated sighting was in November and then stated it happened in October. 13-year old.
21	Memphis, TN	Altair	Vega
25	Bismark, ND	1. Satellite 2. Balloon	1. Agreed. Possibly Cosmos 250 2. Possibly Cosmos 54 (Record card states object disappear in NE but form indicates SE)
12/5	Bellefontaine, OH	Unreliable report	Possible Moon
12/15	Palmyra, MI	Balloon	Aircraft
17	Williams, MN	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
23	Saratoga, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Venus. 15-year old
28	Manchester, PA	Conflicting data	Possible aircraft. 9-year old.
31	New Carlisle, IN	Confusing data	Possibly Jupiter. Seen for four hours moving East to West.
Jan	Cleveland, OH	Balloon	Insufficient data. No date.
4	Greenville, OH	Aircraft	Vega. 17-year old.
8	Sacramento, CA	Balloon	Possibly Jupiter.
8-10	Norfolk, VA	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No directions given. It is very possible witness was seeing Venus. Object disappeared after Venus had set.
12	Garwood, NJ	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness had reported UFOs previously but report is clear enough to identify likely source. 12-year old
17	Bradenton, FL	Unreliable report	Possible prank fire balloons. 15-year old.
25	Indiana area	Balloon	Possibly Arcturus.
27	Boyston, VA	Balloon	Insufficient data. There is very little information about this sighting in the file other than the record card.
Feb	Grosse Ile, MI	Satellite	Insufficient data. No date given. 12-year old.
Feb	Shingel Spring, CA	Satellite	Insufficient data. No date given.
9	Natrona, PA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft. Witness has made multiple UFO reports. 16-year old.
10	Pine Bluff, AR	Aircraft	Conflicting data. Witness' initial report appears to have been an aircraft (5-20 min duration). However, report form is indicative of a meteor (4 sec).

14	Vandalia, OH	Balloon	Possibly Echo 2. Witness driving car and caught glimpses of object in East. Object faded. Echo 2 in the vicinity.
28	Springfield, OH	Unreliable report	Possibly Cosmos 103 Rocket body. 15-year old
3/17	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Venus
May	Allentown, PA	Conflicting data	Meteor. Witness confused dates from initial report and report form. 11-year old.
2	NE of Dayton, OH	Satellite decay	Meteor. Listed as decay of Explorer 34. Not on Molczan's list.
15	Near Pikesville, KY	Venus	Vega. Venus had not risen yet and witness stated object was in NNE.
4	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Satellite. Witness did not fill out/return form. Gave conflicting information about sighting regarding end of sighting. Using start time of sighting and duration, object was either Cosmos 58 or the Cosmos 158 rocket body.
15	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Stars/planets (insufficient information to determine which). Witness, in their phone call to base, implied the object was moving about the sky. It appears they initially saw it in the SW. Both Jupiter and Mars were in the west and southwest. Duty officer went outside and could see no objects moving about but did see Mars.
8/11	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter
9/14	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 15-year old.
28	East Lake, OH	Satellite	Aircraft
10/12	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
20	Near Defuniak Springs, FL	Satellite decay	Meteor. No decay on Molczan's list and duration was given as 3-4 seconds.
29	Chicago, IL	Conflicting data	Possible helicopter. Witness gave conflicting reports during follow-up investigation. Object was light that moved about. Witness in vicinity of O'Hare airport and NAS Glenview.
Dec	Hartsdale, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft and meteor. Same 13-year old as 4 Oct

Summary

Like last review, there were a lot of confusing, conflicting, and insufficient data solutions in the last few months of 1968 and in 1969. It seems that the release of the Condon report in the early 1969, significantly reduced the number of letters to Blue Book and phone calls to air bases. People were probably more interested in following the moon program at this point as well. UFOs had lost their appeal to the general public.

The one case I placed into the UNIDENTIFIED category was the Minot AFB case in October of 1968. This has been a case that was promoted by UFOlogists in recent years. At first glance, it seems that quite a few of the visual observations appear to have been stars. However, there are parts of the case that Blue Book labeled as "Plasmas". I never liked this kind of classification and I have never seen much in the way of evidence that such phenomena were visible in the manner described. Tim Hebert performed an evaluation of the case sometime ago and offered potential solutions for the case but he appears to have had second thoughts about it. He promised a new evaluation when he was ready. His blog has not produced anything new so I am assuming he is working on it or it fell off his "to do" list (sort of like some of the cases I promised to get to in the future). The case will remain in the "UNIDENTIFIED" category for now.

Youths continued to be a major contributor to UFO reports. 51 of the cases had witnesses that were 17-years old or younger. That is about 25% of the total. These are just the cases where the ages were identified. There were other cases that involved letters that appeared to come from young people but no age was given. One 13-year old sent letters to the USAF on at least two different occasions. One has to admire his enthusiasm but one would also expect that the witness might begin to become more interested in evaluating his own sightings more critically before sending letters to the USAF.

With the completion of the cases from 1953-1969, I can now go back to the 1947-1952 time frame. I intend to review the 1947-48 period next issue. This will be followed by evaluating 1949-1951 in three issues. Finally, I will tackle the myriad of sightings in 1952 over five or six issues. This means I should be finished with my Blue Book review by mid-2025. Once that is done, I hope to put out an issue that puts all of the evaluations in one document (including the 701 club additions).

References

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