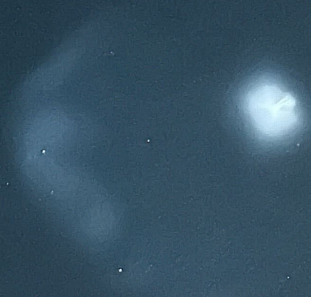


SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



Science cannot be left on the side of the road in the mad dash to uncover some great conspiracy.

Sean Kirkpatrick

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Cover: On February 14, a falcon rocket launched USSF-124 from Cape Canaveral. Two hours after launch, this object appeared over the northeast United States. Experts on SEESAT determined this to be a de-orbit burn from the upper stage of the rocket. Photograph taken by astronomer John Blackwell from Durham, NH. More information on page 3.

Left: I am looking forward to my upcoming trip to see the Solar Eclipse. The trip may delay the release of SUNlite 16-3 by two weeks.

A lack of critical thinking...

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The only UFO news, of significance, was an opinion piece that outgoing AARO (All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office) director Sean Kirkpatrick wrote for [Scientific American](#). In that article, he described how he gathered some of the best and brightest scientists and experts to perform the work assigned to his department. While, Kirkpatrick appears to have wanted to see evidence, his efforts were destroyed by “whistle blowers”, who made headlines and got politicians involved in the subject. Lawmakers, like so many people, often think with their beliefs and less with their reasoning abilities. They will not listen to experts and will usually take the position that gives them the most publicity and best chance to retain their political seat. They are little more than celebrities more interested in themselves and less interested in listening carefully to the facts.

Dr. Kirkpatrick stated that they investigated all the claims of crashed UFOs being reverse-engineered by the US government for over a year. AARO discovered that most of the stories came from a small core of “believers” that spread these tales. None of this core group had first hand knowledge and many had connections with Bigelow Aerospace, which promoted aliens as the source of UFO reports. Some might stop at this point and think, “I have heard this story before.” They would be right. UFOlogy has been doing this for its entire history. From Keyhoe to the present day, there have always been “insiders”, who made claims that were never substantiated and lacked credibility. Any UFOlogist, who pursued these claims usually ran into dead ends. Since UFOlogists knew the evidence had to exist, they concluded that the missing pieces were hidden by a secret cabal, who prevented the release of crucial information. They resorted to looking at documents for any suggestive comment by any official they could interpret to prove their theory. This logic has not changed in over seventy years and never will. After all, we are talking about UFOs and not science.

Normally, the more wild the story, the less credible the witness should appear. This is not the case in UFOlogy. One might suggest that the attitude of UFO promoters is, the more wild the story, the more likely it is to be true. I have described numerous cases in SUNlite, where witnesses have exaggerated stories about actual events in order to make it appear that the events involved aliens instead of just something less spectacular. In some cases, these sources simply made up these tales for personal gain (fame, money, etc.). Others were simple misinterpretations of natural/man-made events that the witness’ were unwilling to accept. Instead of being skeptical of such incredible reports, UFO investigators/promoters perform all sorts of mental gymnastics to validate their claims. Any evidence indicating these accounts are not true or are inaccurate are summarily dismissed. The UFOlogical faithful blindly accept these claims because this is what they want to believe. UFOlogy preys on the gullible. [As Kirkpatrick said in a recent interview](#), “There is absolutely nothing that I’m going to do, say or produce evidentially that is going to make the true believers convert...It is basically a religion, a religious belief that transcends critical thinking and rational thought.”

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

April 12, 1996 - Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania¹

96.04.12	23:50	USA	Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania	A	an airliner crew	an intense fireball paced the airliner, suddenly moved 20 miles in a few seconds	GR		400 PH32
96.05.28	01:24I T	Canada	Gander, Newfoundland	A	A SAS B-767	one bright blue-green object split in two, then			05

The source of this information comes from Larry Hatch's database and Phenomena issue 32. Hatch's database is just another list. He mentions radar contact and gives the time as 23:50.² His source as the National UFO reporting Center. I did find a copy of Phenomena on line but it had only the odd page numbers scanned.³ The page mentioning this sighting was missing.

Source materials and information about the sighting

My first stop was the newspaper archive. I found nothing for the date in question. I then looked at the National UFO Reporting Center database. The sighting⁴ was there as well as a report from Air traffic control⁵ that reported strange radar returns and that multiple aircraft reporting a UFO. Both times were listed as 23:55 PM. Both state the duration was listed as 15 minutes. Missing were any mention of directions or elevations.

We don't even know what the airline was or the flight number. I tried to see if I could locate a potential flight number by looking at airline timetables. I thought it might be a local service but narrowing down the airlines in the area proved more difficult than I thought. There are just too many possibilities to narrow the flight down this way. One cannot even be sure if those submitting the reports are even actual pilots and Air traffic Control personnel.

I checked other sources. The NICAP database did not have any mention of the sighting. The International UFO reporter made no mention either. It seems that the only mention of this sighting is in a French magazine and the NUFORC database. I suspect the French magazine probably was just a summary of the NUFORC reports.

Analysis

We don't have a lot to examine. The report appears to indicate that a bright object paced the aircraft for 15 minutes and then disappeared rapidly (moving 10-20 miles in seconds). The description of "pacing" the aircraft indicated the object was that, as the aircraft moved, the object appeared to be in the same location relative to the aircraft. This could be because the object was pacing the aircraft on the same course as the plane. It could also be a distant object that was in a fixed location, but, because the aircraft did not change course, it appeared to follow the aircraft. This seems probable because the air traffic control report in the NUFORC database indicates multiple aircraft reported it. This usually indicates an object was probably far away and not close.

The mention of radar always gets UFO proponents excited but we have no idea what these radar contacts were. Were they just noise/anomalous propagation? This is not unheard of and random targets can appear on radar sets. There is no verification that these radar contacts were even the same as the visual one. As a result, the radar contacts can be considered, at best, interesting but insufficient proof that it was the same object.

The object was described as a fireball. I thought that might be a meteor but the time duration was listed as 15 minutes. No fireball is going to last that long. That indicates something that was either slow moving or stationary that rapidly disappeared.

I examined Molczan's database on re-entries. There was a re-entry on 14 April and it was visible over the midwest. However, there was no re-entry on this date and time. The SEESAT archive made no mention of anything either. Based on this information it could not have been any satellite or rocket body.

I decided to check the astronomical situation and discovered that Venus was setting about the time of the sighting. For nearby Altoona, Pennsylvania, the planet Venus was in the northwest setting around 23:50 PM. For high altitude aircraft, the set time would be later. The usual rule of thumb is about 1 minute later for every 5000 feet of altitude. Assuming an altitude of 30000 feet, this means Venus would set around 23:56, which is around the time listed. If one includes the possibility of refraction, an error in reporting the time, and other possible variables, Venus becomes a prime candidate for this sighting. Unfortunately, there is no direction given, which makes the Venus explanation "possible" at best.

Conclusion

I would classify this as possibly Venus with the caveat as the data is insufficient for a definitive conclusion. The insufficient information classification alone makes this case unfit to be on the list. The fact that Venus might have been the source of the report gives me another reason to remove it from the list. This case is not evidence of something extraordinary was seen.



Notes and references

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2. Larry Hatch database. Archives for the unexplained. Available WWW: <https://files.afu.se/Downloads/?dir=Databases/Larry%20Hatch/>
3. Phenomena magazine. Archives for the unexplained. Available WWW: <https://files.afu.se/Downloads/Magazines/France/Phenomena/Phenomena%20-%20No%2032%20-%201996%2003.pdf>
4. NUFORC Sighting 1415. National UFO reporting center. Available WWW: <https://nuforc.org/sighting/?id=1415>
5. NUFORC Sighting 1414. National UFO reporting center. Available WWW: <https://nuforc.org/sighting/?id=1414>

UFO over the Northeast

On 14 February, around 1930 EST, many people in the Northeastern United States witnessed an extraordinary event. I was made aware of the event that evening, when astronomer John Blackwell reported to the astronomy club mailing list that he had just seen a strange object in the sky. He attached photographs (one of which he allowed me to use on the cover as long as I did not claim it was an alien spaceship). I originally thought it was a venting rocket booster but decided to look at the SEESAT-L archives. Marco Langbroek posted a comment that this was probably the USSF-124 booster de-orbiting. That rocket had launched at 17:30 and it was passing over the United States at the end of its first orbit. It emitted a halo in an easterly direction as part of its de-orbiting maneuver. To me, this explained the event.

Naturally, I am always interested on how such events are reported in UFO databases. Unfortunately, MUFON does not allow anybody to freely access their database anymore. However, the National UFO reporting center does. On 16 February, there were 20 reports in the database from locations as far south as South Carolina and as far north as the Montreal. Eight of the reports were accompanied by images/videos. Many of the reports were fairly accurate but others, like so many of these reports, contained descriptions that were misleading. One witness stated the UFO emitted a beam towards the ground and another thought it was a spray of liquid.

I have yet to see any UFO promoters state this was a mass UFO sighting. I suspect they are learning their lesson about space activities producing such reports.

April 7, 1958 - Newport Beach, California

April 7, 1958--Newport Beach, California. Police watched two UFOs with flashing body lights, maneuver near coastline. [VII]¹

There is a comment after this that states there were similar sightings for two nights at El Toro and Santa Ana. They give no amplifying information for this comment. In section VII is a table with the following description:

Two flat objects with rows of six flashing lights on leading edge of each, low above ocean with light reflecting in water; maneuvered, made sharp turns.[18]²

Footnote 18 comes from the Santa Ana Register of April 10, 1958.³

Sources

Getting a copy of that specific newspaper clipping is not easy to come by. Fortunately, Loren Gross' UFO history for March-April 1958 had a clipping from the Anaheim Daily Bulletin for 10 April 1958, which contained a description of what was seen.⁴ Gross has no mention of any other sightings two days before or after for the date in question. Blue Book files contain only one sighting from Indio, California on the 11th. This was a meteor.

A search of the Newspaper archive did not produce any results for sightings in California between April 7 and 13. The APRO bulletin carried an article in the May 1958 issue.⁵ It repeated the article in Gross' history and added no new information.

The article does mention a sighting on Sunday, which was the 6th of April. To summarize the article:

- The time of the sighting was 9:30 PM.
- There were two objects. They flew slowly towards the NE. The patrolman estimated their altitude as 500 feet.
- The patrolman made a report to El Toro Marine airbase.
- They were described as being flat and delta-winged. There were no signs of a tail or superstructure.
- Each had six red lights on the trailing edge that flashed on and off in series.
- One object turned over Newport. The other object went up the coast further and turned inland near the Santa Ana river.

The news interviewed several fisherman to confirm the story. Three 16-year olds saw them and stated the number of red lights were only two but confirmed the rest of the description.

The news contacted the El Toro flight operations officer at 11 PM. He mentioned that Gordon had called and stated that helicopters "could have been in the area." The officer would not confirm if any aircraft were sent up to investigate/intercept.

The 16-year olds thought they might be helicopters because they darted and hovered.

The Sunday sighting happened in the early morning. This object traveled from Anaheim to the Saddleback area and was seen by police officers.

Analysis

While the article mentions that the police officer contacted El Toro Marine base, the base apparently did not file a UFO report with Blue Book. This limits the information available to this news clipping. I doubt that the Santa Ana Register story provided any additional information. It seems that El Toro was not interested in the report.

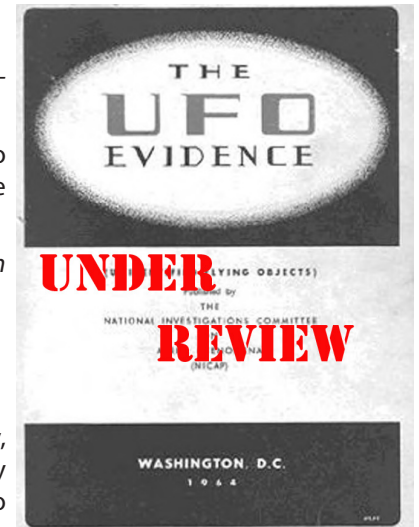
The newspaper clipping did provide some important information like direction of travel, it was missing a lot of other information that could help evaluate it. We had no duration, azimuth/elevation angles, speed, or angular size of the objects. Without that information, it is hard to analyze the event.

John Wayne Airport was an active airstrip in 1958 and called the Santa Ana - Laguna Beach airport. It was 6 miles to the northeast. El Toro Marine air base was 12 miles to the ENE. The first object traveling over Newport was heading towards these two locations.

NAS Los Alamitos was to the north-northwest 14 miles. Long Beach airport was 19 miles to the northwest.

There is a possibility that these were just aircraft. The only individuals that mentioned them darting/hovering were the 16-year olds. The police officer indicated they were just slowly traveling in two different directions. While the police officer seemed convinced there was a specific shape, the 16-year olds indicated they could not see a shape.

El Toro and NAS Los Alamitos had SH/UH-34 helicopters available that could have produced the sighting. El Toro also had CH-37s, which were large transport helicopters with an odd shape. Both had their share of fixed wing aircraft as well. Los Alamitos had S-2 sub hunters and P-2V aircraft. El Toro, which contained the entire the first Marine aircraft wing, had been flying the FJ-3 fury and was transitioning over to the F-8 Crusader. They also flew the delta wing F4D-1 skyray.



Both bases had a large number of aircraft and the first object went over Newport. This was the direction of El Toro. The other object that went up the coast was flying towards Los Alamitos. The fact that the only these individuals at Newport Beach, who saw these as unusual, has to be considered as indication that could have been aircraft. These objects flew over heavily populated areas and nobody else called to say they had seen UFOs.

It is disappointing that El Toro made no follow-up. I suspect the officer in charge of UFO investigations had no desire to pursue the case or was never informed of the event. In any case, they should have reported the sighting to Blue Book and conducted an investigation.

Conclusion

Like much of what is in the UFO evidence document, this entry is based on little more than newspaper clippings. As best I can tell, nobody, other than the local newspaper reporter, bothered to investigate the incident at the time. The media's investigation was cursory at best. The bottom line here is that using a newspaper clipping as your primary evidence to demonstrate that something is a "manifestation of extraterrestrial life"⁶ indicates that this case was just "padding" in order to increase the number of incidents listed in the document.

While the case can be considered "Insufficient information", there appears to be a potential solution in that they were possibly aircraft. The case should be classified as "Possible aircraft/insufficient information". In either case, we are left with a small mystery but not something that is "unearthly". It should be removed from the "UFO evidence" category.

Notes and references

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2. *ibid.* P. 64
3. *ibid.* P. 72
4. Gross, Loren. UFOS: A history March-April 1958. Freemont, California. 1986. P. 68.
5. "UAO over Newport Beach Harbor". APRO bulletin May 1958. P1, 3.
6. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. p. 179.

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 1074: MARCH 20, 1952 CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

March 20, 1952; Centreville, Maryland. 10:42 p.m. Witnesses: WWI/WW2 veteran A.D. Hutchinson and son. One dull orange-yellow saucer-shaped light flew straight and level very fast for 30 seconds.¹

Sparks' entry is more informative:

March 20, 1952. Centerville (Queen Anne's County), Maryland. 10:42 p.m. CIA clandestine employee [OPC?] who was WW1/WW2 Army veteran and pilot with extensive flight experience, A. D. Hutchinson, and son (Hutchinson Jr.), saw a dull orange-yellow saucer-shaped light, lighting looking like that of old-fashion light-bulb and about 2-3x size of aircraft wing light [or about 4-6 ft?], fly straight and level very fast from SW to SE about half way between horizon and zenith [or roughly 30° to 45° elevation], possibly about 5 miles away [better estimate about 1 mile], then made 2 sudden vertical jumps on order of 2° upwards each jump, jumps being like a "basketball bounce," before disappearing behind trees. No sound.²

The Blue Book file³

Unlike many of the files, this case contains a pretty good amount of information:

- It was seen at 10:42 PM
- Described as an orange-yellow saucer shaped light
- Its size was described as two to three times size of an airplane wing light
- It was about 45 degrees elevation and went from west to east.
- Its speed was described as very fast
- During its flight it jumped twice vertically at an extremely fast speed. This "jump" was not very high. The notes indicate this value was about 2 degrees. The witness described it jumping "a foot" while estimating the distance at five miles. This actually calculates to be much less than 2 degrees ($\arctan 1/26,400 = .002$ degrees). One assumes the investigator must have worked with the witness to come up with an approximate angular distance. 2 degrees is about four moon diameters.
- There was no noise
- The duration was listed as "approximately" 30 seconds.
- Notes on the document indicate the angular distance covered was about 90 degrees. It was first seen in the SW and disappeared in the SE behind some trees.

Analysis

Anytime there is a short duration object that moves in a fairly linear path, one has to consider the possibility that the object was a bright meteor. The thirty second time frame seems long for a meteor but the witness stating it was "very fast" and there was no sound makes me question the time estimate. One also must remember that the witness stated it was "approximately 30 seconds", which means it could have been less.

Long duration fireball meteors are not that unusual. Most are estimated to be a few seconds long. 10 second durations are unusual. Over 20 seconds is rare. That being said, estimates made by observers often tend to overestimate duration. I examined 54 fireball reports in the AMS database for January 2024.⁴ Five events had observers estimating the duration at 20 or 45 seconds. In some cases, it was one observer. In other instances there were multiple reports of these long durations, even though the bulk of the observers listed the time as being less than 10 seconds. I have seen videos of long duration fireballs. The April 26, 2017 fireball over Florida lasted about 20 seconds in the video recording found in the sky sentinel database.⁵

ATIC ruled out a meteor due to the "sudden climb". I am assuming they are referring to the "bouncing" motion, which were described as not being very high (about "a foot"/2 degrees). I have seen this kind of observation with stationary stars, satellites, airplanes, and other natural/man made events. While interesting, this part of the observation can be considered as a possible perceived motion by the witness and not the actual motion of the object. They were looking at a light moving rapidly across the sky and this could have been something similar to the auto kinetic effect.

I also considered the possibility that this was just an aircraft. Centreville, Maryland is located on the eastern shore of Maryland. There would be plenty of air traffic in the region. However, the duration seems too short for an aircraft. To have that angular speed, the airplane would have to be low in altitude and heard by the witness.

Conclusion

This event has the possibility of being a bright meteor. I could find no confirmation of this kind of event in the newspaper archive or Sky and Telescope but that is not unusual. Getting the press to report fireball meteors is not easy and Sky and Telescope only published stories about fireballs if they were widely observed. I would classify this as a possible meteor fireball and have it removed from the list unidentifieds.

Notes and references

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3. "Case file - Centerville, Maryland March 20, 1952". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6311056/centerville-queen-annes-county-md-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
4. "Fireball events". American Meteor Society. Available WWW: https://fireball.amsmeteors.org/members/imo_view/browse_events
5. "Sky Sentinel video of Event 2017-1497". American Meteor Society. Available WWW: https://fireball.amsmeteors.org/members/imo_video/view_video?video_id=514

Project Blue Book case review: 1949

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the year 1949. 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 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1949	Dillon, MT		Could be April 3, 1949. Duplicate entry.
Jan 46-9	Frankfort, Germany	Missiles	Agreed. Story from newspaper describing projectiles coming from East Germany with fragments being recovered. The fragments were described as being from missiles.
1	Jackson, MS	Insufficient data	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Hickam Field, HI	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible balloon (SUNlite 13-1)
5	Pacific	Aircraft	Agreed.
6	Kirtland AFB, NM	Meteor	Agreed
16	Bourbon County, KY	1. P: Negative flaw 2. V: Hoax	1. Agreed 2. Probable aircraft contrail. Labeled a hoax because weather at the time was overcast with breaks in clouds. Assuming witness did see the object, it does match the description of an aircraft and contrail.
18	Indian House Lake, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
20	San Antonio, TX	Meteor	Agreed
23	Tillamook, OR	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Bermuda	Aurora	Agreed
25	Nakagori Village, Japan		Possible meteor
27	Cortex, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30	TX, NM, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
31	Orlando, Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Possible meteor. Grudge ruled out meteor based on estimates made by some witnesses estimating the duration at 90 seconds. Other witnesses gave shorter durations of 3-20 seconds. It was seen in both Orlando and Tampa around the same time with the same course. This indicates that it was probably a meteor and the durations were either overestimates or included the ion train that may have been left behind (which can last seconds to minutes).

February 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
5	South Parkersburg, WV	Meteor	Agreed
6	Caribbean	Balloon	Agreed
7	Godman AFB, KY	Sirius	Agreed.
10	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
11	Curling East, New Newfoundland	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Possibly Capella. Photos were of area during daytime to show location of object.
14	East Gandado Mission, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
17	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Sandia Base, NM	Meteor	Agreed
19	Goose Bay, Labrador		Possible aircraft

23	Sanderg Pass, CA	Mirage	Possible aircraft. Pilot was the only person seeing the object. Other passenger did not see it and pilot in trailing aircraft failed to see it.
25	Little Rock, AR	Balloon	Possibly Sirius
27	Los Alamos, NM		Meteor
28	Chicago, IL	Meteor	Agreed

March 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
March-May	Fort Worth, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Multiple sightings from Fort Hood. Many appear to have been meteors but others do not but contain very little information (i.e. Blinking lights observed).
March	Dumont, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
2	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
3	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
4	Red Bank, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Kileen Base, Camp Hood, TX	Meteor	Agreed
7	Window Rock, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
7	Kileen Base, Camp Hood, TX	Meteor	Agreed
7	Vermillion, OH	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
8	Kileen Base, Camp Hood, TX	Meteor	Agreed
8	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
9	Eau Claire, WI	Contrail	Agreed
10	Kirtland AFB, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Charlton, IA, Minneapolis, MN	Meteor	Agreed
13	Sandia Base, NM	Meteor	Agreed
14	Honolulu, HI	Meteor	Agreed
15	Morgantown, WV	Meteor	Agreed
17	Rathimmon, Crete	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or time.
17-19	Kileen Base, Camp Hood, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Quebec, Canada	Aircraft	Case missing
24	Bend, OR	Kites	Possible balloon
27	Tucumcari, NM	Balloon	Contrail
28	Morgantown, WV	Meteor	Agreed
29	Shemya, AK	1. Aircraft 2. Meteor	Agreed
30-31	Ambridge, PA	Birds	Agreed
31	Kileen Base, Camp Hood, TX	Meteor	Agreed
31	Rodeo, NM	PS: Practice bomb	Agreed

April 1949

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
3	Dillon, MT	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Merced, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Delta, CO	PS: Ballast ring from balloon	Agreed
4	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed

5	Salt Lake City, UT	Meteor	Agreed
6	Cleveland, OH	1. Insufficient data 2. Stars/planets	1. Agreed. There is very little information associated with the initial sighting. 2. Agreed. Probably Arcturus
6	Castleton, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Denver, CO	Balloon	Agreed
7	Des Moines, IA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness' credibility questioned by neighbors opinion of the individual.
7	San Bernadino, CA	1. Insufficient data 2. Parachutes	1. Agreed 2. Agreed
7	Memphis, TN	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Multiple objects in western sky visible that could have been Capella, Saturn, Regulus, Arcturus and Spica.
7	Charlotte, NC	Ground lights	Agreed
8	Kodiak, AK	Meteor	Agreed
8	Los Angeles, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Rockford, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Toledo, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report is based on a newspaper story describing a 15-year old, who saw three UFOs. Nobody could contact the witness.
11	Welkill, NY	Meteor	Agreed
12	Sandia Base, NM	Meteor	Agreed
13	Fort Worth, TX	Meteor	Agreed
15	Colorado Springs, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
15	El Paso, TX	Clouds/Contrail	Agreed
16	Fort Smith, AR	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Camp Hood, TX	Flares	Agreed
19	Williams, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
21	Ludington, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Enid AFB, OK	Meteor	Agreed
21	Unity, MD	Cloud/Contrail	Agreed. It is possible this was a meteor ion trail.
22	Cliff, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Sarasota, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
23	Vicksburg, MS	Meteor	Agreed
24	Arrey, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
25	Springer, NM	Birds	Agreed
27	Camp Hood, TX	Birds	Agreed
28	Tuscon, AZ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Catalina Island, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
28	Indianapolis, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Information based on a phone call.
28	Homer, MI	Birds	Agreed
28	Camp Hood, TX	Flares/Fireworks	Agreed
28	Fort Bliss, TX	Balloon	Agreed
30	Albuquerque, NM	Meteor	Agreed

May 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
May	Antarctica		Case missing

2	Elko, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Sidney, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
3	Hillsboro, MO	Aircraft	Agreed. Letter written by witness
4	Limone, FL	Moon	Agreed
4	Maplewood, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Fort Bliss, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
6	Sidney, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Camp Hood, TX	Venus	Capella
6	Livermore, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7	St. Louis, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Camp Hood, TX	1. Aircraft 2. Betelgeuse 3. Capella	1. Aircraft 2. Capella 3. There is no third object reported it in the file.
8	Camp Hood, TX	Balloon	Agreed
8	Tuscon, AZ	Balloon	Agreed
9	Tuscon, AZ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11	Watertown, NY	Balloon	Agreed
12	Holloman AFB, NM	Stars/Planets	Possible clouds illuminated by moon
12	Westfield, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Roanoke, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
12-15	Osceola, IA	Reflections	Agreed
13	Boise, ID	Aircraft	Birds
15	Hickam AFB, HI	Meteor	Agreed
16	Davis Monthan AFB, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
16	Adak, AK	Aircraft	Agreed
18-23	New Orleans, LA	1-3. Aircraft 4. Star/Planet 5. Meteor	1-3, 5. Agreed 4. Possibly birds
19	Fort Bliss, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
19	St. Louis, MO	Meteor	Agreed
21	Dallas, TX	Birds	Agreed
21	Moses Lake AFB, WA	R: Aircraft V: Aircraft	Agreed
22	Caddo Lake, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Camp Hood, TX	Ground Lights	Agreed
23	Moses Lake AFB, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Rogue River bend, OR	Kites	Possible Balloon (this appears to be a duplicate entry of March 24)
24	Rogue River, OR	Aircraft	Possible Balloon
25	Hill AFB, UT	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Southern, OR	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Elko, NV	Aircraft	Agreed

30	El Paso, TX	Balloon	Agreed
31	Sacramento, CA	Birds	Agreed
31	Honshu Island, Japan	Venus	Agreed
31	Parma, MI	PS: Radio discs	Agreed

June 1949

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
Summer	Alaska	Hoax	Case missing
1	Walden, NY	Balloon	Agreed
2	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
3	Culpepper, VA	Meteor	Aircraft. Seen during day. Brief observation of "glint" near the sun while driving car.
4	Ginger Hill, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Hillsboro, OR	Balloon	Agreed
5	Van Wert, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Very little information. Time listed as "daylight".
5	Cincinnati, Union, OH	1. Aircraft 2. Meteor	1. Agreed 2. Bird
5	Tampa, FL	Meteor	Agreed
5	Gallup, NM	Meteor	Agreed
6	Camp Hood, TX	Balloon	Agreed
7	Springfield, MA	Balloon	Agreed
8	Haines, AK	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8	Guam	Contrails	Meteor ion trail
9	Tioga, CO	Balloon	Birds
10	Boston, MA	Insufficient data	Possible research balloon
11	Huntersville, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
13	Camp Hood, TX	Meteor	Agreed
14	Miami Beach, FL	Meteor	Agreed
17	Glendale, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Montgomery, AL	Cloud	Balloon. Individual saw shiny object while driving and reported it merging/disappearing into cloud.
19	Oakridge, TN	Balloon	Agreed
20	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
20	Paget, Bermuda	Balloon	Agreed
21	Monroe, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Source of information is newspaper article with particulars missing.
22	Fort Bliss, TX	Target Planes	Agreed
23	Toledo, OH	Psychological	Agreed. Witness described a landing of a spaceship with two men coming out.
23	Klamath Falls, OR	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Fort Deven, MA	Meteor	Agreed
24	Astoria, Long Island, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Black Hills, SD	Balloon	Agreed

24	Mesa, AZ	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft and birds (Multiple objects seen). The report is listed as unreliable because of the primary witness seemed to imply the other witnesses were not to be trusted. Two child witnesses would not answer any questions apparently because the parents threatened them not to talk about the event. One of the witnesses did not consider the objects to be that important or unusual.
26	PA, OH	Meteor	Agreed
27	Kirtland AFB, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Urbana, OH	Meteor	Agreed
29	Flagstaff, AZ	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Baltimore, MD	Birds	Agreed
29	Osborn, OH	Birds	Agreed
30	Seligman, NM	Meteor	Agreed

July 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Fort Francis, Canada	Meteor	Aircraft. Brief observation an object while driving.
3	Longview, WA	Balloon	Agreed
3	Pittsburgh, PA	Meteor	Agreed
5	Boise, ID	Balloon	Agreed. Witness stated it was traveling at high speed but was visible for 25 minutes.
5	Alexandria, LA	Balloon	Agreed
6	Fort Worth, TX	Balloon	Agreed
7	Valdosta, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
7	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Alexandria, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Yellowstone National Park, WY	Birds	Agreed
9	Tigvarisk Island, AK	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Dayton, OH	Kites	Agreed
11	Camp Hood, TX	Meteor	Agreed
13	Pullman, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Pineville, LA	Hoax	Agreed
15	Sacramento, CA	Meteor	Agreed (Possible daylight meteor)
16	Fairfield Suisun AFB, CA	Jupiter	Agreed
17	Pullman, WA	Balloon	Agreed
17	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Moreauville, LA	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Jupiter
18	Fairfield Suisun AFB, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Valdosta, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report appears to have come from newspaper clipping with no positional information or specific time.
20	Galveston, TX	Meteor	Aircraft
20	Honolulu, HI	Balloon	Agreed
21	Mount Pleasant, UT	Insufficient data	Agreed. Objects seen by one member of crew for a few seconds as aircraft flew of them.
21	Darien, GA	Meteor	Agreed

22	Peekskill, NY	Balloon	Possible meteor. While no duration is given, the witness stated the pair of objects were moving at "terrific speed".
22	Pocatello, ID	Meteor	Agreed. Possible daylight meteor
23	Delphi, IN	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Possibly Arcturus and Vega
24	Mountain Home, ID	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Carswell AFB, TX	Birds	Agreed
24	Fairfield, OH	Aircraft	Possible meteor
26	Bellingham, WA	Jupiter	Agreed
26	Mitchell, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
26	August, KY	Ground/Search lights	Agreed
26	Spokane, WA	Birds	Agreed
27	Jackson, MI	Flares	Agreed.
27	Point Barrow, AK	Jupiter	Agreed
27	Louisville, KY	Balloon	Agreed
27	Puyallup, WA	Meteor	Agreed
28	Tallman, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration given.
29	Pacific	Anti-Aircraft firing	Agreed. This appears to have been an aircraft encroaching on Soviet Airspace. They reported heavy puffs of black smoke.
30	Mt. Hood, OR	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30	Nampa, ID	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Portsmouth, VA	Cloud	Agreed
Jul-Sep	Southwestern US	Meteors	Agreed. Multiple reports of objects that appear to have been meteors.

August 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Aug	Fresno, CA		Case missing
1	Columbus, OH	1. Contrail 2. Stars/Planets	1. Agreed 2. Agreed. Probably Arcturus
2	Pacific	Clouds/Contrails	Agreed
2	Port O'connor, TX	Venus	Agreed
2	San Francisco, CA	Kites(Radar targets)	Agreed
5	LaPorte, PA	Hoax	Agreed. Object was dough nut-shaped piece of steel painted black.
6	Long Island, NY	Balloon	Agreed
7	New Orleans, LA	Balloon	Agreed
7	Tampico, Mexico	Meteor	Agreed
8	Death Valley, CA	PS: Hoax	Agreed. Prospectors claiming a spaceship crashed into Death Valley.
8	Medford, OR	Balls of Thistle	Agreed. Airborne debris blown by wind identified as "balls of thistle", which had been seen airborne in the region.
8	Manitou Springs, CO	Balloon	Agreed
8	Biloxi, Hattiesburg, MS	Meteor	Agreed

9	Hebegen Lake, MT	C-47 Astrodome	Agreed. Witnesses reported two objects crashing. An object was recovered that was identified as the astrodome from a C-47.
10	Camp Hood, TX	Meteor	Agreed
10	Hindsville, AR	Aircraft	Agreed
12	West Newport Beach, CA	Insufficient data	Case missing
13	New Orleans, LA	PS: Aluminum Alloy	Agreed
14-21	Nogales, AZ	1. Reflection of airport beacon on clouds 2. Meteors	1. Agreed 2. Agreed
15	Dallas, TX	Aircraft	Possible birds
15	Seattle, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Greenville, SC	Balloon	Agreed
17	Glen Burnie, MD	Hoax	Agreed of flying saucers being constructed. Investigation revealed aircraft in a barn but no flying saucers.
18	Weimar, CA	Birds	Agreed
19	Bloomington, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Langley AFB, VA	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
20	Liano, TX	Moon	Agreed
20	Denver, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Seattle, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Misawa AB, Japan	Aircraft	Agreed
25	McDonald, OH	Paper in wind	Agreed
26	Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Hansville, WA	Balloon	Agreed
31	Houston, TX	Meteor	Agreed
31	Sacramento, CA	Meteor	Agreed
Aug-Sep	Oak Park	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or date.

September 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Grand Rapids, M	Meteor	Case missing
1	Knoxville, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Alexandria, LA	Meteor	Agreed
5	Lebec, CA	1. Balloon 2. Misinterpretation of conventional objects	1. Agreed 2. Photographs submitted just showed a corral and shed
5	East of Reno, NV (Mountain Home AFB, ID)	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Clark AFB, Philippines	Contrails	Agreed
10	Goose Bay, Labrador	Meteor	Agreed
10	Boston, NY		Possible aircraft
11	West Paris, ME	Aircraft	Agreed

12	Lubbock, TX	Ducks	Agreed
12	Savannah, GA	Aircraft	Case missing
14	Scottsbluff, NE		Aircraft
15	Scottsbluff, NE		Aircraft
18	Japan		Aircraft and contrail
19	Las Cruces, NM		Aircraft
20	Griffis AFB, Rome, NY		Insufficient data. No duration listed.
20	Hooksett, NH		Possible meteor
26	Winchendon, MA		Aircraft
26	Lexington, NE		Aircraft
29	Enid, OK		Possible bird
29	Humboldt, NE		Possible balloon
29	Japan		Possible aircraft
30	Camp Holabird, MD		Possible birds
30	Honolulu, HI		Balloon

October 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct-Nov	Los Alamos, NM	Light from flare gun	Multiple reports from region. All seem to be of meteors with durations lasting only a few seconds.
1	Mount Hope, WV		Case missing
2	Holland, MI		Aircraft
5	Japan		Possible bird. Black object seen for one second.
8	Copec, CA		Case missing
10	Japan		Case missing
11	Harrisburg, PA		Possible bird
12	Wilson, NC	Meteor	Agreed
12	Holloman AFB, NM		Possible meteor
12	Downs, KS		Possible bird
13	Payerne, Switzerland		Case missing
14	Indiana Rocks, FL	Aircraft	Possible birds
16	Moses Lake, WA		Aircraft
17	Omaha, NE		Possible aircraft
17	East Tallahassee, AL		Aircraft
20	Manchester, NH		Possible meteor
20	Barker, NY		Possible meteor (appears related to Manchester NH)
21	Roswell, NM		Venus. Photographs are out of focus.
22	Connellesville, PA		Possible birds
23	Cincinnati, OH		Reflection of searchlight on clouds. Photograph shows nothing of significance.
23	Dayton, OH		Case missing
23	Wilson, NC		Aircraft
24	Fairbanks, AK		Boat light
24	Garden City, Long Island, NY		Meteor

26	Dickson, TN		Insufficient data. Witness made brief report with no time, duration,
27	Guntown, MS		Possible balloons
27	Knoxville, TN		Possible aircraft
28	Atlantic, IA		Possible balloon
28	Napa, CA		Possible aircraft
30	Novato, CA		Case missing
31	Burbank to Palmdale, CA		Possible meteor

November 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Unity, NH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Jupiter
16	Oxford, MS		Possible contrail
17	August, GA		Meteor
18	Raceland, LA		Balloon
18	Biloxi, MS		Balloon
21	Chattanooga, TN		1. Birds 2. Meteor
21	Akita, Honshu, Japan		Balloon. Seen for a few seconds by pilot of F-80. No other pilots saw the object.
22	Dover, DE		Birds
23	Santa Rosa Island, FL	Venus	Agreed
24	NM		Case Missing
25	Mt. Palomar, CA	R: Equipment Mal-function	Agreed. Witnesses were associating faulty radiation readings with sightings.
27	McIntosh, NM	Meteor	Agreed
27	Kirtland, NM		Meteor

December 1949

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
3	Holloman, NM		Meteor
4	Albuquerque, NM	Meteor	Agreed
4	Campo, CO		Meteor
4	Cimarron County, OK		Case Missing
4	Between Covington and Hammond, LA	Stars/planets	Agreed. Possibly Venus
5	Holloman AFB, NM		Meteor
13	Holloman AFB, NM		Venus
16	Farmington, NM		Case missing
20	Carmi Radio Range Canada		Case missing
26	500 mi. SE of Newfoundland		Insufficient data. This was a radar sighting but without a visual component. The radar data suggests a possible aircraft.
27	Los Alamos, NM		Aircraft
28	Ithaca, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Hamlet, NC		Contrail
30	Langley Field, VA		Possible Balloon
31	Andrews AFB, WA		Case missing

31	Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ		Possible balloon
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Reclassification

I evaluated 323 cases in the Blue Book files from January 1949 through December 1949. However, quite a few did not have any classifications. 55 of the sightings were in this category. Therefore, only 268 cases were classified by Blue Book. In my opinion, 34 of these were improperly classified (12.7%). 6 (2.2% of the total number of cases/17.6% 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
1/1	Jackson, MS	Insufficient data	UNIDENTIFIED
1/4	Hickam Field, HI	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible balloon (SUNlite 13-1)
1/16	Bourbon County, KY	1. P:Negative flaw 2. V: Hoax	1. Agreed 2. Probable aircraft contrail. Labeled a hoax because weather at the time was overcast with breaks in clouds. Assuming witness did see the object, it does match the description of an aircraft and contrail.
1/31	Orlando, Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Possible meteor. Grudge ruled out meteor based on estimates made by some witnesses estimating the duration at 90 seconds. Other witnesses gave shorter durations of 3-20 seconds. It was seen in both Orlando and Tampa around the same time with the same course. This indicates that it was probably a meteor and the durations were either overestimates or included the ion train that may have been left behind (which can last seconds to minutes).
2/14	East Gandado Mission, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
2/23	Sanderg Pass, CA	Mirage	Possible aircraft. Pilot was the only person seeing the object. Other passenger did not see it and pilot in trailing aircraft failed to see it.
2/25	Little Rock, AR	Balloon	Possibly Sirius
March	Dumont, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
3/7	Vermillion, OH	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
3/24	Bend, OR	Kites	Possible balloon
4/28	Catalina Island, CA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
5/6	Camp Hood, TX	Venus	Capella
12	Holloman AFB, NM	Stars/Planets	Possible clouds illuminated by moon
13	Boise, ID	Aircraft	Birds
18-23	New Orleans, LA	1-3. Aircraft 4. Star/Planet 5. Meteor	1-3, 5. Agreed 4. Possibly birds
24	Rogue River bend, OR	Kites	Possible Balloon (this appears to be a duplicate entry of March 24)
24	Rogue River, OR	Aircraft	Possible Balloon
6/3	Culpepper, VA	Meteor	Aircraft. Seen during day. Brief observation of "glint" near the sun while driving car.
5	Cincinnati, Union, OH	1. Aircraft 2. Meteor	1. Agreed 2. Bird
8	Haines, AK	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8	Guam	Contrails	Meteor ion trail
9	Tioga, CO	Balloon	Birds
10	Boston, MA	Insufficient data	Possible research balloon

18	Montgomery, AL	Cloud	Balloon. Individual saw shiny object while driving and reported it merging/disappearing into cloud.
24	Mesa, AZ	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft and birds (Multiple objects seen). The report is listed as unreliable because of the primary witness seemed to imply the other witnesses were not to be trusted. Two child witnesses would not answer any questions apparently because the parents threatened them not to talk about the event. One of the witnesses did not consider the objects to be that important or unusual.
7/1	Fort Francis, Canada	Meteor	Aircraft. Brief observation an object while driving.
20	Galveston, TX	Meteor	Aircraft
22	Peekskill, NY	Balloon	Possible meteor. While no duration is given, the witness stated the pair of objects were moving at "terrific speed".
24	Fairfield, OH	Aircraft	Possible meteor
8/15	Dallas, TX	Aircraft	Possible birds
19	Langley AFB, VA	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
Oct-Nov	Los Alamos, NM	Light from flare gun	Multiple reports from region. All seem to be of meteors with durations lasting only a few seconds.
14	Indiana Rocks, FL	Aircraft	Possible birds

Summary

I was surprised to find that the last four months of 1949 had missing files and no classifications on most of the cases. That being said, many of the files contained follow-up investigations by personnel that were pretty good. They did not draw a conclusion but did gather pertinent data. I suspect the reason for these lack of classifications had to do with project Grudge not dedicating much in the way of resources towards evaluating reports after releasing their report in August of 1949.

There were many meteor observations from New Mexico. This is when the "green fireball" phenomena was being reported. Despite their green color, which is not unusual for bright meteors, I don't consider any of these reports that spectacular.

One of the cases was classified as insufficient data but should be listed as Unidentified. This was the case from Jackson, Mississippi in January 1949. There was enough data to classify the case but I could not figure out what it might have been. I suspect it could have been a balloon but the description of the flight path was against the wind. As I am fond of saying, it is what it is.

My work on the project Blue Book review continues next issue. I intend to review the year 1950 next issue.

References

1. "Project Blue Book investigations." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/title/461/project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>
2. Project Blue Book archive. Available WWW:<http://bluebookarchive.org/> (Note: This website is no longer active but some of my files come from this location. It may become active again in the future.)
3. 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/>
4. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" StratoCat. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>
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6. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968.