

# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

*A lot of people argue that we have data but the vast majority of that data is anecdotal and that's just not going to cut it.*

Alejandro Rojas

Nova: What are UFOs?

Volume 17 Number 2

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Cover: Venus dominated the skies this winter. Venus figures as a prominent IFO in this issue's UFO Evidence under review and Weeding out the Weinstein catalog.



## Keeping the pilot light lit

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Last month, I mentioned that I was probably going to shut down my regular newsletter sometime in 2025. This is the last official “regular” issue of SUNlite. There will be a SUNlite 17-3 (along with a supplemental issue) but it will not contain any more regular articles like the 701 club, Weinstein catalog, or UFO evidence under review. The ones in this issue are the final ones of their kind for the near future. After 17-3, the regular bi-monthly release of SUNlite will cease. While SUNlite will fade, I will keep the pilot light lit. It is my intention to publish an occasional issue, when I have the time. I am just not going to be publishing regularly anymore. As it is, I am already contemplating a future edition of SUNlite to address some more possible IFOs that I found during the final review of the list of Blue Book unknowns. They all appeared to have potential explanations that I would like to explore and write about. I just didn’t have the time in this issue, won’t have space in 17-3, and dislike leaving loose threads hanging.

In this issue, I present some cases in the UFO evidence under review and Weinstein catalog entries that were heavily promoted by NICAP. These are the Redmond, Oregon and Benjamin, Texas events. Both were determined by Blue Book to be Venus and I agree with those classifications. I also did two 701 club entries this issue. Additionally, while I was performing a review of the Blue Book unknowns, I noticed some cases that cannot be properly analyzed for various reasons. I consider them weak cases and are, what I call, “low hanging fruit” that should be rejected from the list. These cases should be listed as containing unreliable, conflicting, or insufficient information. Therefore, I wrote an article about these cases and explained why each should be removed from the list of Blue Book unidentifieds. This will also move them onto my master 701 club list.

With my termination of the regular publication of SUNlite, I wanted to “clear the decks” and present some “new” evidence for the 1997 Arizona UFO case, that I have been sitting on for sixteen years. It does not exactly prove my explanation for the case (see SUNlite 2-3) but it is consistent with what I had written. Unfortunately, that source, which I found credible, wanted to remain anonymous. This is why I never bothered to publish this information until now because I felt the information would not be very convincing without an identifiable source. I recently did a follow-up with the individual and he felt it was OK for me to publish the story as long as he wasn’t named. Therefore, I present the information for all to read and they can then determine if it is important or not.

[This video of an actual meteorite striking the ground appeared recently.](#) It was recorded by a security camera. While the impact is not that impressive, it demonstrates that just about anything unusual or rare will be eventually recorded using present technology. This begs the question, “Why aren’t UFO landings or close encounters being recorded by such equipment?”

The final installment of my review of Blue Book case review is published in this issue. SUNlite 17-3 will summarize the data I collected over the years.

I want to thank Luis R. González for his contributions in this issue.

### An apology to Don Berliner

Over the years, I have misspelled Don Berliner’s name as “Berliner”. Nobody seemed to notice or, if they did, mention it to me. It wasn’t until recently, that I realized that I had made the mistake long ago and simply carried it forward over the years. It is a small thing but it is something that bothered me when I discovered it. I would not want somebody to misspell my name. Therefore, I am making an apology here for the error.

# WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

September 24, 1959 - Redmond, Oregon<sup>1</sup>

The source of this information comes from the NICAP UFO Investigator (August 1962) and the MUFON journal (issue 257 - September 1989). One can also find information in a blue book file on the case, in the UFO Evidence, and Loren Gross' UFO history for 1959.

## Source information

The MUFON journal and UFO Investigator are very limited in their information. However, the UFO evidence is more illuminating:

*September 24, 1959: Redmond Airport, Oregon, is situated southeast of the city. (see sketch map). Just before dawn, policeman Robert Dickerson was cruising the city streets when he noticed a bright falling object like a meteor. Instead of "burning out," the object took on a larger, ball-like appearance, stopped abruptly, and hovered about 200 feet above the ground, its glow lit up juniper trees below it.*

*The patrolman watched the UFO for several minutes, then drove toward it on Prineville Highway, turning in at the airport. The UFO, meanwhile changed color from bright white to a duller reddish-orange color, and moved rapidly to a new position NE of the airport.*

*At the FAA office, Flight Service Specialist Laverne Wertz had just completed making weather observations minutes before, and had seen nothing unusual. Now Patrolman Dickerson, Wertz, and others studied the hovering object through binoculars. The UFO was round and flat, with tongues of "flame" periodically extending from the rim.*

*At 1310Z (5:10 a.m. PST), official logs show, the UFO was reported to Seattle Air Route Control Center. Logs of the Seattle center show that the report was relayed to Hamilton AFB. The Seattle log continues: "UFO also seen on the radar at Klamath Falls GCI [Ground Control Intercept] site. F-102's scrambled from Portland."*

*As the Redmond observers studied the UFO, they noticed a high speed aircraft approaching from the southeast. The log continues: "As aircraft approached, UFO took shape of mushroom, observed long yellow and red flame from lower side as UFO rose rapidly and disappeared above clouds."*

*The UFO was seen again briefly, hovering about 25 miles south of the airport. Radar continued to show the UFO south of Redmond for about two hours.<sup>2</sup> [See FAA log, Section IX]<sup>3</sup>*

Section IX lists the log and some comments about the case:

*When a UFO sighting by Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) personnel on Sept. 24, 1959, at Redmond, Ore., airport [See Section V] was reported in the press, NICAP made a thorough investigation. Information was obtained from the FAA, the Weather Bureau and the IGY World Data Center at Cornell University. A taped interview of the witnesses was obtained by members in the area. The essence of the report was that a round object had descended and hovered, moved quickly to a new position, then shot up into clouds emitting a flame trail as jet interceptors approached. The jets were scrambled because, according to FAA logs, an Air Force radar station was also tracking a UFO at the time.*

*When queried about the official explanation for this sighting, the Air Force replied: "The Portland Oregon UFO sighting of 24 September 1959 is carried on the records of ATIC as 'insufficient information.' The ATIC account of the sighting fails to reveal any evidence of radar tracking or any success of the attempted intercept. It is the ATIC opinion that this object was probably a balloon as evidenced by its relatively long period in the area (more than an hour), and the fact that, unless equipped with reflectors, balloons are not good radar reflectors. The average direction and strength of the wind at the time of the sighting was south at 15 knots [NICAP: The UFO reportedly moved south, where it showed on radar after the visual sighting had ended]" (Maj. Lawrence J Tacker, USAF, Public Information Division Office of Information, 1 19-60).*

*NICAP obtained wind data from the U.S. Weather Bureau showing steady winds from the southeast throughout the morning, from 3-7 knots, until nearly five hours after the sighting. No balloon had been launched locally at the time of the sighting, and even if one had been, it almost certainly would have traveled on a northerly course. Later, the Air Force dropped the balloon explanation.*

*After NICAP publicity on the case drew Congressional attention, the Air Force issued a much more detailed account (admitting that six jet interceptors had been scrambled, but denying that radar had tracked a UFO). Air Force letters to Members of Congress attributed the radar sighting to an error on the part of their Ground Control Intercept radar station. "It was determined by the four senior controllers on duty during the period of the search that this radar return on the ground station scope was a radar echo from a gap filler antenna located on a mountain at the 8010-foot level. This radar return did not move during the entire period of the search. [NICAP: The FAA logs*

state, "Altitude has been measured on height finder at altitudes that vary from 6000 to 54,000 feet."]. The fact that this radar return did not move is in complete disagreement with ground observers who sighted the UFO visually. They all testified it maneuvered rapidly and at times hovered." (Col. Gordon B. Knight, Chief, Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, to Senator Warren G. Magnuson, 4-27-60.)

On March 25, 1960, the Pentagon UFO spokesman had written to NICAP that ". because of the information contained in the FAA logs, your correspondence and the copies of the logs have been forwarded to ATIC for possible additional consideration.....Based upon all the present data on this sighting, the finding of 'insufficient data' is definitely valid." As of Col. Knight's April 27, 1960, letter to Senator Magnuson, the case still was classified as "insufficient data."

An Air Force information sheet circulated in 1963 attributes the UFO to "the refraction of light from the planet Venus." (The sheet also accuses NICAP of "exploitation" of the FAA logs which contradicted the Air Force story). NICAP astronomy advisors had already checked this possibility, and knew Venus was prominent in the eastern sky that morning. The witnesses were queried on this specific point and stated they did not see Venus during the UFO sighting, but did see it and identify it afterwards.

NICAP concedes that, if the radar target was perfectly stationary throughout, it was not the UFO observed visually. When trying to establish the balloon explanation, the Air Force emphasized the long period of observation (The FAA log indicates the visual sighting lasted about 10 minutes.) When dissociating the radar sighting from the visual sighting, the Air Force emphasized the high maneuverability of the UFO. Finally, the UFO which "maneuvered rapidly and at times hovered" has been explained as the planet Venus.<sup>3</sup>

#### FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

Redmond Oregon,  
Jan. 15, 1960

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

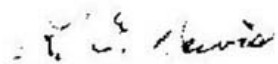
The following is the original records on file at this facility and is All the information contained in this record concerning UFO sighted September 24, 1959. Taken from log of this date.  
1259Z

Robert Dickerson Redmond city police reported strange bright light descending rapidly north of the station. At several hundred feet it stopped and hovered for several minutes. He drove toward it on the Prineville highway and turned in toward the airport. At this time the light turned orange and it moved to the northeast of the station very rapidly. Relocated approximately 10 miles northeast of the station estimated 3000 feet.

1310Z

Reported object to Seattle Air Route Control Center. He continued to observe UFO. Stayed very steady and projected long tongues of red, yellow and green light. These tongues of light varied in length and extended and retracted at irregular times. Observed high speed aircraft approaching from southeast. As aircraft approached UFO took shape of mushroom, observed long yellow and red flame from lower side as UFO rose rapidly and disappeared above clouds estimated 14,000 feet, scattered layer. UFO reappeared south of Redmond approximately 20 miles estimated 25,000 feet. Seattle Air Route Control Center advised radar contacted UFO at 1420Z located 25 miles south of Redmond at 52,000 feet. No further sightings made at this station.  
1511Z

Seattle Air Route Control Center advised UFO still 25 miles south of Redmond, various altitudes from 6,000 to 52,000 feet.

  
L.E. Davis  
Chief, Redmond Air Traffic  
Communication Station.

The Blue Book file is a bit different than the NICAP version. The file contains many reports and there are conflicts as far as times and details. Blue Book also failed to get the witnesses to complete the eyewitness report forms. As a result, we are left grasping at details regarding direction the object was seen<sup>5</sup>:

- The object was first sighted by policeman Robert Dickerson at 1200Z (0400 PST).
- Object was described as descending and in a location north of the airport.
- The object had four protruding lights of green, yellow, white, and red. They would go out and come back on.
- When he reached the airport, the object turned to orange and was visible to the northeast.
- He continued to observe the object with Mr. Wertz, an airport/FAA employee. It stayed steady in its position and projected tongues of red, yellow, green light. These tongues extended and retracted at irregular times.
- Dickerson would eventually attempt to see if he could get closer to the object and drove further down the highway, which was in a due east direction.
- At 1259Z/1310Z, the object was approached by an aircraft. The UFO turned mushroom shaped and yellow-red flames were seen at bottom of the object. It rose into a cloud layer estimated at 14,000 feet and disappeared.
- The object was then observed again by FAA operator Laverne Wertz at 1325Z. It was estimated at a distance of 20 miles south of Redmond at an altitude of 35,000 feet.
- Weather was high, thin, broken clouds.
- After Mr. Wertz reported the UFO, the Air Force recognized they had an unknown contact in the region. This resulted in the scrambling of various aircraft, including a helicopter, between 1300 and 2230Z. No UFOs were ever identified but multiple passes were made in the vicinity of a radar contact at 12,000 to 40,000 feet near La Pine, Oregon. This location was about 40 miles south of Redmond Airport. This disagrees with the 25 miles south of Redmond in the FAA document.

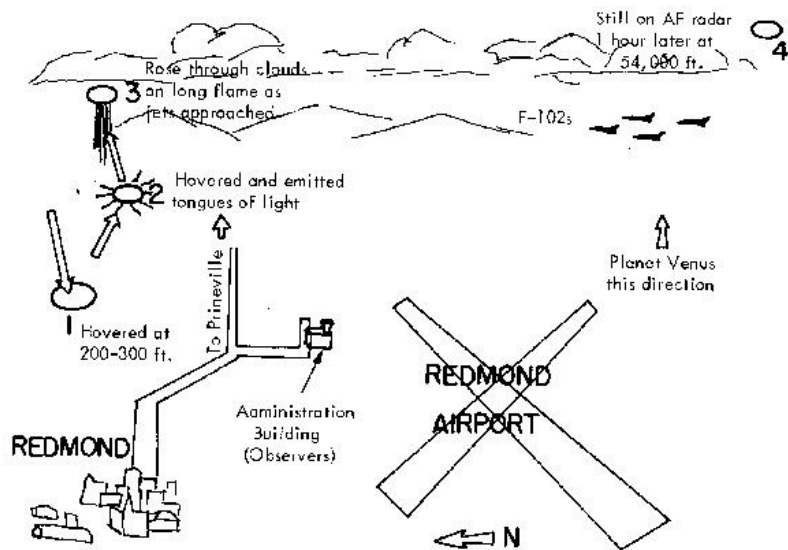
Another source of information is Loren Gross' history on the case. He talked to Dr. McDonald, who interviewed the witnesses and got specifics not obtained by NICAP or Blue Book. This interview happened six to seven years later, in 1966, and McDonald conveyed the content of the interview to Richard Hall.

*...Then the light went out, and he saw it climb off eastward at an angle, giving off a dull red glow and looking more like a red streak at this time. Since he was heading east and it went off to the east, he decided to drive out to the airport and see if he could find anyone there who had seen it and see if he could get any information out of them.... FAA employee Laverne Wertz was on duty and Dickerson got him outside and the two watched with binoculars. At that juncture it was just a glowing white light, oval, with longer axis horizontal. It lay off to their east. It made small oscillations, but did not change its general location. There seemed, he said, to be something like 'heat radiation waves' emanating from it. He puts its range at perhaps 7-8 miles then, but said this was a guess influenced by subsequent reports that its brightness awakened several persons in the town of Powell Butte, which lies at that 7-8 mile distance. They watched it for about 30 minutes, then he decided to drive towards Powell Butte to get a better view of it.... We continued to observe UFO. Stayed very steady and projected long tongues of red, yellow and green light. These tongues of light varied in length and extended and retracted at irregular times. Observed high speed aircraft approaching from southeast [Portland is northwest from Redmond. Were the jets redirected?]. As aircraft approached UFO took shape of mushroom, observed long yellow and red flame from lower side as UFO rose rapidly and disappeared above clouds estimated 15,000 feet, scattered layer...As Dickerson drove east towards Powell Butte, he had gone only about 2-3miles [along Highway 126], watching the stationary luminous object through his windshield, when suddenly it shot straight upwards, with almost instantaneous acceleration. He emphasized the way in which it lit up the broken cloud deck as it passed through it, spreading a momentary whitish bright glow over the deck [These clouds could have hidden Venus. This is an important point that came up later]. He, himself, never saw jets, but Wertz informed him later that Wertz was monitoring traffic and heard the communications indicating that the jets were just approaching the area when the object shot up.<sup>6</sup>*

## Analysis

The initial observation is somewhat confusing in the Blue Book and NICAP narrative/reports. We are led to believe that the object was either in the direction of the airport or towards the north of the airport. The airport was to the southeast of where Dickerson was initially located. If the object was initially to the north or northeast of Dickerson, he would have drive northward towards SR 370 and not eastward on SR 126. McDonald's interview with Dickerson indicates the object was to the east, which was why he drove towards the airport. Dickerson also told McDonald he drove eastward to get a better view.





The map provided by NICAP is somewhat misleading.<sup>7</sup> The arrow for the direction of Venus is pointing eastward but by placing the arrow south of the airport, it points towards the horizon to the SE. That implies it was in that location and not the direction of the UFO. Had they pointed eastward from where the observers were, it would suddenly make it appear the UFO was in the same general direction.

Venus rose at an azimuth of 81 degrees at 1128Z. It was at greatest brilliancy at magnitude -4.75. By 1200Z it was at an azimuth of 87 degrees and 5 degrees elevation. This is pretty much where Dickerson and NICAP place the UFO on their map. The “falling” of the UFO could have been a perception issue as Dickerson was driving in the direction of the airport. This also could have been the reason the UFO was listed as being towards the northeast at one point. As Dickerson drove down rte 126, the road changed direction towards the southeast. If Dickerson thought he was still driving eastward, the UFO would have been to his left about 45 degrees. That results in him thinking the object had shifted towards the northeast when it was the road that changed direction and not the object.

The UFO now appeared to move around a given location with shooting off “tongues” of varying colors of light. These are common observations of UFO witnesses looking at stars/planets. The Auto kinetic effect tends to make bright lights move about in a dark sky. Scintillation can make stars, and planets, appear to shoot off beams, twinkle, or vary in color.

By 1259/1310Z (depending on what source is used), the UFO rose into the clouds and disappeared. Twilight was well underway at this point and the sun rose at 1354Z. It is no surprise that Venus’ brilliance would start to fade as the sky brightened. After the object disappeared into the clouds, Dickerson and/or Wertz reportedly saw an object to the south, which they assumed was the original object. In the blue book file, it states it was making good speed. In the NICAP document, we are told it was hovering. We do not know what happened to this object since it is not clear in either source. I assume it eventually disappeared, which means it could have faded away in the morning twilight. That indicates a potential astronomical object. At 1310Z, the bright star Sirius would have still been visible and was at azimuth 156 degrees and 25 degrees elevation.

In the NICAP file, they state that the Venus explanation was presented to Dickerson and Wertz. Both stated they did not see it during the sighting but “later” saw it and identified it. I find it difficult to believe that they did not see such a prominent object in the vicinity of where they saw the UFO. It seems likely that they had no idea that Venus was in the sky at the time and, only after being asked by NICAP, did they suddenly remember seeing Venus. Dr. McDonald wrote about this in his letter to Richard Hall:

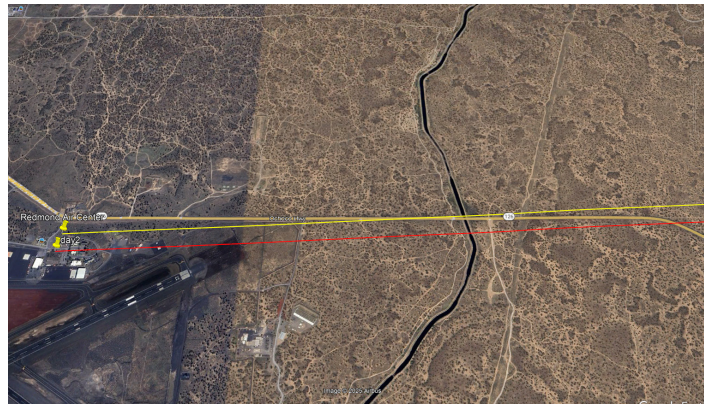
*The next AM, at the same time, he and Wertz checked the eastern skies. Although they had not noticed Venus the preceding morning, they saw it on the AM of the 25th, in the eastern skies, very bright [a bit of cloud could have cloaked it]. However, he said they were looking down the direction of [Highway] No. 126, which provided a definite reference line, and while Venus lay to the left (north) of Highway 126, they had seen the bright, hovering, oval object to the right (south) of 126. Also, he indicated that the object was not a circular (!) light like Venus; it was oblong, he said. He could not account for the fact that they had not been aware of Venus the preceding morning, and indicated they got some ridicule over this, though none in the press, apparently.<sup>8</sup>*

Again, this bit of information confirms the object was in the east and not the Northeast. It also demonstrates that NICAP wasn’t being completely honest. They stated that the witnesses saw Venus “afterwards”. They did not say it was on the next day. As for the location of Venus in relation to the road on subsequent mornings, deviation to the left or right of the road could have been due to the location where the witnesses were standing being different. A few hundred feet could easily make the difference (See image next page).

The image to the right shows the line of sight from two different locations about 350 feet apart near the airport traffic center. From the northern location, Venus would appear to the left of the road. From the southern location to the right.

McDonald tries to make it appear that clouds obscured Venus and that is why Venus was not visible. Of course, Venus, being very bright, could have been visible through broken or thin clouds, which is how the weather was described in the Blue Book file (high, thin, and broken). This would have made the planet appear unusual compared to being seen under clear conditions.

Finally, Loren Gross adds a bit of information regarding an Aurora Camera that was operating that night in Redmond. Richard Hall received the following information from Mr. Sprague of the IGY:



*As mentioned in Professor Gartlein's letter of December 22, 1959, we found nothing unusual on this film and the same is true of the inspection made by Wolf and the Portland Oregonia. You should bear in mind, however, that the camera gives a very small image of the sky and it is seldom possible to see star sized objects unless they are very bright. This is especially true of pictures with clouds. Venus and the moon show just before sunrise, but no other stars are visible.<sup>9</sup>*

This bit of information provides us with some important data. If the only thing visible in the images are Venus and the moon, then the UFO was probably Venus. The UFO was described as being bright and was visible for over an hour. If Venus was recorded, then the UFO should have been as well. Additionally, since Venus was recorded on the camera, it should have been visible to Dickerson and Wertz and not covered by clouds as Dr. McDonald suggested.

All of the information so far indicates that Venus is the probable for the source of this sighting and it is also possible that Sirius was visible long enough to the south to give the false impression that the object had shifted to the south once Venus disappeared into the clouds.

The object to the south, which may have been Sirius, is a confusing observation. From McDonald's interview with Dickerson, it appears that Wertz was the witness to this. The USAF had a radar contact to the south of Redmond at 1300Z according to their log. This was after Wertz had called Seattle ARTC about the UFO (Seattle then contacted the Radar site). Did Wertz hear there was a radar contact to the south and then looked for a UFO or did he see a UFO to the south and then the AF found a contact? We will never know since nobody (BB or NICAP) bothered to obtain a formal interview/statement from either witness.

About this time, the story about the jets trying to intercept the UFO happens. Depending on the source, it was between 1259 and 1310Z. This is, at most, 9 minutes after the F-102's took off (They were airborne at 1301Z). The distance from Portland Airport to Redmond airport is 100 nautical miles. That means the aircraft would need to have flown at an average speed of 667 knots to reach Redmond. Top speed would have been higher. Needless to say, this would have produced a sonic boom. This is not mentioned by either of the witnesses. Dickerson told McDonald he did not see any aircraft and stated the information about jets being in the area came from Wertz. The USAF report states that the radar site was directing the aircraft. This means, they were not sent to Redmond airport but to the radar contact dozens of miles to the south of the airport. This brings into question the story of jets trying to intercept the visual UFO. Based on the information available, this "interception" seems to be more "wishful thinking" than factual information. There is no mention of it in the log.

This brings us to the radar contact. Radar identified a stationary target that was, according to the FAA, 25 miles south of Redmond and at an altitude of 52,000 feet. The Blue Book file indicates the radar contact was over a Gapfiller radar site near La Pine Oregon on Paulina Peak. This was roughly 40 miles south of the airport. The Blue Book file states that multiple F-102 jet interceptors made multiple passes, at varying altitudes, over the target for the next 9 hours. In addition to these high speed aircraft, a helicopter and propeller aircraft, which had a Geiger counter, were also sent to the radar contact. No radiation was detected and nothing was seen visually by any of the aircraft.

In a letter to Senator Jackson, the Air Force indicated that the four senior controllers on duty at the time determined that the target was due to the gapfiller site. According to the Blue Book file, this area over the gapfiller site, was prone to producing false targets:

*Since 24 September 1959 several instances have been observed by these directors wherein non-moving radar returns appear in the same location as JB 129. It is their opinion that under certain atmospheric conditions, radar echoes from the gap filler antenna in that location are received.<sup>10</sup>*

Another document states that it was not the gapfiller radar but a mountain peak that normally was out of range that was producing the radar returns.<sup>11</sup> This implies that atmospheric refraction played a role in extending the radar horizon.

Blue Book did not gather any radiosonde data to look for temperature inversions. The nearest radiosonde launch from historical data comes from Medford, Oregon, 50 miles to the WNW of the AF radar at Keno, Oregon.<sup>12</sup> Keno had an FPS-20 search radar and FPS-6 height finding radar.<sup>13</sup> Both had ranges of over 200 nautical miles. Medford recorded a temperature inversions between 1538 and 3151 meters at 1200Z. This could have cause the radar beam to refract and see distant peaks as false targets.

Altitude (M)	Temperature (C)
405	8.3
1538	12.9
3151	6.2
5815	-12.4
7478	-25.1
9507	-41.0
10720	-51.3

The bottom line is that the radar contact was there for a good period of time and not one aircraft could locate any solid object producing it. The location was prone to producing false echoes under certain conditions and, therefore, one can conclude the radar contact had nothing to do with the visual sighting.

### Conclusion

Based on the information I have provided here, it is my opinion that this sighting can be classified as probably Venus with possibly Sirius explaining the visual sighting to the south. The radar contact was demonstrated to be a false target. This case should be removed from both the Weinstein catalog and NICAP's "UFO Evidence".

### Notes and references

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9. *ibid.* P. 86
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## January 10, 1961 - Benjamin, Texas

*January 10, 1961--Benjamin, Texas. Glowing red, zigzagging UFO observed from air by pilot (also from ground by others); maneuvered and landed on large overgrown field. [V]'*

Section V is in the table for pilot cases. The description reads:

*Glowing red UFO changed course, descended, appeared to land.* <sup>2</sup>

There is no footnote associated with this sighting in the table but Section V has a very lengthy discussion about the case. It does provide a footnote, which cites a NICAP file.

### Details

The UFO evidence has several paragraphs about the sighting:

Early in 1961, a private pilot in Texas witnessed an apparent landing of a UFO. NICAP Member Jack Varnell, Knox City, Texas, conducted an extensive investigation into the sighting and the resulting USAF interest. [44] An employee of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office, he joined the search for the landed object shortly after noon of the day following the sighting, and observed proceedings firsthand from then on. January 10, 1961: Pilot W. K. Rutledge and passenger George Thomas, both of Abilene, Texas, were enroute to Abilene from Tulsa, Oklahoma. At 6,500 feet over Wichita Falls, Texas, about 9:00 p.m. they spotted a red object about 1,500 feet above the plane, glowing brilliantly in the night sky. Rutledge changed course to follow it at about 180 mph, establishing radio contact with the control tower at Shepard AFB, Wichita Falls, during the chase. He followed it WSW to Munday, then north to Vera (where several persons on the ground saw it). Then the object moved WSW again, toward Benjamin, finally turning SW. When beyond Benjamin, the object began to reduce its speed and altitude, going into a glide and apparently landing 4 to 5 miles SW of the town in a heavily wooded area.

The pilot circled in his single-engine Beech "Debonair" while law officers, alerted by radio, sped to the scene. Included were Knox County Sheriff Homer T. Melton (now a Texas Ranger), one of his deputies, and the police chiefs of Knox City and Munday. Rutledge radioed his position to the Shepard AFB control tower when he began to circle, and the word was relayed to the converging patrol cars.

Poor communication between air and ground hampered Rutledge in his efforts to direct the search cars. At one point, a cruiser driven by Deputy Stone came within 100 yards of the landing spot, but the pilot was unable to direct him closer. During this period the glow from the UFO, which had been visible to Rutledge on the ground, was diminishing to a dull red. About the time Stone approached it (unknowningly) and blinked his lights, the glow from the UFO vanished completely.

After about 90 minutes of chasing and circling, Rutledge noticed he was running low on fuel and decided to go on to Abilene.

### AIR FORCE INVESTIGATION

Next morning the search was resumed by police, about 20 high school boys, and several other citizens of the area. Despite a cold drizzle, they hunted until 3:00 p.m., when Rutledge and Thomas flew back from Abilene. Since there was no convenient airport, Rutledge landed on a highway near Benjamin. When they got into town they were immediately met by USAF Lieutenant McClure and a Sergeant; the four retired to a restaurant nearby for the questioning. NICAP Member Jack Varnell listened from the next table.

The Air Force officer's opening implications that the object might have been a balloon or meteorite were quickly shortcut by Rutledge's firm statement: "What I saw last night was certainly not a meteorite or a weather balloon." He then made it clear that the object "came down slowly," and did not "fall." The lieutenant changed his tone at this point, Varnell reported, and became much more serious and interested.

As the interview progressed, the cafe began to fill, since the sighting was by this time the chief topic of conversation in the small Texas town. Questions were posed and answers noted for more than a half hour, but the muffled voices were hard to hear in the crowded room.

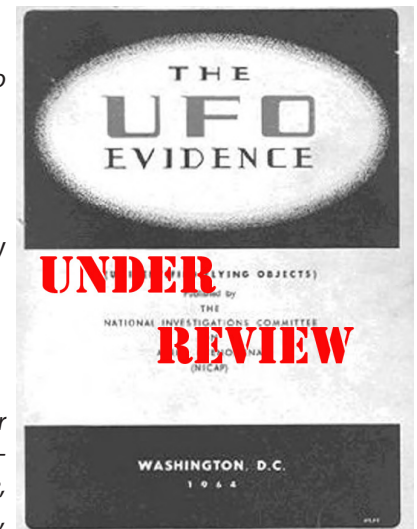
The USAF men expressed an interest in locating the site of the landing, so the group returned to Rutledge's parked airplane. While Jack Varnell and the sheriff stopped traffic, Rutledge, Thomas, and Lieutenant McClure took off from the highway. The sergeant and the enlisted driver of the USAF car drove off.

The small plane made three or four passes over the 1,000 acre tract of mesquite where the object had reportedly landed, and then flew off. Contrary to expectations, the other USAF men did not join the ground search party, which broke up about the time the plane departed.

Shortly after 5:00 p.m., the three airmen, the pilot and his companion were seen at a drive-in restaurant near Knox City. Rutledge was observed by Jack Varnell to be filling out what appeared to be the standard USAF Technical Information Sheet with Lieutenant McClure.<sup>3</sup>

Project Blue Book had this sighting in their files under "Wichita Falls".<sup>4</sup> While the name is redacted, the description matches what is in the summary of the sighting in "The UFO Evidence".

There are three witnesses in the file and I placed them in a table to make it easier to see the information:



Witness #	Location	Begin azimuth	Begin Elevation	End Azimuth	End Elevation	Duration	Comments
1	Aircraft Passenger	240	10	240	0	5 min	First seen 21:18
2	Aircraft Pilot	205	15	205	0	6 min	First seen 21:18
3	Vehicle RTE. 287 west of Wichita Falls	285	40	250	5	30 min	First seen 21:00.

Blue Book also mentions the aircraft attempting to get ground personnel to locate the “glowing” objects on the ground. However, just as mentioned by NICAP, nothing was found.

### Analysis

Blue Book labeled this as a case of Venus setting. In my review of the Blue Book files for January-July 1960, I agreed with that classification.

It is important to note that at no time did the pilot, passenger, or ground witness mention seeing Venus in addition to the UFO. At 21:00, Venus was located at azimuth 255 and elevation 4 degrees for Wichita Falls. At 21:25, it was located at azimuth 258.5 and elevation 0 degrees. These are pretty close to the azimuth's provided by the witnesses. It is also important to note that Venus set about the exact same time as when the object “landed”. Are these all coincidences? It seems likely that Venus is the probable explanation here. The setting of Venus in the distance gave the false impression that it had “landed” just beyond the line of sight.

This leaves us with the “flashes” and the “glowing objects” on the ground. It is difficult to say what the pilot and passenger saw. Anything could have been the glowing objects. The area where they were circling was a field with no significant topography or buildings. The fact that no debris or burn marks were found by searches that night and on the next day doesn't say a lot for the glowing objects or the two flashes that preceded them appearing. At best, this part of the sighting can be described as “insufficient information” since we don't know the precise location of where the glowing objects were.

### Conclusion

In my opinion, the primary source of this sighting was probably the planet Venus setting. It set at the time the primary object disappeared and was in the direction the witnesses were looking. They also did not mention the presence of Venus in addition to the UFO. Therefore, it is likely that Venus was the source of this part of the report. The physical evidence can be described as Insufficient information since no physical evidence of a landing was ever found. The case should be removed from the “best evidence” category. This case is also a Weinstein catalog entry and it should be removed from that list as well.

#### 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. 138
2. *ibid.* P. 37
3. *ibid.* P. 43
4. “Case file: Wichita Falls, Texas January 10, 1961”. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8618129/wichita-falls-texas-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>



A photograph I took of the snowbird demonstration team flying modified CT-114 Tutor aircraft at an air show in 2005.

## The 1997 Arizona UFOs

In 1997, I was just starting my serious interest in the subject of UFOs. That year, I had become aware of the March 1997 Arizona incident and was curious as to what it could have been. I recall contacting the local astronomy clubs and the response from one individual was that one of their members had seen the lights in their telescope and determined they were aircraft. A check of what was reported by observers tended to confirm this information. By June, the amateur astronomer, who the astronomy club member referred to, Mitch Stanley, went public with his observations of a formation of five aircraft in his telescope. As a result, I put together a web page discussing the case and the solution. Over the years, I modified the page as I obtained more information. I even summarized the case in SUNlite 2-3. While I hinted at it with my conclusion, I had left out some information that I had received over sixteen years ago. With my "semi-retirement" from the subject, I have decided to publicly share this information for the first time.

On September 9, 2008, I received the following e-mail regarding the "Phoenix lights".

*Just curious if you are still looking for information regarding this formation of lights?*

*I ask because I was one of the pilots in that formation.*

I quickly responded by requesting any information he could provide. His answer was:

*I can confirm that it was a flight of 5 CT-114 Tutor jets that were flying in formation together. I'm not sure where the Snowbird comment came from because I do not remember that being said. We took off from Las Vegas and went down to Davis Monthan AFB. We flew in what we called big Vic which would be the lead and then two of us on each side. From the ground it would look like a large V.*

*I remember seeing this on the TV years later but did not think much of it at the time. However, for some reason this came up in conversation a few weeks ago so I decided to have a look on the internet and saw your website.*

*Anyway there you go.*

I did a quick check of the name and verified his identity as a military pilot in the RCAF. His comment about the "snowbirds" had to do with the reader's digest article I had quoted regarding the comments from a pilot of an American West 757. These pilots were not part of the "snowbirds" demonstration team but pilots flying the trainer version of the CT-114. They were probably flying into Tucson under "operation snowbird", which allowed pilots from northern climates to train in southern states.

Needless to say, his e-mail intrigued me and I began to write the outline of an article for publication. However, I needed more information, so I responded with a list of questions and permission to publish his name. His response put a damper on my enthusiasm:

*I would rather that you did not publish my name as I am still active military.*

*To answer your questions*

*Q: What was the purpose of your flight group? What were you doing flying in Arizona?*

*A: The purpose of the mission was simply training for a number of the persons in the formation and we had chosen to go down to DM AFB simply because the weather was better aat (sic) that imae(sic) of the years(sic) than it was in Canada.*

*Q: When did you take off and when did you land?*

*A: I don't remember exactly what time we took off but it was around 1930-2000ish*

*Q: What was the cruising speed that night?*

*A: the cruising speed would have been in the order of 250kts Indicated or about 300kts true airspeed*

*Q: What was the cruising altitude that night?*





# THE 701 CLUB PART 1: CASE 2185 OCTOBER 24, 1952

## ELBERTA, ALABAMA

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

*Oct. 24, 1952; Elberton, Alabama. 8:26 p.m. Witnesses: USAF Lt. Rau, Capt. Marcinko, flying a Beech T-11 trainer. One object, shaped like a plate, with a brilliant front and vague trail, flew with its concave surface forward for 5 seconds.<sup>1</sup>*

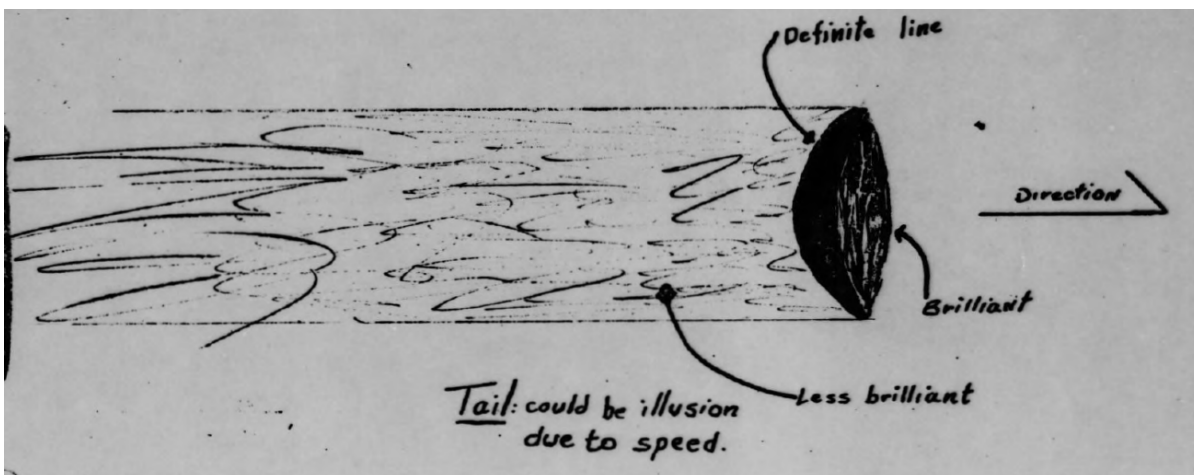
Sparks' entry is basically a duplicate of Berliner's:

*Oct. 24, 1952. Elberton [Elberta?], Alabama. 8:26 p.m. USAF Lt. Rau and Capt. Marcinko, flying a Beech T-11 trainer, saw an object, shaped like a plate, with a brilliant front and vague trail, fly with its concave surface forward. (Sparks; Berliner; Saunders/FUFOR Index).<sup>2</sup>*

### The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file contains a statement by Lt. Rau, a teletype message describing the incident, and an Investigative report. It also incorrectly identified the location as Elberton, Alabama. The actual location is Elberta. The important details are:

- The plane was flying at 7500 feet, at a speed of 165mph and a heading of 075 degrees. The time of the sighting was 2026 CST on October 24, 1952.
- The object appeared to the pilot's left, about 10-15 degrees above the plane's horizontal, and passed in front of the plane, disappearing to the right. It disappeared about 20 degrees above the plane's horizontal.
- It was larger than a star and had an orangish color to it. Duration was listed as 5 seconds.
- A tail appeared to behind the object but it was thought to be an illusion by the pilot due to the object's terrific speed.
- The path was straight, with constant acceleration, and had an angle of attack of 5 degrees. Course was determined to be 200 degrees.
- The weather was clear.



### Analysis

There seems to be enough information in the file to examine the case. The object was seen at night, it traveled in a straight line, it was seen in the sky above the aircraft, and it was visible for a brief period of time measured in seconds. All of these are characteristics of a bright fireball meteor.

### Conclusion

In my opinion, this case should never have been put on the list of unidentifieds. The observations indicate this was probably a fireball meteor and it should be removed from the list of 701 Blue Book unknowns.

#### Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook Unknowns". NICAP Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List –NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.30. Jan. 26, 2020. P. 176
3. "Case file Elberton, Alabama 24 Oct 1952". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9169329/elberton-ala-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>

# THE 701 CLUB PART 2:

## CASE 1827 AND 1841 AUGUST 5-6, 1952

### HANEDA, JAPAN

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

*Aug 5, 1952; Haneda AFB, Japan. 11:30 p.m. Witnesses: USAF F-94 jet interceptor pilots 1st Lt. W.R. Holder and 1st Lt. A.M. Jones, and Haneda control tower operators. Airborne radar tracked a target for 90 seconds. Control tower operators watched 50-60 minutes while a dark shape with a light flew as fast as 330 kts. (380 m.p.h.), hovered, flew curves and performed a variety of maneuvers.<sup>1</sup>*

Sparks' entry is basically a duplicate of Berliner's:

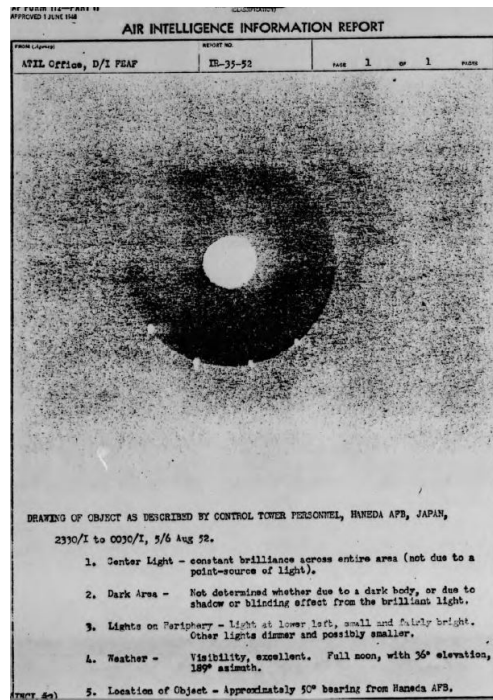
*Aug 5-6, 1952. Haneda AFB, Japan (35°33' N, 139°46' E). 11:30 p.m. USAF F-94 jet interceptor pilots 1st Lt. W. R. Holder, 1st Lt. A. M. Jones, and Haneda control tower operators. Airborne radar tracked a target for 90 secs. Control tower operators watched 50-60 mins while a dark shape with a light flew as fast as 330 knots (380 mph), hover, fly curves and perform a variety of maneuvers, at one point splitting into 3 targets [?]. (Sparks; Berliner; BB Status Report 8, Dec 1952, pp. 34-35).<sup>2</sup>*

Both Sparks and Berliner state that case #1841, is a continuation of the Haneda sighting and is a duplicate. There is a document charge out form in the Blue Book files which has a handwritten note on it. It states, "Case missing Tokyo 8/6/52".<sup>3</sup> Either there was another sighting, or it is, as Sparks/Berliner determined, just a continuation of the Haneda sighting. It is my opinion, that they are correct and this case should be removed from the Blue Book unknowns as an entry that is either a duplicate or continuation of the sighting.

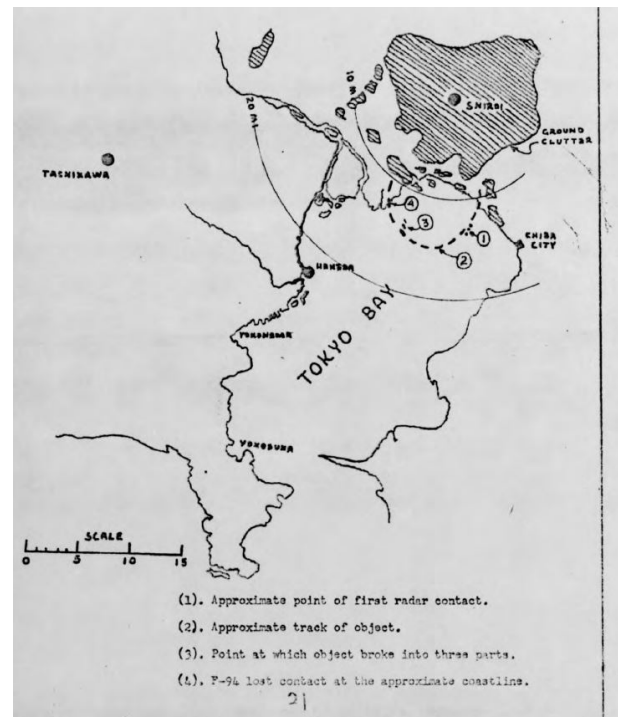
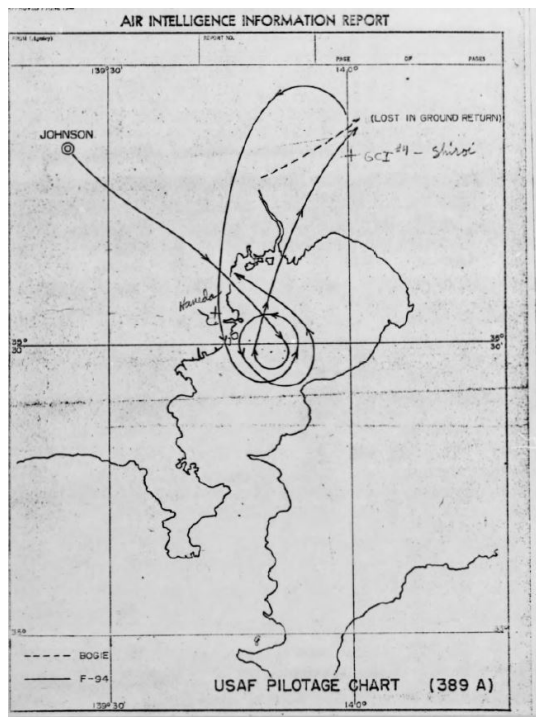
#### The Blue Book file<sup>4,5</sup>

The Blue Book file is pretty extensive. I found it in two different locations and there was a lot of information:

- The event started at 2330 local time on August 5
- Two airmen coming on duty for the tower, saw an object as they were arriving. They informed the others and they all observed the object for 50 minutes to an hour with 7X50 binoculars. The light was circular in shape but they perceived a dark shape behind the light. They noticed smaller, fainter lights around the lower edge of the dark object. It was described as being NE of Haneda tower at an approximate azimuth of 50 degrees (see image to the right at bottom).
- The airmen thought it was an aircraft landing. It seemed to travel towards the East and gain altitude rapidly. It disappeared, and then, reappeared twice. It was visible until 0030, when it disappeared into broken cloud cover, which began to move into the area.
- An airborne C-54 was asked to check on the light but the only thing they reported was seeing a star.
- The AC&W unit was notified. They picked up an unidentified target at 2345 that was 8 miles to the NE of Haneda. The target was tracked with speeds varying from hovering to 300 knots.
- At 2350, Tachikawa Air Base (24 miles to the WNW of Haneda) reported they could see a bright light over Tokyo Bay. This sighting line towards Tokyo Bay was towards the East and the ESE.
- At 2355, an F-94 was scrambled to search to the NE of Haneda over Tokyo Bay. The F-94 crew reported seeing the north star and Venus. The tower saw the aircraft headed north and they asked radar to direct the F-94 towards the east. (see flight path on next page left)
- At 0012, the radar target broke up into three pieces 1/4 of a mile apart. Then the object disappeared. (see the radar contacts on the next page right)
- At 0016 GCI directed the F-94 towards a target using a heading of 320 degrees. The radar operator picked up a contact at 6,000 yards. It moved from port to starboard rapidly and disappeared after 90 seconds. The operator could not obtain a lock-on. The pilot saw nothing visually. At this point the ground radar lost contact with the F-94 and target because they were lost in the ground clutter.
- At 0033, the radar operators released the F-94 from their control. The F-94 continued to conduct an independent search until 0120. They saw nothing visually and only had the one radar contact.







- The radar contacts on the CPS-1 radar were described as small and relatively weak.
- The weather had scattered low clouds with broken cloud cover at 16,000 feet. The broken cloud cover began to cover the moon at 0045 - 0100.

## Analysis

A lot of analysis has been done on this case. Most notable were Dr. James McDonald's "science in default" paper<sup>6</sup> and Gordon Thayer's evaluation in the Condon report.<sup>7</sup> Not surprisingly, both disagree on how to interpret the information. Reading both, I find myself more accepting of the Thayer's evaluation of the case than Dr. McDonald's. One must remember that Dr. McDonald was on a mission to find UFO reports that he found compelling while the Condon study was trying to evaluate the cases to see if there was anything they could not reasonably explain. Some may argue that Condon was biased against UFOs, which means Thayer was either going to write an article that supported Condon's bias or allow his own bias to interfere with analyze the cases. Remember, Thayer did consider the August 1956 Lakenheath case as a possible "mechanical device of unknown origin" so he did seem to be objective in his work.

The radar contacts appear to be false targets. The pilot, who was in the best position to see anything visually, saw nothing but stars/planets. Having to be directed towards the contact instead of seeing it visually, leads me to conclude the target was anomalous in nature. If we look at the plot of the radar contacts, we see they were all located at an azimuth ranging from about 50-75 degrees as observed from Haneda. This was the direction of the bright object the airmen saw but their object did not move towards the west and north, like this contact did. Instead, the visual moved eastward. Additionally, when the F-94 started going north to pursue the radar contact, the airmen felt it was going the wrong way and wanted the aircraft directed towards the east. All of this information indicates the radar contact was not related to the visual sighting.

If you read all the visual reports, they usually were using the direction of it being to the NE. There was only one witness statement in the file. This was Airman 3rd class West. He mentioned the object being to the NNE in his initial observation but the report implied the general opinion of the four airmen was that it was to the NE. In the sketch of the object, it gave an azimuth value of approximately 50 degrees for the sighting. Airman West also made the statement that the object was moving towards the East and increasing in altitude. He also noted it was clear to the east while they were observing it. This indicates, his initial observation was to what he thought was NNE, when he was walking towards the tower, but, once he was stationary and got his bearings from the tower, he decided it was then towards the East or Northeast. If we look at the Tachikawa sighting of seeing a bright object towards the east or ESE, the bulk of the observations appear to have been east or northeast. The 50 degree azimuth is probably a reasonable value with a +/- of 30 degrees because it was written as "approximately".

There are two bright celestial objects in that direction. The first is Capella, which was at azimuth 34 degrees and 5 degrees elevation. The second was Jupiter at azimuth 74 degrees and elevation 5 degrees. Both had risen around 2300. Capella, had some stars of 6-7th magnitude that were pretty close to it that would be visible in binoculars but Jupiter had brighter objects nearby. All four of the Galilean moons were near elongation making it possible to see all four moons with binoculars. Three were on the SW side of Jupiter and one was on the NE side. These could have been the fainter lights the witnesses mentioned. The dark object behind the light was probably something similar to the "airship" effect. The moons of Jupiter gave the illusion of some larger object behind the light. While the Condon report felt that Capella was the source, I am more inclined to accept Jupiter.

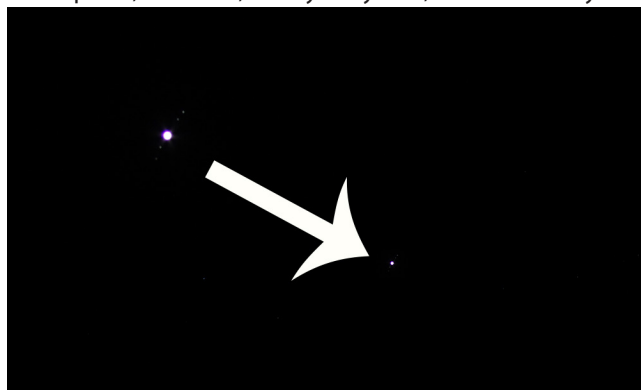


The F-94 pilot mentions seeing the north star and Venus that night. While Polaris (the north star) is always visible, Venus is not. Venus, on August 5, 1952, was setting shortly after sunset. It was not really visible even in the evening sky. The pilot had probably confused Jupiter as Venus. Jupiter was pretty bright and it would be no surprise he made such an error. What is important to note is that he was looking and never saw anything but Jupiter. Remember the airmen stated the object was exceptionally bright. The chance of the pilot missing such an object is pretty small. Therefore, it seems likely that they were the same object.

The Shirori radar site also sent people outside looking for a UFO in the direction they recorded the target. They saw nothing. However, their radar contact was to the SSW and the only thing low in that direction was the moon. They would have not looked to the east.

Airman West remarked the object was not a star, a weather balloon or Venus because he compared the object to them. McDonald felt that meant he, like the pilot, confused Jupiter for Venus, but that is not what he stated. He did not state Venus was visible, he just stated he was comparing the object to Venus. Any object in the sky could have been Venus in his mind and not just Jupiter. Capella, Vega, Arcturus could have been what he thought was Venus or he was just remarking that he had seen Venus previously and this object was not it. Remember, he was looking at Jupiter, and its moons, with binoculars. Venus does not have moons and that means the object was different than what Venus looks like in binoculars. At no point, did West, or anybody else, ever state they saw the object in the same part of sky as Venus or any other bright celestial object. This, and the general direction of being in the northeast or east makes me conclude that it was probably Jupiter they were observing.

To the right is an image of Jupiter I took with a full frame camera and a 400mm lens. This is close to what one would expect to a pair of 7X binoculars. The actual view is to the bottom right. I zoomed in on the upper left to show the position of the moons more clearly. This is a photograph showing the scale but not the same as using hand-held binoculars. Trying to steady those binoculars is not easy and Jupiter, and its moons, would bounce around. This would allow imagination to take hold of seeing something dark behind the lights and the lights not being aligned properly with the planet.



## Conclusion

In my opinion, that the case can be explained as possibly Jupiter and false radar targets. It should be removed from the list of 701 Blue Book unknowns. Additionally, Case 1841 can be considered a duplicate/continuation of the Haneda case. It also needs to be removed from the list of unknowns.

## Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook Unknowns". NICAP Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List –NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.30. Jan. 26, 2020. P. 166
3. "Charge out record form". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8757424/port-austin-mich-blank-page-31-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
4. "Case file Haneda, Japan August 5-6, 1952. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6997086/haneda-afb-japan-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
5. IR-35-52 and IR 1-52, Haneda, Japan August 5-6, 1952. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8757221/port-austin-mich-blank-page-20-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
6. McDonald, James. Science in Default: Twenty-Two Years of Inadequate UFO Investigations. American Association for the Advancement of Science, 134th Meeting General Symposium, Unidentified Flying Objects. December 27, 1969. P. 20-33.
7. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968. P. 123-126

## THE 701 CLUB WEAK CASES

While I was reviewing the list of remaining unknowns, that I had covered in the 701 club, I began to recognize there were some cases on the list that never should have been there in the first place. While performing reviews, I had developed a rule that cases that were submitted over 2-3 months after the fact should be considered unreliable. Most of these reports made months/years after the fact are what I refer to as “me too” stories. People read or hear about UFO reports in the media, and decide to send in a report based on some old memories. While one has to consider the possibility that these reports are accurate, most of them contain details that appear more exaggeration than fact. I classify such cases “unreliable” because one cannot trust the details to be that precise.

An example of the problems with these kinds of cases can be seen in the Longmont, Colorado case of July 27 or 29, 1957. In that case, the report surfaced in a letter to Hynek dated October 14, 1964. He, apparently, talked to Hynek about the case at an earlier date but this was the first time it made it into the record. The witness could not remember the exact date but listed the time as being 4:17 AM MST. He stated that the sun had already risen. However, sunrise on these two dates was about 4:54 AM. Additionally, on the reporting form, he gave four different dates July 27, 29, August 4 and 17. This witness did tell Hynek that he had a second sighting “two weeks later” but it seems like he was just guessing. To add to the confusion, the witness told Hynek in his letter the event lasted 10 minutes but, on the report form, he states it was 20 minutes. Lastly, he put on the report for the date of him completing the report was July 20, 1960. All of these inconsistencies make one consider this case, and the witness, unreliable.

I made some exceptions to this rule based on if the witness had appeared to have recorded the data down instead of working from memory. For instance, there was one report by an 11-year old from Glen Ellyn, Illinois on July 1, 1963. He had sent his first letter to NASA before they directed him to send the report to Blue Book. It wasn't until towards the end of the year that he got his report mailed to Blue Book. He filled out the report form with details that appeared accurate and his initial letter was probably just a copy of the one he sent to NASA. I felt that such a report did not fall into the “me too” category even if the witness was such a young individual.

I did not remove cases that had their files missing. However, I did consider removing some cases where the information reported was limited. If they were missing important data such as basic positional data, date, time, course, I labeled them as insufficient data. No matter how extraordinary the observation, if that data is missing, one cannot possibly look for a potential source of the report without this information. Some readers might consider this a way of disposing of “unidentifieds”. That may be the case but it is my goal to determine what cases are worthy of the label of UNIDENTIFIED. Proving something is truly “unidentified” requires that all potential explanations have been eliminated. If you don't have enough data then you can't accomplish this. That makes the case bad data.

Lastly, there were some cases that contained conflicting or confusing information. Either the witness gave conflicting or confusing information in their reports or multiple witnesses of the same event had given descriptions that conflicted with each other. I am not talking about the directions being slightly different. I am talking about descriptions of the object's behavior being in conflict with each other to the point they appear to be describing a completely different event.

With that being said, this is a list of the 39 cases I am removing from the list of Blue Book UNIDENTIFIED/UNKNOWN, and placing on the 701 club list.

Date	Location	Reason for removal
9/3/47	Oswega, OR	12-15 silver objects at high altitude. No course or duration. Insufficient data
October 1947	Dodgeville, WI	No specific date. Insufficient data.
July-August 1948	Marion, VA	Case reported in letter dated June 25, 1949. Unreliable report.
9/23/48	San Pablo, CA	12:00 PM. Large translucent object overhead. Hazy day. Object gray in color. Circular center with appendages fore and aft. Other witness stated it looked like a crate. First witness stated it appeared in NE, moved Northwestward until it faded away in the north in 3 minutes. Other witness stated it disappeared in east and was visible only for a short period of time. With the witnesses in such a disagreement about the event, this should be classified as conflicting data.
2/25/50	Los Alamos, NM	3:45 - 3:55 PM Multiple observers gave varying accounts of what was seen. Duration listed as 3sec to 2 min. Direction of object from observer N to S, NE to SW, E to W. Speed from very slow to very fast. Shape differed between circular to like an aircraft fuselage. With the witnesses in such a disagreement about the event, this should be classified as conflicting data.
10/15/50	Pope AFB, NC	4:20 PM EST. Aircraft saw four shiny objects. Pilots chased them but they descended slowly and took off in a burst of speed. Information based on newspaper clipping and essential data is missing such as duration and course. Insufficient data.



12/2/50	Nenyika, Kenya, Africa	10:50 AM. Circular object hovering and spinning. Made sound like swarm of bees. Had color of a pearly iridescence and looked like a flattened top. There is no positional data, duration, or manner of disappearance. Insufficient data
12/11/50	Alaska	10:38 PM. NW airlines flight reported two flashes of light near Mt. Sanford. Information of two flashes of light is inadequate to evaluate. Insufficient data
6/2/52	Bayview, WA	5:02 PM. Purple object seen at high altitude. There is no positional data, duration, or manner of disappearance. Insufficient data.
6/18/52	Columbus, WI	9:00 AM. Crescent-shaped object, resembling a new moon, seen for several seconds and then moved north vanishing. No positional data for when the object was first seen. Insufficient data (note: there was a crescent moon visible in the morning sky that could have been the source of this sighting).
6/26/52	Terra Haute, IN	3:45 AM. Object passed over and reached SW position, where it hovered. No duration listed. Insufficient data.
8/20/52	Neffsville, PA	3:10 AM EST. Observers saw object that appeared to be aircraft for several minutes. No other information. Insufficient data
8/26/52	Poza Rica, Mexico	3:50 AM. Luminous, oval-shaped, object with small wings crossed the sky from west to east. Passed over oil field where it paused for "a few instants". Buzzing sound heard. Object disappeared in direction of sea (to the east). This is one of four sightings in the case file. All are based on newspaper stories with no formal investigation. This could have been a meteor. No duration given. Insufficient data.
8/27/52	Ciudad Madero, Mexico	"Early morning". Bright sphere moved in spiral circles over breakwaters before taking off in a straight line to the north. This is one of four sightings in the case file. All are based on newspaper stories with no formal investigation. No time given. Insufficient data.
6/22/53	Goose AFB, Labrador	1:40 AM LT. F-94 observed red ball of light. Attempted intercept but could not catch up. After five minutes, object departed into overcast. No course or positional data for object. No course for aircraft. Insufficient data.
9/3/53	Portland, Oregon	Two oval-shaped bright silver objects flew at high speed and disappeared behind cloud. No time, duration, course, or positional data. Insufficient data.
4/8/54	Chicago, IL	4:03 PM CST. Witness saw a parachute shaped object with humanoid beneath it descend towards lake. CG cutter investigated but found nothing. Witness saw humanoid come ashore, walk around, and then get back aboard craft, which departed. Duration 30 minutes. The witness appeared to be influenced by UFO literature and compared the figure with those depicted in Adamski's book. Unlikely that such an event could happen in downtown Chicago during rush hour and not be noticed. Unreliable report.
7/25/54	Lake Erie	7:12 PM EST. Cylindrical object moving on the surface of the water at a high rate of speed. Object moved in arc to the stern of observers boat. The witness did not state what happened to the object and there is no indication it went airborne. If so, the object should have been found. Insufficient data.
7/30/54	Los Angeles, CA	11:15 AM PDT. B-25 observed stationary thin horizontal line to the SE. Other Navy aircraft appeared to pass under object. No duration is listed and there is no indication of how it disappeared. No follow-up in identifying navy aircraft for confirmation. Insufficient data.
8/11/54	Pacific Ocean	5:50Z (2050 LT). Line of blue light approached from NE (50 degrees azimuth 1- 2 degrees elevation) and passed over ship. Changed to circular shape. Slowed down and rose into thin layer of clouds, illuminating clouds and disappeared overhead. This could have been a meteor. The lack of duration makes this insufficient data.
9/21/54	Santa Maria Airport, Azores	23:45Z. Guard reported that cigar shaped craft landed and a blond haired individual came out and attempted to converse in an unknown language. When a car approached, the humanoid boarded his craft and it accelerated straight up and disappeared. This story lacks credibility and sounds like something from "Flying saucers have landed" by George Adamski (1953). Such an event at an airport would have been seen by more than one security guard. That makes this one an unreliable report/possible hoax.

9/22/54	Marshfield, MO	9:00 AM CST. Boomerang-shaped light tan object with black stripes landed with a puff of smoke. It landed behind a tree-line. Witnesses could only find some damaged ground for where the object landed. Repeated searches found no evidence of a landing. This story lacks credibility and there is nothing to confirm the more exotic aspects of this story. Insufficient data
10/15-17/54	Kingfisher, OK	8:45 PM CST. On three successive nights, approximately 50 objects flying in a V formation. West to East, North to South, and South to East. Faster than jet AC. No durations listed. Only record card available. Insufficient data.
1/26/55	Lakeland, FL	6:15 PM EST. Black smoke trail followed by an explosion to the ENE. Missing duration. Insufficient data
9/7/55	Washington DC	7:30 AM EDT. Illuminated, round object moved across the sky in 1 minute. No positional data or course. Insufficient data.
9/14/56	Highland, NC	1:00 AM EST. 14 round yellow to red objects flying in formation from south to east and then northeast. They then returned swooping up and down. Exhaust seen. Total duration 1.5 hours. No duration for each event or how frequent they appeared during the 1.5 hours. Did it take 1.5 hours to traverse the sky? The implication was the angular speed was high. Insufficient/conflicting data.
July 27 or 29 1957	Longmont, CO	Case reported in letter dated October 14, 1964. Unreliable report.
11/8/57	Merrick, NY	10:10 AM EST. Witness saw a blue flash from their living room and heard swishing sound. Saw one blue bar through the window for an instant before disappearing. There is little information here to make an analysis of any kind. Insufficient data.
5/9/58	Bohol Island, Philippines	3:05Z. Airliner saw object fall from the sky leaving a smoke trail behind. Visible for 90 seconds and then it disappeared into clouds. No positional information or course for object. Only that it was over Bohol Island. Insufficient data.
Oct 59	Telephone Ridge, OR	Case reported in letter written in July of 1964. Unreliable report.
4/25/60	Shelby, MT	Five sightings of objects in trail formation. First sighting had three objects, the others had five. Objects would appear stationary, then move slowly and speed up. All five sightings were not on same date. First in October 1957 and the last on April 25. Each sighting lasted 20-30 minutes and varied in course. 8mm film submitted for analysis. Information supplied seems to apply to all sightings and not specific information about sighting on 4/25/60. Insufficient data.
Spring 61	Kemah, TX	Case reported in letter written in March of 1965. Unreliable report.
3/26/62	Westfield, MA	There is no case file for this date and location. There is a file for 5/26/62. Sparks and Berliner indicate both entries are identical and classify it as one sighting with the May case being suspect. There is a file for May 26, 1962 and all the information in that file indicates the May 26 date is correct. This makes this entry a duplicate.
7/19/62	Metuchen, NJ	9:30 PM EST 4-5 star-like objects moving by starting/stopping and zig-zagging for 7-10 minutes. Objects originated from and moved in four different directions. Details sketchy. It appears that there were several groups of objects moving about over the specific time period but it is not clear. Insufficient data.
Summer of 1963	Middletown, NY	Case reported in letter dated August 5, 1965. Unreliable report
8/13-14/63	St. Galen, Switzerland	19:04Z. Object seen on two successive nights. On the second night the object was glowing as it traversed the sky. After 4 minutes, it stopped glowing and faded. It then increased brilliance and appeared to explode with parts appearing to fall to ground to the SW. No details on August 13 sighting and August 14 sighting lack details about the course/point of origin and where the fragments descended. Insufficient data.
8/15/64	New York City, NY	1:15-1:20 AM EDT. Flash of shiny object like a fire hydrant with door and pipes. It went westward as if in a blur/terrific speed. Only data comes from a letter. This could have been a meteor but no duration was given. Insufficient data.

6/18/66	Burnsville, NC	12:30 AM EST. Object seen with blinking red lights hovered for 20 minutes before landing. Six more objects appeared and joined the first for 15 minutes and then went behind a mountain. They awoke one hour later and the objects were in the same place. Sighting lasted 5 hours. Form only gives positional data for one sighting. Details about how objects disappeared after 5 hours is missing. Landing site evidence inadequate. Insufficient data.
7/25/66	Vanceboro, NC	1:00 AM EST. Observer saw red glare in his vehicle and he sped up to speeds nearing 120 mph to the SE to get away. Stopped car and went under vehicle. Object hovered over car and then rose rapidly disappearing into the sky in five seconds. 1 hour duration. Witness description of travel (a 25 mile trip) and duration do not match especially when he was supposedly driving at high speed. Inconsistent data.



## Project Blue Book case review: October-December 1952

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the months of October-December 1952. 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 1952

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Shaw AFB, SC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
1	Pascagoola, MS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
3	Morristown, TN	Aircraft	Agreed. Contrail
4	Albany, NY	Balloon	Agreed
5	Kent, England	Insufficient data	Balloon
6	Lake Charles AFB, LA	Balloon	Agreed
7	Anderson AFB, Guam	Balloon	Venus first sighting. Mars second sighting.
7	Riviera, France	Aircraft	Possible meteor
7	Alamogordo, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
8	Keflavik, Iceland	Balloon	Possible meteor
9	Brooks AFB, TX	Balloon	Agreed
10	Manston, England	Balloon	Agreed
10	Presque Isle AFB, ME	Astronomical	Agreed. Jupiter.
10	Otis AFB, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11	East Moline, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data, course, or duration.
12	Atlantic City, NJ	Balloon	Jupiter
12	Hilcrest Heights, MD	Balloon	Agreed
12	Hungman, North Korea	Ground Lights	Possibly Arcturus
13	Bladenburg, MD	Aircraft	Possible birds. 15-year old.
13	York, PA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
14	Provincetown, MA	No conclusion	Meteor
14	Zuni, NM	No conclusion	Possibly Vega
15	Brooklyn, NY	No conclusion	Stars/Planets. Probably Arcturus and Jupiter.
15	Ashiya AB, Japan	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed
15	Hopewell, VA	Aircraft	Meteor
16	Korea	Balloon	Agreed
16	North Korea	Balloon	Agreed
17	Elko, NV	Balloon	Agreed
17	Taos, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Killeen, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Tierra Amarilla, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Macon, GA	Balloon	Possibly Vega
19	Pacific	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
19	Momence, IL	Insufficient data	Balloon
19	San Antonio, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
19	Selma, AL	Aircraft	Agreed. Contrail
21	Knoxville, TN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Duluth, MN	Balloon	Agreed

22	Elmendorf AFB, AK	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
22	Laurinsburg-Maxton AFB, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Toledo, OH	No conclusion	Unreliable report. Photographs show contrails. Reported in 1955
24	Elberton, AL	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. (See SUNlite 17-2)
25	Stead AFB, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
26	West Barrington, RI	No Conclusion	Meteor
26	Akurayri, Iceland	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report came from newspaper story.
26	Roanoke, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
27	N. Kyushu, Japan	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Venus (Ground observers) Jupiter and Venus (C-119) Venus (F-94) Jupiter and Capella (F-94)
27	Porte De France, PR	Insufficient data	Possible daylight meteor
27	Hickman Canyon, UT	Guided Missile	Insufficient data. Witnesses heard and saw something appear to crash into mountain. No debris or crash site was ever found.
28	Japan	No Conclusion	Venus
28	Dallas, TX	Meteor	Agreed
28	Peloi, OK	Meteor	Agreed
29	Jacksboro, TX	No Conclusion	Meteor
29	Erding Air Depot, Germany	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Long Island, NY	Balloon	Agreed
30	Madison, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Fayetteville, GA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED

### November 1952

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
3	Laredo, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Shakhalin Island, Japan	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Erding, Germany	Balloon	Agreed
4	Caribou, ME	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Venus
4	Vineland, NJ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7	Auburn, AL	Stars/Planets	Unreliable report. Witness could not agree with wife on date. Gave date as 3 October. Date may have been 8 November as the description matches that sighting.
8	Greenland	No Conclusion	Meteor
8	Auburn, AL	Balloon	Agreed
8	Tierra Amarilla, NM	Interference	Agreed. Operators noted target moving in and out along same azimuth. No temperature inversion but operators determined target to be due to interference by its behavior and not an actual physical target.
10	Covington, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration given.
10	Washington D.C.	Balloon	Possibly Castor and Pollux
11	Los Alamos, NM	No Conclusion	Sirius
11	Chatham, Kent, England	Insufficient data	Possible contrail
11	Dover, England	Insufficient data	Possible contrail
11	Lott, TX	Meteor	Insufficient data. No duration. No characteristics of meteor.
12	Friona, TX	Hoax	Agreed

12	Bethesda, MD	Birds	Agreed. One witness compared behavior of objects with birds. There was the possibility that a helicopter was involved but the investigating officer determined the helicopter was not visible. The map, which was part of the investigation, was missing from the files.
12	Los Alamos, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	Stars/Insufficient data (See SUNlite 10-6)
13	Glasgow and Opheim, MT	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
13	Davis, CA	Meteor	Agreed
15	Bowers Beach, DE	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Washington D.C.	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Wichita, KS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
16	Landrum, SC	Sun Dog	Agreed. Possible contrail/Sun Dog. Film evaluated by ATIC did not show anything significant other than two blobs of bright light that looked like Sun Dogs.
16	Imperial Beach, CA	Balloon	Venus
16	Rhein-Main AB, Germany	Interference	Agreed. Radar targets with no visual sightings.
16	McAndrew AFB, Newfoundland	Balloon	1. Insufficient/conflicting data. No time listed. Duration listed as an hour and then 5-6 seconds. 2. Insufficient data. No duration given. 3. Meteor
16	New Newfoundland	No Conclusion	Possible aircraft
16	Lumberton, NC	Insufficient data	Contrail
17	Florence, SC	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Newfoundland	No Conclusion	Possible balloon
18	Quetta, India	Meteor	Insufficient data. News report.
19	Guanarito, Venezuela	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Salton Sea, CA	Balloon	Venus
21	Cuba	No conclusion	Insufficient data. No information other than the Photos, which show out of focus light or ball of light.
21	Caribbean Sea	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Could have been Jupiter setting.
21	Redwing, WI	Stars/Planets	Insufficient data. No positional data. Sky listed as overcast.
21	Fort Benning, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed for initial sighting. Duration not listed. Second sighting was possible aircraft.
21	Aiken, SC	Meteor	Agreed
22	Germany	No Conclusion	Insufficient data. The document only mentions a news article that stated "Germand design flying saucer".
23	Gannett Hill, NY	Reflection	<b>No Case File</b>
24	Glendale, CA	No Conclusion	Possible birds
24	Ojibwa, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Incomplete report. Missing positional data and duration.
24	Annandale, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
25	White Sands, NM	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Multiple objects seen and no durations/positional data available.
25	Canal Zone	No Conclusion	Possible false radar targets.
27	Albuquerque, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
27	Dequincy, LA	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Jupiter.
28	Ogden, UT	Aircraft	Agreed
28	112deg 54min W 39 deg North	Aircraft	Agreed



30	Washington D.C.	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data. Two stationary lights visible for a few minutes that disappeared. No other information.
30	Washington D.C.	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED

### December 1952

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Dec	St. Augustine, FL	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Reported in 1961.
1	Mitchell AFB, NY	Jupiter	Agreed
4	Congaree AFB, SC	Electronic Interference	Agreed. False target. Temperature inversion at 1500-1600M
4	Colorado Springs, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Laredo AFB, TX	Balloon	Agreed. (See SUNlite 15-6)
4	Tansna, AK	Meteor	Agreed
6	USSR	Probable Meteor showers	Insufficient data. Reports of unknown aerial objects at the Iran-USSR border. No specific sightings listed.
6	Bitburg, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
6	Angoon, AK	Insufficient data	Possible balloon (wind data not in file but radiosonde data from Juneau 50-75 mi north supports balloon explanation)
6	McGuire AFB, NJ	Venus	Agreed
6	Gulf of Mexico	Radar analysis	Anomalous Propagation and meteors. (See Condon report)
8	Indian Ocean	Meteor	<b>No Case File</b>
8	Ladd AFB, AK	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Madison, WI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Pope AFB, NC	Weather Inversion	Agreed. Stationary target for almost 8 hours.
10	Odessa, WA	Balloon	Agreed. (See Condon report)
10	Ladd AFB, AK	Meteor	Agreed
10-12	Greenland	Contrails	Agreed
11	Karachi, Pakistan	Insufficient data	Agreed. News report.
11	Woodland Hills, CA	Insufficient data	Meteor
11	Leonardo, NJ	Aircraft	Possible balloon
12	London, England	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
12	McGuire AFB, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
14	Southern Japan	Canopus	Agreed
14	Charlottesville, VA	Debris in air	Agreed
15	Honshu, Japan	No Conclusion	False radar targets. Not detected on any other radars.
15	Hartsville, SC	Balloon	Agreed
15	Greensboro, NC	No Conclusion	Possible Balloon
15	Goose Bay Labrador	V: Venus R: Radar Malfunction	V: Possibly Altair. Venus had set 15 minutes before the beginning of the sighting. Altair on the bearing of the aircraft pursuit. (See SUNlite 12-6)  R: Agreed (momentary contact by aircraft radar but no ground radar contact)
16	Ladd AFB, AK	Balloons	Agreed
16-17	Newcastle, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Ithaca, NY	Meteor	Agreed
17	San Diego, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness statements missing.

18	Itazuke AFB, Japan	Refraction due to Inversion	Agreed
18	Narsarssuak AFB, Greenland	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Andersen AFB, Guam	Meteor	Agreed
21	San Antonio, TX	Meteor	Agreed
22	Banning, CA	No Conclusion	Possible Balloon
24	Dallas, TX	Spurious Returns	Agreed. No visual sightings but airborne radar detected a target. Images are of radar displays.
24	Camp Carson, CO	Balloon	Agreed
25	Miami, FL	Venus	Agreed. Images show ball of light.
27	Canadian, TX	Rocket	Aircraft
28	Albuquerque, NM	Meteor	Agreed
28	Marysville, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Hokkaido Island, Japan	Venus	Agreed (See SUNlite 8-6)
30	Terrigal, New South Wales	Balloon	Aircraft
30	Vega, TX	Venus	Agreed
30	Los Alamos	Meteor	Agreed
31	Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico	Meteor	Agreed

### Reclassification

I evaluated 157 cases in the Blue Book files from November-December 1952. In my opinion, 56 of these were improperly classified or not classified at all (35.7%). 11 (7.1% of the total number of cases/19.6% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient data". 17 other cases had no classification/conclusion listed (10.8% of the total number of cases/30.4% of the reclassifications). This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
10/5	Kent, England	Insufficient data	Balloon
10/7	Anderson AFB, Guam	Balloon	Venus first sighting. Mars second sighting.
10/7	Riviera, France	Aircraft	Possible meteor
10/8	Keflavik, Iceland	Balloon	Possible meteor
10/12	Atlantic City, NJ	Balloon	Jupiter
10/12	Hungman, North Korea	Ground Lights	Possibly Arcturus
10/13	Bladenburg, MD	Aircraft	Possible birds. 15-year old.
10/13	York, PA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10/14	Provincetown, MA	No conclusion	Meteor
10/14	Zuni, NM	No conclusion	Possibly Vega
10/15	Brooklyn, NY	No conclusion	Stars/Planets. Probably Arcturus and Jupiter.
10/15	Hopewell, VA	Aircraft	Meteor
10/18	Macon, GA	Balloon	Possibly Vega
10/19	Momence, IL	Insufficient data	Balloon
10/22	Elmendorf AFB, AK	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10/23	Toledo, OH	No conclusion	Unreliable report. Photographs show contrails. Reported in 1955
10/24	Elberton, AL	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. (See SUNlite 17-2)
10/26	West Barrington, RI	No Conclusion	Meteor
10/27	Porte De France, PR	Insufficient data	Possible daylight meteor

10/27	Hickman Canyon, UT	Guided Missile	Insufficient data. Witnesses heard and saw something appear to crash into mountain. No debris or crash site was ever found.
10/28	Japan	No Conclusion	Venus
10/29	Jacksboro, TX	No Conclusion	Meteor
11/7	Auburn, AL	Stars/Planets	Unreliable report. Witness could not agree with wife on date. Gave date as 3 October. Date may have been 8 November as the description matches that sighting.
11/8	Greenland	No Conclusion	Meteor
11/10	Covington, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration given.
11/10	Washington D.C.	Balloon	Possibly Castor and Pollux
11/11	Los Alamos, NM	No Conclusion	Sirius
11/11	Chatham, Kent, England	Insufficient data	Possible contrail
11/11	Dover, England	Insufficient data	Possible contrail
11/11	Lott, TX	Meteor	Insufficient data. No duration. No characteristics of meteor.
11/12	Los Alamos, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	Stars/Insufficient data (See SUNlite 10-6)
11/16	Imperial Beach, CA	Balloon	Venus
11/16	McAndrew AFB, Newfoundland	Balloon	1. Insufficient/conflicting data. No time listed. Duration listed as an hour and then 5-6 seconds. 2. Insufficient data. No duration given. 3. Meteor
11/16	New Newfoundland	No Conclusion	Possible aircraft
11/16	Lumberton, NC	Insufficient data	Contrail
11/17	Newfoundland	No Conclusion	Possible balloon
11/18	Quetta, India	Meteor	Insufficient data. News report.
11/20	Salton Sea, CA	Balloon	Venus
11/21	Cuba	No conclusion	Insufficient data. No information other than the Photos, which show out of focus light or ball of light.
11/21	Redwing, WI	Stars/Planets	Insufficient data. No positional data. Sky listed as overcast.
11/24	Glendale, CA	No Conclusion	Possible birds
11/25	White Sands, NM	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Multiple objects seen and no durations/positional data available.
11/25	Canal Zone	No Conclusion	Possible false radar targets.
11/30	Washington D.C.	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data. Two stationary lights visible for a few minutes that disappeared. No other information.
Dec	St. Augustine, FL	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Reported in 1961.
12/6	USSR	Probable Meteor showers	Insufficient data. Reports of unknown aerial objects at the Iran-USSR border. No specific sightings listed.
12/6	Angoon, AK	Insufficient data	Possible balloon (wind data not in file but radiosonde data from Juneau 50-75 mi north supports balloon explanation)
12/6	Gulf of Mexico	Radar analysis	Anomalous Propagation and meteors. (See Condon report)
12/11	Woodland Hills, CA	Insufficient data	Meteor
12/11	Leonardo, NJ	Aircraft	Possible balloon
12/15	Honshu, Japan	No Conclusion	False radar targets. Not detected on any other radars.
12/15	Greensboro, NC	No Conclusion	Possible Balloon



12/15	Goose Bay Labrador	V: Venus R: Radar Malfunction	V: Possibly Altair. Venus had set 15 minutes before the beginning of the sighting. Altair on the bearing of the aircraft pursuit. (See SUNlite 12-6)  R: Agreed (momentary contact by aircraft radar but no ground radar contact)
12/22	Banning, CA	No Conclusion	Possible Balloon
12/27	Canadian, TX	Rocket	Aircraft
12/30	Terrigal, New South Wales	Balloon	Aircraft

### Summary

Late 1952 still had some issues. Seventeen of the 160 cases listed (10.6%) had no classifications. I could not find two of the cases, which is better than the previous three months.

There were some interesting cases in this review. Quite a few involved Venus. Others involved false radar targets. Many of them were described as interference or anomalous propagation. Most of those checked out with what radiosonde data I could gather. Others were verified by Blue Book or the Condon study. Many of these radar targets had no visual verification.

I found the Hickman Canyon, Utah sighting of October 27 puzzling. The witnesses seemed to be sure they saw an object crash into a mountain. Blue Book thought it might have been a missile from the nearby proving grounds. I did not find any information suggesting there was missile testing in the area. However, they never found any evidence of a crash even though there were searches made. That makes me conclude that either they got the location wrong or there was no crash. Maybe it just appeared to crash into the mountain and went behind the mountain. In either case, there wasn't sufficient information to suggest what might have been the source of the sighting.

I also was confused by the Newfoundland sightings on 16 November. The description of the sightings were a jumbled mess. It is hard to say what was seen but time was missing from one sighting and duration the other. That made them insufficient information in my opinion.

The one other sighting that had me perplexed was Bethesda, Maryland on 12 November. It involved some lab technicians and doctors looking through a window towards the area of Walter Reed Hospital. There was a helicopter transfer that day but the investigating officer said it did not line up with the direction they were looking. One of the Doctors compared them to birds and that classification stuck. Whatever they were looking at, the objects were far away or were not that big. I agreed with the bird classification because of the witness comparing them to birds and their behavior seemed consistent with birds. I would have liked to have seen the map that was part of the investigation but it was missing.

This completes my review of the Blue Book case files, which I started over seven years ago (see SUNlite 10-1). There is some bit of satisfaction I have from this endeavor and some disappointment. I am satisfied that I completed the task but disappointed that the data in the files was so incomplete that it made my task very difficult. Next issue, I will present the data I collected.

### 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. "Global radiosonde archive". National center for environmental information. Available WWW: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/integrated-global-radiosonde-archive/access/data-por/> (This replaced the previous version of the archive)
4. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" StratoCat. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>
5. "Space History Chronology". Astronautix. Available WWW: <http://www.astronautix.com/s/spacehistorychronology.html>
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## Midwest flap July 31-August 5 1965

In SUNlite 14-3, I reviewed the July - August time period in the Blue Book records. One item I mentioned but did not examine closely was the "Midwest flap" during this time period. Blue Book listed it all as one case and gave the dates for August 31-September 3. The actual dates ran from July 31 to about August 6. It included many Midwestern states and had many sightings. I went through the files and they are a real mess. There were some summary sheets that listed all the cases but I discovered that even they were wrong. Dates appear to be incorrect. A lot of the sightings were placed on August 5 but appear to have been the morning of August 2. The confusion was the result of the source documents, which were summaries written by duty officers, did not provide any dates. They just listed times. Another sheet gave the times in an odd format with 05 at the front of the time. I suspect those writing the tables thought this meant the 5th of August. However, examination of the sightings and putting them with sightings of known dates indicate these were on the 2nd of August. For the most part, the date does not matter unless a solution include a satellite. The difference between the position on Jupiter on August 2 and August 5 at a given time is not significant..

A lot of the reports were very poor reports. The FE Warren AFB sightings were probably the worst. Quite a few were simple statements like "saw nine UFOs" and that was it. Others would be conflicting in their statements. They would refer to the object moving at high or tremendous speed and then state the object took minutes to cross the sky! It is apparent, after examining the reports, that many of the sightings involved scintillating stars and the bright planet Jupiter. However, identifying which stars/planets were seen was difficult since the descriptions were very brief. Apparently, the UFO officer did not bother to ever follow-up and interview all the airmen at this missile sites. After receiving the first night of UFO reports, Sergeant Moody responded that any follow-up data should include positional data and duration per standard procedure. Apparently, his request fell on deaf ears. The next night's reports were just as bad. I suspect the officers did not like a sergeant telling them what to do.

Blue Book provided no specific explanations for any of these cases.

Date	Location	Time (Zulu)	My evaluation
7/31	Wynnewood, OK	0705Z	Capella
7/31	Wynnewood, OK	0735Z	Balloon (radar contact)
7/31-8/2	FE Warren AFB		The report states there were 143 observers 148 objects. Difficult to discuss all of these sightings based on this information.
8/1	FE Warren AFB	0630Z	Vega
8/1	Cheyenne, WY	0700Z	Capella
8/1	E site	0740Z	Possible star. Insufficient data to determine which star
8/1	Site F SW SD	0800-1140Z	Jupiter
8/1	Site G SW SD	0830-1140Z	1. 0830-1030Z Dubhe 2. 1100-1140Z Midas 9 satellite, Cosmos 44, Explorer 23, Agena RB
8/1	G site	0838Z	0848Z: Meteor
			0950Z: Stars and planets (insufficient data to determine which stars/planets)
8/1	E site	0839Z	Meteor
8/1	Sioux city army depot	0845Z	Insufficient data
8/1	Site P SE WY	0930-1130Z	0930Z: Vega and Dubhe 1000Z: Jupiter 1030Z: Betelgeuse 1130Z: Rigel
8/1	Sioux city Army depot	0935-1025Z	0935Z: Stars and Planets (insufficient data to determine which stars/planets) 1025Z: Aircraft
8/1	Q flight (25 mi N of Cheyenne)	1000Z	Stars and Planets (insufficient data to determine which stars/planets)
8/1	HO2	1000Z	Deneb or Vega
8/1	H-1	1000Z	Stars and Planets (insufficient data to determine which stars/planets)
8/1	D-4	1017Z	1. Aircraft 2. Stars and Planets. Possibly Pleiades or Hyades

8/1	E site	1025Z	Stars and Planets. Possibly Pleiades or Hyades
8/1	G site	1027Z	Insufficient data
8/1	E-2	1027Z	Rigel and Betelgeuse
8/1	G-1	1028 - 1032Z	1. Solrad 6B RB 2. Cosmos 44RB
8/1	Q site	1032Z	Betelgeuse and other stars/planets (insufficient data to determine which stars/planets)
8/1	G site	1040Z	Aircraft
8/1	FE Warren	1100Z	Meteor
8/2	E of Norman, OK	0200Z	1. Cosmos 70 satellite 2. Aircraft
8/2	OK City, OK	0200Z	Echo satellite
8/2	Tinker AFB, OK	0230-0400 Z	1. Antares and surrounding stars. 2. Radar contact: Insufficient information. Reported contact but no duration or motion.
8/2	Shawnee, OK	0320Z	Vega, Deneb and other stars
8/2	Big Springs, TX	0330Z	Insufficient data. No duration.
8/2	FE Warren AFB	0345Z	Venus
8/2	85 mi E. of Cheyenne	0415Z	Star/planet. No positional data to determine which.
8/2	50 mi E of Webb, TX	0420Z	Meteor
8/2	50 mi E. of Cheyenne	0430Z	Star/planet. No positional data to determine which.
8/2	50 mi ESE of Cheyenne	0442Z	Star/planet. No positional data to determine which.
8/2	55 mi SE. of Cheyenne	0450Z	Star/planet. No positional data to determine which.
8/2	Broken Bow, NE	0503Z	Possible meteor observations
8/2	Plattsmouth, NE	0504Z	Meteor
8/2	Iowa City, IA	0504Z	Meteor
8/2	80 mi N. of Cheyenne	0515Z	Conflicting data. Listed as moving at a tremendous speed but was visible for 7-8 minutes
8/2	FE Warren AFB	0515Z	Possibly Saturn
8/2	FE Warren AFB	0545Z	Capella and Mirfak
8/2	FE Warren AFB	0600Z	Conflicting data. Listed as moving fast but took 30 minutes to go from horizon to horizon
8/2	Mineral Wells, TX	0630Z	Arcturus
8/2	45 mi. E of Cheyenne	0635Z	Capella and Arcturus
8/2	Site E-1, WY	0635Z	Echo 2
8/2	Ellsworth AFB SD	0645Z	Antares, Arcturus, Vega, Saturn, and Capella
8/2	Ellsworth AFB, SD	0700Z	Insufficient data
8/2	40 mi. W of Cheyenne	0720Z	Possibly SL-8 RB
8/2	Ellsworth AFB, SD	0755Z	Jupiter, Saturn, Fomalhaut, Arcturus
8/2	65 mi. ENE of Cheyenne	0730Z	SL-8 RB
8/2	60 mi E of Cheyenne	0730Z	SL-8 RB
8/2	Edmond, OK	0733Z	Possibly Vega
8/2	Durant, OK	0740Z	Capella
8/2	Wichita, KS	0740Z	Radar photographs were submitted but the target clutter on the images and lack of details prevented ATIC from making a proper analysis of the photographs.
8/2	C-1	0750Z	Aircraft



8/2	Ellsworth AFB, SD	0755Z	Jupiter, Saturn, Fomalhaut, Arcturus
8/2	G-1	0805Z	Echo 2
8/2	McAlester, OK	0810Z	<b>No case file</b>
8/2	Sulphur Springs, TX	0812Z	Echo 2
8/2	C-1	0815Z	Echo 2
8/2	Carswell AFB, TX	0845Z	Cosmos 76
8/2	OK area	0855Z	Equipment malfunction. This appears to be an entry associated with the loss of VHF and UHF communications that happened in the region. Summary states it was an AP release
8/2	Tulsa, OK	0900Z	Insufficient data. Memo only mentions a sighting but gives no details. Summary states it was a State trooper from an AP release
8/2	Richardson, TX	0915Z	Fomalhaut
8/2	Carswell AFB, TX	1045Z	Cosmos 44
8/2	Spencer, OK	1144Z	Unreliable report. Reported UFO landing.
8/3	K-7 FE Warren AFB	0415Z	Insufficient data. The only information we have is that it was a white light observed for 7 minutes.
8/3	Cheyenne, WY	0438Z	Possibly Mirfak
8/3	Offutt AFB, NE	0445Z	No case file
8/3	50-60 mi E. of Cheyenne	0450Z	Cosmos 54
8/3	Omaha, NE	0450Z	No case file
8/3	Kaylynn, NE	0458Z	No case file
8/3	Omaha, NE	0459Z	No case file
8/3	Site I-1 FE Warren AFB	0512Z	Possible Birds
8/3	Enid, OK	2050Z	Possible birds
8/3	Linwood, KS	2300Z	Contrail
8/3	Kansas City, KS	2330Z	Possible balloon
8/4	Omaha, NE	0230Z	Advertising aircraft
8/4	Omaha, NE	0235Z	Advertising aircraft
8/4	La Platte NE	0240Z	Venus
8/4	Council Bluffs, IA	0235Z	Advertising aircraft
8/4	Sioux City, IA	0254Z	Vega
8/4	Wicksville, SD	0315Z	Possibly Venus.
8/4	Omaha, NE	0350Z	Possibly Arcturus
8/4	Kansas City, MO	0420Z	Antares
8/4	Portsmouth, NE	0430Z	Possibly Arcturus
8/4	NE	0445Z	Possibly Arcturus
8/4	Omaha, NE	0459Z	Possible meteor
8/4	Elkhorn, NE	0730Z	Possibly Capella
8/5	Crystal Lake, WY	0030Z	Aircraft.
8/5	Kansas City, MO	0620Z	Echo2 and star/planet (insufficient information to determine which star/planet)
8/6	N of Austin, TX	0200Z	<b>No case file</b>
8/6	S of Austin, TX	0240Z	<b>No case file</b>
8/6	S of Austin, TX	0245Z	<b>No case file</b>
8/6	E of Austin, TX	0450Z	<b>No case file</b>
8/6	FE Warren AFB	0615Z	<b>No case file</b>

8/6	Sidney, NE	0615Z	Appears to be observations of scintillating stars to the east, south, and west. Capella, Altair, and Arcturus.
8/6	Sioux City, IA	0615Z	Echo 2
8/7	Cheyenne, WY	0903Z	Insufficient data. No positional data. Three objects. All star-like. One going south. Others appeared to hover. Possibly stars and aircraft/balloon.

Because of the way the files were laid out, I suspect there are probably errors in the table. Still it pretty much discusses most of the sightings and potential explanations for each event.

## NOVA: What are UFOs?

On January 22nd, PBS aired its NOVA program on UAPs/UFOs. It was an interesting show but I saw nothing new in it. It involved some different players from UFOlogy and Skepticism. Mick West was there, as I expected. I was pleased to see to see the ex-AA-RO director, Sean Kirkpatrick seen prominently in the program. We also had an appearance by Alejandro Rojas, who has written about UFOs in the past. There were also a few others that seemed to be UAP/UFO advocates. I did not see any members of the Scientific Coalition for UAP studies (SCU).

The program discussed the Gimbal, Tic-Tac, and Aguadilla videos. It was interesting to see them demonstrate how viewing things in infrared is not the same as viewing them in visual light. When Mick West presented his explanation of Gimbal, I was not surprised to see the response from UAP advocates. Instead of using a counterargument with the explanation West provided, Alex Hollings resorted to the same tired argument that UAP/UFO proponents have always used. To him the pilots are experts and can't make mistakes because they are familiar with their gear. He repeated this in his Tic-Tac discussion.

I have written extensively about the argument that pilots are expert observers. In my opinion, and based on my research, there is no such thing as an expert witness. Nobody is infallible and mistakes can be made. As for pilots knowing all about their equipment that they understand the intricacies of circuitry and working elements inside of the device, I don't think that is the case. I have no doubt that they do understand how to operate the equipment and fly the plane like experts. However, there is only so much information an individual can handle when dealing with such a complex machine and in the heat of the moment. The details of how the electronics/optical components work, maintaining it, and repairing it usually is left to the enlisted technicians, who are the real experts on how the equipment functions. So, when such gear shows anomalous data/information, the officers will often refer to the shipboard experts when they return. While the video was probably played for a select group of officers, one wonders if any of the technicians got a chance to examine it. Even if they saw it, they may have been perplexed by what they saw since it would have required an understanding of the optics they may not have possessed. It seems that the Air Group commander felt it was best to forward the video to pentagon for their experts to analyze it. To date, I have yet to see any documentation that supports a formal analysis made of the Gimbal video by any qualified experts inside the pentagon.

Moving on, we were next treated with the Aguadilla video (see SUNlite 7-6). There was only so much time and they could have done a better job summarizing the event. Sean Kirkpatrick talked about the target being two birds. It could have been birds but I am more of the opinion that it was probably one or two balloons. It moved with the wind and at the speed of the wind. That indicates to me that it was some sort of balloon. While they explained how the object faded away at the end, I wish they would have gone into more detail about the case and some of the poor conclusions made by the SCU about the video.

The Tic-Tac section seemed to be more about retelling the story. I liked Mick West's demonstration of parallax in his pool but he really did not get a chance to tell his story about the video or explain further how parallax may have played a role in explaining what was seen. That video was only mentioned briefly anyway. We were mostly treated to the story about the event. Kirkpatrick pointed out that the further back in time one goes for a case, the harder it is to analyze because much of the data no longer exists. The Tic-Tac story exists as UNIDENTIFIED but one could also claim it is insufficient data because of the lack of anything but anecdotes.

That was the real theme of the episode. Visual anecdotes are impossible to properly analyze because human beings, no matter how highly trained, are subject to error that cannot be quantified. Everyone pretty much agreed that the current data collection methods for UAPs/UFOs are inadequate. The human element needs to be removed. The segment on Enigma labs and their data collection application for cell phones was very interesting. The one sighting they showed looked interesting and it would have been nice if they had given more details about it. It will be interesting to see if anything comes of this.

In my opinion, the program was pretty good. I wish they could have focused more on the videos and potential explanations. However, they seemed to want to cover a lot of things and focus on the efforts to collect better data. I can understand that time was limited and that drove the brief analysis of these videos.

Will better data collection help solve the UAP/UFO mystery? Is there is something unknown to science behind UAP/UFO reports? I hate to be cynical, but I doubt it will ever be resolved no matter how much data is provided. Only if there is one solid case for something "unknown to science", that withstands scrutiny, will it ever be resolved. Otherwise, we will be continued to be subjected to ambiguous videos and exotic stories that will be promoted as "the case skeptics have been dreading" but turn out to be something less spectacular.

# WITNESSED: THE TRUE STORY OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE UFO ABDUCTIONS

**Budd Hopkins. Simon & Schuster, New York, 1997. 475 pp. ISBN: 0-671-57031-5.**

**Luis R. González**

I will put forward two alternatives, to be chosen by the reader:

A) HOPKINS'S hypothesis (final 1997 'reconstruction'):

Linda and Richard (two abductees from New York) had been paired since childhood by the aliens, even up to a sexual relationship ('sexual bonding'—the first published case of this type) that made Richard think that Johnny (Linda's little 9-year-old son) is his. Consciously, they do not remember any of this.

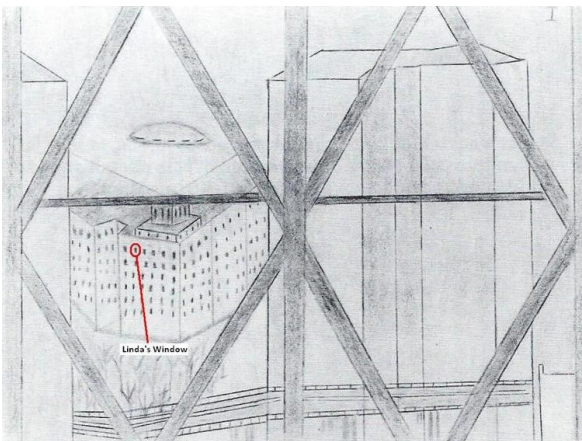
Among the hundreds or thousands of couples that the aliens have arranged over all these years, it turned out that Richard works as a bodyguard for important politicians (for example, Pérez de Cuéllar, United Nations Secretary General), and the aliens find out that both (Richard and de Cuéllar) will pass in front of the building where Linda lives on their way back from a secret meeting. They decide to take advantage of the 'coincidence' (?) to abduct them and deliver a cryptic (and false) environmental message to Pérez de Cuéllar.

Anyway, that night they were already busy in the area, with a multiple abduction taking place in the middle of New York, about 3 miles to the north (allowing "Erika" — one of the abductees in that scenario — to see over the Brooklyn Bridge the red UFO that would have abducted Linda and the others).

Everything is timed to the second (here Hopkins exaggerates: since the aliens seem capable of manipulating time at will, the issue is easier). Invisible, their UFO positions itself over the building where Linda lives. It is a little after 3:00 in the morning and Linda has just gone to bed after doing the laundry. Four or five Grays infiltrate the living room of the home.

Meanwhile, the motorized cavalcade of limousines and escort vehicles with de Cuéllar and two other important heads of state is heading toward a heliport in southern Manhattan.<sup>1</sup> For 'security reasons,'<sup>2</sup> they leave the elevated section of the FDR and take the traffic lights and streets bordering the Hudson River (given the hour, they did not run the red lights to avoid accidents). At just the right moment, the aliens activate 'something' that stops the engines, lights, and radios of the various vehicles (but not the street-lights). It should also 'paralyze' the rest of the group, since Richard, his partner Dan, and de Cuéllar did not mention them in what follows. It should also 'befuddle' some seasoned bodyguards because, when they are unable to start the cars again or communicate, the only thing that occurs to them is to get out and push a bulletproof limousine (!) precisely to the spot between two lampposts that has the best view of Linda's apartment block. And without worrying in the least about not being able to report the problem, they decide to wait a few minutes before trying to start up again.

The plot thickens. In an uncharacteristic mode, the aliens decide to leave a couple of independent witnesses who can confirm the abduction. Above where the entourage is stopped, traveling on the FDR, we find Cathy Turner and her partner. But since they are going too fast (as it is early in the morning, they do not respect the speed limits), the aliens 'slow down' their journey so that she has time to roll down the window and take a good look at the UFO. A few seconds earlier, they have used again that 'something' so selective that it does not stop the engines (and radios) of the trucks arriving at and leaving the nearby NY Post newspaper (located between Linda's building and the place where the entourage stopped) but does exert its influence more than 500 meters away on the vehicles traveling along the famous Brooklyn Bridge (whose security lights allegedly go out... but not the street lamps), and more specifically on Janet Kimball's car, the only witness who later contacts Hopkins (and insists months later, upon seeing that her first letter goes unnoticed), stopping her exactly in the right place for her to have an unobstructed view of the abduction.<sup>3</sup>





WITH ALL THE PLAYERS IN POSITION, THE SHOW BEGINS.

Inside the apartment, Linda feels paralyzed; her husband does not respond to her screams, and even though she throws a pillow at the Gray that appears at the foot of her bed, she ends up being forced to walk to the living room. The UFO turned on its red fuselage, lighting up the entire sky and reflecting in the silver gum wrapper that Richard had just put in his mouth while he was waiting for Dan to decide to start the car (he also mentions certain green lights, but Janet does not point these out). A neighbor, Francesca, noticed a strong white glow even though her window faces the opposite side (she also heard a loud noise like an airplane that no one else mentions). The building's doormen did not hear or feel anything.

The UFO, which was over the building, changes color to bluish-white, emitting a kind of vertical beam of light, and comes down until it is level with Linda's living-room window. Passing through the closed and barred window, Linda and three of the beings come out crouched up like a ball (maybe the others stayed 'on guard,' watching her family), turn 90° so that the witnesses can have a better view of the spectacle, and stand upright, rising until they enter the UFO. Richard, using binoculars, identifies Linda as the girl he had 'dreamed' about so many times.

Now an inconsistency appears. Janet Kimball states (p. 180) that the UFO disappeared for a few moments behind a building and continued rising until it passed above the bridge, over her. However, Richard (p. 306) says that the UFO rushed toward them, flying very fast and low, and when it passed vertically over them, they felt a strange sensation (that is when, according to Hopkins, the UFO would have extracted all three of them from the limousine, making them pass through the armor or the windshield, just as Linda previously passed through the living-room window). If the UFO began to ascend after flying over the vehicle, the discrepancy is not so serious.

A worse discrepancy would be that Janet Kimball did not see the UFO go into the Hudson River. In contrast, Richard and the others claimed to have seen it do just that, immediately after it flew over them. But, were they not inside the UFO? In his May 1992 letter, Richard explains this gaffe: the UFO plunged into the river, **after** returning them all 90 minutes later (p. 287).

During the abduction, Linda was examined and then everyone appeared on a beach where, despite it being night, they saw many details, and the Secretary General of the United Nations watched some kind of 'environmentalist representation'.

Inside the UFO, the aliens run the sand taken from the beach through a machine and allow Richard to pick up some samples (first known case in history). Curiously, instead of having the samples analyzed in their own laboratories, Richard ends up sending them to Hopkins for him to do so.

And all the abductees are then returned to their respective places. According to Linda, she looked at the clock when she got back and it was 4:45.

According to one of Richard's companions in the entourage (mentioned in the latest version), they came to between 4:00 and 4:20. Richard does not mention the time of return (maybe because their watches stopped at 3:16) but he assures that the rest of the entourage (10-12 limousines!!) was no longer there (and went without raising the alarm with de Cuéllar's car empty). They would have reappeared in wet clothing, with de Cuéllar on top of the limousine and Dan holding a fish in his hand (these aliens are always so jokingly clueless) and they see the UFO submerge in the river. All haste forgotten, they wait up to 45 minutes to see if it comes back out, but end up leaving.

Despite their concern for what fate that woman might have suffered (they do not remember having been abducted themselves, they only remember having witnessed the abduction), and knowing exactly which apartment floor she lives on, Richard and Dan decide not to make a simple check. It took about 15 months before they began (simultaneously, supposedly under alien control) to recall their own abduction and decide to write Hopkins asking if he knew anything about the case, when it would have been much simpler to deal directly with Linda.

From there, events follow. Richard and Dan visit Linda in her apartment (Budd had previously told her about their letter), but refuse to meet with Hopkins, sending him long typed reports or recordings instead.

Three months later, Richard and Dan kidnap Linda to interrogate her, even forcing her to take off her shoes to see if she had thumbs (the aliens do not have them). After being released and calling Hopkins, Linda arranges a romantic dinner with her husband to tell him about it, and they end up fighting (from that moment on, her family life changed).<sup>4</sup> Hopkins assigns her a bodyguard, and the meetings stop all summer long.

In October 1991, Dan kidnaps Linda and makes inappropriate advances, eventually attempting to drown her. Richard arrives to the rescue, and that, combined with the fact that signs of that "sexual bonding" to which they were subjected by the aliens begin to surface, throws them into each other's arms.

The first independent witness (Janet Kimball) appears. In the background (and showing a great interest in her son Johnny), there is the paternal figure of Pérez de Cuéllar, who would gift the boy an expensive diver's helmet! After one last incident in which the whole family awakens with nosebleeds (just as Linda herself had months before, supposedly so they could remove a nasal implant shaped like a hook that had just shown up on an X-ray), in mid-1992 Hopkins publicly reveals the case, and Linda steps onto the stage at a UFO conference (although under a pseudonym).

*Hopkins: UFO abductions are usually concealed, done covertly. In this case... UFO occupants wanted this to be seen... They waited for the*

*procession of cars to stall, then turned on all lights... They floated people out 12 stories high, with bright light, into a craft.*

B) Null Hypothesis: NONE OF THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED.

Since this might sound too blunt, we can outline the following alternative hypothesis — one of many plausible variants for a conventional explanation:

It all started in 1988 when Linda Cortile, a housewife of Italian origin, married with two children, bought Hopkins's book *Intruders* thinking it was a fiction novel. She could not get past page 26... not because of the story's quality but because that is where it describes how some abductees had implants inserted through the nose. Such a scene made her stop reading because 12 years earlier (after the birth of her first child) a doctor (whose receipt she still kept) had discovered a surgical scar inside her nose, and she had never undergone any operation! That fact, along with a certain history of nocturnal paralysis in her adolescence, etc., led her almost a year later to write Hopkins telling him about her case. After a first interview and hypnosis, possible abductions in her earlier life are investigated, and the woman becomes one more member of the self-help groups organized by Hopkins, in which abductees regularly meet to exchange their experiences.

Precisely in one of those meetings, they discuss a newly published novel (*Nighteyes*) where Hopkins is mentioned and which, according to some critics (including myself, see Addendum table in "Betrayed by a night gaze" on pages 41-44 of this issue), has undeniable parallels with Linda's later account.

After seven months immersed in the abduction environment, Linda is 'ready', and the next time she feels paralyzed, she knows what the 'right' interpretation is. In the early morning of November 30, 1989, she has a hypnopompic vision of a Gray at whom she throws a pillow, and a short while later she wakes up with a panic attack and gets up to check if her family is alive and breathing.

The next day, she informs Hopkins of what happened, and he urgently arranges the corresponding hypnotic session. A typical abduction and medical exam story emerges, but with an added element: it is the first published case in which an abductee replies to the aliens in their own language. This would be the beginning of a whole series of 'firsts' that would appear on successive occasions (such as finding herself in a UFO landed at the bottom of a river, able to observe the garbage accumulated in its bed).<sup>5</sup> Throughout 1990, the regressions continue, and new abductions in her past are uncovered.

For reasons we can only guess at (boredom, seeking attention among the abductee's support group, marital problems, etc.), Linda decides to take a qualitative leap in her experiences by providing Hopkins with an independent witness to her 1989 abduction. This doesn't necessarily need to be an attempt at fraud, but maybe just a simple joke or a role-playing game with someone she knows. Another alternative to consider is that she was covering up an extramarital affair (I will comment later on the hints that might point to such a possibility).

The two policemen, Richard and Dan, appear. For no truly logical reason,<sup>6</sup> they write first to Hopkins when they could have dealt directly with Linda (letter dated February 1, 1991). Then, at 10:15 p.m. on February 19, 1991, they visit her at home. On Sunday, February 24, 1991, Linda even introduces Richard to her husband on the way to church (a perfect excuse so that if someone sees them around, they won't raise suspicion). But Hopkins decides to search for the supposed policemen, without success, raising some questions.

Given that communication between the two sides is still one-directional (Hopkins cannot ask anything until later, when they organize a system of message exchange by leaving them in the very lobby of Linda's building!), the supposed Richard and Dan must not have known about the failure of those efforts, and nevertheless, in the next letter, they offer a new version of what happened: they are no longer policemen but bodyguards, and they weren't parked in their patrol car but were accompanying the UN Secretary General in a limousine when it unexpectedly stopped, and all three of them observed the abduction. From the outside, it might seem like a somewhat daring turn in the story, but maybe someone aware of Hopkins's detective skills took the risk. The gamble worked, because Hopkins did not even bother to check if Pérez de Cuéllar was in town that night.

This second version contains some inconsistencies, the main one being that some experienced bodyguards did not display the slightest concern about the failure of the limousine's engine and lights, their own watches, and radios, deciding to wait 45 minutes to see if the UFO would come out of the river again, while the city's alarm systems could have been going off everywhere. At least, in any case, they had a helicopter waiting for them at a nearby heliport (where, upon inquiry, they denied there was any scheduled flight that night).

Also suspicious is the way in which further details of the abduction come to light. Despite having spent almost a year and a half delving into it, Linda had barely remembered anything. Now, each time Richard revealed new details in his letters, Linda, under hypnosis, remembered them... never the other way around.

We know that around that time Linda was out of work (why?), so there would be no better way to brighten the boring daily routine than to organize a kidnapping in broad daylight. According to the story, on April 29, 1991, at 7:30 AM Dan and Richard took several minutes to get her into a black Mercedes, which then stayed there parked a while longer.<sup>7</sup> I understand that in the violent streets of New York no one tried to stop them, but at least Hopkins could have asked local merchants if they had witnessed anything, to confirm the reality of the kidnapping. That is Hopkins's main failing: he accepts his abductees' accounts without taking the trouble to do the simplest checks (like verifying the weather at the time of the alleged abduction), while being very thorough in useless searches.

In the following months, there was a growing distance between the spouses. Linda attributes the start of this emotional change to when she revealed to her husband that kidnapping, and how Richard had been “kind” to her. But we only have her version. After a second kidnapping attempt in which they almost ran her over, she manages to have Hopkins assign her a bodyguard for her outings.

However, maintaining the credibility of the case with witnesses who refuse to identify themselves is difficult, so “Janet Kimball” appears in July 1991, a supposed witness who claims to have seen the abduction from her car, stopped on the Brooklyn Bridge. Unfortunately, the letter remains unopened amid the pile of unanswered correspondence Hopkins is accumulating.

So, the summer passes with no new incidents. The matter must be reactivated, and since after Kimball, she can do without Richard, Dan, and de Cuéllar as independent witnesses, there’s nothing better than also turning them into abductees. Dan sends a letter describing his entire encounter with the “Lady of the Sands” (the quasi-religious title given by the aliens to the Catholic Linda, who claims to be a descendant of Joan of Arc) and the environmental parable they witnessed. Linda’s later hypnosis confirms all these details (and the case becomes the first example of ‘take over’—a word coined by Hopkins to describe when an abductee acts as an ally of the aliens).

Shortly thereafter, the strange incident occurs in which Dan kidnaps Linda, takes her to a beach house, makes improper suggestions, and finally tries to drown her in the waves. Fortunately, Richard arrives in time to rescue her. As evidence, Linda shows up at Hopkins’s home with her hair full of sand and a wet nightgown.

It would be an absurd event to fake. Maybe the explanation lies in something that supposedly happened during the struggle with Dan: he takes her wedding ring off her and throws it into the sea. That is to say, Linda lost her wedding ring somehow and must find an excuse. She could blame it on the aliens, but that might be overkill, so it suits her to pin it on one of her imaginary witnesses... and yet she refuses to file any complaint against him.

Word of the case begins to spread, and someone in the abductee self-help group starts to get suspicious about the role Linda, the “Queen Bee” (her group nickname), is playing. Things seem to be spiraling out of control; a new letter arrives from Richard (including photos of Linda on the beach) where he assures that there were more people present during the November 1989 abduction — he mentions two other cars, “to be precise” — and comments on things such as Linda speaking telepathically or paralyzing people with her gaze. Hopkins goes to look for the beach but finds nothing (though it does not occur to him to hypnotize Linda to get more precise details). On November 12, 1991, Linda visits her podiatrist niece and has an X-ray of her supposed nasal implant taken, but she forgets to mention it until after she wakes up one morning a week later with a nosebleed... and of course, the implant had disappeared.

On the very day she tells Hopkins about this fleeting implant, a second letter<sup>8</sup> arrives from “Janet Kimball” reminding him of her July letter in which she claimed to have seen the abduction from about 400 meters away. Meanwhile, relations between Linda and Richard reach their peak. They stroll through the park, exchanging notes about each other’s defects; he gives her a ring and suggests he might be Johnny’s real father. Later hypnosis confirms every detail of this alien sexual manipulation, establishing the precedent for subsequent cases...

But there is still more. Linda claims to have immortal red blood cells! (and no one bothers to verify it)<sup>9</sup> and Richard sends Hopkins sand samples from the beach that he had picked up on the UFO (the first worldwide case in which an abductee manages to bring something back). On top of that, it appears that Johnny is following in his mother’s footsteps and is being abducted as well (or maybe the whole family).<sup>10</sup>

Then comes the public revelation. Linda Cortile takes the stage at the annual 1992 MUFON conference (July 10-12, at Albuquerque, NM) and tells her story (though under a pseudonym). From then on, public appearances follow, and attacks by skeptics cause quite a stir in the UFOlogical circles. Maybe in one last attempt to bolster her case, the “shared dream” incident with a group member (Marylin Kilmer) emerges at an abductee support group meeting on September 30, 1992, which ends up being an abduction in which Marylin recognizes Pérez de Cuéllar himself.<sup>11</sup> In his article on the case, Greg Sandow reports that Kilmer now refuses to confirm that supposed dual abduction.<sup>12</sup>

Richard’s last letter (in August 1993) adds new variants and inconsistencies to the original story, which is now on its SEVENTH version. For instance, we now have a real entourage of limousines, which supposedly remained paralyzed in the middle of the street for at least an hour without anyone seeing it. Perhaps the aliens’ invisibility powers could have hidden them from unwanted glances, but I suspect any of the many trucks entering and leaving the NY Post newspaper offices would have been startled to crash into an invisible automobile that was blocking traffic...

(Addition 2024: In 2001, arrived an EIGHTH version, when New York Post worker Yancy Spence revealed that he (and others present) had also seen Linda floating outside her building and the procession of limousines stopped on South Street along with the Cuéllar’s conspicuously and unmistakable pink Rolls-Royce with diplomatic plates.<sup>13</sup> Allegedly, Spence wasn’t aware the case was investigated and written about until he saw it portrayed on a TV documentary in 2000. Budd Hopkins personally met and interviewed with him for the first time in late 2001. He blamed the aliens for blocking those memories and even suggested he and his friends were also abducted. Maybe not coincidentally Steve, Linda’s husband, works the night shift at the New York Post.

In short, if the original version of an abduction in the center of New York witnessed only by a couple of policemen bordered on the unbelievable, the idea of an entire official entourage “missing” for more than an hour, without setting off all the alarms in the coun-

try, is too absurd to be taken seriously, especially given the manifest absence of evidence.

The key to the whole case is “Janet Kimball.” If this person actually exists and has no connection to Linda Cortile, we should maybe at least accept the original version: a UFO abducted Linda from her home that night (because the letter describing the details reached Hopkins long before the case was made public). Unfortunately, Hopkins did not bother to verify the personal data of the individual in question, and now she refuses to come forward due to supposed family pressures. Yet a few simple checks would suffice to verify whether such a person really exists and that she is the one who met with Hopkins in a restaurant in December 1991 never to be seen again (though it will be nearly impossible to prove that she could not have found out about the case in some way and wanted to jump on the bandwagon).

So near and yet so far!

+++++

#### FINAL NOTES (2025)

The precedent review was written in 2000. Prompted by the recent Netflix docuseries<sup>14</sup>, I rescued it, revised what I had written, and noted I had nothing important to change. But I would like to add some comments and address several specific points presented by Netflix.



Drawing made by “Richard” and sent to Hopkins

I cannot begin without noticing that we now have a new version of the famous November 30, 1989 abduction. In the docuseries, an aged Linda re-enacts the scene and we see her alone in her bedroom, no paralysis, standing up and holding a 150,000-volt stunt-gun—not a pillow—in her hands (I have checked, and the first commercial TASER was sold in 1992); then, she is simply knocked down. No aliens shown (not because of lack of money for special effects, I hope) and then she is outside floating up alone in a horizontal position.<sup>15</sup> Dramatic license? That is a problem nowadays. For example, I am sure that some of the scenes showing Budd speaking with Linda and other witnesses have been dramatized, because I do not think he had a camera 24/7 on him, waiting ready for unexpected phone calls. They need images for TV and used stock clips to accompany the audios recorded at the time. Another example is when Linda describes the first UFO Conference she ever assisted (MUFON 1992 Conference at Albuquerque), but her words are illustrated with images from the MUFON 1996 Conference at Sheraton’s Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC.

A final glaring example would be Linda’s seizure and interrogation by the secret agents. In fact, the director has merged two separate incidents into one. Even worse, the two original incidents took place in daylight and the second one involved a red Jaguar, a very inconspicuous car for a kidnapping. According to the original story, the first kidnapping was not taped, lasted more than 3 hours going around and around in the car, and they dropped her back where she was taken. The second one involved visiting a “beach house,” losing her wedding ring, and running in the sand with a nightgown (they even provided photos!). Her short recording was quickly discovered and confiscated at the beginning but somehow, she got it back at the end. Her stun gun was low on batteries and did not work.

Curiously, Netflix dropped any reference to the Brooklyn Bridge in the title. Maybe to avoid suggesting somebody was trying to “sell” you the story, as in the famous scam.

Let’s begin with 23, the most quoted number in the docuseries, not because it is prime, but because it is the number of alleged



witnesses to the abduction. This is the short list (in chronological order of appearance):

- Witness #1 - Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist (1976)
- Witness #2 - "Erica" (Winter of 1990)
- Witness #3 - Richard (Early February, 1991)
- Witness #4 - Dan (Early February, 1991)
- Witness #5 - Linda's Husband Steve (Sunday February 24, 1991)
- Witness #6 - Linda's Son Steven (March 1991)
- Witness #7 - The Third Man – Pérez de Cuéllar- (April 12, 1991)
- Witness #8 - "Janet Kimball" (Late July 1991)
- Witness #9 - "Joseph" (September 3, 1991)
- Witness #10 - Dr. Lisa Bayer Podiatric Surgeon (November 12, 1991)
- Witness #11 - Carmela (February 22, 1992)
- Witness #12 - Brian (Sunday May 24, 1992)
- Witness #13 - Sue (July 1992)
- Witness #14 - Johnny Cortile (Sunday May 24, 1992)
- Witness #15 - "Marilyn Kilmer" (September 30, 1992)
- Witness #16 - Frank Turner (Summer of 1993)
- Witness #17 - Cathy Turner (Summer of 1993)
- Witness #18 - Cardinal John O'Connor (November 1993)
- Witness #19 - Reporter Jay Sapir (November 12, 1993)
- Witness #20 - "Francesca" (Sunday April 16, 1995)
- Witness #21 - New York Post Worker Yancy Spence (Late 2001)
- Witness #22 - New York Post Worker "Bobby" (Late 2001)
- Witness #23 - Reporter Steve Dunleavy (Late 2002)

The main surprise to the reader is that the real number of allegedly independent witnesses to the November abduction (seeing the UFO and Linda floating outside the building) is just FOUR (#8, #17, #21 & #22), the last two surfacing a decade later in very dubious (to the skeptic) circumstances. #3, #4 & #7 were never contacted in person, and were allegedly abducted, too. "Erika" (#2) was an abductee supposedly also taken that night from another part of the city, and "Marilyn" (#15) allegedly shared a different abduction with Linda. The rest of the people identified simply corroborate one or another detail in the long story (mainly the existence of a man Linda described as Richard), not the main abduction in itself. Sometimes, it is worse, it is "second-hand" at the best: According to Linda, her friend the late Cardinal John O'Connor (1920-2000) (#18) told her he was a confidant of Richard and the Third Man who told him about their experiences (a bishop betraying the seal of confession?).

## THE X-RAY

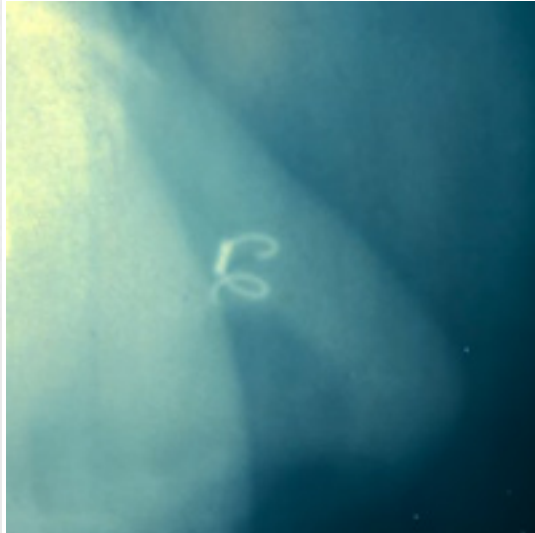
Considering that Hopkins had millionaires backers and was the first advocate of the alien implants, and that the suspicious of one was the main reason for Linda to contact him, it is strange that she was not rushed to an hospital as soon as they realized the supposed implant was in a very accessible site, not inside the brain but in the cartilaginous part of the nose (in fact, given its size and position, anybody should have been able to touch it). Instead, it took more than 2 years to obtain a simple X-ray, and in a very peculiar way.

It was not a professional work in a hospital, but an allegedly impromptu idea when Linda made a routine visit to a podiatrist niece in a nearby town. Apparently, she suggested her aunt to use her foot X-ray machine (forcing Linda "to get down on the floor on my hands and knees, with my butt up in the air") to put that mystery to rest.<sup>16</sup> As told by both women, instead of waiting a couple of minutes for the film to be revealed, Linda had to leave in a hurry to take the train back to New York.

Her niece did develop the X-ray soon afterwards and discovered a strange thing in her right nostril. The object has a shaft approximately ¼-inch (6.5 mm) long with a curly-cue wire structure on each end. It looks like an electronic resistor.



X-ray of Linda's nasal implant



And then, there is another significant and unjustifiable delay. The niece told Hopkins: "I was afraid even to use the phone to call her and tell her about it. After what she'd told me about Richard and Dan, I was afraid of the government. I didn't even like having that X-ray in my house. I waited till the day I was due to come into New York to work in a kind of internship at a podiatrist's office, and then I called my aunt and asked her to come uptown and have lunch with me." She did so and, on looking at the X-ray, Linda became quite upset.<sup>17</sup>

But, instead of calling Hopkins immediately as on previous occasions, she "forgot" about the implant until waking up some days later with a huge nosebleed. The aliens have taken it away!

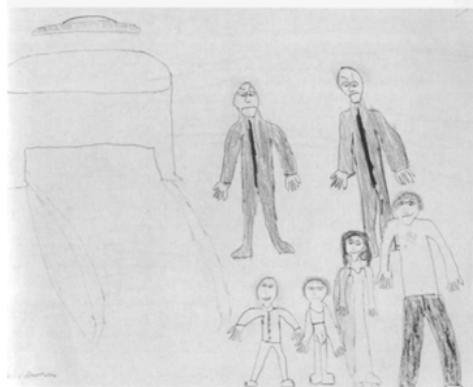
## JOHNNY, THE ABDUCTEE

The Netflix docuseries avoids giving much detail about the alien abductions themselves; they do not even show any aliens. Instead, spectators saw a darkened figure, covering his face and proclaiming himself to be the adult Johnny Napolitano, Linda's youngest son, who was allegedly abducted at the time. As usual with abductees, he had allegedly passed many years under therapy, but we learn nothing about his other experiences.<sup>18</sup> The docuseries shows some old video clips where the 9-year-old Johnny explains an abduction. Once again, the director merges several incidents into one. In *Witnessed*, we learn about at least 3 separate occasions (plus his multiple later encounters with "Melody", mirroring Linda and Richard's multiple "Mickey and Baby Ann" encounters, no much more details disclosed in the book):

- + Summer 1989 (**before** Linda's famous abduction, but after she contacted Hopkins and was regressed to previous incidents) – Johnny (aged 6) has "an adventurous dream", dismissed as such for her mother at the time (as she said to Hopkins). On the other hand, the adult Johnny says she confirmed its reality.

- + December 1989 – Johnny Napolitano abduction. Budd learned about it shortly after: *His drawings of that incident were both meticulous and revealing. He had said that the "little men" who were "in the round room" had "funny hands with just four long fingers and no thumbs," and he carefully drew their hands as quite different from his own. He also told me that when they talked "their mouths didn't move," and in his sketch he indicated the aliens' slit mouths with a simple line.* All the mentions in the docuseries about a "frozen" Linda not preventing Johnny's abduction and the great emotional scars that left, refer to this incident.

- + Memorial Day (May 25, 1992) – The Night of the Nosebleeds. First mention of "Melody." We see video clips at the time,<sup>19</sup> when Johnny was recorded describing a 'dream' he had (before) that night and draws an alien head. He describes being in an all-white room with two very tall men who were very mean. No details given in the program about "Melody."



Johnny's happy sketch of himself, Linda, Richard, and Melody, along with two hybrids/aliens

First, I must clarify a point. The main public critics of this case were not skeptics, but believers in the UFO and alien abduction phenomena (maybe except Hansen). In fact, Butler began as an abductee and participated in several meetings of Hopkins's abduction support group. Their allegations were directed specifically towards this alleged incident, but except for an early interview with Linda (not taped) they were not allowed into the investigation. Besides, all of them arrived when the main incidents were almost over (1992).

Carol Rainey (1949-2023) moved to Manhattan in fall 1995 and married Hopkins the following year. She had privileged access to all material and befriended Linda, and was planning to make a documentary about the whole story, but her initial openness progressively turned into skepticism and her work was never completed. She had plenty of suspicious material, only part of it was shown in the docuseries.

To me, the main problem with the forensic document examiner (Roger Rubin) used by Carol is that he is NOT accredited as such, and is only "trained in forensic graphology," a technique that has no scientific basis. Besides, Sean F. Meers contracted a fully accredited Australian forensic document examiner who concluded that the possibility of both handwriting samples belonging to the same person was "remote."<sup>20</sup> He also discovered evidence pointing to Rubin also being a practicing astrologist!

Even worse, Carol should have known such findings when she allowed the video to be used by Netflix, because they were very much debated years before. Probably she did not have a sufficient budget for a proper evaluation, but should have avoided using it again.

Another example from the docuseries. Carol explains that when she first heard the voice of Janet Kimball (the key outside witness) she thought "She sounds just like Linda," and shows a short video with a failed attempt by Hopkins to talk to her by phone. Suspicious. But the fact is that Hopkins did have a long and taped interview face-to-face with Janet Kimball. In private correspondence before her untimely death, Carol said she had located her and knew her real name (now lost). It is true that Janet never went with Hopkins to the Brooklyn Bridge, and refused to give any more interviews or data, so skeptics can only point to some incongruities<sup>21</sup> and suggest some kind of short-term collusion between the two women. Are these excuses any more unbelievable than an alien abduction?

#### Notes and references

1. In *Witnessed*, Hopkins writes that, in a 1993 letter, Richard changed the story and explained that their motorcade was headed south to take the ferry to Governors Island, to visit a secure, authorized-personnel-only complex operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. As verified in 2025, there is no ferry service so early in the morning; service begins at 7:00.
2. In *Witnessed*, Hopkins explains: "Wherever possible, for security reasons, motorcades avoid using elevated expressways, especially those with a limited number of exits. The FDR Drive becomes a freestanding elevated highway at the point where Richard's car and the others turned onto the lower road." Of course, the aliens were familiar with this protocol.
3. BUT, please, pay attention to the drawing and photos. Janet clearly illustrated that she observed the abduction through the X-crossed struts of the bridge, and Meers's photo (center) shows the view from the pedestrian walkway situated over the car lanes that allegedly corresponds to the supposed vantage point... but if Janet was driving her car, she would have been positioned much lower and would have seen the scene through the horizontal struts only with difficulty (as shown in the right photo).
4. According to *Witnessed* (pp. 30-31): (On Sunday, February 24, 1991) Shortly before noon, Linda and her husband Steve left their apartment building and walked north on Catherine Street on the way to twelve o'clock mass at St. Joseph's, a few blocks away. As they approached the church, Richard stepped forward from a cluster of people and called to Linda (he was Catholic, too). She stopped, surprised to see him for the third time in less than a week, and introduced him to her husband. After pausing briefly to exchange a few polite words, Steve proceeded into the church to give them a chance to talk. However, not knowing what to expect and feeling uneasy, he remained just inside the glass-paneled door so that he could observe the detective and, if necessary, protect his wife. Their conversation was quite short (to apologize for Dan's behavior and to say he was preparing a tape for Hopkins), and Linda joined her husband a few minutes later.
5. According to Meers (*Klass Inaccuracies*), Linda reported that it was during a UFO abduction in 1959 that the UFO she was in plunged into the East River and, while looking out from inside, Linda saw debris in the river bottom that included the wreckage of an aircraft, a chemical drum, and a soda bottle. She was eleven years old at that time. It is true that on the night of February 3, 1959, American Airlines Flight 320 (a Lockheed L-188 Electra) crashed into the icy East River during its descent and approach to LaGuardia Airport, killing 65 of the 73 people on board. Contrary to what Linda drew (an almost complete military aircraft), more than 50% of the civilian aircraft was recovered, despite the low visibility in the water.
6. According to Meers (*Consolidated refutation*), they contacted Hopkins first because "they wanted the event to be known, but not their identities, and felt they could trust him in this matter."
7. In an article in *FATE* magazine (Antonio HUNEUUS, "UFO Chronicle," March 1994) she is quoted saying: "They wanted to know whether there were numbers on speedometers in the craft, whether I worked for the government, and how I was floated. They questioned me for **three** hours."

8. On the lower left of the envelope of this second communication were the words: "confidential re: Brooklyn Bridge," a code name only used by those involved in the investigation. Precisely, the words "Brooklyn Bridge" were what prompted Hopkins to open this second communication and locate the earlier letter.
9. Linda later explained that she was referring to having been anemic after her first child was born, claiming it was a misunderstanding... or was she backpedaling? There are several similar instances of changed allegations.
10. Linda's son Johnny was a participant during the Memorial Day weekend incident on Sunday, May 24, 1992, where he and everyone else at Linda's apartment (Steve, Linda, Linda's son Steven and his friend Brian) all woke up simultaneously, each bleeding from the right nostril. Johnny first spoke to Budd about this incident when Budd phoned Linda a day or so after Budd first heard about it. During this phone call, Johnny revealed an abduction experience he shared with Linda, Richard, and a girl he referred to as Melody. Johnny was also involved in an abduction experience with Linda, "Marilyn Kilmer", and the third man (de Cuéllar). Soon afterwards, de Cuéllar spoke with Johnny in the street and arranged for an expensive antique diver's helmet to be delivered to him as a gift (Carol Rainey commented that she found similar helmets in the NY flea market for just \$100).
11. SCHNABEL, Jim (1994). *Dark White: aliens, abductions and the UFO obsession*, Hamish. Schnabel mentions in his book Hopkins's persistence until the abductee eventually identified a photo of the Secretary General from a collection.
12. SANDOW, Greg (Spring & Summer 1997), "The Linda Cortile case analyzed," International UFO Reporter (CUFOS) 22:1 & 2.
13. Spence's co-worker "Bobby" described seeing the pink Roll-Royce **parked** in the wrong direction on the street, empty but guarded by its chauffeur (never before mentioned). Please notice: According to this version, De Cuéllar would have been travelling in his own vehicle, not in Richard and Dan's, and would have apparently been abducted without even alarming his own driver. In this version, the limos were clearly visible and obstructing access to the NY Post lorries, but nobody seems to have taken any action, despite the pressure to put the early edition on the newsstands.
14. *The Manhattan Alien Abduction* (30 October 2024 – 3 parts). Netflix documentary, directed by Vivienne Perry and Daniel Vernon.
15. In the early versions, Linda floated out of her living room escorted by three aliens, first in a fetus-like position, then all straightened up and went vertically into the UFO, surrounded by a bluish glow or beam. One detail bothers me: the UFO is described as coming down to the level of Linda's window. If so, the beam should not have been horizontal, and from a side of the UFO, rather than from its bottom?
16. Perhaps in the knowledge that the niece would have to leave the room, Linda could have put an electronic resistor inside (or even outside) her nose for a few seconds. That way the niece would only be an innocent accomplice, and Linda would be the one who convinced her to use the X-ray machine, having obtained the material for the alleged implant before the visit.
17. In her unpublished notes, Rainey says there were **two different** versions of the incident, and in the first one, Linda did return to New York with the X-ray. Unfortunately, this material may have been lost after Carol's death.
18. Linda explains on camera that nowadays Johnny despises the subject, perhaps out of fear or anger. I would have loved to hear his present opinion about all those alien abductions he suffered, dreamed, or staged in the early 1990s. Perhaps the material has been reserved for another docuseries.
19. Made by his father using his home camera.
20. MEERS (September 2013), "Inaccuracies from Carol Rainey's Video: 'A Key Witness in the Linda Cortile UFO Abduction Case'" Sean F. Meers is an Australian UFO and alien abduction researcher who works on a volunteer basis. Meers worked closely with Linda Cortile from 2009 until August 2017 (his last update to Linda's web page, now defunct but accessible at the Wayback Machine Archives).
21. Janet describes how her car stopped, the lights were out (also on the bridge), and she was afraid that an oncoming car would hit hers. She looked through the rear mirror and saw the lights behind her dim, and their cars stopping right behind her. She even adds later (when the UFO lit up all the surroundings) that the people parked behind her were running around their cars, screaming in horror and disbelief, or blowing horns (Weren't all electrical fixtures dead?). Can anyone believe that this situation was not reported anywhere on TV or in newspapers later in the day? Nobody has ever documented this curious blackout on such an important artery, even if only short-lived. But we must not forget that, according to Richard and Linda, the abduction lasted more than one hour, and there were several limousines blocking the street. Where are the traffic cops when they are needed?



# BETRAYED BY A NIGHT GAZE: Linda Napolitano & *Nighteyes*

## Final Considerations (2025)

Luis R. González

When Stefula, Butler, and Hansen published their critical paper on the Linda Napolitano case,<sup>1</sup> they included a section detailing 16 alleged similarities (brought to their attention by Vincent Creevy) between Linda's case and the science-fiction novel *Nighteyes* by Garfield Reeves-Stevens, published a few months before the alleged abduction.

Over the years, Sean F. Meers has issued several papers attempting to disprove these alleged similarities.<sup>2</sup> Rather than addressing the core issues, Meers spent many pages nitpicking, demanding exact matches in specific details. For example, Meers dismissed one similarity—that in both cases, the protagonist contacted an ufologist—because it was not Linda's father (likely deceased at the time) who contacted Hopkins about the incident, as in the novel.

In my case, having used SBH's template to propose more specific similarities, Meers repeated ad nauseam that I was altering the original textual similarities, but rarely addressed the 'new' ones.<sup>3</sup> I have prepared an Excel spreadsheet for those interested in following the lengthy debate (See addendum table at end of this article).

No one denies that many details of Linda's story differ significantly from those in the novel, if only because Linda was a real person, and her story unfolded within the constraints of her surroundings, her daily life, family, and contacts. On the other hand, Reeves-Stevens (as Linda) met with several abductees during his research and may have gained access to unpublished 'insider information.' Thus, some of the "firsts" presented by Linda may not have been entirely original, though they were unknown to Budd Hopkins (the main target for her deceptions) until she revealed them, as he himself admitted.

What Hansen, Stefula, Butler, and I claimed was that Linda could have drawn inspiration (consciously or unconsciously<sup>4</sup>) from *Nighteyes* for several key and minor details of her story. Of course, the circumstances would differ, and she would not directly copy what she read, but the inevitable dissimilarities do not—cannot—negate the remarkable parallels.

The three main points in Linda Cortile's abduction (as highlighted by Budd Hopkins in *Witnessed*) were:

- (a) Abductee speaking an alien tongue,
- (b) Abductee working with the aliens,
- (c) Sexual bonding since childhood between pairs of abductees.

All these elements appeared in *Nighteyes* several months before the alleged abduction. This is, at least, clear evidence of sociological influence or, in the worst-case scenario, proof of a hoax.

The most striking point in Hopkins' book—the cornerstone of Linda Cortile's case<sup>5</sup>—was the claim that the aliens orchestrated the lives of two abductees to reunite them one night in lower Manhattan for an apocalyptic message. The main surprise of *Nighteyes* (besides the aliens being humans) occurs when two apparently independent abductees reunite to become the founders of a future race. How can anybody miss the parallel?

My argument is not only about the similarity of details (the dissimilarities will always outnumber the similarities) but also about the similarity of themes. It's akin to comparing Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* with *West Side Story*. As skeptics, we are in a no-win situation. If we point to similar details, believers argue that we should focus on broader themes. When we discuss broader themes, believers demand perfect reproduction of details.

Consider this hypothetical situation: I fake an abduction, drawing inspiration from a science-fiction novel I've just read. According to Meers's logic, the only way I would be caught is if I foolishly included every detail from the novel in my story.<sup>6</sup> This ignores the fact that, as a real person in the real world, my circumstances would be radically different from the fictional plot, making it impossible to perfectly mimic the characters, scenes, and relationships. Even if I tried my best to replicate them (what for?), the differences would be so numerous that anyone following Meers's logic would easily dismiss the few similarities I could create.

Apart from appealing to the fact that precedents did exist, Meers never adequately addressed my points or explained how a fictional work could predict so well a supposedly 'real' scenario. If Budd Hopkins (and all those who supported him after supposedly reading the novel) could not see the forest for the trees, none of them can be considered a good researcher. But, if they really saw the forest and chose not to tell, that is even worse.

### Notes and references

1. STEFULA, BUTLER & HANSEN (1993), "A Critique of Budd Hopkins' Case of the UFO Abduction of Linda Napolitano" (Linda Cortile web page).
2. MEERS (2016, Consolidated/Updated) – "The Facts Regarding the Alleged 16 Similarities between the Linda Napolitano case and the SF novel *Nighteyes*" (Linda Cortile web page).
3. GONZALEZ (2014), "Linda Cortile & *Nighteyes*," *SUNLite* 6:3.

MEERS (2014), "Rebuttal to Luis Gonzalez's Article" (Linda Cortile web page).

GONZALEZ (2016), "Linda Cortile & *Nighteyes*—Considerations on a rebuttal," *SUNLite* 8:2.

MEERS (2016), "Rebuttal to Luis Gonzalez's article 'Linda Cortile & *Nighteyes*—Considerations on a rebuttal'" (Linda Cortile web page).

4. At first, I was open to the possibility of an unconscious influence, but as the events developed (see the precedent analysis), I can now only conclude that it was a conscious deception by Linda Napolitano from almost the very beginning.
5. To Meers, the cornerstone of the case was that it was the first abduction witnessed by independent individuals willing to speak. I have analyzed this point in the main text, but the truth is that it had precedents, too. Consider, for example, Maureen Puddy.
6. One funny example of this is when Meers retorts: "FACT #16: (...) For example, how could it possibly be her fault, or a result of something that she personally did, that Budd Hopkins existed and was a UFO abduction researcher and author living in New York City?" Of course not—she just took the opportunity.

#### Addendum table

<b>SIMILARITIES (SBH)</b>	<b><i>Nighteyes</i></b>	<b>MEERS "FACTS"</b>	
		<b>In bold, later comments to LRGM modified similarities</b>	
1	Abducted by a UFO over a high-rise apartment building in NY	1) The fictional abductees did not live there	
		2) No details given about the abduction. No witnesses	
		3) UFO not hovering	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	
		<b>7a) Absent details, not just different. No independent witnesses as in Linda</b>	
		<b>7b) Both using NY is unremarkable.</b>	
		<b>7c) Nobody has established that Linda read the novel</b>	
2	2 government agents on a stakeout became involved in an abduction in the early morning	4) No stakeout	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	
		<b>8) Again, both set of circumstances nothing alike</b>	
3	Kidnapped by secret agents	Different circumstances beyond the main similarity	
		5a) Coerced by a gun <> Thrown	
		5b) Different intended target	
		6) Van + 1 agent <> car + 2	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	
		<b>6b) Cuellar was also involved, following them in his pink Rolls Royce and listening by radio (as told later by Richard (p.70))</b>	
		<b>9) Reinstating omitted details is not nitpicking</b>	
4	Vans used by surveillance	7) Surveillance independently witnessed	
		8) Different kinds of vans	
		9a) Different surveillance's subjects	
		9b) Not exclusive feature	
		<b>10) Personal interpretations are free, does not prove nothing</b>	

5	FBI <> Security agent	10) Dan hostile <> Derek heroic and lover	
		11a) Dan obsessed <> Derek in love, never violent	
		11b) Richard love no exclusive feature	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate: Richard instead of Dan</b>	
		<b>11b) No exclusive feature</b>	
6	One agent hospitalized	12) Different kind of hospitalisation	
	Revisited by LRGM as a useful trick to "delete" Dan	<b>12) Personal interpretations are free, does not prove nothing</b>	
7	Safe house	13) No safe house, beach house	
		14) Different motivations	
		<b>13) Linda said it was not. LRGM alters it to make it accurate but still very vague</b>	
8	Safe house on the beach	15) No alien activity at the beach	
		16) Different locations	
		<b>14) LRGM does not understand "safe house"</b>	False nit-picking
9	Ufologist contacted before main abduction	17a) A different person contacted the ufologist	
		17b) Different set of circumstances	
		<b>17c) Removed details reveal significant dissimilarities</b>	
		<b>15) No correlation. Reinstated details dissipate alleged similarities</b>	
10	Prominent ufologists living in NY	18a) That was not under Linda's ability to create or contrive	
		18b) The novel was inspired in Hopkins	
		18c) BH is not an abductee, neither an alien emissary	
		<b>18d) C.E. Starr (from Nighteyes) &amp; Hopkins are not similar in any meaningful respect</b>	
		<b>18e) Hopkins just pondered the idea he was abducted, it is NOT a fact</b>	
		<b>16) Linda could have done nothing to make Hopkins so similar to Starr</b>	Just using the coincidence
11	Protagonists shared abductions	19) Not an exclusive feature (but the example given by Meers is among family members not strangers)	
		<b>19a) Novelty undisputed, rare but not entirely without precedent</b>	
		20) Different details	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	
		<b>17a) LRGM covers himself when an absence of similarities is demonstrated</b>	
		<b>17b) LRGM cannot fault another individual for not working with what he feels important</b>	
12	Protagonist knew each other previously	21) Linda did not recognized Richard at first	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	

		<b>21a) Not without precedent</b> (but published later)	
		<b>18) Pair bonding scenarios are dissimilar and this feature showed up in other cases</b>	
13	Romantic interest	22) Dan's interest was unhealthy, paranoid and obsessive	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	
		<b>19) The vagueness of the similarity stands. Even if not, it is not incriminating</b>	
14	Vibrations during the abduction	23a) Only hearsay as the Feb 1992 interview was not recorded	
		23b) Static cling, no vibration	
		<b>20) The subjective personal views of a person do not prove or disprove an event</b>	
15	Photos taken on a beach	24) In the novel, the photos are of aliens	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	
16	Ecological warnings	25a) There were no ecological warnings in Cuellar's letter	
		<b>LRGM alters it to make it accurate</b>	
		<b>21) Ecological warnings were a feature of abductions before Linda.</b>	
<b>SIMILARITIES (LRGM)</b>	<b>Nighteyes</b>	<b>MEERS "FACTS" (2° update)</b>	
1	Abductee speaking an alien tongue	4a) It has precedents (Betty Andreasson)	
2	Abductee working with the aliens	4b) Linda was "taken over" by the aliens, not working freely	
3	Sexual bonding since childhood	4c) Precedents known by the novel's author who researched for it. We cannot know what was copied and what was his creation	
4	Abductees orchestrated the lives of two abductees in order to reunite them again	5) Cornerstone debatable. To Meers that is the abduction being independently witnessed. Linda & Richard were not bring together to raise a future race.	
5	Similarity of themes		
6	Meers never went into the real issues	1) LRGM hypocritical use of claim substitution when accusing others of employing diversionary tactics	
		2) Meers did explore them in at least 5 instances.	NO, he just insists in nitpicking
7	Circumstances would be different, making it impossible to mimic a novel	6) Dissimilar discrete elements not evidence of cautious hoaxing	
8	I have to follow a template	3) That was not Meers imposition	

SOURCES:	
January 1993	STEFULA, BUTLER & HANSEN - A Critique of Budd Hopkins' Case of the UFO Abduction of Linda Napolitano (Linda Cortile web page)



May 2014	GONZALEZ - Linda Cortile & <i>Nighteyes</i> (SUNLite 6:3)
July 2014	MEERS - Rebuttal to Luis Gonzalez's Article (Linda Cortile web page)
March 2016	GONZALEZ - Linda Cortile & <i>Nighteyes</i> - Considerations on a rebuttal (SUNLite 8:2)
June 2016	MEERS - (Consolidated / Updated) - The Facts Regarding the Alleged 16 Similarities between the Linda Napolitano case and the SF novel <i>Nighteyes</i> (Linda Cortile web page)
June 2016	MEERS - Rebuttal to Luis Gonzalez's article 'Linda Cortile & <i>Nighteyes</i> - Considerations on a rebuttal' (Linda Cortile web page).