

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

One of the great commandments of science is, 'Mistrust arguments from authority'...Too many such arguments have proved too painfully wrong. Authorities must prove their contentions like everybody else.

Carl Sagan The demon haunted world

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Behoodwinked

Front: This photo shows the planet Mars setting into the tree line. Mars appears to have played a role in a series of UFO events in the fall of 1975. I selected the quote because UFOlogists always want to question authority (aka scientific opinions) EXCEPT when it is their evaluation of a UFO event. To question their conclusion usually means you will be labeled a, "gasp", debunker.

Left: The claim that the placard images were manipulated by Adam Dew so it could not be deblurred is false. The top image is Tony Bragalia's placard image (filetext.jpg) posted on the UFO Conjecture(s) blog on May 9, 2015. The bottom image shows it after about 10 minutes of deblurring by me using Smart Deblur.

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Tom Carey and Don Schmitt have finally come up with an explanation as to why they made so many mistakes in the "Roswell slides" affair. Their present excuse is that they were honest investigators, who were fooled by the evil man, Adam Dew. How can people, who pride themselves as being superior investigators, be so easily beguiled after examining the slides for three years? If somebody can fool them for three years, what does it say for the rest of their interviews and writings? Is it possible that some of those people fooled them as well?

Picking up this football, Kevin Randle recently accused Adam Dew of misleading people with things that were not true or accurate. I agree, in part, with Randle's argument. Dew has to answer for the things he stated before and after the deblur. However, Randle's writings, as well as some of the comments made by others on his blog, seem to pin most of the blame of the slides fiasco on Dew. It is easy to pick on Dew but shouldn't blame be laid at the feet of all those involved? Schmitt, Carey, and Bragalia were just as guilty of allowing their beliefs to interfere with their investigation. They were the "experts" that Dew turned to and they were the ones making various claims about the slides that were not true. If this is an example of how they investigated the Roswell case, it brings into question just about everything they have written on the subject.

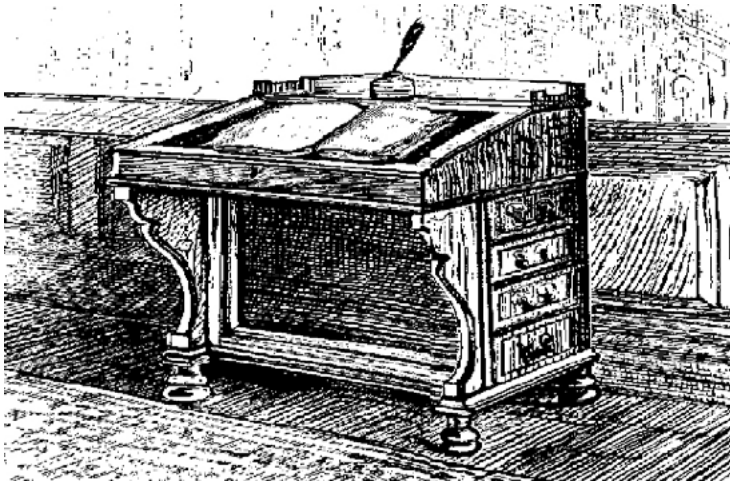
Speaking of the Roswell slide promoters, Tony Bragalia informed me that the \$5000 he got for providing information to Maussan about the Child mummy was donated to the Native American fund. He added that he also has money set aside in his will for the same charity. Bragalia then lectured me about "incomplete reporting" because I never bothered to contact him before writing my article, where I speculated if he had donated the money or not. I found his lecturing about my writings very amusing because Bragalia was notorious for getting facts wrong and twisting people's words to fit his beliefs. His participation in the Roswell slides fiasco exposed his "investigations" to be far from accurate, which is why I am skeptical of Bragalia's remorse/honesty. His behavior during the slides fiasco (and in communications I had with him prior to this) demonstrated that he is not a person that can be trusted. Bragalia has yet to provide a public apology to those skeptics/UFOlogists he threatened and defamed during the slide debacle. Let's hope that if he ever returns to UFOlogy, he will have learned his lesson regarding accurate reporting.

There will probably be a significant number of the UFO faithful, who will accept this snow job by the slide promoters. By doing so, they demonstrate that they are no better than those who believed that the slides showed an alien body. They accept these stories based on faith and not an examination of the facts. As I continue to point out, UFOlogy is more of a religion or business than a true scientific endeavor.

On a final note, I wanted to mention to readers that Errol Bruce-Knapp passed away in August. His UFO updates mailing list was the focus of UFOlogical discussions for about a decade. His contributions will be missed by many in UFOlogy.

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



At the annual Roswell carnival, a group of crashologists were asked how they would use \$10 million to further UFO research. As expected, they pretty much stated they would continue to pursue leads about the mythical Roswell crash or spend it performing police style interrogations of witnesses. This shows that all they want to do is inflate anecdotal claims instead of obtaining actual evidence that can be scientifically evaluated. How about putting technology to work in studying UFOs? It is pathetic on how shallow-minded these individuals truly are. They are more interested in confirming their own belief than actually looking for verifiable results.

Seth Shostak has some rather scathing comments about UFO proponents in a posting on his SETI web site. The actual date of the writing was from 2008 but it still applies. He seems to get a lot of vicious e-mails regarding his public statements on the subject. He implies that a significant number of UFO Proponents are vacuous individuals who write abusive

e-mails and act like bullies. As Gilles Fernandez has stated over the years, "That's UFOlogy"!

Richard Dolan's "Day after disclosure video" is full of the usual nonsense. In the video, Dolan refers to the United States as "the force of evil". I strongly disagree with his view and consider it myopic. While the United States government has made mistakes, no other country comes to the aid of countries in distress from natural disasters like the US does. Military units, which are, supposedly, this "force of evil", are usually the first to arrive to provide aid and comfort to those in need. If the US government was so "evil", they would ignore the needs of other, less fortunate, countries. I think his portrayal is based solely on his frustration that his pet cause is, essentially, a myth. For some reason he has some sort of credibility in the UFO community even though he has promoted nonsense like the Roswell slides and Hanger One. Like so many in UFOlogy, Dolan is more about promoting himself than critically evaluating the evidence.

Dolan's views about America and the world can be found at his web site: It is nice to know that Dolan believes not only in UFO conspiracies but the Kennedy assassination and 9/11 conspiracies as well. There seems to be no conspiracy that Dolan does not readily embrace. Conspiracies based on belief and speculation are the refuge of simple-minded individuals not wanting to examine all the facts.

Dolan also unleashed a diatribe about how the US government has control of the grand world conspiracy associated with UFOs. The reason appears to be that, if the secret were revealed, we would no longer have to worry about petroleum. What made me more concerned, besides the fact that he is using some absurd logic, is that the crowd applauded Dolan after he ranted about this! Not only does this indicate the crowd was ill-informed and full of believers, they also enabled Dolan to believe that he is right. Like a religious leader or politician speaking to a fanatical crowd, Dolan seems to feed off this adoration and continues to present crazy ideas. UFOlogy should be ashamed of this being one of their leaders but they won't be because Dolan will put people in the seats at their UFO carnivals. This is another reason why UFO claims are not taken seriously outside UFOlogy.

Somebody posted a video clip from the ISS about a UFO being recorded entering the Earth's atmosphere and NASA cutting off the live feed shortly after. This got some coverage on several websites, including popular mechanics. When I saw the video, it looked like a star disappearing behind the Earth's limb as the ISS continued in its orbit. So, I laughed it off. Somebody did take the time to analyze the video and discovered that my suspicions were correct. It was actually Venus disappearing behind the Earth's limb! The conspiracy kooks were wrong.....AGAIN!

Cheryl Costa once again did some number crunching with NUFORC data and NY state. This time she tried to show how UFOs are apparently attracted to water. Her map leaves something to be desired. She does not show the numbers for any of the non-water counties! How can one indicate that the number of sightings are higher simply due to water if we do not see the comparison values? She also mentions that "after disclosure", we will find out why the "alien visitors" like water. It seems that she already has reached her conclusions about what UFOs are. This may be why she only presents the data that supports her conclusions. I found it interesting that the significant counties that produce sightings are from the highly populated areas along the Hudson river, Long Island, New York City, and the Buffalo/Rochester area. Maybe the number of observers or the high number of man made aircraft in the area, have more to do with the high numbers of sightings than the fact that water is present.

Cheryl Costa also had an honest to goodness UFO sighting. One would think that such an experienced investigator would be ready for such a thing. Instead of taking out her cell phone or camera to record this object, she took out a notepad to take notes. According to Costa, the UFO was as big as her thumb at arm's length. That is about two degrees. A smart phone camera with a

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

5MP resolution would have recorded that with no difficulty. More recent vintage phones would have given us some pretty good details. When asked, Costa replied that her phone was charging at the time. Her excuse seems a bit weak to me because, during my vacation, we visited Yellowstone. My wife was constantly charging her cell phone but was quick enough to unplug it and take photographs of deer and bison the instant she saw one. I also found her report confusing and one would expect a map showing location and sighting lines with elevation angles. Instead we got the same old estimates of altitudes and vague directions. How sad that an experienced UFO investigator would fail in making careful observations the instant their big moment arrived.

Rich Hoffman is still promoting the Puerto Rico Video UFO and the only response to criticism he can muster appears to be that individuals/groups like the Puerto Rico Research Review (PRRR) have not read the report properly. My response is, I don't think Hoffman bothered to read his own report thoroughly (at least prior to publication) otherwise, he would have recognized the errors the PRRR discovered. Now he appears to be shopping around for somebody important to endorse the report. This is reminiscent of Powell's apparent effort to get Bixler to confirm his conclusions. Hoffman has staked his reputation upon this study and I doubt he will bother to change his mind no matter what evidence is presented. Meanwhile, he, and the rest of the SCU, are going to have to do a lot better at convincing everybody that the object is some exotic device unknown to science. We have been waiting for over 6 months and they still seem to have difficulty addressing the specific problems mentioned in SUNlite 7-6.

Kevin Randle presented us his list of best UFO cases. While I agree with him that some of these have no good explanation, I also felt that some of the cases do. Like all lists of best UFO cases, they prove nothing other than these people saw something they could not explain.

Jan Harzan is praising the production Hanger one despite its lack of credibility. According to Billy Cox, Harzan was proud that it increased MUFON's membership and the number of sightings. One has to wonder why he was interested in the numbers of members. Is it because more members = more dues = more money for MUFON? Then there are the sightings. What was the result of the increased number of sightings? Did they clog up the investigation process with more IFOs?

Robert Sheaffer presented us with an interesting article about the Kenneth Arnold sighting. He resurrects the possibility that the source of the sighting were pelicans. This argument has been beaten to death for close to twenty years. UFO proponents insist that Arnold could not make a mistake and his description of his flight path rules out the pelican hypothesis. There is no proof that Arnold accurately reported his position, his track, or the path of the UFOs, which means it is possible that they might have been pelicans.

M. J. Banias discussed the reality of UFOs on his Terra Obscura blog. I think there is a terminology problem here. He talks about scientists denying that UFOs exist. This is inaccurate because the definition of a UFO is that it is something the person saw in the sky but could not identify. The fact that people can not identify their sighting means that UFOs certainly exist because reports are filed. Scientists are not saying that these reports do not exist. They are simply saying that there is no evidence that UFO reports represent anything unknown to science. If Banias is using the term to label some exotic event/technology, he should use a term like "suspected alien spaceship" or "technology unknown to modern science". UFO proponents (not just Banias) should say what they mean and not hide behind the vague term "UFO" or "UAP".

Billy Cox continues to be UFOlogy's sock puppet. He, once again, promoted the Puerto Rico Video because of the MUFON conference. However, Cox seems to be oblivious to all the opinions offered by others (including the PRRR) that it may have been a balloon. He never even mentions the opposing hypothesis. Why complain about how the main stream media covers UFOs when you are doing the same thing from the opposite end of the spectrum? When Cox starts discussing the subject with those who have valid opposing opinions, his column might appear legitimate.

Paul Dean discussed the Air Force accidental attack on the HMS Hobart during the Vietnam War. Unlike Hanger one, he did not propose the theory that the UFOs redirected the missiles towards the Hobart but he did notice that documentation referred to these objects as UFOs. Dean's conclusions from this appear to be that this was one of those UFO cases that never made it to Blue Book and that there must be dozens of "good" UFO cases that never made it into the Blue Book files. There may have been UFO cases that never made it to Blue Book but were they really that good? This event may have been spurious radar targets and just unexplained lights. In the book "Swift boat down", ENC Steffes was convinced they were actual helicopters and reports being shot at by machine guns and rockets. Dean seemed to miss the part of the document, he presented, which stated the F-4 phantom radar system had problems differentiating between helicopters and naval targets as large as a freighter. Based on this information it is no surprise that the Hobart may have been confused as a helicopter target by the pilots. Dean also discusses various tests the USAF attempted to identify these UFOs. Dean seems to ignore the fact that this was a war zone. The USAF was very concerned at being able to detect and defend against potential threats from a known enemy. While they referred to them as UFOs, there seems to be little evidence that they considered them alien spaceships and plenty of evidence they thought they were devices employed by the enemy.

Jason McClellan, who proudly proclaims he co-starred in Hanger one, tried to resurrect the Canary Island UFO sightings of the 1970s. What McClellan missed was that these cases were all explained long ago by the Anomaly foundation. It seems that McClellan either was not aware of this or deliberately chose to not mention the explanation. Of course, I would expect this kind of reporting from somebody, who was a "co-star" on Hanger one.

The Roswell Corner

Jesse Marcel and the gouge

Kevin Randle spent time trying to correct the error in his book “UFO crash at Roswell”, where it stated that Jesse Marcel Sr. had seen a gouge. He states the book should have stated that only Bill Brazel mentioned the gouge. Randle’s memory is a bit short because I recall an old blog (the Randle Report) of his stating he had a recording of Marcel describing the gouge:

And now there is a newly discovered taped interview with Jesse Marcel, Sr. It was made in 1980 and contains a number of interesting statements by Marcel. Among them, reportedly, is mention of a gouge. If true, it means that Marcel had mentioned the gouge nearly twenty years ago. Allegations of contamination simply won’t wash. And it answers the question that if there had been a gouge, why hadn’t Marcel mentioned it. Now it seems that he had.

This mysterious tape recording never appeared to the best of my knowledge.

Randle continues to put faith in the testimony of Bill Brazel, who was one of the first witnesses to go on the record to state there was a gouge. According to Brazel, the gouge was there for at least two years. In all of that time, not a single person ever photographed the gouge for historical purposes or in an effort to get the government to pay for the damage to the property. The lack of any photographs and the fact that Marcel NEVER mentioned a gouge (and appeared to refute any such feature in his interviews) makes one really question the testimony of Bill Brazel about the gouge. Of course, you will never hear Kevin Randle admit that it is possible that Bill Brazel was inaccurate in recollecting what he saw.

Drowning in a sea of denial

Don Schmitt, in an interview with open minds, stated that Adam Dew and the Beasons “took the money and ran” after the Roswell slides debacle. In this interview, Schmitt and Carey tried to paint themselves as gullible investigators who were duped by Adam Dew and the Beasons. According to Carey and Schmitt, Dew sent images to their experts, which could not be deblurred. David Rudiak has since stated that his original image was deblurred once he followed Nablator’s instructions. Additionally, Braglia’s images, which he unwittingly shared with everyone as soon as we could deblur the image, also could be read! Therefore, this claim by Schmitt/Carey is false. Either they are ignoring the evidence or are, once again, not telling everyone the complete truth. Schmitt also stated that he never saw “the second slide” or any full frame slides until the day after BeWitness. This is not true. Carey described each slide in full on the April 20, 2015 Jimmy Church show! Additionally, the slide was shown, IN FULL during the BeWitness program. I am fairly confident they saw it on the screen before the program. Schmitt states that when he saw “the second slide” (which looks a lot like the first), he knew it was a museum setting. It is obvious that Schmitt is, once again, distorting the truth. Others reported seeing the slides in full prior to May 5. Are we to believe that Schmitt closed his eyes while others examined the evidence?

Carey and Schmitt also denied ever linking the slides to Roswell. They attended the BeWitness program and gave a Roswell presentation, which linked the slides to Roswell. If they weren’t calling them, “The Roswell slides”, they certainly were treating them as such. Like so much of what Carey and Schmitt write, and say, it is hard to accept it as the truth.

In a final tirade, Schmitt stated, that because of the Debunkers, UFOs are incorrectly portrayed in the media. I don’t think we (debunkers/skeptics) really have to work hard to perform this task. Many of us are amateurs and not professional scientists but we still manage to expose a lot of bogus claims made by UFOlogists. The real reason that the media portrays UFOs the way they do is because UFOlogy keeps shooting itself in the foot with programs like “Ancient Aliens”, “Hanger one”, and other nonsense. All one has to do is attend any UFO conference. Does it appear to be a scientific presentation of evidence or is it a way for people to promote themselves with exotic claims that do not appear credible? UFOlogy has only itself to blame for its failures.

This is stupid

Ozzy Osborne and his son decided to investigate the UFO crash at Roswell. When his son stated, “This is history”, Ozzy responded, “This is stupid”. At the debris field, Frank Kimbler broke out his treasury of pieces that, supposedly, are alien in nature. From the show we hear:

Kimbler: I have got some pieces I have got to show you...this is phenolic epoxy resin. It shouldn’t be here. They didn’t have it in ‘47.

Ozzie: How do you know it’s not recent?

Kimbler: This I don’t know.. it hasn’t been tested...that’s a good question...

How did Kimbler determine that this piece was deposited in 1947 and how did he know it was “phenolic epoxy resin” if it was not tested yet? I also have to wonder about his claim that such resins were not present in 1947. According to wikipedia, Bakelite, produced in 1907, was a form of phenolic resin!

His other piece of metal was supposed to be “unearthly” because it contained 3% Molybdenum. Ozzy thought it was a piece of an old beer can. It is hard to understand what he stated since he has not presented the tests from this piece of metal in a public forum unless it is the same piece he promoted back in 2011. That was determined to be “within earth norms” if one took into account the accuracy of the test! Other claims he has made have been discovered to be less than compelling. Kimbler’s scraps of metal/debris appear to be more “wishful thinking” than science.

The 1975 UFO events over Strategic Air Command Bases

One of the more interesting UFO events from the 1970s involved unknown aircraft making incursions into US Air Force base controlled areas. Most of the information comes from message traffic and other military documents from that time frame and it describes the USAF being concerned about “unknown helicopters” attempting to infiltrate air base security. UFO proponents have interpreted these events as not involving helicopters but intelligently controlled craft of non-human origin.

I am aware that there are some witness statements in UFO archives made years after these events. For the purpose of this article, I will only address the actual official documents because they are likely to be the most accurate and not tainted by witness beliefs or faded memories.

The Loring base encounter

The first base to experience these incursions involved an isolated USAF base near the Canadian border in the northern part of Maine. Thanks to Barry Greenwood, I was able to obtain the specific messages documented in the book “Clear Intent”. The messages are not always clear and some of it is confusing. Still, I was able to reconstruct a rough time line of events:¹

October 27, 1975 - A Security patrolman, Staff Sergeant Lewis, observed an aircraft that appeared to be flying low over the nuclear weapons storage facility near the northern perimeter of the base. He observed it until 2015. After informing the tower, radar operators reported tracking a target 10-13 miles East-northeast of the base between 2050 and 2103.

October 28, 1975 - At 1945 EST, the unknown aircraft was again seen by Lewis, and several other security personnel, about 1km north of the weapons storage area. It was observed until 2145 EST. The lights on the aircraft sometimes went out and witnesses reported seeing a flashing strobe and red navigation lights. A Maine National Guard helicopter was sent to intercept but they were unable to locate the aircraft.

October 29, 1975 - At 0050 EST, another sighting was made to the north of the base. The first observer saw it for about a minute. The second observer heard the report by the first observer and then saw the aircraft to the north. He saw it for 5-10 minutes until it disappeared below the tree-line. No radar contact was made. At 0300 EST (0800Z) another sighting was made. Again the helicopter was sent aloft and, again, they were unable to locate the intruder. According to the message, despite seeing both the helicopter and unknown, ground personnel were unable to direct the alert helicopter to intercept the intruder. The helicopter could not see the unknown from their position.

October 31/November 1, 1975 - Between 2314 and 0140 EST (1 November) three sightings were made:

1. Personnel at a location 4 miles to the northwest of the base saw a “helicopter” with a red rotating beacon apparently hovering over the northwest section of the base at 2314. The aircraft flashed a white light for 4-5 seconds. It disappeared around 2329.
2. The second event involved two security patrolmen sometime between 0001 and 0015 EST. One at east gate saw a rapidly moving aircraft heading west. They reported hearing the noise of the rotor, saw the tail rotor, and also saw a red rotating light. The second sighting was from the west gate, which saw the same aircraft.
3. At 0140, several personnel in the tower reported hearing a helicopter but never saw anything visually.

An alert helicopter was also launched that night but they were never able to identify any unknown aircraft when vectored to the locations of these sightings.

Sighting analysis

It is important to note that the messages have little in the way of details. Directions are missing, for the most part, and there are no witness statements to evaluate. We are left guessing about specifics.

The first thing one has to evaluate is the weather conditions. The message traffic indicates that sky conditions were clear on the nights the observations were made but this is not quite the case. Weather observations from nearby Caribou, Maine² were:

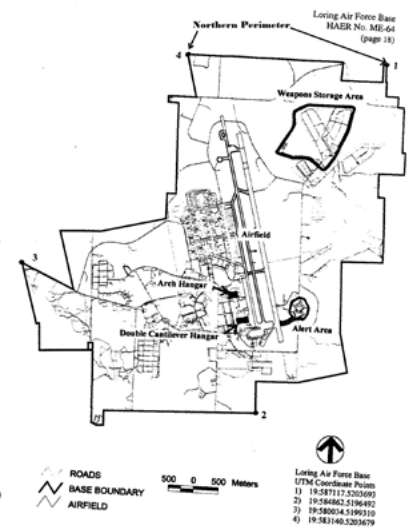
Date/Time	Weather Observation	Event
27 Oct 1900	Mostly cloudy	First sighting
27 Oct 2000	Scattered clouds	
27 Oct 2100	Scattered clouds	Sighting ended
27 Oct 2200	Clear	
28 Oct 0100	Clear	
28 Oct 1900	Clear	First sighting
28 Oct 2000	Clear	

28 Oct 2100	Clear	
28 Oct 2200	Scattered clouds	Sighting ended
29 Oct 0100	Clear	New sighting
29 Oct 0400	Clear	New sighting
29 Oct 0600	Overcast	
31 Oct 2000	Clear	
31 Oct 2100	Clear	
31 Oct 2200	Clear	3 Sightings
1 Nov 0100	Clear	
1 Nov 0400	Clear	
1 Nov 0600	Overcast	

I think it is important to note that the two nights that the “helicopter” was not observed, the evening of the 29th and 30th, the weather was Mostly Cloudy/Overcast (29th) and Overcast/Light snow showers (30th). This indicates that either the “helicopter” could only fly under clear skies or the “helicopter” was something that was being obscured by the clouds.

This brings us to the possible explanation that the “helicopter” may have been actually astronomical objects being misperceived. The first night’s observations involved sky conditions which were less than ideal. There were clouds in the region, which could result in astronomical objects “disappearing” suddenly. It is important to note that Loring AFB is in an isolated portion of the country where the skies are dark. Even today, the conditions where the weapons storage was are equivalent to my NH dark sky site. Low clouds tend to be black at night until they appear over a lighted area like a city. To a casual observer witnessing stars disappear behind clouds, they can appear to vanish without warning.

So, what could SSGT Lewis have seen that triggered all of this. Lewis reported that the “helicopter” was near the northern perimeter. The message also states “An unidentified A/C had been sighted after dark at an altitude of approximately 100 meters immediately north of the Loring, ME AFB northern perimeter”.³ What is defined as the northern perimeter? If it is the northern limit of the base, it could have been anything from northwest to northeast.⁴ A clue of what direction the object may have been observed in is the statement by the radar operators that it was to the East-northeast. Did Lewis observe the object to the northeast? It seems possible and there was an interesting astronomical object in that direction.



Around 1920 EST, the planet Mars had risen in the East-northeast. At 1945, Mars was 2-3 degrees over the horizon at an azimuth of about 58 degrees. For observers on the ground, it would appear to be just above the trees and very low. At magnitude -0.86, it would have been brighter than other stars in the sky at the time and its orange hue would make it stand out. It could have been misinterpreted as an aircraft that was approaching the weapons storage area. At this point the clouds might have played a role and obscured Mars. Mars would have disappeared. The radar operators, being asked if there were any targets in the area, might have

found one that appeared to be in the same direction. This could have been any kind of airborne object (possibly a large bird) or just a false return due to atmospheric conditions.

One would think that the observers would be familiar with Mars but there are several factors that could have played a role. The first was that EST went into effect on the 26th. Prior to that date, the planet would have risen an hour later. The two nights prior to this event, skies were either overcast or scattered clouds. The change in time could have misled the observers into thinking that this was something different than what they normally saw at this time.

The repetition of the events the next night tends to point towards an astronomical object as well. Why did the “helicopter” appear at the same time, and in the same direction, as the night before?

The “helicopter” appeared to disappear after two hours, The observers then saw the intruder again at 0050. An Airman first class reported seeing the object from the weapons security area access point. According to him, it was showing multiple lights (red, green, and white). He lost sight of it after about a minute. Another airmen also reported seeing the intruder for a few minutes prior to it going below the tree line. This observation could have been the bright star Vega, which set in the North-northwest at 0130 EST. At 0050 EST, it was 3 degrees above the horizon.



The last sighting that morning was at 0300. Very little information is available other than it was visible over the weapons storage area from CSC (central security control). The direction implies a Northeastern direction. Venus had risen around 0200 EST and was about 9 degrees above the eastern horizon at 0300 EST. One has to remember, it was believed the “helicopter” was coming from Canada and it could have been believed that the rising Venus was coming from Canada preparing to intrude again. The helicopter was sent up again to intercept and, once again, failed to find the intruder.

The nights of the 29th and 30th were cloudy and no more helicopters were seen. However, on the 31st, the skies did clear and the “helicopter” returned. The first sighting at 2314, was made 4 miles northwest of the base from an old Nike Missile battery called the Blotner site.⁵ A law enforcement officer saw a UFO hovering over the northern perimeter of the base. From his location, he would have to look towards the southeast to see the UFO in that location. Rising in the southeast was the bright star Sirius. No personnel on base appear to have noticed this “helicopter” even when told where to look. This tends to confirm the “helicopter” was much farther away from the observer and was probably Sirius.



The second event that night was a rapidly moving aircraft that was seen at both the east and west gates of the base by security personnel. One of the observers felt they saw a tail rotor and red rotating beacon. They also heard the sound of the main rotor. It was described as moving “at a high rate of speed”. Despite the fact that this “helicopter” flew over the base from east to west, nobody

else seems to have noticed it and the radar missed this "incursion". It is possible that they may have just seen a bright meteor.

The third event involved unidentified airmen, who heard the sound of a helicopter near the control tower. No visual observations were made. This may have been a case of the airmen hearing a noise and thought it was a helicopter. Without the visual component, it is hard to say if there was any physical object. It is possible they heard the alert helicopter. There seems to be no way to confirm this.

More helicopters?

I think it is important to note that several of these observations involved the witnesses thinking they heard the noise of a helicopter. Either they heard such a noise or, by the power of suggestion, believed they saw a helicopter. Remember, the security guards were at a heightened state of alert after the first night. They were probably told to be aware of helicopters intruding. When told to look for helicopters, the airmen probably felt that the objects they saw were helicopters and gave them "helicopter-like" characteristics, which would include the perception that they may have heard the noise of a helicopter.

In his book, UFOs: The public deceived, Phil attempted to link a mysterious unmarked helicopter that was flying from Rockwood, Maine as a possible source for the intrusions.⁶ According to his sources, the helicopter was possibly carrying photographic equipment. Klass states that this was documented in a Loring AFB memo that discussed a phone conversation on November 14, 1975, that was released to UFOlogists. I did not find it in the documents I acquired on line and from Barry Greenwood (although I may have missed it). Klass pursued this by talking to residents of the Rockwood area, who gave descriptions of secretive operations by the crew and support team. Assuming his information is correct, there could be a possibility that this helicopter might have been involved but it seems unlikely. Rockwood is roughly 120 miles to the SW of Loring AFB and it seems likely that the helicopter was flying in the general area of Rockwood and not as far away as Loring AFB.

Klass also suggested that the object might be astronomical in nature. As evidence, he presented some news stories from Bangor about civilian patrolmen misidentifying the star Sirius as another one of those "helicopters" in mid-November. I found the Bangor papers mentioned by Klass on line but the stories are not clear as to what the source was except for a professor, who identified the sighting on a subsequent night as Sirius.⁷ I would not be surprised if Venus or Mars may also have been misidentified. It is interesting to point out that the Bangor paper on the 17th reported that Loring AFB tracked that UFO on radar!⁸ This indicates the Loring radar operators had difficulty differentiating between contacts generated by physical objects and false returns.

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Mysterious colors viewed in sky by officers near Canadian border

By Dean Rhodes
NEWS Presque Isle Bureau

LIMESTONE — It was like a spotlight changing from green to blue to gold, maybe red, "swinging to the East."

"Probably it was a helicopter, but that's only an assumption. I got the impression there was only a white landing light."

"I watched it quite a while. It didn't seem to be moving. I'd have to think a star or planet rather than an aircraft."

Loring AFB had barely recovered from jitters touched off last month by a low flying helicopter that

twice buzzed the base at night and disappeared without identification.

The above pre-dawn Sunday sightings, presumably of the same unidentified object, added another chapter to the area's mystery air show.

The latest descriptions, off base, came from Caribou Police, backed by the sheriff's department; a United States customs official at Limestone, and a Royal Canadian Mounted Police constable.

The sources apparently agreed that whatever it was, this time it was over Canada.

Loring AFB had "the thing" on its radar screen in Sunday's early morning hours. Maj. Richard F. (Cont'd. on Page 3, Col. 2)

It's 'Dog Star'

By Joan Brooks
NEWS Correspondent

EDDINGTON — The latest reported UFO as viewed by officers near the Canadian Border at Limestone earlier this week, also was seen from Eddington.

Description of the object was the same: intense light showing red, blue green, gold and white hues, with erratic movement, seen low on the horizon in the southeast.

What is it?

After watching for some time and getting the rest of the family up to see it, also, the mystery remained. A call to Prof. Clark Reynolds of the University of Maine at Orono — even though it was after 11 p.m. — brought answers.

Although we were in two different locations, the object's location could be pinpointed because it appeared to be northeast of Orion's Belt and below it, with the belt pointing to the object.

The object was approximately five lengths of the belt below it.

The professor said it is Sirius the Dog Star, the brightest star in the heavens. The blinking and colors are due to turbulence in the air, according to Prof. Clark, a history professor who teaches a course "The Cosmos in History."

Alert!

Because of the perceived intrusions at Loring AFB, the USAF Strategic Air Command issued an alert to all the northern tier SAC bases on the evening of 29 October.⁹ Security teams were asked to be aware of possible helicopter intrusions into their airspace. It is no surprise that security personnel, who were now asked to be more attentive, would produce reports of potential intruders.

Wurmsmith AFB

At 2220 EST, on 30 October 1975, Wurmsmith AFB reported an unknown aircraft had been seen approaching the base over the back gate and was seen from the motor pool.¹⁰ The transmitted message stated the observation was made from the back gate and they saw the unidentified aircraft over the base. Local Radar reported tracking some aircraft and one appeared to be near the Weapons Storage Area (WSA). A tanker in the area reportedly had tracked several unknown aircraft in the area using their radar. However, none of these contacts (the ones identified by the tanker) appeared to be in the vicinity of the weapons storage area.

We don't have much in the way of information regarding this sighting. We are told it was seen over "the back gate". Exactly which direction that was is hard to say because there appears to be several possible "back gates". The one that seems most likely is the one



near the WSA, which was on the northern side of the base. That gate was to the North-northwest.

Weather observations from the Wursmith area for October 30 were¹¹:

Time	Observation
2100	Scattered clouds
2200	Scattered clouds
2300	Mostly Cloudy

The specifics of the sighting are hard to follow since the original OPREP-3 form seemed to be contradicted by the actual message that was transmitted. Because OPREP-3s need to be transmitted within a certain time frame, the initial report can sometimes be inaccurate. Therefore, I would consider the message to be the more accurate representation of what transpired. Still, it leaves a lot to be desired as far as specifics go. If the message was correct and the observer was at the back gate looking towards the base we have different directions than somebody seeing the object rise above the back gate. The exact location of the "back gate" is something that is hard to determine but it appears to be near the northwest port of the base. This means they would have been looking in an East-southeast to South-southeast direction. If we are looking for an astronomical source, the bright star Rigel was rising in the East-Southeast and Mars was to the East-Northeast.



The source of the guard's sighting may have not been astronomical. The message mentions that it is believed that the guard saw a KC-135 tanker flying in the area.¹² This aircraft also had some sightings of unknown aircraft.

Because of the visual sighting by the base guard, the base asked for the KC-135 to help identify it. They reported tracking a target on their radar. It was 8-1/2 miles to the northeast of the base, over Lake Michigan, but no visual sighting was related to this contact. Twenty minutes later, the plane reported a visual on two aircraft "in trail" to the northeast of the base heading south at about 150 knots. These "aircraft" appeared to leave the area to the southeast and return to the region of the base. After about 20-25 minutes, the plane lost visual contact as the formation flew off to the southeast.¹³

Klass noted that the tanker aircraft's radar was designed for navigation and not tracking other aircraft.¹⁴ He suggested that the aircraft supposedly seen by the tanker radar was probably a large ship in the waters of Lake Huron. The visual sightings are unconfirmed and could have been any lights or aircraft in the region. It is important to note that nobody on base saw these visuals approach the base.

It appears that the Wurtsmith AFB sighting from the ground were probably a misidentification of a star or aircraft. The KC-135 sightings, while interesting, probably were just a misidentified radar target and unrelated sightings of other aircraft in the area. The bottom line is there really does not appear to be much to this sighting but further west there were more sightings of suspicious objects near nuclear weapons.

Malmstrom AFB

About a week later, Malmstrom AFB in Montana, had a four day period where all sorts of aerial intruders were seen by security personnel on the ground. The NORAD command director's log recorded the events¹⁵:

7 Nov 75 (1035Z) Received a call from the 341 st Strategic Air Command Post (SAC CP) saying that the following missile locations reported seeing a large red to orange to yellow object: M-1, L-3, LIMA, and L-6. The general object location would be 10 miles south of Moore, Montana, and 20 miles east of Buffalo, Montana. Commander Deputer [sic] for Operations (DO) informed.

7 Nov 75 (1203Z) SAC advised that the LCF at Harlow, Montana, observed an object which emitted a light which illuminated the site driveway.

7 Nov 75 (1319Z) SAC advised K-1 saw a very bright object to their east is now southeast of them and they are looking at it with 10 x 50 binoculars. Object seems to have lights (several) on it, but no distinct pattern. The orange/gold object overhead also has small lights on it. SAC also advises female civilian reports having seen an object bearing south from her position 6 miles west of Lewiston.

7 Nov 75 (1327Z) L-1 reports that the object to their northeast seems to be issuing a black object from it, tubular in shape. In all this time, surveillance has not been able to detect any sort of track except for known traffic.

7 Nov 75 (1355Z) K-1 and L-1 report that as the sun rises, so do the objects they have visual.

7 Nov 75 (1429Z) From SAC CP: As the sun rose, the UFOs disappeared. Commander and DO notified.

8 Nov 75 (0635Z) - A security camper team at K-4 reported UFO with white lights, one red light 50 yards behind white light. Personnel at K-1 seeing same object.

8 Nov 75 (0645Z) - Height personnel picked up objects 10-13,000 feet, Track J330, EKLB 0648, 18 knots, 9,500 feet. Objects as many as seven, as few as two A/C.

8 Nov 75 (0735Z) - J330 unknown 0753. Stationary/seven knots/12,000. One (varies seven objects). None, no possibility, EKLB 3746, two F-106, GTF, SCR 0754. NCOC notified.

8 Nov 75 (0820Z) - Lost radar contact, fighters broken off at 0825, looking in area of J331 (another height finder contact).

8 Nov 75 (0905Z) - From SAC CP: L-sites had fighters and objects; fighters did not get down to objects.

8 Nov 75 (0915Z) - From SAC CP: From four different points: Observed objects and fighters; when fighters arrived in the area, the lights went out; when fighters departed, the lights came back on; to NCOC.

8 Nov 75 (0953Z) - From SAC CP: L-5 reported object increased in speed - high velocity, raised in altitude and now cannot tell the object from stars. To NCOC.

8 Nov 75 (1105Z) - From SAC CP: E-1 reported a bright white light (site is approximately 60 nautical miles north of Lewistown). NCOC notified.

9 Nov 75 (0305Z) - SAC CP called and advised SAC crews at Sites L-1, L-6 and M-1 observing UFO. Object yellowish bright round light 20 miles north of Harlowton, 2 to 4,000 feet.

9 Nov 75 (0320Z) - SAC CP reports UFO 20 miles southeast of Lewiston, orange white disc object. 24th NORAD Region surveillance checking area. Surveillance unable to get height check.

9 Nov 75 (0320Z) - FAA Watch Supervisor reported he had five air carriers vicinity of UFO, United Flight 157 reported seeing meteor, "arc welder's blue" in color. SAC CP advised, sites still report seeing object stationary.

9 Nov 75 (0348) - SAC CP confirms L-1, sees object, a mobile security team has been directed to get closer and report.

9 Nov 75 (0629Z) - SAC CP advises UFO sighting reported around 0305Z. Cancelled the flight security team from Site L-1, checked area and all secure, no more sightings.

10 Nov 75 (0215Z) - Received a call from SAC CP. Report UFO sighting from site K-1 around Harlowton area. Surveillance checking area with height finder.

10 Nov 75 (0153Z) - Surveillance report unable to locate track that would correlate with UFO sighted by K-1.

Analysis

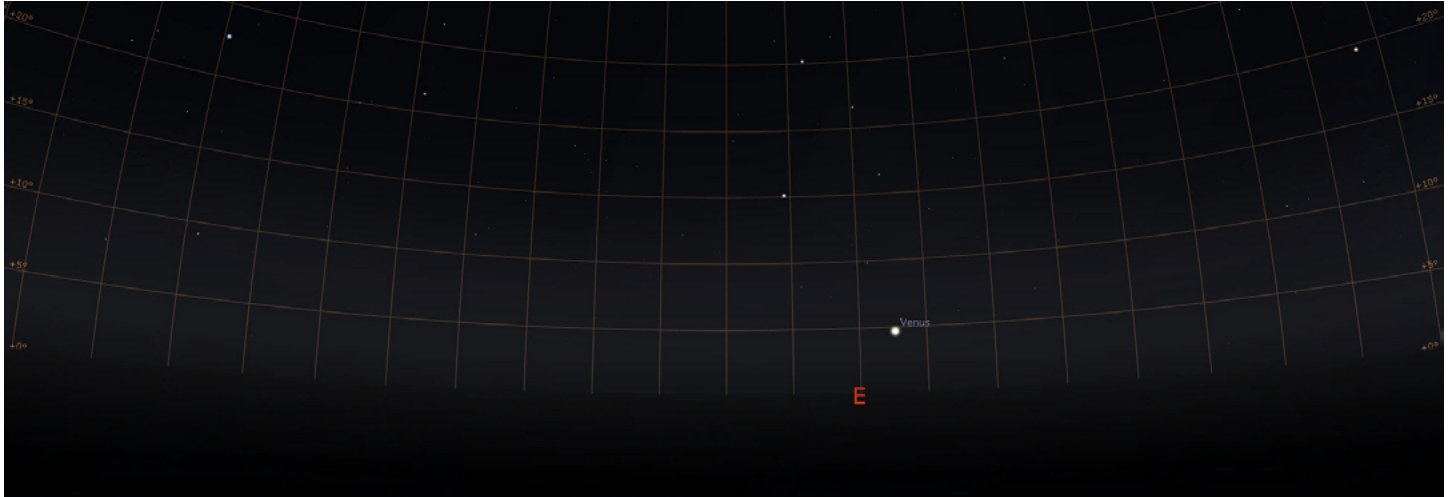
There is a lot to swallow in these sightings. The first thing is to check the weather for the four nights in question. These are the observations of Great Falls and Lewiston.

Time	Great Falls ¹⁶	Lewistown ¹⁷
7 Nov 0300 (7 Nov 1000Z)	Scattered clouds	Scattered clouds
7 Nov 0400	Scattered clouds	Clear
7 Nov 0500	Partly cloudy	Clear
7 Nov 0600	Scattered clouds	Clear
7 Nov 0700	Scattered clouds	Mostly cloudy
7 Nov 2300 (8 Nov 0600Z)	Mostly cloudy	Scattered clouds
8 Nov 0000	Scattered clouds	Scattered clouds
8 Nov 0100	Scattered clouds	Scattered clouds
8 Nov 0200	Scattered clouds	Scattered clouds
8 Nov 0300	Scattered clouds	Clear
8 Nov 0400	Scattered clouds	Clear
8 Nov 0500	Clear	Clear
8 Nov 0600	No observation (clear 0700)	Clear
8 Nov 2000 (9 Nov 0300Z)	Scattered clouds	Clear
8 Nov 2100	Scattered clouds	Scattered clouds
8 Nov 2200	Scattered clouds	Clear
8 Nov 2300	Scattered clouds	Clear
9 Nov 0000	Scattered clouds	Clear
9 Nov 1800 (10 Nov 0100Z)	Clear	Scattered clouds
9 Nov 1900	Clear	Scattered clouds
9 Nov 2000	Scattered clouds	Clear

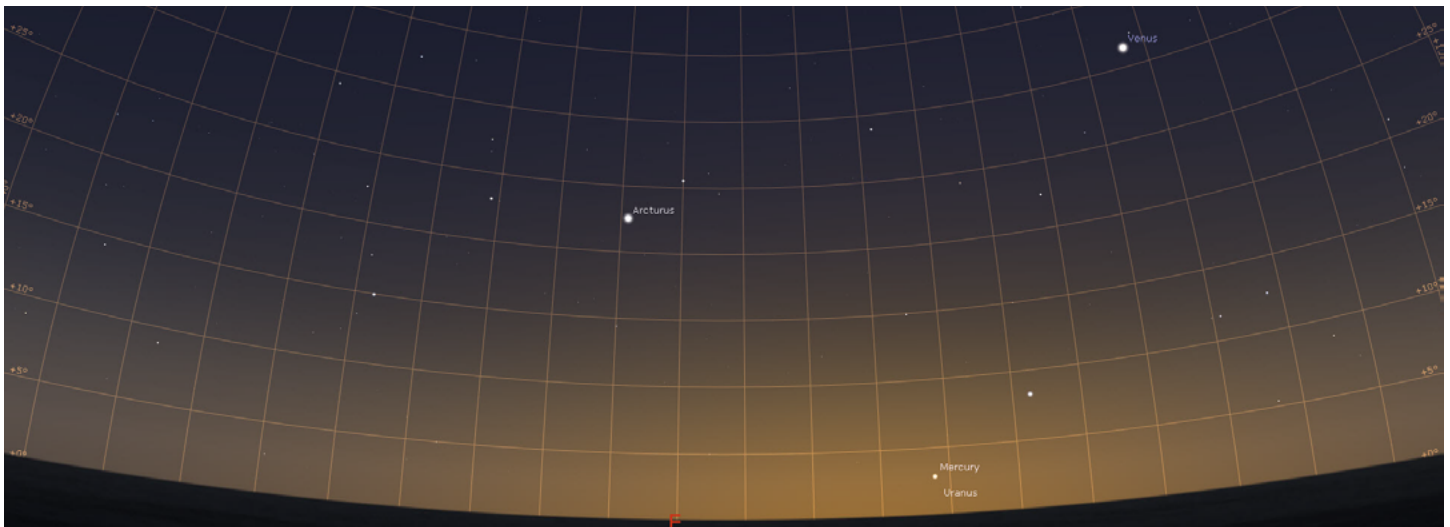
This indicates that the weather was clear enough that astronomical sources might have come into play. Are these observations of

astronomical objects? A clue seems to be the statement at 1429Z, on November 7th, *"As the sun rose, the UFOs disappeared"*¹⁸ and at 1355Z, on the same date, *"..as the sun rises, so do the objects.."*¹⁹ These comments should be red flags for any UFO investigator that what they are dealing with are astronomical objects.

The argument against astronomical objects is that there were radar contacts. However, this is no guarantee that the radar contacts were the same as the visual sightings. A lot of things generate radar contacts other than actual physical objects. For the purposes of this analysis, I am considering the radar contacts not the same as the visual and they are probably anomalous in nature. One must note that many of the radar contacts were slow traveling indicating they might have been weather related or driven by the wind.



On the morning of 7 November, the first observation at 1035Z (0335 MST) is important. From the sites M-1, L-3, and L-6, which were in the vicinity of Buffalo and Moore Montana. A direction of south of Moore and east of Buffalo indicates that the direction was towards the East or East-southeast. In the east, was the planet Venus at magnitude -4.4! It had risen shortly after 0300 MST. At that magnitude, it is possible for Venus to produce enough light to create shadows and appear to illuminate a driveway.



At 1327Z, L-1 was looking towards the northeast. The bright star Arcturus was in the East and it was probably scintillating giving the impression that something might have been ejected. It is important to note that clouds started to enter the area and may have been the "black object" seen near Arcturus. They also used the word "seems", which is subjective term indicating that it might have been a simple misperception by the observer.

What this indicates is the first night's reports were probably due to the planet Venus and, possibly, the star Arcturus.

On 7/8 November, airmen started reporting a UFO around 0635Z (2335 MST on the 7th). Directions are hard to come by in this report. However, the bright star Sirius had risen around 0615Z in the southeastern sky. By 0635, it was in the East-southeast about 2 degrees above the horizon. One indicator that the object was at a low angle of elevation is this statement at 0905Z, where the Lima sites were stating that the jets did not get down to the low altitude of the UFOs they were seeing. At 0905Z, Sirius was at an elevation of about twenty degrees in the South. At 1105Z, E-1 reported seeing a bright light. No other specifics for this but Venus had risen an hour before. Based on the previous night's sightings, it is very possible that Venus was the culprit for this observation.



The next night (November 8/9) sightings were visible from the Lima and Mike sites again. By 2000 MST, they reported sighting a light north of the town, Harlowtown, which was south of the observers. High in the southern sky was the bright planet Jupiter. Fomalhaut was also visible to the south but it is not a very bright first magnitude star. The subsequent sighting is towards the Southeast of Lewistown. About this time, a United Flight reported seeing a bright meteor. However, this was not the same object as they reported it as being stationary. Mars was above the Eastern horizon. This may have been the source of the stationary "Orange white disc object".



There was one more set of sightings on the night of the 9/10th November. Both reports were around 1900 MST. All we know is that K-1 reported seeing a UFO. Jupiter was in the Southeast. Considering the fact that most UFOs were being reported in the East and Southeast, it seems probable that Jupiter was the source of the UFO report.

The UFO reports ceased at this point. There may have been several reasons:

1. They learned that what they were seeing were astronomical objects
2. Weather began to interfere
3. New personnel took over the night shifts
4. The moon, which was waxing, began to wash out the sky. While the objects were the same brightness, the lack of a dark sky made the objects appear less prominent.

There are plenty of clues that what was seen on most of the nights/mornings were probably astronomical objects. Like Loring, the observers could see the planes fly by the UFOs but the pilots did not see them. While there were radar contacts, none of these were confirmed to be the same as the visual sightings and the planes could not locate these targets either.

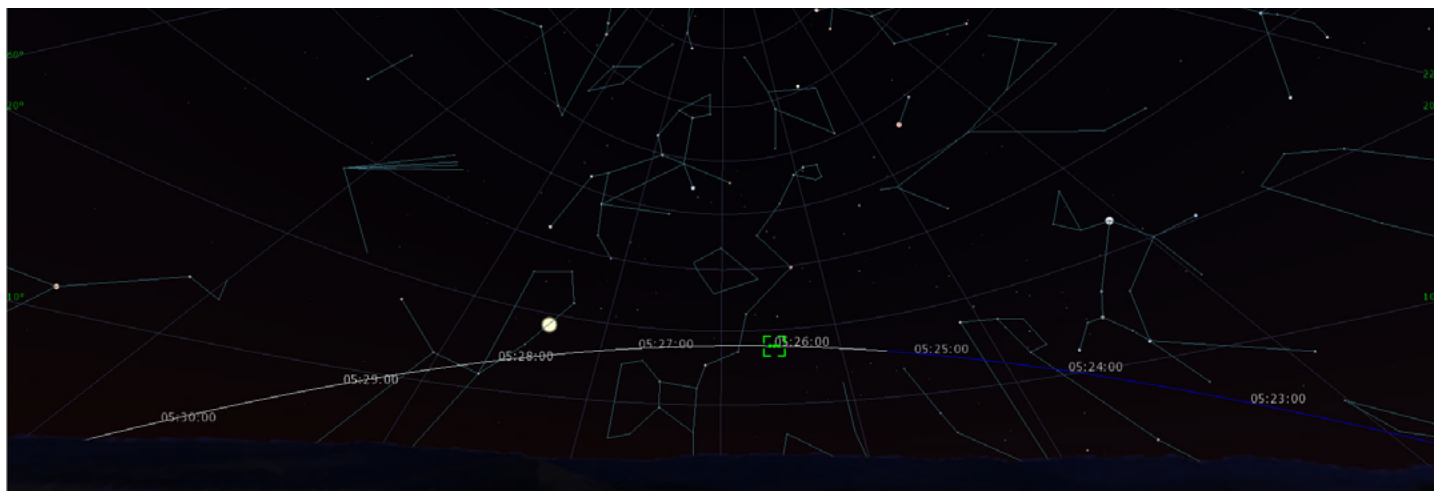
Minot AFS

The final gem in the 1975 SAC flyover wave, is this report:

10 Nov 75 (1125Z) - UFO sighting reported by Minot Air Force Station, a bright star-like object in the west, moving east, about the size of a car. First seen approximately 1015Z. Approximately 1120Z, the object passed over the radar station, 1,000 feet to 2,000 feet high, no

noise heard. Three people from the site or local area saw the object. NCOC notified.²⁰

A star-like object moving towards the east is indicative of a bright satellite. The largest satellites in orbit at the time was the abandoned Skylab and Salyut space stations. While the Salyut station was not in the region, Skylab was. In fact, it made a pass over the central United States around 1125Z.



Using Heavensat and Skylab Two-line elements, I came up with this plot of Skylab's path across the sky from Minot, North Dakota. It came out of the Earth's shadow around 1125Z to the South-southeast of Minot AFS and then moved East. Its maximum altitude was about 20 degrees. Ted Molczan, using a database of skylab observations, determined it would have had an approximate magnitude around +2. He also pointed out that this was a rough approximation and he could not rule out the possibility that it might have been brighter, or fainter, than this estimate.¹⁸ Most satellite observers are aware that a certain part of the satellite can create glints and bright reflections if the sun strikes their surface in the correct way. Even if it were only magnitude +2, the object was pretty bright in that region of the sky. Venus was the only bright object that was visible to the southeast. All other stars in Skylab's path were not as bright or only as bright as +2.

We don't know the locations of the observers who reported this but if they were to the north of the radar site (Minot AFS was south of Minot AFB), Skylab would have appeared to have flown over the radar station at a low altitude. The only problem is the report that the object was in the west at 1015Z. One must recall that the entry is based upon a verbal report and there may be errors. It may have been that a UFO was seen in the west at 1015Z and then another UFO was seen at 1120Z moving east. At 1015Z, the planet Jupiter was beginning to set in the west (setting around 1100Z). The two sightings could have been merged into one.

The highly trained observer argument

Proponents will complain that highly trained individuals could never mistake planets and stars for UFOs but they would be wrong for several reasons. The history of UFO reports has shown that "trained" individuals, like police officers and pilots, can, and do, mistake planets and stars for something exotic. Additionally, calling security personnel "highly trained", is not entirely accurate. They are highly trained in maintaining security and doing their job related to that. However, they are not "highly trained" in understanding astronomical objects or identifying lights in the sky at night. In my opinion, these airmen were doing their jobs as best they could because they were reporting potential threats. Unfortunately, their imaginations may have gotten the best of them and they transformed astronomical objects into something sinister/exotic.

Conclusions

There seems to be a good possibility that all of this started with a simple misperception of the planet Mars. Once the security personnel believed that Mars was a helicopter, it did not take much convincing to alert the upper chain of command. As other bases were alerted to "helicopters" possibly making intrusions, their guards started to see any "nocturnal light" as potential threats. Planets, stars, and satellites appear to explain a good portion of these sightings.

Notes and references

1. AFOSI messages dated 28 October 1975, 31 October 1975, and 1 November 1975.

2. "Caribou, Maine weather history for October 27 - November 1, 1975". Weather Underground. Available WWW starting with: https://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KCAR/1975/10/28/DailyHistory.html?req_city=Caribou&req_state=ME&req_statename=&reqdb.zip=04736&reqdb.magic=1&reqdb.wmo=99999
3. AFOSI message dated 28 October, 1975.
4. Historic American engineering record: Loring Air Force Base. HAER No. ME-64 National Park Service northeast region. P. 18.
5. "Louis Blotner Bomb Scoring". Cold war relics. Available WWW: http://coldwarrelics.com/louis_blotner_bomb_scoring
6. Klass, Philip. UFOS: The Public Deceived. Amherst: Prometheus, 1997. P. 96-7
7. Brooks, Joan. "It's "Dog star". Bangor Daily News. November 19, 1975. Bangor, Maine. P.1.
8. Rhodes, Dean. "Mysterious colors viewed in sky by officers near Canadian border". Bangor Daily News. November 17, 1975. Bangor, Maine. P.1.
9. Message DTG 292025Z OCT 75 Subject: Defense against helicopter assault.
10. Message DTG 3104549Z OCT 75 Wurtsmith AFB to SAC CP
11. "Oscoda-Wurtsmith weather history for October 30, 1975". Weather Underground. Available WWW: https://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KOSC/1975/10/30/DailyHistory.html?req_city=Oscoda&req_state=MI&req_statename=&reqdb.zip=48750&reqdb.magic=1&reqdb.wmo=99999
12. Message DTG 3104549Z OCT 75 Wurtsmith AFB to SAC CP
13. *ibid.*
14. Klass, Philip. UFOS: The Public Deceived. Amherst: Prometheus, 1997. P. 99
15. "24th NORAD Region Senior Director's Log (Malmstrom AFB, Montana)". NICAP. Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/norad3b1.htm>
16. "Great Falls, MT weather history for November 7-9, 1975". Weather Underground. Available WWW starting with: https://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KGTF/1975/11/7/DailyHistory.html?req_city=Great+Falls&req_state=MT&req_statename=&reqdb.zip=59401&reqdb.magic=1&reqdb.wmo=99999
17. "Lewistown, MT weather history for November 7-9, 1975". Weather Underground. Available WWW starting with: https://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KLWT/1975/11/7/DailyHistory.html?req_city=Lewistown&req_state=MT&req_statename=&reqdb.zip=59457&reqdb.magic=1&reqdb.wmo=99999
18. "24th NORAD Region Senior Director's Log (Malmstrom AFB, Montana)". NICAP. Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/norad3b1.htm>
19. *ibid.*
20. *ibid.*

We keep telling you, it is NOT a balloon

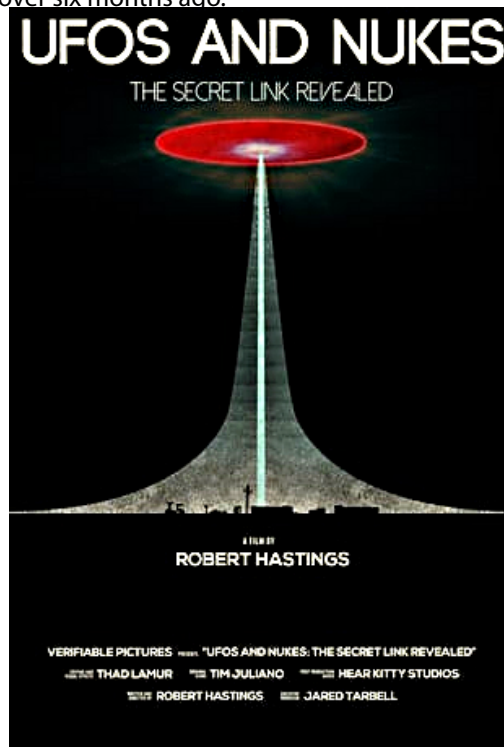
In an attempt to rebut the hypothesis that the Puerto Rico video shows a balloon, the Scientific Coalition for UFOlogy (SCU) turned to their expert (actually a technician named "Dave") on the camera to produce a video that shows a balloon filmed with the same system. The video shows a balloon with a dark underside and a white topside. According to the SCU, the balloon is black on the bottom because it was reflecting heat from the ground and the top is white because the air above was cool.

There are problems with their little test. The major problem is it does not replicate the conditions of the video. Any person wanting to conduct a scientific experiment would want to duplicate the conditions of the video as much as possible. When asked, Robert Powell states the object was recorded in the daytime. The Puerto Rico video was recorded at night under the light of the nearly full moon. Other items that did not replicate the video include

1. The distance involved does not look like it was recorded from a mile or more.
2. The camera was not looking at the target from above but from the same level.
3. Only one type of balloon was used. Another type of balloon might produce different results.

The fact remains that there is a significant number of individuals outside the SCU that have concluded that the object is probably a balloon. While the Puerto Rico Research Review (PRRR) team feels the path that Lance Moody and Florent Michaud have produced is the most likely, members of the SCU continue to insist that a balloon is impossible. They have steadfastly held the opinion that the UAP disappeared behind objects, making the Moody/Michaud path impossible. They also insisted that it submerged into the ocean. There is no conclusive evidence that prove either of these claims are correct.

As the SCU continues to talk about the video at UFO conferences, one wonders why they can not release their updated report, which they stated they were going to complete over six months ago.



Robert Hastings berates skeptics

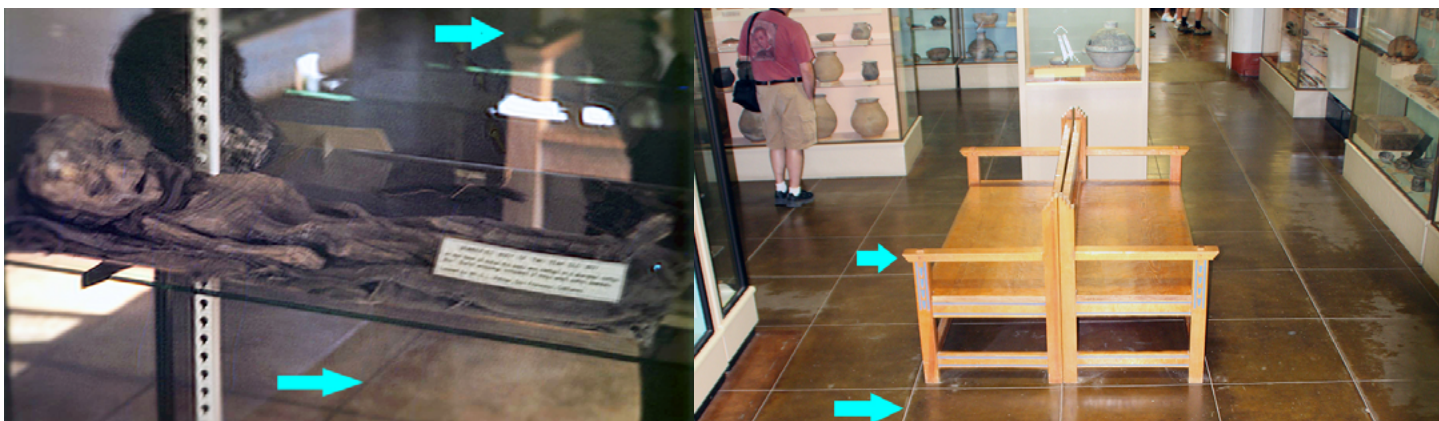
As I was putting the finishing touches on this issue, I saw that Robert Hastings is promoting his film again and wondering why skeptics were so silent about it. I have yet to see the film and therefore have not commented about it in SUNlite. I had a very busy summer with vacation, work, and other personal issues/projects. It is on my "to do" list but I did not realize that I was under some sort of time limit. Had Hastings sent me a free copy to view, I might have gotten around to it by now.

Now that I have explained why I haven't commented, I want to point out that I expect the film to show nothing more than a rehash of all the cases he has promoted in the past. There will be nothing "new" and I will see his witnesses telling us their stories for the umpteenth time. These have all been dissected in the past by skeptics and found to be less than convincing. The fact that he keeps saying, "watch my film", indicates he is more interested in getting people to pay to view it. I suspect that the film is just another one-sided presentation of UFO stories like "Hanger one". If this is accurate, the film proves nothing other than he is good at collecting old stories that may, or may not, be true/accurate and speculating about them. This makes him a hero in UFOlogy, which is no great feat. It is easy to preach to the choir. It is much harder to take his case to people, who are more critical of his "evidence".



A trip to Mesa Verde

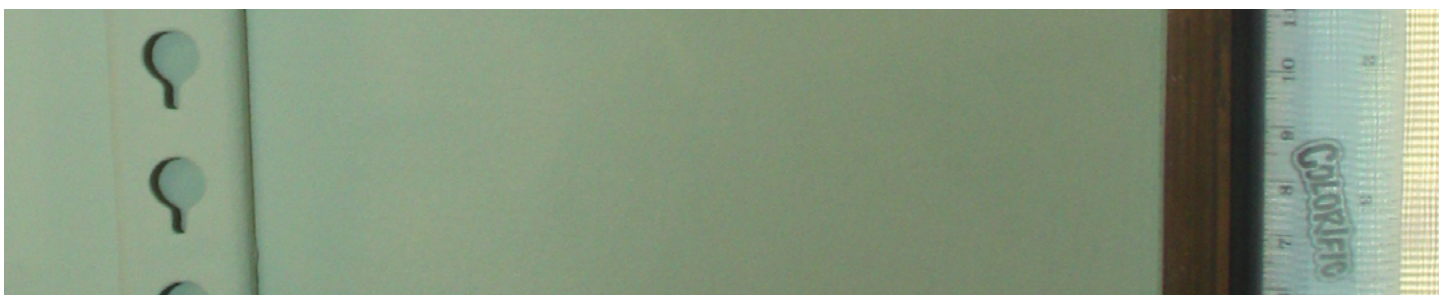
In August, I performed what I referred to as, "The Bernerd and Hilda Ray memorial tour". I had planned a vacation out west for several months, and since we would pass through most of Colorado, I convinced my wife to visit some of the places the Ray's had visited. We saw Great Dunes National Park and the trail ridge road in the Rocky Mountains. We also took the time to visit the Mesa Verde area. While there, I visited the Chapin Mesa Museum, where the mummy was on display in 1946-7.



The museum

What I discovered in the museum was that it really had not changed much in seventy years. The floor and the benches appear to be the same. Missing was the case where the body was displayed but several of the cases had the same type of hole supports seen in the Ray photograph.

I managed to place a small ruler in the same plane as the supports in the display cases and photographed it. The resultant image revealed that the hole size (the round part) was about 0.4 inches (approximately 1CM) in diameter.



If this was the hole size in the Ray photograph, we can estimate the maximum size of the body. The length of the top of the head to the base of the feet is about 1575-1600 pixels. With the hole size measured at approximately 19 pixels, this puts the body at 83-84 CMs or about 33 inches. These are approximate values because of the nature of the measurement. Because the body is closer to the camera than the holes and the head is separated from the body, one should consider this 33-inch value a maximum size. Since

the Palmer mummy was supposedly 28-29 inches (approximately 71-74 CM) in length, this measurement does not eliminate that mummy. If one couples this with my previous angular analysis of the images (see SUNlite 7-4), there seems to be little doubt that body is not the 120CM length Dr. Zalce calculated and Maussan's experts have promoted.

Conclusions

The visit to Mesa Verde was very interesting and the actual museum seems to be very similar to what was in place in the 1940s. There appears to be little doubt that the photograph was taken at Mesa Verde and it was the Palmer mummy. Assuming the frames in the photograph were the same type used in 1947, the 120CM body size promoted by Maussan's experts is false. Any other claims made by Maussan's experts that the body is not human have to be looked at skeptically because of their inaccurate body length calculations.

Bonus photographs from the Bernerd and Hilda Ray memorial tour



Left: Rocky mountain national park along the trail ridge road compared to photograph from Kodachrome trailer (The sign no longer exists).



Left: Great Dunes national park in Colorado compared to the photograph that Adam Dew referred to as "White Sands".



Montezuma's castle, where the "Roswell slides" mummy was discovered.

August 23, 1955

NICAP describes this event as:

*August 23, 1955--Cincinnati, Ohio. SAC jets "dogfight" with UFOs first detected by radar. White spheres and discs observed by Ground Observer Corps. [VIII]*¹

Section VIII has a one line entry that references section VII, where we find this description by Len Stringfield:

"About midnight, residents throughout the city were jarred by the roar of jets. From S.A.C., Lockburne AFB, south of Columbus, the Air National Guard jets were alerted, scrambled and were over Cincinnati in 12 minutes. The alert began when three UFOs were sighted and confirmed by radar somewhere between Columbus and Cincinnati.

"In the meantime, Walter Paner, Supt. of Hamilton County GOC, on duty at the Mt. Healthy Post, phoned the author of the existent alert and relayed the word that jet interceptors were due over the area. He said the UFOs had been active over Mt. Healthy and could be seen clearly by observers from the tower. In a short time, the jets, at approximately 20,000 feet, were over Cincinnati, but poor visibility prevented me and a visiting friend from Toronto, Canada, from seeing the UFOs which had deployed over a wide area. According to radar, the interlopers had extended 37 miles south, 24 miles north of the city, and as far as 10 miles east of Mt. Healthy.

*"A later call from Paner disclosed that a UFO was seen hovering in pendulum-like motions directly over the tower. At about 12:10 a.m., the interceptors made contact, and swooping in, chased the UFO - which disappeared at incredible speed. In the meantime, the Forestville and Loveland GOC Post reported the erratic flights of UFOs to the Air Filter Center describing them as round brilliant white spheres and discs."*²

Such an event should have quite the file in the Blue Book system but there is no mention of the case at all. Even more astounding is that there is no mention of all this aerial activity in the news media. Stringfield laments this in his book, Situation Red: The UFO siege:

*...the Cincinnati newspapers weren't interested! When I phoned the Enquirer, they shrugged it off. A post reporter took notes, but the story never appeared in print. The Times Star, however, stumbling with promises to send a reporter out to get all the facts, finally, after a conference between reporter and city editor, decided against it."*³

Stringfield added that a Cincinnati reporter had contacted the USAF and they had denied the incident had transpired. One would think if these jets were really flying over the city, the news media would have reported it.

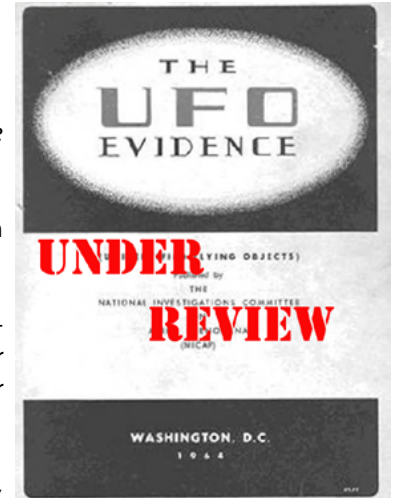
Various authors, who like to list these stories in their databases or books often list multiple sources to give the story strength. This is misleading because they tend to cite each other with the real source being the NICAP document, which uses Stringfield as their only source. None of the Ground Observer Corps, pilots, or radar operators mentioned by Stringfield appear to have ever been interviewed.

Because of his abilities to identify UFOs, Stringfield stated that he eventually became a "screening" activity for the Ground Observer Corps (GOC). He would screen the GOC reports before calling the USAF and allowing jets to be scrambled. He received this "appointment" in September 1955 when he received a call from USAF Captain Hugh McKenzie:

*"...he informed me that the Ground Observer Corps in southwestern Ohio was to be instructed to report UFO activity to me for screening. Screened data, weeding out a good report from a misperception such as a star or aircraft running lights, were then to be called in to the filter center of the Air Defense Command...."*⁴

It is interesting to point out that this is less than a month after the August 23rd incident. One can speculate, based on this bit of information, that no UFO report was filed for the event because the GOC made a mistake that night and did not want to record it. It is even possible that, to prevent any future mistakes, the USAF may have selected Stringfield to help prevent the GOC from unnecessarily sending jet fighters to intercept UFOs that turned out to be nothing more than stars or planets.

Of course, we have to wonder how good Stringfield was at helping out for the next year. I took a look at the Blue Book record and noted that there were approximately 33 UFO reports from southwestern Ohio from September 1955 to December of 1956. None were unidentified and five were insufficient information. The one sighting that involved the GOC was a sighting on July 8, 1956. The only thing that exists for that report is a record card.⁵ It involved an object that was brighter than a star and was visible for at least



PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD		
1. DATE 8 July 1956	2. LOCATION Cincinnati, Ohio	12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 08/0520Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian (GOC)	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 25 minutes & still in sight at rpt	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE erratic/high
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One round object, larger than star, orange in color, moving up & down and north and south, still under observation and had already been seen for a period of 25 minutes. No Report In File		11. COMMENTS Possibility of heavenly body. Atmospheric conditions possibly causing the erratic movements as well as the fact that viewing through binoculars can cause apparent movement. Color substantiates.

25 minutes. It does not sound like Stringfield helped much on that report due to the lack of information in the file. The source of the report probably was astronomical. About one hour before the report was made, the planet Mars, two months from a very close opposition, rose in the east at magnitude -1.3. At that magnitude, it would have been "brighter than any star" in the sky and a likely stimulus for UFO reports.

Conclusion

I have my doubts that the event happened the way Springfield described. Anecdotal stories often are misleading and told in a manner that favors the story-teller's point of view. One has to remember that a lot of this is hearsay testimony. In my opinion there are several possibilities:

1. The events transpired EXACTLY as Stringfield described.
2. The events are an exaggeration of what transpired. It could have been some form of misperception, which resulted in a "scramble" of fighter jets but they could not find the targets identified by the GOC and radar. There may not even have been any radar contacts.
3. Stringfield made this up.

I don't think Stringfield made it up and I don't think Stringfield was entirely accurate in telling the story, which makes some form of number 2 the most probable. The bottom line is that the story is anecdotal and hearsay. It cannot be verified and is not good evidence.

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. 135.
2. *ibid.* P. 65
3. Stringfield, Leonard H. Situation Red: The UFO siege. Doubleday and Company, Inc. Garden city, New York. 1977. P. 13
4. *ibid.* P. 11
5. "Project 10073 record card 8 July 1956". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6786901>

THE 701 CLUB - CASE 2077: SEPTEMBER 12, 1952 ALLEN MARYLAND

Don Berliner describes this case as:

Sept. 12, 1952; Allen, Maryland. 9:30 p.m. Witnesses: Mr. and Mrs. David Kolb, of the Ground Observer Corps, using binoculars. One white light with a red trim and streamers flew northeast for 35 minutes.¹

It does not sound that impressive and the Blue Book file contains very little extra information.

The Blue Book file

The first thing I noticed in the file was the date and time of the event seems to be incorrect. The Blue Book record card² and ATIC report³ state the event transpired around 0230Z on September 12. This is 2130 (0930 PM) on September 11. The sighting was described in the ATIC sighting form and a transmitted message. It states that an object that was greenish-white with a red rim was moving northeast. This lasted for 35 minutes. There is no indication as to why the sighting ended. When asked if the witness still had the object in sight, the ground observer center reported the sighting simply lasted 35 minutes.⁴

Potential source

Anytime an object presents the characteristics of a multi-colored object that is visible for a long period of time, I look at astronomical objects as a potential source. On September 11, 1952, observers in Allen Maryland would have seen the bright star Capella in the northeastern sky at 9:30PM. It would have risen higher in the sky but weather may have resulted in the end of the "sighting". At 11PM, the weather observations for nearby Salisbury, Maryland (about 10 miles away) recorded fog.⁵ It is possible that this fog appeared between 10 and 11 PM and played a role in Capella "disappearing".



Solved?

It is difficult to solve a case that has such little information. That being said, there is reason to suspect that this was an astronomical object and Capella is a good candidate. I would reclassify this case as "possibly astronomical".

Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook unknowns". NICAP. Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. "Project 10073 record card 12 September 1952". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6383250>
3. Air intelligence information report dated 15 September 1952. Page 1 of 2". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6383255>
4. Air intelligence information report dated 15 September 1952. Page 2 of 2". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6383256>
5. "Salisbury, MD weather history for September 11, 1952". Weather Underground. Available WWW: https://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KSBY/1952/9/11/DailyHistory.html?req_city=Allen&req_state=MD&req_statename=&reqdb.zip=21810&reqdb.magic=1&reqdb.wmo=99999