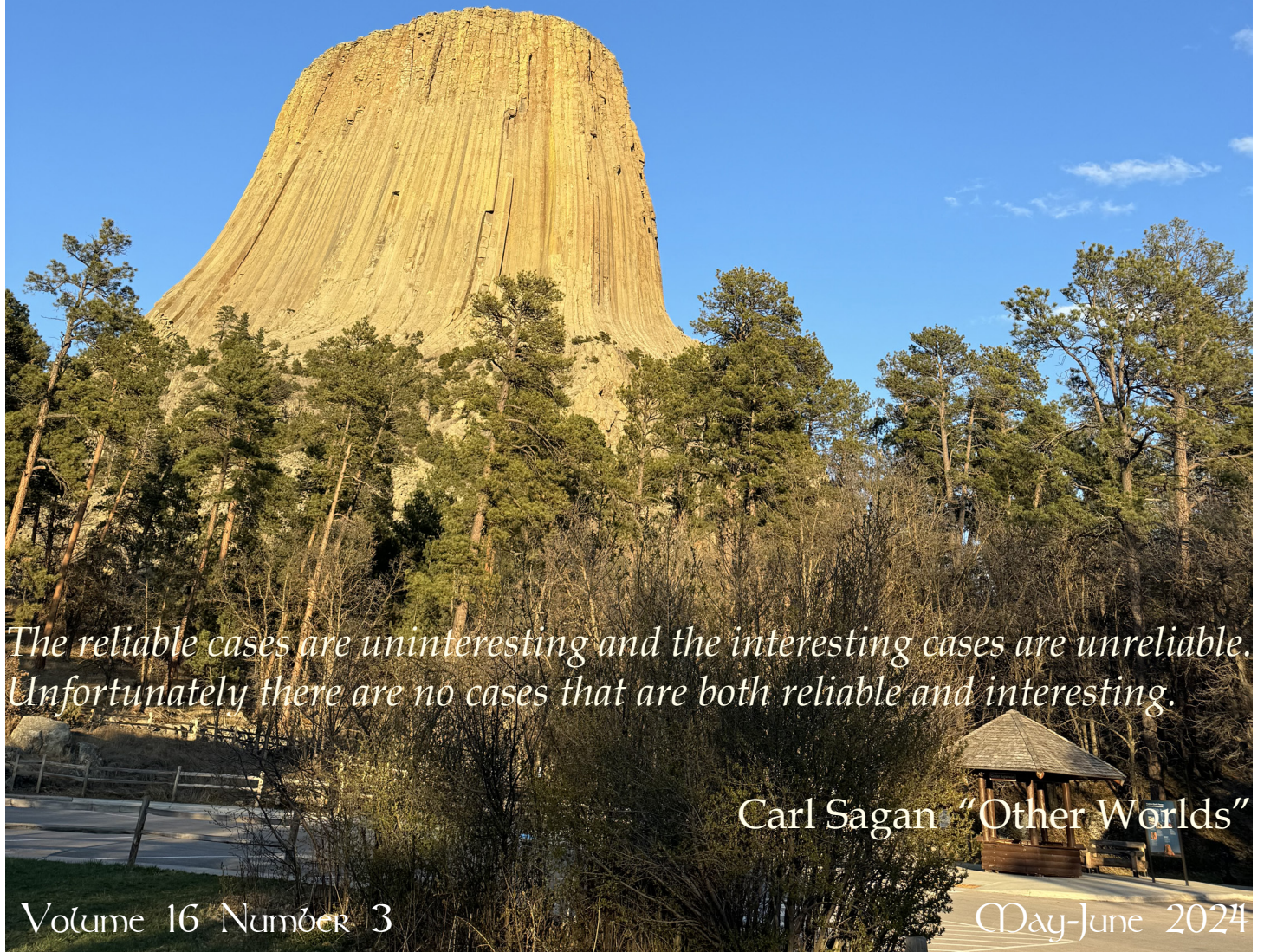


# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



*The reliable cases are uninteresting and the interesting cases are unreliable. Unfortunately there are no cases that are both reliable and interesting.*

Carl Sagan "Other Worlds"

Volume 16 Number 3

May-June 2024



## AARO on the backpage

Cover: During my trip out west, I visited Devil's Tower. This is where the climax of the movie, "Close Encounters of the third kind" occurred. Sadly, there was no UFO landing area there and the only extra-terrestrial object seen was the Gibbous moon (to the right). It is a great place to visit though.

Left: The solar eclipse was spectacular for those of us who saw it. This is a combination of images I obtained from one of my telescopes showing all the details of the Corona.

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The All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) released their historical report in early March. It is described as volume 1 and it seemed to cover the history of UFOlogical research to the present day. Maybe, they intend to go into more detail about recent efforts in a subsequent volume. While the report did not get much in the way of media attention, UFOlogists did notice it and were quick to criticize its content and conclusions.

Some of the criticism from UFO proponents was justified because they were pointing out mistakes. Other points are nit-picking with the UFO history that was described or disagreeing with conclusions. Roswell proponents were unhappy that the report appeared to agree with the conclusion that a New York University balloon created the debris discovered by Mac Brazel in June/July (depending on which version of the story you accept) of 1947. Others felt major cases that they cherish dearly were either ignored or unmentioned. I suspect the reason for the omission was because, as I recall, AARO had previously indicated that the older cases were not a priority because of the limited amount of information available. The thinking appears to be that they should not allocate valuable resources on something that is not going to shed new information. After all, what will they discover about an old sighting that isn't already available? The data from these cases is limited and, in some cases, non-existent or conflicting. Most of them have been examined to death and the best their defenders can do is declare them "Unidentified", which is not saying much. The bottom line is these old cases, no matter how convincing UFO proponents find them, are inadequate as proof of anything. UFOlogists need better evidence and AARO is trying to find it. So far, they have not found the evidence that UFOlogy claims exists, which angers them to the point they lash out at AARO.

The criticism/complaining was to be expected. As I have stated many times, AARO is just Blue Book version 2.0. Like its predecessor, every UFO organization around the world is going to be critical of any action they take that does not confirm their pet theories. The problem is, as noted by Kirkpatrick's recent commentary, the evidence is not there to draw any such conclusion. There always seems to be a potential explanation for these events that does not involve something unknown to science. Every attempt by independent scientists to examine the "evidence" over the past seventy years has come up with this conclusion (see Robertson panel, Colorado study, Sturrock 97 for examples). Fortunately, for the DOD, UFOs are not something that the public is that interested in at the moment. The news cycle moves too quickly and is populated with world and political events that dwarf the interest in such a fringe topic. Unless some earth shattering news about UFOs appears, they are always going to end up "on the back page" (or at the bottom of the headlines in your scroll).

Finally, in another interview, [Sean Kirkpatrick reported that some UFO fanatics appear to have gone to extremes in their "criticism"](#). He stated in a recent interview, that one UFO aficionado tried to break into his home! Kirkpatrick also reported that other individuals have threatened he and his family members. If these claims are true, it means UFOlogy might be going down a dark path. Do skeptics have to fear retribution from radical UFO proponents in the UFO field? I want to say no but in today's society, one can never be sure. I recall somebody during the Roswell slides episode threatening me because of what I had published in SUNlite prior to the "big reveal". Let's hope this is just an outlier and the "leaders" (if there is such a thing) in UFOlogy will admonish this kind of behavior. It may not stop these individuals but it would demonstrate that UFOlogists are not condoning this conduct.

# WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

June 12, 1958 - 10 miles west of Huntsville, Texas<sup>1</sup>

58.06.12	10:26 ZT	USA	10 miles west of Huntsville, Texas	M	one oval-shaped reddish object, size of a pinhead, on a south to northeast course.				03/20
58.06.28	early	Ireland	near Shannon airport	A	a KLM airliner	a luminous round object			03

The source of this information comes from the Blue Book files and Project 1947 list.

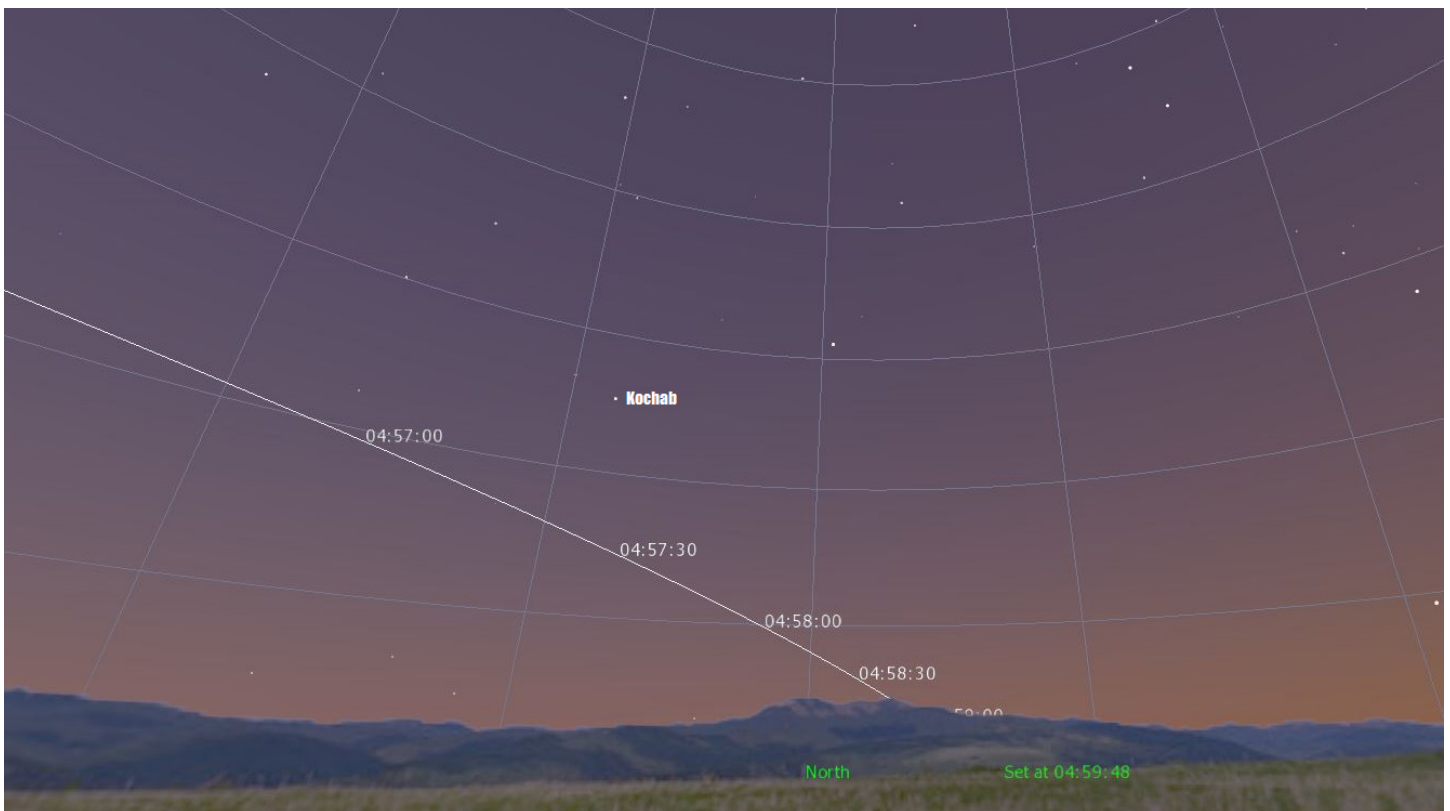
## The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file contains the following information about the sighting<sup>2</sup>:

- It was observed by a crew member (apparently the navigator) of a B-52. The plane was located at 91 degrees 45 minutes west and 30 degrees 45 minutes north.
- Object was described as being the size of the head of pin, reddish in color, oval-shaped, and about 2nd magnitude.
- The object passed through the field of view of a sextant, while taking readings on the star Kochab (misspelled Kochah) at azimuth 343 degrees and elevation 26 degrees and 48 minutes.
- The object went from south to north through the Sextant's field of view (sextant D-1), which took about two seconds to traverse.
- Time of the sighting was 1026Z on June 12 on the teletype and record card. The typed message indicates a time of 1006Z. This is probably a Typographical error.

## Analysis

Blue Book determined this was the rocket, which did not decay from orbit until December 3rd, that had boosted Sputnik 3 into orbit. Both were moving in similar orbits. Jonathan McDowell only had TLEs for Sputnik 3 and they were only from when it was first boosted into orbit.<sup>3</sup> That being said, McDowell's track seems to agree with what Blue Book wrote about the satellite's location at the time of the sighting (see below). Its track put it west of Kochab from the location of the aircraft. Blue Book computed the track of the rocket body and listed it as traveling in a similar direction but it was passing over eastern Texas 30 minutes prior to the pass of Sputnik 3.



00584	Edinburg	0066	June 12	10:26:07.2						350		20 30	-1
00585	Lawton	0110	June 12	10:26:25						179 42		40 12	-1
00710	Edinburg	0066	June 12	10:26:26.7						05		11 15	
00586	Wichita	0028	June 12	10:26:53.9	21 18	50.9	-24	42					-1
00555	Dallas	0129	June 12	10:27:14.6	00 48	12	+83	28 06					+0.5
00559	Oklahoma City	0135	June 12	10:27:18						090 00		62 00	-1
00711	Edinburg	0066	June 12	10:27:20.4						009 30		07 15	
00803	Albuquerque B	8534	June 12	10:27:32	02 42		+13	54					+1.0
00713	Lawton	0110	June 12	10:28:54						035 42 00		10 12 00	-1
00832	Konko	0224	June 12	19:13:00						000		40	-4

In an effort to get some TLEs for the rocket body, I sent a request into Dr. Kelso's Celestrak.<sup>4</sup> He could provide no data on the rocket body. I then contacted Ted Molczan, who provided me with observations of the rocket body (1958 delta 1) from the moon watch observations for May through June 1958.<sup>5</sup>

The moon watch observations confirm the rocket body was passing over eastern Texas in a south to north trajectory at the time in question. Many of the observers estimated the magnitude at -1. But these were observations, where the object was well placed. In the case of the observation from the B-52, where the object was heading towards the northern horizon, the object would not have been further away from the observer and probably would have been fainter.

### Conclusion

I would classify this as definitely Sputnik 3's booster rocket. There is enough evidence to support the classification. Blue Book got this right and the sighting needs to be removed from the Weinstein Catalog.

#### Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 35
2. "Case file - 10mi w of Huntsville, Texas 12 June 1958". Fold3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8847309/10-mi-w-of-huntsville-texas-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
3. McDowell, Jonathan. Historical TLE Elements. Available WWW: <https://www.planet4589.org/space/ele.html>
4. Kelso, T. S. Celestrak. Available WWW: <https://celestrak.org/>
5. Bullis E. P. and L. Campbell Jr. Moonwatch catalogue - May through June 1958. Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. 1958. P. 17.
6. Molczan, Ted. E-mail to author. March 20, 2024.

## June 26, 1954 - Idaho Falls, Idaho

June 26, 1954--Idaho Falls, Idaho. Brilliant light source flared up over AEC station, climbed out of sight. [XII]<sup>1</sup>

There is no amplifying information for this comment. In section XII is a table with the following description:

*Brilliant light flared up above AEC station, hovered several seconds, then zoomed up out of sight.*<sup>2</sup>

There is no footnote as to where the information comes from.

### Sources

A check of the Blue Book records reveals no cases for this incident. This indicates that the source was probably a news clipping. Loren Gross documented the instance with a brief paragraph in his history.

*At 40 minutes after midnight, June 26th, an Atomic Energy Commission test station located in eastern Idaho was suddenly lit up by a blinding glow that exploded in the night sky, illuminating the countryside for miles around the facility. Night-shift workers Kelly Brooks and A.L. Taylor told the Idaho Falls Post-Register the source of the dazzling radiance was motionless for a few seconds and then shot vertically at a tremendous velocity.*<sup>3</sup>

At least we have a source in this description but Gross used Keyhoe as his source of information not the newspaper. Donald Keyhoe repeated the story in his book, "The Flying Saucer Conspiracy"<sup>4</sup>. He mentioned two witnesses, Kelly Brooks and A.L. Taylor and gave the date as June 26th.

I checked the newspaper archive and they had the Post-Register for that time period. However, I could not find a mention of the sighting in the newspaper in late June/early July. A search revealed that the story was reported on August 1 and gave the date of the event as July 31. The story matches what Keyhoe described in his book.

*A mysterious spectacular light that suddenly exploded, hung momentarily in the air, then zoomed skyward out of sight was seen by at least a dozen AEC workers early Saturday morning at the Idaho AEC National Reactor Testing station west of the city.*

*At least a half dozen reports have been received in recent months of mysterious lights at the NRTS site but this is the first time it was detected by more than one at a time.*

*Giving the version were Kelly Brooks, Shelley, and A. L. Taylor, 365 S. Eastern Ave., who were in one of two cars traveling towards Idaho Falls that were near the scene of the phenomenon. Besides Brooks and Taylor, were Kenneth Tuck, John Willis, Jay Hill L. Pritchard, and William Summer, Idaho Falls in the two cars. They said unidentified occupants in two other cars in front also saw the light.*

*The cars were traveling within a mile of the Central Facilities Area of the NRTS on Highway 26 at 12:40 a. m. at the time.*

*"It seemed like a big floodlight suddenly turned on," said Brooks.*

*"It looked like an explosion. It hung for a moment, then the center turned sort of a blue color. It went up in the air in a cigar-like shape with a tail at the rear and disappeared. It lit up all the car's on the highway.*

*"I can't say how large it was, but it was much bigger than an airplane. We all talked about it but can't figure out what it was."*

*A similar story was given by Taylor.*

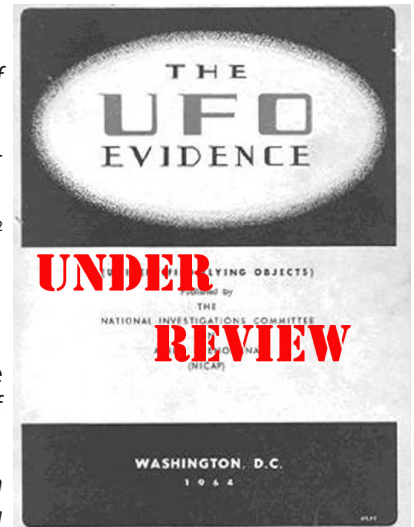
*"It was the strangest thing I've ever seen," he said. "It looked like the flash bulb of a camera exploding, only much larger. It seemed to have a greenish-blue light. I guess it must have lit up an area 6 or 8 miles around. It appeared to be 50 or 60 feet above the ground. It was bright enough so that we saw all of the cars in front of us. They all slowed down to watch. The light hung in the air, then went up and disappeared. We know it wasn't any big light from the AEC."*<sup>5</sup>

It appears that Keyhoe got a newspaper clipping from an individual, who wrote the wrong date on it. After that, people just copied Keyhoe without checking on the primary source of information. With a new date, I again checked the Blue Book files but still found no case file for this event or any other sighting in the region related to it.

### Analysis

The AEC test station described was the Idaho Falls site out in the desert about an hour from the city. The Navy used to operate several test reactors there for training purposes of its nuclear power students before assignment to the fleet. The first Navy reactor (S1W) was the prototype for the USS Nautilus and started operations in 1953. I am not sure if the individuals described in the article were associated with this plant or not. There were also other reactors being built in the area so they could have been related to those programs.

The amount of information in the article is limited but the event sounds a lot like a very bright fireball meteor. The only item in the report that makes one question that explanation is that they reported it was motionless for a very brief period of time. Based on



**The Post-Register** Home Edition  
 Idaho Falls, Idaho, Sunday, August 1, 1954  
 10 Cents — 20 Pages

**Bleated Into Sea ...**  
**Rhee Fails To Get Like War Backing**  
 WASHINGTON — A South Korean government official today said Rhee failed to get the support of the United Nations for his plan to send a military force to North Korea.

**Attacking Red Planes Find 'Bunch Of Tigers'**  
 WASHINGTON — The United States Air Force today announced that it had shot down two Soviet MiG-15 fighters over the Korean peninsula.

**Amnon Residents Stage Wild Moose Chase**  
 WASHINGTON — The Amnon residents of the town of Amnon, Idaho, today staged a wild moose chase in the town square.

**School Plan Session Set**  
 WASHINGTON — The school board of the city of Amnon, Idaho, today set a public hearing for the proposed school plan.

**Osteopath Says Arrest Unjust**  
 WASHINGTON — An osteopath today said his arrest by the FBI was unjust.

**U.S. Frowns On Tax Dodge**  
 WASHINGTON — The United States government today frowns on tax dodging.

**Auto Halted**  
 WASHINGTON — The United States government today halted the sale of autos.

**14 Miscellaneous Items**  
 WASHINGTON — A list of 14 miscellaneous items.

**California Forests Ablaze**  
 WASHINGTON — California forests are ablaze.

**Flanders Censure Move Of McCarthy Gains Support Of Sen. Duff**  
 WASHINGTON — Flanders censure move of McCarthy gains support of Sen. Duff.

**Polish Vessel Leaves With U.S. Scientist**  
 WASHINGTON — A Polish vessel leaves with a U.S. scientist.

**Pilots Strike Big Airline**  
 WASHINGTON — Pilots strike big airline.

**Senate To Get Anti Red Bills For Action**  
 WASHINGTON — Senate to get anti red bills for action.

**Utah Pair Found Well**  
 WASHINGTON — Utah pair found well.

**Atom Smuggling Rewards Sought**  
 WASHINGTON — Atom smuggling rewards sought.

**No Link Seen With Suicide**  
 WASHINGTON — No link seen with suicide.

**Warehouse Guttled**  
 WASHINGTON — Warehouse gutted.

**Rules on Tax**  
 WASHINGTON — Rules on tax.

**AEC Workers Again See Strange Lights**  
 WASHINGTON — AEC workers again see strange lights.

**Chicken Come Home**  
 WASHINGTON — Chicken come home.

**Sound Full Fatal**  
 WASHINGTON — Sound full fatal.

**Refuses Reward**  
 WASHINGTON — Refuses reward.

# AEC Workers Again See Strange Lights

A mysterious spectacular light that suddenly exploded, hung momentarily in the air, then zoomed skyward out of sight was seen by at least a dozen AEC workers early Saturday morning at the Idaho AEC National Reactor Testing Station west of the city.

At least a half dozen reports have been received in recent months of mysterious lights at the NRTS site but this is the first time it was detected by more than one at a time.

Giving the version were Kelly

Brooks, Shelley, and A. L. Taylor, 365 S. Eastern Ave., who were in one of two cars traveling towards Idaho Falls that were near the scene of the phenomenon. Besides Brooks and Taylor were Kenneth Tuck, John Willis, Jay Hill L. Pritchard and William Summer, Idaho Falls in the two cars. They said unidentified occupants in two other cars in front also saw the light.

The cars were traveling within a mile of the Central Facilities

(Continued on Page Nine)  
 (Column Five)



## Flanders Censure Move Of McCarthy Gains Support Of Sen. Duff

WASHINGTON — Sen. Duff today announced that he had introduced a resolution to censure McCarthy.

Polish Vessel Leaves With U.S. Scientist

Pilots Strike Big Airline

## School Plan Session Set

WASHINGTON — The school board of the city of Amnon, Idaho, today set a public hearing for the proposed school plan.

## Osteopath Says Arrest Unjust

WASHINGTON — An osteopath today said his arrest by the FBI was unjust.

## AEC Won't Lose Smyth

WASHINGTON — The Atomic Energy Commission today announced that it would not lose Smyth.

## Warehouse Guttled

WASHINGTON — A warehouse was gutted.

## Senate To Get Anti Red Bills For Action

WASHINGTON — Senate to get anti red bills for action.

## Utah Pair Found Well

WASHINGTON — Utah pair found well.

## Atom Smuggling Rewards Sought

WASHINGTON — Atom smuggling rewards sought.

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# AEC Workers See Lights

(Continued From Page One)

Area of the NRTS on Highway 26 at 12:40 a. m. at the time.

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"I can't say how large it was, but it was much bigger than an airplane. We all talked about it but can't figure out what it was."

A similar story was given by Taylor.

"It was the strangest thing I've ever seen," he said. "It looked like the flash bulb of a camera exploding, only much larger. It seemed to have a greenish-blue light. I guess it must have lit up an area 6 or 8 miles around. It appeared to be 50 or 60 feet above the ground. It was bright enough so that we saw all of the cars in front of us. They all slowed down to watch. The light hung in the air, then went up and disappeared. We know it wasn't any big light from the AEC."

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(Continued From Page One)

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their descriptions, I would say it was only a second or two that it "appeared" motionless. The brilliant flash, the motion upward, and the description of the object as a "cigar-shaped" object, are all consistent with a bright meteor report. The brilliant flash followed by reduction in brilliance, probably gave the impression of a pause in motion. One has to also consider the fact that all the witnesses were in moving vehicles. That is going to tend to result in misleading observations.

## Conclusion

Like much of what is in the UFO evidence, the information about the sighting is based solely on a news clipping and no detailed investigation. Additionally, the individual providing the clipping did not even get the date right and nobody bothered to follow-up prior to listing it as "evidence". This was probably a bright meteor and should be removed from the "UFO evidence" category.

## Notes and references

- Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 134
- ibid. P. 150
- Gross, Loren. UFOS: A history June-August 1954. Freemont, California. 1990. P. 40.
- Keyhoe, Donald. The Flying Saucer Conspiracy. Henry Holt and Company. New York. 1955. P.168
- "AEC workers again see strange lights". Idaho Falls Post-Register. Idaho Falls, Idaho. August 1, 1954. P.1, 9

# THE 701 CLUB: CASE 925: JUNE 1, 1951 NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

*June 1, 1951; Niagara Falls, New York. 4:20 a.m. Witnesses: M/Sgt H.E. Sweeney, 2 enlisted men. One glowing yellow-orange, saucer-shaped object with arc-shaped wings, flew straight up. Seen for 30-40 seconds.*<sup>1</sup>

Sparks' entry is essentially a repeat of Berliner's entry. However, he puts a question mark by the time of GMT.<sup>2</sup>

## The Blue Book file<sup>3</sup>

The information in the files has some details that shed some light on the matter. These details are:

- The time and date was 0420E on 1 June 1951. The record card records the time as Zulu (which explains the question mark by Sparks in his entry). However, the times listed in report are definitely Eastern time.
- The object's bearing was 080 degrees and 20 degrees elevation.
- Weather was broken clouds and 4 miles visibility due to smoke.
- The MSGT noted went outside the weather station and noticed the object. He tapped on the window to bring out the other observers to view it.
- Object was saucer shaped. The center was brighter than the arc shaped wings. It was a glowing orange-yellow color.
- The object's motion was upward and eastward. There was an oscillating motion.
- After 30-40 seconds, the object disappeared into the clouds.
- The airmen confirmed the observations but gave the time visible as 25-30 seconds.
- There was a DC-4 taking off from Buffalo airport at 0419 E.

## Analysis

There is a possible solution for this sighting. In the east was crescent moon and it appears to match the description given. A crescent moon would have a bright center and have thinner "wings".

It is hard to say what time they were using. Daylight Savings Time was a spotty sort of thing in 1951. Some locations used Standard time and others used Daylight Savings. Various locations New York used Daylight Savings Time but others did not. On August 8, 1952<sup>4</sup>, there was a sighting at Niagara Falls. They listed the time as EST indicating that Niagara Falls was observing standard time a year later. It seems probable that they would have been observing Standard Time in 1951 as well.

Assuming it was standard time, the sun was to rise around 4:40 AM EST. It was already civil twilight and the sky was brightening. The moon would have been at 84 degrees azimuth and 17 degrees elevation. This is pretty close to the location in the record card.



If the time were daylight savings time, at 0420 EDT, the thin crescent moon was at azimuth 75 degrees and 7 degrees elevation. It would have been the beginning of Nautical Twilight.



The moon seen through clouds and smoke, could take on the appearance described. Additionally, the motion of clouds could have given the illusion that the moon was moving in a certain direction. It was a brief observation and the disappearance into the clouds indicates that whatever was seen was above the altitude of the clouds.

One other important point is that the observers never reported seeing the moon, which would have been in the vicinity of the object.

## Conclusion

This event can be classified as probably the moon. The difference between the azimuth and elevation values are well within the margins of error for brief observations of an object in the sky, even if Daylight Savings Time was being observed. The description of the object having "arch-shaped" wings is a fairly good description of the shape of the crescent moon. The information from the sighting points toward the moon being the culprit. The case does not deserve to be on the list of Blue Book unknowns.

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- 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. 106
- "Case file - Niagara Falls, May 31, 1951". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/7007669/niagara-falls-ny-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>
- "Case file - Niagara Falls, August 8, 1952". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8773170/niagara-falls-ny-blank-page-7-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>



## Project Blue Book case review: 1950

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the year 1950. Like the previous evaluations, I tried to examine each case to see if the conclusion had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if I felt it was not correct or adequate. Items marked with red highlighting had photographs in the case file.

### January 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witnesses saw a blue glow in the clouds that lasted about 30 seconds.
6	Howard, KS	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Kansas City, KS	Venus	Agreed
6	Holloman AFB, NM	Canopus	Agreed
7	Gashland, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing details.
7	Corona, NM	Meteor	Agreed
9	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
12	Holloman AFB, NM	Venus	Vega
12	Gulf of Mexico	Radar Malfunction	Agreed. No visual sighting
13	Holloman AFB, NM	Capella	Agreed
14	Dalton, GA	Aircraft	Meteor
18	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
24	Between Bolling Field DC and Pope AFB NC	Balloon	Agreed
27	Scullville, NJ	Contrail	Agreed
31	Alaska	Flare	Agreed

### February 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
5	Teaticket, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7	California	Aircraft contrail/ target	Agreed
7	Kirtland AFB/Otto, NM	Meteor	Agreed
8	Tampa, FL	Meteor	Agreed
15	Sandia Base, NM	Meteor	Agreed
18	Holloman AFB, NM	Vega	Agreed
20	Tularosa, NM	Altair	Venus
24	Albuquerque, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Jackson, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Datil, NM	Comet	Insufficient information. There was no comet visible during this time period. Photographs show streaks and are difficult to examine. They do not look like a comet and appear to show erratic movement like the photograph was taken with a hand-held time exposure over several seconds. Details about photographs are missing (exposure time, film speed, f-stop). Accurate positional data is also missing.
25	Los Alamos, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
25	Albuquerque, NM	Meteor	Agreed

26	Decatur, IL	Reflection	Agreed. Witness reported seeing a brief flash in the sky but saw no aircraft. It is apparent that some sort of reflection occurred. Whatever caused the reflection cannot be determined.
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### March 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1-2	Knoxville, TN	1-2 Ground Returns 3. Aircraft	Agreed
3	Selfridge AFB, MI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Grass Plains, TX	Aircraft	Birds
5	Vaughn, NM	Venus	Agreed
6	Ft. Bliss, TX	Venus	Agreed
8	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	1. Solar Image 2. Venus 3. Ice Cloud returns	1. Probably Venus 2. Agreed 3. Agreed
9	Orangeburg, SC	Meteor	Contrail
9	Selfridge AFB, MI	Balloon	Possibly Sirius. Radar contacts appear to have been AP.
10	Bethel, CT	Psychological	Unreliable report made in 1957. Possibly psychological based on reports contents.
11	Biggs AFB, TX	Venus	Agreed
11	Chile	Venus	Agreed
11	Holloman AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. No photographs/films in file
13	St. Johns, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Duration missing. Only described as flying at "a very high rate of speed".
14	Piggett, AR	Balloon	Agreed
14	Pacific Beach, WA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
15	Guatemala	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report made two years later in 1952.
15	New Jersey	Contrails	Agreed
17	Roslyn, Long Island, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Little Rock, AR	Aircraft	Possible birds
18	Bradford, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
20	New York, NY	Moon	Agreed
20	Stuttgart, AR	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. See SUNlite 10-2.
22	Montpelier, VT	Reflection	Agreed. Possible reflections off of B-29 sighted by ground witness.
23	85 mi NW Jacksonville, FL	Meteor	Agreed
24	Sandia Army Base, NM	Balloon	Agreed
24-25	Chile	Insufficient data	Agreed. Short description of sighting of UFO seen by public and reported in press.
26	Adamant, VT	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Brunswick, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Motubu, Okinawa	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Chattanooga, TN	Balloon	Agreed
28	Santiago, Chile	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Hibbing, MN	Meteor	Agreed

29	Marrowbore Lake, TN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Maxwell AFB, AL	Insufficient data	Possible birds. BB thought it might be birds but ruled them out because witness said there appeared to be 10-12 red lights attached. It is possible that the witness felt they had seen the lights but they may have been reflections of ground lighting
30	Sioux City, IA	Balloon	Agreed
30	Sioux City, IA	Debris in air	Possible bird
30	Pittsburgh, PA	Balloon	Agreed
30	Selma, AL	Aircraft	Possible birds

### April 1950

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
APR	Chandler, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
3	Summerville, SC	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Delano, CA	Star/Planet	Agreed. Possibly Mars, Spica, or Antares. Insufficient information to identify which.
4	Herford/Woodland, NC	Contrail	Agreed
7	Boston, MA	Inversion Effects	Agreed. Ground lights reflecting off of cloud layer
8	Shelby, NC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Newspaper clipping.
8	Kokomo, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Fort Worth, TX	Crimp in Negative	Agreed
10	Robbins AFB, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
10	New Orleans, LA	Meteor	Agreed
12	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Ft. Monmouth, NJ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Clarendon/Memphis, TX	Venus	Agreed
19	Lafayette, IN	Psychological	Agreed. Witness proclaiming that they have solution to flying saucer mystery.
24	SC	Meteor	Agreed
27	Holloman AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. No data for sighting.
27-28	Japan	Contrails	Agreed

### May 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
4	Birmingham, AL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Information is from a newspaper clipping. No positional data or time was given.
7	East Ely, NV	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Ladd AFB, AK	Balloon	Agreed
16	Chicago, IL	Meteor	Agreed
17	Kenosha, WI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Letter from 13-year old. Details seem to indicate a light that went from north to south and turned south-east.
19	Honshu, Japan	Dropsonde	Agreed
21	New Kensington, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Holloman AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Object appears to have been propelled by the wind but there is insufficient information to determine what was observed. See SUNlite 13-3

### June 1950

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
Summer	London, Ontario		No case file
16	Tuscon, AZ	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Hamilton AFB, CA	Insufficient data	Meteors. See SUNlite 12-3
21	Misawa, Japan	Reflection	Agreed. Possible balloon was source of reflection.
23	Tuscaloosa, AL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report to newspaper editor of seeing "flaming red cross" by 20-30 people, which was visible for 30 minutes. No other information gathered.
23	Gulf of Mexico	Meteor	Agreed. One observer stated it was 15-30 minutes but this was the resultant ion/debris trail, which was reported as lasting that long in newspaper accounts.
27	Texarkana, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Savannah, GA	Capella	Venus
29	Dowagiac, MI	Drone or Missile	Insufficient data. Farmer saw object come off of C-54 and it appeared to shoot away at great speed. ATIC did not investigate and it is unlikely a C-54 would be launching missiles. It could have been something that came off of aircraft and dropped to the ground.
29	Kingman, KS	Insufficient data	Agreed. Duration and positional data missing.

### July 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jul	Pullman, WA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report of a retrieved small saucer but object was never seen by military personnel.
1	Chicago, IL	Meteor	Agreed
2	Raleigh, NC	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness reported formation of objects at night. The report is from a newspaper clipping story that was not very informative.
5	Hill AFB, UT	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Topeka, KS	Balloon	Agreed
7	Weisbaden, Germany	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Radar contact only. Could have been AP or other aircraft. No visual observations.
8	Perk Strait, AK	Balloon	Agreed
10	Ft. McPherson, GA	Balloon	Agreed
11	Jacksonville, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Saudi Arabia	Meteor	Agreed
13	Ft. Peck, MT	Balloons	Agreed
13	Redstone Arsenal, GA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
13	Jacksonville, FL	Venus	Insufficient data. Record card says Venus was verified but no data in file to verify.
14	Vandalia, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Los Alamos, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Detroit, MI	Aircraft	Agreed. 12 and 14-year olds.
22	Ladd AFB, AK	Balloon	Agreed
22	Spartanburg, SC	Star/Planet	Agreed. Insufficient data to determine which star/planet.
27	Weisbaden, Germany	Insufficient data	Possible sun dog
30	St. John's Newfoundland	Meteor	Agreed

31	St. John's New Newfoundland	Meteor	Agreed
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### August 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Belle Vernon, PA	Balloon	Agreed. Witness sent letter to ATIC describing what he found. Description sounds like an ML-307 reflector.
3	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	No case file
4	North Atlantic	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Pine Bluff, AR	Aircraft	No case file
6	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Source was a newspaper clipping with very little information.
7	Santa Fe, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Pacific Ocean	Meteor	Agreed
11	Japan	Meteor	No case file
12	Bogallusa, La	Meteor	Agreed
12	Flat Rock, Newfoundland	Meteor	Agreed
14	Cromer, England	Contrails	No case file
15	Great Falls, MT	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Nicosia, Cyprus	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
20	Astoria, WA	Meteor	Agreed
21	Stuttgart, Germany	Balloon	No case file
23	Philadelphia, PA	Meteor	No case file
24	Bermuda	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
27	Brockton, MA	Balloon	Agreed
30	Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland	Weather returns	Agreed. Radar returns but no visual sighting.
30	Sandy Point, Newfoundland	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30-31	Holloman AFB, NM	Insufficient data	No case file

### September 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Sep	Guam	Psychological	Agreed. Also can be considered an unreliable report. Made in 1958.
1	Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland	Insufficient data	Agreed
1	Nunivak Island, AK	Setting sun	Agreed.
3	Spokane, WA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
3	Spokane, WA	Meteor	Agreed
8	Spokane, WA	Meteor	Agreed
11	Adak, AK	Lens Flare	Agreed
13	Effingham, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Nashville, TN	Contrails	Agreed
17	Tatum, NM	Setting sun	Agreed. Probably sun dog or solar pillar.
17	Roswell, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Oklahoma City, OK	Balloon	Agreed

19	Poplar Bluff, MO	Balloon	Agreed
20	Kit Carson, CO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
20	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
21	Provincetown, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
25	Mt. Palomar, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Birmingham, AL	Star/Planet	Insufficient data. Report based on newspaper clipping. Very little information is available to determine if object was astronomical or not.
29	Sandia Base, NM	Meteor	Agreed

### October 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Northern Rhodesia	Meteor	Agreed.
7	Kauai, HI	Meteor	Agreed
10	New Orleans, LA	Balloon	Agreed
10	New Orleans, LA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time listed. Date is even in question. Listed as 10 or 11 October.
11	Lark River, UT	Meteor	Agreed
12-16	Knoxville, TN	Radar peculiarities	Agreed. Radar contacts but no visual sightings by interceptors.
15	Knoxville, TN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
15	Knoxville, TN	Balloon	Agreed
16	Knoxville, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Knoxville, TN	Balloon	Agreed
13	March AFB, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
15	Pope AFB, NC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
20	New Haven, CT	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Warrenton, NC	Star/Planet	Insufficient data. No positional data. Source was a newspaper report.
23	Bonlee, NC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Genessee Mountain, CO	1. light leak in camera 2. Poor process 3. Foreign matter on negative	Agreed.
31	Cuba	Meteor	Agreed

### November 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	SE Canada, New England States, NY	Meteor	No Case File
3	San Francisco, CA	Balloon	Agreed
5	Oakridge, TN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	Jonesville, LA	Insufficient data	Contrails
7	Lakehurst, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
10	Ruislip, England	Weather returns	Agreed

13	Meridian, MS	Balloon	Agreed
14	Rome, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Newspaper clipping missing pertinent data.
14	Key West, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Okinawa	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Made in August of 1952.
23	Maxwell AFB, AL	Birds	Agreed
27	Bakersfield, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
29-30	Knoxville, TN	False returns	Agreed
30	Alaska	Meteor	Agreed

### December 1950

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Charleston, SC	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Came from newspaper report. Possible star/planet.
2	Nenyika, Kenya, Africa	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	Oakridge, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Westover AFB, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Fort Myers, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	London, England	Ice Fall	Agreed
11	Alaska	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
13	Lake Champlain, VT	Meteor	Agreed
14	Bliss, ID	Unreliable report	Agreed. Investigating officer determined that the witnesses report did not reflect weather conditions at the time.
18	Oakridge, TN	Random Noise	Agreed
21	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
24	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
27	Lakehurst, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Los Alamos, NM	Meteor	Agreed
29	Iran	Meteor	Agreed

### Reclassification

I evaluated 199 cases in the Blue Book files from January 1950 through December 1950. In my opinion, 32 of these were improperly classified (16.1%). 10 (5% of the total number of cases/31.3% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient data". This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
1/2	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Witnesses saw a blue glow in the clouds that lasted about 30 seconds.
1/12	Holloman AFB, NM	Venus	Vega
1/14	Dalton, GA	Aircraft	Meteor
2/20	Tularosa, NM	Altair	Venus
2/24	Datil, NM	Comet	Insufficient information. There was no comet visible. Photographs show streaks and are difficult to examine. They do not look like a comet and appear to show erratic movement like the photograph was taken with a hand-held time exposure over several seconds. Details about photographs are missing (exposure time, film speed, f-stop). Accurate positional data is also missing.
3/4	Grass Plains, TX	Aircraft	Birds

3/8	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	1. Solar Image 2. Venus 3. Ice Cloud returns	1. Probably Venus 2. Agreed 3. Agreed
3/9	Orangeburg, SC	Meteor	Contrail
3/9	Selfridge AFB, MI	Balloon	Possibly Sirius. Radar contacts appear to have been AP.
3/10	Bethel, CT	Psychological	Unreliable report made in 1957. Possibly psychological based on reports contents.
3/14	Pacific Beach, WA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
3/15	Guatemala	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report made two years later in 1952.
3/17	Little Rock, AR	Aircraft	Possible birds
3/20	Stuttgart, AR	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. See SUNlite 10-2.
3/29	Maxwell AFB, AL	Insufficient data	Possible birds. BB thought it might be birds but ruled them out because witness said there appeared to be 10-12 red lights attached. It is possible that the witness felt they had seen the lights but they may have been reflections of ground lighting
3/30	Sioux City, IA	Debris in air	Possible bird
3/30	Selma, AL	Aircraft	Possible birds
5/17	Kenosha, WI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Letter from 13-year old. Details seem to indicate a light that went from north to south and turned southeast.
6/21	Hamilton AFB, CA	Insufficient data	Meteors. See SUNlite 12-3
6/28	Savannah, GA	Capella	Venus
6/29	Dowagiac, MI	Drone or Missile	Insufficient data. Farmer saw object come off of C-54 and it appeared to shoot away at great speed. ATIC did not investigate and it is unlikely a C-54 would be launching missiles. It could have been something that came off of aircraft and dropped to the ground.
7/2	Raleigh, NC	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness reported formation of objects at night. The report is from a newspaper clipping story that was not very informative.
7/7	Weisbaden, Germany	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Radar contact only. Could have been AP or other aircraft. No visual observations.
7/13	Jacksonville, FL	Venus	Insufficient data. Record card says Venus was verified but no data in file to verify.
7/27	Weisbaden, Germany	Insufficient data	Possible sun dog
9/26	Birmingham, AL	Star/Planet	Insufficient data. Report based on newspaper clipping. Very little information is available to determine if object was astronomical or not.
10/13	March AFB, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10/21	Warrenton, NC	Star/Planet	Insufficient data. No positional data. Source was a newspaper report.
11/5	Jonesville, LA	Insufficient data	Contrails
11/23	Okinawa	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Made in August of 1952.
12/1	Charleston, SC	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Came from newspaper report. Possible star/planet.

### Summary

The reports from 1950 proved to be interesting but the amount of investigations seem to have dropped off. The reports in 1949 appeared to contain a lot of information but those in 1950 were lacking in details. Some of the cases are nothing more than newspaper clippings or letters written to the project. At this point, the USAF appears to have given up and were merely collecting



reports.

The most interesting case to me was the Datil, New Mexico case of February 24. It included some photographs and Blue Book labeled it as a comet in 1965. It is not clear what it was labeled as in 1950 but it probably was unidentified. The staff in 1965 drew their conclusion by comparing one of the photographs with an actual picture of a comet. Unfortunately, there was no comet of significant magnitude visible at the time. Only one photograph showed this "effect". The others appeared to show a bright point source that displayed movement due to a hand held photograph with a exposure time of a second or two. The witness failed to provide any details about the sighting that could help identify what they photographed. We did get an elevation angle and course but azimuth/direction were missing. Was it in the South, North, East, or West? Additionally, while the camera was listed (an A5 sineflex with 8-inch lens? It is not clear in the case file), there was no indication of the film used, f-stop setting, and exposure times. To me, the photographs, while not very clear, looked like a point source, or object with small angular size, that was very high in the sky. The "comet" image may also have been a hand held exposure that streaked because of camera motion. That produces the possibility the witness was looking at an astronomical object. The moon was visible that evening but not for the entire time described. Capella seems to be the brightest object that could have been seen. Since there really was not much of an investigation to obtain the details, I labeled this as insufficient information.

I was surprised to see the McMinnville case being listed as "info". It did have a case number but there was little in the way of information regarding the event. The March 17 Farmington, New Mexico case was completely missing in the case files and there was no mention of it in the summary. In both instances, it seems that Grudge was not really interested in going out of their way to investigate any of these reports. This lack of interest seems to be reflected by the large number of UNIDENTIFIEDs (over 10%) during this time period and the number of cases that appeared to have little, or no, investigation.

Next issue, I will look at the year 1951.

#### References

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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.)
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6. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968.