

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

Three people can keep a secret, if two of them are dead.

Benjamin Franklin

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Will “Disclosure” is ever happen?

Cover: An incredible Auroral display happened on May 10, 2024. It was visible as far south as the Caribbean. I took this image of the sky from my home in Manchester, NH.

Left: We had quite a few lenticular cloud type formations in May here in NH. There are two in this photograph but several others were visible in other areas of the sky at the time of the photograph.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Weeding out the Weinstein catalog: August 12, 1951 South of Birmingham, Alabama.....	2-3
UFO evidence under review: July 9, 1957 Hamilton, Ontario ...	4-5
The 701 club: Case 1783: August 2, 1952 Lake Charles, Louisiana	5
Project Blue Book case review: 1951.....	6-12

Kevin Randle is [lamenting that disclosure is “slipping away”](#). I find that amusing. UFOlogists, who often claim they are the most informed on the subject, seem ignorant of UFO history. How often have we heard that UFO disclosure is “just around the corner”? UFOlogy has been saying this since the 1950s and it has not happened yet. Nobody has ever unearthed any hard evidence that any entity in the US government is hiding the “truth about UFOs” (that being they are craft built and operated by non-human entities). Multiple presidents, with varying agendas, have been in the White House. All claimed that they were going to be open about the subject. Donald Trump, who loves attention and publicity more than any other president, would have not hesitated to announce this kind of headline if he were exposed to this “truth”. Congressional leaders have also promised to expose anything they have discovered. I can think of over a dozen individuals, who would find it advantageous for their political position to reveal something newsworthy about UFOs, even if it were classified. There also has to be hundreds, if not thousands (maybe tens of thousands?), of individuals involved in the cover-up. The lure of publicity and financial gain is too much for most to resist. Yet, not one credible individual has ever even hinted as being part of the conspiracy. All we get are wild stories repeated by various individuals over the years. Most have been shown to be lying, repeating rumors they heard, or are just not believable. This is why I consider the quote on the cover of this issue by Benjamin Franklin as appropriate. Such a secret could never be kept for as long as it supposedly has been kept.

Despite all of the potential to reveal it, nobody has been able to demonstrate that the US Government or some super secret organization, that knows and hides the truth about the subject, even exists. Other countries, who are independent of the United States, have yet to expose the “truth” about UFOs. After all, the ability to study UFOs does not solely exist in the United States. Finally, the non-human entities themselves, are complicit in the cover-up. They choose not to make the grand gesture of appearing in a manner that all can see. It seems this cover-up exists only in the minds of UFO proponents, who fool themselves into believing their own twisted reasoning. I predict that no such “disclosure” will ever happen and UFOlogists, past, present, and future, will continue wailing that “disclosure is just around the corner” every year. The Klass curse will remain in place.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee passed away. I recall exchanging a few e-mails at one point but that was the limit of my interactions with him. I did not know him personally. I am sure his friends will remember him fondly. Skeptics will remember him for his support of Ed Walters and his UFO photographs, among many things. I refer readers to [Robert Sheaffer’s](#) and [Kevin Randle’s](#) commentary on Dr. Maccabee.

[David Clarke wrote a very interesting article about the Calvine photographs](#). It seems that the photographers can’t be located. I have been of the opinion the photograph was a hoax of some kind when I first saw it. However, Dr. Clarke’s article has me questioning that opinion. Maybe it was some form of secret aircraft but I would like to see some sort of evidence that supports that theory. Perhaps a photograph of the actual craft. If it were man-made, it would not have been the first time such a craft had flown and there must be a document/photograph of it somewhere. I also wonder if the pilot of the aircraft photographed with it has ever come forward. With a limited number of pilots flying this type of jet during this time period, perhaps this individual could be located. Until the primary parties involved in this sighting are located, it seems that this photograph will remain an interesting curiosity.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

August 12, 1951 - South of Birmingham, Alabama¹

51.08.12	00:33LT	USA	South of Birmingham, Alabama	A	pilot + co-pilot a Delta Airlines cargo flight pilot	the plane's shadow two streaks of light at high altitude, descending and traveling at high speed.	NR			13.8
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The source of this information comes from the Blue Book files.

The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file contains multiple observations by ground observers. The pilot's sighting is only briefly mentioned. This is the pertinent entry:

Birmingham control tower was alerted by base operations at the time of the sighting. Birmingham control tower made contact with inbound Delta Flight 126X (Cargo flight) who reported seeing a bright streak of light 35 miles southwest of Birmingham. Upon departure from Birmingham to Meridian, Mississippi, Flight 126X from 5 minutes south of Fairfield (Illegible) what appeared to be twin streaks of light at a very high altitude descending at a 45 degree angle and traveling at a very high rate of speed from east to west. The time was 0033 Central Standard Time 12 August 1951. Captain XXXX, Delta Airlines, Municipal Airport, Atlanta Georgia was in command of the flight.

The rest of the file mentions multiple observations by individuals in the region stating they had seen objects that would fade in and out and move, for the most part, in a NE to SW or North to South.

Analysis

Blue Book determined these observations were from the Perseid meteor shower. Most of the observations appear to be of Perseid meteors. The observations of the Delta flight was also probably of Perseid meteors. The maximum of the Perseid meteor shower is usually on the night of the 11th to 12th. The direction of the radiant was from the Northeast most of the night. While the direction listed was East to West, I don't consider that too much of a difference.

The Perseid meteor shower is often considered the best meteor shower of the year. Rates are often around 50 an hour or greater on the night of maximum. The shower often has bright meteors and fireballs. Seeing two or more meteors a few seconds apart on the night of maximum is not unusual.

Conclusion

I would classify this as a probable Perseid meteor observations. The objects were briefly seen and they appeared to travel in straight lines. These are the characteristics of meteors. To add to the confirmation, the direction of travel was like a Perseid and they were seen on the night of maximum activity. There is no reason to classify these as anything but meteors. 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. 15
2. "Case file -Birmingham, Alabama August 11, 1951 ". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/7008213/birmingham-ala-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>

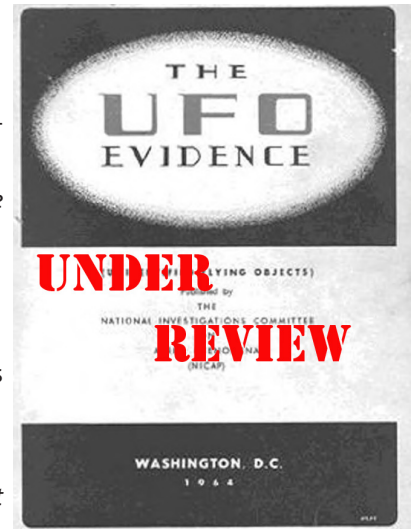
July 9, 1957 - Hamilton, Ontario Canada

July 9, 1957--Hamilton, Ont., Canada. Attorney saw speeding, white elliptical UFO. [X]

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

July 9, 1957: An attorney in Hamilton, Ontario, with another witness watched a glowing white elliptical object speed overhead from SW to NE, about 9:05 p.m. [3]²

The footnote indicates it is from the NICAP files. There is no additional information.



Sources

Blue Book had no case for this date. It is not even in the “for info” section. I did find a news article in Loren Gross’ UFO history.

Round, white, zooming object.

A Canadian barrister, Milan Drennan, was playing golf with a friend, John Posset, an accountant for the Firestone Company. Mr. Drennan states:

“The sun was setting and the relevant time was about 9:05 p.m. There was a strong wind blowing in gusts from the west, northwest and on occasions we would delay teeing off until the wind subsided. I glanced up into the sky and the thought formed in my mind: ‘John the stars are starting to come out already.’ Before I could express the thought I realized that what I took to be an evening star was moving and said to my friend: ‘John what’s that a plane?’ ‘Where?’ he replied. ‘Up there,’ I said. ‘I can’t see a thing--- yes now I see it.’

We watched a round white object traveling at a very rapid speed. I never saw anything move so fast and still be distinguishable. The object was quite high and again I am unable to give an intelligent estimation of the height. I have seen jet planes high in the sky leaving a vapor trail. These jets were probably traveling at 500 m.p.h. more or less but they would appear to be laboring through the air compared to the speed and apparent ease that this object was traveling.

“If straight over my head was 12 o’clock, then I saw the object at 11 o’clock coming from the south-west and going in a northeasterly direction. We lost sight of the object at about two o’clock in the northeastern sky still high over the city of Hamilton. If it were a balloon it was a mighty fast balloon. It made no noise. It was round, white and did nothing unusual except travel high and very fast.” (80.)

While there is a footnote, Gross failed to provide a list of footnotes in this volume. I suspect this is from a local newspaper.

Analysis

This is all the information we have on this case. It is not a lot for analysis. We are missing key points of data. How long was the object visible? The description indicates something on the order of 1-5 minutes. The course was SW to NE. It is interesting that the witness stated their were strong wind gusts from the west or northwest. I don’t have wind data for Hamilton, Ontario but is not far from Niagara Falls. The data for 0000 and 0600 UTC/Z on the 10th were:

Time (Z/UTC)	Altitude (m)	Direction (az)	Speed (kts)	Time (Z/UTC)	Altitude (m)	Direction (az)	Speed (kts)
0000	182	310	19	0600	182	320	12
	540	303	21		550	305	27
	1003	297	29		1011	326	29
	1481	286	31		1483	324	27
	1981	283	35		1977	310	27

This confirms the direction of the wind and speeds were high as described by the witness.

The prime candidate for this sighting is a balloon. The shape was correct. The wind direction is a small problem but the witness’ description of the path can be open to interpretation. He states that if he were looking overhead, he would be looking at 12 O’clock. He then states his initial observation was at 11 O’clock. One assumes the witness meant a SW direction with about a 60 degree elevation angle. He then states the object ended at 2 O’clock in the NE. I interpret this to mean the direction was roughly 30 degrees elevation.

At a height of 1km, the speed was about 30 knots or roughly 900 meters/min. That is about 40 degrees of arc in 1 minute. If one assumes that the angular arc of travel was about 90 degrees, then the duration of the sighting was about 2-3 minutes. If the balloon was at a lower altitude, the angular rate would have been higher (500 m = 20 knots or 600 m/min= 50 degree/min).

While the wind direction being off 30-80 degrees in azimuth is problematic to a small extent, I don’t consider it that a reason to reject this potential explanation. First of all, a radiosonde is a snapshot of one moment in time. The direction is a general direction of the

wind direction. It is possible for the wind to shift a few degrees between each minute. Second, the witness direction of travel is his estimate. It is possible he was off in direction. Finally, the radiosonde data is from a location 40 miles away. It is possible that the wind direction their might have been a bit different than the wind direction at the witness' location.

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. While the wind data is incomplete, there is enough information to indicate that the object seen was possibly a balloon. The direction was straight and there were no changes in direction indicating exotic behavior. It should be classified as possible balloon and removed from the "UFO evidence" category.

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. 136
2. *ibid.* P. 118
3. Gross, Loren. UFOS: A history 1957 May 24th - July 31st. Freemont, California. 1996. P. 55-7.
4. Mark Govett. NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/ Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL)/ Global Systems Division (GSD) Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 1783 AUGUST 2, 1952 LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

*Aug. 2, 1952; Lake Charles, Louisiana. 3 a.m. Witnesses: USAF 1st Lt. W.A. Theil, one enlisted man. One red ball with a blue flame tail flew straight and level for 3-4 seconds.*¹

Sparks' entry is a repeat of Berliner's entry.²

The Blue Book file³

The Lake Charles file for August 1952 is full of meteor reports. This case consists of a record card and a message reporting the sighting. There is not much more than that. The message does not contain a lot of information other than what Berliner describes.

- Object described as a red spherical object with a blue flame trailing
- Propulsion resembled a jet or rocket.
- The speed was listed as "very fast"
- Course was straight and level
- Time of observation was 0300 CST on 2 August.
- Duration was 3-4 seconds.
- Object went from south to north.
- There was an aircraft in the vicinity making an approach around the time of the sighting.

Analysis

In my opinion, this case should have been solved the instant they received the report. This is nothing to suggest this was not a meteor. The object flew straight and lasted a matter of seconds. It was visible at night. These are all characteristics of a meteor observation. The "blue flame" was probably the ion train that was left behind by the meteor's passage.

Conclusion

This event can be classified as probably a meteor. The case does not deserve to be on the list of Blue Book unknowns.

Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook Unknowns". NICAP Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List -NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.30. Jan. 26, 2020. P. 165
3. "Case file - Lake Charles, LA. August 2, 1952". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6994754/lake-charles-la-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>

Project Blue Book case review: 1951

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the year 1951. 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 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1951	Oberlin, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed. Reported in 1964.
1	Stockton, CA	Hot air balloon	Agreed. Debris from balloon
7	Honolulu, HI	Meteor	Agreed
8	S. Of Fort Worth, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11-12	Corbin, KY	Meteor	Agreed
12	Elbe, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Stewart AFB, NY	Balloon	Agreed
12	Ft. Benning, GA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	Salinas to King City, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration and positional data.
14	Big Bear Lake, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration and positional data.
16	Artesia, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Only a record card exists and one statement about interrogating a third individual.
16	Oak Ridge, TN	Insufficient data	Possible moon sighting. Nearly full moon in direction of sighting. Seen under partly cloudy conditions.
16	West TX	Balloon	Agreed. Blue Book mentions a project Gopher balloon launched on this date from Holloman AFB.
16	Japan	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report of seeing object with no other details.
18	Lihue, Kauai, HI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
20	Sioux City, IA	Aircraft	UNIDENTIFIED. Witness drew object as aircraft shape but it seems unlikely an aircraft was involved.
21	Oak Ridge, TN	Ground Target	Agreed. Aircraft tracked target on radar but no visual sighting.
22	50 mi. SE of Holloman AFB, NM	Gas from balloon	Agreed. Some sort of Balloon anomaly/failure. Object observed next to balloon. Increased in size and then gave off sparks. It then disappeared. Balloon descended shortly after.
23-6	Unalakleet, AK	Insufficient data	Venus setting
24	Westover AFB, MA	Electronic effects from beacon in AC	Agreed
25	Warner Robins AFB, GA	Balloon	Contrail
26	Far East	Weather	Insufficient data. Probably a temperature inversion but no data available to demonstrate that this was the case.
27	Ruku Islands (Okinawa)	Contrails	Agreed
30	Albany, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor

February 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Johnson AB, Japan	1. UNIDENTIFIED 2. Balloon	Agreed
2	Condamine, Australia	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Marietta, GA	Sirius	Agreed

2	Cape Wales, AK	Light from ship	1. Possibly Jupiter for first sighting. 2. Possible ship for second sighting.
3	Galena, IL	Meteor	Agreed
6	Lucerne Valley, CA	Tow targets	Agreed
10	Atlantic	Aurora	Moon setting. See Klass UFOs: Explained.
18	Holloman AFB, NM	Star/Planet	Possible moon setting. Personnel in moving car going towards NNW. Moon set in NW. Only record card available.
19	Tanganyika, East Africa	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data missing.
21-2	Sakhalin, Japan	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
26	Durban, South Africa	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Ladd AFB, AK	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26-8	Sakhalin, Japan	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Indianapolis, IN	Hoax	Agreed

March 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
6	Albuquerque, NM	Meteor	Agreed
8	Far East	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Chinampo, Korea	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible Meteor/Flash bomb (See SUNlite 15-2)
11	Biggs AFB, TX	Venus	Possible balloon
11-14	Tatielek, AK	Flares	Venus
12	Albuquerque, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report only gave a few lines. Missing pertinent data.
13	Cartwright, Labrador	Aircraft	Agreed
13	McClellan AFB, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	Holloman AFB, NM	Balloon	Possible birds
15	New Delhi, India	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
19	St. Lawrence Island, AK	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Holloman AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing pertinent data
25	Presque Isle, ME	Venus	Agreed

April 1951

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
1	Los Alamos, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Just a statement that a Los Alamos Employee saw an object. No details.
1	Gambill, St. Lawrence, AK	Gun fire	Agreed. Sounds of explosions heard in direction of USSR.
1	Coopersville, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter months after event, which had no date (just listed as last April).
12	Tacoma, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Gerald, MO	Aircraft contrails	Agreed
25	Chicago, IL	Aircraft	Agreed

May 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
4	Sheppard AFB, TX	Birds	Agreed

22	South Falls, MT	Balloon	Agreed
24	Chicago, IL	Aircraft w/contrails	Agreed
29	Dwoney, Ca	Possible birds	Agreed. Report came from <u>World of Flying Saucers</u> by Menzel.
29	Spokane, WA	Balloon	Agreed
31	Niagara Falls, NY	UNIDENTIFIED	Moon (see SUNlite 16-3)

June 1951

Date	Location	BB Explanation	My evaluation
7	Los Alamos, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported seeing a cylinder fall into a canyon. Search revealed nothing.
8	Los Alamos, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported seeing dot change from red to green. Visible three seconds. No other information.
June	Surrey, England	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. No date, time, or positional data. Submitted in 1964.
9	Mikkell, Finland	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Thule, Greenland	Weather	Agreed. Crew observed two contrails but felt they might have been high altitude clouds.
Summer	Gonzales, TX	Balloon	Insufficient data. Witness recounted sighting one year later and gave no date other than April 1951.

July 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Seoul, Korea	Meteor	Agreed
4	Newport News, VA	Arcturus	Agreed
9	Corona, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. The only information in the file is a statement in the Project Twinkle final report that a red glowing ball was reported by a Sergeant at a radar station. (NOTE: Brad Sparks has additional information that object was low in W. and the time was 10:30 PM. Sparks also notes that the moon was setting in the west at the time making this the likely source of the sighting - Blue Book Unknowns Catalog V. 1.3 - Sparks P. 107)
9	Madagascar(Tarrytown, NY)	Hoax	Agreed. Witness stated there was a flying saucer manufacturing plant in Madagascar.
14	Rensselaer, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Fairborn, OH	Balloon	Agreed
19	Lima, Peru	Hoax	Agreed. Peruvian AF determined to be a hoax.
24	Portsmouth, NH	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible Meteor (See SUNlite 12-4)
24	Kelly AFB, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Selfridge AFB, MI	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed

August 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Aug	Navosta, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made in April 1952. No specific date.
5	Herkimer, NY	Meteor	Agreed. Report made in 1953 but witness stated it was a fireball and had all the characteristics of a meteor.
8	Cleveland, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Birmingham, AL	Meteor	Agreed. Observation of Perseid meteors. (See Page 2)

12	Corona, NM	Meteor	Agreed
12	Indianapolis, IN	Balloon	Agreed
14	Rhein Main AB, Germany	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration given.
19	Alexandria, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Spokane, WA	Balloon	Agreed
25	Lubbock, TX	Birds	V: Agreed. Some witnesses identified objects as birds. Professors were doubtful but Hynek interviewed one of the professors in 1959 and he stated they determined them to be birds after all. P: Photographs are not of birds but of something else. The photographs can be classified as UNIDENTIFIED.
25	Albuquerque, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Ellington AFB, TX	Balloon	Agreed
26	Ellington AFB, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data (possibly Jupiter).
26	Larson AFB, WA	Electronic Interference	Agreed
26	San Antonio, TX	Meteor	Agreed
27	Vandalia, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Newspaper clipping missing pertinent details.
29	Grenier AFB, NH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or positional data.
31	Matador, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED

September 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
3-8	Spokane, WA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Multiple reports by one or more observers. Some appear to be meteors. Others could be aircraft. The reports are too incomplete to analyze.
6	Claremont, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
6	Hollywood, CA	Psychological	Agreed. Witness wrote a lengthy description full of claims including the description of a planet beyond Pluto.
10	Andrews AFB, Washington DC	Meteor	Agreed
10	Sandy Hook, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
10-11	Fort Monmouth, NJ	1. Balloon 2. Anomalous Propagation	1. Agreed 2. Agreed
12	Cincinnati, OH	Meteor	Agreed
13	Goose AFB, Labrador	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
16	Marion, OH	Aircraft	Agreed (Information indicates aircraft but it could have been a large bird. Witness saw it for a few seconds and it nearly collided with his Cessna)
17	Tatum, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time given. Seen three times. Each time was 10-15 seconds.
17-19	Baffin Island	Aircraft	Agreed
18	MI-WI	Ducting	Agreed. Temperature inversion in northern Illinois, where P-31 was located. No radiosonde data for Michigan/Wisconsin.
20	Pori, Finland	Meteor	Agreed
23	March AFB, CA	Balloon	Agreed. Possible research balloon from Holloman AFB. See SUNlite 9-5.

30	Orange, VA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Letter from Teenage boys. No positional data or duration given.
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October 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Gonzales, TX	Tumbleweed	Agreed
1	Ellington AFB, TX	Venus	Agreed
2	Columbus, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
2	White Sands, NM	Meteor	Agreed
2	White Sands, NM	Meteor	Agreed
2	White Sands, NM	Meteor	Agreed
3	Kadena, Okinawa	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Terra Haute, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Paris, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration given. Possible research balloon.
10	St Croix Falls, WI	Aircraft	UNIDENTIFIED.
11	Neubiburg, Germany	Balloon	Agreed
11	Minneapolis, MN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	Lowell, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Letter from young individual with no specific details.
16	Whidbey Island, WA	Venus	Agreed
16	Anchorage, AK	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Yellow Sea	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Lenoir City, TN	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specific information about sighting available.
21	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Possible meteor. Witness observed bright yellow flash near horizon.
21	Battle Creek, MI	Balloon	Agreed
22	North Truro, MA	Insufficient data	Anomalous propagation. Radar contact with no visual. There was a temperature inversion over Nantucket Island at the time between 5000-6000 feet. There was also a temperature inversion in Portland, Maine at a similar height. BB felt there was no temperature inversion because Otis AFB did not show one but the data only had three data points (5000,10000, and 18000).
22	North Truro, MA	Insufficient data	Anomalous propagation. Radar contact with no visual. There was a temperature inversion over Nantucket Island at the time between 5000-6000 feet. There was also a temperature inversion in Portland, Maine at a similar height. BB felt there was no temperature inversion because Otis AFB did not show one but the data only had three data points (5000,10000, and 18000).
28	Buena Vista, CO	Meteor	Agreed
30	Four Corners, CO	Meteor	Agreed
31	Point Barrow, AK	Searchlight	Agreed. It is also possible that this might have been auroral activity.

November 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Nov	Montreal Canada	Meteor	Agreed
Nov	Los Angeles, CA	Psychological	Unreliable report. Submitted in 1961.
2	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
2	Rolla, KS	Meteor	Agreed

2	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed.
2	Mojave, CA	Psychological	Unreliable report. Submitted in August 1952.
7	OK	Meteor	Agreed
11	South Wales, NY	Contrails	Agreed
18	Andrews AFB, WA	UNIDENTIFIED	Possibly Venus/Saturn/Meteor - Insufficient data (see SUNlite 6-5)
23	Riverside, CA	Hoax	Agreed
24	Mankato, MN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Southern MI	Meteor	Agreed
25	Bimini, Key West, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration.
26	Milwaukee, WI	Meteor	Agreed
26	Greenland	Insufficient data	Meteor
28	Riverside, CA	Conflicting data	Possibly Venus. Report made in newspaper in May 1952. Witness stated they compared object to Vega. Vega had not risen at the time listed. Witness chased UFO by driving eastward. Venus low in the sky in the East at time of sighting.

December 1951

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Winter	New Zealand	Lenticular Cloud	Agreed
Dec	Nebraska City, NE	Psychological	Unreliable report. Report made in July 1952.
7	Oak Ridge, TN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data. Only listed the direction is being in the NW.
7	Sunbury, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	Balloon. See SUNlite 9-6.
10	Buffalo, NY	Meteor	Agreed
12	Hastings, MN	Balloon	Agreed
17	McDonough, GA	Balloon	Agreed (Physical specimen)
19-24	Earnest Harmon AFB, New Foundland	No record card	Conflicting data. Initial report is dated in 1950. Report then determined to be in 1951. Witness reported seeing Full moon, which would have been 1950. It is not clear what was eventually determined.
22	Hamdem, OH	Star/Planet	Agreed. Probably Venus.
22	Columbus, OH	Balloon	Agreed
28	Alexandria, VA	Aircraft	Agreed (helicopter with experimental lighting)
31	Keck, KY	Jupiter	Possibly Capella

Reclassification

I evaluated 164 cases in the Blue Book files from January 1951 through December 1951. In my opinion, 31 of these were improperly classified (18.9%). Nine (5.5% of the total number of cases/29% 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
1/16	Oak Ridge, TN	Insufficient data	Possible moon sighting. Nearly full moon in direction of sighting. Seen under partly cloudy conditions.
1/20	Sioux City, IA	Aircraft	UNIDENTIFIED. Witness drew object as aircraft shape but it seems unlikely an aircraft was involved.

1/23-6	Unalakleet, AK	Insufficient data	Venus setting
1/25	Warner Robins AFB, GA	Balloon	Contrail
1/26	Far East	Weather	Insufficient data. Probably a temperature inversion but no data available to demonstrate that this was the case.
1/30	Albany, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
2/2	Cape Wales, AK	Light from ship	1. Possibly Jupiter for first sighting. 2. Possible ship for second sighting.
2/10	Atlantic	Aurora	Moon setting. See Klass UFOs: Explained.
2/18	Holloman AFB, NM	Star/Planet	Possible moon setting. Personnel in moving car going towards NNW. Moon set in NW. Only record card available.
2/23	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
3/10	Chinampo, Korea	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible Meteor/Flash bomb (See SUNlite 15-2)
3/11	Biggs AFB, TX	Venus	Possible balloon
3/11-14	Tatilek, AK	Flares	Venus
3/14	Holloman AFB, NM	Balloon	Possible birds
5/31	Niagara Falls, NY	UNIDENTIFIED	Moon (see SUNlite 16-3)
June	Surrey, England	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. No date, time, or positional data. Submitted in 1964.
Summer	Gonzales, TX	Balloon	Insufficient data. Witness recounted sighting one year later and gave no date other than April 1951.
7/24	Portsmouth, NH	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible Meteor (See SUNlite 12-4)
8/25	Lubbock, TX	Birds	V: Agreed. Some witnesses identified objects as birds. Professors were doubtful but Hynek interviewed one of the professors in 1959 and he stated they determined them to be birds after all. P: Photographs are not of birds but of something else. The photographs can be classified as UNIDENTIFIED.
10/10	St Croix Falls, WI	Aircraft	UNIDENTIFIED.
10/21	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Possible meteor. Witness observed bright yellow flash near horizon.
10/22	North Truro, MA	Insufficient data	Anomalous propagation. Radar contact with no visual. There was a temperature inversion over Nantucket Island at the time between 5000-6000 feet. There was also a temperature inversion in Portland, Maine at a similar height. BB felt there was no temperature inversion because Otis AFB did not show one but the data only had three data points (5000,10000, and 18000).
10/22	North Truro, MA	Insufficient data	Anomalous propagation. Radar contact with no visual. There was a temperature inversion over Nantucket Island at the time between 5000-6000 feet. There was also a temperature inversion in Portland, Maine at a similar height. BB felt there was no temperature inversion because Otis AFB did not show one but the data only had three data points (5000,10000, and 18000).
Nov	Los Angeles, CA	Psychological	Unreliable report. Submitted in 1961.
11/2	Mojave, CA	Psychological	Unreliable report. Submitted in August 1952.
11/18	Andrews AFB, WA	UNIDENTIFIED	Possibly Venus/Saturn/Meteor - Insufficient data (see SUNlite 6-5)
11/26	Greenland	Insufficient data	Meteor

11/28	Riverside, CA	Conflicting data	Possibly Venus. Report made in newspaper in May 1952. Witness stated they compared object to Vega. Vega had not risen at the time listed. Witness chased UFO by driving eastward. Venus low in the sky in the East at time of sighting.
Dec	Nebraska City, NE	Psychological	Unreliable report. Report made in July 1952.
12/7	Sunbury, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	Balloon. See SUNlite 9-6.
12/31	Keck, KY	Jupiter	Possibly Capella

Summary

The reports from 1951 were very interesting. There were a lot of unidentifieds. Some of these I have since identified in the 701 club articles. However, there were other cases, that were identified that I shifted to unidentified. Both (January 20 Sioux City and October 10 St. Croix Falls) were listed as aircraft. I found the events could not be explained as aircraft or anything else I could propose. It is odd in the Sioux City case, that the witnesses did describe an object that sounded like a large aircraft. Despite this observation, I am not sure what kind of aircraft would have been involved in such an event.

The year 1951 also included the Lubbock Lights case. Looking at the file, I am of the opinion that the bird explanation had merit. Originally, the professors, who conducted their investigation of the lights, felt they were not birds but it was noted in the file that they began to reconsider this solution after examining all the evidence. Apparently, they must have determined that birds was the most likely explanation because, in 1959, Hynek interviewed one of the professors and he stated they determined them to be birds. There were also witness reports of them being birds because they saw the wings flapping. I did leave the photographs as unidentified because they did not seem to match what the witnesses were reporting. Most of them stated the lights were not that bright but the camera exposures seemed to show very bright lights.

The rest of the cases consisted mostly of the standard misidentifications. There was a radar case in October for North Truro, Massachusetts that was listed as insufficient information I found interesting. Grudge did ask for weather data but could find no indication of a temperature inversion. The problem with that was the file only gave three data points to see if a temperature inversion existed. I checked the RAOBS website and found radiosonde data for nearby Nantucket island and they definitely recorded a temperature inversion, which might explain the radar returns. The only other nearby station data I could locate was Portland, Maine. It also recorded a temperature inversion near the same altitude. This confirms that a temperature inversion probably did exist over the region.

Herb Taylor sent me an e-mail disagreeing with my conclusion in SUNlite 16-3 for April 18, 1950 Clarendon, Texas. He informed me that the observations indicated something closer to earth than Venus. After re-reading the file, I agreed. It probably was a research balloon but exactly where the balloon came from is a mystery. As I like to point out, the stratospheric database is limited and does not contain all balloon launches in the United States. The description by the intercepting pilot does seem like he was describing a balloon. Therefore, I am changing the classification of this case from Grudge's conclusion (Venus) to possible balloon.

Next issue, I begin my review of the year 1952. 1952, as most of the readers know, was a year full of UFO reports. It is going to take at least 4 issues to review all the cases.

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.)
3. Mark Govett. NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/ Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL)/ Global Systems Division (GSD) Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>
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