

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



Our data demonstrates beyond question not only that weird and erroneous concepts are widely formed, but also that these erroneous concepts are often precisely those that show up in the UFO phenomenon. Perhaps as a result of their popularization in the UFO literature, the phenomenon feeds on itself to a certain extent.

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Processes of Perception, Conception, and Reporting - from the Condon Report

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Cleaning up loose ends

Cover: I photographed the Polaris-Dawn launch from my home in Manchester, NH . The trajectory went up the east coast and the "twilight effect" (the launch being during nautical twilight) allowed the plume of the second stage to be seen from NH.

Left: In today's Internet society (as well as the political climate in the US with some individuals making wild claims without evidence), I feel this cartoon is appropriate. It applies to claims about UFOs and explanations for UFO sightings. Not only are those claiming a sighting was due to an alien spaceship required to provide the onion but the skeptic's explanation should have some sort of evidence/data to support them.

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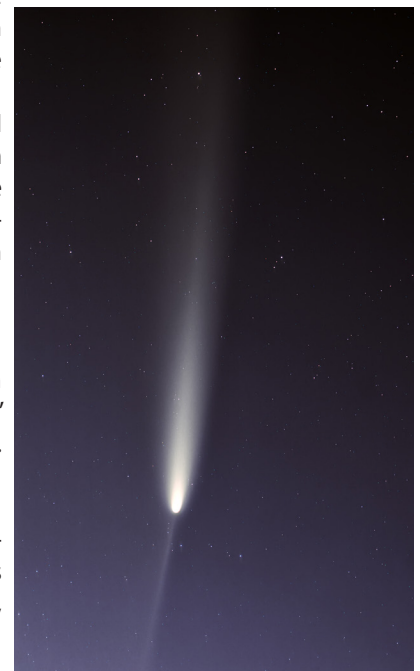
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Last month, I mentioned that I was probably going to shut down my regular newsletter sometime in 2025. Before that happens, I want to clean up some issues I had left hanging over the years. Back in SUNlite 11-5, I had mentioned in my Blue Book case review that I had moved the Levelland sighting to Unidentified and would perform a review of this case. I did not forget that promise and this issue, I finally took the time to go over the event. It is a difficult case and I could not come up with an explanation for the vehicle problems nor could I explain some of the sightings. That being said, I think that the case has some serious issues regarding the witnesses that have been glossed over in many of the writings about the events. Perhaps these problems mean something or not. I turned to some speculation involving a hoax but, in the end, I left it unidentified. Like most explanations for sightings, I would rather have something more concrete than just speculation. Like the cartoon above, we are stuck with a lack of good evidence in this sighting.

I tackled the July 1952 Blue Book files this issue. Needless to say, it was a trying review. Some files were hard to find and others were fragmentary at best. Still, I managed to find mention of most of the cases on the summary list, which was more than I expected. I should be able to finish the remainder of 1952 over the upcoming two issues. When that is complete, I will put together a final Blue Book SUNlite with a lot of information I collected from my review. I am not sure how I plan on putting it together at the moment but I should have an issue with the information and a supplemental containing a table showing each case I reviewed in one location so readers don't have to go through the dozens of issues of SUNlite to look at the information. That issue is scheduled for SUNlite 17-3. I have plans for the month of May, which means it will be either early or late. I will try and make it early if possible.

In other news, I received a link to the infamous Buzzing Bee ICBM test film that created the "Big Sur UFO" story. It is a very interesting clip for those interested. I put a short piece on the film in this issue on page 12. In my opinion, it puts another nail in the coffin of the "Big Sur UFO" myth. Of course, you will continue to see it promoted on web sites and UFO documentaries. Nothing like ignoring the evidence in order to promote something that is not true.

Nothing else of significance happened in the UFO world. I spent a good deal of October chasing Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS. The image to the right was one of my more interesting images taken of the comet. It put on quite a show for amateur astronomers and those in the public, who managed to see it.



WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

November 26, 1951 - 25 miles east of Milwaukee, Wisconsin¹

51.11.26	10:25Z	USA	25 miles east of Milwaukee, Wisconsin	A	a Capital Airlines DC-3 pilot	1000 ft high at about 1000 mph. one orange ball of fire with a blue tail flew on a level course.				13.9
51.12.07	10:21	USA	Torrance, California	P	one Aeronca 65CV	one shiny metallic-looking football-shaped				03

The source of this information comes from the Blue Book files.

The Blue Book file²

The Blue Book file contains an Air Intelligence Information Report:³

- A capital airlines pilot had spotted a "ball of fire" at 1025Z on the 26th flying in the opposite direction of his aircraft. His course was 260 degrees meaning the course of the object was 80 degrees. Duration was listed as 10 seconds.
- The plane was located 25 miles east of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and was flying at an altitude of 5-6000 feet.
- The object was described as orange colored with a blue exhaust like flame behind it. It was traveling at a high rate of speed. The blue flame was 200 feet long and located 150 feet behind the object.
- Another Capital airlines aircraft, approximately 75 miles south of the first one, saw the same object heading eastward. He listed the time as 1023Z. This aircraft was on a course of 65 degrees and estimated the object's altitude at 25,000 -30,000 feet. he estimated the speed at 2000 mph. They also estimated duration at 35 seconds.
- No observers at Ann Arbor were available to confirm the sighting because of clouds.
- Nothing was picked up on radar
- Weather in Milwaukee and Chicago was overcast at 1400 feet.
- There was no known jet activity in the area.

Analysis

The object was seen from two different locations seventy-five miles apart indicating it was very high in altitude. It was visible for less than a minute and flew a straight path before disappearing. Blue book got this one correct. Once again, this was nothing more than a meteor and there is nothing to indicate it was something else.

Conclusion

This is another Weinstein catalog entry that contains sufficient information to reach a reasonable explanation. This was a bright meteor and should be removed from the Weinstein Catalog.

Notes and references

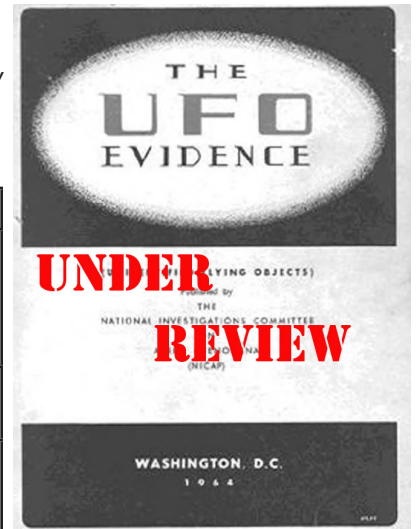
1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 16
2. "Case file -Milwaukee, Wisconsin 26 November 1951". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6308737/milwaukee-wisconsin-blank-page-1-us-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations-1947-1969>

November 2-3, 1957 - Levelland, Texas

November 2, 1957--Levelland, Texas. Elliptical UFOs sighted repeatedly on or near roads, many cars stalled.¹

In section 12, there is a table listing all the Levelland events.²

Date	Time	Location	Description
2/3	10:50 PM	Levelland, TX	Torpedo shaped object, making loud explosive noise, rose from field and passed low over truck. Truck lights and engine failed. (Pedro Saucedo)
2/3	----	Petit, TX	Two grain combines failed as UFO passed.
2/3	About mid-night	Near Levelland, TX	Large elliptical object on road; car lights and engine failed; UFO rose; when it blinked out, headlights came back on. (Jim Wheeler)
2/3	About mid-night	Near Levelland, TX	Man saw UFO on road, car lights and engine failed. (Jose Alvarez)
2/3	12:05 AM	Near Levelland, TX	Glowing, blue-green object on road, car lights and engine failed. (Newell Wright)
2/3	12:15 AM	Near Levelland, TX	Elliptical UFO on road, car lights and engine failed each time object pulsated to bright phase; UFO rose straight up with explosive sound. (Frank Williams)
2/3	12:45 AM	Near Levelland, TX	Round, glowing, orange UFO landed, changed to blue-green; truck lights and engine failed; UFO took off straight up. (Ronald Martin)
2/3	about 1 AM	17 mi. N of Levelland, TX	Fire Marshal Ray Jones reported seeing a "streak of Light," car lights dimmed and engine "almost died."
2/3	1:15 AM	Near Levelland, TX	Elliptical UFO on road, truck lights and engine failed; UFO rose with a "thunderclap." (James Long)
2/3	1:30 AM	Levelland, TX	Sheriff Weir Clem and deputy saw oval red light while investigating reports of same.



There are no sources listed but I am assuming these are accumulations of local news accounts and information that was released by Blue Book.

Details

Blue Book has a file on the case that is pretty extensive.³ They assigned Staff Sargeant Barth from the 1006th AISS the task of conducting the investigation. He did not talk to all the witnesses in the NICAP list but did get statements from six different witnesses. From the Blue Book file, I created the following table regarding the witnesses he interviewed:

Date	Time	Witness	Location	Description
11/2	23:00	Saucedo	4 mi w of Levelland on rte 116	Driving west. Large flame in front of truck and to the right. Thought it was lightning. Moved over truck. Truck shut down. Got out of truck. Torpedo shaped object moving 600-800 mph at distance of 300 feet. Yellow and white. 200 ft long. Visible 2-3 minutes.

11/3	00:00	N. Wright	Rte 116 Driving west	Car stopped. Checked car and looked about. Noticed object. Disappeared 5 minutes later and was able to start car.
11/3	01:30	Clem	Driving South on Oklahoma Flat Road	Streak of light moving south to west in 2 seconds. 800 feet long.
11/3	01:15	Hargrove	Driving South on Oklahoma Flat Road	Went from east to west lasted on a fraction of a second. Red to Orange-red in color.
11/2	23:50-23:55	Tsgt H. Wright	Texas farm road 1073 Shallowater, TX	Bolt of lighting to SW. Radio and lights went out 1-3 seconds.
11/4	20:45	J. Cogburn	Driving 7 mi north of Sundown, TX	Light traveling East to West. Began to swing from North to south. Emitted sparks and smoke. Light appeared to be held by cable from object above it. After 3-4 minutes it rose into the clouds.

Two of these witnesses may even not be related to the events that night. J. B. Cogburn, apparently gave a date and time of 8:45 PM on 4 November. He was in Sundown Texas, which was about 12 miles SW of Levelland. Not only were his observations far away but they were also on a different date. The same might be said for Harold Wright, who was in Shallowater. This is over 20 miles away from Levelland. Linking his sighting to events that happened there is tenuous at best.

Missing from the list are the witnesses Long, Wheeler, Alvarez, Williams, Jones and Martin. Jones and Martin were interviewed for the news media in the following days.⁴ There is a statement by the 1006th AISS investigator, dated 19 February 1958, stating that Barth tried to contact Martin but could not locate him and he did not live in Levelland from what he could discover.⁵ The other four were mentioned in the news accounts but did not seem to have ever been interviewed by anybody in the media or NICAP. Antonio F. Rullán wrote a report on the subject in 1999, where he indicated that Wheeler, Williams and Alvarez (who I will refer to as the "midnight witnesses"), were never interviewed and the information came from the police.⁶ Since nobody seems to have any written records by the police, this means that what the press reported were the verbal recollections of the person that took the calls. News accounts mention that officer A. J. Fowler had told them about the sequence of events that happened that night, with the three un-interviewed witnesses making phone calls to the police.⁷ This makes one wonder about much of the information associated with these witnesses. It is starting off as a brief verbal report that was not recorded. It then was repeated by Fowler to the media 12-24 hours later. These kind of stories start to degrade with each retelling and Fowler's recollection is what we have to rely upon. Either he told different versions of their stories to different media outlets or the different media outlets scrambled the information up to the point that they could not agree on which witness was located where.

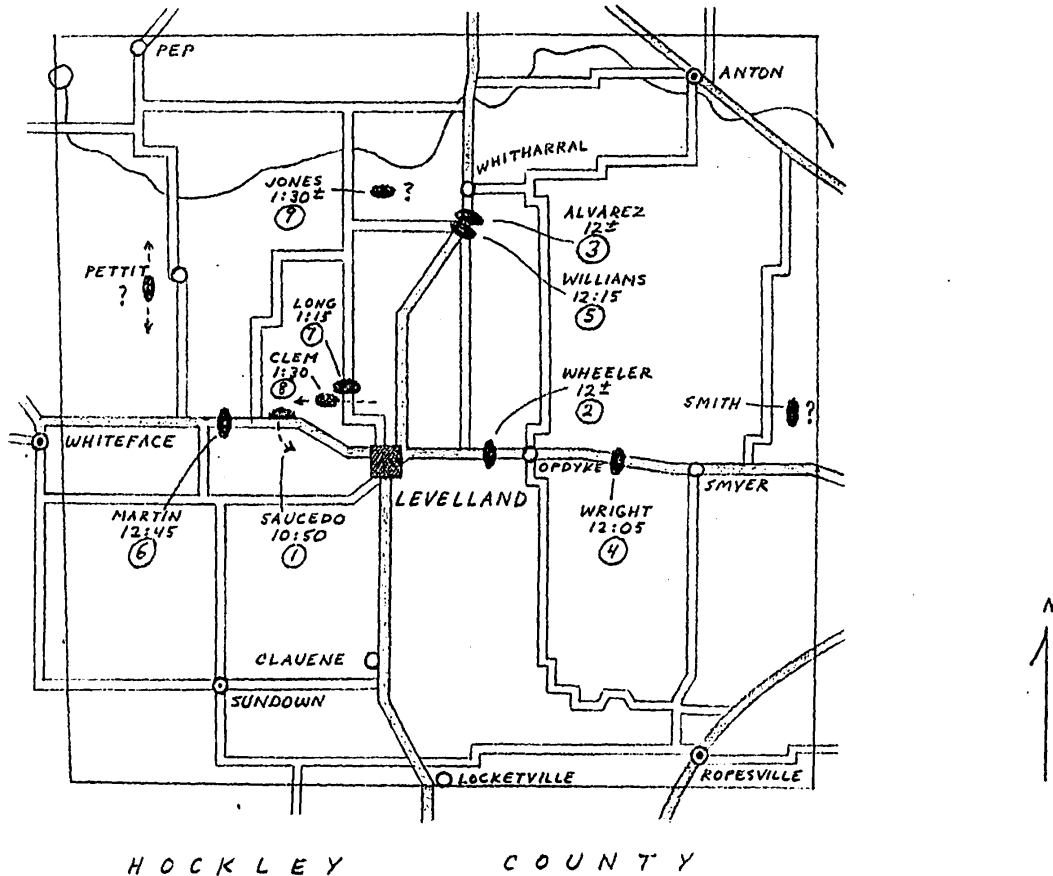
Date	Time	Witness	Location	Description
11/2	23:50	Wheeler	At the intersection of Highway 51 and a farm road Eight miles North of Levelland or on Hwy. ⁸ 116 about 4 miles East of Levelland. ⁹	UFO was lit up. Engine and lights went out on his car as he approached. He got out of his car, UFO rose quickly to about 200 feet altitude and the UFO extinguished its lights. Car lights came back on when UFO departed.
11/3	00:15	Williams	Four miles north of Levelland ¹⁰ or north of Levelland on Route 51 near Whitharral ¹¹	Object was sitting in the middle of the road. Every time the pulsating light from the UFO came on, his car light and motor would go off. UFO rose swiftly to 200 feet when he got out of his car and then quickly disappeared. Made the sound of thunder when it left.
11/3	00:00	Alvarez	4 miles east of Levelland near Lubbock Highway ¹² or on Route 51 near Whitharral ¹³ ; or 10 miles north and slightly east of Levelland ¹⁴	Circling a cotton field then light went out and disappeared. Engine stopped and lights went out. When it disappeared, the car lights came back on and the motor would not start up.
11/3	00:45	Martin	4 or 6 mi west of Levelland rt 116 ¹⁵	Object hovering a mile and a half ahead of his vehicle. It landed 300-400 yards in front of him. His car stopped. When object departed, his vehicle started up again.

Individuals using these names did call in and make reports but how accurate and reliable they are is what is in question at this point. Additionally, Rullán stated that Civilian Saucer Intelligence (CSI) thought it might be possible that Martin was a witness that decided to insert himself into the sighting and made up his story.¹⁶ His sighting is after the others, so it is possible that this is the case. In the Levelland daily Sun news of November 6, Sheriff Weir Clem made the comment, "...at least one of the dramatic sightings appear to be the imaginary variety. Clem said he was convinced there were other "hoax" reports also. But this fact didn't shake his confidence in some

of the others."¹⁷

The initial witness Saucedo, added some additional information in his media interviews the next day to the Lubbock Avalanche. On that date, he stated the time was 22:50 and noted that the object went towards Levelland. He also added that he did not bother to report it to the Levelland police until he made it to his destination in Whiteface, which was a little over 10 miles to the west. Supposedly, the officer on duty (probably Fowler), did not take his report seriously.¹⁸

The locations of witnesses varied. As noted previously, witnesses Wheeler, Alvarez, and Williams have varying locations depending on the source. This is the plot presented by Walter Webb in his report to NICAP.¹⁹



Weather analysis

Weather is important to understand when one is considering Blue Book's conclusion that "ball lightning" was involved.

The AISS report lists the weather from Reese AFB in Lubbock as complete overcast with visibility at 3 miles and 400 foot ceiling. A message from 1066 AISS (DTG 070030Z) lists the weather as "Light drizzle and cloudy" ceiling as 7000 feet, visibility as 15 miles, and 5/10-9/10 cloud cover. It does not describe where the information came from.²⁰

Another message from the CO Walker AFB DTG 0411745Z, the weather in Lubbock at 0500Z (2300 CST) was described as unlimited ceiling and 4/10 cloud cover with 15 miles visibility. It also mentioned a "light mist".²¹

The witnesses were asked about the weather in their interviews.²² This is what they stated:

Witness	Weather
N. Wright	Heavy clouds with light rain
Saucedo	No mention of weather
Clem	No mention of weather
Hargrove	No mention of weather
H. Wright	Misty with scattered clouds and a slight breeze
J. Cogburn	Thick heavy clouds with light rain (this was evening of the 4th)

There is a mix in these statements. Unfortunately, only Newel Wright was asked about the weather in the local Levelland area. It seems from the notes in the Blue Book file that the "ball lightning" theory came into being when some of the witnesses comparing the flashes of light to lightning. Sergeant Wright's observation that he saw lightning to the SW seems to have been considered

important.

So, what was the actual weather on the night in question? The impression one gets is that the weather must have been raining, stormy, or cloudy. The Blue Book file paints a conflicting account with some partly cloudy skies or cloudy with light rain. However, the news reports contradict the account of the weather being stormy. They stated there were no thunderstorms in the region.²³ A check of the weather history for nearby Lubbock, Texas during the time period between 2100 and 0200 on November 2-3 produces the following result.²⁴

Date/Time	Temperature (F)	Wind dir/spd	Humidity	Observation
11/2/57 2100	43	ENE/12mph	77%	Partly Cloudy
11/2/57 2200	43	NE/9m,ph	86%	Partly Cloudy
11/2/57 2300	43	NE/12mph	83%	Mostly Cloudy
11/3/57 0000	41	NE/17mph	80%	Partly Cloudy
11/3/57 0100	45	NE/15mph	82%	Partly Cloudy
11/3/57 0200	44	NE/14mph	82%	Partly Cloudy

Not only was there no rain during this time period, there had been no precipitation recorded on November 2. One must remember that Blue Book used terms like "light mist" or "Light drizzle". Newell Wright mentioned a light rain. Apparently, what precipitation that might have fallen was not measurable or isolated to the vicinity of Levelland.

The bottom line is the weather seemed to be partly cloudy with no foul weather and little, or no, rain. There was little or no possibility that lightning could have been involved and any flashes of light reported by witnesses were probably not associated with any type of lightning or "plasma".

Astronomical sources

Important to note is that all of the witnesses were separated by distances measured by several miles or more. That makes me wonder how one object could be visible around the same time. Was it rapidly moving from location to location looking for cars to shut down, or was it one object that was much farther away and was seen at the same general time by various vehicles? This might imply a possible astronomical solution. I examined what bright celestial objects were visible for several minutes near the horizon around the time of the events described. The results were not very promising.

Object	Approx. Set/Rise time	Approx. Set/Rise direction
Venus	20:30 November 2	SW
Gibbous moon	3:30 November 3	W
Altair	00:15 November 3	W
Vega	1:00 November 3	NW
Sirius	23:30 November 2	ESE
Procyon	23:30 November 2	E
Jupiter	5:15 November 3	E
Arcturus	5:15 November 3	ENE

Missing from most of the reports are directions the UFO was seen. Therefore, any astronomical explanation for the main sightings would be speculation at best. About the only objects that might have been involved were the stars Sirius, Procyon, Vega, and Altair. Except for Sirius and Procyon rising, I would not consider any of the others that prominent to produce UFO reports from multiple witnesses.

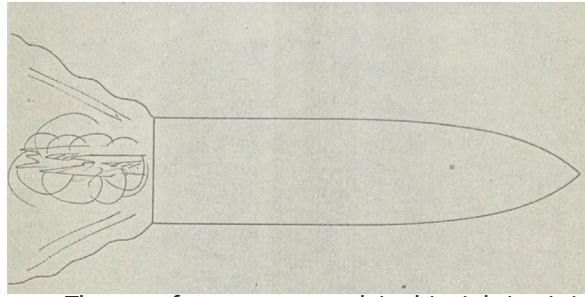
The sightings by Sheriff Clem and Officer Hargrove sound like they just saw a meteor. Possibly they saw the same one and their times were a little off. Interestingly, their observations did not involve their vehicles shutting down. They just saw objects flashing and then disappearing after a brief instant.

The grain combine failures

The UFO evidence mentions a UFO causing two grain combine failures near Petit, Texas. Petit was about 7 miles to the North West of the Saucedo sighting. The source of this comes from the report about the events written by Walter Webb wrote in November 1957.²⁵ He got the information from the NICAP investigator James Lee. We have no other information and don't even have a time for the sighting. This event is little more than an unconfirmed rumor and its value as evidence is essentially worthless.

Pedro Saucedo and the midnight witnesses

The initial Saucedo sighting might have been a meteor. His sketch²⁶ and description does bear a resemblance to a meteor observation made by UFO witnesses. However, the time span is too long unless there was some exaggeration involved. Of course, this



does not explain the truck shutting down. The use of a meteor to explain this sighting is just not applicable at this point.

Speaking of the Saucedo sighting, there was an aspect of his sighting that needs to be mentioned. Saucedo did not call and report his event until later.²⁷ Exactly when is not clear but if one considers the time it would take for the witness to collect himself, get back in the vehicle, drive the 10 miles to Whiteface and find a phone to make a call, I would consider it was between 23:15 and 23:45. In a radio interview, Sheriff Clem stated the first report came in at 11:15 PM from *"a latin-american subject..."*²⁸ This is before Wheeler, Alvarez and Williams made their calls into Fowler around midnight. These are the witnesses that never were located and had their reports made second hand. Is there a link here to consider?

This is where my mind runs wild and wonder about a "what if" scenario. Recall that A.J. Fowler did not sound very enthused about the initial report. In one account, another officer had gone to check on the location and found nothing. As a result, Fowler concluded that he must have been drunk. Could Saucedo and his friend become upset that they were not taken seriously? Did Fowler respond in a manner that made fun of them? Is it possible that the lack of interest in their report or derision inspired them to make more calls to the police using some false names in order to give credibility to their sighting? If that really happened, it would mean the midnight witnesses were part of a hoax and the other sightings made by the remaining people, like Newell Wright and Ronald Martin, a case of copy cat/ "me too" reports when it became news the next day. Both individuals stated they had come in because they felt obligated to tell their stories to the police and press AFTER the story had become news.

Recall that the environment in which these reports were made was in the middle of a UFO "wave". People were naturally accepting reports of UFOs as something "real". I would want to think that Saucedo would have stumbled at some point to a level that somebody would figure this out but Blue Book disliked calling anything a hoax without good information to back it up. By this point they had a publicity problem and wanted to avoid anything negative. Meanwhile, the news media and NICAP wanted to promote these kinds of stories.

Now that I stated this wild speculation, I want the reader to know that I don't believe this scenario is very likely at all. I dislike using the hoax explanation as much as dislike accepting plasmas or ball lightning. Hoaxes can occur but there has to be evidence for it that can be established and not just speculation. Still, I wanted to air my thoughts on this publicly because I like to think of things that might be possible. I consider it giving the reader some "food for thought".

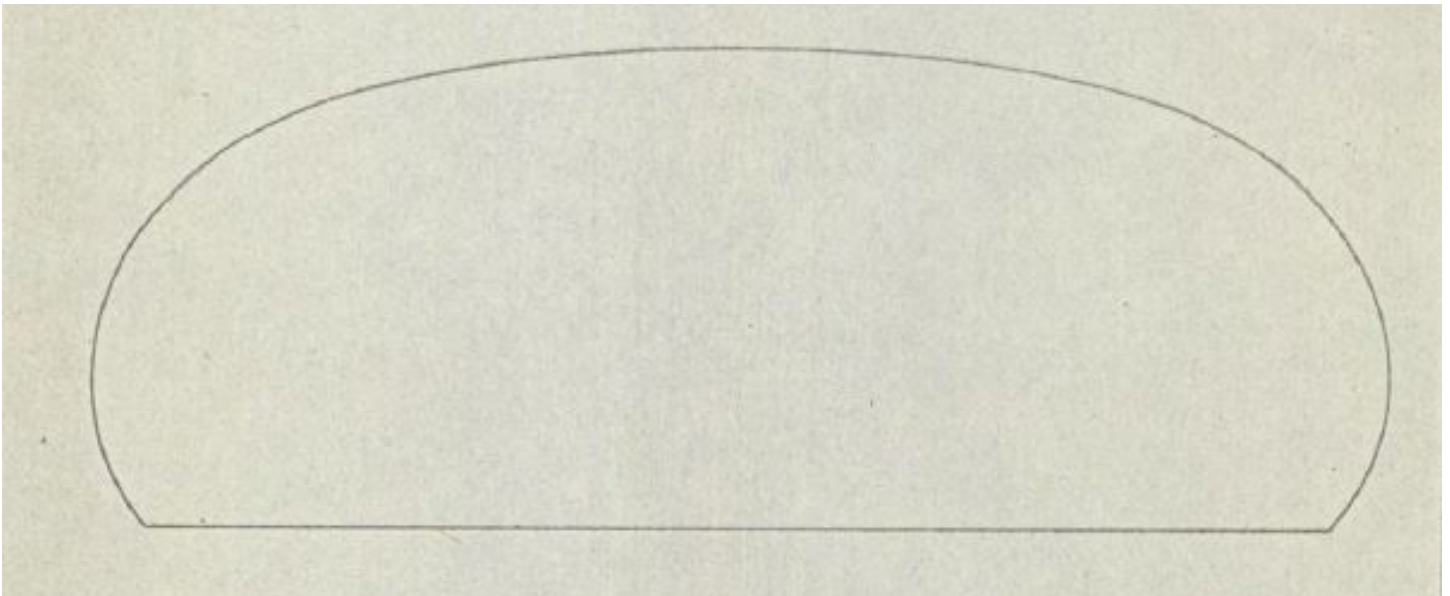
As it stands, I consider the Saucedo sighting to be a valid observation of something he saw. What it was, I cannot say. It might have been a meteor, where he exaggerated the events but I can't confirm it. I also consider the three "midnight witnesses" as not very reliable reports and that they have to be considered hearsay evidence at best.

Newell Wright

Newell Wright, stated that his car stopped with no indication a UFO was nearby. Only then, after getting out of the car, trying to figure out the problem, and looking up and down the road for a passing car for help, did he notice the UFO. In his statement to Blue Book, he did not give a direction but in media accounts, he stated that it was towards Levelland. The sketch²⁹ he provides in his statement seems to be some large dome-shaped object or a glow on the horizon. His description to Blue Book was that it was 75-100 feet in diameter, white in color with a greenish tint. Strangely, Wright had no description about the object's departure other than it left by going straight up. In some of the media accounts, he stated it went to the north.³⁰ Is it possible the light simply faded away or just turned off? Is it possible that what was seen is something that was not as "solid" as an actual craft. He stated that the sky conditions were cloudy. Maybe he was looking at a glow from a distant vehicle that had strong headlights creating a glow on the horizon or low clouds. One cannot say for sure and this is, as always, speculation on potential sources of the UFO. I find it strange that he did not see the UFO before his car shut down and only after he had already examined the car for why it had stopped. That means the UFO may have not have been present until after his engine stopped and may have had nothing to do with that happening.

James Long

Around 1:15, witness Long had his sighting and car failure. Once again, we are involved with a report that was apparently conveyed to the media second hand from A.J. Fowler.³¹ That makes one question the reports reliability and accuracy. Like the previous "midnight witnesses", I consider this sighting little more than hearsay evidence and not very reliable. Interestingly, Long was reportedly in the same general area as Clem and Hargrove. They did not experience any vehicular shutdowns and the UFO they reported did not seem to be the same UFO Long reported.



Ray Jones

Fire Marshal Ray Jones made his sighting some time after 1 AM.³² However, he did not mention any complete car failure. He only stated the lights had dimmed and the engine had “almost” died. His observation was of a streak of light that was north of “the flats”. One must assume the direction of the sighting he was talking about was “Oklahoma Flats”, which is located, as best I can tell, about 13 miles north of Levelland. Jones location was listed as 17 miles north of Levelland, which means the streak of light would have been to his south, which is the direction Clem and Hargrave saw their object. Is it possible they saw the same object? There is insufficient information to draw this conclusion because they did not provide a lot of information such as good positional data or a definitive time for each witness. Their descriptions sound like meteors and the directions they were looking seem similar. If one assumes the times are approximate and open to error, then one could suggest all saw the same meteor as the source of their sighting.

Potential IFOs

Since there seemed to be no astronomical explanations for the sightings that produced the reports before 1 AM, one must turn to other sources for these events. If there were aircraft in the area, Blue Book would have stumbled across them but they reported no aircraft in the area. They checked for balloons but they concluded they were not involved. Finally, Blue Book even looked into the possibility for oil well burn-off and downed power lines but could not find anything of significance there.

While Blue Book seemed to have looked into all potential man-made sources, I considered the possibility of a train creating a bright object on the horizon from a distance. Route 116 runs right along the tracks and a train headed in a direction toward a car could look like a light on the road from a distance. Of course, even if that happened, that would not explain the sightings north of town or how the cars shut down. One would think a train light, while initially misleading, would eventually be identified by the witness. Therefore, this source seems very unlikely as well. In any case, any man made light would not shut down vehicles.

This is a recurring theme in trying to come up with an explanation for this event. It always comes back to the vehicles shutting down. Most drivers and car enthusiasts probably have experienced vehicle issues over the years especially if one buys a used car. The one time I remember having a rough running vehicle happened when I was stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. A spring northeaster formed up off the coast and dumped a lot of rain and wind in the area. When I drove my vehicle the next day, it ran rough and even stopped. Other people on board my submarine had similar problems. One of the crew members, who was a “motor head” figured it out pretty quick. It turned out that water had some salt content in it and had gotten inside the distributor cap. It had fouled the contacts and rotor. Cleaning them fixed the issue. I never experienced that problem with that vehicle again. Unfortunately, Levelland isn’t even close to the ocean so that theory does not apply. My thinking on the vehicle shut down issue is that the only way multiple cars could shutdown is if they were exposed to the same environmental conditions. What those conditions were cannot be identified.

Writing in the Condon report, Dr. Roy Craig discussed a case where the vehicle supposedly shut down due to a UFO encounter.³³ The car had reportedly been exposed to a UFOs electro-magnetic field. However, when the car was checked for any possibility of a magnetic signature, nothing was found. In his book, Dr. Craig stated that a technician determined that it required over 20,000 gauss, at the ignition coil, to shut down a vehicle.³⁴ With the car body shielding the coil, it would require an even higher magnetic field. Dr. Craig also discovered that a 1,000 gauss horseshoe magnet would alter the magnetic signature of a car permanently. Therefore, if there were an electro-magnetic source that shut down these cars, it would have been incredibly powerful and would have altered the magnetic signature of the cars. Unfortunately, nobody bothered to examine any of the vehicles that shutdown for such signatures. Another missed opportunity for NICAP, who supposedly had scientific experts that should have thought of this. One can understand Blue Book’s lack of knowledge, they weren’t scientists (unless you count Hynek).

One car failing might be unusual but multiple automobiles failing on the same night indicates something more significant. That being said, we have to wonder how many vehicles in the Levelland area were driving that night and did not experience any failure. Are we talking about 100% of the cars on the road or just those that saw the UFO? Recall that Saucedo stated his UFO went in the direction of Levelland. However, nobody reported seeing it come into town or that they experienced vehicle shut downs until almost an hour later, AFTER Saucedo had phoned his report to the police. A police officer even went to check on the Saucedo sighting and found nothing.³⁵ Apparently, his vehicle performed correctly as did all the other police vehicles on the road that night.

It is important to note that, out of the ten names in the NICAP table, only six were ever interviewed. The other four were just phone calls made to the police by named individuals, who nobody ever saw. These four sightings are critical in the narrative about Levelland. Their absence does not invalidate the other reports but they tend to minimize the impact of the overall case. It is strange that nobody was ever able to find them or contact them despite their names appearing in the newspapers. One would think they would have stepped forward or some enterprising reporter/NICAP investigator would have found them. Recall that Sheriff Clem was on record as suspecting that at least one of the detailed reports was "imaginary" and that he felt others might be hoaxes. This is a puzzling aspect of the case and makes me wonder about these four reports, which never had any follow-up.

Conclusion

In my opinion, this sighting has issues that need to be considered. The evidence is sketchy and anecdotal. We have no physical evidence to prove that the vehicles actually shut down due to the UFO or what caused them to shut down. We are not even sure that four of the primary witnesses even existed. I thought about listing this as insufficient information because we are missing crucial evidence/information about each sighting. However, I would consider this a "cop out" answer and I consider it my task to try and look at the case objectively. I also considered it possible that a hoax might be involved. That seemed to have some possibility based on the lack of verifying information concerning many of the witnesses. Still, it is all speculation and there is nothing in the way of evidence to prove it. Therefore, I will keep these sightings in the Unidentified category since I can offer no good explanation for the entire event. That is where it must remain unless some new information comes to light, which, after 67 years, is unlikely to happen. That being said, having something labeled "unidentified" means nothing. It just means we can't explain the case as it is described. Unidentified does not prove anything and is not proof that something "not of this earth" was involved.

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THE 701 CLUB: CASE 1755 JULY 30, 1952 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Don Berliner describes the case as follows:

July 30, 1952; Albuquerque, New Mexico. 11:02 p.m. Witness: USAF 1st Lt. George Funk. One orange light remained stationary for 10 minutes. No further details in files.¹

Sparks' entry is more complete:

July 29 [not 30], 1952. Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 11:02 p.m. (MST). USAF 1st Lt. George E. Funk Jr., [Radar] Duty Controller, 135th AC&W Sq, Kirtland AFB, saw an almost stationary yellow-orange light at 240° azimuth (about WSW) at about 3,000 ft altitude, seen through a surveyor's transit [theodolite] for 3 mins, [naked eye 7 mins], along with Airman/1C K. D. Peebles, Airman/1C W. M. Stamps [sp?], and Airman 2/C C. D. Bolts Jr. Object faded, no radar contact. (Sparks; BB files; Berliner).²

The Blue Book file

Like so many of the July 1952 sightings, the amount of information in the file is very limited and it consists of just a two-page report.

- The time of the sighting was slightly variable. At one point it was 2300 MST and, another 2302 MST. The date was 29 July (not 30 July).
- The direction of the sighting was at 240 degrees azimuth. Estimated altitude was 3000 feet.
- Sky conditions were scattered clouds.
- A transit was used for 3 minutes and naked eye for 7 more minutes. Total observation time was approximately 10 minutes.
- The color was "yellow-orange" and it was circular in shape.
- It disappeared by "fading away".
- There was a follow-up from the Continental divide radar station in Gonzales, NM (approximately 100 miles to the west of Albuquerque). They had a radar contact and the operators looked eastward and saw a light moving about. It eventually moved



northward and disappeared. An F-94 was sent to intercept but it found nothing.

Analysis

There seems to be enough information in the file to examine the case. The duration and fact that the object disappeared in the west makes one consider the possibility of an astronomical source. There was a good source. At 2254, the first quarter moon was setting at an azimuth of 245 degrees. Additionally, at azimuth of 242 degrees was the planet Mars at magnitude -0.26. It was only a few degrees above the horizon. Both objects appear to be possibilities for the object. The moon set a few minutes before the time of the sighting but it was in the correct location and angular size. It is possible the time listed might have been in error or atmospheric refraction could have made the moon appear above the horizon. The time listed of 2302 MST could have also been the end of the sighting and not the beginning.

As for the radar contact from Gonzales, NM, there appears to be no relation with the visual sighting. Rising in the East was the planet Jupiter and it could have been the source of the visual sighting. Its disappearance could have been just due to it disappearing behind clouds. It also could have been an aircraft light. There is not a lot of information to go on with this sighting.

Conclusion

This event can be classified as "possibly" the moon. The only reason it is not "probably the moon" is because of the time difference between sighting and actual moonset (setting roughly 8 minutes prior to the sighting). Still, this is not that significant a difference and the times reported could be in error a few minutes. The witnesses never mentioned the moon, which would have been visible prior to the sighting. There is the possibility that it might have been Mars. I think this is less likely since, even though it was magnitude -0.26 at the time, I don't think that would have been as noticeable as the moon setting. With a possible explanation offered, this sighting can be removed from the list of Blue Book unknowns.

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BIG SUR UFO UPDATE - BUZZING BEE FILM REVEALED

Back in SUNlite 6-4, I wrote an extensive article about the Big Sur UFO story. Readers recall that Robert Hastings had been promoting Robert Jacobs story about a UFO intercepting an ICBM launch and destroying/disabling a warhead. Kingston George, who ran the Boston University Telescope program disagreed and said no such event happened. He suggested that Jacobs had misinterpreted the film of the "Buzzing Bee" launch that September as being the one that he claimed involved the UFO. Jacobs countered with it being another launch called "Butterfly net". The problem with that launch is the launch occurred in bright daylight and the telescope lost tracking shortly after launch. It never recorded the warhead deployment. However, Buzzing Bee did film the entire launch and deployment of warheads/decoys. The documentation, presented to me by Joel Carpenter, also demonstrates warheads from both Buzzing Bee and Butterfly Net made it to Kwajalein with no problems. Therefore, even if a UFO interfered with the deployment of warheads, they had no effect on the trajectory. This is essentially what I had written ten years ago on the subject.

[Recently, I received an e-mail from an individual, who gave me a link to a Youtube video showing the actual Buzzing Bee film!](#) It was very interesting to watch. I had posted images from the report showing several frames from the film but this film shows the entire sequence. Watching the film, the viewer needs to realize the Boston University telescope was on an anti-aircraft gun carriage. Two operators (one for azimuth and one for elevation) were looking through guide scopes and operating handwheels to keep the rocket centered in the field of view of the scope. It took great skill and teamwork to do this and the film shows the difficulty involved as the scope jumps about to keep the rocket centered. Additionally, the camera was not directly connected to the telescope. Instead an image orthicon tube, used to enhance the brightness of the image, was on the scope and the video from that was sent to a monitor. A film camera was used to record the image off of the monitor display. It is similar to recording a program off your Television with a cell phone. It is not the same thing and the quality is not 100% (the technology in the 1960s was well below what it is today so the quality is even worse than using your cell phone). Add to this is the effect of the image orthicon tube, which provides an uneven illumination of the field. You have the brightest images at the center with a drop off in illumination on the outer 50% of the frame. This produces an odd effect when viewing the film as objects appear to come and go as they move in and out of the center of the frame.

Another item that can be clearly seen in the film is the resolution capabilities of the system. It has been claimed it was capable of filming "nuts and bolts" on the rocket. This is not true. I mentioned this in SUNlite 6-4 and the film confirms it. Seeing nuts and bolts on a rocket, even with an instrument like the BU telescope, was just not possible from the distance/equipment involved. The rocket, shortly after launch, is hidden by the exhaust plume and, when it is visible further down range, is not that large. Therefore, details like "nuts and bolts" are impossible to see even if one is looking at the raw image with a magnifying loupe.

At time 3:43, the warhead and decoys are deployed from the main rocket body. The rocket body continues to be the brightest object in the frame. At time 5:38, there is a good glimpse of, what appears to be, the six decoys in a circular pattern and, what appeared to be, the dummy warhead trailing them. Additionally, the main rocket body, which is much brighter than the warhead and decoys, begins to drift above the payload package creating a separation between the two groups. At time 5:49, the rocket body "blooms" (brightens) as it passes through the center of the image orthicon. This could have been done due to a gain adjustment on the image orthicon, a sudden reflection, or just some sort of change in the recording equipment. Shortly after this, the warheads/decoys are no longer visible. The operators could not keep them centered with the rocket body, which was what they were tracking. By the nature of the systems associated with the rocket body, it was designed to drift away from the warhead and decoy package so they did not interfere with them. The film ends shortly after this.

To me, the film shows no UFO but it might explain what Jacobs thought he saw. His UFO was probably the rocket body itself, which was separate from the package, very bright, and circular in shape. When the rocket body "blooms", it can be interpreted as some sort of energy beam or spike. The disappearance of the package, due to it being too faint to see or away from the field of view, shortly after this was interpreted as they were vaporized by the UFO. Any description of the object "orbiting" the warhead was probably the recollection of them seeing the rocket body bouncing around due to the operators trying to center the target with the handwheels on the gun carriage.

[Additionally, I also received a link showing some films from the Butterfly net launch.](#) Unfortunately, the BU telescope film is not in this batch. The quality of the films is less than perfect but the cameras that were furthest away from the launch show the brightness of the sky during this launch as well as what appears to be ground fog hindering tracking. The BU telescope reported the sky being hazy or that day, which contributed with the time of day, to cause tracking problems and poor film quality.

As I stated in SUNlite 6-4, this UFO story is based on a real event and involves the decades old flawed memories of two individuals, who thought what was seen was something "unearthly". The evidence available to date, indicates no UFO was ever involved and that this case remains in Joel Carpenter's "retired UFO yarn hall of fame".

Project Blue Book case review: July 1952

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the month of July 1952. Like the previous evaluations, I tried to examine each case to see if the conclusion had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if I felt it was not correct or adequate. Items marked with red highlighting had photographs in the case file.

July 1952

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
July	Washington DC	No conclusion	NO CASE FILE
1	Washington DC	Balloon	Agreed
1	Baltimore, MD	Insufficient data	Meteor
1	Columbus, MO	Capella	Agreed
1	Houston, TX	Meteor	Agreed
1	Levittown, NY	Balloon	Agreed
1	Shamokin, PA	Balloon	Agreed
1	Lynn, MA	Balloon	Agreed
1	Van Nuys, CA	Balloon	Agreed
6/30-7/2	Phoenix, AZ	Aircraft	Stars/planets. No specific details on locations to determine which stars/planets
1	Phoenix, AZ	Meteor	Agreed. Duration listed as 3-4 minutes but this included the remaining debris trail/ion trail.
1	Fort Monmouth, NJ	Insects	Agreed. One witness was able to determine that the objects they were seeing were large insects.
2	Tremonton, UT	Birds	Agreed
2	Lexington, MA	Balloon	Aircraft
2	Highland Park, CA	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
3	Selfridge AFB, MI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
3	Turner AFB, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Chicago, IL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
3	Lott, TX	Balloon	Agreed
4	Glenrock, WY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness driving in car saw object above mountains gyrating about. No further details.
4	Stuttgart, Germany	Balloon	Agreed
5	Ternowitz, Poland	Rockets	Agreed. Message discussing Soviets launching rockets in area.
5	Ellensburg, WA	Balloon	Agreed
5	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible birds (objects seen over drive-in at night)
5	Hanford, WA	Balloon	Agreed
5	Norman, OK	Insufficient data	Possible balloons
5	Lawrenceville, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Bartlesville, OK	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
5	Kindley AFB, Bermuda	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
6	Barclay, CA	Balloon	Agreed
6	Redondo, WA	Balloon	Agreed
6	Tiffin, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Antares.
6-12	Governors Island, NY	P: UNIDENTIFIED	Internal reflection of the moon and insufficient information. See SUNlite 9-4.
7	Eastern Montana	Meteor	Agreed. Daylight fireball (reported in Sky and Telescope)
7	Western US	Meteor	Agreed. Daylight fireball (reported in Sky and Telescope)

7	Susanville, CA	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
7	Abilene, TX	Meteor	Agreed
7	Fort Bragg, NC	Meteor	Agreed
7	El Paso, TX	Aircraft	Meteor (Daylight fireball seen over western US)
8	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Colorado Springs, CO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Portland, OR	Balloon	Agreed
9	Parksville, MO	Balloon	Agreed
9	Port Angeles, WA	Meteor	Agreed
9	Kutztown, PA	P: UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Briggsville, AR	No classification	Possible balloon
9	Spitzenbergen Island, Norway	Aircraft	No evidence. Rumor of crashed UFO. Probable Hoax
9	Rapid City AFB, SD	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Florence, SC	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Garner, NC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration and positional data.
10	Prairie Village, KS	Stars/Planets	Possible balloon
10	Glendale, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
10	Quantico, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Van Nuys, CA	Insufficient data	Meteor
10	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Goose AFB, Labrador	Insufficient data	Possibly Mars setting
11	Bloomington, IN	Meteor	Agreed
11	Marinette, AZ	Balloon	Aircraft
12	Belleville, IL	Meteor	Agreed
12	Belleville, IL	Stars/planets	False radar targets. No message regarding potential stars and planets but message describing radar contacts. No targets located by aircraft.
12	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
12	Chicago, IL	Balloon	Agreed
12	Haalemoen, Norway	Insufficient data	Agreed. Story about an aircraft (shaped like a vampire aircraft) overflow location. No information other than it flew faster than aircraft.
12	Annapolis, MD	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
12	Indiana, IL	Meteor	Agreed
13	Washington DC	No conclusion	NO CASE FILE
13	SW Washington DC	Meteor	Agreed
13	Kirkville, MO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED (Photos were of radar display)
13	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
13	New Braintree, MA	Balloons	Agreed
13	Fordland, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration and details of sighting.
13	Spokane, WA	Balloon	Agreed
13	Dallas, TX	Insufficient data	Possible birds
13	Oceola, WI	Radar Interference	Agreed. Heavy thunderstorms in the region caused interference and increased ground clutter on radar display.
13	Novasseur AFB, Morocco	Meteor	Agreed
14	Norfolk, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	Washington DC	Balloon	Agreed

14	Great Falls AFB, MT	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report is confusing because witness claimed objects flying at super sonic speed but were visible for 2-3 minutes.
14	Ryuku Islands	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witnesses reported seeing spherical object with erratic maneuvers for 15 seconds. Object disappeared. Course description implies motion but witness also described it as hovering.
14	Holloman AFB, NM	P: Balloon	Agreed. (second sighting possible aircraft)
14-15	Oberlin Gardens, PA	Balloon	Agreed
15	Mauch Chunk, PA	Balloon	Mars
15	West Palm Beach, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
15	McChord AFB, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
15	San Antonio, TX	Meteor	Agreed
15	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
15	Las Vegas, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Greenwood, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Pendleton, OR	Balloon	Aircraft
15	Tacoma, WA	Balloon	Possibly Altair
16	Antioch, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Record card just reports a red flash seen over an ammunition dump. There is nothing else.
16	Phoenix, AZ	Aircraft	Agreed
16	San Antonio, TX	Meteor	NO CASE FILE
16	Haddenfield, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Bererlyn, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	Windows reflection. See SUNlite 11-4
16	Long Beach, CA	Balloon	Agreed
16	Lahaina Mavi, HI	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Witnesses were looking in direction of setting sun. Venus eliminated incorrectly. Venus was in the direction (contrary to report) but too close to the sun to be seen. Sun had not even set yet but was close to object.
16	Ogden Dunes, IN	Aircraft	Possible meteors
16	Baldwin Hills, CA	Hoax	Agreed. 14-year old describing landing of UFOs.
16	San Antonio, TX	Balloon	Agreed
16	Devins, TX	Insufficient data	Possible birds.
16	Rabat, French Morocco	Meteor	Agreed
16	Hampton Roads, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Long Beach, NY	Balloon	Agreed. (Actual location Sandusky, OH. Pilots was from Brooklyn).
17	Falls Church, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Randolph AFB, TX	Balloon	Agreed
17	Tsuiki AB, Japan	Balloon	Agreed
17	Mt. Clemens, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Canada	Reflection	Listed as Nova Scotia. Insufficient data
17	Tacoma, WA	Aircraft	Balloon
17	Vandalia, Dayton, OH	Balloon	Possible meteors. Witness gave duration as 20 minutes but report sounds like he saw multiple objects moving rapidly across the sky over a 20 minute period.
17	Lockbourne AFB, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	Probably Jupiter. See SUNlite 7-3.
17	White Plains, NY	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Duluth, MN	Balloon	Possible birds

17	Batesville, MS	Balloon	Stars/Planets. Based on description, one was probably Antares. Three objects reported could indicated they also saw adjacent stars or, maybe, Arcturus.
17	Matanzas, Cuba	Insufficient data	Agreed. Supposedly photographs were taken but not submitted.
17	Rapid City, SD	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7/17-8/8	Washington DC	Insufficient data	Agreed. The file consists of memos documenting telephone calls and reports made by individuals. Most of the information is brief and lacks pertinent information.
18	Northwest, IL	Stars/Planets	NO CASE FILE
18	Oberline Gardens, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Lockbourne AFB, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Seattle, WA	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Antares
18	Miami, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Manchester, NH	Meteor	Agreed
18	Patrick AFB, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Daale, MD	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
18	Steelton, PA	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
18	Placitas, NM	Balloon	Agreed
19	Washington DC	No conclusion	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anomalous propagation and misidentifications.
19	Centerville, VA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Object struck car and left powder marks on the vehicle. No physical specimen to determine what it was.
19	Fairfax County, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Baltimore, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Williston, ND	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
19	Madison, FL	Balloon	Agreed
19	Elkins Park, PA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
19	Rock Island, IL	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
19	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Possible stars (insufficient data on determining which stars)
19	Hingham, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Hyattsville, MD	Balloon	NO CASE FILE
20	Lavalette, NJ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
20	Denver, CO	Balloon	Agreed
20	Eglin, IL	Meteor	NO CASE FILE
20	Acapulco, Mexico	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Eaton Rapids, MI	Balloon	Agreed
20	Harrisburg, PA	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness reported seeing lights appear and disappear. No durations given. Could have been aircraft or meteors.
20	Oscoda, MI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
20	Casablanca, French Morocco	Balloon	NO CASE FILE
20	Trenton, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
20-26	Washington DC	Astro	Agreed. Observations of meteors and stars/planets
21	Washington DC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. No times, duration or positional data. Listed as Herndon, VA in msg.
21	Baltimore, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Louisville, KY	Balloon	Agreed

21	Weisbaden, Germany	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Red Bluff, CA	Balloon	Agreed
21	San Marcos AFB, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Nagshead, NC	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
21	Patrick AFB, FL	Balloon	Agreed
21	Alhambra, CA	Balloon	Agreed
21	Wuerzburg, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
21	Marietta, GA	R: Insufficient data	Agreed. Radar expert felt there was no enough data to evaluate.
21	Randolph AFB, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Kansas City, MO	Meteor	Agreed
21	Holyoke, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Stafford, VA	UNKNOWN	This is not on the list of 701 BB unknowns. It is possible this was a relection off of cirrus clouds. Pilots saw object in direction opposite of sun and they never caught up to it before it faded.
22	Washington DC	No conclusion	Possibly Jupiter. Listed as "Clifton, VA".
22	McClellan Gardens, Washington DC	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data or durations. Multiple objects seen over this location. Location of observer not given.
22	Wellington, NJ	Aircraft	Meteor
22	Hadden Heights, NJ	Meteor	Agreed (3 different meteors reported)
22	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Meteor
22	Boston, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Dallas, TX	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
22	West Newfield, ME	Balloon	Agreed
22	Roslindale, MA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
22	East Springfield, MA	Meteor	Agreed
22	Rockville, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Springfield, MA	Fireworks	Agreed
22	New Smyrna Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
22	Uvalde, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Maxwell, TX	Meteor	Insufficient/confusing data. Description of trajectory is not clear.
22	Los Alamos, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Trenton, NJ	Balloon	Aircraft
22	Pennignton, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Brookley AFB, AL	Explosion from oil drum	Agreed
22	Colorado Springs, CO	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
22	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Possible birds
22	Dallas, OR	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
22	Manchester, NH	Meteor	NO CASE FILE
22	Rapid City, SD	Flash Bombs	Agreed
22	Bordentown, NJ	Stars/Planets	Aircraft
22	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Meteor
22	Mitchell AFB, NY	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
23	Washington DC	No conclusion	NO CASE FILE

23	Pinemoor Vienna, VA	P: no conclusion	Insufficient data.. This appears to be an individual promoting a rock of some kind that the witness considered unnatural. The rock was not analyzed by Blue Book. Witness thought a tree was evidence of where rock fell but forestry service determined there was nothing unusual about the tree's damage.
23	Boston, MA	Balloon	Agreed
23	Pottstown, PA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Alexandria, VA	Insufficient data	Possibly Mars
23	Boston-Provincetown, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Boston, MA	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella or Jupiter. Object faded as sun rose.
23	Memphis, TN	Meteor	Agreed
23	North Honshu, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
23	Waltham, MA	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Jupiter.
23	Walnut Creek, CA	Balloon	Agreed
23	Albany, GA	Balloon	Agreed
23	Boston, MA	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Msg states object making arcs and moving at tremendous speed in northerly direction. No duration.
23	Long Beach, CA	Balloon	Agreed
23	Warren, OH	Balloon	Possibly Arcturus
23	Springfield, MA	Insufficient data	Arcturus
23	Altoona, PA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Norfolk, MA	Balloon	Meteor
23	Russell Springs, KY	Meteor	Possibly Arcturus. Witness did not give duration but 2-3 seconds on record card was mentioned as the frequency of the light flashes and not duration of the sighting. No full duration given but indicated that it was a long duration and not a short one.
23	Avon, OH	Insufficient data	Stars. Three different sightings, from different observers, in three different directions. Stars were probably Arcturus, Capella, and Antares.
23	Jacksonville, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
23	Trenton, NJ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Jamestown, RI	R: No conclusion	Possible false targets. Radar recorded contacts moving at high speed and then stationary. Interceptors unable to locate.
23	McDill AFB, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Santa Cruz, CA	Balloon	Possible birds
23	Nahant, MA	Balloon	Insufficient data. No course given.
23	Moody AFB, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	South Bend, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Smyrna, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Probably a star but no positional data.
23	Moody AFB, GA	Balloon	Agreed
23-24	Springfield and vicinity, OH	Balloon	Agreed
24	Washington DC	No conclusion	NO CASE FILE
24	Washington DC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Just a report of an object seen between capital and Washington monument. No other data.
24	Circle, MT	No conclusion	Unreliable report. Individual reported landing spacecraft and two "men".
24	Ontario, Canada	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
24	Somerville, MA	Balloon	Agreed

24	Carson Sink, NV	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Highland Park, IL	Meteor	Agreed
24	Biggs AFB, TX	Balloon	NO CASE FILE other than photographs. Photo used for trajectory explanation
24	Lakeland, GA	Balloon	Stars/planets. Probably Antares, Mars, and Arcturus.
24	Travis AFB, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Meteor
24	Clovis, NM	Insufficient data	Possible birds (seen over drive-in at night)
24	Danville, CA	Insufficient data	Clouds illuminated by setting sun
24	Lake Charles, LA	Insufficient data	Meteor
24	San Dimas, CA	Balloon	Agreed
24	Chandler, MN	Balloon	Agreed
24	Hamilton AFB, CA	Balloon	Agreed
24	Arnhem, Netherlands	Insufficient data	Agreed. Brief mention of sighting in KLM Memo reporting new flights.
24	Amenia, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
24	Mt. Tamalpais, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Presque Isle AFB, ME	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Hampton, VA	No conclusion	Possible bird. Witness saw object during daytime move quickly in front of car. Visible only for a few seconds.
25	Lockbourne AFB, OH	No conclusion	Possible balloon. This appears to be a 23 July sighting and not 25 July (there is a case for 23 July and not 25 July at Lockbourne). It appears that this could have been a high altitude research balloon reflecting the sun.
25	The Dallas, OR	Balloon	Agreed
25	Alice, TX	Meteor	Agreed
25	Los Angeles, CA	No conclusion	NO CASE FILE
25	Pemlico River, NC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Witness in a boat mentioned seeing a red light to the SE near the horizon for 30 minutes. Object was gone after that time period.
25	Lima, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Information comes from phone call with very little information obtained.
25	Manassas, VA	Possible Astro	Agreed. Jupiter.
25	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Aircraft (two sightings in file. Other appears to be a meteor).
25	Gardena, CA	Balloon	Agreed
25	Thomaston, CT	Balloon	Agreed
25	Wilmington, DE	Balloon	Agreed
25	Hampton, VA	Insufficient data	Possible false targets. Actual date was 26 July. Radar contacts but no visual sighting.
25	Norwalk, CA	Balloon	Agreed
25	Lennox, CA	Balloon	Agreed
25	New Berlin, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus.
25	New York City, NY	Light Refractions	Row of faint lights seen for 10 seconds moving across sky. Possible birds
25	Near Canadian Border, NY	Balloons	Agreed
25	The Dallas, OR	Balloon	Agreed
25	Emendorf AFB, AK	Radar interference	Agreed. Airborne radars giving false returns. No visual sightings.

25	Osceola, WI	Balloon	Photos show radar display. Radar sightings appear to be false targets. Visual sightings appear to have been meteors.
25	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Meteor (seen for 3 seconds moving rapidly at night)
25	Hamilton AFB, CA	Balloon	Agreed
25	Atlanta, GA	Insufficient data	Possible contrail
25	San Bernardo, Chile	No conclusion	Actual date is 24 July. Possible moon. Observed in the west as an opaque yellowish light that moved westward over a period of 15 minutes (the witnesses stated it was at high speed but the period of visibility indicates they probably were describing that it disappeared rapidly). Moon was setting at the time of the sighting.
26	Washington DC	No conclusion	Meteors. Listed as case 1661 involved B-29 gunner seeing flashing lights over a 4 minute period.
26	W. Norfolk, VA	Astro	Agreed. Meteor
26	Edgewood arsenal, MD	No conclusion	NO CASE FILE
26	Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anomalous propagation and misidentifications.
26	Concord, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
26	Forest, Ontario, Canada	Possible balloon	Aircraft
26	Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anomalous propagation and misidentifications.
26	Selfridge AFB, MI	No conclusion	Insufficient data. No duration listed. Time listed in EST with no designation of AM or PM.
26	Palm Springs, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Hamilton AFB, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed.
26	Kansas City, MO	UNIDENTIFIED	Arcturus. See SUNlite 5-3.
26	200 mi. S. of NY	Possible weather	Possible meteor observations. Three objects seen. All seem to have been only visible for a few seconds at most.
26	Fort Knox, KY	Meteor	Agreed
26	Annapolis, MD	Astro	Agreed. Meteor
26	Andrews AFB, Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anomalous propagation and misidentifications.
26	Omaha, NE	Searchlight	Agreed
26	Douglas, WY	Balloon	Agreed
26	Walnut Creek, CA	Aircraft	Agreed. Contrails.
26	Santa Cruz, CA	Balloon	Insufficient data. Witness reported objects chasing each other for over an hour at night. No other details.
26	Richmond, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
26	San Francisco, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration/time
26	Florence, SC	Possible Astro	Agreed. Possible meteor. Steady light that moved at high speed and did not change direction is the basic description.
26	Kirtland AFB, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Williams, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Deborgia, MT	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Observer in window saw round object go by aircraft in opposite direction plane was flying. Only visible a few seconds.
26	Oceola, MO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
26	Princeton, IN	Meteor	Agreed
26	West Norfolk, VA	Astro	Agreed. Probably Arcturus.
26	Los Angeles, CA	Balloon	Agreed

26	Hamilton AFB, CA	Aircraft	Possible meteor. Observed for less than a minute moving from west to east. Record card states it moved extremely fast.
26	Dania, FL	Insufficient data	Possible Moonset. Described as a football that disappeared after 10 minutes by moving south and up while changing colors to orange and then dim blue. Moon set 10 minutes before sighting time in the WSW.
26	Plainview, TX	Balloon	Agreed
27	Bethesda, MD	No conclusion	Possible balloon
27	Wilmington, DE	Unknown	Not on list of 701 unknowns. Possible balloon.
27	Kinsington, MD	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
27	Highlands, NY	No conclusion	False targets. Radar contacts reported by station. Interceptors found no targets.
27	Washington DC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Witnesses reported 10 objects moving northward in "pulsating manner". No other information.
27	Bethesda, MD	Astro	Agreed. Possible meteors.
27	Brightwood, MD	No conclusion	NO CASE FILE
27	Washington DC	No conclusion	Possible meteor
27	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Possible balloon (actual date appears to be 26 July)
27	Red Oak, IA	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
27	Triton Beach, MD	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
27	Ripley, NY	Balloon	Agreed
27	Manhattan Beach, CA	No conclusion	Possible birds
27	Lincoln, CA	Aircraft	Agreed. Observations made by 12-year old
27	Selfridge AFB, MI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
27	Hamilton AFB, CA	Balloon	Jupiter
27	Bakersfield, CA	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
27	Helena, MT	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
27	Wichita Falls, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
27	Spokane, WA	Insufficient data	Possible birds. Observations of objects in V-shaped formation visible for only a few seconds. Seen from various drive-in theaters.
27	Sunland, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
27	Dayton, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Capella.
27	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Possible birds
27	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Bailey, CO	Insufficient data	Possible balloons. Witness reported seeing 25 circular objects hovering 5 miles away to their north for 45 minutes at 11 AM while riding horses. Over that time period, the objects went lower in elevation and eventually disappeared after "speeding up".
27	Millbrac, CA	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
27	Lynwood, CA	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
27	Alemeda, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Wichita, KS	Balloon	Agreed
27	Seattle, WA	Meteor	Agreed
27	Bellville, IL	Radar interference	Agreed
27	Dallas, TX	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	Hopewell, VA	Astro	Agreed. Meteor.
28	Sunset Hills, VA	No conclusion	Possible aircraft

28	Washington DC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Telephone call of witness reported sighting of UFO traveling NE to SE. No other information as to duration or size.
28	Hallock, MN	Beacon light	Agreed
28	Heidelberg, Germany	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Possibly Jupiter
28	Del Paso Heights, CA	Balloon	Agreed
28	Riverside, CA	Aircraft	Possible meteor. Listed as aircraft because witness heard noise. Description is more meteor-like.
28	Bismark, ND	Balloon	Agreed
28	Richland, WA	Insufficient data	Possible birds.
28	St. Paul, MN	Meteor	Not a meteor. Duration too long. BB related sighting with radar returns that might have been meteoric in nature. Sighting made by amateur astronomer viewing objects through telescope. Possible high altitude aircraft.
28	McGuire AFB, NJ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	McChord AFB, WA	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. See SUNlite 15-4.
28	Jersey City, NJ	No conclusion	Possible balloon
28	Honolulu, HI	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	Miami, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
28	Burley, ID	Meteor	Agreed
28	Hill AFB, UT	Balloon	NO CASE FILE
28	Palmyra, WI	Hoax	Agreed. Physical object.
28	Kirtland AFB	No conclusion	Possible balloon. Object hovered AFB for 7-8 minutes before moving to SE and disappearing. Changed from cigar to V-shape. Appeared to be at 30K-40K altitude.
28	Tyrons, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed
28	Phoenix, AZ	Aircraft	Meteor
28	Phoenix, AZ	Balloon	Agreed
28	Chicago, IL	Stars/Planets	Insufficient data. The witness reported seeing 10 objects in sky flashing lights and moving about for 15 minutes. No specifics on positional data to determine if they were just stars or not.
28	Lake Charles AFB, LA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	Olathe NAS, KS	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration.
28	Florence, SC	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	San Reefael, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Marietta, GA	Meteor	Agreed
28	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
28	York, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
28	San Antonio, TX	Jupiter	Agreed
28	Chicago, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Possibly Altair
28	New York, NY	P: Balloon	Agreed (BB photo section evaluated as balloon. I agree with the assessment but also feel it might be an internal reflection of some kind).
29	Osceloa, WI	P: UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED (Photos are of radar displays)
29	Langley AFB, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Otis AFB, MA	Balloon	Agreed
29	Chico, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor

29	Atlanta, GA	Balloon	Arcturus
29	Red Bluff, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration
29	Albuquerque, NM	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Actual date is 30 July. 16- year old seeing moving light.
29	Merced, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Wichita, KS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Miami, FL	Aircraft	Agreed. Motion picture film of moving light.
29	Miami, FL	No conclusion	Unreliable report. This appears to be a case that was first recognized by the AF in 1956 and is based on a story that appeared in 1952 of a man photographing a UFO.
29	Key Biscayne, FL	No conclusion	Arcturus
29	Dallas, TX	No conclusion	Possibly stars. Witness description seems to be of nocturnal lights that they saw moving about.
29	Detroit, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Great Falls, MT	No conclusion	Possible birds soaring at high altitude.
29	United States	Aircraft	Sighting by aircraft over Port Huron. After trying to obtain radar lock, aircraft pursued flashing light towards the north for 20 minutes. Ground radar indicated object was always ahead of aircraft. Object appears to be star being pursued, probably Capella to NE. Radar contact from ground radar and momentary target recorded by radar operator were possibly radar anomalies.
29	Negro Mountain, Grantsville, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Napa, CA	Aircraft	Possible moonset
29	Hickam AFB, HI	Balloon	Agreed
29	Ennis, MT	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Otis AFB, MA	Balloon	Agreed
29	Los Alamos, NM	Paper in wind	Agreed. Witnesses saw speck in the sky for a few seconds. One felt it was drifting with the wind. Either paper or some other form of light debris.
29	Montague, CA	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Witness reported seeing two objects. No times listed or durations.
29	Palm Beach, FL	Meteor	Agreed. Witness reported seeing objects that sounded like meteors. Probably from Aquarid meteor shower.
29	Walker AFB, NM	No conclusion	Wind blown debris. Objects moving rapidly described as very small and difficult to track with theodolite.
29	Ashiya AB, Japan	Searchlights	Agreed. It is probable what was seen was a searchlight from a ship off shore.
29	Port Huron, MI	Aircraft	Duplicate entry. Same sighting as "United States".
30	Kirtland AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Possible moon. Moon in location described. Object described as "flattened ellipse". No mention of moon near object. (actual date is 29 July)
30	Albuquerque, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible Moon. See SUNlite 16-6. (actual date is 29 July)
30	Atlanta, GA	Balloon	Agreed
30	Dobbins AFB, GA		This was possibly Arcturus followed by observation of meteor. Pilot had object parallel his path from Spartansburg SC. Towards end of his flight he observed streaking light.
30	Duluth, MN	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
30	San Antonio, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30	Northern Maine area	Balloon	Agreed

30	Sunland, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Jacksonville, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Phoenix, AZ	No conclusion	Possible meteor
30	Maxwell AFB, AL	Balloon	Arcturus
30-31	Southeast MS	Inversion layer	Agreed. Radar target identified as due to temperature inversion.
31	Ardin Park, CA	Aircraft	Possible balloon that ruptured. Stationary white object observed to have exploded and emit white smoke. Shock waves felt in area. F-86 in region. Shock waves probably related to some other event or may have been perceived.
31	Columbus, OH	Balloon	Agreed
31	Passaic, NJ	Hoax	Agreed
31	West Germany	R: No conclusion	Sighting appears to be morning of 1 August. Possible meteor. No mention of any radar contact.
31	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Arcturus

Reclassification

I evaluated 387 cases in the Blue Book files from July 1952. In my opinion, 147 of these were improperly classified (38.0%). 54 (14.0% of the total number of cases/36.7% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient data". 31 other cases had no classification/conclusion listed (8.0% of the total number of cases/20.4% of the reclassifications). This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
1	Baltimore, MD	Insufficient data	Meteor
6/30-7/2	Phoenix, AZ	Aircraft	Stars/planets. No specific details on locations to determine which stars/planets
2	Lexington, MA	Balloon	Aircraft
5	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible birds (objects seen over drive-in at night)
5	Norman, OK	Insufficient data	Possible balloons
5	Bartlesville, OK	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
5	Kindley AFB, Bermuda	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
6-12	Governors Island, NY	P: UNIDENTIFIED	Internal reflection of the moon and insufficient information. See SUNlite 9-4.
7	El Paso, TX	Aircraft	Meteor (Daylight fireball seen over western US)
9	Briggsville, AR	No conclusion	Possible balloon
9	Spitzenbergen Island, Norway	Aircraft	No evidence. Rumor of crashed UFO. Probable Hoax
10	Prairie Village, KS	Stars/Planets	Possible balloon
10	Goose AFB, Labrador	Insufficient data	Possibly Mars setting
11	Marinette, AZ	Balloon	Aircraft
12	Belleville, IL	Stars/planets	False radar targets. No message regarding potential stars and planets but message describing radar contacts. No targets located by aircraft.
13	Dallas, TX	Insufficient data	Possible birds
15	Mauch Chunk, PA	Balloon	Mars
15	Pendleton, OR	Balloon	Aircraft
15	Tacoma, WA	Balloon	Possibly Altair
16	Bererlyn, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	Windows reflection. See SUNlite 11-4

16	Lahaina Mavi, HI	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Witnesses were looking in direction of setting sun. Venus eliminated incorrectly. Venus was in the direction (contrary to report) but too close to the sun to be seen. Sun had not even set yet but was close to object.
16	Ogden Dunes, IN	Aircraft	Possible meteors
16	Devins, TX	Insufficient data	Possible birds.
17	Canada	Reflection	Listed as Nova Scotia. Insufficient data
17	Tacoma, WA	Aircraft	Balloon
17	Vandalia, Dayton, OH	Balloon	Possible meteors. Witness gave duration as 20 minutes but report sounds like he saw multiple objects moving rapidly across the sky over a 20 minute period.
17	Lockbourne AFB, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	Probably Jupiter. See SUNlite 7-3.
17	Duluth, MN	Balloon	Possible birds
17	Batesville, MS	Balloon	Stars/Planets. Based on description, one was probably Antares. Three objects reported could indicated they also saw adjacent stars or, maybe, Arcturus.
18	Daale, MD	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
19	Washington DC	No conclusion	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anamolous propagation and misidentifications.
19	Rock Island, IL	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
19	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Possible stars (insufficient data on determining which stars)
20	Harrisburg, PA	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness reported seeing lights appear and disappear. No durations given. Could have been aircraft or meteors.
20	Oscoda, MI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
21	Washington DC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. No times, duration or positional data. Listed as Herndon, VA in msg.
21	Nagshead, NC	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
22	Stafford, VA	UNKNOWN	This is not on the list of 701 BB unknowns. It is possible this was a relection off of cirrus clouds. Pilots saw object in direction opposite of sun and they never caught up to it before it faded.
22	Washington DC	No conclusion	Possibly Jupiter. Listed as "Clifton, VA".
22	Wellington, NJ	Aircraft	Meteor
22	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Meteor
22	Dallas, TX	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
22	Roslindale, MA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
22	New Smyrna Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
22	Maxwell, TX	Meteor	Insufficient/confusing data. Description of trajectory is not clear.
22	Trenton, NJ	Balloon	Aircraft
22	Colorado Springs, CO	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
22	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Possible birds
22	Dallas, OR	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
22	Bordentown, NJ	Stars/Planets	Aircraft
22	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Meteor
23	Alexandria, VA	Insufficient data	Possibly Mars
23	Boston, MA	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella or Jupiter. Object faded as sun rose.
23	Boston, MA	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Msg states object making arcs and moving at tremendous speed in northerly direction. No duration.

23	Warren, OH	Balloon	Possibly Arcturus
23	Springfield, MA	Insufficient data	Arcturus
23	Norfolk, MA	Balloon	Meteor
23	Russell Springs, KY	Meteor	Possibly Arcturus. Witness did not give duration but 2-3 seconds on record card was mentioned as the frequency of the light flashes and not duration of the sighting. No full duration given but indicated that it was a long duration and not a short one.
23	Avon, OH	Insufficient data	Stars. Three different sightings, from different observers, in three different directions. Stars were probably Arcturus, Capella, and Antares.
23	Jacksonville, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
23	Jamestown, RI	R: No conclusion	Possible false targets. Radar recorded contacts moving at high speed and then stationary. Interceptors unable to locate.
23	Santa Cruz, CA	Balloon	Possible birds
23	Nahant, MA	Balloon	Insufficient data. No course given.
23	Pinemoor Vienna, VA	P: no conclusion	Insufficient data.. This appears to be an individual promoting a rock of some kind that the witness considered unnatural. The rock was not analyzed by Blue Book. Witness thought a tree was evidence of where rock fell but forestry service determined there was nothing unusual about the tree's damage.
24	Circle, MT	No conclusion	Unreliable report. Individual reported landing spacecraft and two "men".
24	Ontario, Canada	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
24	Lakeland, GA	Balloon	Stars/planets. Probably Antares, Mars, and Arcturus.
24	Memphis, TN	Insufficient data	Meteor
24	Clovis, NM	Insufficient data	Possible birds (seen over drive-in at night)
24	Danville, CA	Insufficient data	Clouds illuminated by setting sun
24	Lake Charles, LA	Insufficient data	Meteor
24	Amenia, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Capella
25	Hampton, VA	No conclusion	Possible bird. Witness saw object during daytime move quickly in front of car. Visible only for a few seconds.
25	Lockbourne AFB, OH	No conclusion	Possible balloon. This appears to be a 23 July sighting and not 25 July (there is a case for 23 July and not 25 July at Lockbourne). It appears that this could have been a high altitude research balloon reflecting the sun.
25	Pemlico River, NC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Witness in a boat mentioned seeing a red light to the SE near the horizon for 30 minutes. Object was gone after that time period.
25	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Aircraft (two sightings in file. Other appears to be a meteor).
25	Hampton, VA	Insufficient data	Possible false targets. Actual date was 26 July. Radar contacts but no visual sighting.
25	New Berlin, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus.
25	New York City, NY	Light Refractions	Row of faint lights seen for 10 seconds moving across sky. Possible birds
25	Osceola, WI	Balloon	Photos show radar display. Radar sightings appear to be false targets. Visual sightings appear to have been meteors.
25	Cincinnati, OH	Balloon	Meteor (seen for 3 seconds moving rapidly at night)
25	Atlanta, GA	Insufficient data	Possible contrail

25	San Bernardo, Chile	No conclusion	Actual date is 24 July. Possible moon. Observed in the west as an opaque yellowish light that moved westward over a period of 15 minutes (the witnesses stated it was at high speed but the period of visibility indicates they probably were describing that it disappeared rapidly). Moon was setting at the time of the sighting.
26	Washington DC	No conclusion	Meteors. Listed as case 1661 involved B-29 gunner seeing flashing lights over a 4 minute period.
26	Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anamolous propagation and misidentifications.
26	Concord, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
26	Forest, Ontario, Canada	Possible balloon	Aircraft
26	Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anamolous propagation and misidentifications.
26	Selfridge AFB, MI	No conclusion	Insufficient data. No duration listed. Time listed in EST with no designation of AM or PM.
26	Kansas City, MO	UNIDENTIFIED	Arcturus. See SUNlite 5-3.
26	200 mi. S. of NY	Possible weather	Possible meteor observations. Three objects seen. All seem to have been only visible for a few seconds at most.
26	Andrews AFB, Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	Condon report considered the radar returns were due to Anamolous propagation and misidentifications.
26	Santa Cruz, CA	Balloon	Insufficient data. Witness reported objects chasing each other for over an hour at night. No other details.
26	Deborgia, MT	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Observer in window saw round object go by aircraft in opposite direction plane was flying. Only visible a few seconds.
26	Oceola, MO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
26	Hamilton AFB, CA	Aircraft	Possible meteor. Observed for less than a minute moving from west to east. Record card states it moved extremely fast.
26	Dania, FL	Insufficient data	Possible Moonset. Described as a football that disappeared after 10 minutes by moving south and up while changing colors to orange and then dim blue. Moon set 10 minutes before sighting time in the WSW.
27	Bethesda, MD	No conclusion	Possible balloon
27	Wilmington, DE	Unknown	Not on list of 701 unknowns. Possible balloon.
27	Kinsington, MD	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
27	Highlands, NY	No conclusion	False targets. Radar contacts reported by station. Interceptors found no targets.
27	Washington DC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Witnesses reported 10 objects moving northward in "pulsating manner". No other information.
27	Washington DC	No conclusion	Possible meteor
27	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Possible balloon (actual date appears to be 26 July)
27	Triton Beach, MD	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
27	Manhattan Beach, CA	No conclusion	Possible birds
27	Hamilton AFB, CA	Balloon	Jupiter
27	Spokane, WA	Insufficient data	Possible birds. Observations of objects in V-shaped formation visible for only a few seconds. Seen from various drive-in theaters.
27	Sunland, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
27	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Possible birds

27	Bailey, CO	Insufficient data	Possible balloons. Witness reported seeing 25 circular objects hovering 5 miles away to their north for 45 minutes at 11 AM while riding horses. Over that time period, the objects went lower in elevation and eventually disappeared after "speeding up".
27	Dallas, TX	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	Sunset Hills, VA	No conclusion	Possible aircraft
28	Washington DC	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Telephone call of witness reported sighting of UFO traveling NE to SE. No other information as to duration or size.
28	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Possibly Jupiter
28	Riverside, CA	Aircraft	Possible meteor. Listed as aircraft because witness heard noise. Description is more meteor-like.
28	Richland, WA	Insufficient data	Possible birds.
28	St. Paul, MN	Meteor	Not a meteor. Duration too long. BB related sighting with radar returns that might have been meteoric in nature. Sighting made by amateur astronomer viewing objects through telescope. Possible high altitude aircraft.
28	McChord AFB, WA	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. See SUNlite 15-4.
28	Jersey City, NJ	No conclusion	Possible balloon
28	Honolulu, HI	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	Miami, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
28	Kirtland AFB	No conclusion	Possible balloon. Object hovered AFB for 7-8 minutes before moving to SE and disappearing. Changed from cigar to V-shape. Appeared to be at 30K-40K altitude.
28	Phoenix, AZ	Aircraft	Meteor
28	Chicago, IL	Stars/Planets	Insufficient data. The witness reported seeing 10 objects in sky flashing lights and moving about for 15 minutes. No specifics on positional data to determine if they were just stars or not.
28	Lake Charles AFB, LA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	Florence, SC	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
28	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
28	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Possibly Altair
29	Chico, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
29	Atlanta, GA	Balloon	Arcturus
29	Albuquerque, NM	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Actual date is 30 July. 16- year old seeing moving light.
29	Miami, FL	No conclusion	Unreliable report. This appears to be a case that was first recognized by the AF in 1956 and is based on a story that appeared in 1952 of a man photographing a UFO.
29	Key Biscayne, FL	No conclusion	Arcturus
29	Dallas, TX	No conclusion	Possibly stars. Witness description seems to be of nocturnal lights that they saw moving about.
29	Great Falls, MT	No conclusion	Possible birds soaring at high altitude.
29	United States	Aircraft	Sighting by aircraft over Port Huron. After trying to obtain radar lock, aircraft pursued flashing light towards the north for 20 minutes. Ground radar indicated object was always ahead of aircraft. Object appears to be star being pursued, probably Capella to NE. Radar contact from ground radar and momentary target recorded by radar operator were possibly radar anomalies.

29	Napa, CA	Aircraft	Possible moonset
29	Montague, CA	No conclusion	Insufficient data. Witness reported seeing two objects. No times listed or durations.
29	Walker AFB, NM	No conclusion	Wind blown debris. Objects moving rapidly described as very small and difficult to track with theodolite.
30	Kirtland AFB, NM	Insufficient data	Possible moon. Moon in location described. Object described as "flattened ellipse". No mention of moon near object. (actual date is 29 July)
30	Albuquerque, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	Possible Moon. See SUNlite 16-6. (actual date is 29 July)
30	Dobbins AFB, GA	No conclusion	This was possibly Arcturus followed by observation of meteor. Pilot had object parallel his path from Spartansburg SC. Towards end of his flight he observed streaking light.
30	Duluth, MN	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
30	Phoenix, AZ	No conclusion	Possible meteor
30	Maxwell AFB, AL	Balloon	Arcturus
31	Ardin Park, CA	Aircraft	Possible balloon that ruptured. Stationary white object observed to have exploded and emit white smoke. Shock waves felt in area. F-86 in region. Shock waves probably related to some other event or may have been perceived.
31	West Germany	R: No conclusion	Sighting appears to be morning of 1 August. Possible meteor. No mention of any radar contact.
31	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Arcturus

Summary

The reports in this time period were extremely challenging due to the sheer weight of numbers. It is obvious that Blue Book had their hands full. There were many cases that they did not even bother to examine/classify. To top it off, the files are a mess. Various cases are sandwiched into other case files making it difficult to locate each individual case. I was surprised I found most of them. I could not find 25 out of the over 412 cases in the files (6%). Either the cards were missing or they are too hard to locate.

I noticed that some of the dates were incorrect in the files. This is probably due to somebody making a clerical error when dating the master list. An example is the Lockbourne case of 25 July. I could not find any 25 July sighting. However, I did find one for 23 July and there is no 23 July sighting on the master list. I assume that this is the one referenced by Blue Book.

I found it interesting that there were quite a few that had no classifications assigned to them. There were thirty (7.2% of all the sightings for July 1952) of those examined that had this classification. I am guessing they just did not have the time to look at these cases. I recall reading that Hynek complained about Blue Book going back and reclassifying old cases. I don't understand why they never tried to look at these. Many were low hanging fruit and could have been identified or listed as insufficient data.

Normally, I leave all UNIDENTIFIEDs in the list of 701 unknowns as UNIDENTIFIED unless I have examined them in my 701 club column. The files included several "unknowns" in the July 1952 that were not on the 701 list. Because of this, I took the time to examine them and classify them on the spot, without writing a column on it. The comments will explain the classifications I gave. Additionally, I decided to default to the Condon study's explanation for the two Washington DC National sightings on 26-27 July as temperature inversions and misinterpretation of man-made/natural objects. The Condon study spent a lot of time on this and their expertise is enough for me to accept their explanations. I realize that UFO experts disagree but I found Gordon Thayer's writings persuasive enough. In his conclusion, Thayer had stated:

In summary, the following statements appear to be correct:

- 1. The atmospheric conditions during the period 19-20 and 25-27 July, 1952, in the Washington, D. C., area, were conducive to anomalous propagation of radar signals;*
- 2. The unidentified radar returns obtained during these incidents were most likely the result of anomalous propagation (AP);*
- 3. The visual objects were, with one or two possible exceptions, identifiable as most probably meteors and scintillating stars.*

I have looked at most of the visual sightings mentioned in the case file and agree that most sound like the standard nocturnal light

UFOs and nothing to get excited about. The temperature inversion explanation was documented by Thayer and was also analyzed in 1952. The Bordon-Vickers report from 1953 also seemed to confirm these conclusions. In my opinion, these two cases have been explained enough to remove them from 701 club.

I do get some feedback from readers about some of my classifications. I want everyone to understand that these are MY reclassifications and, while I appreciate the feedback and enjoy the discussions, I also like to point out that they are MY interpretation of how I think they should be classified based on the available data. I usually list my justifications in the comments. The bottom line is when all is said and done, I agree to disagree with those who feel that I did not properly classify a specific case as they would like. Perhaps, if they had spent the dozens of hours reviewing each and every case, they might appreciate the frustration I feel with the information in the files. There always seems to be a lot of information that is open to interpretation or there is not enough information. This makes any conclusion open to interpretation by the person looking at the data.

I intend to perform a review of August - September 1952 next issue and finish the remainder of 1952 in SUNlite 17-2. That will complete my Blue Book review column. As I previously noted, this will basically end SUNlite's regular distribution. The final issue will cover a review of the Blue Book data I collected. There will also be a supplement with all the data. The end result should be an interesting collection for readers to examine.

References

4. "Project Blue Book investigations." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/title/461/project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>
5. 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.)
6. 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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