

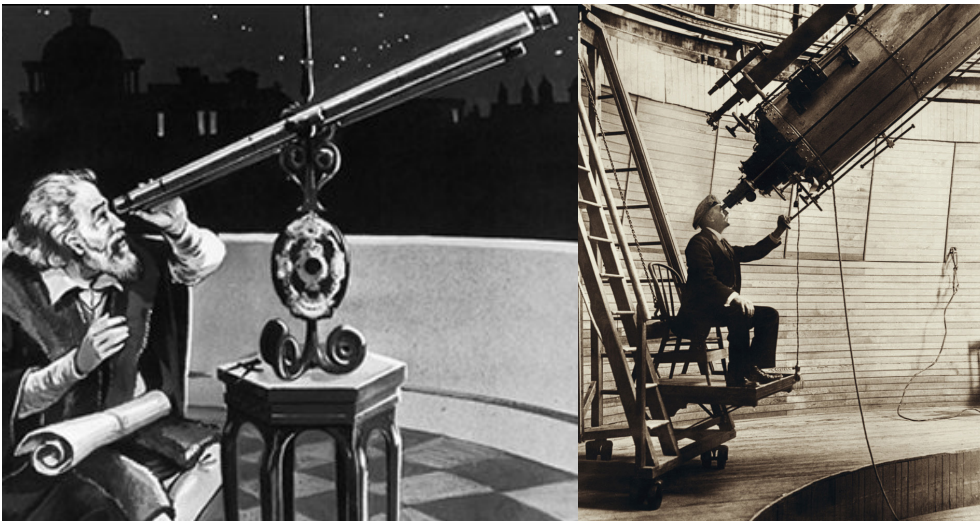
SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



The search for UFOS is not simply a search for something we can't identify...It's instead a search for something novel, something that's unambiguously not a bird, plane, balloon, lens flare, atmospheric effect, or radar glitch. It's something that could only represent new technology or a new natural phenomenon-or even aliens.

Mick West - Skeptical Inquirer November-December 2021



Cover: Today, we see airplane contrails as something ordinary but in the 1950s, contrails were something new and could generate UFO reports. This issues UFO evidence under review identified this report as probably a contrail. I took this image a few years ago. Visually, the contrail the source of the contrail was difficult to see but the telephoto lens revealed the plane responsible.

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Galileo or Percival Lowell?

To some in UFOlogy, Avi Loeb's new "[Galileo project](#)" has the potential to produce the evidence they have craved for so many decades. I am a bit more skeptical. In my opinion, if there were exotic craft cavorting around the atmosphere, they would have been discovered long ago because amateur astronomers, among others, have been performing such an exercise for decades. I have hundreds, if not thousands, of hours invested in my astrophotography hobby performing both narrow and wide field imaging. I have never recorded a single UFO. I think most astrophotographers can say the same about their imaging. Any unusual lights that have been recorded usually are identified or are too indistinct to resolve into something significant. Even daylight photographers have had no luck in successfully recording UAPs that clearly show something unknown to science. Modern high quality telephoto lenses should resolve most objects. I wrote about this in SUNlite 3-3. The lack of any convincing imagery in the past seventy-five years of UFO history makes one really doubt that anything convincing will ever be obtained.

[Writing in the Scientific American](#), Loeb, stated that telescopes with an objective size of 100mm (4-inches) would be adequate to track UFOs moving through the atmosphere at high speed. Most amateurs have telescopes of this size yet none, to the best of my knowledge, have convincingly reported such objects. I have seen some reports by amateurs of tracking UAP but many turned out to be conventional objects of some kind. Remember Mitch Stanley's observation of the Arizona UFO in 1997? He identified the lights as being aircraft in formation but his observations were ignored or downplayed by UFO promoters. It is unlikely that visual observations are going to be good enough as they are subjective (see SUNlite 1-4 for an example of such). That means an imaging device should be used to record the object. There are plenty of such devices and I have seen amateur astronomers taking excellent photographs of planets with a cell phone and their telescope. More sophisticated imaging systems produce results that rival the Hubble telescope. Many amateur astronomers can image the International Space Station in such detail, that various sections of the station can be resolved. While some might argue that the ISS is a planned event and easy to predict, I think it is important to point out that most UFO reports that are unidentified have an average time measured in minutes and are obvious to casual observers, who just happened to "look up". Based on their reports, many of these unidentifieds are of sufficient angular size that details can be seen without optical aid. Any amateur astronomer, properly equipped, should have no problem seeing and recording such an object. The only problem is how good would the resultant image be.

Mick West recently wrote about what he has observed about UFO/UAP photography:

UFOs seem to exist in what I call a low information zone, defined loosely as the distance or situation where the camera cannot record enough information to resolve what it is looking at. The location of this zone seems to vary with the capabilities of the camera. The information content of a cell phone photo of a UFO matches the information content of photos taken with advanced US Navy targeting pods or more powerful telephoto cameras. It's almost as if the UFO knows the capability of your camera and stays out of range, just behind a veil of ambiguity.

This is why UFO/UAP remain unidentified and mysterious. Anything that can be resolved will be identified so it makes sense that an unidentified will have to be ambiguous. Dr. Loeb's project will probably produce some fuzzy blobs, which could be vague enough to classify as "unidentified" but they could be anything from a bird to a flying saucer. It would be like Percival Lowell's observations of Martian canals and a case of "in the eye of the beholder".

Mick West's closing remark should be heeded by those anxious to see what Loeb will produce:

Photos and videos are likely to remain ambiguous. UFOs, as they have for over seventy years, will stay just too far away.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

March 12, 1949 - 40 miles southeast of Des Moines Airport, Iowa¹

The source of this information is from Project Blue Book's files.

Source information

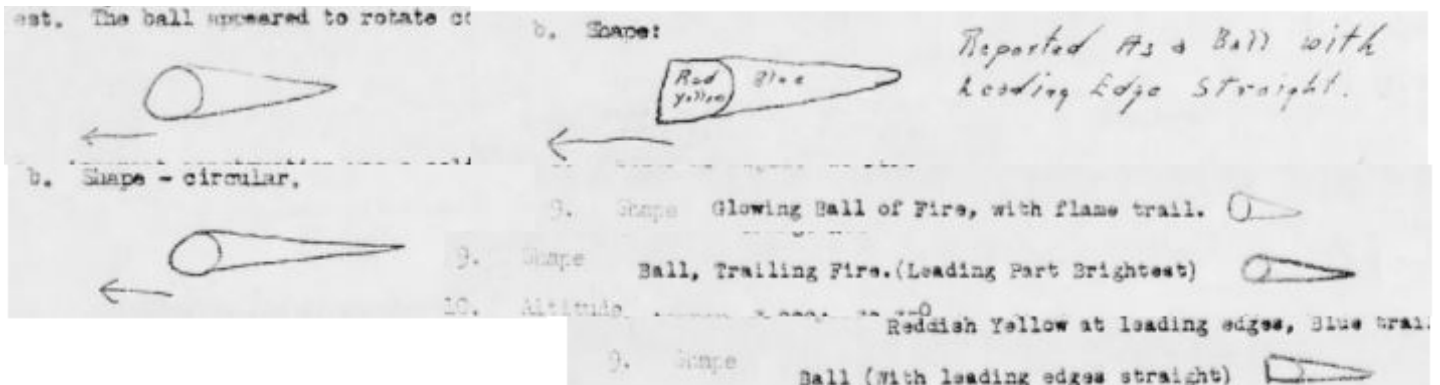
The US Air Force classified this as a meteor. Searching for the case file was difficult. It was in the illegible section folder and had multiple reports from both Minnesota and Iowa. A check of the Newspaper Archive revealed no mention of any event for the region but that is not that unexpected. Reports of such things are sometimes ignored by newspapers if they don't come from a news service. I recall multiple bright meteors in the 1970s failing to make it into the local newspaper over the years even though the local astronomy club reported them.

Analysis

This case has all the characteristics of a meteor fireball. Meteor fireballs are usually seen over a wide area and this event is no different in that it was reported from locations in Iowa and Minnesota²:

Location	Time	Duration	Direction of travel	Comments
Charlton, IA (both pilot and co-pilot filed reports with the same information)	1950-55	5 seconds	East to West	Pilot observation reported in Weinstein catalog
Minneapolis, MN	2000	30 seconds	Southwest	In Automobile
Minneapolis, MN	1958	5 seconds	Northwest to South	In Automobile
Minneapolis, MN	Approx 2000	30 seconds	Southwest	In Automobile
Minneapolis, MN	1958	5 seconds	Northwest to South	

Some of these reports look like duplicates. With redaction, it is hard to say. Most interesting were the sketches that were provided. All looked very similar and are often the type of sketches one would see from meteor fireballs.



Conclusion

This case is a meteor fireball. This is little doubt that this is what was observed. I am not even sure how this even made it on the list when looking at the description. Any observation of an object, with a brief duration, at night is usually a meteor unless there is something unique about the event. A cursory check revealed that there were no unusual maneuvers or characteristics. Blue Book correctly identified this as a fireball. It should be removed from the list.

Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 46
2. "Case file - March 12, 1949 - Charlton, Iowa, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6792745>

March 10, 1950 Orangeburg, South Carolina

March 10, 1950--Orangeburg, S.C. Disc hovered over city, sped away. [XII]

In section XII is a table with the following description:

Publisher and others saw bright disc hover over city for 15 minutes, sped away leaving a trail.

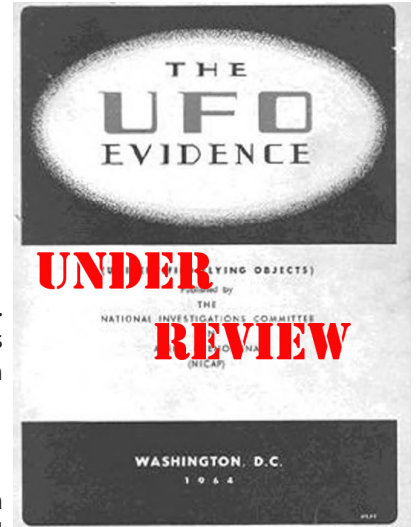
There is no source information listed.

Probable source

NICAP usually took a lot of their information from newspaper stories. This is no different. There was a story about this sighting that was widely circulated in various papers across the country on March 10, 1950. It is important to note that if the story appeared on March 10th, the actual event happened on March 9th.

Blue Book file

Project Blue Book also documented this case. They concluded that what was seen was a meteor. The case file had some newspaper clippings similar to the Statesville Daily Record story below (Flying saucers again reported). According to those accounts, the event started around 18:15 and ended around 18:30. The file also included a typed statement by an unnamed Army Agent, who observed the event, stated that he felt it was a vapor trail.



This Agent witnessed the above phenomenon and it appeared as follows: The object, presumably a very high flying aircraft, was traveling in a westerly direction. At first it appeared to be a sky writer but did not make any figures. The object was probably going on a straight course, but the vapor trail which it left appeared to be slightly arched. The center of the vapor trail was quite thin and dissipated very soon, leaving what appeared to be two separate trails. The wind was blowing from West to East, which made it appear like the two trails were not moving very fast. The two trails of vapor hung in the air long after the object was gone. The craft was so high and going almost directly into the sun, which made it impossible for this Agent to observe anything but the vapor trail. This was first observed at approximately 1805 and the dissipating trails were still able to be observed at 1825 hours. To this observer, this phenomenon appeared to be nothing but the regular vapor trail from a very high flying aircraft.

9 March 1950

Flying Saucers Again Reported

BY UNITED PRESS
Scores of Orangeburg, S. C., residents added to the growing number of flying saucer reports today with the description of a disk which hovered over the city for 15 minutes, then disappeared leaving a vapor trail. Six members of the staff of the Orangeburg Times and Democrat said they saw the disk last night after Mrs. Donald Law, wife of the city editor, told them about it. They said it was about the size and color of a new moon, "only brighter."
Publisher J. L. Sims said the disk appeared to turn slowly in the air, from vertical to parallel with the horizon and then vertical again, before disappearing in the western sky. Harry Player, a composing room employe said he and four other persons saw the disk while driving on a highway 15 miles out of Orangeburg.

Vapor Trails Get Many Excited

Vapor trails formed by condensation of aircraft engines in cold or freezing temperatures put Peninsula residents in a dazy late yesterday afternoon.
Ordinarily white, the vapor trails were scarlet and gold from the setting sun.
Police departments from San Jose to South San Francisco were flooded with calls between 5:15 and 5:25 with reports ranging from "a burning plane" and "meteors" to "flying saucers." However, it was only a B-50 bomber flying at 35,000.

Analysis

Blue Book got this one wrong. Despite having a clear description/identification of this being a contrail, they classified it as a meteor. Meteors don't last for many minutes. Even bright ones usually last no longer than 15-20 seconds (although I have seen videos of them lasting longer). However, this had all the earmarks of it being a high altitude plane leaving a contrail. It happened around sunset (sunset being around 18:28) and all of the witnesses described a vapor trail of some kind. In 1950, airplane contrails were new because not many planes flew at high altitudes. Mistakes of this kind were being made elsewhere. On January 11, 1950, a B-50 bomber at 35,000 feet left a contrail that was observed by civilians in the San Francisco area. They reported this event as something exotic and these report made the news in the local region. It did not quite get the headlines that the Orangeburg incident got because it was rapidly identified.

Several of the descriptions also describe a bright object that was producing the contrail. This was probably the aircraft reflecting sunlight.

A contrail being visible for 15-20 minutes is not unheard of especially if it can be seen down to the horizon. I have seen such contrails especially in the month or so around the Spring and Fall Equinox, when the sun's location on the horizon is more likely to illuminate contrails of westbound aircraft.

Conclusion

This had all the characteristics of an airplane contrail. The case should be classified as "Probably aircraft" 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. 130
2. *ibid.* P. 149
3. "Flying Saucers again reported ". Statesville Daily Record. Statesville, North Carolina. March 10, 1959. P. 1
4. "Vapor trails get many excited". San Mateo Times. San Mateo, California. January 12, 1950 P. 7
5. "Case file - March 9, 1950 - Orangeburg, South Carolina". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/12650548>

THE 701 CLUB: CASE #10247 MIMS, FLA MARCH 20, 1966

Don Berliner's list describes the case as follows:

March 20, 1966; Miami, Florida.. 12:15 a.m. Witness: USAF Res. Maj. K.C. Smith, employee of NASA at Cape Kennedy. One pulsating light which varied from white to intense blue made a jerky ascent and then rapidly accelerated away to the north after 5 minutes.¹

Brad Sparks has no additional information.²

The Blue Book file³

Don Berliner mistook Mims, Florida for Miami, Florida. Sparks apparently copied what Berliner wrote because he also identified it as Miami. However, the record card and description clearly identify it as Mims, which is located just north of Titusville over 150 miles north of Miami. It does not change the conditions of the sighting much but it identifies a common problem with UFO-logical lists. They often copy each other without even trying to perform a simple check to see if the information is accurate or not.

The file consists of nothing more than a single letter written by the witness on April 7, 1966. On the top of the letter there is a handwritten note that states to check with "other Orlando area (?)". There was no other case from Florida for that date. It seems there was little, if any, follow-up/investigation on this case.

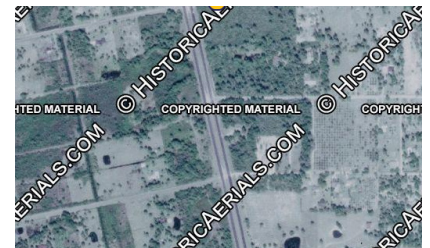
The witness mentions that he had been driving from Miami and stopped in Mims for a coffee. It was around 0015 EST. He was driving on US-1, about 2-4 miles north of Mims, when he saw the UFO. It was to the left and front of his vehicle. While it is indicated he might have been an engineer (he stated he was a trained pilot), his positional data left a lot to be desired. Azimuth and elevation angles seemed foreign to him. According to the letter, the object's altitude was 3000-4000 feet. He covered it with his index finger but could still see the object's light around his finger. It varied in brightness at 80-100 times per minute.

After his initial observation, the object then began descending in steps of 500 feet and then pausing for about 30 seconds before descending again. When it reached 1000-1500 feet, the object paused for about 60-90 seconds. It then accelerated away to the north in about 3-5 seconds.

He saw no other cars on the highway. Nobody else reported such an object in the region.

Analysis

US-1 goes North-Northwest for about 9 miles north of Mims. Two to four miles to the north of Mims' center, the terrain today is pretty developed but there are still a significant number of trees along the highway. Historical aeriels from 1984 (they did not have any pre-dating this) shows a pretty good quantity of trees in the region along this stretch of road.⁴ Examining Google earth, it seems that one would expect that the side of the road would have been mostly pine trees and palmetto bushes.⁵ The witness would not have been looking over a flat horizon.



Above: This is a stretch of US-1 a little over 3 miles north of SR-46 and US-1 (Mims center) showing the type of tree line one is to expect along the road. This shows from about azimuth 260 and 340 degrees (image from Google Earth).

We don't quite know how accurate his time estimate was. We were told the time was about 0015 and the duration was listed as 5 minutes. The letter was written 18 days after the event so one has to consider it possible the values may be in error. Additionally, the values were listed as approximate by the witness. The duration could have been longer and the time could have been off by fifteen minutes or so. It is even possible the date may have been incorrect. For the purpose of this analysis, I will assume the time and date are correct.

This witness had driven up from Miami and it was late at night. He had driven roughly 200 miles, mostly on old US-1 (not an interstate). My recollections, as a passenger with my father (Late 60s/early 70s), was that those roads went through all sorts of small



towns and could be very tiring on the driver. I remember the stretch of US-17 around Brunswick, Georgia (The section of I-95 was incomplete in this location) was particularly annoying on a family trip from Baltimore to Jacksonville in 1972 (we got home after midnight). Driver fatigue could have contributed to the accuracy of the witness' observations.

This brings us to what the witness might have been observing. Anytime a witness reports a light changing colors at night, I start to think the object might be a star scintillating. The witness stated he was looking towards the left and front of his vehicle when he saw the object. This puts it at an azimuth of somewhere around 270-360 degrees. There were two bright celestial objects visible low in this sky. Jupiter was to the West-Northwest (azimuth 292) and Capella was to the Northwest (azimuth 314). Jupiter was at an elevation angle of about 8 degrees and set around 1AM (at an azimuth of 297 degrees). Capella was higher at 15 degrees and set around 2:10 AM (at an azimuth of 326 degrees).

Both Jupiter and Capella could have been the source described. Capella is more likely to scintillate but Jupiter could as well under the right conditions. It was low to the horizon and probably nearer the tops of those pine trees I mentioned. It also would have been brighter and more likely to glow to the point his index finger might not appear to cover it completely. His finger would cover Jupiter but we are not sure how he conducted this exercise or if the brightness of Jupiter gave the impression it was extending beyond his finger.

Assuming the witness saw the events at the time described, I suspect he was looking at an object near tree level and could see the astronomical object approaching the trees as it descended. Even five minutes would have been enough to see motion of the stars when one has a point of reference. The sudden disappearance could have been to it fading behind a distant cloud/fog or just going behind the trees to the point it could not be seen anymore. One can't say for sure but these are possibilities.

Conclusion

It is disappointing that nobody from Blue Book bothered to investigate the case and it was simply thrown in the "Unidentified" pile with little follow-up. With the "Swamp gas" fiasco fresh in the news, the April 7th letter probably was looked as, "Let's not make too many waves" or "We are too busy to be bothered with this report" (March and April 1966 had a total of about 300 sightings). I think a brief investigation might have revealed more information (or at least having the witness fill out the reporting form) that might have revealed the source of the sighting. In my opinion, this case can be listed as "possibly" Jupiter or Capella. It could even be classified as insufficient data. In either case it should be removed from 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. 296
3. "Case file - March 20, 1966. Mims, Florida". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8668507>
4. 1984 aerial image Mims, Florida. Historical aerals. Available WWW: <https://historicaerials.com/>
5. Google earth street view. Google Earth Pro. Available WWW: <https://www.google.com/earth/versions/>

Project Blue Book case review: January - June 1965

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering January through June 1965. 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.

January 1965

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1965	Dallas, TX	Meteor	Agreed. No date and report made a few months after event but had all characteristics of meteor.
1965	Irving, NY	1. Satellites 2. Stars	Insufficient data. While times are listed, there are no dates.
1	Norfolk, VA	Meteor	Agreed
2	Rockdale, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of travel except "towards observer".
3	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
4	Morton, IL	Mars	Agreed
4	Bethel, VT	Tracer Bullets	Agreed. Hynek investigated case and felt that it was probable that what was seen were tracer bullets being fired over the highway. He pointed that they were available and were not illegal in Vermont. Witness even felt that was what they were.
5	Wallops Island, VA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
5	Lynchburg, VA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Phone call reporting a bright light. No positional data.
8	Georgetown, SC	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Agreed. Amount of information is limited. It could have been satellites. Report mentions four objects. Echo 2, Echo 2 RB, Explorer 19, and Transit 4A all visible.
10	Silver Springs, MD	Meteor	Agreed
10	South Boston, VA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Pleasant Hill, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
12	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
13	NE Australia	Contrail	Agreed
14	Mammoth, AZ	Unreliable Report	Agreed. Hynek personally investigated case and found witness not very reliable and probably confused an aircraft for his UFO.
14	Thaxton, VA	Aircraft	Agreed.
17	Dorset, West Indies	Satellite	Agreed. Possible Saturn RB.
18	Buchanan, VA	Unreliable Report	Agreed. Report of object by three children (ages unknown) and no adults.
18	Santa Barbara, CA	Aircraft	Thor rocket launch (DMSP-4A) from Vandenberg.
19	Norwalk, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time/duration given. Witness reported in August and date may be incorrect as witness describes Venus being near the Pleiades. Jupiter was near the Pleiades but Venus was never near the Pleiades during the first half of 1965.
20	Long Beach, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Lisburne, Alaska	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
21	Richmond, VA	Aircraft	Echo 1
22	Elkins, WV	Solar image	Agreed. Sub-Sun
22	Baltimore, MD	Aircraft	Agreed. Report by 10-year old with probable source being an aircraft.
23	Williamsburg, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED

23	Fort Knox, KY	Balloon	Agreed
24-8	Alaskan Flap	1. Aircraft 2. Balloon 3. Stars/planets 4. Satellites 5. Insufficient data 6. Possible search-light	1. Could have been Echo 1. 2. Agreed 3. Agreed. Vega was probably source of many sightings to the north. Object to SW was either Procyon or Betelgeuse. 4. Agreed. Echo 2 was source of one sighting and another where they stated it kept reappearing every hour and fifty minutes. 5. Agreed. No time 6. Not clear on which sighting this was.
25	Bedford, VA	Unreliable report	Possible aerial sign. Single witness reported a rectangular object, the size of a football field, moving across sky.
25	Miami, FL	Aircraft	Echo 1. Witness sketch matches track. 15 minutes after sunset but witness identified a star in his sketch, which probably was one of the stars in Cassiopeia.
25-6	Bolar, VA	Ground lights	Agreed
25-2/5	Moneta, VA	1. Balloon 2. Aircraft	1. Agreed 2. Agreed
27	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Plum Tree Island, VA	Aircraft	Agreed (Helicopter identified being in the area)
27	Ewa Beach, HI	Meteor	Agreed
27-8	Alta vista, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Hampton, VA	Balloon	Agreed
30	Mecca, CA	Eccentric	Agreed. Witness did not provide original negative/slide and wrote several letters indicating some rather eccentric opinions.
30	La Selva Beach, CA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness reported being taken aboard spaceship and given a ride for two hours.
30	Newport News, VA	Lights on boat	Possible aircraft. Teens sledding reported object that was at 45 degrees elevation due south that descended to near sea level in NW. Visible for 20 minutes. No boat traffic on river at time of sighting. Possible aircraft departing Norfolk and flying NW. As it departed in distance, it appeared low on horizon near sea level.
30	Seward, PA	Meteor	Agreed
30	Hinton, OK	Birds	Agreed

February 1965

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Feb	San Fernando, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent letter stating they had seen UFOs in 1963 and February of 1965 with no specifics. They requested forms. Forms were sent but never returned.
1	Tallahassee, FL	Meteor	Agreed
1	Jacksonville, FL	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1 Satellite (BB stated it was not but Echo 1 matches description given)
2	VA-MD	Balloon	Agreed
2	Wyandotte, MI	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1 Satellite (Time is off by 10 minutes but track matches description of passing from Cassiopeia to Gemini)
2	Pacific	Insufficient data	Satellite. Possibly Explorer 19.

2-3	Spring Lake, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. Blue Book wanted negatives for photographs submitted. No photographs in file.
3	Philadelphia, PA	Conflicting data	Agreed. Report by 13-year old. In his letter he stated the event was on 3 February but in the returned form, it was 27 January. It seems likely this was an aircraft (including a roaring sound and a green light on the starboard side of the formation).
3	Morgantown, NC	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness did not give times/specifics for observations. They could have been aircraft, satellites, or meteors.
5	Janesville, WI	Meteor	Agreed
5	Moneta, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Liberty, OH	Metal Ball	Agreed. Photographs are of metal ball.
8	Elk Grove, IL	Moon	Agreed
9	Winnepeg, Canada	Aircraft	Agreed
9	San Juan, PR	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Hibbing, Duluth, MN	Meteor	Agreed
13	Unknown	Insufficient data	Agreed. No location. Witness did not provide return address.
13	Costa Mesa, CA	Ground light	Agreed. Witnesses saw ground light while camping.
15	Alexandria, VA	Birds	Agreed
15	Hyattsville, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
16	South Dakota	Meteor	Agreed
18	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Newport News, VA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft
18	Kansas City, MO	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2
18	Pacific	Satellite	Possible aircraft. Location off the west coast of Mexico. No satellite visible. Dr. Hynek evaluated it as potential satellite
18	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
20	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
20	Hugo, OK	Balloon	Agreed.
21	Washington, DC	Arcturus	Agreed
21	Kingsley field, OR	Meteor	Agreed
24	Webb AFB, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
25	S. Rockville, MD	Birds	Agreed
25	Houma, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Ft. Benning, GA	Satellite decay	Meteor
Late Feb	Rivesville, WV	Psychological	Insufficient data. Letter written by teen/pre-teen regarding mother's sighting of landed UFO. Witness added story of own sighting, which seemed to be more of something illuminating the ground at night for a few seconds. The landing information is second hand. Witness reported filling out form but no form in file. Considering the lack of specifics on the first sighting and the landing was reported second hand, I classify this as Insufficient data.

March 1965

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Brooksville, FL	Hoax	Agreed. Story impossible to confirm and difficult to accept as accurate account. Physical evidence indicates this may have been a hoax. Photographs are of "landing site".

3	Point AuFer Reef, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Cape Decision, AK	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
4	New York City, NY	Aircraft	Possibly Capella
4	Corvallis, OR	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
5	James Connaly AFB, TX	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
6	Washington, DC	Meteor	Agreed
8	Mt. Airy, MD	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Kansas City, MO	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
10	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
10	Deer Park, MD	Balloon	Agreed
10-12	Youngstown, OH	Psychological	Agreed
11	FL-GA	Meteor	Agreed
12-13	Brooklyn, NY	Satellites	Agreed. Sightings of Echo 1 and 2 on separate mornings.
13	Rochester, NY	Aircraft	Echo 2 satellite
15	Laos	Part of aircraft	Agreed. Photographs show object taken through aircraft window. Evaluated as part of the aircraft.
15	Lincoln, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Halifax/Doctors Cove, Nova Scotia	Satellite decay	Agreed. Agena D re-entry. See Ted Molczan.
20	Waverly, OH	Psychological	Agreed. What may have been seen was an aircraft and girls active imagination may have added details. Reports by 15 and 16 year olds at 2:30AM on sleep-over describing triangular object to the south of their home that exploded into smaller objects. Duration rules out meteor Witnesses were looking out window and left room to get mother twice. UFO disappeared by time mother woke and came to window.
20	Sloan, NV	Developer Smear/hoax	Agreed
22	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
22	Peekskill, NY	Psychological	Agreed. Witness stating they saw UFOs watching Gemini 3 launch on TV.
24	Lexington, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Rangoon, Burma	Meteor	Agreed
25	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. BB received letter about seeing UFOs. Form sent but not returned. No specific information in letter.
26	Paradise Post NBP, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
26	50 Mi. S of Albany, NY	Meteor	Agreed
27	Springfield, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
28	TX area	Meteor	Agreed
30	Barberton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Single letter by witness of brief sighting of a few seconds (or less).
30	Watertown, ND	Meteor	Agreed
30	Lewisburg-Dayton, OH	1. Aircraft 2. Jupiter	Agreed
39	Dayton, OH	Jupiter-Aldebaran	Agreed
30	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Meteor
30	Belibrook, OH	Aircraft	Agreed

30	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
31	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
31	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Satellite. Possibly Cosmos 44
31	Larson AFB, WA	Meteor	Agreed

April 1965

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
APR	Pittsburgh, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Observations by an 8-year old. No date or time.
APR	Montana	Insufficient data	Agreed. Photographic prints sent without negatives. No photos in file.
1	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
4	St. Petersburg/Largo, FL	Satellite decay	Meteor
4	Wiggins, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Keesler AFB, MS	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. See SUNlite 11-2
4	Tampa, FL	Ceilometer	Agreed
5	Iran	Balloon	Agreed. Could have been research balloon from India. Position of ship is questionable. Longitude and Latitude puts the ship on land in Pakistan.
5	Rockaway, NJ	Birds	Agreed
7	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Echo 1 Satellite
8	Fairfax, VA	Balloon	Agreed
8	Dunde, MN	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness lives alone on farm and told investigating officer that two MIG aircraft had landed in his field sometime in the past.
9	Duluth, MN	Balloon	Agreed
10	Sykesville, MD	Aircraft	Agreed (15-year old observed with telescope at 175X and claims it was no aircraft. 175X really does not allow for tracking of fast moving objects and obtaining clear views).
10-14	Misawa, Japan	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed
13	Oak Lawn, IL	Kites	Agreed
14	Lodi, NJ	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
15	Algonquin, Durand, Pecatonica, IL	Meteor	Agreed. Photograph was of a sketch made by witness.
15	Omaha, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Davenport, IA	Chemical smear	Agreed. Object, while being a large streak on print, was not seen by the photographer or fellow witnesses.
16	NW of Indianapolis, IN	Meteor	Agreed
19	McClellan AFB, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Coden, AL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
22-26	Madison, TN	Misinterpretation of conventional objects	Insufficient data. Report made by 14-year old and friends. Multiple observations of different objects with very little specific information. Possible satellites, aircraft, and meteors.
25	Miami, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Kansas City, MO	Aircraft	Satellite. Echo 2.
27	McClellan AFB, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
27	Sacramento, CA	Aircraft	Agreed

28	Madison, WI	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
29	Winter Park, FL	Aircraft	Agreed. Sighting by 12-year old in moving bus.
29	Washington, DC	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1. (Time was DST. BB Zulu time wrong)
29-5 May	Oak Lawn, IL	1. Mars/Spica 2. Aircraft 3. Satellite	1. Agreed 2. Agreed 3. Agreed. Several candidates (Solrad 6RB, Echo1, Echo 2 RB).
30	Richardson, TX	Insufficient data	Seen around sunset. Possible aircraft reflecting sunlight.
30	Boyerton, PA	Birds	Agreed

May 1965

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
May	Burlington, MA	Unreliable report	Agreed. 13-year old making repeated reports/requests to BB. No date for sighting.
1	Sabatus, ME	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Centaur RB.
1	St. Augustine, FL	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
2	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Pegasus 1.
2	College Park, GA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
2	Carksville, OH	Satellites	Agreed. Echo 1, Echo 2, and Pegasus 1.
3	Chesapeake, VA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
3	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
4	Piedmont, AL	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1. (Note: Zulu time on record card improperly computed)
5-7	Philippines	1. Satellite 2. Aircraft 3. Insufficient data	Insufficient data. Report from Navy Oiler in Philippine sea. All reports were brief with little information. The one informative report had radar data missing and was difficult to follow. Aircraft/satellites are possible sources of sighting but information was limited.
6	Bedford, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness sent a brief letter without much information.
6	Brookville, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Oxford, MI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7	Pearl Harbor, HI	Satellite	Agreed. Centaur RB.
7	Anaheim, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
8	Atlantic	Flare	Agreed
9	Mequon, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
13	Orlando, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Storm Lake, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Oil City, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Tiffin, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Lewisburg, OH	Aircraft	Agreed.
21	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
22	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Possible birds
23	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
25	Thailand	Scout Rocket	Agreed. Part of rocket recovered (apparently re-entered earth's atmosphere at some point).

25	Washington, DC	Meteor	Agreed
27	Economy, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Lynn, MA	Insufficient data	Satellite. Possibly Cosmos 44
28	Macon, GA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration. Form incompletely filled out.
29	New Bedford, MA	Meteor	Agreed
28	Tucson, AZ	Aircraft	Agreed
30	NY World's fair	Developer Smear	Agreed
31	Belmont, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed
31	Piqua, OH	Aircraft	Agreed

June 1965

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Summer	Sherman, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date or time.
Summer	Elmhurst, IL	Jupiter	Arcturus. Jupiter not visible in evening sky.
1	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Germany, Spain, Europe	Satellite	Satellite decay. See Ted Molczan.
3	Bedford, OH	Star/planets	Agreed. Possibly Vega. 9-year old made the report and it is difficult to determine which star based on the information provided.
4	Dayton, OH	Arcturus	Agreed
4	Pope AFB, NC	Meteor	Agreed
5	Sutersville, PA	Balloon	Agreed
5	Allentown, PA	Psychological	Agreed. 63-year old Witness' comments makes one question the accuracy of their observations. It appears that they may have seen a fireball meteor and then added details that did not exist.
5	Marysville, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
8-9	Turkey	1. Electronic signal 2. Insufficient data	Agreed. Radar data indicates source of returns was some sort of transmitted signal. Visual observations were insufficient data since they did not provide adequate data for analysis.
10	Cheektowaga, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data, time, course, or duration.
11	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Mobile, AL	Meteor	Agreed
13	Kettering, OH	Satellite	No bright satellite visible with path described. Witness appears to have been teen. Possible aircraft.
15	Wayzetta, MN	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Probably Arcturus with another star ("15 feet away"). Second object could be nearby star or another star/planet further away.
19-20	Pittsburgh, PA	Balloon	Agreed
20	Indianapolis, IN	Debris in wind	Agreed. Visible for 25 seconds. Object appeared to make rapid jumps around the sky. Weather underground said sky conditions were cloudy and windy. Surface winds from south and SW 15-21 mph. Motion towards west but swirling winds could have produced effect viewed over a short period.
23	Sullivan, WI	Venus	Agreed
24	Washington Island, WI	1. No image 2. Meteor 3. Arcturus	Agreed with all three. Report is confusing. Witness appears to have confused a meteor which faded out after 5-10 seconds and then perceived Arcturus as a product of that meteor.
24	Troy, OH	Venus	Agreed

24	Sturgis, MI	Aircraft	Satellite. Echo 1.
24	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
27	Landover Hills, MD	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
27	Grantsville, MD	Satellite	Agreed. Centaur RB.
28	Trenton, MO	Sun	Agreed. Witness was looking at the location of Sunrise (Hynek confirms classification). Possibly phenomena associated with sunrise made it unusual. Sunrise was at 1046Z. Sighting was at 1100Z.
28	Sacramento, CA	Meteor	Agreed
28	Albuquerque, NM	Balloon	Agreed
29	Frankfurt, Germany	Reflection	Insufficient data. Very little information. No flight path of aircraft and position of reflection in relation to the aircraft.
29	San Jose, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Birdsboro, PA	Satellite	Agreed. Explorer 19.
29	Greensburg, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Bryte, CA	Aircraft	Agreed

Reclassification

I evaluated 228 cases in the Blue Book files from January through June 1965. In my opinion, 34 were improperly classified (about 15%). Six (about 3% of the total number of cases/18% 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
1965	Irving, NY	1. Satellites 2. Stars	Insufficient data. While times are listed, there are no dates.
1/5	Wallops Island, VA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
1/18	Santa Barbara, CA	Aircraft	Thor rocket launch (DMSP-4A) from Vandenberg.
1/21	Richmond, VA	Aircraft	Echo 1
1/24-8	Alaskan Flap	1. Aircraft 2. Balloon 3. Stars/planets 4. Satellites 5. Insufficient data 6. Possible search-light	1. Could have been Echo 1. 2. Agreed 3. Agreed. Vega was probably source of many sightings to the north. Object to SW was either Procyon or Betelgeuse. 4. Agreed. Echo 2 was source of one sighting and another where they stated it kept reappearing every hour and fifty minutes. 5. Agreed. No time 6. Not clear on which sighting this was.
1/25	Bedford, VA	Unreliable report	Possible aerial sign. Single witness reported a rectangular object, the size of a football field, moving across sky.
1/25	Miami, FL	Aircraft	Echo 1. Witness sketch matches track. 15 minutes after sunset but witness identified a star in his sketch, which probably was one of the stars in Cassiopeia.
1/30	Newport News, VA	Lights on boat	Possible aircraft. Teens sledding reported object that was at 45 degrees elevation due south that descended to near sea level in NW. Visible for 20 minutes. No boat traffic on river at time of sighting. Possible aircraft departing Norfolk and flying NW. As it departed in distance, it appeared low on horizon near sea level.
2/2	Pacific	Insufficient data	Satellite. Possibly Explorer 19.

2/3	Morgantown, NC	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness did not give times/specifics for observations. They could have been aircraft, satellites, or meteors.
2/18	Newport News, VA	Unreliable report	Possible aircraft
2/18	Pacific	Satellite	Possible aircraft. Location off the west coast of Mexico. No satellite visible. Dr. Hynek evaluated it as potential satellite
2/27	Ft. Benning, GA	Satellite decay	Meteor
Late Feb	Rivesville, WV	Psychological	Insufficient data. Letter written by teen/pre-teen regarding mother's sighting of landed UFO. Witness added story of own sighting, which seemed to be more of something illuminating the ground at night for a few seconds. The landing information is second hand. Witness reported filling out form but no form in file. Considering the lack of specifics on the first sighting and the landing was reported second hand, I classify this as Insufficient data.
3/4	New York City, NY	Aircraft	Possibly Capella
3/5	James Connally AFB, TX	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
3/13	Rochester, NY	Aircraft	Echo 2 satellite
3/30	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Meteor
3/31	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Satellite. Possibly Cosmos 44
4/4	St. Petersburg/Largo, FL	Satellite decay	Meteor
4/4	Keesler AFB, MS	UNIDENTIFIED	Meteor. See SUNlite 11-2
4/7	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Echo 1 Satellite
4/20	Coden, AL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
4/22-26	Madison, TN	Misinterpretation of conventional objects	Insufficient data. Report made by 14-year old and friends. Multiple observations of different objects with very little specific information. Possible satellites, aircraft, and meteors.
4/26	Kansas City, MO	Aircraft	Satellite. Echo 2.
4/30	Richardson, TX	Insufficient data	Seen around sunset. Possible aircraft reflecting sunlight.
5/5-7	Philippines	1. Satellite 2. Aircraft 3. Insufficient data	Insufficient data. Report from Navy Oiler in Philippine sea. All reports were brief with little information. The one informative report had radar data missing and was difficult to follow. Aircraft/satellites are possible sources of sighting but information was limited.
5/22	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Possible birds
5/28	Lynn, MA	Insufficient data	Satellite. Possibly Cosmos 44
Summer	Elmhurst, IL	Jupiter	Arcturus. Jupiter not visible in evening sky.
6/2	Germany, Spain, Europe	Satellite	Satellite decay. See Ted Molczan.
6/13	Kettering, OH	Satellite	No bright satellite visible with path described. Witness appears to have been teen. Possible aircraft.
6/24	Sturgis, MI	Aircraft	Satellite. Echo 1.
6/29	Frankfurt, Germany	Reflection	Insufficient data. Very little information. No flight path of aircraft and position of reflection in relation to the aircraft.

Summary

The cases this period continue to include many reports from teens and children. One report came from a nine-year old. Some of these reports are pretty good but most appear to be more imagination than objective observations. Of course, one can say the same for some of the reports/letters written by adults.

Echo and Echo 2 continued to be a major source of UFO reports. I identified 35 cases that were, or possibly were, one of those two satellites (about 15%). Other satellites contributed to the mix of reports. Hynek even mentioned that there were an ever increasing number of bright satellites that could produce UFO reports, in one of his letters. Pegasus 1, Cosmos 44, Explorer 19, and a Centaur

Rocket body seemed to be the biggest culprits base on my examination of the reports.

The most puzzling cases this period involved teens. The Newport News sighting, on January 30, gave indications that it might be a ship/boat on the river, which was what Blue Book classified it as. However, the witnesses indicated it was initially well above the horizon and there was no river traffic. I felt this could have been an aircraft sighting, with the aircraft leaving the Norfolk area and heading NW. As it got close to the horizon, it appeared to be above the trees lining the river. The Waverly, Ohio case on March 20th involved two teenage girls, who had a sighting in the early AM during a sleepover. Some of their description may have involved overactive imaginations. It was hard to say but the witnesses described an object exploding in the sky. There was no evidence of debris landing in the area, the duration given ruled out a meteor and there were no re-entries that could account for the sighting. One has to assume that the witnesses perceived it as an explosion but it could have been something else like an increase in brightness of a light followed by it fading out. I left this one in the psychological category since the witness' descriptions appeared to be distorted to the point an evaluation was not possible.

There were also several "sighting collections" in the file. These are cases where multiple sightings are mentioned but specifics about each sighting is often limited. Most notable was a series of sighting in Alaska between January 24th and 28th. Looking at the file, the sightings were not very descriptive in some cases, which made evaluation difficult. Radar contact was mentioned but the details about the radar contact was very limited. Many sounded like astronomical and satellite observations. One could have been a balloon. Blue Book even classified one as a searchlight but it is not clear which one. They should have separated the sightings into individual reports to make them easier to evaluate. Part of the fault lay with the reporting command, which lumped all the information together in one message. It is hard to properly evaluate a sighting with just a one or two sentence description.

Next issue, I will be only evaluating the months of July and August of 1966. There are roughly 400 cases for those two months and it should take some time to sift through that collection.

References

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