The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse

UFOs: A History

1958

October
THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1958: OCTOBER

by

Loren E. Gross

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Fremont CA
DEDICATION

This history series is dedicated to the memory of Francis R. "Dick" Scobee of Cle Elum, Washington, Mission Commander of the space shuttle Challenger and a "shirt tail" relative on my Mother's side of the family.

WANTED:

Any material related to the summer 1947 flying saucer wave.

Contact:

Project 1947
Box 391
Canterbury CT
06331
"UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse."
- Dr. Lincoln La Paz

SPECIAL THANKS!

I would like to take special notice of Bob Gribble's gift of his newscutting collection and source notes for the years 1800-1996. Bob wanted his material out to good use and I will make every effort to do so. Many of Mr. Gribble's items form a vital part of this booklet, as they will, I'm sure, of subsequent booklets and any revisions of previous works.

Loren E. Gross

[Handwritten signature]
Acknowledgments:

I would like to thank pioneer UFOlogist Vincent Gaddis for the gift of his collection of UFO newspaper clippings covering the early years of the UFO mystery; as well as George Earley who took the time and trouble to copy considerable material for my use from his UFO files; and Stanton Friedman, who was equally helpful by permitting access to his extensive library dealing with aerial phenomena. Furthermore, Lucius Farish has provided some vital items, good advice, and strong encouragement. Similarly, Dr. Richard Haines gave a lot of assistance, as did Lawrence Fawcett.

In addition, Claude Mauge of France and Hilary Evans of England provided information and newspaper clippings from Europe.

Tom Benson of New Jersey was kind enough to share some rare UFO news bulletins which might have been otherwise unobtainable.

Richard D. Kloian of Richmond, California, who conducted extensive searches of back issues of the New York Times deserves a mention; as does Edward Stewart of North Highlands, California, who gave advice on the manuscript and was instrumental in obtaining complete sets of important publications, hard to find microfilm, various government documents, and other items too numerous to list.

Ander Liljegren's Arkivet for UFO Forskning in Norrköping, Sweden, is one of the world's best repository of UFO material and is highly recommended to anyone seriously considering research into the UFO mystery.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Barry J. Greenwood who provided a huge amount of material from his UFO collection, a collection which must equal or even exceed that of any UFO organization.

Paul Cerny, active for more than 40 years in NICAP and MUFON, gave me a big stack of UFO documents from his personal files.

Another big help was the UFO collection of Les Treece-Sinclair of Elk Grove, California, which contained a number of rare items.

Considerable assistance was given by the Center For UFO Studies (CUFOS) which has an enormous UFO archive which includes the records and sighting reports of the defunct National Investigations on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP); as well as the critical "Ruppelt Papers."

Another source, of extreme importance, was the voluminous UFO research papers of Dr. James McDonald at the Special Collections Division, University of Arizona, Tucson.

Robert J. Gribble of Seattle, Washington, was kind enough to lend copies of many newspaper clippings from his beautifully organized files. Gribble subscribed to the Luce Press Clipping Bureau in the 1950s.

The scrapbooks of the late Leon Davidson were put on microfilm and made accessible due to the efforts of Barry Greenwood.

In is suggested that anyone interested in UFOs pay a visit to the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, Clarksburg, West Virginia. The papers of the late Gray Barker are available for inspection there.

Other names I should mention include Roderick B. Dyke, the editor of the U.F.O.R.C. Journal which evolved into the present day UFO Newsclipping Service, Dr. Willy Smith, Richard Hall, Karl T. Pflock, Dominique Weinstein, and Dr. Michael Swords.

Finally, and most of all, I must praise Jan L. Aldrich of Canterbury, Connecticut, who is a kind of superman in the data gathering community and has generously shared hundreds of items from a vast research project currently in progress.
1 October.

Keyhoe's reply to the Klockenbush letter. "Return only to me."

The September 14th letter from a German youth sent to NICAP was carefully examined by director Keyhoe. One suspects Keyhoe entertained some sort of conviction the letter might contain some truth. It's apparent the NICAP Director read every line since his questions cover almost everything that was mentioned in the letter.

Keyhoe typed out of rough reply to Klockenbush and then gave the draft to his secretary to turn out a finished, neatly done, document. He scratched a remark in the upper right hand corner of the draft which said: "Return only to me." (See the rough draft on page 2.) Didn't he want anyone to see it?

2 October. Delaware Water Gap, New Jersey. (about 5:00 p.m.)

"Like a kite in a hurricane." (See article from CSI bulletin on pp.3-4)

There was one problem with the "water gap" case. The witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. Ivan T. Sanderson. Mr. Sanderson was a well known UFO lecturer. How valid is the case? (1.)

2 October. Pando, Uruguay. (11:15 p.m.)

Our source states:

"Mrs. Rosa Carerol observed the passage of an oval object in the area of Pando. Its size was appreciable (twice that of the full moon). It flew at a height of 300 or 400 meters and at 40 degrees above the Horizon in a SW to NE direction. The object was green in front, bluish-green in the center and blue in the rear. It flew at great speed and passed over the Air Academy (Escuela Militar de Aeronautica). Then it turned in the direction of Pando and disappeared. It left no trail of any sort and was completely silent." (2.)

2 October. More on the Sheffield Lake case.

Meanwhile, at the small 85 home housing development of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, where a Mrs. William Fitzgerald experienced her UFO encounter, the excitement had yet to subside. Among those who were spreading the word was Bob Adkins of WTVN on the station's news broadcasts. One of the listeners was columnist Lillian Crowner Desguin of the Westerville, Ohio, Public Opinion. She was doing a series of articles on the UFO mystery. Miss Desguin immediately phoned Mrs. Fitzgerald to obtain more details. The following is the impression of the UFO witness received by Mrs. Desguin:

"Mrs. Fitzgerald knew nothing about such phenomena, I'm sure she had no desire to see one, and has less desire to see one again. To me she sounded like a woman who was scared stiff. She said she felt as if everything inside of her changed for good." (3.)
Ans to letter from German 18 yr old...
Klockenbusch. (make twex three extra carbons, one for the other German named.)

1. thank, will not make public, as he requested without writing him.
2. unusual report... will need some more details, sketches, before our advisers can evaluate... enclosing a UFO form for the subject witness, Hermann Gottker Schuetmann (enclose in carbon sent to him... you can type a note say express saying wshhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh, we would like a direct communication, too, from him.

3. Items needed: how bright a blue light? a description of the "flying object" -- its shape, approximate size, did it have any wheels or other landing gear... what kind of entrance? what did the five men look like... faces like ours or not... bodies same? hair? voices same as ours, ...

what kind of rooms were the five rooms... round, ... doorways from one to another? doors, or open entries? what kind of floor... instruments, seen? controls? maps? ... communication devices? what was distance from floor to ceiling?

the dead woman; was she like average Earth citizen? Spaniard? what nationality, if apparent... was she fastened to the table? were her eyes open or closed? how do you know she was dead? could she have been in a coma? if she was not an Earth person, what did she look like? Did she any of five men explain about her... if so, what...

did they say why they would destroy the Earth... how big was the "bullet"-- what shape--- in a rack or how placed, fastened down... any way visible to launch it// when the machine took off with him in it, how many men were at controls... did he see the propulsion mechanism,

the blue light again... was it from inside the machine? if so, what source/...

about the broadcast idea... at what time should be broadcast...

what is the name and address of the doctor where he (Gottker Schuetmann) was staying: phdssffflafsafsafafsaf

please give more details about exact location of spot where the machine landed... how many miles from Pamplona and in what direction, near a main highway or not... wooded area with a clearing, nearest habitation...

how was the machine furnished... sleeping quarters? dining room? any indication of what food they used?

how were the men dressed?

describe the woman's injuries more explicitly...

Then tell him we appreciate the report, ask if they know of any other witnesses we could write, and that we will evaluate information they send...
"LIKE A KITE IN A HURRICANE"—DELWARE WATER GAP SIGHTING, October 2, 1958

Shortly after 5 p.m. on a very clear evening, Mr. and Mrs. S., CSI members, were driving on a road in New Jersey that runs along a ridge and offers a fine view of the Kittatinny Mountains and the Delaware Water Gap. Glancing at the view from the driver's window, Mr. S. thought he saw smoke rising from a valley that lies between the road and the Delaware Water Gap, 9 miles away. People in that wooded area are fire-conscious, and he looked again, but this time he brought the car to a screeching stop. It was not smoke in the valley, but a solid object, and one that soon appeared by its remarkable maneuvers to be a true UFO.

Both witnesses were out of the car within 15 seconds of first seeing the "smoke," and Mr. S., without taking his eyes off the object, stooped down and scooped up a handful of gravel; he held at arm's length one small stone after another until he found one whose size at arm's length (its diameter was later found to be 5mm.) matched that of the UFO. In addition, the couple knows the locality well, and the distances involved, and both felt that the object was enormous.

Mr. S. first saw it rising like a globular smoke signal, apparently from the V of the Gap. It winked out, then reappeared in the same place with a slightly ovoid shape, with a solid-appearing rim but completely colorless, "void," inside. It then performed a rapid series of complicated "flip-flops" up and to the south; seen from these varying angles, its shape was established as solid, circular, and very thin, like a coin—not lenticular or disk-shaped.

It performed at least three up-to-left, down-to-right, up-again loops. Twice these gyrations carried it below the mountains on the Pennsylvania side of the Gap and up again further to the left, or south. Conditions for observation were ideal: the sky exceptionally clear and bright, the only clouds were some stratus far beyond the Gap. The sun, 26° S of the object and 20-25° altitude, was very bright. The hue of the object varied from almost complete transparency to solid black, and it sometimes appeared of a dull gray leaden color all over, exactly like an old worn nickel cut without any markings. When it turned all or part of a face to the south, toward the sun, it went colorless or flashed out, but when it turned all or part of a face outward it was seen as dark and solid, with a perfectly precise edge. It also turned horizontal to the earth, and about three times was seen directly edge-on; in this aspect it appeared as an extremely thin line, just visible against the horizontal clouds in the distance.

It again winked, swooped upward to the right (N), then vanished completely—to reappear almost instantly down in the middle of the Gap, then looped up-to-the-south again, and again down behind the mountains. Once more it shot up, then tilted away from the observers—the sun flashing on an edge—became a hairline, then disappeared, apparently straight away into the stratus clouds. From their first glimpse of the "smoke" through the end of the performance perhaps 30 seconds had elapsed. The witnesses waited for ten minutes, but saw no more. (These time estimates are approximate, as neither was wearing a wrist watch and the car had no clock.)

Concluding his report, Mr. S. commented: "The best way I can describe the motion was that somebody was flying a 1000-foot circular kite on a 500-foot lead in a 250-mile hurricane over Stroudsberg. The thing had just the erratic flipping, with sudden stops and sharp-angle turns, of a kite in a really rough updraft. The 'banking on and off' really bothered me at first, but after watching one complete..."
up-and-over it appeared to be almost certainly sun reflections on a dull surface, the 'out' periods being the times when the intense low sun rays were full on the thing, which was just about the color of the distant low sky."

After the sighting, Mr. S. tried to find out through local newspapers and police whether any other calls or reports had come in, but so far as is known none had been received. He described the sighting in detail by telephone to McGuire Air Force Base, and sent them a copy of his report and a county map.

Continued from page one ---

This woman journalist's sympathetic approach was in stark contrast to the Air Force's ice cold "it can't be therefore it isn't" attitude. It's no wonder civilian UFO buffs won Mrs. Fitzgerald over so quickly, and permanently.


On the second day of October Mrs. Fitzgerald's representative in Congress took action on her behalf. Unfortunately this amounted to turning the matter over to the Air Force "in accordance with instructions provided by the military." To avoid the impression that he was abandoning his constituent to the whims of the BLUE BOOK people, Rep. Baumhart suggested that he be advised of any results and receive assurances. Mrs. Fitzgerald's letter and the summary of the UFO incident drawn up by civilian UFO investigators was forwarded to the Air Force's Congressional Liaison Office. Now that Rep. Baumhart was involved, the Air Force had to investigate. (4.)
3 October. Clinton County, Central Indiana. (about 3:20 a.m.)

"It was the most fantastic thing I ever saw. If somebody else reported it, I would think he was crazy."

Diesel freight train #91 out of Monon, Indiana, was southbound to Indianapolis early Friday morning. In the cab was engineer Harry Eckman and Fireman Cecil Bridge. The rest of the crew was in the caboose: Head Brakeman Morris Ott, Conductor Edward Robinson, and Flagman Paul Sosey.

Speaking for the rest of the crew, Fireman Bridge said:

"It was about 10 minutes after three in the morning—Friday morning, October 3rd. We had just pulled past a little spot called Wasco. There's no town there—just a kind of crossroads. It was there we first noticed the four lights in the sky ahead of us. They were moving lights. At first they looked like stars but we realized they weren't stars because they were moving—we could see that.

"They were moving in a sort of open V formation. By that I mean that there was no light at the forward point of the flight, just the two "wings" with two lights in each "wing"—angled off at about 45 degrees from each other. I must have spotted them first. After I had watched them for about 15 seconds I called them to the attention of the other men in the cab with me. The engineer was Harry Eckman, and our head brakeman was Morris Ott. They watched the lights, too.

"I am familiar with planes and with their operations, both as a flier and an observer. We all are—all of us on the train. We see planes every night, lots of them. These things were not planes!

"About that time the lights veered west. They crossed the tracks ahead of the train—about a half a mile ahead of us, we estimated. They were moving pretty slowly, too, at not more than about 50 miles an hour. Four big, white, soft lights.

"Just the three of us in the engine—Mr. Eckman, the engineer, Morris Ott and I saw the lights at this time. We were pulling 50 cars—that's a little more than half a mile of cars—and because of the angle at which these things were approaching and because they were so low right then, the boys in the caboose probably couldn't see them.

"After the lights crossed the tracks in front of us they stopped and came back. This time they were headed east. They shot off toward the east and were gone a few minutes—out of sight—but when they came back and we all saw them again I turned on the microphone. We have radio between the engine and the caboose. I turned on the microphone and called the boys in the caboose and told them what we were watching.

"The conductor was Ed Robinson and the flagman was Paul Sosey, both of Indianapolis. I talked to Robinson and told him what we had seen. During the time we watched these things, from Wasco to Kirklin, we did a lot of talking on that radio. The dispatcher in Lafayette could hear us, of course, but he never cut in. The boys in the caboose got the best look at the things, especially when they came right down over the whole train."
Conductor Robinson describes what the other members of the crew in the caboose observed. The "cupola" is the small square raised portion on the roof of the caboose that makes it possible to see the top of all the cars the whole length of the train. The cupola has windows on all sides which permits a 360° view.

"I was sitting in the cupola, looking forward over the train when Bridge called me on the radio. I had already noticed the four gobs of light but I couldn't make out what they were. They were half a mile ahead of the caboose—the whole length of the train. A little bit after he called me the things went away and we didn't see them for a few minutes... then all of a sudden they came back.

"This time they came down over the train, a little way in back of the engine. They were coming toward the caboose. That is, they were going north and the train was headed directly south.

"I'd say they were only a couple of hundred feet above the train as they came toward the caboose. And they weren't moving very fast—maybe 30 or 40 miles an hour. It was hard to tell—a fellow just doesn't notice details like that under the circumstances.

"The freight train is pretty noisy, of course, but I didn't hear any other noise, like the roar an airplane would have made. I think they were silent, or nearly silent, at least.

"They flew over us one after the other—big, round white things which looked about the color of fluorescent lights, kind of fuzzy around the edges. They didn't glare and they didn't light up things as they went over. They just came back toward us, over the top of the cars, one after the other. Then they went on down the tracks maybe another half a mile and seemed to stop.

"Me and Sosbey went out on the back platform where we could see them better. But they were getting pretty far behind us. We could see their lights but I don't remember whether they were bunched up or not. They were just there, we know that. We could see them behind us, right over the tracks.

"Then they swung off away from the tracks and went fast—very fast—to the east. When they picked up speed their light got a lot brighter. They got real bright and white—like stars, but a lot bigger and moving very fast."

Mr. Bright adds:

"Cecil Bridge, observing the same objects from the engine describes what he and the engineer and head brakeman saw:

"When these things shot back over to the east of us they lit up much brighter than they were before. They turned in line, going north or northeast and we noticed that they lit up in sequence—the front one, first, then number two, three and four. They changed course and came back past the train. They were going in the opposite direction to us when they made this pass. I guess they were at least a mile or two east of us when they did it.

"They lit up twice like I told you: first number one would light up, then number two and so on. They did that twice as they went past us travelling in the opposite direction. We noticed, too, that their color changed. When the first lit up they were bright white but when they slowed down the color changed to a kind of yellow, then to orange when they went real slow—a kind of dirty orange."

(6.)
Conductor Robinson had more to say:

Robinson agreed with this description. He added:

"We didn't see them from the back end of the train for several minutes after they went away to the east and turned. But the boys in the engine were still seeing them. I got back on the radio with Bridge and he was watching them right then. They must have circled the train and gone north of us, real low, because the next time we saw them they came rushing up the tracks right in back of us. They were coming a lot faster this time—a lot faster than they had come back over the train the first time.

"They were just above the treetops along the right of way, and they had changed their way of flying—their formation. This time they were sort of flying on edge. Two of them were on edge—the two in the middle. The two on the outside were tilted at an angle both in the same direction. The four of them flew like that up the tracks behind the train—a tilted one on the east, two of them straight up and down, then the one on the west tilted just like the one on the east.

"When they first came back over the train we could see that they were round things—circular shaped on the bottom. Then when they flew up the tracks in back of us we could see—me and Sosbey—that they were about 40 feet in diameter and maybe 10 feet thick. The two that were flying straight up and down were just about over the edges of the right of way and about 200 yards in back of the caboose. If they had been flying flat down instead of edgewise they would just about have touched edges so they must have been somewhere around 40 feet across the bottom."

A strong, sealed beam, flashlight provokes a reaction:

In answer to a question Bridge said, "We had flashlights in the engine and in the caboose. Up on the head end of the train—in the engine where I was—we blinked our flashlights at the things and we waved the lights. We thought we might get them to come in closer. They did come down over the train a few minutes later, as Robinson told you, but, of course, I can't say they did it because we flashed the lights at them. At any rate they didn't flash any lights back at us" Robinson said, "In the caboose we had a five cell sealed beam flashlight that throws a pretty good beam a long ways. When the things came down and flew right up the tracks behind the caboose, I grabbed that sealed beam flashlight and shined it on them. As soon as the light hit them they jumped sideways out of the beam. When they got back over the tracks I did it again and they scattered. They acted like they didn't care for that light at all."

As in car chases, the UFOs seemed to avoid population centers:

"From the time Bridge first called us on the radio until the last time we saw them near Kirklin (about 38 miles northwest of Indianapolis) it was about an hour and 10 minutes altogether. They hung around the back end of the train but after we shined the light on them they didn't come in close any more. While we were switching at Frankfort they stayed away back up the tracks, just hovered..."
there, until we moved on. Then they followed us again. When they finally went away at Kirklin they just zipped off to the northeast and kept on going and we didn't see them anymore." (10.)

Afraid to tell the Air Force.

When train #91 pulled into Indianapolis, its destination, the crew discussed what they should do about their strange experience. They decided that a report to the Air Force could result in ridicule. Apparently the military's skeptical attitude was discouraging. (11.)

Frank Edwards enters the case.

The train crew felt someone should know about UFOs stalking trains. As luck would have it, NICAP board member Frank Edwards lived and worked in the city of Indianapolis. Edwards was news director of the local television station WTTV. The crew phoned Edwards who was impressed with the crew, especially with witness Cecil Bridge because the man was an Air Force veteran with 450 hours flight time in heavy bombers. Edwards arranged a live interview in the studio during the evening news hour. (12.)

Afterwards, two other UFO incidents in the region came to Edwards' attention that seemed to have a bearing on the train chase, sightings at Kokomo, Indiana, and Danville, Illinois. (See clipping on page 9 for the Danville report) The Kokomo incident is quoted here from Edwards' Fate article:

"Witnesses near Kokomo saw them as elliptical lighted objects that streaked in from the north at treetop level, hovered for a few seconds and then darted away, single file, to the west." (13.)

3 October. Maguire AFB, Trenton, N.J.

A landing?

Word reached NICAP of a supposed landing on October 3rd. A record on file with CUFOs states:

"Incident involved landing of large lens-shaped disk on, or near military grounds. Object alleged to have been guarded by cordon of military police. Details revealed to ITS [Ivan T. Sanderson] by 'unquestionable sources' alleged to have been confirmed from several sources. Disposition of object unknown." (14.)

A scribbled note on the typed Maguire report by an unidentified person says:

"Visit with Dick Hall - throws cold water on Maguire 'landing.' Hall, thru Ivan, met the soldier who was Ivan's 'unquestioned source' -- and who failed to confirm anything concerned with the alleged landing. He had seen a 'vague light' in the sky - that was all." (15.)
One Way Or Round Trip?

Claim 4 Disk-Flying Objects Try to Hook Monon Freight 'Ride'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Four veteran crewmen of a Monon freight train asserted Friday night that four large, disk-shaped flying objects "played with our train" for 40 miles across northern Indiana early Friday.

Conducted Ed Robinson, an employee of the railroad 14 years, said, "It was the most fantastic thing I ever saw. If somebody else reported it, I would think he was crazy."

The appearance and behavior of the dark orange, luminous objects were confirmed by Fireman Cecil Bridge and Flagmen Morris Ott and Paul Sosbey, all of Indianapolis.

The crewmen said the objects first approached the train at 3 a.m. (CST) near Rossville, 14 miles east of Lafayette, and were last seen an hour and five minutes later and 40 miles farther south near Kirklin. They said the objects disappeared into the north.

Robinson estimated the objects were 40 feet in diameter and 10 feet thick. At one time, he said, they stood on their edges behind the train, "looking like four sticks stuck in the ground, except the outside two leaned outward at a 45 degree angle."

The trainmen told of their experience in an interview by Frank Edwards, newscaster of WTTV, Bloomington.

Flying Saucers Reported in Area

Blinding bluish-white objects about the size of a star, and believed to be flying saucers, were reported as seen from 3 to 8 a.m. Friday by Dewey Taylor of 1108 S. Gilbert St. at the Lyons Railroad Yard south of Danville.

Taylor, a New York Central engineer, and other employees at the yards said they were noticed in the east and traveled back and forth from north to south at a fast speed. He said they would go out of sight and then after a short while would be seen moving again.
3 October. Monon TV interview. (evening)

Train crew members Edward Robinson and Cecil Bridge allowed themselves to be interviewed by Frank Edwards during the evening news. Years later Dr. James McDonald re-investigated the case:

"I have interviewed three of the five train crewmen, confirming details to be found in the NICAP report and in a more complete account by Frank Edwards, who originally investigated the sighting." (16.)

Richard Hall, monitoring the press at NICAP headquarters, thought it quite odd that the Monon train incident was not reported outside the state of Indiana. Hall grew even more suspicious days later when a UFO incident was headlined in Baltimore papers but never even appeared in the Washington D.C. press!

3 October. Trindade Island. (8:00 p.m.)

Dr. Olavo Fontes wrote that a UFO was:

"...sighted again on October 5, 1958, at 8 p.m. It was described as a luminous object, round-shaped and encircled by a bright, red glow, moving across the sky at high speed. It hovered over the island for about 4 minutes, then it moved away toward the northeast at tremendous speed and was gone. The sentry who saw it was so scared that he forgot to alert the garrison while the object was still in sight." (17.)

4 October. The Monon train chase. Word reaches the Air Force.

The chase incident may have been only reported State-wide but the Air Force learned of it immediately. The military contacted the Monon Company which prompted an odd reaction. According to Frank Edwards:

"On the following day they [Bridge and Robinson], along with the other members of the train crew, were notified by Monon officials to keep quiet if they saw any similar objects in the future." (18.)

BLUE BOOK has no record?

Someone in Brooklyn wrote the Air Force in March 1959 asking about the Monon train chase. According to the military, no such case existed! (See pages 11,12,13) (19.)

4-6 October. The Air Force investigates the Fitzgerald case.

"There can always be found a possible commonsense explanation, even though its probability may be small." --J. Allen Hynek


Because the military's investigation of the Fitzgerald case became so
Office of Public Information  
Department of the Air Force  
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please refer to my letter of January 25, 1959.

On January 28 I received News Release No. 63-59 of January 22, this year, concerning the Air Force UFO Study. This is not, of course, an answer to my letter, in which I requested specific information, repeated as follows for your convenience:

"I would greatly appreciate the acquisition of the basic details concerning these two cases that were considered "unknown." I realize that Air Force policy requires deleting the names of witnesses and certain data considered classified pertaining to radar and aircraft. However, such data as the date, location, number of objects, and size and shape of the objects, would be quite satisfactory.

"Various papers in Indiana carried an extremely interesting UFO observation made in the early morning hours of October 3, 1958, by the crewmen of Freight #91 of the Monon Railroad. They reported seeing four disc-shaped objects in central Indiana that played "tag" with their train for over an hour. What was the Air Force conclusion for this case?"

I would appreciate having a definite answer to my questions.

I am sending copies of this letter to certain members of Congress, including Senator Lyndon Johnson, whose attention has already been called to this matter.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Brooklyn 13, New York  
March 16, 1959
REMARKS
Larry- We have had no report, either official or unofficial, of the incident in Indiana.
Dear Mr. [Name]

This is to acknowledge your letter of 16 March 1959 concerning unidentified flying objects, particularly an Indiana sighting of 3 October 1958.

The United States Air Force has no record of this sighting.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Brooklyn, N.Y.
controversial, it would be of interest to review what BLUE BOOK scientific advisor Dr. J. Allen Hynek said of the conditions that prevailed at Wright Field from 1948 up through 1966 when he was still with the project:

"When it became clear to me and others within the project (as a result of personal conversations with officers of colonel rank and higher) that the official Pentagon policy was to debunk UFO sightings, intelligence analysts and investigators alike (myself included, since at that time I felt the lack of 'hard' evidence justified the practical 'it just can't be' attitude) did their best to come up with 'commonsense' explanations for each new UFO report."

If the guidelines mentioned by Dr. Hynek were in force, then an official explanation for the Fitzgerald case was going to be a major challenge. Considered what was involved: Mrs. Fitzgerald claimed she viewed a solid body with well-defined edges some 22 feet in diameter by 6 feet high at a distance of 10 feet. And young John, the 10-year-old son, provided a description of the object and its movements that matched those given by his mother.

The official explanation of the Fitzgerald case would be a patchwork glued together with questionable assumptions as the effectiveness of the various elements: smoke from a factory, haze in the air, wet window glass, the movie Dracula's Daughter, and the curious assertion that two people, John and his mom, could experience identical illusions! Thus it should be no surprise to learn that the real importance of the Fitzgerald case was the claim of Air Force incompetence. This was an issue the Air Force was desperately trying to evade, the same issue that was so sensitive the military insisted Congress declare it off limits during any UFO hearings.

When Sgt. Haisten and Sgt. Hoft left Sheffield Lake on October 6th, they told Mrs. Fitzgerald an official conclusion concerning the UFO incident would be ready by the end of the month.

The woman UFO witness was very anxious to learn something about what she believed was a space ship or some secret government device. Evidently, considering what later transpired, she never thought for a minute the official explanation would be anything else.

4 October. Garden Grove, California. (evening)

"Flying hourglass?" (See clipping to the right)

5 October. Underwood, Minnesota. (evening)

"What kind of ship do you think it is?" (See clipping on p.15)
Two reports of unidentified flying objects have been made here the past week.

Sunday night as Harold Sundby, his son Steven and LeRoy Thomas were on their way home from a hunting trip in North Dakota they sighted a flying object which did not have the characteristics of a conventional aeroplane. In the story told by Mr. Sundby, he said they were between Fergus Falls and Battle Lake about 10 p.m., when Steven noted what he thought was an aeroplane, and then it was discovered by the party where the lights on the craft were flashing in an unusual manner.

Sundby said the red, green and white lights weren't in the arrangement as on a conventional aeroplane, where the lights are on the wing tips, tail and the underpart of the plane. These lights seemed to ring the craft.

When Steven asked his Dad, "What kind of a ship do you think it is?" Harold jokingly answered, "That's a flying saucer."

Monday morning as Steven was watching the Dave Garaway program on TV, he was surprised to hear the announcement that 21 people in different places in the Fargo, N. D., area had sighted an unusual flying object with an unusual light arrangement.

When the Wadena party first sighted the object it was flying eastward, and then it suddenly swerved northward in the direction of Fargo. Sundby said it was hard to estimate the speed of the craft and the altitude, but he would guess it was moving at "maybe 300 miles an hour." The Sundby car was being 'followed by two other cars and they didn't stop to ascertain if there was any sound connected with the object.
5 October. North Greenfield, Massachusetts. (about 4:00 p.m.)

Huge, orange-silver disc.

A clergyman by the name of Albert Baller wrote UFO researcher George Fawcett in the Fall of 1958 to tell of a UFO sighting by one of his flock:

"...a member of my church, going out to get her clothes from the (at about 4 p.m. ...sky clear...) looked up to see a huge, orange-silver disc, twice the size of the full moon, approaching rather slowly from the South. It wore a sort of 'black cap' on top of it and this stayed uppermost at all times, which indicated that the strange object was not rotating. She had time enough to run into the home of a neighbor and bring him out to view it too. It left no vapor trail, but was extremely brilliant." (21.)

6 October. Cliffside Park, New Jersey. (10:30 a.m.)

"But whose space ships they are is anybody's guess." (See clipping below)

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**Flying Objects Are Sighted By Tree Surgeons**

Cliffside Park — A trio of River Edge tree surgeons went out on a limb yesterday and joined the ranks of unidentified flying objects observers.

Alphonse Zulll of 908 Seventh Avenue, River Edge, and two employees, Richard and Alex McCluggage, were operating on a maple tree in this Borough yesterday at approximately 10:30 A.M. when their attention was draw to an Air Force jet plane at the southeast corner of the sky.

The tree surgeons stopped their work to study the conventional vapor trail left by the jet when they observed two other flying objects in the northwest portion of the sky. The objects, Zulll said, were round in shape and resembled tennis balls, left no vapor path behind them.

---

The silvery shaped balls were moving at twice the speed of the jet and in formation, Zulll said. They remained in formation and in sight for about 3 minutes, he added.

The three men agreed on three facts about the objects they saw; they were round; they were intelligently controlled vehicles; and their speed was terrific, having traveled the range of the sky in 2 minutes.

What did Zulll think these objects were? "I believe they were space ships," he said with conviction. "But whose space ships they are is anybody's guess," he added.

Zulll, who has been looking at the world from the tops of trees for many years, said it was the first time he had seen these flying objects. But he claimed that a colleague of his, Robert C. Laffler of 115 Church Street, Bergenfield, has seen many such flying objects.

HACKENSACK, N.J. BERGEN RECORD
Circ. D. 55861

6 October. Air Force "Fact Sheet" released.

Evidently the military felt it was time to distribute another so-called "Fact Sheet" to counter its critics. There doesn't seem to be any other compelling reason. (See clipping on page 17 and the actual "Fact Sheet" on pages 18-20.)
Flying Saucer Reports Debunked by Air Force

By the Associated Press

The Air Force has thrown more cold water on flying saucer reports. It said yesterday it investigated a record total of 1,270 saucer reports during a 13-month period ending last July 31, with these results:

It was established that 84 per cent of the sightings were of natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds or man-made objects. Reports on 14 per cent were insufficient to permit a thorough analysis. Fewer than 2 per cent were classified as of unknown origin.

The Air Force said: "Although investigations were completed on these 'unknown' cases without positive or final conclusions, nothing was found to substantiate any claims that such sightings were interplanetary visitors or so-called 'flying saucers.'"

"The Air Force believes that there will always be a small number of unknowns due to high altitude phenomena which are strange to the untrained eye."

The rate of reported sightings increased greatly after the launching of the first Russian satellite a year ago.

Of the 1,270 sightings, 354 were found to be due to astronomical phenomena such as bright stars, planets, meteors, comets and other celestial bodies; sometimes viewed through haze, light fog or moving clouds.

The next largest group of sightings, 290, turned out to be aircraft of various types. Balloons accounted for 194 of the sightings. About 4,000 balloons are released in the United States every day, varying in size from 4-foot weather balloons to research balloons 200 feet in diameter.

Most of those released at night carry running lights, and large balloons caught in jet streams have been tracked at speeds of more than 200 miles an hour.

A sighting is considered unknown when the information is insufficient to draw at least one valid conclusion, but when the description of the object or its movement cannot be related to normal facts.

ARE THEY OR AREN'T THEY?
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT "UNKNOWN" STILL BELOW 2 PERCENT IN LATEST 1270 CASES

According to latest information tabulated by Air Force authorities charged with investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1270 new UFO reports were investigated during the period July 1, 1957 through July 31, 1958. More than 84 percent of the reported UFO sightings were definitely established as natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds, or man-made objects. Insufficient data was available to thoroughly analyze and evaluate 14 percent of the reports and less than 2 percent were classified as unknowns.

Although investigations were completed on these "unknown" cases without positive or final conclusions, nothing was found to substantiate any claims that such sightings were interplanetary visitors, or so-called "Flying Saucers".

A sighting is considered unknown when the report contains sufficient information to draw at least one valid conclusion from the facts available but when the description of the reported object or its movement cannot be related to the norm. Refinements in Air Force investigative processes, however, have resulted in a steady decline in the number of UFO reports placed in this category. During the early months of the Air Force's investigation, some 20 percent of the reports were classified as unknown. These unknowns were reduced to 9 percent in 1953 and 1954, 3 percent in 1955, and 1.8 percent during the first six months of this year. It is believed that specific conclusions could be drawn for all reports if additional observational data were provided by individuals originating these reports. Also, the Air Force believes that there will always be a small number of unknowns due to high altitude phenomena which are strange to the untrained eye.

The 1270 new reports during the past thirteen months increases the total Air Force investigations conducted since June 1947 to more than 6,000.

All investigations of reported unusual aerial objects are conducted by the U.S. Air Force Air Defense Command personnel. These reports are reviewed by a select scientific advisory group at the Air Technical Intelligence Center which analyzes and evaluates, by scientific means, all information assembled by investigative teams.
Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Professor of Astrophysics and Astronomy at Ohio State University, is the chief scientific consultant to the Air Force on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

His services and those of other eminently qualified civilian scientists are utilized if deemed necessary by the Air Force to further its investigation of individual cases or to perform detailed studies of the general subject. As an example, a panel of scientific consultants was called upon by the Air Force in 1953 to make an over-all examination of investigative procedures and findings on specific reports.

The panel said at that time "the evidence presented on UFOs showed no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct threat to national security." Further there was no "residuum of cases which indicates phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts." The panel concluded that "national security agencies should take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired."

In line with this recommendation, the Air Force periodically has made available through the national press and radio-television agencies, information on investigations and findings pertaining to cases which have received national attention. Only in a few instances were sighting reports classified to keep from compromising some elements in our Air Defense System, and no reports of sightings have been classified because they contain some authentic proof or even reasonable inferences that UFOs were real. Moreover, there are no Air Force documents which prove the existence of flying saucers or show that the earth is being observed, visited or threatened by machines from other planets.

However, because of limited personnel resources and to preclude possible embarrassment to individuals who have assisted Air Force investigators or who have originated reports later found to be erroneous, the Air Force does not honor individual requests for detailed analyses of specific cases.

A tabulation and evaluation of UFO report statistics follows:

1. The following represent the results of the evaluation of world-wide UFO reports investigated, processed and analyzed during the period July 1, 1957 through December 31, 1957, under pertinent categories:

   UFO Report Evaluations -- By Category and Percentage
   Breakdown:

   Total Reports 928

   Balloons......................... 143  15.41
   Aircraft......................... 214  23.06
   Astronomical.................... 265  28.56
   Others (Hoax, Lights, Birds, etc.) 152  16.38
   Insufficient Data.............. 139  15.01
   Unknown......................... 15  1.61
   Sum Total........................ 928 100.00

   -2-
2. The following represents the results of the evaluation of world-wide UFO reports investigated, processed and analyzed during the period January 1, 1958 through July 31, 1958, under pertinent categories:

UFO Report Evaluations — By Category and Percentage Breakdown:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Reports</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balloons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft</td>
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<td>22.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astronomical</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
<td>26.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others (Nox. Lights, Birds, etc.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insufficient Data</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sum Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>342</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
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3. UFO Evaluations — Category Breakdown by Months: July 1957 — July 1958

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balloons</th>
<th>A/C</th>
<th>Astro</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Insuf Data</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
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<tr>
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<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td><strong>290</strong></td>
<td><strong>754</strong></td>
<td><strong>224</strong></td>
<td><strong>187</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
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E N D
7 October. Townsville, Australia. (2:25 a.m.)

"Like a pendulum."

The city of Townsville is in Queensland, on the coast at about 20° latitude. The place was a stop-over on the Sydney to New Guinea air route. An executive for a large engineering corporation, T.W. Dutton, was at Townsville Airfield the morning of October 7th waiting for his plane to leave. At 2:25 a.m. Mr. Dutton spotted a curious reddish-gold object. The thing was easy to see in the clear, dark, sky. For the next 20 minutes Mr. Dutton watched the glowing object move about the heavens. Here is Mr. Dutton's story as it was published in an Australian UFO bulletin:

"My attention was immediately attracted to the UFO as I left the passenger lounge and turned left to take a walk in the enclosure. As I walked watching it all the time it suddenly swayed from side to side like a pendulum for about 5 or 7 seconds. It repeated this 4 or 5 times at one to two-minute intervals.

"Then it made a wide sweep out to the right and came back to its original position. It did this three times at intervals of one to two minutes. Then it started to go away from me getting smaller and smaller and after two or three minutes finally disappeared.

"I looked around several times to see if there was anyone else to verify my observation but without success until after the object had disappeared when two of Qantas Airways men appeared at the other end of the enclosure. I walked over to them and asked if there were any other planes up, and they said: 'Definitely, no.' 'It must be a flying saucer.' (22.)"

7 October. Alexandria, Virginia. (Between 6 and 6:10 p.m.)

UFO report by the Assistant Secretary of Defense. (See letter on page 22 and drawings on pages 23-24) (23.)

The UFO as drawn by the Defense Secretary compares favorably with an object sighted Mr. Fred Gage on August 2, 1957, near Columbus, Ohio. (See artwork on page 25)

The Air Force's explanation for the Defense Secretary's sighting is given in a letter written by General LeBailly. (See page 26) (25.)

The Defense Secretary's opinion of the military's conclusion cannot be found in BLUE BOOK records. That fact is very unfortunate since such remarks tell a lot about Air Force investigative methods.

7 October. Indian Head, Saskatchewan, Canada. (3:00 a.m.)

"Ominous astral visitor." (See clipping on page 27)
MEMORANDUM FOR (REDACTED), OFF

SUBJECT: Sighting of an Unidentified Object - 7 October 1958

Between 6 and 6:10 PM on 7 Oct 1958, I was walking South on the 600 block of Lee Street, Alexandria, Virginia. I observed a bright silvery object in the sky due South and at a height of 20° from the horizon. At first the object was stationary and then it rapidly gained altitude, proceeding South and away from me when it disappeared, becoming too small to see at an angle with the horizon of 30° to 35°. The sky was clear, there was no appreciable wind, and the visibility was unlimited. The disappearance of the object was due to its rapid procession to the distance. The total time it was in view was approximately 50 seconds - this permitted me to walk one-half block. Its estimated slant range would be approximately 3 miles, since, while it was in sight, a commercial plane from the National Airport taking off South turned West and was between me and the object. These planes usually turn West about 1 to 2 miles South of Alexandria. The object when first seen subtended an angle of approximately 3°. This would make it a very large object of the order of 600 feet. There was no sound of motor, jet or propeller. Its shape was roughly spherical with an equator or skirt as shown in the attached sketch.

No one else was around at the time. The following morning I estimated the angles with a protractor and timed the distance of walking when the object was in sight.
CAPITOLA EASTERN AIRLINES
APPROX FLIGHT PATH DURING
TIME OF SIGHTING

UNCLASSIFIED
16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.
   a. Sound **None**
   b. Color **Silver**

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw, such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

   [Drawing of an object with an arrow indicating direction]

18. The edges of the object were:
   (Circle One):  
   a. Fuzzy or blurred  
   b. Like a bright star  
   c. Sharply outlined  
   d. Don't Remember  
   e. Other ________

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there?  
   Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.
"WAS IT—OR WASN'T IT"

Eerie Disc Spotted by Fred Gage

By ARMAND ROMANO

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to see a flying saucer? If you did see one, would you have the nerve enough to tell anyone about it, or would you keep it to yourself for fear folks would think you were off your rocker?

And if you saw something in the sky unlike anything you'd ever seen before—something which defies explanation, would you accept it as a fact right away, or would you wonder if your vision or imagination had been playing tricks on you?

These were the questions asked by Fred Gage, who on Aug. 2 when he came home from the work as an announcer at WARD, Washington.

Fred seemed calm enough as he scooped his 2½-year-old daughter, Cindy, into his arms, tweaked the nose of his 7-month-old son, and gave his wife, Janet, a peck of a kiss.

"What's for dinner?" he inquired, looking toward the kitchen.

From all appearances, Fred Gage was a typical father getting home from a typical day at the office. The thing that made this day different for him, however, was that just a few minutes earlier he had seen something that gazed him, section of the sky, traffic, he took up and yard, mysterious, motion.

30 p.m., a cloud in the sun was bright, and its shadow, the object, was gone.

I looked in all directions, but there was nothing," he said. "If the object had been an airplane, it couldn't possibly have disappeared in the short time it took me to get my car off the road."

He didn't tell his wife about the saucer when he arrived home and he didn't say
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ________________
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR RESEARCH & ENGINEERING, OASD

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Sighting

1. This memorandum is in answer to your unidentified flying object sighting of 7 October 1958 at Alexandria, Virginia. The sighting was referred immediately to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, for analysis and/or evaluation.

2. In the opinion of the Air Technical Intelligence Center personnel, the phenomenon you saw was created by the reflection of the sun from either ice crystals or a very thin cloud layer. As the sun lowered behind the horizon it illuminated less and less of the reflector, the decrease in size creating the illusion of motion. The wind had a component which was generally toward the north; therefore, the reflector drifting toward the witness could help account for the apparent increase in altitude.

3. The fact that the object was reported as first stationery then moving leads to the above conclusion. There would be no apparent motion until the amount of reflected light began to noticeably diminish. Further weight is lent to this conclusion by the fact that this object was reported as being approximately 600' in length and investigation failed to uncover another witness.

E. B. LeBAILLY
Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Director of Information Services
OMINOUS ASTRAL VISITOR
SCARED HIM OFF DOORSTEP

To stand transfixed on his doorstep watching, for a full two minutes, the strangest airborne object he ever saw in his life was the experience of Oscar Biller, Indian Head farmer, who now believes there very well could be "things up there."

Time: 3 a.m. Tuesday of last week.
Location: the doorstep of the Biller farm, 7 miles southeast of town.

The object: a lighted 'something' that came within 20 feet of the doorstep, appearing to be 12 to 15 feet in diameter.

This is how Mr. Biller tells it:

"I had awakened about 3 a.m. when that fast train goes through, and heard the dogs barking. To me, what it was was sick. I went outside through the porch and stood on the doorstep. There was a slight drizzle on, and some overcast. I watched the train go by, and the dogs stopped barking.

"Then I saw it, an object just under the cloud rim, bluish-white in color, seeming about three-quarters of a mile away. It was rotating, or revolving, all lit up, and making oval motions, something like the swing of a yo-yo. It gave off a whirring sound. It seemed to be up about two or three thousand feet.

"It started coming down on a slant, all the time keeping up its oval orbit, and then it headed my way. As it approached the earth its orbit became smaller and it seemed to be focusing on me. I was really scared. The whirring sound died away, and it was very unearthly.

"I became more apprehensive as the object neared me, and went back into the porch and closed the door. I continued to watch it through the pane of glass in the door, and called my wife. She came to where I was standing, looked, and then fled.

"It still kept coming to me and I didn't know what to do. I just stood there, thoroughly frightened. By now it was 10 to 15 feet off the ground and appeared to come right into the yard. I estimated its diameter at 12 to 15 feet.

"The bluish-white had changed to reddish and near amber, and it was too close for comfort. I had been watching it for fully two minutes, and I was still frightened. It came to within almost 20 feet of the doorstep and then went around the corner of the house. I didn't know what to expect then, but did not move from the spot for a time, and didn't go into the house to watch through another window to see where or how it went.

"It was very bright when first sighted, and in coming down and closer it didn't move fast. It just kept up its oval orbit, the orbit getting smaller.

"What it was I have no idea, but two minutes is a long time to watch a strange air object like that. Whatever it was, it really shook me."

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WEATHER REPORT
(for week ending 8 a.m. Oct. 13)
Max. Temp. ............ 67.0
Min. Temp. ............ 14.0
Mean Temp. ............ 40.4
Precipitation ............ 0.05
Hours Sunshine .......... 26.3
7 October. Nantucket Sound (Massachusetts) (about 4:30 p.m.)

"I'm not telling anybody this!"

Our source for the following information was a TV interview. The typed transcript of the telecast was found in James McDonald's papers which are on file with the University of Arizona, Tucson, library.

Dr. McDonald telephoned Mr. Gwodz in July 1967 to ask questions about the incident. Writing to Richard Hall of NICAP the Arizona professor said the case sounded "fairly solid." (26.)

TV interview.

Mr. Ward was probably the host of some sort of news show. No complete name is given. The reporter's name was probably Jack Ryan (McDonald is not sure and inserts a question mark).

Here is the typed document which has been redone to eliminate the original spacing:

"Ward: The ship Nantucket takes passengers and cars from Woods Hole to New Bedford, Massachusetts, several times a day. Usually the ferry runs are quite uneventful, but on October 7, 1958, the routine was broken when the Ship's Master, Joseph Gwodz, saw something in the sky far above his moving vessel. We paid a visit to the docks at the Massachusetts Steamship Authority in Woods Hole, just after the Nantucket finished one of her daily runs recently. Reporter Jack Kryan (?) went up the gangway and found the captain on the bridge.

"Reporter: Captain Joseph Gwodz is skipper of the steamship Nantucket out of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and he has seen an unidentified flying object. Captain Gwodz, would you describe the situation and circumstances surrounding the sighting of this unidentified flying object?

"Gwodz: Why, yes. We were bound out out on the Nantucket in 1958 about 4:30 in the afternoon, and I noticed some passengers on the deck were pointing up. So, naturally, being curious, I looked up, and I saw this object hovering about 70 degrees ahead of us, perhaps 1200 or 1500 feet up in the air.

"Reporter: What did the object look like to you?

"Gwodz: Well, it was oval-shaped, an egg-shape, dull aluminum color, and it appeared to have skids underneath instead of wheels on it.

"Reporter: And it flew away before you could get the glasses on it?

"Gwodz: Well, I went into the box, got the glasses out, and I swung to the bridge, by that time it was gone. So I said, 'what happened?' And they said 'well, it went that way,' pointing off to the northeast.
"Reporter: These were your passengers who had also sighted it?
"Gwodz: That's right.

"Reporter: Did any other members of the crew see the...

"Gwodz: Yes, the quartermaster, Antoine Jardin (?). The pilot was at the wheel. Naturally, he didn't see it. It was high up, not on the horizon.

"Reporter: Has any explanation of the object been made since that time?
"Gwodz: No, no one has ever explained it. No one has ever tried to explain what it was.

"Reporter: How do you feel about unidentified flying objects? Do you feel they exist or may be vehicles from another planet or experimental vehicles of our own that nobody will admit or what do you feel about it?

"Gwodz: Oh, I don't really know. Of course, I saw what I saw. You have to believe what you see. Now, about flying saucers, I can't say it was a flying saucer; it could be some experiment the government is doing at the present time.

"Reporter: But you saw it?

"Gwodz: I saw it, and that's what happened.

"Reporter: Captain Gwodz, you mentioned a crew member that had seen this flying object at much the same time you did. What was his description of it?

"Gwodz: Well, he saw the same thing I did; it didn't vary any. And he said, 'I'm not telling anybody this!' He said, 'I'd better keep my mouth shut,' he said. (Laughter)

"Reporter: And he hasn't said anything about it since?

"Gwodz: Well, if somebody's kidding him about it, they've read about it, he's just passed it off, and that's all." (27.)

7 October. Lake Attitash, Maine. (Shortly before 3:p.m.) Hovering over a lake.

A newspaper reports:

"Amesbury had its first unidentified flying object report in recent months yesterday when a Lake Attitash resident reported sighting a flat, disc-shaped object hovering over Lake Attitash.

"Mrs. William Bailey, a Lake Attitash resident, told police she saw the object shortly before 3 yesterday afternoon. She said she could also hear a motor humming.
"She said she went into her home to obtain binoculars, but on her return found the object had disappeared. She was interviewed by Civil Defense Director Daniel J. Flynn who was told that she had twice before sighted objects while a resident of Lowell." (28.)

7 October. Kokomo, Indiana. (1:00 a.m.)

"100 darting about." (See clipping below)

Flying Saucers?

'Vee Saw Them,'
Say Trailer Court Residents

Unidentified flying objects were back in the news here Tuesday.
Mysterious objects—variously described as looking like stars and fireflies—were sighted by several local residents shortly after 1 a.m.
Occupants of trailers parked at the Johnston Trailer Sales Co., four miles south on U. S. 31, said they watched the objects in the eastern sky for more than an hour. Others, they said, stopped cars along the highway to watch the display.

Homer Corrall, who lives at the trailer court, described the objects as "glowing like fireflies" and said there were as many as 100 darting about. The objects moved easily back and forth and stopped in mid-air at times, he continued.

One came close enough that persons in the group heard a whirring noise, similar to blowing wind, Corrall said.

Another resident of the court, Arlen Carroll, said the objects had red and green lights and that one came directly overhead at an altitude of 200 feet. At first, he said, the objects resembled stars.

KOKOMO, IND., TRIBUNE-DISPATCH

7 October. News correspondent Bulkley Griffin.

In June Bulkley Griffin, the chief of the Washington News Bureau for some New England newspapers, started a personal investigation of the UFO mystery. The veteran newsman was briefed by BLUE BOOK officers and examined official documents. ATIC officials insisted that UFOs were non-existent, but after four months of research Griffin had trouble believing the people at Wright Field.

In a three article series published in the Worcester Gazette, the New Bedford Standard-Times, and other New England papers, Griffin detailed a number of Air Force claims he found to be false. (29.)

The Air Force's handling of UFO information shocked Griffin who wrote: "A poverty of information is bad enough, but misleading the public is far worse." (30.)
NICAP's UFO Investigator commented extensively on Griffin's articles since the newsman's views agreed so well with the policies and conclusions reached by Keyhoe and Board members of the Washington D.C.-based UFO organization.

The Investigator noted that Griffin read more into the Air Force's Regulation 200-2 than the military intended. Griffin quoted the regulation:

"Information regarding a sighting may be released to the press or the general public by the commander of the Air Force Base concerned only if it has been positively identified as a familiar or known object." (Air Force italics for emphasis.)

"In other words," says Mr. Griffin, "if it is even conceivable an unknown the public is to be told nothing. Since AF bases dot the nation and since the AF is the only official source on UFO news, this constitutes pretty effective censorship." (31.)


As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Carl Vinson was one of most powerful men on Capital Hill. Not even Rep. Vinson, it seems, was hearing anything different from the military. Rep. Vinson let Griffin quote from a letter he received from a high Air Force official:

"We are attempting to get articles placed in public magazines with large circulation, and both Arthur Godfrey and Dave Garroway have agreed to assist us in our program to put the UFO subject in its proper perspective." (32.)

Moreover, according to the Investigator:

"So far, Mr. Griffin emphasizes, the Air Force has prevented Congressional hearings, and it is 'earnestly and discreetly fighting any congressional probe.'" (33.)

Finally, Mr. Griffin is quoted as saying:

"Why the broad and persistent secrecy on UFOs? The commonly heard answer here is that the Air Force fears national panic if it tells all it knows about the flying saucers. To one who knows something of the Washington official mind, this explanation, with its flagrant underestimation of the intelligence of our citizens, can't be dismissed." (34.)

8 October. Allegany, New York. (no time) 

Saucer landing? (See clipping. No additional information available)
When Keyhoe decided to send out numerous inquiries to various U.S. agencies and foreign governments back in August, he wasn't sure what the response would be. The few replies that trickled back were not that informative, although a letter sent to Canada did generate something of interest in a round-about-way from Canada's Defense Research Board.

An official Canadian government letter sent to NICAP on August 8, 1958 is hardly worth reading, but over the years since documents have surfaced that tell us much more. An extensive "draft" letter to NICAP's inquiry was found in Canadian government files. Not many of the details in the draft letter turned up in the final letter to NICAP. Aside from information on how Canada handled UFO cases, the draft letter provided clues to where important files might be located. As can be seen by a note written in ink, UFO researcher Stanton Friedman attempted to gain access to records identified by the Canadians. Unfortunately material from the early years of the UFO mystery was destroyed. (See page 33 which shows the August 8th letter to NICAP) (See pages 34-35 which show the "draft" letter)

8 October. Newark, Ohio. (about 2:15 a.m.)

'Mysterious night sky riding object." (See clipping below)
Major Donald E. Keyhoe,
Director, National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomena,
1536 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington 6, D.C.,
U.S.A.

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to your letter of August 18, 1958.

Since about 1947, sighting reports of unidentified flying objects were collected by various Government departments on a voluntary basis. In 1952 sightings became so numerous that the Defence Research Board decided to investigate the reports in some detail. Accordingly, an advisory committee comprising Service and Government departments was formed. A sighting report form was prepared for the use of anyone interviewing the observer of an unidentified flying object. Completed reports were recorded and analysed. In 1954 the Committee felt that cost of the observational material did not lend itself to a scientific method of investigation. Accordingly, the Committee disbanded, and no further analysis has been carried out. Reports which have been received since that time, however, continue to be filed and recorded.

You are no doubt aware of the studies on UFO's being made by Mr. W. Smith of the Department of Transport, who is ex-officio Canadian Chairman of your organization. As the majority of sighting reports eventually fall into the hands of Mr. Smith, he would be the logical person to contact for information.

We do not know of any specific instructions to RCAF pilots regarding the reporting of UFO's.

C. A. Pope
for Chairman, Defence Research Board
Investigations of Unidentified Flying Objects

1. Reference your minute re letter from the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena dated 14 August, 1956. I have drawn up a draft letter which IRC might forward to NICAP. It should be noted that Mr. Smith is a member of this organization and surely the Director of NICAP must be aware of this. It was also thought that the procedure for investigations of UFO reports should be reviewed to establish what was now being done by Canadian agencies in this regard.

2. Past History

U.S. "Project Saucer" was completed about 1950 and it was found desirable to solicit Canadian reports. At the 220th meeting of the JIC on the 12 April 1950, UFO’s were discussed and the following decisions were reached:

(a) DSI and DAI were to collaborate in preparing a questionnaire to be distributed to field intelligence officers of the three services and the RCMP.

(b) DAI is to co-ordinate the investigation arrangements in the field.

(c) All field reports were to be passed to DSI for official examination on behalf of DND.

In late 1950 a questionnaire or sighting report form was drawn up and approved; copies and instructions were passed to field units. (Ref: letter S21-1-9 (DAI) 19 October, 1950 to TCH3)

3. In 1952 the "Project Second Story" Committee was formed and the sighting report form was revised. The Committee met about six times, the most recent meeting apparently being 25 Feb. 54. The Committee concluded its activities which were summarized in a memo by Dr. Hillman, Chairman. It was concluded that the sightings did not lend themselves to a scientific method of investigation. In 1954 the Secretary of the Committee informed DAI of Dr. Hillman’s summary and stated that reports were still being collected, but that no analysis was being carried out.

4. Action by DRI/DSI

A tabular record of reports of sightings dating back to 1951 was initiated by S/L Birch of DSI. This is kept in this office and is classified SECRET. The last entry is a sighting of 6th June 1954. A file is also kept here which contains a multitude of press articles, sightings, etc. DAI file 3800-10-1-1 (3 vols.) contains a large number of sighting reports dating back to 1947.

5. Recent Action by DAI

This morning I examined a number of files held in DAI and talked to S/L Lovelace. In January, 1957 DAI initiated liaison duties with Mr. Smith of the Department of Transport. A sighting report form was devised which proved to be identical to that devised by Project Second Story Committee. A copy of this form is attached.
In December, 1957 a letter was prepared by DCI in reply to a request from a magazine regarding Canadian policy in investigating UFO's. An extract is as follows: "The DDI makes no provision for the investigation into these phenomena. However, it has come to our attention that "Mr. W.B."

Smith, Chief of Radio Division DCT Room 2210, No. 8 Temporary Building, has been and is making extensive studies on the subject of UFO's. Mr. Smith is ex-officio Canadian Chairman of NICAP located in Washington, D.C. The letter was signed by the Deputy Minister for National Defence.

7. Also in December, 1957 a letter was written to ACAS by DAI: "The NICAP has no official policy concerning the subject. There is no office within HQ commissioneded to deal with the reports of these phenomena, although DAI seems to be a gathering place for them. There has been a recorded instance of October, 1950 where A/C Brians, then AP, ordered that reports would be filed, but that investigations would be played down. There has never been an investigation of any report on file at APO.

(Ref: CPO-105 (DAI) 10th December, 1957)

8. At present, S/L Lovelace in DAI deals with the matter of flying saucers and is maintaining liaison with Mr. Smith. If a report is received the observer is asked by DAI to complete a sighting report from which is then forwarded to Mr. Smith. The last report in the DAI files was dated July, 1958. DAI did not appear to be aware of earlier policy as explained in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

9. It would appear that DSI is not now involved to any large extent in the investigation of UFO reports. However the decision mentioned in paragraph 2(c) above may still be valid. Possibly the matter should be considered further.

(E.A. Bernard) S/L
9 October. 30 miles north of Pinedale, Wyoming. (10:00 p.m.)

Three doctors on a moose hunt.

A trio of professional men with the title "Dr." were on a hunting trip the evening of October 9th. The men were looking for moose but they found something else.

Out in the country some 30 miles from the town of Pinedale, Wyoming, the three hunters spotted something strange in the dark sky. The Air Force, during its questioning of two of the witnesses, wanted to blame the sighting on a bright star seen through an unsteady atmosphere. An Air Force document detailed the location and nature of the surrounding terrain:

"They stood at the north edge of a meadow approximately one-quarter mile in diameter and observed the object over a 'saddle,' or lower ground elevation, occurring between Little Sheep Mountain and the mountain peak adjacent to the southeast of Little Sheep Mountain. No trees or other visual obstructions intervened between observers and object. The nearest trees in line of sight were on the far side of the meadow, which extended across the 'saddle' center. Only the top of these trees were visible, and they were well below the line of sight from observers to object." (35.)

The rest of the Air Force report is given in the original question/answer format:

"QUESTION: What type of weather prevailed in the area prior to time of sighting, such as rain, storm, etc.?

ANSWER: Sky was completely clear, with no clouds; visibility unlimited; no wind; temperature, approximately 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

QUESTION: In addition to the above information, request any other pertinent items the observers may recall that might aid in determining the nature of their sighting.

ANSWER: Both said the object disappeared some 17 to 20 minutes after their initial sighting---that its brilliance faded gradually as it disappeared....

QUESTION: What was the general behavior of the stars?

ANSWER: Stars normally seen in the sky from the observers' location appeared as usual. The unidentified flying object appeared as a brilliantly luminous body, from three to five times larger than any celestial bodies (other than the sun and the moon) normally seen in the sky, and was a light green in color--approximately equal to a reading of 500 on the spectrograph--with possibly a slight bluish tinge. It appeared sometimes as a circle, at other times as an ellipsoid and at still
other times as a greatly elongated ellipsoid. Its intensity of brightness varied; and it appeared to have a jerky, tumbling-like motion. Its path was erratic and changes of course were not effected by smoothly rounded turns, but appeared rather as sharp angles. Between angular corners at which changes of course occurred, the object followed straight course lines, sometimes in a horizontal direction, sometimes vertical and sometimes diagonal; it both climbed and descended on separate legs of its course, and moved in an easterly direction at times, at other-times in a westerly direction. It never retraced any leg of its course; nor did it follow any specific geometric pattern. As previously explained in their answer to the ATIC questionnaire, this appeared as a single body, although often, immediately after it had changed course, a smaller light appeared behind the main body. This they believe to have been an 'after-light' effect.

**QUESTION:** Did they appear as steady points of light, or did they appear to twinkle?

**ANSWER:** The light did not twinkle although, as previously pointed out, it varied in intensity—sometimes brighter, then dimmer, then brighter again.

**QUESTION:** Was the estimate of size as seen through binoculars or with unaided eye?

**ANSWER:** Both. Celestial bodies normally seen the basis of comparison.

**QUESTION:** Was the entire movement of object within field of binoculars, or were binoculars moved in order to keep object in sight?

**ANSWER:** The entire movement of the object was within the field of the binoculars, although it occurred over almost the entire field of vision of the binoculars as they were held in a fixed position of aim. Binoculars used have a power of 8 x 30; and the angle subtended is 8.5 degrees."

Moreover:

"They said the moon was not in evidence. They did not believe any of the vision was due to effects of heat waves or aurora borealis.

"Both Dr. (...deleted) and Dr. (...deleted) added that neither of them nor Dr. (...deleted) is color-blind, that none of them had imbibed in alcoholic beverages during the entire day of 9 October 1958." (37.)
9 October. BLUE BOOK is rattled?

An official letter was sent to the 1006th Air Intelligence Service Squadron by Col. Gilbert of ATIC. The AISS detachment conducted field investigations of selected UFO incidents and Col. Gilbert was displeased with the late delivery of data. Speed and accurate information interpretation was something of "great importance" to ATIC according to Col. Gilbert, and in his opinion the AISS people were hampering the work of BLUE BOOK. The Deputy for Science and Components, Col. Gilbert asserted his authority by pointing out two reasons for his concern. One was the "military value" of the information (which is debatable since the Air Force showed little worry domestic UFO reports were a threat. For example, ATIC had no hot lines to newspapers, police stations, observatories, or other sources.) The second reason given was probably the one that really mattered to Col. Gilbert which was: "...the possible impact on Air Force public relations." (38.) (See letter on page 40)

10 October. Manchester, England. (no time) (see clipping below)
"Eyewash."

10 October. Alamogordo, New Mexico. (6:00 p.m.)

UFO or balloon? (See clipping below)

**Alamogordo Daily News**

ESTABLISHED 1888

Published daily except Saturday by The Alamogordo News Co., Alamogordo, New Mexico. The Alamogordo News absorbed the Otero County Advertiser Jan. 1, 1913, and the Alamogordo Cloudcroftter, Aug. 27, 1922.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12, 1958—PAGE 4

**Silvery Sliver In Sky Investigated As Possible UFO**

A silvery sliver in the sundown sky was under investigation today by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization as the Alamogordo area's latest unidentified flying object.

At least seven persons were reported to have seen the brightly-hued object directly west of Alamogordo for about 10 minutes just at 8 p.m. Friday. It was described by Mrs. H. D. Holt as "like a hovering jet plane—only jets don't hover.

Holloman Air Force Base reported only two planes in the air at the time—one an L-19 and the other a B-29.

Others who saw the strange object included John Romero, an employee at the Air Force Missile Development Center, his wife and her mother.

**IT WAS ALL "EYEWASH" UNTIL TO-DAY**

EVENING NEWS REPORTER
EX-AIRMAN Norman Hallon, of Crosacres Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester, and Fred Lehn, of Copden Grove, Gatley, scoffed at stories of unidentified objects in the sky...until to-day.

For on their way to work in Manchester—waiting for a bus at Gatley—they saw it. Said 28-year-old Norman: "It was a cigar-shaped silver object thousands of feet up."

"Imagination?" Norman spent his National Service in air traffic control. An important part of the job was aircraft recognition. An optical illusion? BOTH men were definite about what they saw. "We watched it for at least 10 minutes," said Norman.

Manchester Evening News
Manchester, England.

9 October 58
The object appeared first just after sunset at a 10-degree angle to the horizon, later changing its position to about a 30-degree angle, observers said. Later, a bright light was seen lashing from the upper end and two bright flakes of light at the lower end. Shortly after that, the object began a turning limb and disappeared to the north.

Viewers said the object changed color from silver-white to an orange-flame color and later turned to black as it sped away to the north. Viewed with binoculars, the object disclosed points of light and shadow along the sides which might resemble port holes.

Observers could give no estimate on the height or distance of the object. The object was glimpsed at a few minutes before 6 p.m. and was out of sight by 6:09 p.m.

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Statement By One Observer

"A statement of one observer regarding the sighting follows in full."

"The object was first seen in the western sky just after sunset at about 10 degrees elevation. It appeared first as a silvery horizontal slit. After a few minutes it changed from a horizontal position to an angle of about 30 degrees with the horizon. At this time it changed in color from silvery-white to a sort of orange-flame color tinged with pink. The uppermost end, which pointed south, tapered to a blunt point while the lower end was sort of cloudy and poorly defined. At this point binoculars were used and several points of light and shadow could be seen along the fuselage. One observer compared this to the appearance of parts of windows.

"Next a bright light began flashing at the nose or upper end and two bright flakes of light appeared consecutively at the tail — then moved away from the main object and faded out."

"Shortly after this object turned one end toward the observers appearing as a dark cloud silhouette, accelerating upward, leaving an orange, fan-shaped trail."

"It continued climbing and climbing, it appeared once more in side view, once again making an angle of 30 degrees with the horizon, only this time the upper end pointed north. As it continued to climb and move slowly north it gradually turned black in color as its silhouette diminished in size and its angular position became horizontal. It faded into the distance, still...

"The incident lasted eight to 10 minutes. It occurred in an area encompassing approximately seven degrees of horizontal arc and five degrees of vertical arc."

"Personnel of a Holloman contractor late Saturday offered an explanation for the unidentified object in a jet plane which they said was being delivered to their installation here for a project in progress."

"Knowing that the plane was on route, they said, they were watching the western sky, and saw approximately the same object described by observers in Alamogordo. With the advantage of available radio contact, however, they ascertained that the object was the plane for which they were waiting, since no other

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SUBJECT: UFO Investigation Reports

To: Detachment of Air Intelligence Service-Squadron
    Raw Air Force Base, Colorado

1. The Air Technical Intelligence Center has been hampered in the analysis and evaluation of unidentified flying object incidents due to the late receipt of investigation reports from AISB detachments. It is the understanding of this Center that AISB detachment reports are sent to squadron headquarters for distribution, which results in this delay.

2. The rapid and accurate completion of the analysis of unidentified flying objects reports is of great importance to the Air Force, due primarily to its possible military value and secondarily to its possible impact on Air Force public relations.

3. It is suggested that if the policy of these reports being initiated from squadron headquarters continues, that the detachments be authorized to send an information copy of their report to the ATIC. These information copies would allow this Center to conduct preliminary analysis, and possibly eliminate some of the delay in getting the appropriate information into the hands of interested Air Force agencies.

4. It is further pointed out that authorization for the detachments to deal directly with the ATIC would enhance the operation of this Center in the rapid and accurate analysis of UFO incidents.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

[Deputy for Science and Components]
Laytonsville Man Tells Of "Flying Ball"

Claims Army Officer Told Him It Was "Tracked" Out Over Bay

OFFICIAL THEORY:
"He Saw Meteor"

A Laytonsville man last weekend told in detail how he saw a mysterious "glowing" object flash upward out of sight on a recent night and how he was later assured by an Army officer that it had been seen on radar screens at Fort Meade.

Allen Etizer, 26-year-old cabinetmaker and former Army radar operator, said he assumed the Army had withheld from publication any reference to the radar sighting. Instead an Army officer was quoted as saying he believed Etizer had seen a meteor. Rejected Idea

In view of facts as he related them, however, Etizer declared the meteor theory was out of the question.

The story of the Montgomery County man is in substance as follows:

One night round 9:30 about 10 days ago, he was driving home from work in a small truck and was on Route 108, near his residence, when he glanced off to one side of the road and saw what looked like a "glowing ball." When first sighted, he said, it was only "about as high as a silo," but within a few seconds shot upward into the night at a startling speed.

It was soon out of sight overhead.

Lt. Frank L. C. Hill

Etizer said the object appeared to be a sphere, but he agreed it could have been shaped like a bulging disc, or "saucer," tilted almost on edge. "Glowing" brightly, the object had a dimly-defined red stripe "around the middle," changing toward top and bottom into blue and then into green. There was nothing about the coloring, Etizer said, to indicate man-made paint.

Indeed, he added: "There just wasn't anything about the job, that looked man-made."

Certainly No Balloon
Even though the object shot upward at a speed "far beyond what a balloon could do," Etizer declared, there was no sound. He is certain the object could not have been a stray balloon, but also certain it was a material object.

Reference to the reported radar sighting came about through an investigation conducted by Major Henry T. Peters. Etizer said he telephoned a report of the sighting to a Nike missile battery at Mt. Zion, and that Major Peters and another officer came to the vicinity that night and again the next day.

Etizer said Major Peters told him that an unidentified airborne object, presumed to be the one watched by the Laytonsville man, had "been picked up on the radar screen over at Fort Meade, and that they watched it disappear over Chesapeake Bay."

Major Peters was later quoted as saying: "I'm convinced he saw a meteor."

Etizer said he knows, from his experience as a former Army radar operator, that unexplained objects have appeared on radar screens at times when visual observers have reported strange objects in the sky.
More on Laytonville.

"Silly explanation." "Meteor in reverse."

The letter shown below was written by a newsman whose identity is missing from CUFOS files. He adds details to the "flying ball" case.

Allen Etzler, 28-year old cabinet-maker and former Army Radar Operator, of Laytonville, Md. (Montgomery County) claims he saw a mysterious "glowing object" flash upward out of sight and declared an Army officer later told him that the object had been odd on the radar screens at Fort Meade.

An Army officer, sent to "investigate" the case, announced his belief that Etzler had "seen a meteor." Presumably, if true, this is the only meteor-in-reverse ever witnessed by a human. Despite this silly explanation, there was no way to follow up the story and the Army went silent on it. The Frederick Post carried the story on its front page on October 20, 1958.

I talked to Etzler by phone. He apparently is willing to talk to anybody about the incident. He chuckled at the "meteor" theory and declared it was "out of the question."

He was driving home from work around 9:30 p.m. a short time before the date of the story's publication and was using Route 108 near his home. Suddenly, he happened to glance off to his right and saw what looked like a "glaring ball." When first seen, it was at a height about the height of a silo, he said, (it wasn't on the ground) and then within a few seconds shot upward into the night at a startling speed.

Etzler called it a "glowing ball" but, in our phone talk, agreed it could have been more of a "saucer" shape. That is, it could have been if the "ball" had been tilted at the right angle to make it look like a ball.

The object was of changing colors--- a dimly-defined "red stripe around the middle" that changed gradually to blue and then to green. "There was nothing about the coloring to indicate man-made paint," "In fact," the man told me, "there just anything about it that looked man-made."

He's positive it was not any type balloon, but is also positive it was a MATERIAL object. Not a reflection or vapor.

Word was telephoned to a nearby Nike battery at Mt. Zion, Md., and a major Henry T. Peters was sent to investigate. Etzler quoted Peters as telling him later that Fort Meade had watched the object on its radar, and that the object disappeared out over Chesapeake Bay. ETSLER CLAIMS HE CAN TELL OF OTHER INSTANCES WHEN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS WERE SEEN ON RADAR---while he was in service.
The Laytonsville case. A NICAP inquiry.

Since the location was not that far from Washington D.C., Richard Hall and Richard Lechaux of NICAP drove to the Laytonsville area to ask questions. (See NICAP report below)

INVESTIGATION OF OCTOBER 10, 1958 UFO Report in Laytonsville, Md.,
by Richard Lechaux and Richard Hall

After questioning Sgt. Farris about the Nike site UFO, we decided to try to locate Allen Etzler. (See telegram from Ted Bloecher, our first knowledge of this case.) We inquired at a gas station and, luckily, the man we talked to lived with Etzler. He was preparing to drive home, so we followed him in our car.

Mr. Etzler was also very friendly and cooperative. He is 26 years old, and an ex-radar operator in the Army missile Corps. He said he had seen unidentifiable blips on radar many times. We let him tell what he had seen:

He was returning home in his truck and had just reached his driveway at 9:30 pm (EDT) when he noticed the object above the field just opposite the driveway (due east). It was a round, brilliant, white-green object hovering about 60-70 feet over the field about 250 yards away. He was able to make a comparison with a nearby silo which was about 60 ft. tall.

He had also been accustomed to estimating distances on the Army firing range. He pulled the truck over to the side of the road, "frightened, and frozen to the spot," and watched the object for about 8-10 seconds. Then the object shot straight up in the air and disappeared, making no sound and leaving no trail.

Etzler reported the incident to Major Peters, commander of the Nike base. Major Peters and Captain Turley later came, armed with a radiation counter, and looked around. They found nothing. A day or two later, Major Peters told Etzler he had looked up meteorites in an encyclopedia and that the description given fit what Etzler had seen. (?) Etzler told us that Major Peters also showed Etzler a field a short way down the road (about 3 miles from the Brookeville site) in which part of the Sept. 29th object was supposed to have fallen.

Etzler then walked across the field with us to the estimated spot where the object he saw had been hovering. We examined the ground, which was hard and barren except for a great many thistles, but found nothing in the way of markings or impressions. Then, after discussing the incident for a while and deciding there was nothing more we could do, the three of us drove to the field pointed out by Maj. Peters. There was no sign of any scorched spot.

SUMMARY: The complete lack of evidence and the absence of other witnesses tends to reduce the value of Etzler's report; however, after talking to him for quite a while we both got the impression that he was telling an actual story in a straightforward manner. He mentioned that a nearby farmer had seen a very similar object in nearly the same place about 4 years ago, and freely admitted to an interest in UFOs. He said he always kept a watch out for them.

Later in Olney, Md., we bought copies of the Montgomery County Sentinel for Oct. 16, 1958 which had an account of Etzler's sighting. It was entirely consistent with what he had told us. He had also mentioned being interviewed by a reporter from Ohio. He did not embellish the story in telling it to us.

Address: Allen Etzler
Route 1,
Gaithersburg, Md.

Date of this investigation: October 18, 1958
10 October. Near Litchfield, Kentucky. (7:00 p.m.)

It was Friday evening. Mr. John Head, a businessman, was at a Boy Scout camp near the city of Litchfield, Kentucky, on October 10th. The time was 7:00 p.m. when Mr. Head and some of the scouts noticed "the thing." Here is some notes made of the sighting:

"From over the horizon came a 'large type aircraft' headed toward them. The stars were out, no moon, sky clear. They watched and then saw that it was not an aircraft. No flashing lights. Much larger than ordinary aircraft. As it got closer, it was much brighter than stars or planets. Saw it for about 20 minutes--with other campers--as it moved from horizon to horizon. As it moved directly overhead, they realized it was very far away. Then it veered right, and was seen to be moving in a wide arc." (39.)

10 October. Eureka, California. (3:00 p.m.)

Odd object. (See clipping)

Odd Object
Observed
Over Eureka

A strange egg-shaped object hovered over this city Friday afternoon, a Eureka housewife reported last night.

Mrs. Zane Dunbar, of 3222 P street, recounted that she saw the slow-moving object first about 3 p.m. as she accompanied her eight-year-old son, Zanie, from his classes at Washington school.

"I first saw it coming from an easterly direction," Mrs. Dunbar said. "It seemed to hover above the general area of the school at, what I would guess, about the same altitude of commercial aircraft flying over Eureka."

Watching the oval, which appeared to be of aluminum and reflected rays in the clear sky, Mrs. Dunbar noted that it made no noise nor was a vapor trail in evidence.

She pointed out the strange sight to her son and the two watched it for an estimated three minutes, following which it took off in a northeasterly direction, Mrs. Dunbar said.

No other adult, so far as she knows, saw the strange sight. Civil Aeronautics Administration, queried yesterday, said they had received no reports of strange objects.

"It might have been a high altitude research balloon," a CAA spokesman explained. "These often act in the manner described by Mrs. Dunbar."

Oddly enough, the CAA man said, "these balloons even change shape, being sometimes round or oval.

"Very often these balloons seem to hover when they are really rising. Then they'll meet with, let's say, an easterly wind and head in that direction. Soon a current from another direction will force them to change course."

Mrs. Dunbar's observation coincided with one reported from Alamogordo, New Mexico. Both were observed on the same day. In the New Mexico report a man watched the unusual object through binoculars for about six minutes. He said it had a fan-like tail and pinpoints like portholes.
10 October. The Sheffield case. Preliminary evaluation.

This information was not shared with the public or Congress until the end of the month when a letter was issued over the signature of General W.P. Fisher. (See pages 45-46) (40.)

1. On 1 October 1958, the Air Technical Intelligence Center received a letter from Mrs. [redacted] of Sheffield, Ohio, containing a report of her UFO sighting on 21 September 1958, and action was initiated on this date to have the case investigated.

2. Mrs. [redacted] stated in her report that on the morning of 21 September 1958, she was awakened by a very bright light which illuminated her bedroom at approximately 0500 EDT. Looking out of a bedroom window which faced her front yard, she saw an object which was flat and circular with a domed shaped top. Object was approximately 6 - 8 feet from the ground, moving slowly in a northerly direction; parallel with the length of the house, and descending with a floating oscillating motion. Object was reported to be approximately 10 feet from the window when first sighted. Witness insists the top of the object was clear to her in every detail, and that the color reminded her of dull aluminum. The dimensions of the object were estimated to be 20 feet in diameter and approximately 6 feet thick. Witness reports that the item made several turns around the yard and then rose instantly out of sight. Total elapsed time was estimated as five minutes.

3. Air Force investigators arrived in Sheffield, Ohio on 3 October 1958, contacted Mrs. [redacted] and also initiated other phases of the investigation. Mrs. [redacted] at all interviews was advised by Mr. [redacted], a member of a
46

1. Investigation revealed that a railroad track ran near the home of [Mrs.]. The night of the sighting, a train passed the house at approximately the same hour of the reported sighting. The train had a rotating headlight which under some conditions would produce unusual effects. Contact was also made with Chief Boan Mate William Schott of the Lorain Coast Guard Station. Chief Schott reported that he was using his spotlight in an attempt to attract the attention of another ship, and that the light was directed toward shore in the general direction of [Mrs.]. Chief Schott reported that the time and date of this incident, coinciding with those reported by [Mrs.], are not related. Another witness, listed in [Mrs.]'s report, could not recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting. [Mrs.] another witness of Lorain, Ohio, was not available for interview. The weather at the time of the incident was a misty rain with haze and smoke.

2. [Mrs.] impressed the Air Force investigators as being nervous, emotional and impressionable. At times during the interview the witness was on the brink of tears and gave other indications of an emotionally disturbed state.

3. [Mrs.] admitted that the letter and report which she sent to the Air Technical Intelligence Center was prepared by [Mrs.]. The opinion of the Air Force investigators, and shared by the AFROIC, is that this individual had considerable influence upon both the report and subsequent actions of the witness.

4. Investigation further disclosed that [Mrs.] received letters from other self-appointed UFO experts concerning her experience. These letters are all written in a tone of encouragement to [Mrs.], and all directed toward discrediting the U.S. Government and particularly the U.S. Air Force. Thermographic copies of these letters are included in this correspondence.

5. The conclusions of the Air Force investigators is that the combination of moving lights, noises of the train, prevailing weather and the emotional condition of the witness accounts for the illusion experienced by [Mrs.]. The Air Technical Intelligence Center, after evaluation of the evidence in this case, concurs with the conclusions of the investigators.

6. [Mrs.] original letter and report to the Air Technical Intelligence Center is also an inclusion to this correspondence. This letter requires an answer directly to [Mrs.].

11 October. White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico. (7:21 a.m.) Stange radar target at a height of 64 miles. (See pages 47-52)
I. INTRODUCTION

The AN/FPS-17(XH-2) radar at the Laredo Test Site, Laredo, Texas, was in operation on 11 October 1958. The expected target was 1958 A 2, the instrumented portion of the third Russian satellite, Sputnik III. A target was observed, but the characteristics of the intercept would make one believe that the object observed was not the one expected. Other possible explanations are discussed below.

II. CONCLUSIONS

The object observed was most probably:

(a) a meteor showing both a head echo type reflection and a specular type reflection from the trail, or

(b) two meteors occurring in the same portion of space at very nearly the same time.

III. ANALYSIS

A. FACTS RELATED TO THE UNIDENTIFIED TARGET

The known facts related to the intercept of this unidentified target are:

UNCLASSIFIED
(a) The target was observed on 11 October 1958 beginning at 07h 21m 00.0s Universal time and lasting until 07h 22m 12.0s, an overall duration of 28.0 seconds.

(b) The target as displayed on film recordings of the radar signal consisted of two unusually distinct sections. The first of these lasted for approximately 0.75 seconds, showing a range change from 1551 to 1733 nmi. The second portion began where the first left off and lasted for 27.3 seconds. The range of this target changed from 1562 to 1567 nmi in that time. Absolute range as indicated here is accurate to within 5 nmi, but relative to each other they are accurate to within 2 nmi.

(c) The target was observed in three of four beams being energized as follows:

- Beam 1 Low: No target
- Beam 2 Low: 0721:44.3 to 0722:03.0
- Beam 1 High: 0721:45.5 to 0721:55.5
- Beam 2 High: 0721:44.0 to 0722:12.0

* May have entered prior to this time, but beam was not energized because of Beam Switching.

(d) No doppler frequency information was available because the range gate was set so that only targets between 500 and 1178 nmi would alarm the Lincoln Coded Pulse doppler system.

(e) An intercept of the Russian satellite, 1958 A2 had been expected at about 0733Z at a range of 700 to 900 nmi.

(f) No other targets were observed by the radar between 0701Z and 0800Z.

B. POSSIBLE TARGETS

A signal such as that received by the radar could, at first glance, have been reflected from any one of the following:
(a) A rocket launched from the vicinity of the White Sands Proving Grounds.
(b) A satellite passing through the beams in a northeasterly direction.
(c) A meteor or meteors.
(d) Some unknown and unexpected object.

C. INTERPRETATION OF THE FACTS

A knowledge of the location and path of the observed object is desirable if one is to distinguish between the above possibilities. The range of about 470 nmi would position the observed object somewhere in the vicinity of the White Sands Proving Grounds. The observation of the object simultaneously by three of the four beams energized allows us to estimate the angular coordinates more exactly than if reflections were seen in only one beam. If the possibility of side lobe reflections are neglected, the object observed must have been at an elevation angle between 3.5 and 4.5 degrees and an azimuth angle from the radar between 312.5 and 313.5 degrees.

Conversion of these radar coordinates to a more meaningful form places the observed target probably within 5 nmi of a point in space defined as follows:

Origin: at the Air Force Missile Development Center, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico
Coordinates:  

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>10 nmi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>2 nmi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>61 nmi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNCLASSIFIED
The path (direction and speed) of the target cannot be resolved to any great degree of accuracy. The sudden appearance of the signal in three beams indicates that the object suddenly appeared at this position in space and didn't gradually move into one beam and then another. The target should be considered as two separate parts, that which lasted for 0.75 seconds and the other, which had a duration of 28 seconds in Beam 2 High. The first target had a range rate of change of about +25 nmi per second. The second target had an average range rate of change of 0.2 nmi per second.

The accompanying photographs show that the signal died out of Beam 1 Hi before it died out of Beam 2 Hi. This could be explained by the passage of the target from one beam into the other, or by a decrease in the strength of the reflected signal. If the target were closer to the center of Beam 2 Hi, we would expect to get the stronger signal in that beam.

D. ELIMINATION OF POSSIBLE TARGETS

Consideration of the facts available indicates that several of those objects listed as possible targets would not give rise to a signal such as that received.

(a) A rocket launched from the White Sands Proving Ground would have been picked up in a low beam about 30 to 40 seconds before it was seen in the high beams, and it normally is seen for longer than 28 seconds. No such phenomena as that demonstrated by the early portion of the target has been observed on previous rockets launched at White Sands.
(b) Only one satellite was known to have been in the vicinity at the time of observation. This one should have passed through the beams over 200 nmi to the northwest about 12 minutes later. The prediction bulletins are subject to some error, but they are seldom far enough off in either position of the orbit or time of passage for this observed object to have been the satellite.

All previous observations of satellites on south-to-north passes have shown similar range rate characteristics. But they have also gradually moved into Beam 1 and then Beam 2, which is not the case here. No satellites in orbit come so close to the earth as the indicated 61 nmi. If they did, they would soon fall out of orbit or burn up in the atmosphere.

One should note that there may be several pieces of satellites in orbit which nobody is keeping track of. These pieces could, at times, be observed, but the sudden appearance in three beams and a rate of change of range of 25 nmi per second are not characteristics of satellite intercepts.

(c) The observed target height, 61 nmi, is in the meteor band. A very sudden appearance of a strong signal is characteristic of meteors. The appearance of the signal suddenly in three beams is quite possible in the case of a meteor. Although there is much yet to be learned about meteors, it is known that not all meteors in a beam are detected by a radar. There are requirements regarding the orientation of the meteor trail with respect to the radar beam which must be met.

Then, too, the exact height at which a meteor trail becomes detectable varies. Either one of both the orientation of the trail and the ionisation formation, could explain why the meteor was not seen until such a time as it reached a position within the beams.

The first portion of the observed trail might well have been an echo from the so-called meteor head, thus giving us the very high rate of change of range (the meteor head moves with the speed of the meteor itself). Meteor velocities vary over a wide range, but they may be as high as twice that range rate of change observed.
The second portion of the trail is characteristic of meteor trail echoes, where the echo actually comes from the ionized trail left behind the meteor. This type of echo has a very little change in range, since once the trail exists its only movement is caused by expansion of the trail or movements of the air in which the trail lies.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Two possible sources of information pertaining to this target have not been approached as yet. The first of these is the White Sands Proving Ground. They ordinarily notify the Laredo Test Site of any rockets they plan to fire, which may pass through the radar beam. The absence of any firings on 11 October 1958 should be verified by contacting the authorities of the White Sands Proving Ground.

The Harvard College Observatory has two cameras recording pictures of meteors which occur in the vicinity of the White Sands Proving Ground. There is a possibility that they would have observed any meteor, or other phenomena which created visible light, at the time and location of this unidentified target.

KBCross/r
3 November 1958
ATIC is authorized to receive UFO case information faster. (See below)
The Antarctic. 1957-58 UFO wave.

According to writer Y.S. Durfield:

"As Operation Deepfreeze spread across the Antarctic in 1957-1958, radar trackings of UFOs became almost commonplace. By now, electronics experts knew about unusual magnetic disturbances around the South Pole and could distinguish these natural phenomena from trackings of actual objects. Says Dr. Steven B. Buggs, a member of the Deepfreeze effort, 'We were getting radar trackings which were confirmed by operators at three or four different locations, on the air and ground. There was absolutely no doubt that real UFOs were observed regularly and frequently.'

Antarctic explorers from other nations also spotted bizarre intruders during the 1957-58 "wave" of sightings. Lt. Comdr. O.R. Pag- nini, special assistant to the Secretary of the Argentinian Navy, confirmed that a UFO 'flew at low level and interfered (with) passage of one of our vessels.' Four New Zealand scientists at a temperature research station spotted a gleaming, disk-like object in flight in 1958." (41.)

11 October. Outpost Vostok, Antarctic.

"I remember a stirring in my mind."

Again according to writer Y.S. Durfield:

"During this period, the Soviet Union established its scientific outpost, Vostok, near the South Geometric Pole. The Russians, too, promptly began spotting the unexplained objects in the skies. Dr. Yuri I. Danikov, a leading Moscow glacier expert, was one of four of four men who were 'pestered' by a low-flying, silvery disk on October 11, 1958.

"It was like a flat stone, but apparently made of steel, and it moved in total silence,' Danikov said later. 'It flew over us, climbed, and then made another pass at lower altitude. We had an eerie feeling, not only that we were being watched, but that some 'force' was attempting to communicate with us. I remember a stirring in my mind. I am absolutely convinced this was a voyager from the cosmos.'" (42.)

11 October. Fresno, California. (10:00 a.m.)

A Fresno newspaper printed:

"Mrs. Amy Mugardichian of 1236 East Iowa Avenue reported she saw two flying saucers in the northern sky yesterday at 10 AM. She said she was looking from her living room window and saw the two, flying together and traveling east. 'They looked like flat, silver-colored disks,' she said." (43.)

12 October. Aurora, Illinois. (9:30-10:10 p.m.)

"They were all lit up with a spotlight shining down." (See clippings on page 55)
Police See Objects in Night Sky

DuPage County had more unidentified nocturnal visitors last night. And this time the flying objects were spotted by three different police departments.

The unidentified objects were described as "gold colored" by Aurora police officers, who originated the report. (Any cracks about May or June at this point are out of order.) Lisle police officials said they saw objects which "were all lit up with a spotlight shining down."

Aurora police called the DuPage County sheriff's office at 9:31 last night and reported that they saw the "gold colored" objects headed toward DuPage County.

County desk Sgt. Bill Holzkopf, then made a check with Squad Car 50 and Deputy Jack Adams said he had seen an object southeast of Downers Grove from Butterfield Road.

Lisle police reported the same thing, adding the description about the lights.

Several other stations also came on the air and reported that they had either seen the flying objects or had received calls on them.

At 10:10 the Aurora police again called and said they saw three objects, this time hovering over Batavia.

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RESIDENTS IN AURORA AREA ALERT POLICE

Mysterious flying objects were reported in the Aurora area skies again last night, but checks with DuPage County sheriff's officials and O'Hare Field officials in Park Ridge could produce little information.

Coincidentally with the United States' Saturday morning rocket shot toward the moon, reports again flooded police officials offices of bright colored objects in the skies.

DuPage police officials reported seeing gold colored objects in the sky in various spots last night from approximately 9:50 to 10:15, and alerted airmen from O'Hare Field, but received no further information.

Reports from the DuPage car in Lisle, shortly after the DuPage sheriff's office in Wheaton received a call from the Aurora police department at 9:50 p.m., placed the objects in the skies over DuPage county moving toward the southeast. A check with other police cars in the DuPage area revealed they also saw the objects.

The report from the Lisle police said the object was well lighted and apparently had spotlights turned toward the earth.

Aurora police called the DuPage sheriff's office again at 10:10 p.m. and reported they saw similar objects in the skies over Batavia again moving toward the southeast.

DuPage officials at this point called O'Hare Field officials and informed them of the occurrences. O'Hare today, however, would issue no further information. Residents of the area, however, heard what appeared to be noises made by jet aircraft in the sky shortly after 10:30 p.m.

Aurora police were alerted at 9:41 p.m. when they ordered Car 14 to investigate strange objects in the sky after a call received by phone.

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Gold Object Seen in Sky in Lisle Area

"It was a gold colored flash or streak," Lisle Police Officer George Suchomel told the Lisle Advertiser this week, when asked about the peculiar object sighted in the sky Sunday night. Traveling in the Lisle squad car, Officers Suchomel and George Cinert received a call by radio, to all DuPage police, that an object had been reported seen in the sky.

The "thing" was sighted over Wheaton, then passed over Lisle and on to Downers Grove and Hinsdale. "It lingered approximately two minutes over Downers Grove," Suchomel reported. As to rate of speed for this visitor from out of nowhere, Suchomel could not say... "We weren't able to clock it," he stated. Thus far no explanation has been offered for this phenomenon.

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The call came from Mrs. Eda RodesBer, 588 Fifth Ave., who told police she had let the dog out at 9:30 p.m. and had stopped to look at the sky. She said she saw a brightly lighted object in the east sky and stopped to look at it for a moment. As she did, she said, it began to move sideways and then up and down, moving toward the south. She called her children, Tom, 15, and Sherry, 13, to view the object and then called her married son, Kenneth, 26, who lives around the corner at 448 Hinman St. They all saw the object, she then called the police.

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10-14 October. DuPage, Illinois. (night)

Sheriff's office flooded with calls. (See clipping below)

Tuesday four objects were sighted over Aurora. City police said they hovered over the city in formation and then flew east. All DuPage police were alerted.

About fifteen minutes later, one nocturnal visitor was spotted by Little police. Two DuPage deputies, Melvin Lowe and Louis Parrant, riding in separate squad cars, sighted the "white light that changed to gold" near Downers Grove.

At the same time the sheriff's office was flooded with calls from residents describing the same phenomena.

"The intense white light was high in the sky travelling at a moderate speed," Parrant told the CLARION. "The object was trailed until it crossed out of the county toward Hillside."

At one time the lights were reported flying as low as 1,000 feet.

No explanation was available as the CLARION went to press. DuPage sheriff's department contacted Air Force officials and O'Hare Field, but received no answer.

No one in Naperville has been reported sighting this the latest in a chain of weird unknown objects in the sky.

12 October. Montevideo, Uruguay. (evening)

A UFO group in Uruguay gathered this item:

"Miss Mirta Casanova de Orta saw over the area in which is located TV Channel 10, an ovoid object - like a rugby ball - whose size was slightly than the full moon.

"The UFO was at very low altitude. The object was yellow-white in the central part with three lights on the edges: the lights, red, blue and green, swung from left to right. There was an extension from one of the sides which seemed to be smoke.

"The object made various maneuvers, ascending, flying in straight and circular paths, sometimes fast at others slow. A balancing movement was noted constantly. Finally it ascended to a point 35 degrees above the horizon and moved off jerkily and slowly in a straight line until it became a luminous yellow point. There was no noise."

13 October. Investigative policy reaffirmed. (See pages 57-58)
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: J.R. C. L. DUDLEY
FROM: E. W. SANDERS

DATE: October 13, 1953

SUBJECT: FLYING SAUCERS

This memorandum summarizes Bureau policy regarding unidentified flying objects commonly referred to as "flying saucers."

Reports of "flying saucers" became prevalent in 1947 and at request of Army Air Forces Intelligence, Bureau agreed to cooperate in investigation of flying discs. By Bureau Bulletin Number 42, 7-30-47, field instructed to investigate each instance to determine if bona fide sighting, a prank, or hallucination. Coordination with Army through liaison channels in field and at SCG.

By letter 9-3-47 from Headquarters Air Defense Command addressed to Commanding Generals of the various Air Forces it was noted original intent of Air Force was that Air Force would interview responsible observers and Bureau would investigate incidents of so-called discs found on ground. Letter stated services of the FBI were enlisted in order to believe the numbered Air Forces of the task of tracking down all the many instances which turned out to be "trash can covers, toilet seats and what not." As result Bureau Bulletin Number 57 of 10/1/47 instructed "all future reports connected with flying discs should be referred to the Air Forces and no investigative action should be taken by Bureau Agents." Letter of 9-27-47 advised Air Force that personnel and time of FBI could not be dissipated in this manner (62-6357). 5-6-47.

FBI Letter Number 36, 7-20-49, advised that from reliable source it had been determined the USSR had been experimenting for four years on unknown type of flying disc. FBI Letter listed field data desired by Air Force in connection with reports of sighting of flying saucers. Letter again called attention to fact no investigation should be conducted by Bureau but if reports made, information should be taken and furnished to Air Force.

FBI Letter Number 63, 6-20-52, referred to prior Bulletin and FBI Letters and cautioned that the type of information desired by Air Force should be obtained from complaints and furnished properly to U.S. Air Force locally. This FBI Letter again reminded field investigators of the responsibility of Air Force.

ESS: JAS
1 - J.R. Donahoe
1 - J.R. Sanders

6-7 OCT 17 1958
Neither Agents Handbook nor manuals contain instructions regarding handling of reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects, although policy has been well established by above Bureau bulletins and C.C. letters and no problems have arisen in connection with this matter. Air Force has on several occasions assured that Bureau will be advised of any developments of interest to us. Last such assurance given 11-12-57 (62-C3C-94-31.7).

Our Liaison with Air Force on this matter is with C.I. although within Air Force this matter is handled by Air Technical and Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

For your information. There appears to be no necessity for further instructions to the field or insertions in the Handbook or manuals at this time.
13 October. U.S. Highway 60 between Vaughn and Clovis, New Mexico. (3-4:00 p.m.)

Hovering UFO.

Monday afternoon October 13th Donald Wood was driving on U.S. Highway 60 between Clovis and Vaughn, New Mexico. Mr. Wood was on his way home to Refugio, Texas, where he owned an auto supply store. Five other people were passengers in his car. As Mr. Wood drove along he noticed cars parked on the side of the road and about 100 people or more looking at the sky. Mr. Wood pulled over and got out to see what the excitement was about. It seems that hovering in the crystal clear, cloudless, atmosphere was a silvery round (or oval) shape with what appeared to be "jets" extending from the bottom. After an hour, Mr. Wood got back into his car and drove off. The UFO had not moved or done anything interesting so Mr. Wood and his passengers got tired of staring at it. (45.) (See drawings of sighting location, and object, on page 60) (Also see Roswell sighting on page 63)

13 October. Bear Creek Harbor, New York. (about 1:15-3:00 a.m.)

"Orange-red fiery ball moving up and down." (See clipping below)

Couple Spot 'Fiery Ball' on Lake

A Bear Creek Harbor resident and his wife said they saw what looked like a burning airplane apparently crashing into Lake Ontario about 13 miles east of Sea Breeze about 1:15 this morning.

Charles Powell of East Lake Road, Ontario, said he saw "an orange-red fiery ball moving up and down like a burning plane trying to land on the lake in front of his house."

"It was going at a tremendous speed," he said, "faster than any boat could have gone."

Powell's call to State Police started a Coast Guard search of the area. A Civil Air Patrol spokesman this morning said no missing planes had been reported.

A trooper arrived at the Powell home about 2:15 a.m. and watched the ball of fire with Powell and Mrs. Powell until it burned itself out about 3 a.m.

A 7 1/4-hour Coast Guard search of the area by boat was unsuccessful in locating any clue as to the location or identification of the object. A Coast Guard spokesman said the search would not be continued unless a plane was reported missing.

Rochester, New York
Times-Union
13 October 58

Nine hours later at the city of Batavia and even more impressive incident took place.
Drawing and map by witnesses
13 October. Batavia, New York. (shortly after dark)
"Fantastic" sight. (See clipping below)

Strange Objects in the Sky Called a "Fantastic" Sight

An Otis St. man would like an explanation for "fantastic" strange objects he and neighbors sighted in the southeastern sky shortly after dark Monday.

Salvatore Paladino, of 38 Otis St., an Air Force veteran of World War II, said he is puzzled by the "surge of power" which accompanied the objects just before they moved. The strange objects were called objects soon disappeared in the western sky, the Batavian said.

An Otis Ave. resident said that Mr. Paladino's attention by his son, John, and a neighbor boy, Raymond Oxencis, both 13. "They wanted me to come out and see the lights, but it was about three or four minutes before they could convince me," Mr. Paladino said.

The Otis Ave. resident said that Mr. Paladino commented. "It was be observed two orange lights in fantastic." He estimated he viewed the southeastern sky. A neighbor, using binoculars, for lawrence E. Gale of 42 Otis St., about three minutes. had seen one orange light earlier, Mr. Paladino called officials and reported that the second light the Niagara Falls Naval Air Sta appeared to emerge from the first, who said they knew of no such craft In the skies. The officials promised an investigation of the like someone revving up an ex-report.

Batavia, New York
Daily News
14 October 58

13 October. Near Brandt, Ohio. (about 8:00 - 8:20 p.m.)
Extremely fast maneuvers.

Members of a basketball team were waiting outside Bethel Township school for their parents to come and take them home. The group of students included William H. Morrow, Thomas L. Stevens, Terry E. Preston, and three other boys not identified. The Highschool kids had nothing to do. Basketball practice was over so the youths were just standing around. Morrow and Stevens put together the following incident report:

"About 8:00 p.m. we noticed a slow, northeasterly moving object approaching from the southwest. This object appeared as a very brilliant white disc that was less than five thousand feet in altitude. The object appeared to be quite large (the object was quite larger than either of the pursuing jets that appeared on
the scene later). After the preliminary northeasterly heading the object did an about face and set a southerly course. The object then instantaneously reverse its direction without any noticeably braking or accelerating. These maneuvers were mixed with slow and fast speeds, different directions of flight, and steady and blinking lights, which could be dim or bright. This object did not give off any sound that we could hear. About 8:15 p.m. the object set a very slow pace. At this time the object appeared oblong and the brilliant white light changed to a yellow-orange color with three separate reddish-orange bright areas located at the ends and the middle of the object respectively. These colored lights soon changed to the normal brilliant white light and the object set a faster pace. About 8:17 p.m. two jets appeared (supposedly from WPAFB) from the southeast. The fast moving jets were bearing directly towards the now brilliant, but slow moving object. The object was traveling in the same bearing as the oncoming jets. Just as it appeared the jets would collide with it, the object accelerated instantaneously away from the fast moving jets. Then the object slowed down to allow the jets to catch up. Just as the jets were to overtake the object, it reversed its direction. By the time the jets could reverse their direction the object was quickly moving out of sight to the southeast over Fairborn, Ohio. The jets proceeded to traverse the general area before leaving in the WPAFB direction." (46.)

14 October.
Indianapolis, Indiana.
(3:52-5:30 a.m.)
"Spacemen hover?"

Goblins?

Spacemen Hover Over Our City

More than a score of Marion County residents and three sheriff’s deputies reported sighting unidentified flying objects over the city this morning.

The descriptions of the objects differed only in number.

Deputy William Landrigan saw two “high-flying, noiseless objects” that flew east to west and then made a 90-degree turn toward the south. “They turned a square corner at a terrific speed,” Deputy Landrigan said.

Deputies James Wells and Robert Smith saw the objects south and west of the city. They said they thought the lights were at “extremely high altitude.”

Welt Cook Airport radar operators, whose equipment tracks only to 10,000 feet, reported no strange objects on their scopes this morning.

The first report came to sheriff’s headquarters at 3:52 a.m. The calls persisted until 5:30 a.m. City and county residents reported the objects cavorting at a high altitude and hovering over their homes.
16 October. Wheaton, Illinois.
(See clipping)

16 October. Near Roswell, New Mexico.
(See clipping)
Also see October 13th case on page 59.

ALBERT STUBBS

Good Evening

MAX and Leah Calaway, who have built a home practically single-handed north of Roswell near the Clovis-Vaughn wye, were astonished one night recently when an "unidentified flying object" approached their house and looked as if it might come flying in their bedroom window. The object, a bright, luminous disk-shaped affair, appeared to come at their house at high speed, stop, and reverse its course suddenly. "We don't know what it was," they commented.

17 October. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
(See BLUE BOOK file card)

Child Sees A 'Saucer'

Ten-year-old Maureen Ostler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ostler, 1278 Pleasant Hill Rd., Wheaton, ran into the house yesterday evening saying she saw a gold-colored, shiny object "about the size of our kitchen" spinning in the sky.

Mrs. Ostler said by the time she got the story out of the frightened child and ran out into the backyard to investigate, the unidentified object had disappeared.

Maureen said the object was about "as low as an airplane." It was between 6 and 6:30 that the incident occurred.

Police did not have any reports of any other persons seeing anything in the sky.

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PROJECT NO. 906-04252

17 October 1958

1. DATE
12 October 1958

2. LOCATION
Grand Rapids, Michigan

3. DATE-TIME GROUP

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
R. Sound-Vision
D. Ground Radar

5. PHOTOS
Yes

6. SOURCE
Civilian

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
24

9. COURSE

10. REASONS FOR CONCLUSIONS

11. COMMENTS

Checked w/ an astronomer, his opinion that due to description, flight path, and time duration, object was probably in the Ariadne meteoric shower which occurs in October.
17 October. White Bear Lake, Minnesota. (7:15 p.m.)

The evening of the 17th Edward Stevens and Cecil Meredith saw an object high in the sky they thought was a weather balloon reflecting sunlight. Shortly thereafter the two men noticed three other strange objects at a higher altitude. At that point: "As the men watched, the first object moved up alongside the three, then all four objects flew away in formation." (47.)

18 October. Greenfield, Massachusetts. (2:30 p.m.)

An item in NICAP's UFO Investigator said:

"At about 2:30 p.m. students and other witnesses at a football game saw a silver-orange disc above the field. When the object passed through thin clouds, it was still visible as a silver or white disc. The verified information was sent on to NICAP by Board Member Rev. Albert Baller." (48.)

18 October. Papua, New Guinea. (evening)

Some spectacular UFO activity in New Guinea had its beginning in 1958. This activity built up to a climax in June 1959. Primitive New Guinea, for some reason, was of special interest to UFOs.

A bright red blob of light had investigated Port Moresby's Jackson Airport back in February 1958. In June a mysterious blue ball hovered for five minutes over a Catholic Mission at Sideia Island. Now, in October, a dazzling apple-green fireball suddenly appeared above Cape Fere. The mysterious flare-like body moved across a quarter of the sky before vanishing without a sound. A number of witnesses, missionaries at Wamira, and at Dogura, viewed the sky display and later compared notes. They were able to calculate the altitude of the brilliant fireball at between 3,000 to 5,000 feet. The altitude was ascertained by some simple computations. The location of each Mission Station was known so all that was needed was the elevation by degrees of the fireball's path as seen by the observers at the two different sites.

Aircraft did not fly over the wild jungle of New Guinea at night, and as for ships in nearby Goodenough Bay, no vessels were in the area. It was assumed then, that the fireball was not a flare from a ship or from a plane. The altitude estimate, if correct, was too low for a meteor and too high for a ground launched signal flare. What was it? (49.)

Even if one was to attribute the green light at Cape Fere to some prosaic explanation, one would also have to explain many more strange sightings made during the next nine months.

There was great interest in what was going on in the sky. New Guinea may have been remote but even people in that isolated territory could take part in everyone's current favorite pastime of skywatching for satellites. The missionaries were no exception. As a rule these men of the cloth were highly educated, highly curious, individuals.
Sky Lights Create Stir At Newark

NEWARK, OHIO, OCT. 18 (Special)—Reports of mysterious lights in the night sky have set large numbers of citizens here to "skywatching." The skywatching threatens to unseat the hula-hoop as a favorite pastime, according to local "authorities."

The flurry began in mid-September when two city policemen, H. E. Sherburn and T. H. Francis, in a police cruiser at the city's northside about 7 a.m. spotted a flying combination of white, red and green lights. The lights hovered "for several minutes" then moved about erratically, according to the two police, before suddenly vanishing.

The officers said they doubted the lights were on any conventional type aircraft. Officials at Port Columbus and Lockbourne AFB said they had had no activity over Newark at the time of the sighting.

ON OCT. 8, the same two officers, again on the northside of Newark, glimpsed a repetition of the earlier performance. Sherburn, an Air Force veteran, told reporters he was "certain" the lights were not those of a conventional aircraft. He described the lights as arranged in a crescent and said they "were there one minute and gone the next."

This report brought a deluge of similar reports from citizens all over the city, mounting to a peak in the first three days of this week.

Some of the reports describe the lights as white, red and green, others refer only to a brilliant white light that variously bounces, hangs and whirls in the sky before vanishing in an instant.

An amateur astronomer, Glen Hyder of 379 N. 10th St. gives the only significant variation in the stories. Hyder said that Wednesday night, about 9:15 he saw a "pencil-shaped object with a reddish-orange fire at the rear" streak across the sky from north to south-south west.

"IT WAS very high," Hyder said, "and travelling at a great speed."

The amateur astronomer told reporters that he was familiar with meteors and was certain the bright streak was not caused by a falling star. About two hours after the first sighting, Hyder related, he watched the object rush back across the sky.

Favorite times for the sightings seem to be 8:15 and 9:15 p.m. and 1:45 and 2:45 a.m.

In spite of the suggestion that a regularly scheduled airline might be causing the sightings, those who have seen the mystery lights insist they are not from a conventional aircraft.

Apparently the strange appearances are localized in the Newark area. There have been no similar reports from other locations.
18 October. Buenos Aires, Argentina. (no time)

APRO found the following story in the Buenos Aires newspaper La Razon:

"Yesterday, according to data furnished by several readers located in different places of the city, several of the much-discussed flying discs crossed the sky quietly, maneuvered for some time and then disappeared without a trace. According to the observations of these people, it was a squadron of discs, but others said there were only two. Nevertheless all agreed that the discs showed up from the southwest at a very high altitude, perhaps 5000 meters, giving out a luminous trail. They say they were elliptical, very bright and remained hovering, rocking on their axis. Some observers said the discs' flight was slow, others said it was very speedy; still others claim the object cavorted in the sky for over an hour before leaving." (50.)

19 October. Dunelien, New Jersey. (night)

"About the size of two railroad cars."

According to a local newspaper:

"Dunelien -- A huge fire-red object soared over the borough last night, two policemen said.

"Just what was it?

"To Patrolmen Bernard Talada and Leroy Arbordeen there was no doubt about it: it must have been a flying saucer.

"Both were on prowl car duty on Center St. when they spotted the object. They gave this account:

"We were driving down Center St. toward Bound Brook when we saw this red glow coming over the Watchung Mountains,' said Talada.

"When we got out of the car this thing passed overhead, hesitated, then swung down toward the south," he continued.

"Talada described the 'saucer' as being 'about the size of a couple of railroad cars.'

"He said it was oval with a point at either end and made no sound." (51.)

20 October. Apaiqua, British Guiana. (7:30 p.m.)

"Something star-like moving at terrific speeds." (See clipping above)
21 October. Marion county, Oregon. (night)
Two cases. Car chased by a mystery light.
Also, car lights go out and engine quits.

(See clipping)

Salem, Oregon
Oregon Statesman.
26 October '58.

Valley Footnotes

by Mervin Jenkins

Apparently there was something in eastern Marion county's sky Friday night. It was reported both by Chief of Police Clarence Meader at Mill City, and Chief of Police Everett Norfleet at Stayton. Police Sgt. Ronald Fray also saw it from the Stayton area. All men are well acquainted with jet aircraft. The light was not from a jet. They described it as a light color, gradually changing to ruddy glow. It moved about in several directions for considerable minutes at a time.

Two Salem hunters were chased from an eastern Oregon mountain early Tuesday morning by just such a similar light that followed their car, well above it, then suddenly dropped towards the men. The men felt foolish, and wouldn't report the fact to state police. They kept fairly quiet about it after arriving home, fearing they would be objects of ridicule.

Bob and Jack Brant, 4050 Beck Avenue, left late Monday evening for the deer hunting, arriving about 3 a.m. at Pine Mountain near Millcity. As they neared their anticipated camp site, both sighted the white light in the distance. At that time they thought it a farmer's house. But below the light that appeared to be a window, was a red glow that appeared similar to a large light bulb. As the men used the car spotlight to seek a turnoff road, the light began moving toward the car, appearing to halt directly above it. The two suspected it might be some type of game commission aircraft watching for deer spotters.

As they continued driving, the light kept above them. About 20 minutes later it suddenly began lowering, illuminating the ground below it as it neared the earth approximately 200 yards to their right and slightly ahead. Suddenly it blanked out. Both men said they were frightened by the eerie event, and headed back toward Sisters. As it lowered, they were unable to see any shape, only a bright light such as a big searchlight pointed downward, with a red glow beneath it.

In a cafe at Sisters, the men said a waitress explained her brother, who drives a truck, encountered the same such light acting in similar manner, a few days earlier in the same area. Another couple, newlyweds, had the light settle in the highway ahead of them. Their car lights went out, and motor died, until the light went out. Nothing was in the road when the car again was operative. The girl was described as "hysterical" by the waitress, when the couple reached Sisters.

One of the Salem brothers is a railroad employee. The other is a member of the Air Force. Neither could offer any explanation, except to say there is some earthly explanation for the oddity.
21 October. Draft letter for the Sheffield Lake case.

Would General Fisher dare to send this explanation to Rep. Baumhart?

**Draft**

Dear Mr. Baumhart:

I refer to your inquiry concerning the interest of Mrs. [Redacted] of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, concerning an unidentified flying object she saw on 21 September 1958.

Air Force investigators arrived in Sheffield, Ohio, on 3 October 1958, contacted Mrs. [Redacted] and also initiated other phases of an investigation to possibly evaluate this sighting.

Investigation revealed that a railroad track ran near the home of Mrs. [Redacted]. The night of Mrs. [Redacted]'s sighting a train passed the house at approximately the same hour of the reported sighting. The train had a rotating headlight which under some conditions would produce unusual effects.

Contact was also made with Chief of the Lorain Coast Guard Station. Chief Schott reported that he was using his spotlight in an attempt to attract the attention of another ship, and that the light was directed toward shore in the general direction of Mrs. [Redacted]'s house. The time and date of this incident coincide with those reported by Mrs. [Redacted]. Mrs. [Redacted] of Lorain, Ohio, a witness listed in Mrs. [Redacted]'s report, couldn't recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting. Mrs. [Redacted], another witness of Lorain, Ohio, was not available for interview. The weather at the time of the incident was a misty rain with haze and smoke.

Conclusion of Air Force investigators were that the combination of moving lights, noise of the train and prevailing weather account for the illusion experienced by Mrs. [Redacted]. The Air Technical Intelligence Center, after evaluating the evidence in this case, concurred with the conclusion of the
For your information, I am enclosing the latest Department of Defense fact sheet on the subject of unidentified flying objects, dated 6 October 1956. This fact sheet clearly outlines the Air Force position with respect to unidentified flying objects.

Sincerely,
22 October. Anaheim, California. (12:30 a.m.)

New wonderland exhibit? (See clipping below)

BLIMP SHAPE WITH LIGHTS

Another Mysterious Object
Sighted in Disneyland Sky

By WAYNE CLARK
Daily News Staff Reporter
ANAHEIM — A brightly glowing, blimp-shaped, unidentified flying object with lights and a long, meteor-like tail was spotted floating 300 yards over Disneyland.

But if it is some new wonderland exhibit undergoing secret midnight tests, The Daily News circulation department employee who spotted it would like to know.

Richard H. Osterloh, 34, of 606 W. Vermont St., Anaheim, related he spent a sleepless night after spotting the object while driving home along Harbor Blvd. early yesterday.

"I tried to convince myself I didn't see it; I don't believe in flying saucers," he said.

"But I sure saw something fantastic."

"It was the size and shape of a blimp, surrounded by a halo glow and with three or four brightly shining colored lights in the center.

"And it had a tail about three or four times the length of the object itself, with a bright light shining at the end."

Osterloh stoutly proclaims that he has never touched a drop of liquor in his life and was in his right mind and wide awake when he saw the object floating in a parallel course to his automobile as he drove north along Harbor.

"It was about 12:30 a.m. when I first saw it. I was driving home from work.

"There were other cars on the road and people on the streets. Somebody else must have seen it too.

"It seemed to be about 300 yards over the Disneyland parking lot, nearly over the Disneyland Hotel.

"I was stunned when I saw it. I drove along slowly and watched it for about 3 minutes.

"Then as my car went up the Santa Ana Freeway overpass, the object took a sharp dive." NO EXPLOSION

"I expected a big explosion. This is it, I thought."

"But it disappeared in a bright flash as it neared the ground."

Osterloh said he was "shaking all over" when he arrived home and woke up his wife to tell her of the incident.

The place where Osterloh sighted the object is in the general vicinity where three Anaheim youths sighted a similar UFO late last year.

A photograph taken by one of the youths aroused considerable interest throughout the nation and was picked up by investigators from the U. S. Air Force for study.

GARDEN GROVE, CALIF., DAILY NEWS
Circ. D. 10,175 S. 10,175
OCT 23 1958
22 October. Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada. (night)
Balloon or UFO? (See clipping below)

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Mysterious Globe
Flashes Across B.C.

ALDERGROVE, B.C. (CP) - A woman said Wednesday she saw a mysterious red globe hovering near the ground when she looked out a window of her home a mile east of Aldergrove.

Mrs. O. B. Orwich said she watched the globe for 10 minutes during the night and that a bright flash lit up the sky as it began moving off slowly toward Vancouver, 40 miles west.

Orwich described the globe as being about 30 feet in diameter and said it appeared to be about 300 yards away and almost on the ground near Aberdeen cemetery.

"It looked like a large plastic bag with a bright red light inside," she said. "The top was a little irregular but otherwise it was quite round, but looked slightly tilted."

Several other persons in New Westminster and Vancouver also reported seeing either a bright object or a flash of light in the southeastern sky shortly before 2 a.m. Wednesday. Some estimated it was at an altitude of at least 30,000 feet.

RCAF officials said they received three reports within a minute, and radio stations said they received other reports.

The RCAF said no aircraft were known to be in the area at the time.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
Edmonton Journal.
23 October 58.

"I'm not joking." (See clipping)
23 October. Brisbane, Australia. (night)

"Flying triangle?"

A UFO story from Australia, as reported by a local saucer hobby group, mangled in the telling but there may be something of value in the case, at least enough to warrant a check of alternative sources to determine the facts.

It seems that right after a Viscount airliner had landed at the Brisbane aerodrome, a bright, orange-colored, "flying triangle" was seen in the air over the field. The report was made by a Cairns news agent by the name of George Hicks. A constable on duty at the aerodrome at the said he saw an 'orange flash.'

The following day the National Radio News Service gave additional details without mentioning the source. The newscast said the UFO: "... hovered over the Viscount when landing and then split in two with a large white round object in the center, after which the whole phenomena swiftly disappeared." (53.)

23 October. Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Unidentified objects identified.

(See clipping below)

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Unidentified Objects Were Trails of Jets

ALAMOGORDO, Oct. 23 — (UPI) — The Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization here reported that a rash of sightings of unidentified flying objects since the beginning of October were only "contrails." The UFO chaser center reported that the "condensation trails" usually are caused by jet planes traveling up to 700 miles an hour. A distance of up to 100 miles from the origination of the object.

Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Albuquerque Tribune.
23 October 58. p.41.

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23 October. Logansport, Indiana. (6:40 p.m.)

"A new one on the radar men."

(See clipping below)

Object In Sky Is Observed By Radar Station

An unidentified object in the sky was holding specialized attention last night after it was observed from the U.S. Army Radar Station north east of the city.

The station reported to police at 10:30 that they had caught the object in their screen from 6:40 on; that it was some 13-15 miles east of here, possibly 6,000-8,000 feet high, and was visible to the naked eye.

It was yellowish in color and moved about though remaining in a general area southeast to east of the station.

Inquiry by The Press verified that the radar men were observing the phenomenon, as much by eye as by the electronic means. They learned no planes are in the area. Whatever the object is, it is a new one on the radar men, one said.

LOGANSPORT, IND. PRESS
CPE D. 9,350 — S. 9,227

OCT 24 1958
Monstrous, Egg Shaped ‘Thing’ Over Loch Raven Probed By AF

2 Claim Face Burns By Heat From UFO

26 October.
Loch Raven Reservoir, Md.
(about 10:30 p.m.) (S4.)

EM effects.
Two witnesses.
Other reports of something in the area.

This case could have impressed Congress but, as NICAP official Richard Hall noted, nothing appeared in the Washington D.C. press in spite of headlines in Baltimore papers!

Like the Monon railroad case, the news services put the story on the state wire but not the national one. No national interest!!
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Baltimore, Maryland (USA)

DATE OF INFORMATION
26 Oct 58

ACTIVITY SAMMITING REPORT
1001st Air Base Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, Washington 25, D. C.

DATE OF COLLECTION
13 Nov 58

PREPARING INDIVIDUAL
BERT R. STAPLES, 2nd Lt, USAF

DATE OF REPORT
13 Nov 58

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR (Except USAF and Title Indicate Dial/Well and copies w/o include, if applicable)
ATIC - 2 Cys
Commander, 1001st ABW - 1 cy

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SUMMARY

On 26 October 1958 at about 2230 EST (0330 Zulu) two civilians came upon a UFO hovering above a bridge near Loch Raven Dam, North of Baltimore. Their automobile failed to function when they approached and the UFO took off vertically about a minute afterwards. They stated that their report to the Ground Observer Corps was scoffed at and they then reported it to the Towson Police Department. The two men suffered mild burning sensations on their faces and were examined at St. Joseph's Hospital in Baltimore.

An electrical report was made from Andrews Air Force Base upon receipt of the sighting.

ATIC at Wright Patterson Air Force Base requested a detailed investigation. Results of this detailed investigation follow on attached AF Form 112a.

BERT R. STAPLES
2nd Lt., USAF
Investigating Officer

1. IR (AF Form 112a)
2. Mag OGDO 27-K-9
3. Ltr, Department of AF, subject (U) UFO
4. Photographs (5 negatives/w/4 prints ea)
I, 2d Lt Bert R. Staples, tape recorded my interview with Mr. [redacted] at 1940 hours, EST (0040 ZULU) on 4 November, 1940 at Mr. [redacted] Road, Baltimore, Maryland.

The following narrative is a verbatim transcription from this recording:

"My name is Bert R. Staples, 2d Lt, and I am 24 years old, and work at Andrews AFB, Washington 25, D.C.

We were taking a ride out near Loch Raven Dam Sunday, Oct 26th. After you pass the dam itself there is a rather twisting road that goes down into a valley and obstructs your view of the lake entirely. You can't see the lake nor a bridge that leads across it. Shortly after you pass the dam, until you take a left turn, then the bridge looms up in front of you at 200 to 250 yards away. We took this left hand turn and we saw, from that distance, what appeared to be a large, flat sort of egg-shaped object hanging between 100 to 150 feet off the top of the superstructure of the bridge over the lake.

We slowed and then decided to go closer and investigate the object. We crept closer to the object along the road leading toward the bridge. When we got to within 75 or 80 feet of the bridge the car went completely dead on us. It seems as though the electrical system was affected, the dash lights went out, the head lights went out, the motor went dead. Mr. [redacted] who was driving the car, put on his brakes, turned the ignition once or twice. We didn't get any whirring sound, we were pretty frightened at this point.

We both got out of the car. On this road there is nowhere to hide or run, which is probably what we would have done. So we got the car between the object and ourselves. We watched it from that position for approximately 30 to 45 seconds and then, I am not sure of the sequence of events here, it seemed to flash a brilliant flash of white light and we both felt heat on our faces. Concurrently, there was a loud noise that I interpreted as a dull explosion and Mr. [redacted] heard as a thunder clap.

Then very quickly so that you couldn't gain the proper sequence of events, the object started to rise vertically. It didn't change it's position, as far as we could tell, during the rising. The only different feature it had while it was moving was that it was very bright and the edges became diffused so that we couldn't make out the shape as it rose. It took from 5 to 10 seconds to disappear from view completely. We were very frightened.

After the object disappeared from view we turned the car around without crossing the bridge. The road is rather narrow at that point and in turning the car, I remember that we smashed into an embankment on one side of the road. If you will look carefully you can probably see where we hit this hill. We got back to a phone in approximately 15 minutes.

The phone booth we used was located at Loch Raven Boulevard and Joppa Road. We proceeded to call the Ground Observer Corps, with no result. Our story only elicited complete disbelief.

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SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

Comdr, 1001st Air Base Wing
Andrews AFB, Washington 25, D.C.

After this unsuccessful attempt to report what we saw, we called the Towson Police Department. They told us there were two patrolmen coming over and we waited for these two patrolmen.

We told them what we had seen and at this time both Mr. [REDACTED] and myself noticed burning sensations of the skin of our faces and a dryness of the eyes. Mr. [REDACTED] was rather worried about this and after we finished reporting what we had seen at the dam, to the police, we proceeded to St. Joseph's Hospital in Baltimore and were given a cursory examination and dismissed.

Then we returned home, individually.

The following account of the incident was given by Mr. [REDACTED]:

"My name is [REDACTED]. I live [REDACTED] and I am 27 years old and a collection manager for a finance company.

At approximately 1030, riding along Loch Raven Boulevard, we came around a bend. It was extremely dark, visibility was clear, there were constellations, etc., in the sky. To our recollection there was no moon. We came across an egg-shaped object hovering over Bridge Number 1. This is after you pass the dam. It was approximately, to our knowledge 75 to 150 feet high. There is some doubt to exactly how high it was. We were rather alarmed at seeing the object and we were not qualified to tell exactly how high it was.

When we first saw the object it was approximately 300 yards away. We were going approximately 25 to 30 miles per hour as this was bad road. This was rather fast for this road and we slowed down to approximately 10 to 12 miles per hour and came to within approximately 75 to 80 feet of the object. We have no way of telling the distances exactly. After we talked it over later, we figured out that it must have been approximately this distance that we are talking about. The electrical system in the car seemingly gave out, as if you had your points go up, or somebody took the battery out of the car, or some other type of disturbance of this nature. I tried to put the ignition system on but there was no whirring or anything. I put the brakes on the car and we just looked at the object through the windshield temporarily.

Then we decided to run out of the car and we decided to put the car between ourselves and the object. It was a very narrow road: on one side the lake, and on the other side of a cliff. There was no place to run. We probably would have it we could've but we were terrified at what we saw.

We thought maybe it was a Navy blimp. We tried to rationalize what it was. Of course, the fact that the electrical system in our car conked out, made us a little suspicious as to what it might have been.

We figure or estimate the approximate size of this thing, be followed by the formula $C^2 = A^2 + B^2$ or $C^2 = 75$ feet$^2$ plus (120 feet)$^2$ which would give approximately the size of the object. Although we are not sure, we estimate it was approximately 100 feet long since it occupied approximately one-third...
of the bridge, at the height it was at. We watched it for approximately 30
seconds and then it seemingly gave off a terrifically bright light.

It had been glowing with an iridescent glow before hand but this light
seemingly was blinding and approximately at the same time we felt a
tremendous heat wave. It didn't seem like the heat of a burning object but
something like a ultraviolet light or some kind of radiation. We didn't
seemingly think it was like the heat from a blast furnace.

The object disappeared from view within approximately 5 to 10 seconds
after giving off a tremendous thunder clap, something approaching a plane
breaking the sound barrier. After it disappeared from sight we came back
into the car and turned the ignition system on and it immediately went into
operation. We approached to within the bridge, backed up before crossing
the bridge, and immediately, at great speed, came back to Loch Raven and
Joppa Roads.

We discussed the thing and didn't know what the heck to make of it, but
we figured we would at least report it either to the Police or the Ground
Observer Corps to try to find out if anyone else in the area had possibly
heard the sound or had possibly seen the object. We came into the booth at
Loch Raven and Joppa Roads and we called the Ground Observer Corps.

Immediately after calling, the Ground Observer Corps member said,
"Aww, Come on now," and I said "I would just like to report this thing. I
am not interested in asking whether you believe it or not but I would like to
find out if anyone else in the area has possibly reported the thing." He
says, "Aww, Come on now," he said there were Navy blimps in the area
but when we insisted that the thing was probably no blimp, he hung up on us.

It was at that time that we wanted to try to get confirmation of the report,
not to make publicity or make names for ourselves, but to see if anyone else
had possibly heard the thing. We decided to call the police.

Two policemen came to the scene and began taking a report. We at
the time questioned, "This won't get any further than possibly going to the
Air Force?" and he claimed that it wouldn't.

At the time we were reporting the thing we noticed a burning sensation
on our faces. We didn't pay too much attention at the time except to ask the
police if they had noticed if our faces were red. The policemen said that
they didn't but we still noticed the burning sensation. After making the
report we left the police and went to St. Joseph's Hospital to try to deter-
mine if possibly they were some kind of radiation burns or any other type of
thing that we might have received. The doctor looked at our faces and
claimed that Mr. [redacted] face was slightly red and that mine wasn't. He,
of course, looked at us thoroughly, took our pressures and everything. It
was only a superficial examination but he claimed we had nothing to worry
about. A police sergeant at the scene, who seemingly had gone to radiation
class of some kind, mentioned that if it had been a radioactive burn we
wouldn't have been burned immediately and it would have taken some time to
develop. This of course led us to believe that we didn’t have to worry too much about the radioactivity. We left the hospital and went home that night.

The next day my face did become a little redder and it was apparently noticeable to anyone who spoke to me.

DISCUSSION

A discussion period now follows, with Lt. Staples questioning, where details and further questions are answered.

Q. Mr. [Blank], I believe you have a correction to make on your statement?

A. Yes, what I was figuring out was not the size of the object by this pythagorean theorem, but the distance from the point of sighting to the object, which was approximately 400 feet. This \( C = A^2 + B^2 \), I was making a mistake there.

Q. What color was the glow that you observed?

A. Mr. [Blank], iridescent white, whiteish coloration not to be called white like white but sort of like a moon glow, but not exactly a cold milky white.

Q. Do you agree Mr. [Blank],

A. Yes, I do. It wasn’t bright enough to mar the outline or shape of the object, but it was bright enough so that if you looked into it or at it you couldn’t make out any surface features.

Q. Did you notice any discernable features or details of the object?

A. Mr. [Blank], none at all.

Mr. [Blank], None other than possibly superficially it looked like an egg.

Q. Did it have any tail, trail or exhaust?

A. Mr. [Blank], do you mean while it was hovering over the bridge, or when it took off?

Q. Either hovering or on take-off?

A. Mr. [Blank], no, not that we know of.

Mr. [Blank], No.

Q. Did it make any manuevers on take-off?

A. Mr. [Blank], none that we can recall except to go vertically upward.
SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

Comdr. 1001st Air Base Wing
Andrews AFB, Washington 25, D.C.

Mr. No, I can't recall any maneuvers as such as it rose.

Mr. We call it hovering, like it might have been caught in the wind. It might have moved a little bit as it was hovering over the bridge, that could have been a maneuver, we are not sure.

Q. You say you were out for a drive and not on a fishing trip, is that correct?

A. Yes, the paper reported this from the police report. We happened to be riding, we weren't fishing, I never fished in my life.

Q. What was the approximate distance from the bridge where your electrical system in the car failed?

A. It was approximately 75 to 80 feet away from the bridge not from the object, which was about 75 to 100 or so feet above the bridge.

Q. You did not make any attempt after you got out of the car to approach the object.

A. No, through fear we decided, I mean, we decided to put the car between us and the object.

Mr. To the contrary, if there had been anywhere to hide our persons I feel most assuredly we would have hidden ourselves.

Q. Were you treated for any burns on the face?

A. At the hospital I was given, as you put it, a cursory examination, a very superficial one. Mr. 's face was noticeably red mine wasn't. He didn't examine us but this police sergeant, as I told you, told us we didn't have anything to worry about as far as radioactive burns. The doctor seemed very limited in knowledge about what was happening. He took our pressure but it was a very limited examination to say the least.

Q. Would you give the name of the hospital and the doctor, if you can remember, and the address of the hospital?

A. The hospital was St. Joseph's on North Caroline Street. The doctor's name, it was an intern, I can't tell you his name ...

Mr. His first name was ... That would be enough to get in touch with him if you would like to, his first name I remember definitely was Mario.

Mr. Well, it was 12 o'clock at night, the police sergeant and lieutenant who came down, by the way, we don't know their names either, I am sure that it can be verified or checked very easily.
Q. Which police district or precinct were these people from?

A. Mr. A Whatever police is around there.

Mr. B Towson.

Mr. B No, not when we came into the city.

Mr. B Oh, you mean the people we spoke to at the hospital? Whatever precinct or district is near the hospital. What is the precinct of St. Joseph's?

Mr. B I don't know, it might be Eastern.

Mr. B No, it's not Eastern.

Mr. B It couldn't be Northwestern, I don't think.....

Q. What police department did you first report the incident to?

A. Mr. B Towson Police department. We didn't report it to the police department at St. Joseph's, we only came for treatment there. They happened to be called by the nurse to see if anyone in the police department knew anything about radioactive burns.

Q. You say there was an investigation by the NICAP, National Investigational Committee for Aerial Phenomena?

A. Mr. B Yes, do you want me to tell you the history of that investigation?

Q. Yes.

A. Mr. B I received a telegram Monday, no, wait a minute, I received the telegram Thursday. The telegram said, "Will you please call the following number: North...." I forgot. It was signed by [redacted]. It said to call from two to five (PM) Friday or Saturday, I decided to call Friday around 11 o'clock and an individual, [redacted], I believe, answered the phone saying he was authorized to take the call. He wanted to know a little bit about what happened, he said he would like to come over to the house to investigate. He said he had geiger counters and all the paraphernalia with which he was equipped to investigate. I asked him "Are you a government agency?" He says, "We are not in any way connected with the government, but we do investigate phenomena of this type." I said, "It's perfectly all right with me," and we arranged that he was to come over Saturday between 2 and 3 o'clock (PM). Saturday at approximately 2:30 (PM) he came over to the house and at that time I reported another circumstance that I hadn't mentioned before, about white spots over the car. They took samples of this for spectroscopic analysis. We went out to the scene at Loch...
Raven and they took "magnetized readings" of the bridge. It seemed presumably that if an object was exposed to radioactivity there would be a depolarization of an object that was exposed to radioactivity, of course, this is the way they explained it to me, I am not a physicist myself.

Mr. What they told me was that just the top portion of it showed any magnetism, the top portion of the superstructure.

Mr. Well, see they didn't tell this to me, they mentioned to me...

Mr. Mr. told me that it was slight but it did show some sort of magnetic....

Mr. Well, at any rate, at the scene, they took measurements where we were, they took pictures, motion pictures of me, my burns and everything around me, and of the car. A very complete investigation, I might add. There was an engineer among them, an electrical engineer, so he claimed, there was a lawyer among them, there was an insurance agent among them. And who is a full time man with the organization, under himself, was among the crew. I must add that they were competent, qualified at any rate, and they came back to the house and quizzed both and myself further on the incident. They had tape recordings made of the whole bit and it was quite conclusive, in fact, more conclusive than the present examination we are undergoing now.

Q. Have you heard from this organization since the investigation they made?

A. Mr. No, we were told their report would appear in their publication which... I forgot, which is published bi-weekly or bi-monthly or something along these lines. I am not sure.

Mr. I told him not do do that.

Mr. You told him not to?

Mr. Sure, with national publicity, I'd have every crank in the country calling me instead of every crank in the city.

Mr. Well, then that's all we know about that.

Q. You said the object was about a third the length of the bridge?

A. Mr. At the height we reported it, it appeared to cover one-third of the bridge. Our measurements are not accurate, we, of course, seem to differ on how long the bridge was, says the bridge was at least 200 yards.

Mr. Yeah, I feel the bridge is 200 yards.

Mr. And I say 300 feet, I am not sure myself. At the scene, after...
looking at the bridge, I feel Al is more correct.

Mr. 175 yards would be a good guess.

Mr. This is when I went back with the NICAP boys.

Q. What type of bridge is it? What construction, generally?

A. It's a steel bridge, freshly painted. A steel girder bridge, it has two sections, one section on the half of the bridge connected to the ground and another section in between as the plank.

Mr. The bed, the road bed portion, of the bridge is wooden, by the way.

Q. You said you observed the object from behind the car for approximately 30 seconds?

A. After we got out of the car it was 30 seconds we actually watched it.

Q. You also stated that the object in relation to the road and yourself seemed to be either over or a little to your side of the bridge and not beyond it?

A. That's what I would say, what do you say ( )? If anything it was a little more toward our side, more than likely, because of looking up and so on, it probably was over the bridge itself, directly over the bridge.

Mr. You seem to be using that as a focal point, the bridge.

A. For what?

Mr. For what? Like it was on strings. (Pause) I am sorry I saw it; I wish I hadn't seen it. I'd rather not be going through all this interrogation. I did see something like this. I hoped what I did see would add to the national interest or national information that would maybe help understand these things a little better. I do know that they exist, now that I have seen it myself. I am not saying that it was a flying saucer, I don't know. I do know there are at least such things now as UFOs.

Upon further questioning and attention was called to the observers through the local newspaper stories. The following information was received from

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1. Description of the object(s):
   a. Shape: Unknown.
   b. Size compared to a known object held in the hand at about arms length: Baseball.
   c. Color: Glowing white.
   d. Number: One.
   e. Formation, if more than one: None.
   f. Any discernible features or details: None.
   g. Tail, trail, or exhaust, including size of same compared to size of object(s): None.
   h. Sound, if heard, describe sound: None.

2. Description of course of object(s): NE heading.
   a. What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)? Observing sky at Clifton Park Observation Center.
   b. Angle of elevation and azimuth of the object(s) when first observed: About 85° (80-90).
   c. Angle of elevation and azimuth of object(s) upon disappearance: Disappeared suddenly.
   d. Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s): Straight to NE, no maneuvers.
   e. Manner of disappearance of object(s): Instantaneously to the NE.
   f. Length of time in sight: About 1 minute.

3. Manner of observation:
   a. Ground-visual.
   b. Statement as to optical aids used: None.
   c. If the sighting is made while airborne, give type aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station: N/A.

4. Time and date of sighting: 1045 EST, 26 October 1958.
   a. Albu time-date group of sighting: 270345Z.
b. Light conditions: Night.

5. Location of observer(s). Exact latitude and longitude of each observer, or Georef position, or position with reference to a known landmark:
   Gardenville: Clifton Park Observation Center.

6. Identifying information of all observers:

   a. Civilian - Name, Grade, Organization, Duty, and Estimate of Reliability:

   [Redacted]

   Estimated reliability:
   Qualified above average.

   [Redacted] is a student and a member of a local (Gardenville) Astronomical Society. He is in the process of becoming a member of the GOC.

   Judging from my conversation with him he displayed a keen interest in UFOs and was well informed on the subject. He seemed to be very conscientious and assured me that he could distinguish aircraft from other objects.

   I would estimate his reliability to be above average because of his interest in plane spotting and astronomy and experience in the local astronomical club.

   The Ground Observer Corps had not logged any record of any UFO reported on 26 October 1958.

   St Joseph's Hospital had neglected to make any written report of the "superficial examination" but they did recall the incident. The desk nurse called the Northeastern Baltimore Police District for aid and advice since no one at the hospital had any experience with radiological burns.

   The nurse contacted Lt. Cummer and Sgt Hirsch of the police department and both of these men went to St Joseph's Hospital and rendered advice to the UFO observers. No treatments were administered.

   Both [Redacted] and [Redacted] appeared to be well educated and spoke in an intelligent manner. They seemed sincere and they indicated that they did not want publicity.

   The parts of their statements related to the Ground Observer Corps and St Joseph's Hospital were borne out by telephone conversations between GOC and hospital personnel, and myself.
The observers' reports were logical, consistent and coherent. Neither of the observers' occupations involve observation reporting or technical knowledge. My estimate of the reliability of the observers: Excellent.

The sighting made both observers could have been the same object, since the color (growing white) and the approximate time agrees.

Five photographs of the scene where taken on 13 November 1958 at approximately 1200 to 1300 hours EST by a photographer from Andrews Photographic Laboratory. These photos are inclosed.

While enroute to take these photographs I had an opportunity to talk with the manager of a restaurant located across the lake from the bridge where the UFO was sighted. The restaurant was on Loch Raven Road. I had stopped to ask directions and it was mentioned that the manager had made a similar sighting on the night following the reported UFO. The manager of the restaurant, Maryland, was driving down Loch Raven Road (the same road that the bridge is located on) while taking one of his employees home. The restaurant has a picture window which gives a full view of the bridge across the lake. The distance is about 4-5 miles across the lake. It happened that no one was in view of the bridge at the time of the UFO sighting by.

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but they did hear the noise at that time on 26 October 1958.

I would estimate that the manager of the restaurant, along with Mr. and Mrs., would be in the "excellent reliability" class. He appeared to be around 48-50 years old and seemed to be very conservative. He was conscientious because of his high position (manager in a very reputable restaurant) as was indicated by his refusal to report his sighting because of the fear that someone would think he was "crazy."

SUMMARY:

Since several reliable witnesses heard the same noise that reported in connection with their UFO on 26 October 1958 (around 2230 EST), it can be assumed that the sighting did actually occur as related except for the distances described. It can safely be assumed that the sighting on the following night 27 October 1958 was also reliable because of the four observers involved.

Upon visiting the bridge and surrounding area where the UFO was sighted, the following observations were made by the investigator:

The bridge is a double-arched, steel-frame construction with a concrete road bed. It has a fresh coat of dark green paint and is about 40 feet high at the maximum height of each arch. The whole bridge is about 500 feet long (0.1 mile) and the point at which the UFO was first seen must have been 3/4 mile or possibly a mile away and not 300 yards as reported.

There was no usual meteorological activity in the area, no thunderstorms and the weather was quite clear. Visibility at Friendship International Airport was 20 miles at 0100 EST, 27 October 1958.

The height of the observation, about 150 feet, precludes the possibility of the object being an aircraft.

Natural fluorescent gases, etc., can be ruled out due to the noise involved. No special projects are known to be operating in that area.

As far as this investigation has gone, this UFO remains unidentified.
27 October. Gulf of Mexico. (night)
"Hovered and moved with intriguing precision." (See clipping below)

Three Strange Lights
Seen In Sky Over Gulf

Three mysterious lights hovered and moved with intriguing precision early last night in the Gulf sky, and one family on Swift Road would like to know what they were. C.C. 27

Appearing on the scene first were two "very bright" lights, as described by Miss Bess Williamson, 29, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Paul Williamson, 4729 Swift Rd.

Later, Miss Williamson said, a third light, weaker than the other two, appeared, which "either broke off from the original two or else moved up from behind."

The lights were spotted south in the Gulf, not only by Miss Williamson but other members of her family, including her father. They hovered for a minute or so, she said, then moved rapidly away, one going north, another south, and the third in a northwesterly direction.

There was no sound of motors, Miss Williamson said, and the lights, white with an orange tint, burned several times brighter than the brightest star. They were not "terrifically" fast, she said, but they soon disappeared.

She was quite positive that they did not appear in the least like helicopters. There were no other lights visible around them, such as running lights on aircraft, she said.

She firmly denied that they were airplanes. "They did not look or act like planes," she said. Sometime later, within the next hour and a half, one of the lights came back, she said, while she was watching the Gulf sky out of the living room picture window. There was only one, she said.
28 October. Valparaiso, Chile. (9:15 p.m.)
Strange celestial body observed.
A roughly translated Spanish news clipping says:
"A curious phenomenon was observed at 21:15 local time, [... not readable] we were informed by Mr. Juan Fruto, director of the Astronomical Association in Valparaiso. He and several other persons, making telescopic observations, could detect a luminous body, performing several evolutions in the sky, and with varying velocities. The body was orange-colored and in its shape it was a concave disc. They could appreciate its size as that of a tennis-ball.
"The civil aviator Cayetano Ventura declared to have made the same observation also, with his naked eyes." (56.)

28 October. Pont-la-Dame, France. (7:55 p.m.)
A French "Loch Raven."
Within 48 hours the Loch Raven case took on increased importance due to a strikingly similar incident occurring in France.
As UFO researcher/author Jacques Vallee points out, there appears to be no way people in France could have known about the American "bridge case." (57.) In fact, news of the Loch Raven case seems to have been confined to the State of Maryland in the U.S.

The French "bridge incident" involved a Mr. Jean Bayer who was driving home on Route Nationale 75 the evening of October 28th. Route 75 follows the Le Grand river valley, and at a point near Pont-la-Dame there are two bridges, one for autos and one for a rail line.

Coming up the valley, Mr. Bayer first spotted the UFO when he was about 500 yards away. He kept driving, and unlike the Loch Raven case, he never experienced any problems with his car. There was a "thing," or a sharp-edged "oblong shadow" in the air over the bridges. The dark body seemed to sway slowly back and forth.

Mr. Bayer kept driving until he was directly under the UFO which he estimated was about 1,000 feet above the road. He parked his station wagon and gazed upward. From a distance the object resembled a cigar (see drawing), but from a point directly underneath Mr. Bayer could see that the object was round. The UFO was like a discus used in athletic competition. (58.)

According to a press account which quoted Bayer:
"Suddenly, after two or three minutes, some sparks flew as the object rose vertically at a dizzying speed, leaving first a fiery trail, then a faint glow, which vanished. At the same time, I felt a current of air that rocked my station wagon." (59.)

Vallee made inquiries and learned that the sparks were emitted from a small circular area in the bottom of the UFO, and when the object finally disappeared the impression was that it vanished instantaneously. (60.) If the abrupt vanishment indicated an illusion explanation, that can be canceled out by the fact Vallee confirmed the very strong air displacement mentioned in the press story. Illusions don't create air currents."
30 October. Oblong, Illinois. (2250Z)

'Mother' UFO? (See BLUE BOOK file card) (61.)

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<td>Local: 30/2250Z</td>
<td>O-Domino &amp; Visual</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>seven</td>
<td>not given</td>
<td>One red, silver obj w/ a dark center &amp; six smaller solid discs clustered around the larger in a ring formation.</td>
<td>Believed to be parhelion.</td>
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Several of the smaller discs moved away from the larger and disappeared in different directions. They reappeared & a few mins later & regrouped as previously described. All obj faded.
(? ) October. Lansdale, Pennsylvania. (about 10:00 p.m.)

A hovering "vehicle."

In 1966 Carole Loburak was a secretary for the General Electric Company's Missile and Space Division. She had an interest in UFOs but it wasn't because of her job. Eight years before when she was 16 she had a UFO sighting that was so remarkable she was afraid to tell her parents or the authorities simply because she didn't think anyone would believe her. We should know that Loburak's property was a deep lot with plenty of trees. (See Carole's report below)

Excerpt from report:

"Witnesses: Carole Ann Loburak Daniel John Loburak
R. Lee Kellner Rudy (Skip) Usic

"Sitting on the back patio one evening with the above witnesses, Mr. Kellner mentioned that he happened to see a light in the back portion of the property. No one paid attention at first. After a few minutes, he mentioned it again. This time all four persons proceeded to the back of the house.

"A hundred feet or so from the house, stabilized approximately 20 to 40 feet above us and 20 to 40 feet from us a saucer-shaped vehicle that seemed to be illuminated. The vehicle, which was large enough to be manned by one or two persons, made only a very faint buzzing sound.

"After a few moments Dan, Skip, and Lee decided to get closer. When they were directly beneath it, they were encircled by a ray of light during which time I was approximately 30 feet away. Simultaneously, a light went on in the clear 'bubble' on top of the vehicle. I could not see anyone inside. This situation lasted for about five minutes, of what seemed to be five minutes. The vehicle then started in motion in a horizontal direction."

(62.)

Autumn, 1958. Bethlehem, New Hampshire. (11:00 p.m.)

"I've been frighten during the war, but I never felt like this!"

A Mrs. Arnold Spencer was the chief observer for the Plymouth, N.H. GOC post. It was Mrs. Spencer who knew the main witness to the "Bethlehem incident," an Air Force Noncom who had been reassigned and was no longer available for questioning. The witness in question was a Sgt. Carl Emerson who was the liaison man between the Air Force and the Plymouth Ground Observer Corps. Mrs. Spencer wrote NICAP investigator Walter Webb this note:

"Sgt. Emerson heard from a friend that three boys in the area had seen something strange in the sky the night before. He contacted the boys and the story he got from all three, whom he interviewed separately, was this. The three boys had taken a tent and were camping out for the night in the Bethlehem area. After preparing for bed, they lay with their heads out the doorway, looking at the sky and talking. Suddenly they saw these three red (I believe) objects hovering over their heads, moving back
and forth, rising and dipping around the area. They watched these 'things' for several minutes, all of them too frightened to move, when the three objects rose into the sky, and then they saw a big, round, saucer-like object come into view. The three smaller objects then joined the big one and seemed to disappear inside the 'mother ship' and this then sped off beyond the mountain out of sight. According to Carl, he then decided to go to the area that night, equipped with an infra-red camera to see if he could get a photo of it if it were still around the area. He and his wife went to the approximate area where the boys had camped, in their car, turned off the lights, but left the radio and motor running. They sat and talked and watched till about 11 P.M. Suddenly they both saw the 'mother ship' as described by the boys, coming toward them very slowly. Carl jumped from the car, grabbed his camera, and was trying to uncover the lens, watching the object at all times, when suddenly he felt 'rooted to the spot,' the radio and engine died, the object hovered over them for a few seconds then sped away. After it had gone beyond camera range, Carl found he could move again. He asked his wife, who had gotten out of the car on the right side, if she were alright, and she answered something to the effect that she was then but I couldn't move; did you get the picture? He then realized that the radio had come back on but the motor had not. He got in and found the key turned to the 'on' position just as he had left it. He stepped on the starter and the engine started alright. He told me he had been frightened during some of his war activities, but he'd never felt like that before -- warm but not able to move, and it wasn't 'buck fever.' Needless to say, he did not get a picture. He returned several times hoping to do so, but nothing appeared." (63.)

31 October. Caledon East, Ontario, Canada. (3:50 p.m.)

"Hallucination?" (See drawing on page 92)

This next case is a wild one. Unfortunately there was only a single witness to the event, if indeed it did take place. The Air Force explains the incident as a 'hallucination,' but if one reads enough UFO reports, this case does not seem that strange.
The drawing of the object is of special interest since it resembles other UFOs being sighted.
The original report is hand written and difficult to read. The BLUE BOOK file card is likewise hard to decipher since it is faded and contains some abbreviations. Here is what the BLUE BOOK card says with the abbreviations omitted:

'Elliptical object estimated at 10 feet x 20 feet. A 'real flying saucer.' Aluminum, speed fast and then slow. Observed at altitude of one mile descending to 13 feet. Direction of travel northeast. Color silver. Rose by secret method of jerks and flops. No sound until object exploded. 10 minute observation during daylight. Made seven attempts to land 500
feet from witness and then halted one foot above the ground where it remained motionless for exactly 5 minutes. At this time a red glow started at one end and when the entire object was glowing it then exploded. Witness ran away. Has told everyone in the neighborhood but can't convince anyone it wasn't an hallucination.

"Comment:

"Apparently the witness believes that he saw an object of some sort. No attempt at a hoax is indicated. If the event depicted actually happened, there would have been some remains from the fire or explosion, if nothing more than charred ground. Case listed as Other, psychological causes rather than hoax, since the witness is convinced that object was actually there." (64.)
31 October.
Bruce County, Ontario, Canada. (morning?)
Constables see "hoverer." (See clipping)

See Saucer
Over Bruce

Four Policemen Describe Hoverer

WALKERTON (CP) — Four provincial policemen of the Walkerton detachment reported seeing a flying saucer from two different points in Bruce County Friday. — 16/5.

The four officers made notes of their observations and were in constant contact by police radio.

They calculated the object hovered about three miles northeast of Paisley at a height of about 3,500 feet.

From their observation points 20 miles apart, the four policemen compared radio descriptions of what they saw. The object was first noticed by Const. Edward Johnston.

The predominate color, he said was white, but it constantly changed to other shades, and at times looked as though there were four lights coming from it.

He described the object as "pulsating."

There were many colors, Const. William Reis said, red, green, white, mauve and blue, and he described the gradual change in color compared with the effect caused by stage lights.

31 October. Arlington, Ohio. (dusk)
"Striped in bright orange."
(See clipping)

Object Sighted in Arlington

Upper Arlington residents reported an unidentified flying object speeding toward the southeast over the suburban community at dusk Friday.

Mrs. J. H. Harvey, Jr., of 2685 Tremont Rd., told The Ohio State Journal one side of the disc-shaped object was dark, the other striped in bright orange and red with a dark center.

Observers said the disc flew at a high altitude for several minutes, then disappeared into the clouds. Official at Lockbourne Air Force Base and Port Columbus were unable to explain the phenomenon.

Arlington(?), Ohio.
Ohio State Journal.
1 November 58.


At the end of the month General Fisher supplied Rep. Baumhart with the Air Force's official explanation. (See letter on page 94) (65.)
Dear Mr. Baumhart:

I refer to your inquiry concerning the interest of Mrs. William Fitzgerald of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, concerning an unidentified flying object she allegedly saw on 21 September 1958.

Air Force investigators arrived in Sheffield Lake on 3 October, communicated with Mrs. Fitzgerald and also initiated other phases of an investigation to possibly evaluate this sighting.

The investigation revealed that a railroad track ran near the home of Mrs. Fitzgerald. The night of Mrs. Fitzgerald's sighting, a train passed the house at approximately the same hour of the reported sighting. The train had a rotating headlight which, under some conditions, would produce unusual effects. Contact was also made with Chief Bosun Mate William Schott of the Coast Guard Station, Lorain, Ohio. Chief Schott reported that he was using his spotlight in an attempt to attract the attention of another ship, and that the light was directed toward shore in the general direction of Mrs. Fitzgerald's house. The time and date of this incident coincide with those reported by Mrs. Fitzgerald. Mrs. Steward of Lorain, Ohio, a witness listed in Mrs. Fitzgerald's report, could not recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting. Mr. Grego of Lorain, another witness, was not available for interview. The weather at the time of the incident was a misty rain with haze and smoke.

The conclusion of Air Force investigators was that the combination of moving lights, noise of the train and prevailing weather account for the illusion experienced by Mrs. Fitzgerald. The Air Technical Intelligence Center, after evaluating the evidence in this case, concurred with the conclusion of the investigators.

Sincerely yours,

W. F. Fisher
Major General, USAF
Director
Legislative Liaison

Honorable A. D. Baumhart, Jr.
House of Representatives
"Be especially watchful between 3-4 a.m."

General Fisher took a chance by accepting a conclusion on the Fitzgerald case which consisted of many assumptions, but he was just adhering to the long-time practice of interpreting the UFO problem as: "It can't be, therefore it isn't." Occasionally, however, things happened that made one wonder what the military was really thinking. For example, Frank Edwards, who made inquiries about the October 3rd Monon train UFO case, asserts he learned the following:

"Bunker Hill Air Force Base, about 30 miles east of the scene of this sighting, asked the railroad to contact the base immediately if such objects appeared again. Officials of the Monon Railroad at Lafayette confirmed to me that the Bunker Hill Air Force Base had installed a special telephone line to the dispatcher's office in Lafayette, where the train crew's radio signals are monitored. And the same source informed me that the Air Force had suggested that the train crews be especially watchful 'between three and four o'clock in the morning.'" (66.)
FOOTNOTES

3. Crowner, Lillian Desquin. *Public Opinion.* (no date on clipping) May be found in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 21 September 58. (Fitzgerald file)
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid, p.27.
15. Ibid.
19. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 21 September 58. (Fitzgerald file)
23. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 8 October 58.
24. Columbus, Ohio. Columbus Star. 14 September 57.
25. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 8 October 58.
26. Letter: To: Richard Hall, NICAP. From: Dr. James McDonald files, University of Arizona Library, Tucson, Arizona, Special Collections Division. 1 August 67.
27. "Captain Joseph Gwodz Interview." From a KABC-TV interview in 1964. (No exact date available) Dr. James McDonald files. (See footnote #26.)
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files. Administrative files Reel #86. 9 October 58.
40. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 21 September 58. (Fitzgerald file)
41. Durfield, Y.S. "The Eyewitness Report of the Incredible UFO 'Invasion of Antarctica.'" Ideal's UFO Magazine. #2. ed. D.C. Thrope. p.48. No information on month and year available. (Miss Durfield's reliability as a source is not known to me --L.E. Gross.)
42. Ibid.
43. Fresno, Calif. Bee. 12 October 58.
48. Ibid.
54. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 26 October 58.
56. Santiago, Chile. El Mercurio. 28 October 58. Newspaper clipping found in CUFOS files accompanied by a translation from the Spanish by a correspondent who is not named.
59. Dauphine Libere. 30 October 58.
61. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 30 October 58.
64. May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 31 October 58.

65. Durant, Robert J. The Fitzgerald Report - A Complete and Detailed Account of the Sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object - Sheffield Lake, Ohio - September 21, 1958. (Akron, Ohio (?): Privately published, 1959) p.5. (Other contributors to this report were Mr. Philip W. Ferguson Jr. and Mr. Fred A. Kirsch) No date of General Fisher's letter is given in the "Fitzgerald Report" but Dr. Donald Menzel, who seems to have had access to BLUE BOOK files, mentions a date of 'October 31, 1958." Menzel's date may be correct since Mrs. Fitzgerald had a written a letter to the Air Force in response to the military's explanation given to Rep. Baumhart. Mrs. Fitzgerald's "response letter" was dated November 4, 1958.

An updated edition of the "Fitzgerald Report" was released in 1998. As of this writing the new edition was still available from the publishers:

    MidOhio Research Associates, Inc.
    Box 162
    5837 Karric Square Drive
    Dublin, Ohio 43016

In this new edition Robert Durant makes some additional comments about the case and includes some correspondence with UFO investigator Karl Pflock. Some issues raised by Dr. Menzel, a skeptic, were discussed by both Durant and Pflock. This additional material is vital to a better understanding of the incident and its investigation.

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Television: 'Encounter'

First of Series From Canada on A. B. C.

Deals With Space and 'Saucers'

By JACK GOULD

A WEEKLY series of television dramas from Canada was started Sunday with a presentation of "Encounter" over the facilities of the American Broadcasting Company.

Certainly, it is a heartening development that American viewers will have an opportunity to see some television from a neighboring land and is not too much to hope that the idea of exchanging TV shows might ultimately be extended to London. At least a forward step has been taken.

"Encounter" was produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which promptly showed that it was human. Its initial vehicle was a space opera and within an hour it was clear that science fiction poses as many problems for Toronto television as for New York or Hollywood television.

The premiere script was called "Breakthrough" and its author, Donald Jack, tried to deal seriously with the flying saucers. He relied on a favorite device of the inhabitants of outer space—the anti-gravitational field that envelops the unwary men of the earth. More specifically, he sent a Canadian jet pilot into the middle of a flying white ring, where the chap was detained for five months, earth time, and five minutes, space time.

As if flying saucers were not enough, Mr. Jack elected to tell his story in the form of a court-martial of the pilot. Unfortunately, either as a courtroom drama or an excursion into the unknown, the play had far too many loose ends to be either particularly exciting or credible. The climax was especially weak—an unseen voice from afar confirming the pilot's story.

The acting company, which included Lloyd-Bochner, John Vernon and Don Francks, was not called upon to do very much. Ronald Weyman's production also needed a much crisper directorial hand.

The C. B. C. in Toronto has a fine record in drama and undoubtedly it will begin to hit its stride shortly. Outer space obviously is a tempting subject for dramatists everywhere, but so far it has proved very unmanageable, regardless of latitude or longitude.

J. G.