

45 Congress St.
Bradford, Pa. 16701

October 24, 1966

Lt. Colonel George P. Freeman
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division, USAF
Room 4A-120, The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Colonel Freeman:

Thank you for sending the USAF Press Release on the Colorado project.

I am very encouraged to see that the UFO study has been turned over to a team of scientists for a full-scale objective investigation. This is definitely a step forward toward a greater understanding of the problem. I am curious as to what hypothesis will be offered, between (or perhaps including one of) the extremes of "spaceships" and "conventional phenomena."

Regarding the Portage County case, or "Ravenna Case," I received a letter recently from Colonel Jorgensen, informing me that his office is reviewing the material I sent Colonel Mims, commenting on his letter to Congressman Stanton. In order that Colonel Jorgensen have reviewed not only my letter, but the material I claim it is based on, I sent him an updated copy of the NICAP report, feeling this would save some time otherwise spent in gathering it from other sources. I feel confident his office will give this material close attention. (You probably have access to it, so I will not bother you with a set of enclosures.)

The recent claims of Kent State University student Donald Wymer, that a balloon-rig launched by him and some friends the night of April 16-17 accounted for the object chased by the police officers, are disturbing. Major Quintanilla effectively quashed the idea that the men chased a balloon, pointing to a discrepancy in wind directions. What bothers me is that someone would try to capitalize on the experiences of the police officers. Along with the ridiculous claims of "contactees" that tell of rides to Venus, this sort of thing does incalculable harm to the effort of gathering evidence, such as I believe is available in the April 17 event, that indicates truly unusual aerial activity. I am glad Major Quintanilla encouraged the Record-Courier not to get involved in such dubious publicity.

Again, thanks for the press release. If you have such an arrangement, I would appreciate being put on your "mailing list" for such future material.

Sincerely,

William E. Weitzel, Chairman
Pittsburgh Subcommittee, NICAP

cc: Colonel Jorgensen

THE P-13 UFO

Pennsylvania Unit #1, Pittsburgh Investigative Subcommittee
National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

Summary Report on April 17, 1966 UFO "Chase" from
Portage County, Ohio, into Conway, Pennsylvania

William B. Weitzel, Investigator

June 28, 1966

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While on patrol S R 224, Deputy D. F. Spaur and Mounted Deputy Neff spotted a UFO about 50 feet off the ground over a heavily wooded area. This vehicle or object could and did move in any direction. I advised my sergeant, H. Shoenfelt, of what I had observed, having no camera of my own. The sergeant advised that I keep this (?) under observation and pursue same until we could contact a unit with a camera. The (?) was about 35 to 45 feet across the bottom and about 24 feet high. The (?) was very bright. The (?) seemed suspended on a beam of light. The only sound that could be heard was a faint humming. This might have come from a power line. I was shook up at this time.

We observed the vehicle or (?) go straight up to about 200 feet and start east. We followed this craft or (?). It moved upward to about 500 feet and increased its speed to about 80 mph ground speed. We followed the object. The sergeant advised if possible to stay with this (?). There was not much traffic so I stayed with the (?). It increased its speed to 103 mph ground speed. The vehicle never made any attempt to lose us or to make any change of direction. We followed the (?) to just outside of Pittsburgh, Pa.

We were about out of fuel as we spotted a Conway, Pa. Police Department car. After advising him of what we were chasing, he radioed his station. They contacted the airport. I got five gallons of fuel from this department and returned to my station.

Signed: Dale F. Spaur, #15 April 17, 1966

PORTAGE COUNTY SHERIFF INVESTIGATION REPORT

INTRODUCTION, AND CONCLUSION

This report documents the April 17, 1966 pursuit of an unidentified flying object from Portage County, Ohio, to Conway, Pennsylvania. The event caught world-wide attention, United States Congressional interest, and the normal outpourings of the public's expressions of curiosity, skepticism, ridicule, sympathy, indignation, resignation, and (not exactly an "outpouring") apathy, which accompany UFO sightings. The role of the United States Air Force's "Project Blue Book," charged with the responsibility of investigation and evaluation of UFO reports, was publicized to an unusual degree, and a substantial portion of this report documents that as well.

The reader is cautioned to keep in mind the possible differences, or non-identity, among the unidentified flying objects mentioned herein. Paradoxically, it is easy to confuse mutual unidentifiability as a common trait, and identify two unidentified items. There are at least four sightings involved in the brief (1½ hour) April 17 chase, and it may be that they are all due to different objects. It may also be that they are all due to conventional objects and natural phenomena of various (or of the same) sorts. All sorts of things "may be." NICAP's position on this event is that a solid, unconventional, perhaps extraterrestrially designed, object was chased. The Air Force's position, based on Project Blue Book's conclusion, is that the observation(s) were of Echo and Venus.

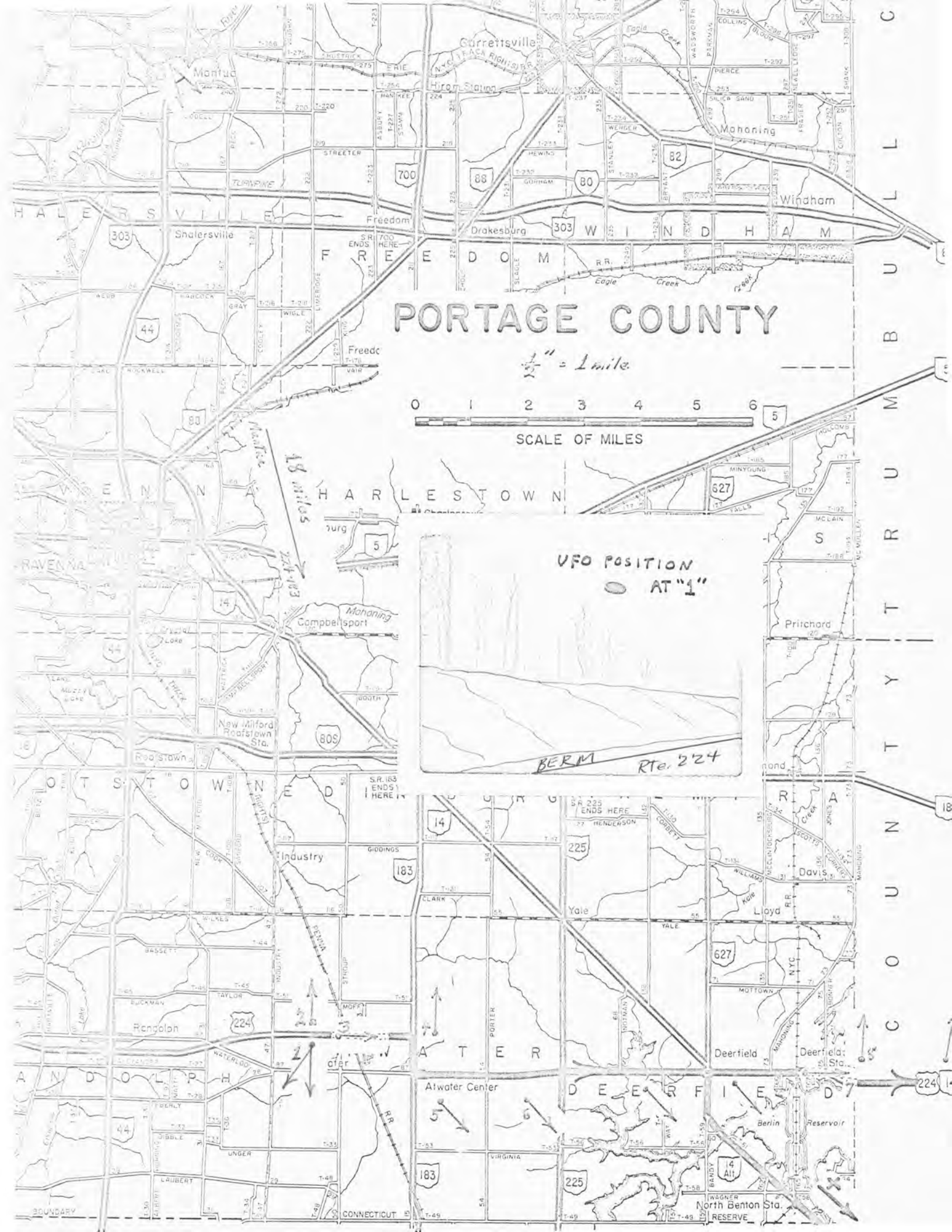
The report is incomplete. Investigative leads are still being followed up, and the controversy over the Air Force's conclusion is still alive. The account of the chase, transcripts of testimony, and written documents are intended to supplement each other; economy of time and materials forbade extension.

Transcripts contained herein are all from tape recordings made in the presence of, and with the permission of, those being interviewed or those interviewing ("or" should be "and").

A few notes of gratitude are appropriate -- Carol Clapp, through her articles in the Ravenna (Ohio) Record-Courier (nearly thirty) kept Spaur's and Neff's fellow citizens not only informed, but concerned. Tom Schley, reporter with the Beaver (Pennsylvania) County Times, besides his usual fine articles, assisted with much of the investigative work I could not do, including interviews and leads. Sheriff Ross Dustman, Portage County, Ohio, made his office's facilities available for my work there. Congressman William Stanton and Common Pleas Court Judge Robert Cook were decisive in getting much, that strongly needed to be, accomplished.

Since I have precluded a legitimate conclusion with my note on incompleteness, I will only say that, what has been done in this investigation, should never have had to have been done in the first place. I hope the materials in this report will help a little to make more of the same, less necessary.

William Weitzel
Pennsylvania Unit #1
NICAP





OHIO
MICH

THE CHASE

(NOTE: Details in this account are taken from about sixty hours of testimony, nearly all of it tape-recorded and/or in signed documents. Some of this material is reproduced in this Report.)

Deputy Sheriff Dale F. Spaur's week had been an ordinary one, except that for two days before April 17, he had taken a brief vacation from his extra job, in construction work, to enjoy some fishing and extra sleep, more than his usual six hour per day average. Otherwise, it was a normal schedule of police work. On the evening of the 16th, he had a couple of glasses of a beer-tomato juice mixture, a dinner of steak and eggs, took a 2-hour nap, awoke, and had two cups of coffee before reporting for duty at midnight, at the Portage County Sheriff's Office in Ravenna, Ohio. He was immediately dispatched to check a prowler complaint; with the assistance of police from Mogadore, in southwest Portage County. Nothing was found. He received a call to pick up Wilbur Neff at the station. "Barney" Neff is a local Thermo-King mechanic who rides with regular Deputy Sheriffs when he has an opportunity, as a Mounted Deputy. Spaur returned to the station, from whence he and Neff were dispatched to answer a call about a car shearing a utility pole near Atwater Center, on Rte. 183. They had the driver sent to a hospital, had the car towed, and an Ohio Edison man came to fix the pole. The deputies drove to Deerfield to get some coffee for the repairman; it was a brisk morning. At the Circle Pump in Deerfield, they assisted a motorist whose car had broken down, and arranged to have it towed. They returned with the coffee shortly before 5:00 AM EST, about 4:45.

While they were talking with the Ohio Edison man, they listened to radio traffic between Portage and Summit counties, concerning a woman in Summit County, Mrs. Harry Hays, who reported a brightly lighted object "as big as a house" flying over her neighborhood, from Akron. The object was too low to be a plane, and too high for a street light, she said. Jokes were exchanged, over the radio among the radio operators and deputies Spaur and Neff, and with the repairman. Spaur had heard about "flying saucers" before, but did not take them seriously.

What about Neff?

The deputies left the scene of the accident and headed west on Rte. 224, to make out an accident report at the hospital. When they reached a point on 224 (marked on the Portage County map with arrows 1 and 2), they saw a car parked on the berm on the south side of the road. They turned around to investigate, and parked behind the car. It was a rusty '59 white Ford, apparently abandoned. (The owner was found later.) As part of regular procedure, both men left their car, cruiser P-13, with the engine running, in case quick pursuit would be necessary. Neff waited by the front of the cruiser while Spaur advanced. Spaur looked over his right shoulder to check the surroundings.

Through the trees atop a small hill next to the berm, he noticed a light moving. It was coming from the west, toward them. At first he was mildly surprised, thinking, "Well, that must be the UFO that's been talked about!" The light came closer, and he called Neff's attention to it. It grew larger, came near the trees, then rose and changed its course, coming over the trees, and moved over the road, right above where they were standing. It passed over the road to the north side (map position 2)(arrows are direction-vectors), where it stopped, fifty to a hundred feet up. Both Spaur and Neff were petrified with fear and astonishment. The object was too bright, a brilliant blue-white light "almost as bright as a flashbulb", to look at for more than a few moments; it made Spaur's eyes water; but the thing was at least forty five feet across, perfectly round, and it lit up the ground around the cruiser "as bright as high noon." When Spaur involuntarily looked away from the object to the ground, he noticed that neither his clothes nor the grass were burning. He had not consciously expected burning, but he noticed its absence. After a short time, both men, without saying a word, simultaneously entered the cruiser as quickly as they could.

The time was 5:07 AM EST.

In Mantua Village, 18 miles northwest of P-13, Chief of Police Gerald Buchert, on patrol just outside of town to the south, on Rte. 44, had been hearing the radio traffic on the UFO seen in Summit County, and happened to see a bright light in the sky to the southeast. At first he thought it was a star, but it was much brighter than the other stars in the dawn sky, and did not twinkle. It was to the right of the moon, and somewhat above it. He watched for a minute or two, but the object did not go anywhere. Thinking this might be the reported UFO, he drove to his home and awakened his wife, to observe it with him. While they watched, the object moved left and right, and up and down above and below nearby phone wires. From his front yard, it appeared farther away from the moon, still to the right, than when he had first seen it. When it moved left or right, it appeared like two saucers facing each other, and the forward-moving edge tilted, in attitude, upward. When it was stopped, or moving up or down, it appeared to be spherical. His wife described it as a sphere with a ring around it, like Saturn, when it moved left or right. No other features were visible, and it was just big enough to make out those mentioned.

Buchert had with him a Brownie Starwite camera, used in his police work. He took three pictures of the object, one of it alone, one with the moon in the framing area, and one with a nearby telephone pole in the area. He telephoned a report into the Sheriff's Office; by this time there was excited talk on the car radio about Spaur and Naff chasing something. Having made his report, Chief Buchert returned to his regular duties. The object had not gone away. His wife stopped watching it. The time was about 5:20 AM.

Back to 5:07 -- "This thing could go, like I said before, it could change its angle, and then it would move forward with the front tilted downward, and this is why we pursued it, so no one would say we'd eaten too many cookies at the wrong time, or something. The light didn't have any effect on us; of course, your adrenalin comes up pretty good. I started sweating; I didn't know what was going to happen. It didn't harm either myself or my partner. Of course, we made a dash for the car. I don't know what we were gonna do once we got in it. I radioed the desk. This is when the sergeant asked us if we could observe the vehicle; I told him we could, very well. We watched it climb; we turned everything off in the car completely. There was sort of a whisper behind a humming noise, which seemed to come from the object. This thing went straight up to about 250 or 400 feet and came back to the south side of the highway, directly overhead." (Spaur 4/17)

The sergeant, H. Shoenfelt, instructed Spaur to keep the UFO under observation until a camera car could arrive. While they watched, the object moved from directly overhead to a point just over the center of the road, about 150 feet ahead, and "checked" its gravel, hovering perfectly still. Spaur started the car down the road toward it. He could see now that it was from 18 to 24 feet thick, top to bottom. It was rounded on the bottom; the top could be seen dimly silhouetted against the sky. The bottom and edges were a brilliant blue white color, and the road was illuminated underneath the object. Spaur had noticed that when it elevated, the humming noise had gone up in pitch, and the brightness had increased. When the UFO moved from the south side of the road, over them, to its center at a distance, the spot of light on the ground seemed thrown behind it, and the object tilted down in its forward direction of travel.

(See map position 5) As the men moved forward in P-15, the UFO rose to about 500 feet and receded from them slowly. They sped up. The UFO sped up. This jerky acceleration was repeated several times until, within about a mile, they were traveling about 80 mph, still behind the object. Deputy Sheriff Robert Wilson, Radio Operator, thinking this would be a good opportunity to see whether flying saucers were weather balloons, suggested Spaur use his .44 Magnum; he declined. Sgt. Shoenfelt commented, somewhat lightly, that it would be well not to "agitate" the object. Spaur's seriousness was quickly communicated to the men in the station, however, and they were all becoming quite excited. Wilson turned on the intercom so those at distant points within the station could hear his traffic.

When P-15 got to Rte. 185, Spaur had to make a quick turn; he chose to go south. The object stopped, just off 224, over a field (4). When Spaur turned back on 224, about a mile further, he and Waff watched the object come south, cross the road, and make a turn to the east about a hundred yards from the road. It was still illuminating the ground. Grville Geary, Radio Operator of the Sheriff's Office in the Columbiana County Jail in Lisbon, Ohio, heard Spaur say the UFO was lighting the road so well that he wouldn't have needed headlights; when it passed over a construction site near Atwater Center, it lit up a large crane. It maintained its distance from the road until P-15 reached Berlin Reservoir; then it rose again, to nearly a thousand feet, and crossed the road to the north, before the twist, at the reservoir. (See 7, 8.) It remained due north for a few minutes; Spaur could see it out his left window as they headed due east; then it crossed the road again to the south, before they reached Canfield (9, 10). (It should be emphasized that both men were well aware of the phenomenon of relative motion, due to observer orientation changes, of distant objects; they mentioned this, as well, in their testimony.)

As always!

The UFO was now moving at an altitude of about 1000 feet, and Spaur's ground speed was nearly 100 mph. Fortunately, the road was clear, with hardly any traffic at this time of morning. Unfortunately, however, due to the necessity for close attention to the requirements of the pursuit, and the excitement of those in radio stations monitoring their position calls, a mixup occurred which hampered acquiring photographic evidence. Both Ravenna and Salem, Ohio radio operators pointed out that, when Spaur said he was on Rte. 14 (same here as 224) or "on 14 crossing 534," they interpreted it to mean Rte. 14A, which was once Rte. 14. 534 crosses both roads; 14A, near Salem. Those who did try to intercept or join in the pursuit, or use cameras, were frustrated. The camera car sent by Portage County had been outdistanced when P-15 reached Mahoning County (Berlin Reservoir). Deputy Sheriff Dave Brothers of Columbiana County was waiting outside of Salem on 14A; when he heard Spaur, or Waff, say they were at Canfield, he realized what had happened, and tried to reach a better vantage point by driving east on 14A, but it was too late.

When P-15 reached Canfield, the UFO was moving farther and farther south, still running east, to their right. Waff, who is familiar with the roads in that area, had Spaur turn right onto a traffic arc that bypasses Canfield. When they did this, the UFO kept on going a bit, over the road ahead of them (11); then, as they proceeded south, it changed its course and came back ahead of them (12), to the south, before the bypass actually began its curve. They followed the road until they could turn south again, and headed due south down 14-46, with the UFO ahead of them to the south.

The deputies noted, and broadcast, that when they had to slow down for traffic lights, or other encumbrances, the UFO would slow also, as if to wait for them. This happened several times before the end of the chase, except near Rochester, when it went over a hill, but even then, and particularly then, when they emerged from obscuring objects, it had dropped and was hovering, "in wait." The deputies, mainly Spaur, were getting worried now. Orville Scarry heard their concern over no one else corroborating their observations, lest they be thought lying. "Boy is this wierd," Robert Wilson noted as a frequently repeated comment. More details were becoming apparent, as the object was better seen by reflected daylight (the sun rose at 5:20), and its silhouette had better contrast with the sky. They noted a projection, about 13 feet long and a foot or so wide at its base on the trailing top portion of the object; this "antenna" tilted to the rear and tapered to a near point. They saw this chiefly when the UFO changed speed or direction. The top appeared dome-shaped, except, according to Spaur (Neff disagrees only with this feature of the UFO's description), for a sharp drop-off near the "antenna". The front top half was still brilliantly self-illuminated, and so was the top tip of the rear, but now they could see a satiny metallic finish to the rest of the top. Spaur turned off his radio once or twice to check for the humming noise; he still heard it. Neff kept his head close to the windshield, watching the UFO high above.

As P-13 neared Columbiana, the UFO, getting distant, again changed its velocity, as if to keep with them; this was at the intersection of Rte. 165 (E-W) and Rte. 14-46.

In Columbiana, Patrolman Jack Haines was searching for a camera. He acquired one, but the deputies had passed, with a near disaster. The UFO had turned left* onto (over) Rte. 14 where it goes left at a large intersection, of Rtes. 164 and 14A. When Spaur made a left turn, the cruiser hit gravel and nearly went off the road. Spaur is an excellent driver, however; he once raced cars, and has never (or had never, until April 17) lost in a pursuit. He negotiated the turn, and followed the UFO, which was going southeast now, over Rte. 14 toward Unity.

East Palestine Patrolman Wayne Huston, in cruiser OV-1, got into radio contact with Spaur. He parked his car, engine running, by Rte. 14, north of East Palestine, and asked Spaur where to look. Spaur replied, "Look out your left window, and up." Huston was standing by his car, talking with the extension microphone (standard equipment). He looked up 14 to the northwest, and saw a bright light approaching. The light took on detail. When it flew straight overhead, from the northwest (300°), it was going so fast, and so high, he could not study it, but he saw a "partly melted ice cream cone" shape; flattened dome, self-illuminated, and brilliant cone underneath. The cone, however, seemed not to be solid, but more like a tapered light beam diffusing through smoke. The cone was bent to the rear, of the direction of travel.

P-13 was just behind the object (on the ground). Huston watched them fly by, then jumped into his cruiser and took pursuit. It took several minutes to catch up. By this time, the chase had continued to Pennsylvania Rte. 51, and the road was heading downhill, toward distant hills. Huston asked his station to call the Pennsylvania State Police Barracks at Chippewa, which they did. The men had gotten out of range of Portage County radio, and calls were being relayed through Orville Scarry, in Lisbon. Scarry began logging the chase at 5:35, when P-13 was at the state line. There was no hope now of getting an Ohio cruiser to join the men.

* About 100°

At the Chippewa, Pa. State Police Barracks, Trooper Antonio J. Taglienti, at 5:35, received a phone call with a number of requests: call the airport; find out if anything is on their radar; have interceptors sent up; assign a Pennsylvania car to assist. Trooper Taglienti called the airport: "Nothing on our radar -- only available planes too fast -- will try to get visual contact from other aircraft." He could hear the chase traffic over his telephone: "The thing is still above us." While he was trying to muster aid, he heard the cruisers roar by; he looked out the window, but saw nothing unusual. No cruisers were near enough to help.

P-13 and OV-1 approached Brady's Run Park, a few miles out of Beaver, Pa. The UFO approached steep hills near the road. The road got quite narrow. A red Volkswagen came toward the park exit and hit a traffic light treadle. Three trucks were coming toward the intersection from the east, and two more loomed in front of the cruisers. Huston put on his siren. The light changed to red, the UFO went up to 2000 feet, passed over the hill, and dropped behind it, to their left. When P-13 and OV-1 got through the intersection, they thought they had probably lost the object, but they had a good deal of momentum left, and, hoping to see it on the other side of the hills, they continued down the narrow highway toward Rochester.

Just past Fallston, they passed through a railroad underpass, and the road widened. Huston had been giving Spaur intense attention, instructing him as to turns coming up. As they got out in the open, they spotted the object (14) near Rochester. Huston was the first to notice it; Spaur had been watching him in his rear view mirror, and saw OV-1 nose down suddenly. "There it is!" Huston cried. Spaur looked ahead and saw the object directly ahead, hovering apparently still, over the highway. It had come down to a few hundred feet and, as before, appeared to be waiting for them. Spaur noticed that its apparent size was larger than that of his rear view mirror.

As they approached it, the object went straight up rapidly to about a thousand feet, then took off horizontally, ahead of them. They followed it into Freedom and towards Conway. Rte. 51 had changed to 65. The object diminished in size. Just before it took off horizontally, Huston caught sight of a projection on the top, on the right side. (NOTE: This would be consistent with earlier descriptions of the projection "to the rear", considering their speed, and that the highway turns left into Rochester, about a mile after the Fallston underpass.)

Spaur was receiving calls from Portage County, relayed through Lisbon, to return to base. He was running low on fuel, and his carburetor mixture was not rich enough at high speeds ("sucking air"). He said he would turn around. By this time they were approaching Conway. Spaur saw a police cruiser parked across the highway, up ahead.

Conway Policeman Frank Panzanella had been heading home, off duty, when (about 5:40) he saw what he thought was a burning airplane heading toward him, atop a hill next to Rte. 65. He drove downhill to escape a collision. The object was coming in his direction, from the southwest. As he reached the bottom of the hill and turned left, he saw, from his left window, a large, glowing object move across his field of view from the west, away from him, but headed south. It appeared to be about 35 feet across, looked something like a bisected football, and near the rear rim of the oval bottom, had several dark-circled light areas. A projection went off the object, away from him, at its rear. It might have been tilted, with a bottom view toward him, but it didn't make much sense to him. He drove to an Atlantic service station next to Rte. 65 and parked his car. When he got out, he saw the object move out over the Northern Lights Shopping Center, east of him.

The object appeared to Panzanella to be about an inch across at arm's length. He moved to the southeast corner of the station to get a closer look. Just then P-13 and OV-1 pulled up beside his car. The officers got out and asked if Panzanella had seen the object. "What object," he replied; it had seemed so strange to him he was reluctant to admit seeing it. When they told him they had chased it in from Ohio, he called John Beighey, Rochester Police Radio Operator, and told him to call the airport.

The four men stood and watched the object withdraw horizontally, directly away from them, until it was a dot, from 1/16" to 1/4" arm's length apparent size. It hovered. Spaur heard something on the radio about aircraft being scrambled. The object moved rapidly upwards until it was level with the crescent moon, off to its right. A bright spot, which the occupants of P-13 had noticed next to the concave portion of the crescent, for some time, was still there. Panzanella stood by his car, talking with Beighey. He could not see the moon.

At its first position, the UFO seemed about a thousand feet up. Actual angular elevation was around 11° from the horizon. After its first elevation, it appeared about 3,000 feet high. It remained motionless in this position while a jet commercial airliner flew underneath. Panzanella told this to Beighey, who relayed it to the airport. (NOTE: Somewhere along the line, this got reversed; in the FAA log, the airliner is above the UFO.) Then the observers saw what seemed to be jet vapor trails or contrails, arcing from the west or northwest, from the left of the object, somewhat towards it. A voice on Panzanella's radio announced that jets were being scrambled. The object shot straight up and disappeared. Whether it disappeared by dimming out, diminishing, or what, is not quite clear.

Panzanella had been trying to get other cruisers on his frequency to see the jets and/or the object.

After it went out of sight, Spaur decided to try to make it to Unity, where Huston could refuel him. The three men left. Panzanella waited to see if the object would return. As P-13 and OV-1 pulled away, Panzanella got a call from Beighey, instructing him to have everyone call 264-5000 (USAFR, Greater Pittsburgh Airport). Panzanella drove after the Ohio officers with his pursuit light on, and caught up to them about three minutes after they left, in Freedom. As he approached them, he heard a fading voice on his radio -- Henry Kwaitanowski, an Economy Borough Patrolman. "Hey, Frank, I saw two jets"

Kwaitanowski was standing by his cruiser, about three miles from Conway, roughly southeast. He had been looking for jets, and trying to raise Panzanella on the radio, but the traffic was largely between Panzanella and Beighey at that time. Then Kwaitanowski saw two jets flying toward the sunrise, away from him, and behind them, a shiny, football-shaped object, keeping its distance, about the same size as the jets. He observed this for two or three minutes, then called Panzanella. The beginning of Kwaitanowski's observation seems close to the end of Panzanella's.

Huston and P-13 drove to the Rochester Police Station, where Spaur called the number at GPA. He was interviewed briefly by "some colonel" who hung up abruptly after what seemed to Spaur a perfunctory interrogation, filled with suggestions for comparisons of the UFO with familiar objects. The officer promised to forward the information to Wright-Patterson. (NOTE: Five hours later the UFO project office at the USAFR was unaware of the report.) No one else was interviewed. Neff, Spaur and Huston went with Panzanella to get Spaur refueled, then Spaur and Neff went back to Unity with Huston. There they talked briefly with Dave Brothers, the Deputy Sheriff who had tried unsuccessfully to intercept them earlier. As they drove back, they noticed several police cruisers parked at intersections, watching them.

When Spaur and Neff returned to Ravenna, they and their cruiser were checked for radioactivity with a Geiger counter, by the Fire Chief and a Civil Defense official. Nothing unusual was found. The original site (of first sighting) was not checked. Buchert's film was developed at the photographic laboratory in the Court House, and four prints were made. By this time, the news had hit the national press and broadcast media, which picked up the story by monitoring the police radio traffic. Neff preferred to keep in seclusion from reporters, which kept him from Spaur's exhausting experience of having incessant interviews. Unfortunately, the news media concentrated largely on Spaur; with the exception of the Record Courier and the Beaver County Times, most papers and broadcasts, as time passed, failed to emphasize the corroboration from the other officers involved. A further distortion resulted from a hasty identification of Chief Buchert's pictures with the P-13 sighting. Little note was made of what seemed to the deputies the chief aspect of the event: an extensive instance of police cooperation crossing local boundaries. Had they been pursuing a bank robber, this aspect may have been more clearly seen.

One event that occurred during the chase deserves particularly close attention, and for that reason has been postponed until now: the apparent reception of a jet pilot's radio transmission, reporting a close observation of the P-13 UFO. When P-13 was traveling down Rte. 14-224, near Canfield, two patrolmen listening to the Salem, Ohio, police radio, decided to leave the station to watch for the UFO's arrival in Salem; the report, "We're crossing 534," was interpreted to mean 534's intersection of 14A, instead of 14, near that town. The patrolmen, Lonnie Johnson and Ray Esterly, expected to see the object come in from the northwest; but while they were looking, they saw a jet plane in the distance, at a small angle from the horizon, and then noticed an object in front of the aircraft. The jet was flying in a north-south direction, in the east. They watched the jet "pursue" the object, which looked like a bright ball, five times the size of the jet behind it, in level flight. Two more jets arced in from behind the first one. This sighting lasted a little over a minute, as they remembered; they radioed in what they were observing, about 5:30. Just after getting this report, the Radio Operator, Jack Cramer, and Police Lieutenant Richard Whinnery heard an unidentified voice break in on the regular traffic (the voice was louder than normal, and unrecognizable): "I'm going down to take a look at it. . . . I'm right above it. . . . It's about forty five feet across, and it's trailing something."

This transmission, from an as yet unidentified source, was received just five minutes before Orville Scarry, Radio Operator in Lisbon, logged the deputies crossing the state line. This would put them, at the time of the "voice", just east of the patrolmen watching from Salem.

The UFO in this case, however, seems to have been a different one: it was larger and higher than the one P-13 was following. (See statement, by Officers Johnson and Esterly, and their drawing.)

ECONOMY BOROUGH
BEAVER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

prepared by
MICHAEL BAKER, JR., INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
ROCHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

1964

SCALE IN FEET

1000 0 1000 2000 3000

HARMONY TOWNSHIP

P-13 Terminus

UFO 4/17
1
elevation, 17° 2nd HOVERING

LLA CAR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

April 27, 1966

Complete notes from Log at base radio station in Columbiana County Jail in Lisbon, Ohio, concerning Spaur-Neff UFO chase of April 17, 1966. Copied April 27, about 10:30 PM, under supervision of Orville Scarry, radio operator who monitored the chase.

AM 5:35 TR Portage Co "Your P-13 - Is At The Col. Pa. Line - ok - Adv When Another Unit Picks It Up For Him To Return To The Base -

5:50 RT Portage Co "Whats The Location Of P-13 - Just About Into Freedom, Pa. - Also OV-1 - Of East Palestine Is Running With Him - Still Observing The Object - Bright Light With A Rope Or String Attached To It - 1500-2000 Ft In Height - Traveling At Speed Over 100 Miles An Hour - ok - Have Him 25 & Return To Base - ok

5:55 TR P-13 "Signal 25 - ok - & Return To Base - ok - Turning Around Now -

6:15 RT P-13 Some Govt. Officials Wants To Talk To Us, Adv My Office - We Are West Of Freedom - ok

6:15 TR Portage Co Gave The Above - ok - Then Have Them 25 - ok -

6:17 TR Portage Co Gave them The Above - ok -

6:40 TR KQ854 "Do You Know Whether They Got Pictures Of That Object - Don't (E Liverpool) Believe So - P-13 Of Portage Co & OV-1 Of E.P. Seen The Object, They Ran It To Freedom Pa - Also P-13 Pick This Up At Deerfield, - ok -

7:30 RT P-13 Want to thank your Dept. for handling my traffic - my Badge No. is - 15. Anytime P-13. OK. (Mantua - took Pics of the Object & Five People at Monroe Falls, Saw it.) (P-13 - contacted a Pittsburgh PD Unit & they scrambled some Jets, that flew under the Object.)

*Comp. Cate W. Waitzel
(according to Orville Scarry)*

Note : As I was leaving the Jail from copying this Log, Jailer Harold Cleckner testified that no one from the Air Force had interviewed any of the men working there, to the best of his knowledge; "They would have talked about it to me." Said I could use his name for this testimony.

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Log notation for April 17, 1966, submitted by Kenneth K. McMechen, Federal Aviation Agency, Greater Pittsburgh Airport, Room 311:

Daily Record of Facility Operation

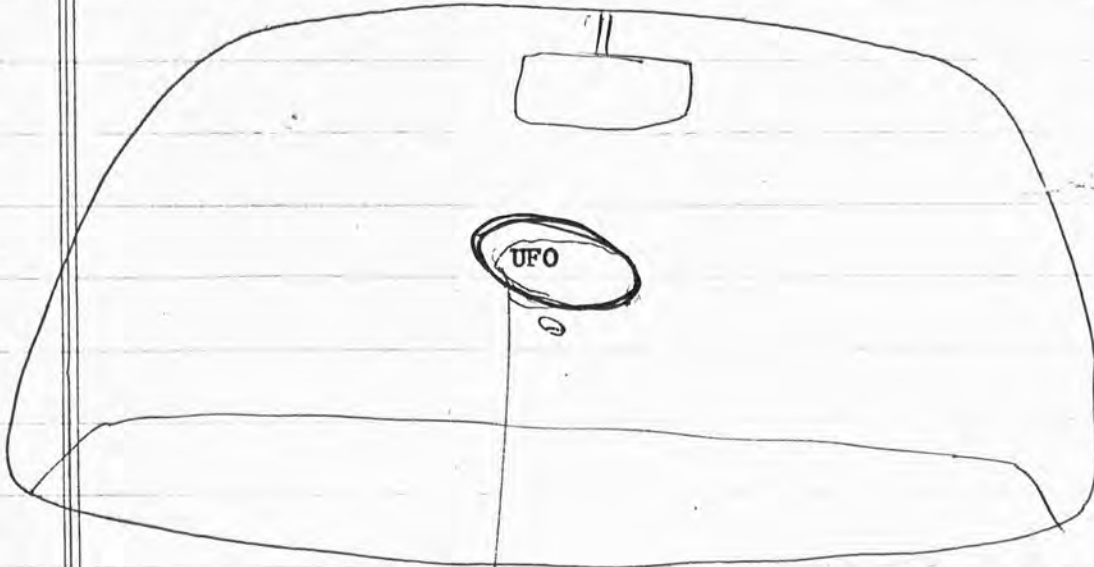
Location: Pittsburgh, Penna.
Identification: PIT
Type Facility: Tower
Operating Pos.: All

Time: 10:58 (5:58 AM EST) -- Rcvd call from State Police at BVR & Rochester Police. Seems that some Ohio police had spotted this flying object flying SE bnd in venty E Palestine. They took after it & were able to follow it by maintaining speed of approx 105 mph. It was large, round, had a large antenna sticking out of the top & several big white lights around it. They wer on Rt. 51 & they lost it as it crossed the river east bnd. They saw UA7454 lvg here enrt BUF & this object went blo United. It was approx 500', United was climbing to 19,000. Ckd & pilots didn't see anything. Referred to USAF for action. Nothing observed on radar to fit this description. There were 3 cars (I blv this is cqt) flwg it for a 30 min period.

Mr. Wes Miller, UA Supervisor at Greater Pittsburgh Airport suggests that the first of the four digits in the flight number is an FAA prefix. Suggests writing the Supervisor, Ticket Control, United Airlines, Inc., PO Box 8800, O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Illinois 60666 for passenger list.

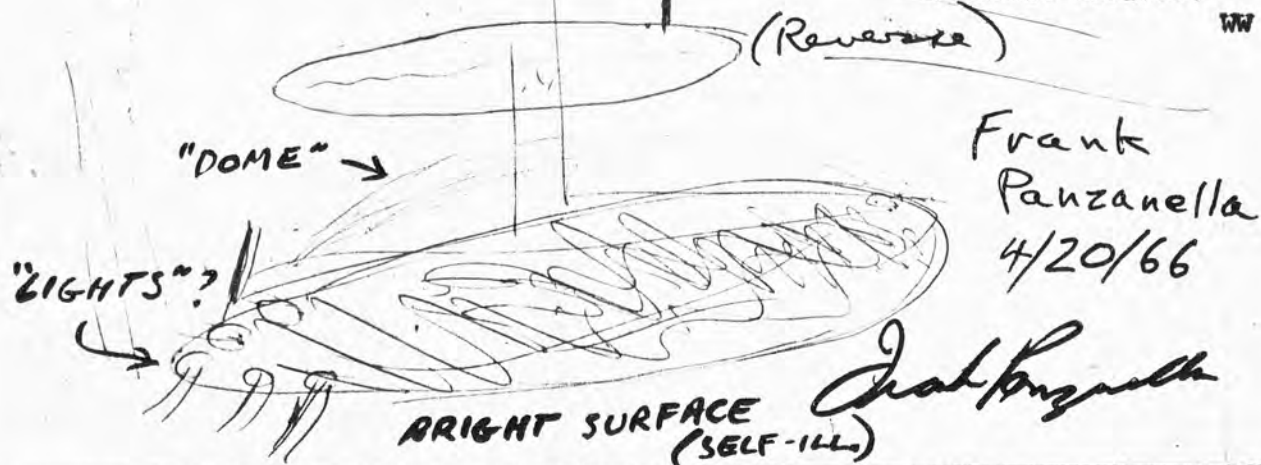
4-17-66

From initial interview with Dale F. Spaur: his comparison of UFO size with that of rear view mirror in car, when UFO was seen ahead of him after coming through underpass area at Rochester, Pa. This is apparent size of UFO, in answer to question, "If it had gone behind your rear view mirror, would the mirror have covered it?" Spaur answered that even if it had centered behind the mirror, it would have "stuck out" on both sides.



Smaller figure below UFO is my illustration of what I meant by "apparent size" when I asked the question that way. I sketched the window diagram; Spaur drew in the UFO-size-diagram. WW (Spaur's sketch of UFO appearance on separate sheet.)

From initial interview in person with Frank Panzanella -- his sketch of UFO seen when turning from 2nd Ave. onto 10th St. in Conway, Pa., prior to watching object move away over Northern Lights Shopping Center, then hover, just before other officers arrived. WW



DESCRIPTIONS OF NUMBERED DRAWINGS: SPAUR-NEFF, HUSTON

SPAUR-NEFF, UFO DETAIL

1. Projection, tilted from rear (trailing edge) 18' long, tapered to tip
2. Dome-shaped top; partly metallic, partly self-illuminated
3. Glowing front (leading edge)
4. Cone-shaped light underneath
5. Glowing tip of trailing edge
6. Metallic surface
7. Sharp "drop-off" (Neff disagrees; remembers more rounded here)
8. Rounded "undercarriage"
9. Line separating metallic from self-illuminated portions

SPAUR-NEFF, SIGHTING TERMINUS

1. Bright spot to right of moon, a little above axis of symmetry of crescent
2. Crescent moon (bump in concave portion indicates "nose" of "Man in Moon")
3. TV antenna on nearby house, through whose elements Spaur and Neff saw the UFO hovering before 1st upward elevation
4. Position of UFO after 1st elevation, level with moon to right
5. Position of UFO after 2nd elevation, above moon (now moving away, or disappearing)

(NOTE: Panzanella agreed with relative positions of levels of hovering; Spaur agreed with Panzanella's on-the-spot location of object relative to nearby houses; Spaur examined a photograph made from the spot he claimed to have been standing.)

HUSTON, UFO DETAIL

1. Cone-shaped light underneath
2. Bright, self-illuminated solid appearing top
3. Dome shape
4. Cone tilted toward rear, of direction of motion, more so than shown here.

(NOTE: Huston testified to having seen, once, a projection; only got one view of it.)

FURTHER NOTES: On Spaur-Neff joint signed testimony: Until over a week after the sighting, Neff was "in hiding," refusing to be interviewed by anyone. I typed a summary statement for Spaur to take to him, along with Spaur's drawings. Neff finally agreed to be interviewed on April 28. I mailed the statements and drawings to Spaur; there was some confusion as to who was to sign the extra spaces; Spaur did this, so Neff signed elsewhere on the sheets. -- WW

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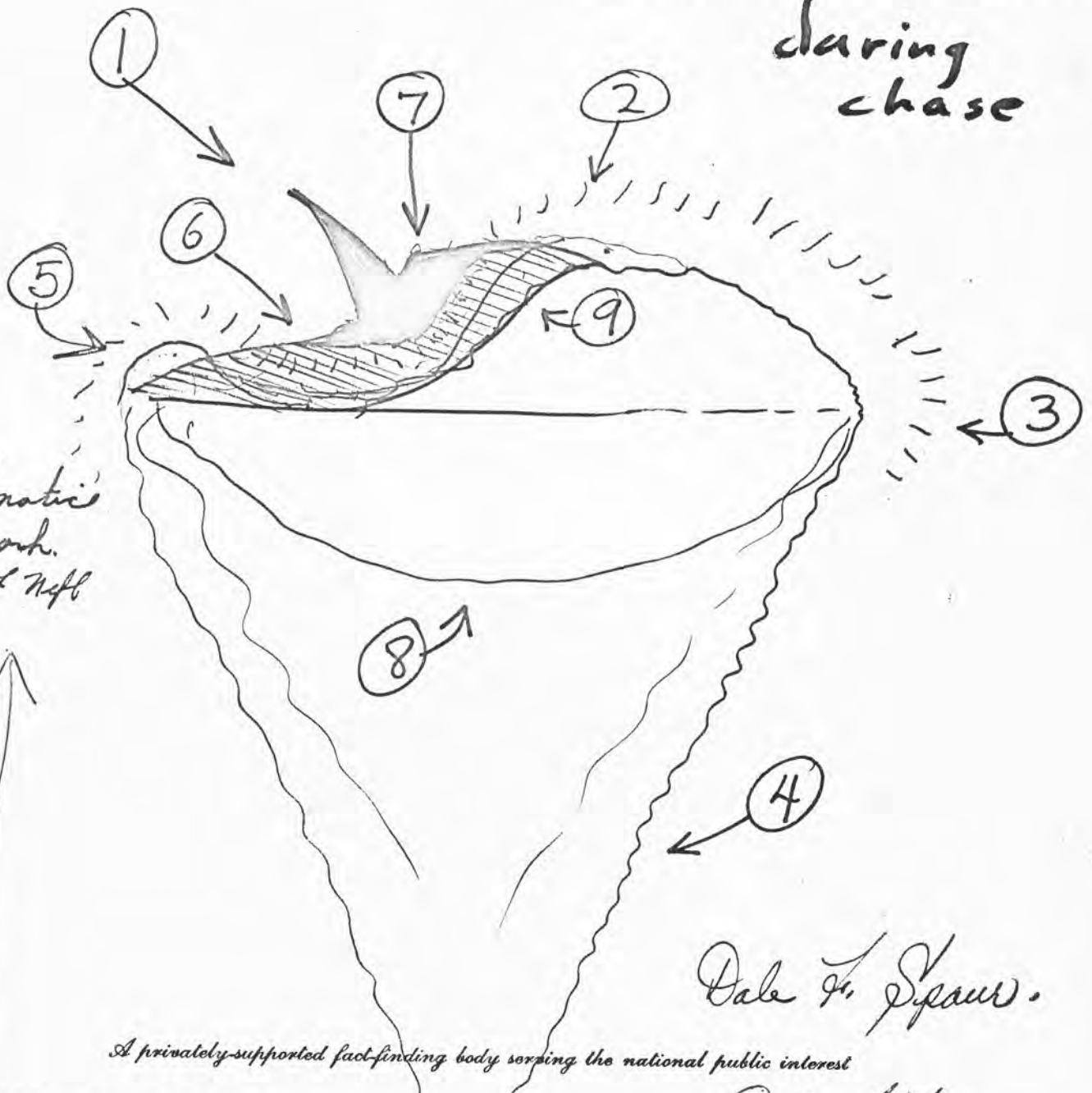
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April 23, 1966
Dale Spaur
Sketch of U.F.O.
during chase



(W. L. Neff:) I agree with Dale Spaur's sketch, above. Signed Dale F. Spaur.
Date 4-27-66

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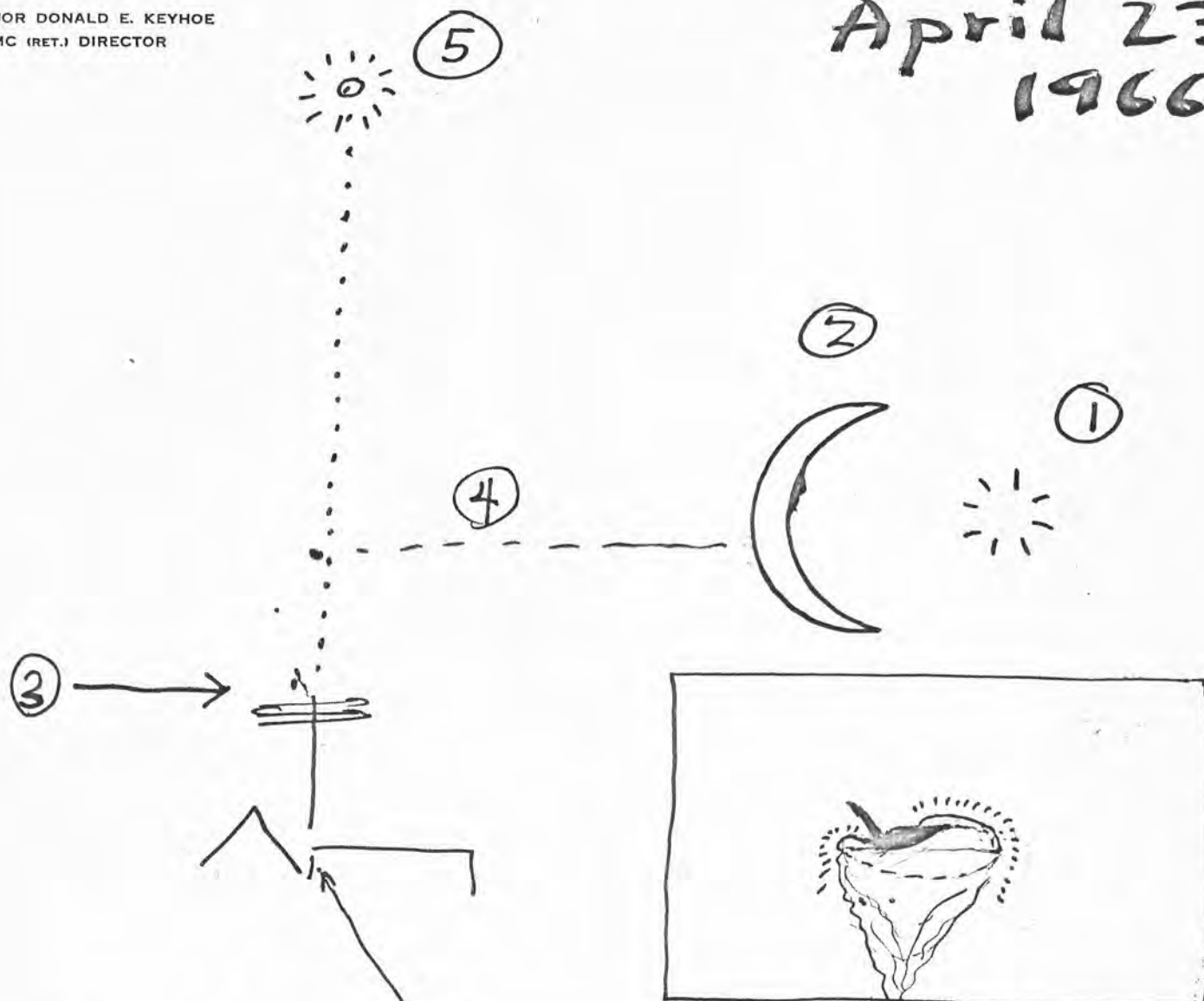
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April 23
1966



Dale Spaur

During chase
1500' distant

Terminus of 4/17/66 obs.

Dale L. Spaur
Wilbur L. Neff

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(W. L. Neff:) I agree with Dale Spaur's sketch, above.

Signed Dale L. Spaur

Date 4-27-66

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By Deputy Sheriff Dale F. Spaur and Posse Member W. L. Neff

STATEMENT: On April 17, 1966, at about 5:00 AM, the undersigned,

Dale F. Spaur and Barney (W. L.) Neff, were patrolling the southeast portion of Portage County, Ohio. We had been hearing radio traffic about a UFO near Portage County. We found an abandoned car on the berm on Rt. 224 between Atwater and ^{Randolph.} ~~the intersection of Rt. 224 with Rt. 103.~~ We left our car to routinely investigate this vehicle. Spaur noticed a light over the trees on the hill next to the berm, and called Neff's attention to it. As ~~they~~^{we} watched, the light came closer and a large, self-illuminated object was seen as its source. The object came directly overhead and hovered above us. Its light lit up the ground where we were standing, and our cruiser, P-13. It was too bright to look at without hurting the eyes. We got into our car and radioed that we had spotted the UFO. During that time, it began moving away from us. We followed it down 224 onto Rt. 14, to the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, and into Pennsylvania on Rt. 51; then through Rochester, Pa., and on Rt. 65, up to Conway, where we stopped. As we passed East Palestine, Ohio, Patrolman Wayne Huston, of the East Palestine Police, joined in our pursuit. In Conway, Pa., Officer Frank Panzanella met us where we stopped, and we stood with him watching the object as it hovered and then rose, twice, in a rapid climb. The object seemed 30-45 feet across, and 18-24 feet high. The light it gave off lit up the ground over the road and over fields as we pursued it. At first it was about 150 feet up; then it rose to around 1000 feet. During the chase it changed altitude and direction, maneuvered smoothly, had a sort of dome-shaped top, and at times showed a projection on the top part, near the trailing edge. Not all of it was self-illuminated; part of the top trailing portion looked metallic; not shiny, but satiny. At times we ~~passed it and~~ measured its ~~ground~~ speed over the ground at about 103 miles per hour. At one point, near Rochester, we lost it while getting through a bridge-underpass area, but when we emerged, it had come down lower and seemed to have waited for us; it went off fast ahead again then. We were, and are, sure we were not chasing an illusion, or seeing a reflection, star, planet, or similar still object.

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As far as our part in this sighting is concerned, at least, the article by Tom Schley in the Beaver County Times, April 18, 1966, about this, is accurate. Signed: *Dale F. Spaur*
W. L. Neff

Date: April 27, 1966

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FURTHER -- concerning UFO pursuit, April 17, 1966

By Dale F. Spaur

Someone claiming to represent the U. S. Air Force interviewed me on Monday and Thursday after my sighting and pursuit of a UFO on April 17. Both interviews were by phone, and were the only ones. The first was about 2½ min., the second about 1½ min. Each time, the interviewer seemed to want me to say I had only seen the UFO a few minutes, because when I said how long I had seen it, he did not ask any further questions about my sighting.

Signed: Dale F. Spaur Date: 4-27-66

By W. L. Neff

The extent of Air Force interviewing of me concerning my part in the above mentioned UFO sighting is as follows: Dale Spaur talked with them & didn't

Dates --	Length --	hr.	min.
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Discussed:

Wilbur L. Neff

(Please make further appropriate comments on this:)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

A privately-supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH WILBUR "BARNY" NEFF, MOUNTAIN (AUXILIARY)
DEPUTY SHERIFF, PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO: TAPED APRIL 27, 1966 (W: Weitzel N: Neff)

W: Did the thing appear to be hovering at that time?

N: Yes, it did appear to be hovering, or stopped, or whichever you'd want to call it.

W: And did it stay, hovering there, very long, or did it move out right away, or what?

N: I would say it stayed there for approximately three to five minutes.

W: Oh -- while you were watching it?

N: Something like that; I don't know the time right in there; we weren't paying much attention to it. I believe we spotted it at about 5:07.

W: While you were watching it there, during its hovering, could you see any details to it? What did it look like; a box, a dish, or what?

N: Better way to describe it, I think, was it looked just like a teardrop.

W: A teardrop? Upside down, point up, point down, what?

N: Point up. That would be the closest I could come to it, would be cone-shaped, or funnel-shaped.

W: Did you notice any projections on it?

N: That, I really couldn't say for sure; it did look like there was an antenna coming from the top, on some angle, at what angle I don't know, or just where it was at, or which way it was sticking out, but there it was. (NOTE: Neff studied Spaur's drawing afterwards and agreed to all but one point -- the sharp dropoff from the dome, next to the "antenna".)

W: Was that while it was hovering, you could see that?

N: Right. You could see ^{it} while it was hovering, or when it turned.

W: Now, after it was hovering, did it zip out straight ahead, or did it start building up acceleration?

N: Started building up, taking off gradually.

W: What made you decide to follow it, not just watch it go off into the distance?

N: Well, we told the Sheriff's Office it was moving, and they told us to follow it. Stick with it for a while. So we did. I didn't know then we'd go clear into Pittsburgh with it, but we did.

W: While, uh, let's see now: it's just started moving out, and you've begun to follow it; did it rock at all, or twist, or did it go perfectly level when it was flying, or --

N: That I really couldn't say. It looked like it would turn once in a while, but as far as rocking or swaying, I don't know.

W: At any time when you were driving straight down the road, did it appear to go across, in front of you?

N: Just when the road wound. / ? W

W: Did it seem to follow the road pretty well?

? (N: It seemed to follow Rte. 224, to, 14 to Canfield, from Canfield it took 14, -- it was on the right of us all the way out to Canfield -- at Canfield we turned right, on 14 and either 46 or 64, I don't remember the route right now; and went southeast. Southeast to Columbiana, we turned left on 14 at Columbiana, that's a stop sign, and run it straight through to Pittsburgh. And when the road'd seem to take a sharp turn, it would cross the road; and most of the time it would run in a straight line ahead of us. When we dropped down behind the hill, on 51, in Pennsylvania behind Beaver, it seemed just like it waited for us when we got hung up, or delayed in traffic.

W: Did you see very many other cars, or trucks?

N: We passed very few cars or trucks; we did pass a few. And then we picked up another officer from East Palestine, don't remember his name right now. He got in behind us just before we went across the Pennsylvania line. How many miles I couldn't say.

W: Did you ever notice a noise coming from this thing?

N: Well, when we first seen it we thought we heard a low hum, or a whine, or something like that, but it could have been nearby phone, or light wires.

W: Was there any wind, or rain?

N: No. No rain; the road was dry.

W: How about what happened then, when you got to, to near Pittsburgh?

N: Well, we got in near Pittsburgh, down across the Pennsylvania line, we run out of radio contact. We got down into Conway, there was a patrol car sitting in a gas station; we pulled in and told him what was going on.

W: And what did he say about it?

N: He didn't know what to say, much, about it.

W: Did he see the object with you?

N: Right.

W: Did you watch it, after you stopped, for any length of time?

N: We, after we stopped there, stopped with the Conway policeman, we stayed there approximately ten, fifteen, ten or fifteen minutes.

W: What did the thing do, while you were watching it? *Kenna?*

N: Well, it seemed to go out, probably two or three miles, and just stop, and stay right there. And then it went straight up from there.

? (W: Did it go straight up and keep going, or did it stop when it went up, and move again?

N: It would go up and stop, and then go up again.

W: What was your last view of this thing? Did you see it disappear in the distance, or blink out, or anything like that?

N: It didn't seem to blink out. There was a passenger plane, I believe a Boeing 707, pass beneath, almost directly under it, the angle we was looking at it.

W: When did you stop watching it, and why did you stop watching it?

N: Well, we were still, we figured we had better start back. The Conway police had called Greater Pittsburgh Airport, I believe it was, and they took it over from there.

W: Did you ever talk with anyone from the Air Force?

N: No, I didn't. Dale talked to, uh, a man down there, who he was, I do not know. Dale said his name, but I don't remember it.

W: Do you know if it sounded like Bollin, or Garvin? "Colonel Bollin," could it have been?

N: It might have been; I'm not too good on names.

W: What about after that, in the phase after that, up until now, did anyone from the Air Force talk to you?

N: Nobody has. Except for you. And I believe you're with the Air Force.

W: No, I'm with a private investigative agency. (NOTE: I had explained NICAP's status to Neff at the start of the interview.) Can you remember any other details about this thing, that seemed to stand out to you? How it affected you, for example. Were you afraid of it, or nervous?

? | N: I wouldn't say I was afraid of it, but I wasn't actually at peace with it, either! I mean, it didn't really shake me up or bother me half as much as it did Dale.

W: Did it seem strange to you in any way?

N: Yeah, it sure did! One of the strangest things I ever run across.

W: Could you relate it to anything, could you say it looked like anything? I mean, anything that flew, or anything you're familiar with, that goes through the air?

N: Not that I've ever seen fly before. I was in the service, in the Seabees, and we built a missile tracking base, at Cape Canaveral, little island between Cuba and Puerto Rico, called Grand Turk. And I seen many a missile, and stuff come over there, that they shot off Cape Canaveral; and it never looked like none of them.

W: What would you say was the minimum and the maximum altitude of this thing?

N: Minimum I'd say was between, I'm just guessing, 4-600 feet; maximum, when we was chasing it, run about, I'd say the most would be 3,000 feet. After there, it got up to where it just looked like a dot in the air; it got off a ways; you couldn't tell.

W: Did you ever have to lean forward, and look up from the windshield, to see it?

✓ N: Right. Most of the time I sat right up next to the windshield. You'd have to sit up pretty close; once in a while it was almost overhead. As far as being straight overhead, I don't know; I don't think it was straight overhead. It was pretty close.

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

April 25, 1966

STATEMENT BY WAYNE HUSTON, OFFICER IN EAST PALESTINE, OHIO, POLICE FORCE,
CONCERNING UFO SIGHTING OF APRIL 17, 1966

East Palestine has radio contact with Portage County. I heard it all start about 5:00 AM. When Spaur and Neff got closer to this area, I talked with Spaur by radio. I met him at the north edge of the city on Route 14.

I saw the thing when Dale was about five miles away from me. "Wayne, can't you see it?!" he said, and I did. It was running down Rt. 14, about 800-900 feet up when it came by. That was the lowest I ever saw it. *Wayne, 0V-1*

As it flew by, I was standing by my cruiser. I watched it go right overhead. It was shaped something like an icecream cone, with a sort of squashed-down top. I don't know whether the bottom was solid or not; it might have been like a searchlight beam, coming to a point; but it was so bright I would say it was brighter than the sun when it came up. The point part of the cone was underneath; the top was sort of like a dome. *partly melted* *ant. & UFO ? ?* *Q*

Spaur and Neff came down the road right after it. I fell in behind them. We were going 30 - 35 miles an hour, a couple of times to around 105 miles an hour. At one point at least, I was almost on Spaur's bumper, and we checked with each other what we saw. It was right straight ahead of us, a half to three fourths of a mile ahead.

I am familiar enough with Rochester and I guided him by radio, because I couldn't pass him in Bridgewater, to lead him. At Brady's Run Park, a car started to come out, hit the traffic light treadle, and some trucks were there; we had to slow down, and lost sight of it. We came on down Rt. 51; just after we came out of the railroad underpass in Bridgewater, coming out of Fallston, we spotted it again over by Rochester, and then in front of them again when we turned to Rochester. *SE - 9 ?*

All the way we were trying to get contact with a Pennsylvania car. Had the base call Chippewa State Police station to see if they had a car on 51; they didn't. The first Pennsylvania car we saw was in Conway. Dale was low on gas in Conway, and we stopped where Frank Panzanella was parked. Frank said he had seen it but didn't think too much about it at first; thought it was an airplane. Frank radioed to his dispatcher, who called the airport and they notified the Air Force. After we started talking, as though it monitored our broadcast, it went straight up. We could still see it, but hardly. We just saw it altogether about 20 minutes in Conway. We were going back when Frank stopped in Freedom and said they wanted us to call the Air Force. Some colonel from Rochester.

11? *Q?* *Spa for this information. Petalman Wayne Huston*
be kept confidential. privately supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest
at NICA's discretion. Hw.

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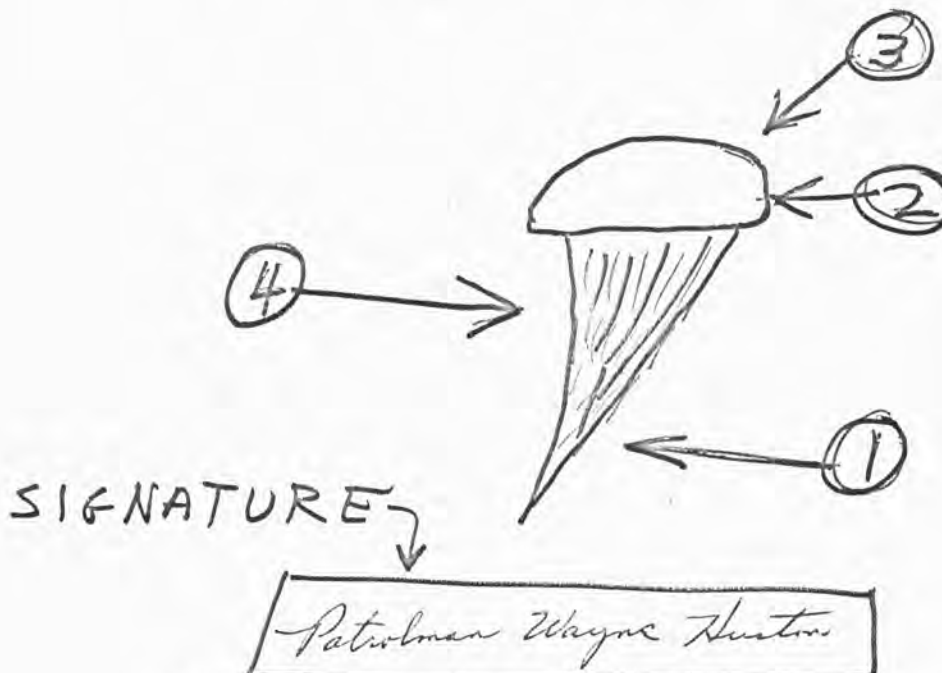
TESTIMONY OF WAYNE HUSTON -- CONTINUED

I would add to this that no one in any other official capacity than NICAP has contact me concerning this sighting. I have received no communications from any government or military agency. The Air Force, to my knowledge, has not investigated this sighting from my point of view, or expressed any interest in my information.

The following is a sketch of the object I saw as it flew overhead, when I was standing by my car by Rt. 14:

*April 25
1966*

WAYNE
HUSTON'S VIEW
OF 4/17 U.F.O.



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W: This is an interview with William Weitzel and Wayne Huston, of the East Palestine Police -- is that East Palest'een' or East Palest'ine'?

H: East Palest'een'.

W: Palest'een', Ohio. The date is April 25, 1966; time, 5:05 PM. Discussing Officer Huston's "chase" with Dale Spaur and Barney Neff on April 17, 1966. Now, we just read this statement through, and I'm going to cross out, "from Rochester," at the end of it, because the Colonel wasn't from Rochester, that you were to call; the call was from Rochester.

H: The call came from the Rochester Police Department.

W: I'll x that out. (Does so.) Did you hear any noise when this went over, Wayne?

H: No. The only, like I say, the only time that I was out of my car, when I could, was when I was, first started the chase. And I heard no noise at that time at all.

W: (Presents a copy of UPI release on USAF conclusion) Wonder if you'd mind reading that out loud, just for the record on the tape.

H: "The Air Force thinks the Ravenna Deputy Sheriff chased a satellite or the planet, Venus, when he pursued what he said was an unidentified flying object in a patrol car last Sunday. An Air Force report released Friday said another UFO photographed in the town of Mantua eight miles north of Ravenna also was Venus. The double image that showed on the film was probably due to processing defects. The lawman who pursued what he thought was a UFO was Deputy Sheriff Dale F. Spaur. He reported that he and his partner chased the object at high speeds for about ninety minutes into Pennsylvania. The Air Force thinks what Spaur saw was a satellite passing overhead. When it appeared, they said, he focused his eyes on Venus. The report noted that Venus was rising in the southeast and was brighter than any star in the sky. On the same day Spaur staged the chase, Police Chief Gerald Buchert of Mantua Ohio spotted and photographed an object which looked like two table saucers put together."

W: That's the end of the article. That was the entire press release. What do you think of that?

H: I'm not too familiar with the stars, and so forth, but I don't think it was. I don't think that the characteristics of it, and through some of the people I've talked to, they said it was impossible for it to be anything like that.

W: What would you say about your own sighting, that disproved this star idea?

H: Well, I couldn't understand its changing its course the way it did, if it was a star; I don't think it's characteristic of them to do that, plus its slowing down and picking up speed, I don't, I don't understand that. Like I told you before, Spaur really got a better view of it than any time that I did. He stated to me, or he made the remark to me, that it was running right along the road, alongside of him, at one time. Well, I was never that close to it. The closest I ever was to it was, I guessed it approximately eight to nine hundred feet overhead, that I was the closest to it at any time.

W: What was it doing? When you saw that?

H: It was going right down the road, probably eighty miles an hour ground speed. 'Cause that's about the speed that Spaur said when I jumped in my cruiser, to come after Spaur, why, he said he was running between eighty and eighty five miles an hour. And I know it took me a distance of, well, I didn't measure it at the time, I wasn't thinking about measuring anything, but I know it took me some distance to catch up to Spaur and a short start.

* *

W: When you first saw this thing, did you have to move your head at all, to watch it?

H: Well, I was standing more or less sideways, looking over one shoulder, and I watched it go by, well the thing was, of course it was only just a matter of seconds, until it was by, and I was in my cruiser, and starting the pursuit with Spaur. But it was traveling fast, I know it was traveling fast; I've worked enough traffic that I know, you stand on the side of a road and you see a car going by eighty miles an hour, you don't have much time to look at it.

W: You gave a description of this before, and I've written it up here, but I wonder if in your own words you could give it?

H: It's hard to describe. I noticed, the way you've written it up there, it's a "squashed" ice cream cone; it looked like to me, the best I can describe it, like an ice cream cone, one scoop of ice cream, that part of it had melted, and kind of run down flatter; --

W: OK, I'll change that wording then. "Squashed" to "melted". (Does so. (Later.))

H: But as far as the cone part now, I don't think that was a solid substance; it looked more like, it looked more to me like light rays, or some kind of light like you'd flash a flashlight in fog, or smoke, or something, coming down from the bottom of it.

W: Was that fairly accurate, how I described that, now?

H: Right.

W: OK. Have you heard from any other people, that were interested in this sighting, to interview or interrogate you in any way?

H: No; I've had, not too much of that as I've had a couple of letters from the local school, newspaper editors, the Kiwanis there in East Palestine, wanted me to come and talk at one of their Kiwanis meetings, but other than that, that's about it now.

W: Has any official agency contacted you or interviewed you?

H: No. No.

W: Did the Air Force call you up?

H: No. I haven't talked to the Air Force at all.

W: How do you feel about the Air Force's saying this?

H: I feel that they know more than what they're telling the public. What their reason for that is, I don't know. But I think that the United States is too smart, and too aggressive to let something like this be going on without probing into it and knowing a bit more than they're telling the public.

W: Now I'm going to change this word, "squashed" to "partly melted". I want this to be just as accurate as it can be. (Makes changes.)

H: There's one other mistake on there, where you have he used my name, "wayne" on the radio; it was "OV-1". That was my car call letters. Any time that we carried communications between car to car it was "OV-1 to P-13." OV-1 or P-13.

W: OK. (Makes changes.)

H: Because until we stopped in Rochester -- or in Conway -- he had no idea what I looked like and I had no idea what he looked like. We were talking car to car, and that was it.

W: This was off of Tom Schley's notes directly, on that one. That would be oh vee dash one?

H: Ma humm. That's the East Palestine car.

W: How's the public around here taking this, when they talk to you?

H: It's pretty well quieted down, now. The public was awful curious over it, I -- every place you would go, or no matter where you go, why, they want to ask questions about it, and what I feel, and so on and so forth.

W: Has anybody harassed you, or made fun of this?

H: No, nothing other than, close friends, or they kid you about it, but, -- I got a call, last night, from a woman that, she said that she got a letter from her daughter. Her daughter's in Knoxville, Tennessee, and there was a pretty good write up in the Knoxville, Tennessee newspapers. She wanted to call and tell me about it.

W: Has anyone else told you that they saw it, or have you heard about anyone who saw it?

H: No, not too much, no. There hasn't been, I don't think anyone told me they saw it, a lot of people told me they wished they had seen it. That they was up that time of morning, and they wished they had been outside, or something to that effect.

W: What was that you said in there, about if one of these came over again? (Reference to previous statement.)

H: It's been a nuisance to me, really, I mean, I've been harassed so much on it; like I say, I work two jobs, I work midnight turn. And for three nights, three days, I didn't get any sleep. Because they, that telephone was ringing continually, and they wouldn't only call once; they'd call twice, they'd call three times; my wife was trying to take the phone calls, trying to keep them off my back so I could get some sleep, I was still working; ---.

W: If we're taking too much time up, please tell us, but I don't think this will take more than ten more minutes. ("Us" -- Weitzel and Tom Schley, Beaver County Times) (Types. Huston draws sketch, signs papers.)

(Huston's statement to NICAP composed partly of notes taken by Tom Schley on April 17; rest, Weitzel's phone call to Huston from Ohio April 20.)

W: Did you ever see any projection on the object?

H: I've told people I did. At one time -- but I'm not real sure. At one time I thought that I -- just when we was coming out of Bridgeport (Bridgewater -- W) into Rochester, where you get into that mass, bunch of bridges down there. I thought I saw a projection coming out of it here on the right hand side. But I just got one glimpse of it, I glanced at it once and I had to look right back to the roadway again. That's the only time that I saw it. But when I had my closest view to it, I didn't see anything like that.

W: Was this cone down here tilted to the back, or the right, or left, or what?

H: Seemed like it was tilted toward the rear. 'Course my sketch don't show it too much that way. (Signs sketch; Weitzel reproduces on stt, for second signature.) I haven't talked to Spaur since that morning. (Long pause before this sentence.)

W: Mm hmm. Sign real heavy at the bottom. You haven't talked to him at all since that morning?

H: I called him one night, and it was his night off. And I haven't had a chance, I -- we're undermanned down here, at East Palestine now, and a man on vacation.

W: (Adjusting sheets; Huston signing papers.) Now, would you mind if any of this information got into the press, or would you prefer it be kept confidential?

H: I'd rather keep it out. If at all possible.

W: Do you mind if any of it gets into a hearing in Congress, or to any Congressmen who might be interested in the conflict between the Air Force's testimony and yours?

H: As far as I'm, as long as I'm not too much involved. I'll tell you the reason why I say this: there's quite a hassle down at East Palestine right now on me leaving the city unprotected. I don't know what's going to come out of it. It's in the air down there, but I don't know what's going to come out. I -- our local newspaper kicked me pretty hard for leaving the city unprotected, and, it's starting to quiet down now, at first I thought that I was going to be in trouble, but it's starting to quiet down now; I wouldn't like anything to rile it back up again.

W: (Preparing stt to this effect.) We're concerned that other people are not concerned enough, that you could do something like this and get taken to task for it. We consider that it was not only helpful, it was vital, of vital importance that you did chase this and can add your testimony to the other officers'. What we're trying to do is to change the public attitude toward this so people won't, number one, be taken to task for investigating it, and number two, have to look into it in the first place.

Schley (approaching car): Is it OK now?

W: Yes, everything is all over.

H: Is that all you needed from me?

W: Yes, and if you can wait half a second, I'll give you a copy of that newspaper. (Gets copy. Recorder turned off.)

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

W. W. Waitzel

4/27/66

2:00 AM

~~EXTRA~~

~~SHEET~~

STATEMENT - ROBERT D. WILSON, DEPUTY SHERIFF, PORTAGE CTY, OHIO
ON APRIL 17, 1966, I WAS RADIO OPERATOR ON DUTY AT PORTAGE CTY. SHERIFF'S DEPT. ABOUT 5:00, OR AFTER, IN MORNING, DEPUTY SPAUR (P-13) CALLED IN TO REPORT CHASING UFO S.E. ON RTE. 224. AS HE PURSUED IT, WITH W.L. NEFF, HE DESCRIBED IT AS 30-45' DIAMETER, DISC-SHAPED WHEN HE FIRST SAW IT HOVERING OVER HIS CRUISER, LIGHTING UP THE AREA ALL OVER, AROUND THE CAR "AS BRIGHT AS HIGH NOON". HIS SPEED WAS 80-105 MPH. RADIO CONTACT WAS GOOD UNTIL HE AND NEFF NEARED PA. LING. HE SEEMED FAIRLY COOL UNTIL THIS, WHEN HE REACHED PA., AND THEN HIS VOICE RAISED IN PITCH AND HE GOT MORE EXCITED - PERHAPS TALKING LOUDER FOR BETTER CONTACT. THE OBJECT, HE SAID WHILE ^{HE WAS} IN PURSUIT, CHANGED SPEED, ^{DIRECTION,} ALTITUDE, AND BRIGHTNESS. WHEN RISING, IT GOT BRIGHTER, AND VICE-VERSA. AT LEAST TWO TIMES HE REPORTED IT TO BE APPARENTLY WAITING FOR THEM TO CATCH UP, TWICE HE BROKE RADIO CONTACT TO LISTEN FOR A SOUND, AND REPORTED A HUMMING NOISE. WHEN THEY GOT INTO PA. WE RELAYED THROUGH COLUMBIANA CTY, OHIO. HE AND NEFF AND TWO OTHER PATROLMEN WATCHED THE UFO HOVER IN CONWAY, PA. SOME OF HIS COMMENTS WHILE DRIVING WERE, "BOY, THIS IS WIERD" AND "IF THIS OBJECT IS MAN-MADE, IT HAS THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT I'VE EVER SEEN." WHEN SPAUR AND NEFF RETURNED TO THE STATION, THEY WERE UNUSUALLY SERIOUS. SPAUR, NORMALLY AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER, STUTTERED, AND HIS HAND SHOOK WHEN HE PUPPED A CIGARETTE. HE ANTICIPATED SKEPTICISM FROM US. NO ONE REPRESENTING THE U.S. AIR FORCE OR ANY OTHER OFFICIAL INVESTIGATOR, EXCEPT FROM N.I.C.A.P., HAS INTERVIEWED ME ABOUT THIS.

4-27-66

Robert D. Wilson

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April 27, 1966

STATEMENT BY JACK E. CRAMER, SR., CONCERNING UFO SIGHTING APRIL 17, 1966, CHASE FROM PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO, TO CONWAY, PA.

I was the radio operator on duty that night, in Salem, Ohio, in Columbiana County. At a little after 5:00 AM, I heard traffic from Portage County. A patrol car, P-13, reported seeing a light in the air, about 40-60 feet off the ground, with a shape; that is, the bottom of this object was lighted, so bright it was hard to look at. The Portage County base radio operator told him to follow it, when it began to move. From the traffic over my radio in Salem, I got the following picture:

The object, with P-13 in pursuit, traveled generally east or south, first along Rte. 224 to Deerfield, where 14 couples with 224. It continued east, turning south at the edge of Canfield, still on 14, now on 46 also. Continued south to the edge of Columbiana, then east again, still on 14 and 46. It (they) followed 14 all the way to the state line, then (as I understand) into Pennsylvania on 51. Radio traffic from the cruiser, P-13, was clear until between Unity, Ohio, and the state line.

Several times, when the pursuit car could not keep up, the object appeared to stop and wait for them. This happened at ~~the~~ Deerfield, at the edge of Canfield, perhaps at the intersection of 534 and 14 (not too sure about this location), and where 165 intersects 14, at the edge of Columbiana.

The occupants of P-13 described the object as too bright to look at, and said they were partly frightened. When Portage base station suggested shooting at the object, they said it was nothing like they had ever seen before. At 165, the object went straight up and one occupant suggested sending jets, or having jets sent up, after it. About 5 (five) minutes afterwards, Patrolmen Lonnie Johnston and, ~~I believe, Tim Johnston~~, on a hill near town, watched two jets fly near another object in the sky. *Ray Esterly*

The occupant who was driving P-13 described a noise associated, apparently, with the object, like a humming noise from a washing machine. I do not know whether he meant, all the time, or just at one or more times. He reported, after it got light, that a wire seemed to be coming from the object. After it got light, the object appeared dimmer, relatively. They (the occupants of P-13) reported that they were traveling between 80 and 100 miles an hour.

I heard the radio of the Lisbon Sheriff's Office say that a cruiser from E. Palestine was waiting at Unity.

No one from any government investigative agency has talked with me concerning this sighting, either in a military or a civilian capacity. I have not discussed this with any representative of the U. S. Air Force or anyone working in any way with aircraft, or airport, personnel.

Signed *Jack E. Cramer, Sr.* Witnessed *William B. Witzel*
Date *April 27, 1966* (both) (and typed) *N.I.C.A.P.*

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W: Did the object, did he describe it as wobbling, or perfectly level, or what?

C: No, he just, uh, way I got it, it would raise, and then take off straight. It would go so far, it seemed like, and, the way he was telling it, it would more or less wait until they got there, because it was, they couldn't keep up with it; and as soon as they would get up underneath it, or where they could see it right good again, why, zook, it would take off. No, he didn't say anything about it wobbling.

W: When it stopped, and seemed to wait for them, did it come down and wait, or did it wait at the same altitude?

C: No, the same altitude, the way I understood him to say; I never heard him say it come down at all; it was always, it would go straight up, and then take off.

W: I see.

C: He said it didn't level up; he said that it went straight up.

W: How many times do you think it actually had stopped? During the entire chase that you heard on the radio?

C: Well, let's see, it seems to me it was at Deerfield, that would be one, and I'm not sure whether he said there at 534 and 14 or not (near Berlin Center); I know he did at Canfield, and at 165*, I believe, was the three times that I heard him say it appeared to stop and wait on him. Now he may have said it down here at this intersection, down by Columbiana, but I'm not sure about that. Because that was getting out of range, too, to hear. It was at least three times, I'm sure, that he said it acted like it was stopped and waiting on him. And it would rise, a little bit, each time that it stopped. And it went up to about a thousand foot there at 165; that's when he mentioned about the jets from Youngstown. That's where it went up to a thousand foot; he said it looked like it was about a thousand foot.

W: The driver mentioned that? What did he say again, about the jets?

C: He was talking to his dispatcher, and he said, "Do you suppose you could get some jets out at Youngstown," he said, "Boy, that thing's really going up in the air," he said, "it must be about a thousand foot now." Where it had been around, oh, I suppose, from Berlin Center, down to there, down to five hundred feet. Or as near as he could judge it, that is, you know; it's a little hard to judge, I have an idea.

W: Okay, uh, now: Could we -- I have the thing starting out here at Atwater, and I'd like to make a list of the turns it made, onto different routes, so I can describe its "itinerary," so to speak.

C: Yeah. Well, that was on 224. And then at Deerfield, it was 224 and 14. See, 14 comes into 224 at Deerfield. And then, of course, that's still going west, it hadn't made any turns.

W: Going west?

C: Going east, I mean. It hadn't made any turn at Deerfield. It didn't make any turn until it got there at, just at the edge of Canfield. And that's when it turned south. And come down to the, Columbiana.... That's 14 and 46, then, 'cause 224 goes straight east. And it come down to the edge of Columbiana, and that is still 14 and 46, and it went east then, off of 14 and 46, and 46 would end down at Rt.7, and 14 would continue to the Pennsylvania line.

* 165 crossing here due east, not farther south.

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH DAVE BROTHERS, COLUMBIANA CTY., OHIO,
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY: TAPED April 27, 1966: (W: Weitzel B: Brothers)

B: I don't know what time it was, but I started listening to it on the radio when that Portage County Deputy was following down Rt. 14. I was out on Rt. 14(A) west of Salem, and I was under the opinion that they was coming in on 14 into Salem, but they was on northern 14, and they came into Canfield. I didn't realize the speed that he was running, so I turned to the east and started chasing after them. But the speed they were running, I couldn't catch up; I was about two or three minutes behind it all the time. But about all I saw in the sky was, I did see three airplanes, which was denied in the newspaper, that there was no airplane; I saw the three planes, and they were going in the same direction, east, into Pennsylvania; and the planes left a little vapor trail, but they weren't jets.... They were running too slow for jets, because I was keeping up to them.... I could make out the image of what they were, airplanes. And I only saw one jet, but that was farther east, and it looked like he was, he was coming west, and he just turned around and went back east, because you could see this vapor trail, when he turned around and went east. But other than that, I never spotted that object they were chasing....

W: What kind of traffic did you hear on your radio?

B: Well, it all started up in Portage County, is where he spotted this thing off to the left, and he said that this thing was a bright light, and it was only about forty feet off the ground, as I remember when it first started. And he said he was going to follow it, and it went straight up, and it started -- I don't know what route it took until it hit Rt. 14 up here. But he hit Rt. 14, and he said he was coming into Deerfield, then he said he was going into Canfield, and it made a turn to the south at Canfield, and it came down Rt. 46, and it came into Columbiana, and made a turn to the east on Rt. 14 again and headed into Pennsylvania. And it just followed the highway perfect. At all the time.

W: You heard that on your radio? You heard them talking about it, when they first saw it?

B: Oh, yeah. Yeah....

W: Can you give me an account, beginning at the start, in as much detail as you can remember, and you can backtrack if you have to, of what you heard on your radio?

B: Well, like I say, when it first started, I couldn't hear the Portage County car, he was too far away for our mobile units. But Portage County was kind of joking with him, at first; I remember them saying, "Don't blow your siren and don't scare the thing, to, don't do nothing to agitate it," is what they said. But then you could see it was getting pretty serious, and this guy was serious. And he followed it, and he said, "It's just off to my left, anywhere from a thousand to two thousand feet. It's a bright object." Now, he tried to describe it a couple times, but I don't remember whether he said it was cone-shaped, more or less, with the cone pointing down, and the whole underside of it was illuminated; real bright light. And I remember him saying -- now this is all I heard on the radio -- he was, Portage Cty. car, was telling back to the base, that at one time, there, it lit up the highway. When this started, originally, it was still dark. By the time they got over to the Pennsylvania line, it was getting dawn. And then they could still see it.

W: When did it light up the highway?

B: Well that would have been when it first started. That was before I could hear his car, see.

X

W: Did he repeat that observation, when you heard that over your radio?

B: Ma hmn. Yeah. When he was talking to -- he, he kept, this Portage Cty. car, he was pleading for help, for someone else to make sure they see this thing, so they didn't think he was nuts. And as it worked out, we missed him, but Wayne Huston in Palestine was waiting there at Unity, and Huston saw the same thing. And Huston followed the same thing that this other car was following.

W: Where were they, when you first had radio contact from their cruiser?

B: The first time I talked to him, he said he was crossing Rt. 14 and 534, is where he said he was at. And that's when I started talking to him. (Berlin Center). And that's when he said he was still headed west, or east, on Rt. 14, anywhere from 85 to 110 miles an hour sometimes, see. So we're waiting right outside of Salem here, waiting to see this thing, waiting to see this thing, and the next thing he said, "We're just coming into Canfield." So that left me out. But right away we turned and we went as fast as we could, and we knew where he would come out at Canfield, in Columbiana. And he said he's headed south on 46 out of Canfield, and we called for Columbiana police, to be waiting for him there, and the Columbiana police, he ran uptown to get himself a camera. And this thing was running so fast that it hit Columbiana and was out of Columbiana before that cruiser got back down there.

W: Who was in that cruiser, that went up to get the camera?

B: Patrolman Jack Haines, in Columbiana.... I was just leaving Salem, and he said he was on 46, leaving Canfield, going south, and I'll, I'd say it wasn't two minutes, he said he was crossing Rt. 165, so he was really running. There was no way possible we could catch up, to see this thing. But East Palestine was copying it all, and their cruiser was waiting up there, in Unity, and I know they both went all the way down into Pennsylvania on 51, and they observed the thing the whole way down, and I also heard them say they lost it, going down 51 into Brady's Run Park.

W: You heard them, on your radio, say that?

B: Yeah. They were talking car to car, see, and I could ^{still} monitor it.

W: Could you tell me more or less verbatim, what they said, or as good as you can remember it?

B: Well, that Portage County car, when Unity, or the East Palestine car was waiting in Unity, he says, "Where's it at?" and he said, "Look right off to your left, by your left window post, and you'll see it up in the sky." Then he looked, and he says, "I see it." So that's when he followed it, too. And it still traveled at the same speed, like I say, when it got down into Brady's Run, I heard either East Palestine or P-15 say they lost it.... They come through into the clearing and said, "There, it's waiting on us.... here in Freedom." And I heard East Palestine radio back, to call Chippewa Township State Police Barracks, in Pennsylvania, but they didn't have no car out. So the next car they made contact with was in Conway. And what happened after Conway I don't know.

W: When did you finally lose radio contact?

B: Well, after they got down in there, I don't know exactly where I quit hearing them, I kept hearing East Palestine cruiser give the Portage County car directions on where to turn, and everything; but I don't know where they was at, I presume they was in East Rochester. Then I didn't hear no more from them until they come back, and we talked it over in Unity again. That was about 10 after 7, I suppose.

W: And what happened there?

B: Well, that's where the East Palestine car and the Portage Cty. car, they came back on the way to their base station; we, that's where I waited on them, I didn't go down into Pennsylvania, I could see there was no use in me chasing this thing. I waited for them to hear their story when they come back.

W: What did they tell you there?

B: About the same thing. What they saw, and everything. And I believed them, because this one, from Portage Cty., he was all shook up. Was that Spaur? Is he the regular Deputy? And they had that Auxiliary Deputy with them, I don't know his name. He told me, he told me exactly, he described it again, just as he did over the air, the same thing I heard, see.

W: How do you mean, he was "shook up"? Was he shaking? Stuttering?

B: Well, he said his stomach, "It gives you a funny feeling in your stomach," he said, by God, he's never seen something like this before. And of course he told me, "You're gonna think I'm lying," he said, "By God you're not gonna believe it." I, I believed him, myself.

W: Was he shaking at all?

B: Well, I don't think he had fright in him. But he was nervous, and I would be nervous, too, driving at the speeds he was driving, to get there, see.... But Wayne Huston, he was pretty calm, and he felt the same way, he said, "By God, it gives you a funny feeling to see something like that."

W: How well do you know Huston?

B: Very well. But I don't know them other two Deputies at all.

W: How long has he been with the East Palestine Police?

B: About six and a half years.... And I've been with him in a lot of tight pinches, and he's, he's nobody to back down on nothing. He was, he was a little bit -- now, I say he was scared physically, it was just the feeling that they tried to describe with, how this thing acted up.

W: What kind of descriptions did you hear on the radio, while they were chasing it?

B: I can't remember that, except that it was cone-shaped, and the cone was pointing down, and I did hear them say that it looks like about forty to forty five feet across the top. But I don't know, uh, --

W: Do you remember anything about a noise?

B: Oh, yeah; they did mention it had a steady humming noise. I heard them say that. Just a hum, and I know he said it doesn't, it didn't leave any vapor trail, or anything like that. And when it moved, I heard 'em describe that, when it moved, it didn't climb like an airplane, it either went straight up or it come straight down.

W: This humming noise: did he say that was with it all the time, or he heard it at one time, or what? Did he use the word, "steady"?

B: I'm not sure, he says it, I heard them say there was a humming noise. I don't know which way it was, which way he meant it.

W: Could you hear a humming noise, over your radio?

B: No. I was too far behind. The closest I got to them was four or five miles.

W: Could you hear anything over the radio about jet planes being sent up? Anyone saying that they were, or that they were going to, or that they were trying to, or anything of that sort? Any reference at all to jet planes. Or airplanes, being sent up.

B: Yeah. Now, I don't remember whether it was Portage County base station, or East Palestine, but they definitely said there was a couple jet planes sent up, to intercept this thing. And I also heard Huston talking to Portage County, that they had, -- he talked to some Colonel, or something, from the Air Force Reserve base, at Pittsburgh. Over the telephone.

W: Huston talked with them?

B: One of them. At East Rochester, see. They talked to this guy over a telephone. And this guy told Huston that they had spotted it on radar. At one time.

W: Somebody told him?

B: Yeah. That they had an object on radar, but they didn't know what it was.... I heard Portage County say something, they called the Youngstown Air Base about it, and they had no planes available. They had no jets up there, or something to that effect, see.... But I definitely heard that Pittsburgh sent up jets to intercept it, and they were in the area. And I also heard Dale, this Deputy from Portage Cty. state, that a plane, one of the passenger planes flew right underneath this thing. I don't know how much clearance there was. What I've often wondered, is what them planes were that I saw; and they're saying there wasn't any....

W: He had heard that from his phone call?

B: Whoever he talked to over the telephone. They were supposed to have said, "We have the object on radar, and we've sent planes up."

.

W: Well, that's about as close as we've gotten, I guess, about that. Has anyone from the Air Force talked with you at all? (radar & jets)

B: No.

W: Have you heard the explanation of this? That the Air Force gave?

B: Yeah! Yeah.

W: What do you think of that?

B: well, I don't believe that!

W: Does it seem likely, from what you heard?

B: Well, I myself, I would say it was impossible. For three people to chase a thing like this, and then for them to say it's Venus. Myself, I think it's silly; but I don't know what it is.

W: I guess that's all I have to ask you. If you hear anything else about this I'd like you to get in contact with me.

B: The way they make you sound, you're better off not to.

W: What's that?

B: The way they make a fool out of you, you're better off not to.

W: Oh. You mean -- who makes a fool of you?

B: Well, the things like they come up with, this "chasing Venus". I think that's ridiculous, for cryin' out -- they ought to just say they don't know, and be done with it. But I don't, I don't know whether they know.

W: (Terminates interview)

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USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

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NOTE: This is a drawing made by Frank Panzanella, Conway, Pa. Police Department, on June 21, 1966, during my second visit and interview with him. The first was on April 20, 1966, at which time his drawing was identical with this one, as was the testimony. One discrepancy: he did not, on April 20, call this picture (second below) the "bottom" view; was not sure then.

Between poles, no projection



W. W. Wright

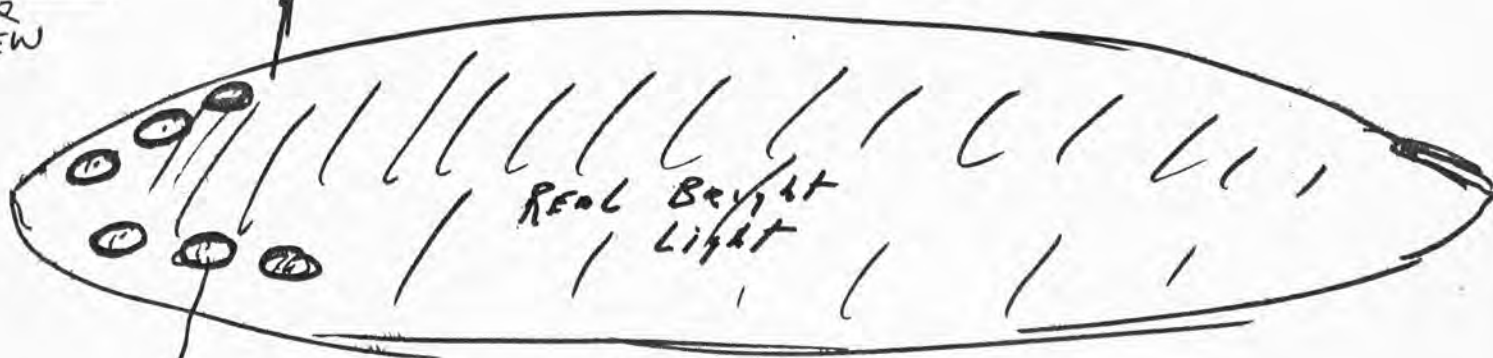
AS THOUGH

(Panzanella did not see a "rear view" - W.W.)



REAR
VIEW

Projection at rear (trailing edge) of UFO



Under side.

*Light inside
Dark Rim outside.*

SEEN coming down 10th St.

April 17-66

Frank Panzanella - 6-21-66.



NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

what direction

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June 21, 1966

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

STATEMENT BY FRANK PANZANELLA, CONWAY, PA. POLICE

May 16, 1966: At 5:20 A.M. stopped at Conway Hotel and had a cup of coffee. I then left the hotel coming down Second Avenue to 11th Street and made a left turn on 11th Street preceeded up the hill. Looked to my right and saw a shining object. I thought it was a reflection off of a plane. I got to Mickey's Lounge on the top of the hill and I looked back and it wasn't moving so I turned the police car around and came back down 11th Street and went to Adamowski Service Station on 10th Street and Route 65. I then got out of the police car and looked at the object again. I rubbed my eyes 3 or 4 times but didn't say anything to anyone for the time being. I saw 2 other patrol cars pull up and the officers got ~~off~~ out of the car and asked me if I saw it. I replied SAW WHAT? They pointed to the object and I told them I had been watching it for the last 10 minutes. The object was the shape of half of football, was very bright and about 25 to 35 feet in diameter. The object then moved out towards Harmony Township approximately a 1,000 feet high, then it stopped then went straight up real fast to about 3,500 feet. I then called the base station told the radio operator to notify the Pittsburgh Airport. He asked me if I was sick. I told him if I was sick so were the other 3 patrolmen. The operator got the airport on the line and told them what happened, he told them to hold the line and in the meantime we kept watching the object and at that time a passenger plane passed to the left about 1,000 feet below the object. We relayed the message to the operator and he relayed it to the airport. The object continued to go upward until it got as small as a ballpoint pen. Then we received a message to make a phone call. We preceeded to the Rochester Police Department and made the phone call. Officer Parr talked to someone and then we returned to Conway Police Department where I gave Officer Parr my name and gas for his police car to return home. The object was in my sight from 5:20 A.M. to 6:15 A.M. *If it was far*

no foot, but
Patrolman Frank Panzanella *it stayed away*

R That is a statement typewritten and submitted to an investigator for the USAF on May 18, 1966. The investigator asked me no questions, just took this typed stt.

I told Mr. Weitzel of NICAP the following on April 20, 1966: John Bieghy, the Rochester Base Radio Operator, or a voice going into his microphone, said "They're sending two up." Also heard a voice saying the object was on radar. This voice came over my police car radio. The radar report was heard before we saw the plane fly under the object. I also saw two streaks of smoke or something in the sky, like jet contrails, apparently coming in such a way that, if continued, the streaks would have circled the object. The front of the growing streaks was to the object's left, above the object. When I first saw the object, it was about 3/4 inch across at arm's length (apparent size). After it receded horizontally to a new position, it was about 1/16 inch apparent size. Relative to the moon, the object was quite distant and to the left of the moon; I could not see the moon from my position at the Atlantic Station where the object was seen between two antennas in the back yard across the street to the east. We all four watched the object shoot straight up and disappear. I heard a whipping or swishing noise, like swishing a piece of rope through the air, and heard this sound only when the object moved (between hoverings). Weather conditions: clear day, no haze in the sky. At the end of the sighting, the sun was up enough to illuminate the hills to the north-east, and I had no need of headlights. When we were into Freedom, I heard a police officer of Freedom Borough police, Henry Kwiatkowski, say he had seen two planes. *He privately supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest* He called me on his own, not by my request. Correction: Kwiatkowski. 2153 Ridge Rd e 266 - 2903. His transmission was cut off by ground conditions through which he could not transmit; voice faded and went out. Did not hear him say he had seen the UFO.

Signed: *Frank Panzanella* Date: *6-21-66*

Typed: W. Weitzel, NICAP

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

STATEMENT BY FRANK PANZANELLA, CONWAY, PA. POLICEMAN, ABOUT RELEASE OF INFORMATION GIVEN TO U.S.A.F. REPRESENTATIVE ON APRIL 17, 1966 UFO SIGHTING -- THIS INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO THE U.S.A.F. REPRESENTATIVE MAY 18, 1966 and is the only information given a U.S.A.F. representative by me. I do not mind its being shown by the U.S.A.F. to any reliable UFO investigator, such as the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena representative, William Weitzel, but prefer that the information not be given by the U.S.A.F. to a news representative. Signed, Frank Panzanella, June 21, 1966:

Frank Panzanella 6-21-66 *W. Weitzel* NICHE
- Typed 6/21/66

Note on Panzanella's interview by the U.S.A.F. representative: this man, whose name Panzanella does not recall, visited him in the Police Station late in the afternoon of the 18th of May. He told Panzanella he had only about 45 minutes to spend there, as he had to see Wayne Huston the same afternoon. Panzanella took longer than this to type his statement, and the interviewer said he would see Huston the next day instead, but he did not interrogate Panzanella at all; he simply took the written statement.* He also told Panzanella he did not care whether the statement was signed or not. He told Panzanella this was not his regular job (collecting UFO report information.) When Panzanella asked the interviewer whether an object moving at supersonic speed in a vertical direction would produce a sonic boom, the interviewer said he did not know. Panzanella's question was related to the rapid vertical departure of the April 17 UFO at the terminus of the sighting.

* The typed statement, that is.

Panzanella took me to the spot where he first observed the UFO after leaving his car. He got his first good look at it as he was driving S.W., on 2nd Ave. in Conway; it is this view he has reproduced in drawings as an oval with lights on the bottom and a projection near one edge. This was a bottom view. He turned off Second Avenue, went about $\frac{1}{2}$ block to the Atlantic Station on Rte. 65, parked his car at the S.W. corner of the station, got out, turned around, and saw the object hovering to the east between two antennas in a backyard across the street. He moved across the station to the eastern corner and watched the object hover and the Deputies and Patrolman Huston pulled into the station and joined him. It is his first position from which this photograph shows him pointing.

UFO POSITION FROM ATL. STA.

W. Weitzel



This photo taken June 21, 1966;
UFO indicated by ink spot and arrow.

if serving the national public interest

W: Now, he called Greater Pittsburgh Airport (Bleghey did). Do you know whom he talked to there?

P: No, he didn't tell me. He just says he was talking to the airport now, and they had him hold onto the line, because he had the phone in his hand, and he heard the operator telling the, telling the guy that the State Police were there, and that they had it on the screen.

W: Was that the telephone operator, or the, uh, which operator was that?

P: No. See, they had their phone open; they weren't talking to John. They didn't have the mouthpiece covered and John heard it on the telephone.

W: who do you think the operator was talking to, then?

P: I don't know, unless he was talking to that State Police up there; I don't know. Up at the airport. Because John relayed the -- John heard it and he was telling me right over the car radio, what they were doing up there.

W: OK, now how did the operator put this, do you remember, is this second-hand from you that, uh, from what John heard, or did you hear this thing going on too?

P: No; I heard talking, and Dale and us, we were all standing by the car, we were talking and watching it at the same time; I didn't pay too much attention, because the next day, when I talked to John over the phone from the building, down here, I said, "Did you see in the paper where the Greater Pittsburgh Airport says they deny having anything on the radar?" I said, "What did they tell you?" He says, "No, I heard it. They weren't talking to me," but he says he heard them talking to the State Police up there, that they had it on the radar screen.

W: Do you think the operator up there was talking to the State Police?

P: I think so.....

.....

W: Did you see any other jet planes, or any other aircraft?

P: We seen two streaks, and that was after we made the call, these two white streaks, you know how your planes leave that at a high altitude? There were two streaks out there. What they were, I don't know.... To its left toward the sunrise. And, a matter of fact, Harmony, Economy Borough called in and said there was two planes out there, but that's when we lost track of him, 'cause he was down in a valley and once he goes down in that valley, we can't pick him up.

W: OK, now, the trails were to the left of the object, and that would put them in what position relative to the sunrise?

P: Going right toward the sunrise.... And that's when Dale told me they had two trainers from Ohio trailing it, now whether it was his planes out there, I don't know, or from the airport, I don't know, either; that's something I couldn't tell you.

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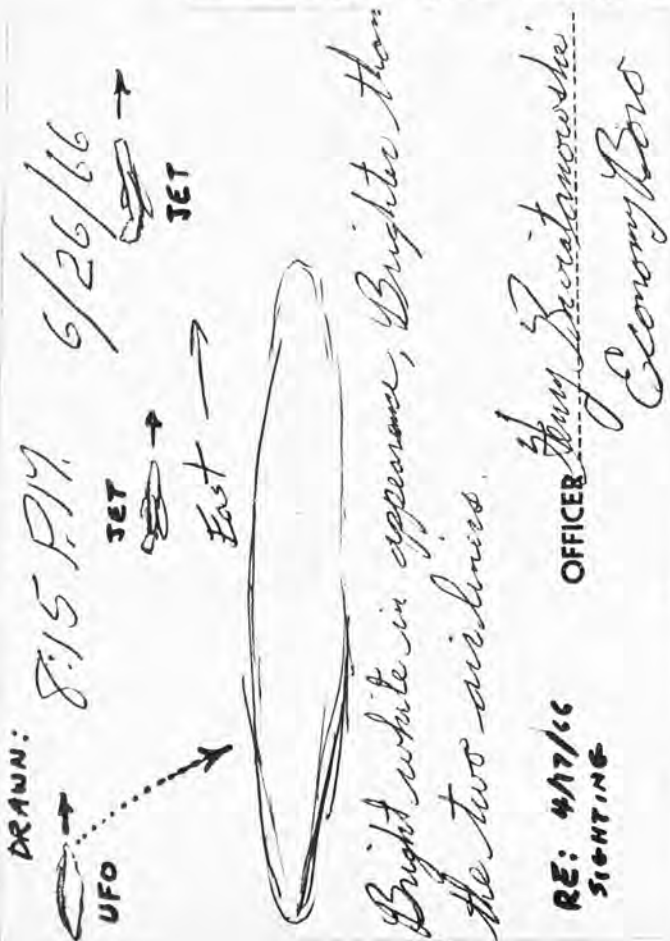
MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

STATEMENT BY HENRY KWATANOWSKI, ECONOMY BOROUGH POLICE, PA., CONCERNING UFO SIGHTED MORNING APRIL 17, 1966

On this morning, just before sunrise, I heard radio traffic on a UFO over Conway. Then I heard it was heading toward the sun. I was in Harmony Twp. Building. I drove to Shafer Rd. and Rt. 989 and looked for the UFO. I could not see it at first. I saw two jets going east, into the sun. Then I saw a bright, apparently externally illuminated (by the sun) "squashed football"-shaped object traveling behind the jets. It went in a line behind them, one jet in front of the other, the UFO third in line. It was a little above the jets. The jets were commercial liners, I could see the windows. There were vapor trails, not contrails, from the jets, nothing from the UFO. The three objects disappeared into the sun, in about five minutes. I had been trying to get Frank Panzanella on the radio, and he finally returned my call, after the object disappeared. I told him I saw two jets and a UFO behind them. He did not return my call. The object did not appear to have any irregularities on the surface; portholes or projections or bumps.

No representative of any government or military agency has discussed this sighting with me. I did not report the sighting to anyone.

All three objects appeared to be in level flight throughout the sighting. The UFO did not zig-zag or alter its distance from the jet in front of it. Their altitude at the beginning and ending of the UFO sighting was about 15 degrees.



NAME Henry Kwatanowski
TITLE Police Officer
DATE 6/26/66
WITNESSED William W. White, NIKAP

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

April 28, 1966

STATEMENT OF LONNIE JOHNSON AND RAY ESTERLY, POLICE OFFICERS, CITY OF SALEM, OHIO
CONCERNING UFO CHASED BY SPAUR AND NEFF AND HUSTON, APRIL 17, 1966 MORNING.

The undersigned, Johnson and Esterly, were on duty in Salem the morning of April 17. Around 5:30 AM, we stopped into the station to see who would turn off the city lights. We heard radio traffic on the UFO chase mentioned above. At the time we left the station to look for the object, thinking it might pass near Salem, the pursuit vehicle had passed 534 on 224 (Berlin Center). We went to Prospect Street partway down the hill, when we saw the object in the distance, at an elevation of approximately 25°, estimated altitude 10,000 - 20,000 feet (Esterly 10, Johnson 11). Actually, first we saw one jet, then the object in front of it. We could see the jet, the exhaust space, and the contrail. The jet seemed at the same altitude of the object, going (both) southeast. The jet seemed to be pursuing the object. While we watched, for an estimated time of no more than two minutes, we saw two more jets coming from behind, in the same direction. These two had arcing contrails, either down or curved horizontally. The object was (Esterly) less than 3 or even (Johnson) 1 mile(s) away, in front of the first jet. The other two were about 10 miles back.

♀? The object was a bright ball, about 5 (five) times the size of the jet behind it. Its color was reddish orange, perhaps from sky reflection. Brighter than the planes. We could hear no noise from the object, nor from the jets. The object's brightness did not vary.

We returned to the Salem Police station when the four objects flew out of view (the UFO and three jets.) The UFO appeared to be in level flight all the time while we watched it. When we came in, the pursuit vehicle reported its location as near (the object was above) Firestone Farms, east of Columbiana. @

Neither one of us has been contacted concerning this sighting by any representative of the U. S. Air Force, or any government representative, or any officials whatever interested in this sighting, except the people we work with, in the Police Station.

Date April 28, 1966 Signature Lonnie Johnson
Witnessed Ray Esterly Signature Ray Esterly
N.I.C.A.P.

over what
are.

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ARCS OF CONTRAILS—
DOWN OR TURN



BRIGHT
BALL



SEEMED LEVEL FLIGHT
" SAME ALTITUDE

OBJECT ~ 5x size of jets

Could see contrails of 3 jets, none
on object. Also saw flame exhaust
of jets.

4/28/66 12:40 AM

W. Weitzel witness

PTL Lanny Johnson

PTL Ray Stolz

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USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

April 28, 1966

STATEMENT BY LT. RICHARD M. WHINNERY, SALEM, OHIO POLICE, AND JACK E. CRAMER, RADIO OPERATOR, SALEM, OHIO POLICE, CONCERNING UFO (SAME ONE?) CHASED FROM OHIO TO PENNSYLVANIA ON APRIL 17, 1966 AM.

We, the undersigned, were in the Salem Police Station on April 17, 1966, listening to traffic on a UFO being chased from Portage County, Ohio, into Pennsylvania (as we later learned, that is, the conclusion to the sighting by Deputies Spaur and Neff). At about 6:30 AM, a voice broke into our reception of normal calls, saying something like the following: (Happened abt. ten min. before Johnson and Esterly returned from watching jets following a UFO going southeast, presumably the one being chased.)
"I'm going down to take a look at it" (couple of seconds later) "I'm ^{right} above it, and it's about 45 feet (forty five) across" "something trailing behind it" "like a ball of fire"
 We are not sure of the identity of the voice. No U.S. Air Force representative has seen us. We did not hear any other description of this object by this voice. The reception of this voice sounded louder than our normal reception. The frequency was most likely 39.58 mc, but perhaps 195 mc. Not sure AM or FM, but receiver is Motorola Model ~~#101703/101704~~
 Model # 101703 - 1102A, Serial # B95161, Patent # (latest) 3,101,441.

Date 4/28/66

Signature Richard M. Whinnery

Witnessed William B. Weitzel

Signature Jack E. Cramer

**(continued)*

Jack E. Cramer

Note by W. Weitzel: Johnson and Esterly had just radioed in that they had seen jets following the object.

Correction to above testimony: read "5:30" instead of "6:30" for time of reception of voice. Correction approved by the undersigned and witnessed.

Witnessed William B. Weitzel

Signed Jack E. Cramer

Date April 28, 1966 (about 1 hour later than above typed)

W: Now what did you hear over the radio?

R: This morning, the morning that they were chasing, Portage County was chasing this flying object, it broke in on our frequency, after our boys had called in and said that the jets were behind it, there was something that broke in on our frequency and the one guy said, "I'm going down to take a look at it." And then he called back just a couple seconds later and he says, "I'm over -- I'm on -- I'm above it, and it's about forty five feet in, across." And then he said something about something trailing behind it, then that was the last we heard. But it was just momentarily that it broke in on our radio frequency.

W: Did anybody identify themselves?

R: No. Just that they had told us that the jets were chasing it. That they could see their vapor --

W: Was the signal loud, or clear, or --

R: Right.

W: Was it garbled?

R: No. It was real loud and clear. I mean, you could distinguish it, real loud. It's -- it was louder than what it usually comes in, because we're used to hearing these other stations. And this one, whoever it was, said, "I'm going down to take a look at it," and then when he called back in, he sounded like he was real excited. And he says, "It's about forty five feet across."

W: Did he say how close he'd gotten to it?

R: No, he said, "I'm right above it."

W: "Right above it."

R: "Right above it." And then they said the next day that they didn't even have any planes in the air.

W: Did he say anything about hearing a noise from it, anything like that?

R: No. Nothing like that. Just that he above it, and it was about forty five feet across.

W: Any other description, about the object sticking out of it?

R: Just that there was, it was trailing something. And that was all he said.

W: It was trailing something?

R: Right. It was trailing something. Like a ball of fire, or something.... It was just shortly after they had called and said that they were following -- you know, that they could see the stream from the jets following it. And then, it came in real clear. And it was louder than what we usually get over here.... I've never heard the voice before. Because usually we can tell, the ones around this area, because we know most of the guys around here personally. But this came in real loud and real clear. And then that first time, he said, "I'm going down and take a look at it." Then he said, "I'm above it," and he sounded real excited, and "It's about 45 feet across."

NOTES ON P-13 SIGHTING TERMINUS

There is a possibility that the UFO observed here, over Economy Borough (the Northern Lights Shopping Center area) is a different one from that chased. Frank Panzanella's description is a bit different from that offered by the deputies and Wayne Huston, although these officers believed the object they observed until the end, was the same as that chased. Panzanella's description may be, however, that of a "cooled off" UFO whose relatively flat bottom was now visible; he did see a dome-shaped top, or opposing surface. Unfortunately, the object hovered at a distance too great to make out great detail. The projection, or a projection, was visible in this last phase, however.

The Kwiatkowski sighting, likewise, may or may not be the P-13 UFO. It appeared oblong, and did not seem self-illuminated. Note that while Kwiatkowski judged the UFO to be at about the same distance as the jets, and could see windows on the aircraft, he could see no features on the UFO.

Kwiatkowski's sighting seems to have lasted about as long as it took Frank Panzanella to see the deputies off, wait for the UFO's return, receive a call about telling the other officers to call the airport, and nearly reach them. He estimated this to be about three minutes. There is room for conjecture that the P-13 object left the area and went after the jets Kwiatkowski observed.

Regarding the position of Venus relative to the moon: David Webb, NICAP Investigator in Alliance, Ohio, writes the following:

Venus rose at 3:55 am EST and was very bright in the SE sky at magnitude -4.0 at midmonth. It reached greatest western elongation on April 6 and greatest brilliancy on March 1 (magnitude -4.5). The moon passed very close to Venus on the morning of April 16 and Venus was south of the moon.

Neither Mars nor Jupiter was in the morning sky.

Saturn rose at 4:10 am EST, was 19° from the Sun, faint (magnitude 1.4). Binoculars would probably be necessary to see it.

The moon was at last quarter on April 12 at 11:29 pm; new moon occurred on April 20, at 3:36 pm. On April 17 the moon would have been a thin crescent nearly 27 days old. As near as I can determine, the cusps would have pointed south. Note that Spaur saw a bright point of light to the south of one of the cusps; this corresponds to the position of Venus almost exactly! This is a point which, I feel, cannot be belabored too much due to the erroneous AF conclusion. Evidently Spaur and Neff very assuredly saw the moon, Venus, and the UFO at the same time, and, hence, the UFO could not possibly be Venus, period.

Twilight began about 3:45 am EST on the 17th.

Sunrise was at 5:20 am EST.

The Pittsburgh Subcommittee of NICAP is still investigating rumors of a photograph taken in Conway of the P-13 UFO. Someone was apparently bragging of this at the Croatian Club in Freedom, and at the Baden American Legion. I have checked both places myself and could not dig up anything, but someone who saw the man is still trying to find him. He reportedly called the Army and was told to send them the undeveloped negatives. The citizens in this area are reluctant to discuss the UFO topic, and reportedly heaped ridicule on the man when he made his claims.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor reported a UFO in the Conway area April 17 morning, but theirs flew by at 4:30 am EST; the sky was still dark. Not much detail.

DISCUSSION OF JET PLANE AND/OR RADAR INVOLVEMENT WITH UFO

Early news bulletins indicated that one of two trainer jets sent from Youngstown had buzzed the UFO and heard a humming noise, and that jets from Greater Pittsburgh Airport had tried unsuccessfully to approach the slow-moving object. A voice on Frank Panzanella's radio, which operates on a frequency different from those used (39.58, 155.xx mc) in Ohio, said, "They have it on radar, and they're sending two up." Panzanella claims Beighey (Rochester Police Radio Operator) overheard someone at Greater Pittsburgh Airport making this statement, when he was waiting to report the UFO. Columbiana County Deputy Sheriff Brothers heard a similar report on his Ohio radio. The report to Salem, Ohio base of an observation of three jets chasing a UFO in Spaur's direction was immediately followed by what seemed to be a pilot's comment on the object.

Major Hector Quintanilla denied that any radar or jet involvement was reported to him. At his May 10 hearing in Portage County, he promised to look into it further, asking specific questions. No word from him on this, despite a follow-up letter. Lt. Stephen Paquette, Oakdale Missile and Radar Station, in charge of handling UFO reports there, said he had heard nothing about jets, but may not have anyway; their radar may not have electronically "noticed" the UFO if it were as low as he had heard. But no radar reports at Oakdale. The FAA log at Greater Pitt is negative.

Panzanella and Spaur both noticed jets apparently changing course in the vicinity of the UFO, toward the terminus of the chase. In Economy Borough, Patrolman Henry Kwaitanowski saw a football-shaped UFO chasing (or following) two jets, after the P-13 UFO disappeared, which may have been the same jets observed by the other witnesses.

I checked in person at Sheriff's Office Base Radio Stations in Portage, Columbiana, and Mahoning Counties, the Youngstown Police Department, Salem Police Department, and Chippewa Barracks, Pennsylvania State Police.* Could not track down the source of rumors (and signed statements) about jet or radar reports. John Beighey, Rochester Police Radio Operator, denies hearing jet or radar reports such as Panzanella mentions, and is reluctant to discuss the event. Panzanella claims something may have come via phone-microphone, if Beighey had his button down; but there is still a conflict between Beighey's and Panzanella's testimony. (* Also OSP Canfield)

Two points may allow considering the possibility of the Salem Police receiver picking up uhf signals from a jet plane. (1) According to Jim Hillman, pgh. Subcommittee member, disruption of the frequency multiplier circuit often used in uhf transmitters, may cause a lower frequency broadcast. (2) As Spaur was nearing the Pennsylvania border, at least two listeners, including Robert Wilson, Portage County Deputy Sheriff, Radio Operator, Spaur's voice became squeaky. At this time Spaur experienced trouble with his squelch circuit. This was in the vicinity of the area where the UFO made a left turn. Although these points are no basis for deductive proof of UFO EM effect, that possibility is consistent, or may be, with them. The possibility of reception of a normally different-frequency transmission, therefore, should not be ruled out altogether.

Regarding lack of radar reports, AFR 200-2, RAM invisibility, and the good old ad hoc EM effect should not be overlooked. On the other hand, it may be just as well to accept the U. S. Air Force's (perennially) final word on this subject.



April 17: Heard radio report of chase. Called WJAS, being in Pittsburgh, to get some details. Reports of shape of object varied. Ice cream cone, double plates, sphere. Called several Subcommittee members but most were unavailable. Robert Schmidt was tied up with previous commitments and had to stay home, but he and his wife agreed to act as filter center. William Jasulaitis, Subcommittee candidate, said he could go to Conway, and might get radiation counter. Tom Schley, Beaver County Times "UFO reporter", was on his way to investigate this case. Bob Schmidt called back with report of Buchert photo. Said it was being held for the federal government. Called Mantua Police; Sgt. Klein said the chief (Gerald Buchert) would meet me in Ravenna in 2½ hours. Curt Shaw, Subcommittee member, agreed to drive to Ravenna with me. I was unable to contact either David Webb in Alliance, or Prof. Mendenhall, Pennsylvania Unit #2 Chairman. Richard Hall knew of no other nearby investigators. Tom Schley called, said he would be in Ravenna later today. Bill Jasulaitis said he and Henry Kalapaca, another Subcommittee candidate, would meet me in Ravenna with radiation counter. Shaw and I left in separate cars, to travel via Ohio Turnpike. On way to Ravenna, NBC Monitor reported that a federal investigative team from Pittsburgh was on the way, called the "National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena", headed by William Weitzel. I debated pulling off the Turnpike to call in a correction, decided to do so in Ravenna, before next news broadcast, to avoid further telephone confusion.

Arrived in Ravenna about 4:45 PM EST. Neither Jasulaitis nor Schley had arrived. Shaw was there. We talked in Detective Leland's office. Chief Buchert had four 8x10 enlargements of the "UFO", but preferred not to release them to anyone until they had been seen by the government. Buchert had not called any federal agency, had thought NICAP was one. I explained status, also had Glenn Rinker, NBC News, Cleveland, phone in a correction-interview. Buchert would not allow Shaw to make Polaroid copies of prints, would not let anyone view the negatives. He was concerned about revealing data of government or military secret device. Prints showed only two fuzzy arcs of darkness on grey background, with dark fan-shaped extensions from concave side of each object. Shaw left. I interviewed Detective Leland; he gave me original report by Deputy Spaur, filled out on return from Conway this morning. Leland gave me names, numbers of Huston, Panzanella. Also fresh batteries for the Korelco 101 recorder, running low. I made more calls, to Jasulaitis, Schmidt, tried NICAP. Jasulaitis and Kalapaca could not make the trip. No NICAP-DC personnel available. I filled in Bob Schmidt. Tom Schley arrived. Spaur arrived, was brought in detectives' office to see me. Buchert came in, announced that he had just talked to, had called, Wright-Patterson AFB, Lt. Weisinger, was told to lock up all photo material until next day.

Spaur appeared exhausted but was cooperative. He had gotten about ½ hour of sleep. Shortly after start of interview, Spaur left the office. I continued talking with Mr. Leland, who brought in Spaur's file. 35 yrs old, 6'4½", 189 lbs., 3 yrs A2C, radio gunner, refueling boom exp., former police work in photography, fingerprinting, radio operator. With Portage County Sheriff's Department about 1 year.

William Powers, Northwestern Univ., called to interview Spaur. He agreed to my taping the interview. I talked with him briefly afterwards. Powers was looking for data to disconfirm "Venus" as an explanation. We exchanged phone numbers. Powers was on phone about 20 minutes. I found Spaur being interviewed by Tom Schley, waited, then resumed interview in Leland's office. By this time the station personnel had put me "in charge" of Spaur's interviewing, were not letting in any reporters. This made some reporters irritated. Spaur seemed still incredulous about his experience; had not taken "flying saucers" seriously before, did not expect me to believe him. During interview, Larry Moyers and Marc Candusso of F.S.I.C. came in; Leland asked if they could talk to Spaur, I agreed. They had brought Geiger counter, it developed, and we decided to go to site of first observation of UFO.

April 17 cont.: I called Fire Department and Civil Defense office, talked to Chief Vatch, John Gembar; they had examined Spaur and Neff and P-13 for radioactivity on their return this morning. No unusual levels. Site not examined. Bill Jasulaitis called; could not get Geiger counter to me. Decided Candusso's was all right; Victorcen CD model, with fresh batteries. About this time, Rick Hilberg, Glenn A. Barth, and David Olesko, from a Cleveland UFO group, had arrived. We went to 224, found abandoned car Spaur and Neff had originally stopped for. It had some tapes, a cheap Japanese transistor toy tape recorder with a tape of hillbilly music on it, some miscellaneous electrical gear, in the back seat. Trunk full of old tires. Spaur looked for burglary tools. (Car was towed later.)

Candusso went into the woods with the Geiger counter, claimed normal background count. Nothing on beam (radioactivity). Spaur went through details of initial sighting. I taped entire trip.* On way back, interrupted trip to call Tom Schley at BCT, exchange data (no opinions or conclusions). We returned to Courthouse. Sheriff Dustman there. I took room at Kent Motor Inn. ("Our trip to and from site.")

April 18: Went to Akron to buy more tape equipment at Olson Radio. Got back to Ravenna to find Chief Buchert had been notified that Dayton wanted his negative. No one knew whether this meant a personal visit by Major Quintanilla or not. One deputy told me Buchert was going to "release the picture at noon," did not know what this meant. Chief Buchert was in Mantua at this time. I drove up there to find office closed. Called Ravenna, found that Buchert had been notified I was there, and he was on way to Ravenna. Said he would stay there a while, then return. I called again about 1/2 hour later; Buchert had turned around, hearing I was in Mantua, and was on his way. While waiting, I called William Powers, told him my data, having checked with Richard Hall for release. I told Powers about Spaur's comparing the UFO's size to his windshield rearview mirror, larger than the mirror during chase. When I reviewed the rapid elevation at the end of the sighting, in Conway, Powers agreed Venus was ruled out. Buchert arrived at Mantua Village Police Station. I examined negative. Taped examination and interview, except for some questions from B.

Buchert was interrupted several times during the interview by news media, by phone and in person. I was interviewed by TV reporter on camera. I encouraged Buchert to have more prints made before sending in the negative; he agreed to have made for me, three contact prints of entire film and four enlargements, and about twenty enlargements for interested news media. We got to Ravenna about 3:00 PM EST, and spent much time in the Ravenna Record-Courier darkroom waiting for a photographer. One finally came, and I went outside to give report to NICAP-DC. While talking to Richard Hall and Major Keyhoe, Buchert left the photo lab without having contact copies made. I called him in Mantua, persuaded him the contact process was harmless. He agreed to come back in 1/2 hour. Tom Schley arrived on another visit to Ravenna. We talked about 1 hour, waiting for Chief Buchert, who never returned. I called his office. He was tied up with village officials, reluctant to talk. Said to forget about a contact copy. W-P AFB had called early today asking that the negative be mailed to them and he was anxious to do so. I persuaded him to wait until we could talk more freely. He agreed. I called back later at a pre-arranged time. Officer Dale Kernan said the chief was "out" and would be back at 4:00 tomorrow. I gave pitch for scientific value of contact prints; Kernan was encouraging. Had supper with Spaur and Schley. Spaur named Floyd after his middle name, frustrated that his UFO could not be called a name like "Ford" or "B-29".

Called Jim White for latest on AP and UPI news. Returned to Franklin, Pa. to stock up on tapes and get batteries recharged (the recorder's and my own) and pick up more equipment.

April 19: Charged nicad batteries, packed many tapes, etc. Called Jim White, got Youngstown jet report (one flew close for moment, heard buzzing noise). Called Buchert about 4:00. Out. I tried to persuade his wife to convince him of value of contact prints. Buchert came in, we talked. He said OK if OK with mayor; I called Mayor Robert Thomas, not on basis of Buchert's suggestion but to ask help in persuading Buchert to make contacts. Mayor agreed if on Buchert's own time. Would not call him, said unnecessary. Called Buchert's number, no answer either home or station. Finally left for Pittsburgh around midnight to see Tom Schley, who had interviewed Huston and Panzanella. (Beaver, that is.)

April 20: Left Beaver about 2:00 AM EST, visited Frank Panzanella at his home. Taped interview. Left about 5:30 for East Palestine to see Huston. Unavailable. Slept by highway, called Buchert at home around 10:00. He had given negative to Kernen to mail, found not yet done. I told him of mayor's OK. Buchert agreed to let contact prints be made. On arriving, I found that Buchert wanted mayor's personal approval, not my report of it. I said mayor did not want to do so. Buchert did not want to call mayor. Finally, Buchert gave me the negative for a receipt. Had prints made at Record-Courier. Vacuum table process. Returned them to Buchert (negative and a contact copy.) Measured his yard according to a picture of it on the film, to determine field of view of camera. Finally left with 5 contact copies of entire film, and 4 8x10 enlargements. Buchert sent Officer Kernen to Post Office with package including negative and UFO report, for mailing to Major Quintanilla. I took room in Ravenna Hotel and caught up on tapes, mailing, phone calls. Reached Huston, John Beighey (Rochester Radio Operator for local police stations).

April 21: Interviewed Rex Lysyj, proprietor of R&E Distributing Co. in Ravenna (mainly camera and tape recorder equipment), who had helped develop film for Buchert. He had come to Sheriff's Office early April 17 with fresh developer. Jerry Yokum (and, according to Spaur, Detective James Bullock) had also assisted. Technical details, from Mr. Lysyj and Chief Buchert:

Buchert had attempted three shots of UFO, for object alone (centered), object plus moon (moon to left and below) and object plus phone pole and wires. Object seemed to go up and down relative to nearby phone wires; Mrs. Buchert said it changed outline once from oval into "Saturn" shape. Buchert was inside on phone at this time (about 5:10 AM EST 4/17), and both saw it move left and right, within small area. Buchert later (around 8:00) took five pictures of his family and home. Removed film from camera, a Brownie Starmate, took film to Mr. Rex. Film developed in tank adapted for TC-2 one-stop developer bottle. Film loaded upside down, in such a way that arc-image streaks aim down. Agitation was continuous for 10 minutes. Camera had fixed f stop of F11, speed 1/60 sec. Film Ansco Pan, ASA 125.

Visited Record-Courier office to inform of errors in some of their articles on the P-15 UFO and Buchert's film, and my part in the investigation. Talked with Mrs. Carol Clapp, who was most apologetic. Worked on tapes in room at hotel. Returned to R-C office for long interview with Mrs. Clapp, who promised retraction-by-interview. Cashed check at drug store, met Spaur. He said Major Quintanilla had called him to repeat query about whether Spaur had seen the UFO for more than a few minutes. Spaur said only other call was brief one Monday -- "Tell me about this mirage you saw... More than a few minutes? Who has the pictures?" and termination.

Spaur had supper with me and discussed more about terminus of sighting.

April 22: Got up early to check morning sky. Drove part of "chase" route. Found out from Mrs. Clapp about Congressman Stanton's interest. Called Richard Hall to OK letter to Stanton. USAF released "Venus" conclusion, and Major Quintanilla called Buchert about 3:15 PM EST, saying he didn't see a UFO because the film showed nothing. Sheriff Dustman was perturbed. Interviewed Spaur for reaction. Neff still unavailable.

April 23, 24: Prepared letter to Stanton. Visited Tom Schley in Beaver, typed partial transcript from 4/23 interview with Spaur. Mailed to Congressman Stanton 4/25.

Wanted
STATEMENT BY DALE SPAUR CONCERNING U. S. AIR FORCE'S EXPLANATION OF CHASE
OF UFO FROM OHIO TO PENNSYLVANIA ON APRIL 17, 1966

April 23, 1966

After hearing the Air Force release, well, it's, I don't know how much investigation they made but evidently it wasn't a very lengthy one or it didn't involve me. First of all I don't think we have a satellite that can go this low, and I don't think we have one this large. I didn't know that if we had one that could stop or go or maneuver anytime it wanted to, and I'm definitely sure that I wasn't chasing Venus or observing Venus and running wildly over the countryside; I'm not quite that bad off. I don't think for a minute in my own mind since I think about what happened that morning that I would have gambled my life, my partner's life or any innocent person on the highway for something that I felt if I felt for one instant it wasn't important when I set out after this thing, after I talked with my sergeant was to actually disprove this thing. I felt, well, it will get light in a minute and I'll identify it and I'll know what it is, it's, I'll know exactly what this thing is. Unfortunately it didn't turn out that way. 

Second of all I have perfect vision, I don't have hallucinations, at least I don't know of any I have. If anything is wrong with the negative and the processing was bad or badly handled, I had nothing to do with those; I know Chief Buchert, I know him as Gerry, and we've been associated for better than a year, all good. He's a very fine policeman and a real honest one. As for my partner, I don't think the way he "likes" riding at high speeds, if he had thought for an instant that this wasn't something bigger than anyone or any of us had ever seen or been around I don't think he would have even gambled on a ride such as this. What Wayne Huston observed as it passed over top of him, which I don't think it's over Columbiana County at 1,500 feet traveling from east to west (sic) as it goes over top of another police car would also observe the identical, the same object that I did. I've never met the man before in my life before this morning. Also the same object that I observed and that Wayne Huston observed that another officer in Conway Pennsylvania could observe the same thing still traveling from the west to the east and to the left of the moon and which as I understand it, Venus was to the right of the moon, I don't know anything about astronomy but I'm positive of what I was chasing, and I also don't agree it was Venus. I know what I seen and I believe it and I'll never change my mind. I was a nonbeliever before and never had any thought in my mind that the Air Force couldn't explain every one of these things. I believe in what I saw and nothing short of heaven or hell is going to change my mind. 

And that's the exact way that I feel about it. I don't mean it facetiously; I don't mean that the Air Force is inadequate; I just think they're like I am, they don't have an explanation, and if they do and it belongs to us, just tell me ~~if~~ it does and I'll believe them. If it doesn't belong to us, by God say it doesn't, because I think I ought to know and if it belongs to us, tell me what it's doing in a small little county like Portage, roaming around over the country side. And there could be no scientific interest in this county at all; there isn't even any racial problems in this county, so it couldn't even be investigating them. That's all I would ask, if I could ask them face forward: if it's ours, tell me it's ours, and if it isn't by God they ought to help us find out what it is. 

Waitzel
STATEMENT BY DALE SPAUR -- continued

That's my only way of expressing it. I'm at a loss to say what their investigation consists of because I don't know.

(Weitzel: "How long did they talk with you altogether?")

How long did they talk to me? Ooooooh, probably two and a half minutes one time, maybe a minute and a half another time.

(Candusso: "That's the Air Force?")

Well, I assume this major was from Wright-Patterson, he's the only one that identified himself as having been connected with the Air Force. I'd say our conversation covered a total of maybe two or three minutes. The first part of the conversation or the telephone call was with the Sheriff, and he asked me about this mirage or vehicle or whatever I seen, or star, or something. When I told him how long I had seen it, how long that I, or how far that I followed it, why, he seemed as though he just accepted that explanation with no comment at all. . . . (slight pause) and his first immediate reply to it was "I want possession of the negative," or "We want possession of the negative," I'm not exactly sure of how, which way he put it, and I told him he'd have to talk with the Sheriff; the Sheriff, I gave him the phone and I overheard the Sheriff's half of the conversation explaining to him that this was the property of the Mantua police department and Gerry Buchert, and he would have to contact him. And from what they done with it then until this piece of paper you gave me now* is the first thing I've heard as an explanation, or, I don't know; maybe it's a pacifier; or whatever it is it's the first I heard of it.

Extract from tape recording made April 23, 1966, afternoon

* "piece of paper" -- UPI report of Air Force conclusion concerning 4/17 UFO

NOTES ON BUCHERT SIGHTING

The film does not appear to corroborate either Buchert's or the P-13 sighting.

The UFO marks, as the W-P analysis correctly indicates, are of less density than the background. The background is at zero image density, there being no frame boundary areas which would contrast with even a minimal exposure. Therefore the UFO marks are the result neither of light striking the film to produce them, nor of a dark object silhouetted against a lighter sky. Note discrepancies with the W-P analysis density measurements. Negative density is a standardized quantity; there is some indication from the W-P analysis that the UFO marks in question were never measured. The W-P measurement of lowest density corresponds to one area on the film where there is a broad streak; this is the lowest density anywhere on the film, but is nowhere near the UFO marks.

The details of Buchert's sighting, which must be considered independent of any lack of photographic corroboration, do not consistently point to, or away, from a "Venus" interpretation. On the one hand, the object, though round and at times "saucer-shaped," appeared smaller than (as Buchert remembers) Venus, which he has seen before. Also, the UFO was in the general vicinity of the moon, though definitely above it, and to the moon's right. It appeared ^{he} more distant from ^{said} the moon when Buchert looked a second time, and tried to photograph it, from his front yard, but only about twice as distant as the first time; if the original distance was truly small, double that would have been within bounds of visual error. Also, Buchert first thought it was a star, but ruled this out because (only because) it did not flicker, and was much brighter than stars still visible to the west. Finally, Buchert saw, in addition to the UFO, only the moon. If Venus was visible that morning, he should have seen a third object.

On the other hand, Buchert claims the object elevated, descended, moved left, and moved right, and that its shape changed when it moved horizontally. (It performed these "maneuvers" only one time.) Furthermore, he expected no difficulty, and seemingly had none, in trying to photograph the object by itself, separated in the camera's field of view from the moon. Venus should have been close enough to the moon to make such a separation difficult, with Venus centered (Buchert centered the UFO in the viewfinder, this photo). Also, Buchert, after turning in a verbal report, continued his police duties, and looked later, around 6:00, for the UFO. It was gone, but the moon was still visible; indeed, this is what he used as a reference point for looking for the UFO. Why was Venus invisible? Buchert could still see stars in the west, at this time.

That Buchert's sighting does not corroborate the P-13 sighting is clear from the fact that his UFO was stationary while he heard radio traffic on the chase, which began while he was driving to his home after first observing his UFO.

There have been a number of intriguing explanations for the UFO marks, but none on which everyone will agree. They are, as yet, Unidentified Photographic Marks. But definitely not pictures; on this, there is universal agreement.

DENSITOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF CHIEF BUCHERT'S FILM

Using Weston Photographic Analyzer, Model #877; zero-adjusted (checked) after each reading. Probe aperture: 1.0 mm.

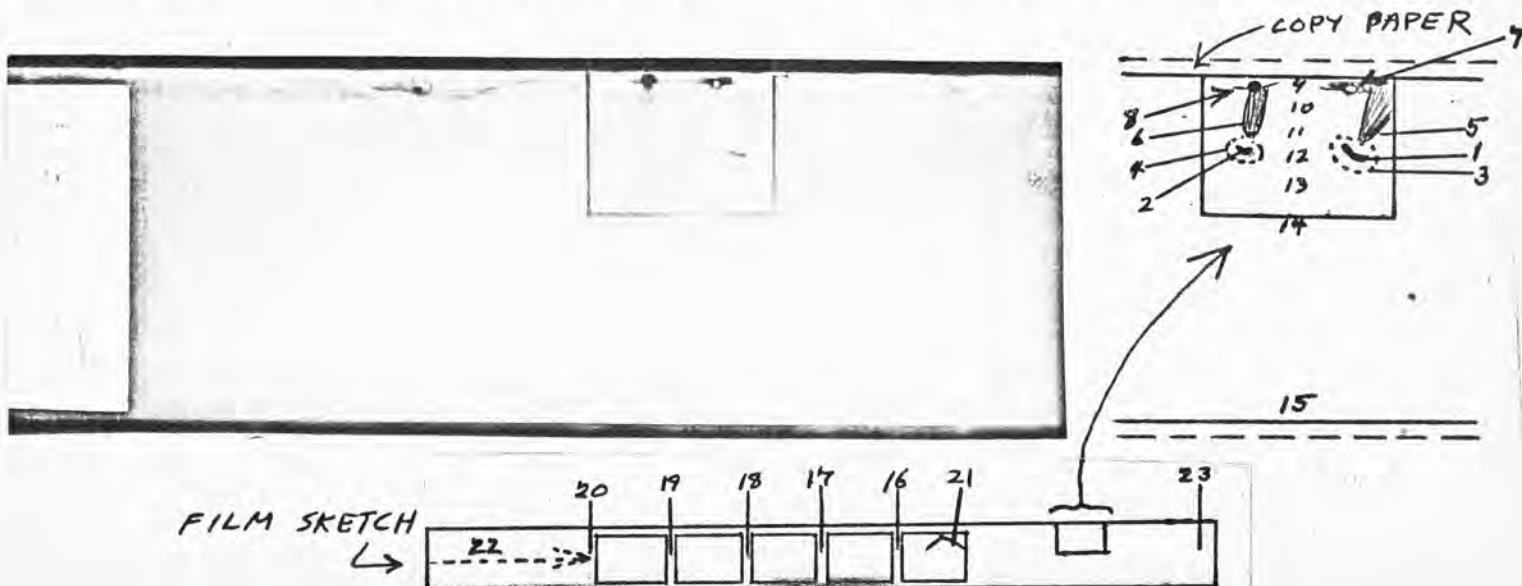
- 1 1.15 large UFO mark
- 2 1.21 small " "
- 3 1.21 light (dark on negative) space around large UFO mark
- 4 1.23 " " " " " " small " "
- 5 1.18 dark area fanning away from large UFO mark
- 6 1.20 " " " " " small " "
- 7 1.13 uncleared emulsion, spot at edge of film
- 8 1.02 undeveloped, but cleared, spot at edge (NOTE: a one-stop chemical was used....??)
- 9 1.35 space between 7 and 8, in edge area
- 10 1.26 background, near edge
- 11 1.24 " farther from edge
- 12 1.20 " still " " " , between UFO marks
- 13 1.18 " " " " " , beyond UFO area, on "line" between marks
- 14 1.14 18 mm from film edge, line between UFO marks
- 15 1.18 near opposite edge of film from marks
- 16 1.25 1st boundary space between family pictures, direction away from marks
- 17 1.18 2nd boundary space etc.
- 18 1.25 3rd etc.
- 19 1.22 4th etc.
- 20 1.16 what would be 5th boundary space etc.
- 21 1.93 dark area, white wood on house (dark on negative, light on print)
- 22 0.9 to 1.16 across from film left end to edge left picture ("left" -- "away
- 23 1.06 minimum density, right side (UFO mark side), in from UFO marks")
chemical streak just at right edge of film

"Zero image density" (boundary areas, average) 1.25 max., 1.16 min. This represents zero exposure to light. Is high, rather than around 0.25, because of fogging.

Because UFO marks have less density than background in their area, they could not be due to a bright object in the camera's field of view, which would have exposed the film and darkened, increased the density of, the film.

Following is a reproduction of the contact print of the film, showing UFO mark area and a section of one of the family pictures Chief Buchert took 3 hours later; and a sketch (which shows better in copying) of the UFO mark area. Boxed area on print shows area enlarged -- see next page.

Film has been submitted to Ralph Rankow, NICAP Photographic Adviser, for further study.



BUCHERT PHOTO
x12 enlargement

9

← 8

← 7

10

11

← 6

← 5

12

↙ 3

← 4

↖ 1

↖ 2

13

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

INTERVIEW -- telephone notes May 6, 1966

Phone call to Gerald Buchert, Chief, Mantua Ohio Police Department, this date (216-274-2551) 5:00 - 5:20 PM EDT (Pittsburgh)(Beaver).

Buchert will send film to me in Pgh for NICAP analysis. Wants honest evaluation, even negative if that is the case.

He is aware of Stanton's interest, and the Record-Courier articles on this.

Copy of Hector Quintanilla's letter to him, dated April 22, on his photo:

(photocopy of a sheet:) UNCLASSIFIED V66-14 SUBJECT: UFO (Mantua, Ohio)

1) Both images fall into the same frame area. 2) Neither of the minus density images are distinct enough to analyze. Average background density is 1.25. Image density 1.06. 3) If the object was bright against the dark sky, the images should be plus density. They are not. 4) The entire roll of film is severely fogged, which could cover up much detail. 5) The marks in the framing area of the film are outside the field of view of the $\frac{1}{2}$ lens. Therefore they couldn't be images. 6) UFO's are probably the result of processing defects due to old, fogged film and poor handling.

ANALYST: Major Quintanilla PI Lt. Benson LTB RLC

Letter to Gerald Buchert from Major Quintanilla: (no letterhead, plain sheet:) The most probable cause of the object which you were trying to photograph was the planet Venus. This was the reason that you were unable to photograph it with your camera. In order to photograph Venus you would have had to photograph it with a time exposure. This cannot be done with the type of camera you were using. Thank you for your cooperation and your interest in this matter. (signed) Maj. Hector Quintanilla, Jr. USAF
Chief of Project Blue Book

Notes on Gerald Buchert's original police report, a copy of which was sent to Major Quintanilla: At 5:00 AM EST April 17, I heard radio traffic between Summit and Portage Counties on my cruiser radio, about a UFO reported in Summit County, a bright light coming east. At 5:04 I saw a bright light to the southeast. There was no fog and the sky was clear. The object moved left and right, and tilted as it did so, seeming then to be saucer-shaped. It also moved up and down. I went to my home and my wife watched it going through these maneuvers with me. I photographed it with a Kodak Brownie Starmite camera. *My*

At this point in our conversation, someone came into the police station and Buchert interrupted the call to terminate it.

Quintanilla wishes this information not to be released to the press. W. White
A privately-supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest

Added "FTD TDEW Wright-Patterson AFB"

127

On the morning of April 17, 1966, I assisted in the development of a roll of film owned by Gerald Buchert, Chief, Mantua Village Police, upon which he had shortly before attempted to expose ~~three~~ images of an unidentified flying object observed by him ~~and his wife~~, according to his account, southeast of his home in Mantua, Ohio. Participating in the development of this film, which was Ansco Pan 127, ASA 125, was Mr. Rex Lysyj, owner of the R&E Distributing Co., in Ravenna. The film was developed as follows: having been wound onto the take-up roll by Chief Buchert, and unloaded in this wound condition before coming to the place of development (the Portage County Sheriff's Office in Ravenna, Ohio), the paper backing was removed and the film loaded directly into the tank, with the latter pictures taken going in first. Since the emulsion side of the film was toward the axis of the tank, the images of the exposures were developed upside down. The film was processed for eight minutes in T-C 2 one-stop developer, with continuous agitation, at 69°. The developer was mixed fresh, diluted 2/1/66 one/one with water, as in the instructions. Mr. Lysyj supplied the fresh solution. Immediately after development, we rinsed the film, still in the roll tank, for five minutes. Then we soaked it for four minutes in Yankee Film Dryer, according to the instructions. We then squeegeed it once and let it dry. The images to the right (film oriented right side up) of the family pictures taken later this morning by Chief Buchert, were two tiny dark arcs surrounded by a lighter halo, lighter than the rest of the film in that area. (That is, dark arcs and light halos on the print; light arcs and dark halos on the negative). At no time during the processing of the film were any irregularities allowed; instructions were followed throughout. T-C 2 was used intentionally to "push" development and raise the exposure index.

the office of
My information on the communications between local officials and Major Hector Quintanilla of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, is as follows: Sunday afternoon, about 3:30, Major Q. called the Sheriff's office in Ravenna to inquire about the report of a photograph taken of the UFO sighted earlier that day. (April 17.) My next knowledge of communication from W-P AFB is that Tuesday afternoon, April 19, someone called to inquire why the film had not yet been sent to their office. This afternoon, April 22, I heard from a ~~the~~ reporter of a local newspaper office that Major Q. had explained the film's "UFO images" as a flaw in the negative, and this information was corroborated shortly afterwards, to me, by Chief Buchert, who said Major Q. had told him this about 3:10 this afternoon.

I have read this statement which I dictated to _____,

W. B. Weitzel, NICAP (Police Officer)

and I find it to be exactly as I gave it to them. This statement is true in every detail, him.

SO HELP ME GOD. I agree that this information may be submitted to NICAP and/or by them to a U. S. Congressional authority, but only confidentially

WITNESSED BY:

April 22, 1966
William Weitzel, NICAP
J. A. [Signature]
(Signed)
Deputy Sheriff

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

Received from William B. Weitzel
a receipt for loan and return of my
film negative bearing an image of
an U.F.O., exposed by me on April 17, 1966
when attempting to photograph an U.F.O.

THIS RECEIPT CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLICATION
WITHOUT MY PERMISSION

hovering in the vicinity of Ravenna, Ohio.
I verify that the negative, when last
handled by Mr. Weitzel, before I regained
possession of it on this date and sub-
mitted it to the U.S. Air Force, was intact
and showed no evidence of mishandling
on Mr. Weitzel's part.

April 20, 1966 signed,
Gerald Buchert,
Mantua Village, Ohio,
Chief of Police

Gerald H. Buchert

April 20, 1966

A privately-supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest

I. The following is from AFR 200-2, reproduced in a book by Lt. Col. Lawrence J. Tacker, U.S.A.F., published by Van Nostrand, called FLYING SAUCERS AND THE U. S. AIR FORCE, which book was extracted and endorsed as "The Official Air Force Position" by "The Airman -- Official Journal of the Air Force" in its January, 1961 issue. AFR 200-2 was reproduced on pages 92-97 in Tacker's book. The Air Force subsequently disowned the "official" endorsement, but AFR 200-2 still stands as the basis for handling UFO sighting information, by Blue Book.

4b. Investigation. The commander of the Air Force base nearest the location of the reported UFO sighting will conduct all investigative action necessary to submit a complete initial report of a UFO sighting. Every effort will be made to resolve the sighting in the initial investigation. A UFO sighting reported to an Air Force base other than that closest to the scene of such sighting will be referred immediately to the commander of the nearest Air Force base for appropriate action.

15. Basic Reporting Data and Format. Show the abbreviation "UFO" at the beginning of the text of all electrical reports and in the subject of written reports. Include in all reports the data required, in the order shown below:

a. Description of the Object(s):

- (1) Shape.
- (2) Size compared to a known object (use one of the following terms: Head of a pin, pea, dime, nickel, quarter, half dollar, silver dollar, baseball, grapefruit, or basketball) held in the hand at about arm's length.
- (3) Color.
- (4) Number.
- (5) Formation, if more than one.
- (6) Any discernible features or details.
- (7) Tail, trail, or exhaust, including size of same compared to size of object(s).
- (8) Sound. If heard, describe sound.
- (9) Other pertinent or unusual features.

b. Description of Course of Object(s):

- (1) What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)?
- (2) Angle or elevation and azimuth of object(s) when first observed.
- (3) Angle or elevation and azimuth of object(s) upon disappearance.
- (4) Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s).
- (5) How did the object(s) disappear? (Instantaneously to the North, etc.)
- (6) How long was the object(s) visible? (Be specific, 5 minutes, 1 hour, etc.)

c. Manner of observation:

- (1) Use one or any combination of the following items: Ground-visual, ground-electronic, air electronic. (If electronic, specify type of radar.)
- (2) Statement as to optical aids (telescope, binoculars, etc.) used and description thereof.
- (3) If the sighting is made while airborne, give type of aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station.

d. Time and Date of Sighting:

- (1) Zulu time-date group of sighting.
- (2) Light conditions. (Use one of the following terms: Night, day, dawn, dusk.)

e. Location of observer(s): Exact latitude and longitude of each observer, and/or geographical position. A position with reference to a known landmark also should be given in electrical reports, such as "2mi N of Deeville;" "3mi SW of Blue Lake." Typographical errors or "garbing" often result in electrically transmitted messages, making location plots difficult or impossible. /"garbing" sic -- W/

Example: 89 45N, 192 71W for 39 45N, 102 21W.

f. Identifying Information on Observer(s):

(1) Civilian -- Name, age, mailing address, occupation, and estimate of reliability.

(2) Military -- Name, grade, organization, duty, and estimate of reliability.

g. Weather and Winds -- Aloft Conditions at Time and Place of Sightings:

(1) Observer(s) account of weather conditions.

(2) Report from nearest AWS or U.S. Weather Bureau Office of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface, 6,000', 10,000', 16,000', 20,000', 30,000', 50,000', and 80,000' if available.

(3) Ceiling.

(4) Visibility.

(5) Amount of cloud cover.

(6) Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located.

(7) Temperature gradient.

h. Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.

i. Interception or identification action taken (such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives).

j. Location, approximate altitude, and general direction of flight of any air traffic or balloon releases in the area which could possibly account for the sighting.

k. Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sighting(s). (See paragraph 17.)

l. Existence of physical evidence, such as materials and photographs.

17. Comments of Preparing Officer. Every effort will be made to obtain pertinent items of information and to test all possible leads, clues, and hypotheses concerning the identity or explanation of the sighting. (See paragraph 5.)

5. Guidance. The thoroughness and quality of a report or investigation of UFO's are limited only by the skill and resourcefulness of the person who receives the initial information and/or prepares the report. The usefulness and value of any report or investigation depend on the accuracy and timeliness of its contents. Following are aids for screening, evaluating, and reporting sightings:

a. Careful study of the logic, consistency, and coherence of the observer's report. An interview with the observer by personnel preparing the report is especially valuable in determining the source's reliability and the validity of the information given. Particular attention should be given to the observer's age, occupation, and education and whether his occupation involves observation reporting or technical knowledge. . . .

II. "What was this mirage you saw?" According to Deputy Sheriff Spaur, this is the comment with which Major Hector Quintanilla, Director of Project Blue Book, began his two and one half minute interview over the telephone from Wright-Patterson AFB on Monday morning, April 18, 1966. Before Spaur got into much detail about his participation in the UFO observation, Major Quintanilla asked if he had seen the object for more than a few minutes. When Spaur replied that he had, having chased it over several counties, the major asked who had the photograph allegedly (my phraseology -- W) taken of the object. Spaur told him, and the major terminated the interview. Spaur's next call from Major Quintanilla was three days later, when the major repeated his question about whether the object was in Spaur's view for more than a few minutes. Spaur replied in the affirmative, and the major terminated the interview, after talking about one and one half minutes.

The other participants in the P-13 sighting whom the news media widely mentioned as observing the same object, were interviewed by U.S.A.F. personnel as follows:

Wilbur Neff -- rider with Dale Spaur. Mounted Deputy, Portage County Sheriff's Department. Present at May 10, 1966 interview by Major Quintanilla in the Portage County Court House. With Spaur, he filled out standard U.S.A.F. report form, and contributed one or two comments on the sighting. Was not addressed by name by the major, in the context of the interview.

Gerald Buchert -- Chief of Police, Mantua Village, Ohio. Attempted to photograph a bright aerial object thought to be in the direction of the initial P-13 sighting. Visited by Major Quintanilla on May 10, 1966, after the Court House interview, at his home in Mantua. Discussed sighting for two hours. Major Quintanilla took a compass reading in the yard. Explained the apparent relative motion of the UFO with respect to telephone wires, as atmospheric fluctuations distorting the image of Venus.

Mrs. Gerald Buchert -- Wife of Gerald Buchert. Present at Buchert's discussion with Major Quintanilla on May 10, 1966. Witness to Gerald Buchert's April 17, 1966 UFO. The major did not ask her any questions.

Frank Panzanella -- Patrolman, Conway, Pennsylvania Police Department. Visited on May 18, 1966 by U.S.A.F. representative who claimed such investigations were not part of his regular job. The representative planned to spend 45 minutes with Panzanella so as to be able to visit former East Palestine Patrolman H. Wayne Huston in Columbiana, Ohio, but Panzanella took longer than this to prepare and type a one-page statement. No questions were asked, or verbal examination made.

H. Wayne Huston -- Patrolman, East Palestine, Ohio Police Department at time of April 17 sighting. With Panzanella, Spaur, and Neff, he watched UFO over Conway, Pa. Also witnessed it flying toward him and overhead, from the northwest, while in radio contact with Deputy Spaur and Mounted Deputy Neff. Pursued it with them to Conway from Unity, Ohio. Visited about May 19, 1966 by U.S.A.F. representative, who waited around the Rambler Garage in Columbiana, Ohio, where Huston now works (and was working then) full time. Huston had time to write two pages of testimony, but could not take time off from work for a thorough interview.

At the May 10 interview, Major Quintanilla stated that he had originally thought the P-13 sighting (my phraseology -- W) was of a balloon, but that from a check of wind and balloon conditions in the area, had disconfirmed that explanation. His 1st final evaluation, offered on Friday, April 22, 1966 was that Spaur and Neff had first been frightened by an Echo satellite, then chased Venus, and that Spaur, Neff, Huston and Panzanella (by implication) had likewise observed Venus to the left of the moon at the end of the sighting. He did not explain the bright spot to the right of the moon which had been seen for some time that morning, nor the object Huston observed flying from the northwest. His explanation on May tenth of the reason for the deputies' seeing the UFO due north and due south, as the cruiser traveled due east, was that the road has bends. There are at least thirteen major points to be explained in regard to this sighting, which the "Echo -- Venus" conclusion does not encompass. For five weeks (Since May 17) Major Quintanilla has refused to comment on a letter sent to him, signed by him (Certified) regarding these points.

Although Major Quintanilla stated on May 10 that he simply collects testimony and never doubts an observer's word, in an interview printed in the Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier from June 6 - June 10, 1966, he stated that an unpleasant aspect of his job is telling an observer that he didn't see what he thought he did, and he called the deputies' testimony an "exaggeration."

The presence of an Air Force investigator (Major Quintanilla) in Ravenna was the result of much effort by Congressman William Stanton, 11th District, Ohio, and of the strong stands taken by him and by Judge Robert E. Cook, Portage County Common Pleas Court. Judge Cook expressed his dissatisfaction with the Air Force's investigation to Congressman Stanton in letters, and both gentlemen had interviews with Carol Clapp, which were published in the Ravenna, Ohio, Record-Courier. (See news clippings section.) Congressman Stanton sent a letter of inquiry, including a NICAP report, to the Air Force Commanding General. When he failed to receive a reply, he visited the Pentagon in person and interviewed Lt. Col. John Spaulding, Director, Community Relations Division, U.S.A.F. Through Lt. Col. Spaulding's cooperation, the Portage County(-Conway, Pa.) case was re-opened.

Despite Congressman Stanton's optimism, that a thorough investigation would "vindicate the statements made by Portage County police officers," Major Quintanilla did not reverse his original conclusion, that the deputies had become frightened of an Echo satellite, then chased Venus. The Air Force sent Congressman Stanton their second final conclusion, identical with the first. Judge Cook objected strongly in published statements. A NICAP letter to Major Quintanilla, received on his signature by Certified Mail May 20, pointing out as yet unexplained features of the sighting, was not answered.

III. Publication of points in the photographic analysis of Chief Buchert's UFO picture has given misleading impressions. Perhaps the analyst was unaware of the details of the film's handling (see copy of analysis and Yokum's statement), but the conjecture about "poor handling" should have been supplemented, in publication of the analysis. "I don't know, but it seems that _____" is curious way to reach a conclusion, when the knowledge is easily available. Furthermore, point #5 in the analysis of the negative, stating that the UFO marks are outside the camera's field of view, leads one to wonder just what was examined for densitometer readings. The marks that were widely publicized are 10 mm from the edge of the film; the framing area starts at 2 mm.

Still furthermore, the wording of Blue Book's conclusion on this photographic item implies that lack of a UFO picture means lack of a UFO. Yet the analysis itself vitiates such an inference; "old, fogged film", "severely fogged" film could not be expected to register a picture in the first place. And the inference that the film was worthless is vitiated by the presence of five pictures taken three hours later by Chief Buchert. It should be noted that, while the press release makes much of the lack of quality of the film and the development, Major Quintanilla's letter to Chief Buchert more fairly points out that the available light was too low, although he indicates, too low for Venus, not too low for a UFO image. The impression remains -- "No picture, no object."

The result of all this has made Chief Buchert quite unfairly represented to the public. No press release has pointed out that he was ultra-conservative about the nature of the UFO, or whether it was noteworthy at all, or whether the pictures were of any value. His cooperation with Blue Book's request (NOTE -- "request", not "order") to keep the film intact, and his presence of mind in attempting to photograph the UFO in relation to a ground and to an astronomical object, have gone unnoticed; one is reminded of Deputy Sheriff Dave Brothers' remark (see page five, transcript of interview with Deputy Brothers.)

The following excerpt from a recent UPI release illustrates the sort of picture Blue Book's handling of the UFO situation elicits in the public eye:

WASHINGTON June 16, 1966: Unidentified flying objects, UFOs, sighted last April over Ohio are attributed to either hallucinations or phenomena in the sky that play tricks on the eye, according to testimony released here today.

Lt. Gen. James Ferguson, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, testified before a House Subcommittee last April that most of the flying objects are explainable. Under questioning by U.S. Rep. William E. Minshall, R-Cleveland,

NOTE ON CERTIFICATION OF NON-OBJECTION

At Dale Spaur's request, I recorded his conference with Major Quintanilla. Spaur wanted some back-up at the meeting; Huston and Panzanella could not be present. Spaur released this tape to Carol Clapp, Tom Schley, and NICAP. Major Quintanilla was asked, before the recorder was started, if he had any objection to its being used; he indicated he did not. This document (with the photograph) is a second photocopy. The photograph shows the recorder on the floor across from Major Quintanilla's desk; the microphone on the edge of a shelf facing him. The photograph caption reads: "Quintanilla conference 5/10/66 position of tape recorder seen from behind desk at which Major Quintanilla was sitting verified by (Weitzel)."

Testifying to the statement at the top of the page, and to the accuracy of the photograph, are:

William Weitzel, NICAP
Ross Dustman, Sheriff
Dale Spaur, Deputy Sheriff
Robert Wilson, Deputy Sheriff
Wilbur Neff, Mounted Deputy

I hereby release the tape recording made at my request by William Weitzel of NICAP and after my conference with Maj. Hector Quintanilla on this day of May 10, 1966 to William Weitzel, Carol Clapp & the Ravenswood Record-Lumier and Tom Schley of the Beaver, Pa. County Times, for use at their discretion.



Signed Dale Spaur
Title Deputy Sheriff #15
Date 5-10-66

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHUE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

The undersigned testify that they were present at and during the
aerial interview conducted by Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., of
Wright-Patterson AFB, in the Portage County, Ohio, Court House
at Lima, Ohio, on May 10, 1966. The interview lasted about two
hours, and during the entire time, a tape recorder and microphone
were across the room from Major Quintanilla, in his sight. The
recorder was running the entire time, and Major Quintanilla made
no objection to its being used to record the interview.

Signature	Title	Date
<i>James H. Whit</i>	Special Investigator, NICMH	5-14-66
<i>Robert D. Wilson BS.</i>	Deputy Sheriff	5-14-66
<i>Wilbur L. Neff</i>	Mounted Deputy	5-20-66
<i>James H. Whit</i>	Deputy Sheriff	5-14-66
<i>James H. Whit</i>	Deputy Sheriff	5-14-66

I, *James H. Whit*, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original document.

Photograph verified: *Don E. Keyhue #15*
Wilbur L. Neff, Mounted Deputy
James H. Whit
Robert D. Wilson BS

At privately supported fact-finding body soon



NOT
FOR
PUBLICATION

A -- Major Hector Quintanilla, Project Blue Book
S -- Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur
E -- Mounted Deputy Wilbur "Barney" Neff
W -- Deputy Sheriff Robert Wilson, Radio Operator
D -- Sheriff Ross Dastman

S -- (Filling out form) Here's a good question. Excuse me, sir. It says, "We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object, and note how much the object is covered by the head of the match." It'd take a hell of a boxcar load of matches to cover that thing up. This is at the time we seen it?

Q -- Um hum.

S -- You're not gonna believe it.

Q -- Put it down the way you experienced it. Don't, uh,

S -- The head of a match. This thing was like a three bedroom ranch home at the time right then. (Silence follows.)

S -- (Drawing) This part here; we couldn't tell how much was in there. This part here was so bright, the bottom of it, you couldn't tell how far anything went down in there. This was real bright; this front part would change its angle of trim. It would start toward you, you could just see part of the back third of it probably. (Cough) angled off, would come south of us, or go back on the north side of the road that we were going down.

Q -- Um hum.

S -- Or it would maneuver, this part would be a real bright, blue light, or a white-blue light, like a mercury vapor or something; a white light. The only thing that would change is, it would get brighter when it would go up, and then it would seem like it would lose part of its intenseness, of the light, as it would come back down to us. The only part we could see that was metal was this part right here; this is where we could see the one projection on it -- this is our radio operator (just entered room) that night too; he's studying, going to medical school (Wilson has on white uniform) there was this one projection on it that we could see at any time; there were a couple times it made the same maneuver we couldn't see it . . .

Q -- At this time could you see all this?

S -- Yes. Very Clearly. Very clear, there was no problem at all, as a matter of fact, the lighter it got, the better we could see it. At first we could only follow the light, and this one projection against the sky as it started to get light; silhouette, like when it would want to go, just like, if you were gonna make a right bank in an aircraft, and you drop your wing down and the top . . . comes into view. When it would do this, you could see this one projection on the back. Fifteen or eighteen feet long, it would appear to be. This is strictly an estimate.

Q -- Sure.

S -- We could see it very clearly. Now when it would go back north away from us, all we could see was the bottom of it, the light part; we couldn't see any other metallic part of it. The metallic part that we could see --

Q -- You couldn't see any shape to it, you just saw the light.

S -- Right, at first it was a completely clean cut light, there was no fog to it or anything; a beautiful brilliance to it and it was clear. . . . When it would go past us on the south side, and it would start back, when you looked out you could get the same angle on the other side of this ship, or whatever you want to call it. But that's the metallic part that you could see. You could see it very plain, and it was like an aluminum top that's been used for a while; it was definitely a silver, or light color, but it wasn't like chrome; it was silver color but it wasn't polished silver. Smoky silver. Dull silver, or whatever you'd call it; it was, I saw it very plainly.

Q -- How did it travel?

S -- Well, it seemed like the nose part of this thing, like when it was going, it seemed like it, this, when it was going forward, the nose part would be down. Like the light part of this outer rim here, the center of it, was reflecting up on it. Against it. . . . When it wanted to go forward, it would go at an angle like this; if it wanted to go straight up, it would level out; if it wanted to go to the right, it, just like it was gonna make a right bank only it was a --

W -- Slide.

S -- Just like it slid, it was --

Q -- (Fluttering hand through air) Did it ever do this?

S -- No sir, it never staggered.

Q -- It didn't zig-zag?

S -- No, sir. It was all, beautiful maneuvers; they were clean, they were, there was no, uh, there was no wasnout in them at all.

Q -- Ever go up or down, sideways?

S -- It made a climb for altitude in Canfield, when we first saw it it climbed for altitude about five hundred feet, it maintained that for quite a while, we got over Berlin reservoir, it went up some more; I'd say it probably picked up another two hundred fifty, three hundred feet, when it went to the north side of the road for the last time. When we got to Canfield, it went up, to about, I'd say pretty close to two thousand feet because it was getting up there pretty good. After it cleared the area of Canfield, over the city park, on the outskirts where we were going through, it came back down going in towards Columbiana county to I'd say about fifteen hundred feet, maybe a thousand, fifteen hundred. Right along there we were, by then we'd covered quite a bit of ground. And I suppose right along that area, I think about a thousand, a thousand five hundred feet, is where we picked up the other car.

Q -- Conway.

S -- No, sir, this was out of East Palestine. . . (silence)

Q -- Would you two gentlemen mind leaving for a few minutes? He can tell you all he knows afterwards. */(Pause while Webb and Weitzel exit.)/* When you, when you gentlemen first saw this thing, how low was it on the ground?

S -- Well, we, when we first saw it, actually it came up behind us -- see, Bob radioed first; to make a long story short: Summit County Sheriff's Office radioed, we had a, it's all 39.58 megacycles, and we monitor all traffic in our car --

Q -- Mm hmn.

S -- And Bob was talking to Summit County and Summit County told him that this object had been seen and the lady had just called in */(or "that a lady")/* that said there was this real huge bright object, higher than a street light and lower than an airplane, and, uh, you get quite a few calls (chuckle) in the police business. And actually, we were working on a traffic accident; we had just finished up, there was reports in, we paid not very much, well very little attention to it then, and I heard Bob tell the other operator you know, the lady must have drank too much, you know, to forget it. So we were finished up, and the man from the power company out handling the hot wires on the line that had been torn down -- we went down to a restaurant at the corner in Deerfield, bought three cups of coffee, and we came back out and we gave the man in the power truck a cup of coffee, since it was pretty cool out, and we each had one and we were drinking as we went, you know, just tear a hole in the plastic lid so you can kind of sip as you go along. While we were sitting there talking to him, well there was more traffic on the radio. So the guy in the truck, he made a couple of comments, you know, and I said maybe the moon's changing, you know, and some of the wierd ones are out tonight, something to this effect. So we started east on 224* we were going to come over to Brimfield, Mogadore area, which we have a lot of business, shopping plazas, couple or three banks and stuff that we keep a pretty close eye on; we patrol all the buildings. So we're starting back across 224 about a mile and a half or two miles east* of 183 on 224, when we passed an old Ford at the side of the road, a '59 Ford, so I told him we'd best check it out, and we went up the road and we made a U turn, came in behind the car, because at this point this is all standard work, I mean it's the same with any ~~of the~~ department --

Q -- Mm hmn.

S -- He gets out the right side, I got out the left side, he goes to the right front corner of the cruiser, which is where he stops -- sort of an insurance policy -- I got out the left and I went to the left rear of the other vehicle. I turned just to make a sort of visual observation ~~there~~ of the area, to make sure nobody had walked into the woods, you know, *(to take a leak or something.)* And I always look behind me so no one can come up behind me. And when I looked, in this wooded area, behind us, I saw this thing. At this time it was coming up. And there's a slight raise there; went up to about treetop level, I'd say about a hundred foot. It started moving towards us. At this time he was still looking straight ahead. And I --

Q -- You say treetop level, now: you don't get a distance that way except that you're on the ground.

S -- OK --

Q -- So: would you say that that's maybe thirty degrees elevation that you were on the ground and looking up -- depends on the trees, of course.

* AT THE POINT WHERE I SAID EAST ON 224 I MEANT WEST. I WAS A LITTLE MAD AT THIS POINT OF THE INTERVIEW.
Dale F. Spaul

S -- Well, now the trees that it was clearing was right on top of this one raise right beside the road directly to the berm of the road. And at the time that when I was watching it, it was, it was so low that you couldn't see it until it was right on top of you.

Q -- Mm hum.

S -- As it came over the trees, I looked at Barney and he was still watching the car, the car in front of us, and he didn't say nothing and the thing kept getting brighter and the area started to get light, and I looked at Barney this time and then I told him to look over his shoulder. So he did. (Someone chuckles). He didn't say nothing, he just stood there with his mouth open for a minute, and as bright as it was and he looked down. And I started looking down and I looked at my hands and my clothes weren't burning or anything when it stopped, right over on top of us. The only thing, the only sound in the whole area was a hum. And it'd just change a little bit. It wasn't anything screaming or real wild. But you, it'd sound like a transformer being loaded or an overloaded transformer when it changes.

Q -- Like an AC hum, something like that?

S -- Yeah. When it would -- no, it was like when you load it, when it changes like it, I don't know exactly. You remember the old pitchpipe in the school when the teacher blows it and then she moves up one notch on it? Well it's --

Q -- Oh yes, yes, yes.

S -- You remember, when you were gonna sing a song --

Q -- No matter what you sing, yeah --

S -- You sing God Bless America; that's against the law, now, isn't it --

(Laughter)

S -- Well, anyway, it's, I don't know exactly how long I was, uh, I was pretty scared for a couple minutes; as a matter of fact, I was petrified; and, uh, so I moved my right foot, and everything seemed to work all right. And evidently he made the same decision I did, was to get something between me and it, or us and it, or whatever you would say. So we both went for the car, we got in the car, and we set there, I'm, I wouldn't even venture if it was ten seconds, thirty seconds or three minutes, I just know we --

Q -- OK; let's back up. From

S -- OK.

Q -- From the time that you saw, this thing, up until the time that it came over you, how many minutes would you estimate?

S -- To come over top of us?

Q -- The time that you first saw it, you said, over the tree level. Coming up, 'til it stood over you. How many minutes did that take?

S -- Probably a minute. That's, I mean it didn't take very long, but it was too close -- when we seen it, there was just this one divide down there, and this one little wooded area that we couldn't see over the top of, and, I mean, I didn't, I couldn't even say if it came over --

Q -- Well, let's try and get a feel for the time, Dale --

S -- But it was no more than a minute or so, because it was right on top of us before I ever seen it. And it stood there, and it hovered, and we didn't make any, anything, and I didn't touch nothing, Barney didn't say nothing. And it moved right out east of us, and it came back down, and it moved right out east of us, just right away from us, and sat there for a second, right out east of us (sic), just right away from us, and sat there for a second, and nothing still didn't happen to me, and Barney looked all right; and I punched the mike button and the light came on, so I picked it up, and I first started to tell them, you know, this thing was there. And I thought, well, if I do, he'll think, I thought, well, maybe I'm too excited; so I just told Bob on the radio, I said, "This bright object is right here, the one that everybody says is going over." And he comes back with like something (sic), "Shoot it!" you know, or something.

W -- No, see, I thought it was a weather balloon, see; everybody's talking about swamp gas --

Q -- For God's sake, don't, don't shoot down weather balloons, 'cause --

W -- Yeah, that's what Shoenfelt says; Shoenfelt was in there too; everybody really got excited all of a sudden, see. And I thought, you know, it was one of these optical phenomena I thought, well, if it was a weather balloon, we'll shoot it down and send it back in to the government and clear this thing up once and for all after we got to thinking it over, it wasn't such a good idea to shoot it down, so much!

Q -- (garbled)

S -- So, with this thought in mind, I waited a minute, and I had some things to say, but I didn't. And it just set there, and I could, right out east of us, right straight sprung out in the center, I mean, well it was low, and it was big, and great God Almighty, it was like --

Q -- OK, Dale. When it came up to the top --

S -- Right.

Q -- To where it set in the east -- (~~it~~ garbled) didn't you say, it was going east, and setting -- how long did that take?

S -- It just -- it just moved right up and stopped; it didn't go any distance, it wasn't, it wasn't a hundred, it wasn't two hundred fifty feet in front of the car. And everything was lit up, it was real bright, and it was low, and at this time if I'd have had to describe it, I'd have said it just looks like a, a, a, hell, it was big as a house! This thing was, uh, it was no toy; this, this thing is, I mean, you don't look up and say, a guy holds up and says, "From this pin, how much would you say it was covered?"! This thing is, uh, big enough to cover the road! This is 224 from berm to berm, this thing would have covered. It was a, a, I never had this, uh, like looking down the middle of hell, or something, for a minute. And it was very bright; it'd make your eyes water. And, uh, Shoenfelt came in, my sergeant, and he says, "Do you have a camera?" And I said, "No sir, I don't have one." Or, I don't think I said "sir", I said, "No, I don't", or something. And he said, "Can you follow it? Or stay with it or keep it under observation; we'll get a camera car there, we'll get somebody there with a photo unit, we'll photograph it, so we can identify it." So I said "10-4", and we started moving up to it again, or out behind it; we went to 183; we had to go direct south; when we turned south,

it was right behind us then, right directly to the, to the rear of the car and we were going south; right directly behind us. We got back to 224 and we turned left, this is right at Atwater. When we got there, it put it right straight out the left window of the car, excuse me, almost due north of the car. At this time, it came straight south, just one motion, buddy, just a smooth glide, went right to the south side of the highway, took off east again, right of us, and we was pacing it, right along the side of it. Ground speed at this time would stay right at eighty six miles an hour. Right straight with it, right straight out the window, right at the corner of the windshield, Barney watching it, and me watching it, as it was going over the area, at this time, it was no more, after it gained altitude, no more than between three and five hundred feet, 'cause it was light on the ground underneath of it. It was, the illumination from it, when it crossed that big crane, where the strip field is and stuff, you could see it just as plain as you can see that telephone. And this was before daylight. It came, from the, through Deerfield circle, 'cause I know I had to go between a tractor and a trailer, it came back out and started east again, towards Berlin, right over Deerfield circle, they were trying to get two camera cars from Salem up there, two cars with cameras in them, and they were coming north, straight east; at this time, this thing, whatever you want to call it, picked probably up another hundred and fifty feet over the water, 'cause that's when I started the light up under it, wasn't it, right about Berlin, that it went -- come straight back across the car, to the north side of the road, and we started towards, through Mahoning county. This time it was around one hundred and three; clocking it, and we stayed right with it; ground speed was the same. Never, --

Q -- You were doing a hundred and three, this thing you say was to the left of you?

S -- Yes sir. Right to the left of us. It had come back to the north side of the road, and --

Q -- Was the window down, or the windshield was up?

S -- The windshield -- oh, the window. Yeah. The window was up. So we -- we followed it, the only time it raised, the next time it raised again, was it, we had to make one angle turn there, and it came back to us, this is the first good look to it, was just about then, right, just after we crossed Berlin reservoir we were going into Mahoning county.

Q -- Mm hmm.

S -- And it, and when it come back south towards us, and when it did, it angled, you could see it silhouetted against the sky, and the beam of it was (masked by unidentified cough) it was going straight behind it from the way it was going would stay behind it. And you could see the whole back third of a metallic object. Or, what appeared to be metallic to me, you could see it just as plain as, silhouetted against the sky, and I thought then we could identify it. I really thought that, that there would be something that I would know what it was. And I could see only one projection. And all this I kept radioing back. Everything that I, everything I seen, I gave it to the other cars, and Bob on the radio; I gave it to the other counties as I was going, so that if we cracked up, somebody would know that there was something there. So: the sergeant came in, and he said, "Well stick with it as long as you can, until we get another car in pursuit with cameras and break off your pursuit." So:

this goes on, it changed direction probably two or three more times, we got tangled up once at a couple of intersections (indistinct word) --

W -- We went into Canfield, it'd come across the front of the road, --

D -- Turned off to the right --

W -- And we turned off to the right. And it was over to the right of us then, and that throwed it back over to the left hand side of the cruiser. And it seemed like it just went off the road and quit; when we was going a little bit south, it turned and come right back with us. South.

S -- It, uh, it seemed like, uh, we only got, we only passed, uh, very little traffic, I uh, we, uh, --

Q -- When this thing was right in front of you, in the windshield, what portion of the windshield were you able to see it was (masked)

S -- You mean when it first moved out from us ?

Q -- Yeah.

S -- When it first moved out from us, all you had to do was set there, right ~~de~~ (unfinished word) -- just look out the windshield, it was right there; right dead in the center.

Q -- Well what portion of the windshield was it? The top? Bottom? Middle?

S -- Just about the middle of it. Just right straight through it. Well, now, I say the middle of it, it would be the (--)

Q -- Top --

S -- (continuing) top better third of the windshield. After it moved out in front of us. 'Cause it was, it was very close. I never seen anything like it. It was a monster. Uh, I don't, I mean it looked like a monster to me. The only time, the most altitude it ever got was, I know it wasn't over two thousand feet, that was when we come in, when it passed over the top of Wayne Huston. And that was about the highest point, there, until after we got to the mountain, before we went into Rochester. And then it changed again, it came back over once, this, Wayne got a real good look at it, it was all the way to the, all the way ~~de~~ down to the side of the road, it goes back north again. Then we started down through this one place, that, I believe, I don't remember the name of it, I wasn't reading very many of the signs at the time. And I was in strange country. So Wayne knows the roads real well, so he was helping me out, he was telling me which way I'd have to make the turns, as I went. And we thought we'd lost it; because we said, "This will be it, we're gonna lose it right here."

Q -- What time was this?

(Unidentified loud laugh)

S -- Well, (Mixed talking: Spaur, Neff, Wilson; "after five")

Q -- It was after five when you started (chuckle).

S -- I don't know exactly what time it was, but we thought we

(Final time determination unsettled here)

S -- I don't know exactly what time it was, but we thought we were gonna lose it. There was about twenty to twenty five seconds probably, through this one thing there. We came back out, we could see it again, we went through this mass of turns, and at this point it was just, I had my hands full of car!

W -- That's where 51 hooked up with 59, south of Rochester, next to the city limits, might even be in the city limits, but it's a bypass around the edge of town when you (indistinct; might be "get into the curves.")

S -- See, he knew the roads; they were just giving me instructions. And I'm driving. At this time, I thought we'd lost it, so when we came out of 51, and I first looked up in the mirror to make sure Wayne had made that last turn because we had power turns, you know, brakes screaming, slide through them, because otherwise you couldn't get enough power coming out. And just as I kicked in passing gear, and I felt my car correct, I looked up in the mirror to see Wayne and I seen the nose of his car go down, and he says, "It stopped," and I looked right ahead of us and there it was. It came right over route 51, and it lost probably half its altitude, so help me God, it went down over 51, waited as we came up to it, it went right up to the left, it went right straight up about about five, six, seven hundred feet and took off again, right at the same pace, so it --

W -- When it wanted to raise, it didn't go up partways, it just went straight up, then went out.

S -- Yeah. I never seen nothing like it, in my life. And on the other development, they were trying to get Chippewa barracks on it. And they finally got a radio operator awake. We were out of our frequency range, we were like a, where there were no more cars. So we started again, by then we were getting towards Freedom, and every time we'd hit a long curve, or anything, I'd started picking up air, I was running out of gas. Get to Freedom, still right there. When we got tangled up, it just slowed down. We came out of the other end of Freedom, going out of Conway, which I guess that's, starts into west Pittsburgh, --

W -- Seventeen or eighteen miles, from that town to Pittsburgh; you stopped at the end of Conway.

Q -- Yeah, I've checked it out.

S -- I saw this cruiser sitting in a filling station, and I told Wayne, I said there's another car; I was already out of fuel anyway, and my tires were pretty well burnt up, so I shot in this place, and we told him what was happening; he called his dispatcher, his dispatcher said he had the airport on the phone, which they say they didn't, now. And they even gave us a phone number for me to call back, which they say we didn't, but I did. And I don't know who I talked to, I forgot the guy's name, but I remember the last part of the number, it was four thousand, I think, or four hundred or something like that, when we went to the police station. At that point, when we first got there, and watched this thing, or watched the moon, or part of it, the quarter moon was here, and there was like where a man in the moon would have been in the pictures they draw, there was one bright spot right off the, about where the nose would have been on the moon, but the bright spot had been there, I don't know how long the bright spot

had been there, it was quite a while. But when we were watching, it would have been, at this time, -- of course that spot was awful small, it wasn't as big as this, that we were watching. And we were about the same, we watched it right through an antenna. Four officers standing side by side. Watched an airliner come out of the airport, go right underneath of it; he was talking on the radio, he told them that he thought, you know, asked them about, they had traffic on scrambling fighters to see if they could intercept it or identify it. When they started talking about fighter planes, we could see these planes coming in, now we were, they said they weren't there, but I s(unfinished) so I had another hallucination.

(Laughter unidentified)

S -- When they started talking about fighter planes, it was just as if that thing heard every word that was said, it went PSSSSHEW, straight up; and I mean when it went up, friend, it didn't play no games; it went straight up.

Q -- There were no fighter planes that were scrambled.

S -- There were no fighter planes.

Q -- Talked to the tower operator at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport.

S -- That's the one I called back. That's four oh -- I forget the number now. But I know it was three zeros in it, whatever the number was. Now, the radio traffic was about the airplanes. Now the other airplanes was right in the area, and we watched that airliner go directly underneath of it, all four of us. And all that guy'd had to've done was look straight up, 'cause it was setting right on top of him. And he went right under it. And at this time, its altitude and its distance, and at this time, it was as, if you were looking at it, compared to an object that you wanted to see, it was as big as a washtub then. Even after it went up the first time and we were standing right there watching it.

Q -- See, the tower operator at Pittsburgh didn't pick up anything. The radar didn't pick up anything, and that's why no aircraft were scrambled. (Low voice, not sure of a few words /W. W./)

S -- Well, now, see, this is, this is the different stories we get; we understand that there was, planes scrambled down here when this whole thing first started.

Q -- Talked with Colonel Hendricks at Youngstown; he scrambled no aircraft whatsoever at the time. He said he doubted if he could get his men up at five thirty in the morning to go out, and chase uh --

S -- Something that isn't there, Venus, and I understand it, really.

(Chuckle unidentified)

Q -- No, it's it's (sic) just that they're not on duty at the time, see, so there's . . . (discussion of what planes are in air, ready, etc. Spaur complains about brevity of interview when he called in from Pennsylvania. Quintanilla explains it was the radio operator, busy controlling air traffic.)

S -- No. I say that who their radio operator was talking to, I don't know --

Q -- No, he called radar.

S -- Because I know that, it was, the traffic that came back is that they thought there was fighters scrambled in the area. When they said "fighter planes," that thing really went, buddy, it really went. It didn't monkey around, it just PHSSSSSSW, straight up, just as though it could stand there and listen to us, it was like it had a radio on it or something.

Q -- I uh, I, I don't want you to feel that I'm disputing anything --

S -- No!

Q -- I'm just telling you what I know.

S -- Oh! Well, that's, that's, --

Q -- From your information, the information which I have been able to check, checking out all the balloon activity in this area, all the aircraft activity in this area, especially in the rocket(?) you were following at the time, -- at one time, because of the description I felt that maybe you were chasing a balloon. But, uh, there were no balloons in the area. And, uh, --

S -- Are those balloons propelled? Or, what, I was under the --

Q -- They go with the wind. . . . (discussion of wind velocity/ altitude differences that morning. Major Quintanilla produces information on this.)

S -- I didn't know any kind of wind was blowing.

Q -- This is one of the reasons I asked for that information; wind velocities not only that, but also the temperatures. In this whole area around here, especially the area in which you followed -- my job is to try to determine what these things are. It's not a very pleasant one, believe me.

Q -- What did you do, that got you this kind of a job?

Q -- I really don't know (chuckle) I've often asked myself that question. I checked out everything. I checked the radar, at Oakdale, which is further this way, and checked the one at Greater Pittsburgh. They had nothing. Absolutely nothing.

S -- There were no aircraft there.

Q -- There were aircraft, but they were aircraft that were coming in and taking off. . . . (Description of how radar is used, for bringing in airplanes. Description of network for radar pickup of satellites.) I checked with them. The only thing that they had over this particular area was satellite Echo. I don't know whether you realize it or not, but there are at least thirty satellites that are visible to the naked eye. And these things have a northeasterly and a southeasterly component. Except three. Three of them have what we call retrograde (motion?). And they have an east-west component. These are sort of bastard satellites, that weren't supposed to go that way, but the booster system kind of goofed 'em up and put 'em in a different orbit. And I checked thoroughly with my, I had a thirty five minute conversation, to put the information into a computer. And this is why I made the determination specifically, because of the directions which you gave me. That you had first spotted the

satellite coming over, and then focused on Venus. Venus at that night, that's a typical night, was at a magnitude of -3.9. Which is the brightest thing in the sky, except for the moon.

S -- Well, I (indistinct)

Q -- (Indistinct; could be, "Literally everything we've got.")

S -- Well, I don't know anything about it, but I -- I'm under the impression that -- two things I'm under the impression of, whether(?) I have a misconception of --

Q -- No, you aren't, Dale, it's not a misconception Dale, it's -- you're not the first one to chase that.

S -- No, I (indistinct)(less than 1 second) oh, I definitely, I won't chase a, I, I know damn well I wasn't chasing a satellite, first of all --

Q -- You weren't chasing a satellite, I didn't say you were chasing a satellite.

S -- As I understand it, a satellite orbits at about seven thousand three hundred and some miles an hour, to seven thousand five hundred. I may be wrong. Second of all, I think that if it was in the atmosphere as close as this thing was, as large as it was, it would have probably burned up at that speed. Second of all, I'm under the impression that our satellites doesn't stop and go and go up and down; this is one thing, I didn't know it could maneuver, but it was --

Q -- Well, they zig-zag. They don't zig-zag, 'cause a satellite is in perfect motion. But it gives the illusion of zig-zagging. It gives the illusion of movement. But it's not because the satellite itself is moving, it's because the eyeball does this. Your eyes, my eyes, and his eyes.

S -- Second of all, I'm under the impression that Venus rises out of the east, as the morning star. And this is probably another thing that's wrong, I'm not sure.

Q -- Depends. Depends.

S -- Huh?

Q -- Sometimes it'll rise right over you. ???

S -- Oh. OK. So anyway --

Q -- Venus -- Venus -- Venus today, (papers rattling) rises at 02:49 in the morning. And it rises 150° azimuth and 25° elevation. It doesn't have to rise low on the horizon, it can rise high. But it's on the ecliptic, yes.

S -- OK, so it's on the ecliptic. Granted, you have this. Now -- this, this thing is this large; this big and this low; and these people watched this thing from over in the Mogadore area; they report it, and I follow it, and I have Barney with me, we're going down the road; so you're gonna discount, well, there's two nuts; we're running Venus. Now Venus --

Q -- Now, now wait a minute --

S -- Well, wait a minute, let me speak -- (Voices mixed, loud)

Q -- you used the wrong word --

S -- OK -- well, --

Q -- I'm an officer in the United States Air Force --

S -- Right -- you definitely are --

Q -- and I don't call anybody a nut!

S -- No, OK. I have hallucinations then! But this is, what I've been saying --

Q -- I didn't say you were having hallucinations.

S -- What I'm trying to say is this: I'm going down the road; now this thing, that I am following, --

Q -- And treat me with the same respect that I treat you.

S -- I will sir, I am; I'll treat you with more respect than I've been treated the last --

Q -- I'm not calling you a nut, I'm not saying you had hallucinations.

S -- All right, the last twenty days! Anyway, this thing passes over another police car. He watches it go by, he's spotted it now. This is two cars, that's fixed on Venus. So we're going down the road. And we get into Conway, Pennsylvania, and this thing passes over the third car, that's sitting there. Not even on the same frequency, I never met, seen, spoke to before nor after this, another officer. He's watching the same thing as it goes over top of him, going towards Pittsburgh, as we come screaming in. Now: we watched it, four men, standing right there, four officers. Probably, you say anything you want, we stood right there, watched it, watched the plane go underneath of it, and watched it make a vertical climb straight up, and this, sir,

Q -- Disappeared.

S -- (continued) my knowledge is God's truth. Yes sir. The only thing left to even look at, after we went to the station and called the guy, was the one bright spot that was there, the sun was up coming up full and the moon was fading out. It was about a quarter of a moon, and right straight off that moon, which would have been to the south of the moon if you were looking west, was one bright spot. I'd say it was probably, would look like a pencil eraser, real bright.

W -- That was the mother ship.

S -- Huh? The other ship --

W -- That was the mother ship!

S -- Oh, the mother ship. You guys are gonna have me convinced pretty soon; aw, give me a tranquilizer and some coffee!

(Laughter)

S -- This thing was to, would have been to the left, which was the north of it, and we watched it, it went up, stopped, the airliner went under it, and then it went straight up. Just as straight up, as, well, just, straight up. And there -- I, uh, I wouldn't conceive of what, I know that people, uh, can get fixed on something maybe, or something like that; but I don't think that -- I don't see how that, uh, myself and another cruiser and another guy and all this could go over. Chasing Venus. I, uh, I won't concede a part of it. I know that there's, uh, this may be a way to discount it or what it is, but I know that it was there, I seen it very plainly, --

Q -- Dale, it's not a question of discounting; we're trying to get into the (one word fuzzy) we're trying to make the determination as to what it was.

S -- Sir, if I could tell you what it was, believe me, Major, I -- I myself, and like I said before, if I told you that I seen a Ford going down the highway, you'd know what I was talking about. And if you said, "Gee, there goes a Chevrolet," you would assume the fact that you identified it and I know what it is. The same thing with an aircraft, you say, "There goes a B-29," and I say, "Yep, sure is, that's an old war-horse," or something to this effect, and it's identified. This, I have never seen nothing like it before or after, or in the wildest far-fetched imagination. . . . I know you can have an optical illusion, or even see something moving, or like if you look through a piece of glass or something (--)

Q -- Yeah, distortions.

S -- (continued) I can go along with this. But nothing this big, that it ever even looked, or, in my wildest dreams I don't think I could have ever imagined or seen anything like it. Now -- what it is I don't know, where it came from I don't know, who it belongs to I don't know, but it definitely was there, and, uh, it'd take something just short of heaven or hell, one, to change my mind, me personally, because of the fact that I don't think that anyone could follow something that low and that far, and not be able to determine that they were actually in the pursuit of something, and I don't think that there could be that much mass hysteria. Possibly, somebody might be able to figure it out. I don't know. But this thing was there, I seen it very plainly; I seen it outside the car, I saw it inside the car, and I saw it from outside the car after I got to Conway, Pennsylvania. And I would hate to think that I gambled this man's life, and a lot of other people's lives, chasing Venus. I don't believe for an instant that I was following Venus. I don't know how to explain it. I don't have the slightest idea. But sir, this thing was as real as (indistinct word) --

Q -- You know -- Dale -- I'm just going to say this for whatever it's worth: you're not the first one it's happened to.

S -- Well, I don't doubt that for a minute, There're seventeen --

Q -- (masks part of Spaur's statement) Two weeks -- two weeks before your report came in, I had a report from a woman in Interstate, Iowa . . . (muffled)

S -- (muffled)

Q -- (muffled)

Q -- The Air Force doesn't pay me to, to how many cases they get, or (muffled)

S -- Well, I very well understand this.

Q -- We analyze it, and evaluate it.

S -- I very well understand that. And I respect your position. But --

Q -- I've checked every bit of activity. Every bit of it. And -- and then your -- the information which I got before -- is just the same information that you gave in the forms. (Papers rattling) On the telephone.

D -- Well, I, I feel this way about it. It's too damn bad that these things are running around through our sky over our heads, and the United States Air Force and the government doesn't know what's going on out there. Because there's too many of them, and there's too many people have seen it; and there certainly must be something to it.

Q -- Sheriff -- There are, like I said before, at least twenty per cent of SAC is up in the air at all times. For one reason only. Radar stations are all over this country. Not only in the interior, but in the exterior. They operate on a twenty four hour schedule.

D -- That's what I thought they did.

Q -- Did you? Three shifts. Eight hours, twenty four hours a day.

W -- What does the Air Force think these are, Major?

Q -- Hmm?

W -- What does the Air Force think these are?

Q -- Misinterpretation of conventional objects and natural phenomena. We have over ten thousand, two hundred cases on file at Wright-Patterson. This goes back to 1947. Last year, just to show you -- (muffled; movement at desk) Last year we had 245 astronomical cases. . . . (discussion of statistics) (categories into which reports are put are read: Astronomical, Aircraft, Balloons, Insufficient Data, Other.)

W -- What category does this go under? What Dale saw?

Q -- Place it in the category of satellite and astronomical observations. (Discussion of photo taken recently)

Q -- Sheriff, (indistinct) it's been unpleasant, but, uh, I've checked all the activity. (Indistinct) this is one of the reasons why I stayed home, so I could check all the activity. Because it's a lot easier for me, to check with my communications channels; sit in the office and just punch buttons, and say, "OK, get me Akron," "Get me Cleveland," "Get me Toledo," and then check out the information. This is exactly the gyrations I went through.

D -- Well, I'm sorry it's turned out this way, because I know a lot of people have come to me and they saw the same damn thing, and there's too many people involved for this thing to be a mirage, or somebody's imagination; I don't, uh, I'm like Dale; nobody will ever convince me it wasn't something actual that's up there. . . . (Discussion of capabilities of radar.)

(Those who had exited return to room: Carol Clapp, Tom Schley, David Webb and William Weitzel. County Prosecutor brings in coffee. Clapp and Schley take press photographs. WW questions Q; DW questions S.)

WW -- You seem to be skeptical about the physical reality of unidentified flying objects.

Q -- I'm not skeptical about anything. I look at people's statements, and the information that is given to me.

WW -- Well, may I ask your own opinion about these things? Do you think there is any common denominator among the reports?

Q -- No, there isn't. There is no parallel whatsoever.

WW -- You mean, out of all the ten thousand reports, they're all completely different?

Q -- I said that (indistinct here). There is no character(?) --

WW -- But you -- you categorize them.

Q -- (continuing) there is -- Of course I categ -- categorize them. The characteristics of satellites are the same!

WW -- You mean all these reports are due to satellites?

Q -- Oh, I didn't say that.

WW -- Well, I asked you (tape runs out. WW turns reel over to side 2.)

WW -- How do you account for the maneuvers of this UFO? If it was a satellite?

Q -- He had atmospheric noises. (Indistinct sentence. Laughter.)

WW -- Not that kind of noise.

Q -- No, it's, uh, there's atmospheric noise. I've seen it myself.

WW -- Visual?

Q -- Yes. This is the reason I carry binoculars with me at all times.

WW -- How about the fact that it was seen north, when they were driving east, and it seemed due south, when they were driving e-

Q -- They were changing direction.

WW -- Yeah, but -- see, they saw this to the east -- to the north when they were going east, it was to their left. And then when they were going south, it was ahead of them.

Q -- You have to get on the road, and I'm checking on the road, and this thing would have been to the left.

Q -- Look, young fella, I'm finished with you.

WH -- Does Venus move relative to the moon?

Q -- No!

WH -- Well this thing did.

Q -- Of course. Because Venus is on the ecliptic just the same as the moon is and just the same as (indistinct; could be "Jupiter")

WH -- Did they tell you that "Venus", that this object, uh, rose, at the left of the moon, that it was below it, it rose --

Q -- Yes, it rose up and down, and to the left and to the right.

WH -- And that's Venus.

Q -- Yes.

WH -- When they're standing still?!

Q -- Son, if you don't know anything about atmospheric convections, I'm sorry.

WH -- Well, Major Quintanilla, if you don't know anything about language, I'm very sorry! --- This is most remarkable!

(At that point, Major Quintanilla had left. David Webb questions Spaur:)

DW -- Did you tell him you saw the moon, and what you thought was Venus, and also the object at the same time? What did he say to this?

S -- He said I didn't see it. He said I had a misconception of a conventional aircraft, and hallucination of astronomical phenomena, or something, I don't know, it hurts a lot --

(Loud laughter)

Deputies' accounts consistent with their original ones. William B. Weitzel, NICAP

5739 Woodmont St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

May 17, 1966

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
Fort-Hatterton AFB
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major Quintanilla,

After our talk last week in Portage County, I was afraid you had gone away with some ill feeling, as you seemed to be angry that I was asking you questions following the meeting. Let me assure you that I was only concerned that you get the full picture of what happened on April 17, as I am still concerned. I am just as anxious as you are that an objective evaluation be made, and I do not see how it could be objective if insufficient data were collected. I am sure that you do not consider seriously reports of this sort: "I saw a light in the sky some time last year." But you seemed to be interpreting the report offered by the four police officers, particularly Dale Spur, as this: "I saw a light in the sky the morning of April 17, and followed it southeast." Frankly, Sir, I don't see that such a skinny report would be worthy of your attention in the first place. If this is all you thought it was, it must have seemed a terrible waste of time to have to drive across Ohio and back just to have it rejected to you. If that is the case, I have much admiration for the patience you showed at that meeting, despite a little heat between us at the end.

I will, likewise, understand if you choose not to answer this letter. It is, I know, difficult to change your mind or admit an error; even if after reading my comments below, you still feel you are right, you will probably think it a waste of time to reply. However, I feel it is only fair to offer you the opportunity to change my mind. I am willing to have it changed; indeed, I would not have done a complete job of investigating this case unless I sought your informed opinion. I hope you will extend to me, then, the courtesy of proving me wrong, at least; or if on reconsideration you decide the opposite, of admitting it. I will not be happy to be proven wrong, of course, but that would be totally irrelevant to what should go into my record.

I shall offer my comments in this manner, or from this point of view. Assuming that you were aware of certain features of the testimony offered to you orally on May 10, and that these features, if taken seriously, would of course rule out the explanation of the sighting you have decided upon, you were looking for a criterion, or criteria, for ruling out the features to rule in the explanation. Let me be a little more direct. I don't mean that you seek the explanation first, then the data, and eliminated the data to fit the explanation; that would be ridiculous. I mean instead, that you want data to fit (for other reasons than that the explanation had to be preserved) before making your evaluation, to all facts those features.

On reading that over, I see a lack of objectivity. If it irritates you to do me answering anything at all, from a scientific point of view, since it is impossible to solve a problem with assumptions, I will make this as well one of my questions, even though that is stretching objectivity a bit! (Some assumptions must be granted for a problem to ever be solved.) But to be rigorous, I will begin there and not assume an answer from you one way or the other.

1. Did you choose to disregard those features of the testimony that did not fit your explanation?

I want to confess that if you answer "yes" there, I won't expect a reply from you, as the whole point of this letter is to have you fill in for the record your specific reasons for putting away certain parts of the testimony. Here are those specific points are meant as questions -- "What reason is there for not taking into account in an evaluation?" for "_____", the following:

2. The UFO's size: "When born to born on 224" Gurner said. He, 224 is a road sized, 3-lane road. Also, he added when filling out the questionnaire, "As big as a three-hundred ranch home." and, "Well, it was big as a house."

3. The UFO's brightness: "Like looking down the middle of hell, or something, for a while. And it was very bright; it'd make your eyes water."

4. The UFO's change in brightness: "Moving on its height: 'It would get brighter when it would go up, and then it would seem like it would lose part of its brightness, of the light, as it would come back down to us.'"

5. The UFO's sound: a humming noise that would change pitch.

6. The UFO's being seen to the north or south: From the enclosed map, and the statement that it was to their left when traveling toward Fairfield, north; 11:00 AM, then they turned down 103 near Fairfield, it was behind them. At that time it was now to their right, then north. Also, after leaving Fairfield, they pulled testimony: "And we turned off to the right. And it was over to the right of us then, and that turned it back over to the left hand side of the cruiser. And it seemed like it just went off the road as quit; when we was going a little bit south, it turned and come right back with us. North."

7. The lit-up ground under the UFO: "It was no more, after it gained altitude, no more than between three and five hundred feet, because it was light on the ground underneath of it. It was, the illumination from it, when it crossed that big crane, where the strip field is and stuff, you could see it just as plain as you can see that helicopter. And this was before daylight."

8. The UFO's metallic appearance: "That part's the metallic part that you could see. You could see it very plain, and it was like an aluminum too that's been used for a while; it was definitely a silver, or light color, but it wasn't like silver; it was silver color but it wasn't polished silver. Dull silver, or whatever you'd call it; it was, I see it very plainly."

9. The UFO's projection: "When it would do this, you could see this and projection on the back. Fifteen or eighteen feet long, it would appear to be. This is strictly an estimate."

10. The UFO's maneuvering: "This front part would change its angle of trim. . . . there was this one projection on it that we could see at any time; there was a couple times it made this same maneuver we couldn't see it." At this time the object appeared to be about 100 feet away.

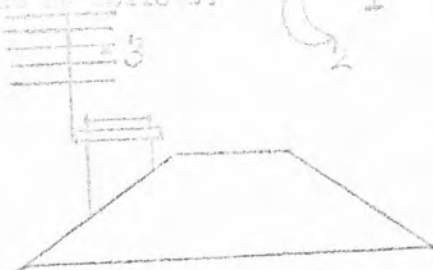
11. The UFO's being more visible when it (the sky) became lighter: "Very clear, there was no problem at all, as a matter of fact, the lighter it got, the better we could see it." An object that was totally illuminated would have gone down in (relative) brightness.

12. The nature of the UFO's disappearance: "We watched it through an antenna. . . . it went straight up; and I mean, when it went up, friend, it didn't play no games; it went straight up."

There are two points about number 12, sir. First, the mobility of the UFO is indicated by its moving from between (in line of sight) TV antenna wires, to above them; then, in your own word, is "disappeared". (Spear agreed to that word.) Second, while not radar from Adelaide or Greater Pittsburgh, which are hidden by tall hills to the south of the site of the sighting's terminal position, fail to pick up an object so low, which then rose rapidly without playing "no games"? The radar might not have been covering that area when the UFO rose from its "hiding place" to out of sight.

This latter part of the event raises a other problem: a second UFO? "There was one bright spot right off the, above where the nose would have been on the (and in fact) moon, but the bright spot had been there, I don't know how long the bright spot had been there, it was quite a while. And when we were watching, it would have been, at this time, -- of course, that spot was awful small, it wasn't as big as this, that we were watching." From a photograph made from where Spear stood, the three objects were placed as follows: (including Spear's testimony)

1) "Bright spot"
2) "Bright spot"
3) "Bright spot",
seen here behind a
TV antenna



Actually, the moon was a little higher.

There is one other thing I would like to ask, Major Quintanilla, following up a request I made after the May 10 meeting. The police officers in Ohio who observed three jets behind a large, bright ball going horizontally across the sky in your's direction, for a minute or so, reported that the two jets in the rear were turning toward the front one (directly behind, about a mile, the object) from another direction. The jets were seen scrambled or diverted by anyone on the ground. Could it be 6 that jets after requested permission to chase an object, have permission granted, and then you could not get this information if you phoned your request something like, "Are any jets scrambled?" This is why I thought a specific question from you would elicit a more direct reply, about a pilot's action in case report not made under orders. Did you get an answer to your question? I'll make that number 13, just to be sure.

14. When any jets involved in any way with the UFO? Is not under orders, as you indicated, did some pilot on his own initiative, or with permission, observe a UFO?

15. Of course, it would probably be almost impossible for you to find out if a pilot went off course during a practice, or otherwise, flight, to "chase a flying saucer"! You are probably well aware of how glibly pilots are about reporting such things.

That is all the questions I have, sir. Except for a request on behalf of this paper: if you release any further findings to the news media about this, he would appreciate it, I am sure, if you mention not only him, but also Wilbur Bell, Frank Quintanilla, and Wayne Huston as observers. Your looks rather foolish to the public, and his ability to perform police duties has been eroded by publicity that he chased a planet. He wishes that the press (TV, radio, etc.) had been fairer in naming the other officers involved. I am sure you will do this if the opportunity arises.

I'm afraid I forgot something, but this positively will be the last question.

14. One reason is there for not taking into account that Wayne Houston saw the object coming from the west (northwest) with Spear and Wolf directly behind it, that go overhead and down the road southeast as they followed it? "Anyway, this entry comes over another police car. As watches it go by, he's spotted it now." Another was standing outside his car, expecting Spear and Wolf at any moment, having been listening to radio traffic. Perhaps this will be submitted by those checking in the Pittsburgh area for you, from either north or Greater Pittsburgh.

It may be that nearly all the points I raised could be easily explained by an intuitive answer, such as "hallucination". That is a very uncomfortable word, of course. And I realize that, being in the high position you are, you would prefer a less loaded term.

But as it stands, sir, the sighting reported by Spear and Houston and Wolf by you, has not been explained. Calling "mistake" as you did, then you told him to tell "what he saw". Now, you and I both know that what people see is not, sometimes, what it is. If there is any indication that Spear was having an "hallucination", or perception of a stimulus, I think that should be said. Temporarily, I know of nothing indicating this. But if there is the situation, as seems to be implicit in your conclusion, I think it should be said in a forthright manner, and substantiated. I am sure you have data other than that which I have, about this event. It is only fair that you make known what it was that accounts for the points I raised above (except for number 13), whether one reason or many.

Now your point of view, I have it in one simple reason: that will make it the most easier to reply to me. But whether one reason or many, I hope you will reply soon.

Respectfully yours,

William E. White

William E. White

FORWARD TO ADDRESSEE ONLY

INSTRUCTIONS TO DELIVERING EMPLOYEE		
☐ Show to whom and when delivered	☐ Show to whom, when, and address where delivered	☒ Deliver ONLY to addressee
(Additional charges required for these services)		

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CERTIFIED NO. 161983	SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY
INSURED NO.	
DATE DELIVERED MAY 20 1966	SHOW WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested)

350-10-71.10-7 GPO

NOTES ON CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS ARTICLES

These sections are almost exclusively related to the investigation performed by Major Quintanilla of Project Blue Book. The point of the correspondence with Congressman William Stanton was to inform him of the adverse reflection on the officers in his district, resulting from the U.S.A.F. - sponsored conclusion that the deputies had become hysterical at the sight of Echo, then chased Venus out of the state, and the lack of basis for that conclusion.

I informed other congressmen who have expressed an interest in the UFO topic, and the Air Force's role, of my communication with Congressman Stanton. The May 17 letter to Mendel Rivers was also sent, in substantially the same form, to Congressmen Ayers, Bates, Ford, Fulton, and McCormack. Speaker McCormack has, for many years, upheld the viewpoint that the Air Force's handling of UFO reports should be more open.

Some of these reproductions are of carbon copies; they may be of poorer quality; corrections were made on originals with chalk-paper.

The "enclosure" mentioned in the April 23 letter to Congressman Stanton, introducing me to him, referred to a newspaper clipping of an interview expressing my views on UFOs (conservative) and background.

Regarding personal opinions: It should be clear that I have expressed strong views and dissatisfaction with the Blue Book program. This dissatisfaction is based on close observation of the Portage County investigation as well as other sources. I have no reason to believe the Portage County investigation is atypical of Blue Book procedure. The Portage County case (including all participants in and out of the state) is ample grounds for dissatisfaction, aside from other well documented cases (see NICAP's publication, THE UFO EVIDENCE.) My opinion of Major Quintanilla is that he has a deep-rooted belief that no UFO has ever indicated the existence of advanced technological techniques. His stated criterion for persuasion to the contrary is testimony of astronomers who would report the approach of spaceships. This is part of the unfortunate stereotype of "UFO" — if a UFO is not a spaceship, just arrived from a distant world, it must be a conventional object or natural phenomenon. Between these two poles there is a wealth of possibilities. One is reminded of Dr. Allen Hynek's April 5 testimony before the House Armed Services Committee (#55) this year, regarding "poverty of hypotheses."

Such a deep-rooted opinion is naturally going to stand in the way of an objective evaluation of data. As has so often happened, if a witness gives testimony that points to the existence of a device produced by an advanced technology, he must therefore be disbelieved; either his objective evidence is incomplete, or his subjective experience is out of whack with reality. Certainly, in this P-13 case, the "they're all conventional" opinion is out of whack with the observations. But why must the presumption be favored over the facts?

This is not of simply academic importance. UFO witnesses are subjects of a strange experience, apparently beyond the realm of conventional explanation. To refuse to widen the boundaries of that realm to include a (by now) monumental accumulation of reports, ill befits our scientific ideals. On the level of the individual citizen, be he a UFO witness or not, anxiety is increasing lest he be one; if he is, his anxiety becomes conscious pain, from social disapproval. Fortunately for the witnesses, but unfortunately for the Air Force, the disapproval is shifting from the data-producers to the data-explainers. The problem remains, however; the data-producers are discouraged from performing their role. A rather obvious answer to the frequent question, "If these things are flying around, why don't more people report them?"

Item one: There is no mention of the fact that officers Wayne Huston, East Palestine Police, and Frank Panzanella, Conway Police, participated in the observation of the UFO, at times independently and at times together. This lack of mention puts the responsibility on the shoulders of Spaur, Neff and Buchert, and the wording of the report implies that Spaur alone was responsible for the mistaken observation which resulted in the chase. This is a significant lack, because of the strong corroboration offered by Huston and Panzanella: Huston observed the object, in detail, flying overhead while he waited at an intersection through which, from hearing radio traffic, he expected Spaur to drive, and while he waited outside his cruiser, heard them coming on his radio. When the object went by, followed by Spaur and Neff, Huston went after them, comparing notes with the Portage County officers over their radio. Panzanella observed the object before all three officers pulled up to his parked cruiser in Conway, and all four watched it maneuver in relation to ground and astronomical reference points.

Item two: Regarding the "satellite" explanation, this is impossible. When Spaur and Neff first observed the object, it was moving toward them over some trees, near the road where they had left their patrol car to investigate an abandoned automobile. It moved directly overhead and (1) hovered, (2) appeared 30-45 feet in diameter at an estimated distance of 150 feet, (3) emitted such a bright light that it hurt Spaur's eyes, and illuminated the ground in an isolated area around their car, (4) emitted a buzzing-humming noise, which (5) rose in pitch when it resumed its movement from hovering. (6) The brightness increased at this time, and as the object moved away (Spaur and Neff were in their cruiser by now), (7) illuminated the ground in the following determinate manner; when the object moved forward, it tilted and the spot of light on the ground moved behind a point which would be vertically below it. In other words, the UFO "hosed down" when it moved forward, and emitted the light parallel to its own normal axis, as would a (light from a) flashlight. As the patrolmen sped after it, its ground spot illuminated various objects in fields over which it flew; and the road, as it passed in front of the officers' line of travel. (8) During the pursuit, the object had a definite shape, drawn by Spaur without prompting or presentation of any verbal or photographic suggestions, on the evening following his sighting, as appears in the enclosed small composite photograph, upper ~~left~~ right sector. This drawing is reproduced on page 5 of this letter. The original copy is still in my possession.

Item three: Regarding the reference to Spaur's eyes focusing on Venus, an attempt to explain the latter part of the sighting, the following points, referring to numbers on the photograph (and tracing of the original), were largely corroborated by Huston and Panzanella. Venus would certainly not present the following characteristics: (1) A projection from the trailing edge of the object. (2) A "dome-shaped" top. (3) An intensely bright forward portion. (4) An intensely bright "cone-shaped" bottom portion, either vaporous or solid, but too bright to look at comfortably. (5) A bright trailing edge. (6) A depressed portion of satiny (not shiny) metallic appearance on the rear third of the object -- the rest of it brilliantly self-illuminated, this portion reflecting available light from a dawn sky. (7) A sharp "drop-off" at the rear of the "dome", at the slanted portion of which the projection began. (8) A brilliant rounded "undercarriage", at times invisible because of the brightness of the bottom cone of light. (9) A boundary between self- and externally-illuminated portions of the object.

Item five: The break in the sighting implied in the Air Force's analysis has what I am sure is an unintended (see Item six) correspondence to a fact in the sighting, but an unfortunately conflicting correspondence: at one point in the pursuit of the object, Spaur, Neff and Huston lost sight of it as they concentrated on negotiating a complex of bridges near Rochester, Pa. When they emerged, the object had dropped considerably lower (from about 1000 to 100 feet of altitude) and appeared to have been waiting for them. As they came into view (admittedly an ambiguous way of putting it) it sped up and regained its altitude. These altitude changes, wherever they occurred, were always rapid and not attributable at any time to dips in the road, or the like.

Item six: So far as I am aware, the extent of interviewing of the participants in this sighting, done by the Air Force, is as follows: Neither Neff, Huston, nor Panzanella have been interviewed. Spaur was interviewed by phone on Monday and Thursday, for a total time (his estimate) of not more than four or five minutes. Furthermore, Spaur had the distinct impression that when he began relating interesting details of the sighting, the investigator backed off. The investigator, Spaur says, brought up the possibility that he had observed the object for only a few moments, and did not pursue the fact that Spaur pursued the object for 86 miles. This is why I mentioned in Item five that I believe the Air Force to be unaware that Spaur actually did have a break in his sighting, and of the detail and significance of this break.

Item seven: Regarding the "double image" on Chief Gerald Buchert's film (please refer to the sketch of the composite photograph, locating these images, and the reproduction of an 8x10 print showing them); since the available light was low, no frame boundaries, as would be formed by contrast of available light exposure with light occlusion within the camera, separate the two images. Thus it is indeterminate whether each image might be due to separate exposures of one object in different frames, or two different objects in a single frame. I am making no judgment on the images, but whether they are due to an anomaly in the history of the film, or to objects photographed in the field of view, the wording of the report seems to imply that these distinctions were ignored.

Item eight: That the image(s) were "probably due to 'processing defects due to . . . poor handling'": this implies that something went wrong during development of the film. The carbon copy of the signed statement by Deputy Sheriff Gerald Yokum certifies that no irregularities were present during processing: fresh developer was used and the operation was carried out to the letter, in the photolab of the Sheriff's Office in Ravenna. The wording also indicates that no effort was made by Project Blue Book to ascertain this. To my knowledge, none was. Deputy Yokum's statement also indicates the exchanges between Wright-Patterson AFB, where Blue Book is located, and the Sheriff's office. Deputy Yokum is held in high esteem for his photographic ability. His verbal response to the Air Force's opinion of his work in this operation was worded rather harshly.

Item nine: That the film was old and foggy: the implication is that the film was too poor to make a good reproduction. The small photograph of the contact copies of the entire strip of film up to the last picture taken shows that five copies of good contrast and detail were recorded on a portion of the film immediately adjacent to the area exposed by Chief Buchert in an attempt to

photograph the UFO he observed. These five pictures were made less than three hours later in the morning, outside his home from almost the same spot as the first three attempts. This shows that, while the film was indeed slightly fogged, it was not in the rough shape implied by the news release. Again, let me emphasize that I hold no brief either for or against the quality or significance of the "UFO image(s)." I am only pointing out that they cannot be dismissed in an offhand manner.

The two contact prints seen in the composite photograph, by the way, were made at different exposures to bring out separately the good contrast in the later pictures, on which contact copy the "UFO image(s)" area is much darker. On the other print, this area is more compatible to inspection. On the original film, of course, both areas are simultaneously visible, with good detail.

Item ten: I have examined this film in much detail, such that I could observe even grain variations, and could find nothing on it corresponding to an image of Venus, as the press reports state it bears. Venus would have shown in a print as a bright point. If the Air Force means the arc-shaped dark streaks with their associated lighter and medium-dark patterns are some "double image" of Venus, this interpretation of the report does not stand up, for obvious reasons. If the interpretation is of the bright spot appearing on the print (see copy) of the "UFO image(s)" area, I can certify that this spot is not ^{an} exposed, dark, area on the film, but an area where the tank fluid failed to ~~expose~~ the emulsion at all. If by "Venus" is meant the dark spot, I would suggest, aside from the point that Venus would have appeared bright, that this dark spot, on close examination is (seemed to me to be) due to a bubble on the film which prevented development. Its outline is sharp and runs to the edge of the film, which was held, in the tank, by a device which gripped its rims. The film, incidentally, was agitated continuously; notwithstanding this, small anomalies could have occurred adjacent to the rim. The "UFO image(s)" are, however, located a good third of the way in.

Item eleven: The press report makes no mention of the fact that Chief Buchert observed the object maneuvering, in his field of vision both above and below some nearby horizontal telephone wires. Whether "his" UFO was the same one observed by Spaur, Neff, Huston and Panzanella, or not, and whether the film's image(s) bear any resemblance to the object Chief Buchert observed, his sighting cannot be discounted by a brief reference, pejorative when not in context, to "table saucers". Whatever it was, it definitely was not Venus.

And just as definitely, neither was the sighting by Spaur, Neff, Huston and Panzanella.

The Record-Courier article on my activity concerning UFO phenomena headlines this as a "hobby". For many years the Air Force has referred to civilian UFO investigative organizations as "hobby clubs". While some indeed may be conducted on that level, I know of no one doing volunteer investigative or research work for NICAP who considers such work as anything less than a serious avocation. I share NICAP's patriotic aim of making information on at least an interesting and at most a vitally important topic available to the public. It is for that reason that I and Mr. Hall believe the information enclosed should be brought to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel

5709 Woodmont St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

May 6, 1966

Honorable William Stanton
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stanton:

The Washington office of NICAP has informed me of your reply to my letter to you of April 23, discussing the Air Force's conclusions regarding the Ohio-Pennsylvania UFO sighting of April 17. I am pleased that you found the letter informative, and that you have gone on record as being critical of the Air Force's handling of this case. I agree wholeheartedly with your statement, printed yesterday in the Ravenna Record-Courier, that such procedures and unfounded conclusions are detrimental to both the Air Force and the public interest. NICAP has documented the fact that this activity is common in the history of the Air Force's involvement with UFO phenomena, in THE UFO EVIDENCE, published by NICAP in 1964. Such unfortunate handling of UFO reports has probably been the greatest single factor in preventing an adequate accumulation of UFO information, since the public's expectation of ridicule is reinforced every time a witness is treated in such an offhand and derogatory manner by Blue Book representatives or their published statements. Blue Book has never approached this problem, of UFO phenomena, with an open mind, and military secrecy orders (for example, AFR200-2, JANAP 146, FM 190) are a further stumbling block to scientific analysis.

It embarrassed me to discover that I had left out of my previous letter, a copy of a statement referred to therein, by Gerald Yokum, Deputy Sheriff who handled the development of Mantua Village Police Chief Buchert's film. Although NICAP still has no professional opinion concerning the value of this film, Deputy Yokum's statement refutes the Air Force's claim that the processing was poorly done, and adds information which might be helpful in its analysis.

Enclosed is a copy of that statement; also some news clippings and issues of NICAP's bi-monthly publication, THE UFO INVESTIGATOR. If you wish further information about NICAP's work, I am sure Richard Hall will be glad to send you some, including a copy of THE UFO EVIDENCE, which we have tried to make available to every member of Congress. I will be at the above address for several more weeks, and would be glad to hear from you if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel

William B. Weitzel, Chairman
NICAP Pittsburgh Subcommittee

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

May 11, 1966

Honorable William Stanton
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stanton:

Major Hector Quintanilla visited the Portage County Sheriff's Office yesterday afternoon, and after watching and hearing his incredible performance, I felt it best to write you. I and all the others present with him are grateful for your efforts in bringing this event about, and I wish I could return a report that what transpired was in line with the intended aim of the visit: that a thorough and fairly conducted investigation of the April 17 UFO sighting would be made, to collect enough facts for an adequate basis of analysis.

The following persons were present during the entire interview: Major Quintanilla, Sheriff Ross Dustman, Deputy Dale Spaur, and Mounted Deputy Wilbur Keff. After it started, another Deputy, the Radio Operator who talked with Spaur that morning, Robert Wilson, came in. I, David Webb (a NICAP Investigator from Alliance, Ohio), Carol Clapp of the Record-Courier, and Tom Schley of the Beaver County (Pa.) Times were there at the start, but Mrs. Clapp and Mr. Schley left after a while. When the oral part of the testimony began, Major Quintanilla requested that I and Mr. Webb leave the room, and we complied. I observed the interview in person for about one half of its two-hour length, talked with Major Quintanilla and the Deputies afterwards, and have heard a tape recording made in the presence of everyone there and with their knowledge; this tape lasts the entire session. The interview was held in a third floor room of the County Court House.

It should be emphasized that Major Quintanilla was most polite and patient, only occasionally interrupting testimony, and that he seemed to have good reasons for requesting NICAP representatives to leave the room. At no time did he object to anyone else's requests, and the general atmosphere, while tense, was almost congenial. Although some loud words were spoken, none were harsh.

My characterization of Major Quintanilla's performance as "incredible" is based on the following. Not only did he reiterate his original satellite-Venus explanation of the UFO sighting, but he tried to talk us into it. He also seemed unconcerned regarding certain anomalies in his interpretation which were pointed out to him directly. He left the impression that he had come only to

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Weitzel -- Stanton

page 2

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5/11/66

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

satisfy certain demands for his physical presence in the area, and that he had brought his conclusion with him. It appeared to be a complete waste of time, on his part and on ours.

The Major's line of argument was, briefly, that he had (1) taken testimony on the phone from Dale Spaur that was identical with that gathered at the interview yesterday, (2) checked all the conventional aerial activity in the vicinity of the sighting, (3) analyzed the testimony and compared it with his activity-check, and found no indication of radar reception of the UFO near Greater Pittsburgh Airport, (4) concluded that there was no UFO at the time. He clouded the issue of the thoroughness of his investigation, pointing out that he conferred for thirty five minutes with computer experts setting up a program for analysis of satellite activity in the area at that time, thus obscuring the fact that his own confrontation with, or confrontation by Blue Book representatives with, the participants in the event lasted less than five minutes.

How the information gained in the conference over a two hour period could be identical with that from a couple of perfunctory phone calls is beyond me.

That there was indeed a non-astronomical body at all times is clear to all familiar with the Deputies' testimony save the Major. I will not burden you with a prolonged repetition of my former letter detailing a rebuttal to the astronomical explanation. But I will point out a significant difference in the status of that rebuttal now and before this interview. Before, it was possible that the astronomical conclusion was based on a paucity of first-hand information gathered by Blue Book, indicated by their brief interviews (total less than five minutes) with one observer only (Spaur), and, according to Spaur's statement, a strong lack of interest in following up the fact of its (the sighting's) great length in time and across several counties. During the interview the Major was confronted with all these details; yet his conclusion remained unaltered.

Either he was somehow unaware of the testimony, or there is no contradiction between testimony and explanation. I will make no further speculations.

It did seem, though, that the Major's general approach, which is odd from an evaluative and investigative standpoint, was to discount those portions of testimony which conflicted with his prior explanation. Using this approach, one could, for example,

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Weitzel -- Stanton page 3

5/11/66

easily identify a lightning bug with the sun. Both move through the sky, either overhead or near the horizon; both emit light; both can be observed by many people at one time. Aside from these general features, however, there are particular ones which make quite a difference. And there is also a matter of degree in the supposed similarities.

Particular differences between satellite-Venus and this UFO were the antenna at its rear, its metallic sheen, its differentiated shape, its brilliant cone-shaped light, its being viewed to the south, north, east, north, south, north, south and southeast, in that sequence, its humming noise, and variations in velocity and altitude, alternating, not changing continuously, from great to small.

Major Quintanilla showed that a satellite's, or Venus', regular motion can appear, from eye movements or atmospheric disturbances, to be irregular. This does not account for the gross changes in direction, altitude, or speed of the UFO, which changes were quick and precise.

Neither a satellite nor Venus would be so bright as to cast a spot of light on the ground beneath them, to the rear when they moved forward, or directly underneath when they were stationary. Neither, of course, would be stationary in the first place.

Neither one would fill one sixth of the viewing area of a car's windshield. Neither would cause Spaur and Neff to be petrified with astonishment and fear, or cause a temporary loss of feeling of reality, when hovering overhead, as did the UFO.

Now, in response to these anomalies, Major Quintanilla completely disregarded those which were utterly incompatible with a Venus-satellite explanation, and deprecated the degree of those which, in their extent, likewise contradicted such an explanation. He stoutly maintained, without citing an examination of a map, that the observed object was always to the southeast, despite the fact that Spaur and Neff were initially traveling due east, then due south, and observed the object as described earlier, in diverse directions. To reconcile these discrepancies he stated, in his "incredible" way, that roads wind. The Deputies' route, of course, was as much a part of the observation as was the UFO, and likewise has verification from independent sources.

Speaking of independent sources, I wonder if Major Quintanilla plans to interview any of them? Or will Dale Spaur continue to be

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seen by the press as the personal focal point of this alarmingly deteriorated situation?

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1530 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

Weitzel -- Stanton

5/11/66

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Major Quintanilla was quoted three weeks ago in the Ravenna Record-Courier as deciding not to send an investigator here because of the difficulty of recreating the scene. At this conference he stated he preferred sitting in his office pushing buttons, using communications channels, to interviewing witnesses in person. Surely this represents administrative efficiency; but must part of the available testimony of witnesses be selectively ignored to allow categorizing the rest? Must witnesses be ignored altogether? I have interviewed eleven who offered significant or interesting information in this case. It seems that testimonies as well as buttons have been pushed. The sole extent of testimony collected by representatives of the Air Force, among all these candidates, was less than five minutes, from Deputy Spaur, as far as I was aware. I am definitely not saying that, absolutely, Blue Book analyzed only this much testimony. But there are glaring gaps.

I say "selectively" ignored for this reason: Major Quintanilla's reasoning clearly exhibits an a priori assumption that UFOs are not unconventional objects. Thus when testimony indicates the contrary, it is ignored or deprecated. (I am still limiting my statements to the April 17 sighting, but NICAP has a bulk of evidence that other Blue Book investigations have been similarly conducted.)

One of Blue Book's stated aims, to which I presume Major Quintanilla subscribes, is a scientific investigation of UFO phenomena. It is not scientific to ignore facts in favor of presumptions.

This is my criticism of Major Quintanilla's conduct in this session, Mr. Stanton. He did not appear to be here to investigate, analyze, or evaluate. He appeared to come prepared chiefly to select, reject, and persuade. It is, I believe you will agree, incredible that an officer representing so vital a project as Blue Book would be so inclined.

I have made some strong statements in this letter. I will be glad to submit tape recordings and signed statements to back them up.

Finally, please be advised that my sole reason for writing is to report on this situation; whether it can be rectified or not, I do not know. But I felt it necessary to inform you that the circumstances which prompted my first letter, in part a routine NICAP action, have not altered and show no signs of improving.

Sincerely yours,

A privately-supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest

William B. Weitzel

William B. Weitzel

5709 Woodmont St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

May 17, 1966

Honorable William Stanton
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stanton:

I refrained from sending the enclosed letter, dated May 11, until being able to back up my charges concerning Major Quintanilla with something more concrete than a reference to a tape recording which I decided you would not have time to listen to in detail (it lasts two hours). To save you this time and to include with that letter some material to reinforce my claims, I have typed up a partial transcript of the recording. A photocopy is enclosed. Although some verbatim passages are omitted, it is continuous from the beginning of Spear's oral testimony. I am making a tape copy of the original at this moment, and will forward that when it is completed. This copy will be unedited.

Because of their interest in the UFO subject and the Air Force's activity in the area, I am sending the following Congressmen photocopies of your (my) letter of May 11: John W. McCormack, Gerald Ford, L. Mendel Rivers, William Bates and James Fulton. I will advise them of your possession of the transcript and tape copy of the proceedings; unfortunately, I am not able to make enough copies of these myself.

On Thursday of last week, two days after the May 10 meeting, I talked in person with Chief Gerald Buchert of Mentua. After the meeting, later that day, Major Quintanilla visited him for two hours. Chief Buchert informed me that Major Quintanilla examined his yard with a magnetic compass, then spent the rest of the time trying to convince the Chief and his wife that they had observed Venus. Although Chief Buchert told Major Quintanilla his wife had observed the UFO with him, the Major did not ask her a single question. Major Quintanilla seems to feel that, because Chief Buchert's film does not show a UFO, Chief Buchert did not see one, although the Wright-Patterson analysis of that film discredits its quality and sensitivity, saying it was old and badly fogged.

Many people in the Portage County Sheriff's Office who were aware of the proceedings of May 10 expressed the opinion that Major Quintanilla was under orders to conduct this matter the way he has. To quote the Major himself (at a February 11, 1965 press conference), "I am a facts man." I do not believe his May 10 appearance is a good foundation for this opinion. I would not, on the other hand, be at all surprised to discover that it is a true opinion. But opinions aside, I think that appearance and its attendant circumstances are worthy of your critical attention.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitsel
William B. Weitsel, Chairman
NICAP Pittsburgh Subcommittee

5709 Woodmont St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

May 17, 1966

W W

Honorable L. Mondel Rivers, Chairman
Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rivers:

Richard Hall, Assistant Director of NICAP, suggested I send you the enclosed information. I have been conducting an investigation of the April 17, 1966 sighting of an unidentified flying object which was "chased" from Portage County, Ohio, into Conway, Pennsylvania, by two Deputy Sheriffs. This event caused a great deal of excitement and the press gave much publicity to the Air Force's evaluation that the witnesses had observed an artificial satellite and the planet Venus. Because the facts of the case indicated otherwise, I informed Congressman William Stanton of this. Judge Cook, of the Portage County Common Pleas Court, also expressed to Mr. Stanton his dissatisfaction with the Air Force's conclusion, and Mr. Stanton visited Lt. Col. John Spaulding in the Pentagon to request a more thorough investigation. (This had apparently consisted of two 2-3 minute telephone interviews with one of the four observers.)

On May 10, Major Hector Quintanilla conducted an interview in the Portage County Court House, after which he reiterated his original conclusion, claiming he saw nothing to dispute this. Despite his repeated assurances to those present that he was gathering information objectively, he rejected substantial and vital portions of testimony and indicated other serious gaps in his investigation. Since I was sure Mr. Stanton had wished the Air Force to make more than a token concession to his request, I again wrote to him, on May 11. A copy of that letter is enclosed. In order to back up my claims, I delayed sending the letter until now, having typed a transcript from a tape recording made at the May 10 interview. I am not able to send you a copy of this, but Mr. Stanton has one and will shortly have a complete tape copy. I urge you to examine at least the transcript, as it says much more than I am able to in a brief letter.

I hope you find this information enlightening.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel

William B. Weitzel, Chairman
NICAP Pittsburgh Subcommittee

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

May 23, 1966

Mr. William B. Weitzel, Chairman
NICAP Pittsburgh Subcommittee
5709 Woodmont Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217

Dear Mr. Weitzel:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of May 17th enclosing a copy of your letter to Congressman Stanton regarding the April 17th sighting.

While I appreciate having the information on this sighting, my main concern has been that a Congressional investigation be held, all the facts examined on the unexplained sightings, and that the report be made fully available to the public.

Because of my request, certain progress has been made. I am enclosing a release on that I thought you would like to see.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

enc.

CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, P.M.,
APRIL 21, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

The Air Force has informed me it is arranging for a study by high-caliber scientists of some of the UFO sightings which have never been explained.

This study will be placed under contract soon after July 1, start of the new fiscal year. It will be carried out by a university which has no close ties with the Air Force so that the findings will be completely objective, Air Force officials tell me.

Those people engaged in the study will be high-caliber scientists who have never taken a position on UFO's, the Air Force said. It will be made clear to them that they are not being hired to come up with findings in support of previous Air Force statements regarding UFO's, I am informed.

The Air Force said there is too much effort involved to ask these scientists to make this study without pay.

The report will definitely be made public, the Air Force assured me. The whole purpose of the study is to clear the air as far as the public is concerned.

This, of course, was my purpose in recently requesting that public hearings on the subject of UFO's be conducted by either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics Committee.

It was as a result of my call for a congressional investigation that the Air Force now is arranging for a study of UFO's by topflight scientists not connected in any way with the Air Force.

I would have preferred a congressional investigation with witnesses to include reliable persons from among those who say they have seen UFO's. I still think this would be beneficial. But the UFO study by a panel of scientists, with the report to be made public, is a step in the right direction.

#

J. WILLIAM STANTON
11TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: 225-5306

COMMITTEE ON
BANKING AND CURRENCY

DISTRICT OFFICE:
170 NORTH ST. CLAIR STREET
FAINESVILLE, OHIO
PHONE: 352-6167

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 8, 1966

Mr. William Weitzel
5709 Woodmont Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217

Dear Mr. Weitzel:

Thank you very much for forwarding to me the tape recording of the interviews relating to the recent sighting in Portage County. I am delivering this to the Air Force to be made a part of their permanent file.

You may be aware that I personally contacted Secretary of Defense McNamara urging his favorable consideration of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board's recommendations that their present program be expanded to include investigation of selected sightings by independent scientists. The Secretary of the Air Force has now approved the recommendations made by the Advisory Board and steps are being taken to implement these recommendations and the new program should be operational by September 1966. I am sure you will agree that this, at least, is a good beginning.

Thanking you again for forwarding the taped interviews to me, I am

Sincerely yours,

William Stanton

WS:sm

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 8, 1966

Mrs. Carol Clapp
RECORD-COURIER
124 North Chestnut Street
Ravenna, Ohio

Dear Carol:

I think you will be interested to know that today I received an answer from the Secretary of Defense in regard to unidentified flying objects.

The letter stated that the Secretary of Defense has authorized the Air Force to take steps to strengthen scientific investigation of reports it receives on unidentified flying objects.

He further states that help within the scientific communities will be sought through contracts calling for prompt, in depth investigation of selected UFO reports. Air Force officials are now discussing the project informally with university and other scientific leaders to determine their interest. The Air Force is preparing work statements for these new contracts at the present time. Funds for them will be requested from FY '67 and FY '68 budgets.

I was delighted to see the increased interest that the Federal Government is taking in the general subject of unidentified flying objects. I feel that the efforts of the local citizens in Ravenna in expressing their dissatisfaction with their recent experience with this subject has played a part in the expansion of this program. I appreciated very much the support of Judge Robert Cook, your newspaper, and the local citizens in letting the Air Force know that their inadequate investigation was not being accepted without protest.

Sincerely yours,


William Stanton

WS:ag

JAMES G. FULTON
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

COMMITTEES:
SCIENCE, ETC.
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PITTSBURGH OFFICE:
NEW FEDERAL BUILDING
PITTSBURGH 22, PA.
PHONE: 644-2876

9 June 1966

William B. Weitzel
5709 Woodmont Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217

Dear Mr. Weitzel:

Your recent letter regarding unidentified flying objects has been called to my personal attention, and I have read it with care. Thank you for sending me this new information on the Pennsylvania "UFO" of April 17, 1966.

Because I feel this information deserves further review, I am calling it to the attention of my colleagues on the Pennsylvania Delegation to the House of Representatives for their reference and study.

Thank you for your civic and patriotic interest in writing to me, which I appreciate.

Sincerely,

Jim Fulton

JGF:ds

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

PITTSBURGH SUBCOMMITTEE
5709 Woodmont St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

June 12, 1966

Honorable William Stanton
1626 Longworth Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Stanton:

Thank you for your letter acknowledging receipt of the tape recording made at Major Quintanilla's Portage County interview on May 10, and my subsequent interview with the witnesses and comments to the broadcast media.

I have been following the Portage County situation through articles in the Ravenna Record-Courier, and am aware of your considerable efforts to improve the situation there, as well as the Air Force's UFO investigative procedures. I am pleased to see that the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board's recommendations are now being seriously considered.

The following remarks are offered with some reluctance at the demand on your time for their consideration. But lest you have the impression I am beating an old bag of bones, please be assured that the only skeleton is in Project Blue Book's closet. Its entire crowded company deserves exposure to the clean air of enlightenment, but I am particularly determined that the Portage County case be somehow corrected, and that Dale Spaur, Wilbur Neff, and the other participants in the events of April 17 be declassified in the public mind as incompetent officers and hysterical stargazers.

Your quick replies to my other correspondence makes me wonder whether my letter and enclosures of May 17 have come to your attention. Enclosed with that letter was another one dated May 11, which I delayed sending until I was able to type a substantial portion of the taped interview by Major Quintanilla. Also enclosed, then, was a 17-page transcript from this interview. The transcript supports my claims, detailed in the letters, that Major Quintanilla's interview was a travesty of investigative procedure.

If you have seen this material, I would appreciate your forwarding the transcript to the Air Force, to be included with the tape recording, as the point of the recording was to substantiate the transcript, which can be perused in far less time than it takes to listen to the tape.

I cannot emphasize enough, sir, that Major Quintanilla's trip to Ravenna did nothing whatever to correct the consequences of his original hasty investigation. Instead, these consequences were amplified. The public gained the impression, and this impression was communicated to you directly by the Air Force, that a closer look at this situation, the April 17 sighting, reinforced and confirmed Blue Book's original conclusion. This is a false impression.

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It is a false impression for two reasons. One, the closer look was closer only in form, not in actuality. The transcript from Major Quintanilla's interview makes this clear. Two, the "confirmed" conclusion is nullified by at least ten specific points which appeared in the testimony. Some of these were emphasized to him. This is all on the tape. There are other features of the sighting which utterly discredit the "satellite-Venus" explanation. I have pointed these out to you in previous correspondence.

Blue Book has smothered the Truth, Mr. Stanton. While this case is not the only one in which the truth has been smothered -- there are many others, well documented -- this particular instance, in your district, is worth concentrating on; that is, I feel justified in discussing it with you. Probably nothing short of an investigation of Blue Book, at this point, could effect a reversal of this false impression. But I cannot accept the situation, as it stands, and remain silent.

I wish to make clear that I am not challenging the honesty of Major Quintanilla, nor of Blue Book or the Air Force. False impressions do not always stem from sinister motives. I think Major Quintanilla believes he is doing a competent job. I believe the Air Force's published inaccuracies are largely due to false impressions stemming from Blue Book's reports. I have no evidence that there is a concerted federal or military effort to conceal known facts. But there is strong evidence that the size, structure, administrative orders, and practices of Project Blue Book have only exacerbated the problems of reporting and analyzing UFO phenomena. Furthermore, I am skeptical of any program of expansion or case review, as long as the structure, administrative orders, and practices continue. I believe that only a thorough overhaul of this project, and its demilitarization, will prevent further incidents such as that in Portage County.

Reviews of the situation are not new to the Air Force. In 1948, ATIC sent the Air Force Chief of Staff a "Top Secret Estimate of the Situation" giving an interplanetary interpretation to UFOs. (Although the Air Force has often denied the reality of this document, Major Quintanilla himself not only did not deny it, but searched for it, during a recent interview in his office. This interview has been published in five parts, in last week's Record-Courier.)

In 1955, Blue Book published "Special Report #14," the result of an analysis of their data on UFOs through 1952. The Air Force has played down such reviews, because they tend to erode Blue Book's image as an adequate project. Special Report #14, for example, discredits the (altogether unscientific) presumption stated in AFR 200-2 that even UFOs classified as UNKNOWN after sufficient data has been collected, are probably ordinary objects or phenomena. If this were the case, one would expect a smaller percentage of UNKNOWN conclusions among well-qualified observers. On the contrary, according to Special Report #14, among "Excellent" observers, the UNKNOWN conclusion is prevalent: 33.3% compared with 16.6% for "Poor" observers. The other categories of conclusions remain about the same, by percentages, except for INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION (currently called "insufficient data") which increases with observer unreliability. One would expect, in other words, that better observers could supply data to determine a conventional object, if Blue Book's presumption were correct; instead, the better the observer, the more difficulty in explaining the observation.

Surely a large proportion of the reports are due to conventional objects or phenomena. Currently, the Air Force claims UNKNOWNs are about 7% of all conclusions. This figure, of course, is based on reports from a spectrum of reliability categories, and one is not reminded that "Excellent" observers are a small proportion of this. So throwing out the UNKNOWNs with the others is tempting. As the summary to Special Report #14 indicates, "As more and more reports are read, the feeling that "saucers" are real fades, and is replaced by a feeling of skepticism regarding their existence." But aside from the Report's dubious and confusing identification of UNKNOWN with "interplanetary space vehicle" (the meaning of "saucer" in the passage quoted), such a "feeling of skepticism" should not blind one to "finding diamonds in a search for coal," as Dr. J. Allen Hynek put it in his April 5, 1966 testimony before the House Armed Services Committee. It should certainly not blind one from finding diamonds in a search for diamonds. But Blue Book is not looking for diamonds, it is looking for coal.

This is what blinded Major Quintanilla from seeing UNKNOWN when the observers' testimony stared him right in the face. He offered an explanation of a light in the sky. It is now carried as an explanation of the April 17 sighting. The April 17 sighting was not just a light in the sky, any more than a mushroom cloud is just a cloud. But since Blue Book prefers their choice of interpretation of "sighting", I prefer not to refer to the April 17 event as (just) a "sighting." It was, concretely, and spelled out in such detail as to preclude a gratuitous interpretation, explicitly an observation by at least four competent individuals of a highly detailed and unconventional event.

Four weeks ago, I sent Major Quintanilla a letter pointing out that, while he had explained a "light in the sky," he had not explained the details of the event. I listed twelve points which still needed explanation. I also (as tactfully as I could) asked him whether he had disregarded features of testimony that conflicted with his explanation. The points I listed, with the exception of corroboration from witnesses not present (but whom he later had interviewed), were taken directly, and quoted, from testimony taped in Major Quintanilla's presence. That testimony was the same as originally given me the same day as the sighting. I have received from Major Quintanilla only a signed receipt for the Certified letter.

Is Major Quintanilla ignoring it because it (the testimony) was given him three weeks after the event? He did state he prefers to get initial impressions. Why did he not do this? Because he could not "recreate the scene"? No. Because he presumes, as outlined in AFR 200-2, that all UFOs are ordinary things seen under extraordinary physical -- or psychological -- circumstances.

Now can this attitude, printed, promoted and practiced by the Air Force, do anything but cancel efforts to augment Blue Book?

I have great respect for the Air Force, Mr. Stanton, and none of my remarks are based on, or designed to foster, any erosion of that respect, in myself or in the public eye. But let me point out that the public's respect is being eroded by the stream of hasty and often absurd statements on UFOs offered by Blue Book, as official Air Force opinions. This is borne out by the fact that reluctance to admit the existence of unusual aerial objects is no longer frequently accompanied by ridicule of other witnesses, but by fear of ridicule of one's self should such an object be seen.

I have tried so far to limit my correspondence to offers of information, Mr. Stanton. I know your busy schedule is full of competing problems. But now I feel I must ask a small favor of you. So long as Blue Book interprets the April 17 event to be just a light in the sky, no accurate conclusion will be forthcoming. I have enclosed a list of the specific items, copied from my unanswered letter to Major Quintanilla, with quotations from the transcript. Would you be so kind as to forward this list to the Air Force and ask how Major Quintanilla explains these specific points, and inform me of their answer?

The question, how these points are explained, is legitimate. It demands a legitimate answer. It is a different question than has been asked so far, in precluding a gratuitous interpretation of "sighting". And I am not requesting your intervention in my own behalf alone, but chiefly on behalf of Deputies Spaur, Neff, Wilson and Sheriff Dustman. The question, furthermore, has by no means disappeared from the minds of those in Portage County.

Perhaps the Air Force will answer, "They were exaggerating," as Major Quintanilla implied in his recently published statements. He did say he thought the April 17 sighting was not a hoax. But frankly, if I were Dale Spaur or any of the other participants, I would balk at having to choose between being labeled "intelligent hoaxster" or "hysterical stargazer." Neither, of course, is close to the truth; but what else can Portage County think of its deputies?

Sincerely yours,

William B. Weitzel

William B. Weitzel, Chairman
Pittsburgh NICAP Subcommittee

Enclosure

Copies to Congressmen Ford
Fulton
Hutchinson

APRIL 17, 1966 "CHASE" OF UFO FROM PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO, TO CONWAY, PENNSYLVANIA

List of points not cleared up or explained by official conclusion offered by Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., Director of Project Blue Book -- that the sighting was at first of an Echo satellite, then Venus. This list taken from an as yet (June 12, 1966) unanswered query to Major Quintanilla dated May 17, 1966. Letter was sent by Certified Mail; Major Quintanilla signed the receipt. Quotations are from transcript made from tape recorded in Major Quintanilla's presence May 10.

1. The UFO's size: "From berm to berm on 224" "As big as a three-bedroom ranch home" "Hell, it was as big as a house!" (Spaur)
2. The UFO's brightness: "Like looking down the middle of hell, or something, for a minute. And it was very bright; it'd make your eyes water." (Spaur)
3. The UFO's change in brightness with altitude: "It would get brighter when it would go up, and then it would seem like it would lose part of its intenseness, of the light, as it would come back down to us." (Spaur)
4. The UFO's sound: a humming noise that would change pitch, like "an overloaded transformer when it changes" or like different notes on a "pitchpipe" (Spaur)
5. The UFO's being seen to the north and south. When Spaur and Neff entered the 224-183 junction near Deerfield, they had to turn south. The object was then behind them; when they turned back on to 224, going due east, it then traveled over the road and 'paced' them to the south. Also, going around Canfield: "And we turned off to the right. And it was over to the right of us then, and that throwed it back over to the left hand side of the cruiser. And it seemed like it just went off the road and quit; when we was going a little bit south, it turned and come right back with us. South." (Neff) This shows that they were aware of the distinction between apparent movement, due to road direction changes, and actual movement of the UFO.
6. The ground illuminated by the UFO: "It was no more, after it gained altitude, no more than between three and five hundred feet, 'cause it was light on the ground underneath of it. It was, the illumination from it, when it crossed that big crane, where the strip field is and stuff, you could see it just as plain as you can see that telephone. And this was before daylight." (Spaur)
7. The UFO's metallic appearance: "But that's the metallic part that you could see. You could see it very plain, and it was like an aluminum top that's been used for a while; it was definitely a silver, or light color, but it wasn't like chrome; it was silver color but it wasn't polished silver. Smoky silver. Dull silver, or whatever you'd call it; it was, I saw it very plainly." (Spaur)
8. The UFO's projection: "When it would do this, you could see this one projection on the back. Fifteen or eighteen feet long, it would appear to be. This is strictly an estimate." (Spaur)
9. The UFO's maneuvering: "This front part would change its angle of trim. . . . there was this one projection on it that we could see at any time; there were a couple of times it made the same maneuver we couldn't see it." (Spaur) At this time the object appeared to be about 100 feet ahead.
10. The UFO's being more visible when the sky became brighter: "Very clear, there was no problem at all, as a matter of fact, the lighter it got, the better we could see it." A constantly illuminated object would have gone down in relative brightness.

11. The nature of the UFO's disappearance: "We watched it through an antenna. . . it went PSSSSHHW, straight up; and I mean, when it went up, friend, it didn't play no games; it went straight up." (Spaur)

12. The UFO's being seen in addition to Venus, at the end of the sighting: "There was one bright spot right off the, about where the nose would have been on the (man in the) moon, but the bright spot had been there, I don't know how long the bright spot had been there, it was quite a while. But when we were watching, it would have been, at this time -- of course, that spot was awful small, it wasn't as big as this, that we were watching." (Spaur) The UFO, at this time, was to the left of the moon. Venus was to the right.

13. The corroboration offered by other witnesses: "Anyway, this thing passes over another police car. He watches it go by, he's spotted it now." Patrolman Wayne Huston, East Palestine police, saw the object come from the northwest, go overhead, and toward the southeast. He described a dome-shaped top, and conical brilliant bottom (whether the bottom was substantial or not, he couldn't tell.)

Because of the following, I also asked Major Quintanilla -- at the May 10 interview, and in my May 17 letter -- about jet plane involvement: Just after two Salem, Ohio police officers, who had left the station to watch for the UFO's arrival through Salem (there was a route # mixup in the radio traffic), reported seeing it being chased by three jets, the police radio picked up the following transmission: "I'm going in for a closer look . . . I'm right above it . . . It's about 45 feet across, and it's trailing something . . . like a ball of fire." The officers who observed the jets were Ray Esterly and Lonny Johnson. Radio listeners were Jack Cramer, radio operator, and Richard Whinnery, police lieutenant. All signed statements. The UFO was above where Spaur and Neff were traveling (as inferred from radio reports). It was flying level, and appeared to be about five times the size of the jet immediately (about one mile) behind it. The other jets were about 10 miles away, arcing in from another direction.

William B. Weitzel
June 12, 1966

J. WILLIAM STANTON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 16, 1966

Mr. William B. Weitzel, Chairman
Pittsburgh NICAP Subcommittee
5709 Woodmont Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217

Dear Mr. Weitzel:

Thanks very much for your most recent letter
of June 12.

After reading your previous correspondence, I
have taken the liberty of sending them to the Air
Force. This includes your letter and enclosures of
May 11 and May 17. I shall do the same with your
letter of June 12.

I wish to take this opportunity to express to
you my personal thanks for your efforts in regard
to the Portage County UFO sightings. You have truly
amazed me by the fairness and broadness of your own
personal investigation. I have been completely im-
pressed with your positive approach to the subject.
It is this type of constructive attitude that ac-
complishes things rather than simply taking a de-
structive position in regard to the Air Force. You
are certainly to be complimented.

Sincerely yours,


William Stanton

WS:agt

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30 Pages

Into County

Spaur and Neff, on instructions, pursued the brightly lighted object alone down Ohio Route 4. They were joined at East Palestine by Patrolman Wayne Huston of that city in another police cruiser.

The two cars sped on into Pennsylvania, down Route 51 to Rochester and then on Route 5 to Conway. At Conway they spotted Panzanella in his parked cruiser at a service station. They stopped there since Spaur

Huston had his headquarters at Chippewa Barrack about the chase, but none of the state police cars were near Route 51 at the time.

He said that they lost sight of the object near the entrance to Brady's Run Park when trucks stopped at the traffic light forced them to slow up.

They continued through Patton, and just after passing the P&E Railroad underpass at Bridgewater, they again spotted

was running low on gas. He also had burned a new set of tires bald from the high speed chase.

The three Ohio men asked Panzanella if he had seen the object and he pointed it out to them. He had seen it a few minutes earlier from the top of 11th Street hill but hadn't thought much about it at that time.

Panzanella told the TIMES (Please Turn to Page 4, Col. 3)

Spaur said that both cruisers clocked the speed of the object at 103 miles per hour.

Huston told the TIMES he was in radio contact with Spaur and he first spotted the object over Route 14 when Spaur was still about five miles away.

He fell in behind Spaur and said the object was about 80 to 900 feet in the air and mostly remained directly ahead of them.

Spaur and Panzanella both said they had heard that the Air Force had sent jets up after the object. There were reports that jet trainers from Youngstown went up but the object, traveling about 100 miles per hour, was moving too slowly for them to stay with it.

A Federal Aviation Agency official at Greater Pittsburgh Airport said the object wasn't spotted on radar nor were there any planes in the area where the object was sighted at that time.

The four men viewing from Conway said a plane that apparently took off from the airport passed right through the area below the unidentified object they were watching.

Air Force personnel at the airport would make no statement about the sighting other than to say that officials at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, had been notified. Official Air Force investigations of UFO's are handled from Wright Patterson.

SPAUR, 35, a former Air Force gunner, told the TIMES Sunday that he and Neff were checking an abandoned car when they spotted a strange light through the trees. He said the object came over the trees along the highway and directly over their patrol car, about 150 feet above them.

He said the bottom of the object was very brightly lighted and the light from the bottom gave the appearance of a cone shape. It lighted up the area around the car like daylight and they could not look directly at the bright white light when it was shining on them, he said.

His main thought throughout the chase was to remain as calm as possible and do everything he could to verify the sighting and get a description of it.

He said this included keeping it in sight as the sun rose so as to have seen it in both darkness and daylight.

Spaur said the object didn't make any attempt to get away and it followed the main highway almost as "if it knew it."

Deputy Robert Wilson, the radio operator at Ravenna, said the object was reported by a least six or seven other police departments in Ohio.

Spaur said the object had no apparent effect on him and Neff or on the car. It was about 35 feet to 40 feet across and about 18 to 24 feet high, he said.

Spaur said he became frightened and he and Neff ran for the car. He reported the sighting to police headquarters in Ravenna and was told to keep the object under surveillance as long as possible.

Thus the chase began.

MEANWHILE, Chief Buchert in Mantua had monitored a report to Portage County from the Summit County Sheriff's Office in Akron about a strange light that had been spotted.

Buchert was on Main Street in Mantua when he first spotted the object overhead. He said it looked like two saucers with their rims placed together and the bottoms facing out.

He said it was very brilliant and a bright white or silver with no coloring of any type. He reported it to the Portage sheriff's office and said Spaur reported it shortly after that.

Buchert went home and awakened his wife to show her the object. It had moved off to some distance and Buchert used an inexpensive camera from the police car to shoot three pictures of the object. He told the TIMES that only one of the three exposures turned out.

He planned not to release the picture to anyone until after he conferred with government officials.

An enlargement of the photograph immediately above shows the object which Buchert said was the moon and a dark disc shaped object surrounded by a ring of light to the right of the moon.

THE ONLY noise Spaur heard that might have come from the object was when it was first spotted. He said he heard a faint, steady humming noise similar to an electrical transformer.

Calls for Civilian Investigation of Sightings

4/27/66 Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier

NICAP Hits AF UFO Investigation

(4)

By CAROL CLAPP

Terming the Air Force's explanation of a UFO seen here April 17 "incorrect," a NICAP investigator who has been checking out the sighting for more than a week today attacked what he terms insufficient investigation of this and other UFO sightings by Project Blue Book, the Air Force agency

which checks UFO reports.

Urging that such investigations be conducted by civilian rather than military agencies, he said it is "ridiculous" to presume that the significance of such phenomena is only military and not scientific.

William Weitzel, NICAP investigator and chairman of that organization's sub-committee in

Pittsburgh, said his official opinion of the Air Force finding is that it is not correct.

NICAP, (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena), is a non-military, non-profit organization which investigates UFO sightings throughout the country and after analysis of all available evi-

dence, issues a statement concerning their possible validity.

"Many times press releases from the Air Force concerning UFO sightings indicate that neither their investigators nor Project Blue Book take full account of available information.

"This inadequacy, which we have documented in our publication, 'The UFO Evidence,' is harmful for several reasons," Weitzel said.

"First, it is highly unscientific and fails to contribute to a thorough analysis of UFO phenomena.

"Second, when the Air Force publishes UFO information which does not represent the total situation and particular cases, the public is misled.

"Third, ridicule and harassment of witnesses often results."

It is unusual, Weitzel said, for NICAP to issue an opinion this soon after an investigation unless there is overwhelming evidence.

"We (NICAP) believe the conclusion is inaccurate because Deputies Dale Spaur and Barney Neff chased the object, keeping it in sight; East Palestine Ptl. Wayne Houston saw it flying overhead and saw the Portage County cruiser chasing it, and joined in; and a Conway, Pa. policeman, Frank Panzanella, then saw the object.

"The four police officers then watched the object together for some 20 minutes.

"We believe Project Blue Book (the Air Force's investigative unit on UFO sightings) did not take into account the corroboration from Houston and Panzanella, nor the great length of time that Spaur and

'Bluebook' Won't Visit The County

4/19/66 R.C.

Air Force "Project Bluebook" investigators, who check reports of Unidentified Flying Objects throughout the United States, will not be coming to Portage County to investigate the sightings by three area police officers early Sunday morning.

Major Hector Quintanella, head of "Project Bluebook" at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, said this morning that "it would be impossible to recreate the scene."

The UFO was spotted and chased by Deputies Dale Spaur and Barney Neff for an 86-mile stretch into Pennsylvania early Sunday morning.

Maj. Quintanella said Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert, who photographed the UFO from Mantua while it was being chased in Randolph has sent the film to "Project Bluebook" for study.

"We also have reports from Chief Buchert and Deputy Spaur," the major added. He

Deputies Saw Venus, Not UFO, Air Force Says

4/23/66

Record-Courier

Sheriff's deputies chased a "satellite" for 86 miles into Pennsylvania Sunday morning. "then, when it passed out of view, focused their eyes on Venus."

This is what the Air Force said in a statement Friday concerning Sunday morning's sighting of a UFO by Deputies Dale Spaur and Barney Neff, an East Palestine partolman and a Conway, Pa. policeman.

The Air Force added that two apparent images on film taken by Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert were "processing defects due to old, foggy film, and poor handling." One image on the film was Venus, the Air Force said.

The Air Force sent no investigators to Portage County to check on the officer's reports so far as anyone knows. Major Hector Quintanella, head of "Project Blue Book," took a brief report by telephone ear-

Deputy Scoffs At AF Report On UFO Chase

4/25/66 R.C.

"In my own mind I'm absolutely sure it wasn't a satellite and it wasn't a star."

Deputy Dale Spaur, disturbed by the Air Force's statement that he probably chased a satellite Sunday morning, April 17, and then when it disappeared, focused his eyes on Venus, finds it impossible to believe this explanation and considers it an "insult to the intelligence of the American people."

"I didn't know we made satellites that large or that low to the ground, or that they could be maneuvered," Spaur said, recalling his chase of a brilliant object which hovered, rose and descended and slipped back and forth across the highway in front of his car during the 86-mile chase from southern Portage County into Pennsylvania.

"I didn't know satellites traveled over Portage County at speeds as slow at times as 50

Judge Cook Requests Air Force UFO P

⑥ 5/3/66 Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier

By CAROL CLAPP

Protesting the Air Force's "ridiculous" conclusion and its lack of investigation in the April 17 UFO sighting in Portage County, Common Pleas Court Judge Robert E. Cook has written to Cong. William Stanton urging him to insist on a full Air Force investigation and re-evaluation of the findings.

Judge Cook, who served two terms as 11th District Congressman himself before he was appointed judge, says he can now better understand why citizens "write their congressman" when

they have a complaint.

And Judge Cook has a complaint.

"I am writing to complain about the attitude and actions of representatives of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Field in reference to reports of UFO sightings in Portage County," Cook says in his letter to Stanton.

He reiterates the events of April 17, when Deputies Dale Spaur and Barney Neff chased the object from southern Portage County 86 miles into Pennsylvania and were joined by two

other police officers, and photographs were taken by Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert of an object he saw.

"It is my understanding that units of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Field are charged by the United States Air Force with the responsibility to investigate reports of Unidentified Flying Objects in this area.

"It is my further understanding that their investigation of these sightings has merely consisted of telephone conversations with several of the eye wit-

nesses and an examination of the photographs taken by Chief Buchert.

"Their conclusion that the object sighted was the planet Venus is so ridiculous that the United States Air Force has suffered a great loss of prestige in this community," Judge Cook charges in his letter.

(Judge Cook admits he feels strongly on this point — he served in the Air Force as warrant officer, junior grade, from 1942 to 1946. In fact, he enlisted in the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Field.)

"However, what bothers me most, as a private citizen and former U. S. Congressman, is that representatives of the United States Air Force, charged with the responsibility of investigating UFO reports, have never personally come to this county to interview the three eye witnesses to this happening.

"Wright - Patterson is not far way and I am sure there are personnel available to conduct a thorough investigation.

"I personally know the three officers involved. They are men of integrity and I feel it is

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Stanton Joins in Push For ↑ ⑤

Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier 4/27/66

Checking 'Saucer' Checkers

Eleventh District Congressman William Stanton said today he is encouraging House Minority Leader Gerald Ford and Ohio 14th District Congressman William Ayres in their request for an investigation of Project Blue Book.

Project Blue Book is the Air Force's investigative unit on Unidentified Flying Objects.

Stanton said in Washington this morning that he plans to forward a lengthy report from William Weitzel, National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) investigator, to the Air Force Command in Washington. The report deals with a more than week - long investigation by NICAP of the UFO sighting which began in Portage County and continued into Pennsylvania April 17.

The report is a "factual assimilation of materials received from the witnesses to the sighting," Stanton said. He added that "the report is objective."

"Personally, I have never heard of NICAP before in my life, but this does not mean that they are not a creditable organization.

"I have no reason to doubt their integrity," he added.

Neither, Stanton said, does he have any reason to doubt the integrity of the sheriff's deputies involved or the Mantua Police chief when they said they saw something.

The Air Force released statements Friday that said deputies probably followed a satellite and then later focused their eyes on Venus.

Weitzel said detailed reports are routinely sent by NICAP to congressmen representing the district in which a UFO is sighted.

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"Once people entrusted with the public welfare no longer think the people can handle the truth, then the people, in turn, will no longer trust the government," Stanton pointed out.

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CONG. STANTON

Due to the two circumstance — the lack of a thorough Air Force investigation and the failure of the Air Force to reply to his letter — Stanton said he planned to immediately direct contact officials in charge of Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton. (Project Blue Book is the Air Force's investigative unit on Unidentified Flying Objects.) The congressman said that when he talks with the Project Blue Book officials, he will ask for an immediate, on-the-spot investigation.

Judge Cook said this morning "I appreciate the attitude and quick response of the Congressman and I am sure he will continue to follow up on his demands on the Air Force for an on-the-spot investigation. "I am sure such an investigation will vindicate the statements made by Portage County police officers."

spot investigation of the UFO sighting April 17 in Portage County.

Stanton received a letter today from Common Pleas Court Judge Robert E. Cook, former 11th District Congressman, urging him to take such action.

Stanton said that the letter "made an excellent point — not only has the Air Force failed in its responsibility in thoroughly investigating this incident, but in addition we have not heard, as of today, from the commanding general of the Air Force."

Stanton referred to a letter he forwarded last week to the Air Force Commanding General, along with a copy of a report of the investigation made up to that time by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

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s Air Force UFO Probe

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"Their conclusion that the object sighted was the planet Venus is so ridiculous that the United States Air Force has suffered a great loss of prestige in this community," Judge Cook charges in his letter.

(Judge Cook admits he feels strongly on this point — he served in the Air Force as warrant officer, junior grade, from 1942 to 1946. In fact, he enlisted in the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Field.)

"However, what bothers me most, as a private citizen and former U. S. Congressman, is that representatives of the United States Air Force, charged with the responsibility of investigating UFO reports, have never personally come to this county to interview the three eye witnesses to this happening.

"Wright - Patterson is not far way and I am sure there are personnel available to conduct a thorough investigation.

"I personally know the three officers involved. They are men of integrity and I feel it is

grossly unfair to them for the Air Force to reach any conclusion in this matter until it has conducted a real and complete investigation.

"As the congressman from this District, I sincerely urge you to insist that the Air Force immediately send investigators to Portage County to make such an on-the-spot investigation and re-evaluate its findings after such a visit."

Judge Cook, who has not felt compelled to write his congressman" since ceasing to be one

(Continued on Page 6)

himself, tells Stanton in the letter "When I recently served in Washington as the Congressman from the 11th District, I was often amazed at the number and variety of letters I would receive from certain of my constituents complaining about the action or inaction of various federal officials or employees.

"However, as a result of recent events here in Portage County, I believe I now better understand why citizens write their congressman when upset with certain federal personnel."



AF Should
Check UFO's
5/5/66 *Russanna Reed - Guerin*
-- Stanton (7)

By CAROL CLAPP

Lashing out at the Air Force for what he terms a violation of public trust, Congressman William J. Stanton today planned to immediately contact Project Blue Book officials and demand an immediate, on-the-spot investigation of the UFO sighting April 17 in Portage County.

Stanton received a letter today from Common Pleas Court Judge Robert E. Cook, former 11th District Congressman, urging him to take such action.

Stanton said that the letter "made an excellent point — not only has the Air Force failed in its responsibility in thoroughly investigating this incident, but in addition we have not heard, as of today, from the commanding general of the Air Force."

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CONG. STANTON

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"I am sure such an investiga-

AF 'Mistaken,' Promises Probe Of UFO Sighting

Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier 5/6/66

Admitting it made an "error" in not investigating the April 17 UFO sighting in Portage County, the Air Force blamed a lack of manpower in Project Blue Book and promised it will send investigators here, probably next week.

This is what Cong. William Stanton learned Thursday when he went to the Pentagon and conferred with Lt. Col. John Spaulding, director of the community relations division of the Air Force.

Stanton said Spaulding "expressed deep regret that the Air Force did not do more at the time," and admitted it was

an error.

The congressman added that Spaulding said the primary reason that the UFO sighting here was not investigated by the Air Force at the time was a lack of manpower in Project Blue Book, the Air Force's investigative unit on Unidentified Flying Objects. Project Blue Book is headquartered at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton.

"I was amazed to find they only have four men assigned to Project Blue Book," Stanton said.

"By their (the Air Force's) own admission, a total of 886 UFO sightings were reported to them in 1965. Of these, they

felt they eventually have identified all but 16. Since 1947, there have been more than 10,000 reported sightings," Stanton said.

Stanton said Lt. Col. Spaulding will contact Wright-Patterson Project Blue Book officials as soon as possible and that investigators will be sent to Portage County, probably next week.

The congressman Thursday demanded action by the Air Force in the UFO incident here after receiving a letter from Probate Court Judge Robert E. Cook urging an immediate investigation by the Air Force.

Still Venus to Air Force

Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier 5/11/66

Blue Book Investigator Doesn't Change His Mind

By CAROL CLAPP

It's still a satellite and Venus.

The head of Project Blue Book stuck by the Air Force's original conclusion in regard to the April 17 UFO sighting in Portage County after talking

Palestine policeman and a Conway, Pa. patrolman, could have seen.

Acknowledging that had it been a satellite the officers started chasing, it would only have been visible about 10 minutes, the major said that after that period of time they

of UFO awareness" among the American people, which, he said, is greater than that on the Viet Nam war.

He also said "I never doubt an observer's word" and explained that his job is collect data on UFO sightings and attempt to explain them.

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It's still a satellite and Venus.

The head of Project Blue Book stuck by the Air Force's original conclusion in regard to the April 17 UFO sighting in Portage County after talking with three sheriff's deputies for nearly two hours Tuesday.

But although Major Hector Quintanilla may be thoroughly convinced Deputies Dale Spaur and Wilbur Neff chased a satellite and then Venus for more than an hour and a half early that Sunday morning, he failed to convince the officers themselves, Sheriff Ross Dustman or a NICAP investigator who sat in on the interviews.

"It's too bad when these 'things' are running around through our skies and the Air Force doesn't know what they are," Sheriff Dustman said.

"I know I wasn't chasing a satellite. . . I don't think someone can follow something like a satellite or Venus for that long and that far," Deputy Spaur said, adamantly refusing to accept Quintanilla's conclusion.

Neither did Deputy Neff nor radio operator Robert Wilson agree with the major's conclusion.

Maj. Quintanilla, who came here to conduct a thorough, on-the-spot investigation after a demand for such action was made by Congressman William Stanton, announced immediately after the interview that there was no evidence present Tuesday which would change the original Air Force conclusion.

He said there are some 30 satellites in orbit and that he had narrowed the field down to about five, any one of which the deputies, along with an East

Palestine policeman and a Conway, Pa. patrolman, could have seen.

Acknowledging that had it been a satellite the officers started chasing, it would only have been visible about 10 minutes, the major said that after that period of time they probably "chased Venus."

The interview began shortly after 2:30 p.m. At the request of Deputy Spaur, a tape recording was made of the entire interview. Spaur also requested that Sheriff Dustman and NICAP investigators William Weitzel and David Webb sit in on the interview.

The NICAP investigators were asked to leave during the latter half of the interview, however.

Also on hand for a portion of the interview were Record-Courier and Beaver County, Pa. reporters.

Maj. Quintanilla asked Spaur and Neff to fill out eight-page sighting reports, then questioned them about what they saw.

Quintanilla commented that Sunday he was surprised to learn there is a "96 percentage

of UFO awareness" among the American people, which, he said, is greater than that on the Viet Nam war.

He also said "I never doubt an observer's word" and explained that his job is collect data on UFO sightings and attempt to explain them.

Those involved in the sighting, as well as Dustman and Wilson, refuse to accept the "satellite - Venus" explanation.

After talking with officers in Ravenna, Quintanilla checked with Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert who photographed an object to the southwest in the direction in which the object was being pursued by Spaur and Neff.

Buchert refused today to comment on his talk with the major.

Quintanilla had said earlier that there was "nothing on the film" Buchert took.

The major also said he had checked balloon activity in the area the morning of April 17 and "there was none," and that reports that fighters were scrambled in the Pittsburgh area and had the object in sight were unfounded.

(Continued on Page 3)

NICAP Prober Raps Air Force

Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier 5/11/66

Charging that the head of Project Blue Book refused to consider certain facts of the April 17 UFO sighting told to him Tuesday by two of the deputies involved, a NICAP investigator contends Major Hector Quintanilla's "implicit attitude is obviously that, despite any facts, UFO's cannot be unconventional."

William Weitzel of Pittsburgh, a special investigator for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), along with another NICAP investigator, David Webb of Alliance, sat in on part of the Major's interview with the deputies at the request of Deputy Dale Spaur. The two NICAP investigators were asked to leave during the verbal half of the interview, however.

"The major's stated attitude," Weitzel said, "was that since the only conventional item that matched the sighting at all was the satellite - Venus statement, this must be the explanation."

"Three weeks ago, Maj. Quintanilla refused to send anyone here because, he said, 'it would be difficult to recreate the scene.'"

(After demands for such an investigation were made by Cong. William Stanton, the Air Force admitted it had made a mistake in not investigating the sighting thoroughly and on-the-spot immediately after it happened).

"It is incredible to me that anyone familiar with the details of the sighting could believe Major Quintanilla's explanation," Weitzel said.

"I can only speculate about why he seems to."

"He either rejected or ignored portions of the testimony which make a satellite - Venus explanation ridiculous."

"His reasoning seemed to be

that the apparent changes in location, motion and brightness of the object during the chase were due to atmospheric irregularities and eyeball movements is inconsistent with the testimony.

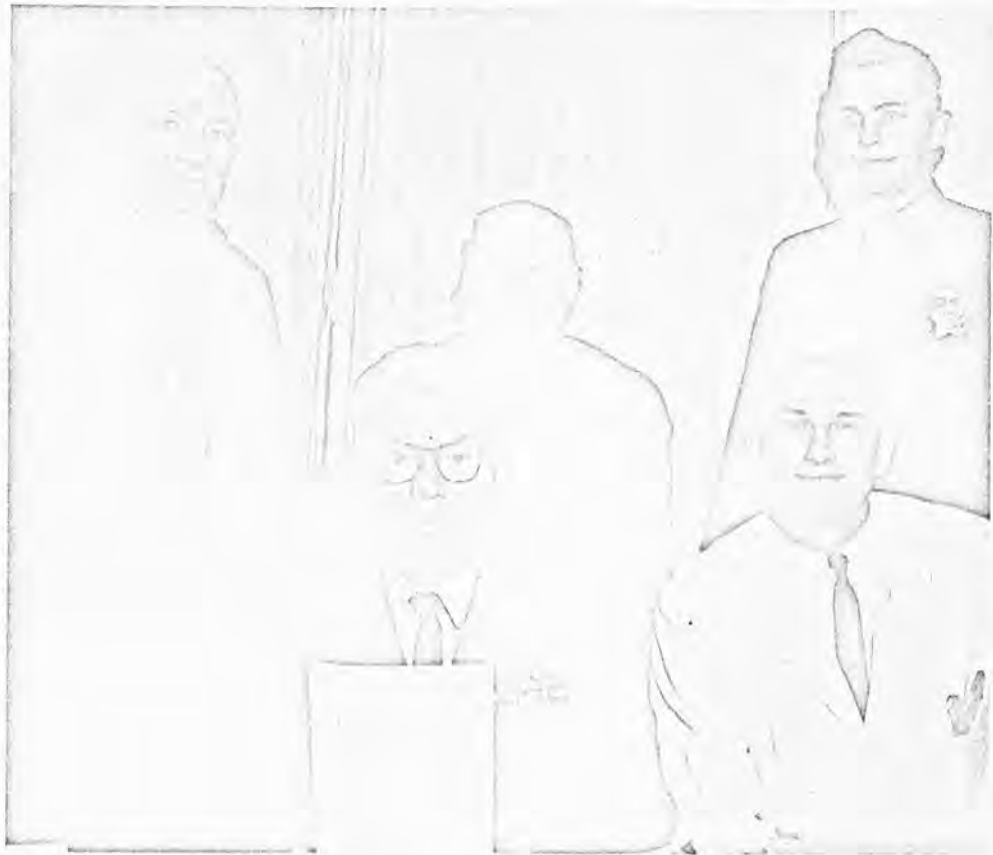
"He ignored the tremendous size, brightness and illumination of ground objects. For example, the deputies saw the object filling up one-sixth of their windshield view area."

"He left the impression that he had come prepared, not to evaluate testimony but to convince those present of his former conclusion," Weitzel charged.

The NICAP investigator compares Maj. Quintanilla's investigation in Portage County with the CBS Special, "UFO's: Friend, Foe or Fantasy," which appeared Tuesday night on television.

"Despite Walter Cronkite's summary, encouraging us to examine facts and not depend on generalities and assumptions, the program examined almost no facts supporting UFO reality and concentrated on generalities and presumptions, many of which were stretched and unfounded," Weitzel contends.

"There is, indeed, a multitude of facts implying an unconventional explanation for many



MAJOR Hector Quintanilla, seated left, looks over reports filled out by Deputies Dale Spaur and Wilbur Neff during an interview here Tuesday

concerning the April 17 UFO sighting. Seated next to Maj. Quintanilla is Deputy Robert Wilson, radio operator the

morning of the sighting and chase. Standing are Sheriff Ross Dustman, left, Deputies Spaur and Neff.

visual, radar, electromagnetic, radioactive and/or other tangible evidence," Weitzel said. "The recent sighting in Portage County is a worthwhile addition to this evidence."

UFO's, as has been documented by NICAP in its book, The UFO Evidence. "Contrary to the program's message, hundreds of highly trained personnel have supplied

UFOs 'Natural Phenomena,' Record-Courier Air Force Tells Stanton

MAY 25 1966

By CAROL CLAPP

All UFO sightings for the past 19 years — including the April 17 one in Portage County — are explainable as "misinterpretations of known natural or conventional objects."

This is what the Department of the Air Force has told 11th District Cong. William Stanton in response to his interest in the UFO sighting here and the subsequent Air Force investigation.

"As a result of 19 years of investigation, the Air Force has concluded that UFO's exist only as a misinterpretation of known natural or conventional objects," Col. Billie W. Powell of the Congressional Inquiry Di-

vision, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, said.

"It has been proved almost conclusively that reported aerial phenomena have been objects either created and sent aloft by man, generated by atmospheric conditions, or caused by celestial bodies or the residue of meteoric activity."

The letter was sent to Cong. Stanton because of his "personal expression of interest in behalf of the Honorable Robert E. Cook, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Portage County, and Mr. William Weitzel, special investigator for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, re-

garding the recent report of an unidentified flying object in your district."

Col. Powell indicates in the letter, however, that in spite of its conclusions that all UFO sightings are "misinterpretations" by the observers, it is still interested in the UFO situation.

"To evaluate this subject as thoroughly as possible, the capabilities of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board have recently been focused upon UFO's," Col. Powell writes.

"This board has just completed a detailed review of this subject and concluded that the

(Continued on Page 10)

Air Force Tells Cong. Stanton UFOs 'Natural'

MAY 25 1966

UFO phenomena pose no threat to the security of the United States and that the present Air Force program dealing with UFO sightings has been well organized.

"Recommendations by the board are currently under study and are expected to lead to even stronger emphasis on the scientific aspect of investigating the sightings that warrant extensive analysis," Powell said.

The Air Force also forwarded to Cong. Stanton a copy of its conclusion on the sighting April 17 which led Deputies Dale Spaur and Wilbur Neff on an 86-mile chase from Portage County into Pennsylvania. They were joined on the way by East Palestine Ptl. Wayne Houston, who also reported seeing the object and joining in the chase.

Ptl. Frank Panzarella of Conway, Pa., also reported watching the object from a service station where the Portage County cruiser and the East Palestine patrolman stopped when the Portage deputies ran short of fuel. The four policemen then reported watching the object together until it finally disappeared.

Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert, meanwhile, had attempted to photograph the object he saw to the southeast, toward Atwater.

The Air Force release makes no mention of the other three officers, only Deputy Spaur.

"Police Chief Gerald Buchert of Mantua, O., and Deputy Dale Spaur of Ravenna, O., reported to the Air Force that they had observed an unidentified flying object at approximately 5 a.m. on April 17.

"Chief Buchert took a picture of the object he observed. He submitted the negative of the photograph to the Air Force for analysis. Photoanalysis of the negative indicates that the object which he tried to photograph does not appear as an image.

"The two images which appear on the negative are probably the result of processing defects due to old fogged film and poor handling.

"Sheriff (sic) Spaur reported that he chased the object for some distance. Since there were no aircraft or balloons in the area, and since no unidentified objects were tracked on radar, the most probable cause of the sighting was the passage of a satellite over northeastern Ohio and the planet Venus.

"As the satellite approached the southeast portion of the sky, it disappeared, and Sheriff (sic) Spaur focused his eyes on the planet Venus. Venus was rising in the southeast and was at a magnitude of -3.9, which would be brighter than any star in the sky."

(During an Air Force interview in Portage County, however, Deputy Spaur described the object he and Deputy Neff observed as being "as big as a house" and hovering several hundred feet above the cruiser on Rt. 224, shortly after it arose from over tree tops).

The two officers also said the object they "chased" stopped, appeared to wait for them on two occasions, rose, descended, and maneuvered beautifully).

Judge Cook urged Cong. Stanton to call for a more thorough investigation of the UFO sighting here after the Air Force announced its conclusion shortly after the sighting April 17.

Cook later said he found it difficult to accept the conclusion reiterated by Maj. Hector Quintanilla of Project Blue Book after he interviewed deputies here at the urging of Congressman Stanton, and urged the Air Force to "tell the American people the truth about UFO's."

Weitzel, special investigator for NICAP, sent Cong. Stanton a complete report on his investigation of the sighting.

Stanton Wants Expanded Investigation of UFOs

5/25/66 *Ravenna Record-Courier*

Cong. William Stanton of the 11th District is writing to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara urging that "serious consideration" be given to the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board's recommendations to expand UFO investigative efforts.

The congressman said this will be his primary effort in urging thorough investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects, such as the Portage County sighting April 17.

"I hope that what happened in Ravenna will show the need for expansion of Project Blue Book," Stanton said today. "If we can accomplish this, I think that we will have done a great service to the country."

The special report of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee to review Project Blue Book recommends the employment of scientific teams on a contractual basis to promptly investigate and evaluate certain sightings; to designate a skilled Air Force investigator at each Air Force Systems Command base to work with the team; and to select a non-profit organization to coordinate the work of these teams.

"It is the opinion of the committee that the present Air Force program dealing with UFO sightings has been well organized, although the resources assigned to it (only one officer, a sergeant and a secretary) have been quite limited," the report of March, 1966 states.

"In 19 years and more than 10,000 sightings recorded and classified, there appears to be no verified and fully satisfactory evidence of any case that is clearly outside the framework of presently known science and technology.

"Nevertheless, there is al-

ways the possibility that analysis of new sightings may provide some additions to scientific knowledge of value to the Air Force. Moreover, some of the case records (into) which the committee looked that were listed as "identified" were sightings where the evidence collected was too meager or too indefinite to permit positive listing in the identified category.

"Because of this the Committee recommends that the present program be strengthened to provide opportunity for scientific investigation of selected sightings in more detail and depth than has been possible to date."

The committee recommended that:

—Contracts be negotiated with a few selected universities to provide scientific teams to investigate promptly and in depth certain selected UFO

sightings. The team should include a clinical psychologist and a physical scientist.

—At each Air Force Systems Command base a skilled Air Force investigator should be designated to work with the university team for that area.

—One university or non-profit organization should be selected to coordinate the work of the first two groups above, and to maintain close communication with Project Blue Book.

—About 100 sightings a year should be subjected to close study.

—Reports should be printed in full and be available on request. Suitable abstracts or condensed versions should be made available.

—Project Blue Book reports should be widely distributed.

Cook Raps Air Force's Investigation of UFO

Ravenna, Ohio Record-Courier

MAY 26 1966

Terms Conclusion Of Portage Probe As 'Ridiculous'

By CAROL CLAPP

"Certainly the need for improving Project Blue Book's investigative techniques of UFO sightings has been made evident here in Portage County," Common Pleas Court Judge Robert E. Cook said today, reiterating his belief that the Air Force conclusion of the sighting is "still ridiculous."

Cook said Cong. William Stanton "is on the right track" in writing to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara urging the adoption of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Boards' recommendations for expansion and improvement of Project Blue Book's UFO investigative procedures.

"The Air Force has done a very poor job of investigating this sighting," Cook charged.

"This is still a ridiculous conclusion — Blue Book should be modified to not go to this degree in attempting to explain a sighting," Cook added.

"They shouldn't let their imaginations run away with them and feel a 'duty' to come up with some explanation. Rather than come up with an answer just to have a perfect batting score, in cases such as the one in Portage County (April 17) they should say there is no known explanation for what the observers saw."

"The people would appreciate it if the Air Force would just be honest," Cook believes. He cites the fact that after he stated publicly several weeks ago that the Air Force should tell the people the truth when they don't really know what it was an observer saw, numerous persons told him they agreed completely.

"Be honest about it — the

people want the truth," urges the Air Force.

Cook believes that Blue Book investigative techniques should be improved for each and every claimed sighting.

"Explain those which can be explained. But if there are those which can't be explained — such as the one in Portage County — say so," Cook urges.

"Investigate promptly; check out the information; use every known scientific technique to screen the evidence," Cook recommends.

"If the Air Force still comes up against a blank wall, it should then say that after checking all the evidence it cannot determine what it was the observer saw.

It is less embarrassing, he pointed out, than to first announce a conclusion and then retract it, saying the sighting does fall in the "unidentified" category, Cook said, referring to the Exeter, N. H. sightings.

"The Air Force should not be caught in the embarrassing position of having to back down," Cook said, adding that in the Portage County incident, "people are reading between the lines."

Cook said that while aircraft, weather balloons and natural phenomena no doubt account for many of the sightings, those such as Portage County's cannot be termed "satellite-Venus" simply because it was not an aircraft, not a weather balloon and not tracked on radar.

"Of course we couldn't 'recreate the scene' and bring the object back for an investigation," Cook said, referring to Blue Book's original statement as to why it would not send investigators here.

From Sign to Grudge to Blue Book

By CAROL CLAPP
(First of a Series)

Relegated to what one might be tempted to call a "cubby-hole" in the Foreign Technology Division building at Wright-Patterson Air Force base in Dayton are a major, a lieutenant, a sergeant, a secretary and 10,200 files of reported "UFO" sightings.

This is Project Blue Book.

And this is the staff which handles one of the nation's most publicized and puzzling "problems" — flying saucers.

Project Blue Book is the Air

Force's UFO investigative unit which, for the past 19 years, has attempted to identify whatever it is all those people have been seeing in the sky.

People, of course, have reported "seeing something" up there they couldn't identify for much longer than that.

Major Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Blue Book, points out that the first "UFO report" was undoubtedly that filed by Ezekiel in 593 B.C., when he reported with some awe a "wheel in the middle of a wheel" in the air.

(This UFO report, of course, the Air Force has not attempted to identify).

Neither has it had a chance to investigate sightings such as those reported in the Norfolk, Va. area Aug. 6, 1860, when two objects, one red and one green, flew together overhead with an undulating motion; or that one July 3, 1884 in the Norwood, N. Y. area, when a Saturn-shaped UFO (a globe with a central ring) flew slowly overhead; or those in 1896 and 1897 from all across the United States when a mysterious cigar-

shaped "airship" was reported flying against the wind.

But the Air Force can be forgiven for not investigating these sightings — after all, there were no propelled aircraft at that time, so of course there was no Air Force, and consequently, no Project Blue Book to identify the objects.

This is no longer a problem. On Jan. 22, 1948, Project Sign, the forerunner of Project Blue Book, was created. Through Project Sign (which later be-

(Continued on Page 21)

came Project Grudge and finally, Project Blue Book) the Air Force has managed to get its teeth into the sticky problem and explain away reported sightings with the statement that:

"UFO's exist only as misinterpretations of conventional objects or natural phenomena."

Of course, 646 out of 10,197 sightings are officially termed as "unidentified" and haven't been explained (and to hundreds of observers who were later told by the Air Force they saw "swamp gas," "satellites," "Venus," etc., there are a lot more "unexplained.")

In the Air Force statistics, however, there is another and much larger category termed "insufficient data." This group of sightings remains, for practical purposes, not identified because in the Air Force's opinion there was not sufficient information provided by the observer as to exactly what he saw, where, when, why or how he saw it.

Last year (1965) the Air Force investigated 886 sightings. Sixteen remain "unidenti-

Each air base commander is charged with appointing a "UFO investigator." Major Quintanilla said such investigators should have "at least an academic background in the physical sciences," but admitted that "sometimes we can't get such qualifications."

Reports from these investigators are sent into Project Blue Book headquarters, a small, windowless office in the Foreign Technology Division building at Wright-Patterson.

Visiting Project Blue Book is impressive. Arrangements have to be made through the Pentagon and then Major Quintanilla. Checking into the reception center at the air base's main gate, I filled out a personal pass and a car pass, signing a statement that I had no radioactive materials with me and that I would consent to being searched and having my car searched if requested. (I wasn't).

The major was called to confirm the appointment, the time noted on the pass, and I was given directions to the building. Arriving there, I showed the pass, the time was again noted and the major notified. He led

During the interview Major Quintanilla explained that sightings are filed only by month, day and year. There is no cross-indexing of files to group, for comparison, such things as the locations of the various sightings, descriptions of the UFO's, behavior of the objects, qualifications of the observers, or any auxiliary phenomena such as radioactivity or electromagnetic effects.

(Conclusions are apparently noted at least in statistical form, however, because they are compiled for Project Blue Book reports).

Files date back to June 24, 1947, when a sighting by Kenneth Arnold, a private pilot flying near Mt. Ranier, Wash. was reported to the press, heralding the first major wave of UFO sightings in the United States.

It was his description of the nine flat, shiny objects which fluttered and skipped among the mountains as flying "like a saucer skipped across the water" which resulted in the coining of the phrase, "flying saucers," by newsmen.

A pack of more than 100 "fly-

Socorro Sighting Stumps Blue Book

By CAROL CLAPP
(Second in a Series)

"UFO's are not experimental aircraft of the United States."
"Neither are they experimental aircraft of any other nation."

With these two positive statements, Maj. Hector Quintanilla, during an interview at Project Blue Book headquarters in Dayton, shattered two of the most popular theories concerning the origins of "flying saucers."

Then could they be extra-terrestrial?

"I have never denied the possibility of life in outer space. There could be intelligent life out there — why not?" the major said. But he doesn't believe that is the answer to the UFO problem. He doesn't believe that such life, if it exists, has visited our planet yet.

"I believe in UFO's — but not in flying saucers," he said,

smiling.

Yet he is admittedly troubled by a reported landing of a cigar-shaped object in Socorro, N. M. on April 24, 1964. The policeman who spotted the object on the desert floor saw two men in white coveralls standing near it.

Major Quintanilla admits he spent months "trying to put a handle on that one" but came up against a blank wall each time. It remains officially unsolved — and "unidentified."

Why is he so sure UFO's seen all over the United States are not "our" experimental devices or aircraft?

"You don't test experimental or secret aircraft over populated areas — that's why most of the testing is done over the (desert areas) of the southwest. If you want to test something secretly, you do it during the times most people are in bed asleep."

Then how about the possibility the UFO's could be from some other nation?

Radar and other air defense devices would pick them up immediately, he says.

What about radar - jamming equipment or aircraft with "radar invisibility?" The major said there are a number of devices for spotting objects in the air, and if one should fail others would be certain to detect them.

Why is he so sure the UFO's are not spaceships? Because, he said, not only would they have to enter the atmosphere and therefore would be detected by our air protection devices, the distance from other parts of the solar system would make travel to the earth unlikely if not impossible.

Project Blue Book spends more time investigating alleged landings than any other type of UFO sighting. "There you can take measurements, instrumentations, soil tests," Major Quintanilla explained.

"Alleged landings also give us the most headaches — most turn out to be hoaxes."

Yet one of those which has not "turned out to be a hoax" bothers the major. . . . Socorro.

On April 24, 1964, a New Mexico policeman, Lonnie Zamora, heard what he thought was an explosion as he chased a speeding car south of Socorro. Fearing it might have been a dynamite shack blowing up, he abandoned the chase and went to investigate.

Spotting an object some 150 yards away, he at first thought it was a car upturned onto its radiator and thought there had been an accident. But then he realized that what he saw was smooth, metallic and oval-shaped, with stilt-like supporting rods.

As he drove toward it, he saw two small figures, later determined to be about 4½ feet tall, dressed in "white coveralls" and standing beside the object.

Zamora said both had their backs to him, but one turned around and looked right at him. The patrolman drove to within 100 feet of the craft, got out and continued on foot.

When he was within about 50 feet of the craft (moments before he had heard what sounded like a door slamming and the figures were no longer in sight) the UFO began to roar and flames and smoke shot out from the underside. They frightened officer fled to his car.

Then the roaring suddenly stopped, and Zamora looked up to see it take off. Later he said, "It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop."

Major Quintanilla, looking concerned and puzzled, told me "This sighting was thoroughly investigated by Dr. J. Allen Hynek (chief civilian consultant to Blue Book and prominent astronomer); T-Sgt. David Moody (formerly on the Blue Book staff); and I.

"I am convinced that Zamora experienced an event and it scared the dickens out of him. I think he experienced something, and it was real," the major said thoughtfully.

He added that he personally spent several months trying to

What about reports from such qualified observers as pilots, for example, who should be accustomed to quickly identifying any number of conventional objects or atmospheric phenomena?

Maj. Quintanilla said he "can't understand" why everyone always refers to such sightings. "In the time I've been here, I've never had a pilot report a UFO — but they have used the UFO channels to report meteors, missiles, etc."

Does this mean that objects reported by pilots were later determined by the Air Force to be "meteors, missiles, etc." and therefore none have remained "unidentified," or does it mean no pilots have reported Unidentified Flying Objects to the Air Force in the last three years? They have certainly reported them to other private UFO investigation agencies. And if they did not report them to the Air Force, why?

film purporting to be studied and analyzed — Patterson's Laboratory, and I negatives and checked with photo in the air base.

anilla emphasized interpretation of the by the observer what he said he gives us trouble. all influenced by re learned and ex ne pointed out. But ful to state that "I an observer at his there have been es of people trying ver on us," m is, people just "misinterpreting"

those who report "poor observers?" force itself has said ysis of "sighting re- ups" in its Project Special Report No. 1955, the Air Force ted that one-third of reported by what it to be "excellent" ob- re, ultimately left d."

ong the "good ob- e percentage of "un- was 24.8. enough, as the qual- if the observer de- did the percentage ained" sightings. In ful observer" cate- 13 per cent of the eported remained un- In the "poor obser- an, just 16 per cent atings remained un-

use Inexperienced Radar Operators

ords, I asked, when causes of UFO sightings, UFO's
ventional" objects must be natural phenomena?
weather balloons, "Yes," the major replied.
etc., along with What about Portage County's
been ruled out as UFO on April 17? Can a satel-



ECTOR Quintanilla,
e Air Force's Proj-
look, is pictured with
he objects that have
come from UFOs.

Most of them, the major points
out, are rocks, meteorites, and
other objects which can be
reasonably explained.

lite or Venus move across a
car, light the ground "as if it
were noon" with a brilliant
whiteness, or hover at extreme-
ly low altitudes such as 150
feet?

The major smiled. "Do you
think there is any possibility of
a hoax involved in our sight-
ings?" I asked. "No," he re-
plied.

What about the deputies ob-
servations that the UFO chang-
ed directions and waited for
them? "The road is not straight,
it curves. They were changing
directions," the major said.

"Did your contacts in Pitts-
burgh check with East Pales-
tine Ptl. Wayne Houston and
Conway, Pa. Ptl. Frank Panzan-
ella? What did they say?" Did
they corroborate what the Por-
tage County deputies told you?"

"To some extent," the ma-
jor said, pulling out a carefully
stapled-shut report he said con-
tained statements made by the
two men. "But they don't want
us to release their statements,
so I can't show them to you,"
the major added.

"Major, what would it take
to convince you that UFO's ex-
ist as something real?" I ask-
ed, adding that now-famous
question put by a scientist to
Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, for-

mer Blue Book chief: "Does a
UFO have to come in and land
on your desk...?"

Maj. Quintanilla, who has ob-
viously heard that one innumer-
able times, said he would ac-
cept the word of astronomers.
He said they would know "weeks
ahead of time" if visitors from
outer space were on their way
here.

"I have no doubt there would
be all sorts of preparations to
welcome them when they land-
ed," the major said, quite ser-
iously.

Is the American Defense Tool or Just an Image?

... weather balloon to an aircraft or missile, to a ship — or an hallucination.

... would seem that for a period of time the security of the United States COULD be in jeopardy because the object is not identified.

... Book's Feb. 1, 1966 release states that "Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is related directly to the Air Force responsibility for air defense of the United States."

... and the Air Force has chosen to place this interest and responsibility on the shoulders of three people at its headquarters.

... has given this "project" an amount of such modest proportions and facilities that Maj. Quintanilla's desk is shoved in a corner without benefit of any sort of privacy one might expect the head of so important a project to have?

... there is no evidence of any of scientific equipment, or computers, to make a quick, accurate evaluation of a sighting to ultimately determine whether the object exhibited advanced technology."

... In fact, the only piece of modern electrical equipment I saw was a file, containing folders on more than 10,000 sightings, which rotated with the push of a button. This is not to say there is any other equipment, but Maj. Quintanilla did not mention other facilities other than

the photo labs which he says he can use if necessary.

Of course, the information of satellite tracking stations and weather balloon launching sites, etc. scattered throughout the country is accessible by telephone for investigation purposes.

Many Americans say, perhaps rather hopefully — "The Air Force knows what they are, they just aren't telling us."

Are they right?

Consider...

... the number of personnel assigned to project headquarters.

... the handling of files, with no attempt, so far as I could determine, to group sightings by reported characteristics of the objects to see if any patterns could be established.

... no sense of urgency, that was apparent anyway, to find out "just what's going on up there."

... an apparent tendency on the part of Air Force UFO investigators to ignore certain reported facts of a sighting, such as the Portage County deputies' description of the object as being "as big as a house at an estimated 50 feet altitude."

... Maj. Quintanilla's statement that "The most unpleasant task is to tell people they didn't see what they thought they saw."

... His statement in regard to the Portage County sighting that Venus was "the only thing that could have been there for that long a time."

... Air Force Regulation 200-2, Paragraph 3-c. . . "Air Force activities must reduce the percentage of unknowns to the minimum. Analysis thus far has provided explanation for all but a few of the sightings reported. These unexplained sightings are carried statistically as unknowns. If more immediate, detailed objective data on the unknowns had been available, probably these too could have been explained."

... JANAP 146, a Joint Chiefs of staff directive: "Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS) from Airborne and Waterborne Sources." It also applies to civil as well as military craft under certain conditions, and Section III, Security, 210, has the effect of prohibiting even commercial airline pilots, as well as all military personnel, from transmitting or revealing the contents of CIRVIS reports — including those on UFO's.

On the other hand, if the Air Force is convinced that all UFO's are misinterpretations of conventional objects or national phenomena, there really isn't much to do except find out which conventional object or natural phenomena the observer could have seen.

And this appears to be the basis for the start — and finish — of UFO investigations. If there was a satellite passing overhead at the time the observer spotted something unusual or startling in the sky, it was "probably a satellite" he saw

The fact that he described it as "big as a house and hovering 50 feet off the ground" can be attributed to "exaggeration" or "misinterpretation."

The Air Force's Scientific Advisory Board's Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project Blue Book has recommended expansion of the project and contracting scientific investigative work out to universities.

Maj. Quintanilla, when asked if he was in favor of this proposed program, said, "It sure would make my job easier."

"Could a better job of investigation be done if there were such an expansion?" I asked.

"It all depends," the major replied. "Once these gentlemen get on board and are able to conduct the investigations (any way they want, naturally) there should be. The scientists will require help in the beginning," he added.

"It will create a better image," the major acknowledged.

An image. . . does that describe Project Blue Book?

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- ERRATA: (1) The phrase quoted in paragraph two, page four, of the discussion of Blue Book's investigation, attributed to Congressman Stanton, was actually said by Judge Robert Cook; printed in the May 5, 1966 Record-Courier article about Congressman Stanton.
- (2) In the second paragraph of the April 21 entry of the Initial Phase Summary, "Mr. Rex" should read, "Mr. Rex Lysyj".
- (3) On page six of The Chase, "Kwaitanowski" should read "Kwiatanowski".

ANGLE MEASUREMENTS: Were made with simple instrument made with protractor and ruler, allowing line-of-sight readings while witnesses pointed (rotating protractor was weighted for 90° vertical). Horizontal angles measured similarly. Angle of sun in Section Map of Economy Borough is uncertain, but direction of UFO was 6° greater. Error in other angle measurements, $\pm$ or $- 1^\circ$. Magnetic compass used for road bearing measurements. (Sun angle from compass, but near ferrous clutter.)

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS: More activity from UFOs was reported in Portage County during this investigation, but the P-13 investigation took priority. Some of these involved law enforcement officers, but these men were reluctant to discuss or report them, chiefly because of the turmoil that resulted from the P-13 event, and the Air Force's evaluation procedure. One deputy offered corroboration of the initial P-13 sighting, but refused permission to use his name, even confidentially. He did not wish to get involved. At this time (evening of April 17) Deputy Spaur had already been considerably bothered by the news media, although he never failed to cooperate as fully as his schedule permitted.

Beaver County Times

Beaver County's "HOMETOWN" Daily Newspaper

Monday, April 18, 1966

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30 Pages

OBJECT DISAPPEARS NEAR CONWAY

UFO Chased Into County

By TOM SCHLEY
TIMES Staff

An 86-mile high-speed chase after an unidentified flying object (UFO) ended in Conway Sunday morning nearly an hour after it began in Ohio.

Conway Patrolman Frank Panzanella said he saw what prompted two sheriff's deputies and a policeman from Ohio to drive at speeds 80 to 105 miles per hour in pursuit of the "flying saucer."

The two deputies from Portage County, Ohio, Dale Spaur and W. L. Neff, began the chase shortly after 5 a.m. on Ohio Route 224 near Alwater, south of Akron and southeast of Ravenna, the Portage County seat.

At about the same time, Police Chief Gerald Buchert of Mantua, Ohio, snapped a photo of the object from some distance while he and his wife stood in their front yard about 10 miles north of Ravenna.

Spaur and Neff, on instructions, pursued the brightly lighted object alone down Ohio Route 14. They were joined at East Palestine by Patrolman Wayne Huston of that city in another police cruiser.

The two cars sped on into Pennsylvania, down Route 51 to Rochester and then on Route 65 to Conway. At Conway they spotted Panzanella in his parked cruiser at a service station. They stopped there since Spaur

was running low on gas. He also had burned a new set of tires bald from the high speed chase.

The three Ohio men asked Panzanella if he had seen the object and he pointed it out to them. He had seen it a few minutes earlier from the top of 11th Street hill but hadn't thought much about it at that time.

Panzanella told the TIMES (Please Turn to Page 4, Col. 3)

Spaur said that both cruiser clocked the speed of the object at 103 miles per hour.

Huston had his headquarters at Chippewa Barracks, about the chase, but none of the state police cars were near Route 51 at the time.

He said that they lost sight of the object near the entrance to Brady's Run Park when trucks stopped at the traffic light forced them to slow up.

They continued through Fairport, and just after passing the P&LE Railroad underpass at Bridgewater, they again spotted the object in the direction of Rochester. At Rochester it was directly ahead of them again. Spaur said the object at 15 seemed to wait for them to get through the bridges at Rochester and back onto the open boulevard before it continued at its regular speed.

Spaur said the object definitely was controlled because it could change speed, and gain or lose altitude. "Whether it wants to go up, it doesn't play around," he said. When he thought they had lost it for good at Brady's Run it seemed as if it had waited for them to catch up again, Spaur said.

When shown the picture taken by James Lucci, Brighton Township last August, Spaur told the TIMES it looked very much like the object he had seen.

William Weitzel, chairman of the Pittsburgh subcommittee of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena who investigated the Lucci sighting, was in Ravenna Sunday afternoon to investigate this late sighting.

Air Force personnel were expected in Ravenna today to investigate the sighting and look at Buchert's photograph.

(Continued From Page 1)

that when he first saw the brightly lighted object he thought it was a reflection from the rising sun off an airplane. He came off the hill and spotted the object again just before the Ohio men arrived.

He called Rochester radio base station to have the Greater Pittsburgh Airport contacted, and the four men watched for about 20 minutes as the object rose "straight up" until it was barely visible.

Spaur said they Air Force the object that jet town were traveling hour, was them to s

A Fed official at Airport spotted there any where the at that ti

The four Conway sa parently to port passe area below ject they w

Air Force port would about the s say that off terson Air Ohio, had b Air Force UFO's are Patterson,

SPAUR, Force gunn Sunday tha checking a when they light through the object along the rectly over about 150 f

He said t ject was v and the lig gave the ap shape. It l around the and they co ly at the when it wa he said,

both darkness and daylight. Spaur said the object did make any attempt to get aw and it followed the main hig way almost as "if it knew it Deputy Robert Wilson, the 1

Chased Into County

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Calls for Civilian Investigation of Sightings

4/27/66 *Ranenna, Ohio Record-Courier*

NICAP Hits AF UFO Investigation

(4)

By CAROL CLAPP

Terming the Air Force's explanation of a UFO seen here April 17 "incorrect," a NICAP investigator who has been checking out the sighting for more than a week today attacked what he terms insufficient investigation of this and other UFO sightings by Project Blue Book, the Air Force agency

which checks UFO reports.

Urging that such investigations be conducted by civilian rather than military agencies, he said it is "ridiculous" to presume that the significance of such phenomena is only military and not scientific.

William Weitzel, NICAP investigator and chairman of that organization's sub-committee in

Pittsburgh, said his official opinion of the Air Force finding is that it is not correct.

NICAP, (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena), is a non-military, non-profit organization which investigates UFO sightings throughout the country and after analysis of all available evi-

dence, issues a statement concerning their possible validity.

"Many times press releases from the Air Force concerning UFO sightings indicate that neither their investigators nor Project Blue Book take full account of available information.

"This inadequacy, which we have documented in our publication, 'The UFO Evidence,' harmful for several reasons. Weitzel said.

"First, it is highly unscientific and fails to contribute to a thorough analysis of UFO phenomena.

"Second, when the Air Force publishes UFO information which does not represent the total situation and particular cases, the public is misled.

"Third, ridicule and harassment of witnesses often results."

It is unusual, Weitzel said, for NICAP to issue an opinion this soon after an investigation unless there is overwhelming evidence.

"We (NICAP) believe the conclusion is inaccurate because Deputies Dale Spaur and Barney Neff chased the object, keeping it in sight; East Palestine Ptl. Wayne Houston saw it flying overhead and saw the Portage County cruiser chasing it and joined in; and a Conway, Pa. policeman, Frank Panzanella, then saw the object.

"The four police officers then watched the object together for some 20 minutes.

"We believe Project Blue Book (the Air Force's investigative unit on UFO sightings) did not take into account the corroboration from Houston and Panzanella, nor the great length of time that Spaur and Neff had the object in view.

"Spaur's testimony suggests that the Project Blue Book investigator with whom he talked on the telephone would have been happier if Spaur had seen the UFO for only a short length of time.

"When the investigator asked Spaur if he had seen the UFO for just a few minutes, and Spaur emphatically denied that the investigator dropped the subject.

"Furthermore, procedure such as this is not unusual in Project Blue Book investigations of UFO's," Weitzel charged.

Weitzel added that, "It might seem easy to charge that Project Blue Book is not doing its job. However, the real problem

'Bluebook' Won't Visit The County

4/19/66 R-C

Air Force "Project Bluebook" investigators, who check reports of Unidentified Flying Objects throughout the United States, will not be coming to Portage County to investigate the sightings by three area police officers early Sunday morning.

Major Hector Quintanella, head of "Project Bluebook" at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, said this morning that "it would be impossible to recreate the scene."

The UFO was spotted and chased by Deputies Dale Spaur and Barney Neff for an 86-mile stretch into Pennsylvania early Sunday morning.

Maj. Quintanella said Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert, who photographed the UFO from Mantua while it was being chased in Randolph has sent the film to "Project Bluebook" for study.

"We also have reports from Chief Buchert and Deputy Spaur," the major added. He said the report from Spaur was taken by telephone and Buchert mailed his report of the sighting to Dayton.

Deputies Saw Venus, Not UFO, Air Force Says

4/23/66

Record-Courier

Sheriff's deputies chased a "satellite" for 86 miles into Pennsylvania Sunday morning, "then, when it passed out of view, focused their eyes on Venus."

This is what the Air Force said in a statement Friday concerning Sunday morning's sighting of a UFO by Deputies Dale Spaur and Barney Neff, an East Palestine patrolman and a Conway, Pa. policeman.

The Air Force added that two apparent images on film taken by Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert were "processing defects due to old, foggy film, and poor handling." One image on the film was Venus, the Air Force said.

The Air Force sent no investigators to Portage County to check on the officer's reports so far as anyone knows. Major Hector Quintanella, head of "Project Blue Book," took a brief report by telephone earlier this week from Deputy Spaur, and asked Buchert to mail him the film he shot.

The Air Force report noted that "Venus was rising in the southeast and was . . . brighter than any star in the sky."

The East Palestine patrolman had described the object as "more brilliant than the sun," and Spaur said that when the object was directly overhead, it was so bright he could hardly look at it.

Spaur also noted that it hovered above his cruiser, rose and descended, and even waited for him on two occasions.

Deputy Scoffs At AF Report On UFO Chase

4/25/66 R-C

"In my own mind I'm absolutely sure it wasn't a satellite and it wasn't a star."

Deputy Dale Spaur, disturbed by the Air Force's statement that he probably chased a satellite Sunday morning, April 17, and then when it disappeared, focused his eyes on Venus, finds it impossible to believe this explanation and considers it an "insult to the intelligence of the American people."

"I didn't know we made satellites that large or that low to the ground, or that they could be maneuvered," Spaur said, recalling his chase of a brilliant object which hovered, rose and descended and slipped back and forth across the highway in front of his car during the 86-mile chase from southern Portage County into Pennsylvania.

"I didn't know satellites traveled over Portage County at speeds as slow, at times, as 50 to 70 miles per hour," Spaur added.

"I wouldn't gamble my own life, let alone Barney Neff's if I thought what we saw could be explained," Spaur said.

"If I chased Venus across two states it must be some sort of record."

Referring to photographs taken by Mantua Police Chief Gerald Buchert of an object Buchert saw to the south at the same time Spaur was chasing the UFO, Spaur said, "If they want to explain the photographs away this way, it's okay.

"But they can't explain away what I saw and followed.

"I never believed in UFO's before, but I believe it now. I never met Wayne Houston,

Deputy Scoffs

"Project Blue Book," called him to tell him of the finding.

Spaur said, "no one from the Air Force talked to me for more than three minutes about the UFO I saw and chased. But that might have meant of

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Spaur said, "no one from the Air Force talked to me for more than three minutes about the UFO I saw and chased. But they might have means of checking I know nothing about.

"If it's ours, I wish they'd tell me," Spaur said.

Dustman said he believes his deputies about the sighting, and finds it impossible to accept the "satellite - Venus" chase theory.

"There were too many people involved for this to have been a will-o-the-wisp these men were chasing."

Deputies Save 4/23/66 Venus, Not UFO, Record-Courier Air Force Says

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"But they can't explain away what I saw and followed.

"I never believed in UFO's before, but I believe it now. I never met Wayne Houston, (East Palestine patrolman) or Frank Panzanella, (Conway, Pa. patrolman) before that morning, but they saw it too."

Sheriff Ross Dustman is 100 per cent behind Spaur.

Dustman said he "laughed right out loud" when Major Hector Quintanella of the Air Force's UFO investigation unit

(Continued on Page 8)

First, it is highly unscientific and fails to contribute to a thorough analysis of UFO phenomena.

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"Furthermore, procedure such as this is not unusual in Project Blue Book investigations of UFO's," Weitzel charged.

Weitzel added that, "It might seem easy to charge that Project Blue Book is not doing its job. However, the real problem is that a full-scale investigation of UFO phenomena should be in the hands of a civilian and not a military agency.

"As far as the possible military threat from UFO's is concerned, responsibility for their identification naturally belongs to the Air Force. But, it is ridiculous to presume that the significance of such phenomena is only military and not scientific."

of the Major's interview with the deputies at the request of Deputy Dale Spaur. The two NICAP investigators were asked to leave during the verbal half of the interview, however.

"The major's stated attitude," Weitzel said, "was that since the only conventional item that matched the sighting at all was the satellite - Venus statement, this must be the explanation."

"Three weeks ago, Maj. Quintanilla refused to send anyone here because, he said, 'it would be difficult to recreate the scene.'"

(After demands for such an investigation were made by Cong. William Stanton, the Air Force admitted it had made a mistake in not investigating the sighting thoroughly and on-the-spot immediately after it happened).

"It is incredible to me that anyone familiar with the details of the sighting could believe Major Quintanilla's explanation," Weitzel said.

"I can only speculate about why he seems to."

"He either rejected or ignored portions of the testimony which make a satellite - Venus explanation ridiculous."

"His reasoning seemed to be that because no UFO was reported picked up on radar near Pittsburgh, therefore none was present at any time. His claim



MAJOR Hector Quintanilla, seated left, looks over reports filled out by Deputies Dale Spaur and Wilbur Neff during an interview here Tuesday

concerning the April 17 UFO sighting. Seated next to Maj. Quintanilla is Deputy Robert Wilson, radio operator the

morning of the sighting and chase. Standing are Sheriff Ross Dustman, left, Deputies Spaur and Neff.

UFO's, as has been documented by NICAP in its book, 'The Evidence.' "Contrary to the program message, hundreds of

Judge Cook Raps UFO Probe

Runaway Record-Courier 5/12/66

'They Know It Wasn't Venus,' He Contends

"Let's tell the American people the truth about UFO's — when the Air Force cannot identify objects sighted in the skies by competent observers, they should admit it."

This is the theme of a letter Common Pleas Court Judge Robert E. Cook is writing to Cong. William Stanton.

"When the Air Force can legitimately explain a sighting, they should do so... but when they cannot explain a UFO report, they should admit that and say so," Judge Cook contended today.

Referring to Major Hector Quintanilla's determination immediately at the conclusion of an interview Tuesday that the Air Force was right in its original statement that two Portage County deputies chased "a satellite and then Venus," Judge Cook said "What those boys saw was not Venus."

"People are not swallowing this explanation about Venus," the judge charged.

"Venus doesn't have form and an antenna, it doesn't hover 100 feet off the ground and cast a bright light onto two officers and their police cruiser. Venus doesn't dip and maneuver—the Air Force knows it doesn't, we know it doesn't, and the public knows it doesn't."

"It's not a good enough explanation — it's not enough," the judge said.

"I don't think the Air Force can explain what the deputies as well as two other police officers (one from East Palestine who joined in the chase, and the other in Conway, Pa.) saw, but why don't they simply say they can't explain it?"

"If the Air Force feels it has some sort of obligation to try to explain each and every UFO sighting, it should at least come up with an explanation that is plausible. Venus is not a plausible explanation," Cook charges.

In fact, Cook sees no reason why the Air Force should feel, if it does, that it must offer a conventional explanation for every UFO sighting.

"There is no reason why, if the object cannot actually be identified, the Air Force should try and explain away each sighting other than to say it just doesn't know what the observ-

er saw. There's no need to come up with an explanation just to have an explanation, ridiculous though it may be."

Referring to the Portage County sighting and the Air Force's conclusion that it was a "satellite - Venus," Judge Cook said the Air Force has "as much as said the deputies were incorrect."

"This is doubting the word of, start out an investigation by four police officers who are immediately doubting the word of police officers or any other reputable observers," the judge contends.

"Instead of appearing to doubt the word of four reputable police officers at face value, all physical evidence such as balloons, conventional aircraft and satellites should be checked out."

"But the Air Force should not

immediately doubting the word of police officers or any other reputable observers," the judge contends.

In his letter to Stanton he urges a thorough look at the Air Force's investigative procedures in regard to UFO sightings and their policies in issuing explanations.

From Sign to Grudge to Blue Book

By CAROL CLAPP
(First of a Series)

Relegated to what one might be tempted to call a "cubby-hole" in the Foreign Technology Division building at Wright-Patterson Air Force base in Dayton are a major, a lieutenant, a sergeant, a secretary and 10,200 files of reported "UFO" sightings.

This is Project Blue Book.

And this is the staff which handles one of the nation's most publicized and puzzling "problems" — flying saucers.

Project Blue Book is the Air

Force's UFO investigative unit which, for the past 19 years, has attempted to identify whatever it is all those people have been seeing in the sky.

People, of course, have reported "seeing something" up there they couldn't identify for much longer than that.

Major Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Blue Book, points out that the first "UFO report" was undoubtedly that filed by Ezekiel in 593 B.C., when he reported with some awe a "wheel in the middle of a wheel" in the air.

(This UFO report, of course, the Air Force has not attempted to identify).

Neither has it had a chance to investigate sightings such as those reported in the Norfolk, Va. area Aug. 6, 1860, when two objects, one red and one green, flew together overhead with an undulating motion; or that one July 3, 1884 in the Norwood, N. Y. area, when a Saturn-shaped UFO (a globe with a central ring) flew slowly overhead; or those in 1896 and 1897 from all across the United States when a mysterious cigar-

shaped "airship" was reported flying against the wind.

But the Air Force can be forgiven for not investigating these sightings — after all, there were no propelled aircraft at that time, so of course there was no Air Force, and consequently, no Project Blue Book to identify the objects.

This is no longer a problem. On Jan. 22, 1948, Project Sign, the forerunner of Project Blue Book, was created. Through Project Sign (which later be-

(Continued on Page 21)

came Project Grudge and finally, Project Blue Book) the Air Force has managed to get its teeth into the sticky problem and explain away reported sightings with the statement that:

"UFO's exist only as misinterpretations of conventional objects or natural phenomena."

Of course, 646 out of 10,197 sightings are officially termed as "unidentified" and haven't been explained (and to hundreds of observers who were later told by the Air Force they saw "swamp gas," "satellites," "Venus," etc., there are a lot more "unexplained.")

In the Air Force statistics, however, there is another and much larger category termed "insufficient data." This group of sightings remains, for practical purposes, not identified because in the Air Force's opinion there was not sufficient information provided by the observer as to exactly what he saw, where, when, why or how he saw it.

Last year (1965) the Air Force investigated 886 sightings. Sixteen remain "unidentified." Seventeen are "pending." Another 85 were placed in the "insufficient data" category. Practically speaking, then, 17 per cent are not identified because no explanation could be found, or in the Air Force's opinion not enough information was provided to give an answer.

The four members of the Project Blue Book staff do not personally investigate all sightings. Major Quintanilla, a physicist with a working knowledge of meteorology and astronomy, who formerly worked on computer research and development, is a seven-year veteran of intelligence work and a former radar operator; Lt. William Hanley, a metallurgist who has been on the staff for a month; Sgt. Harold T. Jones, who handles administrative duties; and Mrs.

Each air base commander is charged with appointing a "UFO investigator." Major Quintanilla said such investigators should have "at least an academic background in the physical sciences," but admitted that "sometimes we can't get such qualifications."

Reports from these investigators are sent into Project Blue Book headquarters, a small, windowless office in the Foreign Technology Division building at Wright-Patterson.

Visiting Project Blue Book is impressive. Arrangements have to be made through the Pentagon and then Major Quintanilla. Checking into the reception center at the air base's main gate, I filled out a personal pass and a car pass, signing a statement that I had no radioactive materials with me and that I would consent to being searched and having my car searched if requested. (I wasn't).

The major was called to confirm the appointment, the time noted on the pass, and I was given directions to the building. Arriving there, I showed the pass, the time was again noted and the major notified. He led me to the second floor office of Blue Book, behind a plain steel door.

Inside were the four desks of the staff members, with a single "visitor's chair" in front of the major's desk. At the other end of the room was a rotating tray-type file flanked by a draftsman's desk. Maps and charts covered the walls.

This is a secured area and no cameras are permitted. At the conclusion of the more than four-hour interview with Major Quintanilla, he again led me downstairs, signed the time on my pass and commented he had allowed me 10 minutes to reach the main gate.

During the interview Major Quintanilla explained that sightings are filed only by month, day and year. There is no cross-indexing of files to group, for comparison, such things as the locations of the various sightings, descriptions of the UFO's, behavior of the objects, qualifications of the observers, or any auxiliary phenomena such as radioactivity or electromagnetic effects.

(Conclusions are apparently noted at least in statistical form, however, because they are compiled for Project Blue Book reports).

Files date back to June 24, 1947, when a sighting by Kenneth Arnold, a private pilot flying near Mt. Ranier, Wash. was reported to the press, heralding the first major wave of UFO sightings in the United States.

It was his description of the nine flat, shiny objects which fluttered and skipped among the mountains as flying "like a saucer skipped across the water" which resulted in the coining of the phrase, "flying saucers," by newsmen.

A rash of more than 100 "flying saucer" reports poured in during the next few months. Air Technical Intelligence Center was investigating — Project Sign had not yet been set up.

One Sept. 23, 1947, an ATIC letter reportedly was sent to the commanding general of the Air Force stating that UFO's "are real."

Numerous sources have reported the existence of this letter, plus a report of August, 1948, termed the ATIC's "Top Secret Estimate of the Situation," concluding that UFO's were interplanetary space ships, which was sent to the Air Force Chief of Staff.

When I asked Major Quintanilla about these two important reports, he got out a scrapbook and began looking for them.

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Inside were the four desks of the staff members, with a single "visitor's chair" in front of the major's desk. At the other end of the room was a rotating tray-type file flanked by a draftsman's desk. Maps and charts covered the walls.

This is a secured area and no cameras are permitted. At the conclusion of the more than four-hour interview with Major Quintanilla, he again led me downstairs, signed the time on my pass and commented he had allowed me 10 minutes to reach the main gate.

During the interview Major Quintanilla explained that sightings are filed only by month, day and year. There is no cross-indexing of files to group, for comparison, such things as the locations of the various sightings, descriptions of the UFO's, behavior of the objects, qualifications of the observers, or any auxiliary phenomena such as radioactivity or electromagnetic effects.

(Conclusions are apparently noted at least in statistical form, however, because they are compiled for Project Blue Book reports).

Files date back to June 24, 1947, when a sighting by Kenneth Arnold, a private pilot flying near Mt. Ranier, Wash. was reported to the press, heralding the first major wave of UFO sightings in the United States.

It was his description of the nine flat, shiny objects which fluttered and skipped among the mountains as flying "like a saucer skipped across the water" which resulted in the coining of the phrase, "flying saucers," by newsmen.

A rash of more than 100 "flying saucer" reports poured in during the next few months. Air Technical Intelligence Center was investigating — Project Sign had not yet been set up.

One Sept. 23, 1947, an ATIC letter reportedly was sent to the commanding general of the Air Force stating that UFO's "are real."

Numerous sources have reported the existence of this letter, plus a report of August, 1948, termed the ATIC's "Top Secret Estimate of the Situation," concluding that UFO's were interplanetary space ships, which was sent to the Air Force Chief of Staff.

When I asked Major Quintanilla about these two important reports, he got out a scrapbook and began looking for them. Apologizing for the condition of the well-used scrapbook, he finally admitted he couldn't locate them.

But he did not deny to me the existence of either report.

Temperature Inversions Can Confuse Inexperienced Radar Operators

(Fourth in a Series)
By CAROL CLAPP

A UFO appears to hover, then zip away at incredible speed. It makes a 90 or 180-degree turn at fantastic speed, then almost stops. It seems to "follow" a car or airplane.

Jets chase a UFO which has been spotted on radar, but each time as they draw near, the UFO speeds up just enough to keep out of possible firing range. Observers watch the "chase" from the ground.

Is this "misinterpretation of natural or conventional phenomena?"

I asked Maj. Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Blue Book, about radar sightings of UFO's, inasmuch as such reported observations are frequently debunked by the Air Force as "faulty radar sets," "radar picking up ground clutter" or "radar showing temperature inversion."

I asked about the famous Washington, D.C. sightings in July of 1952. On two separate nights, radarscopes at three large airports in Washington picked up UFO's, observers saw them from the grounds and planes attempted to chase them.

"Temperature inversion," the major said.

(Temperature inversion is a layer of warm air sandwiched between layers of cold air which, under certain circumstances, can bounce radar beams back as if they have struck a solid object.)

"Ground clutter" results from radar beams picking up ground objects under certain atmospheric conditions — objects such as moving cars, buildings, and the like, and showing them on the scope as airborne objects.

But cannot an experienced radar operator differentiate between ground clutter, temperature inversion and solid objects moving in a pattern through the air?

"Most should be able to," the major admitted.

After all, if radar reports are inaccurate enough that temperature inversion and ground clutter can be misinterpreted by experienced operators for UFO, how effective is our radar network?

Maj. Quintanilla acknowledged that an experienced radar operator should be able to tell ground clutter from an object in the air — if his set is in good working condition.

"I used to be able to tell the difference, if I was working with the same set all the time," the major, a former radar operator himself, said.

Could temperature inversion be similarly "mistaken" by an experienced radar operator?

"He can be fooled unless he checks his weather," the major pointed out. But he added that if the radar operator has worked in the area long enough he should be familiar with weather patterns.

What about high-speed turns attributed by observers to some UFO's?

Maj. Quintanilla dismissed this reported characteristic with the explanation that nothing of "mass" is capable of turns at such speeds — a matter of friction, he said, regardless of the method of propulsion.

Light refractions however, could give this appearance, he pointed out.

Then what about such things as "electro-magnetic effects" reported in some instances when UFO's are seen? Cars suddenly stop running on the highway when a UFO is in the area, but start up again readily as soon as the UFO has disappeared. Radios suddenly cut out or ex-

perience considerable interference.

"People keep bringing this up," the major sighed.

"I have never found a correlation between alleged electrical stoppages of autos and UFO's," the major said. Smiling, he added, "in most instances when the drivers took their cars to garages, mechanics found faulty distributors or other mechanical failures."

Included in my question concerning electro-magnetic effects was that of radioactivity reported in some instances where UFO's have landed or come close to the ground.

The major did not comment on radioactivity and UFO's, perhaps unintentionally overlooking that part of the question.

Reports are published from time to time concerning possible crashes of UFO's in the United States. The major said he has no knowledge of any such alleged crashes.

Neither, he said, does he have any knowledge of an attempt by UFO's to "make contact" through such means as radio, blinking lights or other signals.

What about reports that animals are disturbed at times by UFO's in the area. This is one feature of the Exeter, N.H. sightings of last fall (ruled "unknown" by the Air Force) when animals in a farmer's barn were disturbed at the same time UFO's were reported by numerous people in the area.

"If a plane is coming in for a landing, and the pilot puts his flaps down at a certain point, a high-frequency pitch is created which is audible to animals' sense of hearing," the major explained.

He added that when he hears of such an incident in connection with a UFO sighting he immediately suspects an aircraft was in the area and that this is what happened.

In other words, I asked, when all such "conventional" objects as airplanes, weather balloons, satellites, etc., along with hoaxes, have been ruled out as

causes of UFO sightings, UFO's must be natural phenomena?

"Yes," the major replied. What about Portage County's UFO on April 17? Can a satellite or Venus move across a

car, light the ground "as if it were noon" with a brilliant whiteness, or hover at extremely low altitudes such as 150 feet?

The major smiled. "Do you think there is any possibility of a hoax involved in our sightings?" I asked. "No," he replied.

What about the deputies observations that the UFO changed directions and waited for them? "The road is not straight, it curves. They were changing directions," the major said.

"Did your contacts in Pittsburgh check with East Palestine Ptl. Wayne Houston and Conway, Pa. Ptl. Frank Panzanella? What did they say?" Did they corroborate what the Portage County deputies told you?"

"To some extent," the major said, pulling out a carefully stapled-shut report he said contained statements made by the two men. "But they don't want us to release their statements, so I can't show them to you," the major added.

"Major, what would it take to convince you that UFO's exist as something real?" I asked, adding that now-famous question put by a scientist to Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, for-



MAJOR HECTOR Quintanilla, head of the Air Force's Project Blue Book, is pictured with some of the objects that have allegedly come from UFO's.

Most of them, the major points out, are rocks, meteorites, and other objects which can be reasonably explained.

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mer Blue Book chief: "Does a UFO have to come in and land on your desk...?"

Maj. Quintanilla, who has obviously heard that one innumerable times, said he would accept the word of astronomers. He said they would know "weeks ahead of time" if visitors from outer space were on their way here.

"I have no doubt there would be all sorts of preparations to welcome them when they landed," the major said, quite seriously.



MAJOR HECTOR Quintanilla, head of the Air Force's Project Blue Book, is pictured with some of the objects that have allegedly come from UFOs.

Most of them, the major points out, are rocks, meteorites, and other objects which can be reasonably explained.

Project Blue Book -- An Effective American Defense Tool or

By CAROL CLAPP
(Last in a Series)

Just how important is Project Blue Book?

If appearances are indicative, one is almost forced to come to the conclusion: "not very."

"If there is no such thing as an 'Unidentified Flying Object', is Project Blue Book actually more of a public relations group set up to placate the public and government officials — to satisfy them that 'UFO' reports are being thoroughly check out?"

I asked the question of Major Hector Quintanilla as we sat in Blue Book's small, unimpressive office at Wright - Patterson Air Force Base.

"Our main responsibility is the air defense of the country. We're interested in anything that's in the air. The Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) and Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) have the responsibility for tracking objects."

"Air defense of our country?" I thought as I glanced at the staff — only three Air Force men composing the nation's headquarters for Investigation of UFO reports, plus a secretary.

Project Blue Book's own report states that its task is "to determine whether UFO's pose a threat to the security of the United States; and to determine whether UFO's exhibit any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or

technical research."

That would seem to imply that Blue Book is one of the most vital parts of our nation's defense system. After all, if there actually is "something" — anything — in the skies above us, we had better find out pretty quickly what it is and where

it's from.

And it would seem the problem becomes even more serious if the object cannot be readily identified within seconds or minutes. UFO's — at least when first reported — are "unknowns." This means they could be anything, from an in-



BLUE BOOK — JUST AN IMAGE?

nocent weather balloon to an enemy aircraft or missile, to a spaceship — or an hallucination.

It would seem that for a period of time the security of the United States COULD be in danger because the object is not identified.

Blue Book's Feb. 1, 1966 report states that "Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is related directly to the Air Force responsibility for the air defense of the United States."

And the Air Force has chosen to place this interest and responsibility on the shoulders of only three people at its headquarters.

It has given this "project" an office of such modest proportions and facilities that Maj. Quintanilla's desk is shoved into a corner without benefit of any sort of privacy one might expect the head of so "important" a project to have?

There is no evidence of any sort of scientific equipment, or computers, to make a quick, accurate evaluation of a sighting or to ultimately determine whether the object exhibited "advanced technology."

In fact, the only piece of modern, electrical equipment I saw was a file, containing folders on more than 10,000 sightings, which rotated with the push of a button. This is not to say there isn't any other equipment, but Maj. Quintanilla did not mention other facilities other than

the photo labs which he says he can use if necessary.

Of course, the information of satellite tracking stations and weather balloon launching sites, etc. scattered throughout the country is accessible by telephone for investigation purposes.

Many Americans say, perhaps rather hopefully — "The Air Force knows what they are, they just aren't telling us." Are they right?

Consider. . . . the number of personnel assigned to project headquarters.

. . . the handling of files, with no attempt, so far as I could determine, to group sightings by reported characteristics of the objects to see if any patterns could be established.

. . . no sense of urgency, that was apparent anyway, to find out "just what's going on up there."

. . . an apparent tendency on the part of Air Force UFO investigators to ignore certain reported facts of a sighting, such as the Portage County deputies' description of the object as being "as big as a house at an estimated 50 feet altitude."

. . . Maj. Quintanilla's statement that "The most unpleasant task is to tell people they didn't see what they thought they saw."

. . . His statement in regard to the Portage County sighting that Venus was "the only thing that could have been there for that long a time"

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. . . JANAP 146, a Joint Chiefs of staff directive: "Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sighting (CIRVIS) from Airborne and Waterborne Sources." It applies to civil as well as military craft under certain conditions, and Section III, Security 210, has the effect of prohibiting even commercial airline pilots as well as all military personnel, from transmitting revealing the contents CIRVIS reports — including those on UFO's.

On the other hand, if the Force is convinced that a UFO's are misinterpretations of conventional objects or national phenomena, there really isn't much to do except find out which conventional object or natural phenomena the server could have seen.

And this appears to be the basis for the start — and finish — of UFO investigations. There was a satellite passed overhead at the time the server spotted something unusual or startling in the sky; was "probably a satellite"

Book - An Effective American Defense Tool or Just an Image?



BLUE BOOK — JUST AN IMAGE?

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And this appears to be the basis for the start — and finish — of UFO investigations. If there was a satellite passing overhead at the time the observer spotted something unusual or startling in the sky, it was "probably a satellite" he saw

The fact that he described it as "big as a house and hovering 50 feet off the ground" can be attributed to "exaggeration" or "misinterpretation."

The Air Force's Scientific Advisory Board's Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project Blue Book has recommended expansion of the project and contracting scientific investigative work out to universities.

Maj. Quintanilla, when asked if he was in favor of this proposed program, said, "It sure would make my job easier."

"Could a better job of investigation be done if there were such an expansion?" I asked.

"It all depends," the major replied. "Once these gentlemen get on board and are able to conduct the investigations (any way they want, naturally) there should be. The scientists will require help in the beginning," he added.

"It will create a better image," the major acknowledged.

An image. . . does that describe Project Blue Book?"

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