

III. The NICAP documents.

Here we have UFO research much nearer to what it really should be. Note the number of people talked to, and giving "official" signed statements. Note the follow-up behavior of the investigator, and the brain-storming on each element of the event.

The reader should also be aware that nowhere near all of the work of William Weitzel is included here. The initially most germane documents are reproduced. Other pieces of his investigation appear in later sections, and his tireless attempts to influence congress (after the fact of the ridiculous USAF conclusion) are largely left out. As we say in church, thanks and praise to William Weitzel for doing it right on a thousandth of the USAF budget (or less).

SLUG CHASE

UFO SIGHTING
WORKSHEET

CHASE FILE

DATE APRIL 17, 1966

Astronomical _____

TIME 5-6 a.m. EST

Meteorological _____

LOCATION OHIO TO PA.

Aircraft _____

SHAPE DISC

Spacocraft _____

FIRST LEAD _____

Balloon _____

CASE TYPE POLICE CHASE

DESCRIPTION DISC WITH ANTENNA-LIKE PROTRUSION ON ^{TOP} ~~BOTTOM~~

BEHAVIOR CHASED BY OHIO POLICE ⁷³ ~~80-85~~ MILES INTO PENNSYLVANIA. OUTRAN POLICE, SEEMED TO WAIT FOR THEM TO CATCH UP. VERY BRIGHT; ^{LIGHTED} ~~REFLECTED~~ ON ROAD.

WITNESSES PORTAGE CO. DEPUTIES DALE SPAUR, W. L. NEFF; EAST PALESTINE, OHIO PATROLMAN WAYNE HUSTON; CONWAY, PA. PTL. FRANK PANZANELLA

EM _____

INSTRUMENTS _____

SOUND HUM

PHYSIOLOGICAL _____

PHOTO ~~POOR~~ MISTAKE

PHYSICAL _____

ANIMALS _____

OTHER _____

NICAP INVESTIGATION BILL WEITZEL ON THE SCENE
Full investigation report filed.

USAF ACTIONS Brief telephone interview of Spaur; weeks later, under political pressure, Maj. Q. went to scene & "re-investigated!" Satellite-Venus explanation stuck.

Prepared by db

Witzel
FILE
COPY

THE P-15 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

NOTE: Materials contained herein, with the exception of newspaper articles or newswire quotations, are CONFIDENTIAL and for release to the public only by express permission of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

(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.

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 wildly 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 1961.

In the village, 10 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 noise and he on the P-13 seen in Grant 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 Starlite 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 Hoff 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 adrenaline 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. Schoenfelt, 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 travel, 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 3) As the men moved forward in P-13, 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-13 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 Neff 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. Orville Scarry, 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-13 neared 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.)

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 this 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-13 reached Mahoning County (Berlin Reservoir). Deputy Sheriff Dave Brothers of Columbiana County was waiting outside of Salem on 14A; when he heard Spaur, or Neff, 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-13 reached Canfield, the UFO was moving farther and farther south, still running east, to their right. Neff, 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 18 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 "anterna". 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°

L.C.T. !
= 5:42
E.S.T.
or
6:42 E.D.T.

Time?
5:30 AM
Was Echo
vis. ? -

?

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.

Thus to
The N.E.

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 5:50. 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.)

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1830 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

April 27, 1966

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

Complete notes from Log at base radio station in Columbinna 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.)

*Copy sent W. Westfall
(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.

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

15

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 bly 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.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

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

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, ^{OV-1} 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.

partly melted

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.

Spaur and Neff came down the road right after it. I fell in behind them. We were going 80 - 85 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.

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 us in Freedom and said they wanted us to call the Air Force. Some colonel from Rochester.

B/

I prefer this information be kept confidential at NICA's discretion. at NICA's discretion. supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1830 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

April 25, 1966

April 25, 1966

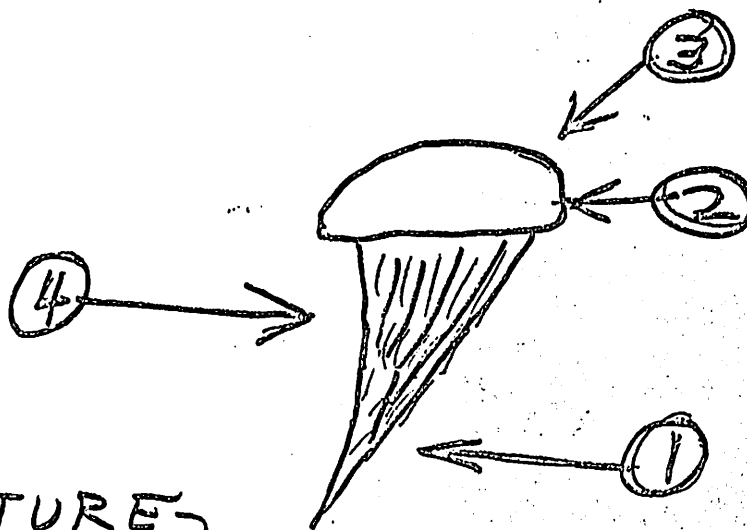
TESTIMONY OF WAYNE HUSTON -- CONTINUED

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.*



SIGNATURE →

Patrolman Wayne Huston

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

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

H: East Palest'cen'.

W: Palest'cen', Ohio. The date is April 25, 1966; time, 5:05 PM. Discussing Office 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 guess 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 from a dead 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: Mm 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? (Referenc 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: Ma hurn. 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, 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

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0494

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1530 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

June 21, 1966

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

STATEMENT BY FRANK PANZANELLA, CONWAY, PA. POLICE

A / May 18, 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 proceeded 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 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 proceeded 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.

Patrolman Frank Panzanello

Spec / 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.

A / 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 Economy Borough police, Henry Kwiatkowski, say he had seen two planes. He called me on his own, not by my request. Correction: Kwiatkowski. 2153 Ridge Rd. 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. 266 - 2903.

It probably supported fact finding body serving the national public interest

Typed: W. Weitzel, NICAP Signed: Frank Panzanello Date 6-21-66

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1838 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

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:

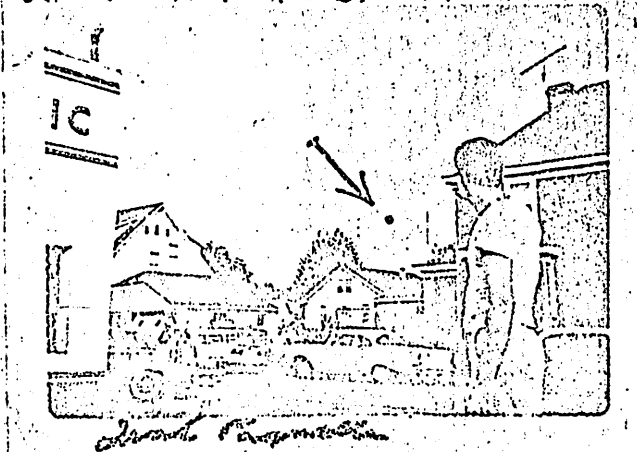
Frank Panzanella 6-21-66 *W. Weitzel NIC*
Typed 6/21/66

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.E., 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 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.

by serving the national public interest

W: Now, he called Greater Pittsburgh Airport (Blaghey 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.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

Pan

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0494

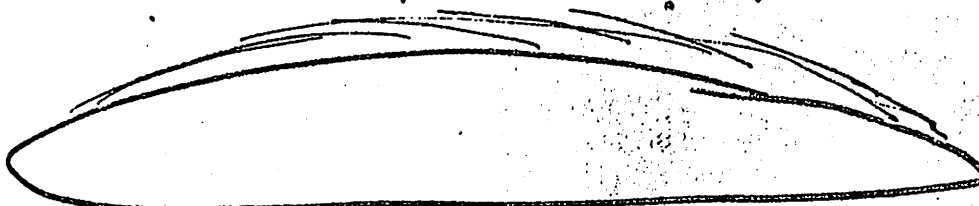
CABLE ADDRESS:
OXYLIGHT

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1830 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

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.

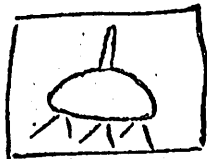
Between poles, no projection



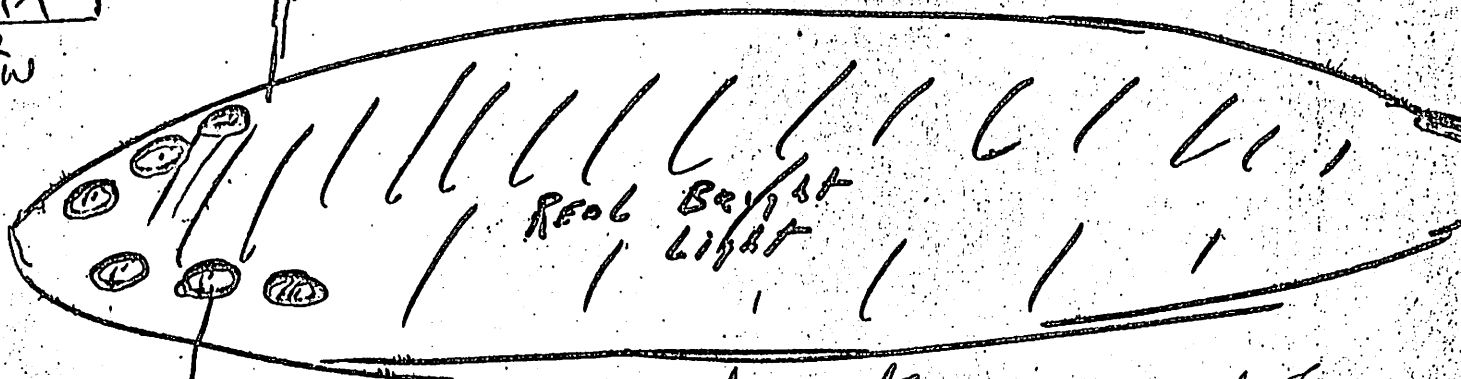
W.W.

AS THOUGH

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



Projection at rear (trailing edge) of UFO



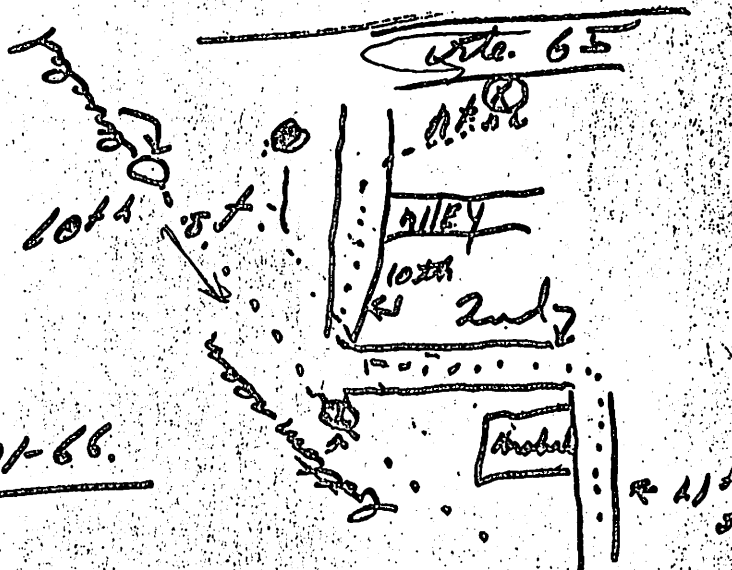
Under side.

*Light inside
Dark Rim outside.*

SEEN coming down

April 17-66

Frank Panzanella - 6-21-66.



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

Notes to
 Cal. Holm
 xcript sent 9/14/71

S -- (Filling out form) Here's a good question. Excuse me, sir. It "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 -- Mm hmm.

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 -- Mm hmm.

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 --

* Venus would appear to get "dimmer"

5/13/60

100-1178-1000

Leading question

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 --

N -- 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 washout 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.

notious

*

Q -- Conway.

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

*Canfield is due east of Portage Co. Major Q. assumed UFO went S.E. toward Salem. But 17 April early reports confused Rte. 14A with Rte. 14. 69

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 ^{From W, S.W.} -- 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 hmm.

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 wherd 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 --

aimed due east.

Q -- Mm hmm.

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 ~~of~~ 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 -- *from south*

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 WENT 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 humm.

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 on 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 -- *Leading question* (~~didn't~~ 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 foot, '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 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 sergee 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) --

N -- We went into Canfield, it'd come across the front of the road, -- *Road is straight east*

D -- Turned off to the right --

N -- And we turned off to the right. And it was over to the right of us *Awareness of phenomenon of relative motion w*
then, and that threw it back over to the left hand side of the cruiser, *road*
And it seemed like it just went off the road and quit; when we was going *dir*
a little bit south, it turned and come right back with us. South. *cha*

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 ~~at~~ (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 ~~to~~ 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 her

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 were

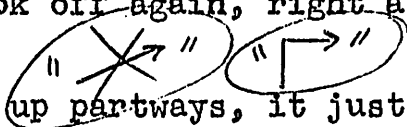
(Final time determination unsettled here)

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!

N -- 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 --

(drawings reversed)



N -- 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, --

N -- 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 what 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

also saw Venus

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 PSSSSHHEW, 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 thin 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 controllin air traffic.)

S -- No. I say that who their radio operator was talking to, I don't know *Oakdale VRO officer Lt. Stephen Paquette said he would not expect radar to pick up object flying at reported altitude. 26

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 PHSSSSSEW, 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 velocity 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

W -- 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 satellite 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.

Venus - after UFO left

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.

Venus was 9° S of Moon.

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! (This might have been)

Major W. ...
(M-10)
me (S-10)

(Laughter)

(UFO to left (N) of Moon (↑ C))

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, 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)

80

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. 3 mi

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 statistical 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.) 81

(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 categorize -- 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 --

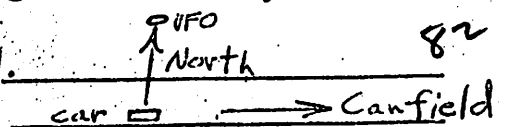
Q -- They were changing direction. *Not toward Canfield*

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.

I traveled route. (w.w.)

Correct. NORTH.



WW -- Yeah, but when they're heading south, and it's ahead of them, you see, then it's south; and when they're heading east and it's to the left, then it's north.

Q -- When the thing disappeared, they were changing, they were changing to the southeast direction, it was right in front of them. That statement is right there (chuckle). *UFO disappeared when they were going straight*

WW -- Yeah, but they were going due east toward Canfield, and then due south out of Canfield; it was ahead of them both times.

Q -- (pause, chuckle)

WW -- Did they tell you that they passed Canfield --

Q -- I've got the statement right there.

WW -- That they were going southeast at every moment?

Q -- No, of course not. Because the road doesn't follow southeast at every moment. You have bends in every road.

WW -- Yeah, but see this had a right angle bend at Canfield, and they were going east; and the object was seen to the north -- following along side the road. And then when they headed south, the object was ahead of them, to the south. If you're aimed south, and something's in front, then it's to the south; and if you're aimed east, and something's to the left, then it's north.

Q -- Of course.

WW -- Well then how could a satellite have been seen following them* along the north, and then when they turned around and went south -- (*the road)

Q -- Look -- a satellite is not visual. You can't observe a satellite for more than ten minutes at the most. *Irrelevant. Criticism applies to Venus.*

WW -- Right. And they had this thing in view for, almost --

Q -- For an hour and thirty five minutes.

WW -- Well how could that have been a satellite then?

Q -- I didn't say that that was a satellite, did I? I said his first observation, that caused his attention; but I don't want to get into a squabble.

WW -- Well -- look --

Q -- No-- good afternoon!

WW -- You're not going to examine the data?

Q -- I've examined the data. *Not road directions. See p. 15, bottom.* 8

WW -- Did you examine the data that it moved relative to the --

*Venus would have been occluded by ground objects many times. And Neil told me he had to get against windshield, looking up part of time.

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

WW -- Does Venus move relative to the moon?

Q -- No!

WW -- 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")

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

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

WW -- And that's Venus.

"at left": o ← C

Q -- Yes.

"to left": ← (to its l)

WW -- When they're standing still?!

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

WW -- 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 conventic 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, NCAAP

* Such convections would not cause gross "apparent" changes — ie, from 100 to 500 feet ^{altitude} at apparent distance of 100 feet. (p. Or t.c.f. pp. 9, 10; straight up and out of sight.

From the Record - Courier, Ravenna, Ohio, Wednesday, October 5, 1966:

Prominent Scientist Defends Portage UFO Sighting --- Conclusion of Blue Book Irrational,
Arizona Physicist Contends by Carol Clapp

Pointing to the Portage County UFO sighting and "chase" in April as one of the best-documented cases in UFO annals, a prominent atmospheric physicist told a group of scientists at the University of Arizona today that "if the official explanation in this case is not changed in the immediate future, the Air Force will look more absurd than it does now."

Dr. James McDonald, director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona in Tucson, reported to fellow scientists on an intensive six-month study of the UFO phenomenon he has just completed.

The Portage County sighting was one of the key cases studied by Dr. McDonald, whose investigations took him to Project Blue Book in Dayton several times, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to Air Force headquarters in Washington D. C., and to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) offices in Washington.

He said that as a result of his study, "I'm satisfied that the Air Force has information from its own investigators as well as from the NICAP report prepared by William B. Weitzel which completely rules out the explanation that police officers saw a satellite and then Venus.

"I don't understand how Project Blue Book could possibly let the Portage County case remain in limbo.

"The fact that Project Blue Book has not changed its conclusion, as Maj. Hector Quintanilla, on July 22, indicated would be done in the face of the evidence, suggests to me that despite all the original flurry in early June to take a fresh look at Blue Book, you can't change their old way of looking at things, and they won't back off," Dr. McDonald charged.

"It's a sad commentary on the Air Force," he added.

"The Air Force has been telling the public and Congress for so long that UFOs are the hallucinations of kooks and crackpots that it (the Air Force) has become a victim of its own propaganda," Dr. McDonald contends.

"What appears to be a scientific problem of the greatest importance has become so discolored and misrepresented that virtually everyone in the country believes that the UFO phenomenon is a bunch of nonsense.

"But an intensive study indicates there is something going on completely beyond our scientific knowledge, and it must be run down."

Dr. McDonald said his six-month study of the UFO phenomenon convinced him that the "most acceptable hypothesis is that they are extraterrestrial," and that "car-buzzing incidents suggest something in the nature of a reconnaissance operation."

He will not speculate, however, as to the origin of the UFO's or their ultimate motives, determined to deal only with evidence and not "waste time" on speculation.

Dr. McDonald describes his decade-long interest in UFO's as a "low-power check" involving interviews during that period with some 150 observers in the Tucson area.

But several good sightings in November, followed by the Michigan sightings in March, triggered his determination to conduct an intensive investigation.

Dr. McDonald said that when he visited Blue Book headquarters in Dayton this summer, Maj. Quintanilla showed him the original and complete Robertson panel report of 1953 --- the report which was later "sanitized" and released in a censored version several weeks ago.

In paragraph 4-B of the original report, Dr. McDonald said, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) insisted that, because there were so many UFO reports and intelligence channels were becoming clogged, a debunking process be put into effect in order to cut down the flow of UFO reports, such as those of July, 1952.

"Thus, the CIA was involved in the whole thing getting off on the wrong foot. The whole problem went downhill from then on, and now, by admission of officers of the Air Force Foreign Technology Division and its Blue Book personnel, the project is a low-grade, low-priority operation."

As a result of Dr. McDonald's inquiries and his pointing out to FID (sic) officers the lack of investigation and scientifically unreasonable conclusions, two majors and a colonel were brought into Project Blue Book this summer to look into the UFO investigative procedures, he said.

Dr. McDonald, after checking a number of sighting reports, including that in Portage County, wrote a long memorandum concerning a number of changes that he felt should be made in the Portage County and other sighting conclusions.

Pleading for a new mode of attack in investigating the phenomenon, Dr. McDonald urged that it be placed in NASA's hands, "where it belongs."

"These are space-oriented scientists, and since by the Air Force's own admission, UFO's have never demonstrated hostility, the matter does not belong with the Air Force but with the NASA group."

Dr. McDonald admitted that he is "pessimistic about any early recognition by scientists at large of the real nature of this problem," because most scientists fear ridicule by their colleagues and accept the authority of the Air Force statements.

As a result of his six-month investigation in which competent critics of the Air Force program are heard from, as well as Air Force representatives. (Sic) This would differ from the investigation held in April in which these appearing were solely Air Force representatives, Dr. McDonald explained.

"This is the only answer," he believes, and adds that hopefully, such an investigation would result in the UFO investigations being turned over to NASA as the logical group to make a scientific study.

Dr. McDonald said he pointed out to scientific research people at the Air Force in Washington that "NICAP's investigations, in order of magnitude, are more competent than those of the Air Force.

"The Portage County case illustrates that in sharper outline than almost any other case. The Portage County case is outstanding -- the Air Force was originally content with a four-minute telephone conversation, while UNICAP (sic) prepared a 120-page (sic) report including transcripts of 60 hours of testimony."

As proof of his respect for the NICAP report, he left copies with Blue Book and NASA personnel.

Dr. McDonald also assailed the timidity of the scientific community to take a good look at the evidence in the UFO phenomenon.

Dr. McDonald will speak Oct. 19 to the Washington, D. C. Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at the National Academy of Sciences on "The Problem of the UFO."

REPORT BY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION 18 APRIL 1966

SHERIFF SPAUR, RAVENNA, OHIO.

Q
correct

0506 when I got back from my cruiser, I was checking an abandoned vehicle on 224, very bright light, first attracted. Came from West in an eastern direction, passed over us to the North side of the highway. I believe there was a partial moon due East of us. There was one other object like a star, right of the moon on South of moon at 3 o'clock. The only shape was the roundness of it, unperfect circle, egg shaped, almost like oblong, but not real oblong. So bright that we couldn't look directly at it. It came out of a deep wooded area. Came from the West towards us. We just disregarded it at first. Just a routine patrol. Partner he also observed it. He was to the right of the car. Thought someone might come walking out of the woods. Waited to make sure no one was walking behind us. Very low on the horizon. The other car was watching it from two roads above it. It was not more than 150 feet over the one area. Didn't have a red light. No wind. When it came over us it lighted the whole area. The ground was lighted by this object. Like looking at arc welder, blue-white light. The only sound heard was a humming sound like a power transformer, no thrust like from a jet. No sudden surge of power. It went to the north side of the road. Angled slightly, bottom came across 224 on the south side of road, started going East. Slow movement. We ran back and had a camera. Kept under surveillance till it could be possibly photographed. Those were our instructions after we had called in. The Mantua Police had phbtographed the object. We have a copy from Mantua. Major Quintanilla explained

111

Q
✓
11

111

11

OVER

Ms.

to Sheriff Spaur that we were interested in the negative then we could blow it up. Spaur said he was pretty sure the sheriff would give it to us. Object was first going 80 - 83 mph. Had to make a turn on the roadway. The vehicle stayed right with us and came back to its line. 103 - 104 mph. Followed it through Mahony county into Columbia County. Cruiser with Patrolman Houston observed object. Object got ahead of us once. It seemed as if we were going to lose it. It dropped 500 ft alt. At route 51 that thing was waiting on us. Started moving again, East Palestine into Conway, Pennsylvania, till 15 miles from Greater Pittsburgh Airport. Running out of fuel. Conway had been watching the object. It was after 6 am when they stopped looking at it.

(24?)

Brothers

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

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

B: Mm 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 the 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

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.

Q

Q
///

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)

Wants
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

Q 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. flying saucer

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 Buchart, 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.

Q 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 ~~XXX~~ 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.

54

STATMENT BY DALE SEAUER -- 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.

Excerpt from tape recording made April 23, 1966, afternoon

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

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

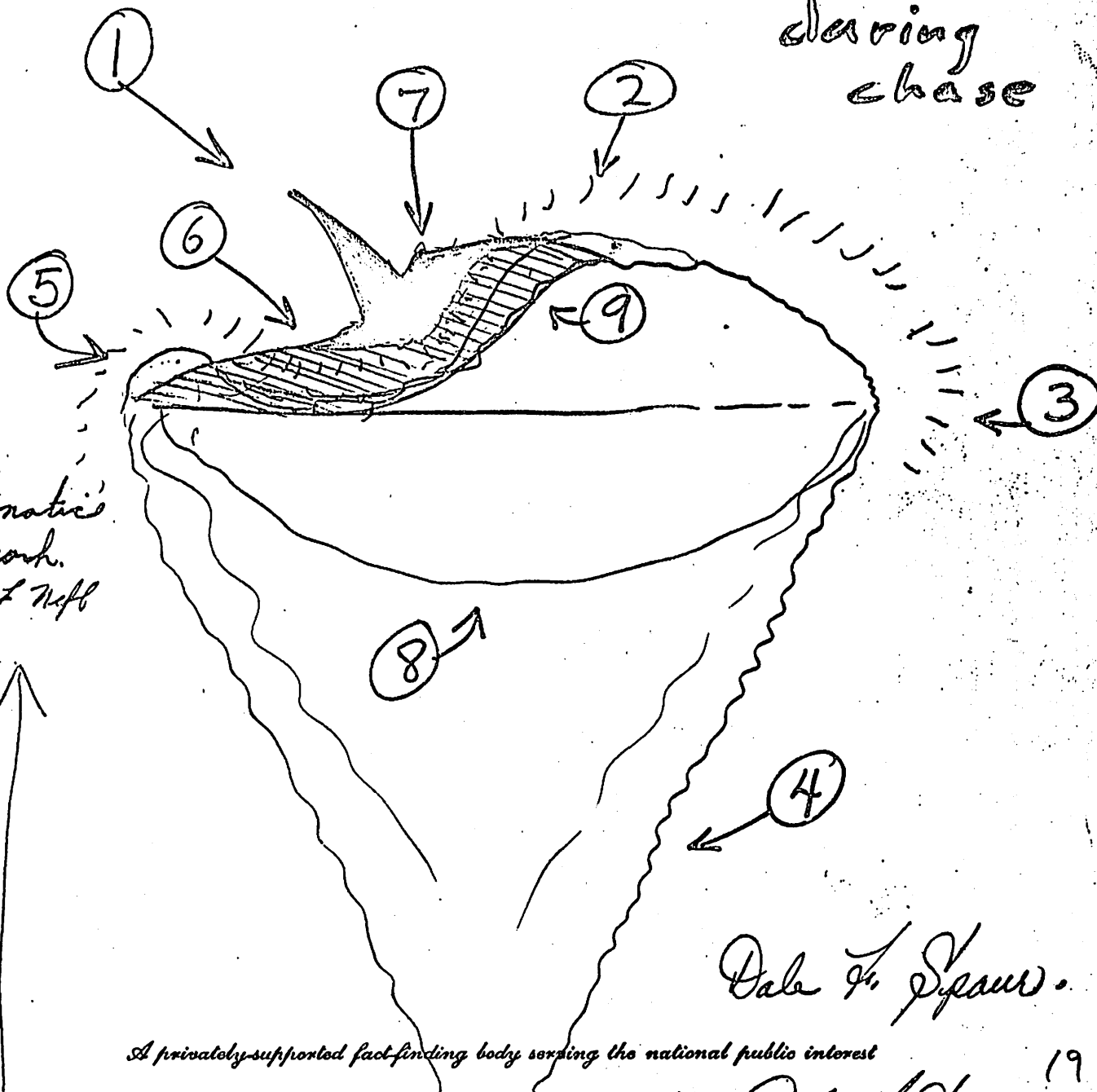
TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

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

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

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



I didn't notice
drop mark.
Walker & Neff

Dale Spaur.

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

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

Date 4-27-66

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

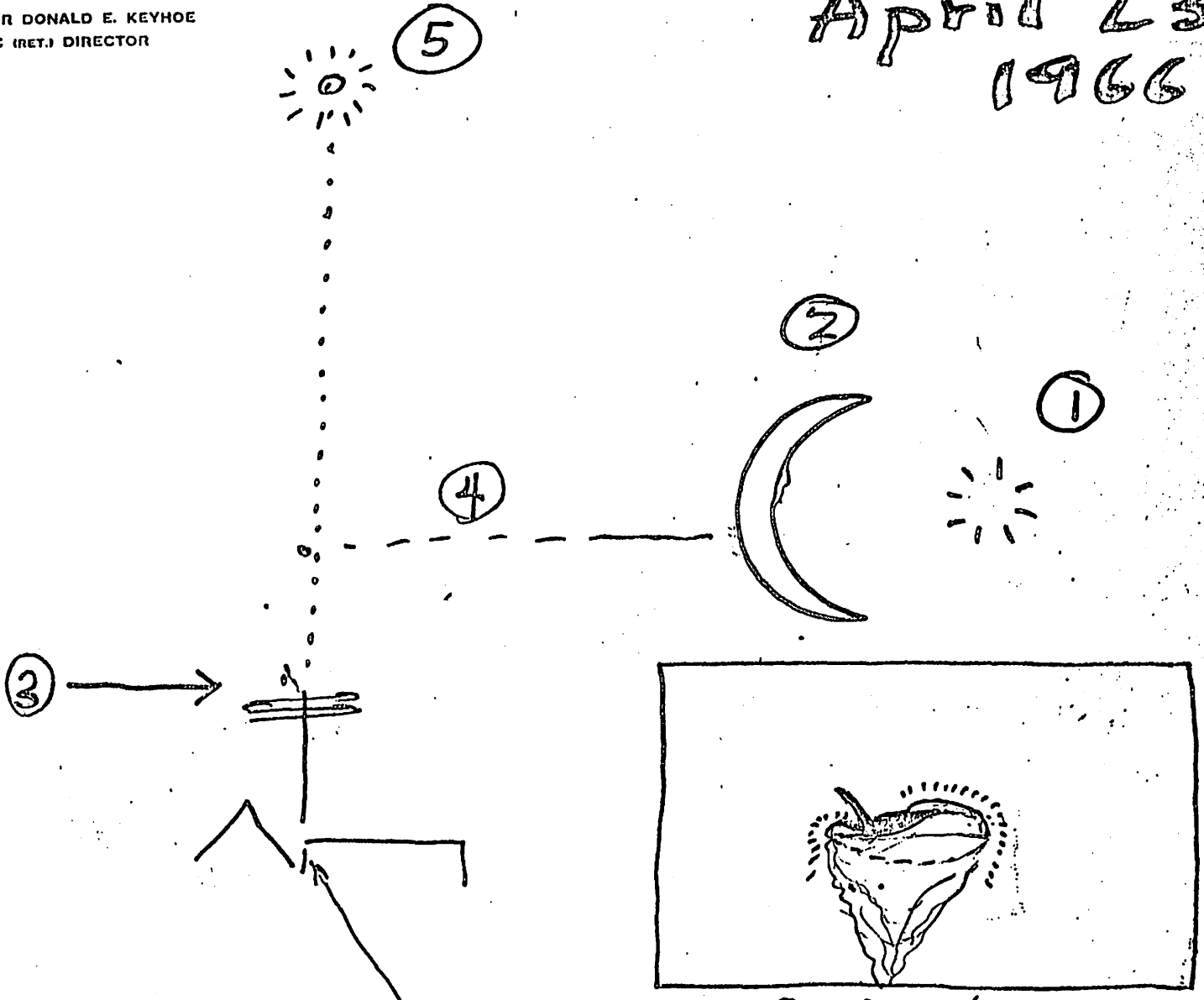
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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

April 23
1966



Dale Spaur

During chase
1500' distant

Terminus of 4/17/66 obs.

Dale F. Spaur
Wilbur L. Neff

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

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

Signed Dale F. Spaur W

Date 4-27-66

N: Just when the road wound.

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 60, 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 ran 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?

9? / 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 ag

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

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
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 [Signature of Lonnie Johnson]

Witnessed William B. Waites
N.Y.C.A.P.

Signature [Signature of Ray Esterly]

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

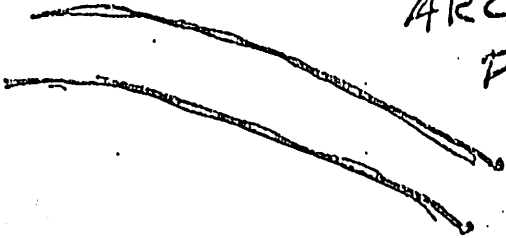
TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-0434

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

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 Cately

August 11, 1966 4:00

M: Aerial Phenomena, Lt. Marley speaking.

W: Hello, is this Major Quintanilla's office?

M: Yes it is.

W: I'm calling from Washington, D. C. My name is Weitzel. I wanted to ask if you knew anything about a re-evaluation that's being made there of the April 17, Ohio to Pennsylvania UFO chase.

M: Uh, the uh, uh, is this the, uh, Ravenna Ohio --

W: Ravenna, right.

M: Uh, no, we, we're not making a re-evaluation of this case.

W: Well, I understood from Major Quintanilla last week that he had written to Dr. Hynek and had asked for his opinion on this, and that Dr. Hynek had written back to him, this we have from Dr. Hynek -- uh, saying that he thought the case should be "unknown;" Major Quintanilla told me that this would depend on Dr. Hynek and Col. DeGoes. I talked with Col. DeGoes on Friday, and he said that he would discuss this with Major Quintanilla on Monday this week.

M: Yeah, well as, as far as I know, uh, this hasn't uh, been discussed yet.

W: Has not been discussed at all?

M: Yeah, no, well, not that I know of.

W: Mm hum.

M: I know the Major is, uh, is, uh, is real firm in his standing on this, uh, this case, uh, and I haven't heard any, uh, thing else, uh, to the contrary yet.

W: Mm hum. Ahh -- what is your name, please, and rank?

M: Lt. Marley.

W: OK. Is there anyone there you could ask, or a file you could check to make sure that this hasn't been done? Because the major told me he would, uh --

M: Well, the secretary's here, uh, I'll uh, uh, ask her a second.

W: All right.

M: Uh, she said that, uh, any, any release, uh, any additional release on this case would come by way of, uh, SAFOI.

W: I've been in Col. Freeman's office, I was out there yesterday, and I couldn't get the information I wanted, specifically about whether Dr. Hynek's letter had been received at your office; apparently, he sent this over a week ago, --

M: Yes...

W: -- before the third, I believe.

M: Well, now, I'm not, uh, I'm not aware of, uh, all the, uh, additional happenings that, uh, that have, that have to do with this case.

W: Mm humm.

M: Uh, I just, uh, I know the last time I talked with the major about this case, uh, he was uh, you know, firm in his, uh, standings on it.

W: Mm humm. When was that, please?

M: Uh -- I guess about two weeks ago.

W: Mm humm. Well this, uh, information came in last week, and we have a statement here from Dr. Hynek that he was never consulted about the case, but that he did inform the Air Force, uh, that he thought this should be "unknown", and I thought, I assumed that this meant he had informed Maj. Quintanilla. Then we got word later than that, that Maj. Quintanilla had sent Dr. Hynek the case files, including, uh, a report I wrote for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena --

M: Yes...

W: -- and that Dr. Hynek had replied to this letter of inquiry, saying that he thought that the case should be classified "unknown" and this was what we were talking about with Maj. Quintanilla last week, and Col. DeGoes; and I was informed that this would be discussed on Monday, and that some conclusion would be made at that point about it.

M: Well, now, I mean I haven't heard anything, uh, whether that this, uh, discussion took, took place or not myself.

W: Mm humm. Is there any way you could check on that?

M: Uh, yes, I guess we could, uh, check in uh, I could get the major to call you back sometime.

W: Could he have, uh, could I have that done this afternoon?

M: Well the, uh, the major's not in today.

W: Oh, he's not in today.

M: I have to uh, I have to, uh, you know, see him first, 'cause I uh, --

W: Right.

M: -- I, uh, don't know anything about this at all, really.

W: Mm humm. Well, that's OK, I just, uh, I don't expect anything would be put up on the bulletin board or anything like that.

M: Yeah.

W: Well, I, I hoped I could find out this afternoon. If I need to call back, I will call back again tomorrow.

M: OK.

W: But I wish you would discuss it with him because, uh, I was told by Col. DeGoes that this would be discussed again out there, and we know that Dr. McDonald, who's been out there quite a bit, talked with Maj. Quintanilla, and the major told him that he was going to re-evaluate the material, or at least have Dr. Hynek and Col. DeGoes do this. And this occurred --

M: What day, uh, what, Dr. McDonald says the major's gonna re-evaluate it?

W: Yes, this is what he told us, and, uh, we talked with him by phone and he told this to us on the 4th of August and on the 29th of July.

M: Uh huh. OK, well, I'll see what I can find out and, uh, uh, when you give a call back here I can see what I can find out for you.

W: All right.

M: OK, well, thank you a lot then.

W: All right, thanks for talking. Bye bye.

(TERMINATED)

August 12, 3:15

M: Hello, Lt. Marley speaking.

W: Hello.

M: Uh, Mr. Weetzel.

W: Yes.

M: Uh, I was trying to call a little bit earlier but the lines were all tied up, and uh, they told us they were putting a two to three hour delay on the watch line, so uh --

W: Oh.

M: -- so I'm sorry to go and call you like this. (I.e., collect to NICAP)

W: Oh, that's all right.

M: Uh, I saw uh, Col. DeGoes, uh, a few minutes ago and uh, he has said he is, uh, looked over uh, your report and everything, and we've talked it over with the major, and, uh, as it stands now, they have no plans to, uh, reclassify the case.

W: I see.

M: What, uh, what he told me as of our conversation, uh, (indistinct)

W: Uh huh -- could you hold on minute, I'd like to shut an office door here, it's rather noisy.

M: All right.

W: I'll be right back. . . . OK, now you say you've, that there are no plans to reclassify it?

M: I know of no, uh, yes, uh, that's about what I mean, yes.

W: Uh huh. And Col. DeGoes told you this?

M: Uh, yes, uh, I've talked with him, uh, about, uh, few minutes ago.

W: Now how about, uh, Dr. Hynek, has he consented on this?

M: Uh, well, Dr. Hynek is still on vacation up in Canada.

W: Mm hum. Well, I understand that, um, Dr. Hynek has written, and we have this in a letter from him, that he had informed the Air Force of his opinion -- that was before July 29 -- and then from someone else, that Dr. Hynek had written to the Air Force in answer to Major Quintanilla's communication regarding the re-opening of the case. And that he had written back in reply, and said that in his opinion it should be classified "unknown".

M: Yes, well that, uh, the major hasn't, uh, made any indication that the case was going to be, uh, you know, re-opened. Uh, he's, uh, is standing firm in his uh, the evaluation of the case as they have now.

W: Mm hum. Did you know that he had sent Dr. Hynek the case file and my report to NICAP?

M: What, to Dr. Hynek?

W: Yes. That --

M: Uh, no.

W: -- that the major had sent him those materials?

M: Uh, no, I didn't. He's been up --

W: He told me this --

M: -- in Canada for the last five weeks, and, uh --

W: That's right, he told me he'd mailed them to him, up in Canada.

M: Uh huh.

W: And he told me this Friday, last week; uh, Dr. McDonald told us about two weeks ago, over two weeks ago, that he'd talked with the major; we had two phone conversations with Dr. McDonald, indicating that Major Quintanilla had said that he would submit the material to Dr. Hynek, and discuss it with Col. DeGoes, and that it would depend on their joint concurrence, whether the case would be reclassified or not.

M: Yes...

W: Dr. McDonald had the strong impression that Dr., that, uh, Major Quintanilla was going to change his conclusion.

M: Well, no, this is, uh, completely, uh, contrary to, to what I've been told, uh, uh, in myself talking to the major --

W: Mm hum.

M: And, uh, Col. DeGoes just, just finished telling me shortly, that we have (indistinct) no plans to reclassify the case.

W: Mm humm. Uh, there are various points about this, that I've tried to communicate with Major Quintanilla over, and have been unable to get him to look at the material I've submitted. One of them is the fact that the witnesses reported that they saw Venus in addition to the object. And in a letter I have from Major Quintanilla dated July 15th, he says, "Why didn't the witnesses report Venus?" as part of their sighting. If they had, he says, new light would have been shed on the case.

M: Yes...

W: Ahh, we tape-recorded the testimony of the witnesses in Ohio, this is just the Ohio -- in the Ravenna area -- witnesses; they told him this twice during his interview with them, that they had seen a bright point of light in the sky for quite a while, to the right of the moon; it didn't move anywhere; this would have been Venus, and that they of course also saw the UFO, and they were distinguishing these two, uh, lights. I mailed the major a letter on the 17th of May, which he received, uh, it was mailed Certified Mail and he signed for it on the 20th, and I drew a picture of this, this situation with the three objects in the sky -- the moon, Venus, and the UFO; and made quite a point of that; and, uh, I'm very disturbed that the major has not heard this from the witnesses, or has read it as explicitly emphasized in my letter to him, and yet feels that if this were part of the testimony, it would shed new light on the case. Now that's three times he has had an opportunity to be aware of this, and claims that it would shed new light on the case, and yet he is unaware of it.

M: Yes, well I uh, I'm not, uh, I mean I'd, I couldn't comment on this.

W: No, I know you're in no position to say anything about that at all; but I'm trying to point out to you, um, why it is that we're trying to get through to this man, and make him aware of the facts of the case. As it stands right now, he apparently is making a presumption about what happened, and not taking the evidence into account.

M: But, uh, this, this I don't believe to be true, I mean, uh, uh, I think that he's made a very uh, uh, valid, uh, conclusion on this case.

W: All right, I'll point out some other things to you. The object was first seen coming from the south. It went directly over the road, due north, and then resumed its, or reversed its direction of travel, and hovered directly overhead for several minutes. A satellite, as Major Quintanilla pointed out, would have come from the northwest and gone toward the southeast. The object did not do this. It was also, uh, seen to be quite large, it illuminated the road such that their headlights made no difference in the illumination of the area. It was seen traveling directly east, and then was seen for several minutes, as they were traveling directly east, out their left window. This could not possibly have been Venus, nor could it have been a satellite. It was seen flying toward a police officer in Ohio, near the border, in Columbiana County; it was seen flying toward him from the northwest; it went directly overhead and toward the southeast. The officer observed this object coming, as he estimated, about a thousand feet off the road, it came over trees in the distance, went directly down the road, and into the distance. The deputies were following this object, and the officer had expected it, or had expected them to come through the area, and they did; they drove right by him, as the object had flown right overhead. He joined in the pursuit, and followed it with them. At one point afterwards, they saw the object hovering dead still over the road, only a few hundred feet up, at which point, while they watched it, themselves standing still, the object shot straight up in the air and took off again. It was then seen by a fourth policeman, coming toward him from the west; he watched it move

out over a shopping center, and hover. At this point, Venus was to the right of the moon, and the object was to the left of the moon. The object then took off straight up, and one of the officers had the impression that it should have left a sonic boom, because of the length and rapidity of its travel. There was a fifth police officer who claimed to see this object following two jet planes into the distance, towards the rising sun. Whether that has anything to do with this or not -- but it is clear that at least three men were directly involved in the sighting of an airborne object which was not, by the details of the observation, if taken into account, the planet Venus. Venus does not come from the northwest, and travel directly overhead; it does not come from the south and go north; neither does a satellite; there are about thirteen points to this sighting --

M: Well there are --

W: -- that are not covered by the explanation.

M: All satellites do not travel with an exact easterly component.

W: No; that is correct. But no satellite goes overhead and comes back again, illuminates the road as bright as day -- and this is confirmed, at least their initial impression of it, by several people who were listening to the radio then -- it does not subtend the entire road, about fifty feet away. It does not have a probe or a projection of some kind coming off the back. It does not make a humming noise.

M: Points like this that you keep bringing up, in my, uh, initial reading of the case, uh, uh, I, statements that I read there, that these people, or a light that was coming over the car, then all of a sudden, these same people that report seeing a projection coming from the object, and all this type stuff --

W: Yes?

M: It seems that they, uh, that as these people were continually interviewed, the story seems to be changing somewhat.

W: Well -- that's quite true! Because the scene was changing; they were driving about eighty miles an hour, and they covered seventy three miles of ground. And it got brighter, and they were able to make out more details on the object, which also rules out Venus, because Venus, the relative brightness of Venus, would have gone down as the sky became brighter; this object kept, became more visible. And it was not just a bright object! It was a huge object. And it was not just traveling across the sky, it was coming from south to north, back again, standing dead still for several minutes, then directly east for several minutes, illuminating the road, and this is, this is not the sort of thing, that you can say, uh, binocular vision does not apply here; because the object was within their capacity for binocular vision. And it was seen in so many different directions, and these, this is not due to road bending, because as they pointed out in the transcript of the hearing, which I have right in front of me, they were aware that sometimes when the road bent, the object would appear to go over the road; other times when they were going perfectly straight, the object would swing across the road, and be seen in an entirely different direction. No atmospheric variations, or "noise," as Major Quintanilla calls it, temperature effects in the air, nothing can cause this sort of movement; if it did, the moon would also swing around, due to the same type of process; no astronomical object is exempt from this kind of distortion. And no astronomical object will appear to swing 160° in the sky. Now I have pointed these points out to Major Quintanilla in my letter of May 17; I have tried to communicate with him about it, I have tried to be as patient as I can, I discussed this with him at the end of the hearing in Ohio. He did not hear. He did not attend to what I was trying to tell him, and he has not attended. The fact that Venus was seen in addition to the object, a condition which he himself claims would have shed new light on the case, and which he himself is not seeing, is incredible to me. Now, I'm not asking you for any comment, Lt. Marley, I am simply pointing out my concern over this, and the bases for it. Major Quintanilla has not considered the testimony.

He has accepted the case under an interpretation. His interpretation is, "A light in the sky." This is no more a simple light in the sky than a mushroom cloud is simply a cloud. There are many, many, many features of this which are not covered by a Venus-satellite explanation. Now, that is my position, it's backed up by testimony, tape-recorded testimony, reiteration many times, comments of the witnesses, the radio officers -- radio men who were listening to the officers talk on the radio, corroboration by various people who saw the object in different directions such that a rough triangulation can be accomplished. I have pointed this out over and over again to Major Quintanilla, I have asked him to go through each of these points, point by point, and explain why each one of them was not taken into account. He has refused to do this. He says in his letter to me that the satellite went from northwest to southeast, refusing, or ignoring the fact that the object was seen coming from the south going north, coming back, hovering, et cetera et cetera et cetera; it, it is wearying, believe me, to go through this over and over again. The deputies have; I have listened to it over and over again; it has not changed, and I am willing to keep saying it over and over again to Major Quintanilla, to you, to Col. DeGoes, to anyone who will listen. And if people who should be listening will not listen, we are going to find ways to make them listen. It is apparent that Major Quintanilla has not listened to the facts. Now, if that seems a little strong to you, or I seem excited about it, I hope that on reflection you can understand why.

M: Well I mean, uh, uh, in my first reading of the report, that, uh, it seems that every time I see more about the report, there seems to be other, sometimes it comes from the west, sometimes it comes from the south, uh, --

W: Well, which parts of these are you talking about?

M: Well, now I'm not right off, I, uh, don't know for sure because I don't --

W: I don't know what material you have out there, frankly, because Major Quintanilla took absolutely no notes at this hearing. He received approximately three minutes of testimony from one of the four men who were directly involved in it, at first, I don't know what notes he took then, but he could not possibly have gotten very much detail out of it. I, I don't know what material you've seen, other than what's in my report; my report has been reviewed by Dr. Hynek, who agrees that there is only one minor inconsistency in it; that inconsistency has nothing to do with what we are talking about, and he agrees it's a minor one. It has been reviewed by several scientists, newspaper reporters, competent, reflective people in this office and elsewhere who can find nothing inconsistent or out of place or incomplete in the report. Every category of the reporting format section of 200-2 has been fulfilled. There is nothing missing from this report. And there are not inconsistencies. Now, I don't know, I don't have any idea to what you're referring; I'd be very happy to be enlightened, and I mean that sincerely; if you can find anything inconsistent in this.

M: Yes, it's, uh --

W: Who was it said this object came from the west?

M: Well that was, uh, from what I initially read on the report. What, uh, I recall; I haven't studied the report in great detail.

W: What report are you referring to, now?

M: Well, there are, the initial reports that, uh, we have.

W: Initial report from whom, though?

M: That was, uh, performed here.

W: That Major Quintanilla called these people up?

M: Yes.

W: Well, I don't know if he logged the time on it, but Deputy Spaur told me he began the interview asking what the mirage was that they saw, and that he talked for less than three minutes. And he called back about three days later, and talked for less than two minutes, — if you're, uh, I'd be very curious to know just what is on record there, and why this record has not been supplemented by the material that was presented to Major Quintanilla in the hearing. I have listened to every word of that tape recording. And I can't find anything inconsistent on it. Now, I'd like to point out that I'm not pushing for any kind of conclusion. Major Quintanilla's letter suggests that I'm trying to get him to say they saw a spaceship, which is utterly ridiculous. I'm not interested in whether this was a spaceship or not. I'd be, excited if a spaceship had come down somewhere but this is completely out of the picture. The fact is, that an unidentified airborne object flew over that area, and I, I see no reason why it cannot be admitted. Has the maj — has, is anything in the records out there, does anything in the records have anything to do with the material that the major collected on May 10, in Ravenna?

M: Uh, yes, I, I'm sure it does, I mean I can't, I can't say uh, officially, because I, I don't know, uh, right off the, right off hand.

W: Mm hmm. Is any of that material within your access right now?

M: Uh, no it isn't.

W: Well, I'm sure, I must seem overly excited about this to you, but if you will look at it from my position, being aware of these facts ever since the sighting, over twelve weeks ago, watching Major Quintanilla ignore them, one by one and all together, I think you'll understand that it is something to be very upset about. I'm not asking you to be upset about it; as I say, you're not, uh, I understand your position there.

M: Well, I, uh, uh, I'll be glad to, uh, get your report, 'cause I mean, soon as, uh, Col. DeGoes and them, or, or they, you know, they have it now, they're, have been, uh, looking at it.

W: Yes.

M: And, uh, I'll, I'll eventually see it, to go through it myself, uh, I'll be glad to go through and —

W: Well, I wish you would; I, uh, —

M: And I can see what you have to say.

W: Mm hmm.

M: But, uh, right now, I just don't have any comments, or any, anything at all —

W: Mm hmm.

M: — to say.

W: Quite; quite understandable. Well, I'd like to leave with you, the message that I have not stopped. And NICAP has not stopped, and the people of Portage County are still waiting for an evaluation of what happened there.

M: OK.

W: All right. Thank you for talking. Goodbye. (TERMINATED)

H: Hello, this is Allen Hynek.

W: This is William Weitzel, at NICAP. You've maybe heard of me, I wrote a report on the Fortage County, April 17 sighting that I think you've seen.

H: Yes, I've seen that.

W: I've been trying to get in touch with you about the Ft. Smith, Arkansas sightings.

H: What's that?

W: Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Several thousand people saw UFOs for several hours.

H: Ft. Smith Arkansas? What is this about? (Aside) Do we have anything on UFO sightings in Ft. Smith, Arkansas? (Back) Major Quintanilla tells me there is a major there investigating now. What happened? When was this?

W: Well, several thousand people watched four large red lights in the sky, at the corners of an imaginary square, and several other lights, different colors, some steady, some blinking, one casting a beam, darted around from one of the red lights to another, for several hours. And an engineer at a transmitting station saw a football-shaped "dingy white" object hover in the west, then go south, then back to its original position. The two objects flew overhead parallel, then three, that came from the ground straight up, levelled off, and flew overhead due east. But we were told a Captain Ekter was investigating, from Little Rock AFB, had been there since Tuesday.

H: Captain Ekter? I don't know that name.

W: You don't know anything about this?

H: No, but when information is ready, it'll be released at SAFOI in Washington.

W: Well, I wasn't able to get any information from Sara Hunt there, so I tried to call you at Northwestern. I'm sorry to bother you there, but they referred my call to you.

H: Oh, I was wondering how you got to me here. By the way, while I'm still on the line, there's a rumor going around here that Major Keyhoe said I wrote him a letter, in his talk at Cleveland last week. Is that true?

W: No, sir. What might have happened -- I saw the newspaper item on that -- the major said he had, or had seen, a letter you apparently wrote to someone who had asked you some questions about UFOs, and said, in Cleveland, that he had a letter you wrote; the press statement might have indicated that he owned it; but he does not have any letter you wrote him.

H: Oh, is that it. OK. Well, about the Arkansas sightings, you can get the information from SAFOI. Is there anything else you wanted to talk about?

W: No, sir. Since you haven't heard -- there's nothing else.

H: Very well then. Goodbye.

W: Thank you. Goodbye.

2:15 PM 1966 August 19

August 19, 1966 --
6:45 PM

Hello, Dr. Hynek?

Yes.

This is Bill Weitzel.

Oh yeah, hi, how are you?

Fine, how are you?

Pretty good.

How did things go today?

Oh, reasonably well, reasonably well. We had a lot of cases discussed, so, uh, no comment, no particular comment was made about your call, and I think the, uh, it did give them a chance, however, to, get, jump on the major somewhat (chuckle) to get him to hurry up. About the Ft. Smith sighting.

I'm glad that came up, as an opportunity; killed two birds with one stone.

I didn't think it would be wise, however, to bring up the question of whether your report was better than the Air Force's. So I changed the format to the Keyhole letter instead.

100
100
100

Oh, was that part of the rumor also?

Yes!

Well, I've been trying to track this down with several people, just trying to figure what happened. And no one I've talked to, I've talked with two or three people about it, and two of them were my parents, about that letter --

Yeah.

One thing, my mother called up when the letter arrived at home, and I was at work; and I asked her to read it to me, which she did, over the telephone. No one in the office has revealed any of the contents of that letter, or even that it exists, to anyone on the outside. No one coming in from outside has seen the letter.

Well, I'm not worried about that letter --

No; I'm just giving you background for what might have happened here, and as far as Sara Hunt goes, I, well, we figured it this way: I brought my report out to the Pentagon, to show to her. And I had rather a good talk with her, because I surprised her tremendously by laughing at the idea that UFOs were spaceships. This was in one of their summary reports, and I started chuckling when I read it; I said, "What's all this nonsense about spaceships?" "No one's ever seen a real spaceship, have they?" and this sort of thing. And then I showed her the Ravenna report, and I said, "Now here's something that's highly unusual, but does it look like a spaceship to you?" And she was very upset, because she thought all NICAP people automatically believe in spaceships. So I went through the report with her in a little bit of detail, I didn't show her any of the documents, but just some of the pictures, and I think that she might -- now, this sounds fantastic -- but it seemed possible to us, the only hypothesis that seemed to work, that either she or somebody at Project Blue Book made up the rumor to see how you would react to it.

[This is a bit strange. It seems to indicate that the Weitzel-to-Hynek call earlier in the day (see previous page) was a "set-up" between them to make some sort of impact on Quintanilla. Other things of interest occur in this call. MDS].

That's always possible, of course. But I don't think we should have to worry about that; I've been more concerned about any statements made in the bulletin about my having not been consulted on this case; and I really feel that I wouldn't want to go any farther than to have it said that it has been learned on good authority, or something like that, or Mrs. Clapp. I've turned over in my mind various things that could happen, and if you publish a direct statement from me, it just isn't going to sit well.

No, of course not. Major Keyhoe and I talked about this again today, in light of what you told me last night, and he's quite willing to leave the letter, and any direct statements you've made to anybody even remotely connected with NICAP, completely out of the picture; although he's very eager to use them.

Yeah, I think the time will come when it could be done more effectively and so forth; right now is not the time, I don't believe.

OK. I got ahold of Carol last night around midnight; she'd been out at a play somewhere; so she read me this over the phone; I copied it down, and I'll read it to you now, if you'd like.

Sure.

(Reads article.)

That was published?

Mm hmn.

Uh huh. Well, I haven't heard any kickback from that. I would say, that if you pick any of that up, it's not taken out of context; I would like to have included that part about greater scientific attention, and so forth.

OK, I'll underline that.

I always like to have something positive come out of this, not emphasize the negative.

Well, this is one thing Major Keyhoe is very attracted to in your letter, the fact that you were pointing out that the Air Force is taking more, a more scientific approach to things.

This has been my aim and objective; and it's been a long, long struggle; because the military mind is, is, well it's the military mind!

That's a very meaningful tautology.

Yeah. So, uh, it is indeed; it's quite a, tautological redundancy! In any event, I'm depending on you to present this in a way that isn't going to raise too much hell with my relations with the Air Force.

Right. Well, the major is awfully concerned about that, he really is. And he doesn't want to jeopardize anything —

Yeah, well, well, give him my regards, and, now, one of these days, I expect I'll eventually meet him. But, uh, the — (mumble) what the hell I was going to say — Uh, yeah, the Ft. Smith thing; I am anxious to find out more information about that, although this time, I assure you — I sort of laughingly rubbed it in, to Quintanilla, I said, "For God's sake, this time, don't let the Pentagon put anything out until you're damn sure of something" — and I said it very laughingly — and this is the

method, you see; if I came to him and very seriously said, "Now, look, Major, you just can't do this, it's out of the question, blah blah blah," there'd be friction. But I just laughed, and I said, "Let's not," I don't think I said, "go off half cocked," but that was the general idea. And he said, "No," nothing's going to come out of it until they know what it's all about. This is the positive step, you see.

Sure. Did they have any information on it at all, out there?

No. None whatsoever. They're just waiting, they're turning it over to this major, or captain, or whatever he is -- he said a major -- and they want him to do the full investigation and a report on it. And apparently this time, Major Quintanilla simply doesn't want to get his hands burned at all; he's going to stay out of it. It'll be what the major down there says.

Well -- that's OK, if he can get away with that -- I don't mean get away, in the sense it's usually intended, but I hope he can keep his hands from getting burned.

Well, I, I, I, I, uh, I can feel sorry for the major, especially since he's suffering from the piles right now!

Oh, really?

He can hardly sit down ..., or walk around; and that makes any man nervous and cross. So, I always figure these things, you have to look at the human side.

Certainly. It is a little hard, sometimes, being aware of the human side of other people that are dealing with him.

Well, there comes a time when you have to draw a line, and say, humanity is humanity, but facts are facts. This is true.

Well, I will talk with the major; he's going to, he knew that I was calling you, and he's going to call me soon, either tonight or tomorrow sometime, and I'll communicate your wishes and your intentions, and we will try to put together something that will, matches this. However, of course, our interest in this is trying to do something which will, from your point of view, absolve you from the connection that's been attached.

Fine, fine; I hope it can be done; I hope it can be done gracefully, I, I would appreciate that very much, because I know that a number of people think that, well, what sort of stupe is this guy, anyway; he's an astronomer, and he allows this? And that's not right; on the other hand, I have ambivalent feelings, I feel a loyalty to the Air Force's interests; well, I feel loyal to the Air Force. But -- and, as misguided as some of the efforts have been, I can understand, having been in it, I can understand how the military mind does.

Well, I think things will be a lot better when the military mind has the subject taken off its mind.

[They are alluding to the coming University study of UFOs here MDS.]

Oh, gosh -- I don't have the slightest idea what university's going to get this; it's certainly not going to be Northwestern --

Yes, Bill Powers was telling me about that. I talked to Jim Bersic, the other day, in Ford's office, and he told me he'd gotten one inquiry that looked hopeful, and he wasn't too sure about that.

Well, I can honestly say they haven't given me a glimmer of information about it. In fact, I don't think Wright field knows. (indistinct) the Pentagon.

Are they going to push up their deadline on this, or what?

Well, I did go so far as to ask Quintanilla today, just when are they going to do something about this? He shrugged his shoulders, and said, "Well, they said some time September first. And that's all I know.

Hum. Well, if you wanted to talk to me again, I'm going to leave some time this weekend, or Monday morning. And I'll write up everything we've talked about and leave it with Major Keyhoe, and also talk to him on the phone. But if you want to talk with me any more about anything, I will be in Pittsburgh; my number is in the directory there; the address you have.

All right, good. If I think of anything I will. Next weekend I'll be down at our observatory in New Mexico, for a couple of weeks of observing, before I can get back to --

Oh! This reminds me of something -- do you know a fellow named Lee Katchen?

Yes.

Well, he told me that he has been talking to you about this Cuernavaca sighting --

Yeah.

-- and he collected some tapes --

Yes, a glow discharge, or arc --

Well, I tend to disagree with him, on the basis of electrical engineering principles; the report he gave me might have been twisted by the observers that were observing the electrical phenomena --

Well, I was going to meet, in Dallas, one of the witnesses, on the way down to Mexico, I'll stop in Dallas, so I'm going to spend a little time with Mr. Harrel, Judy Harrel.

Did you get the tape recordings that Lee sent you?

No; tape recordings that I -- well, obviously, I've got the tape recordings that I made! I did not get any other tapes, no.

Well Lee was worried about this, and he also mailed you a letter --

Well, wait a second; he said he was going to, and I left town; they may very well be at the office.

He wanted to dissuade you from making an unnecessary trip to Cuernavaca, and I think this was the only reason he sent these up.

Well, if I do go down, it'll be more of a vacation. My man at the Corrico station, I might persuade him to drive me down, take in some of the sights, but I don't know yet. I'll listen to the tapes, and see how this guy sounds. I did talk to Mr. Harrel, on the phone yesterday, about this, and he was aware of (indistinct), and he tells me

he's the only one down there who believes it was the arcing; the others down there believe quite otherwise.

Well, I heard some of the tape, and there were some pretty definite descriptions, of a disc-shaped, metallic-looking object; but, as far as the arcing goes, the description I heard, by this fellow who apparently had some scientific training, the arcing was across some points that were a meter or two meters apart. Well, this would involve a several million volt discharge.

Damn right it would. It would not be continuous, either; it would diminish.

Well, no; something would happen; this went on for twenty minutes or a half hour, I think. So —

And it also happened twice. Well, it only went on, I think about five minutes; Judy told me that, uh, she was out in the patio, she saw a light developing, over her left shoulder; it got brighter and brighter and brighter; when it got its brightest, the lights went out. Now, —

That's putting the cart before the horse, isn't it?

Yeah. The, uh, the whole thing — Yeah, this is true, now this is a good point; the lights did not go out until after the thing was quite bright. I'm going to re-check that point. However, the energies involved, are stupendous. I want to see if I can put some numbers to it. Well, in any event, if I do go down there, I will salve my conscience by saying it's not the sole purpose of my visit.

Well, I wanted to ask you if you had heard about another sighting, at Wright-Patterson. Shoot.

OK. This is from a physicist, named Vasil Uzunoglu.

No sir. I certainly would remember that name.

(Chuckle) I guess you would! We all remember it very well here. I talked with him on the phone —

Did he report it to the Air Force?

Yes, he did. And we have a copy of the form he filled out for the Air Force. With his notations.

Well, it could be very well — what is the date?

August 1st.

Well, as a matter of fact, that explains it, because I got down to the end of June today. I haven't even gotten to the Presque Isle, or whatever it is, Erie thing.

Oh! This is something that we're very curious about. Do you know the report on that?

Yeah, I've got the file right here in my room. It's interesting. And, well, I was going to look at it later on tonight.

Well, we're wondering what they mean by saying that there was urine in the soil samples. We have some pictures of this stuff on the ground, up there, taken by the newspaper people. And it looks like some kind of sticky stuff. Urine, if anything had left it there, would have soaked up in the sand; it wouldn't have shown up in these pictures. But as to what the other material was, I don't know. And I don't know if any samples were taken, to standardize the conditions in the sand up there, anyway.

Well, after all, I suppose even space travellers have to urinate!

(Laughter) This was a humorous conjecture someone around here made, when we talked about it at first, but I never thought it would come out this way! And also, there was no mention in the report about what kind of urine it was; whether it was animal, or what kind of animal, or human, or what. And then the funny tripod markings, we talked to --

I'm looking forward to looking through these files tonight. I'm going out to dinner, be going to that fairly soon. Instead of reading Agatha Christie tonight, I think I'll read the Erie file.

OK. I'll just tell you briefly about this Uzunoglu thing:

Yeah, sure.

In case you don't run across it: (beltway, date, time, 50 feet, hot dog, coolie hat, have pictures here, yellow eye, hovering over housing development)/

Well, in Washington, you'd expect many other people would see it.

Of course; that's very true, but as you know, not many people report these things.

Yeah, this is true. I always tend to think that we underestimate the thing at this point; that it requires quite an inertial threshold to overcome; before people will report in the first place.

That's true. Well, this fellow has a very good scientific background --

Did he have any witnesses?

No, he didn't. This would have to go under "insufficient evidence," I guess!

Well, no, not necessarily; it would have to go under -- the only pressure would be the credibility factor of the witness.

Mh hmm. Well, I was being a little sarcastic there.

Oh; I, yeah.

I've asked them about this at the Pentagon several times; they've received nothing yet; Mrs. Hunt called Andrews AFB, and they said nothing had been reported to them -- but they also said, if something had been reported, and a base officer thought he knew what it was, it would not go on the log out there. Would not be reported any further.

Yeah. And, another thing that I think sometimes happens, when a really out-of-this-

that night thinks, "Aaah, some crackpot called up," and he doesn't pass it on, you see; and this is human nature; people will do that.

Well, one of the men on my subcommittee in Pittsburgh is a former ADC unit director in Pittsburgh, he had two units; and he said a lot of the UFO reports that came to them would go to some local base or would go to Boulder, Colorado, or something like that, the ADC, and would just stay there; would never get to Wright-Patterson at all.

This is true. I've always been impressed by the reports of sightings that are in Flying Saucer Review. Sometimes a shade more spectacular.

Right, well, even the SAB mentioned this in their report -- I don't know how much tongue in cheek that was, but it is true, that a lot of spectacular things are reported, that don't seem to fill too much of the Air Force's repository.

Well -- OK, I guess I know where to get in touch with you, and, well, I guess that's it. So have a good weekend.

OK. I did want to ask you one other thing, very briefly -- if you have any knowledge, or understanding, or even a whiff of something out there about the Ravenna case. Is it a dead issue, or what?

It was scrupulously not mentioned today.

Ah. I see.

Yes, scrupulously. I avoided it and Quintanilla avoided it!

Well -- OK.

I didn't, I suppose the next action will be to hear from Stanton, I suppose.

Mm hrm. I called his office today, and they said he had written, but they couldn't find a copy of the letter to read to me, so I don't know what it was he said.

If they heard about, if Quintanilla heard about it, he didn't tell me. He's terribly sensitive about it, and, so obviously I'm not going to bring up the subject. And if he doesn't, well -- there you are.

Sure. I wish there were a way to push on this, without irritating him, but it's --

I think only time can do that. If we could only figure out a good way for him to save face. That's the old Chinese method, and a damn good one. But I can't see any way right now.

Well -- I won't hold you up any more. Thanks very much for talking, and I hope you enjoy your vacation.

Righto. Bye bye.

Ravenna ----- 19/Apr/66

Sighting of April 19, 1966 - Ravenna, Ohio to Conway, Pa.

Telephone report from Dale Spaur, patrolman, Portage County Sheriff's Department, taken the night of April 19.

At about 0507 local time, Spaur and Neff were on patrol, and had stopped on Rte. 114 to inspect what appeared to be an abandoned car. They noticed a light in the sky to the South which descended behind trees in a wooded area. They left the cruiser and were looking at the car when what seemed to be the same object reappeared over the trees to the south, and came up and over the patrol car, where it stopped. The object was large and oval, appearing to be about 78 feet in diameter, at an assumed height of some 500 feet. ~~Spaur~~ It shined a brilliant light straight down, illuminating the cruiser, the road, and the adjacent fields "as bright as daylight". While it hovered overhead, Spaur, who was very frightened, got back into the cruiser and radioed the headquarters station. The man on duty told him to keep calm, and get as good a physical description as he could, and to keep the object under observation.

The object then started to move East, straight down highway 114, and the men got into their cruiser to follow it. At that time Spaur says that if he had had even a Brownie camera, he could have obtained a good clear picture of it: it was ~~easy to see its shape~~ easy to see its shape, and it was close.

The object proceeded ~~southward~~ southeast down 114, with the patrol car in pursuit; the car was kept abreast of the object, which was to the left and high in front at various times (the road is straight), and which was high in the sky - definitely not low on the horizon. (It appeared large enough that the rear-view mirror would not have covered it, according to what Spaur told another interviewer). The speed of the object was clocked during this portion of the run at 83 to 84 miles per hour. The object moved silently as far as could be told (including the initial portion when there was no motor noise), and left no vapor trail. The entire object seemed to glow on its bottom side; there were no separate lights.

As the cruiser neared East Palestine, Ohio, radio contact was established with a cruiser from the police department of that town, occupied by Mr. Wayne Houston, a patrolman. Mr. Houston joined the chase, ~~having~~ after he, too sighted the object. The cars proceeded after the object toward and into Pennsylvania, now at speeds occasionally as high as 103 miles per hour. In Rochester, the cars "got tangled up in the bridges", but the object appeared to wait; they resumed the chase, and the object appeared to move on. The chase was finally stopped in Conway, where the Ravenna cruiser was running out of gas, and had been ordered by radio back to home base. It was dawn at this time, and the object was high in the sky, appearing small and bright.

Telephone report from Wayne Houston, Patrolman, East Palestine Police Dept.

Houston was on patrol in E. Palestine, when he heard over the radio a broadcast advising patrols to be on lookout for the UFO. When Spaur and Neff were about 10 miles away, Houston established car-to-car contact with them; they asked if Houston could see the object and he could not. Houston parked in a parking lot near 114, and stayed in contact. When ~~Spaur~~ Spaur and Neff were about 5 miles away, Houston saw the object approaching in the Northwest, low over the trees. It appeared top-shaped, with the pointed end down, and ~~the whole thing appeared very bright~~ the whole thing appeared very bright & "like a big light-bulb". It did not appear to rotate, and it had no visible markings on it, and made no sound. The object came nearly overhead and proceeded down Rt. 114; Houston joined the chase. Near Rochester, Pa., Houston said that all three men saw what seemed to be an ~~antenna~~ antenna protrude briefly out of the side of the object. Houston says that they lost the object going through the bridges & "in Bridgeport", and then re-acquired it; it had gained altitude and was just a little white dot high in the sky, visible against the glow of dawn.

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ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1538 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

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

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

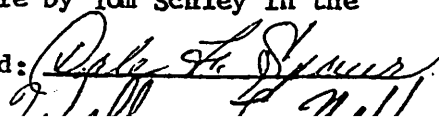
STATEMENT: On April 17, 1966, at about 5:00 AM, the undersigned,

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. 105.~~ 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.

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

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: 

Pittsburg

Houston says that they radioed the ~~Pennsylvania~~ ^{Pittsburg} airport and received ~~an~~ a negative radar report; while they were halted in Conway, they saw several 707s take off from the Pittsburg airport; one plane passed above the object, the other well to one side, but neither gave any indication of having seen it. Houston also said that he ~~had~~ heard ~~that many reports of sightings of unidentified objects from the~~ airport that a group of fighter jets had seen the object moving along below, and had tried to follow it but could not because of its slow speed. The substance of this part of the report has not been checked.

Another report was received from Conway, a Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, who quite apparently saw Venus, while driving on a winding road in hilly terrain, and mistook the changes in direction and attitude of the car for motions of the planet.

Analysis: Neff, Spaur, and Houston clearly saw an object of non-astronomical nature. The sightings involved clear observation of shape, and a light which brightly illuminated the ground. In addition, the policemen chased the object in a southeasterly direction, and one of them saw it approaching from the northwest and pass overhead on a southeasterly heading. It also seems clear that after sight of the object had been lost crossing the bridges in Pennsylvania, the object was seen no more; the object that was pursued after that fits a description of Venus perfectly, allowing for some distortions of perception due to fatigue and excitement after the hour-long ~~chase~~ chase. It is therefore not surprising that the Pittsburg radar did not pick up anything, and that the passing planes failed to react to the object.

The description of the object matches very closely an unpublicized sighting made in Michigan by patrolman John H. Stewart on two occasions, in the early morning hours of March 17 and March 20.

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH WILBUR "BARNEY" NEFF, MOUNTED (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
appear in front of you?

N: Just when the road wound.

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?

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 Seebees, 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

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1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

W. Waitzel 4/27/66

~~EXTRA~~

2:00 AM

~~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. LINE. 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 PUFFED 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

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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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. "same, 0V-1 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.

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 ~~rounded~~ 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

Spaur and Neff came down the road right after it. I fell in behind them. We were going 80 - 85 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.

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 out 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 us in Freedom and said they wanted us to call the Air Force. Some colonel. From Rochester.

*Spaur for this information Patrolman Wayne Huston
be kept confidential
at NICAP's discretion. HWH.*

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

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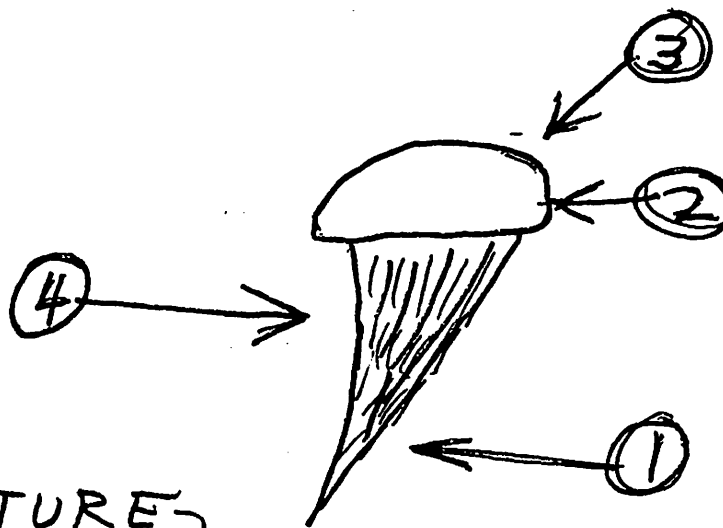
TESTIMONY OF WAYNE HUSTON -- CONTINUED

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.



[These numbers refer to descriptions included in a later page, preceding the Spaur drawings a few pages hence.]
MDS.

SIGNATURE →

Patrolman Wayne Huston

COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH WAYNE HUSTON, PATROLMAN, EAST PALESTINE,
OHIO, POLICE DEPARTMENT: TAPED APRIL 25, 1966 (W: Weitzel H: Huston)

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

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.)

Third page -- complete transcript, interview, Weitzel -- Huston

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: Mm hmm. 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.)

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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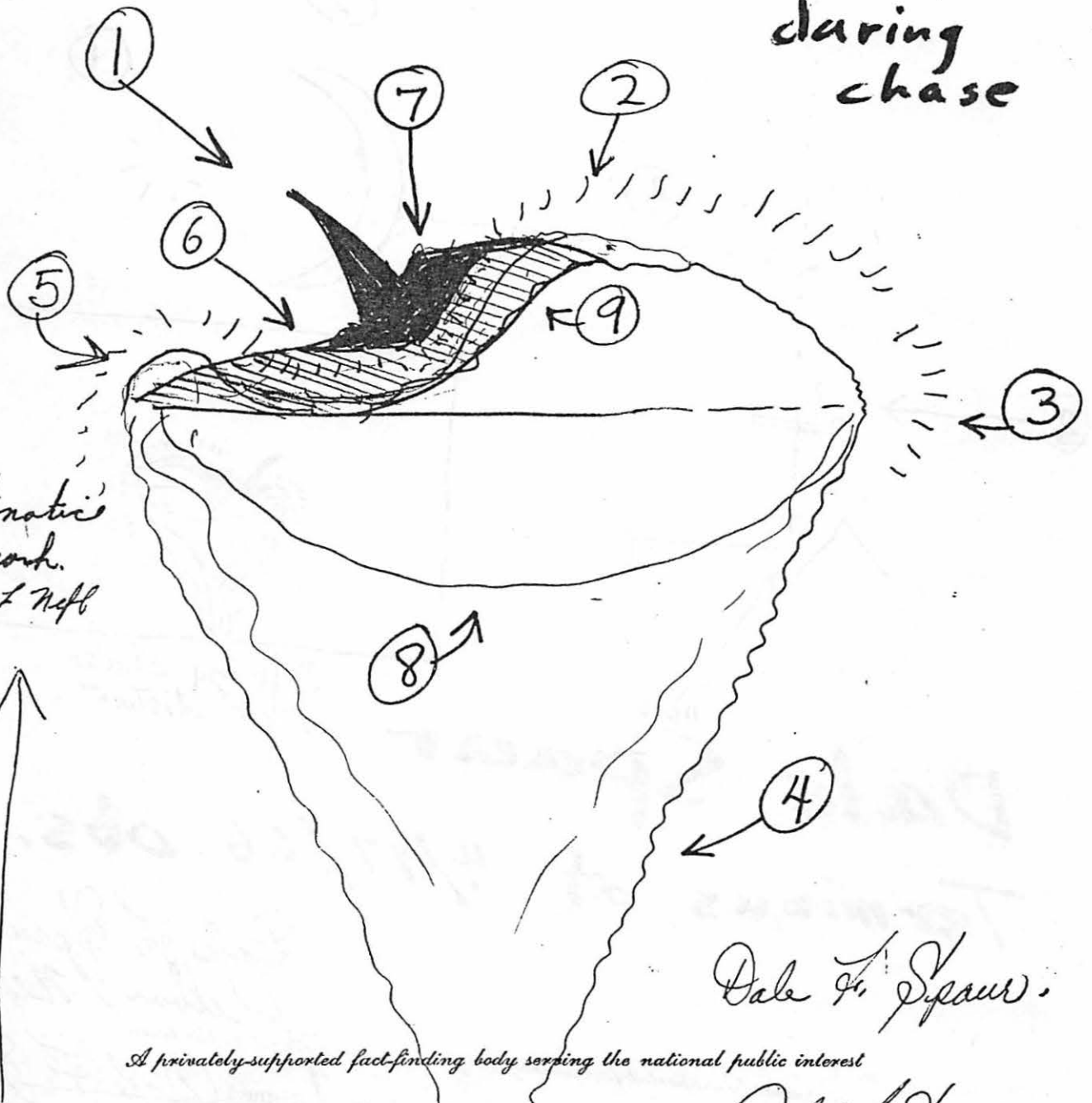
TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

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

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



I didn't notice
drop mark.
W. L. Neff

Dale F. Spaur

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

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

Dale F. Spaur
11-9-66-11

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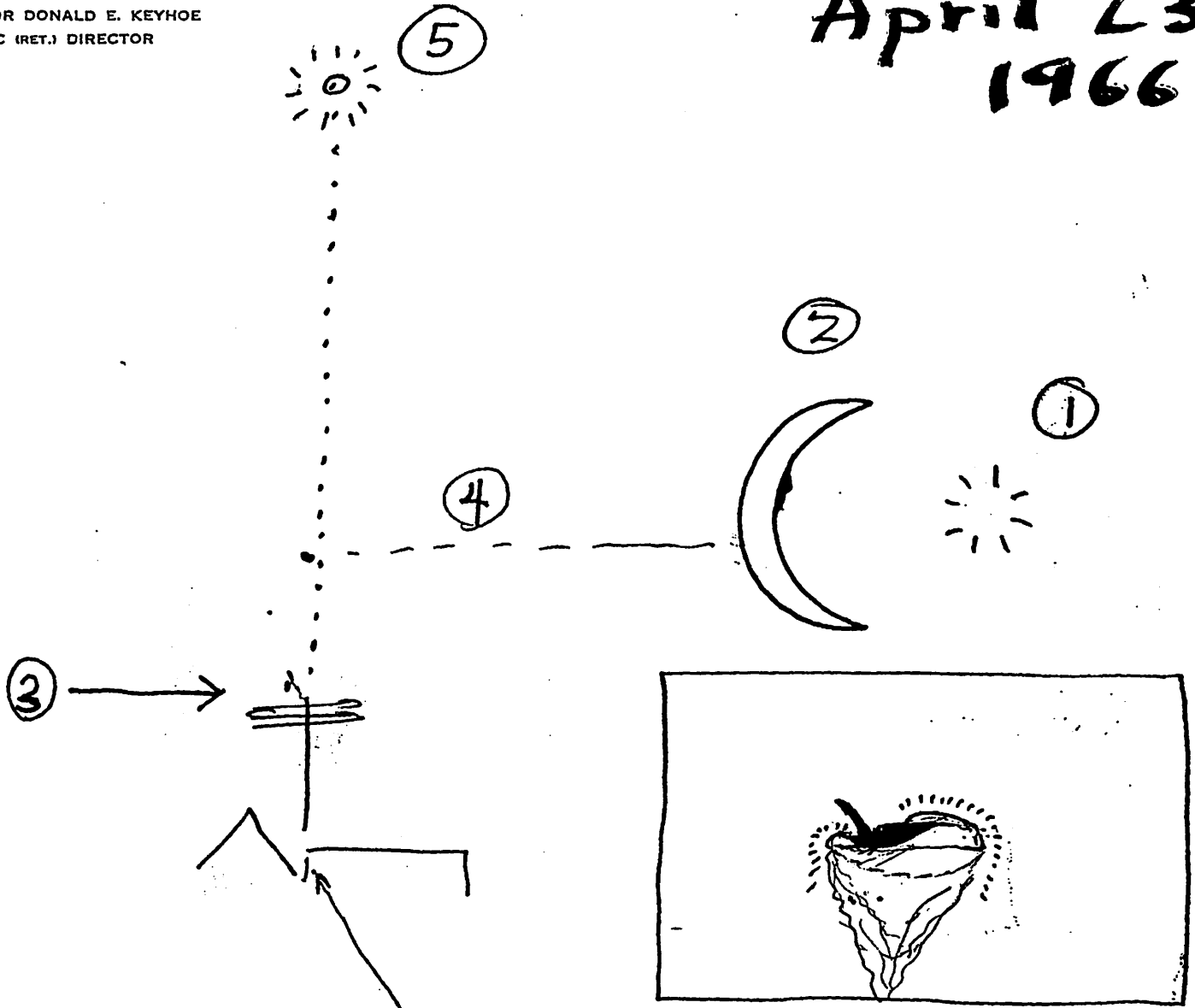
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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1538 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

April 23
1966



0000

During chase
1500' distant

Dale Spaur

Terminus of 4/17/66 obs.

Dale F. Spaur
Wilbur L. Neff

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

Signed Dale F. Spaur

Date 4-27-66

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

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,~~ ~~Shingleton,~~ 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

(and typed)

Date

April 27, 1966 (both)

N.I.C.A.P.

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April 27, 1966

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

Complete notes from Log at base radio station in Columbianna 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.)

*Complete 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.

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."

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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, ^{East} at an elevation of approximately 25°, estimated altitude 10,000 - 20,000 feet (Esterly 10, Johnson hi). 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 ~~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 ptd Lonny Johnson
Witnessed William B. Waitzel Signature ptd Ray Esterly
N.Y.C.A.P.

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MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

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. Waitzel witness

PTL Sonny Johnson

PTL Ray Ceterly

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.

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

B: Mm hmm. 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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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

June 21, 1966

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

STATEMENT BY FRANK PANZANELLA, CONWAY, PA. POLICE

May 18, 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 proceeded 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 ~~out~~ 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 proceeded 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.

Patrolman Frank Panzanella

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 ^{6:21 on 20. 21.} 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 Economy Borough police, Henry Kwiatkouski, say he had seen two planes. ^{at 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 ex 266 - 2908. 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 Panzanello Date 6-21-66

Typed: W. Weitzel, NICAP

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:

1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

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:

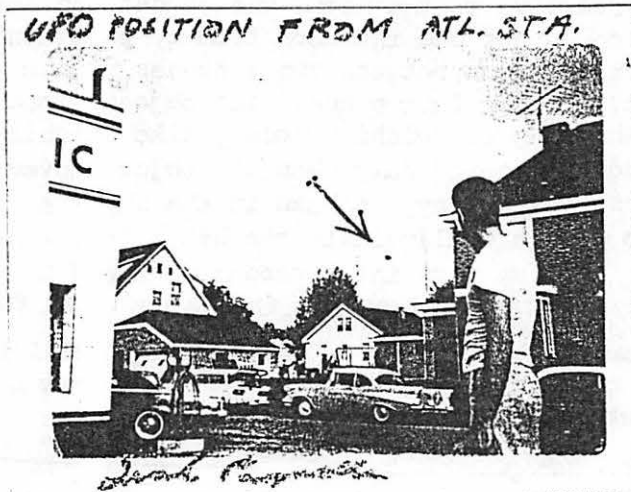
*Frank Panzanella 6-21-66 W. Weitzel NICAP
Typed 6/21/66*

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.E., 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 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.

W. Weitzel



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

by serving the national public interest

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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SKYLIGHT

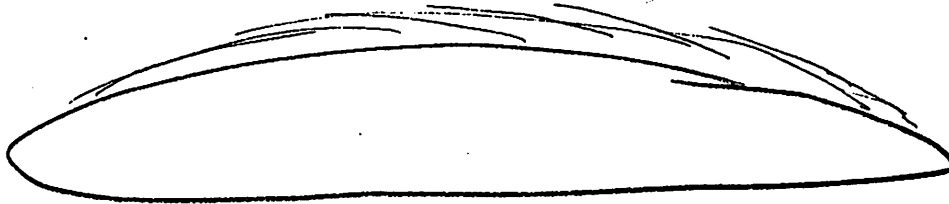
MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:

1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

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.

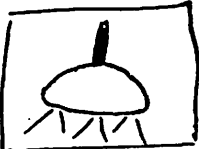
Between poles, not projection



W. W. Wright

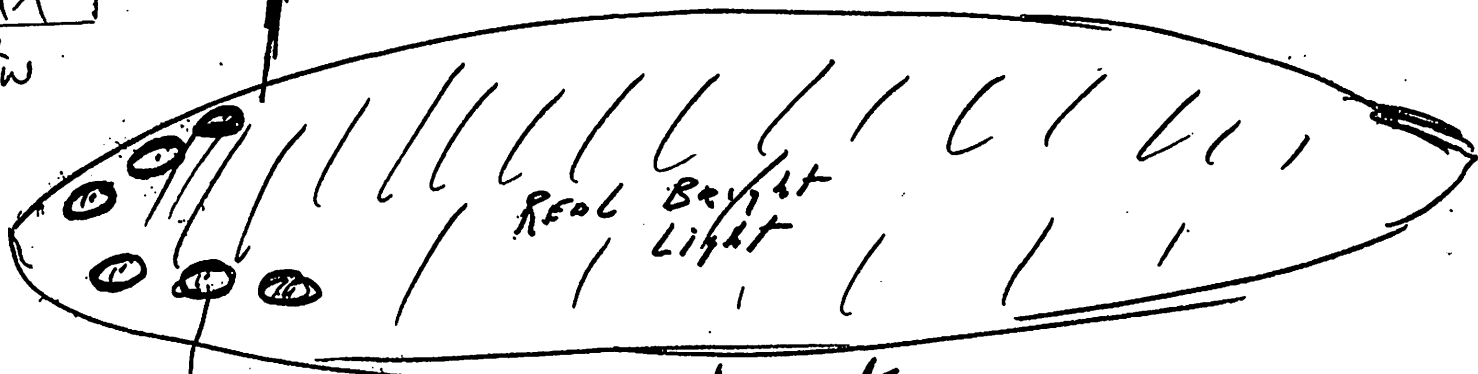
AS THOUGH

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



REAR VIEW

Projection at rear (trailing edge) of UFO



REAL BRIGHT LIGHT

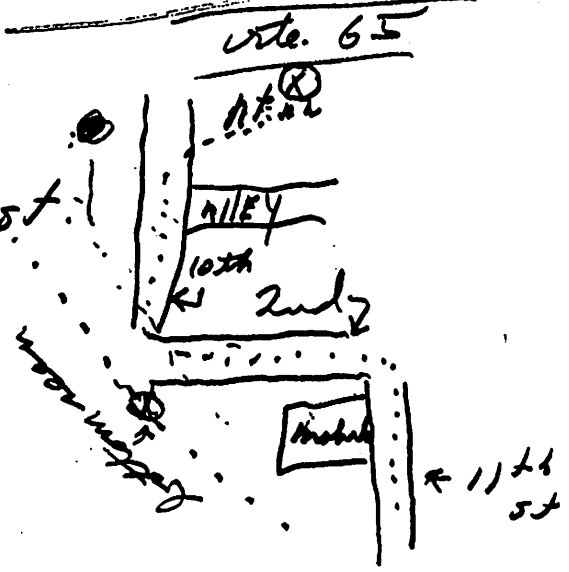
UNDER SIDE

Light inside
Dark Rim outside

SEEN coming down 10th St.

April 17-66

Frank Panzanella - 6-21-66



W: Now, he called Greater Pittsburgh Airport (Bigghey 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?

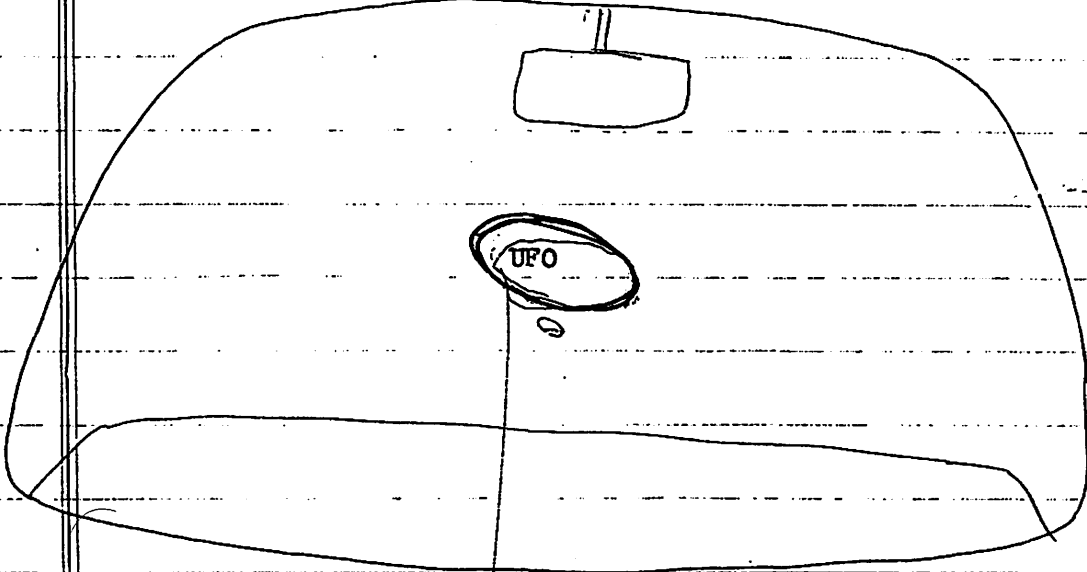
P: We seen two streaks, and that was after we made the call, these two white streaks, -- you know how your planes leave that at a high altitude? There were two streaks out there. What they were, I don't know.... To its left toward the sunrise. And, a matter of fact, Harmony, Economy Borough called in 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.

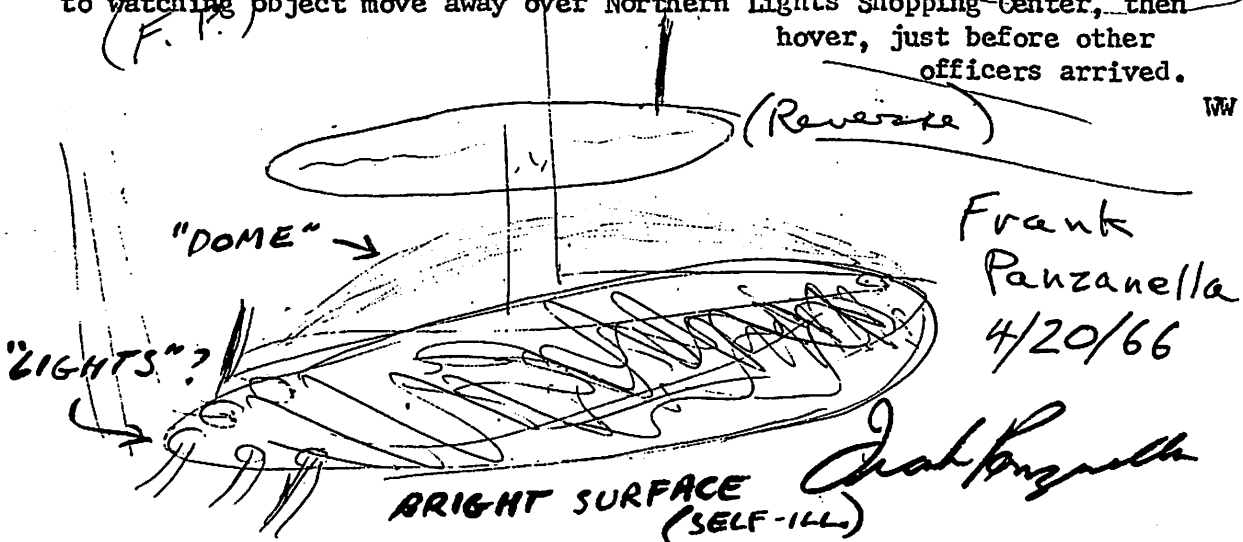
4-17-66

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.



NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

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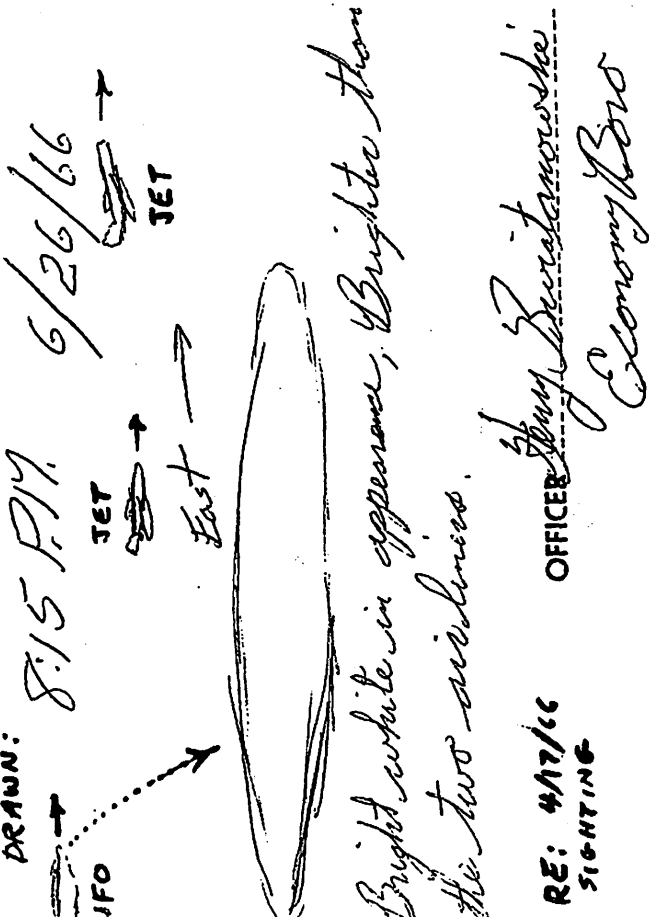
MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

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 Panzarella 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.

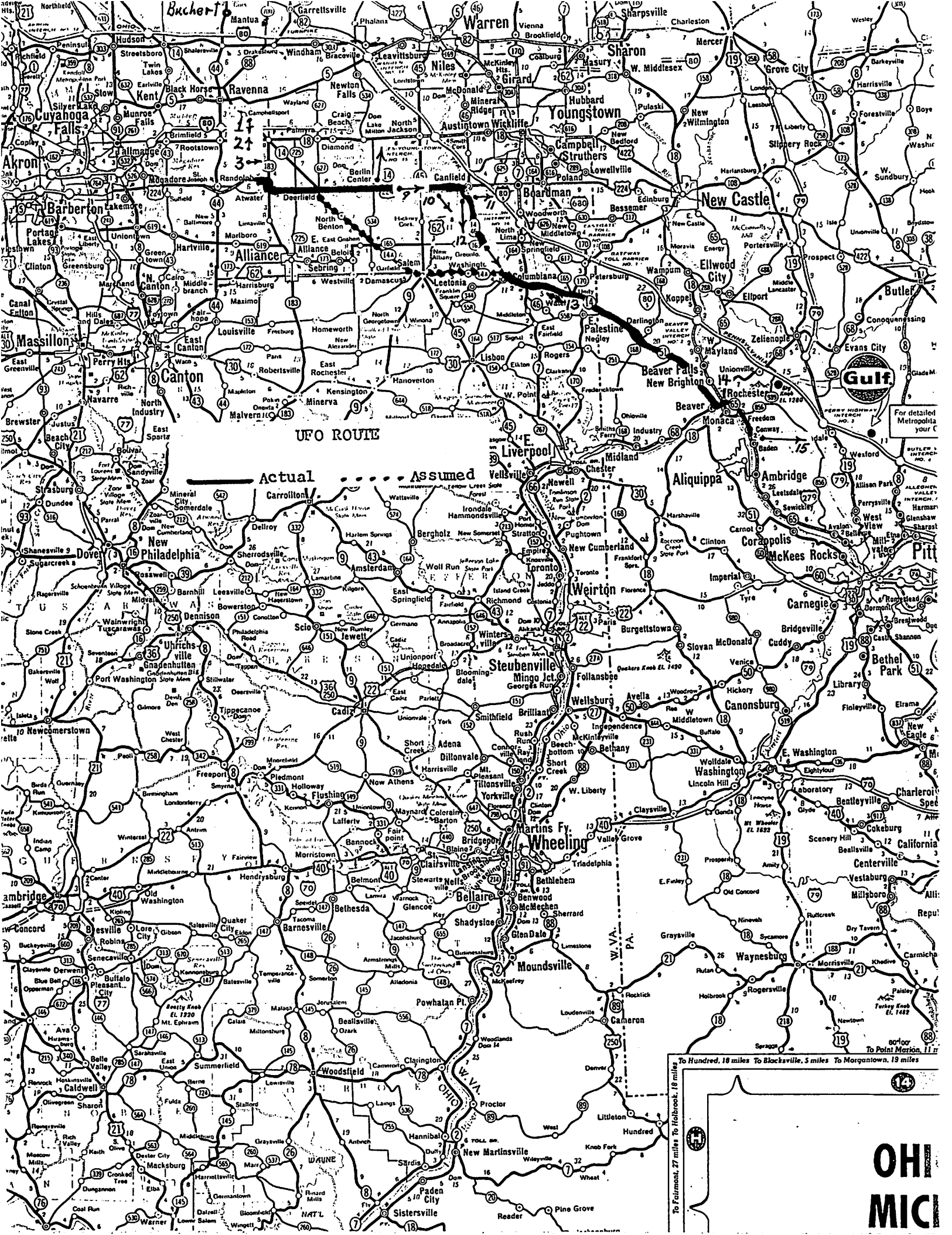
No representative of any government or military agency has discussed this sighting with me. I did not report the sighting to anyone.

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 P. Kwatanowski
 TITLE Police Officer
 DATE 6/26/66
 WITNESSED William N. [unclear], NIKAP

ending body serving the national public interest



UFO ROUTE

Actual Assumed

To Fairmont, 27 miles To Halbrook, 19 miles

To Hundred, 18 miles To Blackville, 5 miles To Morgantown, 19 miles

OHIO

MICHIGAN

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 Kwiatanowski sighting, likewise, may or may not be the P-13 UFO. It appeared oblong, and did not seem self-illuminated. Note that while Kwiatanowski 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.

Kwiatanowski'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 Kwiatanowski 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 -4.3). 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.

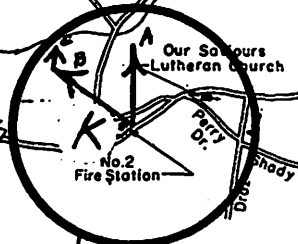
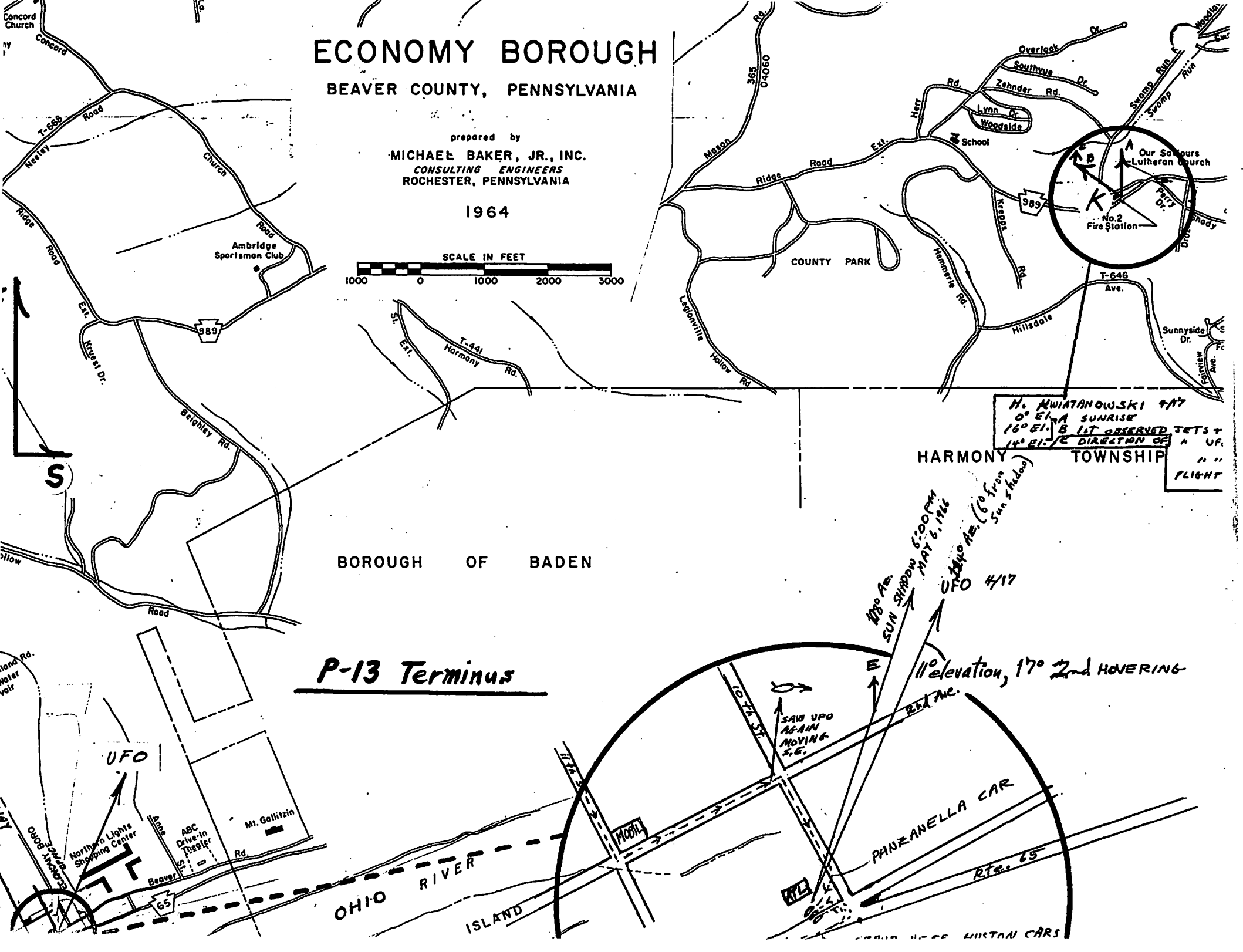
ECONOMY BOROUGH

BEAVER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

1964

SCALE IN FEET



H. KWIANOWSKI 4/17
0° EL. A SUNRISE
16° EL. B 1ST OBSERVED JETS +
14° EL. C DIRECTION OF "UFO"
FLIGHT

HARMONY TOWNSHIP

BOROUGH OF BADEN

P-13 Terminus

180° Ae. SUN SHADOW 6:00PM MAY 6, 1966
240° Ae. (60 from Sun's shadow) UFO 4/17

11° elevation, 17° 2nd HOVERING

PAZZANELLA CAR

Rte. 65

OHIO RIVER

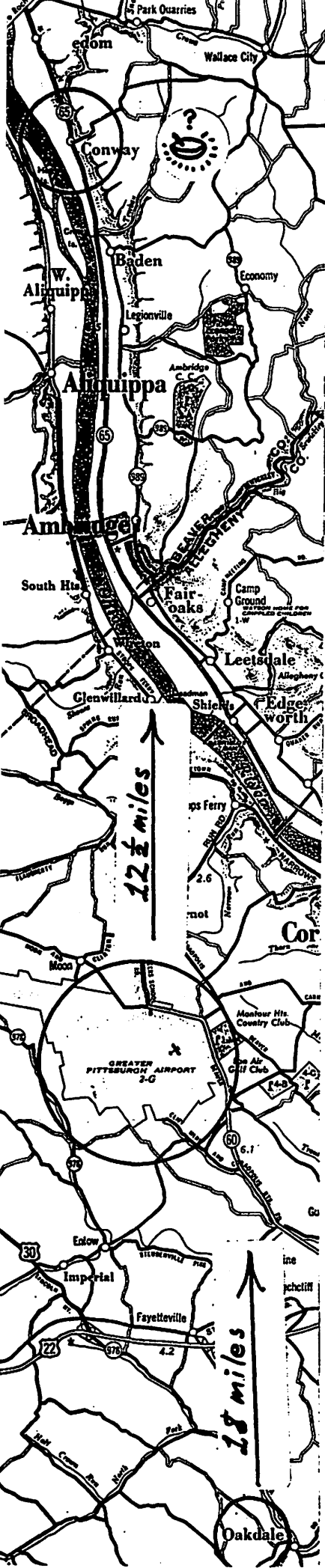
ISLAND

MOBILE

UFO
Northern Lights Shopping Center
ABC Drive-In Theater
Mt. Gollitzin Rd.

65

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.

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 vcnty 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.

SUMMARY: INITIAL PHASE OF INVESTIGATION OF P-13 UFO "CHASE" APRIL 17, 1966

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 Ieland'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 Ieland; he gave me original report by Deputy Spaur, filled out on return from Conway this morning. Ieland gave me names, numbers of Huston, Panzarella. Also fresh batteries for the Norelco 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. Ieland, 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 Ieland'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; Ieland 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.

SUMMARY: INITIAL PHASE ETC. cont.

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 radio-activity 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; Victoreen 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 berm (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 ½ 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 ½ 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 Starmite, 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-13 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 flying saucer 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.

Weitzel
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

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

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.	_____
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Discussed:
William L. Neff

(Please make further appropriate comments on this:)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

FILE
WILLIAM B. WEITZEL

April 23, 1966

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

Dear Mr. Stanton:

Richard Hall, Assistant Director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, requested that I write you this letter. I am a Special Investigator for NICAP and Chairman of its Pittsburgh Subcommittee. The enclosed article, published today in the Record-Courier in Ravenna, Ohio, where I am currently working, should suffice for further introduction.

I have been investigating the recent "chase" of an unidentified flying object on April 17, 1966 from about 5:00 AM to 6:30 AM, beginning here in Portage County and terminating in Conway, Pennsylvania. I have had intensive interviews with Gerald Buchert, Dale Spaur, Frank Panzanella, Wayne Huston, John Bieghey, and Gerald Yokum, law enforcement officers who were involved in the event. I expect to talk with William Neff this evening. Since there are some major discrepancies and omissions in the Air Force's explanation of this sighting, these should be brought to your attention, particularly since they adversely reflect directly on Deputy Sheriffs Spaur and Neff, and indirectly on the Sheriff's office. The enclosed items partially document these discrepancies. For brevity, I am omitting sound copies of tape-recorded interviews.

The following appeared on the UPI wire this afternoon, at the request of the Record-Courier:

WASHINGTON UPI -- The Air Force thinks that a Ravenna deputy sheriff chased a satellite or the planet Venus when he pursued what he said was an unidentified flying object in his patrol car last Sunday. An Air Force report released Friday said another UFO photographed in the town of Mantua, eight miles north of Ravenna, was also Venus. It said a double image which appeared 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 90 minutes into Pennsylvania. The Air Force thinks what Spaur saw was a satellite passing overhead. When it disappeared, 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."

I refer you also to the clipping from today's Record-Courier, quoting more from a similar report that reached them yesterday. These reports are inaccurate or misleading as follows:

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 "nosed 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, not 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~~^{develop} 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

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK INVESTIGATION OF PORTAGE COUNTY APRIL 17 UFO SIGHTING:

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.

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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.

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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."

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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 a 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,

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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°. 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.

- (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 2, 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 Ivasy".
- (3) On page six of the Case, "Kwiatkowski" should read "Kwiatowski".

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