

1958, September 21

THE FITZGERALD REPORT

A COMPLETE AND DETAILED ACCOUNT
OF THE SIGHTING
OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT



SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
SEPTEMBER 21, 1958

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE UFO RESEARCH COMMITTEE
OF AKRON, OHIO

P. O. Box 5242

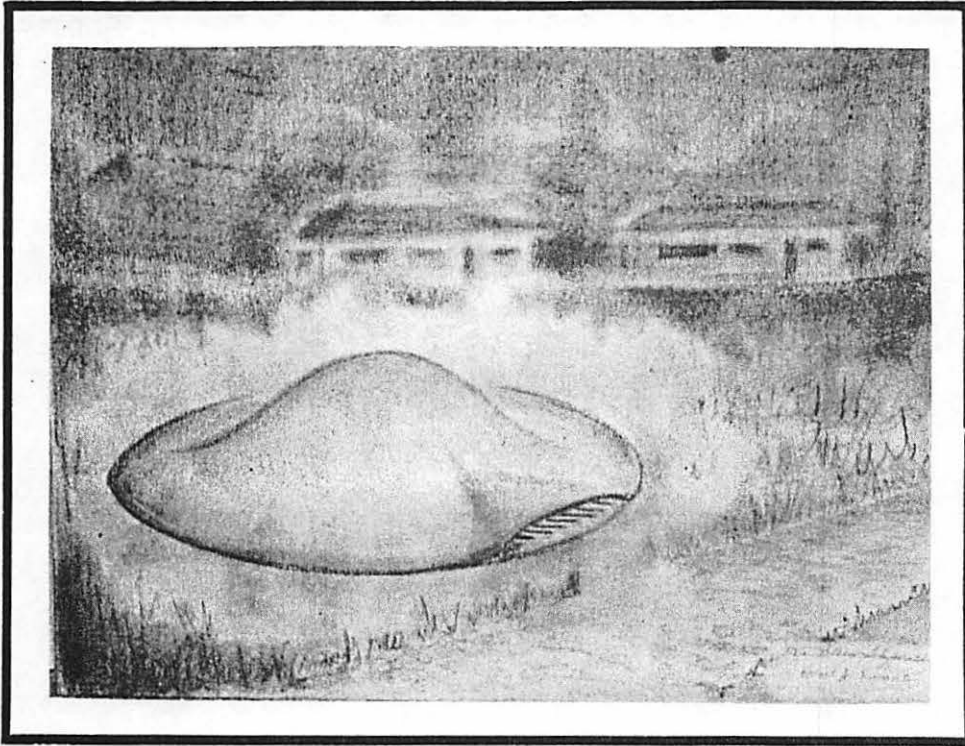
Akron 13, Ohio

December 1, 1958

SEPT. 21

CE II

SHEFFIELD LAKE, OH



DRAWING OF MRS. FITZGERALD'S CONCEPTION OF UFO



ARTIST WORKING FROM MRS. FITZGERALD'S DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

This is a report of a sighting of an unidentified flying object. The report was prepared by members of the UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio. Information for the report was obtained from interviews with the witnesses and personal investigation into other aspects of the case by members of the Committee.

The following is a description by the witness, Mrs. William Fitzgerald, 934 East Drive, Sheffield Lake, Ohio:

On the morning of September 21, 1958, at approximately 3 a.m. local time, I had just gone to bed after watching the late movie on television. I was lying in bed with my arm over my eyes, trying to get to sleep when I sensed that the room was illuminated. Opening my eyes, I saw that the room was as light as it gets at any time during the day.

The window curtains were drawn, and since they are made of heavy red cloth, I thought that the source of light must be very powerful. All I could think of was that the light was strange and did not belong near my house. I stood up on the bed, pulled back the curtain, and looked out the window. The window has glass panes, and was closed.

Directly across from me was an object. It looked like a disc with a hump in the middle. (see Fig. 1) At this moment the rim was about ten feet from my window. My eyes were about six feet ten inches off the ground, and I would guess that the object was five feet off the ground. The object did not seem to glow or have any light source on it. It appeared to have a dull aluminum color. There were no houses lit at the time and our street has no lights on it.

I could see no rivets, seams, or other markings on the object. There was no visible means of propulsion or guidance such as propellers, jet exhaust flames or fins. Although the object was close to me, I did not feel any heat, nor could I detect a rush of wind.

The object appeared to be 20 to 22 feet in diameter and 6 feet high. (see Fig. 2)

When I first saw the object it was directly in front of me and moving north across my lawn. (see Fig. 3) It was losing altitude as it moved. The object continued in a straight path, losing altitude, until it was about fifty feet away and about one foot off the ground. It was then over the yard next door. The object hovered there motionless for several seconds. As it stopped moving, smoke began to billow around it. The smoke came from two openings in the rim. Each opening contained about seven pipes. The smoke did not seem to issue from the pipes, but from the opening which held them. The smoke was a pink-gray color and seemed to be luminescent, because it lit up the object. Before this there had been no external light on the object.

As it hovered in the yard, I was looking down on it. The background was familiar to me, and I could place the object very accurately by observing its position relative to the gravel driveway and the lawn. It appeared to be solid, with well-defined edges, and I could see nothing through it.

Then the object moved back into my yard and rose to a height of about five feet. At this point it was about twenty-five feet from me. It was no longer emitting smoke and had the same dull aluminum color that it had when I first saw the object. It made two quick clockwise turns and shot up out of sight. The second turn seemed to be tighter than the first. I would estimate the turning radius at three feet. It did not turn on its own axis at any time during the sighting. The two clockwise turns were about an axis parallel to the axis of the object.

During the turning maneuver, the object did not tip at all. Then it went straight up so quickly that I was unable to see the underside of the object. The roof on my house extends over the window so that the view was cut off before the object had

gained much altitude. During the entire time the object was in view it made a noise which reminded me of a jet engine warming up. It was a whirring or whining noise, and sounded muffled. The noise was unlike any I have ever heard made by the trains which run nearby.

The incident terrified me so that I was unable to call out to my husband who was sleeping in the bed with me. The best I could do was to kick him several times with my left foot while balancing on my right. I never took my eyes off the object until it disappeared. My husband is a very sound sleeper and I was unable to waken him. When it was all over I just got back into bed and tried to pull myself together. Some time later I fell asleep and did not waken until about 11 a.m. The next morning I discovered that my son had also seen the object.

I was extremely nervous for several days after I saw the object. I am sure that I would be dead now if I had a heart condition. It frightens me when I think of the effect this kind of sighting could have on a person who might be slightly unbalanced emotionally. I was very relieved when I saw that my ten year old son was not harmed or frightened by the experience. I have no idea what the object was, or why it came into my yard.

A week later I went over the entire sighting in my imagination, trying to simulate the duration of each maneuver, and timed the sighting at about 36 seconds. This is the time elapsed from the time I first looked out the window to the time the object disappeared from sight.

John Fitzgerald, aged ten, was in the room next to the one occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald. He had awakened to go to the bathroom and was back in bed when a very bright white light shone through his window. It was so bright that he had to shield his eyes with his hand. The light seemed to come from the part of the object where the hump joins the disc-shaped base. John said that the object went past his window going south. He then got out of bed and climbed up on a hot air register to see out of the window. His description of the object and the events which followed matched that given by his mother. He described the color of the object as being similar to that of a tin cup. John simulated the sound made by the object by simultaneously whistling and humming. When the object went out of sight he went back to sleep.

On Sunday morning Mr. Fitzgerald and John rose at 7 a.m. and had breakfast. Mrs. Fitzgerald remained in bed until about 11 a.m. While eating breakfast, John told his father about the strange sight he had witnessed during the night. Mr. Fitzgerald told his son that it was all a bad dream and thought no more about it. Then later that morning when his wife met him she began to relate her experience. Mr. Fitzgerald cautioned his son to be silent and then heard his wife describe the same object and motions that his son had told him about several hours earlier. It was not until then that either witness realized that the other had seen the object.

When Mrs. Fitzgerald found that her son had seen the object she dismissed the idea that it might have been a hallucination. She felt that the incident should be reported to authorities, but could think of no one to call. Prior to this sighting she had no interest in "flying saucers", and was skeptical about other reports. Finally, she called the Lorain Journal for information. They sent a reporter to interview her. Subsequently, articles appeared in the Lorain Journal, Elyria Chronicle, and the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

On September 25, two members of the UFO Research Committee of Akron interviewed Mrs. Fitzgerald. They prepared a summary of the sighting which was sent to the Aerial Phenomena Group, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, together with a request for an investigation.

The Air Force sent two investigators from Dayton to check the report. They

made a survey of train schedules, lake activity, and other possible factors in the sighting. On October 4 they interviewed Mrs. Fitzgerald and her son John. Mrs. Fitzgerald filled out the standard UFO reporting form and answered a few questions. The Air Force investigators advanced no opinions at that time regarding the true nature of the object seen by Mrs. Fitzgerald. However, they assured her that the official conclusion would be made known to her within thirty days. If the conclusion was in the "known" category, all evidence which led to that conclusion would be available for her inspection, according to the investigators.

The Air Force investigators asked Mrs. Fitzgerald the following questions, recorded by a member of the Committee who was present:

Q: Was it raining? What was the weather like?

A: It had rained a few hours before.

Q: Did the smoke appear fluorescent?

A: It must have been to explain why it lit up, I guess.

Q: When the light turned off, did it fade or turn off quickly?

A: (Witness couldn't answer, but thought that the light did not turn off quickly.)

Q: When the object left, did it go up quickly?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you recently been under medical care?

A: No.

Q: (directed to John Fitzgerald) Did it appear to be aluminum?

A: It was like two tin cups, like a soup cup.

No other questions were asked of the witnesses.

Two other people in the neighborhood had experiences which helped to confirm the presence of a strange object.

Mr. D was sitting on the edge of his bed preparing to retire for the night. His attention was attracted by a light shining into his room through the window. The curtains were drawn. Mr. D says that the light had the color of moonlight but the source seemed to be much larger than the moon. However, he did not give it another thought and went to sleep, supposing that it was the moon. The light did not move or pulsate during his observation which lasted five seconds. There was no sound or other disturbance connected with the object so far as he could remember.

The time of Mr. D's experience must have been several minutes before Mrs. Fitzgerald's. Mr. D had also watched the late movie and had gone into his room immediately. He had no explanation for the light.

At approximately the same time, Mr. and Mrs. P were sitting in their living room, smoking, when they heard a strange noise. They had also watched the late movie. Mrs. P described the noise as something like a jet plane roar, but of a lower pitch. The sound began abruptly and then faded out in a period of about four seconds. Mr. P thought at first that the sound might be caused by train cars engaging on the track which runs nearby. However, this sound is familiar to both parties and they dismissed it as an explanation. Mrs. P said she did not think the sound was caused by a jet because of its abrupt start and strange sound. Also, the television set always fluttered when an airplane would pass overhead, and the set showed no signs of disturbance when the sound was heard. They saw nothing unusual.

Mr. D and Mrs. P contacted Mrs. Fitzgerald after her story was published. No house-to-house check or other attempt to contact witnesses was made.

Two other sightings were reported that morning in Lorain, which borders Sheffield Lake.

At 2:30 a. m. on the 21st, Mrs. S in Lorain was awakened by a light flooding through her window. At first she thought that the sun had risen, but her clock told her otherwise. She went to the window and saw a round red object apparently

several times larger than the moon. It had no markings and did not look like the moon. At the top of the object was a "hump" or protrusion which had the same uniform color of the main body. At first she thought that she was viewing the moon under strange conditions so she called to her husband saying, "There is something wrong with the moon." He looked at the object, but could not identify it. About five minutes later Mrs. S looked for the object again and found that it had shifted in a westerly direction. She thought the object's size might have been comparable to a 2 inch object when held at a distance of 14 inches. When it was first seen the object was in the WSW sky and about 40 degrees above the horizon.

At approximately 2 a. m. on the 21st, Mrs. G of Lorain watched a "big red ball" moving outside her window. She was in bed when she spotted the object through the partially closed venetian blinds on her window. The object approached the window, moving horizontally parallel to it for several seconds. Then it moved up and out of sight. The object made a low pulsating sound which reminded the witness of a death march. "It made me sick to my stomach," she said later, referring to the sound. The sound grew louder as the object approached, and diminished as it left. She thought she heard a crashing sound just before the object came into sight. If the object maneuvered as she said it did, then the object must have gone through some limbs in the trees outside the window. However, no damaged limbs or other evidence was found.

Mrs. G has no explanation for her experience. She suffered no ill effects. The G house is about 500 feet north of the same railroad track that is near the Fitzgerald house.

The accounts of the objects seen by Mrs. S and Mrs. G have no obvious bearing on the Fitzgerald sighting. They are included here because it is felt that all strange phenomena in the area that morning might have had a common origin. It should be noted that all of the incidents took place at approximately the same time. No other sightings were reported. (see Fig. 4)

The facts in each of the four cases concomitant to the Fitzgerald sighting are insufficient to permit a detailed analysis. However, it should certainly be noted that the objects reported by Mr. D, Mrs. S, and Mrs. G could not have been the moon. The moon set at 1:07 a. m. on September 21.

The full names and addresses of all parties connected with this report, as well as a tape recording of an interview with Mrs. Fitzgerald, are in the files of the UFO Research Committee.



ANALYSIS

Was this a real "unknown"? A true unknown is an object that remains unknown after being seen under conditions which should normally make the object easily identifiable. In order to satisfy this definition certain conditions must be present in a sighting:

- (1) The object should be seen against a familiar background such as trees, houses, nearby hills or low clouds. There is no way to estimate the true size of an object seen in a cloudless sky. A small object close to the observer may appear to be large and far away. When the distance of the object is fairly certain, the observer will not make a great misjudgment in the size.
- (2) The object must be fairly close to the observer. For instance, a balloon seen from a distance of two miles cannot be readily identified, but a balloon that is 200 feet away can be recognized immediately.
- (3) The duration of the sighting must be such that the observer has time enough to focus his eyes and observe the details of the construction of the object. A sighting that lasts five seconds is highly questionable. The witness would have to be a very well trained observer to catch any detail in such a short time.
- (4) The object should maneuver in a manner that clearly distinguishes it from a conventional aircraft or balloon. For instance, abrupt 90 or 180 degree turns would mark a true unknown, simply because no conventional object today could perform such maneuvers without structural failure.

In the Fitzgerald sighting the first and second conditions are fulfilled completely. The witness was in a very favorable position to observe the object because it was so near. When the object was stationary in the adjacent lot, the witness was looking down on it. The object was silhouetted against a familiar background. There was no chance for any sizable error in the estimated size of the object because its distance from the observer was so accurately known. Even though the object was not illuminated when it was closest to the witness, she could easily have seen any markings or protrusions.

The sighting lasted about 36 seconds. This is enough time for a person to get his bearings and focus his eyes, even during such a startling experience. Mrs. Fitzgerald had enough time to get a good look at the object. She could hardly have been looking at, say, a fallen weather balloon in her yard for 36 seconds without recognizing it for what it was. Her eyes might have been blurred at the beginning of the sighting but sufficient time passed for them to focus properly. Her description of the motions of the object would not be affected by a momentary lack of focus. The image of the object remained so vivid in her mind that she was later able to direct an artist in drawing it.

When the sequence of motions of the object is studied, it becomes obvious that an "unnatural" phenomenon was observed. The object glided down in a northerly direction, hovered, glided up in a southerly direction, made two quick turns and then went straight up.

We must conclude that the object was a genuine unknown. The nature of the object seen by Mrs. Fitzgerald must for the time being remain a mystery. However, some interesting observations can be made on the description of the appearance and motions of the object.

Although no marks of construction were seen on the object, the shape strongly suggests that it was manufactured. This is emphasized by the pipes in the rim. The general shape was symmetrical - - not the symmetry found in nature, but the symmetry of a potter's wheel or lathe. The motions of the object can quite reasonably be considered as having been intelligently directed. Certainly they are not the motions of an object caught in the wind.

WAS THIS A HOAX?

Mrs. Fitzgerald had nothing to gain by reporting this sighting. To date she has received nothing for her efforts but a scoffing from some of her neighbors; while, on the other hand, she has the indirect support of the other people in her neighborhood whose experiences are recorded in this report. These people were all strangers to Mrs. Fitzgerald before the incident. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald have volunteered to submit to a lie detector examination if any serious questioning of their honesty is made.

WAS THIS A HALLUCINATION?

The fact that her son John also saw the object rules out the possibility that the sighting was a hallucination.

WAS THIS OBJECT A GOVERNMENT MISSILE OR FLYING DEVICE?

No simple answer to this question is possible. The U.S. Government has repeatedly denied that the UFO reports are being caused by government-operated craft of any sort. Mrs. Fitzgerald reported no markings which would indicate that the object was a U.S. device.

To answer this question more fully it is important to know that UFOs have been seen in every country, even behind the Iron Curtain. They have also flown dangerously close to commercial airplanes and over highly-restricted areas of this country where all flying is prohibited.

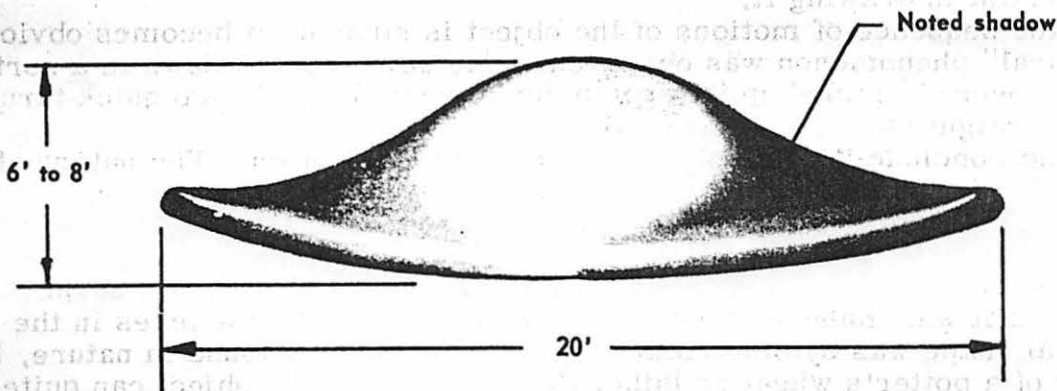
If the United States had in its possession a device capable of the performance attributed to the UFO, it would certainly not risk flying the device over foreign countries. The same can also be said of all other powers on this planet. To have a "saucer" crash or be forced down in a foreign land would naturally be most injurious to the manufacturing power.

No government tests are conducted over populated areas, and all military aircraft are kept at a safe distance from commercial air lanes. The threatening danger to the civilian population is enormous in both cases. It does not seem reasonable that the government would jeopardize the safety of the public by flying these devices where they could do so much harm.

Finally, it seems strange that so many billions of dollars are being spent yearly to perfect jet and rocket aircraft if we already have devices like the one described by Mrs. Fitzgerald.

HAS AN OBJECT LIKE THIS EVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE?

The Air Force Project Bluebook Special Report #14, a summary of the official UFO investigation from 1947 to 1952, contains a drawing of an object very similar to the one described by Mrs. Fitzgerald.(see below) The dimensions in the Air Force drawing correspond to the dimensions of Mrs. Fitzgerald's object.



Case VIII

(Ratio approx. 3:1)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

181 OCT 1958

Dear Mr. Baumhart:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

W. P. FISHER
Major General, USAF
Director
Legislative Liaison

Honorable A. D. Baumhart, Jr.

House of Representatives

GENERAL FISHER'S LETTER, REVEALING OFFICIAL
AIR FORCE CONCLUSION ON FITZGERALD SIGHTING

ANALYSIS OF AIR FORCE CONCLUSION

A railroad track runs 320 feet south of the Fitzgerald house. At approximately 2:52 a. m. a train left the Lorain station going east. This train probably passed the Fitzgerald house a short time after 3. At the same time another train was on the tracks in the vicinity of Sheffield Lake, going west. The railroad officials were unable to furnish the time at which this train passed the Fitzgerald house.

The locomotives employ a special headlight called a "mars light" or a "gyralight" which oscillates in a horizontal figure eight pattern. The light throws its beam over a much larger area than would be possible with a conventional headlight.

If such a light did shine in the Fitzgerald bedroom window, it might have caused the room to light up as Mrs. Fitzgerald described. With this in mind Mrs. Fitzgerald and several members of the Committee observed trains approaching from the east. At a distance the headlight beam is completely blocked by the houses and trees on the other side of the street. When the train is near the headlight beam is directed away from the house. Even on the extreme swing of the beam the light never hits the house.

At best this explanation, that Mrs. Fitzgerald was fooled by a train headlight, could account only for the initial phase of the sighting in which she saw her room brightly illuminated. It has no conceivable bearing on the rest of her report. For instance, how could she have mistaken a train headlight for a solid object 22 feet in diameter, 6 feet high, from a distance of only 10 feet away? And it should be emphasized that the witness had her back to the railroad tracks during most of the sighting.

As to the sound connected with the object, it hardly seems possible that Mrs. Fitzgerald would not recognize the sound of a passing train. She has lived at her present address since June of 1958, and has lived near railroads all of her life. She has attempted to detect a similarity between the sound she heard and the sound of the trains, but has been unable to make any satisfactory connection.

The coast of Lake Erie is about 3000 feet north of the Fitzgerald house. The house is about 50 feet above the level of the lake. Between the house and the lake coast are a number of houses and trees. The lake cannot be seen from the Fitzgerald house.

According to Chief Boatswain Mate Schott of the Lorain Coast Guard station, the patrol boat in question was never closer to the shore than one mile.

The spotlight on the type of boat used on this patrol is designed for spotting bodies or objects in the water near the boat. Consequently it has a very broad and diffused beam. The beam from this spotlight has no similarity to a searchlight beam of the type used for spotting aircraft or for advertising.

Therefore the light from this searchlight could hardly have been a factor in the sighting of the object by Mrs. Fitzgerald.

The Air Force statement on this case states: "Mrs. Stewart (i. e. Stewart) of Lorain, a witness listed in Mrs. Fitzgerald's report, could not recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting."

Mrs. Stewart has since signed a paper refuting this statement. (see Fig. 5)

It is interesting to note that the Air Force investigating team who visited Mrs. Fitzgerald insisted that their job was entirely one of fact-finding. They said that they themselves did not make any conclusions on a case, and explained that this was done by "highly qualified experts in Dayton." The last paragraph of the letter from General Fisher contradicts this statement made by the sergeants.

It is obvious that the Air Force conclusion in this report was based on a complete disregard for the facts. In the final analysis which follows it will be shown that the investigation, the sole basis for the Air Force conclusion, was conducted on the same level of competence.

ANALYSIS OF AIR FORCE INVESTIGATION

In our opinion, the Air Force ^{TECH.} investigation of this ^{TECH.} case was criminally mis-handled. The two investigators, M. Sgt. Haistan and M. Sgt. Hof, spent two days in Lorain "investigating" the sighting. Their investigation, like the ATIC analysis, was a disgrace to the U.S. Air Force, and an insult to the American public whom the Air Force supposedly represents.

Following is a list of the blunders committed by Sergeants Hof and Haistan:

(1) They did not bother to observe the headlights on the trains passing near the Fitzgerald house. This was despite the fact that they were requested to do so by a member of the Committee present at the time they interviewed Mrs. Fitzgerald. In fact, this point was brought out in the presence of Mrs. Fitzgerald, and she stated then that the headlight beam never, at any time, comes through her window. The failure to make even this simple check on what was supposed to be a major factor in the sighting is inexcusable and displays the grossest inefficiency.

(2) The presence of any sort of lake activity should not have been listed as a factor in the sighting. At the closest point to the Fitzgerald house the lake is 3000 feet away. It is impossible to see the lake from the Fitzgerald house. This was explained to Sgt. Hof by a member of the Committee at the time the sergeant was in the front yard of the Fitzgerald house. The sergeant was asked to explain how, since according to their investigation the weather was bad at the time of the sighting, any light could have been seen reflected from off the clouds, or how light in any other manner could have reached the Fitzgerald house from the lake. Sergeant Hof acknowledged these objections but made no attempt to answer them.

(3) General Fisher's letter states that Chief Schott reported he was using his spotlight "in an attempt to attract the attention of another ship", and that the light was directed toward shore "in the general direction of Mrs. Fitzgerald's house." If the sergeants had made a conscientious check with Chief Schott they would have noted that at the time he was using the light to attract another ship he was at a place on the lake $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Fitzgerald house. They would also have noted that the spotlight beam would have had to travel through downtown Lorain on its way to the house. As mentioned in the analysis of the Air Force Conclusion, the sergeants apparently did not know that the Coast Guard boat had a light which could not be focused on clouds in the manner of a searchlight. Chief Schott has signed a statement specifying his position and activities on the morning of September 21.

(4) How the sergeants could make the statement that Mrs. Stewart "could not recall anything unusual" is indeed difficult to understand. Mrs. Stewart's signed statement (Fig. 5) is definite proof that this was either a deliberate attempt to distort the facts, an unforgivable act of negligence, or else an extreme case of ignorance.

(5) How the sergeants could make the statement that Mr. Grego of Lorain, another witness, "was not available for interview", is even more pathetic in view of the fact that the witness referred to in Mrs. Fitzgerald's summary to ATIC was actually MRS. Grego.

(6) General Fisher's statement reads, "The weather at the time of the incident was a misty rain with haze and smoke." The sergeants apparently discovered this through the same mental process which led them to conclude that Mrs. Stewart could remember seeing nothing. The weather at the time of the sighting, as described by the witness verbally and in writing in the Air Force report form, was not raining. There is no reason to suppose that the witness was mistaken on this point.

As to the presence of smoke, this undoubtedly refers to the fact that the U.S.

Steel Company has a plant about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles SW of the house. Unfortunately, the sergeants failed to check the wind direction at the time of the sighting. Had they done so they would have discovered that smoke from the steel plant could not have blown toward the Fitzgerald house before 4:00 a. m. on September 21. It can be assumed, however, that there was some haze during the sighting, but the effect this would have on the viewing of such a large object at a range of 10 to 50 feet is not made clear in General Fisher's Statement.

The statement concerning the weather not only has little foundation in fact, but is written in a manner calculated to discredit the sighting. It is somewhat surprising that the report does not also include accounts of tornadoes and blizzards converging over Sheffield Lake at the time of the sighting.

(7) The sergeants made several omissions, indicating they had little or no intention of making an honest investigation of this sighting. (a) They did not make a house to house check in the neighborhood for supplementary evidence. (b) They did not ask Mrs. Fitzgerald to make a 3-dimensional drawing of the object. The sergeants showed almost no interest in the shape of the object, which actually should have been the most important point in their entire report. (c) They showed almost no interest in the motions of the object, and relied upon a member of the Committee to explain the motions to them. Here again, the maneuvers of the object should have been the second most important point of the official report. (d) Mrs. Fitzgerald was made to fill out the standard Air Force UFO reporting form. This form was designed to report objects seen in the sky, not on the ground. Mrs. Fitzgerald said that it was very difficult for her to convey in this report the idea that she had seen a large, solid object moving in her front yard. The sergeants did not take notes during their interview with Mrs. Fitzgerald; consequently, the report form must be the only official record of her sighting.

The investigation and analysis of this case by the U. S. Air Force is typical of the treatment which has been given UFO reports over the past ten years. This case has now become one of the 98.1% of all UFO reports which the Air Force terms as "known".

The figure of 98.1% was released on October 6, 1958 in news release number 986-58. The release goes on to say, "Refinements in investigative procedure have resulted in a steady decline of unknowns." After studying the Fitzgerald report it should be manifestly clear what the Air Force means by "refinements in investigative procedure".

In a letter to a member of the UFO Research Committee, General Fisher said, "The Air Force is interested in the truth concerning reported sightings and is compelled to deal scientifically and objectively with facts. We feel sure our analyses and evaluations by qualified scientific personnel of the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects are more than adequate."

This is an example of the duplicity which has characterized the Air Force treatment of the UFO problem.

The Committee believes that the complete disregard of facts, which the Air Force has consistently exhibited through the years wherever the UFO is concerned, should be halted immediately. The public must be given the truth regarding the existence of these objects. We suggest that others who similarly feel that the UFO problem is being gravely mishandled write their representatives in congress, and request an investigation of the Air Force UFO project.



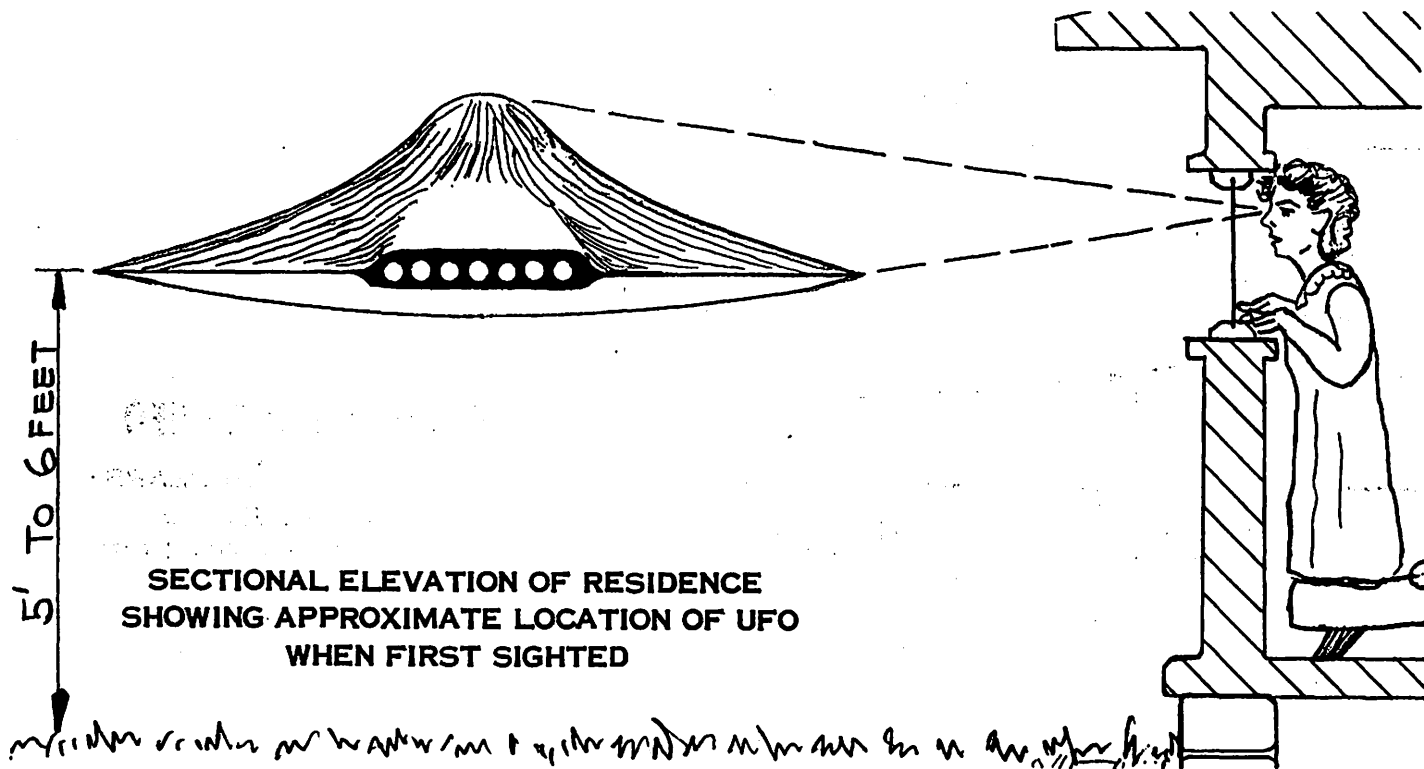
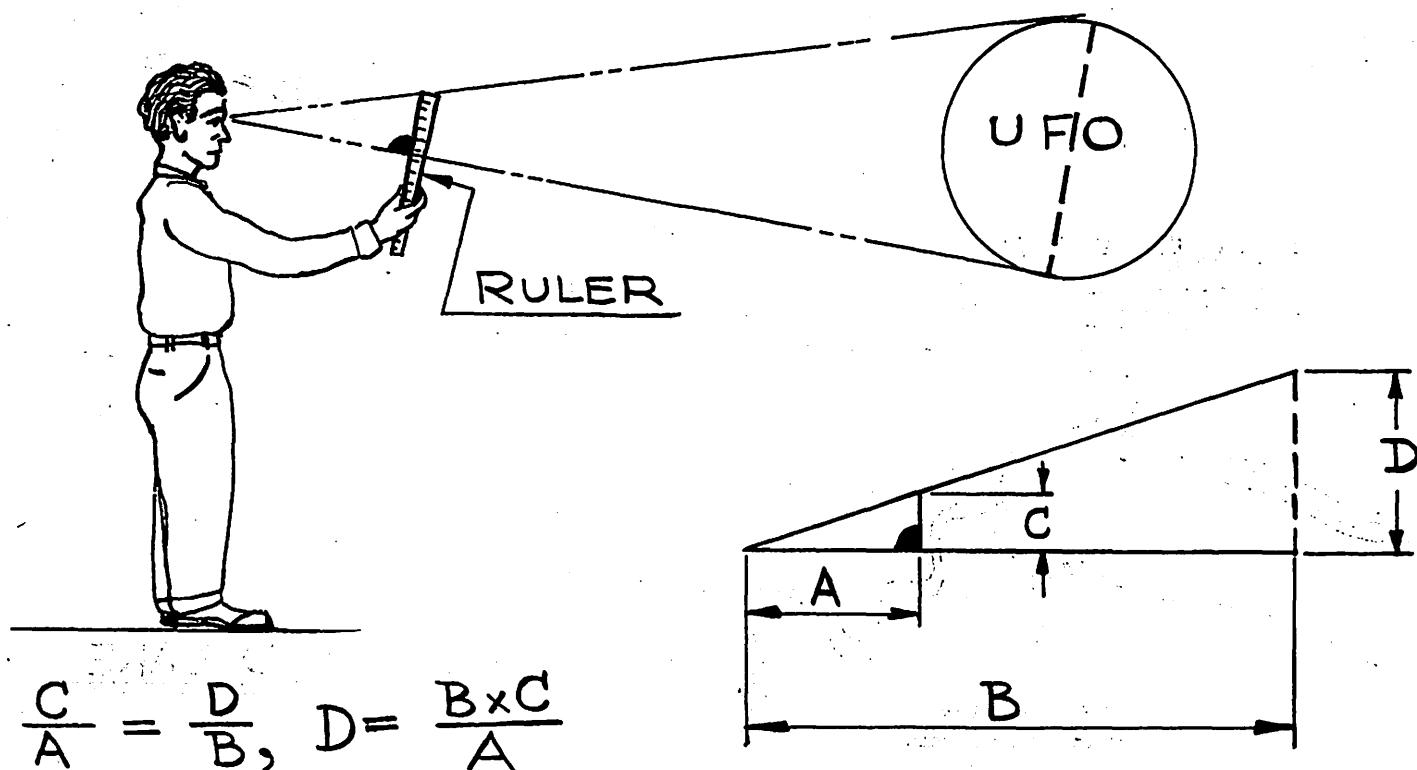


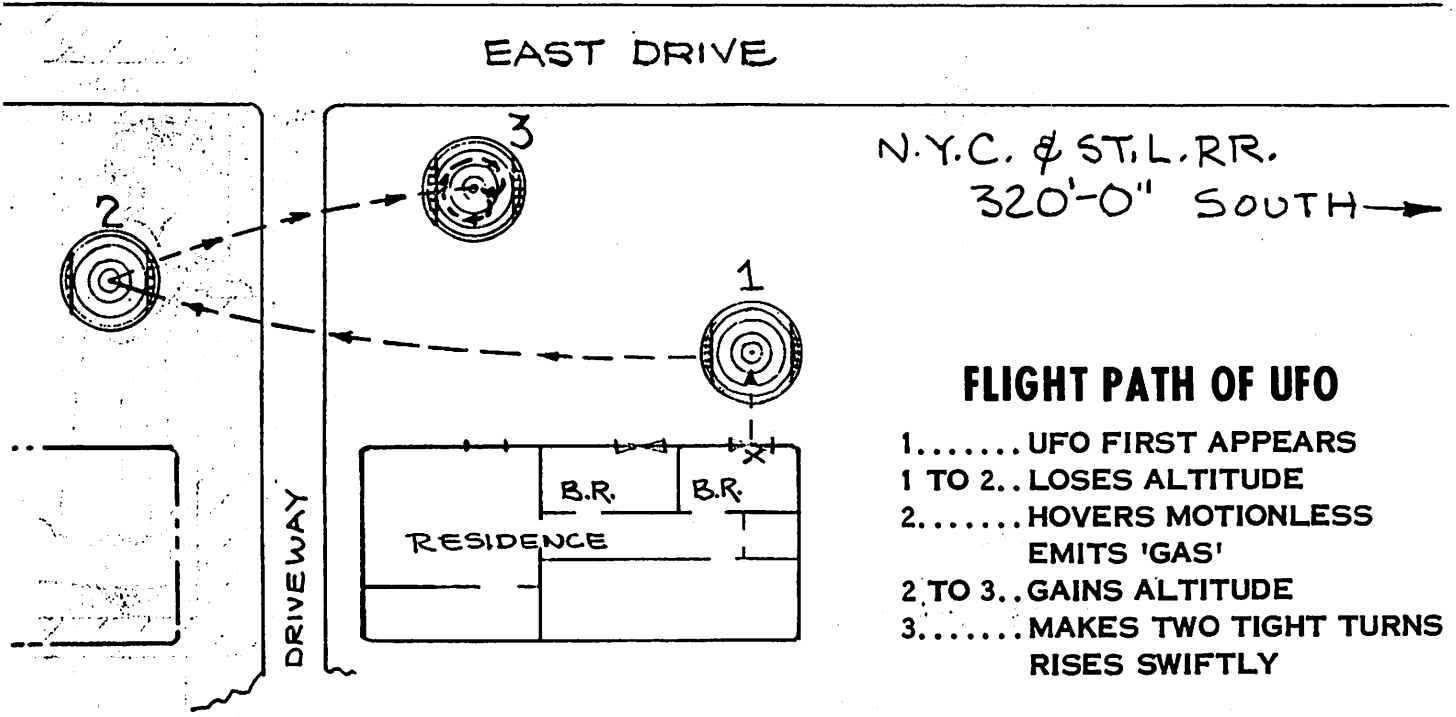
FIGURE 1



SIMILAR TRIANGLES METHOD OF ESTIMATING SIZE OF UFO

THE WITNESS PICTURES THE UFO IN HIS IMAGINATION AS IT WAS IN A PLACE WHERE THE DISTANCE FROM THE OBSERVER IS KNOWN. HE THEN ESTIMATES THE DIAMETER AT ARM'S LENGTH. BY A SIMPLE RATIO THE TRUE DIAMETER OF THE UFO IS FOUND. USING THIS METHOD THE DIAMETER OF THE OBJECT REPORTED BY MRS. FITZGERALD WAS FOUND TO BE ABOUT 22 FEET.

FIGURE 2

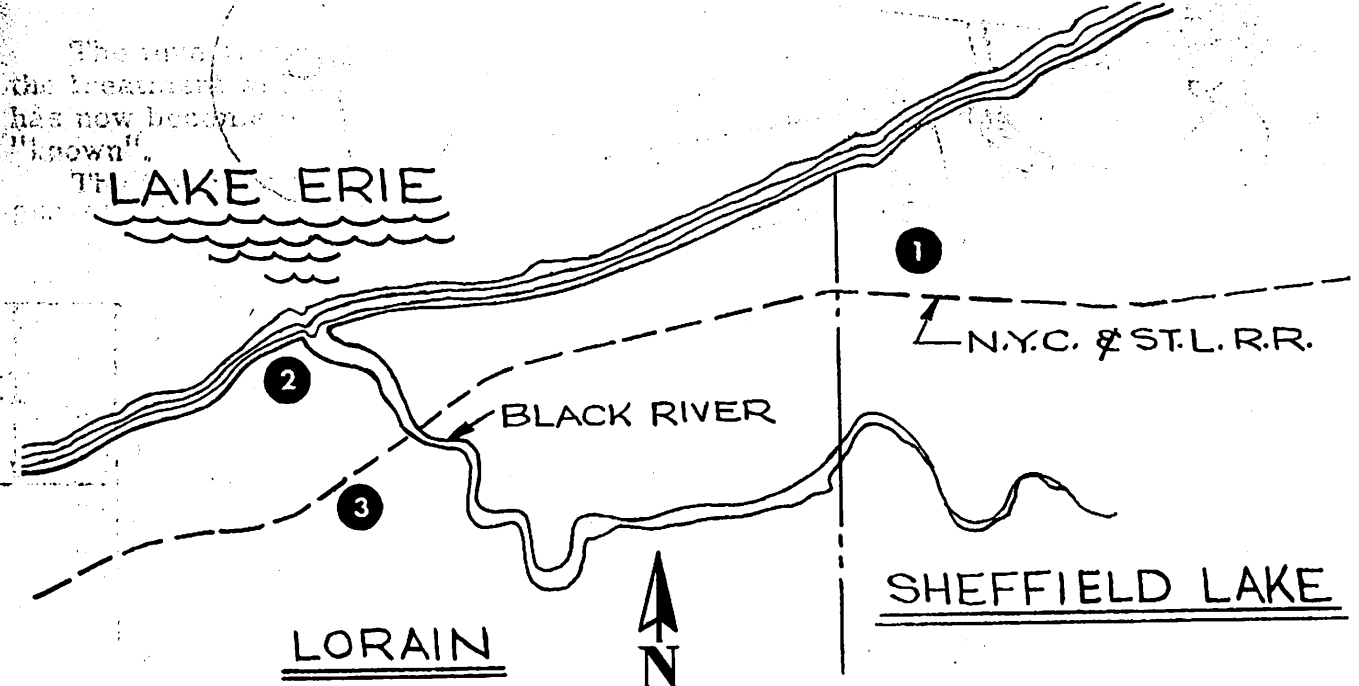


FLIGHT PATH OF UFO

- 1..... UFO FIRST APPEARS
- 1 TO 2.. LOSES ALTITUDE
- 2..... HOVERS MOTIONLESS
EMITS 'GAS'
- 2 TO 3.. GAINS ALTITUDE
- 3..... MAKES TWO TIGHT TURNS
RISES SWIFTLY

FIGURE 3

note: ...
...



- 1 FITZGERALD RESIDENCE
- 2 MRS. G
- 3 MRS. S

DISTANCE 1 TO 2 - 3.22 MILES
DISTANCE 2 TO 3 - 0.67 MILES

FIGURE 4

At 2:30 a.m., on the 21st of September, 1958, I was awakened by a light flooding in my window. At first I thought that the sun had risen, but looking at the clock convinced me that something was wrong.

I went to the window and saw a round red object apparently several times bigger than the moon. It had no markings and did not look like the moon. At the top of the object was a "hump" or protrusion which had the same uniform color of the main body. There was no marking separating the hump from the rest of the body. At first I thought that I was viewing the moon under strange conditions, so I called to my husband to come see the object. He looked at it, but was unable to identify it.

About five minutes later I looked for the object again and found that it had shifted position in a westerly direction. When the object was first in sight it was in the WSW sky, about 40 degrees elevation.

Later I estimated the size of the object as being about 2 inches in diameter at a distance from my eye of 14 inches.

On October 4, 1958, I was visited by Sgt. Hof and Sgt. Haistan from the Air Force Intelligence department. I repeated the account of my experience as written above. The sergeants talked to me about the sighting for about ten minutes. They were going to have me fill out a report form, but then decided against it.

signed

Mrs. J. T. Stewart
Mrs. Jack T. Stewart
206 Washington Ave.
Lorain, Ohio

MRS. J. T. STEWART'S STATEMENT CONCERNING SEPT. 21 SIGHTING

FIGURE 5

APPENDIX

A rather significant series of correspondence has been carried out between Mrs. Fitzgerald, the Air Force, members of Congress, and members of our group. The most significant letters concerning Mrs. Fitzgerald's experience are presented in this appendix. Besides adding substance to this report, these letters clearly reveal the Air Force position on the subject of UFOs better than any official Air Force statement. All of these letters, and many more, are on file and are available for inspection should anyone seriously question their authenticity.

The following is Mrs. Fitzgerald's letter to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio. Enclosed with this letter was a three page summary of Mrs. Fitzgerald's sighting that we compiled.

Sept. 29, 1958

This is to inform you of a UFO sighting I had on September 21, 1958. I would appreciate it very much if you would send an investigator, or someone to explain this happening to me. It was a terribly frightening experience.

I assure you that I will contact my congressman about this matter if some action is not taken soon to explain it.

No private citizen should be placed in the path of government devices, if that is what it was. If it was a space craft, steps must be taken to warn the public.

The summary included here was prepared by a private UFO investigator who interviewed me and the other people who reported strange objects that morning.

Mrs. Fitzgerald wrote to her congressman, the honorable A. D. Baumhart, Jr., on the same day asking him to check with the Air Force and to inform her of their conclusions regarding her experience. Congressman Baumhart checked with the Air Force and received a reply from Major General W. P. Fisher. In this letter, General Fisher first released the official Air Force conclusions in the Fitzgerald case. This letter from General Fisher is reproduced on page 5.

Upon receipt of the official Air Force conclusions for her experience, Mrs. Fitzgerald wrote the following to her congressman:

Nov. 4, 1958

I was outraged when I read the Air Force conclusion to my sighting. The person who made it must be insane.

A private group known as the UFO Research Committee of Akron, has written a complete report of my experience and of the other sightings on the same night. They are planning to print the report for distribution to other UFO research groups. A copy of this report, which contains an analysis of the case, will be sent to you.

In your letter from the Air Force it says that a "Mrs. Steward reported nothing unusual etc." This is a lie. I have a signed statement from Mrs. Steward that she did see an object, and that she did describe it to the two Air Force men who visited her. She could not imagine what the sentence above referred to, since she says that the men were going to give her a full report form to fill out.

I would like very much to meet with you in person to discuss this case. Also I would like to have with me a member of the Committee who lives in Lorain, and who has done much of the investigation on this case.

I have been cooperating fully with the Committee, and they would like you to refrain from contacting the Air Force about this case again until more evidence can be secured to prove that the investigation was mishandled. Many thanks for the help and interest you have shown.

Meanwhile, we had thoroughly investigated the Fitzgerald case and had documented every significant fact. Believing that the public should be informed of her experience and the manner in which it was handled by the Air Force, we decided to publish a written report. This initial report was published in December of 1958 by a UFO group in Akron, Ohio, and received a limited distribution. This subsequent report is a revised and supplemented version of that original report. Copies of the original report were sent to members of congress and to officers in the Air Force including Major General Fisher. Enclosed with the report sent to General Fisher was the following letter:

Dec. 7, 1958

Inclosed is a complete report of a UFO sighting. It includes a description of the sighting, the Air Force investigation, the conclusion of ATIC as given in your letter to Congressman Baumhart, and an analysis of the Air Force conclusion and investigation.

In the analysis of the Air Force treatment of the case our group has charged the investigation team with criminal mishandling. We feel that this case is typical of all UFO cases and that our charges apply generally to the Air Force UFO project.

You have answered many inquiries from members of the U. S. Congress with statements to the effect that the Air Force is conducting a fair, honest, and scientific investigation of the UFO reports. Therefore, we are presenting you with this report which proves that your statements have been false and misleading. The original documents are available for your inspection if that should be necessary.

After reading the enclosed report, please send us your answers to the following questions:

- (1) What action will be taken to discipline the ATIC investigation team which handled this case?
- (2) What action will be taken to make a proper investigation and evaluation of this particular report (Fitzgerald, 21 Sept. 1958)?

(3) What action will be taken to insure that all future reports of unidentified flying objects will be properly investigated and evaluated?

A copy of this letter is being sent to Senator John W. Bricker. I request that you send a copy of your reply to the above three questions to Senator Bricker.

We also sent a copy of the original report to Major Lawrence J. Tacker of the Air Force. Major Tacker is the officer in charge of handling all inquiries concerning UFOs, with the exception of inquiries made by members of congress -- these being answered by Major General Fisher. The following letter was inclosed with that report:

Dec. 19, 1958

Inclosed is a complete report of a UFO sighting. It includes a description of the sighting, the official Air Force conclusion as released by Major General Fisher, and an analysis of the Air Force investigation and conclusion.

In a letter to me from you dated 19 August 1958 you stated, "The Air Force believes that the investigation of the UFO phenomena is in the hands of responsible personnel and that an adequate, thorough and honest program is being conducted."

In the inclosed report our group presents proof that will stand up in any court that the Air Force investigation of the Fitzgerald case was not adequate, thorough, or honest. Due to the magnitude of the blunders committed by the investigation team it must be concluded that the present Air Force treatment of the UFO problem is lacking mainly in the last and most important of the qualifications you listed - honesty.

Is it possible that you have been misled about the true state of the Air Force UFO project? If so, you should take steps to see that statements like the one above are no longer made. Would you then - in view of the inclosed report - please clarify the authenticity of the above statement?

General Fisher replied as follows:

Dec. 31, 1958

I refer to your inquiry concerning allegations relative to the unidentified flying object sighting reported by Mrs. William Fitzgerald, Sheffield lake, Ohio, on 21 September 1958.

The investigation conducted by Air Technical Intelligence Center on the unidentified flying object sighting reported by Mrs. Fitzgerald was thoroughly reviewed by Air Force Headquarters.

The Air Force is entirely satisfied that the individuals who conducted the investigation of the unidentified flying object sighting at Sheffield Lake on 21 September 1958 were thorough and competent. Further, that their findings were accurate and adequate.

This letter from General Fisher turned out to be quite significant since it has already been proven in this report that the individuals who conducted the investigation of the Fitzgerald sighting were not thorough and competent and that their findings were not accurate and adequate. It should also be noted that General Fisher did not answer any of the questions he was asked.

Major Tacker replied as follows:

Jan. 2, 1959

This is to acknowledge your letter of 19 December 1958 concerning allegations relative to the unidentified flying object sighting reported by Mrs. William Fitzgerald, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, on 21 September 1958.

The investigation conducted by Air Technical Intelligence Center on the unidentified flying object sighting reported by Mrs. Fitzgerald was thoroughly reviewed by Air Force Headquarters.

The Air Force is entirely satisfied that the individuals who conducted the investigation of the unidentified flying object sighting at Sheffield Lake on 21 September 1958 were thorough and competent. Further, that their findings were accurate and adequate.

It can be seen that the letter from Major Tacker is a duplicate of the letter that had already been received from General Fisher. Copies of the original report were also sent to Colonel Gilbert of the Air Technical Intelligence Center, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Air Force. Major Tacker answered for these individuals with letters identical to the above two.

We also wrote to Senator Frank J. Lausche concerning the Fitzgerald case. Senator Lausche inquired and also received a letter identical to the ones above. By this time it was clear that the Air Force was not going to change their position on the Fitzgerald case and that they had decided upon a form reply in answer to all inquiries into the case.

Since we could not accept the Air Force position in this case, we decided to become a little more insistant in trying to get the Air Force to account for their handling of this case. The following letter was then sent to Major Tacker:

Jan. 11, 1959

I have received your letters and a letter from General Fisher stating that the individuals who conducted the investigation of the Fitzgerald sighting were thorough and competent. Also, that their findings were accurate.

Obviously, you and General Fisher did not even bother to read the Fitzgerald report as investigated by our committee. I particularly wish to call your attention to the section of the report "Analysis of Air Force Investigation" in which we prove that the individuals who conducted the investigation were not thorough and competent and that their findings were not accurate and adequate.

Also inclosed in our report is a statement signed by Mrs. Jack T. Stewart describing UFO

activity she witnessed. However, General Fisher's letter also inclosed in the report states, "Mrs. Stewart . . . could not recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting."

Will you please account for the arguments put forth in the "Analysis of Air Force investigation" section and the contradictions over Mrs. Stewart's experiences?

The Air Force maintains their position; we maintain ours. Our position is supported by facts listed in our report. Either account for the arguments we put forth or change your position.

Major Tacker answered with the following letter re-emphasizing the Air Force position:

Jan. 14, 1959

This is to acknowledge your letter of 11 January 1959 concerning allegations relative to the unidentified flying object sighting reported by Mrs. William Fitzgerald of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, on 21 September 1958.

As I mentioned in previous letters, the Air Force is entirely satisfied that the individuals who conducted the investigation of this sighting were thorough and competent and that their findings were accurate and adequate.

We do not have the resources allotted to this project to fill individual requests or to answer the erroneous charges concerning individual sightings which amateur organizations such as yours make against the Air Force. Further, we are not interested in your theories or science fiction approach to this subject.

The Air Force is compelled to deal scientifically and objectively with facts and the findings to date deny the existence of flying saucers. We are sure our analysis and evaluation of reported sightings by qualified scientific personnel are more than adequate.

For your convenience, copies of the Department of Defense fact sheets, dated 5 November 1957 and 6 October 1958, on the subject of unidentified flying objects are inclosed. They plainly state the Air Force position on this subject.

Meanwhile, we had also submitted a copy of the original report to Congressman Baumhart who had been helping us in our attempts to obtain an explanation from the Air Force. Congressman Baumhart acknowledged receipt of the report and replied as follows:

Jan. 8, 1959

Thank you very much for your letter of December 20, submitting to me a copy of your report relative to the UFO sighting at Sheffield Lake.

Immediately upon my return to Washington, I took the opportunity to read the Fitzgerald Report very carefully, and I am today submitting it to Major General W.P. Fisher requesting his further comments and advice concerning this Report of your Committee. Please find attached a carbon copy of my letter to Major General Fisher.

Please be assured that I will keep you fully informed of further developments in this case. Thank you again for your courtesy in submitting a copy of the Report to me.

Congressman Baumhart then sent this letter to General Fisher:

Jan. 8, 1959

The enclosed copy of the UFO Research Committee's Report on the UFO sighting at Sheffield Lake, entitled the "Fitzgerald Report", has recently been made available to me by that Committee.

Mr. Fred Kirsch of the above-mentioned Committee stated in his letter submitting this Report that it is their position that the Air Force has not conducted a "fair, honest and scientific investigation" of this UFO sighting. You will note in the enclosed Report that the Department of the Air Force explanation of this occurrence, addressed to me on October 31, 1958, is not acceptable to the Committee and they have set forth their reasons for the position they have taken. I would appreciate your further study of this matter, and your careful review of the enclosed Report.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and your early reply.

Congressman Baumhart received an answer from General Fisher and then wrote Mrs. Fitzgerald:

Jan. 19, 1959

As you have been advised by carbon copies of my correspondence with Mr. Kirsch of the Unidentified Flying Objects Research Committee in Akron, we recently submitted a copy of "The Fitzgerald Report" to Major General Fisher, Department of the Air Force.

I asked General Fisher to review this Report, and advised him at that time of the criticism of the Air Force study that followed up the UFO Research Committee's investigation and study of your sighting.

We are in receipt of a letter from General Fisher advising that the Report had been thoroughly reviewed, and stating that the Department of the Air Force is entirely satisfied that their investigation was thorough, their investigators competent, and their finding accurate and adequate.

I was pleased to contact the Department of the Air Force concerning this disturbing occurrence and I regret that their analysis is not more satisfying to you. If you should care to comment further on this situation, please let me hear from you.

Congressman Baumhart also informed us that he had further correspondence from the Air Force concerning this case and inclosed a carbon copy of a letter he had received from General Fisher. This letter was also identical to those already received from General Fisher and Major Tacker.

Still being unable to accept the Air Force position in this case and still hoping that a more detailed and satisfactory statement might be obtained from the Air Force, we sent the following letter to Congressman Baumhart:

Jan. 26, 1959

I have reviewed your several letters concerning the Fitzgerald report and inclosing General Fisher's comments about our report.

I have also received letters from General Fisher and Major Tacker saying the same thing, "the Air Force is entirely satisfied that the individuals who conducted the investigation of this sighting were thorough and competent and that their findings were accurate and adequate."

Our group does not accept these statements. Mrs. Fitzgerald does not accept these statements. We are prepared to submit evidence proving that the individuals who conducted the investigation of this sighting weren't thorough and competent and that their findings weren't accurate and adequate. We challenge the Air Force on their explanation of the Fitzgerald sighting.

We have submitted our evidence to the Air Force and requested an explanation from them. Major Tacker replied, "We do not have the resources allotted to this project to fill individual requests or to answer the erroneous charges concerning individual sightings which amateur organizations such as yours make against the Air Force." Doesn't this statement from Major Tacker contradict the one you received from General Fisher that the report had been thoroughly reviewed?

Also, I ask you, suppose that we are right and the Air Force did mishandle this UFO sighting. Just how would you expect them to act?

I repeat that we can not accept the Air Force's statements and explanations and have evidence proving Air Force mishandling of this case. We request that you take immediate action to see that this matter is cleared up. Thank you for your cooperation so far.

Congressman Baumhart wrote the following letter to General Fisher:

Jan. 29, 1959

Please find attached a thermofax copy of a further letter I have received from Mr. Fred A. Kirsch of Akron, Ohio.

Continuing our interest in the UFO sighting of Mrs. William Fitzgerald, I am submitting this letter for your information.

I would like to have a more complete report than that furnished by your earlier letter of January 16th; and your advice as to any further review that the Department may have made, or will make in view of this letter from Mr. Kirsch.

Thank you for your continuing attention to this matter.

Congressman Baumhart received the following reply from General Fisher:

Feb. 11, 1959

I refer to your recent inquiry in behalf of Mr. Fred A. Kirsch of Akron, Ohio, concerning unidentified flying objects, particularly the Fitzgerald sighting.

In our attempt to put the UFO subject in proper perspective, it appears that the Air Force cannot compete with the science-fiction writers. We believe that we have the investigation of the UFO phenomena in responsible hands and that an adequate, thorough, and honest program is being conducted. Regardless, a small but articulate segment of people are under the mistaken belief that the Air Force has not sought the assistance of outstanding authorities from without the Air Force to assist in our evaluation of UFO sightings, and that we are withholding vital UFO information from the public, thereby preventing proper evaluation. We have, on numerous occasions, published our conclusions relative to UFO and explained our evaluation processes. This group, nevertheless, continues to claim that UFO's are objects from outer space and demand Congressional hearings on the subject.

You can readily understand the continued interest of this small segment because the subject is so novel and fascinating that it supports over 60 organizations of one type or another. Most of these organizations publish news letters or magazines and they expect the Air Force to furnish them material for their publications. Needless to say, we do not have the resources allotted to this project to fill the numerous individual requests which these organizations make for copies of our investigative reports and other related matter.

Furthermore, we would be remiss in our duty to the American public if we, by our assistance, encouraged these organizations in their sensational claims and contentions. Consequently, we do not give them individual attention but rather make periodic press releases through established news channels. In so doing, we show partiality to no one person or organization nor do we place ourselves in the position of placing our stamp of approval on, or giving preferential treatment to, any of them.

This press release approach used by all branches of the Government is considered censorship by some of these organizations and, because we will not favor them with our individual attention, they contend that we are keeping vital information from the public. The Air Force was compelled to generally adopt the press release approach because in the past when we furnished factual information to certain writers of UFO books and articles upon their individual requests our action was interpreted as granting approval and clearance to the books and articles in which the information was used.

If we withhold certain information from the public on UFO's it is not done for the purpose of depriving the public of vital information necessary for proper evaluation nor is it done because there is scientific proof of the existence of space craft from other planets and we do not wish to alarm the American public. It is done in the majority of instances to protect the people involved from the idle curiosity of the sensation seekers. In a few limited instances it is done to keep from compromising our investigative processes and, in a few instances, it is done for legitimate security reasons.

The Air Force has a tremendous task in defending this country against weapon systems which we know actually exist and are in the hands of our potential enemies. To divert more men and money away from this most serious mission into a greatly enlarged program for the investigation of UFO's -- objects about which we have been unable to discover one iota of tangible scientific

evidence -- would seriously jeopardize the security of this country against a known proven threat, would be allowing the sensation seekers to dictate our defense policies, and would, in our opinion, lay ourselves open to the charge of gross imprudence.

The Air Force does not deny that unknown objects have been seen by responsible persons. It is in the interpretation of these sightings that we are questioned. From our investigation covering the past eleven and a half year period, the Air Force contends that when the evidence of these sightings has been sifted through the scientific criteria it has led to the conclusion that the objects were not space craft and that they did not constitute a threat to the security of this country. As an act of faith, the UFO's can be considered manned or unmanned craft from outer space, but as a scientific fact there has been no authenticated scientific evidence presented to, or discovered by, the Air Force to support this conclusion. The Fitzgerald case is no exception. The Air Force is entirely satisfied with the findings of the Air Technical Intelligence Center for this particular sighting and considers the case closed.

For your information, I am inclosing Department of Defense fact sheets on this subject covering the past eleven and a half years of Air Force investigations of reported sightings. These releases clearly state the Air Force position on this subject.

It should be noted that even a third inquiry by Congressman Baumhart, in which he was quite insistent, failed to bring a more detailed statement from the Air Force. General Fisher did not provide Congressman Baumhart with a more complete report as he had been asked. He only stated that the Air Force considered the case "closed". The remainder of the letter was apparently written to discredit all UFO groups in general.

This, too, is a form letter, possibly sent as a last resort.

We also received the following letter from Major Tacker:

Feb. 18, 1959

This is to acknowledge your letter of 11 February concerning unidentified flying objects. In answer to your specific questions, I submit the following:

The Air Force, and to my knowledge no other Governmental agency, objects to private groups investigating unidentified flying objects. You certainly have the right to investigate this subject and publicly release whatever findings you arrive at without endangering the national security or your personal safety.

The Air Force believes that the investigation of the UFO phenomena is in the hands of responsible personnel and that an adequate, thorough, and honest program is being conducted. On numerous occasions conclusions relative to the UFO have been publicized and the evaluation processes explained by periodic releases through the established news channels.

The allegation that the Air Force is withholding vital UFO information has no merit whatsoever. The press release approach is considered censorship by some UFO organizations, because they do not receive individual attention from the Air Force, they contend that we are withholding vital information. The Air Force was compelled to adopt the press release approach because in the past when factual information was furnished to certain writers of UFO books, upon their individual request, our action was interpreted as granting approval and clearance for the books in which the information was used.

If certain data is withheld from the public on UFOs, it is not done for the purpose of depriving the citizenry of vital information necessary for proper evaluation nor is it done because there is scientific proof of the existence of space craft from other planets and we do not wish to alarm the American people. It is done in the majority of instances to protect the people involved from the idle curiosity of the sensation seekers, or in a very few instances for legitimate security reasons. As a general rule sighting reports, analysis and evaluation reports are not classified.

It is not the purpose of this report to comment in detail on these long statements from the Air Force or to analyze them in detail. These letters are reproduced here in order to present the Air Force position in full. Our lack of comment, therefore, should not be thought of as an acceptance of them on our part.

The above letter from Major Tacker brought on some additional pursuit on our part. In the last paragraph of his letter Major Tacker stated that "as a general rule sighting reports, analysis and evaluation reports are not classified." To test this statement we decided to try to obtain the official Air Force sighting reports and analysis reports concerning this case. We wrote to our congressman, the honorable William H. Ayres, mentioning that we would even be willing to travel to Washington, if necessary, in order to see these official reports.

Congressman Ayres' first inquiry brought a letter identical to General Fisher's letter of February 11th, 1959. Congressman Ayres' second inquiry brought the following reply:

April 7, 1959

I refer to your most recent inquiry in behalf of Mr. Fred A. Kirsch of Akron, Ohio, concerning the Fitzgerald UFO sighting.

As stated in our previous letter on this subject, dated 13 March 1959, the Air Force does not have the resources to fill the numerous requests which individuals and UFO study groups make for copies of our investigative reports and other related material. Also we cannot possibly afford to set such a precedent which would increase the demands of these groups many fold. Accordingly, we cannot honor Mr. Kirsch's most recent request for preferential treatment.

The Air Force will continue to publish conclusions concerning unidentified flying object sightings through the accredited news media.

It is quite evident that although these reports are unclassified, they are nevertheless unavailable to the public in general.

During the month of March members of the Committee met personally with Congressman Baumhart at his office in Lorain, Ohio. Both Congressman Baumhart and his assistant expressed considerable interest in the subject of

Unidentified Flying Objects. As a result of this meeting Congressman Baumhart agreed to contact General Fisher once again. General Fisher answered him as follows:

April 29, 1959

I refer to your inquiry in behalf of the Akron, Ohio, Chapter of the UFO Committee concerning a UFO sighting in the vicinity of Sheffield Lake, Ohio.

The UFO sighting at Sheffield Lake, Ohio, was carefully reviewed. The Air Force is entirely satisfied with the findings of the Air Technical Intelligence Center for this particular sighting and considers the case closed.

Several times in our correspondence with General Fisher and Major Tacker we brought up the affidavit signed by Mrs. Jack T. Stewart (Page 13) and asked for an explanation. The Air Force made no comment on this point at any time. However, on March 12, 1959, we wrote to Major Tacker again specifically asking him to account for the contradiction between Mrs. Stewart's affidavit and General Fisher's letter (Page 5) We shall conclude this series of correspondence with Major Tacker's answer:

April 2, 1959

This is to acknowledge your letter of 12 March 1959 concerning purported contradiction of Air Force findings as concerns your understanding of Mrs. Jack T. Stewart's statement regarding the Fitzgerald UFO sighting.

Provided that we are discussing the same person, Mrs. Jack Stewart of Lorain, Ohio; Air Force records confirm the fact that Mrs. Stewart could not recall any unusual happening on the night of the reported sighting by Mrs. Fitzgerald.

On July 10, 1959 we received the following letter from Representative Baumhart:

Your recent letter, which was acknowledged by my secretary in my absence, was brought to my attention, and I have discussed this matter with members of the House Science Committee and with the Chief Counsel of that Committee.

I am informed that the Committee Chairman has discussed the matter of UFO's with responsible officials of the Department of Defense, and that he has stated there is no known evidence available that would warrant an investigation by the Committee at this time.

We discussed also your comment relative to the possibility of pressure by the Department of the Air Force on any Congressional committee to withhold such investigations, and it was felt that it would be a rare circumstance indeed whereby a government agency could effectively exert pressure on a committee of the Congress not to hold hearings, and that no such pressure had in fact been brought to bear upon the Science Committee of the House.

I am as you know fully appreciative of your efforts on the Fitzgerald case, and assure you of my continuing interest in the matter and if any additional evidence or information on the case should come to my attention, you may be sure I will pursue it diligently.

In a letter to a member of the UFO Research Committee, General Fisher said, "The Air Force is interested in the truth concerning reported sightings and is compelled to deal scientifically and objectively with facts. We feel sure our analyses and evaluations by qualified scientific personnel of the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects are more than adequate."

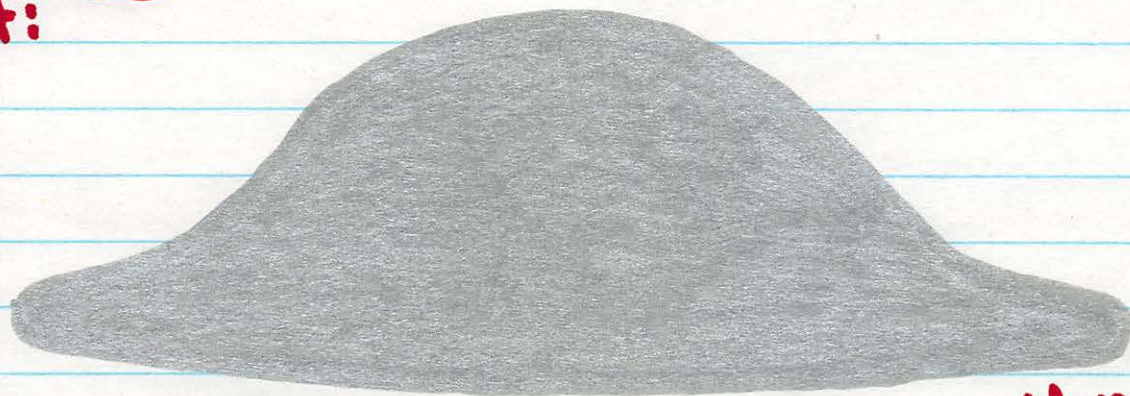
This is but one example of the duplicity which has characterized the Air Force treatment of the UFO problem.

The Committee believes that the complete disregard of facts, which the Air Force has consistently exhibited through the years wherever UFOs are concerned, should be halted immediately. The public should be given the truth regarding the existence of these objects. We suggest that others who similarly feel that the UFO problem is being gravely mishandled write their representatives in congress, and request an investigation of the Air Force UFO project.

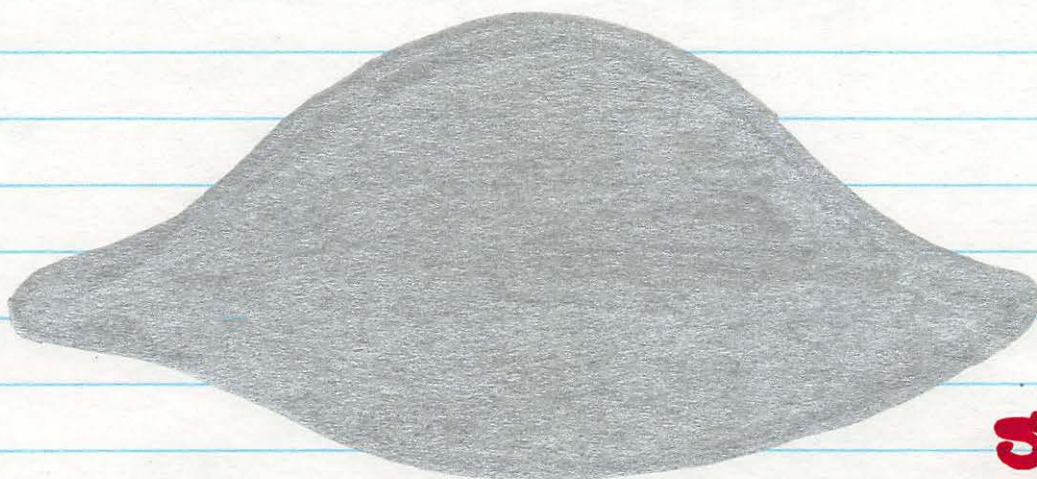


The publisher is indebted to Mr. Philip W. Ferguson, Jr. and Mr. Fred A. Kirsch for their aid in the preparation of this report.

Possible renditions
of the Fitzgerald
Object:



Mother

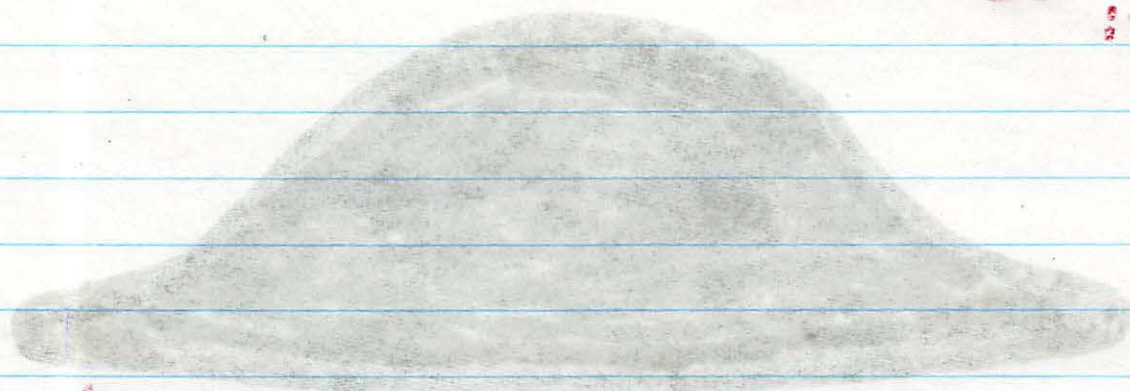


Son

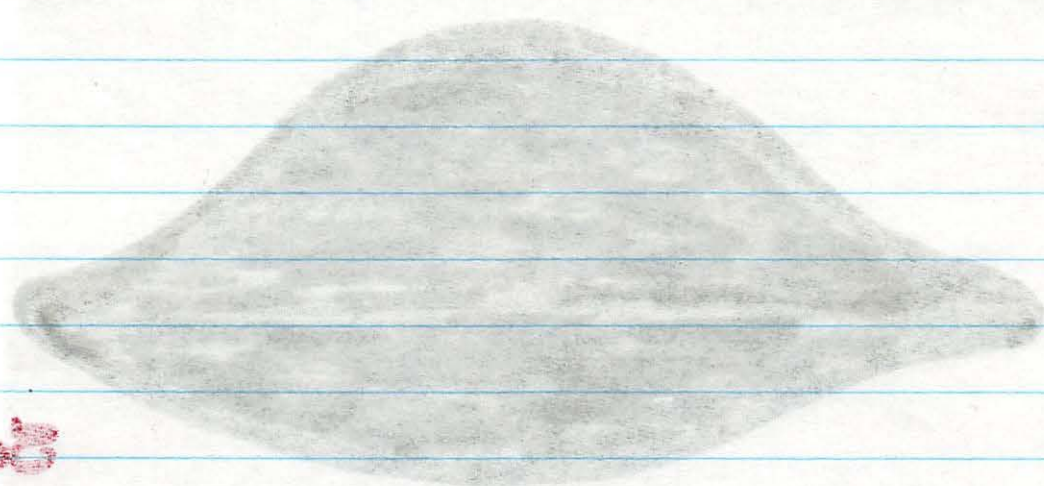


Separate
observer

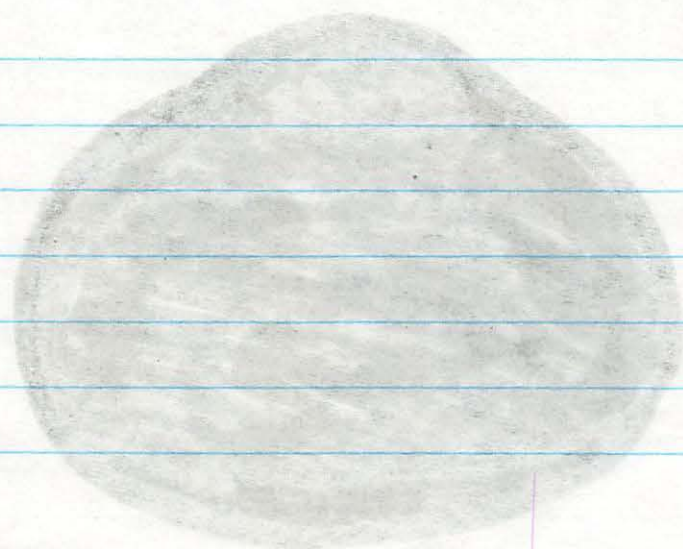
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witnessing some sort of freak atmospheric condition, Mrs. Stewart woke her husband. (See pages 83-84) (48.)

21 September. Sheffield Lake, Ohio. (3:00 a.m.) The Fitzgerald case.

"The most frightening thing I have ever seen."

The Elyria, Ohio, Chronicle-Telegram account. (See clipping on page 69)

The Cleveland, Ohio, Plain Dealer account. (See clipping on page 70)

The Lorain, Ohio, Journal account. (See clipping on page 71)

Ten-year-old John Fitzgerald and his father got up early and ate breakfast. At that time the boy told his dad about the object he had seen during the night. Mr. Fitzgerald, who had slept through everything, was unimpressed and assumed his son just had a bad dream. As for Mrs. Fitzgerald, she was still in bed and stayed there for some time since she had been up so late. Eventually Mrs. Fitzgerald joined her son and husband. She was greatly upset and related her 3:00 a.m. experience. Since John's story corroborated his mother's, it proved to the family the "saucer visit" had been a real event. (49.)

Mrs. Fitzgerald claimed no fascination with UFOs, but she felt her sighting was so important she needed to alert authorities. Not knowing what else to do, the Fitzgerald phoned the offices of the Lorain Journal. The newspaper's editor sent a reporter to Sheffield Lake to ask questions and look around. By Sunday evening word of the Fitzgerald's experience reached other newsrooms. On September 22th news items were published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Elyria Chronicle-Telegram.

23 September. Phone calls and visits.

After the Monday press accounts appeared, the Fitzgeralds were busy with visitors and phone calls. By Tuesday it was estimated the Fitzgeralds had been contacted by at least 75 individuals. Mrs. Fitzgerald said some of the phone calls were: "...even more weird than seeing the saucer." (50.) One caller in particular announced that Mrs. Fitzgerald had been "singled out for a special mission," whatever that was supposed to mean. Others, more than just a few, insisted she was having hallucinations. The majority, however, said they had also seen UFOs and were very interested in Mrs. Fitzgerald's story. As could be expected, radio stations and newspapers from around the state wanted to do interviews.

Capt. Reinecke.

Probably the most intriguing person to contact the Fitzgeralds on the 23rd was Capt. Charles H. Reinecke, Fifth Area administrative assistant for the Ohio attorney general's office. Capt. Reinecke talked with the Fitzgeralds on the phone and then visited their home at 934 East Drive. He conducted an investigation and took the time to examine the Fitzgerald's car (It could be the car was parked outside during the incident) and the yard for any trace left by the object. He said he was thinking about making a return visit with a Geiger counter to check for any radiation. (51.) He was also greatly interested in Mrs. Fitzgerald's description of the UFO and showed her pictures of other reported saucers (Whether the pictures

Sheffield Lake Woman Reports Flying Saucer In Yard Of Home

SHEFFIELD LAKE—This village today has at least one believer in flying saucers. She is Mrs. William H. Fitz-

vincid it was no nightmare, although she described it as being "the most frightening thing I have ever seen."

other, with a cup saucer on top of them and discharged a "pinkish-grayish-purplish" smoke. The saucer was also spotted.

OHIO, CHRONICLE-TELEGRAM
Circ. D. 19,415
18-6
9-21
EP 221958

break atmospheric condition, Mrs. Stewart woke her (4) (48.)

ld Lake, Ohio. (3:00 a.m.) The Fitzgerald case. thing I have ever seen."

icle-Telegram account. (See clipping on page 69)

lain Dealer account. (See clipping on page 70)

nal account. (See clipping on page 71)

gerald and his father got up early and ate breakfast told his dad about the object he had seen during the night. The object, which was described as a "pinkish-grayish-purple" smoke. The saucer was also spotted by her stepson, John, a fourth grade student in Cleveland. No neighbors or officials reported seeing the object, although a neighbor said she heard a similar whirling noise and saw a bright light several nights ago. Mrs. Fitzgerald has been asked to describe her experience to the Niapap Club, Cleveland, an organization of persons interested in unidentified flying objects, at a meeting Oct. 21.

do no fascination with UFOs, but she felt her sight needed to alert authorities. Not knowing what else needed the offices of the Lorain Journal. The newspaper to Sheffield Lake to ask questions and look for word of the Fitzgerald's experience reached Cleveland on Oct. 22. News items were published in the Clevelandlyria Chronicle-Telegram.

alls and visits.

accounts appeared, the Fitzgeralds were busy with their work. By Tuesday it was estimated the Fitzgeralds had interviewed 75 individuals. Mrs. Fitzgerald said some of the more weird than seeing the saucer." (50.) One incident that Mrs. Fitzgerald had been "singled out" for whatever that was supposed to mean. Others, more so, she was having hallucinations. The majority, however, had seen UFOs and were very interested in Mrs. Fitzgerald. She expected, radio stations and newspapers from Cleveland to do interviews.

inquiring person to contact the Fitzgeralds on the phone. Reinecke, Fifth Area administrative assistant for the Cleveland Police Department, visited their home at 934 East Drive. He then and took the time to examine the Fitzgerald's car (which was parked outside during the incident) and the object. He said he was thinking about making a Geiger counter to check for any radiation. (51.) He was present in Mrs. Fitzgerald's description of the UFO and other reported saucers (Whether the pictures

Sheffield Lake Woman Reports Flying Saucer In Yard Of Home

SHEFFIELD LAKE—This village today has at least one believer in flying saucers.

She is Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald, 28, of 934 East Dr., who early yesterday morning saw one "so close that I could have reached out and touched it."

Mrs. Fitzgerald said she saw the saucer, described as being eight feet in diameter and three feet thick, just after going to bed at about 3 a. m.

She said she had just retired after watching a TV movie entitled "Dracula's Daughter", and is con-

vinced it was no nightmare, although she described it as being "the most frightening thing I have ever seen."

The saucer, she said, threw a bright light, looking something like sun-reflection from the snow, into her bedroom. She said it made a couple of turns in her yard and then disappeared straight up. Examination of the grounds around her home revealed no vehicle marks.

She said the saucer appeared to be of a dull aluminum, had several tubes sticking out of it, was shaped like two paper plates placed on top of each

other, with a cup saucer on top of them and discharged a "pinkish-grayish-purple" smoke.

The saucer was also spotted by her stepson, John, a fourth grade student in Cleveland. No neighbors or officials reported seeing the object, although a neighbor said she heard a similar whirling noise and saw a bright light several nights ago.

Mrs. Fitzgerald has been asked to describe her experience to the Niapap Club, Cleveland, an organization of persons interested in unidentified flying objects, at a meeting Oct. 21.

16-b
SEP 22 1958
CIV. D. 19415
ELYRIA, OHIO, CHRONICLE-TELEGRAM

Flying Saucers on Top of Dracula, Terrifies Sheffield Lake Woman

By ALLEN D. ASHBOLT
Lorain County Correspondent

Terrified and shaken by their experience, a Sheffield Lake housewife and her 10-year-old stepson yesterday related a weird account of a 3 a.m. visit by a "flying saucer."

Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald, 934 East Drive, said she watched the object for more than five minutes at close range after a brilliant light roused her from her bed.

Tears filled her eyes, still reddened from crying until dawn following the experience, as she told of unsuccessfully trying to wake her husband, an unemployed truck driver, to help her through the ordeal.

"I had just gone to bed after the last movie on TV," she said, when a brilliant white glare filled her bedroom through the

closed window drapes. The movie was "Dracula's Daughter."

Blinded at first, she hid her head under the pillow until the light subsided. Then she stood on her bed, looked through the window, and watched the "saucer" glide over her driveway.

It hovered a foot above a neighbor's lawn, suddenly glowed, and discharged a cloud of "heavy pinkish-grayish-purple smoke from the saucer's back and sides," she said.

It then swept in a curve onto Mrs. Fitzgerald's front lawn, she said, and rose to about seven feet above the ground.

After it completed two short circular maneuvers, she lost sight of it, she said, when it sped straight up into the sky over the top of her home.

Mrs. Fitzgerald, 28, said her daughter, Christy Lynn, 7, and her husband slept peacefully as she watched what she described as "the most horrible looking thing" she had ever seen. "It was terrifying," she said.

Her stepson, John, a fourth grade student at Millford Elementary School in Cleveland, was spending the weekend visiting his father. He was in the next bedroom, also at the front of the house, and happened to be awake when the "saucer" made its early-morning appearance.

Since his small bedroom window was above his eye level, he explained, he could not see the object until he stepped on a wall heat register. By that time, he said, it was emitting the cloud of smoke.

From that point on, his account of the incident agreed with his stepmother's.

Both also said that the "saucer" made a whirring noise. Then, as it left, the noise took on a muffled, whining sound.

John demonstrated with a low whistle, increasing in pitch, together with a hum.

Not Seen by Others

The "saucer" was described as round from a top or bottom view and oval from a side view with a rounded cap on top. It was about eight feet in diameter, they said, and about three feet high.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said it had openings on both sides in which she saw a series of small tubes "like small exhaust pipes."

Sheffield Lake Police Chief



Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald John Fitzgerald
Fitzgerald

Sheffield Lake family examines mock-up of "saucer."

Plain Dealer Staff Photo

CLEVELAND, OHIO, PLAIN DEALER
Circ. D. 308,984 S. 528,525

SEP 22 1958

Clarence E. Hambly said he was not notified of the sighting and did not had any "saucer" reports from anyone else.

A check of neighbors revealed that no one else in the

vicinity of the Fitzgerald home had seen the "saucer."

Fitzgerald and this reporter examined the ground over which the object reportedly traveled and could not find anything unusual.

'Most Frightful' Five Comes From Seeing 'Saucer'

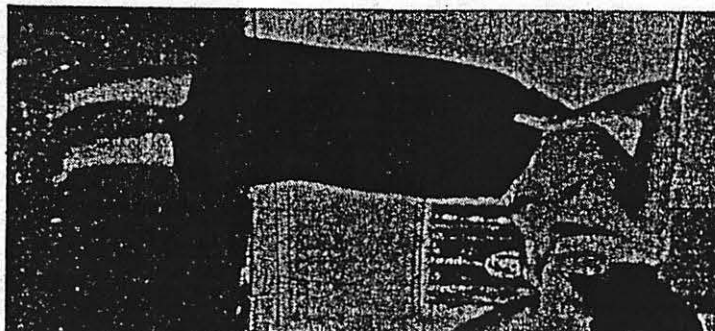
By WIL HANE
SHEFFIELD LAKE

"The most frightful" five minutes of her life were spent by Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald, 934 East Dr., early yesterday. She reported seeing a "flying saucer."

Mrs. Fitzgerald had gone to bed about 2:45 a.m. after watching the late movie on TV when a brilliant light flashed into her bedroom. "Even though the drapes were drawn, it lit the room brighter than daylight," she said.

When she stood on the bed and gazed out the window there it was — the "saucer." It moved across her front yard, she said, about four feet above the ground then hovered over the edge of a neighbor's lawn, she said.

"I was horrified," she said. "I couldn't even scream. I tried to wake my husband by kicking him but he only turned over," she said. "I was afraid to leave the room."
In another front bedroom, her 10-year-old stepson also was watching the "saucer"—unknown to Mrs. Fitzgerald. He had been on his way to the bathroom when he was attracted by the light passing his window, she said. He (Continued on Page 9)



SAUCER SITE — Mrs. William Fitzgerald high the "flying saucer" she morning was cruising when she bedroom window.

Lorain, Ohio
Journal
22 September 58



John Fitzgerald
Fitzgerald
Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald
Sheffield Lake family examines mock-up
of "saucer."

Plain Dealer Staff Photo

CLEVELAND, OHIO, PLAIN DEALER
Circ. D. 308,984 S. 528,535

SEP 22 1958

Clarence E. Hamby said he was not notified of the sighting, and had not had any "saucer" reports from anyone else. A check of neighbors revealed that no one else in the vicinity of the Fitzgerald home had seen the "saucer." Fitzgerald and this reporter examined the ground over which the object reportedly traveled and could not find a "check" of neighbors revealed that no one else in the vicinity of the Fitzgerald home had seen the "saucer."

934 East Drive, said she watched the object for more than five minutes at close range after a brilliant light roused her from her bed. Tears filled her eyes, still reddened from crying until dawn following the experience, as she told of unsuccessfully trying to wake her husband, an unemployed truck driver, to help her through the ordeal. "I had just gone to bed after the last movie on TV," she said, when a brilliant white glare filled her bedroom, through the

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Mrs. Fitzgerald said it had openings on both sides in which she saw a series of small tubes "like small exhaust pipes." Sheffield Lake Police Chief

'Most Frightful' Five Minutes Comes From Seeing 'Saucer'

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In another front bedroom, her 10 year-old stepson also was watching the "saucer" — unknown to Mrs. Fitzgerald. He had been on his way to the bathroom when he was attracted by the light passing his window, she said. He

(Continued on Page 9)



SAUCER SITE — Mrs. William Fitzgerald, shows how high the "flying saucer" she saw early yesterday morning was cruising when she spotted it from her bedroom window.

(Continued from Page 1)

climbed up on a wall heat register to see what it was.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said the "saucer" discharged a "pinkish-grayish smoke" as it hovered in the neighbor's yard. "Then it circled our yard and went straight up," she said.

It gave off a shrill noise like that of a jet plane warming up and had "10 or 15 tubes on both sides" she said. The smoke came out of the tubes, she said.

She described the "saucer" by placing two papers together and mounting a small saucer on top. "It had a dull aluminum color," she said.

Yesterday morning Mrs. Fitzgerald told her husband of the "saucer." He said that John had already told of the object but he had thought the boy was dreaming.

"Both of our descriptions of the 'saucer' match perfectly, Mrs. Fitzgerald said.

This morning Mrs. Fitzgerald received a call from a representative of the Cleveland Unidentified Flying Object organization who said that her description fitted perfectly with that of an object seen by a Chardon woman. The representative said the description also fitted that of an object seen by 21 Ohioans earlier this year.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said she "has no idea what it was." The experience was terrifying she said, adding, "I certainly hope I never see another one."

Lorain, Ohio
Journal

22 September 58

were photographs or drawings is not known. (See page 89 for more information on this). Scanning the pictures, Mrs. Fitzgerald selected one that seemed a good match. (52.) It would be pure speculation, but Reinecke may have been a front man for the Air Force. Indeed, when official Air Force investigators finally did show up, they didn't express any interest in the UFO's appearance.

25 September. More investigators arrive.

Four days after the Fitzgerald sighting two members of the UFO Research Committee of Akron arrived in Sheffield Lake to confirm the facts of the case. They asked questions and familiarized themselves with the site of the observation and the witnesses. Apparently they also gave the Fitzgeralds some advice about UFOs and the Air Force. In any event, the Air Force was asked to investigate. This is not a minor point. The Air Force had a habit of not investigating UFO incidents not officially reported to the military. In this instance, the military's investigation turned out to be as interesting as the actual sighting. (53.)

Also, about this time a "Summary report" on the case was drawn up and its not clear who the author could have been. Mrs. Fitzgerald refers to a single person, not two, and some of the details in the document are not found in Akron's "Fitzgerald Report."

26 September. The FBI and Keyhoe. The Bureau has a long memory.

(See FBI documents on pages 73-75.

27 September. Eagle Lake, California. (about 11:00 p.m.)

"A feeling of having my brain being picked." (See pp.76-77) (54.)

29 September. Columbus, Ohio. (night)

Why were the cows frightened." (See clipping on page 78)

29 September. Derwood, Maryland. (about 5:30 a.m.)

Saucer lands?

When an Army private reported the "crash landing" of a strange object near a NIKE anti-aircraft site only 17 miles from Washington D.C., it caused considerable activity by the Air Force. A team of 12 men conducted an investigation and ground search. Nothing was found and it was determined that a meteor had triggered the excitement. The "crash" part was just the soldier's imagination. For once UFO buffs agreed. (See clippings on page 79)

? September. Gordium, Turkey. (about 10:00 p.m.)

"Butter plate" remains on the ground for two hours.

Perhaps the "saucer pilot" thought he was in such an isolated place no one would see his ship? (See story and clippings on page 80)

Mrs. Frank Dargay was a member of the "Cleveland UFOlogy Project" which claimed to be associated with Keyhoe's NICAP organization. The following letter was found in NICAP files. No other details concerning the Cleveland group or Mrs. Dargay's investigation is known. (See pages 81-82) Did Mrs. Dargay write the "Summary report?"

FBI
MR. A. H. BELMONT

DONALD E. KEYHOE
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CO
(Nationalities Intelligence)

Subject, Director of National Aerial Phenomena, by letter of 9/22/58 r Bureau's participation concerning unidentified committee he heads is described on lettered fact finding civilian committee s and he lists several prominent individuals and Special Advisers." He is a retired

Keyhoe has been known to the B and may still be, a free-lance writer. Mr. Nichols as "a flamboyant writer and experience that much of his material is Director concurred with Mr. Nichols' statement get involved with him."

As an example of his writing, "Cosmopolitan" magazine carried an article John J. Daly entitled "Hitler's Plan to Merchant Marine." This article indicated documents concerning such a plan by Hitler false.

The attached suggested letter general way to his questions, some of which as "Have FBI Agents told witnesses not to and "Does the Bureau make character investigations in some cases?" The answers which have to avoid the charge we have not answered in nature to avoid his apparent pointed in an interview with a Bureau official concerning unidentified flying objects has been said to be no point in discussing this matter Defense document re reporting in

ACTION:

That the attached suggested letter view of Air Force interest, copy reply being sent Air Force separately

62-103581
Enclosure
ESS:jas
(5)

62-73794

at the Gordian site was alone at the "dig house" one saw an orange object, approximately globular, descend area is flat and unpopulated - some distance away; could if it had been an airplane she would have heard the noise. arison was made with a "butter plate." No noise. Object sat, for about 2 hours, during which time it changed vertically and disappeared in the sky. Witness did not go ned. (Has never been interested in saucers; phlegmatic not much int. in her report, said "lots of private air- s wrote to friends in Athens about the incident; they are in saucers. When witness came to Athens they plied her e above information resulted from these questions. They er and the additional facts obtained by questioning her to it by telephone to IID Fri. eve. 1/16/59.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1959.

said, that the structure was burned down by a force of marauding barbarian tribesmen, known as the Cimmericians, around 685 B. C.

During previous years of work at the Anatolian Plateau site, the University-Museum expedition has excavated fifteen tombs, including that of King Gordius, the father of Midas.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1958

Archaeologists Close To the Palace of Midas



The New York Times - Dec. 30, 1958
Finding made at cross

Sept. 29, 1958
Cleveland 11, Ohio

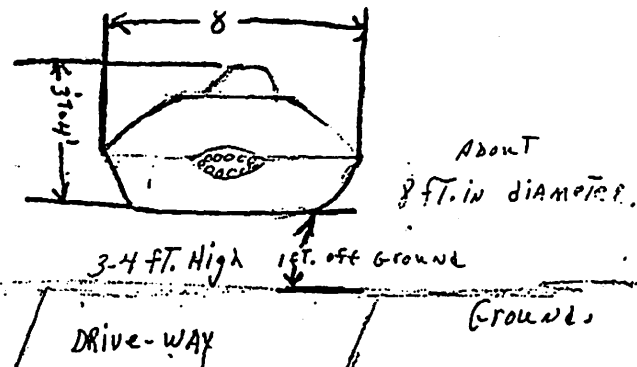
Mrs Frank Dargatzis

Maj. Keyhoe:

Here are some corrections on the Fitzgerald case. The story the paper wrote was wrong to some degree:

- (1) First off, the "movie" had nothing to do with Mrs. Fitzgerald sighting the object. She is not that type of person. She does not frighten easily and has been watching those type of movies for some time.
- (2) She had never been asleep. And she did not hide her head under a pillow. She shielded her eyes with her arm. When the light subsided she looked out the window and then saw the object which was not at this time a bright and blinding light.
- (3) She (Mrs. Fitzgerald), did not say the "smoke" came from the saucer's back and sides. She said that it happened so quickly that she does not know where it came from.
- (4) The paper states that no one else saw the object. That is not true. A man living down the street from her saw the object hover over the house top across the street from him. He said if she needs verification that he will be glad to tell what he saw. At present I am trying to contact Mrs. Fitzgerald to find out what the man's name is. She only knew him by sight but not his name. I asked her to find out what his name is. I will call her again today. When I find out his name, Mr. Fitch and I will check his story out. Also the sighting in Lorain, Ohio.

So here then is the whole truth on the story. I'll send you the rest of the facts as soon as I can get them. On back is an idea of the type of saucer she saw. It may not be quite accurate but it gives the general idea.



You could not see the piece sectioning the top and the bottom together. The opening you see on the side of the object had small tubes inside which just seemed to be laying inside the opening. She could not tell how many of these small tubes there were. She (Mrs. Fitzgerald) said they reminded of small exhaust pipes. They were not sticking out or protruding from the object at any time. The "flying saucer" was about 8ft. in diameter; 3-4 ft. from top to bottom and hovered about 1 ft. off of the ground. It never at any time touched the ground. She made a replica of the object by placing 1 pie pan on top of another one only inverted, and placed a small bowl on top of that. She scotch-taped the pie plates all around leaving small openings on the sides only. (I might add that these were paper pie plates*) I'm sorry that I am not much of an artist but maybe this will give you an idea of how the object looked to her.

29 September. Mrs. Fitzgerald writes the

On the 29th Mrs. Fitzgerald sent a letter an investigation. The reference to her Congressional kind of investigation would be made. Also, the submitted along with the letter probably was which were found in Air Force BLUE BOOK files paperwork to identify who wrote the material.

September 29,

Aerial Phenomena Group
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson AFB
Dayton, Ohio
Dear Sirs:

This is to inform you of a UFO September 21, 1958. I would appreciate you would send an investigator, or this happening to me. It was a terrible experience.

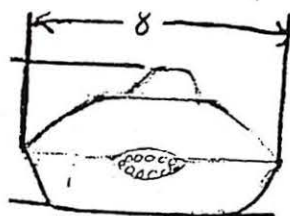
I assure you that I will contact about this matter if some action is explain it.

No private citizen should be placed government devices, if that is what a space craft, steps must be taken to

The summary included here was provided by a ufo investigator who interviewed me who reported strange objects that no

Sincerely,

Mrs.



About
8 ft. in diameter.

3-4 ft. High 1 ft. off ground

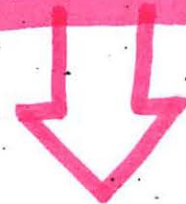
five-way

Grounds

piece sectioning the top and the bottom together.
the side of the object had small tubes inside which
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-taped the pie plates all around leaving small open-
(I might add that these were paper pie plates*)
much of an artist but maybe this will give you an
looked to her.

29 September. Mrs. Fitzgerald writes the Air Force.

On the 29th Mrs. Fitzgerald sent a letter to the Air Force requesting an investigation. The reference to her Congressman virtually assured some kind of investigation would be made. Also, the mention of a "case summary" submitted along with the letter probably was the documents on pages 84-88 which were found in Air Force BLUE BOOK files. There is nothing on the paperwork to identify who wrote the material. (54.)



[REDACTED], Ohio
September 29, 1958

Aerial Phenomena Group
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson AFB
Dayton, Ohio
Dear Sirs:

This is to inform you of a UFO sighting I had on September 21, 1958. I would appreciate it very much if you would send an investigator, or someone to explain this happening to me. It was a terribly frightening experience.

I assure you that I will contact my congressman about this matter if some action is not taken soon to explain it.

No private citizen should be placed in the path of government devices, if that is what it was. If it was a space craft, steps must be taken to warn the public.

The summary included here was prepared by a private ufo investigator who interviewed me and the other people who reported strange objects that morning.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Mrs.

E-4
Supp.

UFO Sighting

Mrs. [REDACTED]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

Morning of September 21, 1958, app. 3 a.m.

Mrs. [REDACTED] had gone to bed after watching the late movie on television. This was about 3 am. She was in bed with her eyes closed, when the room was illuminated by a very strong light, causing her to open her eyes. The witness was astonished, because the window curtains were drawn, and the room was "brighter than in the daytime." She then rose, and standing on the bed, pulled back the curtains and looked out the window. (see fig. 1)

Looking through the window, the witness saw a round object (see fig. 2) about 20 feet in diameter and ten feet from the house. The object was travelling slowly in a northerly direction across the front yard, and losing altitude. At the time it was first sighted the object was about 6 feet off the ground. It proceeded until reaching a point about 50 feet from the witness, in the lot next door (see fig. 3) Here the object stopped for several seconds. It then moved south into the front yard to a point about 25 feet from the witness. The object made two tight clockwise turns, then shot straight up and out of sight.

Close questioning about the motion of the object brought out the following. During its move from a position in front of the window to the position in the lot 50 feet north of the window, the object was descending with a motion "like a feather dropping." The witness explained that this was a slight side to side oscillation. When it returned half way into the front yard, it made two tight turns. The witness thinks that

During the turning maneuver the [REDACTED] remained flat during the turns. [REDACTED] sight, going straight up.

The witness was so frightened b [REDACTED] not call out to her husband, wh [REDACTED] did try to rouse him by kicking [REDACTED] unable to do so. During this t [REDACTED] off the object.

At this same time [REDACTED] bed to go to the bathroom. He [REDACTED] light. Stepping on a heat regi [REDACTED] ight to see out of the window in [REDACTED] ject perform the same motions de [REDACTED] neither party notified the other [REDACTED] Both went to sleep.

The next morning [REDACTED] told his f [REDACTED] which his father replied " It wa [REDACTED] hours [REDACTED] later Mrs. [REDACTED] jo [REDACTED] breakfast. It was then that she [REDACTED] about the object she saw. Mr. [REDACTED] to keep quiet, and heard his wif [REDACTED] told. The reports coincided in [REDACTED] neither witness knew of the othe [REDACTED] place. Thus the object was seen [REDACTED] dently by two persons.

Both witnesses reported a noise [REDACTED] bined. "Like a jet engine warmi [REDACTED] simulated the noise by whis [REDACTED]

1958, app. 3 a.m.

to bed after watching the late movie about 3 am. She was in bed with her room was illuminated by a very strong light on her eyes. The witness was asleep when window curtains were drawn, and she awoke in the daytime." She then rose, and pulled back the curtains and looked out

At that time, the witness saw a round object about 10 feet in diameter and ten feet from the ground travelling slowly in a northerly direction, and losing altitude. At the time the object was about 6 feet off the ground. It was flying a point about 50 feet from the door (see fig. 3) Here the object made a sharp turn. It then moved south into the yard about 25 feet from the witness. The object made clockwise turns, then shot straight up

The motion of the object brought out the witness's attention. As the object moved from a position in front of the house on in the lot 50 feet north of the house descending with a motion "like a feather" the witness explained that this was a slight vibration. When it returned half way into the yard it made a tight turn. The witness thinks that

During the turning maneuver the object did not tip at all. It remained flat during the turns. Then the object flew out of sight, going straight up.

The witness was so frightened by this experience that she could not call out to her husband, who was sleeping in the bed. She did try to rouse him by kicking with her left foot, but was unable to do so. During this time she did not take her eyes off the object.

At this same time [redacted] years old, got out of bed to go to the bathroom. He also was attracted by the bright light. Stepping on a heat register to get the necessary height to see out of the window in his room, he watched the object perform the same motions described by his mother. However, neither party notified the other that he had seen the object. Both went to sleep.

The next morning [redacted] told his father about the sighting, to which his father replied "It was just a bad dream." Several hours later Mrs. [redacted] joined her husband and son for breakfast. It was then that she began telling her husband about the object she saw. Mr. [redacted] cautioned his son to keep quiet, and heard his wife repeat the story [redacted] had told. The reports coincided in every point, even though neither witness knew of the other when the sighting took place. Thus the object was seen simultaneously and independently by two persons.

Both witnesses reported a noise like an hum and a whirr combined. "Like a jet engine warming up," said Mrs. [redacted] [redacted] simulated the noise by whistling and humming.

The object seemed to be "aluminum color." There were no lights on in nearby houses, and there are no street lights in this neighborhood. ~~XXXXXX~~ the sky was cloudy. The source of the original bright light was not definitely established, but was assumed to be ~~the~~ due to the object. During the entire period of observation the object was visible because of the light given off by two clouds of glowing gas which the object gave off. This gas emanated from two sets of tubes or "machine guns" in the rim. The gas did not seem to be propelling the object. The witness says that the light was sufficient to light up the surrounding ground, but threw no shadows on the object itself. She did not notice if other shadows (from telephone pole, etc.) were present. The smoke was a gray-pink color.

The object seemed to be solid, as nothing in the background could be seen through it. It was seen against a stationary and familiar background. The witness was looking down on it during the time it was stationary, so her estimates of size and location must be reasonably accurate.

The bright light which alarmed Mrs. ~~XXXXXX~~ was seen by four other people in the neighborhood. One woman heard the whirring noise. No one else saw the object.

The same night, at 2:30 am, Mrs. ~~XXXXXX~~ of ~~XXXXXX~~, Lorain, was startled by a bright light which made the room she was sleeping in like "it was 6 am instead of 2 am." She thought that the sun had risen. The light mystified her, so she went to the window to try to discover its source. Looking up in the ~~WSW~~ sky, she saw a red object

She called to her husband who not identify it. About five m object again, and found that it a westerly direction. She does even though she did look for it. The red object did not seem to which illuminated the room. A object was 2 inches wide at a

By using similar triangles the Mrs. ~~XXXXXX~~ was calculated. Her first estimate was 12 feet appeared about 1/3 the length 65 feet, from house to street. feet figure.

On the same morning, about 2 a ~~XXXXXX~~, Lorain, watched a " her window. See fig. 6

The object made a low pulsating "sick to my stomach." She thought was due to a train or possibly block south of the house. The with her head about 15 feet from feet across, and she said that width of the window. When it the witness thought it was given with the object increased and advanced and receded. An examination window disclosed nothing peculiar have passed through some light she heard a crashing sound when

to be "aluminum color." There were no
by houses, and there are no street lights
ood. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the sky was
ce of the original bright light was not
ished, but was assumed to be ~~the~~ due to
ng the entire period of observation the
e because of the light given off by two
gas which the object gave off. This gas
sets of tubes or "machine guns" in the rim.
seem to be propelling the object. The
the light was sufficient to light up the
1, but threw no shadows on the object itself.
: if other shadows (from telephone pole, etc.)
: smoke was a gray-pink color.

to be solid, as nothing in the background
ugh it. It was seen against a stationary
round. The witness was looking down on
it was stationary, so her estimates of
must be reasonably accurate.

high alarmed Mrs. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ was seen by
in the neighborhood. One woman heard the
: one else saw the object.

2:30 am, Mrs. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
t, was startled by a bright light which
as sleeping in like "it was 6 am instead
ght that the sun had risen. The light
he went to the window to try to discover
up in the WSW sky, she saw a red object

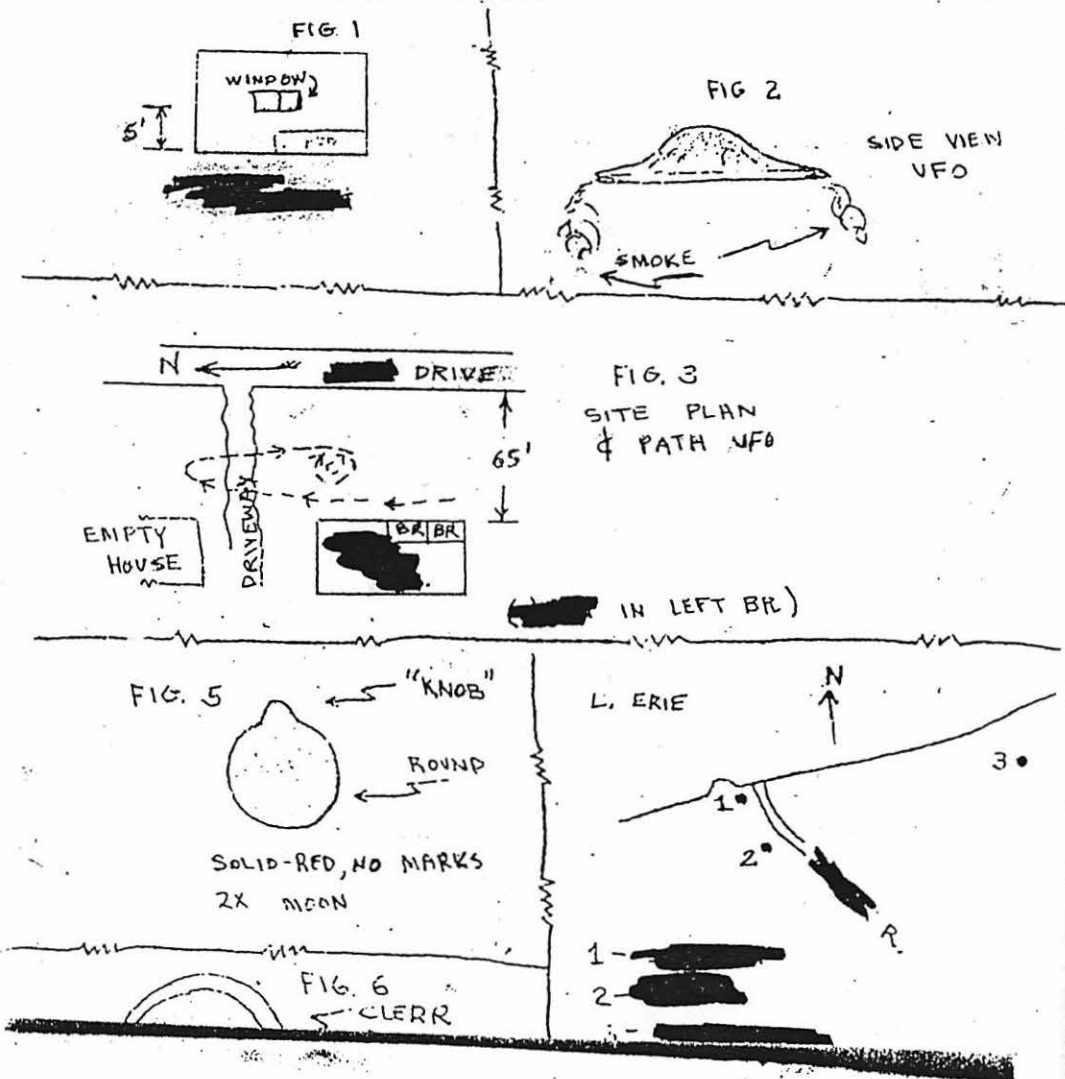
She called to her husband who also saw the object, but could
not identify it. About five minutes later she looked for the
object again, and found that it had shifted its position in
a westerly direction. She does not remember seeing the moon
even though she did look for it. She describes the sky as clear.
The red object did not seem to be the source of the light
which illuminated the room. According to the witness, the
object was 2 inches wide at a distance of 14 inches.

By using similar triangles the size of the object seen by
Mrs. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ was calculated at about 22 feet in diameter.
Her first estimate was 12 feet, but later she said that it
appeared about 1/3 the length of her front yard, which is
65 feet, from house to street. This would confirm the 22
feet figure.

On the same morning, about 2 am, a Mrs. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Lorain, watched a "big red ball" moving outside
her window. See fig. 6

The object made a low pulsating sound which made the witness
"sick to my stomach." She thought at first that the light
was due to a train or possibly a truck. A railroad runs one
block south of the house. The witness was lying in a bed,
with her head about 15 feet from the window, which is two
feet across, and she said that the object took up the entire
width of the window. When it approached nearest to the window
the witness thought it was giving off heat. The sound connected
with the object increased and decreased as the the object
advanced and receded. An examination of the trees outside the
window disclosed nothing peculiar, even though the object must
have passed through some light branches. The witness thinks
she heard a crashing sound when the object first appeared.

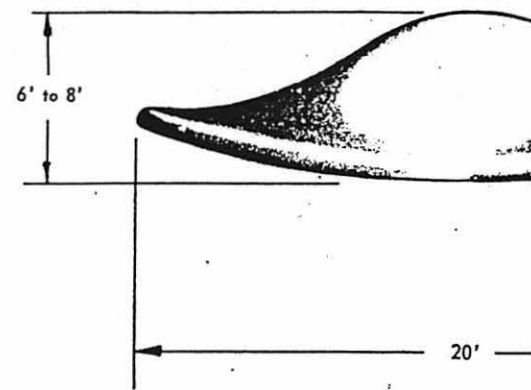
On the morning of September 21, 1958, the moon set at approximately 1:07 a.m. This explains why Mrs. [REDACTED] could not see the moon at 2:30 a.m., and makes more mysterious the detail about bright illumination.



The best guess is that Capt. Reinecke show drawings in the Air Force Special Report No. J was probably "case VIII" showed below. Compare object in the "summary report" on page 88, Fi

Case VIII (Serial 0576.00)

An electrician was standing by the bat facing west, at 0825 hours on July 31, 1948. He ran to his kitchen where he pointed out the time in sight was approximately 10 seconds, on a straight and level course from horizon



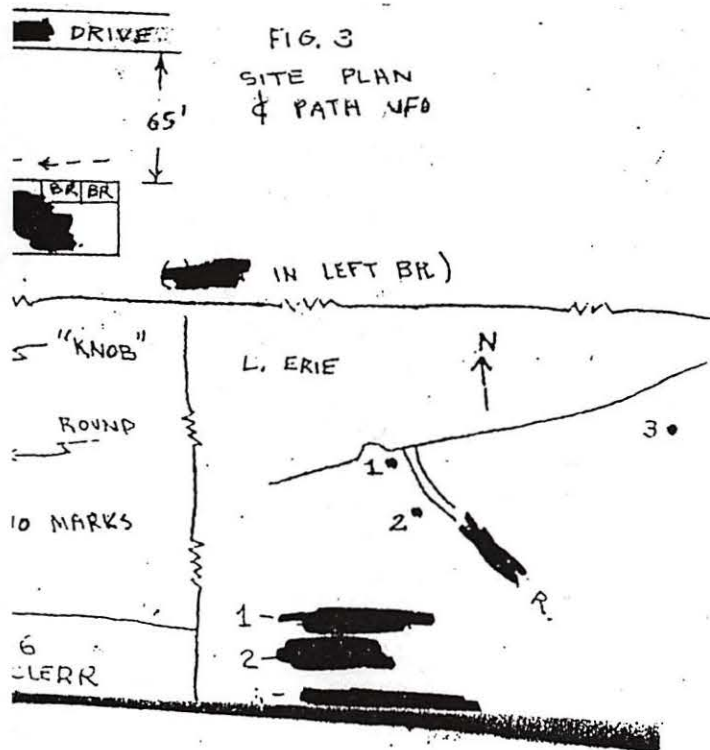
(Ratio approx. 3

29 September. Mrs. Fitzgerald writes her Civilian UFO investigators evidently did Fitzgerald. Her emotional turmoil over the to anxiety over how the government and the m UFO report. For example, by writing Rep. Ba the Air Force, she took no chances the milit Note also the following statement she made:

of September 21, 1958, the moon set at approximately 7 a.m. This explains why Mrs. [REDACTED] could not see the object at 2:30 a.m., and makes more mysterious the light illumination.



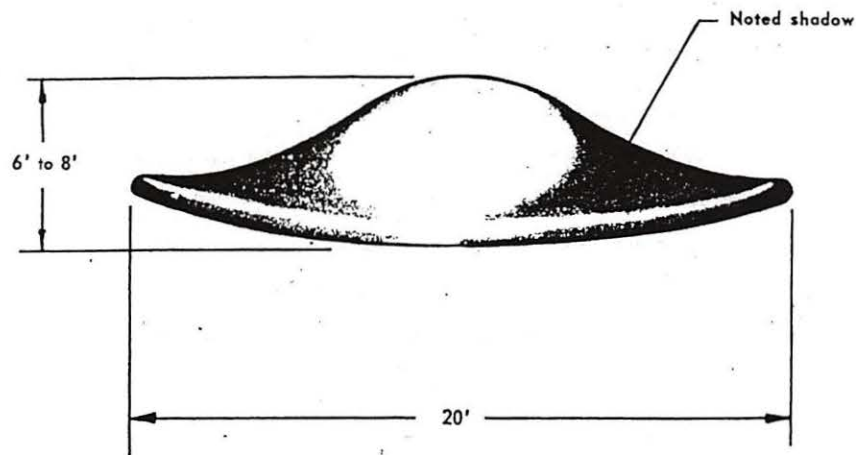
FIG. 3
SITE PLAN
& PATH VFO



The best guess is that Capt. Reinecke showed Mrs. Fitzgerald the 12 drawings in the Air Force Special Report No.14. The drawing selected was probably "case VIII" showed below. Compare this drawing with the object in the "summary report" on page 88, Fig. 2. (55.)

Case VIII (Serial 0576.00)

An electrician was standing by the bathroom window of his home, facing west, at 0825 hours on July 31, 1948, when he first sighted an object. He ran to his kitchen where he pointed out the object to his wife. Total time in sight was approximately 10 seconds, during which the object flew on a straight and level course from horizon to horizon, west to east.



(Ratio approx. 3:1)

29 September. Mrs. Fitzgerald writes her Congressman.

Civilian UFO investigators evidently did quite a bit of talking to Mrs. Fitzgerald. Her emotional turmoil over the UFO experience ended up shifted to anxiety over how the government and the military were going to treat her UFO report. For example, by writing Rep. Baumhart the same day she wrote the Air Force, she took no chances the military might delay its response. Note also the following statement she made: "These people, civilian UFO in-

investigators] tell me that usually no real investigation is made by the Air Force, and when one is made the results are ridiculous." (56.) Its no wonder Mrs. Fitzgerald would become furious later.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Ohio
September 29, 1958

Rep. A. D. Baumhart
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Baumhart:

You no doubt have read the accounts of my experience with a "flying saucer on the morning of Sept. 21. Articles appeared in the Lorain Journal and Plain Dealer. I have sent a summary of the sighting to the Air Force UFO Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Will you please check with the Air Force to find out their conclusion in this case?

If these objects are landing in populated areas, it will not be long before disaster strikes. This is definitely a menace to ordinary people. So if this was a government missile, can you stop them from being flown in populated areas? If it did not belong to our government, this fact should be made public, and proper steps should be taken to insure the public safety.

I have talked to people who have investigated similar sightings. These people tell me that usually no real investigation is made by the Air Force, and when one is made the results are ridiculous. I would not have written this letter if I did not feel sincerely that the matter must be studied closely by authorities. The object which came down in my yard had no business there, under any circumstances.

September? The "nightmare."

As we have seen, the Air Force was with the advent of the Fitzgerald case a big fight with the UFO Research Committee and cooperation between the military and answer can be determined from what the Research Group said: In a letter to Fontes of Brazil wrote:

"Colonel Adil de Oliveira made an support of the reality of UFOs, on after the Trindade photos. He is ment responsibility, but was advise the future. They said he was 'tall this personally just a few months in November 1958] when we had our friend. He is cordial to approach like myself (he said so), but he c reasons. However, he told me that problem was so serious that civili titled to know certain things that happening. Why not? (I asked him) a kind of nightmare, and you cannot he said he was talking about danger was better to stop. I do not wish Dr. Mebane, you may form own opinion absolutely confidential---because it. Maybe he was testing me, maybe for something far more important he know, but I will keep you informed pears." (57.)

Acknowledgments:

UFOS: A HISTORY

1958

October

ioneer UFOlogist Vincent Gaddis for the gift of paper clippings covering the early years of the orge Earley who took the time and trouble to copy my use from his UFO files; and Stanton Friedman, permitting access to his extensive library deal-

Furthermore, Lucius Farish has provided some and strong encouragement. Similarly, Dr. Richard tance, as did Lawrence Fawcett.

ge of France and Hilary Evans of England provided clippings from Europe.

y was kind enough to share some rare UFO news bul- en otherwise unobtainable.

chmond, California, who conducted extensive

the New York Times deserves a mention; as does ghlands, California, who gave advice on the man- al in obtaining complete sets of important pub- rofilm, various government documents, and other

et for UFO Forskning in Norrkoeing, Sweden, is one tory of UFO material and is highly recommended to g research into the UFO mystery.

ress my gratitude to Barry J. Greenwood who pro- erial from his UFO collection, a collection which hat of any UFO organization.

more than 40 years in NICAP and MUFON, gave me a from his personal files.

UFO collection of Les Treece-Sinclair of Elk ntained a number of rare items.

was given by the Center For UFO Studies (CUFOS) rchive which includes the records and sighting onal Investigations on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP); ppelt Papers."

me importance, was the voluminous UFO research d at the Special Collections Divison, University

ttle, Washington, was kind enough to lend copies

from his beautifully organized files. Gribble's Clipping Bureau in the 1950s.

te Leon Davidson were put on microfilm and made ts of Barry Greenwood.

one interested in UFOs pay a visit to the Clark- y, Clarksburg, West Virginia. The papers of the ble for inspection there.

tion include Roderick B. Dyke, the editor of the olved into the present day UFO Newsclipping Ser- ard Hall, Karl T. Pflock, Dominique Weinstein,

, I must praise Jan L. Aldrich of Canterbury, of superman in the data gathering community and eds of items from a vast research project cur-

1 October.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our source states:

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

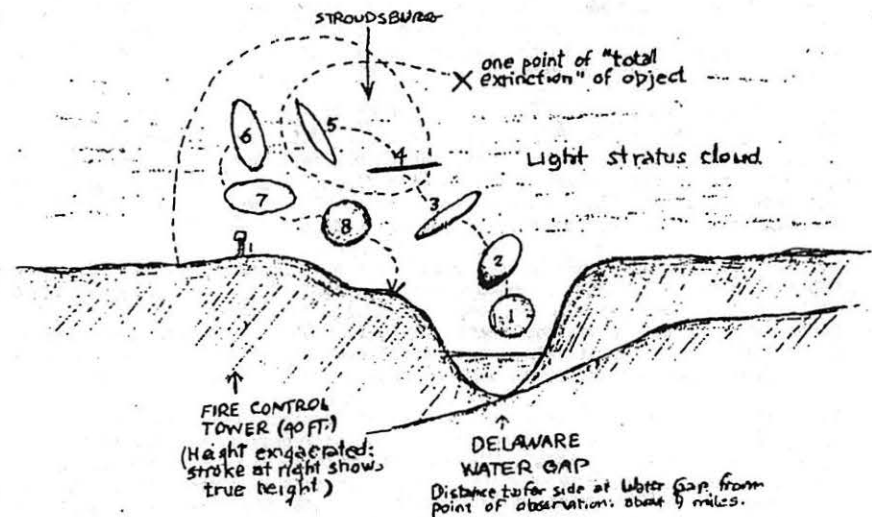
2 October. More on the Sheffield Lake case.

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

"Mrs. Fitzgerald knew nothing about such phenomena, I'm sure she had no desire to see one, and has less desire to see one again. To me she sounded like a woman who was scared stiff. She said she felt as if everything inside of her changed for good." (3.)

up-and-over it appeared to be almost certainly sun reflections on a dull surface, the 'out' periods being the times when the intense low sun rays were full on the thing, which was just about the color of the distant low sky."

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



[N.B. UFO shown about twice actual size. Actual size was ● at arm's length.]

Continued from page one ---

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

2 October. Rep. Baumhart takes action.

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

3 October. Clinton County, Central Indiana. (above)

"It was the most fantastic thing I ever saw. If I would think he was crazy."

Diesel freight train #91 out of Monon, Indiana, was early Friday morning. In the cab was engineer Harry E. Bridge. The rest of the crew was in the caboose: Headconductor Edward Robinson, and Flagman Paul Sosey.

Speaking for the rest of the crew, Fireman Bridge:

"It was about 20 minutes after three in the morning—Friday morning, October 3rd. We had just pulled past a little spot called Wasco. There's no town there—just a kind of crossroads. It was there we first noticed the four lights in the sky ahead of us. They were moving lights. At first they looked like stars but we realized they weren't stars because they were moving—we could see that.

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

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

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

"Just the gine—Mr. E. Morris Ott at this time. cars—that's a mile of car angle at which approaching so low right caboose prob

"After the tracks in front and came to were headed toward the east minutes—out they came to them again I phone. We had engine and the the microphone in the caboose we were watching

"The cond son and the bey, both of to Robinson; had seen. I watched these to Kirklin, when that radi Lafayette could but he never the caboose g things, especially right down over

3 October. Monon TV interview. (evening)

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

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

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

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

Dr. Olavo Fontes wrote that a UFO was:

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

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

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

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

BLUE BOOK has no record?

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

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

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

It didn't take long for BLUE BOOK to send investigators to Sheffield Lake after Rep. Baumhart requested action, A Tech. Sgt. Haisten and a Tech. Sgt. Hoft from Dayton arrived at the Fitzgerald home within 48 hours.

Because the military's investigation of the Fitzgerald case became so

Do-101 have the [redacted] [redacted]

Office of Public Information
Department of the Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please refer to my letter of Ja

On January 28 I received News R 22, this year, concerning the Air Force of course, an answer to my letter, information, repeated as follows for

"I would greatly appreciate the details concerning these two cases. I realize that Air Force policy requires witnesses and certain data concerning radar and aircraft. However, such a number of objects, and size and shape quite satisfactory.

"Various papers in Indiana carry UFO observation made in the early morning by the crewmen of Freight #91 of the seeing four disc-shaped objects in the "tag" with their train for over an hour conclusion for this case?"

I would appreciate having a def

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

Dear Mr. [redacted]
This is to [redacted]
confirm [redacted]
signed by [redacted]
The [redacted]
round of the night

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

"When it became clear to me and others within the project (as a result of personal conversations with officers of colonel rank and higher) that the official Pentagon policy was to debunk UFO sightings, intelligence analysts and investigators alike (myself included, since at that time I felt the lack of 'hard' evidence justified the practical 'it just can't be' attitude) did their best to come up with 'commonsense' explanations for each new UFO report."
(20.)

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

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

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

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

4 October. Garden Grove,
California.
(evening)

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

5 October. Underwood,
Minnesota.
(evening)

"What kind of ship do you think it is?" (See clipping on p.15)

FLYING HOURGLASS SEEN IN SANTA ANA

¹⁴⁻¹⁴
SANTA ANA — Flying saucers seem to have given way to the flying hour-glass.

The John R. Snapper family, 1234 S. Ross St., spotted the hourglass dipping and weaving through the air like a drunken porpoise just before dark Saturday.

The Snappers, along with a 13-year-old neighbor girl, told police the UFO (unidentified flying object) was 30 feet long, five feet wide and was flying at an altitude of approximately 3000 feet.

Snapper said it was flying too slow for an airplane and too fast for a balloon.

GARDEN GROVE, CALIF., DAILY NEWS
Circ. D. 10,175 S. 10,175

OCT 6 1958

Unidentified Flying Sighted By Waden

Two reports of unidentified flying objects have been made here the past week.

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

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

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

Monday morning as Steven was watching the Dave Garway program on TV, he was surprised to hear the announcement that 21 people in different places in the

Fargo, N. unusual / usual lig

When sighted t eastward, swerved tion of was harche of the cr he would "maybe : Sundby by two o stop to a sound c ject.

Wadena Pioneer Journal
(Name of publication)

" Minn.
(Published at--City, State)

10-9-58
(Date of publication)

Kentucky. (7:00 p.m.)

John Head, a businessman, was at a Boy Scout camp in Kentucky, on October 10th. The time was 7:00 p.m. The scouts noticed "the thing." Here is the report:

"A large type aircraft' headed west, no moon, sky clear. They were not an aircraft. No flash-ordinary aircraft. As it got closer than stars or planets. Saw it over campers--as it moved from west directly overhead, they saw it. Then it veered right, and made a wide arc." (39.)

10:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Dunbar's observation coincided with one reported from Alamo, New Mexico. Both were observed on the same day. In the New Mexico report a man watched the unusual object through binoculars for about six minutes. He said it had a fan-like tail and pinpoints like port-holes.

EUREKA, CALIF., HUMBOLDT TIMES
—Circ. D. 10,974 S. 13,995

OCT 12 1958
4-14

10 October. The Sheffield case. Preliminary evaluation.

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

ORIGIN OF BASIC		DATE		SUSPENSE	
COV JHE UNCLASSIFIED		10 Oct 1958			
ASSIGNED BY		NO.			
DATE		TYPE			
SUBJECT					
(u) UFO Sighting, Mrs. [redacted] (Sheffield, Ohio)					
ROUTINE					
Initial "IN" column to denote review prior to action. Initial "OUT" column to denote review of completed action. (X for action / for coordination.)					
IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT
	AFIN-1			AFIN-1	
	AFIN-10			AFIN-10	
				AFIN-11	
				AFIN-12	
				AFIN-13	
				AFIN-14	
				AFIN-15	
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				AFIN-27	
				AFIN-28	
				AFIN-29	
				AFIN-30	
				FILE	
				DISPATCH	
TO: SAIS-3 Attn: Major Tasker		DATE		10 Oct 1958	
FROM: AFIN-4E		COMM. NO.		1	
COMMENTS (See reverse, if necessary)					
AFIN/Maj Fisher/ac/69216/Bldg 828					
1. On 1 October 1958, the Air Technical Intelligence Center received a letter from Mrs. [redacted] of Sheffield, Ohio, containing a report of her UFO sighting on 21 September 1958, and action was initiated on this date to have the case investigated.					
2. Mrs. [redacted] stated in her report that on the morning of 21 September 1958, she was awakened by a very bright light which illuminated her bedroom at approximately 0900 EDT. Looking out of a bedroom window which faced her front yard, she saw an object which was flat and circular with a dome shaped top. Object was approximately 6 - 8 feet from the ground, moving slowly in a northerly direction, parallel with the length of the house, and descending with a floating oscillating motion. Object was reported to be approximately 10 feet from the window when first sighted. Witness insists the top of the object was clear to her in every detail, and that the color reminded her of dull aluminum. The dimensions of the object were estimated to be 20 feet in diameter and approximately 6 feet thick. Witness reports that the item made several turns around the yard and then rose instantly out of sight. Total elapsed time was estimated as five minutes.					
3. Air Force investigators arrived in Sheffield, Ohio on 3 October 1958, contacted Mrs. [redacted] and also initiated other phases of the investigation. Mrs. [redacted] at all interviews was advised by Mr. [redacted] a member of a [redacted]					

UNCLASSIFIED

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

5. Mrs. [redacted] impressed the Air Force investigators as being nervous, emotional and impressionable. At times during the interview the witness was on the brink of tears and gave other indications of a highly emotional state.

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

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

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

9. Mrs. [redacted]'s original letter and report to the Air Technical Intelligence Center is also an inclosure to this correspondence. This letter requires an answer directly to Mrs. [redacted].

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AT 10 YEAR INTERVALS
E.O. 11652

5 Incls:

1. Ltr [redacted]

H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF
AFGIN-4E

Classification Cancelled

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

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERIM LETTER REPORT

CONTRACT NO: AF30(602)

UNIDENTIFIED TARGET OF AN/FPS-17(XW-2)

I. INTRODUCTION

The AN/FPS-17(XW-2) radar at the Laredo was in operation on 11 October 1958. The ex Δ 2, the instrumented portion of the third III. A target was observed, but the character would make one believe that the object observed. Other possible explanations are discussed below.

II. CONCLUSIONS

The object observed was most probably:

- (a) a meteor showing both a head end and a specular type reflection
- (b) two meteors occurring in the area at very nearly the same time.

III. ANALYSIS

A. FACTS RELATED TO THE UNIDENTIFIED

The known facts related to the unidentified target are:

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AT 10 YEAR INTERVALS
E.O. 11652

UNCLASSIFIED

21 October. Draft letter for the Sheffield Lake case.
 Would General Fisher dare to sent this explanation to Rep. Baumhart?

Jim 21 Sep
 D R A F T

21 Oct.

Dear Mr. Baumhart:

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

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

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

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

For your information, I am inclosing the fact sheet on the subject of unidentified flying objects. This fact sheet clearly outlines the Air Force findings on unidentified flying objects.

Sincerely,

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21 Oct.

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und prevailing weather account for the illusion

The Air Technical Intelligence Center, after
his case, concurred with the conclusion of the

For your information, I am inclosing the latest Department of Defense
fact sheet on the subject of unidentified flying objects, dated 6 October 1958,
This fact sheet clearly outlines the Air Force position with respect to
unidentified flying objects.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Baumhart:

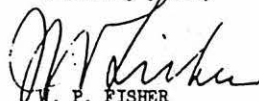
I refer to your inquiry concerning the interest of Mrs. William Fitzgerald of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, concerning an unidentified flying object she allegedly saw on 21 September 1958.

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,


W. P. FISHER
Major General, USAF
Director
Legislative Liaison

Honorable A. D. Baumhart, Jr.

House of Representatives

"Be especially watchful between 3-4 a.m."

General Fisher took a chance by accepting a case which consisted of many assumptions, but long-time practice of interpreting the UFO profore it isn't." Occasionally, however, thing der what the military was really thinking. F made inquiries about the October 3rd Monon tr the following:

"Bunker Hill Air Force Base, about 30 mile scene of this sighting, asked the railroad base immediately if such objects appeared of the Monon Railroad at Lafayette confirm Bunker Hill Air Force Base had installed a phone line to the dispatcher's office in I the train crew's radio signals are monitor source informed me that the Air Force had the train crews be especially watchful 'be four o'clock in the morning.'" (66.)

Early November. "Above the Arctic Circle."

"Extreme altitude." "Disappeared vertically."

According to a report found in CUFOS files:

"Early in November 1958 a contact was made suddenly with an object well within the range of the radar, but at the extreme altitude. The object only changed its position by decreasing altitude, then for a very brief period it remained stationary, afterwards it moved eastward at approximately 500 knots for about a distance of a 100 miles, then started to increase altitude and disappeared vertically. This action was checked also by an adjacent radar station." (4.)

2 November. Happy, Texas. (about 10:00 p.m.)

Ampere jumps. Motor dies.

Car Saucered And Blowed

HAPPY, Nov. 2—They're back. The season's first unidentified flying object was sighted about 10 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, 1958.

Wayne Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claudia Cole, spotted the flying object as he approached his farm home near here. Cole said he saw a blue light traveling about 100 feet above the ground 7 miles west and 7 miles south of Happy.

Cole said he drove under the object and as he did so the ampere meter on his car jumped from charge to full charge. The motor died as he moved directly under the object, he said.

The UFO then began to move off in a southern direction climbing at a terrific rate of speed, trailing a red stream of fire behind it, Cole said.

Late Edition
AMARILLO, TEX., NEWS
Circ. D. 43,139 S. 66,763
NOV 3 1958

2 November. Near Fairfax, Oklahoma. (12:50 a.m.)

Orange discs.

A statement in BLUE BOOK files says:

"While returning from Fairfax, Oklahoma, traveling north on State Highway 18, at 12:50 a.m., 2 November 1958, approximately one half mile south of the State Highway 18 and U.S. Highway 60 Junction, I observed some orange colored objects on the horizon directly ahead. Within a few seconds the objects were easily recognizable to be four in number, the shape of a disc, and traveling at a terrific rate of speed. I turned to my friend asked him to look at the objects, but by the time he looked, they had disappeared over the roof of the car. He tried to see them out of the rear window, but with no success. We were driving approximately 50 MPH, and although I slowed down, I did not stop. A day later were discussing the objects, and we commented on the fact that we had heard no noise." (5.)

3 November. Virginia Beach, Virginia. (5:00 p.m.)

Long cylindrical object emits a stream of white smoke. (See clipping on page 3)

4 November. The Sheffield Lake case.

"An ugly fight."

Mrs. William Fitzgerald waited impatiently for an Air Force explanation for her close encounter with a UFO back on September 21st. General Fisher finally released the official conclusion at the end of October to Rep. Baumhart and the Congressman in turn notified the Sheffield Lake woman. Mrs. Fitzgerald, already greatly upset by her UFO experience, could hardly contain herself when she learned the military considered her sighting an



by her UFO experience, could hardly contain herself when she learned the military considered her sighting an "illusion." In a letter written on November 4th, the outraged woman complained to Rep. Baumhart, suggesting that the Air Force evaluator who examined her case must be "insane." She also requested a personal meeting with Baumhart so she could discuss evidence the Air Force mishandled her report to authorities.

(6.) The Sheffield Lake case was evolving into an ugly fight.

5 November. British House of Commons.

Mr. Roy Mason, Socialist M.P. for Barnsley, directed a question at the Secretary of State for Air. He asked the Secretary of State for Air what department within the Ministry of Air collated UFO reports and to what extent such information indicated possible visitations from other worlds in space.

In reply, the Secretary, Mr. George Ward, sent a written note to Mr. Mason:

"If a report of an unidentified flying object has a bearing on the air defense of this country it is investigated and the results recorded. No staff are employed whole-time on the task. Although some of the objects have not been identified for lack of data, nothing suggests that they are other than mundane." (7.)

8 November. Praise for Richard Hall.

CSI New York official Ted Bloecher wrote a letter to Leonard Stringfield on November 8th. In it he expressed the group's view of the new man at NICAP:

"We were also tremendously pleased with NICAP's acquisition of Dick Hall. I recall your impressive remarks concerning Dick of more than two years ago, and he certainly has lived up to that advanced notice, and more." (8.)

Early November. Near Lafayette, Indiana. (2:00 a.m.)

"Not a figment of my imagination."

An engineering student attending Purdue University wrote to NICAP:

"I was returning to Lafayette about 2 a.m. from some town about 30 miles where I had a date. There had been no drinking at all so what I saw was no result of intoxication nor was I fatigued and subject to 'visions, dreams, or apparitions.'" I do not remember what town I had left but my sighting took place I would estimate about half way back to Lafayette, about 15 miles still to go.

"It was an extremely clear night, very cold, and visibility seemed almost endless because the sky was unbelievably clear and there appeared to be literally countless number of stars above. Driving along, I noticed what seemed to be an unusually bright star. I continued watching it and to my amazement it moved with my car and with reference to the stars also. I couldn't believe it at first but it was following me or at least traveling in the same direction. At this point I

'Thing' Dives, Hovers in Sky At Va. Beach

By CHARLTON HARRELL

VIRGINIA BEACH—What was that object in the western sky Monday just before dusk?

It acted as no known plane, or missile, has been seen to act around here, as far as this reporter knows, at least.

At 5 o'clock exactly, while driving west along Atlantic boulevard, at 40th street, I spotted what appeared to be a contrail in the western sky.

Whatever the object was, it dove steeply and fast out of the southwest, leaving a wide trail of white.

But the dive stopped abruptly several thousand feet above the trees, and the object just hovered there for minutes.

The thing seemed to be silvery or white, a long cylindrical object, and it also seemed to emit a stream of white smoke as it hung in the darkening, pink sky.

After hovering, moving neither up nor down, forward nor back, for several minutes, the object began moving slowly southward, losing altitude. Then it stopped again, then moved more to the southwest, and finally, at the end of exactly 10 minutes from the time this reporter first noticed what seemed to be its vapor trail, it disappeared behind the trees in the southwest.

Motorists craned their necks as they drove along Atlantic boulevard, watching the phenomenon.

A quick check of naval air facilities today failed to uncover the identity of the object.

Late Edition
NORFOLK, VA., LEDGER-DISPATCH
Circ. D. 96,385
NOV 4 1958

Meanwhile, Mrs. Fitzgerald wasn't having much luck in getting the Air Force to believe her close encounter. (See Major Tacker's letter below)

21 Se,

*Air Force
Blue Book Files*

12 November 1958

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Your letter of 29 October 1958, addressed to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base concerning an unidentified flying object sighting on 21 September at Sheffield Lake, Ohio, has been referred to this office for reply.

The conclusion of Air Force investigators were that the combination of moving lights, the noise of a train and the prevailing weather at the time accounted for the sighting experienced by you that night.

Sincerely,

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

Mrs. [REDACTED]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES

NOV 15 1958

How could it have happened?

"It seems quite apparent that a thing like that could not have happened but there is evidence that something did happen. Like the lights that played around the hills in a fixed pattern for thirty minutes and then 'too off.'

"The Williams and the Hales have been reticent about the occurrence. They have been leery of exaggeration that might get into the reports. They recall the Levelland officers who, a year ago, saw something similar in Hockley County and were victims of considerable skepticism. However, the experience they had is one that you can't keep from telling somebody about.

"And the giant pattern sheared through the trees on the bed of the canyon is in the same category. It could not have taken place. But there it is." (26.)

23-29 November. Papua, New Guinea. (night)

"Satellite-like light."

Back in July Olavo Fontes heard about a "mysterious space traveler" in a Polar orbit. He also learned that there were reports of a satellite-like object making repeated passes over Brazil. He suggested that there may be some correlation with a few satellite reports from Italy. The problem with that, is the fact that Italy does not line up with Brazil on any conceivable earth orbit of a Polar nature. However, an interesting fact is that western Australia and Papua, New Guinea, line up quite nicely

Natives and missionaries in Papua noticed a "mystery satellite" in late November. At Dogwa, for example, the object was viewed five times between November 23-29th. The "satellite" always came out of the northwest and moved to the southeast.

Among those fascinated with the object was the Rev. Norman Cruttwell who was stationed at Goodenough Bay. He even saw the object himself when some children began yelling and he managed to dash outside while the "satellite" was still in view. He said the thing was a "fuzzy white star-like body" passing over at a great altitude since it was higher than some cirro-stratus clouds. (27.) The Papua, New Guinea, story gets more interesting in the months ahead.

27 November. Athens, Tennessee. (night)

"Flying bowl." (See clipping right)

27 November. The Sheffield Lake case.

Mrs. Fitzgerald was not going to let the Air Force get away with such poor explanation for her unnerving experience. She wrote Major Tacker on November 27th to demand some clarification:

"Dear Major Tacker:

"Would you kindly specify what moving lights caused me to see an object 22 feet in diameter and 6 feet high hovering in my front yard?

"Your reference to the prevailing weather has also confused me somewhat. I stated in the report form that it had stopped raining some time before the sighting. I would appreciate it very much if you would explain these matters to me in a little more detail." (28.)

Journal
Knoxville, Tenn.

NOV 29 1953

Third UFO Sighted In Athens Area

Special To The Journal

ATHENS — A third unidentified flying object was reported here Thursday night, McMinn County Jail Dispatcher Ted Hyde reported.

Two UFO's were reported in the area Monday night.

Dispatcher Hyde said a score of people, including Athens and Etowah police and county officers, watched the object fly over the county at a high rate of speed, headed in the direction of Chattanooga.

Witnesses described the object as being bowl or saucer-shaped, with lights that became alternately bright and dim.

"An 'unidentified flying object' was reported having been seen Thursday evening by Mrs. Irene Thomas, 457 Jefferson street. Mrs. Thomas telephoned the *Times* at 5:30 p.m. and said that she had spotted the orange-colored object flying to the north of Frankfort and traveling west.

"A *Times* reporter then drove to the west edge of the city and found much to his surprise that Mrs. Thomas was correct.

"The strange, flashing object moved west and turned south to be joined by another. The two then turned east, one behind the other.

"Appearing to be flying at a high rate of speed, the forward object stopped, climbed straight upward, then reversed its direction and when last seen was traveling northwest.

"The other stopped in mid-air, stopped flashing, turned from orange to a brilliant white and disappeared before the eyes of the bewildered reporter. (38.)

6 December. Anniston Ordnance Depot, Bynum, Alabama. (3:15 a.m.)

UFO moving low and slow near an ordnance depot.

UFOs may be just "figments" of one's imagination, but why do such figments visit weapon storage areas in the dead of the night? The following report was phoned to the Air Force OSI office by Loren W. Vaughn, Special Agent, CIC, Fort McClellan:

"[...deleted. (Witnesses' last name appears in other parts of the report)], civilian guard of Anniston Ordnance Depot, Bynum, Alabama, at approximately 0315 hours on 6 December 1958, was sitting in his patrol car eating his lunch when he thought he saw a light reflection out of the corner of his eye. When he looked towards this light, he saw an oval-shaped object, about 6 to 8 feet in diameter and about 4 feet in height.

"It was moving at approximately 10 to 13 miles per hour at an altitude of about 75 feet. Miller followed the object in his car for approximately one half mile with the lights of his car off, staying parallel and a little behind it. He then became scared and backed into a drive-way to turn around. Just before he turned to go in the opposite direction, the object stopped in mid-air and hovered over an igloo (warehouse) for a few seconds and then took off in a northeasterly direction at a terrific rate of speed comparable to a jet.

"It was a perfectly clear moon-lit night and the only light Miller saw on the object was the reflection of the moon. He saw no exhaust pipes, no propellers, and as far as he could tell, the object made no noise. While in flight, the object seemed to teeter somewhat from side to side. No further information at this time.

"Mr. [...deleted. (Miller?)] advised that he considers the information [...deleted. (Secret?).]" (39.)

7 December. *The Fitzgerald Report.*

The September 21st Sheffield Lake case refuses to go away.

Mrs. Fitzgerald's November 4th letter to Rep. Baumhart saying she was outraged at the Air Force's conclusion, charging that the military evaluator must have been "insane," failed to provoke much of an official response when her views were relayed to Major Tacker. Major Tacker's reply, in a letter to Mrs. Fitzgerald on November 14th, was merely a rehash of the official explanation provided earlier. Even though Mrs. Fitzgerald threaten to meet with her Congressman, the Air Force probably thought they had heard the last of the Sheffield Lake case.

A big shock for the Air Force.

The UFO Research Committee of Akron had quite a surprise for the Air Force. The Akron group investigated the Sheffield incident and claimed to have "documented every significant fact." Putting together their information, the group published a booklet they titled, *The Fitzgerald Report*. In the booklet the military was charged with "criminal mishandling" of the Sheffield investigation and that Air Force statements in regards to the case were "false and misleading." Copies of *The Fitzgerald Report* were sent to Congressmen, something that may have prompted Tom Gerber's November 30th article in the Boston *Herald* more than any current fear of NICAP. The Akron group made sure General Fisher got his own person copy and they enclosed a letter that challenged the Air Force assertions the military's UFO investigations were "fair, honest, and scientific investigations." The Akron people asked for assurances the Sheffield case would be looked at again, receiving a proper investigation. As a warning, the Ohio UFO buffs advised General Fisher a copy of *The Fitzgerald Report* and a copy of their complaints would be forwarded to Senator John Bricker. (40.) The situation was becoming serious. How the military would react was anybody's guess.

10 December. Ramming through the illusion explanation.

No direct connection with the appearance of *The Fitzgerald Report* is stated, but the timing makes us suspicious when we examine an internal Air Force memo generated on December 10th. Major Friend at BLUE BOOK advised Major Tacker that ATIC was standing by their initial judgement of the Sheffield Lake case. Note that none of the arguments made by Akron group were addressed. The Akron people were dismissed as "so-called private UFO investigators." A number of things the Akron investigators discovered had merit and should not have been ignored, but the Air Force was not going to let anyone question their handling of UFO cases. The military dodged Congressional scrutiny during the summer hearings so they weren't about to yield to some private citizens. (See Air Force memo on page 25)

11 December. The Central Intelligence Agency and UFOs.

The role of the CIA in regards to the UFO mystery is not something that can be easily explained because so much of what the agency does is highly secret. An "information report" filed on December 11th indicates the CIA's interest in "UFOs" along the USSR/India border area. (See the CIA report on page 26) The CIA may say it has no interest in UFOs, but as shown by this document there was *some* agency curiosity about such matters. The Soviet threat, at least, was real enough to force some attention, but where did the CIA draw the line?

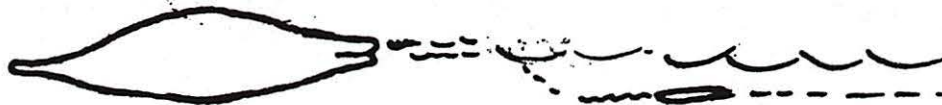
12 December. Tampa, Florida. (about 5:30 p.m.)

"Instructed by government authorities to write no further."

One would think that Florida would be swarming with UFOs since that was where the U.S. was launching so many long range missiles. A few UFO reports were coming in to NICAP and APRO, but why not more? Pay special attention to what is said in the last part of the letter that describes a December 12th Tampa, Florida, UFO sighting. (See letter on pages 27-28)

14 December. "The Commercial School." Argentina. (11:00 a.m.)

The city where the sighting was made was left out of the report but there is enough detail to include it here. It seems that the South American correspondent for Gray Barker's *Saucerian Bulletin*, Bernardo N. Passion, forwarded a story told by Arturo Italo Alvarez Prado a student at what is called a "Commercial School" in Argentina. A weird object was seen by the teenager the morning of December 14th. (See drawing of object below. Text continued on page 29)



C R SHEET

UNCLASSIFIED
Hold until Mr Tacker's return letter is returned by ATC

SUSPENSE

ORIGIN OF BASIC: _____ DATE: _____
ASSIGNED BY: _____

DATE: _____ TYPE: _____ NO. _____

SUBJECT: **UFO Sighting, Mrs. [REDACTED] (Sheffield Lake, Ohio)**

ROUTING

Initial "IN" column to denote review prior to action. Initial "OUT" column to denote review of completed action. (X for action; ✓ for coordination.)

IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT
	OIN-1			OIN-2			OIN-3			OIN-4			AFOIN	
	OIN-1X			OIN-2X			OIN-3X			OIN-4X			AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X1	
													AFOIN-X2	
													AFOIN-X3	
													AFOIN-X4	
													AFOIN-X5	
													AFOIN-Z	
													CABLES	
													FILE	
													DISPATCH	

TO: **SAFIS-3, Attn: Maj. Tacker** DATE: **10 Dec 1958**

FROM: **AFCIN-4E** COMMENT NO. **1**

COMMENTS (Use reverse, if necessary) **4E4/Maj. R. J. Friend/ac/6-9216/Bldg 828**

1. It is evident the only explanation that will satisfy Mrs. [REDACTED] or the so-called private UFO investigators, is that she saw a space ship. To these individuals, including Mrs. [REDACTED], she saw a "flying saucer", and nothing we can say will change their way of thinking.
2. According to the Lorain Coast Guard Station log, the weather throughout the early morning of 21 September 1958, was alternately misting and raining.
3. Although Mrs. [REDACTED] claims a train did not pass her house at any time just prior to, or after, her sighting, a check with the Lorain railway station was made. It was determined a train did pass her house, going west, at about the time of her sighting, having a headlight that made a figure eight oscillation.
4. ATIC retains its original stand on the conclusions in this case. Mrs. [REDACTED] was the victim of an illusion.

DOWNGRADED AT 6 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED EVERY 10 YEARS.
DOI DIB 520010

Classification Cancelled
Auth. *[Signature]*
By *[Signature]*
Date *[Signature]*

2 Incls:
1. Ltr dtd 27 Nov 58

[Signature]
H. K. GILBERT
Colonel. USAF

may reveal mechanical trouble which forced him to turn back. NICAP is asking the AF for a copy of the transcript, for the AF conclusions about the crash and also the UFO report. If an answer is received in time, it will appear in the February UFO Investigator." (43.) (See clipping about 'strange cigar' below)

17 December. Kajauni, Finland. (no time)

Another "strange meteor."

The following report was obtained from the Defense Intelligence Agency via a FOIA request:

"...a party of six persons sighted a remarkable light phenomenon in the southern sky above Kajauni (spelling uncertain). From a great altitude there fell earthward an orange-red sphere on the left margin [?] of which was a gap (notch). The sphere fell to the height of the treetops, where it glowed for a couple of minutes as is suspended and then plunged into the forest. The sphere appeared larger than the moon. No natural explanation for the phenomenon has been given." (44.)

17 December. Fornells, Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain) (7:30 p.m.)

Had to be revived with cognac.

Another red-orange UFO was seen far to the south in the Mediterranean:

"Sr. Antonio Pedraza Galves, 55, a retired artillery sergeant, observed, when driving his motorcycle, going horizontally in the opposite direction at some 10 meters above the pines, an object resembling a missile of 2.50 meters by 0.30 meters, very bright, like a 'fantastic blaze' of orangey-red color. A buzzing sound 'comparable to that produced by a jet of soda.' Clear night. The observation lasted two minutes, and the object disappeared by moving away behind the trees. At the same time, independently, several farmers saw the phenomenon overhead. The principal witness was so impressed that he came home pallid, and had to be revived with cognac." (45.)

17 December. The Sheffield Lake case will not go away.

Major Tacker, under fire at his PIO post in the Pentagon, got some help from Col. Gilbert at ATIC. Apparently the possibility the Air Force might be asked to answer specific charges made by the Akron group in its *Fitzgerald Report* prompted a detailed study. Major points of disagreement were listed and considered one by one. (See Air Force document on pages 33-35) The bottom line to all this is that there could be no winner. The only person who could reasonably be sure of what took place that night back in September was Mrs. Fitzgerald but the Air Force was not about take her word for it.

18 December. Salt Lake City. (no time)

"Large lenticular-shaped objects."

A couple of "things" of an improbable size were reported high over Salt Lake City on the 18th. Estimates may have been way off, either that or the "things" were some kind of clouds. Sighted north of the Utah capital, the "objects" were said to have been at 70,000 feet and having a diameter of a half mile. A B-52 contrail was spotted in the vicinity and a comparison was made as to size. What puts this report in the UFO category was the claim the objects, or whatever, were motionless for one and half minutes and then, "...receded

Strange Lights Seen In St. Petersburg Sky

The Times last night received many phone calls asking about strange lights in the sky.

Viewed from The Times building, the lights appeared in the form of a cigar-shaped object, yellow - orange in color, traveling from the southeast to the northwest.

One witness said the lights appeared to be advertising suspended from a slow-moving plane, but this was not confirmed.

St. Petersburg,
Florida, Times.

17 November 58

UNCLASSIFIED

UFO Sighting, Sheffield Lake (Fitzgerald)

SAFIS-3, Attn: Maj. L. J. Tacker

17 December 1958

AFCIN-4E

AFCIN-4E4g/Maj. Friend/ac/69216/Bldg 828

1. Reference the questions outlined in Mr. ██████'s letter of 7 December 1958, to M/Gen. Fisher. The ATIC will not recommend any disciplinary action be taken against the investigators. The ATIC feels that the investigation was adequate and intends no further investigation of this case. A staff study of the UFO Program is presently being prepared for presentation to the Commander of AFIC, this study does propose some improvement in the Air Force's UFO investigative capability, but was in no sense prompted by this case.

2. Reference the charges of criminal mishandling in Mr. ██████'s letter and in "The ██████ Report," dated 21 September 1958, published by the UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio. T/Sgt L. A. Haisten and T/Sgt V. J. Hof are both trained investigators, Haisten having experience since 1948 and Hof since 1951. The following paragraph dealing with the specific charges will substantiate the competence of the investigators.

3. Omissions, errors and/or contradictions in "The ██████ Report," dated 21 September 1958, and published by the UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio are as follows. Referenced page numbers are from the report.

a. (Page 1) No mention of the horror movie (Dracula's Daughter) which the witness was viewing just before the sighting. It is the opinion of the ATIC that this was a contributing factor to the emotional vulnerability of Mrs. ██████

b. (Page 1) Witness mentions for the first time that window curtains were made of heavy cloth.

c. (Page 3) The investigators did inform Mrs. ██████ that approximately thirty (30) days would be required for the Air Force to get an answer to her. However, they made no statement concerning the extent of the material which would be made available to her.

d. (Page 3) T/Sgt Haisten questioned Mrs. ██████ for approximately two to two and one-half hours. During approximately half of that time T/Sgt Hof and Mr. Durant, of the UFO Research Committee were not present. T/Sgt Haisten points out that many more questions than those listed were asked of Mrs. ██████

e. (Page 3) The Air Force investigators did not make a house to house check in the neighborhood. It has already been pointed out that these men have considerable experience, and in their opinion the evidence already collected precluded the necessity of continuing investigation at additional expense.

f. (Pages 3 & 4) It is assumed that Mrs. ██████ is the Mrs. ██████ of Lorain who was contacted by the Air Force investigators and indicated that nothing unusual occurred on the night of Mrs. ██████ sighting. Mrs. ██████ indicated to the

UNCLASSIFIED

g. (Page 4) The investigators indicate that no one was home at the [redacted] house. Contact would certainly have been made with Mrs. [redacted] had this been possible.

h. (Page 6) The fact that this object was seen by another person from approximately the same vantage point does not rule out the illusion. The same illusion can be experienced by more than one individual if the conditions are right. Mirages, and the fact that there are so many successful magicians, is proof enough of this claim.

i. (Page 6) In obtaining a description of the item Mr. [redacted] admitted to the Air Force investigators that he showed Mrs. [redacted] a drawing from Blue Book for comparison. Small wonder that there is similarity between her description and the item in Blue Book.

j. The train time indicated here is not specified as EST or EDT. The Air Force investigators, however, recorded a train west bound at 2:54 EDT, the approximate time of the sighting, while the station master's log indicates that the eastbound train, mentioned in the [redacted] report, passed at 2:52 EST (3:52 EDT) or 52 minutes after the sighting.

k. (Page 8) The investigators point out that approximately 100 feet of track can be seen from the window of Mrs. [redacted]'s bedroom and that the train light would not be blocked by houses or trees.

l. (Page 8) The primary job of Haisten and Hof is investigation; they may or may not offer a conclusion as a result of their findings. The responsibility for the analysis of all UFO cases lies with the ATIC. In no instance should investigators hazard a conclusion for official publication as Air Force representatives.

m. (Page 8) The Air Force conclusion stated that it was a combination of the lights which was responsible for the illusion experienced by Mrs. [redacted]. Air Force investigators were informed that the light on Chief Schott's ship is pencil-beamed.

4. The following statements align themselves with the alleged charges of blunders committed by T/Sgt Haisten and T/Sgt Hof. Page 9 of "[redacted] Report."

a. The investigators indicate that the light can be seen from Mrs. [redacted] window.

b. There was no claim that the light was reflected from clouds but was possibly shown directly on the home of Mrs. [redacted]. Sgt Hof states he made no commitment concerning the impossibility of the light shining on Mrs. [redacted] house.

c. The impression of the investigators is that the light on Chief Schott's ship is of the spot light variety. A light source would not be nearly as noticeable in the lighted town as at the unlighted area of Mrs. [redacted]'s home.

d. Mrs. [redacted] did admit seeing a red glow on the night of the sighting; however, she attributed this to reflections from the Ohio Edison Plant to the WNW of her home. It is significant to note that Mrs. [redacted]'s home is approximately 3 miles to the west of Mrs. [redacted], placing Mrs. [redacted] between Mrs. [redacted] and the Ohio Edison Plant.

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e. No one was home to be contacted at the Grego house.

f. The report plays with words here. Mist is visible water vapor or rain of very small droplets. The weather was obtained from the log of Chief Schott. The Ohio Edison Plant is northwest of Mrs. ██████████ house and also a source of smoke, there was no specific claim that the smoke came from the U. S. Steel Company plant.

g. (1) The Air Force investigators did not feel a house to house check was necessary in view of evidence already obtained and expense involved.

(2) Mrs. ██████████ had already constructed a model made of paper plates and a bowl which was shown to the sergeants along with a verbal description.

(3) T/Sgt Haisten obtained information concerning the motion of the object from Mrs. ██████████. This was during the period Mr. ██████████ was absent with T/Sgt Hof.

(4) The sergeants did take notes during the investigation and interview. However, it should be noted that the trained interrogator is taught not to take, or to take a minimum of notes. Witnesses are more prone to free talk if they feel there is no record requiring exact recound on their part in the future.

(5) The ATIC feels that it should once again be pointed out that the apparent purpose of the UFO Research Committee, like most private organizations, is to discredit the U. S. Government and particularly the United States Air Force.

(6) The UFO Research Committee is claimed to be a scientific organization. However, there are no indications of a high level of education within the organization.

(7) The ATIC stands firmly behind the investigators in this case. True there were some additional phases of investigation which they could have carried out, i.e., house to house check, but this would have resulted in additional expense to the Air Force when in the judgment of these experienced men the collected evidence was sufficient.

1 Incl:
Ltr dtd 7 Dec 58,
w/report of
UFO sighting

H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E4

C
O
P
Y

215c1

Case 1958

UNCLASSIFIED

23 December 1958

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge your letter of 27 November 1958 concerning your unidentified flying object sighting of 21 September 1958.

According to the Lorain Coast Guard Station log, the weather throughout the morning of 21 September 1958 was alternately misting and raining.

Also, a check with the Lorain railway station disclosed that a train passed your house, going west, at the time of your sighting. This train had a headlight that made figure eight oscillations. It is the opinion of the Air Technical Intelligence Center investigators that this was the light you observed.

Sincerely,

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

Mrs. [REDACTED]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

Classification Cancelled

Auth. [REDACTED]
By [REDACTED]
D. [REDACTED]

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;

UNCLASSIFIED

"When we lived at Peake, my son, Kym, and I saw a UFO at approximately 4 p.m., late in 1958. It came from the north, not very fast, and looked like a pearly white disk. It stopped overhead for a while, hovered and then dropped like a stone. Just as it was about to crash it shot off again, only to stop above my husband who was reaping in a nearby field at the time.

"Our neighbors didn't believe us at first, but there was a report in the newspapers the following morning that a strange object had been sighted that night over Osborne."
(67.)

31 December. More on the Fitzgerald case.

"Not adequate or honest."

The UFO Research Committee of Akron had written to the Air Force on December 19th charging that the military's investigation of the Fitzgerald case had not been "adequate or honest," and even suggested that Washington authorities may not be aware that people working for project BLUE BOOK may be misleading them. (68.) General Fisher replied to the Akron group on December 31st concerning the allegations. The General made it clear the official findings had been "thoroughly reviewed" by Air Force headquarters and the High Command was completely satisfied. The results of the Fitzgerald investigation were not to be changed. (69.)

Neither the Akron group, or Mrs. Fitzgerald, were going to take General Fisher's comments as the final word on the incident.

Late December. An Air Force "UFO Program."

Congressional interest and disputes with civilian UFO organizations pushed the Air Force into an offensive move. It was evident the Air Force had a public relation problem. A Staff Study to examine the situation was authorized and quickly completed. The study exaggerated the difficulties with civilians and made at least one glaring mistake. According to the Staff Study some "49" civilian UFO groups with an anti-Air Force agenda were at work (Few organizations were large like APRO and NICAP. The vast majority were tiny "clubs" with just a hand full of dedicated members). Actually only NICAP posed any kind of threat and the Staff Study exposed its poor research by erroneously stating ex-BLUE BOOK Chief E.J. Ruppelt was "affiliated" with the "political adventurer" Donald Keyhoe, creating a "formidable team" capable of making a lot of trouble for the Air Force. (70.) The Staff Report urged a new effort it called the "UFO Program." The "program" would correct certain faults in the way BLUE BOOK operated. This had to be news to Major Tacker who always answered public inquiries by insisting the Air Force never did anything wrong! The study said the Air Force was much too slow in its investigations and its investigators were not prepared to handle complex cases. A quick reaction team of 18-20 agents, well equipped with hardware, was recommended. One "radical" suggestion was that the Air Force automatically investigate UFO reports *made to the press* (The current policy was to investigate only those UFO reports officially reported to the Air Force. The few exceptions seem to be those incidents so sensationally publicized they couldn't be ignored). The conclusion of the study was an admission the Air Force needed to boost its credibility. (71.)

The "real" silence group.

We know something about the people at ATIC and how they carried out their duties. It is at that level, the BLUE BOOK level, that ideas like the "UFO Program" were born and discussed. A step up to a higher level, the Pentagon, is a place we know little about and it is where the real power resides. Air Force *headquarters* dropped the proposed UFO Program apparently: "... deciding not to spend more money on a phenomenon that was no threat to the national security and that seemingly had no scientific value." (72.)

UFOLOGY

A DOCUMENTED CASE
OF GOVERNMENTAL DISHONESTY

Almost from the moment that ufology was 'invented', there have been those who have charged the Government with deliberate "cover-up", sometimes with such continuing vehemence that they have alienated even their staunchest supporters. The trouble is that they have rarely, if ever, even tried to present full proof of their allegations. We now have in our files a document entitled "The Fitzgerald Report", copyright 1959 by none other than Robert J. Durant, who had not even heard of Ivan T. Sanderson at that time. We wish very much that we had space to reproduce the whole thing, but it runs 20 pages*, so we must condense and stick primarily to the evidence of "cover-up" and such.

At approximately 3 a.m. on the morning of the 21st September 1958 a Mrs. William Fitzgerald observed a metallic, disc-shaped object maneuvering in the front yard of her home in Sheffield Lake, Ohio. The object was also seen by Mrs. Fitzgerald's son John. Neither realized that the other had seen it until late the next morning when Mr. Fitzgerald, who had at first disbelieved the boy's story, questioned them separately and found that their descriptions were identical. Later, the UFO Research Committee of Akron, which investigated this case, found two other persons in the immediate neighbourhood who had had experiences which helped to confirm the Fitzgeralds' story.

Two other 'sightings', one most pertinent to our tale, were reported in Lorain, Ohio, which borders Sheffield Lake. At 2 a.m. a Mrs. Grego watched a "big red ball" moving outside her window; she reported that it made a low pulsating sound that made her "sick to her stomach", but she noted no after-effects. At 2:30 a.m. a Mrs. Stewart was wakened by a light flooding through her window. A look at her clock indicated that it could not be the sun, and the moon had set at 1:07 a.m. on the 21st. She described the object as being several times larger than the moon, and noted that it moved off in a westerly direction. Neither of these cases would seem to be in any way related to the Fitzgeralds', but we will come back to Mrs. Stewart later.

Mrs. Fitzgerald called the newspaper and was subsequently interviewed by members of the UFO Research Committee of Akron who prepared a report and sent copies to the Aerial Phenomena Group, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, with a request for an investigation. The Air Force sent two investigators who checked train schedules, lake activity (Sheffield is on Lake Erie), and other possible factors in the sighting. On the 4th

October they 'interviewed' Mrs. Fitzgerald and her son John, with a member of the UFORCA attending. Mrs. Fitzgerald filled out the standard form carried by the Air Force men and was asked five questions; young John was asked one. The AF chaps then departed, stating that a full report would be sent to Mrs. Fitzgerald within 30 days.

The Air Force first released their conclusions on the case to the Honorable A. D. Baumhart, Jr., Mrs. Fitzgerald's congressman, to whom she had written in an attempt to get some 'action'. The letter to Congressman Baumhart was signed by W. P. Fisher, Major General, USAF, Director, Legislative Liaison; the pertinent part read as follows:

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

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

Now to the real nitty-gritty:

Mrs. Stewart (not Steward) signed an affidavit giving the facts concerning her experience and added the statement that:

"On October 4, 1958, I was visited by Technical Sergeants Hof and Haistain from Air Force Intelligence department. I repeated the account of my experience as written above. The sergeants talked to me about the sighting for about 10 minutes. They were going to have me fill out a report form but then decided against it."

As The Fitzgerald Report points out, the Air Force statement that Mrs. "Steward (sic) could not recall anything unusual" must have been (1) a deliberate attempt to distort the facts, (2) an unforgivable act

*Copies are available at \$2.00 each.

of negligence, or (3) an extreme case of ignorance.

As for Mrs. Fitzgerald, her reaction to the report by the USAF was that "The person who made it must be insane." They may not have been insane, but they were certainly incompetent.

1) They did not bother, even when asked, to observe headlights on trains passing near the Fitzgerald house—the light never hits Mrs. Fitzgerald's window.

2) The Fitzgerald house is 3000 feet from Lake Erie, which cannot be seen from the house. In addition, the Coast Guard vessel was 5½ miles down-shore from the Fitzgerald house when the signalling took place, and the light would have had to shine through downtown Lorain to be seen at the Fitzgeralds'—rather a neat trick for any searchlight, aside from the fact that the signalling apparently took place about 2 hours before Mrs. Fitzgerald's sighting.

3) It wouldn't help to interview Mr. Grego; it was his wife who saw the "big red ball".

4) According to the USAF, "misty rain with haze and smoke": Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that it was not raining, and the wind direction was such that smoke from a U.S. Steel plant would have been blown away from, not toward, the Fitzgerald home.

5) Chief Schott told a member of UFORCA that the AF sergeants did not obtain a written statement from him or even question him closely about his activities on the lake. The "investigators" did not make a house to house check in the neighbourhood for further evidence either. They did not ask Mrs. Fitzgerald for a 3-D drawing of the object, showed little interest in its movements, and had Mrs. Fitzgerald fill out a form intended for reporting objects in the sky, not in a front yard, thus making it difficult for Mrs. Fitzgerald to turn in an adequate report. Obviously, the USAF did nothing to improve on this.

Rather grimly, the Fitzgerald Report notes that on October 6, 1958, the USAF put out a news release stating that 98.1% of all UFO reports are of "known" objects, with the rider that "Refinements in investigative procedure have resulted in a steady decline of unknowns". The FR retorts that "After studying the Fitzgerald report it should be manifestly clear what the Air Force means by 'refinements in investigative procedure'".

The FR includes a 6-page appendix detailing the correspondence between the USAF on the one hand, and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Congressman Baumhart, other members of Congress, and members of UFORCA on the other. We cannot reproduce all of it by any means, but we shall pick some of the juiciest items. To wit:

The original Fitzgerald Report, with a letter requesting proper investigation and disciplinary action

against the Air Force 'investigators', was sent to General Fisher and to Major Lawrence J. Tacker, the officer in charge of handling all enquiries concerning UFOs except those made by members of Congress. General Fisher replied as follows:

"I refer to your inquiry concerning allegations relative to the unidentified flying object sighting reported by Mrs. William Fitzgerald, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, on 21 September 1958. The investigation conducted by Air Technical Intelligence Center on the unidentified flying object sighting reported by Mrs. Fitzgerald was thoroughly reviewed by Air Force Headquarters. The Air Force is entirely satisfied that the individuals who conducted the investigation of the unidentified flying object sighting at Sheffield Lake on 21 September 1958 were thorough and competent. Further, that their findings were accurate and adequate."

Major Tacker's reply, except for the opening phrase, is identical to General Fisher's. Letters to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force, and to Colonel Gilbert of ATIC were answered by Major Tacker with identical letters.

UFORCA and Mrs. Fitzgerald were becoming rather annoyed and sent a still more strongly worded letter to Major Tacker and received a rather venomous letter in return; we quote only portions of it:

"We do not have the resources allotted to this project to fill individual requests or to answer the erroneous charges concerning individual sightings which amateur organizations such as yours make against the Air Force. Further, we are not interested in your theories or science fiction approach to this subject. [We aren't making this up, you know; UFORCA has the letters on file.]

"The Air Force is compelled to deal scientifically and objectively with facts and the findings to date deny the existence of flying saucers. We are sure our analysis and evaluation of reported sightings by qualified scientific personnel are more than adequate."

From General Fisher:

". . . case closed. . ."

Members of UFORCA wrote asking permission to see the official Air Force records of the Fitzgerald case, which the USAF had stated were unclassified. They were informed, as was Congressman Baumhart, that their request could not be honoured. The reports may be unclassified but you can't see them?!

To a certain extent, one sympathizes with the poor

Members are asked once again to try to find us new members. If you wish a supply of our 'prospectus', drop us a note and let us know how many you think you can use.

old Air Force which should never have been given the job in the first place and was never given adequate personnel, either in numbers or training, to tackle a job that has confounded the best minds around. However, they could be polite about it; and they could be honest. To state that investigations are

competent and adequate but that one lacks adequate resources suggests a bad case of finninnimyosis*.

*This disease is caused by an excess of finnninnies in the bloodstream with the result that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing.

CHAOS & CONFUSION

FLYING SAUCERS MAY 1959

The FITZGERALD INVESTIGATION

-- What It Means

By CORAL E. LORENZEN

AT APPROXIMATELY 3 a.m. on the morning of 21 September, 1958, Mrs. William Fitzgerald of 934 East Drive, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, was preparing for bed after watching the late show on television. Suddenly her bedroom was flooded with light. When she went to the window to investigate the light source, she saw a small (approximately 22 feet in diameter) object outside her window.

When the first newspaper report arrived at APRO headquarters, I felt sure it would be either inferred or labelled as an hallucination. The consequent publication of an excellent report and analysis of the incident by the UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio, and forwarded to APRO by Member Fred Kirsch, bore this theory out. The manner in which this incident was investigated by Air Force investigators and eventually misconstrued, is to me the most important and intriguing part of the Fitzgerald story. But first, here are the facts.

The thing Mrs. Fitzgerald saw was disc-shaped with a hump on the upper part. It was of a dull aluminum color with no light source, no seams, rivets or markings. Mrs. Fitzgerald's line of sight was approximately 6 feet 10 inches from the ground. The object was directly in front of her, above her driveway and moving north. It continued to move, losing altitude, until it was 50 feet from where she stood, and one foot above the ground in a neighbor's yard. It

hovered motionless for a few seconds, then started billowing smoke from two apertures at the rim. These apertures appeared to contain several small "jets" or pipes, but the pinkish-gray luminescent smoke seemed to issue from the aperture around the nozzles, not the nozzles themselves. Further description: Clearly defined edges and no apparent external light until the smoke illuminated the object.

After hovering over the neighbor's yard, the object moved back to Mrs. Fitzgerald's yard, elevated itself to about 5 feet above the ground and 25 feet from the observer, made two fast clockwise turns and shot up out of sight.

Mrs. Fitzgerald attempted to wake her husband to tell him about it, but with no success; but the next day she found out that her 10-year-old son had also seen it. Subsequent investigation by the UFORC showed that an unidentified light had been seen at approximately the same time by others in the vicinity. The information, evidence and logical analysis supplied by the UFORC and APRO members, including George Popowitch, indicate that Mrs. Fitzgerald saw an apparently intelligently controlled metallic object about 22 feet in diameter by 6 feet thick.

The UFORC report furnished other information, however, which was actually more informative than the detailed physical characteristics of the object itself. A UFORC committee member was present when two

Air Force investigators of NCO rank questioned Mrs. Fitzgerald and her son. They asked five questions. One pertained to the weather, one to the possible fluorescent nature of the object's smoke, one as to whether the light dimmed out or blinked out quickly, one about how fast the object left the vicinity, and the last question asked if Mrs. Fitzgerald had been under medical care recently. They asked the boy one question: whether or not it (the object) appeared to be aluminum.

Despite the brevity of this interview, the sergeants did thoroughly check local train schedules and boat activity on the nearby lake. The results of this phase of the investigation became apparent in the text of an Air Force letter to the Honorable A. D. Baumhart, Jr., of the House of Representatives, in answer to his inquiry into the Air Force results. The letter, signed by Major General W. P. Fisher of the Legislative Liaison Office, inferred that Mrs. Fitzgerald experienced an illusion brought about by the rotating light of a train (which, the letter said, passed on a track at "approximately the same hour" of the sighting) and/or the spotlight of a boat on the lake.

The purpose of the letter is obvious—to disqualify Mrs. Fitzgerald's observation. The questions asked by the Air Force investigators were meaningless. Their efforts were concentrated on the possible conventional explanation — thus exhaustive attempts to find a light source to account for the sighting were necessary.

The UFORC showed, through their own investigations, that neither the boats nor the train's lights would be visible to Mrs. Fitzgerald where she had stood.

These facts are not, in themselves, too important. But — taken in a group, along with the fact that a

diagram of an object in Air Force Special Report No. 14, labelled Case No. 8, is almost an exact duplicate of what Mrs. Fitzgerald and her son saw, including dimensions, they are almost ominous.

The UFORC, in their analysis, called the investigation by the Air Force sloppy and/or incompetent. To me it was both and more. I believe there was no necessity for a careful investigation of this incident which, to the Air Force was a sighting of an object about which they already knew much. So much publicity had been given the incident locally that they felt a token investigation had to be made so that they could devise a way to disqualify an apparently capable observer, and explain away the incident in conventional terms. They were not concerned primarily with public opinion, but they were very concerned with inquiries made by a duly qualified legislative representative. Their efforts, therefore, were directed primarily toward Mr. Baumhart.

The question about Mrs. Fitzgerald's medical status was probably calculated to frighten Mrs. Fitzgerald at the possibility of having her observation blamed on a physical defect if any existed. The lack of queries about the object itself indicates a lack of interest in this particular type of object—probably because it is no longer one of concern—obviously one of the small observer units seen so often in the past and no doubt well documented in Air Force UFO files.

This apparent lack of interest by Air Force investigators reminded me of the "wringing out" and subsequent attempted brain-washing of observers a year ago when the huge, luminous traffic-stopping flying eggs came upon the scene. These were a new innovation in UFO annals—and a thorough investigation

(one might even say a strenuous one) was undertaken."

When the "flying eggs" came to public attention in November, 1957, researchers looked for a common denominator. This they had in descriptions of the objects and their effect on ground traffic. There were no orthotenic lines—no correlation of sighting locations indicating a pattern. It was this lack of a pattern that concerned me until I found an **uncommon** denominator which is as important as a common one and which actually indicates a pattern of sorts.

In the late evening hours of 2 November and the early morning hours of 3 November 1957, a glowing egg-shaped object squatted on roads near Levelland, Texas, and stopped traffic. Most sightings were within an approximate 4 mile radius of the town; once the object was seen in a cotton field. About an hour later the last sighting at Levelland, an object of the same description visited the A-Bomb site on the White Sands Proving Ground—Holloman Air-Force Missile Development Range in New Mexico. That night at about 8 p.m. it was again in the same vicinity. Whether or not automotive electrical systems were affected we do not know of a certainty—the full reports are in Air Force files. The most complete public record of these two visitations at the A-Bomb site was contained in the pages of the Alamo-gordo Daily News, wherein the official release stated that the jeep patrols reported no engine difficulty as other reports from elsewhere stated.

On the 4th of November (Monday) the famous (or infamous) Stokes case took place—this time in broad daylight on a public highway between the White Sands Proving Ground—Fort Bliss Range and the McGregor test range. Stokes was ex-

tensively questioned (see my article, "The Psychology of UFO Secrecy in 'Flying Saucers' for October, 1958) and his sighting was labelled a hoax.

As these sightings were aired over national TV and radio news programs and duly logged in front-page newspaper articles, other U.S. reports of similar sightings prior to the launching of Sputnik II were coming to light. Mrs. Robert Moudy of Covington, Indiana revealed that on 15 October an object, looking like a "fried egg—sunny side down"—came down over a field and that the engine of her husband's combine stopped. This at 7 p.m.—and Moudy also noticed two autos stopped on a nearby road.

On the 4th of November at 3:12 a.m., just a few hours before Stokes' experience, police and firemen watched a glowing object which hovered over a cemetery in Elmwood Park, Illinois. The spotlight on the patrol car dimmed as the police approached the object.

A carload of women and students were startled to see a lighted object pacing their automobile at 7:20 p.m., 9 November, while travelling on a lonely mountain road near White Oaks, New Mexico. Their lights flickered and went out and their engine missed. They stopped the car to watch and the object headed into the north and disappeared.

On the 14th, at Tamaroa, Illinois, a moon-shaped object accompanied by 5 or 6 loud booms and three brilliant flashes of light, was sighted above the trees bordering U.S. Highway 51, by the wife of the local Justice of the Peace. After the flashes and the booms, her house lights went out. Power failure was reported between Tamaroa and nearby Dubois—and H. D. Heath, District Manager of the Illinois Power Company said that he could find nothing technically wrong

This is a sampling of reports. Glowing objects in the daytime and at night; objects on much-traveled highways and on lonely roads; in populated areas—in a town—on a missile range—in a field—where there were ground vehicles operating. Objects which interfered with the electrical systems of trucks, cars and a grain combine. There are too many to list all of them, but similar incidents took place outside the U.S.—especially in South America in the months preceding the U.S. “flap” and for a few days afterward. What were they and what were they doing? No common denominator—but an uncommon one which draws a picture. A weapon being tested on various types of ground vehicles at different times of the day, under various weather conditions. The indications are, because of time elements involved, that only one object was seen by all. A new type—and thus the great interest exhibited by official investigative agencies.

In preceding years there had been no indication that the objects interfered with electrical systems—thus ruling out the possibility that this interference was an accidental by-product of the UAO propulsion systems. The traffic-stopping incidents in the U.S. came on the heels of the launching of Sputnik I and II. Incidentally, reports of UAO interest in dogs came to light after Sputnik II's launching (it contained the famous Russian space dog Laika).

This weapon hypothesis was hinted by Dr. Olavo Fontes, APRO's Brazilian representative. Mr. Lorenzen had hesitatingly suggested it shortly after the November “flap” but it wasn't a popular theory—for obvious reasons. Fontes backed it up with well-documented sightings both in the U.S. and his own country. Although a comparative newcomer in UAO research, Dr. Fontes has proven himself to be the most valuable single researcher today. His efforts have been unceasing and thorough despite a heavy medical schedule. He has thoroughly investigated hundreds of sightings—military and civilian. His latest, made by a Rio de Janeiro engineer in 1956, includes a color slide of a UAO over Guanabara Bay. The full account of the picture and the sighting was contained in the January 1959 issue of the APRO Bulletin.

In January of this year, APRO entered its 8th year of activity in the UAO research field. We expect that the near future may bring more glowing eggs—possibly capable of knocking out electrical power at its source—the power plants themselves. These sightings will be fully investigated by the Air Force Aerial Phenomena Research Division, but it is not likely that the public will hear much if anything about the sightings or the results of the investigations. Researchers will have to be more alert than ever if the facts are to be made known.

The Sheffield Lake Case

Early on the morning of Sept. 21, 1958, a domed, disc-shaped UFO was observed a few feet above the ground outside a house in Sheffield Lake, Ohio. The main witness was Mrs. William Fitzgerald. Other residents in the area reported UFO sightings that morning. After a superficial investigation, the Air Force reported a completely counter-to-fact explanation (also incorporating the "shotgun" approach): Mrs. Fitzgerald had been fooled by a train headlight, plus a spotlight on a Coast Guard ship on Lake Erie. After a careful investigation, the Akron UFO Research Committee published a documented report, "The Fitzgerald Report" (P.O. Box 5242, Akron 13, Ohio), refuting the Air Force statements.

Air Force:

"The investigation revealed that a railroad track ran near the home of Mrs. Fitzgerald. The night of Mrs. Fitzgerald's sighting, a train passed the house at approximately the same hour of the reported sighting. The train had a rotating headlight which, under some conditions, would produce unusual effects. Contact was also made with Chief Bosun's Mate William Schott of the Coast Guard Station, Lorain, Ohio. Chief Schott reported that he was using his spotlight in an attempt to attract the attention of another ship, and that the light was directed toward the shore in the general direction of Mrs. Fitzgerald's house. . . The weather at the time of the incident was a misty rain with haze and smoke.

"The conclusion of the Air Force investigators was that the combination of moving lights, noise of the train and prevailing weather account for the illusion experienced by Mrs. Fitzgerald. The Air Technical Intelligence Center, after evaluating the evidence in this case, concurred with the conclusion of the investigators." (Maj. Gen. W. P. Fisher, USAF, Director, Legislative Liaison, to Rep. A. D. Baumhart, Jr., 10-31-58).

The Air Force logic is apparent: UFOs are not real objects and can all be explained in terms of honest but deluded witnesses. Mrs. Fitzgerald only thought she saw a distinct disc-shaped domed object. She must have been fooled by some local light. A bright train headlight, or Coast Guard spotlight shining through mist and haze could be the cause.

Akron UFO Research Committee:

Checking each point of the Air Force statements, the Akron group found many errors and omissions. Gen. Fisher had also told Congressman Baumhart that one of the confirmatory witnesses listed by Mrs. Fitzgerald had stated she had not seen anything unusual that night. Later, the witness signed a statement, reproduced in the Akron report, that she had confirmed the sighting to Air Force investigators: A round object with a "hump" or dome. The investigators, she stated, then decided not to have her fill out a report form.

* The railroad track is situated so that no train headlights ever shine into the window of Mrs. Fitzgerald's house. Although urged to do so by the Akron group, the Air Force investigators made no attempt to check this.

* At the time of the UFO sighting, Chief Schott's ship was about 5-1/2 miles from Mrs. Fitzgerald's house. Lake Erie is not even visible from her house, being obscured by trees and other houses.

Through Ohio Congressmen, the Air Force was asked to explain these discrepancies. Various spokesmen for the Air Force reiterated their confidence in the "competence" of their investigators and that their findings were "accurate and adequate." Maj. Lawrence J. Tacker, Pentagon UFO spokesman, in a letter to the Akron group, labelled their report ". . . the erroneous charges [of] amateur organizations." He added, "Further, we are not interested in your theories or science fiction approach to this subject." (1-14-59).

When pressed by Congressman Baumhart for "a more complete report" on the incident, the Air Force was totally unresponsive. The Congressman was sent a form reply defending the Air Force position against the "mistaken beliefs" of UFO groups which make "sensational claims and contentions." The same form letter has been sent to Members of Congress repeatedly.

NIAP (HALL): UFO EVIDENCE .

Menzel in McBryd
goes to great lengths to lie
& dissuade about the case.

(pretty disgusting)