PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
21 September 1958

2. LOCATION
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local 3:00 AM
GMT 21/0800Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar
☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
☐ No

6. SOURCE
Civilian

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
5 mins

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
one

9. COURSE
N to E

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING
Source's bedroom was flooded with an intense light, she looked out the window and saw an obj flat & circular, slowly moving north w/an oscillating motion. Obj was emitting pinkish-grayish smoke, had dull aluminum color. Obj rose instantaneously out of sight.

11. COMMENTS
Investigation revealed two light sources, either or both of which could cause the 'oscillation', plus ground fog & presense of smoke in the area which could have reflected lights. [redacted]ase"

12. CONCLUSIONS
☐ Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon
☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft
☐ Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical
☒ Other light reflections
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
☐ Unknown

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

UFO SIGHTING
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
21 September 1958

On the morning of 21 September 1958 at approximately 0300 EDT, the witness was awakened by a very bright light which illuminated her bedroom. Looking out a bedroom window which faced her front yard, she saw flat, circular object with a dome-shaped top. The object was approximately six to eight feet from the ground, moving slowly in a northerly direction, parallel with the length of the house, and descending with a floating oscillating motion. The object was reported to be approximately ten feet from the window when first sighted. Mrs. X 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 six feet thick. The object was reported to have made several turns around the yard and then rose instantly out of sight. Total elapsed time was estimated at five minutes. Mrs X's stepson also viewed the object from the bathroom window which is located on the same side of the house as Mrs. X's vantage point.

In Summary, the investigation revealed that a railroad track ran near the home of Mrs. X. Contact with Mr. [redacted] station master at Lorain, Ohio, revealed that a train passes the witness's home at approximately the hour and date of the sighting. The train had an oscillating headlight, and this light could have been seen by Mrs. X. Contact was also made with the Officer-In-Charge of the Lorain Coast Guard Station. The chief reported that he was using his spotlight to attract the attention of another ship, and that his light was directed toward shore in the general direction of Mrs. X's home. The time and date of this incident coincide with those reported by Mrs. X. Mrs. Y of Lorain, Ohio, was contacted but was unable to recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting. Mrs. Z, another witness of Lorain, Ohio was not available for interview.

The weather at the time of the sighting was intermittent mist and rain with haze and smoke. Weather is always an important factor because of its direct effects, and the fact that it often allows for indirect conclusions (i.e., stars, planets, etc., may be immediately ruled out when there was a thick overcast at the time of the sighting).

Investigation further disclosed that Mrs. X received letters from other self-appointed UFO experts concerning her sighting. These letters all inferred that Mrs. X may have been harmed in some way, and were toned for encouragement to Mrs. X and all directed toward discrediting the U.S. Government and particularly the Air Force.

The Air Force conclusion in this case is that Mrs. X and her step-son were victims of an illusion. This illusion resulted from the combination of lights from the train and possibly the Coast Guard boat, the roar from the train, and the prevailing weather conditions. It is not uncommon for persons having the same or similar vantage points to experience the same

1

Z1 S-p

AFCIN-4E4/Maj Friend/ac
69216/Bldg 828
Typed 10 Oct 58

FILE CLASS:_____
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

_____
___OFFICE OF RECORD

13 OCT 1958

ROUTING

COORDINATION

AFCIN-4

AFCIN-4X2b

AFCIN-4

AFCIN-4X2c

Mrs. [redacted]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

AFCIN-4X3

Dear Mrs. [redacted]

AFCIN-4X4

Inclosed are your letters from Mr. [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted], which you loaned to the Air Force investigators of your unidentified flying object sighting of 21 September 1958.

AFCIN-4X5

Your reporting of the incident, interest and the cooperation given the Air Force investigators is greatly appreciated.

AFCIN-4A

Sincerely,

3 Incls:
1. Ltr sgnd Mrs [redacted]
2. Ltr sgnd [redacted]
3. Ltr sgnd [redacted]

H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science and Components

10/13/58

AFCIN-4B

AFCIN-4C

AFCIN-4D

AFCIN-4E

1 R Friend 10 Oct 58
2 F Flores 10 Oct 58

AFCIN-4F

OTHERS

DISPATCHED

OCT 13 12 52 PM '58

SAFIC

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

CO\ SHEET

ORIGIN OF BASIC		SUSPENSE
		DATE
		ASSIGNED BY
DATE	TYPE	NO.

SUBJECT

(U) UFO Sighting, Mr [redacted] (Sheffield, 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	
												M & R	FILE	
													DISPATCH	

Classification Cancelled
[illegible]
Auth. [illegible]
By [illegible]
Date [illegible]
HFR Post Dec 27th
3 Jan 68

TO: SAFIS-3 Attn: Major Tacker

DATE: 10 Oct 1958

FROM: AFCIN-4E4

COMMENT NO. 1

COMMENTS *(Use reverse, if necessary)*

4E4/Maj Friend/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 0300 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

Monday Eve.

Dear Mrs. [redacted]

I have written up your story for this weeks paper, and if I do not find that you have sent for a subscription will send you a clipping. I forgot to ask you if there was any noise involved and take for granted there wasn't, but I should have asked! Most ships make no noise but now and then they do, so it is quite important. Also I'm wondering whether the Air Force or <u>anyone</u> will get to you and suggest you do not give out your story. This happens, and I'll surely appreciate it if you will keep me informed. I do wish we had time for a few hours talk. I would be glad to share the material I have found out, but I find that generally no one believes you anyway, so it's almost useless.

Am almost tempted to drive up to see you as yours is one of the best sightings. Do let me hear from you on any points you have forgotten to mention, no matter how slight. Sometimes they have more importance than you think.

Sincerely,

/s/ [redacted]

COPY

[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,

Mrs. [redacted]

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 o 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 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 ~~minutes~~ 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] 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. ~~XX3/4 moon was out, but~~ 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. [redacted] 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. [redacted] of [redacted] 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 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. [redacted] was claculated 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. [redacted] f [redacted], 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 am., and makes more mysterious the detail about bright illumination.

FIG. 1

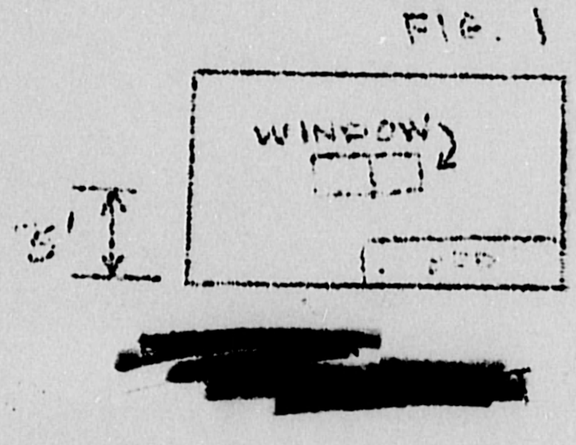
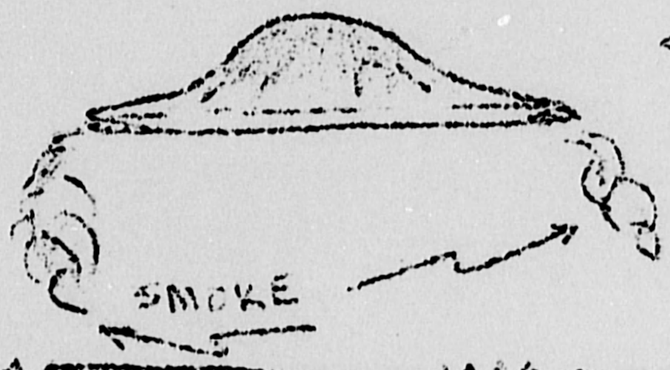


FIG 2



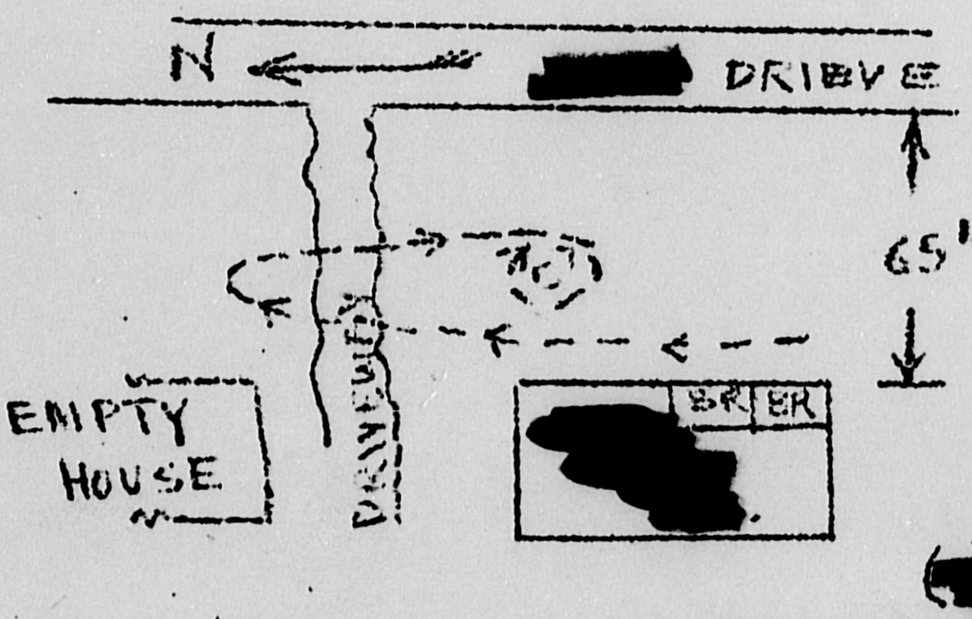
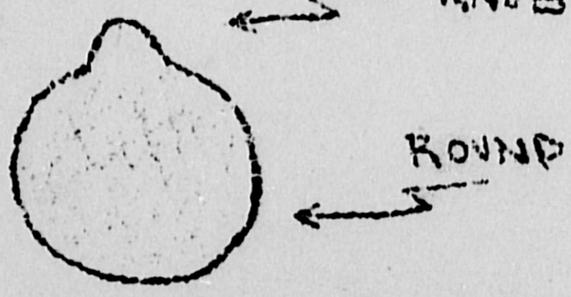


FIG. 3
SITE PLAN
& PATH UFO

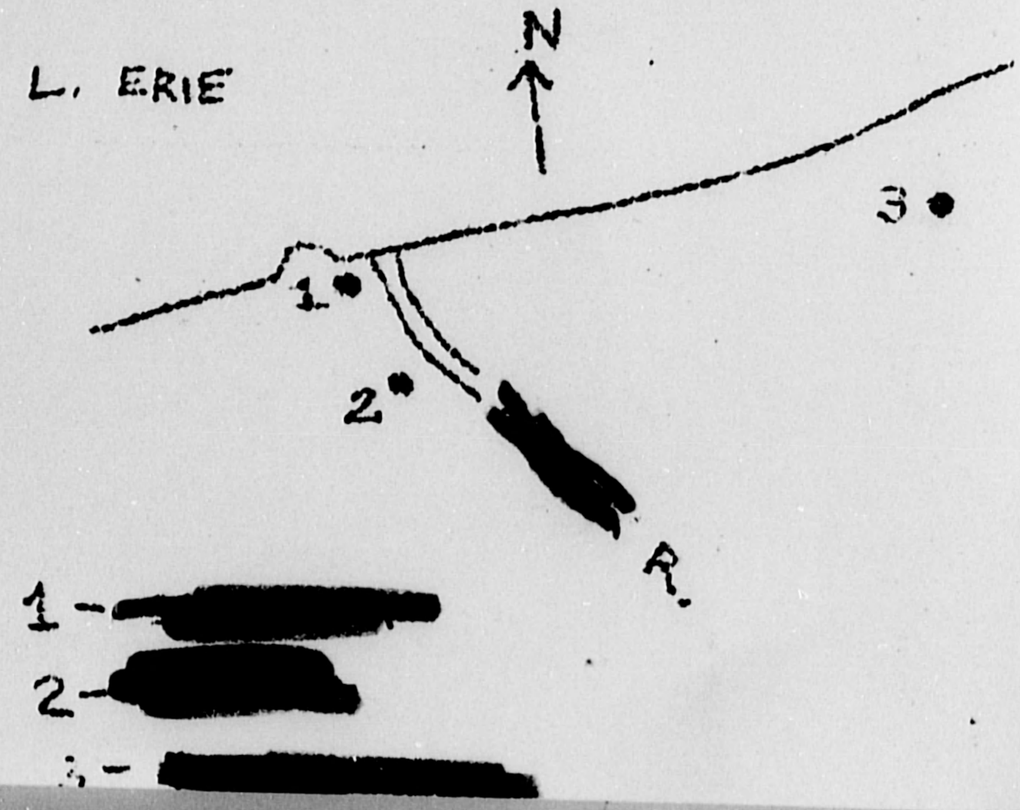
[redacted] IN LEFT BR)

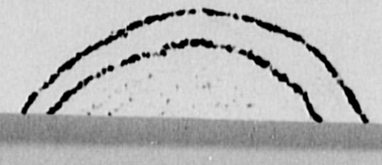
FIG. 5



SOLID RED, NO MARKS
2X MOON

FIG. 6







Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald | Fitzgerald | John Fitzgerald

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

Plain Dealer Staff Photo

'Saucer' Terrifies Housewife

★ From First Page

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 Clarence E. Hambly 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 hom had seen the "saucer."

Fitzgerald and this repor examined the ground o which the object reporte traveled and could not fi anything unusual.

Flying Saucers on Top of D.acula, 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 - purplish 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 Milford 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.

(Continued on Page 9, Column 6)

[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 deinitely 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.

COPY

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

October 2, 1958

Office of Congressional Liaison
United States Air Force
538, Old House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Major Corbin

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed a thermofax copy of a letter I have received from my constituent, Mrs. [redacted] of Sheffield Lake, Ohio.

I am forwarding this to you in accordance with the instructions you gave me and trust you will find this enclosure self-explanatory.

I would appreciate your advice, and assurances that attention and consideration will be given to Mrs. [redacted] summary so that I may properly advise her.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. D. Baumhart, Jr., M.C.

ADB:bv
Enclosure

MEMO ROUTING SLIP	NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS		
1 NAME OR TITLE SAFIS	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE		COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3		X	NECESSARY ACTION
	INCLS		NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY
(Object landed in yard of Mrs. [redacted] Sheffield, Ohio)

SAFLL: 69306 (C/M A. D. Baumhart)

SUSPENSE: ASAP - not later than 14 Oct 58

ACTION: Req memo w/proposed reply per HOI 10-20 and indicate AO name & telephone number.

INCLS: ltr fr C/M to AF L&L 2 Oct 58
cy ltr fr Mrs. [redacted] to C/M 29 Sept

FROM NAME OR TITLE	WILLIAM C. VAN DYK Major, USAF	DATE 6 Oct 58
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	Materiel & Operations Branch Congressional Division	TELEPHONE 78692

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95 Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

16—48487-4 GPO ☆

Jam 21 Sep

DRAFT

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] 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 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,

[redacted]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

October 29, 1958

Public Information Officer
Wright- Patterson AFB
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Sir:

This is a request for the official conclusion on my UFO report.

My sighting took place on September 21, 1958, at my home in Sheffield Lake, Ohio. It was investigated on October 3 and 4 by Sgt. Hof and Sgt. Haistan, both of the Air Technical Intelligence Center.

I was assured by the sergeants that the conclusion would be available to me within thirty days. They also said that if the case is in the "known" category I will be furnished with the evidence which indicated that conclusion.

Please send the conclusion as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. [redacted]

21 Se,

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 INFO. SERVICES
USAF

1958 NOV 15 12 42

[redacted]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio
November 27, 1958

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 weatner 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.

Sincerely,

Mrs. [redacted]

YLIC

C R SHEET

UNCLASSIFIED Hold until Gen Roshe's letter is returned & AFTIC

SUSPENSE

ORIGIN OF BASIC		DATE
		ASSIGNED BY
DATE	TYPE	NO.

SUBJECT

(U) 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	
												M & R	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 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

2 Incls:
1. Ltr dtd 27 Nov 58

H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF

Classification Cancelled
[redacted]
Auth: Director AFI
By [redacted]
Date [redacted]

21 5 c 1

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
[redacted]
Auth: Para 1a 22 1 DoD
By [redacted]
Date [redacted]

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio
November 10, 1958

Public Information Officer
Wright-Patterson A.F. Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Sir:

On October 31 you received a certified letter from me requesting the official conclusion on my UFO sighting. To date I have not heard from you. I was promised this information, and if necessary I will contact my congressman about the matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. [redacted]

EWK

14 November 1958

Mr[redacted]
Sheffield Lake, Ohio

Dear Mrs[redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 10 November requesting information about your UFO sighting and your previous letter of 31 October.

Your original letter stated that the investigation was conducted by two members of the Air Technical Intelligence Center; therefore, your letter was forwarded to that organization for direct reply to you. Air Technical Intelligence Center is a tenant organization of the base and is not under operational control of this office.

We have sent your latest query to the Center and you will be hearing from them soon, undoubtedly.

Sincerely,

DENNIS E. McCLENDON
Captain, USAF
Information Services Officer

Information Copy for ATIC

DISPATCHED

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

21 (Day) Sept (Month) 1958 (Year)

2. Time of day: 9 (Hour) _____ (Minutes)

(Circle One): (A.M.) or P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One): (a. Eastern) b. Central c. Mountain d. Pacific e. Other _____

(Circle One): (a. Daylight Saving) b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

[redacted] (Nearest Postal Address) [redacted] (City or Town) Ohio (State or Country)

Additional remarks: _____

5. Estimate how long you saw the object. _____ (Hours) 5 (Minutes) _____ (Seconds)

5.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

a. Certain
(b. Fairly certain)
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

There was a lt. - dark - Had been raining previously.

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight b. Dull daylight c. Bright twilight d. Just a trace of daylight e. No trace of daylight f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS *(Circle One)*:

a. None
b. A few
c. Many
d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON *(Circle One)*:

a. Bright moonlight
b. Dull moonlight
c. No moonlight — pitch dark
d. Don't remember

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Yes b. No c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

Very brilliant White light - Brighter than anything I have ever seen.

(Circle One)
a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?
b. Several blocks away?
c. A block away?
d. Several yards away?
e. Other

11. Did the object: *(Circle One for each question)*

a. Appear to stand still at any time?	Yes	No	Don't Know
b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time?	Yes	No	Don't Know
c. Break up into parts or explode?	Yes	No	Don't Know
d. Give off smoke?	Yes	No	Don't Know
e. Change brightness?	Yes	No	Don't Know
f. Change shape?	Yes	No	Don't Know
g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate?	Yes	No	Don't Know

This object made a very odd whirring noise

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: _____

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, than tell what it moved in front of: _____

14. Did the object appear: *(Circle One)*: a. Solid? b. Transparent? c. Don't Know.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

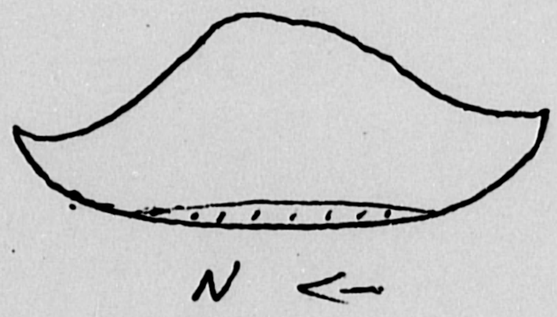
a. Eyeglasses	Yes	No	e. Binoculars	Yes	No
			f. Telescope	Yes	No

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound Object Made Whirring Whining muffled sound.

b. Color Object was dull Aluminum in Color

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

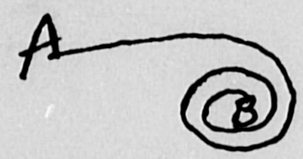


18. The edges of the object were:

(Circle One): a. Fuzzy or blurred
b. Like a bright star
c. Sharply outlined
d. Don't remember
e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____.
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.



21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.
Twenty feet.

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects *held in the hand* and at about arm's length?

(Circle One):

a. Head of a pin
b. Pea
c. Dime
d. Nickel
e. Quarter
f. Half dollar
g. Silver dollar
h. Baseball
i. Grapefruit
j. Basketball
k. Other FLY SWATTER - 9 3/4 inches

22.1 *(Circle One of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.*

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Uncertain

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? Object made two tight circles and went directly upwards very quickly

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

DULL ALUMINUM - 20 FT IN DIAMETER - CIRCULAR

Two plates - with rims together with small dessert dish on top.

25. Where were you located when you saw the object? *(Circle One):*

a. (Inside a building)
b. In a car
c. Outdoors
d. In an airplane
e. At sea
f. Other _____

26. Were you *(Circle One)*

a. In the business section of a city?
b. In the residential section of a city?
c. In open countryside?
d. Flying near an airfield?
e. Flying over a city?
f. Flying over open country?
g. Other Edge of URBAN AREA

27. What were you doing at the time you saw the object, and how did you happen to notice it?

I had just gone to bed & brilliant white light shone in the window.

28. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

28.1 What direction were you moving? *(Circle One)*

a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

28.2 How fast were you moving? _____ miles per hour.

28.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

29. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object? *(Circle One)*

a. (North)
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

30. What direction were you looking when you last saw the object? *(Circle One)*

a. North
b. Northeast
c. (East)
d. Southeast
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

31. If you are familiar with bearing terms (angular direction), try to estimate the number of degrees the object was from true North and also the number of degrees it was upward from the horizon (elevation).

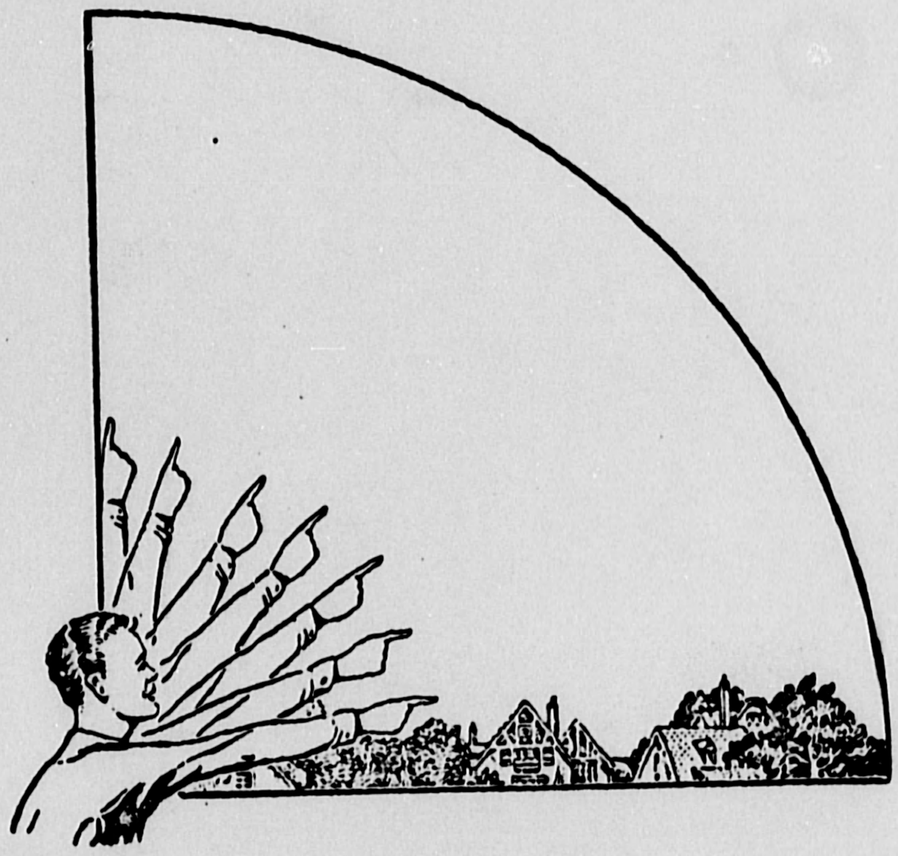
31.1 When it first appeared:

a. From true North _____ degrees.
b. From horizon _____ degrees.

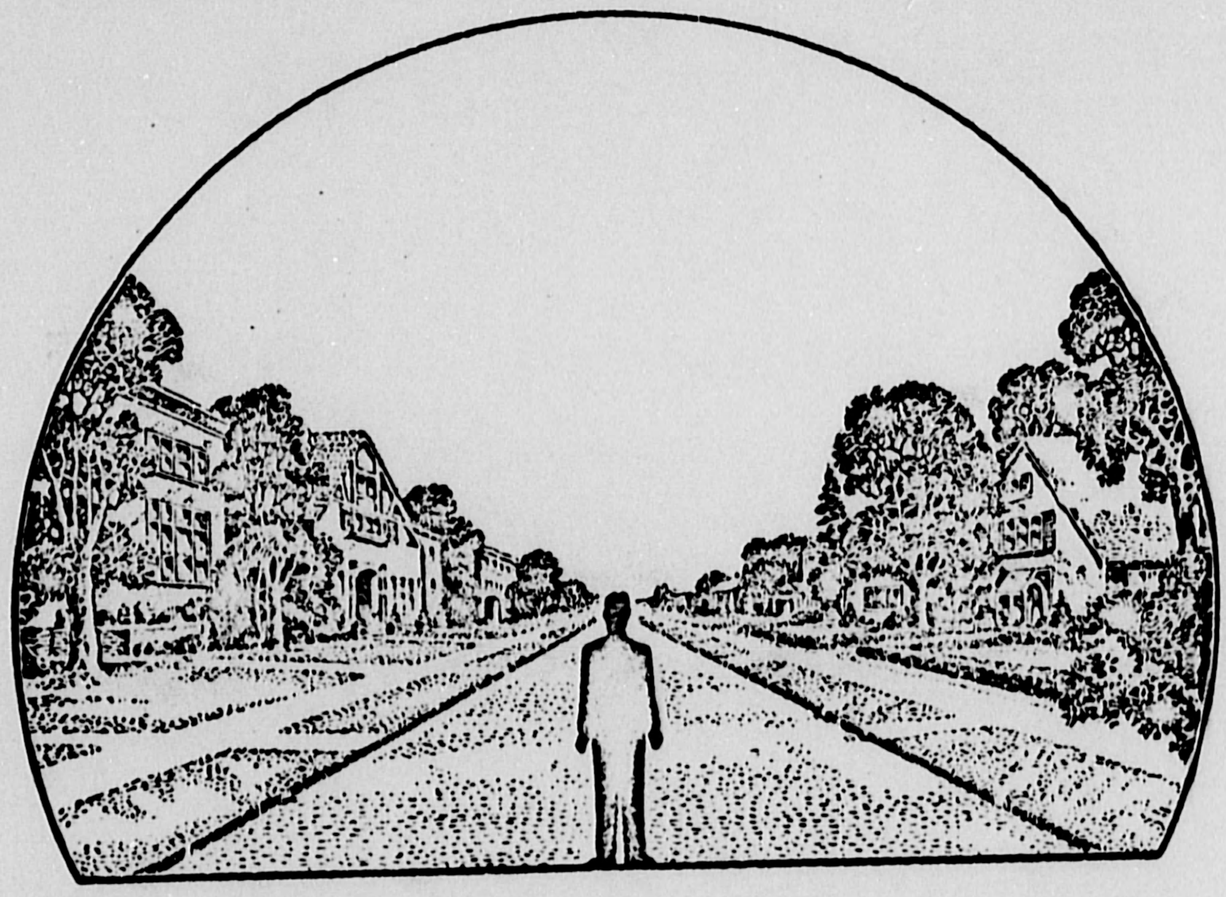
31.2 When it disappeared:

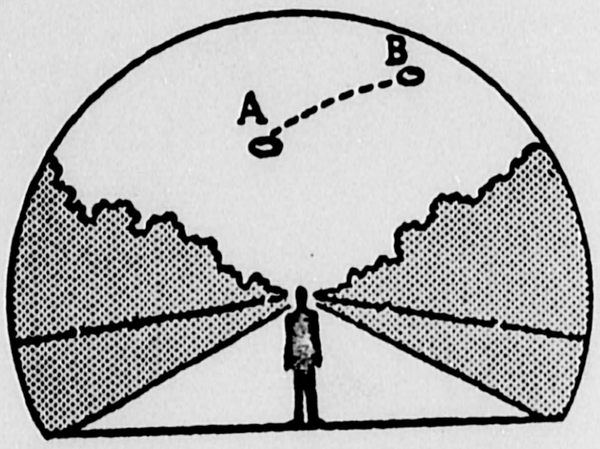
a. From true North _____ degrees.

32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the *same* curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it.



33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.





34. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

34.1 CLOUDS *(Circle One)*

a. Clear sky
b. Hazy
c. Scattered clouds
d. Thick or heavy clouds
e. (Don't remember)

34.2 WIND *(Circle One)*

a. (No wind)
b. Slight breeze
c. Strong wind
d. Don't remember

34.3 WEATHER *(Circle One)*

a. Dry
b. (Fog, mist, or light rain)
c. Moderate or heavy rain
d. Snow
e. Don't remember

34.4 TEMPERATURE *(Circle One)*

a. Cold
b. (Cool)
c. Warm
d. Hot
e. Don't remember

35. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object?

21 (Day) Sept. (Month) 1958 (Year)

36. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One) Yes (No)

36.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One) Yes No

36.2 Please list their names and addresses:

37. Was this the first time that you had seen an object or objects like this?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

37.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what circumstances did you see other ones?

38. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?

I believe this object was a space ship. Possibly here to collect data etc. For

39. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object? object seemed very slow-
then those cars of night
(Circle One) Yes (No) instantaneously
IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? _____ m.p.h.

40. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? 10 - 12 feet.

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
First Name Middle Name

ADDRESS [redacted] Skyfield Lake Ohio
Street City Zone State

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [redacted]

What is your present job? Housewife

Age 28 Sex Female

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

a. Grade school Eight
b. High school Four
c. College _____
d. Post graduate _____
e. e. Technical school _____
(Type) _____
f. Other special training _____
_____

42. Date you completed this questionnaire: 4 (Day) October (Month) 1958 (Year)

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

(SUMMARY DATA)

In order that your information may be filed and coded as accurately as possible, please use the following space to write out a short description of the event that you observed. You may repeat information that you have already given in the questionnaire, and add any further comments, statements, or sketches that you believe are important. Try to present the details of the observation in the order in which they occurred. Additional pages of the same size paper may be attached if they are needed.

NAME [redacted] (Please Print)

SIGNATURE [redacted]

DATE October 4, 1958

(Do Not Write in This Space)

CODE:

I had just gone to bed when this brilliant white light shone in the window. As the light subsided I looked out and saw this object moving north across the front lawn. The object was approximately 20 feet in diameter and 6ft in height. The object crossed the driveway becoming lower as it moved and hovered about a foot above the lawn. The object then turned east and moved to the center of the lawn crossed back over the drive and turned toward the house. The object made two tight circles and went up instantly. The object while hovering over the lawn released a grayish pinkish smoke of some sort. and as it was

5 January 1959

Dr. [redacted]
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Dr. [redacted]

You and your family have my hopes for a happy and successful New Year.

In our earlier telephone conversation I promised to send you a weekly summary of our activities, but after further thought I feel a bi-monthly summary would be sufficient, supplemented by telephone calls, TWX's and letters on cases requiring immediate attention. If you have any objections or suggestions to this procedure let me know at your earliest convenience.

It has been some time since you have been brought up to date, therefore, I shall attempt to summarize the outstanding cases of the last three months of 1958. I will not go into figures for the period as they may be obtained from the inclosed chart covering the last six months of 1958.

<u>0800Z, 21 September 1958, Sheffield Lake, Ohio</u>

A housewife was awakened by an intense bright light in her bedroom. She rose to a standing position on the bed and from her window viewed an object which she described as round (saucer-like) approximately twenty feet in diameter and six feet high. The glowing object made several oscillations in her front yard approximately six feet from the ground, and then disappeared straight up moving at a very high rate of speed. The witness stated that the sound associated with the object was a muffled humming and whirring.

The Air Force investigators on the case discovered two light sources which were in the vicinity of the witness' house during the time of the reported sighting. The search light of a coast guard ship was thrown on the coast in the vicinity of the witness' house and a train with an oscillating head and tail light passed the house at the same hour. The weather at the time of the sighting was alternately mist and rain with smoke and haze. As a result of these and the additional fact that the witness watched a horror show (Dracula's Daughter) before retiring, and

was probably emotionally vulnerable, led the ATIC to conclude that the witness was a victim of an illusion.

0323Z, 26 September 1958, Columbus, Miss. to Atlanta, Ga.

Object described as a bright ball of fire with a tail and moving at a very high rate of speed. Two of the eight witnesses claimed the object was at an extremely low altitude (200-300 feet) and one witness, an off duty CAP pilot, heard a roaring noise from the object. The weather at the time of this sighting was clear. The ATIC concluded this object was a meteor.

0925Z, 29 September 1958, Washington, D. C. to Pittsburgh, Pa.

Object described as round and flaming or burning very bright, with a faint possibility of a tail and a roaring or fluttering sound. The object was reported to be moving at a very high rate of speed. This object was witnessed by twelve people and was reported to have struck the ground or landed in both the Washington, D. C. area and the Pittsburgh area.

The ATIC concluded this object was a meteor.

0330Z, 26 October 1958, Lock Raven Dam (Baltimore), Md.

Two civilians were taking a ride near the dam when, from a distance estimated by the witnesses to be approximately 250 yards, but which investigation proved to be approximately one mile, they saw an object hovering approximately 125 feet over the super structure of the bridge. The witnesses estimated the size of the object as approximately 100 feet and a dull gray in color. The witnesses reported that as they got closer it seemed the electrical system of the car was affected, the lights went out and the motor went dead. Both witnesses got out of the car and were greeted by a bright flash of light accompanied by a thunder clap from the vicinity of the object, then it began to rise vertically and in five or ten seconds it had completely disappeared. The witnesses were then able to get their car started, make their way to a phone and report the sighting to the Ground Observers Corps and the Towson Police Department. Both men then proceeded to St. Josephs Hospital in Baltimore for a physical examination which had negative results.

The ATIC is presently chasing down the possibility of an escaped captive balloon, however, this would leave elements of the case unsolved. This case lacks sufficient evidence for an accurate scientific analysis.

1755Z, 28 October 1958, Charleston, S. C. to Savannah, Ga.

Object described as a bright burning ball falling from the sky. Weather clear with 15 miles visibility. The ATIC concluded this was a meteor.

Sincerely,

1 Incl:
Cy of Statistics

Robert J. Friend

UNCLASSIFIED

UFO Sighting, Sheffield Lake (Fitzgerald)

SAFIS-3, Attn: Maj. L. J. Tacker 17 December 1958

AFCIN-4E

1
AFCIN-4E4g/Maj. Friend/ac/69216/Bldg 828

1. Reference the questions outlined in Mr. [redacted]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 ATIC, 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 [redacted]'s letter and in "The [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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. [redacted]

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. [redacted] 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. [redacted] 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. [redacted]

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. [redacted] is the Mrs. [redacted] of Lorain who was contacted by the Air Force investigators and indicated that nothing unusual occurred on the night of Mrs [redacted] sighting. Mrs [redacted] indicated to the

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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] bedroom and that the train light would not be blocked by houses or trees.

@. 1. (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 "Th[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] 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] home is approximately 3 miles to the west of Mrs. [redacted] placing Mrs. [redacted] between Mrs. [redacted] and the Ohio Edison Plant.

UNCLASSIFIED
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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. [redacted] 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. [redacted] 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. [redacted] This was during the period Mr. [redacted] 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 recounting 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

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UFO Sighting, Sheffield Lake, Ohio ([redacted])

AFCIN-4E-49 Official File Copy

Classification Cancelled
([redacted])
Auth: Director IDS
By: Quintanilla
Dat: 13 MAR
AFR 205-1, Par 2-12a
3 Jan 68

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

AFCIN-4E

4 May 1959

1

4E46/Maj R. J. Friend/ac/69216/Bldg 263

1. On 1 October 1958, the Air Technical Intelligence Center received a letter from Mrs. [redacted] of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, containing a report of her sighting of an unidentified flying object on 21 September 1958. Action was initiated by the ATIC on this date to have this sighting investigated by the 1006th AISS.

2. The general content of Mrs. [redacted]'s report is that on the morning of 21 September 1958, she was awakened by a very bright light which illuminated her bedroom at approximately 0300 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. The object was approximately six to eight feet from the ground, moving slowly in a northerly direction; parallel with the length of the house, and descending with a floating oscillating motion. The object was reported to be approximately ten feet from the window when first sighted. Mrs. [redacted] 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 six feet thick. The item was reported to have made several turns around the yard and then rose instantly out of sight. Total elapsed time was estimated as five minutes.

3. The Air Force investigators arrived in Sheffield Lake, Ohio on 3 October

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4. The general procedure used in the investigation of this case was to interview Mrs. [redacted] and other witnesses, both for information of the sighting and for evaluating the sources; visit the scene of the sighting, observe the physical layout, search for possible conditions which could be responsible for the sighting, and to scan the general area for possible more remote causes for the sighting.

5. In summary, the investigation revealed that a railroad track ran near the home of Mrs. [redacted] Contact with Mr. [redacted] station master at Lorain, Ohio, revealed that a train passed the [redacted] home at approximately the hour and date of Mrs. [redacted]'s sighting. The train had an oscillating headlight and this light could have been seen by Mrs. [redacted]. Contact was also made with Chief Bosun Mate William Schott, Officer-In-Charge of the Lorain Coast Guard Station. The chief reported that he was using his spotlight to attract the attention of another ship and that his light was directed toward shore in the general direction of the [redacted] house. The time and date of this incident coincide with those reported by Mrs. [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] of Lorain, Ohio was contacted, but was unable to recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting. Mrs. [redacted] another witness of Lorain, Ohio, was not available for interview.

6. The weather at the time of the sighting was intermittent mist and rain with haze and smoke. Weather is always an important factor because of its direct effects and the fact that it often allows for indirect conclusions (i.e. stars, planets, etc. may be immediately ruled out when there was a thick overcast at the time of the sighting).

7. 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. Prior to retiring the witness had watched a horror movie on television (Dracula's Daughter) which probably contributed to her emotional state.

8. Investigation further disclosed that Mrs. [redacted] received letters from other self-appointed UFO experts concerning her sighting. These letters all inferred that Mrs. [redacted] may have been harmed in some way, and were toned for encouragement to Mrs. [redacted] and all directed toward discrediting the U. S. Government and particularly the Air Force. (Incls. 3, 4 & 5)

9. 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 investigators, and shared by the ATIC, is that this individual had considerable influence upon the report and subsequent actions of the witness.

10. The investigators, T/Sgt L. A. Haisten and T/ Sgt V. J. Hof, are stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and it was convenient

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

case. Effectively the sergeants had nothing to add only to substantiate the information which is contained in their report and to deny the claims against them in "The [redacted] Report," which was published by the UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio.(Incl. 6)

11. The following are omissions, errors and/or contradictions in "The [redacted] Report," dated 21 September 1958. 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. [redacted]

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. [redacted] that approximately 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 [redacted] for approximately two to two and one half hours. During approximately half of that time T/Sgt Hof and Mr. [redacted] of the UFO Research Committee, were not present. T/Sgt Haisten points out that many more questions than those listed were asked of Mrs. [redacted]

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. [redacted] is the Mrs. [redacted] of Lorain who was contacted by the Air Force investigators and indicated that nothing unusual occurred on the night of Mrs. [redacted] sighting. Mrs. [redacted] indicated to the investigators that the red glow she saw was from the mills, an opinion shared by the sergeants.

g. (Page 4) The investigators indicate that no one was 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.

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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. (Page 8) 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

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

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

c. The impression of the investigators is that the light on Chief Schott's ship is of the spotlight 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 three miles to the west of Mrs. [redacted]s, placing Mrs. [redacted] between Mrs. [redacted] and the Ohio Edison Plant.

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

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. (Page 8) 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 "Th[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 [redacted] 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.

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Par. 12 was changed to the following:

12. The following statements disprove the charges in the [redacted] Report that T/Sgt Haisten and T/Sgt Hof committed blunders in conducting the investigation of this case. (Page 9 of "The [redacted] Report")

This change was requested by Mr. [redacted]r, and Major Friend notified Major Tacker 8 May 1959, by telephone.

UNCLASSIFIED
R. Friend
[redacted]

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 three miles to the west of Mrs. [redacted]s, placing Mrs. [redacted] between Mrs. [redacted] and the Ohio Edison Plant.

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e. No one was home to be contacted at th[redacted] 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. [redacted]s 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. [redacted] 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. [redacted]. This was during the period Mr. [redacted] 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 minimun of notes. Witnesses are more prone to free talk if they feel there is no record requiring exact recount on their part in the future.

13. The men assigned to investigate this case are both well trained and experienced investigators. T/Sgt Haisten having experience since 1948 and T/Sgt Hof since 1951.

14. This report, like all others upon reaching the ATIC, is first given general consideration; does the description and characteristics indicate the object is probably an aircraft, balloon, meteor, etc. If the description and characteristics places the item in a general category, then steps are taken to determine if such an object or aircraft was in the area at the time of the sighting. Next it is inspected with a view toward its special requirements; i.e., laboratory analysis, if any material accompanies the report, or if it requires a specialist to conduct the analysis; i.e. astronomer, physicist, etc. The fact that the Aerial Phenomena Group is a part of the Air Science Division, and with the laboratories of the Wright Air Development Center located on the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, makes this type of scientific and technical support immediately available; further the Air Force has under contract a noted astro-physicist for consultant services to this project. The ATIC approach to the analysis of these cases is as scientific as the evidence allows, and whenever necessary the analyst is a specialist. In considering Mrs. [redacted] case it is the opinion of the ATIC that Mrs. [redacted] and her [redacted] were victims of an illusion. This illusion resulting from the combination of lights from the train and possibly the coast Guard boat, the roar

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from the train and the prevailing weather conditions. It is not uncommon for persons having the same or similar vantage points to experience the same illusion. Further, it is the opinion of the ATIC that there was no threat to national security or a danger of any kind associated with Mrs. [redacted] sighting.

15. This case was analyzed by a man with a background in astronomy and physics.

16. The inclosed report of investigation and copy of original letter from Mrs. [redacted] are the only copies available at the ATIC, and it is requested that they be returned at the earliest convenience.

FOR GORDON C. HOFFMAN
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E

6 Incls:
1. Ltr fr Mrs. [redacted] w/summary
2. (C) AF 112
3. Ltr fr [redacted]
4. Ltr fr [redacted]
5. Ltr fr [redacted]
6. The [redacted] Report

Robert J. Friend Major - AFCIN 4E4g 4 May '59

V C Rethorn 4 May 59

DISPATCHED
MAY 5 59
BOOK
[illegible] YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY

'Saucer' Terrifies Housewife



Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald — Fitzgerald — John Fitzgerald

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

Plain Dealer Staff Photo

★ From First Page

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 Clarence E. Hambly 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 anything unusual.

RESEARCH ON 1959

Unidentified Flying Objects

By Lillian Crowner Desguin

Bob Adkins of WTVN radio is responsible for bringing this weeks Flying Saucer story to print. In his Monday morning news broadcast he mentioned a sighting by Mrs. William Fitzgerald of Sheffield Lake, Ohio.

Feeling that this event deserved a follow-up, especially before some government official could arrive to advise her not to discuss the sighting, I put in a long distance call.

Mrs. Fitzgerald lives in a housing development where there are about 85 homes, indicating not much territory between houses. She had gone to bed Sunday shortly before 3 A.M. (September 21st). Suddenly a brilliant light shone through her closed draperies with such intensity that she was forced to shield her eyes and bury them in her pillow. When the light disappeared she ran to the window. There about seven or eight feet above her lawn was a full-fleged UFO. 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 location for good.

Not being much good on guessing sizes she did her best to give approximate measurements. She thought the object might have been eight feet in diameter and three feet through. She described it as looking like two paper plates placed edge to edge and topped with a soup dish. It was a dull aluminum color, the only illumination coming from an exhaust which gave off a grayish pink hue sufficient to show off the form of this object.

She watched it for several minutes as it did various antics, as well as hovering here and there. This saucer-shaped ship even went around her house and over in her neighbors yard. Having played long enough, the UFO went straight up, disappearing into what no doubt, must be heaven.

Apparently, Mrs. Fitzgerald's ten year old son was awakened by the light, as he saw the ship from his own bedroom. He ran to awaken his father before she was able to navigate that far.

A mother's main concern is the safety of her children, and this was certainly what bothered Mrs. Fitzgerald. After assuring her that I didn't feel that this was a Russian invention or that it was going to harm her children, I believe she felt relieved.

Any one would have to be the world champion cynic to talk to this woman and believe that she had made up such a tale for publicity's sake!

I am sorry I haven't an answer to give to this sighting. The best I could do would be to give several possibilities, and this will not be forthcoming in the near future. I can say that there are many sightings which describe a brilliant spotlight sometimes turned on by UFO's. A woman who lives on Harrisburg Pike saw one of these ships cross a cornfield, with a light so brilliant that every clod of dirt could be seen around the new young corn. I wouldn't even care to venture a guess as to whether this ship was occupied or not, I believe either answer is possible.

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 - purplish 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 Milford 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.

(Continued on Page 9, Column 6)

DOCUMENT RECEIPT

REGISTRY OR CONTROL NUMBER	DATE DISPATCHED
AISD8-1	10 Oct 58

TO:

AFCIN 4E4
ATTN: Major Friend

FROM: *(Return signed original receipt)*

MCLAIS
Carter O. Cooper, Major, USAF

Each entry listed below will describe a document and its inclosures, and will be separated by a horizontal line drawn from margin to margin. Each entry will include:

1. Description of Basic Material: File number, type *(number of copies and copy numbers)*, source, addressee, date, subject *(short title, if subject is classified)*.

2. Number of Indorsements: Number of copies and copy numbers of each and other unclassified identifying data *(as applicable)*.

3. Number of Inclosures: Subject *(short title, if subject is classified)*, and other unclassified identifying data, including number of copies and copy number of each *(as applicable)*.

4. Date of latest action.

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S) *(Avoid any identification which might necessitate classification of this receipt.)*

Map, Lorain County Ohio
2 Ea. Newspaper Clippings (1 Article)
Letter from [redacted].
Letter from [redacted] } To be returned to [redacted]
Letter from [redacted]

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES LISTED:

RECEIPT FOR DOCUMENT(S) DESCRIBED ABOVE IS ACKNOWLEDGED

DATE RECEIVED: 10 Oct 58

RECEIVING AGENCY	TYPED NAME, GRADE, OR TITLE	SIGNATURE
AFCIN 4E4		Robert Friend

AF FORM 15 JUN 55 310 REPLACES AF FORM 693 WHICH MAY BE USED AND DD FORM 646 WHICH IS OBSOLETE IN THE USAF

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955-J348895

UFO Reports, Cleveland Area

BAFIS-3 Major Tacker

10 Oct 58

1

AFCIN-4E4

4E4/Maj Friend/ac/69216/Bldg 828

1. This Center checked with Flight Test Center, WADC, concerning test flights around Cleveland area. The ATI Center was informed that flight tests are conducted in restricted area R-109, east of Dayton, and none in the Cleveland area.

2. Balloons are released from all over the United States, some small, some very large. The large balloons will travel thousands of miles from the launching site before coming down. Some of these launchings are unscheduled, and are so numerous as to preclude checking with all the airports that might release balloons.

3. A thorough check of the ATIC files failed to reveal any reports of unidentified flying objects in the Cleveland area on the 15th or 19th of August 1958.

4 Incls:
1. Ltr fr House of Rep
2. Cy ltr [redacted]
3. Cy ltr [redacted]
4. Cy ltr [redacted]

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

[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 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.

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 ATIC, 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] 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 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Leonard D. Plank

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

Acc USAF

5 Incls:
1. Ltr sgnd [redacted]

Classification Cancelled
[redacted]

1958

The [redacted]

SIGHTING: One of the best sightings to come to our attention in a long time is one from Sheffield Lake, Ohio, that occurred on Sept. 21st. According to the local newspapers, Mrs. [redacted] watched a flying saucer at very close range for more than five minutes early that morning, after a brilliant light from the UFO had roused her from her bed. She watched the object as it glided along slowly about a foot above her neighbor's driveway. It was seen to discharge a cloud of "heavy pinkish-gray purplish smoke." It then swept in a curve onto Mrs. [redacted]'s front lawn, and rose to about seven feet above the ground. Thereupon it made two circular manouvers, and shot straight up into the sky, out of sight. Mrs. [redacted] husband and daughter, although in the same room, did not see the object; but her s[redacted] who was thought to be sleeping peacefully in the next room, did see the UFO - and the next day his story tallied with hers. The saucer was described as round from a top or bottom view and oval from a side view, with a rounded cap or top. It was about eight feet in diameter and three feet high, and had openings on both sides, in which Mrs. [redacted] saw a series of small tubes "like small exhaust pipes." - Fortunately for saucer fans, this sighting was given a thorough first-hand investigation by an Ohio saucer group called the UFO Research Committee of Akron, who have prepared a thirteen page report on all aspects of the incident. Unfortunately, space limitations prevent us from reproducing this report even in summary form, but it is an extremely well-done job, and we heartily recommend it to all our readers. In addition to containing many details of the sighting that the newspapers did not carry, the report shows the sloppiness or the downright unfairness of the Air Force's investigation of the incident. The Air Force came up with an "explanation" of the sighting that simply does not conform to the facts, and if this is typical of their investigation procedures, it is easy to see how they are now able to solve over 98% of all sightings

FINAL GALLEY PROOF

gated. She enclosed a three-page summary prepared by members of the UFO Research Committee of Akron, and added, "I assure you that I will contact my congressman about this matter if some action is not taken soon to explain it."

The alleged UFO had appeared at about 3 A.M. in the yard of the one-story, two-bedroom house occupied by Mrs. Fitzgerald and her husband. She had been sitting up alone watching television and had gone to bed at the end of the late movie. The bedroom window was shut and the window curtains were closed. Outside, the night was dark; the moon had set, there were no street lights, and none of the neighboring houses was lighted. Lying with her arm over her eyes, trying to get to sleep, she suddenly realized that the room was illuminated and stood up on the bed to look out of the window.

According to her account, a disk-shaped object with a hump in the middle, a dull aluminum in color, was moving across the yard at a height of about five feet. The object did not glow and did not have lights on it; she could not determine the source of the light that made it visible to her. About twenty to twenty-two feet in diameter and about six feet high, the UFO moved north across the driveway into a neighbor's yard, losing altitude on the way until it was only one foot above the ground. At a distance of fifty feet, it stopped and floated motionless for several seconds while pink-gray smoke billowed out from two openings in the rim and illuminated the UFO. Each opening contained seven pipes. The smoke did not come from the pipes but from the openings from which the pipes projected. The object then moved back into the witness's yard, rising to a height of five feet. No longer emitting smoke, it made two quick clockwise turns with a radius of about three feet, and rose straight up. The roof of the house, jutting out over the window, cut it from further view. During the entire time of the sighting, about thirty-six seconds, she had heard a muffled noise like that of a jet engine warming up. She had tried several times to waken her husband, by kicking him, but without success. When the object had gone, she went back to bed and slept.

When she awoke at 11:00 the next morning and mentioned her experience to the family, she learned that ten-year-old John Fitzgerald, sleeping in the second bedroom, had also seen a strange light. He had apparently wakened during the night to go to the bathroom and had returned to bed, when he saw a bright light shining into his room and heard an unusual noise. Climbing up on the radiator to look out of his window, he saw something the color of a tin cup moving across the yard. After watching for a few seconds until the light had gone, he went to bed and to sleep.

Puzzled by the incident, Mrs. Fitzgerald telephoned the local newspaper, the Lorain *Journal*, and the story appeared in several Ohio newspapers. Members of the Akron Committee, one of whom lived in the nearby town of Lorain, soon arrived to question her and prepare the summary of her experience; other witnesses in Lorain were reported to have seen the same UFO.

Even at first glance, the situation presented several unusual features. The witness had delayed more than a week before notifying Air Force investigators, yet she threatened to notify her congressman unless some action were taken soon. She had not waited for action, however, but by the same mail had written to her congressman requesting him to obtain an explanation from the Air

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When she awoke at 11:00 the next morning and mentioned her experience to the family, she learned that ten-year-old John Fitzgerald, sleeping in the second bedroom, had also seen a strange light. He had apparently wakened during the night to go to the bathroom and had returned to bed, when he saw a bright light shining into his room and heard an unusual noise. Climbing up on the radiator to look out of his window, he saw something the color of a tin cup moving across the yard. After watching for a few seconds until the light had gone, he went to bed and to sleep.

Puzzled by the incident, Mrs. Fitzgerald telephoned the local newspaper, the Lorain *Journal*, and the story appeared in several Ohio newspapers. Members of the Akron Committee, one of whom lived in the nearby town of Lorain, soon arrived to question her and prepare the summary of her experience; other witnesses in

4. Other factors. (a) Between midnight at 4 A.M. a Coast Guard cutter equipped with an eight-inch spotlight had been plying back and forth on Lake Erie searching for an overdue cabin cruiser. At about 3 A.M. the cutter had been headed east toward Lorain, reaching there at 3:15, had then continued east beyond Sheffield to Avon, before turning back to the Lorain lifeboat station and berthing at 4 A.M. (b) At 2:52 A.M. a train had left the Lorain railroad station, roughly three miles from the Fitzgerald house. Eight minutes later it would have been passing south of the house at a distance of about 100 yards. The engine was using a rotating headlight.

From these facts it was possible to reconstruct the probable sequence of events that produced the UFO: In the hour or so before the sighting, the witness had been sitting up alone watching the late movie on TV. The film that night was a horror movie, *Dracula's Daughter*. About 3 A.M., soon after the witness had gone to bed, the Coast Guard cutter on Lake Erie was traveling east toward Lorain, was very near the harbor and was flashing its spotlight toward shore. The light had briefly illuminated the two bedrooms of the Fitzgerald house and had roused Mrs. Fitzgerald. At that distance, between three and four miles, the beam would have spread and would have been dispersed still more by the drops of rain falling. By the time Mrs. Fitzgerald reached the window and pulled back the curtains, the searchlight was gone. At the same time, however, the train that left Lorain at 2:52 was passing south of the house, using its rotating headlight and producing a roaring noise made more piercing by the moist atmosphere. Looking through the wet glass of the window, the witness saw the beam of the train's headlight moving through the haze in the yard. Smoke from the nearby foundry was also being blown into the yard. Illuminated by the circular beam of light, the smoke seemed to be a glowing, solid object that moved back and forth and emitted clouds of gray-pink smoke.

In summary, the Air Force concluded that Mrs. Fitzgerald's UFO was an illusion produced by a combination of factors: an excited frame of mind induced by *Dracula's Daughter*, the spotlight on the Coast Guard cutter, the rotating headlight of the train and the noise of its engine, the smoke from the nearby steel plant, and the haze of the drizzly night.

This analysis provoked an explosion from the witness, who wrote her congressman: "I was outraged when I read the Air Force conclusion to my sighting. The person who made it must be insane."

"The Fitzgerald Report"

The UFO Research Committee compiled and on December 1 published a thirteen-page pamphlet (later reissued in amplified form and copyrighted) entitled: "The Fitzgerald Report, A Complete and Detailed Account of the Sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, September 21, 1958." This document charged "duplicity" in the Air Force treatment of UFO reports in general, and asserted that the Fitzgerald investigation in

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Copies of the pamphlet were mailed to eminent scientists throughout the country, members of the United States House of Repre-

the night, picking up objects in all directions. It is hard to estimate how many times spotlights were snapped on and off during subject search, but they were used quite often during short periods of time."]

Charge 4. The statement that the supposed confirmatory witness, Mrs. S, could not recall anything unusual for the night of the sighting was a "lie," as evidenced by her signed statement. [Incorrect. When the investigators visited Mrs. S, she asserted that she had nothing to contribute. At about 2:30 A.M. (half an hour earlier than the Fitzgerald sighting) she had indeed noticed a bright-red glow that had startled her at first until she realized that it probably came from the nearby Ohio Edison plant or from the foundry. The signed statement printed by the Akron Committee in the December 1958 edition of the document bears no date. The notarized statement used in the 1959 edition is dated March 25, six months after the sighting had occurred. After the Air Force interview, apparently, Mrs. S had changed her mind for reasons unknown.

Charge 5. The statement that another confirmatory witness, Mr. G, was not available for interview was "pathetic" because it was Mrs. G, not Mr. G, who saw the UFO [The point of this accusation is not clear. Because of a typographical error in a letter, "Mrs." was changed to "Mr." The fact remains that the supposed witness, Mrs. G, was not available. Also, the light she reported had appeared about 2 A.M., an hour before the Fitzgerald sighting.]

Charge 6a. It was not true that a misty rain with haze and mist had occurred at the time of the sighting; the witness herself stated that it was not raining. [Incorrect. The Cleveland Weather Bureau recorded continual slight precipitation between midnight and 7 A.M.: .20 inches were recorded between 2 and 4 A.M. When asked whether it was raining when she saw the UFO, the witness replied, "It had rained a few hours before," a vague response suggesting that she had not noticed the weather at the time of the sighting. Other parts of her account, however, strongly indicate rain. Although the night was warm (about 65 degrees F. at 3 A.M.), her bedroom window was closed.]

Charge 6b. It was not true that smoke from the steel plant southwest of the house could have been a factor in the sighting, because the direction of the wind was wrong. [Incorrect. The Weather Bureau recorded "WSW and SW" winds that night averaging ten miles an hour; coming from the southwest, the winds would have blown the smoke northeast, directly toward the house.]

Charge 7a. The sergeants did not make a house-to-house check among the neighbors to obtain confirmatory evidence. [Correct. Such a time-consuming procedure would not have been justified. The neighbors had had two weeks in which to report a visiting spaceship. No such report had been made, even by the neighbor in whose yard the noisy object was supposed to have hovered while emitting puffs of smoke.]

Charge 7b. They did not ask Mrs. Fitzgerald to make a drawing of the UFO. [Correct. Before their visit she had already made such a drawing, prepared with the help of members of the Akron Committee who had shown her a sketch of an alleged spaceship reproduced several years earlier in an Air Force pamphlet [13]. With this sketch before her to aid her memory, Mrs. Fitzgerald had described her UFO to a draftsman provided by the committee. Unsurprisingly, the resulting sketch was very similar to the picture used as an example. A drawing obtained in this way could have no value as evidence.]

Charge 7c. The sergeants failed to ask enough questions about

legal action.

The document made a number of specific accusations. Because of the wide publicity given this attack, we shall discuss each point fully, to illustrate the procedures followed by many civilian saucer groups. Our comments, appended in brackets, are based on official records of the Air Force, the New York Central Railway, the United States Weather Bureau, and the United States Coast Guard. Most of these facts were available to the Akron Committee itself.

Charge 1. Because of the position of the Fitzgerald house, the headlight of the train could not have shone into the bedroom windows. [Correct. But the point is irrelevant. The Air Force did not suggest that the train's light shone into the window. The light could have shone into the yard, however, and would have been visible to a witness looking out of the window. The brilliant light that flashed in the window and roused the witness did not come from the train but from the spotlight of the Coast Guard cutter.]

Charge 2. Events taking place on the lake could not have had any relation to the sighting because the shore was 3000 feet away and, because of intervening houses and trees, a witness in the Fitzgerald house could not see the lake. [Incorrect conclusion from the facts. The beam of a spotlight on a boat moving one or two miles offshore (as was the Coast Guard cutter at about 3 A.M.) could have been seen from the house. The beam of such a light can be visible for great distances. Reflected from the clouds and spread by the drops of moisture in the air, it could easily have flashed into the window with great brilliance.]

Charge 3a. The spotlight used by the Coast Guard cutter was of a type that could not be focused like a searchlight; therefore the beam could not have been reflected from the clouds to the Fitzgerald house. [Incorrect. The spotlight used could operate as either a diffuse or a narrow beam, could be focused like a searchlight, and could have been reflected from the clouds to the house.]

Charge 3b. The Coast Guard cutter had used its spotlight and turned the beam in the direction of the house only once that night, while signaling another boat at a time two hours earlier than the sighting and a place roughly five miles from the house. [The December 1, 1958, edition of the document gives the distance as 4½ miles; the 1959 edition gives 5½ miles. Whatever the true distance, the statement is incorrect. A signaling incident did occur at the time and about the place specified, but it had no relation to the Fitzgerald sighting. The light was used frequently in the hours between midnight and 4 A.M., as the cutter carried out its search for the missing cabin cruiser. In a statement obtained by the Akron Committe itself, the chief boatswain's mate affirmed that "subject spotlight was flashed on and off a number of times during

include questions that allowed Mrs. Fitzgerald to express all her ideas of what she had seen. [Correct. The questions are designed to elicit observed physical facts; it does not ask for the witness's interpretations.]

Charge 7e. They did not take notes during the interview. [Correct. In filling out the report form they obtained all the necessary information. They had been trained not to take additional notes because some witnesses become nervous when they see that their remarks are being written down.]

Basic charge 7. These "omissions" in procedure proved that the sergeants had little intention of making an honest investigation. [Incorrect. They omitted no query that might have yielded useful evidence. Their duty was to report and try to account for the phenomenon observed by Mrs. Fitzgerald, not to record her belief in a hypothetical spaceship. The details of structure and motion that Mr. C was eager to insert in the record were mere impressions based on the assumption that the UFO was a solid object under intelligent control.]

The document repeatedly charged that the investigators asked too few questions, and implied that they asked only five of Mrs. Fitzgerald—yet she answered all the many questions in the standard report form. Furthermore, Mr. C had no way of knowing just how many and what questions were asked; during all the latter part of the interview he was outside the house, trying to interrogate Sergeant A.

There is little more to say of the irresponsible attack based on the Fitzgerald case. The purpose was obvious. In a letter to one scientist who received a copy of the Fitzgerald Report, a member of the Akron Comittee bluntly stated that although "the sighting was really unimportant," the report had been prepared and distributed in order to prove that the Air Force investigation was "not fair, honest, or scientific."[14]

Perhaps the best comment on this notorious affair and on the activities of civilian saucer-investigation groups in general is that of Dr. Thornton Page, the eminent astronomer who in 1952 served on the scientific panel to evaluate UFO reports (see *Chapter* VII). After receiving a copy of the Fitzgerald Report, he wrote to a member of the Akron Committee:

"As a scientist I am interested in unexplained phenomena, but the one or ones responsible for Mrs. Fitzgerald's sighting is or are undoubtedly highly complex. It is just as false to say simply that she saw a flying saucer 20 feet in diameter as it is to say that she saw nothing, or that she simply saw the train headlight on a mist. Certainly, I would not expect a pair of Air Force investigators to be able to explain her sighting (and the others) satisfactorily from interviews two weeks after the event. It would be ridiculous

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to propose that a team of experts in the fields of physics, psychology, meteorology, engineering and railroading be sent to Sheffield Lake, Ohio, to study these sighting from all possible angles.

"I have already written to you and to others that your fundamental error is in oversimplifying your explanations of complex natural phenomena by assuming a common cause without justification. If you say that everything you cannot understand is caused by gremlins, then gremlins are everywhere! And the Air Force would need a much larger budget to investigate every sighting or hearing or feeling of a gremlin!

". . . The onus is not on the Air Force or me to prove that no flying saucer was present that night; the onus is on you and your UFO Research Committee to prove that there is *no* other explanation of what was seen and heard."

UFO at Sheffield Lake, Ohio

One of the most notorious accusations of Air Force skulduggery, made in attempts to procure a Congressional inquiry, was that embodied in a saucerian study of the Fitzgerald sighting [11], published by the UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio, which maintains a close relationship with NICAP. Although the case was unimportant and was completely explained, we shall discuss it in detail to illustrate the peculiar views and methods of the flying-saucer lobbyists.

In summary, a strange light observed on a dark night for roughly half a minute by a drowsy housewife was converted into a weapon to attack the Air Force. The incident inspired thousands of words of argument, caused the publication and distribution of a lengthy document, used the time of busy investigators, required an otherwise unnecessary expenditure of public funds, and evoked an exchange of letters among angry citizens, harassed Congressmen, and equally harassed Air Force officials. In all UFO history, no larger mountain has ever been made from so small a molehill.

On September 30, 1958, the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base received a letter from Mrs. William Fitzgerald of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, reporting that on September 21 she had sighted a UFO which she would like to have investi-