

The Fitzgerald Report

A Complete and Detailed Account of the Sighting of
An Unidentified Flying Object

Sheffield Lake, Ohio
September 21, 1958

by Robert J. Durant
Pennington, NJ

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1998 Introduction

by Robert J. Durant

The Fitzgerald Report is a little ufological gem from the fabulous fifties, when Major Donald Keyhoe led the good guys in pitched battle against the "Silence Group" and the Air Force's hated Project Bluebook.

Ufology had taken a beating. Project Bluebook press releases claimed a 98% success rate in explaining saucer sightings, and they were treated as Gospel by the media. Witnesses and researchers were subjects of ridicule.

The sighting in Sheffield Lake looked like a real winner. We were eager to strike back at Bluebook, and this seemed an excellent opportunity, indeed. The Fitzgerald Report was written in that context.

We were to enlist the assistance of the local U.S. Congressman to force Bluebook to make an on-site investigation. Experience taught us that field investigations by the Air Force were notable by their absence. This time we would hold their feet to the fire, with a case that could not conceivably be written off as another "Venus" or "weather balloon."

Even by today's standards the Fitzgerald sighting is exceptional: a close encounter of relatively long duration, nearly unique in the literature in that the witnesses were looking down on the object, multiple corroborating witnesses, no possibility of a prosaic explanation.

Two sergeants from Bluebook appeared, made an amateurish interrogation of the principal witness, and left. Decades later, thanks to the memoirs of Ruppelt and Hynek, we learned that Bluebook consisted of only two non-coms and one low-ranking commissioned officer. So we had cleaned out 2/3 of the staff of what was held up to the world as a large, serious research and investigation group within the Air Force technical intelligence service.

Eventually we were informed of the result of the investigation. And we were astonished.

However, we also saw this as a chance to prove, forcefully and unambiguously, that the Air Force UFO investigation program was phony. With that goal in mind, we gathered all the correspondence that followed our analysis of the "explanation," produced the Fitzgerald Report, mailed it to each member of the House and Senate and various media outlets, as well as a handful of UFO organizations then in existence...and waited for the fireworks.

We got nothing. Zero. Congressman Baumhart privately told us he thought this was a major cover up, but he was powerless to pursue the matter. We fully expected NICAP to make a major media and Capitol Hill push with the case. Zero.

The failure of even the ufologists to follow up was dismaying, but the answer probably lies in the fact that this was a close encounter case. NICAP wanted daylight discs sighted by airline pilots. Nothing more exotic, thank you.

Jacques Vallee put it this way in his book Confrontations: "It may be hard for the modern reader to realize that until the late Sixties American ufology did not admit that such reports even existed. Among the major civilian organizations, only APRO, headed by Jim and Coral Lorenzen, recognized their significance. The Air Force's Project Bluebook automatically sent landing reports into the psychological category."

The Air Force had every opportunity and, one would suppose every incentive to explain the "explanation" and to counter the very specific charges we made. Instead, they assiduously avoided substantive comment and engaged in escalating generalized attacks on ufologists.

Four years later the Air Force found just the man to do the tough talking for it. One would suppose that Professor Donald Menzel had better ways to occupy his time than denouncing saucers, those who in their

ignorance thought they saw saucers, and, with unwavering ferocity, those whom we today call “ufologists,” an ultimately evil gang of miscreants. But time he had, and Menzel’s debunking books were immensely influential. A whole generation of scientists and academicians read Menzel and dismissed the subject as arrant and perhaps dangerous nonsense.

Menzel devotes ten pages of his The World of Flying Saucers to the Fitzgerald sighting. The reader is immediately at a disadvantage in that he does not have the Fitzgerald Report at hand, and thus Menzel is at liberty to say anything he wants. Indeed, I think that the average reader would be perplexed, if not enraged, to see the two documents side by side. We would like to append the pertinent pages (279 – 288) of Menzel’s fulminations to this report. However, to do so we would run the risk of a copyright infringement claim, so we urge the readers to find a copy of Menzel’s book and make the comparison first hand.

Comparing the substance of the Fitzgerald Report with his rejoinder one is struck by the great care with which he engineered the debunking. It is obviously a labor of love, or some similar obsession, beautifully crafted. Phillip Klass learned his debunking from Menzel, that much is clear.

It is not my intention to comment in detail on Menzel’s account, but there are a few items of interest. An example of the insertion of false data is the assertion that “none of the neighboring houses was lighted.” (See page 279) Says who? Small point, but typical. In fact, and in the Fitzgerald Report, one finds that neighbors were up watching the same late movie, and lent corroborating evidence to the reported UFO, but the reader of Menzel never discovers that vital item. Indeed, the insertion, nearly unnoticeable, of the remark about the totally dark neighborhood short-circuits one of the most important elements in the case.

On page 281 we learn via Menzel, exactly what transpired when Sergeants A and B visited Mrs. Fitzgerald. For the record, I was “Mr. C.” I did not answer questions put to Mrs. Fitzgerald. A frustrated Sergeant A did not lead me out into the yard. It was I who, in my frustration, led him into the yard when it appeared that neither investigator had the slightest interest in looking at the place where the witnesses saw the object.

For the record, the Sergeant who accompanied me into the yard was plainly intoxicated and reeked of alcohol. We agonized about making an issue of it, or reporting it to the Air Force, but decided it was not the gentlemanly thing to do. (I am no longer feeling very gentlemanly about any of this.)

Dracula’s Daughter was, I am sorry to say, the Late Movie that morning. I recently looked it up.

I also looked up the Lorain Journal’s weather report in order to clarify two Menzel/Bluebook claims about the weather. Apparently desperate to have a rain-smearred window, rather than a clear view, it became necessary to have rain at the time of the sighting. Therefore, despite the clear statement of the witness, Menzel has it raining. See pages 283 and 286, charge 6a.

The Lorain Journal for Saturday, September 22, reported “Cloudy, mild today, occasional rain tomorrow. Low tonight, 61.” Monday’s report was “Mostly sunny, warmer today, tomorrow. Fair tonight. Low tonight, 49.” Tomorrow meant Sunday, the day of the sighting. (The paper did not publish a Sunday edition.) Therefore, the encapsulated prediction for Lorain, Ohio was occasional rain, fully consistent with Mrs. Fitzgerald’s recollection.

Chief Boatswain’s Mate Schott, writing on Coast Guard letterhead, and presumably both an expert and disinterested witness, tells us that at the time in question there was seven miles visibility with a drizzle. He doesn’t mention rain, and it is fair to assume that, given his duties at the time, would remember rain if it were present.

The Cleveland weather report, taken at a location about 25 or more miles from Lorain, shows what Menzel says it shows, which sounds more like drizzle than rain: “continual slight precipitation.” And that was at Cleveland, not Lorain.

Similarly, the wind direction, which is necessary to support the claim that smoke blew from the steel plant into the Fitzgerald yard, is gleaned from the Cleveland report. Again, Menzel ignores an expert and

disinterested (and federally employed) witness, Chief Schott. According to Schott: "...the sea condition out of the northeast." The idea that smoke from the plant stacks had anything to do with this sighting is absurd, but the point is, only a wind directly from the south would blow in the "necessary" direction. Not anything else would do, so Bluebook had to resort to using the Cleveland weather summary, instead of the local U.S. Coast Guard data.

Menzel ends his exercise with a copy of a letter from Thornton Page, of Robertson Panel fame. The first three sentences make eminently good sense, although they flatly contradict everything that Menzel just spent ten pages trying to prove, namely that Mrs. Fitzgerald "simply saw the train headlight on the mist." Then of course he fades into the same logical never-never land with his colleague.

For many years ufologists debated the question, "Can anybody be *that* stupid?" This in reaction to the pronouncements of Menzel and Bluebook, then Menzel's successor. My view is that no, nobody can. Rather, it was so important to the security of this country to debunk flying saucers that some very good men made fools of themselves. Menzel was an absolutely first class scientist and immensely productive practical thinker/doer during World War II. In my opinion, the debunking of the Fitzgerald case was just another instance of patriotic service. He took a terrific risk, but neither the media nor the politicians called the bluff.

And the brilliantly conceived and marvelously executed disinformation program rolled on, as it had since 1947.

Message Exchange with Karl Pflock

In August of 1997, I exchanged messages about this case with veteran UFO investigator Karl Pflock. This exchange resulted in some further insight into the case and I would like to quote extensively from those messages here. Karl's message is published with his kind permission.

08/05/97

To: Bob Durant

From: Karl Pflock

Bob, finally was able to read your Fitzgerald material closely on Sunday. I have a few comments and questions.

First, the Air Force's and Menzel's reactions and "analyses" certainly prove once again the truth of, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Geez! Of course, you guys were dealing with Tacker, Weaver's prototype.

Second, page 14 of your report was missing. The MIB's at work? I would appreciate it if you would copy it and send it along.

Third, despite Menzel's foolishness, he did get you guys on one point. The spotlight on Chief Schott's vessel was "tunable" to a narrow, focused beam. See the last paragraph of his statement.

Fourth, until I consulted a perpetual calendar, I was a tad confused about dates. On page 3 of your [above] introduction for the New Jersey MUFON gang, you refer to the Saturday, September 22 edition of the Lorain Journal. Of course, Saturday was the 20th.

Fifth, Menzel claims that you showed Mrs. Fitzgerald the sketch from Blue Book Special Report 14 before and during her session with the artist. Is this true? If so, it does present a problem.

Sixth, do you really believe there is an orchestrated disinformation campaign and that it's been going on since 1947? If so, why? I am more inclined to agree with Jim McDonald that it is more a matter of screw up than cover up.

Finally, do you have all of the original case material, including the interview tape? If not, do you have any idea who might?

Once again, Bob, thanks for the material on this fascinating case, which is interesting not only because of the reported phenomenon but for the aftermath and what it tells us about the “world of flying saucers,” pro and con.

08/17/97

To: Karl Pflock

From: Bob Durant

Let me reply to your email in the same order that you arranged the questions and comments.

1. Yes!
2. A copy of the missing page 14 is in the mail.
3. OK, so what? By the way, were I writing up this case today, I would wonder out loud if Chief Schott wasn't chasing a UFO rather than a speedboat!
4. First Menzel has me, now you. Obviously, you are correct. I cannot find the Lorain newspapers in my files. That would not make September 22 a Saturday, but might help me find other missing items.
5. I draw a blank. We are talking about events that took place 39 years ago. The best I can do is to say that even in that very early stage in my career as a “UFO investigator” I think I knew better than to lead the witness in such an obvious manner. However, did I do what Menzel claims? First, it is the “before” session with the artist that I could not swear to, which I hasten to add is not the same thing as saying, “Yes, I did show her the Bluebook sketches.” It would also be helpful to see if newspaper accounts, which preceded my meeting with the primary witness, tell of any details about what she saw. If so, that would take some of the wind out of Menzel's sails.

The “during” part also suffers from the extreme distance in time that I must wrestle with, but to the extent that I can remember, the artist and Mrs. Fitzgerald simply sat together at a table, and the drawing was made. This was strictly by way of an ongoing interview or conversation, with Mrs. Fitzgerald commenting and the artist drawing and sometimes erasing and drawing again. I do recall being fascinated at how quickly the image formed, and then how Mrs. Fitzgerald was so satisfied with the accuracy of the finished product. It seems nearly impossible, from my recollection of the drawing session, that a copy of the Bluebook pamphlet was brought out and referenced during the session.

Concerning this question, I cannot tell you when or under what circumstances I showed the Bluebook material to Mrs. Fitzgerald. It is quite possible that she did not see the Bluebook pamphlet at all, but only saw the figure for the first time when it was reproduced in the printed Fitzgerald Report. She did not do any of the writing, but I am certain she was shown some of the material describing her sighting so that she could correct any errors. Beyond that, she had nothing to do with the construction of the report.

In any event, let's assume that Menzel is correct and that I showed her the Bluebook pamphlet with those sketches. Are you saying that she chose one as part of her massive fraud? The fact that we must deal with is that Mrs. Fitzgerald approved the artist's version of what she claims to have seen. Either we believe her story, or not. The rough similarity – not congruence – of the artist's version and the Bluebook version ought to be taken as an item of scientific interest, and has nothing at all to do with the probity of the witness or of the researchers who recorded her story.

Finally, I want to ask how did Menzel learn that Mrs. Fitzgerald had been shown the Bluebook sketches before and during the work with the artist? Is it unfair of me to ask that question? Menzel was

not there, nor were the Bluebook investigators, and they did not inquire about this when they had the chance to do so during their very short interview with Mrs. Fitzgerald.

6. Screw up versus cover up. That is the central question of ufology. I, as is obvious from what I wrote concerning the Fitzgerald Report, opt for cover up. Take Menzel, for example. A first class mind, a polymath, amazingly energetic and productive, and so far as I can tell, psychologically sound in all respects and functioning perfectly well in all areas of life. However, when it came to the UFO issue he exhibited unmistakable signs of psychopathology. There is no kind way to put it. Sorry, I opt for cover up. The Robertson Report, also, alas, known as the Durant Report, is to me the founding statement of policy for the UFO problem. Those guys were not screw-ups, and what they advocated was plainly cover up. McDonald, like Hynek, kept looking for the common sense answer, and never found it because they did not realize they were up against a formal cover up. The various McCoy letters show that the concept of a cover up was on paper at the earliest stages. So only four years later we have Robertson, elaborating things from a much higher level and with a much broader brief. I have no doubt that there exists another analogous study and recommendation pursuant to Robertson, but inter-agency in scope. Disney and Godfrey appear to have been jettisoned, but the press has certainly been made tame. The public has been sent the message that UFOs are bunk, those who report UFOs are marginal personalities, and those who take UFOs seriously – do not exist. This has been made possible by using the hierarchical nature of journalism, meaning we plant the party line in the New York Times and the Washington Post, and all others fall in line. Even today, the CIA can say something so extraordinarily provocative as, “We lied to the public about UFOs” and the press just prints it with a ho-hum. This because of the corollary statement that the UFOs were U-2s. I also think it is no coincidence that we have had nearly continuously a prominent scientist to keep the scientific community off the scent. I mean Menzel, then Condon, then Sagan.
7. You wonder if I have all of the original case material, including the interview tape? I have none of the original case material and no ideas about where it may have been sent. My instinct is that the UFO club in Akron, Ohio collected it. That was so long ago and far away. A couple of those guys are long since dead, and I haven’t any idea about how to go about looking into this. Concerning the “interview tape,” I did not own a tape recorder, and do not know if anybody of my acquaintance in 1958 had a portable tape recorder. I can attest with certainty to that one thing.

It vexes me that I cannot be more helpful about all this. You are the first person in a very long while to take any interest in this UFO case, and for that I thank you.

Comments From MORA

by William E. Jones

MORA decided to republish the Fitzgerald Report at the suggestion of its author, Bob Durant, a colleague who has earned our friendship and respect. The report concerns one of Ohio’s classic UFO cases that includes such famous cases as, (1) the sighting by Pickaway County farmer Bruce Stevenson of a disc over his barn near Circleville, Ohio in March 1957, (Reference: Hartinger, Pete, “America’s First Classic Close Encounter,” Ohio UFO Notebook, #13, pp14-17), (2) the sighting by Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur on April 16, 1966 when he chased a UFO across northwestern Ohio into Pennsylvania, (Reference: Hynek, J. Allen, The UFO Experience, A Scientific Inquiry, Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, 1972, pp100-108), and (3) the so-called “Coyne Helicopter Case” where U.S. Army Reserve Captain Lawrence J. Coyne and his crew sighted a UFO from their military helicopter over Interstate Route 71 near Mansfield, Ohio on October 18, 1973 (Reference: Zeidman, Jennie, A Helicopter-UFO Encounter Over Ohio, J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, 1979).

Most UFO investigators and writers over the years have forgotten the Fitzgerald case. We believe it deserves to be remembered and documented so that it will take its rightful place in UFO history and perhaps contribute in some small way to the resolution of one of the Twentieth Century’s most enduring mystery, the mystery of the flying saucer.

When Bob told us that another respected colleague and friend, Mr. Karl Pflock, was interested in this case and had exchanged correspondence with Bob about it, we were excited when that correspondence was offered for inclusion in this report by both of these investigators. Mr. Pflock is the author of a soon-to-be-published book with the working title of Are Some UFOs Flying Saucers? A Case for Extraterrestrial Visitation. This book will be Karl's case for why the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) should be taken seriously as the explanation for many UFO reports.

Mr. Pflock's position statement on UFOs is as follows: "UFOs are real – that is, as yet unexplained phenomena. Moreover, many solid unknowns involving reports of strange craft and sometimes living creatures and/or physical evidence leave us with but two choices: hoax or real essentially as reported. In these instances, if what was encountered was real and accurately reported it couldn't have been anything other than products of non-human intelligence and, in some cases, the intelligences themselves. Based on the data, I'm subjectively certain we've been visited by non-human intelligent beings – to my '50s conditioned mind, most likely from an extra-solar planet in our galaxy. However, we do not yet have proof of this – as opposed to very strong evidence pointing to it – though such proof very well may be in the data already in hand, as yet unrecognized as such.

"I am nonetheless completely open to evidence to the contrary."

Karl's book will include discussions of the REAL results of the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book Special Report 14 and the University of Colorado's UFO study, the so-called "Condon Report," named after the project's director, the late Dr. Edward U. Condon. According to Karl, the stunning statistics from these two U.S. Government sponsored reports, both of which have long been viewed by journalists and scientists as "anti-UFO" with regard to their findings, would be considered by "real science" as strong reason to get serious were the subject other than UFOs.

The book will also present detailed accountings of those cases he considers supportive of the ETH. This "Fitzgerald Report" and the events that brought it into existence will be one of the cases reviewed. According to Karl, "While the term 'UFO' applies to data that encompasses a wide range of unusual (and some not so unusual) phenomena, all of which are interesting and many of which will be found to be new to science, THIS is why I am interested, and this is why the ETH should be taken very seriously." While this book may sound similar to other books on the subject, if I know Karl Pflock, it will be different in many important ways. It will be, in summation, an appeal to bring ufology back down to earth – pun intended – again.

This is a report of a sighting of an unidentified flying object. The report was prepared by civilian UFO researchers in Northern Ohio. Information for the report was obtained from interviews with the witnesses and personal investigation into other aspects of the case."

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

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

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

Directly across from me was an object. It looked like a disc with a hump in the middle. (see Page 8) At this moment the rim was about ten feet from my window. My eyes were about six feet ten inches off the ground, and I would guess that the object was five feet off the ground. The object did not seem to glow or have any light source on it. It appeared to have a dull aluminum color. There were no houses lit at the time and our street has no lights on it. I was unable to determine the source of the light that illuminated my room.

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

The object appeared to be 20 to 22 feet in diameter and 6 feet high. (see Page 8)

When I first saw the object it was directly in front of me and moving north across my lawn. (see Page 9) It was losing altitude as it moved. The object continued in a straight path, losing altitude, until it was about fifty feet away and about one foot off the ground. It was then over the yard next door. The object hovered there motionless for several seconds. As it stopped moving, smoke began to billow around it. The smoke came from two openings in the rim. Each opening contained about seven pipes. The smoke did not seem to issue from the pipes, but from the opening which held them. The smoke was a pink-gray color and seemed to be luminescent, because it lit up the object. Before this there had been no external light on the object.

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

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

During the turning maneuver, the object did not tip at all. Then it went straight up so quickly that I was unable to see the underside of the object. The roof on my house extends over the window so that the view was cut off before the object had gained much altitude. During the entire time the object was in view it made a noise which reminded me of a jet engine warming up. It was a whirring or whining noise, and sounded muffled. The noise was unlike any I have ever heard made by the trains which run nearby.

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

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

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

John Fitzgerald, aged ten; was in the room next to the one occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald. He had awakened to go to the bathroom and was back in bed when a very bright white light shone through his window. It was so bright that he had to shield his eyes with his hand. The light seemed to come from the part of the object where the hump joins the disc-shaped base. John said that the object went past his window going south. He then got out of bed and climbed up on a hot air register to see out of the window. The object was no longer giving off light. His description of the object and the events which followed matched that given by his mother. He described the color of the object as being similar to that of a tin cup. John simulated the sound made by the object by simultaneously whistling and humming. When the object went out of sight he went back to sleep.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A: It had rained a few hours before.

Q: Did the smoke appear fluorescent?

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

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

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

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

A: Yes.

Q: Have you recently been under medical care?

A: No.

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

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

No other questions were asked of the witnesses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

At 2:30 a.m. on the 21st, Mrs. Stewart in Lorain was awakened by a light flooding through her window. At first she thought that the sun had risen, but her clock told her otherwise. She went to the window and saw a round red object apparently several times larger than the moon. It had no markings and did not look like the moon. At the top of the object was a "hump" or protrusion which had the same uniform color of the main body. At first she thought that she was viewing the moon under strange conditions so she called to her husband saying, "There is something wrong with the moon." He looked at the object, but could not identify it. About five minutes later Mrs. Stewart looked for the object again and found that it had shifted in a westerly direction. She thought the object's size might have been comparable to a 2 inch object when held at a distance of 14 inches. When it was first seen the object was in the WSW sky and about 40 degrees above the horizon.

At approximately 2 a.m. on the 21st, Mrs. Grego of Lorain watched a "big red ball" moving outside her window. She was in bed when she spotted the object through the partially closed venetian blinds on her window. The object approached the window, moving horizontally parallel to it for several seconds. Then it moved up and out of sight. The object made a low pulsating sound which reminded the witness of a death march. "It made me sick to my sto-

mach," she said later, referring to the sound. The sound grew louder as the object approached, and diminished as it left. She thought she heard a crashing sound just before the object came into sight. If the object maneuvered as she said it did, then it must have gone through some limbs in the trees outside the window. However, no damaged limbs or other evidence was found.

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

The accounts of the objects seen by Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Grego have no obvious bearing on the Fitzgerald sighting. They are included here because it is felt that all strange phenomena in the area that morning might have had a common origin. It should be noted that all of the incidents took place at approximately the same time. No other sightings were reported. (see Page 9)

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

The full names and addresses of all persons connected with this report, as well as a tape recording of an interview with Mrs. Fitzgerald, are in the files of the UFO Research Committee of Akron. Mr. D and Mrs. P have requested that their names not be used.



ANALYSIS

Was this a real "unknown"? According to the official Air Force Regulation AFR 200-2, a UFO is "Any airborne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features does not conform to any presently known aircraft or missile type, or which cannot be positively identified as a familiar object." In order to satisfy this definition certain conditions must be present in a sighting:

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

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

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

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

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

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

WAS THIS A HOAX ?

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

WAS THIS A HALLUCINATION ?

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

WAS THE OBJECT A GOVERNMENT MISSILE OR FLYING DEVICE ?

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

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

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

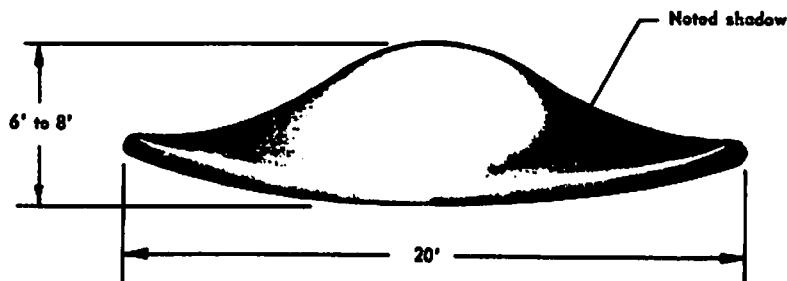
No government tests are conducted over populated areas, and all military aircraft are kept at a safe distance from commercial air lanes. The threatening danger to the civilian population is enormous in both cases. It does not seem reasonable that the government would jeopardize the safety of the public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

In public testimony recently brought before the House Science and Astronautics Committee it was stated that the United States has no such device in its possession. This may be confirmed by the transcript for April 13, 14 and 15, 1959, available from that committee.

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

HAS AN OBJECT LIKE THIS EVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE ?

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



(Ratio approx. 3:1)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Baumhart:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,



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

Honorable A. D. Baumhart, Jr.

House of Representatives

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

WAS THERE A SECOND, SECRET AIR FORCE CONCLUSION ON THIS SIGHTING?

This is not very likely. The extent of the Air Force investigation of this sighting was not sufficient to provide for any honest conclusion. We have tried not to omit any details which would indicate that the official investigation was more thorough or honest than our account makes it appear.



ANALYSIS OF AIR FORCE CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

According to Chief Boatswain Mate Schott of the Lorain Coast Guard station, the signalling occurred at least two hours before the sighting took place, and at a point on the lake about 5½ miles from the Fitzgerald house.

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

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

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

Mrs. Steward has since signed a paper refuting this statement. (see Page 13)

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

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



ANALYSIS OF AIR FORCE INVESTIGATION

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

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

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

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

(3) General Fisher's letter states that Chief Schott reported he was using his spotlight "in an attempt to attract the attention of another ship", and that the light was directed toward shore "in the general direction of Mrs. Fitzgerald's house." If the sergeant had made a conscientious check with Chief Schott they would have noted that at the time he was using the light to attract another ship he was at a place on the lake $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Fitzgerald house. They would also have noted that the spotlight beam would have had to travel through downtown Lorain on its way to the house. As mentioned in the analysis of the Air Force Conclusion, the sergeants apparently didn't know that the Coast Guard boat had a light which could not be focused on clouds in the manner of a searchlight. Chief Schott has signed a statement specifying his position and activities on the morning of September 21. His statement is reproduced completely in the appendix.

(4) How the sergeants could make the statement that Mrs. Stewart "could not recall anything unusual" is indeed difficult to understand. Mrs. Stewart's signed statement (Page 13) is definite proof that this was either a deliberate attempt to distort the facts, an unforgivable act of negligence, or else an extreme case of ignorance.

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

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

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

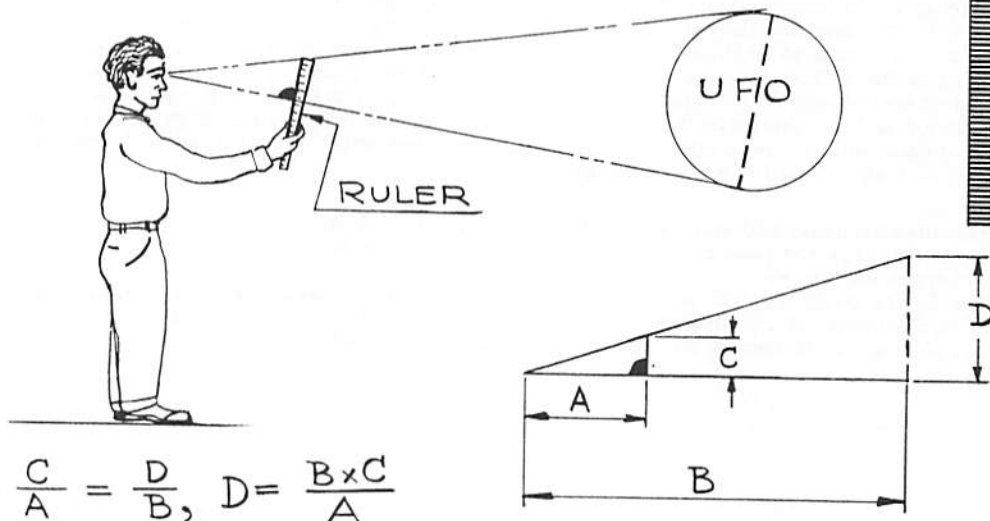
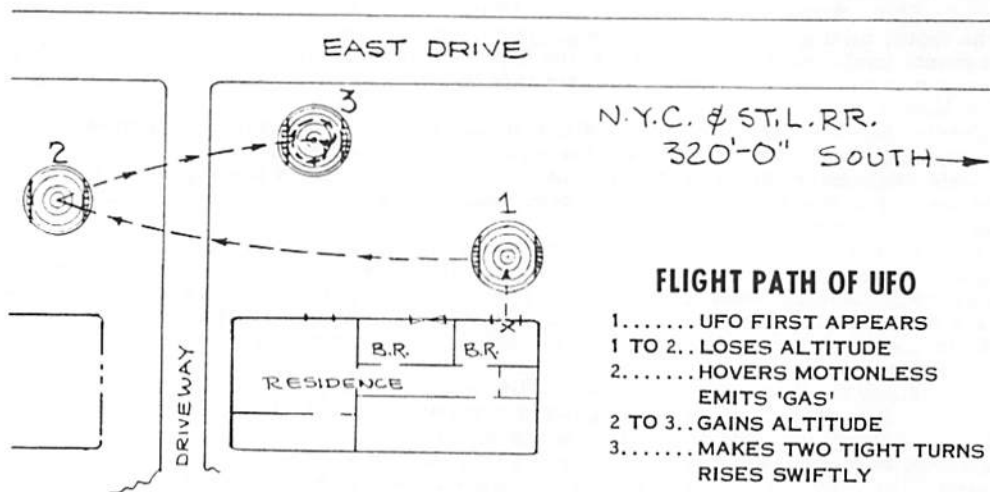
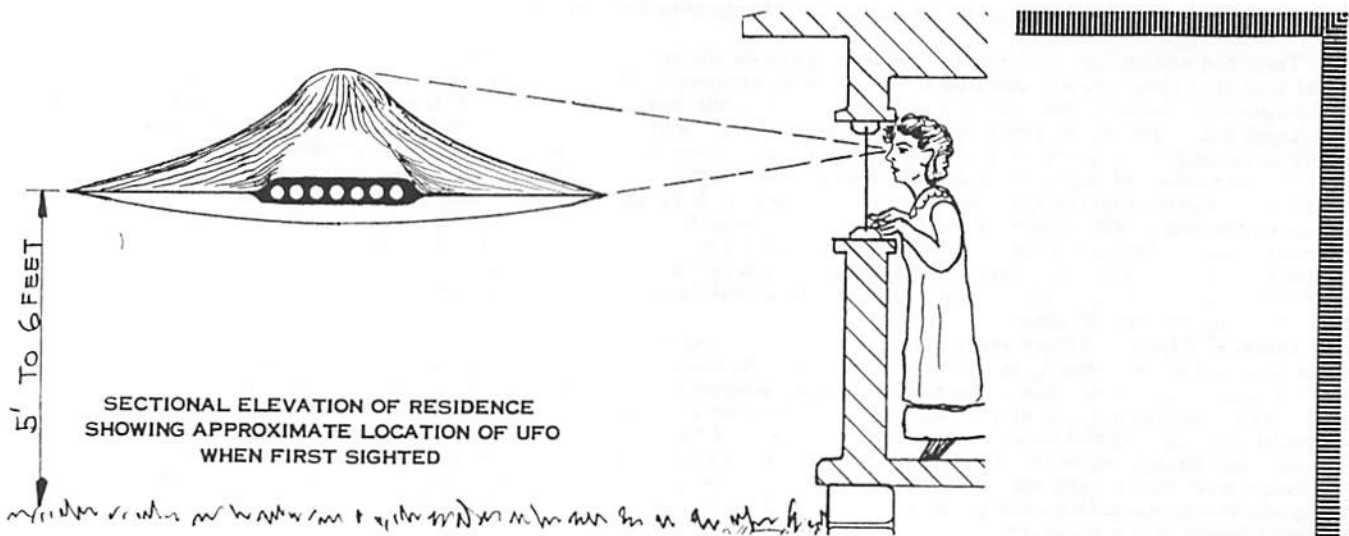
The statement concerning the weather not only has little foundation in fact, but is written in a manner calculated to discredit the sighting. It is somewhat surprising that the report does not also include accounts of tornadoes and blizzards converging over Sheffield Lake at the time of the sighting.

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

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

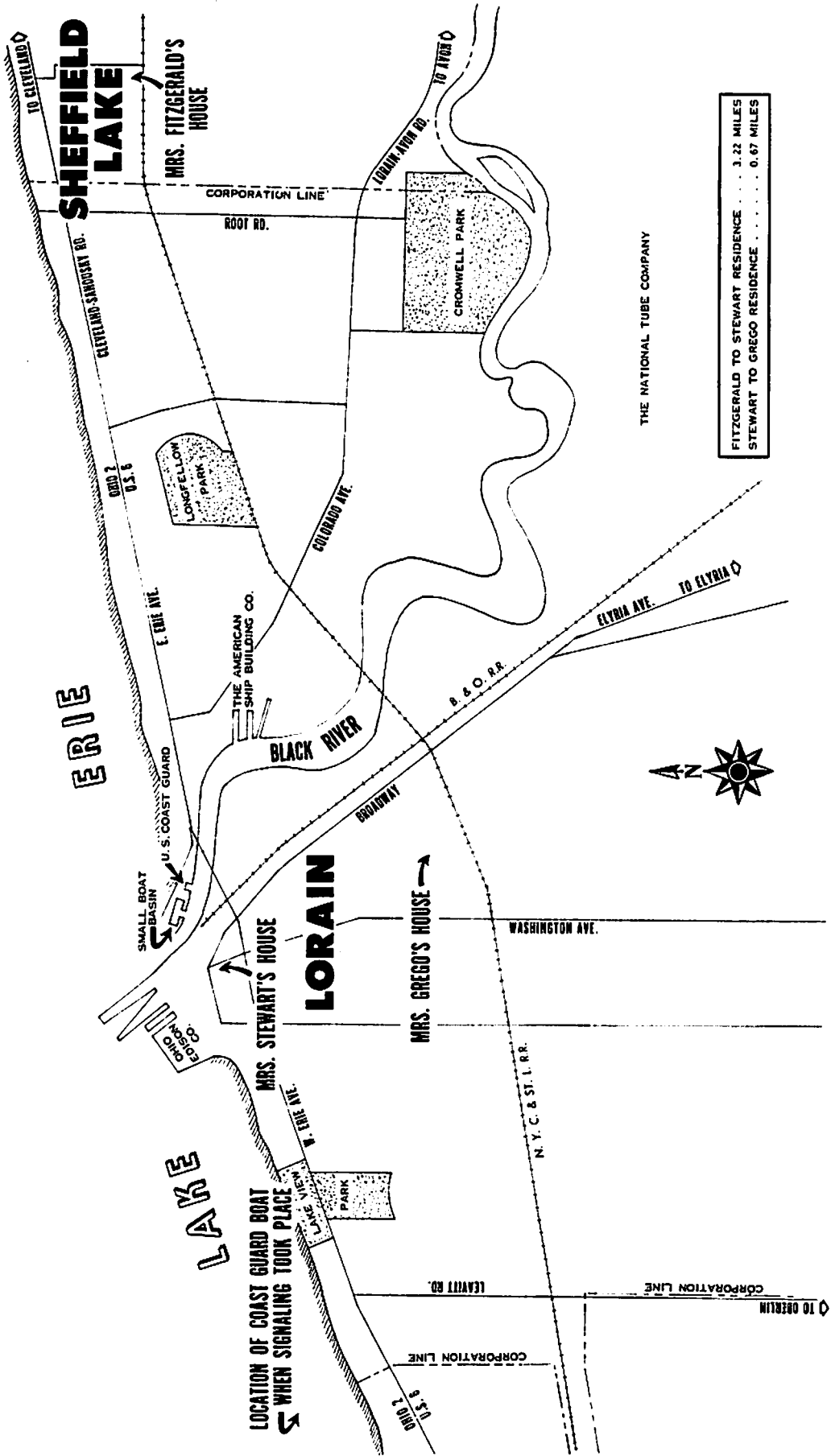
The figure of 98.1% was released on October 6, 1958 in news release number 986-58. The release goes on to say, "Refinements in investigative procedure have resulted in a steady decline of unknowns." After studying the Fitzgerald report it should be manifestly clear what the Air Force means by "refinements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





SIMILAR TRIANGLES METHOD OF ESTIMATING SIZE OF UFO

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



FITZGERALD TO STEWART RESIDENCE . . . 3.22 MILES
 STEWART TO GREGO RESIDENCE . . . 0.67 MILES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

CLEVELAND, OHIO (Cleveland Hopkins Airport)

SEPTEMBER 1958

Latitude 41° 24' N. Longitude 81° 51' W. Elevation (ground) 787 ft. Eastern Standard time used

Date	Temperature (°F)			Precipitation (in.)	Snow, Sleet (in.)	Snow, Sleet, or Ice on ground at 7:00 AM (in.)	Wind			Sunshine		Sky cover		Thunderstorm or distant lightning	Weather restricting visibility to 1/4 mile or less	Lake Temperature by	Insolation Gras-Calories/cm ²	Accumulated Degree Days Since June 30, 1958	Date
	Maximum	Minimum	Average				Prevailing direction	Average speed (m. p. h.)	Fastest mile Speed (m. p. h.)	Direction	Total (hours and minutes)	Percent of possible	Sunrise to sunset (tenths)						
1	60	54	57	-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						1
2	75	55	66	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						2
3	70	56	63	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						3
4	91	67	79	+10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						4
5	79	66	71	+8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						5
6	87	68	78	+9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						6
7	71	58	65	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						7
8	66	57	60	-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						8
9	73	50	62	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						9
10	66	56	61	-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						10
11	64	49	57	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						11
12	70	43	57	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						12
13	79	49	64	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						13
14	83	56	70	+4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						14
15	86	67	77	+11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						15
16	71	67	69	+3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						16
17	72	61	67	+2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						17
18	62	53	58	-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						18
19	69	48	59	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						19
20	74	57	66	+1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						20
21	72	60	66	+2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						21
22	74	50	62	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						22
23	81	54	68	+4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						23
24	84	65	75	+12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						24
25	83	73	78	+15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						25
26	74	62	68	+6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						26
27	68	56	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						27
28	62	49	56	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						28
29	66	45	56	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						29
30	67	49	58	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						30
31																			31
Sum	2208	1696			1.82	0				360.2		173:00	203	200		2071	N		Sum
Avg	71.6	56.2								12.0	Fastest	Dir.	Possible	%	6.8	6.7			Avg.
										Misc.	34	W	374:11	46					Misc.

T in columns 7, 8, 9 and in the Hourly Precipitation table indicates an amount too small to measure

TEMPERATURE (°F): Average monthly 64.9
 Departure from normal -0.6
 Highest 91 on 4th
 Lowest 43 on 12th
 Number of days with -
 Max. 32° or below 0
 Max. 90° or above 1
 Min. 32° or below 0
 Min. 0° or below 0

HEATING DEGREE DAYS (base 65°): Total this month +11
 Departure from normal +11
 Seasonal total (since July 1) 107
 Seasonal departure from normal +22

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (in.): Avg. station (elev. 762' foot, m.s.l.) 29.163
 Highest sea level 30.24 on 5th
 Lowest sea level 29.69 on 17th

PRECIPITATION (in.): Total for the month 3.62
 Departure from normal +0.49
 Greatest in 24 hours 0.98 on 17-18
 Snow, Sleet -
 Total for the month 0
 Greatest in 24 hours 0 on
 Greatest depth on ground 0 on
 Dates of -
 Sleet None
 Glaze None

Symbols used in columns 18-19:
 A Hail
 BS Blowing snow
 DL Distant lightning
 F Dust
 E Sleet
 F Fog
 H Haze
 K Smoke
 L Drizzle
 N Sand
 R Rain
 S Snow
 T Thunderstorm
 ZL Freezing drizzle
 ZR Freezing rain

*When this elevation differs from the present one, the
 low elevation (this level) was selected in past
 comparison of data for a longer period of hom-
 geneous record

The month continued the trend of the summer season with slightly below normal temperatures, and above normal precipitation. Total precipitation of 17.09 inches for June through September makes this the wettest summer since 1947.
 Errata: Local Climatological Data August 1958 - under hourly precipitation, enter "T" for 8 and 9 A.M. on 22nd; delete "T" on 23rd at 8 and 9 A.M.

HOURLY PRECIPITATION (in.)

Date	A. M. Hour ending at												P. M. Hour ending at												Date
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1																									1
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3																									3
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31																									31

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STATEMENT OF CHIEF BOATSWAIN MATE WILLIAM SCHOTT

In connection with our conversation and letter from District Office, A17, Ser; 711-58, dtd 5 November 1958, which gives us authority to give you a statement on events which were observed in the early morning hours between 0015 and 0400, 21 September 1958. This unit was searching for an overdue 23 ft. cabin cruiser, name "JET".

Coast Guard vessel CG-30463 departed this unit 0015, weather conditions were limited to seven (7) miles visibility, with a drizzle and approximately three (3) foot sea condition out of the northeast. The air temperature was about sixty-five (65) degrees. Upon leaving the main entrance of Lorain Harbor, this unit proceeded to check various boats in area around Light house and was proceeding westward toward Beaver Park, Ohio, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to one mile off shore, when we noticed the lights of a vessel over 26 feet proceeding eastward between us and the shore, about off of Elyria Water Works, moving at a terrific rate of speed. CG-30463 spotlight was turned on and flashed up and down and CG vessel changed course to intercept subject vessel, which was believed to have been station's other 30 footer which had been up in the Vermilion, Ohio area checking for some overdue boat, but was unable to intercept or make out the type of boat with searchlight due to speed of subject vessel. It was then discovered that this was not our other 30 footer.

CG-30463 gave chase to subject boat, but by the time we were at the east end of the east breakwall of Lorain Harbor, we had lost subject boat visually. We therefore continued on Westward and proceeded into Beaver Park, Ohio and checked subject area. After check of subject harbor, CG-30463 departed enroute westward to rendezvous with CG-30381, checking all small boats enroute. After rendezvous off of Vermilion, Ohio, both boats proceeded toward Lorain, Ohio, running courses respectively 1 mile and 2 miles off shore going back to Lorain, checking all small boats enroute. Both vessels were off of Lorain West Breakwater Station at 0315 and CG-30381 was ordered to return to station and secure the search for the night, to be resumed in the morning.

CG-30463 continued on working eastward to Avon Power Plant, running approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mile off shore. These boats are equipped with small spotlights, approximately eight (8) inches in diameter, which throws a diffused beam to spot objects in the water, as well as a narrow beam. Subject spotlight was flashed on and off a number of times during 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. CG-30463 moored at Lorain Lifeboat Station 0400, 9-21-58. Seaman Apprentice G. J. Tate was with me on subject search and agrees with my account.

ANALYSIS OF CHIEF SCHOTT'S STATEMENT

At 0015 Chief Schott's boat left the Lorain harbor going west. Off the Elyria Water Works, about 1.5 miles west of the Lorain harbor, Schott spotted another boat moving east. He tried to signal this boat by flashing his spotlight. Unable to get the boat's attention, Schott turned around and chased it eastward back to the Lorain harbor where the boat became lost from sight. Chief Schott then turned around and proceeded west to Vermilion, about 10.5 miles west of Lorain. At Vermilion Schott met the second Coast Guard boat and both went back toward Lorain. At 0315 Schott's boat was off the Lorain harbor and moving east. Mrs. Fitzgerald's sighting occurred at approximately 0300.

Chief Schott travelled a total of about 24 miles between 0015 and 0315, giving an average speed of 8 mph. Using this speed it can be calculated that the Coast Guard boat had been out of the Lorain Harbor approximately 11 minutes when the signalling took place. Allowing as much as 30 minutes more for checking the boats near the light-house there still remain at least 2 hours before the time of the Fitzgerald sighting.

Notice the position of the Coast Guard boat when the signalling took place. (see map) Note also the direction of the wind. (paragraph 2, sentence 1) This confirms the wind direction as given by the Weather Bureau, and emphasizes even more the fact that smoke from the U.S. Steel plant could not have been in the Fitzgerald neighborhood at the time of the sighting.

Chief Schott stated verbally to a member of the Committee that the two Air Force investigators did not obtain any written statement from him. They did not question him closely about any of his activities. The Committee had no difficulty in obtaining this statement from Chief Schott, other than the formality of obtaining permission from the Coast Guard District Office in Cleveland. Chief Schott was very cooperative, and we have no reason to believe that he deceived us either in his activities on September 21st or in his verbal account of the Air Force interview with him.



I, Mrs. William Fitzgerald, wish to give affidavit of my own free will to the following facts....

At approximately 3 a.m. on the morning of September 21, 1958, at my home in Sheffield Lake, Ohio, I observed a metallic, disc shaped object maneuvering in my front yard. The account of my experience is correct and accurate as it has been published in the pamphlet, "The Fitzgerald Report," published by the UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio. Furthermore, the account of my being interviewed by Master Sergeants Hof and Haistain of the Air Technical Intelligence Center is accurately reported in the same above mentioned pamphlet.

Mrs. William Fitzgerald

Mrs. William Fitzgerald

January 25, 1959

Subscribed and sworn before me to be true to the best of her knowledge by the said Mrs. William Fitzgerald, this twenty-fifth day of January 1959.

Roberta E. Kirsch

ROBERTA E. KIRSCH, Notary Public
My Commission Expires Sept. 9, 1960

I, Mrs. Jack T. Stewart, wish to give affidavit of my own free will to the following facts....

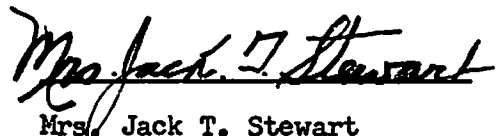
At 2:30 a.m., on the 21st of September, 1958, I was awakened by a light flooding in my window. At first I thought that the sun had risen, but looking at the clock convinced me that something was wrong.

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

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

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

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

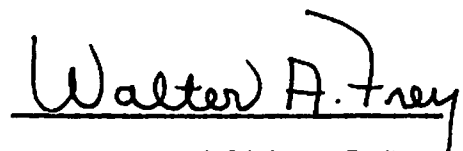


Mrs. Jack T. Stewart

206 Washington Avenue

Lorain, Ohio

Signed and sworn before me this 25 day of
March - 1959.



WALTER A. FREY, Notary Public

My Commission Expires 11-29-59.....

APPENDIX

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

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

Sept. 29, 1958

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nov. 4, 1958

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dec. 7, 1958

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

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

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

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

(1) What action will be taken to discipline the ATIC investigation team which handled this case?

(2) What action will be taken to make a proper investigation and evaluation of this particular report (Fitzgerald, 21 Sept. 1958)?

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

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

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

Dec. 19, 1958

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

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

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

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

General Fisher replied as follows:

Dec. 31, 1958

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

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

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

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

Major Tacker replied as follows:

Jan. 2, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jan. 11, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jan. 14, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jan. 8, 1959

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

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

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

Congressman Baumhart then sent this letter to General Fisher:

Jan. 8, 1959

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

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

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

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

Jan. 19, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jan. 26, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congressman Baumhart wrote the following letter to General Fisher:

Jan. 29, 1959

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

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

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

Thank you for your continuing attention to this matter.

Congressman Baumhart received the following reply from General Fisher:

Feb. 11, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We also received the following letter from Major Tacker:

Feb. 18, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

April 7, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

April 29, 1959

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

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

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

April 2, 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

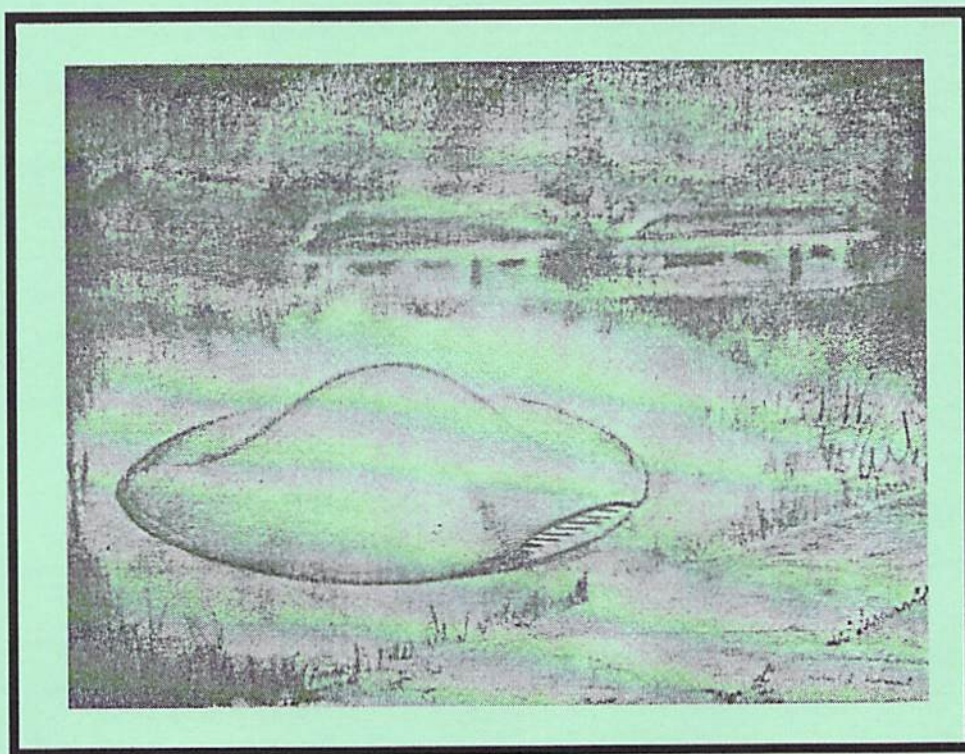
In a letter to a member of the UFO Research Committee, General Fisher said, "The Air Force is interested in the truth concerning reported sightings and is compelled to deal scientifically and objectively with facts. We feel sure our analyses and evaluations by qualified scientific personnel of the reported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

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

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



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



DRAWING OF MRS. FITZGERALD'S CONCEPTION OF UFO



ARTIST WORKING FROM MRS. FITZGERALD'S DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT