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Book Catalog

Spaceships or Mirages over Washington National Airport?

By [FUFOR](#) and [Don Berliner](#)

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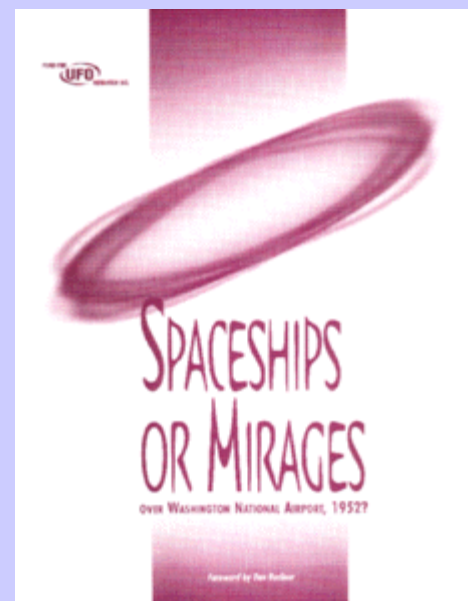
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Credibility	Research Value	Cultural Interest	Visual Information	Style	Silliness	Wow Factor	Bargain
5	5	4	2	2	1	5	3
Very High	Very High	High	Low	Awkward	Very Low	Wow!	Moderate

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Credibility = Very High: In general, this category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

In the summer of 1952, a dramatic series of radar and visual sightings over Washington, D.C., triggered great interest in the press. The Air Force was in the hot-seat and on July 29 held a press conference to address public concerns. The strange lights and unusual radar reflections were explained as temperature inversions, a simple solution that most reporters seemed to accept without question. This document gives the modern reader a chance to relive the press conference and test the Air Force's theory. It is composed of two reprinted government reports and an introduction by Don Berliner. The first report is a full official transcript of the press conference. The text is photocopied from Dr. Hynek's personal copy, along with his margin notes. General Ramey, Captain Ruppelt and three other officers answer questions and try to offer explanations. The second report, dated April 1969, is an official Air Force study of temperature inversions, showing that they are unlikely to produce the kind of "hard" radar returns reported in Washington 17 years earlier. What was the true cause of the sightings? The question remains unanswered.

-- Glenn Campbell

Reservations

The press conference transcript is fascinating, but the temperature inversion study is probably too technical for more readers..

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From the Book Cover

Report gives researchers access to two important documents, virtually unavailable elsewhere, about the events over Washington, DC, during the 1952 UFO wave. Air Force explanation of UFOs stemming from "temperature inversions," is shown to be scientifically inadequate.

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- [UFOs Over Washington](#): Full text of July 29, 1952, Air Force press conference on

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