

- remains between 3,000 and 4,000 feet. When the object approaches to within 9,000 feet, the crews open fire on it, although it is moving too fast for them to aim properly. It makes a sharp right turn and heads south, increasing its speed and circling the entire fleet twice for 5 minutes before moving away to the south. Afterward, the gun control director estimates the object is traveling up to 10,000 mph. (Paul C. Cerny and Robert Neville, "[U.S. Navy 1942 Sighting](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 185 (July 1983): 14–15)
- 1942**, October 19 — [Leslie Groves](#) approves [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#) to coordinate the scientific research of the Manhattan Project at the Site Y laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. (Wikipedia, "[Manhattan Project](#)")
- 1942**, November — The crews of an anti-submarine squadron patrolling in the Bay of Biscay, France, spot a large wingless aircraft behind them. One of the men takes several photos of it with a Fairchild K-20 camera. The object soon gains altitude and after 15 minutes it executes a 180° turn and disappears. Only one of the photos, with a filter applied, shows any details and it is passed on to US and RAF intelligence. ("[The Case for the 'Sea-Saucer](#),'" *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 10 (January 7, 1955): 5)
- 1942**, November 15 — Teams under physicists [Herbert L. Anderson](#) and [Walter Zinn](#) have constructed 16 experimental nuclear reactors under the Stagg Field stands at the University of Chicago. (Wikipedia, "[Metallurgical Laboratory](#)")
- 1942**, November 25 — The Los Alamos site in New Mexico is acquired for Project Y. (Wikipedia, "[Project Y](#)")
- 1942**, November 28 — 10:40–10:45 p.m. Capt. Lever and the No. 61 Squadron crew of an RAF Lancaster are returning from a bombing raid on Turin, Italy, when about 10–15 miles southwest of the city they see an object 200–300 feet long traveling southeast at a speed of 500 mph. It has four pairs of red lights spaced along its body and is flying on a level course. Five minutes later, as the Lancaster approaches the Alps at 14,000 feet, the crew sees the object again traveling southwest up a valley. It disappears when the red lights go out. (Good Need, [pp. 18–19, 32](#); *Strange Company* 34–35; UFOFiles2, [pp. 25–26](#))
- 1942**, December — A Technical Data Laboratory is established at Wright Field near Dayton, Ohio, as part of the Army Materiel Command. Its operations include the evaluation of foreign aircraft and related equipment. (US Air Force, "[National Air and Space Intelligence Center Heritage](#)," July 31, 2015)
- 1942**, December — 8:00 p.m. RAAF Lt. [Bruce Clyde Lumsden](#) is flying a Hawker Hurricane heading for the French coast. About 7,000 feet over the mouth of the River Somme, France, he observes two orange lights climbing, one slightly above the other. He completes a full turn, putting the lights behind him on the port side. They now appear brighter and larger. When they reach his altitude, they stop climbing and stay at his altitude. He makes another full turn, but the objects stay with him. Lumsden dives to 4,000 feet, but the lights match his maneuvers. He increases his speed to 260 mph and gradually leaves them behind. His squadron mates do not believe him, but the next night another squadron member has a similar encounter with a green light. (*Strange Company* 36; Clark III 502; Clark IV 550–551)
- 1942**, December 2 — Chicago Pile-1, the first nuclear reactor, goes critical at the University of Chicago under the leadership and design of [Enrico Fermi](#), achieving a self-sustaining reaction just one month after construction was started. (Wikipedia, "[Chicago Pile-1](#)")
- 1942**, December 27 — The Northrop N-9M, a prototype flying wing bomber with a wingspan of 60 feet, makes its first test flight at Jack Northrop Field [now Hawthorne (Calif.) Municipal Airport] with pilot [John Wescott Myers](#). Through May, 44 more flights are made, nearly all terminated by mechanical failures. (Wikipedia, "[Northrop N-9M](#)")

1943

- 1943** — The National Bureau of Standards allegedly conducts an investigation into unexplained aerial phenomena under [Hugh Latimer Dryden](#) in conjunction with intelligence about German research into jet aircraft. The bureau has some concern that the phenomena could interfere with internal combustion engines. (Jacques Vallée, *Forbidden Science*, North Atlantic, 1992, [p. 309](#))
- 1943** — While on a ship off the Russell Islands in the Solomons, US Navy shipfitter Lloyd Kenyon and several other sailors see several disks traveling at a huge speed. ("[Objects Seen Several Times](#)," *Portland Oregon Daily Journal*, June 27, 1947, p. 8; Clark III 502; Clark IV 551)
- 1943** — Seaman Matthew Mengle is on a ship in the Persian Gulf when he sees a huge disc below the surface of the water. The object is glowing with a soft greenish light and paces the ship before moving out of sight. ("[Hidden' UFO Reports Given NICAP](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 10 (July/Aug. 1960): 6, 7; Dolan, USO1, 113)

- 1943** — Night. While stationed at RAF Compton Bassett [now Lower Compton], Wiltshire, England, Barbara Whiteley sees a cigar-shaped object with 5–6 lights pointing downward pass overhead at a low altitude. (Clark III 502; Clark IV 551)
- 1943**, January 15 — During a US bombing raid over Cherbourg, Manche, France, several crews see “large numbers of projectiles resembling ‘schools of flying fish,’ about a foot long and similar to incendiary bombs, coming up from a direction of the town.” (*Strange Company* 38; Patrick Gross, [ACUFO](#), October 2, 2023)
- 1943**, January 16 — [Leslie Groves](#) approves development of the Hanford site in Washington State for plutonium production. (Wikipedia, “[Hanford Site](#)”)
- 1943**, February 9 — Land for a plutonium production complex is acquired at Hanford, Washington. (Wikipedia, “[Hanford Site](#)”)
- 1943**, February 18 — Construction begins for Y-12, a massive electromagnetic separation plant for enriching uranium at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (Wikipedia, “[Y-12 National Security Complex](#)”)
- 1943**, April 1 — Los Alamos Laboratory is established in New Mexico and begins operations. (Wikipedia, “[Project Y](#)”)
- 1943**, April 5 — 9:50 a.m. Flight instructor Gerry A. Casey and a student pilot in a Vultee BT-13A Valiant watch a radiant-orange, elliptical disc dive at their aircraft near Long Beach, California. There is no propellor and it has a rounded hump above and below. It hovers alongside with a slight wobble, then accelerates, turns from orange to white, and climbs out of sight in 2 seconds. (Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1943](#)”; Gerry A. Casey, “UFO: The Time for the Telling Has Come,” Tacoma (Wash.) *Western Flyer*, July 7, 1989, via [UFO Newscipping Service](#) 241 (August 1989), p. 3; “[Unusual U.S. Coastal Aerial Observations during World War 2](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 1 (June 1998): 4–5; Patrick Gross, “[Observation at Long Beach, 1943](#)”)
- 1943**, April 9 — 5:00 p.m. Kazimierz Bzowski and other resistance fighters are monitoring a fire in the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland. They notice a flying object approaching them at about 60 mph. Through binoculars it appears to be a sphere colored with tangled strips of both raspberry and blue-green colors. Bzowski estimates it is at an elevation of 200 feet and is about 25 feet in diameter. They observe German and Lithuanian snipers on Bonifraterska street shooting at it, although the bullets seem to pass through it. The object alters course and heads toward Old Town, then stops dead and shoots away at great speed. (Poland 13)
- 1943**, Spring — A New Zealand fighter pilot flying a Hawker Hurricane over North Africa is followed by an orange-red glow that then positions itself off his wingtip, matching the pilot’s evasive maneuvers. He manages to fire at it several times, to no effect. It vanishes when he returns to base. (Graeme Rendall, “[The Foo Fighters: Today’s Pilots Encounters with UAP Are Nothing New](#),” The Debrief, April 15, 2021)
- 1943**, May — Capt. Gordon W. Cammell is flying an RAF Lancaster bomber back over the English Channel when he and his entire crew see a “huge orange ball on or near the sea” 7,000–8,000 feet below them. Over the next 10 minutes, they watch it project a bright and constant light. (*Strange Company* 41; Dolan, USO1, 113–114)
- 1943**, May — Late night. John Walker is serving as an RAF armaments officer at a small airfield near Ludham, Norfolk, England. Walking home from a village dance, he notices a green glow in the road ahead. Getting closer, he sees that it is coming from a man standing by the side of the road. He is wearing a diving helmet on his head and an oblong object on his chest. The green glow is coming from his chest and fanning upward over his face, which has a “sickly grin.” He does not react to Walker’s presence in any way. In an adjacent field, Walker can see a large domed object like a “bell tent.” Standing next to it are two more figures, both wearing a grayish garment. Walker moves quickly past and returns to his airfield. (Philip Mantle, “[Pre-1947 Entity and UFO in Norfolk? An I.U.N. Archive Case](#),” *UFO Brigantia*, no. 28 (Nov./Dec. 1987): 9–11)
- 1943**, May 19 — The Northrop N-9M flying wing bomber prototype crashes 12 miles west of Muroc Army Air Base [now Edwards AFB], California, killing its pilot [Max Constant](#). (Wikipedia, “[Northrop N-9M](#)”)
- 1943**, May 26 — Late night. Capt. Ray Smith and copilot Sgt. Gordon N. Cockcroft are flying at 18,000 feet in a Halifax bomber on a run near Essen, Germany, when they see a silvery-gold cylindrical object, larger than their aircraft, on the port side. It has several evenly spaced portholes. It is hovering at a 45° angle. After 20–30 seconds it climbs away at high speed. (Norman Oliver, “[Report—Extra!](#)” *BUFORA Journal* 6, no. 3 (Sept./Oct. 1977): cover, 8–9; “[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1982): 4–6; *Strange Company* 40; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1943](#)”; Good Need, [pp. 19–20](#); John Hanson and Dawn Holloway, *Haunted Skies: The Encyclopaedia of British UFOs: Volume 1, 1940–1959*, Fortean Words, 2010, [pp. 33–34](#))

- 1943, June** — The Army Air Force's Air Tactical Service Command meets with Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in Burbank, California, to ask them to develop a jet fighter. (Wikipedia, "[Skunk Works](#)")
- 1943, June 2** — Construction begins on K-25, the gaseous diffusion plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (Wikipedia, "[K-25](#)")
- 1943, July** — Lockheed Engineer [Kelly Johnson](#) and other associate engineers hand-deliver a proposal for the XP-80 jet fighter to the Air Tactical Service Command. Two days later, the go-ahead is given to Lockheed to start development, and the Skunk Works is born in Burbank, California, with Johnson at the helm. The name supposedly comes from the *L'il Abner* comic strip, which has a place called "Skonk Works" where a strong beverage is brewed from skunks, old shoes, and other ingredients. (Wikipedia, "[Skunk Works](#)")
- 1943, July 18** — A French prisoner in a German labor camp near Gdynia, Poland, is walking to work along the Baltic Sea when he sees a flat, metallic object embedded in the sand. A human figure is standing next to it, apparently trying to dig it up. When he passes by, the figure, apparently an Asian woman with long blonde hair and dressed in a tight-fitting overall, turns in his direction. The witness assumes she is the famous German aviator [Hanna Reitsch](#) and helps her dig the experimental aircraft out of the sand. The object is 20 feet in diameter and looks like two metallic saucers put together. The woman touches the witness's chest with her hand and points to the sky. She touches her belt and a door in the object opens. She crawls inside, the door closes, and the object ascends and departs at a tremendous speed. (Jean Sider, *Ultra Top-Secret: Ces OVNI qui font peur*, Axis Mundi, 1990)
- 1943, September** — Morning. A witness driving a car in Laguna Larga, Córdoba, Argentina, sees a large, saucer-shaped object standing on the ground. It is wider than the road. When he approaches, the object begins to whistle like a motor, climbs to about 1,000 feet, and disappears at terrific speed. On the ground, the witness finds a bright object about 4 inches long. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, p. 21)
- 1943, September** — During an air battle between the Germans and Russians, a member of the Spanish Blue Division fighting with the Germans near Pushkin outside Leningrad [now Saint Petersburg], Russia, notices a disc-shaped object above the planes. It appears to be observing the battle, then disappears at a fantastic speed. (Antonio Ribera, *Platillos Volantes en Iberoamerica y España*, Santiago Pomaire, 1968, pp. 411–412)
- 1943, September or October** — [Ray Palmer](#), editor of *Amazing Stories* magazine, receives a letter from a reader named [Richard S. Shaver](#), who claims to have discovered "Mantong," a proto-language that is the source of all earthly languages. In Mantong, each sound has a hidden meaning, and by applying this formula to any word in any language, one can decode the secret meaning. Palmer applies the formula to several words and realizes Shaver might be onto something. (Wikipedia, "[Richard Sharpe Shaver](#)"; Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, p. 136; Clark III 609; Clark IV 668–669)
- 1943, September 6** — 9:50 a.m. During an aerial fight over Stuttgart, Germany, the crews of two aircraft of the 384th Bomb Group, commanded by Capt. Raymond P. Ketelson, observe two round objects "resembling silvery discs" floating downward through the aircraft formation. One hits the wing of a B-17 bomber, setting it on fire. The bomber does not return from the mission. (*Strange Company* 43)
- 1943, Autumn** — A Polish bomber unit based in England claims that silver-blue balls of fire appeared near their wing on six missions when they raided the Nazi V-1 weapons plant in Peenemünde, Germany. RAF intelligence officer [Michael Bentine](#) debriefs them later and asks, "But what did it do to you?" They reply, "Nothing." Bentine points out, "Well it was not a very effective weapon, was it?" (David Clarke and Andy Roberts, "[The Foo Fighters: The RAF Experience](#)," The Real UFO Project, January 2003; UFOFiles2, p. 20)
- 1943, October** — Maj. Robert Visarius, Luftwaffe officer, is operating a ground defense radar during an Allied air offensive in Kassel, Germany. After the raid, he notices a radar target about 24 miles away that at first is motionless. Then it moves rapidly toward his position and is tracked at a distance of 11 miles away. Through a powerful telescope mounted on the radar, Visarius and his colleagues can see a silvery, light-reflecting object. (Illobrand von Ludiwger, *Ungewöhnliche Eigenschaften Nichtidentifizierbarer Lichterscheinungen*, MUFON-CES, 1978, p. 77)
- 1943, October** — 9:00 p.m. [Wilberta Finley](#), an air spotter for the Civil Air Patrol, notices a "huge dark aerial object approaching" her home in Santa Barbara, California, facing the Goleta Valley. Moving low and soundlessly, it barely skims over a nearby hill. From its front a beam of light shoots down, and at intervals it swings from side to side as if scanning the hills and homes below. (Wilberta M. Finley, "Report from the Readers," *Fate* 11, no. 11 (November 1958): 116–118; Clark III 1178; Clark IV 1352)
- 1943, October 10** — Construction begins for the first reactor at the Hanford site in Washington. (US Department of Energy, Office of History and Heritage Resources, "[Hanford Becomes Operational](#)," August 7, 2013)

- 1943**, October 14 — Night. A group of B-17s from the 384th Bombardment Group are returning from a mission over Germany when they see a cluster of silver-colored discs in the path of their formation and closing with the bombers. The crews talk back and forth, discussing and confirming the sight before them. They describe the objects as “about one inch thick and three inches in diameter...gliding down slowly in a very uniform cluster.” One of the bombers goes directly through the cluster “with absolutely no effect on engines or plane surface,” even though one is heard to strike the tail assembly. A mass of black debris about 3-4 feet long is also observed. (Martin Caidin, *Black Thursday*, Dell, 1962, [pp. 188–190](#); Frank Edwards, *Flying Saucers—Here and Now!* Lyle Stuart, 1967, [pp. 77–78](#); Clark III 502; Clark IV 551)
- 1943**, October or November — 11:00 p.m. 2Lt [Thomas J. Duzynski](#) is stationed at Camp Ibis on the west side of the Dead Mountains Wilderness northwest of Needles, California. Taking a stroll outside his tent, he notices an elliptical-shaped object traveling to the south at high speed parallel to the ground between himself and the mountains. It banks sharply, almost on edge, and gains altitude, disappearing in seconds. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 22–23)
- 1943**, November — [Ray Palmer](#) publishes an article, “An Ancient Language?” on the language of Mantong in the January 1944 issue of *Amazing Stories* and enters into correspondence with [Richard S. Shaver](#), who responds with a 10,000-word document titled “A Warning to Future Man.” Shaver writes of advanced prehistoric races who built underground cities before abandoning Earth for another planet because of damaging radiation from the Sun. Those ancients also abandoned some of their own offspring here, a minority of whom remained noble and human “Teros,” while most degenerate over time into a population of mentally impaired sadists known as “Deros”—short for “detrimental robots.” Shaver’s robots are not mechanical constructs, but robot-like due to their savage behavior. These Deros still live in the cave cities, according to Shaver, kidnapping surface-dwelling people by the thousands for meat or torture. Deros can be blamed for nearly all misfortunes, from minor “accidental” injuries or illnesses to airplane crashes and catastrophic natural disasters. Though generally confined to their caves, the Deros sometimes travel in spaceships or rockets and have dealings with equally evil extraterrestrials. Shaver claims to possess first-hand knowledge of the Deros and their caves, insisting he had been their prisoner for several years. The article stirs considerable reader interest, and the pages of *Amazing Stories* are soon filled with stories and articles about the “Shaver mystery.” (Wikipedia, “[Richard Sharpe Shaver](#)”; [Richard] S. Shaver, [Letter], “An Ancient Language?” *Amazing Stories* 18, no. 1 (January 1944): [206–207](#); [Ray Palmer], “Mantong: The Language of Lemuria,” *Amazing Stories* 19, no. 1 (March 1945): [71](#), [206](#); Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, [pp. 136–137](#); Richard Toronto, *War over Lemuria: Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Strangest Chapter of 1940s Science Fiction*, McFarland, 2013; Fred Nadis, *The Man from Mars: Ray Palmer’s Amazing Pulp Journey*, Penguin Group, 2013; Clark III 454, 609, 872, 1068; Gabriel McKee, “[“Reality—Is It a Horror?”: Richard Shaver’s Subterranean World and the Displaced Self](#),” *Journal of Gods and Monsters* 1, no. 1 (2020): 1–17; Clark IV 499–500, 668–669, 966, 1183–1184)
- 1943**, November — 10:30 p.m. The Sledge family of Escondido, California, sees a disc with a dome and square windows hovering about 15 feet above the roof of their house and emitting a soft humming sound. In two of the windows, human-like silhouettes are visible. When Mrs. Sledge shines a flashlight on the ground, it blinks out and disappears. (“[Unusual U.S. Coastal Aerial Observations during World War 2](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 1 (June 1998): 2, 5)
- 1943**, November 4 — The X-10 Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, goes critical. The Y-12 plant is separating uranium-235 from natural uranium, which is 99.3% uranium-238, by using calutrons to perform electromagnetic isotope separation. (Wikipedia, “[X-10 Graphite Reactor](#)”)
- 1943**, December? — Matt P. Dillingham is on evening duty adjacent to Mullinix Field [now Bonriki International Airport] on Tarawa Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. He begins receiving radar plots showing a north-south track to the west moving at 750 mph. It disappears, but two other targets on the same trajectory appear, moving at the same speed. The same targets are repeated for several nights following. (“[Out of the Past](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 6 (Dec. 1983/Jan. 1984): 6)
- 1943**, December — 10:30 p.m. Four young women are having supper opposite the wharf in Oslo Fjord, Norway, when they see a light that appears to be on the wharf. Fearing sabotage, they hurry into their cars and drive toward the wharf along a mountain road. All three cars stall at once, so they abandon them along the road and head down a snow-covered hillside toward an object on the ground that appears to be a hazy orange light shaped like a church bell. It is emitting a hissing sound. Moments later, the object rises up and hovers some 9–18 feet above the water. It then moves off at “fantastic speed,” turning a deep blue color, and disappears. They advance to where the object was resting and find a crater-like impression about 4.5 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep. Outside this circle, the

snow has melted. (Neville Thornhill, "[U.F.O. Lands in Norway—in 1943: Witness Describes First Recorded E-M Case](#)," *Australian Flying Saucer Review*, no. 7 (September 1967): 10)

- 1943**, December 2 — Night. Some 105 German Junkers Ju 888 bombers attack the port of Bari, Italy, a key supply center for Allied forces. 28 Allied ships are sunk, including the US Liberty ship [SS John Harvey](#), which is carrying mustard gas intended for retaliation in case German forces use chemical warfare. Liquid sulfur mustard from the bombs spills into waters already contaminated by oil from the other damaged vessels. The many sailors who abandoned their ships into the water become covered with the oily mixture. The wounded are pulled from the water and sent to medical facilities whose personnel are unaware of the mustard gas. Medical staff focus on personnel with blast or fire injuries. Within a day, the first symptoms of mustard poisoning appear in 628 patients and medical staff, including blindness and chemical burns. That puzzling development is further complicated by the arrival of hundreds of Italian civilians also seeking treatment, who have been poisoned by a cloud of sulfur mustard vapor that blows over the city when some of *John Harvey's* cargo explodes. As the medical crisis worsens, little information is available about what is causing the symptoms, because US military command want to keep the presence of chemical munitions secret from the Germans. By the end of the month, 83 of the 628 hospitalized military victims have died. The number of civilian casualties, thought to have been even greater, cannot be accurately gauged since most have left the city to seek shelter with relatives. (Wikipedia, "[Air raid on Bari](#)")
- 1943**, December 11 — US bombers conduct a daylight raid on Emden, Germany, and observe an unknown object about the size of a Thunderbolt aircraft over the target area. It passes below the bombers in a straight line and at terrific speed, leaving a vapor trail that persists. (Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1943](#)"; David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 15–16; *Strange Company* 51–52; Patrick Gross, "[ACUFO](#)," October 1, 2023)
- 1943**, December 14 — Night. British 255 Night Fighter Squadron leader [Patrick Hardy Vesey Wells](#) is flying his Bristol Beaufighter on a patrol mission around Naples, Italy, when he and his navigator notice a small bright light behind them. It stays on their tail, moving from side to side. After 1–2 minutes it goes off in another direction. (A. Speir, "[Patrolling over Kent: 28 November 1940, No 249 Squadron, from RAF Station North Weald](#)," *Military History Journal* 9, no. 5 (June 1994); *Strange Company* 52)
- 1943**, Winter — Day. While on a bombing mission over central Germany, Sgt. [Louis Kiss](#), a tail gunner on the *Phyllis Marie*, a B-17 of the 390th Bombardment Group, sees an odd-looking sphere approach the plane from behind and below. It seems to be the size of a basketball and shimmery gold. The object hovers just above one wing, then passes over the top to the other wing where it hovers again. Soon it moves to the rear and gets caught in the B-17's backwash and disappears. ("[First Official Foo-Fighter Records Discovered](#)," *Just Cause*, no. 32 (June 1992): 4–5; Clark III 502; Clark IV 551)
- 1943**, Winter — 3:00 p.m. Harry G. Barnes, a member of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department stationed at No. 1 Precinct, sees three oval-shaped objects in V-formation speeding eastward across the northeast sky. The objects have pulsating, greenish-red exhausts that occasionally flare and curl around them. (UFOEv, [p. 64](#); Clark III 1177)

1944

- 1944** — During a mission to bomb oil fields in Romania, a Russian Tupolev Tu-2 piloted by Maj. Bajenov and Boris Surikov is flying over southwest Ukraine at an altitude of 3 miles when a large, elliptical object approaches them. The bomber starts shaking, the oil pressure rises, and Surikov feels a strong electrostatic charge. Even after the object passes, the bomber's wings are covered with glowing discharges. (Good Need, [pp. 21–22](#))
- 1944** — [George Adamski](#) and his followers move closer to Palomar Mountain, California, along the Road to the Stars where his long-time associate Alice K. Wells sets up a roadside café, Palomar Gardens. According to coworker Charlotte Blodget, "Each member of the group shared in the manual labor that went into this effort, and since heavy restrictions were still in effect regarding materials [in the war's aftermath], anything available had to serve." Adamski builds a "small observatory" to house his 15-inch telescope to study the skies. ("[Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame](#)," The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019; George M. Eberhart, "[Palomar Gardens Café](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 9)
- 1944**, January 15 — The Materiel Command becomes the AAF Materiel Command. (Wikipedia, "[Air Materiel Command](#)")

- 1944, February** — 2:30 a.m. An Australian Beaufort bomber is flying at 4,500 feet over Bass Strait, Australia, when it is joined by an object like a “dark shadow” with a flickering flame coming out of its rear. It appears only 100–150 feet away and stays with the bomber for 18–20 minutes, during which time its radio and direction-finding instruments fail. It shoots away at 700 mph. (R. Gardner, “The Fliers We Wanted to Forget,” *Melbourne Sun Pictorial*, September 22, 1979; Bill Chalker, “[Australian A.F. UFO Report Files](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 30, no. 10 (October 1982): 7; Bill Chalker, *The Oz Files*, Duffy and Snellgrove, 1996, pp. 35–36)
- 1944, February 9** — RAF No. 5 Group issues a report of its investigation on “Rocket Phenomena,” concluding that the air crews are seeing either rockets fired from aircraft, parachute rockets, or high-explosive projectiles at maximum altitudes of 18,000 feet. Reports of objects changing their course are either defects causing erratic flight or light flak tracers reaching their highest point and descending. (*Strange Company* 57–58)
- 1944, February 20** — 2:30 a.m. Two guards of the 3rd Marine Division on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands see what they first assume are the headlight beams of a truck coming from a swamp about three-quarters of a mile from their position. It moves laterally about 50 feet and they see it is a circular light about 50–60 feet long and 20 feet high. It then rises into the air about 25 feet and heads in the direction of the guards at about 45 mph. It makes a 45° turn and passes about 100 feet above the trees of a coconut grove. Several days later, a 200-foot cut in the reeds is discovered in the approximate spot where the light originated. (Alvin G. McNish, “[Letter](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1984): 2)
- 1944, February 23** — Brig. Gen. [George C. McDonald](#) is appointed assistant chief of staff for intelligence for the newly created US Strategic Air Forces in Europe. “Many months preceding the collapse of Germany, McDonald recognized the imperative need for the creation of a new type of intelligence activity to investigate and exploit air intelligence objectives in Germany and liberated countries. This unique system was established and consisted of a great number of highly qualified technical and scientific personnel to exploit all the worldwide aeronautical research developments of Germany. This resulted in the collection of priority intelligence information of value in the prosecution of the war against Japan; technical and non-technical information of immediate operational significance and value; as well as a substantial portion of important documents and personnel of the German Air Ministry that enabled the US Army Air Forces to undertake long-range research with respect to many valuable phases of air doctrine, research, employment, organization, procedure, and plans of the German air force.” Among the personalities involved in the operation are some who will become involved in UFO investigations in the future: Col. [John A. O’Mara](#), Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#), Col. [Harold E. Watson](#), and Col. [Malcolm D. Seashore](#). (Wikipedia, “[United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe](#)”)
- 1944, February 24** — Night. Southwest of Saint-Quentin, Aisne, France, three silver objects are seen by an RAF bomber returning from a mission over Schweinfurt, Germany. They resemble Zeppelins but move independently of the wind. (*Strange Company* 60)
- 1944, March** — An Army Air Force pilot flying a B-17 sees a fast-moving, glowing green object light up the cockpit and speed out of sight over the horizon at Carlsbad, New Mexico. (UFOEv, [p. 19](#))
- 1944, March 1** — The first prototype H.IX V1, an unpowered glider with fixed tricycle landing gear, is tested in Germany, but there is an accident when the pilot attempts to land without first retracting an instrument-carrying pole extending from the aircraft. The design is taken from the [Horten brothers](#) and given to Gothaer Waggonfabrik. (Wikipedia, “[Horten Ho 229](#)”)
- 1944, Spring (or 1945)** — Two grammar school teachers are driving in the mountains near Auberry, California, when their car stalls and they see a cigar-shaped object with lighted portholes along the side hovering in a nearby ravine. They watch it for several minutes until it begins moving slowly out of the ravine, ascends, and shoots away to the west at a tremendous speed. The car engine remains stalled for a while, then starts by itself. (“[Past Sightings Come to Light](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, Jan./Feb. 1968, p. 5)
- 1944, April** — Late afternoon. Near the Eastern front in western Slovakia, a man is standing on a hill near his home when he sees a dark round object moving at high speed to his right for less than one minute. It moves at a steady speed and is followed by another object about 20 seconds later. As many as 6 others appear, and five are visible at one time, each beginning as a pinpoint of light, growing bigger, then decreasing back to a pinpoint. The display lasts for about 5 minutes. (“[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1982): 2)
- 1944, April 5** — The Y-12 plant at Oak Ridge has sent 200 grams of enriched uranium to Los Alamos. Italian-American physicist [Emilio Segrè](#) receives the first sample and within 10 days discovers that the spontaneous fission rate is too high for use in a gun-type fission weapon (because of pu-240 isotope present as an impurity in the pu-239). (Atomic Heritage Foundation, “[Atomic Timeline](#)”)

- 1944, April 26 — Night. RAF pilot Arthur Horton of the 622 Squadron is returning from a bombing mission to Essen, Germany, when he is followed by four orange balls of light with “short stubby wings” and emitting sparks, two on each side of the aircraft. He takes evasive action with his Lancaster, but the objects follow all his maneuvers for 10 minutes. When they reach the coast of Holland, they seem to “burn themselves out.” (*Strange Company* 64–65; UFOFiles2, [pp. 16, 18](#); Patrick Gross, “[ACUFO](#),” October 20, 2023)
- 1944, April 29 — A gun camera film from a German Messerschmitt Bf 110 fighter bomber firing on a Russian Ilyushin DB-3 bomber somewhere on the Eastern Front shows a light moving across the path of the Russian aircraft. Possible foo-fighter? (“[1944 German Gun Camera Films FW-190 vs. B-17s, B-24s WWII Air Raids over Germany 29794](#)” [at 4:14], PeriscopeFilm YouTube channel, April 14, 2020; “[NUFORC UFO Sighting 182788](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, August 28, 2024)
- 1944, May 29 — The Aircraft Warning Service is deactivated. (Wikipedia, “[Aircraft Warning Service](#)”)
- 1944, June — 11:00 a.m. Three Lockheed P-38s of the 1st Fighter Group are flying at 33,000 feet over the Adriatic Sea northeast of Bari, Italy, when they see a round, silver disc above them at about 50,000 feet. The object drops about 10,000 feet and stays with them for 3 minutes, then speeds north out of sight. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, p. 22)
- 1944, June — 12:30 p.m. [David A. K. Morris](#), a fitter with Service Unit 10 of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, takes a swim with a friend at Torokina Beach, Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea. They see “a huge, dark-gray, seemingly metallic, bulbous mass hanging out of a large cumulus cloud.” It moves silently, its outline fading into the cloud and out of sight. It resembles a Zeppelin or the [R101](#) airship, only bigger. (D. Morris, “[RNZAF Camp UFO Sighting of 1944](#),” Ufocus NZ, July 22, 2020)
- 1944, June — Edward W. Ludwig is commanding a small, Coast Guard-manned cargo vessel near Palmyra Atoll. While looking for a lost Navy patrol plane, he observes a bright aerial sphere that alternately moves and stops for 30 minutes. (“True Mystic Experiences,” *Fate* 3, no. 8 (December 1950): 82–87)
- 1944, June 10? — The Liberty ship [SS George E. Badger](#) is off Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, when gunner [Edward Breckel](#) sees a “dark ellipsoidal object” on the horizon about 5 miles away. “Blunted on each end like a sausage,” the silent craft remains in view for 3 minutes, moving slowly at about 15 feet above the surface of the water. (“[The Case for the ‘Sea-Saucer,’](#)” *CRIFO Orbit* 1, no. 10 (January 7, 1955): 5; *Strange Company* 67)
- 1944, June 13 — Afternoon. A V-2 rocket launched by the Germans from Peenemünde Airfield explodes in an air burst about 4,900 feet above a cornfield near Bäckebo in Kalmar County, Sweden, after it flies into some cumulus clouds that block the controller’s line of sight. It is supposed to crash in the Baltic Sea outside occupied Bornholm, Denmark. The Swedes exchange the wreckage with the UK in return for some fighter aircraft. (Wikipedia, “[Sweden during World War II](#)”; Mats Burström, Anders Gustafsson, and Håkan Karlsson, “[The Air Torpedo of Bäckebo: Local Incident and World History](#),” *Current Swedish Archaeology* 14 (2006): 7–24; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576)
- 1944, Early July — 10:30 a.m. During Allied operations in the area around Loreto, Castelfidardo, and Osimo, in Ancona province, Italy, Antoni Szachnowsky, of the 2nd Polish Artillery Regiment, notices an egg-shaped, glistening, metallic, motionless object. The Polish Army anti-aircraft gun fires on it, then the German batteries join in. Eventually both sides stop, and the object remains motionless for a minute. Then it tilts at a 45° angle, moves rapidly upward, and disappears. (“[1944: An Italian Foo-Fighter?](#)” *UFO Sightings Italia*, no. 2, March 2002)
- 1944, July 4 — [Oppenheimer](#) reveals [Segrè](#)’s final measurements to the Los Alamos staff, and the development of the gun-type plutonium weapon “Thin Man” is abandoned. Designing a workable implosion design (Fat Man) becomes the top priority of the laboratory, and design of the uranium gun-type weapon (Little Boy) continues. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, “[Atomic Timeline](#)”)
- 1944, July 6 — German test pilot [Heini Dittmar](#) attains an unofficial airspeed record of 702 mph in a rocket-powered Messerschmidt Me 163B at Lagerlechfeld, Bavaria, Germany. (Wikipedia, “[Heini Dittmar](#)”)
- 1944, July 9 — Afternoon. After a successful air strike by the US 449th Bombardment Group against the Concordia-Vega refinery at Ploesti, Romania, witness Grigore Zmeuranu sees a round, yellowish object flying from the north at a speed about 3-4 times that of an aircraft. It leaves a short vapor trail, moves over the bombed area, and returns silently in the same direction. (“[Rumania: Reports down the Years](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1969): 32–33; “[Rumanian Sightings Revealed](#),” *UFO Investigator* 4, no. 12 (June/July 1969): 1, 5; Hobana and Weverbergh 226–227; *Strange Company* 71)
- 1944, July 17 — The Air Service Command and the AAF Materiel Command are placed under AAF Materiel and Services. (Wikipedia, “[Air Materiel Command](#)”)

- 1944**, Late July — Evening. Jaakku Kivistö is serving in the Finnish Army as a noncommissioned medical officer stationed on a farm near Impilahti, Karelia [now Russia], by Lake Ladoga. He notices a large object next to the corn-drying building on a steep hillside that he at first takes for a military truck. As he walks closer, he sees it is reddish in color, moving slowly about 150–230 feet in the air, 100 feet long, and has a row of black windows. It moves off quickly in the direction of the lake and vanishes. ([“A Close Encounter from the Year 1944,”](#) *Nordic UFO Newsletter*, 1985 no. 1, pp. 3–5)
- 1944**, Summer — 5:00 p.m. François Panes watches a cigar-shaped object at an altitude of about 5,000 feet above the Kamensko Forest north of Blovice, Czechoslovakia [now Czech Republic], glittering brightly with no wings, no rudder, and no propeller. It is about 150 feet in diameter and 300–400 feet long. The object is lit up from underneath. It slowly descends, after which it rises up again and vanishes into the blue sky after 10–15 minutes. (Hobana and Weverbergh 215–216)
- 1944**, Summer — Day. Madeleine Arnoux, 13, is riding her bicycle west along route D42 from Toulon-sur-Arroux toward La Verchère, Saône-et-Loire, France. She stops along a dirt track to pick some wild berries and notices a dull, metallic object about the size of a Volkswagen landed at a point where the track curves into the woods. There are some beings about 3 feet tall and dressed in brown coveralls standing nearby. She has the feeling that she cannot move, but finally runs to retrieve her bicycle. When she looks back again, the object and the beings are gone, but a strong wind is blowing the trees at the spot where it had been. (Madeleine Arnoux, [“Un Cas d’Atterrissage datant de 1944,”](#) *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 118 (June 1972): 20–21; F. Lagarde, [“A French Landing in 1944,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 12 (December 1972): 8)
- 1944**, Summer — Fred Wieland and some friends are riding their bicycles on a footpath adjacent to the Grand Central Parkway in Queens, New York City. As they climb a hill, they look up and see a cigar-shaped object “broadside” to them. It is of smooth metallic construction with no windows or openings. They race to the top of the hill for a better look, but by then the object has completely disappeared. (Clark III 1178; Clark IV 1352)
- 1944**, Summer — Mid-day. Franceen Andron is at Camp McCain, southeast of Grenada, Mississippi, when she sees a large, fat, cigar-shaped object that changes from dull black to gray to “fog blue.” It is joined by three smaller discs that appear below it after emerging from a cloud. The large object disappears first, followed by the discs, which race away in different directions. (NICAP case file)
- 1944**, Summer — Day. [Asa Howard Jr.](#) is outside the barracks at RAF Molesworth in Cambridgeshire, England, when he and other airmen see a pencil-shaped, metallic object moving faster than a jet about a mile away. While watching it for about 2 minutes, they see it pass behind a small cloud before it disappears. (NICAP case file)
- 1944**, August — Night. Officer George Todt of the 38th Regiment, Second Infantry Division, is between Saint-Lô and Vire, Normandy, France, when he sees a cherry-red light one-fifth the size of the moon moving silently west at 120 mph towards Omaha Beach. It stops over the American lines and hovers for 14 minutes. It expands and contracts regularly every few seconds. Col. [Francis Henry Boos](#) and another officer also observe it. (*Strange Company* 78–79)
- 1944**, August 11 — Shortly after midnight. Capt. [Alvah M. Reida](#) is piloting a B-29 bomber based at Kharagpur, India, on a bombing mission over Palembang, Sumatra, Indonesia, when his right gunner and copilot notice a sphere “probably five or six feet in diameter, of a very bright and intense red or orange in color” that constantly throbs, at about 12,500 feet, pacing them about 1,500 feet off the starboard wing. It keeps up with the B-29, then flying at 210 mph. Reida tries to shake it off his plane, but it stays in the same relative position until, after 8 minutes, it makes an abrupt 90° turn and accelerates rapidly, disappearing in the overcast. (UFOEv, [p. 23](#); Good Above, [p. 19](#); *Strange Company* 71–75; Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1944**, August 11 — Night. RAF Warrant Officer Ronald R. Claridge is over France aboard a No. 7 Squadron Lancaster bomber returning from a bombing run on La Pallice, La Rochelle, Charente-Maritime, France, when his radar screen goes blank. Another crewman shouts to look at a vast disc-shaped object with a long row of lights on their starboard side. They watch it for 3 minutes, then it shoots away in a flash of light. Later he draws a watercolor painting to show how the UFO dwarfed the bomber. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 26–27](#))
- 1944**, Mid-August — 11:00 a.m. During the Warsaw Uprising in Poland, Zenon Sergisz notices a German bomber passing by, as well as three bright points of light that descend as the bomber moves away. The lights are flattened spheres that move low behind some buildings then rise up at an angle and disappear. (Poland 14–15)
- 1944**, August 17 — The Allied command creates the Combined Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee (CIOS), charged in part with investigating the strange balls of fire. (*Strange Company* 79)
- 1944**, Late August — Sgt. Ness and another man of the mine-laying platoon of the 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, see a large rectangular object “like a railroad boxcar” with no apparent source of propulsion move

steadily at about 90 mph over the front lines near Brest, Brittany, France, and out to sea. At one point the object passes in front of the moon, briefly obscuring it from view. (Lore and Deneault, [pp. 120–121](#))

1944, Late August — 4:20 p.m. A nurse, Mrs. E. M. Church, on her way to a tram station in Christchurch, New Zealand, sees an object like an “upturned saucer” resting on the ground near the road. It seems to be 20 feet across and 9 feet high. Two beings, not quite 4 feet tall, are inside, visible through a rectangular window. A third stands motionless, just outside an open door. All three seem to be looking toward the lights of a nearby fairground. The nurse cannot decide if their skin color is green or they are dressed in green, but all are encased in a transparent oblong box. The head takes up half of their bodies and there are no apparent legs or arms. She inadvertently makes a noise, and the outside figure notices her. Its helmet flips over automatically, and it drifts inside the object, which rises up and disappears in the clouds. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1940–1949](#), p. 12; Clark III 265; Clark IV 305)

1944, August 30 — A 16-year-old girl is riding her bicycle in Saint-Jean, Haute-Garonne, France, when she sees a semi-spherical object about 13 feet in diameter and 8 feet tall resting on the ground. At first it appears white, then turns to orange. It oscillates from left to right and takes off. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, pp. 23, 32)

1944, August 31 — The Army Air Forces Air Technical Service Command is formed as the result of the merging of the Materiel and Air Service Commands. (Wikipedia, “[Air Materiel Command](#)”)

1944, September — Dusk. Three Oak Ridge workers (a man named Nelson, A. C. Butler, and Albert Proffitt) are driving 2 miles southeast of Oliver Springs, Tennessee, when a strange object appears about 50 feet ahead of them at the level of their windshield. It is glossy white in color and about 30 feet long and 4 feet wide. Nelson eases the car up to the object, but it withdraws; when he stops, it also stops. Soon the light rises high in the air and disappears over Black Oak Ridge. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 23–24)

1944, September — 9:00 p.m. Canadian Army Lance Cpl. Carson Yorke is just outside Antwerp, Belgium, during a German bombardment. He steps out of his vehicle and sees a glowing globe traveling at about 30 mph and 40 feet altitude from the front lines toward the city (in the same course that the German V-2s are following). It seems to be 3–4 feet in diameter and looks “as though it was cloudy glass with a light inside.” It disappears from view, then is followed by another, then five others in succession. (Jerome Clark and Lucius Farish, “[The Mysterious ‘Foo Fighters’ of WW II](#),” *Saga UFO Report*, Spring 1975; Clark III 502; Clark IV 551)

1944, September 2 — Two chemists are killed, and [Arnold Kramish](#) almost killed, after being sprayed with highly corrosive hydrofluoric acid while attempting to unclog a uranium enrichment device that is part of the pilot thermal diffusion plant at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. (Wikipedia, “[Arnold Kramish](#)”)

1944, September 6 — The Combined Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee holds its first meeting in London, England. Present are Air Commodore K. C. Buss (Air Ministry), Gen. [George C. McDonald](#) (AAF Director of Intelligence), Lt. Col. [Lewis F. Powell Jr.](#), Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) (chief of the Air Technical Section), [Howard P. Robertson](#) (CalTech physicist), and Cmdr. [Ian Fleming](#) (Admiralty). (*Strange Company* 80)

1944, Early October — Night. A rapidly moving object latches onto the tail of a Northrop P-61 Black Widow of the 422nd Night Fighter Squadron over western Germany. The light follows the plane as the pilot takes evasive maneuvers, losing it only after he dives into a cloud bank. The plane’s radar observer is badly shaken and is still hyperventilating the following day. The pilot logs the object as a Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet “rocket-propelled interceptor.” (Graeme Rendall, “[The Foo Fighters: Today’s Pilots Encounters with UAP Are Nothing New](#),” *The Debrief*, April 15, 2021)

1944, October — Late night. Members of a family who live in an isolated area on the outskirts of Rochester, Pennsylvania, are awakened by a loud noise and flash of light. The father goes to the door, where he sees a 4.5-foot-tall figure dressed in a brown robe. Fifteen feet to its left are five other figures dressed in luminous brown metallic suits. Their heads seem large, with only a slit for a mouth. The arms are long, with long thin fingers. Three of them enter the house and the father accompanies them to a landed craft nearby. He remembers nothing else when he wakes up in the morning. A round, burned circle 20 feet from the house and 25 feet in diameter is found the next day. (Clark III 265–266; Clark IV 305–306)

1944, October — Nellie Carlin and another woman are about to drive to work in St. Paul, Minnesota, when they see what seems to be an airplane about to crash. It abruptly stops 20 feet above their heads, revealing itself to be a brown, bullet-shaped object with a flat end “like frosted glass with a bright light behind it.” It makes a crackling noise, turns right, and ascends at great speed. (Clark III 1178; Clark IV 1352)

1944, October 10 — 8:00 p.m. A bicyclist riding in Älghult, Kronoberg County, Sweden, is illuminated by a light beam coming from a nearby woods. He sees a large, shining sphere rise silently and rapidly from the ground to treetop

- height and stop, appearing moonlike and golden. After about 5 minutes, the object disappears abruptly. (Anders Liljegren, *From the Archive (2): UFO-Phenomena in the Fall of 1944*, AFU, n.d., pp. 2–6)
- 1944, Late October — 9:30 p.m. 1Lt. J. B. Douglas Jr. and other soldiers of the 489th Armored Field Artillery near Weert, Netherlands, watch a bright silvery object through field glasses moving silently from northwest to southwest through an arc of 90° in about 30–45 minutes. (UFOEv, [pp. 30, 129](#))
- 1944, October 28 — Physicist [David T. Griggs](#), a civilian adviser on radar to the War Department, is asked by Gen. [Henry H. “Hap” Arnold](#) to look into incidents of unusual aerial phenomena in Europe and interview pilots. He later moves his investigation to the Pacific Theater. His report to Arnold at the end of the war has never been located. He was interviewed by [James E. McDonald](#) on April 10, 1969. (Michael D. Swords, “[David Griggs and the Foo Fighters](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 1 (January 2007): 17–19)
- 1944, October 30 — Late night. RAF Flight Engineer Maurice Juberley of the 640 Squadron is returning from a bombing mission over Köln, Germany. His Halifax III is flying at 19,000 feet above the clouds when the rear gunner reports a ball of orange fire closing in on them. He orders an evasive maneuver and loses the light. (*Strange Company* 86)
- 1944, Early November — Night. Lieut. Col. [Oris B. Johnson](#)’s 422d Night Fighter Squadron, equipped with P-61 Black Widow fighters, reports seeing 15–20 mystery objects every night over Germany, either alone or in formations of four. Johnson says he could accept that the reports are rocket planes or night fighter jets. (*Strange Company* 87)
- 1944, November 3 — The Japanese Army launches the first of some 9,300 Fu-Go bomb-bearing fire balloons intended to land in North America to instill fear and terror. About 300 are found or seen in America. It is likely that more of them land in unpopulated areas. On November 4, a US Navy patrol craft discovers one of the first Fu-Go balloons floating off San Pedro, Los Angeles, California. National and state agencies are placed on heightened alert status when balloons are found in Wyoming and Montana before the end of the month. (Wikipedia, “[Fu-Go balloon bomb](#)”; Franklin Matthias, “[Japanese Balloon Bombs Fu-Go](#),” Atomic Heritage Foundation, August 10, 2016)
- 1944, November 4 — Night. RAF Lancaster bombers over Solingen, Germany, report what they call “scarecrow” dummy airplanes that explode with a sheet of flame and dense black smoke. (“[German Dummy Planes Explode Amid Our Own](#),” *New York Times*, November 6, 1944, p. 3)
- 1944, November 12 — 9:30 p.m. A radio station in Santiago, Chile, broadcasts a version of *The War of the Worlds* in Spanish in which Martians land in Puente Alto, causing a panic and the death by heart attack of at least one person in Valparaíso. (John Gosling, *Waging the War of the Worlds: A History of the 1938 Radio Broadcast and Resulting Panic, Including the Original Script*, McFarland, 2009, pp. 99–102)
- 1944, November 16 (or 30?) — 11:55 p.m. Lt. J. L. Besmond, officer of the day on the [USS Gilliam](#), enroute from Oro Bay, Papua New Guinea, to Leyte Gulf, Philippines, observes an unusual object at a distance of 21 miles. Fire Control Officer P. Kendall Bruce describes it as a bright green globe that rises from behind the ship and moves in a “perfect parabola at great speed, finally disappearing behind the horizon to the north.” (NICAP, “[UFO Observed from USS Gilliam](#)”; *Strange Company* 95–96; Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1944, November 22 — 10:00 p.m. RAF 9 Squadron is flying at 12,000 feet somewhere over Germany after returning from a bombing mission in Trondheim, Norway. Flying Officer Dennis Nolan sees a clearly defined, “pyrotechnic pink,” spherical object, fluctuating in brightness, flying at their same altitude to the rear of their bomber. The object accelerates and decelerates abruptly with jerking movements, moving from side to side, well astern. (*Strange Company* 89; Powell, *Scientist*, 65)
- 1944, November 24 — Capt. [William D. Leet](#)’s B-17 crew (part of the 2nd Bombardment Group, 5th Wing of the Fifteenth Air Force) is returning from bombing a target at Klagenfurt, Austria. While flying over northeastern Italy near Trieste, Leet notices a blinding light and feels an intense heat. It goes away quickly, but seconds later he sees a “round amber light” sitting off the left wingtip of the B-17. It is bright and perfectly circular. Leet orders the gunners not to shoot at it. Sgt. Harris, the upper gunner, thinks it is 10 feet in diameter and 150–300 feet away. The object stays with them over the Adriatic Sea for 50 minutes, until it “just turned off” like a light bulb. (William D. Leet, “[The Flying Fortress and the Foo-Fighter](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 133 (Jan./Feb. 1979): 3–4; *Strange Company* 90–93; Clark III 502–503; Clark IV 551–552)
- 1944, November 29 — 3:00 p.m. [Reginald Herbert Mortimer](#) and his daughter Frances are on the Bruce Peninsula between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, Ontario, when they hear a hissing sound behind them and see 9 disc-shaped objects pass overhead at approximately 2,000 feet. Moving three abreast in a square configuration, they are lost to sight over the lake. (Clark III 1179)
- 1944, November 29 — Night. A Bristol Beaufighter crew (pilot Lieut. Edward A. Schlueter and radar observer Lieut. Donald J. Meiers of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron, and intelligence officer Capt. [Fred B. Ringwald](#) as observer) is on a bombing mission and flying above the Rhine River north of Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin, France. They

see “eight to 10 bright orange lights off the left wing...flying through the air at high speed.” Neither the airborne radar nor ground control registers anything nearby. Schlueter and Meiers also see red lights on November 26 above Mannheim, Germany. (Jo Chamberlin, [“The Foo Fighter Mystery,”](#) *American Legion Magazine*, December 1945, pp. 9, 43; Harold T. Wilkins, [“The Strange Mystery of the Foo Fighters,”](#) *Fate* 4, no. 6 (Aug./Sept. 1951): 98–106; Zoe Crasney, [“What Were the Mysterious ‘Foo Fighters’ Sighted by WWII Night Flyers?”](#) *Smithsonian Air and Space Magazine*, August 2016; *Strange Company* 93–95; Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)

- 1944**, December 13 — SHAEF in Paris, France, issues a press release identifying the fireballs as a “new German weapon” and that the Ninth Air Force has reported seeing “many silver balls floating in the air above enemy territory.” An Army Air Force spokesman says on December 20 that the silver balls have “no detectable effects” on Allied planes. He does not know whether or not they are metallic. ([“Floating Mystery Ball Is New Nazi Air Weapon,”](#) *New York Times*, December 14, 1944, p. 6; *Strange Company* 96, 101)
- 1944**, December 14–28 — Numerous balls of light are reported by the Night Fighter Squadrons during bombing raids over Germany. Pilot and operations officer [Charlie Horne](#) of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron suggests calling the objects “foo fighters,” a name gleaned from the men’s favorite comic strip, “Smokey Stover” by cartoonist [Bill Holman](#). The comic follows the escapades of a madcap fire fighter who calls his fire truck the “Foomobile.” Smokey Stover often states, “where there’s foo, there’s fire.” (Jo Chamberlin, [“The Foo Fighter Mystery,”](#) *American Legion Magazine*, December 1945, pp. 9, 43–47; [“More Foo-Fighter Records Released,”](#) *Just Cause*, new ser., no. 33 (September 1992): 2–6; [“The Foo Fighters of World War II, Part One,”](#) *Saturday Night UFOria*; Clas Svahn, [“The Origin of the Expression ‘Foo Fighter,’”](#) *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 18; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, pp. 47–49; *Strange Company* 96–111; Swords 3–5; Barry Greenwood, [“Foo Fighter Archive Donated to UHR,”](#) *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 17 (December 2015): 2–8; Graeme Rendall, [“The Foo Fighters: Today’s Pilots Encounters with UAP Are Nothing New,”](#) *The Debrief*, April 15, 2021)
- 1944**, December 23 — 6:00 a.m. A Bristol Beaufighter crew of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron is patrolling at 10,000 feet near Haguenau, France, when they see two orange lights climbing toward them from the ground. They level off and remain on the plane’s tail for 2 minutes, then peel off, “flying under perfect control,” and go out. (Jo Chamberlin, [“The Foo Fighter Mystery,”](#) *American Legion Magazine*, December 1945, p. 44; [“More Foo-Fighter Records Released,”](#) *Just Cause*, new ser., no. 33 (September 1992): 1, 4)
- 1944**, December 23 — Night. Navy Lt. [George Arents III](#) and copilot Lt. Elon Forster are flying a military DC-3 at 9,000 feet between Blackstone and Richmond, Virginia, when they notice a cigar-shaped object hovering below them at about 4,000 feet. It appears to be 200 feet long and has two horizontal rows of blue-lighted windows and a flaming exhaust coming out of its tail. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1944**, Late December through February 1945 — Radar operators at Naval Air Station Pasco, Washington, report unusual blips that appear out of nowhere and proceed from northwest to southeast. A Grumman F6F Hellcat fighter is scrambled on at least two occasions with orders to shoot down anything that appears to be hostile, but nothing is seen. In another incident, Lt. JG Clarence R. Clem accompanies Lt. Commander Richard Brown and Ensign C. T. Neal to a waiting aircraft and Brown takes off in pursuit of a ball of fire that quickly leaves him behind as it speeds off to the northwest and is lost to radar. On another occasion, naval officer R. W. Hendershot, flying an SNJ aircraft, is asked by ground radar to make contact with two high-altitude blips flying at the speed of a single-engine Piper Cub. Though he can see nothing, he is convinced the blips are real. (Headquarters Fourth Air Force, [“Air Defense Measures at Hanford Engineering Company,”](#) January 23, 1945; *Strange Company* 142; Nukes 43–44; Project 1947, [“UFOs over Hanford: Cdr. R. W. Hendershot,”](#) June 22, 2014; Robert L. Hastings, [“Reports Confirm UFO Activity at the Hanford Nuclear Weapons Plant during World War II,”](#) *UFOs & Nukes*, August 9, 2015; Robert L. Hastings, [“Former US Navy Pilot Says Huge Fireball Maneuvered above the Hanford Atomic Plant during World War II,”](#) *UFOs & Nukes*, October 5, 2015)

1945

- 1945** — A slow-moving object, 25–35 feet in diameter, comes within 225 feet of a witness in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. Through a large window he can see 6-foot-tall beings with short legs, short hair, and one-piece suits. ([“Ufonauts Seen in 1945,”](#) *Northern UFO News*, no. 21 (February 1976): 5; Clark III 266; Clark IV 306)
- 1945**, January — [Ray Palmer](#) edits, rewrites, and publishes [Richard S. Shaver](#)’s description of the cave-dwelling Dero for the March 1945 issue of *Amazing Stories* under the title “I Remember Lemuria,” which also describes Shaver’s

“memories” of life in the lost continent of Lemuria. The issue sells out and generates quite a response. A second story, “Thought Records of Lemuria,” appears in the June 1945 issue, in which Shaver claims he hears voices coming from his welding machine that are from the evil Dero. Between 1945 and 1949, many letters arrive attesting to the truth of Shaver’s claims (tens of thousands of letters, according to Palmer). The correspondents claim that they, too, have heard strange voices or encountered denizens of the Hollow Earth. (Wikipedia, “[Richard Sharpe Shaver](#)”; Wikipedia, “[Raymond A. Palmer](#)”; Richard S. Shaver, ““I Remember Lemuria,”” *Amazing Stories* 19, no. 1 (March 1945): [12–70](#); Richard S. Shaver, “Thought Records of Lemuria,” *Amazing Stories* 19, no. 2 (June 1945): [16–52](#); Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, [pp. 137–144](#); Richard Toronto, *War over Lemuria: Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Strangest Chapter of 1940s Science Fiction*, McFarland, 2013; Fred Nadis, *The Man from Mars: Ray Palmer’s Amazing Pulp Journey*, Penguin Group, 2013; David Halperin, “[The Shaver Mystery—Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Quest for Lemuria \(Part 1\)](#),” July 4, 2014; Clark III 872, 1069; Clark IV 966, 1184)

- 1945**, January 2 — 2:30 a.m. USAAF Lieut. Jack Green and navigator Lieut. Warren Barber, 653rd Bombardment Squadron, are conducting a reconnaissance flight in a Mosquito over the Netherlands and northern Germany when they encounter two balls of fire on three occasions pacing their plane. Barber describes them as a “pair of fog lights, shooting up to 60 or 70,000 feet.” (*Strange Company* 114–116, 208–209)
- 1945**, January 2 — The *New York Times* publishes an article stating that the foo fighters are German weapons. Lieut. Donald J. Meiers of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron says he has been followed by foo-fighters twice in November 1944. “A foo-fighter picked me up at 700 feet and chased me 20 miles down the Rhine Valley [Germany]. I turned to starboard and two balls of fire turned with me. I turned to the port side and they turned with me. We were going 260 miles an hour and the balls were keeping right up with us.” (“[Balls of Fire Stalk U.S. Fighters in Night Assaults over Germany](#),” *New York Times*, January 2, 1945, pp. 1, 4; “[Science: Foo-Fighter](#),” *Time*, January 15, 1945, p. 72; *Strange Company* 117–118)
- 1945**, January 2 — Col. [Clayton Lawrence Bissell](#), in the Pentagon’s Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, sends SHAEF in Paris a classified message seeking an explanation for the red balls of fire pacing planes. No response has been located to date. ([Clayton Lawrence] Bissell, [[message](#)], January 2, 1945; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1945](#)”)
- 1945**, January 16 — Lt. Col. [Leavitt Corning Jr.](#) of the XII Tactical Air Command sends a secret memo to the assistant chief of air intelligence requesting further information on the “Night Phenomenon.” (*Strange Company* 126–127)
- 1945**, January 20 — First Tactical Air Force Executive Officer Maj. [Samuel V. Boykin](#) responds to [Corning](#) asking for more particulars about the reports. (*Strange Company* 127)
- 1945**, January 22 — British prisoners being force-marched out of the German Heydebreck labor camp (near modern Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Poland) see a four-engine bomber overhead. Behind it is a “brilliant light” that is following it closely. (Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1945**, between January 26 and 31 — Louis Gracie and four other sailors on the troop transport [USS McCracken](#) near the Solomon Islands watch a submerged object about 20 feet in diameter with a dull finish. The ship passes over it. (Jan L. Aldrich, “[Updated Draft Catalogue of UFOs/USOs Reported by Seagoing Services, NavCat 2.0](#),” Project 1947, 2015; Dolan, USO1, 114–115)
- 1945**, January 30 — 12:10 a.m. A 415th Night Fighter Squadron crew observes two amber-colored “lights in the air at 2,000 feet” between Wissembourg, Bas-Rhin, France, and Landau, Germany. They seem to be about a foot in diameter and 20–50 feet apart. The lights follow their Bristol Beaufighter, closing in to about 1,000 feet before disappearing. (*Strange Company* 129; “[Foo Fighter Archive Donated to UHR](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 17 (December 2015): 7)
- 1945**, January 30 — Capt. [Fred B. Ringwald](#), intelligence officer for the 415 Night Fighter Squadron, responds to [Corning](#)’s January 16 request by offering a summary of 14 foo fighter reports from December 14, 1944, to January 29, 1945. ([[Memo](#)], Fred B. Ringwald to AC of S A-2 XII Tactical Air Command, January 30, 1945; *Strange Company* 129–132)
- 1945**, February — [Meade Layne](#) founds the Borderland Sciences Research Associates in San Diego, California, and publishes the first issue of its newsletter, *The Round Robin*. Working with local medium [Mark A. Probert](#), who channels “etheric” entities from discarnates with advanced knowledge of spirit and cosmos, Layne and BSRA seek to explore the mysteries of the invisible world. (Borderland Sciences Research Associates, [[History](#)]; Håkan Blomqvist, “[Round Robin and Contactee History](#),” Håkan Blomqvist’s Blog, March 30, 2014; Clark III 876; Clark IV 970)
- 1945**, February 2 — The first Hanford plutonium arrives at Los Alamos. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, “[Atomic Timeline](#)”)

- 1945, February 2** — The first flight of the H.IX V2 is made in Oranienburg, Germany. All subsequent test flights and development are done by Gothaer Waggonfabrik in Gotha. By this time, the [Horten brothers](#) are working on a turbojet-powered design for the *Amerika Bomber* contract competition and do not attend the first test flight. The test pilot is Lieutenant [Erwin Ziller](#). Two further test flights are made in February. There are reports that during one of these test flights, the H.IX V2 undertook a simulated dogfight with a Messerschmitt Me 262, the first operational jet fighter, and that the H.IX V2 outperformed the Me 262. However, the Me 262 is considered by many as unsuitable for fighter missions, being slow in turning. (Wikipedia, "[Horton Ho 229](#)")
- 1945, February 7** — Afternoon. Several F6F fighters on patrol (one piloted by Ensign [Norman P. Stark](#)) from the *USS Wasp* aircraft carrier anchored at Ulithi Atoll in the Caroline Islands are told to investigate a radar target at 30,000 feet some 10 miles west of the fleet. Before they can reach altitude, the object moves back to the west at high speed. They catch a brief visual glimpse of it. (LCDR Norman P. Stark, "[A WWII F6F Navy Fighter Pilot's Experiences in the Pacific](#)," Battle of Saipan, January 1, 2000)
- 1945, February 10** — The *Chicago Tribune* and *Washington Times-Herald* reveal [Bill Donovan](#)'s plans for a postwar intelligence agency and publishes a secret memo he has sent to [Roosevelt](#) proposing its creation. The article compares the proposed agency to the Gestapo. Knowing that Americans want a smaller federal government after the war, Roosevelt is not entirely sold on Donovan's proposal, although Donovan feels reasonably confident that he can talk the president into the idea. [J. Edgar Hoover](#) disapproves of Donovan's plan, which he sees as a direct threat to FBI authority, even though Donovan has stressed that his agency will operate only abroad, not domestically. (Walter Trohan, "[Super-Spy Idea Denounced As New Deal OGPU](#)," *Chicago Tribune*, February 10, 1945, p. 1; Mark Riebling, *Wedge: From Pearl Harbor to 9/11*, Simon & Schuster, 2002, pp. 59–61; Central Intelligence Agency, "[Origins of CIA](#)," August 3, 2005)
- 1945, February 11** — Air Commodore [Colin McKay Grierson](#), RAF assistant chief of staff A2, refers [Ringwald](#)'s report to the Air Ministry. (*Strange Company* 133–134)
- 1945, February 14** — Rocket engineers Rudolf Schriever and Klaus Habermohl allegedly fly a Nazi-engineered flying disk in Prague, Czechoslovakia, that reaches an altitude of 40,680 feet in 3 minutes and a speed of 1,243 mph in horizontal flight. The plans for these devices supposedly come from the German experts Schriever, Habermohl, Richard Miethe, and the Italian Giuseppe Belluzzo. Habermohl and Schriever choose a wide ring that revolves around a fixed, dome-shaped cockpit and consists of adjustable wing disks that can be placed in an appropriate position depending on whether they are needed for takeoff or level flight. (Wikipedia, "[Nazi UFOs](#)"; Rudolf Luser, *Die Deutschen Waffen und Geheimwaffen des Zweites Weltkrieges*, 1958; Andreas Müller, "[Dauerthema: UFOs und das Dritte Reich: Eine kritische Analyse](#)," grenzWissenschaft-aktuelle.de, September 5, 2023)
- 1945, Mid-February** — As their C-47 prepares to land at Biggs Field, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, S/Sgt Ralph Bayer is alarmed to see an aircraft approaching from the left and only 900 feet below them. The object is about 30 feet long and a dull, flat gray in color, and it travels in a straight course 500 feet above the ground until it disappears. (Clark III 1178; Clark IV 1352)
- 1945, February 18** — Disaster strikes during the third test flight of the H.IX V2 in Gotha, Germany. [Erwin Ziller](#) takes off without any problems to perform a series of flight tests. After about 45 minutes, at an altitude of around 800 meters, one of the Jumo 004 turbojet engines develops a problem, catches fire and stops. Ziller is seen putting the aircraft into a dive and pulling up several times in an attempt to restart the engine and save the precious prototype. He undertakes a series of four complete turns at a 20° angle. Ziller does not use his radio or eject from the aircraft. He already is unconscious as a result of the fumes from the burning engine. The aircraft crashes just outside the boundary of the airfield. Ziller is thrown from the aircraft on impact and dies from his injuries two weeks later. The prototype aircraft is completely destroyed. (Wikipedia, "[Horton Ho 229](#)")
- 1945, February 22** — Night. A B-24 bomber flying near Chichijima in the Ogasawara (Bonin) Archipelago, Japan, sees an object trailing exhaust. It is also picked up on radar and follows the plane for about 20 miles before disappearing off the screen. (Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1945](#)")
- 1945, March** — The K-25 gaseous diffusion plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, begins production. (Wikipedia, "[K-25](#)")
- 1945, March** — A man is squirrel hunting in a wooded area near Belfast, Maine, when he sees a huge, elongated object just above the trees. He runs after it, thinking it is a dirigible about to crash. The object crashes into the trees at the far edge of a clearing, splitting a huge pine tree down the middle. He smells burned rubber. The object seems to be as big as several B-36 bombers. As he stands there stunned, the lowest end of the craft begins to rise and he hears a humming sound of increasing intensity. After it rises to a horizontal position, it begins to spin faster and faster and the hum becomes very intense. Suddenly one end spews a shower of fine, silvery threads that glint in the sunlight. The object begins to change to a white metallic color and it takes off straight up at fantastic speed. ("I Saw a Flying Saucer," *Flying Saucers*, May 1959, pp. 6–18, 78; Clark III 1178–1179; Clark IV 1352–1353)

- 1945, March** — 3:00 p.m. Army Air Force Sgt. James L. Lease and E. E. Dickey are driving south on the Santa Rosa Highway north of Fort Sumner, New Mexico, when they see the glint of a flying object to the west. It appears to be a grayish metal and motionless about 12–14 feet off the ground. Suddenly it swoops away at great speed and is out of sight within seconds. (*Strange Company* 142–143; Powell, *Scientist*, 65)
- 1945, March** — [Ray Palmer](#) travels to Barto, Pennsylvania, and spends a weekend with [Richard Shaver](#) and his wife. He witnesses Shaver's channeling trances and the different voices describing the cavern world that he generates during his sleep. (Wikipedia, "[Richard Sharpe Shaver](#)"; Wikipedia, "[Raymond A. Palmer](#)"; Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, pp. 137–144; Richard Toronto, *War over Lemuria: Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Strangest Chapter of 1940s Science Fiction*, McFarland, 2013; Fred Nadis, *The Man from Mars: Ray Palmer's Amazing Pulp Journey*, Penguin Group, 2013; David Halperin, "[The Shaver Mystery—Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Quest for Lemuria \(Part 1\)](#)," July 4, 2014; Clark III 872, 1069; Clark IV 966, 1184)
- 1945, March 10** — A Japanese Fu-Go balloon strikes a high-tension wire on the Bonneville Power Administration in Washington State. The balloon causes sparks and a fireball that results in the power being cut. Coincidentally, the largest consumer of energy on this power grid is the Hanford site of the Manhattan Project, which suddenly loses power. The officer in charge at Hanford, Col. [Franklin Matthias](#), says "it shut down the plant cold, and it took us about three days to get it back up to full power again." ("[Japanese Ballons and Attached Devices](#)," *Technical Air Intelligence Center Report*, no. 41 (May 1945); Joel Shurkin, "[Japanese Balloon Attack Almost Interrupted Building First Atomic Bombs](#)," *Inside Science*, March 21, 2016; Franklin Matthias, "[Japanese Balloon Bombs Fu-Go](#)," Atomic Heritage Foundation, August 10, 2016; Donald W. Meyers, "[It Happened Here: Japanese Balloon Bombs Found in Yakima Valley](#)," *Yakima (Wash.) Herald-Republic*, June 10, 2019)
- 1945, March 12** — Nearly a week after the US Army launches Operation Lumberjack to cross the Rhine River, the Ho 229 is included in the *Jäger-Notprogramm* (Emergency Fighter Program) for accelerated production of inexpensive "wonder weapons." The prototype workshop is moved to the Gothaer Waggonfabrik (Gotha) in Friedrichroda, Germany. In the same month, work commences on the third prototype, the Ho 229 V3. (Wikipedia, "[Horton Ho 229](#)")
- 1945, March 18** — [Grierson](#) writes to [Samuel V. Boykin](#) that the Air Ministry thinks the fireballs are either Me-262's or flak rockets. (*Strange Company* 147)
- 1945, March 18** — Night. A 416th NFS crew is flying a Mosquito 25 miles northwest of Florence, Italy. Suddenly a light is flying alongside them at 13,000 feet. It doesn't appear on the radar screen. The pilot turns the plane toward the light, keeping on its tail, pursuing at 260 mph and climbing to 16,000 feet. Suddenly the light disappears. (*Strange Company* 148)
- 1945, March 19** — 1:00 p.m. The crew of the battleship [USS New York](#) is leaving port on Manus in the Admiralty Islands, preparing to rejoin Task Force 54 in preparation for the invasion of Okinawa. When the ship's radar detects a single incoming blip, officers issue a call to General Quarters. Crew members can see an object hovering high above the ship. Capt. [Kemp C. Christian Sr.](#) is watching it through binoculars, and it appears silver in color and smaller than a full moon. It remains still, matching the ship's course and speed. After 30 minutes, Kemp orders the ship's anti-aircraft guns to fire on the object, but it is out of range. After a few more seconds, the object climbs swiftly until it is out of sight and off the radar scope. (William McGuire and Mark Murphy, "[Profiles: New York or Bust](#)," *The New Yorker*, October 27, 1945; Carl Feindt, "[Report #1090](#)," waterufo.net; NICAP, "[South Pacific in the Area of the Admiralty Islands, Mid-March 1945](#)"; Stephen A. Pratt, [[Letter](#)], *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 203 (March 1983): 16; *Strange Company* 151–152)
- 1945, Late March** — At least two residents of Dresden, Germany, see a round, flat, silver-colored object without propellers or wings hovering silently in the air. It suddenly disappears like a "burst soap bubble." ("[Weltrundschau](#)," *Weltraumbote*, no. 32/22 (July/Aug. 1958): 14–15; Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1945, March 25** — Around 10:30 p.m. Company A of the US 44th Armored Infantry Battalion is bivouacked on a hill along the Autobahn between Mannheim and Darmstadt, Germany, when 6–7 circular, glowing, yellow-orange objects approach at 150 feet, roughly following the road. They are not in strict formation and seem individually controlled. John G. Norris recalled that after 5–6 minutes they are hidden by the trees. (*Strange Company* 153–154; Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1945, March 26** — During an air operation, Lieut. [Calvin P. Lamb](#) (pilot), Lieut. James G. Holmes (radar observer), and Sgt. John W. McIsaac (gunner) notice lights on an airborne object. The lights follow them through a few turns but move away as the crew orbits north of Iwo Jima, Japan. They give chase, obtaining a slight target on the aircraft radar, then the object pulls out of sight. A similar lighted object is again seen March 28 by Lieut. [William F. Sill](#) (pilot), Flight Officer George W. Hayden (radar observer), and PFC William Brasvell (gunner). (Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1945](#)")

- 1945, April — During operations around Okinawa, Japan, the radar crew on the aircraft carrier [USS Independence](#) frequently notices strange radar returns that move at slow speeds (30–70 mph). Aircraft and destroyers sent to search for them never find anything. These radar ghosts are usually detected 25–30 miles away at an altitude of 1,500 feet, but occasionally 3,500 feet. The primary diagnostic for these false returns is their speed. The Navy nicknames them the “ghost of Nansei-shoto” after the Japanese name for the Ryukyu Islands, of which Okinawa is one. (*Strange Company* 183–186)
- 1945, April — [Ray Palmer](#) publishes a second story by [Richard Shaver](#), “Thought Records of Lemuria,” in the June issue of *Amazing Stories*. Here it is revealed that Shaver’s knowledge of the cave world and Lemuria isn’t really a “racial memory,” as the first story had asserted. Shaver, working in a factory, heard voices speaking to him, apparently through his welding gun. (Richard S. Shaver, “Thought Records of Lemuria,” *Amazing Stories* 19, no 2 (June 1945): [16–52](#))
- 1945, April 3–4 — US B-29 bombers over Honshu, Japan, encounter numerous balls of light tagging along with them. (*Strange Company* 157–159)
- 1945, April 7 — [Walter and Reimar Horten](#), German designers associated with wingless aircraft, are arrested by US troops near Göttingen, Germany. (Lance Cole, *Secret Wings of World War II: Nazi Technology and the Allied Arms Race*, Pen & Sword, 2015)
- 1945, April 7 — Mid-morning. Capt. [Louis B. Sewell](#) is serving as a navigator in a B-17 over the North Sea on the way to a bombing target near Berlin, Germany. Suddenly, out of the sun, an apparent German fighter dives at the aircraft from the side, leveling off for a swift attack. However, the object has no wings, and it rolls over into a dive without firing. Suddenly it stops in mid-air, and Sewell can see it against the sea below. The object then takes off at about 2,000 mph and disappears. Sewell’s radio operator turns over several photos he took of the object to intelligence officers. (Harley D. Rutledge, *Project Identification*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, [p. 250](#))
- 1945, April 10 — 11:00 p.m. James L. Landry [or Hendry] sees from his porch in Jeffersontown, Kentucky, a bright light that seems to be directly above Fisherville, 3 miles to the east. Its brightness fluctuates and it seems to be moving directly toward his location, casting a light beam downward. After 10 minutes, it goes out “like a snuffed candle.” (“A Meteor?” *Louisville Times*, April 14, 1945; “[Another Sky-Light](#),” *Doubt* 13 (Winter 1945/1946): 195; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1945](#)”; Clark III 1177; Clark IV 1352)
- 1945, April 10 — As part of the Manhattan Project, 18 people in the US are injected with plutonium in doses ranging from 95 to 5,900 nanocuries without their knowledge or consent. The intent is to study how plutonium is absorbed into the digestive tract. The last experiment is conducted on July 18, 1947. (Wikipedia, “[Unethical human experimentation in the United States](#)”)
- 1945, April 12 — Roosevelt dies at Warm Springs, Georgia. [Harry S. Truman](#) is sworn in as president.
- 1945, April 17 — Maj. Gen. [James P. Hodges](#) writes a memorandum to Gen. [Henry H. “Hap” Arnold](#), saying that infrared devices are now available to take photographs of “balls of fire” in the Pacific. (Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1945](#)”)
- 1945, April 22 — The [USS Lewis Hancock](#) is northeast of Okinawa, Japan, when the SG radar picks up an unidentified target at 6 miles heading their way at 70–115 mph. Its movements are erratic. Two miles out, the ship identifies a “tight formation of more than fifty birds.” (*Strange Company* 184)
- 1945, April 24 — The [USS Audubon](#) is headed for Okinawa, Japan, with US Army passengers and equipment. Radar operators pick up “unidentified aeroplanes” heading their way. The screens show a blip, alternately fuzzy and strong, some 8 miles away headed down the starboard side at 25 mph. Still, nothing can be seen visually, and the radar operator suggests that it is a flock of birds. (*Strange Company* 184–186)
- 1945, April 25 — 9:45 a.m. Acting Squadron Leader Kit Francis Williams of the RAF 617 Bomber Squadron is flying a Lancaster with 25 other aircraft to bomb Hitler’s headquarters at Berchtesgaden, Germany, in the Bavarian Alps. Just after a turn near Kaiserslautern, Germany, at 16,500 feet, Williams witnesses an object like a large woolly blanket that takes up his entire windshield. He thinks it could be as much as 4–5 miles wide. It moves vertically and is gone in an instant. Suddenly his aircraft loses its electrical power and loses one of its bombs. He and his bomber and engineer get severe headaches. They return to base in England after regaining power. (Keith Basterfield, “[Observation by Pilot over Germany, 1945](#),” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, November 14, 2016)
- 1945, April 26 — Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#)’s XXI Bomber Command’s Air Intelligence staff produces a 5-page report representing the most up-to-date information and theories on the balls of fire seen in the Pacific theatre of war but cannot find a good explanation for them. (“[Balls of Fire](#),” Twentieth Air Force, XXI Bomber Command, *Air Intelligence Report* 1, no. 8 (April 26, 1945): 9–14; *Strange Company* 162–163)

- 1945**, April or May — Day. During the Okinawa campaign, “bright gold balls” moving in a straight line shoot over the island. Several battleship and destroyer radars track them moving at 600 mph. (Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1945**, Late Spring — 10:30 a.m. Two brothers in St. James, Missouri, notice metallic disc with a clear dome hovering above the family garage. It is about 35 feet in diameter and 12 feet tall. A human-like being about 5 feet 6 inches tall is inside the dome, wearing brown coveralls. It seems to notice the witnesses and immediately touches something in front of it. The object moves forward with a hum like an electric motor. After a click, the object sways in the air. One of the brothers runs underneath it and sees on the underside an area with grille work. The craft takes off and follows the contour of the ground, picks up speed, and disappears over a hill. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, pp. 26, 31)
- 1945**, May — German scientist [Viktor Schauberger](#), who has been using inmates from the Mauthausen concentration camp to help him develop new aircraft and submarine engines, is captured by Allied forces in Leonstein, Austria. Supposedly his devices and documents, which allegedly include a prototype flying saucer, are kept under lock and key. He is released in March 1946 and moves to Linz, Austria, but the Americans do not confiscate his workshop and laboratory materials, although they prohibit him from further military experimentation. (Wikipedia, “[Nazi UFOs](#)”)
- 1945**, May 3 — Early morning. Nine B-24’s with the 11th Bombardment Group’s 431st Squadron are heading out on a bombing mission against Japanese air installations on Truk [now Chuuk] Atoll in Micronesia. One plane over Fala Island sees two objects at their altitude of 11,000 feet, changing from cherry red to orange then white, then dying out and turning cherry red again. Both follow the B-24 through all sorts of evasive actions. (NICAP, “[May 2, Truk Atoll Sighting](#)”; Jo Chamberlin, “[The Foo Fighter Mystery](#),” *American Legion Magazine* 39, no. 6 (December 1945): 9; “[B-24 Sights Circles of Light](#),” *UFO Historical Review*, no. 2 (September 1998): 8; Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, pp. 25–26; *Strange Company* 163–165; Patrick Gross, “[Foo Fighters: The Truk Atoll, May 2, 1945, Foo Fighter Incident](#)”)
- 1945**, May 5 — A pregnant woman, Elsie Mitchell, and five children are killed when they discover a Japanese Fu-Go balloon bomb that has landed in the forest of Gearhart Mountain near Bly in southern Oregon. (Wikipedia, “[Fu-Go balloon bomb](#)”; “[Mystery Blast Kills 6 Persons](#),” *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review*, May 7, 1945, p. 1; “[Mystery Blast Claims Former Medford Youth](#),” *Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune*, May 7, 1945, p. 1; “[Blast Kills 6: Five Children, Pastor’s Wife in Explosion](#),” *Klamath Falls (Oreg.) Herald and News*, May 7, 1945, pp. 1, 6; Allan T. Duffin, “[Project Fugo: The Japanese Balloon Bombs](#),” *Military Heritage* 9, no. 2 (October 2007); David Kravets, “[May 5, 1945: Japanese Balloon Bomb Kills 6 in Oregon](#),” *Wired*, May 5, 2010; Francine Uenuma, “[In 1945, a Japanese Balloon Bomb Killed Six Americans, Five of Them Children, in Oregon](#),” *Smithsonian Magazine*, May 22, 2019; Steve Lent, “[Japanese Balloon Bomb Kills Six at Bly in 1945](#),” *Prineville Central Oregonian*, May 24, 2019; Don Bourgeois, “[Weaponized Chinese Balloon Not New, Oregon Attacked by Japan in WWII](#),” *Portland (Oreg.) Tribune*, February 7, 2023)
- 1945**, May 23 and 25 — Night. In the wake of two B-29 raids on Tokyo, Japan, both nights, businessman Iomoyo Okado looks up from his air raid shelter and sees slow-moving “roundish objects, like hot cakes, about 20 square yards” in diameter, and silent. They are blue or gray in color. (“[‘Flying Hot Cakes’ over Tokyo in 1945](#),” *St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press*, July 12, 1947, p. 6; Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1945**, May 25 — Early morning. Capt. [Louis B. Sewell](#) is flying a B-17 carrying some troops south over the Atlantic Ocean from Port Lyautey [modern Kenitra], Morocco, to Dakar, Senegal, when he notices a metallic, elliptical object at the same altitude about 5–10 miles distant. During the 8-hour flight, they all can see it 6 or 7 times through the clouds. At times, it hovers. (Harley D. Rutledge, *Project Identification*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, [pp. 250–251](#))
- 1945**, May or June — Day. The crew of a US Marine transport east of Okinawa sees, about a quarter of a mile from them, a long cigar-shaped object with three smaller metallic disks behind it. The disks disappear behind or into the cigar, which shoots off at high speed. (Clark III 503; Clark IV 552)
- 1945**, Summer — After 5:00 p.m. Future ufologist [Ann Druffel](#) is on a bus returning from her summer job in Long Beach, California, when she sees out of the left-hand window a bright, stationary, yellowish-white light in the northeastern sky. It looks like Venus but has a yellow color. She gets off the bus and still watches it, walking home. Soon she sees it is moving slowly to the northwest. She gets her mother to view it as well. Druffel thinks it is too high to be a coastal defense balloon. Druffel watches it for 90 minutes, after which it takes on some “activity.” Some 10–15 pieces of light begin separating from it, fading from view after moving several diameters away from the large object. (Ann Druffel, “[UFO Sightings by UFO Researchers: The ‘Inaccessible Cases,’ Part](#)

[1.](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 139 (September 1979): 14–15; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 3–4)

- 1945, Summer — Future ufologist [Illobrand von Ludwiger](#) sees an object like a black plate, whose diameter is one-eighth that of the Moon, flying against the wind below the clouds, in Stendal, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 357](#))
- 1945, Summer — Radioman Robert S. Crawford and 13 other sailors aboard the US Army Transport [Delarof](#) see a large, dark sphere rise out of the ocean east of Adak in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. The UFO, showing darkly against the setting sun, climbs almost straight up for a few moments, then it arcs into level flight, and circles the ship two or three times. All the observers are convinced it is a large object. Crawford estimates the UFO is 150–250 feet in diameter. The gun crews hold their fire. After several minutes, it disappears to the south. (NICAP, “[Large Object Emerges from Sea near the Delarof](#)”; “[The Question of Submerging UFO’s](#),” *UFO Investigator* 4, no. 5 (March 1968): 4; Dolan, USO1, 115–117)
- 1945, Summer — Mrs. Helen Allen sees a “long, silver-colored cigar” that appears suddenly out of the haze above Crane Beach in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Huge and silent, it hovers low over the water not far from the shore. After a few seconds, it speeds away and disappears. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 148](#))
- 1945, June 1 — The Army Air Force approves a Northrop-recommended change for installing eight jet engines in each of two modified YB-35 piston-driven flying wings, which are redesignated YB-49s. (Wikipedia, “[Northrop YB-49](#)”)
- 1945, June 1 — 7:30 p.m. A shiny, tubular object, 5–6 feet long, is observed over Morganton, North Carolina. It streaks toward the northwest, blue flame shooting from the rear. After it vanishes in the mountains near Lake James, witnesses hear an explosion. (Vincent H. Gaddis, “[Visitors from the Void](#),” *Amazing Stories* 21, no. 6 (June 1947): 159–161; Loren E. Gross, *The Mystery of Unidentified Flying Objects—A Prelude, 1896–1949*, The author, 1971, p. 156; Clark III 1178; Clark IV 1352)
- 1945, June 9 — XXI Bomber Command Air Intelligence issues an Air Intelligence Report on the balls of fire in the Pacific Theatre. The Truk sighting is attributed to an unknown Japanese experimental aircraft, though not a jet. (“‘Light’ Follows B-24 from Truk,” *Air Intelligence Report* 1, no. 14, June 8, 1945, pp. 13–14; *Strange Company* 177–180)
- 1945, July — The 9th Bombardment Group on Tinian in the Northern Marianas: “During our night missions in June and July a UFO phenomenon was reported. Our air crews started sighting balls of fire, i.e., glowing objects about the size of a full moon which flew around in the vicinity of our flying patterns over Japan. One of our crews reported that one of the objects followed their airplane halfway to Iwo Jima. I saw them on two missions. I don’t remember any reports of any hostile action by these objects and the reports of sightings stopped after a couple of months. The object of these reports was dismissed by some experts as the planet Venus. And, after these reports started coming in, some crews did mistake the rising full moon as one of these balls of fire. Some reports speculated that these balls of fire were exhausts from a Japanese development called a Baka Bomb, but exhaust flames can only be seen from the rear; and these objects appeared to have the same size and intensity in whatever direction they were traveling. I have never heard of any official assessment as to what these objects were. I had an occasion to ask General [LeMay](#) about them several years after the war and he had no explanation. I am sure that what I saw was neither Venus nor the moon nor a Baka Bomb.” (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 24; Henry C. Huglin, “[Group Commander’s Reminiscences](#),” in Lawrence S. Smith, et al., *History of the 9th Bombardment Group (VH)*, 9th Bomb Group Association, 1995, pp. 27–28)
- 1945, July — In northern Okinawa, Japan, on a bluff looking toward the South China Sea, Artillery Capt. [William A. Mandel](#) sees a cigar-shaped object with a lighted tail moving at eye level at about 200–300 mph at an elevation of no more than 400 feet. He estimates its length at 30–40 feet and its diameter at 6–8 feet. (Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1945](#)”)
- 1945, July — When several balloon-shaped objects appear above Selfridge Field [now Selfridge Air National Guard Base] near Mount Clemens, Michigan, the base commander asks for a volunteer to attack them as possible Japanese balloon bombs. Jean Kisling, serving with a Free French Air Force detachment as an instructor on P-47 Thunderbolts, accepts the challenge. He chases one “well beyond the service ceiling of the P-47D” and opens fire with 8 machine guns. The object shoots away sideways on edge, leaving a contrail. (Good Need, [p. 24](#))
- 1945, July 1 — The Air Technical Service Command is moved into T-2 Intelligence. (Wikipedia, “[Air Materiel Command](#)”)
- 1945, July 16 — The first detonation of a nuclear weapon (an implosion-style plutonium-based bomb) takes place at the Trinity site on what is now the White Sands Missile Range near Alamogordo, New Mexico. At this time, the bomb’s price tag, adjusted for inflation, is \$28 billion. (Wikipedia, “[Trinity \(nuclear test\)](#)”)

- 1945, Mid-July — Noon.** Pilot [Roland D. Powell](#) and five other Grumman F6F Hellcat pilots at Naval Air Station Pasco, Washington, are scrambled after radar reports a fast-moving object that is now stationary above the nearby Hanford nuclear facility. They see a bright object with a saucer-like appearance. It is the size of three aircraft carriers, side-by side, oval shaped, very streamlined like a stretched-out egg, pinkish in color, and emitting some kind of vapor. It hovers in a fixed position at 65,000 feet and then goes straight up and disappears. (NICAP, "[Huge Saucer over Nuclear Reactor—Radar/Visual](#)"; Roland D. Powell, Byron D. Varner, and Walter Andrus, "[UFO Sighting over Hanford Nuclear Reactor in 1945](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 344 (December 1996): 13–14; *Strange Company* 188; Patrick Gross, "[Alleged UFO Intercept Attempt at Hanford Nuclear Plant, July 1945](#)")
- 1945, July 20 —** The Joint Chiefs of Staff establish Operation Overcast, a forerunner to Project Paperclip, a secret recruitment program to aid in postwar military research. The Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency is established to conduct the operation. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Paperclip](#)")
- 1945, July 24 —** President [Truman](#) discloses to Soviet leader [Joseph Stalin](#) that the United States has atomic weapons. Stalin feigns little surprise, since he already knows this through espionage. (Gene Dannen, "[Truman Tells Stalin, July 24, 1945](#)")
- 1945, August —** The Army Signal Security Agency persuades ITT, RCA, and Western Union to continue the wartime cable intercept program, both foreign and domestic, now called Project SHAMROCK. No courts, no warrants. It remains secret from Congress and the President. (Wikipedia, "[Project SHAMROCK](#)")
- 1945, August — 5:00 a.m.** Ilona Johansson-Paasonen, staying in a sauna along lake Längelmävesi, Finland, wakes up and sees a 35-foot dazzling ball of fire streaking in her direction along the opposite shore. She throws herself to the floor, but when nothing happens she looks outside and sees a big dog, frozen in terror, its gaze fixed on the lake and a dark log-like object, 6 feet long, gliding through the water with a tall, slender man at the prow. He is dressed in a green coverall. On the other side another man sits steering an engine enclosed within a big glass bulb. (Ilona Johansson-Paasonen, "[Humanoideja Längelmävedellä?](#)" *Vimana* 1970, no. 3/4, pp. 22–24; Ilona Johansson-Paasonen, "[Humanoids at Längelmävesi](#)," *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 13 (February 1973): 3–4; Clark III 266; Clark IV 306)
- 1945, August 6 — 8:15 a.m.** An atomic bomb (a fission weapon containing 64 kilograms of Uranium-235, Little Boy) is detonated 1,900 feet above Hiroshima, Japan, by the [Enola Gay](#). The weapon is considered very inefficient, with only 1.7% of its material fissioning, but it is enough to obliterate the city. Some 78,000 people die instantly or immediately afterward in the firestorm. By the end of the year, another 25,000 will also sicken and die from radiation exposure. (Wikipedia, "[Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#)")
- 1945, August 7 —** During a press conference with the *Seattle Times*, Col. [Franklin Matthias](#), officer in charge at the Hanford Engineer Works in Washington, admits the plant has had problems with aerial intrusions, but that radar has been installed and an arrangement made with the Navy to intercept any unidentified aircraft. (Project 1947, "[UFOs over Hanford: Commander R. W. Hendershot](#)")
- 1945, August 9 — 11:01 a.m.** Another atomic bomb (an implosion-type plutonium weapon, Fat Man) is dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, by [Bockscar](#). Although the bomb is more powerful than the one used on Hiroshima, its effects are confined by hillsides to the narrow Urakami Valley. At least 35,000–40,000 people are killed, and 60,000 others are injured. (Wikipedia, "[Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#)")
- 1945, August 10 — 3:00 a.m.** Pianist Doris La Fountain is driving home along Market Street after finishing a concert at a night club in East Paterson [now Elmwood Park], New Jersey. She is accompanied by music store proprietor [Thomas Brino](#) and James Shaw of Clifton, New Jersey. For about 5 minutes they watch a brilliant red and green rectangular object maneuver at ground level about 70 feet away. It shoots off into the sky and disappears. ("[Seeing Saucer Sweet Music to a Pianist](#)," *New York Daily News*, September 8, 1957, Passaic-Bergen Sec., p. 22; Lore and Deneault, [p. 145](#))
- 1945, August 16 —** A UFO allegedly crashes near San Antonio, New Mexico, near the site of the first atomic test, and is discovered by Jose Padilla, 9, and Remigio Baca, 7, when they are looking for a cow. The crashed saucer has created a gouge, and they can see entities moving around inside. They collect two shiny metal parts from the periphery of the crash site. A recent analysis shows that the metal is of terrestrial origin. In a comprehensive analysis of the case in 2023, Douglas Dean Johnson shows that Padilla and Baca fabricated the story in 2003 in the hope to profit by it, hijacking the names of a real policeman (Eddie Apodaca) and a real governor ([Dixie Lee Ray](#)) as characters, and that Baca significantly changed his story over time. ("[New Mexico UFO Crash Encounter in 1945](#)," *UFO Evidence*; Remigio Baca, "San Antonio, NM August 1945 Crash Retrieval," in *3rd Annual UFO Crash Retrieval Conference Proceedings*, November 4–6, 2005, Wood and Wood, 2005, pp. 151–156; Paola Leopizzi Harris, "[The Reme Baca and Jose Padilla Witness Case](#)," *The UFO Chronicles*, November 30, 2010; Remigio Baca and Jose Padilla, *Born on the Edge of Ground Zero: Living in the Shadow of Area 51*, The Authors,

2011; Paola Harris, “Mystery at San Antonio, New Mexico, Crash Site,” *MUFON UFO Journal* 578 (June 2016): 1, 11–15; John Greenewald, “[Analysis of Two Metallic Parts Purportedly from a Crashed Unidentified Aerial Object \(San Antonio, New Mexico, August 16, 1945\)](#),” The Black Vault, February 1, 2017; Jacques Vallee and Paola Leopizzi Harris, *Trinity: The Best-Kept Secret*, StarWorksUSA, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, “[Trinity: The Best Kept Secret—A Critique](#),” A Different Perspective, June 2, 2021; Jacques Vallée, “[The Other Lessons of Trinity](#),” Trinity blog, December 6, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, “[Jacques Vallée and Ten Unexplained UFO Cases and Metallic Debris](#),” A Different Perspective, December 16, 2021; Douglas Dean Johnson, “[Crash Story: The Trinity UFO Crash Hoax](#),” Mirador, May 1, 2023; Douglas Dean Johnson, “[Crash Story File: Eddie Apodaca, the Real Policeman Who Cracked the Trinity UFO Crash Case](#),” Mirador, May 1, 2023; James Clarkson, “[Trinity 1945 UFO Hoax](#),” James Clarkson UFO Investigations, May 8, 2023; Jacques Vallée, “[Jacques Vallée Hits Back at Hoax Claims over Trinity UFO Crash Book](#),” Journo Jottings, May 15, 2023; Douglas Dean Johnson, “[Crash Story File: The Reme Baca Smoking-Gun Interview](#),” Mirador, May 20, 2023; Douglas Dean Johnson, “[Crash Story File: ‘Witness’ Credibility Implodes for Jacques Vallée’s Trinity UFO Crash Tale](#),” Mirador, January 25, 2024; “[A UFO Sighting and the Creatures Seen by One Man in the Summer of 1945: ‘They Walk Like Us](#),” CBS News Los Angeles, August 21, 2024; Clark IV 1288–1293, 1391)

1945, August 21 — Manhattan Project physicist [Harry Daghljan](#) is conducting an after-hours experiment at the remote Omega Site of the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico when his hand slips. The test assembly he has built—a ball of plutonium surrounded by tungsten carbide bricks—goes critical. He sees a momentary blue flash and is struck by a wave of gamma and neutron radiation amounting to more than 500 rem. He disassembles the experiment, walks away, and admits himself to medical care. He falls into a coma and dies on September 15, the first person to die accidentally from close exposure to nuclear fission. (“[Atomic Bomb Worker Died ‘from Burns](#),” *New York Times*, September 21, 1945, p. 10; Adam Higginbotham, *Midnight at Chernobyl*, Simon & Schuster, 2019, pp. 30–31)

1945, August 28 — Twelve 5th Air Force intelligence specialists flying on a C-46 approaching Iwo Jima (in the Ogasawara Islands, Japan) see three white, teardrop-shaped objects paralleling the plane. Navigational needles go wild, the engine sputters, and the plane falters until the objects speed away. One of the passengers is future UFO investigator [Leonard Stringfield](#). (NICAP, “[C-46 Encounters Objects / Magnetic Compasses ‘West Wild’](#)”; Leonard H. Stringfield, *Inside Saucer Post...3-0 Blue*, The Author, 1957, pp. 7–8; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, pp. 9–10; *Strange Company* 191–193, 209–211; Clark III 503–504; Clark IV 552–553)

1945, September — The first group of seven German rocket scientists arrive at Fort Strong in Boston harbor, Massachusetts, through Operation Overcast: [Wernher von Braun](#), Erich W. Neubert, Theodor A. Poppel, August Schultze, [Eberhard Rees](#), Wilhelm Jungert, and Walter Schwidetzky. By the end of the year, they and two other groups are moved to Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands, New Mexico, as “War Department Special Employees.” (Wikipedia, “[Operation Paperclip](#)”)

1945, September — The US Army atomic bomb production unit, Z Division, named for its director, [Jerrold R. Zacharias](#) from Los Alamos, New Mexico, moves to Oxnard Field, New Mexico, from Wendover Field [now Airport], Utah, to be closer to Los Alamos. This marks the beginning of Sandia Base [now part of Kirtland AFB]. Nearby Kirtland Field is used as a B-29 base for aircraft compatibility and drop tests. By October, all the staff and facilities at Wendover are transferred to Sandia. As reservist officers are demobilized, they are replaced by about 50 hand-picked regular officers. (Wikipedia, “[Manhattan Project](#)”)

1945, September — Policy adviser [Ferdinand Eberstadt](#) writes for Secretary of the Navy [James Forrestal](#) a report recommending a complete realignment of national security organizations. (Wikipedia, “[Eberstadt Report](#)”)

1945, September 20 — The OSS is dissolved by Executive Order, effective October 1, scattering personnel through the Departments of State and War. The Research and Analysis Branch is transferred to the State Department. The War Department takes over Secret Intelligence (SI) and Counter Espionage (X2), which are rolled up into the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) headed by Brig. Gen. [John Magruder](#), the former OSS Deputy Director of Intelligence who oversees the OSS liquidation. Most of the other personnel are cashiered. (Wikipedia, “[Office of Strategic Services](#)”)

1945, September 26? — Night. Machinist Mate First Class George M. Reynolds, attached to the submarine tender [USS Beaver](#) with Submarine Squadron 45, anchored in Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. He is on the main deck when he sees a bluish light move to the south, turn right, go over to the west, stop, and stand still. When it moves again, it goes back to the general area it started from. (*Strange Company* 195–196)

1945, September or October — Sailors aboard the Liberty Ship *James S. Lawson* 8 miles off the coast of Costa Rica see an orange disk that appears 50 feet away and 20 feet below the surface. For 20 minutes the object maintains its position on the starboard side of the ship, pacing it. It appears to be 25–30 feet in diameter. After 20 minutes, it

accelerates and disappears in the water. (Carl Feindt, "[Report #1640: A Letter to Ivan T. Sanderson](#)," [waterufo.net](#); Dolan, USO1, 117–118)

- 1945**, Fall — Around 6:00 a.m. Two girls in Rainsville, Alabama, wake up to a swooshing sound and notice the trees outside are shaking. They see a large, half-moon-shaped object, positioned on its side, fly overhead. It ascends into fog over a nearby valley and disappears. (Clark III 1179; Clark IV 1353)
- 1945**, October — 8:00 p.m. While driving a car between Bryan and Stryker, Ohio, [Gerald M. Kryling](#) and his wife Thelma approach a bright light about 50 feet in the air and 20 feet from the road near some high-tension wires. It appears to be a 35-foot oval object with an amber-colored opening like a window that has shadows moving around inside. It takes off horizontally at great speed and then moves straight up. (Clark III 266; Clark IV 306)
- 1945**, October 1 — Project RAND is set up under special contract to the Douglas Aircraft Company and begins operations in December. Its first president is Douglas executive [Franklin R. Collbohm](#). The name is derived from Research and Development, and its purpose is to act as a channel of scientific and technical information to the US military. (Wikipedia, "[RAND Corporation](#)")
- 1945**, October 9 — Brig. Gen. [George C. McDonald](#), AAF director of intelligence, writes to Maj. Gen. [Elwood Richard Quesada](#) in answer to a request for the investigation into wartime "balls of fire." Exhaustive investigations of German technical personnel and US and UK sources reveal no confirmation of German involvement with the phenomena. (Macdonald–Quesada correspondence, October 1945)
- 1945**, November — Operation Overcast is renamed Project Paperclip. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Paperclip](#)")
- 1945**, December — Lt. Col. Jo Chamberlin's article on foo fighters appears in *American Legion Magazine*. Intelligence officers have ordered him not to state his military rank or position, but he is a special aide to Gen. [Henry H. "Hap" Arnold](#). (Jo Chamberlin, "[The Foo Fighter Mystery](#)," *American Legion Magazine* 39, no. 6 (December 1945): 9, 43–47; "[Foo Fighter Archive Donated to UHR](#)," *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 17 (December 2015): 2–8)
- 1945**, December 5 — A training flight (Flight 19) of five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers disappears while over the Atlantic Ocean. The squadron's flight plan is scheduled to take them due east from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for 141 miles, north for 73 miles, and then back over a final 140-mile leg to complete the exercise. The flight never returns to base. A report by Navy investigators concludes that flight leader Lt. [Charles C. Taylor](#) mistook small islands offshore for the Florida Keys after his compasses stopped working, resulting in the flight heading over open sea and away from land. The report is later amended by the Navy to read "cause unknown" to avoid blaming Taylor for the loss of five aircraft and 14 men. One of the search-and-rescue aircraft deployed to look for them, a PBM Mariner with a 13-man crew, also disappears. The report attributes the loss of the PBM aircraft to an explosion in midair while searching for the flight. According to contemporaneous sources, the Mariner has a history of explosions due to vapor leaks when heavily loaded with fuel, as it might have been for a potentially long search-and-rescue operation. A tanker off the coast of Florida sees an explosion and a widespread oil slick when fruitlessly searching for survivors. The weather is becoming stormy by the end of the incident. None of the Avenger bombers have been found. (Wikipedia, "[Flight 19](#)"; Larry Kusche, *The Bermuda Triangle Mystery—Solved*, Harper & Row, 1975, pp. 97–122; Larry Kusche, *The Disappearance of Flight 19*, Harper & Row, 1980)
- 1945**, December 25 — A witness is standing on the shore during a blizzard on a small island off the west coast of Ireland, waiting for a boat that will return him to the mainland, when a silver domed object with a square base descends from the clouds and lands on the water. It is surrounded by purple lights and emits a whirring noise, resembling a drill. The object rises again and lands in a field, crushing two cows. The top of the craft slides open, and two humanoid figures with "squarish legs" and wearing gray-black rubber suits emerge. One of them walks across the water to the shore, placing a large vial on the ground. The other fires a red ray at a cow, burning through it. A farmer's dog approaches, barking, but the humanoid points a "box with lights and antennae" at it, hypnotizing the dog. The dog then walks up to the UFO and is taken aboard. Five or six similar craft streak overhead as a mist envelops the UFO. Both beings float back into the craft. Before leaving, one of the beings notices the witness and waves. Startled, the witness runs away. The farmer later advises the witness to keep the experience a secret. (Mark Malony, "[A New Irish Close Encounter Report](#)," *Irish UFO News*, no. 2 (July 1976): 5–6; "[Northern Ireland Report, Part 2](#)," *Northern UFO News*, no. 31 (December 1976): 4)

1946

1946 — The US nuclear stockpile consists of 9 atomic bombs. (Ryan Crierie, "[U.S. Nuclear Stockpile, 1945–2009](#)")

- 1946** — Dancers on the roof of a nightclub in Istanbul, Turkey, watch the rapid passage of four square-shaped lights, reddish in color and aligned side by side, moving from the east and disappearing in the west in less than 60 seconds. One witness, meteorologist and RAF pilot George Raymond Leatherbarrow, estimates their altitude at 50,000 feet based on reflections on cirrus clouds. (G. R. Leatherbarrow, "[Two Early UFO Cases from the Middle East](#)," *Awareness* 5, no. 3 (Autumn 1976): 4–5; Clark III 1177; Clark IV 1352)
- 1946** — American astrophysicist [Charles Greeley Abbot](#) writes that he thinks Earth might make contact with Venusians, coming into "fluent communication by wireless with a race brought up completely separate, having their own systems of government, social usages, religions, and surrounded by vegetation and animals entirely unrelated to any here on earth." (Charles Greeley Abbot, *The Earth and the Stars*, Van Nostrand, 1946, p. 110; Roger D. Launius, "[Venus-Earth-Mars: Comparative Climatology and the Search for Life in the Solar System](#)," *Life* 2, no. 3 (2012): 255–273)
- 1946** — A space vehicle allegedly crashes near Great Falls, Montana, and is retrieved by the military. Alien bodies are shipped to Muroc Army Air Force Base [now Edwards AFB] in California. (James J. Hurtak, "[The Occupants of Crashed 'Saucers.'](#)" *The UFO Register* 10, no. 1 (December 1979): 2–3; Clark 343; Clark IV 379)
- 1946** — A farmer named Gunion in Westerham, Kent, England, calls the British Technical Intelligence staff asking that the Air Ministry come and remove one of these "darned contraptions" which has fallen on his farm. The intelligence officers ask for directions and are told to drive from Croydon to Westerham, turning onto a lane when they reach a pub called The White Dog. Amid great security, two staff cars are dispatched, but fail to find the farm. They locate a pub called The White Hart and a farmer named Bunyan, who strenuously denies having made the call. Although the incident appears to be a hoax, few people can reach the Technical Intelligence staff and convince them to make a field visit. Indeed, the intelligence officers believe that former Air Intelligence scientist [Reginald Victor Jones](#), who has been skeptical of foo fighters and ghost rockets, is behind the affair. Jones writes that a signal is received from Gen. [Douglas MacArthur](#)'s staff in Tokyo, asking for confirmation of a report that a Russian flying bomb had recently crashed in England. The other Director of Intelligence on the Air Staff, Air Commodore Roland Eugene Vintras, suggests to Jones that this might tie in with the "Westerham Incident." (R. V. Jones, *Most Secret War*, Hamish Hamilton, 1978, pp. 507–513; "[UFO Britannia: Part 2—World War Foo and Post War Cover Ups](#)," Above Top Secret forum, December 19, 2012)
- 1946** — 3:30 a.m. May Ackerman is awakened by a brilliant light shining in her bedroom in northwest Detroit, Michigan. It comes from a silent, luminous oval object with a transparent band across its midsection that is hovering in her neighbor's yard. Inside the band is a humanoid. The object departs abruptly. ("[West Side Detroit Woman Sights Strange Craft and 'Navigator' in 1946](#)," *Vimana* 1, no. 1 (October 1954): 2, 4; Clark III 266; Clark IV 306)
- 1946, Winter** — Night. Ralph Newman and his wife are waiting at a bus stop in Darien, Connecticut, when they notice an object with a rocket-like exhaust moving silently from horizon to horizon from north to south. (Clark III 530; Clark IV 579)
- 1946, January 10** — The Air Materiel Command at Wright Field, Ohio, issues a restricted-access document, *German Flying Wings Designed by Horten Brothers* by Capt. N. LeBlanc, detailing the drawings, photos, models, and documents relating to aircraft designed by Nazi aircraft designers the [Horten brothers](#) that were recovered in Germany by Allied forces. (N. LeBlanc, [German Flying Wings Designed by Horten Brothers](#), Air Material Command, Technical Intelligence summary report no, F-SU-1110-ND, January 10, 1946; Col. H. M. McCoy to Maj. Gen. George McDonald, "[Flying Disc](#)," September 24, 1947; H. P. Dabrowski, *The Horten Flying Wing in World War II: The History and Development of the Ho 229*, Schiffer, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, "[Roswell and the Flying Wing](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1993): 3; John Powell, "[The Horten Flying Wings](#)," War Bird Forum, July 2019)
- 1946, January 10** — 11:58 a.m. [Harold D. Webb](#) and [Herbert P. Kauffman](#), scientists at Project Diana conducted by the US Army's Evans Signal Laboratory at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, use a modified SCR-271 radar operating at 110 MHz with 3 kW peak-power to bounce radar echoes off the Moon. USAF Maj. Gen. [Harold M. McClelland](#) remarks to the press that this could be an "opening step" in communicating with intelligent life outside the Earth. (Wikipedia, "[Project Diana](#)"; Jack Gould, "[Contact with Moon Achieved by Radar in Test by the Army](#)," *New York Times*, January 25, 1946, p. 1; "[Radar May Discover Life Existing on Other Planets](#)," *Greensboro (N.C.) Daily News*, January 26, 1946, p. 1; Trevor Clark, "[How Diana Touched the Moon](#)," *IEEE Spectrum* 17 (May 1980): 44–48)
- 1946, January 18** — 11:00 p.m. A US C-54 transport plane is at 7,000 feet over the French countryside on its way to Paris, France. Suddenly the pilot sees a brilliant "shooting star" about 35° above the horizon. It streaks down below the eastern horizon, then reappears and moves in a hyperbola before falling again. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 1; Clark III 523; Clark IV 573)

- 1946, January 22** — President [Truman](#) creates a National Intelligence Authority (State, War, Navy, Chief of Staff, and a presidential representative with the DCI as a non-voting member) for policy and coordination and a Central Intelligence Group for operations under it. Rear Adm. [Sidney Souers](#) heads the CIG as Director of Central Intelligence. (Wikipedia, "[National Intelligence Authority](#)")
- 1946, February 21** — 8:30 p.m. One or more meteors are seen in west Finland and the counties of Västerbotten, Västernorrland, Kopparberg [now Dalarna], Gävleborg, Uppsala, Östergötland, and Skaraborg [now Västra Götaland] in Sweden. It supposedly sets a farmhouse on fire in Vaasa province, Finland. It leaves a long trail of smoke in the sky. (Archives for the Unexplained, "[Case XXX: The Meteor That Did Not Start a Fire](#)")
- 1946, February 22** — Diplomat [George F. Kennan](#), deputy chief of the US State Department mission in Moscow, has tried repeatedly to persuade President Truman and policymakers to abandon plans for cooperation with the Soviet government in favor of a sphere of influence policy in Europe. He sends a 5,363-word telegram (the "Long Telegram") to Secretary of State [James F. Byrnes](#) outlining a new strategy of containment of the Soviet menace by applying "counterforce at a series of constantly shifting geographical and political points." (Wikipedia, "[X Article](#)")
- 1946, February 27** — Scientists [Ernst Henry Krause](#), [James Van Allen](#), [Fred Lawrence Whipple](#), and six others meet at Princeton University to organize the Upper Atmosphere Research Panel (V-2 Panel), a group that will oversee meteorological and astronomical experiments at White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico using V-2 rockets brought to the US after World War II. Ohio State University astronomer [J. Allen Hynek](#) joins the team shortly afterward as a consultant. (Wikipedia, "[Upper Atmosphere Research Panel](#)"; David DeVorkin, "[Organizing for Space Research: The V-2 Rocket Panel](#)," *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* 18, no. 1 (1987): 2; O'Connell 33–35; Graff 33–35)
- 1946, March** — The Air Technical Service Command becomes the Air Materiel Command. (Wikipedia, "[Air Materiel Command](#)")
- 1946, March 5** — 6:00 p.m. João Prestes is returning on foot from a fishery on the banks of the Tietê River to his sister's home in Araçatiguama, São Paulo, Brazil. As he is entering the house, a light from outside strikes and envelopes him. He becomes dizzy and confused but manages to get up and go inside. He summons Araci Gomide, a nurse who has served in the military with him. Gomide describes his friend as being literally cooked, with his flesh detaching from his bones, injuries on his feet and ankles, and his feet clenched like the claws of a bird. His arms are burned and the flesh on his fingers is falling off. His chest, neck, and face also seem to be burned but not charred or red. Prestes dies on the way to a hospital in Santana di Parnaíba at 3:00 a.m. (Felipe Machado Carrión, "[The Terrible Death of João Prestes at Araçatiguama](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 19, no. 2 (March/April 1973): 14–15; Clark III 166–167; Brazil 17–21; Pablo Villarubia Mausó, "[The Incredible Saga of João Prestes](#)," UFO Casebook; Pablo Villarubia Mausó, "[Horror em Araçatiguama](#)," Portal Fenomenum, February 21, 2022; Clark IV 193–194)
- 1946, March 6** — The Western Defense Command is deactivated. (Wikipedia, "[Western Defense Command](#)")
- 1946, April 2** — The Strategic Services Unit is transferred to the new Central Intelligence Group and becomes the Office of Special Operations. (Wikipedia, "[Strategic Services Unit](#)")
- 1946, April 14** — Dusk. Paul Cummings Jr. is driving east on US Highway 136 about 10 miles east of Havana, Illinois, with Douglas Gowdy. A bright orange ball appears in the road about 1 mile ahead, gliding down the highway only one foot above the pavement and possibly touching both shoulders of the road. When it is within 2,000 feet, Cummings pulls the car over and stops, and they rush out to lie down in a ditch, fearing an explosion. When they look up again, the object is nowhere in sight. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 26–27)
- 1946, April 25** — While ice fishing at Anima Nipissing Lake, Ontario, Tom Cameron and his family, along with friend Bob Cole, watch 12–14 small disc-shaped objects descend at a 45° angle about 75 feet away. They come spinning down on the ice, rise 2 feet into the air, then come down again. Cameron walks toward them, and they ascend and shoot away at the same angle and direction. They find black marks on the snow and ice. ("[Men Report Flying Saucer in Cobalt Area](#)," *Sault Star* (Sault St. Marie, Ont.), February 1, 1957, p. 3; "[Ice Cutters See Swooping 'Saucer](#)," *Montreal (Que.) Star*, February 1, 1957, p. 5; "Flying Saucers' Like Family at Gillies, Pay Second Visit," *Northern Daily News* (Kirkland Lake, Ohio), February 1, 1957, p. 1; "[Flying Saucer Seen in North? It's Old Stuff](#)," *Brantford (Ont.) Expositor*, February 2, 1957, p. 22; "[Reports Saucer](#)," *North Bay (Ont.) Nugget*, February 4, 1957, p. 3; Clark III 1179; Clark IV 1353)
- 1946, April or May** — Around 12:00 noon. Richard R. Hill and Stanley Ogdrzyiak are driving in an open convertible on the Country Club Road near Lafayette, New York. Suddenly they see a gleaming, metallic, cigar-shaped object in

the sky. It remains motionless at 5,000–10,000 feet altitude, which at that height would make it 300–400 feet long. After 2 minutes, it disappears instantaneously. (“[Case 84](#),” *CRIFO Newsletter* 2, no. 3 (June 3, 1955): 4; Clark III 1179; Clark IV 1353)

- 1946, May** — Day. Navy Lieutenant Andrew A. Titcomb is on leave and picking oranges at his wife’s family home at La Grange, north of Titusville, Florida, when he hears a whistling noise and sees a dark “flying football” directly overhead at about 1,000 feet elevation moving at 125 mph. It appears 15–20 feet in diameter and flies in an arc to the southeast. It disappears in a cloudbank. (UFOEv, [p. 6](#); Clark III 1179; Clark IV 1353)
- 1946, May 2** — Project RAND releases its first report, *Preliminary Design of an Experimental World-Circling Spacecraft*, which is a proposal for a US satellite program. Engineers [Robert M. Salter](#), [James Everett Lipp](#), and one other person at RAND serve as the editors of the report. It states that “The achievement of a satellite craft would produce repercussions comparable to the explosion of the atomic bomb.” (Wikipedia, “[Preliminary Design of an Experimental World-Circling Spaceship](#)”)
- 1946, May 13** — The Soviets establish a rocket center called NII-88 [now TsNIIMash] at Kaliningrad [now Korolyov], Russia, northeast of Moscow. Missile designer [Sergei Korolev](#) is appointed chief designer of Section 3 on long-range missiles. Stalin declares Korolev’s name a secret, which it remains until his death in 1966. Russia keeps dozens of its captured German scientists here, working on special projects until 1955. (Wikipedia, “[TsNIIMash](#)”)
- 1946, May 13** — A rocket is seen traveling over Helsinki, Finland, in a southwesterly direction at 1,000 feet. It supposedly moves at supersonic speed, emitting a magnesium-like light and a trail of smoke. (Jan L. Aldrich, comp., [The Ghost Rocket File](#), Fund for UFO Research, 2000, p. 10)
- 1946, May 18** — 10:45 p.m. [Gösta Carlsson](#), later to become founder and owner of Cernelle AB, is walking in the forested area of Kronoskagen near Ängelholm, Sweden, when he sees a disc-shaped machine more than 50 feet in diameter. On the top is a cupola with oval windows, and beneath it are an oblong “fan,” two legs, a small ladder, and openings. A man dressed in a white, one-piece outfit gestures to Carlsson to stop. There are three men working at a window, and two more are standing alongside, all wearing suits and transparent helmets. There are three women as well, and one more comes out of the object later. One of the males points a boxlike device at the witness, who leaves the scene but returns by a different route 30 minutes later, just in time to see the UFO depart. A concrete model of the UFO is dedicated in 1963 as a memorial. (Wikipedia, “[Ängelholm UFO memorial](#)”; Sven-Olof Fredrickson, “[The Ängelholm Landing Report](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 18, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1972): 15–17; Anders Liljegren, “[High-Quality Investigation of 1946 CEIII Case](#),” *AFU Newsletter*, no. 38 (March 1995): 2–3; Clark III 528–529; Clas Svahn, “[Gösta Carlssons möte](#),” Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige, July 10, 2018; Håkan Blomqvist, “[UFO-Sweden Memories: Ängelholm 1996](#),” Håkan Blomqvist’s Blog, July 1, 2020; Clas Svahn and Gösta Carlsson, *Mötet i gläntan: Sveriges mest kända närkontakt med UFO*, 3rd ed., Parthenon, 2021; Clark IV 306, 577–578)
- 1946, May 21** — Two motorists report an elongated craft resembling a rocket or Zeppelin over Stora Mellösa, Sweden. One of the witnesses sees two short wings, although the other cannot see any despite watching the object for 5 minutes. (Swords 12)
- 1946, May 24** — 2:20 a.m. Witnesses in Landskrona, Sweden, see a wingless, cigar-shaped object, spurting sparks from its tail. About 300 feet above the ground, it is moving at airplane speed toward the southwest. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO’s, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 1; Göran Jansson, “[Spökraketerna 1946](#),” January 2005, p. 6; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, May 28** — The *Aftonbladet* newspaper in Stockholm, Sweden, is the first to use the term “Spökraket” (ghost rocket) in a headline. (“Spökraket jagades i bil genom Roslagen,” *Aftonbladet*, May 28, 1946; Swords 12)
- 1946, May 31** — 11:43 a.m. A huge, metallic, wingless cigar moves rapidly at 1,000 feet altitude over Katrineholm, Sweden. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO’s, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 2–3; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, Summer** — Late evening. Two women on a walk in Johannesburg, South Africa, see an aerial object hovering 5 feet above the roof of a nearby hotel. It is shaped like a saucer with a round, golden ball in the center, evenly split between the top and bottom sections. They hear a clicking noise, and the ball drops through the saucer until it is level with the roof. More clicks are heard, and the ball rises through and above the saucer 8–9 feet. In the space between the ball and the disc the witnesses see two figures larger than normal height (7 feet), fair-complexioned and broad-shouldered, with short wavy hair. They are wearing white uniforms with stiff collars and stand motionless until the object floats away and is lost to view. (John Judge, “[Near-Landing in 1946 in Johannesburg](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 5 (March 1979): 14–16; Clark III 266; Clark IV 306)

- 1946, Summer** — Day. Eleanor Hancock is in Colorado Springs, Colorado, looking southwest toward Cheyenne Mountain when two shining silver objects appear, moving rapidly in tandem from east to west toward the escarpment. Just before they reach the mountain, they turn sharply upward, still in formation, and disappear. (Clark III 1179; Clark IV 1353)
- 1946, June 6** — The Joint Research and Development Board is created by the Secretaries of War and the Navy to coordinate research efforts. (Joint Research and Development Board, [Organization Authority Record](#), June 6, 1946)
- 1946, June 9** — Night. An enormous light drops earthward over Sala, Sweden, leaving a long, fiery trail. An explosion is heard. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 3; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, June 9** — 10:17 p.m. A rocket-like light passes over Helsinki, Finland, at 10,000 feet leaving a smoke trail and making a distant rumble. A luminous afterglow lasts 10 minutes. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 3; ; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, June 10** — Lieut. Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#) replaces [Souers](#) as director of the CIG. He expands it and wins the right to collect intelligence in Latin America. (CIA Historical Staff, [Chronology 1946–65](#), vol. 1, 1946–1955, p. 9)
- 1946, June 12** — The Swedish Defense staff secretly orders reports of unknown rockets to be collected by military and civilian defense units in Sweden. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 33; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576)
- 1946, June 18** — A first-strike scenario, the Pincher war plan, is created by the US military to strike Moscow and the Caucasus with 50 nuclear weapons if the Soviets invade the Middle East. It is never officially approved, but the Joint Chiefs agree to use it for planning purposes. (Phillip S. Meilinger, “[The Early War Plans](#),” *Air Force Magazine*, December 1, 2012)
- 1946, June 25** — A four-engine Northrop XB-35 flying wing bomber makes its first test flight from Jack Northrop Field [now Hawthorne Municipal Airport] to Muroc Army Air Field [now Edwards AFB] in California. (Wikipedia, “[Northrop YB-35](#)”)
- 1946, June 26** — The commander of the military district in Morjärv, Sweden, issues instructions on how to report incidents with “certain kind of light phenomena” that might be associated with “tests made by foreign powers with guided weapons.” (Swords 12).
- 1946, July** — *Amazing Stories* publishes four short articles in its September 1946 issue by William C. Hefferlin, each describing a wonderful new invention that has come to the author, according to editor [Ray Palmer](#), “from Tibet by mental telepathy.” One of the inventions is a “circle-winged airplane.” In later issues, Hefferlin and his wife Gladys go on to describe the Rainbow City, an underground Martian city beneath Antarctica where the flying saucers originate. (W. C. Hefferlin, “[What Man Can Imagine: The ‘Ghyt’ Motor](#),” *Amazing Stories* 20, no. 6 (September 1946): 142–143; W. C. Hefferlin, “[Burn Water for Fuel](#),” *Amazing Stories* 20, no. 6 (September 1946): 144–145; W. C. Hefferlin, “[Power!](#)” *Amazing Stories* 20, no. 6 (September 1946): 150–151; W. C. Hefferlin, “[Circle-Winged Plane](#),” *Amazing Stories* 20, no. 6 (September 1946): 157; “[A Description of Rainbow City from the Hefferlin Manuscript \(Hollow Earth\)](#)”; Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, pp. 160–167; Clark III 610; Clark IV 669)
- 1946, July** — Day. A long, silver-colored cigar appears suddenly out of the haze over Crane Beach, Ipswich, Massachusetts, moves noiselessly over the water, then disappears suddenly. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 148](#); Clark III 1179; Clark IV 1353)
- 1946, July** — 2:00 p.m. Hans Sorensen is cycling near Viskinge, Denmark, when he sees three discs flying silently overhead. The underside is uneven and dull gray, but they are like “polished mirrors” on top. (*Sjællands Tidende* (Ringsted, Denmark), April 17, 1971; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 16; Clark III 528; Clark IV 577)
- 1946, July 1** — Able nuclear test, Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands. Radio-controlled autopilots are installed in eight B-17 bombers, converting them into remote-controlled drones that are then loaded with automatic cameras, radiation detectors, and air sample collectors. Their pilots operate them from mother planes at a safe distance from the detonation. The drones can fly into Able’s mushroom cloud, which would have been lethal to crew members. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Crossroads](#)”)
- 1946, July 3** — The Joint Research and Development Board is established. Essentially it is [Vannevar Bush](#)’s existing cadre of brain trust from the still active Office of Scientific Research and the postwar Joint New Weapons Committee. Added to this are other reconstituted R&D committees and advisers like [Lloyd Berkner](#) of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The original founding members are physicist [Alfred Lee Loomis](#), biologist [Caryl Parker Haskins](#), physicist [Luis Walter Alvarez](#), physicist [William Shockley](#), and [Georges Doriot](#). Two

military representatives each from the Army, Navy, and Air Force complete the board's membership. Counting Bush, this makes a board of 12. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 7–8)

- 1946, July 6** — A special ghost rocket investigations committee is formed with Col. [Bengt Jacobsson](#) from the Royal Swedish Air Force Materiel Administration as chairman. Other members are [Henry Kjellson](#) and Eric Malmberg from the Air Administration; Maj. [Nils Ahlgren](#) and Capt. [Gerdt Stangenberg](#) from the Air Defense department; chemist [Gustaf Ljunggren](#); physicist [Martin Fehrm](#); and [Olof Kempe](#) from the Defense Radio Institute. They hold at least 12 meetings, beginning on July 10. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 13; Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 33; Swords 12; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576)
- 1946, July 6** — Astronomer [Bertil Lindblad](#), after consulting with the Swedish Defense staff on ghost rocket reports, remarks that the "adjective 'cigar-shaped' is something new." (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 33)
- 1946, July 9** — A journalist finds three dubious fist-size fragments, one of iron and the other two slag-like, after a bright projectile is seen over a beach at Njurunda, Sweden. (Göran Jansson, "[Spökraketerna 1946](#)," January 2005, p. 12; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 14)
- 1946, July 9** — 2:30 p.m. [Erik and Asa Reuterswärd](#) take a photo of a greenish-white daylight meteor by a lake at Guldsmeshyttan, northwest of Lindesberg, Sweden. They are atop a forest watchtower and have a good view of the object. The image is circulated to newspapers throughout Sweden; however, the photo probably shows an unusual daylight meteor, not a ghost rocket. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 5–6; Clas Svahn, "[The 1946 Ghost Rocket Photo](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 12–14, 23; Göran Jansson, "[Spökraketerna 1946](#)," January 2005, p. 12; Swords 13–14; Clas Svahn, "[Spökraketerna: Den Största Gåtan](#)," Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige, March 7, 2017;)
- 1946, July 9** — 2:30 p.m. Two people on the north side of Vaxön, Sweden, watch a glowing white object with a blue-white tail streak across the sky in about 2 seconds, disappearing to the southeast. Around the same time, a witness at Järna Station in Södertälje sees an object "like a glass flask in a thermos" descending from a high altitude. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 6; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, July 9** — 2:30 p.m. A member of the US legation sees a silent ghost rocket falling rapidly over Stockholm, Sweden, according to a July 11 telegram from State Department official [Christian M. Ravndal](#) to Washington, D.C. Hundreds of other observations take place over central Sweden. Ravndal suggests that the Soviets are trying to intimidate the Swedes. (Good Above, [p. 20](#); Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 6, betw. 12–13; Göran Jansson, "[Spökraketerna 1946](#)," January 2005, p. 11; Clark III 524, 527; Clark IV 573, 576)
- 1946, July 9** — 2:35 p.m. Efrain Johnson sees a strange, cigar- or sugarloaf-shaped object to the east of Ockelbo, Sweden. It shines like silver and appears "like some glistening mass." It falls to the ground and is gone in a few moments. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 6; Clark III 526; Clark IV 575)
- 1946, July 9** — About 3:00 p.m. A housewife near Sörbo, Sweden, is washing on the shore of Södra Barken when she sees a falling object coming from the northeast. It changes color from blue to green and has a long tail. It tumbles into the lake about 320 feet away. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 6–7; Clark III 526; Clark IV 575)
- 1946, July 9** — 3:30 p.m. A young man in Mockfjärd, Sweden, sees a silver-colored star diving toward the ground with a whistling noise. It comes down about 490 feet away from him, and he is blinded by the intense light. He thinks it crashes into Mt. Landholm. A powerful burning smell lingers for 15 minutes. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 7; Clark III 526; Clark IV 575)
- 1946, July 9** — 3:35 p.m. Many people see a bright red, rocket-like object moving swiftly over Turku, Finland, and leaving a short trail. It casts shadows on the ground. (A. Mauritz Hietamaki, "[Some Little-Known UFO Reports from Finland](#)," *Awareness* 5, no. 3 (Autumn 1976): 5; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 7; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, July 10** — A brilliantly glowing projectile trailing luminous smoke crashes into a beach near Norrvikssand, Sweden. Airline pilot Torvald Linden and other witnesses find a shallow crater a little more than 3 feet in diameter. A mass of slag-like material, some of it reduced to powder (which burns the hands when touched) is found at the site and collected into bags. A journalist from *Svenska Dagbladet* on July 11 finds a "burnt-brown object with a hollow cylinder" with a diameter of about 1–2 inches. Military authorities take over the site. The debris is taken to Dr. B. Backlund at a laboratory in Kubikenborg, who finds it contains paper with microscopic

black-and-white squares like a screen. Some porous, rust-colored fragments are also present. The same day, the beach is visited by Lt. Col. [Rudberg](#), Capt. C. Ljungdahl, and Capt. R. Westlin, who conclude that the material has been in the area for a long time. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 10–12; Clark III 526; Clark IV 575–576)

- 1946, July 10** — 2:30 p.m. A bluish flying cigar 10–12 times the diameter of the full moon in length passes over Stockholm, Sweden. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 9; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, July 12** — Swedish Intelligence agrees to cooperate in sharing ghost rocket information with the British military attaché in Stockholm, Sweden, Maj. de Salis. (Swords 20)
- 1946, July 12** — Day. The railway station master at Gryon, Vaud, Switzerland, is watching a B-24 Liberator flying overhead at 15,000 feet when he also sees a “flying bomb” looking like a big star traveling northeast at about 250 mph. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 14)
- 1946, July 12** — 10:00 p.m. Inga Eriksson is in her garden in Usta, Örebro, Sweden, when she hears a sharp, sizzling sound in the air and sees three silvery triangular objects traveling horizontally from east to west. They are visible only for 2 seconds, but her mother notes that the electrical power has gone out in their home. (AFU case file)
- 1946, July 15** — The Swedes provide the British attaché with analytical reports of all observations to date. (Swords 20)
- 1946, July 16–18** — US Secretary of the Navy [James Forrestal](#) makes an unexpected visit to Stockholm, Sweden, to meet with the Swedish Defense Minister [Allan Vougt](#) and two members of the special committee on ghost rockets. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946, July 18** — Two British intelligence officers arrive in Stockholm to meet with their counterparts in Sweden. One is from the Air Ministry (Squadron Leader Barrie Heath) and the other (Maj. Malone) is from MI10(a), a branch of the Directorate of Military Intelligence. (Swords 20)
- 1946, July 18** — 12:00 noon. Sigvat Skaug and his son, who live along Lake Mjøsa in southeastern Norway, and his sister Åse Tandberg watch two rocket-like objects about 7 feet long pass over their heads at a very low altitude. They fall simultaneously into the lake, throwing the water several feet into the air. The objects look like V-1 rockets and come in low from the west at about 150 feet, causing the trees to sway. They fall into the lake about 1.2 miles from the western shore and 4.3 miles from Minnesund. (NICAP, “[‘Ghost Rocket’ Crashes into Lake](#)”; Björn Överbye, “[Ghost Bombs over Sweden](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 2 (March/April 1969): 17–18; Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, “[The Kölmjärvi Ghost Rocket Crash Revisited](#),” *AFU Newsletter* 27 (Jan./Dec. 1984): 1–5; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 18–19; Ole Jonny Brænne, “[Observations of Unidentified Submarine Objects in Norway](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 12–13, 17; Göran Jansson, “[Spökraketerna 1946](#),” January 2005, pp. 19–20; Swords 16; Clark III 526; Clark IV 576; Dolan, USO1, 121–122)
- 1946, July 18** — Three workers see a ghost rocket above Ortviken, Sweden. Shortly afterward, Gunnar Falck watches a silvery cylinder moving over the northern part of Sundsvall. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 17; Clark III 524; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, July 19** — 11:15 a.m. In the village of Bölebyn, Sweden, Leonard Danielsson and his sons Kjell, Dan, and Hans see an “aeroplane” moving against the wind to the southwest. The boys say it looks like a large, metallic milk canister. It travels from horizon to horizon in about 20 minutes before disappearing in the northwest. (Swords 17)
- 1946, July 19** — 11:30 a.m. Kurt Larsson, 11, is fishing at the north end of Lake Kattisträsket, Sweden, when he hears a roaring sound. A huge column of water rises out of the lake as if a mine has detonated. Military officers from Boden investigate, but the lake is too muddy to send in a diver. They conclude that whatever fell is buried in 15 feet of mud. (Swords 24)
- 1946, July 19** — 11:45 a.m. Many witnesses see a gray, winged rocket crash into Lake Kölmjärvi, Sweden, with a loud bang close to the southwest bank. Knut Lindbäck says it generates a high plume of water when it hits the surface, “followed by another cascade as if something had detonated.” Water lilies and other aquatic plants are torn up and thrown on the shore. Lieut. [Karl-Gösta Bartoll](#) from the Boden engineer corps arrives the next day to supervise the salvage operation. Engineers Roland Rynniger and lab technician Torsten Wilner from the Defense Research Department also arrive with a Geiger counter. A three-week search turns up no traces of metal, even though the evidence points to an underwater explosion. (NICAP, “[‘Ghost Rocket’ Crashes into Lake](#)”; Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, “[The Kölmjärvi Ghost Rocket Crash Revisited](#),” *AFU Newsletter* 27 (Jan./Dec. 1984): 1–5; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 20, 76; Göran Jansson, “[Spökraketerna 1946](#),” January 2005, pp. 20–26; Swords 17–20, 24; Clark III 524–525, 526, 529; Clark IV 574–575, 576, 579; Dolan, USO1, 119–120)
- 1946, July 19** — 3:00 p.m. Karl and Tyra Axberg are sitting on the porch of their cabin on Lake Vassarajärvi in Norrbotten County, Sweden, when they hear a loud noise. A projectile comes in at a very low angle and hits the

water at a 30° angle, continuing underwater for about 600 feet. A military team led by [Karl-Gösta Bartoll](#) can find no trace of a “ghost bomb.” (Swords 24–25)

- 1946**, July 19 — 3:40 p.m. Ingrid Hansson is sunbathing with her father on a floating jetty at the northern end of Lake Marmen, near Sunnanå, Sweden. She hears a violent roaring over the water and looks up to see an object bouncing along the surface, stirring up a wake. The object has created a water column 66 feet high upon impact. (Swords 25)
- 1946**, July 19 — Maj. Gen. [George C. McDonald](#) prepares a memorandum for the Commander of the Army Air Forces Gen. [Carl Spaatz](#) on reports of “rockets” over Scandinavian countries. (Jan L. Aldrich, comp., [The Ghost Rocket File](#), Fund for UFO Research, 2000, pp. 9–11)
- 1946**, July 24 — 1:20 p.m. Engineer Tennlund sees a small cigar-shaped object with a pair of small wings south of Vålberg, Värmland, Sweden. It comes from the direction of Norway (west) at great speed with no sound. Tennlund thinks it crashes into Vänern lake. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946**, July 25 — The Swedish military states that the ghost rockets are definitely not meteors. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 23; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576)
- 1946**, July 25 — Baker nuclear test, Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. (Wikipedia, [“Operation Crossroads”](#); Fran Ridge, [“The Baker Blast: Cause for Alarm?”](#) May 4, 2013)
- 1946**, July 27 — British Air Attaché Capt. Henderson informs the Foreign Office in London, England, that cooperation with Swedish Air Staff should be kept from the Americans. (David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002; Joel Carpenter, [“Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two”](#); Swords 20)
- 1946**, July 28 — Night. Sections of Oslo, Norway, are shaken by two violent aerial explosions. An “intense white light” accompanies the blasts. ([“Oslo Shaken by 2 Explosions.”](#) London *Daily Telegraph*, July 29, 1946, p. 1; Clark III 526; Clark IV 576)
- 1946**, July 29 — Norway begins censoring ghost rocket reports just as Sweden is doing. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 25)
- 1946**, July 30 — 1:15 p.m. Two objects shaped like dark crosses are seen in the sky over Filipstad, Värmland, Sweden. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946**, July 30 — 3:12 p.m. William Jorgensen, a soldier at the fort at Oskar-Fredriksborg, Stockholm, Sweden, sees a silent flying object with short wings at a distance of about 6,560 feet. It is moving faster than a jet aircraft. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946**, July 30 — 5:00 p.m. A customs officer on the Norway-Sweden border watches a silvery torpedo with short wings. The object moves in from the south but changes direction with a sharp turn and continues east with a whining sound. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946**, August — Day. Charles A. Johnson is driving on US Highway 41 along Lake Michigan north of Chicago, Illinois, when he sees three silver discs going from east to west in a triangular formation. (Clark III 1179; Clark IV 1354)
- 1946**, August — 8:30 p.m. A young man sees a pan-shaped object near a road in Sint-Niklaas, Belgium. A small entity holding an acacia branch is nearby. The being enters the object through an opening on the underside. Afterward, traces of burning on the ground are detected. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1940–1949](#), p. 20; Clark III 266; Clark IV 306)
- 1946**, Early August — An astronomer and meteorologist is looking at some clouds through a telescope in Stockholm, Sweden, and sees a luminous object that he estimates is about 90 feet long, torpedo-shaped, and metallic. It has a “tapered tail that spewed glowing blue and green smoke and a series of fire balls.” The object explodes with a terrific flash. ([“Swarm of Mysterious Rockets Is Seen over Capital of Sweden.”](#) *New York Times*, August 12, 1946, pp. 1, 7; [“Sweden Plans Radar Fight on ‘Rockets.’”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, August 13, 1946, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 39; Clark III 524–525; Clark IV 573)
- 1946**, August 1 — President [Truman](#) signs the Atomic Energy Act, transferring the control of atomic energy from military to civilian hands, effective on January 1, 1947. It categorizes information on atomic energy as “born classified,” even if it is not created by any US government agency. “Restricted Data” is not a level of classification; rather, a document can be classified as Confidential, Secret, or Top Secret, while also containing Restricted Data. In addition, a document containing Restricted Data can also contain Critical Nuclear Weapon Design Information. In this way, a document can be classified as Secret (S), Secret//Restricted Data (S//RD), or Secret//Restricted Data-Critical Nuclear Weapon Design Information (S//RD-CNWDI), depending on the type of information it contains. (Wikipedia, [“United States Atomic Energy Commission”](#))

- 1946, August 1 — [Truman](#) approves the establishment of the Office of Naval Research for “planning, fostering, and encouraging scientific research” in relation to naval power and national security. (Wikipedia, “[Office of Naval Research](#)”)
- 1946, August 1 — Col. [Edwin Kennedy Wright](#), [Vandenberg](#)’s executive assistant at the Central Intelligence Group, sends a memorandum to President [Truman](#) saying the ghost rockets conform to a V-1 shape and seem to be launched from the USSR. The report notes that the missiles can turn and fly circular courses, seemingly indicating radio control. Most information comes from the military attaché in Sweden and the conclusions are from the director of intelligence for the War Department general staff. (Jan Aldrich, “[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 10, 12; Swords 21–23)
- 1946, August 1 — 6:00 p.m. AF Capt. Jack E. Puckett is flying over Tampa, Florida, in a C-47 transport and sees a long cylinder twice the size of a B-29 with luminous portholes. After 3 minutes, it disappears at a speed of 1,500 mph. (“[Rocket Craft Encounter Revealed by World War 2 Pilot](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 2 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 15; UFOEv, [p. 19](#); Clark III 529–530; Clark IV 579)
- 1946, August 5 — 6:26 p.m. A luminous object is seen by a motorist near Landskrona, Skåne, Sweden.
- 1946, August 5 — 11:00 p.m. A fast-moving, silent, circular object glitters in the sun over Skåne, Sweden, as it heads toward the south-southwest at a high altitude. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO’s, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 28; Clark III 525; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, August 6 — The US delegation in Budapest, Hungary, reports that a German scientist now working for the Russians has revealed that the Soviets have developed guided rockets called V-3 and V-4 that are able to fly a round trip of 700 miles. (Jan Aldrich, “[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 10)
- 1946, August 7 — A Top Secret message from the Commander-in-Chief Air Forces, Pacific, to Gen. [Lauris Norstad](#), War Department Operations, requests guidance on the current classification of the substitute code word “Majestic” for Operational Plan Olympic (the invasion of Northern Japan). The plan has been downgraded to Restricted (Message CM1472 IN). The answer is that both code words had been declassified by the JCS on October 8, 1945 (Message CM96908 OUT 8 Aug 1946). (Jan Aldrich; Murray Bott, “[Military Codenames ‘Olympic’ and ‘Majestic’](#),” UFO UpDates, April 4, 2002)
- 1946, August 7 — Swedish Lt. Lennart Neckman of the Defense Staff’s Air Defense Division sees a clear, yellow flame passing low and slow over the countryside. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO’s, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 30; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576–577)
- 1946, August 8 — Chief of Swedish Air Defense Maj. [Nils Ahlgren](#) says that some of the rockets are seen at low altitude, maneuver in half circles, and appear to come from the south. (Göran Jansson, “[Spökraketerna 1946](#),” January 2005, p. 36)
- 1946, August 11 — 8:47 p.m. Astronomer [Bertil Lindblad](#) sees an exploding fireball in Ljugarn on Gotland, Sweden. (Göran Jansson, “[Spökraketerna 1946](#),” January 2005, p. 38)
- 1946, August 11 — 9:00–10:00 p.m. Hundreds of people in central and southern Sweden see “ghost bombs” that fly from south to north, giving off a brilliant blue-white light. Sometimes two of the objects are seen flying together. Some witnesses see smaller silver balls come out of the larger objects, which are variously described as cylinders and torpedoes with a “wide nose” and “fire-spurting tail.” (“[Swarm of Mysterious Rockets Is Seen over Capital of Sweden](#),” *New York Times*, August 12, 1946, pp. 1, 7; “[Swedes Use Radar in Fight on Missiles](#),” *New York Times*, August 13, 1946, p. 4; Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 37; Loren E. Gross, [UFO’s, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 33–39; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, [pp. 50–53](#); Göran Jansson, “[Spökraketerna 1946](#),” January 2005, pp. 38–40; Clark III 525, 527; Clark IV 573, 577)
- 1946, August 12 — 10:00 a.m. A twin-engine Saab 18 Swedish Air Force bomber crashes and explodes near Valdshult, Jönköping, Sweden, killing three airmen. Rumors circulate that it collided with a ghost rocket, but an investigation indicates that the pilot lost control. (Good Need, [pp. 39–40](#))
- 1946, August 12 — A group of Boy Scouts near Göteborg, Sweden, watch a “flying missile” turn 35° then resume its original course. (“[2 Swedes Escape a ‘Ghost Rocket](#),” *New York Times*, August 14, 1946, p. 11)
- 1946, August 12 — 8:15 p.m. A torpedo-shaped ghost rocket moves slowly over a seaport town in southern Sweden, barely grazing the roofs and trailing smoke. It continues out to sea and seems to come down on a small island. Two men go out to investigate, but the island is too overgrown to allow a search. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO’s, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 40–41; Clark III 526; Clark IV 576)
- 1946, August 12 — Night. Briand Jensen, a night watchman in Struer, Denmark, sees a speeding rocket approach from the northeast, explode with a roar, and illuminate the sky with a blinding flash. (“[2 Swedes Escape a ‘Ghost Rocket](#),” *New York Times*, August 14, 1946, p. 11)

- 1946, August 13 — Capt. [Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter](#), US naval attaché in Paris, forwards as top secret a report by the French government on ghost rocket activity in Scandinavia. It states that “a good number of these projectiles are of the V-1 type in the form of a torpedo with two small wings.” A map shows them originating in the Leningrad [now St. Petersburg] area, Russia. (Jan Aldrich, “[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 11; Swords 21; Good Need, pp. 38–39)
- 1946, August 13 — The Hungarian report of August 6 causes Maj. Gen. [Stephen J. Chamberlin](#), Army assistant chief of staff for intelligence, to ask Budapest for further information. Top-secret requests are sent to military attachés in London, Stockholm, Oslo, Helsinki, and Copenhagen asking for listings of all ghost rocket reports, as well as V-3 and V-4 missiles. The military attaché in Oslo reports that a Soviet ship in the north Baltic Sea has been transmitting code to shore stations regarding the ghost rockets. The military attaché in Moscow asks other European officials about where the rockets originate and gets several answers, which he forwards on to Chamberlin: Hiiumaa island, Estonia; Latvia; or Peenemünde, Germany. Gen. [Joseph T. McNarney](#) of the US Forces in Europe Theater replies that Peenemünde is a likely origin, since the site has been refurbished. The military attaché in Stockholm suspects Hiiumaa, Peenemünde, or Parikkala in Finland, while the naval attaché in Stockholm thinks that Łeba, Poland, is the launch site. (Jan Aldrich, “[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 10–11)
- 1946, August 13 — The *New York Times* says the ghost rocket situation is extremely dangerous (“near the boiling point”) and that Sweden will not tolerate such violations, borrowing some radar equipment from Great Britain. (“[Swedes Use Radar in Fight on Missiles](#),” *New York Times*, August 13, 1946, p. 4)
- 1946, August 13 — The US naval attaché and the Assistant US military attaché in Stockholm interview three Swedish Air Force officers assigned to the General Staff who say that they believe the objects are rockets. (Joel Carpenter, “[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two](#)”; Swords 21)
- 1946, August 13 — Afternoon. A troop of Boy Scouts in Denmark see a rocket-like object moving quickly at an altitude of 1,600 feet. They can see small side wings and fins. A blue-white light streams from the bottom, and it diverges from a straight course to a 35° curve. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 43; Clark III 525; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, August 13 — 8:00 p.m. A cigar-shaped object flies past a witness at Karlskrona, Sweden, at a distance of only 150 feet. Only 5 feet long, it emits a faint green light and trails smoke from the rear. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 43; Clark III 525; Clark IV 573)
- 1946, August 14 — The *New York Times* reports that Secretary of State [Dean Acheson](#) is “very much interested” in the ghost rockets. (“[2 Swedes Escape a ‘Ghost Rocket](#),” *New York Times*, August 14, 1946, p. 11; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 46; Clark III 527; Clark IV 577)
- 1946, August 14 — 10:02 a.m. Swedish Air Force pilot Lieut. Gunnar Irholm and his signaler, Cpl. Möller, are flying a B-18A bomber at 650 feet 4 miles northeast of Malingsbo in central Sweden when they see a dark cigar-shaped object approaching on their left. It has no visible wings, rudders, lights, flame or projections of any type. It appears to follow the terrain at 370–430 mph, maintaining the same height, then vanishes into a storm cloud. (“Ghost Rockets over Scandinavia,” *Intelligence Review*, no. 49, January 9, 1947, US Department of Defense; Don Berliner, Marie Galbraith, and Antonio Huneeus, *Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document*, UFO Research Coalition, December 1995, pp. 33–35; Swords 15–16; “[Cigar Sighted from B-19 Bomber](#),” *AFU Newsletter*, no. 44 (September 2002): 1–4)
- 1946, August 15 — Night. Several residents of the east side of Waterloo, Iowa, see an object buzzing rapidly around some trees. It gradually ascends, surrounded by a cloud of white vapor, and disappears high in the sky. One person calls it “a great white bird; another, a bomb.” [Mrs. Russell Lampman](#) says that the object is “6 feet, 3 inches tall, like a large man, and rather rectangular in shape.” She and her [husband](#) watch it for an hour after it starts hovering about 20–25 feet above a nearby alley. (Al Starr, “Street Scene,” *Waterloo (Iowa) Sunday Times*, August 18, 1946, p. II-1; “[Well, We Saw It First!](#)” *Waterloo Daily Courier*, July 7, 1947, p. 2; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports: 1946](#)”)
- 1946, August 16 — Col. L. H. Johnson, US naval attaché in Stockholm, transmits a “Top Secret Report R334-46 of 13 August 1946 Subject: SWEDEN Guided Missiles Rocket Sightings Over Sweden.” It concludes: “No tangible evidence to date as to nature or origin of rockets reported over Sweden, although Swedish Defense Staff insists that they are rockets.” (Joel Carpenter, “[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two](#)”; Jan L. Aldrich, comp., [The Ghost Rocket File](#), Fund for UFO Research, 2000, pp. 32–35)
- 1946, August 16 — A missile produces an enormous explosion over Malmö, Sweden, that shakes or breaks many windows. Some witnesses think they can see fragments of the object falling to earth. (“[Windows Broken by Rocket Bomb](#),” *Manchester Guardian*, August 17, 1946, p. 6; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 50; Jan L. Aldrich, comp., [The Ghost Rocket File](#), Fund for UFO Research, 2000, p. 36; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576)

- 1946**, Late August — Margaret Sprankle, a civilian employee at Tinker AFB near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is returning from work when she sees, about 300 feet away, a large, metallic, lens-shaped structure about 75 feet in diameter. It is hovering on edge, the flat side toward her. On the lower right side are 12–14 square windows; in each, visible from the shoulders up, is a figure. Their heads are very round. After about 90 seconds, the object rotates 90° on its vertical axis and silently flies northwest and disappears in 5 seconds. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1940–1949](#), p. 22; Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, pp. 28, 32; Clark III 266; Clark IV 306)
- 1946**, August 18 — 8:00 or 10:00 p.m. An aerial object like a 9-foot cigar is seen moving slowly on the north side of Copenhagen, Denmark. It explodes with extraordinary force. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 53; Clark III 525; Clark IV 573–574)
- 1946**, August 19 — The US military attaché in Moscow reports on the visit of Maj. [Stig Wennerström](#) of the Swedish Air Force, who reveals that radar indicates the ghost rocket launch site is at Peenemünde, Germany. The rockets appear to be radio-controlled, carry no warheads, are self-destructive, and are plotted over a range of 620 miles. Sometimes they follow zigzag courses. (Jan Aldrich, [“Investigating the Ghost Rockets,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 12)
- 1946**, August 19 — Two US experts on aerial warfare, aviation legend General [Jimmy Doolittle](#) and British Group Captain [Douglas Bader](#), and General [David Sarnoff](#), president of RCA, arrive in Stockholm, Sweden, ostensibly on private business, and independently of each other. The official explanation is that Doolittle, who is now vice-president of the Shell Oil Company, is inspecting Shell branch offices in Europe, while Sarnoff, a former member of General [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)'s London staff, is studying the market for radio equipment. However, the story indicates that the Chief of the Swedish Defense Staff, Col. C. R. Kempf, makes no secret that he “was extremely interested in asking the two generals advice and, if possible, would place all available reports before them.” However, Doolittle denies the correlation to [Barry Greenwood](#) in 1984, and researchers have found no evidence to support a collaboration. (“[Doolittle, Sarnoff Stir Swedish Talk](#),” *New York Times*, August 21, 1946, p. 3; “[Doolittle Consulted by Swedes on Bombs](#),” *New York Times*, August 22, 1946, p. 2; Joel Carpenter, “[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two](#)”; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 53–54; Swords 21, 24; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576)
- 1946**, August 21 — The General Staff in Norway issues a memorandum to the press asking it not to mention any ghost rockets seen over the country and to pass on all reports to the military Intelligence Department. In Sweden, the ban is limited to any mention of where the rockets are seen to land or explode. (“[Britain to Send Radar to Sweden](#),” *London Daily Telegraph*, August 22, 1946, p. 1; Good Above, [p. 21](#))
- 1946**, August 22 — 3:00 p.m. Photographer Gösta Skog takes a color film of a ghost rocket at Getå, 100 miles south of Stockholm, Sweden. The cigar-shaped object appears out of a cloud at 3,000 feet, trailing exhaust. The film turns out to be overexposed. (Swords 14–15; Clas Svahn, “[Spökraketerna: Den Största Gåtan](#),” Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige, March 7, 2017)
- 1946**, August 22 — Director of the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) Lt. Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#) writes a top secret memo to [President Truman](#) via Adm. [William D. Leahy](#), stating that the “weight of evidence” points to Peenemünde (which has become a Soviet naval base), East Germany, as the origin of the ghost rockets, and that a US military attaché in Moscow has been told by a “key Swedish Air Officer” [[Wennerström](#)] that radar course-plotting leads to the conclusion that Peenemünde is the launch site. CIG speculates that the missiles are extended-range developments of V-1s being aimed for the Gulf of Bothnia for test purposes and “do not overfly Swedish territory specifically for intimidation; self-destruct by small demolition charge or burning.” (Hoyt Vandenberg, “[Memorandum for the President](#),” August 22, 1946; Ossian Goulding, “[Mystery of ‘Rockets’ over Sweden](#),” *London Daily Telegraph*, August 27, 1946, pp. 1, 6; Joel Carpenter, “[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two](#)”; Barry Greenwood, “[Significant Ghost Rocket Documents Available](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 15 (June 2015): 1–8; Clark III 527; Clark IV 577)
- 1946**, August 23 — The British Foreign Office states that English radar experts, including [Reginald Victor Jones](#), having returned from Sweden, had “submitted secret reports to the British government on the origin of the rockets.” (Good Above, [p. 21](#))
- 1946**, August 24 — Stockholm Air Attaché Maj. Gen. [Alfred A. Kessler Jr.](#) informs the War Department that the Ghost Rockets are an “unintentional hoax which developed naturally but which exploited by Defense staff by implication and lack of frankness possibly interest defense budget and to alert west against east.” (Joel Carpenter, “[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two](#)”)
- 1946**, August 24 — Admiral [Henry Kent Hewitt](#), Commander of US Naval Forces in Europe, writes a letter to the US naval attaché in Oslo, Norway, on “Rocket Bombs or Guided Missiles over Norway and Sweden.” Two “missiles” have fallen into a lake near Oslo, and the US Navy is “very interested.” ([Adm. Henry Kent Hewitt],

Letter to US Naval Attaché, Oslo, "[Rocket Bombs or Guided Missiles over Norway and Sweden](#)," August 24, 1946)

- 1946, August 24 — Evening. A Norwegian student and a Swedish engineer are boating on a small river "somewhere in Sweden" when a light approaches them from the southeast. It resembles a full moon and emits an intense light: "As it passed immediately overhead, it grew so bright you could see as well as on a sunny day." The object, about 10 feet long, releases four stars that fall silently to the ground. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 58–59; Clark III 525; Clark IV 574)
- 1946, August 26 — The US military attaché in Stockholm reports that the Swedes, possibly worried about a Soviet veto of their application for UN membership, have canceled their request for British radar equipment. (Jan Aldrich, "[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13)
- 1946, August 29 — The American embassy in Stockholm tells the State Department that the ghost rockets are probably Soviet missiles. ([[Memo on telegram of August 27, 1946](#)]; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 63A; Good Above, pp. 22, 447)
- 1946, August 31 — After becoming one of the first Western journalists to view the ruins of Hiroshima, [John Hersey](#) publishes a 31,000-word article in *The New Yorker* on the effects of the atomic bomb on six survivors of the bombing Hiroshima. It is the first glimpse that the American public has on the devastation of nuclear warfare and the effects of radiation. (John Hersey, *Hiroshima*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1946; Lesley M. M. Blume, *Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-Up and the Reporter Who Revealed It to the World*, Simon & Schuster, 2020)
- 1946, September — German rocket engineer Walter Ziegler tells Army CIC that 400 men from his former rocket group at Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) in Munich, Germany, are invited by Russian military officers to a fancy dinner, wined and dined, then taken home. Several hours later, all 400 are woken up by the Russians and forced to take a trip. (Ziegler is not among them.) They are transported by train to a small town ("Kubischew") outside Moscow, Russia, where they remain and work on secret military rocket projects under terrible conditions. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, p. 42)
- 1946, September 1–2 — Late night and early morning. Rocket-shaped objects are seen over northern Greece, according to Prime Minister [Konstantinos Tsaldaris](#). Physicist [Paul Santorinis](#) is placed in charge of an investigation. He rules out Russian missiles, but the Army ends the investigation in 1947. ("[Rockets over Nation](#)," *Chicago (Ill.) Tribune*, September 6, 1946, p. 2; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 62–63; Good Above, p. 23; Clark III 525; Orestis Lazanakis, "[UAP in Greece](#)," UAP Check, July 27, 2024; Clark IV 574)
- 1946, September 3 — Soviet officials deny responsibility for the Scandinavian ghost rockets, claiming that such accusations are "anti-Soviet misinformation" that is "poisoning the international atmosphere." ("[Russians Cry 'Slander' to Rocket-Firing Charge](#)," *New York Times*, September 4, 1946, p. 10; Clark III 527; Clark IV 577)
- 1946, September 7 — British pilot [Edward Mortlock Donaldson](#) attains an airspeed record of 616 mph in a Gloster Meteor F Mk 4 at Littlehampton, England. (Wikipedia, "[Edward Donaldson \(RAF officer\)](#)")
- 1946, September 9 — The scientific advisor to MI6, English physicist [Reginald Victor Jones](#), considers the ghost rockets a social panic phenomenon. An RAF Intelligence report, "Investigation of Reported Missile Activity over Scandinavia," identifies eight types of ghost rocket sightings: iron cylinder, magnesium-like light, white core surrounded by blue-green, shining ball with tail, torpedo-shape, black object with flame, small rocket, small missile. It takes the daytime reports seriously but concludes are probably only a few genuine reports of actual missiles. (Joel Carpenter, "[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two](#)"; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 63–64; Swords 26–27; Clark III 526, 527; Clark IV 574–575, 577)
- 1946, September 11 — The Chief of Naval Intelligence requires naval attachés to forward information on Soviet rocket research and operations including launches from submarines. (NARA, US Naval Intelligence files; Jan Aldrich)
- 1946, September 11 — [Jack Northrop](#) grounds the XB-35, which has suffered gearbox and propeller control problems, until the Army Air Force can fix its propulsion system. (Wikipedia, "[Northrop YB-35](#)")
- 1946, September 11 — 2:00 p.m. [Justin B. Rinaldi](#) is standing in a friend's backyard in Engle, New Mexico, when he hears a loud whirring sound and sees a black object whiz by. It is pointed at one end, has a narrow body, and what appear to be fins on the tail. It is traveling fast at an altitude of 75 feet. Rinaldi sees it hit a clump of trees at a ranch house and the "branches parted like a great force had struck." He and friends go to the site but can find nothing. ("[Flying Disc Tales Bring 2 Reports from Engle Area](#)," *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, June 29, 1947, p. 1; Clark III 530; Clark IV 579)
- 1946, September 12 — Cmdr. [Robert A. Winston](#), acting naval attaché in Stockholm, Sweden, writes to the London naval attaché in a secret air mailgram that he suspects there is a secret British-Swedish collaboration on ghost rocket

- information designed to keep the US from learning the truth. (Jan Aldrich, "[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13)
- 1946**, Mid-September — Two luminous globes that shine "like an electric arc" are seen flying in a straight line over Longwy, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 66; Clark III 525–526; Clark IV 574)
- 1946**, September 18 — Two greenish globes, one following close behind the other, zoom over Castanheira, Portugal. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 67; Clark III 526; Clark IV 574)
- 1946**, September 21 — Chemist [Gustaf Ljunggren](#) of the Swedish National Defense Research Institute summarizes for the Swedish Defense staff his analysis of 27 finds of mysterious substances, allegedly from ghost rockets. None are radioactive and all have mundane explanations. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 33–34)
- 1946**, September 22 — 3:15 a.m. A rocket-shaped object is seen for 90 seconds over Florence, Italy. It makes an abrupt turn, then speeds south toward Rome. ("[Svenskarockets](#)," *Doubt*, no. 17 (1946): 255; Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 69)
- 1946**, September 25 — 12:00 midnight. Mme. Deman in Ostend, Belgium, sees a ball of light fall near her home and throw up a large cloud of smoke. ("['Ball of Light' at Ostend](#)," London *Daily Telegraph*, September 27, 1946, p. 8; Clark III)
- 1946**, September 28–29 — Mysterious "meteor-like activity is reported at Verviers, Belgium. (Loren E. Gross, [UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets](#), The Author, 1988 ed., p. 70)
- 1946**, September 30 — [David Sarnoff](#), in a speech at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, says that the "ghost bombs are no myth but real missiles." ("[Sarnoff Predicts Weather Control and Delivery of the Mail by Radio](#)," *New York Times*, October 1, 1946, p. 1, 48; Joel Carpenter, "[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two](#)")
- 1946**, Fall — 9:00 p.m. Gladys McCage and her 4-year-old son see a yellowish-orange light coming from the northwest at a "terrific speed" toward their farm 8 miles north of O'Neill, Nebraska. Its color changes to red as it approaches, and soon it is hovering above the witnesses. They run toward the house and the cigar-shaped object swings up to the northeast. McCage says it is as big as a football field, has windows, and is making a loud noise. A yellowish-blue-green flame is shooting out near the back, and it is traveling too fast for any plane at the time. (Clark III 530; Clark IV 579)
- 1946**, October — [Ray Palmer](#) publishes a letter from [Maurice Doreal](#) (pseudonym of Claude D. Dodgin) of the Brotherhood of the White Temple in Denver, Colorado, regarding the "Shaver mystery." Doreal claims intimate knowledge of the subterranean realms, which he claims are inhabited by the Black Brotherhood and protected by "space-warps." In 1949 Doreal claims to have visited caves inside Mount Shasta, California, inhabited by Atlantean masters. He equates Shaver's Dero with an evil group of Lemurians. (M. Doreal, "[He's Been in Caves Too!](#)" *Amazing Stories* 20, no. 7 (October 1946): 177–178; Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, pp. 154–160; Charmaine Ortega Getz, "[The \(Sort of\) Amazing Story of Maurice Doreal and the Brotherhood of the White Temple Revealed at Last](#)," *Weird Colorado*, September 6, 2015)
- 1946**, October — [Harold Sherman](#)'s novel *The Green Man* is first published in [Ray Palmer](#)'s *Amazing Stories*. It revolves around an alien named Numar, a peaceful messenger from another planet who has the ability to make our technology stand still. It is followed by a sequel, *The Green Man Returns*, in 1947. In a 1979 reprint of both novels, Sherman writes: "Sometime in the year 1945, when Martha and I were living in Chicago, I had a series of visions wherein I saw Space Beings, possessed of high intelligence, visiting our Earth in space ships of different shapes and sizes, for the purpose of exploration and eventually to fill our skies with large space vehicles, coming in force, hopefully on a friendly mission to help Mankind save itself from self-destruction." (Harold M. Sherman, "The Green Man," *Amazing Stories* 10, no. 7 (October 1946): [8–47](#), [76–157](#); Harold Sherman, *The Green Man and His Return*, 1979)
- 1946**, October — University of Manchester astronomer [Bernard Lovell](#) uses the radar equipment at Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire to confirm that transient radar echoes are from ionized meteor trails, showing that meteor showers can be tracked in the daytime as well visibly at night. He is later able to determine the orbits of meteors in annual meteor showers to show they are in solar orbit and not of interstellar origin. (Wikipedia, "[Jodrell Bank Observatory](#)")
- 1946**, October 1 — The US Military Attaché in London, England, writes a top-secret memo to the War Department complaining that the British "may not have given us all information on reported rockets over Scandinavia." (Jan L. Aldrich, comp., [The Ghost Rocket File](#), Fund for UFO Research, 2000, p. 73)

- 1946, October 9** — Evening. [George Adamski](#) and some associates are watching a meteor shower associated with Comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner when they see a “gigantic spacecraft” hovering above the mountain ridge south of Mount Palomar, California. He claims to meet a military officer a few weeks later who assures him that the object was indeed from another world. Others in San Diego see an object with a long, tube-shaped fuselage, giant wings, and two red lights. The medium [Mark Probert](#) later tells the press that he has established psychic communication with the occupants and the object is called the Kareeta. (“[Sparks Fly As Comet Passes Earth](#),” *Los Angeles Daily News*, October 10, 1946, p. 3; “Space Ship Flaps Wings over San Diego, ‘Observers’ Claim,” *San Diego (Calif.) Union*, October 15, 1946, p. 1; “[Welcome? Kareeta!](#)” *Round Robin* 2, no. 10 (1946): 3–7; Leslie and Adamski, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, British Book Centre, 1953, pp. 172–174; Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, Citadel, 1954, pp. 41–48; Colin Bennett, *Looking for Orthon*, Paraview, 2001, pp. 28–29; Curt Collins, “[1946, Before Saucers, Kareeta: UFO Contact in California](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, August 8, 2017; Clark III 298, 455; Clark IV 338–339, 500)
- 1946, October 10** — 4:00 a.m. Waltraut Anlauf, a telephone operator in Friedland Refugee Camp, Lower Saxony, Germany, sees small, elongated flashes at a great height in the sky. They look like cigars and are luminescent white in front and bluish-white in back. She sees about 10 objects pass per minute. Sometimes there is an interruption of about 10 minutes, and then new groups appear. The sighting lasts one hour. Possibly these are part of the Taurid meteor shower. (Clark III 529; Clark IV 578)
- 1946, October 10** — The defense staff in Sweden admits it cannot explain the ghost rockets because reports are too vague. About 80% appear to be meteors (“celestial phenomena”), although radar has tracked a few unusual targets. The report concludes that they are not V-type bombs. (“[Swedish Inquiry Fails to Solve Rocket Case](#),” *New York Times*, October 11, 1946, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 71–72; Good Above, p. 23; Clark III 528; Clark IV 577)
- 1946, October 15** — Belgian Defense Minister Raoul de Fraiteur issues a statement saying that recent sightings of “meteor-like objects” in Belgium have been explained. (“[Svenskarockets](#),” *Doubt*, no. 17 (1946): 17; Clark III 528; Clark IV 577)
- 1946, October 21** — Two persons on the shore of a lake in southern Sweden hear a whistling sound in the air, like a “flock of birds.” They see an object moving over the trees at a low altitude. It is dart-shaped and has short wings and a “ball-shaped tip.” It falls into the lake and possibly explodes on impact. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 74; Clark III 527; Clark IV 576)
- 1946, November** — The War Department issues a press release on how German scientists are helping out at Wright Field, Ohio. (Dolan, p. 12)
- 1946, November 29** — A top secret Air Intelligence report, “Significant Developments of Scientific Warfare in Russia,” designates the ghost rockets as “V-5” weapons produced by the Siebel Works in Halle, Germany. (Jan Aldrich, “[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13)
- 1946, December 3** — The Swedish military reports that about 100 impacts were investigated by the Defense Research Institution and not found to be rockets. (Joel Carpenter, “[Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Three](#)”)
- 1946, December 10** — Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#) answers an inquiry from Assistant Secretary of War for Air [Stuart Symington](#) about establishing interim projects at the Air Materiel Center (AMC). LeMay’s answer: The Commander of AMC on his own volition may establish an interim project; however, to continue the project it must be approved for the next budget cycle. (Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB; Jan Aldrich, “[Secret Twining Letter: ‘The Reported Phenomena Are Real.’](#)” October 11, 2008)
- 1946, December 23** — [Jacobsson](#)’s ghost rocket committee issues its final report on 987 ghost rocket cases, stating that 225 reports had been made in full daylight. More than 100 reports describe spool-shaped objects with or without wings. It concludes: “Despite the extensive effort, which has been carried out with the means available, and seven months after the first observations, no actual proof that a test of rocket projectiles has taken place over Sweden has been found.” (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 75–76; Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, “The Ghost Rockets,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 36; Swords 26)

- 1947?** — A man writes a letter to the *Nashville Tennessean* claiming that he has encountered strange little men, “all heads and arms and legs, glowing like fireflies” on a nearby airfield. They exchange greetings by sign language and their saucer takes off in a cloud of dust. (“[All over the Nation People Talk of Saucers](#),” *Nashville Tennessean*, July 9, 1947, p. 1; Clark III 266–267; Clark IV 307)
- 1947** — A private pilot flying over New Mexico in his Taylorcraft L-2 allegedly spots some wreckage, lands, and goes to a nearby ranch house. The pilot and rancher walk to the site, where they find much metallic material. Inside the front edge of the craft are three humanoid beings, 4 feet tall, with hairless heads and large black eyes, and clad in coveralls. Soon a military team shows up, detained for a while, then released after promising not to say anything. (Clark III 344; Clark IV 381–382)
- 1947** — Cmdr. [Bernard Baruch Jr.](#) makes 44 trips at his own expense to lobby for the implementation of the peacetime Communication Instruction for Reporting Enemy Sightings (CIRES) message system. He meets with DCI Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#), Rear Adm. [Roscoe Hillenkoetter](#), Secretary of the Air Force [Stuart Symington](#), Rear Adm. [Earl E. Stone](#), Vice Adm. [Arthur W. Radford](#), Rear Adm. [John E. Gingrich](#), Adm. [DeWitt Clinton Ramsey](#), Maj. Gen. [Robert W. Harper](#), Lieut. Gen [Idwal H. Edwards](#), Vice Adm. [Ralph Riggs](#), Capt. [Richard Burke](#) (USCG), and about 20 other officials. (NICAP, “[Capt. Bernard Baruch, Jr.](#)”)
- 1947** — 11:00 p.m. Air Force pilot [Edwin T. Yeoman](#) is returning home with his wife [Eva](#) after going to a movie in Sacramento, California. As they drive northeast, they see a stationary light hovering at an altitude of 3,000–4,000 feet above Roseville. After watching it for 5 minutes, the light gets brighter, rises vertically for several thousand feet, makes an abrupt 90° turn, and shoots across the horizon from east to west. (CUFOS case file)
- 1947, January** — Crew members of the hydrographic surveying ship [USS Maury](#) traveling in the North Pacific between San Francisco and Hawaii map a large, stationary underwater object of some kind. The ship makes several passes over it with their sonar, after which the object accelerates and disappears in the depths. (Carl Feindt, “[Report #1117](#),” [waterufo.net](#); YN-3 Wayne Anderson, “[USS Maury, AGS16: Thanks for the Memories, 1945–1969](#)”; Dolan, USO1, 125–126)
- 1947, January 1** — The civilian US Atomic Energy Commission assumes responsibility for nuclear energy from the wartime Manhattan Project. The Armed Forces Special Weapons Project assumes responsibility for all aspects of nuclear weapons remaining under military control. (Wikipedia, “[United States Atomic Energy Commission](#)”; Wikipedia, “[Armed Forces Special Weapons Project](#)”)
- 1947, January 9** — The US Defense Department’s *Intelligence Review*, no. 49, contains a four-page summary of ghost rocket sightings and suggests some may have been Soviet test missiles or jet airplanes. (“Ghost Rockets over Scandinavia,” *Intelligence Review*, no. 49, January 9, 1947, US Department of Defense; Don Berliner, Marie Galbraith, and Antonio Huneus, *Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document*, UFO Research Coalition, December 1995, [pp. 33–35](#))
- 1947, January 16** — 11:30 p.m. An RAF Mosquito plane chases an unidentified target detected on radar at RAF Trimley Heath Radar Station [now closed] near Felixstowe, Suffolk, England, moving at a speed calculated to be faster than sound at an altitude of 38,000 feet over the North Sea, 50 miles north of the Netherlands coast. The target, later referred to as a “ghost plane” or “Charlie,” descends to 17,000 feet and takes controlled, evasive action. The plane pursues it for 40 minutes, even though the pilot cannot see it visually, until he loses it over the Norfolk coast. ([Sparks](#), p. 16; ClearIntent, [p. 151](#); David Clarke, “[Operation Charlie](#),” 2002; Martin L. Shough, “[A New Study of the British ‘Ghost Airplanes’ of 1947](#),” April 2009; UFOFiles2, [p. 29](#))
- 1947, January 17** — 11:37 p.m. After two unidentified targets similar to yesterday’s are reported by RAF Neatishead, northeast of Norwich, England, over the North Sea, another radar track enters the Eastern Sector area, and an RAF Mosquito piloted by Flight Lt. William Kent is scrambled to 18,000 feet. Kent attempts to close in, but his onboard radar is unable to keep it on track because the target is “jerking violently” and taking evasive action. After 20 minutes, the target descends below 2,000 feet and is lost from ground radar. Unofficially the radar operators give the intruder a name—Charlie—and when the Air Ministry later begins a concerted effort to solve the mystery, its code name is “Operation Charlie.” (Martin L. Shough, “[A New Study of the British ‘Ghost Airplanes’ of 1947](#),” April 2009)
- 1947, January 20** — In London, [Ben Lockspeiser](#), chief scientist for the UK Ministry of Supply, after meeting with Swedish scientists and air force authorities, informs the American naval attaché in London, England, Cmdr. Jenkins, that the Swedes doubt the rockets are from Russia but prefer that the US and UK continue to think so. Natural phenomena and popular imagination are considered the causes. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 3–5)
- 1947, January 23** — Night. Three senior RAF officers are visiting RAF Neatishead in Norfolk, England, for an interception exercise when an unidentified radar target makes another appearance at 28,000 feet. RAF Mosquitos

- from Yorkshire are scrambled, but by the time the aircraft reach the area, the target is gone. (Martin L. Shough, "[A New Study of the British 'Ghost Airplanes' of 1947](#)," April 2009; David Clarke, "[Operation Charlie](#)")
- 1947, January 27** — RAF Flying Officer Stewart of the Northern Signals Area, after investigating the Operation Charlie radar incidents at RAF Neatishead, England, issues a report, no longer extant, that suggests that some of the targets are radiosonde balloons released by the USAAF's 8th Weather Squadron in Downham Market, Norfolk. However, RAF and Air Ministry sources continue to refer to the sightings as unexplained over the following months. (Martin L. Shough, "[A New Study of the British 'Ghost Airplanes' of 1947](#)," April 2009)
- 1947, January 29** — Secretary of War [Robert P. Patterson](#) and Secretary of the Navy [James V. Forrestal](#) issue a memorandum that formally establishes the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, a new agency to take over responsibility for the aspects of nuclear weapons that still remain under the military. It is to be jointly staffed by the Army and Navy. Los Alamos Laboratory's ordnance engineering Z Division and AFSWP establish themselves at Sandia Base, New Mexico, bringing the strict secrecy that has prevailed at Los Alamos. (Wikipedia, "[Armed Forces Special Weapons Project](#)")
- 1947, February 5** — Around 7:30 a.m. [Frederick Walter Flavel](#) and his wife [Emma](#) are walking to their house in Lock, South Australia, when they see five gray, oblong objects rise apparently from the sea and move from northwest to southeast. At 9:00 a.m., [Ronald Ernest Ellis](#) and two other railroad workers in Port Augusta, South Australia, watch five white or light-pink egg-shaped objects moving across the sky from north to south at about 6,000 feet. They quiver, cast shadows on the ground, and move out of sight in a few seconds. (NICAP, "[Five Objects Cast Shadows](#)"; "[C.R. Workmen See Phenomenon](#)," *Port Augusta (S.A.) Transcontinental*, February 7, 1947, p. 1; "[Objects in Sky Seen at Lock](#)," *Port Augusta (S.A.) Transcontinental*, February 21, 1947, p. 1; Keith Basterfield, "[Cold Case, Port Augusta, 5 February 1947](#)," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, January 29, 2011; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 329–350; Keith Basterfield, "[Flying Eggs at Port Augusta, February 1947](#)," *Magonia—Down Under*, December 13, 2015; Keith Basterfield, "[Flying Eggs, Port Augusta 1947, Main Witness Was Interviewed in 2006](#)," *Magonia—Down Under*, January 8, 2016; Keith Basterfield, "[Port Augusta, South Australia, 'Flying Eggs,' 1947, Witness Deceased](#)," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, January 20, 2016; Keith Basterfield, "[Four Months before Kenneth Arnold](#)," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, June 23, 2017)
- 1947, February 8** — A US Navy Privateer bomber flying over Sweden picks up signals that might be directing rockets. (Letter from US Naval Forces Europe, London, to Chief of Naval Operations; Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, February 17** — Capt. J. B. Pearson Jr., US naval attaché in London, England, sends an intelligence report to the Chief of Naval Intelligence about his conversation with Col. Westergard, head of the Airplane Design Section for the Swedish Air Ministry. Westergard tells him some 40% of the 1,000 ghost rocket sightings are "reliable." They seem to originate in Peenemünde, Germany, and fly toward Finland. The best observation is from an artillery officer who sees an object in his optical range finder and follows it for about 90 seconds. It is in level flight at 4.5 miles distance and is about 36 feet long and torpedo shaped. (J. B. Pearson Jr., "[Visit to Stockholm, Sweden: Report on Pilotless Aircraft Built in Sweden and Strange Guided Missiles over Sweden](#)," February 17, 1947; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 7)
- 1947, February 28** — Capt. [Emmet O'Beirne](#), Chief of the Defensive Air Branch, writes a memorandum to the chief of the USAF Office of Air Intelligence about the branch's interview with H. W. Flickinger, vice president for exports at Republic Aircraft Corp. after his return from Sweden: "He stated that he had seen one of the Swedish 'spook rockets' in flight, which resembled the V-1 buzz bomb but was somewhat smaller. The noise of this missile was more that of a rocket than like a V-1." (Emmet O'Beirne, "[Daily Activity Report](#)," February 28, 1947; Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, March 12** — President [Truman](#) appears before a joint session of Congress and commits US support to Greece and Turkey, declaring it the policy of the United States to "support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." (Wikipedia, "[Truman Doctrine](#)")
- 1947, March 21** — A cigar-shaped object with smoke coming from its tail is seen flying from east to west at considerable height over southern Sweden by several witnesses. It looks metallic and is about 60 feet long, flying slowly. The object seems to turn around and fly back eastward briefly. ("['Phantom Bomb' Returns to Skies over Sweden](#)," *New York Times*, March 22, 1947, p. 8; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 9)

- 1947, April — The June 1947 issue of *Amazing Stories* is devoted in its entirety to “proofs” of [Richard Shaver](#)’s claims and includes four of his novellas. [Vincent Gaddis](#) has written a prescient article on UFOs, titled “Visitors from the Void.” (Richard S. Shaver, “[Formula from the Underworld](#),” *Amazing Stories* 21, no. 6 (June 1947): 10–29; Vincent H. Gaddis, “[Visitors from the Void](#),” *Amazing Stories* 21, no. 6 (June 1947): 159–161; David Halperin, “[The Shaver Mystery—Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Quest for Lemuria \(Part 2\)](#),” July 11, 2014)
- 1947, April — 11:00 a.m. US Weather Bureau meteorologist Walter A. Minczewski watches a silvery disc through a theodolite while tracking a ceiling balloon in Richmond, Virginia. It is traveling east to west at less than 15,000 feet and has a flat bottom and a dome on top. (NICAP, “[Silvery Disc Seen through Theodolite](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 16; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 62; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 17–21; Clark III 375; Clark IV 419)
- 1947, April 15 — The US Naval Attaché in Stockholm issues a secret intelligence report, “Sweden: Guided Missiles, Alleged Rockets over Sweden.” Both the naval and military attachés agree that there is nothing to the ghost rocket episode. No foreign missiles have overflown or landed in Sweden, according to the evidence available. “Swedish officials prefer to dismiss it as an unexplained press sensation.” (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 16)
- 1947, April 16 — Presidential advisor [Bernard Baruch](#) delivers a speech, written by journalist [Herbert Bayard Swope](#), that uses the term “Cold War” for the first time. He declares, “Let us not be deceived: We are today in the midst of a cold war.” Newspaper columnist [Walter Lippmann](#) gives the term wide currency with his 1947 book *The Cold War*. (Wikipedia, “[Cold war \(term\)](#)”)
- 1947, April 17 — Col. [Oliver G. Haywood Jr.](#) of the Atomic Energy Commission writes a memorandum to [Harold A. Fidler](#) at the Clinton Engineer Works in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, saying: “It is desired that no document be released which refers to experiments with humans and might have adverse effect on public opinion or result in legal suits. Documents covering such work should be classified ‘secret.’” (Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, memo, “[Documents Retrieved from Oak Ridge Operations: The Atomic Energy Commission’s Declassification Review of Reports on Human Experiments and the Public Relations and Legal Liability Consequences](#),” December 6, 1994; Wikipedia, “[Unethical human experimentation in the United States](#)”)
- 1947, Late April or early May — 12:05 p.m. Mrs. William Down and Mrs. H. G. Olavick of Tucson, Arizona, see an unusual, fleecy cloud in an otherwise cloudless sky. Moving around it in “yo-yo fashion” are a number of small discs with a dull-white finish. They move up and down and sideways, occasionally disappearing into or behind the cloud. They watch the objects for 5–7 minutes, then all the discs disappear above the cloud, while a larger object emerges from the cloud and moves eastward. Behind it comes a V-formation of nine of the smaller discs, which then climbs at high speed toward the northeast and disappears in 2–3 seconds. The witnesses assume the objects are some new type of aircraft. (Bloecher, [p. ix](#); Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects and Cloud Cigars](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 4)
- 1947, May — Farmer H. Nettlebeck is in his field near Gogeldrie, New South Wales, when he hears a swishing noise. Looking up, he sees five metallic objects flying in a V formation. They appear to be at 2,000 feet altitude and moving at 1,000 mph. (“[Flying Discs Seen over Gogeldrie](#),” *Murrumbidgee Irrigator* (Leeton, N.S.W.), July 8, 1947, p. 2)
- 1947, May — 9:00 p.m. Harry Bentrup Jr. is on his porch in Jennings, Missouri, when a circular object surrounded by a ring of luminous green lights swoops in quickly from the east, hovers above him for 15 seconds, then takes off to the west. (MUFON case file)
- 1947, May 1? — Mrs. W. C. Clark of Memphis, Tennessee, watches two objects “like tennis balls” fly over her yard. (“[Three Memphians Say They Saw Objects](#),” *Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal*, July 7, 1947, p. 2)
- 1947, May 1 — Rear Adm. [Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter](#) replaces [Hoyt Vandenberg](#) as Director of Central Intelligence.
- 1947, May 5 — [Hillenkoetter](#) writes to [Baruch](#), saying that his CIRES plan is “on the verge of being put into effect.” (Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, May 10 — Rose Slawuta of Newark, New Jersey, sees a shining, elliptical object with a gold band around it approaching from the west. (“[Flying Saucers’ Keep on Whirling and More from Area Join ‘I See’ Club](#),” *Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger*, July 7, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, [p. I-2](#))
- 1947, May 14 — 8:30 p.m. A spherical object 3–4 feet in diameter is seen over Budapest, Hungary, passing southeast to northwest at about 3,000 feet altitude in a flat trajectory. (Allied Control Commission for Hungary; George Mitrovic, [The Gateways to the Gods](#), Kindle, 2012)

- 1947, May 15 — 4:11 p.m. A Hermes test missile (V-2) at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, goes off course and lands 6 miles east of Alamogordo five and a half minutes after launch. Commanding Officer Lt. Col. [Harold R. Turner](#) blames “peculiar phenomena” for the accident. The official explanation is that the V-2 had a defective fin. Trade consultant and former state representative [Jon Andrew Kissner](#) finds evidence in 1994 that possibly another object was seen in the vicinity of the rocket after the launch that might have been responsible for the failed test. (Wikipedia, “[Hermes program](#)”; “[V-2 Goes Astray, Lands in Six Miles of Alamogordo](#),” *Las Cruces (N.Mex.) Sun-News*, May 16, 1947, p. 1; Good Need, pp. 55–57)
- 1947, May 17 or 19 — 8:30 p.m. [Byron B. Savage](#), an RCA field engineer, sees a frosty-white or silvery elliptical object about the size of a B-29 heading northwest at 10,000 feet over Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at three times the speed of a jet (about 1,800 mph). After it noiselessly passes overhead, he hears a sound “like the rushing of air.” (NICAP, “[Round and Flat Object Observed by Field Engineer](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 16; “[Whatever That Object Was, Sooner Says He Saw One](#),” *Miami (Okla.) Daily News-Record*, June 26, 1947, p. 7; *Oklahoma City Times*, June 26, 1947; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 27–28)
- 1947, May 19 — Around 12:30 p.m. Navy veteran [Dean A. Hauser](#) and six other Pike’s Peak Railway workers (including Ted Weigand, Marion Hisshouse, T. J. Smith, L. D. Jamison) at Manitou Springs, Colorado, are taking a lunch break when they watch a silver object come in from the northwest, hover overhead, and gyrate at 1,000 feet. The UFO is moving “erratically in wide circles” and reflects light like it is made of metal. After 20 minutes it disappears in a straight line to the west-northwest. (“Manitou Vets Relate Story: Another ‘Disk’ Seen,” *Denver Post*, June 28, 1947, p. 1; [Bloecher](#), p. I-1; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 29–30; Clark III 375; Clark IV 419)
- 1947, Late May — 11:00 a.m. [Colden R. Battey](#), a physician from Augusta, Georgia, is fishing 10 miles off St. Helena Sound, near Beaufort, South Carolina. He notices a formation of four disc-like objects flying overhead in a southeasterly direction at a terrific rate of speed. The discs appear to be spinning on their axes and are at an estimated altitude of 20,000 feet. They are silvery and appear highly polished, and on their undersides Battey can see a circular rim or projection, about one-quarter of the way from the edges. No sound is heard as they fly overhead. The formation speeds out of view in less than 20 seconds. (NICAP, “[Four Discs Flying Overhead](#)”; “[Flying Saucers’ Seen by Doctor near Beaufort](#),” *Orangeburg (S.C.) Times and Democrat*, July 5, 1947, p. 1; [Bloecher](#), p. I-2; Clark III 375; Clark IV 419)
- 1947, May 29 — 7:30 p.m. A Hermes II test missile (a modified V-2) is launched from White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico to test the “Organ,” a series of ramjet air intakes designed to take pressure measurements. The missile travels south instead of north and lands in the Tepeyac Cemetery, 3 miles south of Juárez, Mexico, creating an international incident. It leaves a crater 50 feet wide and 24 feet deep. German scientists [Wernher von Braun](#) and [Ernst Steinhoff](#) are conducting the test. (Wikipedia, “[Hermes program](#)”; “[White Sands Rocket Lands near Juarez, Jolts El Paso](#),” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, May 30, 1947, p. 1; “[Runaway Rocket Narrowly Misses Juarez, El Paso](#),” *Waco (Tex.) News-Tribune*, May 30, 1947, pp. 1, 17; J. Terry White, “[The Hermes II Incident](#),” *White Eagle Aerospace*, May 2, 2011)
- 1947, June — The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* puts the first illustration of its Doomsday Clock on the cover of the June issue. Set at seven minutes before midnight, the clock becomes a metaphor for threats to humanity from unchecked technological advances. (Wikipedia, “[Doomsday Clock](#)”)
- 1947, June — AMC civilian engineer W. R. Presley takes a muddy photo of a UFO at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It is most likely a photographic flaw. ([Hynek UFO Report](#), p. 142)
- 1947, June 2 — Private pilot [Forrest Wenyon](#) is flying over Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and sees a silvery, jar-shaped object cross in front of his plane. It has a silver-white, fiery exhaust. (NICAP, “[Jar-Shaped Object Crosses in Front of Aircraft](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 16; [Bloecher](#), p. III-9)
- 1947, June 2 — 1:30 p.m. John Laube and Fred Platte spot an inverted saucer-shaped disc made of brilliant metal in Waverly, Iowa. The object flies just above the top of a 180-foot grain elevator at the Waverly Sugar Manufacturing Plant. They observe it for five minutes until it becomes obscured by trees as it flies away. (“[Flying Saucer Is Seen at Waverly](#),” *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier*, July 10, 1947, p. 21)
- 1947, June 4 — Project Mogul flight number 4 is allegedly launched—either unofficially or unsuccessfully or delayed or without a Rawin target (radar reflector)—from Alamogordo Army Air Field, but there is no evidence that it can account for the debris later found on [Mack Brazel](#)’s ranch near Corona, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, “[The Project Mogul Flights and Roswell](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23; Robert J. Durant, “[Project Mogul Still a Flight of Fancy](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 1 (Spring 2001): 17–27; David Rudiak, “[The Phony Mogul Balloon](#)”

- [Trajectory](#),” 2002; Kevin D. Randle, “[Mogul and Roswell](#),” A Different Perspective,” July 11, 2013; Kevin D. Randle, “[A Few Facts about Project Mogul](#),” A Different Perspective, August 12, 2013; Kevin D. Randle, “[Truth about Mogul](#),” A Different Perspective, April 4, 2016; Kevin D. Randle, “[Mogul Flight No. 4: The End](#),” A Different Perspective, November 27, 2022; Clark IV 427; Kevin D. Randle, “[David Rudiak’s Analysis against Mogul](#),” A Different Perspective, February 16, 2025)
- 1947, June 5 — US Secretary of State [George C. Marshall](#) gives an address at the Harvard University commencement in which he offers American aid in a sweeping plan to invest in and promote post-war European recovery and reconstruction. (Wikipedia, “[Marshall Plan](#)”)
- 1947, June 9 — A still-unlocated air intelligence summary is released, alleging that the Soviets in eastern Siberia are producing (or may be able to produce) 1,400 (or 1,800) aircraft based on the [Horten brothers’](#) VIII-type, low-aspect, disc-shaped design by 1952. A Russian aviation historian thinks that the factories in question are at the time producing copies of the German Messerschmidt Me 262 jet fighter. A correct, more detailed summary of the intelligence report is published in December 1948 in Air Intelligence Report Number 100-203-79, “Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.” (Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, June 10 — 3:30 p.m. Györik Ferenc and others on Arena Street [modern Dózsa György út] in Budapest, Hungary, watch four yellow-red discs moving toward the northwest in a straight-line formation for about 30 seconds. They are about 165 feet apart. The objects make a small arc around a corner of a park before disappearing. ([Project Blue Book record](#); Joe Brill, “[UFO’s behind the Iron Curtain](#),” *Skylook*, no. 76 (March 1974): 8)
- 1947, June 12 — 6:15 p.m. [Lovena Erickson](#) sees two high-speed, round objects at a high altitude over Weiser, Idaho. They move up and down twice and leave a vapor trail that persists for more than an hour. (NICAP, “[June 12, 1947, Weiser, Idaho](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 17; US National Archives, Record Group 341, “[Weiser, Idaho, June 1947](#)”; Bloecher, [p. II-8](#))
- 1947, June 18 — Day. E. H. Sprinkle is one of a half-dozen Eugene, Oregon, residents who spot a formation of round objects “racing overhead” on a course to the northeast. Watching from Skinner’s Butte outside town. Sprinkle takes a snapshot of the objects with an inexpensive camera as they race over. Enlargements of the photograph show “seven dots” in a formation “shaped like an X or a Y, lined up across the sky.” Newspaper photographers say the dots “might be a fault in the developing process” that sometimes appears on a negative that has not been agitated properly in the developer. (“[Local Man Asserts Flights Seen Here](#),” *Eugene (Oreg.) Guard*, June 26, 1947, p. 1; “[Others Report Flying Discs](#),” *Salem (Oreg.) Capital Journal*, June 27, 1947, p. 13; “[Reports of Puzzling ‘Discs’ Flying over Cascades Come from Northwest Residents](#),” *Roseburg (Oreg.) News-Review*, June 27, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [p. IV-3](#))
- 1947, June 19 — USAAF Col. [Albert Boyd](#) reaches a world airspeed record of 624 mph in a Lockheed P-80R Shooting Star at Muroc AFB [later Edwards AFB], California. (Wikipedia, “[Albert Boyd](#)”)
- 1947, June 19 — Maj. Gen. [Stephen Chamberlin](#), head of War Department Intelligence, authorizes three electronic signals intelligence flights between July 1 and August 1 to look for radio signals over the Baltic Sea. The Swedish military is told that they are training flights. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, June 20 — Night. While driving on the Moses Lake Highway in Washington State with his father and family, [Archie Edes](#) sees a speeding object descending in a long slant. He describes it as looking like a “long, oval blue-white flame.” As they watch, the object approaches the ground and explodes about 200 feet above it, with “great showers of sparks and piles of flame” seeming to hurtle to the ground. (“[‘Flying Disc’ Mystery Grows Deeper As Other Residents Claim Strange Objects Seen](#),” *The Columbian* (Vancouver, Wash.), June 27, 1947, pp. 1, 7)
- 1947, June 21 — 11:55 a.m. [Guy R. Overman](#) watches several silvery objects moving below a plane at Spokane, Washington. (NICAP, “[Eight Disc-Shaped Objects As Big As a House](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 17; Bloecher, [p. II-18](#))
- 1947, June 21 — Log salvager [Harold A. Dahl](#) is patrolling east of Maury Island, Washington, with his 15-year-old son Charles and two crewmen when he allegedly sees six doughnut-shaped objects. Five of them are circling the sixth, which seems distressed. When it is directly above the boat at 500 feet, it supposedly spews some hot slag-like material that breaks Charles’s arm and kills his dog. Dahl claims he filmed the objects. (Wikipedia, “[Maury Island incident](#)”; [Curtis Fuller], “[The Mystery of the Flying Disks](#),” *Fate* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 18–48; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, [pp. 24–40](#); Ruppelt, [pp. 24–27](#); John A. Keel, “The Maury Island Caper,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Times, 1987, pp. 40–43; Kevin D. Randle, “[Maury Island UFO Crash](#),” A Different Perspective, July 17, 2010; Charlette LeFevre and Philip Lipson, “[Maury Island UFO Incident](#),” Northwest Museum of Legends and Lore, February 2014; Clark III 721; Brian Dunning, “[Maury Island: The Government’s Alien Artifacts](#),” Skeptoid podcast, no. 820, February 22, 2022; Kevin D. Randle, “[Maury Island and National Geographic](#),” A Different Perspective, November 19, 2024; Clark IV 789)
- 1947, June 22 — [Dahl](#) claims he is visited by a mysterious dark-suited man who knows all about the sighting. He tells his associate [Fred L. Crisman](#), and they allegedly go to the beach to pick up fragments. Dahl mails [Ray Palmer](#) in

- Chicago, Illinois, some fragments. (Brian Burden, "[MIBs and the Intelligence Community](#)," *Awareness* 9, no. 1 (Spring 1980): 6–7, 11–13; J. B. Delair, "[Some Observations on the Previous Article](#)," *Awareness* 9, no. 1 (Spring 1980): 13–17; Clark III 721, 726; Kenn Thomas, *Maury Island UFO: The Crisman Conspiracy*, IllumiNet, 1999; Charlette LeFevre and Philip Lipson, "[The Maury Island UFO Incident](#)," February 2014; Clark IV 789, 807)
- 1947, June 22 — [Edward Louis DeRose](#) in Greenfield, Massachusetts, sees a small, round-shaped, silvery-white object moving in a northwesterly direction faster than a speeding plane at an estimated altitude of 1,000 feet. The object stays in view for 8–10 seconds until obscured by a cloud bank. It reflects the sunlight strongly as if it is made of polished aluminum or silver. (Air Force Base Intelligence Report, "[Flying Discs](#)," July 30, 1947; Kevin D. Randle, "[Roswell, Nathan Twining, and the Mini-EOTS](#)," A Different Perspective, October 6, 2014)
- 1947, June 22 — 3:30 p.m. [G. Oliver Dickson](#) sees a shiny disc "a little like a blimp" flying north to south about 3,000 feet above Mount Franklin just north of El Paso, Texas. He estimates it is about 40 feet across and 5 feet thick. ("[More El Pasoans Report Seeing 'Flying Discs' in Southwest](#)," *El Paso (Tex.) Times*, June 29, 1947, pp. 1–2)
- 1947, June 22 — Evening. Yale University astrophysicist [Lyman Spitzer](#) is speaking on WTIC radio in Hartford, Connecticut, and speculates that if life on Mars developed a bit earlier than on earth, it is possible that Martians have been civilized for millions of years. "Unless they had spent some time in a large city or had landed sufficiently recently to be photographed, we would have no record of their being here," he says, and that "any few men who had seen them would probably not be believed by anyone else." ("[Mars May Be Peopled, Says Yale Speaker](#)," *Hartford (Conn.) Courant*, June 23, 1947, p. 1; Clark III 455; Clark IV 500)
- 1947, June 23 — Afternoon. Disabled stunt pilot Richard Rankin views 10 flat, circular objects flying in a V-formation over his house in Bakersfield, California. About two hours later, 7 of the objects are seen flying in the opposite direction. ([Sparks](#), p. 17; "Pilot Recalls Seeing Discs," *Portland Oregonian*, July 3, 1947, p. 11, via [FBI files](#), p. 15; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, 1952, pp. 69–71; Bloecher, p. II-3; Kevin D. Randle, "[More Pre-Arnold UFO Sightings](#)," A Different Perspective, June 30, 2013)
- 1947, June 23 — 9:30 p.m. [Richard L. Bitters](#) and his wife [Martha](#) are returning from a movie in Wapakoneta, Ohio, when they see a saucer-like object flying an uneven course in the sky. ("[Saucer Just Didn't Fit Editor's Idea of a 'Scoop.'](#)" *Madison Wisconsin State Journal*, July 7, 1947, p. 2; Bloecher, p. III-6)
- 1947, June 24 (or 30) — Afternoon. [Bill Schuening](#), a farmer, is driving his pickup truck down a remote rural road 25 miles north of Pendleton, Oregon, when he hears a loud humming sound. Coming over a rise, he sees in a nearby field a large disc-shaped object hovering 5–6 feet off the ground. He can also see two short (3 feet tall) figures wearing green suits and white helmets standing underneath the object. The figures suddenly vanish, and the craft then shoots towards the Columbia River, makes a big circle, and flies towards the mountains. (NICAP, "[Man Sees Figures Standing near Disc](#)"; "[Two Pendleton Residents Tell of Mystery Discs](#)," *Klamath Falls (Oreg.) Herald and News*, June 30, 1947, p. 1; "[Stories of UFOs Started in Pendleton 40 Years Ago](#)," *Pendleton East Oregonian*, June 24, 1987, pp. 1–2; "[Pendleton Claims Flying Saucer Connection](#)," *Pendleton East Oregonian*, October 16, 1999, p. 5; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 6–7; "[Local Man Seeks Stories of UFO Sitings in Region](#)," *Pendleton East Oregonian*, March 10, 2001, pp. 1–2; Clark III 267; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 7, 2018; Clark IV 307)
- 1947, June 24 — 1:50 p.m. Railroad engineer Charles Kastl sees 9 or 10 spinning discs in the air about 12 miles east of Joliet, Illinois. They are a string of flat circular objects "going faster than anything I've ever seen." Kastl can see no connecting link between them, but they act as though the leading disc has a motor in it to power the others, because when it flips, the others do as well. When it rights itself, the others also right themselves. (NICAP, "[Engineer Reports 10 Shiny Flat Discs](#)"; "[Flying Discs Seen by Railroad Man](#)," *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, June 28, 1947, p. 2; Kevin D. Randle, "[The June 23, 1947 UFO Sighting](#)," A Different Perspective, March 20, 2013)
- 1947, June 24 — 3:00 p.m. Boise, Idaho, businessman [Kenneth Arnold](#), flying his CallAir Model A-2 from Chehalis to Yakima, Washington, sees a string of nine objects flying in an echelon formation past Mount Rainier, Washington. At first he assumes they are jets, but he can see no trails. They cover the 50-mile distance between Rainier and another peak in 1 minute 42 seconds. He estimates their speed to be at least 1,200 mph. The objects swerve in and out of the smaller peaks, flipping from side to side in unison, dipping, and presenting their lateral surfaces, which reflect the bright sunlight and cause the flashes he saw earlier. They are in view for about two and a half minutes and are last seen heading south over the last high peak of Mount Adams. Arnold tells the airport staff about it in Yakima at 4:00 p.m. and they call ahead to Pendleton, Oregon, to alert them of Arnold's arrival at an air show and his story. A large crowd awaits him, and a discussion follows. The consensus is that Arnold has seen guided missiles. But no such technology exists at the time that can match the objects' description and performance, and the late 1990s explanation that Arnold observed a flight of white pelicans is equally improbable.

Researcher [Martin Shough](#) concludes in 2010: “Examination of the sighting report in detail improves its evident internal consistency, rather than degrading it, and study of the principal contending explanations reveals that they are each very much less attractive when tried out in quantitative detail against the best information than they may appear at first sight.” (Wikipedia, “[Kenneth Arnold UFO Sighting](#)”; [[Project Blue Book file](#)]; NICAP, “[Kenneth Arnold Sighting](#)”; Center for UFO Studies, [[clippings and reports](#)]; “[‘Mystery Airplanes’ Seen near Mt. Rainier.](#)” *Corvallis (Oreg.) Gazette-Times*, June 25, 1947, p. 1; Kenneth Arnold, “[I Did See the Flying Disks!](#)” *Fate* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 4–10; Kenneth Arnold, [The Flying Saucer As I Saw It](#), The author, 1950; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 9–13; Bloecher, p. 1-2–3; Patrick Gross, “[The Kenneth Arnold Sighting, June 24, 1947](#)”; Kim Hansen, “UFO Casebook,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 48–53; John A. Keel, “[Kenneth Arnold and the F.B.I.](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 32, no. 5 (August 1987): 2–12; Pierre Lagrange, “It Seems Impossible, but There It Is,” in John Spencer and Hilary Evans, eds., *Phenomenon: From Flying Saucers to UFOs—Forty Years of Facts and Research*, Futura Publications, 1988, pp. 26–45; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947](#), The Author, February 1991, pp. 5–9; Steuart Campbell, *The UFO Mystery Solved*, Explicit Books, 1994, pp. 98–108; Bruce Maccabee, “[The Arnold Phenomenon: Part One.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 14–17; Michael D. Swords, “[The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Bruce Maccabee, “[The Arnold Phenomenon: Part Two.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 10–13, 24; Bruce Maccabee, “[The Arnold Phenomenon: Part Three.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 6–7; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947*, Rose Press, 1998, pp. 14–22; “Saturday Night Uforia: The Positively True Story of Kenneth Arnold,” *Daily Kos*, parts [one](#), [two](#), [three](#), [four](#), [five](#), [six](#), [seven](#), [eight](#), [nine](#), [ten](#); Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, pp. 54–59; Bruce Maccabee, “[June 24, 1947: How It All Began, the Story of the Arnold Sighting.](#)” 2002; Martin Shough, “[The Singular Adventure of Mr. Kenneth Arnold.](#)” June 2010; Martin Shough, “[Return of the Flying Saucers: A Fresh Look at the Sighting That Started It All.](#)” in *Darklore, Volume 5*, Daily Grail, October 2010; Martin S. Kottmeyer, “[Joining Shough’s Singular Adventure.](#)” *SUNlite* 2, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2010): 27–28; “[Mt. Rainier, WA CE-II Case of 6-24-1947: Kenneth Arnold Phone Interview.](#)” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Megan Garber, “[The Man Who Introduced the World to Flying Saucers.](#)” *The Atlantic*, June 15, 2014; Bruce Maccabee, *Three Minutes in June: The UFO Sighting That Changed the World*, The Author, 2017; Nigel Watson, “Was It a Bird? Was It a Plane?” *Fortean Times* 355 (July 2017): 46–49; Clark III 169–172, 436; Graff 4–5; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 12–14; Condorman, “[What Did Kenneth Arnold Really Witness in 1947?](#)” *Liberation Times*, September 2, 2024; Clark IV 196–199, 482)

1947, June 24 — 3:30 p.m. Idaho Lieutenant Governor [Donald S. Whitehead](#) and Justice of the Peace [Jacob M. Lampert](#) see an object with a brilliant head and a smoky tail from an office window in downtown Boise, Idaho. It dips from view after about 20 minutes. (“[Whitehead, Lampert, Join ‘Disc List.](#)” *Boise Idaho Statesman*, July 3, 1947, p. 9; Bloecher, pp. III-18–19)

1947, June 24 — Afternoon. Fred M. Johnson, a prospector in the Mount Adams, Washington, area, sees 5-6 oval objects with tails about 30 feet in diameter. He watches one through a telescope. They are not flying in any sort of formation and as they bank in a turn, the sunlight flashes off them. As they approach, Johnson notices that his compass begins to spin wildly. When the objects finally vanish in the distance, the compass returns to normal. Johnson’s report is the very first “unidentified” case in the Project Sign files. (NICAP, “[Prospector Compass Incident](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 17; Bloecher, p. IV-3; [Schopick](#), pp. 1–2; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947](#), The Author, February 1991, pp. 48-49; Olsen, sec. 3, p. 2; Project 1947, “[UFO Documents, 1947](#)”; Bruce Maccabee, “[The Arnold Phenomenon: Part Three.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 6–7; Martin Shough, “[The Singular Adventure of Mr. Kenneth Arnold.](#)” June 2010, pp. 106, 109–110; Clark III 170–171; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 58–59; Clark IV 197–198)

1947, June 25 — [Kenneth Arnold](#) goes to the *East Oregonian* office in Pendleton, Oregon, and speaks with reporters Nolan Skiff and [William C. Bequette](#). Arnold says the “saucer-like” objects were racing over the Cascade Mountains with a peculiar weaving motion “like the tail of a Chinese kite.” Bill Bequette writes the first saucer news story for the newspaper. He does not use the term “flying saucer,” but headline writers in other papers use it (such as the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on June 26), and reporters start picking it up. (“Impossible! Maybe, But Seein’ Is Believin’, Says Flier,” *Pendleton East Oregonian*, June 25, 1947, p. 1; “[Flying Saucers Puzzle Pilot.](#)” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 26, 1947, p. 1; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, 1952, Palmer, pp. 13–15; Pierre Lagrange, “[A Moment in History: An Interview with Bill Bequette.](#)” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 15, 20; “[Saturday Night Uforia: ‘It Seems Impossible—But There It Is.](#)” *Daily Kos*, April 18, 2009; Phil Wright, “[The Sighting.](#)” *Portland East Oregonian*, June 16, 2017; Clark III 170)

- 1947, June 25 — Shortly after 12:00 noon. W. I. Davenport is working on the roof of a house at 82nd Street and Holmes Road in Kansas City, Missouri, when he hears the sound of a motor. Looking up, he sees 9 objects approaching from the east. They are aluminum-colored and leave vapor trails. ("[Puzzle in Sky Whiz](#)," *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, June 26, 1947, p. 6)
- 1947, June 26 — 2:00 a.m. Mrs. J. M. Harrison watches a large fireball pass toward the northwest from her residence at 4639 South Oakenwald, Chicago, Illinois. It breaks up into two dozen small discs that whirl around rapidly. ("[Dr. Urey Scoffs at 'Atom Angle' to Flying Disks](#)," *Chicago Tribune*, July 6, 1947, p. 8)
- 1947, June 26 — [Kenneth Arnold](#) is interviewed live on KWRC radio in Pendleton, Oregon, by broadcaster [Theodore A. "Ted" Smith](#). (Patrick Gross, "[About the June 25, 1947, Interview on WKPG Radio by Bill Bequette](#)"; "[Kenneth Arnold Interviewed by Bill Bequette](#) [actually Ted Smith]," Nutsandbolts UFO YouTube channel, December 12, 2010)
- 1947, June 26 — Northrop delivers a second four-engine XB-35 flying wing aircraft to Muroc AFB [now Edwards AFB], California. (Wikipedia, "[Northrop YB-35](#)")
- 1947, June 27 — 9:50 a.m. Mrs. W. B. Cummings is driving about 5 miles southeast of San Antonio, New Mexico, when she sees a bright silver object descending quickly in the east. It leaves a short white trail. White Sands officials say there has been no missile testing since June 12. ("[More El Pasoans Report Seeing 'Flying Disks' in Southwest](#)," *El Paso (Tex.) Times*, June 29, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, June 27 — Pentagon Army AF Public Relations Officer Capt. Tom Brown says the army has no idea what the discs are. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947*, The Author, February 1991, p. 16)
- 1947, June 27 — In a United Press dispatch from Pendleton, Oregon, [Kenneth Arnold](#) expresses frustration over the furor that his saucer sighting has caused. A preacher has called him from Texas to say that the flying discs are "harbinger of doomsday." A woman recognizes Arnold in a Pendleton café and runs out shrieking that he is "the man who saw the men from Mars." He says the whole thing has gotten out of hand: "Half the people I see look at me as a combination Einstein, Flash Gordon, and screwball. I wonder what my wife back in Idaho thinks." ("[Report of 'Flying Saucers' Causes Furor; Texas Preacher Calls Flock for World's End](#)," *Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune*, June 27, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, June 27 — Day. Capt. [Robert D. Dwan](#), a pilot out of Alamogordo Army Air Field [now Holloman AFB], New Mexico, is flying a private plane near Engle, New Mexico, at 3,000 feet, when he looks down and sees a "ball of fire, with a fiery blue tail behind it." The object is about 2,000 feet below him, and he is "certain it is a meteorite." The object disintegrates as he watches it. ("['Fireballs in Sky' Called Meteors](#)," *Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel*, June 29, 1947, p. A-14; Bloecher, [pp. III-9-10](#))
- 1947, June 27 — Afternoon. Clyde Homan sees two groups of loosely bunched objects, rocking back and forth as they fly noiselessly above Woodland, Washington. The objects are bright, flat, and moving at an estimated 600 mph. (NICAP, "[Two UFO Groups Sighted](#)"; "Woodland Man Sights Disks at Close Range," *Portland Oregon Journal*, June 28, 1947; "[More Folks Declare They Saw 'Saucers](#)," *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News*, June 29, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [pp. II-1-2](#))
- 1947, June 28 — 1:15 p.m. Lieut. [Eric B. Armstrong](#), flying an F-51 at 6,000 feet 30 miles north of Lake Mead, Nevada, sees a formation of 5-6 objects streak by his plane. They are in close formation at an estimated speed of 285 mph. (NICAP, "[Formation of 5-6 Objects Head toward P-51](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 17; Bloecher, [p. III-10](#); Michael D. Swords, "[The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt](#)," *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14-15; Clark III 436; Clark IV 482)
- 1947, June 28 — 9:20 p.m. Two pilots and two intelligence officers (Capt. [Wilson H. Kayko](#), Capt. John H. Cantrell, 1st Lt. Theodore Dewey, and Capt. Redman) at Maxwell Field [now Maxwell AFB] in Montgomery, Alabama, see a bright light zigzagging across the sky for 25 minutes. When it is directly overhead, the UFO makes a sharp 90° turn and disappears to the south. (NICAP, "[Object Zig-Zags with Bursts of Speed](#)"; Bloecher, [p. III-3](#); [Sparks](#), p. 18)
- 1947, June 29 — 11:00 a.m. Jeanette Elder, a farm wife near McKay Creek [now Green Meadows] south of Pendleton, Oregon, sees seven perfectly round, umbrella-like objects flying in a northwesterly direction. She describes them as "white as snow" and shaped like mushrooms or umbrellas. The objects make a humming sound like a musical top and move in a precise wedge-shaped formation at very high speed. (Pendleton *East Oregonian*, June 30, 1947; "[More Flying Disks Are Seen Sunday](#)," *Corvallis (Oreg.) Gazette-Times*, June 30, 1947, p. 1; "[Oregonians Continue to Report 'Flying Saucers' over State](#)," *Eugene (Oreg.) Guard*, June 30, 1947, p. 1; "[Two Pendleton Residents Tell of Mystery Disks](#)," *Klamath Falls (Oreg.) Herald and News*, June 30, 1947, p. 1; "[Disks Presage 'Day of Doom](#)," *Portland Oregonian*, July 1, 1947, p. 16; "[More Report 'Disks': Platter-Shaped Now](#)," *Portland Oregon Journal*, July 3, 1947, p. 4)
- 1947, June 29 — 1:15 p.m. [Carl J. Zohn](#), a guided missile expert with the Naval Research Laboratory, is 20 miles east-northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico, to observe a V-2 rocket launch scheduled for July 3. Between 1:00 and

1:30 p.m., he is riding out to the testing grounds with John R. Kauke and NRL scientist [Curtis C. Rockwood](#) (and his wife Nancy) when they see a silvery disc flying at 8,000–10,000 feet. It has no appendages, wings, tail, or propellers. After about 60 seconds it disappears. (NICAP, [“Naval Research Lab Rocket Scientists See Silver Discs”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 18; “Reports from Experts Lend More Serious View to ‘Discs,’” *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star*, July 8, 1947; [“Stiff Necks—Goggle Eyes Order of the Day As ‘Discs’ Continue,”](#) *Clovis (N.Mex.) News-Journal*, July 8, 1947, p. 1; [“War Department Is Puzzled about Flying Saucers Too; Army Keeping an Open Mind,”](#) *Reno Nevada State Journal*, July 9, 1947, p. 7; Bloecher, [p. III-18](#); Evelyne Tsezana, [“Grandpa Zohn Saw UFOs in New Mexico,”](#) *Geni*, April 6, 2011; Curt Collins, [“UFOs and Autos,”](#) *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, January 11, 2024)

- 1947, June 29 — H. S. Gauthier and two companions are sitting in a boat on Lake Deschenes, eight miles west of Ottawa, Ontario, when a silent, high-speed object crosses overhead from the north. The object passes them in about 30 seconds, flying at an estimated altitude of 1,200 feet. The object appeared like a “flying stove-pipe”—that is, cylindrical in shape. “It was glowing such a white-hot color, you could almost feel the heat,” Gauthier reports. “The light was blinding, almost like the sun.” ([“‘Flying Saucer’ over Ottawa, Only It’s ‘Flying Stovepipe,’”](#) *Windsor (Ont.) Star*, July 2, 1947, p. 2; [“Flying Saucer Streaks across Ottawa Valley,”](#) *Sault (Ont.) Daily Star*, July 2, 1947, p. 9; “Soucoupes volantes au Canada,” *Le soleil* (Montreal), July 2, 1947, p. 7; Bloecher, [p. II-16](#))
- 1947, June 29 — 9:00 p.m. Frank M. King and three other men are playing volleyball in his backyard in San Leandro, California, when they hear a “whistling, swishing” sound, similar to a jet engine. King looks up and spots a “gleaming object” flying north at an estimated altitude of 4,000–5,000 feet. The object appears round or possibly oval and moves at what King calls “obviously supersonic” speed, remaining visible for only about 10 seconds. Mrs. King, inside the house, also hears the sound. Witnesses include King’s nephew, his brother-in-law, and a family friend. ([“Weird ‘Flying Saucers’ Apparently Arrive Here,”](#) *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, June 30, 1947, p. 13; [“Mystery Flying Discs Seen by Six Utahns,”](#) *Salt Lake City Deseret News*, June 30, 1947, p. 1; Wendy Connors and Michael Hall, [Alfred Loedding and The Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947](#), Rose Press, 1998, p. 34)
- 1947, June 30 — 9:10 a.m. Naval Lt. William G. McGinty is flying a P-80 from Williams AFB [now Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport], Arizona, near the Grand Canyon when he observes two circular objects diving at inconceivable speed and landing 25 miles south of the canyon. (NICAP, [“P-80 Pilot Sees Circular Objects Dive and Land”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 18; Bloecher, [p. II-12](#); Michael D. Swords, [“The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Clark III 436; Clark IV 482)
- 1947, June 30 — Eighth Air Force Brig. Gen. [Roger M. Ramey](#) and intelligence officer Col. [Alfred Kalberer](#) hold a press conference in Fort Worth, Texas, on the flying discs. Ramey thinks people are “seeing heat waves.” Kalberer labels the sightings as “Buck Rogers stuff.” (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 17)
- 1947, Summer — Naval Cmdr. [L. H. Witherspoon](#) sees a disc-shaped UFO flash over the airport at Pittsburg, Kansas. (UFOEv, [p. 30](#))
- 1947, July — Around this time the Air Force Research and Development office of the Air Materiel Command organizes an informal project at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, to collect UFO reports in the interests of national security. The project officer at Wright Field is Lt. Col. [Edward G. Nabell Jr.](#) ([Sparks](#), p. 13; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)
- 1947, Early July — A cyclist near Amfreville-la-Mi-Voie, Seine-Maritime, France, encounters an oval object, 10 feet long and 5 feet high, resting on the road 100 feet in front of her. Two small beings dressed in outfits and headgear are busy around it. When she honks her horn, the entities scurry into the object, entering it through a 20-inch opening. The UFO rises, oscillates, and streaks away. (Jimmy Guieu, [“Enquête effectuée à Rouen,”](#) *Phénomènes Inconnus*, new ser., 4 (1972): 7; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), August 81, 2006; Clark III 267; Clark IV 307)
- 1947, July 1 — Day. Animal ecologist [Charles K. Gunn](#), his wife [Edna](#), and two passengers are driving near North Bedeque, Prince Edward Island, when they see a bright, shapeless object speeding along in the sky for 30 seconds. ([“‘Flying Saucers’ Making Eyes Pop,”](#) *Ottawa (Ont.) Evening Citizen*, July 3, 1947, pp. 1, 14; [“P.E.I. People See Mystery Missile,”](#) *Hamilton (Ont.) Spectator*, July 3, 1947, p. 28; [“‘Saucer’ Missiles Are Seen,”](#) *Brantford (Ont.) Expositor*, July 3, 1947, p. 5; Bloecher, [p. III-18](#))
- 1947, July 1 — A target is picked up on radar at Chitose Air Base, Hokkaido, Japan, moving 16 miles north at speeds in excess of 500 mph. The blip instantly reverses course four times, breaks into two objects, then merges into one again. (Col. James F. Olive Jr., [“Radar Pick-Ups of High-Speed Targets in the Far East,”](#) Memorandum for Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Washington, D.C., September 26, 1947)
- 1947, July 1 — Col. [Alfred Kalberer](#) holds another press conference in Fort Worth, Texas, and brings astronomer [Oscar Monnig](#) along to comment that the discs are “an interesting study in human psychology.” (Loren E. Gross, [The](#)

[*Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes*](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 23–24)

- 1947, July 1 — Night. Albuquerque, New Mexico, Chamber of Commerce official [Max Hood](#) sees a bluish disc zigzagging for about 30 seconds. (Bloecher, [p. III-17](#); Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes*](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 23)
- 1947, July 1 — 10:10 p.m. Meteorologist Ellwood E. Unger and his wife watch a round, orange, luminous object going about 100 mph after they leave a movie theater in Louisville, Kentucky. (“[Here’s the Latest Disk Dope—It’s Strictly From Unger](#),” *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, July 3, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [p. III-2](#); Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes*](#), The Author, 2000, p. 23)
- 1947, July 1? — 11:00 p.m. Mrs. A. M. King is with another passenger on the deck of the Union-Castle Mail [SS Llandovery Castle](#) as it is steaming through the Mozambique Channel. They notice a star-like object traveling fast toward the ship. It shines a strong beam of light on the water within 150 feet of the ship, then descends, the beam shortening and becoming brighter as it nears the water. Soon the light switches off and they can see a metallic object that looks like a cigar with the end cut off. It remains about 20 feet above the sea, moving parallel with the ship. King estimates it is about four times the length of the ship and four times as tall. After a few seconds, a large flame erupts from the rear of the object. It vanishes soundlessly in the darkness. (Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [pp. 18–19](#); “[Two Classic Sightings](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 9, no. 3 (May/June 1963): 11, 12; Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horsemen of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History, 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes*](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 25–30)
- 1947, July 1–3? — According to [Annie Jacobsen](#)’s informant, EG&G engineer [Alfred O’Donnell](#), the upcoming Roswell, New Mexico, crashes are the result of a psychological warfare operation by Soviet leader [Joseph Stalin](#) to fly into US airspace two disc- or wing-shaped aircraft based on a [Horton brothers](#) design obtained at the end of World War II. One craft allegedly contains living dwarves or children (human guinea pigs) who had been surgically altered using similar methods to those used in Auschwitz concentration camp by Nazi doctor [Josef Mengele](#). This aircraft is remotely controlled by the crew of the second craft. The idea is to land the first aircraft in a visible location in the US, perhaps in Washington, D.C. The children would exit the craft and present themselves to the highest echelons of the government. However, the two aircraft crash in the New Mexico desert and, he claims, the Atomic Energy Commission is put in charge of the remains. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 367–374](#); Kremlin 30–36)
- 1947, July 1–3 — US Signal Corps radar sites in southern New Mexico and one at Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque allegedly track an object “flitting around” the sky, frequently returning but finally disappearing on the night of July 4. Much of this story originates with now-discredited Roswell witness [Frank Kaufmann](#), who claims he was ordered to bring a group of radar experts to Alamogordo to evaluate unexplained radar targets at White Sands Missile Range. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 159](#); Kevin D. Randle, *A History of UFO Crashes*, Avon, 1995, [p. 8](#); Jim Wilson, “[Roswell Plus 50](#),” *Popular Mechanics* 174 (July 1997): 48–53; Kevin D. Randle, “[Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, “[Frank Kaufmann Exposed](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- 1947, July 2 — 8:00 p.m. Spectators at a baseball game at the Cincinnati (Ohio) Milling Machine Company watch two slow-moving discs hovering above the field for 10 minutes. (“[100 at Ball Game Tell of Seeing Two Mystery Saucers](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Post*, July 7, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, July 2 — 9:50 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. [Dan Wilmot](#) see an oval object like two inverted saucers pass over their house moving northwest in Roswell, New Mexico. ([Sparks](#), p. 19; “No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed,” *Roswell (N.Mex.) Daily Record*, July 8, 1947, p. 1; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 159](#); Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, “[When and Where Did the Roswell Object Crash?](#)” *IUR* 19, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1994): 13–14; Patrick Gross, “[Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot](#),” April 24, 2017; Patrick Gross, “[Paul Wilmot](#),” April 25, 2017)
- 1947, July 3 — 8:55 a.m. William F. LeFevre watches a shiny, mirror-like disc zoom over River Drive near West 8th Street in Denver, Colorado, at several thousand feet and make a 45° turn before vanishing toward the southwest. (*Denver Post*, July 5, 1947; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947*, Rose Press, 1998, [p. 44](#))
- 1947, July 3 — Morning. Project Mogul Flight number 8, a cluster of plastic balloons, is launched from Holloman AFB, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, “[The Project Mogul Flights and Roswell](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23)
- 1947, July 3 — 2:30 p.m. Amateur astronomer John F. Cole watches a group of 10 objects moving northwest near Harborside, Maine, at 600–1,200 mph. Each is 50–150 feet wide. The objects are milling about in loose formation

like a “swarm of bees” for 10–15 seconds. (NICAP, “[Astronomer Observes Ten Large Objects](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 19; Bloecher, [p. III-18](#); James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 60)

- 1947, July 3** — The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reports that the Air Research Center at Wright Field, Ohio, and the army intelligence service are looking into the flying discs. An INS dispatch states that Commander of the Army Air Force Gen. [Carl Spaatz](#) has asked Wright Field to look into such reports. Air Materiel Command’s Lt. Gen. [Nathan F. Twining](#) tells *Idaho Evening Statesman* reporter [David N. Johnson](#) that officials are indeed looking into the discs and that Wright Field has no comparable technology. Lieut. [William C. Anderson](#), Wright Field public relations officer, says there is no confirmation that the discs exist. Maj. [Paul Gaynor](#) says the Army Air Force needs more concrete information. German scientists working at Wright Field are asked about the discs, but they say they have heard nothing about any such experiments in Europe. (“[Army Gets Around to Checking ‘Flying Discs’ and Is Mystified](#),” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, July 3, 1947, p. 1; Dave Johnson, “[AAF Investigates Reports of Mysterious Air Objects](#),” *Boise Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 3, 1947, pp. 1, 9; “[Military Says ‘No Results’ in Disc Probe](#),” *Boise Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 4, 1947, p. 2; “[Weird ‘Flying Saucers’ Seen over 10 States](#),” *New York Daily News*, July 4, 1947, Final ed., p. 8; “[Flying Disc Riddle Baffles Officials](#),” *Long Beach (Calif.) Independent*, July 4, 1947, pp. 1, 5)
- 1947, July 3** — 5:45 p.m. Farmer Ewen McNeill in Village Green, east of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, sees a black, rocket-shaped projectile trailing a blindingly white flame and a smoke trail pass overhead as he is working his fields. It seems to be flying at 10,000 feet and is visible for 15 seconds. Around the same time, a resident of Augustine Cove watches an “object the size of an apple” traveling south at high speed. (“[‘Saucers’ Coast-to-Coast Giving Canadians Headache](#),” *Windsor (Ont.) Daily Star*, July 7, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, [p. II-17](#); Clark III 528; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 64; Clark IV 577)
- 1947, July 3** — 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Walter Johnson and her family see 8–9 discs flying out of the southern sky 6 miles west of Saint Maries, Idaho, over the St. Joe River. The objects came in “very fast, slow down jerkily, then flutter to the ground like leaves.” Mrs. Johnson thinks the objects are about the size of a “five-room house.” When they reach a clearing in the timber, they appear to “settle down” a few at a time. Mrs. Johnson reports the sighting to intelligence officers at the Spokane Army Air Base [now Fairchild AFB], and an intensive air search is carried out by two missions of the National Guard’s 116th Fighter Group. Local sheriff’s deputies also make a ground search, but no traces of a landing can be found. (“[‘Saucer’ Reports Increase As Sky Is Searched in Vain](#),” *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review*, July 7, 1947, pp. 1, 6; “[Dishman Residents Saw ‘Flying Saucers’ Land](#),” *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review*, July 7, 1947, p. 6; Bloecher, [p. II-12](#))
- 1947, July 3** — 7:30 p.m. Project Mogul Flight number 9, a cluster of plastic balloons, is launched from Holloman AFB, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, “[The Project Mogul Flights and Roswell](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23)
- 1947, July 4** — 3:00 a.m. Lenora Woodruff wakes up in her home at 184 S. Arlington Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey, when several airplanes fly overhead. She looks out and sees a “strange goldenish platter” moving swiftly across the sky. It disappears in a second. (“[South Plainfield Woman Reports Seeing ‘Flying Saucer’ Formation](#),” *Bridgewater (N.J.) Courier-News*, July 5, 1947, p.1)
- 1947, July 4** — After 4:00 a.m. Mrs. Martin Kole is awakened in her home in Alexandria, Virginia, by something shining through her bedroom window. She sees a large, round object hovering in the southwestern sky. She watches it for a few minutes, then goes back to bed. (“[‘Flying Discs’ Reported Here As Rumors Pour in Over Nation](#),” *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star*, July 5, 1947, p. 2; “[2 D.C. Area Residents Say They Saw ‘Flying Saucers’](#),” *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star*, July 6, 1947, p. 9; Bloecher, [p. II-6](#))
- 1947, July 4** — The United Press service rounds up theories about the flying discs. It quotes Army Air Force “experts” saying that the sightings might be caused by weather conditions, or meteorites, or foreign aircraft that it is “our responsibility to know about it and take proper action.” Occultist [Ole J. Sneider](#) from San Francisco, California, thinks they are “oblate spheroid space ships from other planets” with hidden bases on the dark side of the moon. This is apparently the first public mention of an extraterrestrial origin for flying saucers in the media. (“[U.S. Stops ‘Laughing Off’ Stories of Flying Discs](#),” *Hollywood (Calif.) Citizen-News*, July 3, 1947, p. 1; “[These Flying Discs? Piffle! It’s Old Stuff to Ole Sneider](#),” *Palo Alto (Calif.) Peninsula Times Tribune*, July 3, 1947, p. 12; “[Flying Discs Said ‘Space Ships’ from Other Solar Systems](#),” *Bryan (Tex.) Eagle*, July 3, 1947, p. 8; “[Buck Rogers Special](#),” *Santa Rosa (Calif.) Press Democrat*, July 4, 1947, p. 2; “[Saucer Mystery Solved?](#)” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, July 4, 1947, p. 23; J. Campbell Bruce, “The Sneider Letter,” *San Francisco (Calif.) Chronicle*, July 8, 1947; Clark III 455–456; Curt Collins, “[A 1947 Pioneer of the UFO Extraterrestrial Hypothesis](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, December 16, 2021; Clark IV 501)

- 1947, July 4 — 10:30 a.m. CAA official Irving C. Allen is flying a small aircraft near Moscow, Idaho, when he sees a white disc moving north for 5 minutes as it crosses his path several miles in front of him. ([“Weird Reports of Seeing Discs Starts Jitters,”](#) *Pittston (Pa.) Sunday Dispatch*, July 6, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. [III-10](#))
- 1947, July 4 — 11:00 a.m. C. J. Bogue and other witnesses in a car near Redmond, Oregon, see four discs flying past Mt. Jefferson on a straight course at high speed. ([Sparks](#), p. 19; Ruppelt, [p. 20](#); Bloecher, [p. II-9](#))
- 1947, July 4 — 11:00 a.m. Harry Hale, production manager of the *Portland Oregonian*, sees one shiny disc moving swiftly just west of Beaverton, Oregon. (“Air Liner Crew Confirms Flying Disks over State; Many Seen during Day over City,” *Portland Oregonian*, July 5, 1947; Project 1947, [“UFO Reports, 1947”](#))
- 1947, July 4 — 1:05–5:30 p.m. Many people in Portland, Oregon—including KOIN newsman Frank Cooley, deputy Clark County Sheriff [Fred Krives](#), Portland police officer [Kenneth A. McDowell](#), and Oregon highway patrol Sgt. Claude Cross—view five large discs moving at high speed to the east, two flying south and three to the east, with an oscillating or wobbling motion, sudden 90° turns or zigzagging. Radio reports alert other officers (including [Walter Lissy](#), [Robert Ellis](#), and [Earl Patterson](#), all WWII veterans) who see the metallic objects that look like a disc or hubcap or pie-pan or half-moon flashing in the sun. No vapor trail or noise (except possible humming) is reported. (NICAP, [“Seven Discs Observed by Many Witnesses”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 20; “Air Liner Crew Confirms Flying Disks over State; Many Seen during Day over City,” *Portland Oregonian*, July 5, 1947; Project 1947, [“UFO Reports, 1947”](#); Bloecher, [pp. II-9, III-15](#); James E. McDonald, [“Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects,”](#) in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 58; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, [“Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 5)
- 1947, July 4 — 2:50 p.m. Seven people (among them [Winfield](#) and [Charity Montooth](#) and [Edith May Bush](#)) picnicking at Twin Falls Park, seven miles east of Twin Falls, Idaho, watch a group of discs in a rough V-formation flying at great speed. Ten minutes later, a second flight of 9–10 objects circle overhead in a loose formation. They gain altitude rapidly and move to the west. By 3:10 p.m., when a third flight passed overhead, about 60 people in the park witness 18 or more of the discs circling around before ascending rapidly. In its coverage of this sighting, an unnamed Twin Falls newspaper reporter uses the phrase “unidentified flying objects,” apparently for the first time. ([“Flying Saucer Mystery Grows,”](#) *Tucson (Ariz.) Daily Citizen*, July 5, 1947, p. 4; [“Area Residents Join Many Seeing ‘Discs,’”](#) *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News*, July 6, 1947, pp. 1, 6; Bloecher, [p. II-5](#))
- 1947, July 4 — 5:00 p.m. Nova Hart and his wife Marveline are picnicking off Old Saint Charles Road west of Pattonville, Missouri. They see a saucer-shaped object, ribbed underneath like a “parachute canopy,” gliding slowly (50–60 mph) and silently from south to north about 300 feet off the ground. It seems to have a propeller attached to a red conical structure on the bottom and is about 20–25 feet in diameter. ([“‘Flying Saucer’ Reported Seen in St. Louis County,”](#) *St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat*, July 6, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [p. II-14](#))
- 1947, July 4 — After 5:00 p.m. Private pilot Dan Whelan and passenger Duncan Underhill are flying at 5,000 feet west of Long Beach, California, when they see a disc about 2,000 feet above them, traveling at 400–500 mph. They estimate it is 40–50 feet in diameter and flying north-northwest. ([“‘Air Disc’ Mystery Grows, Baffles U.S.,”](#) *Hollywood (Calif.) Citizen-News*, July 5, 1947, pp. 1, 3; Bloecher, [p. III-10](#))
- 1947, July 4 — 5:45 p.m. Coast Guard Yeoman [Frank Ryman](#) photographs a round disc over his home at 12321 22nd Street NE, Lake City, Seattle, Washington. The object is in sight for 4–5 minutes and is seen by at least 20 others, traveling 500 mph. The photo shows a small, blurred white oval against a background of sky, but when enlarged the object is quite distinct. The Air Force explains it as a weather balloon. ([“Observers Report Discs over Entire Western Area,”](#) *Salt Lake City Deseret News*, July 5, 1947, p. 1; UFOEv [87](#); Bloecher, [pp. IV-3–4](#); London UFO Research Unit, [“Seattle, Washington, America, North America”](#); Kenneth Lloyd Larson, [“A Summer 1947 Sighting,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 19–20; Michael D. Swords, [“Can You Learn Anything from UFO Photos, Part Two,”](#) *The Big Study*, July 5, 2012)
- 1947, July 4 — 6:30 p.m. United Press correspondent John C. Corlett, along with artist V. H. Selby and their wives, see a white disc speeding over Boise, Idaho, at an altitude of about 10,000 feet. It takes about 3 seconds to disappear. (“View of ‘Flying Saucers’ over Ontario Dumbfound Veteran Pilot, Other Crew Member of Airliner,” *Portland Oregonian*, July 5, 1947; Project 1947, [“UFO Reports, 1947”](#))
- 1947, July 4 — 7:00 p.m. George Aster and others at Hauser Lake, Idaho, watch a flying disc for 30 minutes as it hovers with a lateral oscillation about 30° above the horizon at an estimated 20,000 feet. It shoots straight up and vanishes when a small aircraft approaches it. ([“Discs Seen Here Today, Is Report,”](#) *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review*, July 7, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [pp. II-6–7](#))
- 1947, July 4 — Sunset. [Henry Seay](#), a farmer living 2 miles north of Fayetteville, Arkansas, watches three yellow discs flying overhead to the southwest, dropping sparks, and frightening his cattle and horses. The following night it happens again and the cows go into a panic, running off to the other side of the pasture. Some kind of dust falls on

Seay, although it does not burn. After several seconds, the object rises up vertically 30–40 feet and shoots off horizontally at 50 mph. ([“Discs Reported over Farm of Henry Seay,”](#) Fayetteville *Northwest Arkansas Times*, July 7, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [p. IV-1](#))

1947, July 4 — Sunset. M. K. Leisy, a junior intern at the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital at 44th and Market streets in Philadelphia, is reading on the porch of the hospital when he hears a loud roar. A large transport plane passes overhead, but he also sees a dark sphere with a luminous halo around it moving below the clouds at a moderate speed. It disappears into the clouds. ([“Flying Discs Seen over City,”](#) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 5, 1947, pp. 1, 3; Bloecher, [pp. II-14–15](#))

1947, July 4 — 8:12 p.m.? United Air Lines Flight 105 pilots Capt. Emil J. Smith and First Officer Ralph Stevens are flying from Boise, Idaho, to Seattle, Washington, when they see a formation of five discs over Emmett, Idaho, silhouetted against the sunset. Stewardess Marty Morrow sees them as well. The objects appear to merge and speed away to the northwest. Another group appears and arranges itself in a straight line. The nine objects are seen at least 12 minutes over a distance of 45 miles. (NICAP, [“5 Discs Sighted by United Flight”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 20; [“View of ‘Flying Saucers’ over Ontario Dumbfounds Veteran Pilot, Other Crew Members of Airliner,”](#) *Portland Oregonian*, July 5, 1947, p. 11; [“Crew of Passenger Plane Tell of Seeing ‘Flying Saucers’ in Idaho,”](#) *Hagerstown (Md.) Daily Mail*, July 5, 1947, pp. 1–2; E. J. Smith, [“‘Frankly, I’m Baffled,’ Says Airliner Pilot after Observing Queer Airborne Objects,”](#) *Portland Sunday Oregonian*, July 6, 1947, p. 24; E. J. Smith, [“Flier Tells of Seeing the Flying Saucers,”](#) *New York Daily News*, July 6, 1947, pp. 2, 40; [“More People See Flying Discs in Nation As Mystery Increases,”](#) *Alliance (Nebr.) Times-Herald*, July 8, 1947, p. 1; Project 1947, [“UFO Reports, 1947”](#); Bloecher, [pp. III-10–11](#); Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, 1952, Palmer, [pp. 18–19](#); James E. McDonald, [“Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects,”](#) in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 41–42; Wendy Connors and Michael Hall, *Alfred Loedding and The Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947*, Rose Press, 1998, [pp. 52–55](#))

1947, July 4 — The first of the special flights from Washington, D.C., arrives at Roswell Army Air Field [now closed], New Mexico (presumably to investigate the radar reports claimed by [Frank Kaufmann](#)). On the plane is Warrant Officer Robert Thomas. Thomas and his companions are in uniform upon arrival, but quickly change to civilian clothes. Thomas wants an on-site briefing as soon as it can be arranged. These men remain at RAAF throughout the later retrieval. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [pp. 160–161](#))

1947, July 4 — During a thunderstorm near Corona, New Mexico, [W. W. “Mack” Brazel](#) hears a tremendous thunderclap that sounds like an explosion but is somehow different from the rest of the thunder. Others in the area report the same phenomenon. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 160](#))

1947, July 4 — 11:27 p.m. Army Signal Corps radar sites in southern New Mexico supposedly continue to track a mysterious object. Kirtland AFB’s commander scrambles a fighter jet piloted by Kenny Chandler to locate the object, but he cannot find it. Before midnight, [Frank Kaufmann](#) allegedly sees a brilliant glow on the radar display, pulsates a number of times, then explode in a starburst. The belief is that the object has now crashed. [Jim Ragsdale](#) and “Trudy Truelove” supposedly see a bright flash of light and hear a roaring sound that passes overhead. Ragsdale knows that something has struck the ground close to their campsite. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 160](#); Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, [“When and Where Did the Roswell Object Crash?”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1994): 14; Kevin D. Randle, [“The Truth about the Jim Ragsdale Story,”](#) *IUR* 21, no. 3 (Fall 1996): 13–16, 29–30; Jim Wilson, [“Roswell Plus 50,”](#) *Popular Mechanics* 174 (July 1997): 48–53; The Roswell Files, [“Jim Ragsdale,”](#) April 11, 1998; Kevin D. Randle, [“Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness,”](#) *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, [“Frank Kaufmann Exposed,”](#) *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [p. 36](#); Kevin D. Randle, [“Jim Ragsdale’s Roswell Tale,”](#) A Different Perspective, April 22, 2015)

1947, July 5 — 3:00 a.m. Acting on what he claims are orders from Brig. Gen. [Martin F. Scanlon](#) of the Army’s Air Defense Command, discredited Roswell witness [Frank Kaufmann](#) returns to Roswell Army Air Field from Alamogordo to alert Colonel [William H. Blanchard](#), Roswell AAF commanding officer, about a potential crash. (Jim Wilson, [“Roswell Plus 50,”](#) *Popular Mechanics* 174 (July 1997): 48–53)

1947, July 5 — 5:00 a.m. Archaeologists, including [William Curry Holden](#), working the sites around Roswell, New Mexico, stumble across an impact site where an object has crashed. One of them heads to the closest phone to tell Sheriff [George A. Wilcox](#) of the discovery of the remains of a crashed aircraft of some kind. Wilcox calls the local fire department to alert them about the crash. One truck, with [Dan Dwyer](#) on it, responds to the call. The site is about 35–40 miles north of Roswell. The Roswell Fire Department, escorted by members of the Roswell Police

- Department, makes a run along Pine Lodge Road northwest of Roswell. They are among the first civilians to stumble across the impact site. (Thomas J. Carey, "[The Search for the Roswell Archaeologists: Casting the Net](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 3–8, 23–24; Thomas J. Carey, "[The Continuing Search for the Roswell Archaeologists: Closing the Circle](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1994): 4–12; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 33–36; Kevin D. Randle and Anthony Braglia, "[Two Roswell Witnesses, Reconsidered](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 6–8, 24)
- 1947, July 5** — 5:01 a.m. Project Mogul Flight number 10, a cluster of plastic balloons, is launched from Holloman AFB, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, "[The Project Mogul Flights and Roswell](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23)
- 1947, July 5** — 5:30 a.m. According to discredited Roswell witness [Frank Kaufmann](#), a small contingent of men from Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico drive north on what is now US Highway 285. Near mile marker 132, they turn off the road and began driving across the desert, stopping from time to time to cut the barbed-wire fencing. They discover a heel-shaped craft measuring about 25 feet long and 12 feet wide embedded in a cliff. The soldiers find civilians on the site already. Besides the archaeologists, a local man named Larry Campbell (later called Jack Armstrong or Cactus Jack) also claims to have been there. They escort them off while others secure the area. Five bodies are allegedly found on the site. The impact site is cleaned and secured by 11:30 a.m. [Annie Jacobsen](#) has interviewed [Alfred O'Donnell](#), later an engineer at EG&G, who tells her that one of the objects crashed and was recovered by the Joint Chiefs, including the airframe, propulsion equipment, and the power plant. It has no wings or tail. The fuselage is round and there is a dome on top. Inside there are Cyrillic letters stamped or embossed in a ring running around the inside. Army intelligence officers suspect that the craft is the brainchild of German airplane engineers, [Walter and Reimar Horten](#), working for the Russian military. A frantic search to find what happened to the brothers allegedly takes place; informants like Austrian physicist [Adolf Smekal](#) of Frankfurt, Germany, provide leads, with confusing results for several months. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 161; Thomas J. Carey, "[The Strange Saga of 'Cactus Jack'](#)," *IUR* 22, no. 1 (Spring 1997): 3–11; Jim Wilson, "[Roswell Plus 50](#)," *Popular Mechanics* 174 (July 1997): 48–53; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 36–40)
- 1947, July 5?** — The Roswell base photography unit is cut out of photographing the debris and bodies, so Sgt. Frederick Benthall is supposedly flown in from Washington, D.C., to conduct the photography, along with Jack Rodden. (Anthony Braglia, "[The Roswell Base Photographers: Their Crash Secrets Revealed](#)," *UFO Explorations*, July 2013; Clark IV 393–394)
- 1947, July 5** — 10:00 a.m. W/O Robert Thomas and his crew proceed to the impact site. The bodies, originally covered by sheets, are now in lead-lined body bags. Only those with the highest clearance are allowed close to the center of the impact. Guards are posted, facing out, to keep the curious away. According to researcher Kathy Kasten, the dead bodies are taken to Roswell Army Air Field, but one is still alive and taken to Fort Stanton [now closed] in Lincoln, New Mexico, whose Marine Hospital was used to confine troublesome German and Japanese detainees during World War II. Allegedly, aerospace physician [William Randolph Lovelace II](#) travels there from Albuquerque to examine the survivor, who reportedly dies one week later and is buried in the Fort Stanton cemetery. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 161; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 204–221)
- 1947, July 5** — Following the rain the night before, [Brazel](#) inspects the pastures surrounding the J. B. Foster ranch house southeast of Corona, New Mexico. Riding with him is the young son of the Proctors, [William D. Proctor](#). During the inspection, Brazel discovers a large debris field. Scattered on the slopes and into the sinkhole and depressions are plastic-like beams, pieces of lightweight balsawood-like material only stronger, light metallic foil (which doesn't stay bent or folded, resumes its original shape, and won't tear), and heavy-gauge monofilament. The debris is thick enough that the sheep refuse to cross the field and are driven around it to water more than a mile away. Brazel, taking a few scraps of the material, heads to the home of his closest neighbors, [Floyd](#) and [Loretta Proctor](#). He shows them "a little sliver" of material that he can neither burn nor cut. Some of the beams have symbols on them that reminds Brazel of Chinese ideograms. The Proctors suggest he take it into town to show the sheriff. (Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, "[Did a Balloon Crash at Roswell?](#)" *IUR* 15, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1990): 4–5; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 27–32, 161; Michael D. Swords, "[Roswell: Clashing Visions of the Possible](#)," *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 11–13, 33–35; Robert A. Galganski, "[The Roswell Debris Field: Size Doesn't Matter](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 14–19, 30; Donald R. Burleson, "[Roswell Trajectory Feasibility](#)," Center for UFO Studies; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 125–127; Benson Saler, Charles A. Ziegler, and Charles B. Moore, *UFO Crash at Roswell: The Genesis of a Modern Myth*, Smithsonian, 2010; "[Recollections of Roswell Part One](#)," NICAP Official YouTube channel, June 12, 2021;

[“Recollections of Roswell Part Two,”](#) NICAP Official YouTube channel, June 13, 2021; [“P1 N1: Bill Brazel,”](#) NICAP Official YouTube channel, June 13, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, [“A Grounded Theory Update on the Roswell UFO Incident,”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 36, no. 2 (Summer 2022): 264–288; Kevin D. Randle, [“Roswell Crash Date and Mogul Problem,”](#) A Different Perspective, December 27, 2022; Graff 3; [“Bill Brazel Jr. Talks about His Father Mack, Discoverer of the 1947 Roswell UFO Wreckage,”](#) Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 29, 2024; [“Witnesses and Researchers Talk About the Roswell UFO Crash in an Excellent In-Depth 1993 Documentary,”](#) Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, September 17, 2024; Anthony Bragalia, [“The Man Who Read Alien Language: Government Scientist May Have Deciphered Roswell UFO Debris Symbols,”](#) UFO Explorations, June/July 2025)

- 1947, July 5 — Day. Farmer Sherman Campbell discovers a star-shaped, tinfoil-covered object on his farm on Westfall Road southwest of Circleville, Ohio. A piece of balloon is attached to the top. At first suspected to be one of the flying discs, it becomes obvious that it is part of a weather balloon. ([“‘Flying Disc’ Believed Found on Pickaway Farm,”](#) *Circleville (Ohio) Herald*, July 5, 1947, p. 1; [“Humorists Muddle Hunt for ‘Flying Saucers,’”](#) *Circleville (Ohio) Herald*, July 8, 1947, p. 1; Curt Collins, [“Flying Saucers Foiled Again,”](#) The Saucers That Time Forgot, July 6, 2023)
- 1947, July 5 — 2:30 p.m. Automobile dealer [Kjell Qvale](#) and dozens of others see a triangular formation of silvery discs flying south near Auburn, California. They appear directly overhead and are in view for 3–4 minutes, disappearing one at a time, but not over the horizon. ([“Skeptical Experts Call Disc Reports ‘Mass Illusion,’”](#) *San Francisco Examiner*, July 8, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [p. II-5](#))
- 1947, July 5 — 4:40 p.m. [Lawrence H. “Bus” Cowham](#) is driving east on Elizabeth Boulevard in Twin Falls, Idaho, when he sees a group of small, shiny discs soaring west through the sky beneath a cloud. They disappear out of sight in less than one minute. ([“Area Residents Join Many Seeing ‘Discs,’”](#) *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News*, July 6, 1947, p. 6)
- 1947, July 5 — 3:00 p.m. [Louis E. Starr](#), national commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, tells the VFW encampment in Columbus, Ohio, that he is expecting information soon from the Pentagon on “the fleets of flying saucers,” although an expected telegram does not arrive. He asserts that “too little is being told to the people of this country.” ([“Starr to Reveal Data on Saucers,”](#) *Portland Sunday Oregonian*, July 6, 1947, p. 24)
- 1947, July 5 — Later that evening, [Brazel](#) removes the large, circular piece of the debris from the range. Brazel either loads it into the back of his truck or drags it along behind. He stores it in a livestock shed about three miles north of the crash site. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 163](#))
- 1947, July 6 — [Brazel](#) gets up early, completes his chores, and then drives into Roswell, New Mexico, about 75 miles away. He stops at the office of Sheriff [George A. Wilcox](#). Contrary to published reports, Wilcox is excited about the find and suggests the military at the Roswell Army Air Field [now closed] be notified. While waiting for the military officers to arrive, Wilcox dispatches two of his deputies to the ranch. They have only the directions given by Brazel, but both men are familiar with the territory; and Wilcox believes they will be able to find the debris field. KGFL reporter [Frank Joyce](#) calls Wilcox, who tells him Brazel is in his office with an interesting story. Brazel allegedly gets on the phone with Joyce and mentions debris and a stench from dead bodies. ([“Affidavit of George ‘Jud’ Roberts,”](#) December 30, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [pp. 163–164](#); Graff 3)
- 1947, July 6 — 1:45 p.m. Maj. A. B. Browning and the crew of a B-25 flying over Clay Center, Kansas, see a silvery disc about 30–50 feet in diameter slightly lower than their plane. It paces them for a while then shoots off. (NICAP, [“30–50’ Circular Object Paces B-25, Accelerates”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 21; Bloecher, [p. III-11](#))
- 1947, July 6 — [J. Allen Hynek](#), assistant director of the Ohio State University’s Perkins Observatory in Delaware, Ohio, tells the press that he is interested in flying disc reports but suspects they “aren’t likely to be objects from outer space” because they have only been seen in the US, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. (*Columbus (Ohio) Citizen*, July 6, 1947; Loren E. Gross, [“The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes,”](#) The Author, 2000, p. 58)
- 1947, July 6 — Day. Army Air Corps Capt. [James H. Burniston](#) and his wife watch a round, flat object that oscillates on its lateral axis of travel three quarters of the way across the sky in a few seconds at Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Field [now Travis AFB] near Fairfield, California. (NICAP, [“Round Flat Object Size of C-54”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 21; Bloecher, [p. III-3](#))
- 1947, July 6 — 2:45 p.m. [David A. Kenney](#), an aircraft instruments engineer, and two others watch an oval-shaped UFO flying at a high altitude for nearly 2 minutes near Encampment, Wyoming. (Bloecher, [p. III-17](#); David Kenney, [“Right Place, Right Time,”](#) *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 28)

- 1947, July 6 — Afternoon. Francis Howell and his wife are in their yard at 317 Ash Street in Tempe, Arizona, when they see an object floating down to the ground with a kite-like motion. It appears to be about 2 feet across and made of aluminum. It disappears behind some trees. The Howells and some neighbors walk toward the place where it apparently has landed, and they see the disc ascend at a 45° angle and move at high speed toward the northwest. (“[Tempeans See ‘Disc,’](#)” *Phoenix Arizona Republic*, July 7, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [p. II-13](#))
- 1947, July 6 — Colonel [William H. Blanchard](#), Roswell AAF commanding officer, entrusted with oversight of the first and only atomic-bomb strike force in the world, the 509th Bomb Group, orders [Jesse A. Marcel](#), the air intelligence officer, to investigate the debris report. Marcel immediately drives to the sheriff’s office. Marcel interviews [Brazel](#), examines the pieces of the material that Brazel brought in, and decides he had better visit the ranch to examine the field for himself. Marcel, taking some of the debris with him, returns to the base and reports to Blanchard on what he has seen. Blanchard, convinced that he is in possession of something highly unusual, perhaps Soviet, alerts the next higher headquarters. Marcel and Blanchard all know this is not from any type of balloon. Marcel returns to the sheriff’s office with the senior counterintelligence agent assigned to the base, CIC Captain [Sheridan W. Cavitt](#). They escort Brazel back to his ranch and examine the debris field. Acting on orders from Major General [Clements McMullen](#), deputy commander of the Strategic Air Command, Blanchard obtains more of the debris from the sheriff’s office. It is sealed in a courier pouch and loaded on an airplane to be flown on to the Fort Worth Army Air Field, where it is given to Colonel [Thomas J. DuBose](#) for transport on to Washington, D.C. After Marcel and Cavitt leave with Brazel, the two deputies return to say they did not find the debris field but observed a burned area in one of the pastures. There the sand has been turned to glass and blackened. It looks as if something circular has touched down. (Robert Shirkey, [Affidavit](#), April 30, 1991; Thomas Jefferson DuBose, [Affidavit](#), September 16, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [pp. 37–40, 164](#); Good Need, [p. 89](#); Nukes 482–483; Graff 3–4)
- 1947, July 6 — 8:45 p.m. Army Staff Sgt. [Ira L. Livingston](#) watches a procession of glowing round objects moving at 500 mph over Birmingham, Alabama. A new one appears every 5 seconds. Many others report UFOs in the area between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. Robert Crossland, a copy reader for the *Birmingham Age-Herald*, takes a photo that shows two round white spots close together. (“[Flying Saucers’ Reported from 39 States, But Seem to Be Concentrated Here,](#)” *Birmingham (Ala.) News*, July 7, 1947, pp. 1, 5; Ruppelt, [pp. 20–21](#); Bloecher, [pp. III-3-4, IV-4](#); Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947*, Rose Press, 1998, [pp. 67–68](#))
- 1947, July 6 — 9:00 p.m. Because of the distance to the ranch over roads that are less than adequate, [Brazel](#), [Marcel](#), and [Cavitt](#) do not arrive until after dark. They stay at the “Hines” house (an old ranch house close to the debris field), eat cold beans, and wait for daylight. Marcel runs a Geiger counter over the large piece of wreckage Brazel has stored in the cattle shed. He detects no sign of radiation. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 165](#))
- 1947, July 7 — 2:00 a.m. [Joseph J. Kuritz](#) is stopped by a state patrolmen on US Highway 31 near South Bend, Indiana, for speeding. Kuritz claims he and [Bernard Jagodzinski](#) are chasing a “glaring object flying south” at treetop level and going about 200 mph. They have it in view for 10 minutes before getting stopped. (“[Driver Chasing ‘Disk’ Arrested for Speeding,](#)” *South Bend (Ind.) Tribune*, July 7, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, July 7 — 2:00 a.m. A special flight (the first) leaves Roswell AAF for Andrews AAF in Washington, D.C. Some of the debris and the bodies are on that flight. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 165](#))
- 1947, July 7 — [Brazel](#) takes [Marcel](#) and [Cavitt](#) out to the debris field. It is three-quarters of a mile long and 200–300 feet wide. A gouge starting at the northern end of it extends for 400–500 feet toward the other end. It looks as if something has touched down and skipped along. The largest piece of debris is recovered at the southern edge of the gouge. The debris is as thin as newsprint, but incredibly strong. There is foil that, when crumpled, unfolds itself without a sign of a wrinkle, I-beams that flex slightly and have some symbols on them, and material resembling Bakelite. Marcel and Cavitt walk the perimeter of the field and then range out looking for more details or another crash site but find nothing else. Finally, they return and spend the remainder of the day collecting debris. They load the rear of Marcel’s car and then the jeep carryall driven by Cavitt. About dusk they begin the trip back to Roswell. (Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, “[The Roswell Material,](#)” *IUR* 16, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1991): 10–11; Kevin D. Randle, “[Don’t Bother Me with the Facts....](#)” *IUR* 18, no. 3 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 16–17, 24; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [pp. 27–29, 165](#); Robert A. Galganski, “[The Roswell Debris: A Quantitative Evaluation of the Project Mogul Hypothesis,](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 3–6, 23–24; Charles B. Moore, Robert G. Todd, Mark Rodeghier, and Kevin D. Randle, “[Project Mogul and the Roswell Crash: An Exchange,](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 7–9, 19–22; Kevin D. Randle, “[Bessie Brazel’s Story,](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 3–5, 24; Robert A. Galganski,

[“Roswell: Connecting the Debris Field and the Impact Site,”](#) *IUR* 21, no. 2 (Summer 1996): 11–17; Robert A. Galganski, [“The Glue Explanation Just Won’t Stick,”](#) *IUR* 22, no. 4 (Winter 1997–1998): 3–7; Robert A. Galganski, [“An Engineer Looks at the Project Mogul Hypothesis,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 3–6, 32; Thomas J. Carey, [“Will the Real Sheridan Cavitt Please Stand Up?”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 14–21; Kent Jeffrey, [“Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth,”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 79–101; Michael D. Swords, [“A Different View of ‘Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth,’”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 103–125; Robert M. Wood, [“Critique of ‘Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth,’”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 127–140; Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, [“Mack Brazel Reconsidered,”](#) *IUR* 24, no. 4 (Winter 1999): 13–19; Robert A. Galganski, *The Roswell Debris Field: An Engineer’s Perspective*, Fund for UFO Research, 2002; Kevin D. Randle, [“Bessie Brazel Schreiber and the Roswell Crash,”](#) A Different Perspective, September 19, 2015; [“A Very Special Gathering: ‘These Are the Children of Roswell, They Have Come Home,’”](#) Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, July 6, 2024)

- 1947, July 7** — AMC commander Lieut. Gen [Nathan Twining](#) unexpectedly flies to Alamogordo AAF and Kirtland AAF in New Mexico, remaining there until July 11. Army Air Forces Commander Gen. [Carl Spaatz](#) is supposedly “vacationing” in Washington State. He tells reporters he knows nothing about the flying discs. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 165](#))
- 1947, July 7** — A hoax in Shreveport, Louisiana. A 16-inch aluminum disc with smoke coming out of it is found. Army investigators find “Made in USA” on the disc. It is one of many homemade gadgets, weather balloon radar targets, circular saws, and other disc-like debris that people find or make in order to have some fun in the press or with gullible saucer-seekers. (Teletype from FBI New Orleans to J. Edgar Hoover, July 7, 1947, via [FBI UFO files](#), p. 4; [Sparks](#), p. 21; [“Speaking of Pictures: A Rash of Flying Disks Breaks Out over the U.S.,”](#) *Life*, July 21, 1947, p. 14; ClearIntent, [p. 149](#); Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, [“Secret Projects and Open Eyes: A Response,”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 3 (May/June 1994): 15–17; Kevin D. Randle, [“The Hoover Memo Again,”](#) A Different Perspective, July 29, 2015; Maurizio Verga, “Here They Are! Early Crashes of Flying Saucers, a Visual History,” *Cielo Insolito*, no. 6 (March 2018): 8–27)
- 1947, July 7** — 9:55 a.m. Newspaper editor John Brackett and his wife Wilma see an object streak across the sky in Reno, Nevada, leaving a trail of bluish-white vapor. It is high in the sky and traveling at about 1,000 mph. ([“Tiny Speck Whizzes across Sky Here at Unbelievable Rate of Speed; Many Reno Persons See Small Object,”](#) *Reno Nevada State Journal*, July 8, 1947, p. 14; Bloecher, [pp. III-7–8](#))
- 1947, July 7** — 10:10 a.m. On a runway on the west side of Rogers Dry Lake at Muroc Army Airfield [now Edwards Air Force Base] in southern California, XP-84 test pilot Maj. [Jowell C. Wise](#) and several others see a yellowish-white object at 10,000–12,000 feet traveling west in an oscillating motion at about 200 mph. It stops at one point, then continues in horizontal flight. (NICAP, [“Oscillating Sphere Observed by Test Pilot & Others”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 21; [Affidavit](#), J. C. Wise to Thomas A. McMillan, August 13, 1947)
- 1947, July 7** — 11:30 a.m. Flight instructor Kenneth Jones out of Elkhart, Wisconsin, is practicing take-offs and landings with a student near Koshkonong. They watch a disc descending vertically on edge through the alto-cumulus clouds at 6,000 feet, stop at 4,000 feet, assume a horizontal orientation, and fly horizontally for 15 seconds, covering 23 miles at 5,500 mph. At one point it heads straight towards them on a course of about 120°, then stops again (apparently overhead) and disappears. ([Sparks](#), p. 22; Bloecher, [p. III-11](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 9)
- 1947, July 7** — Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#)’s activity log: 1:10 p.m., answers a *Toronto Star* reporter’s question about possible secret military aircraft. Vandenberg says no AAF planes are looking for discs, but National Guard planes are looking into the discs on their own. 1:50 p.m., Stephen Leo, public relations officer for AF Secretary [Stuart Symington](#), calls concerning the Shreveport, Louisiana, incident. 1:55 p.m. Leo and Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#) discuss the discs. Col. Warren, at Ellington Field [now Ellington Airport] in Houston, Texas, calls concerning the Shreveport disc. 4:20 p.m., Col. Warren calls back and says the incident is a hoax. (David Rudiak, [“Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg and Roswell,”](#) Roswell Proof, 2001)
- 1947, July 7** — 2:30 p.m. Capt. [Robert J. Southey](#) and [Clem Hackworthy](#) are flying a private aircraft near East Troy, Wisconsin, when they see a fast-moving silver object flying southeast from Eagle to Muskego, covering 17 miles in 20 seconds (approximately 3,060 mph). They try to photograph it, but it quickly disappears, then suddenly reappears about 10 miles away. ([Sparks](#), p. 22; Bloecher, [pp. III-11–12](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 9)
- 1947, July 7** — 3:10 p.m. Don Wisher and Vic Levin are surf fishing 3 miles north of Fort Bragg, California, when they see a flat, glistening object descending toward them from the over ocean with a distinctive hum. It hits the water

about one-half mile off shore. It floats for a short while and then sinks. (*San Rafael (Calif.) Independent*, July 10, 1947; Carl Feindt, "[Report #62](#)," [waterufo.net](#); Dolan, USO1, 126–127)

1947, July 7 — A meeting is held in the office of Brig. Gen. [George F. Schulgen](#), chief of the Requirements Intelligence branch of Army Air Force Intelligence. It is decided to investigate five flying disc incidents with "qualified" observers and obtain detailed statements: two in Seattle, Washington; one in Boise, Idaho; one in Palm Springs, California; and one in Washington State. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, p. 16)

1947, July 7 — [John Philip Bessor](#) of Zelienople, Pennsylvania, writes to the US Air Force to offer his own theory that UFOs are "a form of space animal, or creature, of a highly attenuated (ectoplasmic?) substance, capable of materialization and dematerialization, whose propellant is a form of telekinetic energy." ("Report from the Readers," *Fate* 4, no. 4 (May/June 1951): 88; John P. Bessor, "[Are the Saucers Space Animals?](#)" *Fate* 8, no. 12 (December 1955): 6–12; "[Who 'Discovered Space Animals'?](#)" *CSI News Letter*, no. 22 (December 15, 1957): 31; Clark III 1098; Clark IV 1224–1225; Curt Collins, "[The 1947 ET Hypothesis of John P. Bessor](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, February 15, 2019)

1947, July 7 — 4:00 p.m. [William A. Rhodes](#), an independent scientist and inventor in Phoenix, Arizona, is walking to his workshop in his backyard at 4333 N. 14th Street when he hears a "whoosh" and sees an object banking in tight circles to the south at an altitude of about 1,000 feet. He takes two photos as it passes above his house, the first as it is approaching and looks somewhat cigar-shaped, and the second as it is banking and looks more heel-shaped with a small hole in the center. The photos are reproduced in the July 9 issue of the *Arizona Republic*. A few weeks later, an Army Air Corps Intelligence officer from Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California, visits Rhodes and takes the prints and negatives, but Rhodes is unable to get them back. However, [Kenneth Arnold](#) obtains them on a later visit to Hamilton, and they wind up with [James E. McDonald](#). Rhodes actually has an informal top-secret clearance because of his invention of a degaussing device for ships. He dies in 2007 at the age of 90. (NICAP, "[The Rhodes Photo Case](#)"; Robert C. Hanika, "[Speedy 'Saucer' Zips through Local Sky](#)," *Phoenix Arizona Republic*, July 9, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, [p. IV-4](#); Kevin D. Randle, "[More of the Best UFO Photographs](#)," *A Different Perspective*, November 30, 2006; Kevin D. Randle, "[Beyond the Rhodes Photographs](#)," *A Different Perspective*, October 4, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "[William Rhodes and His Ph.D.](#)," *A Different Perspective*, October 19, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "[Rhodes Wrap-Up](#)," *A Different Perspective*, October 26, 2010; Michael D. Swords, "[Can You Learn Anything from UFO Photos, Part Two](#)," *The Big Study*, July 5, 2012; Swords 53, 54; Kevin D. Randle, "[Coast-to-Coast AM: FLIR and William Rhodes](#)," *A Different Perspective*, May 25, 2023; Kevin D. Randle, "[Coast-to-Coast AM: The Rhodes Photographs Revisited](#)," *A Different Perspective*, December 28, 2023)

1947, July 7 — 5:20 p.m. Radar technician David W. Chase watches a disc-shaped object passing overhead at Medford, Oregon. It appears to be flying at 600–700 mph on edge at right angles to the surface of the earth, though following its contours at 500–1,000 feet. The object gives off a bright light. (Bloecher, [p. III-18](#); Ray Palmer, "New Report on the Flying Saucers," *Fate* 4, no. 1 (January 1951): 63–81; Clark III 1099; Clark IV 1225)

1947, July 7 — 7:45 p.m. Five students on a practice baseball field at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, see three metallic oval objects flying swiftly and silently in a triangular formation overhead. They seem to be about 10 feet in diameter and are flying east over the Olentangy River. They are out of sight within 10 seconds. (Bloecher, [p. II-6](#))

1947, July 7 — 9:00 p.m. [Orrin Williams](#) and his wife [Albertine](#), along with Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Grant, are fishing on Great Pond near Rome, Maine, when they see a "spinning rocket" come out of the southern sky and stop abruptly overhead, where it hovers as a ball of fire. A similar object comes from the east, passing close by the first one. A third object approaches from the east and stops by the first object before moving on. The first object then retraces its path to the south at high speed. The display lasts several minutes. (Bloecher, [p. II-10](#))

1947, July 7 — 9:30 p.m. Charles Crockett, 15, is walking along Western Avenue in Manchester, Maine, when he sees a cluster of luminous objects to the west, just above the treetops on the north end of Cobboosecontee Lake. They are still visible when he arrives home and alerts his mother and grandmother. Possible searchlight beams. ("[Flying Saucers' Still Seen Flitting in N.E. Sky](#)," *Bangor (Maine) Daily News*, July 8, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, [p. II-20](#))

1947, July 7 — 10:15 p.m. *Louisville Times* photographer [Al Hixenbaugh](#) is at Preston Street and Bickels Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, when he notices three "fiery balls" in the sky. He takes a 5-second exposure, capturing two of the objects that show as slightly curved streaks. He estimates they are 1–2 miles away, moving at 200 mph, and at an altitude of 1,000–2,000 feet. Robert Delara of 2745 West Market Street also sees the three objects shooting northward. (*Louisville (Ky.) Times*, July 8, 1947; "[Flying Liver Pills' over Kentucky](#)," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 9, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, [pp. IV-4–5](#); "[La Fotografía \(y la Película\) Al Hixenbaugh 1](#)," *Marcianitos Verdes*, February 5, 2017)

- 1947, July 8 — 2:00 a.m. [Marcel](#) stops at home in Roswell to show his wife [Viaud](#) and son [Jesse Jr.](#) some of the Corona, New Mexico, crash debris. Over the next hour they examine it on the kitchen floor. Marcel Sr. says it is a flying saucer. Marcel is not breaking regulations since nothing has yet been classified. With the help of his son, Marcel loads it into the car to be taken to Roswell AAF. (“[Affidavit of Jesse A. Marcel Jr.](#),” March 6, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 166](#); Robert J. Durant, “[C. B. Moore’s Mogul Tape](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 7–9, 32; Robert A. Galganski, “[Probing the Roswell Thin-Strut Debris](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 3 (Fall 1999): 8–12, 30; Karl T. Pflock, et al., “[Debris Details](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 4 (Winter 1999): 28–29)
- 1947, July 8 — 6:00 a.m. [Marcel](#) and [Cavitt](#) visit with [Blanchard](#) in his quarters and tell him what they have seen. Blanchard calls base Provost Marshal Maj. [Edwin D. Easley](#) and orders him to post guards on the roads around the debris field. Armed guards encircle the primary areas, denying access to anyone without official business. Easley is directed to locate [Brazel](#) and have him escort the MPs to the debris field. Blanchard calls Eighth Air Force headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, and advises them of the new find. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 166](#); Kevin D. Randle, “[New Documentation for Roswell: The Easley Letter](#),” A Different Perspective, November 6, 2023)
- 1947, July 8 — 7:30 a.m. The regular 9:00 a.m. Roswell Army Air Field staff meeting is moved up 90 minutes. The main topic for discussion is [Marcel](#) and [Cavitt](#) reporting an extensive debris field near Corona in Lincoln County, New Mexico, approximately 75 miles northwest of Roswell. A preliminary briefing is provided by [Blanchard](#) about the separate impact site approximately 40 miles north of Roswell. Samples of wreckage are passed around the table. Pieces that resemble metal foil, paper-thin yet extremely strong, and pieces with unusual markings along their length are handed from man to man, each voicing their opinion. No one is able to identify the crash debris. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 166](#))
- 1947, July 8 — 9:00 a.m. [Cavitt](#) and [Lewis S. Rickett](#), who has returned from an assignment in Carlsbad, New Mexico, drive a staff car to the impact site north of Roswell, followed by MPs. They are stopped by the guards who are still posted. When they arrive, they see that a small containment of debris remains that Rickett is allowed to examine. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 166](#))
- 1947, July 8 — 9:30 a.m.–9:20 p.m. Four separate UFO sightings take place at Muroc Army Airfield [now Edwards AFB] in southern California, the Air Force’s aircraft testing and development center. [Ruppelt](#) says these are the first sightings “that really made the Air Force take a deep interest in UFOs.” At 9:30 a.m., 1st Lt. [Joseph C. McHenry](#) and three others see two silver discs heading silently in a westerly direction at about 350–400 mph at about 8,000 feet; after they pass, a third disc is seen to the north flying in tight circles. At 11:50 a.m., Maj. [Richard R. Shoop](#), Col. S. A. Gilkey, and Capt. [John P. Stapp](#) are sitting in an observation truck at Rogers Dry Lake and see an oval, white, aluminum-like object silently descending from 20,000 feet for about 90 seconds; it has two knobs or thick fins on the top. Around 4:00 p.m., a pilot flying an F-51 some 40 miles south of Muroc sees a “flat object of a light-reflecting nature”; it is flying too high for him to climb up to it. At 9:20 p.m., spherical objects are again seen in the area, this time at 8,000 feet and moving against the wind at 300 mph. (NICAP, “[Observers Sight Saucer over Base](#)”; NICAP, “[Object Observed by Four Witnesses in Observation](#)”; NICAP, “[Object Descends to Ground Level, Rises](#)”; NICAP, “[Flat Object with Fin Observed by F-51 Pilot](#)”; [Sparks](#), pp. 22–23; [Affidavit](#), Joseph C. McHenry to Thomas A. McMillan, July 11, 1947; [Affidavit](#), Richard R. Shoop to Thomas A. McMillan, July 11, 1947; [Affidavit](#), Jannette Marie Scott to Thomas A. McMillan, July 14, 1947; [Affidavit](#), John Paul Stapp to Thomas A. McMillan, August 12, 1947; [Bloecher](#), pp. III-4, 12; Michael D. Swords, “[The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Clark III 436, 783–784; Clark IV 482, 865; Patrick Gross, “[The Muroc Army Air Field Incidents](#)”)
- 1947, July 8 — 11:00 a.m. Col. [William Blanchard](#) dictates a press release about the Roswell recovery to Public Information Officer Lt. [Walter Haut](#), who delivers the release to radio stations around noon (the first apparently to [Frank Joyce](#) at KGFL) and the newspapers in Roswell, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 167](#); Patrick Gross, “[Roswell 1947—Witnesses](#), [Art McQuiddy](#),” November 8, 2005)
- 1947, July 8 — The Army Air Force issues a press release saying that, based on a “preliminary study,” the flying discs are *not* secret bacteriological weapons designed by a foreign power, experimental army aircraft, or spaceships. However, Army and Navy officials are not certain what they are. (“[‘Saucer’ Dept.—All Designs](#),” *Racine (Wis.) Journal Times*, July 8, 1947, p. 6)
- 1947, July 8 — Airplane inventor [Orville Wright](#) tells the press that the saucer craze is propaganda “dished up by the government to support the current State Department campaign to get us into another war.” (“[Wright Raps Saucers As War Propaganda](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, July 9, 1947, p. 1)

- 1947, July 8 — Rep. [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) (D-Tex.) requests information on the flying discs from the War Department. Someone from Gen. [Carl Spaatz](#)'s office writes back on July 21 to tell him the Army Air Forces are looking into it, but there is "no indication" that the discs are "new or unusual missiles or aircraft." (Swords 38)
- 1947, July 8? — British radio and TV entertainer [Hughie Green](#) is driving across the US. About 250 miles west of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he hears an announcement that a flying saucer "had crashed in New Mexico and that the Army were moving in to investigate. Later the program was interrupted again and quite a few details were given." When he arrives at Philadelphia, there is nothing in the newspapers or on the radio. ("[Star Puzzled](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no 1 (Spring 1955): 3; "[Hughie Green: 'Peripheral Witness to Roswell?'](#)" Above Top Secret forum, October 20, 2012; Clark III 319; Clark IV 336)
- 1947, July 8 — 1:00 p.m. [Marcel](#) goes on a B-29 special flight (the second) to Fort Worth Army Air Field, Texas, with the wreckage to report to Gen. [Roger M. Ramey](#). The pilot is Lt. Col. [Payne Jennings Jr.](#) with Lt. Col. [Robert Barrowclough](#) riding in the bombardier's seat. Only a few packages are loaded onto the plane. One, a triangular package about two feet long, is wrapped in brown paper. The other three are about the size of shoe boxes. They are so light that it feels as if there is nothing in them. When it lands in Fort Worth, the enlisted soldiers on the plane are ordered to remain aboard until a guard is posted and Marcel gets off taking one of the packages that he has been carrying on his lap. According to Flight Engineer M/Sgt. [Robert Porter](#), the soldiers go to the mess hall once the guard is posted. The remaining debris is transferred to a B-25 that is flying to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. Marcel goes to Ramey's office and puts the package on his desk. They both go to a map room, where Marcel shows him where the debris was found. When they return to Ramey's office, Marcel sees that the package he brought has been substituted by a torn-up weather balloon. Ramey proposes a plan that possibly originates from his bosses at the Pentagon. Attention needs to be diverted from the more important impact site north of Roswell by acknowledging the Corona location. Too many civilians are involved, and the press is already alerted. (Robert Shirkey, [Affidavit](#), April 30, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 167–168; Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, "[Flight to Fort Worth: From Complicity to Cover-Up](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 7–13, 30)
- 1947, July 8 — 2:26 p.m. [Haut](#)'s press release about the recovered disc reaches the Associated Press wire. The story announces: "The army air forces here today announced a flying disc had been found" the previous week. It says that the disc is recovered by intelligence officers of the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell Army Air Field [now closed], New Mexico, with the help of local ranchers and the Chavez County Sheriff's Office. It adds that the disc is being loaned by Maj. [Marcel](#) "to higher headquarters." (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 167)
- 1947, July 8 — 2:30 p.m. [Blanchard](#) decides it is time to "go on leave." Too many phone callers into the base are asking to speak with him. He, along with a few members of his staff, drive out to the Corona, New Mexico, debris field. Those left at the base are told to inform the reporters that the colonel is now on leave. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 167; Kevin D. Randle, "[When a Leave Is Not a Leave: Col. Blanchard and the Roswell Timeline](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 18–20; Karl T. Pflock, "[Taking Liberties with a Leave](#)," *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 18)
- 1947, July 8 — 2:41 p.m. The press release is put on the United Press wire.
- 1947, July 8 — 3:50 p.m. An Army National Guard pilot flying near Mount Baldy, California, observes a flat object, reflecting light, about the size of a fighter. He gives chase, attempting to keep it in sight, but is unable to do so. (Air Force Base Intelligence Report, "[Flying Discs](#)," July 30, 1947; Kevin D. Randle, "[Roswell, Nathan Twining, and the Mini-EOTS](#)," A Different Perspective, October 6, 2014)
- 1947, July 8 — 4:26 p.m. Thomas Dale is flying a small plane at 2,800 feet over Alton, New Hampshire, with passenger Jere Stetson. They see a metallic object some 2 miles away to the east and some 1,500 feet below their aircraft. It approaches them at great speed before veering to the north. They estimate it is 20 feet long and "not exactly round." (Bloecher, p. III-12)
- 1947, July 8 — 4:30 p.m. The *Roswell Daily Record* carries the "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer" story. In Fort Worth, Texas, [Ramey](#) issues a statement saying the Roswell officers were fooled and that the material is a Rawin target device suspended by a Neoprene rubber balloon. ("Rawin" is a method of determining wind speed and direction by using radar or radio waves to track a balloon carrying either a radar-sensitive target or radio transponder.). The debris is switched for the newspaper photographer, [James Bond Johnson](#), at a press conference held by Ramey and Col. [Thomas J. DuBose](#) in late afternoon. Johnson takes six photos of the debris and leaves after 20 minutes. One of the photos shows Ramey holding a piece of paper (the "Ramey memo") with words written on it; unfortunately, the resolution is inadequate to decisively "deblur" the text using modern technological methods. A weather officer, Maj. [Irving Newton](#), is called in to identify the debris as from a balloon. A photo of Newton with the debris is taken by another photographer. ("[RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region](#),"

Roswell (N.Mex.) Daily Record, July 8, 1947, p. 1; [“Disc Seized by Army Only Piece of Balloon; Search Still Going On,” Philadelphia \(Pa.\) Inquirer](#), July 9, 1947, pp. 1, 3; [“Captured New Mexico ‘Disc’ Proves Dud,” Phoenix Arizona Republic](#), July 9, 1947, p. 1; Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, [“Fort Worth, July 8, 1947: The Cover-Up Begins,” IUR 15](#), no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1990): 21–23; Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, [“The Fort Worth Press Conference: The J. Bond Johnson Connection,” IUR 15](#), no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1990): 5–16; Thomas Jefferson DuBose, [Affidavit](#), September 16, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 41–43, 168; Robert A. Galganski, [“Probing the Roswell Thin-Strut Debris,” IUR 24](#), no. 3 (Fall 1999): 8–12, 30; Donald R. Burleson, [“Deciphering the Ramey Memo,” IUR 25](#), no. 2 (Summer 2000): 3–6, 32; Robert A. Galganski, [“The Roswell Debris Field: Size Doesn’t Matter,” IUR 25](#), no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 14–19, 30; James Houran and Kevin D. Randle, [“Interpreting the Ramey Memo,” IUR 27](#), no. 2 (Summer 2002): 10–14, 26–27; Donald R. Burleson, [“On Blobs and Chiaroscuro,” IUR 27](#), no. 3 (Fall 2002): 24; James Houran and Kevin D. Randle, [“‘A Message in a Bottle’: Confounds in Deciphering the Ramey Memo from the Roswell UFO Case,” Journal of Scientific Exploration 16](#), no. 1 (2002): 45–66; Barry Greenwood, [“An Observation on the Ramey Memo,” UFO Historical Revue](#), no. 11 (March 2004): 1–8; James Houran, *A Search for Meaning in the Ramey Document: From the Roswell UFO Case*, Fund for UFO Research, 2006; Dennis Balthaser, [“Interview: James Bond Johnson \(Roswell Wreckage Photographer\),” The UFO Chronicles](#), March 27, 2006; Barry Greenwood, [“Ramey Memo Redux: Line 5,” UFO Historical Revue](#), no. 13 (September 2009): 5–19; Kevin D. Randle, *Roswell in the 21st Century*, The Author, 2016; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 232–238; Graff 8–9; [“Interview with Roswell ‘UFO Debris’ Photographer, Star-Telegram Reporter J. Bond Johnson,” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel](#), February 2, 2024; Kevin D. Randle, [“Roswell Solved: I Think Not,” A Different Perspective](#), July 29, 2024)

1947, July 8 — 5:17 p.m. Special Agent [Percy Wyly II](#) in the Dallas, Texas, FBI office sends a teletype headed “Flying Disc, Information Concerning” to [J. Edgar Hoover](#) and Strategic Air Command in Cincinnati, Ohio, expressing some doubt about the balloon explanation: “telephonic conversation between [Eighth Air Force] and Wright Field had not borne out this belief. Disc and balloon being transported to Wright Field by special plane for examination.” Wyly receives this information from Maj. Edwin M. Kirton at Fort Worth. Roswell mortician [Glenn Dennis](#), intrigued by inquiries from the base about small caskets, visits the base hospital but is turned away forcibly; a nurse friend (possibly 1st Lt. [Adeline “Eileen” M. Fanton](#)) warns him to leave before he gets into trouble and supposedly tells him that three alien bodies had been found. Other witnesses to recovered bodies include T/Sgt [Ernest R. Robbins](#), Maj. [Edwin D. Easley](#), Ruben and Pete Anaya, New Mexico Lieutenant Governor [Joseph Montoya](#), Sgt. [Melvin E. Brown](#) (who says the bodies looked Asian), Capt. [Oliver “Pappy” W. Henderson](#), Staff Sgt. [Robert A. Slusher](#), and [Charles H. Forgas](#). ([Wyly’s teletype message]; [“Affidavit of Sappho Henderson,” July 9, 1991](#); Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 168–169; Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, [“Who’s the Dummy Now? The Latest Air Force Report,” IUR 22](#), no. 3 (Fall 1997): 10; Good Need, pp. 91–93; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 97–100; [“Roswell: W. Glenn Davis \[sic\] Interview, 11 19 1990,” NICAP Official YouTube channel](#), July 8, 2021)

1947, July 8 — 6:29 p.m. An Associated Press story goes out that a Fort Worth Army Air Field officer ([Newton](#)) has identified the Roswell debris as a weather balloon. ([“AP Wires Burn with ‘Captured Disk’ Story,” Champaign \(Ill.\) Daily Illini](#), July 9, 1947, p. 5; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 46–52, 168)

1947, July 9 — 1:00 a.m. William Valetta sees 5–6 domed discs streaking eastward as he stands outside his house at 4328 South Emerald Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. They make a swishing noise and he sees a blue flame underneath each of them. Smoke seems to be coming from the tops. (Bloecher, pp. II-13–14)

1947, July 9 — RAAF officers locate [Mack Brazel](#) and take him to the base for questioning, then to the *Roswell Daily Record* and radio station KGPL for a revised, sanitized version of his story, this time saying he found the debris on June 14. Copies of [Haut](#)’s original press release are recovered. Three fully loaded C-54’s carry debris to Los Alamos, New Mexico, via Kirtland AFB, according to Robert E. Smith, First Air Transport Unit. A crate allegedly carrying alien bodies is flown from Roswell to Fort Worth in a B-29, according to Staff Sgt. [Robert A. Slusher](#), who says he was on board. (Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, [“Roswell, July 9, 1947,” IUR 14](#), no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1989): 4–6, 23; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 53–58, 169–171; Kevin D. Randle, [“Bessie Brazel’s Story,” IUR 20](#), no. 3 (May/June 1995): 3–5, 24; Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, [“Mack Brazel Reconsidered,” IUR 24](#), no. 4 (Winter 1999): 13–19; Kevin D. Randle, [“Bessie Brazel Schreiber and the Roswell Crash,” A Different Perspective](#), September 19, 2015)

- 1947, July 9 — The FBI interviews Capt. Emil J. Smith and copilot Ralph Stevens at Boise (Idaho) Municipal Airport about their July 4 sighting. (ClearIntent, [p. 151](#); Good Above, [pp. 253–254](#))
- 1947, July 9 — US Sen. [Glen H. Taylor](#) (D-Idaho) says he hopes the saucers will turn out to be space ships from another planet, whose hostility might end all our “petty arguments on earth.” (“[Can’t Laugh Off Saucers,’ Says Senator](#),” *Boston Globe*, July 9, 1947, p. 5)
- 1947, July 9 — The US Army Air Force issues classified orders requiring reports of any “saucer-like” objects to be investigated and passed on to T-2 Technical Intelligence at Wright Field, Ohio, with summaries sent to the Pentagon. However, most of the early cases still go directly to the Air Force Office of Intelligence at the Pentagon. (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, “[Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 6)
- 1947, July 9 — 10:30 a.m. President [Truman](#) meets with Sen. [Carl Hatch](#) (D-N.Mex.).
- 1947, July 9 — 10:35 a.m. Assistant Secretary of War for Air [Stuart Symington](#) meets with Lt. Gen. [James Doolittle](#) and Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#). The conversation is presumably about the flying discs. (Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell II*, Moonset, 2001)
- 1947, July 9 — 10:50 a.m. [Doolittle](#), [Vandenberg](#), and [Symington](#) meet in the office of Army Chief of Staff [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#). Maj. Gen. [Lauris Norstad](#), director of the Plans and Operations Department, is also present. (Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell II*, Moonset, 2001)
- 1947, July 9 — 11:58 a.m. [Vandenberg](#) calls President [Truman](#).
- 1947, July 9 — 12:50 p.m. [Vandenberg](#) and [Symington](#) meet with the Joint Chiefs.
- 1947, July 9 — 12:17 p.m. *Idaho Statesman* aviation editor and former B-29 pilot [David N. Johnson](#), flying in an Idaho Air National Guard AT-6 Texan, sees a black object standing out against the clouds as he prepares to land at Gowen Field [now Boise Airport], Boise, Idaho. Johnson takes 10 seconds of 8mm motion-picture film (but it shows no trace of the object). It makes a slow roll, then makes a stair-step climb, then disappears into the clouds. (NICAP, “[AT-6 Encounters Black Disc](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 23; Dave Johnson, “[Flying Reporter Finally Sights Black, Darting Disc High over Boise](#),” *Boise Idaho Statesman*, July 10, 1947, pp. 1, 6; Dave Johnson, “[Boise Newsman Photographs Disc](#),” *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, July 10, 1947, p. 9; Dave Johnson, “[Flying Newsman Learns Disc Failed to ‘Take’ on Movie Film](#),” *Boise Idaho Statesman*, July 11, 1947, pp. 1, 9; UFOEv, pp. [13](#), [130](#); Bloecher, pp. [III-12–13](#); Michael D. Swords, “[The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 39–43, 55; Clark III 436; Clark IV 482)
- 1947, July 9 — 2:30 p.m. [Vandenberg](#) and [Symington](#) meet again.
- 1947, July 9 — 4:17 p.m. [Vandenberg](#) meets with Maj. Gen. [Emmett O’Donnell Jr.](#), director of information for the Army Air Force. (Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell II*, Moonset, 2001).
- 1947, July 9 — Late afternoon. 1Lt [Chester P. Barton](#), stationed at Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico, is sent by Maj. [Edwin D. Easley](#) to go to the crash site and report back to him about what is going on. He gets no closer than about 50 feet from the wreckage, which appears to have burned. He is convinced it is the remains of a B-29 bomber. He remains at the site for about 90 minutes then reports back to Easley. (Joseph Stefula, “[The Roswell Testimony of Chester P. Barton](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 21–23, 29–31)
- 1947, July 9 — Brig. Gen. [George F. Schulgen](#), chief of the Requirements Intelligence branch of Army Air Force Intelligence, requests FBI help with the problem of the flying discs from Special Agent [S. Wesley Reynolds](#). Army intelligence claims they are not Army or Navy craft. He says that Air Corps Intelligence is utilizing all its scientists to study the cases to see whether they are natural or artificial or inspired by “individuals of Communist sympathies with the view to causing hysteria and fear of a secret Russian weapon.” (E. G. Fitch to D. M. Ladd, “[Flying Disks](#),” July 10, 1947; ClearIntent, [p. 148](#); Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, p. 14)
- 1947, July 9 — Shortly after 5:00 p.m. Electrician Raymond Edward Lane and his wife are picking huckleberries near Midland, Michigan, when they hear a kind of “puff” noise nearby. Looking up, they see a ball of white, sparkling fire, like a Fourth of July sparkler, about the size of a bushel basket, no more than 100 feet away. It is hovering several feet above a stretch of sand. After about 10 or 15 seconds, the light goes out and the object vanishes. The only thing that remains is a peculiar dark substance on the sand and some metallic fragments. Lane collects fragments of the material in a tin can and brings them the next morning to Robert S. Spencer, a senior researcher at the Dow Chemical Company materials research laboratory in Midland. Spencer goes to the site with Lane and Dow’s internal security chief Edward Fales. Spencer has the Dow spectroscopy laboratory analyze the fragments and reports that the shiny pellets are largely silver mixed with a bit of silicon. They conclude that it consists of fused sand. By the end of September, the lab has analyzed ash-like powder found at the site. It turns out to be thorite that is slightly radioactive, mixed with magnesium hydroxide and other trace minerals. The conclusion is

- that the sighting is the result of some kind of home-made fireworks experiment, although Dow chemist [John Josef Grebe](#) suspects it might have been a small missile. (NICAP, “[Object Hovers over Sand](#)”; Bloecher, pp. IV-2-3; Joel Carpenter, “[The Midland Fireball: Dow Chemical, UFOs, and Evidence](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 28-32)
- 1947, July 9 — 11:30 p.m. Constable Eric Kearsey sees four yellowish discs flying in close formation above Grand Falls, Newfoundland. He calls other people to watch them as well. They are moving at high speed to the east with a dipping motion. At 11:40 p.m., an egg-shaped object “the size of a barrel head” passes overhead in the same direction. (*St. John’s (Newf.) Evening Telegram*, July 9, 1947; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes](#). The Author, 2001, pp. 45–46)
- 1947, July 10 — FBI agent E. G. Fitch forwards [Schulgen](#)’s request to Assistant Director of the Domestic Intelligence Division [D. Milton “Mickey” Ladd](#) at FBI headquarters in a memo titled “Flying Disks.” Ladd adds a note saying that the “Bureau does not believe it should go into these investigations” because many cases are “pranks.” Associate FBI Director [Clyde Tolson](#) adds, “I think we should do this,” while [J. Edgar Hoover](#) writes, “I would do it but before agreeing to it we must insist upon full access to discs recovered. For instance in the La. Case the Army grabbed it and would not let us have it for cursory examination.” (E. G. Fitch to D. M. Ladd, “[Flying Disks](#),” July 10, 1947; RosRept, pp. 25–26; Good Above, p. 541; Kevin D. Randle, “[The Hoover Memo Again](#),” A Different Perspective, July 29, 2015)
- 1947, July 10 — Roswell debris and bodies have been flown from Fort Worth to Wright Field, according to future Brig. Gen. [Arthur Exon](#), then stationed at Wright Field, Ohio, who says that a special unit is created to study them. The story is slightly corroborated by [Jack G. Tiffany Jr.](#), whose father Jack G. Tiffany Sr. is one of the crew members that flies debris from Fort Worth to Dayton. (“[Brig. Gen. Arthur E. Exon](#),” Roswell Proof; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 61–66; Thomas J. Carey and Donald J. Schmitt, *Inside the Real Area 51*, New Page, 2013, pp. 165–175; Nukes 483–486; Anthony Bragalia, “[Scientists Who Studied Roswell UFO Crash Debris and Bodies Named](#),” UFO Explorations, Aug./Sept. 2023)
- 1947, July 10 — 10:00 a.m. [John H. Janssen](#), aviation editor of the *Morristown Daily Record*, takes a photo of four luminous objects as he is flying his Piper J-3 Cub at 10,000 feet over Morristown, New Jersey. Three of the objects are silvery white, while the fourth is a dull metallic color. (“[Flying Saucers’ Invade Morristown: 4 Discs Photographed near Airport](#),” *Paterson (N.J.) Evening News*, July 11, 1947, p. 10; NICAP, “[07-10-1947 USA, New Jersey, Morristown](#)”)
- 1947, July 10 — 10:30 a.m. Lt. Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#), deputy chief of Air Staff for Research and Development at the Pentagon, meets with [Vandenberg](#), Maj. Gen. [Leslie Groves](#), and Lt. Gen. [Robert Miller Montague](#).
- 1947, July 10 — 12:15 p.m. [Doolittle](#) and [Vandenberg](#) meet with [Truman](#).
- 1947, July 10 — 2:40 p.m. Secretary of War [Robert P. Patterson](#) meets with [Groves](#) and [Montague](#).
- 1947, July 10 — 4:25 p.m. A V-2 launch is aborted at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, after 32 seconds due to an early yaw. Lieut. Gen. [Nathan Twining](#) stops at White Sands before returning to Wright Field, Ohio.
- 1947, July 10 — 4:47 p.m. University of New Mexico astronomer [Lincoln LaPaz](#), his wife Leota, and two daughters, Jean and Mary, are driving west on Highway 60 near Fort Sumner, New Mexico, when they see a sharply outlined, white ellipsoidal object wobbling in the sky to the west about 25 miles away. They watch it for about 30 seconds, then it disappears behind a cloud, but reappears 5 seconds later further to the right. He estimates its size as 245 feet long and 100 feet thick at the maximum, with a horizontal speed of 120–180 mph and a vertical speed of 600–900 mph. It moves silently with no vapor trail. It resembles no known aircraft. (NICAP, “[200’ Ellipsoidal Object Sighted by La Paz Family](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 24; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” *Life*, April 7, 1952, p. 84; Bloecher, p. III-19; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 60; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes](#). The Author, 2001, p. 58)
- 1947, July 10 — 5:30 p.m. Three civilian airline mechanics (John N. Mehrman Jr., Robert Leidy, and John E. Woodruff) at Ernest Harmon AFB [now Stephenville International Airport] are returning from a fishing trip and driving up a mountain road near Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland. They see a bluish-black exhaust trail that has cut through some clouds leaving a “hole.” Woodruff sees a disc-shaped object the apparent size of a C-54 transport plane coming out of the clouds and traveling at a terrific rate of speed. The hole remains in the cloud for more than an hour. Leidy takes two Kodachrome photos of the exhaust trail. The sighting later impresses Project Sign personnel to the extent that they ask questions about UFO effects on clouds. (NICAP, “[Harmon Field Photo](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 24; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947](#). The Author, February 1991, pp. 44–45; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 49–50; Chris Rutkowski, “[The Cold, Hard Facts about UFOs in Canada](#),” *IUR* 34, no. 1 (September 2011): 8–9; Michael D. Swords, “[Can](#)

[You Learn Anything from UFO Photos, Part Two](#),” The Big Study, July 5, 2012; Swords 38–39; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 167, 264–267)

- 1947, July 10 — [Mack Brazel](#) is still being held at a guest house on the Roswell, New Mexico, base. The officers try to convince him not to say anything about what he has seen. They also try to prevent him talking to reporters. He is given a physical by doctors at the base hospital. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 172](#))
- 1947, July 11 — Debriefings of all military participants in the Corona debris recovery operation take place. They are taken into a room in small groups and told that the recovery is highly classified and not to talk about it. Military personnel warn civilians around Roswell, New Mexico, that they are not to talk about what happened. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [pp. 72–76](#), [172](#))
- 1947, July 11 — 11:00 a.m. USAAF Col. [Bruce H. Perry](#) and Maj. [William E. Geyser](#), 59th AACS Group, see a round 2–3 foot or 10-foot aluminum or silver-metallic sphere traveling at great speed to the south of Elmendorf AFB [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska. Estimated altitude is 3,000–4,000 feet. (NICAP, “[Round 3’ Aluminum Object at Great Speed](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 24)
- 1947, July 12 — [Kenneth Arnold](#) is interviewed at the Hotel Owyhee in Boise, Idaho, by Lt. [Frank M. Brown](#) and Capt. [William L. Davidson](#), who have flown in from Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California. He also submits a written statement to Army Air Force intelligence, referring to the objects as “saucer-like.” At the end of the report he draws a picture of what the objects appeared to look like at their closest approach to Mt. Rainier, Washington. He writes, “They seemed longer than wide, their thickness was about 1/20th their width.” As to motion, Arnold writes, “They flew like many times I have observed geese to fly in a rather diagonal chain-like line as if they were linked together.” (James Easton suggests in 2007 that Arnold may have seen pelicans, based on their movements, but this seems unlikely.) While they are at Arnold’s house, Brown and Davidson hear that pilot Emil J. Smith is in Boise on a layover, and all three go to the airport to talk to him. (Frank M. Brown, “[Memorandum for the Officer in Charge](#),” July 16, 1947; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, [pp. 21–23](#); Kenneth Arnold, “[Confidential](#),” Project 1947; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, “[Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 6; James Easton, “Kenneth Arnold and the Pelicans,” *UFO Conjectures*, April 4, 2007; Martin Shough, “[The Singular Adventure of Mr. Kenneth Arnold](#),” June 2010)
- 1947, July 12 — The FBI conducts a shorter follow-up interview with Capt. Emil J. Smith. (ClearIntent, [p. 153](#))
- 1947, July 12 — 2:30 p.m. Earl Page is flying a light plane from Las Vegas to Salt Lake City with his wife Beulah and son Ronald. Over Utah Lake, Utah, they see a formation of discs approach their plane from the front and pass to the right. Page thinks they may be as close as 50 feet. He banks the plane sharply to pursue them, but they disappear in the distance. All three of the witnesses experience an overwhelming emotional reaction, as well as nausea. (Frank B. Salisbury, *The Utah UFO Display*, Devin-Adair, 1974, [p. xvii](#))
- 1947, July 12 — 6:30 p.m. USAAF Maj. Edward Graham and others at Elmendorf AFB [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska, see a balloon-like grayish object, 10 feet long, flying northwest at 100 mph at an altitude of 1,500 feet and following the contour of mountains 5 miles away. It is paralleling the course of a landing C-47. ([Sparks](#), p. 24)
- 1947, July 12 — 6:35 p.m. Seamen John C. Kennedy and Ben Bobberly are on duty at Naval Air Station Seattle at Sand Point [now closed and redeveloped as Magnuson Park], Seattle, Washington. They notice a silvery disc-shaped object flying overhead to the east at 12,000 feet. At about the same time, [Arnold Bergh](#) and James Calahan watch three silvery discs flying quickly north from their location near North 82nd Street and 11th Avenue in Seattle. (Bloecher, [p. III-6](#))
- 1947, July 13 — 5:48 p.m. [Warren Baker Eames](#) is driving with his wife [Alice](#) on State Highway 2 near Gardner, Massachusetts, when they see a large, silvery, disc-shaped object in the sky ahead, moving west. As they watch, its nearest edge dips down toward them and it accelerates in a sudden burst of speed to the west-northwest. (Bloecher, [p. III-1](#))
- 1947, July 15 — [Mack Brazel](#) is returned home after an extensive interrogation at Roswell AAF, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, [p. 173](#))
- 1947, July 15 — 12:15 p.m. Col. [Frank A. Flynn](#) is flying a Vultee BT-13 Valiant over Concord, California, when a group of 12–15 objects approaches and passes him. At first he takes them for birds, but he can see no necks or wings and they are moving in excess of 200 mph. They are moving in a see-saw fashion at three different altitudes about 200 feet apart, and they appear to be about 15 feet across, white on the top and gray and black on the bottom. At their closest point, they are about one mile away. Flynn turns his plane around to pursue them, but they outdistance him quickly. (Bloecher, [p. III-13](#))

- 1947, July 16 — An initial report on the Ernest Harmon AFB case in Newfoundland is written up by a base intelligence officer. (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "[Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 8)
- 1947, July 19 — The antiaircraft command base of the Chinese Nationalist Government Air Force spots a UFO over Lanzhou City, Gansu, China. It is 50 feet long and has an apparent rudder and two jet pipes in the back. About 8:00 p.m., witnesses in Gansu province watch a red object cross the sky in 2 seconds. (Paul Dong, *The Four Major Mysteries of Mainland China*, Prentice-Hall, 1984, [p. 3](#))
- 1947, July 21 — A more detailed report on the Ernest Harmon AFB incident is sent to the Pentagon. (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "[Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 8)
- 1947, July 21 — *Life* magazine publishes a pictorial news story on the flying discs. ("[Speaking of Pictures: A Rash of Flying Disks Breaks Out over the U.S.](#)," *Life*, July 21, 1947, pp. 14–16)
- 1947, July 22 — [Ray Palmer](#) writes to [Kenneth Arnold](#) and tells him about the Maury Island, Washington, case, asking him to look into it. (Jason Colavito, ed., "[Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947](#)"; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, [p. 21](#); Clark III 720; Clark IV 789)
- 1947, July 23 — Day. [John H. Janssen](#), aviation editor of the *Morristown Daily Record*, is flying his Piper J-3 Cub at 6,000 feet near the Morristown Airport in New Jersey. He sees a flash of light, the engine gives out, and the plane seems to be motionless. Then he sees two UFOs (this time with portholes) and manages to get the propeller going again. This is one of the first cases of "vehicle interference" UFO cases involving an airplane. (NICAP, "[07-10-1947 USA, New Jersey, Morristown](#)"; John H. Janssen, "My Encounter with Flying Disks," *Fate* 2, no. 3 (September 1949): 12–16)
- 1947, July 23 — José C. Higgins and some assistants are surveying a field in Campina do Amoral in the Colônia Goio-Bang, located between Luiziana and Mamboré, Paraná, Brazil. On hearing a sharp sound, they see a grayish-white disc-shaped object about 100 feet in diameter, which soon lands and rests on curved metal feet. His assistants flee, but Higgins goes up to examine it. He sees a small glass window and two odd-looking beings observing him curiously from within. A door opens in the craft, and three other hairless beings dressed in transparent overalls emerge. They have large, round eyes with eyebrows and pronounced eyelashes. Their legs are disproportionately long and they are about 7 feet tall. One points a small tube at Higgins. They are speaking in an unknown, sonorous language. He walks toward the door and can see only a small cubicle, bordered by another door, and several portholes. Higgins by gestures asks where they are from and the leader draws a map in the dirt, indicating a seventh planet, presumably Uranus. He eludes them by pretending to look for his wife and goes into a hidden spot in the woods. After 30 minutes the beings climb into the object and take off. (Wikipedia, "[Caso José Higgins](#)"; Mark Cashman, "[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 18; Clark III 576–577; Brazil 21–23; Clark IV 634–635)
- 1947, July 25 — Intelligence agents from the Fourth Air Force, Lt. [Frank M. Brown](#) and Capt. [William L. Davidson](#), visit [Kenneth Arnold](#) in Boise, Idaho, and tell him to contact them if he runs across any interesting UFO evidence.
- 1947, July 25 — A memorandum over the signature of Maj. [Lester M. Garrigues](#) states that by order of Col. [Blanchard](#), the nine men who had been assigned duties in the recovery of the Roswell, New Mexico, crash are relieved from duty on that project. However, it is now largely considered a forgery by [Frank Kaufmann](#). Garrigues has assumed duties in China prior to this and is no longer in Roswell. (Kevin D. Randle, "[Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, "[Frank Kaufmann Exposed](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- 1947, July 25 — Day. Leonard Robertson is riding his motorcycle northeast of Dumas, Texas, when he sees a flash of light to his left. An oval object like a bubble is floating over a field about one mile away. Suddenly the object explodes, so Robertson takes a side road to the field where he retrieves a piece of metal "lighter than aluminum foil" about 30 inches long and 24 inches wide. There are two small holes in it and the center seems to be burned. ("[Perryton Man Displays Proof of Saucer Story](#)," *Amarillo (Tex.) Daily News*, August 6, 1947, p. 1; "[Salvage from Mystery Blast](#)," *Amarillo (Tex.) Daily News*, August 9, 1947, p. 5; Curt Collins, "[The Texas UFO Crash Debris Photo from July 1947](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, May 21, 2020)
- 1947, July 26 — President [Truman](#) signs the National Security Act, a major restructuring of the military and intelligence agencies. It creates a unified National Military Establishment (Army and Navy) and an independent Department of the Air Force, both under the new Secretary of Defense. The Joint Research and Development Board becomes the R&D brain center. Each of the three service secretaries maintains quasi-cabinet status. It establishes the National Security Council to advise the president and the Central Intelligence Agency, the first peacetime intelligence agency in the US. The CIA is prohibited from conducting domestic surveillance, but [Allen Dulles](#)

ensures it can handle “other functions” affecting “national security” without scrutiny from Congress or (sometimes) the president. Much of the CIA’s funding initially comes from wealthy Americans. The act creates the first black military and intelligence budget. (Wikipedia, “[National Security Act of 1947](#)”; Clark III 795; Clark IV 876)

- 1947, July 27 — [Ray Palmer](#) wires [Kenneth Arnold](#) \$200 to investigate the Maury Island, Washington, case. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, 1952, Palmer, pp. 23–24; Clark III 720; Clark IV 789)
- 1947, July 27 — Capt. [Davidson](#) and Lt. [Brown](#) interview Richard Rankin. The FBI finds that the CIC agents have also interviewed [Kenneth Arnold](#), Capt. Emil J. Smith, Flight Officer Ralph Stevens, and *Boise Statesman* Editor [David N. Johnson](#) about their UFO sightings. [Leverett G. Richards](#), aviation editor of the *Portland Oregonian*, informs the FBI of this information. He also calls Lieut. Gen. [Nathan Twining](#), who leaves “the impression that the AAF instituted this investigation to wash out the disc reports since they are definitely not of AAF origin.” (Memo for FBI Director from Mr. D. M. Ladd, August 14, 1947)
- 1947, July 28 — After assessing the Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, report, Gen. [Schulgen](#) orders Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#), deputy commander of T-2 intelligence at Wright Field, Ohio, to send a top-level assessment team (possibly [Alfred Loedding](#) or Col. [William R. Clingerman Jr.](#)) to Stephenville “immediately” and report directly to the Pentagon afterwards. McCoy suspects German or Russian technology. (Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 33–34; Swords 39)
- 1947, July 28 — 8:34 p.m. Capt. Charles F. Gibian and First Officer Jack Harvey are piloting United Air Lines Flight 105 and descending above Mountain Home, Idaho, in preparation for landing in Boise. Harvey sees an object that seems to be another aircraft ahead of them and to the south, but it rapidly moves to the northwest in a weaving fashion, diminishing in size and vanishing from view. (“[United Air Lines Crew Reports Sighting Flying Saucer between Mountain Home and Boise](#),” *Boise Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 29, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, pp. III-13–14)
- 1947, July 29 — A memo from FBI agent E. G. Fitch says that Special Agent [Reynolds](#) has met with Gen. [Schulgen](#) again, who assures him that “all discs recovered would be made available for the examination by the FBI agents.” (ClearIntent, pp. 149–150)
- 1947, July 29 — 6:55 a.m. [Kenneth Arnold](#) is flying to Tacoma, Washington, to investigate the Maury Island mystery. As he is over Union, Oregon, preparing to land at La Grande to refuel, he sees a cluster of 25 small (24–30 inches) brass-colored discs with a spot in the middle moving at a terrific speed. They come within 1,200 feet of his aircraft before veering away. At La Grande, he phones aviation editor [David N. Johnson](#) about his sighting, then reaches Tacoma at dusk. He gets a room (502) at the Winthrop Hotel, where a room and a bath have already been mysteriously reserved for him. [Harold A. Dahl](#) visits Arnold that night, then takes him to [Fred Crisman](#)’s place to see some Maury Island fragments. Arnold thinks it looks like lava. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 25–38; Bloecher, pp. I-15–16, III-14; Clark III 720–721; Clark IV 789)
- 1947, July 29 — 2:50 p.m. Assistant Base Operations Officer Capt. [William H. Ryherd](#) and ex-AAF B-29 pilot 1Lt Ward Stewart see two round, shiny, white objects near Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California. The objects are 15–25 feet in diameter and are flying at about 750 mph at an altitude of 6,000–10,000 feet heading south. One object flies straight and level; the other weaves from side-to-side like an escort fighter. ([Sparks](#), p. 25; Bloecher, p. III-5)
- 1947, July 30 — [Arnold](#) calls United Airlines pilot Capt. Emil J. Smith and asks him to come listen to the Maury Island, Washington, story. Smith arrives in Tacoma in the afternoon and cross-examines [Dahl](#) and [Crisman](#). Smith stays with Arnold at the Winthrop Hotel. Journalist [Ted Morello](#) of United Press calls Arnold and says that a crackpot has been calling him, explaining everything that is going on in the hotel room, including conversations with Smith when they are alone. They try but fail to locate a listening device in the room. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 38–46; Clark III 721; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 54–55; Clark IV 789)
- 1947, July 30 — The FBI issues a policy statement on “Flying Discs,” saying that sightings should be investigated to see whether an “individual might be desirous of seeking personal publicity, causing hysteria, or playing a prank.” (“Flying Discs,” Section B, *Bureau Bulletin* no. 42, Series 1947, in Black Vault FBI documents compilation, p. 48; ClearIntent, p. 150)
- 1947, July 30 — A memo with the subject line, “Recovery ‘Flying Discs,’” purportedly written by Maj. [Edwin D. Easley](#), acknowledges that the Roswell, New Mexico, crash could “represent an interplanetary craft of some kind.” However, it is now largely considered a forgery by [Frank Kaufmann](#). (Kevin D. Randle, “[Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, “[Frank Kaufmann Exposed](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- 1947, July 30 — The Garrett Estimate, an Air Force Base Intelligence Report on “Flying Discs”—an informal estimate of the situation based on 16 reports selected by Collections Officer Lt. Col. [George D. Garrett](#)—says that the “flying

saucer situation is not all imaginary or seeing too much in some natural phenomena. Something is really flying around.” Also, “Lack of topside inquiries . . . give more than ordinary weight to the possibility that this is a domestic project, about which the President, etc., know.” The study is passed up the line to Gen. [George Schulgen](#) and [Hoover](#) at the FBI for comment, subtly indicating that investigating a domestic project is a waste of time. (Air Force Base Intelligence Report, “[Flying Discs](#),” July 30, 1947; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 32–33, 57–61; Swords 39, 474–475; Kevin D. Randle, “[Roswell, Nathan Twining, and the Mini-EOTS](#),” A Different Perspective, October 6, 2014)

- 1947, July 31 — [Crisman](#) and [Dahl](#) bring heavy fragments and white metal from the Maury Island case to the Winthrop Hotel room in Tacoma, Washington. They cannot locate the photos. [Arnold](#) calls [Brown](#) and [Davidson](#) at Hamilton Army Airfield in Novato, California. They quickly depart for Tacoma. [Morello](#) calls Arnold and says his informant knows that Brown and Davidson are on their way in a B-25. They arrive in the late afternoon. The five men talk until 11:00 p.m., when Crisman offers to go home and get more Maury Island fragments. He returns with slightly different, more slag-like rock stuffed in a large cereal box, which is loaded into Brown’s army vehicle. Brown and Davidson leave to go back to Hamilton for Air Force Day the next day. Morello calls again and says his informant told him everything about what has just taken place. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, [pp. 46–57](#); [FBI teletype, August 6, 1947], [pp. 87–88](#); Clark III 721; Eghigian, *After*, p. 55; Clark IV 789–790)
- 1947, July 31 — Capt. [Edward Ruppelt](#): “By the end of July 1947, the UFO security lid was down tight. The few members of the press who did inquire about what the Air Force was doing got the same treatment that you would get today if you inquired about the number of thermonuclear weapons stock-piled in the U.S.’s atomic arsenal. . . [At T-2 there was] confusion almost to the point of panic.” (Ruppelt, [p. 22](#))
- 1947, August — USAF fighter pilot W. Boyce sees a hovering disc above Media, Pennsylvania. (UFOEv, [p. 33](#))
- 1947, August — T-2 Intelligence and Army Air Force Intelligence hold meetings over the next two months and prepare documents requesting an authorized project to investigate UFOs, per General [LeMay](#)’s 1946 instructions.
- 1947, August — The Air Materiel Command headquarters replaces T-2 Intelligence with the Technical Intelligence Department, tasked with producing reports and estimates on foreign air weapons. It begins to develop a photoanalysis capability.
- 1947, August — The *Denver Post* runs a story that claims the military is building a secret base consisting of huge caverns for atomic weapons defense purposes. The article says the new base is in the Manzano Mountains southeast of Sandia Base, New Mexico. The military responds by issuing a statement that operations and construction near Sandia Base are top secret. In fact, however, the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project is building one of several bases around the country that will be used for nuclear weapons storage. The AFSWP code-names the base “Site Able.” (Wikipedia, “[Sandia Base](#)”)
- 1947, August — Bernard Solli is haymaking near Lake Djupsjøen near Røros, Trøndelag, Norway. He hears a loud noise and sees an aluminum-colored, shiny object that floats down toward an islet, turns at an abrupt angle, and splashes into the water. It floats, then sinks after a while. (“[Water and Its Connection with UFOs](#),” *UFO Afrinews*, no. 10 (August 1994): 39, 40; Dolan, USO1, 127–128)
- 1947, August 1 — [Brown](#) and [Davidson](#) make a stop at McChord Field near Tacoma, Washington, to speak with intelligence officer Maj. [George Sander](#), then board the B-25 for Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California. It explodes and crashes near Kelso, Washington, at 1:30 a.m., 20 minutes after taking off, when the left engine catches fire. An army hitchhiker and engineer parachute to safety. Brown and Davidson fail to signal distress or bail out. After hearing the news, [Arnold](#) calls [Palmer](#) and offers to return his money. Palmer says to just mail him some fragments. Arnold and Smith visit [Morello](#) and [Dahl](#) and [Crisman](#). They talk to *Tacoma Times* reporter [Paul Lantz](#) in the hotel lobby, who writes the article “Sabotage Hinted in Crash of Army Bomber at Kelso.” Debris from the crash is not discovered until 2007. (“Air Force Day Marred As B-26 Crashes Here,” *Longview (Wash.) Daily News*, August 1, 1947, p. 1; “[Flying Saucers’ Figure in Two Air Crash Deaths](#),” *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, August 3, 1947, pp. 1, 5; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, [pp. 57–72](#); Leslie Slape, “[Marker Placed near Kelso to Honor Pilots in ‘47 Crash](#),” *Longview (Wash.) Daily News*, August 3, 2007, p. 9; Charlette LeFevre and Philip Lipson, “[The Maury Island UFO Incident](#),” February 2014; Clark III 721; Eghigian, *After*, p. 55; Clark IV 790)
- 1947, August 3 — Smith contacts Maj. [Sander](#), who relieves [Arnold](#) and Smith of all their fragments. He shows them a smelting lot where he finds similar pieces of slag. Smith and Arnold check out of the Winthrop Hotel in Tacoma, Washington. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, [pp. 73–84](#))
- 1947, August 4 — Pilots Capt. [Jack Peck](#) and Vince Daly see a smooth UFO northwest of Bethel, Alaska, dead ahead as they are flying a DC-3 for Al Jones Flying Service. Peck hauls back on his controls to bring his plane up to safer

altitude. Now 1,000 feet higher, the pilots glance downward and spot the UFO closer but on a changed course. Still dark against the sky, it looks to be as large as a C-54. Intrigued, Peck dives on the object as it pulls away, doing his best to get a better view, but it speeds up to an estimated 500 mph and is lost to view in four minutes. (NICAP, "[Smooth Black Object Crosses Path of DC-3](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 25; Harold D. Johnston, "[Matters of National Interest](#)," August 5, 1947)

- 1947, August 6 — An FBI memo from E. G. Fitch to [D. Milton Ladd](#) identifies either [Brown](#) or [Davidson](#) as a CIC agent on a top secret mission. (Jason Colavito, ed., "[Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947](#)")
- 1947, August 7 — The Seattle, Washington, FBI office interrogates [Crisman](#) and [Dahl](#) and announces the Maury Island incident is a hoax. The FBI file notes that Dahl stated that "if questioned by the authorities he was going to say it was a hoax because he did not want any further trouble over the matter." Dahl's daughter Louise admits in 2007 that the whole story was made up, as did her brother Charles in the late 1960s, who called Crisman a "smooth-talking con artist." The affair had started as a joke and blossomed into something worse. Associated Press reporter Elmer Vogel says that Dahl's wife had compelled him to tell Vogel the truth. [Morello](#) also speaks to Crisman, who admits the story is baseless. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 105–111; Jason Colavito, ed., "[Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947](#)"; Kenn Thomas, *Maury Island UFO: The Crisman Conspiracy*, IllumiNet, 1999; Anthony Bragalia, "[Maury Island No Longer a Mystery: A UFO Hoax Exposed!](#)" *UFO Digest*, July 8, 2010; Brian J. Robb, "Conspiracy Central: The Life and Lies of Fred Lee Crisman," *Fortean Times* 355 (July 2017): 32–39; Clark III 721; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 55–56; Clark IV 790)
- 1947, August 8 — Lt. Col. [Donald L. Springer](#), assistant chief of staff for army intelligence at the Fourth Air Force, who has just returned to Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California, from Tacoma, Washington, says "there is not sufficient evidence or testimony available to this headquarters to conclude whether or not the reports of so-called flying disks in the Tacoma area or any other area have any basis of fact." He adds that the Maury Island crash "did not occur." ("[Fourth Air Force Drops Disc Inquiry; Search Held Futile](#)," *San Francisco Examiner*, August 9, 1947, p. 5)
- 1947, August 9 — [John Derry](#), serving as acting general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, proposes a set of guidelines that restate the proposition that secrecy can be based on reasons other than national security. The definition of Confidential that he proposes goes beyond the Army and Manhattan Project rules: "CONFIDENTIAL: Documents, information or material, the unauthorized disclosure of which, while not endangering the National security, would be prejudicial to the interests or prestige of the Nation or any Governmental activity, or individual, or would cause administrative embarrassment, or be of advantage to a foreign nation shall be classified CONFIDENTIAL." The Derry memo calls for review by a classification board assembled from the AEC's regional sites. In September, this board assembles in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The available documentation does not show that Derry's proposed rules go into effect, but it does show that the Classification Board blesses the illustrations of matter that "should be graded" Secret or Confidential. The former category includes "certain selected human administration experiments performed under MED [Manhattan Engineer District]." (US Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, "Final Report," October 1995, [chapter 13](#))
- 1947, August 13 — 1:00 p.m. [Albert Clarence Urie](#) and his two sons [Billy](#) and Kenneth see a straw hat-shaped, sky-blue object about 10 feet wide, 10 feet high, and 20 feet long. It has "pods" on the side emitting flames and is flying along the Snake River Canyon six miles west of Blue Lakes Ranch near Twin Falls, Idaho. The UFO is moving up and down towards them at 1,000 mph and an altitude of 75 feet about 1/2 mile away. Urie is about 300 feet from the object, which is about level with him and silhouetted against the canyon wall. It disappears behind a hill about one mile away. [Hynek](#), for Project Blue Book, later identifies it as an "atmospheric eddy." (NICAP, "[Snake River Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 26; "[Flying Saucer Reported Flashing Down Canyon at 1,000 Miles Per Hour; Two Others Seen](#)," *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News*, August 15, 1947, pp. 1, 8; [Hynek UFO Report](#), p. 34; Story, pp. 337–338; Patrick Gross, "[Snake River, August 13, 1947](#)"; Clark III 377; Clark IV 421)
- 1947, August 13 — The *San Francisco Examiner's* Washington Bureau hears a rumor from a US intelligence source that Soviet agents have been ordered to solve the mystery of flying saucers. It reports that the Kremlin believes that the discs are connected with Army experiments in anti-radar weaponry. ("[Russ Agents Here Ordered to Solve Flying Disc Mystery](#)," *San Francisco (Calif.) Examiner*, August 14, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, August 14 — The first Gallup poll on UFOs shows that 90% of Americans have heard of flying saucers; 33% don't know what they are, 39% consider them hoaxes or misidentifications, 16% consider them US or Russian secret weapons. The ETH is not mentioned. (George Gallup, "[9 Out of 10 Heard of Flying Saucers](#)," *Boston Globe*,

August 15, 1947, p. 15; Project 1947, "[August 1947 Gallup Poll](#)"; Robert J. Durant, "[Evolution of Public Opinion on UFOs](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 9–10)

- 1947, August 14** — Shortly after 9:00 a.m. Italian artist and author [Luigi Rapuzzi](#) (who uses the pseudonym L. R. Johannis) is hiking along the left bank of the Torrente Chiarzò near Raveo, Udine, Italy, when he sees a vivid red, metallic, domed disc on the riverbank about 165 feet ahead. It is about 33 feet wide and embedded in a cleft in the rock about 20 feet above the stream. Looking around, he sees two "boys" on the edge of a grove of trees. He shouts at them and points to the object, walking toward them, but notices they are actually odd-looking dwarfs who are approaching him stiffly. They are about 3 feet tall and wearing dark blue coveralls with red collars, cuffs, and belts. Their greenish heads are covered in tight-fitting, brownish caps. He looks at them in astonishment for 2–3 minutes, then waves his geologist's pick at them and asks where they come from. One of the entities raises its right hand to its belt, which emits a puff of smoke that knocks Rapuzzi to the ground as if from an electric shock. As he is lying there, one of them grabs his pick and he notices its green hand has 8 claws. They climb up the rock and into the disc, which soon shoots straight out and into the air, hovering briefly at an angle, then vanishes. Rapuzzi feels a blast of wind that blows him across the ground. His pick is missing. (NICAP, "[Professor Encounters 'Lens' and Creatures](#)"; "[The Villa Santina Case](#)," in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, special issue of *FSR*, Oct./Dec. 1966, p. 2; *IPinotti* 19–30)
- 1947, August 14** — 10:40 a.m. Three men of the 147th Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron at Harmon Field, Guam, see two small crescent-shaped objects zigzagging at 1,200 feet. They disappear in the clouds and another object emerges and proceeds west. (Lt. Col. Donald L. Springer, "[Flying Disc](#)," August 27, 1947; [Sparks](#), p. 26)
- 1947, August 14** — The FBI concludes that the plane carrying [Davidson](#) and [Brown](#) was not sabotaged, nor was it carrying actual flying disc parts. (Memo for FBI Director from Mr. D. M. Ladd, August 14, 1947)
- 1947, August 15** — In response to the August 13 *San Francisco Examiner* report, FBI Director [J. Edgar Hoover](#) asks the agency to look into whether Soviet spies are looking into whether the flying discs are a secret US technology. Assistant Director of the Domestic Intelligence Division [D. Milton "Mickey" Ladd](#) at FBI headquarters assures FBI Deputy Director [Edward Allen Tamm](#) that he is unaware of any such effort. ([Memo](#) to Assistant FBI Director E. A. Tamm from Agent D. M. Ladd, August 15, 1947)
- 1947, August 15?** — 9:30 p.m. Maj. [Elmer H. Hammer](#) of the 28th Bombardment Wing at Rapid City Army Air Base [now Ellsworth AFB] near Box Elder, South Dakota, sees 12 objects flying at 6,000–10,000 feet in a tight diamond formation at 300–400 mph. The objects level off at approximately 5,000 feet and make a gentle large-radius turn of about 110° to the right about 4 miles away. They start climbing at an angle of 30–40° and appear to accelerate rapidly in the climb. The objects are approximately 100 feet long and have a brilliant yellow-white luminous glow. (NICAP, "[12 B-29-Sized Elliptical Objects Seen](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 26; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 40; Michael D. Swords, "[The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt](#)," *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Clark III 437; Clark IV 482)
- 1947, August 17** — A forest ranger at a fire lookout tower on Mt. Josephine, Skagit County, Washington, observes an object shaped like a huge clam that appears to fall tipped at an angle northeast of the fire tower. It slows to a stop, levels off, and floats "leisurely as if suspended by a cord" for a few minutes and finally moves off to the southeast with ever increasing speed. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947*, The Author, February 1991, p. 61)
- 1947, August 19** — FBI memo to [D. M. Ladd](#) from E. G. Fitch on "Flying Discs" mentions SAC Reynolds's conversation with Lt. Col. [George Garrett](#), who strongly suspects the Army or Navy is testing some new technology, concluding that "there were objects seen which somebody in the Government knows all about." However Gen. [Stephen Chamberlin](#) and the War Department claim to have no involvement or knowledge of such programs. (Memorandum from E. G. Fitch, "[Flying Discs](#)," August 19, 1947)
- 1947, August 19** — 9:30 p.m. H. H. Hedstrom (executive director of the Twin Falls Housing Authority) and three policemen (Richard A. Frazier, H. E. Roundtree, and Richard Scott) in Twin Falls, Idaho, see a formation of 12 objects flying in diamond formation at terrific speed. (NICAP, "[August 19, 1947, Twin Falls, Idaho](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 26; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 39)
- 1947, August 20** — An Anglo-American intelligence team releases a report on secret German weapons. Foo fighters are said to be caused by a rocket-propelled plane launched straight up from the ground, intercepting Allied bomber formations by firing a spray of rocket shells from the nose. The pilot then parachutes back to the ground, a chute opens on the rocket, and it is recovered for re-use. ("[Ribbon Chute, Nazi War Device, May Become New Safety Aid](#)," *Staten Island (N.Y.) Advance*, August 20, 1947, p. 5)
- 1947, August 22** — Col. [Robert Taylor III](#), Collection Branch of Army Air Force Intelligence, summarizes the findings of Lt. Col. [Garrett](#)'s investigations of UFOs in a letter to Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#), Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research

- and Development. Taylor requests any information on AAF projects that might give rise to such UFO reports. (Col. Robert Taylor 3rd to Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research and Development, “Flying Saucer Phenomena,” August 22, 1947; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 August 1st–December 31st, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 27; Swords 39–40)
- 1947, August 24 — The name Joint Research and Development Board is changed to simply Research and Development Board. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, “[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 8)
- 1947, August 25 — USMC Maj. [Marion Eugene Carl](#) attains a world airspeed record of 651 mph in a Douglas Skystreak at Muroc AFB [now Edwards AFB], California. (Wikipedia, “[Marion Eugene Carl](#)”)
- 1947, August 28 — Microwave Early Warning radar on Shika Island off Fukuoka, Japan, picks up a target moving 450–478 mph at an altitude of 1,500 feet. It changes course, climbs, and is tracked to a distance of 62 miles. (NICAP, “[Target Tracked in a Climb](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 27)
- 1947, August 29 — Gen. [LeMay](#) answers Col. [Taylor](#)’s August 22 request stating that there is no Air Force project that might give rise to flying disk reports. (Swords 41)
- 1947, Late August — Brig. Gen. [George F. Schulgen](#) passes the updated Garrett Estimate on to Air Materiel Command head Gen. [Nathan Twining](#) with a request for a statement on the discs so an authorized UFO project can be requested. Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) asks for a meeting between [Alfred Loedding](#) (aeronautics engineer at T-3), Lt. Col. [George Garrett](#) (Collections), and Charles Carroll (a math and missiles expert who has been correlating UFO sightings with approaches of planetary bodies) “in order to set up a system for evaluating the information being received.” These four will later form the core of the ETH-friendly faction at Project Sign. (Letter to T-2 from Executive Air Intelligence Requirement Division, September 3, 1947; [Sparks](#), p. 13; RosRept, [p. 13](#); Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 33–35; Swords 42, 43; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)
- 1947, September — Astronomer [Lincoln LaPaz](#) arrives in Roswell, New Mexico, and rediscovers the area of blackened ground earlier found by two of [Wilcox](#)’s deputies. He speaks to some witnesses and determines there might have been more than one object.
- 1947, September 3 — A memo from Col. R. H. Smith at Air Defense Command headquarters at Mitchel Field on Long Island, New York, states that the intent of USAF cooperation with the FBI was to “relieve the numbered Air Forces of the task of tracking down all the many instances which turned out to be ash-can covers, toilet seats, and whatnot.” (R. H. Smith, “Cooperation of FBI with AAF on Investigations of ‘Flying Disc’ Incidents,” September 3, 1947, via [FBI UFO Files](#), p. 21; ClearIntent, [p. 156](#); Michael Hesemann and Philip Mantle, *Beyond Roswell*, Marlowe, 1997, [p. 66](#))
- 1947, September 3 — Dale Edwards and three friends are camping out in the Desolation Wilderness area west of Lake Tahoe, California, when one of them, Peter Thompson, spots a huge gray UFO accompanied by a rush of warm air. The next day they discover a circle, 40 feet in diameter, of recently burned grass and skunk cabbage. (“True Mystic Experiences,” *Fate* 2, no. 3 (September 1949): 76–77)
- 1947, September 5 — In response to the Garrett Estimate, Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#) states in a memo, copied to the FBI, that “a complete survey of research activities discloses that the Army Air Force has no project with the characteristics similar to those which have been associated with the Flying Discs.” (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947](#), The Author, February 1991, p. 53; Michael D. Hall and Wendy A. Connors, *Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947*, Rose Press, 1998, [p. 83](#))
- 1947, September 5 — In Washington, D.C., [Alfred Loedding](#) (as Wright Field T-2’s liaison with the Pentagon) meets with [Garrett](#) and Carroll. Flying disk reports at the Pentagon are transferred to Wright Field, Ohio, shortly afterwards. (Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 34)
- 1947, Mid-September — [Twining](#) passes the Garrett Estimate on to Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#), Maj. Gen. [Alden Crawford](#) (chief of T-3), Gen. [Franklin O. Carroll](#) (director of research and development), Col. C. K. Moore (aircraft laboratory chief), Col. Russell Minty (power-plant laboratory chief), and Brig. Gen. [Edgar P. Sorenson](#) (Air Institute of Technology commander). They each study [Garrett](#)’s report and hold a conference on the discs. (Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 33)
- 1947, September 16 — An incoming radar target is picked up at Itazuke Air Base [now Fukuoka Airport], Fukuoka, Japan, moving 840–900 mph, then fading out. (Col. James F. Olive Jr., “[Radar Pick-Ups of High-Speed Targets in the Far East](#),” Memorandum for Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Washington, D.C., September 26, 1947)
- 1947, September 17 — The US Senate confirms [James Forrestal](#) as the first Secretary of Defense.
- 1947, September 18 — The reorganization of military and intelligence agencies under the National Security Act takes effect. The US Army Air Forces is disbanded and becomes the US Air Force.

- 1947, September 19 — FBI Special Agent [Harry M. Kimball](#) in San Francisco passes Col. R. H. Smith's September 3 memo up the chain to [Hoover](#). (ClearIntent, [p. 156](#))
- 1947, September 19 — A dubious document, allegedly written on this date by DCI Adm. [Roscoe Hillenkoetter](#) and titled "Examination of Unidentified Disc-Like Aircraft near Military Installations in the State of New Mexico: A Preliminary Report," has been circulated by [Timothy S. Cooper](#). It purports to verify the "recovery of unidentified planform aircraft" in two locations on July 6. (R. H. Hillenkoetter, "[Memorandum for the Military Assessment of the Joint Intelligence Committee](#)," September 19, 1947; Good Need, [p. 95](#))
- 1947, September 19 — 5:30 p.m. A geophysicist employed by the Humble Oil and Refining Company is testing a weather radar at Grand Isle, Louisiana, when the radar detects an object moving in a southwesterly direction at about 1,000 mph. It persists for about one minute, so he records it in his notebook and discusses the sighting with other scientists. No visual sighting is made. (*Houston Press*, March 24, 1950; Jan L. Aldrich, "[Project 1947: A Progress Report](#)," March/April 1996)
- 1947, September 21 — Arrangements are made to transfer UFO files from [Garrett](#)'s office in the Pentagon to [Alfred Loedding](#) at AMC. (Swords 43)
- 1947, September 23 — Head of Air Materiel Command Gen. [Nathan Twining](#) responds to [Schulgen](#)'s request for UFO information with a classified letter composed by Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) with the assistance of [Alfred Loedding](#), "AMC Opinion Concerning 'Flying Disks.'" Twining notes the discs are "real and not visionary or fictitious." Reports (based on the cases in the Garrett Estimate) include "extreme rates of climb, maneuverability (particularly in roll), and action which must be considered evasive." Twining gives three reasons to study the discs: They might represent a deep-black domestic project; to pick up physical evidence; and to find out if they are nuclear-propulsion devices from Russia or elsewhere. The letter lists common descriptions of the objects and recommends that USAF "issue a directive assigning a priority, security classification, and code name for a detailed study of the matter." This will ultimately result in Project Sign. Henceforth all disc reports are to be sent to the Army and Navy Research and Development Board, the USAF Scientific Advisory Group, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Project RAND, and the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft project at Oak Ridge. Twining promises a detailed "Essential Elements of Information" (EEI) to be formulated immediately so that all agencies will have guidance. (Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining, "[AMC Opinion Concerning 'Flying Disks.'](#)" September 23, 1947; Ruppelt, [pp. 15–16](#); Good Above, [pp. 260–262, 476–478](#); RosRept, [p. 14](#); Swords 42, 476–478; Clark III 934; Bryce Zabel, "[The 1947 Twining UFO Memo Still Matters](#)," Medium: Need to Know, June 1, 2021; Clark IV 998, 1014)
- 1947, September 24 — DCI [Hillenkoetter](#), in a letter to AMC, designates T-2 and the Air Intelligence branch of the US Navy Bureau of Aeronautics as National Assets. He indicates that he does not plan to duplicate air technical intelligence assets within the CIA. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, September 24 — [President Truman](#) meets with [Vannevar Bush](#), chairman of the Research and Development Board, at the White House. Secretary of Defense [James Forrestal](#) is also present. (Stanton T. Friedman, *Top Secret / MAJIC*, Marlowe, 1996, pp. 68–69)
- 1947, September 24 — A fake memo from President [Truman](#) to Secretary of Defense [James Forrestal](#) allegedly establishes a top-secret control group, Operation Majestic Twelve (MJ-12), to deal with the UFO problem. (Good Above, [p. 551](#); Joe Nickell and John R. Fischer, "[The Crashed-Saucer Forgeries](#)," *IUR* 15, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1990): 4–20; Philip J. Klass, "[New Evidence of MJ-12 Hoax](#)," *Skeptical Inquirer* 14 (Winter 1990): 135–140; Ted R. Spickler, "[The Truman MJ-12 Letter](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 3 (May/June 1991): 12–13; Clark III 360; Clark IV 404)
- 1947, September 24 — Col. [Miles E. Goll](#), in a memo signed for Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#), asks about a radar case in Japan that Charles Carroll had mentioned to [Alfred Loedding](#) in their meeting of September 5. (Dr. Carroll's UFO files; Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, September 25 — [D. M. "Mickey" Ladd](#) advises [J. Edgar Hoover](#) about the September 3 memo from Col. R. H. Smith on Air Force cooperation with the FBI that "indicates that the services of the FBI were enlisted in order to relieve the numbered Air Forces of the task of tracking down all the many instances which turned out to be 'ash can covers, toilet seats, and whatnot.'" He recommends discontinuing any cooperation with the Air Force. (D. M. Ladd to J. Edgar Hoover, "Flying Disks," September 25, 1947, via [FBI UFO Files](#), [p. 20](#))
- 1947, September 25 — A memorandum from Maj. Robert J. Thomas lists the names of nine military personnel in charge of events in the aftermath of the Roswell, New Mexico, recovery. However, it is now largely considered a forgery by [Frank Kaufmann](#). (Kevin D. Randle, "[Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, "[Frank Kaufmann Exposed](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- 1947, September 26 — A memorandum from Col. James F. Olive Jr., Chief of Air Intelligence Division, to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, A-2, summarizes three radar trackings of high-speed targets in Japan (Chitose Air Base, July 1; and MEW Radar Station, Fukuoka, August 28 and September 16). It concludes that there is insufficient

information to state that they involved aircraft or missiles but supports the conclusion that they were not natural phenomena. The report is forwarded to T-2 on September 29. (Col. James F. Olive Jr., “[Radar Pick-Ups of High-Speed Targets in the Far East](#),” Memorandum for Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Washington, D.C., September 26, 1947).

- 1947, September 27 — [Hoover](#) notifies USAF Maj. Gen. [George C. McDonald](#), assistant chief of air staff, that he is advising all FBI agents to discontinue all flying disc investigations. ([Letter](#), J. Edgar Hoover to Gen. George C. McDonald, September 27, 1947; ClearIntent, [p. 158](#); Michael Hesemann and Philip Mantle, *Beyond Roswell*, Marlowe, 1997, [p. 67](#))
- 1947, September 30 — [Vannevar Bush](#) is appointed head of the new Research and Development Board in the National Military Establishment. ([Research and Development Board: History and Functions](#), US National Military Establishment, June 1, 1948)
- 1947, Fall — [Claude Degler](#), under the pseudonym John Chrisman, publishes a single issue of the first flying saucer fanzine, *Weird Unsolved Mysteries*. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 August 1st–December 31st, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, pp. 56–69; Curt Collins, “[Claude Degler, One of the Ufologists That Time Forgot](#),” The Saucers That Time Forgot, July 15, 2021)
- 1947, Early October — Private pilot Selman E. Graves claims to have witnessed part of the recovery of a crashed UFO near Cave Creek, north of Paradise Valley, Arizona, on property owned by his friend, Walt Salyer. Graves says the federal government sponsored a state government project that relocated a nearby road and bulldozed the land to cover up the crash site. (Good Above, [pp. 394–397](#))
- 1947, October 1 — *Bureau Bulletin* 59 ends all FBI cooperation with the Air Force on UFO investigation, although the FBI continues its own inquiries. (ClearIntent, [p. 159](#))
- 1947, October 1 — A letter from [Truman](#) to [Vannevar Bush](#) appears to bear the original Truman signature used in the MJ-12 fake memo.
- 1947, October 7 — Capt. R. V. A. Therien of the Royal Swedish Navy states at USAF headquarters that some ghost rockets have been observed making 180° turns, and about 33 of the incidents are considered factual. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 August 1st–December 31st, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 76)
- 1947, October 14 — [Bernt Balchen](#), Norwegian Airline director and former USAF Colonel, gives USAF headquarters information about two radar locations and a rocket firing incident observed in the Petsamo region (Pechengsky District) of Finland, recently ceded to Russia. Gen. [Alfred A. Kessler Jr.](#), former US military attaché in Sweden, disputes Therien’s information. He says only two ghost rocket sightings are possibly factual, but there is no evidence to authenticate them. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 August 1st–December 31st, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 76)
- 1947, October 14 — Test pilot [Chuck Yeager](#) unofficially breaks the sound barrier (670 mph) for the first time in an experimental rocket-powered Bell X-1 at Muroc [now Edwards] AFB, California. (Wikipedia, “[Chuck Yeager](#)”; Chuck Yeager and Leo Janos, [Yeager: An Autobiography](#), Century, 1985; Kaitlyn Crain Enriquez, “[Captain Chuck Yeager: Breaking the Sound Barrier](#),” The Unwritten Record, October 13, 2022; Bob van der Linden, “[Breaking the Sound Barrier: Chuck Yeager and the Bell X-1](#),” National Air and Space Museum, October 13, 2022; Graff 29–31)
- 1947, October 20 — A farmer named Britton sees two cigar-shaped UFOs traveling a straight course at high speed about one mile in height in trail formation near Dayton, Ohio. They leave a slight vapor trail then disappear suddenly. (NICAP, “[Farmers Observes Two Cigars](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 29; Keyhoe, FSTS, p. 89)
- 1947, October 21 — A preliminary EEI document, indicating that the radar detection of UFOs near Fukuoka, Japan, on September 16 has played a role in concerns about disc maneuverability, is circulated to the European Command by Lieut. Col. [Malcolm D. Seashore](#), former acting chief of the Analysis Section at AMC under Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#). It expresses concern about German/Russian technology and adds disc characteristics of hovering, disappearance, quick grouping, and sudden appearance. (“[‘Flying Disc’ Information Request to European Command, October 1947](#)”; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 35; Swords 43, 479–484)
- 1947, October 21 — The jet-propelled Northrop YB-49 makes its first test flight from Jack Northrop Field in Hawthorne, California, reaching Muroc AFB in 32 minutes. (Wikipedia, “[Northrop YB-49](#)”)
- 1947, October 28 — Brig. Gen. [George F. Schulgen](#), Chief of USAF Intelligence Requirements Division, writes a five-page report based on the characteristics listed in the September 23 [Twining](#) letter (though in greater detail) and the preliminary EEI of October 21. Titled “Intelligence Requirements on Flying Saucer Type Aircraft: Draft of Collection Memorandum,” it lists things investigators should try to determine about UFO propulsion, control,

construction, arrangement, landing gear, and power plant. It considers the objects “to be a manned aircraft, of Russian origin, and based on the perspective thinking and actual accomplishments of the Germans” (page 5, paragraph 4). [However, a *fake version* of this document has the phrase “it is the considered opinion of some elements that the object may in fact represent an interplanetary craft of some kind.... The presence of an unconventional or unusual type of propulsion system cannot be ruled out and should be considered of great interest.” Other deletions and additions are present in the fake document.] (George F. Schulgen, “[Intelligence Requirements on Flying Saucer Type Aircraft: Draft of Collection Memorandum](#),” October 30, 1947 [PDF of real memo, pp. 1–6, [PDF](#) of fake memo, pp. 7–12]; Good Above, [p. 262](#); RosRept, [p. 35](#); Robert G. Todd, “[Fake Air Force Memo Exposed](#),” The Roswell Files; Robert G. Todd, “[Fake Air Force Memo Exposed, Part 2](#),” The Roswell Files; Robert G. Todd, “[Fake Air Force Memo Exposed, Part 3](#),” The Roswell Files; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 35–36)

- 1947, November — Former Messerschmidt test pilot [Fritz Wendel](#) tells US Army CIC that the [Horten brothers](#) were working on an advanced aircraft in Heiligenbeil, East Prussia [now Mamonovo, Russia] right after the war. The airplane is 33 feet long, shaped like a half-moon, and has no tail. It can fly to 12,000 feet. Wendel’s story is corroborated by a German informant named Prof. George, who describes a later Horten craft as able to fly at 1,200 mph because it is propelled by rockets. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 41–42](#))
- 1947, November 6 — [Chuck Yeager](#) again makes an unofficial airspeed record of 891 mph in a Bell X-1 at Muroc AFB, California. (Wikipedia, “[Chuck Yeager](#)”)
- 1947, November 10 — Lt. Col. Walker sends a memo to his field commands in Germany in response to the September 23 [Twining](#) letter. It calls for a discreet canvass into finding German engineers who might know of similar technology. (“[The Walker Memo](#),” The Roswell Files)
- 1947, November 12 — Early morning. US Navy Second Officer Williamson on the tanker [Ticonderoga](#) 40 miles north or south of Cape Blanco, Oregon, sees two fireballs with fiery tails heading northwest at 700–900 mps. Possible meteors. ([Sparks](#), p. 29; “[Objects Seen by Sailor off Coast of Oregon](#),” *Portland Oregon Daily Journal*, November 13, 1947, p. 13)
- 1947, November 18 — *Boise Idaho Statesman* Aviation Editor [David N. Johnson](#), having heard of the USS [Ticonderoga](#) sighting, writes to Gen. [George E. Stratemeyer](#) at Mitchel Field, New York, for information and asking eight questions about the Army’s investigation. Stratemeyer passes the query on to [Garrett](#) and [Taylor](#). (Swords 43)
- 1947, December 8 — Pilots observe a reddish light moving at moderate speed over Las Vegas, Nevada. It emits a flash of green light and shoots upwards at a “tremendous speed.” (UFOEv, [p. 149](#))
- 1947, December 11 — [Garrett](#) and [Taylor](#) write a memorandum to the USAF Public Relations Office outlining the proper answers to questions such as [Johnson](#) has asked. (Swords 44)
- 1947, December 14 — 12:20 a.m. Six staff sergeants at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, watch a domed disc with a glowing green corona surrounding it moving slowly at a slightly tilted angle. It skims the treeline (causing the tops of the trees to wave slightly) and takes off to the northwest. They estimate it is 50–75 feet in diameter and flying at 200 feet altitude. ([Project 1947 case file](#))
- 1947, December 16 — Army Lt. Col. [Harry H. Pretty](#) in Berlin writes a memo to the Deputy Director of Intelligence in Berlin stating that the [Horten brothers](#) (Reimer and Walter) have been located in Göttingen, Germany. He says they are eccentric and quarrelsome. Though they were responsible for the Horten Ho 299 (a prototype fighter/bomber flying wing design), his investigation concludes that no saucer design “ever existed nor was projected by any of the German air research institutions.” (Lt. Col. Harry H. Pretty, “[Horten Brothers \(Flying Saucers\)](#),” December 16, 1947)
- 1947, December 17 — US Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. [Carl Spaatz](#) tells the *Idaho Statesman* he does not rule out the possibility of the flying disks being “foreign experimentation.” He adds that the Air Force is still investigating and he still wants people to report their sightings. (“[Spaatz Leaves Door Open on Chance ‘Flying Discs’ Are of Foreign Origin](#),” *Boise Idaho Statesman*, December 17, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, December 18 — Pentagon Col. James F. Olive Jr. (chief of AFOAI) and Lieut. Col. J. E. Thomas of the Offensive Air section (AFOAI-OA) respond to a request by deputy chief of Air Staff for Research and Development Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#) on the status of flying disc analysis. They complete their reanalysis of the earlier documents from the Pentagon and Wright-Patterson, rewrite a new EEI indicating a potentially serious but puzzling phenomenon, and turn this over to Chief of Air Force Intelligence [McDonald](#) for his signature. (“[Analysis of ‘Flying Disc’ Reports](#),” December 18, 1947; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 36; Swords 43, 485–491)
- 1947, December 19 — The Research and Development Board has its first meeting.

- 1947, December 19 — Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) at AMC reports that “Continued and recent reports from qualified observers concerning this phenomenon still makes this one of concern to Headquarters, Air Material Command.” (H. M. McCoy to L. C. Craigie, “[Flying Discs](#),” December 19, 1947)
- 1947, December 22 — The final EEL, called “Analysis of Flying Disc Reports,” is issued by Chief of USAF Intelligence [George C. McDonald](#), who concurs with AMC’s recommendation of September 23 and forwards it to director of USAF Research and Development Gen. [Laurence Cardee Craigie](#) for a reply. Gen. [Charles Cabell](#), the new chief of AFOIR, signs off on this. (“[Analysis of ‘Flying Disc’ Reports](#),” December 18, 1947; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 36)
- 1947, December 26 — At the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Chicago, Illinois, University of Iowa astronomer [Charles C. Wylie](#) proposes a coast-to-coast sky patrol to report on rockets, meteors, or flying saucers. He says that “mass hysteria” about saucers could have been prevented with a sky patrol in place. (“[Sky Patrol Recommended by Scientist](#),” *Richmond (Va.) Times Dispatch*, December 27, 1947, p. 8; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947*. The Author, February 1991, p. 76)
- 1947, December — By now, ATIC has received 156 UFO reports. Aerodynamicists at ATIC and AMC agree that no German design can match UFO performance. The USAF Aeromedical Laboratory says that even if such a craft can be built, the human body cannot withstand the maneuvers, and USAF materials specialists say that no known material can withstand them either, as well as the heat of high speeds. [Ruppelt](#) later writes, “Why couldn’t these people, whoever they might be, stand these horrible maneuver forces? Why judge them by earthly standards? I found a memo to this effect was in the old Project Sign files.” (Ruppelt, [p. 28](#))
- 1947, December 30 — Gen. [Laurence C. Craigie](#), director of USAF R&D and successor to Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#) (who has returned to Europe), advises the AMC commanding general that USAF policy is not to ignore UFO reports, but to collect, evaluate, and act on the information. He establishes Project Sign (Project HT-304 under USAF Technical Instruction no. TI-2185) in a memo titled “Flying Discs.” [Alfred Loedding](#), who is convinced that the flying discs are extraterrestrial, may have come up with the “Sign” designation. It carries a 2A restricted classification. Craigie, after his retirement from the Air Force in 1955, indicates that he believes UFOs are a waste of time and has only approved Project Sign because of internal USAF politics. ([Sparks](#), p. 11; Gen. Laurence C. Craigie, “[Flying Discs](#),” Memorandum to Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, December 30, 1947; “[Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects](#),” April 28, 1949, p. 2; Condon, [p. 896](#); Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, “[Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 24; Clark III 934; Clark IV 1044–1045)

1948

- 1948 — David T. Keating, an employee of the USAF Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft group, is flying with the 166th Fighter Squadron of the Ohio National Guard out of Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base] in Lockbourne, Ohio. While executing a flip of his P-51 at 18,000 feet, he sees a silvery disc zoom above his plane. He goes in pursuit of it at 325 mph and closes to within 240 feet of it. It seems to be 40 feet in diameter and 6 feet thick, with a vertical stabilizer rudder on the end. He keeps flying after it even when he loses sight of it. “About 10 miles south of the Ohio River,” he claims, “I spotted litter on a hillside and a path that had obviously been ripped up by a crashing plane.” Short on fuel, he returns to Lockbourne. He persuades his major to fly over the crash scene, and they send a truck to retrieve the remains. (Helen Knox, “Ridge Newcomer Tells of Game of Tag with ‘Saucer,’” *The Oak Ridger*, September 18, 1950; Clark III 325; Clark IV 361)
- 1948 — An airman stationed in Arizona is called out with a scientific team to examine a flying saucer that has crashed near Taos, New Mexico. When he arrives, the area is roped off and under military guard. The object is metallic with a flat circular airfoil. The cabin at the top center is too small for a normal-sized human. He is told by workers on the scene that bodies of “little men” have been removed from the craft. They discover that the ship is constructed of interlocking sections pinned together, but they cannot locate a power plant, except possibly some electromagnets below the cabin. (L. J[ames] Lorenzen, “[Aimé Michel’s Orthotonic Lines](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, July 1958, pp. 6–7; Clark III 325; Clark IV 362)
- 1948 — British author and ex-MI5 operative [Bernard Newman](#) publishes a novel titled *The Flying Saucer*, the first book to use that phrase in its title. The story revolves around a group of scientists who create a fake Martian threat in order to bring the world together. Plot elements include a trio of staged saucer crashes (in New Mexico, Russia, and the UK), propaganda, and even an alien autopsy. (Bernard Newman, *The Flying Saucer*, Gollancz, 1948; Andrew May, “[The Flying Saucer](#),” *Retro-Fortean*, June 30, 2013; Kremlin 43–45; Eghigian, *After*, p. 65)

- 1948?** — Sylvia Hall, 11, wakes up at her home on the corner of Riggs Road and Lateral 1 Road south of Yakima, Washington, when her bedroom fills with bluish-white light pouring in through the closed west window. Some 100 feet above the ground is a huge bright cloud. Gliding down from it in groups of four on something like a ramp are tall people with bluish-silvery robes. She watches them for 10 minutes, then she has an overpowering desire to go back to bed. She tells no one about the experience until she is an adult. (Greg Long, [“Strangeness at Yakima,”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 16–17)
- 1948,** January 6 — 3:00 p.m. [Bernice Zaikowski](#), 61, of Chehalis, Washington, hears a “sizzling and whizzing” sound and looks up to see a “birdman” hovering 200 feet above her barn. She watches “a man equipped with long silver wings fastened over the shoulders with a strap” ascend rapidly, hover, bank, then fly away. “He flew in an upright position and appeared to be manipulating controls strapped to his chest.” The wings do not flap; instead they retract close to his body during ascent, and are extended to hover or proceed in horizontal flight. Zaikowski says five other adult witnesses and a number of children also see the birdman. ([“‘Flying Man’ Is Chehalis Report,”](#) *Coos Bay (Oreg.) World*, January 21, 1948, p. 2; “Is It a Bird? A Plane? No! It’s Birdman,” *Portland Oregonian*, January 21, 1948, p. 10; [“Woman Says No Mistake over Miracle,”](#) *Portland Oregon Journal*, January 21, 1948, p. 13; Lyle Zapato, [“The Birdmen of Cascadia,”](#) ZPi blog, March 24, 2007; Loren Coleman, [“1948 ‘Birdmen’ Cases Revisited,”](#) Cryptomundo, May 12, 2008; Clark III 270, 777; Clark IV 310, 858)
- 1948,** January 7 — 1:00 p.m. Kentucky State Police telephone Commanding Officer Col. Guy F. Hix’s office at Godman Army Airfield in Fort Knox, Kentucky, reporting an unidentified object near Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Another call to Hix comes from state police at about 1:10 p.m. of an observation by a civilian in Madisonville, Kentucky, through a Finch telescope of a cone-shaped object about 100 feet tall by 43 feet wide, at an altitude of 4 miles and moving at 10 mph. This is apparently General Mills Skyhook balloon Flight B, which passes about 40 miles to the southwest of Madisonville. Other reports come in from Lexington and Mannsville, Kentucky. ([“Spyglasses Search through the Southwest Sky but Great What-Was-It Keeps Out of Sight,”](#) *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, January 9, 1948, p. 12; [Sparks](#), p. 30)
- 1948,** January 7 — 1:20–2:10 p.m. Army Flight Service reports to Godman Army Airfield control tower that the object is over Irvington then Owensboro, Kentucky. Godman Tower Operator Tech/Sgt [Quinton A. Blackwell](#), Capt. James F. Duesler Jr., Base Air Inspector Lt. Col. E. Garrison Wood, and other USAF personnel see a round or ice-cream-cone-shaped white or silver object with a revolving red streamer toward the south beginning at 1:50 p.m. Many others see it as well after 2:07 p.m., such as Operations Officer Capt. Cary W. Carter and Col. Guy F. Hix. ([Sparks](#), p. 30)
- 1948,** January 7 — 1:45–3:50 p.m. A circular object is reported by civilians over Elizabethtown, Madisonville, Lexington, Maysville, Irvington, and Owensboro, Kentucky. In the Godman Army Airfield control tower at Fort Knox, Tech/Sgt. [Quinton A. Blackwell](#) and others spot an object shaped like an ice cream cone with a red light around the lower part in the southwest at 1:45 p.m. Base Commander Col. Guy Hix says it is about one-quarter the size of the full moon and white in color. The object maintains a constant angular position as seen from Godman as it apparently moves away at about 240–300 mph at an altitude of 50,000–60,000 feet. Capt. [Thomas F. Mantell Jr.](#), a 25-year-old Kentucky Air National Guard pilot, and three others are flying F-51D fighters to Louisville, Kentucky. After Mantell reports his position to Standiford Field in Louisville at 2:50 p.m., Blackwell breaks in over the radio to request Mantell to intercept and identify the object. Mantell and two other fighters (piloted by Lieuts. [Albert William Clements](#) and B. A. Hammond), not equipped with oxygen masks, begin pursuit. Flying at 300 mph and gradually climbing, Mantell gradually approaches the UFO from below. At about 3:10 p.m., in one of his last radio reports, Mantell says he is approaching 20,000 feet and the UFO “appears to be a metallic object or possibly reflection of sun from a metallic object, and it is of tremendous size” (although a later report corrects his transmission to “It’s above me and I’m gaining on it”). Two other F-51Ds quit the chase, no longer able to see Mantell or the object. Mantell continues to perhaps 25,000 feet, blacks out, and crashes at 3:18 p.m. about 4 miles south-southwest of Franklin, Kentucky. The UFO disappears from view behind a cloud at Godman at 3:50 p.m. The Project Sign staff, still not yet formally organized, are under pressure to come up with some kind of answer, so they quickly float Venus (offhandedly suggested by Ohio State University astronomer [J. Allen Hynek](#)) as an explanation. This implausible explanation is not even believed by the Air Force, but it remains unchallenged for several years. In 1952, [Ruppelt](#) reopens the case and identifies the object as a secret Skyhook balloon, although he cannot confirm a launch that day. Army veteran [Clifford Stone](#) finds later that there have been no Skyhook launches since late December. However, [Barry J. Greenwood](#) and [Robert Todd](#) tentatively identify the balloon as one launched from Camp Ripley near Little Falls, Minnesota, on January 6. Researchers [Francis Ridge](#) and [Brad Sparks](#) declared in 2010 that there was sufficient doubt about the balloon explanation and other details to place the case back into the unidentified slot. (Wikipedia, [“Mantell UFO incident”](#); NICAP, [“The Mantell Case”](#);

[Sparks](#), pp. 30–31; “[Chase for Flying Disk Blamed in Crash Death](#),” *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, January 9, 1948, pp. 1, 12; “[Flier Dies Chasing a ‘Flying Saucer,’](#)” *New York Times*, January 9, 1948, p. 11; “[Did Airman Hit ‘Saucer,’ Fall to Death?](#)” *Nashville Tennessean*, January 9, 1948, pp. 1, 4; Keyhoe 1950, [pp. 15–21](#); [Flight Handbook, USAF Series F-51D Aircraft](#), January 20, 1954; Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, Citadel, 1954, [pp. 89–92](#); Ruppelt, [pp. 31–32](#); Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 33–39; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs: A History, 1948](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 2–8; Good Above, [pp. 262–263](#); “[The Mantell UFO: A Smoking Gun, Maybe!](#)” *Just Cause*, no. 39 (March 1994): 9–10; “[The Mantell UFO: A Smoking Gun, Maybe! Part Two](#)” *Just Cause*, no. 40 (June 1994): 8–12; “[UFO Confrontation: Kentucky](#)” segment of *Sightings*, Season 3, Episode 18, February 12, 1995; “[Mantell Re-Examined](#)” segment of *Sightings*, Season 5, Episode 3, October 18, 1996; Christopher D. Allan, “[The Mantell Case—50 Years Later](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 7–9, 31–32; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 37; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 137–138; Good Need, [pp. 104–105](#); Center for UFO Studies, [[clippings](#) and [case materials](#) on Mantell case]; The Black Vault, [[Mantell documents and photos](#)]; Francis Ridge, [The Mantell Incident: An Anatomy of a Re-Investigation](#), The Author, 2010; Swords 51–52; Kevin D. Randle, “[The Mantell Analyses](#),” *A Different Perspective*, September 21, 2017; Clark III 706–710; “[Captain Thomas F. Mantell’s Plane Crashed after Chasing a UFO over Kentucky on January 7, 1948](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, November 30, 2023; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 61–63; Graff 37–39, 75–77; Eghigian, *After*, p. 49; Clark IV 424, 773–776)

- 1948**, January 7 — 4:45–7:06 p.m. USAF 1Lt. [Paul I. Orner](#) tracks an unidentified white light with red coloration in a weather theodolite at Godman Army Airfield in Fort Knox, Kentucky, for more than 2 hours. ([Sparks](#), p. 31)
- 1948**, January 7 — 7:15 p.m. Air Traffic Controller and pilot [Alex A. Boudreaux](#) and VHF Direction-Finding (DF) Operator and amateur astronomer [Frank M. Eisele](#), 103rd AACCS Squadron, at Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base] in Lockbourne, Ohio, spot a bright object to the southwest of the airfield that appears and disappears intermittently. Fighter pilot USAF Capt. [Charles E. McGee](#) sees the object on runway 23 landing approach when he is at about 1,800 feet. The light seems to be at about 3,000 feet to the southwest about 4–5 miles away, then later on the ground to the west about 6–7 miles away. USAF VHF DF Operator and pilot Albert R. Pickering, Detachment 733, 103rd AACCS Squadron, is awakened by the sudden emergence of a lighted amber-colored round or oval object about the size of a C-47 or larger [60+ feet] dropping out of the overcast bank 10,000 feet overhead. Lockbourne Control Tower at the same time radios a report of the object, which then maneuvers over to Commercial Point about 3–5 miles away to the west-southwest, then makes three full 360° circles over one spot in 30–40 seconds per turn over the runway, at a speed of more than 500 mph, leaving a luminous, amber-colored trail or exhaust about 5 times its length. Then the UFO goes to another location and does more 360° turns. At one point, it disappears into the overcast for one minute, then reappears. Just before departing, it hovers or “appeared to touch down” on the grass extension past the end of the Lockbourne AFB runway for 10 seconds then leaves at 120° (ESE) heading into the overcast. It is also sighted by the pilot of a C-45 at 5,000 feet off the right wing at 7:53 p.m. (NICAP, “[Object Circles Base at High Speed / Touches Down](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 32)
- 1948**, January 7 — 7:35 p.m. Base personnel at Clinton County AFB [now Wilmington Air Park] near Wilmington, Ohio, where Skyhooks are launched a couple years later, watch a quickly maneuvering object. It dances up and down and changes from red to green before speeding to the southwest. Sgt. LeRoy Ziegler thinks he can detect a faint exhaust trail. Project Sign calls it Venus, because it disappears about the time Venus does. (NICAP, “[Object Circles Base at High Speed / Touches Down](#)”; “[Strange Phenomena Seen in Sky Here](#),” *Wilmington (Ohio) News-Journal*, January 8, 1948, p. 1; “[Ball of Red Fire Reported at Wilmington](#),” *Dayton (Ohio) Herald*, January 9, 1948, p. 25; Francis Ridge, *The Mantell Incident: An Anatomy of a Re-Investigation*, The Author, 2010, [part 2-11](#))
- 1948**, January 9 — 11:30 p.m. Eastern Airlines pilot [Hugh DuBose](#), flying a DC-3 aircraft at 3,000 feet altitude near Cartersville, Georgia, observes a circular object with a flat top cross his flight path at the same altitude and then turn earthward. The object is light sky-blue in color and is traveling at an estimated speed of 400 mph. (NICAP, “[Object Passes DC-3, Turns](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 32)
- 1948**, January 21 — Col. [Riley F. Ennis](#), chief of the Army Intelligence Division, in a memo reiterates the [Schulgen](#) Draft of Collection Memorandum and stresses the need to investigate Soviet development of a jet-propelled flying wing aircraft. (Department of the Army, “[Unconventional Aircraft](#),” Intelligence Collection Memorandum number 7, January 21, 1948)
- 1948**, January 22 — Project Sign officially launches at Wright Field [now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base] near Dayton, Ohio. The primary investigators are Capt. [Robert R. Sneider](#) (project chief), [Alfred Loedding](#) (T-3 engineer), [Lawrence Truettner](#) (T-2 engineer), and Col. [Albert Deyarmond](#) (analyst in Intelligence Analysis Division). Also involved are Maj. [Raymond Llewellyn](#) (chief of special projects branch), Lt. Howard W. Smith, [George W.](#)

[Towles](#), and others as assigned. How much interest Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) takes in the project is unknown. Its task is to collect, collate, evaluate, and distribute information on sightings in the atmosphere “which can be considered of concern to national security.” [Ruppelt](#) later says that to be considered an “unknown,” it has to come from a competent observer and contain a reasonable amount of data. (NICAP, “[Project Sign Begins, 22 Jan 1948](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 11; [Ruppelt](#), p. 10; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, “[Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 24; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 36–37; Thomas Tulien, [Project Sign](#), “History of the United States Air Force UFO Programs”; Clark III 934; Kate Dorsch, [Reliable Witnesses, Crackpot Science: UFO Investigations in Cold War America, 1947–1977](#), dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2019, pp. 38–43; Graff 39–40; Clark IV 1045)

- 1948, January 23 — Col. [William E. Clingerman](#), writing for Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) at Wright Field, asks Lt. Col. [George Garrett](#) of Air Force Intelligence for all files on “Swedish incidents” in 1946 and 1947. He receives at least 44 documents, none of which have been released. (Jan Aldrich, “[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13; Swords 30)
- 1948, January 26 — Project Sign becomes formally operational as Project HT-304. Lt. Col. James C. Beam becomes its first project director. ([Sparks](#), p. 13; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)
- 1948, January 31 — The Research and Development Board dismisses flying saucers as “a mirage induced by mass self-hypnosis” in stories that appear in newspapers of this day. (“‘Flying Discs’ Book Declared Closed,” *Pendleton East Oregonian*, January 31, 1948; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1948](#)”; Swords 52–53; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1948, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 15)
- 1948, February — 2:00 a.m. Glancing out his window while getting a drink of water, farmer C. Bruce Stevenson notices a bright orange-amber glow near his farm buildings a few miles from Circleville, Ohio. He expects to find the buildings on fire, but instead there is a large, domed flying saucer gliding silently over the roof of his pig house about 100 feet away. The UFO, about 60 feet in diameter, maintains a slow speed and low altitude until it disappears from sight. (“[Bruce Stevenson Reveals Close-Up View of Saucer](#),” *Circleville (Ohio) Herald*, August 2, 1952, pp. 1–2; “[Bruce Stevenson Certain Saucer Wasn’t Reflection](#),” *Circleville (Ohio) Herald*, August 7, 1952, p. 1; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1948](#)”; Pete Hartinger, “[America’s First Classic Close Encounter](#),” *Pickaway Quarterly*, Fall 1996, pp. 11–13; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1948 Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 15–17)
- 1948, February 4 — Capt. [Richard W. Geuss](#), acting assistant adjutant general, writes a memo on behalf of Lieut. Gen. [George E. Stratemeyer](#), to ADC and USAF commanding generals on “Investigation and Reporting of ‘Flying Disc’ Incidents.” It specifies that Air Force commanders are charged with evaluating military UFO incidents, in cooperation with CIC personnel and local FBI offices. Even hoaxes are to be passed on to the FBI. (Capt. Richard W. Geuss, “[Investigation and Reporting of ‘Flying Disc’ Incidents](#),” February 4, 1948)
- 1948, February 12 — Brig. Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#), chief of the Air Intelligence Requirements Division, sends a secret memo to Maj. Gen. [Samuel E. Anderson](#), director of Plans and Operations, stating that the Commanding General of AMC feels that the responsibility for collecting information on “flying disks” should be complemented by a requirement that all USAF installations “provide a minimum of one each aircraft, with necessary crews, on a continuous alert basis. These aircraft should be equipped with gun camera, and such armament as deemed advisable, in order to secure photographs necessary to the obtainment of all possible data on any reported and sighted unusual phenomena, of the ‘flying disk’ type, in the atmosphere.” (Good Above, p. 263)
- 1948, February 18 — 5:00 p.m. A smoke trail begins over Nebraska and runs south. A bolide explodes over Norcatur, Kansas, and the concussion from the blast breaks windows and rocks buildings over a wide area of Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. A huge shower of meteoritic stones fall over a large area of Norton County, Kansas, and Furnas County, Nebraska. Two Army B-29 bombers circle the area until nightfall. A farmer near Stockton, Kansas, sees a hovering object that leaves a bare spot in the ground. [Kenneth Arnold](#) is persuaded that reports of the Norton County meteorite fall might actually have been UFO-related. Astronomer [Lincoln LaPaz](#) directs the recovery of the massive achondritic meteorite in 1948. More than 100 stones are recovered, including one weighing about one ton. (Wikipedia, “[Norton County \(meteorite\)](#)”; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1948](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 15–16; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 37–40; Luna Meteorite Hunters, “[Norton County, KS Fall 18FEB1948 More Than 60 Years Ago](#),” February 26, 2009; “[Norton County](#),” Meteorite Recon, October 8, 2015)
- 1948, February 20 — 2:00 a.m. In Palm Beach, Florida, lawyer and writer [Charles Francis Coe](#) and his son Alan see a globe of light shooting across the sky to the northeast at terrific speed. Coe calls it a “ray or blob of light” and insists it is not a meteor. (“[Mystery ‘Globe’ Seen by Editor](#),” *Palm Beach (Fla.) Post*, February 21, 1948, p. 1;

“True Mystic Experiences,” *Fate* 1, no. 3 (Fall 1948): 105–113; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, [p. 139](#))

- 1948**, February 20 — 1:15 p.m. Six surveyors, including Idaho Power Company surveyor [E. G. Hall](#), see a small flat, heart-shaped UFO flying in the sky at Emmett, Idaho. Through his theodolite it looks fuzzy across its back edge as if “dipped in cream.” He says it is about the size of a Piper Cub airplane and flying point first below the cloud level at between 2,000 and 4,000 feet. (*Emmett (Idaho) Messenger*, February 26, 1948; Kenneth Arnold, “Are Space Visitors Here?” *Fate* 1, no. 2 (Summer 1948): 13–14; Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, Citadel, 1954, [p. 98](#); Michel, *Truth About FS*, 67–68)
- 1948**, February 25 — The London *Times* reports that rockets have recently been seen in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, coming from the direction of Peenemünde, East Germany. The observations are almost invariably at 9:30 a.m., and the objects are traveling between 4,500 and 6,750 mph and ranging in altitude from tree-top level to 25,000 feet. They emit a bluish-green flame but leave no persistent trail. One is seen off Skagen, Denmark, by Capt. A. Harvedt, the pilot of a Norwegian Det Norske Luftfarselskap airliner, who times it as it disappears over the horizon in 4 seconds. (London *Times*, February 25, 1948, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs: A History, 1948](#), The Author, 1988, p. 18; Clark III 530; Clark IV 579)
- 1948**, March 3 — Maj. Gen. [Samuel E. Anderson](#), USAF Director of Plans and Operations at the Pentagon, rejects a proposal by Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) and Brig. Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#) for stationing fighter aircraft at all bases on continuous alert for UFOs. It costs too much and proper interceptions are unlikely. He orders all bases to send UFO information to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Maj. Gen. S. E. Anderson, “[Flying Discs](#),” March 3, 1948; Good Above, [pp. 263–264](#))
- 1948**, March 12 — Maj. [Earl S. Browning Jr.](#), in a memo to the European command of the 970th CIC, writes that the [Horten brothers](#) have been located and interrogated by US officials. Walter Horten has remained in Germany as an officer in the German Air Force. He thinks that sufficient types of flying wing prototypes existed when the Russians invaded Germany and may have served as models for flying discs. Reimar Horten had emigrated to Argentina when the war ended. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [p. 43](#))
- 1948**, March 17 — Memo on “Flying Discs” from Maj. Gen. [George C. McDonald](#), director of USAF intelligence, to the AMC commander, considers Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#)’s proposal to maintain fighters on alert for UFOs “unfeasible.” (Maj. Gen. George C. McDonald, “[Flying Discs](#),” March 17, 1948)
- 1948**, March 17–18 — The USAF Scientific Advisory Board meets in Room 3E-869 of the Pentagon, with physicist [Theodore von Kármán](#) presiding. Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) is present and speaks briefly about Project Sign, saying it has over 300 reports, many of them from experienced observers: “I can’t even tell you how much we would give to have one of those crash in an area so that we could recover whatever they are.” (Howard McCoy, “[Scientific Advisory Board Conference Held 17–18 March 1948, Room 3E-869, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.](#)”)
- 1948**, March 23 — RAF pilot [John Cunningham](#) reaches an altitude of 59,430 feet in a de Havilland Vampire turbojet. (Wikipedia, “[John Cunningham \(RAF officer\)](#)”)
- 1948**, March 25 — 5:00 a.m. According to writer [Frank Scully](#), who hears the tale from a scientist he refers to as “Dr. Gee” and a Texas oilman, a UFO crashes on a rocky plateau off Hart Canyon Road 12 miles east of Aztec, New Mexico. When Air Force investigators and government scientists arrive on the scene, they crawl through a broken porthole and find the bodies of 16 small humanlike beings (3–3.5 feet tall) dressed in the “style of 1890.” Their skin is charred a chocolate color, apparently as a result of the rush of terrestrial air through the shattered window. After a thorough study, the scientists conclude that the “vehicle probably flew on magnetic lines of force.” Segments of the craft, as well as the bodies, are supposedly transported to Wright Field in Ohio. Dr. Gee, who claims to have been on the scene, said the UFO is likely from Venus, as Martians “would probably be three or four times as large as human beings.” Soon afterward, a crash occurs in Arizona and 16 bodies are taken from the wreckage. A third spaceship goes down near Phoenix with 2 dead occupants. The story turns out to be a hoax dreamed up by two con men named [Silas Newton](#) and [Leo GeBauer](#) (“Dr. Gee,” although Scully claims this was a composite character incorporating 8 informants, one of whom is said to be geophysicist [Carl A. Heiland](#)). The hoax is loosely based on a 1949 science fiction film titled *The Flying Saucer*. GeBauer and especially Newton are in later years involved in various swindles and fraudulent mining claims. In 1987, [William S. Steinman](#) and [Wendelle C. Stevens](#) release *UFO Crash at Aztec*, which draws on speculation, rumor, unnamed informants, and paranoia to defend and embellish the original story. The latest to champion the Aztec crash is a North Carolina man named [Scott Ramsey](#), who with his wife Suzanne has spent thousands of dollars looking for and interviewing witnesses and trying to prove it involves a real UFO crash and coverup in his 2015 book *The Aztec UFO Incident*. Ramsey thinks the object was tracked on radar by Air Force Station P-8 near El Vado Dam. (Wikipedia, “[Aztec](#),

[New Mexico crashed saucer hoax](#)"; Frank Scully, *Behind the Flying Saucers*, Holt, 1950; Frank Scully, "What I've Learned Since Writing 'Behind the Flying Saucers,'" *Pageant*, February 1951, pp. 76–81; J. P. Cahn, "[The Flying Saucers and the Mysterious Little Men](#)," *True*, September 1952, pp. 17–19, 102–112; Frank Scully, "[Scully Breaks a Long Silence](#)," *Nexus* 2, no. 3 (March 1955): 13–16; J. P. Cahn, "[Flying Saucer Swindlers](#)," *True*, August 1956, pp. 36–37, 69–72; William S. Steinman Jr. and Wendelle C. Stevens, *UFO Crash at Aztec*, UFO Photo Archives, 1986; Good Above, [pp. 388–394](#); William E. Jones and Rebecca D. Minshall, "[Aztec, New Mexico—A Crash Story Reexamined](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1991): 11–15, 23; Good Need, [pp. 117–123](#); Jerome Clark, [review of The Aztec Incident](#), in *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 26, no. 3 (2012): 709–716; Scott Ramsey, Suzanne Ramsey, and Frank Thayer, *The Aztec UFO Incident*, New Page, 2015; Curt Collins, "[Operation Hush-Hush: The UFO Crash and ET Bodies Cover-Up](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, February 9, 2018; Clark III 594–595, 1044–1047; Curt Collins, "[Flying Saucer Swindlers: Silas Newton and the UFO Crash](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, April 5, 2020; Robert Sheaffer, "[The Frank Scully 'Crashed Saucer at Aztec' Hoax \(1950\)](#)," *The Debunker's Domain*; Chris Root, "[Of Flying Saucers and Fraud: The Silas M. Newton Story](#)," Denver (Colo.) Public library Special Collections and Archives monthly newsletter, July 16, 2021; Coulthart 2023, pp. 156–157; "[Frank Scully, Silas M. Newton, and the Case of the 1948 Aztec, New Mexico, UFO Crash](#)," *Eyes on Cinema* YouTube channel, December 21, 2023; Clark IV 654–655, 1159–1162)

- 1948, Spring — [Ray Palmer](#) and *Flying* magazine editor [Curtis Fuller](#) publish the first issue of *Fate* magazine at Clark Publishing Company in Chicago, Illinois. It features a first-hand story and a 30-page UFO roundup by [Kenneth Arnold](#), as well as a history of unconventional aircraft by Curtis Fuller. Palmer and Fuller use the shared pseudonym "Robert N. Webster." The issue sells a healthy 50,000 copies. It is still being published in 2025. (Kenneth Arnold, "[I Did See the Flying Disks!](#)" *Fate* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 4–10; Kenneth Arnold, "[The Mystery of the Flying Disks](#)," *Fate* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 18–48; Robert N. Webster [Curtis Fuller], "[What Were the 'Doughnuts'?](#)" *Fate* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 12–17; Clark III 872; Clark IV 967)
- 1948, Spring — [Kenneth Arnold](#) visits the Landing Aids Experiment Station in Arcata, California, and interviews [Kenneth W. Ehlers](#), a radar technician (and later physicist) working on airport operational systems, including radar. He has been accumulating information on unidentified radar targets (he calls them "gizmos") that cannot be seen with the naked eye and sending reports on their flight paths to Navy meteorologist [Florence Van Straten](#) and [Luis Walter Alvarez](#), the inventor of Ground Control Approach System radar. In many cases, the target indicates a small solid target flying around 30 mph. The targets always fly in the same path from northwest to southeast, along the coast. Sometimes they come to a complete halt; at other times they split into two objects, merging later. Ehlers notes that the targets have been attributed to insects, but he is skeptical. Later, he suspects they might be plasmas occurring at the inversion layer, but that does not explain their behavior. (Wesley Price, "[The Sky Is Haunted](#)," *Saturday Evening Post* 220, no. 36 (March 6, 1948): 13; Ray Palmer, "New Report on the Flying Saucers," *Fate* 4, no. 1 (January 1951): 63–81; "[Landing Aids Experiment Station](#)," Transocean Air Lines; Greg Long, "[In Search of Gizmos: A 1947 Radar Case](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 15–20)
- 1948, Spring? — President [Truman](#) asks Col. [Robert B. Landry](#), his USAF aide, to provide him with quarterly verbal reports on the state of UFO information and research. He does so to the end of 1952, with possibly 18 briefings in all. (James R. Fuchs, "[Oral History Interview with Robert B. Landry](#)," Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, February 28, 1974)
- 1948, April — Morning. US Weather Bureau meteorologist Walter A. Minozewski at the Richmond, Virginia, weather station and his staff catch sight of a bright metallic, elliptical disc while they are tracking a small ceiling balloon at 15,000 feet. He checks his observation through a theodolite telescope. The disc flies just below the balloon and remains in sight for 15 seconds, appearing much bigger than the balloon. It has a flat, level bottom and a dome on top. It remains on a westward heading at high speed, then vanishes off into the distance. (Ruppelt, [p. 41](#); Bloecher, [p. I-1](#))
- 1948, April 1 — 9:55 a.m. USAF 1stLt. Robert W. Meyers is leading a flight of four P-47s from the 67th Fighter Group about 9 miles southeast of Sorsogon City, Luzon, Philippines. At 1,500 feet, he notices an unusual silvery object about 3 miles to the east. Shaped like a flying wing or half-moon with a "turtle back," it resembles no military craft in use at the time. The object flies below the squadron at 200 mph and an altitude of about 1,000 feet. Meyers estimates it is about 30 feet wide and 20 feet long. When he attempts to contact the other three P-47s, he realizes his radio is dead. As he makes a 270° left turn to get a closer look, the object makes a 90° left turn and moves away at tremendous speed. It is only visible for about 5 seconds. (NICAP, "[P-47 Flight Encounters Half-Moon Object](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 33; Powell, *Scientist*, 65)
- 1948, April 5 — Afternoon. At Holloman AFB, near Alamogordo, New Mexico, three highly trained balloon observers (Joseph Olson, Johnson, and Chance) are working on a secret project for the Air Force's Watson Laboratories.

They see two objects. One observer follows one object, and the others follow the second as they diverge. All are certain that the objects aren't balloons. They are large, whitish, roundish, very high, faster than any aircraft, and perform rapid, erratic motions. One object is lost at a low altitude. The other goes up quickly and seems to just disappear. The observation lasts about 30 seconds. The case is deemed important enough to send [Alfred Loedding](#) and one of [Clingerman](#)'s assistants, Lt. Col. James C. Beam (the head of Project Sign), to New Mexico to interview Project Mogul scientist James W. Peoples and the other witnesses. Unfortunately, they are gone when Sign arrives. (They are later interviewed at the USAF Watson Laboratory complex in Red Bank, New Jersey.) The witnesses are very sure of themselves and the case is classed as "Unidentified." While at Holloman, Loedding and Beam talk with Lt. Herbert G. Markley, who has worked with the Watson team. Markley remembers one of them speaking of unusual radar returns from their equipment, but later the Watson personnel say that these were probably just "angels" (spurious echoes due to atmospheric microstructures, insects, equipment malfunction, or other stimuli). Markley does report that UFOs are seen around Holloman often. He himself has seen a disc in late August 1947 and flat, round aeroforms on at least two further occasions. (NICAP, "[Team Watches 35-Meter Disc](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 33; Ruppelt, [p. 71](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1948](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 24–27; Michael D. Swords, "[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#)," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 40–41; Project 1947, "[Holloman AFB UFO Sightings](#)")

- 1948**, April 7 or 8 — 3:00 p.m. Viola Johnson and James Pittman see three "flying men" circling Longview, Washington, at 250–300 feet and going as fast as a freight train. She says they are "dressed in khaki-colored flying suits with helmets over their faces." (Jim Stuart, "3 'Flying Minute Men' Seen over Longview on Wednesday," *Longview (Wash.) Daily News*, April 9, 1948; "[Heck, Them Discs Just Ain't in It; See What's Flying](#)," *Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle*, April 9, 1948, p. 1; "[Weird Things Enliven Skies Here and There](#)," *Kitsap (Wash.) Sun*, April 9, 1948, p. 1; "[Two Report Winged Men Circling above Longview](#)," *Portland Oregonian*, April 10, 1948, Sec. 2, p. 4; "[3 Men without Planes or Parachutes Reported Flying over Washington State](#)," *San Francisco (Calif.) Examiner*, April 10, 1948, p. 4; "[Reports of Birdmen Have Washington Folks Up in Air](#)," *Fresno (Calif.) Bee*, April 11, 1948, p. 19; Clark III 777)
- 1948**, April 15 — 6:17 a.m. The X-Ray nuclear device is detonated near Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands. B-17 pilotless drone aircraft are flown through the cloud, and a drone light tank is used to recover soil samples from the crater. Unfortunately, it becomes bogged and must be towed out 10 days later. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Sandstone](#)")
- 1948**, April 23 — A preliminary 25-page report, written by Project Sign's Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) and Lt. Col. James C. Beam, summarizes UFO reports received through February 1, with attached memos and documents. It is addressed to Chief of Staff [Hoyt Vandenberg](#) and Director of Intelligence [Charles P. Cabell](#). The Rhodes photos and 99 other cases are listed. A comment by chemist [Irving Langmuir](#) is appended, noting his doubts about the reality of flying discs. (Col. Howard M. McCoy, "[Project Sign](#)," April 23, 1948; Swords 54–55)
- 1948**, April 27–28 — Physicist [Joseph Kaplan](#), a member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, visits the Kirtland AFB Office of Special Investigations, AEC's Sandia Base, and Los Alamos in New Mexico, under orders from [Theodore Von Kármán](#), chairman of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, to review UFO reports and investigations from the area. Kaplan and [Lincoln LaPaz](#) meet with security personnel at Los Alamos. Kaplan reports that "these occurrences relate to the National Defense of the United States" and should be investigated scientifically." (Good Above, [p. 266](#))
- 1948**, May — An article on secret Skyhook balloons (without mentioning the project name) by [Devon Francis](#) is published in *Popular Science*. (Devon Francis, "[New Balloons Explore Roof of the Airways](#)," *Popular Science*, May 1948, pp. 98–104)
- 1948**, Early May — An unknown shining object passes from the northwest over Adapazari, Sakarya province, Turkey, explodes in the air, and drops parts in a nearby village, killing a dog. The debris is confirmed as coming from a rocket, but the US Air Force asks the air attaché in Ankara to investigate a connection with "flying disc" experiments conducted by the Russians. (Project Blue Book file, [1948-05-9670225-Adapazari-Turkey-170](#))
- 1948**, May 5 — An Efficiency Rating report is written up for [Alfred Loedding](#) from [Miles E. Goll](#), which mentions his work as a monitor for Project Sign. (Miles E. Goll, "[Efficiency Rating of Mr. Alfred C. Loedding](#)," May 5, 1948)
- 1948**, May 7 — Afternoon. Mr. and [Mrs. Fordyce J. Kaiser](#) and their housekeeper Jean Bray, at 251 W. Waldorf Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, see 50–60 unusual objects, apparently moving very high and fast, traveling in straight lines with slight zigzagging. They are shiny like bright aluminum with silvery trails. Lt. Col. James C. Beam of Project Sign goes to investigate. On the way back, he consults with astronomer [Paul Herget](#) of the Cincinnati Observatory in Ohio, who thinks the objects are meteors and recommends Ohio State University astronomer [J. Allen Hynek](#) in Columbus as a project consultant. (NICAP, "[May 7, 1948; Memphis, Tenn. \(BBU\)](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 34; Loren E.

Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1948](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 28–29; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 41; Swords 55–56)

- 1948, May 12 — European Command HQ sends the director of intelligence at the US Forces in Austria a memo alleging that [Walter Horten](#) has admitted he has been in contact with the Russians. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, p. 43)
- 1948, May 14 — The RAND Corporation is established as a nonprofit organization to offer research and analysis to the US military. It is financed by the US government, endowments, corporations, universities, and private individuals. On November 1, Douglas Aircraft’s Project RAND contract is formally transferred to the RAND Corporation. (Wikipedia, “[RAND Corporation](#)”)
- 1948, May 15 — During the Zebra nuclear detonation at Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands, a manned aircraft accidentally flies through the mushroom cloud. Because the pilot and crew “suffered no ill effects,” the Air Force decides that piloted aircraft could collect samples. The Los Alamos, New Mexico, personnel assigned to remove the filters from the B-17 drones have apparently carried out the same procedure on X-Ray and Yoke without problems, but this time three of them suffer radiation burns on their hands serious enough to be hospitalized and need skin grafting. One of the men who carries out the procedure for Yoke is then also found to have burns on his hands and is also hospitalized but is discharged on May 28. Once again, the drone tank gives trouble and bogs in the crater, but the soil samples are retrieved by the backup drone tank. Both tanks are subsequently dumped in the ocean. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Sandstone](#)”; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, p. 224)
- 1948, May 15 — A piston-driven YB-35 flying wing bomber makes its first and only flight at Edwards AFB in California. (Wikipedia, “[Northrop YB-35](#)”)
- 1948, May 17 — Day. William A. Bonneville sees a bright white ball, three times as bright as a locomotive headlight, sail over the hills to the northwest between Plevna and Miles City, Montana. It moves south, then west, repeating these maneuvers for 20 minutes until it flies into a dark cloud. It is silent, and a long, bright light shoots out from beneath. (Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 41–44)
- 1948, May 22 — Mrs. Lile Connor of Utica, Michigan, sees a man-sized, bat-like figure flapping its wings while it flies south. (“Aerial Freaks Replace Those Flying Saucers,” *Detroit (Mich.) Times*, May 30, 1948)
- 1948, May 27 — Bruce Falls and two other men watch a flying object shaped like a bird moving silently east above Livernois and Eight Mile Road in Ferndale, Michigan, at about 2,000 feet. It flies swiftly and does not flap its wings. (“Aerial Freaks Replace Those Flying Saucers,” *Detroit (Mich.) Times*, May 30, 1948)
- 1948, Late May — 11:40 a.m. Sgt. T. G. Jones and three other officers and two crew are aboard a York transport aircraft, accompanied by a formation of six Meteor jets, cruising at 10,000 feet above the Oxford/Bicester area in England, bound for RAF Acklington. Visiting US Maj. [Robin Olds](#) is in one of the jets. They encounter a 100-foot oval object with three bumps or protrusions on the bottom, as Jones describes it through binoculars. Ground radar tracks the object, which is stationary and above 25,000 feet. Two jets go up to try to get a better look and get within a few thousand feet. The object departs vertically at a speed of 1,500 mph. (Jenny Randles, *UFO Conspiracy*, Cassell, 1987, pp. 92–93)
- 1948, May 28 — 3:00 p.m. USAF Reserve 1st Lt. Alexander Kokolonis is flying a C-47 at 6,000 feet six miles east of Monroe, Michigan, when he sees out of the navigator’s window three discs 2 miles to the left. He estimates they are 300–400 feet in diameter, silvery-gold, and traveling well over 500 mph. They are seen for only 10–15 seconds. Shortly afterwards, Kokolonis sees two similar objects and he alerts M/Sgt Ernest Davis Jr., who also sees them. (NICAP, “[Air Force Transport Buzzed by 3 UFOs](#)”; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 45)
- 1948, May 31 — 1:20 p.m. A cigar-shaped object moves through the sky from the northwest at terrific speed over Wilmington, North Carolina. Mrs. H. D. Alspach, Mrs. Charles Colvin, and Mrs. [Isabell Hufham](#) see the object emit smoke. It appears about 3 feet long. It slows down over the Cape Fear River, veers off to the east, and then speeds away at a high altitude. (NICAP, “[Cigar Slows Down Then Speeds Up](#)”; Sparks, p. 34; “[Flying Object Reported Seen in Wilmington](#),” *Asheville (N.C.) Citizen-Times*, June 1, 1948, p. 10; Clark III 530; Clark IV 580)
- 1948, Summer — USAF Maj. [Edwin A. Jerome](#) reports that a high-speed radar target appears during an inspection visit at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador. It is calculated at going 9,000 mph at an altitude of 60,000 feet. The commanders assume that the US equipment is faulty, but the Canadians have tracked the same target. The following day, an object hovers over the base at 45,000 feet and moving only 10 mph. (NICAP, “[Edwin Jerome Radar Case](#)”; UFOEv, pp. 83–84; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, pp. 151–152; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 51–52; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 264)

- 1948, Summer [possibly 1958]** — Early afternoon. Aircraft instrumentation engineer [Victor G. Didelot](#) watches an elliptical UFO moving rapidly west to east roughly parallel to the shoreline of Lake Erie in Erie, Pennsylvania. It suddenly and silently ascends vertically at three times its horizontal speed and disappears. (UFOEv, [pp. 55–56](#))
- 1948, Summer** — Physicist [Carl A. Mitchell](#) sees three luminescent greenish discs, one second apart, passing across the sky above Easton, Pennsylvania, from north to south. (UFOEv, [p. 49](#))
- 1948, June** — [Paul Solem](#) has his first contact with a flying saucer when he, his wife [Ada](#), and his brother-in-law see three round, glowing objects speeding toward them over a field on his ranch in Howe, Idaho. At a distance of 500 feet, two of the objects veer away to the north over Saddle Mountain, while the other hovers. Impulsively, Solem frames a mental question: Who are you? Where are you from? A voice inside his head replies, “We are from another planet. You will hear from us later.” (Clark III 1094; Clark IV 1210)
- 1948, June 5** — A jet-propelled Northrop YB-49 crashes north of Muroc [now Edwards] AFB in California after completing a number of maximum forward center-of-gravity tests, killing its pilot, Maj. [Daniel Forbes](#) (for whom Forbes AFB in Topeka, Kansas, is named), copilot Capt. [Glen Edwards](#) (for whom Edwards AFB is named), and three other crew members. The aircraft suffers structural failure, with both outer wing sections becoming detached from the center section. (Wikipedia, “[Northrop YB-49](#)”)
- 1948, June 16** — Soviet test pilot Arkady Ivanovich Apraksin is flying at an altitude of 6.5 miles above a solid layer of clouds south of the Kapustin Yar site, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. He sees an unconventional aircraft in the shape of a cucumber with cones of light radiating from it descending across his path. The base tells him it has tracked the object on radar and given it instructions to land, but it does not respond. Apraksin is ordered to intercept it and open fire if it refuses to land. When he closes to within 6 miles, the light beams open up like a fan and shine into his aircraft, blinding him. The plane’s electrical systems malfunction. He glides the plane to a safe landing after the UFO disappears. Apraksin is interrogated heavily. (Joe Brill, “[UFO’s behind the Iron Curtain](#),” *Skylook*, no. 87 (February 1975): 14–15; Good Above, [p. 221](#))
- 1948, June 18** — The National Security Council issues Directive 10/2, calling for covert action against the USSR, and granting the authority to carry out covert operations against “hostile foreign states or groups” that could, if needed, be denied by the US government. To this end, the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) is created inside the new CIA. [Frank Wisner](#), the head of the OPC, answers not to the CIA director, but to the secretaries of defense, state, and the NSC, and the OPC’s actions are a secret even from the head of the CIA. Most CIA stations have two station chiefs, one working for the OSO, and one working for the OPC. (“[Note on U.S. Covert Actions](#),” from *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1964–1968, Volume XII, Western Europe*, Office of the Historian, Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State)
- 1948, June 29** — 5:45 a.m. Two *Dallas Morning News* routemen, Lloyd Barr and Johnnie Acree, spot a round, shiny, whirling object near Cotton Center, Texas. It flies southwest at about 1,500 feet and remains visible for about two minutes. (“[Flying Saucers Are Staging a Comeback](#),” *Hobart (Okla.) Democrat-Chief*, June 29, 1948, p. 1)
- 1948, June 29** — ATIC’s chief of operations, C. A. Griffith, writes to a military representative in Norway to send all UFO reports to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1948](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 32–33)
- 1948, June 30** — A couple are driving near Hecla, South Dakota, when they see an unusual star. They stop the car and get out, but it is not moving. They drive on and stop again. A few pieces break off the original star and arrange themselves in a triangle formation. They all now look like polished aluminum; they rise to a great height and vanish. ([Sparks](#), p. 35; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 45–46; Swords 57)
- 1948, July** — 1:00 p.m. Former Air Force pilot Don Newman and three friends watch a disc-shaped, domed UFO, about 100 feet in diameter, maneuvering over Pasco, Washington. “The exterior finish appears to be spun or burnished aluminum.” The object slows, then accelerates rapidly, dives, and climbs over the area. (NICAP, “[Summary of letter from Witness to Major Keyhoe, dated March 10, 1958](#)”; UFOEv, [p. 38](#))
- 1948, July 1** — A Maj. Hammer is flying above Rapid City AFB [now Ellsworth AFB], South Dakota, when he sees 21 brilliant, yellow-white, oval-shaped objects. They are about 100 feet in diameter and flying in a tight diamond formation. They make a high-speed dive, level, make a perfect turn in formation, angle upwards at 30°–40°, and accelerate out of sight. He estimates their cruising speed at 500 mph. ([Sparks](#), p. 35; Swords 57–58)
- 1948, July 4** — Day. Edward E. Thompson watches a brilliant spherical UFO for five minutes while sitting in Johnson Park in Camden, New Jersey, across from the Cooper Free Public Library. (“[Report from the Readers](#),” *Fate* 1, no. 4 (Winter 1949): 93–94)
- 1948, July 7** — A silver, disc-shaped object allegedly crashes some 30 miles south-southwest of Laredo, Texas. US servicemen are reportedly dispatched from a nearby military base to cordon off the UFO crash site until a special US retrieval team arrives to examine the wreckage and carry it away to a military base in San Antonio, Texas.

Supposedly the badly burned body of a nonhuman entity is recovered from the crash site. Ufologist [Leonard Stringfield](#) hears rumors of the crash in 1977, but few further details emerge. Early in 1978, Stringfield describes the humanoid found at the crash site as “about 4 feet, 6 inches tall, completely hairless, with hands that had no thumbs.” That description seems to fit the body shown in two photographs that are mailed to Willard F. McIntyre in December 1978. The body depicted in the photos sent to McIntyre has come to be known as the “Tomato Man” due to its large, roundish head. Many UFO researchers, including [Ron Schaffner](#) and [Kevin Randle](#), believe the body is that of a human pilot who is badly disfigured by intense heat following a plane crash. They argue that one of the photos shows a pair of eyeglasses, such as a human pilot would wear, near the body. (Leonard H. Stringfield, “[Retrievals of the Third Kind, Part 1](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1979): 13, 15–16; Gray Barker, “Archives Reveal More Crashed UFOs,” *Gray Barker’s Newsletter* 14 (March 1982): 5–6; William S. Steinman and Wendelle C. Stevens, *UFO Crash at Aztec*, UFO Photo Archives, 1986, pp. 402–422; Good Above, [pp. 397–398](#); Kevin D. Randle, *A History of UFO Crashes*, Avon, 1995, [p. 188](#); Noe Torres and Ruben Uriarte, *The Other Roswell: UFO Crash on the Texas–Mexico Border*, Roswell Books, 2008; “[Laredo 1948](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, March 8, 2009; Clark III 324; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, “[The ‘Tomato Man’ in Retrospective](#),” Academia.edu, 2022; Clark IV 360)

- 1948**, July 9 — Caramia and Carpenter, two officers of the USAF 72nd Reconnaissance Group, are fishing at Fielding Lake, Alaska, when they hear a loud roar and notice about 20 gray discs or spheres moving at 500 mph in loose formation from west-northwest to east-southeast at about 5,000 feet. (Barry Greenwood, “[The Estimate of the Situation: Well, Not Exactly!](#)” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 16 (July 2015): 5–10)
- 1948**, July 9 — 9:47 p.m. While on the ground in Osborn, Ohio, the USAF Project Sign officer who had flown to investigate the Hecla case, sees a self-luminous, yellow-white object flying at 500–600 mph. It seems to pulse its lights at 3-second intervals as it moves away. ([Sparks](#), p. 35; Swords 58)
- 1948**, July 14 — Day. Charles W. Shangle Jr. watches two groups of about 16 UFOs maneuvering at 300–600 mph over Boise, Idaho. Two of the objects exhibit a “falling leaf” motion. (Charles W. Shangle Jr., [[Letter](#)], *Popular Science*, July 1948; “True Mystic Experiences,” *Fate* 2, no. 1 (May 1949): 75–79; Ferris Weddle, “[Flying Saucers Are His Hobby](#),” *Deseret News* [Salt Lake City, Utah], June 3, 1951, magazine, p. 14)
- 1948**, July 17 — 4:50 p.m. Two Kirtland AFB sergeants on a fishing trip with their families five miles south of San Acacia Diversion Dam, New Mexico, see a group of 7 aluminum-like, spherical objects approach from the south at 20,000 feet pass overhead at 1,500 mph. They first appear like snub-nosed jet fighters of an unknown type, shifting from V-formation to L-formation to circular formation to no regular formation. A regular pulsating flashing light appears in the group at 30° from zenith to the north, and at this oblique angle the objects do not appear circular. There is no noise or trail. (NICAP, “[Two Military Families Report Seven Objects](#)”; Swords 58)
- 1948**, July 20 — The Netherlands government reports that a wingless, cigar-shaped object with two decks of windows is seen flying rapidly on four separate occasions by two Dutch citizens over The Hague (and/or Arnhem). (NICAP, “[High V-2-Like Craft Observed](#)”; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1948*, The Author, 1988, p. 86; Clark III 935; Clark IV 1045)
- 1948**, July 21 — The USAF Research and Development division sends a formal letter to the RAND Corporation authorizing them to select scientists to evaluate the possibility that the flying discs might be human-built spaceships. RAND’s reply is not known. (W. R. Clingerman to USAF Chief of Staff, “[Request for Study by Rand Project](#),” October 22, 1948; Swords 58)
- 1948**, July 24 — 1:45 a.m. A bright object is seen at Robins AFB in Houston County, Georgia, by ground maintenance crewman Walter Massey, who sees a “stream of fire” in the north. As it moves overhead, it seems more cylindrical. It moves off to the west. (NICAP, “[July 24, 1948, 0250E, Warner Robins AFB, Georgia](#)”)
- 1948**, July 24 — 2:45 a.m. Capt. [Clarence S. Chiles](#) and copilot [John B. Whitted](#) are flying an Eastern Airlines DC-3 at 5,000 feet, 20 miles southwest of Montgomery, Alabama, when they see an object about 100 feet long moving rapidly toward them on their right. Torpedo-shaped and wingless, the object has flames jetting 50 feet from its rear. There are two rows of square windows through which a bright light is glowing. They only see it for 5–10 seconds. It is half a mile away and moving at about 700 mph. After it passes the plane it appears to swoop into a cloud bank at 6,000 feet. One passenger, [Clarence L. McKelvie](#) of Columbus, Ohio, also sees it. Many ufologists now consider the object to be a fireball meteor. Martin Shough writes: “There is nothing in this case that convincingly rules out a fragmenting fireball, and the ‘airship effect’ which causes the eye to see a line of glowing fragments as lighted windows in an elongated machine has been a widely known feature of such sightings at least since Hartmann made a pretty good study of it in the Condon Report. Other observers in neighboring states saw on their far western horizon an ‘unusually bright meteor’ that could have been the same fireball on a near-horizontal trajectory heading SW over the Alabama-Georgia border area. Chiles-Whitted saw it only for a few seconds going by above and to their right heading SW on a near reciprocal heading to them but miles higher and

much faster than they thought. As it approached them, the angular rate of the object would rise geometrically in a hockey-stick curve which, interpreted in terms of an illusory near-miss with another 'aircraft,' could suggest the appearance of a climb and an avoiding veer." (Wikipedia, "[Chiles-Whitted UFO Encounter](#)"; NICAP, "[Chiles-Whitted Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 36; "[Atlanta Pilots Report Wingless Sky Monster](#)," *Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution*, July 25, 1948, pp. 1, 8; "['Sky Devil-Ship' Scares Pilots: Air Chief Wishes He Had One](#)," *Atlanta (Ga.) Journal*, July 25, 1948, p. 1; "[Mysterious 'Ball of Fire' Trailing Tail of Flame Sighted over Atlanta](#)," *Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution*, July 27, 1948, pp. 1, 4; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 90–91; Ruppelt, pp. 40–41; UFOEv, p. 48; Dale Huffman, "[UFOs Just Debris, Blue Book Staff Confirms](#)," *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, July 16, 1968, p. 21; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 42–43; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History, Vol. 1, July 1947–December 1948*, The Author, 1980, pp. 34–48; Good Above, pp. 264, 479; Michael D. Swords, "[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#)," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 46–47; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: a History: 1948, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 53–60; Joel Carpenter, "[Watershed: The Chiles-Whitted 'Rocketship' Sighting](#)," 2002; Martin Shough, "[Analysis of the Chiles-Whitted Sightings, July 24, 1948](#)," February 2011; Swords 58–60; Kevin D. Randle, "[Chiles/Whitted and Skepticism](#)," A Different Perspective, January 21, 2016; Clark III 234–236, 391; John Greenewald, "[Project Blue Book: The Chiles-Whitted UFO Encounter, July 24, 1948, Montgomery, Alabama](#)," The Black Vault, May 15, 2023; Graff 45; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 49–50, 58; Clark IV 274–276, 437)

1948, July 25 — Chief of Air Force Intelligence Gen. [Charles Cabell](#) phones Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#)'s office at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Sign is ordered to get into the field immediately and investigate the Chiles-Whitted case. By that afternoon, [Loedding](#), [Deyarmond](#), and [Llewellyn](#) (now apparently director of Project Sign) are flown by Capt. Clarence Groseclose to Atlanta, Georgia. ([Sparks](#), p. 13; Swords 60; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)

1948, July 26 — [Loedding](#), [Deyarmond](#), and [Llewellyn](#) interview [Chiles](#) and [Whitted](#) in the Henry Grady Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. They are impressed with their account. Mulling the case through September, Project Sign is disturbed even more than the [Mantell](#) incident, according to [Ruppelt](#). Capt. [Sneider](#) considers the shape aerodynamically feasible; consultant [J. Allen Hynek](#) says it might be a fireball but considers that "far-fetched." (Swords 60)

1948, July 26 — Aeronautical engineer [Molt Taylor](#) speculates to the Associated Press that "If we can build such craft, what is to prevent others from doing so, assuming that a similar order of intelligence exists on other planets? You and I may see the day when we will be united with Russia defending this planet against attack from space." ("[It May Be Men from Mars, Expert Says of 'Saucers'](#)," *San Francisco Examiner*, July 28, 1948, p. 32; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1948, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 65)

1948, July 27 — Air Intelligence Memorandum on "Pattern of Flying Saucers" requires that a study be made by the Air Intelligence Division to examine the pattern of tactics of reported UFOs and develop conclusions as to their probability. This leads to the EEI "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the United States" (100-203-79) of December 10. The JIC report gives the incorrect date as August 6. (Col. Brooke E. Allen, "[Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.](#)," October 11, 1948; "[Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects](#)," April 28, 1949, p. 2; Jan L. Aldrich, "[New Top Secret Document Revealed](#)," Project 1947)

1948, July 29 — 9:18 a.m. James Toney and Robert Huggins, both employees of an Indianapolis, Indiana, rug cleaning firm, are in a truck headed west near the intersection of 56th Street and Fall Creek Boulevard when they see a shiny, propeller-shaped, aluminum object with 10–12 small cups protruding from either blade. It is 6–8 feet long and flying silently above the trees at 30 feet altitude some 300 feet away heading south. It approaches to about 100 feet at its closest. The object glides across the road at 25–30 mph in a slight descent then makes a 20° bank to the east and goes down in a wooded area. Toney and Huggins stop the truck and get out to look, but the object has disappeared behind trees. A later search finds no traces. (NICAP, "[Close Encounter with 'Propeller-Shaped Object'](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 36)

1948, July 31 — 8:25 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. [Vernon Swigert](#) of south-central Indianapolis, Indiana, see a cymbal-shaped or domed-disc object to the west of their home. It is about 20 feet across, 6–8 feet thick, white without any shine but shadowing on upper right. It flies straight and level from horizon to horizon, west to east heading 90°. They estimate its altitude as 2,000 feet covering a distance of 5 miles in 10 seconds. It shimmers in the sun as if spinning, is silent, and has no trail. (NICAP, "[Cymbal-Shaped Object Observed by Couple](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 37)

1948, August 5 — This date given by [Edward Ruppelt](#) for the lost "Estimate of the Situation," in which Project Sign concludes that UFOs are interplanetary, is probably too early. See September 30.

- 1948**, August 11 — Between 12:00 and 12:15 p.m. Two boys playing outside near Hamel, Minnesota, see a round, dull gray or silver object 2 feet in diameter and 1 foot thick, like inverted plates approach them from the northwest. It drops down between the boys from a height of 12 feet and lands 8 feet away, like a balloon, with a metallic clinking sound and a train whistle noise. It spins once, shoots up 20 feet, makes a whistling noise again, hovers, shoots up to a height of 30 feet. maneuvers to avoid phone lines and trees, then flies away to the northeast. CIC Special Agent Capt. Charles L. Victor finds an area 2 feet in diameter where the ground shows signs of extreme pressure. ([Sparks](#), p. 37; Wilkins, *Attack*, pp. 104–105)
- 1948**, August 15 — Morning. Future ufologist [Walter H. Andrus Jr.](#), his wife [Genevieve](#), and son Donald see four UFOs flying in formation east to west over downtown, Phoenix, Arizona. They simply vanish in sequence, then the first three reappear one at a time in the northwest where they pass out of sight to the west. (Story, pp. 17–18)
- 1948**, August 21 — A possible Russian rocket trail is seen over Katrineholm, Sweden, that remains visible for three hours “resembling a brilliant star surrounded by streamers of fire like the tentacles of an octopus.” However, there is no known record of a launch on this date of a V-2 or R-1 missile from the Russian base at Kapustin Yar, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. It may be the same object viewed by Swedish Armed Forces Supreme Commander [Helge Jung](#) of an “aerial explosion considered to be some form of guided missile originating from Estonian islands, possibly Dagö or Osel.” (“[‘Sky Octopus’ Seen above Swedish Town](#),” *Richmond (Ind.) Palladium-Item*, August 23, 1948, p. 2; “Sky Octopus over Sweden,” *Fate* 2, no. 1 (May 1949): 35; Jan Aldrich, “[Investigating the Ghost Rockets](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 14)
- 1948**, September — About this time Capt. [Robert R. Sneider](#) becomes a co-chief of Project Sign with Lt. Howard W. Smith. ([Sparks](#), pp. 13–14; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)
- 1948**, September 1 — The CIA Office of Policy Coordination is formally established with the responsibility to engage in “propaganda, economic warfare, preventive direct action, including sabotage, antisabotage, demolition and evacuation procedures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance groups, guerrillas and refugee liberation groups, and support of indigenous anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world.” (Wikipedia, “[Office of Policy Coordination](#)”)
- 1948**, September 15 — USAF Maj. [Dick Johnson](#) reaches an official airspeed record of 671 mph (slightly more than [Yeager](#)’s first record) in a North American F-86A-3 Sabre at Muroc [now Edwards] AFB, California. (Wikipedia, “[North American F-86 Sabre](#)”)
- 1948**, September 16 — Before dawn. Fred Scott, 63, is walking around Grassy Mountain, Malheur County, Oregon, when he looks up and sees two “flying persons” to the south. They are 150–250 feet up, one following the other at a distance of 8–10 feet. Their wings are narrow and rounded at the tip and do not flap. Their legs are unusually short. They remain visible while Scott walks for at least another mile. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1940–1949](#), p. 43; Clark III 270; Clark IV 310)
- 1948**, September 23 — 9:40 a.m. At Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico, a group of people are waiting for an airplane at the landing strip when one of them notices something glint in the sun. It is a flat, circular object, high in the northern sky. The appearance and relative size is the same as a dime held edgewise and slightly tipped, about 50 feet away. (NICAP, “[Flat Dime On-Edge Observed by Lab Personnel](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 38; Michael D. Swords, “[The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Clark III)
- 1948**, September 26 — 2:00 p.m. P. L. Lewis sees a white object moving rapidly across the sky at Port Hope, Ontario, then disappear when it is nearly overhead. Other white objects follow at about 50 mph in a northeasterly direction, accompanied by strands of spider web. Lewis speculates that the objects are balls of spiders’ threads, held together by thistledown. (P. R. Bishop, “[Cobwebs or Flying Saucers?](#)” *Weather* 4 (1949): 121–122; Philip J. Imbrogno, *Files from the Edge: A Paranormal Investigator’s Explorations into High Strangeness*, Llewellyn, 2010, p. 54; Clark III 124; Clark IV 151)
- 1948**, September 30? — Project Sign officer Capt. [Robert R. Sneider](#) has decided that the time has come to climax Project Sign’s task and write the required “Estimate of the Situation.” Every intelligence operation’s task is ultimately to present such a best-guess summary, strongly backed with as much fact as possible. Using the July 24 Chiles-Whitted case as the core and collecting around it many cases from the summer of 1947 to September 1948, Sneider composes the document. The most recent case known to have been listed in the document is the September 23 Los Alamos National Laboratory sighting in New Mexico. Two prominent USAF intelligence officers ([Edward J. Ruppelt](#) and [Dewey J. Fournet Jr.](#)) see the document in 1952. “It was a rather thick document with a black cover and it was printed on legal-sized paper. Stamped across the front were the words TOP SECRET.” Ruppelt says the Estimate concludes that the best evidence indicated an extraterrestrial origin for UFOs. Sneider is probably the primary author. Col. [Albert Deyarmond](#), [Alfred Loedding](#), and [Lawrence Truettner](#) almost certainly are part of the writing. Maj. [Raymond Llewellyn](#) certainly looks in. All these people, as well as

higher-ups in Col. [William Clingerman](#)'s and Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#)'s offices, must approve it, at least in some sense. And an Estimate of UFOs as extraterrestrial is no small thing to assent to. The Estimate is probably addressed to Chief of Staff Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#), but it really is meant for Director of Intelligence Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#). It is probably sent near the end of September, just before the [George Gorman](#) "UFO dogfight" in Fargo, North Dakota, on October 1. It probably lands in Col. [George Garrett](#)'s Collections office and is hand-carried to Cabell. Cabell may or may not be shocked. With a pro-ETH Wright-Patterson intelligence group on one side, an anti-ETH Pentagon Intelligence Requirements Office on the other, and open-minded collections officers and the powerful Research and Development chief (Gen. [Donald L. Putt](#)) in between, Cabell doesn't want to decide this on his own. He hands the Estimate further upstairs to Vandenberg himself, who rejects it and bats it back to Cabell with a strong sense of disapproval. Ruppelt adds that some months later the Estimate is completely declassified and "all but a few copies" are destroyed. (Ruppelt, [pp. 28, 41, 45](#); *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 13–14](#); Kevin D. Randle, *The UFO Casebook*, Warner, 1989, [pp. 28–31](#); Michael D. Swords, "[The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt](#)," *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Michael D. Swords, "[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#)," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 48–51; Swords 62; Clark III 436–437, 935; Kate Dorsch, *Reliable Witnesses, Crackpot Science: UFO Investigations in Cold War America, 1947–1977*, dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2019, pp. 88–89; Graff 47–48; Clark IV 481–482, 1045)

- 1948, October — [Vannevar Bush](#) resigns as chairman of the Research and Development Board, passing the job on to [Karl Taylor Compton](#). (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 9)
- 1948, October 1 — The first Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication (JANAP) 146, based on [Bernard Baruch Jr.](#)'s CIRES system, is issued. It consists of instructions for military and civilian personnel on how to report sightings of enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines, and surface vessels. This version does not include UFOs. It is tabled shortly afterward by Maj. Gen. [Cabell](#). (Antonio F. Rullán, "[Blue Book UFO Reports at Sea by Ships: Analysis of the Blue Book Ship Database](#)," December 10, 2002, pp. 8–9; Swords 122)
- 1948, October 1 — 9:00 p.m. 2d Lieut. [George F. Gorman](#) of the North Dakota National Guard, flying an F-51 near Fargo, North Dakota, spots an object traveling east to west. He describes it as a light 6–8 inches in diameter displaying incredible movements. He repeatedly gives chase beginning at 9:07 p.m., but each time is outmaneuvered by the light, which moves up to 600 mph. On his first pass he gets as close as 500 feet from the light at about 5,000 feet altitude. Gorman climbs to 14,000 feet but stalled out, unable to intercept the light, which is at about 16,000 feet. The light makes evasive and aggressive maneuvers, such as seeming to try to ram the F-51. When it drops to 11,000 feet, Gorman attempts to dive at it, but the light pulls up, rises vertically, and disappears at high speed. The light is also seen by airport control tower operators [Lloyd D. Jensen](#) and Manuel E. Johnson, as well as others on the ground and pilot [Arthur E. Cannon](#) flying a Piper Cub at 1,600 feet. Jensen watches the dogfight through 6x30 binoculars, the UFO appearing perfectly round with sharp edges and no fuzzy outline. Project Sign personnel arrive within hours and interview the witnesses. Eventually they conclude the object was a balloon, with evasive maneuvers the product of Gorman's imagination, since ground observers do not see anything comparable. Some ufologists, among them [Aimé Michel](#) and [James E. McDonald](#), have rejected the balloon explanation. (Wikipedia, "[Gorman dogfight](#)"; NICAP, "[Gorman \(Fargo\) Case](#)"; Sparks, p. 39; "[Fargo Pilot Tells of Chasing 'Flying Disk'](#)," *Fargo (N.Dak.) Forum*, October 3, 1948, pp. 1–2; "[Dogfight with Mysterious Flying Object Told by Pilot](#)," *Decatur (Ill.) Daily Review*, October 3, 1948, p. 1; "[Pilot Tells of Long Dogfight with Queer Flying Object](#)," *St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat*, October 3, 1948, p. 10; "[Flying Ball Plays Tag with Pilot](#)," *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal*, October 3, 1948, p. 4; "[Pilot, 'Disk' Have Half Hour Tussle](#)," *Lincoln (Nebr.) Sunday Journal and Star*, October 3, 1948, p. 1; "[Wright Field Officers Probe 'Disk' Report](#)," *Fargo (N.Dak.) Forum*, October 4, 1948, p. ; Keyhoe 1950, [pp. 102–107](#); Ruppelt, [pp. 41–43](#); Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 80–82, 111–114; Story, [pp. 151–152](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History, 1948*, The Author, 1988, pp. 56–64; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, p. 138; Clark III 536–537, 949; Tracy Briggs, "[Fargo's Most Famous UFO Sighting Happened in the Skies above a Bison Football Game](#)," *Fargo (N.Dak.) Forum*, December 15, 2020; Graff 49–50; Clark IV 424, 425, 586–596, 1063)
- 1948, October 7 — A document from Project Sign to [Garrett](#) and [Cabell](#) is an upbeat [Sneider](#) report on the initial investigation of the [Gorman](#) dogfight, making the object sound extremely unusual and intelligent in behavior. This is almost like a supplement to the Estimate. (Michael D. Swords, "[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#)," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 50)
- 1948, October 7 — A set of letters, composed not by [Sneider](#) but actually by [Samuel Z. Hunnicutt](#), a member of T-2 and the Sign team, and approved by MCI heavyweights [Howard M. McCoy](#), [Clingerman](#), and [Leland Money](#), goes out

to the CIA, US Army Intelligence, and the Office of Naval Intelligence. The query: What domestic technological developments do you know of that might explain UFOs and help us differentiate them from inimical (Soviet) foreign developments? (Michael D. Swords, "[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#)," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 50)

- 1948**, October 12 (or 22) — Project Sign's Col. [William R. Clingerman](#) writes a letter to USAF Chiefs of Staff requesting a study of UFOs by the RAND Corporation, similar to the one made by USAF R&D in July, especially the possibility that "some of the unidentified aerial objects that have been reported both in the United States and in foreign lands may have been experimental spaceships.... it is believed more likely that they represent the effort of a foreign nation, rather than a product from beyond the Earth." (Col. W. R. Clingerman, "[Request for Study by Rand Project](#)," October 12(?), 1948; Swords 58, 492–493)
- 1948**, October 15 — 11:05 p.m. On night patrol, 1st Lt. [Oliver "Bud" Hemphill Jr.](#) of the 68th Fighter Squadron is flying a Northrup F-61 Black Widow some 50 miles northwest of Fukuoka, Japan, when the crew picks up an object on radar going 200 mph. As he closes to intercept, the object speeds up to 1,200 mph then slows down again. The plane tries closing in six times, but each time the object speeds away. On one pass the crew sees the object's silhouette, which looks like a "rifle bullet" 20–30 feet long. The object "seems cognizant of the whereabouts of the F-61 at all times." Radar operator Barton Halter thinks it is a "new type of aircraft." (NICAP, "[F-61 'Black Widow' Radar Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 40; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 69–70; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 134–137; Martin Shough, *RADCAT: Radar Catalogue: A Review of Twenty-One Ground and Airborne Radar UAP Contact Reports Generally Related to Aviation Safety for the Period October 15, 1948, to September 19, 1976*, National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, NARCAP Report TR-6, December 8, 2002, pp. 3–4; Thomas Tulien, "[Fukuoka \(Kyushu\) Japan, 15 October 1948: The Original 'Tic-Tac' UFO](#)," Sign Oral History Project, 2024)
- 1948**, October 20 — The US Air Force Security Service is activated at Arlington Hall in Washington, D.C., with the mission of cryptology and communications security. (Wikipedia, "[United States Air Force Security Service](#)")
- 1948**, October 29 — Five US Air Force pilots observe a silvery object over Neubiberg Air Base [now closed] near Munich, Germany. The object disappears at a terrific speed after having remained over the air base more than 30 minutes. A similar object is seen days before by another group of American pilots. (Jan Aldrich, "[Early Top Secret UFO Document Discovered](#)," 2000)
- Late 1948** — The search for a suitable US location for nuclear testing, codenamed "Project Nutmeg," commences under the direction of expert meteorologist and Navy Captain Howard B. Hutchinson. The government is looking for a place where nuclear tests would have little impact on the American people or the American economy. Five primary sites are considered: Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; Alamogordo–White Sands Guided Missile Range, New Mexico; an area in Nevada between Fallon and Eureka; the Tonopah–Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range (the site finally chosen in 1950, now part of Nellis Air Force Base); and the Pamlico Sound area off the coast of North Carolina. ("[Project Nutmeg: The Birth of the Nevada Test Site](#)," National Nuclear Security Administration, June 2004; Philip Howard, "[Project Nutmeg](#)," *Village Craftsmen*, April 21, 2012; Diane Tennant, "[How Outer Banks Almost Became a Nuclear Test Site](#)," *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, January 27, 2013)
- 1948**, November 1 — Radar operator M/Sgt Francis H. Mills at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, tracks an object too large for a bird, too small for a plane, flying at 60 mph. Not confirmed visually. (NICAP, "[600 MPH Track at Goose Bay](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 42; NICAP, "[October 29, October 30, and November 1, 1948, Incident Nos. 188, 195, and 196: Goose Bay, Labrador](#)," June 28, 2009)
- 1948**, November 3 — Against most predictions, [Harry S. Truman](#) wins the US presidential election against Republican [Thomas E. Dewey](#). Secretary of Defense [James Forrestal](#), like everyone else, expects to have a new boss in January. His relationship with Air Force Secretary [Stuart Symington](#) has deteriorated, and he has not obtained a budget consensus from the Joint Chiefs. His mental health, physical condition, and authority are deteriorating. He is convinced that "foreign-looking men" are following him and that Symington is spying on him. Secret Service Chief [Urbanus E. Baughman](#) begins to think Forrestal is suffering from a "total psychotic breakdown."
- 1948**, November 3 — Gen. [Charles Cabell](#) writes a firm letter to Wright Field in Ohio, asking Project Sign for another Estimate. It is possibly composed by Maj. [Aaron "Jere" Boggs](#) or Col. [Edward H. Porter](#) at the USAF Defensive Air Branch. While admitting that the objects seem real, it also cautions that they are not identified. (Read: You may not identify them as extraterrestrial craft.) (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, "[Flying Object Incidents in the United States](#)," November 3, 1948; Michael D. Swords, "[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#)," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 50–51, 62; Swords 62, 64)

- 1948**, November 3 or 4 — 9:30 p.m. US Army Col. William P. Hayes is driving 10 miles east of Vaughn, New Mexico, on US Highway 60 when he sees a reddish-white ball of light, 1 foot in diameter, falling vertically and bursting about 100–200 feet from the ground, some 1,200 feet north of the road. (NICAP, “[Another Object in Vertical Descent Explodes near Colonel](#)”)
- 1948**, November 4 — A USAF Europe document transmits some information on the Swedish ghost rockets. “They have been reported by so many sources and from such a variety of places that we are convinced that they cannot be disregarded and must be explained on some basis which is perhaps slightly beyond the scope of our present intelligence thinking.” One of the objects was observed crashing into a lake by Swedish Gen. [Helge Jung](#) and his party. A salvage operation was unsuccessful. USAF officers visit Swedish Air Intelligence officials who have reached the conclusion that “these phenomena are obviously the result of a high technical skill which cannot be credited to any presently known culture on earth.” The document is distributed to the CIA (which in response to a FOIA request claims no record), Armament Intelligence Branch, and AMC. (“[USAFE 14, TT 1524, Top Secret](#),” November 4, 1948; Jan Aldrich, “[Early Top Secret UFO Document Discovered](#),” 2000; Good Need, [p. 115](#); Swords 62–63)
- 1948**, November 6 — Two UFOs, maneuvering like planes in a dogfight, are tracked on USAF radar over Wakkanai, Japan. (NICAP, “[Target Circles Radar Site](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 42; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [p. 34](#))
- 1948**, November 8 — A letter is sent with Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#)’s signature to Gen. [Cabell](#). Written by Sign operative [Albert Deyarmond](#), it is overtly submissive but covertly rebellious. It contains several comments agreeing with Cabell that the UFO phenomenon is not identifiable and that no concrete physical proof exists to identify it. At the same time it drops all sorts of hints, doubtless the same arguments used in the original Estimate, that the objects really are extraterrestrial whether the Pentagon thinks so or not: It mentions the ETH; it mentions plotting waves against planetary approaches and finding a correlation; it mentions the books of [Charles Fort](#) as indicating that this has been going on for at least a century; it mentions that odd shapes (like the Chiles-Whitted case) can fly but require more advanced power plants than we have. (Col. H. M. McCoy, “[Flying Object Incidents in the United States](#),” November 8, 1948; Michael D. Swords, “[The McCoy Letter](#),” *IUR* 22, no. 1 (Spring 1997): 12–17, 27; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 51, 63–64; Swords 62, 65, 494–496)
- 1948**, November 12 — Project Sign personnel travel to the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., to attempt to convince [Cabell](#) and [Vandenberg](#) on the ETH. It includes [Sneider](#), and perhaps [Deyarmond](#), [Loedding](#), [Truettner](#), and [Howard M. McCoy](#). On the Pentagon side, [Boggs](#) and [Cabell](#) are there and perhaps Vandenberg, and they are having none of the ETH. Back at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, Deyarmond and Truettner begin writing a sanitized Project Sign report. More scientific oversight is requested for Sign personnel. The Scientific Advisory Board and [George Valley](#) of MIT are to be made aware of all cases. So too are Boggs’s office, ONI, and maybe even the NBS. [Hynek](#) is to be formally commissioned for an assessment, as well as [Irving Langmuir](#) and Project RAND. (Col. H. M. McCoy, “[Transmittal of Project ‘SIGN’ Incident Summaries](#),” November 12, 1948; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 51–52; Swords 65)
- 1948**, Mid-November — Late afternoon. [Clifford DeWitt Fife](#) hears a whirring in the air near Nevada, Missouri. He looks up and sees a hovering, disc-like object. Two bright objects drop down out of the disc about 200–300 feet, then speed off to the southwest. The large object moves off to the northeast. (*Nevada (Mo.) Daily Mail*, November 30, 1948; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 7)
- 1948**, November 18 — 10:00 p.m. USAF Reserve pilot Lt. [Henry G. Combs](#) is flying a T-6 Texas combat trainer when he sees an object flying west to east over Andrews AFB, Maryland. It has one continuously glowing white light. The sighting is corroborated by S/Sgt John Kushner, as well as other witnesses on the ground, who says it does “not look like an aircraft.” Combs makes a pass to check on it, but it takes evasive action and he duels with it for 10 minutes. The object performs very tight curves and quick accelerations to more than 500 mph. Combs’s copilots Lt. Kenwood Jackson and Lt. [Glen L. Stalker](#), say the object “could climb vertically, then would drop behind” the aircraft and continue to circle the field. (NICAP, “[The Lt. Combs / T-6 Encounter](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 42; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [pp. 236–237](#); Jazz Shaw, “[Incident 207: A Tic Tac over Washington, DC, in 1948?](#)” The DeBrief, March 10, 2023; Powell, *Scientist*, 7)
- 1948**, November 23 — 9:30 p.m. US Army Col. William P. Hayes sees a bright white, round light “larger than a basketball” descend slowly as he is driving 10 miles west of Vaughan, New Mexico. It explodes without a sound some 100–200 feet above the ground. (NICAP, “[Another Object in Vertical Descent Explodes near Colonel](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 43; Clark III 539; Clark IV 598)
- 1948**, November 23 — 10:20 p.m. The first documented ground radar–visual UFO case takes place at Fürstenfeldbruck Air Base [now closed] in Bavaria, Germany. A UFO is seen circling at 27,000 feet. An F-80 pilot sent to intercept

- it describes it as bright red. It climbs abruptly to 50,000 feet at 900 mph. A second F-80 pilot verifies the report. (NICAP, "[Grnd Visual / Grnd Radar Track Object at 27,000](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 43; Ruppelt, [p. 46](#))
- 1948**, November 24 — Writer [Sidney Shalett](#) has asked for USAF cooperation in writing an article on UFOs for the *Saturday Evening Post*. In a "Memorandum for the Record," the USAF Directorate of Intelligence indicates that "publicity of this nature is undesirable but, if such articles are written, they will be less harmful to the national interest if a degree of guidance in their preparation is exercised." Signed November 24 by [Cabell](#), Director of Intelligence. ([Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell], "[Memorandum for Record](#)," November 24, 1948; Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "[Flying Saucers: Behind the Cold War Veil of Military Intelligence \(Part II\)](#)," *European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies* 3, no. 1 (March 2002): 2, 18–22; Clark III 932; Clark IV 1043)
- 1948**, November 30 — Maj. Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#), in an Air Staff Summary Sheet, admits that he has tried to dissuade the press from publishing articles like [Shalett](#)'s. Cabell has asked Secretary [Forrestal](#) for permission to feed [Shalett](#) some statistics, but the memo is apparently never sent. (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, "[Publicity on Flying Saucer Incidents](#)," Air Staff Summary Sheet, November 30, 1948; "[Memorandum for Mr. Forrestal](#)" [unsent])
- 1948**, November 30 — Letter from Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) at AMC Dayton to Commanding General, Air Defense Command, Mitchel AFB [now closed], Long Island, New York. "It is requested that all reports of unusual sightings by radar stations of your command be made directly to this Headquarters by the most expeditious means." (NICAP, "[1948 UFO Chronology](#)")
- 1948**, November 30 — An interim report by Project Sign, one that apparently takes seriously the possibility that UFOs represent interplanetary probes, is accidentally destroyed. USAF Intelligence later requests a replacement copy from TID at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. A recent FOIA to the National Archives answers that such a document would be in Project Blue Book files, but it is not. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1948**, December — A first-strike war plan (Sizzle) is developed to use 133 nuclear aerial bombs against 70 cities of the USSR. ("[Nuclear 'Pincher': The START II Treaty, the American 'Escalation of Superiority' Strategy, and Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces](#)," from *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, April 8, 1995)
- 1948**, December 3 — 8:15 p.m. Sgt. [Bruce Earlin McFarland](#), control tower operator at Fairfield-Suisun AFB [now Travis AFB] at Fairfield, California, watches for 25 seconds a round, white light fly with variable speed (200–400 mph) and a bouncing motion, finally disappearing after a rapid, erratic climb to 20,000 feet. (NICAP, "[Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Dec. 3, 1948, UFO Report](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 43)
- 1948**, December 5 — 2:00 a.m. A University of New Mexico student sees a brilliant green "meteor". (Clark III 539; Clark IV 598)
- 1948**, December 5 — 9:05 p.m. Pilot Capt. [William R. Goade](#) is flying a USAF C-47 from Denver to Phoenix. Just west of Las Vegas, New Mexico, he and his copilot Maj. Roger Carter spot a bright green flash. Some 22 minutes later, an identical flash rises from the east slope of Sandia Peak and follows a parabolic curve as the C-47 passes 20 miles northeast of Albuquerque. Capt. Ernest Van Lloyd and the crew of Pioneer Airlines Flight 63 also see the second object, described as first orange, then green. (NICAP, "[AFOSI Case 8: AF C-47 Pilot Observes UFO Similar to Green Flare](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 43; Clark III 539; Clark IV 597)
- 1948**, December 5 — Night. A civilian driving on US Highway 160 near Blanca, Colorado, sees a bright green fireball traveling west on a horizontal course at great speed. (Clark III 539; Clark IV 597)
- 1948**, December 6 — Lt. Col. [Doyle Rees](#), commander of the Seventeenth District AFOSI at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, orders an investigation into the previous night's green fireball. (Clark III 539; Clark IV 597)
- 1948**, December 6 — Project Sign is ordered to send copies of all its future cases and analyses to Maj. [Boggs](#) of the Office of Defensive Air, the ONI, and the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. (Swords 65)
- 1948**, December 6 — 10:55 p.m. Atomic Energy Security Service Officer [Joseph Toulouse](#) sees a greenish flare one-third the apparent size of the moon at Sandia Base outside Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is visible for 3 seconds before it arcs downward and vanishes. (NICAP, "[AFOSI Case 10: AESS Observed Green Flare Directly over Sandia Base](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 44; Clark III 539; Clark IV 598)
- 1948**, December 8 — Two AFOSI officers, Capts. [Melvin E. Neef](#) and John J. Stahl Jr., interview every agency that might know something about green-flare operations but come up short. That evening, they are flying a T-7 out of Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico, at 5,000 feet when they see a brilliant green light, larger and more brilliant than a meteor or flare, traveling a flat trajectory 2,000 feet above them. They see it for 2 seconds before it burns out. (NICAP, "[AFOSI Case 11: Agents in T-7 Observe Intense Green Fireball at 13,000](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 44; Clark III 539; Clark IV 597–598)
- 1948**, December 9 — Capt. [Neef](#) informs [Lincoln LaPaz](#), director of meteoritics at the University of New Mexico, about the green fireball sightings. He says they do not sound like any meteors he is familiar with. (Clark III 539; Clark IV 598)

- 1948, December 10** — The revised Project Sign report is issued, Air Intelligence Report Number 100-203-79, “Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.” (AIR 203) [Some copies are confusingly dated April 28, 1949.] This is the culmination of Sign’s work since early August, augmented by ONI collaboration over the past two months. UFOs are not extraterrestrial (the idea is hardly noticed). UFOs are probably real, but if so, there is a small chance that they are Soviet and therefore dangerous. All in all, the word “Soviet” dominates the commentary. (US Air Force, Directorate of Intelligence, [Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.: Summary and Conclusions](#), Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, December 10, 1948; [copy](#), dated April 28, 1949; Good Above, [pp. 265, 480–481](#); Bruce Maccabee, “[Hiding the Hardware](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1991): 7–8; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 52; Swords 65–66; John Greenewald, “[The Somewhat Lost Top Secret 1948 UFO Report: A Glimpse into America’s Early Encounter with the Unknown](#),” The Black Vault, February 21, 2024)
- 1948, December 12** — 9:02 p.m. [Lincoln LaPaz](#) and two USAF officers (Sandia Base Intelligence Officer Lt. Allan B. Clark and Sandia’s AF-Civil Air Patrol Liaison Officer Maj. Charles L. Phillips) see a green fireball near Bernal, New Mexico. He calculates that it is flying directly over Los Alamos National Laboratory, and it maintains its horizontal flight at the low altitude (for a meteor) of 8–10 miles. LaPaz arranges with the Atomic Energy Security Service to set up a patrol with Speed Graphic cameras to try to photograph the fireballs. (NICAP, “[AFOSI Case 13: LaPaz, Captain, CAP Intel Officer Observed Green Fireball](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 46; Good Above, [p. 266](#); Joel Carpenter, “[Green Fireball Chronology](#),” October 6, 2011; Clark III 539–540; Clark IV 598)
- 1948, December 13** — Project Sign files are sent to the Navy by Col. [William R. Clingerman](#). (NICAP, “[Project ‘SIGN’ Files Sent Directly to the Navy](#),” December 13, 1948)
- 1948, December 13** — Aeronautical engineer [James E. Lipp](#) writes an 8-page memo to Brig. Gen. [Donald Putt](#) on “Special Design and Performance Characteristics That Are Believed to Distinguish Spaceships.” Rejecting out of hand any links between UFO sightings and space travelers, it later appears as an appendix in the Project Grudge report. (James E. Lipp, “[Special Design and Performance Characteristics That Are Believed to Distinguish Spaceships](#),” December 13, 1948)
- 1948, December 16** — Astronomer [J. Allen Hynek](#) is officially tasked by Project Sign with studying UFO cases for astronomical explanations. (AMC contract W33-038-1118). (O’Connell 44–46)
- 1948, December 16** — Brig. Gen. [Donald Putt](#), Director of USAF Research and Development, orders that the code word Sign be changed to Grudge (since the Air Force bears a grudge against UFO reports, according to [Ruppelt](#)), effective in February. Morale plummets. ([Sparks](#), p. 11; “[Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects](#),” April 28, 1949)
- 1948, December 20** — [Sneider](#) sends his summary of the Chiles-Whitted case, Air Intelligence Report number 102-122-79, to [Cabell](#). It is later called “The Ghost of the Estimate” by some researchers. (Capt. Robert R. Sneider, [untitled memorandum], December 20, 1948; Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 52)
- 1948, December 20** — In a confidential memo to Lt. Col. [Doyle Rees](#), [LaPaz](#) argues that the green fireball he saw on December 12 was no meteor he has ever studied. He writes that the object moved far too slowly to have been a meteor and left no “trail of sparks or dust cloud” as would be typical of meteors flying at low altitudes. Other anomalous characteristics were the intense lime-green color, low altitude of only 8–10 miles yet exhibiting no sound, flat rather than arced trajectory, and turning on and off like a light switch. The interest in green fireballs inspires the creation of an informal group, the Los Alamos Astrophysical Association, whose members, all scientists and engineers with security clearances, are permitted to examine some classified Project Sign reports. This is essentially the beginning of Project Twinkle. (World History Project, “[Project Twinkle Established to Monitor Green Fireball Sightings](#)”; Clark III 540; Clark IV 598)
- 1948, December 20** — 8:54 p.m. Shortly after they have packed up their Speed Graphic cameras provided by [LaPaz](#) to try to photograph the green fireballs, personnel (William D. Wilson, [Buford G. Truett](#), [Clifford E. Strang](#), and George S. Skipper) at an Atomic Energy Security Service post west of Los Alamos, New Mexico, spot a blue-white fireball moving in a nearly flat trajectory. Two objects separate from the main body and trail behind it. Thanks to an independent observation at another site, LaPaz is able to triangulate its flight path as 7–8 miles, west to east toward Los Alamos. (NICAP, “[AFOSI Case 14: AESS OP Sighted Green Fireball with Triangulation](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 46; Clark III 540; Clark IV 598)
- 1948, December 29** — The Fourth Army sums up the UFO situation in the southwest in a statement. In December 5–28, there were 23 reports of “flares or moving lights.” All but two are in New Mexico and are an intense white or greenish-white light. (Clark III 540; Clark IV 598)

1949

- 1949?** — Evening. USAF Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#) is stationed at Mather AFB [now Sacramento Mather Airport] in Sacramento, California. He and a few other people, including some command pilots, are sitting in their yard when they see a “bright, silvery, round object” going too fast for an airplane. (Jan L. Aldrich, “[Brigadier General William Madison Garland, USAF](#)”)
- 1949** — Estonian refugee and Los Angeles photographer Nicholas von Poppen confides to George Tyler that he was asked to photograph a large flying saucer at an unnamed military base in New Mexico. He takes photos for two days from every conceivable angle, including the four dead occupants, all strapped in swivel-back seats. The aliens are about 4 feet tall and albino-like. In the craft is a book with strange symbols and a device like a large electronic tube that beeps intermittently. However, the tale seems to be a fictional story written by Tyler and enhanced by Gray Barker. (Gray Barker, “Chasing the Flying Saucers,” *Flying Saucers*, November 1960, pp. 22–28; Gray Barker, “Von Poppen Update,” *Gray Barker’s Newsletter*, no. 17 (December 1982): 8; William S. Steinman and Wendelle C. Stevens, *UFO Crash at Aztec*, UFO Photo Archives, 1986; “More about That ‘Roswell Alien Photo,’” *Focus* 5, nos. 1–3 (March 31, 1991): 26–28; Clark III 330; Clark IV 366–367)
- 1949** — 1:00 a.m. A group of soldiers of the 2nd Armored Division stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, are tasked with standing guard over a plateau in a remote, fenced-off part of the base. After a few weeks, they see bright lights in the sky. They approach the plateau and descend slowly and silently. Suddenly, part of the plateau opens up and they can see light coming from inside. The lights descend into the opening, which closes over them. (Michael D. Swords, “[Timmermania: A Step Too Far into the Timmerman Files?](#)” *IUR* 27, no. 4 (Winter 2002–2003): 9; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, p. 146)
- 1949** — Day. A student pilot is flying a two-seat Taylorcraft over Los Angeles, California. Just as he turns to a westerly flight heading, he sees an object speeding across the sky from north to south. Suddenly it stops abruptly, and the pilot heads toward the object climbing to within a few hundred feet. An intense flash of white comes from its tail and in less than a minute it is completely out of sight. (“[Recently Reported](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 10 (October 1981): 5)
- 1949, January** — Project Sign personnel begin to be reassigned. [Loedding](#) disappears from project records. [Deyarmond](#)’s attention goes elsewhere. [Truettner](#) makes one last serious attempt at interviewing about nuclear propulsion (at Oak Ridge, Tennessee) and is given a negative opinion on UFOs by Col. [Ralph L. Wassell](#). He, too, disappears from the project. The civilian members are relieved of their duties and reassigned to other intelligence tasks within T-2. For Loedding in particular, his role and prestige are never the same. After a few further years of intelligence work, both he and Truettner leave AMC. For the higher military ranks ([Llewelyn](#) and [Sneider](#)), all we know is that they are soon no longer involved, perhaps not even assigned to the same base. Even [Clingerman](#) and [Howard M. McCoy](#) become less involved, perhaps because they have also heard that their tenures will soon be up and they will be sent to school and then transferred. The only persons left active on the project are two of the lower ranks: Lieut. Howard W. Smith and civilian [George W. Towles](#). Their job is reduced basically to collection and filing. In this condition, or worse, the Air Force commitment to a UFO investigation project will remain until the summer of 1951. (Michael D. Swords, “[Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation](#),” *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 52–53; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)
- 1949, January** — Early morning. [Sarah Elizabeth Lampe](#) watches an odd, disc-like electrical discharge, about 3 feet in diameter, that persists for “fully two minutes” during the Big Snow, 8 miles from Beatty, Nevada. (“True Mystic Experiences,” *Fate* 4, no. 2 (March 1951): 84–89)
- 1949, January 1** — The CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence is established. [Willard Machle](#) becomes assistant director for scientific intelligence. Problems almost immediately involve recruitment and filling positions with competent professionals. (Rear Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter, “[Scientific Intelligence](#),” January 4, 1949)
- 1949, January 1** — 5:00 p.m. Pilot [Thomas A. Rush](#) and his wife are in a private plane with two passengers flying east of Jackson, Mississippi, into North Jackson Airpark. They see a cigar-shaped object, 60 feet long and 10 feet wide, cross their path at an altitude of 1,500–1,600 feet. It is only about 500 feet distant and seems to be either dark blue or black in color. It is shaped like a megaphone, tapering from a diameter of roughly 10 feet at the front end to four feet at the trailing end. Its speed is approximately 200 mph, and it accelerates to 400–500 mph. The object makes a 50° turn and is visible for 10–12 seconds. (NICAP, “[Cigar-Shaped Object Encountered by Bush Pilot](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 46; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June*, The Author, 1988, pp. 1–2; Jazz Shaw, “[From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear](#),” *The Debrief*, March 7, 2023)

- 1949, January 4 — 2:00 p.m. USAF pilot Capt. [Paul R. Stoney](#), on the ground at Hickam Field [now part of Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam] near Honolulu, Hawaii, sees a flat, white, elliptical object about the size of a T-6 aircraft, circle at about 3,000 feet while oscillating to the right and left. It is apparently several miles off the base and slowly circling. It is bright white on the underside and darker on top and possesses no other structures. It proceeds for 15 minutes to make “rhythmical undulation” maneuvers in a cyclical manner. The “object seemed to maneuver under control at all times completing 360° turns and 90° turns.” The object then “departed climbing (into the northeast) at accelerated speed out of sight.” (NICAP, “[Disc Circles, Maneuvers, Climbs into the NE](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 47)
- 1949, January 5 — The USAF Technical Information Division at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio, transmits Project Sign’s list of UFO incidents to the Air Weather Service for analysis and recommendations. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1949, January 6 — 5:30 p.m. PFC Everitt sees a bright-white, diamond-shaped light in horizontal flight from southeast to northwest above the Ordnance section at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is about 1,500–2,000 feet altitude and flying faster than a jet. Possible meteor. (NICAP, “[Diamond-Shaped Light](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 47)
- 1949, January 7 — The Research and Development Board writes a memo to USAF Intelligence on the green fireballs. It is signed by David Z. Beckley, chief of the R&DB Technical Intelligence Branch. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, “[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 10)
- 1949, January 10 — FBI special agent [Charlton C. McSwain](#) sends a memo to [J. Edgar Hoover](#) enumerating the views of an AMC resident engineer (identified only as “Mr. E”) with the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft project at Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tennessee that the flying discs are human-made nuclear missiles originating in Russia. (Bruce S. Maccabee, “[UFO Related Information from the FBI Files, Part \[4\]](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 123 (February 1978): 10–15; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June*, The Author, 1988, pp. 6–10)
- 1949, January 11 — Angered over his opposition to defense economization policies and meeting secretly with [Thomas Dewey](#)’s Republicans, [Truman](#) tells [Forrestal](#) that [Louis A. Johnson](#) will soon replace him as Secretary of Defense.
- 1949, January 13 — Col. [Eustis L. Poland](#) of US Army Intelligence (G-2) sends a memo on behalf of the Commander of Fourth Army at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, to the Director of Army Intelligence concerning the green fireballs. It recommends a scientific study because “these incidents are of such great importance, especially as they are occurring in the vicinity of sensitive installations.” (Col. Eustis L. Poland, “[Unconventional Aircraft](#),” January 13, 1949; Good Above, pp. 265, 482)
- 1949, January 24 — An FBI memo from [D. M. Ladd](#) to [Hoover](#) documents speculation on a Soviet nuclear-powered disc by USAF Col. [Clyde D. Gasser](#) of the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft (NEPA) project at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Gasser reports rumors coming from Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio that nuclear-powered disc-shaped planes might be making incursions into US airspace and returning to the USSR over the North Pole. (D. M. Ladd, “[Flying Discs](#),” January 24, 1949)
- 1949, January 27 — 10:20–11:20 p.m. Capt. [Eckerman Sannes](#), acting chief of the Aircraft Branch at Eglin AFB near Valparaiso, Florida, and his wife are driving slowly on Cortez Road between Bradenton and Cortez, Florida, when they observe a “cucumber-shaped” object. The object, seen through binoculars, seems as long as two Pullman cars, with 7 lighted, square windows. It is throwing sparks and approximately 8–10 miles away. In the first sighting at 10:20 p.m., the object approaches from the south going north, moving from an altitude of 8,000 feet in a gradual descent until lost behind trees. In the second sighting at 11:20 p.m., the object is seen in the north, heading south and making a gradual turn to the west. It descends then climbs with a bouncing motion (up 4,000 feet, down 2,000 feet) at about 400–500 mph, resulting in an overall climb and loss to view at an altitude of around 40,000 feet. The bouncing appears to start after the final 270° course change to the west. (NICAP, “[Two Sightings of Object with Lighted Windows](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 49)
- 1949, January 30 — 5:54 p.m. Hundreds of people see a green meteor come out of the northwest and vanish southwest of Roswell, New Mexico. It is completely silent. (NICAP, “[AFOSI Case 18: Green Fireball Event Witnessed in New Mexico](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 49; Commanding Officer, Kirtland AFB, “[Nr. OSI-1-90](#),” January 31, 1949; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June*, The Author, 1988, pp. 15–16; Clark III 540; Clark IV 598–599)
- 1949, January 31 — Kirtland AFB in New Mexico notifies the Pentagon that it will launch an immediate investigation of the green fireballs, noting that “local commanders [are] perturbed by implications of phenomena.” [LaPaz](#) speaks to dozens of witnesses of the January 30 fireball and manages a rough triangulation of the fireball’s 143-mile path from Amarillo to Lamesa, Texas. He estimates its speed at 25,000–50,000 mph, with a beginning altitude of 60,000 feet and a final altitude around 40,000 feet. LaPaz accompanies search teams to bring back any fragments. They end up in the area of Lamesa but give up after a few days of fruitless search. He later tells AFOSI agent Paul

- Ryan that the fireballs are artificial, perhaps radio-controlled missiles directed by enemy agents in the Southwest. (Commanding Officer, Kirtland AFB, "[Nr. OSI-1-90](#)," January 31, 1949; Clark III 540; Clark IV 599)
- 1949, January 31 — The FBI field office in San Antonio, Texas, issues a memo on UFOs, "Protection of Vital Installations." It is sent to [Hoover](#), G-2, ONI, OSI, and mentions a meeting among these groups on UFOs, "considered top secret by intelligence officers of both the army and the air forces." (SAC, San Antonio, "[Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File #65-58300](#)," January 31, 1949; ClearIntent, [p. 149](#); Good Above, [pp. 267, 483](#))
- 1949, February — Chemist [H. Marshall Chadwell](#), from the New York office of the Atomic Energy Commission, is appointed assistant director of scientific intelligence at the CIA. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1949, Early February — Writer [Sidney Shalett](#) is given a guided tour of AMC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, a glimpse of low-interest UFO cases, and a few conservative opinions by Air Force personnel. (Swords 73)
- 1949, February 1 — Col. Hanna (?), assistant chief of the Power Plant Laboratory (at Wright-Patterson?) and project engineer for Project Sign, meets with other Project Sign personnel and concludes that nuclear-powered UFOs are improbable. (Project Status Report on Project Sign, February 4, 1949; Jan Aldrich)
- 1949, February 8 — UCLA geophysicist [Joseph Kaplan](#) meets with [LaPaz](#) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He finds LaPaz's understanding of the green fireball reports unsettling. He discusses the matter with Capt. [Melvin Neef](#) and Maj. [William Godsoe](#) (Fourth Army Intelligence liaison officer at Sandia Base). He promises to alert Scientific Advisory Board chairman [Von Kármán](#) and urge an investigation. (Clark III 540; Clark IV 599)
- 1949, February 11 — [Kaplan](#) meets in Washington, D.C., with [Von Kármán](#), who is impressed enough to write Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#) that the green fireballs look like a serious issue that needs to be addressed, perhaps by [LaPaz](#). (Swords 79, 497)
- 1949, February 11 — Project Sign releases a final sanitized report, "Unidentified Aerial Objects: Project 'Sign,'" Technical Report F-TR-2274-1A, authored by [Lawrence Truettner](#) and [Albert B. Deyarmond](#) and approved by Col. [Clingerman](#) (chief of USAF Technical Intelligence Division) and Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) (chief of the Intelligence Department). 72 pages are visible in the NICAP copy and 1,537 pages (some illegible) are available on the Blue Book microfilm. Its conclusions, that 20% of the "incidents have been identified as conventional aerial objects," are based on 273 reports (243 US and 30 foreign) and it summarizes the characteristics of four types of UFOs: flying discs, cigar-shaped objects, spherical objects, and balls of light. It acknowledges the possibility that "these aerial objects are visitors from another planet" and refers to commentary in Appendix D by [James Everett Lipp](#) of the RAND Corporation (his December 13, 1948, letter to Brig. Gen. [Donald Putt](#). "No definite and conclusive evidence is yet available that would prove or disprove the existence of these unidentified objects as real aircraft of unknown and unconventional configuration. It is unlikely that positive proof of their existence will be obtained without examination of the remains of crashed objects. ...Evaluation of reports of unidentified objects is a necessary activity of military intelligence agencies. Such sightings are inevitable, and under wartime conditions rapid and convincing solutions of such occurrences are necessary to maintain morale of military and civilian personnel. In this respect, it is considered that the establishment of procedures and training of personnel is in itself worth the effort expended on this project." In Appendix C, physicist [George E. Valley](#) breaks down the characteristics and patterns of the most reliable sightings. Truettner and Deyarmond, in a between-the-lines rebuke of [Cabell](#)'s order not to consider the ETH, recommend that if enough cases are examined and proven to have no security risks, then the project should be terminated. The report is distributed to AMC, USAF Intelligence Directorate, ONR, Cambridge Labs, Air Weather Services, [Hynek](#) at Ohio State University, the RAND Project, and the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. ([Sparks](#), p. 12; L. H. Truettner and A. B. Deyarmond, *Unidentified Aerial Objects: Project "Sign."* Air Materiel Command Technical Report no. F-TR-2274-1A, February 1949; Swords 72; Clark III 457, 935; Graff 51–54; Eghigian, *After*, p. 59; Clark IV 502–503, 1045)
- 1949, February 12 — Project Sign officially becomes Project Grudge. ([Sparks](#), p. 12; Clark III 932; Eghigian, *After*, p. 59; Clark IV 1042)
- 1949, February 12 — Another realistic Spanish-language radio version of *The War of the Worlds* is broadcast in Quito, Ecuador, causing panic, a riot, and a major fire. (John Gosling, *Waging the War of the Worlds*, McFarland, 2009, pp. 102–113)
- 1949, February 15 — Maj. Gen. [Cabell](#) sets out a revised list of Air Intelligence reporting requirements for "unconventional aircraft." (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, "[Unconventional Aircraft](#)," Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum no. 5, February 15, 1949)
- 1949, February 16 — A Conference on Aerial Phenomena is held at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico with military representatives—meteoriticist [Lincoln LaPaz](#) and physicists [Norris E. Bradbury](#), [Marshall](#)

[Holloway](#), [Frederick Reines](#), and [Edward Teller](#)—in attendance. Representatives from Project Grudge are noticeably absent. LaPaz tells the attendees that while most meteors are blue-green, the green fireballs are described as pale green or yellow-green. Normal meteors rarely move in long, horizontal paths with nearly constant velocities. He says there are 10 incidents that strongly fit the pattern and 20 others that might. The scientists agree to set up a series of instrument stations to photograph and analyze the fireballs. Teller thinks the fireballs might be electrical-optical phenomena. Navy Commander [Richard S. Mandelkorn](#), who is in attendance, writes in his report that “there is cause for concern of the continued occurrences of unexplainable phenomena of this nature in the vicinity of sensitive installations.” (Cmdr. Richard S. Mandelkorn, [Report of a Trip to Los Alamos, New Mexico, 16 February 1949](#), February 18, 1949; Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, [[Minutes of February 16 Conference on Aerial Phenomena, Los Alamos](#)], March 29, 1949; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 23–53; Good Above, [pp. 265–266](#); Swords 79–80; Clark IV 599)

- 1949**, February 17 — 5:57 p.m. University of New Mexico Professor of Civil Engineering Marvin May sees a brilliant white object in the west at 6° elevation for less than 6 minutes in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The object is first round then shifts to an ellipse as it approaches, then it appears to be elongated like a bent pipe with corners, one full moon in length. It makes a slight climbing turn to the north, shifts to peach color as it makes a rapid sharp turning climb to the south, disappearing in cloudless sky by diminishing in size and brightness. At the same time, 100 guards at Sandia Base, New Mexico, including the officer of the guard, see a yellow-orange cigar-shaped object for seven minutes. (NICAP, “[AFOSI Case 24: Vertical Climb, Then Leveled Off](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 50)
- 1949**, February 18 — [Cabell](#) writes [von Kármán](#) and says he has a transcript of the Los Alamos meeting and that [Hynek](#) is studying the green fireballs topic. He adds: “It seems unlikely that domestic incidents can be attributed to the activity of a foreign power or a science unknown to our specialists.” (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 12–13)
- 1949**, February 18 — A Fourth Air Force letter quotes Project Sign’s requirements for radar reporting, as stated by the Continental Air Command (NORAD’s predecessor) on February 4. The USAF Air Defense Command is subordinate to ConAC at this time. The requirements admit that a “large number of targets appearing on radar screens remain unidentified.” It refers to Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#)’s November 30, 1948, letter on Sign’s preference for radar tracks of aerial objects that show extremely fast or slow speeds, vertical or near vertical ascent or descent, extraordinary maneuverability, and extreme altitudes. (Clark III 810; Clark IV 903)
- 1949**, February 23 — Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) sends Capt. Roger Groseclose and Lt. Howard Smith to Kirtland AFB’s Office of Special Investigations to discuss the green fireballs with [LaPaz](#) and [Neef](#) and to mollify them for not showing up at the February 16 conference. (Clark III 541; Clark IV 599)
- 1949**, February 24 — Groseclose and Smith have an unpleasant exchange with [Neef](#), [LaPaz](#), Agent Jack Boling, and Army Maj. [Godsoe](#), who says it’s not worth AFOSI’s time to conduct investigations for AMC. The AMC officers retort that the fireballs are not an Army concern. Groseclose and Smith say they are concerned with all anomalous aerial phenomena. Disgusted, Godsoe leaves the room. Groseclose and Smith then turn on LaPaz, criticizing him for only sending AMC raw data and not finished analyses. LaPaz says he is on leave as a volunteer and must go back to the University of New Mexico, unless he sees a contract. However, AMC agrees to set up a network of observation posts with cameras, transits, and trained personnel. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 11, 14–15; Clark III 541; Clark IV 599)
- 1949**, February or March — 4:30 p.m. A representative of the International Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey, is driving north along the Pan-American Highway about 6 miles south of Lima, Peru, when he sees a metallic disc hovering low above the desert on his right. He walks over to it, and three mummy-like creatures about 5 feet tall emerge. They speak to him in both English and Spanish, explaining to him that they come from another star system, are concerned about our use of atomic energy, use solar power, no longer have sex, and reproduce by subdividing. They invite him inside the disc, which from the inside has transparent walls. He sees no instruments, only a padded ledge. (Lorenzen, [UFOs over the Americas](#), Signet, 1968, pp. 122–148)
- 1949**, March — Strategic Air Command head Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#) delivers the first SAC Emergency War Plan, which calls for dropping 133 atomic bombs on 70 cities in the USSR within 30 days. LeMay predicts that World War III will last no longer than 30 days. (Wikipedia, “[Curtis LeMay](#)”)
- 1949**, March 2 — [Sidney Shalett](#) provides the USAF Directorate of Intelligence a draft of his upcoming article for review. The Air Force is not pleased, objecting to Shalett stating an “official” USAF position, his claim that the Air Force is his sole source of information (although it is), a quote by [Irving Langmuir](#) criticizing Project Sign, and any inference that the Air Force and Navy are not cooperating. (Swords 73)
- 1949**, March 6–7 — 8:30 p.m. Army Pvts. Martin Fensterman and Frank Luisi, on security patrol near Killeen Base [now West Fort Hood], Texas, a nuclear weapons storage site, see a flash of pale blue light in the sky to the northeast.

At 8:55 p.m., a quarter mile away, Pvt. Harold Moore sees a white light with an orange trail flash across the western horizon. At 9:00 p.m., from inside the base boundary, Sgt. Hubert Vickery and Pfc. John Ransom notice a pale blue-white light streaking across the western sky low over the horizon. Between 1:15 and 2:00 a.m., four more security patrols report burst of lights like a flash bulb. ([Sparks](#), pp. 50–51; SAC, San Antonio, “[Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300](#),” March 22, 1949; “[Fort Hood Sightings, 1949](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 5, 2014; Clark III 541–542, 1053; Clark IV 600, 1168)

- 1949, March 8** — 1:03 a.m. Two infantrymen half a mile apart at Killeen Base, Texas, see apparently separate streaking bright lights (one white, the other yellowish red). The latter one covers 60° of sky, appearing and disappearing at about the same angle above the horizon. Cpl. Luke Sims is able to run 10 paces to a field telephone before it vanishes. All observers insist these are not meteors and are more like flares. (NICAP, “[Killeen Base, Camp Hood, Texas, OSI Case 39](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 52; SAC, San Antonio, “[Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300](#),” March 22, 1949; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)
- 1949, March 13** — 9:53 p.m. Two MPs guarding the Technical Area at Sandia Base, New Mexico, see a silent, spherical object, bluish- or greenish-white, with a flaming blue tail twice as long as the body, which is apparently half the size of the full moon. (NICAP, “[March 13, 1949, Sandia Base, NM, OSI Case 40](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 52)
- 1949, March 15** — A memo on UFOs to [Willard Machle](#) by physicist [Albert M. Stone](#) from the CIA Office of Scientific Investigation dismisses the idea of UFOs as foreign aircraft and suggests they are misidentifications of other phenomena. (“[Flying Saucers](#),” letter from Dr. Machle to Dr. Stone, March 15, 1949; ClearIntent, [p. 113](#))
- 1949, March 17** — Seven sightings of large, green, red, and white flares take place at Killeen Base, Texas, including the previously skeptical Capt. [Horace McCulloch](#), assistant G-2 of the Second Armored Division at Camp Hood, who is driving between Camp Hood and Killeen Base to prepare a test firing of some flares to prove that recent sightings are not anomalous. McCulloch puts the entire base on alert. ([Sparks](#), p. 52; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)
- 1949, March 22** — SAC San Antonio, Texas, sends a memo to FBI headquarters regarding the January 31 communication on Protection of Vital Installations, emphasizing that USAF and the Army consider the matter “secret.” Fourth Army Intelligence is now calling UFOs “unconventional aircraft” and ATIC’s office is now Project Grudge. It also discusses green fireball cases. (SAC, San Antonio, “[Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300](#),” March 22, 1949)
- 1949, March 25** — [J. Edgar Hoover](#) sends a memo to a large number of FBI offices indicating that “flying discs are believed to be man-made missiles rather than natural phenomenon,” probably made in Russia. (John Edgar Hoover, “[Flying Discs](#),” March 25, 1949; ClearIntent, [p. 161](#))
- 1949, March 28** — [James Forrestal](#) leaves office in a formal ceremony. He rides back to the Pentagon with his opponent [Stuart Symington](#), who talks to him about something troubling. Forrestal appears traumatized. Forrestal sits in his office, dazed and incoherent, repeating, “You are a loyal fellow.”
- 1949, March 31** — [Forrestal](#) is flown to Hobe Beach, Florida, to stay with his friend Under Secretary of State [Robert A. Lovett](#), where his wife is vacationing. He meets with psychiatrist [William C. Menninger](#) (who diagnoses “severe depression” of the type “seen in operational fatigue during the war”) and psychologist Capt. [George N. Raines](#) from the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Maryland. Forrestal has several hysterical episodes when they are there, ranting about Communists following him, and perhaps one suicide attempt.
- 1949, March 31** — CIA’s H. L. Bowers writes a memo to Dr. [Machle](#), “Notes and Comments on Unidentified Aerial Objects--Project Sign,” stating that [Deyarmond](#) thinks UFOs will turn out to be another “sea serpent.” Nonetheless, they must be investigated. (Document released to [Brad Sparks](#) but not in subsequent CIA FOIA releases; Good Above, [p. 330](#))
- 1949, March 31** — 11:50 p.m. Lieut. Frederick Davis, on patrol east of Killeen Base, Texas, sees a reddish-white ball of fire passing horizontally above the base airstrip. After 10–15 seconds it disappears without descending. He notes interference on the telephone line when he calls the report in. (NICAP, “[Field Telephone Affected by BOL](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 53; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)
- 1949, April 2** — [Menninger](#) and [Raines](#) fly [Forrestal](#) to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, where he can be treated quietly. On the drive to the hospital from the airport, Forrestal attempts to jump out of the car but is restrained. Forrestal declares he does not expect to leave the hospital alive. He is admitted under the care of Raines, who diagnoses him with involuntional melancholia and places him in a VIP suite on the 16th floor. Forrestal’s personal diaries are removed from his old office and taken to the White House, where they remain for a year.
- 1949, April 3** — Broadcaster [Walter Winchell](#) announces on his radio program that the “flying saucers, never explained by anyone in authority are now definitely known to have been guided missiles shot all the way from Russia.”

- (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers*, Rose Press International, 2000, p. 14; “[Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Two](#),” Saturday Night Ufuria; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)
- 1949, April 5 — 10:00 p.m. A huge green fireball with a red afterglow is seen streaking approximately 300 feet above the southern slope of Fejarito Mountain, near Los Alamos, New Mexico. It disappears behind the mountain. Another fireball is seen at 11:00 p.m., and the next two nights. (NICAP, “[1949 UFO Chronology](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 54)
- 1949, April 8 — In response to [Winchell](#)’s claim, the Air Force admits it is impossible to “deny categorically” that the flying saucers originate in Russia. A spokesman says that some unknown incidents are placed in a classified category, denied to everyone except authorized military personnel. (“[Air Force Isn’t Committing Self on Flying Disks](#),” *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, April 8, 1949, p. 22)
- 1949, April 9 — [Forrestal](#) has been treated for one week at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, with narcosis through sodium amytal. For the next 30 days, he undergoes a regimen of insulin sub-shock combined with psycho-therapeutic interviews. [Raines](#) says the treatment occasionally throws Forrestal into a confused state with a great deal of agitation and confusion.
- 1949, April 14 — Col. [Reid Lumsden](#), commander of the AFOSI district office at Kelly AFB [now Kelly Field Annex] in San Antonio, Texas, hands the Army reports of flares at Killeen Base to Col. William Carpenter, deputy director of special investigations at the Pentagon. Carpenter promises to investigate. (Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)
- 1949, April 16 and 18 — Mysterious flares are again observed at Killeen Base, Texas. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, “[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10; Clark III 542; Clark IV 601)
- 1949, April 18 — The US Air Force Security Service moves its headquarters from Arlington Hall in Washington, D.C., to Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. (Wikipedia, “[Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency](#)”)
- 1949, April 19 — AFOSI at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, sends to USAF headquarters a list of all green fireball reports it has investigated (39 in all) from December 5 to April 12. The common characteristics of most of the incidents are: “a. Green color, sometimes described as greenish-white, bright green, yellow-green, or blue green. b. Horizontal path, sometimes with minor variations. c. Speed less than that of a meteor, but more than any known type of aircraft. d. No sound associated with observation. e. No persistent trail or dust cloud. f. Period of visibility from one to five seconds.” (“[The Scientific Advisory Board to the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, Conference](#),” November 3, 1949; Swords 133–135; Clark III 541; Clark IV 599–600)
- 1949, April 22 — 9:05 a.m. A round, flat, thin, metallic disc is seen traveling west to east, dropping slowly, over Cliff, New Mexico. ([Sparks](#), p. 55)
- 1949, April 24 — 10:30 a.m. General Mills meteorologist [Charles B. Moore](#) and four Navy Skyhook balloon launch crewmen (Navy Chief Fire Controlman William Akers, Davidson, Fitzsimmons, Moorman) see a white, round object, shadowed yellowish on one side, cross the sky from the south to the east, three miles north of Arrey, New Mexico. [Joseph Gordon Vaeth](#) is present as the Navy representative in charge of ground handling. Moore tracks it for 60 seconds on a theodolite. The distance is unknown, but assuming the object is 57 miles away, it would have a velocity of 18,000 mph, a width of 40 feet, and a length of 100 feet; but this is speculative. (NICAP, “[White Sands Incident / C. B. Moore Case](#)”; [Sparks](#), pp. 56–57; R. B. McLaughlin, [[Letter to J. A. VanAllen](#)], May 12, 1949; Robert McLaughlin, “[How Scientists Tracked a Flying Saucer](#),” *True*, March 1950, pp. 25–27, 96–99; J. Gordon Vaeth, *200 Miles Up: The Conquest of the Upper Air*, Ronald Press, 1956 ed., pp. 114–116; UFOEv, pp. 2–3; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 63–64; Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 72–73; ClearIntent, pp. 114–115; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, “[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 8–9; Kevin D. Randle, “[Charles Moore, New Mexico UFOs, and the Air Force](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 3–4; Michael D. Swords, “[1952: Ruppelt’s Big Year](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 10; Michael D. Swords, “[Balloons, Missiles, and UFOs](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 16–17; Swords 84–85; “[Arrey, NM Case of 4-24-1949 — Prof. Charles B. Moore](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013; Clark III 376, 541; Clark IV 420, 600)
- 1949, April 25 — 6:30 a.m. A man named Abreu and a friend are fishing at Springer Lake, northwest of Springer, New Mexico, when they hear a high-pitched whistle and see a number of silvery-white balls passing overhead quickly. They reappear repeatedly over the next hour. (NICAP, “[Various Formations Observed](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 57; Clark III 541; Clark IV 600)
- 1949, April 25 — Lt. Col. [Doyle Rees](#) wires AFOSI headquarters to ask if he can send two of his men to AMC to find out if Project Grudge plans to do anything about the green fireballs. Before Rees has a response, [Joseph Kaplan](#) arrives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, having been directed there by AF Intelligence Director Maj. Gen. [Charles Cabell](#) and Scientific Advisory Board Chairman [Theodore von Kármán](#), who wants Kaplan to set up a field investigation. They emphasize that Grudge is not to be informed. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the](#)

[Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 52; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600–601)

- 1949, April 27 — [Rees](#), [Kaplan](#), and [LaPaz](#) brief Armed Forces Special Weapons Project personnel at Sandia Base, New Mexico. LaPaz outlines plans for a network of visual, photographic, spectrographic, and radar observations covering Los Alamos, Sandia, and White Sands. Scientist [William D. Crozier](#) of the New Mexico School of Mines offers to handle air sampling. Rees urges that the Killeen Base in Texas be included. Kaplan, who says the project is “of extreme importance” because “these occurrences relate to the National Defense of the United States,” recommends LaPaz to handle the project. (Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, “[Unknown \(Aerial Phenomena\)](#),” May 12, 1949; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 60–62; Clark III 542, 916–917; Clark IV 601, 1027)
- 1949, April 27 — USAF Directorate of Intelligence briefs the USAF Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations on UFOs. “Investigations continue in an effort to find definite explanations for the many unidentified aerial objects which have been reported during the past two years.” (“[Unidentified Aerial Objects](#),” Air Brief, Special Study Part Two, April 27, 1949; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 57–58)
- 1949, April 27 — A 22-page memorandum for the press (629-49) on “Project Saucer” is released by the Pentagon Office of Public Information, scheduled deliberately to coincide with part one of [Shalett](#)’s article in the *Saturday Evening Post*. The writer is unknown, but it is more pro-ETH than the current Project Grudge mentality, listing several solid and dramatic cases. It concludes: “The ‘saucers’ are not a joke. Neither are they a cause for alarm to the population.” The discrepancy between Shalett’s mostly dismissive tone and the positivity of the Project Saucer statement causes Maj. [Donald E. Keyhoe](#) to wonder if there is a major disagreement about UFOs within the Air Force. (National Military Establishment, Office of Public Information, “[Project ‘Saucer,’](#)” April 27, 1949; Jack Vincent, “[AF Probe Proves ‘Flying Saucers’ Are Not a Joke](#),” *Dayton (Ohio) Journal Herald*, April 27, 1949, pp. 1, 9; Swords 74–75; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 56–57)
- 1949, April 27 — 9:20 p.m. Two Army patrolmen southeast of Killeen Base, Texas, see a blinking violet light no more than 1.5 inches in diameter and only 10–12 feet from them, 6–7 feet above the ground. During the 60-second observation, the light passes through the branches of a tree. At 9:25 p.m., 2 miles away, four Army soldiers see a 4-inch light with a 2–4-inch metallic cone attached to the back. It silently approaches them in a level flight at 60–70 mph. It disappears to the southwest at a distance of 150 feet. At about 9:37 p.m., a 2-inch-wide purplish-white light appears 100 feet away to the northwest, flying in a zig-zag fashion in a level path 6–7 feet above the ground. When they attempt to approach it to investigate, it suddenly zooms away down the road at a high rate of speed before the light shuts off and the object disappears. A third light shows up at 9:39 p.m. in the west-southwest. (NICAP, “[Close Encounters with Drones/Probes at Weapons Storage Site](#)”; [Sparks](#), pp. 57–58; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, “[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10; Clark III 542; Jazz Shaw, “[From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear](#),” The Debrief, March 7, 2023; Clark IV 601)
- 1949, April 28 — USAF Director of Intelligence [Charles Cabell](#) sends a report on “Unidentified Aerial Objects” to the Joint Intelligence Committee. It summarizes the history of Project Sign up to its redesignation as Grudge and adds an appendix on “Unidentified Aerial Objects: Fact and Discussion,” which is basically a short version of the sanitized February 11 Sign report, with some green fireball information added. It recommends sending reports of unidentified “light phenomena” to the scientific community and reports of “atomic powered craft of unusual design” to the AEC. It concludes that “There are numerous reports from reliable and competent observers for which a conclusive explanation has not been made” and that some “involve configurations and described performance which might conceivably represent an advanced aerodynamical development. A few unexplained incidents surpass these limits of credulity. It is unlikely that a foreign power would expose a superior aerial weapon by a prolonged ineffectual penetration of the United States.” This essentially resurrects the ETH as a possibility, without clearly stating it. (“[Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects](#),” April 28, 1949; Jan Aldrich, “[Top-Secret 1949 Document](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 3–6, 31; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 64; Swords 76–77)
- 1949, April 28 — Some printed copies of Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, “Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the United States,” bear this date, although it was originally released December 10, 1948. (US Air Force, Directorate of Intelligence, [Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.: Summary and Conclusions](#), Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, December 10, 1948; [copy](#), dated April 28, 1949)

- 1949, April 28 — [Kaplan](#), [LaPaz](#), [Rees](#), and [Neef](#) meet with security officers at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to discuss green fireball observations at that facility. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 62–63)
- 1949, April 28 — 8:00 a.m. Businessman and private pilot [Leon A. Faber](#) is flying at 3,000 feet near the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Indiana, when he sees a metallic disc moving east about 10,000 feet away. He is chatting with some ham radio operators on the ground during the 5 minutes the object is in sight before it disappears. (NICAP, [“Flying Saucer Observed from Aircraft”](#); NICAP, [\[newsclips\]](#); [“‘Flying Saucer’ Sighted over Gary by Incredulous Businessman-Flyer.”](#) *Terre Haute (Ind.) Star*, April 29, 1949, pp. 1–2)
- 1949, April 28 — 5:45 p.m. W. Howard Hamm, John J. Huber, and H. C. “Tex” Keahey see a very large, bright, sausage-shaped object travel from northeast to southwest over the rim of the Catalina Mountains near Tucson, Arizona, over a period of 12 minutes. The object is shiny metallic and reflects the sun, apparently revolving as it moves like the “slow roll of an airplane.” There is no noise, nor is there exhaust or a vapor trail. There are no wings or engines or “protuberances of any sort.” It appears to be traveling at 300–600 mph. (NICAP, [“Cigar-Shaped Object Observed in Daylight”](#); Clark III 541; Clark IV 600)
- 1949, April 28 — 8:30 p.m. Several security patrols at Killeen Base, Texas, report nine separate sightings of lights southeast of the base. Most change color from white to red to green. On one occasion, four lights appear together; on another, 8–10 show up in each other’s company. No debris or evidence of flares are found. ([Sparks](#), p. 58; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, [“The Southwestern Lights, Part Three,”](#) *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10; Clark III 543; Clark IV 601)
- 1949, April 29 — The April 30 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* with part one of [Sidney Shalett](#)’s “What You Can Believe about Flying Saucers” hits the newsstands. The USAF Public Relations Office has cooperated fully with journalist Shalett, who sets out a fairly even-handed introduction to the UFO phenomenon. (Sidney Shalett, [“What You Can Believe about Flying Saucers, Part One,”](#) *Saturday Evening Post*, April 30, 1949, pp. 20–21, 136–139; Swords 73; Graff 55–56)
- 1949, April 30 — [Hynek](#) turns in his astronomical analysis of Project Sign’s 237 cases. His contract with Sign is over. (J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 199–200; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 17; O’Connell 45; John Greenewald, [“Report on Unidentified Aerial and Celestial Objects, Project 364, April 30, 1949, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek,”](#) The Black Vault, August 25, 2022)
- 1949, May 4 — The US Fourth Army creates an operational plan for a green fireball observation and tracking network at Killeen Base in Camp Hood, Texas. Although it lacks cameras, it has four six-man observation posts equipped with instruments to obtain directional bearings. One of the posts serves as the plotting center to coordinate and triangulate UFO sightings. Each day, a roving patrol gets new orders. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, [“The Southwestern Lights, Part Three,”](#) *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10–12; Thomas Tulien, ed., [Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop](#), Sign Historical Group, November 2001, pp. 43–44; Clark III 543, 1053; [“1949-05-04: US Army Establishes UFO Tracking Net at Killeen Base,”](#) Tom Owens UAP YouTube channel, May 16, 2020; Clark IV 1168)
- 1949, May 5 — 10:00 a.m. The Fourth US Army has approached AFOSI in San Antonio to offer assistance in investigating green fireballs and the Killeen lights. They arrange a meeting with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, the FBI, and the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project at Camp Hood, Killeen, Texas, the first of several weekly meetings. Army and Navy officials agree that the fireballs remain unexplained. AFSWP personnel believe they are natural phenomena; AFOSI and FBI give no opinion. The Fourth Army urges AFOSI to create an observation system, even though it had just secretly created one of its own on May 4. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, [“The Southwestern Lights, Part Three,”](#) *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10–11; Clark III 543)
- 1949, May 5 — 11:40 a.m. Army officers Maj. Charles D. May Jr., Maj. James N. Olhausen, and Capt. [Molloy C. Vaughn](#) on the Waco no. 4 firing range at Fort Bliss, Texas, watch for 30–50 seconds two oblong white discs pass through a field of fire. They are flying at about 200–250 mph at an altitude of 1,000 feet. The objects make a shallow turn. (NICAP, [“May 5, 1949, 1140 MST, Fort Bliss, Texas”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 59)
- 1949, May 6 — Soviet test pilot Arkady Ivanovich Apraksin takes a new airplane for a flight at the Kapustin Yar site, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. At its maximum ceiling of 9.3 miles, he encounters a cucumber-shaped object, similar to the one he encountered on June 16, 1948, that directs cones of light at his aircraft from a distance of 6–7 miles. The lights cause his communications equipment to fail and damage part of his plexiglass cockpit canopy that results in a loss of air pressure. He manages to land on the banks of the Volga River 30 miles from Saratov. He wakes up in a hospital in Saratov. He again undergoes intense interrogation, psychotherapy, and medical

procedures. (Joe Brill, “[UFO’s behind the Iron Curtain](#),” *Skylook*, no. 87 (February 1975): 15; Good Above, [pp. 221–223](#))

- 1949, May 6 — Col. [Reid Lumsden](#) of the San Antonio, Texas, AFOSI office informs headquarters that the “matter has reached a fairly serious stage and some positive action is necessary.” He does not send this message to Project Grudge. Headquarters responds quickly and orders him to investigate all sightings but reminds him to inform AMC. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, “[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 11; Clark III 543)
- 1949, May 6 — Part two of [Shalett](#)’s article on UFOs appears in the May 7 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*, which takes a more skeptical tone than the first part, with the Gorman case receiving a particularly harsh thrashing. However, he treats Chiles-Whitted favorably and ends with some hints on how to make good observations. Within a few days, the frequency of UFO reports hits an all-time high. USAF issues another long press release completely debunking UFOs, but it has no effect. (Sidney Shalett, “[What You Can Believe about Flying Saucers, Part Two](#),” *Saturday Evening Post*, May 7, 1949, pp. 36, 184–186; Ruppelt, [p. 63](#); Swords 74)
- 1949, May 7 — 6:00 p.m. A Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn are sitting outside their home in St. Louis, Missouri, near the Mississippi River when they see a strange craft fly over their location. They describe it as being more triangular in shape than a “saucer.” They both describe it as a ruddy brown or red color and it is shaped like a stingray, except without the typical stinging tail. It flies rapidly and seems to oscillate from side to side. They watch it for 45 seconds. Grudge investigators eventually write the sighting off as “probably” being an aircraft, despite the fact that no record is found of any commercial or military aircraft flying over their home at that time. ([Sparks](#), p. 60; Jazz Shaw, “[From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear](#),” The Debrief, March 7, 2023)
- 1949, May 9 — An article in *Time* magazine reports on the Air Force press release, remarking that “Spinners of yarns about flying saucers, including a score or so of Air Force pilots, stuck stoutly to their stories.” (“[Things That Go Whiz](#),” *Time*, May 9, 1949; “[Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Six](#),” *Saturday Night Uforia*)
- 1949, May 9 — Editor [Ken Purdy](#) asks Maj. [Donald E. Keyhoe](#) to investigate the flying saucer mystery for *True* magazine, warning him to watch out for “fake tips” from the Pentagon. Keyhoe is initially skeptical, but after talking to his old friends Adm. [Delmer S. Fahrney](#) and Adm. [Calvin M. Bolster](#), his opinion changes. (Keyhoe 1950, [pp. 18–22, 41](#); Powell, *Keyhoe*, 64–67; Graff 57–58)
- 1949, May 9 — Naval Unit Commander [Robert B. McLaughlin](#), with several other officers, witnesses a white object overhead during the launch of a WAC Corporal B rocket at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico. It disappears “in a blinding burst of speed to the west.” (R. B. McLaughlin, [[Letter to J. A. VanAllen](#)], May 12, 1949; [Sparks](#), p. 61)
- 1949, May 9 — 2:30 p.m. A professional flight engineer and former military pilot is relaxing in a lawn chair outside his home at 939 Benton Boulevard in Tucson, Arizona, when he sees two round objects pass directly overhead. Their shape could have been mistaken as balloons until they execute a turn in formation, banking in the process. At that point, he can clearly see that they are flat, and he estimates them to be roughly 25 feet in diameter. Also, he estimates that they are traveling between 750 and 1,000 miles per hour, faster than anything should have been flying at that time. They make another course correction and continue on until they pass out of sight over the nearby mountains. (National Archives, [Blue Book file], “[Tucson, Arizona, May 1949: Incident Number: 337](#)”; Jazz Shaw, “[From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear](#),” The Debrief, March 7, 2023)
- 1949, May 12 — Commander [McLaughlin](#) writes to his friend, atmospheric physicist [James Van Allen](#), describing the [Moore](#) theodolite case and his own sighting a few days earlier. He thinks they must involve technology because they have been seen accelerating and maneuvering. (R. B. McLaughlin, [[Letter to J. A. VanAllen](#)], May 12, 1949)
- 1949, May 12 — 9:30 p.m. Astronomer [Donald H. Menzel](#) leaves Holloman AFB on Highway 70 for Alamogordo, New Mexico. Shortly after noticing the star Antares, he sees another fuzzy object in the sky nearer to the horizon. A second object appears three degrees to the south. Determining that the objects are not Castor and Pollux or reflections, Menzel watches them another 4 minutes. Both objects vanish abruptly. ([Sparks](#), p. 62; Donald H. Menzel, *Flying Saucers*, Harvard University, 1953, [pp. 3–4, 99–100](#); J. Allen Hynek, “[Vignettes of UFO History: Dr. Menzel Reports a UFO!](#)” *IUR* 7, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1982): 11; Clark III 741–742; Clark IV 822–823)
- 1949, May 18 — [George N. Raines](#) leaves Washington, D.C., for four days to attend a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. He says [Forrestal](#) seems “somewhat better,” having regained 12 pounds.
- 1949, May 18 — [Walter Winchell](#), in his “On Broadway” syndicated column, writes: “The *N.Y. World-Telegram* on Saturday [May 14] confirmed this reporter’s exclusive report of several weeks before—which newspapermen have denied—about the Flying Saucers . . . Said the front-page piece in the *W-T*: ‘Air Force people are convinced the flying disc is real. The clincher came when the air force got a picture recently of three discs flying formation

over Stephenville, Newfoundland. [The July 10, 1947, hole-in-the-cloud case?] They outdistanced our fastest ships. Some air force men believe the discs are a new type flying machine utilizing gyroscopic principles' . . . At the time we added that the reality of the flying discs or saucers could not be denied truthfully." (Walter Winchell, "[On Broadway](#)," *Burlington (N.C.) Daily Times-News*, May 18, 1949, p. 4; "[Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Two](#)," Saturday Night Uforia)

- 1949**, May 19 — Wright-Patterson Air Material Intelligence Commander Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) forwards a copy of the Project Sign final report to the Research and Development Board, along with some appendices that later find their way into the Project Grudge final report. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 10)
- 1949**, May 19 — The Fourth Army's observation system near Killeen Base, Texas (without cameras, but with four 6-man observation posts equipped with instruments), is revealed to the intelligence community at one of its weekly meetings. Two trucks serve as a roving Artillery Patrol observation post linked to the Killeen plotting center by radio. AFOSI Lt. Col. [Doyle Rees](#) has meanwhile set up a 24-hour visual observation post in the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is equipped with a wide-angle-lens camera fitted with a spectrographic grating. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#)," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 12; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History: January–June 1949*, The Author, 1988, p. 86; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 86–87; Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, pp. 43–44; Clark III 543; Clark IV 601)
- 1949**, May 21 — 1:30 p.m. An F-82 is dispatched from Moses Lake AFB [now Grant County International Airport] in Washington State to intercept a UFO that is hovering in restricted air space over the Hanford Atomic Works at an altitude of 17,000–20,000 feet. The silvery disc is seen from the ground at Hanford and on radar. Before the F-82 can take off, the disc speeds away faster than a jet fighter. It disappears from ground radar and the F-82 cannot locate it. (NICAP, "[Hanford AEC Plant / F-82/RV Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 63; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 141)
- 1949**, May 22 — 1:45 a.m. At the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, [Forrestal](#) is awake and refuses a sedative. Five minutes later, the Navy corpsman guarding him finds the room empty. Forrestal's body is found on a third-floor roof below the 16th-floor kitchen. No suicide note is found other than part of a translation of [Sophocles](#)'s tragedy *Ajax* that he is copying. (Wikipedia, "[James Forrestal](#)"; J. C. Hawkins, *Betrayal at Bethesda: The Intertwined Fates of James Forrestal, Joseph McCarthy, and John F. Kennedy*, The Author, 2017; David Martin, *The Assassination of James Forrestal*, McCabe, 2019)
- 1949**, May 24 — 5:00 p.m. Five witnesses (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' Ames Lab employees Don Heaphy, Gilbert Rivera and his wife, Mrs. Roy L. McBeth, and Mrs. William McBeth) on a fishing boat on the Rogue River, Oregon, near Elephant Rock, see a round, silvery object the size of a transport aircraft. It comes from the east, then turns southwest and leaves no exhaust trail. The disc appears flattened and has a wrinkled surface with a vertical stabilizer fin. The time of observation is less than 3 minutes. (NICAP, "[The Rogue River Incident](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 64; Bruce S. Maccabee, "[Addendum: Sighting at Rogue River, Oregon, May 24, 1949](#)," *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 3 (1983): 45–52; Bruce Maccabee, *UFO FBI Connection*, Llewellyn, 2000, pp. 105–111; Bruce Maccabee, "[An Assessment of the UFO Sighting at Rogue River, Oregon \(May 24, 1949\)](#)," December 2009; Swords 83–84; Clark III 377; Clark IV 420)
- 1949**, May 27 — 2:25 p.m. Pilot and businessman [Joseph Shell](#), ferrying an SNJ trainer for North American Aviation from Red Bluff, California, to Burns, Oregon, sees 5–8 oval objects, twice as long as wide and one-fifth as thick, around Hart Mountain, Oregon. They fly in trail formation, with an interval equal to 3–4 times their length, except that the second and third are closer together. (NICAP, "[Pilot Encounters 5–8 Egg-Shaped Metallic Objects](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 65)
- 1949**, May 31 — The Air Force Office of Special Investigations sends Project Grudge a copy of [Rees](#)'s report on [Kaplan](#)'s visit on April 28, the trip that USAF Intelligence had arranged to explore the possibility of a clandestine investigation separate from Grudge. Thus AMC learns of the conspiracy to keep it in the dark, but Rees fails to mention the involvement of USAF Intelligence. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#)," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 15; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 60–63, 88)
- 1949**, May 31 — The Navy review board, convened by Adm. [Morton D. Willcutts](#), completes hearings on [James Forrestal](#)'s death. The cause of death is remarkably inconclusive, and the investigation leaves many questions unanswered.
- 1949**, Summer — The gouge is said to be still visible in the debris field near Corona, New Mexico. [Mack Brazel](#), having found various scraps and bits for the past two years, mentions to someone in a bar in Corona that he has some

material. The next day, a Capt. Armstrong and three others from Roswell Army Air Field supposedly confiscate the pieces.

- 1949**, Summer — 4:00 p.m. The French Navy patrol boat [La Rusé](#) (formerly the USS *PC-472*) encounters a cigar-shaped bluish object about one mile away off Casablanca, Morocco. The crew watches it for 1 minute until it shoots toward the horizon and out of sight. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 36)
- 1949**, Summer — 1:00 p.m. Rep. [Albert J. Engel](#) (R-Mich.) sees a UFO at Elsie, Michigan, with other witnesses, two of whom chase it in an airplane. The object speeds away. (“[‘Flying Saucer’ Discussions Go On](#),” *Reidsville (N.C.) Review*, April 5, 1950, p. 1)
- 1949**, June 6 — 9:05 p.m. Two observation posts at Killeen Base, Fort Hood, Texas, spot a hovering orange light. Lts. Virgil Williams and Marvin L. Jones are at one site and Lts. Bernard G. Rafferty and [Alfred H. Jones](#) are at the other. When they triangulate its location, they find it is 3 miles south of one observation post and 4.5 miles south of the plotting center, hovering 5,280 feet in the air. It is 30–70 feet in diameter. Suddenly it starts moving in level flight, then bursts into small particles. The duration is less than 3 minutes. This observation involves the first real-time triangulation of a UFO sighting. ([Sparks](#), p. 66; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, “[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 12; Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 43; Clark III 543, 1053; Clark IV 601, 1168)
- 1949**, June 14 — 3:35 p.m. A crew of Navy engineers under Capt. [Robert Bright McLaughlin](#) is testing an Air Force V-2 rocket at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. When the V-2 attains a speed of 2,000 feet per second in its upward flight, it is joined by two smaller circular objects that pace it, one on each side. One then passes through the rocket’s exhaust, joins the other, and together accelerate upwards leaving the V-2 behind. Five other missile observation crews also see the objects. (NICAP, “[Two UFOs Pace V-2 Rocket](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 66; Robert McLaughlin, “[How Scientists Tracked a Flying Saucer](#),” *True*, March 1950, pp. 25–27, 96–99; Swords 92–93)
- 1949**, June 17 — An animator employed by the Lockheed Company sees a metallic disc approaching from the northeast in Glendale, California. It disappears to the northwest. (Keith Basterfield, “[Which Aerospace Company Is Hiding a UAP Black Project?](#)” Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, August 28, 2021)
- 1949**, June 20 — 6:10 p.m. Architect John Paul Jones is relaxing in his garden at “Ivy Cottage” in Paget, Bermuda, with his wife and two American friends—Josephine Watley and Camelia Allen—when he spots a bright object resembling a star about 45 to 50 degrees above the northern horizon. As the object begins moving steadily southward, he alerts the others. The object shines with a silvery glow and maintains a consistent shape and brightness. It moves in a straight path, increasing in apparent size, and eventually passes overhead. Jones estimates its altitude at 20,000 feet and speed at over 400 mph. After a brief pause, the object suddenly shoots straight upward at tremendous speed until it vanishes. A weather balloon launched that day from Kindley Air Force Base [now L. F. Wade International Airport] on St. David’s Island is discounted due to its different flight path and behavior. The incident lasts about 15 minutes. (“[‘Flying Saucer’ Seen over Bermuda](#),” *Sunday Royal Gazette* (Hamilton, Bermuda), July 3, 1949, p. 1)
- 1949**, June 22 — Three women (one a schoolteacher, another a biologist working at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and a third who is the wife of a member of the Security Division, AEC, Oak Ridge) observe an odd trio of “flying saucers” for about 15 minutes: “It was described as consisting of two identical rectangular-shaped objects which appeared to be coordinated in movement and which moved in wave-like motion. The third object was circular in shape and appeared to be in level flight between and above the two rectangular objects. The rectangular objects appeared to be bright metal on top but dark underneath, while the color of the circular object was the same as that of frosted glass. The ‘flying saucer,’ when last sighted, was in level flight and was flying in a northwesterly direction. The weather was clear with high cumulus clouds. The ‘flying saucer’ flew at speed of from 10 to 15 mph over an area just about the center of Oak Ridge.” (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June*, The Author, 1988, pp. 83–84)
- 1949**, June 28 — 9:15 p.m. Rev. [Orland Taft Arnett](#) and his wife [Opal](#) are sitting in their front yard in Jackson, Tennessee, when they spot two flying saucers overhead, moving westward. The objects are about the size of a man’s hat and emit a reddish glow. Arnett says they resemble birds at play, diving and zooming around each other before disappearing after about a minute. (“[Here We Go Again! Preacher and Wife See Flying Saucer](#),” *Johnson City (Tenn.) Press*, June 28, 1949, p. 15)
- 1949**, June 29 — 6:30 p.m. A former US Air Force tech sergeant observes three separate flights of three V-shaped or triangular objects from his front porch in Baltimore, Maryland. The objects veer sharply into a cloud at 2,500 feet altitude and then fly around it repeatedly. They have the ability to reverse their course 180° instantaneously. Through binoculars, they look like black, open boomerangs. More objects join them until there are 15–20, and he watches them for two hours. The formation moves from southeast to northeast and disappears. Fifteen other witness also see the display. (Marler [126–128](#))

- 1949, July 3** — 10:40 a.m. Aeronautical engineer [Molt Taylor](#), airport manager at Longview, Washington, is preparing for an air show when someone points out an object in the sky to the northwest. He announces it over the PA system to the crowd of 150–200 observers, including pilots, who watch a metallic disc cross to the southeast with a falling-leaf motion. Estimated altitude is 30,000 feet at 300 mph, with the approximate size of 100 feet. A second object is seen at 10:49 a.m. for 2 minutes. A third sighting takes place at 11:25 a.m. An object approaches from the west at about the same altitude, oscillating at 48 per minute, and disappears into the sun. (NICAP, “[Metallic Discus Object Observed by 150–200 Observers](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 67; “[Flying Discs Seen by Longview Flier](#),” *Daily Olympian* (Wash.), July 1, 1949, p. 1; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 48–49; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, July–December*, The Author, 1988, p. 4; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, July–December: Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 9–10; Swords 82–83)
- 1949, July 13** — [Kaplan](#) responds to a July 1 letter from Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#) inquiring about his April visit to Los Alamos, New Mexico. He explains that he has deliberately waited two months to report because he wanted to have a cooling off period from the deep impression the New Mexico witnesses had on him. Moreover, he wants to see if the green fireballs are still reported (they are) before he recommends a full-scale instrumented program. He says that [Norris Bradbury](#), the Los Alamos lab director, has urged that a classified scientific conference be held to discuss the phenomena. Kaplan suspects that the fireballs are an auroral phenomenon, but concedes that their horizontal motion and southern appearance are “difficult to explain.” He recommends a photographic and spectrographic patrol that would stay on to look out for the fireballs. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, “[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 15; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1949, July 14** — According to a dubious document acquired by [Timothy S. Cooper](#), this is the date of an alleged meeting at Blair House, where President [Truman](#) proposes that the “know how” of any new technology acquired from crashed UFOs be shared with Canada and the UK. (CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence, “[Information Report: Analysis of the Corona and Oscura Peak, NM Wreckage of Unidentified Lenticular Aerodyne Technology](#),” October 30, 1950)
- 1949, July 24** — 12:03 p.m. [Harry F. Clark](#), manager of a flying service, is flying a Piper PA-16 Clipper at 19,000 feet 10 miles northwest of Mountain Home, Idaho, when he sees a tight formation of 7 delta-shaped objects, 35–55 feet in diameter near his plane. They make a perfect and unbanked right turn 1,500 feet ahead of his plane, then they turn right again, passing the aircraft at about 450–500 mph. Clark’s engine runs rough during the sighting, which lasts 10 minutes. After he lands, he finds all his spark plugs burned out. When the Air Force investigates the case, they request the spark plugs. (NICAP, “[Piper Clipper Encounters Seven Delta-Shaped Objects](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 68; Dave Johnson, “[Pilot Spots Weird V-Shaped Objects Flying over Mountain Home Desert](#),” *Boise Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 25, 1949, pp. 1–2; Curt Collins, “[Triangular UFO Formation in Idaho, July 24, 1949](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, October 12, 2023; Powell, *Scientist*, 84–85)
- 1949, July 24** — 8:30 p.m. An Air Force major and captain watch seven bluish-white lights pass over Fort Worth, Texas, in a V formation, moving rapidly from south to north. The distance between the lights does not vary during the 4–5 seconds they are visible. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949 July–December*, The Author, 1988, p. 13; Clark III 692; Clark IV 768)
- 1949, July 24** — A green fireball is seen falling close to Socorro, New Mexico. The next day, scientist [William D. Crozier](#) collects dust samples from the School of Mines campus at Socorro. The samples contain copper particles of unusually large size. ([Sparks](#), p. 68; Clark III 543–544; Clark IV 601)
- 1949, August** — [George Adamski](#) publishes *Pioneers of Space*, detailing his out-of-body visits to the Moon, Mars, and Venus. In private correspondence he later explains “how one may venture from one place to another, while his physical is in one place and he is in another. That is the way I have written this book. I actually have gone to the places I speak of.” He writes that the inhabitants have embraced Cosmic Law and live in prosperity and peace. (George Adamski [ghost-written by Lucy McGinnis], *Pioneers of Space: A Trip to the Moon, Mars, and Venus*, Leonard-Freefield, 1949; “[Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame](#),” *The Adamski Case*, September 22, 2019; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 118–119)
- 1949, August** — Actor, producer, and director [Mikel Conrad](#), in promoting his soon-to-be-released film *The Flying Saucer*, claims that the movie contains actual footage of a spaceship recovered in Alaska by government agents. He produces a bogus FBI agent to “confirm” the story. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations interviews Conrad, who admits to perpetrating a publicity hoax. (Louella Parsons, “[In Hollywood](#),” *Washington (D.C.) Times-Herald*, September 21, 1949, p. 30; Jerome Clark, “[A Catalog of Early Crash Claims](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 4

(July/Aug. 1993): 16; Internet Movie Database, "[The Flying Saucer](#)"; Wade Williams III, "The Life and Times of Mikel Conrad, the Boy from Columbus Who Brought the First Flying Saucer to Hollywood," *Filmfax* 2, no. 2 (October 1987): 24–29, 48–51)

- 1949, August 8 — 11:30 p.m. Six airmen and tower operators at Medford Municipal Airport [now the Rogue Valley International–Medford Airport] in Oregon see 1–7 shiny objects traveling at variable speeds at an estimated altitude of 30,000 feet. They fly in formation for a while, then break off and return to formation again. Control tower operators using binoculars seem to distinguish wings on the objects. They remain visible until around 12:30 a.m. (NICAP, "[Winged Objects Cavort over Airport](#)")
- 1949, August 10 — USAF's Air Materiel Command issues a final 600-page report, "Unidentified Flying Objects—Project Grudge," Technical Report 102-AC-49/15-100, or "The Grudge Report," authored by Lt. Howard W. Smith and [George W. Towles](#). [Hynek](#)'s April analysis is included as an appendix. Based on 237 cases, Hynek finds that 32% can be explained astronomically. Others say 12% are balloons, 33% are other misidentifications, hoaxes, or insufficient information. That leaves 23% (55) classed as unknowns. Despite this, witnesses are mostly deluded, hysterical, lying, or crazy, and "further study along present lines would only confirm the findings presented herein." The report concludes there is little evidence to prove UFOs are real and do not represent a security threat. Sightings are explained as misinterpretations, "mild" mass hysteria, hoaxes, or psychopathology. It recommends that press releases be created to "aid in dispelling public apprehension." On the other hand, it suggests that military and government agencies interested in "psychological warfare" be informed of the findings. Appendix D is written by USAF Scientific Advisory Board member [George E. Valley](#), who writes that extraterrestrial civilizations "might observe that on Earth we now have atomic bombs and are fast developing rockets. In view of the past history of mankind, they should be alarmed. We should, therefore, expect at this time above all to behold such visitations." Project Grudge enters a period of dormancy until July 1950. The report is classified Secret until August 1, 1952. ([Sparks](#), p. 12; Lt. Howard W. Smith and George W. Towles, "[Unidentified Flying Objects—Project Grudge](#)," Air Materiel Command Technical Report 102-AC-49/15-100; [Hynek UFO Report](#), p. 18; Clark II 932; Kate Dorsch, [Reliable Witnesses, Crackpot Science: UFO Investigations in Cold War America, 1947–1977](#), dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2019, pp. 44–48; Graff 59–60; Eghigian, *After*, p. 60; Clark IV 1043)
- 1949, August 10 — The National Military Establishment is renamed the Department of Defense to unify the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the Secretary of Defense. It establishes the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Wikipedia, "[United States Department of Defense](#)")
- 1949, August 16 — A young girl in Wola Drzewiecka, Poland, sees a dark green object nearby like two bowls put together and about 5 feet in diameter. She walks right up to it and touches its metallic surface with her index finger, getting a mild electric vibration and making her fingertip turn red. The object begins rotating, then rises up and disappears to the south at an altitude of 50 feet. In the distance she sees another object that she says remained in the same spot for several days. (Poland 18–19)
- 1949, August 17 — [Lincoln LaPaz](#) submits the fifth of a series of reports on "anomalous luminous phenomena." He notes that "Many of the green fireballs now appearing descend in nearly vertical paths, whereas, in earlier months almost all of the green fireballs observed moved almost horizontally. There appears to be a concentration of New Mexico incidents near weekends, especially on Sunday and near the hour of 8:00." (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1949 July–December](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 28–29; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1949, August 17 — Due to a tip from Stewart Smith of Baltimore, Maryland, Air Force investigator Capt. [Claudius Belk](#) and the Maryland State Police discover some disc-shaped experimental aircraft in an abandoned tobacco barn in Glen Burnie, Maryland. At first, an Air Force spokesman states that they "could well be the prototype of what have been reported as flying saucers," but one day later that statement is retracted when they discover that the aircraft were built by inventor [Jonathan E. Caldwell](#), who had abandoned the barn in 1941 and moved to Nevada. ("[Air Force Disowns 'Flying Disk' Finds](#)," *New York Times*, August 21, 1949, p. 39; Curt Collins, "[The Other Air Force Captured Flying Saucer Retraction](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, October 22, 2020)
- 1949, August 18 — [LaPaz](#) and USAF scientists meet with [William D. Crozier](#) to find out about his July 25 dust collection in Socorro, New Mexico. Crozier says he thinks the copper particles may have come from a campus building, although samples from the open country contain the same particles. LaPaz notes that copper is extremely rare in meteorites, although it might explain the yellow-green color of the fireballs. He suggests that further air and ground samples be taken in areas where the fireballs are seen. (Clark III 543–544; Clark IV 601–602)
- 1949, August 19 — Two prospectors, Buck Fitzgerald and Mase Garney, report that a flying saucer crashed near them in Death Valley, California. Two little men jump out and start running. The prospectors chase them over a sand dune, but lose them. ("['Little Men' in Flying Disc](#)," *San Francisco Examiner*, August 20, 1949, p. 2; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), August 22, 2006; Clark III 269; Clark IV 309)

- 1949, August 19** — 8:15–11:00 p.m. Rev. [Gregory Miller](#), pastor of the St. Peter and Paul Church in Norwood, Ohio, has purchased from Army surplus an 8-million-candlepower searchlight for his church carnival. Sgt. Donald R. Berger, a ROTC student at the University of Cincinnati, is to operate it. During the festivities, Berger's sweeping searchlight suddenly flashes across a stationary circular object in the sky. Miller and others join in and observe. When Berger moves the searchlight away, the disc continues to glow. Hundreds of calls are received by *Cincinnati Post* and *Cincinnati Enquirer* offices regarding fireballs and comet-like objects all across the Cincinnati area this first night. The searchlight picks up the same or similar objects on nine further occasions, the last being on March 10, 1950. (NICAP, "[The Ohio Searchlight Incident](#)"; "[Flying Saucer Reported Again](#)," *Circleville (Ohio) Herald*, September 12, 1949, p. 1; "[Soldier Reports 'Flying Saucer'](#)," *Logan (Ohio) Daily News*, September 12, 1949, p. 2; "Those Things Again," *Athens (Ohio) Messenger*, September 12, 1949, p. 1; "Oh, Look, Ma—That Thing's Here Again," *Lima (Ohio) News*, September 12, 1949, p. 1; Leo Hirtl, "[The Seven Hills](#)," *Cincinnati (Ohio) Post*, September 15, 1949, p. 8; "[More Proof That 'Saucers' Exist](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 1, no. 5 (August 6, 1954): 1–2; Leonard H. Stringfield, *Inside Saucer Post...3-0 Blue*, The Author, 1957, pp. 73–78; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, pp. 172–174; Patrick Gross, "[The Norwood Searchlight Incident](#)"; "[The 1949 Norwood, Ohio, Searchlight UFO Incident](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, July 1, 2024)
- 1949, August 20** — 10:45 p.m. Astronomer [Clyde Tombaugh](#), his [wife](#), and [mother-in-law](#) see a formation of rectangular bluish-green lights at Las Cruces, New Mexico, for about 3 seconds. (NICAP, "[Tombaugh Observes UFO Formation](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 70; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)" *Life*, April 7, 1952, p. 89; Donald H. Menzel, *Flying Saucers*, 1953, pp. 36–38; "[Dr. Clyde Tombaugh Provides Details on His Own Famous Sighting](#)," *CSI News Letter*, no. 10 (December 15, 1957): 27; Donald Menzel and Lyle Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, 1963, pp. 266–270; UFOEv, p. 53; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 59–60; Swords 81–82; "[Las Cruces, NM Case of 4-20-1949 – Clyde Tombaugh](#)," *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013; Clark III 1129–1130; Clark IV 1281–1282)
- 1949, August 29** — 7:00 a.m. The Soviet Union secretly conducts its first successful nuclear weapon test (First Lightning) at the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan. The design is very similar to the first US "Fat Man" plutonium bomb. The project is led by physicist [Igor Kurchatov](#). (Wikipedia, "[RDS-1](#)")
- 1949, September 1** — Col. [John M. Schweizer Jr.](#), executive officer to the director of US Air Force intelligence, writes in a memo to the director, Maj. Gen. [Millard Lewis](#): "reports that fall in the 'fireball' category will no longer be included in HQ Air Materiel Command and Directorate of Intelligence, HQ USAF, investigative activity on unidentified aerial incidents." AMC hands green fireball reports over to the USAF Cambridge Research Laboratory at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Massachusetts. AFOIN rejects an Army request for further facilities to study the green fireballs from field locations. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949 July–December*, [Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 30–31, 34–35; Clark III 543; Clark IV 601)
- 1949, September 14** — The Geophysical Sciences Branch of the Air Force Research and Development orders the new AMC commander Lt. Gen. [Benjamin Chidlaw](#) to have the Cambridge Research Laboratory in Massachusetts evaluate the New Mexico and Texas green fireball cases and consider the creation of an instrumented network. AMC is directed to send representatives from Boston to a meeting in New Mexico. (Lt. Col. John McK. Tucker, "[Light Phenomena](#)," September 14, 1949; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#)," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 16; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1949, September 14** — 9:30–10:00 p.m. Two residents of Lubbock, Texas, see 9 clusters of objects "similar to ducks flying in formation," bright silver and roughly round in shape. There are as many as 50 objects in all the formations except one. They seem to be traveling at 5,000 feet altitude, going north to south. Each light is visible for about 10 seconds, but it takes 30 minutes for all the objects to pass overhead. One witness is convinced the objects are ducks. (Clark III 692–693; Clark IV 768)
- 1949, September 26** — 6:30 p.m. [Lester Wolfe](#) and five others 5 miles southeast of Lexington, Nebraska, are threshing wheat when they see three objects coming from the general direction of the sun (southwest). As the objects move, they give off a dazzling brilliance. They maintain a level flight with two of the objects changing positions as they fly. The power of the illumination remains constant throughout the incident (no pulses or flashes). Once the objects reach a direction northwest of the observers, they make a smooth 90° turn straight upwards and climb rapidly out of sight. Dean Wolfe is a recent graduate of a two-year course in aeronautical design and thinks the objects look like domed discs when viewed face forward, but are more like stubby, wingless, tailless fuselages when seen from the side. About 5 miles away, [Don](#), [Minnie](#), [Elmer](#) and [Irene Ballheim](#) see two fast-moving

- objects flying in the distance at level flight before abruptly turning straight up and flying upward. This group of people does not know their distant neighbors. (NICAP, "[90-Degree Turn Straight Up](#)"; Swords 83–84)
- 1949, September 27 — 1:30 and 3:00 a.m. At least five observers at Sandia Base, New Mexico, see fireballs of various colors traveling either in an arc or in tangent to the Earth. ([Sparks](#), p. 71; Francis Ridge, "[The Nuclear Connection Project: The New Mexico Sightings](#)," September 3, 2005)
- 1949, September or October — A Swiss Air Force officer sees a silvery disc 20 feet in diameter with jagged edges above Payerne, Vaud, Switzerland. He observes it flying at about 700 mph for 12 seconds. (Center for UFO Studies, [[Payerne case file](#)])
- 1949, Fall — A radar-tracking UFO case takes place at a key atomic base (probably Los Alamos, New Mexico). The base radar scope covers 200 miles of sky up to 100,000 feet. A legitimate radar contact tracks five apparently metallic objects at a great height moving south and crossing the radar scope in less than 4 minutes (an average of about 4,500 mph). (H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)" *Life*, April 7, 1952, p. 89)
- 1949, Fall — Night. [Donald Bushnell](#) and his wife [Laura](#) are traveling along a straight highway in New Mexico. Suddenly a disc about 50–60 feet across comes straight down the road toward them about 4 feet off the ground. It raises up a little before reaching the car and passes overhead. As it does so, his radio turns to static. (Jim Downing, "[‘Saucer’ Unnerved Tulsan](#)," *Tulsa (Okla.) Tribune*, December 10, 1957, p. 24; [Schopick](#), p. 77)
- 1949, October — Alma Lawson of Los Angeles, California, claims she was a member of a scientific expedition that visited the crash site of a flying saucer in Mexico. A shepherd is said to have discovered the disk, which contained the burned bodies of six small men. Automobile dealer Ernest Gates claims he heard on the radio about a saucer crash with little men near Mexico City. Ray L. Dimmick of Los Angeles tells a similar story; at first he claims he inspected the craft himself on March 3, 1949, at a secret Mexico City military installation, but later says he was told the story. (Sam Petok, "[Find Discs from Space in Mexico?](#)" *Detroit (Mich.) Free Press*, October 31, 1949, pp. 1, 8; "[Flying Saucer—with 2-Foot Pilot: That’s Mr. Dimmick’s Gimmick from Mexico](#)," *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, March 10, 1950, p. 6; "[Has the Air Force Secured ‘Material Evidence’?](#)" *Flying Saucer News-Service Research Bulletin*, no. 10 (September 20, 1955): 3–6)
- 1949, October 5 — [Donald Keyhoe](#) tells the press relations office at the Pentagon that he intends to publish an article in *True* that highlights the interplanetary hypothesis. They tell him that there are no security issues involved. (Powell, *Keyhoe*, 68)
- 1949, October 10 — 1:07 a.m. A bluish-green fireball is seen moving to the northeast at 45° above the horizon at Sandia Base, New Mexico. Duration is from 4 to 15 seconds. (Francis Ridge, "[The Nuclear Connection Project: The New Mexico Sightings](#)," September 3, 2005)
- 1949, October 11 — The Navy releases only a brief summary of its findings in the death of [James Forrestal](#). The complete transcript is not released until 2004. (Ayn Rand Institute Watch, "[The Willcutts Report on the Death of James Forrestal](#)")
- 1949, October 11 — 10:45 a.m. USAF M/Sgt. [Ralph M. Stevens](#), a tech aide in lower atmospheric research at Holloman AFB near Alamogordo, New Mexico, and Sgt. [Marion H. Graves](#) are at Ryan Site #4 tracking a balloon launch by theodolite when they spot a high-speed, round, white, dish-shaped object in the northwest. The object flies straight overhead and disappears at 60° elevation in the southeast. Its size is compared to that of a B-29 [141 feet long] at a range of 150,000 feet, or about 1/10 the size of the full moon. (NICAP, "[High-Speed Dish-Shaped Object Tracked](#)")
- 1949, October 12 — Columnist [Frank Scully](#) writes an article in *Variety* alleging that the US government has retrieved crashed spaceships in the southwestern desert. One that crashed in the Mojave Desert was 100 feet across and propelled by magnetism. The craft contained 16 small men, all dead and wearing clothes "similar to those of 1890" but of a "material unknown to us." (Frank Scully, "[Scully’s Scrapbook](#)," *Variety*, October 12, 1949, p. 61; Clark III 595, 1044)
- 1949, October 12 — 11:15 a.m. S/Sgt Clifford B. Hart, a flight engineer, and two others at Holloman AFB near Alamogordo, New Mexico, observe a round, white, or aluminum-colored object moving across the sky from south to north. It then veers to the northeast where it disappears. Hart estimates the size of the object as comparable to a B-29 aircraft, with a speed of 1,500 mph at an estimated altitude of 35,000 feet. The object is in sight for 45–60 seconds. Other witnesses are aircraft mechanics S/Sgt J. D. Denning and S/Sgt Harry A. Boggs. (NICAP, "[H. S. Object Observed by Flight Engineer and Mechanics](#)")
- 1949, October 14 — At another conference in Los Alamos, New Mexico, attended by 16 representatives of AFOSI, AMC ([Joseph Kaplan](#) and Maj. [Frederic C. E. Oder](#)), Fourth Army, the FBI, AFSWP, and Los Alamos scientists ([Edward Teller](#), [George Gamow](#), and [Stanislaw Ulam](#)), the green fireballs are identified as probably atmospheric in origin, but more observational data is needed. [LaPaz](#) and [Neef](#) speak at length. Oder’s Cambridge Research

Laboratory at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Massachusetts, is selected for a field project, under LaPaz's supervision. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#)," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 16; Good Above, [pp. 266–267](#); Swords 81; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)

- 1949**, October 14 — 1:15 p.m. [Harley C. Marshall](#), manager of public relations at Palomar Observatory in San Diego County, California, is driving away from the observatory when he sees a perfect "V of V's" formation of about 16–18 silver objects without tails or wings overhead traveling at high speed to the northwest and emitting a sound like jets. He stops and watches them disappear behind the cloud cover. Returning to the observatory, he phones electrician [Benjamin B. Traxler](#), who at 1:20 p.m. sees one dark UFO traveling to the southwest. Marshall checks the Navy Electronics Laboratory Geiger counter on site and sees that the needle has jumped off the scale for several seconds. For the next 10 days, another 21 incidents of off-scale cosmic-ray detector incidents occur at scattered times, fitting a periodic 1.5-hour time schedule, a phenomenon not seen before or after, and unexplainable by equipment failure or radio interference from aircraft. Two representatives of the Office of Naval Research and two from the Naval Electronics Laboratory in Point Loma, California ([Joseph P. Maxfield](#) and Gene Luther Bloom), visit the observatory to investigate the readings, but not before they stop in at Alice Wells's Palomar Gardens Café on the way in. After [George Adamski](#) claims he has seen increased UFO activity in the area (including a sighting about the same time as another observation by Traxler on October 21), they ask him if he would send them any photos he might take with one of his telescopes. He gives them a copy of a telescopic photo he took in February 1949 with his 15-inch reflector. The Naval Electronics Lab later attributes the photo to "electric discharge which frequently occurs in cameras during film pulling in dry or cold climates." Several Navy aircraft of differing prop and jet types are flown near the observatory using radio, altimeter, and radars on October 21 and November 2 in an unsuccessful effort to trigger the Geiger counter. (NICAP, "[Geiger Counters Detect UFO Presence](#)"; [Sparks](#), pp. 74–75; Maurice Weekley and George Adamski, "Flying Saucers As Astronomers See Them," *Fate* 3, no. 6 (September 1950): 56–59; Eric Herr, "[George Adamski: An Historical Note](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 34, no. 3 (September 1989): 15; Colin Bennett, *Looking for Orthon*, Paraview, 2001, [pp. 29–30](#); Swords 86–87; Clark III 38, 949–950; Clark IV 57, 1063–1064)
- 1949**, October 23 — 7:15–10:45 p.m. Rev. [Gregory Miller](#) has set up his searchlight once again at St. Peter and Paul Church in Norwood, Ohio. Sgt. Berger turns on the light and picks up a large object in the beam. At about 10:00 p.m., the searchlight picks up two distinct groups of five triangular objects that seem to emerge from the main disc. They descend on the beam then turn out of it. The same performance is repeated 30 minutes later. About 50 persons, including newspaper reporters observe the objects. Miller takes several photographs and asks Sgt. Leo Davidson of the Norwood police department to film the display. He uses three rolls, 25 feet each, and a Hugo-Meyer F-19-3" camera with telephoto lens. Davidson also takes 10 still photographs of the large disc-shaped object that flies in and out of the searchlight beam, using a Speed-Graphic camera with a 14-inch Wallensach telephoto lens. Two of these are exceptional shots, showing both the parent object and the smaller group. These two pictures are last seen by Time-Life correspondent Harry Mayo, who has prepared a feature story for *Time*, which was to include them. But Mayo's story and Miller's photos were not used in *Time* or *Life* and, in spite of requests by Miller, these two photos are never returned. (Harry Mayo, "[What Glows on Here? Norwood Muses](#)," *Cincinnati Post*, April 6, 1950, p. 1; "[More Proof That 'Saucers' Exist](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 1, no. 5 (August 6, 1954): 1–2; NICAP, "[The Ohio Searchlight Incident](#)"; Kenny Young, "[Norwood and Project Grudge](#)"; Patrick Gross, "[The Norwood Searchlight Incident](#)")
- 1949**, November 3 — [Joseph Kaplan](#) brings the green fireball plan to the USAF Scientific Advisory Board at the Pentagon. By this time, he is convinced the fireballs are a rare type of meteor. But others are puzzled by the brightness, trajectories, and soundlessness, Kaplan says, "This high selectivity of direction seems to indicate that some group was trying to pinpoint Los Alamos with a new sort of weapon." (Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1949**, November 3 — [Karl Taylor Compton](#) resigns as chairman of the Research and Development Board around the same time that [Lawrence R. Hafstad](#) succeeds [Lloyd Berkner](#) as executive secretary. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 9)
- 1949**, November 3 — 11:00 a.m. USAF Capt. William H. Donnelly is driving south about 2 miles north of Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico, with a friend when he sees four objects to the east at a high altitude. All are oval and a metallic white color. They are constantly changing formation, moving up and down, back and forth. The objects continue to fly south rapidly and move in a horizontal line and disappear from sight in 20–40 seconds. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1949**, November 14 — 10:30 p.m. USNR Commander [J. R. Bodler](#) is in charge of a merchant vessel (possibly the [USS Hemminger](#)) in the Strait of Hormuz between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. He observes a huge, pulsating submarine light wheel, some 1,000–1,500 feet in diameter, one mile from his ship. It is revolving

- around an ill-defined center with streaks of light like searchlight beams moving counterclockwise “like the spokes of a gigantic wheel.” He thinks it is caused by natural phosphorescence, stimulated by some marine life. (J. R. Bodler, “[An Unexplained Phenomenon of the Sea](#),” *US Naval Institute Proceedings* 72 (January 1952): 66–67; Carl Feindt, “[Report #63](#),” [waterufo.net](#); Dolan, *USO1*, 128–131)
- 1949**, November 23 — Columnist [Frank Scully](#) writes a second column in *Variety* on a crashed saucer allegedly found in the Mojave Desert. Scientists supposedly retrieved a radio from it that “seemingly works on magnetic waves.” Its dead crew are said to be from the planet Venus. (Frank Scully, “[Scully’s Scrapbook](#),” *Variety*, November 23, 1949, p. 24)
- 1949**, November 27 — 5:49 p.m. Civil Aeronautics Administration Chief Controller W. W. Jones watches a blue-white fireball moving 5°–7° per second over Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Francis Ridge, “[The Nuclear Connection Project: The New Mexico Sightings](#),” September 3, 2005)
- 1949**, November 27 — 6:00 p.m. Kirtland AFB Deputy Base Commander Lt. Col. Charles E. Lancaster Jr. is driving near McIntosh, New Mexico, when he sees a green fireball descend near Albuquerque. ([Sparks](#), p. 77)
- 1949**, December — Capt. [Bernard Baruch Jr.](#) suggests to Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#) that UFOs be added to JANAP 146 as required reporting subjects and that civilian pilots report UFO sightings according to military chains of command. (Swords 122)
- 1949**, December 2–3 — The US government releases radioactive fission products at the Hanford Site plutonium production facility in eastern Washington in an operation called Green Run. The radioisotopes are supposed to be detected by US Air Force reconnaissance. Sources cite 5,500–12,000 curies of iodine-131 are released and an even greater amount of xenon-133. The radiation is distributed over 500,000 acres encompassing three small towns and causes the cessation of intentional radioactive releases at Hanford until 1962, when more experiments commence. There are some indications that many other tests are conducted in the 1940s prior to Green Run, although this is a particularly large test. Evidence suggests that filters to remove the iodine are disabled during the test. (Wikipedia, “[Green Run](#)”)
- 1949**, December 4 — 5:00 p.m. Mario Restier is returning home from his father’s place in Volta Redonda, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, when he notices a disc land about 32–50 feet from the road. He hears a voice telling him not to be afraid and asking if he wants to know what it’s all about. Two beings about 5 feet 5 inches emerge from the UFO wearing togas and helmets. Restier asks them if they believe in God, and they answer, “God is one.” Encouraged, he enters the craft where he is offered a trip, put in a tub filled with liquid, and taken on a trip to a city on another world. He is shown a screen that depicts human nature, ambitions, and violence. After about 6 hours, he is returned to the spot where he was abducted. Returning to his father’s house, he finds it is April 14, 1950, and has lost nearly four months of earth time. (Brazil 23–24)
- 1949**, December 20 — Following consideration by the Defense Department’s Research and Development Board, [Joseph Kaplan](#)’s green fireball project is approved by AMC. (Col. B. G. Holzman, “[Light Phenomena](#),” December 20, 1949; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, “[The Southwestern Lights, Part Three](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 16; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1949**, December 24 — The January 1950 issue of *True* magazine is published, with [Donald Keyhoe](#)’s article, “The Flying Saucers Are Real.” Keyhoe argues that the Air Force knows UFOs are real, alien, and covering up information from the public in order to avoid panic: “For the past 175 years, the planet Earth has been under systematic close-range examination by living, intelligent observers from another planet.” The Air Force finds itself buried in letters, telegrams, and phone calls demanding information about flying saucers. (“[Discs Called Craft of Another Planet](#),” *St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch*, December 27, 1949, p. 10A; Donald E. Keyhoe, “[The Flying Saucers Are Real](#),” *True*, January 1950, pp. 11–13, 83–87; Clark III 458, 933; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 69–71; Graff 61–62; Clark IV 503, 1043)
- 1949**, December 27 — USAF announces that Project Grudge is terminated. Its files are put into storage. The Grudge report is released again, reiterating that UFOs are the “result of (1) misinterpretations of various conventional objects; (2) a mild form of mass hysteria; or (3) hoaxes.” (Clark III 932–933; Clark IV 1043)

1950

- 1950** — [N. Meade Layne](#) publishes *The Ether-Ship Mystery and Its Solution*, which identifies UFOs as emanating from the etheric world, which coexists with and interpenetrates ours. The etherians must lower their “vibrational” rate in order to enter our realm. UFOs are “thought-constructs” that can take many forms and densities. He considers

the etherians benign. (Meade Layne, [The Ether-Ship Mystery and Its Solution](#), Borderland Sciences Research Associates, 1950)

- 1950** — William Ortiz, a deaf-mute, claims to have the first of three close encounters (the others in 1969 and 1975) with large-eyed aliens in UFOs in Colombia. After the first two events, he finds his hearing temporarily restored. The entities communicate to him using hand signals. (“[First Reported CEIII Alien Communicating with Deaf-Mute](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1982): 1, 3)
- 1950?** — Sometime in the 1950s, a Soviet Navy officer serving at Sevastopol Naval Base on the Crimean Peninsula, Russia, observes and photographs a strange object ascending from behind a battle cruiser in the Black Sea. The officer later gives copy of the photo to his friend, Russian linguist [Andrey Korsakov](#). (Paul Stonehill, “[Amazing Soviet-Era UFO Sightings in and over Water Bodies](#),” Rense.com, October 23, 2000; Dolan, *USO1*, 181–182)
- 1950**, January — The Ground Observer Corps, an organization of civilians who watch the skies for enemy airplanes, is created by the US Air Defense Command. (Wikipedia, “[Ground Observer Corps](#)”)
- 1950**, January — On the Seattle, Washington, to Anchorage, Alaska, route, an air freighter is paced for five minutes by a UFO. When the pilots try to close in, the craft zooms away at terrific speed. Later, the airline head reports that intelligence officers quizzed the pilots for hours. “From their questions,” he said, “I could tell they had a good idea of what the saucers are. One officer admitted they did, but he wouldn’t say any more.” (Keyhoe 1950, [p. 9](#))
- 1950**, January — [Keyhoe](#) meets with Gen. [Sory Smith](#), director of public relations for the Air Force; Maj. [Jesse E. Stay](#) and Jack T. Shea, press officers; and Maj. [Jere Boggs](#), Pentagon liaison to Project Grudge. Most of the interview involves questions for Boggs. Keyhoe is given two looseleaf notebooks with summaries of “Project Saucer” cases. His request to visit Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio to look at the actual case files is turned down weeks later. (Keyhoe 1950, [pp. 129–145](#); Powell, *Keyhoe*, 71–72)
- 1950**, January 5 — [Mikel Conrad](#)’s science-fiction film *The Flying Saucer* is released to US theaters. It is the first feature film to deal with UFOs, although it turns out that the saucers are the invention of an American scientist. (Wikipedia, “[The Flying Saucer](#)”; Internet Movie Database, “[The Flying Saucer](#)”; Bill Warren, *Keep Watching the Skies!*, McFarland, 2010, pp. 292–293; “[The Flying Saucer: Exclusive Full Sci-Fi Movie Premiere, English HD 2023](#),” Watch Now: Sci-Fi & Fantasy YouTube channel, June 3, 2023)
- 1950**, January 6 — Early morning. Manuel Zuniga blames a traffic accident on Kansas Avenue at 1st Street in Kansas City, Kansas, on a fireball or UFO that moves in front of his car, blinding him with its bright light. He is arrested for reckless driving and driving while intoxicated. (“[Doubt over Crash Cause](#),” *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, January 6, 1950, p. 1)
- 1950**, January 6 — [Keyhoe](#) appears on the radio program *We the People* with [George F. Gorman](#), who has been pressured by the Air Force to only mention what is on his published report. (Keyhoe 1950, [p. 168](#))
- 1950**, January 7 — 10:15 p.m. The assistant maintenance officer at Holloman AFB is driving south of Corona, New Mexico, when he sees a green fireball. It descends at a 60° angle, then levels out and travels 10° east before dropping out of sight behind a mountain. When first seen, it is yellowish-white, changes to orange as it descends, then turns bright blue-green as it levels out and disappears. (NICAP, “[January 7, 1950, Corona, NM, OSI Case 161](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 78; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1950**, January 9 — *Time* magazine reports on rumors of crashed saucers and small humanoids in New Mexico. (“[Visitors from Venus](#),” *Time*, January 9, 1950)
- 1950**, January 12 — The AF Directorate of Intelligence quietly cancels the special intelligence collection directives to various government agencies for reporting UFO incidents, though routine intelligence channels still require UFO reporting, per AFCIR-CC7, “Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft.” Cancellation is a follow-up to the widely announced closure of “Project Saucer.” AFOIN Director Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#) believes that in fact AMC is taking its UFO project underground by announcing the closure. Months later Cabell discovers that AMC Intelligence under Col. [Harold E. Watson](#) is not running a secret UFO investigation, and Cabell is forced to make up for AMC’s negligence by conducting his own UFO investigations via his AF Intelligence staff. (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, “[Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft](#),” January 12, 1950; Swords 498)
- 1950**, January 12 — 11:25 p.m. A B-29 aircraft is flying over the Gulf of Mexico (southwest of Florida) on a course of 260° when three objects are noted on the radar scope orbiting the B-29 from all quadrants. The objects are noticed by the radar operator, aircraft commander, navigator, and bombardier. One object is first sighted on a bearing of 330° traveling south. The objects travel across the scope in approximately 15–20 seconds on the 100-mile range setting. In a few minutes this object is joined by two others, which disappear in a few minutes. At short ranges the object is large and well-defined on the radar scope. The object goes off for about 100 miles, turns and comes in as if for an attack, passes through the center of the scope, and emerges on the other side. The estimated speed of the object is 2,500–3,000 mph. The one object remains on the radar scope for approximately 30 minutes, following

the B-29 all the time. The radar operator switches ranges on the scope and picks up the object on the 20- and 50-mile settings. Twice the object comes to within 20 miles of the aircraft and then apparently has the ability to hover, because the movement on the radar scope ceases for 5–15 seconds. After altering course the object no longer appears, but the radar is jammed for approximately 10 minutes. The crew makes no visual sighting. (NICAP, “[B-29 Radar Tracks Objects](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 79; Clark III 58; Clark IV 78–79)

- 1950**, January 16 — The AFOSI office at Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska, sends a message that recounts stories from Denver, Colorado, about crashed saucers in the southwest. The metal allegedly “defied analysis.” Bodies are said to be 3 feet tall. (Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [p. 74](#))
- 1950**, January 16 — [Tsuneo Saheki](#) of the Osaka Planetarium in Japan sees an explosion on Mars, 60 miles high and 900 miles in diameter. Thomas Dobbins and William Sheehan investigate and find that this and other Martian flashes are likely caused by solar reflections on patches of ice crystals on the surface of Mars. (“[‘Terrific Explosion’ on Mars Reported by Japanese Observers](#),” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 27, 1950, p. 13; “[Some Curious Objects: Meteoritic Perhaps](#),” *The Strolling Astronomer* 4, no. 5 (May 1, 1950): 8–9; John J. O’Neill, “[Mars Blast Puzzles Science](#),” *Ottawa (Ont.) Citizen*, July 16, 1952, p. 30; Thomas Dobbins and William Sheehan, “[Solving the Martian Flares Mystery](#),” 2002)
- 1950**, January 22 — 2:40 a.m. Navy patrol pilot Lieut. Smith makes a routine security flight out of Naval Air Station Kodiak [now Coast Guard Base Kodiak], Alaska. He obtains a radar reading on an object 20 miles north. It quickly vanishes. At 2:48, he tracks a similar object 10 miles southeast. Kodiak radar reports no known aircraft in the vicinity, but they are seeing the same track. At 3:00 a.m., the tug [USS Tillamook](#) is south of Kodiak when one of the men on deck sees a “very fast-moving red glow light, which appeared to be of exhaust nature.” The object comes from the southeast, moves clockwise around Kodiak, and returns to the southeast. Another officer sees it for 30 seconds and describes it as a “large ball of orange fire.” At 4:40 a.m., Lieut. Smith picks up another blip moving so fast that it leaves a trail on his screen. His crew sees the UFO close a five-mile gap in 10 seconds, an apparent speed of 1,800 mph. Witnesses report two orange lights that rotate around a common center. The object makes a sharp turn and heads directly towards Smith’s plane. Smith considers this a threatening situation and turns off his lights; the UFO flies by and disappears. At least 35 copies of Smith’s report are sent to FBI, CIA, AFOSI, and the State Department. None are ever officially released or published. (NICAP, “[USN P2V3 Patrol Plane and USS Tillamook Encounter](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 80; ClearIntent, [pp. 165–166](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, pp. 11–13; Martin Shough, *RADCAT: Radar Catalogue: A Review of Twenty-One Ground and Airborne Radar UAP Contact Reports Generally Related to Aviation Safety for the Period October 15, 1948, to September 19, 1976*, National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, NARCAP Report TR-6, December 8, 2002, pp. 4–12; Swords 90–91; Clark III 58, 997; Clark IV 79, 1110)
- 1950**, January 24 — 4:50 p.m. USAF Capt. G. B. Edwards and copilot Theron C. Fehrevach are flying a C-45 transport plane from Pope AFB [now Pope Field], Fayetteville, North Carolina, to Bolling AFB [now Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling], Washington, D.C. While at 5,000 feet near Blacksburg, Virginia, Fehrevach notices a dark, 200–250 foot in diameter, hemispherical parachute-shaped object above them about 5–10 miles away. A large black smoky region is below it, possibly obscuring the lower portion of a sphere. The UFO is darker than the 50% cloud cover and “easy to distinguish as not being cloud.” The object moves smoothly without any noticeable turn radius. Edwards puts the C-45 into a climb to 7,000 feet so they are at the same altitude as the UFO and turns to head directly toward it. Army Courier Service passenger 1st Lt. [John H. Van Santen](#) is alerted by Fehrevach and also sees the object move right then left again, then they all see the object recede at high speed and disappear. About 90 seconds later the object reappears about 30°–45° to the right of their heading, then oscillates right to left. It moves horizontally to dead ahead again and disappears by receding in the distance at high speed. (NICAP, “[C-25 Transport Crew Encounters Object](#)”; Swords 91; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, “[Blackstone, Virginia, USA: January 24, 1950](#),” September 30, 2015)
- 1950**, Late January — 11:00 p.m. Romeo Ernesto Suarez is walking north between Rio Grande and San Sebastián, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, on high ground about one-third of a mile from the ocean. Suddenly he hears a violent disturbance in the water. Several sheep nearby are startled and run away. A luminous oval object appears to emerge from the water a quarter-mile from shore, rises vertically, makes a 90° turn, and disappears toward the northwest. (Joseph M. Brill, “[Are UFOs Operating from Underwater Bases off the Coast of Argentina?](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 130 (September 1979): 3, 4; Dolan, USO1, 137–138)
- 1950**, Late January — Gen. [Charles Cabell](#), possibly inspired by the Kodiak, Alaska, case, sends a letter to ATIC asking why Project Grudge has ended, because he never disbanded it. ATIC responds that Grudge is no longer a special project and that UFO reports will be processed through normal intelligence channels. (Ruppelt, [pp. 69–70](#))

- 1950**, January 26 — 4:00 p.m. Lt. Col. [Lester F. Mathison](#), commanding officer of the 625th Aircraft and Warning Squadron at Elmendorf AFB [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska, notices three reddish objects above the cirrus cloud layer at 25,000–30,000 feet. They are moving to the north in a slightly curled trail fashion and disappear into some clouds. (“[Extract: History of the 57th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, January 1–March 31, 1950 \(Elmendorf AFB, Alaska\)](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 8 (February 2001): 7–8)
- 1950**, January 31 — President [Truman](#) makes the decision to go forward with the development of a thermonuclear weapon that is orders of magnitude more destructive than the atomic bomb. (Wikipedia, “[Thermonuclear weapon](#)”)
- 1950**, February 1 — [Truman](#) issues Executive Order 10104 and creates the “Top Secret classification” designation. (US Office of the Federal Register, “[Executive Order 10104](#)”)
- 1950**, February 1 — A meteor-like object spewing smoke is seen by many people over Tucson, Arizona. The radio operator at Davis-Monthan AFB asks 1st Lieut. [Roy L. Jones Jr.](#) to investigate it in his B-29, but he cannot catch up with it. [Edwin Francis Carpenter](#), head of the University of Arizona astronomy department, says he is certain the object is not a meteor. ([Sparks](#), p. 81; Bob Campbell, “[Flying Saucer over Tucson? B-29 Fails to Catch Object](#),” *Tucson (Ariz.) Daily Citizen*, February 2, 1950, p. 1; Ace Bushnell, “[Sky Mystery? Tucson People Differ Widely](#),” *Tucson (Ariz.) Daily Citizen*, February 3, 1950, p. 1; Keyhoe 1950, [pp. 10–12](#))
- 1950**, February 2 — [Lincoln LaPaz](#), citing the press of academic duties, withdraws from Project Twinkle. (Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1950**, February 5 — 5:10 p.m. Four people at Falmouth Airport [now part of Frances Crane Wildlife Management Area north of Hatchville, Massachusetts] see two illuminated cylindrical objects in the western sky. The witnesses include [Marvin R. Odom](#), owner of the airport, and Lt. [Philip Foushee Jr.](#) of Otis AFB [now Otis Air National Guard Base] near Mashpee. As the objects are maneuvering, a fireball drops from one. Five minutes later they both climb at high speed and disappear from view. (NICAP, “[Feb. 5, 1950; Teaticket, Mass.](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 81; Hyannis (Mass.) *Cape Cod Standard Times*, February 6, 1950)
- 1950**, February 8 — AFOSI Letter #85 is issued, directing Air Force personnel to relay UFO sightings to the Pentagon or AMC only if they are of “priority Counterintelligence interest.” (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950](#), The Author, 1983, p. 18)
- 1950**, mid-February — Romeo Ernesto Suarez again sees a UFO as he is walking between Rio Gallegos and Puerto Santa Cruz, Argentina. Four small luminous objects emerge vertically from the Atlantic Ocean, approach the coast in formation, then pass over toward the Andres Mountains. Joseph M. Brill, “[Are UFOs Operating from Underwater Bases off the Coast of Argentina?](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 130 (September 1979): 3, 4; Dolan, USO1, 138)
- 1950**, February 20 — [LaPaz](#) writes to [Peter H. Wyckoff](#) of the USAF Cambridge Research Laboratories in Massachusetts that a “fireball project” ought not be pursued because any objects that are not meteors are probably US test missiles. But he concedes he might be wrong and says in that case, “intensive, systematic investigation of these objects should not be delayed.” (Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1950**, February 21 — Project Twinkle, with the assistance of Land-Air, Inc., has set up its first operations post, manned by two observers who scan the sky over Holloman AFB, New Mexico, with theodolite, telescope, and camera. (Thomas Tulien, ed., [Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop](#), Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 45; Clark III 544, 1053; Clark IV 602, 1168)
- 1950**, February 22 — Navy pilots and others see two glowing UFOs, confirmed by radar, above the Naval Air Station at Key West, Florida. A plane is sent to investigate but it is “hopelessly outdistanced.” After hovering momentarily at a high altitude (50 miles?), they speed away. ([Sparks](#), p. 81; Keyhoe 1950, [p. 12](#))
- 1950**, February 24 — 7:30 p.m. USAF Cpl. [Lertis E. Stanfield](#) and other Holloman AFB Photographic Branch project staff at an observation post at Datil, New Mexico, take five photos (using a Cineflex camera with 3-inch focal length lens) of a circular, luminous white object that changes to red and green. Its angular velocity is greater than 0.5°/min in azimuth calculated by [Lincoln LaPaz](#). The object moves in a smooth straight-line motion from about 8:00–9:30 p.m. to the west, blinking red and green. It disappears at high altitude. (NICAP, “[AFOSI Case 175; Datil Observation Post Photographs Object](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 82)
- 1950**, February 26 — 2:45 p.m. Three witnesses observe a bronze-colored object that looks like two cigarette ashtrays placed face to face over Vancouver, British Columbia. It slows down as it passes overhead and wobbles as it moves along. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 64)
- 1950**, February 27 — 7:00 a.m. A private pilot, Richard Lemmon, is flying a Fairchild PT-19 training aircraft at an altitude of 2,000 feet above Pinckneyville, Illinois, with his wife when he notices a strange object at 5,000 feet. He flies higher and sees a disk about 60 feet across and 10 feet thick. It tilts, turns, and moves away at about 150

mph. (NICAP, "[Pilot Observes Discus from PT-19](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 83; "[Pilot Tells about Seeing Flying Disc](#)," *DeKalb (Ill.) Daily Chronicle*, March 14, 1950, p. 2)

- 1950**, March — James J. Rodgers is named a chief of Project Grudge. ([Sparks](#), p. 14; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)
- 1950**, March — Naval Commander [Robert Bright McLaughlin](#), in charge of a team of Navy scientists at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, writes about the [Charles B. Moore](#) sighting of April 24, 1949, in a *True* magazine article and speculates on saucer propulsion systems. McLaughlin writes that the saucers are indeed "spaceships from another planet, operated by animate, intelligent beings." The Navy, having gotten a preview of the article, removes him from White Sands and gives him an assignment at sea aboard the destroyer [USS Bristol](#). (Robert B. McLaughlin, "[How Scientists Tracked a Flying Saucer](#)," *True*, March 1950, pp. 25–27, 96–99; Ruppelt, [pp. 70–72](#); Swords 94–95; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 73; Graff 63)
- 1950**, March — According to [Karl T. Pflock](#), two CIA agents clandestinely visit Aztec, New Mexico, UFO crash storyteller [Silas Newton](#) and tell him that, although they know he is lying, they want him to continue spreading the tale as disinformation. The two agents later wind up involved in the Psychological Strategy Board created in 1951. (Kremlin 37–42)
- 1950**, March 3 — At Selfridge AFB [now Selfridge Air National Guard Base] near Mount Clemens, Michigan, a lone UFO causes multiple radar trackings and is logged at speeds up to 1,500 mph. (NICAP, "[Object Descends Vertically, Levels Out](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 83; Patrick Gross, "[Selfridge AFB, Michigan, March 3, 1950](#)")
- 1950**, March 8 — Mid-morning. TWA pilot Capt. W. H. Kerr reports to the CAA that he and two other TWA pilots (D. W. Miller and [Malvern H. Rabeneck](#)) are watching a UFO hovering at high altitude near Dayton, Ohio. The CAA has already received about 20 other reports about it from Vandalia, Ohio. ATIC control tower operators at Wright-Patterson AFB pick it up visually and on radar ("a good, solid target"). Four F-51 interceptors are sent up. They see it as a huge, round, metallic object, but clouds move in. The object climbs vertically out of sight at high speed. ATIC calls it the planet Venus, with radar returns from ice-laden clouds. (NICAP, "[Three Aircraft Spot UFO / Radar Track at ATIC](#)"; Ruppelt, [pp. 72–75](#); UFOEv, [p. 84](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, pp. 32–37; Clark III 377; Clark IV 421)
- 1950**, March 9 — Dusk. A publisher and others see a bright disc leaving a vapor trail near Orangeburg, South Carolina, for 15 minutes. It sinks out of sight. ("[Flying Saucer Seen Here; Witnesses Say Real McCoy](#)," *Orangeburg (S.C.) Times and Democrat*, March 10, 1950, p. 10; "[Flying Objects Seen Again](#)," *Florence (S.C.) Morning News*, March 10, 1950, p. 1; UFOEv, [p. 149](#))
- 1950**, March 9 — 7:45 p.m. A crew of three radar controllers at Selfridge Air Force Base [now Selfridge Air National Guard Base] near Mount Clemens, Michigan, is busy monitoring some F-80 Shooting Star jet aircraft of the 56th Fighter-Interceptor Group. 1st Lt. [Francis E. Parker](#), 1st Lt. [Frank K. Mattson](#), Sgt. McCarthy, and Cpl. Melton observe an intermittent target on the height range indicator (HRI) scope of the CPS-4 radar at 47,000 feet altitude and a distance of 70 miles. Further indications of what Parker describes as a well-defined, clear target like an aircraft are picked up with increasing regularity over the next 45–60 minutes. During this time, the target seems to stay in the area where the F-80s are flying, but 20,000 feet above them. The radar operators are monitoring two different systems—a CPS-5 radar operating on long-wave frequencies at 40,000 feet, and a CPS-4 radar operating on short-wave frequencies—and the target appears on both scopes simultaneously without fade. Despite being tasked to pay attention to the F-80s, the radar crew manages to record the range, azimuth, and altitude of the unidentified target for a solid 6 minutes. The speed varies from a hover in low-density air to nearly 1,500 mph, well in excess of the fastest operational jet at the time, and a climb rate of up to 7,000 feet per minute. After this, the target begins fading from the radarscope, although at a distance of 110 miles it appears to hover for two minutes before fading away. (NICAP, "[The Selfridge AFB Incident](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 84; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 123–125, 295–297](#); Martin L. Shough, "Radar and the UFO," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 215–217; Martin Shough, *RADCAT: Radar Catalogue: A Review of Twenty-One Ground and Airborne Radar UAP Contact Reports Generally Related to Aviation Safety for the Period October 15, 1948, to September 19, 1976*, National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, NARCAP Report TR-6, December 8, 2002, pp. 12–20; Clark III 1047–1049; Clark IV 1162–1164)
- 1950**, March 11 — 8:00 p.m. [Constance Raguindin](#) sees a "falling star" as she and her mother and two children are driving south of Salinas, California. When it comes closer and swoops toward the car at an altitude of 2,500 feet, she says it looks "like two dinner plates placed together." It performs a "loop the loop" maneuver and speeds away to the south. [Hiram S. Don](#) sees the object from a distance and describes it as egg-shaped. However, astronomer [Olin J. Eggen](#) at Lick Observatory says the object is probably a large meteor. ("[Score Report Weird Saucer over Salinas](#)," *Santa Ana (Calif.) Register*, March 12, 1950, pp. A1–A2; "[Little Men Here Again, This Time over Salinas](#)," *Los Angeles (Calif.) Times*, March 12, 1950, p. 2; "Astronomers Believe 'Flying Saucer' Was

Meteor California Persons Saw,” *Dunkirk (N.Y.) Evening Observer*, March 13, 1950, p. 14; “[Scientist Says Flying Saucer Was Meteor](#),” *St. Albans (Vt.) Daily Messenger*, March 13, 1950, p. 1; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1950](#)”)

1950, March 13 — Early morning. Army Signal Corps (Reserve) Maj. Taylor in Clarksburg, California, is sleeping when an odd droning noise wakes him up. Going outside, he notices the noise is coming from a brilliant light in the sky, one-half the size of the full moon. It sways for about 15 minutes, then moves away. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950](#), The Author, 1983, p. 49)

1950, March 13 — Day. At the Central Airport in Mexico City, Mexico, Santiago Smith (weather observer for Mexicana de Aviación), J. de la Vega of the airport commander’s office, and others see a total of four UFOs passing overhead. Smith observes one of them through a theodolite, describing it as the shape of a “half-moon.” (“[‘Saucers’ No Illusion: Hundreds See Shy Visitors](#),” *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, March 14, 1950, p. 9; UFOEv, p. 44; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 50–51)

1950, March 14 — The Atomic Energy Commission contacts the US Air Force to request files from Project Grudge during 1949. ([Memorandum for Record](#), May 24, 1950)

1950, March 15 — An Air Force Captain Hall, flying in Guatemala, hears from other pilots at La Aurora Airport in Guatemala City that large, fast, and highly maneuverable objects have flown directly over the runway. The stories also appear in the local press. When Hall returns to Brookley Air Force Base [now Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley] in Mobile, Alabama, he is interrogated by a USAF intelligence officer and told: “Listen, there is no such thing as a flying saucer. You won’t discuss them.” (Swords 96)

1950, March 15 — 6:15 p.m. Craig Hunter, a medical doctor of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, is stopped with car troubles on the side of the road between Clearfield and Penfield, Pennsylvania, when he hears a “hissing, whistling sound.” He looks up and sees “a circular object” between 250 and 400 feet above him, traveling northwest. He says it is about 150 feet in circumference and composed of three concentric circles that are rotating, two of them apparently in opposite directions. At the center it is 15–20 feet thick and its speed is 60–70 mph. The noise suggests to him rocket propulsion. Suddenly it emits a fireball that is visible above the road for about 30 seconds. The object moves away to the west after he has it in sight for about 2.5 minutes. (“[Doctor Sees Saucer, Makes Rough Sketch](#),” *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, March 18, 1950, pp. 1, 7; “[Saucers or Imagination](#),” *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, March 20, 1950, p. 4; “[‘Flying Saucer’ Discussion Revives As Physician Retells Story of Seeing Object in Sky above Penfield Pike on March 15](#),” *Clearfield (Pa.) Progress*, March 31, 1950, pp. 1, 3; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1950–1951](#), p. 6; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs: A History, Volume 5: January–March 1950](#), The Author, 1983, pp 52–53)

1950, March 16 — The efforts of [Kaplan](#) and Maj. [Oder](#) to start a fireball research project come to fruition when the AF Geophysical Research Directorate headed by Oder issues a letter directive authorizing Project Twinkle. A \$20,000 half-year contract is signed with Land-Air, Inc. which operates the phototheodolites at White Sands, New Mexico. Land-Air is to set up a 24-hour watch at a location in New Mexico to be specified by the Air Force, and the phototheodolite operators at White Sands are to film any unusual objects that happen to fly past. The official contract gives April 1 as the starting date.

1950, March 16 — Just before 12:00 noon. Chief Petty Officer Charles Lewis sees a flying disc streak across the sky at Naval Air Station Dallas [later Grand Prairie Armed Forces Reserve Complex] near Dallas, Texas. It buzzes a high-flying B-36. It hovers under the bomber for a moment, then flies off and disappears. NAS Commander Capt. [Milton Adolphus Nation](#) vouches for Lewis and says that the base tower operators had seen a UFO 10 days before. (NICAP, “[Disc Buzzes B-36](#)”; “[Flying Saucers’ Sighted by Two](#),” *Dallas Morning News*, March 18, 1950; Ruppelt, p. 75; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs: A History, Volume 5: January–March 1950](#), The Author, 1983, pp 53–54)

1950, March 17 — 9:15 a.m.–noon. About a dozen shiny “saucer-like discs” appear above Farmington, New Mexico, zip around for 10 minutes then move off to the northeast. At 10:30 a.m., a red object is joined by three silvery discs and put on a “dogfight.” At 11:15 a.m., a huge swarm comes into view. Former Army Engineer captain and *Farmington Times* business manager [Clayton J. Boddy Jr.](#) is walking on Broadway Avenue with two friends when he sees a large cluster of 50–100 objects moving at high speed. Private pilot John Eaton sees a red object at the center of the formation of silvery discs, which appear to be twice the size of a B-29 bomber. Some estimates say that the UFOs are seen by half the town’s population, or about 3,000 people, for 20 minutes. [Harold F. Thatcher](#), director of the Farmington branch of the US Soil Conservation Service, triangulates one disc’s flight and calculates it is traveling at 1,000 mph. After maneuvering in formation, they speed away at a height of 15,000–20,000 feet. (NICAP, “[The Farmington Invasion](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 84; “[Farmington ‘Invaded’ by Saucer Squadron](#),” *Santa Fe New Mexican*, March 17, 1950, p. 1; “[Huge ‘Saucer’ Armada Jolts Farmington](#),” *Farmington (N.Mex.) Daily Times*, March 18, 1950, p. 1; “[Hundreds at Farmington Report Large Force of Flying Saucers](#),”

Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal, March 18, pp. 1, 14; “[Farmingtonites Crane to See More ‘Saucers.’](#)” *Santa Fe New Mexican*, March 19, 1950, p. 1; “[Farmington Still Talks about Discs.](#)” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, March 19, 1950, p. 1; Ruppelt, pp. 75–76; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects.](#)” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 47–48; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, pp. 56–64; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950: Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 25–36; David Marler, “[The Flying Saucer Invasion of 1950: Farmington, New Mexico and Beyond.](#)” David Marler, UFO Researcher, February 2018; Mike Easterling, “[Farmington Reaches 70th Anniversary of Mass UFO Sighting.](#)” *Farmington (N.Mex.) Daily Times*, March 17, 2020; “[The 1950 Farmington, New Mexico, UFO Armada Discussed by Eyewitnesses.](#)” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, December 5, 2023)

- 1950**, March 18 — 8:40 a.m. Private pilot Robert Fisher, flying a Beechcraft Bonanza over Bradford, Illinois, encounters an oval object with a metallic sheen. He can still see the object when it flies behind some thin clouds. It moves away at an estimated speed of 600–1,000 mph. (UFOEv, [p. 38](#))
- 1950**, March 18 — The USAF publicly denies that UFOs are secret missiles or space-exploration devices. (“[Air Force Issues Flat Denial That ‘Flying Saucers’ Exist.](#)” *Terre Haute (Ind.) Tribune*, March 18, 1950, p. 2; Keyhoe 1950, [p. 13](#))
- 1950**, March 18 — 6:30 p.m. At Lago Argentino, Santa Cruz, Argentina, rancher Wilfredo H. Arévalo watches a disc-shaped object land while a second object “like a gramophone record” hovers above. He walks to within 500 feet of the object, which is giving off a greenish-blue vapor and a smell of burning benzine. The disc has a cabin in the center in which he can see four tall men dressed in something like cellophane. They notice Arévalo and shine a searchlight at him. Flames shoot out from the base and the object rises with a faint hum, both objects disappearing to the west. Arévalo finds burnt grass. Possible newspaper hoax. (*La Razón* (Buenos Aires), April 13, 1950; *La Razón* (Buenos Aires), April 23, 1950; Cristián Vogt, *El misterio de los platos voladores*, Editorial La Mandrágora, 1956; Gordon Creighton, “[The ‘Humanoids’ in Latin America.](#)” in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, special issue of *FSR*, Oct./Dec. 1966, pp. 30, 32; Roberto E. Banchs, *La fenomenología humanoide en la Argentina*, Edition Especial of *UFO Press*, no. 4a (August 1977): 13; Roberto Banchs, “[La peonza voladora de Lago Argentino.](#)” *Cuadernos de Ufologia*, ser. 2, no. 11 (1991): 14–18; Luis R. González, “[Firsthumcat \(Catálogo de los primeros casos de humanoides\) 1º parte.](#)” *Cuadernos de Ufologia*, ser. 3, no. 31 (2005): 133–134; Clark III 267; Clark IV 307)
- 1950**, March 20 — 9:26 p.m. Chicago and Southern Airlines Capt. [Jack Adams](#) and First Officer G. W. Anderson Jr., flying a DC-3 at 2,000 feet and heading west from Memphis, Tennessee, to Little Rock, Arkansas, see a circular disc 100 feet in diameter approximately over Hazen, Arkansas. In the top center of the object is an extremely bright light blinking at an estimated 3 flashes per second. The bottom of the object appears to have 9–12 symmetrical oval or circular portholes in a circle approximately 75% of the distance from the center to the outer edge. The object passes directly in front of the airliner at a distance of not more than 2,640 feet and approximately 1,000 feet higher than the airliner. They watch the object for 25–35 seconds. Adams estimates its speed is greater than 1,000 mph. (NICAP, “[DC-3 Encounters 100’ Disc](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 85; *Little Rock Arkansas Gazette*, July 24, 1955; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1990, pp. 67–70; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1950 January–March, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 38–42; Tom Howell YouTube channel, “[UFO from the 1950s.](#)” October 3, 2006; Swords 95–96)
- 1950**, March 21 — 1:00–1:30 p.m. Sergeant Woods at Sandia Base, New Mexico, reports four round, silvery objects to the northeast. The objects appear to be more maneuverable than any known aircraft. The maneuvers are similar to those in dogfights involving two aircraft, but there seems to be no similarity to a conventional plane. They make right-angle turns and reverse direction instantaneously. The duration is about 30 minutes. Other witnesses at Sandia and Kirtland AFB report similar observations. (NICAP, “[Base Personnel Sight Strange Objects](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 85)
- 1950**, March 22 — 11:00 a.m. Eleven sergeants in the 4925th Test Group watch a UFO northwest of Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The shape is “similar to a flying wing air craft and tan in color, turning to brown around the edges.” It first travels northwesterly at 25,000–30,000 feet, then turns north and disappears with a tremendous burst of speed. (NICAP, “[Atomic Test Group Witnesses UFO in Broad Daylight](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 85; Clark III 692; Clark IV 768)
- 1950**, March 22 — FBI agent [Guy L. Hottel](#) writes to FBI headquarters about a rumor that three UFOs have crashed and are recovered in New Mexico. They are 50 feet in diameter and “each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture. Each body was bandaged in a manner

similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and test pilots.” It goes on, “According to Mr. [redacted], informant, the saucers were found in New Mexico due to the fact that the Government had a very high-powered radar set-up in that area and it is believed the radar interferes with the controlling [sic] mechanism of the saucers.” The original informant is probably [Silas M. Newton](#) or [Leo GeBauer](#), or a newspaper source based on their claims. On March 25, 2013, the FBI issues a release saying that the Hottel memo was simply a second- or third-hand claim “that we never investigated. Some people believe the memo repeats a hoax that was circulating at that time, but the Bureau’s files have no information to verify that theory.” (Guy Hottel, “[Flying Saucers, Information Concerning](#),” March 22, 1950; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, pp. 326–327; Good Above, p. 527; Jesse Emspak, “[FBI Hottel Memo Reveals UFO Hoax](#),” *International Business Times*, April 11, 2011; Robert L. Hastings, “[The March 22, 1950 FBI Memo on Crashed Flying Saucers](#),” *UFOs & Nukes*, April 18, 2011; Federal Bureau of Investigation, “[UFOs and the Guy Hottel Memo](#),” March 25, 2013; Eric Grundhauser, “The Most Viewed File in the FBI’s Vault Has Nothing to Do with Roswell,” *Atlas Obscura*, January 5, 2016; John Greenewald, “[The ‘Guy Hottel’ Memo and the Crashed Flying Saucers of New Mexico, March 22, 1950](#),” *The Black Vault*, August 8, 2022)

1950, March 26 — Vice-Admiral [Louis Mountbatten](#), in a letter to his friend [Charles Eade](#), editor of the London *Sunday Dispatch*, rejects the idea that flying saucers are secret weapons, admitting that “they do not come from our Earth.... Maybe it is the Shackletons or Scotts of Venus or Mars who are making their first exploration of our Earth.” (UFOFiles2, p. 37)

1950, March 26 — Day. [Bertram A. Totten](#), a clerk at the Library of Congress, is flying his plane at 5,000 feet over Fairfax County, Virginia, when he spots an aluminum-colored disc about 40 feet in diameter and 10 feet thick flying 1,000 feet below him. He dives toward it, but it speeds up into the overcast. It glints when the sun hits it, and he notices a vapor trail. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, pp. 79–80)

1950, March 26 — 4:00 p.m. Former First Lady [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) interviews airline pilots Jack Adams and G. W. Anderson about their March 20 UFO sighting on her NBC television program, *Today with Mrs. Roosevelt*. (“[Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Five](#),” Saturday Night Uforia)

1950, March 26 — 8:50 p.m. CAA Tower operator Marie Hislop Mathews and United Airlines employees Robert Higbee and Fred Hinkle see a brilliant light northeast of Hubbard Field [now Reno–Tahoe International Airport] outside Reno, Nevada. It hangs motionless for 5–6 minutes, then moves slowly across the sky with a green light on either side of it. It suddenly zooms upward into a cloud bank. (“[Reno’s Repute As Convention City May Be Interplanetary](#),” *Reno Evening Gazette*, March 27, 1950, p. 11; UFOEv, pp. 44–45)

1950, March 27 — 10:30 a.m. USAF antiaircraft radar operator Cpl. Bolfango tracks a stationary target on radar over the Motobu Peninsula, Okinawa, Japan, at 18 miles range for 10 minutes at 13,000 feet. The object then moves on a 220° heading for 16.9 miles in 2 minutes (about 500 mph) to a point over a mountain, where it is lost. (NICAP, “[Tracked Stationary Target at 18 Miles](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 85)

1950, March 27 — Radio broadcaster [Henry J. Taylor](#), on his syndicated radio program *Your Land and Mine*, announces the “wonderful news” that saucers are in fact US secret weapons, which will reassure the nation when the US Air Force confirms it. Within days, the story is twisted to specifically credit the Navy’s alleged “top secret” project the Flying Flapjack Vought XF5U. The story is apparently disinformation planted by ex-Hollywood writers in the CIA Office of Policy Coordination’s Political and Psychological Warfare staff headed by [Joseph Bryan III](#), a future president and board chairman of NICAP. (“[Radio Man Certain U.S. Is Owner of ‘Flying Saucer’ Missile Secret](#),” *Miami (Fla.) News*, March 29, 1950, p. 9; “Flying Saucers: The Real Story: U.S. Built First One in 1942,” *U.S. News and World Report*, April 7, 1950, pp. 13–15; NICAP, “[1950 UFO Chronology](#)”; Ruppelt, p. 22; Swords 97; Curt Collins, “[1950 Disclosure: UFOs Are Made in the USA](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, November 9, 2018)

1950, March 28 — In response to a request from [J. Edgar Hoover](#) to his aide [D. Milton \(“Mickey”\) Ladd](#) on “just what are the facts re ‘flying saucers,’ agent [S. Wesley Reynolds](#) interviews Maj. [Boggs](#) and Lieut. Col. [John V. Hearn Jr.](#) of Air Force Intelligence, who tell him that most UFOs are misidentifications and weather balloons. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, pp. 84–85; Swords 95)

1950, March 28 — [Samuel Eaton Thompson](#) is on his way home to Centralia, Washington, from Markham. He drives through a wooded area between Morton and Mineral and decides to stop to take a break. On foot, he comes upon a large, globe-shaped craft hovering above a clearing. Naked children with dark tans and blond hair are playing on steps that lead from an open door to the side of the UFO. Several naked adults—humanoid, attractive, and also deeply tanned—then appear at the ship’s door. After realizing that Thompson means them no harm, they beckon him closer. The crew consists of 20 adults and 25 children, the latter from about 5–15 years of age. Thompson claims to have spent the next 40 hours with the humanoids. They are from Venus, he learns, and have stopped at

Earth despite the fact that other Venusian saucers have been shot at by Earth-based military forces. The Venusians further claims that they are vegetarian and that they never grow ill. Thompson also claims the Venusians are naïve and childlike; they do not know who has built their flying saucers and seem to possess little to no curiosity. He goes back to get a camera and tries to take photos, but the object is too bright to appear on film. Thompson returns home on March 30. (“Centralian Tells Strange Tale of Visiting Venus Space Ship in Eastern Lewis County,” *Centralia (Wash.) Daily Chronicle*, April 1, 1950; Elmer J. Olson, “[Sam Thompson Saw ‘Em—Saucer People](#),” *Centralia (Wash.) Daily Chronicle*, March 25, 1967, p. 6; Jerome Clark, “The Coming of the Venusians,” *Fate* 34, no. 1 (January 1981): 49–55; Nick Redfern, “[A Sensational Saucer Saga!](#)” *Mysterious Universe*, January 19, 2012; Clark III 1127–1129; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 16, 2018; Clark IV 1275–1277)

1950, March 30–April 3 — Nine reports by fishermen and Coast Guard personnel of unidentified submarines off Eureka, California, spur the US Navy to send the [USS Colahan](#) on a five-day search to track down the source. (“[Sub Search Ends](#),” *Alameda (Calif.) Times Star*, April 3, 1950, pp. 1–2; “[Submarines Contacted Off Shore, Officer Says](#),” *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, April 4, 1950, pp. 1, 15; “[Another Sub Sighted; Air Search Underway](#),” *Riverside (Calif.) Daily Press*, April 11, 1950, p. 1; “[Navy’s ‘Mysterious Object’ Regarded As Possible Sub](#),” *Escondido (Calif.) Daily Times-Advocate*, November 10, 1950, p. 1; Dolan, USO1, 136–137)

1950, March 31 — Syndicated columnist [Drew Pearson](#) publishes “Worried about Flying Saucers?” in which he sympathizes with the Air Force, which has to reply to groundless public excitement. His USAF contact has told him, “there ain’t no such animal.” Pentagon Public Relations Officer Maj. [DeWitt Searles](#) tells the press that all UFO cases are the result of misinterpretations, mass hysteria, and hoaxes: “As far as the Air Force goes, there’s no such thing as a flying saucer.” (Drew Pearson, “[Worried about Flying Saucers?](#)” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, March 31, 1950, p. 5; “[Major Debunker of Flying Saucers, Keeps Saying, ‘No, No, 1,000 Times No,’](#)” *Rock Island (Ill.) Argus*, March 31, 1950, p. 18; Swords 96–99)

1950, Spring — Commander Augusto Vars Ortega of the Chilean Navy takes about 1,200 feet of color film of UFOs—one above the other, turning at tremendous speeds—in Antarctica. When NICAP asks the Chilean Embassy about the film in 1956, it tells [Keyhoe](#) that the film is classified and not available. (Dan Lloyd, “[Things Are Hotting Up in the Antarctic](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1965): 5)

1950, April — Daytime. While working on her lawn in Canby, Oregon, Ellen Jonerson glances over at her neighbor’s yard and sees a 12-inch-tall man with his back turned to her. When he turns around, she sees that he has a heavily tanned face, is of stocky build, and wears overalls and a plaid shirt. There is a skullcap on his head. She dashes inside to call a friend, then runs outside again in time to see the figure “waddling” away. He walks under a parked car and disappears. [Kenneth Arnold](#), who interviews her, is convinced of her sincerity. (“[Some of Flying Saucers May Be Alive, Boise Flier Tells Science Fiction Fans](#),” *Portland Oregonian*, September 6, 1950, p. 8; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index, 1950–1951](#), p. 2; Clark III 270; Clark IV 310)

1950, April 1 — Project Twinkle officially begins.

1950, April 4 — Presidential press secretary [Charlie Ross](#) states that [Truman](#) has conferred with his two top military advisers, Rear Adm. [Robert Dennison](#) and Brig. Gen. [Robert B. Landry](#), and that they claim the US has no such technology. Furthermore, the Air Force study has concluded there are no such things as flying saucers. Caltech aeronautics professor [Clark Blanchard Millikan](#) agrees, saying: “If anyone should know about such a project, I should know—and I know of no development in the aircraft or guided missile field.” (“[Navy Flatly Denies Reports It Is Building Flying Saucers](#),” *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, April 4, 1950, p. 9; “[President Knows Nothing about ‘Flying Saucers’](#),” *Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram*, April 4, 1950, p. B-7; “[Truman, Top Brass Scoff at Wild Flying Saucer Rumors](#),” *Los Angeles (Calif.) Daily News*, April 4, 1950, pp. 3, 41; “[Deny ‘Saucers’ Are Secret Weapons](#),” *Whittier (Calif.) News*, April 4, 1950, p. 1; “[Two U.S. House Members Differ on Flying Saucer Situation](#),” *Pomona (Calif.) Progress-Bulletin*, April 5, 1950, p. 2; “[Reaction Claims Denied](#),” *Whittier (Calif.) News*, April 7, 1950, p. 1; Swords 97–99)

1950, April 5 — Sen. [Richard Russell Jr.](#) (D-Ga.) states to the press that he is “completely baffled” by flying saucer reports that are made by many pilots who would not be fooled by hallucinations or clouds. Sen. [Millard Tydings](#) (D-Md.), chair of the Armed Services Committee, says he thinks saucers might be experimental US aircraft “in embryo stage.” Rep. [Albert J. Engel](#) (R-Mich.) thinks the same. Sen. [Kenneth S. Wherry](#) (R-Nebr.) says the saucers are “like our foreign policy. It is in a state of confusion and no one seems to know what it is all about.” (“[Congress Split about Saucers](#),” *Miami (Fla.) News*, April 5, 1950, pp. 1, 6; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 9–10; Swords 98)

1950, April 6 — 4:45 p.m. Lt. [John J. Sevila](#), a pilot with the 131st Fighter Squadron, hears a sound like a flight of jet airplanes and rushes out of his house in Springfield, Massachusetts, to see them. Instead, he sees a perfectly circular object moving slowly westward at an altitude of 25,000 feet. He watches it for 5 minutes as it moves at a

- speed of 50–100 mph. When the sun hits it directly, it shines like a mirror. (*The Thunderbolt* 1, no. 12 (April 1950): 5; “[Pilot Claims He Saw Flying Saucer in Maine](#),” *Rutland (Vt.) Daily Herald*, April 14, 1950, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs: A History, Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 9)
- 1950**, April 7 — A CAA control tower operator at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts, watches a blue light split into two lights that revolve around each other for 10 minutes. ([Sparks](#), p. 86; [Hynek UFO Report](#), pp. 65–68)
- 1950**, April 7 — Newsman [Edward R. Murrow](#) produces the first extended TV commentary on UFOs, “The Case of the Flying Saucer” on CBS. He begins with the [Kenneth Arnold](#) case, mentions Muroc AFB cases and [Mantell](#), and quotes both *True* magazine and [Donald Menzel](#). Also on the show are [Henry J. Taylor](#), engineer [Charles H. Zimmerman](#), and [Charlie Ross](#), as well as people on the street. (“[Transcript of Ed Murrow–Kenneth Arnold Telephone Conversation](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 1 (Feb./March 1984): 3; Edward R. Murrow, “[The Case of the Flying Saucer](#) [audio only],” Bryce Zabel YouTube channel, February 24, 2018)
- 1950**, April 7 — *US News and World Report* comes out with a story on saucers that hints they are top-secret, jet-propelled Navy aircraft “that can outfly other planes.” (“[Flying Saucers—the Real Story: U.S. Built First One in 1942](#),” *US News and World Report* 28, no. 14 (April 7, 1950): 13–15; Michael D. Swords, “[Balloons, Missiles, and UFOs](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 18)
- 1950**, April 7 — The National Security Council presents President [Truman](#) with Report 68 (NSC-68), a 56-page top secret policy paper that provides the “blueprint for the militarization of the Cold War.” It advocates a large expansion in the military budget, the development of a hydrogen bomb, and increased military aid to US allies for the containment of Communist expansion. It essentially warns Truman that the US is losing the Cold War. Truman does not approve it until 1951. (Wikipedia, “[NSC-68](#)”)
- 1950**, April 8 — [Paul Limerick](#), commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Shelby, North Carolina, watches a round, aluminum-colored object with four other people for 2 minutes. It follows a horizontal course toward the southwest without making a sound, then shoots straight up and disappears. (“[Shelby Folks Claim Flying Saucer Real](#),” *Rocky Mount (N.C.) Telegram*, April 10, 1950, pp. 1, 6; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 13; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, A History: 1950, April–July, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 19)
- 1950**, April 8 — 11:00 a.m. David Lightfoot, 12, and Charles Lightfoot, 9, are fishing in a creek northeast of Amarillo, Texas, when they see what looks like a balloon about 20° above the horizon, moving from the south. It passes only a few feet above them, circles slowly, and disappears over a small hill to the north. David runs after it and sees that it has landed and is a blue-gray disk about as large as an automobile tire and about 1.5 feet tall. The top of it is spinning quickly, but a central spindle is motionless. David follows after it and lunges at it, touching its hot and slick surface briefly, but it takes off straight up with a whistling noise, emitting a gas that turns the boy’s arms red and raises some welts. Charles watches it take off from about 300 feet. David’s arms heal up after some salve is applied. Possible hoax. (“So You Saw a Flying Disc? This Boy Touched One,” *Amarillo (Tex.) Sunday News-Globe*, April 9, 1950, pp. 1, 27; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, p. 114; C. W. Fitch, “[Monitoring and Scanning Discs](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, January 1963, p. 5; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 3–4; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, A History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 14; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, A History: 1950, April–July, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 20–25; “[The Red Spray Case and Scientific Paradigms | Ufos # 3: April 21, 2024](#),” Ufo Sunset Youtube channel, April 21, 2024)
- 1950**, April 10 — 7:00 p.m. Several University of California, Berkeley, graduate students, including [Garniss H. Curtis](#), [Robert Scott Creely](#), and [Louis I. Briggs](#), watch a bright light moving against the wind at about 10–15 mph at 1,500 feet altitude about 3–4 miles away from Berkeley, California, for two hours. It turns slowly to the south then turns around and heads slowly back. Four high school students in Monterey, California, see a gleaming object over San Francisco in the early afternoon. (NICAP case file; “[Saucer Visits San Francisco, Schoolboys Say](#),” *Los Angeles Times*, April 12, 1950, p. 17)
- 1950**, April 12 — Nine transient dots of light in a line turn up on a photographic plate image in the Palomar Sky Survey. They are not seen on plates in the identical part of the sky 30 years later, 6 days later, or 30 minutes earlier. The dots are discovered in 2021 by Beatriz Villarroel, a postdoctoral researcher at the Nordic Institute of Theoretical Physics, in 2021. She rules out astrophysical explanations, passing airplanes, asteroids, and other known light sources as well as contamination caused by nuclear fallout. (Beatriz Villarroel, et al., “[Exploring Nine Simultaneously Occurring Transients on April 12th 1950](#),” *Scientific Reports* 11, no. 12794 (June 17, 2021); Beatriz Villarroel and Geoff Marcy, “[A New Era of Optical SETI: The Search for Artificial Objects of Non-Human Origin](#),” *The Debrief*, February 20, 2023; “Astronomical Transients,” *Fortean Times* 442 (March 2024): 24–25)
- 1950**, April 14 — RAND Corporation writer Jean M. Hungerford writes a 32-page research memorandum for the US Air Force titled “The Exploitation of Superstitions for Purposes of Psychological Warfare.” She uses recent examples

of religious miracles that were used in Western propaganda, as well as horoscopes, chain letters, and folklore. (Jean M. Hungerford, "[The Exploitation of Superstitions for Purposes of Psychological Warfare](#)," USAF Project Rand Research Memorandum, RM-35, April 14, 1950)

1950, April 17 — *Newsweek* publishes an article, "Flying Saucers Again," on crashed saucers. ("Flying Saucers Again," *Newsweek*, April 17, 1950, p. 29)

1950, April 17 — More than 15 people report seeing a UFO for 20 minutes at 2,000 feet on the eastern horizon at Los Alamos, New Mexico. One scientist watches the object through a telescope and says it looks flat, circular, metallic, and roughly 9 feet in diameter. It moves faster than any conventional aircraft. ([Sparks](#), p. 86; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 26)

1950, April 17 — 8:15 p.m. Two high school students, Joseph Dumas and Edward Brogan, are driving along Breckwood Boulevard in Springfield, Massachusetts, when they see a red object approach. Dumas pulls his car to the side to let it pass. It seems to be in two parts, and it is moving up and down and making a high-pitched whistling noise. It passes them at about 100 feet away, then goes straight up and disappears. ("[Saucers Fly Tandem Now](#)," *Springfield (Mass.) Morning Union*, April 18, 1950, p. 25; Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1950](#)")

1950, April 24 — 10:00 p.m. Bruno Facchini steps outside his house on the outskirts of Abbiate Guazzone, Varese, Italy, and notices something flashing near a power line. He goes to investigate and encounters a landed disc with an open door and steps leading down. Three or four men in diving suits and helmets are inside. One seems to be welding a pipe. Facchini speaks to them, but they respond with growling sounds. One points a small "camera" at him that emits a beam that knocks him over. Facchini lies still while the repairs are completed, and the UFO takes off. (Pino Carminati Ghidelli, "[Un Diaco è Atterrato](#)," *Notiziario UFO*, no. 37 (Jan./Feb. 1971): 19–22; Antonio Giudici, "[The Case of Bruno Facchini](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 20, no. 6 (April 1975): 30–32; Ezio Barnardini, "[Facchini: Un CE3 Rivisitato](#)," *Notiziario UFO*, no. 104 (March 1985/Jan. 1986): 4–7; Clark III 267; Marcus Lowth, "[Bruno Facchini's Extraterrestrial Encounter in Varese, Italy](#)," *UFO Insight*, September 5, 2020; 1Pinotti 30–40; Clark IV 307; Patrick Gross, "[Abbate Guazzone, Italy, April 24, 1950](#)")

1950, April 25 — Early morning. Military security patrols at the deactivated Dugway Proving Ground in western Utah view a series of unusual lights and objects moving above an ammunition storage area. One object is "surrounded by an aura of spears of light jutting diagonally from the main body." (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History, Volume 6: April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 34)

1950, April 25 — 3:00 p.m. Enrique Hausmann Muller takes a film of a bright, circular UFO with rays of flame spinning off its edge in a pinwheel fashion in Montuiri, Majorca, Balearic Islands, Spain. Probable hoax. (UFOEv, [p. 88](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 32; Matias Morey Ripoll, "[El Caso Hausmann: Una Aproximación desde Ibiza](#)," *UFO Fotocat Blog*, September 20, 2019; Centro Ufologico Nazionale, [[Hausmann photo](#)])

1950, April 27 — While preparing for an MX-776A Shrike air-to-ground missile test at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, Charles Riggs, a member of the Project Twinkle cinetheodolite camera crew supplied by Land-Air Inc., sees, tracks, and manages to film four high-flying objects streaking across the sky. Another station also tracks the objects. The photos show only a smudgy dark object, but the triangulation results in a calculation by mathematician Wilbur L. Mitchell and Capt. Perry Bryant of the objects' size as 30 feet in diameter and 150,000 feet in altitude. (NICAP, "[Cinetheodolite Film Taken by Tracking Station](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 88; Ruppelt, [p. 88](#); Good Above, [pp. 354–355](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, pp. 35–37; Bruce Maccabee, "[The White Sands Films](#)," *IUR* 21, no. 1 (Spring 1996): 22–25; Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 44; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)

1950, April 27 — 8:25 p.m. TWA Flight 117 pilot Capt. Robert Adickes and Flight Officer Robert F. Manning are flying near Goshen, Indiana, when they see a bright-red disc-shaped UFO behind their DC-3. It overtakes the plane in about 2 minutes. Stewardess Gloria Henshaw and 11 passengers (including Boeing engineers C. H. Jenkins and [Dean C. Bourland](#) and executives E. J. Fitzgerald and S. N. Miller) also see the object. It veers off at 400 mph, drops down to 1,500 feet, and disappears. (NICAP, "[Adickes TWA DC-3 Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 89; "[Two TWA Pilots See Flying Disc in Indiana](#)," *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, April 29, 1950, p. 13; Donald E. Keyhoe, "[Flight 117 and the Flying Saucer](#)," *True*, August 1950, pp. 24–25, 75–79; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [pp. 145–148](#); James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 46–47; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, pp. 36–38)

1950, May 5 — 11:30 p.m. Capt. Marcellus D. O'Sullivan, 1Lt. [William J. Reisinger](#), and three enlisted men of the 625th Aircraft and Warning Squadron at Elmendorf AFB [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska,

see a reddish-orange object hovering in the sky for 5 minutes. It puts on a burst of speed and disappears over the horizon. ("[From History: 57th Fighter Interceptor Wing \(Alaska\), January–June 1950](#)," *UFO Historical Review*, no. 5 (July 1999): 8)

1950, May 11 — 7:30 p.m. [Evelyn Trent](#), who lives on a farm nine miles from McMinnville, Oregon [near Sheridan, Oregon], is walking back to her farmhouse after feeding rabbits. Before reaching the house, she sees a slow-moving, metallic disk-shaped object heading in her direction from the northeast. She yells for her husband [Paul](#), who is inside the house; he comes out and also sees the object. After a short time, he goes back inside to get a camera and manages to take two photos of the object before it speeds away to the west. Paul Trent's father briefly sees the object before it flies away. The Trents assume they have seen some exotic military aircraft. They do not develop the film in the camera until they use it up and show the photos only to a few friends. Eventually it reaches the cover of *Life* magazine, but the Trents show no desire to make any money from the photos. Although the Colorado project initially thinks the photos seem genuine, three Interface Pilote pour l'Analyse de Clichés d'OVNI's researchers in 2013–2015 claim to find evidence of a model suspended from a string. Researcher [Brad Sparks](#) finds major mathematical and scientific errors in IPACO's work. (Wikipedia, "[McMinnville UFO Photographs](#)"; NICAP, "[Trent / McMinnville Photos](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 90; "At Long Last—Authentic Photographs of Flying Saucer?" *McMinnville (Oreg.) Telephone-Register*, June 8, 1950, p. 1; "['Disc Picture' Published in McMinnville Paper](#)," *Salem (Oreg.) Statesman Journal*, June 9, 1950, p. 1; "McMinnville Farmer, Wife See 'Saucer,' Display Photographs to Prove Claim," *Portland Oregonian*, June 10, 1950, p. 7; "[Farmer Trent's Flying Saucer](#)," *Life*, June 26, 1950, p. 29; Condon, pp. 396–407; Bruce S. Maccabee, "[On the Possibility that the McMinnville Photos Show a Distant Unidentified Object \(UO\)](#)," *Proceedings of the 1976 CUFOS Conference*, Center for UFO Studies, 1976, pp. 152–163; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 244–245; Story, pp. 223–226; Bruce S. Maccabee, "[The McMinnville Photos](#)," *The Spectrum of UFO Research*, CUFOS, 1988, pp. 13–57; Bruce S. Maccabee, "[The Trent Farm Photos](#)," April 2000; Bruce S. Maccabee, "[The Trent Farm Photos Appendix](#)," April 2000; Bruce S. Maccabee, "[The McMinnville Photos](#)," May 2000; Michael D. Swords, "[Can We Learn Anything from UFO Photos? Part Five](#)," *The Big Study*, July 15, 2012; "[McMinnville, OR CE-II Photo Case of 5-11-1950 – Mrs. Paul Trent](#)," *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Antoine Cousyn, François Louange, and Geoff Quick, "[The McMinnville Pictures](#)," *Interface Pilote pour l'Analyse de Clichés d'OVNI's*, May 2014; Robert Sheaffer, "[The Trent UFO Photos: McMinnville, Oregon, May 11, 1950](#)," *The Debunker's Domain*, September 10, 2014; Robert Sheaffer, "[The Trent UFO Photos—'Best' of All Time—Finally Busted?](#)" *Skeptical Inquirer* 39 (Jan./Feb. 2015); John Killen, "[Past Tense Oregon: UFO Photos Taken near McMinnville in 1950 Still Raise Questions](#)," *Portland Oregonian*, May 12, 2015; J. J. Valdés, "[The Trent/McMinnville UFO Photos: A Down-to-Earth Perspective](#)," *Historical Inquiry*, August 19, 2016; Clark III 702–704; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 67–68; "[Oldest Most Authentic UFO Photos? McMinnville UFO and the Trent's Photos](#)," *Edge of Reality* YouTube channel, December 7, 2024; Clark IV 799–803)

1950, May 15 — Afternoon. Architect Enrique Carotenuto Bossa is driving in an isolated region in Bahía Blanca Partido (possibly between Macachín and Estación Hidalgo Ferrocarril Sarmiento), La Pampa, Argentina, when he sees a metallic disc resting on the ground to the left of the highway. He stops the car to investigate, approaches it, and sees an open door in its side. He goes inside and sees a "curved divan with three seats, two of which were occupied by small beings covered from head to foot (except for an opening for the face (in a kind of tight-fitting overall of a brown color)." The bodies are about 4 feet tall, and their faces seem charred or burnt. In front of them is a screen with "rays playing on it," and on top of the screen is a rotating globe. The engineer runs out and drives back to his hotel. He returns the next day with two companions and finds only an ash heap. But they look up and see three UFOs—one a cigar-shaped object and two discs, hovering above them at 1,800 feet. The discs merge with the cigar and speed away. (*El Universal* (Caracas, Venezuela), May 7, 1955; "[Man Enters Grounded Disc](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, August 1955, pp. 1–3; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, pp. 80–83; Willy Smith, "[The Curious Case of the Argentine Crashed Saucer](#)," *IUR* 11, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1986): 18–19; Roberto E. Banchs and Richard W. Heiden, "[Crash Landing in the Pampas](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 4–10, 30; Richard W. Heiden, "[Bossa Revisited](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 28; Roberto Banchs, "[General Acha \(LP\): Un Accidentado Aterrizaje \(Primera Parte\)](#)," *Marcianitos Verdes*, July 4, 2009; Clark III 327–328; Clark IV 364)

1950, May 20 — 12:15 p.m. Meteorologist [Seymour L. Hess](#) is strolling the grounds of Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, when he notices a round, gray-colored object approaching from the southeast at about 12,000 feet altitude. He follows it with a 4x spyglass as it passes in front of a small cumulus cloud. Hess estimates it is about 4 feet in diameter and moving about 100 mph. ("[Astronomer, Pilots Catch Sight of Discs](#)," *Salem Oregon Statesman*, May 23, 1950, p. 1; UFOEv, p. 3; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 61–62; Condon, pp. 245–248; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6*,

- [April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 48; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History, 1950 April–July, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 47; Clark III 376; Clark IV 420)
- 1950**, May 21 — A second Gallup poll on UFOs is released, showing that 5% of respondents think “these flying saucers” are “comets, shooting stars, something from another planet.” (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 48–49; Robert J. Durant, “[Evolution of Public Opinion on UFOs](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 10–11)
- 1950**, May 21 — 7:30 a.m. [Felix Zanon](#), 60, of Montrose, Colorado, sees a huge round object flashing in the sun. As the object hovers, he summons his wife [Pearl](#) and his son [Billy](#) from the house to take a look with him. As the three watch, a second object approaches and joins next to the first object. After a while, both objects leave together heading north toward Cerro Summit before altering course and heading in an eastern direction before vanishing. Other witnesses claim to see the objects. (“[See Huge Silver Discs](#),” *Pottsville (Pa.) Republican and Herald*, May 22, 1950, p. 5; “[Rancher Reports Seeing Flying Discs](#),” *Lexington (Ky.) Herald*, May 22, 1950, p. 10; “[Montrose](#),” *Grand Junction (Colo.) Daily Sentinel*, May 23, 1950, p. 6; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 48; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History, 1950 April–July, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 47)
- 1950**, May 21 — During Armed Forces Day at Randolph Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas, the loudspeakers blare out that the air show then in progress will have a “top secret finale.” It is announced that “real flying saucers would make an appearance!” In an attempt at humor, 30,000 paper plates are dumped over the crowd from Air Force cargo planes during a final flyby. They are stamped with “Souvenir, Armed Forces Day. Flying Saucer. Randolph Air Force Base, May 21, 1950.” (“[Flying Saucers’ Cascade on Crowd at Air Show](#),” *New York Times*, May 22, 1950, p. 8; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 49; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, A History: 1950, April–July, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 46)
- 1950**, May 21 — 3:50 p.m. T/Sgt Edward Eles, [Earl DuQuoin](#), and four other airmen of the 187th Fighter Squadron of the Wyoming National Guard are on the airfield at the Municipal Airport in Cheyenne, Wyoming, when they see a V-shaped formation of four round, pure-white discs flying in a northerly direction. In a matter of seconds, the objects change formation and make a sharp right-angle turn, flying single file, and speed out of sight. (*Cheyenne Wyoming State Tribune*, May 22, 1950, p. 1; “[Astronomer, Pilots Catch Sight of Discs](#),” *Salem Oregon Statesman*, May 23, 1950, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 49)
- 1950**, May 24? — Midday. J. A. Blackmore finishes lunch at a grazing property near Mount Gambier, South Australia, when he spots a UFO. His companions—Lewis and Cyril Blackmore and Peter McQuade—see it too. The object is very high, completely silent, emits no smoke or flame, and moves southeast. It stays in view for five or six seconds, traveling faster than any airplane they have ever seen. (“[Flying Saucer](#),” *Inverell (N.S.W.) Times*, May 31, 1950, p. 1; “[Four See ‘Saucer](#),” *Sydney (N.S.W.) Daily Telegraph*, May 31, 1950, p. 13)
- 1950**, May 24 — The request by the Atomic Energy Commission for Project Grudge records is referred to the US Air Force Headquarters and the final Grudge report is forwarded to AEC. ([Memorandum for the Record](#), May 24, 1950)
- 1950**, May 24 — During an MX-674 Tarzon controllable vertical bomb test at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Floyd Fannon and other USAF crew members see eight unidentified objects. They separately track and film two of the objects down the North American Aviation missile firing range. Project Twinkle cinetheodolite station P-8 films one object to the northeast for 6 frames (1.0 sec) moving uniformly to the south. Cinetheodolite station P-10, located 5.7 miles down range to the north from P-8 and 7 feet higher, films another object, hence no triangulation is possible. Analysts estimate that the objects were higher than 40,000 feet, traveling more than 2,000 mph, and over 300 feet in diameter. (NICAP, “[Cinetheodolite Film Taken by Tracking Station](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 91; [Ruppelt](#), p. 89; [Good Above](#), pp. 354–355; Bruce Maccabee, “[The White Sands Films](#),” *IUR* 21, no. 1 (Spring 1996): 22–25; Bruce Maccabee, *UFO FBI Connection*, Llewellyn, 2000, pp. 143, 150–151; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1950**, May 25 — Lt. Col. [Doyle Rees](#) of the USAF Office of Special Investigations writes a confidential memo to Brig. Gen. [Joseph F. Carroll](#), Director of Special Investigations. In part, it states: “In a liaison meeting with other military and government intelligence and investigative agencies in December 1948, it was determined that the frequency of unexplained aerial phenomena in the New Mexico area was such that an organized plan of reporting these observations should be undertaken. The organization and physical location of units of this District were most suitable for collecting these data, therefore, since December 1948, this District has assumed the responsibility for collecting and reporting basic information with respect to aerial phenomena in this general area.” (NICAP, “[Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena, New Mexico Area, Dec 1949 to May 1950](#)”)

- 1950**, May 29 — 9:20 p.m. Capt. [Willis T. Sperry](#), copilot Bill Gates, flight engineer [Robert Arnholt](#), a stewardess, and several passengers on an American Airlines DC-6 airliner headed southwest out of Washington, D.C., en route to Nashville, Tennessee, are flying at 7,500 feet at 250 mph. About 7 miles west of Mount Vernon, Virginia, Gates alerts Sperry to a bright blue or bluish light ahead of them and increasing in size. Sperry makes an evasive 45° turn to the right and the object passes from 11 o'clock to 7 o'clock position to the left at a slightly higher altitude. The light very briefly passes between the aircraft and the upper part of the moon, revealing an object with a long silhouette (somewhat reminiscent of a submarine) without visible wings or empennage. The blue light is on the front of the object. Sperry turns left back onto his original course to get the object back in view, but it apparently stays stationary for about 30 seconds. Gates then notices the object circling around to the right side. Sperry banks right again, while the object paces the airliner about 20–30 seconds before it climbs to the east at a 30° angle at “fantastic” speed and disappears. (NICAP, [“Capt. Willis Sperry Sighting”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 91; [“New Type of Saucer Is Reported—Like a Submarine with Lights,”](#) *Asheville (N.C.) Times*, May 30, 1950, p. 16; [“‘Saucer’ Like Sub Reported by Pilot,”](#) *Buffalo (N.Y.) News*, May 31, 1950, p. 64; [“Strange Craft Seen by Pilot near Capital,”](#) *Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram*, June 1, 1950, p. 8; Donald E. Keyhoe, [“Flight 117 and the Flying Saucer,”](#) *True*, August 1950, pp. 24, 78–79; Ruppelt, [pp. 85–86](#); Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 52–53; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, A History: 1950, April–July, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 52–54; Project 1947, [“UFO Reports 1950”](#); [“American Airlines CE-II Case of 5-29-1950 – Capt. Willis Sperry,”](#) *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013)
- 1950**, Summer — Physicist [Enrico Fermi](#) first formulates the “Fermi Paradox” during a casual conversation (in Los Alamos, New Mexico) with fellow physicists [Edward Teller](#), [Herbert York](#), and [Emil Konopinski](#). While walking to lunch, the men discuss recent UFO reports and the possibility of faster-than-light travel. The conversation moves on to other topics, until during lunch Fermi allegedly says suddenly, “But where is everybody?” (although the exact quote is uncertain). (Wikipedia, [“Fermi paradox”](#); Eric M. Jones, [“Where Is Everybody?” An Account of Fermi’s Question](#), Los Alamos National Laboratory, March 1, 1985)
- 1950**, Summer — Afternoon. Four Indigenous men are fishing in Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin, when they notice a disturbance in the water. It continues for 20 seconds, then a disk-shaped object rises up and hovers for 6–10 seconds, generating waves. It then accelerated and disappears from sight almost instantaneously. (National UFO Reporting Center, [“NUFORC UFO Sighting,”](#) March 19, 2009; Dolan, *USO1*, 138–139)
- 1950**, Summer — Evening. An 8- or 10-foot-disc lands in a field behind Mrs. Mason Vaughan’s house in Beaverdam, Virginia. From an open cockpit a “man with unusual goggles or headpiece” looks out. Surprised, the disc takes off abruptly, breaking off a limb from an oak tree on the way up. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1950–1951](#), p. 20; Clark III 267; Clark IV 307)
- 1950**, June 1 — A pilot on patrol from RAF Tangmere in West Sussex, England, sights a “bright circular metallic object” that speeds past his Gloster Meteor jet fighter at 20,000 feet. As he undergoes a debriefing by squadron intelligence, he finds out that four RAF controllers at the radar station at RAF Wartling near Eastbourne have, at the same time, tracked an “unusual response” that vanishes from their screens, moving at terrific speed. (UK Flying Saucer Working Party, [Unidentified Flying Objects](#), June 1951, pp. 2–3; David Clarke, [“Flying Saucer Working Party,”](#) Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015)
- 1950**, June 5 — [Donald Keyhoe](#)’s *True* article is expanded into a paperback book, *The Flying Saucers Are Real*, the first book specifically devoted to UFOs, which sells 500,000 copies. It brings many interested civilians and military people to accept UFO reality, government withholding of information, and the extraterrestrial hypothesis. (Wikipedia, [“The Flying Saucers Are Real”](#); Donald E. Keyhoe, [The Flying Saucers Are Real](#), Gold Medal, 1950; [“Aim at ‘Saucer’ Book,”](#) *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, May 25, 1950, p. 22; Clark III 458; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 73–74; Graff 63–64; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 61–62; Clark IV 503–504)
- 1950**, June 6 — F-86 Sabre fighter aircraft assigned to the 654th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Grenier Air Force Base [now Manchester–Boston Regional Airport] in Manchester, New Hampshire, are ordered to fly with “hot” guns for “certain missions involving interception of unidentified tracks.” (Powell, *Scientist*, 112, 114)
- 1950**, June 8 — Gen. [Earle E. Partridge](#) of the Fifth Air Force, responsible for the Korean Theatre, writes to Commanding Gen. [George E. Stratemeyer](#), asking for an analysis of certain UFO cases. (Swords 100–101)
- 1950**, June 12 — Eastern Airlines executive [Eddie Rickenbacker](#) tells the press that if flying saucers “do exist, you can rest assured that they are ours.” ([“Flying Saucers Are Real, U.S. Air Force Craft, Rickenbacker Hints,”](#) *Indianapolis (Ind.) Star*, June 12, 1950, pp. 1–2; Swords 100)
- 1950**, June 12 — 4:00 p.m. Working in a quarry somewhere in California, geologist John Zimmerman and civil engineer Charles Fisher are watching a jet aircraft speeding through the sky and leaving a vapor trail. Suddenly

Zimmerman notices that the vapor trail has been cut. Looking more closely, he notices a metallic disc making vertical loops around the jet. Two other discs come into view and perform the same aerobatics. (Wells Alan Webb, *Mars, the New Frontier*, Fearon, 1956, p. 124; UFOEv, [p. 50](#); Clark III 376; Clark IV 420)

- 1950, June 13** — Day. Erineo Medina is sitting near an auto parts shop in Alice, Texas, when he looks up from rolling a cigarette and sees a flying saucer. He drops his tobacco tin in surprise. The saucer, described as a perfectly round, mirror-like gray disc, silently whizzes by about 1,000 feet up, heading north. Medina's companion, Loreto Sanchez, also sees it, and they alert nearby café customers who witness it before it vanishes. Policeman Saragoza Garcia hears the commotion, but the object is gone by the time he steps outside. ("[Alice Man Looks up, Sees Saucer](#)," *Corpus Christi (Tex.) Caller-Times*, June 14, 1950, p. 12B)
- 1950, June 17** — Oskar Linke and his 11-year-old daughter Gabriele are walking toward Haselbach, Thuringia, East Germany, in the twilight when she notices something about 420 feet away. It appears to be two men dressed in shiny metallic clothing who are stooped over and looking at something on the ground. Linke approaches to 30 feet away, looks over a small fence, and sees a large object about 40 feet in diameter that looks like a huge frying pan. It has two rows of holes in its periphery and a black conical tower about 9 feet high. The two men suddenly jump inside. The inside lights up, the object starts humming and rises slowly from the ground, rotating like a top. It rises from the ground with the aid of a central cylinder and is surrounded by flames, then takes off in the direction of Stockheim. Later he finds a circular depression in the ground at the spot. Linke resettles in West Berlin in 1951. He tells his story to a notary there on July 1, 1952, which is how it turns up in the Western press and explains a confusion in the date of the sighting. (NICAP, "[CE III by Two Witnesses / Oskar Linke Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 92; Central Intelligence Agency, "[Flying Saucers' in East Germany](#)," July 9, 1952; Leonard G. Cramp, *Space, Gravity, and the Flying Saucer*, British Book Centre, 1955, [pp. 158–161](#); Olsen, Sec. 3, pp. 8–9; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 203–206](#); Ted Bloecher, "[Herr Linke and the Flying Warming Pan](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 153 (November 1980): 6–9; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, pp. 32–34; Good Above, [pp. 513–514](#); Martin S. Kottmeyer, "[Missing Linke](#)," *Magonia Supplement*, no. 48 (October 2003): 3–5; "[East Germany 1950 Landing Case, Humanoid Pilots Seen](#)," *Journal of UFO History* 2, no. 3 (July/Aug. 2005): 8–9; Andreas Müller, "[Das Haselbach-UFO von 1950: Die Augenzeugin spricht](#)," *grenzWissenschaft-aktuell.de*, January 26, 2016)
- 1950, June 21** — 1:35 a.m. Control tower operators Cpl. Roger G. Pryor and S/Sgt. [Ellis R. Lorimer](#) and airways communications staffer S/Sgt. Virgil Cappuro watch a flying disc speeding at 1,000–1,500 mph over Hamilton AFB [now closed] in Novato, California. The object shoots blue flame and makes a roar like thunder as it makes five passes over the base. They observe it through binoculars for 25 minutes. (NICAP, "[Disc Makes Five Passes at Control Tower](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 92; "[Saucer's Roar 'Like Thunder,' Say Observers](#)," *Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram*, June 21, 1950, p. 1; "[Disc, 'Roaring Like Thunder,' Is Reported at Hamilton Field](#)," *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, June 21, 1950, p. 1; "[GIs Report Seeing 'Saucer' at Air Base on West Coast](#)," *Dayton (Ohio) Journal Herald*, June 22, 1950, p. 2)
- 1950, June 24** — A cigar-shaped UFO paces a United Airlines plane (Capt. E. L. Remlin, First Officer David Stewart, and observer Capt. [Samuel B. Wiper](#)) for 20 minutes near Daggett, California. The object is also seen by the crew of another airliner and a navy transport plane. The Navy pilot sees for 3 minutes a dark gray object with heat radiation at the tail end. He estimates altitude as 50,000–100,000 feet and a speed of 1,000–1,500 mph. The crews discuss the matter with two CAA ground stations. The object is also reported by hundreds of witnesses over a distance of 300–400 miles from southern California to Nevada and southeastern Utah and was covered in local newspapers. (NICAP, "[Three Aircraft Crews Observe UFO](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 93; "[Blazing Object Seen Speeding over Nevada](#)," *Los Angeles (Calif.) Times*, June 25, 1950, p. 3; "[Fiery Object Reports Are Still Coming](#)," *Reno Nevada State Journal*, June 28, 1950, p. 8; UFOEv, [p. 31](#); David Rudiak, "[1950 California–Nevada Cigar-Shaped UFO](#)," Roswell Proof, 2005)
- 1950, June 25** — North Korea invades South Korea, overrunning Seoul and beginning the Korean War. (Wikipedia, "[Korean War](#)")
- 1950, June 27** — President [Truman](#) orders US air and sea forces to help South Korea. (Wikipedia, "[Korean War](#)")
- 1950, June 27** — Around 12:35 p.m. Nearly a dozen residents of Modesto, California, report seeing a mysterious object in the sky, described as either a "flying saucer" or a "ball of fire." Witnesses say it moves from east to west at about 40,000 feet. Eight employees of a local automobile agency describe it as a burning metallic substance trailing vapor or smoke. The object is also observed by several people in Modesto's rural areas. ("[Modesto Sees Saucer](#)," *San Francisco (Calif.) Examiner*, June 28, 1950, p. 19)
- 1950, June 27** — 4:15 p.m. Al Hixenbaugh, a photographer for the *Louisville Times*, is at the corner of Longest and Everett avenues in Louisville, Kentucky, when he hears the sound of a DC-3 airplane overhead. He looks up and sees the plane as well as a large disc with a slight corona around it. He shoots 50 feet of film with his 16mm

movie camera as the object remains motionless for 10 seconds before it starts getting smaller and disappears to the west. ([Sparks](#), p. 93; [\[film with commentary\]](#); *Louisville (Ky.) Times*, June 28, 1950, p. 1; “[‘Saucer’ Filmed](#),” *Lexington (Ky.) Herald*, June 29, 1950, p. 13; “[Kentucky Newsman Records Flying Saucer in Movie Film](#),” *Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle*, June 29, 1950, p. 10; “[How to Film UFO’s](#),” *Saucers* 6, no. 3 (August 1958): 3)

- 1950**, June 29 — Afternoon. A brilliant white object is seen in the western sky by many residents of Phoenix, Arizona, for three hours. [William A. Rhodes](#) watches the object through an 80x telescope and estimates that it is 50–62 miles high and 225 miles west of Phoenix. American Airlines pilot Bob Rentz places it west of Wickenburg at 6:00 p.m. Weather bureau observers say it is round with a sharp cone projecting from its base and a round protuberance at its top. (Jim Blakeslee, “[City Agog over Strange Object in Sky](#),” *Phoenix Arizona Republic*, June 30, 1950, p. 1)
- 1950**, June 30 — Midnight. Rev. Ross Vermillion, a former bomber pilot, and his wife are driving 9 miles west of Kingman, Kansas, when they see a bright red light hovering over US Hwy 54 near Cunningham, Kansas. They estimate it to be about 250 feet in diameter with a small canopy on top. The family of druggist Dwayne Mulnix of Meade, Kansas, also sees the object and they stop and watch it for about 20 minutes along the highway. They begin to drive closer, but it speeds away. As seen in the bright moonlight, the object looks made of bright metal and has an elliptical body “as big as the cross-section of a B-29” with a rotor turning counterclockwise around its body. (NICAP, “[WWII Pilot Tells of Seeing Flying Saucer](#)”; “[World War II Pilot Tells of Seeing a Flying Saucer](#),” *Lawrence (Kan.) Journal World*, July 1, 1950, p. 7; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, pp. 66–69)
- 1950**, June 30 — 11:15 p.m. Two navy men (Petty Officer Carter and Able Seaman Connelly) at Royal Canadian Naval Air Station Shearwater, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, are pulling duty on radar watch from dusk until dawn. They report four separate radar contacts bearing 160° at 5 miles over 90 minutes. Visual confirmation of two glowing objects is made by a chief petty officer in North Dartmouth. (NICAP, “[Navy Men Report Radar Contact](#)”)
- 1950**, July — USAF Director of Intelligence Maj. Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#) orders secret UFO field investigations to be conducted by his staff Technical Capabilities Branch in the Evaluation Division under Maj. [Milton D. Willis](#). These begin this month and last until October 1951 when Cabell is replaced by Gen. [John A. Samford](#). (Clark III 936)
- 1950**, July — Editor [Curtis Fuller](#)’s article, “The Flying Saucers: Fact or Fiction?” appears in *Flying* magazine. (Curtis Fuller, “[The Flying Saucers: Fact or Fiction?](#)” *Flying* 47 (July 1950): 16–17, 59–61)
- 1950**, July — Armed Forces Special Weapons Project concludes a top secret study, named Project Nutmeg, to search for an atomic weapons site in the continental US. AFSWP concludes that a site on the Air Force’s Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range in Nevada is the right place. President [Truman](#) approves the location, known as Frenchman Flat. (Wikipedia, “[Sandia Base](#)”; “[Project Nutmeg: The Birth of the Nevada Test Site](#),” National Nuclear Security Administration, June 2004)
- 1950**, July — Mid-day. Electronics engineer Cliff Booth is having lunch in his office at a private contractor’s building at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, when he gets a call that a UFO has been reported by one of the range stations. Booth and an Askania cinetheodolite operator are asked to drive to another range station with a manually operated Askania and look for the object. Through the finders on the theodolite the object presents a side view to the observers and appears to be cigar-shaped and metallic, with a straw-colored iridescent radiance or luster. It also has fins one-third of the way back from the front of the fuselage and a row of at least three oblong ports extending to the rear of the object and located above the center line of the fuselage. The ports are a dark smoky gray but not luminescent. The object hovers in an almost horizontal position, elevation 20°–25°, azimuth northeast. Shortly after the men focus the instrument on the object to take a film, it begins maneuvering. Turning toward the camera, the object moves in, and the men can see the front—a round shape with the fins extending out from the sides. It then drops abruptly, as though beginning to fall, but stops. It moves toward the camera, turns sideways, then drops as before, but this time it exposes the side view again. The operator leaves to report the coordinates to headquarters, and when he returns the object is gone. The men turn over their exposed film to the Data Reduction Division for development and analysis. A week or so later they are called in and questioned by a young first lieutenant unknown to them who asks them over and over again if they have taken pictures and to describe the object they had seen. Then they are asked if they can identify the film of the object they photographed. One of the men becomes angry about the questioning, telling the officer he had seen what he reported, had photographed the object, and is convinced it is some sort of a vehicle from outer space. He is shown a film of 14 frames on a Recordak projector. The black-and-white presentation shows a blurred ellipsoid with a dark center, but no details. (Puzzled about the film, he later talks to a mathematician-analyst employed by Land-Air, Inc.; she conjectured the object had been oscillating in the air, preventing a stable image.) The men are then told by their

superiors to forget the whole thing. (Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, pp. 27–29; Project 1947, “[APRO Files: Coral E. Lorenzen, Holloman Air Force Base UFO Sighting, July, 1950](#)”)

- 1950, July — 1:45 p.m. A Civil Aviation Authority flight engineer observes a “wingless, fuselage-shaped” object maneuvering over Cincinnati, Ohio. The object climbs at a steep angle to 16,000–18,000 feet, hesitates, dives, and speeds away to the west. (UFOEv, p. 45)
- 1950, July 1–3 — The Hydra Club, a group of science fiction authors and editors, holds a New York Science Fiction Conference, with 300 attendees. They discuss the “rumpus that rocked the world of science fiction—the Shaver hoax,” and are skeptical of dianetics, Velikovsky, Atlantis, and reincarnation. However, [Fletcher Pratt](#) gives a talk on flying discs, arguing (perhaps facetiously) that they are from another planet. (Curt Collins, “[Crashed Flying Saucers and the Hydra Club](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, August 3, 2023)
- 1950, July 2 — Dusk. While picnicking on the shore of Sawbill Bay on Marmion Lake, western Ontario, an anonymous employee of the Steep Rock Iron Mine claims to have seen a UFO resting on the water’s surface. A hatch opens and 10 figures, 3–4 feet tall, emerge, wearing shiny, metallic clothing. They seem to be drawing in lake water with a hose. The object soon rises and hovers, then swiftly takes off. The story appears in the mine’s house newsletter, then gets picked up by some Canadian newspapers and *Fate* magazine in its February/March 1952 issue. However, Robert Badgley, a Scarborough, Ontario, member of APRO, finds in 1974 that Steep Rock employee Gordon Edwards had written the fictitious tale to entertain readers of the newsletter and to satirize saucer stories. (“‘Flying Saucer’ Lands on Lake Near Atikokan, ‘Letter’ Says,” *Port Arthur (Ont.) News Chronicle*, September 18, 1950, pp. 1–2; “[Steep Rock Flying Saucer](#),” *Fate* 5, no. 2 (February–March 1952): 68–72; “[1950 Steep Rock Lake, Ontario Case Possible Hoax](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 26, no. 5 (November 1977): 5; John Robert Colombo, *Mysterious Canada*, Doubleday Canada, 1988, pp. 231–232; John Robert Colombo, *UFOs over Canada*, Hounslow, 1991, pp. 32–41; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), January 31, 2007; Clark III 595; Hammerson Peters, “[The Little Green Men of Steep Rock Lake](#),” *Mysteries of Canada*, September 7, 2018; Clark IV 655)
- 1950, July 4 — Evening. Aerojet engineer [Daniel Fry](#) is alone during the holiday at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, when a flying saucer appears and hovers just above the ground. Fry approaches and strokes its surface when a voice booms, “Better not touch the hull, pal, it’s still hot.” After some conversation with the disembodied extraterrestrial named Alan, he is invited on board the craft, which flies him to New York and back in 30 minutes. Alan is originally from Lemuria, but his people moved to Mars, and now they are back to help with scientific progress and end wars. Fry has further encounters and becomes a celebrity on the contactee circuit. He finally meets Alan in person in 1961. (Daniel Fry, [The White Sands Incident](#), New Age, 1954; Daniel Fry, *Alan’s Message: To Men of Earth*, New Age, 1954; Bryant and Helen Reeve, *Flying Saucer Pilgrimage*, Amherst Press, 1957, pp. 104–110; Clark III 518–520; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 132–133; Clark IV 567–569)
- 1950, July 6 — A memo by Lt. Col. F. D. McGarrachy, USAF chief of General Investigations Division, expresses strong interest to acquire motion pictures of UFOs taken by civilians, perhaps in cooperation with the FBI, but not in a way to arouse public suspicion of USAF interest. (*Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 54–56)
- 1950, July 7 — Gen. [Cabell](#), through his aide Col. Barber, sends a notice to AMC Intelligence Chief Col. [Harold E. Watson](#), that despite the official closing of Project Grudge, the Air Force still desires to receive UFO reports and take them seriously. Project Grudge begins to be reactivated as Project 10073. ([Sparks](#), p. 12; Swords 101–102, 498–499)
- 1950, July 8 — 2:00 p.m. Three US Coast Guardsmen are in Peril Strait off Chichagof Island, Alaska, when they notice a white barbell-shaped object moving overhead to the west. It appears to be banking and climbing as it maintains its course. They estimate it is 100 feet long by 60 feet high and moving at 350 mph. They have it in sight for two and a half minutes. (Powell, *Scientist*, 50–51)
- 1950, July 11 — Two Navy aircraft crews from NAS Millington [now Naval Support Activity Mid-South] in Tennessee, across the Mississippi River from Osceola, Arkansas, see a domed disc pass in front of them. Airborne radar confirms it. The object first appears as a round ball; after it crosses their flight path, it appears like an upside-down shallow bowl. (NICAP, “[Air, Radar/Visual over Arkansas](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 93; “[Millington Men Report Seeing ‘Flying Saucer’ and Tracing It](#),” *Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal*, July 12, 1950, p. 1; “[Navy Pilots Claim They Tracked ‘Flying Saucer’ On Radar Scope](#),” *Anniston (Ala.) Star*, July 12, 1950, p. 2)
- 1950, July 18 — [Bruce Bliven](#) summarizes flying saucer news in a *Look* magazine article. (Bruce Bliven, “[Flying Saucers: Myth or Menace?](#)” *Look*, July 18, 1950, pp. 12–18)
- 1950, July 19 — A memo by Col. [Bruno W. Feiling](#), chief of the USAF Technical Analysis Division, on “Investigation of Flying Saucer Reports” says that UFO investigation takes up too much time. (*Hynek UFO Report*, p. 57)
- 1950, August — Engineer [Eric A. Walker](#) becomes executive secretary of the Research and Development Board. He later refers to a real group called MJ-12 and admits attending meetings at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio concerning

“recovered UFOs.” (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, “[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 11)

- 1950, August — [Keyhoe](#)’s article on the Adickes case of April 27, “Flight 117 and the Flying Saucer,” appears in *True* magazine. (Donald E. Keyhoe, “[Flight 117 and the Flying Saucer](#),” *True*, August 1950, pp. 24–25, 75–79)
- 1950, August — 2:00 p.m. Hugh O’Neill views a cigar-shaped object hovering silently about 2–5 miles off the Big Sur coast at Anderson Creek, California, at an elevation of 500–1,000 feet. It moves swiftly away to the south, then returns less than 2 minutes later and slowly circles above the ocean twice for 90 seconds, disappearing again to the south. (Henry Miller, *Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*, New Directions, 1957, p. 75; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs a History: 1950 August–December, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 3)
- 1950, August 4 — A memo from Army Maj. [Ulysses Grant Carlan](#) states that UFOs since July 30 have been seen at the Hanford Site in Washington State. They are above 15,000 feet. Jets attempting interception fail. The AEC says that the investigation is continuing. (Maj. U. G. Carlan, “[Flying Discs](#),” August 4, 1950; Good Above, pp. 267, 485; Nukes 46; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950](#), The Author, 1990, p. 71)
- 1950, August 4 — The crew (Master Nils Lewring, Chief Mate Jacob Koelwyn) of the [M/V Marcala](#) in the North Atlantic between Nova Scotia and the US Eastern seaboard watch an aluminum-colored cylinder-shaped UFO, apparently 10 feet in diameter, 50–100 feet above the surface. It initially moves 25 mph, makes no noise, wobbles slightly, disappears over the horizon, then reappears. The ship’s captain watches the object through binoculars for 90 seconds. One of the other witnesses describes the sighting as “one of the most frightening experiences I have ever had.” (NICAP, “[Object 100’ above Sea Observed by Ship MV Marcala](#)”; Central Intelligence Agency, “[Unidentified Airborne Object](#),” August 4, 1950; “[Ship Officers, Crew Report Seeing Flying Saucer in Area](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Journal–Every Evening*, August 7, 1950, p. 9; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 7, August–December 1950](#), The Author, 1982, pp. 1–3; ClearIntent, pp. 115–116; Good Above, pp. 340–341; Dolan, USO1, 139–141)
- 1950, August 12 — 1:30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Oliver are at the state forestry lookout tower on Round Top Mountain north of Medford, Oregon, when they see two UFOs, one disc-shaped, the other oblong. They are about 100 feet apart, and the oblong one is tumbling in the air end over end. (“[Lookouts Report Seeing ‘Saucers’ North of Medford](#),” *Medford (Oreg.) Mail-Tribune*, August 17, 1950, p. 9)
- 1950, August 14 — 11:27 a.m. Flight Lt. [Stan J. Hubbard](#) and two other officers at Farnborough Airfield, Hampshire, England, hear a humming noise. Hubbard looks up and sees a flat gray disc, about 100 feet in diameter, at an altitude of 700–1,000 feet. He watches it for 30 seconds as it flies at a speed of 800–1,000 mph and makes a series of S-turns, oscillating as it moves. The other two officers see nothing. (Good Need, pp. 149–151; David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 87–93; UFOFiles2, pp. 40–42; David Clarke, “[Flying Saucer Working Party](#),” Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015; David Clarke, “Phantoms of the Sky,” *Fortean Times* 445 (June 2024): 28, 30–31, 33)
- 1950, August 15 — 11:30 a.m. [Nicholas Mariana](#) and his secretary Virginia Raunig are inspecting the Great Falls, Montana, baseball stadium in preparation for a game. He walks up to the grandstand and notices two fast-moving bright lights “like two new dimes in the sky.” He rushes to his car, parked 60 feet away, and gets his 16mm movie camera from the glove compartment. He films the objects passing behind a water tower, which provides a frame of reference for measuring distance, size, altitude, azimuth, and speed. In October he takes it to an Air Force officer for analysis. USAF notes that two jet interceptors were in the area and might be the objects on the film, but Mariana and Raunig had seen those too. Controversy soon arises when Mariana claims that the first 35 frames of his film—which he says most clearly show the UFOs as rotating disks—are missing. People in the Great Falls area who view Mariana’s film support him. They claim that the missing frames clearly show the UFOs as spinning, metallic disks with a “notch or band” along their outer edges. USAF personnel deny this accusation and insist that they have removed only a single frame of film that was damaged in the analysis. In 1952, Blue Book reviews the film; so does [Robert M. L. Baker Jr.](#) in 1954, and the Colorado project in 1967. All studies of the film agree that it was not faked and that the objects appear to be disc-shaped. (Wikipedia, “[Mariana UFO incident](#)”; NICAP, “[Nick Mariana / Montana UFO Color Film](#)”; “[Air Force Takes over Films of Flying Discs](#),” *Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle*, October 5, 1950, p. 8; “[Colored Films on Saucers to Be Shown](#),” *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News*, October 19, 1950, p. 17; UFOs Yes, 81–108; Condon, pp. 407–415; Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, pp. 127–128; James R. Leming, “[Montana Movie](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 223 (November 1986): 10–11, 17–18; Barry Greenwood, “[On the Question of Tampering with the 1950 Great Falls UFO Film](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 7 (September 2000): 1–8; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 138–139; Michael D. Swords, “[Can You Learn Anything from UFO Photos? Part Three](#),” The Big Study, July 7, 2012; “[Nick Mariana UFO Footage](#)

[1950 Great Falls Montana](#),” parkerdonaldmusic YouTube channel, September 29, 2012; Clark III 767–769; Patrick Gross, “[The Great Falls, Montana, UFO Color Film, August 15, 1950](#)”; Clark IV 848–850)

- 1950**, August 15 — A top secret meeting on UFOs takes place at the Metropole Building on Northumberland Avenue in London, England. It is chaired by Hugh Young, deputy director of intelligence, and attended by representatives of the Secret Intelligence Service and Wing Commander [Myles Formby](#) of the Air Ministry’s technical intelligence branch. Young explains that [Henry Tizard](#), chief scientific advisor to the Ministry of Defence, feels that reports of flying saucers should not be dismissed without investigation and has asked that a working party be set up to look into significant reports. RAF Fighter Command is advised that all future reports of aerial phenomena should go to the Flying Saucer Working Party. (David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 77–78; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: January 1, 1947–December 31, 1959, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2003, p. 35; David Clarke, “[Flying Saucer Working Party](#),” Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015)
- 1950**, August 20 — An FBI informant meets with [George Adamski](#) at Alice Wells’s restaurant, the Palomar Gardens Café, south of Mount Palomar, California. In addition to the standard flying saucer tales, Adamski mentions that the Federal Communications Commission has established contact with people from other planets who apparently have a communist economic system. He also predicts that Russia will dominate the world for the next 1,000 years. (Kremlin 63–71)
- 1950**, August 23 — FBI memo from [Alan H. Belmont](#) to [D. Milton Ladd](#) on green fireballs. The memo states that from 1948 to 1950, a variety of phenomena were witnessed more than 150 times by numerous individuals, many of whom were considered credible by government investigators, in the vicinity of Sandia and Los Alamos in New Mexico. The sightings included “flying discs” emitting “brilliant white light” as well as numerous sightings of “green fireballs” flying horizontally over the sensitive facilities. The memo also indicates that according to a “meteor expert” at the University of New Mexico—[Lincoln LaPaz](#), director of the university’s Institute of Meteoritics—“the phenomena do not appear to be of meteoric origin.” LaPaz hypothesized that the strange sightings were probably a type of secret Soviet surveillance technology. (A. H. Belmont, “[Summary of Aerial Phenomena in New Mexico, Miscellaneous—Information Concerning](#),” August 23, 1950; ClearIntent, [pp. 167–168](#))
- 1950**, August 30 — 10:45 a.m. During a Bell Aircraft MX-776 Shrike missile test (for the later Rascal air-to-ground strategic missile) a USAF M/Sgt and eight Bell Aircraft employees at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, see two glaringly bright circular or elliptical objects maintaining relative position to each other following the B-50 Superfortress launch aircraft from above on both the dry run and hot run prior to missile release. The objects give a “strong glare at all times” (not reflected sunlight), maneuver at high estimated speeds up to 10 times the B-50 (roughly 2,500 mph) for short distances, leave no vapor trails, hover, accelerate rapidly, and make abrupt “square” turns with apparent size changing to indicate ascent and descent. (NICAP, “[Two Objects Filmed during Shrike Missile Test](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 98; Maj. R. G. Illing, “[Aerial Phenomena](#),” September 13, 1950; Swords 115; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1950**, August 31 — 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. After V-2 missile launch no. 51 at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Project Twinkle cinetheodolite crews track and film multiple objects sporadically several times from different directions at very high speeds over the course of 3 hours. Cinetheodolite station P-5 films an object using a one-frame-per-second 60 cm focal length camera with 35 mm color film. Frames 593 and 595 (2 seconds of nearly 10 minutes of film) show its elevation angle changing. An attempted interception by four F-86 jets from Kirtland AFB for one hour fails to locate the objects, which apparently return after the jets leave. Cinetheodolite observers note an object with definite shape and 3D depth but indistinct edges and no smoke or trail. The object seems to “rock or oscillate.” It is lost when the observer looks away to get an angle reading. (NICAP, “[Objects Filmed after V-2 Launch](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 99; Clark III 544; Clark IV 602)
- 1950**, September — 7:00 a.m. Three US Navy planes on a combat mission 100 miles south of the Yalu River in Korea are approached from below by two huge discs, at least 600–700 feet in diameter, traveling at 1,000–1,200 mph. The radar shows them as 1.5 miles away. Suddenly the objects halt, back up, and begin a jittering motion, keeping pace with them, circling above and below. When one pilot readies his guns, the aircraft radar goes haywire, apparently jammed. His radio transmitter is blocked by a buzzing noise. The discs are silvery and shaped like a “coolie’s hat, with oblong ports from which emanated a copper-green colored light which gradually shifted to pale pastel-colored lights.” A shimmering red ring circles the top portion of the disc. The objects soon speed away in the direction from which they had come. (Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [pp. 30–32](#); Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 28–30](#); Powell, *Scientist*, 85)

- 1950, September** — The first US Army large-scale aerosol vulnerability test occurs in the San Francisco Bay Area, California, using two types of bacteria (*Bacillus globigii* and *Serratia marcescens*) and fluorescent particles. Six simulated attacks are conducted, with the conclusion that it is feasible to attack a seaport city with biological aerosol agents from a ship offshore. The first open-air tests with biological simulants are conducted in 1950 in various locales, one of which is off the coast of Norfolk, Virginia. (Wikipedia, "[United States biological weapons program](#)"; David R. Franz, Cheryl D. Parrott, and Ernest T. Takafuji, "[The U.S. Biological Warfare and Biological Defense Programs](#)," in *Medical Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare*, Office of the US Surgeon General, 1997, chap. 19)
- 1950, September** — [George Adamski](#) first receives national exposure as coauthor of an article in *Fate* on his fake UFO photographs. A follow-up article in July 1951 features even more dramatic photos. (Maurice Weekley and George Adamski, "Flying Saucers As Astronomers See Them," *Fate* 3, no. 6 (September 1950): 56–59; George Adamski, "I Photographed Space Ships," *Fate* 4, no. 5 (July 1951): 64–74; George Noory, "[Fate Flashback: 'Flying Saucers' in the 1950's](#)," Coast to Coast AM, August 18, 2016; Clark III 39; Clark IV 57)
- 1950, September 5** — 4:09 p.m. Flight Lt. [Stan J. Hubbard](#) is standing on the watchtower at Farnborough Airfield, Hampshire, England, with five other officers, one of whom is Wing Commander Frank Jolliffe. They all see, at a range of 10–15 miles, a light gray disc following a rectangular flight path, consisting of a "falling leaf, horizontal flight, an upward "falling leaf," then another horizontal stretch. The Working Party concludes they have imperfectly viewed some conventional aircraft. (David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 87–93; Good Need, [pp. 150–151](#); UFOFiles2, [p. 41](#); David Clarke, "[Flying Saucer Working Party](#)," Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015)
- 1950, September 8** — Henry Holt publishes [Frank Scully](#)'s *Behind the Flying Saucers*, the second book specifically devoted to UFOs. It sensationally claims that the US government has retrieved a crashed flying saucer and several dead pilots. Rep. [Edward H. Jenison](#) (R-Ill.) condemns the book as contributing to mass hysteria during a time of war in Korea. USAF Public Information Officer Clare Welch estimates that 3–4 million people have heard about saucers, thanks to the book. (Frank Scully, *Behind the Flying Saucers*, Holt, 1950; John L. Cotton, et al., "[Flying Saucers and Frank Scully](#)," in KNW 2333: The Scientific Method, Critical and Creative Thinking (Debunking Pseudoscience), Southern Methodist University; Robert Sheaffer, "[The Frank Scully 'Crashed Saucer at Aztec' Hoax \(1950\)](#)," The Debunker's Domain; Swords 103; Curt Collins, "[Operation Hush-Hush: The UFO Crash and ET Bodies Cover-Up](#)," The Saucers That Time Forgot, February 9, 2018; Clark III 458–459; Graff 64–65; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 62–65; Clark IV 504)
- 1950, September 8** — Air Force Intelligence Collection Division's Collection Control Branch (AFOIN-CC-1) at the Pentagon issues a new intelligence reporting directive requiring special handling and reporting of UFO incidents, "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft," thus reversing the cancellation directive of January 12, 1950. The action reflects the increasing interest by AFOIN Director Gen. [Cabell](#) and his dissatisfaction with AMC inaction on UFO study at Wright-Patterson AFB. (NICAP, "[1950 UFO Chronology](#)")
- 1950, September 13** — The Air Force responds to producer [Howard Hawks](#)'s request for the use of military locations, personnel, and equipment for his upcoming film *The Thing from Another World* by refusing to participate and objecting to any display of USAF personnel or equipment on the grounds that "it is our policy not to participate in any proposal that will perpetuate this hoax." (Swords 103–104)
- 1950, September 15** — Afternoon. Jack Spencer and four other senior test flight personnel at Farnborough Airfield, Hampshire, England, are on the roof of the flight control building when they see a flat disc about 10 miles to the south. The object goes from a fluttering, hovering position to a slight dive at high speed. The sequence is repeated several times, with some changes in height. The disc follows a rectangular flight path, consisting of a "falling leaf" motion, fast horizontal motion, an upward falling leaf, and another horizontal stretch. Finally it speeds away toward the horizon and vanishes. (David Clarke, "Phantoms of the Sky," *Fortean Times* 445 (June 2024): 28, 33–34)
- 1950, September 15** — Canadian engineer [Wilbert B. Smith](#) attends a classified briefing with physicist [Robert I. Sarbacher](#) of the US Defense Dept.'s Research and Development Board. Smith asks if there is any truth to the [Scully](#) crash-and-retrieval story and [Sarbacher](#) replies, "The facts reported in the book are substantially correct." He says that UFOs are "classified two points higher even than the H-bomb." In 1983, Sarbacher confirms the comment to [Stanton T. Friedman](#), although he clarifies that he was speaking about crashed UFOs in general. He tells UFO researcher [William Steinman](#) in November 1983 that he "was invited to participate in several discussions associated with the reported recoveries" of UFOs, but is unable to attend the meetings. He claims [Vannevar Bush](#), [Eric A. Walker](#), and [John von Neumann](#) are "definitely involved" in the program and probably [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#) as well. (Wilbert B. Smith, [[Sarbacher interview notes](#)], September 15, 1950; Good Above, [pp. 519–521](#); Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study, "[Dr. Robert Sarbacher](#)," March 1, 2010; Robert I.

Sarbacher, [[Letter to William Steinman](#)], November 29, 1983; Dolan II 320; Clark III 322, 1029–1031, 1078; Clark IV 358–359, 1144–1147, 1194)

- 1950, September 21 — MIT research associate and Air National Guard Maj. [Myron Herbert Ligda](#) and [Joseph V. Connelly](#) are testing radar near Provincetown, Massachusetts, under contract to the US Signal Corps, when they track an unknown object on a converging course with two F-86s. The clear target passes the planes at a speed of at least 1,200 mph, makes a right turn, then passes directly over or under the F-86s. (NICAP, “[SCR-615B Tracks UFO](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 100; [Hynek UFO Report](#), pp. 139–141; Martin Shough, [RADCAT: Radar Catalogue: A Review of Twenty-One Ground and Airborne Radar UAP Contact Reports Generally Related to Aviation Safety for the Period October 15, 1948, to September 19, 1976](#), National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, NARCAP Report TR-6, December 8, 2002, pp. 21–24; Swords 104)
- 1950, September 25 — JANAP 146(A) is issued: “Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Aircraft,” the start of CIRVIS reporting for commercial and military pilots. This adds UFOs to the list of sighting categories. All UFO reports are to be sent to the Air Defense Command at the Pentagon and to the Secretary of Defense. AMC at Wright-Patterson is not mentioned. (Antonio F. Rullán, “[Blue Book UFO Reports at Sea by Ships: Analysis of the Blue Book Ship Database](#),” December 10, 2002, pp. 8–9; Swords 123)
- 1950, September 25 — The Air Force Intelligence office, apparently at the request of Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#), orders all copies of the December 10, 1948, revised Project Sign report destroyed. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1950 August–December, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 35–36; Good Need, p. 114)
- 1950, September 26 — 10:00 p.m. Policemen John Collins and Joseph Keenan are patrolling on Vare Avenue near 26th Street in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, when they see something like a parachute drifting down ahead of them at treetop level. It is about 6 feet in diameter and settles in an open field. After summoning Sgt. Joseph Cook and Patrolman James Casper, they go into the field to investigate. When they turn their flashlights on it, it gives off a purplish glow, “almost a mist, that looked as though it contained crystals.” Collins touches it and it dissolves in his hand, leaving an odorless, sticky residue. It completely evaporates in 25 minutes. This event inspires producer [Jack H. Harris](#) to ask his friend Irvine H. Millgate to come up with a story for what eventually becomes the 1958 horror film *The Blob*. (“[Flying ‘Saucer’ Just Dissolves](#),” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 27, 1950, pp. 1–2; “[Sticky Purple Light](#),” *Fate* 4, no. 8 (Nov./Dec. 1951): 35; Frank Edwards, *Strange World*, Ace, 1964, pp. 212–213; Vincent Gaddis, *Mysterious Fires and Lights*, David McKay, 1967, p. 42; Bruce S. Maccabee, “[UFO Related Information from the FBI File, Part 7](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 132 (Nov./Dec. 1978): 11, 14–15; Rebekah McKendry, “[The Supposedly True Story behind the Classic Film The Blob!](#)” 13th Floor, October 21, 2015; Clark III 1102; Jake Rossen, “[The Real-Life Creepy Blob That Inspired The Blob](#),” Mental Floss, May 5, 2021; Clark IV 1228)
- 1950, October — [\[Jack?\] L. Rohn](#) is named a chief of Project Grudge. ([Sparks](#), p. 14; Clark III 937; Clark IV 1047)
- 1950, October — The Flying Saucer Working Party is created in the UK by Ministry of Defence Chief Science Adviser [Henry Tizard](#), assisted by [Louis Mountbatten](#) and Air Chief Marshal [Hugh Dowding](#), both who have quietly concluded that flying saucers are real. It has five members, representing UK intelligence branches. Its charge is to study UFO reports. (Wikipedia, “[Flying Saucer Working Party](#)”; Mark Rodeghier, “[Britain’s Secret UFO Study](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 21–23)
- 1950, October 3 — Geochemist J. D. Lauder milk watches a disc moving with a wobbling motion at 750 mph behind a mountain peak near Pomona, California. (UFOEv, p. 49)
- 1950, October 5 — A California Central Airlines plane, piloted by Capt. Cecil Hardin and Flight Officer Jack Conroy, is buzzed by a wing-like UFO with 8 bright lights between San Fernando and Van Nuys, California. Bands of blue light are visible across its width. (NICAP, “[Mysterious Object Buzzes Airliner](#)”; “[Now Add This to Saucer Mysteries](#),” *Los Angeles Daily News*, October 6, 1950, p. 2; UFOEv, p. 34)
- 1950, October 7 — [Walter Bedell Smith](#) takes over as director of central intelligence.
- 1950, October 9 — Agent [D. Milton \(“Mickey”\) Ladd](#) writes to FBI Director [J. Edgar Hoover](#), informing him that the Bureau liaison learned that investigations into aerial phenomena are being conducted by the US Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. The investigation has not found evidence that the sightings involve spaceships or missiles from other planets or countries. OSI also notes that the complaints they receive show no clear pattern of activity. They assure the Bureau that they are closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates if any relevant information arises. (Memo from D. M. Ladd to [J. Edgar Hoover], “[Flying Saucers, Flying Discs, Green Fireballs](#),” October 9, 1950)
- 1950, October 12 — *The Oak Ridger* columnist [Robert Sharon Allen](#) reports that the Atomic Energy Commission Security Service has issued a questionnaire to be used when UFOs are reported at its installations. (Robert S.

Allen, "AEC Wants Info on Flying Saucers Seen near A-Plants," *The Oak Ridger*, October 12, 1950; Project 1947, "[Robert S. Allen Introduction](#)")

- 1950**, October 12–December 30 — Some 15 radar and visual sightings of UFOs take place over restricted airspace at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. After the observation on October 23, an unexplained increase in alpha-beta background radiation is detected; after the November 29 sighting, an alpha and gamma ray increase is correlated with unidentified radar targets in the area. (NICAP, "[Huge Saucer over K-25 Area](#)"; [Sparks](#), pp. 100–102; Memo from Strategic Air Command Knoxville to Director of FBI, "'Flying Saucers' Observed over Oak Ridge Area," October 25, 1950; "[Saucers Bob Up Again in Reports](#)," *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal*, October 26, 1950, pp. 1, 9; J. Edgar Hoover, [[teletype in response](#)], December 5, 1950; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 142–143; ClearIntent, pp. 171–173; Bruce S. Maccabee, "[NCP-14: Saucers over Oak Ridge](#)," from *UFO–FBI Connection*, Llewellyn, 2000, pp. 163–181; Francis Ridge, "[The Oak Ridge Sightings including All the Tennessee Blue Book Unknowns](#)," September 22, 2005; Swords 106–107; Clark III 950; Clark IV 1064)
- 1950**, October 12 — 11:25 p.m. A military radar unit at Knoxville (Tenn.) Airport suddenly detects 11 "and possibly more" unidentified targets moving over the restricted flight zone at Oak Ridge. At 11:30, the radar station commander scrambles an F-82 fighter, which is airborne nine minutes later. The fighter is directed toward two targets, but the pilot sees nothing. Ground observations also fail to detect anything in the sky. (NICAP, "[Military Radar at Knoxville Tracks Eleven Objects](#)"; Memo from Strategic Air Command Knoxville to Director of FBI, "'Flying Saucers' Observed over Oak Ridge Area," October 25, 1950; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 7, August–December 1950*, The Author, 1982, p. 35)
- 1950**, October 13 — [J. Edgar Hoover](#) sends a teletype message to the Special Agent in Charge in Los Angeles, California, asking him to determine whether [Frank Scully](#) is the same man who has been active in communist activities since the 1930s. (Anthony Braglia, "[J. Edgar Hoover's Saucer Crash Secrets](#)," *UFO Explorations*, April 2011)
- 1950**, October 15 — 4:20 p.m. After taking off from Raleigh, North Carolina, Miami Airlines DC-4 pilot Capt. George A. Woodward and copilot William Bardsley see four round, metallic objects descending slowly near Pope AFB [now Pope Field] at Fort Bragg. They look like two saucers fitted together and are about 100 feet in diameter, flying in a line about 25 feet apart. The pilots pursue the objects for about 3 minutes, but the objects recede then shoot away at tremendous speed. Around the same time, a similar object crosses the path of an Air Force jet near Pope AFB. (NICAP, "[Pilots Report 100-Ft Round Objects](#)"; NICAP, "[Aluminum-Like Object Crosses Path of Jet](#)")
- 1950**, October 18 — USAF Brig. Gen. [Ernest Moore](#) writes a memo to Col. [Harold E. Watson](#) at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, advising him of the standing policy of releasing no details about UFO case investigations. A form letter is to be used: "We have investigated and evaluated _____ incident and have found nothing of value and nothing which would change our previous estimates on this subject." (Swords 102–103, 500; Powell, *Scientist*, 112–113)
- 1950**, October 23 — 4:30 p.m. Francis Miller, an employee at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is driving along a road when he sees an object less than half a mile away and between 1,000 and 2,000 feet up. It appears as an "aluminum flash" traveling in a south-southeast direction. He only sees it for a few seconds. Later it is discovered that a Geiger counter in the vicinity has registered a burst of alpha and beta radiation, although there is no known leakage of radiation from the facility. An expert from the Health and Research Division analyzed the readings from the Geiger counter and pronounced them unexplained. (NICAP, "[Lab Employee Sees 'the Flying Saucer' / Radiation Detected](#)"; Clark III 950; Clark IV 1064)
- 1950**, October 24 — 6:23 p.m. An unidentified target appears on radar at Knoxville (Tenn.) Airport, flying in restricted air space above Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A fighter jet is scrambled to the area but fails to see anything, and the target disappears at 7:20 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., a flying object appears at an altitude of 5,000 in approximately the same location in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, as the previous day's sighting. (NICAP, "[Asst Security Chief UFO / Knoxville Tracks](#)"; Clark III 950; Clark IV 1064)
- 1950**, October 25 — Republic Studios releases a 12-part serial, *Flying Disc Man from Mars*, the first alien-invasion movie. Mota from Mars tells scientist Dr. Bryant: "Ever since you people started working with atomic power and explosives, we have been watching you closely. We keep large atomic-powered patrol ships permanently stationed just outside your field of gravity and we make our closer inspection in small flying discs such as the one I was flying when you had me shot down." (Internet Movie Database, "[Flying Disc Man from Mars](#)"; Curt Collins, "[The First Flying Saucer Invasion Movie](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, June 8, 2023)
- 1950**, November 2 — 6:20 p.m. [Harold T. Wilkins](#) sees a yellow luminous ball moving silently in the south at an altitude of 2,500 feet on a level trajectory from a house in Bexleyheath, Kent, England. It disappears into a belt of cumulus clouds near the zenith. (Harold T. Wilkins, "[The Strange Mystery of the Foo Fighters](#)," *Fate* 4, no. 6 (Aug./Sept. 1951): 98–106)

- 1950**, November 5 — Four Pan American Airways employees (Fred Wilkinson, Patrick Joseph Maloney, Fred Perrior, and E. Newman) see a bright object fly east to west over Heathrow Airport, London, at 1,000 mph. (“Was It a Flying Saucer over London?” London *Sunday Dispatch*, November 12, 1950, p. 1; “Saucers over England,” *Fate* 4, no. 2 (March 1951): 18)
- 1950**, November 7 — A military pilot flying a Douglas AD-4Q Skyraider near Lakehurst, New Jersey, engages in a dogfight with a steady white light that he at first mistakes for an aircraft. He gets on its tail, then the light reverses suddenly and passes 100–200 feet above his plane at incredible speed. He again tails it and the same thing happens. The light continues to “turn about me in wide, climbing turns, making about two orbits to my one.” He abandons chase at 11,500 feet. (NICAP, “[Light Makes 5–6 Head On Passes at Navy Plane](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 102; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 68–70)
- 1950**, November 9 — The destroyer [USS Blue](#), based in San Diego, makes radar contact with an unidentified vessel, possibly a submarine, off the coast of southern California. (“[Navy’s ‘Mysterious Object’ Regarded As Possible Sub](#),” *Escondido (Calif.) Daily Times-Advocate*, November 10, 1950, p. 1; Dolan, USO1, 136–137)
- 1950**, November 10 — Col. [Harold E. Watson](#) at AMC brings in the press, including news columnist [Bob Considine](#), for an in-depth interview on flying saucers. Watson says: “I’ve seen lots of flying saucers...and every single saucer turned out to be the sun shining off the wing or body of a distant DC-4, or jet, or a weather balloon, or it was a reflection off a water-tank or something else that is readily explainable.” He characterizes witnesses as crackpots, religious fanatics, publicity hounds, or practical jokers. Considine asks him about airline pilot witnesses. Watson accuses them of being fooled by optical tricks and the power of suggestion. (“[Flying Saucers Simply Don’t Exist, Says Chief Air Force Investigator](#),” *Honolulu (Hawaii) Star-Bulletin*, November 10, 1950, p. 18; Bob Considine, “[Gagsters Keep Air Force Busy Trailing Their Tips](#),” *Lima (Ohio) News*, November 16, 1950, p. 13; Swords 107–108)
- 1950**, November 17 — Telenews Productions releases a 9½-minute short film, *The Flying Saucer Mystery*, apparently the first UFO documentary. The film’s main focus is on the best new evidence of 1950, the alleged first authentic photographs and motion picture film of flying saucers, the two snapshots by farmer [Paul Trent](#), and the film shot by *Louisville (Ky.) Times* photographer Al Hixenbaugh on June 27, 1950. It also features UFO witness [Arthur Weisberger](#) of Tucson, Arizona, describing his sighting, apparently the only record of the event, as well as [Donald E. Keyhoe](#) and Admiral [Calvin M. Bolster](#). The film is apparently only shown for a few months and rotates among the Telenews Theaters across the nation. It is lost for decades until it resurfaces in the 1990s. (“[Flying Saucer Mystery](#),” historycomestolife YouTube channel, July 3, 2010; Curt Collins, “[The First UFO Documentary: The Flying Saucer Mystery](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, January 9, 2020; “[The First UFO Documentary: The Flying Saucer Mystery](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 5, 2023)
- 1950**, November 21 — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) writes a top secret memo to the Canadian Controller of Telecommunications claiming that he has talked to Canadian embassy staff in Washington, D.C., who tell him that the UFOs are the “most highly classified subject in the US government” (what [Robert I. Sarbacher](#) told him) and that a “concerted effort is being made by a small group headed by Dr. [Vannevar Bush](#).” Sarbacher later verifies the information, saying the small group existed within the Research and Development Board. (W. B. Smith, “[Memorandum to the Controller of Telecommunications](#),” November 21, 1950; NICAP, “[The Smith Memo, November 21, 1950](#)”; Good Above, pp. 183, 464–466; Grant Robert Cameron, “[Smith/Sarbacher Clarifications](#),” *UFO UpDates*, February 10, 1997; Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, “[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 10–11; Grant Cameron and T. Scott Crain Jr., *UFOs, Area 51, and Government Informants*, Itallconnected, 2021, [chapter 2](#))
- 1950**, November 26–27 — 11:50 p.m. A “mysterious lighted object” flashing red, white, and green lights is seen above Huron (South Dakota) Regional Airport. Weather Bureau observer Gene Fowler, [Winfield Henry](#) of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, and Gordon Moore and Chet Fuqua, ground personnel at Western Airlines, go up to the roof of the airport administration building for a better look. Fowler is able to watch it through a theodolite used for weather balloons for 8 minutes. He says, “The azimuth reading changed from 147 degrees to 161 degrees during that period and went up seven degrees vertically.” The Rapid City weather bureau and Aberdeen CAA in South Dakota estimate the object is 40–50 miles northwest of Bismarck, North Dakota. The object reappears at 1:30 a.m. and is visible, sometimes hovering, until 3:00 a.m. when it disappears to the northwest. In Aberdeen, CAA aircraft communicator William B. Hiller sees a star-like object at 2:00 a.m. and watches it for 90 minutes. It changes colors, glowing white, green, and red alternately. (“[Mysterious Sight May Be ‘Saucer](#),” *Rapid City (S.Dak.) Journal*, November 27, 1950, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 7, August–December 1950](#), The Author, 1982, pp. 59–60)

- 1950**, November 27 — [Bill Blair](#), a commercial pilot and flight instructor, watches six elliptical objects in loose echelon formation over Evansville, Wisconsin. They are making noises like a helicopter and are flying at 500 mph at 10,000 feet. (UFOEv, [p. 34](#))
- 1950**, November 29 — 5:55 p.m. Numerous unidentified targets appear on the radar scope at the 662nd AW Radar Detachment at McGhee Tyson Airport, Alcoa, Tennessee. The targets are above the restricted area at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A fighter aircraft is scrambled, but reports no visual contact. Most of the targets are visible on the radar scope for 2–3 hours. At 7:00 p.m., the graph record of a Geiger counter at Oak Ridge indicates an unaccountable rise in alpha particles and a slight rise in gamma radiation at the same time. The AEC advises that there are no known “argon releases” at the facility. (NICAP, “[Radar Tracks UFOs over Oak Ridge](#)”; Clark III 950; Clark IV 1064)
- 1950**, November 30 — 1:51 p.m. A single unidentified target appeared on Knoxville, Tennessee, radar scopes ranging 12–21 miles west to northwest of the station, disappearing at 2:05 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., numerous unaccountable targets appear on radar. They are so numerous they cannot be counted or plotted, and they remain visible until approximately 11:30 p.m. or 12:00 midnight. At least nine highly qualified persons witness the radar blips. (NICAP, “[Radar Tracks UFOs over Oak Ridge](#)”; Clark III 950; Clark IV 1064)
- 1950**, December — The US seaplane tender [USS Gardiners Bay](#) is steaming up the channel from Incheon, South Korea, when the crew sees two mysterious, smoke-trailing objects that strike the water at tremendous speed. Two columns of water rise to 100 feet in height. No aircraft are sighted overhead. (“[Sighting Flying Discs Again?](#)” *Naval Aviation News* 32, no. 2 (February 1951): 26; Sanderson, InvRes, [p. 43](#); Dolan, USO1, 141)
- 1950**, December — Science writer [Gerald Heard](#) publishes *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers* in the UK, in which he speculates that with conditions on Mars being severe, the only intelligent beings that can exist there would be advanced insects. A US edition is published in April 1951 as *Is Another World Watching? The Riddle of the Flying Saucers*. (Gerald Heard, [The Riddle of the Flying Saucers](#), Carroll and Nicholson, 1950; Lyle Zapato, “[Of Bees and Men: The Riddle of the Flying Saucers](#),” ZPi blog, January 27, 2015; Clark III 459; Graff 65; Clark IV 504–505)
- 1950**, December 2 — Cmdr. [Charles Peter Edwards](#), Canadian Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, approves [Wilbert B. Smith](#)’s proposed plan to use the Department of Transport lab and field facilities during off-hours to gather quality UFO data. It is called Project Magnet. (“[What Was the Truth about Project Magnet?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 10, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1964): 29; Stuart Nixon, “[W. B. Smith: The Man behind Project Magnet](#),” *UFO Quarterly Review* 1, no. 1 (Jan./Mar. 1973): 2–17; Good Above, [pp. 183–184](#); “[Project Magnet – Wilbert B. Smith](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013; Clark III 1029, 1078; Clark IV 1144, 1194)
- 1950**, December 5 — Engineer Lt. Col. John R. Hood disperses radiation counters around the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, National Laboratory’s restricted area. The intent is to map the presence of any unusual radiation, in the wake of numerous UFO reports over the facility. He also sets up a source of radioactive material to see if its presence has an effect on the air above it. If the air is unusually ionized, it might be the source of the anomalous radar targets. He also mentions using a magnetometer array, but there is no documentation of the result of this effort. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 7, August–December 1950](#), The Author, 1982, pp. 64–65; Swords 107)
- 1950**, December 6 — 10:30–11:04 a.m. The ConAC Air Defense Controller notifies the HQ USAF that a number of unidentified aircraft are approaching the northeast area of the United States and that there is no reason to believe they are friendly. By radar contact it is determined that approximately 40 aircraft are in the flight at 32,000 feet on a course of 200° northeast of Limestone, Maine. The White House is notified at 10:31 a.m., and President [Truman](#) discusses the reports in a meeting with UK Prime Minister [Clement Attlee](#). (NICAP, “[Radar-Inspired National Alert](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 103; Bruce Maccabee, “[Immediate Saucer Alert! The Mystery of December 6, 1950](#),” July 1999; Clark III 824; Clark IV 892)
- 1950**, December 6 — While F-94s are being tested at Dyess AFB near Abilene, Texas, radar catches a UFO on a high-speed intercept course with the planes. Some personnel see the object shortly afterward. Col. [Robert B. Willingham](#) claims it is not a missile. It makes 90° turns at high speed. NORAD tracks it and the object is said to crash near the Mexican border near Del Rio, Texas. Willingham and a copilot take a light aircraft to the site but are escorted away. They do see part of the crash field and pick up a small piece of metal from the ground. Willingham takes it to a Marine Corps metallurgy lab in Hagerstown, Maryland, for analysis but never sees it again. Dubious MJ-12 documents apparently refer to this UFO crash as occurring on the Mexico side of the US border in the area between El Indio, Texas, and Guerrero, Coahuila, Mexico. (Leonard H. Stringfield, [UFO Crash Retrievals: Status Report II, The UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome: New Sources, New Data](#), The Author, January 1980, p. 58; Kevin D. Randle, *A History of UFO Crashes*, Avon, 1995, [pp. 192–193](#); “[Del Rio 1955](#),” Texas UFO

- Museum and Research Library, March 22, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "[Del Rio UFO Crash and MJ-12](#)," A Different Perspective, July 21, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "[MJ-12's Fatal Flaw and Robert Willingham](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 4–7; "[El Indio 1950](#)," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 5, 2014; Clark III 338; "[Dr. Eric Davis Confirms Del Rio, Texas, UFO Event Was a Successful Crash Retrieval](#)," Silva Record, October 28, 2018; Kevin D. Randle, "[UFO Crash Retrievals: Three with Explanations](#)," A Different Perspective, January 15, 2024; "[F-86 Sabre Pilot Robert Willingham Talks Witnessing a UFO Crash near the Texas-Mexico Border, 1955](#)," Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, July 8, 2024; Clark IV 374–375)
- 1950**, December 6 — 5:00 p.m. Former aircraft purchasing agent [Harry Lamp](#) and four boys spot a 75-foot silver object hovering at 3,000 feet above the northern part of Fort Myers, Florida. Through 10x binoculars Lamp sees it is 3–4 feet thick at the edges and 14 feet thick in the center, which revolves as it hovers. The object has a red rim with two white and two orange jets along it. It flies away at high speed. (NICAP, "[Large Object with Bubble on Top](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 103)
- 1950**, December 8 — The FBI office in Richmond, Virginia, sends a telegram to FBI headquarters saying that local Army Intelligence has been put "on immediate high alert for any data whatsoever concerning flying saucers." It adds, "CIC advises data strictly confidential and should not be disseminated." (Auerbach, [[teletype memo](#)], December 8, 1950; ClearIntent, [p. 175](#))
- 1950**, December 10 — 7:30 p.m. RAF Group-Captain B. S. Cartmel and two friends are at the Wilderness Golf Course near Sevenoaks, Kent, England, when they see a bright light moving east to west in complete silence. It maintains a steady height of 3,000 feet moving at 130–150 mph and is visible for 5 minutes. (Good Above, [pp. 28–29](#))
- 1950**, December 12 — The AFSWP's Project Nutmeg officially selects the Tonopah–Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range, Nevada, for domestic nuclear testing. (Wikipedia, "[Nevada Test and Training Range](#)")
- 1950**, December 13 — 4:55 p.m. J. G. F. Moulton and his mother are sitting at their home in Kimberley, South Africa, when they observe a bright object "like a huge mirror in the sky," hovering, and moving laterally and up and down for about 3 minutes. It goes behind a cloud but can still be seen, appearing like a "piece of magnesium wire burning with a bright, purplish-white light." It dives through the clouds, turns sharply, and shoots out of sight. (David Marais, "[The Outspan Magazine, January 1, 1954](#)")
- 1950**, Late December — USAF Capt. [J. E. Broyles](#) sees an aluminum-like oval object with a conical tail moving slowly in the sky near Cheyenne, Wyoming. (UFOEv, [p. 20](#))
- 1950**, December 26 — Harvard University historian [William L. Langer](#), special assistant for intelligence analysis to US Secretary of State [James F. Byrnes](#), organizes the CIA Office of National Estimates, a forerunner of the National Intelligence Council. (Central Intelligence Agency, "[Staff Conference: Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's Conference Room, Administration Building, Tuesday, 26 December 1950, at 1100 Hours](#)")
- 1950**, December 27 — Sunset. A TWA flight, piloted by Capt. Art Shutts, is enroute from Chicago to Kansas City. Near Bradford, Illinois, Shutts notices a bright white light ahead of the plane, also flashing red and green occasionally. It begins to "wobble and swerve unsteadily," then streaks back and forth in a north-south line through an arc of 10–30°, changing direction abruptly. He notices that the horizon near the UFO appears to vibrate as if light is distorted, especially after the object puts on a burst of speed. It dims to a pinpoint and begins to slowly move south. Suddenly it lurches, accelerates rapidly, zooms upward at a 45° angle, makes a nearly square turn, plunges downward, and disappears below the horizon to the north. It is visible for 25 minutes. (William A. Dixon, "Saucers or Illusions?" *Air Facts* 14 (September 1951): 37–43; UFOEv, [p. 40](#))

1951

- 1951** — While flying an F-86 Sabrejet over West Germany, USAF pilot [Gordon Cooper](#) sees several metallic discs flying at a high altitude. He claims to "have two days of observation of many flights of them, of different sizes, flying in fighter formation, generally from east to west over Europe." (Gordon Cooper and Bruce Henderson, *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey into the Unknown*, HarperCollins, 2000, pp. 80–81; "[UFO Sightings by Astronauts](#)," Syti.net, January 30, 2001; "[Astronaut Gordon Cooper Talks about UFOs](#)," Elhardt YouTube channel, December 27, 2007; James Oberg, "[The Puzzle of Astronaut Gordon Cooper's UFO Stories](#)," jamesoberg.com, 2014)
- 1951** — The intelligence unit of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing puts out periodic intelligence reports through 1953 that cover ground and air operations, unusual incidents, and UFO reports in Korea. The UFO reports are in a different category from unidentified aircraft. Some of these reports do not appear in Project Blue Book. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1951** — The Atomic Energy Commission uses its parallel system of secret-keeping to conduct controversial research, development, and engineering on aircraft and pilot-related projects, entirely without oversight.

- 1951** — [Marc Thirouin](#) and [Henri René “Jimmy” Guieu](#) found the first French UFO group in Paris, the Commission Ouranos. It begins publishing *Ouranos* in June 1952. By 1954, its name changes to Commission Internationale d’Enquêtes sur les Soucoupes Volantes and it publishes 32 issues through 1966, reviving in 1972 after Thirouin’s death with a new series that lasts until 1980. (*Ouranos*, no. 1; Eghigian, *After*, p. 108)
- 1951**, January — Author and journalist [Bob Considine](#)’s article appears in *Cosmopolitan*, debunking all UFO stories as delusions and hoaxes, and quoting a weary Air Force Col. [Harold E. Watson](#), who has replaced Col. [Howard M. McCoy](#) in Project Grudge. It offends people so badly that many pilots afterward refuse to report UFO sightings to the Air Force. USAF Public Information Officer Clare Welch, who has set this interview up, believes the Air Force has better things to do and is out of step with Cabell’s renewed interest. (Bob Considine, “[The Disgraceful Flying Saucer Hoax!](#)” *Cosmopolitan*, January 1951, pp. 32–33, 100–102; Swords 113–114; Clark III 933; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 75–76; Clark IV 1043)
- 1951**, January 1 — 7:00 a.m. Katie Sowell watches an object about 30–50 feet in diameter, like two “upside down saucers” revolving counterclockwise and darting low over her farmhouse near Oak Grove, Louisiana. It has rectangular, opaque windows. It is seen for 15–20 minutes at close range. It banks and disappears, going straight up. (*Huntsville (Ala.) Times*, February 5, 1974; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 1–2)
- 1951**, January 1 — The Air Defense Command, inactivated since July 1, 1950, is reinstated as a major command at Mitchel AFB [now closed] in Long Island, New York. The HQ is moved to Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a week later. (Wikipedia, “[Aerospace Defense Command](#)”)
- 1951**, January 16 — Raymond Dugan and Raymond E. Stiles, members of the General Mills Aeronautical Research Laboratory balloon project, observe a round disc near their Skyhook balloon over Artesia, New Mexico. The balloon is at a height of 112,000 feet. A short time later, Dugan, Stiles, and four civilian pilots at Artesia Airport see two similar objects circling the same balloon that then fly off to the northeast. (NICAP, “[Two Discs Approach Skyhook](#)”; Project Blue Book, [[Artesia documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 104; Ruppelt, [p. 120](#); Jacques Vallée and Janine Vallée, *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*, Regnery, 1966, [pp. 1–3](#); Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, eds., *UFO’s: A Scientific Debate*, Cornell University, 1972, [pp. xxi–xxii](#); J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 69–70](#); Swords 166)
- 1951**, January 20 — 9:20 p.m. Sioux City, Iowa, CAA Control Tower operator John M. Williams sees an odd light in the west. Capt. [Lawrence W. Vinther](#) and copilot [James F. Bachmeier](#) of Mid-Continent Airlines Flight 9 takes off and Vinther is asked by the tower to look for the light. While still in a climbing turn at about 1,000 feet, the pilots spot the object to the north-northwest at about 8,000 feet and 4 miles away. It looks like a B-29 fuselage with wings but no engines and blinks some lights like running lights. The object comes towards the DC-3, flies across the nose within 200 feet, then suddenly reappears on the other side, paralleling them for 2–3 seconds. The object then flies under them and disappears to the northwest. This is one of the first reports to make it into the CIRVIS system specified by JANAP 146. (NICAP, “[UFO Buzzes DC-3](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 104; Lawrence W. Vinther, “[Another Saucer Mystery](#),” *Flying* 48 (June 1951): 23, 56, [reprinted](#) by Project 1947; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” *Life* 32, no. 14 (April 7, 1952): 90–91; Ruppelt, [pp. 84–85](#); Jan Aldrich; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 43–44)
- 1951**, January 21 — 4:20 p.m. A UFO that appears to be over the restricted area at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, is sighted on the radarscope of an F-82 fighter. The GCI gives the go-ahead to intercept the target. The radar set on the F-82 is locked on and the run begins. The interception is unsuccessful, and the fighter returns to base. In all, three passes are made at targets, all with radar indications, but they cannot be completed since the target is over the restricted area that includes the X-10 plant. (NICAP, “[F-82 Attempts Intercept of UFO over AEC Plant / Radar](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 104)
- 1951**, January 22 — 11:00 a.m. USAF pilots Capt. [Ernest W. Spradley Jr.](#) of Aerial Photo Lab and Capt. James E. Cocker of All-Weather Flying Division (both based at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio), a General Mills Aeronautical lab project engineer named McAleese, and another airman are flying in a C-47 heading east about 50 miles southeast of Holloman AFB, New Mexico, at about 10,000–12,000 feet, tracking a Project Gopher plastic balloon at about 50,000–70,000 feet, when they see a bright star-like object adjacent to the pear-shaped balloon. As they approach and fly under the balloon, they notice the object descend to the balloon’s level and grow larger in apparent size until about one-quarter to one-half the size of the 70-foot balloon. It appears to be round and flat like a dime, milky white or silvery in color, with a clear outline. Cocker and McAleese leave the cockpit and go to the astrodome to observe the object. After 3 minutes they see the object separate from the balloon and head west at high speed. After about 1 minute it emits a series of 3 bright photoflashes at one-second intervals and disappears

from sight. (NICAP, "[C-47 Crew Encounter Object near 'Gopher'](#)"; NICAP, "[White Object Paces Balloon](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 105; Swords 114–115)

1951, January 27 — An Air Force B-50D bomber drops the first atomic bomb, the Able blast, for testing in the US onto a dry lake bed known as Frenchman Flat, inside the Nevada Test Site. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Ranger](#)")

1951, January 28 — 9:26 p.m. A series of blue-green flashes of light in the sky are noticed by alarmed residents over a three-mile area on the east side of Detroit, Michigan. At the same time, radios and television sets flicker and house lights dim. The event last for 15 minutes. On January 30, Detroit Edison Company explains the lights were caused by a lightning arrester at Eight Mile and Mound Road that blew during testing, causing a power surge that caused lights to fail. ("[Weird Flashes Play Havoc on East Side](#)," *Detroit (Mich.) Free Press*, January 29, 1951, p. 1; "[Power Test Causes Eerie Light Flashes](#)," *Detroit (Mich.) Free Press*, January 30, 1951, p. 7)

1951, January 29 — USAF Lt. Col. [Milton D. Willis](#) replies to [Robert B. Sibley](#), president of the Aero Club of New England, who has written Secretary of the Air Force [Thomas K. Finletter](#) asking that the UFO project be reinstated because pilots are indeed seeing something that could be extraterrestrial. Willis writes that, although the UFO project is disbanded, the Air Force still investigates incidents and sends them to AMC if necessary, and an officer (Willis himself, who has replaced [Boggs](#)) monitors all UFO reports. As an aside to his superiors, Willis in a memo notes that "there have been several incidents, during the last six months, which cannot be explained and further investigation may be necessary." (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 7–8; Swords 113)

1951, February 9 — 9:55 p.m. The crew (including Lt. [Fred W. Kingdon Jr.](#) and US Naval Reserve Lt. [Graham E. Bethune](#)) and passengers of a US Navy R5D transport flying west from Keflavik, Iceland, at 10,000 feet about 212 miles northeast of Gander, Newfoundland, observe a large orange-rimmed UFO with a dark center. It is about 400 feet in diameter and first seen moving above the surface of the ocean. As the plane approaches, the object changes colors, executes a sudden 180° turn and disappears over the horizon. Over time, several attempts to disguise the participants (such as Lt. George Williams on February 21) have resulted in confusion over the date. (NICAP, "[The Bethune Encounter](#)"; NICAP, "[Huge Object Rushes up from Ocean Surface](#)"; Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 9–26; "[Casebook: February 8, 1951](#)," *UFO Investigator*, September 1970, p. 3; "[Casebook: February 8, 1951](#)," *UFO Investigator*, October 1970, p. 3; "[Unidentified Flying Object: A Provocative Tale](#)," *Naval Aviation News*, June 1973, pp. 18–19, [reprinted](#) by Project 1947; Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, pp. 78–79; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, A History: 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 10–11; Good Above, pp. 268, 486; Graham E. Bethune, "[Lights on the Surface](#)," 1999; Good Need, pp. 137–139; Kevin H. Knuth, Robert M. Powell, and Peter A. Reali, "[Estimating Flight Characteristics of Anomalous Unidentified Aerial Vehicles](#)," *Entropy*, September 25, 2019; Patrick Gross, "[The Bethune Flight 124 Airmiss in 1951](#)"; Dolan, USO1, 142–144)

1951, February 13 — [William Webster](#), chair of the Defense Department's Research and Development Board, convenes a press briefing at the Pentagon and announces that "Careful studies have been made [referring to the upcoming article in *Look*]. I don't believe anyone who has the opportunity to be informed and to look into this thing believes there is a flying saucer as such. As far as I know there is nothing to the flying saucers." ("[Take Issue with Statement about 'Saucers'](#)," *Mount Pleasant (Iowa) News*, February 14, 1951, p. 4; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 13–14)

1951, February 19 — 7:20 a.m. Capt. Jack Bicknell and Radio Officer D. W. Merrifield are flying a Lockheed Model 18 Lodestar aircraft out of Nairobi, Kenya, when they see a bright object hanging motionless about 10,000 above Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanganyika [now Tanzania]. They watch it for 3 minutes, then tell the passengers about it. Bicknell observes it through binoculars and sees a "metallic, bullet-shaped object which must have been over 200 feet long." It has a vertical fin at one end, and at regular intervals along the fuselage are vertical dark bands. It remains completely stationary for 17 minutes. Two passengers take photos of it. Radio Officer Roy Overstreet, a passenger, shoots 30 feet of color film with a telescopic lens on his cine camera. Then it begins rising and moving eastward, disappearing at 40,000 feet. It leaves no vapor trail. A still from Overstreet's film, showing only a tiny dot of light, is published in the *Natal Mercury* on March 14, but the film is now considered lost and the other photos have never surfaced. (NICAP, "[Lodestar Crew Sees Stationary Silver Elongated Object](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 105; "[The Flying Saucer: Captain Bicknell's Own Story](#)," Nairobi (Kenya) *Sunday Post*, February 25, 1951, p. 15; "[The Most Authentic Flying Saucer Story of Them All](#)," *London Sunday Dispatch*, February 25, 1951, p. 1; "[Pilot Made Sketch of 'Flying Saucer'](#)," *London Sunday Dispatch*, March 4, 1951, p. 1; "'Saucer' Flies on Ciné Film: Or Does It?" *Natal Mercury* (Durban, South Africa), March 14, 1951; "[Two Classic Sightings](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 9, no. 3 (May/June 1963): 11–12; Center for UFO Studies, [\[case documents\]](#); UFOEv, p. 124; Patrick Gross, "[February 19, 1951, Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa](#)"; Barry Greenwood, "[Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanganyika, February 19, 1951: Photo Located](#)," *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 16 (July 2015): 1–4)

- 1951**, February 19 — *Aviation Week* praises the upcoming article in *Look* identifying UFOs as Skyhook balloons. (Robert H. Wood, “Saucers, Secrecy, and Security,” *Aviation Week* 54 (February 19, 1951): 50, [reprinted](#) by Project 1947)
- 1951**, February 20 — The *Air Intelligence Training Bulletin* publishes a facetious news item on how to recognize flying saucers, but implies they are all reflections. (“[Recognition of Flying Saucers.](#)” *Air Intelligence Training Bulletin*, February 20, 1951)
- 1951**, February 25 — Project Twinkle head and chemist Anthony O. Mirarchi at the USAF Cambridge Research Laboratory in Massachusetts tells the Associated Press that he thinks UFOs are not “just balloons” (in response to [Liddel](#)’s upcoming article) and urges a full investigation of what could be experiments by a “potential enemy of the United States.” He says that UFO reports show “maneuvered motion” that are not characteristic of a natural phenomenon. He says the “Navy report is erroneous. It lulls people into a false sense of security.” He reminds the nation of the critical installations in New Mexico, including Los Alamos, and argues that they are a target of reconnaissance: “If they were launched by a foreign power, then they could lead to a worse Pearl Harbor than we have ever experienced.” He blasts the US government for a policy of “suicide by secrecy.” The FBI and Air Force mull prosecuting Mirarchi for violating AFR 205-1. (“[A.F. Scientist Warns Saucers Major Threat.](#)” *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, February 26, 1951, p. 12; “[Scientist Fears Flying Saucers Portend a Worse ‘Pearl Harbor.’](#)” *Oklahoma Daily Oklahoman*, February 26, 1951, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, pp. 18–19; Swords 119–120)
- 1951**, February 27 — Physicist [Uerner Liddel](#), Office of Naval Research, says in a *Look* magazine article that there is not a single reliable UFO report that is not attributable to the cosmic [Skyhook] balloons. The article is based on Liddel’s study in ONR’s *Research Reviews* in March. He claims to have studied “hundreds” of sightings in detail (probably from Project Grudge). As for UFOs sighted by Skyhook scientists themselves, he discounts them because these technicians are not aware of mirages and internal reflections in optical devices. However, Liddel later changes his mind about the balloons being the sole source in April 1953, saying that most reports are due to reflection, refraction, diffraction, and meteors. (Richard Wilson, “[A Nuclear Physicist Exposes Flying Saucers.](#)” *Look*, February 27, 1951, pp. 60–64; Uerner Liddel, “[Bogies at Angels 100.](#)” *Research Reviews*, March 1951, pp. 1–6; Uerner Liddel, “[Phantasmagoria or Unusual Refractions in the Atmosphere.](#)” *Journal of the Optical Society of America* 43, no. 4 (April 1953): 314–317; Swords 117–118)
- 1951**, March — A ghost light is seen in Suffolk County, Virginia, and investigated by Nansemond County Deputy Sheriff [Hurley Jones](#), who sees the light three times. It looks like a car headlight 5 feet off the ground, three times. Jeston Reid said his father had seen the light in the 1870s. The location is apparently either Turlington Road or Jackson Road [they intersect] south of Suffolk, since locals say the old railroad along the Jackson and Whaleyville logging road used to run down that way, and the light has also been compared to a locomotive headlight. Some 200 people have been gathering along the road, hoping to catch a glimpse. (“[Mystery Light Is a Puzzle in Nansemond.](#)” *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, March 6, 1951, p. 2; “[Nansemond’s Mystery Light Is Nothing New to Old-Timers.](#)” *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, March 7, 1951, p. 2; “[Mysterious Suffolk Light Has Deputy Believing in Ghosts.](#)” *Statesville (N.C.) Daily Record*, March 8, 1951, p. 1)
- 1951**, March — 11:30 p.m. Operations Officer Robert Wood is aboard the *USS Dyess* approximately 125 miles southeast of Cape May, New Jersey, when he picks up a radar target coming in from due east at a speed of 98–104 mph and an altitude of 3,000–4,000 feet. It stops and hovers about 30 miles away. Wood notifies the bridge, and the captain orders the ship to change course toward the object. About 30 minutes later, the UFO suddenly takes off toward the north at 3,000 mph, getting to within 35–40 miles south of Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, before it zooms straight up. Altitude-determining radar tracks the object to 100 miles altitude. (“[March, 1951: Approximately 125 Miles SE of Cape May, N.J.](#)” Project 1947)
- 1951**, March 14 — A group of nine Bell Aircraft engineers are flying at 15,000 feet in a B-50 Superfortress near Holloman AFB, New Mexico, during a test of a secret Bell aircraft. They spot a group of unknown objects flying in a confusing “swirl” that breaks into a V-formation and back to a “swirl,” then a V again. The objects are slightly higher than the aircraft and seem to be moving at high velocity. The engineers insist the objects are not geese, which actually can fly this high. (This may be the same incident as the August 30, 1950, case at Holloman.) (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, pp. 21–22)
- 1951**, March 15 — 10:20 a.m. George F. Floate, chief engineer of the Delhi Flying Club, and two assistants observe a swirly white cloud moving from north to south at about 4,000 feet altitude near the club’s hanger in New Delhi, India. The cloud is about 700 feet in length. At the end of it a bullet-shaped object appears, approximately 100 feet long and as big around as a C-47 fuselage. The witnesses shout out, and 17–20 people rush out of the hanger and see the object. It heads south for about 3 minutes where it makes an apparent loop, coming back over the field. At the top of the loop it is out of sight, but it is seen again in its dive. After recovering straight and level

flight, the UFO proceeds to the southwest until it is lost to sight. Its speed is estimated at three times greater than the cruising speed of a British Vampire jet. The total duration is about 7 minutes. (NICAP, "[20+ Top Shelf Witnesses / Metallic Cigar](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 106)

- 1951**, Early spring — Dusk. US Army Pfc. [Francis P. Wall](#) is on maneuvers with the 27th Infantry Regiment near Cheorwon, South Korea, when he sees an orange light like a jack-o-lantern coming down a mountain. Artillery airbursts do not seem to harm it. As it approaches, it turns into a brilliant blue-green disc pulsating with light. Wall asks permission to shoot and fires a round from his M-1 rifle at it. The object starts moving erratically from side to side, flashes on and off, and makes an engine-like noise. It sweeps the soldiers with a beam of light, and they feel a burning and tingling sensation. They retreat to their bunkers and continue to watch the object, which is still lighting up the area, and then it shoots away at a 45° angle. (Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 18–27](#); Richard F. Haines, "[GI Fires on UFO in Korea](#)," *IUR* 15, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1990): 23–24)
- 1951**, April 4 — The Truman administration forms the Psychological Strategy Board to coordinate and plan for psychological operations. The board is composed of the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence, or their designated representatives. The board's first director is [Gordon Gray](#), later National Security Advisor during the Eisenhower administration. The board is created in response to the growth of Office of Policy Coordination covert activities during the Korean War. The PSB is tasked with creating propaganda that will subconsciously turn people away from communism and toward democracy. It is abolished in 1953. (Wikipedia, "[Psychological Strategy Board](#)")
- 1951**, April 7? — Night. New Zealand sailor [Adrian Hayter](#) is navigating his 32-foot yawl, *Sheila II*, into Djibouti on the Gulf of Tadjoura when he and his crewmate Mike notice a light to the southeast that seems to be drawing nearer. It appears similar to a lighthouse beam that is sweeping under the surface. It lights up the sails with a bright greenish light as it passes under the yawl, then moves to the western horizon. Another beam appears in the east, followed by four others at regular intervals and in complete silence. (Adrian Hayter, *Sheila in the Wind*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1959, [p. 99](#); Dolan, *USO1*, 144–145)
- 1951**, April 7 — [Howard Hawks](#)'s film *The Thing from Another World* opens, starring [Margaret Sheridan](#), [Kenneth Tobey](#), and [James Arness](#), about a crashed flying saucer found in the Arctic. It ends with the haunting lines by [Douglas Spencer](#): "Watch the skies, everywhere! Keep looking. Watch the skies!" (Wikipedia, "[The Thing from Another World](#)"; Internet Movie Database, "[The Thing from Another World](#)"; Bill Warren, *Keep Watching the Skies!*, McFarland, 2010, pp. 768–775)
- 1951**, April 11 — Air Defense Command issues a memo on "Unconventional Aircraft" to all USAF facilities, encouraging them to report sightings in a timely manner. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 25)
- 1951**, April 17 — Project Grudge's Col. [Harold E. Watson](#) notes that JANAP 146 has no provision for UFO reports to be sent to Wright-Patterson AFB under the CIRVIS system. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1951**, April 21 — Drones are again used in the series of thermonuclear tests designated Operation Greenhouse at Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands. During the Easy detonation, two T-33 drones are lost. One receives heavy damage from the shock wave, loses control, and crashes; the other refuses to respond to control signals and crashes on uninhabited Bogullua Island. The Air Force concludes that unmanned samplers are unreliable. (M/Sgt Leland B. Taylor, [History of Air Force Atomic Cloud Sampling](#), US Special Weapons Center, January 1963, pp. 34–37; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [p. 225](#))
- 1951**, April 23 — Col. [Harold E. Watson](#) writes a memo to the USAF Director of Intelligence, explaining his view that "little if any results" have been obtained from Project Grudge other than the objects are not from a foreign power. But since there is still some doubt, all reports should be forwarded to AMC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Swords 121)
- 1951**, May 15 — While serving with US occupation forces in Austria, a soldier meets a helmeted figure who paralyzes him with a pencil-like weapon and leads him into a saucer, which they enter through an opening in the top. The craft flies into space to a Mars-like planet where it lands on a platform in a field. The soldier sees similar beings in the parking lot as well as two other craft containing humans. The alien pilot returns the man the same spot on earth, in what may be an early abduction narrative. (Ron Powell, "[Citizen Editor Talks to Man Who 'Visited Mars.'](#)" *Prince George (B.C.) Citizen*, December 11, 1957, p. 1, 3; "[Trip to Mars](#)," *Space Craft Digest*, Fall 1958, pp. 13–16; Charles Bowen, "[Fantasy or Truth? A New Look at an Old Contact Claim](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 13, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1967): 11–14; Martin S. Kottmeyer, "[Tin Moons and False Prophets](#)," *The REALL News* 14, no. 5 (September 2006): 1, 4–14; Clark III 272–273; Clark IV 312–313)

- 1951**, May 21— Wright-Patterson's Technical Intelligence Department (T-2) becomes the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) and is assigned to the Directorate of Intelligence in the Pentagon. Project Grudge goes along with it. ([Sparks](#), p. 12; Clark III 936; John Greenwald, "[ATIC, the 1950s, and National Security Policy](#)," The Black Vault, July 24, 2023)
- 1951**, May 22 — 3:20 a.m. American Airlines pilot Capt. W. R. Hunt observes a blue-white, star-like object gyrating around the airplane at 21,000 feet for 20 minutes about 100 miles southwest of Dodge City, Kansas. It moves backward and forward, then up and down, then dives below the plane and speeds away. ("[Mysterious Bright Light 'Plays Tag' with Airliner over Kansas](#)," *Iola (Kan.) Register*, May 22, 1951, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, p. 26)
- 1951**, Summer — Day. Army Lt. George Kinman is flying an F-51 over Augusta, Georgia at 250 mph when he notices an object ahead approaching him. Before he can take evasive action, a white disc twice as big as his plane dips and passes underneath, just missing his propellor. He swings the aircraft around, but the object is out of sight. After 15 seconds, it returns, coming straight toward him and dipping at the last minute. It repeats the performance several times for 5–10 minutes. On the last pass, it zooms above him, just missing his canopy. ("[Flying Saucer 'Attack' Related by Army Flier](#)," *Los Angeles (Calif.) Evening Citizen News*, July 30, 1952, p. 1; UFOEv, [p. 23](#); Clark III 377; Clark IV 421)
- 1951**, Summer — 2:00 a.m. A US Navy petty officer is on watch at NAS Quonset Point [now Quonset Point Air National Guard Station], Rhode Island, when a bright object, seemingly coming from the sea from the direction of Newport to the south, approaches and hovers directly overhead at an altitude of 200 feet. He becomes nervous and charges his carbine, but as soon as he loads it, the object disappears. (Carl Feindt, "[Report #925](#)," [waterufo.net](#); Dolan, USO1, 148–149)
- 1951**, Summer — A dubious story surfaces in 1956 that three UFOs had appeared above Mexico City International Airport at the same time as a visit by US Secretary of Defense [George C. Marshall](#). (However, there is no record of a visit by Marshall at this time; apparently his first visit to Mexico was a vacation in Cuernavaca in February 1952.) According to the story, Marshall tells a "highly placed American" and "prominent medical scientist" that UFOs are interplanetary and friendly, but they have crashed accidentally on three occasions. In 1965, the American informant is revealed to be [Rolf Alexander](#), who is in fact Allan Alexander Stirling, a New Zealand seaman who had jumped ship in 1920 and entered the US illegally. To support himself he promoted various dubious health cures while concocting a fictitious personal history. His activities were interrupted by prison sentences for mail fraud and embezzlement, and in 1954–1960 he claimed the ability to break up clouds with his psychokinetic abilities. (Ross Alexander [Curtis Fuller], "Rolf Alexander: The Man Who Smashes Clouds," *Fate* 8, no. 6 (June 1955): 42–45; "[Report Tells of 'Top Brass' Attending Saucer Landing](#)," *Flying Saucer News-Service Research Bulletin* 1, no. 9 (August 20, 1955): 3; "[A Newsman's Saucer Experiences](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* (US) 2, no. 1 (January 1956): 2–8; "[Let's Talk Space: 'Flying Saucers' Are Real](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1956): 2–4; "[Rolf Alexander, M.D.](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1965): 9; RosRept, [p. 99](#); Clark III 332; Clark IV 368)
- 1951**, June — Project Grudge only has one person on staff to investigate UFO reports, Lt. [Jerry W. Cummings](#), who has replaced James J. Rodgers and J. L. Rohn. He reorganizes the system and uses a more open-minded approach. ([Sparks](#), p. 14; Edward J. Ruppelt, "[What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers](#)," *True*, May 1954, p. 26; Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America*, Signet ed., 1976, [pp. 56–57](#); Swords 121; Clark III 933, 937; Clark IV 1043, 1047)
- 1951**, June — The UK Flying Saucer Working Party produces its six-page final report for the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, DSI/JTIC Report number 7, *Unidentified Flying Objects*, classified Secret. The CIA's chief scientist, [H. Marshall Chadwell](#), attends the meeting when the report is delivered. The report admits that no systematic investigation has been undertaken, but from the evidence examined, including reports by RAF pilots, explanations can probably be found for most reports. Copies are also submitted to Canada as well as US and UK officials. (Joe McGonagle, "[Flying Saucer Working Party: Commentary](#)," part 2, The Real UFO Project; Good Need, [pp. 149–152](#); Mark Rodeghier, "[Britain's Secret UFO Study](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 21–23; UFOFiles2, [pp. 38–40](#); David Clarke, "[Flying Saucer Working Party](#)," Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015; Ian Ridpath, "[Report of the UK Government's Flying Saucer Working Party \(1951 June\)](#)," Ian Ridpath's UFO Skeptic Pages, January 2021)
- 1951**, June 1 — 10:00 p.m. An ATIC official at Wright-Patterson AFB is driving west near Dayton, Ohio, when he sees a large, bluish-white light moving parallel to the car. It looks like a "stubby cigar." After 15–20 seconds, it makes a right-angle turn, becomes circular, and rapidly disappears. Its speed is "faster than an airplane, slower than a meteor." (UFOEv, [p. 23](#))

- 1951, June 19** — Day. Mechanic Joseph Matiszewski hears a whistling sound as he is walking in Sønderborg, Denmark, and sees an object land in a nearby meadow. Approaching to within 150 feet of it, he finds himself paralyzed and notices that birds have stopped singing and cows seem frozen in place. Four men with brown skin and wearing black shiny suits and translucent helmets emerge from the object and send Matiszewski some telepathic messages. Eight smaller objects are ejected from the large one and float above it. Other figures inside the craft and on its deck appear to be making repairs. The objects ascend to about 300 feet and climb rapidly after that. The paralysis subsides. (Gordon Creighton, "[A New FSR Catalogue, Part 2](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 2 (March/April 1970): 29; Walter Webb, "UFOs and Paralysis," *Official UFO*, February 1976, p. 48; Willy Wegner, "[UFO-bogen: Kapitel 19: Rumfolkene viser sig](#)," *Skeptica*, September 1, 2004; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 1, 2007)
- 1951, June 22** — *Life* magazine reporter [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) visits Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio for the first time to gather information on "Project Saucer" for an article. The visit is coordinated by Jack T. Shea, special assistant to the director of public relations. (Jan Aldrich; Michael D. Swords, "[1952: Ruppelt's Big Year](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 8)
- 1951, June 25** — The UK Flying Saucer Working Party is disbanded. (Good Need, [p. 152](#))
- 1951, July** — The radiation-counter network set up at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, in December 1950 by Lt. Col. John R. Hood hits paydirt when a UFO appears, sighted both visually and on radar over the facility. He finds that the radiation counters have detected a significant rise in some kind of emission. Hood wants to expand the equipment, adding a debris-catching pursuit plane. However, information is lacking on this case and any follow-up. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, p. 42)
- 1951, July 1** — 10:50 p.m. Four night pilots of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in different areas around Seoul, Korea, simultaneously report a large green ball, very bright and trailing streaks of red then blue, passing overhead at 10,000–15,000 feet. ([Sparks](#), p. 106; Haines, *Korea*, [p. 31](#))
- 1951, July 4?** — 10:00 p.m. Future ufologist [Irena Scott](#) and her sister Sue are sleeping at their home in Galena, Ohio, when they wake to see a small glowing light circling their bedroom in a meandering movement, but never bumping into anything. It circles the room three times, maintaining the same shape, brightness, and size (less than one inch). After a few minutes, it moves in tight circles around the chandelier, then spirals downward, makes a noise, and emits tiny lights. Terrified, they rush out of the room and tell their father, who inspects the room but finds nothing. (Irena Scott, "[Bedroom Light](#)," *IUR* 13, no. 2 (March/April 1988): 14–15)
- 1951, July 9** — Day. USAF Lt. [George H. Kinmon II](#), stationed at Lawson AFB [now Lawson Army Airfield] with the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, is flying an F-51 over Dearing, Georgia, when he sees a white disc "completely round and spinning in a clockwise direction." It makes a headlong pass at his aircraft. It travels at "tremendous speed" and leaves no vapor trail. (NICAP, "[Aerial Encounter with Disc](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 107; "[Saucer Ahead!—Fire at Will](#)," *Tucson (Ariz.) Daily Citizen*, July 30, 1952, p. 6; "Saucer Attacked Me, Pilot Declares," *Cleveland (Ohio) Press*, July 30, 1952, p. 1, [reprinted](#) in *Saucer Attack*, April 1998; "Pilot Says His Plane Was Attacked by Flying Saucer," *Lowell (Mass.) Sun*, July 30, 1952, p. 30; UFOEv, [p. 23](#); Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [pp. 328–330](#))
- 1951, July 14** — Morning. During a guided missile launch, two radar operators at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, catch a fast-moving object on their scope. At the same time, a tracker watching a B-29 with binoculars sees a large UFO near the bomber. Another observer sights the UFO and, with a 35mm camera, shoots 200 feet of film. The UFO shows on the film as a round, bright spot. The film has never been released. (NICAP, "[White Sands Radar/Visual](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 107; Project 1947, "[Radar and Visual UFO Sighting, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico—July 14, 1951](#)"; Good Above, [pp. 354–355](#))
- 1951, July 25** — Personnel at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, write a report compiling the results of an organized skywatch of UFOs at the base. Several photos are taken. The report does not conclude what the objects are, but it does establish that some kind of objects have been seen. ("[Status of Project Blue Book](#)," T52-6888, [1952], p. 1)
- 1951, August** — In an article in *Popular Science*, the editors ask UFO witnesses what they think the objects are. Some 52% believe they saw man-made aircraft while 4% think they saw a "visitor from afar." ("[What Were the Flying Saucers? Eyewitnesses Believe They Saw Secret Aircraft](#)," *Popular Science* 159 (August 1951): 74–75, 228)
- 1951, August 3** — 11:00 p.m. [Walter N. Webb](#), nature counselor at Camp Big Silver on the shore of Silver Lake in southern Michigan, 3 miles south of Pinckney, is showing two boy campers some celestial objects through a reflecting telescope. He sees a glowing, yellowish light moving westward at a low elevation in an undulating path over hills to the south. It disappears behind the hills before he can train his telescope on it. (UFOEv, [p. 50](#))
- 1951, August 11** — Former USAF pilot [Robert O. Dodge](#) watches three disc-like UFOs in formation over Portland, Oregon. (UFOEv, [p. 34](#))

- 1951**, August 15 — US test pilot [Bill Bridgeman](#) attains an unofficial altitude of 79,494 feet in a Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket, an air-launched rocket plane powered by the XLR-11 liquid fuel rocket engine. (Wikipedia, "[Bill Bridgeman](#)")
- 1951**, Mid-August — 10:30 a.m. Mining engineer Alfred Roos hears a swishing sound at his ranch 10 miles east of Silver City, New Mexico. He looks up and sees two lens-shaped UFOs swooping at tremendous speed then hovering. They go back and forth between his location and Fort Bayard, two miles to the northwest, where they finally disappear into a cloud. (UFOEv, [p. 56](#))
- 1951**, Mid-August — Midnight. A witness is on his porch in Waco, Texas, looking at the sky when he sees a V-shaped formation of 10–20 round, luminous objects silently pass over from west to east in a matter of seconds. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 41–42)
- 1951**, August 17 — 11:30 a.m. [Otto Bock](#), a German scientist with a specialty in optics who came to the US as part of Operation Paperclip, observes a high-altitude, metallic object through his 20x telescope for about 4 hours. He says the sighting is confirmed by four other persons. (Project 1947, "[Letter to Donald Keyhoe: Otto Bock, August 22, 1951](#)")
- 1951**, August 20 — The CIA, approved by DCI [Roscoe Hillenkoetter](#), starts Project Artichoke to study hypnosis, morphine addiction, and LSD to produce amnesia and other vulnerable states in subjects, as a way of exploring interrogation methods. (Wikipedia, "[Project Artichoke](#)"; [Central Intelligence Agency], "[Project Artichoke](#)," declassified(?), January 31, 1975)
- 1951**, August 23 — [Frank Wisner](#) succeeds [Allen Dulles](#) as CIA Deputy Director of Plans in the Office of Policy Coordination, with [Richard Helms](#) as chief of operations. In this position, Wisner is instrumental in supporting pro-American forces that toppled [Mohammed Mossadegh](#) in Iran in 1953 and [Jacobo Árbenz](#) in Guatemala in 1954. Sometime this year he visits [Richard M. Bissell Jr.](#) and asks him to finance OPC operations by diverting some Marshall Plan funds, presumably for covert black ops. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 45–46](#))
- 1951**, August 25 — Evening. Joseph Bryant and his wife, at 407 West Powell Street, Brownfield, Texas, see a loose group of glowing lights heading north to south. They are a "little bigger than a star." A few minutes later a second group flies over, and then a third, which circles around the house. This time Bryant can hear them, and he identifies them as plovers. When he hears about the Lubbock lights, he is sure the professors are seeing plovers. (Clark III 691–692)
- 1951**, August 25 — 9:10 p.m. Three Texas Technical College professors (geologist [Wilbur Irvin Robinson](#), chemist [Aaron Gustav "Gus" Oberg](#), and petroleum engineer [William Lyon Ducker Jr.](#)) are sitting in a backyard at Lubbock, Texas, when they see a fast-moving, semicircular formation of 20–30 lights, as intense as bright stars but larger. Blue-green and silent, they move across the sky in seconds. A second group appears and repeats the performance. Others, including Carl Hemminger at Texas Tech, report seeing the same objects the same night. [J. Russell Heitman](#), head of the Texas Tech journalism department, says he had seen an identical group of lights several days earlier. The professors watch 10–12 such flights through November 1 (including on September 1 and 5), sometimes accompanied by colleagues [Ellis Richard Heineman](#), E. F. George, [Grayson Mead](#), and John Brand. Some researchers, including [Ruppelt](#) and [Hynek](#), think the witnesses are seeing migrating plovers attracted to Lubbock's new vapor street lights, although Ruppelt changes his mind later. (Wikipedia, "[Lubbock Lights](#)"; NICAP, "[The Lubbock Lights / Carl Hart Photos](#)"; "[Three Professors Witness 'Strings of Beads' in Sky](#)," *Anniston (Ala.) Star*, August 27, 1951, p. 1; "[Strange Lights in Skies Plagueing Night Observers in Lubbock Section](#)," *Corsicana (Tex.) Daily Sun*, September 1, 1951, p. 1; Ruppelt, [pp. 96–99](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, pp. 45–55; "[Lubbock 1951](#)," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, November 15, 1999; Swords 130–132; Clark III 688–690; Kevin D. Randle, "[Coast-to-Coast AM: The Lubbock Lights](#)," A Different Perspective, February 23, 2023; Clark IV 764–770)
- 1951**, August 25 — Around 9:58 p.m. Hugh Young, a security guard at Sandia Base, and his wife Emily are in their trailer home in east Albuquerque, New Mexico, and watch a large object like a flying wing, but 1.5 times as large as a B-36, flying at 80 feet at about 300 mph. It has glowing white lights on the trailing edge of the wing and is completely silent. (NICAP, "[Flying Wing over Sandia Base](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 108; Ruppelt, [pp. 96–98](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, pp. 46–47; Clark III 691; Kevin D. Randle, "[Coast-to-Coast AM: The Lubbock Lights](#)," A Different Perspective, February 23, 2023; Clark IV 767)
- 1951**, August 26 — 8:28 p.m. A radar station at Larson AFB [now Grant County International Airport], near Moses Lake, Washington, tracks a UFO at 13,000 feet going 950 mph on two different sets, AN/CPS-1 and AN/CPS-4, for about 6 minutes. An F-86 is scrambled, but radar contact is lost before the plane gets off the ground. An electronic signal is received from this object that appears to be a mode-one IFF response from an AN/APX-6 transponder. This response is received twice at approximately 115 miles and 80 miles from the radar station. (NICAP, "[Two Radars Track 900 MPH Target](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 108; Ruppelt, [pp. 96–98](#), [108–109](#); Clark III 692; Clark IV 767)

- 1951**, August 27 — At a conference at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, on the green fireballs, Project Twinkle's Maj. [Edward A. Doty](#) expresses skepticism about the project. Meteorologist [Bernard "Duke" Gildenberg](#) tells those assembled that he has never seen anything out of the ordinary, nor has astronomer [Clyde Tombaugh](#). The commanding officer at Holloman wants to cease allocating funds for the project. (Clark III 545; Clark IV 603)
- 1951**, August 28 — Project Twinkle personnel talk to [LaPaz](#) about the green fireballs and he insists they are not meteors. (Clark III 545; Clark IV 603)
- 1951**, August 30 — 11:30 p.m. A Texas Tech freshman named Carl Hart Jr. sees the same formation of 18–20 lights over Lubbock, Texas, and takes five photos. He gets the roll of film developed the next day and takes it to the *Lubbock Morning Avalanche*, which puts them out on the Associated Press wire. ATIC examines the photos and notes that the "two rows of spots behaved differently. One row only shows slight variation from a precise V formation throughout, whereas the other now appears to pass from above the first row, through it to a position below." Biologist [James Cecil Cross](#) looks at the Lubbock photos under a microscope and rules out the bird explanation. While investigating the Lubbock Lights, [Ruppelt](#) also learns that several people in and around Lubbock claim to have seen a "flying wing" moving over the city. Among the witnesses is the wife of Dr. [Ducker](#), who reports that in August 1951 she observed a "huge, soundless flying wing" pass over her house. Ruppelt knows that USAF does possess a "flying wing" jet bomber, and he feels that at least some of the sightings are caused by the bomber, although he cannot explain why, according to the witnesses, the wing makes no sound as it flies overhead. Ruppelt says that in addition to Project Grudge investigators, another group of people who, "because of their association with the government, had complete access to our files" (scientists convinced of the ETH) were also looking into the Lubbock cases. In March 1955, Ducker sends Ruppelt a telegram indicating that he has figured out that the lights are a "natural phenomenon" and requests no further publicity in his book. However, Texas Tech mathematics professor [Ralph Sylvester Underwood](#) has also observed three flights and estimates the objects are at 2,000 feet altitude and flying at 700 mph—much too fast for birds. (NICAP, "[The Lubbock Lights / Carl Hart Photos](#)"; "Flying 'Whatsits' Seen Again," *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, September 1, 1951, pp. 1, 10; "Opinion Divided over Reports of Objects Seen in Lubbock Skies," *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, September 2, 1951, pp. 1, 14; "Flying 'Whatsits' Stir Dispute in Area," *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, September 6, 1951, pp. 1, 10; "Flying 'Whatsits' Seen as Possible 'Space Visitors,'" *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, April 4, 1952; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)" *Life*, April 7, 1952, pp. 80–96; "Lubbock Lights' a Mirage?" *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, June 2, 1952; "Lubbock Lights' Again News," *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, June 11, 1952; Donald H. Menzel, *Flying Saucers*, Harvard University, 1953, [pp. 34–38](#); "Lubbock Lights' Puzzle Solved, Chief Air Force Prober Claims," *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, January 19, 1956; Ruppelt, [pp. 96–110](#); UFOEv [88, 92](#); "[After 20 Years: 'Lubbock Lights' Mystery Unsolved](#)," *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, August 25, 1971, pp. 1, 10; "[Casebook: Investigator Researches Significant 1951 Case near Lubbock, Tex.](#)," *UFO Investigator*, May 1972, pp. 3–4; Kevin D. Randle, "The Lubbock Lights," *Official UFO*, November 1976, pp. 28–29, 42–44; Kevin D. Randle, "[Carl Hart and the Lubbock Lights](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1993): 17–19; Michael D. Swords, "[Classic Cases from the APRO Files](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 22; "[Lubbock 1951](#)," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, November 15, 1999; Donald R. Burleson, "[New Findings on the Lubbock Lights](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 3–5; "[Lubbock Lights and Roswell](#)," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, December 7, 2005; Kevin D. Randle, "[Carl Hart and the Lubbock Lights](#)," A Different Perspective, August 24, 2006; Michael D. Swords, "[Can We Learn Anything from UFO Photos? Part Five](#)," The Big Study, July 15, 2012; Swords 131–132; Clark III 690–694; Kevin D. Randle, "[History's Project Blue Book: The Lubbock Lights](#)," A Different Perspective, January 25, 2019; Kevin D. Randle, *The Best of Project Blue Book*, Flying Disk Press, 2020, chapter 5; Kevin D. Randle, "[Carl Hart, Jr., the Lubbock Lights Photographer Has Died](#)," A Different Perspective, April 1, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, "[Coast-to-Coast AM: The Lubbock Lights](#)," A Different Perspective, February 23, 2023; Clark IV 764–770)
- 1951**, August 31 — 12:45 p.m. Mrs. Tom Tilson and one or two other women are driving north on Hwy 70 near Matador, Texas, when they see to the west a pear-shaped object the length of a B-29 fuselage (100 feet). It is aluminum or silver-yellow with a port or some type of aperture on the side, and it moves with its smaller end forward, drifting slowly at about 150 feet altitude. It then shoots up in a circular fashion and out of sight after a few seconds. ([Sparks](#), p. 109; Clark III 692; Clark IV 767)
- 1951**, September — 9:00 p.m. Louise McDougall is sitting on the lawn outside her trailer park in Bloomington, California, when she has the feeling someone is watching her. She looks up and sees a flying saucer hovering some 20 feet up. It is lenticular, perhaps 100 feet in diameter, and dull silver metallic in appearance. There are tall, rectangular windows in its lower half, in which can be seen against an amber glow four men, in one-piece

“jump suits,” with shoulder-length hair. She turns a spotlight on the saucer, whereupon it shoots off silently at incredible speed. About 15 minutes later it returns, hovering in the same spot, the figures still visible at the windows. After 6 or 7 minutes, it takes off again to the southeast. McDougall’s husband and three other people also see it. (Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), September 15, 2006; Clark III 267; Clark IV 307)

- 1951**, September 2 — The Air Force issues JANAP 146(B), “Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Aircraft.” All UFO reports are to go to the Air Defense Command in the Pentagon (which presumably will send them to AMC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio), the Secretary of Defense, and to the nearest US military command. (“[JANAP 146 \(\)](#)”; Antonio F. Rullán, “[Blue Book UFO Reports at Sea by Ships: Analysis of the Blue Book Ship Database](#),” December 10, 2002, pp. 8–9; Swords 123)
- 1951**, September 10 — 11:10 a.m. At the Army Signal Corps radar center at Fort Monmouth [now closed], New Jersey, a student operator demonstrating radar functions to a group of visiting officers picks up a target that is moving too fast to be tracked automatically. The object seems to be following the coastline. He follows it off and on for 3 minutes, after which it disappears to the northeast, flying at 700 mph. At 11:35 a.m., a T-33 jet trainer piloted by Lt. [Wilbert S. Rogers](#), with Maj. Edward Ballard as passenger, spots a “silver-colored object about the size of a fighter plane” flying at 900 mph at 5,000–8,000 feet over Sandy Hook. It makes a 90° banking turn and disappears out to sea. At 3:15 p.m., a second radar tracking occurs, but this slower object turns out to be a balloon. (NICAP, “[The Fort Monmouth Radar Incident](#)”; NICAP, “[The Sandy Hook / T-33 Incident](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 110; “[Air Force Pilots Report ‘Object’ Going 900 MPH](#),” *Waukesha (Wis.) Daily Freeman*, September 11, 1951, p. 3; Edward J. Ruppelt, “[What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers](#),” *True*, May 1954, p. 26; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 66; Good Above, [pp. 269, 487](#); Thomas Tulien, ed., [Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop](#), Sign Historical Group, November 2001, pp. 45–46; Swords 124–127; Clark III 513–515; Covert 40–41; Clark IV 562–564)
- 1951**, September 11 — 10:50 a.m. Two radars at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, pick up another object moving at 1,000 mph. At 1:30 p.m., another radar target appears, apparently hovering. Overcast conditions prevent a visual sighting. The radar then shows it ascending at a rapid rate then streaking to the south at 700+ mph. (Clark III 514; Clark IV 563)
- 1951**, September 12 — Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, officials send ATIC and USAF headquarters a three-foot-long teletype describing the sightings. ATIC’s new chief, Col. [Frank Dunn](#), gets a wire from Gen. [Charles Cabell](#), who wants somebody from ATIC to find out what’s going on. Dunn sends Lt. [Jerry Cummings](#) (head of Project Grudge) and Lt. Col. [Nathan R. Rosengarten](#) (chief of the ATIC Aircraft Performance Section). (Ruppelt, [pp. 93–94](#); Good Need, [pp. 164–165](#); Swords 126; Clark III 514–515; Clark IV 563–564)
- 1951**, September 13 — 9:30 p.m. T/Sgt Warner B. Maupin and Cpl. John W. Green track two objects on radar at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, on a collision course. One of them tries to warn the supposed aircraft of an imminent collision and is surprised to watch one avoid danger by moving to the right. A third unidentified target joins the other two. The incident lasts more than 15 minutes. ([Sparks](#), p. 110; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, p. 53; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 261)
- 1951**, September 18 — *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, directed by [Robert Wise](#) and starring [Michael Rennie](#) and [Patricia Neal](#), premieres in New York City. The ultimate flying saucer science-fiction movie, the plot revolves around an alien who lands in a UFO in Washington, D.C., and demands that atomic testing cease. [Lock Martin](#), who is more than 7 feet tall, plays the robot Gort. (Wikipedia, “[The Day the Earth Stood Still](#)”; Internet Movie Database, “[The Day the Earth Stood Still](#)”; Bill Howard, *Keep Watching the Skies!*, McFarland, 2010, pp. 208–215)
- 1951**, September 18 — 10:20 p.m. USAF B-36 radar operator Maj. Paul E. Gerhart and navigator Maj. Charles J. Cheever are flying northwest at 239 mph over the Hudson Strait in northern Canada when they pick up radar interference coming from an unidentified aircraft moving away from them to the east about 32 miles away. The anti-jamming device on their radar is turned on at 11:20 p.m. but does not affect the jamming on the radar scope. At 11:35 p.m., a UFO is seen visually on the right side of the B-36, which is flying at 18,000 feet over southwest Baffin Island, Nunavut. The object has all-white “unconventional running lights” and two white flashing tail lights, travels about 35 mph faster than the B-36, crosses the front from right to left heading toward the north-northwest, and is in view about 20 minutes. While the object is still visible at 11:50 p.m., the B-36 autopilot and APQ-24 radar set malfunction, the latter coming back a few minutes later when the object disappears. ECM operators S/Sgt. Donald E. Jenkins and S/Sgt. Doty T. Larimore on two B-36 flights over Labrador on September 19 detect carrier wave signals at several frequencies and some radar-like pulses at other frequencies, all below 1,000 MHz. (NICAP, “[B-36 Radar Picks up Object Seen Visually](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 111; Clark III 996; Clark IV 1109)

- 1951**, September 23 —At March AFB [now March Air Reserve Base] near Long Beach, California, two F-86 jets try to intercept an object in controlled orbit at around 55,000 feet, but they run low on fuel and have to land. Two more F-86s are scrambled, with the same results. Three of the pilots report seeing a “silver airplane with highly swept-back wings,” although one of them says the UFO looks round and silver. (NICAP, [“Swept Wing Aircraft at above 50,000’ / Tracked by GCI”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 112; Ruppelt, [pp. 94–95](#), [111](#), [113–114](#))
- 1951**, Fall — Navy pilot Lt. Cmdr. [Marvin C. Davies](#) is flying a plane off a CVE class aircraft carrier near Korea when the crew tracks a radar target 3 miles astern. The object has apparently been circling the fleet at an altitude of 5,000 feet and speeds of “slow” to 1,000 mph. The UFO has been tracked on 14 ship radars for 7 hours. It stops circling and takes up a position behind the plane’s wingman, remaining there 5 minutes, then departing at high speed. (Project 1947, [“UFO Reports, Korea”](#); UFOEv, [p. 84](#))
- 1951**, October — [Per Sundh](#) is appointed head of a unit at the Swedish Defence Staff responsible for investigating UFO reports. He remains in charge until October 1954. During that time the department handles 6,000 reports, of which 400 are investigated and 40 remain unexplained. Their astronomical consultant is [Bertil Lindblad](#), an astronomer at Stockholm University, Sweden. Sundh says that his personnel always took even the weirdest observations seriously. (Swords 364–365)
- 1951**, October 1 — 10:00 a.m. At the Pentagon, [Cummings](#) and [Rosengarten](#) brief [Cabell](#), his staff, and a representative from Republic Aircraft Corporation who “supposedly represented a group of top US industrialists and scientists.” The two-hour meeting is recorded with a wire recorder. [Edward Ruppelt](#), later head of Project Blue Book, hears the recording before it is ordered destroyed and keeps detailed notes about the meeting. Cabell supposedly learns that Grudge is effectively dead and demands to know “who in hell has been giving me these reports that every decent flying saucer report is being investigated?” Cabell says there is a great deal of doubt in his mind as to what the saucers are and that the Grudge report is the “most poorly written, inconclusive piece of unscientific tripe” he had ever read. He orders Grudge to reactivate itself, and Cummings and Rosengarten go back to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio to do just that. (Ruppelt, [pp. 93–94](#); Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 68–70; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 44–46; Michael Hall, [“When UFOs Were Serious Business: Then and Today,” IUR](#) 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 4; Swords 127–128, 501–502; Clark III 514–515; Graff 70; Powell, *Scientist*, 112; Clark IV 563–564)
- 1951**, October 3 — 10:27 p.m. Three radar operators, Sgt. [Melvin W. Watson](#), Pvt. [Manuel M. Gonzales](#), and Senior Radar Mechanic Sgt. James E. Biscanto, north of Kadena AFB on Okinawa, Japan, track a large, sausage-shaped blip traveling at 2,400 to 4,800 mph from north-northeast to north-northwest at a distance of 60 miles. The radar site attempts to radio its report to Itasuke AFB, but it is blocked by heavy interference. (NICAP, [“Large Sausage-Shaped Blip on Radar \(BBU 984\)”](#); Clark III 996–997; Clark IV 1109–1110)
- 1951**, October 4 — 2:00 a.m. Two French aviation officers are camped out several miles northwest of the village of Tessalit, Mali. A luminous dark-yellow disc approaches slowly from the east, loses altitude, makes a 90° turn, accelerates, and ascends at high speed. (Patrick Gross, [“Tessalit, Mali, October 4, 1951”](#))
- 1951**, October 9 — 1:42 p.m. A fast-moving, silvery UFO shaped like a “flattened tennis ball” is sighted by a Civil Aviation Administration Chief Aircraft Communicator Roy Messmore at Hulman Municipal Airport [now Terre Haute Regional Airport], five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. At 1:45 p.m., private pilot Charles Warren, flying at 5,000 feet east of Paris, Illinois, sees a silvery “flattened orange” object that appears stationary to his left rear. It picks up speed and heads to the northeast. Project Blue Book plots the sighting and concludes that both cases involve the same object. (NICAP, [“October 9, 1951, Hulman CAA / Pilot Case”](#); NICAP, [“Pilot Radios Terre Haute: Observes ‘Flattened Orange’”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 114; Swords 129)
- 1951**, October 10 — 10:10 a.m. Engineer and pilot [Joseph J. Kaliszewski](#), flying with copilot Jack Donaghue on a Skyhook balloon tracking mission for General Mills 10 miles east of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, notices a strange object crossing the sky from west to east, much higher and behind the balloon, which is at 20,000 feet. The UFO has a peculiar glow. It comes into sight at a slight dive, then levels off and slows down, makes a sharp left turn, climbs at an angle of 50–60° into the southeast with terrific acceleration, and disappears. It is seen for about 2 minutes. (NICAP, [“The Kaliszewski Sightings”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 114; UFOEv, [p. 56](#))
- 1951**, October 11 — 6:30 a.m. [Joseph J. Kaliszewski](#) and Dick Reilly are flying at 10,000 feet north of Minneapolis, Minnesota, observing a balloon when they see a brightly glowing object to the southeast of the University of Minnesota airport moving at high speed from west to east. It has a halo around it with a dark under surface. It crosses rapidly, slows down, and starts to climb slowly in lazy circles. Observers Doug Smith and Dick Dorion at the General Mills tracking station at the University of Minnesota watch the object through a theodolite. They watch another object 2 hours later. (NICAP, [“The Kaliszewski Sightings”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 114; UFOEv, [p. 56](#); James

- E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 44–45)
- 1951, October 16 — 11:01 a.m. Air Force pilots flying three F-94 fighters out of McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] and naval ground personnel see a round, gray object flying soundlessly at high speed and high altitude west of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Oak Harbor, Washington. Photos taken from the F-94s show the object. After 50 minutes, the aircraft abandon the chase. The Air Force attributes the sighting to Venus. (NICAP, "[3 F-94's Encounter Round Grey Object / Photos Taken](#)"; *Sparks*, p. 115; Clark III 391–392; Clark IV 436–437)
- 1951, October 20 — [Frank B. Jewett Jr.](#), director of the Aeronautical Research Laboratory at General Mills Corporation, writes to Assistant Secretary of the Air Force [Eugene M. Zuckert](#) about UFOs seen by his personnel. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 51)
- 1951, October 22 or 27 — Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) officially takes over a revitalized Project Grudge, relieving Lt. [Jerry W. Cummings](#), with 2d Lt. Henry Metscher staying on as an assistant. The two reorganize all the files from Projects Sign and Grudge, improving their retrievability. Ruppelt learns from some scientists and engineers who visit ATIC frequently that "UFOs were being freely and seriously discussed in scientific circles." (*Sparks*, p. 14; Edward J. Ruppelt, "[What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers](#)," *True*, May 1954, p. 30; Ruppelt, pp. 114–115; Michael D. Hall and Wendy Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers, 1952*, Rose Press, 2000, p. 26; Clark III 933, 937; Clark IV 1043, 1047)
- 1951, October 22 — The Directorate of Intelligence provides answers to the problem that Col. [Harold Watson](#) identified with the CIRVIS reporting system. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "Flying Saucers: Behind the Cold War Veil of Military Intelligence (Part II)," *European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies* 3, no. 1 (March 2002): 32)
- 1951, October 30 — 6:40 a.m. A group of servicemen are preparing to observe the Buster Charlie atomic test at Area 7 of the Nevada Test Site. Just before the blast, they see at an altitude of a few thousand feet a formation of 18 silvery, rotating, disc-shaped objects, each with a dome, arranged in six groups of three stretched out in a horizontal row. They fly low over the test site, hover for 30–60 seconds, and depart at an angle, disappearing in seconds. (Nukes 68–71)
- 1951, November — Maj. Gen. [Cabell](#) is promoted to staff director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is replaced as director of Air Force Intelligence by Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#). (Clark III 936)
- 1951, November 1 — The Air Force issues a *Ground Observer's Guide* for use by members of the Ground Observer Corps, a WWII Civil Defense program reinstated during the Korean War to protect against enemy attack. (US Department of the Air Force, *Ground Observer's Guide*, AF Manual 50-12, November 1, 1951)
- 1951, November 2 — 7:15 a.m. The crew of an American Airlines DC-4 is flying east of Abilene, Texas, at 4,500 feet. They see a bright-green, projectile-shaped object, about the same size as their airliner, streak past at about same altitude and same easterly heading. The object leaves a trail then explodes, shooting red balls of fire in all directions. (*Sparks*, p. 115; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 92–93; Nukes 74–75)
- 1951, November 3 — 9:00 p.m. A green fireball is sighted in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. Capitol Airways pilot H. R. DeHoney is flying at 11,000 feet about 20 miles south of Flagstaff, Arizona, and watches the object speed by as a bright blue-green ball that leaves a streak of brilliant red fire. ("[Mystery Meteor Startles NM, Arizona](#)," *Santa Fe New Mexican*, November 4, 1951, p. 13; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)" *Life*, April 7, 1952, pp. 80, 92–94; Nukes 75–76)
- 1951, November 6 — [Ruppelt](#) flies to Reese AFB [now Reese Technology Center] in Lubbock, Texas, to begin his investigation of the Lubbock lights, accompanied by OSI agent [Howard Bossert](#). (Clark III 691)
- 1951, November 7 — Evening. A steamship captain and crew watch an elongated orange object with six glowing "portholes" speed toward Ontario over Lake Superior. (UFOEv, p. 146)
- 1951, November 8 — [Ruppelt](#) and an officer from Reese AFB visit Brownfield, Texas, to investigate UFO sightings there. (Clark III 691)
- 1951, November 9 — Since October 30, seven green fireballs of exceptional size have been seen over a seven-state area in the American Southwest. [Lincoln LaPaz](#), director of the University of New Mexico Institute of Meteoritics, says that frequency is exceptional: "In fact, there has never been a rate of meteorite fall in history that has been one fifth as high as the present fall. If that rate should continue, I would suspect the phenomenon is not natural." The fireballs travel in straight lines and are completely silent. ("[Southwest's 7 Fireballs in 11 Days Called 'Without Parallel in History'](#)," *New York Times*, November 10, 1951, pp. 1, 14; Nukes 76–79)

- 1951**, November 11 — 8:45 p.m. Thomas Bartis and his older brother [Francis](#) are driving through New Haven, Connecticut, when they see a huge yellow fireball with a greenish-blue tail streak through the sky. Probable bolide. (“[Second Fireball Is Sighted](#),” *Meriden (Conn.) Record-Journal*, November 12, 1951, pp. 1, 10)
- 1951**, November 20 — 6:42 p.m. A vivid green fireball is reported from Dodge City, Kansas, and Lubbock and Big Springs, Texas. Two Air Force pilots landing at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a Trans World Airlines pilot also see the fireball. (Nukes 78)
- 1951**, November 24 — 3:53 p.m. Air Force Capt. William Fairbrother is flying a P-51 over Mankato, Minnesota, at 25,000 feet when he sees a white object shaped like a flying wing. It hovers at first, then it passes 100 feet above and to the left of his aircraft. He immediately turns to follow but loses sight of it. (NICAP, “[Wingshaped Object Hovers Then Passes P-51](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 115)
- 1951**, November 24 — 6:24 p.m. A Capital Airlines Flight 94 pilot and several control tower and other ground observers in four different locations in Michigan (Grand Rapids, Coopersville, Battle Creek, and Selfridge AFB near Mount Clemens) see a large round object flying west at 500–1,000 feet at about 1,000 mph. (NICAP, “[Many Observers at Different Locations Observe Fast Object](#)”; NICAP, “[Capital Airlines Pilot Confirms Michigan Sightings](#)”; NICAP, “[Radar Rumor / Radar Ceases Operation & Antenna Moves](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 116; Swords 130)
- 1951**, November 27 — Geophysicist Louis Elterman releases the final report on Project Twinkle. Basically, it admits that the low frequency of occurrence of the fireballs does not justify the \$50,000 a year required for a useful monitoring facility. It speculates that “the earth may be passing through a region in space of high meteoric population. Also, the sun-spot maxima in 1948 perhaps in some way may be a contributing factor.” (Louis Elterman, [Project Twinkle Final Report](#), Atmospheric Physics Laboratory, November 27, 1951; Clark III 544–545; Clark IV 602–603)
- 1951**, November 30 — Project Grudge issues its first Status Report, classified “confidential.” (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 1–19)
- 1951**, November 30 — Night. A tanker ship, *MV British Premier*, is in the Gulf of Oman when it encounters a mass of “boomerang-shaped arcs of phosphorescent light” on the sea, gyrating in a clockwise direction to starboard and counter-clockwise to port, sweeping inwards toward the ship. The phenomenon is noticed shortly after the ship switches on its radar apparatus and lasts for 15 minutes. (F. G. Baker, “Phosphorescence,” *Marine Observer* 22 (October 1952): 190; Dolan, *USO1*, 149–150)
- 1951**, December — [Ed J. Sullivan](#), a technical writer for North American Aviation, holds a meeting of engineers, scientists, and journalists in Los Angeles, California, who have been following the UFO phenomenon. They form Civilian Saucer Investigation to collect reports and forward them on to ATIC. Its most prominent member is [Walther Riedel](#), German rocket scientist retrieved by Project Paperclip. (Jan L. Aldrich, “[Civilian Saucer Investigation \(Los Angeles\)](#),” Sign Historical Group; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 139–140; Clark III 241–242; Clark IV 282–283)
- 1951**, December 5 — Early morning. Swedish [Prince Carl Bernadotte](#) and a friend, [Berl Gutenberg](#), are driving near Stockholm, Sweden, when they see a bright flash of light illuminate the sky. Bernadotte stops the car and opens the door to listen for sounds. They go immediately to the Stockholm Criminal Investigation Department, who reports the incident to the Security Police and the military UFO desk. The report is instantly classified, even though the object is probably a meteor. (Swords 366)
- 1951**, December 11 — Project Twinkle closes down. (Clark III 544–545; Clark IV 602–603)
- 1951**, December 12 — 3:50 p.m. USAF Capt. [Donald “Deke” Slayton](#), flying a P-51 fighter at 10,000 feet, sees a whitish or gray object off his left wing about one mile away and 1,000 feet below his flight level about five miles southeast of Hastings, Minnesota. It looks like a kite at first, then like a weather balloon, then two rapidly revolving discs that overlap with centers about 1 foot apart. He attempts an intercept, but the UFO increases speed and disappears. (NICAP, “[Deke’ Slayton / P-51 Encounter](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 117; Donald K. Slayton and Michael Cassutt, *Deke! An Autobiography*, Macmillan, 1994, pp. 49–51)
- 1951**, December 19 — [Ruppelt](#) travels to the Pentagon with ATIC Chief Col. [Frank Dunn](#). They visit with Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#), who has replaced [Cabell](#) as USAF director of intelligence and who seems “familiar with the general aspects of the problem.” Samford’s aide, Gen. [William M. Garland](#), tells them that ATIC has the sole authorization to carry out UFO investigations for the entire US military (not exactly true), and they discuss security problems posed by UFOs at sensitive installations. Ruppelt reveals that his preliminary analysis of UFO sighting patterns has uncovered a disturbing correlation of unexplained sightings around nuclear weapons facilities and highly classified nuclear stockpile sites and some SAC strategic air bases. Gen. Samford orders ATIC to conduct an exhaustive statistical study to verify Ruppelt’s findings, using the newly established ATIC Project WHITE STORK contract with the research think tank Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio

(which eventually spends \$100,000 on the study, Subproject PPS-100, confirming Ruppelt's pattern). (Ruppelt, [pp. 115–116](#))

- 1951, December 26–27 — [Ruppelt](#) and Col. [Sanford H. Kirkland Jr.](#) of ATIC meet with members of the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, and ask them to help out with the USAF evaluation of UFO reports: first, a study of witness perception and recall, then a statistical study of UFO reports. (“[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#),” CUFON; Clark III 918, 929; Clark IV 1028, 1039)
- 1951, December 28 — Project Grudge issues a Special Report #1 and its Status Report #2 three days later. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 21–53; Clark III 933; Clark IV 1043)

1952

- 1952 — The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is established in Livermore, California, as an offshoot of the UC Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley. It is intended to spur innovation and provide competition to the nuclear weapon design laboratory at Los Alamos, New Mexico. [Edward Teller](#) and [Ernest Lawrence](#), director of the Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley, are regarded as its cofounders. Los Alamos and Livermore soon establish a rivalry, fighting for weapons contracts and feasibility-study awards. (Wikipedia, “[Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#)”)
- 1952 — [José Manuel Rodríguez Delgado](#), a Spanish physiologist at Yale University, coauthors what he claims is the first peer-reviewed paper describing deep-brain stimulation of humans. Over the next two decades, he implants electrodes in some 25 subjects. Most are schizophrenics and epileptics at the now-defunct State Hospital for Mental Diseases in Howard, Rhode Island, where Delgado's occasional collaborator [Hannibal Hamlin](#) is a staff psychiatrist. Delgado is reticent discussing his experiments on humans. He is more enthusiastic recalling research on monkeys, chimpanzees, and gibbons, which he kept both at Yale and in open-air compounds in the Bahamas and New Mexico. He explores the effects of stimulation not only on individuals but also on groups. In one demonstration, he implants a stimociever (a tiny electrode able to receive and transmit signals over FM radio waves) in a macaque who terrorizes his cage-mates. Delgado installs a lever in the cage that, when pressed, activates the stimociever in the bully and pacifies him. A female in the cage soon figures out the lever's significance and yanks it often and with gusto. (John Horgan, “[Tribute to Jose Delgado, Legendary and Slightly Scary Pioneer of Mind Control](#),” Cross-Check, *Scientific American* blog, September 25, 2017)
- 1952 — World War II air intelligence records are transferred from the Pentagon to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama. This shift is probably why Blue Book's Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) later cannot find anything about foo-fighters during his trips to USAF intelligence to locate reports not forwarded to ATIC. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1952 — Aircraft designer [John Carver Meadows Frost](#) establishes a Special Projects Group at Avro Canada in Toronto to develop a vertical takeoff and landing engine with a circular shape. Frost believes that the Coanda effect acting as a ground cushion can support a high-performance VTOL aircraft. His team produces a wooden mock-up of a “spade-shaped” fighter as Project Y. However, the Canadian government abandons the effort after two years. (Wikipedia, “[John Carver Meadows Frost](#)”)
- 1952 — As equerry to [Prince Philip](#), the Duke of Edinburgh, Wing Commander [Peter Horsley](#) arranges for RAF Fighter Command to send copies of the latest UFO reports made by air crews for examination at Buckingham Palace. Prince Philip gives him permission to read the reports, interview pilots, and keep him informed of the latest UFO news. (David Clarke, “[Prince Philip: The Royal Flying Saucerer](#),” Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, April 11, 2021)
- 1952 — The Argentine Navy establishes a temporary inquiry commission dedicated to the UFO phenomenon at its Port Belgrano Naval Base in Punta Alta, Argentina. (Milton Hourcade, “[Argentina: UFO Declassification](#),” U.A.P.S.G.–G.E.F.A.I., July 29, 2020)
- 1952? — An anonymous occupation soldier in Austria meets a diving suit-clad being who paralyzes him, pulls him inside a UFO, and flies him to an otherworldly place he takes to be Mars. He sees other humans who do not acknowledge him. Then he is returned to his base. (*Prince George (B.C.) Citizen*, December 11, 1957)
- 1952 — 6:30 a.m. A carpool of people on their way to work at United Airlines in San Mateo, California, observe five smaller objects merging with a much larger, diamond-shaped object. The big one is about 150–200 feet long, charcoal or gunmetal in color, and is hovering 50–75 feet above some salt flats. The UFOs are directly in front of them to the east, about 1,500–1,800 feet away. One of the witnesses, airplane mechanic [Leonard L. Musel](#), says the smaller objects enter the large object through a “transparent tail or sleeve.” After they are aboard, the bigger UFO turns edgewise and zooms off at a fantastic speed. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 7)

- 1952** — Night. USAF Pvt. [Sinclair Taylor](#) is on guard duty at Camp Okubo in Uji, on the southern outskirts of Kyoto, Japan, when he hears flapping sounds and sees what seems to be an enormous bird. As it gets closer to him, Taylor sees that it is a winged man well over 7 feet tall with a wingspread of 7 feet. Taylor fires at it repeatedly with his rifle and thinks he hit it, but he can't find the body. (Sinclair Taylor, "The Bird Thing," *Fate* 13, no. 12 (December 1960): 53–54; Clark III 778; Clark IV 859)
- 1952**, January — Civilian Saucer Intelligence in Los Angeles, California, obtains a post office box and invites UFO witnesses to write in and report their sightings. Within a few months the group is inundated with reports, which it turns over to "qualified engineers" to be logged and evaluated. Significant cases are turned over to USAF's Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB. ("[The Civilian Saucer Investigation](#)," *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Review*, no. 1 (September 1952): 2; Richard W. Williams, "[Summary of Findings in CSI's First 220 Sighting Reports](#)," *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Review*, no. 1 (September 1952): 1)
- 1952**, January — [Jim and Coral Lorenzen](#) found the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Soon, a man claiming to have an intelligence background becomes an active supporter and tries to lead the Lorenzens into "metaphysical areas of research." Coral Lorenzen rebuffs these attempts. She discovers what seem to be the impressions of an intelligence report about her on one of his letters. In the summer, two suspicious men posing as building contractors seem to be lurking around her home as well as the homes of the APRO treasurer and secretary the same day. (Dick Ruhl, "A History of APRO," *Official UFO*, January 1976, p. 24; Lorenzen, *Encounters with UFO Occupants*, Berkley Medallion, 1976, pp. 1–2, 248–251; Clark III 49; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 99–101; Clark IV 67)
- 1952**, January — Eldon L. White, working as a rigger for the US Air Force on Shemya, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, hears an odd whirring sound that causes him to look up. He sees a gray, bat-shaped object about 300 feet above him, falling leaf-like into the water. The leading edge of its wing has openings that emit a greenish-yellow glow, and it has a dome that is pulsating with red light. It is about 30 feet across and has a protruding rod on its base. It stops and hovers for several seconds about 75 feet above the sea, then enters the water at an angle and disappears. (Carl Feindt, "[Report #817](#)," [waterufo.net](#); Dolan, *USO1*, 150–152)
- 1952**, January — Some 74% of the CIA's money goes toward covert operations. It has already infiltrated many US labor, business, church, university, student, and cultural groups, usually channeling the money through foundations. This year it begins HTLINGUAL, a secret project to intercept mail destined for the USSR and China. It also targets domestic peace and civil rights activists. It lasts until 1973, photographing 2 million envelopes and opening 215,000 letters. (David Wise, [The American Police State: The Government Against the People](#), Random House, 1976; Frank J. Donner, [The Age of Surveillance: The Aims and Methods of America's Political Intelligence System](#), Knopf, 1980; Jim Keith, [Mind Control, World Control: The Encyclopedia of Mind Control](#), Adventures Unlimited, 1997)
- 1952**, January 1 — 10:54 p.m. Warrant Officer W. J. Yeo (a master telecomm specialist) and Sgt. [D. V. Crandell](#) watch a silent, reddish-orange object circle and maneuver for nearly 9 minutes at RCAF Station North Bay, Ontario. It appears to be very large and travels at supersonic speed. ("[Saucers' Seen Here: 2 Sighted at RCAF Station](#)," *North Bay (Ont.) Nugget*, April 15, 1952, pp. 1–2; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, [p. 92](#))
- 1952**, January 3 — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#), Assistant for the Production of Intelligence, writes a secret memorandum for General [John A. Samford](#) that lays down the investigative shortcomings of Project Grudge and suggests policies and agendas for the immediate future. Garland mentions that the aircraft inventions and models by the [Horten brothers](#) had fallen into the hands of the Soviets at the end of World War II. (Brig. Gen. William M. Garland, "[\(Secret\) Contemplated Action to Determine the Nature and Origin of the Phenomena Connected with the Reports of Unusual Flying Objects](#)," January 3, 1952; Swords 141–143; Kremlin 34)
- 1952**, January 6 — Contactee [George Van Tassel](#), living at Giant Rock in the Mojave Desert near Landers, California, receives the first of many psychic messages from extraterrestrial starship commanders. This one is from "Lutbunn, senior in command of first wave, planet patrol, realms of Schare. We have your contact aboard 80,000 feet above this place." Other messages soon come from Elcar, Clota, Totalmon, Latamarx, Noma, Leektow, Luu, Oblow, Kerrull, Locktopar, Molca, Clatu, Hulda, Lata, Singba, and others. One of his contacts, Ashtar, will become a metaphysical superstar, and in the years ahead many contactees will channel communications from him. These aliens seek to raise humanity's "vibrationary attunement" so that earthlings will not threaten the wise and peace-loving space people. Van Tassel reprints many of these messages in a misleadingly titled book, *I Rode a Flying Saucer!* (George W. Van Tassel, [I Rode a Flying Saucer! The Mysteries of the Flying Saucers Revealed](#), New Age, 1952; Jacqueline Sanders, "[The Van Tassel Saucer Meeting](#)," *The Saucerian* 2, no. 2 (September

- 1954): 15–17; Kim Stringfellow, “[Giant Rock, Space People, and the Integraton](#),” KCET-TV, Los Angeles, May 15, 2018; Clark III 173, 1218–1219; Clark IV 200, 1395)
- 1952**, January 8 — Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, agrees to help out the Air Force with analyzing UFO reports. (Clark III 929; Clark IV 1039)
- 1952**, January 20 — 7:20 p.m. Two master sergeants, both intelligence specialists, are walking down a street at Fairchild AFB near Spokane, Washington, when they notice a large, bluish-white, spherical object approaching from the east. It passes north of their position, traveling horizontally and silently, and disappears in the west. They notice it has a long blue tail. It travels underneath low cloud cover at 4,700 feet at 1,400 mph. (NICAP, “[Large Sphere with Blue Tail at 500](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 118; Ruppelt, [p. 12](#))
- 1952**, January 21 — 9:50 a.m. A Navy pilot lieutenant commander in a TBM Avenger chases a white, dome-shaped object over Mitchel AFB [now closed] on Long Island, New York. It accelerates rapidly, makes a 180° turn, and heads out to sea. He estimates it is traveling at least at 300 mph. It looks like a parachute canopy and has a dark undersurface. Although there is a balloon in the area, its flight path is completely different. (NICAP, “[TBM Chases Climbing and Accelerating Object](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 118; Ruppelt, [pp. 121–123](#))
- 1952**, January 22 — 12:20 a.m. At a northern Alaska outpost, Murphy Dome Air Force Station, radar captures a UFO traveling 1,500 mph at 23,000 feet. When an F-94 is sent to intercept, the target stops, slows down, reverses course, and heads directly for the radar station. It comes within 30 miles, then disappears from the screen. The F-94 heads back to refuel, and a second fighter is scrambled. This pilot gets a strong radar return. At first, the object is almost stationary, but then it dives suddenly, at which point ground radar picks it up again. A third F-94 is sent up, also tracks the object on radar, and closes to within 900 feet. At this point, the pilot pulls away to avoid a collision, as the UFO is nearly immobile. Since none of the pilots obtained a visual sighting, the Air Force concludes that the radar returns are weather-related, although the pilots strongly dispute this. (NICAP, “[Alaskan Radar Case](#)”; [Sparks](#), pp. 119–120; Ruppelt, [pp. 123–127](#); US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports I–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 138–139; Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, eds., *UFO’s: A Scientific Debate*, Cornell University, 1972, [p. xxi](#))
- 1952**, January 29 — On his trip to the Pentagon to brief Gen. [William M. Garland](#), [Ruppelt](#) visits the AFOIN offices and discovers they have more complete files than ATIC in Dayton, Ohio, does. He arranges to have copies made of the missing files for him at Project Grudge (though multiple visits are required to obtain the copies and Ruppelt probably does not succeed in getting everything). The offices with UFO files include the Technical Capabilities Branch (TCB) of the Evaluation Division and the Collection Control Branch of the Collection Division. (NICAP, “[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)”)
- 1952**, January 29 — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#), USAF Assistant for Production of Intelligence, and his staff are briefed at the Pentagon on the status of Project Grudge by [Edward Ruppelt](#), who with his colleagues at ATIC has prepared sighting maps that show a concentration of cases at White Sands and Los Alamos, New Mexico; Killeen Base, Texas; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Dayton, Ohio (where Wright-Patterson AFB is situated). At this meeting, Garland introduces a new intelligence policy that emphasizes the use of instrumentation for intelligence collection, including the detection and tracking of UFOs (the basis for terminating the UFO project as an intelligence function). As an interim last-chance measure to prove whether anecdotal sightings have any value, Garland approves Ruppelt’s publicity plan to draw in UFO reports from the public so that triangulations might be obtained. This leads to Garland secretly backing the *Life* magazine article. Apparently on the same day, Garland gives the welcoming address to the secret MIT Lincoln Laboratory (Ruppelt calls it the Beacon Hill group) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he tells the assembled scientists to study ways USAF intelligence methodology can be revolutionized through the use of technology. Later Garland sends Ruppelt to brief the Lincoln Lab scientists on UFOs on at least two other occasions. (“[Status of Project Blue Book](#),” T52-6888, [1952]; NICAP, “[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)”; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May](#), The Author, 1993, p. 12; Swords 144; Clark III 813; Clark IV 906)
- 1952**, January 29 — Evening. Violet M. Winstead and her husband are at an open-air movie theater on Guam when they and others at the theater see an orange light passing silently overhead. (Violet M. Winstead, [Letter](#), *IUR* 9, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1984): 3)
- 1952**, January 29 — Night. A bright orange, disc-shaped object, also described as a “huge ball of fire,” paces two B-29s on the same night, 80 miles from each other over the towns of Wonsan and Sunchon, North Korea. (NICAP, “[Rotating Light Seen by B-29 Crew](#)”; NICAP, “[B-29 Crew Followed by UFO](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 121; “[Disks’ Seen in Korea](#),” *New York Times*, February 20, 1952, p. 3; Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 33–37](#); Patrick Gross, “[UFO US Military Reports, Korea, 1952](#)”)

- 1952, January 31 — [Ruppelt](#) releases Project Grudge Status Report #3, in which he reviews the geographic distribution of UFO reports, states the project's obstacles, and includes a list of 15 cases reported to ATIC in January. (Swords 144; US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 55–64)
- 1952, February 2 — 7:35 p.m. Radar operators aboard the aircraft carrier [USS Philippine Sea](#) pick up an unidentified target off the east coast of Korea. It is first detected at a distance of 25 miles; when it closes to 20 miles, it makes a wide turn to the east directly away from the carrier, accelerating from 600 to 1,800 mph at 52,000 feet altitude. It splits into two targets 5–12 miles apart on a slightly zigzag course to the north. They disappear about 110 miles away. Observers on the carrier see three exhaust flames. A USAF analyst estimates the speed of one track to be 767 mph and the speed of another track 1,257 mph. (NICAP, "[USS Philippine Sea Tracks Approaching Target](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 121; [Hynek UFO Report](#), pp. 126–127; Jan L. Aldrich, "[The USS Philippine Sea, February 2, 1952](#)," Project 1947; Jan L. Aldrich, "[U.S. Navy Documents Concerning the USS Philippine Sea Report from Dr. Hynek's Files](#)," Project 1947; "[USS Philippine Sea Operation Officer's Testimony](#)," Project 1947; Martin Shough, [RADCAT: Radar Catalogue: A Review of Twenty-One Ground and Airborne Radar UAP Contact Reports Generally Related to Aviation Safety for the Period October 15, 1948, to September 19, 1976](#), National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, NARCAP Report TR-6, December 8, 2002, pp. 24–26)
- 1952, February 8 — [Dewey Fournet](#), on the Pentagon's UFO desk, writes to [Ruppelt](#) at ATIC for help in interpreting the Korean sightings. Ruppelt has brought in an expert from Wright-Patterson AFB's Engineering Division, [Peter A. Stranges](#) of the Propulsion Branch Power Plant Group, to help with the analysis, which he passes on to Fournet and [Garland](#). Stranges compares the Wonsan sighting to the foo fighters of World War II. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May](#), The Author, 1993, pp. 15–16; Swords 144–145).
- 1952, February 20 — 3:00 p.m. Rev. [Albert Baller](#) is sitting in a train at the station in Greenfield, Massachusetts, when he sees a "sharp flash of light about 35° or more above the horizon." Looking upward, he sees three perfectly circular, silver objects approaching in a V-formation. They are moving at about the "speed of a second hand on a watch." They stop and hover for 10 seconds. The lead object reverses and pulls into a line with the other two between them. Then they depart in a direction at right angles to their approach. (UFOEv, p. 69)
- 1952, February 20 — [Joseph](#) and [Stewart Alsop](#) examine the January 29 Korean incidents in their syndicated column, "Problems of Scientific Developments." They suspect a Russian origin. (Joseph and Stewart Alsop, "[Problems of Scientific Developments](#)," *Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier Express*, February 20, 1952, p. 18; Swords 145–146)
- 1952, February 21 — Sen. [Richard Russell Jr.](#) (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, requests further information on the January 29 Korean UFO incidents in a letter to Secretary of the Air Force [Thomas K. Finletter](#). (Project 1947, "[UFO Documents, 1952, Korea](#)")
- 1952, February 21 — Far East Air Forces Commander Lieut. Gen. [Otto P. Weyland](#) tells reporters that "no conclusive evaluation had been made at the present time" on the Wonsan/Sunchon, Korea, sightings of January 29–30. ("[Flying Saucer' Story Ignored by Congressmen](#)," *Rock Island (Ill.) Argus*, February 21, 1952, p. 15; "Nothing Conclusive on Globes: Weyland," *Stars and Stripes*, Pacific edition, February 22, 1952; Project 1947, "[UFO Documents, 1952, Korea](#)")
- 1952, February 22 — The now-completed Site Able is renamed Manzano Base, New Mexico, and turned over to the operational control of the Air Force. What appear to be secure bunkers are visible to people (mostly military personnel) who go to a recreational camping area nearby known as Coyote Canyon. The military, however, never officially confirms the nature of the activities at Manzano Base [now part of Kirtland Air Force Base]. At one point, a military spokesman says that Manzano Base has nothing to do with Sandia Base. Manzano has since been identified as the first of six original National Stockpile Sites for nuclear weapons. The other original NSS installations similar to Manzano are: Site Baker at Killeen Base, adjacent to Gray AFB [now Robert Gray Army Airfield] at Fort Hood, Texas; Site Charlie at Campbell AFB [now Campbell Army Airfield] near Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and adjacent to Fort Campbell; Site Dog at Bossier Base, adjacent to Barksdale AFB near Bossier City, Louisiana; Lake Mead Base, adjacent to Nellis AFB, Nevada; and Medina Base, adjacent to Lackland AFB [now Joint Base San Antonio], Texas. (Wikipedia, "[Sandia Base](#)")
- 1952, February 23 or 24 — 11:15 p.m. The navigator on a B-29 bomber sees a pulsating bluish cylinder while the aircraft is evading anti-aircraft fire near Sinuiju, North Korea. It arrives high and fast, makes several turns, and levels out underneath the aircraft. ([Sparks](#), p. 122)
- 1952, February 25–27 — *Life* magazine reporter [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) visits USAF headquarters at the Pentagon to gather information for his UFO article. He talks with Brig. Gen. [Joseph F. Carroll](#), Director of Special Investigations. Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#) tells him that he has considered firing a guided missile at a UFO to bring it down and requests that Ginna delay publishing an article until the Air Force has come to a more definite

conclusion. Ginna also talks to Lt. Col. [Doyle Rees](#) of OSI. (Jan L. Aldrich, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” Project 1947)

1952, February 29 — Project Grudge issues a secret Status Report #4, classified “secret.” (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 65–78)

1952, March or April — 5:00 a.m. Two women cryptographers in the US Naval Reserve stationed at the US Naval Training Center at Port Deposit, Maryland, are out taking a walk outside the base on a dirt road. They notice a red light off to one side above the trees. It starts moving toward them and stops about 100 feet above the road in front of them, about 300 feet away. The object is a 250-foot black disc with two large red lights at each side, an illuminated dome, and smaller lights along the rim. A hole opens in the bottom and phosphorescent white sparks drop toward the ground and disintegrate when they hit the road. The two reservists sprint the quarter-mile back to the base. (NICAP case file)

1952, March 1 — The 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron (AISS) is activated under ADC to collect air combat intelligence. (CUFON, “[4602d AISS Unit History Sampler](#)”)

1952, March 3 — [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) of *Life* visits the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, to obtain material for his UFO article. [Walther Riedel](#), former German rocket scientist at Peenemünde, Germany, tells Ginna he has kept notes on UFO sightings from all over the world: “I am completely convinced that they have an out-of-world basis.” He also meets with Air Force UFO spokesman [Albert M. Chop](#). Air Materiel Command claims it is investigating every serious UFO report, but it can’t find the files he requests. Ginna becomes suspicious. (“[Status of Project Blue Book](#),” T52-6888, [1952]; Jan L. Aldrich, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” Project 1947; Michael D. Swords, “[1952: Ruppelt’s Big Year](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 9; Swords 120–121)

1952, March 5 — The Air Force sends a letter, signed by Lieut. Gen. [Nathan Twining](#), to Secretary [Finletter](#) in response to Sen. [Russell](#)’s February 21 inquiry. It offers two possible explanations: aircraft exhaust from a Soviet Lavochkin La-9 or La-11 fighter aircraft, or spotlights carried on enemy aircraft that have intercepted US bombers. (Project 1947, “[UFO Documents, 1952, Korea](#)”; Swords 145)

1952, March 7 — Physicist [Joseph Kaplan](#) visits ATIC to discuss methods of obtaining more information on green fireballs using a special diffraction grid to be placed on patrol cameras that can be used as a field spectrometer. (“[Status of Project Blue Book](#),” T52-6888, [1952])

1952, March 10 — 6:45 a.m. [Clarence K. Greenwood](#), inspector of engineering metals, sees two dark objects come from behind him at an altitude of 5,000–7,500 feet while he is waiting for a bus in Oakland, California. They pick up speed, one of them moving in a pendulum-like motion. He thinks they are about 45 feet long. (UFOEv, [pp. 56–57](#))

1952, March 14 — Evening. US Secretary of the Navy [Dan A. Kimball](#) is flying to Hawaii when he sees two discs moving at 1,500 mph. The UFOs circle his plane twice, then move on 50 miles east to another Navy plane carrying Adm. [Arthur W. Radford](#). The UFOs circle Radford’s plane then zoom up out of sight. Kimball sends a report to the Air Force, but hears nothing back, despite USAF demanding reports from all Navy witnesses. Kimball threatens to initiate Naval reports on UFOs through ONR to be kept separate from Blue Book. [Keyhoe](#) hears about this from both Kimball and Chief of ONR Adm. [Calvin M. Bolster](#). The report is never made public, but the story is mentioned in the *Boston Traveler* magazine. (NICAP, “[Admiral Radford & Navy Sec. Kimball Planes Buzzed](#)”; NICAP, “[Navy Secy Dan Kimball’s Pilot’s Sighting, March 14, 1952](#)”; Bill Schofield, “[Have You Heard](#),” *Boston Traveler*, May 5, 1952; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [p. 50](#); Swords 165)

1952, March 15 — 10:45 p.m. Donald F. Stewart and George Tyler III are driving northbound on the Governor Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie, Maryland. A 50-foot silvery domed disc with two portholes and an apparent hatch appears from the northeast and hovers above their car, causing the engine to fail, magnetizing the wiring, and cracking the paint. Stewart takes a sub-machine gun from the back of the car and debates whether to fire it at the object, which remains in view for 3 minutes before turning on its edge and speeding away to the southwest. Tyler changes his story later, denying he was involved. (NICAP, “[E-M Effects on Car from Domed Disc](#)”; [Sparks](#), [p. 124](#); “[Missing ‘Flying Saucer’ Reported Sighted Here](#),” *Baltimore (Md.) American*, March 16, 1952; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 196–198](#); Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 61–64, 229; Powell, *Scientific*, 86–87; Kevin D. Randle, “[Car Stalling and a Bungled Project Blue Book Investigation](#),” *A Different Perspective*, May 27, 2024)

1952, Mid-March — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#) initiates a top-secret compartmented project (to be designed and built by USAF R&D) to establish a global instrumented UFO detection and tracking system that would remove the necessity of relying on anecdotal evidence. (Clark III 813; Francis Ridge, “[The 1952 Top-Secret USAF Instrumented UFO Data Collection Plan](#),” *The SCU Review* 4, no. 3 (August 21, 2023): 9–11; Clark IV 906)

- 1952, March 19 — [Ruppelt](#) and other representatives of ATIC meet with the commander of the Air Defense Command, Gen. [Benjamin W. Chidlaw](#), and Gen. [Grandison Gardner](#) and his staff in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on getting radar scope camera films as UFOs are being tracked. “They agreed with it in principle and suggested that I work out the details with the Director of Intelligence for the ADC, Brigadier Gen. [Woodbury M. Burgess](#).” Chidlaw promises to issue a directive to all units explaining procedures in UFO situations, including the scrambling of interceptors. This is issued, apparently in April. Burgess assigns Maj. [Vernon L. Sadowski](#) of his staff to be liaison to Project Grudge, and the Ground Observer Corps is brought into the UFO reporting net. (Ruppelt, pp. 128–129; “[Status of Project Blue Book](#),” T52-6888, [1952]; Clark III 916; Clark IV 1027)
- 1952, March 25 — Project Grudge becomes a separate organization under the title Aerial Phenomena Group and is renamed Project Blue Book, apparently at the suggestion of Lt. Col. Charles Cooke, editor of *Air Intelligence Digest*, which he thinks is “without overtones.” Cooke, originally suggests Project Book, but someone at the Joint Chiefs of Staff level expands it to Blue Book. [Ruppelt](#) says it is based on the books provided for taking college tests at Iowa State University. ([Sparks](#), p. 12; Ruppelt, p. 131; Charles Cooke, “[Flying Saucers Again: Do You Believe in Them?](#)” *Washington (D.C.) Sunday Star*, August 7, 1966; “[Intelligence Colonel Disputes Official Answers](#),” *UFO Investigator* 3, no. 9 (Aug./Sept. 1966): 5; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May*, The Author, 1993, pp. 20–21; Clark III 813, 916; Clark IV 906, 1027)
- 1952, March 26 — Day. Henry C. Davis is looking out at the ocean through his second-floor window in Long Beach, California, and listening to the radio. He spots two yellow discs in the sky about one mile high and 2 miles away. He thinks they are 1,000 feet apart and moving southeast to northwest at 100 mph. As they pass, his radio goes to static twice. ([Schopick](#), p. 78)
- 1952, March 26 — [Ruppelt](#), along with Col. [Sanford H. Kirkland Jr.](#) of ATIC and Lt. Col. William A. Adams of the Air Force Office of Intelligence, meets with the MIT scientists he calls the Beacon Hill Group, which recommends that Blue Book use “sound detection apparatus” in areas of UFO activity. (Clark III 916; Clark IV 1027)
- 1952, March 26 — Five trials are conducted through April 21 by the US Army Chemical Corps under Operation Dew. The tests release zinc cadmium sulfide along a 100-to-150-nautical-mile line approximately 5–10 nautical miles off the coast of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Two of the trials disperse clouds of zinc cadmium sulfide over large areas of all three states. The tests affect over 60,000 square miles of populated coastal region. The Dew I releases are from a Navy minesweeper, the [USS Tercel](#). The conclusion is that long-range aerosol clouds can obtain hundreds of miles of travel and large-area coverage when disseminated from ground level under certain meteorological conditions. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Dew](#)”)
- 1952, Late March? — [Ruppelt](#) meets with two RCAF officers and briefs them on the new procedures. (Ruppelt, p. 130)
- 1952, March 29 — 11:20 a.m. Near Misawa, Japan, USAF Lt. [David Conant Brigham](#) is flying a T-6 target plane on a practice intercept mission for two F-84s. The first F-84 overtakes him at 6,000 feet when the T-6 pilot notices a small disc gaining on the interceptor. The UFO curves toward the F-84, decelerates rapidly, then flips on edge in a 90° bank. It flies between the two aircraft, pulls away, flips again, passes the F-84, crosses in front, and accelerates out of sight in a near vertical climb. Both pilots notice the object, which comes within 30–50 feet of the T-6. At one point it is moving with a fluttering motion, rocking back and forth in 40° banks at one-second intervals. The pilot estimates it is only 8 inches in diameter. There is a ripple around the edge. (NICAP, “[Brigham/T6 Case: UFO Makes Pass at F-84](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 123; “[Air Force Reveals Flying Disk ‘Made Pass’ at Jet Fighter-Bomber over Northern Japan](#),” *Scranton (Pa.) Times*, January 28, 1953, p. 7; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, p. 192; C. W. Fitch, “[Monitoring and Scanning UFOs](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, March 1963, p. 5; UFOEv, p. 5; Clark III 377; Powell, *Scientist*, 46; Clark IV 421)
- 1952, March 29 — Two fiery discs are sighted over the uranium mines in the southern part of the Belgian Congo near Elisabethville [modern Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo]. With a diameter of approximately 36–45 feet, they travel in a precise and light manner, both vertically and horizontally. They emit hissing and buzzing sounds. Changes in elevation from 2,400 to 3,000 feet are accomplished in a few seconds. The discs often move down to within 60 feet of the treetops. A Commander Pierre of the Belgian Air Force sets out in pursuit in a fighter plane from the city airport. On his first approach he comes to within about 260 feet of one of the discs. Suddenly they hover in one spot then takes off in a unique zigzag flight to the northeast at an estimated speed of 930 mph. Pierre gives up his pursuit after about 15 minutes. (NICAP, “[Two Discs over Uranium Mines / Jet in Pursuit](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 123; Good Above, p. 512; Covert 41)
- 1952, March 29 — 6:40 p.m. [Carl J. Henry](#), chairman of the Industrial Commission of Missouri, along with several others, watches a cylinder-shaped, silver UFO for 2 minutes almost directly overhead in Butler, Missouri. It is moving silently in a northwesterly direction leaving no trail or exhaust. He estimates its length at 100 feet. (UFOEv, p. 68)

- 1952**, March 31 — Battelle begins its UFO study (referred to as P-47S and nicknamed Little Stork) under the supervision of William T. Reid, folding it into Project Stork, an initiative to examine the Soviet Union's technological warfare capabilities. Almost all of the UFO analysis involves compiling IBM punch cards based on data forwarded by Project Blue Book files. (Jennie Zeidman, "[I Remember Blue Book](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 7–8; Jennie Zeidman and Mark Rodeghier, "[The Pentacle Letter and the Battelle UFO Project](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 3 (May/June 1993): 4–12, 19–21; Michael Hall, "[Was There a Second Estimate of the Situation?](#)" *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 12; Clark III 929, 931; Clark IV 1039, 1041)
- 1952**, March 31 — ATIC Chief [Frank Dunn](#) writes to Gen. [Garland](#) requesting that Project Blue Book be entirely declassified in order to make it easier to encourage civilian pilots to send in reports. That is a bit too much openness for Garland, who compromises by reclassifying certain case investigations as "Restricted," a relatively low level. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, pp. 25, 29; Swords 146)
- 1952**, March 31 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #5. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 81–94)
- 1952**, Spring — Occultist [George Hunt Williamson](#) and his wife Betty move to Prescott, Arizona, and immerse themselves in UFO literature. (Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 21)
- 1952**, April? — Amateur astronomer [W. Gordon Graham](#) sees a UFO "like a smoke ring, elliptical in shape, and having two bright pinpoints of light along its main axis" at London, Ontario. It sails overhead from west to east. (*London (Ont.) Free Press*, May 1, 1952; UFOEv, [p. 49](#))
- 1952**, April — Secretary of the Navy [Dan Kimball](#), upset with the way the Air Force has treated his UFO sighting, sets up an independent Navy probe of UFOs under Lt. Commander Fred Lowell Thomas of the Office of Naval Research. The project lasts through 1952, but probably not much longer. (NICAP, "[Navy Secy Dan Kimball's Pilot's Sighting, March 14, 1952](#)")
- 1952**, April — [Ruppelt](#) again meets with MIT Lincoln Laboratory scientists (the Beacon Hill group) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to brief them on Blue Book's progress. Afterward, he asks them about the flashes seen on Mars in 1951, and a general discussion of life on other planets ensues. [Michael D. Swords](#) suspects that some of those present are physicist [George Valley Jr.](#), engineer [Julius Adams Stratton](#), physicist [Albert G. Hill](#), and chemical engineer [Walter G. Whitman](#). (Edward J. Ruppelt, "[Are There Men on Mars? Or Other Worlds?](#)" *IUR* 23, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 10–12, 31)
- 1952**, April — [Albert K. Bender](#), a factory worker in Bridgeport, Connecticut, announces the formation of the International Flying Saucer Bureau. (Clark III 189, 623, 727; Clark IV 224, 683, 807)
- 1952**, April 2 — On the eve of the release of the bombshell *Life* magazine article, [Ruppelt](#) and his boss, ATIC Technical Analysis Division Chief Col. [Sanford H. Kirkland Jr.](#), give an extraordinary briefing, technically unclassified but in fact quasi-classified, to a group of aerospace engineers and saucer buffs organized as Civilian Saucer Investigation of Los Angeles. These include aeronautical consultant [Felix W. A. Knoll](#), technical writer [Ed J. Sullivan](#), and North American Aviation project engineer [Walther A. Riedel](#). The briefing takes place at the Mayfair Hotel in Los Angeles, California, along with national media reporters and the *Life* magazine reporters who give them advance copies of the Darrach/Ginna article in exchange. ("[Minutes of Meeting of Civilian Saucer Investigations Held Wednesday, April 2, 1952, 8:00 PM in the Mayfair Hotel, Los Angeles, California](#)," April 2, 1952, transcribed by Sign Historical Group; Ruppelt, [p. 175](#); Willard D. Nelson, "[When Blue Book Met the Ufologists](#)," *IUR* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1987): 21–24; Clark III 241; Clark IV 282)
- 1952**, April 2 — 9:00 a.m. While on a fishing trip to Lake Mead, Nevada, with his wife and M/Sgt Lester Gossett, M/Sgt Sheldon Smith observes a large silver UFO at a high altitude. It looks like a B-36 without wings. Smith observes it right after a flight of F-86s overfly the area at about 15,000 feet. After watching the hovering object for about an hour at a much higher altitude than the vapor trails from the F-86s, it suddenly disappears. (NICAP, "[B-36 without Wings](#)"; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952**, April 3 — 8:23 a.m. Three civilian Air Force pilot instructors, [Chauncey P. "Chick" Logan](#), C. M. Jasper, and Paul Wilkerson, and several others observe a bright-silver oval object above the airport in Benson, Arizona. Hovering at 55,000 feet, the object is in view for nearly an hour, during which time it stays in the same position in the sky. Logan flies a T-6 trainer aircraft up to 13,500 feet to better observe the object, but there is no change in apparent size. (NICAP, "[Seven Pilots Observe Huge Object](#)"; Ellsworth Moe, "[Big Unknown Aerial Object Reported by Marana Pilots](#)," *Tucson Arizona Daily Star*, April 4, 1952, pp. 1, 14; "[Airmen See Big 'Saucer'](#)," *Flagstaff Arizona Daily Sun*, April 4, 1954, p. 1; [Sparks](#), p. 124; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952**, April 3 — The Air Force publicly announces that it has not stopped investigating and evaluating UFO reports.

- 1952, April 4 — [Henry B. Darrach Jr.](#) and [Robert Ginna](#)'s article, "Have We Visitors from Space?" appears in *Life* and reports on the revitalized USAF project. It comes close to advocating the ETH, and its primary sources are high-ranking Air Force officers. It recaps [Arnold](#)'s sighting, the death of [Mantell](#), the Chiles-Whitted case, and the Lubbock lights. The authors conclude that UFOs are physical objects far beyond US or Soviet capabilities. It quotes physicist [Maurice Anthony Biot](#): "The least improbable explanation is that these things are artificial and controlled. My opinion for some time has been that they have an extraterrestrial origin." (H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)" *Life*, April 7, 1952, pp. 80–96; NICAP, "[Scholarly Commentary on LIFE Article of April 7, 1952](#)"; Martin S. Kottmeyer, "[Did Life Magazine Help Spawn the 1952 UFO Wave?](#)" *Magonia Supplement*, no. 48 (October 21, 2003): 1–3; Michael D. Swords, "[1952: Ruppelt's Big Year](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 8–9)
- 1952, April 4 — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#) arranges for the Air Force–RAND Corporation satellite project to have a briefing on UFOs by [Ruppelt](#) during a visit to ATIC. Ruppelt meets and befriends RAND engineer Jim Thompson. ("[Status of Project Blue Book](#)," T52-10889)
- 1952, April 5 — 10:40 a.m. Four civilians—Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Ryan, R. L. Stokes, and D. Schook—see a large, dull-gray, circular object, followed by two similar ones, flying straight and level at high speed over Phoenix, Arizona. ([Sparks](#), p. 124; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952, April 5 — 9:15 p.m. Lewis E. Van Dercar, an amateur astronomer, and his 9-year-old son see four dark, circular objects with mostly fuzzy edges, cross the lower edge of the full moon from their home at N.E. 18th Street in Miami, Florida. (NICAP, [[case file](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 124; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952, April 5 — Near 12:00 midnight. Four members of the 372nd Bomb Squadron stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan—A/1C P. T. Burnett, T/Sgt S. Ball, A/1C J. W. Johnston, and A/1C J. C. Holder—watch a white, steady light flying an erratic course at about 20,000 feet from the north horizon to the base area. It moves over the base at high speed (faster than a jet), zig-zagging, stopping, and maneuvering again. After 10 minutes, it shoots straight up and disappears to the west. (NICAP, "[Object Zig-Zags over Base](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 124)
- 1952, April 6 — 2:59 p.m. [Herman L. Russell](#) is near Draughan-Miller AFB [now Draughan-Miller Central Texas Regional Airport] in Temple, Texas, when he sees 50–75 grayish-white, metallic spots in the north-northwest at an elevation of about 30°–40°. They are randomly arranged within a circular formation that is only one full moon in area. The spots flash in unison every 12–15 seconds for a period of 2 seconds, as if they are tilting on a horizontal axis. After two minutes, the cluster becomes less dense in the center and more dense at the outer rim. Russell estimates its distance at 15–25 miles at a height about 50,000 feet. They disappear by fading into the distance. (NICAP, "[50–75 Discs in Formation](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 125; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952, April 7 — During war games taking place in the vicinity of Lampasas, Texas, nicknamed Operation Longhorn, the Air Force announces that a new "aerial light" attached to a B-26 aircraft is in use that makes an "attacking bomber look like a ball of fire in the sky." It is essentially a bright magnesium searchlight (dubbed a "Hell Roarer" flare) that can illuminate a battlefield for nighttime photography. USAF Public Information Officer Capt. Irving Rappaport implies it could be mistaken for a flying saucer. ("[Light Makes Bomber Resemble Ball of Fire](#)," *Chambersburg (Pa.) Public Opinion*, April 7, 1952, p. 3; "[It's No Saucer! Strange Objects in the Sky Are Nothing New in Dayton](#)," *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, November 9, 1952, magazine supplement, p. 7; Curt Collins, "[UFOs: Confusing the Public](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, January 27, 2022)
- 1952, April 12 — 8:30 p.m. W/O E. H. Rossell and Flight Sgt. Reginald McRae are driving on RCAF Station North Bay, Ontario, when they see a bright amber disc arrive from the southwest, move across the airfield, stop, and then take off in the opposite direction at an angle of 30° at terrific speed. (NICAP, "[Amber Disc Stops, Reverses Direction](#)"; "[Flying Saucers Could Be Real Admit Top Canadian Scientists](#)," *Ottawa (Ont.) Journal*, April 16, 1952, pp. 1, 16; "[Flying Discs No Joke Now in Air Force](#)," *Ottawa (Ont.) Journal*, April 16, 1952, p. 3; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, pp. 92–94)
- 1952, April 16 — 10:58 p.m. Four high-altitude contrails heading east-southeast toward Alaska are seen by US defense observers at Nunivak Island, Alaska. Air Defense Command becomes frantic about a possible Soviet attack. (NICAP, "[UFOs and Alert Scare, April 1952](#)"; NICAP, "[Another Radar-Inspired National Alert](#)"; "[3 Plane Vapors Cause Alert at Alaska Stations](#)," *Long Beach (Calif.) Independent*, April 18, 1952, p. 18; "[Radar Scare](#)," *Miami (Fla.) Herald*, April 19, 1952, p. 23; Clark IV 892)
- 1952, April 17 — 5:10 a.m. Radar at Caswell Air Force Station [now closed] in Limestone, Maine, tracks five unknown targets headed southwest into the US. Three are later identified as off-course civilian airliners, while two remain unidentified. The Air Force Intelligence warns Brig. Gen. [Woodbury Burgess](#), at ADC Headquarters, Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, that a classified source (possibly an electronic intercept) has provided an "indication" of ominous Soviet military activity. With the simultaneous appearance of two waves (including the earlier Alaskan contrails) of unidentified targets, there is no alternative.

At 5:11 a.m., ADC Commander Gen. [Frederic H. Smith Jr.](#) orders America's first nationwide Air Defense Readiness alert. SAC is notified to prepare launching nuclear missiles. The alert is canceled at 7:40 a.m. after no further activity is reported. (NICAP, "[Another Radar-Inspired National Alert](#)"; Clark IV 892)

- 1952, April 17 — 12:05 p.m. Air Force T/S Orville Lawson, [Rudy Toncer](#) (sheet metal shop foreman), and sheet metal shop workers R. K. Van Houtin, Edward Gregory, and [Charles Ruliffson](#) at Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas, see 18 circular objects flying an easterly course that carry them over or very close to the Nevada Test Site. They watch the objects for about 30 seconds. (NICAP, "[April 17, 1952: Nellis AFB, Nevada Large Group of Circular UFOs](#)"; "[Work Crew Spots Flying Saucers over A-Test Site](#)," *Salt Lake Tribune*, April 18, 1952, p. 1; "5 Say They Saw Flying Saucers," *Las Vegas Nevada Morning Star*, April 18, 1952; "[Flying Saucers Reported near Atom Test Site](#)," *Greensburg (Ind.) Daily News*, April 18, 1952, p. 9; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 61–62; Nukes 83)
- 1952, April 17 — [Dewey Fournet Jr.](#) responds to a reporter from the *Baltimore Sun* who has asked about details of the Blue Book investigation with a two-and-a-half-page memo, vagued up a bit, but essentially saying that "nothing detrimental to our national security has materialized from these incidents." (Swords 147)
- 1952, April 18 — 12:07 p.m. Detachment 21 of the 618th Aircraft and Warning Squadron, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, picks up a radar target over the Korea Strait north of Kyushu Island, Japan, moving at 2,700 mph. (NICAP, "[Object Tracked at 2,700 MPH](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 127)
- 1952, April 19 — 9:20 p.m. USAF Brig. Gen. [Edwin M. Day](#) is reclining on a patio in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, when he sees an object traveling parallel to the ground at a constant altitude (between 10,000 and 20,000 feet) and moving in his direction. Its speed is greater than a jet's. It breaks into two parts at one point but maintains its constant course. He follows it visually for 5–6 seconds until it disappears to the north-northeast. ("[When UFOs Were Serious Business: Then and Today](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 5–6)
- 1952, April 20 — 9:15 p.m. Naval aviation student Edmund Kogut and his wife Shirley are at a drive-in movie theater in Flint, Michigan, when they see several groups of UFOs fly over. There are 2–9 objects in a group and about 20 groups, all flying in a straight line except for some changes in direction accomplished unlike any known aircraft. They are shaped like conventional aircraft but have an odd reddish glow surrounding them. (NICAP, [[Flint, Michigan, case documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 128)
- 1952, April 22 — The Canadian Defence Research Board establishes a UFO study group that meets for the first time today. Project Second Storey, formed by [Omond M. Solandt](#), DRB chairman, meets at least five times. It is chaired by astrophysicist [Peter M. Millman](#) and includes [Wilbert B. Smith](#) and representatives from Naval Intelligence, Military Operations and Planning, and the Defence Research Board. At its April 24 meeting, it decides to meet with the US government on UFO matters. ("[Project Second Storey Minutes, 1952.04.24](#)"; Stuart Nixon, "[W. B. Smith: The Man behind Project Magnet](#)," *UFO Quarterly Review* 1, no. 1 (Jan./Mar. 1973): 2–17; Good Above, [p. 186](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May*, The Author, 1993, p. 53; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, p. 225–226; Clark III 1078; Clark IV 1194)
- 1952, April 22 — Around 9:00 p.m. A B-29 combat crew on the ground at Naha Air Base on Okinawa, Japan, observes an elliptical-shaped object at an altitude of 1,000–1,500 feet flying east to west. One minute later, two more objects are observed flying the same course. Five minutes later, two more objects appear flying in the same direction. All five objects are elliptical in shape and apparently 2–3 feet in length. The objects have a brilliant white light that blinks at 1–2 second intervals as they perform erratic maneuvers. The estimated speed of the objects is 1,150 mph. (NICAP, [[case file](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 128; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952, April 23 — 9:30 a.m. R. C. Munroe, engineering standards section head for Raytheon Manufacturing Company, notices an object near an AT-6 Texan trainer aircraft above Lexington, Massachusetts. He estimates its altitude at 40,000 feet. It decelerates abruptly and goes into a flat turn. He writes, "It is inconceivable to me that any human being could have withstood the deceleration or acceleration displayed by this aircraft." (UFOEv, [p. 57](#))
- 1952, April 23 — 10:45 a.m. Engineers [Carl Hawk](#) and [Marvin Harvey](#) are at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, when they look up to watch a jet fighter as it shoots to the north above the Sandia Mountains. They also notice a soundless, flat, rectangular, wing-like object streaking through the sky from east to west above Tijeras Canyon. The object is completely black except for a distinct, bright yellow "V" on its bottom. Two slight points extend from its rear corners. Hawk estimates that it is passing overhead at 2,000 feet altitude at 200–400 mph and is roughly 60 feet wide by 20 feet long. They watch it for 10 seconds until it disappears in a cloud above downtown Albuquerque. ("[What Soared Across Duke City Sky That Day in April, 1952?](#)" *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Tribune*, November 21, 1957, p. 8)

- 1952, April 24 — An Air Force Intelligence memorandum to Col. [Frank Dunn](#), chief of ATIC, transmits nine reports (not released) of unidentified submarine objects reported to the Office of Naval Intelligence. (Good Need, [pp. 141, 145](#))
- 1952, April 25 — 11:00 a.m. Biochemist Robert A. Whitmore and bacteriologist [E. Stanley Yawger Jr.](#) are driving to their office in San Jose, California, when they see a metallic-looking disc rotating around a vertical axis and wobbling. It is moving slowly over the office and is about 4–5 feet in diameter. It flies in a slow arc. Then they see a black object hovering at a high altitude under an overcast. This one is about 100 feet in diameter. Two identical objects come into view out of the clouds. The three objects “jittered about like boats in a stream.” Then the small disc stops spinning, hovers, then shoots upwards, followed by one of the black objects. The remaining two objects linger another minute or so, then take off separately. The episode lasts 15 minutes. Whitmore calls Moffett Field in Santa Clara County, but hangs up before reporting the sighting, which they describe as a “most disturbing experience.” The object “utilized some propulsion method not in the physics books.” (NICAP, “[Scientist Sighting / Extraordinary Propulsion Implied](#)”; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [pp. 241–242](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 69–75)
- 1952, April 25 — Battelle releases its first status report on Project Stork, noting that it has selected a panel of consultants, initiated a news clipping service, and devised a coding scheme for UFO reports. (“[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#),” CUFON)
- 1952, April 29 — Secretary of the Air Force [Thomas K. Finletter](#) issues Air Force Letter 200-5, which directs intelligence officers at every base to report UFOs immediately to ATIC and all major USAF commands. It enables Project Blue Book staff to communicate directly with any Air Force base without going through the normal chain of command, and provides for wire transmission of reports to ATIC, followed with details via air mail. AFL 200-5 is modified by AFR 200-2 in 1953. (Department of the Air Force, “[Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting](#),” Air Force Letter 200-5, April 29, 1952; Ruppelt, [pp. 132–133](#); Clark III 917; Clark IV 1027)
- 1952, April 29 — An Air Force memorandum written to justify a trip by Lt. Col. E. Sterling and [Stefan Possony](#) to Europe mentions that their work for USAF Intelligence’s “Special Study Group” is to evaluate Soviet advanced aerial delivery systems, as well as to shed “some much needed light” on the “vexing ‘flying saucer’ problem.” It adds that the “Air Force cannot assume that flying saucers are of non-terrestrial origin, and hence, they could be Soviet.” (Michael D. Swords, “[1952: Ruppelt’s Big Year](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 10; Swords 151)
- 1952, April 30 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #6. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 95–112)
- 1952, April 30 — 6:00 p.m. Six members of the 3rd Platoon, Heavy Mortar Company, 180th Infantry Regiment at the front lines around Panmunjeom, Korea, see two silvery wingless objects, one behind the other, flying in a valley in a southeasterly direction. Pfc H. B. Webb thinks they are flying at 900–1,000 mph. Some slower northbound F-86 Sabre jets pass above them. They make a rumbling sound. (Haines, *Korea*, [p. 63](#))
- 1952, May — Army radar specialist Jay Nogle is stationed near Washington, D.C., when he picks up an unknown target on his M33 scope at an altitude of 18,000 feet about 130 miles from the capital (which would put it over eastern Pennsylvania). Two other Army units also detect the object, which remains stationary for 30 minutes before moving. By the time the object reaches the edge of the radar scope, it is traveling at 1,000 mph. The report goes all the way to the Pentagon, where orders are given to fire on it if it returns. Nogle says that radar targets are frequently seen in May or June, and units have their antiaircraft guns loaded after the first incident. When 12 F-94 Starfire jets are scrambled from McGuire AFB [now part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst] in Burlington County, New Jersey, the targets move speedily out of range. (Swords 153)
- 1952, Early May — Lt. Thomas A. Featherstone is operating Ground Control Approach radar at NAS Willow Grove [now NAS Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove] in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, when it picks up a target in bad weather conditions near the center of the scope. By the next sweep (32 rpm) the target has moved almost five miles, indicating the object was moving approximately 3,600 mph. It is seen to move as the trace sweeps past it. By the fourth sweep, the target has moved off to the 10-mile limit of the GCA scope. The target is visible on two radar scopes, operating on two different frequencies. A similar object is tracked the following day under similar weather conditions. (NICAP, “[Target Follows Sweep](#)”)
- 1952, Early May — 10:00 p.m. A senior CIA official is having a lawn party at his home near Alexandria, Virginia, for some VIPs. He and two others notice a light approaching silently from the west. It stops then climbs almost vertically, stops again, then levels out. Then it goes into a nearly vertical dive, levels out, and streaks off to the east. (Ruppelt, [pp. 135–136](#); Swords 148)
- 1952, Early May — A meeting is held in the Pentagon office of [Stefan Possony](#), acting chief of the Directorate of Intelligence Study Group under Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#) to hear Harvard University astronomer [Donald](#)

[Menzel](#) express his views. Present are Possony, Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#), ATIC chief Col. [Frank Dunn](#), Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#), Possony's assistant [Leslie Rosenzweig](#), and one other officer. Menzel announces that he has solved all UFO reports and claims to have helped out in the development of the cameras in Project Twinkle. His attitude irks everyone in the meeting. When he asks the Air Force to support his views in upcoming publications in *Time* and *Look*, Gen. Garland gets angry. Col. Dunn says that Blue Book would have put some money into more formal versions of his experiments, but he can only offer a statement that Menzel has told them of his theory. Now Menzel gets agitated, saying it is no theory. He refuses to leave them a copy of his book [perhaps a preliminary or manuscript copy, since it is not published until 1953] to pass on to [Joseph Kaplan](#) and [J. Allen Hynek](#). In the evening, Possony speaks with astronomer [Francis J. Heyden](#) at Georgetown University, who tells him that Menzel's work is based on no more than a "couple of meaningless high school physics experiments." (Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days, Part 2](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 2 (December 2008): 9; Swords 152; Clark III 743; Clark IV 823–824; Michael D. Swords, "[Peeking into the Corners of 1952, Part Two](#)," Center for UFO Studies, May 13, 2025)

1952, May 1 — 9:10 a.m. Air intelligence officer Maj. [Rudolph Pestalozzi](#) and an airman standing outside the Davis-Monthan AFB base hospital, Tucson, Arizona, watch two shiny, round objects overtake a B-36 flying above. The objects slow down to match the plane's speed and remain in formation with them for 20 seconds. Then they make a sharp, no-radius turn away from the B-36, moving away a bit. Then one of the objects stops and hovers. Both are silent, and the crew estimates they have a diameter of 20–25 feet and a thickness of 10–12 feet. (NICAP, "[The Case of the Missing Report](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 131; [Hynek UFO Report](#), pp. 109–112, 292–294; UFOEv II 73–74; Good Need, pp. 166–167)

1952, May 1 — 10:50 a.m. At George AFB [now Southern California Logistics Airport] near Victorville, California, five independent witnesses in the base control tower see a group of five white discs moving in formation for about 30 seconds. The objects appear very maneuverable, seem to almost collide, then break away in a right-angle turn. They are traveling an estimated 900–1,200 mph and are 1,000–1,200 feet in diameter. Four miles away at Apple Valley, California, the base's wing director of personnel, playing on a golf course, sees one of the UFOs at the same time. (NICAP, "[George AFB / Apple Valley, CA Radar Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 131; [Hynek UFO Report](#), pp. 107–109; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May](#), The Author, 1993, pp. 70–71; Good Need, p. 166; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 10, 15; Swords 147–148; Clark III 376; Clark IV 420)

1952, May 1 — 1:45 p.m. *Albuquerque Journal* composing room employee Eugene Cline sees four silvery objects seemingly playing tag with a formation of 12 Air Force bombers—either B-29s or B-50s—flying west over Albuquerque, New Mexico. The round objects are keeping up with the planes at the same altitude, moving in a "tumbling or pitching manner." One object shoots straight up and takes off in a southerly direction. About the same time, workmen (one of them Howard Burgess) erecting an antenna at nearby Sandia Base watch three UFOs pass directly overhead. One comes from the west and moves south; another comes from the north and moves south; and a third, tan-colored rather than silver like the others, passes low overhead and looks like a "cylinder tumbling end over end." Burgess and the others are debriefed and sworn to secrecy about what they have witnessed. ("[Flying Saucers Play Tag with Bombers over City](#)," *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, May 2, 1952, p. 2; Nukes 56–58)

1952, May 7 — 12:22 a.m. Mrs. Hanley Marks sees a light-green, ball-shaped object fall from the sky into the Sandia Mountains, New Mexico, from her home in the Bel-Air neighborhood of Albuquerque. ("[Fireball Falls near Sandias Early Today](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, May 7, 1952, p. 1; "[Green Fireball Falls in Southwest, Three Here Report](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, May 7, 1952, p. 9)

1952, May 7 — 12:15 p.m. A Captain Morris and three enlisted men at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi, see one or two aluminum or silver cylindrical objects darting in and out of the clouds 10 times. ([[Blue Book case report](#)]"; [Sparks](#), p. 131)

1952, May 7 — 4:30 p.m. Magazine writer Ed Keffel, in the company of João Martins, takes five photographs of a UFO over Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In the first, the UFO resembles an airplane coming directly toward them over a large group of trees. The second shows the object as disc-shaped. The third photo is taken as the object tilts slightly, showing both the top with a slight dome and the now obvious disc shape. More trees, including a very tall palm, can be seen in the photograph. The fourth picture, taken as the object tilts the other way, shows a raised ring on the bottom. The final picture is taken as the object is nearly vertical, seen over part of the ocean and some distant hills. The UFO disappears shortly afterward. NICAP does not see any negatives and is skeptical. The Colorado project finds a "glaring internal inconsistency" in the illumination and dismisses the photos as hoaxes. Today, the best evidence seems to suggest the case is a hoax, perpetrated by two magazine writers who wanted an interesting story. (NICAP, "[Barra da Tijuca Photos](#)"; Olavo T. Fontes, "[The Barra da](#)

- [Tijuca Disc](#),” *APRO Special Report no. 1* (October 1961): 1–6; Condon, [pp. 83, 415–418](#); Swords 460–461; Cláudio Tsuyoshi Suenaga, “[Os 90 Anos do O Cruzeiro, a Revista que Inaugurou a Era Moderna dos Discos Voadores no Brasil](#),” October 11, 2018; “[O caso da Barra da Tijuca](#),” *Fenomenum*, February 17, 2022)
- 1952**, May 8 — 2:27 a.m. Pan American Airways pilot Clayton C. Gallagher and his copilot, flying a Lockheed Constellation aircraft at 8,000 feet en route from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to New York, see a light, 10 times the size of an airplane landing light, approach them over the Atlantic Ocean east of South Carolina. It streaks past their left wing about a quarter mile away, followed by two smaller orange balls of fire. Probable meteor. (NICAP, “[Three UAO Sighted by Constellation Crew](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 131; Ruppelt, [pp. 133–135](#); “[San Juan Puerto Rico Pan Am CE-II Case of 5-8-52 – Jay Glick](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013; Tim Printy, “[May 8, 1952: Atlantic Ocean off Jacksonville, Fla.](#),” *SUNlite* 15, no. 3 (May/June 2023): 3–5)
- 1952**, May 8 — Air Force Secretary [Thomas Finletter](#) and his staff (including his special assistant, covert CIA agent [Joseph Bryan III](#)) receive a secret one-hour briefing on UFOs from [Ruppelt](#) and Lt. Col. R. J. Taylor that covers USAF investigations over the previous five years. Finletter asks questions about some specific sightings. (Ruppelt, [p. 138](#); Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers*, Rose Press, 2000, pp. 99–100)
- 1952**, May 10 — 3:00 p.m. USAF Lt. Col. Maurice G. Bechtel and his wife are in the yard of their home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when they see two silvery disc-shaped objects flying straight and level, one after the other, moving southwest to northeast at above 20,000 feet. The first object seems to waver on its axis, the second object follows a similar path but at a higher altitude. The first object is the size of a B-36 at high altitude. Bechtel alerts the radar station but it is unable to track the objects. (NICAP, “[Two Discs Observed by Lt. Colonel and Wife](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 132)
- 1952**, May 10 — 8:30 p.m. A British scientist and others at Paphos, Cyprus, see a luminous circular object rise from the sea and waver back and forth before fading from sight directly overhead. (NICAP, “[Paphos, SW Cyprus](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 132; Good Above, [p. 540](#); Covert 23; Dolan, USO1, 154–155)
- 1952**, May 10 — 10:45 p.m. Four employees of DuPont Corporation at the AEC’s Savannah River Laboratory near Jackson, South Carolina, see four disc-shaped objects approach, then two other discs pass high overhead from different directions. They are a luminous yellow-gold color and move at a high rate of speed. One of the discs approaches at such a low altitude that it must ascend to pass over some tall tanks at the facility. One witness says that the objects are weaving from left to right while continuing on a steady course. The case is investigated by the FBI and passed on to the Pentagon and the Atomic Energy Commission. Tim Printy thinks the objects may have been birds illuminated by ground lighting. (NICAP, “[Objects Sighted near Vital Installation](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 132; memo from J. Edgar Hoover to USAF Director of Special Investigations, “[Flying Disks Reportedly Seen in Vicinity of Savannah River Plant Atomic Energy Commission](#),” May 25, 1952, [p. 19]; Nukes 84; Tim Printy, “[The 701 Club: Case #1198, Ellenton, South Carolina, May 10, 1952](#),” *SUNlite* 15, no. 3 (May/June 2023): 5–6)
- 1952**, May 12 — 8:45 p.m. A UFO is seen by Walker AFB T/Sgt. Raymond Bare in a car in downtown Roswell, New Mexico. The object is blue-green in color, and its estimated altitude above the terrain is 20,000–30,000 feet. It appears to be about 40–50 miles distant over some low mountains east of Ruidosa. The object travels three times over approximately the same south-to-north / east-to-west, swaying, triangular course. Rate of speed cannot be precisely estimated but is faster than that of a jet aircraft. Intensity of color brightness varies with the object’s altitude. The Air Force explains it as the planet Venus, but Venus is on the other side of the earth at the time. (NICAP, “[High-Speed Object Maneuvers over Mountains](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 132; Clark III 390–391; Clark IV 436)
- 1952**, May 13 — 8:55 p.m. Aeronautical engineer Donald R. Carr sees a meteor-like object descend over National City, California, flying a curving path to the northwest. At 9:25 p.m., Carr watches a similar object, seemingly returning from the north. (UFOEv, [p. 4](#))
- 1952**, May 13 — 10:33 p.m. James Richardson and three other amateur astronomers (among them [Cyril Thomas Wyche](#) and [Harry B. Mooney](#)), set up telescopes at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, when they see a diamond formation of 4 oval, reddish-yellow or reddish-brown luminous objects nearly overhead. They disappear after 3 seconds moving through a 12° arc. The apparent size is a half dollar at arms length. They wobble in flight. (NICAP, “[Diamond Formation of 4 Objects Observed by Astronomers](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 133; Willy Smith, “[Blue Book Pearls: Greenville, S.C.](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 8–9, 24; Willy Smith, *On Pilots and UFOs*, UNICAT Project, 1997, pp. 31–42; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 10, 15)
- 1952**, May 14 — RCAF personnel and members of the Defense Research Board of Canada visit Capt. [Ruppelt](#) at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio, for a briefing on its operations and establish a channel for communication with Project Second Storey. (Stuart Nixon, “[W. B. Smith: The Man behind Project Magnet](#),” *UFO Quarterly Review* 1, no. 1 (Jan./Mar. 1973): 2–17)

- 1952**, May 15 — USAF Intelligence Special Study Group Chief Lieut. Col. E. Sterling and [Stefan Possony](#) begin a five-week temporary duty trip to Europe to study Soviet missiles and aircraft. As a side project they study “flying saucers” that might be of Soviet origin. No documents have yet been found on this trip’s results. (Michael D. Hall and Wendy Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers—1952*, Rose Press, 2000, pp. 156–159; Swords 151)
- 1952**, May 15 — 6:35 p.m. The pilot of an F-51 assigned to the 18th Fighter Bomber Group flying at 9,000 feet over North Korea encounters a silver object estimated to be 50 feet in diameter. It appears ahead of him to the right and begins climbing at 1,000 mph to the east, pauses, then descends into some haze. (Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 39–40](#))
- 1952**, May 15 — 8:00 p.m. Two F-86E pilots of the 61st Fighter-Interceptor Wing are on a mission in North Korea when they see a silvery disc larger than a MiG aircraft 20 miles away and below them at 8,000–10,000 feet. Seen for only 3–5 seconds, the object is traveling at 1,200–1,500 mph in a rolling maneuver. (Haines, *Korea*, [p. 39](#))
- 1952**, May 17 — 9:30 p.m. Mr. R. Baits is on the beach at Derna, Libya, with three companions when he notices a soft orange-yellow light traveling soundlessly toward them from inland at great speed and in a straight line. Suddenly, as it reaches a point overhead, it swerves to the east over the town, gaining height. After a few seconds it moves to the south and begins zigzagging until it fades away into the background of stars. (“[Mystery Light’s Erratic Course](#),” *Newcastle (UK) Evening Chronicle*, June 13, 1952, p. 13; [Letter], “[It Was a Light](#),” *Newcastle (UK) Evening Chronicle*, June 13, 1952, p. 3)
- 1952**, Late May — 1:00–3:00 a.m. Royal Canadian Navy Commander George R. McFarlane is officer of the watch on the Canadian warship [HMCS Iroquois](#) in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Guam en route to Korea. He sees many different lights, some single, others in formations of 3, 5, or 6, appearing and disappearing instantly. Suddenly one of the objects appears off the port bow at close range and low elevation. McFarlane and the signalman on watch see that the light is attached to a disc-shaped object with two dozen black windows running along its side. It hovers nearby for at least 15 minutes. (Good Need, [pp. 142–143](#))
- 1952**, May 23 — After 11:00 p.m. Lockheed worker [Orfeo Angelucci](#) is driving home on Victory Boulevard from his job in Burbank, California, when he senses a force and sees a red, glowing UFO. After a while he begins to follow it, and after he crosses the Los Angeles River and turns onto Forest Lawn Drive, he gets to within 30 feet of it when it hovers. Just before it streaks away, two smaller green globes, 3 feet in diameter, shoot out of it and approach him. He hears a voice saying, “Don’t be afraid, Orfeo, we are friends.” This begins his contact with benevolent beings from other planets. (Orfeo Angelucci and Paul M. Vest, “I Traveled in a Flying Saucer,” *Mystic Magazine*, no. 1 (November 1953): 55–61; Gray Barker, “[A Ride in a Flying Saucer](#),” *The Saucerian* 1, no. 2 (November 1953): 30–31; Orfeo Angelucci, *The Secret of the Saucers*, Amherst Press, 1955, [pp. 1–15](#); Bryant and Helen Reeve, *Flying Saucer Pilgrimage*, Amherst Press, 1957, [pp. 222–232](#); Clark III 127–129; Håkan Blomqvist, “[Orfeo Angelucci and the Esoteric Tradition](#),” Håkan Blomqvist’s Blog, December 14, 2019; “[Orfeo Angelucci in a Rare Recording on Meeting Extraterrestrial Entities and The Secret of the Saucers](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 2, 2023; Eghigian, *After*, pp. 134–135; Clark IV 154–157)
- 1952**, May 25 — 9:27 a.m. An Air Force captain in charge of the navigation section of Combat Crew Training School at Randolph AFB near San Antonio, Texas, his wife, and another pilot see a group of about 12 orange-white, tear-drop shaped lights in 3 groups of 4 moving from west to east at 2,000 mph and 10,000 feet altitude. They hear deep, soft intermittent noise. (NICAP, “[Randolph AFB, Texas, May 25, 1952, UFO Report](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 134; Ruppelt, [p. 140](#))
- 1952**, May 26 — 3:20 a.m. Ground radar alerts the crew of an F-94 Starfire interceptor jet over North Korea that an unidentified target is on its tail. The jet turns, descends to 2,500 feet, and both the pilot, 1Lt John W. Martin, and radar operator, 1Lt. Edward A. Monard, see a brilliant white light above and straight ahead. They make one pass within 600 feet of the object, but due to its brilliance they cannot identify its shape. The pilot makes six more close passes, but still cannot identify it. Their aircraft radar does not pick up the object. After the last pass, the radar operator briefly thinks he sees something following them, and ground radar tells them there is an unknown target on their tail. The pilot banks to the right to get behind the target, and this time the aircraft radar locks onto the object, which is ahead of them. In less than a minute, the F-94 is within 3.4 miles of the target. The UFO then performs a steady climbing turn and accelerates away reaching a distance of nearly 15 miles from the jet in 12–15 seconds, breaking radar contact. [Robert Powell](#) estimates that the object is speeding away at 5,371 mph and sustaining 16.7 g-forces, which is roughly what USAF Brig. Gen. [Charles Y. Banfill](#) estimates shortly after the incident. (NICAP, “[F-94 Has UFO on Its Tail, Radar Tracks](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 135; Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 40–44](#); Powell, *Scientist*, 70–72)
- 1952**, May 28 — 1:45 p.m. Albuquerque, New Mexico, fire department employees Martin Romero and Don Atteberry see two circular objects, one shiny silver and the other orange or light brown, performing fast maneuvers on three

different occasions over the course of an hour above the northeast part of the city. (NICAP, [[Blue Book case documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 135)

1952, May 28 — 8:30–8:40 p.m. A green fireball about one-third the size of the full moon is seen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from eight ground points and five aircraft. [Lincoln LaPaz](#) pinpoints the fall near Santa Fe. Around the same time, the crew of a Flying Tiger Line C-46 near Otto, New Mexico, sees a green fireball rise up and drop steeply down. (“[2 Green Fireballs Seen by Many, LaPaz Reports](#),” *Albuquerque Journal*, May 29, 1952, p. 2)

1952, May 28–29 — During a night refueling mission at 8:10 p.m., the crews of five USAF B-29 bombers see green spherical objects. The primary sighting takes place near Albuquerque, New Mexico, and involves three B-29s flying at 15,000 feet. Another sighting takes place around 11:30 p.m. about 10 miles southwest of Tulsa, Oklahoma. That crew is flying at 25,000 feet. Three hours later the final sighting takes place near Enid, Oklahoma, also with a B-29 at 25,000 feet. The aircrews making these reports do not think the objects are meteorites. (NICAP, “[Five B-29 Bomber Crews Observe Green Objects](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 135)

1952, May 30 — Around 12:00 midnight. Multiple pilots and observers from Seattle, Washington, to Vancouver, British Columbia, witness a huge fireball in the sky. Captain Mickey Milliken, flying from Victoria to Vancouver, sees the fireball at exactly 12:36 a.m. and says it explodes near his aircraft, startling him. Ken St. John at the Vancouver airport tower also sees the bright orange object with a greenish halo moving northeast and records it in the logbook, describing a long, thin object with a tube-like extension and a meteorite-like tail. A United Air Lines captain south of Bellingham, Washington, also observes the phenomenon. (“[Huge ‘Fireball’ Seen by Pilots of Airplanes](#),” *Nanaimo (B.C.) Daily News*, May 30, 1952, p. 1)

1952, May 30 — USAF Maj. [William D. Leet](#), copilot on a C-54 transport mission at 8,500 feet near Oshima, Japan, sees a dark object hovering in clouds for 7 minutes. It disappears, speeding away in seconds. (NICAP, “[C-54 Crew Encounters Round Black Object](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 136; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 January–May, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 82–83)

1952, May 31 — About 4:00 a.m. Over a ground radar site near Cheorwon, South Korea, several US soldiers see a bright UFO that looks like a falling star, except that it stops falling and begins to climb again. It then moves northeast at 150 mph, reverses course twice, moves in jerky motions, turns seemingly simultaneously, then climbs at a 45° angle and disappears from sight within 3–4 seconds. One guard hears a pulsating sound. An F-94 attempts to intercept the brilliant white object, which takes clearly evasive maneuvers with superior speed, maneuverability, and climbing ability. It pulls away at 30,000 feet. The object is tracked on the F-94’s airborne radar. (NICAP, “[Jerky Object Observed and Tracked on Radar](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 136; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 87–90; Haines, *Korea*, pp. 63–64; Patrick Gross, “[UFO US Military Reports, Korea, 1952](#)”; Powell, *Scientist*, 65–66)

1952, May 31 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #7. (US Air Force, *Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12*, NICAP, 1968, pp. 113–130)

1952, June — [Ruppelt](#) has four officers, two airmen, and two civilians on his permanent Blue Book staff (including Lt. [Anderson G. Flues](#), Robert M. Olsson, and Kerry Rothstien), as well as a number of scientific consultants, including [Hynek](#). In the Pentagon, Maj. [Dewey Fournet Jr.](#) is a full-time Blue Book liaison. This month Blue Book received 149 reports. (Ruppelt, p. 140–141)

1952, June — In the wake of mass public and governmental interest in UFOs kindled by the provocative *Life* magazine article, CIA intelligence experts [Sidney N. Graybeal](#) (Chief, Guided Missiles Branch, Weapons and Equipment Division, Office of Scientific Intelligence) and [Irl D’Arcy Brent](#) (Chief, Ground Branch, W&E Division, OSI) prepare a summary of the UFO subject for the CIA/OSI hierarchy based on the past several years of OSI intelligence (and OSI predecessor documents going back to ghost rockets of 1946) and mentioning sightings going back to the Bible. The possibility of swamp gas in Michigan as an explanation for UFOs is suggested by Brent (foreshadowing the [Hynek](#) swamp-gas fiasco in Michigan in 1966). This report has never been acknowledged or released by the CIA despite FOIA litigation. Its existence and contents are revealed in [Brad Sparks](#)’s interviews with Brent and Graybeal and other OSI officials in 1975–1976. (NICAP, “[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)”)

1952, June — Jet pilots allegedly discover the wreck of a flying disc on Spitsbergen in the Svalbard archipelago, Norway. It is taken to Narvik, where it is identified as either a Russian or extraterrestrial device. Other variants of the legend claim it is a Nazi device or that it is actually discovered on Heligoland, Germany, in the North Sea. [Nick Redfern](#) suspects the story is planted by either Soviet or US intelligence. (“Auf Spitzbergen landete Fliegende Untertasse,” *Saarbrücker Zeitung* [Saarbrücken, Germany], June 28, 1952; *Hessische Nachrichten* [Kassel, Germany], July 26, 1954; E. W. Grenfell, “[First Report on the Captured Flying Saucer](#),” *Sir!* September 1954, pp. 16–17, 56–57; *Le Lorrain*, October 15, 1954; *Verdens Gang* [Oslo, Norway], December 19, 1954; Edwards, *FS—Serious Business*, 1966, pp. 44–48; Condon, pp. 90–91; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 10th*,

The Author, 1986, pp. 31–32; William Steinman and Wendelle C. Stevens, *UFO Crash at Aztec*, UFO Photo Archives, 1987, pp. 353–366; Pat Bontempo, “Incident at Heligoland,” *UFO Universe* 5 (Spring 1989): 18–22; Ole Jonny Brænne, “[Legend of the Spitsbergen Saucer](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1992): 14–20; Kremlin 45–46; Clark III 327; Kevin D. Randle, “[Spitsbergen Crash/Retrieval and David Grusch](#),” A Different Perspective, May 26, 2024; Clark IV 363)

- 1952**, June? — 9:00 p.m. [Francis Y. Kelson](#), a US Army soldier temporarily assigned to the US Navy, is on a landing ship, dock (LSD), possibly the [USS Donner](#), as part of a Corps of Engineers operation called Operation SUNAC (Support and Supply for North Atlantic Construction). While in the North Atlantic Ocean en route from Norfolk, Virginia, to Cape Chidley, Newfoundland, he and another soldier are on deck when they hear an intense, high-pitched whining noise. They notice two dull-white lights in the water ahead, apparently 5 feet in diameter, 20 feet apart, and only 10 feet from the hull. A Navy bosun’s mate comes on board and tells them they had been tracking the object on sonar for 2 hours and it had been pacing them from 2 miles off their stern. After 20 minutes, the whining noise increases in intensity and the lights pull forward and move toward land. The two soldiers are told not to reveal what they had seen. (Carl Feindt, “[Report #1147](#),” [waterufo.net](#); Bernard Kessler, “[Cape Chidley, Labrador: 1952, Operation SUNAC](#)”; Dolan, USO1, 152–154)
- 1952**, June — Sunset. In Tombstone, Arizona, Navy Lieut. Cmdr. John C. Williams, his wife Josephine, and a guest see a “huge circular object” flying toward them from the direction of Tucson. Suddenly it stops in mid-flight, hovers, then reverses direction and retraces its course. A few seconds later it returns, stops gain, and appears to oscillate and tilt from one side to the other. Again it reverses its course, repeating everything 2–3 more times. (UFOEv, [p. 30](#))
- 1952**, Early June — 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. Violet M. Winstead and her husband are driving in a narrow valley somewhere between Charleston and White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, when they see a number of lights on a bridge crossing the valley. They begin blinking off, one by one. When they get to the bridge, they see no street lights. (Violet M. Winstead, [Letter](#), *IUR* 9, no.1 (Jan./Feb. 1984): 3)
- 1952**, June 1 — 2:40 a.m. A cargo ship anchored at the wharf in Port-Gentil, Gabon, observes a mysterious object fly from behind the city, make a double loop, pass over the roadstead, and then dive toward the sea. (ClearIntent, [p. 119](#))
- 1952**, June 1 — Morning. The chief of a radar test section for Hughes Aircraft Company tracks an unidentified target coming across the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles, California. It is moving at 180 mph toward Santa Monica at an altitude of 11,000 feet. The object suddenly triples its speed to 550 mph, turns, and climbs over Los Angeles at 35,000 feet per minute. The target then levels out for a few seconds, goes into a high-speed dive, and levels out again at 55,000 feet. They lose the blip somewhere near Riverside. (NICAP, “[Radar Tracks Object Which Suddenly Climbs to 55,000 Feet](#)”; Ruppelt, [pp. 141–143](#))
- 1952**, June 4 — Air Force Secretary [Finletter](#) issues a press release about his May 8 UFO briefing, saying, “No concrete evidence has yet reached us either to prove or disprove the existence of the so-called flying saucers. There remain, however, a number of sightings that the Air Force investigators have been unable to explain. As long as this is true, the Air Force will continue to study flying saucer reports.” (Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [p. 51](#))
- 1952**, June 5 — Air Force Intelligence initiates a series of internal staff studies on UFOs, inspired by Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#)’s new policy emphasizing instrumentation, that is circulated within AFOIN and ATIC. (Francis Ridge, “[The 1952 Top-Secret USAF Instrumented UFO Data Collection Plan](#),” *The SCU Review* 4, no. 3 (August 21, 2023): 9–11)
- 1952**, June 6 — 8:42 a.m. Flight Sgt. [Kenneth Dudley Smith](#) from the 77th RAAF Squadron at Kimpo Air Base [now Gimpo International Airport] in Seoul, Korea, observes a dull silver object in the shape of a coin and about 50–60 feet long performing spinning and tumbling maneuvers for 4 minutes at 345 mph. Flight Sgt. Kenneth Fawner also sees the UFO for 30 seconds. ([[Blue Book case documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 137; Project 1947, “[UFO Documents: 1952, Korea](#)”; Powell, *Scientist*, 48)
- 1952**, June 6 — Battelle issues its second status report on Project Stork to ATIC. It describes a “tentative” data sheet for observers to fill out, a more detailed coding scheme, an example of an IBM punch card that will be used, and plans for statistical studies. (“[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#),” CUFON; “[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 2](#),” CUFON; Clark III 929)
- 1952**, June 8 — 10:50 a.m. Four flat, round, shiny objects in a diamond formation are seen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from the ground by Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Markland. The objects are approximately 15,000 feet in altitude and traveling 300 mph. There is no audible sound. They are first seen at about 60° above the horizon to the north and are traveling to the southwest at approximately 240°. (NICAP, “[Diamond Formation of Flat Objects Observed](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 138; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 10, 15)

- 1952, June 8 — [Lewis P. West](#) and his brother [Grant](#) observe “two gray metallic discs with silver edges” on the western horizon in Ogden, Utah. The objects “seem to hover over the mountains, then dart away and back at terrific speed.” (“[Ogden Neighbors Watch ‘Saucer’ for 90 Minutes.](#)” *Ogden (Utah) Standard-Examiner*, July 29, 1952, p. 1)
- 1952, June 8 — During a launch of a pibal balloon at Calgary, Alberta, a silvery ellipse with a sharp outline reflecting sunlight and an aspect ratio of 8:1 crosses the field of vision of the observer’s theodolite. (Arthur Bray, *The UFO Connection*, Jupiter Publishing, 1979, p. 186; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), [Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 14)
- 1952, June 9 — Astronomer [Donald H. Menzel](#) writes in *Time* magazine that most UFOs are light reflections caused by ice crystals, refractions, or temperature inversions. (“[An Astronomer’s Explanation: Those Flying Saucers.](#)” *Time*, June 9, 1952, pp. 54–56; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 9)
- 1952, June 9 — [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) publishes a follow-up essay in *Life* magazine about the deluge of mail he has received in reaction to his April 7 article, “Have We Visitors From Space?” Letters received mention a number of “provocative and plausible” theories. Ginna discusses the light-inversion hypothesis after consulting geographer [Ronald L. Ives](#), an authority on mirages. Ives believes mirages, even of “the most remarkable nature,” are not a plausible explanation for many sightings, due to the ideal conditions that would be necessary. The magazine encourages its readers to remain vigilant and report “the sighting of any strange aerial objects to the nearest Air Force representatives” and to “photograph any such object you see.” (Robert E. Ginna Jr., “[Saucer Reactions.](#)” *Life*, June 9, 1952, pp. 20–26; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 8–9)
- 1952, June 11 — 6:44 p.m. Two round objects, dark blue with gray centers, are seen moving southwest to northwest for 40 seconds at 500 mph and 6,000 feet altitude several miles east of O’Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois. One passes the other before disappearing. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 10–11)
- 1952, June 13 — 1:00 a.m. M. Veillot and M. Damiens, air traffic control operators at Paris–Le Bourget Airport, France, watch a prominent orange-red light hover in the sky for about one hour. Eventually it begins moving and crosses the sky southwest of the airport, accelerating rapidly. The light is also seen by M. Navarri, the pilot of an approaching Air France plane. (Michel, *Truth About FS*, 165–166)
- 1952, June 15 — 8:32 a.m. A meteorological assistant on reserve army maneuvers sees a large silver disc in the sky southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia. It moves southwest for 30 seconds at an altitude of 5,000–8,000 feet and then rises and merges in 2–5 seconds with altocumulus clouds at 11,000–12,000 feet. Its diameter is about 100 feet and speed at least 800 mph. (Good Above, [p. 184](#))
- 1952, June 15 — The Beacon Hill Group at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory issues its 292-page report on ways that the US Air Force can improve its photographic reconnaissance and other intelligence gathering methods on the Soviet bloc. UFOs are not mentioned. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Project Lincoln, [Beacon Hill Report: Problems of Air Force Intelligence and Reconnaissance](#), June 15, 1952)
- 1952, June 15 — 4:20 p.m. A round shiny object is seen over Gordonsville, Virginia. At 4:25 p.m., the crew of a commercial airliner reports a silver sphere over Richmond, Virginia. At 4:33 p.m., a Marine fighter jet is scrambled from Marine Corps Base Quantico in Prince William County, Virginia, and attempts to intercept a target south of Gordonsville but fails and returns to base. At 5:43 p.m., an Air Force fighter attempts to intercept the same shiny sphere but after reaching 35,000 feet turns back. At 7:35 p.m., a UFO emitting a golden glow is seen over Blackstone, Virginia. Fighter jets from Langley AFB in Hampton, Virginia, are scrambled, but the object is gone by the time they get there at 8:05 p.m. (“[Rubin Says ‘Thing’ Spotted in Va. Skies Was a Fireball.](#)” *Richmond (Va.) News Leader*, June 16, 1952, p. 8; “[Lighted Ball Cruises in Sky near Richmond.](#)” *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, June 16, 1952, pp. 1, 4; “[Mysterious Sight Stirs ‘Saucer’ Talk in Powhatan.](#)” *Hopewell (Va.) News*, June 16, 1952, p. 1; “[Aerial Object Baffling to Observers in Virginia.](#)” *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, June 17, 1952, pp. 1, 8; “[Mysterious Object Sighted over State Resembled Balloon to Two Observers.](#)” *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, June 18, 1952, p. 2; Ruppelt, [pp. 144–145](#))
- 1952, June 15 — Night. A. G. Stuart is heading east across the Snake River bridge east of Pasco, Washington, when he witnesses an object that glows like a “red-hot stove in the night” hovering above the water. It moves slowly toward the southwest, before disappearing. Stuart described the object as being “almost a block across, egg-shaped and at an estimated altitude of 500 feet.” (“[Glowing Object Reported Seen.](#)” *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review*, June 17, 1952, p. 6)
- 1952, June 15 — 11:50 p.m. Edward Duke, a former Navy radar technician, sees an unidentified cigar-shaped object in the vicinity of Standiford Field [now Louisville International Airport], Louisville, Kentucky. It has a light on either side of the fuselage and a reddish hue on the trailing end. The object appears to be moving at about 400–

500 mph and maneuvers around in several directions for 15 minutes, then descends and flies away to the northeast. ([[Blue Book document](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 138)

- 1952**, June 16 — 8:30 p.m. USAF B-29 maintenance specialist S/Sgt. James C. Sparks, 6th Bomb Wing (Heavy), is walking between buildings #590 and T-588 at Walker Air Force Base [now closed] in Roswell, New Mexico. He sees first one object in the southeast about 1 mile distant resembling the shadow of a landing B-29 or B-50. As it passes overhead, he also notices 5–7 silverish-gray round objects, in a half-moon formation, flying at an estimated 500–600 mph at about 5,000 feet altitude in a line heading to the northwest. They disappear at about 1–2 miles. When nearly overhead, the object on the east breaks formation by 10° further to the right. Sparks can hear no engine noise. (NICAP, “[5–7 Silver-Grey Round Objects Fly over Base](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 138)
- 1952**, June 17 — 1:28 a.m. A USAF F-94 pilot sees a light like a bright star cross the nose of his jet at blinding speed over Cape Cod, Massachusetts, for 15 seconds. ([Sparks](#), p. 138)
- 1952**, June 17 — Astronomer [Donald Menzel](#) writes in an article in *Look* magazine about how he creates temperature-inversion UFOs in his laboratory. (Donald H. Menzel, “[The Truth about Flying Saucers](#),” *Look* 16, no. 13 (June 17, 1952): 35–39; NICAP, “[The Truth about Flying Saucers, Look Magazine](#)”)
- 1952**, June 17 — 7:30–10:20 p.m. Many witnesses at McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] south of Tacoma, Washington, see 5–6 yellowish discs, tracked by radar and theodolite. Several F-94s are scrambled. (NICAP, “[1–5 Silver Yellow Objects Stop and Start](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 138; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15)
- 1952**, June 17 — 8:45 p.m.. Orville Foster, a US Weather Bureau observer at the Pueblo (Colorado) Memorial Airport, watches a UFO through the bureau’s theodolite. It circles leisurely for 10 minutes, then disappears toward the northeast. (“‘Flying Saucer’ Sighted at Pueblo,” *Leadville (Colo.) Herald-Democrat*, June 18, 1952; “[Saucers Still with ‘Em Colorado Way](#),” Salt Lake City *Deseret News*, June 18, 1952, p. 3; “[Weather Observer Reports Seeing a ‘Flying Saucer](#),” *Hastings (Nebr.) Daily Tribune*, June 18, 1952, p. 1; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1952](#)”)
- 1952**, Mid-June — [Ruppelt](#) briefs Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#) and his staff, two Navy captains from ONI, and “some people I can’t name.” The meeting is contentious. One USAF colonel argues that Blue Book’s investigation is biased against the ETH, which launches an emotional debate. Ruppelt is directed to “take further steps to obtain positive identification” of UFO reports. (Ruppelt, [pp. 147–149](#))
- 1952**, June 18 — 5:00 p.m. USAF Capt. Erie P. Ashton and 2nd Lt. Clifton Ashley, while flying a B-25 about 100 miles east of March AFB [now March Air Reserve Base] in southern California, sight a silver object at approximately 11,000 feet in altitude off their left wing. The object is longer than it is wide and is in sight for about 39 minutes. (NICAP, “[UFO Paces B-25](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 138; Ruppelt, [p. 146](#))
- 1952**, June 18 — According to Sgt. [Richard Doty](#)’s 1980s disinformation, the living alien retrieved in 1949 (EBE-1) and kept at Los Alamos, New Mexico, dies of unknown causes. (Clark III 364; Clark IV 408)
- 1952**, June 19 — 2:37 a.m. At Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, radar men pick up a UFO track. 2nd Lt. A’Gostino and others outside see a strange, red-lighted object come in over the field. The radar blip suddenly enlarges, as if the device has banked, exposing a larger surface to the radar beam. The watching airmen see the red light wobble or flutter. After a moment the light turns white and quickly disappears. Apparently, the unknown craft has gone into a steep climb. [Keyhoe](#) assumes the radar and visual sightings are simultaneous, but Blue Book records indicate they are separate. (NICAP, “[Target Suddenly Enlarges](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 139; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [p. 52](#); Ruppelt, [p. 146](#); Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 55–56)
- 1952**, June 19 — 1:30 p.m. Four silvery UFOs are seen by many witnesses in Tacoma, Washington, flying silently at a high altitude. Unofficial sources report that the objects are tracked on radar at McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] in Tacoma and jets are scrambled. (*Tacoma (Wash.) Reporter*, June 20, 1952; Shoot 9; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15)
- 1952**, June 19 — 6:00 p.m. Army Capt. Harold Hermann and his wife see a round, silver UFO speeding across the sky at Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania. (“[‘Flying Saucers’ Sighted](#),” *New York Times*, June 24, 1952, p. 26)
- 1952**, June 19 — 9:50 p.m. A former Army Air Force ground crew member sees a UFO flying in a swirling motion over the backyard of his home in Trenton, New Jersey. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, p. 17)
- 1952**, June 20 — 3:03 p.m. A flight of four US Marine Corps captains and pilots ([Bobbie Foster](#), Richard Francisco, [Teddy L. Pittman](#), and [Ronnie A. McDonald](#)) of F4U-4B Corsair fighters with the 7302nd Squadron over central Korea see a silvery-white object passing below them, banking into a left turn. As the object circles around, Foster dives toward the object, which appears to be 10–20 feet in diameter. It flies away at an estimated speed of 1,000 mph and disappears toward friendly lines. (NICAP, “[F4U-4B Corsairs Encounter Circling UFO](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 139)

- 1952, June 20** — 11:58 p.m. A Ground Observer Corps spotter at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, sees a small (6–8 inches in diameter), slow-moving UFO near the AEC plant. GCI radar obtains the target, but it fades from the scope. An F-97 on combat air patrol engages in a “dogfight” with the object, which makes “ramming attacks” at the aircraft. It blinks until it speeds away. (NICAP, “[Radar Visual near AEC Plant](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 139; Ruppelt, [p. 43](#))
- 1952, June 21** — 12:30 p.m. T/Sgt. Howard Davis, flight engineer of a B-29 bomber flying at 8,000 feet altitude near Kelly AFB [now Kelly Field] in San Antonio, Texas, sees a small, flat object with a sharply pointed front and rounded rear. It is white with a dark blue center and red rim and trails sparks as it dives past the B-29 at a distance of 500 feet in one second. (NICAP, “[B-29 Encounters Flat Object with Pointed Front](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 140)
- 1952, June 22** — 10:45 p.m. Two US Marine sergeants see a 4-foot diameter orange object dive at a runway from the north, dropping from 800 to 100 feet altitude over the west end of the runway at Pyeongtaek military base, South Korea, shooting 2–5-foot red flames. It then heads west at about 300–450 mph for 2–3 seconds, hovers briefly over a hill, turns 180° in 45–60 seconds, flashes, heads east a half mile, flashes again, and blinks out. No sound. ([Sparks](#), p. 140; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 82–83](#))
- 1952, June 23** — 1:30 a.m. USAF ADC radar operators Lt. A. N. Robinson Jr. and Airman Ray H. Foote, plus 5 other controllers, officers, and maintenance technicians at Kirtland Air Force Station in Missouri, track a hard target with a clear sharp return about the size of a B-29. It suddenly appears 85 miles north-northwest of the station, moving at a constant speed of about 3,600+ mph on a straight path for about 125 miles for 2 minutes. Then it vanishes. A second target appears at 1:35 a.m. (NICAP, “[Seven ADC Men Track 3,600 MPH Target](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 141; Michael D. Swords, “[Case Missing](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 20)
- 1952, June 23** — 3:30 a.m. Secretary Martha Milligan sees a bullet-shaped object emitting a burnt-orange exhaust fly straight and level over Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (NICAP, “[June 23, 1952: Oak Ridge, Tenn.](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 141)
- 1952, June 23** — 10:00 a.m. National Guard Lt. Col. [Oren Laramore Depp](#) [[Johnny Depp](#)’s grandfather] sees two objects looking like giant soap bubbles reflecting yellow and lavender colors flying in line over Owensboro, Kentucky. ([Sparks](#), p. 141)
- 1952, June 23** — 4:05 p.m. Airport weather observer Rex Thompson sees a round disc with a metallic shine flash and flutter like a flipped coin for 5–7 minutes over Geiger Field [now Spokane International Airport], Spokane, Washington. (NICAP, “[June 23, 1952: Spokane, Wash.](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 140)
- 1952, June 23** — 9:00 p.m. 2d Lt. K. Thompson sees a very large light flying straight and level for 10 minutes at McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] near Tacoma, Washington. ([Sparks](#), p. 140; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15)
- 1952, June 24** — The first issue of *Ouranos* is published by the Commission Internationale d’Enquêtes sur les Soucoupes Volantes, in Paris. ([Ouranos](#), no. 1)
- 1952, June 25** — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) writes an “Interim Report on Project Magnet,” in which he states: “If, as appears evident, the flying saucers are emissaries from some other civilization, and actually do operate no magnetic principles, we have before us the fact that we have missed something in magnetic theory but have a good indication of the direction in which to look for the missing quantities.” (Good Above, [p. 185](#))
- 1952, June 25** — 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Daniel Norbury and Lawrence Matheis see a bright yellow-white, egg-shaped object, sometimes with a red tail, make seven circles over Chicago, Illinois. (NICAP, “[June 25, 1952: Chicago, Illinois](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 141)
- 1952, June 27–30** — [Ruppelt](#) visits McChord AFB in Tacoma, Washington, to look into recent sightings there. Capt. Harnnaghy of the 4704 Air Defense Wing Intelligence tells him that the objects are always seen in the northern sky around 8:00 p.m. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 23–24)
- 1952, June 28** — 1:20 p.m. Two observers at the Cargo Air Service hangar at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, see two silvery discs high in the sky and moving to the south. They noiselessly climb nearly vertically at high speed, one going south-southeast, the other heading almost due east. The observation lasts 30 seconds. ([Sparks](#), p. 142; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 68–69](#))
- 1952, June 29** — 5:45 p.m. Three Air Force police officers of the 83rd Air Base Squadron at O’Hare Airport in Chicago spot a flat, oval object as it hovers between two radio towers about 7 miles away. It is bright silver in color, encircled by white haze, and appears about 30 feet in diameter. During the next 45 minutes the object moves to the southwest and then back north. It accelerates instantaneously to a speed faster than a jet fighter. ([Blue Book documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 143)
- 1952, June 30** — [Ruppelt](#) says that by this time there is a split in opinion in the military about what to do about UFOs. One group assumes that UFOs are interplanetary, and information must be withheld at a top-secret level. “The enthusiasm of this group took a firm hold in the Pentagon, at Air Defense Command headquarters, on the Research and Development Board, and many other agencies.” (Ruppelt, [pp. 152–153](#))

- 1952**, Summer — Denis Plunkett and his son Capt. Edward L. Plunkett form a British branch of [Albert K. Bender's](#) International Flying Saucer Bureau in Bristol, England. ("[Other Saucer Groups: Here and Abroad](#)," *Flying Saucer News*, no. 2 (Summer 1953): 6)
- 1952**, Summer — Night. Radar at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida, picks up a target at 40,000 feet flying at 460 mph. A nearby B-29 volunteers to investigate, searching until midnight. The pilot, a USAF colonel, finally reports a visual sighting of the UFO, flying at 40,000 feet and 250 mph and appearing as a glowing white light shaped like a football. The object changes course and disappears at high speed. (UFOEv, [p. 25](#))
- 1952**, July — Edgar Jarrold begins the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia's first civilian UFO organization, following his personal observation of two fast-moving yellow lights in the sky over Fairfield, New South Wales. ("[Saucers on His Mind](#)," *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Gazette*, February 2, 1954, p. 7; Clark III 632; Bill Chalker, "[The Early Days of the Public UFO Drama in Australia: Even an Atomic Connection of a Sort](#)," *The OzFiles*, October 2, 2023; Clark IV 694, 1270)
- 1952**, July — Afternoon. A man driving a car near Schenectady, New York, sees an oblong object hovering nearby. A gondola lowers from the object and a bunch of "Navy officers in white hats" rush to the windows. All are wearing huge dark glasses. The gondola goes back up, and three smaller UFOs appear and go inside the bigger one. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1952–1953](#), p. 10; Clark III 267; Clark IV 307)
- 1952**, July — The administration and faculty of Ohio Northern University, in Ada, Ohio, announce the formation of Project A: Investigation of Phenomena, saying that members of the engineering, pharmacy, law, and liberal arts colleges will examine the evidence for UFOs under the direction of Dean [Warren L. Hickman](#). Project A personnel seek reports from the public and collect newspaper clippings. The project receives a disappointing 54 completed questionnaires, far lower than the 200 they would like for a scientific sampling. However, they do estimate that about 20% involve "unnatural phenomena." After unsuccessful attempts to obtain reports from Civilian Saucer Investigation in Los Angeles and other groups, the university closes the project down in mid-1954. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, August*, The Author, 1986, p. 3; Clark III 916; Curt Collins, "[Project A: The Short Life of a UFO Study](#)," September 21, 2018; Clark IV 1026)
- 1952**, July — Project Blue Book receives nearly 500 UFO reports this month. (Ruppelt, [p. 192](#))
- 1952**, July 1 — [J. Robert Moskin](#)'s article appears in *Look* magazine. It features Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#)'s declaration that "we cannot afford to be complacent" about UFOs. [Keyhoe](#) says that the article has upset the "silence group" in the Pentagon. (J. Robert Moskin, "[Hunt for the Flying Saucer](#)," *Look*, July 1, 1952, pp. 37–41; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [pp. 52–53](#))
- 1952**, July 1 — 7:25 a.m. A Ground Observer Corps spotter sees a UFO headed southwest across Boston, Massachusetts. Two F-94s are scrambled. Erwin W. Nelson and his wife at Lynn, Massachusetts, notice two vapor trails from the climbing jets, look around, and see in the west a bright silver "cigar shaped object about six times as long as it was wide" heading over Boston at a very high altitude. An identical UFO is following the first some distance back. No vapor trails are visible. The witnesses watch the F-94s search back and forth far below the UFOs. At 7:30, USAF Capt. [Robert E. Metcalf](#), petroleum officer for the 6520th Test Support Wing, and USAF air policemen M/Sgt [James Stiner](#) and M/Sgt Joseph R. Bosh, 6520th Air Police Squadron, at Hanscom Field, Bedford, Massachusetts, see the two jets, look for what they are intercepting, and see to the east a 100-foot-long silvery ellipse "fatter than a cigar" traveling southwest. At two points, the object seems to hover, then continues at about 40,000 feet. The object's path intersects contrails of the two jets heading southeast. Metcalf loses sight of the object on his way to the tower after a few minutes, then sees it again at about 7:40 a.m., noting it has increased distance "considerably," but finally loses sight of it at the tower. ([[Blue Book document](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 144; Ruppelt, [pp. 150–151](#); UFOEv, [p. 160](#))
- 1952**, July 1 — 8:40–9:15 a.m. Two silvery objects move south along the East Coast and hover near Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, for about 5 minutes at 50,000 feet. As radar at Fort Monmouth detects the objects, they put on a burst of speed and head southwest toward Washington, D.C., confirmed visually. At about 12:00 noon, a physics professor at George Washington University in D.C. sees a grayish UFO hovering and arcing back and forth across the sky for about 8 minutes. He guesses about 500 people are watching the object. (NICAP, "[Objects Tracked at 50,000', G/V](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 144; Ruppelt, [pp. 151–152](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, pp. 36–37; Clark III 377; Clark IV 421)
- 1952**, July 2 — 11:10 a.m. As he is driving on a highway seven miles north of Tremonton, Utah, US Navy Chief Petty Officer Delbert C. Newhouse and his wife see a strange object in the sky. Newhouse pulls the car to the side of the road, gets out, and watches 12–14 UFOs at about 10,000 feet. Looking like "two pie pans, one inverted on top of the other," they are clustered in a loose formation, "milling around." He takes about 75 seconds worth of film through the telephoto lens of his 16mm movie camera, though the objects have receded a bit to shiny points of light. At one point a single object leaves the pack, heading east, and Newhouse holds the camera still so the UFO

crosses the field of view. He repeats the procedure 3-4 times. Blue Book obtains the film and sends it to the USAF Photo-Reconnaissance Laboratory and the Navy's Photo Interpretation Laboratory. Both analyses eliminate the possibility of aircraft or birds. (NICAP, "[The Tremonton, Utah / Newhouse Color Film](#)"; [\[Tremonton film\]](#), Project Blue Book archives; Victor P. Keay, "[Flying Saucers](#)," memorandum to FBI Assistant Director Alan H. Belmont, October 27, 1952; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. [151–154](#); Ruppelt, pp. [220–222](#); UFOEv, pp. [88](#), [112](#); Condon, pp. [418–426](#); Kevin Randle, "UFO's Caught by the Movie Camera," *Official UFO*, Fall 1976, p. 71; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. [235–239](#); "[Turner on Tremonton](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): 6; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, pp. 39–40; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th: Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 32–39; Swords 149; "[Delbert Newhouse UFO Footage, 1952, Tremonton, Utah](#)," parkerdonaldmusic YouTube channel, September 29, 2012; Kevin D. Randle, "[Newhouse's Tremonton, Utah Movie Revisited](#)," A Different Perspective, December 12, 2013; Patrick Gross, "[Tremonton, Utah, UFO Color Film of July 2, 1952](#)"; "[Tremonton, UT Photo Case of 7/2/1952 – CWO Delbert W. Newhouse](#)," *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Clark III 1203–1204; Clark IV 1377–1379)

- 1952**, July 3 — 4:15 a.m. A witness on the Manitou Beach Highway near Rome Center, Michigan, watches two circular lights about 20 feet in diameter flying horizontally at tremendous speed at only a few hundred feet altitude. (NICAP, "[July 3, 1952: Selfridge AFB, Mich.](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 145)
- 1952**, July 3 — 11:50 p.m. Mrs. J. D. Arbuckle sees two bright pastel-green discs fly straight and level very fast for 6 seconds over Chicago, Illinois. The next day the Air Force public information office at O'Hare Airport says it has received 16 reports of UFOs over Chicago in the past week. An Air Force spokesman says that jet patrols are on alert 24 hours a day. ([Sparks](#), p. 145; "[Deny Reports of 'Saucers' Alerts](#)," *Waterloo (Iowa) Courier*, July 4, 1952, p. 1)
- 1952**, July 5 — 6:00 a.m. Four commercial pilots flying at 9,000 feet above the Hanford atomic site in Washington State observe a disc just below a deck of wispy clouds directly above their C-46. The witnesses are Capt. John Baldwin, Capt. George Robertson, H. D. Shenkel, and Steven Summers. Baldwin says that the disc stands still at first and then seems to back away and change shape, becoming flat, gaining speed, and then disappearing. Robertson says "we couldn't pick it up on our radar. We reversed our course and went back, but we couldn't spot it again." (NICAP, "[C-46 Crew Observe Disc over AEC Plant](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 145; "[Flyers Report Saucers near Atomic Plant](#)," *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, July 6, 1952, p. 1; "[Pilots See 'Saucer' over Atom Plant](#)," *Madison Wisconsin State Journal*, July 6, 1952, p. 3; *Hynek UFO Report*, [p. 53](#); Swords 149)
- 1952**, July 5 — 7:58 p.m. Oklahoma State Patrolman Arthur Myers Hamilton is flying five miles south-southeast of Norman, Oklahoma, in a State Patrol airplane when he sees three dark discs 4–8 miles away at 6,000 feet hover for 15 seconds then fly away, silhouetted against a dark cloud. (NICAP, "[Three Dark Discs Sighted from State Patrol Airplane](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 145)
- 1952**, July 7 — Battelle issues its third status report on Project Stork to ATIC. It mentions that Hynek has been consulted on the observer's data sheet, suggested some changes, and is in the process of interviewing astronomers about any potential sightings made by them. The group has studied and coded UFO reports from 1948. ("[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#)," CUFON)
- 1952**, July 8 — A commissionaire on duty at an army depot in Ottawa, Ontario, sees a bright orange light about a quarter size of the full moon travel from south to north, turn, and travel south again. (Jan Aldrich; Project Magnet Case X)
- 1952**, July 9 — 12:45 p.m. USAF Maj. [Claude K. Griffin](#) is driving one mile north of Colorado Springs, Colorado, when he sees a luminous white object shaped like an airfoil moving slowly and erratically like a corkscrew. He estimates its size at 100 feet, distance at 15–20 miles, and altitude at 30,000 feet, heading northwest. Griffin stops the car to watch for 12 minutes. USAF Maj. E. R. Hayden and his wife come out of their house and look at the object in a 4x rifle scope. He describes it as rectangular, silver on one side, and black on the other. It flutters as it moves slowly north-northwest above 20,000 feet 20 miles away. It gains altitude and gradually diminishes to a black dot, then accelerates to a high speed and disappears. ([\[Blue Book documents\]](#); [Sparks](#), p. 145)
- 1952**, July 9 — 5:30 p.m. Farmer John Mittl watches an aluminum, oval-shaped object silently change direction and attitude above his farm 2 miles east of Kutztown, Pennsylvania, finally tipping on end and departing. He manages to take three photos. (Claude Falkstrom and Curt Collins, "[John Mittl: From Unsolved UFOs to Astral Encounters](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, July 13, 2018)
- 1952**, July 9 — 10:00 p.m. Maryland State Police Lt. C. C. Serman and Trooper 1-c Robert Weir are on patrol on the extension of Church Street near US Highway 50 in Hebron, Maryland, when they see a glowing ball of yellow light approaching them. Believing it to be a car with one headlight out, the officers continue toward it. Fearing a collision, they swerve their cruiser into a ditch and stop. The light also stops 20 feet in front of them and hovers

and bobs above the road. After a few minutes, the policemen drive slowly forward and the light retreats, keeping a distinct distance away. Finally, the policemen speed toward the light at 50 mph. The luminous ball retreats, staying just a few yards ahead of the cruiser before veering off the road and into a meadow, then vanishes. Troopers Robert W. Burckhardt and Edward Bracey are in another car and also see the maneuvering light. Burckhardt claims he has seen the light on several occasions and says it is about as big as a wash basin and dances around the wooded road and into the trees. ([“Police Chase Mysterious Glow,” Salisbury \(Md.\) Daily Times](#), July 10, 1952, p. 1; [“Crowds Try to See Mysterious Light,” Salisbury \(Md.\) Daily Times](#), July 11, 1952, p. 1; [“Curious Miss Mystery Light,” Salisbury \(Md.\) Daily Times](#), July 12, 1952, pp. 1–2; [“Life Photographer Seeks ‘Ghost Light,’” Salisbury \(Md.\) Daily Times](#), July 14, 1952, p. 1; [“Professor Believes Ghost Light Is Gas,” Salisbury \(Md.\) Daily Times](#), July 16, 1952, p. 1; C. Maxwell Cade and Delphine Davis, *The Taming of the Thunderbolts*, Abelard-Schuman, 1969, pp. 99–104)

- 1952**, July 10 — 8:18 p.m. Capt. James E. Lundy and First Officer Leon Blanks are flying a National Airlines C-60 airplane 15 miles south of Quantico, Virginia, when they see an object resembling an aircraft landing light. The object becomes brighter as it approaches from the north. It then performs a climbing turn away from the aircraft and its appearance changes, resembling a light emitted by a red flare. Visible for 10 minutes, it is flying too fast for any known aircraft. (NICAP, [“Light Maneuvers near C-60 Airliner”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 146)
- 1952**, July 10 — Night. A Marine pilot on night maneuvers near Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, spots two green objects shoot straight across the sky at terrific speed at a high altitude. ([“Radar Sees ‘Saucers,’ AF Investigating,” Miami \(Fla.\) News](#), July 22, 1952, pp. 1A, 6A)
- 1952**, July 10 — Night. Forty crew members of the Canadian destroyer [HMCS Crusader](#) off Korea see two shiny discs and track them on radar. The radar fix places them at 10,560 feet altitude and 7 miles distant. (NICAP, [“Naval Destroyer Observes Two Discs / Tracks on Radar”](#))
- 1952**, July 11 — The Air Technical Liaison Office, Directorate of Intelligence for the Far East Air Force, prepares Intelligence Report #29-52, detailing Air Force, Navy, and Marine radar UFO reports for 1950–1952 in Korea and Japan. (Capt. Charles J. Malven, [“FLYOB RPT: Japan/Korea Area,”](#) IR-29-52, July 11, 1952)
- 1952**, July 12 — 8:42 p.m. O’Hare AFB weather observer Capt. W. J. Shea and a civilian, Jane Morrison, watch three lights, one main red light with smaller white lights on each side, traveling 500 mph at 40,000–50,000 feet over Montrose Beach, Chicago, Illinois, from the west-northwest. They accelerate to the south and make a 180° turn heading north-northwest, then disappear. The UFO is seen by 400+ people, with 14 others making reports to the 4706th Defense Wing located at O’Hare Airport. ([Sparks](#), pp. 146–147; Ruppelt, [p. 153](#))
- 1952**, July 12 — 9:04 p.m. Two USAF F-86 Sabre jets with the 62nd Flight Squadron are flying at 22,000 feet on a routine training mission (or on a scramble mission) over Arlington Heights, Illinois. Capt. Robert W. Casey Jr., after coming out of a right turn, sees an oblong yellowish lighted object with an exhaust moving in a straight course about 15 miles away south of Elgin, Illinois, at 22,000 feet traveling at 800 mph. The F-86 pursues at maximum speed, but the object pulls away. Both pilots hear a strange radio transmission on their restricted communications channel during the pursuit saying the name of the pursuit pilot, Casey, in an ethereal “ghost-like” monotone. Apparently, this is a prank by Casey’s fighter pilot buddies at the 62nd who are monitoring his channel, though this is later officially denied by the 62nd. (NICAP, [“F-86 on Scramble Mission / Strange Radio Transmission”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 147)
- 1952**, July 13 — 4:00 a.m. Capt. William Bruen, piloting National Airline Flight 611 heading north from Jacksonville, Florida, sees a round ball of bluish-white light about 60 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., hovering to the west then ascending to the airliner’s altitude of 11,000 feet, then parallel course off left wing at about 2 miles distance. It takes off upwards at 1,000 mph when Bruen turns on all aircraft lights. (NICAP, [“Light Ascends, Paces Aircraft, Takes Off Vertically”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 148; [Hynek UFO Report](#), [pp. 90–91](#))
- 1952**, July 14 — The Ground Observer Corps expands into Operation Skywatch, consisting of 750,000 volunteers aged 7 to 86 years old working around the clock in shifts at more than 16,000 posts and 73 filter centers to detect a sneak attack against the United States. The expansion follows an Army announcement from a few weeks earlier that antiaircraft guns and personnel are on continuous duty in key areas. (Radomes.org, [“Ground Observer Corps,”](#) January 31, 2001; Shoot 21–22)
- 1952**, July 14 — 9:12 p.m. Some 8,000 feet above the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland/Virginia, Capt. [William B. Nash](#) and copilot First Officer [William H. Fortenberry](#), flying a Pan American Airways DC-4 from New York City to Miami, Florida, with an off-duty crew, see six crimson dots at 30°. The dots are streaking in their direction like tracer bullets. As they get closer, they resolve into reddish-orange circles, about 100 feet in diameter and 15 feet thick, with sharply defined edges. Nash says they are holding a “narrow echelon formation” at 2,000 feet, below the airplane’s own altitude. When they are nearly underneath the aircraft, “they flipped on edge, the sides to the left of us going up and the glowing surfaces facing right. While all were in the edgewise position, the last five slid

over and past the leader so that the echelon was now tail foremost.” Then they all flip over again into a flat attitude. Two new, brighter UFOs join the formation, and the lights of all eight objects blink out then come on again. They all speed westward (Nash estimates 6,000–12,000 mph) and climb in a graceful 45° arc. The entire sighting lasts only 15 seconds. The crew in the passenger area does not see the objects. Possible corroboration comes from a sighting in Camden, New Jersey, although the date is uncertain. Intelligence agents in Miami promptly interview Nash and Fortenberry separately. (Wikipedia, “[Nash-Fortenberry UFO sighting](#)”; NICAP, “[Nash / Fortenberry Case](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 150; “[Miami Pilots Spot 8 Saucers Flying in Formation](#),” *Miami (Fla.) Herald*, July 16, 1952, pp. 1A, 8A; “[Two Pilots Add to Flying Saucer Lore](#),” *Washington (N.C.) Daily News*, July 16, 1952, p. 1; “[Pilots Spot 8 Saucers Flying in Norfolk Area](#),” *Washington (D.C.) Daily News*, July 16, 1952, p. 7; “[Rockets, Tracers or Them Devilish Flying Saucers](#),” *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, July 17, 1952, pp. 36, 30; The Witness, “[A Precise Report on Flying Saucers—or Something](#),” *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, July 20, 1952, p. 6; William B. Nash and William H. Fortenberry, “[We Flew Above Flying Saucers](#),” *True*, October 1952, pp. 65, 110–112; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 57–58; William B. Nash, “[Does the Air Force Have ‘Hardware from Outer Space’?](#)” *The Saucerian* 3, no. 1 (January 1955): 29–31; “[An Airline Captain Speaks Out](#),” *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 6 (Oct./Nov. 1962): 5–6; Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 260–265; UFOEv, pp. 13, 38–39; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 47; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, pp. 55–57; Good Above, pp. 269–270; “[The Pilot’s Tale](#),” *Saturday Night Uforia*; Michael D. Swords, “[Classic Cases from the APRO Files](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 21–22; Thomas Tulien, “[The 1952 Nash/Fortenberry Sighting Revisited](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 20–23, 27–28, [reprinted](#) in Project 1947; Shoot 22–24; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15; Swords 149–150; Clark III 791; Powell, *Scientist*, 49; Clark IV 871–872)

1952, July 15 — The [Lorenzens](#) publish the first issue of the *APRO Bulletin*. (*APRO Bulletin* 1, no. 1 (July 1952))

1952, Mid-July — [Ruppelt](#) says that rumors persist that the Air Force is braced for an expected invasion by UFOs. “Had these rumormongers been at ATIC in mid-July they would have thought that the invasion was in full swing.” He talks to a scientist “from an agency that I can’t name” about the build-up of UFO reports. From his study of reports, the scientist predicts that “within the next few days they’re going to blow up and you’re going to have the granddaddy of all UFO sightings. The sighting will occur in Washington or New York, probably Washington.” [Brad Sparks](#) identifies the scientist as [Stefan T. Possony](#), acting chief of the AFOIN Special Study Group and adviser to Gen. [John A. Samford](#). (Ruppelt, pp. 154–155, 157; NICAP, “[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)”)

1952, July 16 — 9:35 a.m. US Coast Guard photographer Seaman [Shell R. Alpert](#) sees several bright lights through a window screen (no glass) from his position inside the photo lab at Coast Guard Air Station Salem [now Winter Island Marine Park], Massachusetts, while cleaning a camera. He watches them for 5–6 seconds, calls out to Hospitalman 1st Class [Thomas E. Flaherty](#) from sick bay to see them. The objects dim then brighten suddenly. Alpert grabs a camera and films 4 roughly elliptical irregular blobs of light in formation through the screen, on Super XX cut film 4-by-5-inch format. The lights disappear suddenly in a flash. The photo is explained as showing reflections of light sources from inside the building, but this ignores the fact that the window is open, and the camera is not pointed through glass. ([Sparks](#), p. 151; “[Where Better to See](#),” *Nexus*, no. 8 (February 1955): 3; UFOEv, p. 88; Joe Nyman and Barry Greenwood, “[The July 1952 Coast Guard Photo Revisited](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 3–5, 25–30; Michael D. Lampen, “[Mystery Alpert Objects](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 27; “[The Photographer’s Tale](#),” *Saturday Night Uforia*, December 3, 2012; Charlie Wiser, “[Bright Lights of Salem, 1952](#),” *How Many Dollars*, July 21, 2023)

1952, July 16 — 9:00 p.m. [Paul R. Hill](#), an aeronautical research engineer, is watching the sky with his future wife, Frances Hoback, on Chesapeake Avenue (near LaSalle Avenue) in Hampton, Virginia, when he notices two amber-colored lights coming in over Hampton Roads from the south at 500 mph. They slow down and make a U turn, moving side by side until they revolve around each other at a high rate of speed in a tight circle 200–300 feet in diameter. A third UFO comes racing up from the direction of Virginia Beach and falls in several hundred feet below the other two, making a V formation. A fourth UFO comes in from up the James River and joins the group, which heads south at 500 mph. “Their ability to make tight circling turns was amazing.” Around 9:03 p.m., the four UFOs have moved out of sight to the south. (NICAP, “[Two Pairs of Objects Maneuver Overhead](#)”; [[Blue Book documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 150; UFOEv, p. 57)

1952, July 17 — 6:30 p.m. A woman leaving Yarmouth Harbour, Nova Scotia, on the *SS Yarmouth* watches seven silvery objects in an inverted triangular formation for 2 minutes. They hover momentarily, descend slowly, and disappear. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 268–269)

- 1952**, July 17 or 18 — 10:10 p.m. T/Sgt. Thurman C. Mahone and A/3c [Gene A. Jennings](#) at Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base] in Lockbourne, Ohio, see an amber-colored, elliptical-shaped object with a small flame at the rear, periodically increasing in brightness. It moves swiftly, giving off a resonant beating sound. (NICAP, "[July 18, 1952: Lockbourne, Ohio](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 151)
- 1952**, July 18 — Early morning. American Airlines pilot Capt. Paul L. Carpenter, First Officer George Fell, and Flight Engineer Quilici watch several dull-red objects with a "yellowish tinge" speeding around in the air at an altitude of 25,000–30,000 feet near Denver, Colorado, during a non-stop flight from Los Angeles to Chicago. A maximum of three objects are seen at one time over a 2-minute period. Carpenter says they seem to be about 100 miles away. The first object is moving south by southeast. One minute after it disappears, two more come into view going westward and another one eastward. "The two traveling westward disappeared about two seconds then reappeared traveling eastward." (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 60)
- 1952**, July 18 — Capt. [Edward Ruppelt](#) tells the press in Dayton, Ohio, that ground radar has tracked UFOs at speeds of 1,500–2,000 mph, that jet fighters scrambled to intercept them have failed, and that "persons making these reports actually see something in the sky," but the Air Force does not know what they are. ("[Saucer' Sightings Spur AF's Drive to End Mystery](#)," *Dayton (Ohio) Journal Herald*, July 18, 1952, pp. 1, 10; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 66)
- 1952**, July 18 — 6:10 p.m. André Frégnale is hiking near Lac Chauvet, Puy-de-Dôme, France, when he sees a disc flying west to east in a straight line at constant speed. He immediately takes two photos when the object is at its largest apparent size, then two others when it is moving away to his left. It is in view for 50 seconds. ("[Une soucoupe volante](#)," *Le Méridional*, July 25, 1952, pp. 1, 8; Pierre Guérin, "[A Scientific Analysis of Four Photographs of a Flying Disk near Lac Chauvet \(France\)](#)," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 8, no. 4 (1994): 447–469; Alain Delmon, "[Les Cas Solides: Lac Chauvet, France, 1952](#)," *Les OVNI: Intelligences non-humaines ou mythe moderne?*, December 26, 2003)
- 1952**, July 18 — 9:45 p.m. Three Air Force officers and four enlisted men at Patrick AFB, near Cocoa Beach, Florida, see a series of hovering and maneuvering red-orange lights moving in a variety of directions. (NICAP, "[Hovering and Maneuvering Lights](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 151)
- 1952**, July 19 — 2:55 a.m. An experienced civilian pilot watches an elliptical-shaped object with a light fringe over Williston, North Dakota, for 5 minutes. It descends fast and makes a 360° then a 180° turn. ([Sparks](#), p. 151)
- 1952**, July 19 — 6:28 a.m. Carolyn Smith, a Ground Observer Corps volunteer in Baltimore, Maryland, sees two blue, round objects, each with an exhaust trail, flying northeast at 2,000 feet. Suddenly they shoot straight up and disappear. (NICAP, "[July 19, 1952, 1128Z, Baltimore, Maryland, Report of Unconventional Aircraft](#)"; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, A History, 1952: June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 68; Clark III 1254; Clark IV 1434)
- 1952**, July 19 — [Lincoln LaPaz](#) tells newspapermen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that UFOs "can reverse directions and cruise back and forth; they travel at high speeds in wide sweeping circles.... They travel at high altitudes and can be followed as long as 3½ minutes." ("[Luminous Objects Flooding Southwest Skies Not Shooting Stars or Meteorites, Says LaPaz](#)," *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, July 20, 1952, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 67)
- 1952**, July 19 — Three 15th magnitude point sources within 10 arcseconds of each other are detected in a red-sensitive photographic image taken by the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey at RA 21h18m10.4s, DEC +50°22'43.4" within the constellation Cygnus. They exhibit no evidence of peculiar shapes or elongation that might occur with asteroids, meteorites, cosmic rays, photographic plate defects, or aircraft. The three light sources are absent in all subsequent exposures of this region during the next 71 years, including a Palomar blue-sensitive image taken less than one hour later. (Enrique Solano, et al., "[A Bright Triple Transient That Vanished within 50 Minutes](#)," *ArXiv*, October 13, 2023; Beatriz Villarroel, "[The Vanishing Star Enigma and the 1952 Washington D.C. UFO Wave](#)," *The Debrief*, January 21, 2024; "Astronomical Transients," *Fortean Times* 442 (March 2024): 24–25)
- 1952**, July 19 — 10:00 a.m. Engineer John A. Anderson and other technicians at the Savannah River Atomic Site near Aiken, South Carolina, watch a greenish glowing object dart back and forth silently and erratically at high speed above the plant. It is in view for 2 minutes, moving constantly and changing direction at sharp angles. The object disappears over the horizon at "tremendous velocity." (NICAP, "[Multiple Witnesses Observe Strange Maneuvering Object](#)"; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 51; *Nukes* 47–48)
- 1952**, July 19 — 4:30 p.m. Agricultural engineer Pedro Bardi and others on a farm in the Madre de Dios region of Peru see a UFO flying at 325 feet shortly after their short-wave radio goes dead. Bardi says it is a bit smaller than a DC-3 and is making a buzzing sound. It shows up 4 minutes later at Puerto Maldonado, 75 miles away, and