PURSUE releases, a chronological listing

October 23, 2026

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NOTE: This listing is a subset of the full UFO Timeline ("UFOs and Intelligence") posted on the Center for UFO Studies website at https://cufos.org/PDFs/pdfs/UFOsandIntelligence.pdf . Please consult that document's "Sources and Further Reading" section for identification of any sources that are only partially described here (such as "Sparks, p. 17"). For best results, open all links in a new tab or window. Links to PURSUE releases go to the first page of the document, so take note of the page number(s) given in the description.

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." ([PURSUE release, pp. 13–17]; 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 Huneeus, *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)

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." (Lt. Col. Leavitt Corning Jr., "Night Phenomenon," memo to First Tactical Air Force Commanding General, January 16, 1945, [PURSUE release, pp. 13–17]; *Strange Company* 126–127)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 16–17]; "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, [PURSUE release, pp. 13–17]; *Strange Company* 129–132)

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, [PURSUE release, p. 12])

1945, March 1 —Somewhere over Europe, US pilots report an aluminum-colored cylindrical object, about 12 feet long and 1 foot in diameter floating in the air at 9,000 feet. It appears to be suspended vertically with small fins and a mast projecting at the lower end. The pilots fire on the object and partially deflate it, causing a red smokeless flame to erupt. A photo is taken but apparently proves to be ambiguous. (SHAEF documents, [PURSUE release, pp. 3–9])

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 1–2])

1946, November 5–12 — Mary L. Herren of Portland, Oregon, takes several photos in the vicinity of Jefferson, Oregon, that apparently show unidentified objects. She does not notice anything until the photos are developed. USAF Lt. Col. Donald L. Springer in 1947 suspects that the images show camera defects. (Lt. Col. Donald L. Springer to USAF Chief of Staff, "Flying Disc," December 5, 1947 [PURSUE release, p. 6])

1946, mid-December — Early morning. Aeronautical engineer Karl Dawson Wood sees an unusual vapor trail along US Highway 66 in northern Arizona at 20,000–50,000 feet and moving at 600 mph overhead from west to east. ([PURSUE release, p. 78])

1947, January 9 — The US Defense Department's *Intelligence Review,* no. 47, 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. 47, January 9, 1947, US Department of Defense, pp. 17–20, [PURSUE release]; Don Berliner, Marie Galbraith, and Antonio Huneeus, *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. 17; [PURSUE release, p. 73; PURSUE release, pp. 158–159]; 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, April — 11:00 a.m. US Weather Bureau meteorologist Walter A. Minczewski watches a silvery disc through a theodolite for 5 –7 seconds while tracking a ceiling balloon in Richmond, Virginia. It is traveling east to west and is flying just below the balloon at 15,000 feet; it remains in sight for 15 seconds, appearing much bigger than the balloon. The disc 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. A co-worker, Miss Baron, sees the object when her balloon is at about 27,000 feet. The Project Grudge final report indicates that there is at least one other earlier report from the same Weather Bureau station in the previous seven months. (NICAP, "Silvery Disc Seen through Theodolite"; Sparks, p. 17; [PURSUE release, pp. 169–170; PURSUE release, p. 126; PURSUE release, pp. 213–214]; Lt. Howard W. Smith and George W. Towles, "Unidentified Flying Objects—Project Grudge," Air Materiel Command Technical Report 102-AC-49/15-100, 1949, pp. [130, 396]; Ruppelt, p. 41; Bloecher, p. I-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, 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; Swords 32–33; Clark III 375; Clark IV 419)

1947, May 5 — 3:30 p.m. Montana State Prison Warden John Henry is driving between Ellensburg and Seattle, Washington, when he sees a silver object streaking across the sky at high speed with erratic motions. It is also seen by his wife and Melbourne M. Hill, a convict chauffeur. It goes into a nose dive but disintegrates before reaching the earth, leaving a "long pillar of gas hanging in the sky." The pillar remains in the sky and does not blow away. (Memo from FBI Butte to FBI Director, "Flying Discs Sighted May 5, 1947, between Ellensburg and Seattle, Washington," September 27, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 186]

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. 17; [PURSUE release, pp. 175–176; PURSUE release, pp. 135–137; PURSUE release, pp. 81–82; PURSUE release, pp. 219–220]; "Whatever That Object Was, Sooner Says He Saw One," *Miami (Okla.) Daily News-Record,* June 26, 1947, p. 7; "City Pilot Sees 'Flying Saucer' Here Too," *Oklahoma City Times,* June 26, 1947, p. 1; 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. ([PURSUE release, pp. 193–194; PURSUE release, p. 80; PURSUE release, pp. 238–239]; "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, June 2 — Private pilot Forrest Wenyon is flying over Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and sees a silvery, jar-shaped object cross from west to east about 2,000 feet in front of his plane. It has a silver-white, fiery exhaust. (NICAP, "Jar-Shaped Object Crosses in Front of Aircraft"; Sparks, p. 17; [PURSUE release, pp. 192–194; PURSUE release, pp. 186–187]; "'Flying Mayonnaise Jars' Reported by Rehoboth Pilot," *Wilmington (Del.) Morning News,* July 8, 1947, pp. 1, 4; Bloecher, p. III-9)

1947, June 10 — 3:30 p.m. Gyorik 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; [PURSUE release, p. 116]; 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 45–46; PURSUE release, pp. 56–57]; US National Archives, Record Group 341, "Weiser, Idaho, June 1947"; Bloecher, p. II-8)

1947, June 14 (or 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. (NICAP, "Ten 'Almost Round' Objects in Formation"; Sparks, p. 17; [PURSUE release, pp. 54–55; PURSUE release, pp. 179–181; PURSUE release, p. 175; PURSUE release, pp. 39–41, 84; PURSUE release, pp. 68–69]; "Pilot Recalls Seeing Discs," Portland *Oregonian,* July 3, 1947, p. 11; 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 21 — 11:55 a.m. Guy R. Overman watches several silvery objects moving below an airplane at Spokane, Washington. (NICAP, "Eight Disc-Shaped Objects As Big As a House"; Sparks, p. 18; [PURSUE release, pp. 42–43; PURSUE release, pp. 52–53]; 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"; statements by Fred Crisman, Harold Dahl, and J. E. Smith, August 7, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 51–59]; [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 Tomes, 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 — 11:30 a.m. 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 is made of polished aluminum or silver. (Air Force Base Intelligence Report, "Flying Discs," July 30, 1947; [PURSUE release, p. 83; PURSUE release, pp. 130–131]; Kevin D. Randle, "Roswell, Nathan Twining, and the Mini-EOTS," A Different Perspective, October 6, 2014)

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]; [PURSUE release, pp. 36–37; PURSUE release, pp. 161–167; PURSUE release, pp. 103–111, 138–142; PURSUE release, pp. 85, 93–103]; 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; "Flyer Reports 9 Objects Whizzing over Range," *Bellingham (Wash.) Herald,* June 26, 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. I-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 Huneeus, *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; Erik Lacitis, "'Flying Saucers' Became a Thing 70 Years Ago Saturday with Sighting near Mount Rainier," *Seattle (Wash.) Times,* June 24, 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. ([PURSUE release, pp. 52–53; PURSUE release, pp. 66–67]; "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. 18; [PURSUE release, pp. 145–146; PURSUE release, pp. 37–38; PURSUE release, pp. 2–4; PURSUE release, pp. 192–193]; FBI Portland to FBI Director, "Reports of Flying Discs Security Matter - X," September 17, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 127]; 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 26 — Editor Raymond A. Palmer writes to Kenneth Arnold and asks him to write an article about his flying disc sighting. (Letter from Raymond A. Palmer to Kenneth Arnold, June 26, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 102–113]; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

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. 18; [PURSUE release, pp. 117–118; PURSUE release, p. 136; PURSUE release, p. 189; PURSUE release, pp. 46–47; PURSUE release, pp. 156–157]; 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 — 3:43 p.m. Marion Beuscher and her brother, a farmer, see 7–10 saucer-shaped objects flying directly over their home in Rockfield, Wisconsin, moving south at high speed. (NICAP, "Farmers Report 7–10 Saucers Fly Overhead"; Sparks, p. 18; [PURSUE release, pp. 92–93; PURSUE release, pp. 126–127])

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"; Sparks, p. 18; [PURSUE release, pp. 191–192; PURSUE release, pp. 104–105; PURSUE release, pp. 236–237]; Bloecher, p. III-3;)

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 Discs 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 Discs," *Klamath Falls (Oreg.) Herald and News,* June 30, 1947, p. 1; "Discs 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 — Around 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. He is a passenger in a car driven by John R. Kauke and proceeding out to the testing grounds with 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. 19; [PURSUE release, pp. 189–190; PURSUE release, pp. 69, 106–107; PURSUE release, pp. 234–235]; "Reports from Experts Lend More Serious View to 'Discs,'" *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star,* July 8, 1947, p. 2; "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 — 4:45 p.m. Dale Bays is driving a bus about 7 miles out of Clarion, Iowa, when he sees an object shoot in front of him. This is followed by four more objects at about 1,200 feet. He gets out of the bus and notices 13 objects that look like an inverted saucer approaching from the west in a single file. They are about 175–250 feet in diameter and 12 feet thick and traveling about 300 mph to the south-southeast. They are making a sound like an electric motor or dynamo as they pass overhead. (NICAP, "Line of Saucers Headed SSE"; Sparks, p. 18; PURSUE release, p. 41; PURSUE release, pp. 90–91; PURSUE release, p. 51; PURSUE release, pp. 124–125])

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. 19; [PURSUE release, pp. 167–168, PURSUE release, p. 136; PURSUE release, p. 48; PURSUE release, pp. 211–212]; 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 — 5:45 p.m. Angelo Donofrio and his wife are driving a couple miles west of Boise, Idaho, when they see a semicircular object that seems to be "clinging to a small cloud" about 3,000 feet in the air. (PURSUE release, pp. 44–45; PURSUE release, pp. 54–55])

1947, July — Late afternoon. AMC civilian engineer William R. Presley takes a muddy photo of a ball of fire at 218 Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It is most likely a photographic flaw. (Memo from FBI Knoxville to FBI Director, "'Flying Saucers' Observed over Oak Ridge Area, Internal Security - X," January 10, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 84–88, 109]; [PURSUE release, pp. 1–9]; letter from Col. C. D. Gasser to G. J. Rathman, February 10, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 112–114]; *Hynek UFO Report,* p. 142)

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. 20; [PURSUE release, pp. 165–166; PURSUE release, pp. 63–64; PURSUE release, 209–210]; 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 4 — 11:00 a.m. C. J. Bogne 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. 20; [PURSUE release, p. 35; PURSUE release, p. 44]; Ruppelt, p. 20; Bloecher, p. II-9)

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. Discs are also seen in Milwaukie, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. (NICAP, "Seven Discs Observed by Many Witnesses"; Sparks, p. 20; [PURSUE release, pp. 13–24, 29–34; PURSUE release, pp. 182–18]; PURSUE release, pp. 19–33, 38–43]; "Air Liner Crew Confirms Flying Discs over State: Many Seen during Day over City," Portland *Oregonian,* July 5, 1947, p. 1; 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 — 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. ([PURSUE release, pp. 27–28; PURSUE release, pp. 36–37]; "Observers Report Discs over Entire Western Area," Salt Lake City *Deseret News,* July 5, 1947, p. 1; "Is It Saucer, Sorcery, or Just Plain Sausage?" *Washington (D.C.) Times-Herald,* July 6, 1947, p. 8; 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 — 8:12 or 9:12 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. 21; [PURSUE release, pp. 25–26; PURSUE release, pp. 108–111; PURSUE release, pp. 34–35]; "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; Curtis Fuller, "The Flying Saucers—Fact or Fiction?" *Flying* magazine, July 1950, pp. 17, 59; 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 — 11:45 p.m. An object is seen in Trenton, New Jersey, from the southbound railroad station. [PURSUE release, pp. 58–59])

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; "VFW Chief Awaiting Message from Capital on Flying Discs," *Washington (D.C.) Post,* July 26, 1947, pp. 1, 3, [PURSUE release, pp. 106–107])

1947, July 6 —1:45 p.m. Maj. Archie 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 187–188; PURSUE release, pp. 112–113; PURSUE release, p. 117; PURSUE release, pp. 232–233]; Bloecher, p. III-11)

1947, July 6 — Day. M. Lenore Corey sees "milky white rays" emitting from some red spinning objects in the sky near the bus terminal in Hollywood, California. ([PURSUE release, pp. 181–182; PURSUE release, pp. 226–227; PURSUE release, pp. 52–53])

1947, July 6 — Day. Army Air Force 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; [PURSUE release, p. 114; PURSUE release, pp. 132–133]; Bloecher, p. III-3)

1947, July 6 — 8:45 p.m. Army S/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. ([PURSUE release, pp, 121–122; PURSUE release, pp. 7–14; PURSUE release, pp. 162–163]; "'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 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, and [PURSUE release, p. 72]; Sparks, p. 21; "Gadget Comes Sailing over Texas Ave. Sign," *Shreveport (La.) Times,* July 8, 1947, pp. 1, 3; "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 — 9:00 a.m. Daniel Seito sees a flashing object in the sky above the residential area of Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu, Hawaii. It appears to be a large balloon with a silver disc suspended below it, and it is flying at 6,000 feet, slowly ascending to the northwest. ([PURSUE release, pp. 217–218])

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. 22; [PURSUE release, pp. 9–10; PURSUE release, pp. 15–16]; Affidavit, J. C. Wise to Thomas A. McMillan, August 13, 1947)

1947, July 7 — 11:30 a.m. Flight instructor Kenneth Jones out of Elkhorn, 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; [PURSUE release, p. 21; PURSUE release, p. 115]; 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 — A group of people near the village of West Rindge, New Hampshire, are surprised by the sudden appearance of wisps of smoke and flame rising from nearby lawns and fields. Many small, burned areas are discovered scattered in a 200-foot diameter circle and seemingly caused by hot fragments of metal that apparently have fallen from the sky. A witness turns several of the fragments over to a Professor "Rentges" [probably J. Francis Reintjes] of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for analysis. Reintjes expresses the opinion that the material, which has obviously been subjected to "terrific heat," resembles the lining of the rocket engines of German V-2 ballistic missiles he has seen in New Mexico. Four of the collected fragments, when pieced together, appear to have been part of a hollow cylinder 8 inches in diameter and having a wall thickness of 3/16 of an inch. The West Rindge material has been subjected to spectrographic analysis recently, Hoover reports, and is determined to be ordinary cast iron that "had been subjected to a very high degree of heat." (Memo from FBI Boston to FBI Director, "Metal Fragments Observed at West Rindge, New Hampshire, July 7, 1947, Security Matter (X)," July 29, 1947 [PURSUE release, pp. 20–28]; Joel Carpenter, "Dow Chemical and the Scientific Analysis of UFO Debris")

1947, July 7 — Around 1:30 p.m. While walking on US Highway 92 one mile east of Lakeland, Florida, Hiram William Griffin sees five round, shiny, "turtle-backed" objects climbing at 5,000–7,500 feet in just a few seconds. They are making a shrill noise. (NICAP, "Five 'Turtle-Backed' Objects Headed NE (Sound Heard)"; Sparks, p. 21; [PURSUE release, pp. 179–180; PURSUE release, pp. 223–224])

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; [PURSUE release, p. 21;

PURSUE release, p. 115]; 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 — 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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 88–89, PURSUE release, p. 185; PURSUE release, p. 66, 115–119; PURSUE release, p. 87; PURSUE release, p. 119–120; PURSUE release, pp. 31–34]; Robert C. Hanika, "Speedy 'Saucer' Zips through Local Sky," Phoenix *Arizona Republic,* July 9, 1947, pp. 1–2; FBI correspondence, [PURSUE release, pp. 207–211, PURSUE release, p. 119; PURSUE release, pp. 170–174, 180–185; PURSUE release, p. 52]; 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 — 10:30 p.m. Air Force Lt. Col. James O. Cobb sees from his bedroom window in Arlington, Virginia, a "blob" the size of a small airplane. It reflects white light and is flying at less than 500 feet above ground to the southeast at about 1,350 mph. (NICAP, "Blob Flying at 500′"; Sparks, p. 22; [PURSUE release, pp. 171–172; PURSUE release, pp. 65–68; PURSUE release, pp. 215–216])

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. 23; [PURSUE release, pp. 2–8, 11–12; PURSUE release, pp. 60–72; PURSUE release, pp. 2–14, 17–18]; 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 — 12:00 noon. Bill Turrentine, 15, takes a photo of a large gray object from the third floor of his home at 410 West Fourteenth Street in Norfolk, Virginia. It is moving from southwest to northeast and is followed by two smaller objects, all of which are leaving a vapor trail. The large object is wobbling and traveling an estimated 600 mph just below the clouds. (George Hebert, "Flying Disc 'Bigger Than Automobile' Photographed by Youth Who Is Amazed Because No One Else Saw It," *Norfolk (Va.)*

Ledger-Dispatch, July 9, 1947, p. 2; memo from FBI Norfolk office to FBI Director, "Flying Discs," August 8, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 157–160])

1947, July 8 — 3:50 p.m. Army National Guard pilot 1Lt Alvin E. Moorman, flying above Fontana, California, at 20,000 feet, observes a flat object, reflecting light, about the size of a fighter, approximately above Mount Baldy. He gives chase, attempting to keep it in sight, but is unable to do so. ([PURSUE release, p. 116]; 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 — 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. Forgus. ([Wyly's teletype message], [PURSUE release, p. 70]; "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 9 — 11:30 a.m. Constable Eric Kearsay's wife sees four discs at Grand Falls, Newfoundland, flying in an easterly direction. He sees a "huge jellyfish" flash across the sky. ([PURSUE release, pp. 117–118])

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. 24; [PURSUE release, pp. 177–178; PURSUE release, pp. 168–173; PURSUE release, pp. 85–92; PURSUE release, pp. 221–222]; 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, 69; 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 — 5:15 p.m. Electrician Raymond Edward Lane and his wife Laura 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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 8–14]; 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 — 11:15 p.m. Constable Eric Kearsey arrives home at 11:30 p.m. in Grand Falls, Newfoundland, and his wife Margaret asks if he has seen the "flying saucers." Just minutes earlier, his wife, mother-in-law, and John Jackman had seen four round orange-yellow objects flying at terrific speed, side by side with a dipping motion. Jackman says they were round in front and tapered at the back, somewhat teardrop-shaped, and moving in a westerly direction. Ten minutes later, they all observe an egg-shaped (or "jellyfish" shaped) object "the size of a barrel head" with a phosphorus glow passing overhead to the southwest. ("Mystery Objects over Grand Falls Wednesday Night," *St. John's (Newf.) Daily News,* July 11, 1947, p. 3; "New Light on Flying 'Saucers,'" *Grand Falls (Newf.) Advertiser,* July 19, 1947, p. 1; [PURSUE release, pp. 86–87; PURSUE release, pp. 34–35; PURSUE release, p. 118]; 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, and [PURSUE release, pp. 125–127]; RosRept, pp. 25–26; Good Above, p. 541; Kevin D. Randle, "The Hoover Memo Again," A Different Perspective, July 29, 2015)

1947, July 10 — 10:00 a.m. John Legge and William Evans see a bright disc leaving a trail high over Codroy, Newfoundland. It is also observed by Albert Simms, 12. ([PURSUE release, pp. 19–20, 30–33; PURSUE release, pp. 129–132; PURSUE release, pp. 170–175])

1947, July 10 — 5:30 p.m. Three civilian airline mechanics (John N. Mehrman Jr., Robert W. 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 50–51; PURSUE release, pp. 18, 23–29, 119; PURSUE release, pp. 60–65]; 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 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. 25; [PURSUE release, pp. 157–158; PURSUE release, pp. 120–121; PURSUE release, p. 121])

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 161–162]; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers,* Palmer, 1952, pp. 21–23; Kenneth Arnold, "Confidential," Project 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 97–103]; 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. ([PURSUE release, p. 174]; ClearIntent, p. 153)

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. 25; memo from FBI Anchorage to FBI Director, "Flying Disks," September 17, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 150–152]; [PURSUE release, p. 120; PURSUE release, pp. 122–123])

1947, July 16 — An initial report on the Ernest Harmon AFB case in Newfoundland is written up by a base intelligence officer. ([PURSUE release, pp. 23–29]; 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 — 8:45 p.m. Four construction workers aboard the ferry SS *Burgeo* see 4–5 flashes in the sky. ([PURSUE release, pp. 164–165])

1947, July 20 — 9:45 a.m. Edward A. Plummer sees a silvery disc flying west-northwest above the Potomac River about 22 miles east of Cumberland, Maryland. [PURSUE release, pp. 122–124]

1947, July 22 — Ray Palmer writes to Kenneth Arnold and tells him about the Maury Island, Washington, case, asking him to look into it. (R. A. Palmer to Kenneth Arnold, July 22, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 18]; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers,* Palmer, 1952, p. 21; Clark III 720; Clark IV 789; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

1947, July 23 — 7:15 a.m. Patricia Abbott and a Lt. Hammaker are walking at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base in Stephenville, Newfoundland, when they see a reddish light, apparently flashing intermittently and maneuvering abruptly for 3 minutes. ([PURSUE release, pp. 119–120; PURSUE release, pp. 15–16; PURSUE release, pp. 160–161])

1947, July 24 — 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." ([PURSUE release, p. 131]; ClearIntent, pp. 149–150)

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 Stateman* 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." (Telegram from Bobbitt to FBI Director, August 5, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 139–144]; Memo for FBI Director from Mr. D. M. Ladd, August 14, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 31])

1947, July 29 — 12:05 p.m. Robert J. Madden, Steve Herrmann, and Karl Herrmann see a thin object, apparently 3 feet in diameter, that hovers and flutters above Canyon Ferry, Montana (20 miles east of Helena), rising and descending. It heads northeast at tremendous speed at about 3,000 feet. (NICAP, "3′ Bright Disc Maneuvers at High Speed"; Sparks, p. 25; [PURSUE release, pp. 137–138; PURSUE release, pp. 74–76, 173–175; PURSUE release, pp. 182–183])

1947, July 29 — 2:50 p.m. Assistant Base Operations Officer Capt. William H. Ryherd and ex-AAF B-29 pilot 1Lt Ward L. 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 113–116; PURSUE release, p. 186; PURSUE release, p. 84; PURSUE release, pp, 152–155]; Bloecher, p. III-5)

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 Disks," Section B, *Bureau Bulletin* no. 42, Series 1947, in Black Vault FBI documents compilation, p. 48 and [PURSUE release, p. 121]; ClearIntent, p. 150)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 74–79, PURSUE release, p. 36]; 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. ([FBI teletype, August 6, 1947], pp. 87–88; [PURSUE release, pp. 14–17]; FBI telegram from J. Edgar Hoover to FBI Seattle, August 14, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 28]; letter from Jack B. Wilcox to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, "Flying Discs Sighted by Fred Crisman and Harold A. Dahl, Tacoma, Washington, SM - X," August 18, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 35–49]; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers,* Palmer, 1952, pp. 46–57; Clark III 721; Eghigian, *After,* p. 55; Clark IV 789–790)

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; Capt. Robert H. Masonheimer to Commanding Officer Air Rescue Service, August 4, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 10–13]; Telegram from FBI Seattle to FBI Director, August 6, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 24–27]; Memo from D. M. Ladd to FBI Director, "Flying Discs," August 14. 1947 [PURSUE release, pp. 31–34]; [Curtis Fuller], "The Mystery of the Flying Disks," *Fate* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 22–26; 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; Tom Paulu, "Conspiracy Theories Examined in Silly, Entertaining New Book," *Longview (Wash.) Daily News,* March 13, 2014, pp. C1, C4; Clark III 721; Eghigian, *After,* p. 55; Clark IV 790)

1947, August 3 — Late afternoon. Charles Casella Jr. and William Truax (or Truex) watch a slowly revolving flying disc 600 feet in the air moving swiftly in Hackensack, New Jersey. ("Flying Saucer Now Reported

at Hackensack," *Bergen (N.J.) Evening Record,* August 4, 1947, p. 11; [PURSUE release, pp. 185–186; PURSUE release, p. 155; PURSUE release, pp. 4–7; PURSUE release, pp. 230–231])

1947, August 4 — 4:00 p.m. Pan American Airlines pilot Alpheas D. Powell and navigator Walter I. White are flying between Bedford and Everett, Massachusetts, when they see a bright orange or deep-gold-colored elliptical object, 15 feet long and 2–3 feet wide, flying at more than 150 mph at 7,000 feet altitude. (NICAP, "Pan Am Airliner Encounters Elliptical Object"; Sparks, p. 25; PURSUE release, pp. 159–160; PURSUE release, pp. 1–4; PURSUE release, pp. 202–203])

1947, August 4 — Sunset. 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. 26; [PURSUE release, pp. 125–126; PURSUE release, pp. 180–183; PURSUE release, pp. 166–167]; Harold D. Johnston, "Matters of National Interest," August 5, 1947; memo from FBI Anchorage to FBI Director, "Report of Flying Discs," October 18, 1947 [PURSUE release, pp. 5–6])

1947, August 5 — Raymond A. Palmer writes to Kenneth Arnold, asking how his article on the discs is coming along for *Fate.* (Letter from Raymond A. Palmer to Kenneth Arnold, August 5, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 99–100]; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

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. (Memo from E. G. Fitch to D. M. Ladd, "Flying Saucers," August 6, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 145]; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

1947, August 6 — 6:15 p.m. Pilot Ray Virgil "Red" Hatfield is instructing Noble Ellison, a student, in a takeoff at the Tri-City Airport, Myrtle Creek, Oregon. Just as the student is about to take off, Hatfield notices an object in the sky about 5,000–8,000 feet in the air. The object glistens and appears to be of "aluminum sheeting." He immediately takes over the controls of the plane, which at that time is at about 400 feet, and proceeds east in an attempt to continue to observe the object, which is climbing and traveling east at a high speed, which he estimates as 1,000 mph. He believes the object is spherical and he notices a darker object to the right of it when he first sees it. No vapor trails or noise was observed from the object. After 10 minutes, Hatfield lands and makes another takeoff; in practically the same position at 400 feet both the pilot and the student observe the object just as they had seen it before. Hatfield estimates the sphere to be about 30 feet in diameter and notes that the first time they saw the object, it was so close they could fly right into it. The student estimates the sphere to be 50 feet in diameter. (NICAP, "Pilot Takes Over Controls When Object Spotted"; "Mystery Object in Heavens Sighted at Myrtle Creek," *Roseburg (Oreg.) News-Review,* August 7, 1947, p. 6; "Roseburg Reports 'Strange Object,'" Portland *Oregon Daily Journal,* August 7, 1947, p. 7; teletype from FBI Portland to Director, "Flying Discs Security Matter - X," August 11, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 167]; memo from FBI Portland to FBI headquarters, "Flying Discs Security Matter - X," August 23, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 52–54])

1947, August 6 — 10:30 p.m. Eleanor Naddle and Cecelia Fine are sitting on the front steps of Naddle's home at 2114 Hobart Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They see a large white object traveling swiftly south. It leaves a thin streak of grayish smoke and makes a buzzing sound. Others in the neighborhood also see the object. John Snyder watches a "large plate" moving south at tremendous speed. ("'Flying Objects' Reported in City," *Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer,* August 7, 1947, p. 3; FBI memo, "Flying Object Reported over Philadelphia," September 18, 1947; [PURSUE release, pp. 147–154; PURSUE release, pp. 119–122, 153–156; PURSUE release, pp. 194–197])

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. (FBI telegrams, August 7, 12, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 138–148]; telegram from Jack B. Wilcox to J. Edgar Hoover, August 14, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 119]; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers,* Palmer, 1952, pp. 105–111; 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; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

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; memo from FBI San Francisco office to D.M. Ladd, August 8, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 2]; teletype memo from Springer to FBI Director, August 9, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 163])

1947, August 8 — FBI agent John Patrick Coyne expresses frustration to Agent D. Milton Ladd that the Army is making the agency do its work for them and that the flying discs should strictly be a military matter. (Memo from J. P. Coyne to D. M. Ladd, "Flying Saucers and Flying Discs," August 8, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 132]; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

1947, August 10 — 9:00 p.m. LtCol F. L. Walker Jr. sees an orange flying object above a barn traveling north to south for 3–4 seconds near Silver Springs, Ohio. It leaves behind a trail. ([PURSUE release, pp. 141–142; PURSUE release, pp. 188–189])

1947, August 13 — 9:00 a.m. Lee Roy Brummett and Sidney Decker see two bright, silver objects traveling swiftly to the northeast over Redmond, Washington. (Telegram from FBI Agent Wilcox to FBI Director, August 14, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 143–145])

1947, August 13 — 1:00 p.m. Albert Clarence Urie and his two sons Billy and Kenneth (or Keith) 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 161–164; PURSUE release, pp. 29, 85, 123–125, 133–134; PURSUE release, pp. 42–45; PURSUE release, pp. 205–206]; "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 — County Commissioner L. W. Hawkins is at the Salmon Falls Dam in Twin Falls County, Idaho, when he hears a loud roar and sees two circular objects flying at a great height. ("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; [PURSUE release, pp. 163–164; PURSUE release, pp. 207–208])

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 5–6]; Sparks, p. 26)

1947, August 14 — After J. Edgar Hoover suggests that Dahl and Crisman be re-interviewed about the Maury Island hoax, 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, [PURSUE release, p. 28]; memo from J. P. Coyne to D. M. Ladd, August 14, 1947, [PURSUE release, p.

50]; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

1947, August 14 — 4:00 p.m. Insurance executive Ray A. Switzer and his wife are driving along Cedar Ravine Road about 5 miles south of Placerville, California, when they see a smoke trail. In front of it is a metallic, highly polished chromium object, 4–6 feet wide and 10-14 inches thick, rounded slightly on top and larger in the front, that leaves a white trail at 500–1,000 feet and traveling at high speed. (NICAP, "Metallic Object with Smoke Trail"; Sparks, p. 26; "New Version of 'Flying Disc' Reported; 'Shining Object' Disintegrates in Air," *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune,* August 18, 1947, p. 4; PURSUE release, pp. 143–144; PURSUE release, pp. 73, 79–82; PURSUE release, pp. 190–191])

1947, August 15 — In response to the August 13 *San Francisco Examiner* report, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover asks the agency to determine 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, [PURSUE release, pp. 46–48])

1947, between August 15 and 20 — 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. 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. The objects are approximately 100 feet in diameter and have a brilliant yellow-white luminous glow. 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. (NICAP, "12 B-29-Sized Elliptical Objects Seen"; Sparks, pp. 27, 35; [PURSUE release, p. 96; PURSUE release, pp. 104–107]; *Hynek UFO Report,* p. 40; Michael D. Swords, "The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt," *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Swords 57–58; Clark III 437; Clark IV 482)

1947, August 19 — Kenneth Arnold is interviewed in Boise, Idaho, by FBI Agent Joseph E. Jette, on the Maury Island case. (Memo from FBI Butte to FBI Director, "Flying Discs Sighted by Fred Chrisman and Harold A. Dahl, Tacoma, Washington, Security Matter - X," August 27, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 89–95])

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 129–131])

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. 27; [PURSUE release, pp. 139–140; PURSUE release, pp. 57–64, 96; PURSUE release, pp. 177–179; PURSUE release, pp. 184–185]; "Luminous 'Saucers' Reported over City," *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News,* August 20, 1947, pp. 1–2; *Hynek UFO Report,* p. 39)

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, [PURSUE release, p. 26]; 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 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, [PURSUE release, p. 28])

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, and [PURSUE release, pp. 161, 184]; ClearIntent, p. 156; Michael Hesemann and Philip Mantle, *Beyond Roswell,* Marlowe, 1997, p. 66)

1947, September 3 — 12:15 p.m. Mrs. Raymond Dupuis and two children see 12–15 silver discs maneuvering at a high altitude above Lake Oswego, Oregon. (Sparks, p. 27; [PURSUE release, p. 112; PURSUE release, pp. 92–94; PURSUE release, pp. 151])

1947, September 5 — In response to the Garrett Estimate, Brig. Gen. George F. Schulgen 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." (George F. Schulgen to FBI Director, September 5, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 124]; memo from E. G. Fitch to D. M. Ladd, September 16, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 125]; 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 8 — 10:30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Gaylon Caldwell see about a dozen white or yellowish objects traveling over Logan, Utah, in group formation at high speed to the north at 2,000–3,000 feet altitude. They appear to be about the size of pigeons. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hall also see the objects, which they say are traveling clockwise around the city. (NICAP, "September 8, 1947, Logan, Utah"; Sparks, p. 28; [PURSUE release, pp. 133–136; PURSUE release, pp. 169–171; PURSUE release, pp. 176–181])

1947, September 11 — 5:15 p.m. Portland, Oregon, Police Chief Leon V. Jenkins and Patrolman Harley S. Raney see a bright round object passing northwest to southeast over the city at about 10,000 feet. ("Police Chief Sees 'Possible Saucer,'" *Portland Oregonian,* September 12, 1947, p. 22; teletype from FBI Portland Agent Bobbitt to FBI Director, September 13, 1947, [PURSUE release, p. 120]; memo from FBI Portland to FBI Director, "Flying Discs, Security Matter - X," October 9, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 2–4])

1947, September 11 — About 7:58 p.m. Capt. Stanley S. Griffin and 2d Officer Edward B. Polhemus are flying a Pan American airliner from Midway Atoll to Oahu, Hawaii. Just beyond Necker Island, they see an intense white light about 5 miles away off their starboard side. It approaches to about 1 mile away and the pilot switches to manual controls, whereupon the light suddenly veers away, splits into two parts, and turns reddish. The two lights appear to burn out about 30 miles ahead of them about 6 seconds later. (NICAP, "Air Crew Encounters Light That Splits in Two"; Sparks, p. 28; [PURSUE release, pp. 127–128; PURSUE release, pp. 168–169])

1947, September 17 — Two Army officers at Fort Richardson [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson] near Anchorage, Alaska, see a metallic sphere moving at tremendous speed. ([PURSUE release, pp. 200–201])

1947, September 17 — 3:40 p.m. School Superintendent Aurel Courtney Parker is in the Rix Ledges area north of Lebanon, New Hampshire, when he notices a white spherical object approaching rapidly and noiselessly from the east. It is followed at a constant distance by a saucer-shaped object. He watches them for about a minute until they are lost in the glare of the sun. (NICAP, "More Saucers in 1947"; [PURSUE release, pp. 98–100])

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. (Letter from Harry M. Kimball to FBI Director, "Re: Reports of Flying Discs," September 19, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 181–184]; ClearIntent, p. 156)

1947, September 20 — The FBI Chicago office reports to J. Edgar Hoover on its interview with Richard Shaver, admitting that "it is possible" that the "entire flying disc theory was conceived by Palmer and Shaver." (Letter from SAC Chicago to FBI Director, "Flying Discs: Richard F. Shaver—Informant," September 20, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 147–149]; "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947," Jason Colavito, 2026)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 7–14; PURSUE release, pp. 234–237]; 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— 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; [PURSUE release, p. 24])

1947, September 24 — Col. McCoy writes to Maj. Gen. George C. McDonald, assistant chief of air staff, about the "Loedding flying disc" and a report that the Russians are developing "Horten tailless aircraft." (Col. H. M. McCoy to Maj. Gen. George McDonald, "Flying Disc," September 24, 1947, [PURSUE release, pp. 15–16]; [PURSUE release, pp. 76–82])

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. (Memo from D. M. Ladd to J. Edgar Hoover, "Flying Discs," September 25, 1947, via FBI UFO Files, p. 20, and [PURSUE release, p. 159)

1947, October 1 — *Bureau Bulletin* 57 ends all FBI cooperation with the Air Force on UFO investigation, although the FBI continues its own inquiries. ([PURSUE release, p. 185]; Loren E. Gross, *The UFO Mystery: 1947 July–December,* The Author, 1980, p. 36; ClearIntent, p. 159; "More Tell-Tale Photostats," *Flying Saucer Review* 30, no. 1 (October 1984): 2, 7)

1947, October 8 or 9 — Day. Air Force Reserve Capt. Thomas L. Moore sees an object traveling at 700 mph over the northwest outskirts of Las Vegas, Nevada. It leaves an almost white vapor trail and changes direction from southeast to west. (NICAP, "Oct. 8/9, 1947: Las Vegas, Nevada (BBU)"; Sparks, p. 218; [PURSUE release, pp. 155–156; PURSUE release, pp. 198–199])

1947, October 13 — 5:30 a.m. Judge Heaney and C. D. Bates are driving 14 miles north of Dauphin, Manitoba, when they see an object leaving a reddish trail traveling west to east for 3 seconds before exploding. Probable meteor. ([PURSUE release, pp. 97–110])

1947, October 14 — 12:00 noon. About 11 miles northeast of Cave Creek, Arizona, former fighter pilot J. L. Clark, civilian pilot Anderson, and a third man see a 3-foot "flying wing," black against the white clouds and red against the blue sky, flying straight at an estimated 380 mph at 8,000–10,000 feet altitude, moving from northwest to southeast for 45–60 seconds. (NICAP, "Small Black Flying Wing Observed"; Sparks, p. 27; [PURSUE release, pp. 84–85; PURSUE release, pp. 114–115])

1947, October 20 — 11:00 a.m. Ruth Atkinson in Xenia, Ohio, sees a round, silvery object, 1 foot in diameter, flying southwest on a straight course at 1,500 feet. [NICAP, "Oct. 20, 1947; Xenia, Ohio (BBU)"; Sparks, p. 29; [PURSUE release, p. 40; PURSUE release, p. 50])

1947, October 20 — 1:20 p.m. A farmer named S. C. 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 38–39; PURSUE release, pp. 48–49]; "2 Bright Streaks against Sun Replaced Flying Saucers Here," *Dayton (Ohio) Journal,* October 21, 1947, p. 3; Marj Heyduck, "Third and Main," *Dayton (Ohio) Herald,* October 25, 1947, p. 4; Keyhoe, FSTS, p. 89)

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; [PURSUE release, pp. 17–18]; 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 2 — Just before sunrise. US Immigration Service investigator Elmer L. Brimberry sees an oval or saucer-shaped object with a bright light about 100 feet in diameter spinning as it descends near Anderson Road on the south side of Houston, Texas. (NICAP, "Spinning 100′ Saucer Descends"; Sparks, p. 29; [PURSUE release, pp. 205–206; PURSUE release, pp. 250–251]

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 mph. Possible meteors. (Sparks, p. 29; [PURSUE release, pp. 81–82; PURSUE release, pp. 111–112]; "Objects Seen by Sailor off Coast of Oregon," Portland *Oregon Daily Journal,* November 13, 1947, p. 13)

1947, November 18 — Col. Howard M. McCoy writes to Lt. Col. George Garrett, requesting that the AMC office "be advised as to progress being made on the plotting of all flying disc incidents to date, particularly in North America." In a November 24, 1947, follow-up memo, McCoy recommends that correspondence relating to the discs should be classified secret. (Col. H. M. McCoy to Lt. Col. George Garrett Jr., "Flying Discs," November 18, 1947, and November 24, 1947 [PURSUE release, pp. 7–8])

1947, December 12 — 10:05 p.m. The 16-year-old daughter of US Military Attaché Kai E. Rasmussen watches a luminous white object with a greenish-white tail moving more slowly than a meteor over Oslo, Norway. [PURSUE release, p. 99; PURSUE release, pp. 51–52])

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, [PURSUE release, p. 1])

1947, December 22 — The final EEI, 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 Carbee Craigie for a reply. Gen. Charles Cabell, the new chief of AFOIR, signs off on this. ("Analysis of 'Flying Disc' Reports," December 18, 1947; [PURSUE release, p. 233, 238–245]; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 36)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 3–4; PURSUE release, p. 232]; "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)

1947, December 30 — 7:25 p.m. A motorist on US Highway 40 about 30 miles west of Lovelock, Nevada, sees an object explode in the air at a height of 1,200–1,300 feet. ([PURSUE release, pp. 246–247])

1947, December 30 — 7:25 p.m. The pilot of a United Airlines flight sees a flash of light to the north while traveling between Medford, Oregon, and Mount Shasta, California. ([PURSUE release, pp. 248–249])

1947, December 30 — 7:25 p.m. The crew of a C-47 transport sees a high-speed, low-altitude object trailing red, green, and other colored flames headed east over the hills just east of Pilot Hill, California. At 7:37 p.m., another C-47 crew sent to investigate finds a triangular fire area with two points emitting bright blue-green flames at the position reported by the first crew. At 7:58 p.m., the first C-47 crew also locates this growing ground fire, which goes out at 9:55 p.m. [NICAP, "C-47 Crew Reports Possible Crash of Object, Dec. 30, 1947, nr. Pilot Hill, California"; Sparks, p. 29; [PURSUE release, pp. 199–200; PURSUE release, pp. 244–245])

1947, December 30 — 7:26 p.m. Pilot Lt. Col. W. W. Jones and copilot Maj. A. A. Andrae, both of the AF Air Transport Command (Eastern Pacific Wing) are flying a C-54 southwest near Hollister, Idaho. At 13,000 feet they see a high-speed object trailing green and blue flames descending vertically at their 2:30 o'clock position, but slowing just above the ground. [NICAP, "Pilots in C-54 View UFO, Dec. 30th, 1947, over Idaho, BBU"; Sparks, p. 29; [PURSUE release, pp. 197–198; PURSUE release, pp. 242–243])

1948, January 3 —A disc-shaped object shoots across the sky from west to east in 30 seconds over the coast of Vaasa, Finland. ([PURSUE release, p. 207; PURSUE release, p. 252]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1948, January–July,* The Author, 1980, pp. 1–2)

1948, January 5 — A shining object streaks for 10 seconds from north to south above Pietarsaari, Finland. Observers see flames ejected and gray streaks left in the sky. ([PURSUE release, p. 208; PURSUE release, p. 253]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1948, January–July,* The Author, 1980, p. 2)

1948, January 7 — USAF Maj. Raymond D. Stephens at Brooks Field [now Brooks City-Base], San Antonio, Texas, forwards to the USAF Chief of Staff a summary of UFO reports received by the FBI office in Houston. (Memo, Maj. Raymond D. Stephens to USAF Chief of Staff, "Flying Disks," January 7, 1948 [PURSUE release, p. 160])

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 declare in 2010 that there is 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 65–80; PURSUE release, pp. 81–96]; "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 — 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 AACS 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 AACS 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 56–61, 63–64; PURSUE release, pp. 70–77])

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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 96–105; PURSUE release, pp. 134–143]; "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 7 —7:53 p.m. USAF pilot Lt. C. W. Thomas is flying west of Columbus, Ohio, when he sees a large, stationary, amber object at about 3,000 feet altitude. ([PURSUE release, pp. 79–80])

1948, January 9 — A Mr. and Mrs. Markham are driving near Danville, Kentucky, when they see a pencil-shaped object leaving a long trail that turns into a "fireworks display" of sparks. ([PURSUE release, pp. 144–145])

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; [PURSUE release, pp 70–71; PURSUE release, pp. 72–73])

1948, January 10 — 10:00 p.m. Ethel Evans and others in Wildwood, New Jersey, see an object that splits into two parts and falls into the ocean. ([PURSUE release, pp. 146, 148–149; PURSUE release, pp. 87–92, 129–130])

1948, January 11 — 4:30 p.m. USAF pilot Capt. Kenneth H. Helton and copilot Capt. James J. Pargoe are in a transport plane above Hartford, Connecticut, when they see a fast-moving disc with a bluish center and red edges dive at a 45° angle to the east. It drops out of sight on the north side of Mount Tom, Massachusetts. (NICAP, "Transport Crew Sees Diving Disc"; Sparks, p. 32; [PURSUE release, pp. 195–196; PURSUE release, pp. 240–241])

1948, January 16 — Col. Howard M. McCoy writes to Lt. Col. George Garrett of Air Force Intelligence expressing some concern about letters and articles in *Amazing Stories* magazine about the flying discs and suggests that it somehow be covertly monitored for information. (Letter from Col. H. M. McCoy to Lt. Col. George Garrett, "Flying Discs," January 16, 1948 [PURSUE release, p. 198])

1948, January 19 — 7:30 a.m. Witnesses in Hjerring, the Skaw, and Hjerup, North Jutland, Denmark, observe several UFOs surrounded by a bluish light and with a tail of green light, moving east to west. Some observers around the Skaw say they suddenly stop, explode, and disappear. ([PURSUE release, pp. 126, 128; PURSUE release, pp. 145–146])

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. They are returned on March 10. (Memo from Col. W. R. Clingerman to USAF Chief of Staff, "Project 'Sign,'" January 23, 1948 [PURSUE release, pp. 150–152]; Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13; Swords 30)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 37–38])

1948, February 4 — Col. William E. Clingerman writes a memo on behalf of Col. Howard M. McCoy to the USAF Chief of Staff inquiring about the progress on an "Air Intelligence Guide for Alleged Flying Saucer Type Aircraft" for use by Project Sign. (Memo from Col. W. R. Clingerman to USAF Chief of Staff, "Project 'Sign,'" February 4, 1948 [PURSUE release, p. 190])

1948, February 6 — Lt. Col. Douglass W. Eiseman of USAF Air Intelligence Requirements writes to Air Materiel Command to let them know that the CIA is abandoning its investigation of *Amazing Stories* Editor Raymond Palmer and writer Richard Shaver because the articles and letters on flying discs "bordered on the fantastic side" and the magazine is abandoning a feature article on the topic "because it is not amazing enough." (Letter from Lt. Col. Douglass W. Eiseman to Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, "Flying Discs," February 6, 1948 [PURSUE release, p. 197])

1948, February 7 — Three men working in a field in Gadbjerg, Denmark, see a shining object moving at high speed from southeast to northwest for 3 seconds at about 600 feet altitude. ([PURSUE release, pp. 68–69; PURSUE release, pp. 70–71])

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 disc' type, in the atmosphere." (Memo from Brig. Gen. C. P. Cabell to Director of Plans and Operations, "Flying Discs," February 12, 1948 [PURSUE release, p. 18; PURSUE release, p. 194]; Good Above, p. 263)

1948, February 18 — 3:00 p.m. The crew of two B-29 aircraft (Capt. Howard H. Berodt, Capt. Maurice T. Ritenour, 1Lt Leonard P. Marchese, and 1Lt Carl W. Stucki) flying near Green River, Utah, see a large fireball trailing a dense cloud of smoke about 100 miles to the southeast. ([PURSUE release, pp. 15–17])

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)"; [PURSUE release, pp. 3–19; PURSUE release, pp. 2–14; PURSUE release, pp. 63–64]; 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 — 7:00 a.m. Agustina Vargas de Paula and other witnesses see an oval object traveling west to east above the northern part of Asuncion, Paraguay. The center part of the object gives off green, yellow, and orange colors, and it leaves a colored wake. ([PURSUE release, pp. 63–67; PURSUE release, pp. 64–69])

1948, February 25 — Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, chief of the Air Intelligence Requirements Division, issues a memo designating the USAF Air Materiel Command as the agency responsible for collecting and evaluating UFO reports that "can be construed to be of concern to the national security" and requests specific details to be included in forwarding reports to AMC. (Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, "Reporting of Information on 'Flying Discs,'" February 27, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 12–13; PURSUE release, pp. 172–175, 184])

1948, February 26 — USAF Lt. Col. George Garrett writes a memorandum stating that he intends to "instruct the overseas air commands to report all flying disc sightings direct to AMC." ("Memorandum for Record," February 26, 1948 [PURSUE release, p. 180])

1948, March 1? — 9:30 a.m. A Norwegian airline pilot and copilot, enroute from Aalborg, Denmark, to Oslo, Norway, see a projectile-like object flying southeast at 20,000 feet, following the earth's curvature and passing along the Swedish coast, emitting a bluish flame. The object is observed for only four seconds before it disappears over Norway. (NICAP, "Missile-Like Object at 20,000 Feet"; [PURSUE release, pp. 129–130; PURSUE release, pp. 147–148])

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 Maj. 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 [PURSUE release, p. 19; PURSUE release, pp. 140–141]; Good Above, pp. 263–264)

1948, March 5 — Between 4:10 and 4:55 p.m. George "Les" Buchner, of Bakersfield, California, sees two objects falling from the sky in the southwest toward Buena Vista Lake. (Lt. Col. Donald L. Springer to USAF

Directorate of Intelligence, "Investigation of Flying Disc," March 11, 1948, [PURSUE release, p. 16; PURSUE release, pp. 24–30; PURSUE release, pp. 22–25; PURSUE release, pp. 134–136])

1948, March 7 — 8:55 p.m. Maj. Frank L. Fenn is with two enlisted men about 6 miles away from Smyrna Air Field [now Smyrna Airport], Smyrna, Tennessee, when they see a yellow-orange flare just above the horizon to the northwest. It is visible for 45 minutes before it fades away. ([PURSUE release, pp. 18–19])

1948, March 8 — A Mr. Denio sees two objects falling from the sky north of Bakersfield, California. One seems to be on fire with red and black smoke trailing behind. Other similar observations around Bakersfield on the same day and on March 9 are attribute to "marker flares." (Lt. Col. Donald L. Springer to USAF Directorate of Intelligence, "Investigation of Flying Disc," March 11, 1948, [PURSUE release, p. 16; PURSUE release, pp. 23–28])

1948, March 8 — 11:00 a.m. A. C. Morrison observes a round, metallic object reflecting the sun and moving at 600 mph near Belmont, North Carolina. ([PURSUE release, pp. 22–23; PURSUE release, pp. 20–21])

1948, March 9 — Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell requests that all Coast Guard installations report UFO incidents directly to Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, following a March 4 visit of a Maj. Faulk from Project Sign to Coast Guard HQ. (Memo from Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell to Commandant, US Coast Guard, "Reporting of Information on 'Flying Discs,'" March 15, 1948 [PURSUE release, pp. 145–147])

1948, March 11 — Night. A bright meteor-like object is seen by a Hudson Bay Company employee at Moose Factory, Ontario, on James Bay. ([PURSUE release, pp. 57–58; PURSUE release, pp. 58–59])

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, [PURSUE release, p. 17; PURSUE release, p. 139])

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 crashed saucer hoax"; Frank Scully, *Behind the Flying Saucers,* Holt, 1950; [PURSUE release, pp. 54, 77]; 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; Scott Ramsey and Suzanne Ramsey, *The Aztec Incident: Recovery at Hart Canyon,* Aztec.48 Productions, 2011; 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: The Case, Evidence, and Elaborate Cover-Up of One of the Most Perplexing Crashes in History,* 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; Scott Ramsey, Suzanne Ramsey, and Frank Thayer, *It Came to Earth at Aztec, New Mexico Revealed: The Recovery of a UFO,* New Page, 2026)

1948, March 28 — 4:30 p.m. Dr. Ormans, a former guided missile expert for Rheinmetall-Borsig, sees a white point moving south to north at approximately 8.5 miles above the Lichtenrade sector of Berlin, Germany. ([PURSUE release, pp. 61–62; PURSUE release, pp. 62–63])

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; [PURSUE release, pp. 33–34; PURSUE release, pp. 31–35]; 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 on May 5–6, 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; [documents relating to Loedding and Beam's trip to Holloman AFB, May 5–6, 1948]; [PURSUE release, pp. 72–73; PURSUE release, pp. 74–79]; Ruppelt, p. 71; Loren E. Gross, *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 8 — 2:00 p.m. Various witnesses report a clearly-outlined object, first observed at an angle and slowly southwest at Ashley, Ohio. The object is cylindrical and seems to have a vapor around the top and the sun shining off of it. One witness says it is opalescent; another says it is apparently very large, about the size of a full moon in height but smaller in width, but very high up. The Air Force analyst suggests a vertical meteor trail but witnesses state the object is first moving at an angle, then rights itself flying vertically. Duration roughly 10 minutes. Another object is seen by multiple witnesses at Delaware, Ohio, at 2:30 p.m. (NICAP, "Silver Cylinder Flies Vertical"; Sparks, p. 33; [PURSUE release, pp. 35–48; PURSUE release, pp. 36–49])

1948, April 9 — 3:10 p.m. Lt. Col. Robert B. Hughes, Air Tactical School instructor at Tyndall AFB, Panama City, Florida, is flying a P-51H fighter at 16,000 feet near Montgomery, Alabama. Just before completing a 180° left turn he spots a silver, parachute-shaped, 8-foot disc with a 5-foot-long cable or shroud underneath that is suspending a silver canister or ball. It is in his 10 o'clock position (to the southeast) off his left wing headed northwest, about 300–500 feet away and 200–300 feet below him. He banks sharply left to try to follow the object at 310 mph, but it disappears in 5 seconds without dropping in altitude. (NICAP, "Strange Parachute-Like Object & P-51"; Sparks, p. 33; [PURSUE release, pp. 49–51; PURSUE release, pp. 50–52])

1948, April 11 — 11:30 p.m. Former Col. Walter Finney Siegmund sees a huge bird, bigger than an airplane, while driving 4 miles north of Alton, Illinois. ([PURSUE release, pp. 74–75; PURSUE release, pp. 80–81])

1948, April 18 — 1:06 p.m. USAF 1Lt. Aytch Johnson is in Fairbanks, Alaska, when he sees a noiseless, flat, disc-shaped object 8 inches in size [at arm's length??] rapidly oscillating in flight at about 2,000–3,000 feet altitude about 1 mile away traveling northeast to southwest at about 250-–300 mph. It is visible only when the flat side is toward him, reflecting high intensity sunlight. (NICAP, "Disc Oscillating in Flight Observed"; Sparks, p. 34; [PURSUE release, pp. 52–53; PURSUE release, pp. 53–54])

1948, April 18 — 3:00 p.m. A radar target moving at 30 mph is detected by a Coast Guard weather station patrol in the North Atlantic Ocean between Greenland and Iceland. No visual confirmation. ([PURSUE release, pp. 76–77; PURSUE release, pp. 82–83])

1948, April 19 —4:15 p.m. 2Lts. Henning and Loomis hear the noise of a jet fighter at Greenville AFB, South Carolina, and see a stationary silvery or white sphere directly overhead at about 15,000–20,000 feet, which looks like a weather balloon. After 1 minute it is joined by an identical object at 15,000+ feet, which remains relatively stationary (about 1 minute) then both suddenly accelerate to high speed off to the north-northeast in trail formation, disappearing in about 30 seconds, while the original object drifts to the north. Size estimated at slightly smaller than a 42-foot AT-6 at the indicated altitude. (NICAP, "Two Overhead Objects Suddenly Accelerate"; Sparks, p. 34; [PURSUE release, pp. 54–56; PURSUE release, pp. 55–57])

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, [PURSUE release]; Swords 54–55)

1948, April 28 — USAF Col. Robert Taylor recommends that Project Sign subscribe to a newsclipping service to acquire UFO reports and suggests that a civilian member of their staff subscribe to it using a post office box. (Memo from Col. Robert Taylor III to Commanding General, AMC, "Clipping Service for Project 'Sign,'" April 28, 1948 [PURSUE release, pp. 104–113])

1948, April 30 — 10:15 a.m. Pilot Lt. Cmdr. Marcus L. Lowe of Navy aircraft SNJ Buno 90731 is flying at 5,500 feet south of NAS Anacostia, Maryland, when he sees a yellow sphere moving in an opposite course south to north at a constant altitude about 1,000 feet. He does not pursue it further because the object is entering the D.C. prohibited flying area. (NICAP, "Pilots See Yellow Sphere 1,000′ Below"; Sparks, p. 34; [PURSUE release, pp. 79–80; PURSUE release, pp. 85–86; PURSUE release, pp. 83–85])

1948, May — Rev. Charles C. Barnes sees four beams of light in the sky passing from northwest to southeast above McMinnville, Oregon, and converging over the Cascades Mountains. They are visible for 10

minutes and rise to a height of 10,000 feet. (Letter from Charles C. Barnes to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, January 31, 1949, [PURSUE release])

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; [PURSUE release, pp. 173–174; PURSUE release, pp. 199–200])

1948, May 6 — 9:05 a.m. USAF pilot Capt. Floyd Barnes, flying a Military Air Transport Service plane, sees a white ball of fire explode like a shell near Wake Island, between Kwajalein and Hickam Field, Honolulu, Hawaii. Probable meteor. (Sparks, p. 34; [PURSUE release, pp. 168–169; PURSUE release, pp. 194–195])

1948, May 7 — Witnesses around Lake Doiran on the border of Greece and Macedonia report a "flying disc" speeding southward at an altitude of 3,000 feet and making a noise like an artillery shell. ([PURSUE release, pp. 81–82; PURSUE release, pp. 87–88])

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; [PURSUE release, pp. 59–60; PURSUE release, pp. 60–61]; 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 8 — Night. A round object, apparently 9 inches in diameter, is reported in Hobson, Middleport, Ohio. The Cleveland, Ohio, FBI office forwards the report on to the Eleventh Air Force in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. (Lt. Col. H. B. Wax to USAF Director of Intelligence, June 14, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 1–4]; [PURSUE release, pp. 83–84; PURSUE release, pp. 89–90])

1948, May 17 — 11:30 p.m. 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. ([PURSUE release, pp. 87–90; PURSUE release, pp. 93–96]; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 41–44)

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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 94–95; PURSUE release, pp. 101–103]; 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 85–86; PURSUE release, pp. 91–92]; "Flying Object Reported Seen in Wilmington," *Asheville (N.C.) Citizen-Times,* June 1, 1948, p. 10; Clark III 530; Clark IV 580)

1948, June 20 — 10:30 p.m. Pilot Maj. Earl J. Harrington sees a white light over the south part of Scott AFB in Belleville, Illinois. ([PURSUE release, p. 91; PURSUE release, pp. 97–98])

1948, June 29 — 11:00 p.m. Catherine MacDonald and Margaret Hollar of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, see an oval luminous object "rolling" vertically on its edge in level (or climbing) flight at about 5,000 ft, below the clouds, with a short trail (about 1/2 length of object) moving southwest to northeast. Two similar objects are seen at 5-minute intervals, the second one seemingly transparent, as lightning could be seen flashing behind it. They call the police; police Sgt. Charles Shuh and his daughter also see the second group of

objects. Another neighbor woman and her daughter are brought out, when a third object is seen, height estimated 6,000–9,000 feet moving in the same direction. (NICAP, "June 29, 1948: W. Uniontown, Penna. (BBU)"; Sparks, p. 35; "Flying Saucer Season Here Again," *Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette,* July 5, 1948, p. 7; "Air Force Asks P-G for Flying Disc Data," *Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette,* August 28, 1948, p. 1; [PURSUE release, pp. 162–163; PURSUE release, pp. 183–188])

1948, June 30 — 9:40 p.m. Mrs. Harvey J. Whitehouse sees an orange ball of fire with a bluish streamer moving swiftly (another witness estimates 1,000 mph) to the west over South Knoxville, Tennessee. It remains visible for 3 minutes. ([PURSUE release, pp. 97–99; PURSUE release, pp. 108–110])

1948, June 30 — 11:25 a.m. Norman Pfutzenreuter and his wife Rose 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 110–111; PURSUE release, pp. 123–124]; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 45–46; Swords 57)

1948, July 1 — Around 9:00 p.m. Jack Taylor and other witnesses see a bright yellow-white light that moves across the sky above Gahanna, Ohio, at a great rate of speed. It appears at an attitude of 3,000–4,000 feet going southwest. ([PURSUE release, pp. 108–109; PURSUE release, pp. 120–122])

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 4 — 11:15 p.m. John Jamnicky Jr. and his wife see a star-like light moving over Dravosburg, Pennsylvania. It changes its course, then stops at least twice before disappearing. ([PURSUE release, pp. 154–155; PURSUE release, pp. 172–173; PURSUE release, pp. 56–61)

1948, July 7 — 9:14 p.m. James Eaves and H. W. Daniels in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, see three cigar-shaped objects moving swiftly to the east-northeast. ([PURSUE release, pp. 100–101; PURSUE release, pp. 111–113])

1948, July 8 — 9:20 a.m. Through binoculars Wilda Vittek watches two metallic-looking, cigar-shaped objects for 3–4 minutes above Columbus, Ohio, before they fade away. ("It's Saucer Time," *Galion (Ohio) Inquirer,* July 8, 1948, p. 1; [PURSUE release, pp. 102–105; PURSUE release, pp. 114–116])

1948, July 8 — Morning. Mrs. Nell Veway and Mrs. Elizabeth Geltz observe a round, silver, plate-shaped object moving noiselessly overhead in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. It disappears into a cloud bank but reappears on the far side. They follow the disc until it is out of sight in a cloud bank. (NICAP, "Plate-Shaped Object Moves into Cloud Bank"; Sparks, p. 35; *McKeesport (Pa.) Daily News,* July 8, 1948; [PURSUE release, pp. 156–157; PURSUE release, pp. 174–175])

1948, July 9 — 1Lts Dominick J. Caramia and Thomas B. 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. ([PURSUE release, pp. 121–122; PURSUE release, pp. 137–138]; 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, 1st Lt. Clarence Glasebrook, 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 106–107; PURSUE release, pp. 117–119]; Swords 58)

1948, July 17 — 4:50 p.m. Two Kirtland AFB master sergeants, William R. Carter and Bernard E. Harvey, 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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 123–124; PURSUE release, pp. 139–140]; 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"; [PURSUE release, p. 170; PURSUE release, p. 196]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1948,* The Author, 1988, p. 86; Clark III 935; Clark IV 1045)

1948, July 22 — Dusk. Reserve Capt. Henry Glover and his wife watch a round object for about 1 hour above Van Nuys, California. ([PURSUE release, pp. 160–161; PURSUE release, pp. 178–182])

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 then 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 114–120; PURSUE release, pp. 127–136]; "Strange New Wingless Plane Seen," *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal,* July 25, 1948, pp. 1, 4; "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; "Mr. Clarence McKelvie Corroborates Reports of Wingless Space Air Ship," [West Chester University] *Quad Angles* 16, no. 21 (July 30, 1948): 1; Curtis Fuller, "The Flying Saucers—Fact or Fiction?" *Flying* magazine, July 1950, pp. 17, 59; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers,* Palmer, 1952, pp. 90–91; Ruppelt, pp. 40–41; Donald Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers: A Major Myth of the Space Age,* Doubleday, 1963, pp. 109–113; 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; Philip J. Klass, *UFOs Explained,* Random House, 1975, pp. 8–10; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History, Vol. 1, July 1947–December 1948,* The Author, 1980, pp. 34–48; Good Above, pp. 264, 479; Curtis Peebles, *Watch the Skies! A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth,* 1994, pp. 22–23; 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 26 — 8:45 p.m. A group of 5–15 Georgia School of Technology students outdoors at their housing project in Chamblee, Georgia, see a green light with a silver tail about the size of a football in steady flight to the southeast, slowly descending as if for a landing, completely silent. At 9:00 p.m., Doyle L. Avery, an Atlanta Naval Air Base tower observer, sees a blue-white object in horizontal level flight at high altitude travel from northeast to southeast in a few seconds, then gain altitude and suddenly turn to

the south, completely noiseless. Independent witnesses include the city editor of the Atlanta Chronicle newspaper and nine others. (NICAP, "Silent Object Makes Sudden Turn"; Sparks, p. 36; [PURSUE release, pp. 164–165; PURSUE release, pp. 189–])

1948, July 27 — 10:00 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Gibson see an object with a "ball of fire" at both front and back passing from south to north in 4 seconds during a thunderstorm in Springfield, Ohio. ("Storm Tears Up Trees, Fells Wires, Drenches Area in Savage Blow," *Springfield (Ohio) Daily News,* July 28, 1948, pp. 1–2; [PURSUE release, pp. 141–142])

1948, July 28 — 4:00 a.m. Rose Henry notices an intensely yellow object hovering in Springfield, Ohio. It appears and fades away twice in 5 minutes. ("Storm Tears Up Trees, Fells Wires, Drenches Area in Savage Blow," *Springfield (Ohio) Daily News,* July 28, 1948, pp. 1–2; [PURSUE release, pp. 143–144])

1948, July 29 — 9:18 a.m. James W. 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; [PURSUE release, pp. 131–134; PURSUE release, pp. 149–152])

1948, July 30 — 8:15 p.m. John A. Felton watches a slow-moving cylinder emitting a silver glow and flying to the southwest at about 3,000 feet for 15 minutes over Worthington, Ohio. ([PURSUE release, pp. 152–153; PURSUE release, pp. 170–171])

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; [PURSUE release, pp. 135–137; PURSUE release, pp. 153–155]; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: a History: 1948, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2000, pp. 61–63)

1948, July 31 — 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Edward G. Watson sees 6–7 objects in a formation like the "Big Dipper" from her home at 480 N. Monroe Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. They look like large golden stars glittering a great distance away. ([PURSUE release, pp. 144–145; PURSUE release, pp. 162–163])

1948, July 31 — 8:00 p.m. Mary Rippetoe and her daughter, Mrs. Martin Price, are driving south on Tremont Road in Columbus, Ohio, near the WOSU radio tower when they see an oblong black object resembling a large lantern moving very slowly from the west. It passes close to the tower at about half its height. It spouts black smoke from the top; on the bottom left side there is a "dull enclosed light like that of a lamp." It continues toward the east with black smoke trailing behind it. At the same time, Robert G. Goshorn sees a balloon fall to earth near a golf driving range; it matches the direction of the Tremont Road sighting. ([PURSUE release, pp. 146–149; PURSUE release, pp. 164–168])

1948, August 1 — 2:00 p.m. Student Harold A. Yantis sees an odd-looking black cloud one mile west of Groveport, Ohio. It stretches out into a streak and appears to release more smoke. ("Not 'Saucer'—Yo-Yo Cloud," *Sandusky (Ohio) Register,* August 2, 1948, p. 1; [PURSUE release, pp. 150–151; PURSUE release, pp. 168–169])

1948, August 2 — 7:45 p.m. Attorney Charles Saunders and his wife notice a circular object from their yard at 1337 Clifton Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. It appears to be 20–30 feet in diameter, has a distinct gray-black perimeter and transparent center, and is moving at about 15 mph from north to south at 1,500–2,000 feet. At one point it stops and releases a trail of smoke before moving again. They watch it for 10–15 minutes before it disappears. ([PURSUE release, pp. 140–143; PURSUE release, pp. 158–161])

1948, August 3 — Sunset. An American newspaper reporter about 20 miles northwest of Moscow, Russia, sees a long and narrow, wingless, high-altitude object moving toward the northeast at a relatively high speed.

(NICAP, "Cylinder Moves Fast Towards NE"; Sparks, p. 37; [PURSUE release, pp. 175–176; PURSUE release, pp. 201–202])

1948, August 4 — Between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. J. B. McCullough sees a bright green fireball about 2.5 miles north of North Powder, Oregon. ([PURSUE release, pp. 133–134])

1948, August 5 — 1:00 a.m. James Amaral is driving between Parrott and Richland, Georgia, when he sees a brilliant, blue-white streak of light lasting 5–10 seconds and traveling in level flight at around 30,000 feet altitude. After it disappears, he sees a trail of sparks several miles long and lasting about 1 minute. ([PURSUE release, pp. 138–139; PURSUE release, pp. 156–157])

1948, August 11 — Between 12:00 and 12:15 p.m. Jerome Leuer, 10, and Benno Leuer, 5, 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. (NICAP, "Disc Lands between Two Boys"; Sparks, p. 37; [PURSUE release, pp. 158–159; PURSUE release, pp. 176–177]; Wilkins, *Attack,* pp. 104–105)

1948, August 19 — 10:50 a.m. Lt. Col. John Waugh, executive officer at Godman Army Airfield at Fort Knox, Kentucky, sees a silvery sphere flying at 30,000–40,000 feet. An F-51 is scrambled from Standiford AFB [now Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport] but it cannot find the object, even though it is still visible from the ground at Godman via theodolite. Walter Lee Moore, astronomer at the University of Louisville, identifies the object as the planet Venus. ([PURSUE release, pp. 33–34])

1948, August 27 — USAF Col. Robert Taylor writes a letter to Air Material Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, recommending that Project Sign personnel enlist the help of the Air Transport Association [now Airlines for America, an aviation trade association] for pilots to report UFO sightings directly to them. He quotes the soon-to-be-released JANAP 146 as a possible governing authority. (Letter, Col. Robert Taylor III to Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, "Project 'Sign,'" August 27, 1948, [PURSUE release, p. 11])

1948, August 29 — 5:30 a.m. Fahy Niswonger, a farmer near Maplewood, Ohio, sees a large silvery sphere rise from a wooded area and hover above his farm, dropping a silvery substance that disintegrates before touching the ground. He watches it disintegrate in midair. (NICAP, "Silver Sphere Drops Silvery Substance"; Sparks, p. 37; [PURSUE release, pp. 171–172; PURSUE release, pp. 197–198])

1948, August 30 — 8:00 p.m. USAF S/Sgt Leroy H. Estes at 1301 W. Olympic Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, sees an object that looks like the fuselage of a V-2 rocket but much larger. It completely fills the lens of his field glasses. He estimates its speed at 700 mph and altitude at 20,000 feet. It leaves a blue exhaust trail, traveling west to east. ([PURSUE release, pp. 166–167; PURSUE release, pp. 192–193])

1948, September 9 — The Collection Branch of the US Air Force Office of Intelligence Requirements asks the Director of Communications for the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff to ensure that the forthcoming JANAP 146 regulation regarding reporting of UFO sightings includes commercial domestic airlines as required to make reports. (Memo from AFOIR-CO to Director of Communications, DCS/O, "Communication Instructuions for Reporting Military Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS)—JANAP 146," September 9, 1948 [PURSUE release, p. 47])

1948, September 18 — 5:00 p.m. A draftsman at home near Shreveport, Louisiana, while using high-power binoculars to watch an L-6 aircraft at 10,000 feet altitude at 60° elevation to the southeast traveling 100 mph on Air Force Day, sees a bright white, aluminum-colored, half-spherical object traveling the opposite direction in level flight at about 20,000 feet, 2.5 miles away. It is moving at 100–150 mph heading south, leaving no trail. He loses it when he tries to view it without binoculars. The object appears to be one-third the size of the L-6 (35.5 feet) but twice the distance, or about 24 feet. (Sparks, p. 38; [PURSUE release, p. 2])

1948, September 22 — 3:30 p.m. USAF Lt. Martin G. Rubisch is the copilot of a C-47 flying at 2,000 feet from Eglin Air Force Base in western Florida and heading northeast toward Turner AFB [now Naval Air Station Albany] in Albany, Georgia. He is nearing Turner when he sees a shiny metallic object about the

size of a radio-controlled model airplane, but with no wings or rudder. It is approaching from about 1,500–2,000 feet away, about 35° to the left, heading 335° (or 155°?) at about 250 mph at 1,500 feet altitude, with no trail. (NICAP, "Co-Pilot in C-47 Sees Wingless Metallic Object"; Sparks, p. 38; [PURSUE release, pp. 37–38])

1948, September 23 (or 25) — 9:40 a.m. While watching a government plane come in for a landing at Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico, A. Ruble Angier notices something glinting 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. He alerts John C. Fairchild and others to the object, which is in view for 15–20 minutes. (NICAP, "Flat Dime On-Edge Observed by Lab Personnel"; Sparks, p. 38; [PURSUE release, pp. 6–9]; Michael D. Swords, "The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt," *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Clark III 437)

1948, September 23 — 12:02 p.m. Retired US Army Col. Horace S. Eakins and Sylvester Bentham, located four miles east of San Pablo, California, see a twin-engine bomber aircraft pass low overhead to the southeast then see far beyond and high above it, possibly 1 mile higher, a strange fast-flying, irregularly shaped, translucent white, "amoeba" headed east. It is the size of a four-engine bomber, with three appendages in front and two trailing with a dark gray spot (possibly spherical) near the center, which remains stable in motion. The arms of the amoeba are undulating as the object wobbles. It disappears suddenly, leaving no trail. (NICAP, "Strange Object above Bomber"; Sparks, p. 38; [PURSUE release, pp. 10–13])

1948, October 1 — 5:40 a.m. E. B. Williams is hunting in a clearing in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, when he sees an object shaped like an ice cream cone with the large end in front. The front end appears white-hot, but is darker red toward the rear. About the size of an airliner, the object travels about 300 mph in a straight line from west to east at an altitude of 2,500 feet. After 10 seconds it is obscured by trees. ([PURSUE release, pp. 3–5])

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, pp. 40–41; [PURSUE release, p. 177; PURSUE release, pp. 203–209]; "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. 1; Keyhoe 1950, pp. 90–98; Ruppelt, pp. 41–43; Aimé Michel, *The Truth About Flying Saucers,* 1956, pp. 68–74; 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; Curtis Peebles, *Watch the Skies: A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth,* Smithsonian Press, 1994, pp. 24–27; 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 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 achievements"? (Letter, Col. H. M. Mccoy, "Project 'Sign,'" October 7, 1948 [PURSUE release, pp. 24–25]; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 50)

1948, October 11 — 1:00 p.m. Six military personnel of the 86th Fighter Wing at Neubiberg AFB [now closed] near Munich, Germany, watch a silvery object for 45 minutes. It gradually becomes smaller and smaller and is lost to view when clouds pass in front of it. Possible balloon. (Sparks, p. 41; [PURSUE release, pp. 39–40])

1948, October 14 — 2:30 p.m. USAF pilot Maj. Clare M. Smartt is flying a C-47 near Dayton, Ohio, when he sees 3–4 silvery objects flying directly toward the plane in a gradual descent. A few come close enough so that Smartt and his coplot duck because they think there might be a collision, but they pass from view under the wing. The objects are visible one at a time at intervals of 3–4 minutes; however, the details of Smartt's account varies over time. ([PURSUE release, pp. 21–22])

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. 41; [PURSUE release, pp. 25–26]; 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, 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; "Bitesized UFOs #037: Radar/Visual over Japan, 1948," Bitesized UFOs YouTube channel, November 14, 2024; Thomas Tulien, "Fukuoka (Kyushu), Japan—15 October 1948," *SCU Review* 7, no. 3 (July 31, 2026): 15–17)

1948, October 16 — 11:45 a.m. Airplane mechanic and used car dealer Fred Nash is on a deer-hunting trip on a 9,000-foot mountain ridge 8 miles east of Sterling, Utah, when he hears a throbbing or purring noise. He sees a flattened football or lozenge-shaped black object with wide silver longitudinal stripe. It has a blunted opening in the rear but no exhaust, and it passes 500 feet overhead on a north-northwest path at about 300 mph. (Sparks, p. 41; [PURSUE release, pp. 31–32])

1948, October 17 — 4:10 p.m. Edgar W. Allen sees a blimp-like, silver object with fins flying at 10,000 feet above his home at 3rd and Lauf Avenue, Crescent City, California. At least three other witnesses see the same object. (Sparks, p. 42; [PURSUE release, pp. 59–66])

1948, October 18 — 5:05 p.m. USAF pilot Maj. Robert C. Drum, along with his wife Thelma and daughter, at their home on Pacific Heights Drive in Honolulu, Hawaii, see a round or elliptical bright silver object 10-15 feet in size at about 10,000–14,000 feet altitude heading northeast on a steady course horizontal to the ground about 200 mph. There is no trail or sound and no markings of any kind. The object is observed intermittently for up to 10 seconds at a time. (NICAP, "Bright Silver Object Cruises across Sky"; Sparks, p. 42; [PURSUE release, pp. 16–17])

1948, October 20 — 5:50 a.m. Lawrence A. Hansen and Harold Oliver see a UFO at 13th and Lake Street and 7th Street and 4th Avenue, respectively, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The front of the object appears blurred as if enveloped in smoke; the rest is a fiery orange color, and the tail seems to be a boiling sheet of flame. It disappears into a cloud bank. ([PURSUE release, pp. 29–30])

1948, October 20 — 6:00 a.m. Paul Zenk and Frank T. Benoit see a slowly moving object that breaks up into numerous bright particles over Winona, Minnesota. It is about 25 feet long and 8 feet wide with a tail. ("Duck! It's Those Saucers Again," *Minneapolis (Minn.) Morning Tribune,* October 21, 1948, p. 1; [PURSUE release, pp. 27–28; PURSUE release, p. 38])

1948, October 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 22, 1948 [PURSUE release, pp. 31–34]; Swords 58, 492–493)

1948, October 23 — Lt. Col. George Garrett asks the CIA to submit to USAF Intelligence any evidence the agency has that UFOs "have a domestic origin." (Memorandum from Lt. Col. George D. Garrett Jr. to Director of Central Intelligence, "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena," October 23, 1948, [PURSUE release, p. 22])

1948, October 24 — 3:45 p.m. Army Capt. Glenn Huber sees a metallic object moving to the west at 7,000 feet about 10 miles southwest of Junction City, Kansas. It turns south at a high speed. (Sparks, p. 42; [PURSUE release, pp. 41–42])

1948, October 24 — 5:45 p.m. L. G. Sanders and his wife are driving northwest on US Highway 52 near the outskirts of Moorhead, Minnesota, when a brilliant golden-white round object suddenly appears as if a light switched on. It is about 3 miles away to the northeast at 1,000 feet altitude and is moving in a gradual climb at an estimated 600–1,000 mph, heading west. No trail or sound are detected, and it is about half the angular size of the full moon. When they reach the northern part of Moorhead, the object, slightly to the left of directly ahead, suddenly makes a right turn to the north then disappears one second later by suddenly switching off. (Sparks, p. 42; [PURSUE release, pp. 43–44])

1948, October 26 — On behalf of Howard M. McCoy, Col. Miles E. Goll of ATIC replies to Col. Robert Taylor, saying that they will reach out to the Air Transport Association if USAF Headquarters makes available to them an "Essential Elements of Information" checklist that would aid in reporting UFO sightings. (Letter, Col. W. [sic] E. Goll for Col. H. M. McCoy to Chief of Staff, US Air Force, October 26, 1948 [PURSUE release, pp. 12–13])

1948, October 29 — 4:12 a.m. A radar target is picked up on scope #2 at Goose Bay AFB, Labrador; it is subsequently also found on the search scope #1. Goose tower says no aircraft are in the area. The target disappears after being observed for about 5 minutes. At 4:19 a.m., another target shows up and is tracked for 6 minutes. Again, at 5:16 a.m., the operators sight a target that fades into the ground clutter after about 4 minutes. The targets are all small but very clear. The next operator at the GCA unit observes as many as three blips at one time. He records a speed of 30 mph for each blip with the objects moving into the wind or crosswind. One blip is described as a very strong target. (MICAP, "GCA Tracks Unidentified Targets"; Sparks, p. 42; [PURSUE release, pp. 35–36])

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 (October 11?) by another group of American pilots. ([PURSUE release, pp. 45–46]; Jan Aldrich, "Early Top Secret UFO Document Discovered," 2000)

1948, October 30 — 2:30 p.m. While flying in an F-82 headed north at 8,000 feet at 240 mph on a GCI intercept mission over the ocean about 15 miles northwest of Grays Harbor, Washington, radar observer AF 2nd Lt. Robert L. Kunzman, out of McChord AFB, sees a single compact group of yellow objects in the west-northwest at his 10 o'clock position. They burst into an in-line formation of about 10–20 white egg-shaped objects that cross over in front of the aircraft to his 1 o'clock, still in line formation at about 8,000 ft heading south then dropping back to 3 o'clock position in the east. The objects maintain the same altitude and horizontal flight throughout. They then double back heading north and paralleling the F-82's course while moving back up to 2:30 o''clock position at high speed. They turn translucent part of the time just before disappearing by fading out or dissolving. Kunzman calls the attention of the pilot Maj. Homer William Morris, who misses seeing the objects. Ground radar loses the object at this same time.

The Air Force interviews radar controllers at Pacific Beach who track "no unidentified objects at high rate of speed" but do not interview the 634th AC&W Squadron at Neah Bay, who actually did the radar tracking. (NICAP, "ADC Directs F-82 to 10–20 Egg-Shaped Objects"; Sparks, p. 43; [PURSUE release, pp. 57–58])

1948, October 31 — 1:30 a.m. S/Sgt Joseph J. Barnett, stationed at Lajes Field on Terceira Island in the Azores, sees a pale yellow or orange light weaving slightly at 160 mph and moving silently in a northerly direction above the base for 3–5 minutes before disappearing behind clouds. He alerts Pfc Robert R. Anderson and Theodore Vlas, who also see it. ([PURSUE release, pp. 67–72])

1948, October 31 — 11:45 a.m. An unknown object as large as an aircraft is tracked moving slowly (25 mph) on radar at Goose Bay AFB, Labrador, for 8.5 minutes. (NICAP, "Goose Bay Radar (BBU)"; Sparks, p. 43; [PURSUE release, pp. 49–50]; NICAP, "October 29, October 30, and November 1, 1948, Incident Nos. 188, 195, and 196: Goose Bay, Labrador," June 28, 2009)

1948, November 1 — 5:45 p.m. Radar operator M/Sgt Francis H. Mills at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador (and/or at Fort McAndrew, Newfoundland [now closed]), 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. 43; [PURSUE release, pp. 51–52]; NICAP, "October 29, October 30, and November 1, 1948, Incident Nos. 188, 195, and 196: Goose Bay, Labrador," June 28, 2009)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 1–3]; 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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 122–123])

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, [PURSUE release]; Jan Aldrich, "Early Top Secret UFO Document Discovered," 2000; Good Need, p. 115; Swords 62–63)

1948, November 6 — 11:57 a.m. Two UFOs, maneuvering like planes in a dogfight, are tracked on USAF radar over Wakkanai, Japan. (NICAP, "Target Circles Radar Site"; Sparks, p. 43; [PURSUE release, pp. 55–56]; Keyhoe, *FS from OS,* p. 34)

1948, November 8 — A letter is sent with Col. Howard M. McCoy's signature to Gen. Cabell in response to his November 3 query and summarizes Project Sign's findings so far. Written by Sign operative Albert Deyarmond, it is overtly submissive but covertly rebellious. He reports that the office has studied 180 UFO incidents (disks, cigars, spheres, or balls of light) and that while most are explainable, "the exact nature of these objects cannot be established until physical evidence, such as that which would result from a crash, has been obtained." 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 extra-terrestrial 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. He recommends telling the press that most UFO cases involve "weather balloons or astral bodies," and that "investigation is being pursued to determine reasonable explanations for the others." (Col. H. M. McCoy, "Flying Object Incidents in the United States," November 8, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 7–9]; 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 8 — 6:50 p.m. Edmund J. Cisek, a civilian dispatcher at Newark AFB [=Newark Airport?] in New Jersey watches a pale, luminous disc race across the sky toward the south-southwest in less than 1 second. ([PURSUE release, pp. 73, 76])

1948, November 12 — Between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Sgt. Frederick M. Wright, with the 18th Maintenance Squadron in the northeast portion of Clark AFB near Angeles City, Luzon, Philippines, sees a white speck flying in the distance to the northeast, then to the north, then fly into a cloud bank and emerge to the north-northwest. As it approaches, he sees it is a snow-white aircraft about 300 feet long with a 140-foot wingspan darting in and out of clouds much faster than any jet. It is about 20–30 miles away, 3–6 miles high, and it leaves an exhaust trail like skywriting. It makes a loud aircraft noise. (Sparks, p. 44; [PURSUE release, pp. 81–82])

1948, November 15 — USAF Col. Robert Taylor writes a second letter to Air Material Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, recommending that Project Sign personnel make arrangements with the Air Transport Association [now Airlines for America, an aviation trade association] for pilots to report UFO sightings directly to them. (Letter, Col. Robert Taylor III to Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, "Project 'Sign,'" November 15, 1948, [PURSUE release, p. 10])

1948, November 17 — 7:18 a.m. The pilot (1Lt. James Toomey) and radio operator (S/Sgt Onno C. Blink) of a military aircraft see a bright orange flaming egg-shaped object flying on a southwest heading over Peace River, Alberta. (Sparks, p. 44; [PURSUE release, p. 121]; [PURSUE release, pp. 74–75])

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 2Lt. Kenwood W. 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. 44; [PURSUE release, pp. 83–88]; 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 19 — The US Air Force Office of Air Intelligence recommends to Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell that "no statement be released to the press" on UFO incidents "until such demands make such release imperative." ("Flying Object Incidents in the United States," November 19, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 15–19])

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. 44; [PURSUE release, pp. 122–123]; 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. Capt. Hugh "Slip" Slater sees an object like a red star above the base. A radar station reports an object circling at 27,000 feet and climbing to 40,000 feet. Capt. Darwin R. Addis verifies the visual report. (NICAP, "Grnd Visual / Grnd Radar Track Object at 27,000'"; Sparks, p. 44; [PURSUE release, pp. 114–115]; Ruppelt, p. 46)

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. 45; [PURSUE release, pp. 99–114]; [PURSUE release, pp. 100–101])

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. Around 9:35 p.m., Capt. Ernest Van Lloyd and the crew of Pioneer Airlines Flight 63 also see the second object, described as first orange, then green, near Montezuma, New Mexico. He attempts evasive action, but the object drops close to ground level. (NICAP, "AFOSI Case 8: AF C-47 Pilot Observes UFO Similar to Green Flare"; NICAP, "AFOSI Case 9: Commercial Pilot Reports Green Flare"; Sparks, p. 45; [PURSUE release, pp. 116–121]; Clark III 539; Clark IV 597)

1948, December 6 — 10:55 p.m. Atomic Energy Security Service Officer Joseph H. 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. 45; [PURSUE release, pp. 124–125]; Clark III 539; Clark IV 598)

1948, December 8 — 6:46 p.m. Sgt. James E. Doty and Sgt. Eugene E. Montag watch an object leaving a trail for 2–3 seconds over Chanute AFB [now closed] near Rantoul, Illinois. ([PURSUE release, pp. 137–140]; [PURSUE release, pp. 102–103])

1948, December 9 — 3:20 p.m. USAF officers Capt. Eugene G. Mulling Jr. and Col. John K. Brown Jr. are flying a C-45 about 8–12 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when they see a round white object to the north on a converging course moving rapidly at 12,000–16,000 feet about 2 miles away and traveling about 250 mph for 7 minutes before disappearing behind a cloud. (NICAP, "Round Object on Converging Course"; Sparks, p. 47; [PURSUE release, pp. 104–105])

1948, December 10 — The USAF Directorate of Intelligence issues 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 the Pentagon's work since early August, augmented by Office of Naval Intelligence 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, [PURSUE release; PURSUE release]; 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 11 — 10:45 p.m. A stationary object like a "parachute flare" is seen in front of a military aircraft about 40 miles northwest of Martinsburg, West Virginia, for about 1 minute. ([PURSUE release, pp. 122–128])

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. 48; [PURSUE release, pp. 126–129]; "Extract from Report Submitted by Dr. LaPaz on 20 December 1948," December 20, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 75–77]; Lincoln LaPaz to Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, "Anomalous Luminous Phenomena (Third Report)," December 30, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 78–79]; Good Above, p. 266; Joel Carpenter, "Green Fireball Chronology," October 6, 2011; Clark III 539–540; Clark IV 598; David Freeman, "Secret Los Alamos File Reveals Unidentified Objects Operating near America's Atomic Sites," Above the Norm News, July 10, 2026)

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; memorandum, Thomas B. Inglis and R. C. Hudson, "'Flying Discs'—Report of," December 13, 1948, [PURSUE release])

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"; "Extract from Report Submitted by Dr. LaPaz on 20 December 1948," December 20, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 75–77]; 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. 48; Lincoln LaPaz to Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, "Anomalous Luminous Phenomena (Third Report)," December 30, 1948, [PURSUE release, pp. 78–79]; Clark III 540; Clark IV 598)

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. 48; [PURSUE release, pp. 116–120, 132–136]); [PURSUE release, pp. 138–139]; 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. 49; [PURSUE release, pp. 90–98)

1949, January 6 — 5:30 p.m. PFC Meredith J. 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. 49; Matthew J. Doyle to Director, AFOSI, "Reported Observation of Unidentified Light or Flare Moving across the Sky on 6 January 1949," January 7, 1949, [PURSUE release, p. 80])

1949, January 30 — 5:54 p.m. Hundreds of people in New Mexico and west Texas 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. 51; Commanding Officer, Kirtland AFB, "Nr. OSI-1-9C," January 31, 1949, [PURSUE release, p. 106]; Lincoln LaPaz to Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, "Anomalous Luminous Phenomena (4th Report," February 21, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 81–82]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June,* The Author, 1988, pp. 15–16; Clark III 540;

Clark IV 598–599; David Freeman, "Secret Los Alamos File Reveals Unidentified Objects Operating near America's Atomic Sites," Above the Norm News, July 10, 2026)

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-1-9C," January 31, 1949, [PURSUE release, p. 106]; 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." (Memo from FBI San Antonio to Director FBI, "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File #65-58300," January 31, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 115–117; ClearIntent, pp. 159–161; Good Above, pp. 267, 483)

1949, February 6 — 4:30 p.m. Capt. McBride and the crew of the United Fruit vessel SS *Antigua* are in the vicinity of San Andrés Island in the Caribbean Sea when they see a round, silver-colored sphere passing directly over the ship. It changes color from silver to yellow to red before disappearing. Two other similar objects are seen briefly at 5:00 p.m. ([PURSUE release, pp. 75–77])

1949, February 7 — 2:50 a.m. Sgt. Donald E. Ledbetter, tower operator at Godman Army Airfield, Fort Knox, Kentucky, and two weather observers see a rotating green, yellow, and red object that disappears after 20 minutes while growing dimmer. ([PURSUE release, pp. 79–82])

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 2–137)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 90– 93]; Sidney Newburger Jr., [Minutes of February 16 Conference on Aerial Phenomena, Los Alamos], March 29, 1949, [PURSUE release]; Ruppelt, pp. 50–54; 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; David Freeman, "Secret Los Alamos File Reveals Unidentified Objects Operating near America's Atomic Sites," Above the Norm News, July 10, 2026)

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. 52; "Urgent Call Is Issued for Information on 'Fireball,'" *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Tribune,* February 18, 1949, p. 1; "Observers of Fireball Quizzed," *Albuquerque*

(N.Mex.) Tribune, February 19, 1949, p. 1; "Incidents of 17 February and 27 March," [PURSUE release, p. 83])

1949, February 19 — 6:40 p.m. A sound like an aircraft engine running slowly is heard for about 15–20 minutes southwest of CFB Goose Bay, Labrador. No objects or lights are seen. ([PURSUE release, pp. 62–64])

1949, February 24 — The US Army Plans and Operations Division orders an evaluation of "flying saucer" phenomena to determine whether there are any foreign implications. (Lt. Col. Roman J. Peisinger, "Memorandum for Record," February 24, 1949, [PURSUE release, 2–8])

1949, February 28 — 8:30 p.m. 1Lt John T. Smith is flying a T-11 at 9,000 feet over Sandberg Pass about 40 miles south of Bakersfield, California, when he is circled by a sausage-shaped "jet-propelled blimp" moving at 800 mph. (NICAP, "'Sausage' Circles T-11 at High Speed"; [PURSUE release], p. 65)

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. 52–53; Office of the AC of S, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, "Unusual Lights, 452.1 AKADB," March 16, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 101–109]; 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. 54; Office of the AC of S, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, "Unusual Lights, 452.1 AKADB," March 16, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 101–108]; SAC, San Antonio, "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300," March 22, 1949; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)

1949, March 8 — 6:35 p.m. An Atomic Energy Security Service inspector on duty at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, New Mexico, sees a bright white, stubby, elliptical object surrounded by billowy flames moving at about 4,000 feet. It disappears behind some trees. ("Incident of 8 March 1949," [PURSUE release, p. 84])

1949, March 17 — Evening. At least eight 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. 54; Office of the AC of S, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, "Unusual Lights, 452.1 AKADB," March 18, 24, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 95–98]; 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. (Memo from FBI San Antonio to Director FBI, "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300," March 22, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 120–121])

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, [PURSUE release, p. 125]; ClearIntent, p. 161)

1949, March 27 — 6:00 p.m. A bright orange fireball is seen moving from east to west in Tucumcari, New Mexico. It fades out of sight in the distance after 15 minutes. ("Incidents of 17 February and 27 March," [PURSUE release, p. 83])

1949, March 31 —11:50 p.m. Lieut. Frederick W. 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. 55; letter from FBI San Antonio to Director FBI, "Protection of Vital Installations," April 4, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 145–147]; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)

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." (Maj. J. S. Byrne, "Memorandum for Record," April 20, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 15, 25]; 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 Uforia; Clark III 542; Clark IV 600)

1949, April 4 — 10:20 p.m. Maj. William H. Parrott, former Air Force pilot, sees a generally round object with a curved bottom and dull coloring, giving off clicking sound until it is overhead one mile west of Merced, California. Parrott's dog reacts to the noise. (Memo from FBI Los Angeles to Director FBI, "'Flying Disk' Report, Information Concerning," May 13, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 157–159])

1949, April 5 — The US Army Plans and Operations Division issues a one-page report on recent UFO sightings. Of 210 incidents, 20% are explained, mostly as balloons. Others are meteors, Venus, and two hoaxes. The investigators suspect that if more data were available, the unexplaineds would disappear and "To date there has been no tangible evidence which would support a theory that any incidents are attributable to activity of a foreign nation." ("Evaluation Study of Phenomenon," [PURSUE release, pp. 11–14, 16])

1949, April 8 — Three Los Angeles Recreation and Park employees see a flying disc above Griffith Park. (Letter from C. A. Atkins to Walter Winchell, April 10, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp. 139–141])

1949, April 8 — 8:30 p.m. Deputy US Marshal Paul Herring sees a flaming greenish-blue object streaming across the sky some 2,500 feet above the US Naval Operating Base in Kodiak, Alaska. It is moving at 1,500 mph and paralleling the runways at the base. It is visible for 15 seconds before disappearing in the vicinity of Puffin Island in Chiniak Bay. Several others see the object as well. ([PURSUE release, pp. 51–57])

1949, April 13 — 9:05 p.m. 1Lt Robert A. Francis sees a silvery sphere traveling silently at more than 1,000 mph over Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas, toward the south-southeast. The exhaust trail is three times the size of the object and consists of "silver streaks and star-shaped figures," It disappears after a few seconds. ([PURSUE release, p. 58])

1949, April 16 — 5:25 p.m. Post Office employee Wade H. Harrison sees a small flying disc moving southeast as he is stopped at the intersection of North 11th Street and Grand Avenue in Fort Smith, Arkansas. ("Local Man Reports Seeing What He Believes Was 'Flying Disc,'" Fort Smith (Ark.) *Southwest-Times Record,* April 17, 1949, p. 1; memo from FBI Little Rock to Director FBI, "Unknown Subjects," April 22, 1949, [PURSUE release, pp, 133–136])

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; [PURSUE release, pp. 71–74]; Swords 133–135; Clark III 541; Clark IV 599–600)

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, [PURSUE release]; copy, dated April 28, 1949)

1949, April 28 — 8:00 p.m. Mary Elizabeth Mackey and another observer in Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California, see six objects flying by, one by one. Four others are seen a few minutes later, traveling in the same direction. (DOW-UAP-D181, [PURSUE release])

1949, May 2 — 11:40 a.m. CAA radio operator Marvin Love Small using field glasses sees three flying discs 30 feet in diameter at 14,000 feet moving southwest above Elko, Nevada, at 300-400 mph. It makes a left

turn and departs ahead of a United airliner taking off from the airport. (NICAP, "Three 30′ Flying Discs"; [PURSUE release, pp. 43–44]; Sparks, p. 61)

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. 67; [PURSUE release, pp. 26–30)

1949, Summer — 1:00 p.m. US 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 Discs? Maybe Not…But I Saw One: Engel," *Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle,* April 5, 1950, p. 1; "'Flying Saucer' Discussions Go On," *Reidsville (N.C.) Review,* April 5, 1950, p. 1; "House Member Swears He Saw Flying Saucer," *Washington (D.C.) Times-Herald,* April 5, 1950, p. 10, [PURSUE release, p. 80])

1949, June 8 — 8:09 p.m. An RB-29 aircraft is flying a reconnaissance mission 300 miles southwest of Guam when two observers, weather observer 1Lt Ernest Swenson and engineer M/Sgt Walter Rogers, see a "white billowing substance" moving at 4,200 mph at an altitude of 30,000–35,000 feet. Traveling in a straight line, it disappears after one minute. ([PURSUE release, pp. 46–48])

1949, June 10 — 8:45 a.m. USAF pilot 1Lt Kirshbaum is flying a T-6 aircraft 20 miles southwest of Boston, Massachusetts. He sees a white, tubular object 100 feet long flying at 100 mph at 30,000 feet. He chases it but it speeds away into the overcast. (NICAP, "T-6 Chases / Loses 100′ Tubular UFO"; [PURSUE release, pp. 37–41]; Sparks, p. 68)

1949, June 28 — 5:50 p.m. USAF Maj. R. L. Long watches an object with a long tail of flame moving above Fairfield, Ohio. ([PURSUE release, pp. 35–36])

1949, July 19 — 9:35 p.m. A photographer named Neinkirchen sees an object with swept-back wings traveling quickly east at an altitude of 3,000–4,000 feet above Columbus, Ohio. ([PURSUE release, pp. 32–33])

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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 29–30]; Sparks, p. 70; 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 — 8:26 p.m. 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. 70; W. D. Crozier and Ben K. Seely, "An Attempt to Collect Airborne Particles Associated with the Fireball of July 24, 1949," August 10, 1949 [PURSUE release, pp. 4–9]; Lincoln LaPaz to Col. Doyle Rees, "Anomalous Luminous Phenomena: Sixth Report (Attempts to Collect Volatilization Products from Green Fireballs," August 17, 1949 [PURSUE release, pp. 10–13]; Clark III 543–544; Clark IV 601)

1949, July 26 — 8:20 p.m. Bill Miller is at his home on South Carahan Road in Spokane, Washington, when he hears a sound like a formation of jet aircraft. He goes outside and sees a single B-29 heading east to west, but about 1,000 feet above the aircraft he sees a formation of eight dish-shaped objects, each larger than the B-29 and at a greater speed. The pilot can see nothing unusual. ([PURSUE release, pp. 15–16])

1949, July 30 — 9:00 p.m. Northwest Airlines Capt. Thrush, two Portland Airport control tower operators (Robert Henery and B. J. Bradford), and a flying instructor (H. W. Penhallegan) see an object with one white light and two red lights, maneuvering and hovering in the vicinity of Mount Hood and Troutdale, Oregon. (NICAP, "Light Maneuvers & Hovers"; Sparks, p. 71; "Flying Lights Sky Mystery Grows Deeper," *Portland Oregonian,* August 1, 1949, pp. 1, 11; [PURSUE release, pp. 25–26])

1949, August 1 — 7:00 p.m. Three CAA controllers at Lockbourne AFB in Columbus, Ohio, report a white object moving slowly at 30,000 feet for two hours. ([PURSUE release, pp. 22–23])

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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 18–20])

1949, August 15 — 7:30 p.m. Two witnesses in Greenville, South Carolina, see a large gray round object moving to the northeast at about 5,000 feet. This is apparently one of two gas-filled balloons launched by a local teenager. ("Ho, Hum; Flying Saucers Again Are Being Noticed," *Greenville (S.C.) News,* August 17, 1949, p. 2; [PURSUE release, p. 14])

1949, August 17 — Lincoln LaPaz submits the sixth 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." (Lincoln LaPaz to Col. Doyle Rees, "Anomalous Luminous Phenomena: Sixth Report," [PURSUE release, pp. 10–13]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949 July–December,* The Author, 1988, pp. 28–29; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949 July–December, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2000, p. 22; 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. ("Missing Inventor Hunted for Clue to 'Saucers,'" *Washington (D.C.) Daily News,* August 20, 1949, p. 6; "1940 'Saucers' Await Study by Plane Experts," *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star,* August 20, 1949, p. A18; "Air Force Disowns 'Flying Disk' Finds," *New York Times,* August 21, 1949, p. 39; [PURSUE release, pp. 32–34]; US National Archives, "Universal Newsreel, Volume 22, Release 276," August 22, 1949; Curt Collins, "The Other Air Force Captured Flying Saucer Retraction," The Saucers That Time Forgot, October 22, 2020)

1949, August 22 — 6:45 p.m. National Guard Sgt. Roger H. Studeman sees a shiny disc flying at about 10,000 feet from his home on the north side of Seattle, Washington. He calls Sgt. Jack Faulkner, on duty at the 143rd National Guard Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. Faulkner goes outside and sees the same object, which is also visible to T/Sgt T. D. Mullen on the south side of the city. ([PURSUE release, pp. 9–12])

1949, September 20 — 9:06 a.m. Lt. Col. Philip J. Kuhl is flying an aircraft that is approaching Griffiss AFB near Rome, New York, from the northeast when he sees a silvery, cylindrical object about 30 miles away descending into the overcast at 7,000 feet. It is emitting an orange and white flame more than twice its length. ([PURSUE release, pp. 3–7])

1949, September 25 — 2:45 p.m. A pilot, Glen Sprouse, is flying a Luscombe aircraft near Parkersburg, West Virginia, at about 3,450 feet altitude and 100 mph, sees a bright-yellow, rocket-shaped object approach directly toward him at great speed. The object, about 15–18 inches long and 4 inches in diameter, passes about 100 feet below and 50 feet to the right of his plane. It looks like a rocket fuselage with vertical and horizontal fins on the rear third, sharp needle-like nose, and blunt rear. No wings, exhaust, or propulsion are visible. The object appears very sharp and clear against the dark green background of the forests below. It travels almost due west at around 240°, seeming to have been fired or launched from a higher altitude. Sprouse's wife, onboard, does not see it. Visibility is excellent, about 30 miles. ([PURSUE release, pp. 39–43]; Bruce Maccabee, *The FBI-CIA-UFO Connection,* The Author, 2014, pp. 123–124)

1949, Fall — A radar-tracking UFO case (with possible visual confirmation) 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; Department of Energy, James Tuck correspondence, letter, November 23, 1970, [PURSUE release])

1950, January 6 — Night. Two workers, James F. Grey and Robert Van De Vyvere, at Bendix Aviation in Kansas City, Kansas, see two spherical objects that are flying from Kansas City toward Olathe. They are brilliant white lights that are flashing orange and red. They stop above Olathe and remain motionless at 7,000–8,000 feet for 10–15 minutes before moving off very fast to the southwest. ([PURSUE release, p. 1])

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 178–179, 183, 210–211]; Swords 498)

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. 82; [PURSUE release, pp. 146–148]; 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, 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. 84; [PURSUE release, p. 33; PURSUE release, p. 61]; Joseph Gillette, "UFOs: Natural Explanations," Pieces of History, April 16, 2018)

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." (Memo from Guy Hottel to Director FBI, "Flying Saucers, Information Concerning," March 22, 1950, [PURSUE release, p. 68]; 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 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. (Memo from D. M. Ladd to Director FBI, "Flying Saucers," March 28, 1950, [PURSUE release, p. 75]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950,* The Author, 1983, pp. 84–85; Swords 95)

1950, May 23 — Lincoln LaPaz writes to Lt. Col. Doyle Rees of the USAF Office of Special Investigations about 10 distinct differences between the green fireballs and typical meteors. He provides some recommendations on an investigation and offers his services as a consultant. (Letter from Lincoln LaPaz to Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, "Anomalous Luminous Phenomena (Seventh Report)," May 23, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 27–71; PURSUE release, pp. 63–68])

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." The memo includes a 38-page summary of UFO sightings at Sandia, Los Alamos, Kirtland, and other New Mexico locations from 1947 to May 1, 1950 (Letter from Lt. Col. Doyle Rees to Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Carroll, "Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena, New Mexico Area, Dec 1949 to May 1950," May 25, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 24–26; full report, PURSUE release, pp. 20–60])

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. 95; Antony Terry, "50 Yards Away I Saw Two Men Take Off in a 'Flying Saucer,'" London *Sunday Graphic,* July 6, 1952, pp. 1–2, in [PURSUE release, pp. 177–179, 254]; 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 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. 96; [film with commentary]; [PURSUE release, pp. 183–190]; "Movies Snapped of Sky Disk by Alert Times Photographer," *Louisville (Ky.) Times,* June 28, 1950, pp. 1–2, [PURSUE release, p. 191]; "'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; [PURSUE release, pp. 170–172])

1950, July 1 — 1:00 a.m. An FBI informant sees a cigar-shaped object moving rapidly from northwest to southwest at an altitude of 15,000–20,000 feet over the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago, Illinois. (Memo from FBI Chicago to Director FBI, "Flying Discs," July 18, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 174–175])

1950, July 31 — The CIA translates and retains an article by Eduard Ludwig, a German scientist living in Chile, on the significance of the boundary layer in high-speed aircraft propulsion and how it might relate to the aerodynamic performance of the flying discs. The article, apparently never published, recounts Ludwig's wartime work at the Junkers facility in Dessau, helping to develop a "one-piece metal wing" functioning as a "speedily rotating top" capable of vertical takeoffs and high speed. (CIA information report, "German Scientist's Article on 'Flying Discs,'" report no. SO DB-27143, July 31, 1950, [PURSUE release])

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"; [PURSUE release, pp. 18–27]; "Air Force Takes over Films of Flying Disks," *Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle,* October 5, 1950, p. 8; [PURSUE release, p. 86]; "Colored Films on Saucers to Be Shown," *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News,* October 19, 1950, p. 17; L. W. Keith, Confidential Security Information from the Officer in Charge, US Naval Photographic Interpretation Center to Director of Naval Intelligence [Carl F. Espe], "Interpretation of Movies of Unidentified Objects; Progress Report on," May 4, 1953, [PURSUE release]; Ruppelt, pp. 219–220; 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; David Freeman, "1953 Military UFO Analysis Found Speeds above 2,400 MPH," Above the Norm, August 7, 2026)

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 hypothesizes that the strange sightings are probably a type of secret Soviet surveillance technology. (Memo from A. H. Belmont to D. M. Ladd, "Summary of Aerial Phenomena in New Mexico, Miscellaneous—Information Concerning," August 23, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 2–5]; ClearIntent, pp. 167–168)

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. (Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft," memo to Commanding Generals, Major Air Commands, ZI and Overseas, September 8, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 10–12]; NICAP, "1950 UFO Chronology")

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.* (Wikipedia, "*The Blob*"; "Flying 'Saucer' Just Dissolves," *Philadelphia Inquirer,* September 27, 1950, pp. 1–2; memo from L. L. Laughlin to A. H. Belmont, "Flying Saucers," September 27, 1950, [PURSUE release, p. 8]; memo from FBI Philadelphia to Director FBI, "Flying Disc Reported at Philadelphia on 9/26/50," October 2, 1950, [PURSUE release, p. 18]; "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; Esther Inglis-Arkell, "*The Blob* Was Based on a True Story," Gizmodo, August 18, 2014; Rebekah McKendry, "The Supposedly True Story behind the Classic Film *The Blob!*" 13th Floor, October 21, 2015; Clark III 1102; Kleurvision, "The Weird, True Life Incident That Inspired 'The Blob,'" Rue Morgue, August 7, 2018; Eirik Gumeny, "The Blob from *The Blob* Was Based on a Real-life… Blob," Nerdist, October 16, 2020; Jake Rossen, "The Real-Life Creepy Blob That Inspired *The Blob,*" Mental Floss, May 5, 2021; Emma-Jane Betts, "The Shocking True Story That Inspired *The Blob,*" The Digital Fix, July 8, 2022; Clark IV 1228)

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, [PURSUE release, pp. 13–15])

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 FBI Knoxville to FBI Director, "Radar Detection of Unidentified Objects over Oak Ridge, October 12, 15, 16, 1950," October 18, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 73, 92–94]; memo from FBI Knoxville to FBI Director, "'Flying Saucers' Observed over Oak Ridge Area," October 25, 1950; Bill Anderson, "Saucers Bob Up Again in Reports," *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal,* October 26, 1950, pp. 1, 9; 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. (J. Edgar Hoover to FBI Los Angeles, "Flying Saucers," October 13, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 22, 72]; Anthony Bragalia, "J. Edgar Hoover's Saucer Crash Secrets," UFO Explorations, April 2011)

1950, October 20 — 6:15 p.m. Chemical engineer Aaron L. Hitchens, along with his wife and daughter, see a golden-orange sphere high above their home at 495 Edgewood Avenue in New Haven, Connecticut. They watch it moving toward the west then veering southward for 20 seconds. It appears to be about 10 times the apparent diameter of the planet Venus. (Memo from FBI New Haven to Director FBI, "Flying Discs," November 9, 1950, [PURSUE release, pp. 83–91])

1950, December 18 — 8:20 a.m. Seven officials of the Nuclear Energy for Propulsion of Aircraft division of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee are traveling in two cars when they see a circular light over the facility. From 8:39 to 8:45 a.m., a small target appears on the scopes of the 663rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Knoxville Airport, near the southeast corner of the Oak Ridge Controlled Area. The target is on a magnetic bearing of 190° at a speed of 60 mph at an estimated altitude of 2,500 feet. Fighters are scrambled but do not see anything. (NICAP, "Radar/Visual near Oak Ridge Control Area"; Sparks, p. 106; FBI documents, [PURSUE release, pp. 100–110]; ClearIntent, pp. 174–175)

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 Keflavík, 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"; [PURSUE release, p. 118]; 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; Philip Klass, *UFOs: Explained,* 1975, pp. 61-68; 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, 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. 113; [PURSUE release, pp. 124–127, 130]; "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. ([PURSUE release, pp. 124–127, 130]; Clark III 514; Clark IV 563)

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"; PURSUE release, pp. 1–34)

1952, March 6 — 9:00 a.m. Karl Nyquist looks out his window at 2417 N. Burling Street in Chicago, Illinois, and sees a metallic disc emerge from a cloud in the east, hover for a split second, then fly due south at great speed. (Memo, FBI Chicago to Director FBI, "Flying Discs, Karl Nyquist, Informant," March 21, 1952, [PURSUE release, p. 129])

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. Ruppelt gives a presentation on Blue Book's proposals to use diffraction-grating photography and radar-scope synchronization, underscoring the need for systematic data collection to better evaluate UFO sightings. ("Transcript of a Presentation by Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, 1952," [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D154]; audio recording of presentation, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D154]; Ruppelt, pp. 191–192; Swords 110, 175; Clark III 916; Clark IV 1027; "Burlison Requests Review of Identified 1952 UAP Recording," Office of Eric Burlison, May 8, 2026; "New UFO File Drop Includes Audio from 1952 Project Blue Book Briefing," NewsNation, September 18, 2026)

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; [PURSUE release, pp. 240–244]; Ruppelt, pp. 132–133; Clark III 917; Clark IV 1027)

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. 136; [PURSUE release, pp. 140–146]; 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, [PURSUE release, pp. 148–149]; 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, June 25 — 12:00 noon. Three Boy Scouts hiking on Santa Catalina Island, California, see a silver object moving faster than a jet. It makes a climbing turn before apparently disintegrating. (DOW-UAP-D179, [PURSUE release])

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]; "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft, Special Inquiry," spot intelligence report, Lt.Col. Robert S. Jones to USAF Director of Special Investigations, undated, [PURSUE release, pp. 151–154]; Sparks, p. 148; Ruppelt, pp. 150–151; UFOEv, p. 160)

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 balloons. (NICAP, "The Tremonton, Utah / Newhouse Color Film"; [Tremonton film], Project Blue Book archives, [PURSUE release, DW-UAP-PR159]; Project Blue Book files, [PURSUE release]; Project Blue Book photo file relating to Tremonton film, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D103]; personnel record for Delbert C. Newhouse, US Navy, 1939–1960, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D104]; [PURSUE release, pp. 26–36, 168, 228–229]; Victor P. Keay, "Flying Saucers," memorandum to FBI Assistant Director Alan H. Belmont, October 27, 1952; L. W. Keith, Confidential Security Information from the Officer in Charge, US Naval Photographic Interpretation Center to Director of Naval Intelligence [Carl F. Espe], "Interpretation of Movies of Unidentified Objects; Progress Report on," May 4, 1953, [PURSUE release]; Keyhoe, *FS from OS,* pp. 151–154; Ruppelt, pp. 220–222; R. M. L. Baker Jr., "Photogrammetric Analysis of the 'Utah' Film Tracking UFO's," Douglas Aircraft Company, May 16, 1956, [PURSUE release, pp. 82–98]; 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; "Secret Montana & Utah UFO Films," nicapufo YouTube channel, December 5, 2008; "Delbert Newhouse UFO Footage, 1952, Tremonton, Utah," parkerdonaldmusic YouTube channel, September 29, 2012; Kevin D. Randle, "Delbert Newhouse and the UFO Movie," A Different Perspective, December 7, 2013; Kevin D. Randle, "Newhouse's Tremonton, Utah Movie Revisited," A Different Perspective, December 12, 2013; Kevin D. Randle, "The Newhouse UFO Movie, Part Two," A Different Perspective, December 24, 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; Kevin D. Randle, "The Tremonton UFO Film and Haddaway," A Different Perspective, October 13, 2018; "1952 UFO of July 2, Tremonton, Utah, Color Film with Explanation and Conclusion (Melhor Qualidade)," Canal UFO Pier YouTube channel, April 17, 2022; Clark IV 1377–1379; "Navy Photographer Delbert C. Newhouse on His Famous 1952 UFO Film + Footage Breakdown," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, July 24, 2025; Michael D. Swords, "Peeking into the Corners of 1952, Part Five," Center for UFO Studies, July 28, 2025; David Freeman, "1953 Military UFO Analysis Found Speeds above 2,400 MPH," Above the Norm, August 7, 2026; David Freeman, "Secret Debate over Famous 1952 UFO Film Revealed in Newly Released Files," Above the Norm, September 18, 2026; Kevin D. Randle, "The Latest Data Dump and the Utah Movie," A Different Perspective, September 20, 2026)

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 (but Flaherty looks out the window too late to see anything but an ambiguous flash). Alpert sees the objects dim then brighten suddenly. He 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. Blue Book explains the photo 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. However, Alpert may have created a double exposure earlier with some unknown light source and claimed that this was the image taken. (Sparks, p. 156; [PURSUE release, pp. 4–5]; "4 Saucers in Salem Photo," *Boston (Mass.) Evening Globe,* August 1, 1952, p. 1; "Coast Guard Photo Shows Four 'Saucers,'" *Kitchener–Waterloo (Ont.) Record,* August 1, 1952, p. 2; "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 28 — USAF Maj. Gen. John A. Samford secretly orders a deemphasis on or elimination of human anecdotal UFO reports. Instead, they should be "going on instruments," as worded in his briefing, so that he can close down Blue Book. Technological hurdles and budget limits greatly delay the plan, but Blue Book does transition into a propaganda debunking mission over the next 6 months. Samford states in a message to the CIA's Intelligence Advisory Committee that the "flying saucer business" is "still a complete enigma" and that "credible observers are reporting the incredible." (Memorandum from F. H. to William Park Armstrong, "Flying Saucers," July 28, 1952, [PURSUE release]; Clark III 813, 1032; Clark IV 906, 1147)

1952, July 29 — An FBI memo from Victor P. Keay on "Flying Saucers" discusses a classified briefing about UFOs by Cmdr. Randall Boyd Jr. of the Air Intelligence Estimates Division to Norman W. Philcox, an FBI liaison to the Air Force. The Air Force has "failed to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion" on UFOs. Reports are being received from all parts of the US and distant parts of the world. Boyd explains that USAF has made no progress in ascertaining the nature of UFOs, but it is filing them into three classifications: reports by civilians on the ground, reports by commercial or military pilots, and reports by pilots that are confirmed by radar or ground observations. He concludes by writing that it is "not entirely impossible that the objects sighted may possibly be ships from another planet such as Mars," but he adds that "air intelligence is fairly certain that these objects are not ships or missiles from another nation in this world." (Memo from V. P. Keay to A. H. Belmont, "Flying Saucers," July 29, 1952, [PURSUE release, pp. 196–199]; ClearIntent, pp. 175–177; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 July 21st–31st, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2001, pp. 55–56)

1952, July 31 — 10:15 a.m. John H. Riley and George J. Stock are talking in front of Stock's home at 221 Brooks Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, when they see an object approach then hover silently nearby at about 200 feet up. It is 30 feet in diameter and grayish with a large dome. It remains stationary for 7 minutes, so Riley is able to take seven photos with Stock's camera. The object tilts and an antenna shoots from the top

and is quickly withdrawn, then it disappears rapidly to the southeast. (FBI case documents, [PURSUE release, pp. 3–12])

1952, August 19 — 8:00 p.m. An oval disc is seen above Boron Air Force Station [now closed] in Boron, California. Two jet fighters are guided into the area by Capt. Ralph J. Borgerson at the base, but the object speeds away to the east as they close in. (Sparks, p. 172; [PURSUE release, p. 137]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, August,* The Author, 1986, p. 49)

1952, August 19 — About 10:00 p.m. Scoutmaster D[unham] S[anborn] "Sonny" DesVergers is driving with three scouts on the edge of the Everglades south of West Palm Beach, Florida, when he sees a light in a wild palmetto grove. The boys do not see it, so he drives on. Another boy admits he has seen a light in that direction too, so DesVergers returns to the spot and goes into the grove, telling the boys to stay in the car unless he is delayed. Soon all three boys see red lights flashing in the grove. This alarms them, and they go to a nearby house for help. They return to see DesVergers staggering out of the grove, incoherently saying he has been zapped into semiconsciousness by some kind of red flare coming from a hatch in a red ball of light. It burns his cap as well. An area of flattened and burned grass is found after the event. DesVergers has a reputation as a prankster and hopes to monetize his story somehow, but the scouts do corroborate his story and there are physical traces. Grass samples from the site sent to the Air Force show root damage extending 4 inches or more into the soil, suggesting overheating, possibly by microwave radiation. Karl Pflock thinks it is a hoax, but Jerry Clark isn't 100% sure. (NICAP, "Florida Scoutmaster Case"; "Attack by Flying Saucer Described by Scoutmaster," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News,* August 24, 1952, pp. 1A, 4A; "'Line Forms at Left' for That Saucer Yarn," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News,* August 25, 1952, p. 1A; "Boy Scout Wants New Saucer Hunt," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News,* August 26, 1952, p. 2A; "'Saucer' Witnesses Talking," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News,* August 27, 1952, pp. 1A, 8A; memo from D. J. Parsons to Harbo, "Unidentified Flying Object Allegedly Cited by Mr. D. S. DesVergers, West Palm Beach, Florida," August 29, 1952, [PURSUE release, p. 44]; [PURSUE release, pp. 47–49, 133, 175–177, 238–239]; Gray Barker, *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers,* University Books, 1956, pp. 70–75; Ruppelt, pp. 176–186; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 13–16; Story, pp. 128–131; Jenny Randles, *UFO Reality,* p. 143; Karl T. Pflock, "The Best Hoax in UFO History?" 1997; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 August, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2001, pp. 115–119; "The Scoutmaster's Tale," Saturday Night Uforia, March 27, 2013; Clark III 496–498; "Scoutmaster Sonny DesVergers Got Burned by a UFO: Encounter Remembered by Eyewitness Chuck Stevens," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 2023; Clark IV 545–546; Michael D. Swords, "Peeking into the Corners of 1952, Part Three," Center for UFO Studies, June 10, 2025)

1952, August 27 — 9:45 p.m. Giovanni Battista Sias watches a luminous sphere, slightly larger in apparent size than the full moon, with a green-blue color, silvery brightness, and metallic streaking on its right side, above Sassari, Sardinia, Italy. It moves from east to west for 3–5 seconds at high speed, intermittently disappearing and reappearing while leaving behind a narrow luminous trail or ribbon. (DOW-UAP-D157, [PURSUE release])

1952, September 2 — 7:30 a.m. Charles Walter Storm of 102 N. Garfield Street in Arlington, Virginia, notices on his backyard lawn a ring of an unknown gray substance adhering to the grass "in clusters of five globules." The ring is approximately 18 feet in diameter and 6 inches wide. It turns to a grayish-blue by mid-afternoon and purplish-gray by 5:00 p.m. The Air Force removes some samples and sends them to the FBI for analysis. ([PURSUE release, pp. 230–235])

1952, September 12 — Around 7:15 p.m., in Flatwoods, West Virginia, two brothers, Edward and Fred May, and their friend Tommy Hyer (ages 13, 12, and 10 respectively) witness a bright object cross the sky, coming to rest on land belonging to local farmer G. Bailey Fisher. The boys go to the home of the May brothers' mother, Kathleen May, where they tell the story of having seen a UFO crash land. From there, Mrs. May, accompanied by the three boys, local children Neil Nunley, 14, and Ronnie Shaver, 10, and West Virginia National Guardsman Eugene Lemon, 17, walk to the Fisher farm. At the top of a hill, they reportedly see a large pulsating "ball of fire" about 50 feet to their right. They also detect a pungent mist that makes their eyes and noses burn. Lemon then notices two small lights over to the left of the object, underneath a nearby oak tree and directs his flashlight towards them, revealing a creature, which May

reports as bounding towards them. Other sources describe it as emitting a shrill hissing noise before gliding towards them, changing direction and then heading off towards the red light. The group flees in panic. Sheriff Robert L. Carr and his deputy Burnell J. Long search the area separately, but find no trace of the encounter other than the smell. Early the next morning, A. Lee Stewart, co-owner of the *Braxton Democrat,* visits the site of the encounter for a second time and discovers two elongated tracks in the mud, as well as traces of a thick black liquid. It is later revealed that the tracks are likely those of a 1942 Chevrolet pickup truck driven by local Max Lockard, who had gone to the site to look for the creature some hours prior to Stewert's discovery. Ivan T. Sanderson interviews the witnesses several days later and concludes that a flight of "intelligently controlled objects flew over West Virginia." The Air Force concludes that people have seen a meteor and that the monster was only the glowing eyes of a barn owl. Joe Nickell also concludes in 2000 that the bright light in the sky reported by the witnesses on September 12 was most likely a meteor, that the pulsating red light is likely an aircraft navigation/hazard beacon, and that the creature described by witnesses closely resembles a barn owl. Nickell claims that the experience was distorted by the heightened state of anxiety felt by the witnesses after having observed the original meteor. However, Frank C. Feschino has done extensive research to support his hypothesis that the Flatwoods incident was only one small part of a major UFO display involving multiple objects (many of them reported as "meteors" or "balls of fire" or "flaming planes") passing in westerly and other directions across the eastern and southern United States between 6:50 and 7:25 p.m. The trajectory of one of these objects (moving first northwest then northeast then south) alone takes it over Baltimore, Catonsville, Frederick, Hagerstown, Cumberland, and Garrett County, Maryland; Preston County, Morgantown, Fairmont, Wheeling, Charleston, Parkersburg, Nitro, Ward, and Chelyan, West Virginia; Selma, Columbus, Zanesville, St. Clairsville, Ohio; it is last seen moving south around Bluefield, West Virginia. Another object is seen over Washington, D.C., heading due west towards West Virginia, apparently landing in Flatwoods. A third object travels southwest over Roanoke and Pulaski, Virginia, possibly landing near Arcadia, Tennessee. Feschino thinks that these three objects had been damaged by fire directed at them by Air Force interceptors. Five other objects are observed in North Carolina in that time period, and these Feschino suspects may have been attempting to look for and assist the damaged objects. He also speculates that the disappearance of an F-94 jet fighter out of Tyndall AFB in Panama City, Florida, piloted by 2Lt John A. Jones and radar operator 2Lt John S. DelCurto, might have involved a tragic UFO interception that began three hours earlier; the last known contact with the fighter is at 5:43 p.m. over the Gulf of Mexico 70 miles northwest of Tampa, the accident takes place under unusual circumstances, and the wreckage has never been found. Feschino thinks that a UFO damaged in dogfights with many interceptors over the Gulf might have triggered the second battle over the Atlantic seaboard around 7:00 p.m. Then a second wave of multiple objects is observed 8:00–8:10 p.m. in the Washington, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and West Virginia region that, according to Feschino, involves a search for a second downed UFO. Although Feschino jumps to many conclusions and his documentation for specific incidents and conditions is somewhat confusing, he may well have grasped more truth than the meteor-and-owl explanation of the skeptics. (Wikipedia, "Flatwoods Monster"; [PURSUE release, pp. 140–141, 149]; "Braxton Co. Residents Faint, Become Ill After Run-In With Weird 10-Foot Monster," *Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail,* September 14, 1952; "'Monster' Held Illusion Created by Meteor's Gas," *Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette,* September 23, 1952, p. 3; Gray Barker, "The Monster and the Saucer," *Fate* 6, no. 1 (January 1953): 12–17; "More on the 'Green Monster,'" *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Bulletin* 1, no. 2 (Winter 1953): 3; Gray Barker, "W.Va. 'Monster': A Full Report," *The Saucerian* 1, no. 1 (September 1953): 8–21; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 116–120; James Haught, "Martian or Mirage?" *Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette,* October 31, 1954, p. 50; George Snitowksy as told to Paul Lieb, "The West Virginia Monster," *Male,* July 1955, pp. 39, 78–79; Holt Byrne, "The Flatwoods Monster," *Beckley (W.Va.) Post Herald and the Raleigh Register,* September 11, 1955, p. 7; Gray Barker, *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers,* University Books, 1956, pp. 11–35; "Glowing Object Was Jet Ship," *Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette,* October 7, 1956; Terry Marchal, "Flatwoods Revisited," *Charleston (W.Va.) Sunday Gazette-Mail,* State Magazine, March 6, 1966, pp. 6M–7M; Holt Byrne, "The Phantom of Flatwoods," *Charleston (W.Va.) Sunday Gazette-Mail,* State Magazine, March 6, 1966, p. 8M,17M; Ivan T. Sanderson, *Uninvited Visitors,* Cowles, 1967, pp. 39–51; Adrian Gwin, "Was 'Monster' a Hoax—Are

UFOs for Real? Hmmmm, a Possibility," *Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail,* December 7, 1977; Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study, "The Braxton Democrat"; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October,* The Author, 1986, pp. 26–27, 31–34; Joe Nickell, "The Flatwoods UFO Monster," *Skeptical Inquirer* 24, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2000): 15–19, reprinted in *The Real X-Files,* University Press of Kentucky, 2001, pp. 301–311; Frank C. Feschino, *The Braxton County Monster: The Cover-Up of the Flatwoods Monster Revealed,* Quarrier Press, 2004; Shoot 112–313, 320–327; Lon D. Strickler, "The Flatwoods Monster, Braxton County, WV, Sept. 1952," Phantoms and Monsters, March 10, 2010; "Here There Be Monsters," Saturday Night Uforia, 2011; Michael D. Swords, "Peeking at Ivan's SITU Files: The Flatwoods Monster," The Big Study, April 11, 2011; "The Flatwoods Monster Case: Ivan Sanderson's 1953 Report, Free Movie," ParanormalX YouTube channel, April 18, 2012; "Flatwoods, WV CE-III – Dr. Ivan Sanderson," Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Ryan Haupt, "The Braxton County Monster," Skeptoid podcast, September 30, 2014; Tony Breeden, "The Flatwoods Monster: The First Close Encounter of the Third Kind?" Creation Exotheology, September 12, 2017; Terence E. Hanley, "Barker and Bender on the Case, Part Two," Tellers of Weird Tales, December 10, 2017; Terence E. Hanley, "Barker and Bender on the Case, Part Four," Tellers of Weird Tales, December 10, 2017; Clark III 494–495; David White, "Worse Than Frankenstein: The Story of West Virginia's Second-Most-Famous Monster," The Ancient and Esoteric Order of the Jackalope, October 31, 2022; "'Flatwoods Monster' Witnessed after 1952 UFO Landing Discussed by Ivan Sanderson & Stanton Friedman," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, November 14, 2023; Clark IV 542–544; Mckee, *Saucerian,* pp. 28–30, 37; Frank C. Feschino Jr., *The Flatwoods Monster: From Myth to Reality,* The Author, 2025; Michael D. Swords, "Peeking into the Corners of 1952, Part Six," Center for UFO Studies, August 19, 2025)

1952, September 20 — Naval personnel on the US aircraft carrier USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* in the North Sea observe a silvery sphere moving across the sky behind the fleet. Photographer Wallace Litwin takes three color photos that are developed and examined by naval intelligence officers. Ruppelt says they "turned out to be excellent … judging by the size of the object in each successive photo, one could see that it was moving rapidly." No balloon has been launched. (NICAP, "Object Photographed during Operation Mainbrace"; [PURSUE release, p. 96]; Ruppelt, pp. 195–196; UFOEv, p. 162; "In the News 1952," Saturday Night Uforia, 2013)

1952, October 13 — James Q. Reber, assistant director of CIA intelligence coordination, writes a memo to the CIA deputy director of intelligence, arguing that fundamental research into the question of positive identification is the responsibility of the Defense Department and that while investigating Soviet knowledge of UFO phenomena is a "primary concern" for the CIA, it "is far too early in view of the present state of our knowledge regarding Flying Saucers for psychological warfare planners to start planning how the United States might use U.S. Flying Saucers against the enemy." Reber goes on to recommend that when "intelligence has submitted the National Estimate on Flying Saucers there will be the time and basis for a public policy to reduce or restrain mass hysteria." (James Q. Reber, "Flying Saucers," October 13, 1952, [PURSUE release, pp. 38–42]; CUFON, "The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts," May 17, 1996)

1952, October 20 — Brig. Gen. Alfred R. Maxwell of the Research and Development Board meets with Maj. Gen. John A. Samford and others about radar "phantoms" and the likelihood that anomalous radar propagation is responsible for some flying saucer sightings. (Brig. Gen. Alfred R. Maxwell, "Radar Phantoms," to Chairman, Research and Development Board, November 4, 1952, [PURSUE release, p. 37])

1952, October 27 — An FBI memorandum to Alan H. Belmont from Victor P. Keay reports that "Air Intelligence still feels that the so-called flying saucers are either optical illusions or atmospheric phenomena. He pointed out, however, that some Military officials are seriously considering the possibility of interplanetary ships." (Memo from V. P. Keay to A. H. Belmont, "Flying Saucers," October 27, 1952, [PURSUE release, pp. 94–96])

1952, December 4 —The CIA Intelligence Advisory Committee recommends that "the Director of Central Intelligence will 'enlist the services of selected scientists to review and appraise the available evidence in the light of pertinent scientific theories.'" The meeting, chaired by Chadwell, is attended by Robert

Amory Jr., Gen. John Samford, Rear Admiral Carl F. Espe, Gen. John M. Willems, William Park Armstrong, Walter F. Colby, Col. Edward R. Porter, and Col. Jere Boggs. This is to be done "immediately" through a National Security Council Intelligence Directive and is essentially the go-ahead for what will be the Robertson Panel. (Robert Amory Jr., "Intelligence Advisory Committee: Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's Conference Room, Administration Building, Central Intelligence Agency, on 4 December 1952," December 4, 1952; memo from V. P. Keay to A. H. Belmont, "Proposed Study on the 'Flying Saucers' Phenomena; Intelligence Advisory Committee," December 5 and 23, 1952, [PURSUE release, pp. 103–104]; CUFON, "The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts," May 17, 1996; *Hynek UFO Report,* p. 20; Swords 184, 186–187; Clark III 1013; Clark IV 1127)

1953, January 17 — The final day of the Robertson Panel. The panel reviews Robertson's draft report (Berkner has already seen it) and puts it into final form. (By 11:00 a.m., both CIA Director Walter Bedell Smith and Gen. John A. Samford have seen and approved the draft.) The scientists agree that since most sightings can be explained, the rest can be accounted for with further investigation, which is a "great waste of effort." They reject Fournet's UFO reports as "raw" and "unevaluated." The Montana film is said to depict aircraft. They reject the Navy analysis of the Utah film, calling the objects "high reflectivity of seagulls in bright sunlight." Because the "mass receipt of low-grade reports [tends] to overload channels of communication with material quite irrelevant to hostile objects that might some day appear" (a phony issue invented by Thornton Page), the Air Force should embark on a debunking campaign that would "result in reduction of public interest in flying saucers" with the help of scientific pronouncements (suggested by Hynek) and media, including Walt Disney Inc. animated cartoons. Blue Book should be expanded to 18 staff members (it has 5) so that it can educate and debunk effectively, but this never happens. Civilian UFO groups such as CSI and APRO should be watched "because of their potentially great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur. The apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind." The panel and report are kept classified until a brief summary is declassified in 1958, and the CIA's involvement is kept secret until 1966. ("Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects," January 17, 1953, [PURSUE release, pp. 8–13; PURSUE release; PURSUE release, pp. 44–77]; James Q. Reber, "Intelligence Advisory Committee, Unidentified Flying Objects," February 18, 1953, [PURSUE release, p. 14]; Frederick C. Durant, "Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects, January 14–18, 1953," memorandum for Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, February 16, 1953, [PURSUE release, pp. 15–34]; "CIA Evades, Then Denies Charge of Attempted UFO Censorship," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 4 (June 1958): 4; "1953 CIA Report Debunks UFOs and the Public," *UFO Investigator* 3, no. 10 (Oct./Nov. 1966): 3; Michael D. Swords, "Dr. Robertson Requests the Honor of Your Attendance," *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 16–20; Swords 192–200; Clark III 1014–1016; John Greenewald, "The Robertson Panel, the Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects Convened by the CIA," The Black Vault, August 8, 2023; Graff 89–93; Eghigian, *After,* pp. 72–74; Clark IV 1129–1131)

1953, February 10 — 10:10 a.m. A Mrs. Wiskerken sees a large silver object high above Naval Station Puget Sound [now Magnuson Park] on Sand Point, Seattle, Washington. It fades away to the north after 2 minutes. Another witness, Kathleen Carter, had seen a similar object the previous day at 3:08 p.m. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 10])

1953, April 8 — 11:30 a.m. Five persons at US Army Fort Buchanan in San Juan, Puerto Rico, observe a fireball moving rapidly above the base. (FBI San Juan to Director FBI, "Unidentified Flying Object Observed," April 28, 1953, [PURSUE release, p. 142])

1953, July 7 — Evening. An Atlanta, Georgia, barber named Edward Watters buys a monkey from a pet shop, shaves and kills it, cuts off its tail, then takes it with two friends, Tom Wilson and Arnold Payne, to US Highway 78 near Leland [now part of Mableton], Georgia, and waits for the first car to stop. They tell the driver, who turns out to be Cobb County policeman Sherley Brown, that they had seen a flying saucer and accidentally killed one of its occupants. They bring the dead animal to the *Atlanta Constitution* office, where reporter Thomas McRae notifies the FBI, which alerts the Air Force at Dobbins AFB [now Dobbins Air Reserve Base] in Marietta. The animal is taken to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta,

where Anatomy Professor Marion Hines identifies it properly as a shaved Capuchin monkey. Watters admits the hoax and is fined $40 by a judge. (Wikipedia, "Martian Monkey"; [PURSUE release, pp. 154–163]; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1953, March–July,* The Author, 1989, pp. 96–102; "Monkey from Mars Graces Ga. Crime Lab Display," NBC News, July 29, 2008; Clark III 593; Clark IV 653; "The Notorious and Cruel 1953 Mableton UFO Hoax," *Cobb County (Ga.) Courier,* August 27, 2025)

1953, July 14 — Around 7:00 p.m. Robert Lee sees a large object, 100–200 feet long, high in the air above the East Passage of Puget Sound near Vashon Island, Washington. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 19])

1953, July 15 — 2:30 p.m. Robert T. Jaske and some friends are in Richland, Washington, looking at high-flying birds through a 30x telescope when they notice another object that looks like a glimmering white helicopter with stationary rotors. It hovers long enough for him to draw a sketch of it, then moves off at high speed to the east and disappears in 10 seconds. The 5th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group at the Hanford Works had released a weather balloon that day, so that is the probable explanation. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, pp. 11–18])

1953, August 10–11 — 8:36 p.m. The pilot of a British European Airways DC-3 aircraft observes red-colored rockets being fired about one mile ahead while inbound to Templehof Airport in Berlin, Germany, along the Center Corridor. At 11:45 p.m., the pilot of a second DC-3 notices a stationary, red-colored light approximately 23 miles west of Genthin, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, at an altitude of 5,000 feet. Around 12:15 a.m., Soviet authorities investigate the red light and cannot account for it. At 3:35 a.m., a Pan American Airways pilot can see no lights or activity when passing through the same area. ("Air Intelligence Information Report, Germany, 1953," DOW-UAP-D159, [PURSUE release])

1953, October 7 — 11:25 p.m. Raleigh Iyapenna, 14, a resident of Little Diomede Island, in the Bering Strait, Alaska, observes a light on the southern tip of Big Diomede Island, which belongs to Russia and houses a military base. The light persists for several seconds and appears to come from a large spotlight. (DOW-UAP-D161, [PURSUE release])

1953, November 8 — 7:15 p.m. Three USAF service members at the airport in Prince George, British Columbia, watch a round, blinking white light with a blue hue. It descends to an altitude of 150 feet, hovers for 30 seconds, then ascends and moves away to the west. (DOW-UAP-D158, [PURSUE release])

1953, November 16 — 5:05 p.m. A single witness on Santa Catalina Island, California, sees a round, purplish-white object that moves slowly northwest for about 10 minutes. Possibly Jupiter. (DOW-UAP-D178, [PURSUE release])

1953, December 1 — 12:10 a.m. Clifford Iknokinok, an Alaska National Guard sergeant residing at Gambell on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Strait, Alaska, observes a stationary light on the western horizon for approximately 5 minutes. It appears similar in color to a flashlight and disappears by blinking out. (DOW-UAP-D162, [PURSUE release])

1953, mid-December — 6:02 p.m. Hiram Jones and his wife Gladys are driving east near Seymour, Indiana, when they notice a "brilliant moving light" and two large, white, cloudy objects descending in a staggered formation. Each object contains four equidistant points of bright light, rotating slowly clockwise, and emits a bluish-white vapor trail. The objects hover before taking off at an abrupt angle to the southwest. The objects are visible intermittently for 5–6 minutes. (DOW-UAP-D164, [PURSUE release])

1953, December 16 — 5:54 p.m. Personnel of the USAF 737th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron stationed at Saidia, Morocco, detect an unidentified radar return above the Mediterranean Sea that varies in shape between "V," "W," and "M" configurations and fades after several minutes of observation. Electronics personnel in the 316th Air Division believe the return is caused by anomalous propagation, ship-borne radar jamming, or geese or storks in flight. (DOW-UAP-D160, [PURSUE release])

1953, December 17 — A memo from Todos M. Odarenko, chief of the CIA/OSI physics and electronics division, condescendingly reviews the status of various government UFO efforts. (Todos M. Odarenko, "Current Status of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOB) Project," December 17, 1953, [PURSUE release])

1953, December 17 — 2:37 p.m. While flying a Transair Sweden DC-3 in the vicinity of Hässleholm, Skåne, Sweden, pilot Ulf Christiernsson and flight mechanic Olle Johansson encounter an "entirely unorthodox, metallic, symmetric, round object" closing in on their aircraft for about 10 seconds. It passes about 1,970 feet under the DC-3 at an altitude of 7,055 feet. Air Force Gen. Bengt Nordenskiöld calls in reports from all relevant Swedish radar stations to identify the object, and the Defence Research Institute spends many

hours reconstructing the event. However, the owner of a local perfume company confessed in late December to releasing 300 hydrogen-filled balloons south of Hässleholm as an advertising promotion around 12:30 p.m. that day. (DOW-UAP-D163, [PURSUE release]; Sparks, p. 212; "Swedish Pilot Spots Mystery Object above Clouds; Called 'Russ Robot,'" *Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram,* December 18, 1953, p. A-9; "'Saucer Is Sighted in Skies of Sweden," *Buffalo (N.Y.) News,* December 18, 1953, p. 7; UFOEv, p. 121; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1953 August–December,* The Author, 1990, p. 69; Swords 365)

1953, December 30 — 9:05 p.m. Pfc Norman Viets, on guard duty at the tank park in Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, watches a blinking red light about 18 inches in diameter moving slowly over a tree line about 200 feet away. It soon drops down out of sight. Fifteen minutes later it is seen again, rising up and floating toward the tank shed. Viet says it is completely soundless. At 10:15 p.m. it returns, also witnessed by Sgt. Francis R. Salinder, who alerts the base and a combat team searches the area. At midnight, a red light appears above the search area, spooking a guard. ("Mystery 'Flying Object' Lands near Quantico, Say Sentries," *Washington (D.C.) Post,* January 4, 1954, [PURSUE release, p. 34]; "Marines Chase Flying Object with 'Copter," *Washington (D.C.) Post,* January 4, 1954; Evert Clark, "Are They Hiding Those Lights under a Bushel?" *Washington (D.C.) Daily News,* January 5, 1954, p. 3; "Marines Decide 'Objects' Are New Airliner Lights," *Washington (D.C.) Post,* January 5, 1954, [PURSUE release, p. 33]; "Attempted Landing at Quantico," *APRO Bulletin* 2, no. 4 (January 15, 1954): 1; John C. Ross, "The Lights That Failed," *Fate*, May 1954, p. 39; Wilkins, *FS Uncensored,* Citadel, 1955, p. 202; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy,* pp. 89–91; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December,* The Author, 1990, p. 75; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May,* The Author, 1990, pp. 1, 3)

1954, March 28 — Following the success of *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, George Adamski gives a talk to the Detroit Flying Saucer Club at the Masonic Temple in Detroit, Michigan, which draws 4,700 people. Chicago-area contactee John Otto meets Charles and Lilian Laughead at the talk and tells them about the space messages from Sananda channeled by Dorothy Martin of Oak Park, Illinois. (FBI Detroit to Director FBI, "Detroit Flying Saucer Club, Espionage - X," November 30, 1954, [PURSUE release, pp. 67–74]; Bryant and Helen Reeve, *Flying Saucer Pilgrimage,* Amherst Press, 1957, pp. 14–16; Clark III 717; "Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame," The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019; Eghigian, *After,* pp. 120–121; Clark IV 786)

1954, April 8 — 4:30–5:00 p.m. Lelah H. Stoker of 3121 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois, sees a brilliant white round-topped disc, parachute-shaped, with a humanoid suspended beneath it, skim back and forth over the water of Lake Michigan. Stoker calls the Coast Guard. A cutter appears after 10 minutes, then the UFO approaches the shore. Stoker sees a short human-like occupant in a green, tight, one-piece suit suspended below the object. It gets out in undergrowth along the shore then walks around. When the cutter gives up searching, the occupant returns to the object which moves back over the lake then takes off at high speed to the east. (NICAP, "Lady Observes Saucer / Small Entity Gets Out"; Sparks, p. 217; [PURSUE release, pp. 4–5]; Ted Bloecher, "A Humanoid Report from Chicago, Illinois," *MUFON UFO Journal,* no. 159 (May 1981): 9–14; Clark III 270; Clark IV 310–311)

1954, May 26 — Contactee Frances Swan of Eliot, Maine, has managed to impress her next-door neighbor, retired Rear Adm. Herbert B. Knowles, sufficiently for him to write Rear Adm. Carl F. Espe, head of the Office of Naval Intelligence, about her contacts with the space people. He encloses some of Affa's transcribed messages and suggests that the Office of Naval Intelligence try to communicate with Affa through Band CMM-306, repeating the signal M4M4 AFFA. (FBI Washington to Director FBI, "Mrs. Frances Swan," August 2, 1954, [PURSUE release, pp. 12–21]; Randall Fitzgerald, "Messages: The Case History of a Contactee," *Second Look* 1, no. 12 (October 1979): 12–18, 28–29; Clark III 1118; Clark IV 1244)

1954, June 2 — A fisherman named Phillips is casting lines in Sardis Lake, Mississippi, when he sees an unusual object descending from the sky. The object is small and seems to be emitting a blue flame. It falls into the water near his boat with a splash, then floats briefly with steam rising around it before disappearing into the lake, which is about 9 feet deep at that location. The US Army Corps of Engineers searches for the

object on June 13–14 but cannot find it. Engineers keep checking the lake weekly as the water level drops. On September 20, reservoir staff spot the object resting on the lakebed. It is a plastic case measuring about 4 by 10 by 8 inches. The case has a parachute harness attached and contains metal radio tubes and wires. Engineers bring it to the Sardis Dam field office, where Captain Virgil Kuns from the nearby Greenville Air Force Base examines it. Kuns and other Air Force officials identify it as a Signal Corps radio transmitting device, a type of equipment dropped from military cargo planes to mark the spots where paratroopers are supposed to jump. The apparatus sends out a weak radio signal that the aircraft can pick up. Air Force officials conclude that the transmitter probably fell from a plane by accident. A similar object is found on December 8, 1954, that is labeled a US Signal Corps radiosonde device. ("Strange Object May Be Portion of Data Balloon," *Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal,* September 22, 1954, p. 1; "Sardis Lake, Mississippi, June 1954," Gov Weird case file; [PURSUE release, pp. 86–99])

1954, June 6 — 11:35 p.m. Gail Peck sees two white, half-moon shaped objects at about 1,000 feet altitude slightly north of Pasco, Washington. One object forms into a large fireball, while the other forms into two fireballs. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, pp. 22, 25])

1954, June 7–8 — PIO Capt. Robert White at the Pentagon repeats the 87 reports statistic from June 1 and counters that reports are at a three-year-low because of less publicity. Stringfield's colleague, Cincinnati, Ohio, businessman Thomas Eickhoff, storms into the office of ATIC Deputy Commander of Intelligence Col. John O'Mara and demands that ATIC press legal action against contactees Truman Bethurum, George Adamski, and George Hunt Williamson. O'Mara replies that these people are obvious hoaxers and need no special action. But he lets slip that USAF fighters regularly carry movie cameras to take photos of UFOs. Eickhoff says that is a big waste of money if there is nothing to UFOs. O'Mara then states to Stringfield the next day that the Air Force actually receives 700 UFO reports a week, the 87 figure only applies to cases under "special analysis," over 1,000 leading scientists are working on government UFO projects, the material used by Keyhoe in his book was not cleared through official channels, and the Utah film exists but only shows conventional objects. (Memo from FBI Cincinnati to Director FBI, "Truman Bethurum; Flying Discs, Information Concerning," June 8, 1954, [PURSUE release, pp. 192–198; PURSUE release, pp. 3–10]; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy,* pp. 157–160; "700 'Saucer' Sightings Weekly Reported to Air Force," *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (July 2, 1954): 1; "Proof of Air Force Cover-Up," *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (July 2, 1954): 1–2; Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business,* Bantam ed., 1966, pp. 137–138; Frank Edwards, *Flying Saucers—Here and Now!* Lyle Stuart, 1967, p. 86; Stringfield, *Situation Red,* Fawcett Crest, 1977, pp. 85, 167–168; Powell, *Keyhoe,* 142)

1954, June 22 — 7:45 p.m. Radar at Makah Air Force Station, Neah Bay, Washington, picks up an unidentified target 38–40 miles to the southwest at an altitude of 1,500–2,000 feet. By 8:14 p.m., it is over central Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and responds to coded IFF Mode 1 signals from the Naselle Air Force Station radar site [now Fort Stevens Historic Site] in southwestern Washington State and instantly transmits back the correct coded responses. The blip is tracked on 3 ground radars at both Naselle and McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] in Tacoma. The UFO splits into two (or consists of two objects in close formation), separates, and outmaneuvers one of two F-86D jet interceptors (flown by 2Lt Edward E. McBride and 2Lt Hilson L. Sewell), both of which also radar-track the UFOs. Possible visual sightings of the radar target are called in to sheriff's offices and news media. The case is forwarded to Project Blue Book, but it does not appear in its files. (NICAP, "Coded IFF Signal from UFO"; Sparks, p. 221; FBI case file, [PURSUE release, pp. 30–33])

1954, July 24–25 — A security officer at the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics develops a personal interest in the Frances Swan contact case and accepts Rear Adm. Knowles's invitation to Eliot, Maine, to visit with Swan. On his return, he gives the FBI a report on his visit. On July 29 an FBI agent interviews him, and on August 9 J. Edgar Hoover sends an account of the interview to Rear Adm. Carl F. Espe and to the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. Hoover writes, "No further action is being taken in this matter by this Bureau." (FBI Washington to Director FBI, "Mrs. Frances Swan," August 2, 1954, [PURSUE release, pp. 12–21]; Randall Fitzgerald, "Messages: The Case History of a Contactee," *Second Look* 1, no. 12 (October 1979): 12–18, 28–29; Clark III 1118; Clark IV 1244)

1954, July 28 — Wilbert B. Smith, at the invitation of retired Navy Rear Adm. Herbert B. Knowles, visits contactee Frances Swan in Eliot, Maine, his neighbor. Her two space friends, Affa and Alomar, direct Swan's hand to draw a series of circles demonstrating the use of magnetic fields in spacecraft propulsion. Smith asks the aliens to communicate by radio at an appointed time a few days later, but the message does not come through. Nevertheless, Smith attempts to decipher the alien charts in hopes of learning how to build a saucer for Canada. (FBI Washington to Director FBI, "Mrs. Frances Swan," August 2, 1954, [PURSUE release, pp. 12–21]; Randall Fitzgerald, "Messages: The Case History of a Contactee," *Second Look* 1, no. 12 (October 1979): 12–18, 28–29; Clark III 1079–1080; Clark IV 1195–1196)

1954, August 30 — Contactee Dorothy Martin of Oak Park, Illinois, and Charles and Lilian Laughead of Michigan send out a 7-page press release announcing that a geological disaster will cause great environmental changes in North America and Europe. It warns that December 20 will be the last available date for evacuation, as a great flood will strike on December 21. Martin and her followers hope to board a landed flying saucer before doom falls. (FBI Detroit to Director FBI, "Detroit Flying Saucer Club, Espionage - X," November 30, 1954, [PURSUE release, pp. 67–74]; "The End of the World," *The Saucerian* 3, no. 2 (Spring 1955): 4–7, 55–60; Leon Festinger, Henry Riecken, and Stanley Schachter, *When Prophecy Fails,* University of Minnesota, 1956; Wikipedia, "*When Prophecy Fails*"; Julie Beck, "The Christmas the Aliens Didn't Come," *The Atlantic,* December 18, 2015; Clark III 718; Clark IV 786)

1954, September 21 — Leonard Stringfield has a private talk for 26 minutes with Lt. Col. John O'Mara, USAF Deputy Commander for Intelligence, who tells him that flying saucers do exist—three types, actually: a craft from outer space, a secret US aircraft, and unexplained natural phenomena. ("'Saucers' No Myth, Say Researcher," *Cincinnati (Ohio) Times Star,* September 28, 1954, p. 25, [PURSUE release, pp. 49, 55–57]; Leonard Stringfield, "Private Talk with Lt. Colonel John O'Mara, Deputy Commander, Intelligence, Confirms the Existence of 'Flying Saucers,'" *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 7 (October 1, 1954): 1; Powell, *Keyhoe,* 143)

1954, October 15 — Afternoon. Farmers near the Po della Donzella river channel, Veneto, Italy, see a disc-shaped object land then take off vertically. At the site is a deep crater about 18 feet in diameter. Poplar trees are partially burned. ("Po Villagers See 'Saucer' Landing," *Rome Daily American,* October 17, 1954, [PURSUE release, p. 61]; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line,* p. 181)

1954, November 10 — 10:25 p.m. E. H. Whitson of Seattle, Washington, sees two bright white objects traveling to the northeast at a high rate of speed, one behind the other. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 37])

1954, November 30 — 12:46 p.m. A grapefruit-sized meteorite crashes through the roof of a farm house in Oak Grove, Alabama (near Sylacauga), bounces off a large wooden console radio, and strikes Ann Elizabeth Fowler Hodges while she is napping on a couch. The 34-year-old woman is badly bruised on one side of her body, but is able to walk and take photos showing the fresh wound. The meteorite produces a fireball visible from three American states as it streaks through the atmosphere. There are also indications of an air blast, as witnesses describe hearing "explosions or loud booms." The meteorite is confiscated by the Sylacauga police chief, who then turns it over to the United States Air Force. (Wikipedia, "Sylacauga (meteorite)"; [PURSUE release, pp. 1–5])

1954, December 2 — Keyhoe writes to the Office of Naval Research asking for information on the Tremonton film, naval cases in general, and whether the navy considers UFOs to be a national security risk. (Letter from Donald E. Keyhoe to Lt. Cdr. Frank Thomas, December 2, 1954, [PURSUE release, pp. 34–37]; letter from Capt. L. D. Coates to Donald E. Keyhoe, January 24, 1955, [PURSUE release, pp. 31–33])

1955, February 8 — Rear Admiral Frederick R. Furth of the Office of Naval Research writes to the USAF Director of Intelligence requesting an informal briefing on its current investigation into "reliable reports" of UFOs. No reply is sent, but a briefing is held on March 2 at ATIC. ([PURSUE release, p. 55])

1955, March 15 — 2:31 p.m. Paul J. Carr sees a bright orange object, about the size of a nickel at arm's length, at Avalon on Santa Catalina Island, California. It descends in 2 seconds and changes from orange to red. Probable meteor. (DOW-UAP-D177, [PURSUE release])

1955, May 5 — ATIC declassifies Battelle Memorial Institute's 1951–1954 study of UFOs, completed in March 1954 (or later), as *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14* but does not release it until October 25.

(*Special Report No. 14: Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Aerial Objects*, US Air Force, May 5, 1955, [PURSUE release]; Clark III 929–932; Clark IV 1039–1042)

1955, June 3 — The Canadian Department of External Affairs informs the Continental Air Defense Command headquarters at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado that US military and civilian aircraft flying in Canadian airspace can report UFO sightings by radio to an RCAF ground station or other nearby radar station. The measure will hold until an RCAF-USAF working group develops more detailed procedures, which does not really happen until February 1959. (Memo from AFOIN-1A to Commander-in-Chief, Continental Air Defense Command, "CIRVIS Reports over Canadian Territory," June 3, 1955, [PURSUE release, pp. 126, 139]; "Draft of Proposed Combined CIRVIS," August 3, 1955, [PURSUE release, p. 142]; "AFOIN Comments on Proposed Revision to CIRVIS," August 23, 1955 [PURSUE release, pp. 145–146]; memo, Continental Air Defense Command to USAF Director of Intelligence, "Reporting of Intelligence Sightings by Friendly Nations," September 16, 1955, [PURSUE release, p. 214]; memo, October 10, 1955 [PURSUE release, p. 213])

1955, June 30 — The 4602nd AISS reports that of its 194 preliminary UFO reports for 1955, it has made 23 field investigations and has 25 unsolved reports, or an unknown rate of 13%. Going back to August 12, 1954, and removing cases of insufficient evidence, the percentage of unknowns is lower: 23 unknowns from 306 reports, or about 7.5%. In reality, however, none of these numbers mean much; they reflect the creativity and audacity of the explainers at ADC and ATIC. For the same period (July 1, 1954–June 30, 1955), Project Blue Book's summary claims 430 UFO reports, with a total of 21 (5%) classified as unknown. ([PURSUE release, pp. 137–138])

1955, July 5 — 3:00 a.m. USAF pilot Lt. Homer H. Speer Jr. and copilot Lt. Paul Daily, call sign Archie 29, and pilot Lt. Robert W. Schneck and copilot Lt. David Cueldner, call sign Archie 91, are flying Boeing KC-97 Stratofreighters at 20,000 feet on a refueling mission off the coast of Newfoundland. They see two bright objects at 20,000 feet, apparently stationary. Ground radar picks up several objects, some in a distant cluster flying erratically. Speer is able to maintain visual contact, calling direction change of the object to the radar site by radio. The objects are tracked on radar for 49 minutes. (NICAP, "Archie 29 KC-97 Radar Case"; Sparks, pp. 235–236; [PURSUE release, pp. 35–57]; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report,* Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 296–297; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified,* August Night, 2022, pp. 263–264)

1955, August 9 — 5:00–6:00 p.m. Edith B. Burton sees a silvery domed disk moving from east to west for 20–30 seconds near her home in Chase, British Columbia. She estimates it is flying at 8,000–10,000 feet. ([PURSUE release, pp. 179–180])

1955, September 6 — 7:25 p.m. Colonial Airlines Flight 14 is cruising at 5,000 feet several miles north of Poughkeepsie, New York, when Capt. F. W. Cushing and First Officer A. J. Schecht notice an object with a blue-white exhaust flame about one mile directly ahead and 1,000 feet higher. Within 3 seconds, the object moves to their left, emitting sparks and explodes with a blinding flash. Two other flights also witness the flash. ([PURSUE release, pp. 182–195])

1955, October 4 — 7:10 p.m. Senator Richard B. Russell Jr. (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, on a trip to the USSR, is on a Soviet train near Baku, Azerbaijan, when he spots a disc-shaped craft taking off near the tracks. Russell sees the "first flying disc ascend and pass over the train" and goes "rushing in to get Mr. Efron [Reuben Efron, his interpreter] and Col. Hathaway [Col. E. U. Hathaway, his aide] to see it," the report says. "Col. Hathaway stated that he got to the window with the Senator in time to see the first [UFO], while Mr. Efron said that he got only a short glimpse of the first. However, all three saw the second disc and all agreed that they saw the same round, disc-shaped craft…as the first." A fourth witness is unidentified. "One disc ascended almost vertically, at a relatively slow speed, with its outer surface revolving slowly to the right, to an altitude of about 6,000 feet, where its speed then increased sharply as it headed north," the report states. "The second flying disc was seen performing the same actions about one minute later. The take-off area was about 1–2 miles south of the rail line." The Air Force report is written by Lieut. Col. Thomas Ryan, who interviews Russell's companions in Prague, Czechoslovakia [now Czech Republic], on October 13, after they arrive there from Russia shortly after the sighting. The report remains Top Secret until April 30, 1959, and Secret until March 1985 when Stanton Friedman manages to get it declassified following a FOIA request. (NICAP,

"Senator Russell Observes UFO from Train"; Sparks, p. 238; Air Intelligence Information Report, October 14, 1955, [PURSUE release]; "Reported Sighting of Unusual Aircraft in USSR," CIA *Current Intelligence Bulletin,* October 15, 1955, pp. 3–4; Robert Scoville Jr., "Sightings of Flying Saucers or Unconventional Aircraft," memo to Director of Central Intelligence, October 18, 1955, [PURSUE release]; Robert Scoville Jr., "Sightings of Flying Saucers or Unconventional Aircraft," memo to Director of Central Intelligence, October 31, 1955, [PURSUE release]; CIA Information Report, "Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft," November 15, 1955, [PURSUE release]; FBI correspondence, [PURSUE release, pp. 119–126]; Tom Towers, "About 'Saucers' and Sen. Russell's Letter," *Los Angeles Examiner,* January 20, 1957; Tom Towers, "Flying Saucers and Senator Russell," *Saucers* 5, no. 1 (Spring 1957): 2–3; "The Senator Russell Letter Revealed," *APRO Bulletin,* January 1957, p. 1; Dan Schwartz, "Top U.S. Senator Saw Two UFOs," *National Enquirer,* February 11, 1986, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 11, no. 2 (February 1986): 22–23; Good Above, pp. 224–226; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 September 16th–December 31st,* The Author, 1993, pp. 19–24; Joel Carpenter, "The Senator, the Saucer, and *Special Report* 14," *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 3–7; Swords 227–228; Clark III 1049–1050; John Greenewald, "Declassified Top Secret CIA Memo Reveals Senator's 'Saucer-Like' Craft Sighting in 1955," The Black Vault, July 11, 2023; Clark IV 1164–1165)

1955, October 25 — *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14* is released, months after it is completed by analysts at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, using cases supplied by the Air Force and tabulated on IBM punch cards. The original report by Battelle is about 300 pages, but the Air Force distills this down to 100. It is accompanied by a press release in which Secretary of the Air Force Donald A. Quarles states: "On the basis of this study we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflown the United States." (At the same time, Quarles states that the Air Force is working on radical new aircraft that "are sure to be mistaken for flying saucers.") Only 100 copies are printed initially, but scientist Leon Davidson prints and sells copies of it beginning in 1956, along with his analysis and commentary. The report includes 3,201 reported UFO sightings. Battelle employs four scientific analysts, who divide cases into knowns, unknowns, and a third category of insufficient information. They also break down knowns and unknowns into four categories of quality, from excellent to poor. For a case to be called identified, two analysts must independently agree on a solution; for a case to be called unidentified, all four analysts must agree. A report classified as unidentified is defined as: "Those reports of sightings wherein the description of the object and its maneuvers could not be fitted to the pattern of any known object or phenomenon." Out of 3,201 cases, 69% are judged to be identified, 22% are unidentified, and 9% have insufficient information to make a determination. The report further breaks these results down based on whether the identification is considered certain or merely doubtful. For example, in both the astronomical and aircraft IFO categories, 12% are considered certain and 9% are doubtful. Overall, of the 69% listed as IFOs, 42% are thought to be solved with certainty, while 27% are still considered doubtful. In addition, if a case is lacking in adequate data, it is placed in the insufficient information category, separate from both IFOs and UFOs. A key feature is to statistically compare IFOs and UFOs by six characteristics: color, number of objects, shape, duration, speed, and brightness. If there are no significant differences, the two classes are probably the same, the UFOs then representing merely a failure to properly identify prosaic phenomena that can already account for IFOs. On the other hand, if the differences are statistically significant, this suggests IFOs and UFOs are indeed distinctly different phenomena. In the initial results, all characteristics except brightness test significant at less or much less than 1% (brightness is greater than 5%). By removing astronomical sightings from the knowns and redoing the test, just two categories, number and speed, are significant at less than 1%, the remainder having results between 3% and 5%. This indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the characteristics ascribed to UFOs and IFOs, but perhaps not as significant as the initial results suggested. For two characteristics, brightness and speed, the significance actually increases with the revised test. Hynek later calls the Battelle report a "shamefully biased interpretation of statistics to support a preconceived notion." Keyhoe asks Ruppelt what he thinks. Ruppelt says the report "was a shock to me. I was the one that had the IBM system tried out. It didn't prove a thing, and I had written it off as worthless before I left the project… also this report was drawn up in 1953, yet the Air Force released it as the latest hot dope in October, 1955." The Air Force releases a second edition, with a new

preface and an addendum that brings the subject up to date, in July 1957. In the 1990s, after interviewing three men (Art Westerman, Perry Rieppel, and William T. Reid) who had participated in the Battelle project, Mark Rodeghier and Jennie Zeidman of the Center for UFO Studies conclude that the engineering mindset at Battelle had caused a disconnect between its data and its conclusions. Because the project cannot reverse engineer a UFO from the reports (because of faulty witness testimony, multicausal UFOs, etc.), the engineers conclude that a structured craft does not exist. (Wikipedia, "Identification studies of UFOs"; Wikipedia, "Project Blue Book"; Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, memo to A. F. Arcier, "UFOB Program," September 20, 1955, [PURSUE release, p. 197]; Letter, Col. Maurice A. Berry to Lt. Col. Paul N. Harlow, September 29, 1955, [PURSUE release, pp. 211–212]; US Air Force Air Technical Intelligence Center, *Special Report No. 14; Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects,* May 5, 1955, [PURSUE release]; "Plan Radical New Aircraft," *Franklin (Pa.) News-Herald,* October 26, 1955, p. 1; "AF to Send Aloft Saucer-Like, Radical Aircraft Any Time Now," *Nashville (Tenn.) Banner,* October 26, 1955, p. 18; Keyhoe, FSTS, p. 77; Jacqueline Sanders, "'Twas Brillig, or a Feminine Viewpoint on Project Bluebook Special Report," in Gray Barker, ed., *The Saucerian Review,* The Author, 1956, pp. 34–49; Leon Davidson, *Flying Saucers: An Analysis of Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14,* [1956], 3d ed., Ramsey-Wallace, 1966; "More About the Release of Project Blue Book Special Report #14," *CSI News Letter* 22 (December 15, 1957): 25–26; "Serious Flaws in AF Special Report 14 Revealed by NICAP Analysis," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 3 (January 1958): 16–18; Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America,* Signet ed., 1976, pp. 123–126; 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; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 September 15th–December 31st,* The Author, 1993, pp. 30–63; Curtis Peebles, *Watch the Skies!* Smithsonian, 1994, pp. 110–111; Joel Carpenter, "The Senator, the Saucer, and *Special Report* 14," *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 3, 9; Swords 220–224, 239–241; Clark III 918–919, 929–932; Clark IV 998, 1029, 1039–1042)

1955, November — An unnamed CIA source receives a letter from his niece in Budapest, Hungary, that says reports of UFOs or "rockets" in formation reaching speeds exceeding 7,400 mph have been keeping "scientific groups very busy." (CIA Information Report, "Report of Unusual Flying Object Sightings and Attendant Scientific Activity," report no. OO-B-93674, April 17, 1956, [PURSUE release and PURSUE release]; John Greenewald, "CIA Document Talks about 'Flying Saucers' Traveling 7,400+ mph in 1955; More Information Discovered Yet Withheld by Agency," The Black Vault, March 12, 2024)

1956, April 6 — 5:00 a.m. Sylvia L. Richards and Joseph L. Morris Jr. are driving on US Highway 1 north of Henderson, North Carolina, when they see a bright, low-flying, spinning object approaching them. It passes above the car and speeds out of sight. (FBI correspondence, [PURSUE release, pp. 132–135])

1956, May 17 — University Books publishes Gray Barker's *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers,* a bestselling book about the supposed Albert K. Bender mystery and his encounter with three men in black. (Gray Barker, *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers,* University Books, 1956; FBI documents, [PURSUE release, pp. 69–84, 91; PURSUE release, pp. 2–3]; David Halperin, "'They Knew Too Much': The Book That (Almost) Scared Me under My Bed," Ms.Horror.com, March 16, 2017; Clark III 178, 190, 727; Clark IV 214, 225, 808; Mckee, *Saucerian,* pp. 67–71)

1957, January 1 — 2:10 a.m. USAF 1st Lt. Ted Brunson is piloting an F-86D jet interceptor over Guam when he observes a round, white object flying beneath his aircraft. As Brunson attempts to close with it, the object keeps turning with him—always staying on the outside of his turn. The object passes between his interceptor and the city of Agana, but he sees no silhouette—only the strange, maneuvering light. It then heads south for about 10 miles at his altitude, roughly 20,000 feet, before climbing to about 30,000 feet and moving directly over his aircraft. Brunson turns to keep it in sight, and the object begins circling him. He engages afterburner and turns into the object in an attempt to head it off, but it continues circling his aircraft, and he cannot gain on it or close the distance. The object then moves west at his altitude, doubles back, and passes over the fighter again—this time 10,000 to 15,000 feet above him. Brunson turns again to maintain visual contact, but the object circles him once more. With fuel running low, Brunson is finally

forced to break off the encounter and return to Andersen Air Force Base. (DOW-UAP-D156, [PURSUE release]; Sparks, p. 249; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956 November–December,* The Author, 1994, pp. 64–65)

1957, January 18 — Night. Just prior to making an in-air refueling rendezvous over Saudi Arabia during a circumnavigation flight named Operation Power Flite, a B-52 Stratofortress commanded by Lt. Col. James H. Morris makes radar contact with an unidentified target. The blip is in sight for 5–7 minutes until the B-52 banks to the left. No aircraft are expected in the area. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D155])

1957, August 27 — 8:30 p.m. Leonard Schey sees an object shaped like an "underwater demolition bomb" due west of Clifton, New Jersey. It is emitting light from diamond-shaped holes on the side. (FBI case file, PURSUE release, p. 15])

1957, November 5 — Mid-afternoon. J. J. Henry Muller III, his wife, and two children are standing outside their house in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, when they see a dark silver, cylindrical object flying toward the northeast. It returns from that direction about dusk at a higher altitude. A Mrs. Marino sees a white, cigar-shaped object near the same location, (FBI case documents, [PURSUE release, pp. 13–14, 19])

1957, November 6 — Night. Two state policemen, Calvin Showers and John Matulis, in Danville, Illinois, observe a brilliant white light that changes color successively to amber and orange. They chase it for 15 miles because the light appears to be low in the sky. During the chase, their communications radio does not function. The light eventually flies out of sight. ([PURSUE release, p. 201]; "2 State Troopers See 'Object,'" *Hammond (Ind.) Times,* November 7, 1957, p. 12; "'Experienced, Trusted' State Troopers Follow Brilliant Flying Object 15 Miles As Squad Car Radio Goes Dead," *Du Quoin (Ill.) Call,* November 7, 1957; "Did the Air Force Deceive the Public about the November Sightings?" *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 3 (January 1958): 1, 7; Schopick, pp. 91–92; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 6th,* The Author, 1997, pp. 50–52)

1957, November 12 — 11:15 p.m. From his home in Kearny, New Jersey, Willard Jones sees an object with flashing red and blue lights hovering above New York City. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, pp. 16–18])

1958, February 11 — 12:25 p.m. Mary Jane Kaczynski sees a silver, bullet-shaped object from her home in Union, New Jersey. It is flying at a high altitude and leaving a vapor trail. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 20)

1958, April 12 — 3:30 p.m. Edward Barry and his wife are driving on State Highway 35 south of Perth Amboy, New Jersey when they see a rocket-like object descending. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 21])

1958, April 17 — Early morning. David Weaver sees a "circular object with a crystal-type dome that reflected lights" pass from southwest to north near the intersection of Lamphere Street and Six-Mile Road in Detroit, Michigan. He notifies Selfridge AFB (which does not take him seriously), then informs the local FBI office. (Memo from FBI Special Agent Robert Ross Reynolds, April 17, 1958, [PURSUE release])

1958, December 14 — 12:43 a.m. Police detectives George Longrehr and Edward Sherry watch an object with a flaming exhaust pass 1,000–3,000 feet above Communipaw and Pacific Avenue in Jersey City, New Jersey, for 30 seconds. Other witnesses see a UFO in the area about 30 minutes later. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, pp. 22–23])

1959, January 3 — 4:55 p.m. William Knoerer and his wife see an orange object above Old Bridge, New Jersey. It moves northeast for 5 minutes, then reverses direction for another 5 minutes. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 24])

1959, April 22 — 10:15 p.m. Oscar R. Graham watches a series of satellite-like lights coming from the south above Fanwood, New Jersey. They change color, divide in the air, and come together again. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 26])

1959, July 5–6 — US Navy Cmdr. Julius Larsen, an ONI liaison officer to the CIA's Photographic Intelligence Center in Washington, D.C., rediscovers the Swan-Knowles-Affa correspondence from 1954 in a file and decides to follow up on it. He goes to Eliot, Maine, to visit Rear Adm. Knowles and interview Frances Swan. Larsen tries his hand at automatic writing and channels a message from Affa. Back in Washington on July 6, Larsen goes to director of the Photographic Intelligence Office, Arthur C. Lundahl, and tells the

story to him and his assistant Lt. Robert S. Neasham. They urge Larsen to try to contact the extraterrestrials. Larsen goes into a trance, asks Affa questions, and writes the answers down. When Neasham challenges Affa to appear in person or let them see his spaceship, Larsen stops writing and tells Neasham to go to the window. Lundahl sees nothing unusual, but Neasham insists a spaceship is hiding behind some fluffy clouds. He also insists that he later contacted Washington National Airport and heard from the radar tower that the sector where the UFO appeared had been "blocked out." Neasham urges Project Blue Book's Maj. Robert Friend to come over for a briefing. He shows up on July 9 and hears Neasham's version of the story, and Larsen even channels some messages. Friend goes back to Dayton, Ohio, and prepares a memo for his boss. ([PURSUE release, pp. 12–21]; Robert Emenegger, *UFOs: Past, Present, and Future,* Ballantine, 1974, pp. 63–70; Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America,* Signet ed., 1976, pp. 153–154; Jay Gourley, "The Day Naval Intelligence Established Contact," *Second Look* 1, no. 7 (May 1979): 6–8; Randall Fitzgerald, "Messages: The Case History of a Contactee," *Second Look* 1, no. 12 (October 1979): 12–18, 28–29; Clark III 1118–1119; Clark IV 1243–1244)

1960, January 16 — 5:45 p.m. Stephen Klyce and others at the First Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield, New Jersey, hear a loud noise and go outside to see a bright object hovering in the direction of New York City. It disappears after 5 minutes. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 30])

1960, February 21 — 1:00 a.m. Joseph F. Perry of Grand Blanc, Michigan, takes a photo of the Moon with his homemade telescope. Later, he discovers that the photo shows an object silhouetted against the Moon. Perry displays the photo in his store window and then became convinced to tell the Air Force about it. In response to that, the Air Force apparently contacts the FBI and two FBI agents show up and are given the photo. NICAP acquires the photo, and consultant Max Miller reports that the object "quite probably is a cinch mark ... it could either be foreign matter which attached itself to the film during processing or underdeveloped emulsion, and I'm inclined to say the latter ... the greenish inhalation is sympathetic to the defect and is effected by one of the color developers overcompensating around the undeveloped emulsion (if a cinch mark) or foreign matter." (NICAP, "Photographer Captures Flying Saucer in Photograph of the Moon"; FBI documents, [PURSUE release, pp. 105–144, 164–167, 277–281]; "Pizza Pie—Or Flying Saucer?" *Detroit (Mich.) Times,* March 8, 1960, in [PURSUE release, p. 134]; "Authorities Grab Photos: Hopf Urges Vigilance on Part of Members," *APRO Bulletin,* March 1960, p. 1; "FBI Examines UFO Photograph," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 9 (March 1960): 5; Allan R. Wilhelm, "Film of Flying Saucer Up in Air," *Flint (Mich.) Journal,* March 27, 1960, p. 13; "FBI Disowns UFO Photo," *NICAP Special Bulletin,* May 1960, p. 3; "Flying Saucer Photo Ain't What It Used to Be—Joe," *Detroit (Mich.) Times,* May 25, 1960, p. 7, [PURSUE release, p. 2]; UFOEv, pp. 93–94; "Perry Photo: Film Flaw," *APRO Bulletin,* January 1962, p. 1; "UFOs? No! Lens Flare? Yes!" *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1965): 7; Jan L. Aldrich, "On Triangles and 'Silencers,'" *Flying Saucer Review* 13, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1967): 28; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History. January–June 1960,* The Author, 2003, pp. 52, 104–105; Nick Redfern, "A Flying Saucer at 50," Mysterious Universe, August 5, 2011)

1960, April 17 — Contactee George Van Tassel gives a lecture at the Phipps Auditorium in Denver, Colorado, about space people and the Bible. (Memo from FBI Denver to Dirtector FBI, "Unidentified Flying Objects, Investigative Society; George W. Van Tassel, Miscellaneous - Information Concerning," May 4, 1960, [PURSUE release, pp. 146–163])

1960, August 12 — 2:00 p.m. Muriel Bass is in front of her house at 1223 E. Celesta Avenue in Spokane, Washington, when she sees an object approaching from the southeast. It has an orange tinge, looks like a football, and is silent. It maneuvers slightly and disappears behind a hill. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 55])

1961, July 21 — During the recovery of the Mercury-Redstone 4 suborbital mission piloted by Gus Grissom, the recovery team discusses a dye pack that did not activate. (Audio excerpt, [PURSUE release])

1962, January — Maj. William T. Coleman is replaced as Pentagon UFO spokesman by Maj. Carl R. Hart. (Letter from William T. Coleman Jr. to J. Edgar Hoover, February 20, 1963, [PURSUE release, p. 43])

1962, February 20 — Astronaut John Glenn pilots the Mercury-Atlas 6 *Friendship 7* capsule for three orbits and just short of 5 hours flying time, becoming the first American to orbit the earth. When the capsule is over the Pacific, Glenn experiences a short 45-minute night and prepares the periscope for viewing his first sunrise from orbit. As the sun rises over Canton Island, he sees thousands of "little specks, brilliant specks, floating around outside the capsule"; he momentarily feels that the spacecraft is tumbling or that he is looking into a star field. A quick hard look out of the spacecraft window corrects the illusion and Glenn is sure that the "fireflies," as he calls them, are streaming past his spacecraft from ahead. They seem to flow by slowly but do not seem to be coming from any part of the spacecraft, and they disappear as *Friendship 7* moves into brighter sunlight. It is later determined that they are probably small ice crystals venting from onboard spacecraft systems. (Wikipedia, "Mercury-Atlas 6"; scientific debriefing, [PURSUE release, pp. 2–56, 201–208]; Alban Deschamps, "Red Orbs in the American West," Sentinel News, June 28, 2026)

1962, March — Chemical engineer Leon Davidson writes a two-part article in *Saucer News* explaining how he has become convinced that the CIA, especially under the influence of Allen Dulles, has engineered disinformation about UFOs and even manufactured some seemingly legitimate radar sightings as a tool in the Cold War. Its aim is to cause the Soviet Union to waste time and effort in preparing defenses against fictitious aircraft and weapons that the US might be developing. Furthermore, UFOs can be used to capture headlines, diverting attention from unwelcome news coverage of espionage operations. Davidson writes that Dulles has resorted to using contactees and UFO organizations as a propaganda vehicle. Messages supposedly from spacemen calling for a halt in nuclear testing could influence public opinion in a test ban treaty that, in effect, would benefit the US more than the Russians, since the Soviets were seen as overtaking the American lead in weapons development. Davidson attributes CIA involvement in the claims of George Adamski and Daniel Fry. He also points out that electronic countermeasures (ECM) equipment is capable of creating fake radar returns and goes so far as to say that secret working models of saucers, perhaps piloted by "midgets," are responsible for some sightings. (Memo from Robert P. B. Lohmann to CIA Chief, Chicago Office, "Case 17708 (Closed) and Dr. Leon Davidson," January 9, 1958, [PURSUE release]; Leon Davidson, "ECM + CIA = UFO: Or, How to Cause Radar Sightings," *Flying Saucer Review* 6, no. 2 (March/April 1960): 9–12; Leon Davidson, "An Open Letter to Saucer Researchers, Part One," *Saucer News* 9, no. 1 (March 1962): 8–11; Leon Davidson, "An Open Letter to Saucer Researchers, Part Two," *Saucer News* 9, no. 2 (June 1962): 8–10; Gerald K. Haines, "CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947–90," *Studies in Intelligence* 40, no. 5 (1997): 67–84)

1962, May 24 — During the Mercury-Atlas 7 space mission, *Aurora 7* pilot Scott Carpenter views white particles that appear to move at random and "look exactly like snowflakes." They seem to reflect light, and some are moving faster than the spacecraft. (Audio excerpt, PURSUE release]; scientific debriefing, [PURSUE release, pp. 57–63])

1962, October 3 — During the Mercury-Atlas 8 mission, *Sigma 7* pilot Wally Schirra observes "little white objects that tend to come from the capsule itself and drift off." He later refers to them as "particles" and "lathe shavings." Schirra also sees a burst of light in the window from a source he cannot identify. He speculates that the flash corresponds with the moment the sun is passing below the horizon. (Audio excerpt, [PURSUE release]; scientific debriefing, [PURSUE release, pp. 115–200])

1962, November 1 — Journalist Walter Cronkite interviews astronaut Gordon Cooper and asks him about his views regarding the nature of UFOs, having previously expressed an interest in the subject. Cooper says that "a large number of exceptionally well-qualified people have seen objects" without a "logical explanation" and speculates on the existence of other planets with "a livable atmosphere" and that maybe there are "some type of human life" out there. (Audio interview, [PURSUE release])

1963, May 15 — Approximately 1 hour and 41 minutes into the Mercury-Atlas 9 space mission, pilot Gordon Cooper sees the "fireflies" noted by astronaut John Glenn on his *Friendship 7* Mercury-Atlas 6 flight in 1962. NASA later determines that the fireflies are caused by frozen condensation separating from the spacecraft's body. The white, green-hued appearance results from sunlight reflecting off frozen condensation. (Audio excerpts, [PURSUE release, PURSUE release]; scientific debriefing, PURSUE release, pp. 64–113])

1963, May 26 — Robert W. Hale of the National Aeronautics and Space Council meets with Arnold Frutkin, NASA's Director of International Programs, concerning the development of a coordinated interagency policy for recovering reentering US and Soviet space debris and satellite fragments that might land on foreign soil. The memorandum states that the Departments of State and Defense are seeking to leverage NASA's standing as a civilian scientific agency to help facilitate discreet recovery of sensitive space hardware while publicly returning non-sensitive components to the country of origin. The proposed arrangement would serve several purposes: enabling access to adversary technologies, protecting US technologies, preserving diplomatic goodwill, and obscuring the intelligence gathering dimension of technology recovery operations. The memorandum also presents Frutkin's reaction to the proposed arrangement as "very negative." (Memorandum from R. W. Hale to Edward C. Welsh, May 29, 1963, [PURSUE release])

1963, July 18 — Maxwell W. Hunter, an aerospace engineer on the staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Council, writes a memo to Robert F. Packard of the State Department's Office of International Scientific Affairs suggesting that, though unlikely, the discovery of an intelligent alien civilization is still possible, and that even if humans found "merely the debris from some intragalactic survey mission, it would be a good idea to proceed on the assumption that the human race would finally have found a bigger problem than the ones it has created for itself." (Memorandum from Maxwell W. Hunter II of the National Aeronautics and Space Council to Robert F. Packard of the Office of International Scientific Affairs, "Thoughts on the Alien Space Race Question," July 18, 1963, [PURSUE release])

1963, November 8 — Newspapers and a radio station in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, report that a large metal sphere has fallen in downtown Conde, Bahia, gouging a hole 13 feet deep. The sphere allegedly has glass windows, through which a "human" body is visible "dressed in heavy clothing bearing inscriptions which cannot be deciphered." The US consul in Salvador, Harold Midkiff, investigates and finds that a weather balloon had been visible in the air around that date, but that the report of a crash was a hoax. (Foreign Broadcast Information Service wire report, November 8, 1963, [PURSUE release]; Department of State telegram, November 14, 1963, [PURSUE release]; Department of State airgram, November 20, 1963, [PURSUE release])

1964, April 24 — Around 5:50 p.m. Socorro, New Mexico, police officer Lonnie Zamora, while chasing a speeder, hears a continuous roaring sound and sees a brilliant blue "cone of flame" in the sky to the south-southwest. The bottom of the flame is out of sight behind a hill. Thinking there has been an explosion, he tries to pursue it, turning off to the right on a rough gravel road, but loses sight of it while trying to get the car up a steep hill. By the time he reaches the top, the sound stops and the flame is no longer visible. He then notices a metallic object in a ravine about 450 feet away. At first, he thinks it is an overturned car, but then he sees "two figures in what resembled white coveralls, pretty close to the object on the northwest side, as if inspecting it." One seems to turn in a startled way as if he hears Zamora's car approaching. The figures are small, and the object is oval-shaped and positioned so its long axis is horizontal. Zamora loses sight of object as he drives through a dip in the road. He radios headquarters that he is investigating a possible car accident. He stops a second time and gets out, hearing 2–3 loud thumping noises like a door shutting hard. He walks three steps to the front of the car to possibly 50 feet away from the object when he hears a very load roar increasing in volume and sees a smokeless blue-orange flame coming from beneath. He notes a red insignia or lettering on the side of the object. Zamora thinks it is going to explode and runs away, putting the car between him and the object and dropping to the ground. He feels some slight heat from the flame. The roaring noise stops, and Zamora looks up to see the UFO flying away to the southwest at a level height, just clearing an 8-foot dynamite shack. He runs back to the patrol car and radios headquarters, just as the object climbs slowly and goes past Box Canyon or Six Mile Canyon Mountain (about 6 miles away). The entire incident takes place in less than 2 minutes. Police Sgt. M. S. Chavez arrives, and they find burning brush (including a badly damaged creosote bush) where the UFO has been, as well as four asymmetrically placed, trapezoidal imprints 12–16 inches long, 6–8 inches wide, and 4–6 inches deep. An FBI agent, D. Arthur Byrnes Jr., who has heard about it on the police radio, speaks with Zamora in the evening. He notifies army intelligence at White Sands Missile Range, who sends Capt. Richard T. Holder. Military police arrive and collect samples,

working by flashlight. The next morning, Holder gets a call from a colonel at the war room of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, asking for a report. T/Sgt. David Moody from ATIC and Maj. William Conner from Kirtland AFB check the area for radioactivity on April 26. Hynek arrives on April 28 and interviews Zamora and Chavez. Richard H. Hall and Ray Stanford arrive for NICAP and obtain some metal traces on a rock in the landing area; they take the sample to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, where metallurgist Henry E. Frankel agrees to analyze the material. His tentative analysis suggests a zinc-iron alloy, perhaps from a zinc pail. In 1966, Blue Book chief Maj. Hector Quintanilla writes in a classified article in *Studies in Intelligence* that "This is the best-documented case on record, and still we have been unable, in spite of a thorough investigation, to find the vehicle or other stimulus that scared Zamora to the point of panic." Some investigators think the case might involve a test of a Lunar Surveyor module from White Sands. (Wikipedia, "Lonnie Zamora incident"; NICAP, "Lonnie Zamora / Socorro Landing Case"; Sparks, p. 307; [PURSUE release, pp. 1–40]; FBI correspondence, [PURSUE release, pp. 226–238]; Center for UFO Studies, [correspondence]; Center for UFO Studies, [case files: Files 1 and 4R, Files 2, Files 3, MiscR, Zamora]; Center for UFO Studies, [Clippings1, Clippings2]; "Socorro Officer Saw Two Men Step Out of Big UFO," *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Tribune,* April 25, 1964, p. 1; "'Whatzit' Touches Down near Socorro," *Santa Fe New Mexican,* April 25, 1964, p. 1; "Unusual Marks Found," *Alamogordo (N.Mex.) Daily News,* April 26, 1964, pp. 1, 6; "UAO Landing in New Mexico," *APRO Bulletin,* May 1964, pp. 1, 3–10; "Physical Evidence: Landing Reports," *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 11 (July/Aug. 1964): 1, 4–5; Coral Lorenzen, "UFO Lands in New Mexico," *Fate* 17, no. 8 (August 1964): 27–38; "Socorro Analysis," *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 12 (Sept./Oct. 1964): 4; Hector Quintanilla Jr., "The Investigation of UFOs," *Studies in Intelligence* 10, no. 4 (February 1966): 95–110; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 92–97; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience,* Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 165–166; Philip J. Klass, *UFOs Explained*, Random House, 1974, pp. 105–114; Lorenzen, *Encounters with UFO Occupants,* Berkley Medallion, 1976, pp. 8–11; Ray Stanford, *Socorro 'Saucer' in a Pentagon Pantry,* Blueapple, 1976; *Hynek UFO Report,* pp. 223–229; Richard H. Hall, "Pentagon Pantry: Is the Cupboard Bare?" *MUFON UFO Journal,* no. 108 (November 1976): 15–18; Ray Stanford, "The Pentagon Pantry Is Not Bare! Part 1," *MUFON UFO Journal,* no. 116 (July 1977): 13–15, 20; Ray Stanford, "The Pentagon Pantry Is Not Bare! Part 2," *MUFON UFO Journal,* no. 117 (August 1977): 10–13; "The Socorro, New Mexico, Landing: Additional Witnesses?" *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 15; Robert Barrow, "An Incredible Admission: What Did the Air Force Mean?" *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 10–12; Story, pp. 341–344; Kenneth Eugene Firestone and Ronald L. Firestone, "Socorro, New Mexico: Revisited," Ground Saucer Watch, 1981; ClearIntent, pp. 139–141; Kim Hansen, "UFO Casebook," *UFOs 1947–1987,* Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 62–66; Good Above, pp. 343–345, 371–373; Jacques Vallée, *Forbidden Science: Journals 1957–1969,* North Atlantic, 1992, pp. 100–104; "Solving the 1964 Socorro NM UFO Case: A Step-by-Step Chronology of Larry Robinson's Investigation," [1997]; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence,* Dell, 2000, pp. 78–80; David E. Thomas, "A Different Angle on the Socorro UFO of 1964," New Mexicans for Science and Reason, 2001; UFOEv II 177–182; Paul Harden, "The 1964 Socorro UFO Incident," *El Defensor Chieftain,* August 2, 2008; Anthony Bragalia, "The Socorro UFO Hoax, Part 3: Physical Evidence Points to a Prank," Anthony Bragalia's UFO Explorations, November 2009; Kevin D. Randle, "Socorro UFO Landing Analysis," A Different Perspective, November 22, 2009; Robert Sheaffer, "A Socorro Student Hoax Confirmed?" Bad UFOs, August 12, 2012; Wendy Connors, "Cops and Saucers: Law Enforcement and UFO's, 1957–1981 Guide," November 20, 2013, audioclips 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; Kevin D. Randle, "The Socorro Symbol: Resolved?" A Different Perspective, October 15, 2016; Kevin D. Randle, "No Socorro Solution by Chief of Project Blue Book," A Different Perspective, November 7, 2017; Kevin D. Randle, "Zamora vs. People," A Different Perspective, November 9, 2017; Kevin D. Randle, *Encounter in the Desert: The Case for Alien Contact at Socorro,* New Page, 2017; Clark III 303, 1083–1093; "Socorro, New Mexico, April 24, 1964: Officer Lonnie Zamora Is Interviewed on the Phone by NICAP's Streeter Stuart," UFO History YouTube channel, October 7, 2018; Justice Fodor, "Ray Stanford and His NASA-Goddard UFO-Metal Cover-Up Claim," Alien Expanse, February 14, 2019; Tony Angiola and Ben Moss, *Socorro UFO! Not of This World,* The Authors, 2020; "UFOLEAX: Entrevista a Lonnie Zamora hecha pore el reportero Walter Shrode de Radio KSCR, Socorro," UFOLEAX YouTube channel, February 10, 2021; Kevin D. Randle,

"Expedition Unknown in Socorro," A Different Perspective, October 19, 2022; John Greenewald, "Official Files on the Socorro UFO Landing, April 24, 1964," The Black Vault, August 20, 2023; "Policeman Lonnie Zamora in 1996, '74 & '64 on Witnessing a Landed Tic-Tac Shaped UFO in Socorro, NM," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, October 2023; Graff 187–191; Covert 70; William J. Granger, "The Socorro Incident: Time for a Second Look," *SCU Review* 5, no. 1 (January 27, 2024): 12–18; Eghigian, *After,* pp. 147–149; Clark IV 343, 1200–1210; Kevin D. Randle, "A Good Match for the Zamora Symbol Has Been Found," A Different Perspective, January 6, 2025; Kevin D. Randle, "The Zamora Symbol Controversy," A Different Perspective, January 17, 2025; John Greenewald, "The Vault Files: The Socorro UFO Landing Incident, April 24, 1964," The Black Vault, August 13, 2025; Kevin D. Randle, "Ray Stanford's Socorro Photograph," A Different Perspective, December 13, 2025; "MUFON Presents: The 1964 Socorro Encounter: New Revelations with Authors Ben Moss and Tony Angiola," Mutual UFO Network YouTube channel, January 20, 2026)

1964, April 26 — Around 1:00 a.m. Orlando Gallegos steps outside his father's ranch at La Madera, New Mexico, to chase away some horses in the yard. He sees a peculiar structure in the Rio Vallecitos creek bed some 900 feet away. It looks like a butane tank "as long as a telephone pole" about 14 feet in diameter, metallic, and shooting blue flames out of holes in the sides. As he watches over the next minute, the flames subside. It is still there when he goes inside, where no one else believes him. It is gone the next morning, but state police (including Capt. Martin E. Vigil, David Kingsbury, and Albert Vega) investigate and find the ground still smoldering and scorched with four depressions, one of them 8 by 12 inches in size. The charred area is in the shape of two overlapping circles and about 20 feet across. Hynek is refused authorization to go visit the site. (Sparks, p. 308; [PURSUE release, pp. 221–224]; "Mystery Object Report Is Told," *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Tribune,* August 27, 1966, p. 1; Lorenzen, *FSHoax,* pp. 222–223; Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore Jr., *Strange Effects from UFOs,* NICAP, 1969, pp. 54–55; "Hunting Old and New UFOs in New Mexico," *IUR* 7, no. 2 (March 1982):12–13; Clark III 1092; Covert 70; Clark IV 1208–1209)

1964, May 30 — 9:50 p.m. Theodore John Rubitz, 13, sees five gray UFOs as he is walking down 22nd Street near Avenue A in Bayonne, New Jersey. They are flying north in a diamond formation, with the fifth object just to the right and back of the rear object. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 50])

1964, November 19 — 9:00 p.m. The USS *Gyatt* destroyer is stationed in the Atlantic Ocean about 220 miles northwest of Puerto Rico for training exercises when its radar detects a target approaching the island from the northeast. Anomalous targets that respond to an IFF code have been detected on radar on November 16–18, although no other aircraft are in the training area. The ship relays a message to Roosevelt Roads Naval Station [now José Aponte de la Torre Airport] in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, which then contacts Lt. Cmdr. K. H. Woodsbury, pilot of an F-8C aircraft of Utility Squadron Eight that is already flying in the neighborhood at an altitude of 30,000 feet. The aircraft reports a stranger closing in very fast. The pilot describes the object as delta-shaped and about the size of a fighter. Its color is black or gray and it has no contrail or lights except for a light source emitting from the tail during periods of acceleration. The pilot pursues the object but cannot intercept. The target accelerates out of sight in a wide starboard turn climbing through 50,000 feet at about an 18°–20° angle in excess of Mach 1. The commanding officer of the squadron, T. D. Fosdick, summarizes: "There is no reasonable explanation for this target. Its speed, acceleration, ceiling and ability to decelerate exceed any aircraft I have ever seen or heard of." During the encounter the SPS-49 radar is jammed for a short period of time. A final radar encounter takes place in the Caribbean on November 24. (NICAP, "U.S.S. Gyatt Tackles Bogey"; Sparks, p. 312; [case files, PURSUE release]; "Briefing Notes for Mr. Walter Elder," [PURSUE release]; Antonio F. Rullán, "Blue Book UFO Reports at Sea by Ships: Analysis of the Blue Book Ship Database," December 10, 2002, pp. 43–44; Powell, *Scientist,* 93)

1965, June 4 — During the Gemini 4 mission, astronaut James McDivitt spots an object that he describes as a "white cylindrical shape with a white pole sticking out of one corner of it." He takes two photos of it. His partner, Ed White, is asleep at the time. McDivitt maintains that it was some unknown but man-made piece of debris, while James Oberg, flight controller at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, argues that it is most likely the Titan II second stage of the craft. (Preliminary debriefing, [PURSUE

release; PURSUE release]; experiment debriefing, [PURSUE release]; "'Object' Astronaut Sighted Still Unidentified," *UFO Investigator* 3, no. 3 (June/July 1965): 3; "The Gemini IV Photograph," *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1965): 3; Center for UFO Studies, [case documents]; Condon, pp. 205–207; Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space,* Signet ed., 1974, pp. 212–213; James Oberg, "The Gemini 4 UFO," *Saga UFO Report,* Fall 1981; Good Above, pp. 378–379; Lee Speigel, "NASA UFO Files Revealed on Science Channel Special," *HuffPost,* March 27, 2012; "Gemini 4 Astronaut James McDivitt UFO Sighting," SpaceTimeForum YouTube channel, June 9, 2013; Patrick Gross, "NASA Photographs of Unidentified Objects"; Alban Deschamps, "Red Orbs in the American West," Sentinel News, June 28, 2026)

1965, August 21 — The Gemini 5 space mission launches from Cape Canaveral, Florida, crewed by astronauts Gordon Cooper and Pete Conrad. Cooper and Conrad describe observing debris and "snow" and "all sorts of glittering pieces of this, that, and the other thing" during their debriefing. (Technical debriefing, [PURSUE release; PURSUE release, pp. 178, 191; Alban Deschamps, "Red Orbs in the American West," Sentinel News, June 28, 2026; Alban Deschamps, "Red Orbs in the American West," Sentinel News, June 28, 2026)

1965, September 28 — USAF Director of Information Gen. Eugene B. LeBailly writes to the military director of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, saying that Gen. Arthur C. Agan has found Project Blue Book to be a worthwhile program and that the Air Force should continue to investigate UFOs "to assure that such objects do not present a threat to our national security." The project will remain at the Foreign Technology Division (Wright-Patterson AFB). He also requests that a "working scientific panel composed of both physical and social scientists be organized to review Project Blue Book—its resources, methods, and findings." (Maj. Gen. E. B. LeBailly, "Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)," memorandum for military director, Scientific Advisory Board, September 28, 1965; [PURSUE release, pp. 19–23]; Clark III 924; Clark IV 1034)

1965, December 5 — During the Gemini 7 mission, the astronauts mention a "bogey." James Oberg, based on his trajectory analysis of the mission, describes the comments as referring to booster-associated debris and not a reference to a UFO. Astronaut Frank Borman later confirms that what he saw was not a UFO. When he offers to go on the television show *Unsolved Mysteries* to clarify, the producers tell him, "Well, I'm not sure we want you on the program." Lights and flashes are also mentioned in the technical debriefing and there is discussion about having proper illumination for vehicle docking. Borman and Jim Lovell discuss celestial and terrestrial observational anomalies and note sightings of Mercury, meteors, aurora, and lightning. (Wikipedia, "UFO sightings in outer space"; "P.A.O. Release Commentary of the GT-7/6 Flight," [PURSUE release]; NASA audio feed, [PURSUE release]; technical debriefing, [PURSUE release]; Condon, pp. 207–208; Good Above, p. 378; Alban Deschamps, "Red Orbs in the American West," Sentinel News, June 28, 2026)

1966, January 21 — Maj. Harold A. Steiner of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board visits the USAF Office of Information at the Pentagon and discusses the UFO situation with Lt. Col. John P. Spaulding and Sarah Hunt, who tell him that their office "received and answered more than 3,300 letters on UFOs" in the past year. Most of them accuse the Air Force of concealing information. Spaulding would like a scientific group "to look at the UFO problem in depth and come up with a position that will help get the Air Force off the hook." (Maj. Harold A. Steiner, "Some SAFOI Thoughts for the SAB Ad Hoc Committee on UFOs," January 21, 1966, PURSUE release, pp. 42–43])

1966, February 3 — A six-member Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project Blue Book, headed by University of Rochester optical physicist Brian O'Brien, meets at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. All but one (astronomer Carl Sagan) are members of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (psychologist Launor F. Carter, industrial psychologist Jesse Orlansky, rocket scientist Richard W. Porter, computer engineer Willis Ware), and none have any sympathy with the idea that UFO reports represent anything extraordinary. Also attending is Lt. Col. Harold A. Steiner, assistant secretary to the Scientific Advisory Board. They receive a briefing from Quintanilla, review the Robertson Panel report, and examine a few UFO cases. The group recommends that Blue Book "be strengthened to provide opportunity for scientific investigation of selected sightings in more detail and depth than has been possible to date." Furthermore,

USAF should negotiate contracts "with a few selected universities to provide scientific teams to investigate promptly and in depth certain selected sightings of UFOs…. The universities should be chosen to provide good geographical distribution." They also conclude that "perhaps 100 sightings a year might be subjected to this close study, and that possibly an average of 10 man-days might be required per sighting so studied. The information provided by such a program might bring to light new facts of scientific value." The group recommends that Blue Book data be given "wide unsolicited circulation among prominent members of the Congress and other public persons." The Air Force ignores their recommendations. ([PURSUE release, pp. 7–8; PURSUE release, pp. 37–41]; USAF Scientific Advisory Board, *Special Report of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project "Blue Book,"* Brian O'Brien, chairman of the Advisory Board, March 1966 [also on Mystery Wire, June 12, 2020]; Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America,* Signet ed., 1976, pp. 176–177; William Poundstone, *Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos,* Henry Holt, 1999, pp. 92–93; Clark III 924, 1191; Powell, *Keyhoe,* 334; Graff 200–201; Clark IV 1034, 1365)

1966, April 19 — The six-member Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project Blue Book meets with Air Force officials in the Pentagon (Room 5D-1014) to discuss its plan to strengthen the Air Force's UFO project, especially the idea of cooperating with scientists at a university, perhaps the University of Dayton. [PURSUE release, pp. 1–18]

1966, June 3 — The Gemini 9A spacecraft, piloted by astronauts Thomas P. Stafford and Gene Cernan, launches from Cape Kennedy, Florida. Stafford and Cernan observe "flashing lights" and "Sparkles" during the mission. (Debriefing, PURSUE release, pp. 3–6])

1966, July 11 — 10:00 p.m. Nancy Rauch and another girl see three white objects in the sky over West Orange, New Jersey. Two planes approach the objects from opposite directions; as the planes draw near, the objects disappear. (FBI case file, [PURSUE release, p. 51])

1966, August 10 — William B. Weitzel, the philosophy professor who investigated the April 17 Portage County police chase for NICAP, visits Lt. Col. Harold A. Steiner of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board at the Pentagon to complain about the way Blue Book chief Maj. Hector Quintanilla has handled the case. (Lt. Col. Harold A. Steiner, "Visit by Mr. William P. Wietzel [sic], NICAP," August 10, 1966, [PURSUE release, p. 36])

1967, May 5 — Condon, Low, Hartmann, Ratchford, and Charles Reed of the National Research Council are briefed by an unnamed specialist [probably Everitt L. Merritt of the Autometrics Division of the Raytheon Company of Alexandria, Virginia] at the NPIC on a photogrammetric analysis he had carried out on the November 1966 UFO photo case from Roseville, Ohio. The analysis debunks the photo. The committee is again impressed with the technical work performed, and Condon remarks that for the first time a scientific analysis of a UFO will stand up to investigation. The same day, Condon's group presents a "position paper" on the state of their thinking about the UFO project to the USAF Office of Scientific Research. Condon and Low argue that the limited time that the project has to work means that it will be unlikely to get "actual, real-time data" on current sightings and will thus have to base its conclusions on interpretations of data extracted from existing reports. (Wikipedia, "Arthur Lundahl"; Lt. Col. Harold A. Steiner, "Some Notes Concerning a Progress Report on University of Colorado UFO Study," May 16, 1967, [PURSUE release, pp. 33–35]; E. L. Merritt, "Photogrammatric Analysis of a Non-Synchronous Pair of U.F.O. Exposures," June 1967; Peter A. Sturrock, *The UFO Enigma,* Warner, 1999, pp. 48–49; Powell, *Keyhoe,* 356–357)

1967, July 27 — Industrial psychologist Jesse Orlansky writes to Chester N. Hasert, acting executive secretary of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, about his recent conversation with Peer de Silva and David Smith, personnel at the US Embassy in Thailand about "mysterious helicopter flights" reported in the northeast part of the country near the border with Laos. [PURSUE release, pp. 14, 32])

1967, August 18 — A CIA report summarizes interviews with unnamed Russian astronomers in May 1967 that may possibly have been conducted by members of the Condon commission. (Central Intelligence Agency, "Report on Conversations with Soviet Scientists on Subject of Unidentified Flying Objects in the USSR," August 18, 1967, [PURSUE release]; Good Above, pp. 230–231)

1967, September 16 — 8:30 p.m. Tom Mitchell, 11, hears a weird noise and looks out the window of his residence at 7825 South Colfax Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. He sees a "flash of light going north in the sky." (Leonard Treviranus, FBI Chicago, "UFO Sighting - Miscellaneous," September 22, 1967, [PURSUE release, p. 2])

1968, March 25 — 8:15 p.m. Villagers in Batulechaur, Lamachaur, Nepal, hear a deafening sound like thunder as a bright object hurtles downward and lands in a field belonging to Kul Timilsina, who finds a sheet of black metal about 6 feet by 4 feet and brings it home. The US Embassy in Kathmandu hears about the supposed spacecraft part and arranges for it to be recovered, packed in a crate, and flown to the United States under the auspices of Project Moon Dust in March 1972. There are similar sightings of objects falling from the sky in Ladakh, Sikkim, and Bhutan between February 19 and March 25, 1968. (Central Intelligence Agency, "Sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects in Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan," April 11, 1968, [PURSUE release]; Kevin D. Randle, *Project Moon Dust,* Harper, 1998, pp. 154–155; "UFO over Pokhara," *Nepali Times,* December 7, 2024)

1969, February 6 — Lt. Col. Harold A. Steiner sends Brian O'Brien a copy of the University of Colorado project report, congratulating themselves on their work as the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project Blue Book that resulted in the Condon study: "I am satisfied with the contents and believe the Air Force got its money's worth." [PURSUE release, pp. 24–27])

1969, July 21 — Around 5:22 p.m. EDT. Shortly after the Lunar Module completes its pass behind the moon and before redocking with the Command Module, the Apollo 11 astronauts allegedly have a conversation about seeing several alien spacecraft on the lunar surface. However, the story is made up by a pseudonymous writer for the *National Bulletin* tabloid newspaper. A debriefing of the astronauts on July 31 indicates that astronaut Buzz Aldrin observed unusual objects or lights on three occasions during the mission. (Apollo 11 Technical Crew Debriefing, July 31, 1969, [PURSUE release, extract]; Stuart Nixon, "UFO Base on the Moon: Fact or Fiction?" *UFO Quarterly Review* 1, no. 3 (July/Sept. 1973): 13–20; "UFOs on the Moon: Apollo 11 Crew Sees, Photographs Alien Spaceships," *UFO Investigator* 10, no. 4 (July 1979): 1; Clark III 599; Jacob Stern, "One Small Controversy about Neil Armstrong's Giant Leap," *The Atlantic,* July 21, 2019; Clark IV 658–659)

1969, November 19–20 — During the Apollo 12 lunar mission, astronauts Pete Conrad and Alan Bean observe and photograph several unidentified flashes of light and mysterious objects above the lunar horizon. While looking through the lander's alignment optical telescope, Bean sees particles and lights rapidly sailing off into space. Radioing mission control, he informs them, "It looks like some of those things are escaping the moon. They really haul out of here and just press off at the stars." He initially thinks the flashes are particles or water droplets escaping the spacecraft's boiler system. Photographs taken from the lunar surface show five specific areas in the lunar sky over the landing site, labeled "Area 1" through "Area 5," where unidentified phenomena are visible. When magnified, these areas show what appear to be hovering or moving light formations. While government and military bodies acknowledge the anomalies, no formal consensus is reached regarding their exact nature. Researchers and scientific experts—such as Harvard professor Avi Loeb—have reviewed the records, with mainstream explanations generally attributing many of the observations to ice crystals, escaping thruster exhaust, cosmic rays, or camera reflections, although some data from the lunar surface remains unexplained. (Apollo 12 transcript extract, [PURSUE release]; [PURSUE release, NASA-UAP-VM001; PURSUE release, NASA-UAP-VM002; PURSUE release, NASA-UAP-VM003; PURSUE release, NASA-UAP-VM004; PURSUE release, NASA-UAP-VM005]; medical debriefing of the crew, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "We Should Not Mistake Cosmic-Rays for UFOs!" Medium: Avi Loeb, May 17, 2026; Mike Wall, "These Apollo 'UFO' Images Have Been Public for Decades," Space.com, May 18, 2026)

1971, February — Apollo 14 astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Edgar D. Mitchell, and Stuart A. Roosa conduct experiments with "light flash phenomena" (spots, streaks, and cloud flashes) during transearth coast travel. After becoming light-adapted within the dark spacecraft, they observe an average of one flash every 2.9 minutes during a dedicated observation session. The flashes are attributed to high-energy

cosmic rays penetrating the spacecraft. (NASA, Apollo 14 debriefing, [PURSUE release, PURSUE release]; NASA, "Apollo Light Flash Investigations")

1971, May 27 — Harry Turner, physicist and head of the nuclear division within the Australian Joint Intelligence Office, authors a secret report on UFOs, warning that UFO pronouncements from the US military are not to be trusted because they could be a "cover for the real U.S. programme for developing vehicles that emulate UFO performances." Turner alleges that the CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence studies "UFO reports with the intention of determining the UFO propulsion methods." Turner's proposal for an Australian UFO rapid-response team is met with disinterest. (O. H. Turner, *Scientific and Intelligence Aspects of the UFO Problem*, Australia Dept. of Defence Joint Intelligence Organization, Minute Paper 3092/2, May 27, 1971, [PURSUE release]; Guillaume Fournier Airaud, "50-Year-Old Report Backs Pentagon Whistleblower's Claims on UAP," UAP Check, June 12, 2023; Graff 263–264; Alban Deschamps, "Red Orbs in the American West," Sentinel News, June 28, 2026)

1971, September 5–11 — The US National Academy of Sciences and the USSR Academy of Sciences hold the First Soviet-American Conference on Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence at the Byurakan Observatory in Armenia. The organizing committee includes Carl Sagan, Frank Drake, Philip Morrison, Nikolai Kardashev, Viktor Ambartsumian, Iosif Shklovsky, and Vsevolod Troitsky. Some 30 scientists attend and debate the variables in the Drake equation and encourage research in the search for intelligent signals from nearby stars. Attendees Francis Crick and Leslie Orgel speculate on the possibility that life has been seeded on Earth from an extraterrestrial civilization. The conference concludes with a recommendation that future research focus on a "searc for signals and for evidence of astroengineering activities." (Wikipedia, "First Soviet-American Conference on Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence"; CIA Intelligence Information Report, "Speculative Paper by N. Kardashev and A. Sakharov on Charged Mass in Space at Conference on Origins of Life, Armenia, 6–8 September 1971/Low Scientific Level of Other Soviet Papers," April 10, 1972, [PURSUE release]; F. H. C. Crick and L. E. Orgel, "Directed Panspermia," *Icarus* 19 (1973): 341–346; Iosif Shklovsky, *Five Billion Vodka Bottles to the Moon,* W. W. Norton, 1991, pp. 257–261; Graff 228–233; Eghigian, *After,* p. 188)

1972, April 19 — When the Apollo 16 astronauts, John Young, Ken Mattingly, and Charles Duke, are awakened for flight day three, the spacecraft is about 157,000 miles away from the Earth. The crew performs the Apollo light flash experiment, or ALFMED, to investigate "light flashes" that were seen by Apollo lunar astronauts when the spacecraft was dark, regardless of whether their eyes were open. This is thought to be caused by the penetration of the eye by cosmic ray particles. They also describe anomalies, such as a "flash" on the lunar surface. (Audio of scientific debriefing, [PURSUE release, PURSUE release])

1972, December 7–14 — During the Apollo 17 mission, astronauts report a series of unexplained visual phenomena in space. Command Module Pilot Ronald Evans and Lunar Module Pilot Harrison Schmitt see bright particles drifting outside their windows, with Schmitt likening the view to "the Fourth of July." In addition to the drifting particles, Commander Eugene Cernan sees intense, rotating flashes of light that he compares to train headlights, some of which appear to correspond to physical objects. The PURSUE release includes a photo that "contains three 'dots' in a triangular formation in the lower right quadrant of the lunar sky that is clearly visible upon magnification of the image." Aerospace experts and analysts often point out that the harsh lighting of space and the physical conditions of orbital travel can cause seeming anomalies, such as dislodged insulation or paint flakes, ice crystals formed by thruster plumes and water dumps, cosmic rays, reflected light off the spacecraft, space debris, or camera flares. The crew also experiences "light flash phenomena" both while in orbit and on the lunar surface. This is a well-documented biological effect where high-energy cosmic rays pass through the eye and strike the retina, causing the perception of light streaks or flashes. (Apollo 17 transcript extracts, [PURSUE release]; Apollo 17 crew debriefing for science, January 8, 1973, [PURSUE release, extract]; Apollo 17 Technical Crew debriefing, January 4, 1973, [PURSUE release, extract]; [PURSUE release, NASA-UAP-VM006]; audio excerpt, [PURSUE release]; NASA Apollo 17 crew medical debriefing, [PURSUE release, PURSUE release]; NASA, "Apollo Light Flash Investigations"; Mike Wall, "These Apollo 'UFO' Images Have Been Public for Decades," Space.com, May 18, 2026)

1973, August? — A CIA informant at Site 7 in the Soviet Sary Shagan missile testing range in Kazakhstan observes a bright green circular object in the west at an elevation of 70°. In 10–15 seconds, the circle widens and several green concentric circles appear. No sound is heard. (CIA Intelligence Information Report, "The Sary Shagan Weapons Testing Range," December 20, 1973, pp. 4–5, [PURSUE release and PURSUE release])

1973, September — Skylab 3 astronauts Jack R. Lousma and Owen Garriott observe for 5–10 minutes an unknown rotating reddish object in a similar orbit to the space station, about one week before their command module splashdown. Other astronauts report light flashes outside Skylab at other times. (Skylab debriefings, 1973–1974, [PURSUE release, extract])

1976, November 16 — The CIA reports on a conversation an agent has had with Soviet radiation biologist Inal Georgiyevich Akoyev, who claims he has been told by an authority that only 1% of UFO sightings are unexplainable. [CIA Foreign Intelligence Information Report, "Combating Fatigue in Crewmembers," report OO-B-321/33474-76, November 16, 1976, [PURSUE release])

1985, January 24 — 7:00–10:00 p.m. Residents of Wewak, Papua New Guinea, are frightened by overflights of a high-altitude, high-speed object with lights and contrails. An Air Niugini pilot picks up a radar target flying south to north as he is above Angoram. Other visual sightings take place in other locations. (US State Department cable, January 28, 1985, [PURSUE release])

1986, May 29 — Physicist John Warren is a guest speaker at the Pajarito Astronomers club meeting in Los Alamos, New Mexico, on the topic of "Why Should a Scientist Be Concerned about UFO's?" ([PURSUE release])

1994, January 27 — Early morning. Tajik Air pilot Ed Rhodes and two American copilots encounter an intensely bright light while flying at 41,000 feet in a Boeing 747SP over southern Kazakhstan. It is approaching them swiftly from the east at a much higher altitude. The light it emits seems to have a "bow wave" resembling a high-speed photo of a bullet in flight. They watch the object as it maneuvers in circles, corkscrews, and makes 90° turns at a rapid rate of speed. Rhodes takes several photos with a pocket Olympus camera. After 40 minutes, the object begins moving horizontally and disappears over the horizon. As the sun is rising, the aircraft flies under the contrails that the object leaves behind, which appear to be at 100,000 feet altitude. (NICAP, "UFO Maneuvers near B-747"; US State Department cable, January 31, 1994, [PURSUE release]; "U.S. State Department 'UFO' Documents Reviewed and Released 7 Feb 2000," Computer UFO Network, March 28, 2000; "Pentagon UFO Files Include 1994 Tajik Air Report over Kazakhstan," *Times of Central Asia,* May 10, 2026)

1996 — A US Navy platform in the Western United States takes 2 minutes and 57 seconds of video footage of a UAP, captured by an infrared sensor. At one point, the object crosses visible depression-angle markings, allowing the camera's field of view to be reconstructed; however, the video does not provide sufficient information to distinguish between a bird flying past the sensor at close range and a large craft traveling at Mach 5 one kilometer away. The Navy submits the footage to AARO in 2022. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR113]; Jacob Haqq-Misra and Ravi Kopparapu, "Limits on Velocity Recovery from the PURSUE Sensor Videos," arXiv, August 12, 2026)

1996, between November 19 and December 7 — Astronauts aboard Space Shuttle *Columbia* during the STS-80 mission take three photographs of an unidentified object in low-Earth orbit with a trajectory passing between the orbiter and the Earth. ([PURSUE release, PURSUE release, PURSUE release])

1999, July 16 — A 90-page report, *Les OVNI et la Defense: A Quoi doit-on se Préparer?* (UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare for?), is published as the result of an in-depth study of UFOs carried out over several years by an independent group of former advanced workshop participants at the Institut des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale in Paris, France, and by other experts. Before its public release, it is

sent to President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. The report is prefaced by Gen. Bernard Norlain of the Air Force and begins with a preamble by André Lebeau, former president of the Centre National d'Études Spatiales. The Comité d'Études Approfondies (COMETA) group, collective author of the report, is presided over by Gen. Denis Letty of the Air Force. The report analyzes various UFO cases and concludes that UFOs are real, complex flying objects, and that the extraterrestrial hypothesis has a high probability of being the correct explanation for the UFO phenomenon. The study recommends that the French government should adjust to the reality of the phenomenon and conduct further research. (Comité d'Études Approfondies, "UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?" part 1 and part 2, July 16, 1999, [PURSUE release]; Gildas Bourdais, "The French Report on UFOs and Defense: A Summary"; Gildas Bourdais, "Quasi-Official French Document Looks at Defense Issues Related to UFOs," *MUFON UFO Journal,* no. 377 (September 1999): 10–13; Leslie Kean, "UFO Theorists Gain Support Abroad, But Repression at Home," *Boston Globe,* May 21, 2000; Mark Rodeghier, ed., "The 1999 French Report on UFOs and Defense," *IUR* 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 20–22, 30; Gildas Bourdais, "From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France," *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 10; Swords 449–450; Graff 383–385)

2001, October 28–29 — The Georgian Foreign Ministry asserts that Russian aircraft have violated Georgian airspace and bombed areas of the Kodori Gorge. The Russians deny any of the claims and say that it could have been UFOs. The cable authors note that the Russians typically engage in the "bold lie" when they wish to conceal their actions: "To posit that they could be UFOs would be humorous if it were not for the seriousness of the violations." (US State Department cable, October 30, 2001, [PURSUE release])

2002, June — 4:30 a.m. A military reservist stationed at Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan, is outside looking at the stars with another pilot when he notices that the stars are getting "blacked out" by a flying object moving from west to east. The object appears to be a huge equilateral triangle, moving silently at about 170 mph with no visible lights. The reservist estimates it to be about 500 feet long, although he cannot see the full shape. ("FD-302, 'Airborne Lights and Triangle,' 2002, 2023–2024," FBI-UAP-D024, [PURSUE release, pp. 2–3]; "Digital Rendering, 'Airborne Triangle,' 2002," FBI-UAP-D025, [PURSUE release])

2004, November 5 — The US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission in Turkmenistan and the USAID Director meet with members of a group called Union of Ufologists, located in Turkmenabat, which has been in existence since independence in 1992. The group has "attracted a local brain trust of lawyers, scientists, computer experts, accountants, teacher, and others" interested in the subject. According to UOU President Ovezberdy Muradov, everyone in Turkmenistan is interested in UFOs. (US State Department cable, November 12, 2004, [PURSUE release])

2008, July 2 — Afternoon. A UFO hovering at high altitude is seen above the Harare International Airport, Zimbabwe. Beams apparently emanate from the object, which is disc-shaped with a "hollow center" and has several rotating lights on its underside. It quickly shoots out of sight. (Central Intelligence Agency, "Placement on High Alert Due to Perceived Aggressive Foreign Posturing," July 2008, [PURSUE release])

2008, July 18 — The Defense Intelligence Agency issues a statement of objectives for the Aerospace Advanced Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP). (Defense Intelligence Agency, Acquisition Support Division, "Statement of Objectives for the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program," July 18, 2008, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D110])

2008, August 18 — The Defense Intelligence Agency, through the Virginia Contracting Agency based at Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C., issues a small-business set-aside solicitation (HHM402-08-R-0211) for a company to handle its new Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP), with a due date of September 10. The solicitation states that the primary focus is on "breakthrough technologies and applications that create discontinuities in currently evolving technology trends." The solicitation is slightly amended, by versions dated August 20 and August 22, 2008. An attachment to the solicitation, dated July 18, 2008, sets out the program objectives: "The objective of this program is to

understand the physics and engineering of these applications as they apply to the foreign threat out to the far term, ie., from now through the year 2050. Primary focus is on breakthrough technologies and applications that create discontinuities in currently evolving technology trends." Technical studies in 12 areas are required, including in the areas of propulsion, signature reduction, and human effects. The closing date for bids is September 8. ("B — Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program, Solicitation HHM402-08-R-0211," August 18, 2008; Virginia Contracting Agency, "Solicitation/Contract/Order for Commercial Items," September 22, 2008, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D111]; Keith Basterfield, "AATIP/AAWSAP: The Publicly Available Documentation on These Programs," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, December 27, 2018; Skinwalkers 20–21, 42–43; John Greenewald, "The Black Vault's AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project," The Black Vault, January 21, 2023)

2008, September 22 — A $10 million initial contract for the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP) is awarded to Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies by the Defense Intelligence Agency. The only other bidder on the August solicitation is Lockheed Martin. The program contract directs that the "contractor shall complete advanced aerospace weapon system technical studies" on 12 topics, such as propulsion, power generation, materials, configuration, structure, and directed-energy weapons. The intent is to research technology that could shed light on the UFO/UAP phenomenon. Robert Bigelow has already set up the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) project, which now has 40–50 full-time support staff, to carry out the contract through September 30, 2010. DIA intelligence officer James T. Lacatski becomes the program manager in Washington, D.C., and biochemist Colm Kelleher is deputy administrator in Las Vegas. Engineer Harold E. Puthoff claims he is responsible determining what topics related to aerospace futures the program will address. The first administrator is NASA employee Alan C. Holt, who resigns after a short time. (Virginia Contracting Agency, "Solicitation/Contract/Order for Commercial Items," September 22, 2008, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D111]; Clark III 48; Keith Basterfield, "Dr. Colm Kelleher and the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program," Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, May 14, 2018; Keith Basterfield, "Did the AAWSA Program/AATIP Really Start in 2007?" Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, May 16, 2018; Keith Basterfield, "AATIP/AAWSAP: The Publicly Available Documentation on These Programs," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, December 27, 2018; Skinwalkers 20, 22–25, 42–44; John Greenewald, "The Black Vault's AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project," The Black Vault, January 21, 2023; Coulthart 2023, pp. 153–154; Covert, xxvi–xxvii, 1–7; Clark IV 704, 983; Keith Basterfield, "There Was a BAASS AAWSAP Administrator before Robert Bigelow," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, June 28, 2025)

2008, November — MUFON prepares technical reports for the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies project that briefs them on such aerospace topics as using the Earth's magnetic field for lift, cold fusion power generation, superconductor-generated propulsion and control, direct human-to-machine interface, and antigravity propulsion techniques. ("MUFON Reports Prepared for BAASS," November 2008, [PURSUE release])

2008, December 2 — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies issues a Project Management Plan outlining its proposed strategy, priorities, and milestones for carrying out the program's 12 technical areas, including initiatives focused on physics research, project cooperation with government-held information, academic engagement, database development, oral-history interviewing, and collection or review of materials described as excluded from Project Blue Book. The plan argues that the most productive approach would be to study "craft" or events already believed by BAASS to demonstrate novel behavior across the 12 technical areas, rather than concentrating primarily on then-current academic or industrial state-of-the-art research. (Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, "Project Management Plan (Overview Paper)," December 2, 2008, [PURSUE release])

2008, December 10 — Jacques Vallée prepares a report for the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies project on his proposal for the Project CAPELLA database on UAP. ([Jacques Vallée], "Project CAPELLA: Towards the Development of a Data Warehouse in Support of Research on Unusual Aerial Phenomena and Related Anomalies," Documatica Research, December 10, 2008, [PURSUE release])

2009, April 10 — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies issues a progress report on its activities in March. One segment summarizes Jacques Vallée's trip to Colares, Brazil, to interview witnesses of the "chupa chupa" terror (Project Colares). (Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, "March Report," April 10, 2009, [PURSUE release])

2009, May — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies issues a progress report that summarizes its activities for the period April 1–30, 2009. The report addresses staffing and clearance processing, progress on contracted technical papers, BAASS's purchase of UAP information from the Mutual UFO Network, work on "Project Northern Tier," and review of UAP-related materials released by several foreign governments. It also describes BAASS's development of investigative and laboratory support capabilities, including a small deployable field investigation team and arrangements for potential future forensic and scientific analyses of materials obtained through MUFON reporting. Overall, the file documents ongoing program activity, particularly in UAP case acquisition, field investigation, and archival research. (Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, "April 2009 Monthly Report," May 2009, [PURSUE release])

2009, July 9 — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies issues a progress report on its activities in June 2009. The report addresses staffing growth, expansion into new facilities, progress on contracted technical papers, investigative activity based on information received via MUFON, a BAASS deployment to Brazil, an update on "Project Northern Tier," and continued review of UAP-related materials released by foreign governments. It also documents BAASS's continued investment in field investigation capacity, foreign liaison-building, and UAP case acquisition, while recording BAASS's proposal to reduce MUFON's monthly stipend pending further performance review. (Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, "June Report," July 9, 2009, [PURSUE release])

2009, September 8 — The Defense Intelligence Agency extends the AAWSAP contract with Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies through September 30, 2009, revises the option-year dates to run from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, and exercises the first option year subject to the availability of appropriated funds. (Virginia Contracting Activity, AAWSAP contract modification, September 8, 2009, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D112]

2009, December — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies issues a progress report summarizing its activities in November. The report focuses on AAWSAP investigative activity based on information received via MUFON, progress on investigations centering on Skinwalker Ranch in Utah, and a preliminary report on a "blue orb" incident. It also records BAASS's continued emphasis on field investigation, case database expansion, and a focused inquiry into events at the Utah ranch and surrounding area, including creation of a separate database for those incidents. (Bigelow Aerospace Advance Space Studies, "November 2009 Report," December 2009, [PURSUE release])

2009, December 1 — The Defense Intelligence Agency's AAWSAP program announces the first of 38 Project Physics position papers (Defense Intelligence Reference Documents) that define the current and projected state of the art in aerospace technology, all pertaining to the 12 areas chosen by the DIA. Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) has subcontracted with Harold E. Puthoff, CEO of EarthTech International in Austin, Texas, to choose the precise nature and scope of the papers. These papers are released in the sixth tranche of PURSUE documents in September 2026. (Todd C. Hufnagel, "Metallic Glasses," December 14, 2009; Wil McCarthy, "Aerospace Applications of Programmable Matter," December 14, 2009; Bruce Towe, "Biomaterials," January 7, 2010; James Williams, "Materials for Advanced Aerospace Platforms," January 12, 2010; James Wells, "Pulsed High-Power Microwave Source Technology," January 28, 2010; Ulf Leonhardt, "Invisibility Cloaking: Theory and Experiments," March 2, 2010; Gerald Smith, "Positron Aerospace Propulsion," March 2, 2010; Paul Czysz, "Space Access: Where We've Been…and Where We Could Go," March 8, 2010; George Miley, "Inertial Electrostatic Confinement Fusion," March 10, 2010; Friedwardt Winterberg, "Advanced Nuclear Propulsion for Manned Deep Space Missions," March 11, 2010; Claudio Maccone, "An Introduction to the Statistical Drake Equation," March 11, 2010; Kit Green, "Anomalous Acute and Subacute Field Effects on Human Biological Tissues," March 11, 2010; Maxim Tsoi, "Metallic Spintronics," March 23, 2010; Richard Genik, "Technological Approaches to Controlling External Devices in the Absence of

Limb-Operated Interfaces," March 23, 2010; George Hathaway, "The Role of Superconductors in Gravity Research," March 23, 2010; Hal Puthoff, "Advanced Space Propulsion Based on Vacuum (Spacetime Metric) Engineering," March 29, 2010; John G. Cramer, "The Space-Communication Implications of Quantum Entanglement and Nonlocality," March 30, 2010; George Hathaway, "Maverick Inventor Versus Corporate Inventor: Where Will the Next Major Innovations Arise?" March 30, 2010; Eric Davis, "Antigravity for Aerospace Applications," March 30, 2010; Bruce Towe, "Biosensors and BioMEMs," March 31, 2010; John Albertine, "State of the Art and Evolution of High-Energy Laser Weapons," March 31, 2010; Richard Obousy, "Warp Drive, Dark Energy, and the Manipulation of Extra Dimensions," April 2, 2010; Eric Davis, "Traversable Wormholes, Stargates, and Negative Energy," April 6, 2010; Robert Baker, "High-Frequency Gravitational Wave Communications," April 6, 2010; Gennady Shvets, "Metamaterials for Aerospace Applications," April 6, 2010; Eric Davis, "Concepts for Extracting Energy from the Quantum Vacuum," April 6, 2010; Eric Davis, "Laser Lightcraft Nanosatellites," November 1, 2010; Marc G. Millis, "Cockpits in the Era of Breakthrough Flight," November 1, 2010; Vincent Louis Teofilo, "Aneutronic Fusion Propulsion I," November 1, 2010; William Culbreth, "Aneutronic Fusion Propulsion II," November 1, 2010; J. Golightly, "Ultracapacitors As Energy and Power Storage Devices for Commercial and Military Applications," November 1, 2010; William Culbreth, "Detection and High Resolution Tracking of Vehicles at Hypersonic Velocities," November 20, 2010; Sergey Macheret, "MHD Air Breathing Propulsion and Power for Aerospace Applications," November 21, 2010; Richard Genik, "Quantum Computing and Utilizing Organic Molecules in Automation Technology," December 10, 2010; Richard Genik, "Cognitive Limits on Simultaneous Control of Multiple Unmanned Spacecraft," December 15, 2010; Friedwardt Winterberg, "Negative Mass Propulsion," January 3, 2011; Eric Davis, "Quantum Tomography of Negative Energy States in the Vacuum," January 11, 2011; US Defense Intelligence Agency, [list of products produced under the AATIP contract], January 9, 2018; Skinwalkers 47, 122)

2010, March 22–26 — Four Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies team members visit the Skinwalker Ranch in Utah to record evidence of light phenomena and unidentified creatures reported by some 25 local residents. The witnesses describe a large dog or wolf-like creature that can walk or run on two legs; small, 3-foot-tall, troll-like creatures with long arms; a large worm, a "pterodactyl," and other shapes. The team makes a return visit on April 19–23 to follow up. The group takes photos of unidentified tracks in the snow that apparently pass through a barbed wire fence and obtains large anomalous signals at one location during comprehensive electromagnetic signal sweeps. (Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, "Utah Ranch Investigation," May 7, 2010, [PURSUE release])

2010, May 18 — The Defense Intelligence Agency issues two modifications of the AAWSAP contract that changes the Contracting Officer's Representative designation, identifies the newly designated representative, and aligns internal recordkeeping with this change. (Virginia Contracting Activity, AAWSAP contract modification, May 18, 2010, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D114]; Virginia Contracting Activity, AAWSAP contract modification, May 18, 2010, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D115])

2010, September 28 — The contract for the Defense Intelligence Agency's Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program is extended until December 21, 2010, at no cost to the government. However, there is no congressional funding available for 2011. One of its most significant achievements is the development of a Data Warehouse that links 11 separate UFO databases and supporting documentation. The databases are the NIDS database airline and military pilot sightings, the USAF Blue Book database, UFOCAT, the MUFON Case Management System database, Project Colares, the Canadian government's UFO releases, the UK government's UFO releases, BAASS cases investigated, Skinwalker Ranch database, and a database of Skinwalker Ranch contagious health effects. Each UFO case is assigned a credibility rating designed by Jacques Vallée, and the database configuration is based on a six-layer model developed by Vallée and Eric W. Davis in 2003, using layers designated as physical, anti-physical, psychological, physiological, psychic, and cultural. The Data Warehouse is not retired at the end of the AAWSAP, but is used by the UAP Task Force and its successor organizations. (Virginia Contracting

Activity, AAWSAP contract modification, September 29, 2010, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D116]; Skinwalkers 26–27, 167–170)

2010, November 23 — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies issues a 140-page summary report describing the project's technical capabilities and summarizes the company's self-assessment of the suitability of its personnel, software, equipment, field sensor, and data warehousing capabilities for analyzing UAP and USOs. It includes excerpted case findings and uses selected case studies and modeling exercises as demonstrations of BAASS's analytical capabilities. The report describes BAASS as combining field collection resources, historical databases, and computational tools such as ANSYS Multiphysics to model UAP incidents through engineering and physics analysis, including work on radar cross section, fluid behavior, acoustics, and aerodynamic performance. It also presents BAASS's in-house capabilities that support both threat assessment and the study of advanced aerospace technologies, while asserting that analysis of UAP performance characteristics could inform future developments in propulsion, stealth, detection, and weapons systems. (Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, "Summary Report on BAASS UAP Analysis Capabilities," November 23, 2010, [PURSUE release])

2011, June or July — 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. Two US Army personnel at an undisclosed location in the United States observe an object like a "massive black isosceles triangle" 200 feet long and 100 feet wide flying north at around 800 feet in altitude. It has "car-sized" white lights in each of its three corners that emit a diffuse glow and it is making a low humming, pulsating sound. They watch it for 10–15 seconds before it passes out of sight. ("FD-302, 'Dark Triangle with Lights,' 2011," FBI-UAP-D028, [PURSUE release]; "Digital Rendering, 'Dark Triangle with Lights,' 2011," FBI-UAP-D029, [PURSUE release])

2013 — A US military operator in the Middle East takes 1 minute and 46 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP resembling an eight-pointed star with arms of alternating length and leaving behind a vapor trail. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR038]; Mick West, "PR038: The 'Chandelier' UFO," Metabunk forum, January 10, 2024; Mick West, "PR038: The 'Chandelier' UFO," Metabunk forum, January 10, 2024)

2015 — A US Navy platform takes 21 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP at an undisclosed location in the eastern United States. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR109]; "DOW-UAP-PR109, Flying Disc?" Metabunk forum, July 11, 2026)

2015, September 1 — 7:10 a.m. Security personnel at the Pantex nuclear weapons assembly plant 20 miles northeast of Amarillo, Texas, are alerted to an object described as a "diamond type-shape with it being more round at the top." Personnel are dispatched to "follow it and obtain as much information about it as possible." The object continues traveling to the north of the plant. Security personnel follow it in a vehicle for several miles until it disappears in the distance. The object is also tracked on ground radar and photographed by personnel at a nearby radar tower (likely located at Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport). Images of the object are subsequently analyzed by the Energy Department's Sandia National Laboratories, but their conclusions are not released. ("Pantex Unidentified Object Incident Report, September 2, 2015," Pantex, September 9, 2015, [PURSUE release; PURSUE release]; Dustin Slaughter, "UAP Incursion at Pantex Nuclear Facility Revealed in Newly Released Document," The UAP Register, June 6, 2024; Christopher Sharp, "Unexplained Intrusions at Nuclear Sites Met with Silence from Department of Energy as Decades of Secrecy Face Intense Scrutiny," Liberation Times, July 20, 2024; Dustin Slaughter, "First Confirmed Image Captures Unidentified Aerial Object Breaching Texas Nuclear Weapons Site Amid Ongoing Unexplained Incidents at Critical Energy Facilities," The UAP Register, January 16, 2025; John Greenewald, "U.S. Government Confirms Multiple Drone Incursions over Pantax Nuclear Facility," The Black Vault, July 12, 2025)

2016 — A US military operator in the US Northern Command takes 39 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP over the Atlantic Ocean. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR114])

2016, November 18 — 3:10 p.m. A US military pilot flying a Boeing P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft using an electro-optical/infrared sensor observes a "possible missile" skimming the surface of the Mediterranean Sea 63 miles northwest of Latakia, Syria. It is moving at 575 mph to the southeast. The

aircraft loses visual contact after 2 minutes. Video footage is taken. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D55])

2017, July — An infrared sensor on a US Air Force Special Operations Command platform in Kabul, Afghanistan, takes a video of a cylindrical UAP passing through the field of view. ("AFSOC Kabul UAP Jul 2017," DOW-UAP-PR064, [PURSUE release])

2018, July 3 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video of multiple UAP. ("HH11 03 July 2018 UAPS," DOW-UAP-PR096, [PURSUE release])

2019 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform in the Persian Gulf takes a video showing three UAP in tight formation. ("UFOs in Formation over Persian Gulf?" DOW-UAP-PR098, [PURSUE release])

2019 — An infrared sensor aboard a US military platform at an undisclosed area in the Pacific Ocean records a UAP. Five recordings by handheld cameras of the sensor screen are transmitted to AARO. ("Unresolved UAP Report, Pacific Ocean, 2019," videos [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR123; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR124; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR125; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR126; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR127)

2019 — A US Air Force platform in the Gulf of Mexico takes 8 seconds of video footage of a UAP from an infrared sensor. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR115])

2019 — Day. The pilot and crew of a civilian aircraft flying at an undisclosed location in the eastern United States notice a small object below them and traveling in a straight line in the opposite direction at high speed. They track it for 10–15 seconds before capturing it on video. When the operator zooms in to achieve better resolution, the object speeds away out of view. The video shows a rectangular object. The pilot says that it exhibits "flight characteristics unlike anything I had seen in my 28 years" with the Air Force and Navy. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D090; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR112])

2019, September 25 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform takes a video of a UAP at an undisclosed location. Two videos are taken at two different times. A likely flock of four birds, followed by four other birds later in the clip. ("Hi-Res: [Callsign] Observes UAP on 25Sep19 at 1715Z," DOW-UAP-PR099, [PURSUE release]; "Hi-Res: [Callsign] Observes UAP on 25Sep19 at 2135Z," DOW-UAP-PR097, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than 8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2019, December — An infrared sensor aboard a US Northern Command military platform on the East Coast of the United States takes a video of a UAP apparently skimming the surface of the water. ("UAP from Dec 2019 (East Coast}," DOW-UAP-PR086, [PURSUE release])

2020 — A US military operator takes 9 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP moving in a straight path at an undisclosed location in the Middle East. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR037])

2020 — A US military operator takes 5 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP along the Persian Gulf (possibly Farsi Island). ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR039]; "PR039 - Undisclosed Location 2020 [Farsi Island]," Metabunk forum, May 12, 2026)

2020 — A US military operator takes 1 minute and 3 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf. He alters the imagery by pausing the playback and adding a white line encircling the area showing an object with a "small thermal signature." ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR040])

2020 — A US military operator takes 1 minute and 24 seconds of infrared video of a UAP in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf. Probable bird. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR041]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than 8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2020 — A US military operator takes 4 minutes and 53 seconds of video footage using various modalities of a UAP in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR042])

2020 — A US military operator takes 5 minutes and 11 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf. Probable bird. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR044]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than

8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds,” Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2020 — A US Air Force pilot takes 58 seconds of infrared video footage showing a UAP in an undisclosed location over the southern United States. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR045])

2020 — A US military operator in the US Northern Command takes 23 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP in an undisclosed location in the eastern United States. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR107])

2020 — A US military operator in the US Northern Command takes one minute, 34 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP in an undisclosed location in the western United States. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR108])

2020 — A US military operator in the US Northern Command takes 22 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP in an undisclosed location in the eastern United States. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR110])

2020 — A US military operator in the US Northern Command takes one minute of infrared video footage of several UAP in an undisclosed location in the eastern United States. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR111])

2020 — Day. A US Navy pilot observes a small metallic object with a reflective underside moving in a “constant direction” over controlled airspace in the eastern United States. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D089; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR106])

2020 — Dusk. A US Navy aircraft crew flying over the Atlantic Ocean encounters a “maroonish” UAP about 12–15 feet in height traveling in a southerly direction with the wind. Structurally it appears to be a large, “somewhat deformed balloon” or balloon cluster. They obtain 32 seconds of video showing the object. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D091; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR116)]

2020, February 13 — An electro-optical and infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video of a white UAP. (“[Callsign] (Mission) - HD 2929-02-13,” DOW-UAP-PR094, [PURSUE release])

2020, May 5 — An infrared sensor aboard a US military platform in the Persian Gulf takes a video of multiple UAP. [“May 05 2020 Gulf of Arabia [Callsign] (Platform) Dual UAP,” DOW-UAP-PR093, [PURSUE release]; “May 05 2020 Gulf of Arabia [Callsign] (Platform) Dual UAP,” DOW-UAP-PR095, [PURSUE release])

2020, May 15 — 12:40 a.m. A US Navy crew observes a “solid white object” making erratic movements over the Persian Gulf. The sensor operator has to make continual adjustments to maintain a lock on the object. He takes 2 minutes and 17 seconds of infrared video footage. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D38; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR036])

2020, June 1 — An infrared sensor on a US Central Command military platform takes a 4 minute, 51 second video showing a UAP performing maneuvers at an undisclosed location. (“NAG UAP 1 June 20,” DOW-UAP-PR059,” [PURSUE release]; “DOW-UAP-PR059, ‘NAG UAP 1 Jun 20,’” Metabunk forum, May 27, 2026)

2020, July 16 — 10:30 p.m. A US Air Force operator over the Persian Gulf encounters a single UAP. Two other objects are detected at 11:20 p.m. and 3:45 a.m. on July 17. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D65])

2020, August 8 — 11:26 a.m. A US Air Force operator observes one UAP over the Persian Gulf. The observation is complicated by dense cloud cover. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D60; “08 Aug 2020 [Callsign] [Callsign] UAP Observation,” DOW-UAP-PR092, [PURSUE release])

2020, August 21 — An infrared sensor aboard a US military platform takes a video of a UAP over the Persian Gulf. (“21 Aug [Callsign] Observes UAP in Persian Gulf,” DOW-UAP-PR091, [PURSUE release])

2020, August 24 — 4:04 a.m. A US Navy operator encounters a group of three small UAP over the northern part of the Arabian Sea. The objects have wings and an airframe and are initially moving to the west. The operator tracks one UAP before losing sight of it behind a cloud. When he regains contact, he detects two additional objects to the east of the first. All three maintain their relative course, speed, and altitude. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D56])

2020, August 24 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform in an undisclosed location takes a video of a UAP above an agricultural area. (“24 Aug 2020 [Callsign] (Mission) Observes UAP,” DOW-UAP-PR090, [PURSUE release]; “DOW-UAP-PR090, 24 August 2020, Centcom, Released 22 May 2026,” Metabunk forum, May 22, 2026)

2020, August 27 — 7:27 p.m. A US Air Force operator sees a "formation of unknown flying objects" traveling northeast to northwest along the coast of the Persian Gulf for approximately 2 minutes. Light cloud cover prevents continuous tracking of the objects. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D61])

2020, August 31 — Dusk. A US Navy observer in Japanese waters (or in the Persian Gulf) observes a UAP passing through his sensor screen. A second object overtakes it at a faster speed, and a third joins the others making complex maneuvers. Probable birds. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D42]; "31 Aug [Callsign] [Callsign] Observes UAP," DOW-UAP-PR088, [PURSUE release]; "31 Aug [Callsign] [Callsign] Observes UAP Part2," DOW-UAP-PR089, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than 8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2020, September 5 — 12:09 a.m. A US Navy operator in the Gulf of Aden tracks a "round, cold object" for 8 minutes using a "black hot" infrared sensor that makes the UAP appear "bright white." The object is moving at 277 mph and makes several abrupt directional changes. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D57])

2020, September 5 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform in an undisclosed area takes video of UAP transiting the field of vision. ("05 September 2020 [Callsign] UAP," DOW-UAP-PR087, [PURSUE release])

2020, September 16 — A full-motion video camera aboard a US Central Command military platform takes a video of a UAP at an undisclosed location. Probable bird. ("16 Sept 2020 [Callsign] [Callsign] Observes UAP," DOW-UAP-PR085, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than 8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2020, September 16 — 11:32 p.m. A US Air Force operator in the Strait of Hormuz observes a single UAP at an estimated altitude of 1,800 feet. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D62])

2020, September 17 — A full-motion video camera aboard a US Central Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video of a UAP flying over a populated area. ("17 Sept 2020 [Callsign] Observes UAP," DOW-UAP-PR084," [PURSUE release])

2020, October 1 — 10:29 p.m. A US Air Force operator observes a UAP in the Strait of Hormuz. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D63])

2020, October 7 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform takes a video of a black sphere passing over an undisclosed location. ("7 October 2020 [Callsign] Observes UAP," DOW-UAP-PR083," [PURSUE release])

2020, October 15 — 5:18 p.m. A US Navy operator in the Gulf of Aden detects a "round, cold object" on his infrared sensor traveling to the northwest at 20 mph. It makes several abrupt changes in direction in one minute. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D44])

2020, October 16 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Africa Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video of a UAP. ("16 Oct 2020 [Callsign] Views UAP," DOW-UAP-PR082," [PURSUE release])

2020, October 18 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Africa Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video of a UAP above a rural landscape. ("18 Oct 2020 [Callsign] Observes UAP," DOW-UAP-PR081, [PURSUE release])

2020, October 20 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video of a UAP, apparently near a ship. ("20 October 2020 [Callsign] [Callsign] Observes UAP," DOW-UAP-PR080, [PURSUE release])

2020, October 27 — Night. A US Navy operator in an undisclosed location encounters two balloon-shaped, metallic UAP that have two red, blinking strobe lights. One object is circling around the other. Noise jamming is detected. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D58])

2020, October 29 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video of three fast-moving UAP. Probable birds. ("29 October 2020 [Callsign] (Mission) Observes 3 Fast Moving UAP's," DOW-UAP-PR079, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than 8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2020, November 2 — 1:43 a.m. A US Air Force operator observes a single UAP moving to the east off the coast of Iran. Another object appears at 1:48 a.m. traveling northwest. Probable birds. ([PURSUE release,

DOW-UAP-D64; "2 November 2020 [Callsign] [Callsign] Observes and Tracks UAP 1 of 2," DOW-UAP-PR077, [PURSUE release]; "2 November 2020 [Callsign] [Callsign] Observes and Tracks UAP 2 of 2," DOW-UAP-PR078, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than 8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2020, November 23 — 4:00 p.m. A US Air Force reconnaissance platform records infrared (FLIR) footage that appears to show a disc-shaped object moving through clouds over the Hindu Kush range near the Afghanistan–Pakistan frontier. It executes a sudden maneuver without any visible heat plume. The three short videos are released to the public on June 17, 2025, by journalists Jeremy Corbell and George Knapp on their *Weaponized* podcast, who note that the documentation they have seen indicates the US Department of Defense has labeled the object as UAP. ("Spherical UAP over AFG in and Out of Clouds 23 Nov 2020," DOW-UAP-PR055, [PURSUE release]; Christopher Sharp, "Newly Released Footage Shows 'Disc'-Shaped UFO Making Abrupt Turn over Hindu Kush Mountains," Liberation Times, June 17, 2025; "PR055: Corbell's 'U.S. Military Films Huge Disc Hiding in the Clouds' New Video 06/17/25," Metabunk forum, June 17, 2025; Andreas Müller, "Neue US-Militär-UFO-Videos geleaked," grenzWissenschaft-aktuell.de, June 18, 2025)

2021 — A Multi-Spectral Targeting System on an MQ-9 Reaper drone operating in Syria near the Jordan border detects and tracks (using thermographic/FLIR imaging) a UAP with a weapons-quality lock. The UAP appears to demonstrate abrupt directional changes, instantaneous acceleration, and intelligent control. Absence of traditional propulsion or thermal signatures during performance—as well as an examination of shape and acceleration—are noted in documentation. ("Syrian UAP Instant Acceleration," DOW-UAP-PR051, [PURSUE release]; "Syria UAP 2021," Weaponized podcast, January 31, 2026; "Syria UAP 2021: Military-Filmed Footage / Apparent Instantaneous Acceleration," Jeremy Corbell YouTube channel, February 3, 2026; Mick West, "PR051- Syria UAP 2021 - Apparent Instantaneous Acceleration," Metabunk forum, February 3, 2026; The Paranormal Chris, "New Syria UFO Video Explained!" X post, February 4, 2026; Andreas Müller, "Journalisten veröffentlichen weiteres UAP-Video des US-Militärs," grenzWissenschaft-aktuell.de, February 5, 2026; Christopher Sharp, "New Footage Shows Mushroom-Shaped UFO Making Apparent Sudden Acceleration, Echoing CIA Director's Warning to Defense Secretary," Liberation Times, February 8, 2026; "Syria 2021 Leak - UAP, or Balloon?" Mick West YouTube channel, February 11, 2026)

2021, January 3 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a 4 minute, 57 second video of a white UAP moving above an agricultural landscape. ("03 January 2021 [Callsign] (Mission) Observes UAP," DOW-UAP-PR076, [PURSUE release])

2021, April 12 — A full-motion video camera and an infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform takes several videos showing a small, light-colored UAP moving above hilly terrain near Al Fathah, Iraq. The object descends in altitude and changes direction, entering a shadowed area. ("Spherical UAP [Callsign] 2021/04/12 Obj 2," DOW-UAP-PR060, [PURSUE release]; "Spherical UAP [Callsign] 2021/04/12 Vid 0," DOW-UAP-PR061, [PURSUE release]; "Spherical UAP [Callsign] 2021/04/12 Vid 1," DOW-UAP-PR062, [PURSUE release]; "Spherical UAP [Callsign] 2021/04/12 Vid 2," DOW-UAP-PR063, [PURSUE release]; "PR060 | PR061 | PR062 | PR063 - Centocom (Iraq)," Metabunk forum, May 24, 2026)

2021, June 9 — An infrared sensor on a US military platform in the East China Sea tracks a fast-moving UAP. ("09Jun2021 [Platform] Observed UAP in the ECS," DOW-UAP-PR075, [PURSUE release])

2021, September 8 — Night. The crew of a Lockheed AC-130 aircraft belonging to a US Special Operations Forces unit engaging in a live-fire training exercise over the Gulf of Oman observes two UAP after dropping a water-activated flare. The objects are stationary, about 4 feet in diameter, and less than 20 feet above the water's surface. Throughout the sortie while using an infrared sensor, the crew observes 25 instances involving "cold orbs" in various loose formations maneuvering aggressively at speeds between 250 to 1,300 mph. No video is permanently recorded because their equipment "inexplicably failed," but footage taken by cellphones of the sensor's screen is available. ("DOW-UAP-D101, Intelligence Information Report, Unresolved UAP Report, Gulf of Oman, 2021," [PURSUE release]; videos, [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR117; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR118; PURSUE release, DOW-

UAP-PR119; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR120; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR121; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR122]; Avi Loeb, "Remarkable Anomalies in the Fifth Tranche of UAP Data from the U.S. Government," Medium: Avi Loeb, August 8, 2026, Avi Loeb, "Are UAP Orbs Adversary Drones?" Medium: Avi Loeb, August 18, 2026)

2021, November — 5:00 a.m. A witness observes a bright light near the horizon at an estimated distance of 3,000 feet in an undisclosed, sparsely populated location in the northeastern United States. It initially appears as an intense single light before it resolves into multiple lights that are rotating erratically, the array moving slowly from left to right. The witness takes a video with a hand-held iPhone 12 Pro. (Video, "Triangle Orbs," [PURSUE release])

2022 — An infrared sensor on a US Air Force F/A-18 Hornet aircraft takes a 29-second video of a circular UAP in an undisclosed location. ("F/A-18 FLIR UAP," DOW-UAP-PR069, [PURSUE release]; Mick West, "PR069 - New ATFLIR Footage, Maybe Helpful for Gimbal, Etc.?" Metabunk forum, May 30, 2026)

2022 — 11:26 p.m. A US military pilot at an undisclosed location in Iraq observes UAP "flying sporadically within the target area…at various speeds between 80 and 180 miles per hour." The reporter estimates the size of the UAP as 3–6 feet but their altitude is indeterminate. Still photos taken by an infrared camera show two objects. Infrared/electro-optical videos also show the objects. Probable birds. ("Mission Report, Iraq, 2022," DOW-UAP-D106, [PURSUE release]; "Mission Report, Middle East, 2022," DOW-UAP-D109, [PURSUE release]; still photos, DOW-UAP-PR130, [PURSUE release], DOW-UAP-PR131, [PURSUE release]; videos, DOW-UAP-PR140, [PURSUE release], DOW-UAP-PR141, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "In More Than 8% of the Sensor Videos Declassified by PURSUE, the UAP Might Be Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 16, 2026)

2022, February — A cellphone video is taken of an unidentified glow at the Sary-Arka Airport in Karaganda, Kazakhstan. Probable Soyuz rocket launch. ("Administrative Revision: IIR 1777 J0032 22 Kazakhstan: UAP in the Vicinity of Karaganda International Airport," DOW-UAP-PR072, [PURSUE release]; "DOW-UAP-PR072, Administrative Revision IIR 1777 J0032 33 Kazakhstan," Metabunk forum, May 25, 2026)

2022, February 15 — 10:50 a.m. Five intelligence officers are walking uphill toward Group Headquarters at Fort Carson near Colorado Springs, Colorado, when Cheyenne Mountain comes into view, at an estimated distance of about 6 miles. Hovering approximately 985 feet above the saddle near the antenna array, they observe an object like an irregular, horizontally oriented ("potato-like") oval, approximately 300 feet across. The object appears perfectly still and silent, with a translucent-white appearance that shows a slight shimmer and reflection in sunlight. The witnesses note that its surface seems composed of irregular angular panels whose joints articulate in a slightly irregular, pulsing manner across the object. All five observers acknowledge the object; the reporting witness, Army Senior Intelligence Officer Caison Best, describes their reaction as shock. After an estimated 2 minutes of observation, the object is no longer visible. No one observes a specific departure. The group reports no additional objects and no clouds. Mick West suspects that it is a lenticular cloud. (FBI, "Forensic Sketch Interview," July 2024, [PURSUE release]; digital rendering, [PURSUE release]; AARO analysis, [PURSUE release]; FBI interview form, April 2025, [PURSUE release]; Americans for Safe Aerospace, "Report ID: MIL-2022-104"; Mick West, "Caison Best's Fort Carson UAP Report," Metabunk, September 2, 2025; "Former Senior Intelligence Officer Finds UAP by Colorado Defense Bunker | Reality Check," NewsNation and Ross Coulthart YouTube channel, September 2, 2025)

2022, March — 7:20 p.m. A witness in the northeastern United States (in the same general area as the November 2021 incident) observes two stationary red lights hovering near the horizon at an estimated distance of 2,500 feet. The lower light seems to rotate slowly relative to the upper light, moving from an apparent 6 o'clock position to slightly beyond the 9 o'clock position. The witness takes a video using an iPhone 12 Pro. (Video, "Red Orb Rotation," [PURSUE release])

2022, March 25 — An infrared sensor aboard a US military platform in an undisclosed location shows UAP maneuvering near a surfaced submarine. ("Multiple Spherical UAP USO near Sub. [Callsign] 2022/03/25 in and out of Water," DOW-UAP-PR067, [PURSUE release]; Kyle McDonald, "DOW-UAP-PR067 Multiple Spherical UAP USO near Sub," Metabunk forum, May 22, 2026)

2022, May — 11:20 p.m. A US Air Force operator in Kuwait takes a digital still image of a UAP moving from north to northeast. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR020], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D12])

2022, May — 3:11 a.m. A US military operator in Iraq takes 10 seconds of infrared video footage of two "areas of contrast" moving together. The accompanying report describes the UAP as a probable Sukhoi Su-27 or Su-35 fighter aircraft landing at Al-Asad Airbase. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR021], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D14])

2022, May 6 — 6:14 p.m. A US military operator in Iraq observes five UAP fly across his screen. One UAP is described as a "possible missile," the remaining four are "possible birds." Five seconds of infrared video footage showing the UAP (but not the birds) is submitted to AARO. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D10], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR019])

2022, May 20 — 11:43 p.m. A US military operator in Iraq observes one UAP flying north to northeast. He follows it for as long as possible but cannot identify the object. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D12])

2022, May 29 — 4:17 a.m. A US military operator encounters a UAP flying north to northeast over Syria. He follows it as long as possible but does not get a positive identification. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D14]

2022, June 13 — An infrared sensor on a US Central Command military platform in an undisclosed area captures footage of a cylindrical UAP. ("[Callsign] (Mission)HD_20220613," DOW-UAP-PR074, [PURSUE release]; All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, "(U) Case: 'Atmospheric Wakes,'" May 8, 2023; Mick West, "PR074: Bad Redactions," Metabunk forum, May 23, 2026)

2022, July — 4:02 a.m. A US military operator in Syria takes 14 seconds of infrared and electro-optical video footage of a UAP moving from north to south across the top right quarter of the sensor's field-of-view. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR022], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D16])

2022, July 31 — 6:02 a.m. A US Air Force operator in Syria observes one UAP moving north to south for less than one minute. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D16])

2022, August — An infrared sensor on a US European Command military platform takes a video of a spherical object making erratic movements at an undisclosed location. ("Spherical UAP Erratic Movement [Callsign] (Mission) 2022," DOW-UAP-PR054, [PURSUE release]; "DOW-UAP-PR054, 'Spherical UAP Erratic Movement [Callsign] (Mission) 2022,'" Metabunk forum, July 12, 2026)

2022, August 26 — A US military platform operating in international waters off Iran takes a 9-second infrared video of four UAP crossing the field of vision. ("4 UAP Formation Iran 26 Aug 2022 over Water [Callsign]," DOW-UAP-PR050, [PURSUE release]; Mick West, "PR050 - Boats and … Birds?" Metabunk forum, May 30, 2026)

2022, October 15 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Central Command military platform at an undisclosed location takes a video showing a dark object traversing the frame. ("Cigar Shaped or Fast Spherical UAP Clip 15 Oct 22," DOW-UAP-PR053, [PURSUE release])

2022, November — An infrared video taken by a US military platform shows a UAP near Columbus, Ohio. ("IIR 1 655 S0053 23/Several Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Encountered in the Vicinity of Columbus OH," DOW-UAP-PR073, [PURSUE release])

2022, December 1 — 7:20 p.m. A US military operator in Baghdad, Iraq, observes a "possible UAP" flying from west to east and takes 10 seconds of infrared video footage. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D18], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR023]; "PR023 - Baghdad, Iraq," Metabunk forum, May 12, 2026)

2023 — A US military platform in the Middle East takes 18 seconds of video footage of two UAP from an infrared sensor. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR024])

2023 — A US military platform in the Middle East takes 10 seconds of video footage of two UAP from an infrared sensor. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR030]; Mick West, "DOW-UAP-PR030 'Shapeshifting' Object That's Really Two Small Objects," Metabunk forum, July 11, 2026)

2023 — A US military operator in Japan takes one minute, 59 seconds infrared video footage of a UAP with three distinct areas of contrast. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR047])

2023 — A US military operator in the Middle East takes 33 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR136])

2023 — A US military operator in the Middle East takes 51 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP above a cargo ship. The vessel is of known size and this can be used as a reference to calculate an upper boundary of Mach 0.4 for the object's relative velocity. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR149]; Jacob Haqq-Misra and Ravi Kopparapu, "Limits on Velocity Recovery from the PURSUE Sensor Videos," arXiv, August 12, 2026)

2023 — A military operator in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes 4 minutes and 57 seconds of video footage from an electro-optical and infrared sensor system of a UAP over the Yellow Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR100])

2023 — A military platform in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 19-second video of a UAP over the Yellow Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR143])

2023 — A military platform in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 27-second video of a UAP over the Yellow Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR144])

2023 — A military platform in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 59-second video of a UAP over the East China Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR148])

2023 — A military platform in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 57-second video of a UAP over the Yellow Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR150])

2023 — A military platform in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 49-second video of a UAP over the Yellow Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR151])

2023 — A military platform in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 1-minute, 38-second video of a UAP over the Yellow Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR152])

2023, January 5 — An infrared sensor on a US military platform in either the Yellow Sea or the East China Sea takes a video of a spherical UAP moving past clouds. ("Spherical UAP in Clouds," DOW-UAP-PR057A, [PURSUE release]; "[Platform] Observes UAP in East China Sea 05 Jan 2023 INDOPACOM," DOW-UAP-PR057B, [PURSUE release])

2023, January 20 — An F-35 flying out of Luke AFB is conducting a training sortie in restricted airspace above the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range in Arizona. It has three encounters with small unknown objects. The first is detected at 20,000 feet in the northeastern section of the Sells Military Operations Area traveling eastbound at 100 knots. The second is detected at 33,000 feet traveling westbound at 0.75 Mach. The third is detected at 26,000 feet, traveling eastbound at approximately 100 knots. It is possible that this encounter is captured by the aircraft's infrared sensor and is the video footage taken by a fifth-generation aircraft on this date within the US Northern Command. (Joseph Trevithick and Tyler Rogoway, "Pilots Are Seeing Some Very Strange Things in Arizona's Military Training Ranges," The Drive: The War Zone, August 2, 2023; "IIR 1 666 S0151 23/Video Footage of Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (UAP) Captured by Fifth Generation Aircraft on 20 Jan 23," DOW-UAP-PR068," [PURSUE release])

2023, February 12 — One of two F-16CM Vipers scrambled by the Minnesota National Guard shoots down a third small object with an AIM-9X Sidewinder missile above Lake Huron within the maritime territory of Michigan. It is spherical (an early report stated it is octagonal) with a single string hanging down from it (an early report indicates multiple strings) and is first detected on February 11 flying across northern Montana, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan at 20,000 feet. Video taken at the time shows it as definitely balloon-like. Airspace is temporarily closed in the Lake Huron area where the object is shot down, falling into Canadian waters. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police suspend a search for the object due to weather on February 16, but some debris ("both material and a [weather-monitoring] module") is recovered in early March on the shore of Lake Huron. The wreckage indicates that the object is a weather balloon launched from a US Weather Bureau Service radar station in Michigan. (Wikipedia, "2023 Lake Huron high-altitude object"; Julian E. Barnes, Helene Cooper, and Edward Wong, "What's Going On Up There? Theories But No Answers in Shootdowns of Mystery Craft," *New York Times,* February 14, 2023; Howard Altman and Tyler Rogoway, "F-16 Shoots Down 'Octagonal Object' over Lake Huron (Updated)," The Drive: The War Zone, February 12, 2023; Thomas Newdick, "Listen to F-16 Pilots Intercept the Octagon Object over Lake Huron," The Drive: The War Zone, February 13, 2023; Howard Altman, "Balloons, No UFOs, Found by Satellites, Shoot Down Video Coming Says AARO Chief," The War Zone," October 31, 2023; Coulthart 2023, pp. 306–314; Powell, *Scientist,* 115; "Police in Canada Collected Wreckage after Object Shot Down over Lake Huron," CTV News, November 15,

2024; Joseph Trevithick, "Details about Search for Mystery Object Shot Down over Lake Huron Disclosed," The War Zone, November 15, 2024; "USAF ANG F-15C (Callsign [Callsign]) Shoots Down UAP over Lake Huron with [Weapon System], 12 Feb 2023," DOW-UAP-PR071, [PURSUE release]; Joseph Trevithick, "We Finally See the Mysterious Object Shot Down by F-16s over Lake Huron," The War Zone, May 22, 2026)

2023, February 13 — A US Air Force aircraft out of Eglin Air Force Base near Valparaiso, Florida, takes a 30-second infrared video of a UAP. ("IIR 1 655 50301 23/Eglin AFB Aircrew Observe Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) on 13 Feb 23," DOW-UAP-PR070, [PURSUE release])

2023, February 21 — 4:35 a.m. A US Air Force operator in Syria sees a "possible balloon" moving at 2,100 feet altitude. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D19])

2023, March — Night. A civilian in the Pacific Time Zone of the United States observes a large blue triangular object emitting "whitish blue" light from its perimeter. It is hovering above or near a national security facility for approximately 3 minutes, making "jerking" or "jumping" motions. Duration is about 8 minutes. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D51])

2023, April 1 — 2:02 a.m. A US military operator in Iraq observes "several bright objects maneuvering quickly" west to east-northeast. He achieves a track on the UAP through an onboard targeting pod for 20 seconds. The object then dims and disappears from the targeting pod. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D20])

2023, September 12 — Journalist Jaime Maussan unveils two allegedly "nonhuman beings" to Mexico's Congress of the Union during a public hearing on UFOs. Maussan claims that these are mummified corpses found in a diatom mine in the city of Cusco, Peru, near Nazca, and are believed to be more than 1,000 years old. Maussan claims that scientists at the National Autonomous University of Mexico have concluded that the corpses are not "part of our terrestrial evolution" and that almost a third of their DNA is of "unknown origin." However, Julieta Fierro, physics researcher at UNAM, states that the university does not endorse such claims and that Maussan's data "made no sense." Peruvian officials claim they are modern dolls assembled from paper, glue, metal, and human and animal bones, but reveal little else about their provenance. (Mick West, "Hoax? Three Fingered Nazca Mummy," Metabunk, June 21, 2017; "Three-Fingered 'Alien Bodies' Unveiled in Mexico," London *Metro,* September 13, 2023; Anna Lagos, "No, This Is Not an Alien: Here's Why," *Wired,* September 14, 2023; Aja Romano, "The True Story of the Fake Unboxed Aliens Is Wilder Than Actual Aliens," Vox, September 16, 2023; US State Department cable, September 16, 2023, pp. 5–6 [PURSUE release]; Kevin D. Randle, "Jaime Maussan and the Latest Round of Alien Creatures," A Different Perspective, September 28, 2023; "Mexico's Ancient Aliens," *Fortean Times* 437 (November 2023): 15; "They're Not Aliens: That's the Verdict from Peru Officials Who Seized 2 Doll-Like Figures," Associated Press, January 12, 2024)

2023, September 15 — 7:30 a.m. Four civilian contractors working on a lidar project assigned to Avon Park Air Force Range in central Florida are transporting small unmanned aerial vehicles in two trucks through a restricted range, designated as R2901. They observe a bright reflection in the sky coming from a cylindrical, bronze-colored, metallic object about 500 feet in the air. It is approximately the length of "three traffic helicopters combined" (130–195 feet). It disappears instantaneously "right in front of their eyes." One of them sends a message to the base at 9:38 a.m., and the officer notifies the military desk at the FAA Miami Air Route Traffic Control Center. ([PURSUE release, sketch; PURSUE release, PURSUE release, PURSUE release, statements]; Dustin Slaughter, "Large 'Cigar-Shaped' Object Observed by Military Eyewitnesses in Florida, per Newly-Released Report," The UAP Register, July 30, 2025)

2023, October — Over the course of two days, three teams of federal law enforcement special agents [probably US Border Patrol] observe "orbs launching other orbs" (at least five times) near a sensitive national security site in the western United States [possibly the Arizona border]. One luminous orange sphere appears for 1–2 seconds, emits 2–4 smaller red spheres, one after another, over several hours. All are silent. The smaller objects exhibit coordinated horizontal motion and changes in altitude. One sphere remains stationary above a ridgeline for several hours. Other objects observe include a large (roughly 50 feet in diameter) stationary glowing orange sphere about 3,400 feet away above a rock pinnacle, an object like a triangular "dark kite" maneuvering with "zero resistance" at 15–20 mph, and (30 minutes after the dark kite sighting) a "transparent kite" 20 feet off the ground floating slowly in the wind. AARO assesses

the observation as anomalous and worthy of continued investigation, although roughly 60% of the activity matches military aircraft dropping infrared countermeasure flares during a routine exercise, confirmed against flight logs and radar. ("Orbs Launching Orbs," [PURSUE release]; Narratives from witnesses, DOW-UAP-D079, June 2, 2026, [PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release]; Narrative from law enforcement, LLE-UAP-D001 [PURSUE release]; Memorandum for record, "All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) Case Analysis Update: Western U.S. Event 'Orbs Launching Orbs,'" June 5, 2026, [PURSUE release, PURSUE release]; artist's renderings of narrative statements, [PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release; PURSUE release]; digital video renderings of narrative statements, [PURSUE release; PURSUE release]; law-enforcement cellphone videos [PURSUE release, LLE-UAP-PR001, PURSUE release, LLE-UAP-PR002, PURSUE release, LLE-UAP-PR003, PURSUE release, LLE-UAP-PR004]; Mick West, "DOW-UAP-D077 to D083: Western US Event," Metabunk forum, June 12, 2026; Alban Deschamps, "Red Orbs in the American West," Sentinel News, June 28, 2026)

2023, October — Early morning. A US military pilot flying from Boston, Massachusetts, to Dublin, Ireland, sees 1–4 white lights over the Atlantic Ocean to the northeast towards Gander, Newfoundland. They are above his altitude and are at approximately 50,000 feet. The lights appear dim at first and get brighter before fading out in cycles ranging from 10 to 60 seconds. Some of the lights do not move, while others move in straight lines, sometimes changing directions. None move in a coordinated fashion. The pilot subsequently sees similar lights on 10 other occasions, for durations of 45 minutes to 2 hours, over the Midwest US or off the mid-Atlantic or Pacific coasts. In each instance, they seem to be about 200–500 miles distant. ("FD-302, 'Airborne Lights and Triangle,' 2002, 2023–2024," FBI-UAP-D024, [PURSUE release])

2023, October — 4:03 a.m. A US Air Force operator in the United Arab Emirates takes 4 minutes and 57 seconds of infrared video footage of a single UAP. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR027], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D23])

2023, October — 7:22 a.m. A US Air Force operator in the United Arab Emirates observes and takes 43 seconds of infrared video footage of a single UAP. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D23], [PURSUE release])

2023, October — Between 8:00–9:30 p.m. A US citizen in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is admiring the stars with a co-worker when he notices an oddly distorted, stationary, dark-gray cloud. Soon a solid black triangular object with a red light in each of its corners emerges from the cloud, moving steadily south-southeast at helicopter speed at 3,000–5,000 feet. It seems to be as large as the parking lot he is standing in and some "3–5 stories in thickness." Suddenly it accelerates to Mach 1 or 2 and turns slightly toward the south. It seems to be radiating waves of some kind like a mirage. It abruptly banks 90° on its left side but quickly resumes level flight before vanishing to the south. ("FD-302, 'Large Triangle with Red Lights,' 2023," FBI-UAP-D030, [PURSUE release]; "Digital Rendering, 'Large Triangle with Red Lights,' 2023," FBI-UAP-D031, [PURSUE release])

2023, October — 10:50 p.m. A retired military service member is sitting with his wife on the back porch of their residence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, facing southwest. Looking up, he sees that an object has flown over the house from behind him and is moving away to the southwest, possibly as low as 300 feet. It seems to have a haze or distortion about it, as if "you were looking at it through mist." It appears to be triangular and dark gray or silver in color, moving with a point forward-facing and blending into the night sky. Just before they lose sight of it 4 seconds later, the object banks up quickly to an almost vertical orientation. ("FD-302, 'Dark Translucent Triangle,' 2023," FBI-UAP-D026, [PURSUE release]; "Digital Rendering, 'Dark Translucent Triangle,' 2023," FBI-UAP-D027, [PURSUE release])

2023, October 27 — 3:35 a.m. A US Air Force operator is over the Aegean Sea off Greece when he observes a UAP flying just above the surface of the water. For 3 minutes it makes multiple 90-degree turns at an estimated 80 mph. He takes 2 minutes and 57 seconds of infrared video footage. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D33], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR034])

2023, October 29 — 10:11 a.m. A US Air Force operator over the Aegean Sea off Greece sees another apparently circular UAP flying just above the surface of the water and toward land. It is visible for less than a

minute. He takes 24 seconds of infrared video footage. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D35], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR035])

2023, October 31 — 6:41 a.m. A US Air Force operator observes a single UAP over the Persian Gulf. Another is detected at 7:22 a.m. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D23])

2023, November 10 — 12:53 a.m. A US Air Force operator in Syria observes a UAP shaped like a "bouncy ball" approaching from the south at 483 mph for at least 7 minutes, dropping altitude, and passing their aircraft before moving out of range. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D74])

2024 — A US military operator in the East China Sea takes 9 seconds of infrared video footage of a football-shaped UAP with three radial projections—one oriented vertically and two oriented downward at a 45° angle relative to its major axis. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR046]; "PR046—INDOPACOM 2024 (Irregular Shaped Balloon-Like Object)," Metabunk forum, May 8, 2026)

2024 — A US military operator in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 1 minute, 39 second infrared video of a single white UAP at an undisclosed offshore location with numerous wind turbines. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR048]; "PR048 INDOPACO, 2024 (Wind Farm + Dot Changing Apparent Direction)," Metabunk forum, May 8, 2026; "The Pentagon's Wind Farm UFO Video - Explained," Mick West YouTube channel, May 9, 2026)

2024 — A US military operator in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 1 minute, 44 second infrared video of a UAP over the South China Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR101])

2024 — A US military operator in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a 36 second infrared video of a UAP over the East China Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR102])

2024 — A US military operator in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes a one minute, 16 second infrared video of a UAP over the East China Sea. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR103]; "DOW_UAP_PR103 - Triangle That Seems to 'Open Up,'" Metabunk forum, July 10, 2026)

2024, January — A US military operator off the coast of Greece takes a one minute, 5 second video of a diamond-shaped UAP using multiple sensor modalities. The object is only detectable on the short-wave infrared sensor and is moving at 500 mph. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR-028])

2024, January 25 — 7:09 a.m. A US Air Force operator observes a diamond-shaped UAP moving at 500 mph over the Mediterranean Sea near Greece. It has a non-moving probe at its bottom. The object is visible only through an onboard short-wave infrared sensor. The duration is less than 2 minutes. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D025])

2024, April 24 — An infrared sensor aboard a US Coast Guard HC-144 Ocean Sentry aircraft operating out of Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City, Florida, takes a video of a UAP passing below an aircraft. A color video contains the same description, but appears to be completely different from the FLIR sequence. ("USCG C-144 Tyndall UAP 1 Tic Tac IR Hot 24 April 2024," DOW-UAP-PR065, [PURSUE release]; "USCG C-144 Tyndall UAP 1 Tic Tac IR Hot 24 April 2024," DOW-UAP-PR066, [PURSUE release])

2024, June — Military users upload several infrared UAP videos to a classified network, but the dates and locations where they were taken are not released. One video shows four UAP traveling above water. Others show spherical objects. ("UAP USO Formation [Callsign] (Mission)," DOW-UAP-PR052, [PURSUE release]; "Spherical UAP Pulsing over Water [Callsign]," DOW-UAP-PR056, [PURSUE release]; "[Callsign] (Mission) UAP," DOW-UAP-PR058, [PURSUE release])

2024, June 7 — 8:57 a.m. A US Air Force operator over the Gulf of Oman observes one glowing, spherical UAP at an altitude of 24,000 feet. It is apparently moving at 187 mph, looks like an "inverted teardrop," and has a vertical, cylindrical bar attached to its base. He takes 21 seconds of infrared video footage. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D27; PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR29])

2024, July 24 — 5:05 p.m. A US Air Force operator sees a single UAP over the Gulf of Aden. It maintains a straight flight path at the same altitude. The pilot follows the object until the distance becomes too far. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D75])

2024, September 20 — Just before 12:00 midnight. While conducting a weapons calibration test in Iraq, US military operators observe a lens flare via infrared sensors on MX-20 and MX-25 drones after firing an AGM-176 Griffin air-to-surface missile. The flare is caused by a UAP moving through the aircraft

sensor's field-of-view at a high rate of speed. The object apparently has a "significant heat signature." ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D28])

2024, October — 6:51 p.m. A witness in a sparsely populated area northeastern United States (the same general area as the incident in November 2021) observes a light source beneath the horizon, hovering above a pond at an altitude of 2,700 feet. The object changes its shape and luminosity periodically and appears to separate into smaller luminous points. One point hovers just above the water and remains stationary for 45 minutes before disappearing. A 4 minute, 5 second video is taken of the object on an iPhone. (Video, "Orbs over the Pond," [PURSUE release]; FBI reports, [PURSUE release, PURSUE release, PURSUE release, PURSUE release, PURSUE release])

2024, October 20 — 6:59 p.m. A US Air Force operator in Syria sees a "misshapen and uneven ball of white light" apparently flashing. He describes the UAP as a "light/glare halo effect" at the top of his full-motion video feed. He stops tracking it after 45 minutes. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D32], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR031], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR032], [PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR033])

2025 — A US military operator in Djibouti takes 2 seconds of infrared video footage of a UAP. An analysis by astrophysicists Avi Loeb and Devesh Nandal suggest that the object is a tactical missile. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR043]; "PR043 Africa - Djibouti," Metabunk forum, May 12, 2026; Devesh Nandal and Abraham Loeb, "The PR043 Djibouti Video: Evidence for a Hypersonic-Missile Interpretation," August 6, 2026; Avi Loeb, "The Declassified DOW-UAP-PR043 in the PURSUE Disclosure Is Likely a Missile," Medium: Avi Loeb, August 6, 2026)

2025 — A US military operator in the Yellow Sea takes 15 seconds of video footage from an infrared sensor showing a 6-pointed, star-shaped UAP. Possible sensor artifact. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR104])

2025 — A US military operator in the US Indo-Pacific Command takes 5 minutes of video footage of a UAP from an infrared sensor in the East China Sea. The object appears to be a balloon with a dangling payload. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR105)]

2025 — A US military operator in the US Central Command takes a 1 minute 39 second video of a moving UAP from an electro-optical and infrared sensor above an undisclosed city in the Middle East. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR134)]

2025 — A US military operator in the US Central Command takes 11 seconds of video footage of a UAP at an undisclosed area in the Middle East. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR142)]

2025, April 10 — An aircraft, apparently part of the US Indo-Pacific Command, observes a UAP at an unknown location. Another incident takes place on April 11. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-D50])

2025, July — 9:15 p.m. A witness pulls into her driveway in the northeastern United States when she notices a bright light hovering below the treeline in the middle of her backyard. She stares at it for a few moments before retrieving a cellphone to take a video. Her spouse from inside the house joins her and sees a red sphere about 3 feet in diameter with a "white plasma sun" about the size of a basketball inside it. As they watch, the object moves up and to their left, and a second object becomes visible above it. Both silently move away to the west out of sight. (Federal Bureau of Investigation, memorandum, [PURSUE release; PURSUE release; video, PURSUE release])

2025, July 29 — A US military pilot at an undisclosed location in the Middle East sees a cluster of six UAP moving near an industrial tower. Their estimated speed is 480 mph. The report is accompanied by a 1 minute video from an infrared sensor. One analysis suggests that the video shows a flock of birds flying nearer to the aircraft than the crew assumed. ("Mission Report, Middle East, 2025," DOW-UAP-D108, [PURSUE release]; video, DOW-UAP-PR135, [PURSUE release]; Avi Loeb, "Insights from the Sixth UAP Tranche (Sep. 18, 2026)," Medium: Avi Loeb, September 19, 2026; Jacob Haqq-Misra, et al., "Six Objects Reported at 480 mph in a Declassified Military Infrared Video Show Brightness Flicker at Bird Wingbeat Rates," [2026]; Avi Loeb, "The Six Infrared Dots in a Declassified UAP Video Is a Flock of Birds," Medium: Avi Loeb, October 7, 2026)

2025, October 29 — Early morning. A US military pilot at an undisclosed area in the Middle East sees an object "like a white round orbit…moving as fast as 500 miles per hour." The report is accompanied by a 4

minute, 58 second video. ("Mission Report, Middle East, 2025," DOW-UAP-D107, [PURSUE release]; video, DOW-UAP-PR133, [PURSUE release])

2025, late — 9:49 p.m. A senior US intelligence official and two helicopter pilots are conducting an aerial search operation to investigate reports of unusual noises ("loud thuds") and UAP sightings in and around a sensitive US military test range in a mountainous area in the western United States [possibly related to the September 23 Area 51 incident?] when they see a "possible aircraft" moving away to the west. Another orb, described as "super hot," is moving east and visible with a FLIR camera; it veers south and breaks up into two objects. The helicopter pursues the objects but cannot match their speed. A third object emerges from the two and races away in a different direction. At 10:18 p.m., the helicopter spots a swarm of lights moving in all directions to the west of their location for 9 minutes. At 10:27, the observers then see two large spheres that "flare up and remain stationary side by side." They are orange with a white center and are emitting light in all directions. Two or three additional objects appear, but all of them blink out in a few seconds. At 10:28, they see 4–5 spheres over the mountains in the west, which flare up in a horizontal formation, then blink out in reverse sequence. At 10:33, a similar formation appears in the east, then a single orb at 10:41 in the west. Another light swarm is seen at 10:49, moving in a triangle formation. At 10:52, 5–6 objects appear in horizontal formation for 10 seconds. At 10:57, the helicopter spots 4 orbs pursuing another military aircraft as it is landing. At some point, ground-based personnel take at least 8 photos (A001–A008) through a night-vision device that shows a "small, dark, and slightly irregular" object. It is unclear whether FBI Photos B001–B024 are related to the same incident. Alban Deschamps points out some discrepancies in the three narratives released by the Department of War. ("USPER Narrative, Senior USIC Official," ODNI-UAP-D001, [PURSUE release]; [PURSUE release, FBI Photo A001 and subsequent images]; [PURSUE release, statement]; Christopher Sharp, "U.S. Conducted Successful UFO 'Luring Operation,' Advocate Claims, As Government Files Detail Orb Encounters," Liberation Times, July 12, 2026; Aban Deschamps, "U.S. Military Test Grounds Regularly Penetrated by Unknown Platforms," Sentinel News, July 15, 2026)

2026 — A US Army operator takes a one minute, 49 second infrared video of one or two UAPs at an undisclosed location in North America. ([PURSUE release, DOW-UAP-PR049])

2026 — 4:04 p.m. A technician at an undisclosed location in the western United States is using a radio frequency detector when the device registers a 90% signal level RF event at 10,000 feet mean sea level lasting 5–10 seconds. Within a few minutes, the technician uses a thermal optical device to investigate the burst at a bearing of 58°. He sees a black, slow-moving object in the sky. A second object appears to the right, moving at the same speed, and he takes a video of both of them. He loses sight of them after 5–10 minutes as they move southeast above the mountain line. ("FD-302, 'Slow-Moving Objects,' 2026," FBI-UAP-D032, [PURSUE release]; video, FBI-UAP-PR007, [PURSUE release])

2026 — Between 8:00–8:30 p.m. Two witnesses driving north at an undisclosed location in the western United States see two dash-shaped, dull-red lights in the sky, moving along the ridgeline of the mountains to the west. They stop the car and get out to watch. One witness looks through a night-vision device and the lights appear more spherical. The lights disappear after 20 minutes. After 15 minutes, some 6–10 additional lights appear directly above the observers; these lights "sync up" with the first one and travel to the east/southeast. A similar light appears above their location and disappears after 10 minutes. Sometime between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m., the witnesses see another light about 1,970 feet east of their position at an altitude of 500 feet. It moves toward them and stops about 1,300 feet away. A second light appears near the first one but only 6 feet above the ground. A third light appears behind them and descends into a dry wash about 320 feet away. They continue driving but lose track of the lights by 1:00 a.m., according to one witness's watch; however, he notices that his watch is now 25 minutes ahead of his cellphone and the vehicle's clock. ("FD-302, 'Multiple Red Lights,' 2026" FBI-UAP-D037, [PURSUE release]; "Digital Rendering[s], 'Multiple Red Lights,' 2026," FBI-UAP-D038 [PURSUE release]; FBI-UAP-D039 [PURSUE release]; "FD-302, 'Multiple Red Lights,' 2026" FBI-UAP-D040, [PURSUE release]; "Digital Rendering[s], 'Multiple Red Lights,' 2026," FBI-UAP-D041, [PURSUE release]; FBI-UAP-D042, [PURSUE release])

2026 — 9:00 p.m. A witness at an undisclosed location in the western United States observes a "thermally elevated" UAP about half the size of a US Army Black Hawk helicopter flying south. ("FD-302, 'Thermally Elevated Aerial Object,' 2026," FBI-UAP-S033, [PURSUE release])

2026, April 21 — Rep. Eric Burlison (R-Mo.), in an interview with talk radio host Annie Frey, details the letter he co-signed with House Oversight Committee Chair James Comer (R-Ky.) demanding answers from Energy Secretary Chris Wright on the disappearances of US scientists and other individuals with access to classified advanced propulsion, anti-gravity, and missile technology. Burlison walks through the cases, connections to UAP investigations, Havana Syndrome directed-energy attacks, and why these events demand immediate congressional scrutiny. He claims he has been "briefed on an event that occurred where they basically tried to set up a perfect-case scenario that would cause UAP to come in, and then to capture them—or to try to document or record them. And it was very successful. This only happened a few months ago, and this is when the whole conversation changed, because that event was one that no one could deny." He may be referring to the event in late 2025 that involved statements and videos released by the Department of War through the PURSUE Act. He also says that House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.) and a couple other lawmakers later received a similar briefing. ("Eric Burlison on Disappearing Scientists & NatSec Threats," Annie Frey and 97.1 FM Talk, Fox News Radio, St. Louis, MO YouTube channel, April 21, 2026; Matt Laslo, "Exclusive: Majority Leader Scalise Confirms Attending 'Eye-Opening' Classified UFO Briefing," Ask-a-Pol UAP, April 30, 2026; Christopher Sharp, "U.S. Conducted Successful UFO 'Luring Operation,' Advocate Claims, As Government Files Detail Orb Encounters," Liberation Times, July 12, 2026)

2026, May 8 — The US Department of Defense releases 162 declassified videos, pictures, and documents regarding UFOs. The records span in date from the 1940s to the 2020s, come from multiple agencies (US military, the FBI, NASA, and the State Department), and include materials related to claimed UAP sightings at home, abroad, and even on the surface of the moon. In addition to videos and pictures said to show unidentified objects, there are also intelligence reports, statements regarding claimed sightings, diplomatic cables, and other documents. Many of the documents are redacted in part, particularly to omit names and other privacy-protected information. Some of the records, including ones from the FBI and NASA, have been released, at least in part, in the past. The release is part of the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE), which is the result of a directive from President Donald Trump in February. Some of the files (as many as 70) are apparently replaced with similar or reduced content on May 11 and 14, with no acknowledgment from the government. (US Department of War, "Department of War Releases Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Files in Historic Transparency Effort," May 8, 2026; Joseph Trevithick, "The Newly Released Government UFO Archives Will Leave You Shrugging," The War Zone, May 8, 2026; Micah Hanks, "Trump Releases UFO Files with Rollout of New 'Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters' (PURSUE)," The Debrief, May 8, 2026; Michael Levenson, "U.F.O. Files Released by U.S. Shed Light on What the Government Knows," *New York Times,* May 8, 2026; Avi Loeb, "Avi Loeb Analyzes the First UFO File Release," Medium: Avi Loeb, May 8, 2026; Robert Jones and Damita Menezes, "What Is New in the UFO Files Release?" NewsNation, May 8, 2026; Mike Wall, "Pentagon Unveils Trove of Declassified 'UFO' Videos," Space.com, May 8, 2026; Baptiste Friscourt, "New Official Disclosure Website," Sentinel News, May 8, 2026; Matt Novak, "Can You Find the UFOs in These Newly Released Pentagon Videos?" Gizmodo, May 8, 2026; Avi Loeb, "Reflections on the First Government Release of UFO Files," Medium: Avi Loeb, May 9, 2026; Andreas Müller, "Trumps erste UFO-Akten: Ein Kommentar," GreWi, May 9, 2026; "Pentagon's UFO Website Bombarded with 340 Million Hits in First 12 Hours," *New York Post,* May 10, 2026; Christopher Mellon, "UFO Disclosure Battle Commences As Trump Administration Releases Files," Liberation Times, May 10, 2026; Michael Shermer, "UFO Files Reveal…the Same Old Material," *Skeptic,* May 10, 2026; "Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies Finds PURSUE Release #1 Falls Short of Scientific Transparency," May 12, 2026; James Hibberd, "Pentagon, Do Better. Your UFO Videos Look Terrible," *Hollywood Reporter,* May 13, 2026; James Dwyer, "New UFO Files Offer No Answers—But Something Is Happening in the Skies," The Conversation, May 13, 2026; Brandi Vincent, "'Data Alone Is Not Disclosure': UAP Research Community Reacts to Trump's First PURSUE File Drop," DefenseScoop, May 14, 2026; Rochdi Rais, "The Government Published 161 UFO Files and

Three Days Later, Some Were Gone," USA Herald, May 20, 2026; Lucianna Henry, "The AARO Saga," Sentinel News, July 25, 2026; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "Trump's UFO Declassification: Release 01")

2026, May 22 — The US Department of Defense releases a second set of documents and videos on its war.gov/UFO/ website, including 116 pages of documentation relating to a series of reported sightings and investigations in a top secret facility in Sandia, New Mexico, from 1948 to 1950. (US Department of War, "Department of War Publishes Second Release of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Files on WAR.GOV/UFO," May 2, 2026; Avi Loeb, "Preliminary Assessment by Avi Loeb of the Second Release of UFO Files by the U.S. Department of War," Medium: Avi Loeb, May 22, 2026; Avi Loeb, "Analysis of the Second Batch of UFO Files Released by the Pentagon," Medium: Avi Loeb, May 24, 2026; Alban Deschamps, "Has 'Disclosure Day' Arrived?" Sentinel News, June 5, 2026; Lucianna Henry, "The AARO Saga," Sentinel News, July 25, 2026; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Julio Plaza del Olmo, "Trump's UFO Declassification: Release 02")

2026, June — 8:23 p.m. Three federal law enforcement agents at two separate observation posts within a sensitive national security site in the western United States encounter a nonreflective, matte-black triangular object with a low aspect ratio. It has a wingspan of 13–15 feet, a fuselage 6–9 feet long, and is about 1–2 feet thick. The object maintains a consistent horizontal alignment during a vertical descent of 10 seconds, climbs to an altitude of 200–300 feet above a ridge line, and hovers for 20 seconds. It then shoots away silently at high speed, executing a "fluid banking maneuver and terrain-hugging descent into a canyon drainage" in 2–3 seconds. As it banks, it presents a triangular shape. AARO considers this incident to warrant further investigation. ("Triangular UAP AARO Memorandum for Record, 2026," DOW-UAP-D176, [PURSUE release]; report and photos, FBI-UAP-D043, [PURSUE release])

2026, June 12 — The Department of Defense releases a third group of UAP files as part of the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE). (US Department of War, "Department of War Publishes Third Release of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Files on war.gov/ufo," June 12, 2026; Avi Loeb, "UAP Disclosure #3 Is the Most Intriguing Release Thus Far!" Medium: Avi Loeb, June 12, 2026)

2026, July 10 — The Department of Defense releases a fourth group of UAP files as part of the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE). (Stefan Becket, "Pentagon Releases New Batch of UFO Files: 'Unlike Anything I Had Seen,'" CBS News, July 10, 2026; Baptiste Friscourt, "Department of War Releases Clear UFO Footage for the First Time," Sentinel News, July 10, 2026; Micah Hanks, "Pentagon Releases New Batch of UAP Videos and Historical Files, But Clarity Remains Elusive," The Debrief, July 10, 2026; Avi Loeb, "Highlights from the Fourth UAP Data Release by the U.S. Government," Medium: Avi Loeb, July 10, 2026)

2026, August 7 — The Pentagon releases a fifth batch of UFO/UAP documents, images, and videos dating from 1950 through 2026 as part of the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE). (Stefan Becket, "Pentagon Releases New Batch of UFO Files: 'Did You See That?'" CBS News, August 7, 2026; "New UFO Files Details FBI Records of 2026 Sightings," *Newsweek,* August 7, 2026)

2026, September 18 — The Pentagon releases a sixth batch of UFO/UAP documents, images, and videos as part of the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE). ("Pentagon Releases Sixth Batch of UFO Files," NewsNation, September 18, 2026; Stefan Becket, "Pentagon Releases More UFO Files, Including Documents on Secretive Military Program," CBS News, September 18, 2026)