

[Is It Common?](#)” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1982): 1; [“Large Physical Trace Identified.”](#) *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 1 (Feb./March 1983): 3–4)

- 1976**, October 12 — 7:30 p.m. Multiple independent witnesses in Sonora, California, are drawn outside by a loud noise like “six jets.” They see a large red oblong UFO hovering with a wobbling motion. After 5 minutes, the UFO shoots upward and disappears. The next day, angel hair strands are found and sent to David Miletich at the University of Chicago. They are found to be “whitish, fibrous material of uniform composition being quite fine with frequent branching.” The primary constituents are carbon and nitrogen, but it is not spider web. A sample tested at the Michael Reese Hospital Microbiology Lab shows it to be contaminated with a low level of radioactive tritium. ([“Angel Hair: Under Analysis,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 4, 8; [“Angel-Hair Analysis Complete,”](#) *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): insert; Brian Boldman, [“Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review,”](#) *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 106–107)
- 1976**, October 17 — 10:40 a.m. Masaki Machida, a TV reporter for the Akita Broadcasting Company, is at Akita Airport in Akita Prefecture, Japan, when he sees a golden disc with white lights descending in the east. Kenichi Waga, telecommunications officer in the control tower, warns all pilots to watch out for the UFO, saying it is “larger than a car, but smaller than an airplane.” Capt. Masara Saito, 34, Toa Airlines [now Japan Air System] pilot, is preparing to take off when he notices “a strange looking disc-shaped object 5,000 feet from the ground.” Tazawa Takumi, air traffic controller on duty, who observes the object through binoculars, says it looks like “two plates placed together, with the top one inverted.” After 5 minutes, the object flies away to the west. (NICAP, [“Disc Hovers near Japanese Airport”](#); Margaret Sachs, *UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 10](#); Bob Gribble, [“Looking Back,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 282 (October 1991): 22, 26; UFOEv II 134)
- 1976**, October 19 — An object like a silver, luminous mercury lamp is seen over Paso de Los Toros, Durazno, Uruguay. The UFO allegedly causes the deformation of a metal refrigerator, the discharge of three car batteries, and the bursting of a refreshment bottle. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 2)
- 1976**, October 19 — 9:35 p.m. A group of people at the southwest end of Lake Harriet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, watch a yellow cone of light with a row of windows at the bottom hover below the cloud cover for 2 minutes, disappear, and reappear in a new location. This repeats 4–5 times before the object shoots up into the clouds. ([“Case 1-2-20,”](#) *IUR* 1, no. 2 (December 1976): 11)
- 1976**, October 22 — 1:20 a.m. Paul Thompson is driving home from his job on Interstate 494 where the highway turns to the northeast in Woodbury, Minnesota. He sees yellow and red lights about 2 miles ahead on the north side of the road. As he moves closer, he finds that the lights are actually two objects suspended in the air above a marshy area behind some woods about 300–400 feet north of the interstate. They are soft rounded triangles with red glows at the tip of the triangle and yellow pulsating lights protruding from the blunter ends. The objects are apparently metallic, about 20–25 feet in their longer dimension, and hover without making a sound. Thompson gets out of his car to watch. A truck approaches and one object rises vertically and zooms away. As the truck is abreast of his position, the second object ascends and flies directly over them. A CUFOS investigator examines the marshy area two days later and finds an oblong area, 40 feet by 20 feet, devoid of cattails and heavy grass. Inside the oblong is a smaller, irregular area where he finds exposed soil is and a few round holes the size of a quarter. He takes soil samples, which are sent to University of Kansas geologist [Edward J. Zeller](#) for thermoluminescence testing. The soil from the site center shows essentially no thermoluminescence, indicating it had been subjected to strong heat. ([CUFOS case file](#))
- 1976**, Late October — 7:30 p.m. Four physicians and a diplomat in an undeveloped region of Algeria south of Algiers watch a bright oval light on the horizon heading toward them. The object casts a faint beam downward, sweeping the ground, as it darts around the sky silently. It is bright when in motion, but faint when it stops. After an hour it fades, leaving a glowing space in the dark sky. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 2)
- 1976**, October 23 — 4:00 p.m. Three men—Nicholas Flaskas, Frank Zonaras, and Bill Zonaras—waiting to film a solar eclipse at Taola Point in Ben Boyd National Park, New South Wales, notice two unusual objects on the horizon close to the ocean. The UFOs alternately move toward and away from them. The men take both motion picture and still photos, showing one bell-shaped object and another discoid in shape. They turn their attention to the eclipse and when it is over, the objects are gone. (David Reneke, [“The Benboyd UFO Movie: History and Evaluation,”](#) *UFO Research Australia* 1, no. 2 (March/April 1980): 19–23; Keith Basterfield, Vladimir Godic, and Pony Godic, [“Australian Ufology: A Review,”](#) *JUFOS* 2 (1990): 31)
- 1976**, October 24 — 10:30 p.m. Romeo Lucarelli is driving home from Hestroff to Hobling, Moselle, France, with his granddaughter when he spots two lights in the fields on a hill. Initially mistaking them for a stationary vehicle, he realizes they are coming from a craft hovering about 328 feet above the ground. The object, shaped like two connected spheres with a rectangular structure, has numerous colored lights. It begins to follow his car. Lucarelli sees two figures through a large window on the object, one with a long beard and dark brown hair. As he speeds

up to escape, the object follows closely, eventually blocking his path before veering off when he makes a sudden turn toward his home. The craft hovers above his garage for a moment before moving away, leaving behind distinct traces on the ground in the shape of two double circles. On October 25, traces of the landing site remain visible. Local press coverage and a police investigation follow, but no electrical anomalies or outages are reported. The gendarmerie considers that the traces are from a tractor, though this is disputed by investigators who note the unusual geometric nature of the marks and their persistence over time. ("[Quand les extra-terrestres frappent aux volets](#)," *Insolite*, October 10, 1976, via *Ufologia*, no. 7 (Jan./Mar. 1977): 22; Gilles Bretelle and Bernard Wagner, "[En Moselle: Entre Herstroff et Hobling](#)," *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 169 (November 1977): 25–26; Bernard Wagner and Gilles Bretelle, "[En Moselle](#)," *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 171 (January 1978): 23–24; "[Hestroff-Hobling \(57\), 24 Octobre 1976, 22h30](#)," *Ufologia*, no. 16 (Jan./Mar. 1979): 25–26; "[Dossier OVNI: I. Rencontre du 3^e type avec les 'ufologues' forbachois](#)," *Le Républicain Lorrain* (Metz), October 31, 1979, via *Ufologia*, no. 21 (Jan./Mar. 1980): 25; "[Hestroff-Hobling \(57\) 24 Octobre 76](#)," *Hypothèses Extraterrestres*, no. 13 (January 1980): 8–9)

1976, October 30 — Spanish journalist [Juan J. Benítez](#) receives the first batch of some 300 pages of UFO reports from the Spanish Air Ministry in Madrid, Spain. The documents include photos and clips of gun-camera film taken by air force pilots. (Gordon Creighton, "[The Spanish Government Opens Its Files](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 3 (October 1977): 3; J. J. Benítez, *OVNIs: Documentos oficiales del gobierno español*, Plaza y Janés, 1977; Good Above, [p. 152](#))

1976, November — The first issue of the *International UFO Reporter* (IUR) is published by the Center for UFO Studies, with [J. Allen Hynek](#) as editor-in-chief and [Allan Hendry](#) as managing editor. (*IUR* 1, no. 1 (November 1976); Clark III 567–568, 627)

1976, November — Dominique Delille founds Groupe d'Études du Phénomène OVNI in Saint-Symphorien-de-Lay, Loire, France. It publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Siècle Inconnu*, which continues under the names *GEPO Informations* and *OVNI et Cie* through 1983. (*INFO OVNI*, no. 1 (November 1976))

1976, November 4 — 8:30 p.m. A married couple in Martinsburg, Ohio, see two irregularly shaped objects, rounded on the bottom, hovering low near their car. One descends, flying over some woods, while the other is seen above the telephone wires by the road. Both have a red light on top, a whiter flashing light on the bottom, and a revolving red light. Around 9:30 p.m., three similar objects are seen by a woman 4 miles away, slowly changing formation for 5 minutes in the east. ("[Case 1-2-62](#)," *IUR* 1, no. 2 (December 1976): 11)

1976, November 5 — 8:08 p.m. A young woman is watching television at her home in Rives, Isère, France. She sees a bright light outside and calls her father. From their balcony they watch an intense white light speed across the sky from northwest to southeast and disappear in the mountains. The father thinks the light is spinning. At the same time a French physicist is driving 7 miles away near Voreppe. He sees a luminous disc brighter than the full moon and stops his car to watch it. The object is white in the center, bluish-white at the periphery, and is surrounded by an intense green halo. It is moving silently southeast but stops for a few seconds before moving off 30° from its previous course at a much greater speed. It passes in front of the Massif du Taillefer before it disappears behind Mont Néron. The sighting lasts 20–25 seconds. (Jacques Vallée, "[Estimates of Power Optical Output in Six Cases of Unexplained Aerial Objects with Defined Luminosity Characteristics](#)," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 3 (1998): 352–354)

1976, November 8 — 8:45 p.m. Two 14-year-old girls in the northern part of Belmont, North Carolina, see a round gray object about 20–30 feet in diameter "on edge." It hovers several hundred feet in the air for 5 minutes, then moves east over the trees. It emits a beeping noise and is covered in flashing white lights and red steady lights. More than 100 people report seeing UFOs in nearby Gastonia on November 10. ("[Case 1-2-75](#)," *IUR* 1, no. 2 (December 1977): 11; "[106 People 'Saw UFOs'](#)," *Gastonia (N.C.) Gazette*, November 11, 1976, p. 11)

1976, November 10 — 8:20 p.m. A teenage girl driving alone near Putnam, Connecticut, passes underneath two dark metallic objects about 50 feet in diameter, one flying at an angle behind the other. Both objects have a red light in front, two on the sides, and a blue light in the back, all blinking. One banks slightly before it goes out of view, revealing a row of illuminated windows around the circular edge and a smaller circle like a "hatch" underneath. ("[Case 1-2-79](#)," *IUR* 1, no. 2 (December 1977): 11)

1976, November 14 — 9:00 p.m. Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt are driving down the A272 near Winchester, England, when their car starts to jolt and shake and then veers off the road into a grass verge by the roadside. The car is subject to electrical interference as the engine roars, and the lights seem to shine brighter than usual. They spot what appears to be an orange, cigar-shaped craft, 15 feet in length, with three entities behind a window. As they watch, a bearded humanoid wearing a silver suit comes out of the object, walks to the car, and looks in on the witnesses. He then disappears and the couple are able to drive off. (Leslie Harris, "[UFO and Silver-Suited Entity Seen near](#)

[Winchester.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 22, no. 5 (February 1977): 3–6; Richard Nash, “[UFO and Occupants Reported near Winchester.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 22, no. 5 (February 1977): 7–8; Jenny Randles, “[Questions and Comments on the Nash Interview.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 22, no. 5 (February 1977): 8; Frank J. Wood, “[Alleged CE-III at Winchester: Vehicle Examination.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 22, no. 5 (February 1977): 9–14; Lionel Beer, “[The Winchester Encounters.](#)” *BUFORA Journal* 5, no. 6 (March/April 1977): 10–15; Good Above, [pp. 70–71](#); “[Jessie Roestenberg, Joyce Bowles, George King, Gordon Creighton Talk UFOs in Out of This World, 1977.](#)” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 10, 2023)

- 1976**, November 15 — 1:15 a.m. Six distant objects with brilliant white lights are seen performing unusual patterns in the sky at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They seem to have a metallic texture and make an intermittent sound like a “belt sander on metal.” (“[Case 2-1-1.](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 1 (January 1977): 5)
- 1976**, November 16 — Lockheed’s first Have Blue demonstrator stealth aircraft, HB1001, after going through numerous tests and getting a visual camouflage makeover, is flown from Burbank, California, to Area 51 in Nevada. After four taxi tests, HB1001 is ready for test flights. (Wikipedia, “[Lockheed Have Blue](#)”)
- 1976**, November 19 — President-Elect [Jimmy Carter](#) meets with CIA Director [George H. W. Bush](#) to discuss certain “exotic and very closely held items relating to sources and methods.” At one point, Bush and his aide Jennifer Fitzgerald take Carter and Vice President [Walter Mondale](#) aside to describe particularly sensitive CIA programs. Congressional Research Service Policy Analyst [Marcia S. Smith](#) claims that part of the debriefing is about UFOs, which Carter has asked about. But Bush explains that this “information was information that existed on a need to know basis only. Simple curiosity on the part of the President wasn’t adequate.” Carter determines to replace Bush with his Naval Academy classmate [Stansfield Turner](#) after the inauguration. (presidentialufo.com, “[President Carter, Daniel Sheehan, and Donald Menzel: The Congressional Research Service UFO Studies for President Carter](#)”)
- 1976**, November 19 — Commandante Angel Parreno, the pilot of an Iberian Airlines Boeing 727 on a flight from Santiago de Compostela to Madrid, Spain, watches an unknown object accompany his aircraft for 20 minutes. Possible barium cloud released by a rocket. (“[Foreign Forum.](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 2; Good Above, [p. 154](#))
- 1976**, November 19 — 7:15 p.m. Witnesses from aircraft and ships around the Canary Islands watch a point of light climbing into the sky in a spiral motion, expanding to a diameter 3–4 times that of the moon. It has a semicircular shape and gives the impression that it is resting on the horizon. Among the witnesses are Gen. Carlos Dolz de Espejo, chief of staff of the Canary Islands Air Zone, and the crew of the Spanish Navy school ship [Juan Sebastian Elcano](#). Maj. Antonio Munáiz Ferro-Sastre again investigates, concluding that it was a “craft of unknown origin endowed with an unknown propulsion energy.” The time correlates with four Poseidon missile launches by the submarine [USS Alexander Hamilton](#). (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Ricardo Campo Pérez, “[Navy Missile Tests and the Canary Islands UFOs.](#)” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 4–5)
- 1976**, November 19 — 8:00 p.m. Three women watch a large yellow-orange light slowly and silently meander 150 feet above a church in St. Peter, Minnesota. They drive to a police station, where officers also see the now distant light head from west to east. (“[Case 2-1-16.](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 1 (January 1977): 5)
- 1976**, November 23 — 3:30 a.m. A lounge owner and an employee are frightened when an object 3 times the size of a helicopter flies over their car from the south in Kenner, Louisiana. It has flashing red, green, and white lights. The object hovers above some trees in the distance for 2 minutes, then heads slowly east toward Moisant Airport [now Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport]. (“[Case 2-1-25.](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 1 (January 1977): 5)
- 1976**, November 24 — 10:30 p.m. An Indiana Gas serviceman sees a 12-foot white cone of light with sparklers at its base diminish to a blinding point source alongside his pickup truck outside New Albany, Indiana. It follows him from the Kentucky border and moves silently ahead into the eastern sky when he reaches town. Other witnesses see it as a distant point of light; when they leave, the object rushes back over the serviceman’s house and disappears into the northwest. (“[Case 2-1-27.](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 1 (January 1977): 5)
- 1976**, November 25 — 9:00 p.m. A couple in Beecher, Illinois, watch an oblong, glowing, orange object 45° in the western sky for 5–6 minutes. Holding stationary, the object diminishes to a point source and returns to its original shape, larger than the moon. (“[Case 2-1-29.](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 1 (January 1977): 5)
- 1976**, Early December — Afternoon. Eero Lammi is on his way home from school in Oulu, Finland, when he sees a 15-foot ball of light move across toward him from across the Gulf of Bothnia and land in a nearby field. When he approaches it, the object shoots out a beam of light that hits him in the chest. He feels a searing pain and blacks out. His parents think it is a prank until a doctor finds slight burns on his chest and back. The case is investigated by the Swedish Military High Command. (“[Foreign Forum.](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 2)
- 1976**, December 5 — 2:30 p.m. Several witnesses at Sollefteå, Västernorrland, Sweden, observe an elongated object (an estimated 148 feet long) with round openings along the fuselage. A blue-green light is shining from the openings,

a red light at the front, and a diffuse orange glow from the underside. The object hovers above a military base built into the mountainside at an elevation of about 165 feet. After a while, the object moves on and hovers above a nearby power station. Then it moves jerkily sideways, jumping rapidly between different positions. After hovering for 15 minutes, it tilts up and rapidly speeds upwards and out of sight, disappearing at 3:30 p.m. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 2)

- 1976,** December 14 — 2:00 a.m. Panoramic radar at an air force base at Contrexéville, Vosges, France, picks up unknown targets at 2:00 a.m., 3:00 a.m., and 3:30 a.m. Seven air traffic controllers are the witnesses. The radar paints the targets as 10–15 miles apart every 10 seconds, meaning their speed is estimated at 4,200–6,200 mph, a supersonic speed of Mach 5 to 8, at an altitude of 6.5 miles. (Claude Poher, [“A Case of Radar Detection of UFOs in France,”](#) *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 13–14, 27)
- 1976,** December 15 — 7:00 a.m. Arnold Barker is driving south on Alberta Highway 46 [now Highway 63] nearly 3 miles south of Boyle, Alberta, when he sees two bright flashing lights flying west to east. As the object passes overhead, he realizes it is not an airplane. He jumps out of his truck to get a better look and sees that the lights are now red, zigzagging, and attached to each other by a faint connection. The object appears to be landing silently in a field to the east of the road, but it stops about 6–10 feet from the ground and 100–150 feet away. Barker takes a few steps toward it, but it takes off and moves north. He gets in his truck again to turn around and the object follows him, again as a white light. He speeds up to 75 mph and outdistances it. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August North, pp. 185–187)
- 1976,** December 15 — 9:20 p.m. A driver in Holland, Massachusetts, sees a cigar-shaped object twice the width of the moon hovering low in the east about 500 feet away. Human-like forms are visible through a row of windows on the side. It disappears in a bright red flash. ([“Case 2-2-1,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 5)
- 1976,** December 16 — 12:15 p.m. Michael Winterborne, meteorological officer for the Kalgoorlie Airport in Western Australia, sees a white, football-shaped object, glowing and pulsating with fuzzy edges, rush from the northeast horizon to the northwest horizon at great speed. At 2:45 p.m., he sees it again, arching overhead toward the west. Both incidents are timed by stopwatch at 12 seconds. Dave Bower, at the Scotia nickel mine about 50 miles to the north, sees a UFO drifting slowly westward at about 1,000 feet altitude. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 2)
- 1976,** December 18 — 12:55 a.m. On Wood Canyon Road east of Soda Springs, Idaho, police officer Dennis Abrams has a close encounter with a 30-foot diameter, oval-shaped UFO. It lacks any seams or windows and has the bulk of three or four cars. It emits a light-green light and hovers only 60 feet away at treetop level for 3 minutes. It makes no sound when hovering but makes a whistling “wind” sound when it drifts off to the northwest in 15 seconds. After Abrams reports the incident on his police radio, another officer located 10 miles west of Soda Springs watches a fluorescent orange-pink light near the ground; after hovering for 10 minutes, it heads to the north, climbs, and clears the top of the foothills in seconds. ([“CE-I Seen by Independent Policemen in Idaho,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 6–7; UFO History Group, [“Soda Springs, Idaho, December 18, 1976: CE1”](#))
- 1976,** December 18 — A Flugfélag Íslands [now Air Iceland Connect] airliner in flight from Akureyi to Reykjavik, Iceland, picks up a clear radar target at 18,000 feet over the Mælifell volcano. It tracks the object for one minute as it rushes 2 miles below the aircraft at 3,600 mph. The object is not seen visually. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 2)
- 1976,** December 18 — 5:20 p.m. Several children in Newfolden, Minnesota, see an object speeding across the sky then stopping. It has 6–9 orange and white lights flashing on and off around the perimeter. ([“Case 2-2-9,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 5)
- 1976,** December 18 — 8:30 p.m. A group of witnesses see a red-orange oval light pass overhead in Miami, Florida, about 250 feet up. It turns west in a smooth, even motion. ([“Case 2-2-12,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 5)
- 1976,** December 19 — The first KH-11 Kennen reconnaissance satellite (codenamed Key Hole) is launched by the US National Reconnaissance Office. It is the first American spy satellite to use electro-optical digital imaging that offers real-time optical observations. The capabilities of the KH-11 are highly classified, as are images they produce. The satellites are believed to have been the source of some imagery of the Soviet Union and China made public in 1997; images of Sudan and Afghanistan made public in 1998 related to the response to the 1998 US embassy bombings; and a 2019 photo, revealed by President [Donald Trump](#), of a failed Iranian rocket launch. (Wikipedia, [“KH-11 KENNEN”](#))
- 1976,** December 19 — 6:20 p.m. A witness in Concord, California, sees a silent, star-like light moving northward in an erratic fashion: zigzagging, up and down, in circles, backing up, speeding up for 1 minute. Then it speeds up and moves downward in a curve, zooming out of sight in 1 second. ([“Case 2-2-13,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 5)
- 1976,** December 19 — Night. Neil Brennan and Dean Gibbs step outside when they hear a whirring noise near Aquinas College, Salter Point, Western Australia. Brennan sees a bright disc, 2 feet in diameter, hovering 30 feet in the air

behind his house. It then disappears toward the west. (*Perth (W.A.) News*, December 20, 1976; [“Man Sees ‘Disc’ in Night Sky,”](#) *Australian UFO Bulletin*, February 1977, p. 5; [“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 2)

1976, December 29 — Mr. and Mrs. Chapin, who had the previous experience in October 1969, again notice that their mine site near Redding, California, is unseasonably warm. Chapin walks carefully down toward the creek as his wife remains in the car. When he shouts and tells her to bring the gun, she observes a similar object to the one they had seen seven years earlier, except more pock-marked on the surface, some 175–200 feet away from Mr. Chapin. It moves rapidly in the air and zaps both of them, knocking them to the ground. Chapin hits his head against the canyon wall and his wife falls to the road. They remain unconscious for about 15 minutes. (Glenn Hassenpflug, [“Redding Pair’s UFO Warning,”](#) *Redding (Calif.) Record Searchlight*, August 2, 1977, p. 10; [“The Redding, California CE II Case,”](#) *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): insert; Paul Cerny, [“The Redding, California, Mining Case,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 125 (April 1978): 6–10)

1977

- 1977** — [J. Allen Hynek](#) publishes *The Hynek UFO Report* as a review of and commentary on Project Blue Book records. It is largely ghostwritten by Elaine M. Hendry, [Allan Hendry](#)’s wife and a graduate student in astronomy at Northwestern University. (J. Allen Hynek, [The Hynek UFO Report](#), Dell, 1977; Clark III 620)
- 1977** — Constitutional attorney [Daniel P. Sheehan](#), at the request of Congressional Research Service researcher [Marcia S. Smith](#), visits the brand-new Madison Building at the Library of Congress to look at the “classified sections of Project Blue Book.” He claims to have seen photos of a flying saucer embedded in snow and surrounded by USAF personnel wearing parkas. There are symbols on the side of the crashed craft. (presidentialufo.com, [“President Carter, Daniel Sheehan, and Donald Menzel: The Congressional Research Service UFO Studies for President Carter”](#))
- 1977** — Lawrence J. Fenwick, Joseph Muskat, and Harry Tokarz found the Canadian UFO Research Network in Willowdale, Ontario, to investigate reports and inform the public. It begins publishing the *CUFORN Bulletin* in late 1979, lasting until the summer of 1999. ([CUFORN Bulletin](#) 1, no. 2 (January 1980))
- 1977** — José Jean Pereira de Alencar founds the Centro de Estudos Ufologicos in Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil, and publishes the journal *UFOnotas*. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 56](#))
- 1977** — Fernando António Milhano Patinha founds OVNIGrupo 7 in Lisbon, Portugal. It publishes a quarterly magazine, *OVNI*. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 235](#))
- 1977** — Roger Thome founds Groupe d’Étude et de Recherche sur les OVNI Haute-Marne/Meuse in Chaumont, Haute-Marne, France, which publishes five issues of *Groupe 5255* in 1980–1982. ([Groupe 5255](#), no. 1 (February 1980))
- 1977** — California State University, Long Beach, English professor [Alvin H. Lawson](#), along with technical writer John DeHerrera and physician William C. McCall, carries out a study in Anaheim (California) Memorial Hospital to determine if the abduction stories told by “real” abductees under hypnotic regression resemble the stories told by others who are asked to imagine an abduction under hypnosis. After the experiment, carried out by student volunteers, Lawson declares that the imaginary accounts are all but identical to the real accounts. He then formulates a Birth Memories Hypothesis, which argues that abductions are nonphysical, archetypal fantasies in which the witness’s birth memories play a central role. However, Lawson’s methodology and results are later critiqued severely. (Alvin H. Lawson, [“What Can We Learn from Hypnosis of Imaginary ‘Abductees’?”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 120 (November 1977): 7–9; Alvin H. Lawson, [“What Can We Learn from Hypnosis of Imaginary ‘Abductees’? Part 2,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 121 (December 1977): 7–9; Alvin H. Lawson, [“Hypnosis of Imaginary UFO ‘Abductees,’”](#) *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 1 (1979): 8–26; Alvin H. Lawson, [“Hypnosis of Imaginary ‘Abductees,’”](#) in Curtis G. Fuller, ed., *Proceedings of the First International UFO Congress*, Warner, 1980, pp. 195–213; D. Scott Rogo, [“Imaginary Facts: The Case of the Imaginary Abductions,”](#) *IUR* 10, no. 2 (March/April 1985): 3–5; D. Scott Rogo, [“Birth Traumas from Outer Space,”](#) *IUR* 10, no. 3 (May/June 1985): 4–5, 16; Clark III 944–945)
- 1977** — An Australian soldier is traveling on the Nullabor Plain in South Australia when he and a companion, an American soldier, watch the descent of a purple-green fireball. They drive to the impact site and see a crashed UFO. The Australian goes inside and sees two aliens, one dead and the other making a squealing sound. They are about 5 feet tall and pot-bellied, with long, thin arms and large, black eyes. When he comes out again, he finds that military personnel have arrived. They arrest him and his friend and keep him in custody for two weeks. (Bill Chalker, [“UFO Crash/Retrieval Stories: The Australian Experience,”](#) 1998; Clark III 345)
- 1977** — Maj. Gen. Hideki Komura, an adviser to Japan’s Cabinet Research Office, admits that UFO investigations are carried out at a top level. He says that in the 1950s, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force encouraged reports from the

public, but they had too many reports to analyze. Now he admits they cooperate closely with the US government's Foreign Technology Division. (Good Above, [p. 431](#))

- 1977**, January — The Roper Organization asks two questions about UFOs in a survey: 44% “believe in” life elsewhere in the universe and 29% in UFOs as extraterrestrial. (Robert J. Durant, “[Evolution of Public Opinion on UFOs](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 12)
- 1977**, January — [Peter A. Sturrock](#) of Stanford University releases the results of his survey on UFO sightings and beliefs of professional American astronomers. He has mailed out 2,611 questionnaires, with half (1,356) completed and returned. Sixty-two respondents (nearly 5%) say they have witnessed or obtained an instrumented record of an event they could not identify and that might be related to UFOs. Some 53% prefer additional scientific study of UFOs. (“[Sturrock Reports His UFO-Survey Results](#),” *Physics Today* 30 (May 1977): 112; “[Astronomers and UFO's: A Survey](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 3–4; “[Astronomers and UFO's: A Survey, Part 2, Sightings](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 3–4)
- 1977**, January — [Alfred Webre](#) joins the Center for the Study of Social Policy at the Stanford Research Institute [now SRI International] in Menlo Park, California, as a senior policy analyst. He intends to develop an “extraterrestrial communication” project with White House backing. He plans to establish a comprehensive UFO database, hire scientific advisers to evaluate the data, and issue policy recommendations, including one to end military and intelligence secrecy. He is referred to an unnamed female staff member of the White House Domestic Policy Staff, who is supportive of his proposal. He is promised approval of his proposal, but never hears back from the White House again. The request is terminated in September. (Steven M. Greer, *Disclosure: Military and Government Witnesses Reveal the Greatest Secrets in Modern History*, Crossing Point, 2001, pp. 441–446; Dolan II 142)
- 1977**, January 1 — 8:00 p.m. François Perez and his wife are chased in their car by a 33-foot long oval object in Valence, Drôme, France. They retrace their route one hour later after telling police. They see the oval object again, about 1,200 feet from them in a field. It appears to be 90–120 feet in diameter and surrounded by a halo of white light. After 10 minutes, the object begins flashing and rises up into the air at a 45° angle. They complain of eye pain and conjunctivitis for 48 hours afterward, and Perez's watch stops working. (“[French Couple Report Being Chased by 'Big Glowing Star'](#),” *Los Angeles Times*, January 9, 1977, p. 28; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 2)
- 1977**, January 6 — 1:15 a.m. Florida Malboeuf is sitting at her window at 6420 Casgrain Avenue in Montreal, Quebec, when she sees an oyster-shaped, flat-bottomed metallic object with a row of white lights around its base. It flies in from the north and lands on the rooftop of a three-story apartment building across the street from her only 60 feet away. Immediately two figures appear on the roof; they are over six feet tall and thin, with long arms. They are wearing white one-piece uniforms with their heads covered with tight “bath helmets.” They stand looking at the street, then at the sky, then they apparently return to the object. A moment later they disappear, and the UFO rises from the roof about 20 feet and flies off to the east. Her son André goes over to the rooftop in question and finds a large, elliptical-shaped crust of ice, about 18 feet in diameter, on top of the snow. He also finds four small footprints only 6.5 inches long. (Marc Leduc and Wido Hoville, “[Un UFO sur une maison](#),” *UFO-Quebec*, no. 9 (1977): 6–10; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, pp. 62–66)
- 1977**, January 10 — 12:00 noon. Horse farmer [William McCarthy](#) is looking out his window at the falling snow when he is surprised to see a hole in his pond in the town of Wakefield, New Hampshire. The pond, 105 by 75 feet, was frozen solid just the day before. He goes outside for a closer look. The hole is perfectly round and cuts smoothly through 14 inches of ice. Eight inches of slush surrounds the hole. Peering into the hole, McCarthy sees something that looks like a one-foot-square box. He races back to the house and brings family members over for a look. Then he goes to the barn to pick up a rake, hoe, and pole. Back at the pond, McCarthy sees that the box has sunk three feet into the muck at the bottom. Frustrated in his attempt to retrieve the object, he calls a friend, Bob Palmer, who arrives around 2:30 p.m. Concerned that they might be dealing with radioactive satellite or aircraft debris, Palmer notifies the police, who soon arrive in the company of a local Civil Defense representative. The Geiger counter indicates a reading alarmingly above normal (3 roentgens per hour versus normal background radiation of .001 roentgen). The McCarthys are warned to stay away from the water, and the CD man and the police leave to inform their superiors. By 4:00 p.m. the circle of slush has expanded to 10 feet. When McCarthy observes the pond in the morning, he discovers a second hole, this one about 50 feet from the original. Not long afterwards, someone from the attorney general's office warns McCarthy not to let his animals drink from the pond; he reappears later in the day to express concern about possible water seepage. He also directs McCarthy and his family not to discuss the affair with anyone else until the official investigation is completed. The next day the pond is frozen over again. Disregarding warnings, McCarthy walks out on it and looks down through the clear ice

where the hole has been and to the pool bottom. A fresh 6-inch-wide trench stretches from beneath the first hole all the way to the second. To all appearances, the object that entered via the former has left via the latter. State police escort all but the officially connected off the farm. Investigators try unsuccessfully to drain the pond, then see a 6-by-3-foot opening where the original hole had been. Distant observers think they see the searchers retrieve a black object and place it inside a van, which quickly leaves the area. By the end of the day, a statement from the governor's office declares that more sophisticated equipment has found no abnormal radioactivity in the pond and the surrounding area. The black object, the authorities contend, is a container filled with soil and stone samples collected for analysis. ("[What's Going On? N.H. Pond Mystery Called False Report](#)," *Boston Globe*, January 14, 1977, p. 3; Allan Hendry, "[The Wakefield Incident: Telling a UFO from a Hole in the Ground](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 8; "[Wakefield Wrap-Up](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): insert; Clark III 1233–1234)

1977, January 10 — 4:00 p.m. A driver stopped at an intersection in Biloxi, Mississippi, watches a disc on edge descend at an 80° angle, growing larger. When it reaches treetop level, it banks in a curve into the trees. As it leaves, it presents a round face as large as the full moon. ("[Case 2-2-48](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): 5)

1977, January 11 — The crew of an Indian Air Force jet transport is flying 42 miles west of Varanasi, India, when it encounters three luminescent discs that fly past, circle once, then continue east. Apparently, thousands see the objects from the ground over a period of 45 minutes. (Good Need, [p. 303](#))

1977, January 13 — 12:30 a.m. A driver is paced by a UFO shaped like a flattened football with a dark equator in Plantation, Florida. The noiseless object is glowing with a steady white light underneath. It moves erratically in front of the car, and turns a corner as she pulls into her home. As she jumps out, she sees a second object join it in the northeast, and both speed toward the east in 5–6 seconds. ("[Case 2-2-52](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 2 (February 1977): insert.

1977, January 15 — 8:15 p.m. An unusually bright light is seen bobbing up and down low in the southern sky of Charleston, Oregon, for 30 minutes. It gradually drops below the horizon. ("[Case 2-3-2](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 5)

1977, Mid-January — 3:00 a.m. Eino Maki is out grooming the ski slopes at the Briar Mountain Lodge near Norway, Michigan. He notices that a nocturnal light UFO (seen frequently in the area since November 1976) is keeping pace with him as he moves up and down the slopes, edging closer. At first it is about 2 miles away at treetop level; now he can see red lights on the object. A bit unnerved, Maki goes back to the lodge and positions himself behind it. The light moves out of sight, and Maki goes back to work about 15 minutes later. Soon the light returns and it is below him on the same ski run, shining brightly. He decides to go home in his pickup truck. One week later, around 11:00 p.m., the same thing starts happening again, but Maki decides to run home right away. (Kenneth Schellhase, "[UFOs on the Ski Slopes of Northern Michigan](#)," *IUR* 7, no. 2 (March 1982): 10)

1977, January 17 — 1:35 a.m. San José, Costa Rica, police officer Elias Sibaja and another officer are on patrol in the Desamparados district when a large luminous object emitting multicolored beams of light approaches the police car and hovers above it. The engine and headlights of the police cruiser go out. After a few seconds, the object moves away to the west and slowly disappears. The lights come back on and Sibaja is able to restart the vehicle. ("[Costa Rica: Squad Car Paralyzed by a 'Flying Saucer](#)," *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology*, December 5, 2023)

1977, January 21 — 3:15 p.m. An observer in Aspen, Colorado, watches a stationary object for more than an hour. Through binoculars it looks like a 3:1 rectangle with rounded corners of blue-green light. It fades from view in the same position. ("[Case 2-3-12](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 5)

1977, January 21 — 4:45 p.m. Three female factory workers in Bridlington, Yorkshire, England, are walking to work on Bessingby Way when they see a hazy oval object hovering above the Britax PMG factory roof just before it begins moving to the right and stopping again. Almost immediately they spot another hazy object hovering above the adjacent K. B. Dixon woodyard. It begins moving forward at a slow pace then stops above a ventilation pipe in the Dixon factory wall. As it hovers the haze disappears, and the object's features become more distinct. It is larger than a double-decker bus and shaped like a rugby ball. All three are able to see through a row of windows on the side that reveal a corridor inside. On one end is a tube-like structure or pole. Soon it moves over some community gardens and hovers briefly at about 6 feet altitude, lowers its "pole," and appears to suck up a polythene bag. Both objects now move off to the west. The sighting duration is 5–10 minutes. The witnesses are terrified during the event, experiencing a cold sensation sweeping over them and a prickly irritation in their eyes. They develop sore throats and colds. (Robert Morrell, "[UFOs over Bridlington Factories](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 3 (October 1977): 8–10, 21)

1977, January 21 — 8:45 p.m. Robert Melerine and Irwin Menesses are doing some hunting along a dike canal about one mile northeast of Yscloskey, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, one in a boat and the other walking along the shore. Melerine sees a bright red light in the sky. Suddenly the light seems right around him as the boat is engulfed in the

glow, which extends to the surrounding landscape. There is no noise, and the light flies away into the woods. Menesses is already back at camp and has not seen the light. They both get into the boat and move down the dike canal, using the outboard motor. The light reappears and moves closer to them. Although the motor is running the boat is not moving, seemingly held in place. Then the light quickly leaves and the boat lurches forward with great force, causing both men to fall. The light again flies at low level into the trees and continues on until they lose it. They estimate that the light is about 15–25 feet in diameter, roughly circular, faceted, and strikingly fast when it moves toward them. Both men report nausea, stomach aches, and fever for 2 days after the incident (it is flu season). (“Mysterious Hovering Light Observed by Yscloskey Men,” *St. Bernard (La.) News*, January 26, 1977; “Mysterious Hovering Light Still a Mystery,” *St. Bernard (La.) News*, February 9, 1977; Ted Peters, “[Warm Light Stops Everything!](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 111 (February 1977): 3–6; UFOEv II 222)

1977, January 21 — Night. Capt. Gustavo Ferreira and the crew of Avianca flight HK-1273 see an extremely bright white light in front of his plane. They are 7 minutes out of the El Dorado Airport in Bogotá, Colombia, westbound at 20,000 feet. At the same time, airport radar operator Jorge Jimenez watches a target moving at 27,340 mph in a zigzag motion. Ferreira watches the light change color in response to his turning on his landing lights and head south after 3 minutes. Jimenez sees the target cut 90° to the south at the same time. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 2; Gordon Creighton, “[UFO Answers Signals over Colombia](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 2 (August 1977): 25–26; UFOEv II 135)

1977, January 27 — 1:05 a.m. Lee Parrish, 19, is driving on State Highway 329 southeast of Prospect, Kentucky, when he spots a rectangular, orange-red object coming down near his jeep. His radio fails 15 seconds into the sighting. He feels compelled to watch the object, which stays in the vicinity only a short time. When he arrives home, he discovers that it has taken 45 minutes to complete a 7-minute trip. Later under hypnosis, he relates being taken inside the object and examined by three strange creatures who are shaped like machines (looking like a giant one-armed tombstone, a 7-foot teletype machine, and a man-sized Coke machine). The electrical system on his jeep goes haywire the day after the abduction. (Carla Ruckert, “[Another Kentucky Abduction](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 25, no. 7 (January 1977): 1, 3–4; “[Single Witness Abduction in Kentucky](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 6–7; Carla L. Rueckert, “[Kentucky Close Encounter](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 3 (October 1977): 15–16, 19; UFOEv II 551–552)

1977, January 28 — 10:05 p.m. Students in Platteville, Wisconsin, watch an orange “fuzzy oval” object larger than a full moon descend from a low angle above the southern horizon into distant trees. (“[Case 2-3-22](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 5)

1977, January 29 — 9:30 p.m. A patrolman and an unnamed couple in East Haven, Connecticut, see a horizontal row of 5–6 white lights, rotating left to right. The object hovers for 6 minutes, rises from 45° in the east to 80°, drops lower, executes left and right 90° turns, and fades low in the southern sky. (“[Case 2-3-23](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 5)

1977, February — 10:30 p.m. A Danish serviceman is walking to his quarters at Naval Station Grønnedal [now Kangilinnguit] in Greenland pauses to look at the Northern Lights. He retrieves a camera to take photos and notices an elliptical dark object below the aurora. The object appears on only one of his time-exposure photos. Possible altocumulus cloud. (Kim Møller Hansen, “[Elliptical Object over Greenland Naval Station](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 3 (June/July 1984): 1)

1977, February — An Italian Air Force F-104 is followed for 23 minutes by a UFO that is brighter than the moon. It remains about 2,400–2,700 feet behind the plane. The base authorizes him to intercept it, but when he climbs to 12,000 feet, the UFO paces him then disappears.

1977, February 1 — 8:30 p.m. Two helicopter pilots flying south at 60 mph near Carthage, Missouri, watch a northbound light pass beneath them and climb to their altitude at 2,000 feet and 300–500 feet away. It appears to be a dark, vertical cylinder 10–15 feet high, 5–8 feet wide, and with struts and a light on the bottom. As the helicopter circles, the object rises higher and heads southeast, disappearing in a second or two. (“[Case 2-3-33](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 8)

1977, February 1 — 9:05 p.m. A police sergeant in Glendale, California, sees a bright red light 45° in the west. He drives “within a block” of the light and sees it as bigger than the full moon, perhaps 100–150 feet in diameter, and hovering silently for 3–4 minutes. It moves at incredible speed away to the west. (“[Case 2-3-35](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 8)

1977, February 2 — Farmer Zbigniew Tuszewski finds a strange disc 1.6 feet in diameter and weighing 66 pounds in his field in Dalabuszki village, north of Gostyń, Poland. Concave on one side, flat on the other, the find does not appear to be from a satellite. A spectroscopic analysis shows the presence of nickel, cobalt, niobium,

molybdenum, vanadium, and tellurium; however, another analysis shows no evidence of nickel. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 2)

- 1977**, February 3 — 9:30 p.m. Several children at a youth camp at Seven Mile Beach, Tasmania, Australia, observe a stationary, dome-shaped object hovering near the beach. The object then moves behind some trees, partially obscuring it. On the dome is a row of windows through which at least two of the children can see a thin humanoid figure with a round head. It seems to be moving back and forth behind the window. One child describes the object as similar to two plates placed edge to edge, with flashing yellow white lights along the edge and a red light on top of the dome. The object disappears from view behind the trees. ("[A Quiet Start to the Year](#)," *TUFOIC Newsletter*, no. 23 (January 1978): 4–5; "[Sighting at Seven Mile Beach, Tasmania](#)," *Australian UFO Bulletin*, May 1978, pp. 2–3)
- 1977**, February 4 — 6:30 a.m. A woman and her daughter step outside their house in Senožeti, Slovenia, and see a glowing orange ellipse about four times the size of the moon hovering about 10° above the forest. It is silent and has 4–7 brighter spots on it. Walking along, they watch the object disappear and see a glow arising from the woods as if there is a fire in a nearby village. They run to the spot but find nothing there. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 2)
- 1977**, February 4 — Around 12:00 noon. Fifteen children, mostly 10-year-old boys, at Broad Haven Primary School in Pembroke, Wales, are playing football when they see a silvery cigar-shaped UFO in a field behind the building, partially hidden by trees and shrubs. Two in the group say it has a silver dome with a flashing light at the top. Six of them claim to see a silver man with pointed ears next to the craft. The school's headteacher Ralph Llewellyn asks them to draw the UFO and is amazed at how similar the drawings are. Local UFO enthusiast Randall Jones Pugh brings the story to the attention of the national media and soon sightings of UFOs and alien occupants spring up within a 20-mile radius of Broad Haven, especially near RAF Brawdy [now Cawdor Barracks], east of St. Davids. (Randall James Pugh, "[Broad Haven School Report](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 1 (June 1977): cover, 3–5; Peter Paget, *The Welsh Triangle*, Granada, 1979; "[Broad Haven UFO Sightings Marked 40 Years On](#)," *BBC News*, February 4, 2017; Peter Paget, *The Welsh Triangle Revisited*, The author, 2018; David Clarke, "Close Encounters of the Playground Kind," *Fortean Times* 357 (September 2017): 16–18; UFOFiles2, [pp. 94–95](#); Jackson Camargo, "[O caso de Broad Haven](#)," *Fenomenum*, August 1, 2024)
- 1977**, February 6 — UFO researcher [Larry W. Bryant](#) writes a letter to President [Jimmy Carter](#), suggesting that he look into the roles played by military and civilian intelligence agencies in the UFO cover-up. He receives the standard USAF brush-off letter, saying that UFOs are no longer being investigated. (Larry W. Bryant, *UFO Politics at the White House*, Invisible College, 2001)
- 1977**, February 9 — 5:20 a.m. A high-altitude light is seen hovering for several minutes above Bondi, New South Wales, Australia, before shooting off to the east. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 2)
- 1977**, February 9 — 8:45 p.m. A deputy sheriff and constable in Flora, Mississippi, watch a UFO six times the size of their car hover 20–50 feet above them for 30 minutes. ("[Case 2-3-48](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 3 (March 1977): 8; "[Close Encounter in Mississippi](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 7)
- 1977**, February 10 — 12:45 a.m. Tom Thibault is alone on the road to Southville, Nova Scotia, when his car is pushed back 250 feet by a 30-by-60 foot object hovering silently 10–12 feet above the road. A blue light emerges from the object that creates an electric shock and an unbearable noise. Thibault suffers a memory loss and gets headaches when he drives by the scene afterward. ("[What Was It?](#)" *Digby (N.S.) Courier*, February 24, 1977; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 2)
- 1977**, February 11 — 8:40 p.m. Health service cook Slavka Gorsek and her two children see an intense beam of light come through a bedroom window in their home in Gaberke, Slovenia. It illuminates the room briefly then goes out. The light is coming from an egg-shaped object about 8–11 feet wide that has landed only about 50 feet away behind a chicken coop. It is bright white with a green or blue center. For 2–3 minutes they can see and hear nothing, until the object flashes again and takes off. Three days later Gorsek notices a "glimmering dust" at the landing site and the marks of five landing gear. An analysis is performed but with ambiguous results. (Milos Krmelj, "[UFO Landing in Yugoslavia](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 118 (September 1977): 6–8)
- 1977**, Mid-February — 10:30 p.m. Another nocturnal light mimics Eino Maki's movements as he grooms the ski slopes at Brian Mountain Lodge near Norway, Michigan. After going away once, it reappears right over him, illuminating him and a large area around him. He races his tractor at top speed (15 mph), maneuvering under struts and wires so it can't get at him. Assistant Manager Jake Malone hears the tractor gearing up outside and sees a huge brilliantly lit object the "size of a boxcar" following Maki up the slope. When he reaches the top, the UFO hovers, silently bouncing up and down, about 500 feet from the lodge. Maki estimates the object is about 60–80 feet long. Some 10–15 people exiting the lodge begin to see the display as well. (Kenneth Schellhase, "[UFOs on the Ski Slopes of Northern Michigan](#)," *IUR* 7, no. 2 (March 1982): 10–11)

- 1977**, February 16 — Morning. Four boys and one adult at Penlee Secondary School in Plymouth, Devon, England, independently see a cigar-shaped object flying horizontally above the school playground before it climbs into a cloud and disappears. (David Clarke, “Close Encounters of the Playground Kind,” *Fortean Times* 357 (September 2017): 16)
- 1977**, February 16 — Afternoon. Nine children, age 8–11, are playing netball with their teacher, Mair Williams, at Rhosybol School in Anglesey, North Wales, when they see an object flying north. It has a black dome on top and a silver, cigar-shaped base. It remains in sight for 3 minutes, goes behind the only cloud in the sky, reappears for one minute, then disappears. The teacher takes them back inside, separates them, and tells them to draw what they have seen. The sighting is reported to RAF Valley in Anglesey, which can offer no positive identification. (David Clarke, “Close Encounters of the Playground Kind,” *Fortean Times* 357 (September 2017): 16)
- 1977**, February 16 — 9:00 p.m. A commercial pilot standing outside his truck in Canton, Mississippi, watches a cylindrical object about 40 feet long pass alongside him a few hundred feet away at 30 mph. It has one steady white light in front and makes a noise like a wheezing turbine. It recedes into the west after 5 minutes. (“[Case 2-4-6](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 5)
- 1977**, February 16 — 9:15 p.m. A woman in Utica, Michigan, watches for 2 minutes a vertical cylinder of white light that is pointed at the top. It is stationary, silent, shrouded in white haze, and about 10 times as long as the full moon. (“[Case 2-4-7](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 5)
- 1977**, February 18 — 4:00 a.m. Rancher Angel Maria Tonna is herding cows to his milking shed near Salto, Uruguay, when the generator-powered building lights suddenly go off. Tonna and his watchdog run to investigate a bright light that appears at the east end of the barn. As the cows mill around wildly, dogs barking, Tonna hears some unspecified noise and sees a hovering disc-shaped object like two plates facing each other. The disc begins moving with a rocking motion, alternately moving and hovering, and at one point breaks off some tree branches. Glowing bright orange, it moves toward Tonna, then stops about 20 feet above the ground next to a water tank, its light illuminating the whole barnyard. The dog runs toward the object as if to attack it, but it suddenly stops and sits down about 15 feet from the disc and begins howling. Tonna sees six beams of lightning-like light, three on each side of the object and feels electric shock, intense heat, and paralysis. Finally the object turns red and gradually accelerates out of sight. The generators resumes functioning, but without producing electricity because the wires are burned out. Investigators find broken trees, circular markings on the ground—one a 35-foot circle containing burned grass and three circular impressions arranged like a triangle within the circle. Tonna experiences severe skin irritation on his right arm, the one he put up to shield his eyes. The dog stops eating, becomes lethargic, and dies three days later on the spot where he had howled at the UFO. An autopsy by a veterinarian finds strong evidence of extreme internal heating. (Mario Rodriguez, “[Severe Physiological Effects in Uruguay](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 125 (April 1978): 3–5; UFOEv II 222–223)
- 1977**, February 20 — 10:15 p.m. A domed disc is seen for 1–2 minutes by a man and his son in Victorville, California. It is silver in color with three windows, three legs or wheels, and two hooks at both ends. It hovers above houses 3–4 blocks away, then recedes toward the northwest after attaching itself to the top of a second object to form a sphere. (“[Case 2-4-15](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 5)
- 1977**, February 22 — Severe corrosion of the KS 150 reactor in Jaslovské Bohunice, Czech Republic, causes a release of radioactive material into the plant area, requiring a complete decommission. (Wikipedia, “[KS 150](#)”)
- 1977**, February 22 — 9:30 p.m. Antonio Serena, his wife Francesca Castellanos, and their three children are followed by a bright light for one hour and a distance of about 25 miles. The light is first spotted as they are driving northwest of Llíria in Valencia province, Spain, and follows them through the town of Vilamarxant. The car experiences some engine and light problems and does not seem to be able to accelerate. When they approach the village of Cheste, the light seems to move ahead of them, get much closer, and extend some legs in preparation for landing. One of the daughters gets sick from anxiety. The object moves away when a second auto approaches from the opposite direction. Despite the seeming drama of the incident, the light seems to have been Venus and the engine problems are due to a drained battery, as [Ian Ridpath](#) points out. (Story, pp. 327–330; Ian Ridpath, “[A Spanish Close Encounter Re-examined](#),” Ian Ridpath’s UFO Skeptic Pages, January 2021)
- 1977**, February 24 — 2:10 a.m. Restaurant manager Rudi Grutsch and railroad employee Lothar Schafler hear a shrill noise at Langenargen on Lake Constance, Germany, and see brilliant blue-white searchlight beams as two objects hover overhead. The parking lot in front of Grutsch’s bar lights up as bright as day. Five others confirm seeing and hearing the two objects, which are elliptical with two portholes. Schafler takes Grutsch home at 2:30 a.m., but Grutsch sees the same two objects illuminating the area near his home. The two objects seem to merge into one, appearing as a large ball of light. Grutsch feels paralyzed as he approaches a window to look out. Schafler is still there, running for cover and trying to hide behind bushes. After a while, Grutsch can move again, but he is shaking with fear. Mrs. Rutsch is awakened by the noise Schafler is making outside, suspecting a burglar. Her

neighbor, Mrs. Burkhart, yells that a burglar is breaking in, so Mrs. Grutsch calls the police. About this time, Grutsch relates the experience he has just had. Outside, the objects have disappeared, and Schafler is about to reenter his car. Suddenly a brilliant light of enormous size flares up close to him. He runs around Grutsch's house trying to find an open door, but they are all locked. As he tries to hide in the bushes, two beings suddenly appear, about 3.5 and 4 feet tall respectively. They look human. Except that their arms are long and reach almost to their knees. They have cramped fingers. Their skin color is light and they have round, hairless heads and clearly defined mouths, but no visible ears, noses, or necks. The beings rock their bodies back and forth. Their small, slanted eyes stare unflinchingly at Schafler, and he feels paralyzed with fear. The larger being is only 3 feet away. Their only clothing appears to be frilly neckpieces reminiscent of harlequins. Even though the beings make no menacing moves, Schafler goes into a state of panic, throwing himself against the locked door of the house and crying for help. He smashes a pane of glass on the door of the Burkhart house and unlocks it from inside, then falls on the hallway floor. By the time the Burkharths arrive home, the objects are gone and they find Schafler lying in the hallway with his hand bleeding and shouting about flying beings. They suspect he is mentally unbalanced. The police arrive momentarily and take Schafler to the hospital around 4:00 a.m. He returns home about 6:00 a.m. Several additional witnesses are found over the next few days. For several weeks, Schafler suffers from insomnia and nightmares. Once he breaks out in a heavy sweat. Two weeks later he develops a stomach ulcer and is confused and nervous by a time discrepancy. Grutsch is also confused and nervous. (UFOEv II 494–495)

- 1977, February 25** — 7:45 p.m. A 16-year-old bicycling near Cyprus College in California is followed by a star-like object that appears in the west, 45° up. The light enlarges to a thin cigar-shape, 4–5 times the width of the moon, after rushing toward him in 5 seconds. He cycles away, frightened, and has to be driven home in tears by friends. His friends and family see the object as a “star” that sets in the west in 25 minutes. Possibly Jupiter. ([“Case 2-4-19,” IUR 2, no. 4 \(April 1977\): 5](#))
- 1977, February 26** — 9:00 p.m. An accident investigator in Ontario, California, sees a white triangle with rounded sides as big as the full moon. It moves silently and slowly from overhead toward the east, 45° up. It changes course twice in the next 4–5 minutes before it disappears in the distance. ([“Case 2-4-21,” IUR 2, no. 4 \(April 1977\): 6](#))
- 1977, March 2** — Rancher Brian T. Bray discovers a 14-foot diameter, circular ring in a paddock at Brayfield Station, southwest of Port Neill, South Australia. No UFO is seen. The topsoil, soft everywhere else, is surprisingly hard in the ring, with the grass in the center undisturbed. ([“Another ‘Flying Saucer Nest’ Found in District,” Port Lincoln \(S.A.\) Times, March 3, 1977, p. 3](#); [Adelaide \(S.A.\) Advertiser, March 12, 1977](#); [“Foreign Forum,” IUR 2, no. 8 \(August 1977\): 2](#))
- 1977, March 4** — 6:00 a.m. Ludwig Siegal is driving on Provincial Road 201 about 4 miles west of Sundown, Manitoba. He sees a shimmering oval object ahead of him and silently hovering about 15 feet above the highway. It is yellowish cream around the outer edge, darkening to more yellowish in the middle. He passes directly underneath the object, which does not appear to be solid. Two miles further, Siegal sees three entities, 5 feet tall and shaped like bowling pins, in the glare of his headlights. They are arranged in a row along the left side of the road and have bulbous heads, narrow necks, and flared bodies. Unable to stop in time, he crashes into the group but feels no impact. They simply disappear as they touch the car's bumper. Looking in his rear-view mirror, he sees all three of them reappear behind his car, shrink to a small size, and vanish. Siegal calls the RCMP from a nearby friend's house. They find skid marks, but no traces of blood or any impact marks on Siegal's car. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 166, 221–223)
- 1977, March 7** — 8:34 p.m. French Air Force pilot Maj. René Giraud and navigator Capt. Jean-Paul Abraham, flying a Dassault Mirage IV supersonic bomber over Chaumont, Haute-Marne, France, see a huge UFO. The light appears bigger and bigger as it approaches their aircraft from the rear right. The pilot is flying at Mach 0.98 and makes a turn to the right and then to the left to make sure the light is not a reflection of some sort in the cockpit. As he does these maneuvers, both crew members can distinguish that the light is on the front of a dark, solid object. Despite the evasive maneuver, the unidentified object manages to stay exactly behind them for a few seconds, a very dangerous situation if the unknown object is hostile. Then the object makes a turn to the northwest at an estimated speed of Mach 2, and flies away to the left of the Mirage IV. (Kean, [pp. 123–124](#); Good Need, [pp. 304–305](#); UFOEv II 95–96; Patrick Gross, [“Mirage IV Jet Bomber Encounters UFO, France, March 7, 1977”](#); [“L'Observation d'OVNI du Colonel René Giraud \(1977\),” OVNI et Extraterrestre, November 10, 2014](#))
- 1977, March 8** — 7:30 p.m. Eleven witnesses in six groups (including Thelma Lowe, Harold Wilson, Sara Green, Mrs. Everett Miller, Mrs. W. E. Runge II, and Robert Smyth) watch a red ball of fire the size of the full moon drift over their houses and alight on the ground south of Gatchellville, Pennsylvania. It leaves a large patch of burning grass (100 feet long by 30 feet wide), with a mysteriously unscathed area delineated by three holes at the vertices.

- (“[Case Number 2-4-44](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 6–7; “[Close-Out on the Gatchellville, PA CE II](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): insert; John Harney, “[In Search of the Real UFOs](#),” *Magonia*, no. 49 (June 1994): 11)
- 1977**, March 9 — 12:34 a.m. Captain Assapa, Flight Officer Berehan, and Flight Engineer Negassa of Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET-701 are flying near Qarun Lake, Egypt, when they see a formation of eight lights, with two larger ones in the lead, flying southeast. They are the color of “arc welding.” (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 2)
- 1977**, March 9 — 3:10 a.m. Brian Grimshaw and his friend Jeff are driving to a textile factory in Nelson, Lancashire, England, when they see a cigar-shaped, metallic object in the sky. They stop the car for a better look. The UFO has lights at either end that are changing color, and the entire object is surrounded by a gray mist. The witnesses hear a sound they describe as like the tide coming in and going out. As the object comes closer, the car engine stops and the headlights dim. After five minutes, the object flies off and the car restarts. Both witnesses come down with headaches shortly afterward. (Tony Grimshaw and Jenny Randles, “[Frightening Car-Stop near Nelson](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 2 (August 1977): 3–5, 12; Jenny Randles, *The UFO Conspiracy*, Barnes & Noble, 1993, [pp. 137–139](#); UFOEv II 223–224; Jenny Randles, “Flappy Valley, Part 4,” *Fortean Times* 328 (July 2015): 28–29)
- 1977**, March 9 — 7:20 p.m. Susanna and Maria Stratford watch a shiny saucer with a red light on top and a rounded bottom descend to 30 feet above the ground and hover for 20 minutes, veering left and right above the trees in Saanich, British Columbia. It disappears toward the east. (“[Night UFO: It Came Back to See Us](#),” *Victoria (B.C.) Times*, March 11, 1977, p. 17)
- 1977**, March 9 — 10:40 p.m. Four adult witnesses in Long Grove, Illinois, are attracted outside by a loud crackling noise. Searching around with a powerful spotlight, they see an object 60° up in the northern sky about 1,000 feet up. It is a white, tapered rectangle with a black silhouette behind it about the size of the full moon. They watch it maneuver within the spotlight beam and watch it sporadically for 30 minutes until it vanishes within the beam; the noise stops immediately. (“[Case 2-4-46](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1975): wrap)
- 1977**, March 10 — 7:40 p.m. Ten crew members of two oil tankers anchored one mile apart at the Arjuna Oil Field in the Java Sea, Indonesia, see an object the apparent size of the full moon. It is primarily dark with a red light in the middle and emits beams of yellowish-white light in two directions. It is only about 1,000 feet above the surface of the water. Coming from the west, it circles the offshore oil field twice and then speeds off to the east after 5 minutes. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 2)
- 1977**, March 12 — 9:05 p.m. United Airlines Flight 94 is flying south of Syracuse, New York, on a course toward Boston’s Logan Airport in Massachusetts. Suddenly the airplane starts a gradual, smooth (15° bank angle) turn to the left by itself. Within 5–10 seconds both captain Neil Daniels, 57, and the flight officer turn and look to their left side and see an “extremely bright white light at about their own altitude.” It is perfectly round and almost 3° arc in apparent diameter. Daniels estimates its distance to be about 3,000 feet and probably as big or bigger than a DC-10 in size. Its intensity is like that of a flashbulb. Boston Center calls them and asks, “United 94, where are you going?” Daniels replies, “Well, let me figure this out. I’ll let you know.” Then they notice that “the three compasses were all displaying different readings. The FO’s compass was within 20° arc of the compass in front of the captain and was not rotating. It was then that the FO uncoupled the autopilot and flew the airplane manually.” Meanwhile, the UAP “followed right along with us” for about 4–5 more minutes then “it took off and picked up speed very rapidly and just disappeared, over about 15 seconds, back towards our 8:00 o’clock position and slightly upward.” Daniels asked ATC if they have any radar traffic in the area and they reply, “no.” Later, ATC tells Daniels, “So whatever it was, we don’t know. But it did cause a disruption in the magnetic field around the aircraft to the point where it did pull the aircraft off course.” (Peter A. Sturrock, *The UFO Enigma*, Warner, 1999, pp. 86–88; Richard F. Haines, “[Aviation Safety in America: A Previously Neglected Factor](#),” NARCAP, October 15, 2000, p. 80; “[Air Force Pilot Neil Daniels Sighting](#),” Riddlept YouTube channel, October 8, 2013; Kean, [pp. 45–46](#))
- 1977**, Mid-March — Observers at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran, Iran, see 20–25 UFOs flying from the desert toward the city. The pilots and passengers of an Iranian airliner flying at more than 6 miles altitude about 87 miles from the city describe them as yellow in color. A Japanese pilot the same distance south of Tehran switches on all his lights when he sees a huge object in front of his plane. He claims 15–20 smaller objects fly out of the large one directly toward the pilot, who changes course and heads for Mehrabad. (“[Review of Iranian UFO Reports](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 2 (Jan./Feb. 1981): 15)
- 1977**, Mid-March — Around 11:00 p.m. James Ferguson and Tom Patton are in the desert about 2 miles west of Tucson, Arizona, preparing to take night photographs of saguaro cacti using flash-lighting effects. As they are getting ready to take a photo, the floor of the desert around them suddenly brightens. They see a large mass of light rise from behind a distant range of hills and hover for many minutes just above the horizon. Quickly, they turn the camera on its tripod toward the light and take a time exposure. Several minutes pass and suddenly the light moves

rapidly to the north and disappears in the distance. The trail of light on the photo shows the light's departure. (["1977 Nocturnal Light Photograph Reported,"](#) *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 1 (May 1980): 1; ["Tucson 1977 Nocturnal Light Remains Unidentified,"](#) *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (August 1980): 2)

- 1977, March 19** — 8:00 p.m. Sylvia Laidler and her daughter Darlene are driving eastbound on Highway 401 near Belleville, Ontario, when a red streak appears in the north. The object stops abruptly over the highway in front of her car, maintaining a red, pulsating glow, then approaches them, flying on the south side of the road at tree-top level. It is triangular with turquoise lights, red flashing lights, and a golden light flashing at the bottom. It hovers silently above them briefly then moves off to the south. ("UFO Hovered over Car," *Belleville (Ont.) Intelligencer*, May 6, 1977; Marler [96-97](#))
- 1977, March 22** — 10:20 a.m. Tom Evison and his wife watch for 15 minutes a bright stationary light an estimated 10 miles north of their location in Seatoun, a suburb of Wellington, New Zealand. Seen through a telescope, it appears as elongated with black vertical lines. It slowly fades away in place. (["Foreign Forum,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 2)
- 1977, March 24** — 8:50 p.m. Witnesses on La Palma and Tenerife, Canary Islands, see a reddish light emerge from the sea, climb very fast, move in a zigzag fashion, and leave behind a huge, bright halo that lasts 10 minutes. Several minutes later, a Scandinavian DC-8 passing over Ad Dakhla on the coast of Western Sahara observes a luminous cloud to the west. A South African Airways jumbo jet describes the same phenomenon. 310 miles to the south, Capt. M. Brackenridge and the crew of the merchant ship *Kinpurnie Castle* witness a luminous semicircle on the horizon, with a small bright arc inside. In only 3 minutes it has reached colossal dimensions. Seven minutes later, it has completely dispersed, after a second luminous spot appears above it. The sighting correlates with the launch of two Poseidon missiles from the [USS Woodrow Wilson](#). (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Ricardo Campo Pérez, ["Navy Missile Tests and the Canary Islands UFOs,"](#) *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 4)
- 1977, March 29** — 12:30 a.m. A witness in a rural area near West Decatur, Pennsylvania, sees an "upside-down teardrop" object 100–200 feet long and 60 feet wide drift in from the east at treetop level. With the point of the teardrop pointing upward, the gray-brown object features a large panel of fluorescent green light on the bottom. Drifting west into a field, the object makes a sound like a "rope spinning in the air." Climbing at a 45° angle to a half-mile up in 15 seconds, it levels off and accelerates to the southwest in 8 seconds. (["Case 2-5-43,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 5)
- 1977, April 1** — 10:40 p.m. A woman is driving her three young children south on the west side of DeRuyter, New York, when she finds herself overtaking and driving underneath a 35–40-foot object hovering 30 feet above the maple trees. The UFO has three outer red and blue lights and a sequential series of red lights in two rows on the center bottom. One mile away, two other witnesses go in search of a red glow without being able to overtake it. (["Case 2-5-46,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 5)
- 1977, April 5** — 2:17 p.m. A pilot driving on I-94 northbound near Deerfield, Illinois, sees an object coming toward him (southbound) first in the distance then directly above him later on. It is a silver mushroom three times the apparent size of the moon, and it moves silently toward Chicago against the wind. (["Case 2-5-51,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): 5)
- 1977, April 5** — 9:00 p.m. A young couple and others in Lincolnton, North Carolina, see 5–6 red-orange lights hovering 200 feet away. (["Case 2-5-52,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): wrap)
- 1977, April 8** — 2:00 a.m. A domed disc-shaped object flies around two witnesses in Cedar Springs, Michigan, hovering and flashing over some nearby trees. Ring ground marks are later found. (["Case 2-5-57,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): wrap)
- 1977, April 8** — 8:08 p.m. A teenager and his mother in St. Louis, Missouri, watch a flat disc four times the width of the moon silhouetted against the clouds. It has three steady white lights around its edges and moves silently from a high angle in the east to a low angle in the west. (["Case 2-5-58,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): wrap)
- 1977, April 8** — 10:35 p.m. A cigar-shaped object glowing red at each end darts north to south across Interstate 64 in Lexington, Kentucky, several times. (["Case 2-5-80,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): wrap)
- 1977, April 10** — 2:30 a.m. Martha and Olof Eriksson watch a yellow light with a red "textile-like" appendage hanging below it at Flykälén, Jämtland, Sweden. It is 100 feet in diameter and moving from south to north. (["Night Sun Shone over Laxsjö,"](#) *Lanstidningen Östersund*, April 12, 1977, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 97 (May 1977): 15; ["Foreign Forum,"](#) *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 2)
- 1977, April 14** — 2:00 a.m. Captain Scherrer, Senior First Officer Schmid, and hostess Rothenhofer are on board Swissair Flight SR-798 near Maastricht, Netherlands. Schmid notices the first of four "lightning-like lights" in an otherwise clear sky. Ground radar calls the plane's attention to a target 15 miles away at their 1 o'clock position. The crew sees two targets briefly at that position but only on radar. Then all three of them see another flash.

Maastricht radar watches the target fall back east of the plane and rush at high speed back to a 1 or 2 o'clock position only 3 miles away. There is still no visual contact. A few minutes later, a third silent lightning-like flash is seen just in front of the airliner. Maastricht radar watches the target playing with the plane behind its tail and right wing, where the fourth flash is seen. A military radar places the speed of the target when moving fast at Mach 4 or 5. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 2)

- 1977**, April 17 — 4:00 p.m. A woman in La Louvière, Hainaut, Belgium, watches a flat cylinder with faceted sides move from the southwest to northeast. The object is dark, seems solid, and emits no smoke or trail. It moves in a straight line with an oscillation in the same direction as the wind. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 2)
- 1977**, April 17–23 — An International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon is held in Acapulco, Mexico, organized by Mexico City businessman Guillermo Bravo. Speakers include [J. Allen Hynek](#), [Jacques Vallée](#), [John A. Keel](#), William Spaulding, [Walt Andrus](#), and [Dennis Hauck](#). Prime Minister [Eric Gairy](#) makes a strong plea for a United Nations program to investigate UFOs. (J. Allen Hynek, "['First' International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, April 18 — About 12:05 a.m. George Thrupp and Margaret Mancour of the weather office at Vancouver International Airport in British Columbia have just gotten off their shift when they see a "blue flash" over the airport. It appears in the south sky above Richmond. The light is coming from a cigar-shaped object larger than a Boeing 747 jumbo jet that is orange on the top half and blue on the bottom half with dark portholes along the side. ("[Pair Sight UFO at City Airport](#)," *Vancouver (B.C.) Sun*, April 19, 1977, p. 35)
- 1977**, April 18 — White House Press Secretary [Jody Powell](#) states in the "Washington Whispers" column of *US News and World Report* that "before the year is out" there will be "unsettling disclosures" about UFOs, "based on information from the CIA." Later, the White House claims the story is a "misunderstanding" by Powell. ("[Washington Whispers](#)," *US News and World Report*, April 18, 1977, via *Aerial Phenomenon Clipping and Information Center* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 29; "[UFO's and CIA Involvement](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 5 (May 1977): front; George W. Earley, "[Special Report on Close Encounters of the Third Kind](#)," *Beyond Reality*, no. 31 (March/April 1978): 38, 41; Robert Scheaffer, "['UFO Disclosure' Happening Again This Year](#)," *Skeptical Inquirer* 40, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2016): 16–17)
- 1977**, April 19 — Santiago Laco Ozano, 32, is milking cows in Rocha, Uruguay, when he hears a strange noise as the area around him is illuminated. Looking up, he sees a small object giving off a powerful beam of light. He faints, and on recovering about 5 minutes later, notices his hair is slightly burned. He is admitted to a nearby hospital, whose personnel verify the singeing and that his scalp has no lesions. ([Flying Saucer Attacked a Rural Worker in Uruguay](#)], *Crónica* (Buenos Aires, Argentina), August 6, 1977, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 99 (July/Oct. 1977): 14; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): 2)
- 1977**, April 19 — Early morning. Rosa Granville, proprietor of the Haven Fort Hotel in Little Haven, Pembroke, Wales, is disturbed by a strange humming noise. She looks out a window and sees an oval-shaped object "like the moon falling down" land behind her home. Two tall humanoids appear in front of the UFO, which is about the size of a minibus. They have blank faces and pointed heads and are wearing white outfits like boiler suits. They appear to "take measurements or gather things" and climb a grassy bank in a field. When she returns to the window after calling other family members, the object and the figures have vanished. (UFOFiles2, [p. 96](#))
- 1977**, April 21 — 7:15 p.m. A couple in Towson, Maryland, sees a gray capsule with short, stubby wings, two yellow headlights, and no windows. Several times the full moon, the object flies silently from low in the east to above their car in 4 minutes. ("[Case 2-6-5](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 3)
- 1977**, April 22 — 3:10 a.m. Three witnesses in Washburn, Wisconsin, see a flat, round object with five white lights on its rim and two red lights on its bottom. It pursues their car for three-quarters of a mile, even around curves and driving at 90 mph. The object overshoots them, slows down, and moves only 30 feet in front of them. After 4 minutes it accelerates in a steep climb toward the southwest. ("[Case 4-22-77](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 3)
- 1977**, April 22 — Pauline Coombes reports seeing a luminous silver figure 7–8 feet tall looking into her window at Ripperston Farm near Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, Wales, for an hour. She doesn't say anything until her son notices it too. Humanoid in form, the figure's face is black and featureless; it vanishes when a neighbor drives up. Two weeks earlier, a yellow sphere had chased her car; she accelerated to 80 mph to escape it. ("[Chased by a Flying Football](#)," *Wales Western Telegraph* (Haverfordwest), April 14, 1977, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 98 (June 1977): 15; "Welsh UFO Flap Continues," *Fountain Journal*, no. 11 (1977): 2; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 2; Randall Jones Pugh and F. W. Holiday, *The Dyfed Enigma: Unidentified Objects in West Wales*, Faber & Faber, 1979, pp. 94–98; Clive Harold, *The Uninvited: The True Story of Ripperston Farm*, Star, 1979; "[The Night Monitor: The Silver Giant \(Official Video\)](#)," AVD78 YouTube channel, October 7, 2020; "[Pauline Coombs Talks about the Ripperston Farm UFO Encounters, Pembrokeshire, Wales, 1977](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, October 21, 2022)

- 1977, April 23** — 9:30 p.m. Pilot William Sorum and copilot Richard Drzal are flying a DC-10, Northwest Orient Flight 27, from Seattle, Washington, to Anchorage, Alaska. About 50 miles east of Middleton Island, Alaska, they see a bright white star moving smoothly from the southern horizon across their field of view to the northern horizon for about 40 seconds. It passes in front of them at a 45° above them at their altitude of 39,000 feet. Radar Approach Controller Terry Siegrist and others at Anchorage International Airport see a linear flight of four separate unidentifiable blips suddenly appear on radar screens at 30 miles distance from the city, covering 10 miles in 6–12 seconds (3,600 mph). Correlation between the two observations is not established. (“[Radar/Visual in Alaska](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 4)
- 1977, April 25** — 3:45 a.m. Eight soldiers camped on a military patrol 3 miles from Putre, Arica y Parinacota, Chile, suddenly see two bright violet lights nearby. The soldiers’ dog and horses remain still while the lights hover nearby. The leader of the group, Corporal Armando Valdés Garrido, orders the other soldiers to put out their campfire. The two large lights are about a half-mile away and hovering close to the ground. Valdés approaches the lights, ordering them to identify themselves. At this point a bright light envelops Valdés and he apparently vanishes in a mist in plain view of the others. The soldiers frantically begin searching for him but are unable to find him. At around 4:15 a.m., Valdés suddenly reappears. He has a strange look on his face and he gives out a sinister laugh, asking several times where his mother is. Then he says, again in a very sinister sounding voice, “You will never know who we are and where we come from.” The others notice that he appears to have a week’s growth of beard, whereas he had been clean-shaven just an hour ago, and his digital watch indicates the impossible date of April 30. He is almost in hysterics and one of the soldiers has to slap him, at which point Valdés faints. One of the other soldiers, Raúl Salinas, who has been standing a few feet in back of the others, notices a strange humanoid creature behind some nearby rocks. He describes it as half animal and half human; no facial features are visible, but it seems to be wearing a helmet and is carrying a red light. Salinas is stunned to see the creature appear at several places simultaneously. He thinks that there might be several humanoids. He does not mention this to the others at the time, since they are already scared, but the others do not see the humanoid or humanoids. When Valdés wakes up he cannot remember where he has been. In 2013, Valdés, now an evangelical pastor, admits that no one on the patrol saw aliens—only that they saw something that frightened them. He claims he only left the group to go urinate. Many ufologists now feel that the Chilean government encouraged the abduction scenario to mask the presence of troops and horses in northern Chile in the event of a war with Argentina or a regional conflict. (Wikipedia, “[Caso Cabo Valdés](#)”; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 2; “[The Chilean Abduction](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 26, no. 1 (July 1977): 1, 3; “[Cabo Valdés se confiesa: ‘Nunca me abdujeron](#),” *La Cuarta*, February 18, 2018)
- 1977, April 29** — Manuel Lopez, the pilot of a single-engine plane, is allegedly blinded in flight by a UFO near Bogotá, Colombia. Circling in the air for 2 hours, Lopez’s calls for help are recorded and played on a local radio station: “I’ve lost my sight; I don’t know what to do!” Four aircraft surround him and talk him down to a safe landing at El Dorado International Airport by radio. He is rushed to a military hospital suffering from shock. (“[Colombian Pilot Says UFO Blinded Him](#),” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 7, 1977, p. 2)
- 1977, April 29** — 11:45 p.m. A woman and her daughter are driving north of Oxford, Ohio, when a white light begins pacing their car on the left about 180 feet away. They speed up and pass it after 3 minutes. The mother only sees a light, but the daughter perceives a “saucer with a vertical cone.” (“[Case 2-6-34](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 3)
- 1977, May** — [Leonard H. Stringfield](#)’s *Situation Red: The UFO Siege!* is published, supporting the thesis that the US military has acquired extraterrestrial hardware and possibly bodies. The book immediately prompts dozens of alleged first-hand witnesses of crashed UFOs or alien bodies to contact Stringfield with their stories. One of his informants is a medical doctor (“Doctor X”) who says he has conducted medical tests on alien cadavers at a major medical facility in the eastern US. Stringfield is later able to visit Doctor X and a colleague of his, Doctor Y, who has examined an alien tissue sample under a microscope. The aliens are said to be 3.5–4.5 feet tall, weighing 40 pounds, with large heads. They have slender torsos and long, thin arms. Their skin is tan or gray, elastic, and reminiscent of reptilian skin. A colorless liquid is present in the bodies; there are no red cells. The eyes are slanted without pupils, and they have heavy brow ridges, apertures in place of ears, small noses, and slit-like mouths. They have no teeth. Doctor X avoids Stringfield’s later questions. (Leonard H. Stringfield, [Situation Red: The UFO Siege!](#) Doubleday, 1977; UFOEv II 593; Graff 246)
- 1977, May** — A young radio technician is lying in bed during a power blackout in Gloggnitz, Austria. Suddenly a hollow globe about 1.6 feet in diameter and made up of separate red bars of light appears over the bedroom floor. It begins moving slowly and silently toward a glass door. The witness jumps out of bed, bumping into the ball of light with his leg. He feels nothing and there are no aftereffects. The bars of light begin to shrink in diameter,

causing the ball to dim and disappear. No traces are left behind. (Michael D. Swords, "[A Trick of the Light](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 9)

- 1977, May 1** — 2:00 a.m. Amateur astronomer Lev Boethin sees a red-brown oval object 10 times the size of the moon near Mudeng, Philippines. It moves silently from the southeast to the northwest parallel to the ground 20° above the horizon. He estimates it is only 300 feet away and moving faster than an aircraft. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 2)
- 1977, May 1** — The Groupe d'Étude des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non Identifiés (GEPAN) is founded as a section of France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales on the initiative of CNES Director [Yves Sillard](#). Its purpose is to quiet public fears about a flurry of UFO sightings, as well as to coordinate reports of the Gendarmerie, civil aviation, the Air Force, and the meteorological service. Its first director is aeronautical engineer [Claude Poher](#). GEPAN sets up a Scientific Council of astronomers and other scientists and professionals to put in place data-collection systems for UFO reports from official agencies and investigate cases already reported. (Jean-Pierre Petit, "[The Truth about G.E.P.A.N.](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 35, no. 4 (December 1990): 22–24; Mark Rodeghier, ed., "[The 1999 French Report on UFOs and Defense](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 20–21; Gildas Bourdais, "[From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 11–13; Gildas Bourdais, "[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 12–13; Swords 440–442; Good Above, [pp. 135–136](#); Clark III 546)
- 1977, May 3** — 3:55 a.m. A caller tells police in Hainault, northeast London, that a strange object is above the small lake in Hainault Forest Country Park. Two policemen are dispatched, and they see a "large bright red light" on the eastern shore. They exit their vehicle and notice an object like a "bell tent" about 900 feet away that continuously pulsates from dull to very bright red for the next 2–3 minutes. The UFO seems to be hovering silently. Then the object appears to "dissolve on the spot." The officers decide somewhat reluctantly to go across the lake and investigate. Then one of them looks up and briefly sees a thin, large, white crescent hanging in the sky. This also dissolves on the spot. Reaching the location of ground zero, they find nothing except a strong burning smell. They make a report to the local UFO group, the Essex Hotline, and investigator Barry M. King interviews one of the officers that night. The next day, one large bush is found damaged: flattened in the center and slightly burned. A gorse bush appears to have borne a heavy weight, because almost all the limbs are snapped off the central branch and displaced in an outward-radiating splay. No radiation or magnetic anomalies are found. (Barry M. King, "[Landing at Hainault Seen by Police](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 2 (August 1977): 8–11; Andrew Collins, "[Follow-Up at Hainault](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 2 (August 1977): 11–12; Jenny Randles, "May Day! May Day!" *Fortean Times* 419 (June 2022): 27)
- 1977, May 3** — 6:35 p.m. Several people in the eastern part of Jakarta, Indonesia, are watching the sky with binoculars when they see a round UFO that traverses the sky in one minute. It carries flashing red, green, white, and blue lights located in circles around the rim. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 2)
- 1977, May 3** — 9:20 p.m. A woman in Wilcox, Pennsylvania, sees a large silver sphere with many blue lights around its equator. The object hovers close to the west side of her house, casting a spotlight on the ground. It begins moving and disappears straight up in one second. Her two dogs refuse to go near the spot afterward and are fussy about eating. ("[Case 2-6-53](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 3)
- 1977, May 8** — 2:00 p.m. A couple driving west on Interstate 80 in Joliet, Illinois, watch an object like a silver straw hat move silently eastbound over their car. At 2:30 p.m., they see a silver sphere with a Saturn ring or halo around it. ("[Case 2-6-64](#)" and "[Case 2-6-65](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 8)
- 1977, May 10** — 5:10 a.m. Phylis Barlow watches a triangular UFO circling slowly in the sky above Rome, Georgia. It is flying at a tilt, and on the bottom is a circle of foggy light surrounding a triangle of intense bright light. She watches it with a friend for 10 minutes as it makes a second pass over the area. It descends silently to 1,000 feet and they can see it has a grayish-silver color and three creamy yellow, honeycombed lights. It moves off to the southeast at great speed. ("UFO Circles East Rome Restaurant," *Rome (Ga.) News-Tribune*, May 10, 1977, pp. 3, 5; Marler [97–98](#))
- 1977, May 11** — 3:00 a.m. A woman and her son are awakened in their home in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, by a loud humming sound. They see a green, glowing sphere with a dark equator hovering for 30 minutes near the house. It shoots straight up and away and the hum stops. The 11-year-old boy stays home from school for several days because he is scared. ("[Case 2-6-77](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 8)
- 1977, May 11** — 4:45 a.m. Three witnesses in Fresno, California, see a bright yellow light rise erratically from the northern horizon to a fixed position overhead in one minute. A second light, flashing white 3 times a second, rises from the west to a 50° position above the western horizon. Both are stationary for 3 minutes. The yellow object sways back and forth. The white light disappears and the yellow light fades into the overcast. ("[Case 2-6-79](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): 8)

- 1977, May 11** — 9:45 p.m. An adult couple near Bonner Springs, Kansas, see a silent disc-shaped object with white windows hovering for 70–80 seconds, then fly away slowly. (“[Case 2-6-84](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 6 (June 1977): wrap)
- 1977, May 15** — 4:30 a.m. A driver in Clarksville, Tennessee, sees a round object with 7–8 blue-green lights flashing in its center. It appears to drop 7–8 red flares as it is flying southbound in a straight path. (“[Case 2-7-1](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 3)
- 1977, May 16–17** — 11:00 p.m. Officers Michael L. Davidson and Forrest E. Bartlett of the Memphis Police Tactical Squad spot a triangular UFO near Old Allen Road and Frayser-Raleigh Road in Memphis, Tennessee. At 3:45 a.m., officers Troy L. Todd and Jerry W. Jeter watch a similar object, 300 feet long, near the Norris Road exit of Interstate 240. It is hovering about 200 feet above the ground near some power line towers and is in the shape of a perfect triangle standing on edge. Later, Jeter watches it through his rifle scope flying horizontally then taking off at great speed. A Tennessee State Highway patrolman has also seen a triangular object in Collierville. (“[Triangular Red, Green, Flying Object Sighted](#),” *Brownsville (Tex.) Herald*, May 17, 1977, p. 1; *National Enquirer*, June 13, 1978; Marler [94–96](#); Powell, *Scientist*, 66)
- 1977, May 17** — The Joint Chiefs of Staff re-release JANAP 146 (E), specifying “unidentified flying objects” as something that must be reported by military personnel. It distinguishes UFOs from other types of known aircraft. (Joint Chiefs of Staff, “[Change No. 2 to JANAP 146 \(E\)](#),” May 17, 1977)
- 1977, May 19** — 10:45 p.m. A travel agent driving in Clayton, New Jersey, watches a blindingly bright round object composed of many small white lights packed together and three main lights in front. It hovers for nearly a minute over telephone wires, then the lights begin flashing and the object ascends in a steep climb. (“[Case 2-7-15](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 3)
- 1977, May 20** — 11:00 p.m. Three 14-year-old boys are in a field near Bayview Avenue and Willow Pass Road, West Pittsburg [now Bay Point], California, about a half mile from Suisun Bay. They see a saucer-shaped object surrounded by a row of white, rectangular windows that flash on and off. A blue light zigzags near the object. It is hovering near the ground between railroad tracks and the bay, then it shoots across the water in a matter of seconds and returns equally fast, moving silently toward them and stopping about 150–300 feet away. One minute later, they see three figures advancing toward them from near the lights. They are dark human forms, about 5-foot-6 to 6 feet tall, surrounded by mist and moving with a stiff, limping walk. The boys run across the street and look back in time to see the figures fade from view. (“[UFO with ‘Dark Figures’ in California](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 4–5)
- 1977, May 20–21** — 11:30 p.m. An unknown target appears on air traffic control center (CINDACTA) radar in Brasília, Brazil. The object moves at around 1,038 mph and overtakes a Boeing 727 Transbrasil airliner (TYP) flying from Rio de Janeiro to Campinas in São Paulo state, dropping about 11 miles in front of it to the northeast. The pilots can see a light in the position indicated by the radar, and it apparently causes an intermittent “beep-beep” in the aircraft communication system. At 12:54 a.m., another airliner (TCB) reports a large flashing light that changes color from white to green to red and to blue near Vitória, Espírito Santo. Later, the pilots can distinguish two objects, one a steady white light and a fainter reddish object below it, apparently over the Abrolhos archipelago near Caravelas, Bahia. A third Transbrasil airliner (TYU) reports two lights in their 4 o’clock position near Belo Horizonte. Flight controllers in Brasília confirm the report by detecting two targets in the area. The pilots notice that one light has positioned itself above the other. A third radar target is detected in a position behind and to the left of the aircraft. A few minutes later, one of the objects on the right approaches the airliner, emitting a bright light. The sighting is confirmed by a Varig aircraft that has taken off from Manaus bound for Brasília. Later, the TYU airliner spots another light, possibly near the city of Anápolis, Goiás. Fortunately, audio recordings of all the interactions between CINDACTA and the pilots are preserved by the Brazilian Air Force. (Jackson Camargo, “[Gravações do CINDACTA registram OVNI na região Sudeste](#),” *Fenomenum*, November 10, 2023)
- 1977, May 21** — 9:30 p.m. A family in St. Louis, Missouri, sees a “comet” with a long tail moving in the northeast. (“[Case 2-7-25](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 3)
- 1977, May 21** — 10:20 p.m. Three airmen stationed at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, England, observe a triangular-shaped light moving erratically in the sky. Within minutes the light is tracked on radar at RAF Patrington [now closed], moving in a zigzag pattern. The target registers on radarscope for 4 minutes until the screens are “partially obliterated by high-powered interference” that returns to normal once the target disappears. (Good Need, [p. 305](#))
- 1977, May 21** — 10:45 p.m. Several independent witnesses observe an unusual light phenomenon within a period of 30 minutes in the Canford Heath area of Poole, Dorset, England. Five witnesses report seeing a 2-foot-wide beam of light emitted by a stationary disc-shaped object, and three of these five report an extending beam that cuts through the terrain while illuminating nothing. (Leslie Harris, “[UFOs and Solid Light Phenomena in Dorset](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 4 (January 1978): 3–7; Powell, *Scientist*, 99)

- 1977, May 26** — 1:15 a.m. The crew of an RAF Avro Vulcan B.2 bomber piloted by Flight Lt. David Edwards is flying at 28,000 feet over the Bay of Biscay off the coast of France at a speed of Mach 0.86 when they observe bright lights coming from the west. The lights resemble aircraft landing lights, but they soon blink out leaving a large orange glow with a bright-green fluorescent spot. An object emerges from the glow, moving to the west, climbing at an angle of 45°, and leaving a thin contrail. The radar operator reports jamming-type interference. Camera film from the aircraft's radar records a "strong response" from the direction of the sighting, consisting of three separate radar returns at varying distances, the third made up of three targets all 600 feet wide. On the film the UFO appears as an "elongated shadow." (Good Need, [pp. 305–307](#); UFOFiles2, [pp. 92–94](#))
- 1977, May 26** — 8:45 a.m. Two witnesses in Detroit, Michigan, see three blue teardrop-shaped objects moving in a V-formation. They move from a high angle in the north to a low angle in the northwest, hovering "like helicopters" for one minute. They pull out of formation, swoop low, regroup, and climb again in formation at a 40° angle, fading from view. ("[Case 2-7-35](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 3)
- 1977, May 26** — 4:10 p.m. A 39-year-old radio announcer and his wife are watching an eastbound jet overhead at Dowagiac, Michigan. Suddenly a brown, cigar-shaped object, distinctly outlined, rushes from the rear left side of the plane to a position "one plane length" behind it. The object is 1.5 times as long as the jet. It follows for about 30 seconds and then rushes ahead of it and is gone in 3 seconds. ("[Case 2-7-36](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): 3–4)
- 1977, Summer** — Around 2:00 a.m. Senior Airman James M. Dunn is on K-9 security patrol at the Weapons Storage Area at Loring AFB [now Loring International Airport] near Limestone, Maine, when he gets a call from a sergeant at Entry Control about a bright light above his truck. He sees an intense light, which is directed onto the truck at a 45° angle. The interior of the truck cab seems to glow with a greenish hue. About 5 seconds later the light goes out. Dunn talks to the sergeant, who seems a bit stunned. A few minutes later, two F-106 interceptors shoot above the WSA, apparently looking for a radar target. (Nukes 373–375)
- 1977, Summer** — Physicist [Bruce Maccabee](#) uses FOIA requests to obtain some 400 pages of UFO-related documents, mostly from 1947–1955, from the FBI by the end of the year. (Bruce S. Maccabee, "[UFO Related Information from the FBI File, Part 1](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 119 (October 1977): 13–15, [reprinted](#) in *UFO Investigator*, November 1977, pp. 1–4)
- 1977, June 6** — 11:30 p.m. Mark Henshall is riding his motorbike home northwest of Barnard Castle, Teesdale, England, in the pouring rain when he sees two purple lights to his side. He notices he is losing power as he rides up a small hill. A car is just starting to pass him, and it too is slowing down. Suddenly, both bike and car are enveloped in a nearly blinding, fuzzy, ultraviolet light. Henshall feels his bike being pulled up the incline and notices steam pouring off his back and legs, which are getting unbearably hot. The motorcycle and car stop just as the misty violet glow overhead vanishes. The car driver tells Henshall that he lost all engine power for 30 seconds and yet was pulled forward. The metal side of the motorbike is far hotter than normal and impossible to touch without risking serious burns. The brakes are found to be so badly worn that they need a complete resetting. When Henshall returns home, his mother notices that his face is sunburned and hot to the touch. He also experiences nausea for a few days. (Brian Straight, "[Vehicle Stop near Barnard Castle](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 5 (February 1978): 6–7)
- 1977, June 6** — 11:35 p.m. Mrs. Millicent Parr, 68, is watching a televised fireworks display at her home in Waltham Abbey, Essex, England, when the screen "closes up" and turns blank, as if it is turned off. She turns the set off and goes to prepare some tea in the kitchen. When she returns to the living room, the entire room becomes enveloped in a blood-red and vivid green light. She looks out her window and sees a brilliantly lit sphere hovering 10–15 feet above her garden. She estimates it is about 12 inches in diameter, red in the center, with the outer 4 inches green. It appears to be spinning. She goes out to the garden, approaching almost directly beneath it, when it rises slowly and silently moves to the north, barely missing the rooftops of neighboring houses. She sees a tapering tail of white light. The object is in sight for only 1.5 minutes. (Andrew Collins, "[Spherical Phenomenon at Waltham Abbey](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 3 (October 1977): 25–27)
- 1977, June 10** — A woman in Deerfield, Illinois, watches a gray-white light projecting "dots of color" that are drawn back to the source. It remains stationary in the low southwestern sky for 15 minutes, then shoots off in a slight climb in a matter of seconds. ("[Case 2-7-87](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): wrap)
- 1977, June 12** — 11:00 p.m. A man named David is drinking in the bar at a hotel in Crystal Lake, Illinois. When he leaves, he notices three small beings coming out of an alley on his right about 30–35 feet away. They are slightly over 4 feet tall, wearing greenish one-piece metallic suits, and have bubble-shaped helmets on their heads. David gets the feeling he is in a "vacuum" with no sound or wind. He notices another being lying on the ground in front of him only a few feet away, apparently injured. The three entities pick up the fourth and walk back to the alley

and disappear. David feels no fear and gets the impression they will not hurt him. The beings seem to have only 3 or 4 fingers that are larger than a human's. ([Letter to J. Allen Hynek](#))

- 1977**, June 14 — President [Jimmy Carter](#) is allegedly given a UFO briefing at the White House and bound to secrecy. According to former USAF Capt. [Robert M. Collins](#), an MJ-12 officer meets with Carter. A reconstruction of the conversation is known as “Executive Briefing: Project Aquarius” and later leaked to UFO researcher [William Moore](#). However, there is no hard evidence that such a briefing has taken place. (Robert M. Collins, ed., “[Executive Briefing: Project Aquarius](#)”)
- 1977**, June 14 — Prime Minister [Eric Gairy](#) of Grenada opens the Organization of American States General Assembly with a call for an international investigation of UFOs. He says he was asked by participants at the UFO conference in Acapulco, Mexico, to continue his efforts. He asks OAS members to support the issue when it comes up at the United Nations. (“[Caribbean Government Calls for UFO Probe](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, June 17 — 12:00 noon. José Francisco Rodrigues is flying a Portuguese Air Force Dornier Do 27 light plane over the Castelo de Bode dam in central Portugal. When he emerges from the clouds, he sees a dark object against a backdrop of white stratocumulus clouds, slightly to the right of his plane. Thinking that the object is a cargo plane, he banks to the left and immediately radios to ask if there is any traffic in the vicinity. Air controller Sgt. Jose Vicente Saldanha replies in the negative. As Rodrigues completes a turn to port, the object suddenly appears at his 11 o'clock position no more than 20 feet away. It is definitely not a cargo plane. The upper section, partially concealed by cloud, is black, and on the lower section there are four or five panels. The object is about 42–50 feet in diameter. Suddenly it accelerates and vanishes from what the pilot believes is an initial stationary position. The Dornier begins to vibrate violently and goes into an uncontrolled dive. Struggling to regain control, Rodrigues pushes the control column forward. Air speed increases to 160 mph then 207 mph as the ground comes nearer. He regains control when almost “touching the tree tops” and the plane lands in one piece with a badly shaken pilot. During the encounter the directional electric gyroscope (connected to a magnetic compass) rotates wildly, and by the time the plane lands it has deviated by 180° relative to the magnetic compass. (Willy Smith, “[Unknown Intruder over Portugal](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1985): 6–8; Good Above, [pp. 154–156](#))
- 1977**, June 17 — Dusk. Five individuals—Dale Schexnaider and his wife, their two daughters, Jena, 14, and Krissy, 11, and a close family friend—are breaking camp and preparing to go home from the Cotile Lake Recreation Area, Louisiana. Just before they reach the clearing that leads to the road, the male friend begins feeling a “low frequency vibration” in his bones. Looking upward, he sees the outline of a huge, disc-shaped UFO hovering completely still, surrounded with points of light. The friend estimates it is about 75 feet across and 50 feet tall. The two daughters have been talking, but they too notice the humming noise and see the UFO. The object then floats almost directly above them, and the middle of the craft starts to glow. Several rays or beams of blue light shoot from the UFO, striking them in the solar plexus. It is an intense, electric, silver-blue, thin beam. They hear crackling sounds in the air and they can't move. Slowly they force their heads down to see their arms glowing with electric blue light. Movement is difficult—as in a dream, slow and heavy. After about 10 seconds, all the lights vanished instantly, along with the force field. The craft begins to glide away over the treetops. The children are frantic, and the male friend is inwardly terrified. The parents are back at the camp and see none of this. The case is reported to [J. Allen Hynek](#) by a friend, and he later visits the witnesses and speaks to all three. (Doris and Joe Graziano, “[Press Reports](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 29, no. 1 (July 1980): 6–7; “[A CE-II As a Picnic Guest](#),” *CUFOS Bulletin*, Summer 1980, pp. 1, 3; “[An Electric-Blue Close Encounter](#),” *CUFOS Bulletin*, Spring 1981, pp. 4–5, 10, 12; Michael D. Swords, “[Can UFOs Cause Physiological Effects? Part 1](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): cover)
- 1977**, June 20 — A committee of advanced workshop participants from the Institut des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale has been tackling the UFO situation for the French government since at least 1976. It produces a report titled *Rapport sur les “Phénomènes Aériens Non Identifiés*, which is translated into English by Bonita Samuelson and published by the Center for UFO Studies in 1980 under the title *Report on Unidentified Aerial Objects*. The committee members are divided about the existence of true UFOs, but they agree that the UFO theme can be used in psychological warfare. (Claude Maugé, “[GEPAN and COMETA](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 26)
- 1977**, June 20 — 10:30 p.m. Southeast Missouri State University physics professor [Harley Rutledge](#) is in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, watching a dim light traveling toward Alkaid, the leftmost star in the handle of the Big Dipper (Ursa Major). When the light comes within 3° of Alkaid, it disappears. Suddenly, Merak, the lower right star in the constellation's pan, flares brilliantly, taking one second to reach maximum brilliance, then another second to subside. He sees another flare-up a few seconds later, this time about 3° away from Merak. Rutledge knows the stars are not variable and that the lights cannot be aircraft or satellites. (Harley D. Rutledge, *Project Identification*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, pp. [202–203](#); Powell, *Scientist*, 60)
- 1977**, June 24–26 — *Fate* magazine holds an International UFO Congress at the Pick-Congress Hotel [now the Congress Plaza Hotel] across from Grant Park in downtown Chicago, Illinois, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of

the [Kenneth Arnold](#) sighting. Some 1,500 people attend to hear speakers [Ted Bloecher](#), [Jerome Clark](#), [Jacques Vallée](#), [Stanton T. Friedman](#), Kenneth Arnold, [Jim and Coral Lorenzen](#), [David M. Jacobs](#), [Frank Salisbury](#), [J. Allen Hynek](#), [Ted Phillips](#), [Dennis Hauck](#), [Betty Hill](#), and [R. Leo Sprinkle](#). Fate editor [Curtis G. Fuller](#) publishes the presentations in paperback format in May 1980. (“[Chicago UFO Conference](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 7 (July 1977): wrap; Michael Harnett, “[Ufology: Thirty Years in Three Days](#),” *Pursuit* 10, no. 4 (Fall 1977): 105–111; Curtis G. Fuller, ed., *Proceedings of the First International UFO Congress*, Warner, 1980)

- 1977**, June 25 — A man is driving on the A303 with his partially sighted fiancée near Warminster, Wiltshire, England, when they see a triangle of white lights ahead of them. When the lights get near to the car, they break away, one to the side of the road, and the two others on either side of the witnesses. They dance in the air for a while, then an orange globe emerges from the center of each. All the lights move to the rear of the car and disappear behind it. (UFOFiles2, [p. 90](#))
- 1977**, June 25–26 — The Centro Ufologico Nazionale holds its Second National Conference in Toscolano-Moderno, Brescia, Italy, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of [Kenneth Arnold](#)’s sighting. Speakers include [Roberto Pinotti](#), [Antonio Ribera](#), [Ion Hobana](#), [Florin Gheorghită](#), [W. Raymond Drake](#), Ernest Ameglio, Roberto Farabone, Roberto Villamil, Gianni Settimo, Sergio Conti, Francesco Izzo, Renzo Cabassi, Stelio Asso, and Mario Pagni. (“[2º Congresso Nazionale di Ufologia](#),” *Notiziario UFO*, no. 75/76 (July/Dec. 1977): 1–32)
- 1977**, June 26 — 2:45 a.m. Two witnesses see a flashing light source pass swiftly across the sky twice in about 10 minutes in Greece, New York. (“[Case 2-8-26](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 3)
- 1977**, June 27 — 11:00 p.m. A woman and three children in Genesee, Wisconsin, drive toward a structure composed of three parallel cylinders until they are underneath it. The hovering object looks as big as the full moon, with two steady white lights in front and a red light on top. When she stops her car, the object moves off to the southeast. (“[Case 2-8-36](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 3)
- 1977**, June 28 — Night. A man with a flat tire is stopped on the highway between Abadan and Ahvaz, Khuzestan, Iran, when he suddenly feels heat from a nearby “huge, bright object” that changes from red to green to purple to blue. Its lights go off, and as the witness sits in the car to sleep, the light returns, even closer. When he turns off his car headlights, the UFO extinguishes its lights. (“[Review of Iranian UFO Reports](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 2 (Jan./Feb. 1981): 15)
- 1977**, July–December — Numerous UFOs are reported in Colares, Pará, Brazil. Residents claim that scars on their bodies are caused by lights in the sky that they call “Chupa Chupa” (literally “sucker-sucker”). Believing it will keep the lights away, residents of Colares organize night vigils, light fires, and ignite fireworks. Mayor [José Ildone Favacho Soeiro](#) officially requests help from the Brazilian Air Force. The operation, a historic military operation in the Amazon basin, is commanded by Capt. [Uyrangê Bolivar Soares Nogueira de Hollanda Lima](#). In late 1977, several photos of the lights are recorded, but the military remains skeptical. After approximately four months, the operation is closed after the Air Force can identify no unusual phenomena. The official documents can be seen in the Brazilian National Archives. According to ufologist [Jacques Vallée](#), a number of individuals are reportedly killed as a result of the “lightning” fired at them by the UFOs, and injuries are consistent with radiation effects from microwaves. Other ufologists claim that the lights from UFOs have sucked blood from 400 people. In 1997, two decades after the operation, Capt. Hollanda gives an interview to ufologists [Ademar José Gevaerd](#) and [Marco Antônio Petit](#) where he recounts his experiences living alongside his men. Three months after the interview, he is found dead in his home “after he seemingly hung himself using the belt of his bathrobe,” attracting the interest of conspiracy theorists. (Wikipedia, “[Operação Prato](#)”; Jacques Vallée, *Confrontations*, Ballantine, 1990, [pp. 136–139](#), [220–226](#); Good Need, [pp. 367–368](#); Bob Pratt, *UFO Danger Zone: Terror and Death in Brazil*, Horus House, 1996; Timothy Good, *Unearthly Disclosure*, Century, 2000, [pp. 187–200](#); “[Caso Chupa-Chupa e Operação Prato](#),” Portal Fenomenum, March 14, 2022; Brazil 442–493; Clark III 838–857; Patrick Gross, “[Colares 1977](#)”; Skinwalkers 117–118; Covert 195–206; “[Victims Talk Being Attacked by UFOs, Encounters Investigated by Brazilian Air Force: Operação Prato](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 15, 2024)
- 1977**, July — Howard Gontovnick begins monthly publication of *UFO Canada* in Laval, Quebec. It continues until April 1979. ([UFO Canada](#) 1, no. 1 (July 1977))
- 1977**, July — Flight Lieutenant A. M. Wood sees two luminous, round objects, 4–5 times the size of the full moon, hovering 5,000 feet in the air over the sea off RAF Boulmer near Alnwick, Northumberland, England. Two other base personnel, a Cpl. Torrington and a Sgt. Graham, watch the objects with Wood for almost 2 hours. They are tracked on base radar and at RRH Staxton Wold. The objects separate, one moving west of the other and “as it maneuvered it changed shape to become body-shaped with projections like arms and legs.” (“[RAF Boulmer: Reports of UFO Sightings Were Hushed Up](#),” *Northumberland Today*, January 28, 2005)

- 1977, July 1** — 3:00 a.m. Electronic alarms suddenly sound at NATO's Aviano Air Base north of Pordenone, Italy. Something has set off the magnetic and motion detectors in the high hurricane-type fence protecting the compound. Simultaneously a power outage occurs at the Victor Alert facility that houses fighter aircraft, and though a back-up system immediately kicks in, minor power fluxes go on for the next 15 to 20 minutes. An American soldier named James Blake sees a large bright light hovering at a low altitude above a soybean field about 600 feet beyond the fence line of the compound. Many soldiers see the object, which appears to be domed, spinning, and changing colors. It is 150 feet in diameter and making a noise like a "swarm of bees." USAF security and a unit from the Italian National Police are dispatched, but the object moves away before the units arrive. (Antonio Chiumiento, "[UFO Alert at a NATO Base in Italy](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 30, no. 2 (December 1984): 2–5; Good Above, pp. 144–145; Jerry Rowles, "[The Mystery of Aviano](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 334 (February 1996): 3–6; John S. Derr, "[Quake Light?](#)" *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 336 (April 1996): 19–20; Gerald E. Rowles, "[Update on Aviano](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 367 (November 1998): 19; UFOEv II 96–97; 1Pinotti 199–204; Patrick Gross, "[Aviano AFB, Italy, July 1st, 1977](#)")
- 1977, July 2** — 12:45 p.m. A woman driving her car in Benton Harbor, Michigan, sees a silent silver disc, edge on, with the apparent diameter of the full moon. It is hovering motionless with its left side tilted down. Trees obscure her vision for about one minute; when they clear, the object is gone. ("[Case 2-8-51](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 3)
- 1977, July 3** — 7:30 p.m. Jennifer F. Canfield and her husband are sitting on their front porch in Pennsylvania across the Delaware River from Callicoon, New York, when they notice a brilliant light coming slowly and silently up the river from the southeast at 1,000–1,500 feet. Through binoculars, it appears to be a domed elliptical object with two headlights and apparent windows. The object suddenly blinks out. ("[1977 Sketch/Sighting and 1981 Sketch Similarity: Another One](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1983): 1, 7)
- 1977, July 3** — 9:30 p.m. A man in Clarksburg, West Virginia, briefly watches a silver rectangular object fly under a low cloud cover toward the north. It climbs at a 30° angle and is lost in the clouds. ("[Case 2-8-54](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 3)
- 1977, July 4** — 9:30 p.m. Ten witnesses in different parts of Rapid City, South Dakota, observe three dark objects moving silently toward the west. Each has a row of closely spaced red lights randomly flashing. Two of them seem to merge in the distance, and the remaining pair disappears into a cloud bank. ("[Case 2-8-55](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): wrap)
- 1977, July 6** — 6:30 p.m. At Bondowoso, East Java, Indonesia, a ham radio operator reports a UFO that moves from west to east in about seven minutes. The object is flat, but positioned directly overhead it appears round in shape and yellowish-green in color. It hovers for about 5 seconds, then resumes its movement and disappears in the distance. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 2)
- 1977, July 7** — 8:30 p.m. As some 3,000 people are attending an outdoor screening of a Romanian film in Zhangpu County, Fujian, China, two objects appear in the sky, flying low. They emit an intense orange glow and are only a few feet apart, traveling in complete silence for a few seconds before speeding out of sight. A panic ensues, and allegedly 300 people are injured and two children killed. (Anthony Lee, "[UFO Reports from China \(2\)](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 28, no. 4 (March 1983): 24–25)
- 1977, July 7** — 11:00 p.m. The Russian motor ship *Nikolay Ostrovsky* is going north through the Strait of Tartary, off the east coast of Russia, when the crew sees a cloud-like formation in the shape of a rectangle, moving at the same speed as the ship, about 980–1,300 feet to the east. Radio operator O. Dereza has an eerie feeling of being watched. It disappears at 11:32 p.m. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia's USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, p. 115)
- 1977, July 9** — 2:30 a.m. A 38-year-old singer sees a dull-silver, saucer-shaped UFO hovering on the left side of Telegraph Road in Flat Rock, Michigan. It is only about 200 feet above the ground and 150 feet from the road. It has many red and green lights around its rim, and a beam of light illuminates the ground for 2 minutes. The object floats away over the treetops, moving toward the southwest. ("[Case 2-8-72](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 3)
- 1977, July 12** — Night. A man and his daughter in Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, see a small humanoid in a green inflated suit with a pointed helmet that has a light on top. When the daughter switches on an outside light, it seems to be scared and activates a backpack that lets it climb upward over a neighboring farm and trees. The cows react by making a racket. Another person in the area reports an illuminated UFO. (Jenny Randles, "Superman vs. Airbus," *Fortean Times* 323 (February 2015): 31)
- 1977, July 13** — 12:30 a.m. A couple in Dinwiddie, Virginia, see a large silvery star stationary in the sky as rolling storm clouds pass overhead. It "skips" in position slightly once and increases in brightness when lightning flashes. It disappears when another lightning strike occurs. ("[Case 2-8-84](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): wrap)
- 1977, July 15** — 11:45 p.m. Adult witnesses on a boat on the Colorado River near Blythe, California, watch an oval light, 3–4 times the size of the moon, darting silently above them in all directions and on both sides of the river. It stops abruptly, comes close to the boat, then curves around the river. ("[Case 2-9-2](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 3)

- 1977, July 16** — 11:15 p.m. As Air India Flight 9, piloted by Capt. Dingra, makes its final approach to Dum Dum Airport [now Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport] in Kolkata, India, air traffic controllers notice a second object closing in on the Boeing 747. Witnesses on the ground report a saucer-shaped object rushing toward the airliner. When it gets dangerously close, the passengers and crew can see it. It departs 2 miles from the aircraft's final touch-down. (Good Need, [p. 304](#))
- 1977, July 16** — Before 12:00 midnight. A bright light in the west above Baton Rouge, Louisiana, moves 10°–15° from its original position and back again. The object remains in the same position, even though the stars have shifted by the time it is last seen at 1:15 a.m. ("[Case 2-9-4](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 3)
- 1977, July 17** — Romanian ufologists Călin Turcu, Valeriu Niculescu, Adrian Pătruț, and Augustin Moraru establish an informal group called "Romanian UFO Researchers" (RUFOR). It publishes 27 issues of a *RUFOR* newsletter between 1979 and 1986 and 21 issues of a *RUFOR* magazine in 1994–1996. (Romania 38–39)
- 1977, July 18** — 12:05 a.m. An intense blue-white glow hovers 200–300 feet above a creek near Fairview, Pennsylvania. After 4 seconds, it jumps to the north with a hum "like a hair dryer" and is lost to sight. ("[Case 2-9-8](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 3)
- 1977, July 21** — 4:15 a.m. Deputy Sheriff John W. Bruner and his partner, Officer John Coogler, are parked at the intersection of Ford Road and Loop 494 in Porter, Texas, when they see a bright, pulsating white light less than a mile away to the east. They shine a searchlight on the object and it reacts by moving toward them. It goes back to its original position after they turn the light off. They watch the object for 45 minutes as it alternately hovers, pulsates, moves at incredible speeds, and flies erratically. ("[UFO Sighting Starts Town's Visual Debate](#)," *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, July 22, 1977, via *APCIC* clipping service 2, no. 8 (August 1977): 20; "[Porter UFO Is Still a Mystery](#)," *Humble (Tex.) Echo*, July 28, 1977, via *APCIC* clipping service 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 13; "[Texas Police Spot UFO](#)," *UFO Investigator*, October 1977, p. 4; Powell, *Scientist*, 66–67)
- 1977, July 21** — [Frank Press](#), director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, writes to [Robert A. Frosch](#), NASA administrator, and explains that the White House is receiving numerous inquiries about UFOs and wonders if NASA could form a small panel to follow up on the Condon report to see if there are any new findings. Press also suggests that NASA become the focal point for further UFO inquiries. (Story, [p. 242](#); Clark III 787; Good Above, [pp. 368–369](#))
- 1977, July 21** — 10:05 p.m. Witnesses in Glenview, Illinois, watch a light move from the north to the southeast in about 3 seconds. It stops for 1 second, hooks backward, and stops again. When the witnesses look back, it has disappeared. ("[Case 2-9-19](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 3)
- 1977, July 23** — 12:45 a.m. A 26-year old woman and her 13-year-old niece look out their bedroom window in Lindley, New York, before retiring and see 11 or 12 white lights in a dipper-shaped formation that are moving about in the sky. One bright light appears on a hill 900 feet away. They hear a whooshing sound, then two lights rise into the air. They next hear footsteps from Morgan Creek about 300 feet away and see two small figures floating up and down in front of a tree. Then they see several more figures at various spots carrying what seem to be flashlights. They wear tight-fitting, "skin diver" suits with glowing green belts. One of the witnesses sees a luminous red rectangular object that approaches the creek and then backs away. At this point both witnesses develop severe headaches. Then a figure on a distant hill on a neighbor's farm shines a light on a tombstone there, and the stone seems to rise up into the air and move back and forth. A figure taller than the others, who are less than four feet tall, stands near the light on the hill and calls out an "ooh, ooh" signal. The others all approach him and, 5 minutes later, deploy back into adjacent fields. One of them approaches the house. He comes under the second-story window and drops to the ground, as if to conceal himself, then approaches the door and rattles the handle. By this time, 3:45 a.m., the older witness has called her mother, who notifies the state police. All of the lights and figures disappear just prior to the arrival of the police, the lights in the sky indistinguishable from stars. Both witnesses believe only an hour has passed but in fact more than three hours has elapsed. They complain of burning eyes and headaches that last for two days. The witnesses find three footprints in the powdery dust of their driveway. Further incidents occur on July 25 and August 1. (Allan Hendry, "[The Lindley Episodes: CE III's in New York State](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 5–7)
- 1977, July 26** — 10:10 p.m. Astronomer Zhang Zhousheng and others watch a strange spiral object in the air above a northern suburb of Chengdu, Sichuan, China. At its center is a yellowish light, with the arms of the spiral blue and greenish. The object is 60° in the air and moving in a straight line at a constant speed. It is visible for about 5 minutes before it is covered up by clouds. The object is visible to other witnesses in localities along a 110-mile, north-to-south line, for as long as 10 minutes. (Wendelle Stevens and Paul Dong, *UFOs over Modern China*, UFO Photo Archives, 1983, pp. 99–102)
- 1977, July 30** — Early morning. Airmen on the night shift at RAF Boulmer in Alnwick, Northumberland, England, are alerted by a call from a civilian who is watching two bright objects hovering above the North Sea. Duty controller

Flight Lt. A. M. Wood and others on the base can also see them, hovering close to the shore at about 4,000–5,000 feet. They move apart slowly as they climb into the sky. The object on the west side is conical with its apex at the top. It seems to be rotating and changes its shape to an arrowhead. It is apparently 4–5 times the size of a Whirlwind helicopter. After the objects move away out to sea, radar at RAF Boulmer picks up two targets 20–30 miles out, corroborated by radar at RAF Patrington in Yorkshire. (UFOFiles2, [p. 92](#))

- 1977**, July 31 — 6:30 p.m. A university art professor in Normal, Illinois, calls his wife and secretary to see a silver “stretched cigar” three times its apparent diameter in length. The object flies in a slow, straight path from southwest to northeast and is lost in the trees. (“[Case 2-9-68](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 3)
- 1977**, August — 9:30 p.m. Graham Niven sees two green objects in the southern sky at Raeford, North Carolina. They are moving swiftly to the north. (“[One Reporting Witness: Two Reported Sightings](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 10 (October 1981): 1–2)
- 1977**, August 1 — 9:30 a.m. An 11-year-old boy playing baseball in Springfield, Ohio, sees a white cigar-shaped object flying southbound from low in the western sky for 15 seconds. (“[Case 2-9-70](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 8)
- 1977**, August 2 — Marauding UFOs destroy the town of Chester, Illinois, according to a hoax concocted by *Official UFO* magazine editor [Myron Fass](#). (Allan Hendry, “[Sleep Well, Chester, Illinois: It’s Ufology That’s Hurting](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): wrap; Barbara Jordison, “[The Town That Wasn’t Zapped by UFOs](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 20–21; Clark III 599)
- 1977**, August 3 — Afternoon. NASA astrophysicist [Richard C. Henry](#) is one of several persons asked to attend a meeting to discuss what to do about [Frank Press](#)’s recommendation. The group decides to turn the issue over to Space Science Director [Noel W. Hinners](#). At the end of the meeting, Henry lets Hinners know that he has some relevant expertise on UFOs (as a consultant to APRO). (Richard C. Henry, “[UFOs and NASA](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 2, no. 2 (1988): 93–142; Clark 787–788)
- 1977**, August 3 — Musician Mike Stevens is driving home on road A130 near Thaxted, Essex, UK, after a recording session. He is driving a rented, three-month-old Vauxhall Chevette E. When he notices a red-orange glow off the road, he stops to investigate, leaving his motor idling. Then he sees two orange-red objects hovering about 900–1,200 feet away and about 50 feet off the ground. The more distant object on the left is oval-shaped. The closer object has a circular center and some visible structural features. As he watches, the closer object moves up, then back down to its original position, its color deepening, then it begins moving slowly toward him. Concerned, he puts his car in gear and begins driving away. As he tops a hill and starts down the other side, he shifts into fourth gear, but the car will not accelerate beyond 35 mph. Otherwise it seems to be running normally. After continuing like this for about 1,200 feet, the car suddenly surges forward in full power, accelerating to more than 50 mph, forcing Stevens to jam on the brakes. At Chelmsford, Stevens goes directly to the police station to report the incident. (Andy Collins and Barry King, “[Thaxted—an EM Case?](#)” *BUFORA Journal* 6, no. 5 (Jan./Feb. 1978): 16–17; UFOEv II 277–278)
- 1977**, August 3–18 — Italian researchers Giovanni and Piero Mantero of the Centro Internazionale Ricerche e Studi sugli UFO in Genoa hold a 15-day skywatch on Monte Verrugoli west of La Spezia, Italy. The mountain is known for reports of strange phenomena. During the skywatch a total of 108 nocturnal lights are observed, 82 appearing as points of light, 7 oblong in shape, 7 spherical, one like a tilted plate, 3 discoid, one like a half-moon, and 7 other miscellaneous forms. Most are yellow, but some are reddish or blue. Occasionally the unidentified lights seem to increase in luminosity in response to signals made with a flashlight. During their presence, dogs in the neighborhood bark almost constantly. The objects disappear when conventional aircraft appear in the sky. Sounds of breaking tree branches are heard, unidentified voices are registered on a tape recorder, wristwatches malfunction, and areas of flattened grass are found. On one of the last nights of the project, Giovanni Mantero claims to have seen a strange aerial entity with a transparent face. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [pp. 232–233](#))
- 1977**, August 4 — The offices of the Energy Research and Development Administration and the Federal Energy Administration are dissolved and become the cabinet-level US Department of Energy, with the oversight of policies on energy and safety in handling nuclear material. Its responsibilities include the nation’s nuclear weapons program, nuclear reactor production for the US Navy, energy conservation, energy-related research, radioactive waste disposal, and domestic energy production. It also directs research in genomics; the Human Genome Project originated in a DOE initiative. (Wikipedia, “[United States Department of Energy](#)”)
- 1977**, August 4 — 9:10 p.m. A man in Teddington, southwest London, England, is outside watching the sky when he sees a small light traveling fast to the right of a well known Heathrow Airport flight path. Watching it through binoculars, it looks like a metallic submarine shape with five portholes. It hovers for 20 seconds almost on the flight path. It moves away quickly when an aircraft approaches. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 2)

- 1977**, August 6 — 8:55 p.m. A young woman close to Port Columbus Airport [now John Glenn Columbus International Airport] in Columbus, Ohio, stops her car to watch two cylindrical objects with bulbous ends approach her from the southwest. They are dark gray or green and have bright white lights on opposite ends. They appear to bank and twist for 10–15 seconds. One ascends, stops, and vanishes; the other does the same maneuver one second later, all “too fast for airplanes.” (“[Case 2-9-81](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 8)
- 1977**, August 7 — A nearly perfect circular ring, 12 feet in diameter and 8 inches wide is discovered in someone’s backyard on an island in the Mississippi River near Galena, Illinois. The ring is caused by a substance composed of tiny beads that discolors the grass and leaves on the ground. A similar ring is found near Chesterton, Indiana, on August 12. Analysis by the University of Chicago shows that the rings are caused by slime mold. (Allan Hendry, “[A Physical Trace Doth Not a CE II Make](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 4)
- 1977**, August 9 — 2:00 p.m. A witness in Wheaton, Illinois, sees 8–16 pinpoints of light “like magnesium burning” silently maneuvering in and out of the overcast clouds. They appear to be approaching very fast from 60° in the north. Looping and swooping, they move apart after about 15 seconds. (“[Case 2-9-85](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): 8)
- 1977**, August 10 — 8:50 p.m. Two adult couples in Bridgewater Township, New Jersey, watch a bright, blue-green star silently loping from low in the west toward the northeast for 30–45 seconds. (“[Case 2-9-87](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, August 11 — 8:05 p.m. A 37-year-old police detective in South Brunswick, New Jersey, watches a silent disc-shaped object come over the horizon. Four other witnesses also see it. There is something that looks like a rotating “radar mast” on the object. It rises into the clouds and shoots off toward the north-northeast after 3.5 minutes. (“[Case 2-9-88](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 9 (September 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, August 11 — 8:45 p.m. A couple are driving near Hayden, Alabama, when they see an object hovering silently about 150 feet in the air. A blue-gray light in its center turns on and they can see its disc-like shape and size, which is about 65 feet in diameter. The object shoots north like a bullet, then stops a short distance away. Keeping it in view, they drive home and call the police. The woman sees the UFO circle around them three times and land. A second object comes out of the hills to the northeast and stops directly above the first object at about 400 feet. The lower object rises up to join the other briefly, and they can see a blinking red light on top. The objects accelerate to the south and vanish from sight. Total duration is 5 minutes. (“[Case 2-9-89](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 10 (October 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, August 13 (approximately) — Night. At Nocero Umbra, Perugia, Italy, several witnesses, including Bruno Vitali, see a cone-shaped object “more than a meter high.” Vitali tries unsuccessfully to hit the object with his car because as he speeds forward, the object maintains the same distance. Students who investigate the site later find a stone that is intensely hot 2 days after the encounter. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (November 1977): 2; Mark Rodeghier, “[UFO/Vehicle Very Close Encounters](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 26, 32)
- 1977**, Mid-August — Between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. Canute Jensen, 13, and Kevin Rurka, 12, are in a treehouse on the Chris Jensen farm 27 miles north of Edmonton, Alberta. They are taking photos when they see a large, dark, block-shaped object moving through the sky. Canute snaps three photos before the object disappears upward in the clouds. (“[UFO Photographed from a Tree-House in Canada](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 8 (August 1981): 1, 6)
- 1977**, August 15 — The Big Ear Radio Telescope in Delaware, Ohio, in searching for signals from extraterrestrial civilizations, detects a strong, intermittent signal lasting for 72 seconds that stands out distinctly from the background noise. The team quickly rules out a terrestrial origin or a broadcast from a satellite. Nevertheless, the signal is so powerful and unusual that Jerry Ehman, the astronomer who analyzes the data print out, annotates the signal with the word “Wow!” The Big Ear team continued to observe the same part of the sky, as have others, but the Wow! signal never returns. In 2020, using the Gaia 3D star database developed by the European Space Agency, amateur astronomer Alberto Caballero identifies a Sun-like star, 2MASS 19281982-2640123, in the region of the sky where the Wow! signal originated. In 2024, a team of scientists from the Planetary Habitability Laboratory at the University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo announces that the signal might have been caused by the momentary brightening of cold hydrogen clouds by a stimulated emission from a transient strong radiation source, such as a magnetar flare or soft gamma repeater. (Wikipedia, “[Wow! Signal](#)”; John Kraus, “[The Tantalizing ‘Wow!’ Signal](#),” Ohio State University Radio Observatory, January 30, 1994; Daniela Breitman, “[Wow! Signal Explained after 40 Years?](#)” *EarthSky*, June 7, 2017; “[Sun-Like Star Identified As the Potential Source of the Wow! Signal](#),” *Physics ArXiv Blog*, November 19, 2020; Graff 270–271; Christopher Plain, “[47-Year-Old ‘Wow! Signal’ Mystery Solved? Arecibo Observatory Scientists Think They Have an Answer](#),” *The Debrief*, August 15, 2024)

- 1977**, August 17 — 2:00 p.m. James R. Leming is driving on Interstate 70 westbound about 15 miles west of the Nebraska–Colorado state border. He sees a strange object moving swiftly in the sky and pulls over to watch. It moves to the north, then veers back to the highway and runs a parallel course along the interstate. Directly over the road it remains stationary for 3 minutes, and Leming is able to take three photographs, only one of which is not blurry because the object began speeding away. He estimates it is 600 feet away, its altitude at about 500 feet above the road, positioned at a 40° angle above the horizon, and 40–45 feet from tip to tip with a downward curve at each end. Ground Saucer Watch explains the photo as a chip in the glass of Leming’s windshield, but Leming contests that. (“[1977 Photograph/Sighting and 1982 Sketch Similarity](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1983): 1; Fred Adrian, “[Letter](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1983): 2–3; James R. Leming, “[Letter](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 6 (Dec. 1983/Jan. 1984): 2))
- 1977**, August 28 — 12:10 a.m. For more than 20 minutes, police (including PC Ian MacKenzie, PS James Trohear, PC Alexander Inglis, and PC David Wild) and citizens in Windermere, Cumbria, England, watch a large lighted object in the shape of a “stingray fish” (triangular). It flies slowly at 1,500 feet altitude, hovering occasionally. All witnesses describe it as silent, except for one, who hears a “quiet hum.” (Nick Redfern, *A Covert Agenda: UFO Secrecy Exposed*, Simon & Schuster, 1997, [pp. 131–133](#))
- 1977**, August 28 — 12:38 a.m. Two witnesses on a deserted rural boulevard near Hayward, California, see an odd triangular object with red, blue, and white lights. They drive toward it, overtake it, and pass underneath, and they see that it is much larger than the full moon. Then it turns abruptly and follows them, but they accelerate to 65 mph and evade it. (“[Case 2-10-35](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 10 (October 1977): 3)
- 1977**, August 28 — 8:40 p.m. The same couple in Hayden, Alabama, who saw a UFO on August 11 see a similar bright object 2 miles away from the previous site. It has several beige lights, and it darts toward their car in seconds when they stop to look. All the lights go out and come back on at the same time. (“[Case 2-10-37](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 10 (October 1977): 3)
- 1977**, August 31 — 12:30–3:15 a.m. A total of seven witnesses see a lighted cylindrical object at the top of a disused quarry on the road between Sturno and Frigento, Avellino, Italy. Near the object is an entity about 7 feet 10 inches tall. It has two red-orange lights in a spot where its eyes might be and is wearing metallic-looking coveralls, a possible helmet, a metallic belt, and a black box on its arm. At one point the entity shines a bright beam of light at them. The duration of the sighting is due to the original two witnesses going back and forth to a nearby village to collect additional observers. A triangle of depressions is found that indicates something as heavy as 40 tons has landed there. Some of the witnesses are regressed hypnotically and recall the same narrative. (Maurizio Verga, “[Seven Scared Witnesses and a Humanoid](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 1 (May 1979): 17–19, 22; 1Pinotti 205–210)
- 1977**, Fall — 5:20 p.m. A female police constable in Isfield, Sussex, England, sees a silent object flying at 300 feet altitude while waiting for a bus. On an impulse, she waves at the object, which then approaches her. It seems to be made of light greenish-gray metal with a moderately reflective surface. On top of its dome is a blue-green light, and underneath the object is a dense, black, circular section. At its closest approach, it is no further than 50 feet away. Her memory is unclear after this, but when the bus arrives, she feels numb and uncoordinated and seems to have lost 20 minutes of time. (Good Above, [pp. 115, 457](#))
- 1977**, September — Lt. Gen. Akira Hirano, chief of Japan’s Air Self-Defense Forces, admits that UFOs are seen frequently in Japan and that they are quietly investigated. However, the following day his staff denies that he intended to comment on official investigations. (Good Above, [p. 430](#))
- 1977**, September 4 — 3:30 p.m. Farmer Luis Sandoval, 74, is resting in a hammock near Corozal, Puerto Rico, when he decides to get up and move to another spot. He hears some popping noises and sees an object like an elongated, bright blue candle. It moves toward him, making an increasingly loud roaring-engine noise, then drops down beside him. The object abruptly turns into a 3-foot-high dwarf, dressed in jacket and tie, with an ugly face. He speaks encouragingly, says he is an extraterrestrial, and gives Sandoval a complete physical examination. The dwarf steps away to admire the scenery and says, “How nice Puerto Rico is.” He then turns into a flaming blue candle and vanishes upward in a flash. Other dwarf sightings take place in the area. (Gordon Creighton, “[A New Medicare?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 2 (August 1978): 9)
- 1977**, September 5 — NASA launches the Voyager 1 space probe to study the outer Solar System and interstellar space beyond the Sun’s heliosphere. It is launched 16 days after its twin Voyager 2. It communicates through the NASA Deep Space Network to receive routine commands and to transmit data to Earth. The probe makes flybys of Jupiter, Saturn, and Saturn’s largest moon, Titan. Voyager 1 studies the weather, magnetic fields, and rings of the two gas giants and is the first probe to provide detailed images of their moons. Both Voyagers carry a gold-plated audio-visual disc, should the spacecraft ever be found by intelligent life forms from other planetary systems. The

disc carries photos of the Earth and its lifeforms, a range of scientific information, spoken greetings from people such as the Secretary-General of the United Nations [Kurt Waldheim](#) and President [Jimmy Carter](#) and a medley, “Sounds of Earth,” that includes the sounds of whales, a baby crying, waves breaking on a shore, and a collection of music including works by [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#), [Blind Willie Johnson](#), [Chuck Berry](#), and [Valya Balkanska](#). Other Eastern and Western classics are included, as well as various performances of indigenous music from around the world. The record also contains greetings in 55 different languages. Voyager 1 crosses the heliopause and enters interstellar space on August 25, 2012, making it the first spacecraft to do so. Two years later, Voyager 1 begins experiencing a third “tsunami wave” of coronal mass ejections from the Sun that continue to at least December 15, 2014, further confirming that the probe is indeed in interstellar space. On December 12, 2023, NASA announces that Voyager 1’s flight data system is currently unable to use its telemetry modulation unit, rendering the probe unable to transmit scientific data. It is currently unknown whether the probe will be able to continue its mission. (Wikipedia, “[Voyager 1](#)”; Graff 271–273)

- 1977**, September 6 — NASA administrator [Robert Frosch](#) responds to [Frank Press](#), saying that he is “inclined to agree” with his recommendation on a new UFO panel; however, NASA wants to be assured that an inquiry is “justified,” and that if funding is provided, it could hire a project officer to review reports from the past 10 years. (Clark III 787)
- 1977**, September 7 — 10:24 p.m. A white glow is seen rushing silently three times over a 15-minute period in Tooele, Utah. It first travels to the south but executes a 90° turn toward the west. Five minutes later it returns, moving east. Ten minutes later it reappears, slower and lower, moving to the northeast. (“[Case 2-10-58](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 10 (October 1977): 3)
- 1977**, September 8 — 12:30 a.m. An ex-pilot sees a dark, bullet-shaped object while walking his dog in New Orleans, Louisiana. It rushes silently to the east and changes course slightly to the southeast. (“[Case 2-10-60](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 10 (October 1977): 3)
- 1977**, September 9 — Grenada Prime Minister [Eric Gairy](#) meets with President [Jimmy Carter](#) in the White House for 45 minutes. Carter gives Gairy a copy of the Condon report. (Dolan II 143)
- 1977**, September 14 — [Press](#) again asks [Frosch](#) for help with [Carter](#)’s UFO mail problem and repeats his suggestion for a scientific UFO panel to investigate reports. (presidentialufo.com, “[President Jimmy Carter](#)”)
- 1977**, September 15 — 2:15 a.m. A 33-year-old bus driver named Antonio Bogado La Rúbia leaves his home in Paciência, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to catch a bus. As he is walking by a deserted field, he sees a UFO “like an enormous hat.” He takes two steps back and is grabbed by two men. Suddenly he is floating inside the UFO, surrounded by two rows of a dozen men each, about 5 feet 5 inches tall. They are wearing football-shaped helmets with a wide band running across the broad portion and are cut into mirror-like sections from which blue flashes are emitted. They seem like robots, but La Rúbia can hear them breathing. A typical abduction scenario follows. (“[Brazilian CE4 Case](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 26, no. 4 (October 1977): 1–4; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): 2, 8; “[Ufonautas Unipedais \(Robôs\) Seqüestram Motorista de Ônibus no Rio de Janeiro](#),” *SBEDV Boletim*, no. 121/125 (March/Dec. 1978): 20–44; Brazil 211–224; “[Antonio La Rubia’s Abduction by Robot-Like Beings and UFO Encounter in Paciencia, Brazil, 1977](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, September 2023)
- 1977**, Late September — 1:00 a.m. A witness working as a receptionist at the Paralela 45 Motel on Highway 1 north of Ploiești, Romania, sees a large object 3–4 times as large as the Moon, which is visible in another part of the sky. It has an orange-red core with a yellowish-red halo at the edges. It stands motionless for 3–4 minutes, then descends slowly toward the southwest before shooting away at an incredible speed. (Romania 42–43)
- 1977**, September 17 — 2:00 a.m. A couple driving near Kargowa, Poland, notice two unusual lights in the sky. They drive a half mile further, then the lights approach them at incredible speed and hover above the car. The driver stops to look at them and notices that one light is bigger and whiter than the smaller yellowish light. When he drives away, the lights continue to pace them for 6 miles, keeping 10–30 feet away from the car until they reach Wolsztyn, where they rise up and speed away. (Poland 32–33)
- 1977**, September 20 — 3:00 a.m. The watch officer of an Alfa-class nuclear submarine in the White Sea off Severodvinsk, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia, notices an object moving swiftly to the southwest. It seems to stretch out, turning into a long, glowing ribbon. As it flies over him, it looks like a cylinder with one of the ends becoming asymmetrical. The cylinder ejects small objects that fly off in different directions. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 13–14)
- 1977**, September 20 — 4:00 a.m. A large “star” sending out beams of light appears moving slowly over Petrozavodsk, Karelia, Russia. It is last seen as a semicircular glow, bright red in the middle and white on the sides. The total duration is 10–12 minutes. Scientist Mikhail Dimitryev describes it as a “giant jellyfish.” The phenomenon is seen over a vast territory, from Copenhagen, Denmark, and Helsinki, Finland, in the west to Vladivostok, Primorsky

- Krai, Russia, in the east. Government officials from northern European countries send letters to [Anatoly Alexandrov](#), president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, expressing concern about whether the observed phenomenon is caused by Soviet weapons testing and whether it constitutes a threat to the region's environment. Col. [Boris Sokolov](#) reveals that the phenomenon is observed from 12:00 midnight by military men along the Finnish border; when they try to report it, all their communications fail. All communications are restored after the phenomenon ceases. Since 1977, the phenomenon has often (though not universally) been attributed to the launch of the Soviet satellite Kosmos-955. In the same year, a preliminary report for the Academy of Sciences of the USSR contains an immense body of visual observations, radiolocation reports, physical measurements, and accompanying meteorological data. It concludes that "based on the available data, it is unfeasible to satisfactorily understand the observed phenomenon." (Wikipedia, "[Petrozavodsk phenomenon](#)"; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 10 (October 1977): 2; Gordon Creighton, "[A Russian 'Jellyfish.'](#)" *Flying Saucer Review* 23, no. 4 (January 1978): 19–20; Good Need, [pp. 351](#); Dale P. Cruikshank and David W. Swift, "[The Petrozavodsk Phenomenon](#)," *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 2 (1980): 91–94; James E. Oberg, "Russia's Jellyfish UFO," *Aviation/Space* 9, no. 1 (January/February 1982): 29, 31; James E. Oberg, "[The Great Soviet UFO Coverup, Part II](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 177 (November 1982): 6–10; James E. Oberg, *UFOs and Outer Space Mysteries*, Donning, 1982, [pp. 161–181](#); Enrique Vicente, "UFOs in the Soviet Union," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 118–119)
- 1977**, September 21 — Ground Saucer Watch files a complaint, spearheaded by lawyers [Peter Gersten](#) and [Henry Rothblatt](#), with the CIA for failure to produce materials on the 1952 Ralph Mayher incident and the [Durant](#) report on the 1953 Robertson Panel. ("[CIA Sued over UFO 'Cover-Up.'](#)" *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): wrap; "[CAUS Picking Up Where GSW and NICAP Left Off](#)," *Just Cause* 1, no. 1 (April 1978): 1–4)
- 1977**, September 21 — 8:47 p.m. A student notices a flashing light in the northern sky in Phoenix, Arizona. Suddenly, a formation of 8 triangles with rounded edges appears, 7 of them in a straight line, equally spaced. The eighth is slightly forward. They shoot noiselessly overhead and are lost in the glare of the southern sky. One crosses the face of the Moon. ("[Case 2-11-9](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): 3)
- 1977**, September 22 — 5:25 a.m. Capt. George Didlake, piloting Continental Airlines Flight 954, is climbing to 33,000 feet out of El Paso, Texas, when he sees an elongated object rapidly overtaking his DC-10. It has a row of brightly illuminated windows running front to rear and is blow the aircraft at roughly 12,000 feet. First Officer Jack Forsythe and Second Officer [Russ Goodenough](#) see the object as well. It passes the aircraft at a speed "beyond comprehension," makes a 90° turn, and shoots up out of sight. (Dave Kenney, "[Airline Crew Spots UFO](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 26, no. 3 (September 1977): 1, 3)
- 1977**, September 22 — Four FAA radar controllers in Omaha, Nebraska, track a large formation of unidentified objects. They are gone from the scope in less than a minute at an estimated speed of 17,000 mph. (Bob Gribble, "[Pilot Sightings and Radar Trackings](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 181 (March 1983): 6)
- 1977**, September 22 — 10:25 p.m. A police detective in Ardmore, Oklahoma, watches a pulsating star rush about erratically. ("[Case 2-11-12](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): 3)
- 1977**, Late September — 11:00 p.m. Ethel May Field is in her backyard in Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, England, when she hears a humming nose and looks up. A circular object with a dome on top is approaching from the south-southwest. Its surfaces are gray, and a brilliant blue-yellow light is streaming from the underside. It is about 20 feet in diameter, and Field can see two humanoid figures visible almost to the waist inside the dome. The object hovers above her garden, its light so brilliant that she puts her hands up to shield her eyes. She can feel the heat on her hands and a vibration in the ground for a second or two. The occupants have silver suits and headgear. The figure on the right appears to be operating controls, while the one on the left is looking directly at her, making a gesture as if pointing downward. Alarmed, she runs back to the house and the object speeds away to the northwest. In the following week, she develops a skin irritation on the palms of her hands. (Leslie Harris, "[Parkstone UFO and Occupants](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 2 (August 1978): 6–8; UFOEv II 462–463)
- 1977**, September 27 — 4:36 a.m. A witness is driving toward Kirksville, Missouri, about 6 miles west of town when he notices a light behind him to the left. It is a yellow-orange object with flashing red lights, as big as the Moon, and is following him about 500 feet away at treetop level. He increases his speed to 120 mph, but the UFO keeps the same pace. As he reaches town the object climbs slightly and shoots off out of sight in 2 seconds. ("[Case 2-11-22](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): 3)
- 1977**, September 27 — 12:15 p.m. A dredge master and four crew members see a UFO that remains visible for one minute off the northwest coast of Wowoni Island, Sulawesi, Indonesia. Consisting of a cone of translucent material with dark spots, the object emits violet, white, and red light from its top. It has a forward, undulating motion against the wind and is spinning on its axis at about 9,000 feet altitude. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 2)

- 1977**, September 28 — 2:45 p.m. A grocery store clerk watches a distant bright light moving west over Burlington, Iowa. A second point of light appears, catches up to the first one, and both weave a figure 8 at least 6 times as they pass nearly overhead to the west. (“[Case 2-11-24](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): 3)
- 1977**, Early autumn — 5:20 p.m. A woman police constable is waiting at a bus stop near Lewes, East Sussex, England, when she notices a large, silent object at about 300 feet altitude. On impulse, she waves at the object, which then comes closer. It seems to be made of a light greenish-gray metal with a moderately reflective surface. A blue-green light is coming out of its dome, and underneath the object is a dense, black, circular section. At closest approach, the UFO is no more than 50 feet away. She experiences a sense of timelessness, and she later cannot account for about 20 minutes of time. When the bus arrives, she feels a numbness as she fumbles for change. When she gets to the top deck, the object is gone. She develops an acute headache that lasts into the following day. Her eyes burn and water for a week afterward, and she suffers recurring gastric discomfort. (Good Above, [pp. 115–116, 457](#))
- 1977**, October — The Petrozavodsk phenomenon in Russia contributes to the creation of the *Setka* program—Soviet research into anomalous atmospheric phenomena, proposed by scientist [Anatoly Alexandrov](#). Two secret research commissions are set up: the *Setka-MO*, under the orders of the Ministry of Defense and composed mainly of military personnel, and the *Setka-AN*, under the orders of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and composed of scientists. The first group, led by NII-22 (an institute for aviation defense), has the task of studying the military aspects of the problem, such as the possible influences of the UFOs on the malfunctioning of military devices and installations; the ministry names special officers in all military units who are tasked with the responsibility of watching out for unusual phenomena. The second group, led by IZMIRAN (the Pushkov Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere, and Radiowave Propagation of the Russian Academy of Sciences), studies physical effects related to UFOs and tries to understand the causes. The coordination of the first commission is entrusted to Col. [Boris Sokolov](#), that of the second commission to Prof. [Vladimir Migulin](#), supported by Dr. [Yulii Platov](#) as deputy coordinator. The Military-Industrial Commission of the USSR serves as a liaison between the two groups. According to one of his aides, Igor Sinitsin, it is KGB Chairman [Yuri Andropov](#) who initiates these programs. (Wikipedia, “[Programma Setka](#)”; Good Above, [p. 237](#); Good Need, [pp. 351–352](#); Nick Paton Walsh, “[KGB Chief Ordered 4m Soldiers to Keep Watching the Skies for UFOs](#),” *The Guardian*, March 23, 2003; Mikhail Gershtein, “[A Short History of UFO Research in the Former Soviet Union](#),” UAP Check, July 6, 2024)
- 1977**, October 1 — 7:00 p.m. Leo and John Girardeau are hunting 3 miles west of Libau, Manitoba, when they see an object approaching from the west at an altitude of 500 feet. As it approaches, the witnesses go into their truck and turn on the lights. The object, about 75–100 feet wide and 25–30 feet high, reverses direction and moves westward. One of the men fires a shotgun to lure it back; when this fails, they pursue it in their truck. Running out of road a few miles later, they stop and watch it move out of sight. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 2; David Miller, “[Are We Being Watched by UFOs?](#)” *Toronto (Ont.) Sunday Star*, July 8, 1984, p. A8)
- 1977**, October 4 — 2:45 p.m. A group of 10 children see a strange object hovering between two trees while they are playing at Upton Primary Junior School in Macclesfield, Cheshire, England. Their teacher, Mrs. Hindmarsh, immediately separates them and asks them to draw what they have seen. Their drawings are consistent, so she passes them on to the Cheshire police, who take the report seriously and check with the Manchester Airport, which reports that nothing unusual was detected on radar. (UFOFiles2, [p. 97](#))
- 1977**, October 5 — 10:40 a.m. TV cameramen Manuel Juarez and Oscar Tobar are videotaping a car commercial in Guatemala City, Guatemala, when a UFO comes into view. Instead, they videotape the UFO, which is in view for 51 seconds moving at about 100 mph. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): 8; “[First Photos of Guatemala Videotape](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): 7–8; “[OVNI Guatemala City 1977](#),” giottopersempre YouTube channel, October 16, 2011)
- 1977**, October 7 — Prime Minister of Grenada [Eric Gairy](#) addresses the UN General Assembly urging the recognition of UFOs as a serious international scientific problem. He says that he has seen a UFO and was “totally overwhelmed” by the experience. (UFOEv II 20)
- 1977**, October 7 — The Soviet submarine repair ship *Volga* is in the Barents Sea when its radar picks up an unknown target approaching at a distance of 60 miles. Captain Tarankin goes to the bridge and sees 9 bright discs moving in from the northeast. They arrive and circle around the ship’s masts for 18 minutes. During this time, all of the ship’s communications links no longer work. Captain Tarankin tells his men to remember the incident, so that no one will be able to say their captain is drunk or crazy. After the discs depart, communications is restored. The incident raises some concern in the Soviet Navy, and Fleet Admiral [Nikolai Ivanovich Smirnov](#) issues a directive on mandatory reporting of UFO sightings by Soviet hydrographic, scientific research, and reconnaissance ships. The directive is written by naval officer and ufologist [Vladimir G. Azhazha](#) and signed by Naval Deputy Chief of

Staff Petr Nikolayevich Navoytsev. (Jacques Vallée, *UFO Chronicles of the Soviet Union: A Cosmic Samizdat*, Ballantine, 1992, [pp. 29–30](#); Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia's USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 11–13)

- 1977**, October 9 — 8:30 p.m. Holly Prunchak is working as a security guard at the French-Hecht plant east of Walcott, Iowa, when she sees flashing lights rising straight up from distant trees in the northwest. They level off and move toward her. They are blinding in intensity and flash on and off like a beacon, apparently surrounded by a dark oval shape. Her FM radio goes silent, and her walkie-talkie fails. All animal sounds go quiet when the object is in view. The object looms about 300 feet away, passing near a streetlight that extinguishes for at least one minute. The object drops down onto trees of an adjacent farm. At this point she hysterically calls for help on a telephone intercom system, but no one takes her seriously. ([“CE II in Iowa,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 4, 8)
- 1977**, October 11 — The area around San Francisco Bay, California, is inundated with white, thick, sticky clumps of “angel’s hair” material. The phenomenon is observed as far away as 100 miles from San Francisco and reported dimensions reach 20 feet in length. An on-the-scene explanation from the University of California, Berkeley, identifies the substance as aggregations of baby spiders’ webs in the course of “ballooning” travel, and a laboratory analysis supports that explanation. ([“San Francisco Covered in White,”](#) *Austin (Tex.) American-Statesman*, October 12, 1977, p. A7; Joseph S. Accetta, [“Angels Hair Revisited,”](#) *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 1 (1979): 32–34)
- 1977**, October 11 — 7:55 p.m. A farmer in Fairfield, Vermont, hears an odd noise and looks out his window. He and his family watch a bright light source (a bright red light flashing next to a dimmer white light) hovering above a swamp. The object shines a light beam down into the swamp as if searching for something. A second red light approaches from over a nearby house and comes within several hundred feet of the first object; both continue to hover and circle. One vanishes at 11:30 p.m., while the other persists until 1:30 a.m. when the sky becomes cloudy. ([“Case 2-11-53,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, October 13 — 3:55 p.m. A retired police officer and ex-pilot in Champaign, Illinois, watches, along with other young men, a “star” in clear daylight rush from south-southeast to north-northeast, passing east of overhead in a straight path without sound or trail. The estimated speed is Mach 1, but it slows down and stops for the last 10–15 seconds before vanishing. ([“Case 2-11-60,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, October 13 — 10:15 p.m. S/Sgt Steven N. Haidinger is in his backyard at Chanute AFB [now closed] near Rantoul, Illinois, where he is looking at the moon through his telescope. He hears what sounds like wind passing around a building and looks straight up. About 500 feet in the air is an object slowly moving from the west-northwest. He trains his telescope on it and tries to follow it. The object looks rectangular, about 150 feet long, and 10 feet across. It has small, square indentations in patterns along its sides and it rotates as it moves, about once every 2 seconds. It moves out of sight in about 12 minutes. ([“Correspondence,”](#) *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 1 (January 1981): 2)
- 1977**, October 14 — 7:00 p.m. A physician in Toledo, Ohio, watches a red-orange object moving silently east, passing overhead, and disappearing in the distance. Possible balloon. ([“Case 2-11-63,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 11 (November 1977): wrap)
- 1977**, October 15 — 6:45 p.m. British diplomat Alan K. Rothnie is driving near Rolvenden, Kent, England, when he sees a glowing bluish object in the sky traveling fast from south to north and shaped “somewhat like a flattened avocado pear.” The blunt leading end seems to be rimmed with a shining metal, and the back end is trailing sparks. The object moves away in 90 seconds. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 87–88](#))
- 1977**, October 17 — A woman and her children watch a blindingly bright red light from their first-floor porch in Uccle, Belgium. It is stationary and silent for one hour in the southwest at an estimated 1,000 feet altitude. Finally, the object moves toward the west, then north, and disappears in the distance. An independent group of witnesses several streets away also watch the light. A half-hour later, the daughter of the original family sees another pair of similar objects in the south about 400–500 feet off the ground. These circle for 30 minutes and then disappear to the south. One hour later, the family watches another bright light maneuvering in the southwest before disappearing. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): 2)
- 1977**, October 20 — Several witnesses in San José, Costa Rica, see lighted objects around Pico Blanco, a mountain to the south of town. One physician sees a “squat, orange object” for 20 minutes until it ascends at great speed and disappears. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 2)
- 1977**, October 20 — 8:15 p.m. Keith Kilford and Philip Staff watch a small orange triangle over a house in Bromley, Kent, England, that grows to twice its size, shrinks again, and moves rapidly away until it disappears. It reappears about 10 minutes later and disappears again. ([“Foreign Forum,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 2)
- 1977**, October 22 — 2:40 a.m. A half-moon-shaped orange cloud, 3 times the size of the Moon, is seen hovering and descending at Irondequoit, New York. Chunks “like teardrops” are seen falling off. ([“Case 2-12-16,”](#) *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 3)

- 1977, October 23** — 3:30 a.m. A glowing triangular white cloud is seen in Rochester, New York, receding to the southwest. (“[Case 2-12-17](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 3)
- 1977, October 24** — 2:00 a.m. A musician watches a saucer-shaped object at Cerrillos, New Mexico, approaching at a low angle from the south. It moves across his view for 15–30 seconds, stops for 15–20 seconds in the southwest, and zooms away. (“[Case 2-12-25](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 3)
- 1977, October 25** — 5:30 p.m. Three witnesses, including two deaf 14-year-olds, Johnny Myhr and Frank Sverre Mandt, view a disc-shaped object some 33 feet in diameter that hovers and then descends behind some bushes at Åsbygda, Ringerike, Norway. After about 10 seconds it rises into the air again. The boys run to the nearby Alm school. They notice the object ascending at a 40° angle and see several windows in the craft. What appears to be a human-looking person is behind one of the windows. Tracks are later found in the newly plowed field. Each track is rectangular with rounded corners, and measures 5.5 inches by 1.2 feet with a depth of 4 inches. The tracks are arranged in a triangular shape. (“[Strange Aircraft Spotted in Åsbygda](#),” *Nordic UFO Newsletter* 1, no. 1 (1981): 16–18)
- 1977, October 26** — 12:45 p.m. En route from Dyess AFB near Abilene, Texas, to Dallas, cruising at 15,000 feet in a T-38 jet trainer, 1st Lt Seth Bryant (instructor pilot) and 1st Lt Choate (student pilot) overhear transmissions from Fort Worth Air Route Traffic Control Center to another pilot who has seen a red object he cannot identify. Choate then sees the red object and informs the pilot of its position. The object is flying at 10,000–12,000 feet and seems stationary. The distance is estimated to be about 23 miles away. Initially, the light is brilliant and appears to be closing rapidly. An evasive maneuver is considered but deemed unnecessary. The pilot contacts Fort Worth Center, giving the position of the object and asks if he is tracking anything on radar, but he isn’t. The size of the red light decreases, similar to a very slowly rotating beacon, and is lost to sight. The total duration is less than a minute. Choate recalls static over his headset at the time. (NICAP, “[Near Collision with T-33 / Radio Static](#)”)
- 1977, October 27** — 5:35 p.m. At Cagliari Elmas Airport on Sardinia, Italy, three helicopters of the Italian Army’s Aviazione Leggera dell’Esercito are followed for more than 5 minutes by an orange disc. It is seen and tracked by both military and civilian witnesses and from the airport control tower. Air Force Col. Giomaria orders a jet interceptor to take off but it fails to catch up to the intruder. Maj. Francesco Zoppi and copilot Lt. Riccardelli manage to approach to within 1,000 feet. The sighting causes a feverish exchange of messages between airport personnel, the NATO base at Decimomannu, Sardinia, the [USS Saratoga](#), and several military planes in flight. Col. Mario d’Angelo, commander of the airport’s Air Force base, sends a detailed report to [Attilio Ruffini](#), the Italian Minister of Defense, who orders an investigation. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 4 (April 1978): 2; “[Italian Government Report](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 146 (April 1980): 15; Good Above, [pp. 145–146](#); IPinotti 211–213)
- 1977, October 29** — 7:30 a.m. A patrolman in North East, Pennsylvania, spots a brown, cigar-shaped object moving towards him. He can see a tail fin. It changes direction to the southwest and disappears, (“[Case 2-12-37](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 3)
- 1977, October 29** — 4:00 p.m. Four men at a gas station in downtown Hagerstown, Maryland, watch a round white object half the size of the Moon. It silently orbits counterclockwise around a cloud, emerging from behind, crossing in front, then disappearing behind. (“[Case 2-12-38](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): 3–wrap)
- 1977, October 29** — 7:45 p.m. Two young teenagers in North East, Pennsylvania, notice a light flashing different colors in the west. They think they see a dark “pancake” body twice the Moon’s diameter attached to the light. They go into their house where they are babysitting, and the object shines a spotlight down to the spot where they were originally standing. It hovers about 10 feet above some grapevines, then swoops toward the house and moves into trees to the north. They call police, but every time one visits the house, all they can see is a distant light. (“[Case 2-12-39](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): wrap)
- 1977, October 29–November 3** — Police and citizens in the area of Erie, Pennsylvania, report multiple sightings of star-like lights, some flashing. Some are likely aircraft. (“[Mini-’Flap’ in Northwestern Pennsylvania: But of IFOs?](#)” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): wrap)
- 1977, October 31** — The *National Enquirer* sends a series of questions to Secretary of the Air Force [John C. Stetson](#) about the 1975 Northern Tier UFO incidents. The Air Force admits they do not know what the objects were. (ClearIntent, [pp. 23–24](#))
- 1977, October 31** — [David Williamson Jr.](#), a NASA assistant administrator for special projects, drafts a memorandum of a proposed letter to be signed by [Noel W. Hinnens](#) and sent to [Robert A. Frosch](#). The letter mentions a revival of interest in UFOs and paranormal phenomena, as well as new sightings. It mentions a lack of tangible evidence to analyze and a lack of protocols for investigating UFOs as hindrances to NASA setting up an investigatory panel: “All in all, undertaking a formal study at this time appears to be fraught with peril.” Williamson sees two choices: refuse the project, or have NASA review the best cases from civilian UFO organizations and new cases. He

foresees problems with workload, peer pressure, and prejudgment—an enormous expenditure of resources. However, he recommends examining the best cases from the civilian groups. The inquiry will be handled by Hinners, Williamson, and NASA administrator [Kenneth D. Chapman](#). (Clark III 788)

1977, October 31 — 9:35 p.m. Several students in Placentia, California, watch a disc with four lighted portholes hovering and eclipsing the moon for a few seconds. It shoots away toward the north. (“[Case 2-12-46](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 12 (December 1977): wrap)

1977, November 1 — Afternoon. Students Johnny Myrh and Frank Sverre see a flying object approaching from the north as they are walking home from a school bus station in Nybygda, Ringerike, Norway. The light-green object lands about 300 feet away in a newly ploughed field. They see a human-like figure inside the object behind one of its windows. After 10 seconds, the object lifts off, leaving three equally spaced marks in the ground, 1.2 feet long and 3–7 inches wide. Each imprint is made by something with a curved bottom. The sighting is partially corroborated by one of the attendants at the school who sees a shining object at the same time and place but at a much greater distance. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): 2)

1977, November 2 — Italian Air Force pilots and pilots of two German Air Force F-101G Starfighters, as well as the tower personnel at Cagliari Elmas Airport on Sardinia, Italy, see a circular or elliptical ball of fire flying at tremendous speed. (Good Above, [p. 146](#))

1977, November 10 — 4:31 p.m. UFO researcher [Ray Stanford](#) sees a stationary metallic gray object in the southwestern sky as he is walking his dog in Austin, Texas. Its smaller end is at the top and there is a slight variance around the larger, lower end of the object, which seems to be vibrating. After several seconds, it seems to elongate and rotate. After another 10 seconds, it appears in the shape of a Coke bottle, then disappears quickly. (Ray Stanford, “[Letter](#),” *IUR* 7, no. 3 (May/June 1982): 3–4)

1977, November 12 — Evening. [William J. Hermann](#) sees a disc-shaped object chasing a Cessna aircraft over Charleston, South Carolina. (Clark III 570)

1977, November 15–16 — *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, directed by [Steven Spielberg](#), premieres in New York City at the Ziegfeld Theater. The plot involves benevolent aliens who make their presence known to selected individuals and world governments through escalating UFO waves. The film culminates in a spectacular landing and contact hidden from the public by an ingenious cover-up. (Vincent Canby, “[An Encounter That’s Out of This World](#),” *New York Times*, November 17, 1977, p. C19; Jennifer Henderson and George M. Eberhart, “[30 Years of Close Encounters](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 3 (October 2007): 16–18, 28; Clark III 259; Internet Movie Database, “[Close Encounters of the Third Kind](#)”)

1977, November 16 — 10:59 p.m. An alarm sounds at the Ellsworth AFB L-09 missile site 7 miles southwest of Nisland, South Dakota. Two security men, Airmen 1st Class Kenneth Jenkins and Wayne E. Raeke, are dispatched to the scene from Ellsworth. As Raeke is inspecting the rear fence line, he (allegedly) sees a helmeted figure in a glowing green metallic suit. It points a weapon at Raeke’s rifle and causes it to disintegrate, burning his hands and arms. Jenkins helps him back to their security vehicle. When Jenkins goes back to the rear fence line, he sees two of these beings. They ignore his command to halt, so he opens fire on them. His bullets strike one on the shoulder and the other in the helmet. The figures run over a hill and Jenkins pursues them. He sees them entering a 20-foot-diameter saucer-shaped object that shoots away over the horizon. As Raeke is air-evacuated from the scene, investigators discover that the missile’s nuclear components have been stolen. A follow-up investigation by [Bob Pratt](#) of the *National Enquirer* determines that Jenkins and Raeke are real and on active duty, but everything else about the incident is bogus. Raeke has suffered no injuries and does not even know Jenkins. (“[Incident/Complaint Report](#),” November 16, 1977; Clark III 358–359)

1977, November 18 — 5:30 a.m. A hunter sees an object 4–5 times the size of the full moon ascending about 900 feet away in a wooded area near Richmond, Virginia. It is smoky-gray and egg-shaped with one white light at the top and two flashing lights on the bottom. Possible balloon. (“[Case 3-1-12](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): 3)

1977, November 18 — 9:17 p.m. A bright white light moving at a high rate of speed comes alongside a small Seneca 2 aircraft piloted by Gregory Barnett and flying at 13,000 feet between Vichy and Troy, Missouri, and paces the airplane for 3 minutes. The light then moves away at high speed. Barnett reports that while the light is abreast of his aircraft, one of his transponders stops working. After the UFO pulls away, the transponder resumes its normal operation. The object paces the aircraft for 3–4 miles at a distance of 17 miles and is fairly high above the aircraft. Barnett turns on his other transponder and nothing happens, then the object takes off on a 120°–130° heading and shoots out of sight. The second transponder recovers, but Barnett can never get the first one to work again. He has no trouble with the other instruments. (NICAP, “[UFO KO’s Transponder](#)”; Bob Gribble, “[UFOs: Pilot Sightings and Radar Trackings, Part One](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 31, no. 4 (March 1983): 1–3; Richard F. Haines, “[Aviation](#)

[Safety in America: A Previously Neglected Factor](#),” National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, October 15, 2000, pp. 80–81)

- 1977**, November 24 — 10:00 p.m. A polygraph examiner with experience as a pilot and sailor is sitting on her porch in Smyrna, Georgia, when she notices an object the size of a distant aircraft fly out in front of the moon. The object is white, intensely luminous, and shaped like a hemisphere. It hovers for a few seconds, shoots straight up, hovers again, and then tilts back (showing its bottom portion with two Saturn-like rings of light) and flies back in front of the moon and disappears. (“[Case 3-1-20](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): 3)
- 1977**, November 27 — [William J. Hermann](#) chases another disc-shaped UFO in Charleston, South Carolina, in his car and takes four photographs. He has other sightings on December 2 and 4 and on January 22, 1978, when he snaps eight photos. (Clark III 570)
- 1977**, November 28 — Wellington Friday, UN ambassador at large for Grenada, addresses the United Nations on the seriousness of the UFO phenomenon and the need for global cooperation in investigating them. He is aided in his statement by ufologist [Leonard Stringfield](#). Friday appeals to UN Secretary General [Kurt Waldheim](#) to convene UFO hearings. The next two days are focused on preparation of a draft resolution to be presented to the General Assembly on November 30. The United States says that it can “sympathize” with Grenada’s efforts but cannot support the draft resolution. On November 30, the US delegates, Coast Guard Cmdr. John Feigle and John Krindler, meet with Grenada Prime Minister [Eric Gairy](#) in a closed-door session to make the resolution more moderate. (Leonard H. Stringfield, “[Inside Look at Grenada’s UFO Mission at the United Nations](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 6–7; “[United Nations Committee Supports UFO Study](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 131 (October 1978): 3–5; Antonio Huneeus, “[Rare Footage of Famous 1978 UN UFO Hearing Found](#),” Open Minds, May 13, 2011)
- 1977**, November 29 — About 10:15 a.m. Hamish McLean, a New Zealand UFO investigator, receives an anonymous phone call about a sighting in progress and drives to the Waimata River Valley near Gisborne to investigate. He sees a dome-shaped object hovering at about 300 feet above a hill some 500 feet away. When McLean stops his car and gets out, the UFO suddenly speeds directly toward him and stops about 200 feet away. After about 3 minutes, a bright blue beam of light shoots out from a small square aperture on its lower left side and focuses on a dead Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) tree trunk about 150 feet from McLean. The trunk instantly lights up like a Christmas tree, fluorescing a different color on each branch for seven seconds until the blue beam disappears. Sheep in the meadow are bleating, run down the hill away from the object, and mill around in small groups. The object then moves about 50 feet to the right, where it hovers for two more minutes before swooping back over the hill. Later investigation of the tree turns up nothing unusual. (UFOEv II 224–225)
- 1977**, November 30 — In response to the question by [Brinsley Le Poer Trench](#) in the House of Lords whether British policemen are investigating UFO reports like the gendarmerie in France is doing, [John Harris of Greenwich](#) responds that the police do not collect or investigate UFO incidents. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1977**, December — GEPAN’s Scientific Council holds its first meeting. The group is given a two-volume report of 290 pages, including three general presentations, three detailed investigations, an analysis of two UFO photos, and five statistical analyses of samples and cases. The council reaches conclusions and recommendations for further study. (Gildas Bourdais, “[From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 12; Graff 266–267)
- 1977**, December — [Jim and Coral Lorenzen](#) publish *Abducted!*, a collection of 20 years of UFO abduction cases. Most of the aliens they describe are small with large heads and eyes, no hair, and communicate by telepathy. They suggest that abductions are the latest logical step in an alien information-gathering process. Each abductee, they believe, has specific information of value to the aliens. (Coral and Jim Lorenzen, [Abducted! Confrontations with Beings from Outer Space](#), Berkley, 1977)
- 1977**, Early December — 5:15 p.m. A witness is driving from Falck to Brettnach, Moselle, France, when he notices three lights on a triangular object hovering silently. It disappears abruptly. (Marler [98](#))
- 1977**, December 1 — The Have Blue HB1001 stealth aircraft is tested for the first time at Area 52 in the Tonopah Test Range by pilot [Bill Park](#). (Wikipedia, “[Lockheed Have Blue](#)”)
- 1977**, December 1 — 8:28 p.m. An electrician is driving east out of Elm City, North Carolina, when a large object drifts into view from the north. It has one intense headlight in front, 4–6 blue lights around the edges, and many red and white lights forming portholes along the sides. It is shaped like a torpedo with four swept-back fins at the back with a round band connecting them, and it is making a humming sound. (“[Case 3-1-30](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): 3, wrap)

- 1977**, December 1, 6, and 12 — In the House of Lords, Lord Clancarty, [Brinsley Le Poer Trench](#), keeps bringing up the official investigation of UFOs in France. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024))
- 1977**, December 2 — Night. A farmer in the Waimata Valley of New Zealand wakes up when his dogs bark loudly in their kennels. He goes to the back door and sees a landed saucer-shaped craft in a paddock about 100 feet away. It is about 50 feet in diameter and bright red with two open doors in the side. By the kennels he sees two humanoid beings about 4 feet 8 inches in height with slim builds. They are carrying one of the dogs, which appears comatose. The farmer shoots and hits one of the creatures, apparently startling them into dropping the animal. The being that is hit runs off into the bushes, and the other runs into the UFO, which then ascends vertically. The dog remains dazed for a few minutes and then becomes agitated. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 2; Keith Basterfield, “[UFO Entities in Australasia, 1977: A Summary](#),” *ACOS Bulletin*, no. 20 (August 1979): 10; Keith Basterfield, “[New Zealand Entity Reports](#),” *UFO Research Australia Newsletter* 4, no. 2 (Sept./Oct. 1983): 6, 8)
- 1977**, December 6 — 7:30 p.m. Three people in a car near Tatapouri Point, New Zealand, see a red disc coming from the direction of the ocean. It seems to follow their car for about one mile until the driver stops. At that instant, the object veers off into the hills northwest toward the Waimata Valley. They note their car lights are much dimmer than usual, and on arriving at their destination discover that the car battery has no water in it. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 2)
- 1977**, December 6 — 9:05 p.m. A man in Big Sandy, Tennessee, sees an unusual configuration of lights outside his bedroom window in the east-northeast. They are oriented like a telephone pole with a red light on top and many white and blue lights down both sides. He and his wife watch the object for 10 minutes as it hovers, drops down, and glides to another hovering position. Eventually it moves out of sight behind trees. (“[Case 3-1-40](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): wrap)
- 1977**, December 7 — The United Nations draft resolution on UFO investigations is shelved until next year’s General Assembly. (“[United Nations Shelves UFO Involvement](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 1 (January 1978): wrap; Leonard H. Stringfield, “[Inside Look at Grenada’s UFO Mission at the United Nations](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 7)
- 1977**, December 8 — 8:00 p.m. Air traffic controllers at Oxnard, California, track four UFOs about 3–5 miles north of Laguna Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. They watch the targets for nearly 3 hours. At 8:45 p.m., a Golden West commuter aircraft reports two large bright lights maneuvering around it for 15 minutes. The pilot says the object approaches so close that it “scared the hell out of me.” One paces the aircraft for 10 miles, moves away, then comes back across the path of the airliner at a tremendous speed. (Bob Gribble, “[Pilot Sightings and Radar Trackings](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 181 (March 1983): 6; UFOEv II 135)
- 1977**, December 9 — 5:30 p.m. Lindsay McKenzie-Smith and his wife are flying over the Northern Territory some 62 miles east of Kununurra, Western Australia, in a Cessna 206 at 5,250 feet altitude, when they see an object approaching. It passes below them and disappears behind them. The object is oval in shape, appears metallic, and seems to be 30 feet long by 6–10 feet wide and probably 3 feet thick. It has well-defined edges and a dull surface. The object flies sideways just like an aircraft wing. (NICAP, “[Radio Static Prevents Radio Reporting](#)”; Keith Basterfield, “[Reported Observations from Aircraft over Australasia, 1977–1979](#),” *ACOS Bulletin*, no. 21 (October 1979): 4; Keith Basterfield, “[Reported Observations from Aircraft over Australasia, 1977–1979](#),” *UFO Research Australia Newsletter* 1, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1980): 29)
- 1977**, December 13 — The UN General Assembly adopts Decision 32/424, which acknowledges [Eric Gairy](#)’s resolution, forwards it to member states, and shelves the matter until the next general assembly one year later. (Leonard H. Stringfield, “[My Advisory Role for Grenada’s UFO Mission at the United Nations](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 120 (November 1977): 10–11)
- 1977**, December 13 — The *National Enquirer* publishes [Bob Pratt](#)’s well-researched article, “UFOs Spotted at Nuclear Bases and Missile Sites” about the Northern Tier cases. He lists names and dates that can be used for a FOIA request, which UFO researcher [Barry Greenwood](#) promptly files. (Bob Pratt, “UFOs Spotted at Nuclear Bases and Missile Sites,” *National Enquirer*, December 13, 1977; ClearIntent, [pp. 5–6](#))
- 1977**, December 17 — 3:34 a.m. Radar facilities in Colorado and South Dakota track two UFOs that give strong returns, moving at more than 1,000 mph. They are tracked for the next 30 minutes, during which time one of the objects makes a close head-on pass at an aircraft. A third radar station is unable to function while the unknowns are in the area. One of the other facilities is put out of operation when the main shaft holding the radar antenna is severely bent by an unknown force. (Bob Gribble, “[Pilot Sightings and Radar Trackings](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 181 (March 1983): 6)
- 1977**, December 17 — 4:00 p.m. Marguerite Camp is in her pickup truck on State Highway 2 near Kenyon, Rhode Island, when she spots an “ovoid, plate-like” object that is tilted slightly to the west. She stops and gets out to watch the UFO, which is 3–4 times the size of a B-29 in diameter and glowing blue-white. She sees 4–5 dark windows and

its bottom half is blurry. Another woman, driving an AMC Gremlin, pulls up behind her. While they are watching the object, the engines of both vehicles stall. The object turns up on its edge and climbs vertically, and hovers for 10 more minutes. The second woman gets back in her car, starts it up, and drives away. The object speeds off to the west, takes on a pinkish glow, and fades in the distance. (Dan Todd, "[Large Objects Stalls Autos](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 27, no. 1 (July 1978): 4–5)

- 1977**, December 17 — 7:45 p.m. A red, luminous object is seen by Kenny and Carol Drake of Council Bluffs, Iowa, falling to earth near the northern city limits. At the scene, they find an area covered by molten metal that is glowing orange-red, igniting the grass. Police and firemen who arrive 15 minutes later all see the fallen mass, estimated at 35–55 pounds. An investigation concludes that it is not space debris, a meteorite, or a hoax. Two of the 11 witnesses to the fall describe a round object hovering in the sky, edged by blinking red lights. The retrieved material is analyzed by the Griffin Pipe Products Company and found to be composed of high-carbon steel and slag with white ash inclusions. ("[Mystery Metal Falls from Sky](#)," *Council Bluffs (Iowa) Daily Nonpareil*, December 18, 1977, p. 18; "[‘Space Junk’ Falls near Council Bluffs](#)," *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, December 20, 1977, p. 8; Jacques Vallée, "[Physical Analyses in Ten Cases of Unexplained Aerial Objects with Material Samples](#)," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 3 (1998): 367–372; Richard Warner, "[Close Encounter at Big Lake](#)," Historical Society of Pottawattamie County, April 19, 2020; Keith Basterfield, "[Vallée–Nolan, et al., Peer Reviewed Analysis of Unusual Materials Paper Published](#)," Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, December 11, 2021; Garry P. Nolan, Jacques F. Vallée, Sizun Jiang, and Larry G. Lemke, "[Improved Instrumental Techniques, Including Isotopic Analysis, Applicable to the Characterization of Unusual Materials with Potential Relevance to Aerospace Forensics](#)," *Progress in Aerospace Sciences* 128 (January 2022); Rachel George, "[Big Lake UFO Sighting Marks 46th Anniversary in Council Bluffs](#)," *Council Bluffs (Iowa) Daily Nonpareil*, December 16, 2023; Kevin D. Randle, "[Imminent and the Council Bluffs UFO Incident](#)," A Different Perspective, August 28, 2024)
- 1977**, December 21 — NASA administrator [Robert A. Frosch](#) sends a response to [Frank Press](#) at OSTP, saying that NASA would be willing to continue to answer public inquiries and examine any bona fide new physical evidence that comes in, but declines to set up a panel to investigate cases. (Story, [pp. 242–243](#); Clark III 788–789; ClearIntent, [p. 193](#); presidentialufo.com, "[President Jimmy Carter](#)"; "[NASA Letter Declines UFO ‘Research Activity’](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 120 (November 1977): 6)
- 1977**, December 27 — A White House press release states that it accepts NASA’s evaluation of the UFO situation and will not pursue its initiative any further.
- 1977**, December 27 — 10:54 p.m. Police officers Ron Arey and Howard Dellinger are flying in a Bell Jetranger police helicopter at 1,100 feet in Charlotte, North Carolina, when they see two lights approaching from the northwest. They pass the chopper to the right at an estimated 200 feet. Charlotte FAA air traffic controller Ray Bader confirms two unknown targets on radar. Later on, the object circles the helicopter at an estimated distance of 200 feet. The UFO looks like a globular white light reflecting upward into a silver, parachute-like object with ribs connecting the light to it. Most likely a prank balloon. ("[Radar-Visual Case Involving Police Helicopter](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 121 (December 1977): 3–6; "[Object over N.C. on Dec. 27, 1977](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 26, no. 8 (February 1978): 1, 5; "[A Radar-Visual in Charlotte: UFO or Prank Balloon?](#)" *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): 7–8)
- 1977**, December 30 — Stanford astrophysicist [Peter A. Sturrock](#) writes to [Frosch](#), offering to make available physical evidence “such as films, material samples, etc.” obtained by his Study Group on Anomalous Phenomena. (Clark III 789)
- 1977**, December 30 — A white, oval light about 27 feet in diameter paces a car 90 feet away near Keith, South Australia. The two witnesses, a brother and sister, report that as they slowed their car to 5–10 kph, the engine begins misfiring. They stop, and the light continues on its course. After it is gone, the car can be started again and driven with no difficulties. (Mark Rodeghier, [UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference](#), CUFOS, 1981, p. 72)

1978

- 1978** — A Gallup survey this year shows that 57% of Americans think UFOs are real, 9% have reported a sighting, and 51% think there is intelligent life on other planets. A Roper Organization survey finds that 7% have seen a UFO. ("[A New Gallup Poll on UFOs](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): insert; Robert J. Durant, "[Evolution of Public Opinion on UFOs](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 13)
- 1978** — [Gene Duplantier](#) publishes one issue of *Ufolk* in Willowdale, Ontario, a compendium of photos of many ufologists active in the mid-1970s. (*Ufolk*, no. 1 (1978))

- 1978** — After many years of informal contacts with the Italian military, Centro Ufologico Nazionale succeeds in obtaining from the staff of the Italian Department of Defense the first official dossier of UFO sightings reported by Italian military personnel during 1977. (Story, [p. 67](#))
- 1978** — Brazilian ufologist [Irene Granchi](#) begins publishing a quarterly magazine titled *OVNI Documento* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 235](#))
- 1978** — [Timothy Green Beckley](#) begins publishing a somewhat sensational *UFO Review* in New York City. It runs at least until 1994. (*UFO Review*, no. 1 (1978))
- 1978, January** — *Playboy* publishes a “panel discussion” on UFOs that features essays by [J. Allen Hynek](#), [R. Leo Sprinkle](#), [James A. Harder](#), [Frank Salisbury](#), [Jacques Vallée](#), [Philip J. Klass](#), and [Ernest H. Taves](#). (“[Playboy Panel: UFOs](#),” *Playboy*, January 1978, pp. 67–98, 128, 249–250)
- 1978, January** — The Russian Academy of Sciences releases a report, translated by [Richard F. Haines](#) and published by the Center for UFO Studies as *Observations of Anomalous Atmospheric Phenomena in the USSR: A Statistical Analysis*, written by [Lev M. Gindilis](#) of the Sternberg State Astronomical Institute in Moscow. Data processing and bookkeeping is performed by I. G. Petrovskaya and most of the text is written by engineer-physicist D. A. Menkov. Significantly, the report is approved for official publication by Academician [Nikolai Kardashev](#), one of the USSR’s top experts in SETI. Its reports and data come from a sample of 256 Russian cases compiled by [Felix Ziegel](#). According to space historian [James Oberg](#), many of the sightings in the report correspond to Soviet tests and reentries of the Fractional Orbital Bombardment System, a nuclear weapons delivery system developed in the 1960s. (Wikipedia, “[Petrozavodsk phenomenon](#)”; L. M. Gindilis, D. A. Men’kov, and I. G. Petrovskaya, *Observations of Anomalous Atmospheric Phenomena in the USSR: A Statistical Analysis*, CUFOS, June 1980; J. Allen Hynek and Richard F. Haines, “[Implications of and Comments on ‘Observations of Anomalous Atmospheric Phenomena in the U.S.S.R.: A Statistical Analysis](#),” *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 2 (1980): 95–101; “[Russian Report on UFOs](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 5 (July/Aug. 1980): 16–17; James E. Oberg, “[The Great Soviet UFO Cover-Up: Part 1](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 176 (October 1982): 6–10; Swords 458–460)
- 1978, January** — During the flight of a Yakolev Yak-40 airliner between the Medvezhye gas field and Nadym, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia, the crew notices a bright round object that approaches rapidly and sometime later appears in front of the aircraft, apparently much larger. A crash appears imminent, but the object soars up in front of the nose of the airliner. (Paul Stonehill, “[Pilot and Cosmonaut Pavel Popovich and UFOs](#),” Open Minds, June 12, 2014)
- 1978, January** — Night. Police Sgt. Tony Dodd and Constable Alan Dale are driving near Cononley, North Yorkshire, England, when the road in front of them lights up. They stop the patrol car, look up, and see an object about 100 feet away and moving silently at 40 mph. It has three large spheres below it, portholes around the perimeter, and a dome on top. The object passes overhead and seems to land in a wood on a distant hillside. (Good Above, [pp. 116–117](#); “[Sgt. Anthony Dodd & Constable Alan Dale’s 1978 UFO Encounter near Skipton, North Yorkshire, England](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, November 18, 2023)
- 1978, January 1** — 12:45–1:00 p.m. Pilots [Floyd P. Hallstrom](#) (in a Cessna 170A) and Jim Victor (in a Mustang II 4954) are flying over Santa Monica, California, at 7,500 feet when they see an object approaching at high speed. As the UFO passes about 6,000 feet to his left, Hallstrom is looking down on it an angle of about 30°–45° and its true form suddenly becomes clear to him. He is able to make out the complete form of a saucer and can see the dome, also very vividly clear, including all the windows, about 16–20 evenly spaced around the circumference of the dome, located just above the base. The dome appears to be a perfect hemisphere about 20 feet in diameter resting on the base, which is about 30 feet in diameter. The UFO continues on a course opposite to the pilot’s with no sign of rotation, oscillation, pitch, roll, or yaw. Neither is there any sign of a propulsion system. The sun reflects off the dome as a bright spot when the UFO passes. After about a minute, the object disappears from view behind the Cessna. (NICAP, “[Cessna Encounters Disc with Dome and Windows](#)”: “[An Air-Visual Sighting of a Daylight Disc in California](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 4 (April 1978): insert; Richard H. Hall, “[Veteran Pilot Sights Daylight Disc](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 122 (January 1978): 3–5; UFOEv II 136–138)
- 1978, January 2** — 11:00 p.m. Four young men are driving through an isolated area known as Simonswood Moss, between Rainsford and Kirkby, West Lancashire, England, when they realize they have taken a wrong turn onto a narrow dirt road bordering a ditch. They suddenly see a 7-foot tall figure with red eyes appear in the glare of the headlights 26 feet ahead. The being is wearing a white fluorescent one-piece suit with boots, it has no discernible facial features, and it has short arms ending in claws. On its chest is a box with two flashing red lights. The figure takes two steps towards the witnesses and suddenly stops. The witnesses panic and leave the area, driving to a nearby farm where they notify the police. A later investigation suggests that they have seen a cow wandering

- down the lane, the car's headlights reflecting in its eyes. (Peter Hough, "UFO Occupants," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Times, 1987, pp. 129–130; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), September 11, 2008)
- 1978**, January 10 — 12:25 a.m. A 31-year-old paramedic is driving to pick up her husband (a policeman) from work in Chicago, Illinois, when her 3-year-old son draws her attention to a "moving star" nearly overhead. At her destination a few seconds later, she notes a silver disc-shaped object ("with teacups on top and bottom of saucer") as large as a full moon moving forward with yellow-orange trail behind as it moved. The object stops, reverses direction, moves forward again, and moves off behind a building. The trail is only visible while the object is in motion. Duration is 1–2 minutes. ("[Case 3-2-39](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 3)
- 1978**, January 14 — 8:30 p.m. Four witnesses inside a house in Delavan, Wisconsin, see an orange ball half the size of the full moon descend into view through a window. They watch the sphere hover for one minute, move 10° to the north, hover, and then move off quickly to the northern horizon. ("[Case 3-2-50](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 2 (February 1978): 3)
- 1978**, January 17 — As a response to [Sturrock](#)'s letter, NASA astrophysicist [Richard C. Henry](#) writes to [Noel Hinners](#) suggesting that examination of any UFO evidence could be assigned to the Astrophysics Division at Goddard Space Flight Center managed by Program Scientist [Frank Martin](#). He suggests as project scientist [Stephen P. Maran](#) at Goddard. Henry gets no response. (Clark III 789)
- 1978**, January 18 — 3:00–5:00 a.m. A security policeman at McGuire AFB [now Joint Base McGuire–Dix–Lakehurst] in Burlington County, New Jersey, is called to help investigate a low-flying UFO over the neighboring Fort Dix army base. An Army MP pursues the object, but his radio transmission is cut off just as a grayish, 4-foot-tall being with fat head, long arms, and a slender body appears in front of his car. The MP fires five rounds into the being and one round into the object above. The UFO shoots upward and joins 11 others high in the sky, and the being runs into the woods toward the Fort Dix fence line. A security patrol finds its dead body near the McGuire AFB runway, giving out a foul, ammonia-like stench; then AFOSI arrives and ropes everything off. Retired USAF Maj. [George Filer III](#), who later serves as MUFON New Jersey director, asserts that he was stationed on the base at the time and that the story is true, although he did not see the alien. (NICAP, "[Alien Being Allegedly Shot Dead by MPs](#)"; UFOEv II 97–98; Leonard H. Stringfield, "[The Fatal Encounter at Ft. Dix–McGuire: A Case Study: Status Report IV](#)," in *MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 1985, pp. 41–65; Leonard Stringfield, "The Chase for Proof in a Squirrel's Cage," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Times, 1987, pp. 153–155; Leonard Stringfield and Richard Hall, "[Dix–McGuire Updated](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 230 (June 1987): 7–8; John L. Guerra, *Strange Craft: The True Story of an Air Force Intelligence Officer's Life with UFOs*, The Author, 2018; Erik Larsen, "[In New Book, Retired Air Force Major Claims Alien Was Killed at Joint Base McGuire–Dix–Lakehurst](#)," app, September 3, 2019; Clark III 511–513; Keith Basterfield, "[NIDS Investigated the Reported Shooting of a Non-Human Entity: Fort Dix/McGuire AFB, 18 January 1978; the NIDS Investigation](#)," Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, December 17, 2019; "[The McGuire Air Force Base Alien Encounter, 1978](#)," *Weird N.J.*, January 18, 2024)
- 1978**, January 19 — Citizens Against UFO Secrecy files a request with the US State Department for classified UFO documents and includes the date and time information, transmittal numbers, and message serial numbers, but the department replies that it cannot locate the specified information. (ClearIntent, [pp. 193–194](#))
- 1978**, January 23 — 7:40 p.m. A carpenter is standing on his front porch in Toledo, Ohio, when he notices a stationary saucer-shaped object about 30° above the horizon in the eastern sky. It is lit by the reflection of the city lights and the Moon and is slightly larger than a distant aircraft. It has dark, outlined windows and a small structure on top. The object then moves off rapidly to the south and blinks out. ("[Case 3-3-14](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): 3)
- 1978**, January 24 — The Soviet reconnaissance satellite Kosmos 954 reenters the Earth's atmosphere while traveling on a northeastward track over western Canada. At first the USSR claims that the satellite has been completely destroyed during re-entry, but later searches show debris from the satellite has been deposited on Canadian territory along a 370-mile path from Great Slave Lake to Baker Lake. The effort to recover radioactive material from the satellite is dubbed Operation Morning Light. Covering a total area of 48,000 square miles, the joint Canadian–US team (consisting of the emergency Nuclear Emergency Support Team) sweeps the area on foot and by air through October 15. They are ultimately able to recover 12 large pieces of the satellite, 10 of which are radioactive. (Wikipedia, "[Kosmos 954](#)"; Steve Weintz, "[Operation Morning Light: The Nuclear Satellite That Almost Decimated America](#)," *The National Interest*, November 23, 2015; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 314–316](#))
- 1978**, January 26 — 12:31 a.m. A policeman in Williamston, North Carolina, watches a round light the size of the full Moon at 60° in the northwest. The light moves quickly toward the south then hovers 10–15 seconds before changing course. A windstorm is in progress and the object is beneath the clouds. Another officer 3 miles away also watches the object for 10–20 seconds before it disappears. ("[Case 3-3-19](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): 3)
- 1978**, January 27 — 12:00 midnight. A flight instructor is flying his Cessna 172 to Opalocka, Florida, when he sees a formation of six objects with no lights over Key West. Each object is disc-shaped and reflects the moonlight.

They are flying in a ragged straight line, approximately equidistant, at 7,000 feet, then disappear in the distance. (“[Case 3-3-24](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): 3)

- 1978**, January 27 — Early morning. Four men on the banks of the River Weaver see a silver balloon-shaped object land in a meadow near Frodsham, Cheshire, England. It emits a strong purplish glow that makes it hard to look at. Two entities of normal height emerge. They wear silvery suits and have miners’ lamps on their heads, and these glow purple. Cows on a nearby field seem to become paralyzed, unable to move. Using a metal cage, the entities pen in one cow and seem to measure it. The witnesses become frightened and run from the area, and as they run they feel a strange tingling sensation in their groins. One of the men develops sunburn-like marks on his leg. (Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall, “[Four Young Men and a UFO](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 3 (September 1980): 5–7; Jenny Randles, *Alien Abductions: The Mystery Solved*, Inner Light, 1988, [pp. 66–67](#))
- 1978**, January 27 — Cheryl DeSanctis sees a blinking red and white light hovering above some trees near Barry Drive in Vineland, New Jersey. She watches it for 5 minutes, then a red ball moves from behind it, descending to just a few feet above the rooftops where its light reflects off the houses. After 10 minutes, the red ball moves to the north and the first light departs to the south. (“[Vineland Is Beset by UFO Sitings](#),” *Atlantic City (N.J.) Press*, February 3, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 105 (April 1978): 2)
- 1978**, January 31–February 1 — 6:15 p.m. Four boys are playing on the ice of the Montvale (N.J.) Memorial Elementary School playing field. They notice an “airplane” that passes slowly over the field; moments later, another object arrives, shaped like a square with large yellow lights in each corner, with a slight dome on top and a red light underneath. It emits a red beam of light toward the ground but stops short before touching it. They next notice several humanoid figures moving around the school park, walking stiffly. They are about average height and bald-headed, dressed in bright yellow outfits with boots and gloves. One of them looks different, because he has a larger head that seems “creased” down the middle and has on a brown cape over the yellow suit. As the boys watch, they note an uncanny silence and an unpleasant sulfur-like odor. The figures walk away toward the nearby Public Works Garage. The boys then notice another figure, this one a woman standing in the parking lot. She has medium long brown hair and wears a dark suit with blue fur around her shoulders. She walks in slow motion and sits down on a low fence and raises her arm very slowly, pointing to the sky at another hovering square object. The woman then walks toward the Public Works building and at one point seems to appear and disappear as a police vehicle drives by near her. A similar scenario occurs the next evening. (Ted Bloecher, “[CE-III Report from Montvale, N.J.: Preliminary Report](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 123 (February 1978): 4–7; “[A Possible Close Encounter of the Third Kind in New Jersey](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 4 (April 1978): 3, 7; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 6, 2008)
- 1978**, January 31 — 11:00 p.m. Pat Martinelli is outside her home on North Maple Drive in Vineland, New Jersey, when she sees an object silently hovering above the nearby trees. It is a triangle with the point at the back and many red and white lights. (“[Vineland Is Beset by UFO Sitings](#),” *Atlantic City (N.J.) Press*, February 3, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 105 (April 1978): 2)
- 1978**, February — 2:00 a.m. A State Police officer is on foot patrol between Ornontowice and Chudów, Poland, when he notices that his dog is acting strangely. He looks up and sees a black cigar-shaped object with small windows moving above him. He hears a slight humming noise like a vacuum cleaner. It moves off to the northeast. (Poland 109–110)
- 1978**, February 1 — Night. Six teenagers are driving north on Hance Bridge Road in Vineland, New Jersey. They see a series of four large lights low in the sky approaching them. It swerves about 500–600 feet in altitude and a mile distant, and they can see that the object is triangular with a light in each corner. It returns the way it came, so they decide to follow it for 6–7 miles before pulling over and stopping the car. When they turn their headlights off, the object’s lights go out. When they turn the headlights back on, the UFO lights up again. (“[Vineland Is Beset by UFO Sitings](#),” *Atlantic City (N.J.) Press*, February 3, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 105 (April 1978): 2)
- 1978**, February 2 — Citizens Against UFO Secrecy supplies the US State Department with more information regarding UFO documents that it knows exist, but are stonewalled for months until they are sent a photocopy of an article in *UFO Investigator* that includes some of the documents. As [Barry Greenwood](#) writes, “the only way to get documents released was to *have them in the first place* so that one could mail them back to the agency as proof that they existed.” (ClearIntent, [p. 194](#))
- 1978**, February 2 — 9:30 p.m. Brian Mosychuk is walking in a neighborhood of Edmonton, Alberta, when he sees a car-sized object with blue lights on front and back approaching from the northwest. It hovers above him making a rumbling sound, then a beam of light shoots toward him. Mosychuk leans back to avoid the beam, but it shines on his feet in the snow. He runs away, and when he looks back the object is flying away to the northeast, leaving

behind a red trail. He tells his father, who goes out and finds a round circle in the snow. They call the police, who find a melted hole about 28 inches in diameter. Samples of snow, including some with carbon spots, are taken to CFB Edmonton for a contamination check. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 191)

- 1978**, February 4 — 3:30–4:00 a.m. A weird humming sound awakens Claire Semaza and her two children in Orange, California. The sound increases in volume until it hurts her ears, and the family dog barks frantically, punctuated by an odd pause for several seconds. Outside, they see an oval or cigar-shaped object not far above the trees about one half-mile away. Below and around it is a layer of gray haze. It begins slowly rising, leaving the haze behind. The object has a bright red light at each end that sends shafts of light toward the ground. Several bluish-white lights are visible between the two red ones. It rises higher, flashes a brilliant white light on and off for 3 seconds, then quickly disappears. Meanwhile, the dog has been taking her 7 puppies one by one and hiding them behind the drapes on the second floor. (Idabel Epperson, "[Canine Mother Hides Puppies from UFO](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 122 (January 1978): 7; "[Unusual Animal Reaction in California NL Case](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 4 (April 1978): insert)
- 1978**, February 5 — 6:00 p.m. Two Bradley University security guards in Peoria, Illinois, are making their rounds when their car lights up. An intensely bright object is ahead of them and about 45° up in the east. They drive another two blocks to an open areas and get out of the car to watch two objects, the larger of which is as big as the full Moon. They are both changing colors from green to red to white. The smaller one abruptly disappears as the larger object is flying loops, dropping down behind the houses, moving back up, and maneuvering abruptly. They discuss the UFOs with some passing students. The object remains visible for at least 45 minutes. ("[Case 3-3-62](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 3 (March 1978): insert)
- 1978**, February 9 — A carbon copy of an apparent USAF incident report is received at the office of the *National Enquirer* in Lantana, Florida. Accompanying the document is an unsigned letter dated January 29 and "revealing" the Ellsworth AFB incident of November 16, 1977. (Bob Pratt, "[The Truth about the 'Ellsworth Case](#),'" *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 191 (January 1984): 6–9; Clark III 358)
- 1978**, February 10 — WJR-AM radio personality Marc Avery is on his way to the Detroit Metropolitan Airport on I-275 when he and his wife see two lights hovering above their car for 30–50 seconds. He calls the radio station and speaks on air, asking if anyone else has seen the lights. Two men in the area of Merriman Road and Michigan Avenue in Wayne, Michigan, call in to say that 5 minutes earlier they had seen a large UFO traveling east to west at treetop level. ("[Forty Years Ago This Weekend, a WJR Radio Personality May Have Encountered a UFO](#)," Michigan Radio, February 9, 2018)
- 1978**, February 12 — 11:00 p.m. David Mace and his wife are driving on Tennant Way approaching Lake Sacajawea in Longview, Washington, when they see an orange triangle with a hole in it silently hovering above the lake near Washington Way. They watch it for 15 seconds before it takes off to the west. ("[Couple Reports UFO above Lake Sacajawea](#)," *Longview (Wash.) News*, February 13, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 104 (March 1978): 6)
- 1978**, February 19 — 1:20 p.m. Radar operators on two separate systems in Minnesota track a large, solid object, which starts ascending rapidly as soon as one operator switches his system to manual. It seems to take evasive action by stopping, starting, and descending. The operator tracks it traveling about one mile in one second (3,600 mph) and moves vertically "instantaneously." (Bob Gribble, "[Pilot Sightings and Radar Trackings](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 181 (March 1983): 6–7)
- 1978**, February 19 — The television series *Project U.F.O.* debuts in the US on NBC-TV. Running for two seasons of 13 episodes each, the show is based loosely on the real-life Project Blue Book. The show is created by [Jack Webb](#), who pores through Air Force files looking for episode ideas. The first season stars [William Jordan](#) as Maj. Jake Gatlin alongside [William Caskey Swaim](#) as Staff Sgt. Harry Fitz. Former USAF Col. [William T. Coleman](#) is a producer. (Wikipedia, "[Project U.F.O.](#)"; Internet Movie Database, "[Project U.F.O.](#)"; "[NBC Network, Project U.F.O., 'The Washington, D.C. Incident' \(Complete Broadcast, 2/19/1978\)](#)," The Museum of Classic Chicago Television YouTube channel, April 30, 2018)
- 1978**, February 22 — 9:40 p.m. Brian Metcalfe, an FAA air traffic controller, is driving northeast on Interstate 80, approaching Newcastle, California. Seeing two intense lights moving slowly in the sky, he pulls over and gets out to look. The only sound he can hear is a low hum. The object moves southwest along the freeway at about 30–40 mph at an altitude of 2,000–3,000 feet. He notices it is delta-shaped. Other witnesses in the area also see the object over Auburn, California, just before 10:00 p.m. ("[More Reports Confirm Sighting Strange Craft in Placer Area](#)," *Auburn (Calif.) Journal*, March 1, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 105 (April 1978): 9)

- 1978**, February 23 — 1:00 a.m. [Jackie Gleason](#) announces on *The Tomorrow Show with Tom Snyder* that he has “absolute proof of the existence of alien beings,” naming [Richard Nixon](#) as his source. (Curt Collins, “[The Legend of the President and the Alien Bodies](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, April 27, 2023)
- 1978**, February 23 — 11:45 p.m. A couple hears interference on their car radio in Sesto Fiorentino, Florence, Italy. When the man gets out to investigate, a warm, violet light envelops him. He sees four shapes and lights all around. After walking around the car, he goes back inside and finds his girlfriend crying. Twenty minutes of missing time has passed. (Paolo Fiorino, Gian Paolo Grassino, and Antonio Chiumiento, “[Abductions in Italy](#),” *IUR* 14, no. 4 (July/Aug.1989): 14–15)
- 1978**, February 28 — [Stanton Friedman](#) has discovered retired Maj. [Jesse A. Marcel](#) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and interviews him about the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico, incident. Marcel says the debris was like nothing on earth. Friedman has also interviewed [Lydia Sleppy](#), who worked at Albuquerque radio station KOAT and remembers the military intervention on the story. [William L. Moore](#) and Friedman compare notes from two separate interviews Friedman has conducted about the crash. By 1980, Friedman and Bill Moore have interviewed at least 62 witnesses to the Roswell incident. (Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore, *The Roswell Incident*, Grosset & Dunlap, 1980; Kevin D. Randle and Anthony Bragalia, “[Two Roswell Witnesses. Reconsidered](#),” *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 6–8, 24; Clark III 320)
- 1978**, March 9 — Pilot Luciano Ascione is flying northbound at 2,600 feet 75 miles away from Vicenza, Italy, when a green, rocket-shaped object appears on his right about 1 mile away. Other planes in the area report a green flash. (ClearIntent, [pp. 92–93](#); 1Pinotti 214–215)
- 1978**, March 11 — Sundown. Two men from L’Île-Perrot, Quebec, are camping near the shore of Reservoir Baskatong when they see a comet-like, bright blue object leaving a fiery trail plummeting toward the surface of the lake. It disappears behind trees, and the men jump up, grab their cameras, and run to the lake. The object is hovering silently above the surface, where it remains stationary for 30 seconds before moving to the other side of the lake. One of them starts snapping photos, but after 5 seconds the object rises swiftly and disappears like a flash into the sky. (“They Caught ‘UFO’ on Film,” *Toronto (Ont.) Sun*, March 14, 1978; “[UFO Said Photographed](#),” *Tampa (Fla.) Times*, March 13, 1978, p. 1; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 4 (April 1978): 2; Wido Hoville and Don Donderi, “[RR2 au Lac Baskatong](#),” *UFO-Quebec*, no. 16 (December 1978): 8–10, 15–22; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, [pp. 4–9](#))
- 1978**, March 11 — 10:40 p.m. Four witnesses in the Waimata Valley, New Zealand, watch a red and green object shaped like a top hat. Two of them approach in their car to about 100 feet, but the object shuts off all its lights and disappears. The same object reappears twice more the same evening. (*Gisborne (N.Z.) Herald*, March 16, 1978; “[Intense Activity Continues in New Zealand](#),” *Australian UFO Bulletin*, August 1978, p. 6; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): 2)
- 1978**, March 12 — Early morning. A mill worker at Kawerau, New Zealand, is driving back to Gisborne when a brilliant orange light illuminates the interior of his car. He sees a large oval object floating alongside about 50 feet away. He thinks it is as large as a five-story building and has thousands of small lights on the sides. Slowly it rises to 300–400 feet and floats away. (*Gisborne (N.Z.) Herald*, March 16, 1978; “[Intense Activity Continues in New Zealand](#),” *Australian UFO Bulletin*, August 1978, p. 6; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): 2)
- 1978**, March 16 — 9:00 p.m. Mayor [Mark M. Millis](#) of Arroyo Grande, California, and Mayor [Al Dutra](#) of Grover City are leaving a meeting at Arroyo Grande City Hall when they see a triangular-shaped lighted object the size of a Boeing 747 moving slowly to the southwest about one mile in the air. Capt. Antony Wood of the San Luis Obispo Sheriff’s Department also sees the object at Oceano, and other witnesses as far north as Morro Bay report the UFO, which has two bright lights in front and smaller ones in the back. (“[Mayors, Police, Others See UFO in South County](#),” *Santa Maria (Calif.) Times*, March 17, 1978, p. 12)
- 1978**, March 17 — 11:30 p.m. Service engineer Ken Edwards is driving back from a union meeting in Sale, Greater Manchester, England, on Daten Avenue, Risley, past the UK Atomic Energy Authority site. As he is approaching the roundabout near the Universities Research Reactor building and the UKAEA fire station, he notices a 7-foot-tall silver figure coming down a steep embankment to his left. Stopping his van, Edwards watches the figure descend with an unnatural stiff-legged gait. The figure walks across the road only 15 feet from him. As he passes Edwards, the figure looks at him and two beams of light shoot from its eyes and dazzle him. It continues walking toward the security fence surrounding the UKAEA site. The figure raises an arm (one of two that seem to come out of its chest) and walks through the 10-foot-tall, barbed wire-topped, chain link fence, disappearing into the darkness. He later drives to the Pudgate police station to report the sighting. Police accompany him to the site where they find a group of UKAEA constabulary officers gathered at the spot, but since there is no hole in the fence, they discount his story. However, years later investigator Glen Vaudrey discovers that the tall figure was a

6 foot, 5 inch fireman dressed in a high-temperature fire suit who was trying to scare some students in an isolation building across the road. (Jenny Randles, “Man on the Moss,” *Fortean Times* 305 (October 2013): 29; Glen Vaudrey, “Atom Age Alien? Solving the Mystery of the Risley Silver Man,” *Fortean Times* 397 (October 2020): 36–41; Jenny Randles, “Silvery Ships from the Stars,” *Fortean Times* 403 (March 2021): 30–31)

1978, March 18 — Around 4:00 p.m. Leo Giampietro and his wife are driving 15 miles west of Palm Springs, California. He pulls over when he sees a brown-colored domed disc the size of a distant aircraft moving in a straight path over the mountains in the southwest. It hovers for a few seconds and he can hear a humming sound. He manages to snap tree photos. The noise stops and the object shoots straight up and disappears. (“[Case 3-5-18](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): 3; “[Case Update](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 8)

1978, March 18 — 9:15 p.m. [William J. Hermann](#) is out looking for UFOs near Charleston, South Carolina, when he sees apparently the same UFO he has photographed frequently before. He starts running toward it when it suddenly swoops toward him and directs a paralyzing blue-white beam at him. Hermann loses consciousness. When he wakes up again, it is 12:05 a.m. and he is in a field in Summerville, 15 miles from his home. He sees the UFO departing in its characteristic zigzag pattern. He calls the police, who drive him home. The next few nights he suffers from nervousness, headaches, and insomnia. Not long afterward, he is hypnotized by [James A. Harder](#), an engineering professor affiliated with APRO. He recalls an abduction/contact experience on board a spacecraft with beings from Zeta Reticuli. The leader tells him that if mankind persists in its warlike ways, civilization will be destroyed. Hermann continues to experience contacts and he begins to channel alien writings. (Wendelle C. Stevens and William J. Hermann, *UFO Contact from Reticulum*, Wendelle C. Stevens, 1981; UFOEv II 553–554; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), April 18, 2012; Clark III 570–571)

1978, March 22 — 7:00 and 8:45 p.m. Two waves of UFO sightings are reported over a wide area between Cumberland, Wisconsin, and Newport, Minnesota. UFO investigator Robert E. Engberg traces the first wave beginning around Chisago City, Minnesota, and moving east between Dresser and St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. The second wave originates near Cumberland and follows an 85-mile course to St. Paul, Minnesota. Witnesses see formations of red lights, single round objects with red body lights, and orange globes in straight-line and oblique formations. Some disc-shaped objects are also reported with rows of body lights. (“[Valley UFO Sightings of March 22, 1978, Described](#),” Taylors Falls (Minn.) *The Dalles Visitor*, May 1979, via *UFO Newscipping Service*, no. 119, pp. 7–9; “[A Mini-Flap in Minnesota: UFO or Helicopters?](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): insert)

1978, March 22 — 11:00 p.m. Gary Oickle, David Oickle, and two friends are sitting around a campfire in Patapsco Valley State Park, Maryland, near the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tunnel. They see a strange object in the southeastern sky that moves around for 10 minutes before it disappears behind a ridge. Another object soon appears over their campsite from behind a ridge to the north; this time it is a triangular shape about 150–200 feet on each side with large windows, three white lights at each corner, and a red light on top. Three of the witnesses think they see the silhouette of a figure in the windows. It moves very slowly, hovering at times, to the southeast. Another star-like object appears in the south after the triangle moves away. It changes colors repeatedly from blue to green to yellow to red. (Joe and Doris Graziano, “[Object over State Park](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 26, no. 10 (April 1978): 1)

1978, March 24 — In one case documented by New Mexico police and the FBI, an 11-month-old cross Hereford-Charolais bull, belonging to Manuel Gomez of Dulce, New Mexico, is found mutilated. It displays “classic” mutilation signs, including the removal of the rectum and sex organs with what appears to be “a sharp and precise instrument,” and its internal organs are found to be inconsistent with a normal case of death followed by predation. The animal’s heart, as well as bone and muscle samples, are sent to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory for microscopic and bacteriological studies, while samples from the animal’s liver are sent to two separate private laboratories. Los Alamos detects the presence of naturally occurring *Clostridium* bacteria in the heart but is unable to reach any conclusions because of the possibility that the bacteria represent postmortem contamination. They do not directly investigate the heart’s unusual color or texture. Samples from the animal’s liver are found to be completely devoid of copper and to contain 4 times the normal level of zinc, potassium, and phosphorus. The scientists performing the analysis are unable to explain these anomalies. Blood samples taken at the scene are reported to be “light pink in color” and “did not clot after several days” while the animal’s hide is found to be unusually brittle for a fresh death (the animal was estimated to have been dead for 5 hours) and the flesh underneath is found to be discolored. (Wikipedia, “[Cattle mutilation](#)”; Amanda Push, “[Underground Aliens and Cattle Mutilations: Dulce, New Mexico, Has Long Been the Site of Strange Activity and Conspiracy Theories](#),” DGO, February 26, 2019)

1978, March 24 — Just after 12:00 noon. Luis Carlos Serra, 16, is picking guava in the forest just west of Penalva, Maranhão, Brazil, when he hears a sharp noise like a car horn. He looks up and sees a bright white light about 20 inches wide high above the palm trees. Suddenly he falls flat on his back, paralyzed. After a short time, he starts

rising in the air toward a round UFO with four balls on the bottom, a dome on top, and three windows. He floats through one of the windows head-first. Inside he drops to the floor, still paralyzed, and sees three entities about 3 feet high and wearing “diving suits.” He is taken somewhere with no trees and tall grass and subjected to an examination. Soon he loses consciousness and wakes up three days later in a scrub forest. A nearby fisherman, José Ribamar dos Santos, hears his cry, finds and recognizes him, and takes him back to town. Serra is examined in the hospital by Dr. Linda Macieira, who finds that he has four teeth missing and is completely bald with his hair burned off. He has a general loss of motor control and a lack of sensitivity to pain. He does not eat, so he is fed intravenously for the 7 days he is hospitalized. On March 30 he is transferred to the Serme Hospital in São Luis, where 6 doctors examine him, including neurologist Antônio Saldanha, who finds that Serra still cannot speak and is generally unresponsive and in shock. Two psychiatrists, Renato Barcelar and Barcelar Viana, examine him after he recovers his ability to speak a few days later. He repeats his story without variation every time. He is discharged on April 7. (Clark III 899–901; “[Caso Luis Carlos Serra](#),” *Galáxia Mundo GAEMU*, April 2014; Brazil 251–255)

- 1978, March 27** — Astronaut [Gordon Cooper](#) appears on the *Merv Griffin Show* and discusses UFO stories from government insiders. [Merv Griffin](#) asks him about occupant reports, and Cooper thinks they are credible. From what he has heard (although he has never been briefed on the matter), the aliens look no different from ordinary humans. (“[1978-03-27: Merv Hosts Astronaut Gordon Cooper on Aliens](#),” Tom Owens UAP YouTube channel, March 28, 2021; Thomas O’Toole, “[Cooper: UFO Stories from ‘Credible’ Sources](#),” *Washington Post*, April 7, 1978)
- 1978, March 27** — During a 9-hour period near San Diego, California, an F-14 Tomcat aircraft loses control and makes touch-and-go landings; an A-4 Skyhawk crashes into the Pacific 50 miles to the west; and an S-3A Viking anti-submarine aircraft from Naval Air Station North Island explodes and crashes into the ocean 6 miles from the base. On March 28, a college art instructor and a shipping company owner are talking on the phone when they are interrupted by another conversation on the line. Someone is apparently giving a briefing to a general about aircraft losses, instruments going haywire, and something that crashed near Palm Springs that the news media was told was a meteor. A “General Kelley” [Lt. Gen. [Robert E. Kelley](#) at Eglin AFB? Lt. Gen. [John R. Kelly Jr.](#) at the Pentagon?] is said to be on his way to the site. No agency admits to having such a conversation. (ClearIntent, pp. [194–195](#))
- 1978, March 28** — 12:00 midnight–1:30 a.m. Irene Bigelow is outside her home in Denver, Colorado, when she sees three bright-orange UFOs motionless in the air for more than an hour. She estimates they are as large as her garage’s double door. At 1:30, they break formation, with the light on the right moving to the right. The other two remain stationary at first, then all three ascend into the sky in different directions. (Richard Sigismond, “[Four Huge Orange Discs and the Case for the UFO](#),” *IUR* 8, no. 2 (March/April 1983): 8)
- 1978, March 29** — 7:30 a.m. Christopher Kloppenborg and Geoffrey Kloppenborg are out mustering sheep near Albury, New South Wales, Australia. They see a very bright, stationary, chrome-colored light that is casting a shadow on a hillside. They use binoculars to watch it for 5–8 minutes. It appears to have black shapes along its side and is shaped like a short cigar. Geoffrey returns to the house to get a camera, and on his return he sees a second, smaller object, traveling over the hills toward the first object. It turns in front of the bigger object, and then both depart over the hills to the east. (“[Sheep Farmers See UFO Rendezvous](#),” *Melbourne Herald*, April 8, 1978, [reprinted](#) in *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 124 (March 1978): 6; “[Interstate Reports](#),” *Australian UFO Bulletin*, May 1978, p. 4; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 2; “[Brothers Spot UFOs in Australia](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, August 1978, pp. 1, 4)
- 1978, March 29** — 9:15 p.m. A police helicopter is dispatched to Kramer Street in Syracuse, New York, to investigate a report by Officer Edgar Prue of a diamond-shaped object above Webster Pond. It has a criss-cross series of red, blue, green, and yellow blinking lights on its surface. The UFO quickly shoots up into the air and disappears. The helicopter pilot reportedly gets a glimpse of the object, but police are being told not to talk to the press or investigators. (“[UFO Information Being Withheld?](#)” *Syracuse (N.Y.) Herald-Journal*, April 9, 1978, p. 58; “[Profile: April, 1978](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 8; Mark Bundy, “[The Central New York Wave](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 36–37)
- 1978, March 31** — 8:30 p.m. A young man is walking his dog in a field in Dublin, Ireland, when he spots a silver cigar-shaped object hovering about 45° above the horizon. For the next 20 minutes, a doorway repeatedly (about 20 times) opens, releasing a red light, the door closes again, the red light returns to the object, and the door opens and readmits it. The object remains motionless another 10 minutes, then shoots upward at fantastic speed. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1989): 2)

- 1978, April** — Citizens Against UFO Secrecy is formed by [W. Todd Zechel](#), [Brad Sparks](#), and [Peter Gersten](#). Its purpose is to uncover UFO data through the Freedom of Information Act, lawsuits against government agencies, and investigation of high-quality UFO reports. It launches a newsletter, *Just Cause*. The group brings a lawsuit against the CIA using the Freedom of Information Act for release of UFO documents. It receives more than 900 documents from the CIA in 1979 but are refused 57 because of “national security considerations.” *Just Cause* lingers on until January 1982 under the title *UFormant*. (Wikipedia, “[Citizens Against UFO Secrecy](#)”; “[CAUS Picking Up Where GSW and NICAP Left Off](#),” *Just Cause* 1, no. 1 (April 1978): 1–4; ClearIntent, [p. 192](#); Clark III 240)
- 1978, April** — An Iranian airline pilot is flying between Ahvaz and Tehran, Iran, when he sees a glittering flying object. He manages to photograph it, but civil aviation authorities prohibit its release. Radar controllers at Mehrabad Airport track a target 20 times the size of a jumbo jet on their screens. (ClearIntent, [p. 89](#))
- 1978, April 2** — Morning. A loud explosion on Bell Island, Newfoundland, causes damage to some houses and electrical wiring in the surrounding area. A number of TV sets in Lance Cove and other communities explode at the time of the blast. It is initially thought to be caused by ball lightning. Meteorologists state that atmospheric conditions at the time are not conducive to lightning, although some witnesses report balls of fire and streaks of light in the sky. The boom is heard 34 miles away in Cape Broyle. The incident is investigated by [John Warren](#) and Robert Freyman from Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, New Mexico, as a possible a “superbolt”—an unusually large bolt of lightning. A 2004 documentary on the History Channel about electromagnetic pulse weapons, *The Invisible Machine*, investigates the possibility that it may have been the result of top-secret experiments. However, on April 23, 2019, hundreds of people on the island hear another explosion, which is almost immediately determined to have been a massive section of rock breaking away from the northern part of the island and impacting the ground and sea with extreme force. Large cracks almost two feet across were observed developing in the area in the years prior to the collapse, and signs were placed to warn visitors to stay away from the unstable features. (Wikipedia, “[Bell Island \(Newfoundland and Labrador\)](#)”; ClearIntent, [pp. 96–97](#); Brian Dunning, “[The Bell Island Boom](#),” Skeptoid podcast no. 190 (January 26, 2010); B. Jessee, “[The Bell Island Boom](#),” Medium: The Mysterious Miscellany, December 23, 2019)
- 1978, April 2** — 1:40 p.m. Warren Smith is 8–9 miles northwest of Calgary, Alberta, when his border collie starts running in circles and looking up. Smith looks out his window and sees a silent, grayish-silver disc slightly larger than the full moon. It moves straight up and down, in and out of the cloud layer three times for about 30 seconds. Each time the object comes out of the clouds it remains visible for about 10 seconds. Smith notices a large number of “lightning rods” that move in and out on its surface. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): 2)
- 1978, April 2** — 8:30 p.m. Lee Robinson is riding her motorcycle on Sunset Road toward Henderson, New Zealand, when she stops to watch floating lights approaching her from the distance. She makes out a wedge-shaped form, broad at the front and narrow at the back, with two red lights, a green light, and a glass front. It stops 600 feet away, hovering. Two figures in dark robes can be seen from the waist up looking down at her. She stares at it petrified for several minutes until a car approaches and the object flies off. (*Auckland (N.Z.) Star*, April 3, 1978; “Intense Activity Continues in New Zealand,” *Australian UFO Bulletin*, August 1978, p. 7; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 2; Keith Basterfield, “[A Short Summary of Australasian Entity Reports for 1978](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 28, no. 3 (September 1979): 7)
- 1978, April 6** — 7:30 p.m. Vicki Burns is standing outside the stable on her farm near Prince George, British Columbia, when a narrow beam of light, 2 inches in diameter, comes from above some trees and shines into her barn for 5 seconds. She hears her horses scream, and inside they seem dazed and frightened. She and her mother notice a bright white light moving in the sky, darting back and forth. Some neighbors come over for 3 hours to watch the light for and attend to the horses. An odd circle is found on either side of the filly’s neck. A veterinarian, Dr. McKee, examines the horses the next day, and they still appear to be in shock. He explains the circle as ringworm, but cannot account for the animals’ fatigue or behavior. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 223–226)
- 1978, April 6** — 10:05 p.m. Police officer Dennis Kiteveles and his family notice an oval object over some woods adjacent to their residence near Baldwinsville, New York. It is moving back and forth, ascending slightly at certain points, and has a narrow band of red, blue, green, and yellow lights around its middle. At 10:15 p.m., the object shoots two bright flashes to arc to the ground and the house lights go out, along with those of some 3,000 more residences in the Jordan-Elbridge area. A police helicopter observes the two flashes and the ensuing blackout, but the UFO accelerates and moves away. Radar at Syracuse Hancock International Airport picks up a target at the time and location of the sighting. Multiple witnesses in the area report seeing the same or a similar object. (“[They’re Everywhere!](#)” *Syracuse (N.Y.) Herald-Journal*, April 7, 1978, pp. 1, 9; Mark Bundy, “[The Central New York Wave](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 35–36)

- 1978, April 6–June 24** — Six cattle are found mutilated on farms near Elsberry, Missouri. Orange lights and “flashing stars” are seen in the vicinity. (“Background on the Elsberry Events: Are UFOs Linked with Cattle Mutilations?” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 5–6; R. Martin Wolf and S. N. Mayne, “[Mutilations: The Elsberry Enigma](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 26–35; Marler [19–20](#))
- 1978, April 7** — 7:00 p.m. Robert Waltz and William Colton are driving on New York State Route 48 north of Van Buren, New York, when they see a large ball of white light moving swiftly. It stops abruptly and hovers. After a few minutes the light is extinguished, only to be replaced by a series of red, blue, and green flickering lights. These lights blink out shortly afterward. (Mark Bundy, “[The Central New York Wave](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 36)
- 1978, April 7** — Around 8:00 p.m. Eight teenagers are bicycling near a water tower in Southwood, Onondaga County, New York, when they see three seemingly connected lights maneuvering in the sky. The lights remain over the hill for a while, illuminating the area “like daytime.” (Mark Bundy, “[The Central New York Wave](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 36)
- 1978, April 7** — Shortly after 8:30 p.m. Two residents of Onondaga Hill, New York, see a huge object, apparently several football fields in length, slowly moving toward them from the east at about 1,500 feet altitude. Through binoculars they can see curving around in front of it a row of windows from which multicolored glows emanate. At the rear are four cylindrical projections, hundreds of feet long, with brilliant red lights at the ends. They can hear an electrical hum. The object executes a wide turn and slowly heads back to the east. (Mark Bundy, “[The Central New York Wave](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 37–38)
- 1978, April 9** — 10:10 a.m. A single witness looking out his bedroom window in Toronto, Ontario, watches a silver shiny cigar traveling eastbound for 10 seconds. The object is brighter than the moon. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 2)
- 1978, April 9** — Morning. Doug Gould and his cousin are riding his mini bike out by a ruined pig house in Middleton, Massachusetts, when they glimpse two large, white “heads” through some brush some 30–35 feet away. Their height is such that they think the figures must be crouching behind the brush. Their heads are normal human size, but have no hair. They have light gray faces with large, wrap-around dark blue eyes. The two boys are frightened and immediately leave the area. At 2:00 p.m., they returned with Doug’s brother Allan, and another cousin. While sitting around talking, they have the feeling they are being watched. About 10–15 feet away, one cousin sees a figure roughly their height, about 5 feet, 3 inches, tall. The head is projected backwards and encased in a clear, round helmet. It has large, oval eyes, a nose slit, but no ears or mouth. It is wearing an outfit with long flared sleeves, covering any hands or feet. The belt has a dark central band and vertical stripes, with a black buckle. Startled, he yells and jumps up to run after the being. It quickly retreats out of sight into the brush. The other three do not get a good look at the entity, but Allan Gould notices a sulfur smell in the area. (David Webb, “[The Middleton Humanoids Affair](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 143 (January 1980): 7–10)
- 1978, April 11** — The crew of the [HMAS Adroit](#), operating out of Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, in the Timor Sea, watches a UFO hover and sink to the horizon several times before disappearing. It is large and bathed in bright red lights. At one point it seems to be close to the ship and at another point it flickers on and off. (Swords 406)
- 1978, Mid-April** — Many residents of Mumbai, India, sight a bright white, streak-like light moving at several hundred miles per hour from north to south at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. A similar object is seen the following day, moving south to north. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 2)
- 1978, April 19** — Day. Police officer Mark Coltrane is on patrol in Colfax, Wisconsin, and stops by the side of the road to eat lunch. His radio has some static. He then notices a metallic-looking disc rising into the sky a short distance from the parking space. While the object seems to move toward him, Coltrane picks up his Polaroid camera, comes out of the car, and snaps some photographs. The object is so close in one of the images that some details of its lower surface are visible. The total observation lasts a few minutes, the object soon accelerating and fading into the distance. (Patrick Gross, “[Colfax, Wisconsin, USA, April 9, 1978](#)”)
- 1978, April 26** — 11:00 p.m. Debra Gairns, her husband, and a friend are driving in Welland, Ontario, when a triangular object with red, blue, and white blinking lights hovers briefly and silently above their car. It moves away and stops above a grove of trees. (Marler [102](#))
- 1978, April 27** — Two witnesses near the Ciampino–G. B. Pastine International Airport in Rome, Italy, watch a small green object shoot out of a larger green object. The display moves smoothly from directly overhead to about 45° in 15 minutes. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 2)
- 1978, Late April** — 10:00 p.m. A dog staying with a couple living on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn, Michigan, near the Ford Motor plant lets out an awful howl. The woman goes outside to see what the matter is and notices a large round object, perfectly silent, about 500 feet above the garden. It hovers a minute or two then moves toward the

Ford plant. It is about 125 feet in diameter and has a row of windows circling the bottom that emit colored light. It stops every 2–3 minutes and never travels more than 25 mph. They watch it for a total of 15 minutes, and their landlady sees it as well. (“[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 1 (May 1980): 4)

1978, April 29 — Early morning. John and Pat Rudy are driving on Interstate 690 near the Thompson Road exit in Syracuse, New York, when they see an object, 150 feet away and 80–100 feet in the air, that appears to be following their car. The UFO resembles an “erector set” construction made of connected piping. It has two red lights and one bright white light at the front. When they reach the New York State Fairgrounds exit, the Rudys pull their car over and get out to watch the object, which is moving to the southwest. A few minutes later it is lost to view. (Mark Bundy, “[The Central New York Wave](#),” *Pursuit* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1979): 38–39)

1978, April 29 — Night. Ten persons call the Aurora, Illinois, police department to report a UFO. One couple believes they have had a close encounter with the object, which they describe as a domed disc the size of a football field. The police alert the Center for UFO Studies and [Allan Hendry](#) interviews some of the witnesses. He learns that some connect TV interference and power failures with the UFO’s appearance. An 11-year-old boy is so frightened that he hides behind the back seat of the family car. However, Hendry identifies the source of the sighting as an advertising plane owned and operated by a Chicago firm. (Allan Hendry, “[The Case for IFO Study: A Recent Example](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 6–7; Clark III 568)

1978, May — Red Army officer Anatoly Malishev is allegedly confronted near Pirogovskoye Reservoir, Mytishchinsky District, north of Moscow, Russia, by two entities wearing dark suits who communicate with him by telepathy and take him on board their craft. He is given a salty-tasting drink, but requests an alcoholic drink, only to find that the entities do not imbibe. He asks why, and they reply, “Perhaps if we did, we would not be such an advanced civilization.” They take him on a trip to the dark side of the Moon (where they have a base) and to their home planet 3 light years away then back to Earth, all taking about 40 minutes. Malishev reports his experience to his superior officers, who threaten a court martial. However, he is subjected to hypnosis and passes a lie detector test and apparently does not go through a trial. (Nikita A. Schnee, “[Contact Reported near Pyrogovskoye Lake](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 6 (March 1981): 6–8; Heikki Vertanen, “[Soviet Contact Case near Pyrogovskoe Lake: The Missing Pages](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 28, no. 3 (January 1983): 20)

1978, May 6 — 4:15 p.m. An object crashes into the southern slope of El Taire mountain on the Rio Bermejo along the border of Bolivia and Argentina. It produces a sonic boom that is heard 120 miles away and shatters windows in villages 30 miles away. Argentinian border police search for wreckage, while reporters visit the town of Aguas Blancas, Bolivia, to interview witnesses. Velez Orozco is one of the witnesses to the fall, and he thinks the object was 15 feet in diameter and conical. Border Patrol Cpl. Natalio Farfan Ruiz says the object “made the earth tremble” as it passed over. The Bolivian Air Force dispatches three airplanes and discovers the crash site on its side of the border. One of the flights includes a Bolivian astronomer, who sees a rockslide that may have been caused by the crash. On May 14, police from Tarija, Bolivia, find the object, a dull metallic cylinder 12 feet long with a few dents. A telex is sent by US Ambassador [Paul H. Boeker](#) to the State Department requesting an explanation. In a secret telex on May 18, Secretary of State [Cyrus Vance](#) replies that “appropriate government agencies” have been consulted, but there is no correlation with known re-entries. He refers Boeker to the 1973 Project Moondust order. The US military attaché in La Paz sends a message to Wright-Patterson AFB and USAF headquarters at the Pentagon, claiming that the Bolivian Army has found nothing, but would send two USAF officers to Tarija to investigate. Col. Robert Simmons and Maj. John Heise arrive with a Bolivian Air Force officer. On May 23, three Bolivian Air Force officers and a guide set out on horseback to the mountain, locating the rockslide on May 25. Parallel to the slide is a 325-foot trench, 10–12 feet wide at the top. Some of the large rocks appear burned, and the grass around it is brown and withered. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 2; ClearIntent, [pp. 201–205](#); Kevin Randle, *The Government UFO Files*, Visible Ink, 2014, [pp. 279–280](#); Michael Hesemann, “[UFO Crash in Bolivia Witnessed by Thousands of People](#)”)

1978, May 7 — A squadron of 40–50 UFOs circle dozens of times in formation over San Luis province, Argentina, in the midst of a luminous bluish-green light. (“[50 UFO’s Parade over San Luis](#),” *Buenos Aires (Argentina) Herald*, May 8, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 108 (July 1978): 15; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 2)

1978, May 10 — Early morning. Farmer [Jan Wolski](#) is out driving a horse-drawn cart in Emilcin, Poland, when he is jumped by two “short, green-faced humanoid entities” about 5 feet tall. They jump onto Wolski’s cart, sit next to him, and start to speak in a strange language. At first, he mistakes them for foreigners because of their “slanted eyes and prominent cheekbones.” Wolski drives his cart, with the two beings aboard, to a clearing where a large white object is hovering about 16 feet in the air. It is about 15–16 feet high and as long as a bus. Four black objects on the surface generate a humming sound. A platform descends to the ground, and he is taken on board by

the two entities, along with two additional ones. There are about 8–10 benches situated around the craft, each for one person to sit in. There are some rooks in front of the door, one of which is moving its legs and wings but seems to be immobilized. Wolski is then examined with a tool that resembles two dishes or “saucers.” After this, he is ordered to get dressed again, and then he notices there are no lights or windows on the craft, only the daylight coming through the door. The entities eat and offer him something like icicles, but he refuses them. The UFO’s interior is black with a grayish tint, similar to that of the creatures’ outfits. Wolski returns home to his family and notifies them of what has happened, urging them to come see the floating craft. He tells his sons, who call to other neighbors, and together they go to investigate the site. The grass where the craft had been shows signs of usage, trodden down and “covered with dew and paths coming in all directions.” Wolski goes home, leaving the rest of the neighbors and family at the site. His sons claim there are footprints left behind by the beings, though they do not describe them well. (Wikipedia, [“UFO w Emilcinie”](#); [“Foreign Forum”](#), *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 2; “Farmer Wolsky and the Green Men,” *Fortean Times*, no. 33 (Autumn 1980): 30; [“Story of a Polish CE-III”](#), *IUR* 8, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1983): 13–14; Wrocław’s Club of Popularization and Exploration UFO (WCPE-UFO), *Emilcin 1978–1988: A Retrospective Look on CE-III*, May 1988; Wrocław UFO Study Club, [“A Close Encounter with ‘Greenish-Faced’ Creatures In Poland in 1976”](#), *Flying Saucer Review* 36, no. 1 (March 1991): 1–7; Antonio Huneus, “UFO Chronicle: The Wolski Case: A Polish Abduction,” *Fate* 47, no. 9 (September 1994): 17–18, 20; Timothy Good, *Alien Base*, Century, 1998, pp. 362–366; Piotr Cielebąś, [“Unique Interview with Abductee Jan Wolski on the 30th Anniversary of the Emilcin Case”](#), UFO Digest, May 2, 2008; [“Abductee Jan Wolski Interviewed 30th Anniversary of Emilcin Abduction”](#), UFO Casebook, 2008; Antonio Huneus, [“Poland’s First Abduction Case Is Monumental”](#), OpenMinds, January 11, 2010; [“Relacja Jana Wolskiego \(Emilcin, 1978\)”](#), Projekt NPN YouTube channel, January 28, 2012; Piotr Ogórek, [“Zahipnotyzowany rolnik i UFO w Polsce: Prawda o wydarzeniu Emilcinie wyszła na jaw po 35 latach”](#), Onet Wiadomości, May 8, 2015; Poland 35–40; [“Milicja na tropie kosmitów: UFO w PRL”](#), Fakt24.pl, September 29, 2015; [“UFO i Kamień: Reportaż o historii spotkania z UFO w Emilcinie z 1981 roku \(Archiwum FN\)”](#), Fundacja Nautilus YouTube channel, May 10, 2016; Bolesław Brezko, [“UFO z Emilcina: Dokładnie 39 lat temu w Polsce wylądowało UFO. Czy naprawdę?”](#) WP Tech, May 10, 2017; Marek Kępa, [“A Tale Out of This World: Alien Abduction and the Communist Regime”](#), Culture.PL, July 17, 2017; [“UFO Emilcin 1978: Pełna wersja filmu ‘Powrót do Emilcina’ z udziałem Witolda Wawrzonka FN 1995”](#), Fundacja Nautilus YouTube Channel, May 19, 2018; Marcus Lowth, [“Jan Wolski and the Emilcin Alien Encounter”](#), UFO Insight, June 15, 2018; [“The Jan Wolski Case: An Amazing Close Encounter \(Poland, 1978\)”](#), History Disclosure, May 25, 2019; Tomasz Molga, [“UFO w Emilcinie: Były milicjant z wydziału kryminalnego od 41 lat prowadzi śledztwo”](#), WP Wiadomości, June 10, 2019; Misterio Desconocido, [“Incidente Emilcin: El caso más famoso de abducción extraterrestre de Polonia”](#), InfoUno, October 25, 2020; Robert Bernatowicz, [“UFO wróciło do Emilcina! Historia Jana Wolskiego i jego spotkania z kosmitami ma ciąg dalszy”](#), geekweek, May 10, 2022; [“The Emilcin, Poland, UFO Encounter and Alien Abduction of Farmer Jan Wolski, May 10, 1978”](#), Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, September 2023; [“The Dusky Seaside Sparrow, the Wolski Abduction Case, and Consciousness | Ufos #6 Live”](#), Ufo Sunset YouTube channel, June 9, 2024)

- 1978**, May 10 — Evening. Numerous people watch a moon-sized oval object with clearly delineated edges, no trail, and an intense white light in Clavarazza, Genoa, Italy. It remains stationary high in the sky for three minutes, pulsates for 7 minutes, then blinks out. ([“Foreign Forum”](#), *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1989): 2)
- 1978**, May 13 — 3:32 a.m. Police officer Manuel J. Amparano is on the outskirts of Kerman, California, when he sees a reddish glow ahead. Getting closer, he observes an oval-shaped object, smaller in apparent size than the full moon, hanging silently in the sky. It is a very bright crimson-red color, which despite its brightness does not hurt his eyes. It shoots out a beam of blue light similar to a camera flash, then recedes and is gone. Amparano feels “a tingling sensation” in his body as he drives to the station, but he is not concerned. When he gets out, the 6 witnesses at the station note that he is sunburned “as red as a lobster.” His skin shows this condition for about 4 hours before returning to normal, even in areas underneath his uniform. However, no burn is present where the car door is between him and the flash. Also, he has no burn on his back, which is away from the car window as he peers out. Although the redness fades, there are areas where the skin is actually burned (arms, face, neck). These are noted on a visit to Fresno Community Hospital. These burns are visible for 2 days. The day following the encounter, “fever blisters” break out on his face and in places on his arms, and these last a week. Allegedly, doctors at the hospital tell the officer that the burns look like they are caused by microwave radiation. ([“Officer ‘Burned’ by UFO”](#), *APRO Bulletin* 27, no. 2 (August 1978): 4–5; [“California Policeman Burned by UFO”](#), *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 10–11; Tim Printy, [“Old UFO Reports Still Make Good Headlines”](#), *SUNlite* 2, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2010): 5; Tim Printy, [“May 13th, 1978: Rocket Launch or UFO?”](#), *SUNlite* 2, no. 4 (July/Aug. 2010): 9; [“A Classic CE2P: Kerman, California, 1978”](#), *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 11–12; Jason Marzak, [“1978 Kerman](#)

[UFO Burning: 061401.](#)” Fringe Republic, June 11, 2014; Kevin D. Randle, “[May 13, 1978: Kerman, California.](#)” A Different Perspective, June 15, 2015; Kevin D. Randle, “[Kerman, California UFO Case: An Update.](#)” A Different Perspective, June 20, 2015; Kevin D. Randle, “[Kerman Police Officer Adds His Perspective.](#)” A Different Perspective, August 26, 2015)

- 1978, May 13** — 4:00 a.m. A 16-year-old student, Jamshid Saiadipour, is staying up late studying for exams in Shiraz, Iran. He looks through his window and sees a glowing, hat-shaped UFO, hovering motionless. He takes a photo of it, which appears in the May 18 issue of *Tehran Magazine*. The article winds up in US Defense Intelligence Agency files and is released through FOIA in 1980. (“[Close Encounter over Iran.](#)” *London Evening Standard*, June 27, 1978, p. 11; “[Matching Photo from Iran Found in CUFOs Files.](#)” *CUFOs Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 8 (August 1981): 4; “[Sheraz, Iran, October 8, 1978.](#)” *Popular Mechanics*, July 1998, p. 64)
- 1978, May 13** — 10:45 p.m. A teen couple are sitting on a porch in Northport, Alabama, when they see an intensely bright pale-yellow light. It is oblong in shape and the size of the full moon. It hovers in the east for about 15 minutes, rocking slightly black and forth. They see three tripod legs on the underside. The girl’s mother comes out and notices her daughter is pale and shaking with fear. The object falls a short distance and remains stationary again for a few seconds before moving slowly away beyond trees on the horizon. (“[Case 3-6-29.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 3)
- 1978, May 14** — 10:00 p.m. SK-1 Robert J. Clark, the duty officer at the US Navy Pinecastle Electronic Warfare Range in Ocala National Forest, Florida, receives a call from Rocky Morgan reporting an oblong-shaped UFO with an intensely bright, flashing light near Silver Glen Springs. Jacksonville Air Route Traffic Control Center reports no aircraft in the area. Clark and the base air controller, Gary Collison, climb an observation tower and contact external security to alert radar technician Timothy Collins. They watch a cluster of stationary lights at an estimated altitude of 1,600 feet to the west-northwest perhaps 3 miles away. Collins activates the MSQ-102 Radar. After a 20-minute warmup, the radar detects an unidentified blip fluttering over the tower. The tracking computer is put on the target, which is showing very little movement. At 11:20 p.m., his radar locks on to it at treetop level. It seems to be as large as a jetliner. 10–15 minutes later it vanishes from both sight and radar, but at 11:40 p.m. he sees a similar object 15° to the north. Collins tries to train the radar on the object, but it disappears suddenly. Around midnight, another object is seen 3 miles to the northwest. For 5 seconds it moves at 575 mph, then accelerates for 2 seconds, and executes a hairpin turn in one second—a radical reversal of direction. Now the UFO is shooting northward toward the base, slowing to a mere 3 mph. Collins finally locks on this object. Shortly afterward, the target vanishes. A dozen naval personnel visually observe red, green, and white lights from the control tower for more than an hour. The captain of the *Lisa C* on the Apalachicola River also witnesses the lights at 10:30 p.m. (or 1:00 a.m.). (NICAP, “[Radar Confirms Unidentified Lights](#)”; Alyse Lounsberry, “Close Encounters in Ocala Forest,” *Ocala (Fla.) Star-Banner*, May 16, 1978; “[Flying Object Baffles Computer with Maneuvers in Florida Sky.](#)” *International Herald Tribune*, May 18, 1978; “[Navy Says Unusual Sighting Was Just an Object Flying Unidentified.](#)” *Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel*, May 18, 1978, p. 4-C; “UFO Tracked by Navy Men at Electronic Range in Fla.,” *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, May 19, 1978, p. 6; “[Navy Radar-Visual in Florida, Part I.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 6 (June 1978): 4–5; “[Case 3-7-1.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 3; “[UFO Sighting at Pinecastle Electronic Warfare Range.](#)” *UFO Investigator*, September 1978, pp. 1–2; Robert Sheaffer, “The Ocala Sighting: Did a UFO Penetrate Restricted Airspace?” *Second Look*, April 1979, pp. 9–11, 14; Allan Hendry, “A Second Look at the Ocala Sighting,” *Second Look*, May 1979, pp. 29–31; [Letters], *Second Look*, October 1979, pp. 1–4, 29; Clark III 829–830)
- 1978, May 15** — Evening. Ignacio Sanchez Munoz, 19, is walking along the road between Cuajimalpa borough and Álvaro Obregón, Mexico City, Mexico, after finishing work at a nearby restaurant. He observes a hovering, multicolored, luminous, cube-shaped object that is making a buzzing sound and emitting a yellow beam. He then receives telepathic thoughts telling him that the cube is not occupied, but soon human-like beings will arrive on Earth. After conversing with the voice for about an hour he is told, “soon we shall return to chat with you.” (“[Foreign Forum.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 2; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), April 30, 2010)
- 1978, May 30** — 11:00 p.m. Two witnesses are stargazing with a telescope 5 miles west of Tulsa, Oklahoma, when they see four gray-white ovals in a fixed sword-like formation pass silently overhead in a straight line from the southwest. They are lost behind trees above the northeast horizon. Each oval is about the size of the moon and flying in a 45° angle to the direction of travel. (“[Case 3-7-54.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 3–4)
- 1978, Summer** — Day. Eligio Macchini is taking photos from the rail of a river excursion boat on the Rhine River, Germany. When the film is developed, he notices a dark spot on one print. Years later, he sends it to the Center for UFO Studies, which determines it is not an emulsion defect or processing flaw. (“[Möglicher UFO ist über dem Rhein fotografieren.](#)” *CUFOs Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 2 (April 1982): 1)

- 1978, June** — [Peter Gersten](#), on behalf of Ground Saucer Watch, files a discovery motion requesting UFO files from the CIA. His motion consists of 635 interrogatory questions, nearly 300 requests for documents, and includes 60 CIA documents attached as exhibits. (Richard Hall, "[Lawsuit Filed against CIA](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 126 (May 1978): 9)
- 1978, June** — GEPAN's Scientific Council meets for the second time. This time, a five-volume report totaling 670 pages is prepared. The first volume is a synthesis written by [Claude Poher](#). Volumes 2–4 contain 10 detailed field investigations and the fifth volume gathers other studies and less detailed cases. The reports are never published. According to [Jean-Jacques Velasco](#), Poher's assistant, the statistical study evaluates 678 reports and classifies them into four categories: perfectly or probably identified (26%), insufficient information (36%), and unidentified (38%). The council asks for a deeper study on statistical methodology, models of propulsion, and the psychology of perception. ("[First Summary of the Work of the French Government's 'GEPAN' UFO Organization](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 22; Gildas Bourdais, "[From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 12; Graff 267)
- 1978, June or July** — 10:15 p.m. Graham Niven and friends are listening to the radio in Raeford, North Carolina, when it picks up some strange interference for about 10 minutes. They see a rectangular UFO with rounded edges coming toward them from the south. ("[One Reporting Witness: Two Reported Sightings](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 10 (October 1981): 2–3)
- 1978, June 2** — The *Daily Mail* in England publishes an article announcing a £1 million award for the capture of a visiting spacecraft. The prize is offered by Cutty Sark whisky, which has previously offered a similar prize for proof of the Loch Ness monster. The prizes are never claimed. (Nick Skidmore, "[Capture a Space Craft and Win £1m](#)," *Daily Mail* (UK), June 2, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 108 (July 1978): 13)
- 1978, June 2** — 10:00 p.m. A married couple driving toward Hameenlinna, Finland, watch a formation of 7–9 bright lights in the eastern sky. After 8 seconds, they disappear behind trees. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 2)
- 1978, June 10** — 9:30 p.m. A dark, silent wedge-shaped object with a square formation of white lights in the back and a triangular formation of red and white lights in the front paces a car driven by two students, ages 21 and 19, as they travel east on State Highway 299 near New Paltz, New York (position 3 on the map). The UFO turns south toward them and passes over their car. The male student gets out and runs underneath it, noting it is as large as his outstretched hand at arm's length. It shoots off toward the southwest horizon in a few seconds. Other witnesses at 8:45 p.m. (position 1) and 9:00–9:15 p.m. (position 2) report similar objects. ("[Case 3-7-121](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 4)
- 1978, June 11** — 10:30 p.m. Capt. Namdar, the pilot of a Boeing 707 flying from Shiraz to Tehran, Iran, is descending to 25,000 feet over Isfahan. He sees a huge, purple form passing below him at amazing speed. The Tehran airport cannot confirm a radar tracking. Suddenly the plane's cabin is flooded with brilliant yellow light radiating from two sources. It feels as hot as "a sunny day in summer in Spain." The purple light continues to follow the plane until a portion of the UFO separates from it and moves toward the southeast side of the witnesses. Then the original object vanishes. ("[Review of Iranian UFO Reports](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 2 (Jan./Feb. 1981): 15)
- 1978, June 11** — 11:28 p.m. After hearing reports of unidentified aircraft from two previous sentries, Gunnery Sgt. Brininger and PFC Johnny Johnson go on sentry patrol at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Standing outside on an 80-foot tower, the two men watch a distinctly outlined, illuminated white ball with a short conical tail approach from the south. Within 5 seconds, the object moves west of their position and 20°–30° up. Brininger estimates that the ice-cream cone shaped UFO is as close as 300 feet away and 200 feet in the air, flying parallel to the fence line. He directs a spotlight at the object, which abruptly makes a sharp turn to the west. It is in sight for 8–10 seconds. ("[Case 3-7-130: Three UFOs over High Security Military Base?](#)" *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 4–5)
- 1978, June 15** — Before 3:00 a.m. The Russian motor ship *Novokuznetsk* is departing from the Gulf of Guayaquil, Ecuador. The crew sees from the bow four rapidly departing bright white trails about 66 feet in length. At the same time, two other trails 33 feet long approach the vessel. Later, straight ahead of the ship, a white luminescent sphere rises up from the water, flies around the ship, hovers for a few seconds at an altitude of 60 feet, flies higher, zigzags, and dives back into the water. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia's USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 66–67)
- 1978, June 17** — 4:30 a.m. Patrolmen Robert Fiorentino and Anthony Puglio of the Maplewood (New Jersey) Police Department see a soundless triangular UFO, twice the size of the full moon, while on patrol. It has a white light on each tip and red lights in the center. The object circles them twice and shines bright lights down on them. ("[It's Unidentified, Flies, But Doesn't Scare Cops](#)," *New York Daily News*, June 24, 1978, p. 4JL)

- 1978, June 17** — 1:20 p.m. Photographer Linda Arosema is taking photos of President [Jimmy Carter](#)'s helicopter taking off from Fort Clayton [now closed] near Balboa, Panama. Her final frame shows an oval object that she has not visually noticed. Arosema, who works for the Defense Mapping Agency at Fort Clayton, sends the photo to Carter with an explanation of the circumstances. Brenda Reilly and Sandra Chandler report seeing a similar object on June 16 while fishing at nearby Fuerte Amador. However, the object appears to be a film flaw. ("[Is a UFO Buzzing the President's Helicopter?](#)" *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 10; "[UFOs Breach Presidential Security!](#)" *UFO Update!* no. 2 (Winter 1979): 15, 56; Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 50](#))
- 1978, June 18** — 10:45 p.m. Manford Hammond, a water superintendent in Elsberry, Missouri, watches an object "like two hubcaps put together" that alternately hovers and maneuvers slowly and silently from the vantage point of his home on Black Street. ("[Case 3-8-12](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 3)
- 1978, June 19** — 1:30 a.m. Franck Pavia and Jean-Marc Guitard are stopped on the side of a road in Gujan-Mestras, Gironde, France, to repair a turn signal when suddenly all the lights in the town go out. A powerful rumble startles them, and they notice an oval, red object surrounded by white flames flying toward them at an altitude of 11,000 feet. Jean-Marc is unable to breathe and faints. The object then changes direction and shoots away. They knock on the door of a baker named Varisse to tell their story, visibly terrified. At about the same time, a restaurant manager named Bachère is driving toward Bordeaux when he sees a large orange ball, very bright, hovering above La Réole at about 1,000 feet before disappearing. It reappears at the same spot one minute later. (Jacques Vallée, "[Estimates of Power Optical Output in Six Cases of Unexplained Aerial Objects with Defined Luminosity Characteristics](#)," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 3 (1998): 354–356)
- 1978, June 22** — 1:30 a.m. A woman in Pacific Palisades, California, watches an irregularly shaped oval glow with shifting green-yellow-gray colors like a "TV glow." Moving slowly eastward at first, it speeds up until it recedes to a star size, then arcs back in two minutes and disappears in the northwest. Two other witnesses also see the UFO. ("[Case 3-18-18](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978):3)
- 1978, June 24** — 10:48 p.m. The pilot and passenger of a commercial charter plane flying northwest between Madison and New Lisbon, Wisconsin, see a distant bright light making extremely fast back-and-forth motions. At one point it passes above the plane. The object is tracked on radar by air traffic controllers Glen Wonnacott and Wayne Nurenberg at the Aurora (Ill.) Air Route Traffic Control Center. ("[Radar-Visual in Wisconsin](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 11–15)
- 1978, June 26 or 27** — 11:00 p.m. The 77-year-old mother of a prominent TV commentator is dazzled by a white, rotating globe of light on a rooftop terrace across from her inner house court in Vienna, Austria. The light appears to be breaking into pieces that fall down. Then a spotlight cone moves along the gutter of the terrace from left to right toward the light, and both lights go out. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 2)
- 1978, July** — 7:30 a.m. Seamen on the Russian vessel *Yargora* in the Mediterranean not far off the coast from Algiers, Algeria, observe a pearly white flattened sphere moving to the west. On its underside it has three antenna. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia's USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, p. 52)
- 1978, July** — 1:00 p.m. A witness and his father are driving a U-Haul truck north on Interstate 65 near Ardmore, Alabama. Just after passing the welcome center, they look up and see a large silver ball on the tree line to the east. After disagreeing on whether it is a weather balloon, they stop the truck and get out to look. A door slides open in the bottom of the object and a smaller silver ball emerges and moves to their right, and a second comes out and moves to the left. They both hover for about 5 minutes, then return one at a time to the larger object, which stands motionless a few more minutes before slowly moving away to the northeast. Suddenly it shoots away at great speed. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 6–7)
- 1978, July 2** — 8:00 a.m. Verlee Carson is sitting in her house in Ely, Nevada, and notices two jets flying overhead to the south. One is followed closely by four white balls and the other is followed by three balls. (Viril Staff, "[Letter](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1983): 2)
- 1978, July 3** — 9:00 p.m. A Mrs. Jenkinson and a friend are playing tennis in Louth, Lincolnshire, England, when they spot a flat, silver oval in the sky reflecting sunlight and moving in a straight line northward in the western sky. They watch it for 5 minutes. Another object is seen a few minutes later in moving north in the eastern sky. ("[Case 7887](#)," *Northern UFO News* 52 (September 1978): 8)
- 1978, July 4** — 3:15 p.m. A small domed disc, about 3–4 feet in diameter with rotating parts on top, makes a head-on pass at 800 mph toward [Floyd Hallstrom](#) and Keith Sorensen, who are flying a Cessna at 120 mph and 3,500 feet altitude near Santa Paula, California. Its dome is a bright chrome with two protrusions. Hallstrom turns the plane around and the object makes a second pass before disappearing. ("[Case 3-8-80](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 4)
- 1978, July 4** — 3:45 p.m. A 34-year old school principal in Schaumburg, Illinois, watches a distinctly outlined metallic sphere the size of airplane rush in from the east at a speed faster than an aircraft and exceptionally high. The

object stops dead over his house and remains stationary for 2–3 minutes. Then it starts rising with a slight veer to the south until it is out of sight. (“[Case 3-8-81](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 4)

1978, July 4 — Two Italian Air Force sergeants (Franco Padellero and Attilio di Salvatore), an Italian Navy NCO (Maurizio Esposito), and Antonina di Pietro are driving in the Parco dell’Etna, Sicily, Italy, when they spot a triangular formation of three red pulsating lights above Monte Sona. They stop the car for a better look. One of the lights breaks away from the group and approaches as close as 980 feet before disappearing. They drive in that direction and stop by a ravine to look at a luminous disc that gives off a yellow light about 325 feet away. Five or six very tall entities are standing next to it. Two of them walk up the ravine to within 16 feet of the witnesses. They are dressed in tight-fitting white coveralls and have shoulder-length hair. The two smile, and one points to the disc, which is radiating multicolored lights. The lights go out temporarily when another car drives by. Duration is 35 minutes. All the witnesses feel a euphoria, even 36 hours afterward. [Richard Hall](#) notes that the witnesses have satisfied their curiosity and drive away without more concern; he indicates that they have been exposed to the lectures of contactee [Eugenio Siragusa](#), although the witnesses seem to be responsible people. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 2; Good Above, [pp. 146–147](#); Maurizio Verga, “[La vague italienne de 1978](#),” *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 207 (Aug./Sept. 1981): 33; Richard H. Hall, “[Italian UFO Wave of 1978](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 153 (November 1980): 12–15; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 12, 2009; [1Pinotti 216–217](#))

1978, July 5 — Many cattle mutilations are occurring on the ranch owned by Manuel Gomez near Dulce, New Mexico. State Police Officer [Gabe Valdez](#), having heard that certain cows might be marked in some way before being mutilated, pens 120 of Gomez’s cattle in a corral and moves them through a squeeze chute under a series of ultraviolet lights. The examination reveals that five of the animals have a “glittery substance on the right side of the neck, the right ear, and the right leg.” Valdez and Gomez remove the substance, along with control samples, and send them to [Robert Schoenfeld](#) at the Schoenfeld Clinical Laboratories in Albuquerque. Schoenfeld finds “highly suspicious” deposits of potassium (70 times above normal), magnesium, calcium, and aluminum. (Tommy Roy Blann, “[UFO Connection in Dulce and Taos, New Mexico?](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 138 (August 1979): 14; Greg Valdez, [Dulce Base: The Truth and Evidence from the Case Files of Gabe Valdez](#), Levi-Cash, 2013)

1978, July 6 or 7 — Between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. The fiancée of Robert Garbauskas is in Sandwich, Massachusetts, taking photos of a ship in the Cape Cod Canal when she sees a small, rust-colored, apparently solid object hovering about 35° in the sky for 3–4 minutes. She snaps a photo of it, which shows a dark object with a yellow arc of light above it. (“[1978 Object with Arc of Light Photographed](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (August 1980): 1)

1978, July 7 — At the urging of Grenada Prime Minister [Eric Gairy](#), the Grenada delegation to the United Nations issues a statement calling for “open discussions on the very important subject [of UFOs] ... a matter of great significance at this time for all mankind.” (“[U.N. Background](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 5; Clark III 1189)

1978, July 7 — The CIA agrees to let Ground Saucer Watch amend its complaint to include requests for virtually all CIA-related UFO records. The lawsuit opens in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. (“[Update on the Ground Saucer Watch \(GSW\) Lawsuit Against the CIA](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 7 (July 1978): 8)

1978, July 9 — 7:30 p.m. Three witnesses observe a bright light high above the mountains to the northwest of Newell Beach, Queensland, Australia. Through binoculars its shape changes from spherical with a bright white center to an oval with three dark lines across its lower half. A small dark spot seems to be constantly moving across it. At one point it splits into two, then rejoins. The witnesses say the object reappears on July 10, 11, and 20, although they do not pay attention to it. (“Further Sightings Reported from Mossman Region,” *UFO Research FNQ Newsletter*, no. 2, p. 3)

1978, July 11 — 11:20 p.m. A man driving alone in a remote area on State Highway 100 three miles south of Waterbury, Vermont, sees a beam of light descend from the trees. It is about 1.5–2 feet in diameter but spreads out into a cone that covers the entire street and moves toward his car, illuminating the interior like “40 flash cameras.” The reflection off the car hood is dazzling. Petrified for 45 seconds, he finally sticks his head out the door and feels considerable heat. The light shrinks and dims, revealing the silhouette of a saucer darker than the sky and about 80–100 feet in diameter. The object is at treetop level and has small steady white lights on each side and a rib-like structure on the bottom. After hovering above the car a few seconds, it moves southwest about 200 yards and then takes off almost simultaneously. (“[Case 3-8-129](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 4)

1978, July 13 — [Todd Zechel](#), research director of Ground Saucer Watch and director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, files a FOIA request with the CIA that includes information about a crashed spacecraft. (“[GSW + FOIA + CIA = 1,000 Pages of UFO Information](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 9)

- 1978, July 14** — Dawn. A Spanish Army unit on an exercise in Mazarrón, Murcia, Spain, watches an unfamiliar group of lights for two hours above a road: a red light that vanishes occasionally, two greenish-white lights that shine sporadically, and four white lights that appear irregularly and fly without any specific formation. Their height over the terrain is estimated at 13–100 feet. The lights oscillate and move forward, leaving the road and moving around obstacles like houses and hills, then coming back to the road in front of the group of soldiers. A reconnaissance of the area the following night reveals nothing unusual, except the antenna of a meteorological station that probably was not the source of the lights. (Swords 434)
- 1978, July 14** — [Eric Gairy](#), accompanied by ufologists [J. Allen Hynek](#), [Jacques Vallée](#), [David R. Saunders](#), [Leonard H. Stringfield](#), and [Claude Poher](#), meet with UN Secretary General [Kurt Waldheim](#) to organize a steering committee to develop plans for possible UN involvement in UFO research. (Clark III 1189; “[UFOs in the U.N.](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 9)
- 1978, July 16** — Residents sleeping on their terraces in the northern part of Tehran, Iran, spot a “strange glowing object” floating southwest toward Saveh. One witness claims it is hovering directly above him. The control tower at Mehrabad Airport confirms the existence of the light. An air crew reports unusual readings on their instruments. (*Tehran Journal*, July 18, 1978; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 2; Good Above, [pp. 321–322, 501–502](#))
- 1978, July 19** — 9:30 p.m. A teacher is driving with his wife through Hudson, New York, when they spot a motionless, amber-colored, curved object in the sky as wide as a full moon. It remains behind them as they drive to a friend’s house, where they join another couple to watch it. The light suddenly goes out, and 30 seconds later they hear a roar that moves off to the southeast. (“[Case 3-9-19](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 6)
- 1978, July 20** — 1:20 a.m. A soldier on duty at the main gate of the military section of the Logroño-Agoncillo Airport in La Rioja, Spain, sees a strange object in the air. A second lieutenant and a corporal get to the gate in time to watch for 5 minutes an object moving slowly and noiselessly east to west some 3,300 feet above the ground. Two of the witnesses describe it as lozenge-shaped, while the other two say it has the shape of a triangle. All agree that there is an intense white light flashing at one-second intervals in the center, while other lights appear in various parts of the dark object. It continues to fly steadily until it disappears from sight. (Swords 434)
- 1978, July 21** — 9:30 p.m. Chloene Bechdolt notices a bright red light near the ground in the north field of her farm near Uniopolis, Ohio. She goes inside and around 10:00 p.m. notices that the light is still there and larger in size. She goes back outside and approaches the light, thinking it might be poachers. She thinks she hears someone talking, so she shouts a warning at it. The object makes a hum and shoots straight up. On July 23, she and her nephew find a 100-foot circular area of cut beans in the field, and the timothy stubble looks like it has been scorched about one inch from the ground. (“[Large Circular Physical Trace: Is It Common?](#)” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1982): 1–2)
- 1978, July 21** — 10:15 p.m. A retired couple in Davyhulme, Greater Manchester, England, observes a dark disc hovering in the twilight sky. It is surrounded by an aura, from which 30–40 beautiful purple rays shoot out at various angles like spokes from a wheel, extending to about 12 times the diameter of the central disc. After about 90 seconds, the “rays” collapse inward in sequence, and the object slowly extinguishes itself. During the sighting, the couple notice with some puzzlement that the normally busy street is strangely quiet and devoid of people and traffic. (Clark III 866; Jenny Randles, [UFO Reality](#), R. Hale, 1983, pp. 98–100; Jenny Randles, “Rise and Shine with Shaun and Jenny,” *Fortean Times* 412 (December 2021): 29)
- 1978, July 22** — 1:15 p.m. A retired couple in Ventura, California, is attracted outdoors by an odd noise and see a silver form moving overhead. It has lines across its surface and is making a noise like a card flapping against bicycle spokes. It flies straight away and disappears in the northeast. (“[Case 3-9-28](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 6)
- 1978, July 26** — 9:40 p.m. Chinese Air Force flying instructor Sha Yongkao is piloting a plane with a student at an airfield in Shangxi province, China. They are flying at 9,800 feet when they see two glowing objects circle the airport twice before moving off. Yongkao attempts to pursue the objects unsuccessfully and is told no other aircraft are being tracked in the vicinity. (Paul Dong, “[Extracts from Paul Dong’s Feidie Bai Wen Bai Da \(Questions and Answers on UFOs\)](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 29, no. 6 (August 1984): 14)
- 1978, July 27** — 12:45 a.m. [Clora E. Winscher](#) is driving a 1974 Mercury Comet east on US Highway 50 on the east side of Union, Missouri, at about 45 mph. She notices in her rearview mirror a brilliant light approaching from behind at high speed. She feels a “terrific shove” and the rear end of the car lifts up and gets moved along the road for 300 feet, completely out of control. As she approaches a bridge, the car drops down again, and she sees the light rise over the roof and disappear upward to the left. Two dents, 22 inches apart, are found in the upper edge of the trunk, but the paint is not fractured. About the same time, 12 miles west in Beaufort, Missouri, [Velma Clines](#) watches a dull red-orange, round UFO fly toward her house before it speeds away. (“[Tailgating UFO under](#)

[Investigation](#),” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, July 30, 1978, p. 3; UFOEv II 278; “[Case 3-9-59](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 7)

- 1978, July 27 — 7:46 p.m. Three men are flying a radio-controlled model airplane in a field in Marshall, Michigan, when they spot a silver cylindrical object with black lines across its surface. It moves eastward from directly overhead to a position 45° up in the east and vanishes. (“[Case 3-9-68](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 8)
- 1978, July 27 — 10:45 p.m. Two witnesses in Sheffield, Ohio, watch a “silver banana” with a red and blue flashing light about a half-mile away, low in the east. They hear a wavering hum. It approaches their car to within 600 feet; the car’s electrical system fails, and the engine stops and cannot be restarted for another 90 minutes. After about 15 minutes the light shoots away to the west. (“[Case 3-9-65](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 7)
- 1978, July 28 — 8:28 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Gruss of Benton Harbor, Michigan, see a long, brightly lit, silver cylinder at about 6,000 feet altitude. It stays stationary for 30 minutes, then moves southwest. (“[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 14)
- 1978, July 28 — 11:45 p.m. The Ludington, Michigan, Coast Guard station gets a phone call from a man whose daughter and boyfriend have seen a strange object over Lake Michigan. Coast Guardsman Don Clark and others see a cluster of white lights, one flashing, and one steady green light near the shoreline. It is very bright, proceeds westerly past the Big Sable Point Lighthouse, and then accelerates silently over the horizon “faster than a plane.” Clark radios the Coast Guard station at Two Rivers, Wisconsin, about the light. (Bill McCulloch, “[Close Encounter?](#)” *Traverse City (Mich.) Record Eagle*, August 4, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 111 (October 1978): 2; ClearIntent, [pp. 74–76](#); “[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 14)
- 1978, July 28 — 11:57 p.m. Six members of the Two Rivers, Wisconsin, Coast Guard station, including Doug Wangen and Seaman Gary Randall, see a lighted object with flashing white, red, green, orange, and blue lights coming from Lake Michigan and moving toward Rawley Point. It stops abruptly, and Randall snaps 10 photos. The object then “slingshots” to the northwest in seconds. (Larry Yellen, “[UFO Sighting Reported by Area Coast Guardsmen](#),” *Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle*, July 30, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping service*, no. 110 (September 1978): 5; “[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 14)
- 1978, July 28 — 12:00 midnight. Personnel at the Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Coast Guard station watch a similar light for 4 minutes moving swiftly from west to northwest. (“[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 14)
- 1978, July 29 — 12:01 a.m. A second westbound light is seen by Coast Guard at the Ludington, Michigan, station. It has red lights and very bright strobes flashing erratically. The Two Rivers, Wisconsin, station spots an object 3 minutes later, but it is moving north. (“[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 14)
- 1978, July 29 — 12:25 a.m. Coast Guard observers at the Grassy Island Range Lighthouse in Green Bay, Wisconsin, report to Two Rivers that they are seeing a UFO heading to the west at high speed with white and red flashing lights. (“[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 14–15)
- 1978, July 29 — 12:45 a.m. Seaman Gary Randall and another witness at the Two Rivers Coast Guard station see another UFO closing in from the southwest. It approaches for 40 seconds then stops for 1 minute. Then it flies northeast and shoots straight up and out of sight in 20 seconds. (“[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 15)
- 1978, July 29 — 2:40 a.m. A Coast Guard vessel in Lake Superior among the Apostle Islands, Wisconsin, sees a large, yellow-white, oblong object that appears and reappears briefly in a slightly different position each time. (“[Complete Details on the Michigan-Wisconsin Coast Guard Sightings](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 15)
- 1978, July 29–30 — The 1978 MUFON UFO Symposium takes place in Dayton, Ohio. Ufologist [Leonard Stringfield](#) announces that he has collected more than 50 sources with “information relative to the subject of retrievals or storage of alien craft, and/or deceased alien humanoids recovered from the craft.” He presents 17 witness testimonies to the audience as evidence of some 9–10 possible retrievals of crashed or downed UFOs, although his refusal to provide their names embroils him in controversy. This is the first of his seven “status reports” on accounts and rumors about UFO crash/retrievals. [Keyhoe](#) delivers a lecture, “Behind the UFO Secrecy,” opening with his tenet, “The UFO cover-up is the greatest deception in the history of the United States.” (Leonard H. Stringfield, “[Retrievals of the Third Kind](#),” *1978 MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 1978, pp. 77–105; Leonard H. Stringfield, “[The UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome Status Report II: New Sources, New Data, Part 1](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 28, no. 2 (November 1982): 3–8; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [pp. 75–76](#); Leonard Stringfield, “The Chase for Proof in a Squirrel’s Cage,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987,

pp. 145–147; John Greenewald, “[The NSA and a 1978 MUFON Conference: More Lost UFO Material](#),” The Black Vault, August 3, 2022; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 401; Graff 246–247)

- 1978**, August — Bank manager Serrano Silva and a Columbian Navy officer suffer temporary paralysis when a flying object buzzes their car on a highway between Tunja and Bogotá, Columbia. The car’s engine and headlights die. (“[South America: Hotbed of Bizarre UFO Sightings](#),” *Windsor (Ont.) Star*, November 14, 1978, p. 20)
- 1978**, August 3 — 7:20 p.m. An engineer, his wife, and his daughter are driving toward Nurmijärvi, Finland, when a 6-foot oval with clear black contours and a light-colored center flies silently in front of them, moving from right to left in 5–10 seconds before vanishing. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 2)
- 1978**, August 3 — 10:50 p.m. During a mini-flap of UFO sightings in Lowell, Indiana, a couple watch an oval light that has rising bands of shifting colors hovering above trees to the northwest. The man jumps in the car to drive to it as the woman continues watching and sees a smaller light appear to its right. A third light appears to the left, which swings above the first light and joins the second one. All of the lights vanish. (“[Case 3-9-104](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 8)
- 1978**, August 4 — 9:30 p.m. A 12-year-old boy in East Leroy, Michigan, hears a noise and looks out his window to watch a silver cigar drop vertically downward to a position 100 feet away and 15 feet up. It snaps into a horizontal position and hovers for 5–10 seconds. A white, steam-like exhaust emits from a funnel at its rear and steams up the boy’s window. After a few more seconds it zooms off into the sky. (“[Case 3-9-107](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 8)
- 1978**, August 5 — 9:50 p.m. A family on the shore of Lake Sorell, Tasmania, watch a glow behind a hill to the south. Within minutes, the whole area lights up and a small white light appears, moving back and forth at tree level. It remains visible 20–30 minutes, then disappears suddenly. Earlier in the day, another group had reported a brown, cigar-shaped object over nearby Lake Crescent. (*Launceston Examiner*, August 12, 1978; “[Interstate Reports](#),” *Australian UFO Bulletin*, August 1978, p. 4; “[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 2)
- 1978**, August 5 — 11:15 p.m. A TV director is driving northwest on State Highway 5 about 2 miles southeast of Laurie, Missouri. He and his son watch two red lights rise up about 25 feet off the road to their left to an altitude of 30 feet. They are attached to a triangular object that flies over their car to their right, cut back to the top of a hill, turn around, and approach them again, only to descend behind trees. The rear dimension of the triangle is about 10–15 feet across. (“[Case 3-9-120](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 8)
- 1978**, August 7 — 10:00 p.m. A couple is driving west on War Memorial Drive to a First Assembly of God church in Peoria, Illinois when they see a shooting star fly across their view. Five minutes later, they arrive at church and, walking behind it, see a bright white light with flashing red and blue lights hovering about 40 feet in the air for 5–7 minutes. It shoots off to the east in a split second. (“[Case 3-9-132](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 9)
- 1978**, August 8 — A group of tourists along the shore of the Sea of Azov near Henichesk, Ukraine, see a flying disc three times larger than the moon. It has protrusions on the top and bottom, two rows of portholes, and is surrounded by a bright orange glow. Every 15 seconds, smaller discs (a total of 15–20) fly out from the lower protrusion, accompanied by a blinding explosion. They hover for a few seconds then depart rapidly to the south. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, p. 176)
- 1978**, August 8 — 9:40 p.m. Witnesses in Belton, Missouri, and several military personnel at nearby Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station [now closed] witness the flyover of a UFO that is also briefly tracked on radar. Joseph Staudinger Jr. sees the object at about 2,800 feet in altitude and looking like two white strobe lights in front and back with three rows of red lights that are rotating around its middle. The encounter lasts 45 minutes. A cattle mutilation has been discovered earlier that day in Elsberry, Missouri. (“[Heavily-Witnessed Radar-Visual Case near Kansas City](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 3–6)
- 1978**, August 10 — CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator Gene F. Wilson asks [Todd Zechel](#) of CAUS to suspend his FOIA request until he has a chance to look at the 1,000 pages of documents that are currently under review for release. Most of these files are from the Office of Scientific Intelligence in the 1950s, leading CAUS to suspect that they will mostly consist of Air Force and Navy UFO reports, plus some records of unauthorized CIA investigations. (“[GSW + FOIA + CIA = 1,000 Pages of UFO Information](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 9)
- 1978**, August 11 — 10:30 p.m. Junior high school student Dale Wood hears a purring sound in Roosevelt, Utah, looks up, and sees a silver domed object surrounded by a green glow. It moves overhead and hovers, a pattern of body lights visible on its underside and an intense light in the center. When it begins to circle around, Wood runs to his grandmother’s house nearby to tell his brother. There the air conditioners and TV sets quit running, and the dogs are whining and crying. His mother, Larain Wood, comes outdoors in time to see the object circle twice, then take off rapidly to the northeast. Mrs. Wood calls the tribal police office in Fort Duchesne and Officer David Murray is dispatched to investigate. He also sees the object take off at high speed and disappear. (UFOEv II 192)

- 1978, August 11** — 11:59 p.m. A deputy sheriff and four youngsters are driving on Chancellors Run Road in Great Mills, Maryland, when they see a silvery, blimp-shaped light hovering at treetop level above some trailers. It appears larger than a full moon. The deputy shines the cruiser's spotlight toward it and scans the length of the object, yet the beam does not light up the large shape. She drives closer, but the UFO begins to get cloudy on its underside and moves slowly behind the trees. ("[Case 3-9-184](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 9)
- 1978, August 12** — 9:25 p.m. A young couple in Niceville, Florida, are driving on a dirt road when a lighted object that looks like an eye moves toward them. The center part is like shiny black glass and the body is metallic silver with two antennae on top. It fills half the windshield in angular size as it moves over the roof of the car. They hear no noise and feel no rush of wind. ("[Case 3-9-187](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 9)
- 1978, August 16** — Air traffic controllers at Gatwick Airport near Crawley, West Sussex, England, see a UFO but decline to say exactly what it is. (Good Above, [p. 72](#))
- 1978, August 17** — Assistant US Attorney for the District of Columbia William Briggs asks [Peter Gersten](#) of Ground Saucer Watch to identify broadly all categories of UFO documents to enable the CIA to search for all its UFO records. Based on a draft by [Brad Sparks](#), Gersten prepares a stipulation that requests the CIA to conduct a reasonable search of 22 CIA component branches. US District Court Judge [John H. Pratt](#) makes the order a binding one, giving the CIA until mid-December to complete the task. ("[GSW + FOIA + CIA = 1,000 Pages of UFO Information](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 9–10)
- 1978, August 17** — 10:30 p.m. Radars of the Air Self-Defense Corps at Nemuro Radar Site on Hokkaido, Japan, pick up a target flying from the north to south-southwest at about 40 mph more than a half-mile above Nemuro Channel south of Kunashir Island. It approaches the eastern end of Hokkaido and is later picked up by radars at Cape Erimo. Two F-4EJ Phantom jets are scrambled from Chitose Air Base about 10 minutes later and are guided to the targets, now in the vicinity of Nakashibetsu. But the pilots can see nothing on their airborne radars and return empty-handed. The target persists on ground scopes, moving south toward Kushiro. Twice more, jets are sent up but fail to detect a blip. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 9 (September 1978): 2)
- 1978, August 18** — 11:20 p.m. A relative staying at the home of UFO researcher Douglas Dains in Port Crane, New York, notices the reception on the television is disrupted shortly before a UFO detector (a magnetic field instrument) starts buzzing. Dains himself is not at home. The relative steps outside and sees a domed UFO with a red light on top of an antenna approach from the northwest to a position 50 feet behind a tree and 45 feet in the air. It hovers there for 30 seconds. It then departs to the southwest, disappearing behind a mountain. ("[The Absent UFO Researcher](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 13)
- 1978, August 20** — 1:30 a.m. A nurse is sitting in her car on Oberlin Street in Maplewood, New Jersey, when she sees an object shaped like a car fender with four blue lights moving toward her from the east. She gets out of her car as it flies overhead. Then it stays in place, rocking silently back and forth, before taking off to the northeast, making a machine-like noise. ("[A Huge 'Car Fender'](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 13–14)
- 1978, August 20** — 7:30 p.m. A 64-year old security guard is on patrol in downtown Toledo, Ohio, looking at a "large plane" approaching from the north. As it passes overhead at a uniform speed, about 1,500–2,000 feet up, it is seen as a cigar with small brackets. It is dull silver, distinctly outlined, and twice the angular size of the full moon. It then continues its straight path southbound to the horizon. ("[A Daylight Urban 'Cigar'](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 14)
- 1978, August 21** — 5:00 p.m. A witness sketches an oblong UFO over an open area near Banksville, New York. It is at least 150–200 feet long with white and blue colors, two lights in front, and silent. It disappears over a golf course to the northeast. ("[Long Rectangular UFOs: Five Different Cases of Similarly Shaped Objects](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 9 (September 1981): 1)
- 1978, August 21** — 5:30 p.m. A 33-year old housewife, in the company of her children, 8 and 10, watches a silver Frisbee-like object from their front porch 3 miles north of downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. Standing outdoors, they see the saucer in the southeast, much larger than a full moon would look, perhaps as large as a car. The Frisbee has a sharp outline and metallic appearance. No sound can be heard over the heavy traffic noise. According to the children, it then shoots over to the southwest in two seconds. Finally, it moves straight up out of sight in an instant. Duration is 5–8 minutes. ("[A Daylight 'Frisbee'](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 14)
- 1978, August 21** — Night. The Madagascar Interior Ministry announces that a UFO has crashed and exploded in the marketplace at Fort-Dauphin. Radio Madagascar says that the cigar-shaped object had lit up the ground before plunging downward. Locals rush out of bed to put out the flames. ("[UFO Crash Claim](#)," *Cardiff (UK) Western Mail*, August 21, 1978, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 3, no. 11 (November 1978): 39; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 2; Valerie Martin, "[Points from the Press](#)," *BUFORA Journal* 8, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1979): 4; "[UFO Crashes](#)," *Australian UFO Bulletin*, February 1979, p. 14)

- 1978**, August 22 — 7:03 a.m. Four men are driving in a carpool from Moscow, Pennsylvania, to work at the Tobyhanna Army Depot in Coolbaugh Township on I-380. They watch a small circular “cloud” descend suddenly in the south. It changes to a bright silver and hovers, rocking from side to side. It now looks solid and metallic. It rises slightly and flies off to the southeast at an estimated 800–900 mph. (“[A Daylight ‘Cloud.’](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 14)
- 1978**, August 22 — An oval-shaped translucent object ringed by a halo of light flies silently over the Andes Mountains in Neuquen province, Argentina, in a 300-mile path. (“[Close Encounters Thrill Latins.](#)” *Detroit (Mich.) Free Press*, November 22, 1978, p. 6C)
- 1978**, August 23 — 8:04 p.m. P. A. Hadden is on board the tanker [MV Ficus](#) in the Indian Ocean [or the South China Sea] 260 miles from the Malacca Strait. He watches an elongated triangle formation of three lights moving in from 60° above the northeast horizon. When they reach 75°, nearly overhead, the lights suddenly stop. He estimates them to be 100 miles high. The light in the right rear continues moving in the opposite direction of the ship and off to its left at great speed, disappearing in the distance; the light in the left rear shifts over to occupy the position in the formation it had occupied. After 5 seconds of remaining still, it shoots back to the left again and departs at high speed. The remaining light rushes forward, following the same path as the first light. Total duration of the sighting is 1 minute 20 seconds. (“[Foreign Forum.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 2)
- 1978**, August 24 — 10:00 p.m. A 54-year old cook is driving north from her brother’s house about 10 miles south of Ottumwa, Iowa. She is on Cliffland Road alongside the Des Moines River in a wooded, rural area. A full-moon-sized red-orange light shoots silently from the east to the west in several seconds. As it flies across the front of her car, her windshield fogs up and the car stalls out to a stop. The interference lasts only a few seconds, and the car restarts without her turning the key; the window defogs as quickly as it had steamed up. She last sees the light against a background of trees up ahead, lower than the treetops. (“[Car Interference in Iowa.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 14)
- 1978**, August 24 — 11:40 p.m. Two 19-year old girls, driving west near tiny Ginghamburg, Ohio, watch two oddly colored orange lights twice the size of aircraft landing lights. A humming sound can be heard both from the lights and from the car radio. The driver can’t get the car to go faster than about 20 mph. The lights are coming from the left, one directly over the other. They look away momentarily and the lights are gone; they look again, and the lights are moving above the car. From the south they have moved to the northwest over a field. A rod or a light beam comes down from one ball of light and shines a light at the witnesses for one second. The driver tries to flash the car lights at it, to no avail. They look away briefly and do not notice how the lights vanish. (“[Car Interference in Ohio?](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 14)
- 1978**, August 27 — 1:40 p.m. Arthur Silva is flying a Cessna 150 about 10 miles north of Provincetown, Massachusetts, with Harold Johnson as passenger. Johnson sees a bright reflective object at the same altitude (2,500 feet) directly ahead about 4 miles away. It moves closer, picking up speed and shooting by them at about 600 mph, apparently missing the plane by 1,000 feet. It is a silvery-white, metallic sphere with no wings and about 18 feet in diameter. (“[Daylight Sphere over Massachusetts.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 15)
- 1978**, August 27 — 4:45 p.m. A Korean War veteran in Gloucester, Massachusetts, watches a bright yellow cylinder approaching him from low in the north. At an altitude of 2,000 feet, it appears smaller than an F-100 fighter. It moves off to the south, flying faster than a jet. (“[And Then, 3 Hours Later.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 15)
- 1978**, August 28 — Six papers are presented at the American Psychological Association Symposium in Toronto, Ontario, relating to the topic of using hypnosis to investigate UFO experiences. The presenters are H. Kent Newman, [R. Leo Sprinkle](#), [James Harder](#), [Alvin Lawson](#), W. C. McCall, and [Michael Persinger](#). (“[Ufologists Meet the Social Scientists.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 19–21)
- 1978**, August 30 — 8:45 p.m. A witness is standing outdoors at a suburban shopping center in Nashua, New Hampshire, when she spots a formation of 6–8 white lights arranged in a circle and moving from southeast to north. (“[Meanwhile, a Little Ways North.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 15)
- 1978**, August 30 — Late night. Residents of Lisbon, Portugal, see a large round object with bright red and white lights flying about 600 feet above the ground. (“[Portuguese Welcome UFO.](#)” *Oshkosh (Wis.) Daily Northwestern*, August 31, 1978, p. 2)
- 1978**, August 30 — 11:00 p.m.–midnight. A 38-year-old man is driving a pickup on State Highway 38 a half-mile west of Nisula, Michigan, when a cone-shaped object flies toward him from the east. It has two steady red lights at the ends and one steady white light in the middle. It flies low and silently over the truck, which then stalls for one second. He gets home and he and his wife watch the red lights in the distance, still moving slowly up and down from east to south. (“[Another Vehicle Stalled.](#)” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 15–16)
- 1978**, August 30 — 11:10 p.m. A man in Gloucester, Massachusetts, looks out his window to see what is causing a loud sound in 5-second bursts. He sees over Ipswich Bay an elongated, fiery red rectangle moving north to south at

around 100 mph. One end is dipped down 45°. It stops, hovers for 10 seconds, and moves out of sight behind trees. ("[Again, 3 Hours Later](#)," *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 15)

- 1978**, September — GEPAN organizes a large gathering of about 100 people from more than 40 civilian UFO groups, but cooperation does not last. Criticism comes from both skeptics and the conspiratorial-minded. (Gildas Bourdais, "[From GEPAN to SEPR: Official UFO Studies in France](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 12)
- 1978**, September — [Chris Rutkowski](#) begins publishing the *Swamp Gas Journal* newsletter in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It continues until summer 1997, with six special issues thrown in. (*Swamp Gas Journal*, no. 1 (September 1978))
- 1978**, September — UFOs are reported around Heathrow Airport in London, England. A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority denies that any are tracked on radar, but adds, "It's in the interest of national security that not too much fuss is made about this sort of thing." (Good Above, [p. 72](#))
- 1978**, September — 2:00 a.m. Soldiers at Guard Post 215 in Port Belgrano Naval Base near Punta Alta, Argentina, receive notice that the base is under attack. Six first responders drive a pickup truck to the area and discover that the outpost is firing numerous rifle volleys at an apparent attack by a UFO in the shape of a flattened carousel. The object silently rises upward and vanishes. ("[Go Capture That UFO': The Puerto Belgrano CE-2, September 1978](#)," *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology*, December 8, 2023)
- 1978**, September 1 — After 8:00 p.m. Several villagers in Llanerchymedd, Anglesey, Wales, including some teenagers and a man hunting rabbits, watch a bright white light descend slowly behind a new housing estate. An egg-shaped object is seen hovering and illuminating the trees. Other independent witnesses see a large silvery sphere above a field and watch the cows panic and hear neighborhood dogs start barking furiously. A Mrs. Parry and her young daughter look out from an upstairs bedroom and see three tall men in gray uniforms with caps or helmets attached to their suits walking across a field. Some of the teens run to the village to alert the police, who upon their arrival find the village in an uproar, thinking it has been invaded. At 10:00 p.m., Vivienne Roberts sees a purplish object with a mass of yellow lights above the vicarage. Her horses begin to panic and sweat profusely. Later, UFO investigators triangulate the position of the supposed landing site and find a circular patch of flattened barley and a path leading up to it. (Martin Keatman, "[The Llanerchymedd UFO](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 5 (March 1980): 16–23; Story, [p. 211](#))
- 1978**, September 2 — 8:00–8:15 a.m. Roberto Pozzi, 14, hears a noise like ducks and hissing combined in a western suburb of Alessandrio, Piedmont, Italy. He sees an object over a nearby cornfield. It stops making noise, swings laterally, and shoots up into the air. He finds a 22-by-10-foot depressed area of cornstalks bent down halfway up the stalk. Two rows of stalks are bent to the east, a third row to the west. Other sightings take place in the same area around Alessandrio on September 3, 6, 7, and 13. (Paolo Toselli, Gian Mario Ragno, and Roberto Balbi, "[1978: Piemonte e UFO](#)," *Notiziario UFO* 2, no. 2 (February 1979): 24–27; Paolo Toselli and Edoardo Russo, "[Three Landings in Italy](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 5 (March 1979): 6–9, 13; "[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 14; Maurizio Verga, "[Quarant'anni di Atterraggi UFO in Italia](#)," *UFO Rivista di Informazione Ufologica*, no. 1 (June 1986): 8, 11; 1Pinotti 217)
- 1978**, September 3 — David W. Swift of the University of Hawaii Department of Sociology presents a paper prior to the American Sociological Association meeting in San Francisco, California, on the disconnect among scientists' support for SETI research and their disdain for UFO research. ("[Scientists' Selection of New Areas for Investigation: UFOs or ETI?](#)" *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 21–22)
- 1978**, September 3 — 10:00 p.m. Edilia Cresta Gallo and three other women see a strip of white light descend between a road and a maize field in Alessandrio, Piedmont, Italy. The strip morphs into a bright fireball about 5 feet wide. It disappears and reappears twice more. The women complain of a burning sensation in their eyes. ("[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 14–15)
- 1978**, September 4 — 12:15 a.m. A university professor in Gordon, Wisconsin, sees a flashing, pale-yellow ball of light as he is driving north on US Highway 53. It crosses the road in front of him only 50 feet away at an estimated 160 mph. It makes a sharp 90° turn parallel to the road, descending to about 15 feet, and travels parallel to his car at 60 mph about 150 feet west of the road. As he slows down to 20 mph for a better look, the light also slows down. When the light is 250 feet ahead, it goes out. ("[A Professorial Witness](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 11)
- 1978**, September 6 — 6:45 a.m. Juan O. Perez, 12, goes to gather a herd of horses near Venado Tuerto, Argentina. As he rides his horse, he senses something flying overhead. Several objects appear and begin maneuvering and shooting out beams of multicolored light. His horse panics, and Perez manages to ride home. His father berates him and tells him to go back. When he returns, he finds a large domed object with windows on the ground. A door opens and a 7-foot-tall being wearing gloves and a cylindrical helmet appears. It seems to be attached to the object by some type of breathing apparatus. It invites Perez inside the craft, so he ties his horse to a ladder protruding from the bottom of the object and climbs in. His horse is panicked again and keeps kicking the object, injuring its leg.

Inside, he sees a panel with buttons and some tables. A robot-like entity is cutting some animal bones into pieces. Perez tries touching the tall being and objects inside but is prevented by an invisible barrier. Perez jumps out the door and back to the ground. The tall being follows him outside. Perez asks for one of the giant's gloves as proof of his experience. When it takes off the glove, Perez sees a green, claw-like hand with blue metallic nails. The tall being then pricks Perez's right arm and apparently extracts some blood. As Perez rides home with the glove, two flying objects catch up to him and emit a small slab and sphere that descend and brush by the horse. They pull the glove up with a magnetic force. The wound on Perez's arm stays open for many years and seeps a transparent liquid. A scar remains six years later when Perez has a medical check-up for military service; he is declared unfit because of the story he tells about its origin. After the event, Perez begins having premonitory dreams about unfortunate events. Perez's story is retold in an Argentine documentary feature, "Witness of Another World," directed by Alan Stivelman and released in 2018. (Jacques Vallée, *Confrontations: A Scientist's Search for Alien Contact*, Ballantine, 1990, pp. 153–156; "Jacques Vallée: The Juan Perez UFO Case," Above Top Secret, October 20, 2019; David Metcalfe, "[Witness of Another World: Exploring the Soul of a Phenomenon](#)," Exploring the Outer Edges of Society and Mind, October 21, 2019; Mark Pilkington, "The Gaucho Also Cries," *Fortean Times* 391 (April 2020): 38–40; Internet Movie Database, "[Witness of Another World](#)")

- 1978**, September 6 — Late evening. Two witnesses at the San Michele boarding house in Sassello, Savona, Italy, see two round black objects close enough to form a figure 8. They are making sounds like incomprehensible radio chatter. They depart at great speed, leaving circular imprints behind. ("[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 15)
- 1978**, September 7 — 1:00 a.m. A college student in Dayton, Ohio, sees two bright orange lights, closely spaced horizontally. They remain stationary for 2 minutes, then dim and begin to move for 2–3 minutes. ("[This One's 50-50](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 11)
- 1978**, September 7 — 8:40 p.m. Many people in the San Michele boarding house in Sassello, Savona, Italy, see a large luminous object hovering above La Carta to the east. The boarding house owner, Piera Viacava, switches on the TV, but the picture is distorted. The light moves south for a few minutes. Franco Viacava drives off in a Fiat with two friends toward the light, but their engine loses power and slows down. The radio and tape player also malfunction briefly. A French woman driving in the area has her car stopped as the object hovers suddenly above her. Her dog barks until the light goes away and the car resumes working. ("[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Oct./Nov. 1979): 15)
- 1978**, September 9 — 8:35 p.m. Airline pilots flying over the Mediterranean about 88 miles east of Barcelona, Spain, watch some unidentified lights for 35 minutes. Personnel from Barcelona Air Control Center maintain a conversation with the pilots but detect no targets on their radar screens. (Swords 434–435)
- 1978**, September 10 — 8:30 p.m. Richard Renne is flying his single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza at 9,500 feet southeast at 170 mph near Bakersfield, Missouri, when he sees a yellowish-white light descending from 15,000 feet. It follows him behind his right wing, then shoots up to 20,000 feet in a perfectly straight trajectory. It moves back to his 3 o'clock position before it shoots off upward. ("[But This One's Good](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 11)
- 1978**, September 10 — 10:15 p.m. A stationary formation of several dozen lights is seen at Dearborn Heights, Michigan, for 15 minutes before it disappears. ("[Michigan NL](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 11–12)
- 1978**, September 13 — 9:30 p.m. Angelo Ciompi watches a reddish disc moving in the eastern sky above Spinetta Marengo, Italy. It stops abruptly, drops down, and is lost to sight behind some houses. A column of flames rises up from the spot. Ciompi and others rush to the area and see a fire burning in the brushwood-covered wasteland. Firemen put out the blaze, but the area is overflowed by lights in the evening that descend and ascend at the site. (Paolo Toselli and Edoardo Russo, "[Three Landings in Italy](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 5 (March 1979): 6–8, 13; "[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Oct./Nov. 1979): 15)
- 1978**, September 14 — 6:00 a.m. Hundreds of witnesses all over Italy, from Sicily to Florence, watch a luminous projectile moving northward. Italian ufologists are calling it a UFO rather than a meteor because a few accounts have it moving in a different direction or appearing to stop briefly. Probable meteor. ("[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Oct./Nov. 1979): 15)
- 1978**, September 15 — 2:30 a.m. A 31-year-old woman is lying in bed awake for 30 minutes at her home in Delano, Tennessee, when a funny feeling makes her look outside. She stands at the south window looking out at fields and sees a bright moon and an object with lights in a long shape, red and pink as if on fire, in the southwest. Two "normal" men dressed in white suits can be seen about 300 feet from the window, but it is too dark for details. They start moving toward the house, but then stop and turn back. The UFO comes in fast at this point very close to the ground, then leaves quickly, climbing to the west. ("[Tennessee Humanoids?](#)" *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 12; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), May 15, 2010)

- 1978, September 15** — 4:00 a.m. A 26-year-old secretary is awakened in Carpentersville, Illinois, by a whirring sound. She goes to the bedroom window to look outside. The noise stops, but then she sees the figure of a 6-foot tall man. He is dressed in a silvery suit. Several feet away from him she sees a small, silver, domed disc (about 3 feet wide by 2 feet tall) sitting on the edge of the grass. It is opaque and smooth and the source of the whirring sound. The witness then screams at her husband to wake up, and her dog starts barking furiously. They both try to phone the police but the phone is not working. When the police arrive 15 minutes later, both the visitor and the UFO are gone. ("[Stuffing a 6-Foot Ufonaut into a 2-Foot UFO](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 12; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), October 27, 2009)
- 1978, September 16** — 1:30 a.m. Stephen Colclough and his girlfriend are driving through Dilhorne, Staffordshire, England, when they notice a red and white light moving across the sky. Suddenly an enormous black object looms up in front of them, completely silent, and shoots a powerful searchlight beam for at least 3 seconds. ("UFO Shot a Beam of Light at Our Car: Claim," *Stoke-on-Trent (UK) Evening Sentinel*, September 16, 1978; Marler [102](#))
- 1978, September 17** — 8:00 p.m. Hairdresser Rivo Faralli hears an explosion like a rifle shot at Torrita di Siena, Italy. He goes to visit his mother on the other side of town, who has also heard the noise and seen a flash of light that causes the lights and TV to go out. When Faralli is driving home at 9:00 p.m. on the Via Pié agli Orti, the engine and lights of his car die. He feels paralyzed as he watches a domed disc come near and float inches from the ground. The dome opens up and two 3.5-foot-tall beings emerge, floating 4 inches from the ground. They are wearing green one-piece suits; their helmets have clear visors and two small spiraling antennas. Their faces look like green-skinned skulls through the visors. Faralli watches them make a full circle around the car without noise or gesture, then return to the UFO, which rises up several yards, seemingly propelled by three red, orange, and blue-colored beams, and shoots off vertically. The car starts on its own. He returns to the site the following day and finds three burn marks in the unpaved road. Digging into the ground, he finds the earth carbonized to a depth of 8 inches. Soil samples are taken to the European Atomic Energy Community labs at Ispra, which finds that the road material has been burned by a temperature less than 500° Celsius, and not by a bonfire or hydrocarbon fuels. (Roberto Pinotti, "[Landing, E.M. Effects, and Entities at Torrita di Siena](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1979): 3–6; Maurizio Verga, "[Another CEIII Report from Italy](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1979): 6–7; "[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 15–16; Richard Hall, "[Italian UFO Wave of 1978](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 153 (November 1980): 12, 13; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, 1988, p. 297; Herbert S. Taylor, "[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part Two](#)," *IUR* 34, no. 1 (Sept. 2011): 18; UFOEv II 495–496; 1Pinotti 220–223; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), January 15, 2012)
- 1978, September 18** — 3:30 p.m. Giorgio Filiputti is fishing in the Corno river at the point where the Zumiel irrigation canal runs into it south of San Giorgio di Nogaro, Udine, Italy, when he hears a whistling sound, sees vegetation rustling, and feels a blast of air. Climbing up the riverbank to investigate, he sees a domed disc about 13–16 feet in diameter that is resting on a mudflat 66 feet away. The object is brassy or yellowish metallic with telescopic legs that terminate in flat pads. A figure about 3.5 feet tall appears from behind the dome, walking around the rim. It wears tight-fitting coveralls of scaly, silvery material that sparkles in the sunlight. It wears boots, has two containers at waist level, and white gloves. Its face is dark bronze with almond-shaped eyes and large pupils. The entity stares at the shocked Filiputti. After a few minutes it begins walking again, stoops down, and works on a horseshoe-shaped protrusion on the dome. Finally, it continues walking around to the other side. Filiputti hears a rumbling sound and a piercing whistle as the object begins to rise, withdrawing its landing gear. The underside looks like it has a grid pattern, and it emits a bluish glow like a tongue of flame. When it reaches an altitude of 33 feet, it turns on edge and speeds out of sight to the southwest. He has been watching it for about 6 minutes. Three circular imprints about 20 inches in diameter are found in the dry mud and sand. (Antonio Chiumiento, "[The Little Oriental Airman': Another Remarkable C.E.III Case in Italy](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 28, no. 5 (June 1983): 3–8; UFOEv II 496–498; 1Pinotti 223–230)
- 1978, September 20** — 3:40 p.m. G. W. Schoen is spreading fertilizer on a farm near Westminster, Maryland, when he notices a gray, pear-shaped object tilted at an angle and flying above the edge of a wooded area. He can see plates, girders, cylinders, and other structures on it. Schoen senses that it is exerting a mild "pulling" force on him. It is visible for 30–35 seconds before it passes behind a cloud. He estimates it is 340–350 feet long. ("[Correspondence](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1982): 4)
- 1978, September 20** — 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Hundreds of people watch a white, roughly triangular object over Tuscany, Italy. It moves northeast and turns red. Probable balloon. ("[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Oct./Nov. 1979): 16–17)
- 1978, September 21** — 8:00 p.m. A young man walking near a yard in Cosenza, Calabria, Italy, sees the area illuminated as if by daylight. The surrounding blocks are lost to view. On a hill he sees an oval object and a human shape with two antennae. Frightened, he runs away but falls as four humanoids come closer to him by jumps. He faints, and

when he comes to he is surrounded by four entities wearing buttoned jackets, a rucksack, and helmets with antennae. Their hands look like pincers. He faints again and wakes up at 8:30 p.m., but the UFO and entities are gone. (Paolo Fiorino, "[Le Abduction in Italia](#)," *UFO: Rivista di Informazione Ufologica*, no. 5 (June 1988): 35, 36–37; Paolo Fiorino, Gian Paolo Grassino, and Antonio Chiumiento, "[Abductions in Italy](#)," *IUR* 14, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1989): 15; 1Pinotti 230)

1978, September 23 — Around 3:00 a.m. Carlos Acevedo and Miguel Ángel Moya, two Chilean racecar drivers, are driving a Citroën CG on the flat pampas south of Bahía Blanca, Argentina, stragglers on the final leg of a 39-day stock car race. They are driving at about 60 mph, headed north on Highway 3, about 19 miles north of Carmen de Patagones. They notice a yellow and violet light shining in their rear-view mirror, approaching fast. Suddenly, the engine and headlights quit, then the car is lifted 13–15 feet off the road and set down again seemingly one minute later at a considerable distance away. They see a yellow cone of light retreating in the distance; it then changes shape to an oval that continues west and disappears in the distance. Moya's hands are shaking and he has difficulty breathing; Acevedo's legs appear to have gone asleep. At 5:10 a.m., they stop in Pedro Luro to take stock and find that it has taken 2 hours and 20 minutes to travel a distance that should have taken only 1 hour and 15 minutes. Their reserve gasoline tank, recently filled, is completely empty. They report the incident to Inspector Daniel Osimi at the Pedro Luro police station. ("[Car Levitation and E-M Case](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 130 (September 1978): 6; "[UFO Participates in Rally](#)," *Crónica* (Buenos Aires), September 24, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 112 (November 1978): 15–16; "[Precisions on Another Very Close Encounter](#)," *Crónica* (Buenos Aires), September 25, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 112 (November 1978): 16; *San Diego (Calif.) Union*, November 14, 1978; "[El incidente del Rally: ¿Una teleportación?](#)" *UFO Press*, no. 9 (October 1978): 32–42; "[Close Encounters Thrill Latins](#)," *Detroit (Mich.) Free Press*, November 22, 1978, p. 6C; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 2; Guillermo C. Roncoroni, "[The Rally Incident: A Teleportation?](#)" *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 140 (October 1979): 8–11; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, 1988, pp. 49–52, 297–298; UFOEv II 225; Dwight Connelly, "[Teleportation Event a Part of Several UFO Cases](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 404 (December 2001): 6, 8; Patrick Gross, "[URECAT: UFO Related Entities Catalog](#)," October 4, 2009; "[Ecuador: UFOs at the 1978 Rally?](#)" *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* blog, March 16, 2010; "[Expediente policial del incidente OVNI del Rally de 1978](#)," *Visión OVNI*, January 26, 2014; "[Argentina: Police Report Documents 1978 UFO Teleportation](#)," *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* blog, January 30, 2014; "[OVNIs: Caso de los pilotos abducidos en un rally](#)," *Están Aquí* YouTube channel, August 1, 2018; "[Archivo OVNI: Caso pilotos del Rally en Argentina abducidos en 1978, Parte 1](#)," *El Viajero Dimensional* YouTube channel, May 11, 2020; "[Archivo OVNI: Caso pilotos del Rally en Argentina abducidos en 1978, Parte 2](#)," *El Viajero Dimensional* YouTube channel, May 11, 2020; "[El misterio de los pilotos de rally transportados por un ovni en Pedro Luro](#)," *El Orden* (Coronel Pringles, Argentina), October 19, 2020; Javier Zamorano, "[¿OVNI o trampa maestra?: La Historia de los pilotos chilenos 'abducidos' que conmocionó al Mundo Rally](#)," *Radio Bío-Bío* (Chile), December 31, 2022; Jackson Camargo, "[O Fantástico Caso Pedro Luro](#)," *Portal Fenomenum*, January 30, 2023)

1978, September 23 — 1:28 p.m. A man is driving past a cattle lot 2 miles north of Dexter, Iowa, when he sees a silver cigar-shaped object 150 feet above the ground. He jumps out of his truck and tries to get underneath it as it hovers, but it moves off to the northeast and is gone in less than a minute. ("[Another Daylight Cigar](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 12)

1978, September 23–24 — Around 12:00 midnight. Two cable car technicians at the Bâlea Lake resort, Romania, are awakened by a red light visible through dense fog. It is apparently coming from an object some 30 feet outside their window. The light disappears. At the same time, at a military barracks on the site where soldiers have been assigned duties, Cpl. Ioan Dörr gets up and goes outside for a drink of water from a tap at the corner of the building and sees a dark, motionless silhouette only a few feet away. It persists for at least another 5 minutes. The next evening at 11:45 p.m., Sgt. Ion Radu notices a dark figure about 8 feet tall moving slowly on a mound some 65 feet away. Noticing that something had broken open the shutters of their barracks windows, some of the soldiers begin throwing stones at it. Radu approaches to within 4 feet of the figure and raises a club to hit it, but he feels a hot blast and falls backward into the snow. Two other soldiers with him remain paralyzed for a few seconds. The entity moves away with kind of a floating motion. Radu remains unconscious for about 10 minutes as the soldiers try to resuscitate him. Five soldiers see a "wreath of lights" at the spot where the figure had stood and others hear mysterious scratching at the window shutters. The next morning they find four parallel scratches on the shutters about 4 inches apart. The soldiers all decide to spend the next night at a nearby resort. (Romania 130–132)

1978, September 24 — 5:30 p.m. Two witnesses see a silver oval moving from east to west in Vineland, New Jersey. ("[Daylight Oval](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 13)

- 1978**, September 26 — 12:05 a.m. A 19-year-old grocery worker is driving on Lunn Road in Strongsville, Ohio, when she sees on her left a flat-domed disc edge on. She stops her car, and the object moves closer. When it is right in front of her car over the road, her FM radio gets lost in static for 10–15 seconds and her headlights flash off for one second. Then the object slowly rises up and flies off out of sight to her right. (“[Another EM Story](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 13)
- 1978**, September 27 — 8:00 a.m. Katarzyna Kolińska is on her way to school in Przyrownica from Magnusy, Poland, when she sees a bright flash of light near a mountain. The children who arrive at the school before classes go to a small nearby grove of trees to play. There they encounter a strange man, 5.5 feet tall with a green face and dark costume, who is walking through the forest 30 feet away. He turns to face the children, and they panic and run back to school, one child losing his shoe in the rush. The teacher returns with some of the children to the spot, but student Anna Jarocińska goes in the wrong direction and meets only 480 feet from the school a being whose face is a “featureless mask.” (Poland 43–45; “[Bliskie spotkanie w Przyrownicy w 1978 roku](#),” UFO-Relacje.pl, February 8, 2020; “[Spotkania z UFO w Przyrownicy i Golinie: To powinien być kolejny dowód w sprawie Emilcina \(1978\)](#),” Fundacja Nautilus, July 3, 2021, and [[case documents](#)])
- 1978**, September 27 — 1:00 p.m. Henryk Marciniak is picking mushrooms in the forest near Golina, Poland. He notices a strange landed object standing on four legs about 330 feet away in a clearing. When he rides over to investigate, a door opens and two small beings with unpleasant faces and greenish skin emerge, walking down some steps that have appeared. They approach him, one poking at the motorcycle and the other holding a device like a camera. The first one takes his bag of mushrooms. Marciniak shakes hands with them and tries to indicate the mushrooms are edible and the bike is for riding. Suddenly a buzzing sound comes from the object. The two entities go back inside and the object takes off and disappears. Many years later Marciniak denies the story, possibly because he wants to be left alone. (Poland 45–46; “[Bliskie spotkanie w Golinie w 1978 roku](#),” UFO-Relacje.pl, February 8, 2020; “[Spotkania z UFO w Przyrownicy i Golinie: To powinien być kolejny dowód w sprawie Emilcina \(1978\)](#),” Fundacja Nautilus, July 3, 2021, and [[case documents](#)])
- 1978**, September 27 — 7:25 p.m. Two witnesses see a formation of lights above a suburban forest preserve in Gurnee, Illinois. One steady red light is on top, two steady yellow lights are below them, and one blue flashing light is seen briefly. It suddenly drops halfway to the ground and back up again in 5 seconds before moving off to the north. (“[Illinois NL](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 13)
- 1978**, September 28 — 2:00 a.m. Two women driving south through a residential area of Omaha, Nebraska, see a dark cone-shaped object approaching her from the right. It has three bright white lights on the bottom. The object slows down, flying low, and the witnesses pass by it. A pre-recorded tape in the car’s player gets completely erased as this happens, even though other tapes in a box are not affected. (“[A ‘Zapped’ Cassette](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 13)
- 1978**, September 28 — 7:20 p.m. A man in Kettering, Ohio, spots a grayish cigar reflecting the light of the setting sun. Flying silently with its long dimension in the direction of travel, it seems to be 10,000 feet or lower. (“[What’s Going on in Ohio? Another Daylight Cigar!](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 13)
- 1978**, September 29 — A resident Indian woman sees a disc-shaped object take off from the Groendal Nature Reserve near Uitenhage, Eastern Cape, South Africa. (Cynthia Hind, “[The Groendal Reserve Affair](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 131 (October 1978): 5–10)
- 1978**, October — John Acuff’s mismanagement of NICAP (destruction of the reporting network, loss of members, paying himself a \$20,000 contractor’s fee) leads to his resignation as director. Acuff remains on the board and keeps the case files in his personal possession. He is replaced by Alan Hall, a retired CIA employee who accepts the position after a number of other ex-CIA men are offered the job. Support for Hall on the NICAP board comes from Charles Lombard, an aide to Sen. [Barry Goldwater](#) and a former covert CIA employee. Lombard and John Fisher are voted onto the board. (Richard H. Hall, “[The Quest for the Truth about UFOs: A Personal Perspective on the Role of NICAP](#),” in *1994 MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 1994, pp. 185–201; ClearIntent, [p. 207](#); Powell, *Keyhoe*, 397)
- 1978**, October? — 12:00 noon. Two Chilean F-5 aircraft piloted by Capts. Hernán Gabrielli Rojas and Danilo Catalán Farias are on a training mission near Mejillones, Chile. Both pilots see a radar target that gives a return equal to 10 aircraft carriers. Ground radar at Cerro Moreno airport [now Andrés Sabella Gálvez International Airport] in Antofagasta picks up the object and confirms its large size. The pilots continue to fly south between 30,000–35,000 feet. At a distance of 20 miles, they see an object “like a plantain banana” swathed in smoke. They approach it cautiously with their gun cameras on, but the UFO disappears at a huge speed to the west, heading toward Easter Island, vanishing from all three radar screens. Duration is 5 minutes. (Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, “[Antofagasta, Chile: October 1978](#),” *Caelestia*, October 31, 2018)

- 1978, October 2** — 11:15 a.m. Four students, ages 12–16, from Despatch, Eastern Cape, South Africa, are hiking in the Groendal Nature Reserve when they see a silver object on the ground. About 900 feet to the west of it are two beings in silver suits that seem to glide without walking. A third being joins them, holding a silver “suitcase,” and they glide along a fence along a steep incline a short way before vanishing. The silver object disappears too. Later, three forest workers find 7-inch oval footprints about one mile from the site. On October 18, three South African police officers and two trackers visit the encounter site and find a large area of depressed grass with 8 symmetrical marks around its perimeter and 4 marks within the oval area. (Cynthia Hind, [“The Groendal Reserve Affair,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 131 (October 1978): 5–10; Cynthia Hind, [“An In-Depth Examination of Recent South African UFO Reports,”](#) *Southern UFO News*, no. 8 (July 1979): 3–6; [“South African CE III,”](#) *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 7; Cynthia Hind, *UFOs: African Encounters*, Gemini, 1982, pp. 138–152; Cynthia Hind, [“UFOs through Innocent Eyes,”](#) in John Spencer and Hilary Evans, eds., *Phenomenon: From Flying Saucers to UFOs: Forty Years of Facts and Research*, Avon, 1989, pp. 355–358; Cynthia Hind, [“Editorial,”](#) *UFO Afrinews*, no. 22 (July 2000): 2–4)
- 1978, October 6** — 3:00 a.m. Two witnesses driving west on US Highway 87 halfway between Capulin and Des Moines, New Mexico, see an octagonal object several times larger than the moon with light shining through sections of it. As it passes above their car, it seems to be metallic. ([“The Octagonal Tank,”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 14)
- 1978, October 7** — A woman is driving with her 13-year-old nephew near San Cataldo, Sicily, Italy, when one of her tires has a blow-out. She repairs the tire but cannot start the car again. Above at an altitude of 50 feet, she sees a silver object resembling a plate turned upside down, about 65 feet in diameter. It emits a strong light, and the bottom has a transparent door through which she can see three or four shadows passing behind it. The UFO leaves quickly with a humming sound after 5–10 minutes. (Maurizio Verga, [“La vague italienne de 1978 \(Deuxième Partie\),”](#) *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 210 (December 1981): 32; Herbert S. Taylor, [“An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part Two,”](#) *IUR* 34, no. 1 (Sept. 2011): 20; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 17, 2009)
- 1978, October 7** — 6:30 p.m. Two truck drivers on US Highway 224 near Lodi, Ohio, see a tight formation of pink/red lights flashing on and off floating toward them to the north. They both stop to get out and look. All four lights break formation and move off in different directions, disappearing in seconds. ([“Intriguing Ohio NL’s,”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 14)
- 1978, October 8** — 7:00–9:00 a.m. A very small object is seen resting in a field 300 feet from the [Marlett Sturgell](#) farmhouse near Jenkins, Missouri. For 2 hours it is watched intermittently by his wife [Dora](#), son Norman, son-in-law, and two others, all members of the Sturgell family. At 9:00 a.m., it ascends and moves off to the northwest. The witnesses then notice a larger, more distant object, wingless, hovering in the sky. The small object heads directly toward it and either flies under it or enters into it. It moves away rapidly and disappears. ([“Physical Trace Case in Missouri,”](#) *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 11–13; Donald L. Seneker and George M. Koch, [“Missouri Landing-Trace Case,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 135 (May 1979): 3–7; Herbert S. Taylor, [“Satellite Objects: A Further Look,”](#) *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 26)
- 1978, October 8** — 10:30 a.m. Teenager Franklin Youri takes a photo of an unusual object behind his home near Lake Urmia, Iran. It appears just above the line of the roof, and its shape is similar to the May 13 Iranian photo. ([“Interesting Newly Discovered Photo from Iran,”](#) *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 7 (July 1981): 1, 3; [“Sheraz, Iran, October 8, 1978,”](#) *Popular Mechanics*, July 1998, p. 64)
- 1978, October 8** — 5:11 p.m. A couple in Huntington Park, California, watch a huge black disc at a high altitude moving toward the Sierra Madre Mountains in the northeast. ([“Who Else Saw This Monstrous Disc?”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 14)
- 1978, October 8** — 7:10 p.m. A student takes a photo of a distant daylight disc from his home, 2 miles east of Anderson, South Carolina. ([“UFO Photo,”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 14–15)
- 1978, October 8** — 10:40 p.m. Elfed Williams is driving south on the A5025 near Penysarn, Anglesey, Wales, when he sees an orange light that passes overhead and hovers in the southwest. He stops at a friend’s house in the village and they continue to watch the light, which increases in size and is still hovering silently at about 200 feet. At first it looks like two saucers joined at the rims by a black band, but when it begins approaching the witnesses, it takes on the shape of an orange-hued triangle. It moves away then shoots off at a fast speed, (Kevin Babbs, [“Expanding UFO over Anglesey,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1979): 23–24)
- 1978, October 8** — 11:30 p.m. A Mr. and Mrs. Trantor are driving along the A580 near Lowton, England, when their headlight beams catch a figure standing in the grassy strip between the two lanes. It is well over 6 feet tall and dressed in a silver-foil reflective suit. It is immersed in orange light. Stunned, they drive past it. ([“Close Encounter of the Third Kind \(?\)”](#) *Northern UFO News*, no. 55 (December 1978): 8; Jenny Randles, [“Fake Photographs, Real Sightings,”](#) *IUR* 11, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1986): 8–9; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), April 26, 2012)

- 1978, October 10** — 6:35 a.m. A chemistry professor in Agoura Hills, California, goes outside to observe Jupiter and sees another bright object to the south of it. It is moving slowly and soon splits into two lights, one brighter than the other. They spread apart and move away at different speeds. (“[Another Nocturnal Light That Split Up](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 15)
- 1978, October 10** — 9:30 p.m. A Mrs. Grime and her two sons, 15 and 21, see a silvery disc ringed by flashing white lights near their home in Leigh, England. They can see three bumps on its underside. It makes a faint humming sound as it moves overhead. (Jenny Randles, “[Fake Photographs, Real Sightings](#),” *IUR* 11, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1986): 9)
- 1978, October 20** — Dusk. Kate Chmurny, an archaeologist at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire, watches a triangular object flying at 30 mph northward along Interstate 93 at a height of 100 feet above the Pemigewasset River floodplain in Campton, New Hampshire. It is about 20 feet wide and completely silent, moving by raising and lowering one side. The object has a single bright white light on the underside and rows of red and greenish lights along the edges that reflect against a metallic surface. (Joseph K. Long, “[Letter](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 2 (April/May 1983): 5–8)
- 1978, October 21** — 7:06 p.m. Australian pilot [Frederick Valentich](#), 20, is on a 145-mile training flight in a Cessna 182L light aircraft over Bass Strait between Moorabbin, Victoria, and King Island. He radios Melbourne air traffic control to report that an unidentified aircraft is following him at 4,500 feet. He is told there is no known traffic at that level. Valentich can see a large, unknown aircraft that appears to be illuminated by four bright landing lights. He is unable to confirm its type but says it has passed about 1,000 feet overhead and is moving at high speed. Then he says the aircraft is approaching him from the east, thinking that the other pilot might be purposely toying with him. The other aircraft is “orbiting” above him. It has a shiny metal surface and a green light on it. Then he begins experiencing engine problems. Asked to identify the aircraft, Valentich radios, “It’s not an aircraft.” His transmission is then interrupted by unidentified noise described as being “metallic, scraping sounds” before all contact is lost. A sea and air search is undertaken that includes oceangoing ship traffic, an RAAF Lockheed P-3 Orion aircraft, plus eight civilian aircraft. The search encompasses more than 1,000 square miles. Search efforts cease on October 25 without result. A Department of Transport investigation into the disappearance is unable to determine the cause, but it is “presumed fatal” for Valentich. In 1983, an engine cowl flap is found washed ashore on Flinders Island. In July 1983, the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation asks the Royal Australian Navy Research Laboratory about the likelihood that the cowl flap might have traveled to its final position from the area where the aircraft disappeared. The bureau notes that “the part has been identified as having come from a Cessna 182 aircraft between a certain range of serial numbers.” which includes Valentich’s aircraft. At least 15 other UFOs are reported between midday and 9:00 p.m., six in Victoria, one on King Island, and others further away. Roy Manifold, vacationing at Crayfish Bay, Cape Otway, Victoria, inadvertently takes two photos of peculiar black objects just 20 minutes before Valentich reported his sighting. (Wikipedia, “[Disappearance of Frederick Valentich](#)”; “[Missing Pilot Reported UFO ‘Playing with Cessna](#),” *Canberra Times*, October 23, 1978, pp. 1, 3; “[Fred Valentich: The Missing Australian Pilot](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 12 (December 1978): 2–10; Bill Chalker, “[The Missing Cessna and the UFO](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 5 (March 1979): 3–5; Richard F. Haines, “[Results of Sound Spectrum Analysis of the Metallic Noises of a Tape-Recorded Radio Transmission between Cessna VH:DSJ and the Flight Service of Melbourne, Australia](#),” *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 3 (1983): 14–23; Bill Chalker, “[Vanished? The Valentich Affair Re-examined](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 30, no. 2 (December 1984): 6–12; Richard F. Haines, *Melbourne Episode: Case Study of a Missing Pilot*, L.D.A. Press, 1987; Keith Basterfield, Vladimir Godic, and Pony Godic, “[Australian Ufology: A Review](#),” *JUFOS* 2 (1990): 31–32; Good Above, pp. 175–182, 461–463; ClearIntent, pp. 93–96; UFOEv II 138–140; Bill Chalker, *The Oz Files*, 1996, pp. 168–171; Kean, pp. 54–58; Richard F. Haines and Paul Norman, “[Valentich Disappearance: New Evidence and a New Conclusion](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 14, no. 1 (2000): 19–33; Clark III 1208–1212; “[Guido Valentich on the Disappearance of His Pilot Son Frederick after Reporting a UFO, 1978](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 5, 2022; “[Roy Manifold Took a Photo of a ‘UFO’ Moments before Pilot Frederick Valentich’s Disappearance, 1978](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, May 31, 2023; “[‘Something Shining’: Documentary on the 1978 Disappearance of Australian Pilot Frederick Valentich](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, November 27, 2023; “[Leaked ATC Audio: Real Voice of Pilot Frederick Valentich, Who Disappeared after Reporting a UFO](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 26, 2024)
- 1978, October 23** — 6:30–8:30 p.m. Some 200 people involved in 67 sighting reports watch a lighted delta-shaped UFO slowly circling over Leicestershire and Warwickshire, England. East Midlands Airport confirms they have nothing on radar, but affirms that the crew and passengers of an inbound Air Malta flight landing around 7:26 p.m. have reported a UFO with three large spotlights. (“[Dozens Report ‘UFO’ Sighting](#),” *Nuneaton (UK) Evening Tribune*, October 25, 1978, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 4, no. 2 (February 1979): 34; “[200 Report Seeing UFO](#),”

Leicester (UK) Mercury, October 30, 1978, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 4, no. 2 (February 1979): 34; “[Is There Anybody out There?](#)” *Leicester (UK) Mercury*, April 28, 1982, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 7, no. 6 (June 1982): 8–9; “[Throwing a Light on UFO.](#)” *Leicester (UK) Mercury*, December 2, 1985, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 199 (February 1986): 12; “[New Projects.](#)” *UFO Times*, no. 42 (July/Aug. 1996): 15; Marler [103](#), [120](#); Jenny Randles, “Return of the Silent Vulcan,” *Fortean Times* 418 (May 2022): 27)

- 1978**, October 23 — 10:04 p.m. Chinese Air Force pilots are attending an outdoor film screening at Lintao Air Base, Gansu province, China, when an elongated object with two searchlights and a glowing tail appears in the sky moving to the west. Chinese Air Force pilot Zhou Qingtong says it is large and close to the ground. They watch it for 2–3 minutes as it circles above them. A report in the CIA files indicates it is flying at 20,000 feet, varying from witness reports. (“[UFO Report from China.](#)” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 2 (February 1981): 5; “[A Close Encounter with Unpleasant Consequences.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 28, no. 4 (March 1983): 25; Good Above, [pp. 213–214](#); Wendelle Stevens and Paul Dong, *UFOs over Modern China*, UFO Photo Archives, 1983, pp. 119–120)
- 1978**, October 25 — 5:00 a.m. Giuseppe di Giovanni, a 51-year-old farmer, is in search of a stray cow in the hills of San Donato di Tagliacozzo, Abruzzo, Italy, when he comes to an open field and spots a large light-brown object shaped like a shoeshine box on the ground. Lighted windows surround the craft. He approaches to within 3 feet and sees 6–7 humanoid beings inside. They are small and humanlike, both male and female. The women are blonde and have beautiful pink skin. They smile at him. The men are uglier, have darker skin, and appear elderly. They ignore him. Frightened, he runs behind a bush. When he looks out again, the object is gone. (“[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style.](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 17–18; Pinotti 238–239)
- 1978**, October 25 — The US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act creates a “secret federal court” (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court) for issuing wiretap warrants in national security cases. This is in response to findings from the Watergate break-in, which allegedly uncovers a history of presidential operations that has used surveillance on domestic and foreign political organizations. (Wikipedia, “[Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act](#)”)
- 1978**, October 26 — Night. RCMP Constable James Blackwood receives a report about a UFO hovering above Random Island across from Clarendville, Newfoundland. He heads down to the waterfront and sees an object about 200 feet above the sound. He observes it for nearly two hours with binoculars and a high-powered scope. It is soundless, oval, and has a fin on its tail. When Blackwood flashes the lightbar on his cruiser, the object mimics it by flashing some lights of its own. (“[ICYMI: Story of UFO Sighting in Newfoundland Town Is in Mint Condition.](#)” Saltwire, October 8, 2020)
- 1978**, October 28 — 10:45 p.m. Joyce Blackburn is putting out milk bottles on the step of her bungalow on the south side of Warrington, England. She sees a strange light hovering above the Fiddler’s Ferry Power Station. Her husband and two children also watch the UFO until it starts pulsating and moving away. Its glow is so bright that their eyes hurt in looking at it through binoculars. It vanishes, then reappears heading toward them at an angle. They can see it is a disc with a dome on top, tilted slightly toward them. As it passes over their heads, they hear a faint humming noise and can see three orange bumps in a triangular formation on its underside. It moves away to the northeast toward another power station. Total duration is 7 minutes. (Jenny Randles, “[Fake Photographs, Real Sightings.](#)” *IUR* 11, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1986): 10–11)
- 1978**, October 29 — 11:15 p.m. Janet Fletcher is stopped at a traffic light in Woolston, Cheshire, England, when she gets static on her radio for a few seconds. She sees a bell-shaped object to the east hovering above a rail line. It has a bright light on top and rings of light circling the base, which has three glowing inset lights or bumps. After 30 seconds, it tilts at an angle and begins to move away, apparently descending. She moves forward when the light changes, but she does not see it again. (Jenny Randles, “[Fake Photographs, Real Sightings.](#)” *IUR* 11, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1986): 9)
- 1978**, October 30 — 6:30 p.m. Two teenagers see a triangular UFO over a field in Sherman, Texas. The object shoots a blue light at the witnesses, temporarily blinding them. (“[Sherman Youth ‘Sights’ UFO.](#)” *Denison (Tex.) Herald*, October 31, 1978, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 114 (January 1979): 1)
- 1978**, November — A new civilian UFO “initiative group” holds its inaugural seminar at Moscow University in Russia. It is directed by former navy officer and ufologist [Vladimir G. Azhazha](#) with the assistance of Nikita A. Schnee. Launched under the auspices of the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Society for Radio, Electronics, and Television, the group calls itself BPVTS for short. Members include [Lev M. Gindilis](#) of the Sternberg State Astronomical Institute in Moscow, Vice Admiral M. M. Krylov, space technician Y. G. Nazarov, and cosmonaut [Yevgeny Khrunov](#). At the seminar, some individuals storm into the auditorium and disrupt the meeting; university officials ask the group to leave. Schnee claims that [Felix Ziegel](#) is responsible for the disruption in order to thwart

the activities of civilian researchers. (Nikita A. Schnee, "[Ufology in the USSR](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 1 (June 1981): 8–10)

- 1978**, November 1 — The Air Force decides to produce an F-117A stealth fighter based on the mostly successful tests of Have Blue aircraft at Tonopah Test Range in Nevada. The contract goes to Lockheed's Skunk Works. ("[Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk](#)")
- 1978**, November 1 — 7:45 p.m. [Jenny Randles](#)'s father is getting static on his VHF radio channel at their home in Irlam, Greater Manchester, England. Shortly afterward, they both hear a loud roar. She looks out the window and sees a row of four white lights that drift slowly past from west to east. An hour later, Randles goes outside and talks to 9 children who have been playing outside. They have seen the object too. It is diamond shaped and framed by lights that do not flash. Some report three lights or bumps on the underside. (Jenny Randles, "[Fake Photographs, Real Sightings](#)," *IUR* 11, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1986): 9–10)
- 1978**, November 7 — 9:30 p.m. A witness traveling west on US Highway 20 near South Bend, Indiana, notices a bright light in the sky, much larger than a star. Suddenly it moves directly to the south of her location at a fast rate of speed. As it approached, it disappears and she hears a tremendous roar that shakes the ground. Suddenly, an object banks directly in front of her car about 90 feet away and no more than 20 feet above the ground, making a slow, deliberate turn, then hovering or moving slowly and silently in front of her, then passing behind her car. It is ringed with small windows and has alternating and flashing blue and red lights near each window. She turns around but loses sight of it. ("[Recently Received Sighting Reports](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 4 (April 1981): 6)
- 1978**, November 8 — 5:30 p.m. While fishing in the Adriatic Sea off San Benedetto del Tronto, Marche, Italy, on board the *Exodus*, three fishermen—Flaviano Mattiucci, Gennaro Mattiucci, and Dino Focaracci—see, at low altitude and for a few seconds, a red and yellow spherical light. After emerging from the sea, it seems to return into it, after rising and falling from the sky. About one hour later, the radar of another fishing boat, the *Andrea Padre*, reports a moving submerged object, which appears to follow the vessel. (NICAP, "[Ship Tracks Submerged Object / Boat Observes Light](#)")
- 1978**, November 9 — The CIA contacts the NSA with a referral of 15 UFO documents for review for possible declassification through the GSW lawsuit. (ClearIntent, [p. 181](#))
- 1978**, November 10 — A cylinder-shaped UFO "bigger than a jumbo jet" with a large dome and flashing lights appears over the northern oil fields of the Kuwaiti Oil Company at Umm al-Aish, Kuwait, causing the pumping station to automatically shut down. It lands and remains on the ground for seven minutes. When the UFO vanishes, the pump starts working again. There are seven witnesses, one of them an American. This and other sightings compel the government of Kuwait to appoint a committee of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to investigate the reports. An Institute representative, Ratib Abu Id, tells US Embassy officials that he has rejected the idea of espionage devices. (NICAP, "[Major UFO/E-M Incidents over Kuwait](#)"; "[Oil Crew Reports UFO in Kuwait](#)," *Detroit (Mich.) Free Press*, November 14, 1978, p. 3; "[UFOs over Kuwait](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 27, no. 7 (January 1979): 1; "['UFO' Sightings Cause Security Concern in Kuwait](#)," US State Dept. cable, January 29, 1979; "[Kuwaiti Landing](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 6; James McCampbell, "[UFOs: More Engine Effects](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 203 (March 1985): 5; ClearIntent, [p. 90](#); Clark III 662)
- 1978**, November 12 — 7:30 p.m. Pilots and control tower personnel see some lights and a circular object with an orange-red light flying above Fiumicino Airport in Rome, Italy, for about 30 seconds. (Stefano Innocenti, "[Ufo nei cieli dell'aeroporto di Fiumicino: Il caso del 1978](#)," *Il Faro* (Fiumicino, Italy), February 19, 2022; Stefano iNNOCENTi, "[Un cold case ufologico di Fiumicino arriva dal passato e ci porta altri interrogativi](#)," *Il Faro* (Fiumicino, Italy), April 8, 2024)
- 1978**, November 13 — 4:00 p.m. Elizabeth McKibben, a British nurse at the Inuit settlement of Black Tickle, Labrador, sees a red-orange light to the west hanging motionless at 1,000 feet above some houses for 30 minutes. A second light appears suddenly and moves underneath the first, and both begin a slow descent and disappear. Several young students also see the object and make drawings of it. A fire had broken out 2 miles west on the tundra about 3 hours before the sighting, apparently caused by "fireballs" hitting the ground. Teacher Stephen MacDonald goes to help put out the fires at Martins Pond, where the tundra is burning in patches [methane outgassing?]. ("[Canadian Trace?](#)" *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 6)
- 1978**, November 15 — Four military aircraft are flying over eastern Washington State when an unknown object is detected on radar at 13,000 feet some 40 miles away. One of the jets is ordered to approach the object. The pilot gets a visual confirmation but cannot lock on with his in-flight radar. The interceptor comes within 8 miles of the object but is forced to turn away by low fuel. (Bob Gribble, "[Pilot Sightings and Radar Trackings, Part II](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 186 (August 1983): 11)

- 1978**, November 20 — 9:30 p.m. A female medical technician, her sister, daughter, and two housemaids experience a power failure in their home in a northern suburb of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. They see a bright light in the sky that shoots out bright blue rays. It moves off behind a hill, and two small lights, one yellow, the other reddish, approach from the same hill. The witnesses run upstairs and watch from a window. The lights stop next to a road, the Avenida de los Martires, as a car comes along and illuminates them with its headlights. The women now see that the lights are attached to the abdomens of two flying entities, which appear to be cone-shaped, twice as tall as a normal-sized man, and wearing white translucent sheets. Three silhouettes cross the car's headlights, and all the lights (including the car's) go out. The witnesses hear a metallic noise like a garage door. Then the two lights turn on again and fly off. The power in the house returns. The episode lasts 45 minutes. ("[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 2; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 3, 2009)
- 1978**, November 21 — 5:30 a.m. A UFO appears over a Kuwaiti oilfield at Al-Sabriyah near the Iraqi border. An employee of the company takes photos of it as it passes a water tower and then hovers over the site for 30 minutes. Long-distance communications cease functioning. The internal phone system works, however, and workers are able to alert their boss, who steps outside and sees the object. ("[UFOs over Kuwait](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 27, no. 7 (January 1979): 1, 3; Richard H. Hall, "[UFOs in Arab Nations](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 133 (January/February 1979): 5; "[Kuwaiti Landing](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 6; UFOEv II 163–164; Clark III 663)
- 1978**, November 22 — 5:30 p.m. Elsie Oakensen is driving home to Church Stowe, Northamptonshire, England, on the A5 when she passes beneath a hovering object shaped like a dumbbell with red and green lights. As she turns onto Main Street, her foot is flat on the accelerator but there is no sound from her engine and her car coasts to a halt. Her car lights fail as circles of light dance around the road, illuminating a nearby farmyard. The car restarts, but she only drives about 300 feet when it stops again. She claims the "natural light" disappears and she is enveloped in pure darkness. Then suddenly a white circle of light approximately 3 feet in diameter shines on the road, as if someone has pressed on a switch, the normal light returns, and she drives the car normally. She estimates she has about 15 minutes of missing time. Later, at 7:10 p.m., she feels a tightening sensation around her forehead, one that she remembers having felt just prior to the encounter. At 7:20 p.m., four young women driving through the nearby village of Preston Capes see red and green lights and beams shooting out from clouds as their car engine temporarily loses power. After trying hypnosis with minimal results, Oakensen tries creative visualization at the scene and recovers some abduction memories. (Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 13, 2011; Jenny Randles, "Much More Than Marsh Gas," *Fortean Times* 311 (March 2014): 27; "[Elsie Oakensen Talks about Her UFO Encounter and Alien Abduction Experience, Northamptonshire, 1978](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, February 2023)
- 1978**, November 24 — 11:45 a.m. Angelo d'Ambros, 61, is out gathering firewood in a copse near Gallio, Vicenza, Italy, when he comes across two entities just a few feet away from him. One is about 4 feet tall, the other about 8 inches shorter. They are suspended in the air about a foot off the ground. They are extremely thin and have a yellowish skin that is stretched tightly over their bones. Their heads are bald, and at the sides are enormous ears that rise vertically and end in points. Their eyes are large and white, without eyelids. Their large noses extend down to the lower lip of a sizable mouth from which extend two tusks. They wear tight-fitting coveralls. The smaller one starts moving back and forth from right to left in very quick jerks. Its motion causes a stir in the air, and vegetation rustles as the tips of its ears touch the lower branches of nearby trees. Incomprehensible grumblings come from the mouth of the shorter entity. The taller being reaches one of its long hands to take away d'Ambros's pruning knife. D'Ambros holds on to it tightly, but he feels a strong electric shock. He grabs a large branch and takes a swipe at them as they take flight. D'Ambros runs after them, and he watches them make for a domed UFO resting in a clearing 100 feet away on four landing pods. The entities climb aboard, and the object takes off horizontally at a dizzying speed in absolute silence and disappears behind high fir trees. The next day he returns to the clearing and finds a nearly circular area about 12 feet in diameter in which the grass appears black, pressed, and whirled in a counterclockwise direction. D'Ambros discovers two U-shaped traces about 8 inches long. ("[Two Humanoids in Gallio](#)," *IUR* 8, no. 3 (May/June 1983): 8–11; Antonio Chiumiento, "[Gallio: Faccia a faccia con due ufonauti](#)," *Notiziario UFO* 3, no. 4/5 (April/May 1980): 4–9; Antonio Chiumiento, "[Umanoidi a Gallio, Seconda Parte](#)," *Notiziario UFO* 16, no. 99 (May/Dec. 1981): 16–19; 1Pinotti 241–250)
- 1978**, November 27 — [J. Allen Hynek](#), [Jacques Vallée](#), [Stanton T. Friedman](#), Lawrence J. Coyne, and Grenada Ambassador at Large Wellington Friday speak before the UN Special Political Committee. Grenada seeks to interest the UN in a three-member panel to initiate a formal UFO study program, but its efforts are unavailing. (United Nations General Assembly, 33rd Sess., [Summary Record of the 35th Meeting, Special Political Committee](#), November 27, 1978; United Nations General Assembly, 33rd Sess., [Summary Record of the 36th Meeting, Special Political Committee](#), November 27, 1978; Clark III 1190; "[United Nations Committee Supports](#)

[UFO Study](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 131 (October 1978): 3–5; J. Allen Hynek, “[Ufologists and the United Nations: A Novel Moment in the History of UFO Research](#),” *IUR* 3, no. 10/11 (Oct./Nov. 1978): 3–18; Charles Bowen, “[UFOs Debated at the United Nations](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 6 (April 1979): 5–11; “[United Nations 1978 UFO Session](#),” *Journal of UFO History* 2, no. 4 (Sept./Oct. 2005): 11–12; Antonio Huneeus, “[Rare Footage of Famous 1978 UN UFO Hearing Found](#),” *OpenMinds*, May 13, 2011)

- 1978**, December — Alan N. Hall, a retired CIA employee, officially becomes president of NICAP among baseless charges that a sinister CIA conspiracy has undermined the organization. He operates out of his home without access to the files. (“[To Our Readers](#),” *UFO Investigator*, April 1979, p. 3; Richard H. Hall, “[The Quest for the Truth about UFOs: A Personal Perspective on the Role of NICAP](#),” in *1994 MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 1994, pp. 185–201)
- 1978**, December 1 — President [Jimmy Carter](#) establishes the Information Security Oversight Office through Executive Order 12065, “National Security Information.” The office is under the jurisdiction of the National Archives and Records Administration, and its mission is to provide for an informed American public by ensuring that the minimum information necessary to the interest of national security is classified and that information is declassified as soon as it no longer requires protection. (Wikipedia, “[Information Security Oversight Office](#)”)
- 1978**, December 2 — A civil servant takes a photo of a UFO as he is walking along a beach in Kuwait. It shows a domed disc with a self-luminous tube protruding from the bottom. Other witnesses also see the UFO. (“[UFOs over Kuwait](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 27, no. 7 (January 1979): 3; Clark III 663)
- 1978**, December 4 — The CIA passes on three other UFO documents to the NSA for declassification review. (ClearIntent, [p. 181](#))
- 1978**, December 6 — 11:30 p.m. While patrolling at Marzano, near Torriglia, a village northeast of Genoa, Italy, 26-year-old night watchman Piero Fortunato Zanfretta notices four lights moving in a courtyard. He gets out of his car holding his pistol and flashlight, moving cautiously along a house wall. Something pushes him forward and he falls. When he gets up, his head hits something and he points his flashlight upward to see a 6-foot-tall creature with an ugly face. Terrified, he runs to the car and is blinded by a yellow, triangle-shaped object taking off from behind the house. He calls for help on the radio. When his colleagues arrive at 1:00 a.m., they find him lying in a nearby lawn in a confused state of mind. On December 23, Zanfretta is hypnotized by a medical doctor. An abduction scenario emerges in which he is taken to a bright room by giant entities who put a hot and painful helmet on his head. The humanoids are green-skinned and have yellow triangular eyes, red veins on their heads, pointed ears, and rounded fingers. Further abductions and memories emerge over time, finally ceasing in 1980. (“[UFO Flap 1978: Italian Style, Part Two, December](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 5 (November 1979): 13–15; Luciano Boccone, “[Italian Night-Watchman Kidnapped by UFO](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 1 (June 1980): 4–9; Paolo Fiorino, Gian Paolo Grassino, and Antonio Chiumiento, “[Abductions in Italy](#),” *IUR* 14, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1989): 15–16; Rino Di Stefano, *The Zanfretta Case: Chronicle of an Incredible True Story*, The Author, 2014; Jason Charbonneau, “[Zanfretta Abductions, 1978–1981](#),” *Think Anomalous*, May 6, 2017; 1Pinotti 253–258)
- 1978**, December 8 — The United Nations meetings on UFOs conclude, resulting in UN Decision 33/426 relating to the “establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, coordinating, and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena.” Beyond newspaper publicity, the meetings have no impact and no other nation backs Grenada. (“[Grenada UFO Item](#),” WikiLeaks, [telegram], December 8, 1978)
- 1978**, December 8 — 11:00 p.m. Two young men walking along a mountain slope near Milanere, Torino, Italy, see a blue-white light among the trees. One of them walks toward it, but he disappears. A few minutes later the light takes off into the sky. The other man goes for help and a group of people comes to search for the missing man. He is found in a different direction, unconscious, cold, and weak. Both witnesses suffer from conjunctivitis for several days. The one who vanished has a strange scar on his leg. He only remembers approaching a pear-shaped light when he sees 3–4 human shapes with pumpkinlike heads silhouetted against the light. He becomes paralyzed and can vaguely remember being touched and raised. (Paolo Fiorino, Gian Paolo Grassino, and Antonio Chiumiento, “[Abductions in Italy](#),” *IUR* 14, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1989): 15)
- 1978**, December 10 — The weekly *Parade* magazine carries a story by Michael Satchell summarizing the UFO events at Loring, Malmstrom, Wurtsmith, and other Northern Tier bases. (Michael Satchell, “[UFO’s vs. USAF: Amazing \(But True\) Encounters](#),” *Parade* magazine, December 10, 1978, pp. 8–11; ClearIntent, [p. 54](#))
- 1978**, December 14 — As a result of the Ground Saucer Watch lawsuit, the CIA releases some 340 of its own UFO-related documents, 900 pages in all. The letter, signed by CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator George Owens, states that 57 documents are being withheld for national security purposes. Also, 196 other documents originating from other agencies are forwarded to them for response to GSW. The CIA had faced a deadline of

- December 1977 to produce the documents but were granted an extension by US District Court Judge [John H. Pratt](#). (“[The GSW vs. CIA Lawsuit](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 20–22; Good Above, [pp. 327–328](#))
- 1978**, December 16 — 8:00 p.m. Radar detects a UFO at 10,000 feet in the region around Calama, Chile. Three F-5Es are sent from Antofagasta to intercept it and they see a large triangular object some 50 times the size of their planes. (“[Select Triangular UFO Cases](#),” Bob Pratt Files)
- 1978**, December 20 — 12:00 midnight. Many people standing on the shore at Bellaria, Rimini, Italy, see a blinding object in the water about one mile off the coast. Some compare the sight to a ship on fire. Photographer Elia Faccin takes some photographs that are published in the newspaper. While taking the first picture, the shutter on Faccin’s Olympus camera jams. Roberto Mantovani and Sandro Manaresi look at the object through a telescope and describe it as an overturned dish with a tower on top showing an opening. The object is lit by a greenish and yellowish-orange light, which becomes dimmer toward the outside of the dish. It moves slowly, leaving behind a small wake. Other witnesses see 12 lights with a much brighter light in the center. (“*Che Ufo fotogenico!*” *Panorama*, September 1, 1979, pp. 42–44, partially reprinted in [Notiziario UFO](#) 2, no. 2 (February 1979): 8, and in Nicola Gambetti, “[Che UFO Fotogenico!](#)” *Rimini Sparita*, August 24, 2023)
- 1978**, December 20 — 5:10 a.m. Yiannakis Iounnou and his wife are driving between Paphos and Limassol, Cyprus, when he notices an object in the sky. The object is extremely bright and rectangular shaped, about the size of a car. The object seems to expand while emitting bright-orange rays of light. It stays in view for roughly 30 minutes while they continue their drive, then it is lost to sight. Possible star or planet? (Omiros Karajas, “[The Thessaloniki Earthquake of 1978](#),” *Awareness* 20, no. 3 (1995–1996): 27, 30)
- 1978**, December 20 — US Rep. [Samuel S. Stratton](#) (D-N.Y.) expresses concern to his Armed Services Investigations Subcommittee about the “alleged ability of unknown aircraft to penetrate airspace and over above SAC bases, their weapons storage areas, missile sites, and launch control facilities, and the inability of Air Force equipment and personnel to intercept and identify such aircraft.” Stratton sends a letter to USAF Maj. Gen. [Charles C. Blanton](#) requesting incident reports. (ClearIntent, [p. 54](#))
- 1978**, December 21 — 12:30 a.m. Capt. [John B. Randle](#) is flying an Argosy cargo plane from Blenheim to Christchurch, New Zealand, when he notices white lights in the sky above the mouth of the Clarence River at Waipapa Bay. He contacts Wellington Air Traffic Control, which confirms that it has five oscillating objects on its scopes. The lights are also seen on the ground. (“[The New Zealand UFO Films, Part I](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 3; Clark III 799)
- 1978**, December 21 — 3:30 a.m. Wellington Air Traffic Control contacts Capt. Vern Powell, pilot of a freight aircraft about to make the Blenheim to Christchurch run, New Zealand, alerting him to the position of the objects, which have stayed in position. He ascends to 7,500 feet and sees one white light, tinged with red, through the clouds. It follows Powell’s plane, and Wellington radar tracks it for 12 miles before it disappears. As they near Christchurch Airport, Powell and his copilot Ian Pirie notice a return on their onboard radar. By the next sweep it has moved one mile closer, moving at about 8,000 mph. They cannot confirm anything visually, but the radar indicates the object has streaked off to the left and disappears. Then Powell and Pirie see a flashing light in front of them. (“[The New Zealand UFO Films, Part I](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 3–4; Clark III 799)
- 1978**, December 22 — [Peter Gersten](#) of CAUS files a request with the NSA for copies of the 18 UFO-related documents the CIA has referred to it. NSA’s Chief of Policy Roy R. Banner later declines their release on the basis of national security. (ClearIntent, [p. 181](#))
- 1978**, December 24 — 6:50 p.m. Benito Franchi, 45, is working in the power station at Pietracamela, Teramo, Italy, in a room with two AC generators, one connected to power and the other disconnected, when he suddenly feels ill and faint. The working generator’s dial hands register an overload on the network, and the dial hands on the disconnected generator are also waving. This continues for about one minute, leaving the dials badly out of calibration. Franchi feels paralyzed and falls to the ground. Suddenly everything stops, and out of the window he sees three or four bright flashes coming from a ball of brilliant red light that hurts his eyes. The object takes off and disappears to the southwest. Franchi suffers from severe conjunctivitis, and the generator dials must be calibrated again. Shortly afterward, a large luminous UFO is seen hovering above the Gran Sasso massif to the southwest. (IPinotti 259)
- 1978**, December 30 — 7:30 a.m. Erwin Vitelli sees a steely-blue object hovering in the southern sky above Zuchwil, Solothurn, Switzerland. It appears in the shape of three globes merging with one another, each one with a light source directed downward. The object is visible for about one minute. (“[Early Morning, Late December, Swiss Sighting](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 1 (Feb./March 1983): 1, 3)
- 1978**, December 31 — 12:10 a.m. [Quentin Fogarty](#), a reporter for Melbourne’s 0/10 Network assigned to do a story on the Vern Powell sighting 10 days earlier, has chartered an Argosy cargo plane, piloted by Capt. William Startup and First Officer Robert Guard. While flying from Wellington to Christchurch, New Zealand, with David Crockett

and his wife Ngaire as camera crew over the Cook Strait near the site of the Powell sighting, Startup and Guard see 6–7 bright, pulsating lights like Chinese lanterns above the sea off Kaikoura. They fade and disappear, then return to view. Crockett starts filming. Wellington is tracking a target a mile behind the aircraft that stays on the screen for about one minute without moving. Another, stronger target appears to the right of the plane. Fogarty manages to crack, “Let’s hope they’re friendly!” Twice, Startup vainly attempts a 360° turn to get a glimpse of the object. After landing at Christchurch, Startup invites the passengers to accompany him back to Blenheim. Fogarty, Crockett, and another journalist, Dennis Grant, agree to do so. The plane flies out at 2:15 a.m., and within 2 minutes aircraft radar picks up a target 37 miles away. Startup turns toward it, but it moves to the right and vanishes almost immediately. Other radars pick up targets intermittently. The object returns in view of the plane, moving toward it, then drops out of sight to the right. Afterward, Fogarty notices a strange light that seems to be coming from the cargo hold. Two pulsating white lights soon appear on the port side of the plane. One settles into a rolling, turning pattern and falls at an incredible speed. This sequence Crockett captures on film. [Bruce Maccabee](#) spends 10 days in New Zealand and Australia interviewing witnesses and analyzing the film, which he concludes does not have any mundane explanation. (Wikipedia, “[Kaikoura lights](#)”; “[NZ Air Force Hunts UFOs](#),” *Canberra Times*, January 3, 1979, p. 8; “[The New Zealand UFO Films, Part I](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 4–8; “[The New Zealand Film Analysis, Part II](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 3–6; Story, pp. 392–395; W. C. Chalker, “[A Re-Viewing of the Great Nocturnal Light](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 1 (June 1980): 12–18; Quentin Fogarty, *Let’s Hope They’re Friendly!* Angus and Robertson, 1983; Bruce Maccabee, “Analysis and Discussion of the Images of a Cluster of Periodically Flashing Lights off the Coast of New Zealand,” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 1, no. 2 (1987): 149–190, slightly [revised](#) in January 2002; Bruce Maccabee, “[Atmosphere or UFO? A Response to the 1997 SSE Review Panel Report](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 13, no. 3 (1999): 431–443; Clark III 799–801; “[How the 40-Year-Old Mystery of a UFO in New Zealand Lives On](#),” News.com.au, December 19, 2018; “[The 1978 Kaikoura, New Zealand, UFO Lights Incident Was Caught on Camera and Radar](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, October 2023)

- 1978**, December 31 — 4:00 a.m. Bobby Hines wakes up at her home in Demopolis, Alabama, because her dogs are barking outside. She sees a large, bright object hovering above the trees 1,800 feet from the house and wakes her husband. The UFO is the size of a small house and triangular in shape. It approaches the witnesses, moving in a zigzag pattern and hovering 50 feet off the ground for 30 minutes. Two police officers respond to their call and watch the UFO as well, which finally moves off to the southeast making a funny noise. (Marler [103–104](#))
- 1978**, December 31 — 7:00 p.m. Hundreds of people in the United Kingdom see a bright light with a long trail behind it streak across the heavens from northwest to southeast. RAF Fylingdales in the North York Moors, England, quickly identifies it as the reentry of a booster rocket that launched a Russian satellite, Kosmos 1068, into orbit on December 26. Jenny Randles examines reports of the reentry, which in general accurately reflect the event, and compares them to UFO reports, concluding that it is unlikely that all UFOs are IFOs in various degrees of exaggeration. (“[That December 31st ‘UFO](#),” *Northern UFO News*, no. 57 (February 1979): 2; “[Cosmos 1068...And All That](#),” *Northern UFO News*, no. 59 (April 1979): 8; “[Cosmos 1068: Again](#),” *Northern UFO News*, no. 63 (August 1979): 2; J. B. Delair, “[Aerial Phenomena over Britain on Dec 31, 1978: A Preliminary Survey](#),” *BUFORA Journal* 10, no. 1 (February 1981): 11–21; J. Bernard Delair, “[Guest Editorial: The Cosmos 1068 Debate](#),” *Northern UFO News*, no. 87 (August 1981): 1–2; T. R. Dutton, “[The Events of December 31st, 1978](#),” *BUFORA Bulletin*, no. 4 (May 1982): 11–13; J. B. Delair, “[The Events of December 31st, 1978: A Reply](#),” *BUFORA Bulletin*, no. 4 (May 1982): 14–17; “[A Case of Faulty Memory?](#)” *Northern UFO News*, no. 103 (July/Aug. 1983): 12; Jenny Randles, *UFO Reality*, Robert Hale, pp. 44–49, 59; Jenny Randles, “[The Case Against the IFO](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1985): 4–6; Jenny Randles, “[Jenny Randles Replies](#),” *IUR* 10, no. 3 (May/June 1985): 8–9, 15; “[Putting a Rocket Up Stockport](#),” *Northern UFO News*, no. 184 (Summer 2000): 10–11; UFOFiles2, pp. 98–99; Jenny Randles, “The Twelve UFOs of Christmas,” *Fortean Times* 374 (Christmas 2018): 29; [Kosmos-1068](#), RocketLaunch.Live)

1979

- 1979** — British science fiction author [David Langford](#) publishes an allegedly nonfiction novelette, *An Account of a Meeting with Denizens of Another World, 1871*. It is an account of a UFO encounter, as experienced by a man in Buckinghamshire, England; in its framing story Langford claims to have found the manuscript in an old desk (the story’s narrator, [William Robert Loosley](#), is a genuine ancestor of Langford’s wife). But no ufologists take it seriously. (David Langford, *An Account of a Meeting with Denizens of Another World, 1871*, David and Charles, 1979; Clark III 599–600)

- 1979** — Jacques Bonabot founds the Studiegroep voor Vreemde Luchtverschijnselen in Antwerp, Belgium, as the Flemish counterpart to the Groupement pour l'Étude des Sciences d'Avant-Garde in Bruges. It publishes *SVL Tijdschrift* from January 1982 to October 1987. ([SVL Tijdschrift](#) 1, no. 1 (January 1982))
- 1979** — Patrick Geoffroy founds the Association Dijonnaise de Recherches Ufologiques et Parapsychologiques in Ruffey-lès-Echirey (later in Quetigny), Côte-d'Or, France. It begins publishing *Vimana 21*, a journal that continues until early 1989. ([Vimana 21](#), no. 1 (1979))
- 1979** — The first Greek UFO magazine, *UFO: Iptameoi Diskoi*, is published. (Orestis Lazanakis, "[UAP in Greece](#)," UAP Check, July 27, 2024)
- 1979** — The Argentine Air Force creates another group to study UFOs within the Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales. It lasts until 1987. (Milton W. Hourcade, "[Argentina: UFO Declassification](#)," UAPSG-GEFAI, July 29, 2020)
- 1979** — The Uruguayan Air Force creates CRIDOVNI, a special commission to investigate all UFO sightings within the country. It includes freelance ufologists but seems to have disbanded in the mid-1980s. (Willy Smith, "UFOs in Latin America," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Times, 1987, p. 100)
- 1979** — The English-language *Sri Lanka UFO Register* begins publication in Weligama, Sri Lanka, edited by Ananda L. Sirisena. It continues through 1988. ([Sri Lanka UFO Register](#), no. 2 (Oct./Dec. 1979))
- 1979, January** — In an article in *Just Cause*, researcher [Todd Zechel](#) claims that [Keyhoe](#)'s National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena has long been riddled with CIA-friendly or covert board members and staff, among them [Joseph Bryan III](#), [Karl T. Pflock](#), Stuart Nixon, John Acuff, and [Roscoe Hillenkoetter](#). Because of NICAP's current acute financial crisis, he concludes that if the CIA had wanted to "destroy the leading anti-secrecy organization of the 1960s, they couldn't have done a better job." [Richard H. Hall](#) disputes this analysis. (Todd Zechel, "[NI-CIA-AP or NICAP?](#)" *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 133 (January/February 1979): 6–9)
- 1979, January** — [Axel Ertelt](#) begins publishing *Mysteria*, a journal of UFO and ancient astronaut information, in Halver, North Rhine–Westphalia, Germany. It continues through at least April 1987. ([Mysteria](#), no. 1 (1979))
- 1979, Early January** — About 6:00 p.m. A1C John W. Mills III is with a second lieutenant conducting a below-ground azimuth alignment procedure at the Ellsworth AFB Delta-3 missile site southwest of Cottonwood, South Dakota, when the security guard bangs on the ladder and tells them to come up. Going topside, they hear a loud, low-frequency hum permeating the launch facility. The guard leads them out of the gate where they see a dark object with straight edges in the sky. It seems to be shaped like a parallelogram, but they can't tell how high it is. The guard is upset, but the other two men are oddly calm, even though they are not supposed to be outside the gate, and they return to the missile and descend the ladder to continue the alignment. Then the lights go off, the truck engine stops running, the radio goes out, and the missile site goes off alert. The hum is gone, but they can still see the dark object. Some 10 minutes later the lights come back on and they notice the object is gone. Targeting teams from two other launch sites report similar experiences. (Nukes 377–387)
- 1979, January 1** — 5:00 a.m. Former USAF UFO spokesman [Albert M. Chop](#) and his wife and daughter watch a triangular UFO moving slowly eastward over the mountains southeast of Palm Desert, California. It is about 10 times as bright as the background stars. It is in sight for about 45 minutes, by which time it has become a small, distant light in the eastern sky. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 61](#))
- 1979, January 4** — Just after 12:00 midnight. Meagen Quezet and her son André go looking for their dog that has just run barking away from their home in Krugersdorp, Gauteng, South Africa. Driving along a remote country road, they find the dog standing 60 feet away from a lead-colored, egg-shaped object with landing gear. Five or six dark-skinned entities are standing in front, wearing white or pink suits and shoes. One with a beard bows to Quezet and says something unintelligible. André runs to get his father, whereupon the beings enter the craft, which takes off making a purring sound. Quezet undergoes hypnotic regression by [Bernard Levinson](#) on June 21, where she remembers the "leader" cajoling her to come on board, which she does with her son, seeing lights, panels, chairs, and a table. They jump out again, protesting that they can't go. (Cynthia Hind, "[Mystery at Mindalore](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 134 (March/April 1979): 3–8; Cynthia Hind, "[Mindalore Case Follow-Up](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 140 (October 1979): 5–7; "[Another South African CE III](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 7–8; UFOEv II 498; Cynthia Hind, "[Editorial](#)," *UFO Afrinews*, no. 21 (January 2000): 4–5)
- 1979, January 4** — Morning. Jean Hingley waves her husband off to work on Bluestone Walk, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, England. As she turns to go back indoors, she sees a large orange sphere hovering above the carport. Three small figures shoot past her into the house, making a high-pitched buzzing noise. Each figure is about three-and-a-half feet tall and dressed in a silvery tunic with buttons down the front. The heads are covered in "goldfish-bowl" shaped helmets, through which eyes set in wide, white faces glitter "like black diamonds." Each has a pair of large, transparent wings covered in small dots. Their limbs taper to points, and they hover and fly

with their arms clasped over their chests and their legs hanging stiffly down. Each is surrounded by a halo. The entities head directly into the living room, where two of them begin shaking the Christmas tree. At one point, two of them fly over to the sofa and bounce on it like children. When Hingley asks them to stop, they shine a beam of light at her forehead that blinds and burns her. The entities accept a plate of mince pies that Hingley offers them. When she speaks to them, the beings press the buttons on their tunics and reply in gruff, masculine voices. Eventually, they fly out the back door and return to the UFO, a sphere with a scorpion-like tail at the rear. The object takes off, leaving a trail of inch-wide, parallel lines in the snow. On January 6, the Christmas tree vanishes from the Hingleys' living room. It reappears on January 8 in the back garden, minus its decorations and in several pieces. The decorations reappear just outside the garden at intervals over the next few days. (Albert Budden, "The Mince-Pie Martians: The Rowley Regis Case," *Fortean Times*, no. 50 (Summer 1988): 40–44)

- 1979**, January 5 — 6:20 p.m. Anmarie Emery is driving near Auburn, Massachusetts, when she notices three, red-glowing, triangular objects flying over woods to her left. As she rounds a corner, she sees them hovering above the road directly in front of her. The radio goes dead, the car slows to a stop (although the engine continues to run), and she feels completely paralyzed. The closest object is only 30 feet away. She feels heat on her face and smells an unpleasant odor. When another car approaches, the three objects shoot straight up, one at a time, and everything returns to normal. When she returns home to Cambridge, Massachusetts, she notices her face is reddened. She develops a rash and peeling skin the next day. (Raymond E. Fowler, "[Close Encounters with E-M and Physical Effects](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 134 (March/April 1979): 8–9; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [pp. 302–303](#); Raymond E. Fowler, *Casebook of a UFO Investigator*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, [pp. 70–74](#))
- 1979**, January 6 — 10:30 a.m. A journalist aboard the Japanese icebreaker *Fuji* in Antarctic waters sees an object resembling a bluish-white kite moving silently at a high rate of speed. Witnesses guess the altitude as 2–3 miles, with differences of opinion on whether its course is straight or zigzag. The crew reports further sightings of a similar object. (*Asahi Shinbun* (Osaka), January 23, 1979; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 2)
- 1979**, January 14 — The *New York Times* gives brief coverage to Ground Saucer Watch's attempt to obtain UFO documents from the CIA. ("[C.I.A. Papers Detail U.F.O. Surveillance](#)," *New York Times*, January 14, 1979, p. 23)
- 1979**, January 16 — Gen. Emiliano Alfaro Arregui, chief of staff of the Spanish Air Force, writes to the Ministry of Defense to say that whenever a UFO sighting is reported to the authorities, an Informing Judge is appointed by the corresponding Air Region to proceed with a proper investigation. Some reports are caused by natural phenomena, while others are unidentified. (Swords 424, 513)
- 1979**, January 18 — 7:07 p.m. [Brinsley Le Poer Trench](#), Lord Clancarty, has put down a motion for debate in the House of Lords on the official policy of the UK government on UFOs. He begins the debate by launching into a history of UFOs and stresses the international character of the phenomenon. He concludes with a request for the [Minister of Defence](#) to be interviewed on national TV. [Lord Trefgarne](#) rejects the proposal on the grounds that there are many things that can masquerade as UFOs, plus the Bible has nothing to say about extraterrestrials. [Lord Kimberley](#) agrees that a parliamentary group should be set up. [Lord Oxfuird](#) and [Lord Davies](#) agree there should be future investigations to settle the question. The [Bishop of Norwich](#) expresses concern that a UFO cult could compete with Christianity. [Lord Gladwyn](#) deems the evidence inconclusive, but [Lord Kings Norton](#) favors an investigation. [Lord Rankeillour](#) states emphatically that UFOs exist, and they might be dangerous. [Lord Gainford](#) relates a personal sighting of a nocturnal light over Argyll, Scotland, the previous December 31. The [Earl of Halsbury](#) provides a list of natural causes for UFOs, and [Lord Hewlett](#) paraphrases debunking arguments. The [Earl of Cork and Orrery](#) lashes out at Trefgarne's skepticism. [Lord Strabolgi](#) firmly rejects the request for an official investigation on the grounds that all UFO reports can be explained conventionally. Clancarty winds it up by saying, "Nothing is impossible in this world or this universe. It is just that the seemingly impossible takes a little time to come about." ("[Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," Hansard Lords Debate, vol. 397, cc1246–1316, January 18, 1979; Allan Hendry, [[House of Lords UFO Debate](#)], *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 9–11; Good Above, [pp. 73–75](#); UFOFiles2, [pp. 99–104](#); Clark III 616–618; Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1979**, January 18 — 11:30 p.m. A car driven by a 42-year-old woodcutter stops abruptly in Lusiana, Vicenza, Italy. Its lights go out and the doors open by themselves. An orange ball is sitting in the road ahead, and two 3-foot-tall, copper-colored humanoids emerge from a door. They are wearing metallic-looking, scaled coveralls. Their hands are long and end in pointed nails. They invite him on board by gestures and he follows them into a small room with electronic-looking gadgets and a screen. They begin undressing him, but he resists. The wall opens and an overall garment is shown to him. He refuses to wear it and he implores them to let him go. One of the beings gives him a small box with writing on it. A door opens and the man leaves. Suddenly the orange light disappears

and his car lights come on again. (Paolo Fiorino, Gian Paolo Grassino, and Antonio Chiumiento, "[Abductions in Italy](#)," *IUR* 14, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1989): 14)

- 1979**, January 20 — The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research committee releases its report on eight UFO sightings in Kuwait from November to December 14, 1978. The report rejects the idea that the UFOs are espionage devices, but it remains equivocal about whether they are extraterrestrial. The committee recommends that the government take all measures to protect the country and its oilfields. ("['UFO' Sightings Cause Security Concern in Kuwait](#)," WikiLeaks, [telegram], January 29, 1979; ClearIntent, [p. 90](#))
- 1979**, January 20 — At least 10 people in Kuwait see another UFO, and a photographer for the *Arab Times* takes some photographs that show blobs of light. The object seems to be rotating, changing from circular to a more triangular form as it hovers. It disappears to the northeast at great speed. Front-page newspaper stories of about this appear the day after the committee's report. (Richard Hall, "[UFOs in Arab Nations](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 133 (Jan./Feb. 1979): 5; ClearIntent, [p. 90](#))
- 1979**, Late January — The *Setka-AN* group of the USSR Academy of Sciences publishes a skeptical article in the weekly publication *Nedelya* that tries to show that all UFOs are natural phenomena that UFO enthusiasts are popularizing through their inept investigations as anomalous. *Setka-AN* hopes to have a solution to the UFO problem "in a few months." The USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology (Goskomgidromet) takes an active part in the Soviet *Setka-AN* program around this time, asking all meteorological stations and field studies to fill out report forms on any anomalous sightings. (Nikita A. Schnee, "[Ufology in the U.S.S.R.](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 1 (June 1981): 8; Good Above, [p. 237](#))
- 1979**, January 29 — [Peter Gersten](#) appeals the NSA's decision to withhold the 18 UFO-related documents forwarded to the NSA by the CIA but is again denied. (ClearIntent, [p. 181](#))
- 1979**, February — Mississippi House Resolution No. 14, proposed by Rep. [Horace Buckley](#) of Jackson and calling for a complete US Senate investigation of UFO sightings, dies in committee. (Allan Hendry, "[UFOs and Government: 1979](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 7–9)
- 1979**, February — A woman and her aunt in Shelby, Ohio, are just sitting down to watch television when a bright light shines outside their window. It is hanging in the air behind their dog kennel. When the woman goes out to investigate, two more lights appear and enter the original one. Then that light disappears and is replaced by red and green lights that resolve into a large number of lights of both colors on an object. As she approaches, the UFO begins to move toward her and passes overhead. It is as big as a jetliner, with bolts on its base as large as volleyballs. Her dog begins whining and cowering, and she gets a severe pain in her head that causes her to fall on her knees. As the object moves away with a soft whirring noise, she gets back on her feet. She estimates she was only outside for 5 minutes, but she and her aunt cannot account for an additional 45–50 minutes. Her headache persists for several weeks. (Michael D. Swords, "[Unusual Experiences from the Timmerman Files](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 22)
- 1979**, February 5 — 9:50 p.m. A man is driving on the Lyell Highway near Lawitta, Tasmania, when his car radio stops. Seconds later, an intense white light envelops the car, and he cannot see beyond the hood. The car's lights and motor fail at the same time. The next thing he knows, he is getting stopped in Hobart by police for driving his car without headlights. The police find that he does not know his name, where he has come from, or where he is going. He is taken to the hospital and examined, where he is found to be in a state of shock. It is only at the Royal Hobart Hospital that his memory of the preceding events returns. His vehicle, a Ford Cortina 71TC, is inspected and found to have a dead battery and low oil level. The cut-off switch on the alternator needs replacing, as does some wiring, especially for the headlights. Radiator water is also found to be low. ("[Sightings](#)," *TUFOIC Newsletter*, no. 27 (May 1979): 2)
- 1979**, February 9 — [Joseph J. F. Clark](#), associate director, Legislative Liaison for the Air Force, responds to Rep. [Samuel S. Stratton](#) (D-N.Y.) saying that "permanent" UFO files are not maintained, but includes some memos, messages, and log entries from the Northern Tier cases that have already been released through FOIA requests. Stratton fails to follow up. (ClearIntent, [p. 55](#))
- 1979**, February 9 — 9:00 p.m. Peter Hathaway is driving on the Bruce Highway north of the Liverpool Creek bridge near Cowley Beach, Queensland, when he sees a "little white light" sitting on the edge of the asphalt. As he approaches within 100 feet, he notices a dark beehive-shaped object behind it, which now rises vertically off the surface about 3 feet. Hathaway is momentarily blinded by a flash of light. Opening his eyes, he sees that his car headlights and engine have stopped. He coasts to a truck rest stop, where his lights come back on and the engine starts perfectly. ("[1979](#)," Australian UFO Research Network; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [pp. 304–305](#))

- 1979**, February 16 — New Mexico State Police Officer [Gabe Valdez](#) informs the FBI that cattle in New Mexico are “being shot with some type of paralyzing drug and the blood is being drawn from the animal after an injection of an anti-coagulant.” In some cases, the animal’s legs have been broken, perhaps by clamps being placed on them. Helicopters without any identifying numbers are seen in the area of these mutilations. Valdez tells the FBI that he thinks it is a clandestine operation either by the CIA or the Department of Energy (although in 1980 he tells journalist [Linda Moulton Howe](#) that he thinks aliens are responsible). (Federal Bureau of Investigation, [[cattle mutilation documents](#)])
- 1979**, February 16 — [Peter Gersten](#) again files a FOIA request with the NSA, this time requesting all documents in its possession or under the control of the NSA relating to UFOs. (ClearIntent, [pp. 181–182](#))
- 1979**, February 22 — 4:00 p.m. Two 14-year-old girls, Lynsey Tebbs and Susan Pearson, are tobogganing down the slopes that surround their housing complex in Meanwood, Leeds, England. They are startled by a loud whining noise coming from an object that is descending nearby. After it lands, the noise changes to a hum, which then fades as it rests on the snow. It is gray and egg-shaped, with two fins on either side, and is the size of a small car. Frightened, the girls run up the hill but pause to take another look. The object rests on the ground for about 3 minutes, then starts humming and approaches the girls, landing again on the slope about 80 feet away. After another few minutes, it wobbles and takes off. Investigators from the Yorkshire UFO Society visit the site on February 25 and find odd indentations in the snow in two places. (Mark Birdsall and Graham Birdsall, “[Landing and Possible Traces near Leeds](#),” *Northern Ufology*, no. 62 (July 1979): 9–10; Good Above, [pp. 72–73](#))
- 1979**, February 25 — 2:00 a.m. Both Circulación Aérea Militar Operativa (CAMO) radar and radar at the W-8 military station detect an unidentified target 52 miles to the southeast of Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, flying at an altitude of 14,400 feet. An Iberia airliner in the area is alerted, and the pilot reports an intense, elongated light above his position. The W-8 local radar detects a transponder signal. (Swords 435)
- 1979**, Late February — 9:10 p.m. Chinese Air Force flight instructor Sha Yangkao is flying a night fighter over Houma, Shanxi, China, when he sees a bright luminous object shoot across the sky from south to north, apparently flying supersonically at an altitude of 3,300 feet. (Paul Dong, “[Extracts from Paul Dong’s Feidie Bai Wen Bai Da \(Questions and Answers on UFOs\)](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 29, no. 6 (August 1984): 14)
- 1979**, March — 9:00 a.m. Two Republic of Korea Air Force F-4D Phantom II jets, piloted by Lt. Col. Seungbae Lee and Col. Byungsun Lim, are flying at 15,000 feet while returning from the annual Team Spirit military exercise to Daegu Air Force Base, South Korea. Near Palgong Mountain in the Taebaek Range, a star-like, stationary object appears in the distance that grows in size as the jets approach. Neither the aircraft nor the base can register the object on radar. When they reach within 15 miles of the light, it shoots away to the east and hovers again. The disc is as big as a jumbo jet and radiates bright golden light from top to bottom. Red and blue lights sparkle from its rim. After the jets circle twice above the object, it speeds away to the east. (Good Need, [p. 310](#))
- 1979**, March 2 — Early morning. Witnesses in Rivera, Uruguay, see an oval-shaped object with portholes. One witness, Ernesto Fagundez, watches the UFO circle a transmitting tower he is working on then stop. Through the portholes he can see entities with large heads that are wearing transparent helmets. The object dives over a truck carrying farm workers before it rises into the air, leaving a fiery trail and a column of smoke. (“[Foreign Forum](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (Aug. 1979): 2)
- 1979**, March 3 — The Spanish Joint Chiefs of Staff meet and decide to formally define UFO information as classified, rather than confidential. The reason is that the civilian UFO group Centre d’Estudis Interplanetaris in Barcelona had solicited King [Juan Carlos I](#) in January to provide access to UFO information collected by the Spanish armed forces. (Swords 424, 514)
- 1979**, March 5 — Dusk. Many residents of the Canary Islands are captivated with the sight of a strange sunset. Multicolored concentric rings or bright zigzag trails are seen on the horizon towards the west, forming an enormous cloud. A few minutes after 8:00 p.m., a point of light is seen to ascend, leaving a luminous jet that appears to expand, developing into a huge, bright dome. Independent sets of clear photos are obtained from distant points of view. The phenomenon is even seen from Safi, Morocco. Maj. Pedro Ortega García and Capt. José Juan Abad Cellini investigate for the Spanish Air Force and conclude that the luminous cloud was 320 miles in diameter at an altitude of 40 miles. They again reject the missile hypothesis, but the US Navy has launched four Poseidon missiles from the [USS Kamehameha](#) around the same time that probably account for the phenomena. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Ricardo Campo Pérez, “[Navy Missile Tests and the Canary Islands UFOs](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 4–5)
- 1979**, March 6 — 7:30 p.m. [Ben Chastain](#) watches a round, luminous object about 12 feet in diameter skimming low over treetops in Westminster, South Carolina, arousing the dogs. At one point the object comes within 150 feet, its glow illuminating the area. Oconee County Deputy Sheriff [Jimmy Roach](#) and his wife see the object from a

distance. About 8:00 p.m., Bill Osborne watches a larger object (80 feet long and 25 feet wide) that sweeps the area with a light beam. ("[UFO Sightings Reported in Oconee](#)," *Seneca (S.C.) Journal and Tribune*, March 12, 1979, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 118 (May 1979): 2; "[UFO Sightings Reported Throughout S.C. Piedmont](#)," *Westminster (S.C.) News*, March 14, 1979, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 118 (May 1979): 2; Iris Harrelson Maack, "[Press Reports](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 27, no. 12 (June 1979): 7–8; "Occupant, E-M Effects, Photo Highlight Reports," *UFO Research Newsletter* 6, no. 6 (June/July 1979): 7–8; Bob Gribble, "[Looking Back](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 251 (March 1989): 19; UFOEv II 226)

- 1979**, March 13 — 11:00 a.m. An uncorrelated radar target is detected over the Mediterranean Sea north of Algeria by radar in the Pegaso control room at Torrejón Air Base in Madrid, Spain. It is traveling at 970 mph on a northwest course toward Spain. Three minutes later a scramble is ordered, and a Dassault Mirage III fighter takes off from Manises Air Base [now Valencia Airport] to identify the target, but the track soon vanishes from the radar. It has moved about 71 miles in that time. Four minutes later, the target reappears in another position, this time motionless. The Mirage is vectored toward the new position. When the fighter is about 9 miles from the target, it moves in a northwest direction, accelerating to 840 mph and climbing to more than 15 miles. Six minutes later, it changes course to the northeast, and in two minutes it is gone. The Mirage never gets a visual contact. (Swords 435–436, 527)
- 1979**, March 13 — While Grenada Prime Minister [Eric Gairy](#) is at the United Nations, the New Jewel Movement led by [Maurice Bishop](#) launches an armed revolution and overthrows the government. Gairy stays in exile in the US until 1983.
- 1979**, March 28 — 4:00 p.m. Reactor number 2 of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, suffers a partial meltdown, resulting in a radiation leak. The accident begins with failures in the non-nuclear secondary system, followed by a stuck-open pilot-operated relief valve in the primary system, which allows large amounts of nuclear reactor coolant to escape, contaminating the containment building with thousands of gallons of radioactive water. The staff has no choice but to vent radioactive gases directly into the atmosphere. The mechanical failures are compounded by the initial failure of plant operators to recognize the situation as a loss-of-coolant accident due to inadequate training and computer interface oversights relating to ambiguous control room indicators. In particular, a hidden indicator light leads to an operator manually overriding the automatic emergency cooling system of the reactor because the operator mistakenly believes that there is too much coolant water present in the reactor and causing the steam pressure release. No one is harmed by the released radiation, which is contained entirely in a cloud of short-lived isotopes of inert gases that drift out over the Atlantic Ocean. (Wikipedia, "[Three Mile Island accident](#)"; Mike Gray and Ira Rosen, *The Warning: Accident at Three Mile Island*, Norton, 1982; Grace Halden, *Three Mile Island: The Meltdown Crisis and Nuclear Power in American Popular Culture*, Routledge, 2017)
- 1979**, Spring — UFO investigator [Raymond E. Fowler](#) publishes *The Andreasson Affair*, introducing the story of [Betty Andreasson](#), a Massachusetts housewife who recounts a 1967 abduction encounter with short humanoids having large heads and eyes. (Raymond E. Fowler, *The Andreasson Affair*, Prentice-Hall, 1979)
- 1979**, April 9 — Two Apache tribal officers on patrol near Dulce, New Mexico, see a round, silent craft hovering 50 feet above the ground, with a searchlight aimed downward on cattle below. (Wikipedia, "[Cattle mutilation](#)")
- 1979**, April 12 — Early evening. A family is driving home from the grocery store at Brockton, Massachusetts. They see a piano-shaped object with lights all over it. A spotlight is beaming down, and there is one red light on top. They lose sight of the object, but suddenly all four car windows go down and back up; then they go down halfway and back up. The same thing happens when they stop at a red light. They see the object again, which is now following them. They park near their house, and the UFO hovers across the street. The man shuts off the engine and the windows act up again as the UFO moves directly overhead. The father and son get out of the car, and the UFO shoots a beam down at each of them in turn. It then moves down the street and away. (Michael D. Swords, "[Messing Around with the Force](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 4 (March 2008): 17)
- 1979**, April 19 — 11:30 p.m. John Milroy and his mother are driving from Ardersier to Croy, Inverness, Scotland, when he sees headlights in the distance. The lights get larger and rise above the road. Thinking it is an airplane crash, they get out of the car and experience an abnormal silence; they can no longer hear the car engine or the door slam when they flee. Everything reverts to normal when they reach a ditch. The mother is so excited she needs to be sedated the next day. ("[UFO Scare for Mother and Son](#)," *Aberdeen (Scotland) Evening Express*, April 20, 1979, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 119 (June 1979): 11; "[Foreign Forum](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 2)
- 1979**, April 20 — Former astronaut and US Sen. [Harrison Schmitt](#) (R-N.Mex.) and US Attorney [R. E. Thompson](#) convene an informal public hearing on cattle mutilations in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Its goal is to show that criminal activity is taking place involving many states and it requires federal action. About 200 people attend, including

Fort Worth (Tex.) *Star-Telegram* reporter [Jim Marrs](#). Thompson warns law enforcement officers not to reveal any evidence that might be used at a later trial. (“[Cattle Mutilation Probe Will Begin on April 20.](#)” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, March 21, 1979, p. 20; “[Conference Targets Cattle Mutilations.](#)” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, April 19, 1979, p. 8; Fritz Thompson, “[FBI to Scan Mutilations.](#)” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, April 21, 1979, pp. 1, 3; Thomas P. Deuley, “[Mutilation Hearings Held in New Mexico.](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 137 (July 1979): 8–9; Christopher O’Brien, *Stalking the Herd: Unraveling the Cattle Mutilation Mystery*, Adventures Unlimited, 2014)

- 1979**, April 21 — Late night. A helicopter pilot and a mechanic are returning by car to their unit in the Blonie area, Poland. A light descends rapidly and silently over the road, resolving itself into 4 large lights attached to a solid object more than 100 feet long. It stops and hovers at 300 feet and then shoots upward instantaneously. (Poland 68–69)
- 1979**, April 25 — Retired FBI agent [Kenneth M. Rommel Jr.](#) begins a major investigation of cattle mutilations. Financed by grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the Santa Fe, New Mexico, District Attorney’s office (which has been designated as the coordinating state investigative agency for cattle mutilations), the inquiry focuses on New Mexico cases, though it pays some attention to incidents in other states. (Wikipedia, “[Cattle mutilation](#)”; Thomas Day, “[Santa Fe DA to Coordinate Cattle Mutilations Probe.](#)” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, April 25, 1979, p. 3; Fritz Thompson, “[The Cattle Mutilation Mystery Revisited.](#)” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, May 22, 1979, *Impact* magazine, pp. 12–15; Thomas P. Deuley, “[Mutilation Hearings Held in New Mexico.](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 137 (July 1979): 8–9; Kenneth M. Rommel Jr., *Operation Animal Mutilation*, Report of the District Attorney, First Judicial District, State of New Mexico, June 1980; Clark III 133)
- 1979**, May — [Victor Marchetti](#), former special assistant to the Deputy Director of the CIA and author of the 1974 book *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, writes an article in *Second Look* on “How the CIA Views the UFO Phenomenon.” He asserts that “we have, indeed, been contacted—perhaps even visited—by extraterrestrial beings, and the US government, in collusion with other national powers of the Earth, is determined to keep this information from the general public.” He claims that the CIA does not discuss UFOs openly because they are deemed “sensitive activities,” but he has heard rumors of crashed UFOs and extraterrestrial signals picked up by the National Security Agency. Attempts by the government to deny the reality of UFOs have all the hallmarks of a classic coverup, he writes. (Victor Marchetti, “[How the CIA Views the UFO Phenomenon.](#)” *Second Look* 1, no. 7 (May 1979): 2–7; Nukes 490–491)
- 1979**, May 1 — 4:00 a.m. YPF company engineers at the Vizcacheras oil fields in a remote area of Argentina’s Mendoza province accessible only to employees are awakened by goats bleating in a corral. When they go outside to investigate, they see a UFO hovering silently about 230 feet from the encampment and 65 feet above the ground. They wave a lantern and the UFO seems to respond by blinking a light, then slowly lands nearby. More light signals are exchanged, then the UFO takes off and disappears toward the Andes mountains at 4:35 a.m. After the sighting, the goats (about 1,500) refuse to return to their corral. The engineers go to inspect the landing spot and find a large circle in which the sand has been petrified or hardened into chunks. Soil samples are taken to a Professor of Literature [Victorio Corradi](#) for analysis. Corradi, identified as director of the Institute for Extrahuman Studies, says the samples are being analyzed by the Office of Mining. Corradi remarks that that the “permanent presence of the UFOs over the uranium mines of La Pintada and Cuesta de los Terneros in San Rafael and now in Vizcacheras, is not a coincidence.” (Richard H. Hall, “[Extraterrestrial Psychology.](#)” 1988; “[Argentine Oil Field Landing.](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 139 (September 1979): 6; “[Vizcacheras, Mendoza: Aterrizaje en campo de petróleo \(1 de mayo de 1979\).](#)” *Orbita Cero: Mendoza, Argentina*, February 17, 2013; Luis Emilio Annino, “[Adiós al Prof. Victorio Corradi, pionero y decano de la Ufología mendocina.](#)” *Orbita Cero: Mendoza, Argentina*, February 10, 2022)
- 1979**, May 7 — 10:00 a.m. Two witnesses on an airliner about one hour south of Chicago, Illinois, notice two bright-white rectangular objects slightly higher than the airplane. They gradually fade from view. (“[Long Rectangular UFOs: Five Different Cases of Similarly Shaped Objects.](#)” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 9 (September 1981): 2)
- 1979**, May 9 — Early morning. A fleet of 10–15 UFOs alarms people in Choconta, Colombia. Eight of the objects have lights that change from red to blue to orange and yellow. An electrical blackout takes place, and dogs, chicken, and cattle get disturbed and run away. The objects examine the Telecom satellite tracking station before ascending rapidly and disappearing in the clouds. (“[Foreign Forum.](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 2)
- 1979**, May 16 — 10:30 a.m. Arlindo Gabriel dos Santos is hunting with two friends in a forest near Baependi, Minas Gerais, Brazil, when he becomes separated from the others. He sees an object descend towards the ground in a clearing. He approaches to within 600 feet and sees that the object is shaped like a telephone booth about 3 feet

tall. He takes a photo of the object before it abruptly disappears in plain sight. He walks to the clearing and sees another object shaped like a toy top and a little larger than the previous object, descending swiftly. It has a small propeller on top and a long, pointed protrusion on the bottom. As he tries to photograph the second object, he hears a whooshing sound, and the craft is quickly enveloped in smoke. He notices a third craft descending overhead. This one is barrel-shaped and hovers for a bit before landing. It also has a large propeller at one end and is covered with red stripes. It vanishes when he tries to approach. Dos Santos finally sees a huge, white, egg-shaped object descend. It has a pointed top and fin-like protrusions on each side. Next to the fins are several windows. As it descends it makes a horrific noise like a choking motor and puts out four landing pods. He approaches and tries to take another photograph, but there is a sudden flash that temporarily blinds him and leaves his eyes irritated. Frightened, he drops the camera and runs, but is only able to get about 30 feet before he is can no longer move. Behind him he notices two men wearing helmets with transparent visors and gloves. They grab him, each taking one arm. He begs them to let him go in the name of God, but they answer, "In the name of God, we are all brothers; we don't harm anybody." The voice comes from a box-like apparatus on their backs. He is taken toward the landed UFO. As he gets near, he can feel an intense cold surrounding it. Another helmeted figure stands by a ladder extending from the craft, looking from side to side. The man asks dos Santos if he has seen a "Zurca." Dos Santos thinks he is referring to one of the smaller objects. The man extends a gloved hand and pulls dos Santos inside the craft through a square doorway. The atmosphere inside the craft is pleasant and cool, and there is a smell like "baby powder" in the air. Other men wearing dark, tight-fitting outfits are sitting on seats. The men have large slanted eyes, thin noses, and large mouths, and they are operating some type of machinery. They stand up and begin conversing in an unknown language. Suddenly, a heavyset woman emerges from another room. She wears a white uniform, gloves, but no helmet. Dos Santos describes her as good looking, tanned, with long light fine hair. The woman and one of the men then take him into a corridor. He enters a room where he sees a square object in the middle. The man pushes a button on the wall and the object rises. It resembled a large piece of marble. The woman takes out a long wand and points it at the object. On the object dos Santos sees an image of the planet Earth and other planets. At this point, the man removes his helmet revealing short, light-colored hair. When dos Santos leaves the craft, he is told to cover his eyes and not look as the object leaves. He follows these instructions and does not see the object depart. (NICAP, "[May 16, 1979: Near Baependi, Minas Gerais State, Brazil](#)"; "[Grandes Manobras Extraterrestres na Fazenda do Sobrado, Baependi, MG](#)," *SBEDV Boletim*, no. 132–135 (Jan./Aug. 1980): 28–71; Jackson Luiz Camargo, "[O Caso do Embornal](#)," Portal Fenomenum, June 15, 2016; Brazil 258–266)

- 1979, May 19** — 2:27 a.m. Tailor Mike Sacks and his brother Ray are on the moors near Stacksteads, Lancashire, England, looking for the UFO that Mike had already seen twice the previous winter. They have staked out the hills with a camera and suddenly hear a muted howling noise echoing through the night. The noise is coming from a white, glowing light falling toward them. The glowing mass slows down and the howling stops. Now directly overhead, the object is hovering just feet above a stream. They see a dome on top that emits electric blue sparks, a middle section, and a rim with a translucent metallic glow. The object tilts to reveal intricate detail on its underside, then accelerates and disappears. The men take a dozen photos, but they only show black sky when processed. (Jenny Randles, "The House on Haunted Moor," *Fortean Times* 322 (January 2015): 23)
- 1979, May 20** — 8:00 a.m. A scientist, Ron Kruppa, sees a large UFO emitting smaller objects in Davao City, Philippines. ("[Stretching the Truth in the Philippines](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 7)
- 1979, May 22** — 10:00 p.m. A man walking in a park in Piastów, Poland, sees two bright yellow beams of light coming from a dark object about 10 feet wide floating just above the ground. Walking to within 10 feet of the object, he can see a third beam of light below it. Green geometrical shapes appear and vanish along the side of the UFO. A blinking red light shines out on the upper surface, in between the vertical bars of an H-shaped sign taking up almost the entire top. Suddenly the object shines with a white-blue light, and the man's face feels like it is burning. Frightened, he runs away and does not look back. The next morning, he feels as if something heavy is pressing on his head; two weeks later, sores containing dried blood break out on his face. (Bronislaw Rzepecki, "[UFOs and Ufologists in Poland](#)," *IUR* 11, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1986): 15–16; Bronislaw Rzepecki, "UFOs in Poland," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 124)
- 1979, May 26** — 12:05 a.m. Jim Gallagher, the pilot of a private airplane flying at about 10,000 feet near Hailey, Idaho, spots five orange objects flying in a horizontal line. They tilt, spread out, and regroup in a vertical formation. As they pass to his left, his magnetic compass and direction finder begin spinning, the radio is filled with static, and the engine sputters. One of the objects approaches at high speed, and the pilot begins a climb and loses sight of the UFOs. (NICAP, "[Compasses, Radio, Engine Affected on Aircraft](#)"; Bob Gribble, "[Looking Back](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 253 (May 1989): 19; Richard F. Haines, *Project Delta*, 1994, pp. 154–155; UFOEv II 140–141)

- 1979, June** — In *Messengers of Deception*, [Jacques Vallée](#) claims that a shadowy human group, some of whom have infiltrated UFO organizations like NICAP and CUFOS, is manipulating UFO myths for its own purposes, while the UFO phenomenon operates as a control system—manifested in “intense activity followed by quiet periods—intended to lead human consciousness into a new concept of reality.” On the other hand, he argues that the UFO phenomenon is ancient and that the message has changed with the times. He claims the current concept of flying discs originated in Germany in the 1930s, with the unknown private group gaining control of them after World War II. Contactees are manipulated by human programmers. Many ufologists think Vallée has gone too far in his anti-ETH approach and is conspiracy mongering. (Jacques Vallée, [Messengers of Deception: UFO Contacts and Cults](#), And/Or, 1979; Vincent White, “[A Critique](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 27, no. 12 (June 1979): 3–5; Clark III 1214)
- 1979, June** — 3:00 a.m. A woman doctor is in the TV room of her parents’ home in Boardman, Ohio, suffering from insomnia. She sees something flashing outside the window, illuminating the entire area outside. A cylinder-shaped light comes through the closed window and passes three feet from her face. It then comes to look more like a paperclip that flashes on and off, meandering about, apparently not interested in her. She runs into the bedroom and does not see it again. (Michael D. Swords, “[A Trick of the Light](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 9)
- 1979, June 10** — 4:40 p.m. A family in Milford, Connecticut, watches a disc “like two plates put together” approach from the south. It is silver on top and dark on the bottom and seems to have a band around the edge and triangular markings. After it passes silently behind the trees to the north of them after 1 minute, they jump into a car and drive after it. It seems to be traveling at 20–25 mph, and they are able to overtake it flying parallel to the road. It seems to be flying at an altitude of 1,000 feet, and disappears to the north. (“[Case 4-1-40](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 10)
- 1979, June 12** — 8:45 p.m. Members of a rock band practicing in a barn in Pine Ridge, near Hartsville, South Carolina, step outside to watch an unusual form hovering low over the containment building and smokestack of the H. B. Robinson Nuclear Generating Station one half mile away to the northeast. An ovoid-shaped object, seen primarily by its lights, shines two bright yellowish-white beams of light. After hovering motionless for 2–5 minutes, all the lights fade except a blue light. The UFO moves off and is gone almost instantly. After about 5 minutes, a second object is seen hovering for 2–5 minutes to the right of the plant and directing a beam of light at it. It flies off toward the northwest. No one at the nuclear plant reports seeing anything unusual. (“[Case 4-1-47](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 10)
- 1979, June 14** — 8:30 a.m. A woman in St. Petersburg, Florida, sees an object with a long transparent trail. (“[Case 4-1-51](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 1 (July 1979): 10)
- 1979, June 17** — 10:00 p.m. A witness in North Prairie, Wisconsin, watches a star, slightly dimmer than Jupiter, move silently across the sky from east to west, passing overhead. It suddenly makes a 90° turn to the north and is lost in the cloud cover. Ten minutes later, he and his family watch a similar light transit the sky, again from east to west, in 10–15 seconds. (“[Wisconsin NL](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 13)
- 1979, June 18** — 11:30 a.m. Pilot Giancarlo Cecconi, attached to the Italian 14 Group Second Air Force Fighter Wing, is returning to Treviso Air Base, Veneto, Italy, in his G-91R fighter, and is above the area between Rovigo and Abano Terme after carrying out a reconnaissance mission. The Istrana Air Base radar center registers the presence of an intruder and gives Cecconi directions to approach the target that is within a prohibited area. As he approaches the target at 7,000 feet, the Treviso control tower warns him that the object is discharging an odd “blue trail.” The UFO begins making up and down movements and ascends to 13,000 feet. Cecconi makes 7–8 passes and takes a total of 82 gun camera photos. Cecconi can see a “gas tank” of matte black on the object and a small white dome. As he is about to make a final pass, the Istrana radar center tells him that the object has disappeared suddenly. Treviso confirms the lost target. The photos show a cylindrical dark object estimated to be 26 feet long. (“[UFO Storici: Il caso del Maresciallo Cecconi](#),” *Noi e gli extraterrestri*, September 26, 2014; John Greenewald, “[The UFO Case of Maresciallo Cecconi, June 18, 1979](#),” *The Black Vault*, June 10, 2021)
- 1979, June 19** — 10:02 p.m. A witness in Clarksville, Tennessee, is walking his dog when he sees a metallic egg-shaped object, surrounded by a glow, approaching from the west. It appears to be at 8,000 feet altitude. It comes to a stop for 30 seconds, then picks up speed slowly for 7 seconds, and blasts off with a shower of sparks trailing behind it, disappearing in the southeast. (“[Rocketing ‘Egg’ over Tennessee](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 13)
- 1979, June 26** — 3:00 a.m. A 77-year-old man in Wheeling, Illinois, is awakened by his border collie and goes outside. When he opens the back door he sees a uniformly glowing “balloon,” 6–7 feet in diameter and sharply outlined. His dog steps forward and watches it as it hovers rock-steady at 60 feet up and 100 feet away or less. After 4–5 minutes it moves slowly behind the trees to the southwest. Running to the front of his house, he sees an identical form 70 feet up and moving silently to the northwest. It goes behind trees in 3–4 minutes. Duration is 10–13 minutes. (“[Two Glowing Globes](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 13)

- 1979, June 26** — 3:20 p.m. A sharply outlined “mushroom” is seen moving out of the south by a group of eight neighbors in the northeast section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is smaller than the full moon, but at one point they can detect four “domes” on its rotating underside. The object is illuminated with colors ranging from burgundy to silver. At one point it makes a 90° turn and circles around completely, becoming a minty green color. It continues slowly north and disappears. (“[An ‘Adamski’ Mushroom?](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 13)
- 1979, June 28** — Security guard Antônio Carlos Ferreira is allegedly abducted from his workplace, a furniture factory in Mirassol, São Paulo, Brazil. He is approached by three humanoid figures who tranquilize him and take him aboard a small ship that ferries him to a larger craft further away. There he is put in front of a large TV screen and presented with a variety of images before being forced to mate with a female alien. He is tranquilized again and returned to the ground. The aliens are approximately 4 feet tall with pointed ears, slanted eyes, and human-like mouths. They lack eyebrows or eyelashes and speak in a language that superficially resembles Japanese. Some have dark skin and red curly hair, while others have light skin and straight black hair. The ship is spherical with three legs protruding from the bottom, and the interior is lit by bright red and green lights. Ferreira states that he encountered the aliens again in 1982, with the craft supposedly landing close enough for him to see the female alien and a childlike alien observing him from a distance. He experiences a third encounter later in 1982 in which he is taken into the hangar of an alien craft by a green beam of light before being injected with a yellow substance. He is then taken to meet the two aliens once more, the younger of whom he is led to believe is his own child. Other encounters follow, to a total of 16 or 20 between 1979 and 1989. (Wikipedia, “[Caso Mirassol](#)”; Ney Matiel Pires, “[3-Sexto Contato com Ufonautas de Antônio Carlos Ferreira](#),” *SBEDV Boletim*, no. 158–161 (May/Dec. 1984): 14–54; Walter K. Buhler, Guilherme Pereira, and Ney M. Pires, *UFO Abduction at Mirassol*, UFO Photo Archives, 1985; Clark III 764–765; Aileen Garoutte, “[Contact at Mirassol](#),” *UFOexperiences*, May 22, 2005; Brazil 277–280; “[Mirassol UFO Incident](#),” Exodata)
- 1979, July** — Day. A woman is driving with her 4-year-old son in a rural area near Sarnia, Ontario. Her son keeps asking what something outside is, and she looks and sees a silver-colored object hovering above the car. It has a cylindrical body with round balls at each end. It follows the car around a bend and across a bridge. She drives about a quarter mile before she can stop the car. When she gets out, the object rises silently and moves out of sight. (Powell, *Scientist*, 52)
- 1979, July 1** — 3:40 p.m. A factory supervisor and his wife are driving in Crystal Lake, Illinois, when they see an aluminum-colored ellipse hovering in the north-northeast at an estimated 1,000 feet. It moves with jerky movements to the east-southeast, drops down to 500 feet, and remains stationary over a stand of trees about one mile away for 2–3 seconds. It ascends and descends about five times. (“[Daylight Disc in Illinois](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 2 (August 1979): 13)
- 1979, July 4** — 1:30 a.m. A Swedish man is walking along a dark road after leaving a tavern not far from Monastiri Beach, Poros, Greece. He hears a powerful buzzing or shushing noise overhead. Not more than 25 feet above the trees on the uphill side of the road is a black, disc-shaped object, about 25 feet wide, that is blocking out the light of the stars. Within seconds a bright light beams down at him from the center of the object. He feels an electrical sensation and a general lightness. The light blinks out and the man begins running away, but the disc is descending and following him. The beam of light blinks on again when it is 50–60 feet above him. Two backpackers witness this and come running to aid him. The light blinks out again and four blinking red and green lights appear at the edge of the disc, which moves ahead another 150–200 feet. The UFO then rises to 400–500 feet and flies steadily until it disappears behind a hill. (“[High Adventure in Greece](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 6 (Jan./Feb. 1982): 15–16)
- 1979, July 17** — 6:00 a.m. A couple in a rural area northeast of Des Moines, Iowa, are fixing breakfast when through their window they see a small, circular light source to the northeast. It hovers silently for 5 minutes. It starts moving slowly upward at a 70° angle, then breaks into two smaller objects that shoot out of sight. (“[Iowa UFO Splits in Two](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 10)
- 1979, July 17** — Sen. [Harrison Schmitt](#) (R-N.Mex.) adds language to the annual Justice Department appropriations bill mandating that the FBI investigate cattle mutilations. (Harrison Schmitt, [[Press release](#)], July 17, 1979)
- 1979, July 25** — 11:30 a.m. Farmer Federico Ibáñez Ibáñez, 54, leaves the village of Turís, Valencia, Spain, to gather grapes from his vineyard. He finds an egg-shaped, white, metallic object resting on two feet in the access road to his field. Two small beings run from behind a carob tree on his left and enter the craft. They are wearing white outfits “puffed up with air” with protruding black tubes. The UFO suddenly ascends at great speed, stirring up a whirlwind. The case is investigated in depth in 1979 and reinvestigated in 2008. It features unique shapes for both the landed craft and its occupants. The one witness is apparently credible. Ground traces are found as circumstantial evidence. Spanish investigator [Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos](#) concludes: “My considered

impression is that the witness sincerely believes in the tangible reality of his experience, and I have not found any reasonable evidence of a lie or episode of fantasy, nor any proof that he embellished his account.” Ballester Olmos’s latest thought is, “Did the witness invent or hallucinate the event under the influence of the current publicity for the *Star Wars* movie?” (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, “[Imagination or Reality? The Landing at Turís, Revisiting a 1979 Spanish CE3](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 3–7, 22–24 ; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, “[Imagination or Reality? The Landing at Turís](#),” Academia.edu, [2013])

- 1979**, July 27 — 11:10 p.m. Gary Hull is on the patio of his in-laws’ home in Stamford, Connecticut, when he sees an orange light in the northwest. He calls his wife Kathleen and others, and they watch it move silently across the sky at treetop level. After 5 minutes, it stops and hovers. Four or five white flashes erupt from its right side, followed by 4–5 faint sounds like firecrackers. At 11:19, a commercial jet flies overhead and under the UFO, which accelerates almost straight up in 5–10 seconds, diminishing to a pinpoint. Other witnesses 3.5 miles to the north and a few miles to the west watch similar objects. (“[Independent Witnesses in Connecticut](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 10)
- 1979**, August — Harry Griesberg and David Seargent form the Australian Centre for UFO Studies from the CUFOS Australian Co-Ordination Section. (Keith Basterfield, Vladimir Godic, and Pony Godic, “[Australian Ufology: A Review](#),” *JUFOS* 2 (1990): 28)
- 1979**, August — Dusk. A witness in Halifax, Nova Scotia, watches through a telescope a round object with 12–18 lights around its base approaching from the southeast. It hovers for about 30 seconds. He calls to his wife to verify the observation, which has now moved directly overhead. The lights give off constant beams downward. (“[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1982): 3)
- 1979**, August — Evening. A resident of Czluchów, Poland, is rowing his boat on a lake when he sees a “dark oblong object” moving rapidly and soundlessly along the surface of the water without disturbing it. It disappears behind some lakeside vegetation. Another witness on shore sees it apparently land, so he calls his two dogs and heads toward the spot. About 65 feet from the shore he can see two entities in dark suits walking toward the forest. The dogs run toward them and they stop and turn around. The dogs stop in their tracks, bark, and retreat in terror. The witness watches the entities as they continue walking. They are about 5 feet tall and sealed in diving outfits. At the level of their eyes is a glass plate through which they can apparently see. Their hips are unnaturally wide and each has a hump between the back of the neck and the shoulders. The witness calls out to them, but they begin running into the trees. A luminous rectangular object floats up from the treetops about 325 feet away and hovers 100 feet from the ground. A blue-green light is along its sides, shading away into white in the middle. The UFO speeds away, leaving no findable landing traces. The witness claims his dogs’ front legs become paralyzed 6 months later and he has to put them to sleep. (Bronislaw Rzepecki, “[UFOs and Ufologists in Poland](#),” *IUR* 11, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1986): 16; ; Bronislaw Rzepecki, “UFOs in Poland,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 124–125)
- 1979**, August 1 — 1:35 a.m. Westchester County police officer William Shaughnessy sees apparently the same white ball of light at the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, New York, as that reported by several citizens of Lewisboro the same night. It passes southeast directly over his car, at 600–800 feet altitude. It stops above some treetops, makes a complete right turn, and disappears to the west. 12 minutes later, it comes flying back, hovers, shoots over his car again, and is gone quickly. During this time, Shaughnessy cannot reach his station by either low-band FM or portable radio. (“[Patrolman Spots UFO in the Early Morning at Local Reservoir](#),” *Mount Kisco (N.Y.) Patent Trader*, August 2, 1979, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 4, no. 8 (August 1979): 23–24; “[UFO Was Spotted Twice](#),” *White Plains (N.Y.) Reporter Dispatch*, August 2, 1979, p. 3; “[County Cop Says He Sighted UFO](#),” *Mt. Vernon (N.Y.) Daily Argus*, August 2, 1979, p. 2; “[Cop Ridiculed for NL Sighting in New York](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 10–11; Vincent Mangiamale and Charles Taylor, “[A Special Report](#),” *SBI Report* 1, no. 7 (1979): 11–15; Richard Schwartzberg, “[Are UFOs Trying to Contact Police Officers?](#)” *Beyond Reality*, no. 43 (June 1980): 34–37, 58)
- 1979**, August 1 — US Air Force Intelligence is redesignated the Electronic Security Command. (Wikipedia, “[Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency](#)”)
- 1979**, August 1 — The Fund for UFO Research is established as a nonprofit corporation in the District of Columbia to raise money to support scientific UFO research and public information projects. It remains active through 2011. ([Fund for UFO Research Quarterly Report](#), Oct./Dec. 1983; Clark III 520)
- 1979**, August 1 — Astronomer [Allan Hendry](#) publishes *The UFO Handbook*, a harshly pessimistic assessment of his investigative experience with the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois. The first part covers IFOs, showing how normal objects can be misinterpreted as UFOs. The remainder of the book covers techniques that can be used by UFO investigators. (Allan Hendry, *The UFO Handbook*, Doubleday, 1979; Clark III 569)

- 1979**, August 2 — Morning. A teen who mows the lawn finds a strange design on the lawn of an 8-acre estate about 8 miles north of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. The owner waits a week before reporting it to the police, who alert the Center for UFO Studies, which investigates the marking on August 22. The trace is visible as flattened, yellowed grass in a semicircle between two straight lines forming a 120° angle. An analysis of the soil sample indicated nothing unusual in the chemistry, and no herbicides or petroleum. (“[1979 Ground Mark Remains Unidentified](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 2 (June 1980): 1–2)
- 1979**, August 2 — 11:30 p.m. Multiple witnesses watch a triangular object flying from south to north over Herndon and Atwood, Kansas; and Culbertson and McCook, Nebraska. [Wilma Tongish](#) and her daughter Dawn are riding their bicycles near their farm in Herndon when they see a strange light hovering to the south. They return to the farmhouse to get some binoculars and alert her husband [Denis](#) and two other children. The object appears to be three-sided, about 50 feet long, and a metallic color, with red lights at each corner and one in the middle. It seems to be 500–800 feet in altitude. It hovers silently, but as it moves away they hear the faint sound of a motor. Other families in the vicinity also watch the object. (“[More Residents Report Seeing ‘Strange Light](#),” *McCook (Nebr.) Gazette*, August 4, 1979, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 4, no. 8 (August 1979): 22; “[Strange Object Seen by Kansas Residents](#),” *McCook (Nebr.) Gazette*, August 7, 1979, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 122 (September 1979): 4; “[A Bird? A Plane? No, It’s...\(?\)](#),” *McCook (Nebr.) Gazette*, August 9, 1979, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 4, no. 9 (September 1979): 9; “[Flying Object Seen North of Culbertson](#),” *McCook (Nebr.) Gazette*, August 10, 1979, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 122 (September 1979): 10; “[What Was Up August 2?](#)” *McCook (Nebr.) Gazette*, August 11, 1979, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 4, no. 9 (September 1979): 11; “[Hovering Light Still a Mystery](#),” *McCook (Nebr.) Gazette*, August 17, 1979, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 122 (September 1979): 7; Marler [104–106](#))
- 1979**, August 4 — 10:35 p.m. Maria Artura and her grandson see a domed, disc-shaped object approach from the west over Canoga Park, Los Angeles, California. Two humanoid beings with oversized heads are visible inside. The object stops and hovers above an apartment building on the other side of the street. It tilts to one side, returns to horizontal, then flies behind a tree, stops, and tilts the other way. Finally, it flies away to the west. (“[California Humanoids?](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 11; Ann Druffel, “[California Report: An Urban Problem: Very Close Encounters with UFOs](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 166 (December 1981): 13–15; Richard H. Hall, “[Dyad ‘Scout Craft](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 25; UFOEv II 463–464; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 25, 2007)
- 1979**, August 5 — 7:00 p.m. A man driving 20 miles north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, sees five large red lights suddenly appear in front of his car. They are in a V-formation, four in one row, the fifth forming the other. They move downward toward the horizon, where they vanish. (“[Strange Formation in Wisconsin](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 3/4, Sept./Oct. 1979): 11)
- 1979**, August 10 — Two large metallic spheres are found in Bolivia, one near Enconada and another near Buen Retiro, just hours after reports of a fireball in Bolivia and northern Chile. Newspaper reports at the time focus on the reentry of a satellite or rocket stage as the possible cause, suggested by Col. [Ariel Coca](#), director of the Bolivian Air Force Academy. The Defense Attaché of the US Embassy in La Paz promptly informs the US Defense Intelligence Agency via telexed Moon Dust reports, which include translations of two Bolivian newspaper reports. Moon Dust is the unclassified name of a cold war USAF program to obtain Soviet space hardware that survives reentry. In 2014, amateur satellite tracker [Ted Molczan](#) presents strong circumstantial evidence that the spheres are debris from the reentry of the Delta rocket second stage 1979-072B that launched [Westar 3](#) from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the same day. (“[Moon Dust, Object Found near Santz Cruz *U*](#),” August 17, 1979; “[Moon Dust, Additional Object Reportedly Found near Santa Cruz *U*](#),” August 21, 1979; Ted Molczan, “[Re-Entry Sightings and Debris Recovery of 1979-072B, Bolivia: 1979 August 10 UTC](#),” Visual Satellite Observer, July 30, 2014; Ted Molczan, “[Bolivia: Spheres Found August 1979, La Prensa Article](#),” Visual Satellite Observer; Good Above, [pp. 322–323](#))
- 1979**, August 10 — 9:00 p.m. Two witnesses are on the shore of a lake near Czluchow, Poland, when they see an object gliding swiftly along the surface and vanishing behind some vegetation on the bank. One witness collects his dogs and approaches the spot, but before he gets there, he encounters two entities dressed in black who are moving toward the woods. The dogs run toward them barking, but the entities turn to face them and the dogs stop barking and go back. The beings are dressed in coveralls. They have wide hips, a lump at the base of their necks, and curved forearms, and they are gliding rather than walking. They vanish, and while searching for them the witness sees a rectangular object hovering about 300 feet away and flashing beams of white and blue-green light. It vanishes suddenly. (Bronislaw Rzepecki, “[UFO Reports from Poland](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 33, no. 1 (March 1988): 5–6; Poland 46–48)

- 1979**, August 11 — 9:41 p.m. A graduate student and a friend are taking an evening drive in a semi-rural area in Northfield Township, Michigan. They notice two white stationary lights about 300 feet from the road and 500 feet in the air. They turn the car around and see another formation of white lights and a flashing red light to the west. A total of three sets of lights appear heading south. They follow one group, which hovers above some power lines. The couple continues to pursue and be pursued by the similar formations of lights for 30 minutes. At the intersection of Joy and Whitmire Lake Road, one set of lights flies directly above them at 1,000–1,500 feet altitude, making a noise like a jet or the wind. ([“Scientists Chase Michigan UFOs?”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 11–12)
- 1979**, August 11 — 11:00 p.m. Two 18-year-olds, a male college student and a female telephone company employee, are sitting in a car near Bergen Park, Colorado, looking at the homes at the base of a small mountain on Soda Creek Road off Interstate 70. They see a white light about two-thirds of the way up the mountain. It grows bigger, four times the brightness of the houselights at the base of the mountain. It seems to become a cluster of four lights with a dark space in the middle. After 3 minutes, the light silently rises over the mountain, hovers for 3 seconds, and drops down behind it. A glow remains over the mountain. ([“Colorado Landing,”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 12)
- 1979**, August 12 — 2:00 a.m. Engineer Y. Podvyazniy and two companions are on the shore of the Black Sea west of the microdistrict of Khosta near Sochi, Krasnodar Krai, Russia. They notice a brightly illuminated object approaching erratically from the sea. Suddenly it skips to within one mile of the witnesses, who take 9 photos, estimate its size as 165–330 feet, and notice four glowing lights that look like portholes. The object is only 16–65 feet above the water when it slowly moves away to a distance of 9 miles. A patrol boat uses its searchlight to illuminate the object, which appears to be spherical. When the object lights up and dims, the searchlight and the patrol boat’s lights also dim. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 133–134)
- 1979**, August 12 — 10:00 p.m. Two teenage brothers are driving 9 miles west of Rolla, Missouri, in an undeveloped area. A red light and a blue light appear over the car, apparently circling each other. The two lights seem to blend into one, forming a soft white color. Sparks shoot out, and the single light source arcs upward and vanishes in the western sky. Both feel strange sensations of both pressure and floating as this occurs. These effects, along with involuntary body movements and trouble speaking and breathing, last 10 minutes. ([“Teens Claim Bizarre Effects,”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 12)
- 1979**, Mid-August — Night. Hospital administrator Jon Linnell and his wife are driving home from Northwood, North Dakota, to Warren, Minnesota, when they see bright lights over a field to the left. 15 seconds later the lights come toward them and hover above their car. Linnell slows the car down and the object takes off to the north. It is silent and too bright to look at. ([“Deputy’s UFO Story Evokes Other Tales,”](#) *Minneapolis Star*, September 11, 1979, pp. 1, 5; Clark III 716)
- 1979**, August 16 — 4:22 a.m. A male nurse is driving south on US Highway 19 seven miles south of Washington, Pennsylvania. Ahead of him on the left is a large, luminous object that looks like a football. It appears to be 60 feet up as he drives underneath it. It remains stationary as he drives away. ([“Pennsylvania ‘Football,’”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 4)
- 1979**, August 16 — 4:30 p.m. A silver, pan-shaped object flies past an eastbound truck near Providence, Kentucky, at 2,000–3,000 feet altitude. It tumbles in flight, turning over sideways before disappearing behind a hill. ([“Kentucky Daylight Saucer,”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 4)
- 1979**, August 17 — 9:00 p.m. Elma l’Abbe is flying above Saint-Jovite, Quebec, in a Piper PA-28 Cherokee Warrior piloted by a friend. She looks out the window and notices that both wings are turning red. The pilot says his controls are jammed, but both feel the aircraft being pulled upward. They then see a large red ball of energy nearly 300 feet in diameter and 50 feet thick close to the right wing. It speeds away rapidly and appears to have a white light on its tail end. The aircraft falls about 1,000 feet and levels out at 4,000 feet. The object disappears into a cloud, where it rotates, showing red on one side and white on the other. The ball of light disappears into the orange sky of the sunset. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 92–95)
- 1979**, August 19 — 10:20 p.m. A witness at his home 16 miles southeast of Dallas, Texas, sees a shimmering light with amber portholes silently darting around near some radio towers. ([“Texan NL,”](#) *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 4)
- 1979**, August 20 — 7:30–9:00 p.m. Some 119 people in northern and eastern Poland observe several different types of cylindrical or spherical UFOs. Reports come from Sopot, Jurata, Gdańsk, Bydgoszcz, Malbork, Jastrzębie, Olsztyn, Świecie, and Warsaw. Vacationers in Sopot and Jurata see a cigar ejecting a smoky trail and flames. In Gdańsk, the objects are cigar-shaped or oblong changing into a sphere. Bogdan Śmiech from Malbork watches 9–10 balls of light 3–4 miles above the ground. (Poland 72–73)
- 1979**, Late August — 10:00 p.m. Mrs. H. M. Dickinson and another witness see a small, transparent object shaped like a lightbulb moving west to east just outside the window of her home in Surry, Maine. Inside it is an entity sitting on

a box and facing what seems to be a control panel. The object is lighted from within and blinks out after 5 seconds. ("[Seated Occupant in Light-Bulb-Shaped 1979 Maine CE-III](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 2 (April/May 1984): 1, 3)

1979, August 23 — 8:15 p.m. Two fishing boats belonging to the Szomborg family, the Hel-125 and Hel-127, are in the Baltic Sea some 46 miles off the Hel peninsula, Poland, when their radar malfunctions and the TV set reception fails. Lucjan Szomborg on the Hel-127 notices two bright-red lights in the air less than a mile away. Suddenly another larger, pulsating light appears about 1,500 feet in front of the boat and the original two lights, which are apparently attached to a dark object, move silently toward it. A white light emerges from the two smaller lights, which then disappear in the distance. The pulsating light begins flashing erratically, emitting strong vibrations, and Szomborg steers his boat closer. The red light places itself directly in the Hel-127's path three times, matching the boat's course changes. The crew members begin to get nervous, some getting severe headaches, chest pains, and nausea. The navigator, Henryk Elwardt, is gripped with pain, affected by the pulsing vibrations. Szomborg, feeling symptoms of paralysis and temporary blindness, manages to change course and warn his father on the Hel-125 of danger. All the on-board equipment has suddenly stopped working. After 20 minutes, Szomborg notices that the red sphere has moved further away. The boats safely return to Hel by 4:00 a.m., and the equipment is working again. Doctors, neurologists, and psychiatrists examine the crew and find nothing physically wrong, but they are prescribed sedatives and the Polish Navy prohibits them from going out to sea for 3 weeks. (Poland 122–124; "[UFO nad Bałtykiem 23 sierpnia 1979 r.](#)," *UFO-Relacje.pl*, August 4, 2019)

1979, August 25 — 3:30 p.m. Three witnesses in a boat at Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, watch an object with a metallic surface move downward in an oscillating manner and maneuver for 6–7 minutes. ("[Wisconsin DD](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 4)

1979, August 27 — 1:40 a.m. Deputy Sheriff [Val Johnson](#) is on duty in the west end of Marshall County, Minnesota, driving on County Highway 5 west of Stephen when he sees a light through his side window. The light is to his south, shining from a grove of trees standing along State Highway 220 near the Red River. He thinks it might be from a downed drug-smuggling airplane. He turns south on 220, accelerates to 65 mph, and moves closer. The light moves toward him, traveling so fast that it crosses the 1.5 miles separating them almost instantaneously. It makes no sound and still looks just like a blinding light. Johnson hears glass breaking and sees the inside of the patrol car light up. After the light hits, he loses consciousness. When he wakes up, his head is resting on the steering wheel and his eyes are staring at the red "engine" light on the dashboard. He looks out the window and sees the car has skidded sideways across the northbound lane and now faces eastward. The front tires are touching the gravel on the shoulder. He can see only with difficulty and feels like he is moving in slow motion. At 2:19 a.m., he radios headquarters and asks for assistance. Deputy Greg Winkowski arrives on the scene shortly. Johnson is still inside the car with a red bump on his forehead, so he calls an ambulance. At the hospital, Dr. W. A. Pinsonneault examines Johnson's eyes, but the probe light hurts so much that Johnson cannot stand it more than a few seconds at a time. Pinsonneault suspects corneal flash burns and covers his eyes with bandages. Sheriff Dennis Brekke drives Johnson's 1977 Ford LTD patrol car back to the garage. The inside light on the driver's side is smashed. On the hood, 4 feet 4 inches behind the smashed light and close to the windshield, is a flat-bottomed, circular dent, half an inch in diameter. A crack in the windshield on the driver's side about 18 inches behind the dent runs top to bottom, with four apparent impacts; it looks as if a cluster of small objects, stones perhaps, have done the damage. The car's battery-powered clock, set correctly at 7:00 p.m. when Johnson came on duty, is 14 minutes late. So is Johnson's wind-up wristwatch, set at the same time. The red plastic lens covering the roof light on the driver's side shows a triangular puncture, and the lens is dislodged from the housing. A radio antenna shaft is bent over at a 60° angle. The large "bubble" lamp just inches in front of the antenna is unscathed. The trunk antenna for CB radio is bent at 90°. Brekke, after calling the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, takes Johnson to Grand Forks, North Dakota, at 11:00 a.m. for an eye examination by ophthalmologist Leonard Prochaska, who finds that Johnson's problems have cleared up. [Allan Hendry](#) of CUFOS determines that the car damage is inconsistent with anything an airplane could have caused. Meridan French, a windshield expert with the Glass Division of Ford Motor Company, concludes that a flat-ended object had made a forceful impact with the hood and then tilted toward the windshield. A team of engineers at Honeywell's materials testing laboratory indicates that flying particles were responsible for the damage to the headlight glass and lamp plastic. (Wikipedia, "[Val Johnson incident](#)"; NICAP, "[Val Johnson Case](#)"; "[Deputy's UFO Story Evokes Other Tales](#)," *Minneapolis (Minn.) Star*, September 11, 1979, pp. 1A, 5A; "[Minnesota CEII: The Val Johnson Story](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 3/4 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 4–9; "[Minnesota CEII: The Val Johnson Story, Part Two, Laboratory Analyses and Conclusion](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 5 (November 1979): 4–11; Chris Rutkowski, "[Special Report: Stephen, Minnesota; Not Proof, But...](#)" *Swamp Gas Journal* 1, no. 6 (April 1980): 1–4; Allan Hendry, "UFO Bangs up Police Car," *Fate* 33, no. 5 (May 1980): 55–64; Mark Rodeghier, "[UFO/Vehicle Very Close](#)

[Encounters](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 25; Clark III 713–716; “[That’s Incredible!—Val Johnson Case](#),” Paranormal Videos You May Have Missed YouTube channel, November 4, 2015)

- 1979**, August 27 — 2:30 p.m. Flying instructor Laurie Adlington has just left Blackbushe Airport in Yateley, Hampshire, England, with Lt. James Plastow from Sandhurst Military College for his pilot’s license test in a Cessna 150. They are at 2,000 feet heading toward Basingstoke when Adlington suddenly grabs the controls and throws the Cessna into a steep bank and descent to avoid a collision. An object suddenly speeds past the front of the aircraft, coming within a few feet of the windshield. The rotating object is about 12 inches in diameter, shaped like a doughnut, reflects light with a silvery glow “like a blob of mercury,” and has a honeycombed surface. They can make out the hint of an aerial on one side. The object begins flying around the plane for a short time before it flies underneath it and then streaks upward and away to about 3,000 feet. Possible early use of a drone. (Omar Fowler, “[Mini-Disc over Blackbushe](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 1 (June 1980): 18–19)
- 1979**, August 27 — 11:00 p.m. A family in Smithtown, New York, watches a round object with a band around its equator and many small orange lights fly toward them from the north. They remain outside after it disappears, hoping it will return, and it does, flying from west to east and rising up sharply and silently. (“[New York NL Appears Twice](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 5)
- 1979**, August 29 — 2:00 a.m. Russ Johnson is driving on Highway 50 on the western outskirts of Vermillion, South Dakota, when he spots a blinding headlight in front of him. It is stationary for 2 seconds, then it streaks toward him and engulfs his car. Johnson closes his eyes and hits the brakes, skidding the car to a stop, spinning sideways until it faces east. He opens his eyes and sees the light heading away west. The next day, the still-shaken Johnson goes to the site with Robert Adams at the University of South Dakota, who sees the skid marks. (Debra Stone, “[Deputy’s UFO Story Evokes Other Tales](#),” *Minneapolis (Minn.) Star*, September 11, 1979, pp. 1A, 5A; “[Case 4-5-2](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 5 (November 1979): 11; Clark III 716)
- 1979**, August 29 — 8:00 a.m. A woman is in her alfalfa field 10 miles north of Pasco, Washington, when she sees what appears to be a post sitting a half-mile away. It is about 4–5 feet tall. About 10 minutes later she sees that the object is now in the air, flying slowly in a horizontal position, land bullet-shaped, looking black on its flat end and silver on its rounded end. A neighbor also sees the object before it disappears in the west. (“[A Flying Fence Post in Washington State](#),” *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 5)
- 1979**, August 29 — 7:30 p.m. A married couple is taking their dog on a duck hunt between Dżiki and Ernestowo, Poland, when they notice a “strange orange ball” coming from behind a hill about 3 miles away. The husband studies it through binoculars, estimating its speed as about 95 mph. The ball proves to be the front of a huge steel-colored cigar-shaped object, which stops 1,300 feet away and hovers above some buildings for about 10 seconds. They can see five large, square windows with rounded corners; the three in the front glow with orange light, while the other two seem covered by a shade. The object moves forward about 40 feet and stops. Half a minute later, sparks shoot from the rear and the UFO vanishes over the horizon. An orange glow remains behind. Alojzy Pawlik sees the same object in Łaskowice at about the same time. (Bronisław Rzepecki, “[Encounters in Poland](#),” *IUR* 12, no. 3 (May/June 1987): 17)
- 1979**, August 29 — 10:00 p.m. A 47-year-old housewife sees the lower corner of a gigantic “mothership” outside her living room window in a southwest suburb of Chicago, Illinois. The blimp-like UFO is so huge she can’t see the whole length or height. It extends the whole block of houses at treetop level. She reports four different kinds of humanoid creatures (7 in all) visible through the hull, which is luminous and yellow in color. She hears a loud humming sound. The duration is 45 minutes. (“[Two That Got Away](#),” *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 5)
- 1979**, August 29 — 10:30 p.m. Charles Weeden and his father see an orange light moving erratically in the sky to the west over Sycamore, Illinois. They call the police, and Deputy Berna Van Vlerah looks outside the station 2.5 miles west of the Weedens and sees the orange light to her southeast, low above the horizon. Using binoculars, she sees a flat-bottomed orange dome shape within the light. She watches it for 5 minutes, then drives to the Weedens and watches it there to the west. (Terry Farley, “[Dome-Shaped Flying Object Reported over County](#),” *DeKalb (Ill.) Chronicle*, August 30, 1979, p. 1; “And One Sighted near DeKalb,” *Rockford (Ill.) Register Star*, August 31, 1979; Paul Gross, “Sycamore Pair Believe We Are Not Alone,” *Arlington Heights (Ill.) Herald*, September 2, 1979; “[Orange NL in Illinois?](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 5; Richard Schwartzburg, “[Weird Shaped UFOs Crowd Our Skies](#),” *UFO Update*, no. 8 (Fall 1980): 42, 45; William Retoff, “[Unearthly Visitors Terrify Residents in Central Illinois](#),” *UFO Update*, no. 10 (Spring 1981): 28–31)
- 1979**, August 29 — 11:15 p.m. Harry Joe Turner is driving a 1974 Kenworth tractor-trailer loaded with mustard and ketchup on US Highway 17 two miles from Warrenton, Virginia. His CB radio starts acting up, giving out a noise that gets louder and louder. Something grabs him tightly on his left shoulder. He sees a large object looming over his cab and hears two thumps. Even though he is going 70 mph, he sees a figure standing outside. When it throws open the door, Turner grabs his .32 automatic pistol and fires 8 rounds at it with no effect. He then blacks out.

Turner wakes up in the passenger seat at 3:00 a.m. at his destination in a Fredericksburg warehouse but can't remember how he got there. The odometer indicates he has only traveled 17 miles, not 80, yet he has used 114 gallons of fuel. The top 2 inches of the CB antenna are melted off, and 30 inches of the AM/FM antenna has broken off. A filmy substance covers the truck. He drives back home but is confused and his eyes are overly sensitive to light. Turner wakes up in a Winchester hospital diagnosed with a broken blood vessel in his left eye. He begins to remember more about the experience and recalls his truck being lifted into a UFO piloted by two humanlike figures dressed in white shirts and pants, one of whom is named Alpha La Zoo Loo. He seems to take a trip in space to a planet beyond Alpha Centauri. On September 3, after taking valium, Turner is arrested for speeding. He thinks aliens are chasing him. Turner continues to undergo anxiety attacks. [Allan Hendry](#) and Fred Whiting from the Center for UFO Studies are unable to corroborate Turner's story, and the two antennas appear to be deliberately altered. (Iris Maack, "[Truck, Rig, Abducted \(?\)](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 28, no. 6 (December 1979): 1–3; Clark III 1139–1141)

- 1979**, August 30 — 2:30 a.m. A student camping out at Slip Bluff County Park near Lamoni, Iowa, is awakened by her dog barking. She sees a formation of lights on an oval object about a city block away. It moves away horizontally, still close to the ground. ("[Landing in Iowa?](#)" *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 6)
- 1979**, August 30 — 4:00 p.m. During a thunderstorm, three passengers and the driver watch a 2-foot yellow and green ball of light rush down from the north only 5 feet in front of a Metropolitan Transit Commission bus on the southwest side of Minneapolis, Minnesota. It hits the pavement and erupts into a shower of sparks and smoke with a loud explosion. The shocked bus driver runs over the point of impact as the vehicle is shaking. No lasting effects can be found in the pavement after the storm. ("[Case 4-5-3](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 5 (November 1979): 11)
- 1979**, September — Citizens Against UFO Secrecy is losing momentum due to lack of money and public support. Search fees have become prohibitive: In response to a CAUS request for data on UFO trackings, NORAD informs them that it will require 18,383 hours and \$294,157. (Larry W. Bryant, "[UFO Secrecy Update](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 140 (October 1979): 13)
- 1979**, September 3 — 7:30 p.m. Two witnesses watch an "aluminum oil drum with wings" flying silently above Oroville, California, in a straight line. ("[California Flying Drum](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 6)
- 1979**, September 3 — 7:45 p.m. A man is hunting with his daughter near Ogden, Utah, when he is alerted to a sound similar to that of a screaming, tumbling artillery shell. In the southwest, he briefly watches a dark, roundish "chunk" dropping straight down, landing in the brush 1,500 feet away with a thud. Five seconds later, he hears the same sound and watches a second white form land in a swampy area 3,000 feet downhill from his position. He spends all day searching the area with his children, but cannot find the projectiles. ("[Strange Falls in Utah](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 6)
- 1979**, September 3 — 9:30 p.m. Two couples in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, see a red disc hovering in the western sky as they are driving from their cottage. The dashboard and engine lights fail, so the driver pulls over. The lights come back on but go off again when the car moves forward again. This happens again 5–6 times in less than a minute. Once their view of the light is blocked, the lights come back on. The object moves on to the southwest at incredible speed. ("[Car Interference Case](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 6)
- 1979**, September 3 — 10:40 p.m. Two witnesses in Cape Charles, Virginia, see a bright light zigzagging in an unusual manner for one minute in the northeast. ("[Virginia NL](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 6)
- 1979**, September 4 — 7:45 p.m. Three men are driving north along Richmond Township Road A near New Richmond, Wisconsin, when they see a silver disc 500 feet to the west over some treetops. It moves toward the road and crosses it at 10 mph behind their pickup, then pausing to hover above a field 10 feet up. They jump out to watch the UFO wobbling about 300 feet away. Two more cars stop to watch. The object moves off to the east, still wobbling. ("[DD and Independent Witnesses](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 7)
- 1979**, September 4 — 8:15 p.m. Two boys in Ashland, Wisconsin, watch a cone-shaped object with a slightly curved bottom flopping around and tumbling in the sky. They chase it on their bicycles but it outdistances them. ("[Tumbling Cone in Wisconsin](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 7)
- 1979**, September 5 — 3:40 a.m. Dr. Barbara Anackowska-Piazza, a driver, and a stretcher bearer are taking a pregnant patient in an ambulance from Żuławka Sztumska to the hospital at Sztum, Poland. As they are passing through Tropy Sztumskie, they notice a large orange-red ball on their left that seems to parallel them as they turn toward Kalwa. At one point it looks so close that the driver fears it will block their way. It seems to have two dark, horizontal bands across it. They turn back to a railway crossing and alert the guards to the object, which is now less bright and soon turns dark. The observation lasts 20 minutes. Although there are some discrepancies in the accounts of its movement, Wim van Utrecht and others are certain that the object was the full moon setting. (Emma Popik, "[Under Intelligent Control?](#)" *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 6 (March 1981): 2–4; Poland 55–57;

Stanislaw Barski, "[Incident Sztumski: Czerwona Kula Blokuje Drogę Ksretce Pogotowia](#)," April 22, 2010; "[UFO nad miejscowością Tropy Sztumskie 5 września 1979](#)," UFO Relacje.pl, December 29, 2018; Wim van Utrecht, "[Lunar Terror in Poland: A Doctor's Dilemma](#)," CENAP UFO-Forschung, October 31, 2020, [reprinted](#) in Vicente-Juan Ballester-Olmos and Richard Heiden, eds., *The Reliability of UFO Witness Testimony*, UPIAR, 2023, pp. 205–219)

- 1979**, September 5 — 10 :45 a.m. Lawrence Hogan is driving on County Road MM one mile east of Dresser, Wisconsin. A black dot moves over the trees ahead of him about 50 feet up, slowing down 600 feet away and descending below the tree line. He stops his truck to watch it move east. He sees that the object is metallic and silent. He chases it, alternately moving and hovering, for 5 minutes. ("Investigator Comes to Dresser to Probe UFO," *Polk County (Wis.) Ledger*, September 20, 1979; Iris Maack, "[Sighting Summary](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 28, no. 6 (December 1979): 3; "[Then, the Next Day](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 7–8)
- 1979**, September 9 — 4:30 a.m. A driver sees a bright amber light through her windshield to the west in Streamwood, Illinois. It approaches, then moves back to the west, dipping left and right. It approaches again, floating downward and growing brighter. Red and yellow spikes of light emanate from a bright white center. When she feels her face growing hot, she pulls sharply onto another street. Looking through her rear-view mirror, she sees the light make an abrupt turn to the left and disappear in the north in a few seconds. By noon, her face is sunburned and sore; the skin flakes off the next day and she quickly recovers. ("[Case 4-5-4](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 5 (November 1979): 12)
- 1979**, September 9 — 7:30 p.m. A salesman and some customers are outside in Richfield, Minnesota, when they notice a silver form shaped like a truck tire with a flat underside moving to the south. It hovers for 4–5 seconds before moving off only 80–90 feet away from them. ("[Minnesota Daylight CE I](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 8–9)
- 1979**, September 11 — 5:40 p.m. Donald Schultie watches a blue-gray object approach him from the east in Millsboro, Delaware. His son and councilwoman Dorothy Grey also see it. The UFO is an oblate sphere with a flashing white light. He estimates it is 10 feet wide. It hovers 300–500 feet away in a nearby field for 5 minutes then moves up and away to the northwest. ("[Delaware DD](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 9)
- 1979**, September 12 — 8:45 p.m. A complete power failure takes place in Huaihua, Hunan, China. At 9:00 p.m., a bright object appears overhead, emitting a vertical stream of white rays. It flies upward at an angle and vanishes soundlessly a minute later, leaving two masses of hemispherical luminous clouds about 328 feet across. (Paul Dong and Wendelle C. Stevens, *UFOs over Modern China*, UFO Photo Archives, 1983, p. 132)
- 1979**, September 12 — 11:00 p.m. A fire lookout at the Satus Peak tower on the Yakama, Washington, Indian Reservation sees a large orange ball of light between the Goat Rocks Wilderness Area and Mount Adams. It remains below the skyline for the most part, slowly moving in a number of different directions before fading from view. An hour and 15 minutes later, two more orange balls appear in the area of Simon Butte, moving erratically. They are joined by a third light, and all fade away after 45 seconds. The third ball apparently makes another appearance 5 minutes later and is visible for 45 seconds. ("[More NLs in Yakima](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 9)
- 1979**, Mid-September — 4:30 a.m. Teenagers Holly Travis and Debbie LaRose wake up at the Travis house in Sanford, Maine, and see through a window a huge, orange, round object whose underside is clearly visible as it slowly (10–15 mph) passes overhead, gently spinning on its axis, at about 500 feet elevation. It slowly descends behind the roof of the neighbor's house. (Richard Sigismond, "[Four Huge Orange Discs and the Case for the UFO](#)," *IUR* 8, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1983): 6–7)
- 1979**, September 16 — Night. Curtis Olson is mowing hay on his farm near Lake City, Minnesota, when he finds a circle of flattened corn 50 feet in diameter. The stalks are flattened in a pattern radiating from the center of the circle, and some are charred. He finds a path leading to another circle 18 feet away. At first, he thinks lightning caused it, but then he considers the possibility of a UFO. County Extension Agent [Matt Metz](#) thinks it might have been a combination of wind and decay. In 1987, Curtis's uncle David Olson admits to creating the circles as a practical joke, using his burlap-covered feet and a posthole tamper. ("[Farmer Says UFO Caused Field Damage](#)," *Minneapolis Tribune*, September 19, 1979, pp. 2B, 4B; "[Not Everyone in Lake City Accepting Prankster's Confession in UFO Mystery](#)," *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, April 8, 1987, pp. 1B, 6B; Clark III 602)
- 1979**, September 17 — 9:00 p.m. A witness driving in Portsmouth, Virginia, sees a large star approaching her until it is only 30 feet up and less than a block away. She says it seems as large as a three-story house and looks like a gigantic faceted wedding cake with three layers. She hears a muffled sound of a motor. One small green light is on the object's side, while the underside floods the ground with light. After 2 minutes, it moves slowly off to the left. ("[A Faceted Wedding Cake?](#)" *IUR* 4, No. 6 (December 1979): 9–10)
- 1979**, September 19 — [Peter Gersten](#), on behalf of Ground Saucer Watch, meets with CIA attorneys and Judge [John H. Pratt](#) at US District Court for the District of Columbia. The CIA has moved for summary judgment, asserting that the GSW requests for UFO files are an "undue burden" and that the papers released so far are of little importance.

Pratt gives GSW 60 days to provide a written response to the CIA motion. (Larry W. Bryant, "[UFO Secrecy Update](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 140 (October 1979): 13)

1979, September 20 — 5:30 a.m. A woman is driving in Poplar Grove, Illinois, when a pear-shaped blue light, surrounded by a white haze, engulfs her van in blinding light. Her AM radio is racked with static. She floors the accelerator to get away but can't get past 40 mph. She recalls a sense of lightness as if she and the van are floating. The next thing she remembers is driving almost 6 miles further ahead at the intersection of Beaverton and Poplar Grove Road. She stops a police car for help, and her husband comes to pick her up. She sleeps abnormally and exhibits bouts of hysteria for a while after the event. ("[Case 4-5-5](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 5 (November 1979): 12)

1979, September 26 or 27 — 8:45 p.m. Pat Gagliardo and another woman watch a single, blinking white light moving above the treetops near Norwich, Connecticut. They drive home to get two binoculars and another witness, then see the light approaching them from the east, now visibly attached to a boomerang-shaped object with the concave side toward them. It stops, tumbles end over end, and moves toward them again, slowly passing overhead, then shoots off to the east. ("[Connecticut NL](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 10)

1979, September 29 — 8:45 a.m. A screenwriter sees two bright silver spheres moving above Hollywood, California. Each is somewhat smaller than a full moon and are revolving counterclockwise around a common axis between them. ("[A Different Kind of Hollywood Spectacle](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 10)

1979, Fall — *MUFOB* changes its name to *Magonia*, with a nod to [Jacques Vallée](#)'s book *Passport to Magonia*. It continues until April 2009. (*Magonia*, no. 1 (Autumn 1979); Clark III 706; "[History of Magonia](#)," Magonia Archive)

1979, October — Construction for an F-117A Nighthawk support facility begins at Tonopah Test Range inside Area 52, Nevada. The facility at Area 51 serves as a model for the Tonopah project. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, p. 343)

1979, October — In a remote area near Melville, Saskatchewan, a CUFOS investigator is looking into a cattle mutilation when his truck begins swerving uncontrollably. He stops and gets out as he hears a low humming noise in the nearby bush. Walking toward it, he feels sharp pains in his back and his knees collapse. The hum becomes louder as he crawls back to the truck and drives away. He loses his sense of direction and hears a rapid clicking noise. The speedometer needle fluctuates wildly between 10 and 85 mph. Suddenly his disorientation leaves and he drives home. ("[Two CE-IIs in Western Canada](#)," *CUFOS Bulletin*, Summer 1980, pp. 6–7)

1979, October — Day. Cornel Alexandru Olteanu is gathering mushrooms in a forest near Valea Berii near the source of the Teleajen River in the Ciucas Mountains, Romania. He notices a gray object like a car in a clearing under a high cliff about 320 feet away. He walks toward it and sees it looks more like a metallic disc with a turret and is sitting on 3–4 legs. Nearby are two little men about 4 feet tall who seem to be working on something. They have large eyes, bald heads, and yellowish skin, and they are dressed in a one-piece suit. Noticing him, they turn toward Olteanu, who is suddenly unable to move. The men turn around and climb up a ladder into the object. Flashing white lights come on and the object takes off into the sky and over some trees, which bend over as if they are going through a hurricane. After it is gone, Olteanu can move again. He notices a yellowish stain at the landing site. (Romania 132–133)

1979, October 4 — 12:00 noon. A sales manager watches a silver, domed-shaped object with a black flat bottom from a 38th-floor window on Madison Avenue and 26th Street in New York City. It is seen by three others on the same floor and two others on the floor immediately below. It moves north and makes a sharp turn before apparently hitting the Empire State Building. It clears the Pan Am building and flies off along the Hudson River at a high altitude. ("[The UFO That Almost Hit the Empire State Building](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 10–11)

1979, October 6 — 7:30 p.m. A couple driving south on County Road 46 near Amery, Wisconsin, see two red, luminous globes, each as large as the full moon, hovering above the southeast horizon. They drive on another 2–3 miles watching them before the two objects join together and hovers 250 feet above the field to their left, bathing it in a pinkish glow. ("[Red Globes in Wisconsin](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 11)

1979, October 6 — 9:30 p.m. A couple are driving on Interstate 35 east of Barnum, Minnesota, when they see a ball of light 3–6 feet in diameter approaching low over some trees. It rolls and bounces silently over the top of the car in about 10 seconds. After driving another 500 feet, the car's engine dies and the headlights malfunction. The battery is so dead that it can't be jump-started. The alternator also has to be replaced. The mechanic who does the repair work says that the interior looks like a fire has gone through it (though not the exterior). ("[Case 4-5-6](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 5 (November 1979): 12; Mark Rodeghier, "[A Summary of Vehicle Interference Reports and a Description of a Possible Natural Phenomenon Causing Some Events](#)," *The Spectrum of UFO Research*, CUFOS, 1988, p. 165)

1979, October 14 — Writer [Patrick Huyghe](#) breaks the news about the Northern Tier intrusions of 1975 for the first time in the *New York Times*, along with an update on the FOIA requests for UFO documents from the CIA and FBI. (Patrick Huyghe, "[U.F.O. Files: The Untold Story](#)," *New York Times Magazine*, October 14, 1979, pp. 106–111)

- 1979**, October 16 — 6:10 p.m. Two witnesses on the east side of Saint Paul, Minnesota, near Interstate 694 see a silvery domed disc with a flat bottom traveling toward the southwest, moving up and down and drifting about. (“[Another Minnesota DD.](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 11)
- 1979**, October 20 — 12:30 a.m. A 15-year-old boy in a farmhouse in Baldwin, Wisconsin, sees two intense white lights circling counterclockwise over a hayfield about 1,200 feet away. He goes outside for a closer look, but the lights disappear. Three days later, the family finds a 30 foot-by-45 foot triangular area of brown and dried vegetation in the hayfield. (“[Wisconsin CE II?](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 11)
- 1979**, October 25 — 5:56 p.m. A young man and his sister are driving through Westmont, Illinois, and see a flat-bottomed object. Bright luminous white in the middle, its outer edge is more yellow. It moves back and forth, somersaults, and disappears. (“[Illinois Flipping Disc?](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 11–12)
- 1979**, October 27 — 6:15 a.m. Lou Blackburn takes three photographs of his friends’ fishing boat coming out of the Motunau River on the South Island of New Zealand. After it is developed, one of the slides shows a cluster of about 19 blue-white lights in the sky. (Fred and Phyll Dickeson, “[The Motunau, New Zealand, UFO Photograph.](#)” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 6 (June 1981): 1, 3–4)
- 1979**, October 27 — Three Russian aircraft approaching Khatanga, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia, encounter a large UFO about 850 feet long and only a half-mile away with three spheres attached to it. Each sphere has three portholes. The pilot of an Antonov An-26 transport cannot get his compass to work properly unless it is directed at the object, which paces the aircraft, flying over and around it. A similar object is seen shortly afterward at Alykel Airport near Norilsk, and the Messoyakha Gas Field. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, p. 95)
- 1979**, October 29 — In *Hayden v. National Security Agency/Central Security Service* the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rules that the records of the National Security Agency are so sensitive to national security that they are afforded a “special dispensation” from adversarial scrutiny through FOIA. ([Hayden v. National Security Agency / Central Security Service](#), US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, October 29, 1979)
- 1979**, November — During rocket tests at the Kapustin Yar site, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia, a Col. Gen. Sapkov and other officers see a bright-green elliptical object, occasionally changing hues, hover over the range for 30 minutes. Sapkov claims to see the same phenomenon in 1986 and is assured by officers that this is a common occurrence. (Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle, *The Soviet UFO Files: Paranormal Encounters behind the Iron Curtain*, Quadrillion, 1998, p. 51)
- 1979**, November 8 — 7:00 p.m. Five teenage girls in West Palm Beach, Florida, watch a round object with multiple lights, a door, and a bubble roof descend to the east and hover there for 5 minutes. It rises again, flies over a store near the witnesses and disappears over the southern horizon. (“[Palm Beach Puzzle.](#)” *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 13)
- 1979**, November 9 — 10:30 a.m. [Robert Taylor](#), a 61-year-old forestry worker, is out one night working in the Dechmont Woods near Livingston, Scotland. Taylor and his dog are on duty when he spots a UFO hovering completely motionless and silent above the ground. Described as approximately 20 feet across and 12 feet high, the strange object is made of a “dark gray metallic material.” Taylor thinks the UFO is possibly going transparent from time to time in order to disguise itself. A ring or platform encircles the object with spikes topped with propellers. Two more small spiky spheres come from the craft and make a sound as their spikes move across the ground. Taylor is then grabbed by these two smaller objects and dragged to the UFO. As this is happening, he can smell a strong, sickening odor. Soon after this, he loses consciousness and remains passed out about 20 minutes. He is woken up by his dog, which is running around and barking in a panic. He hears a kind of hissing sound and realizes that the craft is beginning to leave. Seconds later the UFO disappears. Taylor is unable to walk or talk properly after the event. He suffers from a headache, sickness, and pain in his chin for some hours afterward. Authorities are appointed to investigate the site and find tracks where Taylor says the smaller spheres were dragging him. Patricia Hannaford, founder of the Edinburgh University UFO Research Society and a qualified physician, suggests that Taylor’s collapse is an isolated attack of temporal lobe epilepsy with hallucinations. Symptoms such as Taylor’s history of meningitis, his report of a strong smell that no one else can detect, his headache, dry throat, paralysis of his legs, and period of unconsciousness indicate an epileptic episode. (Wikipedia, “[Robert Taylor incident](#)”; NICAP, “[Taylor Incident](#)”; Stuart Campbell, “[Close Encounter in Scotland.](#)” *Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena* 1, no. 2 (March 1980): 43–46; Martin Keatman and Andrew Collins, “[Physical Assault by Unidentified Objects at Livingston, Part I.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 6 (April 1980): 2–7; Martin Keatman and Andrew Collins, “[Physical Assault by Unidentified Objects at Livingston, Part II.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 1 (June 1980): 25–28; “[The Scottish Landing Case.](#)” *APRO Bulletin* 29, no. 1 (July 1980): 1–3; Martin

Keatman and Andrew Collins, "[Physical Assault by Unidentified Objects at Livingston, Part III](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 3 (September 1980): 1–4; "[A Scottish Abduction?](#)" *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 5 (July/Aug. 1980): 15–16; Steuart Campbell, "[Close Encounter at Livingston](#)," ed., Charles F. Lockwood and Leslie W. Bayer, BUFORA Case History No. 1, July 1982; Patrick Gross, "[Dechmont Woods, Scotland, November 9, 1979](#)"; Gary Heseltine, "The Livingston Case Revisited," *UFO Magazine*, March 2003, pp. 34–38; David Slater, "[Spaceships, Spheres, and the Devil's Herb: A Possible Explanation of the Livingston UFO Incident](#)," *Musings on Anomalous Culture*, May 30, 2010; Hamish MacPherson, "[Scot's Close Encounter with UFO at Dechmont Law Still Baffles](#)," *The National* (Scotland), May 15, 2023; "[Robert Taylor Talks He Was Attacked by a UFO in Dechmont Woods, Livingston, Scotland, 1979](#)," Eyes On Cinema YouTube Channel, June 25, 2023)

- 1979**, November 11–12 — 11:00 p.m. Flight JK-297, a TAE Supercaravelle outbound from Salzburg, Austria, has just made a refueling stop on Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain, before setting course toward Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. Pilot Francisco Javier Lerdo de Tejada and his crew notice a set of red lights that are fast approaching the aircraft. They appear to be on a collision course, alarming the crew. The captain requests information about the lights, but neither the Pegaso Defense Radar Center in Torrejón Air Base, Madrid, nor the flight control center in Barcelona can provide any explanation. In order to avoid a possible collision, the captain changes altitude. However, the lights mirror the new course and stay about 1,600 feet away from the plane. Since the object is violating all elementary safety rules and the crew considers an evasive maneuver impossible, the captain decides to go off-course and make an emergency landing at the Manises airport in Valencia. The lights abandon the pursuit just before the aircraft lands. However, three new UFO targets are detected by the radar, each one with an estimated diameter of 650 feet. The objects are seen by several witnesses. One of the UFOs passes very close to the airport runway, and emergency lights are lit by the land crew in case the object happens to be an unregistered flight experiencing difficulties. Because the object answers no attempts to communicate, a Mirage F-1 takes off at 2:10 a.m. from the nearby Los Llanos Air Base in Albacete to intercept the object. The pilot, Spanish Air Force captain Fernando Cámara, has to increase his speed to 920 mph just to achieve visual contact with what he sees as a truncated cone-shaped object. Despite his initial efforts, the object quickly disappears. Cámara is told of a new radar target, indicating that another object might be near Sagunto. When he is close enough, the object accelerates and disappears again. This time, though, the UFO seems to respond, and the Mirage has its electronic flight systems jammed. At last, and after a third intercept attempt, the UFO finally disappears, heading for Africa. After 90 minutes of pursuit, the pilot is forced to return to the base with no results. However, a close examination by Spanish engineer Juan Antonio Fernández Peris identifies the two red lights as gas burn-off flares from a nearby oil refinery that are distorted by a temperature inversion in place that evening. The lights seen by the ground crew can be traced to stars and planets. Some family problems of the airliner pilot predispose him to an overanxious reaction when the Barcelona air traffic control fails to provide a conventional solution. The EM interference reported by the fighter pilot results from the electronic countermeasures of a US Navy ship in the Mediterranean that is operating under a heightened state of alert as the Iranian hostage crisis unfolds. (Wikipedia, "[Manises UFO incident](#)"; NICAP, "[Spanish Radar Visual Case? Probably Not](#)"; "[Spanish Radar Visual Case](#)," *IUR* 4, no. 6 (December 1979): 14–15; Good Above, pp. 156–157; Juan José Benítez, "[Jetliner 'Intercepted' by UFO near Valencia](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 5 (March 1980): 13–15; J. J. Benítez, *Incidente en Manises*, Plaza y Janés, 1982; J. Plana Crivellén, "[Encounters in Spanish Air-Space between Aircraft and UFOs](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 34, no. 1 (March 1989): 22–23; "[The Anomaly Foundation Solves the 'Manises' UFO Case: 20 Years of Mystery Are Over](#)," Fundación Anomalía, 1999; Juan Antonio Fernández Peris, *El Expediente Manises*, Fundación Anomalía, 2000; Miguel Ángel Ruiz, "[El Expediente Manises: Un análisis crítico](#)," Informe OVNI 2009; "[1979 ES #UFOB \[Case\] Impression of the Manises Incident Spain](#)," UFOB | Your UAP Library YouTube channel, October 3, 2022; Jackson Camargo, "[O Incidente Manises](#)," Portal Fenomenum, April 23, 2024; "[El caso Manises ovni en Valencia](#)," *El Valenciano*, April 26, 2024; "[1979 ES #UFOB \[Case\] The Manises Incident in Spain](#)," UFOB | Your UAP Library YouTube channel, August 29, 2024; "[Bibliografía caso Manises \(#6215, 11/11/1979\)](#)," Proyecto CUCO, November 11, 2024)
- 1979**, November 14 — 8:10 p.m. A witness near Killaly, Saskatchewan, sees a white light land in a field about a quarter mile to the south of her house and then go out. Her dogs keep snarling and barking all night long. The next morning her husband passes the field and notices that it is emitting a dense cloud of smoke. He finds a ring of smoldering grass some 30 feet in diameter, but with snow still visible in the center. The unburnt grass next to it is flattened. ("[Two CE-IIs in Western Canada](#)," *CUFOS Bulletin*, Summer 1980, pp. 6–7)
- 1979**, November 15 — 5:00 p.m. A group of children playing in Chiraleș, Romania, see a milky-white object that looks like a mace head with protuberances moving silently from north to south about 50 feet from the ground. It appears to be 3 feet in diameter and lands at a nearby mound. The children run toward the mound but stop when they see two glowing objects land on it with tripod legs. Two little men 2.5 feet tall, dressed in metallic costumes with

antennae, come out of one of the objects through a door and walk around with a bouncing motion. The children keep approaching, so the men run back into the craft, which takes off in a burst of red-orange flames. Small circular impressions are found, although they get disturbed by curious onlookers. (Romania 134–135)

- 1979**, November 15 — 9:00 p.m. Two teenage boys in Gadsden, Alabama, see a domed disc the size of a house approach them from the south until it is 900 feet away and 750 feet in the air. The light underneath it is so bright that it illuminates the entire object. It makes a U-turn and passes overhead as it moves south with a jerky motion. ([“Alabama Saucer,”](#) *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 4)
- 1979**, November 17 — 2:30 p.m. A 13-year-old boy is walking home from school through a clearing in the woods in Pound Ridge, New York, when he sees what looks like a solid, 3-foot-tall maple tree surrounded by an electric glow. It hovers for 3 seconds only 12 feet away from him, then shoots straight up into the sky, changing color from green to red. ([“A Flying Tree in New York?”](#) *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 4)
- 1979**, November 17 — 4:20 p.m. The underground Pegaso Defense Radar Center at Torrejón Air Base in Madrid, Spain, detects an unknown target some 25 miles south of Motril, Grenada, and a Mirage F1 is scrambled from Los Llanos Air Base in Albacete, Castilla-La Mancha. By the time the jet arrives in the vicinity, the target has disappeared. At 6:16 p.m., the pilot is heading back to Los Llanos when he sees three powerful red-yellow lights in the shape of a triangle about 12 miles away. They do not register on radar. In spite of chasing the lights at 720 mph, the Mirage cannot close the gap. During his descent into Los Llanos, some childish, laughing voices break into the UHF-1 channel linking him to Pegaso: “Hello, how are you? Hello, hello,” they say in Spanish. The interference lasts 30 seconds. ([“El OVNI que sobrevoló la ciudad de Motril,”](#) OVNI: ¿Mitología o Realidad?, May 24, 2019)
- 1979**, November 18 — 1:15 a.m. A man in Antioch, California, watches a bright red light flying from east to the northeast. It stops for 3–5 seconds and changes to purple then pale blue and moves off. ([“Fast NL in California,”](#) *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 4)
- 1979**, November 26 — 5:00 a.m. A phone call to police in Pontoise, Val d’Oise, France, brings officers to the apartment of Jean-Pierre Prevost, 25, a clothing seller, who has claimed that a colleague, Franck Fontaine, has been abducted by a UFO. Fontaine reappears on December 3, claiming to remember only that a luminous fog had descended on his car and he woke up later in a cabbage field. GEPAN investigates and finds the story problematic. On July 7, 1983, Prevost confesses that the story was a hoax intended to promote a spiritual message. ([Enquête GEPAN 79/07: A propos d’une disparition](#), Note Technique no. 6, Groupe d’Étude des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés, Centre Nationale d’Étude Spatiales, March 31, 1981; [“French Abduction: ‘Travis Walton’ Style,”](#) *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 3; Jacques Bonabot, [“1979 Fontaine Case in France Now Admitted to Be a Hoax,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 190 (December 1983): 10; [“Cergy-Pontoise Hoax,”](#) *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology*; Clark III 230–232)
- 1979**, November 27 — A 13-year-old girl (“Christelle”) in France is terrorized by the landing of a UFO and the sight of one of its crew. GEPAN investigates the landing traces. Grass is flattened for several days after the incident, and samples are taken to Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse for analysis. Prof. André Touzé of the university’s Center for Plant Physiology says there is no “unequivocal evidence of chemical or biological disturbance of the samples.” ([Enquête GEPAN no. 79/06](#), Note Technique no. 8, Groupe d’Étude des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés, Centre Nationale d’Étude Spatiales, October 26, 1981; Peter A. Sturrock, *The UFO Enigma*, Warner, 1999, pp. 97–98)
- 1979**, November 27 — 4:25 p.m. Yvette Godfrey is assistant manager of a spa in the Barker Shopping Plaza off State Highway 82 near the Connecticut Turnpike in Norwich, Connecticut. She sees a cigar-shaped object hovering at an angle directly above the Norwich Sheraton Motor Inn about 30 feet above the Sheraton sign on the roof. Other women at the spa observe it too. It moves a bit to the south and stops again for a minute before turning west into the clouds. ([“Connecticut Cigar,”](#) *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 4)
- 1979**, November 30 — 8:00 p.m. At Playa el Combate beach outside Pole Ojea, Puerto Rico, Radamés Torres and his wife Tita are watching television when they see a bright light hanging at a height of 100 feet above the sea about 900 feet from their house. After about 30 minutes it moves down toward the sea, flares up, and goes out. Torres goes back to the TV set, but after 15 minutes the light returns, this time shining brightly through the window. The light is on a platform floating on the sea only 130–140 feet away, approaching at about 8 mph, and they can see a small man on it about 4 feet high wearing silvery-white coveralls and a big helmet. Suddenly the platform reverses and the light goes out. (Scott Corrales, *Flashpoint: High Strangeness in Puerto Rico*, Amarna, 1998, pp. 55–56; Jorge Martín, [“A Small Alien Being Seen in Puerto Rico,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 44, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 21–22)

- 1979**, December — The Moscow City Committee of the Soviet Communist Party forbids all activities of the BVPTS civilian UFO group, but it persists into the 1980s. (Nikita A. Schnee, "[Ufology in the USSR](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 1 (June 1981): 8–10; Nikita A. Schnee, "[Comments](#)," *AFU Newsletter*, no. 27 (Jan./Dec. 1984): 21)
- 1979**, December 1 — The US Strategic Air Command assumes control of the ballistic missile warning system and all Space Surveillance Network facilities from the deactivating Aerospace Defense Command, with data streams continuing to flow to NORAD. NORAD retains the radar networks and operates many radar sites jointly with the FAA as Semi-Automatic Ground Environment. (Wikipedia, "[Strategic Air Command](#)")
- 1979**, December 3 — 7:45 p.m. Chris and Ralph Smith of Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia, see a shiny, semicircular object with red and yellow fire beneath it hover for 5 minutes before it disappears into the sea. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 102–103)
- 1979**, December 3 — 10:20 p.m. Former Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer John Pushie takes 7 photos (four of which turn out) of a bright light from his home 7 miles west of Sydney, Nova Scotia. The light hovers in one spot then moves quickly away at one point. He shows them to the commanding officer of CFS Sydney Radar Base [now closed] in Lingan Road, who says he wants to send them to the National Research Council. One month later they are returned with a note saying that Pushie had photographed the star Vega. ("[Former RCMP Officer Photographs UFO near Sydney N.S.](#)," *Journal UFO* 2, no. 4 (March 1981): 13–14)
- 1979**, December 4 — 5:00 p.m. Two witnesses are driving on State Highway 32 near Mansfield Depot, Connecticut, when they see a bright, football-shaped "cloud" hovering low over the trees to the north, turning slowly. The driver stops just north of the intersection with US Highway 44. The object is now seen to have a complex shape with multiple lights as it hovers above some power poles to the west. It starts moving slowly to the south. The witnesses try to follow it but lose sight of it. ("[Six Days Later in Connecticut](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 4–5)
- 1979**, December 5 — 5:55 p.m. Norma White watches a bright star from her restaurant in Ansted, West Virginia. It remains stationary for 15 minutes at a height of 2,000 feet over the mountains to the north. Then it approaches her, passing overhead at 100 mph. It hurts her eyes to look at it. Then the light goes out, allowing her to see a Y-shaped object emitting a dull green light. Clusters of red lights are at the three points of the Y. It silently turns and flies off to the east. Other lights appear in the sky (18 or so) and are observed by police officers Charles Crosier and Dan Cohenour. ("[The Mini-Flap of West Virginia](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 4)
- 1979**, December 6 — 6:29 a.m. An Archuleta County deputy sheriff is driving west on US Highway 160 in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, when he sees an orange-gold light in the western sky. It quickly grows to the size of a fuzzy full moon in 2–3 seconds. Holding its position, it vanishes without a sound. ("[Colorado UFO: Head On?](#)" *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 5)
- 1979**, December 7 — 10:10 p.m. A couple sees a milky-white object while driving through Madison, Connecticut. They pull over on Bishop Lane and watch it make abrupt changes of direction for a few minutes before it fades from sight. ("[Connecticut Disc](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 4–5)
- 1979**, December 9 — 9:15 a.m. French Air Force Capt. Jean-Pierre Fartek and his wife observe an oscillating UFO hovering near the ground in front of a row of apple trees at his home in a village near Dijon, Côte d'Or, France. It looks like two "reversed saucers pressed against each other," gray-metal above and dark blue below, with no lights or portholes. He describes the sighting to Gen. [Denis Letty](#), who includes the case in the 1999 COMETA report. ("[1979: Air Force Captain Jean-Pierre Fartek Spots UFO](#)," UFO Casebook, September 14, 2010; Kean, [pp. 124–126](#))
- 1979**, December 9 — 9:45 p.m. US Coast Guard Storekeeper 1st Class Michal Williams sees a stationary white light above the Mississippi River near the dam in Keokuk, Iowa. It lights up the river below it. The light moves straight up at high speed, changing from white to red and coming to an abrupt stop. The light goes out. Williams and a radioman see it again in the northeast and view it through binoculars. It has two red lights and a white light flashing irregularly. It flies around the dam and into the west-northwest in a matter of seconds. ("[Coast Guard Sighting in Iowa](#)," *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 5)
- 1979**, December 11 — 11:45 a.m. Flight instructor Leslie Groves is tutoring a pupil aboard a Cessna 150 flying at 4,500 feet south of Bolton, Greater Manchester, England, when he spots something strange that appears to come out of a cloud above Winter Hill. It is clearly a solid ball of white light that is passing in and out of the clouds. He asks the student to bank in order to minimize any risk of a collision. By now the object is pulling away in an arc described as a "well-controlled swooping motion" at about 2,500 feet. (Ron Sergeant and Jenny Randles, "[Aircraft in Encounters over Bolton](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 1 (June 1980): 19–21)
- 1979**, December 13 — 4:00 a.m. Two truckers (Wang Dingyuan and Wang Jianming) are driving separate vehicles on the Lanxi-Xin'angiang Highway near Longwangmiao, Zhejiang, China, when they see a bright beam of light ahead. When the lead driver sees two "unusual human beings" standing on the highway, he stops. They are short,

perhaps 4.5 feet tall, and wear what look like spacesuits. The second driver also stops but does not see the beings, which soon vanish. The drivers decide to switch vehicles. A few miles down the road, the new lead driver sees the same entities, and the men again stop the trucks. The drivers turn their lights off and on, but the beings remain. When one of the drivers emerges with a crowbar, they disappear. (Paul Dong and Wendelle C. Stevens, *UFOs over Modern China*, UFO Photo Archives, 1983, pp. 140–141; Good Above, [pp. 214–215](#))

- 1979**, December 20 — 4:30 a.m. A pilot and two other witnesses are driving near Therien, Alberta, when they see an elongated object drop from 1,000 feet to 200 feet, turning red as it descends, for about 5–10 minutes. It crashes into the ground not too far away from their car. They can feel the impact. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 103)
- 1979**, December 23 — 3:30 p.m. A salesman exiting the Orange Freeway at Riverside in Northeast Anaheim, California, sees an object silently pass over him at 300 feet up. The front part is octagonal and the rear is a rectangle. (“A California ‘Whatsit.’” *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 5)
- 1979**, December 27 — 11:15 a.m. Two construction workers are driving south on Knott Street in Coquille, Oregon, when they see a bright flash in the southern sky. It is caused by a reflection off a thin, metallic, domed object wobbling nearby. It is about 40–50 feet in diameter and 6–7 feet thick. The object descends to about 1,000 feet. The witnesses try to drive closer and look at it through inexpensive binoculars as it flies down the valley before it disappears to the south. (“[Daylight Disc in Oregon](#),” *IUR* 5, no. 1a (January 1980): 5)
- 1979**, December 27 — Night. A car factory worker at Halewood, Merseyside, England, is walking home when he senses something behind him. Turning around, he sees a floating white sphere, several feet in diameter, heading silently toward him. He watches it pass, and the tingling at the back of his neck intensifies. When it is about 20 feet ahead, it stops and shoots to the southwest at a 45° angle. The man’s hair remains charged with static for two days. (Jenny Randles, “The Twelve UFOs of Christmas,” *Fortean Times* 374 (Christmas 2018): 29)
- 1979**, December 30 — After presenting his findings to the GEPAN Scientific Council, [Claude Poher](#) resigns as director. His position is not made public, but it meets with strong opposition from the media. Poher then takes a one-year leave of absence from CNES to sail around the world with his family in a boat he has built himself. Mathematician [Alain Esterle](#) replaces Poher as GEPAN director, remaining until 1983. Under his direction, GEPAN is productive, issuing a series of detailed technical notes on cases. (J. Allen Hynek, “[GEPAN: France’s Official UFO Agency](#),” *IUR* 5, no. 1 (January 1980): 6–8; Gildas Bourdais, “[From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 12–13; Clark III 546)
- 1979**, December 31 — 4:00 a.m. A family in Demopolis, Alabama, wakes up to the sound of their dogs barking wildly. When one witness goes outside to quiet them, he sees a bright, triangular object the size of a house hovering above trees about 1,200 feet away. It approaches in a zigzag path. (“[UFO Spotted near Demopolis](#),” *Montgomery Alabama Journal*, January 2, 1979, p. 10; *Demopolis (Ala.) Times*, January 4, 1979; Marler [172](#))

1980

- 1980** — [Ann Druffel](#) and D. Scott Rogo publish *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts*, a report on their investigations into a series of abductions and UFO-related events in California involving several women over a period of 25 years. (Ann Druffel and D. Scott Rogo, *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts*, Prentice-Hall, 1980; Clark III 415)
- 1980** — [Richard F. Haines](#), an aerospace psychologist at NASA’s Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, publishes *Observing UFOs*, a technical book on analyzing UFO reports. (Richard F. Haines, *Observing UFOs: An Investigative Handbook*, Nelson-Hall, 1980)
- 1980** — [Alejandro Agostinelli](#) and Juan Carlos Zabalgoitia establish the Centro de Estudios de Fenómenos Aéreos No Convencionales in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and publish three issues of a boletín informativo. ([CEFANC Boletín Informativo](#), no. 1 (Jan./March 1980))
- 1980** — An All-Russian Research Public Organization is launched informally by Russian science-fiction writer [Alexander Kazantsev](#), aerospace engineer [Vadim Chernobrov](#), astronaut [Georgy Beregovoy](#), and other enthusiasts to explore the mysteries of the universe and nature, research new ways of space technology development, and collect information about UFOs and anomalous events in the Soviet Union. (Wikipedia, “[Kosmopoisk](#)”)
- 1980** — Donald Goldsmith and Tobias Owen publish *The Search for Life in the Universe*, an open-minded textbook on SETI. (Donald Goldsmith and Tobias Owen, [The Search for Life in the Universe](#), Benjamin/Cummings, 1980; Michael D. Swords, “[SETI/ETI and UFOs](#),” *JUFOS* 5 (1994): 147–151)
- 1980** — During interception exercises, seven MiG-12s from the Mierzęce Air Base [now Katowice Airport], Poland, notice a saucer-shaped object with flashing lights approaching them. It has a blue-gray cupola on top and is three times bigger than any of the aircraft. It flies to each of the MiGs and maneuvers around them. (Poland 65)

- 1980, January** — The Gemeinschaft zur Erforschung unbekannter Phänomene (later Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des UFO-Phänomens) publishes the first issue of *Journal für UFO-Forschung* in Lüdenscheid, North Rhine–Westphalia, Germany, which is still in operation in 2023. ([Journal für UFO-Forschung](#), no. 1 (January 1980); [Journal für UFO-Forschung website](#))
- 1980, January** — 11:00 p.m. A Brazilian electronics businessman and 9 others see a disc-shaped object shine a light down on the water near the eastern bank of the Rio Tapajós 30 miles south of Santarém, Brazil. The man, his family, and some relatives are camping at a beach. Several teenagers are still awake, lying in hammocks and talking, when they see the UFO come across the river, stopping about 30 yards from the beach and shining a light on the water 60 feet below. The UFO hovers briefly then begins moving north, parallel to the shore. It travels more than half a mile, with the spotlight shining straight down before it disappears. The light beam leaves a trail of luminescence for several hundred yards. (Bob Pratt, *UFO Danger Zone: Terror and Death in Brazil—Where Next?*, Horus House, 1996, pp. 146–147; Carl W. Feindt, “[Beam of Light into a Body of Water](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 22–23)
- 1980, January 10** — The NSA’s Roy R. Banner releases two UFO-related documents to [Peter Gersten](#), but states that the original 18 he has requested are exempt from release because of national security, adding that the NSA is reviewing 79 other documents originating with other federal agencies. (ClearIntent, [pp. 182–187](#))
- 1980, January 13** — 9:00 p.m. Brenda Simanski and Janine Mattson quit their shift at the Seminary Nursing Home on Pioneer Road in Red Wing, Minnesota. Standing in the parking lot, they see a star making a bizarre zigzag pattern. It moves above them and they see it is a triangle 15 feet wide and 20 feet long with two white lights in front, blue lights in two of the corners, and a red light between the blue ones. Three other witnesses come out of the building and also watch the object, which leaves slowly and silently to the north-northwest. (“[5 Watch Tree-Hovering UFO for 6 Minutes, ‘Won’t Say It’s from Space.’](#)” *Red Wing (Minn.) Republican Eagle*, January 15, 1980, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 128 (March 1980): 3; Joe and Doris Graziano, “[Press Report Summary](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 28, no. 9 (March 1980): 7–8; “[UFOs Enter the New Decade](#),” *UFO Research Newsletter* 6, no. 11 (April/May 1980): 1–2)
- 1980, January 13** — 5:00 p.m. Songwriters Steve Glen and Mike Burns are driving on Hendon Way in London, England, followed in another car by the band The Toys, when they see a massive object in the sky. They turn off Finchley Road to West Heath Road and stop just below Leg of Mutton Pond to get a better look. The gray-brown object is right above them and emits an orange cloud that surrounds it. After a short period of time, several small gray-brown winged objects shoot out of the cloud and descend toward the witnesses. Glen runs to a nearby telephone booth and calls the Army first, which is dismissive, then the police. Officers soon arrive and they observe the large object. After a total of 40 minutes, the UFO shoots silently into the sky and disappears. Glen and Burns later discuss the sighting, thinking there was no doubt about their seeing a UFO. They write the song “No Doubt about It,” which becomes a hit in May for the pop group Hot Chocolate. (“[Sky’s the Limit for UFO Disc](#),” *Probe Report* 1, no. 1 (June 1, 1980): 9; “[Close Encounter of a Hit](#),” *Barnet and Potters Bar Times* (UK), March 17, 2011, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 502 (May 2011): 15; Philip Mantle, “No Doubt About It,” *Fortean Times* 420 (July 2022): 51)
- 1980, January 14** — 6:05 a.m. Truck driver William Barrett is on an early delivery run from Burnley to Todmorden, West Yorkshire, England, when he hears a deep humming sound. Looking ahead, he sees a machine with flames underneath hovering at a lay-by off the roadside. He slows his truck to a near crawl and moves past the object, which looks like a “toast rack” with curved sides and three red glows emerging from the edge to create a misty fuzziness obscuring the base. Now only 25 feet away, he sees that it has a bell- or tortoiseshell shape with a metallic sheen and a tube sticking up from the top. The red glows emerge from under a rim that runs around the lower part of the object. He can now see two figures standing in front of the object, one standing erect and wearing a uniform with a peaked cap, and the other crouched forward, wearing a silvery-gray jump suit. As he passes, the arc lights on the object start flickering like a disco. His headlights go out, and his mind gets hazier and he loses consciousness. He experiences missing time until he jerks awake sometime around 8:30 a.m. (Jenny Randles, “[Close Encounter in UFO Alley](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 1 (Spring 2001): 3–8, 28–29)
- 1980, January 17** — 10:30 p.m. Chilean astronomer [Fernando Noël](#) is at his home in the eastern suburbs of Santiago, Chile, when he sees a luminous point of light at 20° elevation moving from southwest to west. It is silent and resembles a satellite. He calls two other witnesses, during which time the object disappears. At 10:45 p.m., he sees a bright light moving slowly toward the zenith. Looking more closely, he sees it is actually a group of 30 objects in a V-formation. Each individual light of the group is pale white with a slight tint of yellow. The formation moves from 20° above the western horizon to about 20° above the eastern horizon before disappearing

gradually. The duration is approximately 2 minutes. (“Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena Observed by an Astronomer,” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 7, no. 4 (1993): 439–441)

- 1980**, January 21 — 11:40 p.m. Seven women are driving home in two cars from a bridge game near Council Bluffs, Iowa. The first car with six witnesses, including Marilyn Anderson, sees a cluster of lights in the western sky as they are driving on Pioneer Trail. The lights are hovering about 200–300 feet above a bluff less than a city block away. When they stop the car to get out for a closer look, the lights speed away to the southwest. The seventh woman, in a separate car behind them, does not see the lights, but Anderson tells her about them when she pulls up. She continues driving home, but when she gets to Longview Drive, her car stalls, and the radio and lights go out. She restarts the car, but it stalls out another quarter-mile away. A bright orange light appears in a cornfield about 900 feet away with an intensity that hurts her eyes. Scared, she locks herself inside the car and passes out. When she wakes up, her car is turned sideways across the road, but she is able to drive it home. She can still see the orange light from her kitchen window, but she has some blotches and redness on her skin that fades by 4:20 a.m. (“[Possible Abduction in Iowa](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 5 (July/Aug. 1980): 13–14)
- 1980**, January 23 — [Peter Gersten](#) files an appeal with the NSA to release more UFO material. (ClearIntent, [p. 187](#))
- 1980**, January 24 — 1:00 p.m. A. Golotikin is working as a mechanic aboard the *Brilliant*, a Russian fishing trawler operating 20–30 miles off the coast of Western Sahara. He and the rest of the crew see a black, cigar-shaped object moving slowly toward the ship in complete silence. They watch it for 5–7 minutes through binoculars, then it disappears as it gets closer to the ship. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 15–16)
- 1980**, February — The Australian Centre for UFO Studies begins publishing the *Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies*, edited by Harry Griesberg and [Keith Basterfield](#), until at least November 1985. ([Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies](#) 1, no. 1 (February 1980))
- 1980**, February 7 — 9:50 p.m. Daryl Browne, a ranch hand at the Glenalta horse ranch near Stirling, South Australia, is watching TV when he hears dogs howling and timber crashing outside. His two guard dogs are howling in fear. Outside he sees a yellow half-moon-shaped object about 25–30 feet long. It is 100 feet up in the branches of a 230-foot-tall cypress tree, branches bending under its weight. The trunk shows large gouges. Browne calls the police, but the object is gone by the time they arrive. For 2 days, Browne’s dogs refuse to go near the tree. (“[Mystery ‘Craft’ Smashes Tree](#),” *Adelaide (S.A.) News*, February 8, 1980, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 128 (March 1980), p. 14; “[UFO Smashes Tree in Australia](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 5 (July/Aug. 1980): 16; “[Phil Tindale on Witnessing a ‘Battle’ between 2 Hostile UFOs; 1 Crashed into a Tree, Stirling, 1980](#),” Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, August 12, 2024)
- 1980**, February 21 — 11:15 a.m. An 11-year-old girl getting ready for bed in Stamford, Connecticut, looks through a window and sees a large white oval of light low in the west-northwest sky, apparently four times the size of the moon. Her grandmother joins her and watches the object, which is swinging with a pendulum motion. It is still visible about 30 minutes later. The family’s German shepherd dog barks continually at it while it is visible and for 20 minutes after it is last viewed. (Allan Hendry, “[Unusual Backyard Visitor](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 2 (June 1980): 3)
- 1980**, February 25 — 2:30 p.m. Oil worker Rusty Pennington is watching a pump a quarter mile west of Youngsville, Pennsylvania. Suddenly he hears an explosion that lasts only a split second and sees a domed disc to the left of his truck. He estimates the object is 20 feet wide and 6–8 feet high. Flying at treetop level, it streaks silently downward from southwest to northeast and disappears in the distance. (“[Daylight Disc in Pennsylvania](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 5 (July/Aug. 1980): 14)
- 1980**, February 28 — The *National Enquirer* runs an article, “Former Intelligence Officer Reveals ‘I picked up wreckage of UFO that exploded over U.S.’” that includes a portion of a December 1979 interview by [Bob Pratt](#) with [Jesse Marcel Sr.](#) as a pre-publication teaser for [Berlitz](#) and [Moore](#)’s forthcoming book. (Patrick Gross, “[Roswell 1947: First Ufologists Investigations](#)”)
- 1980**, March — Nanotechnologist [Robert A. Freitas Jr.](#) advocates searching for alien probes or artifacts on planets, satellites, and asteroids because it is more cost-effective than looking for distant radio signals. (Robert A. Freitas Jr., “[Interstellar Probes: A New Approach to SETI](#),” *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society* 33 (1980): 95–100)
- 1980**, Early March — 9:45 p.m. Fred Wirth Jr. steps outside his home in Bulverde, Texas, and sees a large orange glow 45° up in the northern sky about 100 feet above his property, lighting it up with an orange glow. After hovering silently, it shoots up in the air and stops, now appearing as a red, blinking dot. His wife joins him but instantly

- becomes nauseous and throws up. He starts sweating profusely. ([“Strange Reactions to Huge Glow,”](#) *IUR/Probe*, September 1980, pp. 74–75)
- 1980, March 7** — 12:10 a.m. Former Navy pilot Larry Crawford sees a star-like light moving 700–800 mph at 30,000 feet above Memphis, Tennessee. While he is watching it move for 10 seconds, it executes a hairpin turn. ([“Pilot: ‘No Human Could Have Survived Turns Like That!’”](#) *IUR/Probe*, September 1980, pp. 75, 78)
- 1980, March 12** — 12:45 a.m. At least 10 witnesses, including city police and county sheriff deputies, watch an odd light maneuvering, climbing, and descending in the sky above Gladstone, Michigan. ([“Much Ado about Little?”](#) *IUR/Probe*, September 1980, p. 78)
- 1980, March 13** — 7:50 p.m. A subcontractor on a job is driving near Haselor, Warwickshire, England, when he sees a white, cigar-shaped object with a steady red glow on either end pass in front of his windshield. The steering wheel instantly becomes hot, causing him to lift his hands off the wheel. He maneuvers the car off the road until it cools enough to steer. (Tony Green, [“Witness Burned by Passing UFO,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 5 (January 1981): 32–33)
- 1980, March 15** — 8:00 p.m. A couple in Bannock, Ohio, Spot a bright light in the southwestern sky. They watch it for 20 minutes before it approaches their home. The light is a spotlight attached to a large cigar-shaped object with red and blue lights along its length. The spotlight switches off as it passes overhead and moves to the northwest. ([“Chief Investigator Allan Hendry Reports: Huge Cigar UFO in Ohio,”](#) *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (August 1980): 5)
- 1980, March 22** — [Stringfield](#) meets with two new sources in Erie, Pennsylvania, who show him three photos allegedly showing an alien cadaver encased in glass in Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio. He is suspicious and tries to verify them. (Leonard H. Stringfield, [“Status Report on Alleged Alien Cadaver Photos,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 154 (December 1980): 11–16)
- 1980, March 22** — 10:00–11:00 p.m. Burlington (Vermont) International Airport radar tracks three small objects that join with a larger, brighter object then separate again. They are apparently over Malletts Bay. Speeds of up to 1,500 mph are recorded, and the objects quickly disappear to the west. Traffic controller Donald Kernan says the lights “did a kind of dance.” (NICAP, [“Satellite Objects on RADAR”](#); Bob Gribble, [“Looking Back,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 263 (March 1990): 22; UFOEv II 246)
- 1980, March 24** — The NSA issues a general denial of releasing all of its UFO materials to the public as requested by [Peter Gersten](#). (ClearIntent, [p. 187](#))
- 1980, March 24** — 7:30 p.m. When his dog starts barking furiously, James Balkcom notices a bright light moving along the railroad tracks in James, Georgia, at treetop level. It comes to a stop and hovers above the home of Benton Evans. The Evanses go outside to watch the light, which has colored lights blinking inside it. After 5–10 minutes, it begins moving along the tracks again with a pulsing “shh-shh” noise. ([“Low-Flying Georgian Globe,”](#) *IUR/Probe*, September 1980, pp. 78–79)
- 1980, March 25** — 10:15 p.m. Debbie Harris and Sheri Gustafson are driving on the Dayton–Xenia Road three miles east of Dayton, Ohio, when Harris notices bright, beaming lights in the sky. They assume it is an illuminated tower, but when they pull over, it appears to be about 25 feet above the ground and 210 feet away. The lights seem to come from an airplane-sized object with a green light, a red light, and crossed white beams. After hovering to their north for about 2 minutes, it shoots off rapidly to the northeast and disappears behind a hill. ([“Ohio Close Encounter,”](#) *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 3 (July 1980): 3)
- 1980, April** — A farmer in Milam County, Texas, is walking through his pasture to check on a cow that is about to give birth. Instead, he sees two nonhuman creatures carrying a calf between them, each holding one of its limbs. They are about 4 feet high and light yellow-green in color. He runs away and does not return to the location for two days, whereupon he finds the carcass of the calf. It looks as though it has been turned inside out, and only the head, feet, and hide remain. Researcher [Tom Adams](#) says the farmer is extremely reluctant to discuss the incident any further. (Thomas R. Adams, “Animal Mutilations: A Decade of Mystery,” *MUFON 1984 UFO Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 1984, pp. 45, 51–52)
- 1980, April 6** — 9:00 p.m. William Meara and his wife Brenda are driving on I-84 just south of its intersection with I-90 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, when they see a red blur above a road sign. The blur resolves into a disc about 30 feet in diameter with smaller discs surrounding it. The object passes silently above their car, moving northeast. The duration is 3 minutes. When Meara tries to start his car 30 minutes later at home, it acts completely dead but works again normally the next morning. ([“Connecticut Close Encounter,”](#) *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 6 (Sept./Oct. 1980): 14)
- 1980, April 10** — A businessman driving on the Philadelphia Church Road near Lincolnton, North Carolina, sees a red, disc-shaped object approach and hover above his car. It directs a light toward the ground. When he stops his car

and rolls down the window, he hears an intense humming sound. He watches it for about 5 minutes until it takes off at a 30° angle and heads south, leaving a thin exhaust trail. ("[Those Funny Lights in the Sky](#)," *Hickory (N.C.) Focus*, May 1, 1980, via *UFO Newscipping Service*, no. 130 (May 1980): 7)

1980, April 11 — 7:15 a.m. Personnel at the La Joya Air Base [part of the Mariano Melgar Airport], Arequipa, Peru, see a strange object flying in the vicinity. The base commander orders a Sukhoi Su-22 fighter-bomber to destroy the target, assumed to be a Chilean balloon. Lt. Oscar Santa María Huertas commands the scrambled aircraft. As soon as the object is in his sights some 1,800 feet above the ground, he fires 64 rounds from his 30mm guns at it. The bullets seem to hit the object without causing any damage. The UFO then hurls skyward at tremendous speed. Huertas follows, putting the Sukhoi into Mach 1.2. As he approaches, the object makes a sudden stop and the Sukhoi flies past it at 36,000 feet. Further maneuvering takes place, and Huertas finds the object chasing him at one point at 62,000 feet. He abandons the mission 52 miles away from the base. After he lands 22 minutes later, the object reappears at the base and remains visible nearly 2 hours. A Department of Defense information release gives an erroneous date of May 9, 1980. (Kean, [pp. 93–98, 150–151](#); Dolan II 214; Good Above, [pp. 324–325, 503–504](#); Yohanan Díaz Vargas, "[Peru: La Joya AFB, the Perfect UFO Case \(1980\)](#)," *Inexplicata*, November 14, 2016; "[Peruvian Fighter Pilot Oscar Santa Maria Huertas Talks Chasing and Shooting at a UFO on April 11, 1980](#)," Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, August 28, 2024)

1980, April 13 — A witness is driving on the eastern outskirts of Halifax, Nova Scotia, when he sees an unusually bright light. As he drives 5–6 miles closer, it resolves into two lights side by side. After driving another 20 miles closer, he sees the two lights are attached to one object. When directly underneath, it appears to be 1,000–1,200 feet long and cigar-shaped with lights on the front and back and one side. A truck driver has also pulled over to watch the UFO. ("[Correspondence](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1982): 2–3)

1980, April 17 — Day. Michael Romanowski, 8, sees a white boomerang-shaped object in Buffalo, New York. ("[Crescent Reports from New York and Illinois](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (August 1980): 4)

1980, April 20 — 5:30 a.m. [Richard A. Jokinen](#), an electrical engineer, is driving north on I-280 in San Mateo, California, on a fishing trip with his 18-year-old son. They see five bright, apparently metallic, Saturn-shaped objects flying very fast in formation at low altitude. The objects are traveling about 500 feet above the Crystal Springs Reservoir and are visible against trees of the coastal mountains west of the reservoir. The sighting lasts about 5 seconds, during which the objects cross 120° of viewing angle. (Allan Hendry, "[Five 'Saturns' in California](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 5 (September 1980): 3; "[Brief Reports](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 151 (September 1980): 12; UFOEv II 164–165)

1980, April 20 — 8:20 p.m. Sam Puccinelli is parking his car in his garage in Palatine, Illinois, when he sees a crescent-shaped, gray-black object with flashing white lights. He looks at it with his binoculars with his 13-year-old son for 7 minutes before it disappears. ("[Crescent Reports from New York and Illinois](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (August 1980): 4)

1980, April 20 — 9:00 p.m. A group of nine family members are on their front lawn in Hyderabad, India, and see a bell-shaped cloud forming at about 2,000–3,000 feet altitude. It remains stationary and they look away, but soon they see three smaller bell-shaped clouds forming evenly spaced below the first and forming an equilateral triangle. The smaller clouds then merge with the larger one and form an orange ball bright enough to throw a shadow on the roof near them. It shoots off at great speed toward the airport, then disappears after breaking into four smaller orange balls of light. The duration of the sighting is 15 minutes. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 18–19)

1980, April 22 — 10:00 p.m. Police Officer Manuel Medina and dispatcher Sedilla of Springer, New Mexico, are parked on a traffic watch when one of them notices a bright star in the west at about 45° moving like a balloon with a start-stop motion. Medina shines his car's spotlight on the object, which drops to a lower elevation. He turns the light off and the object ascends again. He turns the red cruiser light on, and the object seems to respond with a reddish hue. The light disappears over the Cimarron Mountains 20 miles away at 11:10 p.m. (Allan Hendry, "[Familiar Description](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 2 (June 1980): 3)

1980, April 26 — 11:00 p.m. Two witnesses in Holton, Indiana, watch a luminous flashing form in the northwest sky. Golden-colored and triangular in shape, it appears larger than the full moon. The object hovers, then shoots straight up in seconds. It zigzags before vanishing in the northwest. ("Golden Triangle in Indiana," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 5 (September 1980): 3)

1980, May — Citizens Against UFO Secrecy's attorney [Peter Gersten](#) brings a lawsuit against the National Security Agency to compel it to release 135 documents it has withheld from FOIA requests. The suit also includes the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration (which it claims conducted an inadequate search for its UFO records). (Fred Whiting, "[CAUS Goes to Court](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 6 (Sept./Oct.

1980): 18; “[Citizens Against UFO Secrecy Founder Peter Gersten on the Release of Withheld Secret UFO Documents](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, October 25, 2023)

- 1980, May** — Early afternoon. Thousands of base personnel and their families are congregating at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City, South Dakota, to watch an SR-71 Blackbird take off after a refueling stop. A1C John W. Mills III and a few other airmen are on top of the barracks for a view. They see an odd, triangular object above the B-52 Alert Pad about half a mile away. It begins to move down the flight line, and they see it is a gray-black delta shape at an altitude of 500 feet. For some reason it is not visible through the pair of binoculars they have. It makes a right turn and suddenly disappears above a parachute-rigging building. The SR-71 does not take off. Later in the day, an official “flash” message goes out to base personnel telling them not to talk to the press in case they had seen anything. (Nukes 387–392)
- 1980, May** — The Chinese UFO Studies Association is established under the auspices of Wuhan University, with branches in Beijing, Shanghai, and the provinces of Guangdong, Sichuan, Shanxi, Hubei, and Guangxi. It is headed by Cha Leping, a 26-year-old astrophysics student. The association later is incorporated into the China UFO Research Organization as an official branch of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. (Paul Dong, “[Letters](#),” *IUR* 7, no. 2 (March 1982): 3; Good Above, [p. 206](#))
- 1980, May** — Late afternoon. Two witnesses are driving through Manlius, New York, when they catch a glimpse of a disc-shaped object the size of a football field hovering above a patch of trees. The driver stops the car and steps outside. Yellow, red, and green lights are rotating around its perimeter. A commercial aircraft and news helicopter are also visible in the sky. The object is still not moving and soundless. Then two jet fighters, apparently scrambled from Griffiss AFB [now the Griffiss Business and Technology Park] in Rome, New York, fly toward the object, which takes off like a bullet and disappears. (Dolan II 211)
- 1980, May 2** — 10:15 a.m. A Santa Clara County park ranger and another county employee are in the hills east of San Jose, California, when they see a shiny, mirror-like spherical object moving north to south. They take turns studying it through binoculars. The object has a blue-green band in the center and is orange at the bottom. It makes rapid up-and-down motions as it moves forward and spins faster as its speed diminishes. The object stops and spins toward Lick Observatory to the east of their position for 10 seconds. Then it accelerates rapidly and speeds away to the south. The sighting duration is 3–4 minutes. (UFOEv II 226)
- 1980, May 5** — As she is driving home from Oklahoma to Eagle’s Nest, New Mexico, Myrna Hansen and her 6-year-old son see several UFOs in a field near Cimarron, New Mexico, after which they suffer confusion and a 4-hour loss of time. [Paul Bennewitz](#), an Albuquerque, New Mexico, owner of humidity equipment company Thunder Scientific and a UFO investigator, on May 11 brings psychologist [R. Leo Sprinkle](#) in to meet Hansen. He hypnotizes them and gets a detailed abduction story from the mother, who also remembers watching the aliens mutilate a calf. Hansen also remembers being taken by the UFO to an underground area in New Mexico (leading Bennewitz to suspect it is the Manzano Weapons Storage Area at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque) where she sees tanks of water with cattle body parts, as well as a human arm. (Linda Moulton Howe, [An Alien Harvest: Further Evidence Linking Animal Mutilations and Human Abductions to Alien Life Forms](#), Howe Productions, 1989, pp. 112–116; Linda Moulton Howe, *Facts and Eyewitnesses*, The Author, 1993, pp. 234–245; Greg Bishop, *Project Beta*, Paraview, 2005, pp. 15–28; Marcus Lowth, “[The Chilling and Bizarre Abduction Encounter of Myrna Hansen](#),” *UFO Insight*, May 19, 2018; Clark III 359–360)
- 1980, May 6** — [Leonard Stringfield](#) finds an article in *UFO Sightings* by David McCarthy titled “The Quest for Teleportation,” which features a photo of an alien cadaver similar to the ones he was given in March. (David McCarthy, “[The Quest for Teleportation](#),” *UFO Sightings* 1, no. 1 (July 1980): 40–45; Leonard H. Stringfield, “[Status Report on Alleged Alien Cadaver Photos](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 154 (December 1980): 11–16)
- 1980, May 7** — Day. X-ray technician Ruth Weaver experiences interference on her car radio while driving near Valdes, North Carolina. It blacks out completely and she sees a huge object move beneath the cloud cover directly ahead of her car. It makes a U-turn, then it banks, revealing the shape of an upside-down soup bowl with a dome on top. A red triangle is on the underside. It looks like a Stetson hat as it moves away. (“[Brief Reports](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 151 (September 1980): 12; UFOEv II 452; George D. Fawcett, *Human Reactions to UFOs Worldwide (1940–1983): What We Have Learned from UFO Repetitions*, The Author, 1986, [p. 16](#))
- 1980, May 7** — 3:50 p.m. A Dutch KLM airliner is flying just over 30,000 feet above the Dachstein Mountains in the Austrian Alps. The pilot sees a gray spherical object flying overhead, which he reports to the Air Control Center in Vienna, which contacts the Austrian Air Force. Maj. Karl Schwarz orders three Saab 105 aircraft to intercept. Once they make visual contact, two of the jets attempt the intercept while the third takes film footage. The UFO’s erratic movements, however, make it impossible to follow, and the object is soon out of sight. At 5:50 p.m., a German Lufthansa airliner comes in close contact with a similar object, Schwarz orders two more fighters to scramble. The Saab 105 pilots think the object’s variable speed means it is playing with them. It is flying some

- 9,800 feet above them, but they cannot maneuver well enough to catch it. (Terry Hooper, "[UFO Interceptions Attempted](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 4 (November 1980): 21)
- 1980,** May 9 — 9:00 p.m. A woman is driving home with her daughter in Bargersville, Indiana, when bright red flashes of light illuminate the inside of her truck and the surrounding area. The flashes are caused by red balls of light about the size of lemons in the empty fields around them. The balls blink on and off in succession, climbing up one telephone pole, moving down, and crossing the road to perform the same motion on another pole. They approach the truck, forcing her to back up the truck. Finally, the phenomenon ceases and she drives home. When they get there, her German shepherd dog starts whining and barking. Her husband steps outside to see what's going on. Suddenly, their two daughters start screaming as small red balls of light move across their mother's back and behind her hair. She does not feel anything, but the dog runs to the barn and stays there all night. ("[Allan Hendry Reports: A Spooky Experience in Indiana](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 6 (October 1980): 3)
- 1980,** May 14 — 3:30 a.m. Howard and Julia Pickrel are driving on US Highway 49 through Simpson County, Mississippi, when they see a glowing disc high in the sky. A beam of light from the disc makes a spot of light on the ground as wide as their car. As they drive through the light beam, their lights go on and off 7–8 times. After they are out of the beam's path, the lights do not flicker again. ("[Dallas Couple Caught in UFO Spotlight](#)," *Biloxi-Gulfport (Miss.) Daily Herald*, May 14, 1980, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 130 (May 1980): 6; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, pp. 307–308)
- 1980,** May 14 — 9:15 p.m. John Ray spots three dark discs while he is driving in the rain through a rural area near Mars Hill, Maine. Each is larger than the full moon and has numerous white lights on the bottom. They pass silently above his car and hover ahead of him in close formation about 500 feet up. Suddenly they take off and disappear. ("[Close Encounter in the Rain](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 7 (November 1980): 2)
- 1980,** May 16 — 3:00 p.m. A civilian pilot is flying a Pirat glider near a cement mill in Działoszyn, Poland, when he notices an object maneuvering across the fumes from factory chimneys below. Seconds later it moves in front of the glider, and he takes evasive action. It is an isosceles triangle shape with a side length of 30 feet and a dull brownish-green. At one point it turns up one of its corners at an angle of 45° in an apparent attempt to correct its flight. Then it changes orientation to the horizontal, shrinks in size, and disappears. A similar object is seen the same day near Wielún. (Poland 69)
- 1980,** May 22 — 11:05 p.m. The Air Transit Control Center at Gran Canaria Airport in the Canary Islands detects some unidentified traffic toward the southwest moving at 685 mph. A few minutes later, an aero-taxi pilot reports a bright object passing to his left and descending toward the ocean. A Spanish Air Force officer investigates and concludes the object is unknown, even though its position observed by the pilot matches that of Venus. A false radar echo is also possible. (Swords 436, 528–529)
- 1980,** May 23–25 — The first Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation, organized by psychologist [R. Leo Sprinkle](#) to bring contactees together, is held in Laramie on the University of Wyoming campus. Barely 20 people show up, but Sprinkle notes they are average, normal people, though highly susceptible to hypnotic suggestion. Most claim some psychic abilities, and many report a feeling of being monitored or experiencing continuing contact with UFO entities. They feel anxiety about the state of the human race and worry about a coming cataclysm. The conferences continue to at least 1996, attracting as many as 200 attendees. (Clark III 300–301)
- 1980,** May 28 — Denver KMGH-TV investigative journalist [Linda Moulton Howe](#) releases *A Strange Harvest*, a documentary that suggests unusual wounds found on cattle are the work of extraterrestrial beings who harvest body parts required for their survival or research, and that the US government is complicit. The documentary wins a Regional Emmy award in 1981. She interviews Denver surgeon [Arlen Meyers](#) on excising tissue with a laser; and [Lou Girodo](#), chief investigator for the District Attorney's Office in Trinidad, Colorado. The show also features a hypnotic regression session by [R. Leo Sprinkle](#) on Judy Dorarty, who says she witnessed a mutilation outside Houston, Texas, in May 1973; under hypnosis, she describes seeing a calf drawn up in a pale yellow beam of light into a UFO. (Internet Movie Database, "[A Strange Harvest](#)"; Clark III 363; "[Alta Loma 1973](#)," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 1, 2003; "[A Strange Harvest: A UFO Documentary](#)," Nobad_78 Dailymotion channel, March 14, 2024)
- 1980,** May 30 — The CIA moves for summary judgment in [Peter Gersten](#)'s lawsuit for UFO documents. The court grants it, despite the 57 remaining UFO documents the CIA admits it is withholding. CAUS appeals on June 24. ("[CAUS Update](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 1 (Nov./Dec. 1980): 15–16)
- 1980,** Early summer — Two women see a green, miniature airplane outside a house in Matsbo, near Hedemora, in central Sweden. (Clas Svahn, "[Green Miniature Airplane Hovers in Front of a House](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 6–7)

- 1980, June** — NICAP is disbanded after the last issue of the *UFO Investigator* is published, and its files are eventually turned over to the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois. ([UFO Investigator](#) 11, no. 6 (June 1980); Clark III 794)
- 1980, June** — Citizens Against UFO Secrecy is reorganized after the departure of [W. Todd Zechel](#), with [Peter Gersten](#) as director and Lawrence Fawcett as assistant editor. (Clark III 240)
- 1980, June** — [Kenneth Rommel](#) releases *Operation Animal Mutilation*, a long report that devastatingly debunks popular theories. The animals have died of natural causes, he contends, and the mysterious aspects can be explained prosaically. He cites ornithologist Kenneth Sager: “The larger the animal, the more difficult it is for the scavenger to gain access to the food supply below the tough surface. [Thus they attack the] softer points of entry, namely the eyes, anal openings, and the soft underbelly areas, especially the udders of female bovines.” L. D. Kuttner of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine says that many scavengers can make as clean a cut as “might be done by a surgeon with a knife.” (Wikipedia, “[Cattle mutilation](#)”; Kenneth M. Rommel Jr., [Operation Animal Mutilation](#), Report of the District Attorney, First Judicial District, State of New Mexico, prepared for the US Criminal Justice Department, 1980; Federal Bureau of Investigation, Animal Mutilation documents, 1974–1980, [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), [part 5](#); Clark III 133)
- 1980, June** — [Leonard H. Stringfield](#) publishes *The UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome: Status Report II, New Sources, New Data*, presenting the accounts and rumors he has heard of crashed UFOs retrieved by the military. He has contacted four different military sources claiming to have seen a movie film depicting a crashed saucer and small alien bodies. (Leonard H. Stringfield, “The UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome Status Report II: New Sources, New Data,” *Flying Saucer Review* 28, no. 2 (November 1982): [3–8](#); 28, no. 3 (January 1983): [6–15](#); 28, no. 4 (March 1983): [4–10](#); 28, no. 5 (June 1983): [9–12](#); Leonard Stringfield, “The Chase for Proof in a Squirrel’s Cage,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 147)
- 1980, June 2** — [Stringfield](#) receives eight more prints showing an alien cadaver encased under glass. One photo shows a hand with four fingers and claw-like nails. His source claims they were obtained from a secret study conducted at the University of Pennsylvania. (Leonard H. Stringfield, “[Status Report on Alleged Alien Cadaver Photos](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 154 (December 1980): 11–16; Leonard Stringfield, “The Chase for Proof in a Squirrel’s Cage,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 147–148; Jason Colavito, “[Examining Vintage 1970s Ancient Astronaut Material from ‘Ancient Astronauts’ Magazine](#),” Jason Colavito, August 31, 2014)
- 1980, June 3** — [R. Leo Sprinkle](#) arrives at [Paul Bennewitz](#)’s house in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for another hypnotic session with Myrna Hansen. Bennewitz, now very paranoid, meets him at the door with a gun, saying he needs to protect himself from aliens. A strained and brief hypnosis session follows, after which Sprinkle returns to Wyoming. (Greg Bishop, *Project Beta*, Paraview, 2005, pp. 24–25)
- 1980, June 11** — An unknown cigar-shaped object passes close to a commercial aircraft near Venice, Italy. (Nick Redfern, *A Covert Agenda: UFO Secrecy Exposed*, Simon & Schuster, 1997, [p. 162](#))
- 1980, June 14** — Evening. Many residents of Moscow, Russia, see a huge, reddish-orange, horseshoe-shaped object accompanied by swirling luminous gases. Some 250 miles to the west, Lt. Col. Oleg Karyakin hears a low-frequency booming noise and sees a bright object less than 500 feet away. He runs toward it, feels some resistance, but continues until he is about 150 feet away. It gives off a high-pitched sound and briefly emits three white rays, then ascends rapidly, hovers for 2 seconds, then moves to the northwest and vanishes. Shortly afterward, he sees a large, reddish UFO above some treetops. Another bright object is accompanying the first, flying horizontally and leaving a fiery trail. Some 30 others witness this event. Soviet investigators conclude that the objects were the launches of two communications satellites, a [Gorizont](#) and [Kosmos 1188](#). (Gordon Creighton, “[Dr. Felix Zigel’ and the Development of Ufology in Russia, Part II](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 4 (January 1982): 13–19; Pekka Teerikorpi, “[Soviet ‘UFOs’ Identified As Satellite Launchings](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 6 (June 1982): 9–11; James Oberg, “[Giant UFO over Two Continents](#),” *Fate* 36, no. 1 (January 1983): 44–52; Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle, *The Soviet UFO Files: Paranormal Encounters behind the Iron Curtain*, Quadrillion, 1998, pp. 58–59; Good Above, [pp. 238–241](#))
- 1980, June 14** — 7:00–8:00 p.m. A flurry of UFO sightings by numerous witnesses takes place in Córdoba, Jorge Newbery and Ezeiza airports in Buenos Aires, and Rosario, Argentina, including airport personnel and meteorologists, with extensive newspaper coverage. Objects appear singly and in “fleets” and are described variously as “luminous oval-spherical,” “spinning top,” spindle-shaped, and a sphere that emits “an intense luminous ray that illuminated the surface of the river.” At Pajas Blancas Airport in Córdoba, a UFO causes operations to be stopped for several minutes after it follows the landing pattern of aircraft into the airport. Sightings occur around the same time in Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay. CUFOS suspects many of the observations might be due to a high-altitude barium cloud produced by a rocket launch. (“[The UFO ‘Flap’ in](#)

[South America](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 6 (Sept./Oct. 1980): 15–16; James Oberg, “[Giant UFO over Two Continents](#),” *Fate* 36, no. 1 (January 1983): 44–52)

- 1980, June 15** — 2:00 a.m. A 70-year-old woman in Oak Park, Illinois, sees an object like a white half-moon with a serrated edge. At first she thinks it is the moon, but it begins moving to the east and disappears in 5 minutes. (“[Allan Hendry Reports: A Lunar Impostor](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (August 1980): 2)
- 1980, June 15** — 2:30 a.m. Security Policeman Charles P. Wagner and two others at RAF Bentwaters [now closed], near Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, watch a 2-foot diameter spherical object maneuver above several A-10 aircraft parked at the base. Moments later, the orb suddenly splits into three smaller spheres, all of which vanish in a flash of light. (Robert L. Hastings, “[New Bentwaters UFO Witness Goes on the Record](#),” *UFOs & Nukes*, November 22, 2015)
- 1980, June 15** — 11:30 p.m. Students Kevin Smith and Jill Harper are walking along Hidden Beach in Rio Del Mar, California, when a 4-foot-long, 10-inch-wide cigar-shaped object passes about 30 feet above them moving southwest over the water and landing in the ocean without a splash. As it bobs about, a light comes on in the interior. Smith yells at it and the light goes out. (“[Romance under a UFO](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 5 (July/Aug. 1980): 14)
- 1980, June 17** — 11:00 p.m. Two women driving with four young children north on Interstate 75 near Grayling Army Airfield in Grayling, Michigan, when they see two lights moving from right to left in front of their car. Two minutes later, three more lights (two blinking, one steady) appear to the right and pace the car at 85 mph, moving closer until they are about 100 feet directly above them. They are completely silent and possibly attached to an oblong-shaped object. (“[Michigan Close Encounter](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 3 (July 1980): 2)
- 1980, June 20** — 9:00 p.m. While descending through 15,000 feet for a landing, a senior Kuwait Airways pilot and crew observe a huge, brightly illuminated hemispherical object with a flat base moving steadily eastward over Kuwait City at a slightly lower speed than his aircraft. “When I turned north at Wafra, the phenomenon was still clearly visible and remained so until we descended below the haze layer and started to approach the runway.” The crew of another airline flight 90 miles away reports sighting the same phenomenon. Radar does not detect the object. (American Embassy, Kuwait, “Investigation of Unusual ‘Light Phenomenon’ Seen in Kuwait’s Skies,” telex, July 1980, in “[U.S. State Department ‘UFO’ Documents, Reviewed and Released 7 Feb 2000](#)”)
- 1980, June 21** — 1:30 a.m. Janet McLeod notices two large, orange, domed discs circling low about four blocks west of her home in Assumption, Illinois. They stop and hover at treetop level. The top one gradually fades out from top to bottom. The lower one turns on its side and shines a beam toward the ground for 5 minutes. Then it goes back to the horizontal and fades out in the same way. When she steps outside 5 minutes later, she notices it is dead quiet, the natural sounds resuming after 2 minutes. (“[Twin Domed Discs in Illinois](#),” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 5 (July/Aug. 1980): 14)
- 1980, June 28** — Two civilian pilots, José L. Maldonado Torres and José A. Pagán Santos, are flying an ERCO Ercoupe 415-D at 1,500 feet over the Mona Passage between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. They send out a mayday message saying they are looking at a “weird object” that makes them change course three times. Their plane disappears and no wreckage is found. (Aviation Safety Network, “[Occurrence #9407, Saturday 28 June 1980](#)”; Jorge Martín, “[A ‘Valentich Type’ of Case off Puerto Rico](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 43, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 6–10; Good Need, pp. 312, 320; Timothy Good, *Unearthly Disclosure: Conflicting Interests in the Control of Extraterrestrial Intelligence*, 2000, pp. 34–39)
- 1980, July** — AFOSI special agent Sgt. [Richard Doty](#) writes an anonymous letter to APRO claiming that a Civil Air Patrol cadet named Craig R. Weitzel had seen and photographed a UFO landing near Pecos, New Mexico. Weitzel takes photos and is debriefed at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque. An alien, a man in a dark suit from Sandia Laboratories, and crashed UFOs stored at the Manzano Nuclear Weapons Storage Facility are also mentioned. But the letter is disinformational bait to see whether the [Lorenzens](#) might prove to be “useful idiots.” Weitzel admits to investigator [William Moore](#) and, later, Benton Jamison in 1985 that he had seen a UFO in 1980, but it was a classic daylight disc and took place in the southeast, not New Mexico. Much later on, Doty admits to Moore that he had composed the letter as disinformation. (Clark III 361–362; Greg Bishop, *Project Beta*, Paraview, 2005, pp. 54–57, 64–66; Good Above, pp. 406–408; [Richard Doty], [Craig Wetzel letter](#), July 1980)
- 1980, July 12** — 11:00 p.m. A professor and his wife are getting ready for bed in Urbandale, Iowa, when they notice three round light spots in a triangular formation high in the southern sky. The lower two are like bright stars, while the upper ones seem larger. The smaller lights are zig-zagging and coming together under the larger light for 20 minutes until all three abruptly disappear. (“[Meandering Lights in Iowa](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 6 (October 1980): 5)

- 1980, July 21** — Farmer John Scull discovers a circular swathe of flattened oats in his field near the Westbury White Horse in Wiltshire, England. He discovers a second circle on July 31 and informs the media on August 13. (UFOFiles2, [p. 117](#); Terry Wilson, “[Case Study 1: Westbury 1980.](#)” Men Who Conned the World, December 24, 2018)
- 1980, July 26** — 6:50 p.m. The crew of the tugboat *Caiobá Seahorse* notice a light moving over the water in front and to the right of their vessel, which is approximately 24 miles off Pititinga, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. First Mate Fernando Fanguero watches the object with binoculars for a few minutes until it stops and hovers about 32–50 feet above the water. Another sailor describes the object as oval, about half the size of the full moon, with a white light on top. The crew slows the tugboat, as it is directly in its path, and stops about 130 feet away, just as another light in the water shines brightly for 20 seconds and goes out. The light seems to be connected to a gray object on or just below the surface of the sea. The commander of the vessel, Captain José da Silva, goes to the bridge and describes the object as saucer-shaped and about twice the size of the moon. It emits blue and orange lights and at one point shines a beam of intense light downwards. Another light beam is directed at the tugboat for about 2 seconds. Da Silva radios the maritime service in Natal, Brazil, and reports the sighting. The *Teche Seahorse*, a speedboat following the *Caiobá*, detects one object at the location with its radar. The *Teche*’s engineer, Atilio Scarpatti, and another crewman see the object as an unusual white light that is difficult to look at. Around 7:20 p.m., the object quickly moves away to the northwest, then shoots upward and disappears. The crew reports the sighting to the Navy, the Port Authority, and the Brazilian Air Force. (Jackson Camargo, “[O Caso do navio Caiobá Seahorse.](#)” Fenomenum, July 17, 2024)
- 1980, August** — Another set of photos allegedly showing part of an alien cadaver is released by Charles Wilhelm and Dennis Pilichis, who receive them through UFO researcher Willard McIntyre, apparently from an anonymous US Navy source. William Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch analyzes them and suggests they show a monkey used in early rocket tests. (Leonard H. Stringfield, “[Status Report on Alleged Alien Cadaver Photos.](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 154 (December 1980): 11–16; Leonard H. Stringfield, “[The Puzzling Case of the Cadaver Photos.](#)” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 163 (September 1981): 15–19; Juan-Vicente Ballester-Olmos, “[The Tomato Man in Retrospective.](#)” UFO FOTOCAT Blog, March 13, 2022)
- 1980, Early August** — Thousands of witnesses see UFOs for several days in a row over Tianjin, China, and the Bohai Sea. One large object keeps appearing and vanishing like a will-o’-the-wisp. Occasionally objects are tracked on radar. (Paul Dong, “[Extracts from Paul Dong’s Feidie Bai Wen Bai Da \(Questions and Answers on UFOs\).](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 29, no. 6 (August 1984): 18)
- 1980, August** — 10:00 p.m. Two students at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, see a brilliant oval object in the sky near the Summer Palace. It has several lights that flash on and off 2–3 times per second. The object itself is shaped like “two straw hats placed brim to brim” with a brilliant center line. It stops hovering and ascends vertically, disappearing in 3–4 seconds. (“[The Chinese Connection...and Some Wholesome Chinese Philosophy.](#)” *IUR* 7, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1982): 13)
- 1980, August 8–9** — Before 12:00 midnight. Three security policemen—S/Sgt Stephen Ferenz, Airman 1C Martin W. Rist, and Airman Anthony D. Frazier—on the eastern side of the Manzano Weapons Storage Area adjacent to Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, see a bright light descend in a restricted area about 3 miles to the north-northeast. It travels quickly and stops suddenly over Coyote Canyon. At 12:20 a.m., a Sandia guard observes a disc-shaped object with a bright light hovering behind a building. He approaches it with a shotgun and attempts to use his radio, but it has stopped working. The object shoots straight up. These and other incidents result in a report being filed with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Kirtland. The incident is subsequently investigated by agent [Richard Doty](#), who files a preliminary report on the incident. The document is leaked to [William Moore](#) in January 1982 and obtained in a subsequent FOIA request by [Barry Greenwood](#). Moore and [Bruce Maccabee](#) both interview Doty, who says there are most likely other documents including a longer report that he had written up. However, after Noah Lawrence at AFOSI Headquarters tells Maccabee there are no other documents on file, Doty begins to backtrack. Maccabee also meets Russ Curtis inside the Manzano area who says that the incident never took place (which contradicts Curtis’s statement to Moore in 1982). (Harry Lebelson, “[Who’s Watching Us?](#)” *Pursuit* 19, no. 1 (Spring 1986): 27, 29–31; Clark III 362; Good Above, [pp. 405–406, 522–523](#); Good Need, [pp. 322, 329](#); Bruce Maccabee, “[UFO Landing near Kirtland AFB: Welcome to the Cosmic Watertgate.](#)” 2000; Robert L. Hastings, “[UFOs Filmed Hovering over U.S. Air Force Nuclear Weapons Storage Area.](#)” *UFOs & Nukes*, May 13, 2012)
- 1980, August 15** — UFO skeptic [Philip Klass](#) sends a letter to A. G. McNamara of the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Ottawa, Canada, which serves as a repository for Canadian UFO reports for the Canadian National Research Council. Klass characterizes New Brunswick ufologist [Stanton Friedman](#) as a snake oil salesman and UFO guru

whose lectures are filled with falsehoods, disparaging his credentials, his ego, and his modus operandi. He warns McNamara that the astronomers at the institute will soon be the targets of Friedman's coverup accusations. (Dolan II 221–222)

- 1980, August 17** — 1:15 a.m. Security guard [Phil Battle](#) is driving his truck in the parking lot of the Teledyne-Ohio Steel plant in Lima, Ohio, and sees an unusual bright light in the sky. He steps out and watches a round, silvery form about 270 feet away. It has little holes on the surface, a flashing yellow light, and white floodlights all around it. It hovers for about 5 minutes, moving back and forth. Battle's CB radio does not work when he tries to alert others. Suddenly a yellow light shoots out at Battle, knocking him back against his truck, scarring his knee and hurting his back and kidneys. The beam also reddens his left eye. The UFO then takes off. He and other guards look for the object and see a light about 1,200 feet to the north, slightly larger than the moon, which drifts westward after 15–20 seconds. ("[Pair Probe Encounter with UFO in Area](#)," *Lima (Ohio) News*, August 26, 1980, pp. 1, 4; "[Knocked Back by a Light Beam](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 6 (Sept./Oct. 1980): 14; "[Correspondence](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 1 (January 1981): 2–3)
- 1980, August 20** — 10:30 p.m. A college student is driving on a rural road about 5 minutes east of Mossy Head, Florida, when he becomes aware of an array of lights hovering above a hill ahead of him. They move low over the area from right to left, 300–600 feet ahead of him. It disappears, but another cluster of lights rushes by him on his left side with a quiet whoosh sound. Inadvertently he begins driving more slowly, slumped over the steering wheel. He continues driving to Jacksonville, where he notices his bare feet are red and inflamed. The redness fades away by the evening of the following night, leaving only some apparent bites marks that are sore to the touch. ("[A CE I—or II—or III in Florida](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 7 (November 1980): 5)
- 1980, August 22** — Three other security policemen at Manzano Weapons Storage Area in New Mexico see the same aerial phenomena as the witnesses on August 8–9. An object lands in Coyote Canyon. (Harry Lebelson, "[Who's Watching Us?](#)" *Pursuit* 19, no. 1 (Spring 1986): 27, 31)
- 1980, August 24** — 4:08 a.m. Three tourists camping out in the Changping District near the Juyong portion of the Great Wall of China take a photo of an unusual object. The photo reportedly looks like three stars in an inverted T shape with a surrounding halo of light. ("[World Round-Up](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 5 (January 1981): 5–6; "[Will Martians Finally Appear—in Mao Jackets?](#)" *St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat*, March 5, 1981, via *UFO Newscipping Service*, no. 140 (March 1981): 12; "[First UFO Spotted in China](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 3 (March 1981): 4; "[Chinese UFO Study](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 3 (March/April 1981): 14; Wendelle Stevens and Paul Dong, *UFOs over Modern China*, UFO Photo Archives, 1983, p. 174)
- 1980, September** — [Charles Berlitz](#) and [Bill Moore](#) publish *The Roswell Incident*, the first major review of the 1947 Roswell crash, based largely on [Stanton Friedman](#)'s research. (Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore, *The Roswell Incident*, Berkley, 1980; Clark III 320; Graff 247–248)
- 1980, September 1** — NSA attorneys move for a summary judgment in the CAUS-initiated lawsuit, asserting that the 135 documents are being justifiably withheld. ("[CAUS Update](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 1 (Nov./Dec. 1980): 16)
- 1980, September 3** — 3:00 p.m. Margaret Lambert and her family are parked at a scenic overlook along Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia when they notice a bright reflection. She is taking a photo of her son and the reflection seems to be pulsating as she focuses her camera. It appears as a small round light behind her son's head in the photo. ("['Glowing Object' Photographed on Virginia Hillside](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 2, no. 5 (May 1981): 6)
- 1980, September 4** — 1:15 p.m. Flight instructor Lloyd List is flying northbound at 138 mph in a Cessna 172 at 6,500 feet about 5 miles south of the airport in Red Bluff, California. His passenger, a school official, calls his attention to a shiny object ahead of them. For the first 5–6 seconds, the object grows larger in angular size. Then it stops getting larger, as if it has adopted the Cessna's speed and direction. They close in on the object and watch it shoot right by the airplane's left wingtip only 30 feet away. It looks like a metallic football no larger than 3 feet in size. It is silent and the surface has a mirror finish. It exhibits no wobble as it passes through the plane's turbulence. List descends to 6,000 feet and turns to the south to look for it but cannot find the object. ("[Plane's Near Collision with Mini-UFO](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 1 (Nov./Dec. 1980): 11–12)
- 1980, September 6** — UFO proponents and debunkers square off at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., for a day-long debate on the merits of UFO sightings. The proponents include [Bruce Maccabee](#), [J. Allen Hynek](#), and [Allan Hendry](#); the debunkers are [Philip J. Klass](#), [James E. Oberg](#), and [Robert Sheaffer](#). The debate is moderated by [Frederick C. Durant](#). The most heated exchanges occur between Klass and Hendry over the [Val Johnson](#) close encounter case of 1979. ("[Smithsonian UFO Symposium, September 6, 1980](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (August 1980): 5; Stuart Rohrer, "[Tempest in a Saucer](#)," *Washington Post*, September 8, 1980, p. B-1;

Robert Sheaffer, "[Prepared Talk for the Smithsonian UFO Symposium, Sept. 6, 1980](#)," The Debunker's Domain; J. Allen Hynek, "[Encounter at the Smithsonian](#)," *CUFOS Bulletin*, Fall 1980, pp. 6–10; Richard Hall, "[Smithsonian UFO Symposium](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 152 (October 1980): cover, 3–4; Jerome Clark, "Phil Klass vs. the 'UFO Promoters,'" *Fate* 34, no. 2 (February 1981): 56–67; Keith Basterfield, "[More on the Little Known 1980 Smithsonian Institution UAP Symposium](#)," *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research*, September 18, 2014; Clark III 1081–1082)

- 1980**, September 6 — 9:15 p.m. Ufologist [Jenny Randles](#) and a friend are riding a motorcycle north on the M4 after attending the Farnborough Airshow in Hampshire, England, when they see three lights that appear one after another then line up in a triangular formation hovering above a distant hilltop. As they drive past, one light blinks out, leaving two side by side. (Ian Mrzyglod, "[M4 UFOs](#)," *The Probe Report* 2, no. 1 (June 1981): 3–4; Jenny Randles, "Mass Market Media Saucery," *Fortean Times* 361 (Christmas 2017): 29)
- 1980**, September 8 — After doing a radio show in Albuquerque, New Mexico, [Bill Moore](#) is contacted by phone from someone at Kirtland Air Force Base. He meets the man he calls "Falcon" (described as elderly and gaunt) later at a restaurant, beginning a long-running relationship between Moore and 10 members of a shadowy group connected with military intelligence and supposedly opposed to the coverup of UFOs. The story soon emerges that the Roswell incident involved alien bodies and that in 1949 another alien, this one still alive, was found and housed at Los Alamos until its death in the early 1950s. It is called an Extraterrestrial Biological Entity (EBE) and is the first of three that the government would have in its custody. Moore decides to cooperate with these AFOSI sources and provide them with information. They tell him there is considerable interest in [Paul Bennewitz](#) and that he is to spy on Bennewitz and APRO as well, inundating them with disinformation that Doty and others will supply. (Clark III 360; Greg Bishop, *Project Beta*, Paraview, 2005, pp. 59–63)
- 1980**, September 8 — [Doty](#) writes and signs a fake two-page AFOSI complaint form, titled "Kirtland AFB, NM, 8 Aug–3 Sept 1980, Alleged Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Lights in Restricted Test Range," which describes several UFO sightings at Manzano and at the Coyote Canyon section of the Department of Defense Restricted Test Range, as well as an alleged report of a UFO landing on August 10 by a New Mexico state patrolman. (Clark III 362)
- 1980**, September 9 — 8:00 p.m. Barbara Kaisler is driving home with her daughter in Portsmouth, Virginia, when they see a dark disc some 5–6 stories higher than the rooftops in the north. When they stop at an intersection, they can see the disc tumbling end over end, now climbing at a 30° angle. It disappears in clouds to the northeast. ("[Dark Disk in Virginia](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 3 (March/April 1981): 14)
- 1980**, September 11 — 4:20 a.m. Jerry McAlister is awakened in his bedroom in Anderson, South Carolina, by a loud screech. He goes to the window and sees a round object about 70 feet wide hovering above his backyard trees 110 feet away. Hundreds of steady bright white lights surround its perimeter, rotating in a clockwise direction. A row of square white windows is also visible. McAlister wakes up his wife Faye, who also watches the object, which, after tilting on its side, is now receding to the east-northeast at a good rate of speed. The UFO settles into place as a distant white light source that persists until dawn at 7:05 a.m. McAlister claims his ears ring for another 3 days from the initial noise. ("[UFO Sightings 'Nothing New' in Anderson](#)," *Anderson (S.C.) Independent Daily Mail*, September 14, 1980, p. 1; "[More UFOs: Broadway Residents See Two More](#)," *Anderson (S.C.) Daily Mail*, September 16, 1980, p. 1; "[South Carolina's Giant UFOs](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 6 (Sept./Oct. 1980): 11–13; "['Close Encounter' Brings Fame to Andersonian](#)," *Anderson (S.C.) Independent*, November 24, 1980, pp. 1A, 5A; "Burned by a UFO," *National Enquirer*, December 9, 1980, p. 3; Pete Mazzola, "The McAlister South Carolina UFO Encounter," *Saga UFO Report*, February 1981; Doris and Joe Graziano, "[Press Reports](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 29, no. 4 (April 1981): 5–6; Donald Roberts, "[The Anderson Event](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 158 (April 1981): 5–7)
- 1980**, September 11 — 8:05 a.m. Larry Garrett is working on his car in Easley, South Carolina, when he hears a sound like a swarm of bees. Looking north, he sees a large metallic UFO with black, square windows. He guesses it is 80–100 feet in size. It hovers above a hill then drifts off to the north behind some trees. ("[UFO Sighted in Easley](#)," *Easley (S.C.) Progress*, September 17, 1980, via *UFO Newscipping Service*, no. 136 (November 1980): 2; "[South Carolina's Giant UFOs](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 2, no. 6 (Sept./Oct. 1980): 13–14; Doris and Joe Graziano, "[Press Reports](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 29, no. 3 (March 1981): 8)
- 1980**, September 11 — 9:25 p.m. [Milton Shippee](#) and his family are driving south on State Highway 32 near I-84 in West Willington, Connecticut, when they see a "pancake"-shaped object in the southeast. It is tilted on one side as it moves about 50 mph. ("[Domed Pancake' over Connecticut](#)," *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 1 (Nov./Dec. 1980): 12)