- **1945,** Summer Mrs. Helen Allen sees a "long, silver-colored cigar" that appears suddenly out of the haze above Crane Beach in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Huge and silent, it hovers low over the water not far from the shore. After a few seconds, it speeds away and disappears. (Lore and Deneault, p. 148)
- **1945**, June 1 The Army Air Force approves a Northrop-recommended change for installing eight jet engines in each of two modified YB-35 piston-driven flying wings, which are redesignated YB-49s. (Wikipedia, "Northrop YB-49")
- **1945**, June 1 7:30 p.m. A shiny, tubular object, 5–6 feet long, is observed over Morganton, North Carolina. It streaks toward the northwest, blue flame shooting from the rear. After it vanishes in the mountains near Lake James, witnesses hear an explosion. (Loren E. Gross, *The Mystery of Unidentified Flying Objects—A Prelude, 1896—1949*, The author, 1971, p. 156)
- **1945**, June 9 XXI Bomber Command Air Intelligence issues an Air Intelligence Report on the balls of fire in the Pacific Theatre. The Truk sighting is attributed to an unknown Japanese experimental aircraft, though not a jet. ("Light' Follows B-24 from Truk," *Air Intelligence Report* 1, no. 14, June 8, 1945, pp. 13-14; *Strange Company* 177–180)
- 1945, July The 9th Bombardment Group on Tinian in the Northern Marianas: "During our night missions in June and July a UFO phenomenon was reported. Our air crews started sighting balls of fire, i.e., glowing objects about the size of a full moon which flew around in the vicinity of our flying patterns over Japan. One of our crews reported that one of the objects followed their airplane halfway to Iwo Jima. I saw them on two missions. I don't remember any reports of any hostile action by these objects and the reports of sightings stopped after a couple of months. The object of these reports was dismissed by some experts as the planet Venus. And, after these reports started coming in, some crews did mistake the rising full moon as one of these balls of fire. Some reports speculated that these balls of fire were exhausts from a Japanese development called a Baka Bomb, but exhaust flames can only be seen from the rear; and these objects appeared to have the same size and intensity in whatever direction they were traveling. I have never heard of any official assessment as to what these objects were. I had an occasion to ask General LeMay about them several years after the war and he had no explanation. I am sure that what I saw was neither Venus nor the moon nor a Baka Bomb." (Lorenzen, UFOs: The Whole Story, Signet, 1969, p. 24; Henry C. Huglin, "Group Commander's Reminiscences," in Lawrence S. Smith, et al., History of the 9th Bombardment Group (VH), 9th Bomb Group Association, 1995, pp. 27–28)
- 1945, July In northern Okinawa, Japan, on a bluff looking toward the South China Sea, Artillery Capt. William A. Mandel sees a cigar-shaped object with a lighted tail moving at eye level at about 200 –300 mph at an elevation of no more than 400 feet. He estimates its length at 30–40 feet and its diameter at 6–8 feet. (Project 1947, "UFO Reports, 1945")
- 1945, July When several balloon-shaped objects appear above Selfridge Field [now Selfridge Air National Guard Base] near Mount Clemens, Michigan, the base commander asks for a volunteer to attack them as possible Japanese balloon bombs. Jean Kisling, serving with a Free French Air Force detachment as an instructor on P-47 Thunderbolts, accepts the challenge. He chases one "well beyond the service ceiling of the P-47D" and opens fire with 8 machine guns. The object shoots away sideways on edge, leaving a contrail. (Good Need, p. 24)
- **1945**, July 1 The Air Technical Service Command is moved into T-2 Intelligence. (Wikipedia, "<u>Air Materiel Command</u>")
- 1945, July 16 The first detonation of a nuclear weapon (an implosion-style plutonium-based bomb) takes place at the Trinity site on what is now the White Sands Missile Range near Alamogordo, New Mexico. At this time, the bomb's price tag, adjusted for inflation, is \$28 billion. (Wikipedia, "Trinity (nuclear test)")
- 1945, Mid-July Noon. Pilot Roland D. Powell and five other Grumman F6F Hellcat pilots at Naval Air Station Pasco, Washington, are scrambled after radar reports a fast-moving object that is now stationary above the nearby Hanford nuclear facility. They see a bright object with a saucer-like appearance. It is the size of three aircraft carriers, side-by side, oval shaped, very streamlined like a stretched-out egg, pinkish in color, and emitting some kind of vapor. It hovers in a fixed position at 65,000 feet and then goes straight up and disappears. (NICAP, "Huge Saucer over Nuclear Reactor—Radar/Visual"; Roland D. Powell, Byron D. Varner, and Walter Andrus, "UFO Sighting over Hanford Nuclear Reactor in 1945," MUFON UFO Journal, no. 344 (December 1996): 13–14; Strange Company 188; Patrick Gross, "Alleged UFO Intercept Attempt at Hanford Nuclear Plant, July 1945")
- **1945**, July 20 The Joint Chiefs of Staff establish Operation Overcast, a forerunner to Project Paperclip, a secret recruitment program to aid in postwar military research. The Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency is established to conduct the operation. (Wikipedia, "Operation Paperclip")
- 1945, July 24 President <u>Truman</u> discloses to Soviet leader <u>Joseph Stalin</u> that the United States has atomic weapons. Stalin feigns little surprise, since he already knows this through espionage. (Gene Dannen, "<u>Truman Tells Stalin</u>, <u>July 24, 1945</u>")

- **1945,** August The Army Signal Security Agency persuades ITT, RCA, and Western Union to continue the wartime cable intercept program, both foreign and domestic, now called Project SHAMROCK. No courts, no warrants. It remains secret from Congress and the President. (Wikipedia, "Project SHAMROCK")
- 1945, August 5:00 a.m. Ilona Johansson-Paasonen, staying in a sauna along lake Längelmävesi, Finland, wakes up and sees a 35-foot dazzling ball of fire streaking in her direction along the opposite shore. She throws herself to the floor, but when nothing happens she looks outside and sees a big dog, frozen in terror, its gaze fixed on the lake and a dark log-like object, 6 feet long, gliding through the water with a tall, slender man at the prow. He is dressed in a green coverall. On the other side another man sits steering an engine enclosed within a big glass bulb. (Ilona Johansson-Paasonen, "Humanoideja Längelmävedellä?" Vimana 1970, no. 3/4, pp. 22–24; Ilona Johansson-Paasonen, "Humanoids at Längelmävesi." Flying Saucer Review Case Histories, no. 13 (February 1973): 3–4; Clark III 266)
- **1945,** August 6 8:15 a.m. An atomic bomb (a fission weapon containing 64 kilograms of Uranium-235, Little Boy) is detonated 1,900 feet above Hiroshima, Japan, by the *Enola Gay*. The weapon is considered very inefficient, with only 1.7% of its material fissioning, but it is enough to obliterate the city. Some 78,000 people die instantly or immediately afterward in the firestorm. By the end of the year, another 25,000 will also sicken and die from radiation exposure. (Wikipedia, "Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki")
- **1945**, August 7 During a press conference with the *Seattle Times*, Col. <u>Franklin Matthias</u>, officer in charge at the Hanford Engineer Works in Washington, admits the plant has had problems with aerial intrusions, but that radar has been installed and an arrangement made with the Navy to intercept any unidentified aircraft. (Project 1947, "UFOs over Hanford: Commander R. W. Hendershot")
- **1945**, August 9 11:01 a.m. Another atomic bomb (an implosion-type plutonium weapon, Fat Man) is dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, by <u>Bockscar</u>. Although the bomb is more powerful than the one used on Hiroshima, its effects are confined by hillsides to the narrow Urakami Valley. At least 35,000–40,000 people are killed, and 60,000 others are injured. (Wikipedia, "<u>Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki</u>")
- 1945, August 10 3:00 a.m. Pianist Doris La Fountain is driving home along Market Street after finishing a concert at a night club in East Paterson [now Elmwood Park], New Jersey. She is accompanied by music store proprietor <a href="Thomas Brino">Thomas Brino</a> and James Shaw of Clifton, New Jersey. For about 5 minutes they watch a brilliant red and green rectangular object maneuver at ground level about 70 feet away. It shoots off into the sky and disappears. ("Seeing Saucer Sweet Music to a Pianist." New York Daily News, September 8, 1957, Passaic-Bergen Sec., p. 22; Lore and Deneault, p. 145)
- 1945, August 16 A UFO allegedly crashes near San Antonio, New Mexico, near the site of the first atomic test, and is discovered by Jose Padilla, 9, and Remigio Baca, 7, when they are looking for a cow. The crashed saucer has created a gouge, and they can see entities moving around inside. They collect two shiny metal parts from the periphery of the crash site. A recent analysis shows that the metal is of terrestrial origin. In a comprehensive analysis of the case in 2023, Douglas Dean Johnson shows that Padilla and Baca fabricated the story in 2003 in the hope to profit by it, hijacking the names of a real policeman (Eddie Apodaca) and a real governor (Dixy Lee Ray) as characters, and that Baca significantly changed his story over time. (Paola Leopizzi Harris, "The Reme Baca and Jose Padilla Witness Case," The UFO Chronicles, November 30, 2010; John Greenewald, "Analysis of Two Metallic Parts Purportedly from a Crashed Unidentified Aerial Object (San Antonio, New Mexico, August 16, 1945)," The Black Vault, February 1, 2017; Jacques Vallee and Paola Leopizzi Harris, Trinity: The Best-Kept Secret, StarWorksUSA, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, "Trinity: The Best Kept Secret—A Critique," A Different Perspective, June 2, 2021; Jacques Vallée, "The Other Lessons of Trinity," Trinity blog, December 6, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, "Jacques Vallée and Ten Unexplained UFO Cases and Metallic Debris," A Different Perspective, December 16, 2021; Douglas Dean Johnson, "Crash Story: The Trinity UFO Crash Hoax," Mirador, May 1, 2023; Douglas Dean Johnson, "Crash Story File: Eddie Apodaca, the Real Policeman Who Cracked the Trinity UFO Crash Case," Mirador, May 1, 2023; James Clarkson, "Trinity 1945 UFO Hoax," James Clarkson UFO Investigations, May 8, 2023; Jacques Vallée, "Jacques Vallée Hits Back at Hoax Claims over Trinity UFO Crash Book," Journo Jottings, May 15, 2023; Douglas Dean Johnson, "Crash Story File: The Reme Baca Smoking-Gun Interview," Mirador, May 20, 2023; Douglas Dean Johnson, "Crash Story File: 'Witness' Credibility Implodes for Jacques Vallée's Trinity UFO Crash Tale," Mirador, January 25, 2024; "A UFO Sighting and the Creatures Seen by One Man in the Summer of 1945: 'They Walk Like Us,'" CBS News Los Angeles, August 21, 2024)
- 1945, August 21 Manhattan Project physicist <u>Harry Daghlian</u> is conducting an after-hours experiment at the remote Omega Site of the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico when his hand slips. The test assembly he has built—a ball of plutonium surrounded by tungsten carbide bricks—goes critical. He sees a momentary blue flash and is

- struck by a wave of gamma and neutron radiation amounting to more than 500 rem. He disassembles the experiment, walks away, and admits himself to medical care. He falls into a coma and dies on September 15, the first person to die accidentally from close exposure to nuclear fission. ("<u>Atomic Bomb Worker Died 'from Burns,</u>" *New York Times*, September 21, 1945, p. 10; Adam Higginbotham, *Midnight at Chernobyl*, Simon & Schuster, 2019, pp. 30–31)
- 1945, August 28 Twelve 5th Air Force intelligence specialists flying on a C-46 approaching Iwo Jima (in the Ogasawara Islands, Japan) see three white, teardrop-shaped objects paralleling the plane. Navigational needles go wild, the engine sputters, and the plane falters until the objects speed away. One of the passengers is future UFO investigator <a href="Leonard Stringfield">Leonard Stringfield</a>. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, pp. 9–10; *Strange Company* 191–193, 209–211; NICAP, "C-46 Encounters Objects / Magnetic Compasses 'West Wild'")
- 1945, September The first group of seven German rocket scientists arrive at Fort Strong in Boston harbor,
  Massachusetts, through Operation Overcast: Wernher von Braun, Erich W. Neubert, Theodor A. Poppel, August
  Schultze, Eberhard Rees, Wilhelm Jungert, and Walter Schwidetzky. By the end of the year, they and two other
  groups are moved to Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands, New Mexico, as "War Department Special Employees."
  (Wikipedia, "Operation Paperclip")
- 1945, September The US Army atomic bomb production unit, Z Division, named for its director, <u>Jerrold R. Zacharias</u> from Los Alamos, New Mexico, moves to Oxnard Field, New Mexico, from Wendover Field [now Airport], Utah, to be closer to Los Alamos. This marks the beginning of Sandia Base [now part of Kirtland AFB]. Nearby Kirtland Field is used as a B-29 base for aircraft compatibility and drop tests. By October, all the staff and facilities at Wendover are transferred to Sandia. As reservist officers are demobilized, they are replaced by about 50 hand-picked regular officers. (Wikipedia, "<u>Manhattan Project</u>")
- **1945,** September Policy adviser <u>Ferdinand Eberstadt</u> writes for Secretary of the Navy <u>James Forrestal</u> a report recommending a complete realignment of national security organizations. (Wikipedia, "<u>Eberstadt Report</u>")
- 1945, September 20 The OSS is dissolved by Executive Order, effective October 1, scattering personnel through the Departments of State and War. The Research and Analysis Branch is transferred to the State Department. The War Department takes over Secret Intelligence (SI) and Counter Espionage (X2), which are rolled up into the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) headed by Brig. Gen. John Magruder, the former OSS Deputy Director of Intelligence who oversees the OSS liquidation. Most of the other personnel are cashiered. (Wikipedia, "Office of Strategic Services")
- 1945, September 26? Night. Machinist Mate First Class George M. Reynolds, attached to the submarine tender <u>USS</u>

  <u>Beaver</u> with Submarine Squadron 45, anchored in Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. He is on the main deck when he sees a bluish light move to the south, turn right, go over to the west, stop, and stand still. When it moves again, it goes back to the general area it started from. (*Strange Company* 195–196)
- 1945, October 8:00 p.m. While driving a car between Bryan and Stryker, Ohio, Gerald M. Kryling and his wife Thelma approach a bright light about 50 feet in the air and 20 feet from the road near some high-tension wires. It appears to be a 35-foot oval object with an amber-colored opening like a window that has shadows moving around inside. It takes off horizontally at great speed and then moves straight up. (CUFOS case file)
- **1945,** October 1 Project RAND is set up under special contract to the Douglas Aircraft Company and begins operations in December. Its first president is Douglas executive <u>Franklin R. Collbohm</u>. The name is derived from Research and Development, and its purpose is to act as a channel of scientific and technical information to the US military. (Wikipedia, "RAND Corporation")
- 1945, October 9 Brig. Gen. George C. McDonald, AAF director of intelligence, writes to Maj. Gen. Elwood Richard Quesada in answer to a request for the investigation into wartime "balls of fire." Exhaustive investigations of German technical personnel and US and UK sources reveal no confirmation of German involvement with the phenomena. (Macdonald–Quesada correspondence, October 1945)
- 1945, November Operation Overcast is renamed Project Paperclip. (Wikipedia, "Operation Paperclip")
- 1945, December Lt. Col. Jo Chamberlin's article on foo fighters appears in *American Legion Magazine*. Intelligence officers have ordered him not to state his military rank or position, but he is a special aide to Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold. (Jo Chamberlin, "The Foo Fighter Mystery," *American Legion Magazine* 39, no. 6 (December 1945): 9, 43–47; "Foo Fighter Archive Donated to UHR," *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 17 (December 2015): 2–8)
- **1945,** December 5 A training flight (Flight 19) of five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers disappears while over the Atlantic Ocean. The squadron's flight plan is scheduled to take them due east from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for

141 miles, north for 73 miles, and then back over a final 140-mile leg to complete the exercise. The flight never returns to base. A report by Navy investigators concludes that flight leader Lt. Charles C. Taylor mistook small islands offshore for the Florida Keys after his compasses stopped working, resulting in the flight heading over open sea and away from land. The report is later amended by the Navy to read "cause unknown" to avoid blaming Taylor for the loss of five aircraft and 14 men. One of the search-and-rescue aircraft deployed to look for them, a PBM Mariner with a 13-man crew, also disappears. The report attributes the loss of the PBM aircraft to an explosion in midair while searching for the flight. According to contemporaneous sources, the Mariner has a history of explosions due to vapor leaks when heavily loaded with fuel, as it might have been for a potentially long search-and-rescue operation. A tanker off the coast of Florida sees an explosion and a widespread oil slick when fruitlessly searching for survivors. The weather is becoming stormy by the end of the incident. None of the Avenger bombers have been found. (Wikipedia, "Flight 19"; Larry Kusche, *The Bermuda Triangle Mystery—Solved*, Harper & Row, 1975, pp. 97–122; Larry Kusche, *The Disappearance of Flight 19*, Harper & Row, 1980)

## 1946

- 1946 The US nuclear stockpile consists of 9 atomic bombs. (Ryan Crierie, "U.S. Nuclear Stockpile, 1945–2009")
- 1946 Dancers on the roof of a nightclub in Istanbul, Turkey, watch the rapid passage of four square-shaped lights, reddish in color and aligned side by side, moving from the east and disappearing in the west in less than 60 seconds. One witness, meteorologist and RAF pilot George Raymond Leatherbarrow, estimates their altitude at 50,000 feet based on reflections on cirrus clouds. (G. R. Leatherbarrow, "Two Early UFO Cases from the Middle East," Awareness 5, no. 3 (Autumn 1976): 4–5; Clark III 1177)
- 1946 American astrophysicist <u>Charles Greeley Abbot</u> writes that he thinks Earth might make contact with Venusians, coming into "fluent communication by wireless with a race brought up completely separate, having their own systems of government, social usages, religions, and surrounded by vegetation and animals entirely unrelated to any here on earth." (Charles Greeley Abbot, *The Earth and the Stars*, Van Nostrand, 1946, <u>p. 110</u>; Roger D. Launius, "Venus-Earth-Mars: Comparative Climatology and the Search for Life in the Solar System," *Life* 2, no. 3 (2012): 255–273)
- 1946 A farmer named Gunyon in Westerham, Kent, England, calls the British Technical Intelligence staff asking that the Air Ministry come and remove one of these "darned contraptions" which has fallen on his farm. The intelligence officers ask for directions and are told to drive from Croydon to Westerham, turning onto a lane when they reach a pub called The White Dog. Amid great security, two staff cars are dispatched, but fail to find the farm. They locate a pub called The White Hart and a farmer named Bunyan, who strenuously denies having made the call. Although the incident appears to be a hoax, few people can reach the Technical Intelligence staff and convince them to make a field visit. Indeed, the intelligence officers believe that former Air Intelligence scientist Reginald Victor Jones, who has been skeptical of foo fighters and ghost rockets, is behind the affair. Jones writes that a signal is received from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff in Tokyo, asking for confirmation of a report that a Russian flying bomb had recently crashed in England. The other Director of Intelligence on the Air Staff, Air Commodore Roland Eugene Vintras, suggests to Jones that this might tie in with the "Westerham Incident." (R. V. Jones, Most Secret War, Hamish Hamilton, 1978, pp. 507–513; "UFO Britannia: Part 2—World War Foo and Post War Cover Ups." Above Top Secret forum, December 19, 2012)
- 1946, January 10 The Air Materiel Command at Wright Field, Ohio, issues a restricted-access document, *German Flying Wings Designed by Horten Brothers* by Capt. N. LeBlanc, detailing the drawings, photos, models, and documents relating to aircraft designed by Nazi aircraft designers the Horten brothers that were recovered in Germany by Allied forces. (N. LeBlanc, *German Flying Wings Designed by Horten Brothers*, Air Material Command, Technical Intelligence summary report no, F-SU-1110-ND, January 10, 1946; Col. H. M. McCoy to Maj. Gen. George McDonald, "Flying Disc," September 24, 1947; H. P. Dabrowski, *The Horten Flying Wing in World War II: The History and Development of the Ho 229*, Schiffer, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, "Roswell and the Flying Wing," *IUR* 18, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1993): 3; John Powell, "The Horten Flying Wings," War Bird Forum, July 2019)
- 1946, January 10 11:58 a.m. <u>Harold D. Webb</u> and <u>Herbert P. Kauffman</u>, scientists at Project Diana conducted by the US Army's Evans Signal Laboratory at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, use a modified SCR-271 radar operating at 110 MHz with 3 kW peak-power to bounce radar echoes off the Moon. USAF Maj. Gen. <u>Harold M. McClelland</u> remarks to the press that this could be an "opening step" in communicating with intelligent life outside the Earth. (Wikipedia, "<u>Project Diana</u>"; Jack Gould, "<u>Contact with Moon Achieved by Radar in Test by the Army,</u>" *New*

- York Times, January 25, 1946, p. 1; "Radar May Discover Life Existing on Other Planets," Greensboro (N.C.) Daily News, January 26, 1946, p. 1; Trevor Clark, "How Diana Touched the Moon," IEEE Spectrum 17 (May 1980): 44–48)
- 1946, January 18 11:00 p.m. A US C-54 transport plane is at 7,000 feet over the French countryside on its way to Paris, France. Suddenly the pilot sees a brilliant "shooting star" about 35° above the horizon. It streaks down below the eastern horizon, then reappears and moves in a hyperbola before falling again. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 1)
- 1946, January 22 President <u>Truman</u> creates a National Intelligence Authority (State, War, Navy, Chief of Staff, and a presidential representative with the DCI as a non-voting member) for policy and coordination and a Central Intelligence Group for operations under it. Rear Adm. <u>Sidney Souers</u> heads the CIG as Director of Central Intelligence. (Wikipedia, "<u>National Intelligence Authority</u>")
- 1946, February 21 8:30 p.m. One or more meteors are seen in west Finland and the counties of Västerbotten, Västernorrland, Kopparberg [now Dalarna], Gävleborg, Uppsala, Östergötland, and Skaraborg [now Västra Götaland] in Sweden. It supposedly sets a farmhouse on fire in Vaasa province, Finland. It leaves a long trail of smoke in the sky. (Archives for the Unexplained, "Case XXX: The Meteor That Did Not Start a Fire")
- 1946, February 22 Diplomat George F. Kennan, deputy chief of the US State Department mission in Moscow, has tried repeatedly to persuade President Truman and policymakers to abandon plans for cooperation with the Soviet government in favor of a sphere of influence policy in Europe. He sends a 5,363-word telegram (the "Long Telegram") to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes outlining a new strategy of containment of the Soviet menace by applying "counterforce at a series of constantly shifting geographical and political points." (Wikipedia, "X Article")
- 1946, February 27 Scientists Ernst Henry Krause, James Van Allen, Fred Lawrence Whipple, and six others meet at Princeton University to organize the Upper Atmosphere Research Panel (V-2 Panel), a group that will oversee meteorological and astronomical experiments at White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico using V-2 rockets brought to the US after World War II. Ohio State University astronomer J. Allen Hynek joins the team shortly afterward as a consultant. (Wikipedia, "Upper Atmosphere Research Panel"; David DeVorkin, "Organizing for Space Research: The V-2 Rocket Panel," Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences 18, no. 1 (1987): 2; O'Connell 33–35; Graff 33–35)
- **1946,** March The Air Technical Service Command becomes the Air Materiel Command. (Wikipedia, "<u>Air Materiel</u> Command")
- 1946, March 5 6:00 p.m. João Prestes is returning on foot from a fishery on the banks of the Tietê River to his sister's home in Araçariguama, São Paulo, Brazil. As he is entering the house, a light from outside strikes and envelopes him. He becomes dizzy and confused but manages to get up and go inside. He summons Araci Gomide, a nurse who has served in the military with him. Gomide describes his friend as being literally cooked, with his flesh detaching from his bones, injuries on his feet and ankles, and his feet clenched like the claws of a bird. His arms are burned and the flesh on his fingers is falling off. His chest, neck, and face also seem to be burned but not charred or red. Prestes dies on the way to a hospital in Santana di Parnaíba at 3:00 a.m. (Felipe Machado Carrión, "The Terrible Death of João Prestes at Araçariguama," Flying Saucer Review 19, no. 2 (March/April 1973): 14–15; Clark III 166–167; Brazil 17–21; Pablo Villarubia Mauso, "The Incredible Saga of João Prestes," UFO Casebook; Pablo Vilarrubia Mauso, "Horror em Araçarighama," Portal Fenomenum, February 21, 2022)
- **1946**, March 6 The Western Defense Command is deactivated. (Wikipedia, "Western Defense Command")
- **1946,** April 2 The Strategic Services Unit is transferred to the new Central Intelligence Group and becomes the Office of Special Operations. (Wikipedia, "Strategic Services Unit")
- 1946, April 14 Dusk. Paul Cummings Jr. is driving east on US Highway 136 about 10 miles east of Havana, Illinois, with Douglas Gowdy. A bright orange ball appears in the road about 1 mile ahead, gliding down the highway only one foot above the pavement and possibly touching both shoulders of the road. When it is within 2,000 feet, Cummings pulls the car over and stops, and they rush out to lie down in a ditch, fearing an explosion. When they look up again, the object is nowhere in sight. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 26–27)
- 1946, April 25 While ice fishing at Anima Nipissing Lake, Ontario, Don Cameron and his family watch 12–14 small disc-shaped objects descend at a 45° angle about 75 feet away. They come spinning down on the ice, rise 2 feet into the air, then come down again. Cameron walks toward them, and they ascend and shoot away at the same angle and direction. They find black marks on the snow and ice. (Clark III 1179)

- **1946,** April or May Around 12:00 noon. Richard R. Hill and Stanley Ogdrzyiak are driving in an open convertible on the Country Club Road near Lafayette, New York. Suddenly they see a gleaming, metallic, cigar-shaped object in the sky. It remains motionless at 5,000–10,000 feet altitude, which at that height would make it 300–400 feet long. After 2 minutes, it disappears instantaneously. ("Case 84." *CRIFO Newsletter* 2, no. 3 (June 3, 1955): 4; Clark III 1179)
- 1946, May Day. Navy Lieutenant Andrew A. Titcomb is on leave and picking oranges at his wife's family home at La Grange, north of Titusville, Florida, when he hears a whistling noise and sees a dark "flying football" directly overhead at about 1,000 feet elevation moving at 125 mph. It appears 15–20 feet in diameter and flies in an arc to the southeast. It disappears in a cloudbank. (UFOEv, p. 6; Clark III 1179)
- 1946, May 2 Project RAND releases its first report, *Preliminary Design of an Experimental World-Circling Spacecraft*, which is a proposal for a US satellite program. Engineers Robert M. Salter, James Everett Lipp, and one other person at RAND serve as the editors of the report. It states that "The achievement of a satellite craft would produce repercussions comparable to the explosion of the atomic bomb." (Wikipedia, "Preliminary Design of an Experimental World-Circling Spaceship")
- 1946, May 13 The Soviets establish a rocket center called NII-88 [now TsNIIMash] at Kaliningrad [now Korolyov], Russia, northeast of Moscow. Missile designer <a href="Sergei Korolev">Sergei Korolev</a> is appointed chief designer of Section 3 on long-range missiles. Stalin declares Korolev's name a secret, which it remains until his death in 1966. Russia keeps dozens of its captured German scientists here, working on special projects until 1955. (Wikipedia, "TsNIIMash")
- **1946,** May 13 A rocket is seen traveling over Helsinki, Finland, in a southwesterly direction at 1,000 feet. It supposedly moves at supersonic speed, emitting a magnesium-like light and a trail of smoke. (Jan L. Aldrich, comp., *The Ghost Rocket File*, Fund for UFO Research, 2000, p. 10)
- 1946, May 18 10:45 p.m. Gösta Carlsson, later to become founder and owner of Cernelle AB, is walking in the forested area of Kronoskagen near Ängelholm, Sweden, when he sees a disc-shaped machine more than 50 feet in diameter. On the top is a cupola with oval windows, and beneath it are an oblong "fan," two legs, a small ladder, and openings. A man dressed in a white, one-piece outfit gestures to Carlsson to stop. Two other occupants, three of them women, all wearing suits and transparent helmets, are nearby. One of the males points a boxlike device at the witness, who leaves the scene but returns by a different route 30 minutes later, just in time to see the UFO depart. A concrete model of the UFO is dedicated in 1963 as a memorial. (Wikipedia, "Ängelholm UFO memorial"; Sven-Olof Fredrickson, "The Ängelholm Landing Report," Flying Saucer Review 18, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1972): 15–17; Anders Liljegren, "High-Quality Investigation of 1946 CEIII Case," AFU Newsletter, no. 38 (March 1995): 2–3; Clark III 528–529; Clas Svahn, "Gösta Carlssons möte," Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige, July 10, 2018; Håkan Blomqvist, "UFO-Sweden Memories: Ängelholm 1996," Håkan Blomqvist's Blog, July 1, 2020; Clas Svahn and Gösta Carlsson, Mötet i gläntan: Sveriges mest kända närkontakt med UFO, 3rd ed., Parthenon, 2021)
- 1946, May 21 Two motorists report an elongated craft resembling a rocket or Zeppelin over Stora Mellösa, Sweden. One of the witnesses sees two short wings, although the other cannot see any despite watching the object for 5 minutes. (Swords 12)
- 1946, May 24 2:20 a.m. Witnesses in Landskrona, Sweden, see a wingless, cigar-shaped object, spurting sparks from its tail. About 300 feet above the ground, it is moving at airplane speed toward the southwest. (Loren E. Gross, <a href="https://www.ufe.com/ufe/cs/4/4/"><u>UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets</a></u>, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 1; Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, p. 6)
- **1946,** May 28 The *Aftonbladet* newspaper in Stockholm, Sweden, is the first to use the term "Spökraket" (ghost rocket) in a headline. ("Spökraket jagades i bil genom Roslagen," *Aftonbladet*, May 28, 1946; Swords 12)
- **1946**, May 31 11:43 a.m. A huge, metallic, wingless cigar moves rapidly at 1,000 feet altitude over Katrineholm, Sweden. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946*, *the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 2–3)
- 1946, Summer Late evening. Two women on a walk in Johannesburg, South Africa, see an aerial object hovering 5 feet above the roof of a nearby hotel. It is shaped like a saucer with a round, golden ball in the center, evenly split between the top and bottom sections. They hear a clicking noise, and the ball drops through the saucer until it is level with the roof. More clicks are heard, and the ball rises through and above the saucer 8–9 feet. In the space between the ball and the disc the witnesses see two figures larger than normal height (7 feet), fair-complexioned and broad-shouldered, with short wavy hair. They are wearing white uniforms with stiff collars and stand motionless until the object floats away and is lost to view. (John Judge, "Near-Landing in 1946 in Johannesburg," *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 5 (March 1979): 14–16; Clark III 266)

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

- Bush, this makes a board of 12. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "<u>The Research and Development Board:</u> Unanswered Questions," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 7–8)
- 1946, July 6 A special ghost rocket investigations committee is formed with Col. Bengt Jacobsson from the Royal Swedish Air Force Materiel Administration as chairman. Other members are Henry Kjellson and Eric Malmberg from the Air Administration; Maj. Nils Ahlgren and Capt. Gerdt Stangenberg from the Air Defense department; chemist Gustaf Ljunggren; physicist Martin Fehrm; and Olof Kempe from the Defense Radio Institute. They hold at least 12 meetings, beginning on July 10. (Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 13; Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," UFOs 1947–1987, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 33; Swords 12)
- **1946,** July 6 Astronomer <u>Bertil Lindblad</u>, after consulting with the Swedish Defense staff on ghost rocket reports, remarks that the "adjective 'cigar-shaped' is something new." (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs* 1947–1987, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 33)
- **1946,** July 9 A journalist finds three dubious fist-size fragments, one of iron and the other two slag-like, after a bright projectile is seen over a beach at Njurunda, Sweden. (Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, p. 12; Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 14)
- 1946, July 9 2:30 p.m. Erik and Asa Reuterswärd take a photo of a greenish-white daylight meteor by a lake at Guldsmedshyttan, northwest of Lindesberg, Sweden. They are atop a forest watchtower and have a good view of the object. The image is circulated to newspapers throughout Sweden; however, the photo probably shows an unusual daylight meteor, not a ghost rocket. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946*, *the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 5–6; Clas Svahn, "The 1946 Ghost Rocket Photo," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 12–14, 23; Swords 13–14; Clas Svahn, "Spökraketerna: Den Största Gåtan," Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige, March 7, 2017; Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, p. 12)
- 1946, July 9 2:30 p.m. Two people on the north side of Vaxön, Sweden, watch a glowing white object with a blue-white tail streak across the sky in about 2 seconds, disappearing to the southeast. Around the same time, a witness at Järna Station in Södertälje sees an object "like a glass flask in a thermos" descending from a high altitude. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 6)
- 1946, July 9 2:30 p.m. A member of the US legation sees a silent ghost rocket falling rapidly over Stockholm, Sweden, according to a July 11 telegram from State Department official <a href="Christian M. Ravndal">Christian M. Ravndal</a> to Washington, D.C. Hundreds of other observations take place over central Sweden. Ravndal suggests that the Soviets are trying to intimidate the Swedes. (Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, p. 11; Clark III 524, 527; Good Above, p. 20; Loren E. Gross, <a href="UFO's, a History: 1946">UFO's, a History: 1946</a>, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., p.p. 6, betw. 12–13)
- 1946, July 9 2:35 p.m. Efrain Johnson sees a strange, cigar- or sugarloaf-shaped object to the east of Ockelbo, Sweden. It shines like silver and appears "like some glistening mass." It falls to the ground and is gone in a few moments. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 6)
- **1946,** July 9 About 3:00 p.m. A housewife near Sörbo, Sweden, is washing on the shore of Södra Barken when she sees a falling object coming from the northeast. It changes color from blue to green and has a long tail. It tumbles into the lake about 320 feet away. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 6–7)
- **1946**, July 9 3:30 p.m. A young man in Mockfjärd, Sweden, sees a silver-colored star diving toward the ground with a whistling noise. It comes down about 490 feet away from him, and he is blinded by the intense light. He thinks it crashes into Mt. Landholm. A powerful burning smell lingers for 15 minutes. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History:* 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 7)
- 1946, July 9 3:35 p.m. Many people see a bright red, rocket-like object moving swiftly over Turku, Finland, and leaving a short trail. It casts shadows on the ground. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 7)
- 1946, July 10 A brilliantly glowing projectile trailing luminous smoke crashes into a beach near Norrvikssand, Sweden. Airline pilot Torvald Linden and other witnesses find a shallow crater a little more than 3 feet in diameter. A mass of slag-like material, some of it reduced to powder (which burns the hands when touched) is found at the site and collected into bags. A journalist from *Svenska Dagbladet* on July 11 finds a "burnt-brown object with a hollow cylinder" with a diameter of about 1–2 inches. Military authorities take over the site. The debris is taken to Dr. B. Backlund at a laboratory in Kubikenborg, who finds it contains paper with microscopic black-and-white squares like a screen. Some porous, rust-colored fragments are also present. The same day, the beach is visited by Lt. Col. Rudberg, Capt. C. Ljungdahl, and Capt. R. Westlin, who conclude that the material has been in the area for a long time. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 10–12)

- 1946, July 10 2:30 p.m. A bluish flying cigar 10–12 times the diameter of the full moon in length passes over Stockholm, Sweden. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946*, *the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 9)
- 1946, July 12 Swedish Intelligence agrees to cooperate in sharing ghost rocket information with the British military attaché in Stockholm, Sweden, Maj. de Salis. (Swords 20)
- **1946,** July 12 Day. The railway station master at Gryon, Vaud, Switzerland, is watching a B-24 Liberator flying overhead at 15,000 feet when he also sees a "flying bomb" looking like a big star traveling northeast at about 250 mph. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 14)
- 1946, July 12 10:00 p.m. Inga Eriksson is in her garden in Usta, Örebro, Sweden, when she hears a sharp, sizzling sound in the air and sees three silvery triangular objects traveling horizontally from east to west. They are visible only for 2 seconds, but her mother notes that the electrical power has gone out in their home. (AFU case file)
- 1946, July 15 The Swedes provide the British attaché with analytical reports of all observations to date. (Swords 20)
- 1946, July 16–18 US Secretary of the Navy <u>James Forrestal</u> makes an unexpected visit to Stockholm, Sweden, to meet with the Swedish Defense Minister <u>Allan Vougt</u> and two members of the special committee on ghost rockets. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946, July 18 Two British intelligence officers arrive in Stockholm to meet with their counterparts in Sweden. One is from the Air Ministry (Squadron Leader Barrie Heath) and the other (Maj. Malone) is from MI10(a), a branch of the Directorate of Military Intelligence. (Swords 20)
- **1946**, July 18 12:00 noon. Sigvat Skaug and his son, who live along Lake Mjøsa in southeastern Norway, and his sister Åse Tandberg watch two rocket-like objects about 7 feet long pass over their heads at a very low altitude. They fall simultaneously into the lake, throwing the water several feet into the air. The objects look like V-1 rockets and come in low from the west at about 150 feet, causing the trees to sway. They fall into the lake about 1.2 miles from the western shore and 4.3 miles from Minnesund. (NICAP, "Ghost Rocket' Crashes into Lake"; Björn Överbye, "Ghost-Bombs over Sweden," *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 2 (March/April 1969): 17–18; Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, "The Kölmjärv Ghost Rocket Crash Revisited," *AFU Newsletter* 27 (Jan./Dec. 1984): 1–5; Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946*, *the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 18–19; Ole Jonny Brænne, "Observations of Unidentified Submarine Objects in Norway," *IUR* 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 12–13, 17; Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, pp. 19–20; Swords 16; Clark III 526)
- **1946,** July 18 Three workers see a ghost rocket above Ortviken, Sweden. Shortly afterward, Gunnar Falck watches a silvery cylinder moving over the northern part of Sundsvall. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 17)
- 1946, July 19 11:15 a.m. In the village of Bölebyn, Sweden, Leonard Danielsson and his sons Kjell, Dan, and Hans see an "aeroplane" moving against the wind to the southwest. The boys say it looks like a large, metallic milk canister. It travels from horizon to horizon in about 20 minutes before disappearing in the northwest. (Swords 17)
- 1946, July 19 11:30 a.m. Kurt Larsson, 11, is fishing at the north end of Lake Kattisträsket, Sweden, when he hears a roaring sound. A huge column of water rises out of the lake as if a mine has detonated. Military officers from Boden investigate, but the lake is too muddy to send in a diver. They conclude that whatever fell is buried in 15 feet of mud. (Swords 24)
- 1946, July 19 11:45 a.m. Many witnesses see a gray, winged rocket crash into Lake Kölmjärv, Sweden, with a loud bang close to the southwest bank. Knut Lindbäck says it generates a high plume of water when it hits the surface, "followed by another cascade as if something had detonated." Water lilies and other aquatic plants are torn up and thrown on the shore. Lieut. Karl-Gösta Bartoll from the Boden engineer corps arrives the next day to supervise the salvage operation. Engineers Roland Rynniger and lab technician Torsten Wilner from the Defense Research Department also arrive with a Geiger counter. A three-week search turns up no traces of metal, even though the evidence points to an underwater explosion. (NICAP, "Ghost Rocket' Crashes into Lake"; Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, pp. 20–26; Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 20, 76; Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, "The Kölmjärv Ghost Rocket Crash Revisited," AFU Newsletter 27 (Jan./Dec. 1984): 1–5; Swords 17–20, 24; Clark III 525, 526)
- 1946, July 19 3:00 p.m. Karl and Tyra Axberg are sitting on the porch of their cabin on Lake Vassarajärvi in Norrbotten County, Sweden, when they hear a loud noise. A projectile comes in at a very low angle and hits the water at a 30° angle, continuing underwater for about 600 feet. A military team led by <a href="Karl-Gösta Bartoll">Karl-Gösta Bartoll</a> can find no trace of a "ghost bomb." (Swords 24–25)
- 1946, July 19 3:40 p.m. Ingrid Hansson is sunbathing with her father on a floating jetty at the northern end of Lake Marmen, near Sunnanå, Sweden. She hears a violent roaring over the water and looks up to see an object bouncing along the surface, stirring up a wake. The object has created a water column 66 feet high upon impact. (Swords 25)

- 1946, July 19 Maj. Gen. George C. McDonald prepares a memorandum for the Commander of the Army Air Forces Gen. Carl Spaatz on reports of "rockets" over Scandinavian countries. (Jan L. Aldrich, comp., *The Ghost Rocket File*, Fund for UFO Research, 2000, pp. 9–11)
- 1946, July 24 1:20 p.m. Engineer Tennlund sees a small cigar-shaped object with a pair of small wings south of Vålberg, Värmland, Sweden. It comes from the direction of Norway (west) at great speed with no sound. Tennlund thinks it crashes into Vänern lake. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs* 1947–1987, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- **1946**, July 25 The Swedish military states that ghost rockets are not meteors. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 23)
- **1946,** July 25 Baker nuclear test, Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. (Wikipedia, "Operation Crossroads"; Fran Ridge, "The Baker Blast: Cause for Alarm?" May 4, 2013)
- 1946, July 27 British Air Attaché Capt. Henderson informs the Foreign Office in London, England, that cooperation with Swedish Air Staff should be kept from the Americans. (David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002; Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two"; Swords 20)
- 1946, July 28 Night. Sections of Oslo, Norway, are shaken by two violent aerial explosions. An "intense white light" accompanies the blasts. ("Oslo Shaken by 2 Explosions," London *Daily Telegraph*, July 29, 1946, p. 1; Clark III 526)
- 1946, July 29 Norway begins censoring ghost rocket reports just as Sweden is doing. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 25)
- 1946, July 30 1:15 p.m. Two objects shaped like dark crosses are seen in the sky over Filipstad, Värmland, Sweden. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946, July 30 3:12 p.m. William Jorgensen, a soldier at the fort at Oskar-Fredriksborg, Stockholm, Sweden, sees a silent flying object with short wings at a distance of about 6,560 feet. It is moving faster than a jet aircraft. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- 1946, July 30 5:00 p.m. A customs officer on the Norway-Sweden border watches a silvery torpedo with short wings. The object moves in from the south but changes direction with a sharp turn and continues east with a whining sound. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 35)
- **1946**, August Day. Charles A. Johnson is driving on US Highway 41 along Lake Michigan north of Chicago, Illinois, when he sees three silver discs going from east to west in a triangular formation. (Clark III 1179)
- 1946, August 8:30 p.m. A young man sees a pan-shaped object near a road in Sint-Niklaas, Belgium. A small entity holding an acacia branch is nearby. The being enters the object through an opening on the underside. Afterward, traces of burning on the ground are detected. (Center for UFO Studies, <a href="https://example.com/humchat-sub-underside-hum
- 1946, Early August An astronomer and meteorologist is looking at some clouds through a telescope in Stockholm, Sweden, and sees a luminous object that he estimates is about 90 feet long, torpedo-shaped, and metallic. It has a "tapered tail that spewed glowing blue and green smoke and a series of fire balls." The object explodes with a terrific flash. ("Sweden Plans Radar Fight on 'Rockets," Los Angeles Times, August 13, 1946, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 39)
- 1946, August 1 President <u>Truman</u> signs the Atomic Energy Act, transferring the control of atomic energy from military to civilian hands, effective on January 1, 1947. It categorizes information on atomic energy as "born classified," even if it is not created by any US government agency. "Restricted Data" is not a level of classification; rather, a document can be classified as Confidential, Secret, or Top Secret, while also containing Restricted Data. In addition, a document containing Restricted Data can also contain Critical Nuclear Weapon Design Information. In this way, a document can be classified as Secret (S), Secret/Restricted Data (S//RD), or Secret/Restricted Data-Critical Nuclear Weapon Design Information (S//RD-CNWDI), depending on the type of information it contains. (Wikipedia, "<u>United States Atomic Energy Commission</u>")
- **1946,** August 1 <u>Truman</u> approves the establishment of the Office of Naval Research for "planning, fostering, and encouraging scientific research" in relation to naval power and national security. (Wikipedia, "<u>Office of Naval Research</u>")
- 1946, August 1—Col. Edwin Kennedy Wright, Vandenberg's executive assistant at the Central Intelligence Group, sends a memorandum to President Truman saying the ghost rockets conform to a V-1 shape and seem to be launched from the USSR. The report notes that the missiles can turn and fly circular courses, seemingly indicating radio control. Most information comes from the military attaché in Sweden and the conclusions are from the director of intelligence for the War Department general staff. (Swords 21–23; Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 10, 12)

- 1946, August 1 6:00 p.m. AF Capt. Jack E. Puckett is flying over Tampa, Florida, in a C-47 transport and sees a long cylinder twice the size of a B-29 with luminous portholes. After 3 minutes, it disappears at a speed of 1,500 mph. ("Rocket Craft Encounter Revealed by World War 2 Pilot," UFO Investigator 1, no. 2 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 15; UFOEv, p. 19)
- 1946, August 5 6:26 p.m. A luminous object is seen by a motorist near Landskrona, Skåne, Sweden.
- 1946, August 5 11:00 p.m. A fast-moving, silent, circular object glitters in the sun over Skåne, Sweden, as it heads toward the south-southwest at a high altitude. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 28)
- **1946,** August 6 The US delegation in Budapest, Hungary, reports that a German scientist now working for the Russians has revealed that the Soviets have developed guided rockets called V-3 and V-4 that are able to fly a round trip of 700 miles. (Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets." *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 10)
- 1946, August 7 A Top Secret message from the Commander-in-Chief Air Forces, Pacific, to Gen. <u>Lauris Norstad</u>, War Department Operations, requests guidance on the current classification of the substitute code word "Majestic" for Operational Plan Olympic (the invasion of Northern Japan). The plan has been downgraded to Restricted (Message CM1472 IN). The answer is that both code words had been declassified by the JCS on October 8, 1945 (Message CM96908 OUT 8 Aug 1946). (Jan Aldrich; Murray Bott, "<u>Military Codenames 'Olympic' and 'Majestic,</u>" UFO UpDates, April 4, 2002)
- **1946**, August 7 Swedish Lt. Lennart Neckman of the Defense Staff's Air Defense Division sees a clear, yellow flame passing low and slow over the countryside. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 30)
- **1946,** August 8 Chief of Swedish Air Defense Maj. Nils Ahlgren says that some of the rockets are seen at low altitude, maneuver in half circles, and appear to come from the south. (Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, p. 36)
- **1946**, August 11 8:47 p.m. Astronomer <u>Bertil Lindblad</u> sees an exploding fireball in Ljugarn on Gotland, Sweden. (Göran Jansson, "<u>Spökraketerna 1946</u>," January 2005, p. 38)
- 1946, August 11 9:00–10:00 p.m. Hundreds of people in central and southern Sweden see "ghost bombs" that fly from south to north, giving off a brilliant blue-white light. Sometimes two of the objects are seen flying together. Some witnesses see smaller silver balls come out of the larger objects, which are variously described as cylinders and torpedoes with a "wide nose" and "fire-spurting tail." Stockholm is said to be "near the boiling point" with ghost rocket speculation. ("Swarm of Mysterious Rockets Is Seen over Capital of Sweden," New York Times, August 12, 1946, pp. 1, 7; "Swedes Use Radar in Fight on Missiles," New York Times, August 13, 1946, p. 4; Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 33–39; Göran Jansson, "Spökraketerna 1946," January 2005, pp. 38–40; Clark III 525; Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," UFOs 1947–1987, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 37; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence, Dell, 2000, pp. 50–53)
- **1946,** August 12 10:00 a.m. A twin-engine Saab 18 Swedish Air Force bomber crashes and explodes near Valdshult, Jönköping, Sweden, killing three airmen. Rumors circulate that it collided with a ghost rocket, but an investigation indicates that the pilot lost control. (Good Need, pp. 39–40)
- **1946**, August 12 A group of Boy Scouts near Göteborg, Sweden, watch a "flying missile" turn 35° then resume its original course. ("2 Swedes Escape a 'Ghost Rocket," *New York Times*, August 14, 1946, p. 11)
- **1946,** August 12 8:15 p.m. A torpedo-shaped ghost rocket moves slowly over a seaport town in southern Sweden, barely grazing the roofs and trailing smoke. It continues out to sea and seems to come down on a small island. Two men go out to investigate, but the island is too overgrown to allow a search. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 40–41)
- **1946,** August 12 Night. Briand Jensen, a night watchman in Struer, Denmark, sees a speeding rocket approach from the northeast, explode with a roar, and illuminate the sky with a blinding flash. ("<u>2 Swedes Escape a 'Ghost Rocket,</u>" *New York Times*, August 14, 1946, p. 11)
- 1946, August 13 Capt. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, US naval attaché in Paris, forwards as top secret a report by the French government on ghost rocket activity in Scandinavia. It states that "a good number of these projectiles are of the V-1 type in the form of a torpedo with two small wings." A map shows them originating in the Leningrad [now St. Petersburg] area, Russia. (Swords 21; Good Need, pp. 38–39; Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 11)
- 1946, August 13 The Hungarian report of August 6 causes Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Chamberlin, Army assistant chief of staff for intelligence, to ask Budapest for further information. Top-secret requests are sent to military attachés in London, Stockholm, Oslo, Helsinki, and Copenhagen asking for listings of all ghost rocket reports, as well as V-3 and V-4 missiles. The military attaché in Oslo reports that a Soviet ship in the north Baltic Sea has been

- transmitting code to shore stations regarding the ghost rockets. The military attaché in Moscow asks other European officials about where the rockets originate and gets several answers, which he forwards on to Chamberlin: Hiiumaa island, Estonia; Latvia; or Peenemünde, Germany. Gen. <u>Joseph T. McNarney</u> of the US Forces in Europe Theater replies that Peenemünde is a likely origin, since the site has been refurbished. The military attaché in Stockholm suspects Hiiumaa, Peenemünde, or Parikkala in Finland, while the naval attaché in Stockholm thinks that Łeba, Poland, is the launch site. (Jan Aldrich, "<u>Investigating the Ghost Rockets,</u>" *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 10–11)
- **1946,** August 13 The *New York Times* says the ghost rocket situation is extremely dangerous ("almost at the boiling point") and that Sweden would not tolerate such violations, borrowing some radar equipment from Great Britain. ("Swedes Use Radar in Fight on Missiles," *New York Times*. August 13, 1946, p. 4)
- 1946, August 13 The US naval attaché and the Assistant US military attaché in Stockholm interview three Swedish Air Force officers assigned to the General Staff who say that they believe the objects are rockets. (Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two"; Swords 21)
- **1946,** August 13 Afternoon. A troop of Boy Scouts in Denmark see a rocket-like object moving quickly at an altitude of 1,600 feet. They can see small side wings and fins. A blue-white light streams from the bottom, and it diverges from a straight course to a 35° curve. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 43)
- 1946, August 13 8:00 p.m. A cigar-shaped object flies past a witness at Karlskrona, Sweden, at a distance of only 150 feet. Only 5 feet long, it emits a faint green light and trails smoke from the rear. (Loren E. Gross, <u>UFO's, a</u> History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 43)
- 1946, August 14 The *New York Times* reports that Secretary of State <u>Dean Acheson</u> is "very much interested" in the ghost rockets. (Loren E. Gross, <u>UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets</u>, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 46; "2 <u>Swedes Escape a 'Ghost Rocket,"</u>" *New York Times*, August 14, 1946, p. 11)
- 1946, August 14 10:02 a.m. Swedish Air Force pilot Lieut. Gunnar Irholm and his signaler, Cpl. Möller, are flying a B-18A bomber at 650 feet 4 miles northeast of Malingsbo in central Sweden when they see a dark cigar-shaped object approaching on their left. It has no visible wings, rudders, lights, flame or projections of any type. It appears to follow the terrain at 370–430 mph, maintaining the same height, then vanishes into a storm cloud. ("Ghost Rockets over Scandinavia," *Intelligence Review*, no. 49, January 9, 1947, US Department of Defense; Don Berliner, Marie Galbraith, and Antonio Huneeus, *Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document*, UFO Research Coalition, December 1995, pp. 33–35; Swords 15–16; "Cigar Sighted from B-19 Bomber." *AFU Newsletter*, no. 44 (September 2002): 1–4)
- 1946, August 15 Night. Several residents of the east side of Waterloo, Iowa, see an object buzzing rapidly around some trees. It gradually ascends, surrounded by a cloud of white vapor, and disappears high in the sky. One person calls it "a great white bird; another, a bomb." Mrs. Russell Lampman says that the object is "6 feet, 3 inches tall, like a large man, and rather rectangular in shape." She and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.15</a> and rather rectangular in shape." She and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.15</a> and rather rectangular in shape." She and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.15</a> and rather rectangular in shape." She and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.15</a> and rather rectangular in shape." She and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.15</a> and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.25</a> and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.25</a> and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.15">https://doi.org/10.25/10.25</a> and her <a href="https://doi.org/10.25/10.25">https://doi.org/10.25/10.25</a> and her
- 1946, August 16 Col. L. H. Johnson, US naval attaché in Stockholm, transmits a "Top Secret Report R334-46 of 13 August 1946 Subject: SWEDEN Guided Missiles Rocket Sightings Over Sweden." It concludes: "No tangible evidence to date as to nature or origin of rockets reported over Sweden, although Swedish Defense Staff insists that they are rockets." (Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two"; Jan L. Aldrich, comp., *The Ghost Rocket File*, Fund for UFO Research, 2000, pp. 32–35)
- 1946, August 16 A missile produces an enormous explosion over Malmö, Sweden, that shakes or breaks many windows. Some witnesses think they can see fragments of the object falling to earth. ("Windows Broken by Rocket Bomb," Manchester Guardian, August 17, 1946, p. 6; Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 50; Jan L. Aldrich, comp., The Ghost Rocket File, Fund for UFO Research, 2000, p. 36)
- 1946, Late August Margaret Sprankle, a civilian employee at Tinker AFB near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is returning from work when she sees, about 300 feet away, a large, metallic, lens-shaped structure about 75 feet in diameter. It is hovering on edge, the flat side toward her. On the lower right side are 12–14 square windows; in each, visible from the shoulders up, is a figure. Their heads are very round. Aftre about 90 seconds, the object rotates 90° on its vertical axis and silently flies northwest and disappears in 5 seconds. (Center for UFO Studies, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jube.1007/j

- 1946, August 18 8:00 or 10:00 p.m. An aerial object like a 9-foot cigar is seen moving slowly on the north side of Copenhagen, Denmark. It explodes with extraordinary force. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946*, *the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 53)
- **1946,** August 19 The US military attaché in Moscow reports on the visit of Maj. <u>Stig Wennerström</u> of the Swedish Air Force, who reveals that radar indicates the ghost rocket launch site is at Peenemünde, Germany. The rockets appear to be radio-controlled, carry no warheads, are self-destructive, and are plotted over a range of 620 miles. Sometimes they follow zigzag courses. (Jan Aldrich, "<u>Investigating the Ghost Rockets,</u>" *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 12)
- Captain Douglas Bader, and General David Sarnoff, president of RCA, arrive in Stockholm, Sweden, ostensibly on private business, and independently of each other. The official explanation is that Doolittle, who is now vice-president of the Shell Oil Company, is inspecting Shell branch offices in Europe, while Sarnoff, a former member of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's London staff, is studying the market for radio equipment. However, the story indicates that the Chief of the Swedish Defense Staff, Col. C. R. Kempf, makes no secret that he "was extremely interested in asking the two generals advice and, if possible, would place all available reports before them." However, Doolittle denies the correlation to Barry Greenwood in 1984, and researchers have found no evidence to support a collaboration. ("Doolittle, Sarnoff Stir Swedish Talk," New York Times, August 21, 1946, p. 3; "Doolittle Consulted by Swedes on Bombs," New York Times, August 22, 1946, p. 2; Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two"; Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 53–54; Clark III 527; Swords 21, 24)
- **1946,** August 21 The General Staff in Norway issues a memorandum to the press asking it not to mention any ghost rockets seen over the country and to pass on all reports to the military Intelligence Department. In Sweden, the ban is limited to any mention of where the rockets are seen to land or explode. ("Britain to Send Radar to Sweden," London *Daily Telegraph*, August 22, 1946, p. 1; Good Above, p. 21)
- **1946,** August 22 3:00 p.m. Photographer Gösta Skog takes a color film of a ghost rocket at Getå, 100 miles south of Stockholm, Sweden. The cigar-shaped object appears out of a cloud at 3,000 feet, trailing exhaust. The film turns out to be overexposed. (Clas Svahn, "Spökraketerna: Den Största Gåtan," Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige, March 7, 2017; Swords 14–15)
- 1946, August 22 Director of the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) Lt. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg writes a top secret memo to President Truman via Adm. William D. Leahy, stating that the "weight of evidence" points to Peenemünde (which has become a Soviet naval base), East Germany, as the origin of the ghost rockets, and that a US military attaché in Moscow has been told by a "key Swedish Air Officer" [Wennerström] that radar course-plotting leads to the conclusion that Peenemünde is the launch site. CIG speculates that the missiles are extended-range developments of V-1s being aimed for the Gulf of Bothnia for test purposes and "do not overfly Swedish territory specifically for intimidation; self-destruct by small demolition charge or burning." (Hoyt Vandenberg. "Memorandum for the President," August 22, 1946; Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two"; Barry Greenwood, "Significant Ghost Rocket Documents Available," UFO Historical Revue, no. 15 (June 2015): 1–8)
- 1946, August 23 The British Foreign Office states that English radar experts, including Reginald Victor Jones, having returned from Sweden, had "submitted secret reports to the British government on the origin of the rockets." (Good Above, p. 21)
- 1946, August 24 Stockholm Air Attaché Maj. Gen. <u>Alfred A. Kessler Jr.</u> informs the War Department that the Ghost Rockets are an "unintentional hoax which developed naturally but which exploited by Defense staff by implication and lack of frankness possibly interest defense budget and to alert west against east." (Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two")
- 1946, August 24 Admiral Henry Kent Hewitt, Commander of US Naval Forces in Europe, writes a letter to the US naval attaché in Oslo, Norway, on "Rocket Bombs or Guided Missiles over Norway and Sweden." Two "missiles" have fallen into a lake near Oslo, and the US Navy is "very interested." ([Adm. Henry Kent Hewitt], Letter to US Naval Attaché, Oslo, "Rocket Bombs or Guided Missiles over Norway and Sweden," August 24, 1946)
- 1946, August 24 Evening. A Norwegian student and a Swedish engineer are boating on a small river "somewhere in Sweden" when a light approaches them from the southeast. It resembles a full moon and emits an intense light: "As it passed immediately overhead, it grew so bright you could see a well as on a sunny day." The object, about 10 feet long, releases four stars that fall silently to the ground. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 58–59)

- **1946,** August 26 The US military attaché in Stockholm reports that the Swedes, possibly worried about a Soviet veto of their application for UN membership, have canceled their request for British radar equipment. (Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13)
- 1946, August 29 The American embassy in Stockholm tells the State Department that the ghost rockets are probably Soviet missiles. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 63A; [Memo on telegram of August 27, 1946]; Good Above, pp. 22, 447)
- 1946, August 31 After becoming one of the first Western journalists to view the ruins of Hiroshima, <u>John Hersey</u> publishes a 31,000-word article in *The New Yorker* on the effects of the atomic bomb on six survivors of the bombing Hiroshima. It is the first glimpse that the American public has on the devastation of nuclear warfare and the effects of radiation. (John Hersey, *Hiroshima*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1946; Lesley M. M. Blume, *Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-Up and the Reporter Who Revealed It to the World*, Simon & Schuster, 2020)
- 1946, September German rocket engineer Walter Ziegler tells Army CIC that 400 men from his former rocket group at Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) in Munich, Germany, are invited by Russian military officers to a fancy dinner, wined and dined, then taken home. Several hours later, all 400 are woken up by the Russians and forced to take a trip. (Ziegler is not among them.) They are transported by train to a small town ("Kubischew") outside Moscow, Russia, where they remain and work on secret military rocket projects under terrible conditions. (Jacobsen, *Area* 51, p. 42)
- 1946, September 1–2 Late night and early morning. Rocket-shaped objects are seen over northern Greece, according to Prime Minister Konstantinos Tsaldaris. Physicist Paul Santorinis is placed in charge of an investigation. He rules out Russian missiles, but the Army ends the investigation in 1947. (Clark III 525; Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 62–63; Good Above, p. 23; Orestis Lazanakis, "UAP in Greece," UAP Check, July 27, 2024)
- **1946,** September 7 British pilot <u>Edward Mortlock Donaldson</u> attains an airspeed record of 616 mph in a Gloster Meteor F Mk 4 at Littlehampton, England. (Wikipedia, "<u>Edward Donaldson (RAF officer)</u>")
- 1946, September 9 The scientific advisor to MI6, English physicist Reginald Victor Jones, considers the ghost rockets a social panic phenomenon. An RAF Intelligence report, "Investigation of Reported Missile Activity over Scandinavia," identifies eight types of ghost rocket sightings: iron cylinder, magnesium-like light, white core surrounded by blue-green, shining ball with tail, torpedo-shape, black object with flame, small rocket, small missile. It takes the daytime reports seriously but concludes are probably only a few genuine reports of actual missiles. (Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Two"; Swords 26–27; Loren E. Gross, UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 63–64)
- 1946, September 11 The Chief of Naval Intelligence requires naval attachés to forward information on Soviet rocket research and operations including launches from submarines. (NARA, US Naval Intelligence files; Jan Aldrich)
- **1946,** September 11 <u>Jack Northrop</u> grounds the XB-35, which has suffered gearbox and propeller control problems, until the Army Air Force can fix its propulsion system. (Wikipedia, "<u>Northrop YB-35</u>")
- 1946, September 11 2:00 p.m. <u>Justin B. Rinaldi</u> is standing in a friend's backyard in Engle, New Mexico, when he hears a loud whirring sound and sees a black object whiz by. It is pointed at one end, has a narrow body, and what appear to be fins on the tail. It is traveling fast at an altitude of 75 feet. Rinaldi sees it hit a clump of trees at a ranch house and the "branches parted like a great force had struck." He and friends go to the site but can find nothing. ("<u>Flying Disc Tales Bring 2 Reports from Engle Area.</u>" *Albuquerque Journal*, June 29, 1947, p. 1; Clark III 530)
- **1946,** September 12 Cmdr. Robert A. Winston, acting naval attaché in Stockholm, Sweden, writes to the London naval attaché in a secret air mailgram that he suspects there is a secret British-Swedish collaboration on ghost rocket information designed to keep the US from learning the truth. (Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets." *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13)
- **1946**, Mid-September Two luminous globes that shine "like an electric arc" are seen flying in a straight line over Longwy, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 66)
- **1946**, September 18 Two greenish globes, one following close behind the other, zoom over Castanheira, Portugal. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946*, *the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 67)
- **1946,** September 21 Chemist <u>Gustaf Ljunggren</u> of the Swedish National Defense Research Institute summarizes for the Swedish Defense staff his analysis of 27 finds of mysterious substances, allegedly from ghost rockets. None are radioactive and all have mundane explanations. (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," *UFOs* 1947–1987, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 33–34)

- 1946, September 22 3:15 a.m. A rocket-shaped object is seen for 90 seconds over Florence, Italy. It makes an abrupt turn, then speeds south toward Rome. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946*, *the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., p. 69)
- 1946, September 30 <u>David Sarnoff</u>, in a speech at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, says that the "ghost bombs are no myth but real missiles." ("<u>Sarnoff Predicts Weather Control and Delivery of the Mail by Radio</u>," *New York Times*, October 1, 1946, p. 1, 48; Joel Carpenter, "<u>Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937—53, Part Two")</u>
- 1946, Fall 9:00 p.m. Gladys McCage and her 4-year-old son see a yellowish-orange light coming from the northwest at a "terrific speed" toward their farm 8 miles north of O'Neill, Nebraska. Its color changes to red as it approaches, and soon it is hovering above the witnesses. They run toward the house and the cigar-shaped object swings up to the northeast. McCage says it is as big as a football field, has windows, and is making a loud noise. A yellowish-blue-green flame is shooting out near the back, and it is traveling too fast for any plane at the time. (Clark III 530)
- 1946, October Ray Palmer publishes a letter from Maurice Doreal (pseudonym of Claude D. Dodgin) of the Brotherhood of the White Temple in Denver, Colorado, regarding the "Shaver mystery." Doreal claims intimate knowledge of the subterranean realms, which he claims are inhabited by the Black Brotherhood and protected by "space-warps." In 1949 Doreal claims to have visited caves inside Mount Shasta, California, inhabited by Atlantean masters. He equates Shaver's Dero with an evil group of Lemurians. (M. Doreal, "He's Been in Caves Too!" Amazing Stories 20, no. 7 (October 1946): 177–178; Walter Kafton-Minkel, Subterranean Worlds, Loompanics, 1989, pp. 154–160; Charmaine Ortega Getz, "The (Sort of) Amazing Story of Maurice Doreal and the Brotherhood of the White Temple Revealed at Last," Weird Colorado, September 6, 2015)
- 1946, October <u>Harold Sherman</u>'s novel *The Green Man* is first published in <u>Ray Palmer</u>'s *Amazing Stories*. It revolves around an alien named Numar, a peaceful messenger from another planet who has the ability to make our technology stand still. It is followed by a sequel, *The Green Man Returns*, in 1947. In a 1979 reprint of both novels, Sherman writes: "Sometime in the year 1945, when Martha and I were living in Chicago, I had a series of visions wherein I saw Space Beings, possessed of high intelligence, visiting our Earth in space ships of different shapes and sizes, for the purpose of exploration and eventually to fill our skies with large space vehicles, coming in force, hopefully on a friendly mission to help Mankind save itself from self-destruction." (Harold M. Sherman, "The Green Man," *Amazing* Stories 10, no. 7 (October 1946): <u>8–47</u>, <u>76–157</u>; Harold Sherman, *The Green Man and His Return*, 1979)
- 1946, October University of Manchester astronomer <a href="Bernard Lovell">Bernard Lovell</a> uses the radar equipment at Jodrell Bank
  Observatory in Cheshire to confirm that transient radar echoes are from ionized meteor trails, showing that meteor showers can be tracked in the daytime as well visibly at night. He is later able to determine the orbits of meteors in annual meteor showers to show they are in solar orbit and not of interstellar origin. (Wikipedia, "Jodrell Bank Observatory")
- **1946,** October 1 The US Military Attaché in London, England, writes a top-secret memo to the War Department complaining that the British "may not have given us all information on reported rockets over Scandinavia." (Jan L. Aldrich, comp., *The Ghost Rocket File*, Fund for UFO Research, 2000, p. 73)
- 1946, October 9 Evening. George Adamski and some associates are watching a meteor shower associated with Comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner when they see a "gigantic spacecraft" hovering above the mountain ridge south of Mount Palomar, California. He claims to meet a military officer a few weeks later who assures him that the object was indeed from another world. Others in San Diego see an object with a long, tube-shaped fuselage, giant wings, and two red lights. The medium Mark Probert later tells the press that he has established psychic communication with the occupants and the object is called the Kareeta. ("Sparks Fly As Comet Passes Earth," Los Angeles Daily News, October 10, 1946, p. 3; "Space Ship Flaps Wings over San Diego, 'Observers' Claim," San Diego (Calif.) Union, October 15, 1946, p. 1; "Welcome? Kareeta!" Round Robin 2, no. 10 (1946): 3–7; Harold T. Wilkins, Flying Saucers on the Attack, Citadel, 1954, pp. 41–48; Colin Bennett, Looking for Orthon, Paraview, 2001, pp. 28–29; Curt Collins, "1946, Before Saucers, Kareeta: UFO Contact in California," The Saucers That Time Forgot, August 8, 2017)
- 1946, October 10 4:00 a.m. Waltraut Anlauf, a telephone operator in Friedland Refugee Camp, Lower Saxony, Germany, sees small, elongated flashes at a great height in the sky. They look like cigars and are luminescent white in front and bluish-white in back. She sees about 10 objects pass per minute. Sometimes there is an interruption of about 10 minutes, and then new groups appear. The sighting lasts one hour. Possibly these are part of the Taurid meteor shower. (Clark III 529)
- 1946, October 10 The defense staff in Sweden admits it cannot explain the ghost rockets because reports are too vague. About 80% appear to be meteors ("celestial phenomena"), although radar has tracked a few unusual targets. The

- report concludes that they are not V-type bombs. ("Swedish Inquiry Fails to Solve Rocket Case," *New York Times*, October 11, 1946, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, *UFO's*, *a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets*, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 71–72; Good Above, p. 23)
- **1946,** October 21 Two persons on the shore of a lake in southern Sweden hear a whistling sound in the air, like a "flock of birds." They see an object moving over the trees at a low altitude. It is dart-shaped and has short wings and a "ball-shaped tip." It falls into the lake and possibly explodes on impact. (Loren E. Gross, *UFO's, a History:* 1946, the Ghost Rockets, The Author, 1988 ed., p. p. 74)
- **1946,** November The War Department issues a press release on how German scientists are helping out at Wright Field, Ohio. (Dolan, p. 12)
- 1946, November 29 A top secret Air Intelligence report, "Significant Developments of Scientific Warfare in Russia," designates the ghost rockets as "V-5" weapons produced by the Siebel Works in Halle, Germany. (Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13)
- **1946,** December 3 The Swedish military reports that about 100 impacts were investigated by the Defense Research Institution and not found to be rockets. (Joel Carpenter, "Guided Missiles and UFOs: A Tangle of Fear, 1937–53, Part Three")
- 1946, December 10 Gen. <u>Curtis LeMay</u> answers an inquiry from Assistant Secretary of War for Air <u>Stuart Symington</u> about establishing interim projects at the Air Materiel Center (AMC). LeMay's answer: The Commander of AMC on his own volition may establish an interim project; however, to continue the project it must be approved for the next budget cycle. (Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB; Jan Aldrich, "<u>Secret Twining Letter:</u> <u>'The Reported Phenomena Are Real,'</u>" October 11, 2008)
- 1946, December 23 <u>Jacobsson</u>'s ghost rocket committee issues its final report on 987 ghost rocket cases, stating that 225 reports had been made in full daylight. More than 100 reports describe spool-shaped objects with or without wings. It concludes: "Despite the extensive effort, which has been carried out with the means available, and seven months after the first observations, no actual proof that a test of rocket projectiles has taken place over Sweden has been found." (Swords 26; Loren E. Gross, <u>UFO's, a History: 1946, the Ghost Rockets</u>, The Author, 1988 ed., pp. 75–76; Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, "The Ghost Rockets," <u>UFOs 1947–1987</u>, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 36)

## 1947

- 1947 Cmdr. Bernard Baruch Jr. makes 44 trips at his own expense to lobby for the implementation of the peacetime Communication Instruction for Reporting Enemy Sightings (CIRES) message system. He meets with DCI Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Rear Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington, Rear Adm. Earl E. Stone, Vice Adm. Arthur W. Radford, Rear Adm. John E. Gingrich, Adm. DeWitt Clinton Ramsey, Maj. Gen. Robert W. Harper, Lieut. Gen Idwal H. Edwards, Vice Adm. Ralph Riggs, Capt. Richard Burke (USCG), and about 20 other officials. (NICAP, "Capt. Bernard Baruch, Jr.")
- 1947 11:00 p.m. Air Force pilot Edwin T. Yeoman is returning home with his wife Eva after going to a movie in Sacramento, California. As they drive northeast, they see a stationary light hovering at an altitude of 3,000–4,000 feet above Roseville. After watching it for 5 minutes, the light gets brighter, rises vertically for several thousand feet, makes an abrupt 90° turn, and shoots across the horizon from east to west. (CUFOS case file)
- 1947, January 1 The civilian US Atomic Energy Commission assumes responsibility for nuclear energy from the wartime Manhattan Project. The Armed Forces Special Weapons Project assumes responsibility for all aspects of nuclear weapons remaining under military control. (Wikipedia, "<u>United States Atomic Energy Commission</u>"; Wikipedia, "<u>Armed Forces Special Weapons Project</u>")
- 1947, January 9 The US Defense Department's *Intelligence Review*, no. 49, contains a four-page summary of ghost rocket sightings and suggests some may have been Soviet test missiles or jet airplanes. ("Ghost Rockets over Scandinavia," *Intelligence Review*, no. 49, January 9, 1947, US Department of Defense; Don Berliner, Marie Galbraith, and Antonio Huneeus, *Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document*, UFO Research Coalition, December 1995, pp. 33–35)
- **1947**, January 16—11:30 p.m. An RAF Mosquito plane chases an unidentified target detected on radar at RAF Trimley Heath Radar Station [now closed] near Felixstowe, Suffolk, England, moving at a speed calculated to be faster than sound at an altitude of 38,000 feet over the North Sea, 50 miles north of the Netherlands coast. The target,

- later referred to as a "ghost plane" or "Charlie," descends to 17,000 feet and takes controlled, evasive action. The plane pursues it for 40 minutes, even though the pilot cannot see it visually, until he loses it over the Norfolk coast. (UFOFiles2, p. 29; ClearIntent, p. 151; Sparks, p. 16; David Clarke, "Operation Charlie," 2002; Martin L. Shough, "A New Study of the British 'Ghost Airplanes' of 1947," April 2009)
- 1947, January 17 11:37 p.m. After two unidentified targets similar to yesterday's are reported by RAF Neatishead, northeast of Norwich, England, over the North Sea, another radar track enters the Eastern Sector area, and an RAF Mosquito piloted by Flight Lt. William Kent is scrambled to 18,000 feet. Kent attempts to close in, but his onboard radar is unable to keep it on track because the target is "jerking violently" and taking evasive action. After 20 minutes, the target descends below 2,000 feet and is lost from ground radar. Unofficially the radar operators give the intruder a name—Charlie—and when the Air Ministry later begins a concerted effort to solve the mystery, its code name is "Operation Charlie." (Martin L. Shough, "A New Study of the British 'Ghost Airplanes' of 1947," April 2009)
- 1947, January 20 In London, <u>Ben Lockspeiser</u>, chief scientist for the UK Ministry of Supply, after meeting with Swedish scientists and air force authorities, informs the American naval attaché in London, England, Cmdr. Jenkins, that the Swedes doubt the rockets are from Russia but prefer that the US and UK continue to think so. Natural phenomena and popular imagination are considered the causes. (Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2000, pp. 3–5)
- 1947, January 23 Night. Three senior RAF officers are visiting RAF Neatishead in Norfolk, England, for an interception exercise when an unidentified radar target makes another appearance at 28,000 feet. RAF Mosquitos from Yorkshire are scrambled, but by the time the aircraft reach the area, the target is gone. (Martin L. Shough, "A New Study of the British 'Ghost Airplanes' of 1947," April 2009; David Clarke, "Operation Charlie")
- 1947, January 27 RAF Flying Officer Stewart of the Northern Signals Area, after investigating the Operation Charlie radar incidents at RAF Neatishead, England, issues a report, no longer extant, that suggests that some of the targets are radiosonde balloons released by the USAAF's 8th Weather Squadron in Downham Market, Norfolk. However, RAF and Air Ministry sources continue to refer to the sightings as unexplained over the following months. (Martin L. Shough, "A New Study of the British 'Ghost Airplanes' of 1947." April 2009)
- 1947, January 29 Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal issue a memorandum that formally establishes the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, a new agency to take over responsibility for the aspects of nuclear weapons that still remain under the military. It is to be jointly staffed by the Army and Navy. Los Alamos Laboratory's ordnance engineering Z Division and AFSWP establish themselves at Sandia Base, New Mexico, bringing the strict secrecy that has prevails at Los Alamos. (Wikipedia, "Armed Forces Special Weapons Project")
- 1947, February 5 Around 7:30 a.m. Frederick Walter Flavel and his wife Emma are walking to their house in Lock, South Australia, when they see five gray, oblong objects rise apparently from the sea and move from northwest to southeast. At 9:00 a.m., Ronald Ernest Ellis and two other railroad workers in Port Augusta, South Australia, watch five white or light-pink egg-shaped objects moving across the sky from north to south at about 6,000 feet. They quiver, cast shadows on the ground, and move out of sight in a few seconds. (NICAP, "Five Objects Cast Shadows"; "C.R. Workmen See Phenomenon," Port Augusta (S.A.) Transcontinental, February 7, 1947, p. 1; "Objects in Sky Seen at Lock," Port Augusta (S.A.) Transcontinental, February 21, 1947, p. 1; Keith Basterfield, "Cold Case, Port Augusta, 5 February 1947," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, January 29, 2011; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 329–350; Keith Basterfield, "Flying Eggs at Port Augusta, February 1947," Magonia—Down Under, December 13, 2015; Keith Basterfield, "Flying Eggs, Port Augusta 1947, Main Witness Was Interviewed in 2006," Magonia—Down Under, January 8, 2016; Keith Basterfield, "Port Augusta, South Australia, 'Flying Eggs,' 1947, Witness Deceased," Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, January 20, 2016)
- **1947,** February 8 A US Navy Privateer bomber flying over Sweden picks up signals that might be directing rockets. (Letter from US Naval Forces Europe, London, to Chief of Naval Operations; Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, February 17 Capt. J. B. Pearson Jr., US naval attaché in London, England, sends an intelligence report to the Chief of Naval Intelligence about his conversation with Col. Westergard, head of the Airplane Design Section for the Swedish Air Ministry. Westergard tells him some 40% of the 1,000 ghost rocket sightings are "reliable." They seem to originate in Peenemünde, Germany, and fly toward Finland. The best observation is from an artillery officer who sees an object in his optical range finder and follows it for about 90 seconds. It is in level flight at 4.5 miles distance and is about 36 feet long and torpedo shaped. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2000, p. 7)

- 1947, February 28 Capt. Emmet O'Beirne, Chief of the Defensive Air Branch, writes a memorandum to the chief of the USAF Office of Air Intelligence about the branch's interview with H. W. Flickinger, vice president for exports at Republic Aircraft Corp. after his return from Sweden: "He stated that he had seen one of the Swedish 'spook rockets' in flight, which resembled the V-1 buzz bomb but was somewhat smaller. The noise of this missile was more that of a rocket than like a V-1." (Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, March 12 President <u>Truman</u> appears before a joint session of Congress and commits US support to Greece and Turkey, declaring it the policy of the United States to "support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." (Wikipedia, "Truman Doctrine")
- 1947, March 21 A cigar-shaped object with smoke coming from its tail is seen flying from east to west at considerable height over southern Sweden by several witnesses. It looks metallic and is about 60 feet long, flying slowly. The object seems to turn around and fly back eastward briefly. ("Phantom Bomb' Returns to Skies over Sweden," New York Times, March 22, 1947, p. 8; Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2000, p. 9)
- 1947, April The June 1947 issue of *Amazing Stories* is devoted in its entirety to "proofs" of <u>Richard Shaver</u>'s claims and includes four of his novellas. <u>Vincent Gaddis</u> has written a prescient article on UFOs, titled "Visitors from the Void." (David Halperin, "<u>The Shaver Mystery—Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Quest for Lemuria (Part 2),</u>" July 11, 2014; Richard S. Shaver, "<u>Formula from the Underworld</u>," *Amazing Stories* 21, no. 6 (June 1947): 10–29; Vincent H. Gaddis, "Visitors from the Void," *Amazing Stories* 21, no. 6 (June 1947): 159–161)
- 1947, April 11:00 a.m. US Weather Bureau meteorologist Walter A. Minczewski watches a silvery disc through a theodolite while tracking a ceiling balloon in Richmond, Virginia. It is traveling east to west at less than 15,000 feet and has a flat bottom and a dome on top. (NICAP, "Silvery Disc Seen through Theodolite"; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 62; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st—June 23rd, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 17–21; Sparks, p. 16)
- 1947, April 15 The US Naval Attaché in Stockholm issues a secret intelligence report, "Sweden: Guided Missiles, Alleged Rockets over Sweden." Both the naval and military attachés agree that there is nothing to the ghost rocket episode. No foreign missiles have overflown or landed in Sweden, according to the evidence available. "Swedish officials prefer to dismiss it as an unexplained press sensation." (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2000, p. 16)
- 1947, April 16 Presidential advisor <u>Bernard Baruch</u> delivers a speech, written by journalist <u>Herbert Bayard Swope</u>, that uses the term "Cold War" for the first time. He declares, "Let us not be deceived: We are today in the midst of a cold war." Newspaper columnist <u>Walter Lippmann</u> gives the term wide currency with his 1947 book *The Cold War*. (Wikipedia, "<u>Cold war (term)</u>")
- 1947, April 17 Col. Oliver G. Haywood Jr. of the Atomic Energy Commission writes a memorandum to Harold A.

  Fidler at the Clinton Engineer Works in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, saying: "It is desired that no document be released which refers to experiments with humans and might have adverse effect on public opinion or result in legal suits.

  Documents covering such work should be classified 'secret.'" (Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, memo, "Documents Retrieved from Oak Ridge Operations: The Atomic Energy Commission's Declassification Review of Reports on Human Experiments and the Public Relations and Legal Liability Consequences," December 6, 1994; Wikipedia, "Unethical human experimentation in the United States")
- 1947, Late April or early May 12:05 p.m. Mrs. William Down and Mrs. H. G. Olavick of Tucson, Arizona, see an unusual, fleecy cloud in an otherwise cloudless sky. Moving around it in "yo-yo fashion" are a number of small discs with a dull-white finish. They move up and down and sideways, occasionally disappearing into or behind the cloud. They watch the objects for 5–7 minutes, then all the discs disappear above the cloud, while a larger object emerges from the cloud and moves eastward. Behind it comes a V-formation of nine of the smaller discs, which then climbs at high speed toward the northeast and disappears in 2–3 seconds. The witnesses assume the objects are some new type of aircraft. (Bloecher, p. ix; Herbert S. Taylor, "Satellite Objects and Cloud Cigars," *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 4)
- 1947, May 9:00 p.m. Harry Bentrup Jr. is on his porch in Jennings, Missouri, when a circular object surrounded by a ring of luminous green lights swoops in quickly from the east, hovers above him for 15 seconds, then takes off to the west. (MUFON case file)

- **1947**, May 1? Mrs. W. C. Clark of Memphis, Tennessee, watches two objects "like tennis balls" fly over her yard. ("Three Memphians Say They Saw Objects," *Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal*, July 7, 1947, p. 2)
- 1947, May 1 Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter replaces Hoyt Vandenberg as Director of Central Intelligence.
- 1947, May 5 <u>Hillenkoetter</u> writes to <u>Baruch</u>, saying that his CIRES plan is "on the verge of being put into effect." (Jan Aldrich)
- **1947,** May 10 Rose Slawuta of Newark, New Jersey, sees a shining, elliptical object with a gold band around it approaching from the west. (*Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger*, July 7, 1947; Bloecher, <u>p. I-2</u>)
- 1947, May 14 8:30 p.m. A spherical object 3-4 feet in diameter is seen over Budapest, Hungary, passing southeast to northwest at about 3,000 feet altitude in a flat trajectory. (Allied Control Commission for Hungary; George Mitrovic, *The Gateways to the Gods*, Kindle, 2012)
- 1947, May 15 4:11 p.m. A Hermes test missile (V-2) at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, goes off course and lands 6 miles east of Alamogordo five and a half minutes after launch. Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner blames "peculiar phenomena" for the accident. The official explanation is that the V-2 had a defective fin. Trade consultant and former state representative Jon Andrew Kissner finds evidence in 1994 that possibly another object was seen in the vicinity of the rocket after the launch that might have been responsible for the failed test. ("V-2 Goes Astray, Lands in Six Miles of Alamogordo," Las Cruces (N.Mex.) Sun-News, May 16, 1947, p. 1; Good Need, pp. 55–57; Wikipedia, "Hermes program")
- 1947, May 17 or 19 8:30 p.m. <u>Byron B. Savage</u>, an RCA field engineer, sees a frosty-white or silvery elliptical object about the size of a B-29 heading northwest at 10,000 feet over Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at three times the speed of a jet (about 1,800 mph). After it noiselessly passes overhead, he hears a sound "like the rushing of air." (NICAP, "Round and Flat Object Observed by Field Engineer"; "Whatever That Object Was, Sooner Says He Saw One," *Miami (Okla.) Daily News-Record*, June 26, 1947, p. 7; *Oklahoma City Times*, June 26, 1947; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st—June 23rd, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 27–28; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 16)
- 1947, May 19 Around 12:30 p.m. Navy veteran <u>Dean A. Hauser</u> and six other Pike's Peak Railway workers (including Ted Weigand, Marion Hisshouse, T. J. Smith, L. D. Jamison) at Manitou Springs, Colorado, are taking a lunch break when they watch a silver object come in from the northwest, hover overhead, and gyrate at 1,000 feet. The UFO is moving "erratically in wide circles" and reflects light like it is made of metal. After 20 minutes it disappears in a straight line to the west-northwest. ("Manitou Vets Relate Story: Another 'Disk' Seen," *Denver Post*, June 28, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, <u>p. I-1</u>; Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 January 1st–June 23rd, Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2000, pp. 29–30)
- 1947, Late May 11:00 a.m. Colden R. Battey, a physician from Augusta, Georgia, is fishing 10 miles off St. Helena Sound, near Beaufort, South Carolina. He notices a formation of four disc-like objects flying overhead in a southeasterly direction at a terrific rate of speed. The discs appear to be spinning on their axes and are at an estimated altitude of 20,000 feet. They are silvery and appear highly polished, and on their undersides Battey can see a circular rim or projection, about one-quarter of the way from the edges. No sound is heard as they fly overhead. The formation speeds out of view in less than 20 seconds. (NICAP, "Four Discs Flying Overhead"; Bloecher, p. I-2)
- 1947, May 29 7:30 p.m. A Hermes II test missile (a modified V-2) is launched from White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico to test the "Organ," a series of ramjet air intakes designed to take pressure measurements. The missile travels south instead of north and lands in the Tepeyac Cemetery, 3 miles south of Juárez, Mexico, creating an international incident. It leaves a crater 50 feet wide and 24 feet deep. German scientists Wernher von Braun and Ernst Steinhoff are conducting the test. (Wikipedia, "Hermes program"; J. Terry White, "The Hermes II Incident," White Eagle Aerospace, May 2, 2011)
- **1947**, June The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* puts the first illustration of its Doomsday Clock on the cover of the June issue. Set at seven minutes before midnight, the clock becomes a metaphor for threats to humanity from unchecked technological advances. (Wikipedia, "Doomsday Clock")
- **1947**, June AMC civilian engineer W. R. Presley takes a muddy photo of a UFO at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It is most likely a photographic flaw. (*Hynek UFO Report*, p. 142)
- 1947, June 2 Private pilot <u>Forrest Wenyon</u> is flying over Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and sees a silvery, jar-shaped object cross in front of his plane. It has a silver-white, fiery exhaust. (NICAP, "<u>Jar-Shaped Object Crosses in Front of Aircraft</u>"; Bloecher, p. III-9; Sparks, p. 16)
- 1947, June 4 Project Mogul flight number 4 is allegedly launched (unofficially or unsuccessfully or delayed or without a Rawin target) from Alamogordo Army Air Field, but there is no evidence that it can account for the debris later found on <a href="Mack Brazel">Mack Brazel</a>'s ranch near Corona, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, "The Project Mogul Flights and

- Roswell," *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23; Robert J. Durant, "Project Mogul Still a Flight of Fancy," *IUR* 26, no. 1 (Spring 2001): 17–27; David Rudiak, "The Phony Mogul Balloon Trajectory," 2002; Kevin D. Randle, "Mogul and Roswell," A Different Perspective," July 11, 2013; Kevin D. Randle, "A Few Facts about Project Mogul," A Different Perspective, August 12, 2013; Kevin D. Randle, "Truth about Mogul," A Different Perspective, April 4, 2016; Kevin D. Randle, "Mogul Flight No. 4: The End," A Different Perspective, November 27, 2022)
- **1947,** June 5 US Secretary of State <u>George C. Marshall</u> gives an address at the Harvard University commencement in which he offers American aid in a sweeping plan to invest in and promote post-war European recovery and reconstruction. (Wikipedia, "<u>Marshall Plan</u>")
- 1947, June 9 A still-unlocated air intelligence summary is released, alleging that the Soviets in eastern Siberia are producing (or may be able to produce) 1,400 (or 1,800) aircraft based on the <a href="Horten brothers">Horten brothers</a>' VIII-type, low-aspect, disc-shaped design by 1952. A Russian aviation historian thinks that the factories in question are at the time producing copies of the German Messerschmidt Me 262 jet fighter. A correct, more detailed summary of the intelligence report is published in December 1948 in Air Intelligence Report Number 100-203-79, "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S." (Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, June 10 3:30 p.m. Gyorik Ferenc and others on Arena Street [modern Dózsa György út] in Budapest, Hungary, watch four yellow-red discs moving toward the northwest in a straight-line formation for about 30 seconds. They are about 165 feet apart. The objects make a small arc around a corner of a park before disappearing. (Project Blue Book record; Joe Brill, "UFO's behind the Iron Curtain," Skylook, no. 76 (March 1974): 8)
- 1947, June 12 6:15 p.m. <u>Lovena Erickson</u> sees two high-speed, round objects at a high altitude over Weiser, Idaho. They move up and down twice and leave a vapor trail that persists for more than an hour. (NICAP, "<u>June 12</u>, <u>1947, Weiser, Idaho</u>"; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 17; US National Archives, Record Group 341, "<u>Weiser, Idaho, June 1947</u>"; Bloecher, p. <u>II-8</u>)
- 1947, June 18 Day. E. H. Sprinkle is one of a half-dozen Eugene, Oregon, residents who spot a formation of round objects "racing overhead" on a course to the northeast. Watching from Skinner's Butte outside town. Sprinkle takes a snapshot of the objects with an inexpensive camera as they race over. Enlargements of the photograph show "seven dots" in a formation "shaped like an X or a Y, lined up across the sky." Newspaper photographers say the dots "might be a fault in the developing process" that sometimes appears on a negative that has not been agitated properly in the developer. ("Local Man Asserts Flights Seen Here," Eugene (Oreg.) Guard, June 26, 1947, p. 1; "Others Report Flying Discs," Salem (Oreg.) Capital Journal, June 27, 1947, p. 13; "Reports of Puzzling 'Discs' Flying over Cascades Come from Northwest Residents," Roseburg (Oreg.) News-Review, June 27, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. IV-3)
- 1947, June 19 USAAF Col. <u>Albert Boyd</u> reaches a world airspeed record of 624 mph in a Lockheed P-80R Shooting Star at Muroc AFB [later Edwards AFB], California. (Wikipedia, "<u>Albert Boyd</u>")
- 1947, June 19 Maj. Gen. <u>Stephen Chamberlin</u>, head of War Department Intelligence, authorizes three electronic signals intelligence flights between July 1 and August 1 to look for radio signals over the Baltic Sea. The Swedish military is told that they are training flights. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, June 21 11:55 a.m. <u>Guy R. Overman</u> watches several silvery objects moving below a plane at Spokane, Washington. (NICAP, "<u>Eight Disc-Shaped Objects As Big As a House</u>"; Bloecher, p. II-18; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 17)
- 1947, June 21 Log salvager Harold A. Dahl is patrolling east of Maury Island, Washington, with his 15-year-old son Charles and two crewmen when he allegedly sees six doughnut-shaped objects. Five of them are circling the sixth, which seems distressed. When it is directly above the boat at 500 feet, it supposedly spews some hot slag-like material that breaks Charles's arm and kills his dog. Dahl claims he filmed the objects. (Wikipedia, "Maury Island hoax"; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 24–40; Ruppelt, pp. 24–27; Clark III 721; John A. Keel, "The Maury Island Caper," *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 40–43; Brian Dunning, "Maury Island: The Government's Alien Artifacts," Skeptoid podcast, no. 820, February 22, 2022)
- 1947, June 22 <u>Dahl</u> claims he is visited by a mysterious dark-suited man who knows all about the sighting. He tells his associate <u>Fred L. Crisman</u>, and they allegedly go to the beach to pick up fragments. Dahl mails <u>Ray Palmer</u> in Chicago, Illinois, some fragments. (Brian Burden, "<u>MIBs and the Intelligence Community</u>," *Awareness* 9, no. 1 (Spring 1980): 6–7, 11–13; J. B. Delair, "<u>Some Observations on the Previous Article</u>," *Awareness* 9, no. 1 (Spring 1980): 13–17; Clark III 721; Kenn Thomas, *Maury Island UFO: The Crisman Conspiracy*, IllumiNet, 1999; Charlette LeFevre and Philip Lipson, "<u>The Maury Island UFO Incident</u>," February 2014)
- 1947, June 22 <u>Edward Louis DeRose</u> in Greenfield, Massachusetts, sees a small, round-shaped, silvery-white object moving in a northwesterly direction faster than a speeding plane at an estimated altitude of 1,000 feet. The object stays in view for 8–10 seconds until obscured by a cloud bank. It reflects the sunlight strongly as if is made of

- polished aluminum or silver. (Air Force Base Intelligence Report, "<u>Flying Discs</u>," July 30, 1947; Kevin D. Randle, "Roswell, Nathan Twining, and the Mini-EOTS," A Different Perspective, October 6, 2014)
- 1947, June 22 3:30 p.m. <u>G. Oliver Dickson</u> sees a shiny disc "a little like a blimp" flying north to south about 3,000 feet above Mount Franklin just north of El Paso, Texas. He estimates it is about 40 feet across and 5 feet thick. ("More El Pasoans Report Seeing 'Flying Discs' in Southwest," *El Paso (Tex.) Times*, June 29, 1947, pp. 1–2)
- 1947, June 22 Evening. Yale University astrophysicist <u>Lyman Spitzer</u> is speaking on WTIC radio in Hartford, Connecticut, and speculates that if life on Mars developed a bit earlier than on earth, it is possible that Martians have been civilized for millions of years. "Unless they had spent some time in a large city or had landed sufficiently recently to be photographed, we would have no record of their being here," he says, and that "any few men who had seen them would probably not be believed by anyone else." ("Mars May Be Peopled, Says Yale Speaker." Hartford (Conn.) Courant, June 23, 1947, p. 1; Clark III 455)
- 1947, June 23 Afternoon. Disabled stunt pilot Richard Rankin views 10 flat, circular objects flying in a V-formation over his house in Bakersfield, California. About two hours later, 7 of the objects are seen flying in the opposite direction. ("Pilot Recalls Seeing Discs," *Portland Oregonian*, July 3, 1947, p. 11, via FBI files, p. 15; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, 1952, pp. 69–71; Bloecher, p. II-3; Sparks, p. 17; Kevin D. Randle, "More Pre-Arnold UFO Sightings," A Different Perspective, June 30, 2013)
- 1947, June 23 9:30 p.m. <u>Richard L. Bitters</u> and his wife <u>Martha</u> are returning from a movie in Wapakoneta, Ohio, when they see a saucer-like object flying an uneven course in the sky. ("<u>Saucer Just Didn't Fit Editor's Idea of a 'Scoop,</u>" Madison *Wisconsin State Journal*, July 7, 1947, p. 2; Bloecher, <u>p. III-6</u>)
- 1947, June 24 (or 30) Afternoon. Bill Schuening, a farmer, is driving his pickup truck down a remote rural road 25 miles north of Pendleton, Oregon, when he hears a loud humming sound. Coming over a rise, he sees in a nearby field a large disc-shaped object hovering 5–6 feet off the ground. He can also see two short (3 feet tall) figures wearing green suits and white helmets standing underneath the object. The figures suddenly vanish, and the craft then shoots towards the Columbia River, makes a big circle, and flies towards the mountains. (NICAP, "Man Sees Figures Standing near Disc"; "Two Pendleton Residents Tell of Mystery Discs," Klamath Falls (Oreg.) Herald and News, June 30, 1947, p. 1; "Stories of UFOs Started in Pendleton 40 Years Ago." Pendleton East Oregonian, June 24, 1987, via UFO Newsclipping Service, no. 219 (October 1987): 10; Clark III 267; Patrick Gross, URECAT, November 7, 2018)
- 1947, June 24 1:50 p.m. Railroad engineer Charles Kastl sees 9 or 10 spinning discs in the air about 12 miles east of Joliet, Illinois. They are a string of flat circular objects "going faster than anything I've ever seen." Kastl can see no connecting link between them, but they act as though the leading disc has a motor in it to power the others, because when it flips, the others do as well. When it rights itself, the others also right themselves. ("Flying Discs Seen by Railroad Man," Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette, June 28, 1947, p. 2; NICAP, "Engineer Reports 10 Shiny Flat Discs"; Kevin D. Randle, "The June 23, 1947 UFO Sighting," A Different Perspective, March 20, 2013)
- 1947, June 24 3:00 p.m. Boise, Idaho, businessman Kenneth Arnold, flying his CallAir Model A-2 from Chehalis to Yakima, Washington, sees a string of nine objects flying in an echelon formation past Mount Rainier. Washington. At first he assumes they are jets, but he can see no trails. They cover the 50-mile distance between Rainier and another peak in 1 minute 42 seconds. He estimates their speed to be at least 1,200 mph. The objects swerve in and out of the smaller peaks, flipping from side to side in unison, dipping, and presenting their lateral surfaces, which reflect the bright sunlight and cause the flashes he saw earlier. They are in view for about two and a half minutes and are last seen heading south over the last high peak of Mount Adams. Arnold tells the airport staff about it in Yakima at 4:00 p.m. and they call ahead to Pendleton, Oregon, to alert them of Arnold's arrival at an air show and his story. A large crowd awaits him, and a discussion follows. The consensus is that Arnold has seen guided missiles. But no such technology exists at the time that can match the objects' description and performance, and the late 1990s explanation that Arnold observed a flight of white pelicans is equally improbable. Researcher Martin Shough concludes in 2010: "Examination of the sighting report in detail improves its evident internal consistency, rather than degrading it, and study of the principal contending explanations reveals that they are each very much less attractive when tried out in quantitative detail against the best information than they may appear at first sight." (Wikipedia, "Kenneth Arnold UFO Sighting"; [Project Blue Book file]; NICAP, "Kenneth Arnold Sighting"; Center for UFO Studies, [clippings and reports]; "Mystery Airplanes' Seen near Mt. Rainier," Corvallis (Oreg.) Gazette-Times, June 25, 1947, p. 1; Kenneth Arnold, "I Did See the Flying Disks!" Fate 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 4–10; Kenneth Arnold, *The Flying Saucer As I Saw It*, The author, 1950; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, The Coming of the Saucers, Palmer, 1952, pp. 9–13; Bloecher, p. I-2–3; Patrick Gross, "The Kenneth Arnold Sighting, June 24, 1947"; Kim Hansen, "UFO Casebook," UFOs 1947–1987, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 48–53; John A. Keel, "Kenneth Arnold and the F.B.I.," Flying Saucer Review 32, no. 5 (August 1987): 2–12; Pierre Lagrange, "It Seems Impossible, but There It Is," in John Spencer and Hilary Evans, eds., *Phenomenon:*

From Flying Saucers to UFOs—Forty Years of Facts and Research, Futura Publications, 1988, pp. 26–45; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947, The Author, February 1991, pp. 5–9; Steuart Campbell, The UFO Mystery Solved, Explicit Books, 1994, pp. 98–108; Bruce Maccabee, "The Arnold Phenomenon: Part One," IUR 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 14-17; Bruce Maccabee, "The Arnold Phenomenon: Part Two," IUR 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 10-13, 24; Bruce Maccabee, "The Arnold Phenomenon: Part Three," IUR 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 6–7: Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947, Rose Press, 1998, pp. 14–22; "Saturday Night Uforia: The Positively True Story of Kenneth Arnold," Daily Kos, parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence, Dell, 2000, pp. 54–59; Bruce Maccabee, "June 24, 1947: How It All Began, the Story of the Arnold Sighting," 2002; Martin Shough, "The Singular Adventure of Mr. Kenneth Arnold," June 2010; Martin Shough, "Return of the Flying Saucers: A Fresh Look at the Sighting That Started It All," in Darklore, Volume 5, Daily Grail, October 2010; Martin S. Kottmeyer, "Joining Shough's Singular Adventure," SUNlite 2, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2010): 27–28; "Mt. Rainier, WA CE-II Case of 6-24-1947: Kenneth Arnold Phone Interview," Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Megan Garber, "The Man Who Introduced the World to Flying Saucers," The Atlantic, June 15, 2014; Bruce Maccabee, Three Minutes in June: The UFO Sighting That Changed the World, The Author, 2017; Nigel Watson, "Was It a Bird? Was It a Plane?" Fortean Times 355 (July 2017): 46-49; Clark III 169; Graff 4-5; Condorman, "What Did Kenneth Arnold Really Witness in 1947?" Liberation Times, September 2, 2024)

- 1947, June 24 3:30 p.m. Idaho Lieutenant Governor <u>Donald S. Whitehead</u> and Justice of the Peace <u>Jacob M. Lampert</u> see an object with a brilliant head and a smoky tail from an office window in downtown Boise, Idaho. It dips from view after about 20 minutes. ("<u>Whitehead, Lampert, Join 'Disc List,"</u> Boise *Idaho Statesman*, July 3, 1947, p. 9; Bloecher, <u>pp. III-18–19</u>)
- 1947, June 24 Afternoon. Fred M. Johnson, a prospector in the Mount Adams, Washington, area, sees 5-6 oval objects with tails about 30 feet in diameter. He watches one through a telescope. They are not flying in any sort of formation and as they bank in a turn, the sunlight flashes off them. As they approach, Johnson notices that his compass begins to spin wildly. When the objects finally vanish in the distance, the compass returns to normal. Johnson's report is the very first "unidentified" case in the Project Sign files. (NICAP, "Prospector Compass Incident"; Sparks, p. 17; Bloecher, p. IV-3; Schopick, pp. 1–2; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947, The Author, February 1991, pp. 48-49; Olsen, sec. 3, p. 2; Project 1947, "UFO Documents, 1947"; Clark III 170–171; Bruce Maccabee, "The Arnold Phenomenon: Part Three," IUR 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 6–7; Martin Shough, "The Singular Adventure of Mr. Kenneth Arnold," June 2010, pp. 106, 109–110; Randle, Levelland, 2021, pp. 58–59)
- 1947, June 25 Kenneth Arnold goes to the East Oregonian office in Pendleton, Oregon, and speaks with reporters Nolan Skiff and William C. Bequette. Arnold says the "saucer-like" objects were racing over the Cascade Mountains with a peculiar weaving motion "like the tail of a Chinese kite." Bill Bequette writes the first saucer news story for the newspaper. He does not use the term "flying saucer," but headline writers in other papers use it (such as the Philadelphia Inquirer on June 26), and reporters start picking it up. ("Impossible! Maybe, But Seein" Is Believin', Says Flier," Pendleton East Oregonian, June 25, 1947, p. 1; "Flying Saucers Puzzle Pilot," Philadelphia Inquirer, June 26, 1947, p. 1; Clark III 170; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, The Coming of the Saucers, 1952, Palmer, pp. 13–15; Pierre Lagrange, "A Moment in History: An Interview with Bill Bequette," IUR 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 15, 20; "Saturday Night Uforia: 'It Seems Impossible—But There It Is," Daily Kos, April 18, 2009; Phil Wright, "The Sighting," Portland East Oregonian, June 16, 2017)
- 1947, June 25 Shortly after 12:00 noon. W. I. Davenport is working on the roof of a house at 82nd Street and Holmes Road in Kansas City, Missouri, when he hears the sound of a motor. Looking up, he sees 9 objects approaching from the east. They are aluminum-colored and leave vapor trails. ("Puzzle in Sky Whiz," Kansas City (Mo.) Star, June 26, 1947, p. 6)
- 1947, June 26 2:00 a.m. Mrs. J. M. Harrison watches a large fireball pass toward the northwest from her residence at 4639 South Oakenwald, Chicago, Illinois. It breaks up into two dozen small discs that whirl around rapidly. ("<u>Dr. Urey Scoffs at 'Atom Angle' to Flying Disks</u>," *Chicago Tribune*, July 6, 1947, p. 8)
- 1947, June 26 <u>Kenneth Arnold</u> is interviewed live on KWRC radio in Pendleton, Oregon, by broadcaster <u>Theodore A.</u> "<u>Ted" Smith</u>. (Patrick Gross, "<u>About the June 25, 1947, Interview on WKPG Radio by Bill Bequette</u>"; "<u>Kenneth Arnold Interviewed by Bill Bequette</u> [actually Ted Smith]," Nutsandbolts UFO YouTube channel, December 12, 2010)
- **1947,** June 26 Northrop delivers a second four-engine XB-35 flying wing aircraft to Muroc AFB [now Edwards AFB], California. (Wikipedia, "Northrop YB-35")

- 1947, June 27 9:50 a.m. Mrs. W. B. Cummings is driving about 5 miles southeast of San Antonio, New Mexico, when she sees a bright silver object descending quickly in the east. It leaves a short white trail. White Sands officials say there has been no missile testing since June 12. ("More El Pasoans Report Seeing 'Flying Discs' in Southwest," El Paso (Tex.) Times, June 29, 1947, p. 1)
- **1947**, June 27 Pentagon Army AF Public Relations Officer Capt. Tom Brown says the army has no idea what the discs are. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs*, *a History: Volume 1*, *1947*, The Author, February 1991, p. 16)
- 1947, June 27 In a United Press dispatch from Pendleton, Oregon, Kenneth Arnold expresses frustration over the furor that his saucer sighting has caused. A preacher has called him from Texas to say that the flying discs are "harbinger of doomsday." A woman recognizes Arnold in a Pendleton café and runs out shrieking that he is "the man who saw the men from Mars." He says the whole thing has gotten out of hand: "Half the people I see look at me as a combination Einstein, Flash Gordon, and screwball. I wonder what my wife back in Idaho thinks." ("Report of 'Flying Saucers' Causes Furor; Texas Preacher Calls Flock for World's End," Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, June 27, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, June 27 Day. Capt. Robert D. Dwan, a pilot out of Alamogordo Army Air Field [now Holloman AFB], New Mexico, is flying a private plane near Engle, New Mexico, at 3,000 feet, when he looks down and sees a "ball of fire, with a fiery blue tail behind it." The object is about 2,000 feet below him, and he is "certain it is a meteorite." The object disintegrates as he watches it. (Bloecher, pp. III-9-10)
- 1947, June 27 Afternoon. Clyde Homan sees two groups of loosely bunched objects, rocking back and forth as they fly noiselessly above Woodland, Washington. The objects are bright, flat, and moving at an estimated 600 mph. (NICAP, "Two UFO Groups Sighted"; "Woodland Man Sights Disks at Close Range," Portland *Oregon Journal*, June 28, 1947; "More Folks Declare They Saw 'Saucers," *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News*, June 29, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, pp. II-1–2)
- 1947, June 28 1:15 p.m. Lieut. <u>Eric B. Armstrong</u>, flying an F-51 at 6,000 feet 30 miles north of Lake Mead, Nevada, sees a formation of 5–6 objects streak by his plane. They are in close formation at an estimated speed of 285 mph. (NICAP, "Formation of 5–6 Objects Head toward P-51"; Bloecher, p. III-10; Sparks, p. 17)
- 1947, June 28 9:20 p.m. Two pilots and two intelligence officers (Capt. Wilson H. Kayko, Capt. John H. Cantrell, 1st Lt. Theodore Dewey, and Capt. Redman) at Maxwell Field [now Maxwell AFB] in Montgomery, Alabama, see a bright light zigzagging across the sky for 25 minutes. When it is directly overhead, the UFO makes a sharp 90° turn and disappears to the south. (NICAP, "Object Zig-Zags with Bursts of Speed"; Bloecher, p. III-3; Sparks, p. 18)
- 1947, June 29 1:15 p.m. Carl J. Zohn, a guided missile expert with the Naval Research Laboratory, is 20 miles east-northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico, to observe a V-2 rocket launch scheduled for July 3. Between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m., he is riding out to the testing grounds with John R. Kauke and NRL scientist Curtis C. Rockwood (and his wife Nancy) when they see a silvery disc flying at 8,000–10,000 feet. It has no appendages, wings, tail, or propellers. After about 60 seconds it disappears. (NICAP, "Naval Research Lab Rocket Scientists See Silver Discs"; "Reports from Experts Lend More Serious View to 'Discs," Washington (D.C.) Evening Star, July 8, 1947; "Stiff Necks-Goggle Eyes Order of the Day As 'Discs' Continue," Clovis (N.Mex.) News-Journal, July 8, 1947, p. 1; "War Department Is Puzzled about Flying Saucers Too; Army Keeping an Open Mind," Reno Nevada State Journal, July 9, 1947, p. 7; Bloecher, p. III-18; Sparks, p. 18; Evelyne Tsezana, "Grandpa Zohn Saw UFOs in New Mexico," Geni, April 6, 2011; Curt Collins, "UFOs and Autos," The Saucers That Time Forgot, January 11, 2024)
- **1947,** June 30 9:10 a.m. Naval Lt. William G. McGinty is flying a P-80 from Williams AFB [now Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport], Arizona, near the Grand Canyon when he observes two circular objects diving at inconceivable speed and landing 25 miles south of the canyon. (NICAP, "P-80 Pilot Sees Circular Objects Dive and Land"; Bloecher, p. II-12; Sparks, p. 18)
- 1947, June 30 Eighth Air Force Brig. Gen. Roger M. Ramey and intelligence officer Col. Alfred Kalberer hold a press conference in Fort Worth, Texas, on the flying discs. Ramey thinks people are "seeing heat waves." Kalberer labels the sightings as "Buck Rogers stuff." (Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, p. 17)
- **1947**, Summer Naval Cmdr. <u>L. H. Witherspoon</u> sees a disc-shaped UFO flash over the airport at Pittsburg, Kansas. (UFOEv, p. 30)
- 1947, July Around this time the Air Force Research and Development office of the Air Materiel Command organizes an informal project at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, to collect UFO reports in the interests of national security. The project officer at Wright Field is Lt. Col. Edward G. Nabell Jr. (Sparks, p. 13)

- 1947, Early July A cyclist near Amfreville-la-Mi-Voie, Seine-Maritime, France, encounters an oval object, 10 feet long and 5 feet high, resting on the road 100 feet in front of her. Two small beings dressed in outfits and headgear are busy around it. When she honks her horn, the entities scurry into the object, entering it through a 20-inch opening. The UFO rises, oscillates, and streaks away. (Clark III 267; Patrick Gross, URECAT, August 81, 2006)
- **1947**, July 1 Day. Animal ecologist <u>Charles K. Gunn</u>, his wife <u>Edna</u>, and two passengers are driving near North Bedeque, Prince Edward Island, when they see a bright, shapeless object speeding along in the sky for 30 seconds. (Bloecher, p. III-18)
- **1947,** July 1 A target is picked up on radar at Chitose Air Base, Hokkaido, Japan, moving 16 miles north at speeds in excess of 500 mph. The blip instantly reverses course four times, breaks into two objects, then merges into one again. (Col. James F. Olive Jr., "Radar Pick-Ups of High-Speed Targets in the Far East," Memorandum for Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Washington, D.C., September 26, 1947)
- 1947, July 1 Col. <u>Alfred Kalberer</u> holds another press conference in Fort Worth, Texas, and brings astronomer <u>Oscar Monnig</u> along to comment that the discs are "an interesting study in human psychology." (Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 23–24)</u>
- 1947, July 1 Night. Albuquerque, New Mexico, Chamber of Commerce official Max Hood sees a bluish disc zigzagging for about 30 seconds. (Bloecher, p. III-17; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 23)
- 1947, July 1 10:10 p.m. Meteorologist Ellwood E. Unger and his wife watch a round, orange, luminous object going about 100 mph after they leave a movie theater in Louisville, Kentucky. ("Here's the Latest Disk Dope—It's Strictly From Unger," Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal, July 3, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. III-2; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th—July 6th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, p. 23)
- 1947, July 1? 11:00 p.m. Mrs. A. M. King is with another passenger on the deck of the Union-Castle Mail <u>SS</u>

  <u>Llandovery Castle</u> as it is steaming through the Mozambique Channel. They notice a star-like object traveling fast toward the ship. It shines a strong beam of light on the water within 150 feet of the ship, then descends, the beam shortening and becoming brighter as it nears the water. Soon the light switches off and they can see a metallic object that looks like a cigar with the end cut off. It remains about 20 feet above the sea, moving parallel with the ship. King estimates it is about four times the length of the ship and four times as tall. After a few seconds, a large flame erupts from the rear of the object. It vanishes soundlessly in the darkness. (Lorenzen, FS Hoax, pp. 18–19; Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horsemen of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History, 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 25–30)</u>
- 1947, July 1–3? According to Annie Jacobsen's informant, EG&G engineer Alfred O'Donnell, the upcoming Roswell, New Mexico, crashes are the result of a psychological warfare operation by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin to fly into US airspace two disc- or wing-shaped aircraft based on a Horton brothers design obtained at the end of World War II. One craft allegedly contains living dwarves or children (human guinea pigs) who had been surgically altered using similar methods to those used in Auschwitz concentration camp by Nazi doctor Josef Mengele. This aircraft is remotely controlled by the crew of the second craft. The idea is to land the first aircraft in a visible location in the US, perhaps in Washington, D.C. The children would exit the craft and present themselves to the highest echelons of the government. However, the two aircraft crash in the New Mexico desert and, he claims, the Atomic Energy Commission is put in charge of the remains. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 367–374; Kremlin 30–36)
- 1947, July 1–3 US Signal Corps radar sites in southern New Mexico and one at Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque allegedly track an object "flitting around" the sky, frequently returning but finally disappearing on the night of July 4. Much of this story originates with now-discredited Roswell witness <a href="Frank Kaufmann">Frank Kaufmann</a>, who claims he was ordered to bring a group of radar experts to Alamogordo to evaluate unexplained radar targets at White Sands Missile Range. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 159; Kevin D. Randle, *A History of UFO Crashes*, Avon, 1995, p. 8; Jim Wilson, "Roswell Plus 50," *Popular Mechanics* 174 (July 1997): 48–53; Kevin D. Randle, "Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, "Frank Kaufmann Exposed," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- **1947,** July 2 8:00 p.m. Spectators at a baseball game at the Cincinnati (Ohio) Milling Machine Company watch two slow-moving discs hovering above the field for 10 minutes. ("100 at Ball Game Tell of Seeing Two Mystery Saucers," Cincinnati (Ohio) Post, July 7, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, July 2 9:50 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. <u>Dan Wilmot</u> see an oval object like two inverted saucers pass over their house moving northwest in Roswell, New Mexico. ("No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed," *Roswell (N.Mex.) Daily Record*, July 8, 1947, p. 1; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 19; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO*

- Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, p. 159; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, "When and Where Did the Roswell Object Crash?" *IUR* 19, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1994): 13–14; Patrick Gross, "Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot," April 24, 2017; Patrick Gross, "Paul Wilmot," April 25, 2017)
- 1947, July 3 8:55 a.m. William F. LeFevre watches a shiny, mirror-like disc zoom over River Drive near West 8th Street in Denver, Colorado, at several thousand feet and make a 45° turn before vanishing toward the southwest. (*Denver Post*, July 5, 1947; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947*, Rose Press, 1998, p. 44)
- **1947,** July 3 Morning. Project Mogul Flight number 8, a cluster of plastic balloons, is launched from Holloman AFB, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, "<u>The Project Mogul Flights and Roswell,</u>" *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23)
- 1947, July 3 2:30 p.m. Amateur astronomer John F. Cole watches a group of 10 objects moving northwest near Harborside, Maine, at 600–1,200 mph. Each is 50–150 feet wide. The objects are milling about in loose formation like a "swarm of bees" for 10–15 seconds. (NICAP, "Astronomer Observes Ten Large Objects"; Bloecher, p. III-18; Sparks, p. 19; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 60)
- 1947, July 3 The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reports that the Air Research Center at Wright Field, Ohio, and the army intelligence service are looking into the flying discs. An INS dispatch states that Commander of the Army Air Force Gen. Carl Spaatz has asked Wright Field to look into such reports. Air Materiel Command's Lt. Gen. Nathan F. Twining tells *Idaho Evening Statesman* reporter David N. Johnson that officials are indeed looking into the discs and that Wright Field has no comparable technology. Lieut. William C. Anderson, Wright Field public relations officer, says there is no confirmation that the discs exist. Maj. Paul Gaynor says the Army Air Force needs more concrete information. German scientists working at Wright Field are asked about the discs, but they say they have heard nothing about any such experiments in Europe. ("Army Gets Around to Checking 'Flying Discs' and Is Mystified," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, July 3, 1947, p. 1; Dave Johnson, "AAF Investigates Reports of Mysterious Air Objects," Boise *Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 3, 1947, pp. 1, 9; "Military Says 'No Results' in Disc Probe," Boise *Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 4, 1947, p. 2; "Weird 'Flying Saucers' Seen over 10 States," *New York Daily News*, July 4, 1947, Final ed., p. 8; "Flying Disc Riddle Baffles Officials," *Long Beach (Calif.) Independent*, July 4, 1947, pp. 1, 5)
- 1947, July 3 5:45 p.m. Farmer Ewen McNeill in Village Green, east of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, sees a black, rocket-shaped projectile trailing a blindingly white flame and a smoke trail pass overhead as he is working his fields. It seems to be flying at 10,000 feet and is visible for 15 seconds. Around the same time, a resident of Augustine Cove watches an "object the size of an apple" traveling south at high speed. ("Saucers' Coast-to-Coast Giving Canadians Headache," Windsor (Ont.) Daily Star, July 7, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, p. II-17; Chris Rutkowski, Canada's UFOs: Declassified, August Night, 2022, p. 64)
- 1947, July 3 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Walter Johnson and her family see 8–9 discs flying out of the southern sky 6 miles west of Saint Maries, Idaho, over the St. Joe River. The objects came in "very fast, slow down jerkily, then flutter to the ground like leaves." Mrs. Johnson thinks the objects are about the size of a "five-room house." When they reach a clearing in the timber, they appear to "settle down" a few at a time. Mrs. Johnson reports the sighting to intelligence officers at the Spokane Army Air Base [now Fairchild AFB], and an intensive air search is carried out by two missions of the National Guard's 116th Fighter Group. Local sheriff's deputies also make a ground search, but no traces of a landing can be found. ("Saucer' Reports Increase As Sky Is Searched in Vain," Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review, July 7, 1947, pp. 1, 6; "Dishman Residents Saw 'Flying Saucers' Land," Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review, July 7, 1947, p. 6; Bloecher, p. II-12)
- **1947,** July 3 7:30 p.m. Project Mogul Flight number 9, a cluster of plastic balloons, is launched from Holloman AFB, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, "<u>The Project Mogul Flights and Roswell,</u>" *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23)
- **1947,** July 4 3:00 a.m. Lenora Woodruff wakes up in her home at 184 S. Arlington Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey, when several airplanes fly overhead. She looks out and sees a "strange goldenish platter" moving swiftly across the sky. It disappears in a second. ("South Plainfield Woman Reports Seeing 'Flying Saucer' Formation," *Bridgewater (N.J.) Courier-News*, July 5, 1947, p.1)
- 1947, July 4 After 4:00 a.m. Mrs. Martin Kole is awakened in her home in Alexandria, Virginia, by something shining through her bedroom window. She sees a large, round object hovering in the southwestern sky. She watches it for a few minutes, then goes back to bed. ("Flying Discs' Reported Here As Rumors Pour in Over Nation," Washington (D.C.) Evening Star, July 5, 1947, p. 2; "2 D.C. Area Residents Say They Saw 'Flying Saucers," Washington (D.C.) Evening Star, July 6, 1947, p. 9; Bloecher, p. II-6)

- 1947, July 4 The United Press service rounds up theories about the flying discs. It quotes Army Air Force "experts" saying that the sightings might be caused by weather conditions, or meteorites, or foreign aircraft that it is "our responsibility to know about it and take proper action." Occultist Ole J. Sneide from San Francisco, California, thinks they are "oblate spheroid space ships from other planets" with hidden bases on the dark side of the moon. This is apparently the first public mention of an extraterrestrial origin for flying saucers in the media. ("U.S. Stops Laughing Off' Stories of Flying Disks," Hollywood (Calif.) Citizen-News, July 3, 1947, p. 1; "These Flying Discs? Piffle! It's Old Stuff to Ole Sneide," Palo Alto (Calif.) Peninsula Times Tribune, July 3, 1947, p. 12; "Flying Disks Said 'Space Ships' from Other Solar Systems," Bryan (Tex.) Eagle, July 3, 1947, p. 8; "Buck Rogers Special," Santa Rosa (Calif.) Press Democrat, July 4, 1947, p. 2; Curt Collins, "A 1947 Pioneer of the UFO Extraterrestrial Hypothesis," The Saucers That Time Forgot, December 16, 2021)
- **1947**, July 4 10:30 a.m. CAA official Irving C. Allen is flying a small aircraft near Moscow, Idaho, when he sees a white disc moving north for 5 minutes as it crosses his path several miles in front of him. ("Weird Reports of Seeing Discs Starts Jitters," *Pittston (Pa.) Sunday Dispatch*, July 6, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. III-10)
- 1947, July 4 11:00 a.m. C. J. Bogne and other witnesses in a car near Redmond, Oregon, see four discs flying past Mt. Jefferson on a straight course at high speed. (Ruppelt, p. 20; Bloecher, p. II-9; Sparks, p. 19)
- 1947, July 4 11:00 a.m. Harry Hale, production manager of the *Portland Oregonian*, sees one shiny disc moving swiftly just west of Beaverton, Oregon. ("Air Liner Crew Confirms Flying Disks over State; Many Seen during Day over City," *Portland Oregonian*, July 5, 1947; Project 1947, "UFO Reports, 1947")
- 1947, July 4 1:05–5:30 p.m. Many people in Portland, Oregon—including KOIN newsman Frank Cooley, deputy Clark County Sheriff Fred Krives, Portland police officer Kenneth A. McDowell, and Oregon highway patrol Sgt. Claude Cross—view five large discs moving at high speed to the east, two flying south and three to the east, with an oscillating or wobbling motion, sudden 90° turns or zigzagging. Radio reports alert other officers (including Walter Lissy, Robert Ellis, and Earl Patterson, all WWII veterans) who see the metallic objects that look like a disc or hubcap or pie-pan or half-moon flashing in the sun. No vapor trail or noise (except possible humming) is reported. (NICAP, "Seven Discs Observed by Many Witnesses"; Bloecher, pp. II-9, III-15; Sparks, p. 20; "Air Liner Crew Confirms Flying Discs over State; Many Seen during Day over City," Portland Oregonian, July 5, 1947; Project 1947, "UFO Reports, 1947"; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 58; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign," IUR 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 5)
- 1947, July 4 2:50 p.m. Seven people (among them Winfield and Charity Montooth and Edith May Bush) picnicking at Twin Falls Park, seven miles east of Twin Falls, Idaho, watch a group of discs in a rough V-formation flying at great speed. Ten minutes later, a second flight of 9–10 objects circle overhead in a loose formation. They gain altitude rapidly and move to the west. By 3:10 p.m., when a third flight passed overhead, about 60 people in the park witness 18 or more of the discs circling around before ascending rapidly. In its coverage of this sighting, an unnamed Twin Falls newspaper reporter uses the phrase "unidentified flying objects," apparently for the first time. ("Area Residents Join Many Seeing 'Discs," Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News, July 6, 1947, pp. 1, 6; "Flying Saucer Mystery Grows," Tucson (Ariz.) Daily Citizen, July 5, 1947, p. 4; Bloecher, p. II-5)
- 1947, July 4 5:00 p.m. Nova Hart and his wife Marveline are picnicking off Old Saint Charles Road west of Pattonville, Missouri. They see a saucer-shaped object, ribbed underneath like a "parachute canopy," gliding slowly (50–60 mph) and silently from south to north about 300 feet off the ground. It seems to have a propeller attached to a red conical structure on the bottom and is about 20–25 feet in diameter. ("Flying Saucer' Reported Seen in St. Louis County," St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat, July 6, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. II-14)
- 1947, July 4 After 5:00 p.m. Private pilot Dan Whelan and passenger Duncan Underhill are flying at 5,000 feet west of Long Beach, California, when they see a disc about 2,000 feet above them, traveling at 400–500 mph. They estimate it is 40–50 feet in diameter and flying north-northwest. ("<u>Air Disc' Mystery Grows, Baffles U.S.</u>," *Hollywood (Calif.) Citizen-News*, July 5, 1947, pp. 1, 3; Bloecher, p. III-10)
- 1947, July 4 5:45 p.m. Coast Guard Yeoman Frank Ryman photographs a round disc over his home at 12321 22nd Street NE, Lake City, Seattle, Washington. The object is in sight for 4–5 minutes and is seen by at least 20 others, traveling 500 mph. The photo shows a small, blurred white oval against a background of sky, but when enlarged the object is quite distinct. The Air Force explains it as a weather balloon. ("Observers Report Discs over Entire Western Area," Salt Lake City Deseret News, July 5, 1947, p. 1; UFOEv 87; Bloecher, pp. IV-3–4; London UFO Research Unit, "Seattle, Washington, America, North America"; Kenneth Lloyd Larson, "A Summer 1947 Sighting," IUR 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 19–20; Michael D. Swords, "Can You Learn Anything from UFO Photos, Part Two," The Big Study, July 5, 2012)

- 1947, July 4 6:30 p.m. United Press correspondent John C. Corlett, along with artist V. H. Selby and their wives, see a white disc speeding over Boise, Idaho, at an altitude of about 10,000 feet. It takes about 3 seconds to disappear. ("View of 'Flying Saucers' over Ontario Dumbfounds Veteran Pilot, Other Crew Member of Airliner," *Portland Oregonian*, July 5, 1947; Project 1947, "UFO Reports, 1947")
- **1947,** July 4 7:00 p.m. George Aster and others at Hauser Lake, Idaho, watch a flying disc for 30 minutes as it hovers with a lateral oscillation about 30° above the horizon at an estimated 20,000 feet. It shoots straight up and vanishes when a small aircraft approaches it. ("<u>Disks Seen Here Today, Is Report.</u>" *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review,* July 7, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, pp. II-6–7)
- 1947, July 4 Sunset. Henry Seay, a farmer living 2 miles north of Fayetteville, Arkansas, watches three yellow discs flying overhead to the southwest, dropping sparks, and frightening his cattle and horses. The following night it happens again and the cows go into a panic, running off to the other side of the pasture. Some kind of dust falls on Seay, although it does not burn. After several seconds, the object rises up vertically 30–40 feet and shoots off horizontally at 50 mph. ("Discs Reported over Farm of Henry Seay." Fayetteville *Northwest Arkansas Times*, July 7, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. IV-1)
- **1947,** July 4 Sunset. M. K. Leisy, a junior intern at the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital at 44th and Market streets in Philadelphia, is reading on the porch of the hospital when he hears a loud roar. A large transport plane passes overhead, but he also sees a dark sphere with a luminous halo around it moving below the clouds at a moderate speed. It disappears into the clouds. ("<u>Flying Discs Seen over City.</u>" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 5, 1947, pp. 1, 3; Bloecher, pp. II-14–15)
- 1947, July 4 8:12 p.m.? United Air Lines Flight 105 pilots Capt. Emil J. Smith and First Officer Ralph Stevens are flying from Boise, Idaho, to Seattle, Washington, when they see a formation of five discs over Emmett, Idaho, silhouetted against the sunset. Stewardess Marty Morrow sees them as well. The objects appear to merge and speed away to the northwest. Another group appears and arranges itself in a straight line. The nine objects are seen at least 12 minutes over a distance of 45 miles. ("View of 'Flying Saucers' over Ontario Dumbfounds Veteran Pilot, Other Crew Member of Airliner," Portland Oregonian, July 5, 1947; "Crew of Passenger Plane Tell of Seeing 'Flying Saucers' in Idaho," Hagerstown (Md.) Daily Mail, July 5, 1947, pp. 1–2; "Frankly, I'm Baffled,' Says Airliner Pilot After Observing Queer Airborne Objects," Portland Oregonian, July 6, 1947, p. 24; E. J. Smith, "Flier Tells of Seeing the Flying Saucers," New York Daily News, July 6, pp. 2, 40; Project 1947, "UFO Reports, 1947"; NICAP, "5 Discs Sighted by United Flight"; Bloecher, pp. III-10–11; Sparks, p. 20; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, The Coming of the Saucers, 1952, Palmer, pp. 18–19; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 41–42; Wendy Connors and Michael Hall, Alfred Loedding and The Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947, Rose Press, 1998, pp. 52–55)
- 1947, July 4 The first of the special flights from Washington, D.C., arrives at Roswell Army Air Field [now closed], New Mexico (presumably to investigate the radar reports claimed by Frank Kaufmann). On the plane is Warrant Officer Robert Thomas. Thomas and his companions are in uniform upon arrival, but quickly change to civilian clothes. Thomas wants an on-site briefing as soon as it can be arranged. These men remain at RAAF throughout the later retrieval. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 160–161)
- 1947, July 4 During a thunderstorm near Corona, New Mexico, W. W. "Mack" Brazel hears a tremendous thunderclap that sounds like an explosion but is somehow different from the rest of the thunder. Others in the area report the same phenomenon. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 160)
- 1947, July 4 11:27 p.m. Army Signal Corps radar sites in southern New Mexico supposedly continue to track a mysterious object. Kirtland AFB's commander scrambles a fighter jet piloted by Kenny Chandler to locate the object, but he cannot find it. Before midnight, Frank Kaufmann allegedly sees a brilliant glow on the radar display, pulsates a number of times, then explode in a starburst. The belief is that the object has now crashed. Jim Ragsdale and "Trudy Truelove" supposedly see a bright flash of light and hear a roaring sound that passes overhead. Ragsdale knows that something has struck the ground close to their campsite. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, p. 160; Jacobsen, Area 51, p. 36; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, "When and Where Did the Roswell Object Crash?" IUR 19, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1994): 14; Kevin D. Randle, "The Truth about the Jim Ragsdale Story," IUR 21, no. 3 (Fall 1996): 13–16, 29–30; Jim Wilson, "Roswell Plus 50," Popular Mechanics 174 (July 1997): 48–53; The Roswell Files, "Jim Ragsdale," April 11, 1998; Kevin D. Randle, "Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness," IUR 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, "Frank Kaufmann Exposed," IUR 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26; Kevin D. Randle, "Jim Ragsdale's Roswell Tale," A Different Perspective, April 22, 2015)

- 1947, July 5 3:00 a.m. Acting on what he claims are orders from Brig. Gen. Martin F. Scanlon of the Army's Air Defense Command, discredited Roswell witness Frank Kaufmann returns to Roswell Army Air Field from Alamogordo to alert Colonel William H. Blanchard, Roswell AAF commanding officer, about a potential crash. (Jim Wilson, "Roswell Plus 50," Popular Mechanics 174 (July 1997): 48–53)
- 1947, July 5 5:00 a.m. Archaeologists, including William Curry Holden, working the sites around Roswell, New Mexico, stumble across an impact site where an object has crashed. One of them heads to the closest phone to tell Sheriff George A. Wilcox of the discovery of the remains of a crashed aircraft of some kind. Wilcox calls the local fire department to alert them about the crash. One truck, with Dan Dwyer on it, responds to the call. The site is about 35–40 miles north of Roswell. The Roswell Fire Department, escorted by members of the Roswell Police Department, makes a run along Pine Lodge Road northwest of Roswell. They are among the first civilians to stumble across the impact site. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 33–36; Thomas J. Carey, "The Search for the Roswell Archaeologists: Casting the Net," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 3–8, 23–24; Thomas J. Carey, "The Continuing Search for the Roswell Archaeologists: Closing the Circle," *IUR* 19, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1994): 4–12; Kevin D. Randle and Anthony Bragalia, "Two Roswell Witnesses, Reconsidered," *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 6–8, 24)
- **1947**, July 5 5:01 a.m. Project Mogul Flight number 10, a cluster of plastic balloons, is launched from Holloman AFB, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, "<u>The Project Mogul Flights and Roswell,</u>" *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 6–7, 23)
- 1947, July 5 5:30 a.m. According to discredited Roswell witness Frank Kaufmann, a small contingent of men from Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico drive north on what is now US Highway 285. Near mile marker 132, they turn off the road and began driving across the desert, stopping from time to time to cut the barbed-wire fencing. They discover a heel-shaped craft measuring about 25 feet long and 12 feet wide embedded in a cliff. The soldiers find civilians on the site already. Besides the archaeologists, a local man named Larry Campbell (later called Jack Armstrong or Cactus Jack) also claims to have been there. They escort them off while others secure the area. Five bodies are allegedly found on the site. The impact site is cleaned and secured by 11:30 a.m. Annie Jacobsen has interviewed Alfred O'Donnell, later an engineer at EG&G, who tells her that one of the objects crashed and was recovered by the Joint Chiefs, including the airframe, propulsion equipment, and the power plant. It has no wings or tail. The fuselage is round and there is a dome on top. Inside there are Cyrillic letters stamped or embossed in a ring running around the inside. Army intelligence officers suspect that the craft is the brainchild of German airplane engineers. Walter and Reimar Horten, working for the Russian military. A frantic search to find what happened to the brothers allegedly takes place; informants like Austrian physicist Adolf Smekal of Frankfurt, Germany, provide leads, with confusing results for several months. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, p. 161; Thomas J. Carey, "The Strange Saga of 'Cactus Jack,'" IUR 22, no. 1 (Spring 1997): 3-11; Jim Wilson, "Roswell Plus 50," Popular Mechanics 174 (July 1997): 48–53; Jacobsen, Area 51, pp. 36–40)
- 1947, July 5 10:00 a.m. W/O Robert Thomas and his crew proceed to the impact site. The bodies, originally covered by sheets, are now in lead-lined body bags. Only those with the highest clearance are allowed close to the center of the impact. Guards are posted, facing out, to keep the curious away. According to researcher Kathy Kasten, the dead bodies are taken to Roswell Army Air Field, but one is still alive and taken to Fort Stanton [now closed] in Lincoln, New Mexico, whose Marine Hospital was used to confine troublesome German and Japanese detainees during World War II. Allegedly, aerospace physician William Randolph Lovelace II travels there from Albuquerque to examine the survivor, who reportedly dies one week later and is buried in the Fort Stanton cemetery. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 161; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 204–221)
- 1947, July 5 Following the rain the night before, <a href="Brazel">Brazel</a> inspects the pastures surrounding the J. B. Foster ranch house southeast of Corona, New Mexico. Riding with him is the young son of the Proctors, <a href="William D. Proctor">William D. Proctor</a>. During the inspection, Brazel discovers a large debris field. Scattered on the slopes and into the sinkhole and depressions are plastic-like beams, pieces of lightweight balsawood-like material only stronger, light metallic foil (which doesn't stay bent or folded, resumes its original shape, and won't tear), and heavy-gauge monofilament. The debris is thick enough that the sheep refuse to cross the field and are driven around it to water more than a mile away. Brazel, taking a few scraps of the material, heads to the home of his closest neighbors, <a href="Floyd">Floyd</a> and <a href="Loretta Proctor">Loretta Proctor</a>. He shows them "a little sliver" of material that he can neither burn nor cut. Some of the beams have symbols on them that reminds Brazel of Chinese ideograms. The Proctors suggest he take it into town to show the sheriff. (Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, "<a href="Did a Balloon Crash at Roswell?">Did a Balloon Crash at Roswell?</a>" IUR 15, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1990): 4–5; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, <a href="Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell">Truth 22</a>, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 11–13, 33–

- 35; Robert A. Galganski, "The Roswell Debris Field: Size Doesn't Matter," *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 14–19, 30; Donald R. Burleson, "Roswell Trajectory Feasibility," Center for UFO Studies; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 125–127; "Recollections of Roswell Part One," NICAP Official YouTube channel, June 12, 2021; "Recollections of Roswell Part Two," NICAP Official YouTube channel, June 13, 2021; "P1 N1: Bill Brazel," NICAP Official YouTube channel, June 13, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, "A Grounded Theory Update on the Roswell UFO Incident," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 36, no. 2 (Summer 2022): 264–288; Kevin D. Randle, "Roswell Crash Date and Mogul Problem," A Different Perspective, December 27, 2022; Graff 3; "Bill Brazel Jr. Talks about His Father Mack, Discoverer of the 1947 Roswell UFO Wreckage," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 29, 2024; "Witnesses and Researchers Talk About the Roswell UFO Crash in an Excellent In-Depth 1993 Documentary," Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, September 17, 2024)
- 1947, July 5 Day. Farmer Sherman Campbell discovers a star-shaped, tinfoil-covered object on his farm on Westfall Road southwest of Circleville, Ohio. A piece of balloon is attached to the top. At first suspected to be one of the flying discs, it becomes obvious that it is part of a weather balloon. ("Flying Disc' Believed Found on Pickaway Farm." Circleville (Ohio) Herald, July 5, 1947, p. 1; "Humorists Muddle Hunt for 'Flying Saucers." Circleville (Ohio) Herald, July 8, 1947, p. 1; Curt Collins, "Flying Saucers Foiled Again," The Saucers That Time Forgot, July 6, 2023)
- 1947, July 5 2:30 p.m. Automobile dealer <u>Kjell Qvale</u> and dozens of others see a triangular formation of silvery discs flying south near Auburn, California. They appear directly overhead and are in view for 3–4 minutes, disappearing one at a time, but not over the horizon. ("<u>Skeptical Experts Call Disc Reports 'Mass Illusion</u>," *San Francisco Examiner*, July 8, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. II-5)
- 1947, July 5 4:40 p.m. <u>Lawrence H. "Bus" Cowham</u> is driving east on Elizabeth Boulevard in Twin Falls, Idaho, when he sees a group of small, shiny discs soaring west through the sky beneath a cloud. They disappear out of sight in less than one minute. ("<u>Area Residents Join Many Seeing 'Discs,"</u>" *Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News*, July 6, 1947, p. 6)
- 1947, July 5 Later that evening, <u>Brazel</u> removes the large, circular piece of the debris from the range. Brazel either loads it into the back of his truck or drags it along behind. He stores it in a livestock shed about three miles north of the crash site. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 163)
- 1947, July 6 Brazel gets up early, completes his chores, and then drives into Roswell, New Mexico, about 75 miles away. He stops at the office of Sheriff George A. Wilcox. Contrary to published reports, Wilcox is excited about the find and suggests the military at the Roswell Army Air Field [now closed] be notified. While waiting for the military officers to arrive, Wilcox dispatches two of his deputies to the ranch. They have only the directions given by Brazel, but both men are familiar with the territory; and Wilcox believes they will be able to find the debris field. KGFL reporter Frank Joyce calls Wilcox, who tells him Brazel is in his office with an interesting story. Brazel allegedly gets on the phone with Joyce and mentions debris and a stench from dead bodies. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 163–164; Graff 3)
- 1947, July 6—1:45 p.m. Maj. A. B. Browning and the crew of a B-25 flying over Clay Center, Kansas, see a silvery disc about 30–50 feet in diameter slightly lower than their plane. It paces them for a while then shoots off. (NICAP, "30–50' Circular Object Paces B-25, Accelerates"; Bloecher, p. III-11; Sparks, p. 21)
- 1947, July 6 <u>J. Allen Hynek</u>, assistant director of the Ohio State University's Perkins Observatory in Delaware, Ohio, tells the press that he is interested in flying disc reports but suspects they "aren't likely to be objects from outer space" because they have only been seen in the US, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. (*Columbus (Ohio) Citizen*, July 6, 1947; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 June 24th–July 6th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 58)
- **1947,** July 6 Day. Army Air Corps Capt. <u>James H. Burniston</u> and his wife watch a round, flat object that oscillates on its lateral axis of travel three quarters of the way across the sky in a few seconds at Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Field [now Travis AFB] near Fairfield, California. (NICAP, "<u>Round Flat Object Size of C-54</u>"; Bloecher, <u>p. III-3</u>; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 21)
- 1947, July 6 2:45 p.m. <u>David A. Kenney</u>, an aircraft instruments engineer, and two others watch an oval-shaped UFO flying at a high altitude for nearly 2 minutes near Encampment, Wyoming. (Bloecher, <u>p. III-17</u>; David Kenney, "Right Place, Right Time," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 28)
- 1947, July 6 Afternoon. Francis Howell and his wife are in their yard at 317 Ash Street in Tempe, Arizona, when they see an object floating down to the ground with a kite-like motion. It appears to be about 2 feet across and made of aluminum. It disappears behind some trees. The Howells and some neighbors walk toward the place where it

apparently has landed, and they see the disc ascend at a 45° angle and move at high speed toward the northwest. ("Tempeans See 'Disc," Phoenix *Arizona Republic*, July 7, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, p. II-13)

- 1947, July 6 Colonel William H. Blanchard, Roswell AAF commanding officer, entrusted with oversight of the first and only atomic-bomb strike force in the world, the 509th Bomb Group, orders Jesse A. Marcel, the air intelligence officer, to investigate the debris report. Marcel immediately drives to the sheriff's office. Marcel interviews Brazel, examines the pieces of the material that Brazel brought in, and decides he had better visit the ranch to examine the field for himself. Marcel, taking some of the debris with him, returns to the base and reports to Blanchard on what he has seen. Blanchard, convinced that he is in possession of something highly unusual, perhaps Soviet, alerts the next higher headquarters. Marcel and Blanchard all know this is not from any type of balloon. Marcel returns to the sheriff's office with the senior counterintelligence agent assigned to the base, CIC Captain Sheridan W. Cavitt. They escort Brazel back to his ranch and examine the debris field. Acting on orders from Major General Clements McMullen, deputy commander of the Strategic Air Command, Blanchard obtains more of the debris from the sheriff's office. It is sealed in a courier pouch and loaded on an airplane to be flown on to the Fort Worth Army Air Field, where it is given to Colonel Thomas J. DuBose for transport on to Washington, D.C. After Marcel and Cavitt leave with Brazel, the two deputies return to say they did not find the debris field but observed a burned area in one of the pastures. There the sand has been turned to glass and blackened. It looks as if something circular has touched down. (Robert Shirkey, Affidavit, April 30, 1991; Thomas Jefferson DuBose, Affidavit, September 16, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, pp. 37-40, 164; Good Need, p. 89; Nukes 482-483; Graff 3-4)
- 1947, July 6 8:45 p.m. Army Staff Sgt. <u>Ira L. Livingston</u> watches a procession of glowing round objects moving at 500 mph over Birmingham, Alabama. A new one appears every 5 seconds. Many others report UFOs in the area between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. Robert Crossland, a copy reader for the *Birmingham Age-Herald*, takes a photo that shows two round white spots close together. ("<u>Flying Saucers' Reported from 39 States, But Seem to Be Concentrated Here,</u>" *Birmingham (Ala.) News*, July 7, 1947, pp. 1, 5; Ruppelt, pp. 20–21; Bloecher, pp. III-3–4, <u>IV-4</u>; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947*, Rose Press, 1998, pp. 67–68)
- 1947, July 6 9:00 p.m. Because of the distance to the ranch over roads that are less than adequate, <u>Brazel</u>, <u>Marcel</u>, and <u>Cavitt</u> do not arrive until after dark. They stay at the "Hines" house (an old ranch house close to the debris field), eat cold beans, and wait for daylight. Marcel runs a Geiger counter over the large piece of wreckage Brazel has stored in the cattle shed. He detects no sign of radiation. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 165)
- 1947, July 7 2:00 a.m. <u>Joseph J. Kuritz</u> is stopped by a state patrolmen on US Highway 31 near South Bend, Indiana, for speeding. Kuritz claims he and <u>Bernard Jagodzinski</u> are chasing a "glaring object flying south" at treetop level and going about 200 mph. They have it in view for 10 minutes before getting stopped. ("<u>Driver Chasing 'Disk' Arrested for Speeding.</u>" *South Bend (Ind.) Tribune*, July 7, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, July 7 2:00 a.m. A special flight (the first) leaves Roswell AAF for Andrews AAF in Washington, D.C. Some of the debris and the bodies are on that flight. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 165)
- 1947, July 7 Brazel takes Marcel and Cavitt out to the debris field. It is three-quarters of a mile long and 200–300 feet wide. A gouge starting at the northern end of it extends for 400–500 feet toward the other end. It looks as if something has touched down and skipped along. The largest piece of debris is recovered at the southern edge of the gouge. The debris is as thin as newsprint, but incredibly strong. There is foil that, when crumpled, unfolds itself without a sign of a wrinkle, I-beams that flex slightly and have some symbols on them, and material resembling Bakelite. Marcel and Cavitt walk the perimeter of the field and then range out looking for more details or another crash site but find nothing else. Finally, they return and spend the remainder of the day collecting debris. They load the rear of Marcel's car and then the jeep carryall driven by Cavitt. About dusk they begin the trip back to Roswell. (Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, "The Roswell Material," IUR 16, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1991): 10-11; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, pp. 27-29, 165; Kevin D. Randle, "Don't Bother Me with the Facts...," IUR 18, no. 3 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 16-17, 24; Robert A. Galganski, "The Roswell Debris: A Quantitative Evaluation of the Project Mogul Hypothesis," *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 3-6, 23-24; Charles B. Moore, Robert G. Todd, Mark Rodeghier, and Kevin D. Randle, "Project Mogul and the Roswell Crash: An Exchange," IUR 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 7–9, 19–22; Kevin D. Randle, "Bessie Brazel's Story," IUR 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 3-5, 24; Robert A. Galganski, "Roswell: Connecting the Debris Field and the Impact Site," IUR 21, no. 2 (Summer 1996): 11–17; Robert A. Galganski, "The Glue Explanation Just Won't Stick," IUR 22, no. 4 (Winter 1997–1998): 3–7; Robert A. Galganski, "An Engineer Looks at the Project Mogul Hypothesis," IUR 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 3–6, 32;

- Thomas J. Carey, "Will the Real Sheridan Cavitt Please Stand Up?" *IUR* 23, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 14–21; Kent Jeffrey, "Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 79–101; Michael D. Swords, "A Different View of 'Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 103–125; Robert M. Wood, "Critique of 'Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 127–140; Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, "Mack Brazel Reconsidered," *IUR* 24, no. 4 (Winter 1999): 13–19; Robert A. Galganski, *The Roswell Debris Field: An Engineer's Perspective*, Fund for UFO Research, 2002; Kevin D. Randle, "Bessie Brazel Schreiber and the Roswell Crash," A Different Perspective, September 19, 2015; "A Very Special Gathering: 'These Are the Children of Roswell, They Have Come Home," Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, July 6, 2024)
- 1947, July 7 AMC commander Lieut. Gen <u>Nathan Twining</u> unexpectedly flies to Alamogordo AAF and Kirtland AAF in New Mexico, remaining there until July 11. Army Air Forces Commander Gen. <u>Carl Spaatz</u> is supposedly "vacationing" in Washington State. He tells reporters he knows nothing about the flying discs. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, <u>p. 165</u>)
- 1947, July 7 A hoax in Shreveport, Louisiana. A 16-inch aluminum disc with smoke coming out of it is found. Army investigators find "Made in USA" on the disc. It is one of many homemade gadgets, weather balloon radar targets, circular saws, and other disc-like debris that people find or make in order to have some fun in the press or with gullible saucer-seekers. (Teletype from FBI New Orleans to J. Edgar Hoover, July 7, 1947, via FBI UFO files, p. 4; Sparks, p. 21; "Speaking of Pictures: A Rash of Flying Disks Breaks Out over the U.S.," Life, July 21, 1947, p. 14; ClearIntent, p. 149; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, "Secret Projects and Open Eyes: A Response," IUR 19, no. 3 (May/June 1994): 15–17; Kevin D. Randle, "The Hoover Memo Again," A Different Perspective, July 29, 2015; Maurizio Verga, "Here They Are! Early Crashes of Flying Saucers, a Visual History," Cielo Insolito, no. 6 (March 2018): 8–27)
- 1947, July 7 9:55 a.m. Newspaper editor John Brackett and his wife Wilma see an object streak across the sky in Reno, Nevada, leaving a trail of bluish-white vapor. It is high in the sky and traveling at about 1,000 mph. ("<u>Tiny Speck Whizzes across Sky Here at Unbelievable Rate of Speed; Many Reno Persons See Small Object,</u>" Reno *Nevada State Journal*, July 8, 1947, p. 14; Bloecher, pp. III-7–8)
- 1947, July 7 10:10 a.m. On a runway on the west side of Rogers Dry Lake at Muroc Army Airfield [now Edwards Air Force Base] in southern California, XP-84 test pilot Maj. <u>Jowell C. Wise</u> and several others see a yellowish-white object at 10,000–12,000 feet traveling west in an oscillating motion at about 200 mph. It stops at one point, then continues in horizontal flight. (NICAP, "<u>Oscillating Sphere Observed by Test Pilot & Others</u>"; <u>Affidavit</u>, J. C. Wise to Thomas A. McMillan, August 13, 1947; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 21)
- 1947, July 7 11:30 a.m. Flight instructor Kenneth Jones out of Elkhart, Wisconsin, is practicing take-offs and landings with a student near Koshkonong. They watch a disc descending vertically on edge through the alto-cumulus clouds at 6,000 feet, stop at 4,000 feet, assume a horizontal orientation, and fly horizontally for 15 seconds, covering 23 miles at 5,500 mph. At one point it heads straight towards them on a course of about 120°, then stops again (apparently overhead) and disappears. (Bloecher, p. III-11; Sparks, p. 22; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th—July 10th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, p. 9)
- 1947, July 7 Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg's activity log: 1:10 p.m., answers a *Toronto Star* reporter's question about possible secret military aircraft. Vandenberg says no AAF planes are looking for discs, but National Guard planes are looking into the discs on their own. 1:50 p.m., Stephen Leo, public relations officer for AF Secretary Stuart Symington, calls concerning the Shreveport, Louisiana, incident. 1:55 p.m. Leo and Gen. Curtis LeMay discuss the discs. Col. Warren, at Ellington Field [now Ellington Airport] in Houston, Texas, calls concerning the Shreveport disc. 4:20 p.m., Col. Warren calls back and says the incident is a hoax. (David Rudiak, "Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg and Roswell," Roswell Proof, 2001)
- 1947, July 7 2:30 p.m. Capt. Robert J. Southey and Clem Hackworthy are flying a private aircraft near East Troy, Wisconsin, when they see a fast-moving silver object flying southeast from Eagle to Muskego, covering 17 miles in 20 seconds (approximately 3,060 mph). They try to photograph it, but it quickly disappears, then suddenly reappears about 10 miles away. (Bloecher, pp. III-11-12; Sparks, p. 22; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, p. 9)
- 1947, July 7 A meeting is held in the office of Brig. Gen. George F. Schulgen, chief of the Requirements Intelligence branch of Army Air Force Intelligence. It is decided to investigate five flying disc incidents with "qualified" observers and obtain detailed statements: two in Seattle, Washington; one in Boise, Idaho; one in Palm Springs, California; and one in Washington State. (Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th—July 10th, Supplemental Notes. The Author, 2001, p. 16)

- 1947, July 7 <u>John Philip Bessor</u> of Zelienople, Pennsylvania, writes to the US Air Force to offer his own theory that UFOs are "a form of space animal, or creature, of a highly attenuated (ectoplasmic?) substance, capable of materialization and dematerialization, whose propellant is a form of telekinetic energy." ("Report from the Readers," *Fate* 4, no. 4 (May/June 1951): 88; John P. Bessor, "Are the Saucers Space Animals?" *Fate* 8, no. 12 (December 1955): 6–12; "<u>Who 'Discovered Space Animals'?</u>" *CSI News Letter*, no. 22 (December 15, 1957): 31; Curt Collins, "<u>The 1947 ET Hypothesis of John P. Bessor</u>," The Saucers That Time Forgot, February 15, 2019)
- 1947, July 7 4:00 p.m. William A. Rhodes, an independent scientist and inventor in Phoenix, Arizona, is walking to his workshop in his backyard at 4333 N. 14th Street when he hears a "whoosh" and sees an object banking in tight circles to the south at an altitude of about 1,000 feet. He takes two photos as it passes above his house, the first as it is approaching and looks somewhat cigar-shaped, and the second as it is banking and looks more heel-shaped with a small hole in the center. The photos are reproduced in the July 9 issue of the Arizona Republic. A few weeks later, an Army Air Corps Intelligence officer from Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California, visits Rhodes and takes the prints and negatives, but Rhodes is unable to get them back. However, Kenneth Arnold obtains them on a later visit to Hamilton, and they wind up with James E. McDonald. Rhodes actually has an informal top-secret clearance because of his invention of a degaussing device for ships. He dies in 2007 at the age of 90. (Robert C. Hanika, "Speedy 'Saucer' Zips through Local Sky," Phoenix Arizona Republic, July 9, 1947, pp. 1–2; NICAP, "The Rhodes Photo Case"; Bloecher, p. IV-4; Michael D. Swords, "Can You Learn Anything from UFO Photos, Part Two," The Big Study, July 5, 2012; Swords 53, 54; Kevin D. Randle, "More of the Best UFO Photographs," A Different Perspective, November 30, 2006; Kevin D. Randle, "Beyond the Rhodes Photographs," A Different Perspective, October 4, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "William Rhodes and His Ph.D," A Different Perspective, October 19, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "Rhodes Wrap-Up," A Different Perspective, October 26, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "Coast-to-Coast AM: FLIR and William Rhodes," A Different Perspective, May 25, 2023; Kevin D. Randle, "Coast-to-Coast AM: The Rhodes Photographs Revisited," A Different Perspective, December 28, 2023)
- 1947, July 7 5:20 p.m. Radar technician David W. Chase watches a disc-shaped object passing overhead at Medford, Oregon. It appears to be flying at 600–700 mph on edge at right angles to the surface of the earth, though following its contours at 500–1,000 feet. The object gives off a bright light. (Bloecher, p. III-18; Ray Palmer, "New Report on the Flying Saucers," *Fate* 4, no. 1 (January 1951): 63–81)
- 1947, July 7 7:45 p.m. Five students on a practice baseball field at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, see three metallic oval objects flying swiftly and silently in a triangular formation overhead. They seem to be about 10 feet in diameter and are flying east over the Olentangy River. They are out of sight within 10 seconds. (Bloecher, p. II-6)
- 1947, July 7 9:00 p.m. Orrin Williams and his wife Albertine, along with Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Grant, are fishing on Great Pond near Rome, Maine, when they see a "spinning rocket" come out of the southern sky and stop abruptly overhead, where it hovers as a ball of fire. A similar object comes from the east, passing close by the first one. A third object approaches from the east and stops by the first object before moving on. The first object then retraces its path to the south at high speed. The display lasts several minutes. (Bloecher, p. II-10)
- 1947, July 7 9:30 p.m. Charles Crockett, 15, is walking along Western Avenue in Manchester, Maine, when he sees a cluster of luminous objects to the west, just above the treetops on the north end of Cobboseecontee Lake. They are still visible when he arrives home and alerts his mother and grandmother. Possible searchlight beams. ("Flying Saucers' Still Seen Flitting in N.E. Sky." Bangor (Maine) Daily News, July 8, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, p. II-20)
- **1947**, July 7 10:15 p.m. *Louisville Times* photographer Al Hixenbaugh is at Preston Street and Bickels Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, when he notices three "fiery balls" in the sky. He takes a 5-second exposure, capturing two of the objects that show as slightly curved streaks. He estimates they are 1–2 miles away, moving at 200 mph, and at an altitude of 1,000–2,000 feet. Robert Delara of 2745 West Market Street also sees the three objects shooting northward. (*Louisville (Ky.) Times*, July 8, 1947; "Flying Liver Pills' over Kentucky," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 9, 1947, p. 1; Bloecher, pp. IV-4–5; "La Fotografía (y la Pélicula) Al Hixenbaugh 1," Marcianitos Verdes, February 5, 2017)
- 1947, July 8 2:00 a.m. Marcel stops at home in Roswell to show his wife Viaud and son Jesse Jr. some of the Corona, New Mexico, crash debris. Over the next hour they examine it on the kitchen floor. Marcel Sr. says it is a flying saucer. Marcel is not breaking regulations since nothing has yet been classified. With the help of his son, Marcel loads it into the car to be taken to Roswell AAF. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 166; Robert J. Durant, "C. B. Moore's Mogul Tape," *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 7–9, 32; Robert A. Galganski, "Probing the Roswell Thin-Strut Debris," *IUR* 24, no. 3 (Fall 1999): 8–12, 30; Karl T. Pflock, et al., "Debris Details," *IUR* 24, no. 4 (Winter 1999): 28–29)

- 1947, July 8 6:00 a.m. Marcel and Cavitt visit with Blanchard in his quarters and tell him what they have seen. Blanchard calls base Provost Marshal Maj. Edwin D. Easley and orders him to post guards on the roads around the debris field. Armed guards encircle the primary areas, denying access to anyone without official business. Easley is directed to locate Brazel and have him escort the MPs to the debris field. Blanchard calls Eighth Air Force headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, and advises them of the new find. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 166; Kevin D. Randle, "New Documentation for Roswell: The Easley Letter," A Different Perspective, November 6, 2023)
- 1947, July 8 7:30 a.m. The regular 9:00 a.m. Roswell Army Air Field staff meeting is moved up 90 minutes. The main topic for discussion is <a href="Marcel">Marcel</a> and <a href="Cavitt">Cavitt</a> reporting an extensive debris field near Corona in Lincoln County, New Mexico, approximately 75 miles northwest of Roswell. A preliminary briefing is provided by <a href="Blanchard">Blanchard</a> about the separate impact site approximately 40 miles north of Roswell. Samples of wreckage are passed around the table. Pieces that resemble metal foil, paper-thin yet extremely strong, and pieces with unusual markings along their length are handed from man to man, each voicing their opinion. No one is able to identify the crash debris. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, p. 166)
- 1947, July 8 9:00 a.m. <u>Cavitt</u> and <u>Lewis S. Rickett</u>, who has returned from an assignment in Carlsbad, New Mexico, drive a staff car to the impact site north of Roswell, followed by MPs. They are stopped by the guards who are still posted. When they arrive, they see that a small containment of debris remains that Rickett is allowed to examine. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, <u>p.</u> 166)
- 1947, July 8 9:30 a.m.–9:20 p.m. Four separate UFO sightings take place at Muroc Army Airfield [now Edwards AFB] in southern California, the Air Force's aircraft testing and development center. Ruppelt says these are the first sightings "that really made the Air Force take a deep interest in UFOs." At 9:30 a.m., 1st Lt. Joseph C. McHenry and three others see two silver discs heading silently in a westerly direction at about 350–400 mph at about 8,000 feet; after they pass, a third disc is seen to the north flying in tight circles. At 11:50 a.m., Maj. Richard R. Shoop, Col. S. A. Gilkey, and Capt. John P. Stapp are sitting in an observation truck at Rogers Dry Lake and see an oval, white, aluminum-like object silently descending from 20,000 feet for about 90 seconds; it has two knobs or thick fins on the top. Around 4:00 p.m., a pilot flying an F-51 some 40 miles south of Muroc sees a "flat object of a light-reflecting nature"; it is flying too high for him to climb up to it. At 9:20 p.m., spherical objects are again seen in the area, this time at 8,000 feet and moving against the wind at 300 mph. (NICAP, "Observers Sight Saucer over Base": NICAP, "Object Observed by Four Witnesses in Observation": NICAP, "Object Descends to Ground Level, Rises"; NICAP, "Flat Object with Fin Observed by F-51 Pilot"; Affidavit, Joseph C. McHenry to Thomas A. McMillan, July 11, 1947; Affidavit, Richard R. Shoop to Thomas A. McMillan, July 11, 1947; Affidavit, Jannette Marie Scott to Thomas A. McMillan, July 14, 1947; Affidavit, John Paul Stapp to Thomas A. McMillan, August 12, 1947; Bloecher, pp. III-4, 12; Clark III 783-784; Sparks, pp. 22-23; Patrick Gross, "The Muroc Army Air Field Incidents")
- 1947, July 8 11:00 a.m. Col. William Blanchard dictates a press release about the Roswell recovery to Public Information Officer Lt. Walter Haut, who delivers the release to radio stations around noon (the first apparently to Frank Joyce at KGFL) and the newspapers in Roswell, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, p. 167; Patrick Gross, "Roswell 1947—Witnesses, Art McQuiddy," November 8, 2005)
- 1947, July 8 The Army Air Force issues a press release saying that, based on a "preliminary study," the flying discs are *not* secret bacteriological weapons designed by a foreign power, experimental army aircraft, or spaceships.

  However, Army and Navy officials are not certain what they are. ("Saucer' Dept.—All Designs," *Racine (Wis.) Journal Times*, July 8, 1947, p. 6)
- 1947, July 8 Airplane inventor Orville Wright tells the press that the saucer craze is propaganda "dished up by the government to support the current State Department campaign to get us into another war." ("Wright Raps Saucers As War Propaganda," Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer, July 9, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, July 8 Rep. Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex.) requests information on the flying discs from the War Department. Someone from Gen. Carl Spaatz's office writes back on July 21 to tell him the Army Air Forces are looking into it, but there is "no indication" that the discs are "new or unusual missiles or aircraft." (Swords 38)
- 1947, July 8? British radio and TV entertainer <a href="Hughie Green"><u>Hughie Green</u></a> is driving across the US. About 250 miles west of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he hears an announcement that a flying saucer "had crashed in New Mexico and that the Army were moving in to investigate. Later the program was interrupted again and quite a few details were given." When he arrives at Philadelphia, there is nothing in the newspapers or on the radio. ("Star Puzzled," Flying Saucer Review 1, no 1 (Spring 1955): 3; Clark III 319; "Hughie Green: 'Peripheral Witness to Roswell?" Above Top Secret forum, October 20, 2012)

- 1947, July 8 1:00 p.m. Marcel goes on a B-29 special flight (the second) to Fort Worth Army Air Field, Texas, with the wreckage to report to Gen. Roger M. Ramey. The pilot is Lt. Col. Payne Jennings Jr. with Lt. Col. Robert Barrowclough riding in the bombardier's seat. Only a few packages are loaded onto the plane. One, a triangular package about two feet long, is wrapped in brown paper. The other three are about the size of shoe boxes. They are so light that it feels as if there is nothing in them. When it lands in Fort Worth, the enlisted soldiers on the plane are ordered to remain aboard until a guard is posted and Marcel gets off taking one of the packages that he has been carrying on his lap. According to Flight Engineer M/Sgt. Robert Porter, the soldiers go to the mess hall once the guard is posted. The remaining debris is transferred to a B-25 that is flying to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. Marcel goes to Ramey's office and puts the package on his desk. They both go to a map room, where Marcel shows him where the debris was found. When they return to Ramey's office, Marcel sees that the package he brought has been substituted by a torn-up weather balloon. Ramey proposes a plan that possibly originates from his bosses at the Pentagon. Attention needs to be diverted from the more important impact site north of Roswell by acknowledging the Corona location. Too many civilians are involved, and the press is already alerted. (Robert Shirkey, Affidavit, April 30, 1991; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, pp. 167–168; Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, "Flight to Fort Worth: From Complicity to Cover-Up," IUR 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 7–13, 30)
- 1947, July 8 2:26 p.m. Haut's press release about the recovered disc reaches the Associated Press wire. The story announces: "The army air forces here today announced a flying disc had been found" the previous week. It says that the disc is recovered by intelligence officers of the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell Army Air Field [now closed], New Mexico, with the help of local ranchers and the Chavez County Sheriff's Office. It adds that the disc is being loaned by Maj. Marcel "to higher headquarters." (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 167)
- 1947, July 8 2:30 p.m. <u>Blanchard</u> decides it is time to "go on leave." Too many phone callers into the base are asking to speak with him. He, along with a few members of his staff, drive out to the Corona, New Mexico, debris field. Those left at the base are told to inform the reporters that the colonel is now on leave. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, <u>p. 167</u>; Kevin D. Randle, "<u>When a Leave Is Not a Leave: Col. Blanchard and the Roswell Timeline,</u>" *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 18–20; Karl T. Pflock, "<u>Taking Liberties with a Leave,</u>" *IUR* 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 18)
- **1947,** July 8 2:41 p.m. The press release is put on the United Press wire.
- 1947, July 8 3:50 p.m. An Army National Guard pilot flying near Mount Baldy, California, observes a flat object, reflecting light, about the size of a fighter. He gives chase, attempting to keep it in sight, but is unable to do so. (Air Force Base Intelligence Report, "Flying Discs," July 30, 1947; Kevin D. Randle, "Roswell, Nathan Twining, and the Mini-EOTS," A Different Perspective, October 6, 2014)
- 1947, July 8 4:26 p.m. Thomas Dale is flying a small plane at 2,800 feet over Alton, New Hampshire, with passenger Jere Stetson. They see a metallic object some 2 miles away to the east and some 1,500 feet below their aircraft. It approaches them at great speed before veering to the north. They estimate it is 20 feet long and "not exactly round." (Bloecher, p. III-12)
- 1947, July 8 4:30 p.m. The Roswell Daily Record carries the "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer" story. In Fort Worth, Texas, Ramey issues a statement saying the Roswell officers were fooled and that the material is a Rawin target device suspended by a Neoprene rubber balloon. ("Rawin" is a method of determining wind speed and direction by using radar or radio waves to track a balloon carrying either a radar-sensitive target or radio transponder.). The debris is switched for the newspaper photographer, James Bond Johnson, at a press conference held by Ramey and Col. Thomas J. DuBose in late afternoon. Johnson takes six photos of the debris and leaves after 20 minutes. One of the photos shows Ramey holding a piece of paper (the "Ramey memo") with words written on it; unfortunately, the resolution is inadequate to decisively "deblur" the text using modern technological methods. A weather officer, Maj. Irving Newton, is called in to identify the debris as from a balloon. A photo of Newton with the debris is taken by another photographer. ("RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region," Roswell (N.Mex.) Daily Record, July 8, 1947, p. 1; "Disc Seized by Army Only Piece of Balloon; Search Still Going On," Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer, July 9, 1947, pp. 1, 3; "Captured New Mexico 'Disc' Proves Dud," Phoenix Arizona Republic, July 9, 1947, p. 1; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, pp. 41–43, 168; Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, "Fort Worth, July 8, 1947: The Cover-Up Begins," IUR 15, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1990): 21–23; Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, "The Fort Worth Press Conference: The J. Bond Johnson Connection," IUR 15, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1990): 5–16; Thomas Jefferson DuBose, Affidavit, September 16, 1991; Robert A. Galganski, "Probing the Roswell Thin-Strut Debris," IUR 24, no. 3 (Fall 1999): 8–12, 30; Donald R. Burleson, "Deciphering the Ramey Memo," IUR 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 3-6, 32; Robert A. Galganski, "The Roswell Debris Field: Size Doesn't Matter," IUR 25, no. 4

- (Winter 2000–2001): 14–19, 30; James Houran and Kevin D. Randle, "Interpreting the Ramey Memo," *IUR* 27, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 10–14, 26–27; Donald R. Burleson, "On Blobs and Chiaroscuro," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 24; James Houran and Kevin D. Randle, "A Message in a Bottle': Confounds in Deciphering the Ramey Memo from the Roswell UFO Case," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 16, no. 1 (2002): 45–66; Barry Greenwood, "An Observation on the Ramey Memo," *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 11 (March 2004): 1–8; James Houran, *A Search for Meaning in the Ramey Document: From the Roswell UFO Case*, Fund for UFO Research, 2006; Dennis Balthaser, "Interview: James Bond Johnson (Roswell Wreckage Photographer)," The UFO Chronicles, March 27, 2006; Barry Greenwood, "Ramey Memo Redux: Line 5," *UFO Historical Revue*, no 13 (September 2009): 5–19; Kevin D. Randle, *Roswell in the 21st Century*, The Author, 2016; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 232–238; Graff 8–9; "Interview with Roswell 'UFO Debris' Photographer, Star-Telegram Reporter J. Bond Johnson," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, February 2, 2024; Kevin D. Randle, "Roswell Solved: I Think Not," A Different Perspective, July 29, 2024)
- 1947, July 8 5:17 p.m. Special Agent Percy Wyly II in the Dallas, Texas, FBI office sends a teletype headed "Flying Disc, Information Concerning" to J. Edgar Hoover and Strategic Air Command in Cincinnati, Ohio, expressing some doubt about the balloon explanation: "telephonic conversation between [Eighth Air Force] and Wright Field had not borne out this belief. Disc and balloon being transported to Wright Field by special plane for examination." Wyly receives this information from Maj. Edwin M. Kirton at Fort Worth. Roswell mortician Glenn Dennis, intrigued by inquiries from the base about small caskets, visits the base hospital but is turned away forcibly; a nurse friend (possibly 1st Lt. Adeline "Eileen" M. Fanton) warns him to leave before he gets into trouble and supposedly tells him that three alien bodies had been found. Other witnesses to recovered bodies include T/Sgt Ernest R. Robbins, Maj. Edwin D. Easley, Ruben and Pete Anaya, New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Joseph Montoya, Sgt. Melvin E. Brown (who says the bodies looked Asian), Capt. Oliver "Pappy" W. Henderson, Staff Sgt. Robert A. Slusher, and Charles H. Forgus. ([Wyly's teletype message]; "Roswell: W. Glenn Davis [sic] Interview, 11 19 1990." NICAP Official YouTube channel, July 8, 2021; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, pp. 168–169; Good Need, pp. 91–93; Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, "Who's the Dummy Now? The Latest Air Force Report." IUR 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 10; Nick Redfern, The Roswell UFO Conspiracy, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 97–100)
- **1947**, July 8 6:29 p.m. An Associated Press story goes out that a Fort Worth Army Air Field officer (Newton) has identified the Roswell debris as a weather balloon. ("AP Wires Burn with 'Captured Disk' Story," Champaign (Ill.) *Daily Illini*, July 9, 1947, p. 5; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 46–52, 168)
- **1947,** July 9 1:00 a.m. William Valetta sees 5–6 domed discs streaking eastward as he stands outside his house at 4328 South Emerald Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. They make a swishing noise and he sees a blue flame underneath each of them. Smoke seems to be coming from the tops. (Bloecher, pp. II-13–14)
- 1947, July 9 RAAF officers locate Mack Brazel and take him to the base for questioning, then to the Roswell Daily Record and radio station KGPL for a revised, sanitized version of his story, this time saying he found the debris on June 14. Copies of Haut's original press release are recovered. Three fully loaded C-54's carry debris to Los Alamos, New Mexico, via Kirtland AFB, according to Robert E. Smith, First Air Transport Unit. A crate allegedly carrying alien bodies is flown from Roswell to Fort Worth in a B-29, according to Staff Sgt. Robert A. Slusher, who says he was on board. (Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, "Roswell, July 9, 1947," IUR 14, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1989): 4–6, 23; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell, Evans, 1994, pp. 53–58, 169–171; Kevin D. Randle, "Bessie Brazel's Story," IUR 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 3–5, 24; Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, "Mack Brazel Reconsidered," IUR 24, no. 4 (Winter 1999): 13–19; Kevin D. Randle, "Bessie Brazel Schreiber and the Roswell Crash," A Different Perspective, September 19, 2015)
- **1947**, July 9 The FBI interviews Capt. Emil J. Smith and copilot Ralph Stevens at Boise (Idaho) Municipal Airport about their July 4 sighting. (ClearIntent, p. 151; Good Above, pp. 253–254)
- **1947**, July 9 US Sen. Glen H. Taylor (D-Idaho) says he hopes the saucers will turn out to be space ships from another planet, whose hostility might end all our "petty arguments on earth." ("Can't Laugh Off Saucers,' Says Senator," *Boston Globe*, July 9, 1947, p. 5)
- 1947, July 9 The US Army Air Force issues classified orders requiring reports of any "saucer-like" objects to be investigated and passed on to T-2 Technical Intelligence at Wright Field, Ohio, with summaries sent to the Pentagon. However, most of the early cases still go directly to the Air Force Office of Intelligence at the Pentagon. (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 6)
- 1947, July 9 10:30 a.m. President <u>Truman</u> meets with Sen. <u>Carl Hatch</u> (D-N.Mex.).

- 1947, July 9 10:35 a.m. Assistant Secretary of War for Air Stuart Symington meets with Lt. Gen. James Doolittle and Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg. The conversation is presumably about the flying discs. (Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell II*, Moonset, 2001)
- 1947, July 9 10:50 a.m. <u>Doolittle</u>, <u>Vandenberg</u>, and <u>Symington</u> meet in the office of Army Chief of Staff <u>Dwight D.</u>
  <u>Eisenhower</u>. Maj. Gen. <u>Lauris Norstad</u>, director of the Plans and Operations Department, is also present. (Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell II*, Moonset, 2001)
- 1947, July 9 11:58 a.m. Vandenberg calls President Truman.
- 1947, July 9 12:50 p.m. <u>Vandenberg</u> and <u>Symington</u> meet with the Joint Chiefs.
- 1947, July 9 12:17 p.m. *Idaho Statesman* aviation editor and former B-29 pilot <u>David N. Johnson</u>, flying in an Idaho Air National Guard AT-6 Texan, sees a black object standing out against the clouds as he prepares to land at Gowen Field [now Boise Airport], Boise, Idaho. Johnson takes 10 seconds of 8mm motion-picture film (but it shows no trace of the object). It makes a slow roll, then makes a stair-step climb, then disappears into the clouds. (NICAP, "AT-6 Encounters Black Disc"; Dave Johnson, "Flying Reporter Finally Sights Black, Darting Disc High over Boise." Boise *Idaho Statesman*, July 10, 1947, pp. 1, 6; Dave Johnson, "Boise Newsman Photographs Disc." *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, July 10, 1947, p. 9; Dave Johnson, "Flying Newsman Learns Disc Failed to 'Take' on Movie Film." Boise *Idaho Statesman*, July 11, 1947, pp. 1, 9; UFOEv, pp. 13, 130; Bloecher, pp. III-12-13; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 39–43, 55; Sparks, p. 23)
- **1947,** July 9 2:30 p.m. <u>Vandenberg</u> and <u>Symington</u> meet again.
- **1947,** July 9 4:17 p.m. <u>Vandenberg</u> meets with Maj. Gen. <u>Emmett O'Donnell Jr.</u>, director of information for the Army Air Force. (Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell II*, Moonset, 2001).
- 1947, July 9 Late afternoon. 1Lt <u>Chester P. Barton</u>, stationed at Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico, is sent by Maj. <u>Edwin D. Easley</u> to go to the crash site and report back to him about what is going on. He gets no closer than about 50 feet from the wreckage, which appears to have burned. He is convinced it is the remains of a B-29 bomber. He remains at the site for about 90 minutes then reports back to Easley. (Joseph Stefula, "<u>The Roswell Testimony of Chester P. Barton</u>," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 21–23, 29–31)
- 1947, July 9 Brig. Gen. George F. Schulgen, chief of the Requirements Intelligence branch of Army Air Force Intelligence, requests FBI help with the problem of the flying discs from Special Agent S. Wesley Reynolds. Army intelligence claims they are not Army or Navy craft. He says that Air Corps Intelligence is utilizing all its scientists to study the cases to see whether they are natural or artificial or inspired by "individuals of Communist sympathies with the view to causing hysteria and fear of a secret Russian weapon." (E. G. Fitch to D. M. Ladd, "Flying Disks," July 10, 1947; ClearIntent, p. 148; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th—July 10th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2001, p. 14)
- 1947, July 9 Shortly after 5:00 p.m. Electrician Raymond Edward Lane and his wife are picking huckleberries near Midland, Michigan, when they hear a kind of "puff" noise nearby. Looking up, they see a ball of white, sparkling fire, like a Fourth of July sparkler, about the size of a bushel basket, no more than 100 feet away. It is hovering several feet above a stretch of sand. After about 10 or 15 seconds, the light goes out and the object vanishes. The only thing that remains is a peculiar dark substance on the sand and some metallic fragments. Lane collects fragments of the material in a tin can and brings them the next morning to Robert S. Spencer, a senior researcher at the Dow Chemical Company materials research laboratory in Midland. Spencer goes to the site with Lane and Dow's internal security chief Edward Fales. Spencer has the Dow spectroscopy laboratory analyze the fragments and reports that the shiny pellets are largely silver mixed with a bit of silicon. They conclude that it consists of fused sand. By the end of September, the lab has analyzed ash-like powder found at the site. It turns out to be thorite that is slightly radioactive, mixed with magnesium hydroxide and other trace minerals. The conclusion is that the sighting is the result of some kind of home-made fireworks experiment, although Dow chemist John Josef Grebe suspects it might have been a small missile. (NICAP, "Object Hovers over Sand"; Bloecher, pp. IV-2-3; Joel Carpenter, "The Midland Fireball: Dow Chemical, UFOs, and Evidence," IUR 23, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 28-32)
- 1947, July 9 11:30 p.m. Constable Eric Kearsey sees four yellowish discs flying in close formation above Grand Falls, Newfoundland. He calls other people to watch them as well. They are moving at high speed to the east with a dipping motion. At 11:40 p.m., an egg-shaped object "the size of a barrel head" passes overhead in the same direction. (St. John's (Newf.) Evening Telegram, July 9, 1947; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th–July 10th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2001, pp. 45–46)
- 1947, July 10 FBI agent E. G. Fitch forwards <a href="Schulgen">Schulgen</a>'s request to Assistant Director of the Domestic Intelligence Division <a href="Division Milton">D. Milton "Mickey" Ladd</a> at FBI headquarters in a memo titled "Flying Disks." Ladd adds a note saying that the "Bureau does not believe it should go into these investigations" because many cases are "pranks."

  Associate FBI Director <a href="Clyde Tolson">Clyde Tolson</a> adds, "I think we should do this," while <a href="J. Edgar Hoover">J. Edgar Hoover</a> writes, "I would do

- it but before agreeing to it we must insist upon full access to discs recovered. For instance in the La. Case the Army grabbed it and would not let us have it for cursory examination." (E. G. Fitch to D. M. Ladd, "Flying Disks," July 10, 1947; RosRept, pp. 25–26; Good Above, p. 541; Kevin D. Randle, "The Hoover Memo Again," A Different Perspective, July 29, 2015)
- 1947, July 10 Roswell debris and bodies have been flown from Fort Worth to Wright Field, according to future Brig. Gen. Arthur Exon, then stationed at Wright Field, Ohio, who says that a special unit is created to study them. The story is slightly corroborated by <u>Jack G. Tiffany Jr.</u>, whose father <u>Jack G. Tiffany Sr.</u> is one of the crew members that flies debris from Fort Worth to Dayton. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, <u>pp. 61–66</u>; Thomas J. Carey and Donald J. Schmitt, *Inside the Real Area 51*, New Page, 2013, pp. 165–175; Nukes 483–486; Anthony Bragalia, "Scientists Who Studied Roswell UFO Crash Debris and Bodies Named," UFO Explorations, Aug./Sept. 2023)
- 1947, July 10 10:00 a.m. John H. Janssen, aviation editor of the *Morristown Daily Record*, takes a photo of four luminous objects as he is flying his Piper J-3 Cub at 10,000 feet over Morristown, New Jersey. Three of the objects are silvery white, while the fourth is a dull metallic color. ("Flying Saucers' Invade Morristown; 4 Discs Photographed near Airport," *Paterson (N.J.) Evening News*, July 11, 1947, p. 10; NICAP, "07-10-1947 USA, New Jersey, Morristown")
- **1947,** July 10 10:30 a.m. Lt. Gen. <u>Curtis LeMay</u>, deputy chief of Air Staff for Research and Development at the Pentagon, meets with <u>Vandenberg</u>, Maj. Gen. <u>Leslie Groves</u>, and Lt. Gen. <u>Robert Miller Montague</u>.
- **1947**, July 10 12:15 p.m. <u>Doolittle</u> and <u>Vandenberg</u> meet with <u>Truman</u>.
- 1947, July 10 2:40 p.m. Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson meets with Groves and Montague.
- 1947, July 10 4:25 p.m. A V-2 launch is aborted at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, after 32 seconds due to an early yaw. Gen. Gen. Nathan Twining stops at White Sands before returning to Wright Field, Ohio.
- 1947, July 10 4:47 p.m. University of New Mexico astronomer Lincoln LaPaz, his wife Leota, and two daughters, Jean and Mary, are driving west on Highway 60 near Fort Sumner, New Mexico, when they see a sharply outlined, white ellipsoidal object wobbling in the sky to the west about 25 miles away. They watch it for about 30 seconds, then it disappears behind a cloud, but reappears 5 seconds later further to the right. He estimates its size as 245 feet long and 100 feet thick at the maximum, with a horizontal speed of 120–180 mph and a vertical speed of 600–900 mph. It moves silently with no vapor trail. It resembles no known aircraft. (NICAP, "200' Ellipsoidal Object Sighted by La Paz Family"; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "Have We Visitors from Space?" Life, April 7, 1952, p. 84; Bloecher, p. III-19; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 July 7th—July 10th, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2001, p. 58; Sparks, p. 24; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 60)
- 1947, July 10 5:30 p.m. Three civilian airline mechanics (John N. Mehrman Jr., Robert Leidy, and John E. Woodruff) at Ernest Harmon AFB [now Stephenville International Airport] are returning from a fishing trip and driving up a mountain road near Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland. They see a bluish-black exhaust trail that has cut through some clouds leaving a "hole." Woodruff sees a disc-shaped object the apparent size of a C-54 transport plane coming out of the clouds and traveling at a terrific rate of speed. The hole remains in the cloud for more than an hour. Leidy takes two Kodachrome photos of the exhaust trail. The sighting later impresses Project Sign personnel to the extent that they ask questions about UFO effects on clouds. (NICAP, "Harmon Field Photo"; Sparks, p. 24; Michael D. Swords, "Can You Learn Anything from UFO Photos, Part Two," The Big Study, July 5, 2012; Swords 38–39; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947*, The Author, February 1991, pp. 44–45; Chris Rutkowski, "The Cold, Hard Facts about UFOs in Canada," *IUR* 34, no. 1 (Sept. 2011): 8–9; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 49–50; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 167, 264–267)
- 1947, July 10 Mack Brazel is still being held at a guest house on the Roswell, New Mexico, base. The officers try to convince him not to say anything about what he has seen. They also try to prevent him talking to reporters. He is given a physical by doctors at the base hospital. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 172)
- 1947, July 11 Debriefings of all military participants in the Corona debris recovery operation take place. They are taken into a room in small groups and told that the recovery is highly classified and not to talk about it. Military personnel warn civilians around Roswell, New Mexico, that they are not to talk about what happened. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, pp. 72–76, 172)
- **1947**, July 11 11:00 a.m. USAAF Col. <u>Bruce H. Perry</u> and Maj. <u>William E. Geyser</u>, 59th AACS Group, see a round 2— 3 foot or 10-foot aluminum or silver-metallic sphere traveling at great speed to the south of Elmendorf AFB [now

- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska. Estimated altitude is 3,000–4,000 feet. (NICAP, "Round 3' Aluminum Object at Great Speed"; Sparks, p. 24)
- 1947, July 12 Kenneth Arnold is interviewed at the Hotel Owyhee in Boise, Idaho, by Lt. Frank M. Brown and Capt. William L. Davidson, who have flown in from Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California. He also submits a written statement to Army Air Force intelligence, referring to the objects as "saucer-like." At the end of the report he draws a picture of what the objects appeared to look like at their closest approach to Mt. Rainier, Washington. He writes, "They seemed longer than wide, their thickness was about 1/20th their width." As to motion, Arnold writes, "They flew like many times I have observed geese to fly in a rather diagonal chain-like line as if they were linked together." (James Easton suggests in 2007 that Arnold may have seen pelicans, based on their movements, but this seems unlikely.) While they are at Arnold's house, Brown and Davidson hear that pilot Emil J. Smith is in Boise on a layover, and all three go to the airport to talk to him. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, The Coming of the Saucers, Palmer, 1952, pp. 21–23; Kenneth Arnold, "Confidential," Project 1947; Frank M. Brown, "Memorandum for the Officer in Charge," July 16, 1947; James Easton, "Kenneth Arnold and the Pelicans," UFO Conjectures, April 4, 2007; Martin Shough, "The Singular Adventure of Mr. Kenneth Arnold," June 2010; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign," 1UR 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 6)
- 1947, July 12 The FBI conducts a shorter follow-up interview with Capt. Emil J. Smith. (ClearIntent, p. 153)
- 1947, July 12 2:30 p.m. Earl Page is flying a light plane from Las Vegas to Salt Lake City with his wife Beulah and son Ronald. Over Utah Lake, Utah, they see a formation of discs approach their plane from the front and pass to the right. Page thinks they may be as close as 50 feet. He banks the plane sharply to pursue them, but they disappear in the distance. All three of the witnesses experience an overwhelming emotional reaction, as well as nausea. (Frank B. Salisbury, *The Utah UFO Display*, 2010 ed., pp. 2–3)
- 1947, July 12 6:30 p.m. USAAF Maj. Edward Graham and others at Elmendorf AFB [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska, see a balloon-like grayish object, 10 feet long, flying northwest at 100 mph at an altitude of 1,500 feet and following the contour of mountains 5 miles away. It is paralleling the course of a landing C-47. (Sparks, p. 24)
- 1947, July 12 6:35 p.m. Seamen John C. Kennedy and Ben Bobberly are on duty at Naval Air Station Seattle at Sand Point [now closed and redeveloped as Magnuson Park], Seattle, Washington. They notice a silvery disc-shaped object flying overhead to the east at 12,000 feet. At about the same time, <a href="Arnold Bergh">Arnold Bergh</a> and James Calahan watch three silvery discs flying quickly north from their location near North 82nd Street and 11th Avenue in Seattle. (Bloecher, p. III-6)
- 1947, July 13 5:48 p.m. Warren Baker Eames is driving with his wife Alice on State Highway 2 near Gardner, Massachusetts, when they see a large, silvery, disc-shaped object in the sky ahead, moving west. As they watch, its nearest edge dips down toward them and it accelerates in a sudden burst of speed to the west-northwest. (Bloecher, p. III-1)
- 1947, July 15 <u>Mack Brazel</u> is returned home after an extensive interrogation at Roswell AAF, New Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Evans, 1994, p. 173)
- 1947, July 15 12:15 p.m. Col. Frank A. Flynn is flying a Vultee BT-13 Valiant over Concord, California, when a group of 12–15 objects approaches and passes him. At first he takes them for birds, but he can see no necks or wings and they are moving in excess of 200 mph. They are moving in a see-saw fashion at three different altitudes about 200 feet apart, and they appear to be about 15 feet across, white on the top and gray and black on the bottom. At their closest point, they are about one mile away. Flynn turns his plane around to pursue them, but they outdistance him quickly. (Bloecher, p. III-13)
- 1947, July 16 An initial report on the Ernest Harmon AFB case in Newfoundland is written up by a base intelligence officer. (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "<u>Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign</u>," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 8)
- 1947, July 19 The antiaircraft command base of the Chinese Nationalist Government Air Force spots a UFO over Lanzhou City, Gansu, China. It is 50 feet long and has an apparent rudder and two jet pipes in the back. About 8:00 p.m., witnesses in Gansu province watch a red object cross the sky in 2 seconds. (Paul Dong, *The Four Major Mysteries of Mainland China*, Prentice-Hall, 1984, p. 3)
- 1947, July 21 A more detailed report on the Ernest Harmon AFB incident is sent to the Pentagon. (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 8)
- **1947**, July 21 *Life* magazine publishes a pictorial news story on the flying discs. ("Speaking of Pictures: A Rash of Flying Disks Breaks Out over the U.S.," *Life*, July 21, 1947, pp. 14–16)

- 1947, July 22 Ray Palmer writes to Kenneth Arnold and tells him about the Maury Island, Washington, case, asking him to look into it. (Jason Colavito, ed., "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947"; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, The Coming of the Saucers, Palmer, 1952, p. 21)
- 1947, July 23 Day. John H. Janssen, aviation editor of the *Morristown Daily Record*, is flying his Piper J-3 Cub at 6,000 feet near the Morristown Airport in New Jersey. He sees a flash of light, the engine gives out, and the plane seems to be motionless. Then he sees two UFOs (this time with portholes) and manages to get the propeller going again. This is one of the first cases of "vehicle interference" UFO cases involving an airplane. (NICAP, "07-10-1947 USA, New Jersey, Morristown"; John H. Janssen, "My Encounter with Flying Disks," *Fate* 2, no. 3 (September 1949): 12–16)
- 1947, July 23 José C. Higgens and some assistants are surveying a field in Campina do Amoral in the Colônia Goio-Bang, located between Luiziana and Mamboré, Paraná, Brazil. On hearing a sharp sound, they see a grayish-white disc-shaped object about 100 feet in diameter, which soon lands and rests on curved metal feet. His assistants flee, but Higgens goes up to examine it. He sees a small glass window and two odd-looking beings observing him curiously from within. A door opens in the craft, and three other hairless beings dressed in transparent overalls emerge. They have large, round eyes with eyebrows and pronounced eyelashes. Their legs are disproportionately long and they are about 7 feet tall. One points a small tube at Higgens. They are speaking in an unknown, sonorous language. He walks toward the door and can see only a small cubicle, bordered by another door, and several portholes. Higgens by gestures asks where they are from and the leader draws a map in the dirt, indicating a seventh planet, presumably Uranus. He eludes them by pretending to look for his wife and goes into a hidden spot in the woods. After 30 minutes the beings climb into the object and take off. (Wikipedia, "Caso José Higgens"; Clark III 576–577; Brazil 21–23; Mark Cashman, "Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 18)
- **1947**, July 25 Intelligence agents from the Fourth Air Force, Lt. <u>Frank M. Brown</u> and Capt. <u>William L. Davidson</u>, visit Kenneth Arnold in Boise, Idaho, and tell him to contact them if he runs across any interesting UFO evidence.
- 1947, July 25 A memorandum over the signature of Maj. Lester M. Garrigues states that by order of Col. Blanchard, the nine men who had been assigned duties in the recovery of the Roswell, New Mexico, crash are relieved from duty on that project. However, it is now largely considered a forgery by Frank Kaufmann. Garrigues has assumed duties in China prior to this and is no longer in Roswell. (Kevin D. Randle, "Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, "Frank Kaufmann Exposed," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- 1947, July 25 Day. Leonard Robertson is riding his motorcycle northeast of Dumas, Texas, when he sees a flash of light to his left. An oval object like a bubble is floating over a field about one mile away. Suddenly the object explodes, so Robertson takes a side road to the field where he retrieves a piece of metal "lighter than aluminum foil" about 30 inches long and 24 inches wide. There are two small holes in it and the center seems to be burned. ("Perryton Man Displays Proof of Saucer Story," Amarillo (Tex.) Daily News, August 6, 1947, p. 1; "Salvage from Mystery Blast," Amarillo (Tex.) Daily News, August 9, 1947, p. 5; Curt Collins, "The Texas UFO Crash Debris Photo from July 1947," The Saucers That Time Forgot, May 21, 2020)
- 1947, July 26 President <u>Truman</u> signs the National Security Act, a major restructuring of the military and intelligence agencies. It creates a unified National Military Establishment (Army and Navy) and an independent Department of the Air Force, both under the new Secretary of Defense. The Joint Research and Development Board becomes the R&D brain center. Each of the three service secretaries maintains quasi-cabinet status. It establishes the National Security Council to advise the president and the Central Intelligence Agency, the first peacetime intelligence agency in the US. The CIA is prohibited from conducting domestic surveillance, but <u>Allen Dulles</u> ensures it can handle "other functions" affecting "national security" without scrutiny from Congress or (sometimes) the president. Much of the CIA's funding initially comes from wealthy Americans. The act creates the first black military and intelligence budget. (Wikipedia, "National Security Act of 1947")
- **1947**, July 27 <u>Ray Palmer</u> wires <u>Kenneth Arnold</u> \$200 to investigate the Maury Island, Washington, case. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, 1952, Palmer, <u>pp. 23–24</u>)
- 1947, July 27 Capt. <u>Davidson</u> and Lt. <u>Brown</u> interview Richard Rankin. The FBI finds that the CIC agents have also interviewed <u>Kenneth Arnold</u>, Capt. Emil J. Smith, Flight Officer Ralph Stevens, and *Boise Stateman* Editor <u>David N. Johnson</u> about their UFO sightings. <u>Leverett G. Richards</u>, aviation editor of the *Portland Oregonian*, informs the FBI of this information. He also calls Lieut. Gen. <u>Nathan Twining</u>, who leaves "the impression that the AAF instituted this investigation to wash out the disc reports since they are definitely not of AAF origin." (Memo for FBI Director from Mr. D. M. Ladd, August 14, 1947)
- 1947, July 28 After assessing the Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, report, Gen. <u>Schulgen</u> orders Col. <u>Howard M. McCoy</u>, deputy commander of T-2 intelligence at Wright Field, Ohio, to send a top-level assessment team

- (possibly <u>Alfred Loedding</u> or Col. <u>William R. Clingerman Jr.</u>) to Stephenville "immediately" and report directly to the Pentagon afterwards. McCoy suspects German or Russian technology. (Michael D. Swords, "<u>Project Sign</u> and the <u>Estimate of the Situation</u>," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 33–34; Swords 39)
- 1947, July 28 8:34 p.m. Capt. Charles F. Gibian and First Officer Jack Harvey are piloting United Air Lines Flight 105 and descending above Mountain Home, Idaho, in preparation for landing in Boise. Harvey sees an object that seems to be another aircraft ahead of them and to the south, but it rapidly moves to the northwest in a weaving fashion, diminishing in size and vanishing from view. ("United Air Lines Crew Reports Sighting Flying Saucer between Mountain Home and Boise," Boise *Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 29, 1947, pp. 1–2; Bloecher, pp. III-13—14)
- 1947, July 29 A memo from FBI agent E. G. Fitch says that Special Agent Reynolds has met with Gen. Schulgen again, who assures him that "all discs recovered would be made available for the examination by the FBI agents." (ClearIntent, pp. 149–150)
- 1947, July 29 6:55 a.m. Kenneth Arnold is flying to Tacoma, Washington, to investigate the Maury Island mystery. As he is over Union, Oregon, preparing to land at La Grande to refuel, he sees a cluster of 25 small (24–30 inches) brass-colored discs with a spot in the middle moving at a terrific speed. They come within 1,200 feet of his aircraft before veering away. At La Grande, he phones aviation editor David N. Johnson about his sighting, then reaches Tacoma at dusk. He gets a room (502) at the Winthrop Hotel, where a room and a bath have already been mysteriously reserved for him. Harold A. Dahl visits Arnold that night, then takes him to Fred Crisman's place to see some Maury Island fragments. Arnold thinks it looks like lava. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 25–38; Bloecher, pp. I-15–16, III-14; Clark III 720–721)
- 1947, July 29 2:50 p.m. Assistant Base Operations Officer Capt. William H. Ryherd and ex-AAF B-29 pilot 1Lt Ward Stewart see two round, shiny, white objects near Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California. The objects are 15–25 feet in diameter and are flying at about 750 mph at an altitude of 6,000–10,000 feet heading south. One object flies straight and level; the other weaves from side-to-side like an escort fighter. (Bloecher, p. III-5; Sparks, p. 25)
- 1947, July 30 Arnold calls United Airlines pilot Capt. Emil J. Smith and asks him to come listen to the Maury Island, Washington, story. Smith arrives in Tacoma in the afternoon and cross-examines Dahl and Crisman. Smith stays with Arnold at the Winthrop Hotel. Journalist Ted Morello of United Press calls Arnold and says that a crackpot has been calling him, explaining everything that is going on in the hotel room, including conversations with Smith when they are alone. They try but fail to locate a listening device in the room. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 38–46; Clark III 721)
- 1947, July 30 The FBI issues a policy statement on "Flying Discs," saying that sightings should be investigated to see whether an "individual might be desirous of seeking personal publicity, causing hysteria, or playing a prank." ("Flying Disks," Section B, *Bureau Bulletin* no. 42, Series 1947, in Black Vault FBI documents compilation, <u>p.</u> 48; ClearIntent, <u>p. 150</u>)
- 1947, July 30 A memo with the subject line, "Recovery 'Flying Discs," purportedly written by Maj. Edwin D. Easley, acknowledges that the Roswell, New Mexico, crash could "represent an interplanetary craft of some kind." However, it is now largely considered a forgery by Frank Kaufmann. (Kevin D. Randle, "Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, "Frank Kaufmann Exposed," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- 1947, July 30 The Garrett Estimate, an Air Force Base Intelligence Report on "Flying Discs"—an informal estimate of the situation based on 16 reports selected by Collections Officer Lt. Col. George D. Garrett—says that the "flying saucer situation is not all imaginary or seeing too much in some natural phenomena. Something is really flying around." Also, "Lack of topside inquiries . . . give more than ordinary weight to the possibility that this is a domestic project, about which the President, etc., know." The study is passed up the line to Gen. George Schulgen and Hoover at the FBI for comment, subtly indicating that investigating a domestic project is a waste of time. (Air Force Base Intelligence Report, "Flying Discs," July 30, 1947; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 32–33, 57–61; Swords 39, 474–475; Kevin D. Randle, "Roswell, Nathan Twining, and the Mini-EOTS," A Different Perspective, October 6, 2014)
- 1947, July 31 Crisman and Dahl bring heavy fragments and white metal from the Maury Island case to the Winthrop Hotel room in Tacoma, Washington. They cannot locate the photos. Arnold calls Brown and Davidson at Hamilton Army Airfield in Novato, California. They quickly depart for Tacoma. Morello calls Arnold and says his informant knows that Brown and Davidson are on their way in a B-25. They arrive in the late afternoon. The five men talk until 11:00 p.m., when Crisman offers to go home and get more Maury Island fragments. He returns with slightly different, more slag-like rock stuffed in a large cereal box, which is loaded into Brown's army vehicle. Brown and Davidson leave to go back to Hamilton for Air Force Day the next day. Morello calls again

- and says his informant told him everything about what has just taken place. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 46–57; [FBI teletype, August 6, 1947], pp. 87–88)
- 1947, July 31 Capt. Edward Ruppelt: "By the end of July 1947, the UFO security lid was down tight. The few members of the press who did inquire about what the Air Force was doing got the same treatment that you would get today if you inquired about the number of thermonuclear weapons stock-piled in the U.S.'s atomic arsenal. . . [At T-2 there was] confusion almost to the point of panic." (Ruppelt, p. 22)
- 1947, August USAF fighter pilot W. Boyce sees a hovering disc above Media, Pennsylvania. (UFOEv, p. 33)
- **1947,** August T-2 Intelligence and Army Air Force Intelligence hold meetings over the next two months and prepare documents requesting an authorized project to investigate UFOs, per General <u>LeMay</u>'s 1946 instructions.
- **1947,** August The Air Materiel Command headquarters replaces T-2 Intelligence with the Technical Intelligence Department, tasked with producing reports and estimates on foreign air weapons. It begins to develop a photoanalysis capability.
- 1947, August The *Denver Post* runs a story that claims the military is building a secret base consisting of huge caverns for atomic weapons defense purposes. The article says the new base is in the Manzano Mountains southeast of Sandia Base, New Mexico. The military responds by issuing a statement that operations and construction near Sandia Base are top secret. In fact, however, the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project is building one of several bases around the country that will be used for nuclear weapons storage. The AFSWP code-names the base "Site Able." (Wikipedia, "Sandia Base")
- 1947, August 1 Brown and Davidson make a stop at McChord Field near Tacoma, Washington, to speak with intelligence officer Maj. George Sander, then board the B-25 for Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California. It explodes and crashes near Kelso, Washington, at 1:30 a.m., 20 minutes after taking off, when the left engine catches fire. An army hitchhiker and engineer parachute to safety. Brown and Davidson fail to signal distress or bail out. After hearing the news, Arnold calls Palmer and offers to return his money. Palmer says to just mail him some fragments. Arnold and Smith visit Morello and Dahl and Crisman. They talk to Tacoma Times reporter Paul Lantz in the hotel lobby, who writes the article "Sabotage Hinted in Crash of Army Bomber at Kelso." Debris from the crash is not discovered until 2007. ("Air Force Day Marred As B-26 Crashes Here," Longview (Wash.) Daily News, August 1, 1947, p. 1; "Flying Saucers' Figure in Two Air Crash Deaths," Galveston (Tex.) Daily News, August 3, 1947, pp. 1, 5; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, The Coming of the Saucers, Palmer, 1952, pp. 57–72; Charlette LeFevre and Philip Lipson, "The Maury Island UFO Incident," February 2014; Leslie Slape, "Marker Placed near Kelso to Honor Pilots in '47 Crash," Longview (Wash.) Daily News, August 3, 2007, p. 9)
- 1947, August 3 Smith contacts Maj. <u>Sander</u>, who relieves <u>Arnold</u> and Smith of all their fragments. He shows them a smelting lot where he finds similar pieces of slag. Smith and Arnold check out of the Winthrop Hotel in Tacoma, Washington. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, <u>pp. 73–84</u>)
- 1947, August 4 Pilots Capt. <u>Jack Peck</u> and Vince Daly see a smooth UFO northwest of Bethel, Alaska, dead ahead as they are flying a DC-3 for Al Jones Flying Service. Peck hauls back on his controls to bring his plane up to safer altitude. Now 1,000 feet higher, the pilots glance downward and spot the UFO closer but on a changed course. Still dark against the sky, it looks to be as large as a C-54. Intrigued, Peck dives on the object as it pulls away, doing his best to get a better view, but it speeds up to an estimated 500 mph and is lost to view in four minutes. (NICAP, "<u>Smooth Black Object Crosses Path of DC-3</u>"; Harold D. Johnston, "<u>Matters of National Interest.</u>" August 5, 1947; Sparks, p. 25)
- 1947, August 6 An FBI memo from E. G. Fitch to <u>D. Milton Ladd</u> identifies either <u>Brown</u> or <u>Davidson</u> as a CIC agent on a top secret mission. (Jason Colavito, ed., "<u>Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer, Federal Bureau of Investigation</u>, 1947")
- 1947, August 7 The Seattle, Washington, FBI office interrogates <a href="Crisman">Crisman</a> and <a href="Dahl">Dahl</a> and announces the Maury Island incident is a hoax. The FBI file notes that Dahl stated that "if questioned by the authorities he was going to say it was a hoax because he did not want any further trouble over the matter." Dahl's daughter Louise admits in 2007 that the whole story was made up, as did her brother Charles in the late 1960s, who called Crisman a "smooth-talking con artist." The affair had started as a joke and blossomed into something worse. Associated Press reporter Elmer Vogel says that Dahl's wife had compelled him to tell Vogel the truth. <a href="Morello">Morello</a> also speaks to Crisman, who admits the story is baseless. (Clark III 721; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, \*The Coming of the Saucers\*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 105–111; Jason Colavito, ed., "Inquiry into Richard Shaver and Ray Palmer, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1947"; Kenn Thomas, \*Maury Island UFO: The Crisman Conspiracy, IllumiNet, 1999; Anthony Bragalia, "Maury Island No Longer a Mystery: A UFO Hoax Exposed!" UFO Digest, July 8, 2010; Brian J. Robb, "Conspiracy Central: The Life and Lies of Fred Lee Crisman," \*Fortean Times 355 (July 2017): 32–39)

- 1947, August 8 Lt. Col. <u>Donald L. Springer</u>, assistant chief of staff for army intelligence at the Fourth Air Force, who has just returned to Hamilton Army Airfield [now closed] in Novato, California, from Tacoma, Washington, says "there is not sufficient evidence or testimony available to this headquarters to conclude whether or not the reports of so-called flying disks in the Tacoma area or any other area have any basis of fact." He adds that the Maury Island crash "did not occur." ("Fourth Air Force Drops Disc Inquiry; Search Held Futile," San Francisco Examiner, August 9, 1947, p. 5)
- 1947, August 9 John Derry, serving as acting general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, proposes a set of guidelines that restate the proposition that secrecy can be based on reasons other than national security. The definition of Confidential that he proposes goes beyond the Army and Manhattan Project rules: "CONFIDENTIAL: Documents, information or material, the unauthorized disclosure of which, while not endangering the National security, would be prejudicial to the interests or prestige of the Nation or any Governmental activity, or individual, or would cause administrative embarrassment, or be of advantage to a foreign nation shall be classified CONFIDENTIAL." The Derry memo calls for review by a classification board assembled from the AEC's regional sites. In September, this board assembles in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The available documentation does not show that Derry's proposed rules go into effect, but it does show that the Classification Board blesses the illustrations of matter that "should be graded" Secret or Confidential. The former category includes "certain selected human administration experiments performed under MED [Manhattan Engineer District]." (US Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, "Final Report," October 1995, chapter 13)
- 1947, August 13 1:00 p.m. Albert Clarence Urie and his two sons Billy and Kenneth see a straw hat—shaped, sky-blue object about 10 feet wide, 10 feet high, and 20 feet long. It has "pods" on the side emitting flames and is flying along the Snake River Canyon six miles west of Blue Lakes Ranch near Twin Falls, Idaho. The UFO is moving up and down towards them at 1,000 mph and an altitude of 75 feet about 1/2 mile away. Urie is about 300 feet from the object, which is about level with him and silhouetted against the canyon wall. It disappears behind a hill about one mile away. Hynek, for Project Blue Book, later identifies it as an "atmospheric eddy." ("Flying Saucer Reported Flashing Down Canyon at 1,000 Miles Per Hour; Two Others Seen," Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News, August 15, 1947, pp. 1, 8; NICAP, "Snake River Case"; Hynek UFO Report, p. 34; Sparks, p. 26; Story, pp. 337—338; Patrick Gross, "Snake River, August 13, 1947")
- **1947**, August 13 The *San Francisco Examiner*'s Washington Bureau hears a rumor from a US intelligence source that Soviet agents have been ordered to solve the mystery of flying saucers. It reports that the Kremlin believes that the discs are connected with Army experiments in anti-radar weaponry. (*San Francisco (Calif.) Examiner*, August 14, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, August 14 The first Gallup poll on UFOs shows that 90% of Americans have heard of flying saucers; 33% don't know what they are, 39% consider them hoaxes or misidentifications, 16% consider them US or Russian secret weapons. The ETH is not mentioned. (Project 1947, "August 1947 Gallup Poll"; Robert J. Durant, "Evolution of Public Opinion on UFOs," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 9–10)
- 1947, August 14 Shortly after 9:00 a.m. Italian artist and author Luigi Rapuzzi (who uses the pseudonym L. R. Johannis) is hiking along the left bank of the Torrente Chiarzò near Raveo, Udine, Italy, when he sees a vivid red, metallic, domed disc on the riverbank about 165 feet ahead. It is about 33 feet wide and embedded in a cleft in the rock about 20 feet above the stream. Looking around, he sees two "boys" on the edge of a grove of trees. He shouts at them and points to the object, walking toward them, but notices they are actually odd-looking dwarfs who are approaching him stiffly. They are about 3 feet tall and wearing dark blue coveralls with red collars, cuffs, and belts. Their greenish heads are covered in tight-fitting, brownish caps. He looks at them in astonishment for 2–3 minutes, then waves his geologist's pick at them and asks where they come from. One of the entities raises its right hand to its belt, which emits a puff of smoke that knocks Rapuzzi to the ground as if from an electric shock. As he is lying there, one of them grabs his pick and he notices its green hand has 8 claws. They climb up the rock and into the disc, which soon shoots straight out and into the air, hovering briefly at an angle, then vanishes. Rapuzzi feels a blast of wind that blows him across the ground. His pick is missing. (NICAP, "Professor Encounters 'Lens' and Creatures"; "The Villa Santina Case," in Charles Bowen, ed., The Humanoids, special issue of FSR, Oct./Dec. 1966, p. 2; 1Pinotti 19–30)
- **1947,** August 14 10:40 a.m. Three men of the 147th Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron at Harmon Field, Guam, see two small crescent-shaped objects zigzagging at 1,200 feet. They disappear in the clouds and another object emerges and proceeds west. (Lt. Col. Donald L. Springer, "Flying Disc," August 27, 1947; Sparks, p. 26)
- **1947**, August 14 The FBI concludes that the plane carrying <u>Davidson</u> and <u>Brown</u> was not sabotaged, nor was it carrying actual flying disc parts. (Memo for FBI Director from Mr. D. M. Ladd, August 14, 1947)

- 1947, August 15 In response to the August 13 San Francisco Examiner report, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover asks the agency to look into whether Soviet spies are looking into whether the flying discs are a secret US technology. Assistant Director of the Domestic Intelligence Division D. Milton "Mickey" Ladd at FBI headquarters assures FBI Deputy Director Edward Allen Tamm that he is unaware of any such effort. (Memo to Assistant FBI Director E. A. Tamm from Agent D. M. Ladd, August 15, 1947)
- 1947, August 15? 9:30 p.m. Maj. Elmer H. Hammer of the 28th Bombardment Wing at Rapid City Army Air Base [now Ellsworth AFB] near Box Elder, South Dakota, sees 12 objects flying at 6,000–10,000 feet in a tight diamond formation at 300–400 mph. The objects level off at approximately 5,000 feet and make a gentle large-radius turn of about 110° to the right about 4 miles away. They start climbing at an angle of 30–40° and appear to accelerate rapidly in the climb. The objects are approximately 100 feet long and have a brilliant yellow-white luminous glow. (NICAP, "12 B-29-Sized Elliptical Objects Seen"; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 40; Sparks, p. 26)
- 1947, August 17—A forest ranger at a fire lookout tower on Mt. Josephine, Skagit County, Washington, observes an object shaped like a huge clam that appears to fall tipped at an angle northeast of the fire tower. It slows to a stop, levels off, and floats "leisurely as if suspended by a cord" for a few minutes and finally moves off to the southeast with ever increasing speed. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 1, 1947*. The Author, February 1991, p. 61)
- 1947, August 19 FBI memo to D. M. Ladd from E. G. Fitch on "Flying Discs" mentions SAC Reynolds's conversation with Lt. Col. George Garrett, who strongly suspects the Army or Navy is testing some new technology, concluding that "there were objects seen which somebody in the Government knows all about." However Gen.

  Stephen Chamberlin and the War Department claim to have no involvement or knowledge of such programs.

  (Memorandum from E. G. Fitch, "Flying Discs." August 19, 1947)
- 1947, August 19 9:30 p.m. H. H. Hedstrom (executive director of the Twin Falls Housing Authority) and three policemen (Richard A. Frazier, H. E. Roundtree, and Richard Scott) in Twin Falls, Idaho, see a formation of 12 objects flying in diamond formation at terrific speed. (NICAP, "August 19, 1947, Twin Falls, Idaho"; Hynek UFO Report, p. 39; Sparks, p. 26)
- **1947,** August 20 An Anglo-American intelligence team releases a report on secret German weapons. Foo fighters are said to be caused by a rocket-propelled plane launched straight up from the ground, intercepting Allied bomber formations by firing a spray of rocket shells from the nose. The pilot then parachutes back to the ground, a chute opens on the rocket, and it is recovered for re-use. (*New London (Conn.) Day, August 20, 1947; Jan Aldrich)*
- 1947, August 22 Col. Robert Taylor III, Collection Branch of Army Air Force Intelligence, summarizes the findings of Lt. Col. Garrett's investigations of UFOs in a letter to Gen. Curtis LeMay, Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research and Development. Taylor requests any information on AAF projects that might give rise to such UFO reports. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 August 1st–December 31st, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, p. 27; Swords 39–40)
- **1947,** August 24 The name Joint Research and Development Board is changed to simply Research and Development Board. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "<u>The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions,</u>" *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 8)
- **1947**, August 25 USMC Maj. Marion Eugene Carl attains a world airspeed record of 651 mph in a Douglas Skystreak at Muroc AFB [now Edwards AFB], California. (Wikipedia, "Marion Eugene Carl")
- 1947, August 28 Microwave Early Warning radar on Shika Island off Fukuoka, Japan, picks up a target moving 450–478 mph at an altitude of 1,500 feet. It changes course, climbs, and is tracked to a distance of 62 miles. (NICAP, "Target Tracked in a Climb"; Sparks, p. 27)
- **1947,** August 29 Gen. <u>LeMay</u> answers Col. <u>Taylor</u>'s August 22 request stating that there is no such project as described. (Swords 41)
- 1947, Late August Brig. Gen. George F. Schulgen passes the updated Garrett Estimate on to Air Materiel Command head Gen. Nathan Twining with a request for a statement on the discs so an authorized UFO project can be requested. Col. Howard McCoy asks for a meeting between Alfred Loedding (aeronautics engineer at T-3), Lt. Col. George Garrett (Collections), and Charles Carroll (a math and missiles expert who has been correlating UFO sightings with approaches of planetary bodies) "in order to set up a system for evaluating the information being received." These four will later form the core of the ETH-friendly faction at Project Sign. (RosRept, p. 13; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 33–35; Letter to T-2 from Executive Air Intelligence Requirement Division, September 3, 1947; Sparks, p. 13; Swords 42, 43)
- 1947, September Astronomer <u>Lincoln LaPaz</u> arrives in Roswell, New Mexico, and rediscovers the area of blackened ground earlier found by two of <u>Wilcox</u>'s deputies. He speaks to some witnesses and determines there might have been more than one object.

- 1947, September 3 A memo from Col. R. H. Smith at Air Defense Command headquarters at Mitchel Field on Long Island, New York, states that the intent of USAF cooperation with the FBI was to "relieve the numbered Air Forces of the task of tracking down all the many instances which turned out to be ash-can covers, toilet seats, and whatnot." (R. H. Smith, "Cooperation of FBI with AAF on Investigations of 'Flying Disc' Incidents," September 3, 1947, via FBI UFO Files, p. 21; ClearIntent, p. 156; Michael Hesemann and Philip Mantle, *Beyond Roswell*, Marlowe, 1997, p. 66)
- **1947,** September 3 Dale Edwards and three friends are camping out in the Desolation Wilderness area west of Lake Tahoe, California, when one of them, Peter Thompson, spots a huge gray UFO accompanied by a rush of warm air. The next day they discover a circle, 40 feet in diameter, of recently burned grass and skunk cabbage. ("True Mystic Experiences," *Fate* 2, no. 3 (September 1949): 76–77)
- 1947, September 5 In response to the Garrett Estimate, Gen. <u>Curtis LeMay</u> states in a memo, copied to the FBI, that "a complete survey of research activities discloses that the Army Air Force has no project with the characteristics similar to those which have been associated with the Flying Discs." (Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs</u>, <u>a History: Volume 1</u>, <u>1947</u>, The Author, February 1991, p. 53; Michael D. Hall and Wendy A. Connors, <u>Alfred Loedding and the Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947</u>, Rose Press, 1998, <u>p. 83</u>)
- 1947, September 5 In Washington, D.C., <u>Alfred Loedding</u> (as Wright Field T-2's liaison with the Pentagon) meets with <u>Garrett</u> and Carroll. Flying disk reports at the Pentagon are transferred to Wright Field, Ohio, shortly afterwards. (Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 34)
- 1947, Mid-September Twining passes the Garrett Estimate on to Col. Howard McCoy, Maj. Gen. Alden Crawford (chief of T-3), Gen. Franklin O. Carroll (director of research and development), Col. C. K. Moore (aircraft laboratory chief), Col. Russell Minty (power-plant laboratory chief), and Brig. Gen. Edgar P. Sorenson (Air Institute of Technology commander). They each study Garrett's report and hold a conference on the discs. (Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation." JUFOS 7 (2000): 33)
- 1947, September 16 An incoming radar target is picked up at Itazuke Air Base [now Fukuoka Airport], Fukuoka, Japan, moving 840–900 mph, then fading out. (Col. James F. Olive Jr., "Radar Pick-Ups of High-Speed Targets in the Far East." Memorandum for Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Washington, D.C., September 26, 1947)
- 1947, September 17 The US Senate confirms <u>James Forrestal</u> as the first Secretary of Defense.
- **1947,** September 18 The reorganization of military and intelligence agencies under the National Security Act takes effect. The US Army Air Forces is disbanded and becomes the US Air Force.
- **1947**, September 19 FBI Special Agent <u>Harry M. Kimball</u> in San Francisco passes Col. R. H. Smith's memo up the chain to Hoover. (ClearIntent, p. 156)
- 1947, September 19 A dubious document, allegedly written on this date by DCI Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter and titled "Examination of Unidentified Disc-Like Aircraft near Military Installations in the State of New Mexico: A Preliminary Report," has been circulated by <u>Timothy S. Cooper</u>. It purports to verify the "recovery of unidentified planform aircraft" in two locations on July 6. (R. H. Hillenkoetter, "<u>Memorandum for the Military Assessment of the Joint Intelligence Committee</u>," September 19, 1947; Good Need, p. 95)
- **1947,** September 19 5:30 p.m. A geophysicist employed by the Humble Oil and Refining Company is testing a weather radar at Grand Isle, Louisiana, when the radar detects an object moving in a southwesterly direction at about 1,000 mph. It persists for about one minute, so he records it in his notebook and discusses the sighting with other scientists. No visual sighting is made. (*Houston Press*, March 24, 1950; Jan L. Aldrich, "Project 1947: A Progress Report," March/April 1996)
- **1947**, September 21 Arrangements are made to transfer UFO files from <u>Garrett</u>'s office in the Pentagon to <u>Alfred Loedding</u> at AMC. (Swords 43)
- 1947, September 23 Head of Air Materiel Command Gen. Nathan Twining responds to Schulgen's request for UFO information with a classified letter composed by Col. McCoy with the assistance of Alfred Loedding, "AMC Opinion Concerning 'Flying Disks." Twining notes the discs are "real and not visionary or fictitious." Reports (based on the cases in the Garrett Estimate) include "extreme rates of climb, maneuverability (particularly in roll), and action which must be considered evasive." Twining gives three reasons to study the discs: They might represent a deep-black domestic project; to pick up physical evidence; and to find out if they are nuclear-propulsion devices from Russia or elsewhere. The letter lists common descriptions of the objects and recommends that USAF "issue a directive assigning a priority, security classification, and code name for a detailed study of the matter." This will ultimately result in Project Sign. Henceforth all disc reports are to be sent to the Army and Navy Research and Development Board, the USAF Scientific Advisory Group, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Project RAND, and the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft project at Oak Ridge. Twining promises a detailed "Essential Elements of Information" (EEI) to be formulated immediately so that all agencies will have guidance. (Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining, "AMC Opinion

- Concerning 'Flying Disks,'" September 23, 1947; Ruppelt, pp. 15–16; RosRept, p. 14; Swords 42, 476–478; Good Above, pp. 260–262, 476–478; Bryce Zabel, "The 1947 Twining UFO Memo Still Matters," Medium: Need to Know, June 1, 2021)
- **1947**, September 24 DCI <u>Hillenkoetter</u>, in a letter to AMC, designates T-2 and the Air Intelligence branch of the US Navy Bureau of Aeronautics as National Assets. He indicates that he does not plan to duplicate air technical intelligence assets within the CIA. (Jan Aldrich)
- **1947,** September 24 <u>President Truman</u> meets with <u>Vannevar Bush</u>, chairman of the Research and Development Board, at the White House. Secretary of Defense <u>James Forrestal</u> is also present. (Stanton T. Friedman, *Top Secret / MAJIC*, Marlowe, 1996, pp. 68–69)
- 1947, September 24 A fake memo from President <u>Truman</u> to Secretary of Defense <u>James Forrestal</u> allegedly establishes a top-secret control group, Operation Majestic Twelve (MJ-12), to deal with the UFO problem. (Clark III 360; Joe Nickell and John R. Fischer, "<u>The Crashed-Saucer Forgeries</u>," *IUR* 15, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1990): 4–20; Philip J. Klass, "<u>New Evidence of MJ-12 Hoax</u>," *Skeptical Inquirer* 14 (Winter 1990): 135–140; Ted R. Spickler, "<u>The Truman MJ-12 Letter</u>," *IUR* 16, no. 3 (May/June 1991): 12–13; Good Above, p. 551)
- **1947**, September 24— Col. Miles E. Goll, in a memo signed for Col. McCoy, asks about a radar case in Japan that Charles Carroll had mentioned to Alfred Loedding in their meeting of September 5. (Dr. Carroll's UFO files; Jan Aldrich)
- 1947, September 25 D. M. "Mickey" Ladd advises J. Edgar Hoover about the September 3 memo from Col. R. H. Smith on Air Force cooperation with the FBI that "indicates that the services of the FBI were enlisted in order to relieve the numbered Air Forces of the task of tracking down all the many instances which turned out to be 'ash can covers, toilet seats, and whatnot." He recommends discontinuing any cooperation with the Air Force. (D. M. Ladd to J. Edgar Hoover, "Flying Discs," September 25, 1947, via FBI UFO Files, p. 20)
- 1947, September 25 A memorandum from Maj. Robert J. Thomas lists the names of nine military personnel in charge of events in the aftermath of the Roswell, New Mexico, recovery. However, it is now largely considered a forgery by <a href="Frank Kaufmann">Frank Kaufmann</a>, (Kevin D. Randle, "Frank Kaufmann, Roswell Witness," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 8, 17–19; Mark Rodeghier, "Frank Kaufmann Exposed," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 9–11, 26)
- 1947, September 26 A memorandum from Col. James F. Olive Jr., Chief of Air Intelligence Division, to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, A-2, summarizes three radar trackings of high-speed targets in Japan (Chitose Air Base, July 1; and MEW Radar Station, Fukuoka, August 28 and September 16). It concludes that there is insufficient information to state that they involved aircraft or missiles but supports the conclusion that they were not natural phenomena. The report is forwarded to T-2 on September 29. (Col. James F. Olive Jr., "Radar Pick-Ups of High-Speed Targets in the Far East," Memorandum for Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Washington, D.C., September 26, 1947).
- 1947, September 27 <u>Hoover</u> notifies USAF Maj. Gen. <u>George C. McDonald</u>, assistant chief of air staff, that he is advising all FBI agents to discontinue all flying disc investigations. (<u>Letter</u>, J. Edgar Hoover to Gen. George C. McDonald, September 27, 1947; ClearIntent, <u>p. 158</u>; Michael Hesemann and Philip Mantle, *Beyond Roswell*, Marlowe, 1997, <u>p. 67</u>)
- 1947, September 30 <u>Vannevar Bush</u> is appointed head of the new Research and Development Board in the National Military Establishment. (<u>Research and Development Board: History and Functions</u>, US National Military Establishment, June 1, 1948)
- 1947, Fall <u>Claude Degler</u>, under the pseudonym John Chrisman, publishes a single issue of the first flying saucer fanzine, *Weird Unsolved Mysteries*. (Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 August 1st—December 31st, Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2001, pp. 56–69; Curt Collins, "<u>Claude Degler</u>, One of the Ufologists That Time Forgot," The Saucers That Time Forgot, July 15, 2021)
- 1947, Early October Private pilot Selman E. Graves claims to have witnessed part of the recovery of a crashed UFO in Paradise Valley, Arizona, on property owned by his friend, Walt Salyer. Graves says the federal government sponsored a state government project that relocated a nearby road and bulldozed the land to cover up the crash site. (Good Above, pp. 394–397)
- **1947**, October 1 *Bureau Bulletin* 59 ends all FBI cooperation with the Air Force on UFO investigation, although the FBI continues its own inquiries. (ClearIntent, p. 159)
- **1947,** October 1 A letter from <u>Truman</u> to <u>Vannevar Bush</u> appears to bear the original Truman signature used in the MJ-12 fake memo.
- **1947,** October 7 Capt. R. V. A. Therien of the Royal Swedish Navy states at USAF headquarters that some ghost rockets have been observed making 180° turns, and about 33 of the incidents are considered factual. (Loren E.

- Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1947 August 1st–December 31st, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2001, p. 76)
- 1947, October 14 <u>Bernt Balchen</u>, Norwegian Airline director and former USAF Colonel, gives USAF headquarters information about two radar locations and a rocket firing incident observed in the Petsamo region (Pechengsky District) of Finland, recently ceded to Russia. Gen. <u>Alfred A. Kessler Jr.</u>, former US military attaché in Sweden, disputes Therien's information. He says only two ghost rocket sightings are possibly factual, but there is no evidence to authenticate them. (Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs</u>, <u>a History: 1947 August 1st–December 31st</u>, <u>Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2001, p. 76)
- 1947, October 14 Test pilot <u>Chuck Yeager</u> unofficially breaks the sound barrier (670 mph) for the first time in an experimental rocket-powered Bell X-1 at Muroc [now Edwards] AFB, California. (Wikipedia, "<u>Chuck Yeager</u>"; Chuck Yeager and Leo Janos, <u>Yeager: An Autobiography</u>, Century, 1985; Kaitlyn Crain Enriquez, "<u>Captain Chuck Yeager: Breaking the Sound Barrier</u>," The Unwritten Record, October 13, 2022; Bob van der Linden, "<u>Breaking the Sound Barrier: Chuck Yeager and the Bell X-1</u>," National Air and Space Museum, October 13, 2022; Graff 29–31)
- 1947, October 20 A farmer named Britton sees two cigar-shaped UFOs traveling a straight course at high speed about one mile in height in trail formation near Dayton, Ohio. They leave a slight vapor trail then disappear suddenly. (NICAP, "Farmers Observes Two Cigars"; Keyhoe, FSTS, p. 89; Sparks, p. 29)
- 1947, October 21 A preliminary EEI document, indicating that the radar detection of UFOs near Fukuoka, Japan, on September 16 has played a role in concerns about disc maneuverability, is circulated to the European Command by Lieut. Col. Malcolm D. Seashore, former acting chief of the Analysis Section at AMC under McCoy. It expresses concern about German/Russian technology and adds disc characteristics of hovering, disappearance, quick grouping, and sudden appearance. ("Flying Disc' Information Request to European Command, October 1947"; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 35; Swords 43, 479–484)
- **1947,** October 21 The jet-propelled Northrop YB-49 makes its first test flight from Jack Northrop Field in Hawthorne, California, reaching Muroc AFB in 32 minutes. (Wikipedia, "Northrop YB-49")
- 1947, October 28 Brig. Gen. George F. Schulgen, Chief of USAF Intelligence Requirements Division, writes a five-page report based on the characteristics listed in the September 23 Twining letter (though in greater detail) and the preliminary EEI of October 21. Titled "Intelligence Requirements on Flying Saucer Type Aircraft: Draft of Collection Memorandum," it lists things investigators should try to determine about UFO propulsion, control, construction, arrangement, landing gear, and power plant. It considers the objects "to be a manned aircraft, of Russian origin, and based on the perspective thinking and actual accomplishments of the Germans" (page 5, paragraph 4). [However, a *fake version* of this document has the phrase "it is the considered opinion of some elements that the object may in fact represent an interplanetary craft of some kind.... The presence of an unconventional or unusual type of propulsion system cannot be ruled out and should be considered of great interest." Other deletions and additions are present in the fake document.] (George F. Schulgen, "Intelligence Requirements on Flying Saucer Type Aircraft: Draft of Collection Memorandum," October 30, 1947 [PDF of real memo, pp. 1–6, PDF of fake memo, pp. 7–12]; RosRept, p. 35; Good Above, p. 262; Robert G. Todd, "Fake Air Force Memo Exposed," The Roswell Files; Robert G. Todd, "Fake Air Force Memo Exposed, Part 2," The Roswell Files; Robert G. Todd, "Fake Air Force Memo Exposed, Part 2," The Roswell Files; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 35–36)
- 1947, November Former Messerschmidt test pilot Fritz Wendel tells US Army CIC that the Horten brothers were working on an advanced aircraft in Heiligenbeil, East Prussia [now Mamonovo, Russia] right after the war. The airplane is 33 feet long, shaped like a half-moon, and has no tail. It can fly to 12,000 feet. Wendel's story is corroborated by a German informant named Prof. George, who describes a later Horten craft as able to fly at 1,200 mph because it is propelled by rockets. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 41–42)
- **1947**, November 6 <u>Chuck Yeager</u> again makes an unofficial airspeed record of 891 mph in a Bell X-1 at Muroc AFB, California. (Wikipedia, "Chuck Yeager")
- 1947, November 10 Lt. Col. Walker sends a memo to his field commands in Germany in response to the September 23 <a href="Twining">Twining</a> letter. It calls for a discreet canvass into finding German engineers who might know of similar technology. ("The Walker Memo," The Roswell Files)
- 1947, November 12 Early morning. US Navy Second Officer Williamson on the tanker <u>Ticonderoga</u> 40 miles north or south of Cape Blanco, Oregon, sees two fireballs with fiery tails heading northwest at 700–900 mps. Possible meteors. ("Objects Seen by Sailor off Coast of Oregon," Portland *Oregon Daily Journal*, November 13, 1947, p. 13; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 29)

- 1947, November 18 *Boise Idaho Statesman* Aviation Editor <u>David N. Johnson</u>, having heard of the *USS Ticonderoga* sighting, writes to Gen. <u>George E. Stratemeyer</u> at Mitchel Field, New York, for information and asking eight questions about the Army's investigation. Stratemeyer passes the query on to <u>Garrett</u> and <u>Taylor</u>. (Swords 43)
- **1947,** December 8 Pilots observe a reddish light moving at moderate speed over Las Vegas, Nevada. It emits a flash of green light and shoots upwards at a "tremendous speed." (UFOEv, p. 149)
- **1947,** December 11 <u>Garrett</u> and <u>Taylor</u> write a memorandum to the USAF Public Relations Office outlining the proper answers to questions such as <u>Johnson</u> has asked. (Swords 44)
- **1947,** December 14 12:20 a.m. Six staff sergeants at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, watch a domed disc with a glowing green corona surrounding it moving slowly at a slightly tilted angle. It skims the treeline (causing the tops of the trees to wave slightly) and takes off to the northwest. They estimate it is 50–75 feet in diameter and flying at 200 feet altitude. (Project 1947 case file)
- 1947, December 16 Army Lt. Col. <u>Harry H. Pretty</u> in Berlin writes a memo to the Deputy Director of Intelligence in Berlin stating that the <u>Horten brothers</u> (Reimer and Walter) have been located in Göttingen, Germany. He says they are eccentric and quarrelsome. Though they were responsible for the Horten Ho 299 (a prototype fighter/bomber flying wing design), his investigation concludes that no saucer design "ever existed nor was projected by any of the German air research institutions." (Lt. Col. Harry H. Pretty, "<u>Horten Brothers (Flying Saucers)</u>," December 16, 1947)
- 1947, December 17 US Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. <u>Carl Spaatz</u> tells the *Idaho Statesman* he does not rule out the possibility of the flying disks being "foreign experimentation." He adds that the Air Force is still investigating and he still wants people to report their sightings. ("<u>Spaatz Leaves Door Open on Chance 'Flying Discs' Are of Foreign Origin</u>," *Boise Idaho Statesman*, December 17, 1947, p. 1)
- 1947, December 18 Pentagon Col. James F. Olive Jr. (chief of AFOAI) and Lieut. Col. J. E. Thomas of the Offensive Air section (AFOAI-OA) respond to a request by deputy chief of Air Staff for Research and Development Gen.

  Curtis LeMay on the status of flying disc analysis. They complete their reanalysis of the earlier documents from the Pentagon and Wright-Patterson, rewrite a new EEI indicating a potentially serious but puzzling phenomenon, and turn this over to Chief of Air Force Intelligence McDonald for his signature. ("Analysis of 'Flying Disc' Reports.") December 18, 1947; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation." JUFOS 7 (2000): 36; Swords 43, 485–491)
- **1947,** December 19 The Research and Development Board has its first meeting.
- 1947, December 19 Col. <u>Howard McCoy</u> at AMC reports that "Continued and recent reports from qualified observers concerning this phenomenon still makes this one of concern to Headquarters, Air Material Command." (H. M. McCoy to L. C. Craigie, "<u>Flying Discs</u>," December 19, 1947)
- 1947, December 22 The final EEI, called "Analysis of Flying Disc Reports," is issued by Chief of USAF Intelligence George C. McDonald, who concurs with AMC's recommendation of September 23 and forwards it to director of USAF Research and Development Gen. Laurence Cardee Craigie for a reply. Gen. Charles Cabell, the new chief of AFOIR, signs off on this. ("Analysis of 'Flying Disc' Reports," December 18, 1947; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 36)
- 1947, December 26 At the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Chicago, Illinois, University of Iowa astronomer <a href="Charles C. Wylie">Charles C. Wylie</a> proposes a coast-to-coast sky patrol to report on rockets, meteors, or flying saucers. He says that "mass hysteria" about saucers could have been prevented with a sky patrol in place. ("Sky Patrol Recommended by Scientist," Richmond (Va.) Times Dispatch, December 27, 1947, p. 8; Loren E. Gross, <a href="UFOs">UFOs</a>, <a href="History: Volume 1, 1947">History: Volume 1, 1947</a>, The Author, February 1991, p. 76)
- 1947, December By now, ATIC has received 156 UFO reports. Aerodynamicists at ATIC and AMC agree that no German design can match UFO performance. The USAF Aeromedical Laboratory says that even if such a craft can be built, the human body cannot withstand the maneuvers, and USAF materials specialists say that no known material can withstand them either, as well as the heat of high speeds. Ruppelt later writes, "Why couldn't these people, whoever they might be, stand these horrible maneuver forces? Why judge them by earthly standards? I found a memo to this effect was in the old Project Sign files." (Ruppelt, p. 28)
- 1947, December 30 Gen. Laurence C. Craigie, director of USAF R&D and successor to Gen. Curtis LeMay (who has returned to Europe), advises the AMC commanding general that USAF policy is not to ignore UFO reports, but to collect, evaluate, and act on the information. He establishes Project Sign (Project HT-304 under USAF Technical Instruction no. TI-2185) in a memo titled "Flying Discs." Alfred Loedding, who is convinced that the flying discs are extraterrestrial, may have come up with the "Sign" designation. It carries a 2A restricted classification. (Gen. Laurence C. Craigie, "Flying Discs." Memorandum to Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, December 30, 1947; Sparks, p. 11; Condon, p. 896; "Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence

Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects," April 28, 1949, p. 2; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 24). Craigie, after his retirement from the Air Force in 1955, indicates that he believes UFOs are a waste of time and only approved Project Sign because of internal USAF politics. (Joel Carpenter)

## 1948

- 1948 David T. Keating, an employee of the USAF Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft group, is flying with the 166th Fighter Squadron of the Ohio National Guard out of Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base] in Lockbourne, Ohio. While executing a flip of his P-51 at 18,000 feet, he sees a silvery disc zoom above his plane. He goes in pursuit of it at 325 mph and closes to within 240 feet of it. It seems to be 40 feet in diameter and 6 feet thick, with a vertical stabilizer rudder on the end. He keeps flying after it even when he loses sight of it. "About 10 miles south of the Ohio River," he claims, "I spotted litter on a hillside and a path that had obviously been ripped up by a crashing plane." Short on fuel, he returns to Lockbourne. He persuades his major to fly over the crash scene, and they send a truck to retrieve the remains. (Helen Knox, "Ridge Newcomer Tells of Game of Tag with 'Saucer," *The Oak Ridger*, September 18, 1950; Clark III 325)
- 1948 An airman stationed in Arizona is called out with a scientific team to examine a flying saucer that has crashed near Taos, New Mexico. When he arrives, the area is roped off and under military guard. The object is metallic with a flat circular airfoil. The cabin at the top center is too small for a normal-sized human. He is told by workers on the scene that bodies of "little men" have been removed from the craft. They discover that the ship is constructed of interlocking sections pinned together, but they cannot locate a power plant, except possibly some electromagnets below the cabin. (L. J[ames] Lorenzen, "Aimé Michel's Orthotenic Lines," APRO Bulletin, July 1958, pp. 6–7; Clark III 325)
- 1948 British author and ex-MI5 operative Bernard Newman publishes a novel titled *The Flying Saucer*, the first book to use that phrase in its title. The story revolves around a group of scientists who create a fake Martian threat in order to bring the world together. Plot elements include a trio of staged saucer crashes (in New Mexico, Russia, and the UK), propaganda, and even an alien autopsy. (Bernard Newman, *The Flying Saucer*, Gollancz, 1948; Andrew May, "The Flying Saucer," Retro-Forteana, June 30, 2013; Kremlin 43–45)
- 1948? Sylvia Hall, 11, wakes up at her home on the corner of Riggs Road and Lateral 1 Road south of Yakima, Washington, when her bedroom fills with bluish-white light pouring in through the closed west window. Some 100 feet above the ground is a huge bright cloud. Gliding down from it in groups of four on something like a ramp are tall people with bluish-silvery robes. She watches them for 10 minutes, then she has an overpowering desire to go back to bed. She tells no one about the experience until she is an adult. (Greg Long, "Strangeness at Yakima," *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 16–17)
- 1948, January 6 3:00 p.m. Bernice Zaikowski, 61, of Chehalis, Washington, hears a "sizzling and whizzing" sound and looks up to see a "birdman" hovering 200 feet above her barn. She watches "a man equipped with long silver wings fastened over the shoulders with a strap" ascend rapidly, hover, bank, then fly away. "He flew in an upright position and appeared to be manipulating controls strapped to his chest." The wings do not flap; instead they retract close to his body during ascent, and are extended to hover or proceed in horizontal flight. Zaikowski says five other adult witnesses and a number of children also see the birdman. ("Flying Man' Is Chehalis Report," Coos Bay (Oreg.) World, January 21, 1948, p. 2; "Is It a Bird? A Plane? No! It's Birdman," Portland Oregonian, January 21, 1948, p. 10; Lyle Zapato, "The Birdmen of Cascadia," ZPi blog, March 24, 2007; Loren Coleman, "1948 'Birdmen' Cases Revisited," Cryptomundo, May 12, 2008; Clark III 270)
- 1948, January 7 1:00 p.m. Kentucky State Police telephone Commanding Officer Col. Guy F. Hix's office at Godman Army Airfield in Fort Knox, Kentucky, reporting an unidentified object near Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Another call to Hix comes from state police at about 1:10 p.m. of an observation by a civilian in Madisonville, Kentucky, through a Finch telescope of a cone-shaped object about 100 feet tall by 43 feet wide, at an altitude of 4 miles and moving at 10 mph. This is apparently General Mills Skyhook balloon Flight B, which passes about 40 miles to the southwest of Madisonville. Other reports come in from Lexington and Mannsville, Kentucky. (Sparks, p. 30)
- 1948, January 7 1:20–2:10 p.m. Army Flight Service reports to Godman Army Airfield control tower that the object is over Irvington then Owensboro, Kentucky. Godman Tower Operator Tech/Sgt Quinton A. Blackwell, Capt. James F. Duesler Jr., Base Air Inspector Lt. Col. E. Garrison Wood, and other USAF personnel see a round or ice-cream-cone-shaped white or silver object with a revolving red streamer toward the south beginning at 1:50 p.m.

Many others see it as well after 2:07 p.m., such as Operations Officer Capt. Cary W. Carter and Col. Guy F. Hix. (Sparks, p. 30)

1948, January 7 — 1:45–3:50 p.m. A circular object is reported by civilians over Elizabethtown, Madisonville, Lexington, Maysville, Irvington, and Owensboro, Kentucky. In the Godman Army Airfield control tower at Fort Knox, Tech/Sgt. Quinton A. Blackwell and others spot an object shaped like an ice cream cone with a red light around the lower part in the southwest at 1:45 p.m. Base Commander Col. Guy Hix says it is about one-quarter the size of the full moon and white in color. The object maintains a constant angular position as seen from Godman as it apparently moves away at about 240–300 mph at an altitude of 50,000–60,000 feet. Capt. Thomas F. Mantell Jr., a 25-year-old Kentucky Air National Guard pilot, and three others are flying F-51D fighters to Louisville, Kentucky. After Mantell reports his position to Standiford Field in Louisville at 2:50 p.m., Blackwell breaks in over the radio to request Mantell to intercept and identify the object. Mantell and two other fighters (piloted by Lieuts. Albert William Clements and B. A. Hammond), not equipped with oxygen masks, begin pursuit. Flying at 300 mph and gradually climbing, Mantell gradually approaches the UFO from below. At about 3:10 p.m., in one of his last radio reports, Mantell says he is approaching 20,000 feet and the UFO "appears to be a metallic object or possibly reflection of sun from a metallic object, and it is of tremendous size" (although a later report corrects his transmission to "It's above me and I'm gaining on it"). Two other F-51Ds quit the chase, no longer able to see Mantell or the object. Mantell continues to perhaps 25,000 feet, blacks out, and crashes at 3:18 p.m. about 4 miles south-southwest of Franklin, Kentucky. The UFO disappears from view behind a cloud at Godman at 3:50 p.m. The Project Sign staff, still not yet formally organized, are under pressure to come up with some kind of answer, so they quickly float Venus (offhandedly suggested by Ohio State University astronomer J. Allen Hynek) as an explanation. This implausible explanation is not even believed by the Air Force, but it remains unchallenged for several years. In 1952, Ruppelt reopens the case and identifies the object as a secret Skyhook balloon, although he cannot confirm a launch that day. Army veteran Clifford Stone finds later that there have been no Skyhook launches since late December. However, Barry J. Greenwood and Robert Todd tentatively identify the balloon as one launched from Camp Ripley near Little Falls, Minnesota, on January 6. (Wikipedia, "Mantell UFO incident"; NICAP, "The Mantell Case"; "Flier Dies Chasing a 'Flying Saucer," New York Times, January 9, 1948, p. 11; "Did Airman Hit 'Saucer,' Fall to Death?" Nashville Tennessean, January 9, 1948, pp. 1, 4; Keyhoe 1950, pp. 15– 21; Flight Handbook, USAF Series F-51D Aircraft, January 20, 1954; Harold T. Wilkins, Flying Saucers on the Attack, Citadel, 1954, pp. 89–92; Ruppelt, pp. 31–32; Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, The World of Flying Saucers, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 33–39; Loren E. Gross, UFOs: A History, 1948, The Author, 1988, pp. 2–8; Good Above, pp. 262-263; Good Need, pp. 104-105; Sparks, pp. 30-31; "The Mantell UFO: A Smoking Gun, Maybe!" Just Cause, no. 39 (March 1994): 9–10; "The Mantell UFO: A Smoking Gun, Maybe! Part Two" Just Cause, no. 40 (June 1994): 8–12; Christopher D. Allan, "The Mantell Case—50 Years Later," IUR 23, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 7-9, 31-32; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 37; Michael D. Swords, GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 137– 138: Center for UFO Studies, [clippings and case materials on Mantell case]: The Black Vault, [Mantell documents and photos]; Swords 51–52; Francis Ridge, The Mantell Incident: An Anatomy of a Re-Investigation, The Author, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "The Mantell Analyses," A Different Perspective, September 21, 2017; Clark III 706–710; "Captain Thomas F. Mantell's Plane Crashed after Chasing a UFO over Kentucky on January 7, 1948," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, November 30, 2023; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 61–63; Graff 37–39, 75–77) 1948, January 7 — 4:45–7:06 p.m. USAF 1Lt. Paul I. Orner tracks an unidentified white light with red coloration in a weather theodolite at Godman Army Airfield in Fort Knox, Kentucky, for more than 2 hours. (Sparks, p. 31) 1948, January 7 — 7:15 p.m. Air Traffic Controller and pilot Alex A. Boudreaux and VHF Direction-Finding (DF) Operator and amateur astronomer Frank M. Eisele, 103rd AACS Squadron, at Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base] in Lockbourne, Ohio, spot a bright object to the southwest of the airfield that appears and disappears intermittently. Fighter pilot USAF Capt. Charles E. McGee sees the object on runway 23 landing approach when he is at about 1,800 feet. The light seems to be at about 3,000 feet to the southwest about 4-5 miles away, then later on the ground to the west about 6-7 miles away. USAF VHF DF Operator and pilot Albert R. Pickering, Detachment 733, 103rd AACS Squadron, is awakened by the sudden emergence of a lighted amber-colored round or oval object about the size of a C-47 or larger [60+ feet] dropping out of the overcast bank 10,000 feet overhead. Lockbourne Control Tower at the same time radios a report of the object, which then maneuvers over to Commercial Point about 3–5 miles away to the west-southwest, then makes three full 360° circles over one spot in 30-40 seconds per turn over the runway, at a speed of more than 500 mph,

leaving a luminous, amber-colored trail or exhaust about 5 times its length. Then the UFO goes to another location and does more 360° turns. At one point, it disappears into the overcast for one minute, then reappears.

Just before departing, it hovers or "appeared to touch down" on the grass extension past the end of the

- Lockbourne AFB runway for 10 seconds then leaves at 120° (ESE) heading into the overcast. It is also sighted by the pilot of a C-45 at 5,000 feet off the right wing at 7:53 p.m. (NICAP, "Object Circles Base at High Speed / Touches Down"; Sparks, p. 32)
- 1948, January 7 7:35 p.m. Base personnel at Clinton County AFB [now Wilmington Air Park] near Wilmington, Ohio, where Skyhooks are launched a couple years later, watch a quickly maneuvering object. It dances up and down and changes from red to green before speeding to the southwest. Sgt. LeRoy Ziegler thinks he can detect a faint exhaust trail. Project Sign calls it Venus, because it disappears about the time Venus does. (NICAP, "Object Circles Base at High Speed / Touches Down"; NICAP, "Part 2-11: "... Was Not the Planet Venus," June 4, 2006)
- 1948, January 9 11:30 p.m. Eastern Airlines pilot <u>Hugh DuBose</u>, flying a DC-3 aircraft at 3,000 feet altitude near Cartersville, Georgia, observes a circular object with a flat top cross his flight path at the same altitude and then turn earthward. The object is light sky-blue in color and is traveling at an estimated speed of 400 mph. (NICAP, "Object Passes DC-3, Turns"; Sparks, p. 32)
- **1948,** January 21 Col. <u>Riley F. Ennis</u>, chief of the Army Intelligence Division, in a memo reiterates the <u>Schulgen</u> Draft of Collection Memorandum and stresses the need to investigate Soviet development of a jet-propelled flying wing aircraft. (Department of the Army, "<u>Unconventional Aircraft.</u>" Intelligence Collection Memorandum number 7, January 21, 1948)
- 1948, January 22 Project Sign officially launches at Wright Field [now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base] near Dayton, Ohio. The primary investigators are Capt. Robert R. Sneider (project chief), Alfred Loedding (T-3 engineer), Lawrence Truettner (T-2 engineer), and Col. Albert Deyarmond (analyst in Intelligence Analysis Division). Also involved are Maj. Raymond Llewellyn (chief of special projects branch), Lt. Howard W. Smith, George W. Towles, and others as assigned. How much interest Col. Howard McCoy takes in the project is unknown. Its task is to collect, collate, evaluate, and distribute information on sightings in the atmosphere "which can be considered of concern to national security." Ruppelt later says that to be considered an "unknown," it has to come from a competent observer and contain a reasonable amount of data. (Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 36–37; Sparks, p. 11; Ruppelt, p. 10; NICAP, "Project Sign Begins, 22 Jan 1948"; Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, "Alfred Loedding: New Insight on the Man behind Project Sign," IUR 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 24; Thomas Tulien, Project Sign, "History of the United States Air Force UFO Programs"; Kate Dorsch, Reliable Witnesses, Crackpot Science: UFO Investigations in Cold War America, 1947–1977, dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2019, pp. 38–43; Graff 39–40)
- 1948, January 23 Col. William E. Clingerman, writing for Col. Howard McCoy at Wright Field, asks Lt. Col. George Garrett of Air Force Intelligence for all files on "Swedish incidents" in 1946 and 1947. He receives at least 44 documents, none of which have been released. (Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets," *IUR* 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 13; Swords 30)
- **1948,** January 26 Project Sign becomes formally operational as Project HT-304. Lt. Col. James C. Beam becomes its first project director. (Sparks, p. 13)
- 1948, January 31 The Research and Development Board dismisses flying saucers as "a mirage induced by mass self-hypnosis" in stories that appear in newspapers of this day. ("Flying Discs' Book Declared Closed," *Pendleton East Oregonian*, January 31, 1948; Project 1947, "<u>UFO Reports</u>, 1948"; Swords 52–53)
- 1948, February 2:00 a.m. Glancing out his window while getting a drink of water, farmer C. Bruce Stevenson notices a bight orange-amber glow near his farm buildings a few miles from Circleville, Ohio. He expects to find the buildings on fire, but instead there is a large, domed flying saucer gliding silently over the roof of his pig house about 100 feet away. The UFO, about 60 feet in diameter, maintains a slow speed and low altitude until it disappears from sight. ("Bruce Stevenson Reveals Close-Up View of Saucer," Circleville (Ohio) Herald, August 2, 1952, pp. 1–2; "Bruce Stevenson Certain Saucer Wasn't Reflection," Circleville (Ohio) Herald, August 7, 1952, p. 1; Project 1947, "UFO Reports, 1948"; Pete Hartinger, "America's First Classic Close Encounter," Pickaway Quarterly, Fall 1996, pp. 11–13)
- 1948, February 4 Capt. Richard W. Geuss, acting assistant adjutant general, writes a memo on behalf of Lieut. Gen. George E. Stratemeyer, to ADC and USAF commanding generals on "Investigation and Reporting of 'Flying Disc' Incidents." It specifies that Air Force commanders are charged with evaluating military UFO incidents, in cooperation with CIC personnel and local FBI offices. Even hoaxes are to be passed on to the FBI. (Capt. Richard W. Geuss, "Investigation and Reporting of 'Flying Disc' Incidents," February 4, 1948)
- 1948, February 12 —Brig. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, chief of the Air Intelligence Requirements Division, sends a secret memo to Maj. Gen. Samuel E. Anderson. director of Plans and Operations, stating that the Commanding General of AMC feels that the responsibility for collecting information on "flying disks" should be complemented by a requirement that all USAF installations "provide a minimum of one each aircraft, with necessary crews, on a

- continuous alert basis. These aircraft should be equipped with gun camera, and such armament as deemed advisable, in order to secure photographs necessary to the obtainment of all possible data on any reported and sighted unusual phenomena, of the 'flying disk' type, in the atmosphere." (Good Above, p. 263)
- 1948, February 18 5:00 p.m. A smoke trail begins over Nebraska and runs south. A bolide explodes over Norcatur, Kansas, and the concussion from the blast breaks windows and rocks buildings over a wide area of Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. A huge shower of meteoritic stones fall over a large area of Norton County, Kansas, and Furnas County, Nebraska. Two Army B-29 bombers circle the area until nightfall. A farmer near Stockton, Kansas, sees a hovering object that leaves a bare spot in the ground. Kenneth Arnold is persuaded that reports of the Norton County meteorite fall might actually have been UFO-related. Astronomer Lincoln LaPaz directs the recovery of the massive achondritic meteorite in 1948. More than 100 stones are recovered, including one weighing about one ton. (Wikipedia, "Norton County (meteorite)"; "Norton County," Meteorite Recon, October 8, 2015; Luna Meteorite Hunters, "Norton County, KS Fall 18FEB1948 More Than 60 Years Ago," February 26, 2009; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: 1948, The Author, 1988, pp. 15–16; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation." JUFOS 7 (2000): 37–40)
- **1948,** February 20 2:00 a.m. In Palm Beach, Florida, lawyer and writer <u>Charles Francis Coe</u> and his son Alan see a globe of light shooting across the sky to the northeast at terrific speed. Coe calls it a "ray or blob of light" and insists it is not a meteor. ("<u>Mystery 'Globe' Seen by Editor,</u>" *Palm Beach (Fla.) Post,* February 21, 1948, p. 1; "True Mystic Experiences," *Fate* 1, no. 3 (Fall 1948): 105–113; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, p. 139)
- **1948,** February 20 1:15 p.m. Six surveyors, including Idaho Power Company surveyor <u>E. G. Hall</u>, see a small flat, heart-shaped UFO flying in the sky at Emmett, Idaho. Through his theodolite it looks fuzzy across its back edge as if "dipped in cream." He says it is about the size of a Piper Cub airplane and flying point first below the cloud level at between 2,000 and 4,000 feet. (*Emmett (Idaho) Messenger*, February 26, 1948; Kenneth Arnold, "Are Space Visitors Here?" *Fate* 1, no. 2 (Summer 1948): 13–14; Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, Citadel, 1954, p. 98; Michel, *Truth About FS*, 67–68)
- 1948, March 3 Maj. Gen. Samuel E. Anderson, USAF Director of Plans and Operations at the Pentagon, rejects a proposal by Col. Howard McCoy and Brig. Gen. Charles P. Cabell for stationing fighter aircraft at all bases on continuous alert for UFOs. It costs too much and proper interceptions are unlikely. He orders all bases to send UFO information to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Maj. Gen. S. E. Anderson, "Flying Discs." March 3, 1948; Good Above, pp. 263–264)
- 1948, March 12 Maj. Earl S. Browning Jr., in a memo to the European command of the 970th CIC, writes that the Horten brothers have been located and interrogated by US officials. Walter Horten has remained in Germany as an officer in the German Air Force. He thinks that sufficient types of flying wing prototypes existed when the Russians invaded Germany and may have served as models for flying discs. Reimar Horten had emigrated to Argentina when the war ended. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, p. 43)
- 1948, March 17 Memo on "Flying Discs" from Maj. Gen. George C. McDonald, director of USAF intelligence, to the AMC commander, considers Col. McCoy's proposal to maintain fighters on alert for UFOs "unfeasible." (Maj. Gen. George C. McDonald, "Flying Discs," March 17, 1948)
- 1948, March 17–18 The USAF Scientific Advisory Board meets in Room 3E-869 of the Pentagon, with physicist Theodore von Kármán presiding. Col. McCoy is present and speaks briefly about Project Sign, saying it has over 300 reports, many of them from experienced observers: "I can't even tell you how much we would give to have one of those crash in an area so that we could recover whatever they are." (Howard McCoy, "Scientific Advisory Board Conference Held 17–18 March 1948, Room 3E-869, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.")
- **1948,** March 23 RAF pilot <u>John Cunningham</u> reaches an altitude of 59,430 feet in a de Havilland Vampire turbojet. (Wikipedia, "<u>John Cunningham (RAF officer)</u>")
- 1948, March 25 5:00 a.m. According to writer Frank Scully, who hears the tale from a scientist he refers to as "Dr. Gee" and a Texas oilman, a UFO crashes on a rocky plateau off Hart Canyon Road 12 miles east of Aztec, New Mexico. When Air Force investigators and government scientists arrive on the scene, they crawl through a broken porthole and find the bodies of 16 small humanlike beings (3–3.5 feet tall) dressed in the "style of 1890." Their skin is charred a chocolate color, apparently as a result of the rush of terrestrial air through the shattered window. After a thorough study, the scientists conclude that the "vehicle probably flew on magnetic lines of force." Segments of the craft, as well as the bodies, are supposedly transported to Wright Field in Ohio. Dr. Gee, who claims to have been on the scene, said the UFO is likely from Venus, as Martians "would probably be three or four times as large as human beings." Soon afterward, a crash occurs in Arizona and 16 bodies are taken from the wreckage. A third spaceship goes down near Phoenix with 2 dead occupants. The story turns out to be a hoax

dreamed up by two con men named Silas Newton and Leo GeBauer ("Dr. Gee," although Scully claims this was a composite character incorporating 8 informants, one of whom is said to be geophysicist Carl A. Heiland). The hoax is loosely based on a 1949 science fiction film titled *The Flying Saucer*. GeBauer and especially Newton are in later years involved in various swindles and fraudulent mining claims. In 1987, William S. Steinman and Wendelle C. Stevens release UFO Crash at Aztec, which draws on speculation, rumor, unnamed informants, and paranoia to defend and embellish the original story. The latest to champion the Aztec crash is a North Carolina man named Scott Ramsey, who with his wife Suzanne has spent thousands of dollars looking for and interviewing witnesses and trying to prove it involves a real UFO crash and coverup in his 2015 book *The Aztec UFO Incident*. Ramsey thinks the object was tracked on radar by Air Force Station P-8 near El Vado Dam. (Wikipedia, "Aztec, New Mexico crashed saucer hoax"; Frank Scully, Behind the Flying Saucers, Holt, 1950; Frank Scully, "What I've Learned Since Writing 'Behind the Flying Saucers," Pageant, February 1951, pp. 76-81; J. P. Cahn, "Flying Saucers and the Mysterious Little Men," True, September 1952, pp. 17–19, 102–112; Frank Scully, "Scully Breaks a Long Silence," Nexus 2, no. 3 (March 1955): 13–16; J. P. Cahn, "Flying Saucer Swindlers," True, August 1956, pp. 36-37, 69-72; William S. Steinman Jr. and Wendelle C. Stevens, UFO Crash at Aztec, UFO Photo Archives, 1986; Clark III 1044-1047; William E. Jones and Rebecca D. Minshall, "Aztec, New Mexico-A Crash Story Reexamined," IUR 16, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1991): 11–15, 23; Good Above, pp. 388–394; Good Need, pp. 117–123; Jerome Clark, review of *The Aztec Incident*, in *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 26, no. 3 (2012): 709–716; Scott Ramsey, Suzanne Ramsey, and Frank Thayer, The Aztec UFO Incident, New Page, 2015; Curt Collins, "Flying Saucer Swindlers: Silas Newton and the UFO Crash," The Saucers That Time Forgot, April 5, 2020; Robert Sheaffer, "The Frank Scully 'Crashed Saucer at Aztec' Hoax (1950)," The Debunker's Domain; Curt Collins, "Operation Hush-Hush: The UFO Crash and ET Bodies Cover-Up," The Saucers That Time Forgot, February 9, 2018; Chris Root, "Of Flying Saucers and Fraud: The Silas M. Newton Story," Denver (Colo.) Public library Special Collections and Archives monthly newsletter, July 16, 2021; "Frank Scully, Silas M. Newton, and the Case of the 1948 Aztec, New Mexico, UFO Crash," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, December 21, 2023)

- 1948, Spring Ray Palmer and Flying magazine editor Curtis Fuller publish the first issue of Fate magazine at Clark Publishing Company in Chicago, Illinois. It features a first-hand story and a 30-page UFO roundup by Kenneth Arnold, as well as a history of unconventional aircraft by Curtis Fuller. Palmer and Fuller use the shared pseudonym "Robert N. Webster." The issue sells a healthy 50,000 copies. It is still being published in 2023. (Kenneth Arnold, "I Did See the Flying Disks!" Fate 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 4–10; Kenneth Arnold, "The Mystery of the Flying Disks," Fate 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 18–48; Robert N. Webster [Curtis Fuller], "What Were the 'Doughnuts'?" Fate 1, no. 1 (Spring 1948): 12–17; Clark III 872)
- 1948, Spring Kenneth Arnold visits the Landing Aids Experiment Station in Arcata, California, and interviews Kenneth W. Ehlers, a radar technician (and later physicist) working on airport operational systems, including radar. He has been accumulating information on unidentified radar targets (he calls them "gizmos") that cannot be seen with the naked eye and sending reports on their flight paths to Navy meteorologist Florence Van Straten and Luis Walter Alvarez, the inventor of Ground Control Approach System radar. In many cases, the target indicates a small solid target flying around 30 mph. The targets always fly in the same path from northwest to southeast, along the coast. Sometimes they come to a complete halt; at other times they split into two objects, merging later. Ehlers notes that the targets have been attributed to insects, but he is skeptical. Later, he suspects they might be plasmas occurring at the inversion layer, but that does not explain their behavior. (Wesley Price, "The Sky Is Haunted," Saturday Evening Post 220, no. 36 (March 6, 1948): 13; Ray Palmer, "New Report on the Flying Saucers," Fate 4, no. 1 (January 1951): 63–81; "Landing Aids Experiment Station," Transocean Air Lines; Greg Long, "In Search of Gizmos: A 1947 Radar Case," IUR 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 15–20)
- 1948, Spring? President <u>Truman</u> asks Col. <u>Robert B. Landry</u>, his USAF aide, to provide him with quarterly verbal reports on the state of UFO information and research. He does so to the end of 1952, with possibly 18 briefings in all. (James R. Fuchs, "<u>Oral History Interview with Robert B. Landry</u>," Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, February 28, 1974)
- 1948, April Morning. US Weather Bureau meteorologist Walter A. Minozewski at the Richmond, Virginia, weather station and his staff catch sight of a bright metallic, elliptical disc while they are tracking a small ceiling balloon at 15,000 feet. He checks his observation through a theodolite telescope. The disc flies just below the balloon and remains in sight for 15 seconds, appearing much bigger than the balloon. It has a flat, level bottom and a dome on top. It remains on a westward heading at high speed, then vanishes off into the distance. (Ruppelt, p. 41; Bloecher, p. I-1)
- 1948, April 1 9:55 a.m. USAF 1stLt. Robert W. Meyers is leading a flight of four P-47s from the 67th Fighter Group about 9 miles southeast of Sorsogon City, Luzon, Philippines. At 1,500 feet, he notices an unusual silvery object

- about 3 miles to the east. Shaped like a flying wing or half-moon with a "turtle back," it resembles no military craft in use at the time. The object flies below the squadron at 200 mph and an altitude of about 1,000 feet. Meyers estimates it is about 30 feet wide and 20 feet long. When he attempts to contact the other three P-47s, he realizes his radio is dead. As he makes a 270° left turn to get a closer look, the object makes a 90° left turn and moves away at tremendous speed. It is only visible for about 5 seconds. (NICAP, "P-47 Flight Encounters Half-Moon Object"; Sparks, p. 33; Powell, *Scientist*, 65)
- 1948, April 5 Afternoon. At Holloman AFB, near Alamogordo, New Mexico, three highly trained balloon observers (Joseph Olson, Johnson, and Chance) are working on a secret project for the Air Force's Watson Laboratories. They see two objects. One observer follows one object, and the others follow the second as they diverge. All are certain that the objects aren't balloons. They are large, whitish, roundish, very high, faster than any aircraft, and perform rapid, erratic motions. One object is lost at a low altitude. The other goes up quickly and seems to just disappear. The observation lasts about 30 seconds. The case is deemed important enough to send Alfred Loedding and one of Clingerman's assistants, Lt. Col. James C. Beam (the head of Project Sign), to New Mexico to interview Project Mogul scientist James W. Peoples and the other witnesses. Unfortunately, they are gone when Sign arrives. (They are later interviewed at the USAF Watson Laboratory complex in Red Bank, New Jersey.) The witnesses are very sure of themselves and the case is classed as "Unidentified." While at Holloman, Loedding and Beam talk with Lt. Herbert G. Markley, who has worked with the Watson team. Markley remembers one of them speaking of unusual radar returns from their equipment, but later the Watson personnel say that these were probably just "angels" (spurious echoes due to atmospheric microstructures, insects, equipment malfunction, or other stimuli). Markley does report that UFOs are seen around Holloman often. He himself has seen a disc in late August 1947 and flat, round aeroforms on at least two further occasions. (NICAP, "Team Watches 35-Meter Disc"; Ruppelt, p. 71; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1948, The Author, 1988, pp. 24–27; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 40–41; Sparks, p. 33; Project 1947, "Holloman AFB UFO Sightings")
- 1948, April 7 or 8 3:00 p.m. Viola Johnson and James Pittman see three "flying men" circling Longview, Washington, at 250–300 feet and going as fast as a freight train. She says they are "dressed in khaki-colored flying suits with helmets over their faces." (Jim Stuart, "3 'Flying Minute Men' Seen over Longview on Wednesday," *Longview (Wash.) Daily News*, April 9, 1948; "Heck, Them Discs Just Ain't in It; See What's Flying," *Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle*, April 9, 1948, p. 1; "Two Report Winged Men Circling above Longview," Portland *Oregonian*, April 10, 1948; "3 Men without Planes or Parachutes Reported Flying over Washington State," *San Francisco (Calif.) Examiner*, April 10, 1948, p. 4; Clark III 777)
- 1948, April 15 6:17 a.m. The X-Ray nuclear device is detonated near Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands. B-17 pilotless drone aircraft are flown through the cloud, and a drone light tank is used to recover soil samples from the crater. Unfortunately, it becomes bogged and must be towed out 10 days later. (Wikipedia, "Operation Sandstone")
- 1948, April 23 A preliminary 25-page report, written by Project Sign's Col. Howard McCoy and Lt. Col. James C. Beam, summarizes UFO reports received through February 1, with attached memos and documents. It is addressed to Chief of Staff Hoyt Vandenberg and Director of Intelligence Charles P. Cabell. The Rhodes photos and 99 other cases are listed. A comment by chemist Irving Langmuir is appended, noting his doubts about the reality of flying discs. (Col. Howard M. McCoy, "Project Sign," April 23, 1948; Swords 54–55)
- 1948, April 27–28 Physicist <u>Joseph Kaplan</u>, a member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, visits the Kirtland AFB Office of Special Investigations, AEC's Sandia Base, and Los Alamos in New Mexico, under orders from <u>Theodore Von Kármán</u>, chairman of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, to review UFO reports and investigations from the area. Kaplan and <u>Lincoln LaPaz</u> meet with security personnel at Los Alamos. Kaplan reports that "these occurrences relate to the National Defense of the United States" and should be investigated scientifically." (Good Above, <u>p. 266</u>)
- **1948,** May An article on secret Skyhook balloons (without mentioning the project name) by <u>Devon Francis</u> is published in *Popular Science*. (Devon Francis, "<u>New Balloons Explore Roof of the Airways,</u>" *Popular Science*, May 1948, pp. 98–104)
- 1948, May 5 An Efficiency Rating report is written up for <u>Alfred Loedding</u> from <u>Miles E. Goll</u>, which mentions his work as a monitor for Project Sign. (Miles E. Goll, "<u>Efficiency Rating of Mr. Alfred C. Loedding</u>," May 5, 1948)
- 1948, May 7 Afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Fordyce J. Kaiser and their housekeeper Jean Bray, at 251 W. Waldorf Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, see 50–60 unusual objects, apparently moving very high and fast, traveling in straight lines with slight zigzagging. They are shiny like bright aluminum with silvery trails. Lt. Col. James C. Beam of Project Sign goes to investigate. On the way back, he consults with astronomer Paul Herget of the Cincinnati Observatory

- in Ohio, who thinks the objects are meteors and recommends Ohio State University astronomer <u>J. Allen Hynek</u> in Columbus as a project consultant. (NICAP, "May 7, 1948; Memphis, Tenn. (BBU)"; Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs, a History: 1948</u>, The Author, 1988, pp. 28–29; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 34; Michael D. Swords, "<u>Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation</u>," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 41; Swords 55–56)
- **1948,** May 12 European Command HQ sends the director of intelligence at the US Forces in Austria a memo alleging that Walter Horten has admitted he has been in contact with the Russians. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, p. 43)
- 1948, May 14— The RAND Corporation is established as a nonprofit organization to offer research and analysis to the US military. It is financed by the US government, endowments, corporations, universities, and private individuals. On November 1, Douglas Aircraft's Project RAND contract is formally transferred to the RAND Corporation. (Wikipedia, "RAND Corporation")
- 1948, May 15 During the Zebra nuclear detonation at Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands, a manned aircraft accidentally flies through the mushroom cloud. Because the pilot and crew "suffered no ill effects," the Air Force decides that piloted aircraft could collect samples. The Los Alamos, New Mexico, personnel assigned to remove the filters from the B-17 drones have apparently carried out the same procedure on X-Ray and Yoke without problems, but this time three of them suffer radiation burns on their hands serious enough to be hospitalized and need skin grafting. One of the men who carries out the procedure for Yoke is then also found to have burns on his hands and is also hospitalized but is discharged on May 28. Once again, the drone tank gives trouble and bogs in the crater, but the soil samples are retrieved by the backup drone tank. Both tanks are subsequently dumped in the ocean. (Wikipedia, "Operation Sandstone"; Jacobsen, *Area* 51, p. 224)
- **1948,** May 15 A piston-driven YB-35 flying wing bomber makes its first and only flight at Edwards AFB in California. (Wikipedia, "Northrop YB-35")
- 1948, May 17 Day. William A. Bonneville sees a bright white ball, three times as bright as a locomotive headlight, sail over the hills to the northwest between Plevna and Miles City, Montana. It moves south, then west, repeating these maneuvers for 20 minutes until it flies into a dark cloud. It is silent, and a long, bright light shoots out from beneath. (Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 41–44)
- 1948, Late May 11:40 a.m. Sgt. T. G. Jones and three other officers and two crew are aboard a York transport aircraft, accompanied by a formation of six Meteor jets, cruising at 10,000 feet above the Oxford/Bicester area in England, bound for RAF Acklington. Visiting US Maj. Robin Olds is in one of the jets. They encounter a 100-foot oval object with three bumps or protrusions on the bottom, as Jones describes it through binoculars. Ground radar tracks the object, which is stationary and above 25,000 feet. Two jets go up to try to get a better look and get within a few thousand feet. The object departs vertically at a speed of 1,500 mph. (Jenny Randles, *UFO Conspiracy*, Cassell, 1987, pp. 92–93)
- 1948, May 28 3:00 p.m. USAF Reserve 1st Lt. Alexander Kokolonis is flying a C-47 at 6,000 feet six miles east of Monroe, Michigan, when he sees out of the navigator's window three discs 2 miles to the left. He estimates they are 300–400 feet in diameter, silvery-gold, and traveling well over 500 mph. They are seen for only 10–15 seconds. Shortly afterwards, Kokolonis sees two similar objects and he alerts M/Sgt Ernest Davis Jr., who also sees them. (NICAP, "Air Force Transport Buzzed by 3 UFOs"; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 45)
- 1948, May 31 1:20 p.m. A cigar-shaped object moves through the sky from the northwest at terrific speed over Wilmington, North Carolina. Mrs. H. D. Alspach, Mrs. Charles Colvin, and Mrs. <u>Isabell Hufham</u> see the object emit smoke. It appears about 3 feet long. It slows down over the Cape Fear River, veers off to the east, and then speeds away at a high altitude. (NICAP, "<u>Cigar Slows Down Then Speeds Up</u>"; "<u>Flying Object Reported Seen in Wilmington</u>," *Asheville (N.C.) Citizen-Times*, June 1, 1948, p. 10; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 34)
- 1948, Summer USAF Maj. Edwin A. Jerome reports that a high-speed radar target appears during an inspection visit at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador. It is calculated at going 9,000 mph at an altitude of 60,000 feet. The commanders assume that the US equipment is faulty, but the Canadians have tracked the same target. The following day, an object hovers over the base at 45,000 feet and moving only 10 mph. (NICAP, "Edwin Jerome Radar Case"; UFOEv, pp. 83–84; Yurko Bondarchuk, UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions, Methuen, 1979, pp. 151–152; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, The Canadian UFO Report, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 51–52; Chris Rutkowski, Canada's UFOs: Declassified, August Night, 2022, p. 264)
- 1948, Summer [possibly 1958] Early afternoon. Aircraft instrumentation engineer <u>Victor G. Didelot</u> watches an elliptical UFO moving rapidly west to east roughly parallel to the shoreline of Lake Erie in Erie, Pennsylvania. It suddenly and silently ascends vertically at three times its horizontal speed and disappears. (UFOEv, pp. 55–56)
- **1948,** Summer Physicist <u>Carl A. Mitchell</u> sees three luminescent greenish discs, one second apart, passing across the sky above Easton, Pennsylvania, from north to south. (UFOEv, <u>p. 49</u>)

- **1948,** June 5 A jet-propelled Northrop YB-49 crashes north of Muroc [now Edwards] AFB in California after completing a number of maximum forward center-of-gravity tests, killing its pilot, Maj. <u>Daniel Forbes</u> (for whom Forbes AFB in Topeka, Kansas, is named), copilot Capt. <u>Glen Edwards</u> (for whom Edwards AFB is named), and three other crew members. The aircraft suffers structural failure, with both outer wing sections becoming detached from the center section. (Wikipedia, "Northrop YB-49")
- 1948, June 16 Soviet test pilot Arkady Ivanovich Apraksin is flying at an altitude of 6.5 miles above a solid layer of clouds south of the Kapustin Yar site, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. He sees an unconventional aircraft in the shape of a cucumber with cones of light radiating from it descending across his path. The base tells him it has tracked the object on radar and given it instructions to land, but it does not respond. Apraksin is ordered to intercept it and open fire if it refuses to land. When he closes to within 6 miles, the light beams open up like a fan and shine into his aircraft, blinding him. The plane's electrical systems malfunction. He glides the plane to a safe landing after the UFO disappears. Apraksin is interrogated heavily. (Good Above, p. 221; Joe Brill, "UFO's behind the Iron Curtain," Skylook, no. 87 (February 1975): 14–15)
- 1948, June 18 The National Security Council issues Directive 10/2, calling for covert action against the USSR, and granting the authority to carry out covert operations against "hostile foreign states or groups" that could, if needed, be denied by the US government. To this end, the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) is created inside the new CIA. Frank Wisner, the head of the OPC, answers not to the CIA director, but to the secretaries of defense, state, and the NSC, and the OPC's actions are a secret even from the head of the CIA. Most CIA stations have two station chiefs, one working for the OSO, and one working for the OPC. ("Note on U.S. Covert Actions," from Foreign Relations of the United States, 1964–1968, Volume XII, Western Europe, Office of the Historian, Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State)
- **1948,** June 29 ATIC's chief of operations, C. A. Griffith, writes to a military representative in Norway to send all UFO reports to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1948*, The Author, 1988, pp. 32–33)
- 1948, June 30 A couple are driving near Hecla, South Dakota, when they see an unusual star. They stop the car and get out, but it is not moving. They drive on and stop again. A few pieces break off the original star and arrange themselves in a triangle formation. They all now look like polished aluminum; they rise to a great height and vanish. (Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 45–46; Sparks, p. 35; Swords 57)
- 1948, July 1:00 p.m. Former Air Force pilot Don Newman and three friends watch a disc-shaped, domed UFO, about 100 feet in diameter, maneuvering over Pasco, Washington. "The exterior finish appears to be spun or burnished aluminum." The object slows, then accelerates rapidly, dives, and climbs over the area. (UFOEv, p. 38; NICAP, "Summary of letter from Witness to Major Keyhoe, dated March 10, 1958")
- 1948, July 1 A Maj. Hammer is flying above Rapid City AFB [now Ellsworth AFB], South Dakota, when he sees 21 brilliant, yellow-white, oval-shaped objects. They are about 100 feet in diameter and flying in a tight diamond formation. They make a high-speed dive, level, make a perfect turn in formation, angle upwards at 30°–40°, and accelerate out of sight. He estimates their cruising speed at 500 mph. (Swords 57–58; Sparks, p. 35)
- **1948,** July 4 Day. Edward E. Thompson watches a brilliant spherical UFO for five minutes while sitting in Johnson Park in Camden, New Jersey, across from the Cooper Free Public Library. ("Report from the Readers," *Fate* 1, no. 4 (Winter 1949): 93–94)
- 1948, July 7 A silver, disc-shaped object allegedly crashes some 30 miles south-southwest of Laredo, Texas. US servicemen are reportedly dispatched from a nearby military base to cordon off the UFO crash site until a special US retrieval team arrives to examine the wreckage and carry it away to a military base in San Antonio, Texas. Supposedly the badly burned body of a nonhuman entity is recovered from the crash site. Ufologist Leonard Stringfield hears rumors of the crash in 1977, but few further details emerge. Early in 1978, Stringfield describes the humanoid found at the crash site as "about 4 feet, 6 inches tall, completely hairless, with hands that had no thumbs." That description seems to fit the body shown in two photographs that are mailed to Willard F. McIntyre in December 1978. The body depicted in the photos sent to McIntyre has come to be known as the "Tomato Man" due to its large, roundish head. Many UFO researchers, including Ron Schaffner and Kevin Randle, believe the body is that of a human pilot who is badly disfigured by intense heat following a plane crash. They argue that one of the photos shows a pair of eyeglasses, such as a human pilot would wear, near the body. (Leonard H. Stringfield, "Retrievals of the Third Kind, Part 1," Flying Saucer Review 25, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1979): 13, 15–16; William S. Steinman and Wendelle C. Stevens, UFO Crash at Aztec, UFO Photo Archives, 1986, pp. 402–422; Kevin D. Randle, A History of UFO Crashes, Avon, 1995, p. 188; Good Above, pp. 397–398; "Laredo 1948." Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, March 8, 2009; Noe Torres and Ruben Uriarte, The Other Roswell:

- *UFO Crash on the Texas–Mexico Border*, Roswell Books, 2008; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "<u>The 'Tomato Man' in Retrospective</u>," Academia.edu, 2022)
- 1948, July 9 Caramia and Carpenter, two officers of the USAF 72nd Reconnaissance Group, are fishing at Fielding Lake, Alaska, when they hear a loud roar and notice about 20 gray discs or spheres moving at 500 mph in loose formation from west-northwest to east-southeast at about 5,000 feet. (Barry Greenwood, "The Estimate of the Situation: Well, Not Exactly!" UFO Historical Revue, no. 16 (July 2015): 5–10)
- 1948, July 9 9:47 p.m. While on the ground in Osborn, Ohio, the USAF Project Sign officer who had flown to investigate the Hecla case, sees a self-luminous, yellow-white object flying at 500–600 mph. It seems to pulse its lights at 3-second intervals as it moves away. (Swords 58; Sparks, p. 35)
- 1948, July 14 Day. <u>Charles W. Shangle Jr.</u> watches two groups of about 16 UFOs maneuvering at 300–600 mph over Boise, Idaho. Two of the objects exhibit a "falling leaf" motion. (Charles W. Shangle Jr., [<u>Letter</u>], *Popular Science*, July 1948; "True Mystic Experiences," *Fate* 2, no. 1 (May 1949): 75–79)
- 1948, July 17 4:50 p.m. Two Kirtland AFB sergeants on a fishing trip with their families five miles south of San Acacia Diversion Dam, New Mexico, see a group of 7 aluminum-like, spherical objects approach from the south at 20,000 feet pass overhead at 1,500 mph. They first appear like snub-nosed jet fighters of an unknown type, shifting from V-formation to L-formation to circular formation to no regular formation. A regular pulsating flashing light appears in the group at 30° from zenith to the north, and at this oblique angle the objects do not appear circular. There is no noise or trail. (NICAP, "Two Military Families Report Seven Objects"; Swords 58)
- 1948, July 20 The Netherlands government reports that a wingless, cigar-shaped object with two decks of windows is seen flying rapidly on four separate occasions by two Dutch citizens over The Hague (and/or Arnhem). (NICAP, "High V-2-Like Craft Observed"; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs*, *a History: 1948*, The Author, 1988, p. 86)
- 1948, July 21 The USAF Research and Development division sends a formal letter to the RAND Corporation authorizing them to select scientists to evaluate the possibility that the flying discs might be human-built spaceships. RAND's reply is not known. (W. R. Clingerman to USAF Chief of Staff, "Request for Study by Rand Project," October 22, 1948; Swords 58)
- 1948, July 24 1:45 a.m. A bright object is seen at Robins AFB in Houston County, Georgia, by ground maintenance crewman Walter Massey, who sees a "stream of fire" in the north. As it moves overhead, it seems more cylindrical. It moves off to the west. (NICAP, "July 24, 1948, 0250E, Warner Robins AFB, Georgia")
- 1948, July 24 2:45 a.m. Capt. Clarence S. Chiles and copilot John B. Whitted are flying an Eastern Airlines DC-3 at 5.000 feet, 20 miles southwest of Montgomery, Alabama, when they see an object about 100 feet long moving rapidly toward them on their right. Torpedo-shaped and wingless, the object has flames jetting 50 feet from its rear. There are two rows of square windows through which a bright light is glowing. They only see it for 5–10 seconds. It is half a mile away and moving at about 700 mph. After it passes the plane it appears to swoop into a cloud bank at 6,000 feet. One passenger, Clarence L. McKelvie of Columbus, Ohio, also sees it. Many ufologists now consider the object to be a fireball meteor. Martin Shough writes: "There is nothing in this case that convincingly rules out a fragmenting fireball, and the 'airship effect' which causes the eye to see a line of glowing fragments as lighted windows in an elongated machine has been a widely known feature of such sightings at least since Hartmann made a pretty good study of it in the Condon Report. Other observers in neighboring states saw on their far western horizon an 'unusually bright meteor' that could have been the same fireball on a nearhorizontal trajectory heading SW over the Alabama-Georgia border area. Chiles-Whitted saw it only for a few seconds going by above and to their right heading SW on a near reciprocal heading to them but miles higher and much faster then they thought. As it approached them, the angular rate of the object would rise geometrically in a hockey-stick curve which, interpreted in terms of an illusory near-miss with another 'aircraft,' could suggest the appearance of a climb and an avoiding veer." (Wikipedia, "Chiles-Whitted UFO Encounter"; NICAP, "Chiles-Whitted Case"; "Atlanta Pilots Report Wingless Sky Monster," Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, July 25, 1948, pp. 1, 8; "Mysterious 'Ball of Fire' Trailing Tail of Flame Sighted over Atlanta," Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, July 27, 1948, pp. 1, 4; Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952, pp. 90–91; Ruppelt, pp. 40– 41; UFOEv, p. 48; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 42–43; Loren E. Gross, UFOs: A History, Vol. 1, July 1947–December 1948, The Author, 1980, pp. 34–48; Sparks, p. 36; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 46–47; Swords 58–60; Good Above, pp. 264, 479; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the* Apocalypse: UFOs: a History: 1948, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 53-60; Joel Carpenter, "Watershed: The Chiles-Whitted 'Rocketship' Sighting," 2002; Martin Shough, "Analysis of the Chiles-Whitted Sightings, July 24, 1948," February 2011; Kevin D. Randle, "Chiles/Whitted and Skepticism," A Different

- Perspective, January 21, 2016; Clark III 234–236; John Greenewald, "Project Blue Book: The Chiles-Whitted UFO Encounter, July 24, 1948, Montgomery, Alabama," The Black Vault, May 15, 2023; Graff 45)
- 1948, July 25 Chief of Air Force Intelligence Gen. <u>Charles Cabell</u> phones <u>McCoy</u>'s office at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Sign is ordered to get into the field immediately and investigate the Chiles-Whitted case. By that afternoon, <u>Loedding</u>, <u>Deyarmond</u>, and <u>Llewellyn</u> (now apparently director of Project Sign) are flown by Capt. Clarence Groseclose to Atlanta, Georgia. (Sparks, p. 13; Swords 60)
- 1948, July 26 <u>Loedding</u>, <u>Deyarmond</u>, and <u>Llewellyn</u> interview <u>Chiles</u> and <u>Whitted</u> in the Henry Grady Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. They are impressed with their account. Mulling the case through September, Project Sign is disturbed even more than the <u>Mantell</u> incident, according to <u>Ruppelt</u>. Capt. <u>Sneider</u> considers the shape aerodynamically feasible; consultant <u>J. Allen Hynek</u> says it might be a fireball but considers that "far-fetched." (Swords 60)
- 1948, July 26 Aeronautical engineer Molt Taylor speculates to the Associated Press that "If we can build such craft, what is to prevent others from doing so, assuming that a similar order of intelligence exists on other planets? You and I may see the day when we will be united with Russia defending this planet against attack from space." ("It May Be Men from Mars, Expert Says of 'Saucers," San Francisco Examiner, July 28, 1948, p. 32; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1948, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, p. 65)
- 1948, July 27 Air Intelligence Memorandum on "Pattern of Flying Saucers" requires that a study be made by the Air Intelligence Division to examine the pattern of tactics of reported UFOs and develop conclusions as to their probability. This leads to the EEI "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the United States" (100-203-79) of December 10. The JIC report gives the incorrect date as August 6. (Col. Brooke E. Allen, "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.," October 11, 1948; "Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects," April 28, 1949, p. 2; Jan L. Aldrich, "New Top Secret Document Revealed," Project 1947)
- 1948, July 29 9:18 a.m. James Toney and Robert Huggins, both employees of an Indianapolis, Indiana, rug cleaning firm, are in a truck headed west near the intersection of 56th Street and Fall Creek Boulevard when they see a shiny, propeller-shaped, aluminum object with 10–12 small cups protruding from either blade. It is 6–8 feet long and flying silently above the trees at 30 feet altitude some 300 feet away heading south. It approaches to about 100 feet at its closest. The object glides across the road at 25–30 mph in a slight descent then makes a 20° bank to the east and goes down in a wooded area. Toney and Huggins stop the truck and get out to look, but the object has disappeared behind trees. A later search finds no traces. (NICAP, "Close Encounter with 'Propeller-Shaped' Object"; Sparks, p. 36)
- 1948, July 31 8:25 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Swigert of south-central Indianapolis, Indiana, see a cymbal-shaped or domed-disc object to the west of their home. It is about 20 feet across, 6–8 feet thick, white without any shine but shadowing on upper right. It flies straight and level from horizon to horizon, west to east heading 90°. They estimate its altitude as 2,000 feet covering a distance of 5 miles in 10 seconds. It shimmers in the sun as if spinning, is silent, and has no trail. (NICAP, "Cymbal-Shaped Object Observed by Couple"; Sparks, p. 37)
- **1948,** August 5 This date given by <u>Edward Ruppelt</u> for the lost "Estimate of the Situation," in which Project Sign concludes that UFOs are interplanetary, is probably too early. See September 30.
- 1948, August 11 Between 12:00 and 12:15 p.m. Two boys playing outside near Hamel, Minnesota, see a round, dull gray or silver object 2 feet in diameter and 1 foot thick, like inverted plates approach them from the northwest. It drops down between the boys from a height of 12 feet and lands 8 feet away, like a balloon, with a metallic clinking sound and a train whistle noise. It spins once, shoots up 20 feet, makes a whistling noise again, hovers, shoots up to a height of 30 feet. maneuvers to avoid phone lines and trees, then flies away to the northeast. CIC Special Agent Capt. Charles L. Victor finds an area 2 feet in diameter where the ground shows signs of extreme pressure. (Wilkins, *Attack*, pp. 104–105; Sparks, p. 37)
- **1948,** August 15 Morning. Future ufologist <u>Walter H. Andrus Jr.</u>, his wife <u>Genevieve</u>, and son Donald see four UFOs flying in formation east to west over downtown, Phoenix, Arizona. They simply vanish in sequence, then the first three reappear one at a time in the northwest where they pass out of sight to the west. (Story, pp. 17–18)
- 1948, August 21 A possible Russian rocket trail is seen over Katrineholm, Sweden, that remains visible for three hours "resembling a brilliant star surrounded by streamers of fire like the tentacles of an octopus." However, there is no known record of a launch on this date of a V-2 or R-1 missile from the Russian base at Kapustin Yar, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. It may be the same object viewed by Swedish Armed Forces Supreme Commander Helge Jung of an "aerial explosion considered to be some form of guided missile originating from Estonian islands, possibly Dagö or Osel." ("Sky Octopus' Seen above Swedish Town," Richmond (Ind.) Palladium-Item, August 23, 1948,

- p. 2; "Sky Octopus over Sweden," Fate 2, no. 1 (May 1949): 35; Jan Aldrich, "Investigating the Ghost Rockets," IUR 23, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 14)
- **1948,** September About this time Capt. Robert R. Sneider becomes a co-chief of Project Sign with Lt. Howard W. Smith. (Sparks, pp. 13–14)
- 1948, September 1 The CIA Office of Policy Coordination is formally established with the responsibility to engage in "propaganda, economic warfare, preventive direct action, including sabotage, antisabotage, demolition and evacuation procedures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance groups, guerrillas and refugee liberation groups, and support of indigenous anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world." (Wikipedia, "Office of Policy Coordination")
- 1948, September 15 USAF Maj. <u>Dick Johnson</u> reaches an official airspeed record of 671 mph (slightly more than <u>Yeager</u>'s first record) in a North American F-86A-3 Sabre at Muroc [now Edwards] AFB, California. (Wikipedia, "North American F-86 Sabre")
- **1948,** September 16 Before dawn. Fred Scott, 63, is walking around Grassy Mountain, Malheur County, Oregon, when he looks up and sees two "flying persons" to the south. They are 150–250 feet up, one following the other at a distance of 8–10 feet. Their wings are narrow and rounded at the tip and do not flap. Their legs are unusually short. They remain visible while Scott walks for at least another mile. (Center for UFO Studies, <a href="https://example.com/humanles/Humanle
- 1948, September 23 9:40 a.m. At Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico, a group of people are waiting for an airplane at the landing strip when one of them notices something glint in the sun. It is a flat, circular object, high in the northern sky. The appearance and relative size is the same as a dime held edgewise and slightly tipped, about 50 feet away. (NICAP, "Flat Dime On-Edge Observed by Lab Personnel"; Sparks, p. 38)
- 1948, September 26 2:00 p.m. P. L. Lewis sees a white object moving rapidly across the sky at Port Hope, Ontario, then disappear when it is nearly overhead. Other white objects follow at about 50 mph in a northeasterly direction, accompanied by strands of spider web. Lewis speculates that the objects are balls of spiders' threads, held together by thistledown. (P. R. Bishop, "Cobwebs or Flying Saucers?" *Weather* 4 (1949): 121–122; Philip J. Imbrogno, *Files from the Edge: A Paranormal Investigator's Explorations into High Strangeness*, Llewellyn, 2010, p. 54)
- 1948, September 30? Project Sign officer Capt. Robert R. Sneider has decided that the time has come to climax Project Sign's task and write the required "Estimate of the Situation." Every intelligence operation's task is ultimately to present such a best-guess summary, strongly backed with as much fact as possible. Using the July 24 Chiles-Whitted case as the core and collecting around it many cases from the summer of 1947 to September 1948, Sneider composes the document. The most recent case known to have been listed in the document is the September 23 Los Alamos National Laboratory sighting in New Mexico. Two prominent USAF intelligence officers (Edward J. Ruppelt and Dewey J. Fournet Jr.) see the document in 1952. "It was a rather thick document with a black cover and it was printed on legal-sized paper. Stamped across the front were the words TOP SECRET." Ruppelt says the Estimate concludes that the best evidence indicated an extraterrestrial origin for UFOs. Sneider is probably the primary author. Col. Albert Deyarmond, Alfred Loedding, and Lawrence Truettner almost certainly are part of the writing. Maj. Raymond Llewellyn certainly looks in. All these people, as well as higher-ups in Col. William Clingerman's and Col. Howard McCoy's offices, must approve it, at least in some sense. And an Estimate of UFOs as extraterrestrial is no small thing to assent to. The Estimate is probably addressed to Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, but it really is meant for Director of Intelligence Gen. Charles P. Cabell. It is probably sent near the end of September, just before the George Gorman "UFO dogfight" in Fargo, North Dakota, on October 1. It probably lands in Col. George Garrett's Collections office and is hand-carried to Cabell. Cabell may or may not be shocked. With a pro-ETH Wright-Patterson intelligence group on one side, an anti-ETH Pentagon Intelligence Requirements Office on the other, and open-minded collections officers and the powerful Research and Development chief (Gen. Donald L. Putt) in between, Cabell doesn't want to decide this on his own. He hands the Estimate further upstairs to Vandenberg himself, who rejects it and bats it back to Cabell with a strong sense of disapproval. Ruppelt adds that some months later the Estimate is completely declassified and "all but a few copies" are destroyed. (Ruppelt, pp. 28, 41, 45; Clark III 436–437; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," JUFOS 7 (2000): 48-51; Hynek UFO Report, pp. 13-14; Michael D. Swords, "The Lost Words of Edward Ruppelt," IUR 20, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1995): 14–15; Swords 62; Kate Dorsch, Reliable Witnesses, Crackpot Science: UFO Investigations in Cold War America, 1947–1977, dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2019, pp. 88–89; Graff 47–48)

- 1948, October <u>Vannevar Bush</u> resigns as chairman of the Research and Development Board, passing the job on to <u>Karl Taylor Compton</u>. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "<u>The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions</u>," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 9)
- 1948, October 1 The first Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication (JANAP) 146, based on Bernard Baruch Jr.'s CIRES system, is issued. It consists of instructions for military and civilian personnel on how to report sightings of enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines, and surface vessels. This version does not include UFOs. It is tabled shortly afterward by Maj. Gen. Cabell. (Antonio F. Rullán, "Blue Book UFO Reports at Sea by Ships: Analysis of the Blue Book Ship Database," December 10, 2002, pp. 8–9; Swords 122)
- 1948, October 1 8:30 p.m. 2d Lieut. George F. Gorman of the North Dakota National Guard, flying an F-51 near Fargo, North Dakota, spots an object traveling east to west. He describes it as a light 6-8 inches in diameter displaying incredible movements. He repeatedly gives chase beginning at 9:07 p.m., but each time is outmaneuvered by the light, which moves up to 600 mph. On his first pass he gets as close as 500 feet from the light at about 5,000 feet altitude. Gorman climbs to 14,000 feet but stalled out, unable to intercept the light, which is at about 16,000 feet. The light makes evasive and aggressive maneuvers, such as seeming to try to ram the F-51. When it drops to 11,000 feet, Gorman attempts to dive at it, but the light pulls up, rises vertically, and disappears at high speed. The light is also seen by airport control tower operators Lloyd D. Jensen and Manuel E. Johnson, as well as others on the ground and pilot Arthur E. Cannon flying a Piper Cub at 1,600 feet. Jensen watches the dogfight through 6x30 binoculars, the UFO appearing perfectly round with sharp edges and no fuzzy outline. Project Sign personnel arrive within hours and interview the witnesses. Eventually they conclude the object was a balloon, with evasive maneuvers the product of Gorman's imagination, since ground observers do not see anything comparable. Some ufologists, among them Aimé Michel and James E. McDonald, have rejected the balloon explanation. (Wikipedia, "Gorman dogfight"; NICAP, "Gorman (Fargo) Case"; "Dogfight with Mysterious Flying Object Told by Pilot," Decatur (Ill.) Daily Review, October 3, 1948, p. 1; "Pilot Tells of Long Dogfight with Queer Flying Object," St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat, October 3, 1948, p. 10; "Flying Ball Plays Tag with Pilot," Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal, October 3, 1948, p. 4; "Pilot, 'Disk' Have Half Hour Tussle," Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star, October 3, 1948, p. 1; Keyhoe 1950, pp. 102–107; Ruppelt, pp. 41–43; Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, The World of Flying Saucers, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 80–82, 111–114; Story, pp. 151– 152; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History*, 1948, The Author, 1988, pp. 56–64; Sparks, p. 39; Michael D. Swords, GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, p. 138; Clark III 536–537: Tracy Briggs, "Fargo's Most Famous UFO Sighting Happened in the Skies above a Bison Football Game," Fargo (N.Dak.) Forum, December 15, 2020; Graff 49–50)
- 1948, October 7 A document from Project Sign to <u>Garrett</u> and <u>Cabell</u> is an upbeat <u>Sneider</u> report on the initial investigation of the <u>Gorman</u> dogfight, making the object sound extremely unusual and intelligent in behavior. This is almost like a supplement to the Estimate. (Michael D. Swords, "<u>Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation</u>," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 50)
- 1948, October 7 A set of letters, composed not by <u>Sneider</u> but actually by <u>Samuel Z. Hunnicutt</u>, a member of T-2 and the Sign team, and approved by MCI heavyweights <u>McCoy</u>, <u>Clingerman</u>, and <u>Leland Money</u>, goes out to the CIA, US Army Intelligence, and the Office of Naval Intelligence. The query: What domestic technological developments do you know of that might explain UFOs and help us differentiate them from inimical (Soviet) foreign developments? (Michael D. Swords, "<u>Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation</u>," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 50)
- 1948, October 12 (or 22) Project Sign's Col. William R. Clingerman writes a letter to USAF Chiefs of Staff requesting a study of UFOs by the RAND Corporation, similar to the one made by USAF R&D in July, especially the possibility that "some of the unidentified aerial objects that have been reported both in the United States and in foreign lands may have been experimental spaceships.... it is believed more likely that they represent the effort of a foreign nation, rather than a product from beyond the Earth." (Col. W. R. Clingerman, "Request for Study by Rand Project," October 12(?), 1948; Swords 58, 492–493)
- 1948, October 15 11:05 p.m. On night patrol, 1st Lt. Oliver "Bud" Hemphill Jr. of the 68th Fighter Squadron is flying a Northrup F-61 Black Widow some 50 miles northwest of Fukuoka, Japan, when the crew picks up an object on radar going 200 mph. As he closes to intercept, the object speeds up to 1,200 mph then slows down again. The plane tries closing in six times, but each time the object speeds away. On one pass the crew sees the object's silhouette, which looks like a "rifle bullet" 20–30 feet long. The object "seems cognizant of the whereabouts of the F-61 at all times." Radar operator Barton Halter thinks it is a "new type of aircraft." (NICAP, "F-61 'Black Widow' Radar Case"; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 69–70; Hynek UFO Report, pp. 134–137; Sparks, p. 40)

- **1948,** October 20 The US Air Force Security Service is activated at Arlington Hall in Washington, D.C., with the mission of cryptology and communications security. (Wikipedia, "United States Air Force Security Service")
- 1948, October 29 Five US Air Force pilots observe a silvery object over Neubiberg Air Base [now closed] near Munich, Germany. The object disappears at a terrific speed after having remained over the air base more than 30 minutes. A similar object is seen days before by another group of American pilots. (Jan Aldrich, "Early Top Secret UFO Document Discovered," 2000)
- Late 1948 The search for a suitable US location for nuclear testing, codenamed "Project Nutmeg," commences under the direction of expert meteorologist and Navy Captain Howard B. Hutchinson. The government is looking for a place where nuclear tests would have little impact on the American people or the American economy. Five primary sites are considered: Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; Alamogordo—White Sands Guided Missile Range, New Mexico; an area in Nevada between Fallon and Eureka; the Tonopah—Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range (the site finally chosen in 1950, now part of Nellis Air Force Base); and the Pamlico Sound area off the coast of North Carolina. ("Project Nutmeg: The Birth of the Nevada Test Site." National Nuclear Security Administration, June 2004; Philip Howard, "Project Nutmeg." Village Craftsmen, April 21, 2012; Diane Tennant, "How Outer Banks Almost Became a Nuclear Test Site." Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, January 27, 2013)
- 1948, November 1 Radar operator M/Sgt Francis H. Mills at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, tracks an object too large for a bird, too small for a plane, flying at 60 mph. Not confirmed visually. (NICAP, "600 MPH Track at Goose Bay"; NICAP, "October 29, October 30, and November 1, 1948, Incident Nos. 188, 195, and 196: Goose Bay, Labrador," June 28, 2009; Sparks, p. 42)
- 1948, November 3 Against most predictions, <u>Harry S. Truman</u> wins the US presidential election against Republican <u>Thomas E. Dewey</u>. Secretary of Defense <u>James Forrestal</u>, like everyone else, expects to have a new boss in January. His relationship with Air Force Secretary <u>Stuart Symington</u> has deteriorated, and he has not obtained a budget consensus from the Joint Chiefs. His mental health, physical condition, and authority are deteriorating. He is convinced that "foreign-looking men" are following him and that Symington is spying on him. Secret Service Chief <u>Urbanus E. Baughman</u> begins to think Forrestal is suffering from a "total psychotic breakdown."
- 1948, November 3 Gen. <u>Charles Cabell</u> writes a firm letter to Wright Field in Ohio, asking Project Sign for another Estimate. It is possibly composed by Maj. <u>Aaron "Jere" Boggs</u> or Col. <u>Edward H. Porter</u> at the USAF Defensive Air Branch. While admitting that the objects seem real, it also cautions that they are not identified. (Read: You may not identify them as extraterrestrial craft.) (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, "<u>Flying Object Incidents in the United States</u>," November 3, 1948; Michael D. Swords, "<u>Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation</u>," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 50–51, 62; Swords 62, 64)
- 1948, November 3 or 4 9:30 p.m. US Army Col. William P. Hayes is driving 10 miles east of Vaughn, New Mexico, on US Highway 60 when he sees a reddish-white ball of light, 1 foot in diameter, falling vertically and bursting about 100–200 feet from the ground, some 1,200 feet north of the road. (NICAP, "Another Object in Vertical Descent Explodes near Colonel")
- 1948, November 4 A USAF Europe document transmits some information on the Swedish ghost rockets. "They have been reported by so many sources and from such a variety of places that we are convinced that they cannot be disregarded and must be explained on some basis which is perhaps slightly beyond the scope of our present intelligence thinking." One of the objects was observed crashing into a lake by Swedish Gen. Helge Jung and his party. A salvage operation was unsuccessful. USAF officers visit Swedish Air Intelligence officials who have reached the conclusion that "these phenomena are obviously the result of a high technical skill which cannot be credited to any presently known culture on earth." The document is distributed to the CIA (which in response to a FOIA request claims no record), Armament Intelligence Branch, and AMC. ("USAFE 14, TT 1524, Top Secret." November 4, 1948; Jan Aldrich, "Early Top Secret UFO Document Discovered." 2000; Swords 62–63; Good Need, p. 115)
- **1948,** November 6 Two UFOs, maneuvering like planes in a dogfight, are tracked on USAF radar over Wakkanai, Japan. (NICAP, "<u>Target Circles Radar Site</u>"; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, p. 34; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 42)
- 1948, November 8 A letter is sent with Col. McCoy's signature to Gen. Cabell. Written by Sign operative Albert Deyarmond, it is overtly submissive but covertly rebellious. It contains several comments agreeing with Cabell that the UFO phenomenon is not identifiable and that no concrete physical proof exists to identify it. At the same time it drops all sorts of hints, doubtless the same arguments used in the original Estimate, that the objects really are extraterrestrial whether the Pentagon thinks so or not: It mentions the ETH; it mentions plotting waves against planetary approaches and finding a correlation; it mentions the books of Charles Fort as indicating that this has been going on for at least a century; it mentions that odd shapes (like the Chiles-Whitted case) can fly but require more advanced power plants than we have. (Col. H. M. McCoy, "Flying Object Incidents in the United States,"

- November 8, 1948; Michael D. Swords, "<u>The McCoy Letter</u>," *IUR* 22, no. 1 (Spring 1997): 12–17, 27; Michael D. Swords, "<u>Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation</u>," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 51, 63–64; Swords 62, 65, 494–496)
- 1948, November 12 Project Sign personnel travel to the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., to attempt to convince <a href="Cabell">Cabell</a> and <a href="Vandenberg">Vandenberg</a> on the ETH. It includes <a href="Sneider">Sneider</a>, and perhaps <a href="Deyarmond">Deyarmond</a>, <a href="Loedding">Loedding</a>, <a href="Truettner">Truettner</a>, and <a href="McCoy">McCoy</a>. On the Pentagon side, <a href="Boggs">Boggs</a> and <a href="Cabell">Cabell</a> are there and perhaps Vandenberg, and they are having none of the ETH. Back at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, Deyarmond and Truettner begin writing a sanitized Project Sign report. More scientific oversight is requested for Sign personnel. The Scientific Advisory Board and <a href="George Valley">George Valley</a> of MIT are to be made aware of all cases. So too are Boggs's office, ONI, and maybe even the NBS. <a href="Hynek">Hynek</a> is to be formally commissioned for an assessment, as well as <a href="Irving Langmuir">Irving Langmuir</a> and Project RAND. (Col. H. M. McCoy, "<a href="Transmittal of Project 'SIGN' Incident Summaries.">Transmittal of Project 'SIGN' Incident Summaries.</a>" November 12, 1948; Swords 65; Michael D. Swords, "<a href="Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation">Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation</a>," <a href="JUFOS">JUFOS</a> 7 (2000): 51–52)
- **1948,** Mid-November Late afternoon. Clifford DeWitt Fife hears a whirring in the air near Nevada, Missouri. He looks up and sees a hovering, disc-like object. Two bright objects drop down out of the disc about 200–300 feet, then speed off to the southwest. The large object moves off to the northeast. (*Nevada (Mo.) Daily Mail, November 30, 1948; Herbert S. Taylor, "Satellite Objects: A Further Look," <i>IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 7)
- 1948, November 18 10:00 p.m. USAF Reserve pilot Lt. Henry G. Combs is flying a T-6 Texas combat trainer when he sees an object flying west to east over Andrews AFB, Maryland. It has one continuously glowing white light. The sighting is corroborated by S/Sgt John Kushner, as well as other witnesses on the ground, who says it does "not look like an aircraft." Combs makes a pass to check on it, but it takes evasive action and he duels with it for 10 minutes. The object performs very tight curves and quick accelerations to more than 500 mph. Combs's copilots Lt. Kenwood Jackson and Lt. Glen L. Stalker, say the object "could climb vertically, then would drop behind" the aircraft and continue to circle the field. (NICAP, "The Lt. Combs / T-6 Encounter"; Sparks, p. 42; Richard H. Hall, Uninvited Guests, Aurora, 1988, pp. 236–237; Jazz Shaw, "Incident 207: A Tic Tac over Washington, DC, in 1948?" The DeBrief, March 10, 2023; Powell, Scientist, 7)
- 1948, November 23 9:30 p.m. US Army Col. William P. Hayes sees a bright white, round light "larger than a basketball" descend slowly as he is driving 10 miles west of Vaughan, New Mexico. It explodes without a sound some 100–200 feet above the ground. (NICAP, "Another Object in Vertical Descent Explodes near Colonel"; Sparks, p. 43; Clark III 539)
- 1948, November 23 10:20 p.m. The first documented ground radar—visual UFO case takes place at Fürstenfeldbruck Air Base [now closed] in Bavaria, Germany. A UFO is seen circling at 27,000 feet. An F-80 pilot sent to intercept it describes it as bright red. It climbs abruptly to 50,000 feet at 900 mph. A second F-80 pilot verifies the report. (NICAP, "Grnd Visual / Grnd Radar Track Object at 27,000"; Ruppelt, p. 46; Sparks, p. 43)
- 1948, November 24 Writer Sidney Shalett has asked for USAF cooperation in writing an article on UFOs for the Saturday Evening Post. In a "Memorandum for the Record," the USAF Directorate of Intelligence indicates that "publicity of this nature is undesirable but, if such articles are written, they will be less harmful to the national interest if a degree of guidance in their preparation is exercised." Signed November 24 by Cabell, Director of Intelligence. ([Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell], "Memorandum for Record," November 24, 1948; Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "Flying Saucers: Behind the Cold War Veil of Military Intelligence (Part II)," European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies 3, no. 1 (March 2002): 2, 18–22)
- 1948, November 30 Maj. Gen. <u>Charles P. Cabell</u>, in an Air Staff Summary Sheet, admits that he has tried to dissuade the press from publishing articles like <u>Shalett</u>'s. Cabell has asked Secretary <u>Forrestal</u> for permission to feed Shalett some statistics, but the memo is apparently never sent. (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, "<u>Publicity on Flying Saucer Incidents</u>," Air Staff Summary Sheet, November 30, 1948; "<u>Memorandum for Mr. Forrestal</u>" [unsent])
- 1948, November 30 Letter from <a href="Howard McCoy">Howard McCoy</a> at AMC Dayton to Commanding General, Air Defense Command, Mitchel AFB [now closed], Long Island, New York. "It is requested that all reports of unusual sightings by radar stations of your command be made directly to this Headquarters by the most expeditious means." (NICAP, "1948 UFO Chronology")
- 1948, November 30 An interim report by Project Sign, one that apparently takes seriously the possibility that UFOs represent interplanetary probes, is accidentally destroyed. USAF Intelligence later requests a replacement copy from TID at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. A recent FOIA to the National Archives answers that such a document would be in Project Blue Book files, but it is not. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1948, December A first-strike war plan (Sizzle) is developed to use 133 nuclear aerial bombs against 70 cities of the USSR. ("Nuclear 'Pincher': The START II Treaty, the American 'Escalation of Superiority' Strategy, and Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces," from Sovetskaya Rossiya, April 8, 1995)

- 1948, December 3 8:15 p.m. Sgt. <u>Bruce Earlin McFarland</u>, control tower operator at Fairfield-Suisun AFB [now Travis AFB] at Fairfield, California, watches for 25 seconds a round, white light fly with variable speed (200–400 mph) and a bouncing motion, finally disappearing after a rapid, erratic climb to 20,000 feet. (NICAP, "<u>Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Dec. 3, 1948, UFO Report</u>"; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 43)
- 1948, December 5 —9:05 p.m. Pilot Capt. William R. Goade is flying a USAF C-47 from Denver to Phoenix. Just west of Las Vegas, New Mexico, he and his copilot Maj. Roger Carter spot a bright green flash. Some 22 minutes later, an identical flash rises from the east slope of Sandia Peak and follows a parabolic curve as the C-47 passes 20 miles northeast of Albuquerque. Capt. Ernest Van Lloyd and the crew of Pioneer Airlines Flight 63 also see the second object, described as first orange, then green. (NICAP, "AFOSI Case 8: AF C-47 Pilot Observes UFO Similar to Green Flare"; Clark III 539; Sparks, p. 43)
- **1948**, December 6 —Lt. Col. <u>Doyle Rees</u>, commander of the Seventeenth District AFOSI at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, orders an investigation into the previous night's green fireball. (Clark III 539)
- **1948**, December 6 Project Sign is ordered to send copies of all its future cases and analyses to Maj. <u>Boggs</u> of the Office of Defensive Air, the ONI, and the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. (Swords 65)
- 1948, December 6 10:55 p.m. Atomic Energy Security Service Officer <u>Joseph Toulouse</u> sees a greenish flare one-third the apparent size of the moon at Sandia Base outside Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is visible for 3 seconds before it arcs downward and vanishes. (NICAP, "<u>AFOSI Case 10: AESS Observed Green Flare Directly over Sandia Base</u>"; Clark III 539; Sparks, p. 44)
- 1948, December 8 Two AFOSI officers, Capts. Melvin E. Neef and John J. Stahl Jr., interview every agency that might know something about green-flare operations but come up short. That evening, they are flying a T-7 out of Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico, at 5,000 feet when they see a brilliant green light, larger and more brilliant than a meteor or flare, traveling a flat trajectory 2,000 feet above them. They see it for 2 seconds before it burns out. (NICAP, "AFOSI Case 11: Agents in T-7 Observe Intense Green Fireball at 13,000"; Clark III 539; Sparks, p. 44)
- **1948,** December 9 Capt. Neef informs Lincoln LaPaz, director of meteoritics at the University of New Mexico, about the green fireball sightings. He says they do not sound like any meteors he is familiar with. (Clark III 539)
- 1948, December 10 The revised Project Sign report is issued, Air Intelligence Report Number 100-203-79, "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S." (AIR 203) [Some copies are confusingly dated April 28, 1949.] This is the culmination of Sign's work since early August, augmented by ONI collaboration over the past two months. UFOs are not extraterrestrial (the idea is hardly noticed). UFOs are probably real, but if so, there is a small chance that they are Soviet and therefore dangerous. All in all, the word "Soviet" dominates the commentary. (US Air Force, Directorate of Intelligence, *Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.: Summary and Conclusions*, Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, December 10, 1948; copy, dated April 28, 1949; Bruce Maccabee, "Hiding the Hardware," *IUR* 16, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1991): 7–8; Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 52; Swords 65–66; Good Above, pp. 265, 480–481; John Greenewald, "The Somewhat Lost Top Secret 1948 UFO Report: A Glimpse into America's Early Encounter with the Unknown," The Black Vault, February 21, 2024)
- 1948, December 12 9:02 p.m. <u>Lincoln LaPaz</u> and two USAF officers (Sandia Base Intelligence Officer Lt. Allan B. Clark and Sandia's AF-Civil Air Patrol Liaison Officer Maj. Charles L. Phillips) see a green fireball near Bernal, New Mexico. He calculates that it is flying directly over Los Alamos National Laboratory, and it maintains its horizontal flight at the low altitude (for a meteor) of 8–10 miles. LaPaz arranges with the Atomic Energy Security Service to set up a patrol with Speed Graphic cameras to try to photograph the fireballs. (NICAP, "<u>AFOSI Case 13: LaPaz, Captain, CAP Intel Officer Observed Green Fireball</u>"; Clark III 539–540; Good Above, <u>p. 266</u>; Joel Carpenter, "<u>Green Fireball Chronology</u>," October 6, 2011; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 46)
- **1948,** December 13 Project Sign files are sent to the Navy by Col. William R. Clingerman. (NICAP, "Project 'SIGN' Files Sent Directly to the Navy," December 13, 1948)
- 1948, December 13 Aeronautical engineer <u>James E. Lipp</u> writes an 8-page memo to Brig. Gen. <u>Donald Putt</u> on "Special Design and Performance Characteristics That Are Believed to Distinguish Spaceships." Rejecting out of hand any links between UFO sightings and space travelers, it later appears as an appendix in the Project Grudge report. (James E. Lipp, "<u>Special Design and Performance Characteristics That Are Believed to Distinguish Spaceships</u>," December 13, 1948)
- **1948,** December 16 Astronomer <u>J. Allen Hynek</u> is officially tasked by Project Sign with studying UFO cases for astronomical explanations. (AMC contract W33-038-1118). (O'Connell 44–46)
- **1948**, December 16 Brig. Gen. <u>Donald Putt</u>, Director of USAF Research and Development, orders that the code word Sign be changed to Grudge (since the Air Force bears a grudge against UFO reports, according to Ruppelt),

- effective in February. Morale plummets. ("Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects," April 28, 1949; Sparks, p. 11)
- 1948, December 20 <u>Sneider</u> sends his summary of the Chiles-Whitted case, Air Intelligence Report number 102-122-79, to <u>Cabell</u>. It is later called "The Ghost of the Estimate" by some researchers. (Capt. Robert R. Sneider, [<u>untitled memorandum</u>], December 20, 1948; Michael D. Swords, "<u>Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation</u>," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 52)
- 1948, December 20 In a confidential memo to Lt. Col. <u>Doyle Rees</u>, <u>LaPaz</u> argues that the green fireball he saw on December 12 was no meteor he has ever studied. He writes that the object moved far too slowly to have been a meteor and left no "trail of sparks or dust cloud" as would be typical of meteors flying at low altitudes. Other anomalous characteristics were the intense lime-green color, low altitude of only 8–10 miles yet exhibiting no sound, flat rather than arced trajectory, and turning on and off like a light switch. The interest in green fireballs inspires the creation of an informal group, the Los Alamos Astrophysical Association, whose members, all scientists and engineers with security clearances, are permitted to examine some classified Project Sign reports. This is essentially the beginning of Project Twinkle. (Clark III 540; World History Project, "<u>Project Twinkle Established to Monitor Green Fireball Sightings</u>")
- 1948, December 20 8:54 p.m. Shortly after they have packed up their Speed Graphic cameras provided by <u>LaPaz</u> to try to photograph the green fireballs, personnel (William D. Wilson, <u>Buford G. Truett</u>, <u>Clifford E. Strang</u>, and George S. Skipper) at an Atomic Energy Security Service post west of Los Alamos, New Mexico, spot a blue-white fireball moving in a nearly flat trajectory. Two objects separate from the main body and trail behind it. Thanks to an independent observation at another site, LaPaz is able to triangulate its flight path as 7–8 miles, west to east toward Los Alamos. (NICAP, "<u>AFOSI Case 14: AESS OP Sighted Green Fireball with Triangulation</u>"; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 46)
- **1948,** December 29 The Fourth Army sums up the UFO situation in the southwest in a statement. In December 5–28, there were 23 reports of "flares or moving lights." All but two are in New Mexico and are an intense white or greenish-white light. (Clark III 540)

## 1949

- 1949? Evening. USAF Brig. Gen. William M. Garland is stationed at Mather AFB [now Sacramento Mather Airport] in Sacramento, California. He and a few other people, including some command pilots, are sitting in their yard when they see a "bright, silvery, round object" going too fast for an airplane. (Jan L. Aldrich, "Brigadier General William Madison Garland, USAF")
- 1949 1:00 a.m. A group of soldiers of the 2nd Armored Division stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, are tasked with standing guard over a plateau in a remote, fenced-off part of the base. After a few weeks, they see bright lights in the sky. They approach the plateau and descend slowly and silently. Suddenly, part of the plateau opens up and they can see light coming from inside. The lights descend into the opening, which closes over them. (Michael D. Swords, "Timmermania: A Step Too Far into the Timmerman Files?" *IUR* 27, no. 4 (Winter 2002–2003): 9; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, p. 146)
- 1949 Day. A student pilot is flying a two-seat Taylorcraft over Los Angeles, California. Just as he turns to a westerly flight heading, he sees an object speeding across the sky from north to south. Suddenly it stops abruptly, and the pilot heads toward the object climbing to within a few hundred feet. An intense flash of white comes from its tail and in less than a minute it is completely out of sight. ("Recently Reported," CUFOS Associate Newsletter 2, no. 10 (October 1981): 5)
- 1949, January Project Sign personnel begin to be reassigned. Loedding disappears from project records. Deyarmond's attention goes elsewhere. Truettner makes one last serious attempt at interviewing about nuclear propulsion (at Oak Ridge, Tennessee) and is given a negative opinion on UFOs by Col. Ralph L. Wassell. He, too, disappears from the project. The civilian members are relieved of their duties and reassigned to other intelligence tasks within T-2. For Loedding in particular, his role and prestige are never the same. After a few further years of intelligence work, both he and Truettner leave AMC. For the higher military ranks (Llewelyn and Sneider), all we know is that they are soon no longer involved, perhaps not even assigned to the same base. Even Clingerman and McCoy become less involved, perhaps because they have also heard that their tenures will soon be up and they will be sent to school and then transferred. The only persons left active on the project are two of the lower ranks: Lieut. Howard W. Smith and civilian George W. Towles. Their job is reduced basically to collection and filing. In

- this condition, or worse, the Air Force commitment to a UFO investigation project will remain until the summer of 1951. (Michael D. Swords, "Project Sign and the Estimate of the Situation," *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 52–53)
- **1949,** January Early morning. <u>Sarah Elizabeth Lampe</u> watches an odd, disc-like electrical discharge, about 3 feet in diameter, that persists for "fully two minutes" during the Big Snow, 8 miles from Beatty, Nevada. ("True Mystic Experiences," *Fate* 4, no. 2 (March 1951): 84–89)
- **1949,** January 1 The CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence is established. Willard Machle becomes assistant director for scientific intelligence. Problems almost immediately involve recruitment and filling positions with competent professionals. (Rear Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter, "Scientific Intelligence," January 4, 1949)
- 1949, January 1 5:00 p.m. Pilot Thomas A. Rush and his wife are in a private plane with two passengers flying east of Jackson, Mississippi, into North Jackson Airpark. They see a cigar-shaped object, 60 feet long and 10 feet wide, cross their path at an altitude of 1,500–1,600 feet. It is only about 500 feet distant and seems to be either dark blue or black in color. It is shaped like a megaphone, tapering from a diameter of roughly 10 feet at the front end to four feet at the trailing end. Its speed is approximately 200 mph, and it accelerates to 400–500 mph. The object makes a 50° turn and is visible for 10–12 seconds. (NICAP, "Cigar-Shaped Object Encountered by Bush Pilot"; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June*, The Author, 1988, pp. 1–2; Sparks, p. 46; Jazz Shaw, "From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear," The Debrief, March 7, 2023)
- 1949, January 4 2:00 p.m. USAF pilot Capt. Paul R. Stoney, on the ground at Hickam Field [now part of Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam] near Honolulu, Hawaii, sees a flat, white, elliptical object about the size of a T-6 aircraft, circle at about 3,000 feet while oscillating to the right and left. It is apparently several miles off the base and slowly circling. It is bright white on the underside and darker on top and possesses no other structures. It proceeds for 15 minutes to make "rhythmical undulation" maneuvers in a cyclical manner. The "object seemed to maneuver under control at all times completing 360° turns and 90° turns." The object then "departed climbing (into the northeast) at accelerated speed out of sight." (NICAP, "Disc Circles, Maneuvers, Climbs into the NE"; Sparks, p. 47)
- 1949, January 5 The USAF Technical Information Division at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio, transmits Project Sign's list of UFO incidents to the Air Weather Service for analysis and recommendations. (Jan Aldrich)
- **1949,** January 6 5:30 p.m. PFC Everitt sees a bright-white, diamond-shaped light in horizontal flight from southeast to northwest above the Ordnance section at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is about 1,500–2,000 feet altitude and flying faster than a jet. Possible meteor. (NICAP, "Diamond-Shaped Light"; Sparks, p. 47)
- 1949, January 7 The Research and Development Board writes a memo to USAF Intelligence on the green fireballs. It is signed by David Z. Beckley, chief of the R&DB Technical Intelligence Branch. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 10)
- 1949, January 10 FBI special agent <u>Charlton C. McSwain</u> sends a memo to <u>J. Edgar Hoover</u> enumerating the views of an AMC resident engineer (identified only as "Mr. E") with the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft project at Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tennessee that the flying discs are human-made nuclear missiles originating in Russia. (Bruce S. Maccabee, "<u>UFO Related Information from the FBI Files, Part [4],</u>" *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 123 (February 1978): 10–15; Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June</u>, The Author, 1988, pp. 6–10)
- 1949, January 11 Angered over his opposition to defense economization policies and meeting secretly with <a href="Thomas Dewey">Thomas Dewey</a>'s Republicans, <a href="Truman">Truman</a> tells <a href="Forrestal">Forrestal</a> that <a href="Louis A. Johnson">Louis A. Johnson</a> will soon replace him as Secretary of Defense.
- 1949, January 13 Col. Eustis L. Poland of US Army Intelligence (G-2) sends a memo on behalf of the Commander of Fourth Army at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, to the Director of Army Intelligence concerning the green fireballs. It recommends a scientific study because "these incidents are of such great importance, especially as they are occurring in the vicinity of sensitive installations." (Col. Eustis L. Poland, "Unconventional Aircraft," January 13, 1949; Good Above, pp. 265, 482)
- 1949, January 24 An FBI memo from D. M. Ladd to Hoover documents speculation on a Soviet nuclear-powered disc by USAF Col. Clyde D. Gasser of the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft (NEPA) project at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Gasser reports rumors coming from Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio that nuclear-powered disc-shaped planes might be making incursions into US airspace and returning to the USSR over the North Pole. (D. M. Ladd, "Flying Discs," January 24, 1949)
- 1949, January 27 10:20–11:20 p.m. Capt. Eckerman Sannes, acting chief of the Aircraft Branch at Eglin AFB near Valparaiso, Florida, and his wife are driving slowly on Cortez Road between Bradenton and Cortez, Florida, when they observe a "cucumber-shaped" object. The object, seen through binoculars, seems as long as two Pullman cars, with 7 lighted, square windows. It is throwing sparks and approximately 8–10 miles away. In the

- first sighting at 10:20 p.m., the object approaches from the south going north, moving from an altitude of 8,000 feet in a gradual descent until lost behind trees. In the second sighting at 11:20 p.m., the object is seen in the north, heading south and making a gradual turn to the west. It descends then climbs with a bouncing motion (up 4,000 feet, down 2,000 feet) at about 400–500 mph, resulting in an overall climb and loss to view at an altitude of around 40,000 feet. The bouncing appears to start after the final 270° course change to the west. (NICAP, "Two Sightings of Object with Lighted Windows"; Sparks, p. 49)
- 1949, January 30 5:54 p.m. Hundreds of people see a green meteor come out of the northwest and vanish southwest of Roswell, New Mexico. It is completely silent. (NICAP, "AFOSI Case 18: Green Fireball Event Witnessed in New Mexico"; Commanding Officer, Kirtland AFB, "Nr. OSI-1-90," January 31, 1949; Clark III 540; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June, The Author, 1988, pp. 15–16; Sparks, p. 49)
- 1949, January 31 Kirtland AFB in New Mexico notifies the Pentagon that it will launch an immediate investigation of the green fireballs, noting that "local commanders [are] perturbed by implications of phenomena." LaPaz speaks to dozens of witnesses of the January 30 fireball and manages a rough triangulation of the fireball's 143-mile path from Amarillo to Lamesa, Texas. He estimates its speed at 25,000–50,000 mph, with a beginning altitude of 60,000 feet and a final altitude around 40,000 feet. LaPaz accompanies search teams to bring back any fragments. They end up in the area of Lamesa but give up after a few days of fruitless search. He later tells AFOSI agent Paul Ryan that the fireballs are artificial, perhaps radio-controlled missiles directed by enemy agents in the Southwest. (Commanding Officer, Kirtland AFB, "Nr. OSI-1-90," January 31, 1949; Clark III 540)
- 1949, January 31 The FBI field office in San Antonio, Texas, issues a memo on UFOs, "Protection of Vital Installations." It is sent to <u>Hoover</u>, G-2, ONI, OSI, and mentions a meeting among these groups on UFOs, "considered top secret by intelligence officers of both the army and the air forces." (SAC, San Antonio, "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File #65-58300," January 31, 1949; ClearIntent, <u>p. 149</u>; Good Above, <u>pp. 267</u>, 483)
- **1949,** February Chemist <u>H. Marshall Chadwell</u>, from the New York office of the Atomic Energy Commission, is appointed assistant director of scientific intelligence at the CIA. (Jan Aldrich)
- **1949,** Early February Writer <u>Sidney Shalett</u> is given a guided tour of AMC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, a glimpse of low-interest UFO cases, and a few conservative opinions by Air Force personnel. (Swords 73)
- **1949,** February 1 Col. Hanna (?), assistant chief of the Power Plant Laboratory (at Wright-Patterson?) and project engineer for Project Sign, meets with other Project Sign personnel and concludes that nuclear-powered UFOs are improbable. (Project Status Report on Project Sign, February 4, 1949; Jan Aldrich)
- 1949, February 8 UCLA geophysicist <u>Joseph Kaplan</u> meets with <u>LaPaz</u> at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He finds LaPaz's understanding of the green fireball reports unsettling. He discusses the matter with Capt. <u>Melvin Neef</u> and Maj. <u>William Godsoe</u> (Fourth Army Intelligence liaison officer at Sandia Base). He promises to alert Scientific Advisory Board chairman <u>Von Kármán</u> and urge an investigation. (Clark III 540)
- 1949, February 11 <u>Kaplan</u> meets in Washington, D.C., with <u>Von Kármán</u>, who is impressed enough to write Gen.

  <u>Charles P. Cabell</u> that the green fireballs look like a serious issue that needs to be addressed, perhaps by <u>LaPaz</u>.

  (Swords 79, 497)
- 1949, February 11 Project Sign releases a final sanitized report, "Unidentified Aerial Objects: Project 'Sign," Technical Report F-TR-2274-1A, authored by Lawrence Truettner and Albert B. Devarmond and approved by Col. Clingerman (chief of USAF Technical Intelligence Division) and Col. Howard McCoy (chief of the Intelligence Department). 72 pages are visible in the NICAP copy and 1,537 pages (some illegible) are available on the Blue Book microfilm. Its conclusions, that 20% of the "incidents have been identified as conventional aerial objects," are based on 273 reports (243 US and 30 foreign) and it summarizes the characteristics of four types of UFOs: flying discs, cigar-shaped objects, spherical objects, and balls of light. It acknowledges the possibility that "these aerial objects are visitors from another planet" and refers to commentary in Appendix D by James Everett Lipp of the RAND Corporation (his December 13, 1948, letter to Brig, Gen. Donald Putt. "No definite and conclusive evidence is yet available that would prove or disprove the existence of these unidentified objects as real aircraft of unknown and unconventional configuration. It is unlikely that positive proof of their existence will be obtained without examination of the remains of crashed objects.... Evaluation of reports of unidentified objects is a necessary activity of military intelligence agencies. Such sightings are inevitable, and under wartime conditions rapid and convincing solutions of such occurrences are necessary to maintain morale of military and civilian personnel. In this respect, it is considered that the establishment of procedures and training of personnel is in itself worth the effort expended on this project." In Appendix C, physicist George E. Valley breaks down the characteristics and patterns of the most reliable sightings. Truettner and Devarmond, in a between-thelines rebuke of Cabell's order not to consider the ETH, recommend that if enough cases are examined and proven

- to have no security risks, then the project should be terminated. The report is distributed to AMC, USAF Intelligence Directorate, ONR, Cambridge Labs, Air Weather Services, <u>Hynek</u> at Ohio State University, the RAND Project, and the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. (L. H. Truettner and A. B. Deyarmond, <u>Unidentified Aerial Objects: Project "Sign,"</u> Air Materiel Command Technical Report no. F-TR-2274-IA, February 1949; Sparks, p. 12; Swords 72; Graff 51–54)
- 1949, February 12 Project Sign officially becomes Project Grudge. (Sparks, p. 12)
- **1949**, February 12 Another realistic Spanish-language radio version of *The War of the Worlds* is broadcast in Quito, Ecuador, causing panic, a riot, and a major fire. (John Gosling, *Waging the War of the Worlds*, McFarland, 2009, pp. 102–113)
- **1949,** February 15 Maj. Gen. <u>Cabell</u> sets out a revised list of Air Intelligence reporting requirements for "unconventional aircraft." (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, "<u>Unconventional Aircraft.</u>" Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum no. 5, February 15, 1949)
- 1949, February 16 A Conference on Aerial Phenomena is held at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico with military representatives—meteoriticist Lincoln LaPaz and physicists Norris E. Bradbury, Marshall Holloway, Frederick Reines, and Edward Teller—in attendance. Representatives from Project Grudge are noticeably absent. LaPaz tells the attendees that while most meteors are blue-green, the green fireballs are described as pale green or yellow-green. Normal meteors rarely move in long, horizontal paths with nearly constant velocities. He says there are 10 incidents that strongly fit the pattern and 20 others that might. The scientists agree to set up a series of instrument stations to photograph and analyze the fireballs. Teller thinks the fireballs might be electrical-optical phenomena. Navy Commander Richard S. Mandelkorn, who is in attendance, writes in his report that "there is cause for concern of the continued occurrences of unexplainable phenomena of this nature in the vicinity of sensitive installations." (Cmdr. Richard S. Mandelkorn, Report of a Trip to Los Alamos, New Mexico, 16 February 1949, February 18, 1949; Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, [Minutes of February 16 Conference on Aerial Phenomena, Los Alamos], March 29, 1949; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: 1949, January—June, The Author, 1988, pp. 23–53; Swords 79–80; Good Above, pp. 265–266)
- 1949, February 17 5:57 p.m. University of New Mexico Professor of Civil Engineering Marvin May sees a brilliant white object in the west at 6° elevation for less than 6 minutes in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The object is first round then shifts to an ellipse as it approaches, then it appears to be elongated like a bent pipe with corners, one full moon in length. It makes a slight climbing turn to the north, shifts to peach color as it makes a rapid sharp turning climb to the south, disappearing in cloudless sky by diminishing in size and brightness. At the same time, 100 guards at Sandia Base, New Mexico, including the officer of the guard, see a yellow-orange cigar-shaped object for seven minutes. (NICAP, "AFOSI Case 24: Vertical Climb, Then Leveled Off"; Sparks, p. 50)
- 1949, February 18 <u>Cabell</u> writes <u>Von Kármán</u> and says he has a transcript of the Los Alamos meeting and that <u>Hynek</u> is studying the green fireballs topic. He adds: "It seems unlikely that domestic incidents can be attributed to the activity of a foreign power or a science unknown to our specialists." (Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June</u>, The Author, 1988, pp. 12–13)
- 1949, February 18 A Fourth Air Force letter quotes Project Sign's requirements for radar reporting, as stated by the Continental Air Command (NORAD's predecessor) on February 4. The USAF Air Defense Command is subordinate to ConAC at this time. The requirements admit that a "large number of targets appearing on radar screens remain unidentified." It refers to <a href="McCoy">McCoy</a>'s November 30, 1948, letter on Sign's preference for radar tracks of aerial objects that show extremely fast or slow speeds, vertical or near vertical ascent or descent, extraordinary maneuverability, and extreme altitudes. (Clark III 810)
- 1949, February 23 McCoy sends Capt. Roger Groseclose and Lt. Howard Smith to Kirtland AFB's Office of Special Investigations to discuss the green fireballs with <u>LaPaz</u> and <u>Neef</u> and to mollify them for not showing up at the February 16 conference. (Clark III 541)
- 1949, February 24 Groseclose and Smith have an unpleasant exchange with Neef, LaPaz, Agent Jack Boling, and Army Maj. Godsoe, who says it's not worth AFOSI's time to conduct investigations for AMC. The AMC officers retort that the fireballs are not an Army concern. Groseclose and Smith say they are concerned with all anomalous aerial phenomena. Disgusted, Godsoe leaves the room. Groseclose and Smith then turn on LaPaz, criticizing him for only sending AMC raw data and not finished analyses. LaPaz says he is on leave as a volunteer and must go back to the University of New Mexico, unless he sees a contract. However, AMC agrees to set up a network of observation posts with cameras, transits, and trained personnel. (Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June, The Author, 1988, pp. 11, 14–15; Clark III 541)
- 1949, February or March 4:30 p.m. A representative of the International Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey, is driving north along the Pan-American Highway about 6 miles south of Lima, Peru, when he sees a metallic disc hovering low above the desert on his right. He walks over to it, and three mummy-like

creatures about 5 feet tall emerge. They speak to him in both English and Spanish, explaining to him that they come from another star system, are concerned about our use of atomic energy, use solar power, no longer have sex, and reproduce by subdividing. They invite him inside the disc, which from the inside has transparent walls. He sees no instruments, only a padded ledge. (Lorenzen, *UFOs over the Americas*, Signet, 1968, pp. 122–148)

- 1949, March Strategic Air Command head Gen. <u>Curtis LeMay</u> delivers the first SAC Emergency War Plan, which calls for dropping 133 atomic bombs on 70 cities in the USSR within 30 days. LeMay predicts that World War III will last no longer than 30 days. (Wikipedia, "<u>Curtis LeMay</u>")
- 1949, March 2 <u>Sidney Shalett</u> provides the USAF Directorate of Intelligence a draft of his upcoming article for review. The Air Force is not pleased, objecting to Shalett stating an "official" USAF position, his claim that the Air Force is his sole source of information (although it is), a quote by <u>Irving Langmuir</u> criticizing Project Sign, and any inference that the Air Force and Navy are not cooperating. (Swords 73)
- 1949, March 6–7 8:30 p.m. Army Pvts. Martin Fensterman and Frank Luisi, on security patrol near Killeen Base [now West Fort Hood], Texas, a nuclear weapons storage site, see a flash of pale blue light in the sky to the northeast. At 8:55 p.m., a quarter mile away, Pvt. Harold Moore sees a white light with an orange trail flash across the western horizon. At 9:00 p.m., from inside the base boundary, Sgt. Hubert Vickery and Pfc. John Ransom notice a pale blue-white light streaking across the western sky low over the horizon. Between 1:15 and 2:00 a.m., four more security patrols report burst of lights like a flash bulb. (SAC, San Antonio, "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300," March 22, 1949; Clark III 541–542; Sparks, pp. 50–51; "Fort Hood Sightings, 1949," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 5, 2014)
- 1949, March 8 1:03 a.m. Two infantrymen half a mile apart at Killeen Base, Texas, see apparently separate streaking bright lights (one white, the other yellowish red). The latter one covers 60° of sky, appearing and disappearing at about the same angle above the horizon. Cpl. Luke Sims is able to run 10 paces to a field telephone before it vanishes. All observers insist these are not meteors and are more like flares. (NICAP, "Killeen Base, Camp Hood, Texas, OSI Case 39"; SAC, San Antonio, "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300," March 22, 1949; Clark III 542; Sparks, p. 52)
- 1949, March 13 9:53 p.m. Two MPs guarding the Technical Area at Sandia Base, New Mexico, see a silent, spherical object, bluish- or greenish-white, with a flaming blue tail twice as long as the body, which is apparently half the size of the full moon. (NICAP, "March 13, 1949, Sandia Base, NM, OSI Case 40"; Sparks, p. 52)
- 1949, March 15 —A memo on UFOs to <u>Willard Machle</u> by physicist <u>Albert M. Stone</u> from the CIA Office of Scientific Investigation dismisses the idea of UFOs as foreign aircraft and suggests they are misidentifications of other phenomena. ("Flying Saucers," letter from Dr. Machle to Dr. Stone, March 15, 1949; ClearIntent, p. 113)
- 1949, March 17 Seven sightings of large, green, red, and white flares take place at Killeen Base, Texas, including the previously skeptical Capt. Horace McCulloch, assistant G-2 of the Second Armored Division at Camp Hood, who is driving between Camp Hood and Killeen Base to prepare a test firing of some flares to prove that recent sightings are not anomalous. McCulloch puts the entire base on alert. (Clark III 542; Sparks, p. 52)
- 1949, March 22 SAC San Antonio, Texas, sends a memo to FBI headquarters regarding the January 31 communication on Protection of Vital Installations, emphasizing that USAF and the Army consider the matter "secret." Fourth Army Intelligence is now calling UFOs "unconventional aircraft" and ATIC's office is now Project Grudge. It also discusses green fireball cases. (SAC, San Antonio, "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File 65-58300," March 22, 1949)
- 1949, March 25 <u>J. Edgar Hoover</u> sends a memo to a large number of FBI offices indicating that "flying discs are believed to be man-made missiles rather than natural phenomenon," probably made in Russia. (John Edgar Hoover, "<u>Flying Discs</u>," March 25, 1949; ClearIntent, <u>p. 161</u>)
- 1949, March 28 <u>James Forrestal</u> leaves office in a formal ceremony. He rides back to the Pentagon with his opponent <u>Stuart Symington</u>, who talks to him about something troubling. Forrestal appears traumatized. Forrestal sits in his office, dazed and incoherent, repeating, "You are a loyal fellow."
- 1949, March 31 Forrestal is flown to Hobe Beach, Florida, to stay with his friend Under Secretary of State Robert A.

  Lovett, where his wife is vacationing. He meets with psychiatrist William C. Menninger (who diagnoses "severe depression" of the type "seen in operational fatigue during the war") and psychologist Capt. George N. Raines from the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Maryland. Forrestal has several hysterical episodes when they are there, ranting about Communists following him, and perhaps one suicide attempt.
- 1949, March 31 CIA's H. L. Bowers writes a memo to Dr. Machle, "Notes and Comments on Unidentified Aerial Objects--Project Sign," stating that <a href="Deyarmond">Deyarmond</a> thinks UFOs will turn out to be another "sea serpent." Nonetheless, they must be investigated. (Document released to <a href="Brad Sparks">Brad Sparks</a> but not in subsequent CIA FOIA releases; Good Above, <a href="p. 330">p. 330</a>)

- 1949, March 31—11:50 p.m. Lieut. Frederick Davis, on patrol east of Killeen Base, Texas, sees a reddish-white ball of fire passing horizontally above the base airstrip. After 10–15 seconds it disappears without descending. He notes interference on the telephone line when he calls the report in. (NICAP, "Field Telephone Affected by BOL"; Clark III 542; Sparks, p. 53)
- 1949, April 2 Menninger and Raines fly Forrestal to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, where he can be treated quietly. On the drive to the hospital from the airport, Forrestal attempts to jump out of the car but is restrained. Forrestal declares he does not expect to leave the hospital alive. He is admitted under the care of Raines, who diagnoses him with involutional melancholia and places him in a VIP suite on the 16th floor. Forrestal's personal diaries are removed from his old office and taken to the White House, where they remain for a year.
- 1949, April 3 Broadcaster Walter Winchell announces on his radio program that the "flying saucers, never explained by anyone in authority are now definitely known to have been guided missiles shot all the way from Russia." (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers*, Rose Press International, 2000, p. 14; "Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Two," Saturday Night Uforia)
- **1949**, April 5 —10:00 p.m. A huge green fireball with a red afterglow is seen streaking approximately 300 feet above the southern slope of Fejarito Mountain, near Los Alamos, New Mexico. It disappears behind the mountain. Another fireball is seen at 11:00 p.m., and the next two nights. (NICAP, "1949 UFO Chronology"; Sparks, p. 54)
- 1949, April 8 In response to Winchell's claim, the Air Force admits it is impossible to "deny categorically" that the flying saucers originate in Russia. A spokesman says that some unknown incidents are placed in a classified category, denied to everyone except authorized military personnel. ("Air Force Isn't Committing Self on Flying Disks," Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette, April 8, 1949, p. 22)
- 1949, April 9 Forrestal has been treated for one week at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, with narcosis through sodium amytal. For the next 30 days, he undergoes a regimen of insulin sub-shock combined with psycho-therapeutic interviews. Raines says the treatment occasionally throws Forrestal into a confused state with a great deal of agitation and confusion.
- 1949, April 14 Col. Reid Lumsden, commander of the AFOSI district office at Kelly AFB [now Kelly Field Annex] in San Antonio, Texas, hands the Army reports of flares at Killeen Base to Col. William Carpenter, deputy director of special investigations at the Pentagon. Carpenter promises to investigate. (Clark III 542)
- **1949**, April 16 and 18 Mysterious flares are again observed at Killeen Base, Texas. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10; Clark III 542)
- 1949, April 18 The US Air Force Security Service moves its headquarters from Arlington Hall in Washington, D.C., to Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. (Wikipedia, "Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency")
- 1949, April 19 AFOSI at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, sends to USAF headquarters a list of all green fireball reports it has investigated (39 in all) from December 5 to April 12. The common characteristics of most of the incidents are: "a. Green color, sometimes described as greenish-white, bright green, yellow-green, or blue green. b. Horizontal path, sometimes with minor variations. c. Speed less than that of a meteor, but more than any known type of aircraft. d. No sound associated with observation. e. No persistent trail or dust cloud. f. Period of visibility from one to five seconds." ("The Scientific Advisory Board to the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, Conference," November 3, 1949; Clark III 541; Swords 133–135)
- **1949,** April 22 9:05 a.m. A round, flat, thin, metallic disc is seen traveling west to east, dropping slowly, over Cliff, New Mexico. (Sparks, p. 55)
- 1949, April 24 10:30 a.m. General Mills meteorologist <a href="Charles B. Moore">Charles B. Moore</a> and four Navy Skyhook balloon launch crewmen (Navy Chief Fire Controlman William Akers, Davidson, Fitzsimmons, Moorman) see a white, round object, shadowed yellowish on one side, cross the sky from the south to the east, three miles north of Arrey, New Mexico. <a href="Joseph Gordon Vaeth">Joseph Gordon Vaeth</a> is present as the Navy representative in charge of ground handling. Moore tracks it for 60 seconds on a theodolite. The distance is unknown, but assuming the object is 57 miles away, it would have a velocity of 18,000 mph, a width of 40 feet, and a length of 100 feet; but this is speculative. (NICAP, "<a href="White Sands Incident/C.B. Moore Case">White Sands Incident/C.B. Moore Case</a>; R. B. McLaughlin, [Letter to J. A. VanAllen], May 12, 1949; J. Gordon Vaeth, 200 Miles Up: The Conquest of the Upper Air, Ronald Press, 1951; James E. McDonald, "<a href="Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects">Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects</a>, in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 63–64; ClearIntent, <a href="pp. 114–115">pp. 114–115</a>; UFOEv, <a href="pp. 2—3">pp. 2—3</a>; Hynek, The UFO Experience, Ballantine ed., 1974, <a href="pp. 72–73">pp. 72–73</a>; <a href="Sparks">Sparks</a>, pp. 56–57</a>; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "<a href="The Southwestern Lights">The Southwestern Lights</a>, Part Three," IUR 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 8–9; Kevin D. Randle, "<a href="Charles Moore">Charles Moore</a>, New Mexico UFOs, and the Air Force," IUR 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 3–4; Michael D. Swords, "<a href="1952">1952</a>:

- Ruppelt's Big Year," *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 10; Michael D. Swords, "Balloons, Missiles, and UFOs," *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004):16–17; Swords 84–85; Clark III 541; "Arrey, NM Case of 4-24-1949—Prof. Charles B. Moore," Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959, November 21. 2013)
- 1949, April 25 6:30 a.m. A man named Abreu and a friend are fishing at Springer Lake, northwest of Springer, New Mexico, when they hear a high-pitched whistle and see a number of silvery-white balls passing overhead quickly. They reappear repeatedly over the next hour. (NICAP, "Various Formations Observed"; Clark III 541; Sparks, p. 57)
- 1949, April 25 Lt. Col. <u>Doyle Rees</u> wires AFOSI headquarters to ask if he can send two of his men to AMC to find out if Project Grudge plans to do anything about the green fireballs. Before Rees has a response, <u>Joseph Kaplan</u> arrives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, having been directed there by AF Intelligence Director Maj. Gen. <u>Charles Cabell</u> and Scientific Advisory Board Chairman <u>Theodore Von Kármán</u>, who wants Kaplan to set up a field investigation. They emphasize that Grudge is not to be informed. (Clark III 542; Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2000, p. 52)
- 1949, April 27 Rees, Kaplan, and LaPaz brief Armed Forces Special Weapons Project personnel at Sandia Base, New Mexico. LaPaz outlines plans for a network of visual, photographic, spectrographic, and radar observations covering Los Alamos, Sandia, and White Sands. Scientist William D. Crozier of the New Mexico School of Mines offers to handle air sampling. Rees urges that the Killeen Base in Texas be included. Kaplan, who says the project is "of extreme importance" because "these occurrences relate to the National Defense of the United States," recommends LaPaz to handle the project. (Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, "Unknown (Aerial Phenomena)," May 12, 1949; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January—June, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 60–62; Clark III 542)
- 1949, April 27 USAF Directorate of Intelligence briefs the USAF Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations on UFOs. "Investigations continue in an effort to find definite explanations for the many unidentified aerial objects which have been reported during the past two years." ("<u>Unidentified Aerial Objects.</u>" Air Brief, Special Study Part Two, April 27, 1949)
- 1949, April 27 A 22-page memorandum for the press (629-49) on "Project Saucer" is released by the Pentagon Office of Public Information, scheduled deliberately to coincide with part one of Shalett's article in the Saturday Evening Post. The writer is unknown, but it is more pro-ETH than the current Project Grudge mentality, listing several solid and dramatic cases. It concludes: "The 'saucers' are not a joke. Neither are they a cause for alarm to the population." The discrepancy between Shalett's mostly dismissive tone and the positivity of the Project Saucer statement causes Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe to wonder if there is a major disagreement about UFOs within the Air Force. (National Military Establishment, Office of Public Information, "Project 'Saucer," April 27, 1949; Jack Vincent, "AF Probe Proves 'Flying Saucers' Are Not a Joke," Dayton (Ohio) Journal Herald, April 27, 1949, pp. 1, 9; Swords 74–75)
- 1949, April 27 9:20 p.m. Two Army patrolmen southeast of Killeen Base, Texas, see a blinking violet light no more than 1.5 inches in diameter and only 10–12 feet from them, 6–7 feet above the ground. During the 60-second observation, the light passes through the branches of a tree. At 9:25 p.m., 2 miles away, four Army soldiers see a 4-inch light with a 2–4-inch metallic cone attached to the back. It silently approaches them in a level flight at 60–70 mph. It disappears to the southwest at a distance of 150 feet. At about 9:37 p.m., a 2-inch-wide purplish-white light appears 100 feet away to the northwest, flying in a zig-zag fashion in a level path 6–7 feet above the ground. When they attempt to approach it to investigate, it suddenly zooms away down the road at a high rate of speed before the light shuts off and the object disappears. A third light shows up at 9:39 p.m. in the west-southwest. (NICAP, "Close Encounters with Drones/Probes at Weapons Storage Site"; Sparks, pp. 57–58; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10; Clark III 542; Jazz Shaw, "From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear," The Debrief, March 7, 2023)
- 1949, April 28 USAF Director of Intelligence <a href="Charles Cabell">Charles Cabell</a> sends a report on "Unidentified Aerial Objects" to the Joint Intelligence Committee. It summarizes the history of Project Sign up to its redesignation as Grudge and adds an appendix on "Unidentified Aerial Objects: Fact and Discussion," which is basically a short version of the sanitized February 11 Sign report, with some green fireball information added. It recommends sending reports of unidentified "light phenomena" to the scientific community and reports of "atomic powered craft of unusual design" to the AEC. It concludes that "There are numerous reports from reliable and competent observers for which a conclusive explanation has not been made" and that some "involve configurations and described performance which might conceivably represent an advanced aerodynamical development. A few unexplained incidents surpass these limits of credulity. It is unlikely that a foreign power would expose a superior aerial

- weapon by a prolonged ineffectual penetration of the United States." This essentially resurrects the ETH as a possibility, without clearly stating it. ("Report by the Director of Intelligence, USAF, to the Joint Intelligence Committee on Unidentified Aerial Objects," April 28, 1949; Jan Aldrich, "Top-Secret 1949 Document," *IUR* 23, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 3–6, 31; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 64; Swords 76–77)
- **1949,** April 28 Some printed copies of Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the United States," bear this date, although it was originally released December 10, 1948. (US Air Force, Directorate of Intelligence, *Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.: Summary and Conclusions*, Air Intelligence Report 100-203-79, December 10, 1948; copy, dated April 28, 1949)
- 1949, April 28 <u>Kaplan</u>, <u>LaPaz</u>, <u>Rees</u>, and <u>Neef</u> meet with security officers at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to discuss green fireball observations at that facility. (Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs</u>, <u>a History: 1949 January–June</u>, <u>Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2000, pp. 62–63)
- 1949, April 28 8:00 a.m. Businessman and private pilot Leon A. Faber is flying at 3,000 feet near the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Indiana, when he sees a metallic disc moving east about 10,000 feet away. He is chatting with some ham radio operators on the ground during the 5 minutes the object is in sight before it disappears. (NICAP, "Flying Saucer Observed from Aircraft"; NICAP, [newsclips])
- 1949, April 28 5:45 p.m. W. Howard Hamm, John J. Huber, and H. C. "Tex" Keahey see a very large, bright, sausage-shaped object travel from northeast to southwest over the rim of the Catalina Mountains near Tucson, Arizona, over a period of 12 minutes. The object is shiny metallic and reflects the sun, apparently revolving as it moves like the "slow roll of an airplane." There is no noise, nor is there exhaust or a vapor trail. There are no wings or engines or "protuberances of any sort." It appears to be traveling at 300–600 mph. (NICAP, "Cigar-Shaped Object Observed in Daylight")
- 1949, April 28 8:30 p.m. Several security patrols at Killeen Base, Texas, report nine separate sightings of lights southeast of the base. Most change color from white to red to green. On one occasion, four lights appear together; on another, 8–10 show up in each other's company. No debris or evidence of flares are found. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10; Clark III 543; Sparks, p. 58)
- **1949,** April 29 The April 30 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* with part one of <u>Sidney Shalett</u>'s "What You Can Believe about Flying Saucers" hits the newsstands. The USAF Public Relations Office has cooperated fully with journalist Shalett, who sets out a fairly even-handed introduction to the UFO phenomenon. (Sidney Shalett, "What You Can Believe about Flying Saucers, Part One," *Saturday Evening Post*, April 30, 1949, pp. 20–21, 136–139; Swords 73; Graff 55–56)
- 1949, April 30 <u>Hynek</u> turns in his astronomical analysis of Project Sign's 237 cases. His contract with Sign is over. (J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, <u>pp. 199–200</u>; *Hynek UFO Report*, <u>p. 17</u>; O'Connell 45; John Greenewald, "<u>Report on Unidentified Aerial and Celestial Objects</u>, <u>Project 364</u>, <u>April 30</u>, 1949, <u>by Dr. J. Allen Hynek</u>," The Black Vault, August 25, 2022)
- 1949, May 4 The US Fourth Army creates an operational plan for a green fireball observation and tracking network at Killeen Base in Camp Hood, Texas. Although it lacks cameras, it has four six-man observation posts equipped with instruments to obtain directional bearings. One of the posts serves as the plotting center to coordinate and triangulate UFO sightings. Each day, a roving patrol gets new orders. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10–12; Clark III 543; Thomas Tulien, ed., Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, pp. 43–44; "1949-05-04: US Army Establishes UFO Tracking Net at Killeen Base," Tom Owens UAP YouTube channel, May 16, 2020).
- 1949, May 5 10:00 a.m. The Fourth US Army has approached AFOSI in San Antonio to offer assistance in investigating green fireballs and the Killeen lights. They arrange a meeting with AFOSI, ONI, CIC, the FBI, and the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project at Camp Hood, Killeen, Texas, the first of several weekly meetings. Army and Navy officials agree that the fireballs remain unexplained. AFSWP personnel believe they are natural phenomena; AFOSI and FBI give no opinion. The Fourth Army urges AFOSI to create an observation system, even though it had just secretly created one of its own on May 4. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," IUR 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 10–11; Clark III 543)
- 1949, May 5 11:40 a.m. Army officers Maj. Charles D. May Jr., Maj. James N. Olhausen, and Capt. Molloy C. Vaughn on the Waco no. 4 firing range at Fort Bliss, Texas, watch for 30–50 seconds two oblong white discs pass through a field of fire. They are flying at about 200–250 mph at an altitude of 1,000 feet. The objects make a shallow turn. (NICAP, "May 5, 1949, 1140 MST, Fort Bliss, Texas"; Sparks, p. 59)

- 1949, May 6 Soviet test pilot Arkady Ivanovich Apraksin takes a new airplane for a flight at the Kapustin Yar site, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. At its maximum ceiling of 9.3 miles, he encounters a cucumber-shaped object, similar to the one he encountered on June 16, 1948, that directs cones of light at his aircraft from a distance of 6–7 miles. The lights cause his communications equipment to fail and damage part of his plexiglass cockpit canopy that results in a loss of air pressure. He manages to land on the banks of the Volga River 30 miles from Saratov. He wakes up in a hospital in Saratov. He again undergoes intense interrogation, psychotherapy, and medical procedures. (Good Above, pp. 221–223; Joe Brill, "UFO's behind the Iron Curtain," *Skylook*, no. 87 (February 1975): 15)
- **1949,** May 6 Col. <u>Lumsden</u> of the San Antonio, Texas, AFOSI office informs headquarters that the "matter has reached a fairly serious stage and some positive action is necessary." He does not send this message to Project Grudge. Headquarters responds quickly and orders him to investigate all sightings but reminds him to inform AMC. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "<u>The Southwestern Lights, Part Three,</u>" *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 11; Clark III 543)
- 1949, May 6 Part two of Shalett's article on UFOs appears in the May 7 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, which takes a more skeptical tone than the first part, with the Gorman case receiving a particularly harsh thrashing. However, he treats Chiles-Whitted favorably and ends with some hints on how to make good observations. Within a few days, the frequency of UFO reports hits an all-time high. USAF issues another long press release completely debunking UFOs, but it has no effect. (Sidney Shalett, "What You Can Believe about Flying Saucers, Part Two," Saturday Evening Post, May 7, 1949, pp. 36, 184–186; Swords 74; Ruppelt, p. 63)
- 1949, May 7 6:00 p.m. A Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn are sitting outside their home in St. Louis, Missouri, near the Mississippi River when they see a strange craft fly over their location. They describe it as being more triangular in shape than a "saucer." They both describe it as a ruddy brown or red color and it is shaped like a stingray, except without the typical stinging tail. It flies rapidly and seems to oscillate from side to side. They watch it for 45 seconds. Grudge investigators eventually write the sighting off as "probably" being an aircraft, despite the fact that no record is found of any commercial or military aircraft flying over their home at that time. (Sparks, p. 60; Jazz Shaw, "From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear." The Debrief, March 7, 2023)
- 1949, May 9 An article in *Time* magazine reports on the Air Force press release, remarking that "Spinners of yarns about flying saucers, including a score or so of Air Force pilots, stuck stoutly to their stories." ("Things That Go Whiz," *Time*, May 9, 1949; "Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Six," Saturday Night Uforia)
- 1949, May 9 Editor Ken Purdy asks Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe to investigate the flying saucer mystery for *True* magazine, warning him to watch out for "fake tips" from the Pentagon. Keyhoe is initially skeptical, but after talking to his old friends Adm. Delmer S. Fahrney and Adm. Calvin M. Bolster, his opinion changes. (Keyhoe 1950, pp. 18–22, 41; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 64–67; Graff 57–58)
- 1949, May 9 Naval Unit Commander Robert B. McLaughlin, with several other officers, witnesses a white object overhead during the launch of a WAC Corporal B rocket at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico. It disappears "in a blinding burst of speed to the west." (R. B. McLaughlin, [Letter to J. A. VanAllen], May 12, 1949; Sparks, p. 61)
- 1949, May 9 2:30 p.m. A professional flight engineer and former military pilot is relaxing in a lawn chair outside his home at 939 Benton Boulevard in Tucson, Arizona, when he sees two round objects pass directly overhead. Their shape could have been mistaken as balloons until they execute a turn in formation, banking in the process. At that point, he can clearly see that they are flat, and he estimates them to be roughly 25 feet in diameter. Also, he estimates that they are traveling between 750 and 1,000 miles per hour, faster than anything should have been flying at that time. They make another course correction and continue on until they pass out of sight over the nearby mountains. (Jazz Shaw, "From the Project Blue Book Archives: A Few Lesser-Known UFO Cases from Yesteryear," The Debrief, March 7, 2023)
- 1949, May 12 Commander McLaughlin writes to his friend, atmospheric physicist James Van Allen, describing the Moore theodolite case and his own sighting a few days earlier. He thinks they must involve technology because they have been seen accelerating and maneuvering. (R. B. McLaughlin, [Letter to J. A. VanAllen], May 12, 1949)
- 1949, May 12—9:30 p.m. Astronomer <u>Donald H. Menzel</u> leaves Holloman AFB on Highway 70 for Alamogordo, New Mexico. Shortly after noticing the star Antares, he sees another fuzzy object in the sky nearer to the horizon. A second object appears three degrees to the south. Determining that the objects are not Castor and Pollux or reflections, Menzel watches them another 4 minutes. Both objects vanish abruptly. (Donald H. Menzel, *Flying Saucers*, Harvard University, 1953, pp. 3–4, 99–100; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 62; J. Allen Hynek, "<u>Vignettes of UFO History:</u> <u>Dr. Menzel Reports a UFO!</u>" *IUR* 7, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1982): 11; Clark III 741–742)

- **1949,** May 18 George N. Raines leaves Washington, D.C., for four days to attend a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. He says Forrestal seems "somewhat better," having regained 12 pounds.
- 1949, May 18 Walter Winchell, in his "On Broadway" syndicated column, writes: "The *N.Y. World-Telegram* on Saturday [May 14] confirmed this reporter's exclusive report of several weeks before—which newspapermen have denied—about the Flying Saucers . . . Said the front-page piece in the *W-T*: 'Air Force people are convinced the flying disc is real. The clincher came when the air force got a picture recently of three discs flying formation over Stephenville, Newfoundland. [The July 10, 1947, hole-in-the-cloud case?] They outdistanced our fastest ships. Some air force men believe the discs are a new type flying machine utilizing gyroscopic principles' . . . At the time we added that the reality of the flying discs or saucers could not be denied truthfully." (Walter Winchell, "On Broadway," *Burlington (N.C.) Daily Times-News*, May 18, 1949, p. 4; "Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Two," Saturday Night Uforia)
- 1949, May 19 Wright-Patterson Air Material Intelligence Commander Col. <u>Howard McCoy</u> forwards a copy of the Project Sign final report to the Research and Development Board, along with some appendices that later find their way into the Project Grudge final report. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "<u>The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions.</u>" *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 10)
- 1949, May 19 The Fourth Army's observation system near Killeen Base, Texas (without cameras, but with four 6-man observation posts equipped with instruments), is revealed to the intelligence community at one of its weekly meetings. Two trucks serve as a roving Artillery Patrol observation post linked to the Killeen plotting center by radio. AFOSI Lt. Col. <u>Doyle Rees</u> has meanwhile set up a 24-hour visual observation post in the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is equipped with a wide-angle-lens camera fitted with a spectrographic grating. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "<u>The Southwestern Lights, Part Three,</u>" *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 12; Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs: A History: January–June 1949</u>, The Author, 1988, p. 86; Loren E. Gross, <u>The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1949 January–June, Supplemental Notes</u>, The Author, 2000, pp. 86–87; Thomas Tulien, ed., <u>Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop</u>, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, pp. 43–44; Clark III 543)
- **1949,** May 21 1:30 p.m. An F-82 is dispatched from Moses Lake AFB [now Grant County International Airport] in Washington State to intercept a UFO that is hovering in restricted air space over the Hanford Atomic Works at an altitude of 17,000–20,000 feet. The silvery disc is seen from the ground at Hanford and on radar. Before the F-82 can take off, the disc speeds away faster than a jet fighter. It disappears from ground radar and the F-82 cannot locate it. (NICAP, "Hanford AEC Plant / F-82/RV Case"; Sparks, p. 63; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 141)
- 1949, May 22 1:45 a.m. At the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, Forrestal is awake and refuses a sedative. Five minutes later, the Navy corpsman guarding him finds the room empty. Forrestal's body is found on a third-floor roof below the 16th-floor kitchen, No suicide note is found other than part of a translation of Sophocles's tragedy Ajax that he is copying. (Wikipedia, "James Forrestal"; J. C. Hawkins, Betrayal at Bethesda: The Intertwined Fates of James Forrestal, Joseph McCarthy, and John F. Kennedy, The Author, 2017; David Martin, The Assassination of James Forrestal, McCabe, 2019)
- 1949, May 24 5:00 p.m. Five witnesses (NACA Ames Research Lab employees Don Heaphy, Gilbert Rivera and his wife, Mrs. Roy L. McBeth, and Mrs. William McBeth) on a fishing boat on the Rogue River, Oregon, near Elephant Rock, see a round, silvery object the size of a transport aircraft. It comes from the east, then turns southwest and leaves no exhaust trail. The disc appears flattened and has a wrinkled surface with a vertical stabilizer fin. The time of observation is less than 3 minutes. (NICAP, "The Rogue River Incident"; Sparks, p. 64; Bruce S. Maccabee, "Addendum: Sighting at Rogue River, Oregon, May 24, 1949," *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 3 (1983): 45–52; Bruce Maccabee, *UFO FBI Connection*, Llewellyn, 2000, pp. 105–111; Swords 83–84; Bruce Maccabee, "An Assessment of the UFO Sighting at Rogue River, Oregon (May 24, 1949)," December 2009)
- **1949,** May 27 2:25 p.m. Pilot and businessman <u>Joseph Shell</u>, ferrying an SNJ trainer for North American Aviation from Red Bluff, California, to Burns, Oregon, sees 5–8 oval objects, twice as long as wide and one-fifth as thick, around Hart Mountain, Oregon. They fly in trail formation, with an interval equal to 3–4 times their length, except that the second and third are closer together. (NICAP, "<u>Pilot Encounters 5–8 Egg-Shaped Metallic Objects</u>"; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 65)
- 1949, May 31 The Air Force Office of Special Investigations sends Project Grudge a copy of Rees's report on Kaplan's visit on April 28, the trip that USAF Intelligence had arranged to explore the possibility of a clandestine investigation separate from Grudge. Thus AMC learns of the conspiracy to keep it in the dark, but Rees fails to mention the involvement of USAF Intelligence. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 15)

- **1949,** May 31 The Navy review board, convened by Adm. Morton D. Willcutts, completes hearings on James Forrestal's death. The cause of death is remarkably inconclusive, and the investigation leaves many questions unanswered.
- 1949, Summer The gouge is said to be still visible in the debris field near Corona, New Mexico. Mack Brazel, having found various scraps and bits for the past two years, mentions to someone in a bar in Corona that he has some material. The next day, a Capt. Armstrong and three others from Roswell Army Air Field supposedly confiscate the pieces.
- **1949,** Summer 4:00 p.m. The French Navy patrol boat <u>La Rusé</u> (formerly the USS *PC-472*) encounters a cigar-shaped bluish object about one mile away off Casablanca, Morocco. The crew watches it for 1 minute until it shoots toward the horizon and out of sight. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p, 36)
- 1949, June 6—9:05 p.m. Two observation posts at Killeen Base, Fort Hood, Texas, spot a hovering orange light. Lts. Virgil Williams and Marvin L. Jones are at one site and Lts. Bernard G. Raferty and Alfred H. Jones are at the other. When they triangulate its location, they find it is 3 miles south of one observation post and 4.5 miles south of the plotting center, hovering 5,280 feet in the air. It is 30–70 feet in diameter. Suddenly it starts moving in level flight, then bursts into small particles. The duration is less than 3 minutes. This observation involves the first real-time triangulation of a UFO sighting. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 12; Clark III 543; Sparks, p. 66; Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 43)
- 1949, June 14 3:35 p.m. A crew of Navy engineers under Capt. Robert Bright McLaughlin is testing an Air Force V-2 rocket at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. When the V-2 attains a speed of 2,000 feet per second in its upward flight, it is joined by two smaller circular objects that pace it, one on each side. One then passes through the rocket's exhaust, joins the other, and together accelerate upwards leaving the V-2 behind. Five other missile observation crews also see the objects. (NICAP, "Two UFOs Pace V-2 Rocket"; Robert McLaughlin, "How Scientists Tracked a Flying Saucer," *True*, March 1950, pp. 25–27, 96–99; Sparks, p. 66; Swords 92–93)
- 1949, June 17 An animator employed by the Lockheed Company sees a metallic disc approaching from the northeast in Glendale, California. It disappears to the northwest. (Keith Basterfield, "Which Aerospace Company Is Hiding a UAP Black Project?" Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, August 28, 2021)
- 1949, June 22 Three women (one a schoolteacher, another a biologist working at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and a third who is the wife of a member of the Security Division, AEC, Oak Ridge) observe an odd trio of "flying saucers" for about 15 minutes: "It was described as consisting of two identical rectangular-shaped objects which appeared to be coordinated in movement and which moved in wave-like motion. The third object was circular in shape and appeared to be in level flight between and above the two rectangular objects. The rectangular objects appeared to be bright metal on top but dark underneath, while the color of the circular object was the same as that of frosted glass. The 'flying saucer,' when last sighted, was in level flight and was flying in a northwesterly direction. The weather was clear with high cumulus clouds. The 'flying saucer' flew at speed of from 10 to 15 mph over an area just about the center of Oak Ridge." (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, January–June*, The Author, 1988, pp. 83–84)
- 1949, June 29 6:30 p.m. A former US Air Force tech sergeant observes three separate flights of three V-shaped or triangular objects from his front porch in Baltimore, Maryland. The objects veer sharply into a cloud at 2,500 feet altitude and then fly around it repeatedly. They have the ability to reverse their course 180° instantaneously. Through binoculars, they look like black, open boomerangs. More objects join them until there are 15–20, and he watches them for two hours. The formation moves from southeast to northeast and disappears. Fifteen other witness also see the display. (Marler 126–128)
- 1949, July 3 10:40 a.m. Aeronautical engineer Molt Taylor, airport manager at Longview, Washington, is preparing for an air show when someone points out an object in the sky to the northwest. He announces it over the PA system to the crowd of 150–200 observers, including pilots, who watch a metallic disc cross to the southeast with a falling-leaf motion. Estimated altitude is 30,000 feet at 300 mph, with the approximate size of 100 feet. A second object is seen at 10:49 a.m. for 2 minutes. A third sighting takes place at 11:25 a.m. An object approaches from the west at about the same altitude, oscillating at 48 per minute, and disappears into the sun. (NICAP, "Metallic Discus Object Observed by 150–200 Observers"; "Flying Discs Seen by Longview Flier," Daily Olympian (Wash.), July 1, 1949, p. 1; Sparks, p. 67; Swords 82–83; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 48–49; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: 1949, July–December, The Author,

- 1988, p. 4; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949, July–December: Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 9–10)
- 1949, July 13 <u>Kaplan</u> responds to a July 1 letter from Gen. <u>Charles P. Cabell</u> inquiring about his April visit to Los Alamos, New Mexico. He explains that he has deliberately waited two months to report because he wanted to have a cooling off period from the deep impression the New Mexico witnesses had on him. Moreover, he wants to see if the green fireballs are still reported (they are) before he recommends a full-scale instrumented program. He says that <u>Norris Bradbury</u>, the Los Alamos lab director, has urged that a classified scientific conference be held to discuss the phenomena. Kaplan suspects that the fireballs are an auroral phenomenon, but concedes that their horizontal motion and southern appearance are "difficult to explain." He recommends a photographic and spectrographic patrol that would stay on to look out for the fireballs. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "<u>The Southwestern Lights, Part Three</u>," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 15)
- 1949, July 14 According to a dubious document acquired by <u>Timothy S. Cooper</u>, this is the date of an alleged meeting at Blair House, where President <u>Truman</u> proposes that the "know how" of any new technology acquired from crashed UFOs be shared with Canada and the UK. (CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence, "<u>Information Report: Analysis of the Corona and Oscura Peak, NM Wreckage of Unidentified Lenticular Aerodyne Technology." October 30, 1950)</u>
- 1949, July 24 12:03 p.m. Harry F. Clark, manager of a flying service, is flying a Piper PA-16 Clipper at 19,000 feet 10 miles northwest of Mountain Home, Idaho, when he sees a tight formation of 7 delta-shaped objects, 35–55 feet in diameter near his plane. They make a perfect and unbanked right turn 1,500 feet ahead of his plane, then they turn right again, passing the aircraft at about 450–500 mph. Clark's engine runs rough during the sighting, which lasts 10 minutes. After he lands, he finds all his spark plugs burned out. When the Air Force investigates the case, they request the spark plugs. (NICAP, "Piper Clipper Encounters Seven Delta-Shaped Objects"; Dave Johnson, "Pilot Spots Weird V-Shaped Objects Flying over Mountain Home Desert," Boise *Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 25, 1949, pp. 1–2; Sparks, p. 68; Curt Collins, "Triangular UFO Formation in Idaho, July 24, 1949," The Saucers That Time Forgot, October 12, 2023; Powell, *Scientist*, 84–85)
- **1949,** July 24 8:30 p.m. An Air Force major and captain watch seven bluish-white lights pass over Fort Worth, Texas, in a V formation, moving rapidly from south to north. The distance between the lights does not vary during the 4–5 seconds they are visible. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1949 July–December*, The Author, 1988, p. 13)
- 1949, July 24 A green fireball is seen falling close to Socorro, New Mexico. The next day, scientist William D. Crozier collects dust samples from the School of Mines campus at Socorro. The samples contain copper particles of unusually large size. (Clark III 543–544; Sparks, p. 68)
- 1949, August George Adamski publishes *Pioneers of Space*, detailing his out-of-body visits to the Moon, Mars, and Venus. In private correspondence he later explains "how one may venture from one place to another, while his physical is in one place and he is in another. That is the way I have written this book. I actually have gone to the places I speak of." (George Adamski [ghost-written by Lucy McGinnis], *Pioneers of Space*, Leonard-Freefield, 1949; "Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame," The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019)
- 1949, August Actor, producer, and director Mikel Conrad, in promoting his soon-to-be-released film *The Flying Saucer*, claims that the movie contains actual footage of a spaceship recovered in Alaska by government agents. He produces a bogus FBI agent to "confirm" the story. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations interviews Conrad, who admits to perpetrating a publicity hoax. (Jerome Clark, "A Catalog of Early Crash Claims," *IUR* 18, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1993): 16; Internet Movie Database, "The Flying Saucer")
- 1949, August 8 11:30 p.m. Six airmen and tower operators at Medford Municipal Airport [now the Rogue Valley International–Medford Airport] in Oregon see 1–7 shiny objects traveling at variable speeds at an estimated altitude of 30,000 feet. They fly in formation for a while, then break off and return to formation again. Control tower operators using binoculars seem to distinguish wings on the objects. They remain visible until around 12:30 a.m. (NICAP, "Winged Objects Cavort over Airport")
- 1949, August 10 USAF's AMC issues a final 600-page report, "Unidentified Flying Objects—Project Grudge," Technical Report 102-AC-49/15-100, or "The Grudge Report," authored by Lt. Howard W. Smith and George W. Towles. Hynek's April analysis is included as an appendix. Based on 237 cases, Hynek finds that 32% can be explained astronomically. Others say 12% are balloons, 33% are other misidentifications, hoaxes, or insufficient information. That leaves 23% (55) classed as unknowns. Despite this, witnesses are mostly deluded, hysterical, lying, or crazy, and "further study along present lines would only confirm the findings presented herein." The report concludes there is little evidence to prove UFOs are real and do not represent a security threat. Sightings are explained as misinterpretations, "mild" mass hysteria, hoaxes, or psychopathology. It recommends that press

releases be created to "aid in dispelling public apprehension." On the other hand, it suggests that military and government agencies interested in "psychological warfare" be informed of the findings. Appendix D is written by USAF Scientific Advisory Board member George E. Valley, who writes that extraterrestrial civilizations "might observe that on Earth we now have atomic bombs and are fast developing rockets. In view of the past history of mankind, they should be alarmed. We should, therefore, expect at this time above all to behold such visitations." Project Grudge enters a period of dormancy until July 1950. The report is classified Secret until August 1, 1952. (Lt. Howard W. Smith and George W. Towles, "Unidentified Flying Objects—Project Grudge," Air Materiel Command Technical Report 102-AC-49/15-100; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 18; Sparks, p. 12; Kate Dorsch, *Reliable Witnesses, Crackpot Science: UFO Investigations in Cold War America, 1947–1977*, dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2019, pp. 44–48; Graff 59–60)

- **1949,** August 10 The National Military Establishment is renamed the Department of Defense to unify the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the Secretary of Defense. It establishes the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Wikipedia, "<u>United States</u> <u>Department of Defense</u>")
- 1949, August 16 A young girl in Wola Drzewiecka, Poland, sees a dark green object nearby like two bowls put together and about 5 feet in diameter. She walks right up to it and touches its metallic surface with her index finger, getting a mild electric vibration and making her fingertip turn red. The object begins rotating, then rises up and disappears to the south at an altitude of 50 feet. In the distance she sees another object that she says remained in the same spot for several days. (Poland 18–19)
- 1949, August 17 <u>Lincoln LaPaz</u> submits the fifth of a series of reports on "anomalous luminous phenomena." He notes that "Many of the green fireballs now appearing descend in nearly vertical paths, whereas, in earlier months almost all of the green fireballs observed moved almost horizontally. There appears to be a concentration of New Mexico incidents near weekends, especially on Sunday and near the hour of 8:00." (Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs</u>, <u>a History: 1949 July–December</u>, The Author, 1988, pp. 28–29)
- 1949, August 17 Due to a tip from Stewart Smith of Baltimore, Maryland, Air Force investigator Capt. Claudius Belk and the Maryland State Police discover some disc-shaped experimental aircraft in an abandoned tobacco barn in Glen Burnie, Maryland. At first, an Air Force spokesman states that they "could well be the prototype of what have been reported as flying saucers," but one day later that statement is retracted when they discover that the aircraft were built by inventor Jonathan E. Caldwell, who had abandoned the barn in 1941 and moved to Nevada. ("Air Force Disowns 'Flying Disk' Finds," New York Times, August 21, 1949, p. 39; Curt Collins, "The Other Air Force Captured Flying Saucer Retraction," The Saucers That Time Forgot, October 22, 2020)
- 1949, August 18 <u>LaPaz</u> and USAF scientists meet with <u>William D. Crozier</u> to find out about his July 25 dust collection in Socorro, New Mexico. Crozier says he thinks the copper particles may have come from a campus building, although samples from the open country contain the same particles. LaPaz notes that copper is extremely rare in meteorites, although it might explain the yellow-green color of the fireballs. He suggests that further air and ground samples be taken in areas where the fireballs are seen. (Clark III 543–544)
- **1949**, August 19 Two prospectors, Buck Fitzgerald and Mase Garney, report that a flying saucer crashed near them in Death Valley, California. Two little men jump out and start running. The prospectors chase them over a sand dune, but lose them. ("<u>Little Men' in Flying Disc.</u>" *San Francisco Examiner*, August 20, 1949, p. 2; Clark III 269; Patrick Gross, URECAT, August 22, 2006)
- 1949, August 19 8:15–11:00 p.m. Rev. Gregory Miller, pastor of the St. Peter and Paul Church in Norwood, Ohio, has purchased from Army surplus an 8-million-candlepower searchlight for his church carnival. Sgt. Donald R. Berger, a ROTC student at the University of Cincinnati, is to operate it. During the festivities, Berger's sweeping searchlight suddenly flashes across a stationary circular object in the sky. Miller and others join in and observe. When Berger moves the searchlight away, the disc continues to glow. Hundreds of calls are received by Cincinnati Post and Cincinnati Enquirer offices regarding fireballs and comet-like objects all across the Cincinnati area this first night. The searchlight picks up the same or similar objects on nine further occasions, the last being on March 10, 1950. ("Flying Saucer Reported Again," Circleville (Ohio) Herald, September 12, 1949, p. 1; "Soldier Reports 'Flying Saucer," Logan (Ohio) Daily News, September 12, 1949, p. 2; "Those Things Again," Athens (Ohio) Messenger, September 12, 1949, p. 1; "Oh, Look, Ma—That Thing's Here Again," Lima (Ohio) News, September 12, 1949, p. 1; Leo Hirtl, "The Seven Hills," Cincinnati (Ohio) Post, September 15, 1949, p. 8; "More Proof That 'Saucers' Exist," CRIFO Orbit 1, no. 5 (August 6, 1954): 1–2; NICAP, "The Ohio Searchlight Incident"; Leonard H. Stringfield, Inside Saucer Post...3-0 Blue, The Author, 1957, pp. 73–78; Stringfield, Situation Red, Fawcett Crest, 1977, pp. 172–174; Patrick Gross, "The Norwood Searchlight Incident"; "The 1949 Norwood, Ohio, Searchlight UFO Incident," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, July 1, 2024)
- **1949,** August 20—10:45 p.m. Astronomer <u>Clyde Tombaugh</u>, his <u>wife</u>, and <u>mother-in-law</u> see a formation of rectangular bluish-green lights at Las Cruces, New Mexico, for about 3 seconds. (NICAP, "<u>Tombaugh Observes UFO</u>

- Formation"; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "Have We Visitors from Space?" Life, April 7, 1952, p. 89; Donald H. Menzel, Flying Saucers, 1953, pp. 36–38; "Dr. Clyde Tombaugh Provides Details on His Own Famous Sighting," CSI News Letter, no. 10 (December 15, 1957): 27; Donald Menzel and Lyle Boyd, The World of Flying Saucers, 1963, pp. 266–270; UFOEv, p. 53; Sparks, p. 70; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 59–60; Clark III 1129–1130; Swords 81–82; "Las Cruces, NM Case of 4-20-1949 Clyde Tombaugh," Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013)
- 1949, August 29 7:00 a.m. The Soviet Union secretly conducts its first successful nuclear weapon test (First Lightning) at the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan. The design is very similar to the first US "Fat Man" plutonium bomb. The project is led by physicist <u>Igor Kurchatov</u>. (Wikipedia, "<u>RDS-1</u>")
- 1949, September 1 Col. John M. Schweizer Jr., executive officer to the director of US Air Force intelligence, writes in a memo to the director, Maj. Gen. Millard Lewis: "reports that fall in the 'fireball' category will no longer be included in HQ Air Materiel Command and Directorate of Intelligence, HQ USAF, investigative activity on unidentified aerial incidents." AMC hands green fireball reports over to the USAF Cambridge Research Laboratory at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Massachusetts. AFOIN rejects an Army request for further facilities to study the green fireballs from field locations. (Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: 1949 July—December, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 30–31, 34–35; Clark III 543)
- 1949, September 14 The Geophysical Sciences Branch of the Air Force Research and Development orders the new AMC commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin Chidlaw to have the Cambridge Research Laboratory in Massachusetts evaluate the New Mexico and Texas green fireball cases and consider the creation of an instrumented network. AMC is directed to send representatives from Boston to a meeting in New Mexico. (Lt. Col. John McK. Tucker, "Light Phenomena," September 14, 1949; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "The Southwestern Lights, Part Three," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 16; Clark III 544)
- **1949,** September 14 9:30–10:00 p.m. Two residents of Lubbock, Texas, see 9 clusters of objects "similar to ducks flying in formation," bright silver and roughly round in shape. There are as many as 50 objects in all the formations except one. They seem to be traveling at 5,000 feet altitude, going north to south. Each light is visible for about 10 seconds, but it takes 30 minutes for all the objects to pass overhead. One witness is convinced the objects are ducks. (Clark III 692–693)
- 1949, September 26 6:30 p.m. Lester Wolfe and five others 5 miles southeast of Lexington, Nebraska, are threshing wheat when they see three objects coming from the general direction of the sun (southwest). As the objects move, they give off a dazzling brilliance. They maintain a level flight with two of the objects changing positions as they fly. The power of the illumination remains constant throughout the incident (no pulses or flashes). Once the objects reach a direction northwest of the observers, they make a smooth 90° turn straight upwards and climb rapidly out of sight. Dean Wolfe is a recent graduate of a two-year course in aeronautical design and thinks the objects look like domed discs when viewed face forward, but are more like stubby, wingless, tailless fuselages when seen from the side. About 5 miles away, Don, Minnie, Elmer and Irene Ballheim see two fast-moving objects flying in the distance at level flight before abruptly turning straight up and flying upward. This group of people does not know their distant neighbors. (NICAP, "90-Degree Turn Straight Up"; Swords 83–84)
- 1949, September 27 1:30 and 3:00 a.m. At least five observers at Sandia Base, New Mexico, see fireballs of various colors traveling either in an arc or in tangent to the Earth. (Francis Ridge, "The Nuclear Connection Project: The New Mexico Sightings," September 3, 2005; Sparks, p. 71)
- 1949, September or October A Swiss Air Force officer sees a silvery disc 20 feet in diameter with jagged edges above Payerne, Vaud, Switzerland. He observes it flying at about 700 mph for 12 seconds. (Center for UFO Studies, [Payerne case file])
- 1949, Fall A radar-tracking UFO case takes place at a key atomic base (probably Los Alamos, New Mexico). The base radar scope covers 200 miles of sky up to 100,000 feet. A legitimate radar contact tracks five apparently metallic objects at a great height moving south and crossing the radar scope in less than 4 minutes (an average of about 4,500 mph). (H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, "Have We Visitors from Space?" *Life*, April 7, 1952, p. 89)
- 1949, Fall Night. Donald Bushwell and his wife are traveling along a straight highway in New Mexico. Suddenly a disc about 50–60 feet across comes straight down the road toward them about 4 feet off the ground. It raises up a little before reaching the car and passes overhead. As it does so, his radio turns to static. (*Tulsa (Okla.) Tribune*, December 10, 1957; Schopick, p. 77)

- **1949,** October 5 <u>Donald Keyhoe</u> tells the press relations office at the Pentagon that he intends to publish an article in *True* that highlights the interplanetary hypothesis. They tell him that there are no security issues involved. (Powell, *Keyhoe*, 68)
- 1949, October 10 1:07 a.m. A bluish-green fireball is seen moving to the northeast at 45° above the horizon at Sandia Base, New Mexico. Duration is from 4 to 15 seconds. (Francis Ridge, "<u>The Nuclear Connection Project: The New Mexico Sightings</u>," September 3, 2005)
- 1949, October 11 The Navy releases only a brief summary of its findings in the death of <u>James Forrestal</u>. The complete transcript is not released until 2004. (Ayn Rand Institute Watch, "<u>The Willcutts Report on the Death of James Forrestal</u>")
- **1949,** October 11 10:45 a.m. USAF M/Sgt. Ralph M. Stevens, a tech aide in lower atmospheric research at Holloman AFB near Alamogordo, New Mexico, and Sgt. Marion H. Graves are at Ryan Site #4 tracking a balloon launch by theodolite when they spot a high-speed, round, white, dish-shaped object in the northwest. The object flies straight overhead and disappears at 60° elevation in the southeast. Its size is compared to that of a B-29 [141 feet long] at a range of 150,000 feet, or about 1/10 the size of the full moon. (NICAP, "High-Speed Dish-Shaped Object Tracked")
- **1949,** October 12 Columnist <u>Frank Scully</u> writes an article in *Variety* alleging that the US government has retrieved crashed spaceships in the southwestern desert. (Frank Scully, "<u>Scully's Scrapbook</u>," *Variety*, October 12, 1949; Clark III 595, 1044)
- 1949, October 12 11:15 a.m. S/Sgt Clifford B. Hart, a flight engineer, and two others at Holloman AFB near Alamogordo, New Mexico, observe a round, white, or aluminum-colored object moving across the sky from south to north. It then veers to the northeast where it disappears. Hart estimates the size of the object as comparable to a B-29 aircraft, with a speed of 1,500 mph at an estimated altitude of 35,000 feet. The object is in sight for 45–60 seconds. Other witnesses are aircraft mechanics S/Sgt J. D. Denning and S/Sgt Harry A. Boggs. (NICAP, "H. S. Object Observed by Flight Engineer and Mechanics")
- 1949, October 14 At another conference in Los Alamos, New Mexico, attended by 16 representatives of AFOSI, AMC (<u>Joseph Kaplan</u> and Maj. <u>Frederic C. E. Oder</u>), Fourth Army, the FBI, AFSWP, and Los Alamos scientists (<u>Edward Teller</u>, <u>George Gamow</u>, and <u>Stanislaw Ulam</u>), the green fireballs are identified as probably atmospheric in origin, but more observational data is needed. <u>LaPaz</u> and <u>Neef</u> speak at length. Oder's Cambridge Research Laboratory at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Massachusetts, is selected for a field project, under LaPaz's supervision. (Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "<u>The Southwestern Lights, Part Three</u>," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 16; Clark III 544; Swords 81; Good Above, <u>pp. 266–267</u>)
- 1949, October 14 1:15 p.m. Harley C. Marshall, manager of public relations at Palomar Observatory in San Diego County, California, is driving away from the observatory when he sees a perfect "V of V's" formation of about 16–18 silver objects without tails or wings overhead traveling at high speed to the northwest and emitting a sound like jets. He stops and watches them disappear behind the cloud cover. Returning to the observatory, he phones electrician Benjamin B. Traxler, who at 1:20 p.m. sees one dark UFO traveling to the southwest. Marshall checks the Navy Electronics Laboratory Geiger counter on site and sees that the needle has jumped off the scale for several seconds. For the next 10 days, another 21 incidents of off-scale cosmic-ray detector incidents occur at scattered times, fitting a periodic 1.5-hour time schedule, a phenomenon not seen before or after, and unexplainable by equipment failure or radio interference from aircraft. Two representatives of the Office of Naval Research and two from the Naval Electronics Laboratory in Point Loma, California (Joseph P. Maxfield and Gene Luther Bloom), visit the observatory to investigate the readings, but not before they stop in at Alice Wells's Palomar Gardens Café on the way in. After George Adamski claims he has seen increased UFO activity in the area (including a sighting about the same time as another observation by Traxler on October 21), they ask him if he would send them any photos he might take with one of his telescopes. He gives them a copy of a telescopic photo he took in February 1949 with his 15-inch reflector. The Naval Electronics Lab later attributes the photo to "electric discharge which frequently occurs in cameras during film pulling in dry or cold climates." Several Navy aircraft of differing prop and jet types are flown near the observatory using radio, altimeter, and radars on October 21 and November 2 in an unsuccessful effort to trigger the Geiger counter. (NICAP, "Geiger Counters Detect UFO Presence"; Maurice Weekley and George Adamski, "Flying Saucers As Astronomers See Them," Fate 3, no. 6 (September 1950): 56-59; Eric Herr, "George Adamski: An Historical Note," Flying Saucer Review 34, no. 3 (September 1989): 15; Clark III 38, 949–950; Sparks, pp. 74–75; Swords 86–87; Colin Bennett, Looking for *Orthon*, Paraview, 2001, pp. 29–30)
- 1949, October 23 7:15–10:45 p.m. Rev. <u>Gregory Miller</u> has set up his searchlight once again at St. Peter and Paul Church in Norwood, Ohio. Sgt. Berger turns on the light and picks up a large object in the beam. At about 10:00 p.m., the searchlight picks up two distinct groups of five triangular objects that seem to emerge from the main

disc. They descend on the beam then turn out of it. The same performance is repeated 30 minutes later. About 50 persons, including newspaper reporters observe the objects. Miller takes several photographs and asks Sgt. Leo Davidson of the Norwood police department to film the display. He uses three rolls, 25 feet each, and a Hugo-Meyer F-19-3" camera with telephoto lens. Davidson also takes 10 still photographs of the large disc-shaped object that flies in and out of the searchlight beam, using a Speed-Graphic camera with a 14-inch Wallensach telephoto lens. Two of these are exceptional shots, showing both the parent object and the smaller group. These two pictures are last seen by Time-Life correspondent Harry Mayo, who has prepared a feature story for *Time*, which was to include them. But Mayo's story and Miller's photos were not used in *Time* or *Life* and, in spite of requests by Miller, these two photos are never returned. (Harry Mayo, "What Glows on Here? Norwood Muses," *Cincinnati Post*, April 6, 1950, p. 1; "More Proof That 'Saucers' Exist," *CRIFO Orbit* 1, no. 5 (August 6, 1954): 1–2; NICAP, "The Ohio Searchlight Incident"; Kenny Young, "Norwood and Project Grudge"; Patrick Gross, "The Norwood Searchlight Incident")

- 1949, November 3 <u>Joseph Kaplan</u> brings the green fireball plan to the USAF Scientific Advisory Board at the Pentagon. By this time, he is convinced the fireballs are a rare type of meteor. But others are puzzled by the brightness, trajectories, and soundlessness, Kaplan says, "This high selectivity of direction seems to indicate that some group was trying to pinpoint Los Alamos with a new sort of weapon." (Clark III 544)
- 1949, November 3 <u>Karl Taylor Compton</u> resigns as chairman of the Research and Development Board around the same time that <u>Lawrence R. Hafstad</u> succeeds <u>Lloyd Berkner</u> as executive secretary. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "<u>The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions</u>," *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 9)
- 1949, November 3 11:00 a.m. USAF Capt. William H. Donnelly is driving south about 2 miles north of Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico, with a friend when he sees four objects to the east at a high altitude. All are oval and a metallic white color. They are constantly changing formation, moving up and down, back and forth. The objects continue to fly south rapidly and move in a horizontal line and disappear from sight in 20–40 seconds. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1949, November 14 10:30 p.m. USNR Commander <u>J. R. Bodler</u> is in charge of a merchant vessel (possibly the <u>USS Hemminger</u>) in the Strait of Hormuz between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. He observes a huge, pulsating submarine light wheel, some 1,000–1,500 feet in diameter, one mile from his ship. It is revolving around an ill-defined center with streaks of light like searchlight beams moving counterclockwise "like the spokes of a gigantic wheel." He thinks it is caused by natural phosphorescence, stimulated by some marine life. (J. R. Bodler, "<u>An Unexplained Phenomenon of the Sea,</u>" *US Naval Institute Proceedings* 72 (January 1952): 66–67; Carl Feindt, waterufo.net)
- 1949, November 27 5:49 p.m. Civil Aeronautics Administration Chief Controller W. W. Jones watches a blue-white fireball moving 5°–7° per second over Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Francis Ridge, "The Nuclear Connection Project: The New Mexico Sightings," September 3, 2005)
- **1949,** November 27 6:00 p.m. Kirtland AFB Deputy Base Commander Lt. Col. Charles E. Lancaster Jr. is driving near McIntosh, New Mexico, when he sees a green fireball descend near Albuquerque. (Sparks, p. 77)
- **1949,** December Capt. Bernard Baruch Jr. suggests to Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg that UFOs be added to JANAP 146 as required reporting subjects and that civilian pilots report UFO sightings according to military chains of command. (Swords 122)
- 1949, December 2–3 The US government releases radioactive fission products at the Hanford Site plutonium production facility in eastern Washington in an operation called Green Run. The radioisotopes are supposed to be detected by US Air Force reconnaissance. Sources cite 5,500–12,000 curies of iodine-131 are released and an even greater amount of xenon-133. The radiation is distributed over 500,000 acres encompassing three small towns and causes the cessation of intentional radioactive releases at Hanford until 1962, when more experiments commence. There are some indications that many other tests are conducted in the 1940s prior to Green Run, although this is a particularly large test. Evidence suggests that filters to remove the iodine are disabled during the test. (Wikipedia, "Green Run")
- 1949, December 4 5:00 p.m. Mario Restier is returning home from his father's place in Volta Redonda, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, when he notices a disc land about 32–50 feet from the road. He hears a voice telling him not to be afraid and asking if he wants to know what it's all about. Two beings about 5 feet 5 inches emerge from the UFO wearing togas and helmets. Restier asks them if they believe in God, and they answer, "God is one." Encouraged, he enters the craft where he is offered a trip, put in a tub filled with liquid, and taken on a trip to a city on another world. He is shown a screen that depicts human nature, ambitions, and violence. After about 6 hours, he is

- returned to the spot where he was abducted. Returning to his father's house, he finds it is April 14, 1950, and has lost nearly four months of earth time. (Brazil 23–24)
- 1949, December 20 Following consideration by the Defense Department's Research and Development Board, <u>Joseph Kaplan</u>'s green fireball project is approved by AMC. (Col. B. G. Holzman, "<u>Light Phenomena</u>," December 20, 1949; Brad Sparks and Jerome Clark, "<u>The Southwestern Lights, Part Three</u>," *IUR* 10, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1985): 16; Clark III 544)
- 1949, December 24 The January 1950 issue of *True* magazine is published, with <u>Donald Keyhoe</u>'s article, "The Flying Saucers Are Real." Keyhoe argues that the Air Force knows UFOs are real, alien, and covering up information from the public in order to avoid panic: "For the past 175 years, the planet Earth has been under systematic closerange examination by living, intelligent observers from another planet." The Air Force finds itself buried in letters, telegrams, and phone calls demanding information about flying saucers. (Donald E. Keyhoe, "<u>The Flying Saucers Are Real</u>," *True*, January 1950, pp. 11–13, 83–87; "<u>Discs Called Craft of Another Planet</u>," *St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch*, December 27, 1949, p. 10A; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 69–71; Graff 61–62)
- 1949, December 27 USAF announces that Project Grudge is terminated. Its files are put into storage. The Grudge report is released again, reiterating that UFOs are the "result of (1) misinterpretations of various conventional objects; (2) a mild form of mass hysteria; or (3) hoaxes." (Clark III 932–933)

## 1950

- 1950 N. Meade Layne publishes *The Ether-Ship Mystery and Its Solution*, which identifies UFOs as emanating from the etheric world, which coexists with and interpenetrates ours. The etherians must lower their "vibrational" rate in order to enter our realm. UFOs are "thought-constructs" that can take many forms and densities. He considers the etherians benign. (Meade Layne, *The Ether-Ship Mystery and Its Solution*, Borderland Sciences Research Associates, 1950)
- 1950 William Ortiz, a deaf-mute, claims to have the first of three close encounters (the others in 1969 and 1975) with large-eyed aliens in UFOs in Colombia. After the first two events, he finds his hearing temporarily restored. The entities communicate to him using hand signals. ("First Reported CEIII Alien Communicating with Deaf-Mute," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1982): 1, 3)
- **1950,** January The Ground Observer Corps, an organization of civilians who watch the skies for enemy airplanes, is created by the US Air Defense Command. (Wikipedia, "Ground Observer Corps")
- 1950, January On the Seattle, Washington, to Anchorage, Alaska, route, an air freighter is paced for five minutes by a UFO. When the pilots try to close in, the craft zooms away at terrific speed. Later, the airline head reports that intelligence officers quizzed the pilots for hours. "From their questions," he said, "I could tell they had a good idea of what the saucers are. One officer admitted they did, but he wouldn't say any more." (Keyhoe 1950, p. 9)
- 1950, January <u>Keyhoe</u> meets with Gen. <u>Sory Smith</u>, director of public relations for the Air Force; Maj. <u>Jesse E. Stay</u> and Jack T. Shea, press officers; and Maj. <u>Jere Boggs</u>, Pentagon liaison to Project Grudge. Most of the interview involves questions for Boggs. Keyhoe is given two looseleaf notebooks with summaries of "Project Saucer" cases. His request to visit Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio to look at the actual case files is turned down weeks later. (Keyhoe 1950, pp. 129–145; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 71–72)
- 1950, January 6 Early morning. Manuel Zuniga blames a traffic accident on Kansas Avenue at 1st Street in Kansas City, Kansas, on a fireball or UFO that moves in front of his car, blinding him with its bright light. He is arrested for reckless driving and driving while intoxicated. ("Doubt over Crash Cause," Kansas City (Mo.) Star, January 6, 1950, p. 1)
- **1950,** January 6 Keyhoe appears on the radio program *We the People* with George Gorman, who has been pressured by the Air Force to only mention what is on his published report. (Keyhoe 1950, p. 168)
- 1950, January 7 10:15 p.m. The assistant maintenance officer at Holloman AFB is driving south of Corona, New Mexico, when he sees a green fireball. It descends at a 60° angle, then levels out and travels 10° east before dropping out of sight behind a mountain. When first seen, it is yellowish-white, changes to orange as it descends, then turns bright blue-green as it levels out and disappears. (NICAP, "January 7, 1950, Corona, NM, OSI Case 161": Clark III 544; Sparks, p. 78)
- **1950,** January 9 *Time* magazine reports on rumors of crashed saucers and small humanoids in New Mexico. ("<u>Visitors from Venus</u>," *Time*, January 9, 1950)
- 1950, January 12 The AF Directorate of Intelligence quietly cancels the special intelligence collection directives to various government agencies for reporting UFO incidents, though routine intelligence channels still require UFO

- reporting, per AFCIR-CC7, "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft." Cancellation is a follow-up to the widely announced closure of "Project Saucer." AFOIN Director Gen. Charles P. Cabell believes that in fact AMC is taking its UFO project underground by announcing the closure. Months later Cabell discovers that AMC Intelligence under Col. Harold E. Watson is not running a secret UFO investigation, and Cabell is forced to make up for AMC's negligence by conducting his own UFO investigations via his AF Intelligence staff. (Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft," January 12, 1950; Swords 498)
- 1950, January 12 11:25 p.m. A B-29 aircraft is flying over the Gulf of Mexico (southwest of Florida) on a course of 260° when three objects are noted on the radar scope orbiting the B-29 from all quadrants. The objects are noticed by the radar operator, aircraft commander, navigator, and bombardier. One object is first sighted on a bearing of 330° traveling south. The objects travel across the scope in approximately 15–20 seconds on the 100-mile range setting. In a few minutes this object is joined by two others, which disappear in a few minutes. At short ranges the object is large and well-defined on the radar scope. The object goes off for about 100 miles, turns and comes in as if for an attack, passes through the center of the scope, and emerges on the other side. The estimated speed of the object is 2,500–3,000 mph. The one object remains on the radar scope for approximately 30 minutes, following the B-29 all the time. The radar operator switches ranges on the scope and picks up the object on the 20- and 50-mile settings. Twice the object comes to within 20 miles of the aircraft and then apparently has the ability to hover, because the movement on the radar scope ceases for 5–15 seconds. After altering course the object no longer appears, but the radar is jammed for approximately 10 minutes. The crew makes no visual sighting. (NICAP, "B-29 Radar Tracks Objects"; Clark III 58; Sparks, p. 79)
- **1950,** January 16 The AFOSI office at Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska, sends a message that recounts stories from Denver, Colorado, about crashed saucers in the southwest. The metal allegedly "defied analysis." Bodies are said to be 3 feet tall. (Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, p. 74)
- 1950, January 16 <u>Tsuneo Saheki</u> of the Osaka Planetarium in Japan sees an explosion on Mars, 60 miles high and 900 miles in diameter. Thomas Dobbins and William Sheehan investigate and find that this and other Martian flashes are likely caused by solar reflections on patches of ice crystals on the surface of Mars. ("<u>Terrific Explosion' on Mars Reported by Japanese Observers.</u>" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 27, 1950, p. 13; John J. O'Neill, "<u>Mars Blast Puzzles Science.</u>" *Ottawa (Ont.) Citizen*, July 16, 1952, p. 30; "<u>Some Curious Objects: Meteoritic Perhaps.</u>" *The Strolling Astronomer* 4, no. 5 (May 1, 1950): 8–9; Thomas Dobbins and William Sheehan, "<u>Solving the Martian Flares Mystery.</u>" 2002)
- 1950, January 22 2:40 a.m. Navy patrol pilot Lieut. Smith makes a routine security flight out of Naval Air Station Kodiak [now Coast Guard Base Kodiak], Alaska. He obtains a radar reading on an object 20 miles north. It quickly vanishes. At 2:48, he tracks a similar object 10 miles southeast. Kodiak radar reports no known aircraft in the vicinity, but they are seeing the same track. At 3:00 a.m., the tug <u>USS Tillamook</u> is south of Kodiak when one of the men on deck sees a "very fast-moving red glow light, which appeared to be of exhaust nature." The object comes from the southeast, moves clockwise around Kodiak, and returns to the southeast. Another officer sees it for 30 seconds and describes it as a "large ball of orange fire." At 4:40 a.m., Lieut. Smith picks up another blip moving so fast that it leaves a trail on his screen. His crew sees the UFO close a five-mile gap in 10 seconds, an apparent speed of 1,800 mph. Witnesses report two orange lights that rotate around a common center. The object makes a sharp turn and heads directly towards Smith's plane. Smith considers this a threatening situation and turns off his lights; the UFO flies by and disappears. At least 35 copies of Smith's report are sent to FBI, CIA, AFOSI, and the State Department. None are ever officially released or published. (NICAP, "USN P2V3 Patrol Plane and USS Tillamook Encounter"; ClearIntent, pp. 165–166; Clark III 58; Sparks, p. 80; Swords 90–91)
- 1950, January 24—4:50 p.m. USAF Capt. G. B. Edwards and copilot Theron C. Fehrevach are flying a C-45 transport plane from Pope AFB [now Pope Field], Fayetteville, North Carolina, to Bolling AFB [now Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling], Washington, D.C. While at 5,000 feet near Blacksburg, Virginia, Fehrevach notices a dark, 200–250 foot in diameter, hemispherical parachute-shaped object above them about 5–10 miles away. A large black smoky region is below it, possibly obscuring the lower portion of a sphere. The UFO is darker than the 50% cloud cover and "easy to distinguish as not being cloud." The object moves smoothly without any noticeable turn radius. Edwards puts the C-45 into a climb to 7,000 feet so they are at the same altitude as the UFO and turns to head directly toward it. Army Courier Service passenger 1st Lt. John H. Van Santen is alerted by Fehrevach and also sees the object move right then left again, then they all see the object recede at high speed and disappear. About 90 seconds later the object reappears about 30°–45° to the right of their heading, then oscillates right to left. It moves horizontally to dead ahead again and disappears by receding in the distance at high speed. (NICAP, "C-25 Transport Crew Encounters Object"; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, "Blackstone, Virginia, USA: January 24, 1950," September 30, 2015; Swords 91)

- **1950,** Late January Gen. <u>Charles Cabell</u>, possibly inspired by the Kodiak, Alaska, case, sends a letter to ATIC asking why Project Grudge has ended, because he never disbanded it. ATIC responds that Grudge is no longer a special project and that UFO reports will be processed through normal intelligence channels. (Ruppelt, pp. 69–70)
- 1950, January 26 4:00 p.m. Lt. Col. Lester F. Mathison, commanding officer of the 625th Aircraft and Warning Squadron at Elmendorf AFB [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska, notices three reddish objects above the cirrus cloud layer at 25,000–30,000 feet. They are moving to the north in a sightly curled trail fashion and disappear into some clouds. ("Extract: History of the 57th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, January 1–March 31, 1950 (Elmendorf AFB, Alaska)," UFO Historical Revue, no. 8 (February 2001): 7–8)
- **1950,** January 31 President <u>Truman</u> makes the decision to go forward with the development of a thermonuclear weapon that is orders of magnitude more destructive than the atomic bomb. (Wikipedia, "<u>Thermonuclear weapon</u>")
- **1950,** February 1 <u>Truman</u> issues Executive Order 10104 and creates the "Top Secret classification" designation. (US Office of the Federal Register, "<u>Executive Order 10104</u>")
- **1950,** February 1 A meteor-like object spewing smoke is seen by many people over Tucson, Arizona. The radio operator at Davis-Monthan AFB asks 1st Lieut. Roy L. Jones Jr. to investigate it in his B-29, but he cannot catch up with it. Edwin Francis Carpenter, head of the University of Arizona astronomy department, says he is certain the object is not a meteor. (Keyhoe 1950, pp. 10–12; Sparks, p. 81)
- 1950, February 2 <u>Lincoln LaPaz</u>, citing the press of academic duties, withdraws from Project Twinkle. (Clark III 544)
- 1950, February 5 5:10 p.m. Four people at Falmouth Airport [now part of Frances Crane Wildlife Management Area north of Hatchville, Massachusetts] see two illuminated cylindrical objects in the western sky. The witnesses include Marvin R. Odom, owner of the airport, and Lt. Philip Foushee Jr. of Otis AFB [now Otis Air National Guard Base] near Mashpee. As the objects are maneuvering, a fireball drops from one. Five minutes later they both climb at high speed and disappear from view. (NICAP, "Feb. 5, 1950; Teaticket, Mass."; Hyannis (Mass.) Cape Cod Standard Times, February 6, 1950; Sparks, p. 81)
- 1950, February 8 AFOSI Letter #85 is issued, directing Air Force personnel to relay UFO sightings to the Pentagon or AMC only if they are of "priority Counterintelligence interest." (Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950</u>, The Author, 1983, p. 18)
- 1950, February 20 <u>LaPaz</u> writes to <u>Peter H. Wyckoff</u> of the USAF Cambridge Research Laboratories in Massachusetts that a "fireball project" ought not be pursued because any objects that are not meteors are probably US test missiles. But he concedes he might be wrong and says in that case, "intensive, systematic investigation of these objects should not be delayed." (Clark III 544)
- 1950, February 21 Project Twinkle, with the assistance of Land-Air, Inc., has set up its first operations post, manned by two observers who scan the sky over Holloman AFB, New Mexico, with theodolite, telescope, and camera. (Clark III 544; Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 45)
- 1950, February 22 Navy pilots and others see two glowing UFOs, confirmed by radar, above the Naval Air Station at Key West, Florida. A plane is sent to investigate but it is "hopelessly outdistanced." After hovering momentarily at a high altitude (50 miles?), they speed away. (Keyhoe 1950, p. 12; Sparks, p. 81)
- 1950, February 24 7:30 p.m. USAF Cpl. Lertis E. Stanfield and other Holloman AFB Photographic Branch project staff at an observation post at Datil, New Mexico, take five photos (using a Cineflex camera with 3-inch focal length lens) of a circular, luminous white object that changes to red and green. Its angular velocity is greater than 0.5°/min in azimuth calculated by Lincoln LaPaz. The object moves in a smooth straight-line motion from about 8:00–9:30 p.m. to the west, blinking red and green. It disappears at high altitude. (NICAP, "AFOSI Case 175; Datil Observation Post Photographs Object"; Sparks, p. 82)
- **1950,** February 26 2:45 p.m. Three witnesses observe a bronze-colored object that looks like two cigarette ashtrays placed face to face over Vancouver, British Columbia. It slows down as it passes overhead and wobbles as it moves along. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 64)
- 1950, March James J. Rodgers is named a chief of Project Grudge. (Sparks, p. 14)
- 1950, March Naval Commander Robert Bright McLaughlin, in charge of a team of Navy scientists at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, writes about the Charles B. Moore sighting of April 24, 1949, in a *True* magazine article and speculates on saucer propulsion systems. McLaughlin writes that the saucers are indeed "spaceships from another planet, operated by animate, intelligent beings." The Navy, having gotten a preview of the article, removes him from White Sands and gives him an assignment at sea aboard the destroyer *USS Bristol*. (Robert B.

- McLaughlin, "How Scientists Tracked a Flying Saucer," *True*, March 1950, pp. 25–27, 96–99; Ruppelt, pp. 70–72; Swords 94–95; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 73; Graff 63)
- **1950,** March According to <u>Karl T. Pflock</u>, two CIA agents clandestinely visit Aztec, New Mexico, UFO crash storyteller <u>Silas Newton</u> and tell him that, although they know he is lying, they want him to continue spreading the tale as disinformation. The two agents later wind up involved in the Psychological Strategy Board created in 1951. (Kremlin 37–42)
- 1950, March 3 At Selfridge AFB [now Selfridge Air National Guard Base] near Mount Clemens, Michigan, a lone UFO causes multiple radar trackings and is logged at speeds up to 1,500 mph. (NICAP, "Object Descends Vertically, Levels Out"; Patrick Gross, "Selfridge AFB, Michigan, March 3, 1950"; Sparks, p. 83)
- 1950, March 8 Mid-morning. TWA pilot Capt. W. H. Kerr reports to the CAA that he and two other TWA pilots (D. W. Miller and Malvern H. Rabeneck) are watching a UFO hovering at high altitude near Dayton, Ohio. The CAA has already received about 20 other reports about it from Vandalia, Ohio. ATIC control tower operators at Wright-Patterson AFB pick it up visually and on radar ("a good, solid target"). Four F-51 interceptors are sent up. They see it as a huge, round, metallic object, but clouds move in. The object climbs vertically out of sight at high speed. ATIC calls it the planet Venus, with radar returns from ice-laden clouds. (NICAP, "Three Aircraft Spot UFO / Radar Track at ATIC"; UFOEv, p. 84; Ruppelt, pp. 72–75; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January—March 1950, The Author, 1983, pp. 32–37)
- 1950, March 9 Dusk. A publisher and others see a bright disc leaving a vapor trail near Orangeburg, South Carolina, for 15 minutes. It sinks out of sight. ("Flying Saucer' Seen Here; Witnesses Say Real McCoy." Orangeburg (S.C.) Times and Democrat, March 10, 1950, p. 10; "Flying Objects Seen Again." Florence (S.C.) Morning News, March 10, 1950, p. 1; UFOEv, p. 149)
- 1950, March 9 7:45 p.m. A crew of three radar controllers at Selfridge Air Force Base [now Selfridge Air National Guard Base] near Mount Clemens, Michigan, is busy monitoring some F-80 Shooting Star jet aircraft of the 56th Fighter-Interceptor Group. 1st Lt. Francis E. Parker, 1st Lt. Frank K. Mattson, Sgt. McCarthy, and Cpl. Melton observe an intermittent target on the height range indicator (HRI) scope of the CPS-4 radar at 47,000 feet altitude and a distance of 70 miles. Further indications of what Parker describes as a well-defined, clear target like an aircraft are picked up with increasing regularity over the next 45-60 minutes. During this time, the target seems to stay in the area where the F-80s are flying, but 20,000 feet above them. The radar operators are monitoring two different systems—a CPS-5 radar operating on long-wave frequencies at 40,000 feet, and a CPS-4 radar operating on short-wave frequencies—and the target appears on both scopes simultaneously without fade. Despite being tasked to pay attention to the F-80s, the radar crew manages to record the range, azimuth, and altitude of the unidentified target for a solid 6 minutes. The speed varies from a hover in low-density air to nearly 1,500 mph, well in excess of the fastest operational jet at the time, and a climb rate of up to 7,000 feet per minute. After this, the target begins fading from the radarscope, although at a distance of 110 miles it appears to hover for two minutes before fading away. (NICAP, "The Selfridge AFB Incident"; Sparks, p. 84; Hynek UFO Report, pp. 123– 125, 295–297; Clark III 1047–1049; Martin L. Shough, "Radar and the UFO," UFOs 1947–1987, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 215–217)
- 1950, March 13 Early morning. Army Signal Corps (Reserve) Maj. Taylor in Clarksburg, California, is sleeping when an odd droning noise wakes him up. Going outside, he notices the noise is coming from a brilliant light in the sky, one-half the size of the full moon. It sways for about 15 minutes, then moves away. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, p. 49)
- 1950, March 13 Day. At the Central Airport in Mexico City, Mexico, Santiago Smith (weather observer for Mexicana de Aviación), J. de la Vega of the airport commander's office, and others see a total of four UFOs passing overhead. Smith observes one of them through a theodolite, describing it as the shape of a "half-moon." (UFOEv, p. 44; "Saucers' No Illusion: Hundreds See Shy Visitors," Oakland (Calif.) Tribune, March 14, 1950, p. 9; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950, The Author, 1983, pp. 50–51)
- **1950,** March 14 The Atomic Energy Commission contacts the US Air Force to request files from Project Grudge during 1949. (Memorandum for Record, May 24, 1950)
- 1950, March 15 An Air Force Captain Hall, flying in Guatemala, hears from other pilots at La Aurora Airport in Guatemala City that large, fast, and highly maneuverable objects have flown directly over the runway. The stories also appear in the local press. When Hall returns to Brookley Air Force Base [now Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley] in Mobile, Alabama, he is interrogated by a USAF intelligence officer and told: "Listen, there is no such thing as a flying saucer. You won't discuss them." (Swords 96)
- **1950,** March 15 6:15 p.m. Craig Hunter, a medical doctor of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, is stopped with car troubles on the side of the road between Clearfield and Penfield, Pennsylvania, when he hears a "hissing, whistling sound." He looks up and sees "a circular object" between 250 and 400 feet above him, traveling

- northwest. He says it is about 150 feet in circumference and composed of three concentric circles that are rotating, two of them apparently in opposite directions. At the center it is 15–20 feet thick and its speed is 60–70 mph. The noise suggests to him rocket propulsion. Suddenly it emits a fireball that is visible above the road for about 30 seconds. The object moves away to the west after he has it in sight for about 2.5 minutes. ("Doctor Sees Saucer, Makes Rough Sketch," *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, March 18, 1950, pp. 1, 7; "Saucers or Imagination," *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, March 20, 1950, p. 4; "Flying Saucer' Discussion Revives As Physician Retells Story of Seeing Object in Sky above Penfield Pike on March 15," *Clearfield (Pa.) Progress*, March 31, 1950, pp. 1, 3; Center for UFO Studies, <u>HUMCAT Index 1950–1951</u>, p. 6; Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs: A History, Volume 5:</u> *January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, pp 52–53)
- 1950, March 16 The efforts of Kaplan and Maj. Oder to start a fireball research project come to fruition when the AF Geophysical Research Directorate headed by Oder issues a letter directive authorizing Project Twinkle. A \$20,000 half-year contract is signed with Land-Air, Inc. which operates the phototheodolites at White Sands, New Mexico. Land-Air is to set up a 24-hour watch at a location in New Mexico to be specified by the Air Force, and the phototheodolite operators at White Sands are to film any unusual objects that happen to fly past. The official contract gives April 1 as the starting date.
- 1950, March 16 Just before 12:00 noon. Chief Petty Officer Charles Lewis sees a flying disc streak across the sky at Naval Air Station Dallas [later Grand Prairie Armed Forces Reserve Complex] near Dallas, Texas. It buzzes a high-flying B-36. It hovers under the bomber for a moment, then flies off and disappears. NAS Commander Capt. Milton Adolphus Nation vouches for Lewis and says that the base tower operators had seen a UFO 10 days before. (NICAP, "Disc Buzzes B-36"; "Flying Saucers' Sighted by Two," Dallas Morning News, March 18, 1950; Ruppelt, p. 75; Loren E. Gross, UFOs: A History, Volume 5: January–March 1950, The Author, 1983, pp 53–54)
- 1950, March 17 9:15 a.m.-noon. About a dozen shiny "saucer-like discs" appear above Farmington, New Mexico, zip around for 10 minutes then move off to the northeast. At 10:30 a.m., a red object is joined by three silvery discs and put on a "dogfight." At 11:15 a.m., a huge swarm comes into view. Former Army Engineer captain and Farmington Times business manager Clayton J. Boddy Jr. is walking on Broadway Avenue with two friends when he sees a large cluster of 50–100 objects moving at high speed. Private pilot John Eaton sees a red object at the center of the formation of silvery discs, which appear to be twice the size of a B-29 bomber. Some estimates say that the UFOs are seen by half the town's population, or about 3,000 people, for 20 minutes. Harold F. Thatcher, director of the Farmington branch of the US Soil Conservation Service, triangulates one disc's flight and calculates it is traveling at 1,000 mph. After maneuvering in formation, they speed away at a height of 15,000– 20,000 feet. (NICAP, "The Farmington Invasion"; "Farmington 'Invaded' by Saucer Squadron," Santa Fe New Mexican, March 17, 1950, p. 1; "Huge 'Saucer' Armada Jolts Farmington," Farmington (N.Mex.) Daily Times, March 18, 1950, p. 1; "Hundreds at Farmington Report Large Force of Flying Saucers," Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal, March 18, pp. 1, 14; "Farmingtonites Crane to See More 'Saucers," Santa Fe New Mexican, March 19, 1950, p. 1; "Farmington Still Talks about Discs," Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal, March 19, 1950, p. 1; Ruppelt, pp. 75–76; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs*, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950, The Author, 1983, pp. 56–64; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950: Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, pp. 25-36; Sparks, p. 84; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 47-48; David Marler, "The Flying Saucer Invasion of 1950: Farmington, New Mexico and Beyond," David Marler, UFO Researcher, February 2018; Mike Easterling, "Farmington Reaches 70th Anniversary of Mass UFO Sighting," Farmington (N.Mex.) Daily Times, March 17, 2020; "The 1950 Farmington, New Mexico, UFO Armada Discussed by Eyewitnesses," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, December 5, 2023)
- **1950,** March 18 8:40 a.m. Private pilot Robert Fisher, flying a Beechcraft Bonanza over Bradford, Illinois, encounters an oval object with a metallic sheen. He can still see the object when it flies behind some thin clouds. It moves away at an estimated speed of 600–1,000 mph. (UFOEv, <u>p. 38</u>)
- **1950,** March 18 The USAF publicly denies that UFOs are secret missiles or space-exploration devices. (Keyhoe 1950, p. 13)
- 1950, March 20 9:26 p.m. Chicago and Southern Airlines Capt. <u>Jack Adams</u> and First Officer G. W. Anderson Jr., flying a DC-3 at 2,000 feet and heading west from Memphis, Tennessee, to Little Rock, Arkansas, see a circular disc 100 feet in diameter approximately over Hazen, Arkansas. In the top center of the object is an extremely bright light blinking at an estimated 3 flashes per second. The bottom of the object appears to have 9–12 symmetrical oval or circular portholes in a circle approximately 75% of the distance from the center to the outer edge. The object passes directly in front of the airliner at a distance of not more than 2,640 feet and approximately 1,000 feet higher than the airliner. They watch the object for 25–35 seconds. Adams estimates its speed is greater

- than 1,000 mph. (NICAP, "DC-3 Encounters 100' Disc"; Little Rock Arkansas Gazette, July 24, 1955; Sparks, p. 85; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs*, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950, The Author, 1990, pp. 67–70; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1950 January–March, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2000, pp. 38–42; Swords 95–96; Tom Howell YouTube channel, "UFO from the 1950s," October 3, 2006)
- 1950, March 21 1:00–1:30 p.m. Sergeant Woods at Sandia Base, New Mexico, reports four round, silvery objects to the northeast. The objects appear to be more maneuverable than any known aircraft. The maneuvers are similar to those in dogfights involving two aircraft, but there seems to be no similarity to a conventional plane. They make right-angle turns and reverse direction instantaneously. The duration is about 30 minutes. Other witnesses at Sandia and Kirtland AFB report similar observations. (NICAP, "Base Personnel Sight Strange Objects"; Sparks, p. 85)
- 1950, March 22 11:00 a.m. Eleven sergeants in the 4925th Test Group watch a UFO northwest of Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The shape is "similar to a flying wing air craft and tan in color, turning to brown around the edges." It first travels northwesterly at 25,000–30,000 feet, then turns north and disappears with a tremendous burst of speed. (NICAP, "Atomic Test Group Witnesses UFO in Broad Daylight"; Sparks, p. 85)
- 1950, March 22 —FBI agent Guy L. Hottel writes to FBI headquarters about a rumor that three UFOs have crashed and are recovered in New Mexico. They are 50 feet in diameter and "each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture. Each body was bandaged in a manner similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and test pilots." It goes on, "According to Mr. [redacted], informant, the saucers were found in New Mexico due to the fact that the Government had a very high-powered radar set-up in that area and it is believed the radar interferes with the controlling [sic] mechanism of the saucers." The informant is probably Silas M. Newton or Leo GeBauer. On March 25, 2013, the FBI issues a release saying that the Hottel memo was simply a second- or third-hand claim "that we never investigated. Some people believe the memo repeats a hoax that was circulating at that time, but the Bureau's files have no information to verify that theory." (Guy Hottel, "Flying Saucers, Information Concerning," March 22, 1950; Richard H. Hall, Uninvited Guests, Aurora, 1988, pp. 326–327; Good Above, p. 527; Federal Bureau of Investigation, "UFOs and the Guy Hottel Memo," March 25, 2013; Robert L. Hastings, "The March 22, 1950 FBI Memo on Crashed Flying Saucers," UFOs & Nukes, April 18, 2011; John Greenewald, "The 'Guy Hottel' Memo and the Crashed Flying Saucers of New Mexico, March 22, 1950," The Black Vault, August 8, 2022)
- 1950, March 26 Vice-Admiral Louis Mountbatten, in a letter to his friend Charles Eade, editor of the London Sunday Dispatch, rejects the idea that flying saucers are secret weapons, admitting that "they do not come from our Earth... Maybe it is the Shackletons or Scotts of Venus or Mars who are making their first exploration of our Earth." (UFOFiles2, p. 37)
- 1950, March 26 Day. Bertram A. Totten, a clerk at the Library of Congress, is flying his plane at 5,000 feet over Fairfax County, Virginia, when he spots an aluminum-colored disc about 40 feet in diameter and 10 feet thick flying 1,000 feet below him. He dives toward it, but it speeds up into the overcast. It glints when the sun hits it, and he notices a vapor trail. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 5, January–March 1950*, The Author, 1983, pp. 79–80)
- 1950, March 26 4:00 p.m. Former First Lady <u>Eleanor Roosevelt</u> interviews airline pilots Jack Adams and G. W. Anderson about their March 20 UFO sighting on her NBC television program, *Today with Mrs. Roosevelt*. ("Anatomy of a Hoax, Part Five," Saturday Night Uforia)
- 1950, March 26 8:50 p.m. CAA Tower operator Marie Hislop Mathews and United Airlines employees Robert Higbee and Fred Hinkle see a brilliant light northeast of Hubbard Field [now Reno—Tahoe International Airport] outside Reno, Nevada. It hangs motionless for 5–6 minutes, then moves slowly across the sky with a green light on either side of it. It suddenly zooms upward into a cloud bank. ("Reno's Repute As Convention City May Be Interplanetary," Reno Evening Gazette, March 27, 1950, p. 11; UFOEv, pp. 44–45)
- 1950, March 27 10:30 a.m. USAF antiaircraft radar operator Cpl. Bolfango tracks a stationary target on radar over the Motobu Peninsula, Okinawa, Japan, at 18 miles range for 10 minutes at 13,000 feet. The object then moves on a 220° heading for 16.9 miles in 2 minutes (about 500 mph) to a point over a mountain, where it is lost. (NICAP, "Tracked Stationary Target at 18 Miles"; Sparks, p. 85)
- 1950, March 27 Radio broadcaster Henry J. Taylor, on his syndicated radio program *Your Land and Mine*, announces the "wonderful news" that saucers are in fact US secret weapons, which will reassure the nation when the US Air Force confirms it. Within days, the story is twisted to specifically credit the Navy's alleged "top secret" project the Flying Flapjack Vought XF5U. The story is apparently disinformation planted by ex-Hollywood writers in the CIA Office of Policy Coordination's Political and Psychological Warfare staff headed by Joseph Bryan III, a future president and board chairman of NICAP. ("Radio Man Certain U.S. Is Owner of 'Flying Saucer' Missile")

- Secret," *Miami (Fla.) News*, March 29, 1950, p. 9; "Flying Saucers: The Real Story: U.S. Built First One in 1942," *U.S. News and World Report*, April 7, 1950, pp. 13–15; NICAP, "1950 UFO Chronology"; Ruppelt, p. 22; Swords 97; Curt Collins, "1950 Disclosure: UFOs Are Made in the USA," The Saucers That Time Forgot, November 9, 2018)
- 1950, March 28 In response to a request from <u>J. Edgar Hoover</u> to his aide <u>D. Milton ("Mickey") Ladd</u> on "just what are the facts re 'flying saucers,' agent <u>S. Wesley Reynolds</u> interviews Maj. <u>Boggs</u> and Lieut. Col. <u>John V. Hearn Jr.</u> of Air Force Intelligence, who tell him that most UFOs are misidentifications and weather balloons. (Swords 95; Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs</u>, <u>a History: Volume 5</u>, <u>January–March 1950</u>, The Author, 1983, pp. 84–85)
- 1950, March 28 Samuel Eaton Thompson is on his way home to Centralia, Washington, from Markham. He drives through a wooded area between Morton and Mineral and decides to stop to take a break. On foot, he comes upon a large, globe-shaped craft hovering above a clearing. Naked children with dark tans and blond hair are playing on steps that lead from an open door to the side of the UFO. Several naked adults—humanoid, attractive, and also deeply tanned—then appear at the ship's door. After realizing that Thompson means them no harm, they beckon him closer. The crew consists of 20 adults and 25 children, the latter from about 5–15 years of age. Thompson claims to have spent the next 40 hours with the humanoids. They are from Venus, he learns, and have stopped at Earth despite the fact that other Venusian saucers have been shot at by Earth-based military forces. The Venusians further claims that they are vegetarian and that they never grow ill. Thompson also claims the Venusians are naïve and childlike; they do not know who has built their flying saucers and seem to possess little to no curiosity. He goes back to get a camera and tries to take photos, but the object is too bright to appear on film. Thompson returns home on March 30. ("Centralian Tells Strange Tale of Visiting Venus Space Ship in Eastern Lewis County," Centralia (Wash.) Daily Chronicle, April 1, 1950; Elmer J. Olson, "Sam Thompson Saw 'Em—Saucer People," Centralia (Wash.) Daily Chronicle, March 25, 1967, p. 6; Jerome Clark, "The Coming of the Venusians," Fate 34, no. 1 (January 1981): 49-55; Nick Redfern, "A Sensational Saucer Saga!" Mysterious Universe, January 19, 2012; Patrick Gross, URECAT, November 16, 2018; Clark III 1127–1129)
- 1950, March 31 Syndicated columnist <u>Drew Pearson</u> publishes "Worried about Flying Saucers?" in which he sympathizes with the Air Force, which has to reply to groundless public excitement. His USAF contact has told him, "there ain't no such animal." Pentagon Public Relations Officer Maj. <u>DeWitt Searles</u> tells the press that all UFO cases are the result of misinterpretations, mass hysteria, and hoaxes: "As far as the Air Force goes, there's no such thing as a flying saucer." (Drew Pearson, "Worried about Flying Saucers?" *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, March 31, 1950, p. 5; "Major Debunker of Flying Saucers, Keeps Saying, 'No, No, 1,000 Times No," *Rock Island (Ill.) Argus*, March 31, 1950, p. 18; Swords 96–99)
- 1950, Spring Commander Augusto Vars Ortega of the Chilean Navy takes about 1,200 feet of color film of UFOs—one above the other, turning at tremendous speeds—in Antarctica. When NICAP asks the Chilean Embassy about the film in 1956, it tells <a href="Keyhoe">Keyhoe</a> that the film is classified and not available. (Dan Lloyd, "Things Are Hotting Up in the Antarctic," Flying Saucer Review 11, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1965): 5)
- 1950, April Daytime. While working on her lawn in Canby, Oregon, Ellen Jonerson glances over at her neighbor's yard and sees a 12-inch-tall man with his back turned to her. When he turns around, she sees that he has a heavily tanned face, is of stocky build, and wears overalls and a plaid shirt. There is a skullcap on his head. She dashes inside to call a friend, then runs outside again in time to see the figure "waddling" away. He walks under a parked car and disappears. Kenneth Arnold, who interviews her, is convinced of her sincerity. (Center for UFO Studies, HUMCAT Index, 1950–1951, p. 2; Clark III 270)
- **1950,** April 1 Project Twinkle officially begins.
- 1950, April 4 Presidential press secretary <a href="Charlie Ross"><u>Charlie Ross</u></a> states that <a href="Truman"><u>Truman</u></a> has conferred with his two top military advisers, Rear Adm. <a href="Robert Dennison"><u>Robert Dennison</u></a> and Brig. Gen. <a href="Robert B. Landry"><u>Robert B. Landry</u></a>, and that they claim the US has no such technology. Furthermore, the Air Force study has concluded there are no such things as flying saucers. Caltech aeronautics professor <a href="Clark Blanchard Millikan"><u>Clark Blanchard Millikan</u></a> agrees, saying: "If anyone should know about such a project, I should know—and I know of no development in the aircraft or guided missile field." (Swords 97–99)
- 1950, April 5 Sen. Richard Russell Jr. (D-Ga.) states to the press that he is "completely baffled" by flying saucer reports that are made by many pilots who would not be fooled by hallucinations or clouds. Sen. Millard Tydings (D-Md.), chair of the Armed Services Committee, says he thinks saucers might be experimental US aircraft "in embryo stage." Rep. Albert J. Engel (R-Mich.) thinks the same. Sen. Kenneth S. Wherry (R-Nebr.) says the saucers are "like our foreign policy. It is in a state of confusion and no one seems to know what it is all about." ("Congress Split about Saucers," Miami (Fla.) News, April 5, 1950, pp. 1, 6; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April—July 1950, The Author, 1990, pp. 9–10; Swords 98)

- **1950,** April 6 4:45 p.m. Lt. <u>John J. Sevila</u>, a pilot with the 131st Fighter Squadron, hears a sound like a flight of jet airplanes and rushes out of his house in Springfield, Massachusetts, to see them. Instead, he sees a perfectly circular object moving slowly westward at an altitude of 25,000 feet. He watches it for 5 minutes as it moves at a speed of 50–100 mph. When the sun hits it directly, it shines like a mirror. (*The Thunderbolt* 1, no. 12 (April 1950): 5; "Pilot Claims He Saw Flying Saucer in Maine," *Rutland (Vt.) Daily Herald*, April 14, 1950, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History, Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 9)
- **1950,** April 7 A CAA control tower operator at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts, watches a blue light split into two lights that revolve around each other for 10 minutes. (*Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 65–68; Sparks, p. 86)
- 1950, April 7 Newsman Edward R. Murrow produces the first extended TV commentary on UFOs, "The Case of the Flying Saucer" on CBS. He begins with the Kenneth Arnold case, mentions Muroc AFB cases and Mantell, and quotes both *True* magazine and Donald Menzel. Also on the show are Henry J. Taylor, engineer Charles H. Zimmerman, and Charlie Ross, as well as people on the street. ("Transcript of Ed Murrow-Kenneth Arnold Telephone Conversation," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 1 (Feb./March 1984): 3; Edward R. Murrow, "The Case of the Flying Saucer [audio only]," Bryce Zabel YouTube channel, February 24, 2018)
- 1950, April 7 *US News and World Report* comes out with a story on saucers that hints they are top-secret, jet-propelled Navy aircraft "that can outfly other planes." ("Flying Saucers—the Real Story: U.S. Built First One in 1942," *US News and World Report* 28, no. 14 (April 7, 1950): 13–15; Michael D. Swords, "Balloons, Missiles, and UFOs," *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 18)
- **1950,** April 7 The National Security Council presents President <u>Truman</u> with Report 68 (NSC-68), a 56-page top secret policy paper that provides the "blueprint for the militarization of the Cold War." It advocates a large expansion in the military budget, the development of a hydrogen bomb, and increased military aid to US allies for the containment of Communist expansion. It essentially warns Truman that the US is losing the Cold War. Truman does not approve it until 1951. (Wikipedia, "NSC-68")
- 1950, April 8 Paul Limerick, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Shelby, North Carolina, watches a round, aluminum-colored object with four other people for 2 minutes. It follows a horizontal course toward the southwest without making a sound, then shoots straight up and disappears. ("Shelby Folks Claim Flying Saucer Real," Rocky Mount (N.C.) Telegram, April 10, 1950, pp. 1, 6; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April—July 1950, The Author, 1990, p. 13; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, A History: 1950, April—July, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, p. 19)
- 1950, April 8 11:00 a.m. David Lightfoot, 12, and Charles Lightfoot, 9, are fishing in a creek northeast of Amarillo, Texas, when they see what looks like a balloon about 20° above the horizon, moving from the south. It passes only a few feet above them, circles slowly, and disappears over a small hill to the north. David runs after it and sees that it has landed and is a blue-gray disk about as large as an automobile tire and about 1.5 feet tall. The top of it is spinning quickly, but a central spindle is motionless. David follows after it and lunges at it, touching its hot and slick surface briefly, but it takes off straight up with a whistling noise, emitting a gas that turns the boy's arms red and raises some welts. Charles watches it take off from about 300 feet. David's arms heal up after some salve is applied. Possible hoax. ("So You Saw a Flying Disc? This Boy Touched One," *Amarillo (Tex.) Sunday News-Globe*, April 9, 1950; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, p. 114; C. W. Fitch, "Monitoring and Scanning Discs," *APRO Bulletin*, January 1963, p. 5; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 3–4; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs*, *A History: Volume 6*, *April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 14; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs*, *A History: 1950*, *April–July, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 20–25)
- 1950, April 10 7:00 p.m. Several University of California, Berkeley, graduate students, including <u>Garniss H. Curtis</u>, <u>Robert Scott Creely</u>, and <u>Louis I. Briggs</u>, watch a bright light moving against the wind at about 10–15 mph at 1,500 feet altitude about 3–4 miles away from Berkeley, California, for two hours. It turns slowly to the south then turns around and heads slowly back. Four high school students in Monterey, California, see a gleaming object over San Francisco in the early afternoon. (NICAP case file; "<u>Saucer Visits San Francisco</u>, <u>Schoolboys Say</u>," *Los Angeles Times*, April 12, 1950, p. 17)
- 1950, April 12 Nine transient dots of light in a line turn up on a photographic plate image in the Palomar Sky Survey. They are not seen on plates in the identical part of the sky 30 years later, 6 days later, or 30 minutes earlier. The dots are discovered in 2021 by Beatriz Villarroel, a postdoctoral researcher at the Nordic Institute of Theoretical Physics, in 2021. She rules out astrophysical explanations, passing airplanes, asteroids, and other known light sources as well as contamination caused by nuclear fallout. (Beatriz Villarroel, et al., "Exploring Nine Simultaneously Occurring Transients on April 12th 1950," Scientific Reports 11, no. 12794 (June 17, 2021); Beatriz Villarroel and Geoff Marcy, "A New Era of Optical SETI: The Search for Artificial Objects of Non-Human Origin," The Debrief, February 20, 2023)

- 1950, April 14 RAND Corporation writer Jean M. Hungerford writes a 32-page research memorandum for the US Air Force titled "The Exploitation of Superstitions for Purposes of Psychological Warfare." She uses recent examples of religious miracles that were used in Western propaganda, as well as horoscopes, chain letters, and folklore. (Jean M. Hungerford, "The Exploitation of Superstitions for Purposes of Psychological Warfare," USAF Project Rand Research Memorandum, RM-35, April 14, 1950)
- **1950,** April 17 *Newsweek* publishes an article, "Flying Saucers Again," on crashed saucers. ("Flying Saucers Again," *Newsweek*, April 17, 1950, p. 29)
- 1950, April 17 More than 15 people report seeing a UFO for 20 minutes at 2,000 feet on the eastern horizon at Los Alamos, New Mexico. One scientist watches the object through a telescope and says it looks flat, circular, metallic, and roughly 9 feet in diameter. It moves faster than any conventional aircraft. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 26; Sparks, p. 86)
- 1950, April 24 10:00 p.m. Bruno Facchini steps outside his house on the outskirts of Abbiate Guazzone, Varese, Italy, and notices something flashing near a power line. He goes to investigate and encounters a landed disc with an open door and steps leading down. Three or four men in diving suits and helmets are inside. One seems to be welding a pipe. Facchini speaks to them, but they respond with growling sounds. One points a small "camera" at him that emits a beam that knocks him over. Facchini lies still while the repairs are completed, and the UFO takes off. (Pino Carminati Ghidelli, "Un Diaco è Atterrato," Notiziario UFO, no. 37 (Jan./Feb. 1971): 19–22; Antonio Giudici, "The Case of Bruno Facchini," Flying Saucer Review 20, no. 6 (April 1975): 30–32; Ezio Barnardini, "Facchini: Un CE3 Rivisitato," Notiziario UFO, no. 104 (March 1985/Jan. 1986): 4–7; Clark III 267; Marcus Lowth, "Bruno Facchini's Extraterrestrial Encounter in Varese, Italy," UFO Insight, September 5, 2020; 1Pinotti 30–40; Patrick Gross, "Abbiate Guazzone, Italy, April 24, 1950")
- **1950,** April 25 Early morning. Military security patrols at the deactivated Dugway Proving Ground in western Utah view a series of unusual lights and objects moving above an ammunition storage area. One object is "surrounded by an aura of spears of light jutting diagonally from the main body." (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History, Volume 6: April—July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 34)
- 1950, April 25 3:00 p.m. Enrique Hausmann Muller takes a film of a bright, circular UFO with rays of flame spinning off its edge in a pinwheel fashion in Montuïri, Majorca, Balearic Islands, Spain. Probable hoax. (UFOEv, p. 88; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April—July 1950*, The Author, 1990, p. 32; Matías Morey Ripoll, "El Caso Hausmann: Una Aproximación desde Ibiza," UFO Fotocat Blog, September 20, 2019; Centro Ufologico Nazionale, [Hausmann photo])
- 1950, April 27 While preparing for an MX-776A Shrike air-to-ground missile test at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, Charles Riggs, a member of the Project Twinkle cinetheodolite camera crew supplied by Land-Air Inc., sees, tracks, and manages to film four high-flying objects streaking across the sky. Another station also tracks the objects. The photos show only a smudgy dark object, but the triangulation results in a calculation by mathematician Wilbur L. Mitchell and Capt. Perry Bryant of the objects' size as 30 feet in diameter and 150,000 feet in altitude. (NICAP, "Cinetheodolite Film Taken by Tracking Station"; Ruppelt, p. 88; Clark III 544–545; Sparks, p. 88; Thomas Tulien, ed., Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 44; Good Above, pp. 354–355; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950, The Author, 1990, pp. 35–37; Bruce Maccabee, "The White Sands Films," IUR 21, no. 1 (Spring 1996): 22–25)
- 1950, April 27 8:25 p.m. TWA Flight 117 pilot Capt. Robert Adickes and Flight Officer Robert F. Manning are flying near Goshen, Indiana, when they see a bright-red disc-shaped UFO behind their DC-3. It overtakes the plane in about 2 minutes. Stewardess Gloria Henshaw and 11 passengers (including Boeing engineers C. H. Jenkins and Dean C. Bourland and executives E. J. Fitzgerald and S. N. Miller) also see the object. It veers off at 400 mph, drops down to 1,500 feet, and disappears. (NICAP, "Adickes TWA DC-3 Case"; Sparks, p. 89; Donald E. Keyhoe, "Flight 117 and the Flying Saucer," True, August 1950, pp. 24–25, 75–79; Keyhoe, FS from OS, pp. 145–148; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 46–47; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950, The Author, 1990, pp. 36–38)
- 1950, May 5 11:30 p.m. Capt. Marcellus D. O'Sullivan, 1Lt. William J. Reisinger, and three enlisted men of the 625th Aircraft and Warning Squadron at Elmendorf AFB [now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson], Anchorage, Alaska, see a reddish-orange object hovering in the sky for 5 minutes. It puts on a burst of speed and disappears over the horizon. ("From History: 57th Fighter Interceptor Wing (Alaska), January–June 1950," UFO Historical Revue, no. 5 (July 1999): 8)

- 1950, May 11 —7:30 p.m. Evelyn Trent, who lives on a farm nine miles from McMinnville, Oregon [near Sheridan, Oregon], is walking back to her farmhouse after feeding rabbits. Before reaching the house, she sees a slowmoving, metallic disk-shaped object heading in her direction from the northeast. She yells for her husband Paul, who is inside the house; he comes out and also sees the object. After a short time, he goes back inside to get a camera and manages to take two photos of the object before it speeds away to the west. Paul Trent's father briefly sees the object before it flies away. The Trents assume they have seen some exotic military aircraft. They do not develop the film in the camera until they use it up and show the photos only to a few friends. Eventually it reaches the cover of *Life* magazine, but the Trents show no desire to make any money from the photos. Although the Colorado project initially thinks the photos seem genuine, three Interface Pilote pour l'Analyse de Clichés d'OVNIs researchers in 2013–2015 claim to find evidence of a model suspended from a string. Researcher Brad Sparks finds major mathematical and scientific errors in IPACO's work. (Wikipedia, "McMinnville UFO Photographs"; NICAP, "Trent / McMinnville Photos"; "At Long Last—Authentic Photographs of Flying Saucer?" McMinnville (Oreg.) Telephone-Register, June 8, 1950, p. 1; "Disc Picture' published in McMinnville Paper," Salem (Oreg.) Statesman Journal, June 9, 1950, p. 1; "McMinnville Farmer, Wife See 'Saucer,' Display Photographs to Prove Claim," Portland *Oregonian*, June 10, 1950, p. 7; "Farmer Trent's Flying Saucer," Life, June 26, 1950, p. 29; Story, pp. 223–226; Sparks, p. 90; Hynek UFO Report, pp. 244–245; Condon, pp. 396–407; Bruce S. Maccabee, "On the Possibility that the McMinnville Photos Show a Distant Unidentified Object (UO)," Proceedings of the 1976 CUFOS Conference, Center for UFO Studies, 1976, pp. 152–163; Bruce S. Maccabee, "The McMinnville Photos," The Spectrum of UFO Research, CUFOS, 1988, pp. 13-57; Bruce S. Maccabee, "The Trent Farm Photos," April 2000: Bruce S. Maccabee, "The Trent Farm Photos Appendix," April 2000: Bruce S. Maccabee, "The McMinnville Photos," May 2000; Michael D. Swords, "Can We Learn Anything from UFO Photos? Part Five," The Big Study, July 15, 2012; "McMinnville, OR CE-II Photo Case of 5-11-1950 – Mrs. Paul Trent," Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Antoine Cousyn, François Louange, and Geoff Quick, "The McMinnville Pictures," Interface Pilote pour l'Analyse de Clichés d'OVNIs, May 2014; John Killen, "Past Tense Oregon: UFO Photos Taken near McMinnville in 1950 Still Raise Questions," Portland Oregonian, May 12, 2015; J. J. Valdés, "The Trent/McMinnville UFO Photos: A Down-to-Earth Perspective," Historical Inquiry, August 19, 2016; Clark III 702-704; "Paul and Evelyn Trent Talk about the Famous McMinnville UFO Sighting and Photographs from May 11, 1950," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 26, 2023)
- 1950, May 15 Afternoon. Architect Enrique Carotenuto Bossa is driving in an isolated region in Bahía Blanca Partido (possibly between Macachín and Estación Hidalgo Ferrocarril Sarmiento), La Pampa, Argentina, when he sees a metallic disc resting on the ground to the left of the highway. He stops the car to investigate, approaches it, and sees an open door in its side. He goes inside and sees a "curved divan with three seats, two of which were occupied by small beings covered from head to foot (except for an opening for the face (in a kind of tight-fitting overall of a brown color." The bodies are about 4 feet tall, and their faces seem charred or burnt. In front of them is a screen with "rays playing on it," and on top of the screen is a rotating globe. The engineer runs out and drives back to his hotel. He returns the next day with two companions and finds only an ash heap. But they look up and see three UFOs—one a cigar-shaped object and two discs, hovering above them at 1,800 feet. The discs merge with the cigar and speed away. (El Universal (Caracas, Venezuela), May 7, 1955; "Man Enters Grounded Disc," APRO Bulletin, August 1955, pp. 1–3; Clark III 327–328; Willy Smith, "The Curious Case of the Argentine Crashed Saucer," IUR 11, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1986): 18–19; Roberto E. Banchs and Richard W. Heiden, "Crash Landing in the Pampas," IUR 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 4–10, 30; Richard W. Heiden, "Bossa Revisited," IUR 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 28; Roberto Banchs, "General Acha (LP): Un Accidentado Aterrizaje (Priemra Parte)," Marcianitos Verdes, July 4, 2009)
- 1950, May 20 12:15 p.m. Meteorologist Seymour L. Hess is strolling the grounds of Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, when he notices a round, gray-colored object approaching from the southeast at about 12,000 feet altitude. He follows it with a 4x spyglass as it passes in front of a small cumulus cloud. Hess estimates it is about 4 feet in diameter and moving about 100 mph. ("Astronomer, Pilots Catch Sight of Discs," Salem *Oregon Statesman*, May 23, 1950, p. 1; UFOEv, p. 3; Condon, pp. 245–248; James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 61–62; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History, 1950 April–July, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 47)
- 1950, May 21 A second Gallup poll on UFOs is released, showing that 5% of respondents think "these flying saucers" are "comets, shooting stars, something from another planet." (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April\_July 1950*, The Author, 1990, pp. 48–49; Robert J. Durant, "Evolution of Public Opinion on UFOs," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 10–11)

- 1950, May 21 7:30 a.m. Felix Zanon, 60, of Montrose, Colorado, sees a huge round object flashing in the sun. As the object hovers, he summons his wife Pearl and his son Billy from the house to take a look with him. As the three watch, a second object approaches and joins next to the first object. After a while, both objects leave together heading north toward Cerro Summit before altering course and heading in a eastern direction before vanishing. Other witnesses claim to see the objects. ("See Huge Silver Discs," Pottsville (Pa.) Republican and Herald, May 2, 1950, p. 5; "Rancher Reports Seeing Flying Discs," Lexington (Ky.) Herald, May 22, 1950, p. 10; "Montrose," Grand Junction (Colo.) Daily Sentinel, May 23, 1950, p. 6; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April—July 1950, The Author, 1990, p. 48; Loren E. Gross, The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History, 1950 April—July, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2000, p. 47)
- 1950, May 21 During Armed Forces Day at Randolph Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas, the loudspeakers blare out that the air show then in progress will have a "top secret finale." It is announced that "real flying saucers would make an appearance!" In an attempt at humor, 30,000 paper plates are dumped over the crowd from Air Force cargo planes during a final flyby. They are stamped with "Souvenir, Armed Forces Day. Flying Saucer. Randolph Air Force Base, May 21, 1950." ("Flying Saucers' Cascade on Crowd at Air Show," New York Times, May 22, 1950, p. 8; Loren E. Gross, \*UFOs\*, a History: Volume 6, April—July 1950.\* The Author, 1990, p. 49; Loren E. Gross, \*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs\*, A History: 1950, April—July, Supplemental Notes\*. The Author, 2000, p. 46)
- 1950, May 21 3:50 p.m. T/Sgt Edward Eles, <u>Earl DuQuoin</u>, and four other airmen of the 187th Fighter Squadron of the Wyoming National Guard are on the airfield at the Municipal Airport in Cheyenne, Wyoming, when they see a V-shaped formation of four round, pure-white discs flying in a northerly direction. In a matter of seconds, the objects change formation and make a sharp right-angle turn, flying single file, and speed out of sight. (Cheyenne *Wyoming State Tribune*, May 22, 1950, p. 1; "<u>Astronomer, Pilots Catch Sight of Discs</u>," Salem *Oregon Statesman*, May 23, 1950, p. 1)
- **1950,** May 24 The request by the Atomic Energy Commission for Project Grudge records is referred to the US Air Force Headquarters and the final Grudge report is forwarded to AEC. (Memorandum for the Record, May 24, 1950)
- 1950, May 24 During an MX-674 Tarzon controllable vertical bomb test at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Floyd Fannon and other USAF crew members see eight unidentified objects. They separately track and film two of the objects down the North American Aviation missile firing range. Project Twinkle cinetheodolite station P-8 films one object to the northeast for 6 frames (1.0 sec) moving uniformly to the south. Cinetheodolite station P-10, located 5.7 miles down range to the north from P-8 and 7 feet higher, films another object, hence no triangulation is possible. Analysts estimate that the objects were higher than 40,000 feet, traveling more than 2,000 mph, and over 300 feet in diameter. (NICAP, "Cinetheodolite Film Taken by Tracking Station"; Sparks, p. 91; Ruppelt, p. 89; Good Above, pp. 354–355; Bruce Maccabee, "The White Sands Films," *IUR* 21, no. 1 (Spring 1996): 22–25; Bruce Maccabee, *UFO FBI Connection*, Llewellyn, 2000, pp. 143, 150–151)
- 1950, May 25 Lt. Col. <u>Doyle Rees</u> of the USAF Office of Special Investigations writes a confidential memo to Brig. Gen. <u>Joseph F. Carroll</u>, Director of Special Investigations. In part, it states: "In a liaison meeting with other military and government intelligence and investigative agencies in December 1948, it was determined that the frequency of unexplained aerial phenomena in the New Mexico area was such that an organized plan of reporting these observations should be undertaken. The organization and physical location of units of this District were most suitable for collecting these data, therefore, since December 1948, this District has assumed the responsibility for collecting and reporting basic information with respect to aerial phenomena in this general area." (NICAP, "Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena, New Mexico Area, Dec 1949 to May 1950")
- 1950, May 29 9:20 p.m. Capt. Willis T. Sperry, copilot Bill Gates, flight engineer Robert Arnholt, a stewardess, and several passengers on an American Airlines DC-6 airliner headed southwest out of Washington, D.C., en route to Nashville, Tennessee, are flying at 7,500 feet at 250 mph. About 7 miles west of Mount Vernon, Virginia, Gates alerts Sperry to a bright blue or bluish light ahead of them and increasing in size. Sperry makes an evasive 45° turn to the right and the object passes from 11 o'clock to 7 o'clock position to the left at a slightly higher altitude. The light very briefly passes between the aircraft and the upper part of the moon, revealing an object with a long silhouette (somewhat reminiscent of a submarine) without visible wings or empennage. The blue light is on the front of the object. Sperry turns left back onto his original course to get the object back in view, but it apparently stays stationary for about 30 seconds. Gates then notices the object circling around to the right side. Sperry banks right again, while the object paces the airliner about 20–30 seconds before it climbs to the east at a 30° angle at "fantastic" speed and disappears. (Wikipedia, "Sperry UFO Case"; NICAP, "Capt. Willis Sperry Sighting"; "New Type of Saucer Is Reported—Like a Submarine with Lights," Asheville (N.C.) Times, May 30, 1950, p. 16; "Strange Craft Seen by Pilot near Capital," Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram, June 1, 1950, p. 8; Ruppelt, pp. 85–

- 86; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April–July 1950*, The Author, 1990, pp. 52–53; Project 1947, "<u>UFO Reports 1950</u>"; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 91; "<u>American Airlines CE-II Case of 5-29-1950 Capt. Willis Sperry</u>," Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013)
- 1950, Summer Physicist Enrico Fermi first formulates the "Fermi Paradox" during a casual conversation (in Los Alamos, New Mexico) with fellow physicists Edward Teller, Herbert York, and Emil Konopinski. While walking to lunch, the men discuss recent UFO reports and the possibility of faster-than-light travel. The conversation moves on to other topics, until during lunch Fermi allegedly says suddenly, "But where is everybody?" (although the exact quote is uncertain). (Wikipedia, "Enrico Fermi"; Eric M. Jones, "Where Is Everybody?" An Account of Fermi's Question, Los Alamos National Laboratory, March 1, 1985)
- 1950, Summer Evening. An 8- or 10-foot-disc lands in a field behind Mrs. Mason Vaughan's house in Beaverdam, Virginia. From an open cockpit a "man with unusual goggles or headpiece" looks out. Surprised, the disc takes off abruptly, breaking off a limb from an oak tree on the way up. (Clark III 267; Center for UFO Studies, <a href="https://example.com/humcat/Humcat/">Humcat/Humcat/Humcat/</a> Index 1950–1951, p. 20)
- 1950, June 1 A pilot on patrol from RAF Tangmere in West Sussex, England, sights a "bright circular metallic object" that speeds past his Gloster Meteor jet fighter at 20,000 feet. As he undergoes a debriefing by squadron intelligence, he finds out that four RAF controllers at the radar station at RAF Wartling near Eastbourne have, at the same time, tracked an "unusual response" that vanishes from their screens, moving at terrific speed. (UK Flying Saucer Working Party, *Unidentified Flying Objects*, June 1951, pp. 2–3; David Clarke, "Flying Saucer Working Party," Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015)
- 1950, June 5 <u>Donald Keyhoe</u>'s *True* article is expanded into a paperback book, *The Flying Saucers Are Real*, which sells 500,000 copies. It brings many interested civilians and military people to accept UFO reality, government withholding of information, and the extraterrestrial hypothesis. (Donald E. Keyhoe, *The Flying Saucers Are Real*, Gold Medal, 1950; "<u>Aim at 'Saucer' Book,</u>" *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, May 25, 1950, p. 22; Wikipedia, "<u>The Flying Saucers Are Real</u>"; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 73–74; Graff 63–64)
- **1950,** June 6 F-86 Sabre fighter aircraft assigned to the 654th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Grenier Air Force Base [now Manchester–Boston Regional Airport] in Manchester, New Hampshire, are ordered to fly with "hot" guns for "certain missions involving interception of unidentified tracks." (Powell, *Scientist*, 112, 114)
- **1950,** June 8 Gen. <u>Earle E. Partridge</u> of the Fifth Air Force, responsible for the Korean Theatre, writes to Commanding Gen. George E. Stratemeyer, asking for an analysis of certain UFO cases. (Swords 100–101)
- **1950,** June 12 Eastern Airlines executive <u>Eddie Rickenbacker</u> tells the press that if flying saucers "do exist, you can rest assured that they are ours." (Swords 100)
- 1950, June 12 4:00 p.m. Working in a quarry somewhere in California, geologist John Zimmerman and civil engineer Charles Fisher are watching a jet aircraft speeding through the sky and leaving a vapor trail. Suddenly Zimmerman notices that the vapor trail has been cut. Looking more closely, he notices a metallic disc making vertical loops around the jet. Two other discs come into view and perform the same aerobatics. (Wells Alan Webb, *Mars, the New Frontier*, Fearon, 1956, p. 124; UFOEv, p. 50)
- 1950, June 17 Oskar Linke and his 11-year-old daughter Gabriele are walking toward Haselbach, Thuringia, East Germany, in the twilight when she notices something about 420 feet away. It appears to be two men dressed in shiny metallic clothing who are stooped over and looking at something on the ground. Linke approaches to 30 feet away, looks over a small fence, and sees a large object about 40 feet in diameter that looks like a huge frying pan. It has two rows of holes in its periphery and a black conical tower about 9 feet high. The two men suddenly jump inside. The inside lights up, the object starts humming and rises slowly from the ground, rotating like a top. It rises from the ground with the aid of a central cylinder and is surrounded by flames, then takes off in the direction of Stockheim. Later he finds a circular depression in the ground at the spot. Linke resettles in West Berlin in 1951. He tells his story to a notary there on July 1, 1952, which is how it turns up in the Western press and explains a confusion in the date of the sighting. (NICAP, "CE III by Two Witnesses / Oskar Linke Case"; Central Intelligence Agency, "Flying Saucers' in East Germany," July 9, 1952; Leonard G. Cramp, Space, Gravity, and the Flying Saucer, British Book Centre, 1955, pp. 158–161; Olsen, Sec. 3, pp. 8–9; Hynek UFO Report, pp. 203– 206; Ted Bloecher, "Herr Linke and the Flying Warming Pan," MUFON UFO Journal, no. 153 (November 1980): 6–9; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, pp. 32–34; Good Above, pp. 513-514; Martin S. Kottmeyer, "Missing Linke," Magonia Supplement, no. 48 (October 2003): 3-5; "East Germany 1950 Landing Case, Humanoid Pilots Seen," Journal of UFO History 2, no. 3 (July/Aug. 2005): 8–9; Andreas Müller, "Das Haselbach-UFO von 1950: Die Augenzeugin spricht," grenzWissenschaft-aktuell.de, January 26, 2016; Sparks, p. 92)

- 1950, June 21 1:35 a.m. Control tower operators Cpl. Roger G. Pryor and S/Sgt. Ellis R. Lorimer and airways communications staffer S/Sgt. Virgil Cappuro watch a flying disc speeding at 1,000–1,500 mph over Hamilton AFB [now closed] in Novato, California. The object shoots blue flame and makes a roar like thunder as it makes five passes over the base. They observe it through binoculars for 25 minutes. (NICAP, "Disc Makes Five Passes at Control Tower"; "Saucer's Roar 'Like Thunder,' Say Observers," Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram, June 21, 1950, p. 1; "Disc, 'Roaring Like Thunder,' Is Reported at Hamilton Field," Dayton (Ohio) Daily News, June 21, 1950, p. 1; "GIs Report Seeing 'Saucer' at Air Base on West Coast," Dayton (Ohio) Journal Herald, June 22, 1950, p. 2; Sparks, p. 92)
- 1950, June 24 A cigar-shaped UFO paces a United Airlines plane (Capt. E. L. Remlin, First Officer David Stewart, and observer Capt. Samuel B. Wiper) for 20 minutes near Daggett, California. The object is also seen by the crew of another airliner and a navy transport plane. The Navy pilot sees for 3 minutes a dark gray object with heat radiation at the tail end. He estimates altitude as 50,000–100,000 feet and a speed of 1,000–1,500 mph. The crews discuss the matter with two CAA ground stations. The object is also reported by hundreds of witnesses over a distance of 300–400 miles from southern California to Nevada and southeastern Utah and was covered in local newspapers. (NICAP, "Three Aircraft Crews Observe UFO"; UFOEv, p. 31; Sparks, p. 93; David Rudiak, "1950 California–Nevada Cigar-Shaped UFO," Roswell Proof, 2005)
- **1950,** June 25 North Korea invades South Korea, overrunning Seoul and beginning the Korean War. (Wikipedia, "Korean War")
- 1950, June 27 President Truman orders US air and sea forces to help South Korea. (Wikipedia, "Korean War")
- 1950, June 27 4:15 p.m. Al Hixenbaugh, a photographer for the *Louisville Times*, is at the corner of Longest and Everett avenues in Louisville, Kentucky, when he hears the sound of a DC-3 airplane overhead. He looks up and sees the plane as well as a large disc with a slight corona around it. He shoots 50 feet of film with his 16mm movie camera as the object remains motionless for 10 seconds before it starts getting smaller and disappears to the west. (*Louisville (Ky.) Times*, June 28, 1950, p. 1; "Saucer' Filmed," *Lexington (Ky.) Herald*, June 29, 1950, p. 13; "How to Film UFO's," *Saucers* 6, no. 3 (August 1958): 3; Sparks, p. 93)
- 1950, June 29 Afternoon. A brilliant white object is seen in the western sky by many residents of Phoenix, Arizona, for three hours. William A. Rhodes watches the object through an 80x telescope and estimates that it is 50–62 miles high and 225 miles west of Phoenix. American Airlines pilot Bob Rentz places it west of Wickenburg at 6:00 p.m. Weather bureau observers say it is round with a sharp cone projecting from its base and a round protuberance at its top. (Jim Blakeslee, "City Agog over Strange Object in Sky," Phoenix Arizona Republic, June 30, 1950, p. 1)
- 1950, June 30 Midnight. Rev. Ross Vermillion, a former bomber pilot, and his wife are driving 9 miles west of Kingman, Kansas, when they see a bright red light hovering over US Hwy 54 near Cunningham, Kansas. They estimate it to be about 250 feet in diameter with a small canopy on top. The family of druggist Dwayne Mulnix of Meade, Kansas, also sees the object and they stop and watch it for about 20 minutes along the highway. They begin to drive closer, but it speeds away. As seen in the bright moonlight, the object looks made of bright metal and has an elliptical body "as big as the cross-section of a B-29" with a rotor turning counterclockwise around its body. (NICAP, "WWII Pilot Tells of Seeing Flying Saucer"; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 6, April—July 1950, The Author, 1990, pp. 66–69)
- 1950, June 30 11:15 p.m. Two navy men (Petty Officer Carter and Able Seaman Connelly) at Royal Canadian Naval Air Station Shearwater, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, are pulling duty on radar watch from dusk until dawn. They report four separate radar contacts bearing 160° at 5 miles over 90 minutes. Visual confirmation of two glowing objects is made by a chief petty officer in North Dartmouth. (NICAP, "Navy Men Report Radar Contact")
- 1950, July USAF Director of Intelligence Maj. Gen. <u>Charles P. Cabell</u> orders secret UFO field investigations to be conducted by his staff Technical Capabilities Branch in the Evaluation Division under Maj. <u>Milton D. Willis</u>. These begin this month and last until October 1951 when Cabell is replaced by Gen. <u>John A. Samford</u>. (Clark III 936)
- **1950,** July Editor <u>Curtis Fuller</u>'s article, "The Flying Saucers: Fact or Fiction?" appears in *Flying* magazine. (Curtis Fuller, "<u>The Flying Saucers: Fact or Fiction?</u>" *Flying* 47 (July 1950): 16–17, 59–61)
- 1950, July Armed Forces Special Weapons Project concludes a top secret study, named Project Nutmeg, to search for an atomic weapons site in the continental US. AFSWP concludes that a site on the Air Force's Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range in Nevada is the right place. President <a href="Truman">Truman</a> approves the location, known as Frenchman Flat. (Wikipedia, "Sandia Base"; "Project Nutmeg: The Birth of the Nevada Test Site," National Nuclear Security Administration, June 2004)
- 1950, July Mid-day. Electronics engineer Cliff Booth is having lunch in his office at a private contractor's building at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, when he gets a call that a UFO has been reported by one of the range stations.

Booth and an Askania cinetheodolite operator are asked to drive to another range station with a manually operated Askania and look for the object. Through the finders on the theodolite the object presents a side view to the observers and appears to be cigar-shaped and metallic, with a straw-colored iridescent radiance or luster. It also has fins one-third of the way back from the front of the fuselage and a row of at least three oblong ports extending to the rear of the object and located above the center line of the fuselage. The ports are a dark smoky gray but not luminescent. The object hovers in an almost horizontal position, elevation 20°-25°, azimuth northeast. Shortly after the men focus the instrument on the object to take a film, it begins maneuvering. Turning toward the camera, the object moves in, and the men can see the front—a round shape with the fins extending out from the sides. It then drops abruptly, as though beginning to fall, but stops. It moves toward the camera, turns sideways, then drops as before, but this time it exposes the side view again. The operator leaves to report the coordinates to headquarters, and when he returns the object is gone. The men turn over their exposed film to the Data Reduction Division for development and analysis. A week or so later they are called in and questioned by a young first lieutenant unknown to them who asks them over and over again if they have taken pictures and to describe the object they had seen. Then they are asked if they can identify the film of the object they photographed. One of the men becomes angry about the questioning, telling the officer he had seen what he reported, had photographed the object, and is convinced it is some sort of a vehicle from outer space. He is shown a film of 14 frames on a Recordak projector. The black-and-white presentation shows a blurred ellipsoid with a dark center, but no details. (Puzzled about the film, he later talks to a mathematician-analyst employed by Land-Air, Inc.; she conjectured the object had been oscillating in the air, preventing a stable image.) The men are then told by their superiors to forget the whole thing. (Lorenzen, FS Hoax, pp. 27–29; Project 1947, "APRO Files: Coral E. Lorenzen, Holloman Air Force Base UFO Sighting, July, 1950")

- 1950, July 1:45 p.m. A Civil Aviation Authority flight engineer observes a "wingless, fuselage-shaped" object maneuvering over Cincinnati, Ohio. The object climbs at a steep angle to 16,000–18,000 feet, hesitates, dives, and speeds away to the west. (UFOEv, p. 45)
- 1950, July 1–3 The Hydra Club, a group of science fiction authors and editors, holds a New York Science Fiction Conference, with 300 attendees. They discuss the "rumpus that rocked the world of science fiction—the Shaver hoax," and are skeptical of dianetics, Velikovsky, Atlantis, and reincarnation. However, Fletcher Pratt gives a talk on flying discs, arguing (perhaps facetiously) that they are from another planet. (Curt Collins, "Crashed Flying Saucers and the Hydra Club," The Saucers That Time Forgot, August 3, 2023)
- 1950, July 2 Dusk. While picnicking on the shore of Sawbill Bay on Marmion Lake, western Ontario, an anonymous employee of the Steep Rock Iron Mine claims to have seen a UFO resting on the water's surface. A hatch opens and 10 figures, 3–4 feet tall, emerge, wearing shiny, metallic clothing. They seem to be drawing in lake water with a hose. The object soon rises and hovers, then swiftly takes off. The story appears in the mine's house newsletter, then gets picked up by some Canadian newspapers and *Fate* magazine in its February/March 1952 issue. However, Robert Badgley, a Scarborough, Ontario, member of APRO, finds in 1974 that Steep Rock employee Gordon Edwards had written the fictitious tale to entertain readers of the newsletter and to satirize saucer stories. ("Flying Saucer' Lands on Lake Near Atikokan, 'Letter' Says," *Port Arthur (Ont.) News Chronicle*, September 18, 1950, pp. 1–2; "Steep Rock Flying Saucer," *Fate* 5, no. 2 (February–March 1952): 68–72; "1950 Steep Rock Lake, Ontario Case Possible Hoax," *APRO Bulletin* 26, no. 5 (November 1977): 5; John Robert Colombo, *Mysterious Canada*, Doubleday Canada, 1988, pp. 231–232; John Robert Columbo, *UFOs over Canada*, Hounslow, 1991, pp. 32–41; Patrick Gross, URECAT, January 31, 2007; Hammerson Peters, "The Little Green Men of Steep Rock Lake," Mysteries of Canada, September 7, 2018)
- 1950, July 4 Evening. Aerojet engineer <u>Daniel Fry</u> is alone during the holiday at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, when a flying saucer appears and hovers just above the ground. Fry approaches and strokes its surface when a voice booms, "Better not touch the hull, pal, it's still hot." After some conversation with the disembodied extraterrestrial named Alan, he is invited on board the craft, which flies him to New York and back in 30 minutes. Fry has further encounters and becomes a celebrity on the contactee circuit. He finally meets Alan in person in 1961. (Daniel Fry, *The White Sands Incident*, New Age, 1954; Clark III 518–520)
- **1950,** July 6 A memo by Lt. Col. F. D. McGarrachy, USAF chief of General Investigations Division, expresses strong interest to acquire motion pictures of UFOs taken by civilians, perhaps in cooperation with the FBI, but not in a way to arouse public suspicion of USAF interest. (*Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 54–56)
- 1950, July 7 Gen. <u>Cabell</u>, through his aide Col. Barber, sends a notice to AMC Intelligence Chief Col. <u>Harold E. Watson</u>, that despite the official closing of Project Grudge, the Air Force still desires to receive UFO reports and take them seriously. Project Grudge begins to be reactivated as Project 10073. (<u>Sparks</u>, p. 12; Swords 101–102, 498–499)

- **1950,** July 8 2:00 p.m. Three US Coast Guardsmen are in Peril Strait off Chichagof Island, Alaska, when they notice a white barbell-shaped object moving overhead to the west. It appears to be banking and climbing as it maintains its course. They estimate it is 100 feet long by 60 feet high and moving at 350 mph. They have it in sight for two and a half minutes. (Powell, *Scientist*, 50–51)
- 1950, July 11 Two Navy aircraft crews from NAS Millington [now Naval Support Activity Mid-South] in Tennessee, across the Mississippi River from Osceola, Arkansas, see a domed disc pass in front of them. Airborne radar confirms it. The object first appears as a round ball; after it crosses their flight path, it appears like an upside-down shallow bowl. ("Millington Men Report Seeing 'Flying Saucer' and Tracing It," Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, July 12, 1950, p. 1; "Navy Pilots Claim They Tracked 'Flying Saucer' On Radar Scope," Anniston (Ala.) Star, July 12, 1950, p. 2; NICAP, "Air, Radar/Visual over Arkansas"; Sparks, p. 93)
- **1950,** July 18 <u>Bruce Bliven</u> summarizes flying saucer news in a *Look* magazine article. (Bruce Bliven, "<u>Flying Saucers: Myth or Menace?</u>" *Look*, July 18, 1950, pp. 12–18)
- 1950, July 19 A memo by Col. <u>Bruno W. Feiling</u>, chief of the USAF Technical Analysis Division, on "Investigation of Flying Saucer Reports" says that UFO investigation takes up too much time. (*Hynek UFO Report*, <u>p. 57</u>)
- **1950,** August Engineer <u>Eric A. Walker</u> becomes executive secretary of the Research and Development Board. He later refers to a real group called MJ-12 and admits attending meetings at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio concerning "recovered UFOs." (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "<u>The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions,</u>" *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 11)
- **1950,** August A CIA memo sent to FBI headquarters, "Summary of Aerial Phenomena in New Mexico," discusses the green fireballs and notes that OSI is concerned with the phenomena seen over sensitive installations. It reiterates that <u>Lincoln LaPaz</u> does not think they are meteors. (ClearIntent, pp. 167–168)
- **1950,** August <u>Keyhoe</u>'s article on the <u>Adickes</u> case of April 27, "Flight 117 and the Flying Saucer," appears in *True* magazine. (Donald E. Keyhoe, "<u>Flight 117 and the Flying Saucer,</u>" *True*, August 1950, pp. 24–25, 75–79)
- 1950, August 2:00 p.m. Hugh O'Neill views a cigar-shaped object hovering silently about 2–5 miles off the Big Sur coast at Anderson Creek, California, at an elevation of 500–1,000 feet. It moves swiftly away to the south, then returns less than 2 minutes later and slowly circles above the ocean twice for 90 seconds, disappearing again to the south. (Henry Miller, *Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*, New Directions, 1957, p. 75; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs a History: 1950 August—December, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, p. 3)
- **1950,** August 4 A memo from Army Maj. <u>Ulysses Grant Carlan</u> states that UFOs since July 30 have been seen at the Hanford Site in Washington State. They are above 15,000 feet. Jets attempting interception fail. The AEC says that the investigation is continuing. (Maj. U. G. Carlan, "<u>Flying Discs</u>," August 4, 1950; Good Above, <u>pp. 267</u>, 485; Nukes 46; Loren E. Gross, <u>UFOs</u>, <u>a History: Volume 6</u>, <u>April–July 1950</u>, The Author, 1990, p. 71)
- 1950, August 4 The crew (Master Nils Lewring, Chief Mate Jacob Koelwyn) of the *M/V Marcala* in the North Atlantic between Nova Scotia and the US Eastern seaboard watch an aluminum-colored cylinder-shaped UFO, apparently 10 feet in diameter, 50–100 feet above the surface. It initially moves 25 mph, makes no noise, wobbles slightly, disappears over the horizon, then reappears. The ship's captain watches the object through binoculars for 90 seconds. One of the other witnesses describes the sighting as "one of the most frightening experiences I have ever had." (NICAP, "Object 100' above Sea Observed by Ship MV *Marcala*"; ClearIntent, pp. 115–116; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs*, a *History: Volume 7*, *August–December 1950*, The Author, 1982, pp. 1–3; Good Above, pp. 340–341)
- **1950,** August 12 1:30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Oliver are at the state forestry lookout tower on Round Top Mountain north of Medford, Oregon, when they see two UFOs, one disc-shaped, the other oblong. They are about 100 feet apart, and the oblong one is tumbling in the air end over end. ("Lookouts Report Seeing 'Saucers' North of Medford," Medford (Oreg.) Mail-Tribune, August 17, 1950, p. 9)
- 1950, August 14 11:27 a.m. Flight Lt. Stan J. Hubbard and two other officers at Farnborough Airfield, Hampshire, England, hear a humming noise. Hubbard looks up and sees a flat gray disc, about 100 feet in diameter, at an altitude of 700–1,000 feet. He watches it for 30 seconds as it flies at a speed of 800–1,000 mph and makes a series of S-turns, oscillating as it moves. The other two officers see nothing. (David Clarke, "Flying Saucer Working Party." Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015; Good Need, pp. 149–151; David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 87–93; UFOFiles2, pp. 40–42)
- 1950, August 15 11:30 a.m. Nicholas Mariana and his secretary Virginia Raunig are inspecting the Great Falls, Montana, baseball stadium in preparation for a game. He walks up to the grandstand and notices two fast-moving bright lights "like two new dimes in the sky." He rushes to his car, parked 60 feet away, and gets his 16mm movie camera from the glove compartment. He films the objects passing behind a water tower, which provides a frame

of reference for measuring distance, size, altitude, azimuth, and speed. In October he takes it to an Air Force officer for analysis. USAF notes that two jet interceptors were in the area and might be the objects on the film, but Mariana and Raunig had seen those too. Controversy soon arises when Mariana claims that the first 35 frames of his film—which he says most clearly show the UFOs as rotating disks—are missing. People in the Great Falls area who view Mariana's film support him. They claim that the missing frames clearly show the UFOs as spinning, metallic disks with a "notch or band" along their outer edges. USAF personnel deny this accusation and insist that they have removed only a single frame of film that was damaged in the analysis. In 1952, Blue Book reviews the film; so does Robert M. L. Baker Jr. in 1954, and the Colorado project in 1967. All studies of the film agree that it was not faked and that the objects appear to be disc-shaped. (Wikipedia, "Mariana UFO incident"; NICAP, "Nick Mariana / Montana UFO Color Film"; "Nick Mariana UFO Footage 1950 Great Falls Montana," parkerdonaldmusic YouTube channel, September 29, 2012; "Air Force Takes over Films of Flying Disks," Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle, October 5, 1950, p. 8; "Colored Films on Saucers to Be Shown," Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News, October 19, 1950, p. 17; Clark III 767–769; UFOs Yes, 81–108; Condon, pp. 407–415; Margaret Sachs, The UFO Encyclopedia, Putnam, 1980, pp. 127–128); James R. Leming, "Montana Movie," MUFON UFO Journal, no. 223 (November 1986): 10–11, 17–18; Barry Greenwood, "On the Question of Tampering with the 1950 Great Falls UFO Film," UFO Historical Revue, no. 7 (September 2000): 1–8; Michael D. Swords, GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 138–139; Michael D. Swords, "Can You Learn Anything from UFO Photos? Part Three," The Big Study, July 7, 2012; Patrick Gross, "The Great Falls, Montana, UFO Color Film, August 15, 1950")

- 1950, August 15 A top secret meeting on UFOs takes place at the Metropole Building on Northumberland Avenue in London, England. It is chaired by Hugh Young, deputy director of intelligence, and attended by representatives of the Secret Intelligence Service and Wing Commander <a href="Myles Formby">Myles Formby</a> of the Air Ministry's technical intelligence branch. Young explains that <a href="Henry Tizard">Henry Tizard</a>, chief scientific advisor to the Ministry of Defence, feels that reports of flying saucers should not be dismissed without investigation and has asked that a working party be set up to look into significant reports. RAF Fighter Command is advised that all future reports of aerial phenomena should go to the Flying Saucer Working Party. (David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 77–78; Loren E. Gross, <a href="The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs">The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs</a>, a History: January 1, 1947—December 31, 1959, Supplemental Notes, The Author, 2003, p. 35)
- 1950, August 20 An FBI informant meets with George Adamski at Alice Wells's restaurant, the Palomar Gardens Café, south of Mount Palomar, California. In addition to the standard flying saucer tales, Adamski mentions that the Federal Communications Commission has established contact with people from other planets who apparently have a communist economic system. He also predicts that Russia will dominate the world for the next 1,000 years. (Kremlin 63–71)
- 1950, August 23 FBI memo from Alan H. Belmont to D. Milton Ladd on green fireballs. The memo states that from 1948 to 1950, a variety of phenomena were witnessed more than 150 times by numerous individuals, many of whom were considered credible by government investigators, in the vicinity of Sandia and Los Alamos in New Mexico. The sightings included "flying discs" emitting "brilliant white light" as well as numerous sightings of "green fireballs" flying horizontally over the sensitive facilities. The memo also indicates that according to a "meteor expert" at the University of New Mexico—Lincoln LaPaz, director of the university's Institute of Meteoritics—"the phenomena do not appear to be of meteoric origin." LaPaz hypothesized that the strange sightings were probably a type of secret Soviet surveillance technology. (A. H. Belmont, "Summary of Aerial Phenomena in New Mexico, Miscellaneous—Information Concerning," August 23, 1950)
- 1950, August 30 10:45 a.m. During a Bell Aircraft MX-776 Shrike missile test (for the later Rascal air-to-ground strategic missile) a USAF M/Sgt and eight Bell Aircraft employees at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, see two glaringly bright circular or elliptical objects maintaining relative position to each other following the B-50 Superfortress launch aircraft from above on both the dry run and hot run prior to missile release. The objects give a "strong glare at all times" (not reflected sunlight), maneuver at high estimated speeds up to 10 times the B-50 (roughly 2,500 mph) for short distances, leave no vapor trails, hover, accelerate rapidly, and make abrupt "square" turns with apparent size changing to indicate ascent and descent. (NICAP, "Two Objects Filmed during Shrike Missile Test"; Sparks, p. 98; Maj. R. G. Illing, "Aerial Phenomena," September 13, 1950; Swords 115)
- 1950, August 31 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. After V-2 missile launch no. 51 at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Project Twinkle cinetheodolite crews track and film multiple objects sporadically several times from different directions at very high speeds over the course of 3 hours. Cinetheodolite station P-5 films an object using a one-frame-persecond 60 cm focal length camera with 35 mm color film. Frames 593 and 595 (2 seconds of nearly 10 minutes of film) show its elevation angle changing. An attempted interception by four F-86 jets from Kirtland AFB for one hour fails to locate the objects, which apparently return after the jets leave. Cinetheodolite observers note an

- object with definite shape and 3D depth but indistinct edges and no smoke or trail. The object seems to "rock or oscillate." It is lost when the observer looks away to get an angle reading. (NICAP, "Objects Filmed after V-2 Launch"; Sparks, p. 99)
- 1950, September 7:00 a.m. Three US Navy planes on a combat mission 100 miles south of the Yalu River in Korea are approached from below by two huge discs, at least 600–700 feet in diameter, traveling at 1,000–1,200 mph. The radar shows them as 1.5 miles away. Suddenly the objects halt, back up, and begin a jittering motion, keeping pace with them, circling above and below. When one pilot readies his guns, the aircraft radar goes haywire, apparently jammed. His radio transmitter is blocked by a buzzing noise. The discs are silvery and shaped like a "coolie's hat, with oblong ports from which emanated a copper-green colored light which gradually shifted to pale pastel-colored lights." A shimmering red ring circles the top portion of the disc. The objects soon speed away in the direction from which they had come. (Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, pp. 30–32; Haines, *Korea*, pp. 28–30; Powell, *Scientist*, 85)
- 1950, September The first US Army large-scale aerosol vulnerability test occurs in the San Francisco Bay Area, California, using two types of bacteria (*Bacillus globigii* and *Serratia marcescens*) and fluorescent particles. Six simulated attacks are conducted, with the conclusion that it is feasible to attack a seaport city with biological aerosol agents from a ship offshore. The first open-air tests with biological simulants are conducted in 1950 in various locales, one of which is off the coast of Norfolk, Virginia. (Wikipedia, "United States biological weapons program"; David R. Franz, Cheryl D. Parrott, and Ernest T. Takafuji, "The U.S. Biological Warfare and Biological Defense Programs," in *Medical Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare*, Office of the US Surgeon General, 1997, chap. 19)
- 1950, September George Adamski first receives national exposure as coauthor of an article in *Fate* on his fake UFO photographs. A follow-up article in July 1951 features even more dramatic photos. (Clark III 39; Maurice Weekley and George Adamski, "Flying Saucers As Astronomers See Them," *Fate* 3, no. 6 (September 1950): 56–59; George Adamski, "I Photographed Space Ships," *Fate* 4, no. 5 (July 1951): 64–74; George Noory, "*Fate* Flashback: 'Flying Saucers' in the 1950's," Coast to Coast AM, August 18, 2016)
- 1950, September 5 4:09 p.m. Flight Lt. Stan J. Hubbard is standing on the watchtower at Farnborough Airfield, Hampshire, England, with five other officers, one of whom is Wing Commander Frank Jolliffe. They all see, at a range of 10–15 miles, a light gray disc following a rectangular flight path, consisting of a "falling leaf, horizontal flight, an upward "falling leaf," then another horizontal stretch. The Working Party concludes they have imperfectly viewed some conventional aircraft. (David Clarke, "Flying Saucer Working Party," Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015; Good Need, pp. 150–151; David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 87–93; UFOFiles2, p. 41)
- 1950, September 8 Henry Holt publishes Frank Scully's Behind the Flying Saucers, the first book specifically devoted to UFOs. It sensationally claims that the US government has retrieved a crashed flying saucer and several dead pilots. Rep. Edward H. Jenison (R-III.) condemns the book as contributing to mass hysteria during a time of war in Korea. USAF Public Information Officer Clare Welch estimates that 3–4 million people have heard about saucers, thanks to the book. (Frank Scully, Behind the Flying Saucers, Holt, 1950; John L. Cotton, et al., "Flying Saucers and Frank Scully," in KNW 2333: The Scientific Method, Critical and Creative Thinking (Debunking Pseudoscience), Southern Methodist University; Robert Sheaffer, "The Frank Scully 'Crashed Saucer at Aztec' Hoax (1950)," The Debunker's Domain; Swords 103; Curt Collins, "Operation Hush-Hush: The UFO Crash and ET Bodies Cover-Up," The Saucers That Time Forgot, February 9, 2018; Graff 64–65)
- 1950, September 8 Air Force Intelligence Collection Division's Collection Control Branch (AFOIN-CC-1) at the Pentagon issues a new intelligence reporting directive requiring special handling and reporting of UFO incidents, "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft," thus reversing the cancellation directive of January 12, 1950. The action reflects the increasing interest by AFOIN Director Gen. <a href="Cabell">Cabell</a> and his dissatisfaction with AMC inaction on UFO study at Wright-Patterson AFB. (NICAP, "1950 UFO Chronology")
- **1950,** September 13 The Air Force responds to producer <u>Howard Hawks</u>'s request for the use of military locations, personnel, and equipment for his upcoming film *The Thing from Another World* by refusing to participate and objecting to any display of USAF personnel or equipment on the grounds that "it is our policy not to participate in any proposal that will perpetuate this hoax." (Swords 103–104)
- 1950, September 15 Canadian engineer Wilbert B. Smith attends a classified briefing with physicist Robert I.

  Sarbacher of the US Defense Dept.'s Research and Development Board. Smith asks if there is any truth to the Scully crash-and-retrieval story and Sarbacher replies, "The facts reported in the book are substantially correct." He says that UFOs are "classified two points higher even than the H-bomb." In 1983, Sarbacher confirms the comment to Stanton T. Friedman, although he clarifies that he was speaking about crashed UFOs in general. He

- tells UFO researcher <u>William Steinman</u> in November 1983 that he "was invited to participate in several discussions associated with the reported recoveries" of UFOs, but is unable to attend the meetings. He claims <u>Vannevar Bush</u>, <u>Eric A. Walker</u>, and <u>John von Neumann</u> are "definitely involved" in the program and probably <u>J. Robert Oppenheimer</u> as well. (Clark III 1029–1031; Good Above, <u>pp. 519–521</u>; Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study, "<u>Dr. Robert Sarbacher</u>," March 1, 2010; Wilbert B. Smith, [<u>Sarbacher interview notes</u>], September 15, 1950; Dolan II 320; Robert I. Sarbacher, [Letter to William Steinman], November 29, 1983)
- 1950, September 21 MIT research associate and Air National Guard Maj. Myron Herbert Ligda and Joseph V.

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

- Allen, "AEC Wants Info on Flying Saucers Seen near A-Plants," *The Oak Ridger*, October 12, 1950; Project 1947, "Robert S. Allen Introduction")
- 1950, October 12–December 30 Some 15 radar and visual sightings of UFOs take place over restricted airspace at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. After the observation on October 23, an unexplained increase in alpha-beta background radiation is detected; after the November 29 sighting, an alpha and gamma ray increase is correlated with unidentified radar targets in the area. (NICAP, "Huge Saucer over K-25 Area"; Memo from Strategic Air Command Knoxville to Director of FBI, "'Flying Saucers' Observed over Oak Ridge Area," October 25, 1950; "Saucers Bob Up Again in Reports," *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal*, October 26, 1950, pp. 1, 9; J. Edgar Hoover, [teletype in response], December 5, 1950; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 142–143; ClearIntent, pp. 171–173; Bruce S. Maccabee, "NCP-14: Saucers over Oak Ridge," from *UFO–FBI Connection*, Llewellyn, 2000, pp. 163–181; Francis Ridge, "The Oak Ridge Sightings including All the Tennessee Blue Book Unknowns," September 22, 2005; Sparks, pp. 100–102; Clark III 950; Swords 106–107)
- 1950, October 12 11:25 p.m. A military radar unit at Knoxville (Tenn.) Airport suddenly detects 11 "and possibly more" unidentified targets moving over the restricted flight zone at Oak Ridge. At 11:30, the radar station commander scrambles an F-82 fighter, which is airborne nine minutes later. The fighter is directed toward two targets, but the pilot sees nothing. Ground observations also fail to detect anything in the sky. (NICAP, "Military Radar at Knoxville Tracks Eleven Objects"; Memo from Strategic Air Command Knoxville to Director of FBI, "Flying Saucers' Observed over Oak Ridge Area," October 25, 1950; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 7, August–December 1950*, The Author, 1982, p. 35)
- 1950, October 13 <u>J. Edgar Hoover</u> sends a teletype message to the Special Agent in Charge in Los Angeles, California, asking him to determine whether <u>Frank Scully</u> is the same man who has been active in communist activities since the 1930s. (Anthony Bragalia, "<u>J. Edgar Hoover's Saucer Crash Secrets</u>," UFO Explorations, April 2011)
- 1950, October 15 4:20 p.m. After taking off from Raleigh, North Carolina, Miami Airlines DC-4 pilot Capt. George A. Woodward and copilot William Bardsley see four round, metallic objects descending slowly near Pope AFB [now Pope Field] at Fort Bragg. They look like two saucers fitted together and are about 100 feet in diameter, flying in a line about 25 feet apart. The pilots pursue the objects for about 3 minutes, but the objects recede then shoot away at tremendous speed. Around the same time, a similar object crosses the path of an Air Force jet near Pope AFB. (NICAP, "Pilots Report 100-Ft Round Objects"; NICAP, "Aluminum-Like Object Crosses Path of Jet")
- 1950, October 18 USAF Brig. Gen. <u>Ernest Moore</u> writes a memo to Col. <u>Harold E. Watson</u> at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, advising him of the standing policy of releasing no details about UFO case investigations. A form letter is to be used: "We have investigated and evaluated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ incident and have found nothing of value and nothing which would change our previous estimates on this subject." (Swords 102–103, 500; Powell, *Scientist*, 112–113)
- 1950, October 25 Republic Studios releases a 12-part serial, *Flying Disc Man from Mars*, the first alien-invasion movie. Mota from Mars tells scientist Dr. Bryant: "Ever since you people started working with atomic power and explosives, we have been watching you closely. We keep large atomic-powered patrol ships permanently stationed just outside your field of gravity and we make our closer inspection in small flying discs such as the one I was flying when you had me shot down." (Internet Movie Database, "Flying Disc Man from Mars"; Curt Collins, "The First Flying Saucer Invasion Movie," The Saucers That Time Forgot, June 8, 2023)
- **1950,** November 2 6:20 p.m. <u>Harold T. Wilkins</u> sees a yellow luminous ball moving silently in the south at an altitude of 2,500 feet on a level trajectory from a house in Bexleyheath, Kent, England. It disappears into a belt of cumulus clouds near the zenith. (Harold T. Wilkins, "<u>The Strange Mystery of the Foo Fighters,</u>" *Fate* 4, no. 6 (Aug./Sept. 1951): 98–106)
- **1950,** November 5 Four Pan American Airways employees (Fred Wilkinson, Patrick Joseph Maloney, Fred Perrior, and E. Newman) see a bright object fly east to west over Heathrow Airport, London, at 1,000 mph. ("Was It a Flying Saucer over London?" London *Sunday Dispatch*, November 12, 1950, p. 1; "Saucers over England," *Fate* 4, no. 2 (March 1951): 18)
- 1950, November 7 A military pilot flying a Douglas AD-4Q Skyraider near Lakehurst, New Jersey, engages in a dogfight with a steady white light that he at first mistakes for an aircraft. He gets on its tail, then the light reverses suddenly and passes 100–200 feet above his plane at incredible speed. He again tails it and the same thing happens. The light continues to "turn about me in wide, climbing turns, making about two orbits to my one." He abandons chase at 11,500 feet. (NICAP, "Light Makes 5–6 Head On Passes at Navy Plane"; Hynek UFO Report, pp. 68–70; Sparks, p. 102)
- **1950,** November 10 Col. <u>Harold E. Watson</u> at AMC brings in the press, including news columnist <u>Bob Considine</u>, for an in-depth interview on flying saucers. Watson says: "I've seen lots of flying saucers...and every single saucer

- turned out to be the sun shining off the wing or body of a distant DC-4, or jet, or a weather balloon, or it was a reflection off a water-tank or something else that is readily explainable." He characterizes witnesses as crackpots, religious fanatics, publicity hounds, or practical jokers. Considine asks him about airline pilot witnesses. Watson accuses them of being fooled by optical tricks and the power of suggestion. ("Flying Saucers Simply Don't Exist, Says Chief Air Force Investigator," Honolulu (Hawaii) Star-Bulletin, November 10, 1950, p. 18; Bob Considine, "Gagsters Keep Air Force Busy Trailing Their Tips," Lima (Ohio) News, November 16, 1950, p. 13; Swords 107–108)
- 1950, November 17 Telenews Productions releases a 9½-minute short film, *The Flying Saucer Mystery*, apparently the first UFO documentary. The film's main focus is on the best new evidence of 1950, the alleged first authentic photographs and motion picture film of flying saucers, the two snapshots by farmer Paul Trent, and the film shot by *Louisville (Ky.) Times* photographer Al Hixenbaugh on June 27, 1950. It also features UFO witness Arthur Weisberger of Tucson, Arizona, describing his sighting, apparently the only record of the event, as well as Donald E. Keyhoe and Admiral Calvin M. Bolster. The film is apparently only shown for a few months and rotates among the Telenews Theaters across the nation. It is lost for decades until it resurfaces in the 1990s. ("Flying Saucer Mystery," historycomestolife YouTube channel, July 3, 2010; Curt Collins, "The First UFO Documentary: *The Flying Saucer Mystery*," The Saucers That Time Forgot, January 9, 2020; "The First UFO Documentary: *The Flying Saucer Mystery*," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 5, 2023)
- 1950, November 21 Wilbert Smith writes a top secret memo to the Canadian Controller of Telecommunications claiming that he has talked to Canadian embassy staff in Washington, D.C., who tell him that the UFOs are the "most highly classified subject in the US government" (what Sarbacher told him) and that a "concerted effort is being made by a small group headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush." Sarbacher later verifies the information, saying the small group existed within the Research and Development Board. (W. B. Smith, "Memorandum to the Controller of Telecommunications," November 21, 1950; NICAP, "The Smith Memo, November 21, 1950"; Good Above, pp. 183, 464–466; Grant Robert Cameron, "Smith/Sarbacher Clarifications," UFO UpDates, February 10, 1997; Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions," IUR 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 10–11)
- 1950, November 26–27 —11:50 p.m. A "mysterious lighted object" flashing red, white, and green lights is seen above Huron (South Dakota) Regional Airport. Weather Bureau observer Gene Fowler, Winfield Henry of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, and Gordon Moore and Chet Fuqua, ground personnel at Western Airlines, go up to the roof of the airport administration building for a better look. Fowler is able to watch it through a theodolite used for weather balloons for 8 minutes. He says, "The azimuth reading changed from 147 degrees to 161 degrees during that period and went up seven degrees vertically." The Rapid City weather bureau and Aberdeen CAA in South Dakota estimate the object is 40–50 miles northwest of Bismarck, North Dakota. The object reappears at 1:30 a.m. and is visible, sometimes hovering, until 3:00 a.m. when it disappears to the northwest. In Aberdeen, CAA aircraft communicator William B. Hiller sees a star-like object at 2:00 a.m. and watches it for 90 minutes. It changes colors, glowing white, green, and red alternately. ("Mysterious Sight May Be 'Saucer," Rapid City (S.Dak.) Journal, November 27, 1950, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, UFOs, a History: Volume 7, August—December 1950, The Author, 1982, pp. 59–60)
- **1950,** November 27 <u>Bill Blair</u>, a commercial pilot and flight instructor, watches six elliptical objects in loose echelon formation over Evansville, Wisconsin. They are making noises like a helicopter and are flying at 500 mph at 10,000 feet. (UFOEv, p. 34)
- **1950,** December The US seaplane tender <u>USS Gardiners Bay</u> is steaming up the channel from Incheon, South Korea, when the crew sees two mysterious, smoke-trailing objects that strike the water at tremendous speed. Two columns of water rise to 100 feet in height. No aircraft are sighted overhead. (Sanderson, InvRes, <u>p. 43</u>; "<u>Sighting Flying Discs Again?</u>" *Naval Aviation News* 32, no. 2 (February 1951): 26)
- 1950, December Science writer Gerald Heard publishes *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers* in the UK, in which he speculates that with conditions on Mars being severe, the only intelligent beings that can exist there would be advanced insects. A US edition is published in April 1951 as *Is Another World Watching? The Riddle of the Flying Saucers*. (Gerald Heard, *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers*, Carroll and Nicholson, 1950; Lyle Zapato, "Of Bees and Men: *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers*," ZPi blog, January 27, 2015; Graff 65)
- 1950, December 2 Cmdr. Charles Peter Edwards, Canadian Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, approves Wilbert B. Smith's proposed plan to use the Department of Transport lab and field facilities during off-hours to gather quality UFO data. It is called Project Magnet. ("What Was the Truth about Project Magnet?" Flying Saucer Review 10, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1964): 29; Clark III 1078; Good Above, pp. 183–184; "Project Magnet Wilbert B. Smith." Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013)

- 1950, December 5 Engineer Lt. Col. John R. Hood disperses radiation counters around the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, National Laboratory's restricted area. The intent is to map the presence of any unusual radiation, in the wake of numerous UFO reports over the facility. He also sets up a source of radioactive material to see if its presence has an effect on the air above it. If the air is unusually ionized, it might be the source of the anomalous radar targets. He also mentions using a magnetometer array, but there is no documentation of the result of this effort. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs*, *a History: Volume 7*, *August–December 1950*, The Author, 1982, pp. 64–65; Swords 107)
- 1950, December 6 10:30–11:04 a.m. The ConAC Air Defense Controller notifies the HQ USAF that a number of unidentified aircraft are approaching the northeast area of the United States and that there is no reason to believe they are friendly. By radar contact it is determined that approximately 40 aircraft are in the flight at 32,000 feet on a course of 200° northeast of Limestone, Maine. The White House is notified at 10:31 a.m., and President Truman discusses the reports in a meeting with UK Prime Minister Clement Attlee. (NICAP, "Radar-Inspired National Alert"; Bruce Maccabee, "Immediate Saucer Alert! The Mystery of December 6, 1950," July 1999; Clark III 824; Sparks, p. 103)
- 1950, December 6 While F-94s are being tested at Dyess AFB near Abilene, Texas, radar catches a UFO on a highspeed intercept course with the planes. Some personnel see the object shortly afterward. Col. Robert B. Willingham claims it is not a missile. It makes 90° turns at high speed. NORAD tracks it and the object is said to crash near the Mexican border near Del Rio, Texas. Willingham and a copilot take a light aircraft to the site but are escorted away. They do see part of the crash field and pick up a small piece of metal from the ground. Willingham takes it to a Marine Corps metallurgy lab in Hagerstown, Maryland, for analysis but never sees it again. Dubious MJ-12 documents apparently refer to this UFO crash as occurring on the Mexico side of the US border in the area between El Indio, Texas, and Guerrero, Coahuila, Mexico. (Kevin D. Randle, A History of UFO Crashes, Avon, 1995, pp. 192–193; Clark III 338; "Del Rio 1955," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, March 22, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "Del Rio UFO Crash and MJ-12," A Different Perspective, July 21, 2010; Kevin D. Randle, "MJ-12's Fatal Flaw and Robert Willingham," IUR 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 4-7; "El Indio 1950," Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 5, 2014; "UFO Crash Site near Del Rio, Texas, Was Visited by F-86 Fighter Jet Pilot Robert B. Willingham, 1955," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, May 6, 2023; Kevin D. Randle, "UFO Crash Retrievals: Three with Explanations," A Different Perspective, January 15, 2024; "F-86" Sabre Pilot Robert Willingham Talks Witnessing a UFO Crash near the Texas-Mexico Border, 1955," Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, July 8, 2024)
- **1950,** December 6 5:00 p.m. Former aircraft purchasing agent <u>Harry Lamp</u> and four boys spot a 75-foot silver object hovering at 3,000 feet above the northern part of Fort Myers, Florida. Through 10x binoculars Lamp sees it is 3–4 feet thick at the edges and 14 feet thick in the center, which revolves as it hovers. The object has a red rim with two white and two orange jets along it. It flies away at high speed. (NICAP, "<u>Large Object with Bubble on Top</u>"; <u>Sparks</u>, p. 103)
- 1950, December 8 The FBI office in Richmond, Virginia, sends a telegram to FBI headquarters saying that local Army Intelligence has been put "on immediate high alert for any data whatsoever concerning flying saucers." It adds, "CIC advises data strictly confidential and should not be disseminated." (Auerbach, [teletype memo], December 8, 1950; ClearIntent, p. 175)
- 1950, December 10 7:30 p.m. RAF Group-Captain B. S. Cartmel and two friends are at the Wilderness Golf Course near Sevenoaks, Kent, England, when they see a bright light moving east to west in complete silence. It maintains a steady height of 3,000 feet moving at 130–150 mph and is visible for 5 minutes. (Good Above, pp. 28–29)
- 1950, December 12 The AFSWP's Project Nutmeg officially selects the Tonopah–Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range, Nevada, for domestic nuclear testing. (Wikipedia, "Nevada Test and Training Range")
- 1950, December 13 4:55 p.m. J. G. F. Moult and his mother are sitting at their home in Kimberley, South Africa, when they observe a bright object "like a huge mirror in the sky," hovering, and moving laterally and up and down for about 3 minutes. It goes behind a cloud but can still be seen, appearing like a "piece of magnesium wire burning with a bright, purplish-white light." It dives through the clouds, turns sharply, and shoots out of sight. (David Marais, "The Outspan Magazine, January 1, 1954")
- **1950**, Late December USAF Capt. <u>J. E. Broyles</u> sees an aluminum-like oval object with a conical tail moving slowly in the sky near Cheyenne, Wyoming. (UFOEv, p. 20)
- 1950, December 26 Harvard University historian William L. Langer, special assistant for intelligence analysis to US Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, organizes the CIA Office of National Estimates, a forerunner of the National Intelligence Council. (Central Intelligence Agency, "Staff Conference: Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's Conference Room, Administration Building, Tuesday, 26 December 1950, at 1100 Hours")
- **1950,** December 27 Sunset. A TWA flight, piloted by Capt. Art Shutts, is enroute from Chicago to Kansas City. Near Bradford, Illinois, Shutts notices a bright white light ahead of the plane, also flashing red and green occasionally.

It begins to "wobble and swerve unsteadily," then streaks back and forth in a north-south line through an arc of 10–30°, changing direction abruptly. He notices that the horizon near the UFO appears to vibrate as if light is distorted, especially after the object puts on a burst of speed. It dims to a pinpoint and begins to slowly move south. Suddenly it lurches, accelerates rapidly, zooms upward at a 45° angle, makes a nearly square turn, plunges downward, and disappears below the horizon to the north. It is visible for 25 minutes. (UFOEv, p. 40)

## 1951

- 1951 While flying an F-86 Sabrejet over West Germany, USAF pilot <u>Gordon Cooper</u> sees several metallic discs flying at a high altitude. He claims to "have two days of observation of many flights of them, of different sizes, flying in fighter formation, generally from east to west over Europe." (Gordon Cooper and Bruce Henderson, *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey into the Unknown*, HarperCollins, 2000, pp. 80–81; "<u>UFO Sightings by Astronauts</u>," Syti.net, January 30, 2001; "<u>Astronaut Gordon Cooper Talks about UFOs</u>," Elhardt YouTube channel, December 27, 2007; James Oberg, "<u>The Puzzle of Astronaut Gordon Cooper's UFO Stories</u>," jamesoberg.com, 2014)
- 1951 The intelligence unit of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing puts out periodic intelligence reports through 1953 that cover ground and air operations, unusual incidents, and UFO reports in Korea. The UFO reports are in a different category from unidentified aircraft. Some of these reports do not appear in Project Blue Book. (Jan Aldrich)
- **1951** The Atomic Energy Commission uses its parallel system of secret-keeping to conduct controversial research, development, and engineering on aircraft and pilot-related projects, entirely without oversight.
- 1951 Marc Thirouin founds the first UFO group in France, the Commission Internationale d'Enquêtes sur les Soucoupes Volantes, in Paris. It begins publishing *Ouranos* in June 1952 and issues 32 numbers through 1966, reviving in 1972 after Thirouin's death with a new series that lasts until 1980. (*Ouranos*, no. 1)
- 1951, January Author and journalist <u>Bob Considine</u>'s article appears in *Cosmopolitan*, debunking all UFO stories as delusions and hoaxes, and quoting a weary Air Force Col. <u>Harold E. Watson</u>, who has replaced <u>McCoy</u> in Project Grudge. It offends people so badly that many pilots afterward refuse to report UFO sightings to the Air Force. USAF Public Information Officer Clare Welch, who has set this interview up, believes the Air Force has better things to do and is out of step with Cabell's renewed interest. (Bob Considine, "<u>The Disgraceful Flying Saucer Hoax!</u>" *Cosmopolitan*, January 1951, pp. 32–33, 100–102, <u>republished</u> by Project 1947; Swords 113–114; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 75–76)
- **1951,** January 1 7:00 a.m. Katie Sowell watches an object about 30–50 feet in diameter, like two "upside down saucers" revolving counterclockwise and darting low over her farmhouse near Oak Grove, Louisiana. It has rectangular, opaque windows. It is seen for 15–20 minutes at close range. It banks and disappears, going straight up. (*Huntsville (Ala.) Times,* February 5, 1974; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental Notes,* The Author, 2000, pp. 1–2)
- 1951, January 1 The Air Defense Command, inactivated since July 1, 1950, is reinstated as a major command at Mitchel AFB [now closed] in Long Island, New York. The HQ is moved to Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a week later. (Wikipedia, "Aerospace Defense Command")
- 1951, January 16 Raymond Dugan and Raymond E. Stiles, members of the General Mills Aeronautical Research Laboratory balloon project, observe a round disc near their Skyhook balloon over Artesia, New Mexico. The balloon is at a height of 112,000 feet. A short time later, Dugan, Stiles, and four civilian pilots at Artesia Airport see two similar objects circling the same balloon that then fly off to the northeast. (NICAP, "Two Discs Approach Skyhook"; Project Blue Book, [Artesia documents]; Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, eds., *UFO's: A Scientific Debate*, Cornell University, 1972, pp. xxi–xxii; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 69–70; Sparks, p. 104; Swords 166)
- 1951, January 20 9:20 p.m. Sioux City, Iowa, CAA Control Tower operator John M. Williams sees an odd light in the west. Capt. Lawrence W. Vinther and copilot James F. Bachmeier of Mid-Continent Airlines Flight 9 takes off and Vinther is asked by the tower to look for the light. While still in a climbing turn at about 1,000 feet, the pilots spot the object to the north-northwest at about 8,000 feet and 4 miles away. It looks like a B-29 fuselage with wings but no engines and blinks some lights like running lights. The object comes towards the DC-3, flies across the nose within 200 feet, then suddenly reappears on the other side, paralleling them for 2–3 seconds. The object then flies under them and disappears to the northwest. This is one of the first reports to make it into the CIRVIS system specified by JANAP 146. (NICAP, "UFO Buzzes DC-3"; Lawrence W. Vinther, "Another Saucer Mystery," Flying 48 (June 1951): 23, 56, reprinted by Project 1947; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robet Ginna, "Have