

UFOs and Intelligence: A Timeline

November 18, 2024

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After an effort of many years, I have prepared a comprehensive timeline of UFO history that will be useful to UFO researchers and historians. “UFOs and Intelligence” is an up-to-date retrospective of UFO history (from the airship of Clonmacnoise to the newly appointed US investigation agency All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office), intertwined with events in US and world history concerning military and civilian intelligence agencies and the cult of secrecy. It is now more than 1,000 pages and more than 900,000 words (including a substantial “Sources and Further Reading” appendix). Readers will discover or rediscover many events, people, and UFO cases they may not be familiar with. Some will find it useful for current or planned research projects. Military cases, those involving commercial aircraft, close encounters involving physical traces and other evidence, reports involving occupants or entities, and events surrounding military and sensitive nuclear sites are emphasized, but this timeline covers the full spectrum of UFO history, from contactee experiences to misidentifications of mundane phenomena and notorious hoaxes. Links to online sources are given, and links to biographical information are provided when available. A timeline like this allows us to view events from a different perspective, letting us make connections we might not otherwise see. It forces us to view the big picture, amid the grand flow of UFO cases, military security decisions, a vast swathe of personalities, and world history. As of 2022, all references have proper bibliographical citations with **embedded links**; if you have a version with **raw URL links**, it is an earlier version. **Dead links** will be repaired as quickly as possible. A special note of thanks to Jeff Knox, a UFO researcher in Oregon who has been helping me improve this document with corrections, additions, and amplifications.

743

743 (or 744 or 748) — Ships with men aboard are seen in the air over Ireland, according to entries in the *Annals of Ulster*, the *Annals of Tigernach*, the *Annals of Clonmacnoise*, the *Annals of the Four Masters*, and some manuscripts of *Leabar Gabála*. Later accounts through the Middle Ages progressively expand on this with picturesque details. First the ships are reduced to one ship over Teltown, County Meath, from which a crewman throws and then recovers a fishing-spear. Then the scene shifts to the abbey of Clonmacnoise in County Offaly, and later to Britain, and the fishing-spear is changed to an anchor that snags on some feature of a church. The sailor who climbs down to release it is also said to be in danger of drowning in the thicker air of this lower world. The event is variously interpreted as unusual cloud formations, an aurora borealis, an ocean mirage, or UFOs. (Wikipedia, “[Airship of Clonmacnoise](#)”; Felix Liebrecht, “[De mari](#),” in *Des Gervasius von Tilbury Otia Imperialia*, Hannover, 1856, pp. 2–3; Kuno Meyer, “[The Irish Mirabilia in the Norse ‘Speculum Regale’](#),” *Ériu* 4 (1910): 1–16; John Carey, “[Aerial Ships and Underwater Monasteries: The Evolution of a Monastic Marvel](#),” *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 12 (1992): 16–28; Michael McCaughan, “[Voyagers in the Vault of Heaven: The Phenomenon of Ships in the Sky in Medieval Ireland and Beyond](#),” *Material Culture Review*, vol. 48, no. 1 (Fall 1998): 170–180)

812

812 — [Agobard](#), the archbishop of Lyon, France, writes *De Grandine et Tonitruis* (“On Hail and Thunder”), in which he condemns pagan folk beliefs, such as the notion of a “certain region called Magonia, from which ships, navigating on clouds, set sail to transport back to this same region the fruits of the earth ruined by hail and destroyed by the storm.” He cites an episode in which some foolish peasants capture “three men and one woman who they said had fallen from these ships.” Brought out in front of an enraged mob, Agobard intervenes and prevents their lynching, persuading the crowd that the charges are false and absurd. Some ufologists interpret this as a visitation from an alternate reality or an abduction case, while Jean-Louis Brodu observes that in the 9th century the atmosphere was likened to an ocean in which aerial ships could navigate from point to point on the earth. Miceal Ross argues that Magonia is a corruption of *Magonianus*, relating to the city of Mahón, the port of the island of Menorca, Spain. (Wikipedia, “[Magonia](#)”; Agobard, *De la Grêle et du Tonnerre*, Lyon, 1841, [pp. 8–11](#); Jean-Louis Brodu, “Magonia: A Re-Evaluation,” *Fortean Studies* 2 (1995): 198–215; Miceal Ross, “[Anchors in a Three-Decker World](#),” *Folklore* 109 (1998): 63–75; Vallée, *Magonia*, [pp. 23–24](#); Clark III 1213–1214; Vallée and Aubeck,

Wonders in the Sky, Tarcher, 2009, [pp. 70–73](#); Pierre Chambert-Protat, “[Florus de Lyon et les Extra-terrestres](#),” *Florus de Lyon*, November 4, 2014; Pierre Lagrange, “[Agobard, la Magonie et les ovnis](#),” *Actualité*, no. 440 (October 2017): 28–29)

1060

1060 (approximately) — A large luminous object (a “pearl”) begins to appear near Yangzhou, China, for a period of 10 years. At first it is seen in a swamp, then it changes location to two different lakes. A friend of the author sees it one night when it opens a door so that light shoots out from the crack “like a golden ray.” The door opens further, revealing a bright, silvery light inside, so much so that the trees are illuminated as if by a sunrise. Suddenly it takes off through the air and over the water, “shining like the sun.” It appears so frequently that the location attracts regular tourists, but it stops appearing and people search for it in vain. (Shen Kuo, “[Brush Talks from Dream Book](#),” in *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*, Columbia University, 1994, p. 593)

1252

1252 — A bright globe of light nearly as large as the moon is seen above Padua, Italy, for one hour before vanishing. It moves faster than the moon, just as fast as a falling star. (Rolandino of Padua, *Cronica in Factis circa Facta Marchiae Trivixane*, a cura di Antonio Bonardi, in *Raccolta degli Storici Italiani...ordinata da L. A. Muratori*, vol. 8, part 1, Castella, 1908, [p. 100](#))

1290

1290 — October 28. The story of a large silver disk seen in the sky over Byland Abbey, in North Yorkshire, England, is a hoax perpetrated by two British teenagers in 1953. ([Letter], *London Times*, January 9, 1953; Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, British Book Centre, 1953, [pp. 22–23](#); Condon, [pp. 493–495](#); Jason Colavito, “[The Byland Abbey UFO Sighting: Anatomy of a Hoax](#),” Jason Colavito blog, May 4, 2015)

1440

1440 — [Nicholas of Cusa](#) publishes *On Learned Ignorance*, in which he advocates not only the idea of a plurality of worlds but also the existence of life on the moon and sun. (Wikipedia, “[De Docta Ignorantia](#)”)

1457

1457 — French theologian [William Vorilong](#) agrees that God could create another inhabited world, but adds that [Jesus of Nazareth](#) only redeemed this world. God would have to address the issue of sin in other worlds on an individual basis. (David Darling, “[Encyclopedia](#)”)

1461

1461, November 1 — Night. A bright object like a long and thick iron bar is seen in the vicinity of Arras, France. It appears as bright as the full moon and remains visible for about 7 minutes, apparently moving in a spiral. (Frédéric de Reiffenberg, ed., *Mémoires de J. du Clercq*, vol. 3, [chapter 37](#), Brussels, 1823, p. 189; Jason Colavito, “[The UFO over Arras on November 1, 1461: Six Decades of Translation Issues](#),” Jason Colavito blog, March 22, 2015)

1492

1492, October 11 — 10:00 p.m. Standing on the deck of the *Santa María*, [Christopher Columbus](#) sees a light in the distance “like a small wax candle that rose and lifted up.” Another sailor also sees the faint light. Columbus considers it an indication of land, and he indeed makes landfall on San Salvador Island, or one of the other islands in the Bahamas, about four hours later. Historians attribute the light to canoes, fires onshore, or bioluminescence. (“[The Diario of Christopher Columbus \(October 11–15, 1492\)](#),” History Is a Weapon; Washington Irving, ed., *The Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, G. & C. Carvill, 1828, vol. 1, [p. 146](#); Laura Geggel, “[A Mysterious Light Gleamed as Columbus Drew Near](#),” *New York Times*, Green blog, October 8, 2012)

1532

1532 — [Juan Maldonado](#), a Spanish cleric, writes *Somnium*, in which he travels to the Moon in a dream. There he is taken to a lunar city, whose houses around the square are identical and symmetrical. The building is exceptional, with fine materials which remind him of the New Jerusalem. The temple’s central location and its wonderful execution stand out. The inhabitants play, dance, and bathe in a lake in the center of the city. They are all equal and treat each other with respect. He finally comes back to the Earth, to a city in America, where he talks to locals who are Christians. (“[Utopian Texts](#)”; Daniel Garcia Valdes, “[Somnium, de Juan Maldonado: ¿Primera novela de ciencia ficción de la historia?](#)” La Soga, Revista Cultural, January 13, 2020)

1547

1547, December 15 — Mariners in the port of Hamburg, Germany, see a fireball moving to the south. Its rays are so hot that passengers cannot remain inside the ships. Thinking the vessels are about to burn, they hide and take cover. (Simon Goulart, *Thrésor d’histoires admirables et mémorables de nostre temps*, Geneva, 1600, [vol. 1, p. 55](#))

1561

1561, April 14 — Dusk. A “frightening vision” is seen in the sky above Nuremberg, Germany, said to be observed by many. Printer [Hans Glaser](#) describes in his broadside many blood-red, blue, and black balls or discs near the Sun. “They were three alongside each other, sometimes four in a square, and several alone, and between these balls blood-colored crosses” are seen. Two “great pipes” (cannon) are also observed, and everything starts to “fight against each other.” The battle lasts about one hour, then the burning balls fall to the earth and vanish on the ground. Although cited as a possible early UFO report, the narrative is simply about a battle in the sky by phantom armies told as an allegory of what awaits an unrepentant humanity on Judgment Day. A meteorological cause is also possible. (“[Nürnberg Flugblatt von 1561](#),” Wikipedia; Hans Glaser, *Himmelserscheinung über Nürnberg am 14. April 1561*, Holzschnitt, 1561; Carl Jung, *Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies*, Mentor ed., 1969, [pp. 103–104](#), between [pp. 120–121](#); Frank Johnson, “[Nuremberg 1561 UFO ‘Battle’ Debunked](#),” Ancient Aliens Debunked, December 12, 2012; Ulrich Magin, “A UFO in the Year 1561,” *Fortean Times* 283 (February 2012): 40–42; Ulrich Magin, “[Ein UFO im Jahr 1561?](#)”; “[14th April 1561: The Nuremberg Celestial Phenomenon](#),” HistoryPod YouTube channel, April 13, 2015)

1566

1566, July 27–28, August 7 — Sunrise. In Basel, Switzerland, numerous large black balls are said to have been seen passing around the sun, apparently engaged in a fight. Many turn red and are extinguished. [Ulrich Magin](#) suggests that the description is an apocryphal sky battle that is a warning sign from God. (“[Basler Flugblatt von 1566](#),” Wikipedia; Samuel Koch, *Seltzame gestalt so in diesem M.D.LXVI. Jar Gegen auffgang und nidergang, under dreyen malen am Himmel ist gesehen worden, zu Basel auff den xxvij. Und xxvij. Höwmonat und volgends auf den vij Augsten*, Basel, Samuel Apiarius, 1558)

1584

1584 — Italian philosopher [Giordano Bruno](#) introduces in his *De l'infinito, universo e mondi* the idea of multiple worlds supporting the infinite possibilities of a pristine, indivisible One. His character Philotheo claims that “innumerable celestial bodies, stars, globes, suns, and earths may be sensibly perceived therein by us and an infinite number of them may be inferred by our own reason.” (Wikipedia, “[De l'infinito, universe e mondi](#)”; Giordano Bruno, *De l'infinito universo e mondi*, Venice, 1584)

1608

1608 — German astronomer [Johannes Kepler](#) writes *Somnium* to describe what practicing astronomy would be like from the perspective of another planet and to show the feasibility of a non-geocentric system. The manuscript, which disappears after changing hands several times, describes a fantastic trip to the Moon; it is part allegory, part autobiography, and part treatise on interplanetary travel, and is sometimes described as the first work of science fiction. It is published posthumously by his son, Ludwig Kepler. (Wikipedia, “[Somnium \(novel\)](#)”; Johannes Kepler, *Somnium, seu opus posthumum De astronomia lunari*, Frankfurt, 1634)

1627

1627 — English bishop [Francis Godwin](#) writes *The Man in the Moone*, describing a Spaniard named Gonsales who flies to the Moon (with the help of some swans) and visits people there who are Christians living in a utopian society. The Lunars speak a language consisting “not so much of words and letters as tunes and strange sounds,” which Gonsales succeeds in gaining some fluency in after a couple of months. He discovers that their unruly children are swapped out for better-behaved kids on Earth. (Wikipedia, “[The Man in the Moone](#)”)

1630

1630, January 25 — 7:00 p.m. German astronomer [Wilhelm Schickard](#) observes a bright-white oval or egg-shaped object in the northern sky above Tübingen, Germany. The object is later joined by two other white shapes, although in differing stages of intensity. One looks like an “overturned cauldron,” while the other is similar to a “long whetstone ground down on both sides.” The cloud-like objects do not flicker like stars but seem to fade in and out of visibility. Colored lights also appear around the original object over a period of three hours. (Wilhelm Schickard, *Beschreibung des Wunder-Zeichens, welches Montags den 25. Januar 1630 gegen Norden gesehen worden*, 1630; Andreas Müller, “[Prof. Wilhelm Schickard \(1592–1635\): UFO-Zeuge und Deutschlands erster UFO-Forscher](#),” *grenzWissenschaft-aktuelle.de*, August 19, 2023)

1632

1632 — Italian astronomer [Galileo Galilei](#) writes in *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* that if life exists on the Moon, it must be “extremely diverse and far beyond our imagining.” (Wikipedia, “[Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems](#)”)

1638

1638 — English clergyman and philosopher [John Wilkins](#) writes *The Discovery of a World in the Moone*, in which he highlights the similarities of the Earth and the Moon (seas, mountains, atmosphere) and concludes that the Moon is likely to be inhabited by living beings, whom he calls “Selenites.” (John Wilkins, *The Discovery of a World in the Moone*, 1638; Maria Avxentevskaya, “[How 17th Century Dreamers Planned to Reach the Moon](#),” *Real Clear Science*, December 2, 2017)

1638 — Night. John Everett and two companions are crossing the Muddy River near Boston, Massachusetts, in a boat when a “great light” appears above them. It darts back and forth across the river, sometimes hovering and “flaming up,” for about 2–3 hours. After they stop watching it, they discover that their boat has moved about one mile against the current to the place where they had embarked. (John Winthrop, *The History of New England from 1630 to 1649*, Little, Brown, 1853, [vol. 1, pp. 349–350](#))

1647

1647, June 6 — French philosopher [René Descartes](#) in a letter opines that he sees no reason why God would not create intelligent creatures in the stars. ([Letter to Pierre Chanut](#), in *Oeuvres des Descartes*, ed. Charles Adam and Paul Tannery, 1903, vol. 5, pp. 54–55)

1657

1657 — The French dramatist [Cyrano de Bergerac](#)’s novel, *L’Autre monde ou les états et empires de la Lune* is published, detailing his attempts to reach the Moon to prove there is a civilization that sees the Earth as its own moon. (Wikipedia, “[Comical History of the States and Empires of the Moon](#)”)

1663

1663, August 15 — 12:00 noon. The faithful gathered in a church in a village near Lake Zarobozero, Vologda Oblast, Russia, hear a loud noise outside and see a large ball of fire descend from the north and then head south following the lake, low over its surface. The fireball seems to measure about 140 feet across and has blue smoke issuing from its sides. Two fiery rays extend from its front part. Less than an hour later, a similar fireball reappears over the same lake. Moving from south to west, the object again disappears. It reappears a third time a short while later, this time larger than before, and stays over the lake for an hour and a half. Peasants in a boat try to get close to it, but the heat is too intense. The water of the lake is illuminated to a depth of 30 feet, and fish are seen swimming away from the object, which then flies off to the west. (*Akty istoricheskije, sobranye i izdanye Arkheograficheskaja Kommissiia*, Vol. 4, Saint Petersburg, 1842, [pp. 331–332](#); Hobana and Weverbergh 54–61; Paul Stonehill, *The Soviet UFO Files*, 1998, pp. 16–17; Jacques Vallée and Chris Aubeck, *Wonders in the Sky*, Tarcher, 2009, [pp. 215–217](#); Thomas E. Bullard, “[Defending UFOs](#),” *IUR* 34, no. 2 (March 2012): 31; “[Russian Fireball Weirdness, 1663](#),” Beachcombing’s Bizarre History Blog, March 8, 2014; Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 157–161)

1665

1665, April 8 — 6:00 p.m. Numerous wonders are seen in the sky over Stralsund, Germany, including ships, large flocks of birds, fire, and smoke, as well as a dark “round flat form like a plate and like a big man’s hat” that hovers above St. Nicholas Church for one hour. Witnesses include several fishermen who later complain of tremors in their hands and feet. ([Eine abgebildete Beschreibung von dem wunderbarlichen Stralsundischen Luft-Kriege und Schiff-streite](#), Leipzig, 1665; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 23–38; Andreas Müller, “[UFO 1665: Sonderausstellung in der Kunstbibliothek Berlin widmet sich historischen Darstellungen unidentifizierter Flugobjekte und Phänomene](#),” *grenzWissenschaft-aktuelle.de*, May 3, 2023; Moritz Wullen, “[A UFO in 1665: The Air Battle of Stralsund](#),” Kunstbibliothek, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, May 5, 2023)

1686

1686 — French philosopher [Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle](#) writes *Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds*, in which he expresses the idea that the stars are distant suns that might have their own planetary systems, including the

possibility of extraterrestrial life. He imagines Venusians to be “little black people, scorched with the Sun, full of fire, very amorous.” (Wikipedia, “[Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds](#)”)

1698

1698 — Dutch astronomer [Christiaan Huygens](#) has a work posthumously published, *Cosmotheoros* (or, in its English title *Celestial Worlds Discover’d: Or, Conjectures Concerning the Inhabitants, Plants and Productions of the Worlds in the Planets*) that will within two decades be available in five languages beyond its original Latin version. He speculates that other planets also harbor plant and animal life. (Christiaan Huygens, [Celestial Worlds Discover’d](#), 1722)

1737

1737, December 5 — 5:00 p.m. Physician [Thomas Short](#) witnesses a blood-red luminous display in the sky around Sheffield, England, which moves from west to north and then to the east. The cause seems to be one or more clouds in which are embedded brilliant lights as bright as the full moon that give off slow-moving streamers or rays. The display is accompanied by unseasonable heat and lasts until 10:30 p.m. Short hears that a similar phenomenon is seen at the same time in Venice, Italy, and Kilkenny, Ireland, where it appears as a bursting fireball. (Thomas Short, “[An Account of Several Meteors](#),” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 41 (1741): 625–627)

1737, December 6 — Afternoon. A large, blood-red object is seen in the western sky at Bucharest, Wallachia [now Romania]. It lingers for two hours before splitting up then reuniting once again. The phenomenon is said to have occurred at night in the Banat region. (Hobana and Weverbergh 222; Romania 4)

1741

1741, September 21 — Dawn. Parson-naturalist [Gilbert White](#) wakes up at his vicarage in Selborne, Hampshire, England, and finds the neighboring clover fields matted all over with a thick coat of cobwebs, laced with dew. The dogs are blinded by it when they attempt to hunt. At 9:00 a.m. more cobwebs fall from the sky and continue until dusk. They are “perfect flakes or rags; some near an inch broad, and five or six long, which fell with a degree of velocity that showed they were considerably heavier than the atmosphere.” The fall extends to the neighboring villages of New Alresford and Bradley. (Gilbert White, *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, 1789, [Letter XXIII](#))

1742

1742, December 16? — 8:40 p.m. Physician [Cromwell Mortimer](#), secretary of the Royal Society, is walking through St. James’s Park in Westminster, London, England, when he sees a light ascend from behind the trees and houses in the southwest. When it reaches 20° against the sky, it takes a horizontal path with an undulating motion before disappearing in the northeast after a full 30 seconds. The front part is luminous with a frame-like structure behind it, and it has a faint trail. The date is questionable since Mortimer calls this a “Thursday” and December 16 was a Sunday. ([[A Note by Cromwell Mortimer](#)], *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 43 (1745): 524–525)

1745

1745, July 14 — Astronomer [George Costard](#) observes a meteoric stream of fire whose trail persists for at least one hour at Standlake Broad west of Oxford, England. (“Part of a Letter from the Reverend Mr. Geo. Costard to Mr. John Catlin, concerning a Fiery Meteor Seen in the Air on July 14, 1745,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 43 (1745): [522–524](#))

1749

1749, November 4 — 11:50 a.m. The crew of the [HMS Montagu](#) watches a large blue fireball, apparently low on the water, head directly toward them from the northeast and explode some 150 feet away from the ship, causing some damage to the mast, before it continues on toward the southwest. The incident takes place in the North Atlantic Ocean some 240 miles west of Cape Finisterre, Spain. (Chalmers, “[An Account of an Extraordinary Fireball Bursting at Sea](#),” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 46 (1752): 366–367; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 67–75; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 2, Anomalist, 2021, pp. 105–114)

1755

1755, March — German philosopher [Immanuel Kant](#) publishes *Universal Natural History and Theory of the Heavens*, in which he theorizes that distance from the Sun determines the intelligence level of a world’s inhabitants; thus, the people who live on Mercury are the stupidest, and the Venusians are only dimly brighter—making any Jupiterians and Saturnians much smarter than earthlings. (Wikipedia, “[Universal Natural History and Theory of the Heavens](#)”)

1756

1756 — Scottish astronomer [James Ferguson](#) writes *Astronomy Explained upon Sir Isaac Newton’s Principles*, proclaiming the certainty of a plurality of inhabited worlds “peopled with myriads of intelligent beings, formed for endless progression in perfection and felicity.” (James Ferguson, *Astronomy Explained upon Sir Isaac Newton’s Principles*, 8th ed., London, 1790, [p. 6](#); Matthew Goodman, *The Sun and the Moon*, Basic Books, 2008, [pp. 189–190](#))

1758

1758 — Swedish theologian and mystic [Emanuel Swedenborg](#) writes in *The Earths in the Universe* that that he has conversed with spirits from Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Saturn, Venus, and the Moon, as well as spirits from planets beyond the solar system. From these encounters, he concludes that the planets are all inhabited and that such an enormous undertaking as the universe cannot have been created for just one race on one planet. (Emanuel Swedenborg, *The Earths in the Universe*, London, 1875; Richard Smoley, “[Is There Really Life on Other Planets?](#)” Swedenborg Foundation, February 15, 2019)

1759

1759, April 27 — 4:00 p.m. Following a clap of thunder, a flat, pale object is seen “dancing” in the sky over Longdon, Somerset, England. It is joined by three similar objects, all of which move from west to east for 30 seconds and disappear in a cloud. (London *Universal Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, May 5, 1759; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 83–96)

1762

1762, August 9 — 12:00 noon. An amateur astronomer named de Rostan is observing the Sun at Lausanne, Switzerland, when he notices a large, spindle-shaped body moving across the solar disc from east to west at a slower rate of speed than sunspots move. It is surrounded by a thin “nebulousity.” An observer named Croste in Solothurn, Switzerland, also observes the object, but French astronomer [Charles Messier](#), who is also taking solar measurements in Paris, France, does not see it. It remains visible until September 7, when it passes the Sun’s western limb. (“[Observation Astronomique](#),” *Histoire de l’Académie Royale des Sciences*, 1766, pp. 106–107;

[“An Account of a Very Singular Phaenomenon Seen in the Disk of the Sun,”](#) *Annual Register*, 1766, pp. 120–122; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 2, *Anomalist*, 2021, pp. 33–45)

1767

1767, September 9 — A cloud “like a house on fire” that soon takes on a pyramidal form is seen traveling along the course of the River Isla near Coupar Angus, Perth, Scotland. It moves northeast to the confluence of the River Erich and follows that stream to the west toward Blairgowrie where it disappears. It is accompanied by strong winds that destroy two houses. (*Annual Register* 1767, [pp. 127–128](#))

1775

1775 — [Louis-Guillaume de Lafolie](#) writes *Le Philosophe sans prétention*, a work of proto-science fiction in which he follows a narrator, an Arab named Nadir who, in a vision, beholds the voyages of a Mercurian named Ormisais. In his description of life on Mercury, Ormisais relates the workings of an elite scientific-literary organization (like the British Royal Society) but much more restrictive, with only a dozen members. One of the applicants for the latest vacancy is a young inventor, Scintilla, the true hero of the tale. He shows the Academy members his flying machine, “an elaborate combination of wheels, globes of glass, springs, wires, glass-covered wooden uprights, a plate rubbed with camphor and covered with gold leaf.” After a short demonstration flight, Ormisais is chosen to take the trip to Earth, but he crashes and is stranded, a stranger in a strange land. He tells Nadir that it took him 500 hours to ascend or descend to Earth; the universe, he says, has neither height nor depth nor center nor frontiers. (Chris Aubeck, *Alien Artifacts, Volume 1: From Antiquity to 1880*, The Author, 2022, p. 35)

1777

1777, June 17 — 11:46 a.m. French astronomer [Charles Messier](#) views a large number of round, dark-brown globules passing in front of the disc of the sun for 5 minutes from west-southwest to east-northeast. He sees them through an achromatic refractor at the naval observatory located in the Hôtel de Cluny in Paris, France. His estimate of their size (one-600th the size of the solar disc) puts them near the limit of resolution for his telescope, but Messier claims the objects are far away and in focus. Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht conclude, based on the telescope Messier used and his observational data, that the globules were “not grossly out-of-focus nearby particles” (in other words an optical artifact) and probably were objects at a distance of several miles or so away. What those objects were is impossible to determine today. (Charles Messier, “[Observation singulière d’une prodigieuse quantité de petits globules qui ont passé devant le disque du soleil, le 17 juin 1777.](#)” *Mémoires de l’Académie Royale des Sciences*, 1777, pp. 464–472; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, *Anomalist*, 2019, pp. 7–18)

1783

1783 — British astronomer [William Herschel](#) has been observing the lunar surface since the mid-1770s in Bath, England, and writes journal entries in which he details sightings of immense trees, forests, and pastures, comparing it to the English countryside. By 1778, he is seeing circular formations that he thinks are towns and villages. He also notes canals, roads, and patches of vegetation, but never writes about it publicly, since he knows that telescopic observations can be tricky. (George Basalla, *Civilized Life in the Universe*, Oxford University, 2006, [pp. 51–52](#))

1783, August 18 — 9:15–9:30 p.m. An unusually bright bolide is observed in the British Isles on a clear, dry night. Analysis indicates that the meteor has entered the Earth’s atmosphere over the North Sea, before passing over the east coast of Scotland, England, and the English Channel; it finally breaks up, after a passage within the atmosphere of around 1,000 miles, over southwestern France or northern Italy. Perhaps the most prominent witness is [Tiberius Cavallo](#), an Italian natural philosopher who happens to be among a group of people on the terrace at Windsor Castle, Berkshire, England, at the time the meteor appears. (Wikipedia, “[1783 Great Meteor](#)”;

Tiberius Cavallo, "[Description of a Meteor, Observed Aug. 18, 1783](#)," *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 74 (1784): 108–111; Charles Blagden, "[An Account of Some Late Fiery Meteors](#)," *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 74 (1784): 202–232; Martin Beech, "[The Great Meteor of 18th August 1783](#)," *Journal of the British Astronomical Association* 99 (1989): 130–134; Kaushik Patowary, "[The Great Meteor of 1783](#)," *Amusing Planet*, September 8, 2021)

1783, September 19 — The [Montgolfier brothers](#), Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne, publicly demonstrate their *Aérostat Réveillon* balloon at Versailles, France, for [Louis XVI](#) and [Marie Antoinette](#). It is flown with the first living beings in a basket attached to the balloon: a sheep called Montauciel ("Climb-to-the-sky"), a duck, and a rooster. The sheep is believed to have a reasonable approximation of human physiology. The duck is expected to be unharmed by being lifted aloft. It is included as a control for effects created by the aircraft rather than the altitude. The rooster is included as a further control, as it is a bird that does not fly at high altitudes. The flight lasts approximately eight minutes, covers 2 miles, and reaches an altitude of about 1,500 feet. Some 100,000 people witness the event. The craft lands safely in the woods of Vaucresson, with the sheep unperturbed, the duck upset, and rooster killed with a broken neck. (Wikipedia, "[Montgolfier brothers](#)"; *The Romance of Ballooning: The Story of the Early Aeronauts*, Viking Press, 1971, pp. 18–19; C. C. Gillispie, *The Montgolfier Brothers and the Invention of Aviation, 1783–1784*, Princeton University, 1983, pp. 92–93)

1783, November 21 — 1:54 p.m. The first balloon to carry humans aloft in free flight is launched by the [Montgolfier brothers](#) in a public demonstration at the Château de la Muette in Paris. The aeronauts are [Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier](#) and [François Laurent d'Arlandes](#). They take off, observed by [Louis XVI](#), various members of the court and Academy, and [Benjamin Franklin](#). The balloon travels slowly for 25 minutes and 5.5 miles to the southeast, attaining a height of 3,000 feet. Burning embers are scorching the balloon fabric and have to be daubed out with sponges and Pilâtre's coat, so even though they have fuel remaining, they return to the ground at Butte-aux-Cailles between two windmills. Upon landing, the pilots drink champagne. (Wikipedia, "[Montgolfier brothers](#)"; *The Romance of Ballooning: The Story of the Early Aeronauts*, Viking Press, 1971, pp. 20–21; C. C. Gillispie, *The Montgolfier Brothers and the Invention of Aviation, 1783–1784*, Princeton University, 1983; Richard Holmes, *The Age of Wonder*, Vintage, 2008; S. L. Kotar and J. E. Gessler, *Ballooning: A History, 1782–1900*, McFarland, 2011, pp. 9–17)

1790

1790, June 12 — 5:00 a.m. Several farmers in Alençon, Normandy, France, see a large globe surrounded by flames and making a whistling sound. The object slows, oscillates, and moves toward the top of a hill, unearthing some plants along the slope. The heat is so intense that grass and small trees start burning. In the evening the sphere is still warm. Witnesses include two mayors, a doctor, and three other authorities in addition to the dozens of peasants who are present. A kind of door opens and a person emerges. He is dressed in a tight-fitting suit and, seeing all the people, says some words that are not understood. He runs into the woods. The sphere explodes silently, throwing pieces everywhere, and these pieces burn until they are powder. The original source is allegedly from a June 17 report by a Police Inspector Liabeuf and forwarded to the French Academy of Sciences. However, the Academy reported in 2006 that it has no knowledge of such a report in its archives. Probable hoax. (Alberto Penoglio, "[Antichi Visitatori dal Cielo](#)," *Clypeus* 3, n. 3 (1966): 13–14; Vallée, *Magonia*, pp. 60–61; "[1790 UFO Crash or Time Traveller?](#)" *Cool Interesting Stuff*, June 1, 2014)

1798

1798, September 10 — Before midnight. Schoolmaster Alexander Campbell and one other person observe a "remarkable comet, or meteor" at Alnwick, Northumberland, England. It rapidly increases in brightness, changing from a star-like object to a shape like "two half-moons, back to back, having a short luminous stream between the two backs" over the course of 5 minutes. (*Annual Register* 1798, p. 83)

1801

1801 — British astronomer [William Herschel](#) writes that the Sun's cold interior is inhabited. (George Basalla, *Civilized Life in the Universe*, 2006, [pp. 52–53](#))

1803

1803, February 22 (or March 24) — An attractive young woman aged 18–20 years old arrives on a beach aboard a “hollow ship” (*Utsuro-bune*) that looks like a rice cooking pot or incense burner in Hitachi province, Japan. Fishermen bring her inland to investigate further, but the woman is unable to communicate in Japanese. She is dressed in a foreign fashion made of unknown fabrics and is clutching an ornate box also marked with the unknown script. The vessel is covered in hieroglyphs that no one can decipher. The fishermen return her and her vessel to the sea, where it drifts away. Accounts of the tale appear in three texts: *Toen shōsetsu* (1825), *Hyōryū kishū* (1835), and *Ume-no-chiri* (1844), but no official records mention it. (Wikipedia, “[Utsuro-bune](#)”; Kazuo Tanaka, “[Did a Close Encounter of the Third Kind Occur on a Japanese Beach in 1803?](#)” *Skeptical Inquirer* 24, no. 4 (July/August 2000): 37–60; Masaru Mori, “The Female Alien in a Hollow Vessel,” *Fortean Times* 48 (Spring 1987): 48–50; Junji Numakawa, “[On a UFO-Shaped Boat in 1803](#),” *UFO Criticism* 1, no 1 (January 2001): 2–3; Tanaka Kazuo, “[‘Utsurobune’: A UFO Legend from Nineteenth-Century Japan](#),” nippon.com, June 26, 2020; “[Japan’s 200-Year-Old UFO Mystery: Close Encounter of the Third Kind?](#)” *Japanese Tales*, September 17, 2020; Shoichi Kamon [pseud. of Tanaka Kazuo], *The Mystery of Utsuro-bune: Ancient UFO Encounter in Japan?* Flying Disk Press, 2019)

1808

1808, May 16 — 4:00 p.m. Swedish lichenologist [Erik Acharius](#) watches a stream of dark-brown spherical objects moving slowly through the sky in a straight line over Biskopsberga, near Skänninge, Sweden. Some hover temporarily and speed up, while others fall to earth. The objects appear in the western sky and stream to the east for 2 hours. Some are apparently linked together in groups of three, six, or eight, and all of them have some kind of trail. A few of them fall in the vicinity of K. G. Wettermark, who has also been observing. They resemble soap bubbles and dissipate quickly, leaving a film like cobweb. (Erik Acharius, “[Besynnerligt Meteor-Phenoméén](#),” *Konglige Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handligar*, ser. 2, vol. 29 (July/September 1808): 215–218; “[Account of an Extraordinary Meteoric Phenomenon](#),” *North American Review* 3 (1816): 320–322; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 18–29)

1819

1819, August 13 — 8:00–9:00 p.m. A brilliant white fireball streaks across the sky at Amherst, Massachusetts. The next morning, Erastus Dewey finds a strange substance 20 feet from his front door and assumes it is residue from the meteorite. It is about 8 inches in diameter, resembles an upside-down salad dish, and consists of buff-colored pulpy substance with an overwhelmingly bad smell. It is covered with a nap that, when removed, causes the interior to liquefy and form a starchy substance. A couple days later, it largely dissipates. Geologist [Edward Hitchcock](#) thinks it is some kind of “gelatinous fungus” common to the area in the late summer. (Rufus Graves, “[Account of a Gelatinous Meteor](#),” *American Journal of Science* 2 (1820): 335–337; Edward Hitchcock, “[On the Meteors of Nov. 13, 1833](#),” *American Journal of Science* 25 (1834): 354, 362–363)

1820

1820, February 12 — 10:45 a.m. A German astronomer and cleric named Steinhübel watches a clearly defined dark orange-red spot traversing the disc of the Sun in about five hours. Canon Augustin Stark also observes the object at a slightly different time from Augsburg, Germany; it has an orange-gold tint. (Richard C. Carrington, “[On Some Previous Observations of Supposed Planetary Bodies in Transit over the Sun](#),” *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* 20 (1860): 192–194; Joseph Johann von Littrow, “[Further Note on the Supposed](#)

1824

1824 — Bavarian astronomer [Franz von Gruithuisen](#) of Munich, Germany, writes *Discovery of Many Distinct Traces of Lunar Inhabitants, Especially of One of their Colossal Buildings*, in which he announces his discovery of a city on the Moon in the rough terrain to the north of Schröter crater that he names the *Wallwerk*. This region contains a series of somewhat linear ridges that have a fishbone-like pattern, and, with the small refracting telescope he is using, can be perceived as resembling buildings complete with streets. His claims are readily refuted using more powerful instruments. Gruithuisen also thinks that the mysterious “ashen light” observed on Venus’s dark side is due to a festival of fire in honor of the “ascension of a new emperor to the throne of the planet.” Later, he speculates that the illumination is caused by burning jungles to create new farmland. (Franz von Paula Gruithuisen, [Entdeckung vieler deutlichen Spuren der Mondbewohner, besonders eines collossalen Kunstgebäudes](#), München, 1824; “[Gruithuisen’s Lunar City](#),” [whatsupinthesky.com](#); David Dunér, “[Venusians: The Planet Venus in the 18th-Century Extraterrestrial Life Debate](#),” *Journal of Astronomical Data* 19, no. 1 (2013): 162; Andrew May, “The Lost Ruins of the Moon,” *Fortean Times* 358 (October 2017): 56)

1826

1826, April 1 — 4:00 p.m. Stone mason Johannes Becker hears a noise resembling thunder at Rastpfuhl, northwest of Saarbrücken, Germany, and sees a grayish object “like two pieces of tin” approaching the earth with lightning speed and expanding itself like a sheet before falling to earth, apparently not far away. After one minute there is another sound like thunder and a strong whirlwind, as if coming from an impact. Pastor Köllner collects testimony from other nearby witnesses and visits the supposed landing site but finds no burn marks or meteoritic stones. (Ernst Chladni, “[Über eine merkwürdige meteorische Erscheinung, am 1 April 1826, nicht weit von Saarbrücken](#),” *Annalen der Physik und Chemie* 7 (1826): 373–377; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 31–38; Andreas Müller, “[Saarbrücken 1826: Deutschlands älteste UFO-Akte weiterhin verschollen](#),” [grenzWissenschaft-aktuell.de](#), May 28, 2020)

1829

1829, August 20 — 11:00 p.m. A man on the York Road east of Leeds, England, sees a moon-like object split into two halves, the upper half of which gives off an apparent shaft of light. He sees two human figures visible to the waist, one of which has a red cloth around its head. The object is visible for more than one hour and is seen by others, during which time a cloud passes in front of it. (“[Celestial Phenomena](#),” *York Herald*, August 22, 1829, p. 2; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 111–125)

1835

1835, May 11 — At the Palermo Observatory in Italy, astronomer [Niccolò Cacciato](#) detects a starlike object in the Southern sky between the constellations Virgo and Crater moving at a slow rate that might indicate a planet beyond Uranus. It is nowhere to be seen during his next observation on May 14. (“[Supposed New Planet](#),” *American Journal of Science* 31 (1837): 158–159)

1835, August 25–31 — The *New York Sun* publishes a series of six articles on the alleged discovery by English astronomer [John Herschel](#) of plants, animals, and winged people on the lunar surface. Using a huge and powerful telescope, Herschel supposedly sees herds of bison-like quadrupeds, a spherical amphibious creature, and a bipedal beaver that lives in huts. The humans are man-bats “covered, except on the face, with short and glossy copper-colored hair, and had wings composed of a thin membrane, without hair, lying snugly upon their backs.”

The article is an elaborate hoax. Herschel hasn't observed life on the moon at all, nor is Herschel even aware of the story until much later. The announcement causes enormous excitement throughout America and Europe. Authorship of the article is usually attributed to Richard Adams Locke, a reporter who is working for the *Sun* at the time. Locke publicly admits to being the author in 1840, in a letter to the weekly paper *New World*, although his intent is satire, not misinformation. (Wikipedia, "[Great Moon Hoax](#)"; Richard Adams Locke, *The Moon Hoax*, Gowans, 1859; István Kornél Vida, "[The 'Great Moon Hoax' of 1835](#)," *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies* 18 (2012): 431–441; Doug Dunlop, "[The Moon Hoax of 1835: Great Astronomical Discoveries](#)," Unbound, August 28, 2013; Doug Dunlop, "[Great Moon Hoax Continues: Lunarians Discovered](#)," Unbound, August 29, 2013; Doug Dunlop, "[The Great Moon Hoax or Was It: The Joke's On Who?](#)" Unbound, September 4, 2013; Stephanie Hall, "[Belief, Legend, and the Great Moon Hoax](#)," Library of Congress Blogs: Folklife Today, August 26, 2014)

1838

1838 — Scottish minister and science writer [Thomas Dick](#) publishes *Celestial Scenery: The Wonders of the Planetary System Displayed*, in which he suggests that every planet in the Solar System is inhabited. At his home in Broughty Ferry, Dundee, he computes that the Solar System contains 21.9 trillion inhabitants, 53.5 billion of them on Venus. This is done comparing the surface area of each planet and the population density of England. (Thomas Dick, *Celestial Scenery*, Harper, 1838)

1840

1840, May 13 — Before sunrise. Some Polynesians at Felalatai on the island of Upolu, Samoa, observe a bright red star, "closely encircled by a number of other stars of the ordinary appearance." ("[A Strange Phenomenon](#)," *Journal of the Polynesian Society* 7 (1898): 49)

1845

1845, June 18 — 10:30 p.m. The British brig *Victoria*, captained by [George Henry Caithness](#), is becalmed in the Strait of Sicily about 30 miles southwest of Licata, Sicily, Italy, when a huge wind suddenly blows from the east for two hours. Then the wind suddenly stops, and the crew feels an overpowering heat and smells a sulfuric stench. At this moment three "luminous bodies" emerge from the sea about one-half mile away and remain visible for 10 minutes. Shortly thereafter the wind picks up again. (This could be a magma plume from an undersea volcanic vent.) Around 7:10 p.m., at Ainab, Lebanon, two objects five times as large as the moon, joined by "streamers or appendages," are observed in the west and remain visible for one hour, moving slowly on an easterly course. The objects are so bright they are painful to look at. A possible outgassing event from the Madrepore subsea vent. ("[Atmospherical Phenomena](#)," *London Morning Chronicle*, August 8, 1845, p. 5; *The Athenaeum*, August 19, 1848, p. 833; James Glaisher, et al., "Report on Observations of Luminous Meteors, 1860–61," *Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*, 1861, pp. 30–31; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 139–152; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 2, Anomalist, 2021, pp. 115–126)

1846

1846, July 5 — 5:57 a.m. Brazilian Frigate Captain [Augusto Leverger](#) is in command of two gunboats on the Río Paraguay about 19 miles away from Asunción, Paraguay, when he observes a luminous globe moving quickly to the north-northwest. It leaves a luminous trail in which three objects can be seen that are as bright as the full moon. The bottom object is shaped like a fan with "broken rays" at its rear; the middle one is nearly circular; and the top object is an irregular quadrangle. Above them is a ribbon of faint light in a zigzag pattern. The three objects gradually change shape to flat ellipses and become misty, remaining in sight for 25 minutes before fading away. The display is also seen by the Brazilian ambassador to Paraguay, [José Antônio Pimenta Bueno](#). (*Gazeta*

Official do Imperio do Brasil, vol. 1, no. 74 (November 26, 1846), p. 295; “[Diario do Reconhecimento do Rio Paraguay desde a cidade da Assumpção, Até o Rio Paraná](#),” *Revista Trimensal do Instituto Histórico, Geographico e Ethnographico do Brasil* 25 (1862): 183–186; Antonio Huneeus, “[Brazil’s Very First Official UFO Report in 1846](#),” OpenMinds, October 6, 2010)

1847

1847, March 19 — 8:30 p.m. A woman and her companion are in Highbury East, London, England, when they notice what seems to be a fire balloon ascending slowly in the west, seemingly over Hampstead. It shoots out “several fiery coruscations” and turns into an intensely radiant cloud, which moves on further west. Its light shines down on the houses below. Suddenly another bright cloud appears above the first. After 2–3 minutes, a fiery ball drops from the upper cloud to the lower one, followed by two others. Soon after this, both clouds disappear. (“[Meteoric Stones](#),” *Littell’s Living Age* 56 (1858): 503)

1850

1850, September 15 — 6:20 p.m. Senior medical officer [Elisha Kent Kane](#) and other crew members of the [USS Advance](#), participating in the First Grinnell Expedition to the Arctic to determine the fate of the lost Franklin Northwest Passage expedition, watch a balloon-like object over the Wellington Channel between Cornwallis and Devon islands, Nunavut, Canada. It is floating slowly northward and appears to be 2 feet long by 18 inches wide. After a short time, a small object appears below it. (Elisha Kent Kane, *The U.S. Grinnell Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin*, Harper and Brothers, 1854, [p. 190](#))

1854

1854, March 21 — 9:30 p.m. People in Washington, D.C., see a brilliant light in the sky overhead “like a coal of fire glowing,” red in color and stationary. It is visible for 20–30 minutes before it fades away. (“[Atmospherical Phenomenon](#),” *Gettysburg (Pa.) Adams Sentinel*, March 27, 1854, p. 1)

1855

1855, January 22 — 10:00 p.m. A witness walking in the public square in New Haven, Connecticut, sees a brilliant red fireball in the sky near the star Gamma Draconis. At first it is stationary, but after 15 seconds it moves slowly toward the east with a slight undulatory motion. It passes below the star Eta Ursae Majoris and disappears not far from Denebola in the constellation Leo. The object is visible for 10 minutes. (“[Meteoric Phenomenon](#),” *New York Times*, January 25, 1855, p. 1)

1857

1857, June 19 or 20 — Sunset. A large cloud moves in over Carbondale, Pennsylvania, from the northwest, accompanied by considerable wind. It emits a dark-looking substance that falls to the ground, where it becomes highly luminous. It moves toward a large barn and passes through its center, setting it on fire, and continues on in a straight course for the woods, burning up the underbrush. It makes a path about 16 feet wide for a distance of 3 miles, and it finally stops against an outcrop of anthracite coal 60 feet in thickness. It leaves a sulfurous mass behind. (“[Extraordinary Meteoric Phenomenon](#),” *Baltimore (Md.) Sun*, June 27, 1857, p. 1)

1860

1860, July 20 — 9:40 p.m. A poem by Brooklyn, New York, poet [Walt Whitman](#), “Year of Meteors (1859-60),” published in a later edition of *Leaves of Grass*, describes a “strange huge meteor-procession dazzling and clear shooting over our heads.” For many years, no one could identify the event. Then in 2000, Texas State University–San Marcos physicist [Donald W. Olson](#) discovered a painting by Hudson River artist [Frederic Edwin Church](#) depicting two large meteors streaming across the sky and dated July 20, 1860. An examination of contemporary newspapers revealed that this was probably Whitman’s meteor procession. Around 9:40 p.m., two meteors with trails, one behind another, are seen in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Norfolk, and other locations in the East, proceeding slowly from northwest to southeast for nearly one minute. They are as bright as Venus. A rare event, and little understood until 1913, a meteor procession occurs when an earth-grazing meteor breaks apart and the fragments travel across the sky in the same horizontal path. Olson and his colleagues finally publish their discovery in the July 2010 issue of *Sky & Telescope*. (“[The Wonders of the Heavens: The Meteor Train](#),” *Brooklyn (N.Y.) Evening Star*, July 21, 1860, p. 2; “[The Meteor of Friday Night](#),” *New York Herald*, July 22, 1860, p. 1; “[Texas State Astronomers Solve Walt Whitman Meteor Mystery](#),” Office of Media Relations, Texas State University, May 28, 2010; David Dickinson, “[Remembering the Great Meteor Procession of 1860](#),” *Universe Today*, July 20, 2013)

1860, August 2 — 11:00 p.m. Another seeming procession of two meteors is observed in Norfolk, Virginia, moving with an undulating motion in the western sky in a northerly direction. One of the lights is clear red and the other is greenish, and they both emit flashes of light, leaving a sparkling trail. The phenomenon is also seen in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Some unnamed contemporary scientists compare it to the July 20 meteor procession. (“[Another Splendid Meteor](#),” *Baltimore (Md.) Sun*, August 6, 1860, p. 1)

1862

1862 — French astronomer [Camille Flammarion](#) publishes *La pluralité des mondes habités*, in which he proposes that many worlds in the universe are inhabited. It is a huge success, going through 33 editions in its first 20 years. Flammarion is one of the first to put forward the idea that extraterrestrial beings are genuinely alien and not simply variations of earthly creatures. (Camille Flammarion, *La pluralité des mondes habités*, Mallet-Bachelier, 1862)

1862, November — Early morning. Magistrate [Osman Edward Middleton](#) hears a “peculiar rushing noise” at Morpeth, New South Wales, Australia, and looks up to see a dark object traveling rapidly toward the southeast. It appears to be revolving on its axis. ([[Letter](#)], *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Herald*, November 20, 1866, p. 5; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 167–173)

1865

1865 — French novelist [Jules Verne](#) publishes *From the Earth to the Moon*. It tells the story of the Baltimore Gun Club, a post–American Civil War society of weapons enthusiasts, and their attempts to build an enormous Columbiad space gun and launch three people—the Gun Club’s president, his Philadelphian armor-making rival, and a French poet—in a projectile with the goal of a lunar landing. (Wikipedia, “[From the Earth to the Moon](#)”)

1865, December — The British Board of Trade asks Trinity House to investigate the “false lights” of the Durham, England, coast, mysterious revolving lights seen above a rocky headland at Whitburn by mariners negotiating a hazardous stretch of the northeast coast. Between 1860 and 1870, more than 150 ships are wrecked on the rocks near Whitburn after following a light or lights in the sky that they wrongly believe are from a lighthouse at the mouth of the Tyne. A commission led by Rear Admiral [Richard Collinson](#) meets in Sunderland on December 28 to interview witnesses and determine whether salvagers are responsible for the lights that are causing shipwrecks. Although the commission decides that the false lights are not deliberately lit, they are puzzled about the true cause. The lights and wrecks continue until January 1871 when the Souter Lighthouse is erected on Lizard Point. (“[False Lights on the Durham Coast](#),” *Newcastle Weekly Courant*, January 12, 1866, p. 5; David Clarke, “[Britain’s First X-File?](#)” August 14, 2010; David Clarke, “The False Lights of Durham,” *Fortean Times* 266 (October 2010): 40–42; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 77–79)

1866

1866, June 21 — The US Hydrographic Office is established by Congress. It is assigned to the Navy Bureau of Navigation and collects reports from ships' officers on observations of various marine phenomena, hazards, and other activities. Among the reports collected are meteors, ball lightning, and other celestial and meteorological phenomena. (Wikipedia, "[United States Hydrographic Office](#)")

1867

1867, November 4 — 3:00–4:00 p.m. James E. Beveridge is passing the mill by the Waterworks Reservoir in Chatham, England, when he and the miller see numerous black discs moving in the air to the west, some in groups, others scattered. They are visible for more than 20 minutes. In passing in front of the sun they appear like large cannon shot. Several groups pass over his head, disappearing suddenly, and leaving puffs of grayish brown smoke. ("[Three Strange Stories](#)," *Symons's Monthly Meteorological Magazine* 2 (1867): 130)

1868

1868, June 8 — 9:50 p.m. John Lucas Sr., an observer at Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford University, England, notices a comet-like object with a trail a bit west of the star Polaris. As he is pointing it out to some others, it begins moving west. It moves in a straight line at first, then moves south for a bit, then continues to the north. They watch it for 4 minutes until it disappears below the northwestern horizon. ("[Remarkable Meteor](#)," *English Mechanic* 7 (July 10, 1868): 351)

1868, July 25 — Engineer [Frederick William Birmingham](#) of Parramatta, New South Wales, watches a bizarre procession of the faces of two prominent Australians (Archbishop of Sydney [Frederic Barker](#) and New South Wales Premier [James Martin](#)) through the air as well as a vessel he calls an "ark." He hears a voice suggesting that "That's a machine to go through the air." The voice comes from a "spirit" whom he describes as "like a neutral tint shade and the shape of a man in his usual frock dress." After the ark maneuvers for a while in the air, the spirit says, "Have you a desire or do you wish to enter upon it?" He is then lifted up and carried through the air into the object about 60 feet away. The spirit guides him into the "pilot house" of the machine where he is given some papers with formulas on them that will help him construct a flying machine. He observes another UFO-like craft on March 9, 1873, and later attempts to build a mechanical replica of what he has seen. (Bill Chalker, "[The Mystery of a Machine to Go through the Air: A UFO Vision?](#)" 1998; Clark III 60–65; "[Did Frederick William Birmingham Build a Flying Machine Based on His Bizarre 1868 UFO 'Vision' in Parramatta, NSW, Australia?](#)" TheOzFiles, November 30, 2013; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 185–190; Michael Organ, "[UFO Encounter, Parramatta Park, Australia 1868](#)," *Rambling Thoughts of an Overactive Mind*, November 12, 2023; Bill Chalker, "[The 1868 'UFO Vision' of Frederick William Birmingham—Important New Evidence—'To London in Four Days!'](#)" TheOzFiles, December 12, 2023; Bill Chalker, "[The Birmingham 'UFO Vision' Manuscript via Herbert Rumsey Has Been Found and Viewed](#)," TheOzFiles, August 19, 2024)

1869

1869 — French poet and inventor [Charles Cros](#) is convinced that pinpoints of light observed on Mars and Venus are the lights of large cities on those planets. He spends years petitioning the French government to build a giant mirror to communicate with the Martians and Venusians by burning giant lines on the deserts of those planets. (Alissa Walker, "[A French Inventor Once Proposed a Giant Mirror to Burn a Message on Mars](#)," Gizmodo, October 16, 2014)

1869, August 7 — 12:00 noon. Four or five witnesses watch a luminous object land in a vacant lot about 200 yards north of the village of Adamstown, Pennsylvania. It is originally square-shaped but shoots up into a column about 3–4

feet high and 2 feet thick. The object glitters like a “column of burnished silver.” It gradually fades away and disappears after 10 minutes. No unusual traces are found on the lot. (“[Singular Phenomenon](#),” *Lancaster (Pa.) Daily Evening Express*, August 10, 1869, pp. 2–3)

1869, August 7 — About 4:45 p.m. During a total solar eclipse, four amateur observers in St. Paul Junction [now Le Mars], Iowa, both with and without instruments, independently notice a bright object below the lunar disc and just outside the solar corona. There are no visible stars in that position in the sky. (“[Was It the Intra-Mercurial Planet?](#)” *Astronomical Register* 7 (1869): 227–228; John Russell Hind, “[Stellar Objects Seen during the Eclipse of 1869](#),” *Nature* 18 (1878): 663–664)

1870

1870, March 22 — 6:30 p.m. Capt. Frederick William Banner, master of the barque *Lady of the Lake*, is sailing in the North Atlantic 400 miles north of the Equator and 860 miles from the coast of West Africa when he sees a “curious-shaped” light-gray cloud in the south-southeast. It is circular, with four rays or arms extending from the center to the edge, and a curved tail. It is visible for about 50 minutes until it is too dark to see. (Frederick William Banner, “[Extract from Log of Barque ‘Lady of the Lake,’](#)” *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* 1 (1873): 157; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, *Anomalist*, 2019, pp. 89–109)

1870, September 26 — A luminous object with a tail is seen in the constellation Lyra by [Reginald Brabazon, 12th Earl of Meath](#), second secretary of the British legation to the North German Confederation, in Berlin, Germany. Possibly a light pillar reflection caused by a bright arc-light source at a military installation on Eiswerder island. (Brabazon, “[A Meteor](#),” *London Times*, September 30, 1870, p. 9; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, *Anomalist*, 2019, pp. 111–116)

1871

1871 — English astronomer [Richard A. Proctor](#) writes *Other Worlds Than Ours*, in which he discusses the question of the plurality of worlds in the light of new facts. He suspects that Venus is likely the “abode of living creatures not unlike the inhabitants of earth.” (Richard A. Proctor, [Other Worlds Than Ours](#), Appleton, 1871)

1871, August 1 — 10:43 p.m. Astronomer [Jérôme Eugène Coggia](#) at Marseille Observatory, France, watches a slow, blood-red fireball move across the sky and change course twice before falling to the earth. He sees it for 20 minutes and 20 seconds. Possible earth-grazing meteor or a candle balloon. (Jérôme Eugène Coggia, “[Observation d’un bolide, faite à Observatoire de Marseille le 1^{er} août](#),” *Comptes rendus hebdomadaires des séances de l’Académie des Sciences* 73 (1871): 397–399; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, *Anomalist*, 2019, pp. 117–119)

1873

1873 — English-American geologist and psychometrist [William Denton](#) of Wellesley, Massachusetts, publishes volume 3 of *The Soul of Things*, in which he describes his astral visit to Mars along with his sister Anna Cridge, his wife Elizabeth, and his son Sherman. He finds it harbors a thriving civilization with a technology based on aluminum. He reports that they soar above traffic on their individual fly-cycles and seem particularly fond of air travel, with as many as 30 Martians occupying some of the large flying conveyances. Sherman says the Martians have blond hair and blue eyes like cats’ eyes; Anna adds that they have long arms and large hands and feet, and there is another group of short, hairy, black people. (William Denton, *Soul of Things*, Wellesley, Mass.: Elizabeth M. F. Denton, 1873, vol. 3, [pp. 171–267](#); Chris Aubeck, *Alien Artifacts, Volume 1: From Antiquity to 1880*, The author, 2022, pp. 238–248)

1873, Late March — Evening. Thomas Inman and his son are traveling home from the village of Taylorsville [now Philo], Ohio, and are possibly in Bristol Township when they see a bright light descending swiftly with a roaring noise. It lands a short distance in the road [probably Lawrence Road] ahead of them, flickers and flares, then fades. A man

dressed in a suit of black carrying a lantern emerges from the object. He walks a few paces and steps into a buggy, which Inman has not noticed before. The buggy begins to move silently and quickly, even though there is no horse attached to it, until it reaches a deep gully, into which it plunges and disappears. Historian [William Alexander Taylor](#), who supplies the story to the *New York Herald*, vouches for the witnesses. (“[Very Like a Whale](#),” *New York Herald*, April 8, 1873, p. 7; Clark III 1123–1124; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 175–191)

1874

1874, April 24 — 3:30 p.m. Chemist and astronomer [Vojtěch Šafařík](#) of Prague [now in the Czech Republic] sees “an object of so peculiar a character that I do not know what to make of it.” It is a dazzling white object slowly crossing the moon. He first sees it in front of the moon, then watches it against the “deep blue sky like Sirius or Vega in daylight.” (Vojtěch Šafařík, “[Telescopic Meteors](#),” *Astronomical Register* 23 (1885): 205–211)

1874, August 13 — 11:00 p.m. A large, “luminous electric cloud” flies over the western edge of Pascagoula, Mississippi, from the northwest to the southeast. It illuminates the ground and emits heat so intense that some witnesses think their houses are about to ignite. When last seen over the Gulf of Mexico, it renders the spars and rigging of a ship “distinctly visible.” (“[Singular Phenomenon](#),” *Pascagoula (Miss.) Star*, August 22, 1874, p. 2; “[Singular Phenomenon](#),” *Vicksburg (Miss.) Herald*, August 26, 1874, p. 1)

1876

1876, December 21 — 8:30–8:45 p.m. A bright bolide that explodes and breaks up into a group of 20–100 smaller balls is seen over a wide swath of the US from Topeka, Kansas, to western Pennsylvania. Over Columbus, Ohio, it is described as “a cluster or flock of meteors seemingly huddled together, like a flock of wild geese, and moving with the same velocity and grace of regularity. The color of their light was a yellowish red, like red rocket-balls.” A stony chondrite falls 3 miles northwest of Rochester, Indiana, at the same time. (James Glaisher, et al., “Report on Observations of Luminous Meteors during the Year 1876–77,” *Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science* 47 (1877): 98, [149–152](#); Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 144–145)

1877

1877, October — Astronomer [Giovanni Schiaparelli](#) reports seeing *canali* on the Martian surface from Brera Observatory in Milan, Italy, during the Great Opposition. While the term “canals” indicates an artificial construction, its proper translation as “channels” implies that the observed features are natural configurations of the planetary surface. From the incorrect translation into the term “canals,” various assumptions are made about life on Mars; as these assumptions are popularized, the canals become famous, giving rise to waves of hypotheses, speculation, and fiction about the possibility of intelligent life on Mars—the Martians. Later, thanks to the observations of the Italian astronomer [Vincenzo Cerulli](#), scientists come to the conclusion that the famous channels are actually mere optical illusions. (Wikipedia, “[Martian canals](#)”)

1878

1878, January 22 — John Martin is out hunting near his ranch 6 miles north of Dallas, Texas, when he notices a dark object high in the southern sky. It is so bright it hurts his eyes as it moves with great speed to directly over his head. The object is “about the size of a large saucer” and looks like a large balloon. It speeds away rapidly. (“[A Strange Phenomena](#),” *Dallas Daily Herald*, January 23, 1878, p. 4; Patrick Gross, “[The First Publicized Flying ‘Saucer’ Report?](#)”; “[Dallas 1878](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 5, 2014)

1878, July 29 — About 12:30 p.m. Astronomers [James Craig Watson](#), director of the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Observatory, and [Lewis Swift](#), an amateur from Rochester, New York, both claim to see planet-like objects close to the Sun

during the total solar eclipse. Watson, observing from Separation Point, Wyoming, places the “ruddy star” about 2.5° southwest of the Sun and estimates its magnitude at 4.5. Watson says it has a definite disc, unlike stars, which appear as shimmering pinpoints of light. He also notes another object further to the west. Swift, observing from a location near Denver, Colorado, also sees what he takes to be an intra-mercurial planet (“a round red disk and being free from twinkling”) about 3° southwest of the Sun. He estimates its brightness to be the same as that of Theta Cancri, a fifth-magnitude star which is also visible during totality, about six or seven minutes from the object. Swift also notes a second equally bright object. Both Watson and Swift describe at least one of their objects as red in color. The idea that four objects are observed during the eclipse generates controversy in scientific journals and mockery from German-American astronomer [Christian Heinrich Friedrich Peters](#). Peters considers Swift’s measurements as ambiguous and notes that the margin of error in the pencil-and-cardboard recording device Watson had used was large enough to plausibly include a bright known star. (James C. Watson, “[On the Discovery of an Intra-Mercurial Planet](#),” *American Journal of Science*, ser. 3, 16 (1878): 230–233; James C. Watson, “[On the Intra Mercurial Planets](#),” *American Journal of Science*, ser. 3, 16 (1878): 310–313; Lewis Swift, “[Letter from Mr. Lewis Swift, Relating to the Discovery of Intra-Mercurial Planets](#),” *American Journal of Science*, ser. 3, 16 (1878): 313–315; C. H. F. Peters, “[Some Critical Remarks on So-Called Intra-Mercurial Planet Observations](#),” *Astronomische Nachrichten* 94 (1879): 321–340; Richard Baum and William Sheehan, *In Search of Planet Vulcan: The Ghost in Newton’s Clockwork Universe*, Plenum, 1997, pp. 185–223)

1880

- 1880**, March 22 — About 6:00 a.m. A large number of brilliantly luminous bodies are seen to rise from the horizon and pass from east to west at Kattenau, East Prussia [now Furmanovka, Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia]. They move through space “like a string of beads.” Possible meteor procession. (“[A Remarkable Phenomenon](#),” *Nature* 22 (May 20, 1880): 64; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 169–170)
- 1880**, March 26 — Night. The train depot operator and a few friends are walking at Galisteo Junction [now Lamy], New Mexico, when they hear loud voices and laughter coming from a “large balloon” shaped like a fish approaching from the west. A flower is dropped from the car of the balloon to which is attached a slip of silk-like paper on which Chinese characters are written. The next morning, searchers find a cup of peculiar workmanship, but both artifacts are purchased by a “wealthy young Chinaman” and a “collector of curiosities” who visits town on March 28, although this part of the tale seems facetious and racist. The yarn is typical of sensational newspaper hoaxes that have no basis in reality. (“[Galisteo’s Apparition](#),” *Santa Fe Weekly New Mexican*, March 29, 1880, p. 3; “[Solved at Last](#),” *Santa Fe Weekly New Mexican*, April 5, 1880, p. 4; Clark III 69–70, 592; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 3, 2007)
- 1880**, June? — David Muckle and W. R. McKay of East Kent [now Chatham-Kent], Ontario, are in a field on Muckle’s farm when they hear a loud explosion and see a cloud of stones flying upward. They go to the spot and find a circular area, 16 feet across, that has been swept clean of vegetation. (“[A Curious Phenomenon](#),” *Rock Hill (S.C.) Herald*, July 7, 1880, p. 4)
- 1880**, Early July — A train is running on the Chattanooga Railroad near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in a thunderstorm when the engineer sees a large ball of fire rushing down the rails to the engine. As it passes under the locomotive, he feels a shock that jars the entire train. There is a loud explosion “opposite the ladies’ car” and a telegraph pole is splintered from top to bottom. (“[Passengers Shocked by Lightning](#),” *Memphis (Tenn.) Public Ledger*, July 15, 1880, p. 2; Mark Rodeghier, “[UFO/Vehicle Very Close Encounters](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 5)
- 1880**, July 28 — 6:00–7:00 p.m. C. A. Youngman and Ben Flexner are looking out a drugstore window at 2nd and Chestnut streets in Louisville, Kentucky, when they see something in the air coming from the direction of the Ohio River bridge. As it approaches them, it appears to be a man surrounded by machinery, which he is working with his hands and feet. The object is too high to make out the details of its construction. The man moves off to the south, pedaling constantly. Around 8:00 p.m., the Royster family of Madisonville, Kentucky, watches a circular flying object with a ball at each end moving above the train depot. (“[More Monkeying](#),” *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, July 29, 1880, p. 4; “[The Flying Machine](#),” *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, August 6, 1880, p. 4; Theo Paijmans, “The Topography of the Damned,” *The Anomalist*, no. 14 (2010): 7–8)

1880, September 30 —9:45 p.m. A brilliant object is seen crossing the sky in Columbus, Georgia, at a very low altitude. Coming from the south, it heads northeasterly in a horizontal line. It appears made of three perfectly developed balls of an equal size and equidistant from each other. The first ball emits a tail that envelops the two following and extends behind them. The tail is luminous except at the far end, where it is indistinct and nebulous. It is visible for a full 50 seconds and continues on its course without falling. (“[Wonders of a Meteor](#),” *Marion (Ohio) Star*, October 5, 1880, p. 3)

1881

1881, Late October — An unusual fall of spider web occurs near the coast of Lake Michigan at Milwaukee, Green Bay, Fort Howard, Sheboygan, and Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. The webs seem to come from “over the lake” and fall from a great height. The strands are from 2 feet to several yards long, strong in texture, and very white. No spiders are seen. (“[A Rain of Spider Webs](#),” *Scientific American* 45 (1881): 337)

1882

1882, July 6 — 10:30 p.m. Amateur astronomer N. S. Drayton in Jersey City Heights, New Jersey, watches a red object without a trail move across the sky from the constellation of Ursa Minor to Capricorn in 45 seconds. (N. S. Drayton, “[A Supposed Meteor](#),” *Scientific American* 47 (July 22, 1882): 53)

1882, November 17 — 6:00 p.m. An auroral beam is observed from the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, London, by astronomer [Edward Walter Maunder](#) and by [John Rand Capron](#) from his private observatory on Hog’s Back, Surrey, England, in association with a geomagnetic storm. The beam is described in detail in various ways, including as a “beam,” “spindle,” “definite body” with a Zeppelin-like shape and pale green color, passing from horizon to horizon above the moon. The phenomenon transits the sky in approximately 75 seconds. (Wikipedia, “[November 1882 geomagnetic storm](#)”; J. Rand Capron, “[The Auroral Beam of November 17, 1882](#),” *Philosophical Magazine*, ser. 5, 15 (1883): 318–339; Edward Walter Maunder, “[A Strange Celestial Visitor](#),” *The Observatory* 39 (May 1916): 213–215; Paul Fuller, “[The Life and Times of John Rand Capron \(1829–1888\)](#),” *The Antiquarian Astronomer* 8 (March 2014): 21–45)

1883

1883, February 5 — 6:45 p.m. A witness at Lake Glasfjorden, near Arvika, Sweden, spots a meteor-like object high on the horizon moving from southeast to northwest. It makes several minor course changes, varies its color from white to yellow, and emits some sparks. After 18 seconds, it changes its course to the southeast and is so low to the ground that its light is reflected in the lake. By this time, it has a distinct tail. Total duration is 50 seconds. (“[On February 5, at 6.45 p.m.](#),” *Nature* 27 (March 1, 1883): 423)

1883, August 12–13 — Astronomer [José Árbol y Bonilla](#), director of the El Cerro de la Bufa Meteorological Observatory in Zacatecas, Mexico, is observing the sun by eyepiece projection when he and an assistant see a large number of small bodies crossing the solar disc. Over the course of two days, they count a total of 447 dark objects. They seem bright as they approach the sun but are dark as they pass across its face. He takes several photographs and suspects that they are relatively near the earth. Mexican astronomers in 2011 suggested that a comet may have split into several pieces; these objects were estimated to have had a size of between 150 and 3,350 feet, and to have passed only 334 to 5,000 miles from the Earth; they thought a fragmented Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks was one possibility, in which case Earth barely avoided multiple Tunguska events or even a mass extinction; this was reported in the media and disputed in October 2011; but the source of these objects could also have been comet C/1883 D1 (Brooks-Swift) or even a third, unknown comet that year; the event also coincided with the annual Perseid meteor shower; even migrating birds cannot be ruled out. (José Á. y Bonilla, “[Passage sur le disque solaire d’un essaim de corpuscles](#),” *L’Astronomie* 4 (1885): 347–350; Hector Javier Durand Manterola, Maria de la Paz Ramos Lara, and Guadalupe Cordero, “[Interpretation of the Observations Made in 1883 in Zacatecas \(Mexico\): A Fragmented Comet That Nearly Hits the Earth](#),” *Earth and Planetary Astrophysics* (2011); “[Billion-Ton Comet May Have Missed Earth by a Few Hundred Kilometers in 1883](#),” MIT Technology Review,

October 17, 2011; “[Did a Massive Comet Almost Wipe Out Humans in 1883?](#)” The Week, January 8, 2015; “[OT-1883 Zacatecas Observation of Objects before Sun Were Not 12P/Pons-Brooks Fragments](#),” October 17, 2011; Phil Plait, “[Did a Fragmenting Comet nearly Hit the Earth in 1883? Color Me Very Skeptical](#),” Bad Astronomy, October 17, 2011; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 189–207)

1884

1884, June 6 — 1:00 p.m. Rancher John W. Ellis and some of his ranch hands in south-central Dundy County, Nebraska, allegedly see a blazing object fall from the sky and crash into many pieces, burning the grass and fusing the sand. The light is so intense it blinds one of them. The newspaper suggests it is a “vessel belonging originally to some other planet.” The remains of the object are said to have dissolved in a rainstorm. However, the tale is actually a fictional story written by a correspondent in Benkelman. (Wikipedia, “[Dundy County UFO Hoax](#)”; “[A Celestial Visitor](#),” *Lincoln (Nebr.) Daily State Journal*, June 8, 1884, p. 5; “[The Magical Meteor](#),” *Lincoln (Nebr.) Daily State Journal*, June 10, 1884, p. 4; Jerome Clark, “[Spaceship and Saltshaker](#),” *IUR* 11, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1986): 12, 21; Patricia C. Gaster, “[‘A Celestial Visitor’ Revisited: A Nebraska Newspaper Hoax from 1884](#),” *Nebraska History* 94 (2013): 90–99; Clark III 593)

1884, July 3 — 8:30 p.m. L. C. Yale of Norwood, New York, watches an object with a long tail move slowly from east to west. It has a “nucleus like a globe, as large as the moon, surrounded by a bright ring, two dark lines crossing the nucleus in vertical direction, the lines larger in the middle, straight on inside, curved on outside, tapering both ways to points.” The general appearance is of a “gigantic sword of fire, moving handle first.” (“[A Great Meteor](#),” *Illustrated Science Monthly* 2 (1884): 136)

1885

1885, February 16 — Night. During a severe snowstorm, a bright light suddenly flashes in the high rocks on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River some five miles northwest of Port Jervis, New York. The snow-covered hill glows like red-hot iron for several feet around, gleaming through the storm for several minutes, then growing dim and disappearing. (“[Mysterious Light](#),” *Wichita (Kan.) Beacon*, March 25, 1885, p. 1)

1885, February 25 — 5:00 a.m. Sailing in the North Pacific some 800 miles west of Victoria, British Columbia, Captain John Waters of the barque *Innerwick* and his mate see the sky turning fiery red. Suddenly a large fireball appears above the ship and falls hissing into the sea about 150 feet away from them, causing a wave of water to impact the ship. Electrical discharges run through the rigging and the masts. (“[Frightful Experience at Sea](#),” *Sacramento (Calif.) Record-Union*, March 3, 1885, p. 1; “[Notes and News](#),” *Science* 5 (1885): 242–243; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 2, Anomalist, 2021, pp. 177–199)

1886

1886 — French novelist [Jules Verne](#) publishes *Robur the Conqueror*, which describes the appearance of mysterious objects and strange lights in the sky all over the world. It turns out that the sightings are of a flying machine, invented by the novel’s anti-hero Robur, who kidnaps people and takes them on board the airship. (Wikipedia, “[Robur the Conqueror](#)”)

1886, October 24 — Night. Nine persons who are sleeping in a hut some 10 miles from Maracaibo, Venezuela, are awakened by a loud humming noise and a dazzling light that illuminates the interior. The people begin to pray but they start vomiting as extensive swellings appear on the upper part of their bodies, especially around the face and lips. They feel no heat, although the light has a smoky appearance and a peculiar smell. The next morning, the swellings subside but leave black blotches. By November 2, the skin peels off and the blotches are round sores. Portions of their hair falls off. Trees around the hut show no damage until November 2, when they suddenly wither. The symptoms are similar to those of ionizing radiation syndrome. (Warner Cowgill, “[Curious Phenomenon in Venezuela](#),” letter, *Scientific American* 55 (December 18, 1886): 389; Clark III 949; Patrick Gross, [UFO Reports from the Past](#))

1887

- 1887**, March 19 — 5:00 p.m. Captain Cornelis Dirks Swart of the Dutch bark *J.P.A.* sees a “meteor in the shape of two balls” during a storm in the North Atlantic about 590 miles northeast of Bermuda. One ball is black and the other is luminous and oblong. The luminous object descends with a roar and lights up the ship and surrounding water. The crew feels heat from the object even as solid lumps of ice fall on the deck and the rigging becomes iced. The side of the ship where it falls turns partially black and the copper plating is blistered. The wind increases to “hurricane force.” (“[Rare Electrical Phenomenon at Sea](#),” *American Meteorological Journal* 4 (July 1887): 98–99; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, 2015, pp. 205–217; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 2, Anomalist, 2021, pp. 201–210)
- 1887**, October 24 — Sunset. A man in Fine, New York, is looking to the east when he sees a group of sparkling silver balls “tumbling and rushing through the air going towards the east” and finally disappearing in the clouds. The display is visible for about 4 minutes and is seen by others in town. (“[Fine](#),” *Gouverneur (N.Y.) Free Press*, December 7, 1887, p. 3; Jerome Clark, *Hidden Realms, Lost Civilizations, and Beings from Other Worlds*, Visible Ink, 2010, p. 262)
- 1887**, November 12 — Midnight. Captain R. F. Moore of the English steamer [SS Siberian](#), sailing 10 nautical miles off Cape Race, Newfoundland, watches an enormous fireball rising from the sea to the height of 15 feet. It travels against the strong wind and comes close to the ship, then turns to the southeast and disappears. The object is seen for nearly 5 minutes. Moore says he has seen this phenomenon before and considers it a sign of stormy weather. (“[Globular Lightning](#),” *Science* 10 (1887): 324; Thomas Corwin Mendenhall, “[On Globular Lightning](#),” *American Meteorological Journal* 6 (February 1890): 437, 442–443; Theo Paijmans, “[Fiery Objects Rising from the Oceans](#),” Charles Fort Institute Blogs, July 6, 2007; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 2, Anomalist, 2021, pp. 151–174)

1888

- 1888**, Early September — 3:15 p.m. During a severe thunderstorm, after a flash of lightning and a peal of thunder, witnesses see a huge flame at Highland Lake, near Winsted, Connecticut. The water is parted for yards by a huge ball of fire at least 10 feet in diameter, and billows rise on either side to a height of 20 feet. The light moves toward the head of the lake with great velocity. When it is within 100 yards of the shore, another flash of lightning strikes, and the fireball disappears. The waters of the lake remain disturbed for hours. (“[A Ball of Fire on a Lake](#),” *Hagerstown (Ind.) Exponent*, September 12, 1888, p. 3)

1889

- 1889**, February 7 — 6:00 p.m. A cylindrical luminous object passes over Oella, Maryland, at only several hundred feet altitude. It lights up the village “as brilliantly as if by a strong electric lamp.” It curves and appears to descend to the ground one mile away. It follows the course of the Patapsco River to the north for several seconds. (“[A Brilliant Meteor](#),” *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star*, February 9, 1889, p. 6)

1891

- 1891**, June 13 — Day. An unnamed witness claims to see a “meteor” explode with a loud noise over the Wasson & Miller flour mill and cotton gin in Dublin, Texas. The object looks like “a bale of cotton suspended in the air after having been saturated in kerosene oil and ignited, except that it created a much brighter light” that dazzles people standing several hundred feet away. The object shatters into pieces before it hits the ground, the fragments setting the grass and weeds on fire. In addition to the fragments is a scrap of paper with writing in a strange language.

(“[Meteoric Explosion](#),” *The Dublin (Tex.) Progress*, June 20, 1891, p. 5; “[Dublin 1891](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 5, 2014)

- 1891**, May 14 or August 14 — Sunset. May King and some others in Toponas, Colorado, see a large round object surrounded by light moving about in the sky during a rainstorm. It is revolving as it travels slowly toward the northeast, leaving a luminous trail. (Frances Melrose, “[Requests Fly in for UFO Information](#),” Denver (Colo.) *Rocky Mountain News*, February 6, 1994, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 297 (April 1994): 10)
- 1891**, July 12 — 7:00 p.m. Residents of Theodore Street in Ottawa, Ontario, see over the rifle range a cigar-shaped balloon with a bright light on one end and a fan on the other traveling from south to north. (*MacLeod (Ont.) Gazette*, July 16, 1891; Clark 45)
- 1891**, September 2 — 8:00 p.m. [Alonzo M. Swan](#) and L. D. Dodson (an equestrian recovering from an illness) are camped in Coyote Springs, New Mexico [now within the bounds of Kirtland Air Force Base south of Albuquerque], to benefit from the mineral springs there when they see a brilliant light rise above a mountain to the south. As it moves closer against the wind, they see it has a series of “electric arc lights” around it and a “pole” or rudder that is similarly lit. The object is in view for nearly two hours. Another lighted object appears from the southwest and approaches the first object, but clouds prevent any further observation. Swan sees a lighted object again on September 4, although this time it could be a star. (“[Strange Mid Air Ships](#),” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Weekly Citizen*, September 12, 1891, p. 3; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 219–237)
- 1891**, September 5 — 2:00 a.m. Two employees of an ice house in Crawfordsville, Indiana, Marshall McIntyre and Bill Gray, notice a white object about 300–400 feet in the air that is flying by means of several pairs of fins. It appears to be 18–20 feet long and 8 feet wide and has a single red glowing eye or light. When it begins circling a nearby residence on East Main Street, the two men take shelter in a barn. It moves away to the east but soon returns, whereupon the witnesses drive back to the ice house in their carriage. Rev. [George W. Switzer](#), a Methodist minister, reports a similar apparition above his church. Some locals are convinced that the object was either an illusion created by the town’s recently installed electric lights reflecting through the damp air and rain, or a flock of frightened killdeer. (“A Strange Phenomenon,” *Crawfordsville (Ind.) Daily Journal*, September 5, 1891, p. 1; “[Was It a Case of ‘Jag’?](#)” *Indianapolis Journal*, September 6, 1891, p. 1; “Mr. Switzer Saw the Spook,” *Crawfordsville (Ind.) Daily Journal*, September 7, 1891, p. 4; “The Spook Explained,” *Crawfordsville (Ind.) Daily Journal*, September 8, 1891, p. 9; “[Crawfordsville’s Airy Spook](#),” *Indianapolis Journal*, September 9, 1891, p. 1; Chandler Lighty, “[The Crawfordsville Monster](#),” *Hoosier State Chronicles*, October 26, 2015)

1892

- 1892**, January? — [George W. Crusselle](#) and S. D. Cuthereil from the *USS Thetis* are wandering among the salt water lagoons on the west coast of Baja California, Mexico, when they see a luminous object with smooth edges about 30 feet in diameter approaching from the ocean at an altitude of 50 feet. It changes shape from circular to an hourglass and moves swiftly to the surface of a lagoon, covering it with a “brilliant halo of light.” It rises moments later, changing its shape frequently, and moving swiftly in a zigzag fashion. After 15 minutes it disappears inland. (George W. Crusselle, “[The Coast Survey](#),” *Atlanta Constitution*, April 10, 1892, p. 9)
- 1892**, March 23 — Evening–1:00 a.m. Residents of Warsaw, Poland, watch a balloon over the city that casts rays of light from an electrical apparatus. It remains stationary until 1:00 a.m., then it takes off to the west. Other supposed balloons are seen March 22 or earlier over Kaunas Fortress, Lithuania; and Modlin Fortress (in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki), Sosnowiec, Dąbrowa Górnicza, and Dąbrowice, Poland. As they remain stationary for as long as 40 minutes, some assume they are piloted by German spies. (“[Spying by Balloon](#),” *New York Evening World*, March 25, 1892, p. 1; “[Espionage by Balloon](#),” *Manchester (UK) Guardian*, March 26, 1892, p. 8; “[Balloons As German Spies](#),” *New York Times*, March 26, 1892, p. 3; “[Steering Military Balloons](#),” *Birmingham Daily Post*, March 31, 1892, p. 8; “[The German Military Balloons](#),” *Manchester (UK) Guardian*, March 31, 1892, p. 8; “[German Army Balloons in Active Use](#),” *New York Tribune*, March 31, 1892, p. 1; Clark 45; Brett Holman, “[The Phantom Balloon Scare of 1892](#),” *Airminded*, July 11, 2009)

- 1892**, April 16 — Witnesses at Przemyśl Fortress, Poland, see a bright point of light in the north that seems to be a sphere emitting searchlight beams above and below it. The object is hovering at an altitude of 2,100 feet and begins circling. (Poland 7–8)
- 1892**, June 1 — 11:30 p.m. A large balloon carrying a searchlight and four passengers passes over Newark, New Jersey, descending as low as 20 feet from the ground. (“Mysterious Balloon Sighted,” *Trenton (N.J.) Times*, June 2, 1892; Clark III 70)
- 1892**, June 19 — Night. J. L. Shaw of Conyers, Georgia, sees a mysterious light in the sky from which balls of fire fall to the ground near him. (“[Saw Balls of Fire](#),” *Atlanta Constitution*, June 21, 1892, p. 10)
- 1892**, August 30 — 11:00 p.m. Several people in Waxahachie, Texas, see a “kind of balloon” with colored lights passing over the northern part of the city after hearing a man shouting a greeting. (“[What Was It?](#)” *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, September 2, 1892, p. 6; Clark III 70)
- 1892**, September 20 — Large quantities of a white, thread-like substance fall from the sky during a rainstorm at Gainesville, Florida. Samples are sent to arachnologist [George Marx](#) of the US Department of Agriculture, who performs a chemical analysis that shows it to be from migrating spiders. (“[Spider Web from the Clouds](#),” *Scientific American* 67 (1892): 325)

1893

- 1893**, February 24–25 — 10:00 p.m. [Charles James Norcock](#), captain of the corvette [HMS Caroline](#), is sailing about 16 miles south of Jeju Island, South Korea, in the Korea Strait when the officer of the watch observes some round lights resembling “Chinese lanterns festooned between the masts of a lofty vessel.” They are moving slowly north and appear to be in the air between the ship and the Hallasan volcano on Jeju. They are visible until roughly 12:00 midnight, sometimes appearing as a mass, other times strung out more in an irregular line. The ship’s crew observes them again the next night as they are sailing east from Port Hamilton [now the Korean islands of Geomundo]. This time they are visible until dawn. Although there are some odd characteristics of this observation, the likeliest explanation is that they are inferior mirages of distant fishing boats, as atmospheric conditions are favorable on these dates. (Charles J. Norcock, “[An Atmospheric Phenomenon in the North China Sea](#),” *Nature* 48 (1893): 76–77; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 253–281)
- 1893**, August 18 — Sunrise. People living near the small hamlet of Leslie in Cumberland County, Kentucky, notice that the sun has a peculiar color. Thousands of small discs, seemingly about the size of a wagon wheel, appear in the sky, all of them in motion. They appear round in shape from far away, but when closer to the ground they change to triangles, squares, or odd forms. Their colors vary: Some are bright red, others green or black, but when they are close to the ground they are all a deep purple color. All are silent. The phenomenon lasts about one hour, during which time the villagers fear it is judgment day. (“[Judgment Day](#),” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, August 20, 1893, p. 9)

1894

- 1894**, February? — Capt. Corning of the British schooner *W. and H. Witherspoon* sees several lights rise from the Gulf of Mexico off the west coast of Florida. They ascend to a height of 25 feet, explode, and disappear. (“[Cum Grano Salis](#),” *Lowell (Mass.) Daily Sun*, February 8, 1894, p. 1)
- 1894**, May — During the opposition of Mars, the idea that [Schiaparelli](#)’s *canali* are really irrigation canals made by intelligent beings is first hinted at, and then adopted as the only intelligible explanation, by American astronomer [Percival Lowell](#) in Flagstaff, Arizona, and a few others. The visible seasonal melting of Martian polar icecaps fuels speculation that an advanced alien race indigenous to Mars has built the canals to transport the water to drier equatorial regions. Newspaper and magazine articles about Martian canals and “Martians” capture the public imagination. Lowell publishes his views in three books: *Mars* (1895), *Mars and Its Canals* (1906), and *Mars As the Abode of Life* (1908). He writes: “The evidence of handicraft, if such it be, points to a highly

intelligent mind behind it.” Lowell remains a strong proponent for the rest of his life of the idea that the canals were built for irrigation by an intelligent civilization. (Wikipedia, “[Martian canals](#)”)

1894, June 7 — Astronomers [Percival Lowell](#) and [William H. Pickering](#) at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, see two “dazzling white specks” for a few moments on the south polar cap of Mars. The most likely explanation is the reflection of sunlight from ice on the surface or ice crystals in clouds. (Percival Lowell, *Mars*, Houghton, Mifflin, 1897 ed., [pp. 86–87](#))

1894, July 20 — Sunset. Bernard Parry and his wife are near Marriott [now Marriott-Slaterville], Utah, when they see a “small black cloud” in the northeast quickly approaching them. It grows bigger, then smaller, as they watch it. When it is only 450 feet away, it stops and hovers. Its sides seem to be folded up toward the center. Many small black-and-white objects (birds?) are moving in its center. Suddenly the object pivots to the east and moves away toward Ogden. (*Ogden (Utah) Standard*, July 26, 1894)

1894, Late November — 11:00 p.m.–2:00 a.m. Mennonite farmers [Henry W. J. Smith](#) and [Benjamin W. Blue](#) see a luminous ball in the northeastern sky about 30° above the horizon some 3 miles west of Manchester, Kansas. The object, in the shape of a “casket,” shoots toward the west 3° then returns to its original position. As it maneuvers near them, it opens several times, revealing various entities each time, from a crowned man to a “haughty woman” and a military leader. The original report appears in the *Evangelical Visitor*. (“[Battle in the Heavens](#),” *Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Times*, October 6, 1894, p. 6)

1895

1895 — French parapsychologist [Albert de Rochas](#) is asked to hypnotize a family friend, “Mireille,” who is suffering from some ailment. In one of her sessions, Mireille describes how she is rising in space, which she describes as luminous and peopled with phantoms. Subsequent sessions reveal that she has visited Mars and other planets in astral form. Mars has canals, of course, but also Martians who are less intelligent than earthlings. (Albert de Rochas, *Les vies successives: Documents pour l'étude de cette question*, Bibliothèque Chacomac, 1911; Hilary Evans, “[Martians of the 1890s](#),” *IUR* 11, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1986): 8–9)

1895, August — US psychical researcher [James Hyslop](#) begins investigating a case of automatic writing by [Sarah Harper Cleaveland](#) (“[Mrs. Smead](#)”) in Onondaga County, New York. She keeps records of her planchette experiments and puts them at Hyslop’s disposal. In August, she makes several references to the planet Mars and Jupiter. She provides a crude map of Jupiter’s surface, and the planet is said to be the “babies’ heaven.” At the next sitting, she draws a map of Mars, the different zones named in the Martian language; she gives several communications about the inhabitants and the canals. Martian revelations cease for another 5 years until September 1900, when the communications return in a developed state. She draws men, boats, houses, and flowers, named in Martian and written in hieroglyphic characters. Some of the sketches (a self-winding double clock) are very ingenious, while others (a Martian airship) are peculiar but unconvincing. (Hilary Evans, “[Martians of the 1890s](#),” *IUR* 11, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1986): 6–7)

1895, August 31 — 8:00 p.m. *Oxford English Dictionary* lexicographer [James Murray](#) watches a “brilliant luminous body” move slowly over the Oxford University campus in Oxford, England, toward the east. At roughly the same time, other observers in London see a similar meteor pass over slowly for about 5 minutes, and A. Warren Melhuish sees it at Margate, Kent, around 10:15 p.m. (J. A. H. Murray, “[Remarkable Meteoric \(?\) Appearance](#),” *London Times*, September 4, 1895, p. 3; “[Remarkable Meteoric Appearance](#),” *London Times*, September 6, 1895, p. 8)

1896

1896, July 1 — 6:00 p.m. A mysterious balloon passes over Winnipeg, Manitoba, to the east at an estimated 2,000 feet. It is lost to view after 20 minutes (“A Mysterious Balloon,” *Winnipeg Manitoba Morning Free Press*, July 2, 1896, p. 4; “[They Think It’s André’s](#),” *Chicago Tribune*, July 2, 1896, p. 1; “Was It André’s Balloon?,” *Portland Oregonian*, July 2, 1896, p. 6; Clark III 70; Robert E. Bartholomew, “A Balloon Mystery of B.C. and Manitoba 1896–97,” *B.C. Historical News*, Fall 1997, pp. 27–29)

- 1896**, July 3 — The chief of the Kispiox people and a group of Canadian trappers see a brightly lit balloon traveling north near Blackwater Lake, British Columbia. The same day, a First Nations boy sees something similar at the Skeena River, British Columbia. (“It Was No Dream,” *Winnipeg Manitoba Morning Free Press*, August 13, 1896, p. 2; Brett Holman, “[Believing Is Seeing](#),” *Airminded*, May 2, 2010)
- 1896**, Mid-July — Night. [Chester N. Crotsenburg](#), a postal clerk on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway, is on a train heading north from Princeton, Missouri, when he notices a round, dull-rose-colored light low on the western horizon. It then rises in height to 45°, and appears to be pacing the train, keeping a half-mile or one mile distance. After the train reaches Lineville, Iowa (13.7 miles away), it passes out of sight behind buildings. Possibly the moon. (“Ball Lightning,” *Monthly Weather Review* 26 (August 1898): 358; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 291–304)
- 1896**, August 11 — [Charles Abbott Smith](#) of San Francisco, California, is granted a patent for a cylindrical airship with a cone-shaped bow, “two wings hinged at the upper part of the vessel,” and a compartment for machinery and passengers. (US Patent, “[Air-ship](#),” granted August 11, 1896)
- 1896**, October — Evening. A Miss Hagstrom is riding a bicycle on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland, California, when she notices an object with a powerful headlight moving toward the west and gradually descending. (“[Saw the Mystic Flying Light](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 22, 1896, p. 13)
- 1896**, Late October — Fruit rancher [Constant T. Musso](#) and his family in Bowman, California, watch three bright lights moving toward the east at about 100 mph. (“[Mission of the Aerial Ship](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 25, 1896, p. 1)
- 1896**, Early November? — Evening. Some of the employees at the Sutro Heights estate [now Sutro Heights Park in the Richmond District] of San Francisco, California, belonging to Mayor [Adolph Sutro](#) watch a brilliant light approaching from the sea at a height of 500 feet. Two lights are visible, one a “misty-looking mass” and the other a searchlight. The object disappears in the direction of the city and turns to the north just before it passes from view. Another report suggests that the object passed over Seal Rocks and shone its searchlight on the seals. (“[The Apparition of the Air](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 24, 1896, p. 1)
- 1896**, Early November — 8:00 p.m. [Louis Charmak](#) and one other person in Woodland, California, notice three bright lights in the southwestern sky moving toward the northeast. As they reach Main Street, they rise another 100 feet in the air. They are close together and followed by a white trail of light. (“[Was It an Airship?](#)” *Woodland (Calif.) Daily Democrat*, November 24, 1896, p. 3)
- 1896**, November 17 — Afternoon and evening. A mystery airship wave begins in California when residents of the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento see a high-flying object moving slowly in a circle, leaving a trail of smoke. Around 6:30 p.m., a light resembling an electric arc lamp appears in the night sky above Sacramento. Horse trainer David Carl notices it close to the ground and hears a voice saying, “We are too low down here. Send her up higher.” Hundreds watch as it passes at low altitude for 30 minutes, avoiding buildings and hills. Some people claim to hear voices, either arguing or singing. R. L. Lowry sees four men pushing the vessel by its wheels. The witnesses include streetcar workers Charles Lusk and [Granville C. Snider](#), who watch the object rise and fall as it moves southwest. (Wikipedia, “[Mystery airship](#)”; “[Voices in the Sky](#),” *Sacramento (Calif.) Evening Bee*, November 18, 1896, p. 1; “[Strange Craft of the Sky](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 19, 1896, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History, 1896*, The Author, 1974; Thomas E. Bullard, *The Airship File*, The author, 1982; Clark III 70–75)
- 1896**, November 20 — Afternoon. D. H. Risdon is working in an orchard near Tagus, California, when he spots an object “like an immense sheet” moving against the wind at a “considerable elevation.” (“[Saw the Mystic Flying Light](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 22, 1896, p. 13)
- 1896**, November 20 — 5:30 p.m. Passengers on a streetcar in Oakland, California, notice a “peculiar-looking contrivance” high in the sky and moving in a westerly direction toward San Francisco. It has a powerful headlight and another light on the bottom. It is also seen over Folsom, San Francisco, Sacramento, Modesto, Manteca, Sebastopol, and several other cities later in the evening and is reportedly viewed by hundreds of witnesses. (“[Saw the Mystic Flying Light](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 22, 1896, p. 13; Wikipedia, “[Mystery airship](#)”)
- 1896**, November 22 — San Francisco attorney [George D. Collins](#) announces that he represents the airship inventor, a “very wealthy man who has been studying the subject of flying machines for fifteen years” and who moved to California from Maine in 1889. He claims the airship is a 150-foot metal contraption with two canvas wings 18 feet wide and shaped like a bird’s tail. It has been built in Oroville and is now hidden in the San Francisco, California, area as the inventor deals with technical problems. However, people in Oroville sense a hoax, as they

know of no such inventor. On November 24, Collins complains to the *San Francisco Call* that another newspaper, the *San Francisco Examiner*, has been printing falsehoods about him, including an interview with another attorney, Frederick Bradley. Suspicion falls on an itinerant dentist from Maine, Elmer H. Benjamin, who insists his only inventions are dental fittings. A prominent citizen of Oakland, [George H. Carleton](#), claims to know the inventor but has been sworn to secrecy. Former California Attorney General [William H. H. Hart](#) soon claims to represent the mystery inventor, who has fired Collins for talking too much. But Hart is also blabbing prolifically, saying that two or three airships exist (a second built in an eastern state) and his role is to “consolidate both interests.” Hart asserts that the airship can carry four men and 1,000 pounds of dynamite for dropping on Havana, Cuba. (Clark III 71–73; “[A Lawyer’s Word for That Airship](#),” *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 22, 1896, p. 36; “[Collins Sticks to His Airship Story](#),” *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 23, 1896, p. 12; “[Have We Got ‘Em Again?](#)” *Sacramento Bee*, November 23, 1896, p. 1; “[Coy Mr. Collins and His Airship](#),” *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 24, 1896, p. 9; “[The Apparition of the Air](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 24, 1896, p. 1; “[Mission of the Aerial Ship](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 25, 1896, p. 1; “[Hart Stands by His Ship](#),” “[Hart Confirms the Story from Sacramento](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 26, 1896, p. 1; “[Three Airships, Says Hart](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 29, 1896, p. 1; Michael Busby, *Solving the 1897 Airship Mystery*, Pelican, 2003, pp. 249–315)

- 1896**, November 22 — 5:30 p.m. Another mystery light moving in a wavering fashion toward the southwest is seen in Sacramento, California, by many people. At times it disappears, then flashes out again with renewed brilliance. Edward Carragher, owner of the Saddle Rock Restaurant, views the light through binoculars and is able to see a large object supporting an arc lamp. Cigar store vendor Jacob Zemansky watches the undulating light through a telescope until it fades into nothingness. (“[Have We Got ‘Em Again?](#)” *Sacramento Bee*, November 23, 1896, p. 1; “[A Winged Ship in the Sky](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 23, 1896, p. 1)
- 1896**, November 22 — 7:05 p.m. M. H. Cohen, a conductor on the Hayes Street line, sees an aerial light at about 300–400 feet altitude when he is at Market and 8th streets in San Francisco, California. Other people on the streetcar also watch the light, which is moving across the Golden Gate and flashing periodically. When the streetcar disembarks at 1st Street at 7:13 p.m., Cohen and the others see the light over the Twin Peaks downtown. At the top of Pierce Street hill, Cohen sees it returning from Twin Peaks, and at 7:51 p.m. he watches it from Ashbury Street. Airships are seen later at Oakland, Alameda, San Leandro, San Jose, California, and Tacoma, Washington. (“[The Apparition of the Air](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 24, 1896, p. 1)
- 1896**, November 23 — 7:00 p.m. A bright light is seen west of Chico, California, traveling to the northwest. The same or similar light is seen west of Red Bluff, California flying west at about 2,000 feet. After a few minutes it descends to 1,000 feet. It disappears over the Coast Range. (“[Mission of the Aerial Ship](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 25, 1896, p. 1)
- 1896**, November 24 — 6:45 p.m. Several passengers on a train crossing the bay from San Francisco to Oakland, California, see an airship alternately stop, hover, and move on. Minutes later, 6th Street in Oakland is overflowing with onlookers as the object passes above Broadway, flashing its light. One spectator is watching through binoculars and says the airship’s turns cause the searchlight to shine in different directions. Among the witnesses are Col. [Thomas F. Garrity](#), city electrician [George H. Carleton](#), [George Hatton](#) of the *Oakland Tribune*, and [Melvin Holmes](#). (“[Mission of the Aerial Ship](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 25, 1896, p. 1)
- 1896**, November 25 — Evening. A mystery light flies in circular patterns around Sacramento, California, at a rapid rate of speed. Observers include Deputy Secretary of State George A. McCalvy, District Attorney [Frank D. Ryan](#), and E. D. McCabe, the governor’s personal secretary. It is three times as large as Venus, also visible. The light is observed for 20 minutes then reappears later in the evening. A Professor Dodge of Galt, California, claims he can make out the “outlines of a dark body” just above the light. (“[Hart Confirms the Story from Sacramento](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 26, 1896, p. 1; Clark III 73)
- 1896**, November 25 — 6:00 p.m. Col. H. G. Shaw and Camille Spooner are riding in a carriage near Lodi, California, when their horse stops suddenly. Looking up, they see three slender beings about 7 feet tall. Shaw walks up to them and asks them where they are from; they reply in an odd warbling language. He notes that they are hairless and wear no apparent clothing. The eyes are large and lustrous, and they each seem to be carrying an egg-shaped light and a breathing apparatus under the left arm. Shaw claims the beings try to lift him but they are not strong enough. They then notice a 150-foot airship hovering 20 feet above the water close to a bridge. The three beings float to the craft, open a door in the side, and disappear inside. The ship flies quickly out of sight. Shaw speculates that the beings are from Mars. (“[Three Strange Visitors](#),” *Stockton (Calif.) Evening Mail*, November 27, 1896, p. 1; Patrick Gross, [UFOs in the Daily Press](#))
- 1896**, November 26 — 7:00 p.m. Farmer John Bawl and his family see an airship moving to the southwest over his residence on Monroe Street near Franklin Street in San Jose, California. It is lunging sharply from side to side and

has a pair of flapping wings and a red light on the bottom. Musician and President of the University of the Pacific [Moses Smith Cross](#) also sees the strange aerial light when he is visiting a colleague two blocks away. (“[It Flitted over San Jose](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 28, 1896, p. 1; “[Three Airships, Says Hart](#),” *San Francisco Call*, November 29, 1896, p. 1)

1896, November 26 — 8:00 p.m. Electrician Cass L. Gilson (sometimes misprinted Case Gilson in the newspapers) and three other men see an unlighted airship in a clear sky 1,000 feet over Oakland, California. It is flying northward against the wind and looks like a “great black cigar with a fishlike tail.” The body is at least 100 feet long and looks as if it is made of darkened aluminum. It is seen again at 8:30 p.m. and disappears in the direction of San Francisco. (“[Says He Saw It](#),” *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, December 1, 1896, p. 1; “[Saw the Airship at Close Range](#),” *San Francisco Call*, December 2, 1896, p. 14; Clark III 73)

1896, November 27 — 10:00 p.m. A prominent attorney and others in Woodland, California, see a cluster of lights attached to an apparent airship moving at an altitude of about 500 feet at about 25 mph. It remains visible for an hour. (“[More Airship Stories](#),” *Woodland (Calif.) Daily Democrat*, November 29, 1896, p. 2)

1896, November 28 — Percy Drew watches an enormous airship with a red light over Oakland, California. (“[Says He Saw It](#),” *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, December 1, 1896, p. 1)

1896, December 1 — [Harry Lytle](#) watches an airship as it flies toward the southwest over the Coast Ranges 3 miles north of Rumsey, California. He claims to recognize it as an “aircycle,” kind of a winged balloon with a pedal-driven propellor, plans for which he submitted to [E. W. Brown](#) of Davis, California, and which they constructed in 1893. He calls it the *Nonesuch*. On an alleged test flight to Los Angeles on March 2, 1893, the device was stolen by some “hoboes.” He assumes the airship is his stolen invention. (“[The Mystery Solved](#),” *Woodland (Calif.) Daily Democrat*, December 8, 1896, p. 3)

1896, December 4 — 6:30 p.m. Travelers on a freight train between Dixon and Elmira, California, see two large, bright lights moving parallel with them at about 1,000 feet altitude. The lights outdistance the train and disappear to the southwest. (Clark III 74; “[The Airship Again](#),” *Woodland (Calif.) Daily Democrat*, December 7, 1896, p. 3)

1896, December 26 — Early morning. Dairy farmer Ezekiel Sergeant and a hired man have just finished milking their cows near Wilmington, Delaware, when they hear strains of music in the air. Then a bottle falls at Sergeant’s feet and breaks into pieces. He sees an enormous, fish-shaped airship with extended wings, a large tail, and a bright searchlight. Amid the shattered glass he finds a slip of paper allegedly written by Capt. James Dashiell and Thomas Murphy on the airship *Icarus* that is sailing from Salt Lake City to Cuba. (“[Saw an Air-Ship](#),” *Philadelphia (Pa.) Times*, December 28, 1896, p. 5)

1897

1897, Mid-January — Just after sunset. People in Acampo, California, see an airship the size of a small house, seemingly built of canvas, and moving to the southeast. It looks “like a cigar box with a spark of fire in it.” (“[Airship Reported Again](#),” *Stockton (Calif.) Evening Mail*, January 22, 1897, p. 5)

1897, January 31 — 9:30 p.m. A “large, glaring light,” apparently from an airship, is seen for nearly 30 minutes west of Hastings, Nebraska, hovering, ascending, descending, and moving at a “most remarkable speed.” (“[See an Air Ship at Hastings](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, February 2, 1897, p. 2)

1897, February–July — The mystery airship wave continues, from Nebraska and Colorado to Texas and Ohio. Hoaxes and pranks pollute the information pool in a major way during this era and the planet Venus and other celestial objects undoubtedly play a major role, but many airship reports emanate from manifestly sober, puzzled citizens, and they continue long after the initial excitement subsides. To all appearances, they are objects of some kind, but since newspapers rarely question witnesses critically about details at this time, little can be deduced from the mass of reports. (Loren E. Gross, [The Mystery of Unidentified Flying Objects—A Prelude, 1896–1949](#), The author, 1971; Roger L. Welsch, “[This Mysterious Light Called an Airship: Nebraska Saucer Sightings, 1897](#),” *Nebraska History* 60 (1979): 92–113; Daniel Cohen, [The Great Airship Mystery](#), Dodd, Mead, 1981; Thomas E. Bullard, [The Airship File](#), The author, 1982; Jerome Clark, “[Airships: Part I](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1991): 4–23; Jerome Clark, “[Airships: Part II](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 20–21, 24; Michael Busby, *Solving the 1897 Airship Mystery*, Pelican, 2004; Jerome Clark, “[UFOs or Mystery Airships?](#)” *IUR* 31, no. 4 (March 2008): 8–14, 29; J. Allen Danelek, *The Great Airship of 1897*, Adventures Unlimited, 2009; Dennis Crenshaw and P. G. Navarro, *The Secrets of Dellschau: The Sonora Aero Club and the Airships of the 1800s*, Anomalist, 2009; Clark III 75–90)

- 1897**, February 4 — Night. A dozen people returning home from a prayer meeting in Inavale, Nebraska, see a bright light passing overhead. Six smaller lights are placed at intervals around a larger dark body. After 10 minutes it returns at a lower altitude, now visible as a conical object 30–40 feet long with two sets of wings and a large rudder. Voices can be heard plainly. (“[Air Ship Is Seen at Inavale](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, February 6, 1897, p. 6)
- 1897**, February 17 — Night. Hy Smith, Charles Braternitz, and Harry Reese see a bright light moving to the east just west of Big Springs, Nebraska. The light repeatedly rises up about 300 feet then descends quickly, sending out sparks. (“[Seen near North Platte](#),” *Kearney (Nebr.) Hub*, February 18, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897**, Mid-February — Residents of Valley Falls, Kansas, can see the outlines of an airship behind a large light that passes over the town. (“[The Supposed Kansas Airship](#),” *Atchison (Kan.) Daily Globe*, February 27, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, February 26 — 10:15 p.m. People at the railway depot in Falls City, Nebraska, see an object with a large searchlight in the northern sky. According to dispatcher Ike Chidsey, it is moving west at 60 mph and also has a red light. Chidsey alerts other Missouri Pacific train stations to the west. Over the next four and a half hours, the object is seen over Stella, Beatrice, Wymore, Hastings, Kenesaw, and Hartwell. (“[The Supposed Kansas Airship](#),” *Atchison (Kan.) Daily Globe*, February 27, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, March 13 — Night. A bright fireball appears in the west over North Loup, Nebraska, moving up and down erratically. It occasionally throws out sparks. (“[That Strange Light Again](#),” *Lincoln Nebraska State Journal*, March 16, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, March 14 — 9:30 p.m. An object with a “big engine headlight” flies over South Omaha, Nebraska, and remains visible for 30–40 minutes. It is moving to the west and disappears behind some buildings. One of the witnesses is [Isaac J. Copenharve](#), a compositor for the *Omaha Bee*. (“[Visions of an Air Ship](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, March 16, 1897, p. 7)
- 1897**, March 23–26 — Night. Residents of Belleville, Kansas, watch a lighted airship moving at 75 mph and “lighting up the houses and city like an immense meteor.” It hovers for 20–30 minutes, changes direction, and is seen on four nights in succession. At 9:20 p.m. on March 25, workers at the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad depot and others in Belleville watch a bright light pass above the city for 45 minutes. It disappears to the northwest and reappears two more times. (“[Say They Saw an Air-Ship](#),” *Kansas City (Mo.) Times*, March 27, 1897, p. 5; “[It Flies at Night](#),” *Kansas City (Mo.) Journal*, March 28, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, March 27 — 8:30 p.m. A blood-red light appears in the western sky over Topeka, Kansas, moving northward parallel with the horizon until after 20 minutes it disappears “with a flicker.” Among the witnesses is Kansas Gov. [John W. Leedy](#), who describes it as a “very strange light.” [Harold T. Chase](#), editor of the *Topeka Capital*, is on the State House steps with Leedy and says the object is a large, oblong shape. (“Strange Light in the Sky,” *Topeka (Kan.) Daily Capital*, March 28, 1897, p. 1; “[Neither Star Nor Planet](#),” *Kansas City (Mo.) Times*, March 29, 1897, p. 1; “[Airship Is Seen by Gov. Leedy](#),” *Chicago Tribune*, March 29, 1897, p. 4; Tim Hrenchir, “[It Was 1897, and a Strange Light Appeared in the Sky over Topeka](#),” *Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal*, August 18, 2021)
- 1897**, April 1 — 8:00 p.m. Strange lights appear in the sky south of Kansas City, Kansas, zigzagging and crossing the horizon. (“[Air Ship Headed toward Omaha](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, April 3, 1897, p. 9)
- 1897**, April 1 — 9:00 p.m. J. E. Gunn, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, and other residents of Everest, Kansas, watch a 30-foot-long object that looks like a canoe suspended from a balloon. Two wings are visible on each side. Its light appears to dim when the object is moving and glows brightly when hovering. (“[Air Ship Headed toward Omaha](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, April 3, 1897, p. 9)
- 1897**, April 1 — Night. Residents of Galesburg, Michigan, see a brilliant white light passing overhead. It is attached to a black object that emits a crackling sound. Human voices are heard distinctly. (“[The Airship Story Spreads](#),” *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Evening Gazette*, April 2, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 2 — Evening. People in Wesley, Iowa, view a cone-shaped object with windows in the side through which light is visible. It is traveling slowly toward the northwest. (“[Wesley Saw the Air Ship](#),” *Algona (Iowa) Republican*, April 7, 1897, p. 8)
- 1897**, April 4 — 12:15 a.m. Dairy farmer [Dick Butler](#) is returning to his farm in Wolf Creek Township, Iowa, after delivering milk in Sioux City when he notices an electric-like light on his right about 200 feet away in a cornfield. He can see a dark object with light coming through its windows. It appears to be a “long, narrow car, resembling a corset box in shape,” some 30–35 feet long and 6–7 feet high. Above the car floats a cigar-shaped bag about the same length and 8–10 feet thick. When his horses see the object, they bolt and tumble his wagon into the ditch. By the time Butler recovers, the object is moving briskly in a descent to the south. He watches it as it moves out of sight. (“Air Ship Again,” *Marshalltown (Iowa) Evening Times-Republican*, April 9, 1897, p. 3)

- 1897, April 4** — 9:30 p.m. A dozen citizens of Troy, Kansas, see a light that resembles a locomotive headlight directly above the town. It slowly moves westward and sinks below the horizon. Probable observation of Venus. ([“The Air Ship,”](#) *Troy Kansas Chief*, April 8, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897, April 5** — Evening. Many people in Wilmington, North Carolina, see an airship with colored lights in the sky to the west, moving at a “rapid rate.” It is pointing a searchlight toward the earth. Looking through binoculars, some observers claim to see wires and ropes of rigging. ([“Was It an Airship?”](#) *Wilmington (N.C.) Messenger*, April 6, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897, Early April** — An airship allegedly lands near Elburn, Illinois, where some farmers run across it. It is made of “some light substance like aluminum.” Two aeronauts are repairing the vehicle and will only say that they are flying from the Pacific to the Atlantic by following the Chicago and North Western Railway. (“That Blooming Ship,” *Rockford (Ill.) Daily Republic*, April 12, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897, April 6** — 2:00 a.m. James Southard gets lost on his ranch near Peru, Nebraska, looking for strayed cattle. He notices a light on a bar in the Missouri River, and it turns out to be on a landed airship 200 feet long, whose crew are apparently repairing its searchlight. The aeronauts answer all of Southard’s questions, telling him that “the craft is loaded with several tons of dynamite and is bound for Cuba” to bomb Spanish ships. ([“Boarded the Airship,”](#) *Auburn (Nebr.) Granger*, April 9, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897, April 6** — 11:00 p.m. Numerous residents of Guthrie, Oklahoma, see a dark object with a bright searchlight flying swiftly above the city. It moves back and forth, sinks close to the ground north of the city, then rises into the air at great speed and disappears. ([“Guthrie Sees the ‘Airship,’”](#) *Kansas City (Mo.) Journal*, April 8, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897, April 8** — 8:00 p.m. Many people in towns along the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern Railroad from West Liberty to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, see an object with a “bright glaring headlight,” a glistening steel body, and wings on either side. It makes a hissing noise as it glides through the air. By 10:00 p.m., it fades from view to the north of Cedar Rapids. (“Airship Appears in Iowa,” *Chicago Record*, April 9, 1897, p. 1; [“The Mysterious Airship,”](#) *Detroit Free Press*, April 10, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897, April 9** — 8:30 p.m. Hundreds of people in Chicago, Evanston, Niles Center, and Schermerville, Illinois, see an airship bearing multicolored lights and swinging a huge white searchlight from side to side. Nearly 800 witnesses on Davis Street in Evanston watch the object, estimated to be 400 feet in length. Using binoculars, the outline of a structure can be seen behind the powerful light. By 9:30 p.m., the airship is last seen over South Chicago. Northwestern University astronomer [George W. Hough](#), director of the Dearborn Observatory, tells the newspapers he is sure the airship is the star Alpha Orionis (Betelgeuse). ([“See Airship or a Star,”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, April 10, 1897, pp. 1–2; [“California Airship on the Wing,”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, April 11, 1897, p. 1; Robert G. Neeley Jr., [“1897: The Airship in Illinois,”](#) *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 1 (1979): 49–69)
- 1897, April 10** — Evening. Witnesses in Marshfield, Wisconsin, see a cone-shaped airship with a bright headlight moving south of town. ([“Hides in the Woods,”](#) *Chicago Chronicle*, April 11, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897, April 10** — 10:00 p.m. A noise draws residents of Platte City, Missouri, outside where they can see a hovering object 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. Two immense wings on either side are moving up and down. Greenish light beams shine down on Main Street from its back and front. Suddenly there is a hissing sound and explosions and the object moves away to the northeast. ([“Saw the Airship,”](#) *Buffalo (N.Y.) Enquirer*, April 12, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897, April 10** — 10:00 p.m. William Mulhall gets a glimpse of a bright light near the horizon in St. Louis, Missouri, slowly moving south-southwest. It turns to the north and moves in a straight line. He goes inside the drug store at 4998 Easton Avenue and alerts the clerk, George A. Miles, and the druggist, R. H. Pardee, to the strange light. By then, a crowd has formed on the corner. The light moves steadily, unlike a balloon, for 30 minutes until it disappears. ([“Aerial Wonder Seen in St. Louis,”](#) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April 12, 1897, pp. 1–2)
- 1897, April 10** — 10:30 p.m. Policemen, firemen, and many other residents of Jacksonville, Illinois, see a bright light moving swiftly from east to west a few hundred feet in the air. The light sways from side to side and throws out beams several hundred feet in length. When it is above the city, the object the light is attached to can be seen as metallic and long with possible wings. Some witnesses can hear voices. The object reverses direction over Jacksonville, throwing its searchlight in all directions, and disappears to the east. (“The Airship over Quincy,” *Quincy (Ill.) Morning Whig*, April 11, 1897, p. 8; Robert G. Neeley Jr., [“1897: The Airship in Illinois,”](#) *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 1 (1979): 49–69)
- 1897, April 10** — 11:00 p.m. A bright white light with red and green lights on either side of it is observed by many residents of Quincy, Illinois, flying low above the Mississippi River on the city’s west side. At one point it is no more than 400–500 feet above the ground. The light is attached to a metallic cigar-shaped object. Two wings extend from the sides and on top is some kind of superstructure. Witnesses estimate its length to be 50–100 feet. The object ascends, moves east, then south, then west, hovers above South Park for a few minutes, then moves north and stops again. It reverses direction and leaves toward the south at “tremendous speed.” (“The Airship over

Quincy,” *Quincy (Ill.) Morning Whig*, April 11, 1897, p. 8; Robert G. Neeley Jr., “[1897: The Airship in Illinois](#),” *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 1 (1979): 49–69)

- 1897**, April 11 — 12:30 a.m. John Peterson, E. K. Rowley, [George Moody](#), [Bayard Taylor French](#), and other residents of Hawarden, Iowa, see a conical object about 60 feet long with four sets of 15-foot wings. It is flying so low (about 600 feet) that they can hear machinery, voices, and laughter. Two red lights are positioned on the tail end and a large searchlight is in the front. After three minutes it moves off to the north. (“[Hawarden Has ‘Em Too](#),” *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal*, April 12, 1897, p. 2; “Another Wonderful Tale,” *Des Moines (Iowa) Leader*, April 13, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897**, April 11 — 5:30 a.m. An alleged photo of an airship is taken at 4356 East Ravenswood Park in Rogers Park, Chicago, Illinois, by an ex-policeman named [Walter R. McCann](#) and George A. Overrocker, who provide copies to several newspapers. The *Chicago Tribune* photo editor pronounces it a fake because it looks like it is taken by a Kodak with a small lens that cannot achieve a panoramic view. A later report claims that McCann has photographed a piece of canvas on which an airship is painted. (“[Airship Myth Yet Soars](#),” *Chicago Tribune*, April 12, 1897, p. 5; “[Airship Is All a Joke](#),” *Chicago Chronicle*, April 13, 1897, p. 2; *Watauga (N.C.) Democrat*, April 27, 1897, p. 1; Clark III 78; Wikimedia Commons, “[Mystery airship 1897](#)”)
- 1897**, April 11 — 12:15 p.m. Gary Carlton Jr. watches a flat object looking like a “big piece of yellow canvas” pass over Bloomington, Illinois, at a high altitude toward the northeast. (“[The Air Ship](#),” *Bloomington (Ill.) Daily Pantagraph*, April 12, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 11 — 7:45 p.m. [John Lee](#) and others in Benton Harbor, Michigan, watch an airship rapidly moving north-northwest for 15 minutes. With the naked eye it looks like a huge ball of fire, but through opera glasses it resembles a cluster of soft yellow lights. (“Air Ship Seen Here,” *Benton Harbor (Mich.) Evening News*, April 12, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 11 — 8:00 p.m. R. G. Adams and his parents at 3126 Fourth Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, watch a lighted, cigar-shaped object flying low towards the southwest. Through binoculars it appears to be 18–20 feet long. A square light that changes from white to green to red, depending apparently on its speed, is on top. Hundreds of other people also see the object over the next four hours, maneuvering above Lake Minnetonka and eventually receding into the northeast. (“Does He Hail from Mars?” *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press*, April 12, 1897, p. 4; “[Wonder! Mysterious Airship Seen by Stuart Mackroth](#),” *Minneapolis Tribune*, April 13, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 11 — 9:00 p.m. An airship approaches Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from the northeast over Lake Michigan and heads toward the southwest. It stops and hovers 1,000 feet above City Hall for 15 minutes. (“Airship Is Seen Again,” *Milwaukee (Wis.) Sentinel*, April 12, 1897; “[Airship Myth Yet Soars](#),” *Chicago Tribune*, April 12, 1897, p. 5; “Sure They Saw It,” *Marshalltown (Iowa) Times-Republican*, April 12, 1897; “Is It a Star?” *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press*, April 13, 1897)
- 1897**, April 11 — Night. A young man in Deadwood, South Dakota, sees odd lights floating in the air above him and the outline of an object sailing above the city for 20 minutes. (“Whole Fleet of Airships Witnessed by Duluthians,” *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press*, April 13, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 11 — After 10:30 p.m. Stuart Mackroth is riding a bicycle just east of Minnetonka Mills, Minnesota, when a flying machine “shaped like an ordinary boat” passes overhead. It has red and green lights on each side and a powerful electric light in front. Inside he can see men, women, and children, all moving about “as if very busy.” (“[Wonder! Mysterious Airship Seen by Stuart Mackroth](#),” *Minneapolis Tribune*, April 13, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 11 — 11:15 p.m. A bank clerk in Decatur, Illinois, sees an object “like two monster cigars with three bright headlights” moving to the north. (“[Saw the Air Ship](#),” *Decatur (Ill.) Evening Republican*, April 12, 1897, p. 8)
- 1897**, April 12 — Early morning. Two miles south of Louisville, Kentucky, Augustus Rodgers sees an oblong object 400 feet above him when he goes out to attend to his livestock. It is about 40 by 15 feet, brilliantly lighted, and flying at a speed of 100 miles an hour. Rodgers calls his wife and they watch it as it disappears to the southeast. They seem to make out the figure of a man aboard. (“Airship Passed in the Night,” *Louisville (Ky.) Evening Post*, April 13, 1897, p. 6)
- 1897**, April 12 — Morning. F. L. Bullard, engineer on the Fast Mail train on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, says he caught sight of an airship moving parallel with the train shortly after his Engine 950 left downtown Chicago. The train is moving at 70 mph, and by the time it reaches Lisle, Illinois, the object is far ahead. Bullard estimates it is moving at 100–150 mph. (“[Air-Ship Distances a Train](#),” *St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat*, April 13, 1897, p. 6)
- 1897**, April 12 — 7:30 p.m. Numerous observers in St. Louis, Missouri, watch an object moving through the clouds at an elevation of about 25°. It has a powerful searchlight that sweeps the ground at regular intervals. The object is visible for 10 minutes before it suddenly disappears. (“[Air Ship Seen](#),” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April 13, 1897, pp. 1–2)

- 1897**, April 12 — 8:00 p.m. During a rainstorm in Lincoln, Illinois, more than 50 people stand on Pulaski Street to watch a light moving to the northeast. John Fitzgerald sees a V-shaped object with a bright searchlight moving rapidly toward Lincoln. It changes course, the light changes from white to green, and the object disappears behind clouds. (“Was It the Airship?” *Lincoln (Ill.) Weekly Courier*, April 13, 1897, p. 8; Robert G. Neeley Jr., “[1897: The Airship in Illinois](#),” *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 1 (1979): 49–69)
- 1897**, April 13 — Before sunrise. Augustus Rodgers, a farmer living two miles south of Louisville, Kentucky, goes outside to attend to his livestock. He sees an oblong object, some 40 feet long by 15 feet tall, flying about 400 feet in the air at 100 mph. His wife comes out to watch it with him, and they both see “a form like that of a man” standing in the front and directing its course. (“Airship Passed in the Night,” *Louisville (Ky.) Evening Post*, April 13, 1897, p. 6)
- 1897**, April 13 — Night. Mayor [Charles Merritt Seely](#) and other people in Canton, South Dakota, watch a winged airship passing to the north over the town with a red light in front and a green light in back. (“[Airship Is Seen by Moonlight](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, April 15, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 13 — 11:15 p.m. Frederick Chamberlain and O. L. Jones are riding one mile west of Lake Elmo, Minnesota, when they notice a figure in a clearing, walking around as if he is looking for something. They turn off the road to investigate and hear a cracking sound followed by a rushing noise. A moment later they notice a gray-white object that looks like the top of a covered wagon. It has two rows of four red or green lights. The object rises quickly at a sharp angle to clear the treetops. They can make out no machinery or wings or rudders or even an outline of the object. In the mud, Chamberlain finds 14 footprints, each 2 feet long, 6 inches wide, “arranged seven on each side, and in an oblong pattern.” Adam Thielen, a nearby farmer, independently sees a dark object with red and green lights flying overhead about the same time. (“Adam Saw the Airship Light,” *St Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press*, April 15, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 14 — Early morning. Marble merchant [David W. Paul](#) is traveling with a party of workmen from Burlington to Frankfort, Indiana. When they are at the middle fork of Wildcat Creek, they hear a “swishing, roaring sound” and see an object with a blinding white searchlight and smaller green and yellow lights. The object is cigar-shaped with wings or fins. It descends to just above the treetops, hovers there for a moment, then rises and noisily shoots off to the southwest. (“That Mysterious Airship,” *Indianapolis Sentinel*, April 15, 1897, p. 6)
- 1897**, April 14 — 4:30 a.m. Farmers see an airship land about 3 miles northwest of Howard City, Michigan, and some go to investigate. Inside the craft is a “strange man” dressed in heavy furs although he seems “to have no use for them, as he was almost naked and seemed to be suffering from the heat.” The man is 9.5 feet tall and speaks in a musical language that, however, sounds like bellowing. One farmer gets too close, and the giant kicks him severely enough to break his hip. (“Trip of the Airship,” *Saginaw (Mich.) Courier-Herald*, April 17, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 14 — 3:00 p.m. An airship looking like an “immense bird” approaches Gas City, Indiana, from the northwest. As it draws nearer, witnesses see that it is cigar-shaped and “propelled by broad canvas wings.” The object lands briefly one mile from town, terrifying some farm animals. As a crowd rushes toward it, it takes off and vanishes to the east. (“[In Daylight](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, April 15, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 14 — 3:00 p.m. A brownish cigar-shaped object with wings passes south of Marion, Indiana, coming from the northwest. Six passengers can be seen on board. (“[Six Men Seen in the Airship](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, April 15, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 14 — 7:30 p.m. An airship 100 feet long and 20 feet high in the center lands in a meadow three-quarters of a mile west of Birmingham, Iowa. A large crowd of men and boys sets out to examine the object, but when they are within several hundred feet, it rises with a loud whirring sound and moves away to the northwest. Two men can be distinctly seen inside, one carrying a lantern that he waves as the airship ascends. (“Airship Positively Seen,” *Burlington (Iowa) Hawk-Eye*, April 16, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 14 — 8:00 p.m. James McKensie is feeding hogs on his farm north of Casstown, Ohio, when he hears an odd noise like a flock of geese passing overhead. Looking up, he sees an object with wings and a rudder flying slowly along about 150 feet in the air, and he distinctly hears music. As it disappears, he thinks he hears a human voice, and something large and white is thrown overboard. (“[Talking Heard by the Citizens](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, April 16, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 14 — Just after 9:00 p.m. Farmhand John Halley and vintner Adolf Wenke see an airship land on Jefferson Street three miles west of Springfield, Illinois. They supposedly converse with one of its occupants, a bearded scientist who is outside the craft. Inside, they can see another man and a woman. The scientist says little other than “as soon as Congress recognizes Cuban belligerency his air ship would be heard from.” (“Mystery Solved,” *Springfield (Ill.) News*, April 15, 1897, p. 1; “[A Springfield Story](#),” *Decatur (Ill.) Daily Republican*, April 16, 1897, p. 1; Robert G. Neeley Jr., “[1897: The Airship in Illinois](#),” *Journal of UFO Studies*, orig. ser. 1 (1979): 49–69)

- 1897**, April 14 — Night. Many persons in Mount Vernon, Illinois, including Mayor [Barton C. Wells](#), allegedly see an object “resembling the body of a huge man swimming through the air with an electric light on his back.” (“Airship’s Travels,” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Commercial Tribune*, April 16, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 14 — Night. A man in Denton, Texas, is watching the stars with binoculars when he notices a shadow crossing the Moon. It is caused by a large cigar-shaped object with wings moving slowly to the southeast. In the front it has a powerful searchlight, and along the side appear a row of lighted windows. It remains in sight for 20 minutes. A woman also sees possibly the same object “bounding along through space like a balloon.” (“The Air Ship Again,” *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, April 15, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, April 14 — Night. The Rio Grande Railroad operator at Cresson, Texas, sees an object about 60 feet long and “resembling the top of a passenger coach in shape” with a powerful searchlight in the front and several smaller lights on the sides. It is moving to the southwest at a “terrific rate of speed” and has wings “something like that of a bat.” It turns to the southeast after passing the station and disappears in the clouds after a few minutes. (“Sighting the Air Ship,” *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, April 16, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 15 — Late evening. Telegraph repairman [Patrick C. Byrnes](#) is operating a railroad handcar about 7 miles west of Cisco, Texas, when he sees a light a little distance from the track on the south side. Knowing there is no farmhouse in the area, he goes to investigate. It is a landed cigar-shaped airship about 200 feet long and 50 feet across at its widest point. Several men are repairing its searchlight, and they tell him that the craft is loaded with several tons of dynamite for bombing Spanish troops and ships in Cuba. (“[Oft-Seen Air-Ship](#),” *Fort Worth (Tex.) Register*, April 18, 1897, p. 11)
- 1897**, April 15 — Between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. William H. Walters watches as an object lands in a meadow less than a mile west of Birmingham, Iowa. He approaches it with a few other men, but it rises slowly with a whirring sound and sails away to the northwest. The object appears to be 100 feet long and 20 feet high, tapering at each end and carrying a large white light and two smaller red and green lights. (“[Moonlight Phenomenon in Iowa](#),” *Chicago (Ill.) Inter Ocean*, April 17, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 15 — Night. An airship with red, green, and white lights lands on a farm near Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Five witnesses see an odd-looking man in a fur coat emerge and walk to a farmhouse belonging to [Melvin Bannister](#), whose dogs are barking fiercely. The stranger points a lantern-like device at them and sends them running. Bannister answers the door and converses awkwardly with the man, who is speaking an odd language, but loans him a hammer, some nails, and a can of skim milk. The man returns the tools, along with a strange coin. The airship takes off with a whizzing sound. (“[Brunswick and Drammen](#),” *Eau Claire (Wis.) Leader*, April 17, 1897, p. 7)
- 1897**, April 15 — Night. An airship with a bright white light and two smaller red and blue lights appears about 1,500 feet in the air near Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota, moving northwest. It reverses direction and disappears. (“[Seen at the Fort](#),” *St. Paul (Minn.) Globe*, April 17, 1897, p. 8)
- 1897**, April 15 — Night. C. A. Peckinpaugh and some 15 others see an airship land on Terry Peak southwest of Deadwood, South Dakota. It rises up and flies away before they can reach it. It is “cigar-shaped with enormous wings.” (“[The City](#),” *Deadwood (S.Dak.) Weekly Pioneer-Times*, April 22, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 15 — 8:15 p.m. [Willie Mahon](#), ex-Marshall French, and other residents of Dunkirk, Ohio, watch a winged object “as large as a wagon bed” pass over the town toward the east. It has propellers on each end, a red light in front, and a greenish-yellow light on the tail. Voices can be heard coming from the object. (“Seen at Dunkirk,” *Kenton (Ohio) News-Republican*, April 16, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, April 15 — 9:00 p.m. Residents of Farmersville, Texas, notice a dim light traveling toward the city from the south at 60–80 mph. Thinking it might be a meteor heading toward the Earth, more people gather outside to watch. City Marshal Brown is in the western part of town making his rounds, and the “ship or balloon” passes overhead about 200 feet in the air. Brown can see two men in the object and something like a large Newfoundland dog. He can hear them talking but cannot understand what they are saying. (“Airship Seen in Galveston,” *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, April 18, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 15 — 9:00 p.m. Many witnesses see a bright light like a locomotive headlight passing above Pierre, South Dakota. George Strong and James Seals can make out a dark object below the light. (“[See It Often in Platte County](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, April 17, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 15 — Between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. A cigar-shaped airship with a row of red lights along the sides passes above Emerson, South Dakota. (“[That Ubiquitous Airship](#),” *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal*, April 17, 1897, p. 6)
- 1897**, April 15 — 9:30 p.m. Lawyer [John Spencer Bounds](#) is riding south of Osceola, Hill County, Texas, when a brilliant flash of light from a searchlight passes over his buggy. His horse is frightened, rears up, and nearly overturns the buggy. The light passes away from them and soon turns upward and shuts off. Looking up, Bounds sees a black, cigar-shaped object about 1,000 feet in the air with an undercarriage, from which the light had emanated. A

number of incandescent lights are flashing around its lower edge. It glides along to the south and after a few miles turns the searchlight on again and shines it along the wooded banks of Aquilla Creek. The light turns off again, and Bounds resumes his journey home to Hillsboro. ("Flight of the Air Ship," *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, April 17, 1897, p. 8)

- 1897**, Mid-April — 3:00 p.m. Railroad conductor Capt. Jim Hooton is hunting near Homan, Arkansas, when he hears a loud mechanical sound like an air brake. Investigating, he discovers an airship undergoing repairs. The aeronauts are not very communicative, so once the repairs are complete, they reenter the airship and take off with a loud hissing sound. ("[Saw the Air Ship](#)," *Little Rock Arkansas Gazette*, April 22, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897**, Mid-April — Early evening. J. W. Lansing sees a cigar-shaped airship twice in Grinnell, Iowa. It moves in various directions, sometimes against a strong wind. ("He Saw It," *Springfield (Ill.) News*, April 26, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, Mid-April – Night. F. Crocker is sitting near the window of his apartment on Barr Street in Fort Wayne, Indiana, when he notices a yellowish light coming from the west. It seems attached to a pear-shaped object with the apex pointed downward. Two yellow rays of light come from its sides as it sways to and fro in the air. He calls R. J. (or R. T.) and J. L. Tretheway, who live in the apartment below his, and they also glimpse the object, which is in sight for 20 minutes. ("Sighted Here," *Fort Wayne (Ind.) Weekly Gazette*, April 15, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, Mid-April — Between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. A man in Eldridge, North Dakota, sees an airship that looks like a car attached to a large, kite-shaped structure with wings. It stops and changes course. At one point the man is close enough to hear a humming sound. Some of the time it displays colored lights; at other times it is completely dark. ("[He Saw the Air Ship](#)," *Jamestown (N. Dak.) Weekly Alert*, April 22, 1897, p. 8)
- 1897**, April 16 — 12:03 a.m. An airship and a smaller "trailer which followed it very closely" are seen by residents of Danvers, Illinois. The objects are made of aluminum-like material, and its "occupants were dressed in western style." ("[The Aerial Mystery](#)," *Bloomington (Ill.) Daily Pantograph*, April 17, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 16 — 12:30 a.m. A group of people returning home from a lodge meeting in Bay City, Michigan, notice a large conical object approaching from the south and slowly descending to about 50 feet altitude above Center Avenue. A red light appears at either end of a body that is apparently 50–75 feet long. It shines with a dull red glow, as if there are lights on its upper side. The object moves away to the northeast. ("Air Ship a Reality," *Saginaw (Mich.) Courier-Herald*, April 16, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 16 — 1:30 a.m. R. E. Draughon, a night watchman at a lumber plant in Beaumont, Texas, sees a "globular" object with a bright light the size of a star in one end. It is moving to the northwest at a high altitude. ("Night Watchman Saw It," *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, April 17, 1897, p. 2; "Seen at Beaumont," *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, April 18, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, April 16 — Morning. A large object passes slowly over Linn Grove, Iowa, heading north. Five men—[James Evans](#), F. G. Ellis, [Ben Buland](#), [David Evans](#), and [Joe Croskey](#)—jump into a rig and follow it 4 miles north of town where it has landed. But when the pursuers get within 2,100 feet of the airship, it spreads out four massive wings and ascends again. The two occupants have extremely long beards and make desperate efforts to conceal themselves. They toss two enormous boulders "of unknown composition" out of the airship. ("[More Air Ship Fakes](#)," *Indianapolis Journal*, April 17, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 16 — While wandering in the hills east of Springfield, Missouri, [W. H. Hopkins](#), a traveling insurance agent, spots a landed airship in a clearing. Next to it is a nude female with hair down to her waist. As she picks flowers, she speaks in an unknown language with a musical voice and fans herself as if the day is hot. In the shade cast by the craft lies a naked man with shoulder-length hair and a long beard. After a few minutes, Hopkins approaches the woman, who shrieks and runs toward the man. Hopkins speaks soothingly and the two aeronauts relax. Hopkins asks where they come from, and they point upward, pronouncing a word that sounds like "Mars." The two examine Hopkins's clothing, hair, and watch with great curiosity. They show him the interior of the ship but take off shortly afterward, "laughing and waving their hands." ("[Golden Haired Girl Is in It](#)," *St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch*, April 19, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 16 — 8:00 p.m. [Howard R. Bolander](#), superintendent of the Ohio Bicycle Works in Marion, Ohio, is looking at the night sky when he sees the light from a cigar-shaped object moving to the southwest. Its light looks like an incandescent lamp. ("[Is Your Credulity in Condition for the Only True Airship Story?](#)" *Marion (Ohio) Daily Star*, April 17, 1897, p. 9)
- 1897**, April 16 — Night. Judge [John Spencer Bounds](#) is riding in a buggy in Hillsboro, Texas, when his horse whirls around in fright. A brilliant light as if from an arc lamp shines on him for less than a minute and then moves over to a nearby field. The light suddenly ascends to an altitude of 1,000 feet. As he watches, the searchlight blinks out and smaller lights surrounding a dark object become visible. The object moves slowly to the south and disappears. ("Seen near Hillsboro," *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, April 17, 1897, p. 8)

- 1897**, April 16 — 12:00 midnight. C. G. Williams is walking across a field two miles south of Greenville, Texas, when he comes across a brilliant light and a large, cigar-shaped object resting on the ground. Three aeronauts emerge from it; two go to work on the ship, and the third approaches Williams and asks him to mail some letters. The man tells him that the airship runs on electricity and that his invention was perfected in a small town in New York State. (“C. G. Williams Saw It,” *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, April 19, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 17 — 6:00 a.m. An airship is said to collide with the tower of Judge [James Spencer Proctor](#)’s windmill in Aurora, Texas, causing it to explode and strew debris over several acres. The pilot (reportedly “not of this world,” or a “Martian” according to an alleged Army Signal Service officer named [Thomas Jefferson Weems](#) from nearby Fort Worth), does not survive the crash and is [buried](#) “with Christian rites” at the Aurora Cemetery. Wreckage from the crash site is either dumped into a nearby well located under the damaged windmill or ends up with the alien in the grave. Adding to the mystery is the story of [Brawley Oates](#), who purchases Judge Proctor’s property around 1935. Oates cleans out the debris from the well in order to use it as a water source, but later develops an extremely severe case of rheumatoid arthritis, which he claims is the result of contaminated water from the wreckage dumped into the well. As a result, Oates seals up the well with a concrete slab and places an outbuilding on the spot in 1945. The entire yarn is widely regarded as a hoax, although Proctor’s windmill apparently did exist. (Wikipedia, “[Aurora, Texas, UFO incident](#)”; “A Windmill Demolishes It,” *Dallas Morning News*, April 19, 1897, p. 5; Donald B. Hanlon, “[Texas Odyssey of 1897](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1966): 9–10; Walter H. Andrus, “[Report on 1897 Aurora, Texas, Investigation](#),” *Skylook*, no. 70 (September 1973): 7–9; H. Michael Simmons, “[Once upon a Time in the West](#),” *Magonia*, no. 20 (August 1985); Wallace O. Chariton, *The Great Texas Airship Mystery*, Wordware, 1991; Thomas E. Bullard, “[Defending UFOs](#),” *IUR* 34, no. 2 (March 2012): 8–10; Clark III 316–318, 592–593; “[Aurora 1897](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, February 5, 2014; Max McNabb, “[The 1897 Aurora, Texas, UFO Crash and the ‘Alien’ Buried in the Cemetery](#),” Texas Hill Country, January 8, 2019; Mutual UFO Network, “[Aurora, TX Crash, 1897](#),” May 14, 2021)
- 1897**, April 17 — Evening. Several people see a cigar-shaped object with white, red, and green lights pass about 500 feet above Derry, Pennsylvania. It seems to have a car hanging about 10 feet below it. (“[The Air Ship at Derry](#),” *Indiana (Pa.) Weekly Messenger*, April 21, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 17 — 8:30 p.m. A large white light attached to a cigar-shaped object passes over Trenton, Tennessee, at an altitude of about 1,500 feet. It has a red light on the left side and a green light on the right. The object remains in sight for 5 minutes then disappears to the east. (“[Trenton Has ‘Em](#),” *Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal*, April 18, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, April 17 — 9:00 p.m. George Alverson, Alex Oxford, and Charley Hunter are walking on Manchester Street near the Cincinnati Southern Railway trestle bridge in Lexington, Kentucky. An airship lands and settles in a vacant lot about 600 feet away. They hurry forward but are stopped by a man who has just emerged from the machine. He is carrying a bucket, which he fills with water from a nearby spring. He declines to answer any of their questions, reenters the airship, and flies away to the southeast. (“[Talked with the Airship Man](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, April 19, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 18 — 8:30 p.m. W. E. Roe, captain of the Ohio River packet *T. M. Barnsdall*, as well as watchman Elmer Hardy and engineer Litus Kinnard, sees a light high in the air above the river as the riverboat is lying at Sistersville, West Virginia. It seems to be moving to the northwest but at other times it retraces its course. Around 12:00 midnight it disappears over a hill to the west. (“The Airship Seen near Marietta,” *Marietta (Ohio) Daily Register*, April 19, 1897; “That Air Ship: Prominent Steamboatman Observed It,” *Parkersburg (W.Va.) Sentinel*, April 20, 1897, p. 1; “Hovered over the Town,” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Commercial Tribune*, April 20, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 18 — 9:30 p.m. An object with lights on both ends is seen southeast of Lyons, Nebraska, traveling to the northwest. Some young observers estimate it is moving at 4–6 mph. When the object is south of Bancroft it makes 2–3 large circles and then moves to the southwest. (“[Airship’s Lamp Is Lighted](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Bee*, April 20, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 19 — 1:30 a.m. As people are returning from a party at the Armory Hall in Natchitoches, Louisiana, they see a bright light attached to a massive airship in the form of a balloon with a cigar-shaped undercar. The light dims while it is over the city and intensifies again when it has passed beyond it. It moves in undulations and is visible for 30 minutes. (“[The Airship Seen in Louisiana](#),” *New Orleans Daily Picayune*, April 21, 1897, p. 6)
- 1897**, April 19 — 2:00 a.m. A man in El Paso, Texas, sees a cigar-shaped object with lighted portholes on each side. The object approaches from the east and passes overhead at 500 feet. Voices from the craft are heard. (“[The Air Ship Seen in El Paso](#),” *El Paso (Tex.) Herald*, April 20, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, April 19 — 12:00 noon. George Dunlap, a man known to [Davis H. Tucker](#), physician at the Harlem Prison Farm [now the Jester State Prison Farm] in Fort Bend County, Texas, is riding in the country near Lake Charles,

Louisiana, when he sees an airship moving toward him about half a mile distant. It makes a loud whistling noise, scaring his horses and causing him to be thrown from the buggy. As the horses flee, the ship lands, a rope comes down, and two men rush over to apologize. They are the owner Mr. Wilson (formerly of Fort Worth, Texas) and his friend Scott Warren. The man is taken into the airship and introduced to two others, a Mr. Waters and a Hispanic man. Wilson tells him the airship is sustained by a gas, and that several of them have been built. ("Was Aboard an Airship," *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, May 16, 1897, p. 18)

1897, April 19 — 9:00 p.m. A bright light moves from the northwest over Cochranville [now a ghost town], Monroe County, Ohio, where it hovers for 20 minutes, flashing red, white, and green lights. Through binoculars a cone-shaped object with large fins on either side can be discerned. It is apparently 180 feet long. ("Hovered over the Town," *Cincinnati (Ohio) Commercial Tribune*, April 20, 1897, p. 2)

1897, April 19 — 10:30 p.m. Rancher [Alexander Hamilton](#), his son Will, and his hired hand Gid Heslip are awakened by a noise in the cattle pen of their ranch at Yates Center, Kansas. They watch as a 300-foot-long, cigar-shaped airship with a carriage underneath descends to about 30 feet above the ground. Two men, a woman, and three children are heard talking in the carriage. They see a calf caught in a nearby fence with a cable knotted around its neck that connects to the airship above. They cut the cable and the airship floats away. A few weeks later, Hamilton admits he made the story up. ("[Air Ship Steals a Calf](#)," *Kansas City (Mo.) Times*, April 27, 1897, p. 1; "[The Air Ship in Kansas](#)," *Atchison County (Mo.) Mail*, May 7, 1897, p. 1; Jerome Clark, "The Great Airship Hoax," *Fate* 30, no. 2 (February 1977): 94–97; Jerome Clark, "[Some Clarifications on the Leroy, Kansas, Calfnapping Hoax](#)," *Pursuit* 10, no. 1 (Winter 1977): 17–18; Jerome Clark, "[The Leroy, Kansas, Calfnapping Hoax of 1897](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 22, no. 6 (April 1977): 26; "[Revelations in 1897 Kansas 'Calfnapping](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 25, no. 12 (June 1977): 7–8; Daniel Cohen, *The Great Airship Mystery*, Dodd, Mead, 1981, pp. 92–102; Clark III 130, 593; "[Cigar-Shaped UFO Abducting a Cow Was Witnessed in 1897 by Kansas Rancher Alexander Hamilton and Others](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, November 18, 2023)

1897, April 19 — After 11:00 p.m. [John R. Ligon](#), an agent for a brewery in Houston, and his son [Charley](#) notice lights in a pasture a few hundred yards away near Beaumont, Texas. They walk over and discover four men moving around a large dark object, who ask for water. They accompany Ligon to his house, each bringing two baskets, which they fill and return. One of the men identifies himself as "Wilson" and says they are traveling in a flying machine that has been over the Gulf of Mexico and is now headed toward Iowa. Ligon says the airship is 130 feet long and 20 feet wide, propelled by four large wings and powered by electricity. Wilson gives Ligon a tour of the ship and says it is one of five built in a small Iowa town. Rabbi [Aaron Levy](#) of Beaumont also claims to have met aeronauts from a landed airship near the city around the same time. ("[Inspected the Air Ship](#)," *Houston (Tex.) Daily Post*, April 21, 1897, p. 2; "[The Airship](#)," *New Orleans Daily Picayune*, April 25, 1897, p. 7; Jerome Clark, "[Mystery Aeronauts of Texas](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 5–6; Jerome Clark, "Mr. Wilson and the Aeronauts of 1897," *Fortean Times*, no. 362 (January 2018): 38–43; Clark III 81–82)

1897, April 19 — Around 12:00 midnight. F. R. Pryor, James Freels, and William Barnes watch an airship approach from the northeast and land near Pryor's residence on Shoal Creek near Cowgill, Missouri. It remains there a few minutes, then takes off to the northwest. It has a bright white headlight and two green and red lights. ("[The Air Ship Seen](#)," *Hamilton (Mo.) Farmer's Advocate*, April 28, 1897, p. 1)

1897, April 20 — [Henry Heintz](#) of Elkton, South Dakota, patents an airship consisting of a cigar-shaped balloon and a structure for passengers beneath it. In April 1900, he brings his invention out for a test flight in front of the Elkton blacksmith shop. The airship rises 8 feet into the air before plopping to the ground. (US Patent, "[Air Ship](#)," granted April 20, 1897; "[South Dakota Airship Proves a Flat Failure](#)," *Sioux Falls (S.Dak.) Argus-Leader*, April 16, 1900, p. 3; Henry Heintz, "[Heintz's New Flying Machine](#)," *The Aeronautical World* 1, no. 8 (March 2, 1903): 171–172; Richard T. Read and David Rambow, "[Hydrogen and Smoke: A Survey of Lighter-Than-Air Flight in South Dakota Prior to World War I](#)," *South Dakota History* 18, no. 3 (1988): 132–151; Ruth Becken, *A History of Elkton*, [City of Elkton,] 2000, p. 94; Jerome Clark, "Mr. Wilson and the Aeronauts of 1897," *Fortean Times*, no. 362 (January 2018): 42; "[Hero the Elephant and the Heintz Airship](#)," *Roadside America*, January 31, 2023)

1897, April 20 — 2:00 a.m. Charles McGar, night operator of the Southern Pacific Railroad, sees an airship at Sabinal, Texas, flying toward the west at about 300 feet with a whirring sound. ("An Operator Saw It," *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, April 23, 1897, p. 3)

1897, April 20 — 9:20 a.m. A Mrs. Burkhardt of Columbia Heights on the southwest side of Massillon, Ohio, sees a "new fangled kite" in the air and points it out to her neighbor, Mrs. Case. They notice it has a large sail and is propelled by a wheel, like a windmill's, at the rear. Mrs. Case's son Bert thinks the object is flying at 1,500–2,000 feet altitude. ("Neighbors All Saw It," *Toledo (Ohio) Blade*, April 21, 1897, p. 2; *Massillon (Ohio) Independent*, April 22, 1897)

- 1897**, April 20 — 10:00 p.m. Sheriff [Henry W. Baylor](#) of Uvalde, Texas, sees a bright light and hears strange voices behind his house. He finds a landed airship and its crew of three men, one of whom is named “Wilson” (from Goshen, New York), who inquires after an acquaintance, [C. C. Akers](#) of Eagle Pass, Texas. After procuring water from a hydrant in Baylor’s yard, the men board the airship, which speeds away northward toward San Angelo. County Clerk Henry J. Bowles sees the airship as it passes over Getty Street in Uvalde. Akers tells a reporter in Galveston that he knew a New Yorker named Wilson when he lived in Fort Worth in 1876–1877. Baylor’s seemingly compelling testimony disintegrates after he confesses in late May to making the whole story up, possibly in collusion with Akers. (“The Airship in West Texas,” *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, April 24, 1897, p. 3; “[The Airship at Uvalde](#),” *Weimar (Tex.) Mercury*, May 1, 1897, p. 6; “[Airship Story Exploded](#),” *Weimar (Tex.) Mercury*, May 22, 1897, p. 7; Jerome Clark, “[Mystery Aeronauts of Texas](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 6–7; Jerome Clark, “Mr. Wilson and the Aeronauts of 1897,” *Fortean Times*, no. 362 (January 2018): 40–41; Clark III 82–83)
- 1897**, April 21 — 12:30 a.m. An employee of the *Picayune* newspaper in New Orleans, Louisiana, steps outside the office and sees an airship, 50–60 feet long and bearing a powerful searchlight. He returns to tell his colleagues, but by the time they come out, the airship is gone. (“[The Airship](#),” *New Orleans Picayune*, April 21, 1897, p. 9)
- 1897**, April 21? — 8:00 p.m. A man is riding his horse between Lancaster and Baltimore, Ohio, when something scares his horse. He sees an object with two brilliant white lights on either end landing in a nearby field. He tethers his horse and approaches the object, which seems as large as a house. Inside he can see two men conversing, so he walks up to ask them questions. One of the aeronauts seems to be Japanese and the other speaks English with a British accent. The craft is called the *Aeribarque*, and they are on a test flight. The aeronaut says that they often land in remote areas and come to nearby towns for supplies or mechanical parts, posing either as tourists or “harmless cranks trying to invent perpetual motion.” After giving the witness a demonstration of the electrical lighting system, they take off into the sky. (“[Aeribarque, That’s It’s Official Name](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, April 25, 1897, p. 9)
- 1897**, April 21 — 11:00 p.m. Confectioner [John S. Scheer](#), [Frank King](#), and Frank Mulick of Erie, Pennsylvania, watch a cigar-shaped, winged object moving north at a relatively high rate of speed. It has a large propeller on its tail end, but it flies silently and disappears over Lake Erie. (“Passed over Erie,” *Erie (Pa.) Daily Times*, April 22, 1897, p. 8)
- 1897**, April 22 — 7:30 p.m. Prominent citizens, including the mayor, observe a low-flying airship heading slowly southwest above Kenly, North Carolina. Its sails “resembled mosquito netting to the naked eye.” The outlines of two people aboard are plainly visible. (“[Men Seen in the Airship](#),” *Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer*, April 25, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, April 22 — 10:10 p.m. A ball of fire is seen moving slowly and horizontally from southwest to northeast over Kokomo, Indiana. Some people can distinguish the faint outlines of a cigar-shaped object and wings. The light is white with a reddish tint and no more than 300 feet in altitude. The witnesses include [Harry M. Grimes](#), [William E. Sollenberger](#), and banking executive [Frank McCarty](#). (“The Mysterious Air Ship,” *Kokomo (Ind.) Daily Tribune*, April 23, 1897, p. 4)
- 1897**, April 22 — 11:00 p.m. [John M. Barclay](#) wakes up when he hears a whirring noise that causes his dogs to bark wildly outside his home near Rockland, Texas. He goes outside and sees an oblong airship with wings and brilliant lights. When he first sees it, the object is hovering 150 feet above the ground. It circles a few times then lands in a nearby pasture. Barclay goes down to investigate with his Winchester rifle, but the lights go out as he gets closer. Some 90 feet away from the airship he is stopped by a man who asks him to put his rifle down. He identifies himself as “Smith” and gives Barclay \$10 to purchase lubricating oil, two chisels, and bluestone. When Barclay returns with the materials, the aeronaut will only say he is from “anywhere,” adding that “we will be in Greece tomorrow.” (“[Supplies for Airship](#),” *Houston (Tex.) Post*, April 25, 1897, p. 13)
- 1897**, April 22 — 12:00 midnight. Frank Nichols, a farmer living 2 miles east of Jossierand, Texas, is awakened by a whirring noise. Outside, he sees a huge airship in his cornfield. Before he can get close, two men with buckets ask him if they can draw water from his well. Nichols consents and in return they give him a tour of the vessel, whose motive power is “highly condensed electricity.” One aeronaut tells him that five airships have been built in an Iowa town. (“[That Airship](#),” *Houston (Tex.) Post*, April 26, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, April 23 — Morning. An object like a floating balloon is seen flying southeast down the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., by officers and soldiers at Fort Myer, Virginia, and officials of the Analostan Boat Club. Those with binoculars can see that it has two hulls coupled together, hanging vertically and rocking from side to side. It gradually disappears from view into the hills. (“[The Airship Again](#),” *Salem (Ohio) Daily News*, April 24, 1897, p. 5)

- 1897**, April 23 — Night. [Henry A. Hooks](#) and [A. W. Hodges](#) of Kountze, Texas, allegedly meet two aeronauts named Wilson and Jackson when their airship suffers a gas leak and lands. (“[That Airship](#),” *Houston (Tex.) Post*, April 25, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 24 — An airship in need of repairs lands near Stringers Ridge on the other side of the river from Chattanooga, Tennessee. An unnamed journalist talks to one of the aeronauts, who identifies himself as Prof. Charles Davidson of Sacramento, California, the inventor of the airship, which can travel as fast as 93 mph. (“[Is This a Reality?](#)” *Knoxville (Tenn.) Morning Tribune*, April 25, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, April 24 — 11:00 p.m. Howard Warn is outside his home in Toledo, Ohio, when he notices bright, multicolored lights moving rapidly toward the southwest. The lights are attached to a cigar-shaped object at an altitude of 500 feet. He calls his father, [Milo S. Warn](#), and they watch the lights until the object disappears into heavy clouds to the southwest. (“[Say They Saw the Airship](#),” *Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer*, April 28, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 25 — Evening. As some residents of Merkel, Texas, are leaving a church service, they notice a heavy, anchor-shaped object being dragged by a large rope that is attached to an airship in the sky not far above them. After 10 minutes, a small figure dressed in a blue sailor suit starts climbing down the rope. But when he sees people watching him, he cuts the rope and returns to the airship, which moves away to the northeast. The anchor goes on exhibit at a local blacksmith shop. (“[Anchor of the Airship](#),” *Houston (Tex.) Post*, April 28, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, April 25 — Night. [William F. Whittier](#), editor of the *Sunbury (Ohio) News-Item*, sets up his camera in the printing office to take lightning photographs. He manages to take a photo of a nearby lightning strike and develops it the following morning. The negative shows not only the lightning but the outline of what seems to be an airship. Whittier makes many copies of the photo and sells them to Sunbury residents. (“Fairy Story: A Sunbury Editor Takes a Photograph,” *Dayton (Ohio) Daily Journal*, April 28, 1897)
- 1897**, April 28? — 8:00 p.m. [Hiram C. LaGrone](#) hears a disturbance among his horses on his ranch at Deadwood, Texas. Stepping outside, he sees a brilliant, multicolored light approaching from the southwest. It slows, hovers, then lands in a field. LaGrone walks up and discovers five men, two of whom take rubber bags and procure water from his well. The other three tell him that this is one of five airships touring the country (and the same one that landed in Beaumont on April 19). (“[The Airship](#),” *Houston (Tex.) Post*, April 30, 1897, p. 7)
- 1897**, May 2 — 1:00 a.m. Edwin Shaffer is driving a rig about one-half mile west of Cassville, Indiana, when he encounters a landed airship 40 feet long. The object spooks his horse, which will not run past it. Shaffer claims the airship is crewed by midgets who speak no English. (“The Air Ship at Cassville,” *Kokomo (Ind.) Daily Tribune*, May 4, 1897, p. 8)
- 1897**, May 4 — 9:00 p.m. Louis Dumhoff, a physician living at 112 Garfield Place in Cincinnati, Ohio, sees a red, egg-shaped light, “the rays escaping in the center and at each end.” It passes to the southeast in about 5 minutes, moving in a zigzag, up-and-down course. Conductor J. C. Gaupel and attorney W. J. Klein also see the light in the same neighborhood. (“[Airship](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, May 5, 1897, p. 7)
- 1897**, May 6 — During a rainstorm five miles west of Hot Springs, Arkansas, Deputy Sheriff John McLemore and Constable John J. Sumpter Jr. see a light in the sky descend behind a hill one half-mile away. After seeing two persons carrying lights, they draw their rifles and demand to know who is there. A man with a long, dark beard tells them that he and two others are traveling around the country in an airship and hope to end up in Nashville, Tennessee. He invites the officers to take a ride and transport them to somewhere dry, but they tell him they prefer to get wet. They return to the spot 40 minutes later and the airship is gone. (“[Swore They Saw It](#),” *Little Rock Arkansas Gazette*, May 9, 1897, p. 1; “[Swear They Saw It](#),” *Arkadelphia (Ark.) Southern Standard*, May 14, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, May 8 — 8:00 p.m. An airship with a brilliant light speeds above Cincinnati, Ohio, from the southeast to the northwest at a high altitude and an estimated 100 mph. (“[Another Air Ship](#),” *Fort Wayne (Ind.) Journal Gazette*, May 9, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, May 9 — 8:00 p.m. Abe Parker of Norwalk, Ohio, sees an object with 10–12 bright white and red lights moving slowly over the town for about 10 minutes. Other witnesses report hearing music coming from it. An unnamed young witness, who follows the object out of town for about one mile after it passes over Main Street, says the shadow cast by the object is round. (“[That Airship Again](#),” *Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer*, May 11, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897**, May 11 — 10:00 a.m. [John E. Hopley](#) is one of a small group of people in Sandusky, Ohio, who watch a “fleecy white bulk” floating far away to the west. Through binoculars the object looks like a white bird with long black wings. Hopley guesses that it is 1–2 miles high, 20 miles away, and 60–80 feet long. (“[The Air Ship: John E. Hopley Sees This Modern Invention](#),” *Bucyrus (Ohio) Evening Telegraph*, May 11, 1897, p. 4)

- 1897**, July 4 — 7:45 p.m. Hundreds of witnesses in Lexington, Kentucky, see a lighted object silhouetted against a storm cloud in the southwest moving to the north at 500 feet altitude. When it nears the city, the light goes out and it disappears after passing over the western part of the city. (“[The Air Ship or Its Twin Brother Passes over Lexington](#),” *Lexington (Ky.) Morning Herald*, July 5, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, July 29 — Sunset. Farmer [Andrew Henderson](#) sees a large, unlighted, oblong object with a suspended car and a huge sail drifting to the northeast over his farm three miles from Whitemouth, Manitoba. He estimates it is only a half-mile away. (“Could It Be Andree?” *Winnipeg Manitoba Free Press*, July 31, 1897, p. 1; “Big Balloon Story,” *Winnipeg Manitoba Free Press*, August 2, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, August 26 — 6:45 p.m. An airship with an attached car is seen moving steadily southwest above Asheville, North Carolina, by Dr. [Willard P. Whittington](#) and two other men who are standing on Grove Street. It is about one mile in altitude. (“[Maybe It Was Andree on His Return?](#)” *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, August 27, 1897, p. 3)
- 1897**, August 28 — 3:00 a.m. [Luther Myers](#) hears dogs barking outside his home in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. When he looks through the window, he sees a rapidly moving airship with a light on each end. It has a propeller and rotates as it moves forward. (“[Our Closeby Neighbors](#),” *Chambersburg (Pa.) Valley Spirit*, September 1, 1897, p. 5)
- 1897**, September 7 — 2:00 p.m. V. H. Hollingsworth and his family in Ellsworth (between Sherman and Denison), Texas, see an unusual object approaching from the east. It has a fan-like wheel on front and fin-like projections on the side. (“[The Air Ship](#),” *Marshall (Tex.) Evening Messenger*, September 9, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, November 2 — 12:45 p.m. Engineer Charles W. West sees a balloon of unusual size passing southwest above Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. It looks like an inclined cylinder with rounded ends and has a car suspended from it. After 20 minutes it passes out of sight. (“[Saw the Man Who Saw the Ship](#),” *Boston Daily Globe*, November 5, 1897, p. 3; “[May Have Been Geese](#),” *Meriden (Conn.) Record-Journal*, November 5, 1897, p. 1)
- 1897**, November 19 — 11:00 p.m. A telegraph operator in Kellogg, Iowa, sees a bright, bluish light moving rapidly to the southwest. He notifies the operator at Colfax, Iowa, and people in the depot there also see it. (“[See the Airship](#),” *Chicago (Ill.) Chronicle*, November 20, 1897, p. 2)
- 1897**, December 5 — Early morning. Engineer John J. Hussey and fireman John Henderson of the Great Northern Railroad in northern Minnesota see a “large, white long light which seemed surrounded by some dark objects” near Deerwood. Other employees of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railways also view the light (“[Was It an Air-Ship](#),” *Saint Paul (Minn.) Globe*, December 7, 1897, p. 2)

1898

- 1898** — English author [H. G. Wells](#) publishes *The War of the Worlds*, one of the earliest stories to portray a conflict between humans and an extraterrestrial race. The novel is the first-person narrative of both an unnamed protagonist in Surrey and his younger brother in London as southern England is invaded by Martians. (Wikipedia, “[The War of the Worlds](#)”)
- 1898**, January 10 — 9:00 p.m. Residents of Rome, Georgia, watch a blue light “attached to some dark and indistinguishable object” as it flies from the northwest to the east. (“[Star-Gazing in Rome](#),” *Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution*, January 11, 1898, p. 4)
- 1898**, February 4 — Mid-day. The postmaster of Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state, Germany, and 11 other persons see an object crossing the Sun’s disk. They watch the object approach the Sun for 15 minutes, take one hour to pass, and stay visible for another hour until clouds obscure it. (Martin Brendel, “[Ueber ein 1898 Febr. 4 in Greifswald beobachtetes Phänomen](#),” *Astronomische Nachrichten* 145 (1898): 333–334)
- 1898**, May 2 — Dusk. Bystanders in front of the Pearson building in downtown New Castle, Pennsylvania, notice a bright arc light moving in from the southwest just below the clouds and remaining visible for 5 minutes. (“[A Mysterious Light](#),” *New Castle (Pa.) News*, May 4, 1898, p. 10)

- 1898**, early June — Evening. Several people in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, observe an object that looks like an “illuminated board,” 16 feet long by 9 inches broad, suspended in the air. The light has a “lurid, glaring nature.” (“[Neighborly Chit-Chat](#),” *Centralia (Wis.) Enterprise and Tribune*, June 11, 1898, p. 8)
- 1898**, June 1 — 8:30 p.m. [Harry McCandliss](#) is riding in the country near Emporia, Kansas, when he sees a cigar-shaped object flying toward the northwest at about 300 feet. It is suspended from a balloon and is peppered with electrical lights. At one point the lights go out then reappear. A searchlight beam in the front skitters in different directions. It ascends to 600 feet and is lost to view. ([[News note](#)], *Emporia (Kan.) Gazette*, June 2, 1898, p. 4)
- 1898**, October 4 — 9:00 p.m. A brilliant object passes over Italy, Greenville, Garland, and Blossom, Texas. Initially moving in an easterly direction, it seems to change course and shoot upwards then burst, throwing out three distinct objects, one red, the other white, and the last one blue. The red and blue lights die out, but the white one continues a few seconds before it too bursts, emitting a shower of sparks. Blossom merchant Dick Moore says the light is so glaring that he thinks his “house was falling on him.” About 2.5 miles north of Sherman, 12-year-old George Campbell is riding with his father when they see the fireball descending, apparently coming as close as 3 feet above the ground before moving upward; they can hear a buzzing noise and think the object is about 10 feet in diameter. (“Aerial Phenomena in Texas,” *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, October 5, 1898; “Aerial Phenomena in Texas,” *Galveston (Tex.) Daily News*, October 6, 1898, p. 6; “Thrilling Sight,” *Yoakum (Tex.) Daily Herald*, October 6, 1898, p. 2; “A Bright Meteor,” *Denton County (Tex.) News*, October 6, 1898, p. 8; “The Meteor,” *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, October 7, 1898; “Aerial Phenomena,” *Caldwell (Tex.) News-Chronicle*, October 7, 1898, p. 5; “Thrilling Sight,” *Dublin (Tex.) Progress*, October 7, 1898, p. 3; “Thrilling Sight,” *Jacksonville (Tex.) Banner*, October 7, 1898, p. 3; “Thrilling Sight,” *Cisco (Tex.) Round-Up*, October 8, 1898, p. 8; Theo Paijmans, “High Strangeness in Texas,” *Fortean Times* 286 (May 2012): 30)
- 1898**, October 4 (or 3) — Night. At Fort Washita, Oklahoma, Mrs. William Peveto (possibly [Mary Peveto](#)) watches a fireball (probably the same one as October 4) descend. A few minutes later, distracted by the meteor, she is standing in her kitchen when a “female ghost” appears and chats with her for a few minutes, saying that if she would follow her, she will lead her to a fortune. Peveto becomes terrified, and the entity flees through a closed door. The entity visits her again on other nights, again talking about treasure in the basement. They continue until February 1899 when they occur nightly. At one point the ghost claims to have been murdered years ago in Fort Washita and shows her strangle marks around her neck. Poltergeist phenomena (tables moving) occur and a male ghost also talks to her. Peveto becomes ill and apparently moves away from the place. (“Ghosts at Old Fort Washita,” *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, October 20, 1898; “Old Fort Washita Ghosts: Mrs. Peveto Contributes Another Uncanny Chapter to the Record,” *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, March 26, 1899; Theo Paijmans, “High Strangeness in Texas,” *Fortean Times* 286 (May 2012): 30–31)

1899

- 1899** — Serbian-American inventor [Nikola Tesla](#) is working in his laboratory near Colorado Springs, Colorado, when he observes unusual signals from his receiver that he speculates are communications from another planet. He mentions them in a letter to a reporter in December 1899 and to the Red Cross Society in December 1900. Reporters treat it as a sensational story and jump to the conclusion Tesla is hearing signals from Mars. In 1901, Tesla writes that it has not been immediately apparent to him that he is hearing “intelligently controlled signals” and that the signals could have come from Mars, Venus, or other planets. It is possible that he is intercepting [Guglielmo Marconi](#)’s European experiments in July 1899—Marconi may have transmitted the letter S (dot dot dot) in a naval demonstration, the same three impulses that Tesla hinted at hearing in Colorado; signals from another experimenter in wireless transmission; or “whistlers,” very low frequency radio waves generated by lightning flashes. [Brian Dunning](#) of the *Skeptoid* podcast attributes Tesla’s signals to pulsars, which are not identified until 1968. (Nikola Tesla, “[Talking with the Planets](#),” *Colliers Weekly* 26 (February 9, 1901): 4–5; Margaret Cheney, *Tesla: Man Out of Time*, Dorset Press, 1989 ed., pp. 111–113; Daniel Blair Stewart, *Tesla: The Modern Sorcerer*, Frog, 1999, p. 372; Michael D. Swords, “[Radio Signals from Space, Alien Probes, and Betty Hill](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 11; W. Bernard Carlson, *Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age*, Princeton University, 2013, p. 315; Brian Dunning, “[The Black Knight Satellite](#),” *Skeptoid* podcast, no. 365, June 4, 2013)
- 1899** — Swiss psychologist [Carl Jung](#) investigates his 15-year-old cousin, [Hélène Preiswerk](#) (“S.W.”), in Basel, Switzerland, who claims to be a spiritualist medium. Her trances frequently involve journeys to other planets. She claims that Martians have flying machines, and they irrigate the land with canals and artificial lakes. (Hilary Evans, “[Martians of the 1890s](#),” *IUR* 11, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1986): 7–8)

- 1899**, Mid-January — Late night. People returning from a dance near McMahan, Texas, see a group of stars in formation, moving in one direction. A few miles further east, hunters camping on a hilltop see the full outline of an airship with headlights and windows. (*Dallas (Tex.) News*, January 25, 1899; Clark III 86)
- 1899**, January 26 — 11:00 p.m. People outside the opera house in McAlester, Oklahoma, watch an airship “like a railway car suspended from a large balloon-like arrangement” pass overhead. It shines a bright searchlight along the ground. ([[News note](#)], *Garfield County (Okla.) Democrat*, February 9, 1899, p. 4)
- 1899**, June 1 — Late evening. Observers in Kamen-Rybolov, Primorsky Krai, Russia, see a blue sphere about 28 inches in diameter flying silently from south to north near the steamboat *Kazak Ussuriyskiy* moored on Lake Khanka. It is seen for 20 minutes, then it returns later in the evening flying north to south at greater speed, disappearing 11 minutes later. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, p. 113)
- 1899**, July 4 — 4:30 p.m. A mystery balloon floats across the sky in Spokane, Washington, from southwest to northeast. Before it disappears, it ascends so high that “nothing but a small black ball far up in the heavens could be discerned.” (“[Who Owns the Big Balloon?](#)” *Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle*, July 5, 1899, p. 2)
- 1899**, October — Midnight. Physician Malcom McKinnon is driving home to Fosston, Minnesota, in his carriage when a dazzling ball of white light crosses the road ahead about one-quarter of a mile away, lighting up the road like daylight. It resembles an electric arc lamp and moves slowly from north to southeast about 3 feet above the ground, throwing the field furrows into visible relief. As it passes closer, McKinnon sees that it is clearly “disk shaped, about the size of an umbrella.” It is in sight for 30 minutes. (*Minneapolis Minnesota Journal*, October 25, 1899; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 239–251)

1900

- 1900** — Psychic medium [Catherine-Elise Müller](#) (under the pseudonym “Hélène Smith”) of Geneva, Switzerland, becomes famous with the publication of *Des Indes à la Planete Mars (From India to the Planet Mars)* by [Théodore Flournoy](#), professor of psychology at the University of Geneva. The medium and the psychologist remain very close until 1900, when the book is first published, documenting her various series of somnambulatory trances in which she experiences a civilization on Mars and her former lives: the “Martian” cycle, “Ultramartian” cycle, “Hindu,” “Oriental,” and “royal” cycles. She writes out the Martian communications on paper and translates them into French, popularizing automatic writing. (Society for Psychical Research, PSI Encyclopedia, “[Hélène Smith](#)”; Hilary Evans, “[Martians of the 1890s](#),” *IUR* 11, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1986): 4–6)
- 1900**, Summer — Dusk. A 12-year-old girl is walking back to her farm from Cadwst, Denbighshire, Wales, when a large disc-shaped object about 14 feet in diameter silently passes above her and over a nearby meadow. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 13–14)
- 1900**, Mid-summer — 3:00 a.m. [Perrian A. McGilvra](#), 14, is returning on horseback from a dance near Reedsburg, Wisconsin, when his horse begins acting up. He sees a large, dark, dirigible-shaped object passing over a grove of poplar trees. The trees bend like they are in a strong windstorm, but he notices no wind. The object flies over his head with a whooshing sound. The horse remains frightened even after the object leaves. (Clark III 1161)
- 1900**, December — [Percival Lowell](#) at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, records a shaft of light that projects from a “well-known geographical point” on Mars for 70 minutes. (“[Science Notes](#),” *Scientific American* 84 (1901): 179)

1901

- 1901**, Summer — Day. A 10-year-old boy is walking home to Bournbrook, West Midlands, England, through a path behind his family’s garden when he comes upon a large box-shaped device with a small, centrally placed turret. The only opening is a door, through which two small men (less than 4 feet tall) in military uniforms (but no insignia), each wearing an odd-looking cap with a wire sticking up on both sides, step out. One stays by the door,

but the other walks toward the boy and waves him away. The beings go back in the craft, a bright flash surrounds it, and it shoots into the air with a whooshing sound. (Clark III 261; Jenny Randles and Philip Barnet, “[Humanoids Encountered in 1901?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 5 (March 1979): 28–29; “[UFO Britannia: Part 1, The Early Years](#),” Above Top Secret, December 19, 2012; Jenny Randles, “The ‘Wes’ Effect 1: The Hut That Flew,” *Fortean Times* 309 (Christmas 2014): 27)

1902

1902, May 13 — 8:00 p.m. A blue-colored fireball appears over Austin, Texas, and ascends into the sky until it disappears. (*Austin (Tex.) Daily Tribune*, May 14, 1902; Clark III 1168)

1902, November 20 — 9:27 a.m. Richard Griffiths, the assistant astronomer at Adelaide Observatory in South Australia, is taking meteorological observations with a colleague when they see a “brilliant globular light” in the south-southeast at about 42° elevation. When it is nearly overhead, it appears elongated and takes “an elliptical form.” It moves slowly north and remains visible for 4 minutes, covering about 20° of arc. It disappears above the northern horizon. (Bill Chalker, “[Early Australian Historical Encounters](#),” 1997)

1903

1903, March 17 — Mid-evening. [Madge Brosius](#), 12, and her father [Charles](#) see a “huge object like a gigantic ripe cucumber with slightly tapered ends” over the family farm in Helmer, Indiana. Its inside is illuminated, and it has 8 windows in two rows of four each. Her father estimates it is 100 feet long. It begins moving away from him as he moves toward it, zigzagging like a child’s balloon losing air. (Madge Brosius Allyn, “The Flying Cucumber of 1903,” *Fate* 24, no. 3 (March 1971): 45–47; Clark III 1162)

1903, September 29–October 3 —An implement dealer named [U. G. Griffith](#) is on his way home in Van Meter, Iowa. As he approaches, he notices a strange point of light like a spotlight emanating from the top of the Mather & Gregg’s building. He approaches cautiously, but the light sails across the street. He tells others about the experience, and over the next few days several people report a half-human, half-animal entity with large bat-like wings. The townsfolk chase the creature to a local mine shaft, down which it disappears, never to be seen again. (“[A Winged Monster](#),” *Saint Paul (Minn.) Globe*, October 11, 1903, pp. 1, 4; Craig Woolheater, “[The Van Meter Visitor](#),” Cryptomundo, May 9, 2013; Chad Lewis, Noah Voss, and Kevin Lee Nelson, *The Van Meter Visitor*, On the Road, 2013; “[Half Human, Half Bat: Van Meter Remembers a 1903 Visit from a Winged Monster](#),” *Des Moines (Iowa) Register*, July 1, 2015; Clark III 1216–1218; “[The Van Meter Visitor: Airborne Glowing Cryptid Found in Iowa](#),” Edge Science YouTube channel, July 23, 2021; “[Hunting the Van Meter Monster in Iowa: Expedition X](#),” Discovery UK YouTube channel, October 14, 2022; “[A Strange Being Is Terrifying People in Iowa: The Van Meter Visitor](#),” The Insomnia Society YouTube channel, February 1, 2023)

1903, December 17 — Inventors [Orville and Wilbur Wright](#) make the first controlled, sustained flight of a powered, heavier-than-air aircraft with the *Wright Flyer* 4 miles south of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. (Wikipedia, “[Wright Flyer](#)”)

1904

1904 — Late afternoon. [Wirt M. Covert](#), 17, and [Arthur B. Eldert](#) are returning on horseback from a grocery store in Dixboro, Michigan, when they see a large object in the air moving west behind the steeple of the Dixboro United Methodist Church. He compares its shape to the Confederate ironclad *Virginia* and it has a thick mast sticking up from its center and orange light shining through some windows. Suddenly it rises at about a 60° angle over the hills, tipping its mast back, and disappears. (NICAP case file)

1904, February 28 — Mid-evening. The steamer [USS Supply](#) is transporting the ill Governor of Guam, [William Elbridge Sewell](#), from Guam to San Francisco, California. About 300 miles west-southwest of San Francisco, commanding Lt. [Frank Herman Schofield](#) observes three objects “beneath the clouds, their color a rather bright red.” As they

approach the ship they appear to soar, passing above the broken clouds. After rising above the clouds, they appear to “be moving directly away from the earth. The largest had an apparent area of about six suns. It was egg-shaped, the larger end forward. The second was about twice the size of the sun, and the third, about the size of the sun. Their near approach to the surface appeared to be most remarkable.” The objects are in sight for over two minutes by three people. [Barry Greenwood](#) thinks they are meteors, but [Bruce Maccabee](#) is not so sure. (“Meteors Fly Upward,” *New York Herald*, March 9, 1904, p. 7; Frank H. Schofield, “Remarkable Meteors,” *Monthly Weather Review* 32 (March 1904): 115; Bruce Maccabee, “[Even More Remarkable](#),” *IUR* 9, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1984): 14–15; Bruce Maccabee, “[Meteors? Even More Remarkable](#),” 2005; NICAP, “[Three Red Objects Sighted from USS Supply](#)”; Barry Greenwood, “[The USS Supply Sighting of 1904](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 2 (September 1998): 2–6; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 329–351; Chet Dembeck, “[Navy Commander’s Sighting of 3 UFOs Flying in Formation Remains Unsolved after 117 Years](#),” Unknown Boundaries, November 10, 2023)

1904, June — 10:00 p.m. When Tony Darby goes outside to the well on his farm 5 miles north of Rolling Prairie, Indiana, he notices two round, orange-colored, silent objects hovering 5–6 feet from the ground near the barn. He estimates they are the size of wagon wheels. One of the objects is 2 feet behind and to the left of the other. Running back to the house, he calls for his mother and brother, and all three walk toward the objects, which move away slightly then stop when the witnesses stop. Soon the objects move steadily away to the northeast, still maintaining their relative positions, at about the speed of a man walking. They pause briefly in a small hollow, then continue over a small hill and out of sight. (Lore and Deneault, [pp. 91–92](#))

1905

1905 — [Frederick Spencer Oliver](#)’s book *A Dweller on Two Planets* is published posthumously. It is a narrative channeled by Oliver in Yreka, California, through automatic writing and mental dictations by a spirit calling itself Phylos the Tibetan, an Atlantean who reveals his story from 1883 to 1886. The book deals with deep esoteric subjects including karma and reincarnation and describes Phylos’s final incarnation in 19th century America where his Atlantean karma plays itself out. In that incarnation (as Walter Pierson, gold miner and occult student of the Theo-Christic Adepts) he travels to Venus in an astral body while his physical form remains at a temple inside Mount Shasta, California. (Wikipedia, “[A Dweller on Two Planets](#)”; Frederick Spencer Oliver, [A Dweller on Two Planets](#), Baumgardt, 1905)

1905, August 3 — 1:30 a.m. Farmer John A. Jackson is driving a herd of hogs from Silsbee (a former settlement 6 miles southwest of El Centro) to Imperial, California, when a bright light flashes on him from above. He is momentarily blinded, and the hogs start running away. Jackson sees it is a searchlight from an airship about 100 feet long and propelled by wings that move up and down. It has smaller lights along the sides. Jackson wakes up W. E. Wilsie, who lives nearby, and they watch it disappear to the northeast. Another farmer, A. J. Morey, also glimpses the airship. (“[Aerial Navigation in Imperial Valley](#),” *Imperial (Calif.) Press*, August 5, 1905, p. 4)

1906

1906 — [Herbert Vern DeMott](#), 10, watches an object come down near his family’s water well in Mitchell, South Dakota. As he approaches it, a door rolls back and he is welcomed inside by two human-like occupants who are sitting inside on camp stools. They converse with him fluently, but he does not know where they come from. He sees a lever that apparently can cut off the earth’s “magnetism,” allowing the object to rise. The occupants take water from the farm’s horse trough to be “used in making electricity.” (“[DeMott Rock Study Crosses Continents](#),” *Albany (Oreg.) Democrat-Herald*, August 27, 1973, p. 11; Clark III 261; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 22, 2009)

1906, January 4 — Night. Martin Meyerson is on the beach at Paia, Maui, Hawaii, when he sees a green object with the shape and diameter of the full moon appear from behind the southern slopes of the Wailuku Mountains. It is so bright it illuminates the cane fields below, then travels like a “slow-pitched baseball” and disappears behind Mount Haleakala to the southeast. (Clark III 1168)

- 1906**, September 16 — Late afternoon. Hundreds of people in Indianapolis, Indiana, see a “cigar-shaped object” like an airship pass over the city. It is seen first in Irvington and then floats over the southern side of the business district where it is distinctly seen from downtown. Some estimate it to be 2,000 feet in the air; the watchman at the courthouse tower looks at it through binoculars but cannot see any detail. It disappears to the west. (“[Ship Founders in Air](#),” *Indianapolis Star*, September 17, 1906, p. 1)
- 1906**, October 7 — 5:00 p.m. An airship again floats over the southeastern portion of Indianapolis, Indiana, and is seen by many as it turns northeast and disappears in the distance. (“[Ship Floats over City: Hundreds See It in Flight](#),” *Indianapolis Star*, October 8, 1906, p. 3)
- 1906**, November — Dusk. Roy Russell and four other cotton-pickers are taking a brief respite from work 10 miles southeast of Anadarko, Oklahoma, when they see a fiery object shaped like a stovepipe. From an initial altitude of 60 feet, the object sinks down, comes toward them, and passes within 16 feet at eye level. Then it seems to flatten out and just blacks out. Another similar object follows and then several others. Russell watches them for 20 minutes. (“[Recalls Fiery 1906 U.F.O.](#),” *Des Moines (Iowa) Tribune*, May 4, 1966, p. 36)

1907

- 1907**, April 20–26 — The *Nashville American* prints some tall tales about encounters with occupants of a balloon who land briefly in various places (usually near a spring) around central Tennessee. The witnesses include a farmer named W. A. Smith, Walter Stephenson, Herman Schubert, Asa Hickerson, and A. Mollycoddle. The aeronauts are dressed strangely, play music, and speak a foreign language. (*Nashville (Tenn.) Sunday American*, April 21–23, 28, 1907; “[Here’s a Weird Tale](#),” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, April 25, 1907, p. 6; Theo Paijmans, “The Tennessee Aeronaut Flap of 1907,” *Fortean Times* 313 (May 2014): 28–29)
- 1907**, Summer — While playing along the shore of a lake near Vilppula [now Mänttä-Vilppula], Finland, a group of boys see a light come from over the water and settle on the beach nearby. A door opens, and human-like beings emerge, sending the youths running. Searchers who come to the site later find traces and footprints. (Clark III 261; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1900-1909](#), p. 7)
- 1907**, July 2 — Just before 12:00 noon. Bishop [John Stephen Michaud](#) is talking with Vermont ex-governor [Urban A. Woodbury](#) at the corner of Church and College streets in Burlington, Vermont, when they hear a loud explosion and see a torpedo-shaped object about 6 feet long and 8 inches in diameter suspended in the air about 300 feet away. It is dark, with several tongues of flame issuing from it at various points, as if its covering is ruptured. It slowly begins to move to the southeast. The explosion has either knocked down or stunned a horse in College Street. A strong downpour of rain ensues shortly afterward. Although described as a “possible case of ball lightning,” the object appears more likely to have been an exploded balloon that someone has attached fireworks to in preparation for a Fourth of July celebration. (“[Saw Ball of Fire](#),” *Burlington (Vt.) Free Press*, July 3, 1907, p. 7; William H. Alexander, “[A Possible Case of Ball Lightning](#),” *Monthly Weather Review* 35 (July 1907): 310–311; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, *Anomalist*, 2019, pp. 354–372, reprinted in “Revisiting the Bishop’s Torpedo,” *Fortean Times* 387 (Christmas 2019): 44–51)
- 1907**, July 7 — 6:40 p.m. W. E. Thomas is watching a vivid sunset in Phoenix, Arizona, when he sees a “blue disk floating in the heavens apparently close to the sun.” It passes in front of the sun, completely covering it. Other discs appear until there are seven of them. His wife also sees the objects, which are constantly in motion, changing directions and sometimes moving in a straight-line formation. The disks are visible for another hour until sunset, when they are last seen as blue blotches. (“[Phoenix Man Sees Blue Stars](#),” *Tucson (Ariz.) Citizen*, July 11, 1907, p. 4)

1908

- 1908**, March 30 — 10:15 p.m. F. W. Longbottom in Queens Park, Chester, England, is photographing the Whirlpool Galaxy (NGC 5194) in Canes Venatici with a 12.25-inch reflector. When the plate is developed, it shows an unknown nebulous object some 25 minutes of arc northeast of the galaxy. He does not see the object when he examines the same spot again on April 6. (F. W. Longbottom, “[Comet or ———?](#)” *The Observatory* 31 (1908): 215–216)

- 1908**, May — Late evening. Helen C. Peterson sees a string of lighted beads in the sky over Great River, Long Island, New York. The first light stops and as the others reach it, they seem to bump into it. It grows a little bigger, appearing like a large star. Suddenly it begins to spin like a pinwheel, but without sparks. The motion stops and what looks like a very bright star takes off at great speed toward the southeast. (Clark III 1168–1169)
- 1908**, June 30 — 7:14 a.m. A large explosion takes place near the Podkamennaya Tunguska River in Yeniseysk Governorate [now Krasnoyarsk Krai], Russia. Evenki natives and Russian settlers in the hills northwest of Lake Baikal observe a column of bluish light, nearly as bright as the sun, moving across the sky. About 10 minutes later, there is a flash and a sound similar to artillery fire. Eyewitnesses closer to the explosion report that the source of the sound moves from the east to the north of them. The sounds are accompanied by a shock wave that knocks people off their feet and breaks windows hundreds of kilometers away. The explosion over the sparsely populated eastern Siberian taiga flattens 770 square miles of forest and possibly causes up to three human casualties. The event is generally attributed to the air burst of a meteoroid. It is classified as an impact event, even though no impact crater has been found. The object disintegrates at an altitude of 3–6 miles rather than hitting the surface of the Earth. The area is so remote that the site is not inspected until 1927 by a team led by Russian mineralogist [Leonid Kulik](#), who finds a zone about 5 miles across where trees are scorched and devoid of branches but still standing upright. More exotic explanations for the event include a black hole impact, antimatter, a UFO crash (as recently as 2004 by Russian ufologist Yuri Labvin), a nuclear explosion, and an inadvertent experiment by [Nikola Tesla](#). (Wikipedia, “[Tunguska event](#)”; Hobana and Weverbergh 10–30; John Baxter and Thomas Atkins, *The Fire Came By: The Riddle of the Great Siberian Explosion*, Doubleday, 1976; Surendra Verma, *The Mystery of the Tunguska Fireball*, Thriplow, 2005; Vladimir Rubtsov, *The Tunguska Mystery*, Springer, 2009; Phil Plait, “[Aliens Saved Tunguska!](#)” *Bad Astronomy*, May 29, 2009; Mark Peplow, “[Rock Samples Suggest Meteor Caused Tunguska Blast](#),” *Nature*, June 10, 2013; Hannah Osborne, “[The Tunguska Event Was the Biggest Asteroid Impact in Recorded History: How Did It Vanish without a Trace?](#)” *Live Science*, May 29, 2023)
- 1908**, Summer — Repeated sightings of unidentified airships, sometimes flying against the wind, take place in Denmark. They usually have wings and searchlights; on one occasion, an antenna is seen jutting from the front end. Other reports are of oddly shaped clouds from which a searchlight emanates, sweeping the ground. (Willy Wegner, “[The Mystery ‘Airship’ over Denmark in 1908](#),” *The UFO Register* 8, no. 1 (November 1977): 3–8; Clark III 1163)
- 1908**, July 25 — About 6:00 p.m. A “large airship sailing very high” is seen passing from north to south over the Forestville neighborhood of Bristol, Connecticut. It seems to be an elongated gas bag under which a framework with a propeller is suspended. After “maneuvering” a while, it stops and circles over Lake Compounce then changes course toward the southwest. An East Bristol man named Wilson later claims it was a pig-shaped balloon he had sent up for his daughter’s birthday party, but “balloon” sightings continue in Massachusetts through December. (“Large Airship Seen Sailing over East Part of Bristol, Ct.,” *Boston Herald*, July 26, 1908, p. 16; “The Lake Compounce Airship,” *Willimantic (Conn.) Daily Chronicle*, July 29, 1908, p. 26; Clark III 1163)
- 1908**, July 26 — A special agent force in the Department of Justice, forerunner of the FBI, is created by Attorney General [Charles Bonaparte](#). Its first chief is [Stanley Finch](#). Attorney General [George W. Wickersham](#) renames the force the Bureau of Investigation in March 1909. (Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Timeline](#), March 31, 2002)
- 1908**, October — Skipper J. H. Stockman of the smack *Superb* is fishing in the North Sea 35 miles out of Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, when he sees a large “star” rise out of the water and approach his ship. He signals it with a red flare, and to his surprise he is immediately answered with a red flare above him. He then shows a white flare and receives a blue flare in response. The object appears sausage-shaped and carries a single light. It disappears in the direction of the Netherlands. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 20, 1909; *Norfolk News*, May 22, 1909; Clark III 1163; David Clarke, “[Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909](#),” *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999); Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), August 17, 2013)

1909

- 1909** — Night. [Frederick G. Hehr](#) sees a bright white light executing a “curious dance” over a village one mile away in East Frisia, Lower Saxony, Germany. A minute later the light suddenly streaks in his direction, coming within

300 feet as it passes by at 60 feet altitude. Three seconds later it is gone. ("Report from the Readers," *Fate* 4, no. 5 (July 1951): 95–96; Clark III 1169)

- 1909**, March 4 — 8:25 p.m. Charles Maberly, an organist at St. Michael's Church in Lambourne, Berkshire, England, is returning home from choir practice when he sees a bright searchlight attached to a torpedo-shaped dirigible heading west at 200 feet altitude. He walks for about 50 yards watching it. As it passes out of sight, he hears three explosions at regular intervals. (London *Evening News*, May 18, 1909; Carl Grove, "[The Airship Wave of 1909: A Preliminary Survey](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1970): 9)
- 1909**, March 23 — 5:15 a.m. Police Constable James Kettle of Peterborough, England, sees a powerful light about 1,200 feet in the air above Cromwell Road making an engine-like buzz. The light is on a dark, fast-moving oblong object. It is in view for about 3 minutes. ("Quite a Sensation! What a Night Policeman Saw!" *Peterborough Advertiser*, March 27, 1909, p. 7; "[Aerial Mystery](#)," London *Standard*, May 17, 1909, p. 7; "[What Did P.C. Kettle See? Another Old Mystery Revived](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 6, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1960): 11–12; Carl Grove, "[The Airship Wave of 1909: A Preliminary Survey](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1970): 9; Nigel Watson, "[Phantom Airships over Britain in 1909, and Their Impact on Society](#)," *Common Ground*, no. 3 (November 1981): 18–23; David Clarke, "[Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909](#)," *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999): 39–63)
- 1909**, April 21 — 9:45 p.m. Fred Harrison of King's Lynn, Norfolk, England, sees a "long, dark object" moving swiftly overhead just above treetop level. It carries a searchlight that illuminates the road, farm buildings, trees, and everything it touches. ("Mystery of the Air," London *Daily Express*, May 14, 1909, p. 1; David Clarke, "[Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909](#)," *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999))
- 1909**, May 5 — Night. C. W. Allen and two other men are motoring through Kelmarsh, Northampton, England, when they hear a loud explosion in the air followed by the rumbling of an engine. Allen sees an oblong dark shape, perhaps 100 feet long, with lights in front and behind moving at an altitude of 500–600 feet. They dimly perceive some men on a platform below it. It passes out of sight at 20 mph northeast toward Peterborough. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 13, 1909; Carl Grove, "[The Airship Wave of 1909: A Preliminary Survey](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1970): 11; David Clarke, "[Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909](#)," *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999))
- 1909**, May 9 — 11:20 p.m. Miss H. M. Boville notices from her bedroom window at Southend-on-Sea, Essex, England, a "large dark object looming out of the sky" and traveling slowly from the east. After a few seconds it remains nearly stationary for a few minutes in front of her window, and she sees the outline of a torpedo-shaped airship about 1,300 feet in altitude. It rises higher then travels swiftly to the west toward London. It shows two powerful searchlights at each end very briefly. (London *Evening News*, May 15, 1909; Carl Grove, "[The Airship Wave of 1909: A Preliminary Survey](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1970): 10; David Clarke, "[Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909](#)," *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999))
- 1909**, May 16 — 1:30 a.m. A Mrs. Wigg, who lives near Belle Vue Park on Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, wakes up to an engine-like sound. She looks out her window and sees a long, dark, bottle-shaped object pass by at a low altitude. She thinks she can see a man in front, steering the craft. Other people in Lowestoft hear engine sounds and flashes of light around the same time. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 18–19, 1909; *Norfolk News*, May 19, 1909, p. 13; David Clarke, "[Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909](#)," *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999))
- 1909**, May 17 — The subject of mystery airships is brought up in a debate in the House of Commons. [Arthur Fell](#), MP for Great Yarmouth, England, had asked Secretary of State for War [Richard Haldane](#) if he could give the number of dirigibles, either built or in progress of being built, in Germany. Haldane replies that 7 dirigible airships have been built and another 5 are under construction. [Horatio Myer](#), MP for Lambeth North, follows up by asking Haldane: "Will the honourable gentleman, in any report he may circulate, tell us about a certain dirigible supposed to be hovering about our coast?" The question is greeted with laughter and Haldane does not reply. (Neil R. Storey, *Zeppelin Blitz: The German Air Raids on Great Britain during the First World War*, History Press, 2015, pp. [10–11](#))
- 1909**, May 18 — 11:00 p.m. Charles Lethbridge (part-time dock worker and Punch-and-Judy showman) is traveling on a "spring cart" from Senghenydd on his way home to Cardiff, South Wales. At the summit of Caerphilly Mountain he sees a long, tube-shaped object sitting on the grass by the roadside, with two men busily working on something. They are wearing heavy fur coats and fur caps that fit tightly over the heads. Lethbridge proceeds to about 60 feet of them when they notice him and start jumping up and jabbering in a foreign language. They

- quickly pick up something from the ground, then jump into a little carriage suspended from the object (with wheels at the bottom), which rises into the air in a zig-zag fashion. When it clears the telegraph wires, two electric lights shine out and the craft heads toward the southeast. Lethbridge returns to the site with a newspaper reporter and they find signs of trampling in the grass for about 45 feet. They also pick up a small red French military label, letterhead from a London stockbroker, many newspaper clippings with references to airships or the German army, and a tin box with paste for polishing metal. ([“Airship Mystery,”](#) *The Guardian* (London), May 20, 1909, p. 7; “Mystery of the Air,” *London Daily Express*, May 20, 1909, p. 1; [“The Airship Mystery: Strange Stories in South Wales,”](#) *The Weekly Mail* (Wales), May 22, 1909, p. 7; Nick Redfern, [“UFOs over Wales: A 1909 Wave,”](#) *Mysterious Universe*, May 23, 2016; Brett Holman, [“What the Showman Saw,”](#) *Airminded*, November 17, 2014)
- 1909**, May 19 — 1:15 a.m. Robert Westlake, railroad signalman at King’s Junction in the Queen Alexandra Dock at Cardiff, Wales, sees a cigar-shaped object flying swiftly at perhaps 2,600 feet and making a whizzing noise. It has two lights and is moving eastward. Some dock workers who are loading the *SS Arndale* also see the object for “a minute or two.” It passes over the Bristol Channel towards Weston-super-Mare. Aeronaut [Percival G. Spencer](#) says that he recently sold several of his “man-lifting” 25-foot-long model airships to advertising firms in the UK, one of them in Cardiff. (*London Globe*, May 19, 1909; Brett Holman, [“Wednesday, 19 May 1909,”](#) *Airminded*, May 19, 1909; *London Standard*, May 21, 1909; Brett Holman, [“Friday, 21 May 1909,”](#) *Airminded*, May 21, 2009)
- 1909**, May 19 — 11:30 p.m. A lone motorcyclist observes a glowing light traveling in a straight trajectory overhead near Wroxham, Norfolk, England. As it passes, the motorcycle headlight fails. It begins working again after the UFO passes. (“Norwich Lights,” *London Evening News*, May 20, 1909, p. 1; *East Anglian Daily Times*, May 21, 1909; *Norfolk News*, May 22, 1909; Carl Grove, [“The Airship Wave of 1909, Pt. 2,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 17, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1971): 17, 19; Mark Rodeghier, [“UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference,”](#) *CUFOS*, 1981, p. 1; David Clarke, [“Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909,”](#) *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999); Brett Holman, [“Saturday, May 22, 1909,”](#) *Airminded*, May 22, 2009)
- 1909**, May 19 — 12:00 midnight. A Mr. Chatten, grocer’s assistant, is cycling home to Tharston, Norfolk, England, when he is dazzled by a bright light with a bluish tinge overhead. It switches off for a few seconds, and Chatten can see a long, cigar-shaped object 300–400 feet above him, moving rapidly toward Norwich. On its underside is a framework with a yellow light at each end. ([“Airship Mystery,”](#) *London Daily Telegraph*, May 21, 1909, p. 12; Carl Grove, [“The Airship Wave of 1909, Pt. 2,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 17, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1971): 17, 19; David Clarke, [“Scareships over Britain: The Airship Wave of 1909,”](#) *Fortean Studies* 6 (1999); Brett Holman, [“Saturday, May 22, 1909,”](#) *Airminded*, May 22, 2009)
- 1909**, June 16 — 4:10 a.m. M. Delingette, director of the meteorological station at Đồng Hới, Vietnam, observes a luminous, elongated object moving from west to east. Four fishermen watch the object for 8–10 minutes until it falls into the sea. ([“Étoiles filantes, bolides, aérolithes,”](#) *L’Astronomie* 23 (1909): 519–520)
- 1909**, July–August — A mystery airship wave begins in New Zealand with numerous sightings of unusual nocturnal lights and airships seen in both daytime and nighttime. The sightings are at first most intense over the southern end of South Island. In the following weeks the reports appear to move northward and by August, Australia also falls under the grip of what press accounts call “aerialitis.” ([“The ‘Lights’ in the Sky,”](#) *Melbourne (Vic.) Argus*, August 21, 1909, p. 15; Bill Chalker, [“Early Australian Historical Encounters,”](#) 1997; Robert E. Bartholomew, [“The Great Zeppelin Scare of 1909,”](#) *NZ Skeptics*, May 1, 1998; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak!*, Anomalist, 2009, pp. 479–483; Clark III 65–67; Brett Holman, [“Scareships over Australia—I,”](#) *Airminded*, October 20, 2010; Brett Holman, [“Scareships over Australia—II,”](#) *Airminded*, October 23, 2010; Brett Holman, [“Scareships over Australia—III,”](#) *Airminded*, October 25, 2010; Tony Brunt, [“The New Zealand UFO Wave of 1909,”](#) *Ufocus NZ*, July 22, 2020)
- 1909**, July 11 — Night. Several people in Kaitangata, on New Zealand’s South Island, report seeing a mysterious light, possibly from a dirigible, for 30 minutes. The light bobs in and out of view over the Wangaloa Hills. ([“A Mysterious Light,”](#) *Otago Daily Times*, July 16, 1909, p. 10; [“A Mysterious Light,”](#) *New Zealand Herald*, July 27, 1909, p. 5; [“The Airship Mystery,”](#) *Otago Evening Star*, July 27, 1909, p. 5; [“The ‘German’ Theory,”](#) *Otago Evening Star*, July 29, 1909, p. 4; *Outbreak!* p. 480; Bryan Dickeson, [“The ‘1909 Kelso Airships’ of New Zealand,”](#) *Ufocus NZ*, July 22, 2020)
- 1909**, July 19 — 6:30–9:00 p.m. A mysterious aerial light is seen in Oamaru, New Zealand. ([“The Airship Mystery,”](#) *Otago Evening Star*, July 29, 1909, p. 4; Tony Brunt, [“The New Zealand UFO Wave of 1909,”](#) *Ufocus NZ*, July 22, 2020)

- 1909**, July 23 — 12:00 noon. Mrs. James Russell and several schoolchildren in Kelso, New Zealand, see an airship shaped like a boat that flies toward them from the east, circles above the school, and returns in the same direction. It seems to have a propeller. ([“The Airship Mystery,”](#) *Otago Evening Star*, July 29, 1909, p. 4; [“The Mysterious Lights,”](#) *Otago Daily Times*, July 30, 1909, p. 8; [“The Airship Mystery,”](#) *Otago Witness*, August 4, 1909, p. 32; Bill Chalker, [“Early Australian Historical Encounters,”](#) 1997; *Outbreak!* p. 480; Bryan Dickeson, [“The ‘1909 Kelso Airships’ of New Zealand,”](#) *Ufocus NZ*, July 22, 2020)
- 1909**, July 24 — 5:00 p.m. George McDuff, another student in Kelso, New Zealand, sees an airship near his home. Sixty years later, he attributes it to his imagination. (Robert E. Bartholomew, “The Great New Zealand Zeppelin Scare of 1909,” *New Zealand Skeptic* 47 (Autumn 1998): 1, 3–5)
- 1909**, July 24 — Night, Several people near Kaka Point, New Zealand, see a “large illuminated object.” Fearing it is a German Zeppelin about to land, the witnesses run off, vowing to shoot at it if it returns. ([“Alleged Airships,”](#) *Otago Clutha Leader*, July 27, 1909, p. 4)
- 1909**, July 30 — 5:00 a.m. Two men working on a dredge on the Maitai River north of Gore, New Zealand, see a lighted object descend out of the mist. It appears to be a narrow, boat-shaped craft that circles the dredge over a period of several minutes, rising and falling like a bird, and varying its speed. Two figures can be seen inside. It disappears into the mist, leaving behind a yellow glare. ([“The Airship Mystery,”](#) *Otago Evening Star*, July 30, 1909, p. 4; [“Two Miners See the ‘Ship,’”](#) *Wellington Dominion*, July 31, 1909, p. 7; [“More Airship Stories,”](#) *Auckland Star*, July 31, 1909, p. 5; Bill Chalker, [“Early Australian Historical Encounters,”](#) 1997; Tony Brunt, [“The New Zealand UFO Wave of 1909,”](#) *Ufocus NZ*, July 22, 2020)
- 1909**, August 2 — 3:00 a.m. Thomas Robertson sees a large boat-shaped object with lights near Sumpter’s Hill, Oamaru, New Zealand, clearly illuminated by the Moon. Two figures are visible inside. It disappears swiftly to the west. (Bill Chalker, [“Early Australian Historical Encounters,”](#) 1997)
- 1909**, August 2 — Night. A light seen moving in the sky above Nelson, New Zealand, is attributed to the planet Mars. ([“What Was It?”](#) *Nelson Evening Mail*, August 3, 1909, p. 2)
- 1909**, August 3 — Night. A man is riding in Waipawa, New Zealand, when his horse becomes nervous. He sees a large, gray, torpedo-shaped object passing overhead. Three persons are visible in it, one of whom shouts to him in an unknown language. The object rises to a great height, showing lights fore and aft. After circling around, it disappears behind a hill. ([“A Nocturnal Visitor,”](#) *Waipawa (N.Z.) Mail*, August 5, 1909, p. 3; [“Conquest of the Air,”](#) *Hastings (N.Z.) Standard*, August 5, 1909, p. 8; *Hawke’s Bay Herald*, August 6, 1909; Clark III 261; Tony Brunt, [“The New Zealand UFO Wave of 1909,”](#) *Ufocus NZ*, July 22, 2020)
- 1909**, August 7 — 10:30 p.m. Four young men at brick kilns near the railway station in Goulburn, New South Wales, see a bright, pale blue light arise from behind some hills to the east. After ascending, it circles back in the direction it came from. The object is said to be visible every night from August 5–10. ([“The Goulburn ‘Airship,’”](#) *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Herald*, August 11, 1909, p. 10; [“Those Mysterious Lights,”](#) *Sydney (N.S.W.) Evening News*, August 12, 1909, p. 5; [“Mysterious Lights,”](#) *Taranaki (N.Z.) Daily News*, August 10, 1909, p. 2; Bill Chalker, [“Historical Australian UFO Reports,”](#) *UFO Research Australia Newsletter* 4, no. 3 (Nov.–Dec. 1983): 27)
- 1909**, August 9 — 7:30–8:00 p.m. A flying object with lights on its front and back sails at a great altitude from west to east over Concord, New Hampshire, eventually disappearing into a cloud. Capt. [Lyman Jackman](#) at first thinks it is a balloon, but its estimated speed of 45–50 mph against the wind leads him to think otherwise. (“Air Ship or Meteor,” *Concord (N.H.) Evening Monitor*, August 10, 1909, p. 3) At about the same time, Bertha Niles of Vale Perkins, Quebec, watches a similar lighted object moving west to east. (“Air Ship or What?” *Concord (N.H.) Evening Monitor*, August 13, 1909, p. 7)
- 1909**, August 9 — Night. Residents of Moss Vale, New South Wales, watch a large lighted object like an airship float over the town. ([“Is It an Airship?”](#) *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Herald*, August 10, 1909, p. 7)
- 1909**, August 10–13 — A brightly lighted object is seen in various towns in New South Wales—Breadalbane, Sydney, Bathurst, Helensburgh, Sutherland, Zeehan, and Picton. Both fire balloons and the planet Mars (then in opposition) are suspected, as well as Venus and Jupiter, which are in conjunction. A pair of lights are repeatedly seen in Perth, Western Australia, and its suburbs. ([“The Mysterious Light,”](#) *Goulburn (N.S.W.) Evening Penny Post*, August 14, 1909, p. 2; [“The Lights in the Sky,”](#) *Goulburn (N.S.W.) Evening Penny Post*, August 17, 1909, p. 1)
- 1909**, August 13 — 11:00 p.m. Residents of Glen Innes, New South Wales, see an object like a balloon moving to the north. Through a telescope, the object looks like an inverted top. The lower portion is lighted, and as it revolves, a small light turns on the land beneath. It continues drifting northward. (Bill Chalker, *The Oz Files*, Duffy and Snellgrove, 1996, p. 31)

- 1909**, August 18 — 2:30 a.m. Four men (Capt. Edward P. Sisson, Ernest T. Newton, Prentice Lanphear, and Edward M. Knapp) at the Coast Guard life-saving station on the south side of Fishers Island, New York, see a winged airship 60 feet long and 20 feet wide. Moving swiftly against the wind, it moves in from the northeast, its engines whirring and a dazzling white light at its head. Two dark figures can be seen in the center of the object. Visible for 3 minutes, the object moves off to the west. ([“Aeroplane over Fishers Island,”](#) *New London (Conn.) Day*, August 29, 1909, p. 9; “Fishers Islanders See Big Aeroplane,” *Providence (R.I.) Journal*, August 19, 1909, p. 1; Joseph Trainor, “The New England Airship Invasion of 1909,” *Fortean Studies* 1 (1994): 59–70)
- 1909**, August 22 — Evening. Residents of Upper Montclair, New Jersey, watch a mystery airplane that emits a large puff of smoke. It descends and flies off to the north. ([“Airship over Montclair,”](#) *New York Times*, August 24, 1909, p. 2)
- 1909**, September — 7:30 p.m. E. B. Hanna of South Windham, Connecticut, watches a high-flying, meandering “searchlight” along Windham Center Road for about an hour. After heading toward him, it changes direction and moves southward. (“What Mr. Hanna Saw May Have Been the Worcester Airship,” *Willimantic (Conn.) Chronicle*, December 14, 1909, p. 8)
- 1909**, September 1 — 4:30 p.m. A cigar-shaped object is seen maneuvering at Gore, New Zealand, gradually disappearing to the northeast. ([“In the Air,”](#) *Southland Times*, September 2, 1909, p. 5; [“Gore Mystery Solved,”](#) *Southland Times*, September 4, 1909, p. 5)
- 1909**, September 3 — 9:00 a.m. Several hundred residents of Bloomington, Indiana, see a “dirigible balloon” pass over the city for 15 minutes. The car beneath the gas bag is plainly visible. ([“Sights Strange Airship,”](#) *Indianapolis Star*, September 4, 1909, p. 5)
- 1909**, September 20 — During the opposition of Mars, astronomer [Eugène Antoniadi](#) uses the 83cm aperture telescope at Meudon Observatory in Paris, France, to observe Mars. He sees no canals. The outstanding photos of Mars taken at the new Baillaud dome at the Pic du Midi Observatory in the French Pyrenees also bring formal discredit to the Martian canal theory, and the notion of canals begins to fall out of favor. Around this time, spectroscopic analysis also begins to show that no water is present in the Martian atmosphere. (Wikipedia, [“Martian canal”](#))
- 1909**, September 30 — Evening. A balloon “supposed to be from Chicago” passes over Edinburg, Indiana. Its anchor somehow gets entangled in high-tension wires of the traction station for the Indianapolis, Columbus, and Southern interurban rail. It moves south to Taylorsville a few minutes later, and it is so low to the ground that the occupants are able to talk to passersby. ([“Tramp Balloon Snaps Wires,”](#) *Indianapolis Star*, October 1, 1909, p. 9)
- 1909**, October — 10:30 p.m. Rev. Ruth Smith and some church members are riding in a wagon in La Porte, Indiana, when the horses rear and a blinding light splashes across the road. A large structure resembling two inverted bowls, separated by a row of lights, is hovering, with several phosphorescent beams extending to the ground. It is encircled in a corona of light and begins moving slowly. After 15 minutes, it blinks out. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 97](#); Clark III 1169)
- 1909**, December 13 — 10:00 p.m. A. W. Norris of Mabelvale, Arkansas, sees a bright, bobbling light moving through the air about 300 feet above him from the south. ([“Airship Flies near Little Rock, Perhaps,”](#) *Little Rock Arkansas Gazette*, December 15, 1909, p. 7)
- 1909**, December 22 — 6:30 p.m. Many residents of Worcester, Massachusetts, see a “brilliant ray” emitted by a large black object 1,000 feet high in the southwestern sky. After circling over the town, the object heads to the west, where it is seen over Marlboro. It returns to Worcester between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m., flying at low altitude and sporting a searchlight. One policeman thinks he sees enormous wings; others detect one or two figures inside. The airship is attributed to a Worcester businessman named [Wallace E. Tillinghast](#), who has told the *Boston Herald* on December 12 that he has invented a heavier-than-air monoplane and has made more than 100 test flights at night to Boston and New York City. But Tillinghast never offers his aircraft for public viewing, and people gradually realize it is a hoax. (“Tells of Flight 30 Miles in Air,” *Boston Herald*, December 13, 1909, p. 1; [“Tillinghast to His Story Clings,”](#) *Berkshire (Mass.) Eagle*, December 14, 1909, p. 2; [“Sailed over the Harbor: Unknown Airship Makes a Flight in Night,”](#) *Boston Globe*, December 20, 1909, p. 1; “Worcester Agape at Airship Lights,” *Boston Herald*, December 23, 1909, p. 1; [“Airship Seen in Two Cities,”](#) *Boston Globe*, December 23, 1909, p. 1; [“Airship Flies High above Worcester,”](#) *New York Times*, December 23, 1909, p. 1; [“Worcester Palpitating: All Excitement Today over That Airship,”](#) *Boston Globe*, December 23, 1909, pp. 1, 4; [“Airship Is Just Venus,”](#) *Boston Globe*, December 24, 1909, pp. 1, 2; Thomas E. Bullard, *The Airship File*, The Author, 1982, pp. 270–279; Joseph Trainor, “The New England Airship Invasion of 1909,” *Fortean Studies* 1 (1994): 59–70; Clark III 1165; Stephen Whalen and Robert E. Bartholomew, [“The Great New England Airship Hoax of 1909,”](#) *New England Quarterly*

75, no. 3 (September 2002) :466–476; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak!*, Anomalist, 2009, pp. 483–486)

- 1909**, December 23 — 6:00 p.m. [Charles F. Flynt](#) and several other people in Augusta, Maine, see a brilliantly lighted object moving from northeast to southwest when he is leaving his office at the newspaper. It is balloon-shaped, taller than it is wide. They watch it until it almost disappears. Flynt sees it again about one hour later near his residence on East Crescent Street. Flashes of light, apparently moving up and down, come from the object as it gradually settles down around Betsy Howard Hill. It swings around in the sky and moves in a different direction before it disappears again to the southwest, perhaps as far away as Lewiston. Some observers claim to see two wings and two lights, one in the rear and another shining on the wings. [Horace E. Bowditch](#) thinks it is diamond-shaped. (“[Strange Object Passes over Augusta Early Thursday Evening](#),” *Augusta Daily Kennebec Journal*, December 24, 1909, p. 9)
- 1909**, December 23 — 6:00–10:00 p.m. An airship is seen flying over Worcester, Massachusetts, and several nearby towns. Thousands of residents pour into the streets, bringing Worcester to a temporary standstill. P. D. Donahue of Baltic, Connecticut, says he could see two men in the vessel. After a sighting in Willimantic, Connecticut, the mayor says there is no doubt but that it was an airship.” Thousands of citizens of Boston, Massachusetts, and neighboring communities see an airship with lights flying at an altitude of around 400 feet. Alex Randall of Revere reports wings, tail, and propeller, but other observers only see a cylindrical shape at most. C. D. Rawson of Worcester later claims he had attached small lanterns and a reflector to the legs of large owls and was responsible for the sightings. (“Skyship of Mystery Flies above Boston,” *Boston Journal*, December 24, 1909, p.1; “Mysterious Air Craft Circles about Boston for Nearly Six Hours,” *Boston Herald*, December 24, 1909, p. 1; “[Reporter Thinks He Found Home of Aeroplane](#),” *Meriden (Conn.) Journal*, December 24, 1909, p. 5; “[Airship Is Just Venus](#),” *Boston Globe*, December 24, 1909, pp. 1, 2; “[Airship Story Worries Them](#),” *Boston Globe*, December 26, 1909, p. 14; “Airship Owl Is Worcester Tale,” *Boston Herald*, December 26, 1909, p. 15; Joseph Trainor, “The New England Airship Invasion of 1909,” *Fortean Studies* 1 (1994): 59–70; Clark III 1165)
- 1909**, December 24 — Night. Thousands of people in Boston again watch the twin lights of a supposed airship ascending and descending in the sky. (“[Certain As the Stars: Airship Again on Route](#),” *Boston Globe*, December 25, 1909, pp. 1–2)
- 1909**, December 24 — In Providence, Rhode Island, author [H. P. Lovecraft](#) sees what people are claiming is Tillinghast’s airplane bearing a powerful searchlight, but he identifies it as the planet Venus. (“City Is Airship Mad,” *Providence (R.I.) Journal*, December 25, 1909, p. 2; “Providence Men See Searchlight in Sky,” *Providence (R.I.) Journal*, December 25, 1909, p. 14; “Venus and the Public Eye,” *Providence (R.I.) Sunday Journal*, December 26, 1909, Sec. 2, p. 5; H. P. Lovecraft, *Collected Essays, Volume 3: Science*, ed. S. T. Joshi, Hippocampus, 2005, p. 99; Joseph Trainor, “The New England Airship Invasion of 1909,” *Fortean Studies* 1 (1994): 59–70; Clark III 1165)

1910

- 1910**, January 6 — 7:30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Tyler watch the bright light of a supposed airship above East Poultney, Vermont. (“[The Inevitable Airship](#),” *Rutland (Vt.) Daily Herald*, January 10, 1910, p. 4)
- 1910**, January 7 — 1:00 a.m. Loomer Opera House Manager [John H. Gray](#) and policeman John Manley see an object with a “chain of electric lights hitched together with strand of fire” over Willimantic, Connecticut. (“[Willimantic Men See Things Again](#),” *Hartford (Conn.) Courant*, January 8, 1910, p. 1)
- 1910**, January 12 — 11:00 a.m. An unknown cigar-shaped aircraft is seen moving over Chattanooga, Tennessee, to the northeast. It returns on January 13. Probable hot-air balloon hoax. (“[Airship Sailed over the City](#),” *Chattanooga (Tenn.) News*, January 13, 1910, p. 1; “[Airship in the Air](#),” *Chattanooga (Tenn.) Daily Times*, January 13, 1910, p. 7; “[Airship Stirs South](#),” *New York Tribune*, January 13, 1910, p. 1; “[Airship Out in Sky Again Today](#),” *Chattanooga (Tenn.) News*, January 14, 1910, p. 7; “[Another Airship Flying](#),” *Chattanooga (Tenn.) Daily Times*, January 14, 1910, p. 6; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), February 20, 2013)
- 1910**, January 12 — 4:30 p.m. An unknown airship flies high over Huntsville, Alabama, against the wind, from southwest to northeast, disappearing over the crest of Chapman Mountain. (“[Strange Airship](#),” *Huntsville (Ala.) Journal*, January 13, 1910, p. 1)
- 1910**, January 14 — 6:55 p.m. Two men on Summit Hill in Knoxville, Tennessee, see a large airship moving south. Its outlines are distinct. The men hear a hum of machinery and see sparks from “its motors.” (“[Positive That They Saw an Airship](#),” *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal*, January 15, 1910, p. 7)

- 1910**, January 21 — 7:30 p.m. A light that flashes from right to left then from left to right is seen in the northwest sky at Milbong, Queensland, Australia, for about 30 minutes. It hovers for about 5 minutes, then moves away, disappearing and reappearing more than a dozen times and appearing like “the flicker of a looking-glass in the sun.” It repeats the performance on February 8. (“[Strange Light in the Sky](#),” *Ipswich (Queensland) Times*, February 11, 1910, p. 4)
- 1910**, Summer — Morning. Lawrence J. Crone is playing on a baseball field in the Violetville neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland, when he sees a metallic, brown, blimplike object, more than 100 feet long, hovering above a pine tree 200 feet away. It has a row of colored, rectangular windows. Through one he can see as many as 20 strange entities taking turns looking at him. Their heads are pointed, and they are dressed in light-colored garments with a fur-like texture. Each has small dots for eyes and a slit for a mouth. Two other young men also see the object and are badly frightened. (Clark III 262; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), February 20, 2013)
- 1910**, Summer — Night. Carl H. Darden is riding near Vernal, Utah, when he notices that his horse is acting strangely. He dismounts and walks the horse into a clearing, where he sees a row of lights a few feet above the ground. They are attached to a huge, hovering disc. After watching it a while, he steps toward it, and it makes a buzzing sound as if in warning. As he advances, it rises slowly into the sky until it reaches an altitude of several hundred feet, when it suddenly streaks off to the north. (Clark III 1169)
- 1910**, October 25 — 5:30 p.m. A mystery airship is seen at Minderoo Station, Western Australia, by Mrs. A. J. Roe, wife of the station manager. She says it “looked compact, like a dirigible balloon, but it appeared to be squarer and more like an aeroplane. The sun shone on it, and flashes came from it, as though reflected from something revolving, or from metal work.” Three station hands also see the object. (“[Mysterious Airship Sighted at Onslow](#),” *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Herald*, December 5, 1910, p. 9; “[Was It an Airship?](#)” *Broken Hill (N.S.W.) Barrier Miner*, December 7, 1910, p. 7; Bill Chalker, “[Early Australian Historical Encounters](#),” 1997; Brett Holman, “[Scareships over Australia—IV](#),” *Airminded*, October 27, 2010)
- 1910**, October 27 — 1:10 a.m. An airship with a powerful headlight and red and green taillights is seen flying at 600 feet above Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Observers at Irvine, Alberta, see it at 4:45 a.m. going west. It is also seen at Medicine Hat, Alberta, flying southwest. (“[Unknown Aeronaut in Alberta](#),” *Calgary (Alberta) Herald*, October 27, 1910, p. 1)
- 1910**, October 29 — 5:30 a.m. Two objects flying at a great altitude are seen over East Providence, Rhode Island, by newspaper workers and others up early. They are too distant to be recognized as dirigibles or balloons, but they resemble luminous pumpkins. One is far ahead of the other, but both are “cutting pigeon wings, looping aerial loops, circling and diving like birds and generally doing skylark stunts.” (“Aviators Seen High Up in Air near City,” *Providence Journal*, October 30, 1910, p. 1)

1911

- 1911**, January 9 — Harvard astronomer [William H. Pickering](#) tells the *Boston Post* that he believes Venus is populated by “huge monsters and lizards such as roamed the earth ages ago.” He adds that “If human life exists on Venus, the people do not live as we do.” (“[Olden Monsters Inhabit Venus?](#)” *Chicago Tribune*, January 9, 1911, p. 8)
- 1911**, May 5 — 5:00 p.m. William Nixon is working at his father’s sawmill 18 miles from St. George, Queensland, Australia, when he sees a flying machine carrying two men, one of whom is dressed in dark clothing. He estimates it is traveling from south to northwest at about 1,000 feet. (“[Mysterious Airships](#),” *Perth West Australian*, May 15, 1911, p. 5)
- 1911**, July 22 — Evening. A ball of fire the size of the full moon is seen for several hours at Durango, Colorado. For a time it grows even larger, then diminishes in size until it disappears entirely. (“[Large Ball of Fire Is Seen in the Sky](#),” *Reno (Nev.) Evening Gazette*, July 25, 1911, p. 1)
- 1911**, August 3 — 9:00 p.m. [Adam H. McCullough](#) and his wife [Carrie](#) are driving on Brinkerhoff Avenue in Mansfield, Ohio, when they notice a light, as brilliant as an arc light, in the northern sky. It has an apparent size of 6 inches and looks to be about 50 feet up. It remains visible for several minutes then fizzles out. (“[A Phenomenon](#),” *Mansfield (Ohio) News*, August 4, 1911, p. 10)

1912

- 1912**, April 8 — Sunset. Charles Tilden Smith at Little Bedwyn, Wiltshire, England, observes the apparent fan-shaped shadow of a stationary object 45° in the sky against the altostratus cloud layer. The dark patch remains stationary against the moving clouds and is visible for 30 minutes. Meteorologist [Charles John Philip Cave](#) suspects the object is a pilot balloon. (Charles Tilden Smith, “[Clouds and Shadows](#),” *Nature* 89 (1912): 168; Charles J. P. Cave, “[Clouds and Shadows](#),” *Nature* 89 (1912): 268)
- 1912**, Fall — About 2:30 p.m. C. F. Rowling, 15, and two friends see three perfectly round, pale-green objects less than a mile away in the northern sky over Alameda, California. They are traveling in parallel with the horizon in a vertical formation (one atop the other) and heading west. They are completely silent and 75–100 feet in diameter. He watches them for 10 seconds before they pass behind some trees. (Clark III 1170)
- 1912**, October 14 — 7:00 p.m. Noise from an unseen aircraft startles the residents of Sheerness, Kent, England, including Lieut. [Raymond Fitzmaurice](#). Some can see an aerial light thought to belong to a dirigible. Nearby at Eastchurch, residents light flares to guide the craft in case it needs to land. The incident comes up in a debate in Parliament on November 21. MP [William Joynson-Hicks](#) asks First Lord of the Admiralty [Winston Churchill](#) whether the government has any zeppelins capable of traveling at 60 mph, but Churchill answers no. However, some authorities conclude that the incident is caused by the intrusion of the [LZ 13 Hansa](#) Zeppelin over British airspace. (“[The German Airship over Sheerness](#),” *The Aeroplane* 3 (November 14, 1912): 497; “[The Alleged Visit of a Foreign Airship](#),” *London Times*, November 22, 1912, p. 8; “[A German Paper on the Sheerness Incident](#),” *The Aeroplane* 3 (November 28, 1912): 540; “Airship Mystery: Was It a Zeppelin?” *Bradford (UK) Daily Telegraph*, January 14, 1913; Nigel Watson, Granville Oldroyd, and David Clarke, *The 1912–1913 British Phantom Airship Scare*, Fund for UFO Research, 1988; Alfred Gollin, *The Impact of Air Power on the British People and their Government, 1909–14*, Stanford University Press, 1989, pp. 223–227; Brett Holman, “[The Sheerness Incident](#),” *Airminded*, October 14, 2007; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak!*, Anomalist, 2009, pp. 486–487; Brett Holman, “[Secrets of the German Aërial Fleet—I](#),” *Airminded*, May 29, 2013; Nigel Watson, *UFOs of the First World War*, History Press, 2015, pp. 44–47; UFOFiles2, [p. 6](#))

1913

- 1913**, January 4 — 5:00 a.m. Council worker John Hobbs hears aerial motors at Dover, England, and sees a light speeding toward him from the sea in a northeasterly direction. It is moving steadily despite a gale-force wind. Two other people, tradesman Mr. Langley and Police Constable Pierce, hear the noise but do not see the object. (“[Unknown Aircraft over Dover](#),” *London Times*, January 6, 1913, p. 6; “[Mysterious Airship](#),” *London Daily Telegraph*, January 6, 1913, p. 10; “Dover Airship Mystery,” *Bristol (UK) Evening News*, January 7, 1913, p. 4; “The English Phantom Airship,” *Berliner Tageblatt*, February 25, 1913; “The Airship Psychosis in England,” *Berliner Tageblatt*, February 26, 1913; Brett Holman, “[Monday, 6 January 1913](#),” *Airminded*, January 6, 2013)
- 1913**, January 6 — 10:00 p.m. Two lights “thought to be the lamps of an airship” maneuver in the sky over Lavernock Battery, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales. (“Mystery Airships,” *London Daily Express*, January 7, 1913, p. 5; Brett Holman, “[Friday, 10 January 1913](#),” *Airminded*, January 10, 2013)
- 1913**, January 17 — 4:45 p.m. Capt. [Lionel Lindsay](#), chief constable of Glamorganshire, watches a large, fast-moving object above Cardiff, Wales, leaving in its wake a dense volume of smoke. Other witnesses see the light moving west from Cardiff at considerable speed. (“[An Airship over Cardiff](#),” *London Times*, January 21, 1913, p. 10; “Airship Mystery,” *Nottingham (UK) Daily Express*, January 21, 1913; “A Mystery of the Sky,” *Yorkshire (UK) Post*, January 21, 1913; “[Airship Ahoy!](#)” *South Wales Evening Post*, January 21, 1913, p. 6; Brett Holman, “[Tuesday, 21 January 1913](#),” *Airminded*, January 21, 2013)
- 1913**, January 25 — 7:00–8:30 p.m. Several people see a mysterious aircraft over the Clubmoor neighborhood of Liverpool, England. It is traveling about 25 mph and carries a brilliant light. (“[Aircraft over Liverpool](#),” *London Times*, January 28, 1913, p. 13; Brett Holman, “[Tuesday, 28 January 1913](#),” *Airminded*, January 28, 2013)
- 1913**, January 25 — 8:25 p.m. Villagers of Chancery, Ceredigion, Wales, watch a mystery airship with searchlights that turns south and leaves in the direction of Carmathenshire. (“Mystery Airship,” *London Daily Express*, January 30, 1913, p. 1; Brett Holman, “[Thursday, 30 January 1913](#),” *Airminded*, January 30, 2013)
- 1913**, January 27 — 9:00 p.m. A resident of Stretford, Greater Manchester, England, sees an aircraft “like a huge ball” passing silently overhead in a southerly direction. He estimates its speed at 40 mph and its altitude as 700 feet. It

has a yellowish light that later turns light red. When it is over Eccles, it turns westward in the direction of Liverpool. ("Is It a German Airship?" London *Daily Express*, January 31, 1913, p. 5; Brett Holman, "[Friday, 31 January 1913](#)," Air-minded, January 31, 2013)

1913, January 29 — 8:00 p.m. An airplane with a powerful searchlight is seen over Iași, Romania, coming from the direction of Russia. It maneuvers over the town for 10 minutes and then moves toward the barracks. Troops are mustered out and signals are given for the aviator to land. Two warning shots are fired, but the lights go out and the object disappears. Other mystery aircraft are seen this month at military barracks in Focșani, Brăila, and Târgoviște. ("['Russian Aeroplane' Scare in Roumania](#)," *Manchester Guardian*, January 31, 1913, p. 9; Romania 8–9)

1913, February 1 — Evening. A Russian airplane equipped with a searchlight is seen maneuvering over Lvov, Ukraine. Another mystery plane, making signals, is spotted over Ternopil, Ukraine. (London *Globe*, February 4, 1913, p. 3; "Airplane Fired at," London *Daily Express*, February 3, 1913, p. 7; "[Vénus et l'ignorance astronomique](#)," *L'Astronomie* 27 (1913): 133)

1913, February 2 — 7:30 p.m. Police Constable Church at Aberavon, Wales, watches an airship flying for an hour over Swansea Bay and the Mumbles. ("[Another Mysterious Airship](#)," London *Times*, February 3, 1913, p. 6; Brett Holman, "[Monday, 3 February 1913](#)," Air-minded, February 3, 2013)

1913, February 2 — 8:45 p.m. Mr. Trubshaw of East Croydon, England, sees an airship come in from the southeast and disappear rapidly to the northwest. Rays of light stream from it on the right and the left and downward. Others see the object, said to be moving with the wind. ("Mysterious Fly-by-Night," London *Daily Express*, February 3, 1913, p. 7; Brett Holman, "[Monday, 3 February 1913](#)," Air-minded, February 3, 2013)

1913, February 2 — 9:25 p.m. [Robert Lawrence Thornton](#) sees an airship pass over his house in Framfield, East Sussex, England. ("The Mystery Airships," London *Daily Express*, February 4, 1913, p. 1; Brett Holman, "[Tuesday, 4 February 1913](#)," Air-minded, February 4, 2013)

1913, February 5 — Evening. Numerous witnesses in Newport, Cardiff, and Neath, South Wales, watch a "dirigible" carrying a bright light pass in a northwesterly direction. Newspapers begin to suspect that the reports are actually of the planet Venus, fire balloons, or atmospheric illusions. ("[The 'Mysterious Airship.'](#)" *Manchester Guardian*, February 6, 1913, p. 9; William Porthouse, [Letter] "[The Planet Venus Responsible](#)," *Manchester Guardian*, February 27, 1913, p. 8; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak!*, Anomalist, 2009, p. 487; Brett Holman, "[Thursday, 6 February 1913](#)," Air-minded, February 6, 2013)

1913, February 9 — 9:00 p.m. An earth-grazing meteor procession is seen from locations across Canada, the northeastern United States, and Bermuda, and from many ships at sea, including eight off Brazil, giving a total recorded ground track of over 7,000 miles. The meteors are particularly unusual in that there is no apparent radiant—no point in the sky from which the meteors appear to originate. Witnesses are surprised to see a procession of between 40 and 60 bright, slow-moving fireballs moving from horizon to horizon in a practically identical path. Individual fireballs are visible for at least 30 to 40 seconds, and the entire procession takes some 5 minutes to cross the sky. Subsequent observers also note a large, white, tailless body bringing up the rear, but the various bodies making up the procession continue to disintegrate and travel at different rates throughout their course, so that by the time observations are made in Bermuda, the leading bodies are described as "like large arc lights in appearance, slightly violet in colour," followed closely by yellow and red fragments. Research carried out in the 1950s by [Alexander D. Mebane](#) uncovers a handful of reports from newspaper archives in the northern United States. At Escanaba, Michigan, the *Press* states the "end of the world was apprehended by many" as numerous meteors travel across the northern horizon. In Batavia, New York, a few observers see the meteors and many people hear a thundering noise, while other reports are made in Nunda and Dansville, New York (where several residents again think the world is ending) and Osceola, Pennsylvania. The observations are analyzed in detail later in 1913 by the astronomer [Clarence Chant](#), leading him to conclude that as all accounts are positioned along a great circle arc, the source is a small, short-lived natural satellite of the Earth. One curious feature of the reports, highlighted by Mebane, is that several appear to indicate a second meteor procession on the same course around 5 hours later, although the Earth's rotation means that there is no obvious mechanism to explain this. One observer, A. W. Brown from Thamesville, Ontario, reports seeing both the initial meteor procession and a second one on the same course at 2:20 a.m. the next day. Chant's original report also refers to a series of three groups of "dark objects" that pass on the same course as the previous meteors from west to east over Toronto on the afternoon of February 10, which he suggests are "something of a meteoric nature." (Wikipedia, "[1913 Great Meteor Procession](#)"; Clarence A. Chant, "[An Extraordinary Meteoric Display](#)," *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada* 7 (1913): 145–191; William H. Pickering, "[The Meteoric Procession of February 9, 1913, Part 1](#)," *Popular Astronomy* 30 (1922): 632–637; Alexander D. Mebane, "[Observations of the Great Fireball](#)

[Procession of 1913 February 9, Made in the United States.](#)” *Meteoritics* 1, no. 4 (1956): 406–421; Condon, [pp. 570–571, 579–581](#); Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 31–35; “[Sample Press Coverage of the 1913 Meteor Procession.](#)” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 12 (September 2006): 7; Martin Beech and Mark Comte, “[The Chant Meteor Procession of 1913: Towards a Descriptive Model.](#)” *American Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics* 6, no. 2 (2018): 31–38; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, Anomalist, 2019, pp. 383–385)

1913, February 21 — Evening. An airship is seen at several locations around Selby, North Yorkshire, England. It alternately flies and hovers, flashing a searchlight and skirting the roofs of houses before vanishing to the north at “great speed.” At one point a group of businessmen waiting for a train at the Church Fenton railway station are treated to the sight of a powerful searchlight running along the tracks. Other witnesses hear the whir of motors as the vehicle passes by. (“The Fly-by-Night,” *London Daily Express*, February 24, 1913, p. 7; “Night Raids by Air,” *London Daily Express*, February 25, 1913, p. 1; Brett Holman, “[Monday, 24 February 1913.](#)” *Airminded*, February 24, 2013; Brett Holman, “[Tuesday, 25 February 1913.](#)” *Airminded*, February 25, 2013)

1913, February 25 — 8:00 p.m. Coast guards at Hornsea, Yorkshire, England, see a bright light traveling to the west and report it to the Admiralty. [Robert Falconer Jameson](#) watches it through binoculars and sees that the lights are attached to a cone-shaped craft. A little later, the object appears over Hull, seen by crowds in the city center and Paragon Interchange for over an hour. It alters its course frequently and hovers occasionally. (“[Airship Mystery.](#)” *London Daily Telegraph*, February 26, 1913, p. 11; Brett Holman, “[Wednesday, 26 February 1913.](#)” *Airminded*, February 26, 2013)

1913, February 28 — 8:15 p.m. Capt. J. H. Parker, skipper of the fishing trawler *Othello*, is in the North Sea about 170 miles northeast of Hull, England, when he sees an airship with a powerful searchlight. He is on the bridge with his chief engineer, and within a few minutes the object is directly overhead. It circles the vessel twice, keeping its searchlight focused on the ship at all times, then moves off to the west. (“[Airship and Trawler.](#)” *Hull Evening News*, March 4, 1913, p. 8; “[Reply to a Parting Salute.](#)” *London Guardian*, March 5, 1913, p. 7; “[Mysterious Airship.](#)” *Liverpool Echo*, March 5, 1913, p. 5; “[In the North Sea: Airship Nearly Collides with Trawler’s Masts.](#)” *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, March 5, 1913, p. 7)

1913, March 13 — 6:00 p.m. Two women walking along a forest road by the Schwielowsee between Caputh and Ferch, Brandenburg, Germany, observe an airship catch fire and explode. The fire brigades of three villages, 40 riflemen from a local garrison, and several police officers and medical attendants rush to the scene. They search the woods south of Potsdam until early morning but find nothing. Though the women are considered trustworthy, they are accused later of hoaxing the report. Later, airman Lt. Zwickau claims that he was firing rockets while flying from Leipzig to Döberitz in order to see his way in the night. (“An Airship Catastrophe near Potsdam?” *Berliner Tageblatt*, March 13, 1913, p. 3; “The Tale of the Airship,” *Berliner Tageblatt*, March 13, 1913, p. 4; “[Phantom Airships.](#)” *London Daily Telegraph*, March 14, 1913, p. 15; “[Mysterious Airship near Berlin.](#)” *Manchester Guardian*, March 14, 1913, p. 8; Brett Holman, “[Friday, 14 March 1913.](#)” *Airminded*, March 14, 2013)

1913, April 8 — 8:23 p.m. An airship reappears over Cardiff, Wales, once again seen traveling at high speed to the southwest by Chief Constable [Lionel Lindsay](#). (“[The Cardiff Aerial Mystery Again.](#)” *Manchester Guardian*, April 9, 1913, p. 9; Brett Holman, “[Wednesday, 9 April 1913.](#)” *Airminded*, April 9, 2013)

1913, May (or May 1914) — Morning. [Silbie J. Latham](#), 12, is working with his brothers [Sid](#) and [Clyde](#) on a cotton farm 2.5 miles west of Farmersville, Texas. Their two dogs, on the other side of a picket fence 50–75 feet away, begin barking and howling. The boys stop work and go to investigate. They see a little man, dark green in color and 18 inches high, who “looked like he was sitting on something.” His arms are hanging down by his sides. He has a Mexican-looking hat on, but no other clothes. Right after the boys get there, the two dogs jump him and tear him to pieces. Blood and internal organs spew out, but it doesn’t cry out. The boys go back and check the spot the next day, but the remains are gone. (Clark III 262; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), October 19, 2006)

1913, June 29 — Sunset. A golden, oval-shaped object passes over Lansing, Michigan, from southeast to northwest at a great height. It moves swiftly, taking only 3 minutes. (“[Strange Aircraft Passes over Lansing at Great Rate of Speed Sunday.](#)” *Lansing (Mich.) State Journal*, June 30, 1913, p. 3; Clark III 1167)

1913, August 22 — 4:00 a.m. The Rev. G. W. Payne, his wife, and a Mr. and Mrs. Preston watch an airplane with a searchlight hovering fairly high above the Hunter Valley near Newcastle, New South Wales. After a short time it

moves away to the west. (“Newcastle Night Aviators,” *Maitland (N.S.W.) Daily Mercury*, August 23, 1913, p. 4; Brett Holman, “[A Miscellany of Australian Mystery Aircraft, 1903–1940—II](#),” *Airminded*, August 12, 2022)

1913, October — Swiss astronomer Fritjof Le Coultre at the Geneva Observatory in Switzerland reports seeing “bluish-white flashes” on Mars for 17 consecutive nights. Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, also observes them. However, astronomer [Guillaume Bigourdan](#) at the Paris Observatory thinks the flashes are merely “auto-suggestion.” (“[Is Mars Trying to Signal Us?](#)” *Santa Cruz (Calif.) Evening News*, November 24, 1913, p. 1)

1914

1914 — 3:00 p.m. Hans M. Schnitzler, 7, is sitting in his front yard in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, when he hears a musical humming sound and sees a 30-foot domed object about 25 feet away hovering about 10 feet above the ground across the street in front of a church. An opening appears and eight small entities emerge and begin singing a melody over and over again. Then they return inside. The object rises slowly and disappears behind the church. He remembers the melody and plays it on his harmonica years later. (“[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 6 (Dec. 1982/Jan. 1983): 3)

1914, March — Twilight. A farmer is returning to his house at Lajoumard, Haute-Vienne, France, when he sees a round, green, luminous object hovering just above a hilltop. Several small beings emerge, walk around the machine, and go back inside. The object takes off. (Clark III 262; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), March 3, 2013)

1914, May or June — 4:00 a.m. Gustav Herwager sees a lighted cigar-shaped object hovering near the ground a short distance away in Hamburg, Germany. It is surrounded by a halo of light and has a row of illuminated windows. Four or five small beings, about 4 feet tall, are standing next to it. They notice Herwager looking at them and quickly enter the craft from a ladder. The door closes and the object rises soundlessly and disappears. (*UFO-Nachrichten*, April 1962; Illobrand von Ludwiger, *Best UFO Cases, Europe*, NIDS, 1998, p. 93)

1914, Summer — Mid-afternoon. For about 60 minutes at Mount Lyndhurst Station, South Australia, an unusual substance floats by at a constant altitude. Some pieces, 6–8 inches long, fall to earth and leave no trace. (Keith Basterfield, “[Angel Hair: An Australian Perspective](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 6)

1914, June — 4:00 a.m. Gustav Herwagen sees a cigar-shaped object with luminous portholes in a field next to his house in Hamburg, Germany. Near it are 4–5 dwarfs about 4 feet tall. He walks toward them, but they flee inside the ship, which ascends and disappears. (Clark III 262; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 28, 2007)

1914, August — William J. Kiehl, 18, is with seven others in a small cove along the shore of Georgian Bay, Ontario. They see a strange machine on the surface of the lake. Two little men wearing square masks and purple-green coveralls are working with a hose leading from the water to inside the UFO. Three other figures, dressed in khaki, are adjusting some rods that are pulsating with various colors. The beings notice the group watching them and run into the machine, which starts vibrating with colors. It starts to ascend, but one being has not made it inside and is hanging on. After hovering 12 feet in the air to balance itself, it rapidly accelerates upward. A likely hoax. (“[Old-Timer Tells of Outer Spacemen in Letter to Wanaque Police Officer](#),” *Paterson (N.J.) News*, August 15, 1966, p. 9; Clark III 262; Lorenzen, *Encounters with UFO Occupants*, Berkley Medallion, 1976)

1914, August 10–11 — Night. Maj. Becke, commander of defenses at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, England, reports that two or three cigar-shaped airships are seen above the Vickers shipyard. Soldiers fire upon them with machine guns and the only anti-aircraft battery on the west coast. (UFOFiles2, [p. 7–8](#))

1914, August 11–September 9 — Many British residents in South Africa observe a mystery monoplane that is assumed to be on a German reconnaissance mission. Most of the sightings are at night and at a distance. The government issues a statement on August 29 that there are no Union airplanes in South Africa, so any mystery aircraft are assumed to be enemies and should be fired upon. (“Mysterious Aeroplane Flights,” *Cape Times* (Capetown), August 15, 1914, p. 7; “Aeroplane Sighted,” *Cape Times* (Capetown), August 18, 1914, p. 5; “Aeroplane Reports,” *Cape Times* (Capetown), August 20, 1914, p. 5; “The Aeroplane,” *Cape Times* (Capetown), August 21, 1914; “Aeroplanes in the Union,” *Cape Times* (Capetown), August 22, 1914, p. 7; “Mysterious Airship at Sanday,” *Pretoria News*, August 24, 1914, p. 5; “Aeroplane Mystery,” *Johannesburg Star*, August 26, 1914, p. 4; “The Mysterious Aeroplane,” *Cape Argus* (Capetown), August 27, 1914, p. 5; “Aviator Discusses Air Visitors,”

- Cape Times* (Capetown), September 5, 1914, p. 5; “Aeroplane Problem,” *Cape Times* (Capetown), September 18, 1914, p. 5; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak! Anomalist*, 2009, pp. 487–489)
- 1914**, August 13 — 7:30 p.m. High Constable Hobson and numerous residents of Sweaburg, Ontario, see “two large aeroplanes” pass from east to west. Sporadic sightings of mystery airplanes continue in the region for the next two weeks. (“Reports Aeroplanes over Oxford Village,” *London Free Press*, August 13, 1914, p. 2; “Three Aeroplanes Scan Topography of the Province,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, September 5, 1914, p. 8; Barry Greenwood, “[And Yet More in 1914!](#)” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 12 (September 2006): 6; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak! Anomalist*, 2009, p. 491)
- 1914**, August 14 — Afternoon. A large ball of fire sweeps over the southeast portion of Montpelier, Vermont, seen by employees of the C. P. Gill stone cutting plant near the Winooski River. It is accompanied by a loud noise. One man says the heat of the object has scorched his hands. The plant motor stops as the object passes over, and insulation from some electrical wires is found burned off. (“[Great Ball of Fire](#),” *Rutland (Vt.) Daily Herald*, August 18, 1914, p. 5)
- 1914**, Autumn (or 1915) — Dusk. A man is having an outdoor meal with his family in Bujoreanca, Romania, when they see a reddish object moving to the east 60 feet above the ground, causing trees to bend from its movement, and making a whistling noise. It leaves a trail of glowing sparks and reappears for 6–7 days in the same position. (Hobana and Weverbergh 224)
- 1914**, September — Two schoolboys named Uden and Hopkins are wandering along Caerphilly Mountain, South Wales, when they encounter an unexpected mist. Two white humanoid figures with piercing eyes and unusually tall hats are standing at the edge of it. They approach, and the boys take off. (Clark III 262–263; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), March 5, 2013; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1910–1939](#), p. 9)
- 1914**, September 3 — 9:00 p.m. Three airplanes with powerful searchlights that sweep the countryside are seen at Petrolia, Ontario. Scores of residents watch the spectacle for hours as every field glass in town is “brought into requisition.” One plane flies in the direction of Oil Springs to the south, while a second hovers near Kingscourt, and a third appears to travel eastward toward London along the Grand Trunk Railway. (“Petrolia Planes,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, September 5, 1914, p. 2; “Three Aeroplanes Scan Topography of the Province,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, September 5, 1914, p. 8; “Why Get Excited?” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, September 5, 1914, p. 16)
- 1914**, September 8–10 — Mysterious airplanes are seen at Springbank, Ontario. Fred Bridge is one of the witnesses who sees the searchlights and hears the roar of the motors, and he urges the authorities to take the reports seriously. (“Pipe Line Road Saw Three Aeroplanes,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, September 11, 1914, p. 9)
- 1914**, September 9 — Mid-day. Amateur astronomer [William Herbert Steavenson](#) points his 3-inch refracting telescope in West Norwood, south London, England, at the planet Mercury, then about 8° distant from the Sun, when a round, luminous object the apparent size of the planet, but brighter, speeds across his field, passing centrally from south to north in about 3 seconds. A few seconds later, another appears going in the same direction. More follow, and the display continues until at least 3:00 p.m. when the sky becomes overcast. He watches several hundred bodies pass; about half are perfectly round and the rest are dumbbell shaped. All the objects are well defined and intrinsically brighter than Venus. The prevailing color is yellowish white. Steavenson sends a telegram to the Rev. [T. E. R. Phillips](#) at Ashstead, Surrey, but the sky is now overcast and he cannot confirm the observation. Steavenson thinks high-altitude seeds are the most likely explanation. (W. H. Steavenson, “[Bright Objects Observed near the Sun](#),” *Journal of the British Astronomical Association* 25 (1914): 36–38)
- 1914**, October 10 — Afternoon. Albert Alfred Buss is observing the sun using a spectrographic telescope at Manchester, England, when he sees an “absolutely black spindle-shaped object” against the sun. (Albert Alfred Buss, “[Cosmic and Terrestrial Flotsam and Jetsam](#),” *English Mechanic* 100 (October 14, 1914): 256)
- 1914**, October 21 — 5:50 a.m. Several soldiers see an airplane carrying a powerful spotlight flying directly above the Wolesley Barracks [now CFB London] and nearby ordnance depots in London, Ontario. Sgt. Joseph, on guard duty, hears the nose of engines first, then looks and sees the airplane coming from the northeast. It is flying too high and fast to allow anyone to fire on it. (“[Soldiers Claim They Saw Airship over Barracks](#),” *London (Ont.) Evening Free Press*, October 21, 1914, p. 1)
- 1914**, November 19 — After 12:00 midnight. Guards on duty at the Toronto Power Generating Station in Niagara Falls, Ontario, see mysterious red, green, and yellow lights, perhaps signals, flashing on the US shore. They seem to form particular patterns. (“[Signal Across River?](#)” *Buffalo (N.Y.) Express*, November 19, 1914, p. 7)
- 1914**, November 19 — Night. Two airplanes with searchlights are seen above Forestville, New York, flying northward toward Silver Creek. (“[Seeing Things in Air](#),” *Buffalo (N.Y.) Express*, November 21, 1914, p. 7)

- 1914**, November 21 — Some 20–30 people watch an airship flying at 2,300 feet descend to about 1,300 feet and shine a searchlight on a passing ship near Skjaervser lighthouse on the island of Mindlandet, Nordland, Norway. (“Airship at Tjølta,” *Morgenbladet*, November 25, 1914, p. 2; Clark III 1167–1168)
- 1914**, December 4 — 12:00 midnight–5:00 a.m. Many people in Toronto, Ontario, wake up to hear the apparent rumbling of airplane engines, loud enough to rattle some windows. No planes are visible, so some suspect the noise is created by a crane dredge operating in the Inner Harbour. (“[Aeroplane Raid Robs Citizens of Slumber](#),” *Toronto (Ont.) Star*, December 4, 1914, p. 6)
- 1914**, December 15 — 4:10 p.m. The crew of a Hull trawler, the SS *Ape*, is streaming toward Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, when they see a “black object astern” which gradually approaches them. It turns and heads for the Lincolnshire coast where it vanishes in the fog. (UFOFiles2, [p. 8](#))

1915

- 1915** — 11:00 p.m. Angel Hansen sees, in the northern sky of Bergen, Norway, a bright, brown-red object twice as big as the Moon. It remains motionless for 30 seconds, then descends, stops, and hovers for 15 seconds. It repeats this maneuver two or three times. Then it accelerates and disappears to the west. (“[Norske og danske rapporter 1915–1971](#),” *UFO Nyt* 1972 no. 3 (May/June): 118)
- 1915**, February 14 — 9:15 p.m. The mayor and three city constables of Brockville, Ontario, see the lights of unknown aircraft crossing the St. Lawrence River heading for Ottawa. They can hear the sound of motors. A second flying machine is heard as it crosses the river from the direction of Morristown, New York. Three balls of fire drop from it into the river. Two more objects pass from the east and west ends of Brockville. The mayor, who has seen one of the planes flash a searchlight beam that lights up a city block, tells the police chief to alert the mayor and police chief in Ottawa. At 9:30 p.m., the mayor of Gananoque, Ontario, reports that two invisible aircraft are heard flying over his town. Prime Minister [Robert Borden](#) hears about the reports and orders the lights on Parliament Hill to be turned off at 11:15 p.m. Several Members of Parliament rush to the roof to see if they can spot any airplanes. The entire city shuts off its lights 5 minutes later. The airplanes do not reappear, but Ottawa is placed on high alert. Later, Brockville police find two paper balloons that might explain the sightings. (“Ottawa in Darkness Awaits Airplane Raid,” *Toronto Globe*, February 15, 1915, pp. 1–2; “[Scare in Ottawa over an Air Raid](#),” *New York Times*, February 15, 1915, p. 1; “Yankees Sent Up Balloons Which Exploded at Brockville Causing Airship Raid Scare,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, February 15, 1915, pp. 1, 9; “Were Toy Balloons and Not Aeroplanes!” *Toronto Globe*, February 16, 1915, pp. 1–2; “Parliament Hill in Darkness,” *Toronto Globe*, February 16, 1915, p. 2; “[Ottawa Again Dark in Fear of Air Raid](#),” *New York Times*, February 16, 1915, p. 4; Robert Bartholomew, “[Phantom German Air Raids on Canada: War Hysteria in Quebec and Ontario during the First World War](#),” *Canadian Military History* 7, no. 4 (1998): 29–36; Brett Holman, “[The Air Raid That Didn’t](#),” *Airminded*, February 13, 2014; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak!* Anomalist, 2009, pp. 492–493; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 36–38; James Powell, “[The Phantom Air Raid, 14 February 1915](#),” Historical Society of Ottawa, October 30, 2014)
- 1915**, February 15 — Early morning. Residents in a Toronto, Ontario, suburb notify police of a “strange aeroplane” hovering above their homes. Later, a man in Guelph sees “three moving lights passing over” the Ontario Agricultural College. He alerts other residents in his boarding house and they watch the silent lights until dawn. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 37–38)
- 1915**, April 26 — Possibly the first UFO film ever made, *The Mysterious Airship* premieres in the United States. A lost two-reel French short produced by the Ideal Film Company in Fort Lee, New Jersey, and distributed by United Film Service, the film does involve a mysterious airship built by aeronauts, but it is more of a murder mystery. (“[United Film Service](#),” *The Moving Picture World* 24 (May 1, 1915): 806; Barry Greenwood, “[UFO Feature Film: In 1914!](#)” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 12 (September 2006): 2–4; Barry Greenwood, “[The Mysterious Airship: An Early Silent Film, Update](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 14 (May 2015): 1–3; Internet Movie Database, “[The Mysterious Airship](#)”)
- 1915**, Summer — Bjarne Westvand, 6, sees a dark, bell-like object descend and land behind a hill at the mining settlement of Jakobsbakken, Nordland, Norway. Two 3-foot-tall humanoids appear from behind the hill and move toward him. One “smiles” at the boy, who is about the same size. It has long, dark, wavy hair, gray skin, and a

disproportionately large head. They are both wearing dark brown coveralls. After conversing in a booming voice, they return behind the hill, and shortly afterward the object rises up and disappears into the sky. ("[Kloss-hold kontakt med humanoider i 1915!](#)" *Rapportnytt* 1981 no. 4, pp. 3–4)

1915, Late June — Just before dawn. Cecilia Peel Yates of Ashburton, Devon, England, is awakened by her dogs barking. She sees outside her bedroom window a bright light in the sky bearing north. It disappears in the direction of Haytor rocks on Dartmoor. This incident is followed by others at Hexworthy and Dartington in July and August, so much so that British Naval Intelligence sends two officers out to investigate. (Nick Redfern, "[UFOs and the Military, 1915: Pt. 1](#)," *Mysterious Universe*, May 7, 2014; Nick Redfern, "[UFOs and the Military, 1915: Pt. 2](#)," *Mysterious Universe*, May 8, 2014)

1915, July 16 — Silvanus Edworthy sees a lighted airplane in London, Ontario. ("Saw an Aeroplane," *London (Ont.) Free Press*, July 17, 1915, p. 3)

1915, July 17 — Another mystery airplane is seen near Massena, Ontario. ("People near Massena, Ont., Spy Strange Lights in Heavens," *London (Ont.) Free Press*, July 20, 1915, p. 9)

1915, July 18 — Night. A military guard at the wireless station at Point Edward, Ontario, fires five shots at what he takes to be airplanes. Two large paper balloons plummet to earth. ("Point Edward Guard Brings Down Balloons," *London (Ont.) Free Press*, July 21, 1915, p. 7)

1915, July 20 — 11:00 p.m. A mysterious aircraft is seen by several citizens of Châteauguay, Quebec. A rumor arises that a German resident of the town, now missing, has secretly flown across the border to the United States. ("French Believe German Officer 'Flew the Loop,'" *London (Ont.) Free Press*, July 22, 1915, p. 1)

1915, September 4 — 9:30 p.m. Two British Naval Intelligence officers, Lt. Col. [William Price Drury](#) and Lt. C. Brownlow, on Dartmoor, Devon, England, watch a "bright white light, considerably larger in appearance than a planet" ascend steadily from a meadow to a height of 50–60 feet. It then swings 300 feet or so to the left and suddenly vanishes. The officers have been investigating reports of similar lights seen in the region during the summer. In December, GHQ Home Forces issues a 16-page confidential report on the investigation and concludes there is "no evidence on which to base a suspicion that this class of enemy activity ever existed" and that 89% of the reports are explained. Some "moving lights in the air" are attributed to marsh gas. (Nick Redfern, "[UFOs and the Military, 1915: Pt. 1](#)," *Mysterious Universe*, May 7, 2014; UFOFiles2, [pp. 11–12](#))

1916

1916? — Mrs. Whiteland of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England, sees from an open window a "round platform" on which nearly a dozen men wearing blue uniforms and little round hats stand gripping a handrail. It is moving in the air about 30 feet above the house and coming from the direction of a nearby marsh. It moves toward a railway yard and disappears behind some houses. (Clark III 263; "[The Aldeburgh Platform](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1969), pp. 23–24; "[The Aldeburgh Platform](#)," parts 1–3; David Halperin, "[UFOs, Screen Memories, and the Aldeburgh Platform Mystery](#)," April 8, 2016; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 299–314)

1916, January 15 — Dusk. A Mrs. Zahner of the Kensington neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, sees a "big black dot" in the sky and thinks she can discern the framework and engine of an airplane. ("Aeroplane or Blackbird?" *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, January 24, 1916, p. 2)

1916, January 31 — Afternoon. A shoe salesman in the Tacony neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, watches a "big aeroplane" swoop down to within 250 feet of his home and head southwest toward the Frankford Arsenal. A spokesman at the arsenal is adamant that it was "nothing more than blackbirds." ("Another Aeroplane Sighted," *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, February 1, 1916, p. 3)

1916, January 31 — 8:25 p.m. Royal Flying Corps Lieut. [Reginald Maxwell](#) is cruising his B.E.2c biplane at 10,000 feet near Romford, Essex, England, patrolling for German Zeppelins. He sees an "artificial light" to the north. He follows it northeast for 20 minutes, but it moves higher and he loses it in the clouds. At the same time, Royal Flying Corps pilot Sub-Lieut. J. Eric Morgan, also flying a B.E.2c at 5,000 feet near Rochford, Essex, and looking for Zeppelins, sees an object about 100 feet away with a row of windows "like a railway carriage with the blinds drawn." He tries to close on it, but his engine is malfunctioning. When he fires his pistol at it, the lights rise and rapidly disappear. Morgan is forced to make a crash landing. (Capt. Joseph Morris, *The German Air Raids on Great Britain, 1914–1918*, Sampson, Low, Marston, 1925, [pp. 81–82](#); David Clarke, "[The Pennine Phantom](#)

[Helicopter and Other Scares \(Pt. 2\).](#)” *UFO Brigantia*, no. 25 (March/April 1987): 7, 13–14; David Clarke, “Britain’s First Military UFO Encounter?” [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#), The Real UFO Project, 2004; UFOFiles2, [p. 10](#); Patrick Gross, “[Pilots UFO Sightings](#),” August 10, 2021, and “[Near Rochford](#),” August 2, 2021)

- 1916**, January 31 — 8:45 p.m. Albert J. Parsons, a security guard at the DuPont Powder Plant at Carney’s Point, New Jersey, across the Delaware River from Wilmington, Delaware, sees the outline of what seems to be an airship moving slowly or hovering above the plant. After 15 minutes, it moves off to the southeast. Several other men report the whirring noise of motors, and flying objects are also reported in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and Richardson Park in Wilmington. Plant officials take his report seriously at first, but when in a subsequent interview on February 3, he mentions that the airship carried a light, they begin to discount it because “Men familiar with aeroplanes say these machines do not carry lights.” They begin to attribute it to “auto-hypnosis.” A motor is heard again in the area at 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on February 5. Other Wilmington residents begin reporting lights or solid machines. Finally, the sightings are explained as a particularly bright conjunction of Jupiter and Venus in the western sky. (“[Mystery Airship Hovering over Powder Plants](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Every Evening*, February 3, 1916, pp. 1, 6; “[Aeroplane Hovers over Powder Plant at Carney’s Point](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Evening Journal*, February 3, 1916, pp. 1, 14; “Doubt by Du Ponts That Airship Flew over Powder Mill,” *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, February 3, 1916, p. 1; “[Powder Guard Says He Saw Airship](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Morning News*, February 4, 1916, p. 1; “[Now Think Airship Was Only Phantom](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Evening Journal*, February 4, p. 2; “[DuPont Officials Confirm Visit of Mysterious Aero](#),” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 4, 1916, pp. 1, 6; “[Again Report Airship over Carney’s Point](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Evening Journal*, February 5, p. 7; “[Another Citizen ‘Sees’ the Airship](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Evening Journal*, February 7, p. 1; “[Jupiter and Venus Again Flirt with Many Sky Gazers](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Evening Journal*, February 15, p. 1; Robert E. Bartholomew, “War Scare Hysteria in the Delaware Region in 1916,” *Delaware History* 28 (Spring/Summer 1998): 71–76; “Air Prowler over Delaware: How Bright Planets Sparked Wartime Airship Scare,” *Salisbury (Md.) Daily Times*, January 26, 2024)
- 1916**, February 5 — A railway worker spots two airplanes near Montreal, Quebec. Some think there is a connection between the sighting and a suspicious man seen under the Victoria Bridge across the St. Lawrence River. Guards open fire on the figure, who then flees. (“Two Aeroplanes Close to Montreal,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, February 7, 1916, p. 1)
- 1916**, February 12 — Night. Mrs. A. Boyce and her daughter see a mystery airplane to the east of Dover, Delaware, flying south. (“Air Ship or Owl,” *Wilmington (Del.) Every Evening*, February 19, 1916, p. 6)
- 1916**, February 13 — Evening. A conjunction of Venus and Jupiter in the western sky is responsible for reports of a lighted airplane in London, Ontario. (“Display in Sky Mistaken for an Aerial Invasion,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, February 14, 1916, p. 12)
- 1916**, February 13 — Evening. [William K. Knight](#), a farmer living two miles east of Dover, Delaware, sees an object in the sky during a storm. He calls his wife [Lillian](#) and son [Harold](#), who also watch the object for 10 minutes. It has a bright red light and a white light. The object moves several times, finally descending. (“[They’re ‘Seeing Things’ Down the State, Too](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Evening Journal*, February 14, p. 1)
- 1916**, February 13 — 8:00–9:00 p.m. Citizens of Wilmington, Delaware, crowd the streets to see what they think is a German airplane. It is first seen floating over Ninth and Broome streets, and it later is seen flying low and circling the Baltimore and Ohio railway depot at Delaware Avenue and DuPont Street. It is also seen from the Pennsylvania railway station and over Richardson Park. Witnesses in the Lyon Tabernacle hear a machine and rush out to look for an airplane, which they see drifting along Brandywine Creek, then hovering above the Washington Street Bridge, before passing out of sight to the southwest. (“[Citizens Declare They Saw Airship](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Morning News*, February 14, 1916, pp. 1–2; “[Honest, Now, Did You Yourself See That Aeroplane?](#)” *Wilmington (Del.) Every Evening*, February 14, 1916, p. 7)
- 1916**, February 15 — Night. Two dozen residents of Middletown, Delaware, see an airplane carrying three lights (red, white, and bluish-green) in the eastern sky. It is first spotted by Norman L. Beale and his wife passing above the Delaware River. Elmer Vinyard, night operator at the telephone exchange, and Ernest A. Truitt also see the object and its lights. Truitt can hear a “whirring noise.” (“[Are Sure They Saw an Aeroplane](#),” *Wilmington (Del.) Every Evening*, February 16, 1916, p. 13)
- 1916**, February 26 — 4:30 a.m. John Tullyson, head watchman at Globe Elevators, and John Gustavson at the Carnegie Coal Dock in Superior, Wisconsin, hear an engine noise and see a large flying object “50 feet wide and 100 feet long,” with three lights, “one on each end and one in the middle.” Moving swiftly at 600 feet altitude, the object carries a long rope trailing behind it with a large object attached to it. Three “men” are inside the craft, one of them sitting in the front of the machine. The other two seem to be looking around. Possible Chinese lantern or

airplane. (“Airship Soars over Allouez Docks,” *Superior (Wis.) Telegram*, February 26, 1916, p. 1; “[Airship Is Seen over Twin Ports](#),” *Eau Claire (Wis.) Leader-Telegram*, February 27, 1916, p. 1; “[Aeroplane over Great Lakes Is Alarm Source](#),” *Minneapolis (Minn.) Star-Tribune*, February 27, 1916, p. 1; “[Strange Biplane Hovers over Superior Elevators](#),” *Minneapolis (Minn.) Journal*, February 27, 1916, p. 2; “Mysterious Aeroplane Continues Nocturnal Trips over Superior,” *Superior (Wis.) Telegram*, February 29, 1916, p. 5; “[Mysterious Aeroplane over Lake Superior](#),” *Burlington (Vt.) Free Press*, March 1, 1916, p. 12; “Practical Jokers Get into Aeroplane Game,” *Superior (Wis.) Telegram*, March 1, 1916, pp. 4, 12; “[Aeroplane Seen at Superior](#),” *St. Albans (Vt.) Weekly Messenger*, March 2, 1916, p. 10; “[Strange Biplane Hovers over Superior Elevators](#),” *Golden Valley (N.Dak.) Chronicle*, March 3, 1916, p. 3; “Aeroplane Lands at Vermillion Lake,” *Superior (Wis.) Telegram*, April 11, 1916, p. 8; Clark III 263; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), March 16, 2013)

1916, March 12 — Early evening. Claude D. McGee is walking home from a trip to a ranch outside Lowry, South Dakota, when he sees a strange glowing light in the hills ahead of him. Suddenly the light swings in a huge arc down into the valley but stays close to the wall of hills where it comes to rest. It stays there a few moments then swings back to where it had been about 2 miles away. It repeats the action twice then disappears. (Clark III 1171)

1916, May 4 — Evening. Astronomers [Charles Dillon Perrine](#) and [Anna Estelle Glancy](#) observe an object resembling a comet at the National Observatory in Córdoba, Argentina. It is moving remarkably fast, moving 10° toward the sun within an hour and passes below the horizon. It has a prominent tail of 8°–10° in length. (“[Comet or Meteor?](#)” *Scientific American* 115 (1916): 493)

1916, May or June — Late morning. A witness about 8 miles south of Rensselaer, Indiana, watches an elongated oval object, 40 feet long and 8–12 feet thick, hovering above the ground about one mile away at the foot of a hill. It appears to have a dull-gray finish. After 10 seconds, it streaks away at a 25° angle toward the southeast and disappears. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 104](#))

1916, July 6 — Hundreds of residents of Windsor, Ontario, watch a biplane over the city for 30 minutes. Several witnesses using binoculars claim they can see the “figure of the aviator.” (“Unknown Aviator Surveys Windsor,” *London (Ont.) Free Press*, July 7, 1916, p. 14)

1916, July 19 — 10:30 p.m. Walter H. Eager and another witness in Huntington, West Virginia, watch a nebulous object in the shape of a dirigible that slowly fades from view. Possibly a light pillar created by a nearby blast furnace. (Walter H. Eager, “[An Unusual Aurora](#),” *Scientific American* 115 (1916): 241; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, *Redemption of the Damned*, vol. 1, *Anomalist*, 2019, pp. 391–397)

1916, December 17 — On the Western front in Europe, Canadian soldier [Maurice Philipp Tuteur](#) and two sergeant majors watch a Zeppelin-like object rise into the clouds in the rear of their lines. It darts ahead at an estimated speed of 200 mph, turns around, darts backward, and shoots up and disappears. (“I Saw a Flying Saucer,” *Flying Saucers*, May 1959, pp. 6–18, 78; Clark III 1170)

1917

1917, between January and April — Anni Lattu, who lives alone in the Finnish village of Jyrinvaara (or Alho), said to be about 3.7 miles west of Kurkieki (now in the Russian Republic of Karelia) and near a lake named Kankaanlampi, sees a large machine shaped like a wash basin land near her house. Small creatures, which she describes as devils, emerge from it by ladder. Somehow she can understand a bit of their language, especially one that she describes as the “leader,” and they take her on board by force, flying her around the world and “near the stars.” The craft is warm inside and it has comfortable seats. The beings want her to stay with them, but she refuses, and they return her to the road outside her house. (Heikki Virtanen, “[First Known Abduction Case in Finland?](#)” *Nordic UFO Newsletter*, 1988 no. 1, pp. 3–4)

1917, April — Night. Residents of the African American neighborhood of Charlotte, North Carolina, report hearing strange, motor-like noises in the air at night for several nights. Some have fleeting glimpses of the swiftly moving dark objects that are causing the noise. (“[The Colored People Are Seeing Visions](#),” *Charlotte (N.C.) News*, April 11, 1917, p. 13)

1917, April 13 — Early morning? Two National Guardsmen are stationed on the railroad bridge linking Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine, when they hear the noise of an airplane. They see an unidentified aircraft circling

near the bridge. When it descends, apparently to make a pass at the bridge, one of the guardsmen panics and fires his rifle at it. It moves off and disappears in the distance. A police officer on duty at Rochester, New Hampshire, hears an aerial noise that he assumes is an airplane, and James Walker, a railway motorman, sees an airplane over Gonic, New Hampshire, high in the air and flying north. (“Hunt for Aircraft Base,” *Manchester (N.H.) Union*, April 14, 1917, pp. 1, 3; “[Guards on Kittery Bridge Fire at Mysterious Airplane](#),” *Lewiston (Maine) Daily Sun*, April 14, 1917, p. 3; “Strange Aeroplane Heard and Seen by Rochester People,” *Manchester (N.H.) Union*, April 14, 1917, pp. 1, 3; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak! Anomalist*, 2009, pp. 496–497)

1917, April 23 — Residents of North Conway, New Hampshire, observe mysterious lights near Mount Kearsarge. (“Lights Hover over Kearsarge,” *Manchester (N.H.) Union*, April 26, 1917, p. 1)

1917, April 30 — Night. Mrs. Edson Roberts of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, hears an aircraft above her house, near the East Alton line. An hour later, Charles Churchill is awakened in Deerfield, New Hampshire, by a peculiar noise and sees an airplane in the distance that seems to be flashing signals toward Portsmouth. (“Aeroplane Seen at Deerfield,” *Manchester (N.H.) Union*, May 1, 1917, p. 1)

1917, May 13 — Three shepherd children at the Cova da Iria in Fátima, Portugal—[Lúcia dos Santos](#) and her cousins [Francisco and Jacinta Marto](#)—report seeing a woman “brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal goblet filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun.” The woman wears a white mantle edged with gold and holds a rosary in her hand. She asks them to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray “the Rosary every day.” The children had seen an “angel” at the cove since the spring of 1916. (Wikipedia, “[Our Lady of Fátima](#)”)

1917, June 13 — The three children at Fátima, Portugal, again see the lady, who reveals that [Francisco and Jacinta](#) will be “taken to heaven” soon, but [Lúcia](#) will live longer to spread the message. The lady also purportedly reveals to the children a vision of hell and entrusts a secret to them, described as “good for some and bad for others.” (Wikipedia, “[Our Lady of Fátima](#)”)

1917, August 13 — Some 18,000 people have been flocking to Fátima and nearby Aljustrel, Portugal, drawn by reports of visions and miracles. The assembled multitude hears thunder and witnesses lightning in a clear blue sky. Then the sun grows pale and a cloud hovers above the oak tree where the apparitions usually appear. Provincial administrator [Artur de Oliveira Santos](#), believing that these events are politically disruptive, takes the children into custody, jailing them before they can reach the Cova da Iria. Santos interrogates and threatens the children to get them to divulge the contents of the secrets.

1917, August 19 — Instead of the promised apparition in the Cova da Iria on August 13, the children see the Virgin Mary at nearby Valinhos, Portugal. She asks them again to pray the rosary daily, speaks about the miracle coming in October, and asks them “to pray a lot.”

1917, Late Summer — 12:30 p.m. John Boback is walking along railroad tracks in Youngstown, Pennsylvania, when he hears a swishing sound and sees an elliptical object about 100 feet away on the ground in a pasture. It has portholes emitting light from the interior and a smooth surface. Moments later the object ascends smoothly in a gradual climb and flies away to the east. (Lore and Deneault, [pp. 104–105](#))

1917, Early September — Witnesses at Salida, Colorado, watch distant moving lights flicking on and off over a period of several days. Through a telescope, one light appears to be a revolving wheel with lights on it. (Arlene Shovald, “Edwards’ UFO Sighting Not Salida’s First,” *Salida (Colo.) Mountain Mail*, September 7, 1995; Clark III 1171)

1917, September 13 — With the three children in attendance, the crowd at the Cova da Iria, Portugal, see a “luminous globe” sail across the sky. A white cloud envelops the children and the oak tree. A rain of white roses is said to have fallen out of the heavens but dissolves just before landing. Behind the cloud, the crowd can see [Lúcia](#) talking to the invisible lady.

1917, October — Seven-year-old [Elizabeth Klarer](#) and her older sister Barbara have their first alleged encounter with a UFO on their parents’ farm Connington in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands, South Africa. While playing outside the farmhouse, Elizabeth claims to witness a giant orange-red wheel rolling across the sky. The plummeting object, also described as a fiery pockmarked meteor or planetoid, is intercepted by a silver disc bathed in a pearly luster. Around this time Elizabeth begins receiving occasional telepathic messages from a friendly space alien named Akon. (Clark III 657; Elizabeth Klarer, [Beyond the Light Barrier](#), Howard Timmins, 1980)

1917, October 13 — After some newspapers report that the Virgin Mary has promised a miracle for the last of her apparitions, a huge crowd, possibly between 30,000 and 100,000, including reporters and photographers, gathers

at Cova da Iria, Portugal. What happens then becomes known as the “Miracle of the Sun.” Various claims are made as to what really happened. The three children report seeing a panorama of visions during the event, including those of Jesus, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Saint Joseph blessing the people. Father John de Marchi, an Italian Catholic priest and researcher who wrote several books on the subject, included descriptions by witnesses who believe they observed a miracle created by Mary, the mother of Jesus. After a period of rain, the dark clouds break and the Sun appears as an opaque, spinning disc in the sky. It appears significantly duller than normal and casts multicolored lights across the landscape, the people, and the surrounding clouds. The Sun then seems to careen towards the earth before zigzagging back to its normal position. Witnesses report that their previously wet clothes become “suddenly and completely dry, as well as the wet and muddy ground that had been previously soaked because of the rain that had been falling.” Not all witnesses report seeing the Sun “dance.” Some people only see the radiant colors, and others, including some believers, see nothing at all. The only known picture of the Sun taken during the event does not show anything unusual. No unusual solar phenomena are observed by scientists. Some theologians, scientists, and skeptics have offered alternative explanations that include psychological suggestibility of the witnesses, temporary retinal distortion caused by staring at the intense light of the Sun, a sundog, and optical effects caused by natural meteorological phenomena. The Miracle of the Sun is interpreted by others as a UFO event. Investigator [Joe Nickell](#) thinks that the effects are “a combination of factors, including optical effects and meteorological phenomena, such as the sun being seen through thin clouds, causing it to appear as a silver disc. Other possibilities include an alteration in the density of the passing clouds, causing the sun’s image to alternately brighten and dim and so seem to advance and recede, and dust or moisture droplets in the atmosphere refracting the sunlight and thus imparting a variety of colors.” (Wikipedia, “[Miracle of the Sun](#)”; Santuária de Fátima, [[photos of the Miracle of the Sun](#)]; “[O Milagre do Fátima](#),” *Ilustração Portuguesa*, no. 610 (October 29, 1917): 353–355; John de Marchi, *The True Story of Fatima*, St. Paul, Minn.: Catechetical Guild Educational Society, 1956; M. Alexander, “[UFO—Seen by Sixty Thousand Witnesses!](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1958): 10–11; Antonio Ribera, “[What Happened at Fátima?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 10, no. 2 (March/April 1964): 12–14; Gilbert S. Inglefield, “[Fatima: The Three Alternatives](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 10, no. 3 (May/June 1964): 5–6; Peter Rogerson, “[The Sun Maiden](#),” *Merseyside UFO Bulletin* 4, no. 2 (June 1971): 22–26; Joaquim Fernandes, “[The Apparitions of the Virgin at Fatima Considered in Relation to the UFO Phenomenon](#),” *Awareness* 12, no. 4 (1983/1984): 4–10; Auguste Meessen, “[Apparitions and Miracles of the Sun](#),” in *Science, Religion, and Conscience*, Actas do Forum Internacional, Centro Transdisciplinar de Estudos da Consciência, October 23–25, 2003, Santos, 2005; Joaquim Fernandes and Fina D’Armada, *Heavenly Lights: The Apparition of Fátima and the UFO Phenomenon*, EcceNova Editions, 2005; Joe Nickell, “[The Real Secrets of Fatima](#),” *Skeptical Inquirer* 33, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2009): 14–17; Jeffrey S. Bennett, *When the Sun Danced*, University of Virginia, 2012; Artur Wirowski, “[Modelling of the Phenomenon Known as ‘the Miracle of the Sun’ as the Reflection of Light from Ice Crystals Oscillating Synchronously](#),” *Journal of Modern Physics* 3, no. 3 (2012): 282–289; Clark III 484–485; Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité, “The Miracle of the Sun at Fatima,” *Regina Cæli*, December 2016; Philippe Dalleur, “[Fatima Pictures and Testimonials: In-Depth Analysis](#),” *Scientia et Fides* 9, no. 1 (2021): 9–45)

1918

- 1918**, Winter? — Edwin T. Bauhan and other soldiers at Rich Field in Waco, Texas, see a noiseless, flame-colored, cigar-shaped object 100–150 feet long flying overhead at an altitude of 500 feet. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 105](#); Clark III 1170; “[1918 Sighting](#),” *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Bulletin* 1, no. 4 (Winter 1954): 10–11)
- 1918**, March 1 — Early morning. A woman at Tahunanui Beach, Nelson, New Zealand, sees two distinct “seaplanes” flying together near the surface of the water. They soon diverge, one going in the direction of the eastern hills and both getting lost in the clouds. (“[Seaplanes over Tasman Bay](#),” *Nelson Colonist*, March 2, 1918, p. 4; Brett Holman, “[The Mystery Aeroplane Scare in New Zealand—1](#),” *Airminded*, August 28, 2013)
- 1918**, Summer — 7:30 p.m. At an isolated ranch 60 miles from Malta, Montana, 9-year-old [Theodore Warren](#) sees a cigar-shaped “airship” with windows that shine with greenish light. It flies in from the mountains in the east and hovers above the ranch house. He watches it for a while, and then it “whooshes” away to the northwest. (Ione Warren Conway, “[A UFO\(?\) from the Past](#),” *IUR* 7, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1982): 16)

- 1918**, August 12 — After 5:00 p.m. Two women at Durie Hill, Whanganui, New Zealand, see an airplane moving swiftly off the South Spit heading toward the south. It disappears behind Landguard Bluff. Other witnesses come forward to corroborate the sighting. (“[Aeroplane off Wanganui](#),” *Wanganui Chronicle*, August 13, 1918, p. 4; Brett Holman, “[The Mystery Aeroplane Scare in New Zealand—IV](#),” Air-minded, October 26, 2013)
- 1918**, August 13 — Evening. Mr. C. Rawlinson is cycling to a dance on Carrington Road, New Plymouth, New Zealand, when he sees a bright star against some mountains about 6 miles away. It starts flashing red and white and moves closer and downward, then rises to 400–500 feet and performs other maneuvers. He rides home to tell his sisters, who also see the light until about 8:30 p.m., when it moves off to the sea. (“[Local and General](#),” *Wellington Dominion*, August 14, 1918, p. 4; Brett Holman, “[The Mystery Aeroplane Scare in New Zealand—IV](#),” Air-minded, October 26, 2013)
- 1918**, October — During operations against the Bolshevik Army in Tulgas, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia, soldiers of the US 339th Infantry Regiment watch a round object the color of burnished copper, with a faint light and vapor obscuring much of its shape. (Letter to J. Allen Hynek; Jan Aldrich)

1919

- 1919** — Wireless inventor [Guglielmo Marconi](#) claims that he has detected large-wavelength radio signals from Mars. He claims the most frequent signal is the Morse code for “S,” or three short dots. The signals, however, are subsequently traced to an experiment conducted by chemist [Irving Langmuir](#) at the General Electric Laboratories in Schenectady, New York. (“[Hello, Earth! Hello!](#)” White Earth (Minn.) *The Tomahawk*, March 18, 1920, p. 6)
- 1919**, January 22 — After 10:00 p.m. A brilliant light the size of a tennis ball appears in a garden at Shuttlewood, Derbyshire, England. When the witness approaches it, it moves away at a leisurely pace and passes through wire netting. It follows the top of a hedge, turns right, and ascends until it finds a break in the high branches of a tree, where it hovers for 3 minutes before flying on. The witness then notices his neighbor’s farm is illuminated with bright white light. Several minutes later, the sphere returns to the garden, hovers another 3 minutes, then approaches the witness. As it does so, it turns from white to orange. It moves away, stops above a neighbor’s garden, travels along a hedge, traverses a field, and circles a row of houses before soaring into the sky and disappearing. The light is seen for 40 minutes. (Mark Ian Birdsall, “The Luminous Pearl of 1919,” *Quest International* 10, no. 2 (1991): 26–27; Clark III 1171)
- 1919**, June — Mid-afternoon. A young boy in Scorbé-Clairvaux, Vienne, France, sees a metallic disc reflecting sunlight. It descends, dims, flies away horizontally, and disappears. (Joel Mesnard, “[Catalogue d’observations inédites](#),” *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 189–290 (July/August 1988): 28)
- 1919**, June 2 — 9:30 a.m. A tiny circular cloud appears in an otherwise cloudless sky over Ottertail, Minnesota. Suddenly it expands to several times its size. Seconds later, the window that the witness is watching through starts to shake and creak. By the time it stops, the cloud has expanded more and now has a ragged appearance, bending toward the earth. A black object shoots out of the bottom of the cloud, leaving a vapor trail, and begins making 6–7 barrel rolls. It then peels off in a straight line, headed north. (Clark III 1170; “[Supersonic Jet in 1919?](#)” *IUR/Frontiers of Science* 3, no. 6 (Jan./Feb. 1982): 14–15)
- 1919**, July — 11:00 a.m. A young brother and sister who live on a farm near Webster City, Iowa, hear a strange chirping sound while out playing. They turn and see a brown-green object under a tree near a creek 75 feet from them. They notice a similarly colored figure standing in a door that has been lowered down. It makes strange guttural sounds. They see another figure running toward the stream leading to a pond. This smaller one dips up some water into a can. The larger figure seems to be hurrying the smaller figure back into the object. The door slams shut with a metallic sound, and the vehicle rises up quickly with its three legs still out and goes over a hill. The soil where the object had been is covered with round spots that resemble cane marks. (Clark III 263; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 23, 2009)
- 1919**, Late summer — 10:00 p.m. Harry Anderson, 13 (or 16), is out riding with his family and two friends when their car runs out of oil east of Barron, Wisconsin. A passing farmer offers to give them some oil, and Harry accompanies him 2 miles away to his farmhouse. Harry walks back to the car alone and sees 20 little men walking in single file towards him. Their heads are bald, and the figures are dressed in leather “knee pants” held up by suspenders. They

are mumbling but pay no attention to him. Terrified, he continues and does not look back. ([Jerome Clark], “Encounters with Little Men,” *Fate* 31, no. 11 (November 1978): 83–86; Clark III 263; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 24, 2009)

1919, December 1 — Boni & Liveright publishes [Charles Fort](#)’s first book of scientific anomalies, *The Book of the Damned*. Fort gathers reports of objects or “vessels” that he humorously speculates might be visitors from a multitude of worlds that have come to earth over the centuries. Among his wilder expressions is the suggestion that floating land masses in the sky harbor civilizations and oceans. Fort also speculates that someone is fishing for us and that an alien race considers us its property, warning off all interlopers. It receives positive reviews from [Ben Hecht](#) and [Booth Tarkington](#). (Charles Fort, *The Book of the Damned*, Boni & Liveright, 1919; Wikipedia, “*The Book of the Damned*”; Clark III 506–507; Jim Steinmeyer, *Charles Fort: The Man Who Invented the Supernatural*, Tarcher, 2008, pp. 173–174; Ulrich Magin, “The Book of the Damned,” *Fortean Times* 386 (December 2019): 38–43)

1920

1920 — Day. [Stanley Clason](#), 10, is walking across his uncle’s pasture in northern Montana when he sees an object traveling from northwest to southeast. It has a “long, slim, pointed shape” and appears “silvery in color.” (“Report from the Readers,” *Fate* 7, no. 4 (April 1954): 115–116; Clark III 1171)

1920, Summer — 11:00 p.m. A group of young people, including sisters Louise and Marie Grasset, returning from a dance at Nontron, Dordogne, France, observe small beings in the air above a wooded area. Luminous balls surround the figures, who are giving off “musical sounds.” (Clark III 264; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), October 3, 2017)

1920, June 3 — Day. [Jesse Clark Lynch](#) is fishing on a pond near Mount Pleasant, Iowa, when he sees a soundless, blue, disc-shaped object emerge from behind a grove of 100-foot-high maple trees. It flies across the pond and lands 15 feet away. Lynch gets up and walks toward it, but it rises up, slowly moves over some trees to the west, and disappears. (“Mini UFO Landed near Mt. Pleasant in 1920,” *The UFO Examiner* 2, no. 2 (June 1978): 8, 19; “[Man Visited by Strange Object While Fishing in Iowa in 1920](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 382 (February 2000): 12; Clark III 1170)

1920, June 8 — 6:00 p.m. About 200 people see a cylindrical object flying at a height of about 75 feet between Wathena, Kansas, and Rushville, Missouri. A witness in Rushville sees it make a right-angle turn and head east, where it disappears into a cloud. (“[1920 UFO Reported](#),” *Skylook*, no. 71 (October 1973): 16)

1920, Late October — 3:00 a.m. C. B. Alves sees four flying discs 50 miles north of Freeport, Texas, when he is out fishing with some friends. They look like two big silver plates set edge to edge. Each appears to be about 25 feet in diameter and 10 feet thick at the center. (“Report from the Readers,” *Fate* 8, no. 2 (February 1955): 122–123; Clark III 1170)

1921

1921 — An 8-year-old is playing in the hillocks near a canal in Marseille, France. He is suddenly accosted by two tall, slender men wearing apparent diving suits who drag him into a strange looking “tank.” After a while, an opening appears in the ceiling, and in a few moments he finds himself back on the ground. He must walk all afternoon to get back to the place where the UFO picked him up 5 minutes earlier. (Clark III 264; [Letter], “J’ai voyagé en soucoupe,” *Paris-Match*, no. 291, October 23, 1954; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), September 7, 2006)

1921, Late July — 2:00 a.m. Annie Baker of 39 Highland Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, England, sees a “strange looking bladder like monster the shape of an airship only much wider” during a thunderstorm. It is luminous and remains stationary for several minutes but moves away and disappears quickly. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 13–15](#))

1921, July 29 — The Council on Foreign Relations is incorporated. Founded by corporate lawyer [Elihu Root](#), the organization brings diplomats, high-level government officials, and academics together with lawyers, bankers,

and industrialists to engineer foreign policy. The first issue of *Foreign Affairs* is published in September 1922. (Wikipedia, "[Council on Foreign Relations](#)")

- 1921**, September — The British Air Ministry has asked the public to submit reports on observations of ball lightning to its Meteorological Office. The results are summarized by geophysicist [Harold Jeffreys](#), who notes very little uniformity in the observations, with little agreement on size, duration, color, or shape. (Harold Jeffreys, "[Results of the Ball Lightning Inquiry](#)," *Meteorological Magazine* 56 (September 1921): 208–211; UFOFiles2, [pp. 13–16](#))
- 1921**, September 1 — J. H. C. Macbeth of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company announces that inventor [Guglielmo Marconi](#) is convinced he has intercepted wireless signals from Mars while cruising in the Mediterranean Sea on his mobile laboratory and yacht, the *Elettra*. The signals are regular and "produced high in the meter band." One of them resembles the letter "V" in the Marconi Code. ("[Message Received from Mars?](#)" *San Luis Obispo (Calif.) Daily Telegram*, September 1, 1921, p. 1; "[Marconi Sure Mars Flashes Messages](#)," *New York Times*, September 2, 1921, p. 1; Orrin E. Dunlap Jr., *Marconi: The Man and His Wireless*, Macmillan, 1937, [pp. 267–269](#); Michael D. Swords, "[Radio Signals from Space, Alien Probes, and Betty Hill](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 11)
- 1921**, October 9 — Harvard University astronomer [William Henry Pickering](#) claims that he has discovered, through two years of observation, vegetation growing in lunar craters that contain water and a source of heat. They seem to form strips or "canals" that vary according to season. ("[Says 2 Crops a Day Grow on the Moon](#)," *New York Times*, October 9, 1921, p. 6)

1922

- 1922** — Starting this year, ghost lights are seen every year until 1932 in the desert near the Oregon Canyon Ranch, McDermott, Nevada. They look like lanterns or car headlights in the distance. More than 50 of the shepherders in the area have seen the lights, including Tito Bengoa, the brother of [Frank](#) and [Christopher Bengoa](#) of the King's River Ranch near Orovada. (Kenneth Arnold, "Phantom Lights in Nevada," *Fate* 1, no. 3 (Fall 1948): 96–98)
- 1922**, Summer — A teenage couple, William O'Brien and Irma (later married surname is Hinz), walking home from a movie in Detroit, Michigan, see a large disc-shaped object hovering above a vacant lot on South Dragoon Street. Rectangular windows surround the perimeter of the UFO's base. Seated at those windows are 20 or so bald-headed beings with close-set eyes. They stare at the witnesses, who become unnerved and leave. (Clark III 264; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1910–1939](#), p. 21)
- 1922**, Summer — Many witnesses in Warsaw, Poland, see a silvery object, shaped like two hemispheres divided by a rotating ring, that shoots a beam of light and ascends with a loud noise. (Bronislaw Rzepecki, "[UFOs and Ufologists in Poland](#)," *IUR* 11, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1986): 15; Poland 8)

1923

- 1923** — Two DePauw University college students, Andrew Wallace Crandall and [Herrick Greenleaf](#), watch a revolving red object pass over Greencastle, Indiana. The object, round and glowing, moves silently from northeast to southwest, then vanishes. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 106](#))
- 1923** — A photograph shows a domed disc hovering near the church tower in Sebeş, Romania. (Romania 10–11)
- 1923**, October — Boni & Liveright publishes *New Lands* by [Charles Fort](#), who writes about odd aerial and astronomical observations: "It seems no more incredible that up in the seemingly unoccupied sky there should be hosts of living things than that the seeming blank of the ocean, should swarm with life." (Charles Fort, [New Lands](#), Boni & Liveright, 1923; Wikipedia, "[New Lands](#)"; Jim Steinmeyer, *Charles Fort: The Man Who Invented the Supernatural*, Tarcher, 2008, pp. 198–199; Clark III 507, 1098)

1924

- 1924**, January — 1:00 a.m. Perry G. Powers and Duncan Miller are returning to a ranch when they see a beam of light shining on the snow in the Osage Hills, Oklahoma. It emanates from a large oval-shaped object with white dots of

light on the side and blue flame at the trailing end. It makes a slight hissing noise and moves out of sight over the horizon in less than 3 minutes. (UFOEv, [p. 129](#); “[1924 Sighting](#),” *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Bulletin* 1, no. 4 (Winter 1954): 10)

1924, August 22 — Mars enters an opposition closer to Earth than at any time in the century before. In the US, a National Radio Silence Day is promoted during a 36-hour period in August 21–23, with all radios quiet for 5 minutes on the hour, every hour, just in case the Martians take the opportunity to communicate with Earth. At the US Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., an SE-950 radio receiver is lifted 1.9 miles above the ground in a dirigible tuned to a wavelength between 8 and 9 kilometers, using a “radio photo message continuous transmission machine” recently invented by Amherst College and [Charles Francis Jenkins](#) of Washington. The program is led by retired astronomer [David Peck Todd](#) with the military assistance of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. [Edward Walter Eberle](#), with [William F. Friedman](#) (US Army chief cryptographer), assigned to translate any potential Martian messages. The device records radio signals on chemically treated film. One signal consists of a “fairly regular arrangement of dots and dashes along one side” and on the other “at almost evenly spaced intervals ... curiously jumped groups each taking the forms of a crudely drawn human face.” Todd tells a reporter, “It may not be a message from Mars, but if it isn’t from Mars, where is it from?” Astronomer [Frederick E. Fowle](#) of the Smithsonian thinks they are “disturbances introduced by solar or terrestrial causes not yet understood.” Other scientists suggest the images are caused by static discharge from a passing trolley car, malfunctioning radio equipment, or the natural symphonic radio waves produced by Jupiter. (Jerome Clark, “[Conversations with Martians](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 20; Michael D. Swords, “[Radio Signals from Space, Alien Probes, and Betty Hill](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 11–12; Kristen Gallerneaux, “[Reaching for Mars](#),” *Past Forward*, August 23, 2016; Jessica Leigh Hester, “[Everybody Shut Up! We’re Listening for Mars](#),” *Atlas Obscura*, August 3, 2018)

1924, Fall — Dusk. A hunter in a rowboat on Okanagan Lake, British Columbia, sees a faint blue light moving from northeast to southwest. It temporarily disappears behind a mountain but reappears and approaches the boat, passing it at a distance of 200 feet and a speed of 30–40 mph. The object is pearly silver in color with faint dark blue light at the rear. After moving a quarter mile away, it ascends and disappears at terrific speed. (Clark III 1171–1172)

1925

1925 — Thomas Green is riding with another young man on a farm near Moora, Western Australia, when they come across an object “like two saucers placed edge on edge” resting on a paddock. Some oval-shaped windows are visible, and it is resting on four legs splayed outwards. The two decide to return home. Several days later they return and find the earth “scuffed about” on the spot. (Bill Chalker, “[The CE II Experience in Australia](#),” *ACOS Bulletin*, no. 9 (March 1977): 11–12; Bill Chalker, “[Historical Australian UFO Reports](#),” *UFO Research Australia Newsletter* 4, no. 3 (Nov./Dec. 1983): 28)

1925, June — 2:30 a.m. A driver stops his Ford Model T to watch a 300-foot-long, cigar-shaped object flying south toward Chicago, Illinois. Red sparks are peeling away from its nose and it has multicolored lights. As it passes in front, the driver feels a heat wave. (*San Diego (Calif.) Evening Tribune*, August 12, 1965; Clark III 1171)

1926

1926 (or 1927) — 3:00 p.m. A 14-year-old girl is tending cows in a meadow between Brzezic and Ujazd, Poland. Suddenly the cows become agitated and pull on their halters. She notices three cement-colored spherical objects some 650 feet away in a field to the north. In front of each is a small entity dressed in greenish uniforms. (Poland 9)

1926, January — 1:00 p.m. Aviator [Bert Acosta](#) is flying somewhere between Wichita, Kansas, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, when he notices 6 or so objects that look like manhole covers flying off his starboard wing 600 feet away. They keep pace with his plane for 5 minutes. Finally they turn, change course, and fly away. (Jacques Vallée, *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, Ace ed., 1965, [p. 49](#); Patrick Gross, “[Pilots UFO Sightings](#),” August 6, 2021)

- 1926**, June — After midnight. Farmer Ion Bunesco is with his horses on the Leurda plateau near Colun, Romania, when he sees a light ascend from the village of Cârța. An illuminated globe moves toward him with a light so strong that it brightens the River Olt some 2.5 miles away. (Hobana and Weverbergh 224–225; Romania 9–11)
- 1926**, August — Dusk. Frank Tezky and his father watch 6 disc-shaped objects in Westmont, Illinois. Five smaller discs are trailing in a straight line behind a much larger one, moving west beneath cirrus clouds, which reflect the light cast by the objects. (Clark III 1170)
- 1926**, Late September — 11:00 p.m. An Air Mail pilot named Colin Murphy is repeatedly buzzed by a huge glowing object one hour after he takes off in his DH-4 biplane from Salt Lake City, Utah. The object is a 90-foot-long cylinder with no wings or propeller. Every time the object approaches closer than 150 feet, his engine sputters and misfires. He is forced to land in a sheep pasture, whereupon the object shoots away to the south. Possible hoax. (Patrick Gross, “[Pilots UFO Sightings](#),” August 5, 2021)
- 1926**, October 27 — Attorney and “telepathist” Hugh Mansfield Robinson, who has been in contact with a female Martian entity named Oomaruru since 1918, convinces the central radio office in London, England, to send out a message, “*MMM opesti nipitia secomba*” over the airwaves. He intends for it to be picked up by Martian wireless. The next day, he claims that Oomaruru telepathically told him that only the first three letters had been received. Robinson describes the Martians as 7–8 feet tall with large ears, a wealth of black hair, and almond eyes. Over the years he continues receiving messages from Oomaruru while in a trance and attempting to send signals to Mars. Psychic investigator [Nandor Fodor](#), who has attended some of Robinson’s séances, calls him “as slippery as a human eel.” (Earl J. Johnson, “[Imagination Runs Wild about Visit of Martian Realm](#),” *Pomona (Calif.) Bulletin*, October 28, 1926, p. 1; “[Doctor Files Mars Message by Radio ‘At Sender’s Risk](#),” *Vancouver (B.C.) Sun*, October 28, 1926, p. 18; Nandor Fodor, *The Haunted Mind*, Garrett, 1959, pp. 259–269; Clark III 1018–1019; Marc Hartzman, “[Earth to Mars in the 1920s: The Strange Case of the Man Who Tried to Contact Martians via Radio](#),” *Weird Historian*, February 22, 2018; Maurizio Verga, *Earth Calling Mars*, The author, 2024)
- 1926**, November 8 — Early evening. Playing hide-and-seek with friends in Bolton, Lancashire, England, Henry Thomas (or Thomson) slips into a backyard off Euston Street and finds three figures dressed in odd suits made of silvery gray rubber tubes. They are looking into a window in the back of a house. A tube extends from their helmets into a tank on each figure’s back. They turn to look at him and he sees their heads are pale and “shaped like lightbulbs” and they have slits for mouths. Thomas runs away as all three of the entities move toward him. (Peter Brookesmith, *UFO: The Complete Sightings Catalogue*, 1995, p. 31; “[1926: Humanoid Hide and Seek](#),” ThinkAboutIt; Jenny Randles and Peter Hough, *The Complete Book of UFOs*, Sterling, 1996, pp. 35–37; Clark III 264)

1927

- 1927** — For a few weeks, 10-year-old [Cecil “Danny” McGann](#), his family, and other farmers in the area of Fernvale, New South Wales, are terrorized by dancing aerial lights during the night, the unusual deaths of their cattle and pigs, mystery intruders, apparitions, circular areas of scorched grass, large and unfamiliar birds, bizarre noises, and strange men in odd suits. McGann is still terrified of this series of events when he relates them to UFO investigator [Bill Chalker](#) in 1985. (Clark III 485–491; Bill Chalker, “Physical Traces,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, p. 190)
- 1927**, Summer — [Reece Andrew Lacey](#), 9, sees a large fish-like object with “big fins extended outward near the front, and small, short ones near the rear” in Wolfe County, Kentucky. (“Report from the Readers,” *Fate* 11, no. 2 (December 1958): 111–112; Clark III 1171)
- 1927**, July — Agricultural engineer Gheorghe Achimescu sees a smoke-gray, cylindrical object fly silently from west to east over the village of Nicolae Bălcescu, Romania, at an altitude of 650–950 feet. He estimates it is about 50 feet long with a diameter of 10 feet. (Hobana and Weverbergh 152–153)
- 1927**, August 5 — Russian artist, writer, and philosopher [Nicholas Roerich](#), his wife Helena, and his two sons George (Yuri) and Svetoslav, while on a four-year expedition to the Himalayas, Tibet, China, and Russia, observe an apparent UFO near Qinghai Lake, Tibet. “We all saw, in a direction from north to south, something big and shiny

reflecting the sun, like a huge oval moving at great speed. Crossing our camp this thing changed in its direction from south to southwest. And we saw how it disappeared in the intense blue sky. We even had time to take our field glasses and saw quite distinctly an oval form with shiny surface, one side of which was brilliant from the sun." (Nicholas Roerich, *Altai-Himalaya*, Frederick A. Stokes, 1929, [pp. 361–362](#); Brad Sparks, "[Analysis: Roerich Case, Aug. 5, 1927](#)")

1927, Late summer — Long delayed echoes—radio echoes that return to the sender several seconds after a radio transmission has occurred—are first observed by civil engineer and amateur radio operator Jørgen Hals from his home near Oslo, Norway. The cause of LDEs remains unknown, although A. G. Shlionsky has proposed 15 different explanations. (Wikipedia, "[Long delayed echo](#)"; Carl Størmer, "[Short Wave Echoes and the Aurora Borealis](#)," *Nature* 122 (1928): 681; Sverre Holm, "[The Five Most Likely Explanations for Long Delayed Echoes](#)," March 16, 2004; Sverre Holm, "[15 Possible Explanations for Long Delayed Echoes](#)," November 6, 2007)

1927, October 18 — Richard Sweed is driving west on the outskirts of Bakersfield, California, when he sees a bluish-gray metallic disc with portholes take off from the ground at a 45° angle. It is about 60 feet in diameter and makes a whining sound. He examines the spot where the object had rested and finds the sand "fused like glass crystals." (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 18)

1928

1928, January 3 — Kansas journalist [Charles Benedict Driscoll](#) begins writing about ball lighting in his syndicated column, "The World and All," keeping the subject alive for many years. (Charles B. Driscoll, "[The World and All](#)," *Lexington (Ky.) Herald*, January 3, 1928, p. 4)

1928, May — Mystic and white supremacist [William Dudley Pelley](#) claims he has an out-of-body experience in which he travels to other planes of existence devoid of corporeal souls. He describes his experience in an *American Magazine* article titled "My Seven Minutes in Eternity," expanded to a book 1933 as *Seven Minutes in Eternity*. In later writings, he describes the experience as "hypo-dimensional." During this event, he meets with God and Jesus, who instruct him to undertake the spiritual transformation of America. He later claims that the experience gives him the ability to levitate, see through walls, and have out-of-body experiences at will. (William Dudley Pelley, "[Seven Minutes in Eternity](#)" with *Their Aftermath*, Robert Collier, 1929; Clark III 1285)

1928, Summer — A 6-year-old girl sees a black, faceless, 5-foot-high figure with a large head and dangling arms in a field off Anstey Lane, Leicester, England. She thinks it is a scarecrow but notices a "large globe on legs" near the figure. She wakes up her father (who is resting in the open air) but when she turns around, the scarecrow and the globe are gone. (Pauline Berger, "[The Disappearing Scarecrow](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1969): 29; Clark III 264)

1928, June 13 — 9:00–10:00 p.m. Something like a "great blurred electric light" appears over Miami, Florida, for more than 30 minutes. One witness, amateur astronomer R. C. Fahrion, describes it as a comet without a tail, but it does not move, is of an "enormous size," and disappears very suddenly. ("[Miami Astronomers Unable to Identify Light in Sky](#)," *Miami Herald*, June 14, 1928, p. 1; "[Miamians Watch Sky Mystery, Mistaken for Tailless Comet](#)," *Miami News*, June 14, 1928, p. 12; Clark III 1172)

1928, Early November — 10:30 p.m. [Norman H. Sabie](#) and [Thorsten Sabie](#) are driving cattle near Milton, North Dakota, when they notice a round, metallic object, like a "soup bowl turned upside down," speed by at a low altitude (15–20 feet), emitting 4–5 rays of light that illuminate the ground and startle cattle. It makes a sound like air pouring through a tube. (UFOEv, [p. 129](#); Clark III 1170)

1928, November — French diplomatic scholar [Henri Pensa](#) writes that a silvery object trailing fire is seen in Rodez, Aveyron, France, coming from the "direction of Mars." He says that in the winter of 1927–1928, he has seen a bright light, usually between 8:00 and 11:00 p.m., that brightens the landscape. (Giuseppe Stilo, "[Francia, 1928: Marte Attacca?](#)" *Cielo Insolito*, October 2, 2019)

1929

1929 — In Hertford, England, a 5-year-old girl and her 8-year-old brother have such an unsettling experience that they do not talk about it themselves until about 1960, and the woman herself does not reveal it to outsiders until 1970. They are playing in a garden when they hear engine sounds and see a tiny (12 or 15 inches wide) biplane coming over the fence from the direction of an orchard. It swoops down, nearly hitting a trash can, and lands for a few seconds before resuming its flight. While it is stationary, the girl can see a “perfectly proportioned tiny pilot wearing a leather flying helmet, who waved to us as he took off.” (Gordon Creighton, “[A Weird Case from the Past](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1970): 30; Clark III 1173)

1929, June 15? — 11:00 p.m. As he is driving home at Ferme-Neuve, Quebec, Levis Brosseau, 20, sees something like a black cloud with a yellow light resting on a hillside. He gets out to investigate and discerns a structured object 50 feet in diameter. Outside of it, 4–5 small men of yellowish color are moving quickly about. Soon the object flies overhead, “purring like a milk separator,” and he hears two voices arguing. (*La Semaine Illustrée*, September 23, 1968; “[Flying Saucer Witness Tells When the Aliens Landed in Quebec in the 1920’s](#),” *Saucers, Space, and Science*, no. 54 (1969): 10; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1910–1939](#), p. 31; John Brent Musgrave, *UFO Occupants and Critters: The Patterns in Canada*, Global Communications, 1979, pp. 20–21; Clark III 264)

1929, September — Medical student William Walton is crossing a street in Oak Park, Illinois, when he sees a very bright yellowish-white light like two saucers pressed together. It approaches his position, and he hears a humming sound like the throbbing of a turbine and feels heat and pressure. The object passes over him at about 100 feet altitude, but the force knocks him to his knees. After it passes, he detects an odor of sulfur. (Linda Zimmerman, *More Hudson Valley UFOs*, Eagle Press, 2017)

1930

1930 — 10:00 a.m. A woman is driving the family car in an isolated hilly area of Texas when she rounds a curve and sees a huge object about 100 feet across by the side of the road. A small door is open with steps leading down to the ground. One side of the object is braced up by two slender legs with round plates for feet. A man of normal size comes walking toward her and forces her to stop. He seems to speak to her telepathically, telling her to leave the road and make a shortcut through a gully. Some 8–10 other figures walk forward, much smaller and with slanted eyes. They are wearing tan coveralls and tight caps. Despite potential damage to her car, she drives through the gully as the larger man walks alongside. The next thing she remembers is walking up to her porch at her home 15 miles away. It is around 12:00 midnight. In March 1968, having read *Interrupted Journey* about the [Betty and Barney Hill](#) case, she writes to the Colorado project and offers herself for hypnosis and research. [Edward Condon](#) files the letter under “psychological” and does not respond. (Michael D. Swords, “[Too Close for Condon: Close Encounters of the 4th Kind](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 4–5; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), August 29, 2019)

1930 — Day. Schoolboys and teachers at the Barton Hill Academy in Bristol, England, watch a cigar-shaped metallic object speed across the sky faster than a dirigible. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 16–19)

1930 — 9:30 p.m. Two men walking along a lane at Tomintoul, Scotland, see a white light “like a meteor.” When it gets brighter, they can see figures moving inside it. The witnesses think it is a ghost light. (Clark III 264; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), September 20, 2018)

1930, Spring (or spring 1931) — 7:00 p.m. As he walks down a country road near Newberry, Michigan, high school student Ralph Newman sees a “distinctly green fireball” in the low eastern sky that moves from south to north. About the size of the full moon, its light brightens the countryside, then it vanishes. (Clark III 1175)

1930, May — Day. A top-shaped object 40 feet wide lands in a garden in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Rankin and their two daughters can see the head and shoulders of a figure inside wearing a tight-fitting outfit and helmet. Some 5–10 minutes later the object ascends quietly and is gone. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1910–1939](#), p. 33; Clark III 264; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), September 15, 2018)

1931

1931, January 1 — 1:00 a.m. J. Stewart Childerhose and his brother, two farmers of Cobden, Ontario, see an object with a brilliant white light on its front illuminating treetops on the shore of Muskrat Lake. Green and white lights twinkle

on its tail end. It moves in a rectangular path, then speeds up suddenly and climbs out of sight. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 108](#))

1931, January 26 — Author [Tiffany Thayer](#) founds the Fortean Society during a dinner with [Charles Fort](#) in the Savoy-Plaza Hotel in New York City in order to promote his books and ideas. (Wikipedia, "[Fortean Society](#)"; Jim Steinmeyer, *Charles Fort: The Man Who Invented the Supernatural*, Tarcher, 2008, pp. 239–241)

1931, February — [Charles Fort](#) writes in *Lo!*, published this month, that "Unknown, luminous things, or beings, have often been seen, sometimes close to this earth, and sometimes high in the sky. It may be that some of them were living things that occasionally come from somewhere else." (Charles Fort, *Lo!*, Claude Kendall, 1931; Wikipedia, "[Lo!](#)"; Jim Steinmeyer, *Charles Fort: The Man Who Invented the Supernatural*, Tarcher, 2008, pp. 235–243; Clark III 507–508, 1098)

1931, May — 4:30 p.m. Pasquale Masala is out riding his horse with a friend a few miles southeast of Paulilatino, Sardinia, Italy. When they reach a megalithic tomb known as Nuraghe Trudumeddu, they dismount to enjoy the view. Suddenly, a strange object the size and shape of a football emerges from the partially blocked entrance of the tomb. It travels at a height of about 3 feet above the ground at a constant speed of about 10–15 mph and enters a thick patch of undergrowth. Marsala runs after it for about a half mile and notices that the bushes part in front of the object and close up after it passes. His companion is frightened and insists on returning to the village. (Mary Boyd, "[An Early Italian Cross-Country Case](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 20, no. 3 (December 1974): 21; IPinotti 13–14)

1931, June 6 — Aviator [Francis Chichester](#) sees a dull gray-white "airship" as he is making the first solo flight in a Gypsy Moth seaplane from New Zealand to Australia over the Tasman Sea. (Francis Chichester, *The Lonely Sea and the Sky*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1964, [p. 165](#); "[UFO: Sir Francis Chichester Recounts His 1931 Sighting, Earliest UFO Report on Film!](#)" Hotblack Desiato YouTube channel, October 21, 2014; Keith Basterfield, "[Aviator Francis Chichester's Classic Sighting: Is the Date Wrong?](#)" Unidentified Aerial Phenomena–Scientific Research, May 29, 2018; Patrick Gross, "[Francis Chichester Sighting, 1931](#)")

1931, Summer — Alice May Williams of Auckland, New Zealand, begins writing letters over a two-year period to [Edison Pettit](#) and [Seth Barnes Nicholson](#), astronomers at the Mount Wilson Observatory in Pasadena, California, describing her encounters with telepathic aliens who fly in a circular machine "like a great big lamp." She writes that "The Planet mars is inhabited by human spirits like us can talk eat & drink wear clothes, but have great power. They are something people of this earth have never seen." Their ships "are round like the moon with airtight shutter at the front, glass. The machine must be built with some light material, airproof fireproof, waterproof. The inside must be like a room, 2 beds tables & chairs." Much of her information seems to be derived from articles in the *Auckland Star* about conditions elsewhere in the solar system. (David Herkt, "[Who No: Letters from Alice May Williams](#)," Speaker: Public Address, September 3, 2012)

1932

1932 — Danish pilots Lt. Col. Peter Grunnet and Lt. Tage Andersen are flying an H.M.II (Heinkel HE 8) seaplane over eastern Greenland as part of a photogrammetric survey. Suddenly, Andersen notices they are being followed by a hexagonal metallic object about a mile behind them. (Rufus Drake, "UFO Crisis over Greenland," *Saga*, October 1976, pp. 36–38, 54, 60; Patrick Gross, "[Pilots UFO Sightings](#)," August 8, 2021)

1932, April or May — Terry F. Lapeza sees an aluminum-like disc with yellowish lights or "portholes" on the underside, about 100 feet in diameter over Durham, New York. It is moving north at about 300 mph. (UFOEv, [p. 129](#))

1932, Early summer (or early summer 1933)— 7:30 p.m. Teenager Fred W. Van Sant and his brother Milton see 7–8 "meteors flying in a bunch" over hills east of Oakland, California. They maintain the same altitude from east to west in a great arc. The objects are silent and are so bright they seem to be emitting their own light. (NICAP case file; Clark III 1175)

1932, June —Evening. [Reuben D. Knight](#) is standing on the porch of his farmhouse near Wattsburg, Pennsylvania, when he notices a bright speck of light approaching from some woods to the south. Growing in size, it comes to within 4 feet of him and appears as a silvery-blue ball about 14 inches in diameter. It travels in a loop and circles back to

the woods in a steady path of 35–40 mph. After it circles past him again, he calls his wife and she sees the ball make a final loop before it disappears in the woods. (NICAP case file; Clark III 1175; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), August 19, 2018)

1933

- 1933** — Earl J. Duncan and a Native American boy are in a truck near Fort Washakie, Wyoming, on the Wind River Indian Reservation. As they reach the crest of a hill, they see three perfectly round, pulsating, orange-red balls about 900 feet away. They are moving “in absolute alignment” about 20 feet from the ground toward the nearest mountain range. After 5 minutes of silent movement they disappear over a nearby mountain. (NICAP case file; Clark III 1175)
- 1933**, February 25 — Night. A witness sees an apparent Japanese airplane seemingly taking photos over March Field [now March Air Reserve Base] in Riverside County, California. Two Army planes allegedly shoot the airplane down. But no wreckage is ever found, and the Army says no March Field planes are sent up for such a purpose. (*Elsinore Leader-Press*; Joe Blackstock, “[Dogfight over March Field in 1933 Was Maybe Just an Early UFO Sighting](#),” *Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise*, August 1, 2022)
- 1933**, April — Physicist [Karl Guthe Jansky](#) announces his discovery of radio waves coming from the direction of the center of the Milky Way. He detects them accidentally when he is studying radio signals from thunderstorms using a rotating directional antenna (the world’s first radio telescope) at the Bell Telephone laboratories field station in Holmdel, New Jersey. (Wikipedia, “[Karl Guthe Jansky](#)”; “[New Radio Waves Traced to Centre of the Milky Way](#),” *New York Times*, May 5, 1933, p. 1; John Kraus, “[The First 50 Years of Radio Astronomy, Part 1: Karl Jansky and His Discovery of Radio Waves from Our Galaxy](#),” *Cosmic Search* 3, no. 4 (Fall 1981); Woodruff T. Sullivan III, “[Karl Jansky and the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Radio Waves](#),” in W. T. Sullivan III, ed., *The Early Years of Radio Astronomy: Reflections Fifty Years after Jansky’s Discovery*, Cambridge University, 1984, pp. 3–42)
- 1933**, Summer — For weeks, strange lights in the sky are reported around Tobin Lake, Saskatchewan. Curious about the reports, two young men and a woman drive to the lake from Napawin. On their way they see a glow near the horizon, so they park and trek a quarter mile into the woods where they can see a large, oval-shaped craft sitting on legs. From an open central doorway shines a bright orange glow; a ladderlike stairway extends downward with a dozen figures dressed in silver suits moving up and down the steps. They appear to be repairing the craft. The witnesses watch for 30 minutes when they decide to return to their truck and get closer. Two nights later they return and find imprints and burn marks, which they photograph. Two of them write an article that they submit to magazines, which refuse to publish what they consider outlandish fiction. (John Brent Musgrave, “[Saskatchewan, 1933: UFO Stops for ‘Repairs](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 22, no. 6 (April 1977): 16–17; Clark III 264; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 15, 2009)
- 1933**, Summer — 2:30 a.m. A man who still insists on anonymity in 1964 is driving near Cherryville, Pennsylvania, when his car gets a flat tire. As he is jacking it up, he sees a faint violet light in the field on his right. Curious, he walks about 200 feet toward the light and sees a bell-shaped object about 10 feet in diameter and 6 feet high on the grass. Light is issuing from a circular door about 1 foot in diameter. He pushes it and it swings open. Putting his head inside, he cannot see much because of the peculiar light coming from the ceiling. The chamber inside is about 6 feet in diameter, 4 feet high, and full of tubing and dials on a console. An ammonia scent pervades the room, which is notably chilly. The man then walks around the object, touching the surface, which is slick, metallic, and cold. After 10 minutes, he goes back to the car, replaces the tire, and drives home. (“[Flying Saucer Spotted in 1933](#),” *Allentown (Pa.) Sunday Call-Chronicle*, February 16, 1964, pp. B1–B2; Clark III 1175–1176; “[1933 Sighting Reported](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, July 1964, pp. 7–8; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 16, 2009)
- 1933**, Summer — Night. Frank Van Keuren is fishing with others along the waterway off Beach Haven, New Jersey. Suddenly they are illuminated by a searchlight coming from an object moving slowly and silently about 1,000 feet in the air. It goes on to circle some radio towers about 8 miles away, flooding them with light. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 19–20)
- 1933**, June 1 — English mountaineer [Frank Smythe](#), during the British Mount Everest Expedition in the Himalaya Mountains of Nepal, is heading for camp at 27,500 feet when he sees two dark objects floating in the blue sky. In shape they resemble kite balloons, except that one appears to possess short squat wings. As they hover motionless, they seem to pulsate in and out as though they are breathing. A minute or two later they disappear

behind mountain mist. (Frank S. Smythe, *Camp Six: An Account of the 1933 Mount Everest Expedition*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1937, [pp. 264–266](#); Barry Greenwood, “[UFOs on Mt. Everest in 1933](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 5 (July 1999): 2–3)

- 1933**, June 13 — An unknown aircraft allegedly crashes at Magenta, just west of Milan, Italy. After retrieving it, the Italian government establishes a top-secret group, Gabinetto Ricerche Speciale/33, to examine the craft. It is headed by Prime Minister [Benito Mussolini](#), Foreign Minister [Galeazzo Ciano](#), and Air Marshal [Italo Balbo](#), with scientific support from [Guglielmo Marconi](#) and astronomer [Gino Cecchini](#). Debris is reportedly stored in the hangars of the SIAI-Marchetti aircraft company in Vergiate, Varese. Journalists are ordered to keep silent about the incident due to national security. The 1st Armored Division captured the SIAI-Marchetti facility in April 1945, so they allegedly could have sent the debris back to the United States. (Good Need, [pp. 12–15](#); J. Antonio Huneus, “UFO Chronicle,” *Fate* 53, no. 9 (September 2000): 8–9, 59; Roberto Pinotti and Alfredo Lissoni, *Gli “X-Files” del Nazifascismo*, 2001; Alfredo Lissoni, “[UFO Cover-up by Mussolini! New Documents ‘Will Revolutionize Ufology’!](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 46, no. 3 (Autumn 2001): 13–17; Giuseppe Stilo, “[Fascisti su Marte](#),” *UFO Rivista di Informazione Ufologica*, no. 27 (August 2003): 32–39; Massimiliano Grandi, “[I ‘Files Fascisti’ sotto esame](#),” *UFO Rivista di Informazione Ufologica*, no. 29 (July 2004): 44–47; 2Pinotti 179–197; John Greenwald, “[The UFO Files of Mussolini: Fascist UFO Files by Roberto Pinotti](#),” The Black Vault, August 10, 2020; Kevin D. Randle, “[David Grusch and the 1933 Italian UFO Crash](#),” A Different Perspective, June 21, 2023; Brian Dunning, “[Mussolini’s Aliens](#),” Skeptoid podcast no. 900, September 5, 2023; Michael Organ, “[Mussolini’s Flying Saucer 1933](#),” Rambling Thoughts of an Overactive Mind, October 28, 2023; “[The 1933 Magenta, Italy UFO Crash](#),” UAP Gerb YouTube channel, March 18, 2024; Josep Guijarro, “[Confirmado: Marconi trabajó para el Comité RS/33](#),” Espacio Misterio, April 26, 2024)
- 1933**, July 5 — Evening. Four RAF Hawker Fury I biplanes flying over Sussex, England, encounter a gigantic light that shines directly into the center of their formation from a higher altitude. Two Hawkers experience mechanical trouble and separate. Capt. Nigel Tompkins and Lt. Bruce H. Thomas make emergency landings when both their planes’ engines quit. On his way down, Thomas passes so close to the light that it causes burns on his face and hands. Probable hoax. (*History of the III Fighter Squadron, RAF*, London Press, 1947; Jan Aldrich, “[Aircraft/UFO Encounters Prior to 1942](#),” Project 1947; Patrick Gross, “[Pilots UFO Sightings](#),” August 3, 2021)
- 1933**, July 31 (or August 1) — 9:15 p.m. Somewhere between Butt Valley Reservoir and Humbug Valley, California, high-school science teacher Paul M. Barry Jr. is skywatching when he sees two objects shoot across the sky. They are solid, prolate spheroids with a green luminescence. Their brightness changes considerably as they approach the zenith and diminish as they approach the horizon. He thinks they are 8–10 miles distant. The two objects disappear and are followed by a third. (Clark III 1175)
- 1933**, Fall — 11:45 p.m. A chemist in Contra Costa County, California, hears a humming sound outside coming from the northeast. Looking out the window, he sees the yard bathed in a steady blue-purple light. Suddenly the light goes out and the humming ends with a “pow” sound. (Lorenzen, *UFOs; The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 19)
- 1933**, Late November — After sunset. A lone observer sees what appears to be an aircraft land on ice-covered lake Fjosoken, Sorsele, Sweden. It takes off and circles the lake for one hour, during which time it projects a powerful searchlight on the lake’s surface. However, local police interview the witness and suspect that he was looking at Venus. (Swords 361)
- 1933**, December 24 — 6:00 p.m. Witnesses in Kalix, Norrbotten, Sweden, see beams of light coming from a machine that seems to be searching the ground below. The beams are “blinding.” The sighting is part of a wave of “ghost flier” reports of gray monoplanes without identifying markings that are reported over rural areas of Scandinavia from November 15, 1933, through February 11, 1934. The Swedish Military Record Office accumulates 96 reports from Sweden, 234 from Norway, and 137 from Finland, and the Swedish Air Force undertakes at least two reconnaissance missions in search of the mystery planes. More than 50% of the reports take place between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., when Venus is low over the horizon. (Ole Johnny Brænne, “The Norwegian ‘Ghost Fliers’ of 1933–37,” *INFO Journal*, no. 73 (Summer 1995): 6–11; *Strange Company* 7; Hilary Evans and Robert E. Bartholomew, *Outbreak! Anomalist*, 2009, pp. 497–499; Swords 361–363; Anders Liljegren, “[Ghost Flier Mystery Still Unresolved](#),” *AFU Newsletter* 41 (September 2001): 1–3)
- 1933**, December 28 — The 4th Swedish Flying Corps begins an investigation of the ghost flyers in Tärnaby. (“[Mystery Plane Is Hunted by Swedish Army Fliers](#),” *New York Times*, January 1, 1934, p. 21; John A. Keel, “[Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part 2](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1970): 12)

1933, December 30 — Swedish customs sends a request for air support to Gen. [Eric Virgin](#), head of the Swedish Air Force, to help apprehend the ghost fliers who could be smuggling liquor into Sweden. However, he is cautious and wants more information to evaluate. (Swords 361–362; Good Above, [p. 13](#))

1934

- 1934**, January — [George Adamski](#), who has been a lecturer and counselor on spiritual topics since about 1928, opens the Monastery of the Royal Order of Tibet at 758 Manzanita Drive, Laguna Beach, California. The monastery serves as his home and headquarters until 1940. (George M. Eberhart, “[George Adamski—New Age Meets the Space Age](#),” *IUR* 21, no. 2 (Summer 1996): 20; “[Laguna Beach, 1932–1940: From Temple to Ranch](#),” The Adamski Case, September 27, 2019; Marc Hallet, *A Critical Appraisal of George Adamski, the Man Who Spoke to the Space Brothers*, The author, July 2016, [pp. 14–20](#))
- 1934**, January 2 — 3:45 a.m. Olof Hedlund is taking a walk in Sorsele, Västerbotten, Sweden, when he hears an engine above him. There is a full moon and visibility is good. He sees an airplane fly over the city from the west, passing directly above the train station. It turns three times in wide circles, then it takes off to the north, following the railroad tracks. It is at about 1,300 feet altitude and visible for 15 minutes. (John A. Keel, “[Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part 2](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1970): 12)
- 1934**, January 9 — A mystery airplane is seen again over Västerbotten province, Sweden. The Swedish Air Force loses two aircraft trying to discover where the plane is based. (“[Mystery Plane Reported](#),” *New York Times*, January 10, 1934, p. 11; *Strange Company* 7–8)
- 1934**, January 10 — Gen. [Pontus Reuterswärd](#), chief of armed forces in Upper Norrland, Sweden, recommends to officials of Norrbotten County that they request assistance from the Air Force to deal with the ghost fliers. Norrbotten administrator Bernard Gärde is skeptical of the “vague and unreliable” reports at first. (*Svenska Dagbladet*, January 27, 1934, p. 3; Swords 361–362)
- 1934**, January 22 — A mystery aircraft flies over the military fortress at Boden, Norrbotten, Sweden, seen by 30 soldiers, and [Reuterswärd](#) alerts the press that planes had flown over restricted military areas. (John A. Keel, “[Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part III—The Landings](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 17, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1971): 17; Swords 362)
- 1934**, January 27 — Swedish MP [Arvid Lindman](#) puts a question to Prime Minister [Per Albin Hansson](#), asking what action the government plans to take about the ghost fliers. (Swords 362)
- 1934**, February 1 — Night. A mystery aircraft flies in circles for two hours over central London, England. Its engine is noisy, and its course can be clearly seen by its lights. On February 6, Under-Secretary of State for Air [Philip Sassoon](#) claims that it was an RAF plane carrying out a training exercise in coordination with ground forces. (John A. Keel, “[Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part 2](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1970): 13)
- 1934**, February 2 — Prime Minister [Hansson](#) tells the Swedish Parliament that most ghost flier sightings are misidentifications or fantasy, while others are unsolved. (Swords 362)
- 1934**, February 2 — Night. A large unidentified airplane is seen over eastern Finland close to the Russian frontier, apparently scouting the district. Flights of ghost planes and mysterious lights have been seen for the past month over Helsinki and Vyborg, Finland, as well as Sweden and Norway. The Scandinavian mystery fliers continue to be seen into 1935. (“[Finnish Alarm Grows over ‘Ghost’ Planes](#),” *New York Times*, February 4, 1934, p. 9; Ole Johnny Brønne, “The Norwegian ‘Ghost Fliers’ of 1933–37,” *INFO Journal*, no. 73 (Summer 1995): 6–11; *Strange Company* 8–9)
- 1934**, February 5 — Several witnesses see a “flying machine” crash-land during a snowstorm on Mount Fager in Norway. Looking through telescopes, they can see the plane and its two-man crew shoveling snow away from the craft, which is resting on a plateau. On February 7, one of several search parties find apparent airplane tracks and curious footprints nearby, but a subsequent investigation by Norwegian marine and police personnel determine that it is impossible for an airplane to start up from that location and the tracks are actually furrows created by the storm. Separate police search parties scour the area and determine that the “plateau” is a “moderately steep hill” and the ghost plane was a large rock. (*Svenska Dagbladet*, February 7, 1934, p. 22; *Svenska Dagbladet*, February 9, 1934, p. 22; *Svenska Dagbladet*, February 10, 1934, p. 6)
- 1934**, February 12 — Norrbotten, Sweden, administrator Bernard Gärde officially requests assistance of the Air Force with the ghost fliers. But air surveillance has actually been taking place since early January. (Swords 362)

- 1934**, March 4 — Sweden calls off its hunt for the ghost fliers, although sightings are still being reported. Even though 24 airplanes participated in the search, no Swedish pilot has seen a ghost flier. Soldiers on the ground occasionally report sound from a motor or lights in the sky. (Swords 362–363)
- 1934**, April 30 — Gen. [Reuterswärd](#) tells the press that several ghost flier reports in January had been of real, unidentified aircraft involved in a violation of Sweden's airspace. MP [Elof Lindberg](#) accuses him of not being competent enough to draw such a conclusion. (Good Above, [p. 13](#); Swords 363)
- 1934**, June 11 — Night. Two mystery airplanes circle around London, England: "The machines were low enough for their outlines, as well as their navigation lights, to be clearly visible against the sky." Regulations prohibit RAF planes from flying over London at less than 5,000 feet. (John A. Keel, "[Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part 2](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1970): 13)
- 1934**, Summer — Day. 9-year-old [Coral E. Lightner](#) and two friends watch a white object "like an open umbrella without the ribs or spurs" glide silently through the sky from the west-southwest to the northwest over Barron, Wisconsin. It moves silently with a slight undulation before it disappears after 20 seconds. (Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [pp. 15–16](#); "[The Wisconsin Flying Saucer That Changed UFO Research Forever](#)," Wisconsin Frights, September 20, 2018)
- 1934**, August 9 — Around 5:00 a.m. Musician [Leon M. Thompson](#) is boating on Keuka Lake in western New York when he notices an odd cloud on the west side of the lake. It is in the form of an elongated cone some 60–75 feet in length and 10–15 feet in diameter at its largest point. Suddenly the sky lights up in a flash and the cloud emits a fireball that arcs across the lake to the east and leaves a fiery train. It falls on a cottage and throws up a cloud of mist or steam that slowly dissipates. ("[Ball of Fire Brings Thrill to Fisherman](#)," *Elmira (N.Y.) Star-Gazette*, August 4, 1934, p. 5; Chris Aubeck and Martin Shough, *Return to Magonia: Investigating UFOs in History*, Anomalist, 2015, pp. 315–328)

1935

- 1935** — 10:00 p.m. Edward Winters of the US 4th Coast Artillery Regiment watches a dull-red, Zeppelin-shaped object flying over the Panama Canal Zone at high speed from the Pacific to the Atlantic for about 30 minutes. Later it returns, moving in the opposite direction farther away. (NICAP case file)
- 1935** — Astronomer [Arthur M. Harding](#) writes that "Surely there must be some forms of life on Venus that are not so very different from what we find on earth." (Arthur M. Harding, *Astronomy: The Splendor of the Heavens Brought Down to Earth*, Garden City Publishing, 1935, [p. 408](#))
- 1935**, January 10 — Charles Spayde, the operator of a telegraph station west of Lima, Ohio, claims that he has been receiving a "series of strange, unintelligible signals" that are broad in wavelength and "come in all over the dial." He is convinced they are not static or mechanical disturbances and they do not originate on this planet. (Jerome Clark, "[Conversations with Martians](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 20)
- 1935**, January 22 or 23 — 8:00 p.m. A woman in Vienna, Virginia, sees a lightning-like flash in the southwest that flares up several times then dies down. It seems to come from a "great blazing light, almost a ball of fire," that is moving around the horizon. It is lost to view in the southeast. ("A correspondent from Vienna, Va., writes," *Science* 81 (1935): 294)
- 1935**, Spring — Night. A Mr. Aerts sees a brilliant circular object "like aluminum" in the sky above the roofs of nearby houses in Mechelen, Belgium. It lands and he sees two small occupants come out of the rear; they wear square helmets with short antennas and are apparently examining the exterior surface. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1910–1939](#), p. 42; Clark III 265)
- 1935**, April 5 — 7:30 p.m. A farmer named Mora sees a large, round, brilliant object descend and hover just above the ground near his property in Aznalcázar, Seville, Spain. Several small beings appear and stroll around it. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, [A Catalogue of 200 Type-I UFO Events in Spain and Portugal](#), Center for UFO Studies, 1976, p. 1; Clark III 264–265; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), April 9, 2007)
- 1935**, May — Radu Popescu and his cousin are walking by the Olt River near Drăgășani, Romania, when they come upon what seems to be a Romany wagon. They see five figures—one next to the object, two farther away, and another

two next to a boat on the shore. Suddenly the figures run toward the object, something black covers it, an antenna appears, and it rises up above the river. It turns to a white color as it moves away. (Romania 121–122)

1935, July 1 — The US Division of Investigation officially becomes the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Timeline](#), March 31, 2002)

1935, July 8 — The Swedish Chief of Staff releases its final report on ghost fliers. After concluding that 42 of the 487 reports investigated by Sweden, Norway, and Finland are of actual aircraft violating borders, the military admits the phenomenon is at least partially real. (Swords 363)

1936

1936 — Atmospheric physicist [William Jackson Humphreys](#), after examining 280 cases, argues that ball lightning is caused by persistence of vision, meteorites, will-o'-the-wisp, brush discharge, and other natural phenomena. (W. J. Humphreys, “[Ball Lightning](#),” *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 76 (1936): 613–626)

1936 — Late evening. Mrs. E. P. Higgins and another member of the Canal Zone Astronomical Society observe a moving orange-red star passing from north to south near Miraflores Lake, Panama. Suddenly it halts and travels in three small circles from right to left. (Lore and Deneault, [pp. 112–113](#); Clark III 1176)

1936, January — [George Adamski](#)'s Royal Order of Tibet publishes *Universal Jewels of Life* as a free monthly newsletter for those attending his meetings in Laguna Beach, California. Besides Adamski, talks are also given by Marguerite Weir, Alice Wells, and others. Beginning in May, the Royal Order has a weekly 15-minute slot on local radio stations KFOX in Long Beach and KMPC in Los Angeles. He also publishes *Wisdom of the Masters of the Far East*, a summary of his “ageless wisdom” teachings. (“[Laguna Beach, 1932–1940: From Temple to Ranch](#),” The Adamski Case, September 27, 2019)

1936, August 17 — A metallic disc with a diameter of 33–40 feet is seen flying soundlessly near Venice, Italy. It has windows and alternating white and red lights. Two fighters from a nearby air base attempt to intercept it but cannot reach it. After maneuvering for an hour and passing above Mestre, Veneto, it appears more like a torpedo-shaped object. Two other smaller, domed discs are also seen following it. A report on the incident is sent to Foreign Minister [Galeazzo Ciano](#). (Good Need, [p. 12](#); Roberto Pinotti and Alfredo Lissoni, *Gli “X-Files” del Nazifascismo*, 2001)

1936, Fall — Before 12:00 midnight. [Louie R. Lindblad](#) and five companions from Texarkana, Arkansas, are fox hunting in Bowie County, Texas [around the current site of the Red River Army Depot] when they observe numerous star-like objects in a circular formation. Occasionally a light would fly across the circle and take up another position until they all seem to relocate. They watch the display for about 30–40 minutes. (L. R. Lindblad, “[The Night the Stars Changed Places](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 150 (August 1980): 12)

1936, October 10 — 4:15 a.m. Capt. Mario Rossi, flight instructor at the airfield at Orbetello, Grosseto, Italy, is flying a Savoia-Marchetti SM.62 at 12,465 feet over Talamone, Italy, when he sees an unusual light ahead of his plane. He follows the light, which is at a slightly higher altitude and moving at nearly 440 mph. Rossi loses it after flying into a cloud for 12 minutes and finding himself over Elba. (Ernesto Thayaht, “[Three Sightings in Italy](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 3 (July/Aug. 1955): 6; 1Pinotti 15–16; “[Pilots UFO Sightings](#),” August 7, 2021)

1936, October 15 — Night. Holger Berg and another worker at the Civilian Conservation Corps in Eklutna, Alaska, are walking south toward Anchorage when they see a light approaching them from the south. It is attached to a cigar-shaped object embedded in a blue-green haze and making a strange buzzing noise. As the object passes directly overhead, they notice it actually has a triangular shape and multicolored lights on its tail end. Frightened, they dive into a nearby snowbank then run back to Eklutna. (National UFO Reporting Center, “[NUFORC UFO Sighting 16166](#),” February 5, 2001; Marler [64–66](#); “[Eyewitness Holger Berg Talks about His 1936 Sighting of a Cigar-Shaped UFO in Eklutna, Alaska](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, January 10, 2024)

1936, Winter — Robert Damion, an astronomer of Nice, Alpes-Maritimes, France, who has a private observatory in the Alps, claims that for several nights a “certain portion of the sky in the vicinity of Mars” has been lit up with a deep bluish tint for 40 seconds each time. He is convinced that Mars is trying to signal Earth. (“[Strange Light from Mars Called Signal to Earth](#),” *Ogden (Utah) Standard-Examiner*, March 11, 1936, p. 12)

1937

- 1937**, January — A man who later becomes an administrator in a Missouri state agency chases a disc-shaped object in his private aircraft over Van Buren, Missouri. (Harley D. Rutledge, *Project Identification: The First Scientific Field Study of UFO Phenomena*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, [p. 213](#))
- 1937**, January 1 — Noon. Pilot Howard S. Behr is flying a Curtiss-Wright CW-15 Sedan at 3,000 feet over Virginia on his way to Raleigh, North Carolina. Suddenly he sees an object beginning to cross his flight path about 1,000 feet below him. It looks like a gondola, gun-metal gray in color, with both of its ends turned up. He estimates it is about 35–40 feet long and traveling at 150 mph. It moves off to his left and disappears. (Jerome Clark, *Strange Skies: Pilot Encounters with UFOs*, Citadel, 2003, p. 6; Patrick Gross, “[Pilots UFO Sightings](#),” August 7, 2021)
- 1937**, January 4 — New ghost flier sightings around the fortress at Boden, Norrbotten, Sweden, have prompted Gen. [Pontus Reuterswärd](#) to alert Minister of Defence [Janne Nilsson](#) about the possibility of foreign spies. (Swords 363)
- 1937**, Late January — Ghost fliers return to Västerbotten, Sweden. A light is seen wandering near the horizon east of Umeå. A light brighter than a headlight is reported from a community near Dorotea. A light similar to position lights on an aircraft flies over a village outside Stensele. (Swords 363)
- 1937**, February 11 — 9:00 p.m. The crew of the fishing vessel *Fram* is departing Kvalsvik, Norway, when they notice a “large aeroplane” with red and green glowing lights resting on top of the water. The captain turns the boat around to offer assistance, but the object’s lights go out and it is cloaked in a “cloud of smoke” and vanishes. (John A. Keel, “[Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part IV](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 17, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1971): 22; *Strange Company* 11)
- 1937**, February 15 — MP [Elof Lindberg](#) demands in the Swedish Parliament that a commission with civil experts, not military, should investigate the ghost flier intrusions. He suspects the military has embellished the reports to direct more resources to the northern region and to the Air Force in general. (Swords 363)
- 1937**, May 19 — [Lindberg](#)’s request for a civilian ghost flier investigation is rejected by Swedish Minister of Defence [Janne Nilsson](#), who explains that no new facts have surfaced and few new observations have been reported. (Swords 363)
- 1937**, May 30 — Amateur astronomer [Latimer J. Wilson](#) of Nashville, Tennessee, is observing Mars through a 12-inch reflector when he sees a series of intermittent bright flashes across the south polar cap. A line of tiny white spots seems to extend across the cap, some coalescing to swell in a brilliant white spot that quickly becomes yellow, then red-yellow, the “phenomenon passing from left to right across the polar cap.” (Latimer J. Wilson, “[Apparent Flashes Seen on Mars](#),” *Popular Astronomy* 45 (1937): 430; Walter H. Haas, “[Flashes on Mars Observed in 1937 and Some Random Remarks](#),” *The Strolling Astronomer* 45, no. 1 (Winter 2003): 43–45)
- 1937**, Summer — An object allegedly falls from the sky in Langenau [now Czernica, Poland] into a field belonging to [Eva Braun](#)’s family and is retrieved by German soldiers. It supposedly winds up in [Wernher von Braun](#)’s laboratory, but the story is probably mythical. (Poland 116–117)
- 1937**, September — [Tiffany Thayer](#) publishes the first issue of the *Fortean Society Magazine* (retitled *Doubt* in 1944) in New York City. (*Fortean Society Magazine* [1, no. 1](#) (September 1937); Clark III 516)
- 1937**, September — Electrical engineer [Grote Reber](#) builds one of the first radio telescopes in his back yard in Wheaton, Illinois. It consists of a parabolic dish of sheet metal 30 feet in diameter tuned to a radio receiver 25 feet above the dish. Although he does not confirm Jansky’s 1933 discovery of radio waves in space, he does so with his third model in 1938. (Wikipedia, “[Grote Reber](#)”; Grote Reber, “Cosmic Static,” *Astrophysical Journal* 91 (June 1940): 621–624; John Kraus, “[The First 50 Years of Radio Astronomy, Part 2: Grote Reber and the First Radio Maps of the Sky](#),” *Cosmic Search* 4, no. 1 (1982))
- 1937**, September 10–12 — [George Adamski](#)’s Royal Order of Tibet organizes a festival in Laguna Beach, California, dramatizing the “teachings of the universal masters” and a round-table discussion focusing on the “present day needs in unifying all mankind.” (“[Laguna Beach, 1932–1940: From Temple to Ranch](#),” The Adamski Case, September 27, 2019)

1938

- 1938** — The Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation begin contributing large amounts of money to the Council on Foreign Relations. They create various Committees on Foreign Relations throughout the country, which later become governed by the American Committees on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C., funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Influential men are chosen in several cities and are brought together for discussions in their own communities as well as participating in an annual conference in New York. These local committees serve to influence local leaders and shape public opinion to build support for the council's policies, while also acting as "useful listening posts" through which the Council and US government can "sense the mood of the country." (Wikipedia, "[Council on Foreign Relations](#)")
- 1938** — Harvey L. Sperry, 13, sees a white, vapor-like object moving at 5–10 mph at less than 100 feet altitude from north to south in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Its rim seems to be "composed of two interwoven parts revolving and moving in opposite directions." (Lore and Deneault, [p. 136](#); Clark III 1176)
- 1938**, February — [Raymond A. Palmer](#) is hired as editor of *Amazing Stories* magazine, owned by Ziff-Davis in Chicago, Illinois. He immediately sets out to enliven the periodical, which is close to folding. Concentrating on "space opera" stories, he expands its size to more than 200 pages and encourages readers to contribute content. (Wikipedia, "[Raymond A. Palmer](#)")
- 1938**, Summer — Midnight. Artist Malcolm B. Perry sees what looks like a Navy blimp moving east to west over Somerville, Massachusetts. It has apparent portholes in the sides, and he can see the silhouette of someone looking at him. Other figures are taking turns looking through portholes. It disappears below some low clouds. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 20–21; "[1938: Perry's Alien](#)," *UFO Roundup* 5, no. 37 (September 4, 2000); Clark III 265)
- 1938**, July 25 — 11:30 p.m. A lieutenant and his aide see a strong light coming from a hovering lens-shaped object near Guadalajara, Spain. It is over 35 feet in diameter and 15 feet high. A platform with two moving figures is lowered from underneath. A blue beam from the object shines on the witnesses, who feel a sudden chill. The platform rises back up, and the object glows with an intense white light and flies away. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "[Survey of Iberian Landings](#)," in Charles Bowen, ed., *UFOs in Two Worlds*, special issue of FSR, August 1971, p. 46; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, *A Catalogue of 200 Type I UFO Events in Spain and Portugal*, CUFOS, 1976, p. 2; Clark III 265)
- 1938**, October — Dusk. A man is in a cornfield with his father near Alger, Ohio, when an object moves up and hovers about 500 feet above the field. The tractor motor stops running. The object is about 100 feet in diameter and has a ring of pulsating, multicolored lights around it. Soon it makes a right-angle turn and vanishes in the sky, after which they get the tractor working again. (Michael D. Swords, "[The Timmerman Files](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 14)
- 1938**, October 22 — Italian Lt. Col. [Mario Pezzi](#) reaches a record altitude of 56,850 feet in a Caproni Ca.161. It is still the highest a manned, propeller-driven biplane has gone. (Wikipedia, "[Mario Pezzi \(aviator\)](#)")
- 1938**, October 30 — 8:00 p.m. "The War of the Worlds" episode of the American radio drama anthology series *The Mercury Theatre on the Air*, directed and narrated by actor and future filmmaker [Orson Welles](#), is an adaptation of [H. G. Wells](#)'s novel *The War of the Worlds* (1898). It is performed and broadcast live in New York City as a Halloween episode over the Columbia Broadcasting System radio network. Some listeners hear only a portion of the broadcast and, in the tension and anxiety prior to World War II, mistake it for a genuine news broadcast. Thousands of them share the false reports with others or call the media or police to ask if the broadcast is real. Many newspapers assume that the large number of phone calls and the scattered reports of listeners rushing about or fleeing their homes prove the existence of a mass panic, but such behavior is not widespread and the program has relatively few listeners. According to media historian Joseph W. Campbell, the most common response said to indicate a panic is calling the local newspaper or police to confirm the story or seek additional information. That, he writes, is an indicator that people are not generally panicking or hysterical. "The call volume perhaps is best understood as an altogether *rational* response." Some New Jersey media and law enforcement agencies receive up to 40% more telephone calls than normal during the broadcast. In the days after the adaptation, widespread outrage is expressed in the media. The program's news-bulletin format is described as deceptive by some newspapers and public figures, leading to an outcry against the broadcasters and calls for regulation by the FCC, which declines. Some government agencies in the US, Germany, and Russia take note of how segments of the population are easily manipulated into thinking fiction is fact. According to [Annie Jacobsen](#), the confusion

allegedly inspires [Joseph Stalin](#) to create a similar scenario with a fake alien crash in the US. West Windsor, New Jersey, where Grovers Mill (the scene of the Martian invasion) is located, commemorated the 50th anniversary of the broadcast in 1988 with four days of festivities including art and planetarium shows, a panel discussion, a parade, burial of a time capsule, a dinner dance, film festivals devoted to H. G. Wells and Orson Welles, and the dedication of a bronze monument to the fictional Martian landings. (Wikipedia, "[The War of the Worlds \(1938 radio drama\)](#)"; Hadley Cantril, [The Invasion from Mars](#), Princeton University, 1940; John Gosling, *Waging the War of the Worlds: A History of the 1938 Radio Broadcast and Resulting Panic, Including the Original Script*, McFarland, 2009, pp. 19–98; Robert E. Bartholomew and Benjamin Radford, *The Martians Have Landed!* McFarland, 2012, pp. 16–22; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 22, 211](#); Graff ix–xiv)

1938, December 17 — The process of nuclear fission is discovered by chemist [Otto Hahn](#) and his assistant [Fritz Strassmann](#) at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Chemie in Berlin, Germany, producing barium by bombarding uranium with neutrons. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, "[Atomic Timeline](#)")

1939

1939? — Sisters [Lucile](#) and [Allene Holt](#), daughters of Rev. [Turner Hamilton Holt](#), claim they are separately told by their father, a cousin of Secretary of State [Cordell Hull](#), that Hull personally showed Holt a wrecked circular craft of some kind and glass jars holding unknown creatures. These are stored in a sub-basement of the US Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Both sisters are told the story when Holt is a minister at the Shenandoah Christian Church in Greenwich, Ohio, before 1947, but researchers can find no confirmation in any of Hull's papers or memoirs. (William E. Jones and Eloise G. Watson, "[Pre-World War II 'Creature' Retrieval?](#)" *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 6–9, 12)

1939, January 13 — The process of nuclear fission is explained theoretically in Stockholm, Sweden, by [Lise Meitner](#) and her nephew [Otto Robert Frisch](#), who compares it to the biological fission of living cells. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, "[Atomic Timeline](#)")

1939, January 25 — A Columbia University team conducts the first nuclear fission experiment in the US in the basement of Pupin Hall on the south side of 120th Street in New York City. The experiment involves placing uranium oxide inside an ionization chamber and irradiating it with neutrons, then measuring the energy released. The results confirm that fission is occurring and hints strongly that it is the isotope uranium-235 that is undergoing fission. (Richard Rhodes, *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, Simon & Schuster, 1986, [pp. 267–270](#))

1939, January 26 — The Carnegie Institution of Washington holds a press conference at the Fifth Washington Conference on Theoretical Physics in D.C. to announce the discovery of nuclear fission. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, "[Atomic Timeline](#)")

1939, Late summer — A girl sleeping in the back yard of her home in Fort Worth, Texas, is awakened by a whirring noise. She sees a small object approaching from the east at an altitude of 20–30 feet. When it gets close, it descends to the level of her bed and hovers briefly at the foot, so close that she can touch it. It has the shape of an "old-time Mississippi steamboat with a deck around the bottom." Strata or veins run through it, and a soft, blue-green glow surrounds it. It is 3 feet around and 1 foot high. It rises suddenly and disappears. ("[Woman Says Strange Object Flew by Her Bed in Yard](#)," *Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram*, March 24, 1950, p. 23; Clark III 1176)

1939, Early August — George Pârvu and four other schoolchildren are playing in an open field in Armășești, Romania, when they see a bright light in the sky moving in a zigzag fashion. It circles a few times then descends in their direction, getting bigger and brighter. The egg-shaped object hovers silently at an altitude of 230–260 feet. Suddenly it becomes a dull coppery color and lands about 140 feet away. Two of the children flee but Pârvu and two others remain. The bottom of the object has a ring of small turbine blades that look like paddles in a water mill. It seems to be 16 feet high. A hatch opens and two little men about 4 feet tall come out, dressed in gray diving suits. They walk toward the children, one of them holding a rectangular box pointing at the ground. The children approach them, holding hands, but when they are about 23 feet away the other man points a thick stick-like device at them and they are no longer able to move forward. The little men bow in their direction, waist deep, then turn around and reenter the object, which takes off. The children find a circular area of yellowed grass where the object had been. Pârvu feels energized, but one of the other boys is temporarily sick. Pârvu encounters what

he perceives to be the same object in August 1944, August 1949, and the summer of 1954 (in the center of Bucharest). (George Pârnu, *La voia destinului*, CNI Coresi, 2011; Romania 124–128)

- 1939**, August 2 — Hungarian-American physicist [Leo Szilárd](#) writes a confidential letter to [President Roosevelt](#), in consultation with fellow Hungarian physicists [Edward Teller](#) and [Eugene Wigner](#). He has persuaded [Albert Einstein](#) to sign it as well. The letter warns that Germany might develop atomic bombs and suggests that the United States should start its own nuclear program. It results in the establishment of research into nuclear fission by the US government, and ultimately to the creation of the Manhattan Project. Delayed by the outbreak of war in Europe, the letter is eventually hand-delivered to Roosevelt by economist [Alexander Sachs](#) on October 11. Roosevelt gives the letter to his aide, Brig. Gen. [Edwin “Pa” Watson](#) with the instruction: “Pa, this requires action!” (Wikipedia, “[Einstein–Szilard letter](#)”; Atomic Heritage Foundation, “[Atomic Timeline](#)”)
- 1939**, October — An egg-shaped object with 8 spots like portholes is observed through an astronomical reflector telescope at Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, p. 17)
- 1939**, October 21 — After reading [Szilárd](#)’s letter, [Roosevelt](#) creates an Advisory Committee on Uranium, which meets for the first time at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. The committee consists of NBS Director [Lyman James Briggs](#), Army Lt. Col. [Keith F. Adamson](#), and Navy Cmdr. [Gilbert C. Hoover](#). It is attended by physicists [Fred L. Mohler](#) from the National Bureau of Standards and [Richard Brooke Roberts](#) from the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Szilárd, [Wigner](#), and [Teller](#). [Einstein](#) is invited but declines to attend. Adamson is skeptical about the prospect of building an atomic bomb, but is willing to authorize \$6,000 (equivalent to \$107,000 in 2018 dollars) for the purchase of uranium and graphite for Szilárd and [Enrico Fermi](#)’s experiments into producing a nuclear chain reaction at Columbia University. (Wikipedia, “[S-1 Executive Committee](#)”)
- 1939**, November 13 — 7:00 a.m. A building foreman is driving past a deserted farm near Brockworth, Gloucester, England, when he hears a high-pitched humming sound. He watches a gray, bell-shaped object hovering about 20 feet above a field 100 feet away. He estimates it is about 25 feet across. Dark window-like patches are visible on the side. A “curtain” of blue-green light emanates from the underside. After about two minutes, the green light retracts into the base of the object. The object then tilts to an angle of about 80° and moves away without a sound. (Jenny Randles, “[Bell-Like UFO from W.W.2.](#)” *Probe Report* 3, no. 4 (April 1983): 12–14; Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington, *Science and the UFOs*, Basil Blackwell, 1985, [p. 3](#); Jenny Randles, “Beam Me Up,” *Fortean Times* 381 (July 2019): 29–30)

1940

- 1940** — Astronomer Royal [Harold Spencer Jones](#) publishes *Life on Other Worlds*, an essay on the cosmos, the possibility of life arising, science’s tools, the development of the Earth, solar system bodies without atmospheres, the giant gas planets, Venus, Mars, the origin of solar systems, and possibilities for life beyond the solar system. (H. Spencer Jones, *Life on Other Worlds*, Macmillan, 1940; Michael D. Swords, “[SETI/ETI and UFOs](#),” *JUFOS* 5 (1994): 141–142)
- 1940**, March — [George Adamski](#) moves from Laguna Beach to a property along the Star Route in Valley Center, California, about 9 miles from where Palomar Observatory is under construction to set up a spiritual retreat. He acquires a 15-inch telescope to create an interest in astronomy. (“[Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame](#),” The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019)
- 1940**, March — US physicist [John R. Dunning](#) and colleagues at Columbia University verify the hypothesis of Danish physicist [Niels Bohr](#) that fission is more readily produced in the rare uranium-235 isotope than the abundant uranium-238 isotope. Dunning begins investigating gaseous diffusion as a process for enriching uranium. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, “[Atomic Timeline](#)”)
- 1940**, March — [Otto Robert Frisch](#) and [Rudolf Peierls](#), two researchers at the University of Birmingham in England—who ironically have been assigned to investigate nuclear weapons by Australian physicist [Mark Oliphant](#) because, as enemy aliens in Britain, they are ineligible to participate in secret war work—issue the Frisch-Peierls memorandum. It contradicts the common thinking of the time that many tons of uranium would be needed to make a bomb, requiring delivery by ship. The calculation in the memorandum shows that a bomb might be

possible using as little as 1–10 kilograms of pure uranium-235, which would be quite practical for aircraft to carry. (Wikipedia, "[Frisch–Peierls memorandum](#)"; Atomic Heritage Foundation, "[Atomic Timeline](#)")

1940, March 22 — [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signs Executive Order 8381, creating the three security levels for the most important documents: Restricted, Confidential, and Secret. (US President, Executive Order No. 8381, "[Defining Certain Vital Military and Naval Installations and Equipment](#)," March 22, 1940)

1940, March 23 — Night. An RAF Wellington bomber flying near Cuxhaven, Germany, is shadowed by an object with a fixed searchlight about 7,500 behind it and to starboard. (Graeme Rendall, "[80 Years Ago, the Royal Air Force Saw Flying Objects They Could Not Explain](#)," The Debrief, December 2, 2022)

1940, March 24 — Night. An RAF bomber near Bremerhaven, Germany, is followed by two unidentified objects with searchlights. After 5 minutes the crew shoots at them with their machine gun and the lights go out. (Graeme Rendall, "[80 Years Ago, the Royal Air Force Saw Flying Objects They Could Not Explain](#)," The Debrief, December 2, 2022)

1940, Spring — Afternoon. Walking down a street in Hinsdale, Illinois, William T. Powers sees five disc-shaped objects in the northern sky. They are traveling together at 100–200 mph and disappear into a cloud. (Clark III 1177)

1940, April 10 — The first meeting of the MAUD Committee in England, established in response to the Frisch-Peierls memorandum to determine if an atomic bomb is feasible, meets in the Royal Society committee room in Burlington House, London. The original members are physicists [George Paget Thomson](#), [James Chadwick](#), [John Cockcroft](#), [Mark Oliphant](#), and [Philip Burton Moon](#); physicists [Patrick Blackett](#), [Charles Drummond Ellis](#), and chemist [Norman Haworth](#) are subsequently added, along with a representative of the Director of Scientific Research at the Ministry of Aircraft Production (MAP). (Wikipedia, "[MAUD Committee](#)")

1940, May — Morning. Dutch immigrant [Udo Wartena](#) is working his mining claim near the base of Boulder Mountain, Montana, when he hears a humming sound. Curious, he climbs to higher ground and sees a large silver disc, 100 feet across, hovering a short distance away. A circular stairway is let down, a man descends it, and starts walking toward Wartena, who approaches him. The man has white hair and is wearing gray overalls, a gray cap, and slippers. He asks in English if his crew can take on some water, Wartena agrees, and a hose is let down into a stream. Wartena is invited onto the craft, where he meets another white-haired man who says they are about 600 and 900 years old. The first man explains that the craft moves by using stored stellar energy. Wartena chats with them further and is subjected to an examination by an X-ray-like machine. As he is let off, the man tells him not to tell anyone about the incident. Wartena keeps that promise until right before his death in 1989. (Warren P. Aston, "The Udo Wartena Encounter," *UFO Magazine*, March/April 1998; "[The Udo Wartena Encounter](#)," *Phantoms and Monsters*, January 2, 2013)

1940, Mid-May — 9:00 a.m. [Lavern P. Zewiske](#) and his father [Paul](#) are checking some recently planted corn on their farm near Fairbank, Iowa. A gray object with multiple hooked "hairs or tentacles" moving around on the bottom passes overhead at 500–1,000 feet. ("[Out of the Past](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1984): 6)

1940, May 21 — President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) authorizes the FBI to conduct electronic surveillance and wiretapping on US spies, saboteurs, or suspicious individuals. ("[Warrantless FBI Electronic Surveillance](#)," US Senate, Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, Final Report, April 23, 1976, pp. 271–351)

1940, Summer (or summer 1941) — Near St. Clair, Pennsylvania, as he is walking along a country road, young Frank Sever hears a loud noise in the nearby woods. He sees something like an "aluminum building" partly concealed in the trees. A short distance from it he sees "six small men milling about or looking for something on the ground." Thinking they are ghosts, he runs. Later he comes back and confirms there is no building on the spot. (Clark III 265)

1940, June — Afternoon. An anti-aircraft unit on the Isle of Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland, receives an alert that proves to be a false alarm. The witness, using a height-and-range finder, focuses on an unusual object in the sky. For 10 seconds he tracks an oblate spheroid moving rapidly in a horizontal path, its height recorded at 38,000 feet. (Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington, *Science and the UFOs*, Basil Blackwell, 1985, [p. 9](#))

1940, August 11 — The RAF Bomber Command issues a report on "Phenomena Connected with Enemy Night Tactics" concerning unidentifiable aircraft observed by bombing crews over the coast of Holland and the Ruhr Valley of Germany. The report suggests the sightings are either due to observer strain or German "experimental apparatus." (*Strange Company* 16–17)

1940, September 19 — English inventor [Henry Tizard](#) leads a secret delegation to Washington, D.C., to meet with [Vannevar Bush](#) and [Alfred Lee Loomis](#) of the US National Defense Research Committee to disclose the technical details of the UK's Chain Home early warning radar stations, which have been locating incoming Luftwaffe bombers. The US shares its Navy's longwave CXAM radar system but admit that it does not have enough transmitter power. At a subsequent meeting on October 6, [Edward George Bowen](#) and [John Cockcroft](#) reveal the cavity magnetron, a direction-finding device with an amazing power output of about 10 kilowatts at 10 centimeters. The exchange opens up channels of communication for jet engine and atomic bomb development and catalyzes Allied technological cooperation during World War II. (Wikipedia, "[Tizard Mission](#)"; Robert Buder, [The Invention That Changed the World](#), Simon & Schuster, 1996)

1940, November — The Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology officially opens, its primary mission to develop a working radar system for fighter planes. (Wikipedia, "[MIT Radiation Laboratory](#)"; Robert Buder, [The Invention That Changed the World](#), Simon & Schuster, 1996)

1941

1941 — A physicist and his wife are traveling north on US Highway 99 north of Bakersfield, California, and pull off to the side to watch a long, slender object of a blazing red, green, and yellow color moving about 8 miles east of them. It is traveling at about 50 mph at an altitude of 200–300 feet and is clearly outlined against the foothills. It seems to be several times longer than a bomber. ("[Recent Sightings](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, January 1957, p. 5)

1941, Early spring — 9:00–9:30 p.m. Rev. [William Guy Huffman](#) of the Red Star Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is summoned to an apparent airplane crash one Saturday. When he arrives at the scene, about 15 miles from town, he finds a weird-looking craft "broken and scattered all around," but smooth and rounded without edges or seams. A cockpit with a chair facing an instrument panel remains intact. Police officers, military men, and plain-clothes individuals are sifting through the wreckage. He also sees three non-human bodies about 4 feet tall with long arms, oversized heads, and large eyes. He says a prayer for them, and afterward sees someone take a photo of an alien propped up by the arms between two plainclothesmen. The following evening, he is given a copy of the photo by a member of his congregation (thought to be [Garland D. Fronabarger](#)), but he loans it later to someone who never returns it. Huffman's wife [Floy](#) reveals the story to her granddaughter, Charlette Mann, on her deathbed in 1984, who relates the story to ufologist [Leonard Stringfield](#). (Clark III 343–344; Paul Blake Smith, *MO41: The Bombshell before Roswell*, W&B Publishers, 2015; Billy Booth, "[1941 Cape Girardeau, Missouri Crash](#)," liveabout.com, February 5, 2019; Kevin Randle, "[Cape Girardeau UFO Crash, 1941](#)," A Different Perspective, December 5, 2019)

1941, March — The Chain Home radars placed around the English coastline detect a formation of blips moving across the English Channel. RAF fighters are sent to intercept, but their crews see nothing and the blips fade. The radar returns are characterized as radar "angels," invisible targets in the clear atmosphere. (David Clarke, "The Radar Angels," *Fortean Times* 195 (May 2005): 36–37)

1941, March 17 — The Western Defense Command is established as the command formation of the US Army responsible for coordinating the defense of the Pacific Coast and training soldiers prior to their deployment overseas. (Wikipedia, "[Western Defense Command](#)")

1941, May — With the help of the American Legion, volunteers are recruited into the Aircraft Warning Service, the civilian arm of the Army's Ground Observer Corps. On the east coast, the AWS is under the auspices of the Army Air Force's 1st Interceptor Command based at Mitchel Field near Uniondale, New York. On the west coast, the AWS is under the auspices of the 4th Interceptor Command based in Riverside, California. On both coasts, observation posts, information centers, and filter centers are established. (Wikipedia, "[Aircraft Warning Service](#)"; Project 1947, "[Aircraft Warning Service \(AWS\): Freeman Observation Post #52](#)")

1941, June 20 — The Army Air Corps becomes the US Army Air Forces to provide the air arm greater autonomy. (Wikipedia, "[United States Army Air Forces](#)")

1941, June 26 — The first draft of the final report of the MAUD Committee is written by [George Paget Thomson](#) and circulates among committee members. It concludes that an atomic bomb is feasible. [Vannevar Bush](#) receives a copy. Without the help of the MAUD Committee the Manhattan Project would have started months behind.

Instead, they are able to begin thinking about how to create a bomb, not whether it is possible. (Wikipedia, "[MAUD Committee](#)")

- 1941**, June 28 — [Roosevelt](#) establishes the Office of Scientific Research and Development; [Vannevar Bush](#) is appointed director. It subsumes the National Defense Research Committee, whose Uranium Committee becomes the Uranium Section of the OSRD, soon renamed the S-1 for security reasons. To the S-1 Section, Vannevar Bush adds American physicist [Samuel King Allison](#), Russian-American physicist [Gregory Breit](#), American physicist [Edward Condon](#), physicist [Lloyd P. Smith](#), and [Henry DeWolf Smyth](#). American physicist [Ross Gunn](#) is dropped in line with an NDRC policy not to have Army or Navy personnel in the sections. [Lyman James Briggs](#) remains the chairman, with American physicist [George B. Pegram](#) as the vice chairman. (Wikipedia, "[Office of Scientific Research and Development](#)")
- 1941**, Late June — About 5:30 p.m. Helen Michailoff and her mother are in Odessa, Ukraine, when they see a raspberry-red object slowly moving east and emitting smoke. Thinking it is a bomb, they rush to the basement, but there is no explosion. ("[Out of the Past](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1983): 4)
- 1941**, July 3 — The Northrop N-1M, an experimental "flying wing" aircraft with a 38-foot wingspan, is first flown at Baker Dry Lake in the Mojave Desert, California, by test pilot [Vance Breese](#) for several hundred yards. He reports that the aircraft can fly no higher than 5 feet. After this is corrected, the N-1M takes another 28 flights through November. (Wikipedia, "[Northrop N-1M](#)")
- 1941**, July 11 — [Roosevelt](#) establishes the Office of the Coordinator of Information, a forerunner of the Office for Strategic Services, headed by lawyer [William J. Donovan](#). It is tasked with collecting and analyzing national security information. (Wikipedia, "[Office of the Coordinator of Information](#)")
- 1941**, September — Night. Seaman Mar Doroba, Anthony Kornilak, and others on the British troopship [SS Pulaski](#) in the Mozambique Channel see a "strange globe glowing with greenish light, about half the size of the full moon." They watch it for more than an hour before it disappears. (*Strange Company* 17; Lore and Deneault, [pp. 130–131](#))
- 1941**, October 2 — German test pilot [Heini Dittmar](#) attains an unofficial airspeed record of 623 mph in a rocket-powered Messerschmidt Me 163A at Peenemünde, Germany. (Wikipedia, "[Heini Dittmar](#)")
- 1941**, Early October — A possible UFO crash/retrieval takes place during preparations for the US Army's Carolina maneuvers in south central North Carolina (possibly in or around the Uwharrie National Forest). The sketchy story is based on the participation of Pvt. [Guy B. Simeone](#), who relates a few details about a crash and dead "little people" to his family in a letter and phone call. [Walter N. Webb](#) reports on his investigation of the incident in 1996. (Walter N. Webb, "[An Anecdotal Report of a UFO Crash/Retrieval in 1941: Part 1](#)," *IUR* 21, no. 4 (Winter 1996): 20–28; Walter N. Webb, "[An Anecdotal Report of a UFO Crash/Retrieval in 1941: Part 2](#)," *IUR* 22, no. 1 (Spring 1997): 28–32)
- 1941**, October 9 — [Roosevelt](#) approves an atomic weapons program after meeting with Office of Scientific Research and Development Director [Vannevar Bush](#) and Vice President [Henry A. Wallace](#). On Bush's advice, Roosevelt chooses the US Army to run the project rather than the Navy, although the Navy has shown far more interest in the field, and is already conducting research into atomic energy for powering ships. Bush's negative experiences with the Navy has convinced him that it would not listen to his advice and cannot handle large-scale construction projects. (Cameron Reed, "[Manhattan Project Mystery](#)," Forum on the History of Physics, Spring 2012)
- 1941**, Early December — Army Lt. Walter Hanson and his wife are stranded in the Georgia countryside when they run out of gas. They see a star-like object that swiftly moves in circles counterclockwise. Suddenly it stops and takes off obliquely. (*Strange Company* 17–18; Lore and Deneault, [p. 140](#))
- 1941**, December 8 — Around noon. Red Cross volunteer [Yoshio Taketa](#) is resting on the lawn of the Kuhio School in Honolulu, Hawaii, with 9 others. The smoke is still rising from the Pearl Harbor attack to the west. One of them notices a round white object at about 20,000 feet overhead. It floats away slowly. (Clark III 501)
- 1941**, December 18 — With the US at war, funding for an atomic bomb is now available in amounts undreamed of the year before. At the S-1 Section meeting, American physicist [Ernest Lawrence](#) asks for \$400,000 for electromagnetic separation, and the section immediately recommends granting it. MIT physicist [Karl Taylor Compton](#) is allocated \$340,000 for nuclear reactor research at Columbia and Princeton, and \$278,000 at the University of Chicago. Another \$500,000 is earmarked for raw materials. His proposed schedule is no less breathtaking: to produce a nuclear chain reaction by July 1942, and an atomic bomb by January 1945. In January 1942, he creates the Metallurgical Laboratory, centralizing the work at the University of Chicago. (Wikipedia, "[S-1 Executive Committee](#)")

1941, December 22 —Electrical engineer George Bogner stops his car at the corner of St. Agnes Avenue and Pleasant Street in Utica, New York, to watch a round, metallic object speed silently across the sky. He estimates it at 100 feet in diameter and moving at 300 mph. (*Strange Company* 18; Lore and Deneault, [pp. 140–141](#))

1942

1942 — Naval Intelligence Officer [Bernard M. Baruch Jr.](#) develops a submarine reporting network, Communication Instruction for Reporting Enemy Sightings on which CIRVIS is modeled in 1948. (US Naval War College, [Master Script for “Communication Instruction for Reporting Enemy Sightings.”](#) undated; NICAP, [“Capt. Bernard Baruch Jr.”](#))

1942 — 1:00 a.m. A woman returning home in Prouvy, Nord, France, finds herself face-to-face with three small entities with large round heads and short beards. They have large, luminous yellow eyes and wear tight, one-piece suits with a metallic sheen that leave only their faces exposed. The beings stare at her without moving, so she goes inside to get her husband, but by the time they return the entities have gone. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1940–1949](#), p. 3; Clark III 265; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), September 26, 2007)

1942, February 24–25 — The Battle of Los Angeles takes place, a rumored enemy attack and subsequent anti-aircraft barrage over Los Angeles, California. Air raid sirens sound throughout Los Angeles County on the night of February 24. A total blackout is ordered, and thousands of air raid wardens are summoned to their positions. At 3:16 a.m., the 37th Coast Artillery Brigade begins firing .50 caliber machine guns and 12.8-pound anti-aircraft shells into the air at reported aircraft; more than 1,400 shells are eventually fired. Pilots of the 4th Interceptor Command are alerted, but their aircraft remain grounded. The artillery fire continues sporadically until 4:14 a.m. The “all clear” is sounded and the blackout order lifted at 7:21 a.m. Several buildings and vehicles are damaged by shell fragments, and five civilians die as an indirect result of the anti-aircraft fire. Three are killed in car accidents in the ensuing chaos and two die of heart attacks attributed to the stress of the hour-long action. The incident is front-page news along the Pacific coast and earns some mass media coverage. Within hours of the end of the air raid, Secretary of the Navy [Frank Knox](#) holds a press conference, saying the entire incident was a false alarm due to anxiety and “war nerves.” Knox’s comments are followed by statements from the Army on February 26 that reflect General [George C. Marshall](#)’s belief that the incident was caused by commercial airplanes used as a psychological warfare campaign to generate panic. Some contemporary press outlets suspect a cover-up. Rep. [Leland M. Ford](#) (R-Calif.) calls for a congressional investigation, saying, “none of the explanations so far offered removed the episode from the category of ‘complete mystification’ ... this was either a practice raid, or a raid to throw a scare into 2,000,000 people, or a mistaken identity raid, or a raid to lay a political foundation to take away Southern California’s war industries.” The Japanese government, after the war ended, declares that they had flown no airplanes over Los Angeles during the war. In 1983, the US Office of Air Force History attributes the event to a case of “war nerves” triggered by a lost weather balloon and exacerbated by stray flares and shell bursts from adjoining batteries. A number of fake documents about this incident have been circulated by [Timothy S. Cooper](#). (Wikipedia, [“Battle of Los Angeles”](#); NICAP, [“Battle of Los Angeles”](#); “No Bombs Dropped, No Planes Shot Down,” *Los Angeles Herald Express*, February 25, 1942, p. 1; [“Army Says Alarm Real,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, February 26, 1942, pp. 1, A; [“Stimson Says 15 Planes over City,”](#) *Los Angeles Times*, February 27, 1942, pp. 1, 5; [“Japanese Carry War to California Coast,”](#) *Life*, March 9, 1942, pp. 19–23; US Office of the Chief of Military History, “History of the Western Defense Command, 17 March 1941–30 September 1945,” five ms. vols., Appendix no. 5, “Chronology of Enemy Operations on Pacific Coast of Continental United States,” pp. 25–27; *History, Fourth Anti-Aircraft Command, January 9, 1942, to July 1, 1945*, pp. 112–124; Wesley Frank Craven and James Lea Cate, *The Army Air Forces in World War II: Vol. 1, Plans and Early Operations*, Office of Air Force History, 1948, [pp. 283–286](#); Lore and Deneault, [pp. 74–87](#); Patrick Gross, [“Los Angeles, February 25, 1942”](#); Good Above, [pp. 15–17](#); Good Need, [pp. 17, 31](#); *Strange Company* 19–22; Robert Wood, [“‘Leaked’ Documents Shed New Light on Outcome of ‘Battle of Los Angeles.’”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 506 (June 2010): 3–7; Brett Holman, [“New Light on the Battle of Los Angeles.”](#) *Airminded*, April 20, 2011; [“Battle of Los Angeles on 2-23-1942 – Ray Angler, Air Raid Warden,”](#) in *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013; Lorraine Boissoneault, [“The Great Los Angeles Air Raid Terrified Citizens—Even Though No Bombs Were Dropped,”](#) *Smithsonian Magazine*, January 19, 2018; Clark III 1176–1177; David Marler, [“The Battle of LA UFO Incident,”](#) OpenMindsTV YouTube channel, October 9, 2018; [“David Marler Talks about the Battle of LA, a UFO Story,”](#) KRQE YouTube channel, November 30, 2023)

- 1942**, February 26 — Army Chief of Staff [George C. Marshall](#) writes [Roosevelt](#) that as many as 15 unknown commercial aircraft, flying at various speeds up to 200 mph and at elevations from 9,000 to 18,000 feet, were responsible for the Battle of Los Angeles. (presidentialufo.com, “[General George Marshall Secret Memo to President Roosevelt about the Unidentified Objects over Los Angeles on February 25, 1942](#)”; Good Above, pp. 17, 446)
- 1942**, February 26 — Royal Netherlands Navy cruiser [HNLMS Tromp](#), returning to Australia after the Battle of Badung Strait (off Bali in Indonesia), reports a large, aluminum disc speeding above it in the Timor Sea and maneuvering for nearly 4 hours. It departs at an estimated 3,500 mph. (“[Australasia](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 3, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1957): 6)
- 1942**, March 5 — Benjamin Smith, formerly of the Army Air Corps, sees several blinking lights moving slowly over the Middle River adjacent to Essex, Maryland. They circle the river two or three times then disappear. Smith reports the incident to local police, who then inform Naval Intelligence. (*Towson (Md.) Union News*, March 6, 1942; Jan Aldrich)
- 1942**, March 9 — The Air Service Command becomes a major Army Air Forces unit to support logistical functions. (Wikipedia, “[Air Materiel Command](#)”)
- 1942**, March 25 [possibly early June] — Midnight. Flight Lt. Roman Sobiński of the No. 301 Polish Bomber Squadron is flying an RAF Vickers Wellington bomber over the Zuiderzee in the Netherlands after returning from a bombing mission on the Ruhr Valley, Germany. He hears from his rear gunner, Sgt. Stanislaw Sep-Szarzynski, that an aircraft is approaching the rear of their aircraft. Sobiński sees a bright light that he thinks might be a searchlight on a German fighter. As it draws closer, he sees it has a coppery color. When it reaches to 600 feet away, the rear gunner fires on it. Sobiński notices that the tracer rounds are hitting the object but have no effect, merely disappearing on impact. After 2 minutes, the object moves to the port side at terrific speed and stays 600 feet off the left wing. Both the rear and front gunner, Sgt. Krzysztof Grabowski, fire rounds at it to no effect. Sobiński takes evasive actions, but the object maintains the same relative position, despite constant fire. A moment later, the object moves to the front of the aircraft, stays for a short period, then takes off at a 45° angle and disappears. Sobiński later discovers that another Wellington bomber crew to their rear has also encountered the same phenomenon. (*Strange Company* 23–25; Gordon W. Creighton, “[Foo Fighters](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 8, no. 2 (March/April 1962): 15; Patrick Gross, “[Pilot Reports](#)”; “[6. 1942 Foo Fighter Encounter – Maj. Ray Sabinski](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013; Graeme Rendall, “[80 Years Ago, the Royal Air Force Saw Flying Objects They Could Not Explain](#),” *The Debrief*, December 2, 2022)
- 1942**, Spring — Rev. Robert H. Moore and six other persons attending the Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, watch a small, light-gray, rectangular object over the northern part of town for 10 minutes. (Lore and Deneault, [p. 142](#))
- 1942**, April 1 — The Materiel Division of the Air Service Command assumes responsibility for R&D and procurement and is redesignated as the Air Corps Materiel Command. (Wikipedia, “[Air Materiel Command](#)”)
- 1942**, May — 3:00 p.m. Abdon Gonzales Tello, 13, and other boys see a silvery, cigar-shaped object in the sky to the west of Miraflores, Peru. Its ends are cut off at sharp angles, and it takes 20 seconds to proceed to the south and out of sight. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 22)
- 1942**, June — Col. [James C. Marshall](#) is selected to head the Manhattan Project. (Wikipedia, “[Manhattan Project](#)”)
- 1942**, June 13 — [Roosevelt](#) establishes the Office of Strategic Services, a wartime intelligence agency, with Gen. [William J. Donovan](#) at its head. (Wikipedia, “[Office of Strategic Services](#)”)
- 1942**, June 19 — [Roosevelt](#) abolishes the S-1 Section and replaces it with the S-1 Executive Committee, tasked with the technical and contractual aspects of producing an atomic bomb, while the Army handles engineering, construction, and site selection. American chemist [James B. Conant](#) is appointed as its chairman, and [Lyman James Briggs](#), [Karl Taylor Compton](#), [Ernest Lawrence](#), and American chemists [Eger V. Murphree](#) and [Harold C. Urey](#) as its other members. Roosevelt approves the committee’s recommendation to move to the pilot plant stage and build piles to produce plutonium and electromagnetic, centrifuge, and gaseous diffusion plants to produce uranium-235. (Wikipedia, “[S-1 Executive Committee](#)”)
- 1942**, Late June — 4:00 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Bonardi and several farmers watch a blue, oval-shaped object with a silver-gray dome in the woods near Cussey-sur-l’Ognon, Doubs, France. It has portholes and a tripod landing gear that is visible as it hovers low above the ground and emits a mechanical noise. Light comes from the portholes. The witnesses approach to within 66 feet, but the object takes off vertically and disappears after 6–10 minutes. A 5-

foot-diameter circle is found in the grass. (Michel Bougard, *La Chronique des O.V.N.I.*, Jean-Pierre Delarge, 1977, p. 261)

- Late 1942?** — According to records released in August 2010, Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) supposedly classifies for 50 years an alleged UFO incident because of fears it could create mass panic. The incident allegedly involves an RAF reconnaissance plane returning from a mission in Europe. The aircraft is over or near the English coastline when it is allegedly intercepted by a strange metallic object that matches the aircraft's course and speed for a time before shooting away. The plane's crew photograph the object, which "hovered noiselessly" near the aircraft before moving off. According to the documents, details of the cover-up emerge when a man writes to the government in 1999 seeking to find out more about the incident. He describes how his grandfather, who served with the RAF, was present when Churchill and Gen. [Dwight Eisenhower](#) discussed how to deal with the encounter. However, the evidence is hearsay and somewhat questionable. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 20–21](#))
- 1942, Summer** — 5:50 p.m. An RAAF pilot is on flying patrol off the Tasman Peninsula, Tasmania, following reports by fishermen of strange lights on the waters of Bass Strait. A "singular airfoil of glistening bronze color" appears out of a cloudbank. It's about 150 feet long, 50 feet in diameter, and has a dome on top. It accompanies his plane for a few minutes before departing at "a hell of a pace." It turns again and dives into the ocean, throwing up a "whirlpool of waves." (Bill Chalker, "[Australian A.F. UFO Report Files](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 30, no. 10 (October 1982): 6–7)
- 1942, Late summer** — Pvt. Albert Lancashire, 27, is standing guard at Cresswell radar station near Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland, England, when he sees a cloud-enshrouded light approaching from the North Sea. As it descends, he is drawn up into it by a beam. Small men grab him and carry him into the craft, where he sees other human figures of normal height, including an apparent captain with dark hair and goggles. He is made to lie down on a couch or table. He has only vague memories of what happens next, but he thinks a medical exam is performed. He wakes up back at his sentry post. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1940–1949](#), p. 4; "[New Time Lapse Case from England Uncovered](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 107 (October 1976): 17–18; Clark III 265; Jenny Randles, "The First Gentleman of BUFORA," *Fortean Times* 420 (July 2022): 31)
- 1942, August** — Evelyn M. Howell and two other adults see a huge cigar-shaped object hovering near them between Lafayette Township and Newton, New Jersey. It has "two rows of windows" that give off blue, green, white, and red fluorescent lights. They watch it for 10 minutes, after which it silently and slowly takes off. Howell and her husband see a similar object on the drive home to Ogdensburg, New Jersey. (Clark III 1178)
- 1942, August 5** — Early morning. The Navy destroyer [USS Helm](#) is on its way to the Solomon Islands in preparation for the Guadalcanal landings. A radio blackout is in effect. An aircraft approaches, a full alert is sounded, and three cruisers ([Vincennes](#), [Quincy](#), [Astoria](#)) and seven other ships open fire on it. The object is not hit and proceeds to circle around the fleet. An anonymous sailor on security detail on the *Helm* watches it through binoculars and sees it as 90 feet in diameter, oval, with a round dome on top. The ships continue to fire on the UFO, which attains extremely high speeds. Commanding Officer [Chester Edward Carroll](#) later hears that the aircraft is neither German nor Japanese. (*Strange Company* 27–28)
- 1942, August 11** — Night. An RAF bomber squadron on a mission near Aachen, Germany, sees a bright white light rise from the ground to 8,000 feet, where it flies approximately level for about 2 minutes. A few crews report that it appears to zig-zag along the ground before taking off in a climbing turn. Brilliant white periodic bursts occur that may cause a change of course. Some crews think that it subdivides when the bursts take place. Burning pieces fall from it like a meteor. The color fades to orange and the object is last seen heading toward the ground after a total of 5 minutes. (Graeme Rendall, "[80 Years Ago, the Royal Air Force Saw Flying Objects They Could Not Explain](#)," *The Debrief*, December 2, 2022)
- 1942, August 12** — Day. Sgt. Stephen J. Brickner of the 1st Marine Division on Tulagi in the Solomon Islands is cleaning his rifle when an air-raid warning is sounded. He dives into his foxhole looking to the sky. He hears a roaring sound unlike that of an aircraft. Soon he sees a formation of more than 150 silvery objects, in straight lines of 10 or 12. The objects seem to wobble slightly. They are flying faster than Japanese planes and are soon out of sight. (Good Above, [p. 18](#); *Strange Company* 28–29)
- 1942, August 13** — The Manhattan Engineering District, with Brig. Gen. [James C. Marshall](#) as district engineer, is established by Chief of the US Army Corps of Engineers Maj. Gen. [Eugene Reybold](#). (Wikipedia, "[Manhattan Project](#)")
- 1942, August 29** — 7:00 p.m. Army Air Corps control tower operator Pvt. Michael Solomon sees two small reddish objects descend near the AAC Advanced Flying School at Columbus, Mississippi, then speed away. He later contacts government officials and officers from the school in an attempt to confirm his sighting. (UFOEv, [p. 19](#); Clark III 1177)

- 1942**, September 23 — Col. [Leslie Groves](#) is promoted to brigadier general and becomes director of the Manhattan Project. The Military Policy Committee, consisting of [Vannevar Bush](#) (with [James B. Conant](#) as his alternative), Maj. Gen. [Wilhelm D. Styer](#), and Rear Adm. [William R. Purnell](#), is created to oversee the project. (Wikipedia, "[Manhattan Project](#)")
- 1942**, September 25 — RAF Bomber Command's Operational Research Section releases a report titled "A Note on Pyrotechnic Activity over Germany." An unnamed Flak Liaison Officer has coordinated the reports from No. 3 and No. 5 Groups and determines there are two types of phenomena: a ball of fire that is shot from the ground and drips multicolored fragments, and multi-part flares. Another type involves "small coloured balls" that climb to 7,000 feet. (*Strange Company* 32)
- 1942**, September 29 — US Under Secretary of War [Robert P. Patterson](#) authorizes the Corps of Engineers to acquire 56,000 acres in Tennessee for Site X, which will become the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, laboratory and production site. (Wikipedia, "[Oak Ridge, Tennessee](#)")
- 1942**, Fall — 9:00 p.m. Research engineer Nathan Carver sees a dark, elliptical object in Long Branch, New Jersey, sharply outlined against the stars of the Milky Way. It is flickering yellow-orange flames from its back. The object silently speeds from horizon to horizon in 10–15 seconds in a gradually descending path. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, p., 20)
- 1942**, October — 8:50 p.m. James L. Toft and another witness see an elongated object with a dome and lights at either end descending to the ground at Radway Green in Cheshire, England. At the landing site they find a circular burned area and several footprint-like indentations. (Michel Bougard, *La Chronique des O.V.N.I.*, Jean-Pierre Delarge, 1977, p. 263)
- 1942**, October 7 — Land at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is acquired by eminent domain for Clinton Engineer Works. (Wikipedia, "[Clinton Engineer Works](#)")
- 1942**, October 9 or 10 — 10:00 a.m. A sailor on watch duty on the [USS Helm](#), a naval destroyer escorting transports and patrolling in the area of Guadalcanal island, sees an object approaching the fleet on the wrong radio beam, shortly after an unidentified radar target is picked up by one of the fleet's cruisers. All ships go to battle stations. The watch sailor views it through binoculars, and it appears to be a silvery disc with a dome on top. Its altitude remains between 3,000 and 4,000 feet. When the object approaches to within 9,000 feet, the crews open fire on it, although it is moving too fast for them to aim properly. It makes a sharp right turn and heads south, increasing its speed and circling the entire fleet twice for 5 minutes before moving away to the south. Afterward, the gun control director estimates the object is traveling up to 10,000 mph. (Paul C. Cerny and Robert Neville, "[U.S. Navy 1942 Sighting](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 185 (July 1983): 14–15)
- 1942**, October 19 — [Leslie Groves](#) approves [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#) to coordinate the scientific research of the Manhattan Project at the Site Y laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. (Wikipedia, "[Manhattan Project](#)")
- 1942**, November — The crews of an anti-submarine squadron patrolling in the Bay of Biscay, France, spot a large wingless aircraft behind them. One of the men takes several photos of it with a Fairchild K-20 camera. The object soon gains altitude and after 15 minutes it executes a 180° turn and disappears. Only one of the photos, with a filter applied, shows any details and it is passed on to US and RAF intelligence. ("[The Case for the 'Sea-Saucer.'](#)" *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 10 (January 7, 1955): 5)
- 1942**, November 15 — Teams under physicists [Herbert L. Anderson](#) and [Walter Zinn](#) have constructed 16 experimental nuclear reactors under the Stagg Field stands at the University of Chicago. (Wikipedia, "[Metallurgical Laboratory](#)")
- 1942**, November 25 — The Los Alamos site in New Mexico is acquired for Project Y. (Wikipedia, "[Project Y](#)")
- 1942**, November 28 — 10:40–10:45 p.m. Capt. Lever and the No. 61 Squadron crew of an RAF Lancaster are returning from a bombing raid on Turin, Italy, when about 10–15 miles southwest of the city they see an object 200–300 feet long traveling southeast at a speed of 500 mph. It has four pairs of red lights spaced along its body and is flying on a level course. Five minutes later, as the Lancaster approaches the Alps at 14,000 feet, the crew sees the object again traveling southwest up a valley. It disappears when the red lights go out. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 25–26](#); *Strange Company* 34–35; Good Need, [pp. 18–19](#), [32](#))
- 1942**, December — A Technical Data Laboratory is established at Wright Field near Dayton, Ohio, as part of the Army Materiel Command. Its operations include the evaluation of foreign aircraft and related equipment. (US Air Force, "[National Air and Space Intelligence Center Heritage](#)," July 31, 2015)

- 1942**, December — 8:00 p.m. RAAF Lt. [Bruce Clyde Lumsden](#) is flying a Hawker Hurricane heading for the French coast. About 7,000 feet over the mouth of the River Somme, France, he observes two orange lights climbing, one slightly above the other. He completes a full turn, putting the lights behind him on the port side. They now appear brighter and larger. When they reach his altitude, they stop climbing and stay at his altitude. He makes another full turn, but the objects stay with him. Lumsden dives to 4,000 feet, but the lights match his maneuvers. He increases his speed to 260 mph and gradually leaves them behind. His squadron mates do not believe him, but the next night another squadron member has a similar encounter with a green light. (*Strange Company* 36)
- 1942**, December 2 — Chicago Pile-1, the first nuclear reactor, goes critical at the University of Chicago under the leadership and design of [Enrico Fermi](#), achieving a self-sustaining reaction just one month after construction was started. (Wikipedia, "[Chicago Pile-1](#)")
- 1942**, December 27 — The Northrop N-9M, a prototype flying wing bomber with a wingspan of 60 feet, makes its first test flight at Jack Northrop Field [now Hawthorne (Calif.) Municipal Airport] with pilot [John Wescott Myers](#). Through May, 44 more flights are made, nearly all terminated by mechanical failures. (Wikipedia, "[Northrop N-9M](#)")

1943

- 1943** — The National Bureau of Standards allegedly conducts an investigation into unexplained aerial phenomena under [Hugh Latimer Dryden](#) in conjunction with intelligence about German research into jet aircraft. The bureau has some concern that the phenomena could interfere with internal combustion engines. (Jacques Vallée, *Forbidden Science*, North Atlantic, 1992, p. 309)
- 1943**, January 15 — During a US bombing raid over Cherbourg, Manche, France, several crews see “large numbers of projectiles resembling ‘schools of flying fish,’ about a foot long and similar to incendiary bombs, coming up from a direction of the town.” (*Strange Company* 38)
- 1943**, January 16 — [Leslie Groves](#) approves development of the Hanford site in Washington State for plutonium production. (Wikipedia, "[Hanford Site](#)")
- 1943**, February 9 — Land for a plutonium production complex is acquired at Hanford, Washington. (Wikipedia, "[Hanford Site](#)")
- 1943**, February 18 — Construction begins for Y-12, a massive electromagnetic separation plant for enriching uranium at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (Wikipedia, "[Y-12 National Security Complex](#)")
- 1943**, April 1 — Los Alamos Laboratory is established in New Mexico and begins operations. (Wikipedia, "[Project Y](#)")
- 1943**, April 5 — 9:50 a.m. Flight instructor Gerry A. Casey and a student pilot in a Boeing-Stearman Model 75 watch a radiant-orange, elliptical disc dive at their aircraft near Long Beach, California. There is no propellor and it has a rounded hump above and below. It hovers alongside with a slight wobble, then accelerates, turns from orange to white, and climbs out of sight in 2 seconds. (Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1943](#)"; Gerry A. Casey, “UFO: The Time for the Telling Has Come,” Tacoma (Wash.) *Western Flyer*, July 7, 1989, via [UFO Newsclipping Service](#) 241 (August 1989), p. 3; “[Unusual U.S. Coastal Aerial Observations during World War 2](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 1 (June 1998): 4–5; Patrick Gross, “[Observation at Long Beach, 1943](#)”)
- 1943**, April 9 — 5:00 p.m. Kazimierz Bzowski and other resistance fighters are monitoring a fire in the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland. They notice a flying object approaching them at about 60 mph. Through binoculars it appears to be a sphere colored with tangled strips of both raspberry and blue-green colors. Bzowski estimates it is at an elevation of 200 feet and is about 25 feet in diameter. They observe German and Lithuanian snipers on Bonifraterska street shooting at it, although the bullets seem to pass through it. The object alters course and heads toward Old Town, then stops dead and shoots away at great speed. (Poland 13)
- 1943**, Spring — A New Zealand fighter pilot flying a Hawker Hurricane over North Africa is followed by an orange-red glow that then positions itself off his wingtip, matching the pilot’s evasive maneuvers. He manages to fire at it several times, to no effect. It vanishes when he returns to base. (Graeme Rendall, “[The Foo Fighters: Today’s Pilots Encounters with UAP Are Nothing New](#),” The Debrief, April 15, 2021)
- 1943**, May — Capt. Gordon W. Cammell is flying an RAF Lancaster bomber back over the English Channel when he and his entire crew see a “huge orange ball on or near the sea” 7,000–8,000 feet below them. Over the next 10 minutes, they watch it project a bright and constant light. (*Strange Company* 41)

- 1943, May** — Late night. John Walker is serving as an RAF armaments officer at a small airfield near Ludham, Norfolk, England. Walking home from a village dance, he notices a green glow in the road ahead. Getting closer, he sees that it is coming from a man standing by the side of the road. He is wearing a diving helmet on his head and an oblong object on his chest. The green glow is coming from his chest and fanning upward over his face, which has a “sickly grin.” He does not react to Walker’s presence in any way. In an adjacent field, Walker can see a large domed object like a “bell tent.” Standing next to it are two more figures, both wearing a grayish garment. Walker moves quickly past and returns to his airfield. (Philip Mantle, “[Pre-1947 Entity and UFO in Norfolk? An I.U.N. Archive Case](#),” *UFO Brigantia*, no. 28 (Nov./Dec. 1987): 9–11)
- 1943, May 19** — The Northrop N-9M flying wing bomber prototype crashes 12 miles west of Muroc Army Air Base [now Edwards AFB], California, killing its pilot [Max Constant](#). (Wikipedia, “[Northrop N-9M](#)”)
- 1943, May 26** — Late night. Capt. Ray Smith and copilot Sgt. Gordon N. Cockcroft are flying at 18,000 feet in a Halifax bomber on a run near Essen, Germany, when they see a silvery-gold cylindrical object, larger than their aircraft, on the port side. It has several evenly spaced portholes. It is hovering at a 45° angle. After 20–30 seconds it climbs away at high speed. (Norman Oliver, “[Report—Extra!](#)” *BUFORA Journal* 6, no. 3 (Sept./Oct 1977): cover, 8–9; “[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1982): 4–6; *Strange Company* 40; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1943](#)”; Good Need, pp. 19–20; John Hanson and Dawn Holloway, *Haunted Skies: The Encyclopaedia of British UFOs: Volume 1, 1940–1959*, Fortean Words, 2010, pp. 33–34)
- 1943, June** — The Army Air Force’s Air Tactical Service Command meets with Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in Burbank, California, to ask them to develop a jet fighter. (Wikipedia, “[Skunk Works](#)”)
- 1943, June 2** — Construction begins on K-25, the gaseous diffusion plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (Wikipedia, “[K-25](#)”)
- 1943, July** — Lockheed Engineer [Kelly Johnson](#) and other associate engineers hand-deliver a proposal for the XP-80 jet fighter to the Air Tactical Service Command. Two days later, the go-ahead is given to Lockheed to start development, and the Skunk Works is born in Burbank, California, with Johnson at the helm. The name supposedly comes from the *L’il Abner* comic strip, which has a place called “Skonk Works” where a strong beverage is brewed from skunks, old shoes, and other ingredients. (Wikipedia, “[Skunk Works](#)”)
- 1943, July 18** — A French prisoner in a German labor camp near Gdynia, Poland, is walking to work along the Baltic Sea when he sees a flat, metallic object embedded in the sand. A human figure is standing next to it, apparently trying to dig it up. When he passes by, the figure, apparently an Asian woman with long blonde hair and dressed in a tight-fitting overall, turns in his direction. The witness assumes she is the famous German aviator [Hanna Reitsch](#) and helps her dig the experimental aircraft out of the sand. The object is 20 feet in diameter and looks like two metallic saucers put together. The woman touches the witness’s chest with her hand and points to the sky. She touches her belt and a door in the object opens. She crawls inside, the door closes, and the object ascends and departs at a tremendous speed. (Jean Sider, *Ultra Top-Secret: Ces OVNI qui font peur*, Axis Mundi, 1990)
- 1943, September** — Morning. A witness driving a car in Laguna Larga, Córdoba, Argentina, sees a large, saucer-shaped object standing on the ground. It is wider than the road. When he approaches, the object begins to whistle like a motor, climbs to about 1,000 feet, and disappears at terrific speed. On the ground, the witness finds a bright object about 4 inches long. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, p. 21)
- 1943, September** — During an air battle between the Germans and Russians, a member of the Spanish Blue Division fighting with the Germans near Pushkin outside Leningrad [now Saint Petersburg], Russia, notices a disc-shaped object above the planes. It appears to be observing the battle, then disappears at a fantastic speed. (Antonio Ribera, *Platillos Volantes en Iberoamerica y España*, Santiago Pomaire, 1968, pp. 411–412)
- 1943, September** — [Ray Palmer](#), editor of *Amazing Stories* magazine, receives a letter from a reader named [Richard S. Shaver](#), who claims to have discovered “Mantong,” a proto-language that is the source of all earthly languages. In Mantong, each sound has a hidden meaning, and by applying this formula to any word in any language, one can decode the secret meaning. Palmer applies the formula to several words and realizes Shaver might be onto something. (Wikipedia, “[Richard Sharpe Shaver](#)”; Clark III 609; Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, p. 136)
- 1943, September 6** — 9:50 a.m. During an aerial fight over Stuttgart, Germany, the crews of two aircraft of the 384th Bomb Group, commanded by Capt. Raymond P. Ketelson, observe two round objects “resembling silvery discs” floating downward through the aircraft formation. One hits the wing of a B-17 bomber, setting it on fire. The bomber does not return from the mission. (*Strange Company* 43)

- 1943, Autumn** — A Polish bomber unit based in England claims that silver-blue balls of fire appeared near their wing on six missions when they raided the Nazi V-1 weapons plant in Peenemünde, Germany. RAF intelligence officer [Michael Bentine](#) debriefs them later and asks, “But what did it do to you?” They reply, “Nothing.” Bentine points out, “Well it was not a very effective weapon, was it?” (UFOFiles2, [p. 20](#); David Clarke and Andy Roberts, “[The Foo Fighters: The RAF Experience](#),” The Real UFO Project, January 2003)
- 1943, October** — Maj. Robert Visarius, Luftwaffe officer, is operating a ground defense radar during an Allied air offensive in Kassel, Germany. After the raid, he notices a radar target about 24 miles away that at first is motionless. Then it moves rapidly toward his position and is tracked at a distance of 11 miles away. Through a powerful telescope mounted on the radar, Visarius and his colleagues can see a silvery, light-reflecting object. (Illobrand von Ludiwger, *Ungewöhnliche Eigenschaften Nichtidentifizierbarer Lichterscheinungen*, MUFON-CES, 1978, p. 77)
- 1943, October** — 9:00 p.m. [Wilberta Finley](#), an air spotter for the Civil Air Patrol, notices a “huge dark aerial object approaching” her home in Santa Barbara, California, facing the Goleta Valley. Moving low and soundlessly, it barely skims over a nearby hill. From its front a beam of light shoots down, and at intervals it swings from side to side as if scanning the hills and homes below. (“Report from the Readers,” *Fate* 11, no. 11 (November 1958): 116–118; Clark III 1178)
- 1943, October 10** — Construction begins for the first reactor at the Hanford site in Washington. (US Department of Energy, Office of History and Heritage Resources, “[Hanford Becomes Operational](#),” August 7, 2013)
- 1943, October 14** — Night. A group of B-17s from the 384th Bombardment Group are returning from a mission over Germany when they see a cluster of silver-colored discs in the path of their formation and closing with the bombers. The crews talk back and forth, discussing and confirming the sight before them. They describe the objects as “about one inch thick and three inches in diameter...gliding down slowly in a very uniform cluster.” One of the bombers goes directly through the cluster “with absolutely no effect on engines or plane surface,” even though one is heard to strike the tail assembly. A mass of black debris about 3–4 feet long is also observed. (Clark III 502; Martin Caidin, *Black Thursday*, Dell, 1962, [pp. 188–190](#); Frank Edwards, *Flying Saucers—Here and Now!* Lyle Stuart, 1967, [pp. 77–78](#))
- 1943, October or November** — 11:00 p.m. 2Lt [Thomas J. Duzynski](#) is stationed at Camp Ibis on the west side of the Dead Mountains Wilderness northwest of Needles, California. Taking a stroll outside his tent, he notices an elliptical-shaped object traveling to the south at high speed parallel to the ground between himself and the mountains. It banks sharply, almost on edge, and gains altitude, disappearing in seconds. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 22–23)
- 1943, November** — [Ray Palmer](#) publishes an article, “An Ancient Language?” on the language of Mantong in the January 1944 issue of *Amazing Stories* and enters into correspondence with [Richard S. Shaver](#), who responds with a 10,000-word document titled “A Warning to Future Man.” Shaver writes of advanced prehistoric races who built underground cities before abandoning Earth for another planet because of damaging radiation from the Sun. Those ancients also abandoned some of their own offspring here, a minority of whom remained noble and human “Teros,” while most degenerate over time into a population of mentally impaired sadists known as “Deros”—short for “detrimental robots.” Shaver’s robots are not mechanical constructs, but robot-like due to their savage behavior. These Deros still live in the cave cities, according to Shaver, kidnapping surface-dwelling people by the thousands for meat or torture. Deros can be blamed for nearly all misfortunes, from minor “accidental” injuries or illnesses to airplane crashes and catastrophic natural disasters. Though generally confined to their caves, the Deros sometimes travel in spaceships or rockets, and have dealings with equally evil extraterrestrials. Shaver claims to possess first-hand knowledge of the Deros and their caves, insisting he had been their prisoner for several years. The article stirs considerable reader interest, and the pages of *Amazing Stories* are soon filled with stories and articles about the “Shaver mystery.” (Wikipedia, “[Richard Sharpe Shaver](#)”; [Richard] S. Shaver, [Letter], “An Ancient Language?” *Amazing Stories* 18, no. 1 (January 1944): [206–207](#); [Ray Palmer,] “Mantong: The Language of Lemuria,” *Amazing Stories* 19, no. 1 (March 1945): [71](#), [206](#); Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, [pp. 136–137](#); Clark III 872; Richard Toronto, *War over Lemuria: Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Strangest Chapter of 1940s Science Fiction*, McFarland, 2013)
- 1943, November** — 10:30 p.m. The Sledge family of Escondido, California, sees a disc with a dome and square windows hovering about 15 feet above the roof of their house and emitting a soft humming sound. In two of the windows, human-like silhouettes are visible. When Mrs. Sledge shines a flashlight on the ground, it blinks out and disappears. (“[Unusual U.S. Coastal Aerial Observations during World War 2](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 1 (June 1998): 2, 5)

- 1943**, November 4 — The X-10 Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, goes critical. The Y-12 plant is separating uranium-235 from natural uranium, which is 99.3% uranium-238, by using calutrons to perform electromagnetic isotope separation. (Wikipedia, "[X-10 Graphite Reactor](#)")
- 1943**, December? — Matt P. Dillingham is on evening duty adjacent to Mullinix Field [now Bonriki International Airport] on Tarawa Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. He begins receiving radar plots showing a north-south track to the west moving at 750 mph. It disappears, but two other targets on the same trajectory appear, moving at the same speed. The same targets are repeated for several nights following. ("[Out of the Past](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 4, no. 6 (Dec. 1983/Jan. 1984): 6)
- 1943**, December — 10:30 p.m. Four young women are having supper opposite the wharf in Oslo Fjord, Norway, when they see a light that appears to be on the wharf. Fearing sabotage, they hurry into their cars and drive toward the wharf along a mountain road. All three cars stall at once, so they abandon them along the road and head down a snow-covered hillside toward an object on the ground that appears to be a hazy orange light shaped like a church bell. It is emitting a hissing sound. Moments later, the object rises up and hovers some 9–18 feet above the water. It then moves off at "fantastic speed," turning a deep blue color, and disappears. They advance to where the object was resting and find a crater-like impression about 4.5 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep. Outside this circle, the snow has melted. (Neville Thornhill, "[U.F.O. Lands in Norway—in 1943: Witness Describes First Recorder E-M Case](#)," *Australian Flying Saucer Review*, no. 7 (September 1967): 10)
- 1943**, December 2 — Night. Some 105 German Junkers Ju 888 bombers attack the port of Bari, Italy, a key supply center for Allied forces. 28 Allied ships are sunk, including the US Liberty ship [SS John Harvey](#), which is carrying mustard gas intended for retaliation in case German forces use chemical warfare. Liquid sulfur mustard from the bombs spills into waters already contaminated by oil from the other damaged vessels. The many sailors who abandoned their ships into the water become covered with the oily mixture. The wounded are pulled from the water and sent to medical facilities whose personnel are unaware of the mustard gas. Medical staff focus on personnel with blast or fire injuries. Within a day, the first symptoms of mustard poisoning appear in 628 patients and medical staff, including blindness and chemical burns. That puzzling development is further complicated by the arrival of hundreds of Italian civilians also seeking treatment, who have been poisoned by a cloud of sulfur mustard vapor that blows over the city when some of *John Harvey's* cargo explodes. As the medical crisis worsens, little information is available about what is causing the symptoms, because US military command want to keep the presence of chemical munitions secret from the Germans. By the end of the month, 83 of the 628 hospitalized military victims have died. The number of civilian casualties, thought to have been even greater, cannot be accurately gauged since most have left the city to seek shelter with relatives. (Wikipedia, "[Air raid on Bari](#)")
- 1943**, December 11 — US bombers conduct a daylight raid on Emden, Germany, and observe an unknown object about the size of a Thunderbolt aircraft over the target area. It passes below the bombers in a straight line and at terrific speed, leaving a vapor trail that persists. (*Strange Company* 51–52)
- 1943**, December 14 — Night. British 255 Night Fighter Squadron leader [Patrick Hardy Vesey Wells](#) is flying his Bristol Beaufighter on a patrol mission around Naples, Italy, when he and his navigator notice a small bright light behind them. It stays on their tail, moving from side to side. After 1–2 minutes it goes off in another direction. (*Strange Company* 52)
- 1943**, Winter — Day. While on a bombing mission over central Germany, Sgt. [Louis Kiss](#), a tail gunner on the *Phyllis Marie*, a B-17 of the 390th Bombardment Group, sees an odd-looking sphere approach the plane from behind and below. It seems to be the size of a basketball and shimmery gold. The object hovers just above one wing, then passes over the top to the other wing where it hovers again. Soon it moves to the rear and gets caught in the B-17's backwash and disappears. ("[First Official Foo-Fighter Records Discovered](#)," *Just Cause*, no. 32 (June 1992): 4–5)
- 1943**, Winter — 3:00 p.m. Harry G. Barnes, a member of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department stationed at No. 1 Precinct, sees three oval-shaped objects in V-formation speeding eastward across the northeast sky. The objects have pulsating, greenish-red exhausts that occasionally flare and curl around them. (UFOEv, [p. 64](#); Clark III 1177)

1944

- 1944** — During a mission to bomb oil fields in Romania, a Russian Tupolev Tu-2 piloted by Maj. Bajenov and Boris Surikov are flying over southwest Ukraine at an altitude of 3 miles when a large, elliptical object approaches

them. The bomber starts shaking, the oil pressure rises, and Surikov feels a strong electrostatic charge. Even after the object passes, the bomber's wings are covered with glowing discharges. (Good Need, [pp. 21–22](#))

1944 — [George Adamski](#) and his followers move closer to Palomar Mountain, California, along the Road to the Stars where his long-time associate Alice K. Wells sets up a roadside café, Palomar Gardens. According to coworker Charlotte Blodget, "Each member of the group shared in the manual labor that went into this effort, and since heavy restrictions were still in effect regarding materials [in the war's aftermath], anything available had to serve." Adamski builds a "small observatory" to house his 15-inch telescope to study the skies. ("[Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame](#)," The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019; George M. Eberhart, "[Palomar Gardens Café](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 9)

1944, January 15 — The Materiel Command becomes the AAF Materiel Command. (Wikipedia, "[Air Materiel Command](#)")

1944, February — 2:30 a.m. An Australian Beaufort bomber is flying at 4,500 feet over Bass Strait, Australia, when it is joined by an object like a "dark shadow" with a flickering flame coming out of its rear. It appears only 100–150 feet away and stays with the bomber for 18–20 minutes, during which time its radio and direction-finding instruments fail. It shoots away at 700 mph. (R. Gardner, "The Fliers We Wanted to Forget," *Melbourne Sun Pictorial*, September 22, 1979; Bill Chalker, "[Australian A.F. UFO Report Files](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 30, no. 10 (October 1982): 7; Bill Chalker, *The Oz Files*, Duffy and Snellgrove, 1996, pp. 35–36)

1944, February 9 — RAF No. 5 Group issues a report of its investigation on "Rocket Phenomena," concluding that the air crews are seeing either rockets fired from aircraft, parachute rockets, or high-explosive projectiles at maximum altitudes of 18,000 feet. Reports of objects changing their course are either defects causing erratic flight or light flak tracers reaching their highest point and descending. (*Strange Company* 57–58)

1944, February 20 — 2:30 a.m. Two guards of the 3rd Marine Division on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands see what they first assume are the headlight beams of a truck coming from a swamp about three-quarters of a mile from their position. It moves laterally about 50 feet and they see it is a circular light about 50–60 feet long and 20 feet high. It then rises into the air about 25 feet and heads in the direction of the guards at about 45 mph. It makes a 45° turn and passes about 100 feet above the trees of a coconut grove. Several days later, a 200-foot cut in the reeds is discovered in the approximate spot where the light originated. (Alvin G. McNish, "[Letter](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1984): 2)

1944, February 23 — Brig. Gen. [George C. McDonald](#) is appointed assistant chief of staff for intelligence for the newly created US Strategic Air Forces in Europe. "Many months preceding the collapse of Germany, McDonald recognized the imperative need for the creation of a new type of intelligence activity to investigate and exploit air intelligence objectives in Germany and liberated countries. This unique system was established and consisted of a great number of highly qualified technical and scientific personnel to exploit all the worldwide aeronautical research developments of Germany. This resulted in the collection of priority intelligence information of value in the prosecution of the war against Japan; technical and non-technical information of immediate operational significance and value; as well as a substantial portion of important documents and personnel of the German Air Ministry that enabled the US Army Air Forces to undertake long-range research with respect to many valuable-phases of air doctrine, research, employment, organization, procedure, and plans of the German air force." Among the personalities involved in the operation are some who will become involved in UFO investigations in the future: Col. [John A. O'Mara](#), Col. [Howard H. McCoy](#), Col. [Harold E. Watson](#), and Col. [Malcolm D. Seashore](#). (Wikipedia, "[United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe](#)")

1944, February 24 — Night. Southwest of Saint-Quentin, Aisne, France, three silver objects are seen by an RAF bomber returning from a mission over Schweinfurt, Germany. They resemble Zeppelins but move independently of the wind. (*Strange Company* 60)

1944, March — An Army Air Force pilot flying a B-17 sees a fast-moving, glowing green object light up the cockpit and speed out of sight over the horizon at Carlsbad, New Mexico. (UFOEv, [p. 19](#))

1944, March 1 — The first prototype H.IX V1, an unpowered glider with fixed tricycle landing gear, is tested in Germany, but there is an accident when the pilot attempts to land without first retracting an instrument-carrying pole extending from the aircraft. The design is taken from the [Horten brothers](#) and given to Gothaer Waggonfabrik. (Wikipedia, "[Horten Ho 229](#)")

1944, Spring (or 1945) — Two grammar school teachers are driving in the mountains near Auberry, California, when their car stalls and they see a cigar-shaped object with lighted portholes along the side hovering in a nearby

ravine. They watch it for several minutes until it begins moving slowly out of the ravine, ascends, and shoots away to the west at a tremendous speed. The car engine remains stalled for a while, then starts by itself. (“[Past Sightings Come to Light](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, Jan./Feb. 1968, p. 5)

- 1944, April** — Late afternoon. Near the Eastern front in western Slovakia, a man is standing on a hill near his home when he sees a dark round object moving at high speed to his right for less than one minute. It moves at a steady speed and is followed by another object about 20 seconds later. As many as 6 others appear, and five are visible at one time, each beginning as a pinpoint of light, growing bigger, then decreasing back to a pinpoint. The display lasts for about 5 minutes. (“[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 5 (Oct./Nov. 1982): 2)
- 1944, April 5** — The Y-12 plant at Oak Ridge has sent 200 grams of enriched uranium to Los Alamos. Italian-American physicist [Emilio Segrè](#) receives the first sample and within 10 days discovers that the spontaneous fission rate is too high for use in a gun-type fission weapon (because of pu-240 isotope present as an impurity in the pu-239). (Atomic Heritage Foundation, “[Atomic Timeline](#)”)
- 1944, April 26** — Night. RAF pilot Arthur Horton of the 622 Squadron is returning from a bombing mission to Essen, Germany, when he is followed by four orange balls of light with “short stubby wings” and emitting sparks, two on each side of the aircraft. He takes evasive action with his Lancaster, but the objects follow all his maneuvers for 10 minutes. When they reach the coast of Holland, they seem to “burn themselves out.” (*Strange Company* 64–65; UFOFiles2, [pp. 16, 18](#); Patrick Gross, “[Essen, Germany, on April 26, 1944](#),” October 23, 2023)
- 1944, April 29** — A gun camera film from a German Messerschmitt Bf 110 fighter bomber firing on a Russian Ilyushin DB-3 bomber somewhere on the Eastern Front shows a light moving across the path of the Russian aircraft. Possible foo-fighter? (“[1944 German Gun Camera Films FW-190 vs. B-17s, B-24s WWII Air Raids over Germany 29794](#)” [at 4:14], PeriscopeFilm YouTube channel, April 14, 2020; “[NUFORC UFO Sighting 182788](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, August 28, 2024)
- 1944, May 29** — The Aircraft Warning Service is deactivated. (Wikipedia, “[Aircraft Warning Service](#)”)
- 1944, June** — 11:00 a.m. Three Lockheed P-38s of the 1st Fighter Group are flying at 33,000 feet over the Adriatic Sea northeast of Bari, Italy, when they see a round, silver disc above them at about 50,000 feet. The object drops about 10,000 feet and stays with them for 3 minutes, then speeds north out of sight. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, p. 22)
- 1944, June** — 12:30 p.m. [David A. K. Morris](#), a fitter with Service Unit 10 of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, takes a swim with a friend at Torokina Beach, Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea. They see “a huge, dark-gray, seemingly metallic, bulbous mass hanging out of a large cumulus cloud.” It moves silently, its outline fading into the cloud and out of sight. It resembles a Zeppelin or the [R101](#) airship, only bigger. (D. Morris, “[RNZAF Camp UFO Sighting of 1944](#),” Ufocus NZ, July 22, 2020)
- 1944, June** — Edward W. Ludwig is commanding a small, Coast Guard–manned cargo vessel near Palmyra Atoll. While looking for a lost Navy patrol plane, he observes a bright aerial sphere that alternately moves and stops for 30 minutes. (“True Mystic Experiences,” *Fate* 3, no. 8 (December 1950): 82–87)
- 1944, June 10?** — The Liberty ship [SS George E. Badger](#) is off Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, when gunner [Edward Breckel](#) sees a “dark ellipsoidal object” on the horizon about 5 miles away. “Blunted on each end like a sausage,” the silent craft remains in view for 3 minutes, moving slowly at about 15 feet above the surface of the water. (*Strange Company* 67; “[The Case for the ‘Sea-Saucer](#),” *CRIFO Orbit* 1, no. 10 (January 7, 1955): 5)
- 1944, Early July** — 10:30 a.m. During Allied operations in the area around Loreto, Castelfidardo, and Osimo, in Ancona province, Italy, Antoni Szachnowsky, of the 2nd Polish Artillery Regiment, notices an egg-shaped, glistening, metallic, motionless object. The Polish Army anti-aircraft gun fires on it, then the German batteries join in. Eventually both sides stop, and the object remains motionless for a minute. Then it tilts at a 45° angle, moves rapidly upward, and disappears. (“[1944: An Italian Foo-Fighter?](#)” *UFO Sightings Italia*, no. 2, March 2002)
- 1944, July 4** — [Oppenheimer](#) reveals [Segrè](#)’s final measurements to the Los Alamos staff, and the development of the gun-type plutonium weapon “Thin Man” is abandoned. Designing a workable implosion design (Fat Man) becomes the top priority of the laboratory, and design of the uranium gun-type weapon (Little Boy) continues. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, “[Atomic Timeline](#)”)
- 1944, July 6** — German test pilot [Heini Dittmar](#) attains an unofficial airspeed record of 702 mph in a rocket-powered Messerschmidt Me 163B at Lagerlechfeld, Bavaria, Germany. (Wikipedia, “[Heini Dittmar](#)”)
- 1944, July 9** — Afternoon. After a successful air strike by the US 449th Bombardment Group against the Concordia-Vega refinery at Ploëști, Romania, witness Grigore Zmeuranu sees a round, yellowish object flying from the north at a speed about 3–4 times that of an aircraft. It leaves a short vapor trail, moves over the bombed area, and returns

silently in the same direction. ("[Rumania: Reports down the Years.](#)" *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1969): 32–33; "[Rumanian Sightings Revealed.](#)" *UFO Investigator* 4, no. 12 (June/July 1969): 1, 5; Hobana and Weverbergh 226–227; *Strange Company* 71)

1944, July 17 — The Air Service Command and the AAF Materiel Command are placed under AAF Materiel and Services. (Wikipedia, "[Air Materiel Command](#)")

1944, Late July — Evening. Jaakku Kivistö is serving in the Finnish Army as a noncommissioned medical officer stationed on a farm near Impilahti, Karelia [now Russia], by Lake Ladoga. He notices a large object next to the corn-drying building on a steep hillside that he at first takes for a military truck. As he walks closer, he sees it is reddish in color, moving slowly about 150–230 feet in the air, 100 feet long, and has a row of black windows. It moves off quickly in the direction of the lake and vanishes. ("[A Close Encounter from the Year 1944.](#)" *Nordic UFO Newsletter*, 1985, no. 1, pp. 3–5)

1944, Summer — 5:00 p.m. François Panes watches a cigar-shaped object at an altitude of about 5,000 feet above the Kamensko Forest north of Blovice, Czechoslovakia [now Czech Republic], glittering brightly with no wings, no rudder, and no propeller. It is about 150 feet in diameter and 300–400 feet long. The object is lit up from underneath. It slowly descends, after which it rises up again and vanishes into the blue sky after 10–15 minutes. (Hobana and Weverbergh 215–216)

1944, Summer — Day. Madeleine Arnoux, 13, is riding her bicycle west along route D42 from Toulon-sur-Arroux toward La Verchère, Saône-et-Loire, France. She stops along a dirt track to pick some wild berries and notices a dull, metallic object about the size of a Volkswagen landed at a point where the track curves into the woods. There are some beings about 3 feet tall and dressed in brown coveralls standing nearby. She has the feeling that she cannot move, but finally runs to retrieve her bicycle. When she looks back again, the object and the beings are gone, but a strong wind is blowing the trees at the spot where it had been. (Madeleine Arnoux, "[Un Cas d'Atterrissage datant de 1944.](#)" *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 118 (June 1972): 20–21; F. Lagarde, "[A French Landing in 1944.](#)" *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 12 (December 1972): 8)

1944, Summer — Fred Wieland and some friends are riding their bicycles on a footpath adjacent to the Grand Central Parkway in Queens, New York City. As they climb a hill, they look up and see a cigar-shaped object "broadside" to them. It is of smooth metallic construction with no windows or openings. They race to the top of the hill for a better look, but by then the object has completely disappeared. (Clark III 1178)

1944, Summer — Mid-day. Franceen Andron is at Camp McCain, southeast of Grenada, Mississippi, when she sees a large, fat, cigar-shaped object that changes from dull black to gray to "fog blue." It is joined by three smaller discs that appear below it after emerging from a cloud. The large object disappears first, followed by the discs, which race away in different directions. (NICAP case file)

1944, Summer — Day. [Asa Howard Jr.](#) is outside the barracks at RAF Molesworth in Cambridgeshire, England, when he and other airmen see a pencil-shaped, metallic object moving faster than a jet about a mile away. While watching it for about 2 minutes, they see it pass behind a small cloud before it disappears. (NICAP case file)

1944, August — Night. Officer George Todt of the 38th Regiment, Second Infantry Division, is between Saint-Lô and Vire, Normandy, France, when he sees a cherry-red light one-fifth the size of the moon moving silently west at 120 mph towards Omaha Beach. It stops over the American lines and hovers for 14 minutes. It expands and contracts regularly every few seconds. Col. [Francis Henry Boos](#) and another officer also observe it. (*Strange Company* 78–79)

1944, August 11 — Shortly after midnight. Capt. [Alvah M. Reida](#) is piloting a B-29 bomber based at Kharagpur, India, on a bombing mission over Palembang, Sumatra, Indonesia, when his right gunner and copilot notice a sphere "probably five or six feet in diameter, of a very bright and intense red or orange in color" that constantly throbs, at about 12,500 feet, pacing them about 1,500 feet off the starboard wing. It keeps up with the B-29, then flying at 210 mph. Reida tries to shake it off his plane, but it stays in the same relative position until, after 8 minutes, it makes an abrupt 90° turn and accelerates rapidly, disappearing in the overcast. (UFOEv, [p. 23](#); *Strange Company* 71–75; Good Above, [p. 19](#))

1944, August 11 — Night. RAF Warrant Officer Ronald R. Claridge is over France aboard a No. 7 Squadron Lancaster bomber returning from a bombing run on La Pallice, La Rochelle, Charente-Maritime, France, when his radar screen goes blank. Another crewman shouts to look at a vast disc-shaped object with a long row of lights on their starboard side. They watch it for 3 minutes, then it shoots away in a flash of light. Later he draws a watercolor painting to show how the UFO dwarfed the bomber. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 26–27](#))

1944, Mid-August — 11:00 a.m. During the Warsaw Uprising in Poland, Zenon Sergisz notices a German bomber passing by, as well as three bright points of light that descend as the bomber moves away. The lights are flattened spheres that move low behind some buildings then rise up at an angle and disappear. (Poland 14–15)

- 1944**, August 17 — The Allied command creates the Combined Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee (CIOS), charged in part with investigating the strange balls of fire. (*Strange Company* 79)
- 1944**, Late August — Sgt. Ness and another man of the mine-laying platoon of the 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, see a large rectangular object “like a railroad boxcar” with no apparent source of propulsion move steadily at about 90 mph over the front lines near Brest, Brittany, France, and out to sea. At one point the object passes in front of the moon, briefly obscuring it from view. (Lore and Deneault, [pp. 120–121](#))
- 1944**, Late August — 4:20 p.m. A nurse, Mrs. E. M. Church, on her way to a tram station in Christchurch, New Zealand, sees an object like an “upturned saucer” resting on the ground near the road. It seems to be 20 feet across and 9 feet high. Two beings, not quite 4 feet tall, are inside, visible through a rectangular window. A third stands motionless, just outside an open door. All three seem to be looking toward the lights of a nearby fairground. The nurse cannot decide if their skin color is green or they are dressed in green, but all are encased in a transparent oblong box. The head takes up half of their bodies and there are no apparent legs or arms. She inadvertently makes a noise, and the outside figure notices her. Its helmet flips over automatically, and it drifts inside the object, which rises up and disappears in the clouds. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1940–1949](#), p. 12; Clark III 265)
- 1944**, August 30 — A 16-year-old girl is riding her bicycle in Saint-Jean, Haute-Garonne, France, when she sees a semi-spherical object about 13 feet in diameter and 8 feet tall resting on the ground. At first it appears white, then turns to orange. It oscillates from left to right and takes off. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, pp. 23, 32)
- 1944**, August 31 — The Army Air Forces Air Technical Service Command is formed as the result of the merging of the Materiel and Air Service Commands. (Wikipedia, “[Air Materiel Command](#)”)
- 1944**, September — Dusk. Three Oak Ridge workers (a man named Nelson, A. C. Butler, and Albert Proffitt) are driving 2 miles southeast of Oliver Springs, Tennessee, when a strange object appears about 50 feet ahead of them at the level of their windshield. It is glossy white in color and about 30 feet long and 4 feet wide. Nelson eases the car up to the object, but it withdraws; when he stops, it also stops. Soon the light rises high in the air and disappears over Black Oak Ridge. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 23–24)
- 1944**, September — 9:00 p.m. Canadian Army Lance Cpl. Carson Yorke is just outside Antwerp, Belgium, during a German bombardment. He steps out of his vehicle and sees a glowing globe traveling at about 30 mph and 40 feet altitude from the front lines toward the city (in the same course that the German V-2s are following). It seems to be 3–4 feet in diameter and looks “as though it was cloudy glass with a light inside.” It disappears from view, then is followed by another, then five others in succession. (Jerome Clark and Lucius Farish, “[The Mysterious ‘Foo Fighters’ of WW II](#),” *Saga UFO Report*, Spring 1975)
- 1944**, September 2 — Two chemists are killed, and [Arnold Kramish](#) almost killed, after being sprayed with highly corrosive hydrofluoric acid while attempting to unclog a uranium enrichment device that is part of the pilot thermal diffusion plant at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. (Wikipedia, “[Arnold Kramish](#)”)
- 1944**, September 6 — The Combined Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee holds its first meeting in London, England. Present are Air Commodore K. C. Buss (Air Ministry), Gen. [George C. McDonald](#) (AAF Director of Intelligence), Lt. Col. [Lewis F. Powell Jr.](#), Col. [Howard McCoy](#) (chief of the Air Technical Section), [Howard P. Robertson](#) (CalTech physicist), and Cmdr. [Ian Fleming](#) (Admiralty). (*Strange Company* 80)
- 1944**, Early October — Night. A rapidly moving object latches onto the tail of a Northrop P-61 Black Widow of the 422nd Night Fighter Squadron over western Germany. The light follows the plane as the pilot takes evasive maneuvers, losing it only after he dives into a cloud bank. The plane’s radar observer is badly shaken and is still hyperventilating the following day. The pilot logs the object as a Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet “rocket-propelled interceptor.” (Graeme Rendall, “[The Foo Fighters: Today’s Pilots Encounters with UAP Are Nothing New](#),” The Debrief, April 15, 2021)
- 1944**, October — Late night. Members of a family who live in an isolated area on the outskirts of Rochester, Pennsylvania, are awakened by a loud noise and flash of light. The father goes to the door, where he sees a 4.5-foot-tall figure dressed in a brown robe. Fifteen feet to its left are five other figures dressed in luminous brown metallic suits. Their heads seem large, with only a slit for a mouth. The arms are long, with long thin fingers. Three of them enter the house and the father accompanies them to a landed craft nearby. He remembers nothing else when he wakes up in the morning. A round, burned circle 20 feet from the house and 25 feet in diameter is found the next day. (Clark III 265–266)
- 1944**, October — Nellie Carlin and another woman are about to drive to work in St. Paul, Minnesota, when they see what seems to be an airplane about to crash. It abruptly stops 20 feet above their heads, revealing itself to be a brown,

- bullet-shaped object with a flat end “like frosted glass with a bright light behind it.” It makes a crackling noise, turns right, and ascends at great speed. (Clark III 1178)
- 1944**, October 10 — 8:00 p.m. A bicyclist riding in Älgult, Kronoberg County, Sweden, is illuminated by a light beam coming from a nearby woods. He sees a large, shining sphere rise silently and rapidly from the ground to treetop height and stop, appearing moonlike and golden. After about 5 minutes, the object disappears abruptly. (Anders Liljegren, *From the Archive (2): UFO-Phenomena in the Fall of 1944*, AFU, n.d., pp. 2–6)
- 1944**, Late October — 9:30 p.m. 1Lt. J. B. Douglas Jr. and other soldiers of the 489th Armored Field Artillery near Weert, Netherlands, watch a bright silvery object through field glasses moving silently from northwest to southwest through an arc of 90° in about 30–45 minutes. (UFOEv, [pp. 30, 129](#))
- 1944**, October 28 — Physicist [David T. Griggs](#), a civilian adviser on radar to the War Department, is asked by Gen. [Henry H. “Hap” Arnold](#) to look into incidents of unusual aerial phenomena in Europe and interview pilots. He later moves his investigation to the Pacific Theater. His report to Arnold at the end of the war has never been located. He was interviewed by [James E. McDonald](#) on April 10, 1969. (Michael D. Swords, “[David Griggs and the Foo Fighters](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 1 (January 2007): 17–19)
- 1944**, October 30 — Late night. RAF Flight Engineer Maurice Juberley of the 640 Squadron is returning from a bombing mission over Köln, Germany. His Halifax III is flying at 19,000 feet above the clouds when the rear gunner reports a ball of orange fire closing in on them. He orders an evasive maneuver and loses the light. (*Strange Company* 86)
- 1944**, Early November — Night. Lieut. Col. [Oris B. Johnson](#)’s 422d Night Fighter Squadron, equipped with P-61 Black Widow fighters, reports seeing 15–20 mystery objects every night over Germany, either alone or in formations of four. Johnson says he could accept that the reports are rocket planes or night fighter jets. (*Strange Company* 87)
- 1944**, November 3 — The Japanese Army launches the first of some 9,300 Fu-Go bomb-bearing fire balloons intended to land in North America to instill fear and terror. About 300 are found or seen in America. It is likely that more of them land in unpopulated areas. On November 4, a US Navy patrol craft discovers one of the first Fu-Go balloons floating off San Pedro, Los Angeles, California. National and state agencies are placed on heightened alert status when balloons are found in Wyoming and Montana before the end of the month. (Wikipedia, “[Fu-Go balloon bomb](#)”; Franklin Matthias, “[Japanese Balloon Bombs Fu-Go](#),” Atomic Heritage Foundation, August 10, 2016)
- 1944**, November 4 — Night. RAF Lancaster bombers over Solingen, Germany, report what they call “scarecrow” dummy airplanes that explode with a sheet of flame and dense black smoke. (“[German Dummy Planes Explode Amid Our Own](#),” *New York Times*, November 6, 1944, p. 3)
- 1944**, November 12 — 9:30 p.m. A radio station in Santiago, Chile, broadcasts a version of *The War of the Worlds* in Spanish in which Martians land in Puente Alto, causing a panic and the death by heart attack of at least one person in Valparaíso. (John Gosling, *Waging the War of the Worlds: A History of the 1938 Radio Broadcast and Resulting Panic, Including the Original Script*, McFarland, 2009, pp. 99–102)
- 1944**, November 16 — 11:55 p.m. Lt. J. L. Besmond, officer of the day on the [USS Gilliam](#), enroute from Oro Bay, Papua New Guinea, to Leyte Gulf, Philippines, observes an unusual object at a distance of 21 miles. Fire Control Officer P. Kendall Bruce describes it as a bright green globe that rises from behind the ship and moves in a “perfect parabola at great speed, finally disappearing behind the horizon to the north.” (NICAP, “[UFO Observed from USS Gilliam](#)”)
- 1944**, November 22 — 10:00 p.m. RAF 9 Squadron is flying at 12,000 feet somewhere over Germany after returning from a bombing mission in Trondheim, Norway. Flying Officer Dennis Nolan sees a clearly defined, “pyrotechnic pink,” spherical object, fluctuating in brightness, flying at their same altitude to the rear of their bomber. The object accelerates and decelerates abruptly with jerking movements, moving from side to side, well astern. (*Strange Company* 89; Powell, *Scientist*, 65)
- 1944**, November 24 — Capt. [William D. Leet](#)’s B-17 crew (part of the 2nd Bombardment Group, 5th Wing of the Fifteenth Air Force) is returning from bombing a target at Klagenfurt, Austria. While flying over northeastern Italy near Trieste, Leet notices a blinding light and feels an intense heat. It goes away quickly, but seconds later he sees a “round amber light” sitting off the left wingtip of the B-17. It is bright and perfectly circular. Leet orders the gunners not to shoot at it. Sgt. Harris, the upper gunner, thinks it is 10 feet in diameter and 150–300 feet away. The object stays with them over the Adriatic Sea for 50 minutes, until it “just turned off” like a light bulb. (William D. Leet, “[The Flying Fortress and the Foo-Fighter](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 133 (Jan./Feb. 1979): 3–4; *Strange Company* 90–93)
- 1944**, November 29 — 3:00 p.m. [Reginald Herbert Mortimer](#) and his daughter Frances are on the Bruce Peninsula between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, Ontario, when they hear a hissing sound behind them and see 9 disc-

shaped objects pass overhead at approximately 2,000 feet. Moving three abreast in a square configuration, they are lost to sight over the lake. (Clark III 1179)

- 1944**, November 29 — Night. A Bristol Beaufighter crew (pilot Lieut. Edward A. Schlueter and radar observer Lieut. Donald J. Meiers of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron, and intelligence officer Capt. [Fred B. Ringwald](#) as observer) is on a bombing mission and flying above the Rhine River north of Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin, France. They see “eight to 10 bright orange lights off the left wing...flying through the air at high speed.” Neither the airborne radar nor ground control registers anything nearby. Schlueter and Meiers also see red lights on November 26 above Mannheim, Germany. (Jo Chamberlin, “[The Foo Fighter Mystery](#),” *American Legion Magazine*, December 1945, pp. 9, 43; Harold T. Wilkins, “[The Strange Mystery of the Foo Fighters](#),” *Fate* 4, no. 6 (Aug./Sept. 1951): 98–106; Zoe Crasney, “[What Were the Mysterious ‘Foo Fighters’ Sighted by WWII Night Flyers?](#)” *Smithsonian Air and Space Magazine*, August 2016; *Strange Company* 93–95)
- 1944**, November 30? — As the [USS Gilliam](#) is transporting troops from Leyte Gulf to Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippines, Lieut. JG Kendall Bruce, fire control officer on the ship, observes a bright green, globe-shaped object rising out of the nearby headlands and disappears to the north. It is too slow for a missile. [Same event as November 16?] (NICAP, “[UFO Observed from USS Gilliam](#)”; *Strange Company* 95–96)
- 1944**, December 13 — SHAEF in Paris, France, issues a press release identifying the fireballs as a “new German weapon” and that the Ninth Air Force has reported seeing “many silver balls floating in the air above enemy territory.” An Army Air Force spokesman says on December 20 that the silver balls have “no detectable effects” on Allied planes. He does not know whether or not they are metallic. (“[Floating Mystery Ball Is New Nazi Air Weapon](#),” *New York Times*, December 14, 1944, p. 6; *Strange Company* 96, 101)
- 1944**, December 14–28 — Numerous balls of light are reported by the Night Fighter Squadrons during bombing raids over Germany. Pilot and operations officer [Charlie Horne](#) of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron suggests calling the objects “foo fighters,” a name gleaned from the men’s favorite comic strip, “Smokey Stover” by cartoonist [Bill Holman](#). The comic follows the escapades of a madcap fire fighter who calls his fire truck the “Foomobile.” Smokey Stover often states, “where there’s foo, there’s fire.” (Jo Chamberlin, “[The Foo Fighter Mystery](#),” *American Legion Magazine*, December 1945, pp. 9, 43–47; “[More Foo-Fighter Records Released](#),” *Just Cause*, new ser., no. 33 (September 1992): 2–6; *Strange Company* 96–111; Swords 3–5; “[The Foo Fighters of World War II, Part One](#),” *Saturday Night UFOria*; Clas Svahn, “[The Origin of the Expression ‘Foo Fighter](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 18; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, pp. 47–49; Barry Greenwood, “[Foo Fighter Archive Donated to UHR](#),” *UFO Historical Review*, no. 17 (December 2015): 2–8; Graeme Rendall, “[The Foo Fighters: Today’s Pilots Encounters with UAP Are Nothing New](#),” *The Debrief*, April 15, 2021)
- 1944**, December 22 — 6:00 p.m. Two US 415th Fighter Group pilots at an altitude of 19,000 feet near Hagenau, Bas-Rhin, France, see two bright lights rise up from the ground and head directly toward them. The orange spheres follow the fighters for two minutes, then break off and disappear. (Illobrand von Ludwiger, *Best UFO Cases, Europe*, NIDS, 1998, p. 5)
- 1944**, December 23 — 6:00 a.m. A Bristol Beaufighter crew of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron is patrolling at 10,000 feet near Haguenau, France, when they see two orange lights climbing toward them from the ground. They level off and remain on the plane’s tail for 2 minutes, then peel off, “flying under perfect control,” and go out. (Jo Chamberlin, “[The Foo Fighter Mystery](#),” *American Legion Magazine*, December 1945, p. 44)
- 1944**, December 23 — Night. Navy Lt. [George Arents III](#) and copilot Lt. Elon Forster are flying a military DC-3 at 9,000 feet between Blackstone and Richmond, Virginia, when they notice a cigar-shaped object hovering below them at about 4,000 feet. It appears to be 200 feet long and has two horizontal rows of blue-lighted windows and a flaming exhaust coming out of its tail. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1944**, Late December through February 1945 — Radar operators at Naval Air Station Pasco, Washington, report unusual blips that appear out of nowhere and proceed from northwest to southeast. A Grumman F6F Hellcat fighter is scrambled on at least two occasions with orders to shoot down anything that appears to be hostile, but nothing is seen. In another incident, Lt. JG Clarence R. Clem accompanies Lt. Commander Richard Brown and Ensign C. T. Neal to a waiting aircraft and Brown takes off in pursuit of a ball of fire that quickly leaves him behind as it speeds off to the northwest and is lost to radar. On another occasion, naval officer R. W. Hendershot, flying an SNJ aircraft, is asked by ground radar to make contact with two high-altitude blips flying at the speed of a single-engine Piper Cub. Though he can see nothing, he is convinced the blips are real. (*Strange Company* 142; Nukes 43–44; Project 1947, “[UFOs over Hanford: Cdr. R. W. Hendershot](#),” June 22, 2014; Robert L. Hastings, “[Reports Confirm UFO Activity at the Hanford Nuclear Weapons Plant during World War II](#),” *UFOs & Nukes*, August 9, 2015; Headquarters Fourth Air Force, “[Air Defense Measures at Hanford Engineering Company](#),” January 23,

1945

- 1945**, January — [Ray Palmer](#) edits, rewrites, and publishes [Richard S. Shaver](#)'s description of the cave-dwelling Dero for the March 1945 issue of *Amazing Stories* under the title "I Remember Lemuria." The issue sells out and generates quite a response. Between 1945 and 1949, many letters arrive attesting to the truth of Shaver's claims (tens of thousands of letters, according to Palmer). The correspondents claim that they, too, have heard strange voices or encountered denizens of the Hollow Earth. (Wikipedia, "[Richard Sharpe Shaver](#)"; Richard S. Shaver, "'I Remember Lemuria,'" *Amazing Stories* 19, no. 1 (March 1945): [12–70](#); Walter Kafton-Minkel, *Subterranean Worlds*, Loompanics, 1989, [pp. 137–144](#); Clark III 872, 1069; Richard Toronto, *War over Lemuria: Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Strangest Chapter of 1940s Science Fiction*, McFarland, 2013; David Halperin, "[The Shaver Mystery—Richard Shaver, Ray Palmer, and the Quest for Lemuria \(Part 1\)](#)," July 4, 2014)
- 1945**, January 2 — 2:30 a.m. USAAF Lieut. Jack Green and navigator Lieut. Warren Barber, 653rd Bombardment Squadron, are conducting a reconnaissance flight in a Mosquito over the Netherlands and northern Germany when they encounter two balls of fire on three occasions pacing their plane. Barber describes them as a "pair of fog lights, shooting up to 60 or 70,000 feet." (*Strange Company* 114–116, 208–209)
- 1945**, January 2 — The *New York Times* publishes an article stating that the foo fighters are German weapons. Lieut. Donald J. Meiers of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron says he has been followed by foo-fighters twice. "A foo-fighter picked me up at 700 feet and chased me 20 miles down the Rhine Valley [Germany]. I turned to starboard and two balls of fire turned with me. I turned to the port side and they turned with me. We were going 260 miles an hour and the balls were keeping right up with us." ("[Balls of Fire Stalk U.S. Fighters in Night Assaults over Germany](#)," *New York Times*, January 2, 1945, pp. 1, 4; *Strange Company* 117–118)
- 1945**, January 2 — Col. [Clayton Lawrence Bissell](#), in the Pentagon's Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, sends SHAEF in Paris a classified message seeking an explanation for the red balls of fire pacing planes. No response has been located to date. ([Clayton Lawrence] Bissell, [[message](#)], January 2, 1945; Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1945](#)")
- 1945**, January 16 — Lt. Col. [Leavitt Corning Jr.](#) of the XII Tactical Air Command sends a secret memo to the assistant chief of air intelligence requesting further information on the "Night Phenomenon." (*Strange Company* 126–127)
- 1945**, January 20 — First Tactical Air Force Executive Officer Maj. [Samuel V. Boykin](#) responds to [Corning](#) asking for more particulars about the reports. (*Strange Company* 127)
- 1945**, January 22 — British prisoners being force-marched out of the German Heydebreck labor camp (near modern Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Poland) see a four-engine bomber overhead. Behind it is a "brilliant light" that is following it closely. (Clark III 503)
- 1945**, January 30 — 12:10 a.m. A 415th Night Fighter Squadron crew observes two amber-colored "lights in the air at 2,000 feet" between Wissembourg, Bas-Rhin, France, and Landau, Germany. They seem to be about a foot in diameter and 20–50 feet apart. The lights follow their Bristol Beaufighter, closing in to about 1,000 feet before disappearing. ("[Foo Fighter Archive Donated to UHR](#)," *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 17 (December 2015): 7; *Strange Company* 129)
- 1945**, January 30 — Capt. [Fred B. Ringwald](#), intelligence officer for the 415 Night Fighter Squadron, responds to [Corning](#)'s January 16 request by offering a summary of 14 foo fighter reports from December 14, 1944, to January 29, 1945. ([[Memo](#)], Fred B. Ringwald to AC of S A-2 XII Tactical Air Command, January 30, 1945; *Strange Company* 129–132)
- 1945**, February — [Meade Layne](#) founds the Borderland Sciences Research Associates in San Diego, California, and publishes the first issue of its newsletter, *The Round Robin*. Working with local medium [Mark A. Probert](#), who channels "etheric" entities from discarnates with advanced knowledge of spirit and cosmos, Layne and BSRA seek to explore the mysteries of the invisible world. (Borderland Sciences Research Associates, [[History](#)]; Clark III 876; Håkan Blomqvist, "[Round Robin and Contactee History](#)," Håkan Blomqvist's Blog, March 30, 2014)
- 1945**, February 2 — The first Hanford plutonium arrives at Los Alamos. (Atomic Heritage Foundation, "[Atomic Timeline](#)")
- 1945**, February 2 — The first flight of the H.IX V2 is made in Oranienburg, Germany. All subsequent test flights and development are done by Gothaer Waggonfabrik in Gotha. By this time, the [Horten brothers](#) are working on a turbojet-powered design for the *Amerika Bomber* contract competition and do not attend the first test flight. The

test pilot is Lieutenant [Erwin Ziller](#). Two further test flights are made in February. There are reports that during one of these test flights, the H.IX V2 undertook a simulated dogfight with a Messerschmitt Me 262, the first operational jet fighter, and that the H.IX V2 outperformed the Me 262. However, the Me 262 is considered by many as unsuitable for fighter missions, being slow in turning. (Wikipedia, "[Horton Ho 229](#)")

1945, February 7 — Afternoon. Several F6F fighters on patrol (one piloted by Ensign [Norman P. Stark](#)) from the [USS Wasp](#) aircraft carrier anchored at Ulithi Atoll in the Caroline Islands are told to investigate a radar target at 30,000 feet some 10 miles west of the fleet. Before they can reach altitude, the object moves back to the west at high speed. They catch a brief visual glimpse of it. (LCDR Norman P. Stark, "[A WWII F6F Navy Fighter Pilot's Experiences in the Pacific](#)," Battle of Saipan, January 1, 2000)

1945, February 10 — The *Chicago Tribune* and *Washington Times-Herald* reveal [Bill Donovan](#)'s plans for a postwar intelligence agency and publishes a secret memo he has sent to [Roosevelt](#) proposing its creation. The article compares the proposed agency to the Gestapo. Knowing that Americans want a smaller federal government after the war, Roosevelt is not entirely sold on Donovan's proposal, although Donovan feels reasonably confident that he can talk the president into the idea. [J. Edgar Hoover](#) disapproves of Donovan's plan, which he sees as a direct threat to FBI authority, even though Donovan has stressed that his agency will operate only abroad, not domestically. (Walter Trohan, "[Super-Spy Idea Denounced As New Deal OGPU](#)," *Chicago Tribune*, February 10, 1945, p. 1; Central Intelligence Agency, "[Origins of CIA](#)," August 3, 2005; Mark Riebling, *Wedge: From Pearl Harbor to 9/11*, Simon & Schuster, 2002, pp. 59–61)

1945, February 11 — Air Commodore [Colin McKay Grierson](#), RAF assistant chief of staff A2, refers [Ringwald](#)'s report to the Air Ministry. (*Strange Company* 133–134)

1945, February 14 — Rocket engineers Rudolf Schriever and Klaus Habermohl allegedly fly a Nazi-engineered flying disk in Prague, Czechoslovakia, that reaches an altitude of 40,680 feet in 3 minutes and a speed of 1,243 mph in horizontal flight. The plans for these devices supposedly come from the German experts Schriever, Habermohl, Richard Miethe, and the Italian Giuseppe Belluzzo. Habermohl and Schriever choose a wide ring that revolves around a fixed, dome-shaped cockpit and consists of adjustable wing disks that can be placed in an appropriate position depending on whether they are needed for takeoff or level flight. (Rudolf Lusa, *Die Deutschen Waffen und Geheimwaffen des Zweites Weltkrieges*, 1958; Andreas Müller, "[Dauerthema: UFOs und das Dritte Reich: Eine kritische Analyse](#)," grenzWissenschaft-aktuelle.de, September 5, 2023; Wikipedia, "[Nazi UFOs](#)")

1945, Mid-February — As their C-47 prepares to land at Biggs Field, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, S/Sgt Ralph Bayer is alarmed to see an aircraft approaching from the left and only 900 feet below them. The object is about 30 feet long and a dull, flat gray in color, and it travels in a straight course 500 feet above the ground until it disappears. (Clark III 1178)

1945, February 18 — Disaster strikes during the third test flight of the H.IX V2 in Gotha, Germany. [Erwin Ziller](#) takes off without any problems to perform a series of flight tests. After about 45 minutes, at an altitude of around 800 meters, one of the Jumo 004 turbojet engines develops a problem, catches fire and stops. Ziller is seen putting the aircraft into a dive and pulling up several times in an attempt to restart the engine and save the precious prototype. He undertakes a series of four complete turns at a 20° angle. Ziller does not use his radio or eject from the aircraft. He already is unconscious as a result of the fumes from the burning engine. The aircraft crashes just outside the boundary of the airfield. Ziller is thrown from the aircraft on impact and dies from his injuries two weeks later. The prototype aircraft is completely destroyed. (Wikipedia, "[Horton Ho 229](#)")

1945, February 22 — Night. A B-24 bomber flying near Chichijima in the Ogasawara (Bonin) Archipelago, Japan, sees an object trailing exhaust. It is also picked up on radar and follows the plane for about 20 miles before disappearing off the screen. (Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1945](#)")

1945, March — The K-25 gaseous diffusion plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, begins production. (Wikipedia, "[K-25](#)")

1945, March — A man is squirrel hunting in a wooded area near Belfast, Maine, when he sees a huge, elongated object just above the trees. He runs after it, thinking it is a dirigible about to crash. The object crashes into the trees at the far edge of a clearing, splitting a huge pine tree down the middle. He smells burned rubber. The object seems to be as big as several B-36 bombers. As he stands there stunned, the lowest end of the craft begins to rise and he hears a humming sound of increasing intensity. After it rises to a horizontal position, it begins to spin faster and faster and the hum becomes very intense. Suddenly one end spews a shower of fine, silvery threads that glint in the sunlight. The object begins to change to a white metallic color and it takes off straight up at fantastic speed. ("I Saw a Flying Saucer," *Flying Saucers*, May 1959, pp. 6–18, 78; Clark III 1178–1179)

1945, March — 3:00 p.m. Army Air Force Sgt. James L. Lease and E. E. Dickey are driving south on the Santa Rosa Highway north of Fort Sumner, New Mexico, when they see the glint of a flying object to the west. It appears to

be a grayish metal and motionless about 12–14 feet off the ground. Suddenly it swoops away at great speed and is out of sight within seconds. (*Strange Company* 142–143; Powell, *Scientist*, 65)

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

- 1945, April** — During operations around Okinawa, Japan, the radar crew on the aircraft carrier [USS Independence](#) frequently notices strange radar returns that move at slow speeds (30–70 mph). Aircraft and destroyers sent to search for them never find anything. These radar ghosts are usually detected 25–30 miles away at an altitude of 1,500 feet, but occasionally 3,500 feet. The primary diagnostic for these false returns is their speed. The Navy nicknames them the “ghost of Nansei-shoto” after the Japanese name for the Ryukyu Islands, of which Okinawa is one. (*Strange Company* 183–186)
- 1945, April** — [Ray Palmer](#) publishes a second story by [Richard Shaver](#), “Thought Records of Lemuria,” in the June issue of *Amazing Stories*. Here it is revealed that Shaver’s knowledge of the cave world and Lemuria isn’t really a “racial memory,” as the first story had asserted. Shaver, working in a factory, heard voices speaking to him, apparently through his welding gun. (Richard S. Shaver, “Thought Records of Lemuria,” *Amazing Stories* 19, no 2 (June 1945): [16–52](#))
- 1945, April 3–4** — US B-29 bombers over Honshu, Japan, encounter numerous balls of light tagging along with them. (*Strange Company* 157–159)
- 1945, April 7** — [Walter and Reimar Horten](#), German designers associated with wingless aircraft, are arrested by US troops near Göttingen, Germany. (Lance Cole, *Secret Wings of World War II: Nazi Technology and the Allied Arms Race*, Pen & Sword, 2015)
- 1945, April 7** — Mid-morning. Capt. [Louis B. Sewell](#) is serving as a navigator in a B-17 over the North Sea on the way to a bombing target near Berlin, Germany. Suddenly, out of the sun, an apparent German fighter dives at the aircraft from the side, leveling off for a swift attack. However, the object has no wings, and it rolls over into a dive without firing. Suddenly it stops in mid-air, and Sewell can see it against the sea below. The object then takes off at about 2,000 mph and disappears. Sewell’s radio operator turns over several photos he took of the object to intelligence officers. (Harley D. Rutledge, *Project Identification*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, [p. 250](#))
- 1945, April 10** — 11:00 p.m. James L. Landry [or Hendry] sees from his porch in Jeffersonton, Kentucky, a bright light that seems to be directly above Fisherville, 3 miles to the east. Its brightness fluctuates and it seems to be moving directly toward his location, casting a light beam downward. After 10 minutes, it goes out “like a snuffed candle.” (“A Meteor?” *Louisville Times*, April 14, 1945; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1945](#)”)
- 1945, April 10** — As part of the Manhattan Project, 18 people in the US are injected with plutonium in doses ranging from 95 to 5,900 nanocuries without their knowledge or consent. The intent is to study how plutonium is absorbed into the digestive tract. The last experiment is conducted on July 18, 1947. (Wikipedia, “[Unethical human experimentation in the United States](#)”)
- 1945, April 12** — Roosevelt dies at Warm Springs, Georgia. [Harry S. Truman](#) is sworn in as president.
- 1945, April 17** — Maj. Gen. [James P. Hodges](#) writes a memorandum to Gen. [Henry H. “Hap” Arnold](#), saying that infrared devices are now available to take photographs of “balls of fire” in the Pacific. (Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1945](#)”)
- 1945, April 22** — The [USS Lewis Hancock](#) is northeast of Okinawa, Japan, when the SG radar picks up an unidentified target at 6 miles heading their way at 70–115 mph. Its movements are erratic. Two miles out, the ship identifies a “tight formation of more than fifty birds.” (*Strange Company* 184)
- 1945, April 24** — The [USS Audubon](#) is headed for Okinawa, Japan, with US Army passengers and equipment. Radar operators pick up “unidentified aeroplanes” heading their way. The screens show a blip, alternately fuzzy and strong, some 8 miles away headed down the starboard side at 25 mph. Still, nothing can be seen visually, and the radar operator suggests that it is a flock of birds. (*Strange Company* 184–186)
- 1945, April 25** — 9:45 a.m. Acting Squadron Leader Kit Francis Williams of the RAF 617 Bomber Squadron is flying a Lancaster with 25 other aircraft to bomb Hitler’s headquarters at Berchtesgaden, Germany, in the Bavarian Alps. Just after a turn near Kaiserslautern, Germany, at 16,500 feet, Williams witnesses an object like a large woolly blanket that takes up his entire windshield. He thinks it could be as much as 4–5 miles wide. It moves vertically and is gone in an instant. Suddenly his aircraft loses its electrical power and loses one of its bombs. He and his bomber and engineer get severe headaches. They return to base in England after regaining power. (Keith Basterfield, “[Observation by Pilot over Germany, 1945](#),” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, November 14, 2016)
- 1945, April 26** — Gen. [Curtis LeMay](#)’s XXI Bomber Command’s Air Intelligence staff produces a 5-page report representing the most up-to-date information and theories on the balls of fire seen in the Pacific theatre of war but cannot find a good explanation for them. (“[Balls of Fire](#),” Twentieth Air Force, XXI Bomber Command, *Air Intelligence Report* 1, no. 8 (April 26, 1945): 9–14; *Strange Company* 162–163)
- 1945, Late Spring** — 10:30 a.m. Two brothers in St. James, Missouri, notice metallic disc with a clear dome hovering above the family garage. It is about 35 feet in diameter and 12 feet tall. A human-like being about 5 feet 6 inches

tall is inside the dome, wearing brown coveralls. It seems to notice the witnesses and immediately touches something in front of it. The object moves forward with a hum like an electric motor. After a click, the object sways in the air. One of the brothers runs underneath it and sees on the underside an area with grille work. The craft takes off and follows the contour of the ground, picks up speed, and disappears over a hill. (Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, pp. 26, 31)

- 1945, May** — German scientist [Viktor Schauberger](#), who has been using inmates from the Mauthausen concentration camp to help him develop new aircraft and submarine engines, is captured by Allied forces in Leonstein, Austria. Supposedly his devices and documents, which allegedly include a prototype flying saucer, are kept under lock and key. He is released in March 1946 and moves to Linz, Austria, but the Americans do not confiscate his workshop and laboratory materials, although they prohibit him from further military experimentation. (Wikipedia, "[Nazi UFOs](#)")
- 1945, May 3** — Early morning. Nine B-24's with the 11th Bombardment Group's 431st Squadron are heading out on a bombing mission against Japanese air installations on Truk [now Chuuk] Atoll in Micronesia. One plane over Fala Island sees two objects at their altitude of 11,000 feet, changing from cherry red to orange then white, then dying out and turning cherry red again. Both follow the B-24 through all sorts of evasive actions. (Jo Chamberlin, "[The Foo Fighter Mystery](#)," *American Legion Magazine* 39, no. 6 (December 1945): 9; "[B-24 Sights Circles of Light](#)," *UFO Historical Review*, no. 2 (September 1998): 8; *Strange Company* 163–165; NICAP, "[May 2, Truk Atoll Sighting](#)"; Richard H. Hall, *From Airships to Arnold*, UFO Research Coalition, 2000, pp. 25–26; Patrick Gross, "[Foo Fighters: The Truk Atoll, May 2, 1945, Foo Fighter Incident](#)")
- 1945, May 5** — A pregnant woman, Elsie Mitchell, and five children are killed when they discover a Japanese Fu-Go balloon bomb that has landed in the forest of Gearhart Mountain near Bly in southern Oregon. (Wikipedia, "[Fu-Go balloon bomb](#)"; "[Mystery Blast Kills 6 Persons](#)," *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review*, May 7, 1945, p. 1; "[Blast Kills 6: Five Children, Pastor's Wife in Explosion](#)," *Klamath Falls (Oreg.) Herald and News*, May 7, 1945, pp. 1, 6; Allan T. Duffin, "[Project Fugo: The Japanese Balloon Bombs](#)," *Military Heritage* 9, no. 2 (October 2007); Francine Uenuma, "[In 1945, a Japanese Balloon Bomb Killed Six Americans, Five of Them Children, in Oregon](#)," *Smithsonian Magazine*, May 22, 2019; Don Bourgeois, "[Weaponized Chinese Balloon Not New, Oregon Attacked by Japan in WWII](#)," *Portland (Oreg.) Tribune*, February 7, 2023)
- 1945, May 23 and 25** — Night. In the wake of two B-29 raids on Tokyo, Japan, both nights, businessman Iomoyo Okado looks up from his air raid shelter and sees slow-moving "roundish objects, like hot cakes, about 20 square yards" in diameter, and silent. They are blue or gray in color. ("[Flying Hot Cakes' over Tokyo in 1945](#)," *St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press*, July 12, 1947, p. 6; Clark III 503)
- 1945, May 25** — Early morning. Capt. [Louis B. Sewell](#) is flying a B-17 carrying some troops south over the Atlantic Ocean from Port Lyautey [modern Kenitra], Morocco, to Dakar, Senegal, when he notices a metallic, elliptical object at the same altitude about 5–10 miles distant. During the 8-hour flight, they all can see it 6 or 7 times through the clouds. At times, it hovers. (Harley D. Rutledge, *Project Identification*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, [pp. 250–251](#))
- 1945, Summer** — After 5:00 p.m. Future ufologist [Ann Druffel](#) is on a bus returning from her summer job in Long Beach, California, when she sees out of the left-hand window a bright, stationary, yellowish-white light in the northeastern sky. It looks like Venus but has a yellow color. She gets off the bus and still watches it, walking home. Soon she sees it is moving slowly to the northwest. She gets her mother to view it as well. Druffel thinks it is too high to be a coastal defense balloon. Druffel watches it for 90 minutes, after which it takes on some "activity." Some 10–15 pieces of light begin separating from it, fading from view after moving several diameters away from the large object. (Ann Druffel, "[UFO Sightings by UFO Researchers: The 'Inaccessible Cases,' Part 1](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 139 (September 1979): 14–15; Herbert S. Taylor, "[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 3–4)
- 1945, Summer** — Future ufologist [Illobrand von Ludwiger](#) sees an object like a black plate, whose diameter is one-eighth that of the Moon, flying against the wind below the clouds, in Stendal, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 357](#))
- 1945, Summer** — Radioman Robert S. Crawford and 13 other sailors aboard the US Army Transport [Delarof](#) see a large, dark sphere rise out of the ocean east of Adak in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. The UFO, showing darkly against the setting sun, climbs almost straight up for a few moments, then it arcs into level flight, and circles the ship two or three times. All the observers are convinced it is a large object. Crawford estimates the UFO is 150–250 feet in diameter. The gun crews hold their fire. After several minutes, it disappears to the south. (NICAP, "[Large Object Emerges from Sea near the Delarof](#)"; "[The Question of Submerging UFO's](#)," *UFO Investigator* 4, no. 5 (March 1968): 4)