

- [We Visitors from Space?](#)” *Life* 32, no. 14 (April 7, 1952): 90–91; Ruppelt, [pp. 84–85](#); Jan Aldrich; [Sparks](#), p. 104; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 43–44)
- 1951**, January 21 — 4:20 p.m. A UFO that appears to be over the restricted area at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, is sighted on the radarscope of an F-82 fighter. The GCI gives the go-ahead to intercept the target. The radar set on the F-82 is locked on and the run begins. The interception is unsuccessful, and the fighter returns to base. In all, three passes are made at targets, all with radar indications, but they cannot be completed since the target is over the restricted area that includes the X-10 plant. (NICAP, “[F-82 Attempts Intercept of UFO over AEC Plant / Radar](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 104)
- 1951**, January 22 — 11:00 a.m. USAF pilots Capt. [Ernest W. Spradley Jr.](#) of Aerial Photo Lab and Capt. James E. Cocker of All-Weather Flying Division (both based at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio), a General Mills Aeronautical lab project engineer named McAleese, and another airman are flying in a C-47 heading east about 50 miles southeast of Holloman AFB, New Mexico, at about 10,000–12,000 feet, tracking a Project Gopher plastic balloon at about 50,000–70,000 feet, when they see a bright star-like object adjacent to the pear-shaped balloon. As they approach and fly under the balloon, they notice the object descend to the balloon’s level and grow larger in apparent size until about one-quarter to one-half the size of the 70-foot balloon. It appears to be round and flat like a dime, milky white or silvery in color, with a clear outline. Cocker and McAleese leave the cockpit and go to the astrodome to observe the object. After 3 minutes they see the object separate from the balloon and head west at high speed. After about 1 minute it emits a series of 3 bright photoflashes at one-second intervals and disappears from sight. (NICAP, “[C-47 Crew Encounter Object near ‘Gopher’](#)”; NICAP, “[White Object Paces Balloon](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 105; Swords 114–115)
- 1951**, January 27 — An Air Force B-50D bomber drops the first atomic bomb, the Able blast, for testing in the US onto a dry lake bed known as Frenchman Flat, inside the Nevada Test Site. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Ranger](#)”)
- 1951**, January 29 — USAF Lt. Col. [Milton D. Willis](#) replies to [Robert B. Sibley](#), president of the Aero Club of New England, who has written Secretary of the Air Force [Thomas K. Finletter](#) asking that the UFO project be reinstated because pilots are indeed seeing something that could be extraterrestrial. Willis writes that, although the UFO project is disbanded, the Air Force still investigates incidents and sends them to AMC if necessary, and an officer (Willis himself, who has replaced [Boggs](#)) monitors all UFO reports. As an aside to his superiors, Willis in a memo notes that “there have been several incidents, during the last six months, which cannot be explained and further investigation may be necessary.” (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 7–8; Swords 113)
- 1951**, February 9 — 9:55 p.m. The crew (including Lt. [Fred W. Kingdon Jr.](#) and US Naval Reserve Lt. [Graham E. Bethune](#)) and passengers of a US Navy R5D transport flying west from Keflavík, Iceland, at 10,000 feet about 212 miles northeast of Gander, Newfoundland, observe a large orange-rimmed UFO with a dark center. It is about 400 feet in diameter and first seen moving above the surface of the ocean. As the plane approaches, the object changes colors, executes a sudden 180° turn and disappears over the horizon. Over time, several attempts to disguise the participants (such as Lt. George Williams on February 21) have resulted in confusion over the date. (NICAP, “[The Bethune Encounter](#)”; NICAP, “[Huge Object Rushes up from Ocean Surface](#)”; Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 9–26; “[Casebook: February 8, 1951](#),” *UFO Investigator*, September 1970, p. 3; “[Casebook: February 8, 1951](#),” *UFO Investigator*, October 1970, p. 3; Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, [pp. 78–79](#); “[Unidentified Flying Object: A Provocative Tale](#),” *Naval Aviation News*, June 1973, pp. 18–19, [reprinted](#) by Project 1947; Good Above, [pp. 268, 486](#); Good Need, [pp. 137–139](#); Graham E. Bethune, “[Lights on the Surface](#),” 1999; Kevin H. Knuth, Robert M. Powell, and Peter A. Reali, “[Estimating Flight Characteristics of Anomalous Unidentified Aerial Vehicles](#),” *Entropy*, September 25, 2019; Patrick Gross, “[The Bethune Flight 124 Airmiss in 1951](#)”)
- 1951**, February 13 — [William Webster](#), chair of the Defense Department’s Research and Development Board, convenes a press briefing at the Pentagon and announces that “Careful studies have been made [referring to the upcoming article in *Look*]. I don’t believe anyone who has the opportunity to be informed and to look into this thing believes there is a flying saucer as such. As far as I know there is nothing to the flying saucers.” (“[Take Issue with Statement about ‘Saucers](#),” *Mount Pleasant (Iowa) News*, February 14, 1951, p. 4; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 13–14)
- 1951**, February 19 — 7:20 a.m. Capt. Jack Bicknell and Radio Officer D. W. Merrifield are flying a Lockheed Model 18 Lodestar aircraft out of Nairobi, Kenya, when they see a bright object hanging motionless about 10,000 above Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanganyika [now Tanzania]. They watch it for 3 minutes, then tell the passengers about it. Bicknell observes it through binoculars and sees a “metallic, bullet-shaped object which must have been over 200 feet long.” It has a vertical fin at one end, and at regular intervals along the fuselage are vertical dark bands. It

- remains completely stationary for 17 minutes. Two passengers take photos of it. Radio Officer Roy Overstreet, a passenger, shoots 30 feet of color film with a telescopic lens on his cine camera. Then it begins rising and moving eastward, disappearing at 40,000 feet. It leaves no vapor trail. A still from Overstreet's film, showing only a tiny dot of light, is published in the *Natal Mercury* on March 14, but the film is now considered lost and the other photos have never surfaced. (NICAP, "[Lodestar Crew Sees Stationary Silver Elongated Object](#)"; "[The Flying Saucer: Captain Bicknell's Own Story](#)," Nairobi (Kenya) *Sunday Post*, February 25, 1951, p. 15; "[The Most Authentic Flying Saucer Story of Them All](#)," *London Sunday Dispatch*, February 25, 1951, p. 1; "[Pilot Made Sketch of 'Flying Saucer](#)," *London Sunday Dispatch*, March 4, 1951, p. 1; "[Two Classic Sightings](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 9, no. 3 (May/June 1963): 11–12; Center for UFO Studies, [[case documents](#)]; UFOEv, [p. 124](#); [Sparks](#), p. 105; Patrick Gross, "[February 19, 1951, Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa](#)"; Barry Greenwood, "[Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanganyika, February 19, 1951: Photo Located](#)," *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 16 (July 2015): 1–4)
- 1951**, February 19 — *Aviation Week* praises the upcoming article in *Look* identifying UFOs as balloons. (Robert H. Wood, "Saucers, Secrecy, and Security," *Aviation Week* 54 (February 19, 1951): 50, [reprinted](#) by Project 1947)
- 1951**, February 20 — The *Air Intelligence Training Bulletin* publishes a facetious news item on how to recognize flying saucers, but implies they are all reflections. ("[Recognition of Flying Saucers](#)," *Air Intelligence Training Bulletin*, February 20, 1951)
- 1951**, February 25 — Project Twinkle head and chemist Anthony O. Mirarchi at the USAF Cambridge Research Laboratory in Massachusetts tells the Associated Press that he thinks UFOs are not "just balloons" (in response to [Liddel](#)'s upcoming article) and urges a full investigation of what could be experiments by a "potential enemy of the United States." He says that UFO reports show "maneuvered motion" that are not characteristic of a natural phenomenon. He says the "Navy report is erroneous. It lulls people into a false sense of security." He reminds the nation of the critical installations in New Mexico, including Los Alamos, and argues that they are a target of reconnaissance: "If they were launched by a foreign power, then they could lead to a worse Pearl Harbor than we have ever experienced." He blasts the US government for a policy of "suicide by secrecy." The FBI and Air Force mull prosecuting Mirarchi for violating AFR 205-1. ("[A.F. Scientist Warns Saucers Major Threat](#)," *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, February 26, 1951, p. 12; "[Scientist Fears Flying Saucers Portend a Worse 'Pearl Harbor](#)," *Oklahoma Daily Oklahoman*, February 26, 1951, p. 1; Swords 119–120; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 18–19)
- 1951**, February 27 — Physicist [Uerner Liddel](#), Office of Naval Research, says in a *Look* magazine article that there is not a single reliable UFO report that is not attributable to the cosmic [Skyhook] balloons. The article is based on Liddel's study in ONR's *Research Reviews* in March. He claims to have studied "hundreds" of sightings in detail (probably from Project Grudge). As for UFOs sighted by Skyhook scientists themselves, he discounts them because these technicians are not aware of mirages and internal reflections in optical devices. However, Liddel later changes his mind about the balloons being the sole source in April 1953, saying that most reports are due to reflection, refraction, diffraction, and meteors. (Richard Wilson, "[A Nuclear Physicist Exposes Flying Saucers](#)," *Look*, February 27, 1951, pp. 60–64; Swords 117–118; Uerner Liddel, "[Bogies at Angels 100](#)," *Research Reviews*, March 1951, pp. 1–6; Uerner Liddel, "[Phantasmagoria or Unusual Refractions in the Atmosphere](#)," *Journal of the Optical Society of America* 43, no. 4 (April 1953): 314–317)
- 1951**, March — A ghost light is seen in Suffolk County, Virginia, and investigated by Nansemond County Deputy Sheriff [Hurley Jones](#), who sees the light three times. It looks like a car headlight 5 feet off the ground, three times. Jeston Reid said his father had seen the light in the 1870s. The location is apparently either Turlington Road or Jackson Road [they intersect] south of Suffolk, since locals say the old railroad along the Jackson and Whaleyville logging road used to run down that way, and the light has also been compared to a locomotive headlight. Some 200 people have been gathering along the road, hoping to catch a glimpse. ("[Mystery Light Is a Puzzle in Nansemond](#)," *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, March 6, 1951, p. 2; "[Nansemond's Mystery Light Is Nothing New to Old-Timers](#)," *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, March 7, 1951, p. 2; "[Mysterious Suffolk Light Has Deputy Believing in Ghosts](#)," *Statesville (N.C.) Daily Record*, March 8, 1951, p. 1)
- 1951**, March — 11:30 p.m. Operations Officer Robert Wood is aboard the [USS Dyess](#) approximately 125 miles southeast of Cape May, New Jersey, when he picks up a radar target coming in from due east at a speed of 98–104 mph and an altitude of 3,000–4,000 feet. It stops and hovers about 30 miles away. Wood notifies the bridge, and the captain orders the ship to change course toward the object. About 30 minutes later, the UFO suddenly takes off toward the north at 3,000 mph, getting to within 35–40 miles south of Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, before it zooms straight up. Altitude-determining radar tracks the object to 100 miles altitude. ("[March, 1951: Approximately 125 Miles SE of Cape May, N.J.](#)," Project 1947)

- 1951**, March 14 — A group of nine Bell Aircraft engineers are flying at 15,000 feet in a B-50 Superfortress near Holloman AFB, New Mexico, during a test of a secret Bell aircraft. They spot a group of unknown objects flying in a confusing “swirl” that breaks into a V-formation and back to a “swirl,” then a V again. The objects are slightly higher than the aircraft and seem to be moving at high velocity. The engineers insist the objects are not geese, which actually can fly this high. (This may be the same incident as the August 30, 1950, case at Holloman.) (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 21–22)
- 1951**, March 15 — 10:20 a.m. George F. Floate, chief engineer of the Delhi Flying Club, and two assistants observe a swirly white cloud moving from north to south at about 4,000 feet altitude near the club’s hanger in New Delhi, India. The cloud is about 700 feet in length. At the end of it a bullet-shaped object appears, approximately 100 feet long and as big around as a C-47 fuselage. The witnesses shout out, and 17–20 people rush out of the hanger and see the object. It heads south for about 3 minutes where it makes an apparent loop, coming back over the field. At the top of the loop it is out of sight, but it is seen again in its dive. After recovering straight and level flight, the UFO proceeds to the southwest until it is lost to sight. Its speed is estimated at three times greater than the cruising speed of a British Vampire jet. The total duration is about 7 minutes. (NICAP, “[20+ Top Shelf Witnesses / Metallic Cigar](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 106)
- 1951**, Early spring — Dusk. US Army Pfc. [Francis P. Wall](#) is on maneuvers with the 27th Infantry Regiment near Cheorwon, South Korea, when he sees an orange light like a jack-o-lantern coming down a mountain. Artillery airbursts do not seem to harm it. As it approaches, it turns into a brilliant blue-green disc pulsating with light. Wall asks permission to shoot and fires a round from his M-1 rifle at it. The object starts moving erratically from side to side, flashes on and off, and makes an engine-like noise. It sweeps the soldiers with a beam of light, and they feel a burning and tingling sensation. They retreat to their bunkers and continue to watch the object, which is still lighting up the area, and then it shoots away at a 45° angle. (Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 18–27](#); Richard F. Haines, “[GI Fires on UFO in Korea](#),” *IUR* 15, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1990): 23–24)
- 1951**, April 4 — The Truman administration forms the Psychological Strategy Board to coordinate and plan for psychological operations. The board is composed of the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence, or their designated representatives. The board’s first director is [Gordon Gray](#), later National Security Advisor during the Eisenhower administration. The board is created in response to the growth of Office of Policy Coordination covert activities during the Korean War. The PSB is tasked with creating propaganda that will subconsciously turn people away from communism and toward democracy. It is abolished in 1953. (Wikipedia, “[Psychological Strategy Board](#)”)
- 1951**, April 7 — [Howard Hawks](#)’s film *The Thing from Another World* opens, starring [Margaret Sheridan](#), [Kenneth Tobey](#), and [James Arness](#), about a crashed flying saucer found in the Arctic. It ends with the haunting lines by [Douglas Spencer](#): “Watch the skies, everywhere! Keep looking. Watch the skies!” (Internet Movie Database, “[The Thing from Another World](#)”)
- 1951**, April 11 — Air Defense Command issues a memo on “Unconventional Aircraft” to all USAF facilities, encouraging them to report sightings in a timely manner. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, pp. 25)
- 1951**, April 17 — Project Grudge’s Col. [Harold E. Watson](#) notes that JANAP 146 has no provision for UFO reports to be sent to Wright-Patterson AFB under the CIRVIS system. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1951**, April 21 — Drones are again used in the series of thermonuclear tests designated Operation Greenhouse at Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands. During the Easy detonation, two T-33 drones are lost. One receives heavy damage from the shock wave, loses control, and crashes; the other refuses to respond to control signals and crashes on uninhabited Bogullua Island. The Air Force concludes that unmanned samplers are unreliable. (M/Sgt Leland B. Taylor, [History of Air Force Atomic Cloud Sampling](#), US Special Weapons Center, January 1963, pp. 34–37; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [p. 225](#))
- 1951**, April 23 — Col. [Harold E. Watson](#) writes a memo to the USAF Director of Intelligence, explaining his view that “little if any results” have been obtained from Project Grudge other than the objects are not from a foreign power. But since there is still some doubt, all reports should be forwarded to AMC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Swords 121)
- 1951**, May 21 — Wright-Patterson’s Technical Intelligence Department (T-2) becomes the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) and is assigned to the Directorate of Intelligence in the Pentagon. Project Grudge goes along with it. ([Sparks](#), p. 12; Clark III 936; John Greenewald, “[ATIC, the 1950s, and National Security Policy](#),” The Black Vault, July 24, 2023)

- 1951**, May 22 — 3:20 a.m. American Airlines pilot Capt. W. R. Hunt observes a blue-white, star-like object gyrating around the airplane at 21,000 feet for 20 minutes about 100 miles southwest of Dodge City, Kansas. It moves backward and forward, then up and down, then dives below the plane and speeds away. (“[Mysterious Bright Light ‘Plays Tag’ with Airliner over Kansas](#),” *Iola (Kan.) Register*, May 22, 1951, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, p. 26)
- 1951**, June — Project Grudge only has one person on staff to investigate UFO reports, Lt. [Jerry W. Cummings](#), who has replaced James J. Rodgers and J. L. Rohn. He reorganizes the system and uses a more open-minded approach. (Edward J. Ruppelt, “[What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers](#),” *True*, May 1954, p. 26; Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America*, Signet ed., 1976, [pp. 56–57](#); [Sparks](#), p. 14; Swords 121)
- 1951**, June — The UK Flying Saucer Working Party produces its six-page final report for the Ministry of Defence’s Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, DSI/JTIC Report number 7, *Unidentified Flying Objects*, classified Secret. The CIA’s chief scientist, [H. Marshall Chadwell](#), attends the meeting when the report is delivered. The report admits that no systematic investigation has been undertaken, but from the evidence examined, including reports by RAF pilots, explanations can probably be found for most reports. Copies are also submitted to Canada as well as US and UK officials. (Joe McGonagle, “[Flying Saucer Working Party: Commentary](#),” part 2, The Real UFO Project; Good Need, [pp. 149–152](#); David Clarke, “[Flying Saucer Working Party](#),” Dr. David Clarke Folklore and Journalism, January 3, 2015; UFOFiles2, [pp. 38–40](#); Mark Rodeghier, “[Britain’s Secret UFO Study](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 21–23; Ian Ridpath, “[Report of the UK Government’s Flying Saucer Working Party \(1951 June\)](#),” Ian Ridpath’s UFO Skeptic Pages, January 2021)
- 1951**, June 1 — 10:00 p.m. An ATIC official at Wright-Patterson AFB is driving west near Dayton, Ohio, when he sees a large, bluish-white light moving parallel to the car. It looks like a “stubby cigar.” After 15–20 seconds, it makes a right-angle turn, becomes circular, and rapidly disappears. Its speed is “faster than an airplane, slower than a meteor.” (UFOEv, [p. 23](#))
- 1951**, June 19 — Day. Mechanic Joseph Matiszewski hears a whistling sound as he is walking in Sønderborg, Denmark, and sees an object land in a nearby meadow. Approaching to within 150 feet of it, he finds himself paralyzed and notices that birds have stopped singing and cows seem frozen in place. Four men with brown skin and wearing black shiny suits and translucent helmets emerge from the object and send Matiszewski some telepathic messages. Eight smaller objects are ejected from the large one and float above it. Other figures inside the craft and on its deck appear to be making repairs. The objects ascend to about 300 feet and climb rapidly after that. The paralysis subsides. (Gordon Creighton, “[A New FSR Catalogue, Part 2](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 2 (March/April 1970): 29; Walter Webb, “UFOs and Paralysis,” *Official UFO*, February 1976, p. 48; Willy Wegner, “[UFO-bogen: Kapitel 19: Rumfolkene viser sig](#),” *Skeptica*, September 1, 2004; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 1, 2007)
- 1951**, June 22 — *Life* magazine reporter [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) visits Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio for the first time to gather information on “Project Saucer” for an article. The visit is coordinated by Jack T. Shea, special assistant to the director of public relations. (Jan Aldrich; Michael D. Swords, “[1952: Ruppelt’s Big Year](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 8)
- 1951**, June 25 — The UK Flying Saucer Working Party is disbanded. (Good Need, [p. 152](#))
- 1951**, Summer — A dubious story surfaces in 1956 that three UFOs had appeared above Mexico City International Airport at the same time as a visit by US Secretary of Defense [George C. Marshall](#). (However, there is no record of a visit by Marshall at this time; apparently his first visit to Mexico was a vacation in Cuernavaca in February 1952.) According to the story, Marshall tells a “highly placed American” and “prominent medical scientist” that UFOs are interplanetary and friendly, but they have crashed accidentally on three occasions. In 1965, the American informant is revealed to be [Rolf Alexander](#), who is in fact Allan Alexander Stirling, a New Zealand seaman who had jumped ship in 1920 and entered the US illegally. To support himself he promoted various dubious health cures while concocting a fictitious personal history. His activities were interrupted by prison sentences for mail fraud and embezzlement, and in 1954–1960 he claimed the ability to break up clouds with his psychokinetic abilities. (“[Let’s Talk Space: ‘Flying Saucers’ Are Real](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1956): 2–4; “[Rolf Alexander, M.D.](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1965): 9; RosRept, [p. 99](#))
- 1951**, July — The radiation-counter network set up at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, in December 1950 by Lt. Col. John R. Hood hits paydirt when a UFO appears, sighted both visually and on radar over the facility. He finds that the radiation counters have detected a significant rise in some kind of emission. Hood wants to expand the equipment, adding a debris-catching pursuit plane. However, information is lacking on this case and any follow-up. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951](#), The Author, 1983, p. 42)

- 1951**, July 1 — 10:50 p.m. Four night pilots of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in different areas around Seoul, Korea, simultaneously report a large green ball, very bright and trailing streaks of red then blue, passing overhead at 10,000–15,000 feet. (Haines, *Korea*, [p. 31](#); [Sparks](#), p. 106)
- 1951**, July 4? — 10:00 p.m. Future ufologist [Irena Scott](#) and her sister Sue are sleeping at their home in Galena, Ohio, when they wake to see a small glowing light circling their bedroom in a meandering movement, but never bumping into anything. It circles the room three times, maintaining the same shape, brightness, and size (less than one inch). After a few minutes, it moves in tight circles around the chandelier, then spirals downward, makes a noise, and emits tiny lights. Terrified, they rush out of the room and tell their father, who inspects the room but finds nothing. (Irena Scott, “[Bedroom Light](#),” *IUR* 13, no. 2 (March/April 1988): 14–15)
- 1951**, July 9 — Day. USAF Lt. [George H. Kinmon II](#), stationed at Lawson AFB [now Lawson Army Airfield] with the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, is flying an F-51 over Dearing, Georgia, when he sees a white disc “completely round and spinning in a clockwise direction.” It makes a headlong pass at his aircraft. It travels at “tremendous speed” and leaves no vapor trail. (NICAP, “[Aerial Encounter with Disc](#)”; “[Saucer Ahead!—Fire at Will](#),” *Tucson (Ariz.) Daily Citizen*, July 30, 1952, p. 6; “Saucer Attacked Me, Pilot Declares,” *Cleveland (Ohio) Press*, July 30, 1952, p. 1, [reprinted](#) in *Saucer Attack*, April 1998; “Pilot Says His Plane Was Attacked by Flying Saucer,” *Lowell (Mass.) Sun*, July 30, 1952, p. 30; [Sparks](#), p. 107; UFOEv, [p. 23](#); Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, [pp. 328–330](#))
- 1951**, July 14 — Morning. During a guided missile launch, two radar operators at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, catch a fast-moving object on their scope. At the same time, a tracker watching a B-29 with binoculars sees a large UFO near the bomber. Another observer sights the UFO and, with a 35mm camera, shoots 200 feet of film. The UFO shows on the film as a round, bright spot. The film has never been released. (NICAP, “[White Sands Radar/Visual](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 107; Project 1947, “[Radar and Visual UFO Sighting, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico—July 14, 1951](#)”; Good Above, [pp. 354–355](#))
- 1951**, July 25 — Personnel at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, write a report compiling the results of an organized skywatch of UFOs at the base. Several photos are taken. The report does not conclude what the objects are, but it does establish that some kind of objects have been seen. (“[Status of Project Blue Book](#),” T52-6888, [1952], p. 1)
- 1951**, August — In an article in *Popular Science*, the editors ask UFO witnesses what they think the objects are. About 70% believe they are intelligently controlled devices, either man-made or extraterrestrial. (“[What Were the Flying Saucers? Eyewitnesses Believe They Saw Secret Aircraft](#),” *Popular Science* 159 (August 1951): 74–75, 228)
- 1951**, August 3 — 11:00 p.m. [Walter N. Webb](#), nature counselor at Camp Big Silver on the shore of Silver Lake in southern Michigan, 3 miles south of Pinckney, is showing two boy campers some celestial objects through a reflecting telescope. He sees a glowing, yellowish light moving westward at a low elevation in an undulating path over hills to the south. It disappears behind the hills before he can train his telescope on it. (UFOEv, [p. 50](#))
- 1951**, August 11 — Former USAF pilot [Robert O. Dodge](#) watches three disc-like UFOs in formation over Portland, Oregon. (UFOEv, [p. 34](#))
- 1951**, August 15 — US test pilot [Bill Bridgeman](#) attains an unofficial altitude of 79,494 feet in a Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket, an air-launched rocket plane powered by the XLR-11 liquid fuel rocket engine. (Wikipedia, “[Bill Bridgeman](#)”)
- 1951**, Mid-August — 10:30 a.m. Mining engineer Alfred Roos hears a swishing sound at his ranch 10 miles east of Silver City, New Mexico. He looks up and sees two lens-shaped UFOs swooping at tremendous speed then hovering. They go back and forth between his location and Fort Bayard, two miles to the northwest, where they finally disappear into a cloud. (UFOEv, [p. 56](#))
- 1951**, Mid-August — Midnight. A witness is on his porch in Waco, Texas, looking at the sky when he sees a V-shaped formation of 10–20 round, luminous objects silently pass over from west to east in a matter of seconds. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 41–42)
- 1951**, August 17 — 11:30 a.m. [Otto Bock](#), a German scientist with a specialty in optics who came to the US as part of Operation Paperclip, observes a high-altitude, metallic object through his 20x telescope for about 4 hours. He says the sighting is confirmed by four other persons. (Project 1947, “[Letter to Donald Keyhoe: Otto Bock, August 22, 1951](#)”)
- 1951**, August 20 — The CIA, approved by DCI [Roscoe Hillenkoetter](#), starts Project Artichoke to study hypnosis, morphine addiction, and LSD to produce amnesia and other vulnerable states in subjects, as a way of exploring interrogation methods. (Wikipedia, “[Project Artichoke](#)”; [Central Intelligence Agency], “[Project Artichoke](#),” declassified(?), January 31, 1975)
- 1951**, August 23 — [Frank Wisner](#) succeeds [Allen Dulles](#) as CIA Deputy Director of Plans in the Office of Policy Coordination, with [Richard Helms](#) as chief of operations. In this position, Wisner is instrumental in supporting

pro-American forces that toppled [Mohammed Mossadegh](#) in Iran in 1953 and [Jacobo Árbenz](#) in Guatemala in 1954. Sometime this year he visits [Richard M. Bissell Jr.](#) and asks him to finance OPC operations by diverting some Marshall Plan funds, presumably for covert black ops. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 45–46)

1951, August 25 — Evening. Joseph Bryant and his wife, at 407 West Powell Street, Brownfield, Texas, see a loose group of glowing lights heading north to south. They are a “little bigger than a star.” A few minutes later a second group flies over, and then a third, which circles around the house. This time Bryant can hear them, and he identifies them as plovers. When he hears about the Lubbock lights, he is sure the professors are seeing plovers. (Clark III 691–692)

1951, August 25 — 9:10 p.m. Three Texas Technical College professors (geologist [Wilbur Irvin Robinson](#), chemist [Aaron Gustav “Gus” Oberg](#), and petroleum engineer [William Lyon Ducker Jr.](#)) are sitting in a backyard at Lubbock, Texas, when they see a fast-moving, semicircular formation of 20–30 lights, as intense as bright stars but larger. Blue-green and silent, they move across the sky in seconds. A second group appears and repeats the performance. Others, including Carl Hemminger at Texas Tech, report seeing the same objects the same night. [J. Russell Heitman](#), head of the Texas Tech journalism department, says he had seen an identical group of lights several days earlier. The professors watch 10–12 such flights through November 1 (including on September 1 and 5), sometimes accompanied by colleagues [Ellis Richard Heineman](#), E. F. George, [Grayson Mead](#), and John Brand. Some researchers, including [Ruppelt](#) and [Hynek](#), think the witnesses are seeing migrating plovers attracted to Lubbock’s new vapor street lights, although Ruppelt changes his mind later. (Wikipedia, “[Lubbock Lights](#)”; NICAP, “[The Lubbock Lights / Carl Hart Photos](#)”; “[Three Professors Witness ‘Strings of Beads’ in Sky](#),” *Anniston (Ala.) Star*, August 27, 1951, p. 1; “[Strange Lights in Skies Plagueing Night Observers in Lubbock Section](#),” *Corsicana (Tex.) Daily Sun*, September 1, 1951, p. 1; Ruppelt, pp. 96–99; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, pp. 45–55; Swords 130–132; “[Lubbock 1951](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, November 15, 1999; Clark III 688–690; Kevin D. Randle, “[Coast-to-Coast AM: The Lubbock Lights](#),” A Different Perspective, February 23, 2023)

1951, August 25 — Around 9:58 p.m. Hugh Young, a security guard at Sandia Base, and his wife Emily are in their trailer home in east Albuquerque, New Mexico, and watch a large object like a flying wing, but 1.5 times as large as a B-36, flying at 80 feet at about 300 mph. It has glowing white lights on the trailing edge of the wing and is completely silent. (NICAP, “[Flying Wing over Sandia Base](#)”; Ruppelt, pp. 96–98; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, pp. 46–47; Clark III 691; [Sparks](#), p. 108; Kevin D. Randle, “[Coast-to-Coast AM: The Lubbock Lights](#),” A Different Perspective, February 23, 2023)

1951, August 26 — 8:28 p.m. A radar station at Larson AFB [now Grant County International Airport], near Moses Lake, Washington, tracks a UFO at 13,000 feet going 950 mph on two different sets, AN/CPS-1 and AN/CPS-4, for about 6 minutes. An F-86 is scrambled, but radar contact is lost before the plane gets off the ground. An electronic signal is received from this object that appears to be a mode-one IFF response from an AN/APX-6 transponder. This response is received twice at approximately 115 miles and 80 miles from the radar station. (NICAP, “[Two Radars Track 900 MPH Target](#)”; Ruppelt, pp. 96–98, 108–109; [Sparks](#), p. 108; Clark III 692)

1951, August 27 — At a conference at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, on the green fireballs, Project Twinkle’s Maj. [Edward A. Doty](#) expresses skepticism about the project. Meteorologist [Bernard “Duke” Gildenberg](#) tells those assembled that he has never seen anything out of the ordinary, nor has astronomer [Clyde Tombaugh](#). The commanding officer at Holloman wants to cease allocating funds for the project. (Clark III 545)

1951, August 28 — Project Twinkle personnel talk to [LaPaz](#) about the green fireballs and he insists they are not meteors. (Clark III 545)

1951, August 30 — 11:30 p.m. A Texas Tech freshman named Carl Hart Jr. sees the same formation of 18–20 lights over Lubbock, Texas, and takes five photos. He gets the roll of film developed the next day and takes it to the *Lubbock Morning Avalanche*, which puts them out on the Associated Press wire. ATIC examines the photos and notes that the “two rows of spots behaved differently. One row only shows slight variation from a precise V formation throughout, whereas the other now appears to pass from above the first row, through it to a position below.” Biologist [James Cecil Cross](#) looks at the Lubbock photos under a microscope and rules out the bird explanation. While investigating the Lubbock Lights, [Ruppelt](#) also learns that several people in and around Lubbock claim to have seen a “flying wing” moving over the city. Among the witnesses is the wife of Dr. [Ducker](#), who reports that in August 1951 she observed a “huge, soundless flying wing” pass over her house. Ruppelt knows that USAF does possess a “flying wing” jet bomber, and he feels that at least some of the sightings are caused by the bomber, although he cannot explain why, according to the witnesses, the wing makes no sound as it flies overhead. Ruppelt says that in addition to Project Grudge investigators, another group of people who, “because of their association with the government, had complete access to our files” (scientists convinced of the ETH) were also looking into the Lubbock cases. In March 1955, Ducker sends Ruppelt a telegram indicating that he has figured

out that the lights are a “natural phenomenon” and requests no further publicity in his book. However, Texas Tech mathematics professor [Ralph Sylvester Underwood](#) has also observed three flights and estimates the objects are at 2,000 feet altitude and flying at 700 mph—much too fast for birds. (NICAP, “[The Lubbock Lights / Carl Hart Photos](#)”; “Flying ‘Whatsits’ Seen Again,” *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, September 1, 1951, pp. 1, 10; “Opinion Divided over Reports of Objects Seen in Lubbock Skies,” *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, September 2, 1951, pp. 1, 14; “‘Flying Whatsits’ Stir Dispute in Area,” *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, September 6, 1951, pp. 1, 10; “‘Flying Whatsits’ Seen as Possible ‘Space Visitors,’” *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, April 4, 1952; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” *Life*, April 7, 1952, pp. 80–96; “‘Lubbock Lights’ a Mirage?” *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, June 2, 1952; “‘Lubbock Lights’ Again News,” *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, June 11, 1952; Donald H. Menzel, *Flying Saucers*, Harvard University, 1953, pp. 34–38; “‘Lubbock Lights’ Puzzle Solved, Chief Air Force Prober Claims,” *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, January 19, 1956; Ruppelt, [pp. 96–110](#); UFOEv [88, 92](#); “[After 20 Years: ‘Lubbock Lights’ Mystery Unsolved](#),” *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, August 25, 1971, pp. 1, 10; “[Casebook: Investigator Researches Significant 1951 Case near Lubbock, Tex.](#),” *UFO Investigator*, May 1972, pp. 3–4; Kevin D. Randle, “The Lubbock Lights,” *Official UFO*, November 1976, pp. 28–29, 42–44; Kevin D. Randle, “[Carl Hart and the Lubbock Lights](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1993): 17–19; Michael D. Swords, “[Classic Cases from the APRO Files](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 22; “[Lubbock 1951](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, November 15, 1999; Donald R. Burleson, “[New Findings on the Lubbock Lights](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 3–5; “[Lubbock Lights and Roswell](#),” Texas UFO Museum and Research Library, December 7, 2005; Kevin D. Randle, “[Carl Hart and the Lubbock Lights](#),” A Different Perspective, August 24, 2006; Michael D. Swords, “[Can We Learn Anything from UFO Photos? Part Five](#),” The Big Study, July 15, 2012; Swords 131–132; Clark III 690–694; Kevin D. Randle, “[History’s Project Blue Book: The Lubbock Lights](#),” A Different Perspective, January 25, 2019; Kevin D. Randle, *The Best of Project Blue Book*, Flying Disk Press, 2020, chapter 5; Kevin D. Randle, “[Carl Hart, Jr., the Lubbock Lights Photographer has Died](#),” A Different Perspective, April 1, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, “[Coast-to-Coast AM: The Lubbock Lights](#),” A Different Perspective, February 23, 2023)

1951, August 31 — 12:45 p.m. Mrs. Tom Tilson and one or two other women are driving north on Hwy 70 near Matador, Texas, when they see to the west a pear-shaped object the length of a B-29 fuselage (100 feet). It is aluminum or silver-yellow with a port or some type of aperture on the side, and it moves with its smaller end forward, drifting slowly at about 150 feet altitude. It then shoots up in a circular fashion and out of sight after a few seconds. (Clark III 692; [Sparks](#), p. 109)

1951, September — 9:00 p.m. Louise McDougall is sitting on the lawn outside her trailer park in Bloomington, California, when she has the feeling someone is watching her. She looks up and sees a flying saucer hovering some 20 feet up. It is lenticular, perhaps 100 feet in diameter, and dull silver metallic in appearance. There are tall, rectangular windows in its lower half, in which can be seen against an amber glow four men, in one-piece “jump suits,” with shoulder-length hair. She turns a spotlight on the saucer, whereupon it shoots off silently at incredible speed. About 15 minutes later it returns, hovering in the same spot, the figures still visible at the windows. After 6 or 7 minutes, it takes off again to the southeast. McDougall’s husband and three other people also see it. (Clark III 267; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), September 15, 2006)

1951, September 6 — The Air Force issues JANAP 146(B), “Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Aircraft.” All UFO reports are to go to the Air Defense Command in the Pentagon (which presumably will send them to AMC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio), the Secretary of Defense, and to the nearest US military command. (Swords 123)

1951, September 10 — 11:10 a.m. At the Army Signal Corps radar center at Fort Monmouth [now closed], New Jersey, a student operator demonstrating radar functions to a group of visiting officers picks up a target that is moving too fast to be tracked automatically. The object seems to be following the coastline. He follows it off and on for 3 minutes, after which it disappears to the northeast, flying at 700 mph. At 11:35 a.m., a T-33 jet trainer piloted by Lt. [Wilbert S. Rogers](#), with Maj. Edward Ballard as passenger, spots a “silver-colored object about the size of a fighter plane” flying at 900 mph at 5,000–8,000 feet over Sandy Hook. It makes a 90° banking turn and disappears out to sea. At 3:15 p.m., a second radar tracking occurs, but this slower object turns out to be a balloon. (NICAP, “[The Fort Monmouth Radar Incident](#)”; NICAP, “[The Sandy Hook / T-33 Incident](#)”; Edward J. Ruppelt, “[What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers](#),” *True*, May 1954, p. 26; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 66; Clark III 513–515; [Sparks](#), p. 110; Thomas Tulien, ed., [Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop](#), Sign Historical Group, November 2001, pp. 45–46; Swords 124–127; Good Above, [pp. 269, 487](#); Covert 40–41)

- 1951**, September 11 — 10:50 a.m. Two radars at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, pick up another object moving at 1,000 mph. At 1:30 p.m., another radar target appears, apparently hovering. Overcast conditions prevent a visual sighting. The radar then shows it ascending at a rapid rate then streaking to the south at 700+ mph. (Clark III 514)
- 1951**, September 12 — Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, officials send ATIC and USAF headquarters a three-foot-long teletype describing the sightings. ATIC's new chief, Col. [Frank Dunn](#), gets a wire from Gen. [Charles Cabell](#), who wants somebody from ATIC to find out what's going on. Dunn sends Lt. [Jerry Cummings](#) (head of Project Grudge) and Lt. Col. [Nathan R. Rosengarten](#) (chief of the ATIC Aircraft Performance Section). (Clark III 514–515; Ruppelt, [pp. 93–94](#); Swords 126; Good Need, [pp. 164–165](#))
- 1951**, September 13 — 9:30 p.m. T/Sgt Warner B. Maupin and Cpl. John W. Green track two objects on radar at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, on a collision course. One of them tries to warn the supposed aircraft of an imminent collision and is surprised to watch one avoid danger by moving to the right. A third unidentified target joins the other two. The incident lasts more than 15 minutes. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, p. 53; [Sparks](#), p. 110; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 261)
- 1951**, September 18 — *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, directed by [Robert Wise](#) and starring [Michael Rennie](#) and [Patricia Neal](#), premieres in New York City. The ultimate flying saucer science-fiction movie, the plot revolves around an alien who lands in a UFO in Washington, D.C., and demands that atomic testing cease. [Lock Martin](#), who is more than 7 feet tall, plays the robot Gort. (Internet Movie Database, "[The Day the Earth Stood Still](#)")
- 1951**, September 18 — 10:20 p.m. USAF B-36 radar operator Maj. Paul E. Gerhart and navigator Maj. Charles J. Cheever are flying northwest at 239 mph over the Hudson Strait in northern Canada when they pick up radar interference coming from an unidentified aircraft moving away from them to the east about 32 miles away. The anti-jamming device on their radar is turned on at 11:20 p.m. but does not affect the jamming on the radar scope. At 11:35 p.m., a UFO is seen visually on the right side of the B-36, which is flying at 18,000 feet over southwest Baffin Island, Nunavut. The object has all-white "unconventional running lights" and two white flashing tail lights, travels about 35 mph faster than the B-36, crosses the front from right to left heading toward the north-northwest, and is in view about 20 minutes. While the object is still visible at 11:50 p.m., the B-36 autopilot and APQ-24 radar set malfunction, the latter coming back a few minutes later when the object disappears. ECM operators S/Sgt. Donald E. Jenkins and S/Sgt. Doty T. Larimore on two B-36 flights over Labrador on September 19 detect carrier wave signals at several frequencies and some radar-like pulses at other frequencies, all below 1,000 MHz. (NICAP, "[B-36 Radar Picks up Object Seen Visually](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 111)
- 1951**, September 23 — At March AFB [now March Air Reserve Base] near Long Beach, California, two F-86 jets try to intercept an object in controlled orbit at around 55,000 feet, but they run low on fuel and have to land. Two more F-86s are scrambled, with the same results. Three of the pilots report seeing a "silver airplane with highly swept-back wings," although one of them says the UFO looks round and silver. (NICAP, "[Swept Wing Aircraft at above 50,000' / Tracked by GCI](#)"; Ruppelt, [pp. 94–95](#), [111](#), [113–114](#); [Sparks](#), p. 112)
- 1951**, Fall — Navy pilot Lt. Cmdr. [Marvin C. Davies](#) is flying a plane off a CVE class aircraft carrier near Korea when the crew tracks a radar target 3 miles astern. The object has apparently been circling the fleet at an altitude of 5,000 feet and speeds of "slow" to 1,000 mph. The UFO has been tracked on 14 ship radars for 7 hours. It stops circling and takes up a position behind the plane's wingman, remaining there 5 minutes, then departing at high speed. (Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, Korea](#)"; UFOEv, [p. 84](#))
- 1951**, October — [Per Sundh](#) is appointed head of a unit at the Swedish Defence Staff responsible for investigating UFO reports. He remains in charge until October 1954. During that time the department handles 6,000 reports, of which 400 are investigated and 40 remain unexplained. Their astronomical consultant is [Bertil Lindblad](#), an astronomer at Stockholm University, Sweden. Sundh says that his personnel always took even the weirdest observations seriously. (Swords 364–365)
- 1951**, October 1 — 10:00 a.m. At the Pentagon, [Cummings](#) and [Rosengarten](#) brief [Cabell](#), his staff, and a representative from Republic Aircraft Corporation who "supposedly represented a group of top US industrialists and scientists." The two-hour meeting is recorded with a wire recorder. [Edward Ruppelt](#), later head of Project Blue Book, hears the recording before it is ordered destroyed and keeps detailed notes about the meeting. Cabell supposedly learns that Grudge is effectively dead and demands to know "who in hell has been giving me these reports that every decent flying saucer report is being investigated?" Cabell says there is a great deal of doubt in his mind as to what the saucers are and that the Grudge report is the "most poorly written, inconclusive piece of unscientific tripe" he had ever read. He orders Grudge to reactivate itself, and Cummings and Rosengarten go back to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio to do just that. (Ruppelt, [pp. 93–94](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: Volume 8, 1951*, The Author, 1983, pp. 68–70; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental*

[Notes](#), The Author, 2000, pp. 44–46; Swords 127–128, 501–502; Michael Hall, “[When UFOs Were Serious Business: Then and Today](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 4; Clark III 514–515; Graff 70; Powell, *Scientist*, 112)

- 1951**, October 4 — 2:00 a.m. Two French aviation officers are camped out several miles northwest of the village of Tessalit, Mali. A luminous dark-yellow disc approaches slowly from the east, loses altitude, makes a 90° turn, accelerates, and ascends at high speed. (Patrick Gross, “[Tessalit, Mali, October 4, 1951](#)”)
- 1951**, October 9 — 1:42 p.m. A fast-moving, silvery UFO shaped like a “flattened tennis ball” is sighted by a Civil Aviation Administration Chief Aircraft Communicator Roy Messmore at Hulman Municipal Airport [now Terre Haute Regional Airport], five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. At 1:45 p.m., private pilot Charles Warren, flying at 5,000 feet east of Paris, Illinois, sees a silvery “flattened orange” object that appears stationary to his left rear. It picks up speed and heads to the northeast. Project Blue Book plots the sighting and concludes that both cases involve the same object. (NICAP, “[October 9, 1951, Hulman CAA / Pilot Case](#)”; NICAP, “[Pilot Radios Terre Haute: Observes ‘Flattened Orange’](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 114; Swords 129)
- 1951**, October 10 — 10:10 a.m. Engineer and pilot [Joseph J. Kaliszewski](#), flying with copilot Jack Donaghue on a Skyhook balloon tracking mission for General Mills 10 miles east of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, notices a strange object crossing the sky from west to east, much higher and behind the balloon, which is at 20,000 feet. The UFO has a peculiar glow. It comes into sight at a slight dive, then levels off and slows down, makes a sharp left turn, climbs at an angle of 50–60° into the southeast with terrific acceleration, and disappears. It is seen for about 2 minutes. (NICAP, “[The Kaliszewski Sightings](#)”; UFOEv, [p. 56](#); [Sparks](#), p. 114)
- 1951**, October 11 — 6:30 a.m. [Joseph J. Kaliszewski](#) and Dick Reilly are flying at 10,000 feet north of Minneapolis, Minnesota, observing a balloon when they see a brightly glowing object to the southeast of the University of Minnesota airport moving at high speed from west to east. It has a halo around it with a dark under surface. It crosses rapidly, slows down, and starts to climb slowly in lazy circles. Observers Doug Smith and Dick Dorion at the General Mills tracking station at the University of Minnesota watch the object through a theodolite. They watch another object 2 hours later. (NICAP, “[The Kaliszewski Sightings](#)”; UFOEv, [p. 56](#); [Sparks](#), p. 114; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 44–45)
- 1951**, October 16 — 11:01 a.m. Air Force pilots flying three F-94 fighters out of McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] and naval ground personnel see a round, gray object flying soundlessly at high speed and high altitude west of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Oak Harbor, Washington. Photos taken from the F-94s show the object. After 50 minutes, the aircraft abandon the chase. The Air Force attributes the sighting to Venus. (NICAP, “[3 F-94’s Encounter Round Grey Object / Photos Taken](#)”; Clark III 391–392; [Sparks](#), p. 115)
- 1951**, October 20 — [Frank B. Jewett Jr.](#), director of the Aeronautical Research Laboratory at General Mills Corporation, writes to Assistant Secretary of the Air Force [Eugene M. Zuckert](#) about UFOs seen by his personnel. ((Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1951, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2000, p. 51)
- 1951**, October 22 or 27 — Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) officially takes over a revitalized Project Grudge, relieving Lt. [Jerry W. Cummings](#), with 2d Lt. Henry Metscher staying on as an assistant. The two reorganize all the files from Projects Sign and Grudge, improving their retrievability. Ruppelt learns from some scientists and engineers who visit ATIC frequently that “UFOs were being freely and seriously discussed in scientific circles.” (Edward J. Ruppelt, “[What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers](#),” *True*, May 1954, p. 30; Ruppelt, [pp. 114–115](#); [Sparks](#), p. 14; Michael D. Hall and Wendy Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers, 1952*, Rose Press, 2000, p. 26; Clark III 933)
- 1951**, October 22 — The Directorate of Intelligence provides answers to the problem that Col. [Harold Watson](#) identified with the CIRVIS reporting system. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, “Flying Saucers: Behind the Cold War Veil of Military Intelligence (Part II),” *European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies* 3, no. 1 (March 2002): 32)
- 1951**, October 30 — 6:40 a.m. A group of servicemen are preparing to observe the Buster Charlie atomic test at Area 7 of the Nevada Test Site. Just before the blast, they see at an altitude of a few thousand feet a formation of 18 silvery, rotating, disc-shaped objects, each with a dome, arranged in six groups of three stretched out in a horizontal row. They fly low over the test site, hover for 30–60 seconds, and depart at an angle, disappearing in seconds. (Nukes 68–71)
- 1951**, November — Maj. Gen. [Cabell](#) is promoted to staff director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is replaced as director of Air Force Intelligence by Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#). (Clark III 936)

- 1951**, November 1 — The Air Force issues a *Ground Observer's Guide* for use by members of the Ground Observer Corps, a WWII Civil Defense program reinstated during the Korean War to protect against enemy attack. (US Department of the Air Force, [Ground Observer's Guide](#), AF Manual 50-12, November 1, 1951)
- 1951**, November 2 — 7:15 a.m. The crew of an American Airlines DC-4 is flying east of Abilene, Texas, at 4,500 feet. They see a bright-green, projectile-shaped object, about the same size as their airliner, streak past at about same altitude and same easterly heading. The object leaves a trail then explodes, shooting red balls of fire in all directions. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 92–93; Nukes 74–75; [Sparks](#), p. 115)
- 1951**, November 3 — 9:00 p.m. A green fireball is sighted in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. Capitol Airways pilot H. R. DeHoney is flying at 11,000 feet about 20 miles south of Flagstaff, Arizona, and watches the object speed by as a bright blue-green ball that leaves a streak of brilliant red fire. (“[Mystery Meteor Startles NM, Arizona](#),” *Santa Fe New Mexican*, November 4, 1951, p. 13; H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” *Life*, April 7, 1952, pp. 80, 92–94; Nukes 75–76)
- 1951**, November 6 — [Ruppelt](#) flies to Reese AFB [now Reese Technology Center] in Lubbock, Texas, to begin his investigation of the Lubbock lights, accompanied by OSI agent [Howard Bossert](#). (Clark III 691)
- 1951**, November 7 — Evening. A steamship captain and crew watch an elongated orange object with six glowing “portholes” speed toward Ontario over Lake Superior. (UFOEv, [p. 146](#))
- 1951**, November 8 — [Ruppelt](#) and an officer from Reese AFB visit Brownfield, Texas, to investigate UFO sightings there. (Clark III 691)
- 1951**, November 9 — Since October 30, seven green fireballs of exceptional size have been seen over a seven-state area in the American Southwest. [Lincoln LaPaz](#), director of the University of New Mexico Institute of Meteoritics, says that frequency is exceptional: “In fact, there has never been a rate of meteorite fall in history that has been one fifth as high as the present fall. If that rate should continue, I would suspect the phenomenon is not natural.” The fireballs travel in straight lines and are completely silent. (“[Southwest's 7 Fireballs in 11 Days Called 'Without Parallel in History.'](#)” *New York Times*, November 10, 1951, pp. 1, 14; Nukes 76–79)
- 1951**, November 11 — 8:45 p.m. Thomas Bartis and his older brother [Francis](#) are driving through New Haven, Connecticut, when they see a huge yellow fireball with a greenish-blue tail streak through the sky. Probable bolide. (“[Second Fireball Is Sighted](#),” *Meriden (Conn.) Record-Journal*, November 12, 1951, pp. 1, 10)
- 1951**, November 20 — 6:42 p.m. A vivid green fireball is reported from Dodge City, Kansas, and Lubbock and Big Springs, Texas. Two Air Force pilots landing at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a Trans World Airlines pilot also see the fireball. (Nukes 78)
- 1951**, November 24 — 3:53 p.m. Air Force Capt. William Fairbrother is flying a P-51 over Mankato, Minnesota, at 25,000 feet when he sees a white object shaped like a flying wing. It hovers at first, then it passes 100 feet above and to the left of his aircraft. He immediately turns to follow but loses sight of it. ([Sparks](#), p. 115)
- 1951**, November 24 — 6:24 p.m. A Capital Airlines Flight 94 pilot and several control tower and other ground observers in four different locations in Michigan (Grand Rapids, Coopersville, Battle Creek, and Selfridge AFB near Mount Clemens) see a large round object flying west at 500–1,000 feet at about 1,000 mph. (NICAP, “[Many Observers at Different Locations Observe Fast Object](#)”; NICAP, “[Capital Airlines Pilot Confirms Michigan Sightings](#)”; NICAP, “[Radar Rumor / Radar Ceases Operation & Antenna Moves](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 116; Swords 130)
- 1951**, November 27 — Geophysicist Louis Elterman releases the final report on Project Twinkle. Basically, it admits that the low frequency of occurrence of the fireballs does not justify the \$50,000 a year required for a useful monitoring facility. It speculates that “the earth may be passing through a region in space of high meteoric population. Also, the sun-spot maxima in 1948 perhaps in some way may be a contributing factor.” (Louis Elterman, [Project Twinkle Final Report](#), Atmospheric Physics Laboratory, November 27, 1951; Clark III 544–545)
- 1951**, November 30 — Project Grudge issues its first Status Report, classified “confidential.” (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 1–19)
- 1951**, December — [Ed J. Sullivan](#), a technical writer for North American Aviation, holds a meeting of engineers, scientists, and journalists in Los Angeles, California, who have been following the UFO phenomenon. They form Civilian Saucer Investigation to collect reports and forward them on to ATIC. Its most prominent member is [Walther Riedel](#), German rocket scientist retrieved by Project Paperclip. (Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 139–140; Clark III 241–242)
- 1951**, December 5 — Early morning. Swedish [Prince Carl Bernadotte](#) and a friend, [Berl Gutenberg](#), are driving near Stockholm, Sweden, when they see a bright flash of light illuminate the sky. Bernadotte stops the car and opens the door to listen for sounds. They go immediately to the Stockholm Criminal Investigation Department, who

reports the incident to the Security Police and the military UFO desk. The report is instantly classified, even though the object is probably a meteor. (Swords 366)

1951, December 11 — Project Twinkle closes down. (Clark III 545)

1951, December 12 — 3:50 p.m. USAF Capt. [Donald “Deke” Slayton](#), flying a P-51 fighter at 10,000 feet, sees a whitish or gray object off his left wing about one mile away and 1,000 feet below his flight level about five miles southeast of Hastings, Minnesota. It looks like a kite at first, then like a weather balloon, then two rapidly revolving discs that overlap with centers about 1 foot apart. He attempts an intercept, but the UFO increases speed and disappears. (NICAP, “[“Deke” Slayton / P-51 Encounter](#)”; Donald K. Slayton and Michael Cassutt, *Deke! An Autobiography*, Macmillan, 1994, pp. 49–51; [Sparks](#), p. 117)

1951, December 19 — [Ruppelt](#) travels to the Pentagon with ATIC Chief Col. [Frank Dunn](#). They visit with Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#), who has replaced [Cabell](#) as USAF director of intelligence and who seems “familiar with the general aspects of the problem.” Samford’s aide, Gen. [William M. Garland](#), tells them that ATIC has the sole authorization to carry out UFO investigations for the entire US military (not exactly true), and they discuss security problems posed by UFOs at sensitive installations. Ruppelt reveals that his preliminary analysis of UFO sighting patterns has uncovered a disturbing correlation of unexplained sightings around nuclear weapons facilities and highly classified nuclear stockpile sites and some SAC strategic air bases. Gen. Samford orders ATIC to conduct an exhaustive statistical study to verify Ruppelt’s findings, using the newly established ATIC Project WHITE STORK contract with the research think tank Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio (which eventually spends \$100,000 on the study, Subproject PPS-100, confirming Ruppelt’s pattern). (Ruppelt, [pp. 115–116](#))

1951, December 26–27 — [Ruppelt](#) and Col. [Sanford H. Kirkland Jr.](#) of ATIC meet with members of the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, and ask them to help out with the USAF evaluation of UFO reports: first, a study of witness perception and recall, then a statistical study of UFO reports. (“[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#),” CUFON; Clark III 929)

1951, December 28 — Project Grudge issues a Special Report #1 and its Status Report #2 three days later. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 21–53)

1952

1952 — The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is established in Livermore, California, as an offshoot of the UC Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley. It is intended to spur innovation and provide competition to the nuclear weapon design laboratory at Los Alamos, New Mexico. [Edward Teller](#) and [Ernest Lawrence](#), director of the Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley, are regarded as its cofounders. Los Alamos and Livermore soon establish a rivalry, fighting for weapons contracts and feasibility-study awards. (Wikipedia, “[Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#)”)

1952 — [José Manuel Rodríguez Delgado](#), a Spanish physiologist at Yale University, coauthors what he claims is the first peer-reviewed paper describing deep-brain stimulation of humans. Over the next two decades, he implants electrodes in some 25 subjects. Most are schizophrenics and epileptics at the now-defunct State Hospital for Mental Diseases in Howard, Rhode Island, where Delgado’s occasional collaborator [Hannibal Hamlin](#) is a staff psychiatrist. Delgado is reticent discussing his experiments on humans. He is more enthusiastic recalling research on monkeys, chimpanzees, and gibbons, which he kept both at Yale and in open-air compounds in the Bahamas and New Mexico. He explores the effects of stimulation not only on individuals but also on groups. In one demonstration, he implants a stimoceiver (a tiny electrode able to receive and transmit signals over FM radio waves) in a macaque who terrorizes his cage-mates. Delgado installs a lever in the cage that, when pressed, activates the stimoceiver in the bully and pacify him. A female in the cage soon figures out the lever’s significance and yanks it often and with gusto. (John Horgan, “[Tribute to Jose Delgado, Legendary and Slightly Scary Pioneer of Mind Control](#),” Cross-Check, *Scientific American* blog, September 25, 2017)

1952 — World War II air intelligence records are transferred from the Pentagon to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama. This shift is probably why Blue Book’s Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) later cannot find anything about foo-fighters during his trips to USAF intelligence to locate reports not forwarded to ATIC. (Jan Aldrich)

1952 — Aircraft designer [John Carver Meadows Frost](#) establishes a Special Projects Group at Avro Canada in Toronto to develop a vertical takeoff and landing engine with a circular shape. Frost believes that the Coanda effect acting as a ground cushion can support a high-performance VTOL aircraft. His team produces a wooden mock-up of a “spade-shaped” fighter as Project Y. However, the Canadian government abandons the effort after two years. (Wikipedia, “[John Carver Meadows Frost](#)”)

- 1952** — The Argentine Navy establishes a temporary inquiry commission dedicated to the UFO phenomenon at its Puerto Belgrano Naval Base in Punta Alta, Argentina. (Milton Hourcade, “[Argentina: UFO Declassification](#),” U.A.P.S.G.–G.E.F.A.I., July 29, 2020)
- 1952?** — An anonymous occupation soldier in Austria meets a diving suit-clad being who paralyzes him, pulls him inside a UFO, and flies him to an otherworldly place he takes to be Mars. He sees other humans who do not acknowledge him. Then he is returned to his base. (*Prince George (B.C.) Citizen*, December 11, 1957; Clark 2)
- 1952** — 6:30 a.m. A carpool of people on their way to work at United Airlines in San Mateo, California, observe five smaller objects merging with a much larger, diamond-shaped object. The big one is about 150–200 feet long, charcoal or gunmetal in color, and is hovering 50–75 feet above some salt flats. The UFOs are directly in front of them to the east, about 1,500–1,800 feet away. One of the witnesses, airplane mechanic [Leonard L. Musel](#), said the smaller objects entered the large object through a “transparent tail or sleeve.” After they were aboard, the bigger UFO turned edgewise and zoomed off at a fantastic speed. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 7)
- 1952** — Night. USAF Pvt. Sinclair Taylor is on guard duty at Camp Okubo in Uji, on the southern outskirts of Kyoto, Japan, when he hears flapping sounds and sees what seems to be an enormous bird. As it gets closer to him, Taylor sees that it is a winged man well over 7 feet tall with a wingspread of 7 feet. Taylor fires at it repeatedly with his rifle and thinks he hit it, but he can’t find the body. (Clark III 778)
- 1952**, January — [Jim and Coral Lorenzen](#) found the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Soon, a man claiming to have an intelligence background becomes an active supporter and tries to lead the Lorenzens into “metaphysical areas of research.” Coral Lorenzen rebuffs these attempts. She discovers what seem to be the impressions of an intelligence report about her on one of his letters. In the summer, two suspicious men posing as building contractors seem to be lurking around her home as well as the homes of the APRO treasurer and secretary the same day. (Lorenzen, *Encounters with UFO Occupants*, Berkley Medallion, 1976, pp. 1–2, 248–251; Clark III 49)
- 1952**, January — Some 74% of the CIA’s money goes toward covert operations. It has already infiltrated many US labor, business, church, university, student, and cultural groups, usually channeling the money through foundations. This year it begins HTLINGUAL, a secret project to intercept mail destined for the USSR and China. It also targets domestic peace and civil rights activists. It lasts until 1973, photographing 2 million envelopes and opening 215,000 letters. (Frank J. Donner, *The Age of Surveillance: The Aims and Methods of America’s Political Intelligence System*, Knopf, 1980; Jim Keith, *Mind Control, World Control: The Encyclopedia of Mond Control*, Adventures Unlimited, 1997; David Wise, *The American Police State: The Government Against the People*, Random House, 1976)
- 1952**, January 1 — 10:54 p.m. Warrant Officer W. J. Yeo (a master telecomm specialist) and Sgt. [D. V. Crandell](#) watch a silent, reddish-orange object circle and maneuver for nearly 9 minutes at RCAF Station North Bay, Ontario. It appears to be very large and travels at supersonic speed. (“[‘Saucers’ Seen Here: 2 Sighted at RCAF Station](#),” *North Bay (Ont.) Nugget*, April 15, 1952, pp. 1–2; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, p. 92)
- 1952**, January 3 — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#), Assistant for the Production of Intelligence, writes a secret memorandum for General [John A. Samford](#) that lays down the investigative shortcomings of Project Grudge and suggests policies and agendas for the immediate future. Garland mentions that the aircraft inventions and models by the [Horten brothers](#) had fallen into the hands of the Soviets at the end of World War II. (Brig. Gen. William M. Garland, “[\(Secret\) Contemplated Action to Determine the Nature and Origin of the Phenomena Connected with the Reports of Unusual Flying Objects](#),” January 3, 1952; Swords 141–143; Kremlin 34)
- 1952**, January 6 — Contactee [George Van Tassel](#), living at Giant Rock in the Mojave Desert near Landers, California, receives the first of many psychic messages from extraterrestrial starship commanders. This one is from “Lutbunn, senior in command of first wave, planet patrol, realms of Schare. We have your contact aboard 80,000 feet above this place.” Other messages soon come from Elcar, Clota, Totalmon, Latamarx, Noma, Leektow, Luu, Oblow, Kerrull, Locktopar, Molca, Clatu, Hulda, Lata, Singba, and others. One of his contacts, Ashtar, will become a metaphysical superstar, and in the years ahead many contactees will channel communications from him. These aliens seek to raise humanity’s “vibrationary attunement” so that earthlings will not threaten the wise and peace-loving space people. Van Tassel reprints many of these messages in a misleadingly titled book, *I Rode a Flying Saucer!* (George W. Van Tassel, *I Rode a Flying Saucer! The Mysteries of the Flying Saucers Revealed*, New Age, 1952; Clark III 1218–1219); Kim Stringfellow, “[Giant Rock, Space People, and the Integraton](#),” KCET-TV, Los Angeles, May 15, 2018)

- 1952**, January 8 — Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, agrees to help out the Air Force with analyzing UFO reports. (Clark III 929)
- 1952**, January 20 — 7:20 p.m. Two master sergeants, both intelligence specialists, are walking down a street at Fairchild AFB near Spokane, Washington, when they notice a large, bluish-white, spherical object approaching from the east. It passes north of their position, traveling horizontally and silently, and disappears in the west. They notice it has a long blue tail. It travels underneath low cloud cover at 4,700 feet at 1,400 mph. (NICAP, "[Large Sphere with Blue Tail at 500'](#)"; Ruppelt, [p. 12](#); [Sparks](#), p. 118)
- 1952**, January 21 — 9:50 a.m. A Navy pilot lieutenant commander in a TBM Avenger chases a white, dome-shaped object over Mitchel AFB [now closed] on Long Island, New York. It accelerates rapidly, makes a 180° turn, and heads out to sea. He estimates it is traveling at least at 300 mph. It looks like a parachute canopy and has a dark undersurface. Although there is a balloon in the area, its flight path is completely different. (NICAP, "[TBM Chases Climbing and Accelerating Object](#)"; Ruppelt, [pp. 121–123](#); [Sparks](#), p. 118)
- 1952**, January 22 — 12:20 a.m. At a northern Alaska outpost, Murphy Dome Air Force Station, radar captures a UFO traveling 1,500 mph at 23,000 feet. When an F-94 is sent to intercept, the target stops, slows down, reverses course, and heads directly for the radar station. It comes within 30 miles, then disappears from the screen. The F-94 heads back to refuel, and a second fighter is scrambled. This pilot gets a strong radar return. At first, the object is almost stationary, but then it dives suddenly, at which point ground radar picks it up again. A third F-94 is sent up, also tracks the object on radar, and closes to within 900 feet. At this point, the pilot pulls away to avoid a collision, as the UFO is nearly immobile. Since none of the pilots obtained a visual sighting, the Air Force concludes that the radar returns are weather-related, although the pilots strongly dispute this. (NICAP, "[Alaskan Radar Case](#)"; US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 138–139; Ruppelt, [pp. 123–127](#); Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, eds., *UFO's: A Scientific Debate*, Cornell University, 1972, [p. xxi](#); [Sparks](#), pp. 119–120)
- 1952**, January 29 — On his trip to the Pentagon to brief Gen. [William M. Garland](#), [Ruppelt](#) visits the AFOIN offices and discovers they have more complete files than ATIC in Dayton, Ohio, does. He arranges to have copies made of the missing files for him at Project Grudge (though multiple visits are required to obtain the copies and Ruppelt probably does not succeed in getting everything). The offices with UFO files include the Technical Capabilities Branch (TCB) of the Evaluation Division and the Collection Control Branch of the Collection Division. (NICAP, "[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)")
- 1952**, January 29 — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#), USAF Assistant for Production of Intelligence, and his staff are briefed at the Pentagon on the status of Project Grudge by [Edward Ruppelt](#), who with his colleagues at ATIC has prepared sighting maps that show a concentration of cases at White Sands and Los Alamos, New Mexico; Killeen Base, Texas; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Dayton, Ohio (where Wright-Patterson AFB is situated). At this meeting, Garland introduces a new intelligence policy that emphasizes the use of instrumentation for intelligence collection, including the detection and tracking of UFOs (the basis for terminating the UFO project as an intelligence function). As an interim last-chance measure to prove whether anecdotal sightings have any value, Garland approves Ruppelt's publicity plan to draw in UFO reports from the public so that triangulations might be obtained. This leads to Garland secretly backing the *Life* magazine article. Apparently on the same day, Garland gives the welcoming address to the secret MIT Lincoln Laboratory (Ruppelt calls it the Beacon Hill group) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he tells the assembled scientists to study ways USAF intelligence methodology can be revolutionized through the use of technology. (Later Garland sends Ruppelt, Col. [Sanford H. Kirkland Jr.](#) of ATIC, and Lt. Col. William A. Adams of AFOIN, to brief the Lincoln Lab scientists on UFOs on March 26 and in April 1952, respectively) ("[Status of Project Blue Book](#)," T52-6888, [1952]; NICAP, "[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)"; [Swords](#) 144; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May*, The Author, 1993, p. 12)
- 1952**, January 29 — Evening. Violet M. Winstead and her husband are at an open-air movie theater on Guam when they and others at the theater see an orange light passing silently overhead. (Violet M. Winstead, [Letter](#), *IUR* 9, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1984): 3)
- 1952**, January 29 — Night. A bright orange, disc-shaped object, also described as a "huge ball of fire," paces two B-29s on the same night, 80 miles from each other over the towns of Wonsan and Sunchon, North Korea. (NICAP, "[Rotating Light Seen by B-29 Crew](#)"; NICAP, "[B-29 Crew Followed by UFO](#)"; "[Disks' Seen in Korea](#)," *New York Times*, February 20, 1952, p. 3; [Haines](#), *Korea*, [pp. 33–37](#); [Sparks](#), p. 121; Patrick Gross, "[UFO US Military Reports, Korea, 1952](#)")
- 1952**, January 31 — [Ruppelt](#) releases Project Grudge Status Report #3, in which he reviews the geographic distribution of UFO reports, states the project's obstacle, and includes a list of 15 cases reported to ATIC in January. ([Swords](#) 144; US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 55–64)

- 1952**, February 2 — 7:35 p.m. Radar operators aboard the aircraft carrier [USS Philippine Sea](#) pick up an unidentified target off the east coast of Korea. It is first detected at a distance of 25 miles; when it closes to 20 miles, it makes a wide turn to the east directly away from the carrier, accelerating from 600 to 1,800 mph at 52,000 feet altitude. It splits into two targets 5–12 miles apart on a slightly zigzag course to the north. They disappear about 110 miles away. Observers on the carrier see three exhaust flames. A USAF analyst estimates the speed of one track to be 767 mph and the speed of another track 1257 mph. (NICAP, “[USS Philippine Sea Tracks Approaching Target](#)”; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 126–127; *Sparks*, p. 121; Jan L. Aldrich, “[The USS Philippine Sea, February 2, 1952](#),” Project 1947; Jan L. Aldrich, “[U.S. Navy Documents Concerning the USS Philippine Sea Report from Dr. Hynek’s Files](#),” Project 1947; “[USS Philippine Sea Operation Officer’s Testimony](#),” Project 1947)
- 1952**, February 8 — [Dewey Fournet](#), on the Pentagon’s UFO desk, writes to [Ruppelt](#) at ATIC for help in interpreting the Korean sightings. Ruppelt has brought in an expert from Wright-Patterson AFB’s Engineering Division, [Peter A. Stranges](#) of the Propulsion Branch Power Plant Group, to help with the analysis, which he passes on to Fournet and [Garland](#). Stranges compares the Wonsan sighting to the foo fighters of World War II. (Swords 144–145).
- 1952**, February 20 — 3:00 p.m. Rev. [Albert Baller](#) is sitting in a train at the station in Greenfield, Massachusetts, when he sees a “sharp flash of light about 35° or more above the horizon.” Looking upward, he sees three perfectly circular, silver objects approaching in a V-formation. They are moving at about the “speed of a second hand on a watch.” They stop and hover for 10 seconds. The lead object reverses and pulls into a line with the other two between them. Then they depart in a direction at right angles to their approach. (UFOEv, p. 69)
- 1952**, February 20 — [Joseph](#) and [Stewart Alsop](#) examine the January 29 Korean incidents in their syndicated column, “Problems of Scientific Developments.” They suspect a Russian origin. (Joseph and Stewart Alsop, “[Problems of Scientific Developments](#),” *Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier Express*, February 20, 1952, p. 18; Swords 145–146)
- 1952**, February 21 — Sen. [Richard Russell Jr.](#) (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, requests further information on the January 29 Korean UFO incidents in a letter to Secretary of the Air Force [Thomas K. Finletter](#). (Project 1947, “[UFO Documents, 1952, Korea](#)”)
- 1952**, February 21 — Far East Air Forces Commander Lieut. Gen. [Otto P. Weyland](#) tells reporters that “no conclusive evaluation had been made at the present time” on the Wonsan/Sunchon, Korea, sightings of January 29–30. (“[Flying Saucer’ Story Ignored by Congressmen](#),” *Rock Island (Ill.) Argus*, February 21, 1952, p. 15; “Nothing Conclusive on Globes: Weyland,” *Stars and Stripes*, Pacific edition, February 22, 1952; Project 1947, “[UFO Documents, 1952, Korea](#)”)
- 1952**, February 22 — The now-completed Site Able is renamed Manzano Base, New Mexico, and turned over to the operational control of the Air Force. What appear to be secure bunkers are visible to people (mostly military personnel) who go to a recreational camping area nearby known as Coyote Canyon. The military, however, never officially confirms the nature of the activities at Manzano Base [now part of Kirtland Air Force Base]. At one point, a military spokesman says that Manzano Base has nothing to do with Sandia Base. Manzano has since been identified as the first of six original National Stockpile Sites for nuclear weapons. The other original NSS installations similar to Manzano are: Site Baker at Killeen Base, adjacent to Gray AFB [now Robert Gray Army Airfield] at Fort Hood, Texas; Site Charlie at Campbell AFB [now Campbell Army Airfield] near Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and adjacent to Fort Campbell; Site Dog at Bossier Base, adjacent to Barksdale AFB near Bossier City, Louisiana; Lake Mead Base, adjacent to Nellis AFB, Nevada; and Medina Base, adjacent to Lackland AFB [now Joint Base San Antonio], Texas. (Wikipedia, “[Sandia Base](#)”)
- 1952**, February 23 or 24 — 11:15 p.m. The navigator on a B-29 bomber sees a pulsating bluish cylinder while the aircraft is evading anti-aircraft fire near Sinuiju, North Korea. It arrives high and fast, makes several turns, and levels out underneath the aircraft. (*Sparks*, p. 122)
- 1952**, February 25–27 — *Life* magazine reporter [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) visits USAF headquarters at the Pentagon to gather information for his UFO article. He talks with Brig. Gen. [Joseph F. Carroll](#), Director of Special Investigations. Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#) tells him that he has considered firing a guided missile at a UFO to bring it down and requests that Ginna delay publishing an article until the Air Force has come to a more definite conclusion. Ginna also talks to Lt. Col. [Doyle Rees](#) of OSI. (Jan L. Aldrich, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” Project 1947)
- 1952**, February 29 — Project Grudge issues a secret Status Report #4, classified “secret.” (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 65–78)
- 1952**, March or April — 5:00 a.m. Two women cryptographers in the US Naval Reserve stationed at the US Naval Training Center at Port Deposit, Maryland, are out taking a walk outside the base on a dirt road. They notice a red light off to one side above the trees. It starts moving toward them and stops about 100 feet above the road in front of them, about 300 feet away. The object is a 250-foot black disc with two large red lights at each side, an

illuminated dome, and smaller lights along the rim. A hole opens in the bottom and phosphorescent white sparks drop toward the ground and disintegrate when they hit the road. The two reservists sprint the quarter-mile back to the base. (NICAP case file)

- 1952**, March 1 — The 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron (AISS) is activated under ADC to collect air combat intelligence. (CUFON, "[4602d AISS Unit History Sampler](#)")
- 1952**, March 3 — [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) of *Life* visits ATIC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, to obtain material for his UFO article. [Walther Riedel](#), former German rocket scientist at Peenemünde, Germany, tells Ginna he has kept notes on UFO sightings from all over the world: "I am completely convinced that they have an out-of-world basis." He also meets with visits Air Force UFO spokesman [Albert M. Chop](#). AMC claims it is investigating every serious UFO report, but it can't find the files he requests. Ginna becomes suspicious. ("[Status of Project Blue Book](#)," T52-6888, [1952]; Jan L. Aldrich, "[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)" Project 1947; Michael D. Swords, "[1952: Ruppelt's Big Year](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 9; Swords 120–121)
- 1952**, March 5 — The Air Force sends a letter, signed by Lieut. Gen. [Nathan Twining](#), to Secretary [Finletter](#) in response to Sen. [Russell](#)'s February 21 inquiry. It offers two possible explanations: aircraft exhaust from a Soviet Lavochkin La-9 or La-11 fighter aircraft, or spotlights carried on enemy aircraft that have intercepted US bombers. (Project 1947, "[UFO Documents, 1952, Korea](#)"; Swords 145)
- 1952**, March 7 — Physicist [Joseph Kaplan](#) visits ATIC to discuss methods of obtaining more information on green fireballs using a special diffraction grid to be placed on patrol cameras that can be used as a field spectrometer. ("[Status of Project Blue Book](#)," T52-6888, [1952])
- 1952**, March 10 — 6:45 a.m. [Clarence K. Greenwood](#), inspector of engineering metals, sees two dark objects come from behind him at an altitude of 5,000–7,500 feet while he is waiting for a bus in Oakland, California. They pick up speed, one of them moving in a pendulum-like motion. He thinks they are about 45 feet long. (UFOEv, [pp. 56–57](#))
- 1952**, March 14 — Evening. US Secretary of the Navy [Dan A. Kimball](#) is flying to Hawaii when he sees two discs moving at 1,500 mph. The UFOs circle his plane twice, then move on 50 miles east to another Navy plane carrying Adm. [Arthur W. Radford](#). The UFOs circle Radford's plane then zoom up out of sight. Kimball sends a report to the Air Force, but hears nothing back, despite USAF demanding reports from all Navy witnesses. Kimball threatens to initiate Naval reports on UFOs through ONR to be kept separate from Blue Book. [Keyhoe](#) hears about this from both Kimball and Chief of ONR Adm. [Calvin M. Bolster](#). The report is never made public. (NICAP, "[Admiral Radford & Navy Sec. Kimball Planes Buzzed](#)"; NICAP, "[Navy Secy Dan Kimball's Pilot's Sighting, March 14, 1952](#)"; Swords 165)
- 1952**, March 15 — 10:45 p.m. Donald F. Stewart and George Tyler III are driving northbound on the Governor Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie, Maryland. A 50-foot silvery domed disc with two portholes and an apparent hatch appears from the northeast and hovers above their car, causing the engine to fail, magnetizing the wiring, and cracking the paint. Stewart takes a sub-machine gun from the back of the car and debates whether to fire it at the object, which remains in view for 3 minutes before turning on its edge and speeding away to the southwest. Tyler changes his story later, denying he was involved. (NICAP, "[E-M Effects on Car from Domed Disc](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 124; *Baltimore (Md.) American*, March 16, 1952; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 196–198](#); Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 61–64, 229; Powell, *Scientific*, 86–87; Kevin D. Randle, "[Car Stalling and a Bungle Project Blue Book Investigation](#)," A Different Perspective, May 27, 2024)
- 1952**, Mid-March — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#) initiates a top-secret compartmented project (to be designed and built by USAF R&D) to establish a global instrumented UFO detection and tracking system that would remove the necessity of relying on anecdotal evidence. (Francis Ridge, "[The 1952 Top-Secret USAF Instrumented UFO Data Collection Plan](#)," *The SCU Review* 4, no. 3 (August 21, 2023): 9–11)
- 1952**, March 19 — [Ruppelt](#) and other representatives of ATIC meet with the commander of the Air Defense Command, Gen. [Benjamin W. Chidlaw](#), and Gen. [Grandison Gardner](#) and his staff in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on getting radar scope camera films as UFOs are being tracked. "They agreed with it in principle and suggested that I work out the details with the Director of Intelligence for the ADC, Brigadier Gen. [Woodbury M. Burgess](#)." Chidlaw promises to issue a directive to all units explaining procedures in UFO situations, including the scrambling of interceptors. This is issued, apparently in April. Burgess assigns Maj. [Vernon L. Sadowski](#) of his staff to be liaison to Project Grudge., and the Ground Observer Corps is brought into the UFO reporting net. (Ruppelt, [pp. 128–129](#); "[Status of Project Blue Book](#)," T52-6888, [1952])
- 1952**, March 25 — Project Grudge becomes a separate organization under the title Aerial Phenomena Group and is renamed Project Blue Book, apparently at the suggestion of Lt. Col. Charles Cooke, editor of *Air Intelligence Digest*, which he thinks is "without overtones." Cooke, originally suggests Project Book, but someone at the Joint Chiefs of Staff level expands it to Blue Book. [Ruppelt](#) says it is based on the books provided for taking college

tests at Iowa State University. (Charles Cooke, “[Flying Saucers Again: Do You Believe in Them?](#)” *Washington (D.C.) Sunday Star*, August 7, 1966; “[Intelligence Colonel Disputes Official Answers](#),” *UFO Investigator* 3, no. 9 (Aug./Sept/ 1966): 5; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May*, The Author, 1993, pp. 20–21; [Sparks](#), p. 12; Ruppelt, [p. 131](#); Clark III 916)

- 1952**, March 26 — Day. Henry C. Davis is looking out at the ocean through his second-floor window in Long Beach, California, and listening to the radio. He spots two yellow discs in the sky about one mile high and 2 miles away. He thinks they are 1,000 feet apart and moving southeast to northwest at 100 mph. As they pass, his radio goes to static twice. ([Schopick](#), p. 78)
- 1952**, March 26 — [Ruppelt](#) meets with the MIT scientists he calls the Beacon Hill Group, which recommends that Blue Book use “sound detection apparatus” in areas of UFO activity. (Clark III 916)
- 1952**, March 26 — Five trials are conducted through April 21 by the US Army Chemical Corps under Operation Dew. The tests release zinc cadmium sulfide along a 100-to-150-nautical-mile line approximately 5–10 nautical miles off the coast of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Two of the trials disperse clouds of zinc cadmium sulfide over large areas of all three states. The tests affect over 60,000 square miles of populated coastal region. The Dew I releases are from a Navy minesweeper, the [USS Tercel](#). The conclusion is that long-range aerosol clouds can obtain hundreds of miles of travel and large-area coverage when disseminated from ground level under certain meteorological conditions. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Dew](#)”)
- 1952**, Late March? — [Ruppelt](#) meets with two RCAF officers and briefs them on the new procedures. (Ruppelt, [p. 130](#))
- 1952**, March 29 — 11:20 a.m. Near Misawa, Japan, USAF Lt. [David Conant Brigham](#) is flying a T-6 target plane on a practice intercept mission for two F-84s. The first F-84 overtakes him at 6,000 feet when the T-6 pilot notices a small disc gaining on the interceptor. The UFO curves toward the F-84, decelerates rapidly, then flips on edge in a 90° bank. It flies between the two aircraft, pulls away, flips again, passes the F-84, crosses in front, and accelerates out of sight in a near vertical climb. Both pilots notice the object, which comes within 30–50 feet of the T-6. At one point it is moving with a fluttering motion, rocking back and forth in 40° banks at one-second intervals. The pilot estimates it is only 8 inches in diameter. There is a ripple around the edge. (NICAP, “[Brigham/T6 Case: UFO Makes Pass at F-84](#)”; “[Air Force Reveals Flying Disk ‘Made Pass’ at Jet Fighter-Bomber over Northern Japan](#),” *Scranton (Pa.) Times*, January 28, 1953, p. 7; UFOEv, [p. 5](#); Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [p. 192](#); [Sparks](#), p. 123; C. W. Fitch, “[Monitoring and Scanning UFOs](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, March 1963, p. 5; Powell, *Scientist*, 46)
- 1952**, March 29 — Two fiery discs are sighted over the uranium mines in the southern part of the Belgian Congo near Elisabethville [modern Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo]. With a diameter of approximately 36–45 feet, they travel in a precise and light manner, both vertically and horizontally. They emit hissing and buzzing sounds. Changes in elevation from 2,400 to 3,000 feet are accomplished in a few seconds. The discs often move down to within 60 feet of the treetops. A Commander Pierre of the Belgian Air Force sets out in pursuit in a fighter plane from the city airport. On his first approach he comes to within about 260 feet of one of the discs. Suddenly they hover in one spot then takes off in a unique zigzag flight to the northeast at an estimated speed of 930 mph. Pierre gives up his pursuit after about 15 minutes. (NICAP, “[Two Discs over Uranium Mines / Jet in Pursuit](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 123; Good Above, [p. 512](#); Covert 41)
- 1952**, March 29 — 6:40 p.m. [Carl J. Henry](#), chairman of the Industrial Commission of Missouri, along with several others, watches a cylinder-shaped, silver UFO for 2 minutes almost directly overhead in Butler, Missouri. It is moving silently in a northwesterly direction leaving no trail or exhaust. He estimates its length at 100 feet. (UFOEv, [p. 68](#))
- 1952**, March 31 — Battelle begins its UFO study (referred to as P-47S and nicknamed Little Stork) under the supervision of William T. Reid, folding it into Project Stork, an initiative to examine the Soviet Union’s technological warfare capabilities. Almost all of the UFO analysis involves compiling IBM punch cards based on data forwarded by Project Blue Book files. (Clark III 929; Jennie Zeidman, “[I Remember Blue Book](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 7–8; Jennie Zeidman and Mark Rodeghier, “[The Pentacle Letter and the Battelle UFO Project](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 3 (May/June 1993): 4–12, 19–21; Michael Hall, “[Was There a Second Estimate of the Situation?](#)” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 12)
- 1952**, March 31 — ATIC Chief [Frank Dunn](#) writes to Gen. [Garland](#) requesting that Project Blue Book be entirely declassified in order to make it easier to encourage civilian pilots to send in reports. That is a bit too much openness for Garland, who compromises by reclassifying certain case investigations as “Restricted,” a relatively low level. (Swords 146)
- 1952**, March 31 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #5. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 81–94)

- 1952**, Spring — Occultist [George Hunt Williamson](#) and his wife Betty move to Prescott, Arizona, and immerse themselves in UFO literature. (Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 21)
- 1952**, April? — Amateur astronomer [W. Gordon Graham](#) sees a UFO “like a smoke ring, elliptical in shape, and having two bright pinpoints of light along its main axis” at London, Ontario. It sails overhead from west to east. (*London (Ont.) Free Press*, May 1, 1952; UFOEv, [p. 49](#))
- 1952**, April — Secretary of the Navy [Dan Kimball](#), upset with the way the Air Force has treated his UFO sighting, sets up an independent Navy probe of UFOs under Lt. Commander Fred Lowell Thomas of the Office of Naval Research. The project lasts through 1952, but probably not much longer. (NICAP, “[Navy Secy Dan Kimball’s Pilot’s Sighting, March 14, 1952](#)”)
- 1952**, April — [Ruppelt](#) again meets with MIT Lincoln Laboratory scientists (the Beacon Hill group) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to brief them on Blue Book’s progress. Afterward, he asks them about the flashes seen on Mars in 1951, and a general discussion of life on other planets ensues. [Michael D. Swords](#) suspects that some of those present are physicist [George Valley Jr.](#), engineer [Julius Adams Stratton](#), physicist [Albert G. Hill](#), and chemical engineer [Walter G. Whitman](#). (Edward J. Ruppelt, “[Are There Men on Mars? Or Other Worlds?](#)” *IUR* 23, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 10–12, 31)
- 1952**, April — [Albert K. Bender](#), a factory worker in Bridgeport, Connecticut, announces the formation of the International Flying Saucer Bureau. (Clark III 189, 623)
- 1952**, April 2 — On the eve of the release of the bombshell *Life* magazine article, [Ruppelt](#) and his boss, ATIC Technical Analysis Division Chief Col. [Sanford H. Kirkland Jr.](#), give an extraordinary briefing, technically unclassified but in fact quasi-classified, to a group of aerospace engineers and saucer buffs organized as Civilian Saucer Investigation of Los Angeles. These include aeronautical consultant [Felix W. A. Knoll](#), technical writer [Ed J. Sullivan](#), and North American Aviation project engineer [Walther A. Riedel](#). The briefing takes place at the Mayfair Hotel in Los Angeles, California, along with national media reporters and the *Life* magazine reporters who give them advance copies of the Darrach/Ginna article in exchange. (“[Minutes of Meeting of Civilian Saucer Investigations Held Wednesday, April 2, 1952, 8:00 PM in the Mayfair Hotel, Los Angeles, California](#),” April 2, 1952, transcribed by Sign Historical Group; Willard D. Nelson, “[When Blue Book Met the Ufologists](#),” *IUR* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1987): 21–24; Ruppelt, [p. 175](#))
- 1952**, April 2 — 9:00 a.m. While on a fishing trip to Lake Mead, Nevada, with his wife and M/Sgt Lester Gossett, M/Sgt Sheldon Smith observes a large silver UFO at a high altitude. It looks like a B-36 without wings. Smith observes it right after a flight of F-86s overfly the area at about 15,000 feet. After watching the hovering object for about an hour at a much higher altitude than the vapor trails from the F-86s, it suddenly disappears. (NICAP, “[B-36 without Wings](#)”; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952**, April 3 — 8:23 a.m. Three civilian Air Force pilot instructors, [Chauncey P. “Chick” Logan](#), C. M. Jasper, and Paul Wilkerson, and several others observe a bright-silver oval object above the airport in Benson, Arizona. Hovering at 55,000 feet, the object is in view for nearly an hour, during which time it stays in the same position in the sky. Logan flies a T-6 trainer aircraft up to 13,500 feet to better observe the object, but there is no change in apparent size. (NICAP, “[Seven Pilots Observe Huge Object](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 124; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952**, April 3 — The Air Force publicly announces that it has not stopped investigating and evaluating UFO reports.
- 1952**, April 4 — Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#) arranges for the Air Force–RAND Corporation satellite project to have a briefing on UFOs by [Ruppelt](#) during a visit to ATIC. Ruppelt meets and befriends RAND engineer Jim Thompson. (“[Status of Project Blue Book](#),” T52-10889)
- 1952**, April 5 — 10:40 a.m. Four civilians—Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Ryan, R. L. Stokes, and D. Schook—see a large, dull-gray, circular object, followed by two similar ones, flying straight and level at high speed over Phoenix, Arizona. ([Sparks](#), p. 124; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952**, April 5 — 9:15 p.m. Lewis E. Van Dercar, an amateur astronomer, and his 9-year-old son see four dark, circular objects with mostly fuzzy edges, cross the lower edge of the full moon from their home at N.E. 18th Street in Miami, Florida. (NICAP, [\[case file\]](#); [Sparks](#), p. 124; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952**, April 5 — Near 12:00 midnight. Four members of the 372nd Bomb Squadron stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan—A/1C P. T. Burnett, T/Sgt S. Ball, A/1C J. W. Johnston, and A/1C J. C. Holder—watch a white, steady light flying an erratic course at about 20,000 feet from the north horizon to the base area. It moves over the base at high speed (faster than a jet), zig-zagging, stopping, and maneuvering again. After 10 minutes, it shoots straight up and disappears to the west. (NICAP, “[Object Zig-Zags over Base](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 124)
- 1952**, April 6 — 2:59 p.m. [Herman L. Russell](#) is near Draughan-Miller AFB [now Draughan-Miller Central Texas Regional Airport] in Temple, Texas, when he sees 50–75 grayish-white, metallic spots in the north-northwest at an elevation of about 30°–40°. They are randomly arranged within a circular formation that is only one full moon in area. The spots flash in unison every 12–15 seconds for a period of 2 seconds, as if they are tilting on a

horizontal axis. After two minutes, the cluster becomes less dense in the center and more dense at the outer rim. Russell estimates its distance at 15–25 miles at a height about 50,000 feet. They disappear by fading into the distance. (NICAP, “[50–75 Discs in Formation](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 125; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)

- 1952**, April 7 — [Henry B. Darrach Jr.](#) and [Robert Ginna](#)’s article, “Have We Visitors from Space?” appears in *Life* and reports on the revitalized USAF project. It comes close to advocating the ETH, and its primary sources are high-ranking Air Force officers. (H. B. Darrach Jr. and Robert Ginna, “[Have We Visitors from Space?](#)” *Life*, April 7, 1952, pp. 80–96; NICAP, “[Scholarly Commentary on LIFE Article of April 7, 1952](#)”; Michael D. Swords, “[1952: Ruppelt’s Big Year](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 8–9)
- 1952**, April 7 — During war games taking place in the vicinity of Lampasas, Texas, nicknamed Operation Longhorn, the Air Force announces that a new “aerial light” attached to a B-26 aircraft is in use that makes an “attacking bomber look like a ball of fire in the sky.” It is essentially a bright magnesium searchlight (dubbed a “Hell Roarer” flare) that can illuminate a battlefield for nighttime photography. USAF Public Information Officer Capt. Irving Rappaport implies it could be mistaken for a flying saucer. (“[Light Makes Bomber Resemble Ball of Fire](#),” *Chambersburg (Pa.) Public Opinion*, April 7, 1952, p. 3; “[It’s No Saucer! Strange Objects in the Sky Are Nothing New in Dayton](#),” *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, November 9, 1952, magazine supplement, p. 7; Curt Collins, “[UFOs: Confusing the Public](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, January 27, 2022)
- 1952**, April 12 — 8:30 p.m. W/O E. H. Rossell and Flight Sgt. Reginald McRae are driving on RCAF Station North Bay, Ontario, when they see a bright amber disc arrive from the southwest, move across the airfield, stop, and then take off in the opposite direction at an angle of 30° at terrific speed. (NICAP, “[Amber Disc Stops, Reverses Direction](#)”; “[Flying Saucers Could Be Real Admit Top Canadian Scientists](#),” *Ottawa (Ont.) Journal*, April 16, 1952, pp. 1, 16; “[Flying Discs No Joke Now in Air Force](#),” *Ottawa (Ont.) Journal*, April 16, 1952, p. 3; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, pp. 92–94)
- 1952**, April 16 — ADC becomes frantic about a possible Soviet attack. Air Force Intelligence warns Brig. Gen. [Woodbury Burgess](#), at ADC Headquarters, Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, that a classified source (possibly an electronic intercept) has provided an “indication” of ominous Soviet military activity. With the simultaneous appearance of two waves of unidentified targets, there is no alternative. At 3:10 a.m., ADC Commander Gen. [Frederic H. Smith Jr.](#) orders America’s first nationwide Air Defense Readiness alert. (NICAP, “[UFOs and Alert Scare, April 1952](#)”; “[Radar Scare](#),” *Miami (Fla.) Herald*, April 19, 1952, p. 23; “[3 Plane Vapors Cause Alert at Alaska Stations](#),” *Long Beach (Calif.) Independent*, April 18, 1952, p. 18)
- 1952**, April 17 — 12:58 a.m. Four high-altitude contrails heading east-southeast toward Alaska are seen by NORAD defense observers at Nunivak Island, Alaska. (NICAP, “[Another Radar-Inspired National Alert](#)”)
- 1952**, April 17 — 5:10 a.m. Radar at Caswell Air Force Station [now closed] in Limestone, Maine, tracks five unknown targets headed southwest into the US. Three are later identified as off-course civilian airliners, while two remain unidentified. A nationwide Air Defense Readiness Alert is declared at 5:11 a.m. SAC is notified to prepare launch of nuclear missiles. The alert is canceled at 7:40 a.m. (NICAP, “[Another Radar-Inspired National Alert](#)”)
- 1952**, April 17 — 12:05 p.m. Air Force T/S Orville Lawson, [Rudy Toncer](#) (sheet metal shop foreman), and sheet metal shop workers R. K. Van Houtin, Edward Gregory, and [Charles Ruliffson](#) at Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas, see 18 circular objects flying an easterly course that carry them over or very close to the Nevada Test Site. They watch the objects for about 30 seconds. (“[Work Crew Spots Flying Saucers over A-Test Site](#),” *Salt Lake Tribune*, April 18, 1952, p. 1; NICAP, “[April 17, 1952: Nellis AFB, Nevada Large Group of Circular UFOs](#)”; Nukes 83)
- 1952**, April 17 — [Dewey Fournet Jr.](#) responds to a reporter from the *Baltimore Sun* who has asked about details of the Blue Book investigation with a two-and-a-half-page memo, vagued up a bit, but essentially saying that “nothing detrimental to our national security has materialized from these incidents.” (Swords 147)
- 1952**, April 18 — 12:07 p.m. Detachment 21 of the 618th Aircraft and Warning Squadron, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, picks up a radar target over the Korea Strait north of Kyushu Island, Japan, moving at 2,700 mph. (NICAP, “[Object Tracked at 2,700 MPH](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 127)
- 1952**, April 19 — 9:20 p.m. USAF Brig. Gen. [Edwin M. Day](#) is reclining on a patio in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, when he sees an object traveling parallel to the ground at a constant altitude (between 10,000 and 20,000 feet) and moving in his direction. Its speed is greater than a jet’s. It breaks into two parts at one point but maintains its constant course. He follows it visually for 5–6 seconds until it disappears to the north-northeast. (“[When UFOs Were Serious Business: Then and Today](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 5–6)
- 1952**, April 20 — 9:15 p.m. Naval aviation student Edmund Kogut and his wife Shirley are at a drive-in movie theater in Flint, Michigan, when they see several groups of UFOs fly over. There are 2–9 objects in a group and about 20 groups, all flying in a straight line except for some changes in direction accomplished unlike any known aircraft.

They are shaped like conventional aircraft but have an odd reddish glow surrounding them. (NICAP, [[Flint, Michigan, case documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 128)

- 1952**, April 22 — The Canadian Defence Research Board establishes a UFO study group that meets for the first time today. Project Second Storey, formed by [Omond M. Solandt](#), DRB chairman, meets at least five times. It is chaired by astrophysicist [Peter M. Millman](#) and includes [Wilbert B. Smith](#) and representatives from Naval Intelligence, Military Operations and Planning, and the Defence Research Board. At its April 24 meeting, it decides to meet with the US government on UFO matters. (“[Project Second Storey Minutes, 1952.04.24](#)”; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May*, The Author, 1993, p. 53; Clark III 1078; Good Above, [p. 186](#); Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, p. 225–226)
- 1952**, April 22 — Around 9:00 p.m. A B-29 combat crew on the ground at Naha Air Base on Okinawa, Japan, observes an elliptical-shaped object at an altitude of 1,000–1,500 feet flying east to west. One minute later, two more objects are observed flying the same course. Five minutes later, two more objects appear flying in the same direction. All five objects are elliptical in shape and apparently 2–3 feet in length. The objects have a brilliant white light that blinks at 1–2 second intervals as they perform erratic maneuvers.. The estimated speed of the objects is 1,150 mph. (NICAP, [[case file](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 128; Powell, *Scientist*, 40)
- 1952**, April 23 — 9:30 a.m. R. C. Munroe, engineering standards section head for Raytheon Manufacturing Company, notices an object near an AT-6 Texan trainer aircraft above Lexington, Massachusetts. He estimates its altitude at 40,000 feet. It decelerates abruptly and goes into a flat turn. He writes, “It is inconceivable to me that any human being could have withstood the deceleration or acceleration displayed by this aircraft.” (UFOEv, [p. 57](#))
- 1952**, April 23 — 10:45 a.m. Engineers [Carl Hawk](#) and [Marvin Harvey](#) are at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, when they look up to watch a jet fighter as it shoots to the north above the Sandia Mountains. They also notice a soundless, flat, rectangular, wing-like object streaking through the sky from east to west above Tijeras Canyon. The object is completely black except for a distinct, bright yellow “V” on its bottom. Two slight points extend from its rear corners. Hawk estimates that it is passing overhead at 2,000 feet altitude at 200–400 mph and is roughly 60 feet wide by 20 feet long. They watch it for 10 seconds until it disappears in a cloud above downtown Albuquerque. (“[What Soared Across Duke City Sky That Day in April, 1952?](#)” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Tribune*, November 21, 1957, p. 8)
- 1952**, April 24 — An Air Force Intelligence memorandum to Col. [Frank Dunn](#), chief of ATIC, transmits nine reports (not released) of unidentified submarine objects reported to the Office of Naval Intelligence. (Good Need, [pp. 141, 145](#))
- 1952**, April 25 — 11:00 a.m. Biochemist Robert A. Whitmore and bacteriologist E. Stanley Yawger Jr. are driving to their office in San Jose, California, when they see a metallic-looking disc rotating around a vertical axis and wobbling. It is moving slowly over the office and is about 4–5 feet in diameter. It flies in a slow arc. Then they see a black object hovering at a high altitude under an overcast. This one is about 100 feet in diameter. Two identical objects come into view out of the clouds. The three objects “jittered about like boats in a stream.” Then the small disc stops spinning, hovers, then shoots upwards, followed by one of the black objects. The remaining two objects linger another minute or so, then take off separately. The episode lasts 15 minutes. Whitmore calls Moffett Field in Santa Clara County, but hangs up before reporting the sighting, which they describe as a “most disturbing experience.” The object “utilized some propulsion method not in the physics books.” (NICAP, “[Scientist Sighting / Extraordinary Propulsion Implied](#)”; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, pp. 241–242; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, January–May, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, [pp. 69–75](#))
- 1952**, April 25 — Battelle releases its first status report on Project Stork, noting that it has selected a panel of consultants, initiated a news clipping service, and devised a coding scheme for UFO reports. (“[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#),” CUFON)
- 1952**, April 29 — Secretary of the Air Force [Thomas K. Finletter](#) issues Air Force Letter 200-5, which directs intelligence officers at every base to report UFOs immediately to ATIC and all major USAF commands. It enables Project Blue Book staff to communicate directly with any Air Force base without going through the normal chain of command, and provides for wire transmission of reports to ATIC, followed with details via air mail. AFL 200-5 is modified by AFR 200-2 in 1953. (Department of the Air Force, “[Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting](#),” Air Force Letter 200-5, April 29, 1952; Ruppelt, [pp. 132–133](#))
- 1952**, April 29 — An Air Force memorandum written to justify a trip by Lt. Col. E. Sterling and [Stefan Possony](#) to Europe mentions that their work for USAF Intelligence’s “Special Study Group” is to evaluate Soviet advanced aerial delivery systems, as well as to shed “some much needed light” on the “vexing ‘flying saucer’ problem.” It adds that the “Air Force cannot assume that flying saucers are of non-terrestrial origin, and hence, they could be Soviet.” (Michael D. Swords, “[1952: Ruppelt’s Big Year](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 10; Swords 151)

- 1952**, April 30 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #6. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 95–112)
- 1952**, April 30 — 6:00 p.m. Six members of the 3rd Platoon, Heavy Mortar Company, 180th Infantry Regiment at the front lines around Panmunjeom, Korea, see two silvery wingless objects, one behind the other, flying in a valley in a southeasterly direction. Pfc H. B. Webb thinks they are flying at 900–1,000 mph. Some slower northbound F-86 Sabre jets pass above them. They make a rumbling sound. (Haines, *Korea*, [p. 63](#))
- 1952**, May — Army radar specialist Jay Nogle is stationed near Washington, D.C., when he picks up an unknown target on his M33 scope at an altitude of 18,000 feet about 130 miles from the capital (which would put it over eastern Pennsylvania). Two other Army units also detect the object, which remains stationary for 30 minutes before moving. By the time the object reaches the edge of the radar scope, it is traveling at 1,000 mph. The report goes all the way to the Pentagon, where orders are given to fire on it if it returns. Nogle says that radar targets are frequently seen in May or June, and units have their antiaircraft guns loaded after the first incident. When 12 F-94 Starfire jets are scrambled from McGuire AFB [now part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst] in Burlington County, New Jersey, the targets move speedily out of range. (Swords 153)
- 1952**, Early May — Lt. Thomas A. Featherstone is operating Ground Control Approach radar at NAS Willow Grove [now NAS Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove] in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, when it picks up a target in bad weather conditions near the center of the scope. By the next sweep (32 rpm) the target has moved almost five miles, indicating the object was moving approximately 3,600 mph. It is seen to move as the trace sweeps past it. By the fourth sweep, the target has moved off to the 10-mile limit of the GCA scope. The target is visible on two radar scopes, operating on two different frequencies. A similar object is tracked the following day under similar weather conditions. (NICAP, [“Target Follows Sweep”](#))
- 1952**, Early May — 10:00 p.m. A senior CIA official is having a lawn party at his home near Alexandria, Virginia, for some VIPs. He and two others notice a light approaching silently from the west. It stops then climbs almost vertically, stops again, then levels out. Then it goes into a nearly vertical dive, levels out, and streaks off to the east. (Ruppelt, [pp. 135–136](#); Swords 148)
- 1952**, Early May — A meeting is held in the Pentagon office of [Stefan Possony](#), acting chief of the Directorate of Intelligence Study Group under Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#) to hear Harvard University astronomer [Donald Menzel](#) express his views. Present are Possony, Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#), ATIC chief Col. [Frank Dunn](#), Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#), Possony’s assistant [Leslie Rosenzweig](#), and one other officer. Menzel announces that he has solved all UFO reports and claims to have helped out in the development of the cameras in Project Twinkle. His attitude irks everyone in the meeting. When he asks the Air Force to support his views in upcoming publications in *Time* and *Look*, Gen. Garland gets angry. Col. Dunn says that Blue Book would have put some money into more formal versions of his experiments, but he can only offer a statement that Menzel has told them of his theory. Now Menzel gets agitated, saying it is no theory. He refuses to leave them a copy of his book to pass on to [Joseph Kaplan](#) and [J. Allen Hynek](#). In the evening, Possony speaks with astronomer Francis J. Heyden at Georgetown University, who tells him that Menzel’s work is based on no more than a “couple of meaningless high school physics experiments.” (Michael D. Swords, [“Strange Days, Part 2,”](#) *IUR* 32, no. 2 (December 2008): 9; Swords 152; Clark III 743)
- 1952**, May 1 — 9:10 a.m. Air intelligence officer Maj. [Rudolph Pestalozzi](#) and an airman standing outside the Davis-Monthan AFB base hospital, Tucson, Arizona, watch two shiny, round objects overtake a B-36 flying above. The objects slow down to match the plane’s speed and remain in formation with them for 20 seconds. Then they make a sharp, no-radius turn away from the B-36, moving away a bit. Then one of the objects stops and hovers. Both are silent, and the crew estimates they have a diameter of 20–25 feet and a thickness of 10–12 feet. (NICAP, [“The Case of the Missing Report”](#); *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 109–112](#), [292–294](#); [Sparks](#), p. 131; UFOEv II 73–74; Good Need, [pp. 166–167](#))
- 1952**, May 1 — 10:50 a.m. At George AFB [now Southern California Logistics Airport] near Victorville, California, five independent witnesses in the base control tower see a group of five white discs moving in formation for about 30 seconds. The objects appear very maneuverable, seem to almost collide, then break away in a right-angle turn. They are traveling an estimated 900–1,200 mph and are 1,000–1,200 feet in diameter. Four miles away at Apple Valley, California, the base’s wing director of personnel, playing on a golf course, sees one of the UFOs at the same time. (NICAP, [“George AFB / Apple Valley, CA Radar Case”](#); *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 107–109](#); [Sparks](#), p. 131; Swords 147–148; Good Need, [p. 166](#); Michael D. Swords, [“Intelligent Motions,”](#) *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 10, 15)
- 1952**, May 1 — 1:45 p.m. *Albuquerque Journal* composing room employee Eugene Cline sees four silvery objects seemingly playing tag with a formation of 12 Air Force bombers—either B-29s or B-50s—flying west over

Albuquerque, New Mexico. The round objects are keeping up with the planes at the same altitude, moving in a “tumbling or pitching manner.” One object shoots straight up and takes off in a southerly direction. About the same time, workmen (one of them Howard Burgess) erecting an antenna at nearby Sandia Base watch three UFOs pass directly overhead. One comes from the west and moves south; another comes from the north and moves south; and a third, tan-colored rather than silver like the others, passes low overhead and looks like a “cylinder tumbling end over end.” Burgess and the others are debriefed and sworn to secrecy about what they have witnessed. (“[Flying Saucers Play Tag with Bombers over City](#),” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, May 2, 1952, p. 2; Nukes 56–58)

- 1952**, May 7 — 12:22 a.m. Mrs. Hanley Marks sees a light-green, ball-shaped object fall from the sky into the Sandia Mountains, New Mexico, from her home in the Bel-Air neighborhood of Albuquerque. (“[Fireball Falls near Sandias Early Today](#),” *Albuquerque Journal*, May 7, 1952, p. 1; “[Green Fireball Falls in Southwest, Three Here Report](#),” *Albuquerque Journal*, May 7, 1952, p. 9)
- 1952**, May 7 — 12:15 p.m. A Captain Morris and three enlisted men at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi, see one or two aluminum or silver cylindrical objects darting in and out of the clouds 10 times. ([[Blue Book case report](#)]”); [Sparks](#), p. 131)
- 1952**, May 7 — 4:30 p.m. Magazine writer Ed Keffer, in the company of João Martins, takes five photographs of a UFO over Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In the first, the UFO resembles an airplane coming directly toward them over a large group of trees. The second shows the object as disc-shaped. The third photo is taken as the object tilts slightly, showing both the top with a slight dome and the now obvious disc shape. More trees, including a very tall palm, can be seen in the photograph. The fourth picture, taken as the object tilts the other way, shows a raised ring on the bottom. The final picture is taken as the object is nearly vertical, seen over part of the ocean and some distant hills. The UFO disappears shortly afterward. NICAP does not see any negatives and is skeptical. The Colorado project finds a “glaring internal inconsistency” in the illumination and dismisses the photos as hoaxes. Today, the best evidence seems to suggest the case is a hoax, perpetrated by two magazine writers who wanted an interesting story. (NICAP, “[Barra da Tijuca Photos](#)”; Olavo T. Fontes, “[The Barra da Tijuca Disc](#),” *APRO Special Report no. 1* (October 1961): 1–6; Condon, [pp. 83, 415–418](#); Swords 460–461; Cláudio Tsuyoshi Suenaga, “[Os 90 Anos do O Cruzeiro, a Revista que Inaugurou a Era Moderna dos Discos Voadores no Brasil](#),” October 11, 2018; “[O caso da Barra da Tijuca](#),” *Fenomenum*, February 17, 2022)
- 1952**, May 8 — 2:27 a.m. Pan American Airways pilot Clayton C. Gallagher and his copilot, flying a Lockheed Constellation aircraft at 8,000 feet en route from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to New York, see a light, 10 times the size of an airplane landing light, approach them over the Atlantic Ocean east of South Carolina. It streaks past their left wing about a quarter mile away, followed by two smaller orange balls of fire. Probable meteor. (NICAP, “[Three UAO Sighted by Constellation Crew](#)”; Ruppelt, [pp. 133–135](#); [Sparks](#), p. 131; “[San Juan Puerto Rico Pan Am CE-II Case of 5-8-52 – Jay Glick](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Tim Printy, “[May 8, 1952: Atlantic Ocean off Jacksonville, Fla.](#),” *SUNlite* 15, no. 3 (May/June 2023): 3–5)
- 1952**, May 8 — Air Force Secretary [Thomas Finletter](#) and his staff (including his special assistant, covert CIA agent [Joseph Bryan III](#)) receive a secret one-hour briefing on UFOs from [Ruppelt](#) and Lt. Col. R. J. Taylor that covers USAF investigations over the previous five years. Finletter asks questions about some specific sightings. (Ruppelt, [p. 138](#); Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers*, Rose Press, 2000, pp. 99–100)
- 1952**, May 10 — 3:00 p.m. USAF Lt. Col. Maurice G. Bechtel and his wife are in the yard of their home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when they see two silvery disc-shaped objects flying straight and level, one after the other, moving southwest to northeast at above 20,000 feet. The first object seems to waver on its axis, the second object follows a similar path but at a higher altitude. The first object is the size of a B-36 at high altitude. Bechtel alerts the radar station but it is unable to track the objects. (NICAP, “[Two Discs Observed by Lt. Colonel and Wife](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 132)
- 1952**, May 10 — 8:30 p.m. A British scientist and others at Paphos, Cyprus, see a luminous circular object rise from the sea and waver back and forth before fading from sight directly overhead. ([Sparks](#), p. 132; Good Above, [p. 540](#); Covert 23)
- 1952**, May 10 — 10:45 p.m. Four employees of DuPont Corporation at the AEC’s Savannah River Laboratory near Jackson, South Carolina, see four disc-shaped objects approach, then two other discs pass high overhead from different directions. They are a luminous yellow-gold color and move at a high rate of speed. One of the discs approaches at such a low altitude that it must ascend to pass over some tall tanks at the facility. One witness says that the objects are weaving from left to right while continuing on a steady course. The case is investigated by the FBI and passed on to the Pentagon and the Atomic Energy Commission. Tim Printy thinks the objects may have been birds illuminated by ground lighting. (NICAP, “[Objects Sighted near Vital Installation](#)”; memo from J.

- Edgar Hoover to USAF Director of Special Investigations, "[Flying Disks Reportedly Seen in Vicinity of Savannah River Plant Atomic Energy Commission](#)," May 25, 1952, [p. 19]; [Sparks](#), p. 132; Nukes 84; Tim Printy, "[The 701 Club: Case #1198, Ellenton, South Carolina, May 10, 1952](#)," *SUNlite* 15, no. 3 (May/June 2023): 5–6)
- 1952**, May 12 — 8:45 p.m. A UFO is seen by Walker AFB T/Sgt. Raymond Bare in a car in downtown Roswell, New Mexico. The object is blue-green in color, and its estimated altitude above the terrain is 20,000–30,000 feet. It appears to be about 40–50 miles distant over some low mountains east of Ruidosa. The object travels three times over approximately the same south-to-north / east-to-west, swaying, triangular course. Rate of speed cannot be precisely estimated but is faster than that of a jet aircraft. Intensity of color brightness varies with the object's altitude. The Air Force explains it as the planet Venus, but Venus is on the other side of the earth at the time. (NICAP, "[High-Speed Object Maneuvers over Mountains](#)"; Clark III 390–391; [Sparks](#), p. 132)
- 1952**, May 13 — 8:55 p.m. Aeronautical engineer Donald R. Carr sees a meteor-like object descend over National City, California, flying a curving path to the northwest. At 9:25 p.m., Carr watches a similar object, seemingly returning from the north. (UFOEv, [p. 4](#))
- 1952**, May 13 — 10:33 p.m. James Richardson and three other amateur astronomers (among them [Cyril Thomas Wyche](#) and [Harry B. Mooney](#)), set up telescopes at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, when they see a diamond formation of 4 oval, reddish-yellow or reddish-brown luminous objects nearly overhead. They disappear after 3 seconds moving through a 12° arc. The apparent size is a half dollar at arms length. They wobble in flight. (NICAP, "[Diamond Formation of 4 Objects Observed by Astronomers](#)"; Willy Smith, "[Blue Book Pearls: Greenville, S.C.](#)," *IUR* 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 8–9, 24; [Sparks](#), p. 133; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 10, 15; Willy Smith, [On Pilots and UFOs](#), UNICAT Project, 1997, pp. 31–42)
- 1952**, May 15 — USAF Intelligence Special Study Group Chief Lieut. Col. E. Sterling and [Stefan Possony](#) begin a five-week temporary duty trip to Europe to study Soviet missiles and aircraft. As a side project they study "flying saucers" that might be of Soviet origin. No documents have yet been found on this trip's results. (Swords 151)
- 1952**, May 15 — 6:35 p.m. The pilot of an F-51 assigned to the 18th Fighter Bomber Group flying at 9,000 feet over North Korea encounters a silver object estimated to be 50 feet in diameter. It appears ahead of him to the right and begins climbing at 1,000 mph to the east, pauses, then descends into some haze. (Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 39–40](#))
- 1952**, May 15 — 8:00 p.m. Two F-86E pilots of the 61st Fighter-Interceptor Wing are on a mission in North Korea when they see a silvery disc larger than a MiG aircraft 20 miles away and below them at 8,000–10,000 feet. Seen for only 3–5 seconds, the object is traveling at 1,200–1,500 mph in a rolling maneuver. (Haines, *Korea*, [p. 39](#))
- 1952**, May 17 — 9:30 p.m. Mr. R. Baits is on the beach at Derna, Libya, with three companions when he notices a soft orange-yellow light traveling soundlessly toward them from inland at great speed and in a straight line. Suddenly, as it reaches a point overhead, it swerves to the east over the town, gaining height. After a few seconds it moves to the south and begins zigzagging until it fades away into the background of stars. ("[Mystery Light's Erratic Course](#)," *Newcastle (UK) Evening Chronicle*, June 13, 1952, p. 13; [Letter], "[It Was a Light](#)," *Newcastle (UK) Evening Chronicle*, June 13, 1952, p. 3)
- 1952**, Late May — 1:00–3:00 a.m. Royal Canadian Navy Commander George R. McFarlane is officer of the watch on the Canadian warship [HMCS Iroquois](#) in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Guam en route to Korea. He sees many different lights, some single, others in formations of 3, 5, or 6, appearing and disappearing instantly. Suddenly one of the objects appears off the port bow at close range and low elevation. McFarlane and the signalman on watch see that the light is attached to a disc-shaped object with two dozen black windows running along its side. It hovers nearby for at least 15 minutes. (Good Need, [pp. 142–143](#))
- 1952**, May 23 — After 11:00 p.m. Lockheed worker [Orfeo Angelucci](#) is driving home on Victory Boulevard from his job in Burbank, California, when he senses a force and sees a red, glowing UFO. After a while he begins to follow it, and after he crosses the Los Angeles River and turns onto Forest Lawn Drive, he gets to within 30 feet of it when it hovers. Just before it streaks away, two smaller green globes, 3 feet in diameter, shoot out of it and approach him. He hears a voice saying, "Don't be afraid, Orfeo, we are friends." This begins his contact with benevolent beings from other planets. (Orfeo Angelucci and Paul M. Vest, "I Traveled in a Flying Saucer," *Mystic Magazine*, November 1953, pp. 55–61; Orfeo Angelucci, *The Secret of the Saucers*, Amherst Press, 1955, [pp. 1–15](#); Bryant and Helen Reeve, *Flying Saucer Pilgrimage*, Amherst Press, 1957, [pp. 222–232](#); Clark III 127–129; Håkan Blomqvist, "[Orfeo Angelucci and the Esoteric Tradition](#)," Håkan Blomqvist's Blog, December 14, 2019; "[Orfeo Angelucci in a Rare Recording on Meeting Extraterrestrial Entities and The Secret of the Saucers](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 2, 2023)
- 1952**, May 25 — 9:27 a.m. An Air Force captain in charge of the navigation section of Combat Crew Training School at Randolph AFB near San Antonio, Texas, his wife, and another pilot see a group of about 12 orange-white, tear-drop shaped lights in 3 groups of 4 moving from west to east at 2,000 mph and 10,000 feet altitude. They hear

deep, soft intermittent noise. (NICAP, "[Randolph AFB, Texas, May 25, 1952, UFO Report](#)"; Ruppelt, [p. 140](#); [Sparks](#), p. 134)

- 1952**, May 26 — 3:20 a.m. Ground radar alerts the crew of an F-94 Starfire interceptor jet over North Korea that an unidentified target is on its tail. The jet turns, descends to 2,500 feet, and both the pilot, 1Lt John W. Martin, and radar operator, 1Lt. Edward A. Monard, see a brilliant white light above and straight ahead. They make one pass within 600 feet of the object, but due to its brilliance they cannot identify its shape. The pilot makes six more close passes, but still cannot identify it. Their aircraft radar does not pick up the object. After the last pass, the radar operator briefly thinks he sees something following them, and ground radar tells them there is an unknown target on their tail. The pilot banks to the right to get behind the target, and this time the aircraft radar locks onto the object, which is ahead of them. In less than a minute, the F-94 is within 3.4 miles of the target. The UFO then performs a steady climbing turn and accelerates away reaching a distance of nearly 15 miles from the jet in 12–15 seconds, breaking radar contact. [Robert Powell](#) estimates that the object is speeding away at 5,371 mph and sustaining 16.7 g-forces, which is roughly what USAF Brig. Gen. [Charles Y. Banfill](#) estimates shortly after the incident. (NICAP, "[F-94 Has UFO on Its Tail, Radar Tracks](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 135; Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 40–44](#); Powell, *Scientist*, 70–72)
- 1952**, May 28 — 1:45 p.m. Albuquerque, New Mexico, fire department employees Martin Romero and Don Atteberry see two circular objects, one shiny silver and the other orange or light brown, performing fast maneuvers on three different occasions over the course of an hour above the northeast part of the city. (NICAP, [[Blue Book case documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 135)
- 1952**, May 28 — 8:30–8:40 p.m. A green fireball about one-third the size of the full moon is seen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from eight ground points and five aircraft. [Lincoln LaPaz](#) pinpoints the fall near Santa Fe. Around the same time, the crew of a Flying Tiger Line C-46 near Otto, New Mexico, sees a green fireball rise up and drop steeply down. ("[2 Green Fireballs Seen by Many, LaPaz Reports](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, May 29, 1952, p. 2)
- 1952**, May 28–29 — During a night refueling mission at 8:10 p.m., the crews of five USAF B-29 bombers see green spherical objects. The primary sighting takes place near Albuquerque, New Mexico, and involves three B-29s flying at 15,000 feet. Another sighting takes place around 11:30 p.m. about 10 miles southwest of Tulsa, Oklahoma. That crew is flying at 25,000 feet. Three hours later the final sighting takes place near Enid, Oklahoma, also with a B-29 at 25,000 feet. The aircrews making these reports do not think the objects are meteorites. (NICAP, "[Five B-29 Bomber Crews Observe Green Objects](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 135)
- 1952**, May 30 — USAF Maj. [William D. Leet](#), copilot on a C-54 transport mission at 8,500 feet near Oshima, Japan, sees a dark object hovering in clouds for 7 minutes. It disappears, speeding away in seconds. (NICAP, "[C-54 Crew Encounters Round Black Object](#)"; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 January–May, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2000, pp. 82–83; [Sparks](#), p. 136)
- 1952**, May 31 — About 4:00 a.m. Over a ground radar site near Cheorwon, South Korea, several US soldiers see a bright UFO that looks like a falling star, except that it stops falling and begins to climb again. It then moves northeast at 150 mph, reverses course twice, moves in jerky motions, turns seemingly simultaneously, then climbs at a 45° angle and disappears from sight within 3–4 seconds. One guard hears a pulsating sound. An F-94 attempts to intercept the brilliant white object, which takes clearly evasive maneuvers with superior speed, maneuverability, and climbing ability. It pulls away at 30,000 feet. The object is tracked on the F-94's airborne radar. (NICAP, "[Jerky Object Observed and Tracked on Radar](#)"; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 87–90](#); Haines, *Korea*, [pp. 63–64](#); [Sparks](#), p. 136; Patrick Gross, "[UFO US Military Reports, Korea, 1952](#)"; Powell, *Scientist*, 65–66)
- 1952**, May 31 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #7. (US Air Force, *Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12*, NICAP, 1968, pp. 113–130)
- 1952**, June — [Ruppelt](#) has four officers, two airmen, and two civilians on his permanent Blue Book staff (including Lt. [Anderson G. Flues](#), Robert M. Olsson, and Kerry Rothstien), as well as a number of scientific consultants, including [Hynek](#). In the Pentagon, Maj. [Dewey Fournet Jr.](#) is a full-time Blue Book liaison. (Ruppelt, [p. 140](#))
- 1952**, June — In the wake of mass public and governmental interest in UFOs kindled by the provocative *Life* magazine article, CIA intelligence experts [Sidney N. Graybeal](#) (Chief, Guided Missiles Branch, Weapons and Equipment Division, Office of Scientific Intelligence) and [Irl D'Arcy Brent](#) (Chief, Ground Branch, W&E Division, OSI) prepare a summary of the UFO subject for the CIA/OSI hierarchy based on the past several years of OSI intelligence (and OSI predecessor documents going back to ghost rockets of 1946) and mentioning sightings going back to the Bible. The possibility of swamp gas in Michigan as an explanation for UFOs is suggested by Brent (foreshadowing the [Hynek](#) swamp-gas fiasco in Michigan in 1966). This report has never been acknowledged or released by the CIA despite FOIA litigation. Its existence and contents are revealed in [Brad](#)

[Sparks](#)'s interviews with Brent and Graybeal and other OSI officials in 1975–1976. (NICAP, "[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)")

- 1952, June** — Jet pilots allegedly discover the wreck of a flying disc on Spitsbergen in the Svalbard archipelago, Norway. It is taken to Narvik, where it is identified as either a Russian or extraterrestrial device. Other variants of the legend claim it is a Nazi device or that it is actually discovered on Heligoland, Germany, in the North Sea. [Nick Redfern](#) suspects the story is planted by either Soviet or US intelligence. ("Auf Spitzbergen landete Fliegende Untertasse," *Saarbrücker Zeitung* [Saarbrücken, Germany], June 28, 1952; *Hessische Nachrichten* [Kassel, Germany], July 26, 1954; E. W. Grenfell, "[First Report on the Captured Flying Saucer](#)," *Sir!* September 1954, pp. 16–17, 56–57; *Le Lorrain*, October 15, 1954; *Verdens Gang* [Oslo, Norway], December 19, 1954; Condon, [pp. 90–91](#); Edwards, *FS—Serious Business*, 1966; William Steinman and Wendelle C. Stevens, *UFO Crash at Aztec*, UFO Photo Archives, 1987, pp. 353–366; Ole Jonny Brønne, "[Legend of the Spitsbergen Saucer](#)," *IUR* 17, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1992): 14–20; Kremlin 45–46; Kevin D. Randle, "[Spitsbergen Crash/Retrieval and David Grusch](#)," A Different Perspective, May 26, 2024)
- 1952, June** — Sunset. In Tombstone, Arizona, Navy Lieut. Cmdr. John C. Williams, his wife Josephine, and a guest see a "huge circular object" flying toward them from the direction of Tucson. Suddenly it stops in mid-flight, hovers, then reverses direction and retraces its course. A few seconds later it returns, stops gain, and appears to oscillate and tilt from one side to the other. Again it reverses its course, repeating everything 2–3 more times. (UFOEv, [p. 31](#))
- 1952, Early June** — 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. Violet M. Winstead and her husband are driving in a narrow valley somewhere between Charleston and White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, when they see a number of lights on a bridge crossing the valley. They begin blinking off, one by one. When they get to the bridge, they see no street lights. (Violet M. Winstead, [Letter](#), *IUR* 9, no.1 (Jan./Feb. 1984): 3)
- 1952, June 1** — 2:40 a.m. A cargo ship anchored at the wharf in Port-Gentil, Gabon, observes a mysterious object fly from behind the city, make a double loop, pass over the roadstead, and then dive toward the sea. (ClearIntent, [p. 119](#))
- 1952, June 1** — Morning. The chief of a radar test section for Hughes Aircraft Company tracks an unidentified target coming across the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles, California. It is moving at 180 mph toward Santa Monica at an altitude of 11,000 feet. The object suddenly triples its speed to 550 mph, turns, and climbs over Los Angeles at 35,000 feet per minute. The target then levels out for a few seconds, goes into a high-speed dive, and levels out again at 55,000 feet. They lose the blip somewhere near Riverside. (NICAP, "[Radar Tracks Object Which Suddenly Climbs to 55,000 Feet](#)"; Ruppelt, [pp. 141–143](#))
- 1952, June 4** — Air Force Secretary [Finletter](#) issues a press release about his May 8 UFO briefing, saying, "No concrete evidence has yet reached us either to prove or disprove the existence of the so-called flying saucers. There remain, however, a number of sightings that the Air Force investigators have been unable to explain. As long as this is true, the Air Force will continue to study flying saucer reports." (Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [p. 51](#))
- 1952, June 5** — Air Force Intelligence initiates a series of internal staff studies on UFOs, inspired by Brig. Gen. [William M. Garland](#)'s new policy emphasizing instrumentation, that is circulated within AFOIN and ATIC. (Francis Ridge, "[The 1952 Top-Secret USAF Instrumented UFO Data Collection Plan](#)," *The SCU Review* 4, no. 3 (August 21, 2023): 9–11)
- 1952, June 6** — 8:42 a.m. Flight Sgt. [Kenneth Dudley Smith](#) from the 77th RAAF Squadron at Kimpo Air Base [now Gimpo International Airport] in Seoul, Korea, observes a dull silver object in the shape of a coin and about 50–60 feet long performing spinning and tumbling maneuvers for 4 minutes at 345 mph. Flight Sgt. Kenneth Fawner also sees the UFO for 30 seconds. ([[Blue Book case documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 137; Powell, *Scientist*, 48)
- 1952, June 6** — Battelle issues its second status report on Project Stork to ATIC. It describes a "tentative" data sheet for observers to fill out, a more detailed coding scheme, an example of an IBM punch card that will be used, and plans for statistical studies. ("[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#)," CUFON; "[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 2](#)," CUFON; Clark III 929)
- 1952, June 8** — 10:50 a.m. Four flat, round, shiny objects in a diamond formation are seen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from the ground by Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Markland. The objects are approximately 15,000 feet in altitude and traveling 300 mph. There is no audible sound. They are first seen at about 60° above the horizon to the north and are traveling to the southwest at approximately 240°. (NICAP, "[Diamond Formation of Flat Objects Observed](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 138; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 10, 15)
- 1952, June 8** — During a launch of a pibal balloon at Calgary, Alberta, a silvery ellipse with a sharp outline reflecting sunlight and an aspect ratio of 8:1 crosses the field of vision of the observer's theodolite. (Arthur Bray, *The UFO Connection*, Jupiter Publishing, 1979, p. 186; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 14)

- 1952**, June 9 — Astronomer [Donald H. Menzel](#) writes in *Time* magazine that most UFOs are light reflections caused by ice crystals, refractions, or temperature inversions. (“[An Astronomer’s Explanation: Those Flying Saucers](#),” *Time*, June 9, 1952, pp. 54–56; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 9)
- 1952**, June 9 — [Robert Emmett Ginna Jr.](#) publishes a follow-up essay in *Life* magazine about the deluge of mail he has received in reaction to his April 7 article, “Have We Visitors From Space?” Letters received mention a number of “provocative and plausible” theories. Ginna discusses the light-inversion hypothesis after consulting geographer [Ronald L. Ives](#), an authority on mirages. Ives believes mirages, even of “the most remarkable nature,” are not a plausible explanation for many sightings, due to the ideal conditions that would be necessary. (Robert E. Ginna Jr., “[Saucer Reactions](#),” *Life*, June 9, 1952, pp. 20–26)
- 1952**, June 11 — 6:44 p.m. Two round objects, dark blue with gray centers, are seen moving southwest to northwest for 40 seconds at 500 mph and 6,000 feet altitude several miles east of O’Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois. One passes the other before disappearing. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 10–11)
- 1952**, June 13 — 1:00 a.m. M. Veillot and M. Damiens, air traffic control operators at Paris–Le Bourget Airport, France, watch a prominent orange-red light hover in the sky for about one hour. Eventually it begins moving and crosses the sky southwest of the airport, accelerating rapidly. The light is also seen by M. Navarri, the pilot of an approaching Air France plane. (Michel, *Truth About FS*, 165–166)
- 1952**, June 15 — 8:32 a.m. A meteorological assistant on reserve army maneuvers sees a large silver disc in the sky southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia. It moves southwest for 30 seconds at an altitude of 5,000–8,000 feet and then rises and merges in 2–5 seconds with altocumulus clouds at 11,000–12,000 feet. Its diameter is about 100 feet and speed at least 800 mph. (Good Above, [p. 184](#))
- 1952**, June 15 — The Beacon Hill Group at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory issues its 292-page report on ways that the US Air Force can improve its photographic reconnaissance and other intelligence gathering methods on the Soviet bloc. UFOs are not mentioned. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Project Lincoln, [Beacon Hill Report: Problems of Air Force Intelligence and Reconnaissance](#), June 15, 1952)
- 1952**, June 15 — 4:20 p.m. A round shiny object is seen over Gordonsville, Virginia. At 4:25 p.m., the crew of a commercial airliner reports a silver sphere over Richmond, Virginia. At 4:33 p.m., a Marine fighter jet is scrambled from Marine Corps Base Quantico in Prince William County, Virginia, and attempts to intercept a target south of Gordonsville but fails and returns to base. At 5:43 p.m., an Air Force fighter attempts to intercept the same shiny sphere but after reaching 35,000 feet turns back. At 7:35 p.m., a UFO emitting a golden glow is seen over Blackstone, Virginia. Fighter jets from Langley AFB in Hampton, Virginia, are scrambled, but the object is gone by the time they get there at 8:05 p.m. (Ruppelt, [pp. 144–145](#))
- 1952**, June 15 — 11:50 p.m. Edward Duke, a former Navy radar technician, sees an unidentified cigar-shaped object in the vicinity of Standiford Field [now Louisville International Airport], Louisville, Kentucky. It has a light on either side of the fuselage and a reddish hue on the trailing end. The object appears to be moving at about 400–500 mph and maneuvers around in several directions for 15 minutes, then descends and flies away to the northeast. ([[Blue Book document](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 138)
- 1952**, June 16 — 8:30 p.m. USAF B-29 maintenance specialist S/Sgt. James C. Sparks, 6th Bomb Wing (Heavy), is walking between buildings #590 and T-588 at Walker Air Force Base [now closed] in Roswell, New Mexico. He sees first one object in the southeast about 1 mile distant resembling the shadow of a landing B-29 or B-50. As it passes overhead, he also notices 5–7 silverish-gray round objects, in a half-moon formation, flying at an estimated 500–600 mph at about 5,000 feet altitude in a line heading to the northwest. They disappear at about 1–2 miles. When nearly overhead, the object on the east breaks formation by 10° further to the right. Sparks can hear no engine noise. (NICAP, “[5–7 Silver-Grey Round Objects Fly over Base](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 138)
- 1952**, June 17 — 1:28 a.m. A USAF F-94 pilot sees a light like a bright star cross the nose of his jet at blinding speed over Cape Cod, Massachusetts, for 15 seconds. ([Sparks](#), p. 138)
- 1952**, June 17 — Astronomer [Donald Menzel](#) writes in an article in *Look* magazine about how he creates temperature-inversion UFOs in his laboratory. (Donald H. Menzel, “[The Truth about Flying Saucers](#),” *Look* 16, no. 13 (June 17, 1952): 35–39; NICAP, “[The Truth about Flying Saucers, Look Magazine](#)”)
- 1952**, June 17 — 7:30–10:20 p.m. Many witnesses at McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] south of Tacoma, Washington, see 5–6 yellowish discs, tracked by radar and theodolite. Several F-94s are scrambled. (NICAP, “[1–5 Silver Yellow Objects Stop and Start](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 138; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15)
- 1952**, June 17 — 8:45 p.m.. Orville Foster, a US Weather Bureau observer at the Pueblo (Colorado) Memorial Airport, watches a UFO through the bureau’s theodolite. It circles leisurely for 10 minutes, then disappears toward the northeast. (“‘Flying Saucer’ Sighted at Pueblo,” *Leadville (Colo.) Herald-Democrat*, June 18, 1952; “[Saucers Still](#)

- with 'Em Colorado Way," Salt Lake City *Deseret News*, June 18, 1952, p. 3; "[Weather Observer Reports Seeing a Flying Saucer](#)," *Hastings (Nebr.) Daily Tribune*, June 18, 1952, p. 1; Project 1947, "[UFO Reports, 1952](#)")
- 1952**, Mid-June — [Ruppelt](#) briefs Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#) and his staff, two Navy captains from ONI, and "some people I can't name." The meeting is contentious. One USAF colonel argues that Blue Book's investigation is biased against the ETH, which launches an emotional debate. Ruppelt is directed to "take further steps to obtain positive identification" of UFO reports. (Ruppelt, [pp. 147–149](#))
- 1952**, June 18 — 5:00 p.m. USAF Capt. Erie P. Ashton and 2nd Lt. Clifton Ashley, while flying a B-25 about 100 miles east of March AFB [now March Air Reserve Base] in southern California, sight a silver object at approximately 11,000 feet in altitude off their left wing. The object is longer than it is wide and is in sight for about 39 minutes. (NICAP, "[UFO Paces B-25](#)"; Ruppelt, [p. 146](#); [Sparks](#), p. 138)
- 1952**, June 18 — According to Sgt. [Richard Doty](#)'s 1980s disinformation, the living alien retrieved in 1949 (EBE-1) and kept at Los Alamos, New Mexico, dies of unknown causes. (Clark III 364)
- 1952**, June 19 — 2:37 a.m. At Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, radar men pick up a UFO track. 2nd Lt. A'Gostino and others outside see a strange, red-lighted object come in over the field. The radar blip suddenly enlarges, as if the device has banked, exposing a larger surface to the radar beam. The watching airmen see the red light wobble or flutter. After a moment the light turns white and quickly disappears. Apparently, the unknown craft has gone into a steep climb. [Keyhoe](#) assumes the radar and visual sightings are simultaneous, but Blue Book records indicate they are separate. (NICAP, "[Target Suddenly Enlarges](#)"; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [p. 52](#); Ruppelt, [p. 146](#); [Sparks](#), p. 139; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 55–56)
- 1952**, June 19 — 1:30 p.m. Four silvery UFOs are seen by many witnesses in Tacoma, Washington, flying silently at a high altitude. Unofficial sources report that the objects are tracked on radar at McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] in Tacoma and jets are scrambled. (*Tacoma (Wash.) Reporter*, June 20, 1952; Shoot 9; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15)
- 1952**, June 19 — 6:00 p.m. Army Capt. Harold Hermann and his wife see a round, silver UFO speeding across the sky at Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania. ("[Flying Saucers' Sighted](#)," *New York Times*, June 24, 1952, p. 26)
- 1952**, June 19 — 9:50 p.m. A former Army Air Force ground crew member sees a UFO flying in a swirling motion over the backyard of his home in Trenton, New Jersey. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 17)
- 1952**, June 20 — 3:03 p.m. A flight of four US Marine Corps captains and pilots ([Bobbie Foster](#), Richard Francisco, [Teddy L. Pittman](#), and [Ronnie A. McDonald](#)) of F4U-4B Corsair fighters with the 7302nd Squadron over central Korea see a silvery-white object passing below them, banking into a left turn. As the object circles around, Foster dives toward the object, which appears to be 10–20 feet in diameter. It flies away at an estimated speed of 1,000 mph and disappears toward friendly lines. (NICAP, "[F4U-4B Corsairs Encounter Circling UFO](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 139)
- 1952**, June 21 — 12:30 p.m. T/Sgt. Howard Davis, flight engineer of a B-29 bomber flying at 8,000 feet altitude near Kelly AFB [now Kelly Field] in San Antonio, Texas, sees a small, flat object with a sharply pointed front and rounded rear. It is white with a dark blue center and red rim and trails sparks as it dives past the B-29 at a distance of 500 feet in one second. (NICAP, "[B-29 Encounters Flat Object with Pointed Front](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 140)
- 1952**, June 21 — 10:58 p.m. A Ground Observer Corps spotter at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, sees a small (6–8 inches in diameter), slow-moving UFO near the AEC plant. GCI radar obtains the target, but it fades from the scope. An F-97 on combat air patrol engages in a "dogfight" with the object, which makes "ramming attacks" at the aircraft. It blinks until it speeds away. (NICAP, "[Radar Visual near AEC Plant](#)"; Ruppelt, [p. 43](#); [Sparks](#), p. 139)
- 1952**, June 22 — 10:45 p.m. Two US Marine sergeants see a 4-foot diameter orange object dive at a runway from the north, dropping from 800 to 100 feet altitude over the west end of the runway at Pyeongtaek military base, South Korea, shooting 2–5-foot red flames. It then heads west at about 300–450 mph for 2–3 seconds, hovers briefly over a hill, turns 180° in 45–60 seconds, flashes, heads east a half mile, flashes again, and blinks out. No sound. (*Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 82–83](#); [Sparks](#), p. 140)
- 1952**, June 23 — 1:30 a.m. USAF ADC radar operators Lt. A. N. Robinson Jr. and Airman Ray H. Foote, plus 5 other controllers, officers, and maintenance technicians at Kirksville Air Force Station in Missouri, track a hard target with a clear sharp return about the size of a B-29. It suddenly appears 85 miles north-northwest of the station, moving at a constant speed of about 3,600+ mph on a straight path for about 125 miles for 2 minutes. Then it vanishes. A second target appears at 1:35 a.m. (NICAP, "[Seven ADC Men Track 3,600 MPH Target](#)"; Michael D. Swords, "[Case Missing](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 20; [Sparks](#), p. 141)
- 1952**, June 23 — 3:30 a.m. Secretary Martha Milligan sees a bullet-shaped object emitting a burnt-orange exhaust fly straight and level over Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (NICAP, "[June 23, 1952: Oak Ridge, Tenn.](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 141)

- 1952**, June 23 — 10:00 a.m. National Guard Lt. Col. [Oren Laramore Depp](#) [[Johnny Depp](#)'s grandfather] sees two objects looking like giant soap bubbles reflecting yellow and lavender colors flying in line over Owensboro, Kentucky. ([Sparks](#), p. 141)
- 1952**, June 23 — 4:05 p.m. Airport weather observer Rex Thompson sees a round disc with a metallic shine flash and flutter like a flipped coin for 5–7 minutes over Geiger Field [now Spokane International Airport], Spokane, Washington. (NICAP, "[June 23, 1952: Spokane, Wash.](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 140)
- 1952**, June 23 — 9:00 p.m. 2d Lt. K. Thompson sees a very large light flying straight and level for 10 minutes at McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] near Tacoma, Washington. ([Sparks](#), p. 140; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15)
- 1952**, June 24 — The first issue of *Ouranos* is published by the Commission Internationale d'Enquêtes sur les Soucoupes Volantes, in Paris. ([Ouranos](#), no. 1)
- 1952**, June 25 — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) writes an "Interim Report on Project Magnet," in which he states: "If, as appears evident, the flying saucers are emissaries from some other civilization, and actually do operate no magnetic principles, we have before us the fact that we have missed something in magnetic theory but have a good indication of the direction in which to look for the missing quantities." (Good Above, [p. 185](#))
- 1952**, June 25 — 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Daniel Norbury and Lawrence Matheis see a bright yellow-white, egg-shaped object, sometimes with a red tail, make seven circles over Chicago, Illinois. (NICAP, "[June 25, 1952: Chicago, Illinois](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 141)
- 1952**, June 27–30 — [Ruppelt](#) visits McChord AFB in Tacoma, Washington, to look into recent sightings there. Capt. Harnnagay of the 4704 Air Defense Wing Intelligence tells him that the objects are always seen in the northern sky around 8:00 p.m. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, pp. 23–24)
- 1952**, June 28 — 1:20 p.m. Two observers at the Cargo Air Service hangar at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, see two silvery discs high in the sky and moving to the south. They noiselessly climb nearly vertically at high speed, one going south-southeast, the other heading almost due east. The observation lasts 30 seconds. (J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 68–69](#); [Sparks](#), p. 142)
- 1952**, June 29 — 5:45 p.m. Three Air Force police officers of the 83rd Air Base Squadron at O'Hare Airport in Chicago spot a flat, oval object as it hovers between two radio towers about 7 miles away. It is bright silver in color, encircled by white haze, and appears about 30 feet in diameter. During the next 45 minutes the object moves to the southwest and then back north. It accelerates instantaneously to a speed faster than a jet fighter. ([Blue Book documents](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 143)
- 1952**, June 30 — [Ruppelt](#) says that by this time there is a split in opinion in the military about what to do about UFOs. One group assumes that UFOs are interplanetary, and information must be withheld at a top-secret level. "The enthusiasm of this group took a firm hold in the Pentagon, at Air Defense Command headquarters, on the Research and Development Board, and many other agencies." (Ruppelt, [pp. 152–153](#))
- 1952**, Summer — Denis Plunkett forms a British branch of [Albert K. Bender](#)'s International Flying Saucer Bureau in Bristol, England. When Bender closes down IFSB in late September 1953, the branch becomes the British Flying Saucer Bureau, with his son E. L. Plunkett as president. It publishes *Flying Saucer News* from Spring 1953 to Spring 1956 and *Flying Saucer News Bulletin* from February 1955 through 1957. ([Flying Saucer News](#), no. 1 (Spring 1953); [Flying Saucer News Bulletin](#), no. 1 (February 1955))
- 1952**, Summer — Night. Radar at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida, picks up a target at 40,000 feet flying at 460 mph. A nearby B-29 volunteers to investigate, searching until midnight. The pilot, a USAF colonel, finally reports a visual sighting of the UFO, flying at 40,000 feet and 250 mph and appearing as a glowing white light shaped like a football. The object changes course and disappears at high speed. (UFOEv, [p. 25](#))
- 1952**, July — Edgar Jarrold begins the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia's first civilian UFO organization, following his personal observation of two fast-moving yellow lights in the sky over Fairfield, New South Wales. ("[Saucers on His Mind](#)," *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Gazette*, February 2, 1954, p. 7; Clark III 632; Bill Chalker, "[The Early Days of the Public UFO Drama in Australia: Even an Atomic Connection of a Sort](#)," *The OzFiles*, October 2, 2023)
- 1952**, July — Afternoon. A man driving a car near Schenectady, New York, sees an oblong object hovering nearby. A gondola lowers from the object and a bunch of "Navy officers in white hats" rush to the windows. All are wearing huge dark glasses. The gondola goes back up, and three smaller UFOs appear and go inside the bigger one. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1952–1953](#), p. 10; Clark III 267)
- 1952**, July — The administration and faculty of Ohio Northern University, in Ada, Ohio, announce the formation of Project A: Investigation of Phenomena, saying that members of the engineering, pharmacy, law, and liberal arts colleges will examine the evidence for UFOs under the direction of Dean [Warren L. Hickman](#). Project A

personnel seek reports from the public and collect newspaper clippings. The project receives a disappointing 54 completed questionnaires, far lower than the 200 they would like for a scientific sampling. However, they do estimate that about 20% involve “unnatural phenomena.” After unsuccessful attempts to obtain reports from Civilian Saucer Investigation in Los Angeles and other groups, the university closes the project down in mid-1954. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 3; Clark III 916; Curt Collins, [“Project A: The Short Life of a UFO Study.”](#) September 21, 2018)

- 1952, July 1** — [J. Robert Moskin](#)’s article appears in *Look* magazine. It features Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#)’s declaration that “we cannot afford to be complacent” about UFOs. [Keyhoe](#) says that the article has upset the “silence group” in the Pentagon. (J. Robert Moskin, [“Hunt for the Flying Saucer.”](#) *Look*. July 1, 1952, pp. 37–41; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 52–53)
- 1952, July 1** — 7:25 a.m. A Ground Observer Corps spotter sees a UFO headed southwest across Boston, Massachusetts. Two F-94s are scrambled. Erwin W. Nelson and his wife at Lynn, Massachusetts, notice two vapor trails from the climbing jets, look around, and see in the west a bright silver “cigar shaped object about six times as long as it was wide” heading over Boston at a very high altitude. An identical UFO is following the first some distance back. No vapor trails are visible. The witnesses watch the F-94s search back and forth far below the UFOs. At 7:30, USAF Capt. [Robert E. Metcalf](#), petroleum officer for the 6520th Test Support Wing, and USAF air policemen M/Sgt [James Stiner](#) and M/Sgt Joseph R. Bosh, 6520th Air Police Squadron, at Hanscom Field, Bedford, Massachusetts, see the two jets, look for what they are intercepting, and see to the east a 100-foot-long silvery ellipse “fatter than a cigar” traveling southwest. At two points, the object seems to hover, then continues at about 40,000 feet. The object’s path intersects contrails of the two jets heading southeast. Metcalf loses sight of the object on his way to the tower after a few minutes, then sees it again at about 7:40 a.m., noting it has increased distance “considerably,” but finally loses sight of it at the tower. ([[Blue Book document](#)]; UFOEv, p. 160; Ruppelt, pp. 150–151; [Sparks](#), p. 144)
- 1952, July 1** — 8:40–9:15 a.m. Two silvery objects move south along the East Coast and hover near Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, for about 5 minutes at 50,000 feet. As radar at Fort Monmouth detects the objects, they put on a burst of speed and head southwest toward Washington, D.C., confirmed visually. At about 12:00 noon, a physics professor at George Washington University in D.C. sees a grayish UFO hovering and arcing back and forth across the sky for about 8 minutes. He guesses about 500 people are watching the object. (NICAP, [“Objects Tracked at 50,000', G/V”](#); Ruppelt, pp. 151–152; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 36–37; [Sparks](#), p. 144)
- 1952, July 2** — 11:10 a.m. As he is driving on a highway seven miles north of Tremonton, Utah, US Navy Chief Petty Officer Delbert C. Newhouse and his wife see a strange object in the sky. Newhouse pulls the car to the side of the road, gets out, and watches 12–14 UFOs at about 10,000 feet. Looking like “two pie pans, one inverted on top of the other,” they are clustered in a loose formation, “milling around.” He takes about 75 seconds worth of film through the telephoto lens of his 16mm movie camera, though the objects have receded a bit to shiny points of light. At one point a single object leaves the pack, heading east, and Newhouse holds the camera still so the UFO crosses the field of view. He repeats the procedure 3–4 times. Blue Book obtains the film and sends it to the USAF Photo-Reconnaissance Laboratory and the Navy’s Photo Interpretation Laboratory. Both analyses eliminate the possibility of aircraft or birds. (NICAP, [“The Tremonton, Utah / Newhouse Color Film”](#); [“Delbert Newhouse UFO Footage, 1952, Tremonton, Utah,”](#) parkerdonaldmusic YouTube channel, September 29, 2012; Victor P. Keay, [“Flying Saucers,”](#) memorandum to FBI Assistant Director Alan H. Belmont, October 27, 1952; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 151–154; Ruppelt, pp. 220–222; UFOEv, pp. 88, 112; [Hynek UFO Report](#), pp. 235–239; Condon, pp. 418–426; [“Turner on Tremonton,”](#) *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): 6; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 39–40; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th: Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, pp. 32–39; Swords 149; Clark III 1203–1204; Kevin D. Randle, [“Newhouse’s Tremonton, Utah Movie Revisited,”](#) A Different Perspective, December 12, 2013; Patrick Gross, [“Tremonton, Utah, UFO Color Film of July 2, 1952”](#); [“Tremonton, UT Photo Case of 7/2/1952 – CWO Delbert W. Newhouse,”](#) *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013)
- 1952, July 3** — 4:15 a.m. A witness on the Manitou Beach Highway near Rome Center, Michigan, watches two circular lights about 20 feet in diameter flying horizontally at tremendous speed at only a few hundred feet altitude. (NICAP, [“July 3, 1952: Selfridge AFB, Mich.”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 145)
- 1952, July 3** — 11:50 p.m. Mrs. J. D. Arbuckle sees two bright pastel-green discs fly straight and level very fast for 6 seconds over Chicago, Illinois. The next day the Air Force public information office at O’Hare Airport says it has received 16 reports of UFOs over Chicago in the past week. An Air Force spokesman says that jet patrols are on alert 24 hours a day. ([Sparks](#), p. 145; [“Deny Reports of ‘Saucers’ Alerts,”](#) *Waterloo (Iowa) Courier*, July 4, 1952, p. 1)

- 1952, July 5** — 6:00 a.m. Four commercial pilots flying at 9,000 feet above the Hanford atomic site in Washington State observe a disc just below a deck of wispy clouds directly above their C-46. The witnesses are Capt. John Baldwin, Capt. George Robertson, H. D. Shenkel, and Steven Summers. Baldwin says that the disc stands still at first and then seems to back away and change shape, becoming flat, gaining speed, and then disappearing. Robertson says “we couldn’t pick it up on our radar. We reversed our course and went back, but we couldn’t spot it again.” (NICAP, “[C-46 Crew Observe Disc over AEC Plant](#)”; “[Flyers Report Saucers near Atomic Plant](#),” *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*, July 6, 1952, p. 1; “[Pilots See ‘Saucer’ over Atom Plant](#),” *Madison Wisconsin State Journal*, July 6, 1952, p. 3; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 53; *Sparks*, p. 145; *Swords* 149)
- 1952, July 5** — 7:58 p.m. Oklahoma State Patrolman Arthur Myers Hamilton is flying five miles south-southeast of Norman, Oklahoma, in a State Patrol airplane when he sees three dark discs 4–8 miles away at 6,000 feet hover for 15 seconds then fly away, silhouetted against a dark cloud. (NICAP, “[Three Dark Discs Sighted from State Patrol Airplane](#)”; *Sparks*, p. 145)
- 1952, July 7** — Battelle issues its third status report on Project Stork to ATIC. It mentions that Hynek has been consulted on the observer’s data sheet, suggested some changes, and is in the process of interviewing astronomers about any potential sightings made by them. The group has studied and coded UFO reports from 1948. (“[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork](#),” CUFON)
- 1952, July 8** — A commissionaire on duty at an army depot in Ottawa, Ontario, sees a bright orange light about a quarter size of the full moon travel from south to north, turn, and travel south again. (Jan Aldrich; Project Magnet Case X)
- 1952, July 9** — 12:45 p.m. USAF Maj. [Claude K. Griffin](#) is driving one mile north of Colorado Springs, Colorado, when he sees a luminous white object shaped like an airfoil moving slowly and erratically like a corkscrew. He estimates its size at 100 feet, distance at 15–20 miles, and altitude at 30,000 feet, heading northwest. Griffin stops the car to watch for 12 minutes. USAF Maj. E. R. Hayden and his wife come out of their house and look at the object in a 4x rifle scope. He describes it as rectangular, silver on one side, and black on the other. It flutters as it moves slowly north-northwest above 20,000 feet 20 miles away. It gains altitude and gradually diminishes to a black dot, then accelerates to a high speed and disappears. (([Blue Book documents](#)); *Sparks*, p. 145)
- 1952, July 9** — 5:30 p.m. Farmer John Mittl watches an aluminum, oval-shaped object silently change direction and attitude above his farm 2 miles east of Kutztown, Pennsylvania, finally tipping on end and departing. He manages to take three photos. (Claude Falkstrom and Curt Collins, “[John Mittl: From Unsolved UFOs to Astral Encounters](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, July 13, 2018)
- 1952, July 9** — 10:00 p.m. Maryland State Police Lt. C. C. Serman and Trooper 1-c Robert Weir are on patrol on the extension of Church Street near US Highway 50 in Hebron, Maryland, when they see a glowing ball of yellow light approaching them. Believing it to be a car with one headlight out, the officers continue toward it. Fearing a collision, they swerve their cruiser into a ditch and stop. The light also stops 20 feet in front of them and hovers and bobs above the road. After a few minutes, the policemen drive slowly forward and the light retreats, keeping a distinct distance away. Finally, the policemen speed toward the light at 50 mph. The luminous ball retreats, staying just a few yards ahead of the cruiser before veering off the road and into a meadow, then vanishes. Troopers Robert W. Burckhardt and Edward Bracey are in another car and also see the maneuvering light. Burckhardt claims he has seen the light on several occasions and says it is about as big as a wash basin and dances around the wooded road and into the trees. (“[Police Chase Mysterious Glow](#),” *Salisbury (Md.) Daily Times*, July 10, 1952, p. 1; “[Crowds Try to See Mysterious Light](#),” *Salisbury (Md.) Daily Times*, July 11, 1952, p. 1; “[Curious Miss Mystery Light](#),” *Salisbury (Md.) Daily Times*, July 12, 1952, pp. 1–2; “[Life Photographer Seeks ‘Ghost Light’](#),” *Salisbury (Md.) Daily Times*, July 14, 1952, p. 1; “[Professor Believes Ghost Light Is Gas](#),” *Salisbury (Md.) Daily Times*, July 16, 1952, p. 1; C. Maxwell Cade and Delphine Davis, *The Taming of the Thunderbolts*, Abelard-Schuman, 1969, pp. 99–104)
- 1952, July 10** — 8:18 p.m. Capt. James E. Lundy and First Officer Leon Blanks are flying a National Airlines C-60 airplane 15 miles south of Quantico, Virginia, when they see an object resembling an aircraft landing light. The object becomes brighter as it approaches from the north. It then performs a climbing turn away from the aircraft and its appearance changes, resembling a light emitted by a red flare. Visible for 10 minutes, it is flying too fast for any known aircraft. (NICAP, “[Light Maneuvers near C-60 Airliner](#)”; *Sparks*, p. 146)
- 1952, July 10** — Night. A Marine pilot on night maneuvers near Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, spots two green objects shoot straight across the sky at terrific speed at a high altitude. (“[Radar Sees ‘Saucers,’ AF Investigating](#),” *Miami (Fla.) News*, July 22, 1952, pp. 1A, 6A)
- 1952, July 10** — Night. Forty crew members of the Canadian destroyer [HMCS Crusader](#) off Korea see two shiny discs and track them on radar. The radar fix places them at 10,560 feet altitude and 7 miles distant. (NICAP, “[Naval Destroyer Observes Two Discs / Tracks on Radar](#)”)

- 1952**, July 11 — The Air Technical Liaison Office, Directorate of Intelligence for the Far East Air Force, prepares Intelligence Report #29-52, detailing Air Force, Navy, and Marine radar UFO reports for 1950–1952 in Korea and Japan. (Capt. Charles J. Malven, “[FLYOBRPT: Japan/Korea Area](#),” IR-29-52, July 11, 1952)
- 1952**, July 12 — 8:42 p.m. O’Hare AFB weather observer Capt. W. J. Shea and a civilian, Jane Morrison, watch three lights, one main red light with smaller white lights on each side, traveling 500 mph at 40,000–50,000 feet over Montrose Beach, Chicago, Illinois, from the west-northwest. They accelerate to the south and make a 180° turn heading north-northwest, then disappear. The UFO is seen by 400+ people, with 14 others making reports to the 4706th Defense Wing located at O’Hare Airport. (Ruppelt, [p. 153](#); [Sparks](#), pp. 146–147)
- 1952**, July 12 — 9:04 p.m. Two USAF F-86 Sabre jets with the 62nd Flight Squadron are flying at 22,000 feet on a routine training mission (or on a scramble mission) over Arlington Heights, Illinois. Capt. Robert W. Casey Jr., after coming out of a right turn, sees an oblong yellowish lighted object with an exhaust moving in a straight course about 15 miles away south of Elgin, Illinois, at 22,000 feet traveling at 800 mph. The F-86 pursues at maximum speed, but the object pulls away. Both pilots hear a strange radio transmission on their restricted communications channel during the pursuit saying the name of the pursuit pilot, Casey, in an ethereal “ghost-like” monotone. Apparently, this is a prank by Casey’s fighter pilot buddies at the 62nd who are monitoring his channel, though this is later officially denied by the 62nd. (NICAP, “[F-86 on Scramble Mission / Strange Radio Transmission](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 147)
- 1952**, July 13 — 4:00 a.m. Capt. William Bruen, piloting National Airline Flight 611 heading north from Jacksonville, Florida, sees a round ball of bluish-white light about 60 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., hovering to the west then ascending to the airliner’s altitude of 11,000 feet, then parallel course off left wing at about 2 miles distance. It takes off upwards at 1,000 mph when Bruen turns on all aircraft lights. (NICAP, “[Light Ascends, Paces Aircraft, Takes Off Vertically](#)”; [Hynek UFO Report](#), pp. 90–91; [Sparks](#), p. 148)
- 1952**, July 14 — The Ground Observer Corps expands into Operation Skywatch, consisting of 750,000 volunteers aged 7 to 86 years old working around the clock in shifts at more than 16,000 posts and 73 filter centers to detect a sneak attack against the United States. The expansion follows an Army announcement from a few weeks earlier that antiaircraft guns and personnel are on continuous duty in key areas. (Radomes.org, “[Ground Observer Corps](#),” January 31, 2001; Shoot 21–22)
- 1952**, July 14 — 9:12 p.m. Some 8,000 feet above the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland/Virginia, Capt. [William B. Nash](#) and copilot First Officer [William H. Fortenberry](#), flying a Pan American Airways DC-4, see six crimson dots at 30°. The dots are streaking in their direction like tracer bullets. As they get closer, they resolve into reddish-orange circles, about 100 feet in diameter and 15 feet thick, with sharply defined edges. Nash says they are holding a “narrow echelon formation.” When they are nearly underneath the aircraft, “they flipped on edge, the sides to the left of us going up and the glowing surfaces facing right. While all were in the edgewise position, the last five slid over and past the leader so that the echelon was now tail foremost.” Then they all flip over again into a flat attitude. Two new, brighter UFOs join the formation, and the lights of all eight objects blink out then come on again. They all speed westward (Nash estimates 6,000–12,000 mph) and climb in a graceful 45° arc. The entire sighting lasts only 15 seconds. Possible corroboration comes from a sighting in Camden, New Jersey, although the date is uncertain. (Wikipedia, “[Nash-Fortenberry UFO sighting](#)”; “[Miami Pilots Spot 8 Saucers Flying in Formation](#),” *Miami (Fla.) Herald*, July 16, 1952, pp. 1A, 8A; “[Two Pilots Add to Flying Saucer Lore](#),” *Washington (N.C.) Daily News*, July 16, 1952, p. 1; “[Pilots Spot 8 Saucers Flying in Norfolk Area](#),” *Washington (D.C.) Daily News*, July 16, 1952, p. 7; “[Rockets, Tracers or Them Devilish Flying Saucers](#),” *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, July 17, 1952, pp. 36, 30; The Witness, “[A Precise Report on Flying Saucers—or Something](#),” *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, July 20, 1952, p. 6; NICAP, “[Nash / Fortenberry Case](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 150; William B. Nash and William H. Fortenberry, “[We Flew Above Flying Saucers](#),” *True*, October 1952, pp. 65, 110–112; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 57–58; “[An Airline Captain Speaks Out](#),” *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 6 (Oct./Nov. 1962): 5–6; Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 260–265; UFOEv, pp. 13, 38–39; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 47; Clark III 791; Good Above, pp. 269–270; “[The Pilot’s Tale](#),” *Saturday Night Uforia*; Swords 149–150; Shoot 22–24; Michael D. Swords, “[Classic Cases from the APRO Files](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 21–22; Thomas Tulien, “[The 1952 Nash/Fortenberry Sighting Revisited](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 20–23, 27–28, [reprinted](#) in Project 1947; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 11, 15; Powell, *Scientist*, 49; “[1952 us #UFOB \[CASE\] Nash-Fortenberry Incident over Chesapeake Bay](#),” UFOB | Your UAP Library YouTube channel, August 10, 2022)
- 1952**, July 15 — The [Lorenzens](#) publish the first issue of the *APRO Bulletin*. ([APRO Bulletin](#) 1, no. 1 (July 1952))

- 1952**, Mid-July — [Ruppelt](#) says that rumors persist that the Air Force is braced for an expected invasion by UFOs. “Had these rumormongers been at ATIC in mid-July they would have thought that the invasion was in full swing.” He talks to a scientist “from an agency that I can’t name” about the build-up of UFO reports. From his study of reports, the scientist predicts that “within the next few days they’re going to blow up and you’re going to have the granddaddy of all UFO sightings. The sighting will occur in Washington or New York, probably Washington.” [Brad Sparks](#) identifies the scientist as [Stefan T. Possony](#), acting chief of the AFOIN Special Study Group and adviser to Gen. [John A. Samford](#). (Ruppelt, pp. 154–155, 157; NICAP, “[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)”)
- 1952**, July 16 — 9:35 a.m. US Coast Guard photographer Seaman [Shell R. Alpert](#) sees several bright lights through a window screen (no glass) from his position inside the photo lab at Coast Guard Air Station Salem [now Winter Island Marine Park], Massachusetts, while cleaning a camera. He watches them for 5–6 seconds, calls out to Hospitalman 1st Class [Thomas E. Flaherty](#) from sick bay to see them. The objects dim then brighten suddenly. Alpert grabs a camera and films 4 roughly elliptical irregular blobs of light in formation through the screen, on Super XX cut film 4-by-5-inch format. The lights disappear suddenly in a flash. The photo is explained as showing reflections of light sources from inside the building, but this ignores the fact that the window is open, and the camera is not pointed through glass. (“[Where Better to See](#),” *Nexus*, no. 8 (February 1955): 3; UFOEv, p. 88; [Sparks](#), p. 151; Joe Nyman and Barry Greenwood, “[The July 1952 Coast Guard Photo Revisited](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 3–5, 25–30; Michael D. Lampen, “[Mystery Alpert Objects](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 27; “[The Photographer’s Tale](#),” *Saturday Night Uforia*, December 3, 2012; Charlie Wiser, “[Bright Lights of Salem, 1952](#),” *How Many Dollars*, July 21, 2023)
- 1952**, July 16 — 9:00 p.m. [Paul R. Hill](#), an aeronautical research engineer, is watching the sky with his future wife, Frances Hoback, on Chesapeake Avenue (near LaSalle Avenue) in Hampton, Virginia, when he notices two amber-colored lights coming in over Hampton Roads from the south at 500 mph. They slow down and make a U turn, moving side by side until they revolve around each other at a high rate of speed in a tight circle 200–300 feet in diameter. A third UFO comes racing up from the direction of Virginia Beach and falls in several hundred feet below the other two, making a V formation. A fourth UFO comes in from up the James River and joins the group, which heads south at 500 mph. “Their ability to make tight circling turns was amazing.” Around 9:03 p.m., the four UFOs have moved out of sight to the south. (NICAP, “[Two Pairs of Objects Maneuver Overhead](#)”; [[Blue Book documents](#)]; UFOEv, p. 57; [Sparks](#), p. 150)
- 1952**, July 17 — 6:30 p.m. A woman leaving Yarmouth Harbour, Nova Scotia, on the *SS Yarmouth* watches seven silvery objects in an inverted triangular formation for 2 minutes. They hover momentarily, descend slowly, and disappear. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 268–269)
- 1952**, July 17 or 18 — 10:10 p.m. T/Sgt. Thurman C. Mahone and A/3c [Gene A. Jennings](#) at Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base] in Lockbourne, Ohio, see an amber-colored, elliptical-shaped object with a small flame at the rear, periodically increasing in brightness. It moves swiftly, giving off a resonant beating sound. (NICAP, “[July 18, 1952: Lockbourne, Ohio](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 151)
- 1952**, July 18 — Early morning. American Airlines pilot Capt. Paul L. Carpenter, First Officer George Fell, and Flight Engineer Quilici watch several dull-red objects with a “yellowish tinge” speeding around in the air at an altitude of 25,000–30,000 feet near Denver, Colorado, during a non-stop flight from Los Angeles to Chicago. A maximum of three objects are seen at one time over a 2-minute period. Carpenter says they seem to be about 100 miles away. The first object is moving south by southeast. One minute after it disappears, two more come into view going westward and another one eastward. “The two traveling westward disappeared about two seconds then reappeared traveling eastward.” (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 60)
- 1952**, July 18 — Capt. [Edward Ruppelt](#) tells the press in Dayton, Ohio, that ground radar has tracked UFOs at speeds of 1,500–2,000 mph, that jet fighters scrambled to intercept them have failed, and that “persons making these reports actually see something in the sky,” but the Air Force does not know what they are. (“[‘Saucer’ Sightings Spur AF’s Drive to End Mystery](#),” *Dayton (Ohio) Journal Herald*, July 18, 1952, pp. 1, 10; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th](#), The Author, 1986, p. 66)
- 1952**, July 18 — 6:10 p.m. André Frégnale is hiking near Lac Chauvet, Puy-de-Dôme, France, when he sees a disc flying west to east in a straight line at constant speed. He immediately takes two photos when the object is at its largest apparent size, then two others when it is moving away to his left. It is in view for 50 seconds. (“[Une soucoupe volante](#),” *Le Méridional*, July 25, 1952, pp. 1, 8; Pierre Guérin, “[A Scientific Analysis of Four Photographs of a Flying Disk near Lac Chauvet \(France\)](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 8, no. 4 (1994): 447–469; Alain Delmon, “[Les Cas Solides: Lac Chauvet, France, 1952](#),” *Les OVNI: Intelligences non-humaines ou mythe moderne?*, December 26, 2003)

- 1952**, July 18 — 9:45 p.m. Three Air Force officers and four enlisted men at Patrick AFB, near Cocoa Beach, Florida, see a series of hovering and maneuvering red-orange lights moving in a variety of directions. (NICAP, "[Hovering and Maneuvering Lights](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 151)
- 1952**, July 19 — 2:55 a.m. An experienced civilian pilot watches an elliptical-shaped object with a light fringe over Williston, North Dakota, for 5 minutes. It descends fast and makes a 360° then a 180° turn. ([Sparks](#), p. 151)
- 1952**, July 19 — [Lincoln LaPaz](#) tells newspapermen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that UFOs "can reverse directions and cruise back and forth; they travel at high speeds in wide sweeping circles.... They travel at high altitudes and can be followed as long as 3½ minutes." ("[Luminous Objects Flooding Southwest Skies Not Shooting Stars or Meteorites, Says LaPaz](#)," *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Journal*, July 20, 1952, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, p. 67)
- 1952**, July 19 — Three 15th magnitude point sources within 10 arcseconds of each other are detected in a red-sensitive photographic image taken by the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey at RA 21h18m10.4s, DEC +50°22'43.4" within the constellation Cygnus. They exhibit no evidence of peculiar shapes or elongation that might occur with asteroids, meteorites, cosmic rays, photographic plate defects, or aircraft. The three light sources are absent in all subsequent exposures of this region during the next 71 years, including a Palomar blue-sensitive image taken less than one hour later. (Enrique Solano, et al., "[A Bright Triple Transient That Vanished within 50 Minutes](#)," ArXiv, October 13, 2023; Beatriz Villarroel, "[The Vanishing Star Enigma and the 1952 Washington D.C. UFO Wave](#)," The Debrief, January 21, 2024)
- 1952**, July 19 — 10:00 a.m. Engineer John A. Anderson and other technicians at the Savannah River Atomic Site near Aiken, South Carolina, watch a greenish glowing object dart back and forth silently and erratically at high speed above the plant. It is in view for 2 minutes, moving constantly and changing direction at sharp angles. The object disappears over the horizon at "tremendous velocity." (NICAP, "[Multiple Witnesses Observe Strange Maneuvering Object](#)"; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 51; Nukes 47–48)
- 1952**, July 19 — 4:30 p.m. Agricultural engineer Pedro Bardi and others on a farm in the Madre de Dios region of Peru see a UFO flying at 325 feet shortly after their short-wave radio goes dead. Bardi says it is a bit smaller than a DC-3 and is making a buzzing sound. It shows up 4 minutes later at Puerto Maldonado, 75 miles away, and Customs Administrator Domingo Troncosco photographs it. The photo shows an elongated object trailing smoke, passing over the top of a tree and in front of a cumulus cloud. (Curt Collins, "[The Case of the Smoking Saucer](#)," In Honor of Jim Moseley, November 3, 2014; Curt Collins, "[Jim Moseley: The Case of the Smoking Saucer](#)," The Saucers That Time Forgot, August 18, 2018)
- 1952**, July 19 — 10:00 p.m. Six luminous round objects are seen by a Chicago, Illinois, woman moving horizontally and vertically as they cavort around in the sky. The same night, a UFO is seen by three witnesses at the Ground Observer Corps post at the city hall in Elgin, Illinois. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, p. 68)
- 1952**, July 19 — 11:35 p.m. USAF pilot Capt. [Charles John Powley](#) and his wife [Janet](#) see two star-like lights maneuver, hover, and speed up for 5–7 minutes over Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. (NICAP, "[Three Groups of Witnesses See Strange Lights](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 151; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 73–77; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 12, 15)
- 1952**, July 19–20 — 11:40 p.m. Air traffic controller Edward Nugent at Washington National [now Ronald Reagan National] Airport's Air Route Traffic Control (ARTC) in D.C. picks up a formation of seven objects on his long-range radar. They are southeast of Andrews AFB [now Joint Base Andrews] in Prince George's County, Maryland, moving along at 100–130 mph. Two of the targets suddenly accelerate and vanish off the scope within seconds. One apparently reaches a speed of 7,000 mph. A second, shorter-range radar in the airport control tower (operated by [Howard Cocklin](#) and [Joseph Zacko Jr.](#)) and another at Andrews AFB has also tracked the objects. For 6 hours, between 8 and 10 UFOs are tracked on radar. Senior Air Traffic Controller Harry G. Barnes says that "They followed no set course, were not in any formation, and we only seemed to be able to track them for about three miles at a time.... I can safely deduce that they performed gyrations which no known aircraft could perform." Several Capitol Airlines pilots (one of them Capt. S. C. "Casey" Pierman) see the objects visually as white or orange lights in restricted air space over the White House and Capitol. Ground observers at Andrews (Capt. Harold C. May, Staff/Sgt Charles Davenport) watch red or orange lights. Radar and visual sightings are also taking place at Bolling AFB [now Joint Base Anaconda-Bolling] in Washington, D.C. By 3:00 a.m., the UFOs are all gone, just as two F-94 interceptors arrive belatedly from New Castle AFB [now New Castle Air National Guard Base] in Delaware, because the runways at both Andrews and Bolling are closed for repairs. The jets depart, and the UFOs return, observed by Capt. Howard Dermott, a Capitol Airlines pilot, and Sgt. Davenport

at Andrews. Radar trackings continue, the last at 5:30 a.m. Civilian radio engineer E. W. Chambers sees five huge discs circling in a loose formation; they tilt upward and leave in a steep ascent. Blips appear on radar for at least another day, until the evening of July 20. (Wikipedia, "[1952 Washington, D.C., UFO incident](#)"; NICAP, "[The Washington National Sightings](#)"; NICAP, "[Andrews Tower Radar Confirms Washington Target](#)"; Harry G. Barnes to Chief, Facility Operations, "[Unidentified Targets](#)," July 20, 1952; "[Flying Objects near Washington Spotted by Both Pilots and Radar](#)," *New York Times*, July 22, 1952, p. 27; "[Radar Spots Mysterious Sky Objects](#)," *Birmingham (Ala.) News*, July 22, 1952, pp. 1–2; "[Saucers Swarm over Capital: Radar Picks Up Scores in Early Hours](#)," *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, July 29, 1952, p. 1; Harry G. Barnes, "[Radar Man Tells How He Tracked Flying Saucers over Washington](#)," *Kingsport (Tenn.) Times*, July 31, 1952, p. 18; "[Washington's Blips: 'Somethings' over the Capital Are Traced on Radar](#)," *Life*, August 4, 1952, pp. 39–40; Ruppelt, pp. 158–161; Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 155–160; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 71–72; Condon, pp. 153–157, 862–867; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, June–July 20th*, The Author, 1986, pp. 69–72, 75–84; Clark III 1250–1252; Swords 154–155; [Sparks](#), p. 151; Kevin D. Randle, *Invasion Washington: UFOs over the Capitol*, HarperTorch, 2001, pp. 32–58; Peter Carlson, "[50 Years Ago, Unidentified Flying Objects from Way Beyond the Beltway Seized the Capital's Imagination](#)," *Washington Post*, July 21, 2002; Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, p. 139; Shoot 28–34; Sianna Boschetti, "[In the Early 1950s, D.C. Was Obsessed with UFOs: Here's Why](#)," *dcist*, December 9, 2019; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 84–86; Graff 79–81)

- 1952**, July 19 — 12:00 midnight. Associated Press reporter Saul Pett sees an intensely glowing, non-blinking orange ball of light moving steadily overhead in River Edge, New Jersey, from the northwest to the southeast for 1–2 minutes. He says it is moving too fast and steady to be a balloon. ("[Flying Saucer Is Spotted by Newsman in River Edge](#)," *Bergen (N.J.) Evening Record*, July 22, 1952, pp. 1–2)
- 1952**, July 19 — 12:00 midnight. A part-time farmer named Constantine and a hired hand named Davis are curing tobacco when they see two cigar-shaped objects—one hovering, the other moving to the east—for 3–4 minutes near Centerville, Virginia. Both objects are translucent, lit from within, and emit an exhaust from one end. They both ascend until they disappear. ([Sparks](#), p. 151)
- 1952**, July 21 — 10:00 a.m. [Ruppelt](#) first hears about the National Airport sightings in D.C. when he buys a newspaper in the Washington National Airport terminal. He has been to Andrews AFB in Maryland the day before with his boss Col. [Donald L. Bower](#), and no one had said anything. At 1:00 p.m., Maj. [Dewey Fournet](#) calls Ruppelt to come to a briefing with Capt. Berkow, a USAF intelligence officer from Bolling AFB in D.C. Ruppelt hears that President [Truman](#) is personally interested and wants a full investigation, but Bower orders Ruppelt to return to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Ruppelt, pp. 158–159; Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, pp. 46–47)
- 1952**, July 21 — 10:30 a.m. Radar used to measure wind velocity in the upper atmosphere at Dobbins Air Force Base, Marietta, Georgia, detects an unusual object flying at 50,000 feet. Observing the blip are four radar technicians who state that "it could have been an electromagnetic phenomenon but they did not believe it was." A second blip appears on the radar moving toward the wind-finding weather balloon and passing through it three separate times. USAF officials report "in private conversations" that the object moves at 1,200 mph, slows considerably for 3–5 minutes, then disappears. The Civilian Defense director in Atlanta, [George M. "Pup" Phillips](#), receives a report of the object but has "no details." Col. [Murray C. Woodbury](#), commander of the 35th Air Division at Dobbins, checks with "defense officials in Washington" before telling the press that such reports are sent to the Air Technical Intelligence Center (Project Blue Book) in Dayton, Ohio, for evaluation. Surprisingly, he admits, "We try to intercept such objects and identify them, but so far we have been unsuccessful." (NICAP, "[Blip Makes Passes on Wind-Finding Target](#)"; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 July 21st–31st, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, p. 3; [Sparks](#), p. 152)
- 1952**, July 21 — 6:30 p.m. USAF pilot Capt. [Edward E. Dougher](#) and WAF Lt. [Josephine J. Stong](#), separated by one mile on the ground in Wiesbaden, Germany, see 4 bright yellowish lights. Dougher watches them separate, with two climbing and two flying away level in the opposite direction. His wife [Barbara](#) joins him as they fly away. Stong sees two reddish lights fly in opposite directions for 10–15 minutes. (NICAP, "[Separated Witnesses Observe Maneuvering Lights](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 152; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 12, 15)
- 1952**, July 22 — At Wright-Patterson AFB, [Ruppelt](#) meets with ATIC electronics specialist Capt. [Roy L. James](#) (who harbors a "personal dislike for UFOs"). He tells Ruppelt that weather conditions caused the Washington radar returns.

- 1952**, July 22 — Pikes Peak Broadcasting Company President Joseph H. Rohrer gives a lecture (one of a series) on flying saucers at a chamber of commerce meeting in Pueblo, Colorado. He mixes a few genuine cases with some crashed saucer fiction, claiming that 7 discs have been retrieved by the US government, three of them forced down in Montana. One occupant has survived, he says, a little man 3 feet tall who is later kept alive in a secret site in California. Rohrer claims he has been inside a 100-foot-diameter disc in 1942, but he has made up these stories for entertainment purposes. (“Flying Saucer Talk Startles Chamber Membership Meeting,” *Pueblo (Colo.) Chieftain*, July 23, 1952, p. 3; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 111–113; James W. Moseley and Karl T. Pflock, *Shockingly Close to the Truth! Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist*, Prometheus, 2002, pp. 90–92; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), August 6, 2018)
- 1952**, July 22 — 10:00 p.m. Eubert T. White and his wife see three silvery objects whizzing across the sky above Worcester, Massachusetts, “like planes in attack formation.” One of the objects has a bluish glow in the front and a reddish tint behind it. (“Strange Objects in Worcester Sky,” *Lawrence (Mass.) Eagle*, July 23, 1952; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 July 21st–31st, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2001, p. 14; Shoot 36)
- 1952**, July 22 — 10:20 p.m. A bluish-green UFO is seen over Boston, Massachusetts, and a few minutes later it is picked up by GCI radar. When Ground Control vectors an F-94 toward the UFO, the pilot sees the UFO near Braintree and locks on to it with his own radar. But the object easily leaves the jet behind. (NICAP, [“F-94B Chases Object / With Airborne Radar Tracking”](#); Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, p. 67; [Sparks](#), pp. 154–155)
- 1952**, July 22–23 — 10:30 p.m. An air traffic control tower operator at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida, watches for 30 minutes a red-greenish-blue object to the west-southwest at about 45° elevation with 2 other objects to the north of it, smaller and lower in elevation. He sights another object to the south-southeast about 30° elevation at 11:30 p.m. MacDill radar tracks an object at 12:03 a.m. 37 miles away at 41,200 feet altitude heading almost directly toward the base at 532 mph. It also tracks an object to the south-southeast at an altitude of 41,000 feet (reportedly Navy and CAA radars also track the object). At 12:08 a.m., the pilot and copilot of a B-29 bomber on landing approach are vectored by MacDill tower operator to investigate the UFO. They see a high-speed object at 40,000 feet heading towards MacDill and traveling faster than the B-29. The B-29 fire control radar locks onto the object and prepares to fire just as the UFO changes course and disappears at 4,600 mph. Four airmen at the MacDill radar site see an object as it passes nearly overhead. MacDill radar loses the object at about 12:15 a.m. Civilians in Tampa also see two yellowish-orange discs maneuvering around the air base. ([Sparks](#), p. 156; *Tampa (Fla.) Daily Times*, July 23, 1952, p. 1)
- 1952**, July 22–23 — 10:50 p.m. Crews of several USAF F-94 jet interceptors from Dover AFB, Delaware, make 13 visual sightings and one radar tracking of blue-white lights around Trenton, New Jersey, continuing until 12:45 a.m. White, green, and blue lights are seen by ground observers and F-94 pilots moving in arcs and blinking out suddenly. One F-94 crew gets a radar lock-on from 30,000 feet away of an object the size of an F-94. At 9,000 feet distance, the object makes a sharp right turn, suddenly drops in height, and disappears. ([Sparks](#), p. 156)
- 1952**, July 23 — 2:15 a.m. Seaman [Henry J. Arnpriester](#) is on watch at Nahant (Massachusetts) Coast Guard Station [now closed] when he sees two bluish lights approximately 5 feet in diameter. They appear as flat, disc-shaped objects having no aerodynamic features and move without sound or exhaust trail at a speed faster than a four-engine airliner at an altitude of 1,100 to 2,000 feet. When they are approximately 1.5 miles from the point of observation, they execute an extremely sharp turn similar to the path of a ball bouncing off a wall. (Lt. Col. Robert S. Jones, [“Spot Intelligence Report.”](#) July 29, 1952; [Sparks](#), p. 156)
- 1952**, July 23 — 7:36 a.m. US Navy radar at Jamestown, Rhode Island, tracks a high-speed target heading north at 42,000 feet. It is confirmed by ADC radar at Camp Hero [now closed] at Montauk Point, New York. F-94s and F-86s are scrambled unsuccessfully from Westover AFB [now Westover Air National Guard Base] in Chicopee, Massachusetts. (NICAP, [“Jets Scrambled / High Speed Object at 45,000’ Feet”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 156)
- 1952**, July 23 — 8:40 a.m. The crews of three USAF F-94 jet interceptors see a large silver object, shaped like a long pear with 2–3 squares beneath it, flying at 170–210 mph over Pottstown, Pennsylvania. A smaller object, delta-shaped or swept-back, flies around it at 1,150–1,720 mph. ([Blue Book document](#); [Sparks](#), p. 157)
- 1952**, July 23 — 12:50 p.m. Crews of two USAF F-94 jet interceptors flying at 35,000–46,000 feet altitude near Altoona, Pennsylvania, see three cylindrical objects in a vertical-stack formation fly at an altitude of 50,000–80,000 feet for 20 minutes. (NICAP, [“July 23, 1952: Altoona, Penna.”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 157)
- 1952**, July 23 — 7:00–8:00 p.m. Owner Edwin C. Johnston and more than 20 employees of Aircraft Hydroforming at Culver City, California, see a bright silvery elliptical object that moves northwest over the Northrup aircraft plant in nearby Hawthorne, then stops and hovers. Two small discs emerge and circle around the area before rejoining the mother ship. The object then climbs straight up out of sight at tremendous speed. ([“Aircraft Co. Owner Sees ‘Discs’ Four Nights in Row,”](#) *Redlands (Calif.) Daily Facts*, July 24, 1952, p. 9)

- 1952**, July 23 — 7:15 p.m. Many witnesses at Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base] in Lockbourne, Ohio, including visiting Capt. Eugene E. McManus from Turner AFB [now Naval Air Station Albany] in Albany, Georgia, observe four round, fluorescent white objects hovering near the base at 75,000 feet. An Air force pilot named Capt. Swartz in Flight Service at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, radios in the report that the objects are balloons. Two F-84 jets are scrambled at 8:15 p.m. and identify them as a balloon cluster. The objects, seen over many other areas of central Ohio (Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) says he was called out to see it over Wright-Patterson), are probably USAF reconnaissance balloons sent up from Clinton County Airport in Wilmington, Ohio. (NICAP, “[July 23, 1952, Lockbourne, Ohio, UFO Report](#)”; Clark III 395–398)
- 1952**, July 23 — 9:00 p.m. Fairfax County Patrolman James Murphy, A1c Mary Ann O’Connor, S/Sgt J. Sasser, and [Simon Thacker](#) see a red object south-southwest of Alexandria, Virginia. It hovers for 10–15 minutes, then disappears silently to the west at a high rate of speed. The same night, a supposed CIA agent and Navy Commander, Alvin E. Moore, reports finding a stone near Vienna, Virginia, that he thinks is connected to an alleged incident where a jet pilot shot at a UFO and knocks off some material. (NICAP, “[July 23, 1952](#)”; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 272–273; Ted Zachary [Todd Zeche], “The Case of the Missing Physical Evidence,” *Saga UFO Report* 5, no. 3 (November 1977): 30–32, 52–54; “[Alexandria, Virginia, UFO Report and The ‘Fragment’](#)”; Alvin E. Moore, *Mystery of the Skymen*, Saucerian, 1979; Alvin E. Moore, *The Secret UFO Diary of CIA Operative, Comm. Alvin E. Moore: Exposing the Existence of Alien Skymen*, Global Communications, 1997, pp. 45–47; Micah Hanks, “[Fragmented Facts: AARO Report Unearths Odd Claims Involving U.S. Recovery of Material from 1952 UFO Incident](#),” *The Debrief*, March 12, 2024; Jeff Knox, [X thread on Alvin Moore case](#), March 12, 2024; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 364)
- 1952**, July 23 — Night. Contactee [Orfeo Angelucci](#) feels compelled to walk over the Glendale-Hyperion Bridge in Glendale, California. He feels an odd sensation and suddenly sees in front of him a soap-bubble-like object that turns into a metallic craft. He gets aboard and is taken on his first trip into outer space. (Orfeo Angelucci, *The Secret of the Saucers*, Amherst Press, 1955, pp. 18–36)
- 1952**, July 24 — 3:40 p.m. Two USAF pilots, Lt. Col. John L. McGinn and Lt. Col. [John R. Barton](#), are flying a B-25 out of Hamilton AFB [now closed] in Novato, California, for Colorado Springs. They are over Carson Sink, Nevada, at 11,000 feet when they see three unknown objects make a left bank and fly to within 400–600 yards of the plane. They are three bright silver, delta-wing craft with no tails and no canopies. The pilots see a clean upper triangular wing with a definite ridge that runs from the nose to the tail. They estimate the speed as at least three times that of any conventional jet. (NICAP, “[B-26 Crew Encounters 3 Triangular UFOs](#)”; NICAP, “[The Carson Sink Case](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 157; Ruppelt, pp. 10–12; Michael Hall, “[When UFOs Were Serious Business: Then and Today](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 5; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 12, 15)
- 1952**, July 25 (or April 25) — 3:00 a.m. Carlo Rossi is on his way to a fishing spot on the Serchio river near San Pietro a Vico, Lucca, Italy. He notices an odd light above the river and finds that it belongs to an enormous disc-shaped object with a transparent dome. It is about 82 feet in diameter and apparently taking up water through a long tube. The object is standing in the river on three legs and has a ladder reaching down next to the tube. Rossi thinks it is hovering by means of propellers. Suddenly a porthole opens, and a human figure looks out and notices him. Rossi begins to leave, but a green ray passes above his head and he feels an electric shock. The object takes off and disappears to the west. (“[Le Nostre Analisi: Precisazioni sul Caso di S. Pietro e Vico \(1952\)](#),” *Notiziario UFO*, no. 67 (July/Sept. 1975): 4–9; Patrick Gross, *URECAT*, September 12, 2006; [IPinotti](#) 42–46)
- 1952**, July 25 — Capt. J. W. Titus of the 140th Wing Medical Group sees two oval-shaped objects flying in formation at 400–600 mph in Portales, New Mexico. They are silent and leave no vapor trail. At one point, they make an abrupt 80° turn and fly off to the north. (Nukes 85–86)
- 1952**, July 26–27 — 8:15 p.m. Flying saucers return to the nation’s capital, only one week after a massive number of radar-visual UFO sightings above restricted air space in Washington, D.C. At 8:15 p.m., pilot Capt. Berkow and a stewardess of a National Airlines flight near Washington National Airport [now Ronald Reagan National] see several objects resembling the glow of a cigarette high above them. The lights move at around 100 mph. Soon, the airport and Andrews AFB in Maryland are tracking a dozen UFOs throughout much of the sky, all traveling 90–100 mph. By midnight, two F-94s are scrambled from New Castle AFB in Delaware to intercept them. National Airport staff hustle newspaper reporters away from the air traffic control tower, saying that interceptions are classified (but Project Blue Book chief Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) suspects that the Air Force does not want the press around when they finally get a good look at a saucer). The UFOs are seen on radar for 2 hours, but when the jets approach, the blips disappear. When the pilots return to base, they show up again. Reports are reaching Langley AFB about rotating objects that give off alternating colors over Newport News, Virginia. Another F-94 is scrambled, the pilot gets a radar lock, and the target speeds away. At National Airport, the objects reappear

shortly before dawn, and two more F-94s are scrambled. The pilots obtain radar locks; again, the objects speed away. USAF press spokesman [Albert M. Chop](#) is in the airport radar tower and notes that everyone there believes the targets are “very probably caused by solid metallic objects.” One F-94 pilot, Lieut. William Patterson, says, “I saw several bright lights. I was at my maximum speed, but even then I had no closing speed.” A USAF air intelligence report later states that the radar crew is emphatic that the returns are solid and not temperature inversions. In 1969, however, Colorado project physicist [Gordon David Thayer](#) concludes that the radar events involved temperature inversions. He believes the visual sightings were caused by meteors and scintillating stars. University of Arizona atmospheric physicist [James McDonald](#) disagreed, arguing that Thayer’s own data did not support his conclusion. Colorado project psychologist [Michael Wertheimer](#) interviewed many of the radar operators; nearly all disagree with the inversion explanation and maintain that all experienced radar operators have no trouble identifying such phenomena. (NICAP, “[The Washington National Sightings](#)”; Richard Hall, “[The Washington Invasion, July 26/27, 1952](#)”; Paul Sampson, “[‘Saucer’ Outran Jet, Pilot Reveals](#),” *Washington Post*, July 28, 1952, pp. 1, 4; “[Jets on Guard for ‘Saucers’: Interceptors Chase Lights in D.C. Skies](#),” *Washington (D.C.) Times Herald*, July 28, 1952, p. 1; John G. Norris, “[Jets Poised for Pursuit: ‘Saucer’ Peril Discounted](#),” *Washington Post*, July 29, 1952, pp. 1, 7; Clark III 1252–1255; Ruppelt, pp. 163–167; Condon, pp. 157–158, 862–867; Loren E. Gross, *UFO’s: A History 1952, July 21st–July 31st*, The Author, 1986, pp. 20–31; Swords 156–159; Good Above, pp. 270–272; Patrick Gross, “[The Washington D.C. UFO Flap of 1952](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 158; Thomas Tulien, “[Oral History Interview with Albert M. Chop](#),” November 1999, pp. 10–13; Kevin D. Randle, *Invasion Washington: UFOs over the Capitol*, HarperTorch, 2001, pp. 68–76, 127–148, 253–260; Shoot 42–47; “[Washington National Airport Case of 7-29-1952 – Albert M. Chop](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; “[Washington National Airport Case of 7-29-1952 – James Ritchie of the CAA](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Graff 81–82)

- 1952**, July 26 — 5:15 p.m. Air Defense Command radar detects a UFO over Williams, California. An F-94 jet interceptor is scrambled and locks onto the object with its radar. The crew sees a yellow-orange light. As confirmed by ground and airborne radar, the UFO plays tag with the F-94, alternately accelerating away when it gets close, then slowing down until it catches up again. (NICAP, “[F-94 Intercept with ADC Detection](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 158)
- 1952**, July 26 — 11:00 p.m. Three women in Oran, Algeria, notice a large, orange-red, luminous patch in the sky. It travels from east to west, halts, then vanishes. It is one of many UFOs seen in the province of Oran over several weeks. (ClearIntent, pp. 120–121)
- 1952**, July 27 — 10:40 a.m. Bowling Green State University biologist [Charles H. Otis](#) sees a “flotilla” of UFOs “seemingly floating along, making no sound” at 3724 Dexter Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He grabs a pair of 5x binoculars and studies them until they disappear. He counts 15 of them in a loose formation, moving slowly. One object leaves the formation and disappears in a burst of speed. The body of each seems to be elongated but split at the rear. A bright glow is visible in the front, and they have a bifurcated tail streaming out horizontally, never changing in length. (NICAP, “[15 Objects Traveling South](#)”; UFOEv, pp. 50–51)
- 1952**, July 27 — 6:35 p.m. A group of eight pilots and engineers see a large, silvery object moving rapidly at a high altitude over Manhattan Beach, California. After it makes a turn, the UFO separates into 7 discs that form into groups, circle, and speed out of sight. Former Navy pilot and aircraft engineer J. E. Kempf says the formation looks like a “stack of coins.” (NICAP, “[Large Object Separates into 7 Discs](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 159; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 13, 15)
- 1952**, July 28 — Early morning. While napping between shifts as a heavy-equipment operator in the Nevada desert, [Truman Bethurum](#) is awakened by 8 small men who “seem to be of Latin extraction.” They take him to a nearby flying saucer where he meets the captain, a “gorgeous woman, shorter than any of the men, neatly attired, and also having a Latin appearance: coal black hair and olive complexion. She appeared to be about 42 years old,” although Bethurum learns that she is hundreds of years old. Her name is Aura Rhanes. Her ship is called a “scow,” and her crew is from the planet Clarion, a world that is always on the other side of the moon. He later tells this story and his later adventures in his 1954 book *Aboard a Flying Saucer*, ghostwritten by Mary Kay Tennison. (Truman Bethurum, “[I Was Inside a Flying Saucer](#),” *Saucers* 1, no. 2 (1953): 4–5; Truman Bethurum, *Aboard a Flying Saucer*, DeVorss, 1954; Timothy Green Beckley, ed., *Messages from the People of the Planet Clarion: The True Experiences of Truman Bethurum*, Inner Light Publications, 1995, pp. 45–50; Clark III 192–194)
- 1952**, July 28 — USAF Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#) secretly orders a deemphasis on or elimination of human anecdotal UFO reports. Instead, they would be “going on instruments,” as worded in his briefing, so that he can close down Blue Book. Technological hurdles and budget limits greatly delay the plan, but Blue Book does transition into a propaganda debunking mission over the next 6 months. (Clark III 813)

- 1952**, July 28 — Late afternoon. [Ruppelt](#) and Maj. Ed Gregory arrive in Washington, D.C., dodging newspaper reporters at the Roger Smith Hotel. Blue Book receives an astonishing total of 50 UFO reports in a single day. UFO inquiries are jamming the Pentagon telephones. Air Force and CIA officials concede that the Soviet Union might take advantage of the confusion. (Ruppelt, [pp. 166–167](#))
- 1952**, July 28 — According to the United Press, the Air Defense Command has alerted jet interceptor pilots to take off instantly in pursuit of any flying saucers. The International News Service amplifies this by quoting the Air Force that orders have been issued to shoot them down if they refuse to land. USAF Director of Operations Gen. [Roger M. Ramey](#) issues an ambiguous public denial that the interceptors have been ordered to shoot down any saucers. However, USAF Deputy Press Officer Lt. Col. [Moncel A. Monts](#) states that “jet pilots are, and have been, under orders to investigate unidentified objects and to shoot them down if they can’t talk them down.” (“[Air Force Alerted for ‘Discs’: Sightings over Washington Put Jets at Ready.](#)” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, July 28, 1952, p. 1; “[Jets on 24-Hour Alert to Shoot Down ‘Saucers.](#)” *San Francisco Examiner*, July 29, 1952, p. 2; Shoot 49–50; David Rudiak, “[1952 Flying Saucer ‘Shoot Down’ Stories.](#)” Roswell Proof; David Rudiak, “[Background on Gen. Roger M. Ramey.](#)” June 4, 2013)
- 1952**, July 28 — President [Truman](#), resting in Kansas City, Missouri, after the Democratic Convention, calls CIA Director [Walter Bedell Smith](#) and asks him to investigate the Air Force’s mishandling of the Washington National sightings. Smith later directs, through Deputy Director for Intelligence [Loftus E. Becker](#), that a CIA/OSI group be put together to review the USAF UFO intelligence program at ATIC. Truman’s involvement is meant to be kept Top Secret and is not revealed until 1992. (Clark III 1012)
- 1952**, July 28 — Canadian researcher [Wilbert B. Smith](#) allegedly shows Rear Admiral [Herbert B. Knowles](#) a metallic piece from a saucer that was shot down near Washington, D.C., by a US Navy jet. It is twice the size of a man’s thumb and has been loaned to him by the Air Force, but he must return it to the CIA (or another secret agency). However, as researcher Jeff Knox points out, the material is supposedly from the Alvin E. Moore case of July 23, 1952, and Smith did not get the sample “until at least the end of 1954 (Moore gave it to Goodspeed on September 15, 1954, who gave it to Smith upon his return to Canada, it was returned to Moore by mid-1955). He could not have shown Knowles the sample before 1955.” At some point in early 1953, the sample is analyzed at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, where Howard C. Cross, a senior staff member at Battelle, identifies the sample as a “very basic slag from an open-hearth furnace.” ([Letter from Howard C. Cross](#) to Miles E. Goll, February 4, 1953; David Rudiak, “[Wilbert B. Smith.](#)” Roswell Proof; Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, [pp. 48–49](#); Condon, [pp. 90–91](#); “[Early Crashed Disc Data Uncovered.](#)” *Just Cause*, new ser. 7 (March 1986): 3–4; Good Above, [p. 188](#); Micah Hanks, “[Fragmented Facts: AARO Report Unearths Odd Claims Involving U.S. Recovery of Material from 1952 UFO Incident.](#)” The Debrief, March 12, 2024; Jeff Knox, [X thread on Alvin Moore case](#), March 12, 2024)
- 1952**, July 28 — UK Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) writes to [William Sidney](#), Secretary of State for Air, and scientific adviser and friend [Lord Cherwell](#), saying, “What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience.” The response, dated August 9, begins: “The various reports about unidentified flying objects, described by the Press as ‘flying saucers,’ were the subject of a full Intelligence study in 1951” [presumably the report by the Flying Saucer Working Party]. (Good Above, [pp. 30, 448–449](#); UFOFiles2, [pp. 43–44](#); “[Records Show Winston Churchill’s Interest in UFOs.](#)” The Cosmic Report, December 12, 2020; Jenny Randles, “Splicing the Mainbrace, Part Two,” *Fortean Times* 426 (Christmas 2022): 27)
- 1952**, July 29 — 1:30 a.m. An Air Defense Command radar outside of Osceola, Wisconsin, picks up some unidentified targets. Four F-51s from St. Paul, Minnesota, are scrambled, but the targets are moving around so quickly that it is impossible to vector in on a single target. The F-51 pilots see many lights; one pilot at 25,000 feet sees an object blaze across the nose of his airplane. Two other pilots vainly try to climb up to a hovering light that is in the same position as the radar targets. ATIC’s Robert M. Olsson and Wendell Swanson explain the radar incident as a temperature inversion and the visual sighting as a meteor. (NICAP, “[Clusters of Small Targets and One Large Target](#)”; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 July 21st–31st, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 80–85; [Sparks](#), p. 161)
- 1952**, July 29 — Early morning. CAA radar tracks 8–12 UFOs at a time traveling 100–120 mph in a 10-mile arc around Washington, D.C. When an Eastern Airlines pilot tries to check on the radar targets at the request of the CAA at 3:00 a.m., he sees nothing. The targets disappear from CAA radar when the airliner approaches then come back in behind him after he passes through the area. (“[Air Force Debunks ‘Saucers’ As Just ‘Natural Phenomena.](#)” *New York Times*, July 30, 1952, pp. 1, 10)
- 1952**, July 29 — 10:00 a.m. President [Truman](#) tells his air force liaison, [Robert B. Landry](#), to find out what is going on with UFOs. Landry calls ATIC and eventually reaches [Ruppelt](#), who tells him that weather may have caused the radar targets, but there is no proof. He later learns that Truman is listening in. There is some evidence that Truman

or Landry soon contact the National Security Council directly to find out how to proceed with the UFO problem. (Ruppelt, [p. 167](#); Swords 170)

- 1952**, July 29 — 10:00 a.m. Several employees of Los Alamos Scientific Labs, New Mexico (including Robert B. Leachman, W. Schafer, E. T. Journey), see a white object moving east to west with a gyrating motion. Two jet interceptors from Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque arrive 5 minutes later. The object disappears but reappears in front of the jets, makes a 360° turn, comes around in back, follows for 2 minutes, then disappears. (NICAP, “[Jets Scrambled from Kirtland](#)”; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 61–64](#); [Sparks](#), p. 161)
- 1952**, July 29 — Four weather observers at Walker AFB [now closed] in Roswell, New Mexico, watch several high-speed discs through a theodolite. (*Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 114–115](#); [Sparks](#), p. 161)
- 1952**, July 29 — An FBI memo from Victor P. Keay on “Flying Saucers” discusses a classified briefing about UFOs by Cmdr. [Randall Boyd Jr.](#) of the Air Intelligence Estimates Division to [Norman W. Philcox](#), an FBI liaison to the Air Force. The Air Force has “failed to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion” on UFOs. Reports are being received from all parts of the US and distant parts of the world. Boyd explains that USAF has made no progress in ascertaining the nature of UFOs, but it is filing them into three classifications: reports by civilians on the ground, reports by commercial or military pilots, and reports by pilots that are confirmed by radar or ground observations. He concludes by writing that it is “not entirely impossible that the objects sighted may possibly be ships from another planet such as Mars,” but he adds that “air intelligence is fairly certain that these objects are not ships or missiles from another nation in this world.” (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 July 21st–31st, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 55–56; ClearIntent, [pp. 175–177](#))
- 1952**, July 29 — [Ralph L. Clark](#), acting assistant director of the CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence, sends a memo to OSI Deputy Director [Robert Amory Jr.](#), indicating that the agency will be looking into UFO matters a bit more thoroughly, even though it has been collecting cases for the past three years (since 1949): “a special study group has been formed to review the subject to date. D/CI [[Walter Bedell Smith](#)] will participate in this study with D/SI [[H. Marshall Chadwell](#)], and a report should be ready about 15 August.” It alludes to his meeting with CIA rocket consultant [Frederick C. Durant](#) and others the previous day. (Ralph L. Clark, “[Recent Sightings of Unexplained Objects](#),” July 29, 1952, [reprinted](#) in “The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler”; Good Above, [pp. 330, 505](#))
- 1952**, July 29 — Robert L. Farnsworth, president of the United States Rocket Society, urges President [Truman](#) and defense officials to restrain the US armed forces from shooting at UFOs. He says that hostile action might alienate us from “beings of far superior powers.” (Robert L. Farnsworth, [[Telegram to President Truman](#)], July 28, 1952; “[A Pro-Saucer Voice Heard](#),” *New York Daily News*, July 29, 1952, p. 2; Curt Collins, “[The Rocket Expert Who Stopped the War on UFOs](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, July 20, 2023)
- 1952**, July 29 — An orange, oblong stationary object is observed at the airport in Macdonald, Manitoba, in the south-southwestern sky for 2 minutes. It seems to change into a group of small round lights. They all disappear together. (Jan Aldrich; Project Second Storey)
- 1952**, July 29 — 4:00 p.m. The Air Force holds its largest and longest press conference since the end of World War II. Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#), director of USAF intelligence, leads it. He is accompanied by Eighth Air Force Maj. Gen. [Roger M. Ramey](#), director of operations and commander of the Eighth Air Force; USAF Col. [Donald L. Bower](#), Technical Analysis Division, Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC), Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio; Project Blue Book head Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#); USAF Capt. [Roy L. James](#), ATIC radar specialist; and [Burgoyne L. Griffing](#), electronics branch, ATIC. Samford says that the Air Force has been monitoring US air space since 1947. Approximately 20% of UFO reports come from “credible observers of relatively incredible things,” which keeps the Air Force concerned. He explains that the Washington, D.C., sightings earlier in July were caused by “weather phenomena” that caused radar beams to bend and pick up objects on the ground. James offers more technical explanations about temperature inversions that cause radar echoes. Pro-UFO Maj. [Dewey J. Fournet Jr.](#), USAF public relations officer [Al Chop](#), and Navy radar specialist Lieut. John Holcomb are conspicuous by their absence. (NICAP, “[General Samford’s Press Conference](#),” July 29, 1952; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. [71–89](#), [90](#); Ruppelt, [pp. 168–169](#); “[General Samford’s UFO Press Conference, Pentagon, July 29, 1952](#),” *knightskross* YouTube channel, August 3, 2010; “[The Air Force Makes a Pass at the Saucer Stories](#),” *Life* 33, no. 6 (August 11, 1952): 35; Swords 159–163; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, [pp. 60–63](#); Kevin D. Randle, *Invasion Washington: UFOs over the Capitol*, HarperTorch, 2001, pp. 77–126; Shoot 53–57; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 84–88)
- 1952**, July 29 — 9:15 p.m. Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. [Robert G. LeCompte](#) sees a flight of at least 10 luminous objects pass over Albuquerque, New Mexico. At first they appear overhead in no pattern, heading north, then shift to a V formation. They then shift into two rows. (NICAP, “[AF Reserve Colonel Observes Rapid Ellipse](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 163; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 13, 15)

- 1952**, July 29 — 9:35 p.m. Marine Pfc Ralph C. Mayher, using 16 mm film exposed at 24 frames per second, obtains footage of a high-speed UFO over Miami Beach, Florida. Retaining a few frames for personal study, Mayher submits the main portion of the film to the Air Force for analysis. The film is never returned, and no analysis report is ever released. Enlargements of a few frames show a fiery looking, roughly circular object, symmetrical, with two small peaks or projection on opposite sides of the disc. The CIA examines the film in 1957 and returns it with no comment or analysis. The Mayher case features prominently in the subsequent lawsuit by Ground Saucer Watch against the CIA and is important because it is a confirmed case of direct interaction of the CIA with a witness, clearly indicating that there was CIA interest in the subject. (NICAP, "[Ralph Mayer / Miami Film](#)"; Ralph Mayer, "[I Proved Flying Saucers Are Real](#)," *Pic*, June 1954; Good Above, [pp. 355–356](#))
- 1952**, July 29 (or July 28) — 9:40 p.m. An Aircraft and Warning Station in Port Huron, Michigan, tracks an unidentified return on radar for 20 minutes. GCI asks Capt. Edward J. Slowinski flying an F-94B on a practice run to investigate. The pilot sees a bright, flashing, colored light in the location of the blip 29 miles west of Port Huron and follows it for 20 minutes. Slowinski is unable to close on the object. (NICAP, "[Key Radar Case \(CCL #17\)](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 160; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 72–73; Center for UFO Studies, [\[documents and case files\]](#))
- 1952**, July 29 — 9:50 p.m. Scripps-Howard reporter [Howard Doyle Kline](#) sees a cluster of glowing white objects overhead in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The objects shift around into various patterns, including a perfect V at one point. Their shifts in position are incredibly swift and fantastically violent, he says. "They made" a flying saucer believer out of me." He reports the incident to [Lincoln LaPaz](#), University of New Mexico meteoriticist, and Col. [William A. Matheny](#), commander of the 34th Air Defense Division. The report, which is one probably used in Maj. [Dewey Fournet](#)'s Motion Study, is missing from the Project Blue Book files. (Doyle Kline, "[Flight of Luminous Objects Maneuvers over City](#)," *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Tribune*, July 30, 1952, p. 1; *New York World-Telegram*, August 2, 1952; UFOEv, [pp. 69–70](#); Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 July 21st–31st, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, p. 95; Michael D. Swords, "[Intelligent Motions](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 13, 15)
- 1952**, July 30 — Flight Sgt. Roland Hughes of No. 20 Squadron RAF is on a training flight in a de Havilland Vampire FB-9 jet fighter and returning to base at RAF Oldenburg, Germany, when he sees a "gleaming silver, metallic disc" drop down from above and fly alongside his aircraft for several seconds before speeding off. The object is about 100 feet long. Its surface is shiny "like tinfoil," highly reflective, and "without a single crease or crinkle in it." On August 5, Hughes is ordered to fly to RAF Faßberg for further questioning. He arrives and finds a number of officers, including his commander and the UK Minister of Supply, [Duncan Sandys](#) ([Winston Churchill](#)'s son-in-law), who asks Hughes how many beers he had before his saucer sighting. The Air Commanding Officer then reveals that the object had also been tracked on radar going faster than any known aircraft. This convinces Sandys that the case is a serious one, a view that he communicates to [Lord Cherwell](#), the government's chief scientific adviser, in a letter, saying there is "ample evidence of some unfamiliar and unexplained phenomenon." (UFOFiles2, [pp. 44–46](#); "[The UFO Sighting That Convinced a Government Minister](#)," *The Telegraph*, May 27, 2012)
- 1952**, July 30 — Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#) tells the press that, although he does not believe there are flying saucers, he dislikes the "mass hysteria" about them. He says the Air Force has had experts investigating them since the end of World War II and never found anything substantial. ("['Double Vision,' Vandenberg](#)," *Santa Rosa (Calif.) Press-Democrat*, July 31, 1952, p. 6)
- 1952**, July 30 — 1:10 p.m. [Willie Vaught](#) of Alexandria, Indiana, sees a strange looking cloud and calls her two teenage daughters ([Laura](#) and [Patsy](#)) and [Laura Oliver](#) to see it. While looking at it, they see six flat, aluminum-like objects streak across the cloud, merge, and disappear within a minute. ("[Alexandria Family Reports Seeing 'Flying Saucers'](#)," *Alexandria (Ind.) Times-Tribune*, July 31, 1952, p. 1; Herbert S. Taylor, "[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 19)
- 1952**, July 31 — Brig. Gen. [Alfred R. Maxwell](#) of the Research and Development Board prepares a memorandum that generally supports the official position that UFO reports contain no information of value, he writes: "The Air Force has made very little progress in learning what the phenomena or objects are." (Don Berliner and Stanton T. Friedman, *Crash at Corona*, Marlowe, 1994, [pp. 30–31](#))
- 1952**, July 31 — The Air Force announces that it has received 432 UFO reports so far in 1952, as well as numerous queries from the media and the public, enough that "regular intelligence work" has been affected. ("['Flying Saucer' Queries Hamper Air Force Work](#)," *New York Times*, August 1, 1952, p. 19)

- 1952**, August — Hollywood producer [Clarence Greene](#) and a friend see a “sphere of light” in the sky over Los Angeles, California. Visible for 5 minutes, the object alternately hovers and turns before speeding off over the horizon. The next morning, Greene tells his business partner [Russell Rouse](#) about the sighting. As he reflects on the experience, he grows ever more irritated by the stigma attached to UFO sightings. (Clark III 1188)
- 1952**, August 1 — 10:51 a.m. An Air Defense Command radar site on Campbell Hill at Bellefontaine, Ohio, tracks a target 20 miles NNW of Wright-Patterson AFB, traveling 500 mph against the wind. It vectors two F-86s piloted by Maj. James B. Smith and Lt. [Donald J. Hemmer](#). They make visual contact but climb to 48,000 feet twice without reaching it. Smith gets a weak return on his radar gun sight and shoots a gun camera film of a white or silvery sphere estimated at 60,000 feet. They break off the intercept at 11:13 a.m. about 100 miles west-southwest of Dayton. The film reportedly shows a UFO in the upper right of the frames with noticeable motion to the lower left. Although Blue Book Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#)’s assistants Lt. [Anderson G. Flues](#) and Lt. Robert Olsson initially declare the case an “unknown,” Ruppelt changes that evaluation a few weeks later after ATIC Technical Analysis Division Chief Col. [Donald L. Bower](#) transfers out, explaining it as two separate but coincidental IFOs—a weather balloon and a jet. Ruppelt goes to great lengths to debunk the case in his ADC briefings to the Robertson Panel. (NICAP, “[Gun Camera R/V Case](#)”; Condon, pp. 161–163; Clark III 392–395; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 21; *Sparks*, p. 165; Patrick Gross, “[The Bellefontaine, Ohio, Radar/Visual/Photographic Case, 1952](#)”; Shoot 71–73; Center for UFO Studies, [[Blue Book documents and files](#)])
- 1952**, August 1 — [Edward Tauss](#), acting chief of the Weapons and Equipment Division of the CIA’s Office of Scientific Intelligence, writes a letter to OSI Deputy Assistant Director [Ralph L. Clark](#), saying that less than 100 credible reports remain unexplainable. “interplanetary aspects and alien origin not being thoroughly excluded from consideration.” He recommends the CIA continue to cooperate with ATIC, but “no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press or public.” (ClearIntent, p. 123)
- 1952**, August 1 — 2:00 p.m. Harold Coffman and his wife see a brilliant, milk-white disc flying low above Sharonville, Ohio. It wobbles a bit and ascends at a 10° angle, making a slight crackling sound. It turns sharply left and disappears. (“[G.E. Is Focal Point](#),” *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 2 (May 7, 1954): 2)
- 1952**, August 1 — 4:00 p.m. Henry Staley, chief of fire and safety at the General Electric aviation plant in Cincinnati, Ohio, is watching a small plane flying south near the plant when he and three others notice a blinding light in the east. It is coming from an oval object as big as the Moon and looks “like burning magnesium.” Soundless, it leaves a faint trail behind it. The object stops abruptly overhead for 30 seconds, pulsates, and changes to an elongated shape. Fire inspector George E. Kyle thinks the object is rotating, then slowly speeds up, “looking like an egg,” then disappears into the horizon going 2–3 times as fast as a jet. (“[G.E. Is Focal Point](#),” *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 2 (May 7, 1954): 2)
- 1952**, August 1 — 8:30–9:00 p.m. *We, the People*, a 30-minute TV news show produced by *Life* magazine, devotes its airtime to the recent UFO sightings over Washington, D.C. WNBW-TV, which originates the program, rents a DC-3 airliner, fills it with 20 newsmen, and has the plane circle over Washington, just in case the saucers return. On the ground in the radar room of Washington National Airport there are more newsmen and TV cameras. The show features editors and journalists [Frank Blair](#), [David Brinkley](#), [Clay Blair](#), and various UFO witnesses. (“[Can’t Find Saucers](#),” *Gettysburg (Pa.) Times*, August 2, 1952, p. 1; “[NBC Saucer Hunt for TV Program Proves Fruitless](#),” *Blytheville (Ark.) Courier*, August 2, 1952, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, August*, The Author, 1986, pp. 18–19; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, A History: 1952, August, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2002, p. 9; Curt Collins, “[UFOs on TV: The 1952 Washington, DC Saucer Flap](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, July 5, 2018)
- 1952**, August 2 — 3:00 a.m. USAF 1st Lt. W. A. Theil and enlisted man Edwards see a red ball with a trail of blue flame fly straight and level over Lake Charles, Louisiana. (*Sparks*, p. 165)
- 1952**, August 2 [or July 30] — [George Hunt Williamson](#) and his wife Betty are visited in Prescott, Arizona, by two other metaphysics enthusiasts, Alfred C. Bailey and his wife Betty of Winslow, Arizona. This evening, in the course of an automatic-writing experiment using a sort of Ouija board, they receive a message from an extraterrestrial in a spacecraft. In the days and weeks that follow, “Nah-9 of Solar X Group” and many other planetary and star people communicate with them. The space people call earth “Saras.” Nah-9 says that the good men of Saras must unite with good space people to avert a calamity. More Ouija sessions take place through August 17. A message comes through that they will be contacted via radio with an International Morse Code message on August 22. Bailey approaches a coworker on the Santa Fe Railroad, a ham radio operator named [Lyman Streeter](#), and asks for his help in picking up the space signals. (Clark III 1283; George Hunt Williamson and Alfred C. Bailey, *The Saucers Speak!* New Age, 1954; Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 21–22; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 178–181)

- 1952**, August 3 — 3:00 p.m. An Air Force master sergeant on the ship *Santa Luisa* observes three round, flat, metallic objects hovering at 30,000–40,000 feet some 10 miles away from his position at the mouth of the Rio Guayas near Isla Puná, Ecuador. After 5 seconds, one object dives to the west then turns back northwest. They all disappear after another 5 seconds. (Project 1947, [[case documents](#)]; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1952](#)”)
- 1952**, August 3 — 4:15 p.m. Two huge silvery discs are observed visually and tracked on radar for 1 hour and 15 minutes over Hamilton AFB [now closed] near Novato, California. The ground observers are pilots Capt. [Leslie R. Hadley](#), Capt. [Wayne T. Perske](#), and 2d Lt. [Duane A. Swimley](#). They dive at each other and maneuver as if in a dogfight. After F-86s are dispatched to intercept, 6 more objects appear, take up a diamond formation, and accelerate out of sight. (NICAP, “[Eight Huge Objects Observed by 8 Witnesses and Radar](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 165; Project 1947, “[Hamilton Air Force Base, Hamilton, California, August 3, 1952](#)”; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 14, 15)
- 1952**, August 3 — 10:20 p.m. Civilian engineer Paul L. Anderson sees 3 light-green cylindrical objects at Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. They are hovering at 45° elevation in an inverted-V formation, switching to echelon when one object moves with a rolling motion along its long axis. It disappears by rapidly rising vertically. The observation lasts 9 minutes. (NICAP, “[Three Cylindrical Objects Observed by Engineers](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 165; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 14, 15)
- 1952**, August 5 — 12:25 a.m. A trio of brilliant white dots of indefinite shape, at an altitude of an estimated 5,000 feet, passes over Westover AFB [now Westover Reserve Air Base] in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The second object is half the size of the first, and the third is half the size of the second one. The first one resembles an automobile headlight. The appearance of other two is not given. The three are in a triangular formation. No jet activity is recorded over the airbase at the time and witnesses say the objects are moving “faster than jets.” (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 23)
- 1952**, August 5 — Day. During a daylight observation of Venus, astronomer [James C. Bartlett Jr.](#) watches two discs fly overhead in a southerly direction at Baltimore, Maryland. They move away to the east, then two more objects with dome-like protrusions in the center fly past. (“[Two Huge UFOs Sighted by Baltimore Astronomer](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 5 (Aug./Sept. 1958): 1, 3)
- 1952**, August 5 — 9:46–12:00 midnight. A visual sighting is made at 9:46 p.m. by an observer on the ground at Manassas, Virginia, who spots a brilliant oval flying south. About 10:50 p.m., Andrews AFB in Maryland picks up two unidentified blips moving slowly and steadily away from Washington, D.C., on a course toward Mount Vernon, Virginia. Minutes later the fluorescent screens at Andrews show two more UFOs to the east of the field moving for a short distance, stopping, and then moving again. The speed of the targets is a slow 60 mph. The height of the targets is unknown. Planes from both Andrews AFB and Bolling AFB are sent up to investigate but rainy weather forces them to turn back after they reach 15,000 feet altitude. Around 12:00 midnight yet another target appears on radar, and jets from New Castle AFB in Delaware are scrambled. The jets see no UFOs when they arrived over Washington; however, a spokesman for Andrews radar tells the press that “no radar sightings were made while the planes were overhead.” (“[Flock of ‘Saucer’ Objects Again Puzzles Wash. DC.](#),” *Visalia (Calif.) Times-Delta*, August 6, 1952, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 23–24)
- 1952**, August 5 — 10:45 p.m. Eight residents of Camden, New Jersey, report a bright, round, orange object hovering or moving slowly in the western sky. (“[8 City Residents Report ‘Saucers’ on Nocturnal Sweep through Sky](#),” *Camden (N.J.) Courier-Post*, August 6, 1952, p. 16)
- 1952**, August 5 — 11:45 p.m. A complex radar-visual sighting takes place at Haneda AFB [later Tokyo International Airport], Japan. Control tower operators watch a disc as it passes over Tokyo Bay at about 1,500 feet. It is a dark round shape surrounded by a bright light with a curved outer edge and smaller lights around it. While being tracked on radar, a scramble alert is issued at 11:55 p.m., and an F-94 Starfire jet from nearby Johnson Air Base [now Iruma Air Base] in Sayama, Saitama Prefecture, goes after the object. The interceptor, piloted by 1Lt. [Wesley R. Holder](#) and Radar Observer 1Lt. Aaron M. Jones Jr., chases the object, which speeds away while being tracked by onboard radar. During the next 30 minutes, the UFO disappears and reappears throughout the sky, vanishes when the jet closes in, performs intricate maneuvers, and at one point splits into three radar targets. The jet searches over Tokyo Bay until 12:33 a.m. when it is recalled. (NICAP, “[F-94 Pilots Tracked Object for 90 Seconds](#)”; Ruppelt, pp. 187–189; Condon, pp. 123–126; [Sparks](#), p. 166; James E. McDonald, “[Science in Default: Twenty-Two Years of Inadequate UFO Investigations](#),” paper presented at the Symposium on UFOs, 134th Meeting, AAAS, Boston, December 27, 1969, pp. 20–34; Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, eds., *UFO’s: A Scientific Debate*, Cornell University, 1972, p. xxiv; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 24–27; Martin L. Shough, “Radar and the UFO,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Times, 1987, pp. 217–219; Patrick Gross, “[The Haneda AFB Case, Japan, August 5, 1952](#)”)

- 1952**, August 6 — [Hynek](#) sends Project Blue Book a report on his interviews with 45 astronomers about their opinions on UFOs at a June meeting of the American Astronomical Society and finds that five (11%) have seen a UFO, seven are indifferent to the subject, more express at least some interest, and a few are very interested but wary of publicity. (J. Allen Hynek, [“Special Report on Conferences with Astronomers on Unidentified Aerial Objects,”](#) August 6, 1952; [“Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 2,”](#) CUFON; [“Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 3,”](#) CUFON; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 83–85)
- 1952**, August 6 — 9:00 p.m. James J. Allen sees a UFO 6 feet high, 8 feet long, and lighted inside strike the chimney of his home in West Lumberton, North Carolina. It crashes into his backyard. When he approaches it, the lights go off and he sees a man about 30 inches tall standing next to it. He asks if he is hurt, then the figure reenters the vehicle and it zooms away. ([“West Lumberton Event Added to Growing ‘Saucer’ Reports,”](#) *Lumberton (N.C.) Robesonian*, August 7, 1952, pp. 1, 4; Clark III 326; Curt Collins, [“James J. Allen’s Alien Encounter Embarrassment: Aug. 6, 1952,”](#) The Saucers That Time Forgot, January 19, 2018)
- 1952**, August 7 — 12:02 a.m. At Kerkrade, Netherlands, marine engineer Will Jansen watches a domed object swoop down to a low altitude, hover, zigzag, then speed away. He sees a similar object hovering further away. It finally tilts up vertically and shoots out of sight. (UFOEv, [p. 122](#))
- 1952**, August 7 — 9:08 a.m. Mrs. Susan Pzuhl (or Pfuhl) observes over San Antonio, Texas, four round UFOs that give off a color similar to white-hot metal. The objects appear to be approximately 18 inches in diameter and are observed one at a time at intervals of approximately 20 minutes. With the exception of one object that moves slowly, the speed must have been 3 times as fast as a propeller-driven aircraft. No sound can be heard. Their maneuvers consist of radical directional change by the first object, straight and level flight by the second object, a slight directional change by the third object, and a large circular maneuver by the fourth object. An aircraft passes under the fourth object with no apparent reaction by the plane or the object. It vanishes suddenly like an extinguished light. Duration is 70 minutes. (NICAP, [“Four 18” UFOs Observed”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 166)
- 1952**, August 7 — 3:00 p.m. Two Ground Observer Corps skywatchers in Silverton, Oregon, [Ida Pfeifer](#) and Dorothy Sthamann, see an aluminum-colored object 3 miles away that appears at first triangular, then more saucer shaped. Army and air observers in Portland confirm that jet interceptors are at that moment in pursuit of the object. Replacement skywatchers [Sadie Barkhurst](#) and Mrs. Olaf Teglund also see the object at 5:00 p.m. All agree that the UFO is headed east at a moderate speed, but darts “fiercely” toward the interceptor when it approaches. ([“Flying Saucer at Silverton,”](#) *Salem (Oreg.) Capital Journal*, August 9, 1952, p. 14)
- 1952**, August 8 — A special CIA/Office of Scientific Intelligence team consisting of [Philip Grandin Strong](#), Ransom L. Eng, and [Frederick C. Durant](#) visits Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio for a comprehensive briefing about UFOs from Blue Book staff. This classified visit is in response to secret orders from President [Truman](#) to the CIA to investigate the Air Force’s mishandling of UFOs during the Washington National Airport cases. (CUFON, [“The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts,”](#) May 17, 1996; Clark III 397; Swords 172–173)
- 1952**, August 9 — 1:45 a.m. A/3C [Joseph F. Raley](#) is walking to work at Lake Charles Air Force Station [now closed] in Lake Charles, Louisiana, when he observes a disc-like object from a distance away of 3,000–5,000 feet. The object is at an estimated altitude of 5,000 feet. It moves several hundred mph faster than any known jet aircraft. No sound is heard. The object is first seen moving north to south until it crosses the air station, where it stops and hovers for approximately 2 seconds, then takes off to the west. (NICAP, [“Faster-Than-Jet Disc Stops, Hovers Two Seconds, Accelerates”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 167)
- 1952**, August 10 — 5:38 p.m. Roy E. Munson is resting in his hammock at 1231 Widergren Drive, Rockford, Illinois, when he sees a disc-shaped object moving west to east and streaking across the sky in 6 seconds. Within minutes, another appears on the same flight path. Some family members and neighbors join him to watch the objects, which keep appearing for the next 90 minutes by which time a total of 54 have gone by. Munson alerts the CAA operator at the Rockford airport, who calls O’Hare Airport in Chicago, which sends two USAF jet interceptors to the area. They appear just as the last of the discs, which seem surrounded by a haze, disappears. Of the 54 objects, 36 appear larger than the others and move faster. Fifty follow the straight west-to-east path out of sight. Three deviate from the path to the north, and one deviates to the south. (NICAP, [“Rockford, Illinois, Monday, August 11, 1952”](#))
- 1952**, August 11 — A CIA memo refers to a meeting of the newly created study group on UFOs attended by eight operatives. (Central Intelligence Agency, [“Minutes of Branch Chief’s Meeting of 11 August 1952”](#); CUFON, [“The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts,”](#) May 17, 1996; Swords 173)
- 1952**, August 12 — 1:43 a.m. An Air Force F-94B jet fighter from Dover AFB in Delaware is flying at 20,000 feet when both the pilot and his radar crewman sight a glowing object 45° to their left and at a lower altitude, with the waters of the Delaware Bay as a dark backdrop. Curious, the jet pilot adjusts his course and heads directly at the

object, which is stationary. In an apparent reaction, the object loses some of its brilliance and diminishes in size, apparently moving away. The pilot determines that the object had halted above Cape May, New Jersey, where it again hovers. Without success, the pilot tries to raise the local CCI station on the radio on F channel to request a radar scan of the Cape May area. Low on fuel, the pilot cannot pursue the UFO any further, so he breaks off the chase and heads for home. The UFO follows the jet, increasing in apparent size as it draws near and overtakes it. Eventually, the UFO loses interest and flies away to the south. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 36)

1952, August 13 — Around 7:00 p.m. Two civilians in the Tampa, Florida, area watch three UFOs. One object changes its course abruptly to the west, moving in excess of 600 mph. The same object hovers for about 5 minutes then moves at an excessive rate back to the east and resumes its course to the north and disappears. The two other objects do not alter course but disappear to the north. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 39)

1952, August 13 — 7:57 p.m. A group of seven strong, stationary targets becomes visible in an area about 15 miles north-northeast of the radar antenna at Washington National Airport [now Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport] in Arlington County, Virginia. During the next two or three antenna revolutions, the area on the scope between Washington and Baltimore becomes heavily sprinkled with stationary targets in a belt about 6 miles wide. A group of additional targets becomes visible in an area approximately 10–15 miles southeast of the radar antenna. For the next four and one-half hours, many unidentified targets are carefully plotted with a grease pencil on the face of the Type VG scope. The time for each is entered on these plots in order to calculate ground speeds. To secure a permanent record, time data and track plots are transferred from the scope face to a sheet of frosted acetate. The targets disappear at 12:30 a.m. The Civil Aeronautics Administration concludes that the targets are ground returns caused by temperature inversions in the lower atmosphere. Two similar radar cases featuring multiple targets in Indianapolis on November 4–5 also lead them to conclude that the episodes (and by extension the Washington, D.C., events in July) are “ground returns caused by reflection phenomena closely connected with the temperature inversions in the lower atmosphere.” (NICAP, “[Multiple Targets over Washington](#)”; Richard C. Borden and Tirey K. Vickers, [A Preliminary Study of Unidentified Targets Observed on Air Traffic Control Radars](#), Civil Aeronautics Administration, Technical Development and Evaluation Center, Technical Development Report, no. 180, May 1953)

1952, August 13 — Night. Pioneer Airlines pilot Capt. Max M. Jacoby sees a mystery light while on a routine test flight out of Dallas Love Field, Texas. He tries to intercept it, but the light evades him and disappears. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 39)

1952, August 13 — 9:10 p.m. A witness in Oakland, California, calls Hamilton AFB [now closed] in Novato to notify them he is watching “two balls of fire” making a 10-mile circle and leaving in the direction of Hamilton. When the report is made to Capt. [Kenneth Broden](#), Hamilton AFB Airdrome Officer, he orders an F-94 jet scrambled to search the bay between Oakland and the air base. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 39)

1952, August 13 — 9:45 p.m. In Tokyo, Japan, US Marine Corps pilot Maj. [James D. McGough](#) sees an orange light fly a left orbit at 8,000 feet and 230 mph, then spiral down to no more than 1,500 feet, remain stationary for 2–3 minutes, and go out. An attempted interception is unsuccessful. (NICAP, “[Orange Light Maneuvers Then Stops in Mid-Air](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 167)

1952, August 13 — 11:10 p.m. USAF Reserve Capt. Stanley W. Thompson sees a formation of lighted objects flying rapidly over Tucson, Arizona. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 39)

1952, August 14 — Australian Minister for Air [William McMahon](#) states facetiously in Parliament that flying saucer reports are “probably based on flights of imagination,” but indicates he will “cause a thorough investigation to be made.” (Swords 376)

1952, August 14 — The CIA’s special UFO study group meets for the first time and is given a summary (probably written by [A. Ray Gordon](#), project officer of the CIA’s Physics and Electronics Branch) of UFO history, an analysis of Project Blue Book, and a discussion of explained sightings and theories about unexplained sightings. (Central Intelligence Agency, “[Flying Saucers](#),” August 14, 1952; Good Above, [pp. 331–333](#))

1952, August 14 — 12:00 noon. The chief test pilot for the Australian Government Aircraft Factories is flying a Vampire aircraft between 35,000 and 36,000 feet near Rockhampton, Queensland, when he looks east toward the coast and sees a large circular light at a lower altitude. The light is the color of an incandescent lightbulb. After about one minute, 6–10 smaller lights emerge from the larger object and surround it for 2 minutes before disappearing. After another 2 minutes, the large light also disappears. (Bill Chalker, “[The Early Days of the Public UFO Drama in Australia: Even an Atomic Connection of a Sort](#),” The OzFiles, October 2, 2023)

- 1952**, August 14 — 7:20 p.m. People on the docks of Phillippeville [modern Skikda], Algeria, see an enormous red disc leaving behind a greenish trail. At 9:15 p.m., two people in Constantine, Algeria, watch a luminous object flying at high speed. It emits a bright light. (ClearIntent, [p. 122](#))
- 1952**, August 14 — 10:30 p.m. A yellow ball of light undulates up and down and from side to side over the Mathieson chemical plant in Lake Charles, Louisiana. It is also seen to shoot ahead abruptly and come to a halt in the same manner. Witnesses estimate that the ball passes over at 5,000 feet, growing fainter and fainter as it moves away. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 43)
- 1952**, Mid-August — 10:30 p.m. [John D. Moorman](#), deputy sheriff of Starke County, is fishing in a boat with [Surphin Casper](#) on the Tippecanoe River about 3 miles northwest of Monterey, Indiana. Moorman looks up and sees 7–8 objects hovering. They watch for a few seconds until the objects move away to the west. About half of them return east momentarily, and all of them disappear by blinking out. (NICAP case file)
- 1952**, Mid-August — With the help of USAF Col. William S. Boyd, [Donald Keyhoe](#) arranges a meeting with press officer [Albert S. Chop](#) for help in understanding the Air Force's reasons for debunking the Washington sightings. Chop offers to help him obtain UFO reports submitted to ATIC, and he comes through with some cases the following week. (Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. [94–95](#); Thomas Tulien, [“Oral History Interview with Albert M. Chop.”](#) November 1999, pp. 16–18; Antonio Huneus, [“Interview with Blue Book Liaison, Major Fournet.”](#) OpenMinds, July 21, 2010; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 91–92)
- 1952**, August 15 — 4:20 a.m. Ground Observer Corps observers in Davis, California, see a rainbow-colored, round object hovering in the air. Soon they notice eight more objects of a strange appearance. At 5:30 a.m., two more UFOs are seen, one moving west while the other moves east. The Air Force scrambles a F-94 jet interceptor to search the area at altitudes of 10,000–20,000 feet. The military claims the pilot can see nothing unusual, although the GOC spotters say that the UFOs and the jet are both visible in the sky at the same time and possibly at the same altitude. At 5:00 a.m., in Napa, California, GOC post observer Diane Robinson sights a “cigar-shaped silver thing” traveling at tremendous speed at 10,000 feet toward the southwest. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 43)
- 1952**, August 15 — CIA operative [Frederick C. Durant](#) [and/or Ransom L. En] writes a top-secret draft memo for DCI [Walter Bedell Smith](#) on the OSI teams visit to Wright-Patterson AFB and a summary of its findings. It offers an analytical description of UFOs going back to the 1946 Scandinavian ghost rockets. It rules out the possibility of Russian secret weapons and mentions the sightings at Los Alamos and Oak Ridge at a time when the “background radiation count had risen inexplicably. Here we run out of even ‘blue yonder’ explanations that might be tenable, and, we still are left with numbers of incredible reports from credible observers.” Yet “even though we might admit that intelligent life may exist elsewhere and that space travel is possible, there is no shred of evidence to support this theory at present.” (Central Intelligence Agency, [“Flying Saucers.”](#) August 15, 1952; CUFON, [“The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts.”](#) May 17, 1996; Clark III 397; Swords 172–173)
- 1952**, August 15 — RAAF Flight Lt. William H. Scott, chief test pilot of the Government Aircraft Factories, is flying a de Havilland Vampire jet between 35,000 and 36,000 feet near Rockhampton, Queensland. Looking east toward the coast, he sees a large, circular light at a lower elevation. It is the color of an ordinary incandescent light bulb. After about 60 seconds, 6–10 smaller lights break off from the main light, surrounding it for 2 minutes before disappearing. After another 2 minutes, the big light also disappears. (Swords 376)
- 1952**, August 19 — The CIA/OSI study group prepares an internal 6-page document of its findings. It has made a study of the Soviet press that shows “not one report or comment” about UFOs, which indicates official censorship. It perceives a danger that the Russians might try to infiltrate civilian UFO groups (such as Civilian Saucer Investigation of Los Angeles) or add UFO disinformation during a nuclear attack: “We give Russia the capability of delivering an air attack against us, yet at any given moment now, there may be a dozen official unidentified sightings plus many unofficial.” It briefs CIA Director [Walter Bedell Smith](#) on August 20. (Central Intelligence Agency, [“Flying Saucers.”](#) August 19, 1952; CUFON, [“The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts.”](#) May 17, 1996; Clark III 1013; Swords 174)
- 1952**, August 19 — 2:38 p.m. Ground Observer Corps observer Albert Lathrop sees two objects shaped like fat bullets flying straight, level, and fast over Red Bluff, California. ([Sparks](#), p. 167)
- 1952**, August 19 — 8:00 p.m. An oval disc is seen above Boron Air Force Station [now closed] in Boron, California. Two jet fighters are guided into the area by Capt. [Ralph J. Borgerson](#) at the base, but the object speeds away to the east as they close in. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, August](#), The Author, 1986, p. 49; [Sparks](#), p. 167)
- 1952**, August 19 — About 10:00 p.m. Scoutmaster D[unham] S[anborn] “Sonny” DesVergers is driving with three scouts on the edge of the Everglades south of West Palm Beach, Florida, when he sees a light in a wild palmetto grove. The boys do not see it, so he drives on. Another boy admits he has seen a light in that direction too, so

DesVergers returns to the spot and goes into the grove, telling the boys to stay in the car unless he is delayed. Soon all three boys see red lights flashing in the grove. This alarms them, and they go to a nearby house for help. They return to see DesVergers staggering out of the grove, incoherently saying he has been zapped into semiconsciousness by some kind of red flare coming from a hatch in a red ball of light. It burns his cap as well. An area of flattened and burned grass is found after the event. DesVergers has a reputation as a prankster and hopes to monetize his story somehow, but the scouts do corroborate his story and there are physical traces. Grass samples from the site sent to the Air Force show root damage extending 4 inches or more into the soil, suggesting overheating, possibly by microwave radiation. [Karl Pflock](#) thinks it is a hoax, but [Jerry Clark](#) isn't 100% sure. (NICAP, "[Florida Scoutmaster Case](#)"; "[Attack by Flying Saucer Described by Scoutmaster](#)," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News*, August 24, 1952, pp. 1A, 4A; "[Line Forms at Left for That Saucer Yarn](#)," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News*, August 25, 1952, p. 1A; "[Boy Scout Wants New Saucer Hunt](#)," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News*, August 26, 1952, p. 2A; "[Saucer Witnesses Talking](#)," *Miami (Fla.) Daily News*, August 27, 1952, pp. 1A, 8A; Clark III 496–498; Ruppelt, p. 176; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1952 August Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2001, pp. 115–119; Story, pp. 128–131; Jenny Randles, *UFO Reality*, p. 143; Karl T. Pflock, "[The Best Hoax in UFO History?](#)" 1997; "[The Scoutmaster's Tale](#)," *Saturday Night Uforia*, March 27, 2013; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 13–16; "[Scoutmaster Sonny DesVergers Got Burned by a UFO: Encounter Remembered by Eyewitness Chuck Stevens](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 2023)

- 1952**, August 20 — The CIA/OSI UFO study group briefs CIA Director [Walter Bedell Smith](#), who then orders the preparation of a National Security Council Intelligence Directive for submission to the NSC stating the need for a UFO investigation. (H. Marshall Chadwell, "[Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," December 2, 1952)
- 1952**, August 20 — Air Defense Command radar at Congaree AFB [now McEntire Joint National Guard Base], southeast of Columbia, South Carolina, tracks a target traveling more than 4,000 mph some 60 miles from the base. (NICAP, "[ADC Tracks Object at 4,000 MPH](#)"; UFOEv, p. 78)
- 1952**, August 21 — USAF press officer [Al Chop](#) comes through and provides [Donald Keyhoe](#) with some Project Blue Book reports, including the Haneda AFB case, the Congaree AFB case, the three reports from late July. Chop assures him the reports have been cleared and he can write about them, on one condition—that he deny sensational reports that pilots are shooting at UFOs. (Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 94–99; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 92–93)
- 1952**, August 21 — 10:10 p.m. Ground Observer Corps Supervisor D. C. Scott spots a yellowish-white light flying in the sky at 2,000 feet northeast of Elgin, Illinois. Several times it rises to 5,000 feet in three minutes, hovers, then descends again. Scott alerts Capt. Everett A. Turner at the Chicago Filter Center, who tells him to call again when the light settles down. After one hour and 23 minutes the light begins to hover, Scott calls Turner again, and Turner has at least one F-86 Sabre jet scrambled from O'Hare Airport in Chicago. The pilot makes four passes between 10,000 and 2,000 feet. On the fourth pass, it heads directly toward the light, which blinks out. ("[Jets Pursue Mystery Light](#)," *Carbondale Southern Illinoisan*, August 23, 1952, p. 1; UFOEv, p. 66; Shoot 102–103)
- 1952**, August 22 — George G. Carey, CIA assistant director for operations, writes a memo to [Chadwell](#) on "USSR and Satellite Mentions of Flying Saucers" that reviews mentions of UFOs in the Soviet press during the past two years. ("[USSR and Satellite Mentions of Flying Saucers](#)," August 22, 1952; CUFON, "[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#)," May 17, 1996)
- 1952**, August 22 — [A. Ray Gordon](#), project officer of the CIA's Physics and Electronics Branch, provides a briefing document explaining the "Air Force Stand on 'Flying Saucers'" to CIA Director [Walter Bedell Smith](#), who then briefs President [Truman](#) on the CIA UFO study group's reports at his regular Friday intelligence briefing. ("[The Air Force Stand on 'Flying Saucers'](#)," August 22, 1952; CUFON, "[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#)," May 17, 1996; Clark III 1013)
- 1952**, August 22–23 — Evening. [Lyman Streeter](#) sees unusual lights near Winslow, Arizona, and hears strange signals on his ham radio. Not long afterward, Lyman, his wife, and Alfred C. Bailey hear a mysterious code coming through the air itself. Eventually, at 2:00 a.m., a Morse Code-like message comes through the radio from Regga of Mars and Zo and Nah-9 from Neptune. Zo refers to Affa from Uranus, who thinks earth is too evil. He also warns them that the evil Orion Solar System is coming to earth in a "square star body." [Williamson](#) arrives from Prescott on August 23. (George Hunt Williamson and Alfred C. Bailey, *The Saucers Speak!* New Age, 1954; Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 22; Clark III 1283–1284)
- 1952**, August 23 — Telenews Productions re-releases its 1950 UFO documentary short, *The Flying Saucer Mystery*, edited and expanded to 12½ minutes with new material. It features footage from the July 29, 1952, press conference given by Air Force Maj. Gen. [John A. Samford](#), the UFO photo taken by [Shell Alpert](#), a photo taken by [August C. Roberts](#), German UFO occupant witnesses Oskar and Gabriele Linke, [Frank Scully](#), and U.S. Army Engineers physicist Noel W. Scott. ("[The Flying Saucer Mystery \(Full\) \(1952\)](#)," TheUFOVideoChannel YouTube channel, September 1, 2010; Internet Movie Database, "[The Flying Saucer Mystery](#)"; Curt Collins, "[The Flying](#)

[Saucer Mystery and the 1952 UFO Flap](#),” The Saucers That Time Forgot, January 9, 2020; “[The First UFO Documentary: ‘The Flying Saucer Mystery’ ~ 1950 Original + 1952 Revised Edition](#),” Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, August 5, 2023)

- 1952**, August 24 — 10:15 a.m. USAF Col. [Gerald W. Johnson](#) is flying an F-84G when he sees two silver balls in the vicinity of Hermanas (a ghost town), New Mexico. They seem to be 6 feet in diameter and 2 miles away. One seems to change into a long, gray object as it is turning to the right. After 3 minutes they disappear, then reappear 7 minutes later, by which time the F-84 is over El Paso, Texas. One after the other, the objects climb straight up 2,000–3,000 feet. (NICAP, “[F-84 Encounters Two Silver Balls](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 168; Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 14, 15)
- 1952**, August 24 — [Williamson](#), [Streeter](#), and Bailey receive coded radio messages indicating the saucer intelligences intend to land, inviting them to help. (George Hunt Williamson and Alfred C. Bailey, *The Saucers Speak!* New Age, 1954; Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 22)
- 1952**, August 25 — 3:40 p.m. At Holloman AFB, New Mexico, plant supervisor Fred Lee and foreman [Lawrence A. Aguilar](#) watch a round silver object for 5 minutes. It flies south, turns and flies north, makes a 360° turn, then flies away vertically. (NICAP, “[Silver Sphere Maneuvers over Base](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 168)
- 1952**, August 25 — 5:50 a.m. [William Squyres](#), a radio station musician at KOAM [now KKOW-AM] is driving from his home northeast of Frontenac, Kansas, to the station at Pittsburg. He is in his 1952 Jeep station wagon on a rough gravel road about a quarter of a mile from US Highway 160 when he sees a large, disc-shaped object hovering 10 feet in the air on the right side of the road 750 feet away. The UFO looks like two bowls placed together end to end, 75 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 15 feet high in the midsection. Through a window he can see the head and shoulders of a motionless human figure. Along its outer edge are a series of propellers 6–8 inches in diameter, spaced closely together and mounted on a bracket so they revolve “in a horizontal plane” along the edge of the object. He stops and gets out to watch it. As he is walking toward the object, it rises into the air and flies away at great speed. (“‘Flying Saucer’ with Men Inside Seen by Pittsburg Radio Employee,” *Neosho (Mo.) Daily Democrat*, August 26, 1952, p. 1; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 200–203; Patrick Gross, “[Project Blue Book Unexplained Cases](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 168; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 16–18; “[Pittsburg, KS CE-III – William Squyres Interviewed by Frank Edwards](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013)
- 1952**, August 25 — 9:25 p.m. Affa of Uranus contacts the Baileys, the Streeters, and the Williamsons (as well as two students named Ronald Tucker and Betty Bowen) by radio, using 405 or 450 kilocycles. Zo and Um of Neptune, Regga of Mars, and other aliens continue sending messages by both radio and telepathy. [Streeter](#) sees a dark spot in the sky that he claims is Affa. [Williamson](#) sees a blue light that he thinks is Zo. Everyone signs an affidavit that the events have truly taken place. (George Hunt Williamson and Alfred C. Bailey, *The Saucers Speak!* New Age, 1954; Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 22, 24; Clark III 1284)
- 1952**, August 27 — 4:45 a.m. Two meteorological officers at Macdonald Airport in Manitoba see a disc-shaped object with shadows on it. It makes two turns around the airfield. When the rotating airport beacon light strikes it, the object glints like shiny aluminum, speeds away to the northeast, and vanishes. (Good Above, pp. 184–185)
- 1952**, August 28 — A family on the ground in Le Roy, New York, sees a disc making tight vertical circles around an airliner. (UFOEv, p. 10)
- 1952**, August 28 — 9:30 p.m. Three civilians in Chickasaw, Alabama, report to Brookley AFB [now Mobile Downtown Airport] in Mobile, Alabama, their observation of multiple red stationary and maneuvering objects to the south, and another one moving from south to west, all in the direction of Brookley. AFOSI agent Charles A. Robinson arrives in Chickasaw at 9:50 p.m. to investigate and sees the same four objects to the south and southwest at an estimated 8–12 miles distance. One fiery red object is stationary for 15 minutes then drifts 15°–20° to the right after which it is stationary again. Radar operator A/2C [Irl A. Whitaker](#) visually spots a red-green object over Chickasaw to the north. USAF duty officer Capt. William A. Edwards and control tower operators see one object to the southwest to the right and lower than the moon, and another object to the west at 10°–20° elevation. The latter is confirmed by radar as a stationary target at four miles range and 4,000 feet altitude. Robinson and others see one object explode, and another does a figure 8 maneuver. There are 4–6 objects larger than a star or planet varying from fiery red, red-blue, red-green, and sparkling diamond appearance. A civilian Air Force employee sees a flat oval shape. (NICAP, “[GCA Paints Stationary Target](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 169)
- 1952**, August 29 — 10:50 a.m. Pilot LtJG William A. O’Flaherty and navigator LtJG R. S. Moore are flying a PB4Y-2 Privateer patrol plane west of Thule Air Base, near Qaanaaq, Greenland. They are following an 85-foot-diameter Skyhook balloon launched from an icebreaker, US Coast Guard Cutter [Eastwind](#), when, upon release of the parachute instrument package from the balloon, they see 3 white discs or globes, about ½ to almost the full apparent size of the balloon, in triangle formation clustered to the right of the Skyhook instrument package at 74,000 feet for some 2–3 minutes. (NICAP, “[Three Objects Shake Up Air Crew](#)”; “[Arctic Navy Pilot Reports](#)

- [Seeing Strange Phenomena](#),” *Omaha (Nebr.) Evening World-Herald*, October 18, 1952, p. 4; [Sparks](#), p. 170; Cmdr. Edward P. Stafford, “[Cosmic Curiosity](#),” *Naval History* 18, no. 5 (October 2004); “[August–December 1952 Sighting Chronology](#),” *Journal of UFO History* 2, no. 4 (Sept./Oct. 2005): 5, 8)
- 1952**, August 29 — 8:35 p.m. Civil Air Patrol pilot [Carlton A. Magruder](#) sees three aluminum-colored objects with a red-yellow exhaust over Colorado Springs, Colorado. They are 50 feet in diameter and 10 feet high, flying in line at about 1,500 mph. (NICAP, “[Pilot Reports Three Objects 50’ in Diameter](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 169; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, August*, The Author, 1986, p. 80)
- 1952**, Late August — Albert and Betty Bailey go to the Palomar Gardens Café in California to visit [George Adamski](#) and tell him about their contacts and their friendship with [George Hunt Williamson](#). (Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 22)
- 1952**, Late summer — As a Signal Corps employee working the night shift, Vivian Walton handles decoded teletype messages inside a high-security building at the Defense Supply Center near Columbus, Ohio. She walks into the photo lab, where colleague Joe Sheehy is developing photos, one of which he says is a UFO that had landed in the “hill country” somewhere near Columbus. He says the object is 30 feet in diameter and unoccupied, with minimal damage. A few days later, an alert is sounded, allegedly because of danger of attack by UFOs. Walton claims the downed UFO has gone through the depot on the way to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton. (James W. Moseley, “[The Wright Field Story, or Who’s Lying?](#)” *Nexus* 3, no. 1 (September 1954): 11–15; James W. Moseley, *The Wright Field Story*, Saucerian, 1971; Jerome Clark, “[A Catalog of Early Crash Claims](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1993): 18; Irena Scott and William E. Jones, “[Crash Claims](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1993): 21; Good Need, [p. 159](#); Clark III 329)
- 1952**, September — 10:00 a.m. A radar scope near Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, picks up an unknown target approaching at 700 mph then slows down to 100 mph northeast of the airfield. Two F-86 Sabre jets are scrambled but at first cannot locate the target. The second pilot suddenly spots what seems to be a balloon but as he gets closer it looks more like a “doughnut without a hole.” He gets as close as 1,500 feet before the object accelerates. When it is again at a range of 3,000 feet, the pilot begins firing at the object, but it pulls up in a climb and disappears in seconds. Capt. [Ruppelt](#) is given this report by an intelligence officer (probably Lt. Glen Parrish) at the base, who is about to forward the incident report to ATIC but the commanding officer (Brig. Gen. [William A. Matheny](#)) orders it destroyed. Parrish shows the last copy of the report to Ruppelt during a visit to Kirtland. (Ruppelt, [pp. 1–5](#); NICAP, “[F-86 Shooting Incident / 700 MPH Target](#)”)
- 1952**, September — UFO witness turned researcher [Kenneth Arnold](#) releases *The Coming of the Saucers*, coauthored by his friend and publisher, [Raymond A. Palmer](#). As publicity, the story “Flying Saucer-y” is prepared by King Features Syndicate and carried in many newspapers as a full-page story. (Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer, *The Coming of the Saucers*, Palmer, 1952; Curt Collins, “[Kenneth Arnold’s 1952 UFO Book Promotion](#),” *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, September 28, 2018)
- 1952**, September — Civilian Saucer Investigation in Los Angeles publishes the first of only four issues of its *CSI Quarterly Bulletin*. The final issue appears in early 1954. (*CSI Quarterly*, no. 1 (Fall 1952))
- 1952**, September — [John P. Cahn](#) publishes an exposé of [Frank Scully](#)’s *Behind the Flying Saucers* in *True* magazine. Scully’s sources are an oil prospector named [Silas M. Newton](#) and a mysterious “Dr. Gee,” later identified as [Leo GeBauer](#), a con man with a long arrest record. The tale is a ploy to gain the attention of potential investors in a bogus oil detection scheme allegedly linked to alien technology. [Jerome Clark](#) writes that Scully was himself a victim, not a perpetrator. (J. P. Cahn, “[Flying Saucers and the Mysterious Little Men](#),” *True*, September 1952, pp. 17–19, 102–112; Clark III 1044–1045)
- 1952**, September 1 — 8:23 p.m. Air Defense Command radar at Yaak Air Force Station in Montana picks up UFOs exhibiting changes of direction as many as five times a minute. Some course changes are 90° and speeds are measured at 1,400–1,600 mph. Six blips at one time appear on the FPS-3 radar scopes and the strange targets come within 10 miles of the GCI site. So close is the indicated range the radar personnel leave their windowless operations room to check the sky. Six objects can be seen an estimated 10 miles away. When first spotted, the UFOs are in an in-trail formation, and shortly thereafter that changes to an in-line abreast grouping. Finally, the UFOs switch to a vertical stack. S/Sgt. William Kelly remembers tracking the UFOs on the radar executing vertical climbs that exceed the limit of the site’s height-finding equipment. (NICAP, “[Radar/Visual at Air Force Radar Site](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 170)
- 1952**, September 1 — 10:30 p.m. An ex-artillery officer named Bowman and 24 others at Marietta, Georgia, see a red, white, and blue-green object that spins and shoots off sparks. An unidentified witness using binoculars sees two large objects shaped like spinning tops with red, blue, and green colors, flying side by side and leaving a sparkling trail for 30 minutes. At 10:50 p.m., a former Army Air Force B-25 gunner sees two large white disc-shaped

objects with green vapor trails fly in trail formation, merge, and fly away quickly. (NICAP, "[Two Discs in Trail Formation](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 170)

- 1952**, September 2 — 12:01 a.m. CAA radar controllers [Robert L. Terneuzen](#) (GCA), Ralph L. Frick, Dale E. Warner, Warren J. Weber, and Radar Maintenance Technician Gordon R. Copeland track as many as 30 targets simultaneously at Midway Airport in Chicago, flying in various directions with an average speed of 175 mph at about 2,000 feet. The 755th Aircraft Control and Weapons radar station in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, claims that the Midway Airport Tower supervisor has called them at 2:50 a.m., saying there are 40 targets plotted by airport radar flying from 3,000 to 6,000 feet at a speed of 120–150 mph. The targets are the size of blips from light planes or larger (the best target quality is in the 6–10-mile range) and move in no particular pattern—sometimes erratically and sometimes in straight lines up to 15 miles long. In at least one instance, the targets fly in formation with an aircraft. At 5:14 a.m., the Air Defense Command is alerted and authorizes the scramble of two jets from the 4706th Interceptor Wing at O'Hare Airport in Chicago. At 5:55 a.m., a pair of F-86 Sabre jets piloted by Capt. [William W. Maitland](#) and Lt. Beverly L. Dunhill, lift off and are vectored right through the targets as shown on radar, making passes at 800 and at 4,000 feet without making contact. The F-86s are evidently without airborne radar because they only mention visual descriptions. Maitland and Dunhill later tell the media: "We didn't see anything. We didn't hit anything. We went through the target showing on the scope and there was nothing there—not even a cloud." The jets break off their aerial search at 6:19 a.m. and return to base. By 7:00 a.m. all of the mysterious targets disappear off the scopes toward the south. The Midway radar crews are convinced the targets are returns from tangible bodies, but CAA chief Bob Zeigler overrules them and blames "peculiar atmospheric conditions." ("[Sabre Jets Fly through 'Object.'](#)" *Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review*, September 3, 1952, p. 1; NICAP, "[40 Targets at Midway Airport](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 171)
- 1952**, September 3 — 9:00 a.m. Instructor pilot [Donald L. McCraven](#) and N. D. Thomas observe a dark elliptical object reflecting sunlight 6 miles north of Tucson, Arizona. The object makes three well-coordinated turns with no perceptible sound. It moves at tremendous speed during a slight climb and is observed for approximately 90 seconds. (NICAP, "[Dark Ellipse Makes Three Coordinated Turns](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 172)
- 1952**, September 3 — 12:30 p.m. [Truman](#) meets in the Cabinet Room with Gen. [William M. Garland](#), Col. [John Gordon Fowler](#), and three other USAF officers; [Lawrence J. Henderson Jr.](#) and [Walter W. Niles](#) from the RAND Corporation; and [Robert B. Landry](#) and four others from the National Security Resources Board. The topic is the Washington UFO incident. (Frank Stalter, "[The Real Majestic 12: Harry Truman's 1952 DC UFO Meeting](#)," *The UFO Partisan*, 2009)
- 1952**, September 6 — 10:10 a.m. Walter Borys and George McCracken, two guards at the Osborn Prison Farm [now Osborn Correctional Institute] in Somers, Connecticut, are with 13 inmates in the yard when they hear an odd motor noise and see a silvery object in the northern sky. It appears to be descending in a zigzag motion but stops and shoots upward at a right angle at terrific speed after releasing a puff of smoke. Other witnesses in the area think it is a jet aircraft. (*Hartford (Conn.) Courant*, September 7, 1952, p. 1; Audrey H. Hennis, "[The 'Flying Saucer' Was from a Jet's After-Burner](#)," *Hartford (Conn.) Courant*, September 19, 1952, p. 18; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October*, The Author, 1986, pp. 11–12)
- 1952**, September 8 — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) and Department of Transport associates launch a large weather balloon with a magnesium flare over Ottawa, Ontario, but it does not inspire any UFO reports. (Clark III 1078; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October*, The Author, 1986, pp. 17–18)
- 1952**, September 9 — 9:00 p.m. US Air Force civilian illustrator E. J. Colisimo sees a disc with lights along part of its circumference over Rabat, Morocco. It is flying twice as fast as a T-33 jet trainer in a slightly curved path. (NICAP, "[Disc Twice As Fast As T-33](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 172)
- 1952**, September 10 — Battelle issues its fifth status report on Project Stork to ATIC. It says that 800 copies of its revised report questionnaire have been sent to the Air Force, many of which were passed on to military witnesses as a trial test. The group has now examined UFO reports from 1947–1949 and 1951. It decided to discontinue the news clipping service. ("[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 3](#)," CUFON)
- 1952**, September 10 — 2:30 p.m. The wife of a civilian employee at Andrews AFB [now Joint Base Andrews] in Prince George's County, Maryland, sees a shiny, metallic, elliptical, silent object moving back and forth near the base. It is visible for 2–3 minutes. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October*, The Author, 1986, p. 25)
- 1952**, September 11 [or 7 or 17] — CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence Director [H. Marshall Chadwell](#) writes a memorandum to Director of Central Intelligence [Walter Bedell Smith](#) that sets out two national security implications of UFOs for the government of the United States: the potential for psychological panic by citizens, and demonstrating the nation's vulnerability by air. It recommends that "A national policy should be established as to what should be told the public regarding the phenomena, in order to minimize risk of panic." (H. Marshall

Chadwell, "[Flying Saucers](#)," September 11, 1952; CUFON, "[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#)," May 17, 1996; Swords 175–181, 503–507; Good Above, [p. 224](#))

1952, September 11 — [Williamson](#), [Streeter](#), and Bailey receive a radio message saying, "I hope we might have a landing soon," and later, "We must make landing contact soon... If you believe us, you will act accordingly." (George Hunt Williamson and Alfred C. Bailey, *The Saucers Speak!* New Age, 1954; Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 22)

1952, September 12 — 1:30 a.m. Two oil well drillers, William Darling and Donald Davis, see a lighted object with windows on one side circling 150 feet above the ground silently for nearly 30 minutes at Bladensburg, Ohio. Suddenly it makes a noise like steam blowing and shoots out of sight. ("Report from the Readers," *Fate* 6, no. 2 (February 1953): 108)

1952, September 12 — Around 7:15 p.m., in Flatwoods, West Virginia, two brothers, Edward and Fred May, and their friend Tommy Hyer (ages 13, 12, and 10 respectively) witness a bright object cross the sky, coming to rest on land belonging to local farmer [G. Bailey Fisher](#). The boys go to the home of the May brothers' mother, [Kathleen May](#), where they tell the story of having seen a UFO crash land. From there, Mrs. May, accompanied by the three boys, local children Neil Nunley, 14, and Ronnie Shaver, 10, and West Virginia National Guardsman Eugene Lemon, 17, walk to the Fisher farm. At the top of a hill, they reportedly see a large pulsating "ball of fire" about 50 feet to their right. They also detect a pungent mist that makes their eyes and noses burn. Lemon then notices two small lights over to the left of the object, underneath a nearby oak tree and directs his flashlight towards them, revealing a creature, which May reports as bounding towards them. Other sources describe it as emitting a shrill hissing noise before gliding towards them, changing direction and then heading off towards the red light. The group flees in panic. Sheriff [Robert L. Carr](#) and his deputy [Burnell J. Long](#) search the area separately, but find no trace of the encounter other than the smell. Early the next morning, [A. Lee Stewart](#), co-owner of the *Braxton Democrat*, visits the site of the encounter for a second time and discovers two elongated tracks in the mud, as well as traces of a thick black liquid. It is later revealed that the tracks are likely those of a 1942 Chevrolet pickup truck driven by local [Max Lockard](#), who had gone to the site to look for the creature some hours prior to Stewart's discovery. [Ivan T. Sanderson](#) interviews the witnesses several days later and concludes that a flight of "intelligently controlled objects flew over West Virginia." The Air Force concludes that people have seen a meteor and that the monster was only the glowing eyes of a barn owl. [Joe Nickell](#) also concludes in 2000 that the bright light in the sky reported by the witnesses on September 12 was most likely a meteor, that the pulsating red light is likely an aircraft navigation/hazard beacon, and that the creature described by witnesses closely resembles a barn owl. Nickell claims that the experience was distorted by the heightened state of anxiety felt by the witnesses after having observed the original meteor. However, [Frank C. Feschino](#) has done extensive research to support his hypothesis that the Flatwoods incident was only one small part of a major UFO display involving multiple objects (many of them reported as "meteors" or "balls of fire" or "flaming planes") passing in westerly and other directions across the eastern and southern United States between 6:50 and 7:25 p.m. The trajectory of one of these objects (moving first northwest then northeast then south) alone takes it over Baltimore, Catonsville, Frederick, Hagerstown, Cumberland, and Garrett County, Maryland; Preston County, Morgantown, Fairmont, Wheeling, Charleston, Parkersburg, Nitro, Ward, and Chelyan, West Virginia; Selma, Columbus, Zanesville, St. Clairsville, Ohio; it is last seen moving south around Bluefield, West Virginia. Another object is seen over Washington, D.C., heading due west towards West Virginia, apparently landing in Flatwoods. A third object travels southwest over Roanoke and Pulaski, Virginia, possibly landing near Arcadia, Tennessee. Feschino thinks that these three objects had been damaged by fire directed at them by Air Force interceptors. Five other objects are observed in North Carolina in that time period, and these Feschino suspects may have been attempting to look for and assist the damaged objects. He also speculates that the disappearance of an F-94 jet fighter out of Tyndall AFB in Panama City, Florida, piloted by 2Lt [John A. Jones](#) and radar operator 2Lt [John S. DelCurto](#), might have involved a tragic UFO interception that began three hours earlier; the last known contact with the fighter is at 5:43 p.m. over the Gulf of Mexico 70 miles northwest of Tampa, the accident takes place under unusual circumstances, and the wreckage has never been found. Feschino thinks that a UFO damaged in dogfights with many interceptors over the Gulf might have triggered the second battle over the Atlantic seaboard around 7:00 p.m. Then a second wave of multiple objects is observed 8:00–8:10 p.m. in the Washington, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and West Virginia region that, according to Feschino, involves a search for a second downed UFO. Although Feschino jumps to many conclusions and his documentation for specific incidents and conditions is somewhat confusing, he may well have grasped more truth than the meteor-and-owl explanation of the skeptics. (Wikipedia, "[Flatwoods Monster](#)"; "Braxton Co. Residents Faint, Become Ill After Run-In With Weird 10-Foot Monster," *Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail*, September 14, 1952; "'Monster' Held Illusion Created by Meteor's Gas," *Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette*, September 23, 1952, p. 3; Gray Barker, "The Monster and the Saucer," *Fate* 6, no. 1

(January 1953): 12–17; Gray Barker, “[W.Va. ‘Monster’: A Full Report](#),” *The Saucerian* 1, no. 1 (September 1953): 8–21; James Haught, “Martian or Mirage? ‘Braxton Monster’ Shocked a World, And at Least One Expert Says It Came From Beyond,” *Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette*, October 31, 1954, p. 50; George Snitowsky as told to Paul Lieb, “[The West Virginia Monster](#),” *Male*, July 1955, pp. 39, 78–79; Holt Byrne, “[The Flatwoods Monster](#),” *Beckley (W.Va.) Post Herald and the Raleigh Register*, September 11, 1955, p. 7; Gray Barker, *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers*, University Books, 1956, pp. 11–35; “Glowing Object Was Jet Ship,” *Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette*, October 7, 1956; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 116–120; Terry Marchal, “Flatwoods Revisited,” *Charleston (W.Va.) Sunday Gazette-Mail*, State Magazine, March 6, 1966, pp. 6M–7M; Holt Byrne, “The Phantom of Flatwoods,” *Charleston (W.Va.) Sunday Gazette-Mail*, State Magazine, March 6, 1966, p. 8M, 17M; Ivan T. Sanderson, *Uninvited Visitors*, Cowles, 1967, pp. 39–51; Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study, “[The Braxton Democrat](#)”; Shoot 112–313, 320–327; Joe Nickell, “[The Flatwoods UFO Monster](#),” *Skeptical Inquirer* 24, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2000): 15–19, reprinted in *The Real X-Files*, University Press of Kentucky, 2001, pp. 301–311; Frank C. Feschino, *The Braxton County Monster: The Cover-Up of the Flatwoods Monster Revealed*, Quarrier Press, 2004; Lon D. Strickler, “[The Flatwoods Monster, Braxton County, WV, Sept. 1952](#),” *Phantoms and Monsters*, March 10, 2010; “[Here There Be Monsters](#),” *Saturday Night Uforia*, 2011; Michael D. Swords, “[Peeking at Ivan’s SITU Files: The Flatwoods Monster](#),” *The Big Study*, April 11, 2011; “[The Flatwoods Monster Case: Ivan Sanderson’s 1953 Report, Free Movie](#),” ParanormalX YouTube channel, April 18, 2012; “[Flatwoods, WV CE-III – Dr. Ivan Sanderson](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Ryan Haupt, “[The Braxton County Monster](#),” *Skeptoid* podcast, September 30, 2014; Clark III 494–495; Terence E. Hanley, “[Barker and Bender on the Case, Part Two](#),” *Tellers of Weird Tales*, December 10, 2017; Terence E. Hanley, “[Barker and Bender on the Case, Part Four](#),” *Tellers of Weird Tales*, December 10, 2017; David White, “[Worse Than Frankenstein: The Story of West Virginia’s Second-Most-Famous Monster](#),” *The Ancient and Esoteric Order of the Jackalope*, October 31, 2022; “[‘Flatwoods Monster’ Witnessed after 1952 UFO Landing Discussed by Ivan Sanderson & Stanton Friedman](#),” *Eyes on Cinema* YouTube channel, November 14, 2023).

1952, September 14 — 4:30 a.m. Fred J. Brown is preparing to milk the cows at the Everglades Experiment Station [now the Everglades Research and Education Center] in Belle Glade, Florida, when he spots a circular object about 35 feet in diameter hovering about 100 feet above the ground. It has a row of red and amber lights spaced around the outside rim and the underside. As it descends to about 40 feet, the 13 cows bolt as the object disappears to the west. As Brown is rounding up the cows, the object appears again, moving from south to north at a speed of 30 mph, making a high-voltage buzzing noise, and emitting an odor “like acid or ammonia” that makes Brown’s eyes smart. The cows stampede once again. The object’s glow illuminates the ground as it passes, and it gains altitude and disappears again. (“[Cattle Stampeded Twice by Mysterious ‘Object’](#),” *Palm Beach (Fla.) Times*, September 16, 1952, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September/October*, The Author, 1986, pp. 28–29)

1952, September 14 — Exercise Mainbrace begins in the North Sea. It is the first large-scale naval exercise undertaken by NATO and jointly commanded by Admiral [Lynde D. McCormick](#) and Gen. [Matthew B. Ridgway](#). It involves the US Navy and the navies of Great Britain, France, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Netherlands, and Belgium. Its objective is to convince Denmark and Norway that they can be defended against an attack from the USSR, and involves 80,000 men, 200 ships, and 1,000 aircraft. The operation lasts through September 25. (Wikipedia, “[Exercise Mainbrace](#)”)

1952, September 14 — 10:13 p.m. The Danish destroyer [Willemoes](#), during the Exercise Mainbrace maneuvers, is north of Bornholm island, Denmark, in the Baltic Sea. Lt.Cmdr. G. Schmidt-Jensen and several members of the crew see an unidentified object, triangular in shape, that moves at high speed toward the southeast. It emits a greenish glow and jets three rays of fire from its rear. Jensen estimates the speed at 930 mph. (NICAP, “[Operation Mainbrace Sightings](#)”; Ruppelt, pp. 195–196; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October*, The Author, 1986, p. 28; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September/October, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 1986, p. 29; Marler [128–129](#), [265](#))

1952, September 19 — 10:53 a.m. During Exercise Mainbrace maneuvers, a silvery, spherical UFO appears near RAF Topcliffe in North Yorkshire, England, following an RAF Meteor jet (possibly piloted by Flight Lt. John W. Kilburn and Flight Lt. Marian Cybulski) about to land. It has been following about 5 miles behind the jet at 15,000 feet, swinging like a “falling sycamore leaf” and descending. As the jet turns toward Dishforth, the object follows but begins rotating on its axis then suddenly accelerates and disappears. Several ground crew members of RAF 269 Squadron (Master Signaller Albert Thomson, Sgt. Flight Engineer Thomas Deweys, Flight Lt. R. Paris, and Leading Aircraftman George Grime) and civilians also see it. [Prince Philip](#) suggests to RAF Air Marshal [Peter Horsley](#), who is serving as equerry to the duke, that he investigate credible reports of UFOs, especially those by fighter pilots who have seen them. He arranges for RAF Fighter Command to send copies of any reports for examination at Buckingham Palace and begins an informal study that lasts until 1955. (“[Check for ‘Saucers’ at](#)

[Naval Maneuver](#),” *El Paso (Tex.) Herald-Post*, September 20, 1952, p. 16; NICAP, “[Swaying Silver Object Follows Jet](#)”; Ruppelt, [pp. 195–196](#); Richard Hall, “[Military Secrecy: Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 153 (November 1980): 4–5; Richard Hall, “[Operation Mainbrace Sightings](#)”; Good Above, [pp. 31–32, 450](#); Nick Redfern, “[UFOs and NATO: The Mainbrace Affair](#),” *Mysterious Universe*, April 22, 2014; David Clarke, “The Prince and the Saucers,” *Fortean Times* 406 (June 2021): 18–19; [Sparks](#), p. 173; *UFOFiles2*, [p. 47](#))

- 1952**, September 20? — Sometime during Exercise Mainbrace, at the underground RAF Ash, near Woodnesborough, Kent, England, Senior Aircraftman William Maguire tracks on radar a huge UFO high above the English Channel for 18 minutes. Eventually it splits into three and speeds away, one object to the north, another toward France, and the third toward Eastern Europe. (Good Need, [p. 152](#); Nick Redfern, “[UFOs, NATO, and Military Encounters](#),” *Interesting and Curiosities*, October 28, 2018)
- 1952**, September 20 — Naval personnel on the US aircraft carrier [USS Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) in the North Sea observe a silvery sphere moving across the sky behind the fleet. Photographer Wallace Litwin takes three color photos that are developed and examined by naval intelligence officers. [Ruppelt](#) says they “turned out to be excellent ... judging by the size of the object in each successive photo, one could see that it was moving rapidly.” No balloon has been launched. (NICAP, “[Object Photographed during Operation Mainbrace](#)”; Ruppelt, [pp. 195–196](#); *UFOEv*, [p. 162](#); “[In the News 1952](#),” *Saturday Night Uforia*, 2013)
- 1952**, September 20 — 7:30 p.m. At Air Base Karup in Jutland, Denmark, three Danish Air Force officers see a shiny, metallic UFO pass overhead and disappear in clouds to the east. (Aimé Michel, *The Truth about FS*, 133; *UFOEv*, [p. 162](#))
- 1952**, September 21 — Six RAF Meteor jets flying above the North Sea observe a shiny sphere approaching from the direction of the Mainbrace fleet. It eludes their pursuit and disappears. As they are returning, it reappears following one of the jets, but when he turns to chase it, it speeds away. [Ruppelt](#) says the Mainbrace sightings forced the RAF to “officially recognize the UFO.” (NICAP, “[Six RAF Jets Approached by Shiny Sphere](#)”; Ruppelt, [p. 196](#); [Sparks](#), p. 173)
- 1952**, September 22 — Night. A UFO hovers over the Army’s Camp Drum [now Fort Drum] near Watertown, New York, for 30 minutes. Eight soldiers say the object is 200 feet across, trailing red-orange sparks. (“[Mysterious, Gyrrating Object Looks Down on Camp Drum](#),” *Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle*, September 27, 1952, p. 1)
- 1952**, September 24 — CIA Assistant Director of Scientific Intelligence [H. Marshall Chadwell](#) writes a 4-page memo to CIA Director [Walter Bedell Smith](#), summarizing his earlier memo and stating that since 1947 unexplained sightings were running at 20% and in 1952 they rose to 28%. “I consider this problem to be of such importance that it should be brought to the attention of the National Security Council in order that a community-wide coordinated effort toward its solution may be initiated.” His CIA scientific consultants ([Julius Stratton](#), and perhaps [Lloyd Berkner](#) and [Howard P. Robertson](#)) think the answer will be found “on the margins of just beyond the frontiers of our present knowledge in the fields of atmospheric, ionospheric, and extraterrestrial phenomena, with the added possibility that the present dispersal of nuclear waste products might also be a factor.” (H. Marshall Chadwell, “[Flying Saucers](#),” September 24, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; Good Above, [pp. 328–329, 506–507](#))
- 1952**, Late September — [Ruppelt](#) visits the headquarters of the Air Defense Command at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado to brief Gen. [Benjamin W. Chidlaw](#) and his staff on the past few months of UFO activity at a lunch at the officer’s club. One of the attendees is Maj. [Vernon L. Sadowski](#), the ADC Intelligence liaison to Blue Book, who says that “no one can understand why Intelligence is so hesitant to accept the fact that something we just don’t know about is flying around in our skies, unless you are trying to cover up something big.” (Ruppelt, [pp. 194–197](#))
- 1952**, September 26 — Syndicated aviation columnist [Robert S. Allen](#) writes in his column that the “Air Force has a breathtaking report” ready on UFOs. The study expresses the belief that some reports are genuine and originate from “sources outside of this planet.” The supposed document also says that some sightings involve secret US military devices. The study is allegedly based on more than 1,800 sightings in the past 5 years. (Robert S. Allen, “[Report on Flying Saucers](#),” *Los Angeles Mirror News*, September 26, 1952, p. 43; Michael D. Hall and Wendy Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers—1952*, Rose Press, 2000, pp. 159–160; Michael Hall, “[Was There a Second Estimate of the Situation?](#)” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 10–11)
- 1952**, September 26 — 11:16 p.m. The pilot and crew of a USAF C-124 see two distinct green lights to the right and slightly above the plane, about 400 miles north-northwest of the Azores Islands. At one point, they appear to turn toward the plane. They remain visible until the plane sights the islands. (NICAP, “[Air Crews Observe Green Lights](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 174)

- 1952**, September 27–28 — Throughout West Germany, Denmark, and southern Sweden, there are widespread UFO reports. A luminous object with a comet-like tail is seen moving irregularly near Hamburg and Kiel, Germany. Once, three satellite objects are reported moving around a larger object. A cigar-shaped UFO moving silently eastward is also seen. (UFOEv, [p. 163](#))
- 1952**, September 28 — 2:00 p.m. [Williamson](#), [Streeter](#), and Bailey attempt to meet the saucer intelligences for a landing somewhere in the Arizona desert, but apparently get lost. They return to Streeter's home, where the radio sends sinister-sounding messages about the radio being dangerous, a man coming, and Streeter having a deep secret (perhaps that Streeter has attempted psychic contact once before in 1950). (George Hunt Williamson and Alfred C. Bailey, *The Saucers Speak!* New Age, 1954; Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 22)
- 1952**, September 28 — 8:35 p.m.–10:09 p.m. USAF radar operator A/3c Carlton L. Hall, stationed on the southwest coast of Tsushima Island, Japan, notices unusual targets on six separate occasions, each time for a duration of 2–4 sweeps. On two separate outbound tracks from Itazuke Air Base [now Fukuoka Airport], a series of targets appear directly behind aircraft when entering an azimuth of 50°–70° from nearby Tsutsusaki Lighthouse. The objects appear as normal aircraft but are rounder in shape, trailing about 2–3 miles to the rear of the aircraft. A/2c Warren D. Grovenstein also observes four of these anomalies with Hall. ([Blue Book report](#))
- 1952**, September 29 — 6:30 p.m. Capt. Dursemaine, commanding officer of the Gendarmerie Maritime en Allemagne, watches a luminous, egg-shaped object with a black spot in its center flying at an altitude of 3.7 miles above his home 1.2 miles south of Mainz, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. It emits a low-pitched hum and white exhaust. (Jan Aldrich)
- 1952**, September 30 — 10:30 a.m. A North American Aviation Company film crew, headed by Dick Beemer, is at Edwards AFB in southern California to film some tests. They are at Rogers Dry Lake when a B-29 passes overhead. Cameraman Carlos Garcia sees an unusual object moving near the plane. A second object appears. Soon the whole crew is looking up. Beemer says the objects are silent, leave no vapor trail, take turns maneuvering around each other, and look like "flattened spheres." They have a color motion picture camera with them, but the UFOs are too near the sun. (UFOEv, [pp. 57–58](#))
- 1952**, Fall — Evening. [Paul Solem](#) has his first contact with a flying saucer around the Lost River Sinks a few miles from his ranch in Howe, Idaho. After watching a metallic object land, Solem sees a man with long blond hair and dressed in a white uniform standing next to it. He tells Solem to call him "Paul 2." He says he is from Venus and tells Solem to work with Indians in North America in preparing for a postapocalyptic social order. This will be the first of many contacts for Solem. Over the next 17 years he wanders through the western states, speaking with Indians and contactees, gathers a small group of followers, and generally avoids the limelight. (Clark III 1094)
- 1952**, October — The first number of [Albert K. Bender](#)'s *Space Review* is published. ([Space Review](#) 1, no. 1 (October 1952); Clark III 189)
- 1952**, October — Opal Church is driving with her nephew in a car between Salem and Corvallis, Oregon, when they see an 8-foot, heavily built figure walking with "fluid movements" along the road. It is wearing an Arab-style headdress and a uniform, with gloves and boots, of fine metallic mesh. A ribbed belt surrounds the waist. Its face is pale and the huge round eyes, nearly 3 inches in diameter, glow. Inside them are reticulations "resembling the filament in old electric light bulbs." Church turns around immediately, but the figure is gone, even though the terrain is flat. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1952–1953](#), p. 28; Clark III 267)
- 1952**, October — [Andrija Puharich](#), a medical doctor interested in parapsychology, discovers that a person's ESP abilities are enhanced when they are placed inside a Faraday cage. His experimental subject is none other than gifted psychic [Eileen J. Garrett](#), whom he has tasked with clairvoyantly perceiving cosmic ray bursts of sufficient magnitude to trigger a signal in a detector. (Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days, Part 2](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 2 (December 2008): 8)
- 1952**, October — Stanley Glickman, an American artist living in Paris, France, joins a group of fellow Americans at a café, one of whom is CIA mind-control and poison specialist [Sidney Gottlieb](#). A heated political debate ensues, and when Glickman decides to leave, he is offered a drink to soothe ill feelings. Gottlieb surreptitiously slips LSD into Glickman's drink and it derails his life. Glickman suffers a complete mental breakdown from which he never recovers. In 1977, he learns about Gottlieb and CIA's LSD experiments on unwitting involuntary subjects from the [Kennedy](#) congressional hearings. Glickman sues in 1981, but the trial is delayed 17 years on technical grounds, by which time Glickman has died in 1992. His sister, Gloria Kronisch, pursues the case in the US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, as his executrix in 1998, but it is thrown out on July 9 because the statute of limitations has passed. (H. P. Albarelli Jr., [A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Cold War Experiments](#), Trine Day, 2009; [Kronisch v. United States](#), US Court of Appeals, 2d Circuit, July 9, 1998)

- 1952**, October — Evening. Aeronautical engineer and former Project Sign liaison [Alfred Loedding](#) and his wife Marion see an odd object while driving near Plainsboro, New Jersey. At first, they think it is an aircraft crashing, but the object levels off and flashes away at high speed, emitting a bluish-green light. He estimates it is 100 feet in diameter and 500–600 feet high, and it gives off a “weird light like looking at a firefly” while changing shape. Loedding says Rep. [L. Gary Clemente](#) (D-N.Y.) is also a witness. (“[Flying Saucer Design Practical, WADC Aid Says; U.S. Interested](#),” *Dayton (Ohio) Journal Herald*, August 9, 1957, p. 13)
- 1952**, October 2? — Shortly before 7:00 a.m. One Thursday this month, Johannes Nordlien is waiting for coworkers when he hears a howling sound. A white, saucer-shaped object, 13 feet in diameter, comes in from the west at high speed and passes him only 325 feet away. It falls with a violent splash into the river Lågen [Gudbrandsdalslågen?] in Norway. When his colleagues show up, the water is still roiling. (Ole Jonny Brønne, “[Observations of Unidentified Submarine Objects in Norway](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 12)
- 1952**, October 2 — CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence Director [H. Marshall Chadwell](#) writes a memorandum to Director of Central Intelligence [Walter Bedell Smith](#) recommending he advise the National Security Council that more research is needed on UFOs to investigate their national security threat. (H. Marshall Chadwell, “[Flying Saucers](#),” October 2, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; Good Above, pp. 509–510)
- 1952**, October 9–11 — At the Optical Society of America meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, [J. Allen Hynek](#) presents a paper on “Unusual Aerial Phenomena,” in which he expresses skepticism for most reports, except for nocturnal lights that do “not appear to be readily explainable on an astronomical basis, or by mirages, balloons, or by conventional aircraft.” Astronomer [Donald Menzel](#) presents a dismissive paper on radar angels and mirages, while [Uerner Liddel](#) presents “Phantasmagoria or Unusual Observations in the Atmosphere,” dismissing UFO reports as mass hysteria, fear psychosis, and sensation-seeking. (J. A. Hynek, “[Unusual Aerial Phenomena](#),” *Journal of the Optical Society of America* 43 (1953): 311–314; Uerner Liddel, “[Phantasmagoria or Unusual Observations in the Atmosphere](#),” *Journal of the Optical Society of America* 43 (1953): 314–317; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September/October*, The Author, 1986, pp. 68–69; Graff 97–98)
- 1952**, October 10 — Battelle issues its sixth status report on Project Stork. UFO reports through 1951 have been coded and put on IBM punch cards. About 60% of the reports have been evaluated. The panel has looked at two films and soil and vegetation samples from cases in Florida and Pittsburg, Kansas. The witness questionnaire is further refined and will become the basis for Project Blue Book’s form. (“[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 3](#),” CUFON; “[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 4](#),” CUFON)
- 1952**, October 11 — A Ground Observer Corps spotter sees a disc hovering in one spot for 20 minutes over Newport News, Virginia. When two interceptors arrive from Langley Air Force Base, the object tilts up, accelerates, and shoots away. (UFOEv, p. 150)
- 1952**, October 12 — Harold H. Fulton founds Civilian Saucer Investigation (New Zealand) in Auckland. It begins publishing a quarterly newsletter, *Flying Saucers*, in May 1953, which continues until September 1959 with a name change in 1958 to *Space Probe*. (*Flying Saucers* 1, no. 1 (May 1953); *Space Probe*, Christmas 1958)
- 1952**, October 13 — [James Q. Reber](#), assistant director of CIA intelligence coordination, writes a memo to the CIA deputy director of intelligence, arguing that fundamental research into the question of positive identification is the responsibility of the Defense Department and that while investigating Soviet knowledge of UFO phenomena is a “primary concern” for the CIA, it “is far too early in view of the present state of our knowledge regarding Flying Saucers for psychological warfare planners to start planning how the United States might use U.S. Flying Saucers against the enemy.” Reber goes on to recommend that when “intelligence has submitted the National Estimate on Flying Saucers there will be the time and basis for a public policy to reduce or restrain mass hysteria.” (James Q. Reber, “[Flying Saucers](#),” October 13, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996)
- 1952**, October 13 — 7:08 p.m. USAF pilot Maj. [William D. Leet](#) and his engineer, flying a C-54 troop carrier, watch an elliptical UFO hovering in clouds near Oshima, Japan. It speeds away after 7 minutes. (UFOEv, p. 24)
- 1952**, October 14 — OSI Deputy Assistant Director [Ralph L. Clark](#) writes a memorandum for the record suggesting a meeting on October 20 or 21 to work out a research and intelligence program on UFOs. (Ralph J. Clark, “[Flying Saucers Problem](#),” October 14, 1952)
- 1952**, October 16 — [George Hunt Williamson](#) is in a state of panic from the messages he and the Baileys have received from space people. He writes to an associate doing missionary work in Guatemala that disaster will strike the earth before December 1. He says radio contacts have stopped and that he has been told there will be a direct contact with a spaceman: “Professor [George Adamski](#) is in on this too.” The Baileys have already met with Adamski (in August) and now the messages are urging another meeting with him. (Y. N. ibn Aharon [Yonah Fortner], “[Diagnosis: A Case of Chronic Fright](#),” *Saucer News* 4, no. 5 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 3–6; Clark III 1284)

- 1952**, October 17 — The 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron is reorganized to increase its strength. (CUFON, [“4602d AISS Unit History Sampler”](#))
- 1952**, October 17 — Early afternoon. Residents of Oloron-Sainte-Marie, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France, see a large cigar-shaped structure in the blue sky, inclined at a 45° angle. The witnesses include the family of Yves Prigent, general superintendent of the local high school. A plume of white smoke is seen escaping from its upper end. At some distance in front of the cylinder, about 30 round, puffy objects with a central red spot are following the same trajectory. The smaller objects move in pairs following a broken, zig-zag path. They leave an abundant trail of a white substance (angel’s hair) behind them, which slowly falls to the ground as it disperses. For several hours, clumps of it hang on the trees, on the telephone wires, and on the roofs of houses. ([“Les Soucoupes Volantes vues à Oloron le 17 Octobre,”](#) *France-Dimanche*, October 26, 1952, in *The Spectrum of UFO Research*, CUFOS, 1988, p. 114; Jimmy Guieu, *Flying Saucers Come from Another World*, Hutchinson, 1956, pp. 87–92; Jacques Vallee and Janine Vallee, *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*, Regnery, 1966, [pp. 120–121](#); Clark III 123; Patrick Gross, [“Documents: Found in the Attic”](#); Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October](#), The Author, 1986, pp. 73–74; Lotharson, [“Unidentified Flying Spiders in Southern France?”](#) Shards of Magonia, March 12, 2017)
- 1952**, October 18 — 9:44 p.m. Journalist Keith Hooper is returning home from an assignment for the *Adelaide Advertiser* when he sees a greenish-white, cigar-shaped object about the size of a Boeing 707 some 10 miles away over the Adelaide Hills, South Australia, moving southeast to northwest. The object makes a sharp, right-angle turn upward, recedes, then vanishes at tremendous speed. The duration is 5–7 seconds. (Keith Hooper, [“My Flying Saucer,”](#) *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Herald*, March 13, 1965, p. 13)
- 1952**, October 21 — Afternoon. Flight Lt. Michael Swiney and a student pilot, Royal Navy Lt. David Crofts, are flying a Meteor T.7 trainer out of RAF Little Rissington, Gloucester, England, for a high-altitude navigation exercise at 35,000 feet. Not long after breaking out of a cloud during a climb at 13,000–14,000 feet, they see three circular, white objects in front of them. As the aircraft get closer and turns to avoid them, the objects become visible as discs. They disappear quickly when the pilot looks away briefly. Two Meteor F.8 fighters are scrambled from RAF Tangmere [now closed] in West Sussex to chase three unknown radar targets moving at 3,000 mph but fail to intercept them. (Wikipedia, [“Little Rissington UFO incident”](#); David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 98–102; UFOFiles2, [pp. 47–49](#))
- 1952**, October 23 — [Ruppelt](#) holds a briefing on UFOs at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, New Mexico. Afterward Assistant Director for Scientific Personnel William H. Crew arranges a special meeting for Ruppelt and Col. [Bower](#) with seven people from the laboratory. Several of them have evidence that there is a possible correlation between sightings of UFOs and unusual radiation detection. (Edward J. Ruppelt, [\[Message referring to a December 1 telephone call\]](#), December 2, 1952)
- 1952**, October 24 — President [Truman](#) signs National Security Council Directive 6, a 7-page document that eliminates the Armed Forces Security Agency formed in 1949 to unite all military signal intelligence operations and creates the National Security Agency. Since the memo is a classified document, the existence of the NSA is not known to the public. Due to its ultra-secrecy the US intelligence community refers to the NSA as “No Such Agency.” The NSA is responsible for global monitoring, collection, and processing of information and data for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence purposes. NSA inherits Project Shamrock from the AFSA. It also inherits collection of UFO data, at least by 1958, but probably in 1953. (ClearIntent, [p. 189](#); Thomas L. Burns, [The Origins of the National Security Agency, 1940–1952](#), National Security Agency, 1990, pp. 97–99)
- 1952**, Late October — Night. Radioman Tom Kramer is serving aboard the [USS Curtiss](#), the AEC flagship for Ivy Mike, the first detonation of a hydrogen bomb at Elugelab Atoll in the Marshall Islands. After an onboard movie, Kramer and other crewmen see a round, silent, bright white light that is motionless at first, then starts zigzagging for less than 10 seconds and takes off at high speed. (Nukes 100–101)
- 1952**, Late October — 3:45 a.m. Seaman Abelardo Marquez, posted on the [USS Fletcher](#) near Eniwetak Atoll for the upcoming Ivy Mike thermonuclear test, is going on duty to the bridge when he notices that the ship is uncharacteristically moving at full speed. Other crew members tell him it is because of a round white light that has been moving above the ship. Marquez sees it descending, then it stops and hovers about 40°–45° above the horizon and perhaps one-half mile from the ship. Capt. [Grover L. Rawlings](#) is talking with other officers on the bridge, saying they do not know what the light is, and that is not tracked on radar. After about 4–5 minutes, the light takes off straight up at the same speed it had descended. (Nukes 101–105)
- 1952**, October 27 — 2:03 a.m. Customs officer Gabriel Gachignard observes a cigar-shaped object land briefly on a runway of the airport at Marignane, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, 300 feet away, producing a dull sound. The object is dark with four lighted windows. It takes off with a “swish” and a shower of sparks when he runs toward it. (Clark III 243–244; Jimmy Guieu, *Flying Saucers Come from Another World*, Hutchinson, 1956, p. 53; Michel,

The Truth about FS, pp. 152–156; Jacques Vallee and Janine Vallee, *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*, Regnery, 1966, pp. 6–11; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October*, The Author, 1986, pp. 82–84)

- 1952**, October 27 — An FBI memorandum to [Alan H. Belmont](#) from Victor P. Keay reports that “Air Intelligence still feels that the so-called flying saucers are either optical illusions or atmospheric phenomena. He pointed out, however, that some Military officials are seriously considering the possibility of interplanetary ships.” (V. P. Keay, “[Flying Saucers](#),” October 27, 1952)
- 1952**, October 27 — 4:00 p.m. Residents of Gaillac, Tarn, France, see a formation of 16 disc-shaped UFOs ranged in twos. An elongated cylinder is in the center of the objects, all of which are discharging angel’s hair like glass wool. (Aimé Michel, *The Truth about FS*, p. 148; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1952, September–October*, The Author, 1986, pp. 84–85; Lotharson, “[Unidentified Flying Spiders in Southern France?](#)” Shards of Magonia, March 12, 2017)
- 1952**, October 29 — 5:10 a.m. Two USAF F-94 crews see a white luminous object maneuvering at high speed for 20 minutes above Hempstead, Long Island, New York. Lt. David H. Goodnough, with the cooperation of Lt. Doyle C. Williams, writes: “Based on my experience in fighter tactics ... it is my opinion that the object was controlled by something having visual contact with our aircraft. The power and acceleration abilities were beyond the capabilities of any known United States aircraft.” (NICAP, “[Two F-94’s Encounter Controlled Object](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 177)
- 1952**, October 31 — 7:40 p.m. USAF Lieut. James E. Allen sees an orange, blimp-shaped object as he is driving 4 miles south of Fayetteville, Georgia. It appears in the north at treetop level about 600 feet away and is traveling toward him at 60–70 mph. He estimates it is about 80 feet long and 20 feet wide. As it passes over his car at an altitude of 500 feet, his radio fades out. He gets out of the car and watches it linger overhead about 20 seconds, tilt at a 45° angle, then shoot away to the east at high speed. (NICAP, “[Close Encounter with Maneuvering ‘Blimp.’](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 177; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 191–192)
- 1952**, November — [Aladino Félix](#) and a friend are climbing a hill near Angatuba, São Paulo, Brazil. When they get to the top, Félix claims they see numerous UFOs flying around. Félix comes back another day by himself; eventually a saucer lands and he is invited inside to meet its crew and examine the technology. Several months later, he is visited at his home in São Paulo by the saucer captain, who claims to come from one or two of the satellites of Jupiter. Félix, under the pseudonym of Dino Kraspedon, writes about his various conversations with the spaceman in *Meu Contato com os discos voadores* in 1957. He writes other mystical and religious tracts under the names Dunatos Menorá and Sábado Dinotos. In 1967–1968, Félix is operating a right-wing terrorism group that sets off bombs, steals arms and explosives, and robs a bank. He serves three years in prison. (Clark III 661–662; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 164–165)
- 1952**, November 1 — Nuclear test Ivy Mike is the first successful full-scale test of a multi-megaton thermonuclear weapon (“hydrogen bomb”) using the Teller-Ulam design the size of an airplane hangar. Unlike later thermonuclear weapons, Mike uses deuterium as its fusion fuel, maintained as a liquid by an expensive and cumbersome cryogenic system. It is detonated on Elugelab in the Marshall Islands yielding 10.4 megatons, almost 500 times the yield of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki. The fireball is 3 miles wide and completely destroys the atoll. USAF Capt. [Jimmy Priestly Robinson](#) of the 561st Fighter-Day Squadron, is lost near the end of his mission to successfully pilot his F-84G through the mushroom cloud’s stem to collect radiochemical air samples. After re-emerging from the cloud, both he and his wingman, pilot Captain [Bob Hagan](#), encounter difficulties picking up navigational beacons due to “electromagnetic after effects” of the detonation. By the time they are successful in finding the signal four hours later, they are dangerously low on fuel, and before reaching the runway, both have depleted their reserves. While Hagan is able to glide to the runway and achieve a hard landing, Robinson is too far out to follow the same path and therefore attempts to land on water. Neither his plane nor his body has ever been found; his family only learned the truth in 2008 after repeated FOIA requests. (Wikipedia, “[Ivy Mike](#)”)
- 1952**, November 4 — Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) and Lt. Robert M. Olsson visit Col. [John R. Hood Jr.](#), AMC chief of the Nuclear Powered Aircraft Branch of Wright Air Development Center. Hood had contacted ATIC in December 1950 in regard to certain sightings of UFOs at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, in which he and a naval officer attempted to obtain correlation between sightings and peaks in radiation backgrounds. Now there are indications that there may be some correlation present between unknown radar pickups and rises in radiation, and he suggests that ATIC begin an instrumented radiation program. (“[Visit to WADC](#),” November 4, 1952; Patrick W. Hayes, “[Unconventional Aircraft](#),” Spot Intelligence Report, December 1950)

- 1952**, November 4 — The National Security Agency is established in Fort Meade, Maryland, in a memo by Secretary of Defense [Robert A. Lovett](#), making the new agency responsible for all communications intelligence. The existence of the NSA is not known to the public at this time. (Wikipedia, "[National Security Agency](#)")
- 1952**, November 4–6 — The Baileys and Williamsons come up together for a visit to the Palomar Gardens Café. [Adamski](#) tells them he has been making special trips into the desert in hopes of meeting a saucer. Soon Adamski begins channeling space messages in the presence of the Williamsons and the Baileys. At one of these sessions, a space being declares that a face-to-face meeting will take place soon. [Williamson](#) and Bailey ask Adamski to call them before he attempts his next contact. (Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 23; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, p. 357)
- 1952**, November 5 — [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) is elected president.
- 1952**, November 6 — Soviet Presidium member [Mikhail Peruvkhin](#) states during a speech at a meeting celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Revolution that Americans are fantasizing "flying saucers" and "green fireballs," which are inspired by their war-mongering "military psychosis." (*Pravda*, November 7, 1952; *Literaurnaya Gazeta*, Moscow, November 7, 1952; Mikhail Gershtein, "[A Short History of UFO Research in the Former Soviet Union](#)," UAP Check, July 6, 2024)
- 1952**, November 10 — Battelle's Project Stork notes in its seventh status report that current UFO reports "are now in more detail and often consist of sightings of one object by more than one individual." 500 copies of a final version of the sighting questionnaire were delivered to ATIC at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. It expects to have all UFO reports dated before June 15, 1952, processed and evaluated by December 10, ready for IBM analysis later. (Clark III 929; "[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 4](#)," CUFON)
- 1952**, November 16 — Around 5:00 p.m. An air traffic controller at Florence Airport, South Carolina, watches a huge, gleaming disc through binoculars and sees it tilt up sharply before climbing out of sight. About 6 minutes later, people see a group of round, glowing objects north of Landrum, South Carolina. [David S. Bunch](#) takes 40 minutes of film with an 8mm camera and telephoto lens before the UFOs disappear to the west. [Keyhoe](#) reviews the film along with some Air Force officers. It shows five glowing, oval-shaped objects. ([[film](#)], Project Blue Book, National Archives; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, pp. 4–5; UFOEv, p. 89; [Sparks](#), p. 180)
- 1952**, November 18 — Date of the fake four-page "Briefing Document: Operation Majestic 12. Prepared for President-Elect [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#): Eyes Only." It states that UFOs are the product of an extraterrestrial civilization, that several had crashed and came into the possession of the US government, and that the US had custody of an alien for some time before it died. It says that [Truman](#) established the MJ-12 group in 1947. Called Majestic-12, the group supposedly consists of CIA Director [Roscoe Hillenkoetter](#), [Vannevar Bush](#), Secretary of Defense [James Forrestal](#) (replaced by Gen. [Walter Bedell Smith](#) in 1950), Gen. [Nathan Twining](#), Gen. [Hoyt Vandenberg](#), [Detlev Bronk](#), [Jerome Clarke Hunsaker](#), [Sidney Souers](#), [Gordon Gray](#), [Donald Menzel](#), Gen. [Robert Miller Montague](#), and [Lloyd Berkner](#). ("Briefing Document: Operation Majestic-12, Prepared for President-Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower (Eyes Only)," November 18, 1952; Stanton T. Friedman, "[MJ 12: The Evidence So Far](#)," *IUR* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1987): 13–17; Joe Nickell and John R. Fischer, "[The Crashed-Saucer Forgeries](#)," *IUR* 15, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1990): 4–20; Good Above, pp. 257–260, 544–550)
- 1952**, November 18 — President-Elect [Eisenhower](#) receives a 43-minute national security briefing on matters that are still classified. Gen. [Nathan Twining](#), Gen. [Omar Bradley](#), Adm. [William Fechteler](#), Gen. [J. Lawton Collins](#), Gen. [Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr.](#), and Secretary of Defense [Robert A. Lovett](#) are present. (Stanton T. Friedman, "[MJ 12: The Evidence So Far](#)," *IUR* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1987): 16)
- 1952**, November 18 — [George Adamski](#) telephones [George Hunt Williamson](#) and tells him that the space people have informed him a physical encounter will take place on November 20. (Clark III 1284; Michael D. Swords, "[Strange Days](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 23; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, p. 358)
- 1952**, November 19 — Pilot J. Slade Nash reaches 698.5 mph in a North American F-86D Sabre over the Salton Sea, California. (Bryan R. Swopes, "[19 November 1952](#)," This Day in Aviation, 2018)
- 1952**, November 20 — Morning. [George Adamski](#) and two associates, Lucy McGinnis and Alice Wells, drive out from the Palomar Gardens Café. They meet the Williamsons and the Baileys at Blythe, California, at 8:00 a.m., and they drive to Desert Center, California, taking Desert Center Rice Road 117 toward Coxcomb Mountain. (Clark III 1284; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, p. 358)
- 1952**, November 20 — 1:00 p.m. [Adamski](#)'s group picnics along the roadside. At 1:30 p.m., they see a cigar-shaped UFO that appears shortly after a US Air Force B-29 passes overhead going in the direction of Parker, Arizona. Adamski asks Lucy McGinnis, accompanied by Alfred Bailey, to drive him a bit more than half a mile away to a flatter area near the foot of Coxcomb Mountain where he can set up his telescope. The cigar-shaped UFO is

allegedly following them. (Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 54–56, 358–359)

- 1952**, November 20 — 1:57 p.m. [Adamski](#) stays behind to set up his equipment as McGinnis and Bailey return to the rest of the group. At 2:04 p.m., another UFO, this time a “Scout ship,” appears near Adamski, who takes seven photos through his telescope. The cigar-shaped UFO is still visible through binoculars. At 2:12 pm., Adamski takes three more photos of the Scout ship with a Kodak Brownie before it disappears behind a hill. Air Force jets circle the area at least twice. (Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 359–360)
- 1952**, November 20 — 2:15 p.m. As he is packing up his telescope, [Adamski](#) sees a man waving to him from about a quarter-mile away. He walks over to him and meets an entity named Orthon as his 6 companions watch from a distance. Adamski writes, “I fully realized I was in the presence of a man from space.” Five-and-a-half feet tall, Orthon [could Adamski have thought of this name from Kodak Ortho film?] is a beautiful being with long blond hair and an extremely high forehead. Through gestures, sign language, a few words, and telepathy, Adamski learns that he is from Venus and the Venusians are visiting earth out of concern for nuclear weapons: “The presence of this inhabitant of Venus was like the warm embrace of great love and understanding wisdom.” The conversation lasts about 45 minutes. Orthon declines to be photographed but asks Adamski to borrow one of his unexposed photos. After Orthon leaves in his Scout ship around 3:04 p.m., Adamski finds tracks in the desert floor. His companions rejoin him at the site. Around 3:45 p.m., [Williamson](#) takes casts with plaster of paris, either as instructed by Adamski or which he just happens to carry with him in case he runs into a stray bone. Each track contains within it a distinct set of symbols. After several hours of assessing the situation and waiting for the plaster to dry, the group returns to Desert Center, California. (Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, British Book Centre, 1953, [pp. 185–215](#); Adamski Foundation, “[The Landing](#)”; James W. Moseley, “[Special Adamski Exposé Issue](#),” *Saucer News*, no. 27 (October 1957); Curt Collins, “[Saucer News Presents: The George Adamski Exposé](#),” In Honor of James Moseley, May 30, 2014; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 41–89, 360–362; Clark III 39–40, 1284; Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 23; Michael D. Swords, “[Adamski in the Desert](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 3 (October 2007): 22; Rene Erik Olsen, [[George Adamski photo analysis](#)], Adamski Foundation; Marc Hallet, [A Critical Appraisal of George Adamski: The Man Who Spoke to the Space Brothers](#), The Author, 2016)
- 1952**, November 20 — 9:00 p.m. The Williamsons and the Baileys, with [Adamski](#)’s permission, drive to Phoenix, Arizona, and tell the story of their contact to reporters at the *Phoenix Gazette*. (Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 363)
- 1952**, November 21–23 — An Air Force review panel meets at ATIC for three days and recommends that a “higher court” be formed to review UFOs. It schedules this tentatively for late December or early January. (Ruppelt, [pp. 200–201](#))
- 1952**, November 22 — 10:00 p.m. Fr. Carlos Maria, a Capuchin missionary, and five others are driving along the road to Bocaranga, Ubangi-Shari [now Central African Republic] when they notice a large disc speeding overhead. Later, they see four others, motionless. They watch the UFOs for 20 minutes, changing shape and color. (Aimé Michel, *The Truth about FS*; Jimmy Guieu [pseudonym of Henri René Guieu], *Les soucoupes volantes viennent d’un autre monde*, Fleuve Noir, 1954; ClearIntent, [pp. 128–129](#))
- 1952**, November 24 — [Andrija Puharich](#), invited by an Army colonel friend who is chief of the Research Section of the Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare, delivers a lecture on ESP to high-ranking Pentagon officers in the Army’s Psychological Warfare Research Section and the Air Force’s Office of Special Investigations. Col. [Howard McCoy](#) is probably present. (Nick Redfern, *The Pyramids and the Pentagon*, New Page, 2012, [pp. 118–119](#); Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days, Part 2](#),” *IUR* 32, no. 2 (December 2008): 8)
- 1952**, November 24 — The first printed account of the encounter with Orthon appears in the *Phoenix Gazette*. The newspaper publishes one of [Adamski](#)’s photos as well as a photo of the Williamsons and the Baileys. Adamski becomes instantly famous, and [Williamson](#) moves to Palomar Gardens for several days. When he tells Adamski he is planning to write a book about his channelings and contacts, Adamski warns him not to mention the contacts have been largely psychic. Adamski discourages him and they have a falling out. Alfred C. Bailey later says he has seen neither spaceship nor spaceman and doubts that anyone else has either. (Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 45–52, 99, 358–363; “[Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame](#),” The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019)
- 1952**, November 25 — ATIC Col. [Donald L. Bower](#) and Maj. [Dewey Fournet](#) brief CIA consultants [Frederick C. Durant](#) and [Edward Tauss](#) on Blue Book’s top three cases: the Tremonton UFO film of July 2; a dubious sighting of an object seen at Presque Isle and Limestone AFB [now Loring International Airport], Maine, on the night of

October 10–11 (which [Hynek](#) has already explained as a theodolite miscalibration causing Jupiter and its 4 prominent moons to be visible); and the problematic Florida scoutmaster case of August 19. USAF wants the CIA to think these are good cases until they unravel at the proposed Robertson Panel meeting. (CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; Clark III 1014)

1952, November 25 — 6:05 p.m. Two objects traveling at an estimated speed of 275 mph are detected by radar attached to antiaircraft guns in the Panama Canal Zone. The objects remain over the Canal Zone until 11:42 p.m., maneuvering from 1,000 feet to 28,000 feet in altitude. Three Air Force bombers and a Navy patrol plane were sent up but were unable to catch the elusive objects. (NICAP, “[Two Objects Tracked by A/A Gun Radar](#)”; “Sky Objects Mystify Canal Zone,” *Washington (D.C.) Post*, December 21, 1952; Condon, [pp. 168–170](#))

1952, November 26 — 5:56 p.m. An F-94B from the USAF 59th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron at Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, for 15 minutes chases a maneuverable object that changes color from white to red, heading south or southwest. The fighter gets a brief radar lock-on. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1952, November–December](#), The Author, 1986, p. 44; [Sparks](#), p. 181)

1952, November 30 — 12:30 a.m. Numerous slow-moving 90–100 mph radar targets appear on the MEW VG-2 radar at Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C. Suggestive of anomalous propagation, but they are unlike the July 1952 cases since there is no visual confirmation, no other radars confirming, and no fighters scrambled. A pilot at 6,000 feet sees nothing. CAA Senior Airways Specialist Austin M. Stapf claims the same thing was observed at same time on November 29, and that the Andrews AFB watch supervisor could not visually confirm targets over Andrews displayed on the ARTCC radar scope. ([Sparks](#), p. 181)

1952, December — Maj. [Dewey Fournet](#) completes a study of UFOs to assess whether their motions are random or ordered. He concludes that their reported movements show that UFOs are under intelligent control. (Ruppelt, [pp. 189–190](#); Michael D. Swords, “[Intelligent Motions](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 1 (March 2010): 8–15)

1952, December — *True* magazine publishes another article on UFOs by [Donald Keyhoe](#) that demolishes the temperature inversion theory for radar sightings publicized by astronomer [Donald H. Menzel](#). (Donald E. Keyhoe, “[What Radar Tells about Flying Saucers](#),” *True*, December 1952, pp. 25–27, 94–99)

1952, December — Work on the planning phase of the Air Force’s instrumentation program is completed. ATIC has considered everything from giving Ground Observer Corps spotters simple tracking devices to building special radars and cameras. The final plan calls for establishing visual spotting stations equipped with tracking devices that would record a UFO’s azimuth and elevation angles all over northern New Mexico. The stations would be linked with a phone system and tied into the existing radar defense net in the Albuquerque–Los Alamos area. The plan would initially cost \$250,000 using as much surplus equipment as possible and \$25,000 a year to operate. ATIC approves the plan and sends it on to Washington. (Ruppelt, [pp. 198–199](#))

1952, December 2 — CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence Director [H. Marshall Chadwell](#) writes another secret memo to Director [Walter Bedell Smith](#) on UFOs: “At this time, the reports of incidents convince us that there is something going on that must have immediate attention. The details of some of these incidents have been discussed by AD/SI with DDCI. Sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles.” Physicist [Julius Adams Stratton](#) and economist [Max Millikan](#) tell Chadwell that scientists at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory would like to be a part of any scientific study of the UFO phenomenon, perhaps through Millikan’s MIT Center for International Studies. Stratton indicates that Lab Director [Albert G. Hill](#) should organize the study. Attached is a draft of an intelligence directive by Chadwell on behalf of Smith to the National Security Council recommending that the CIA “formulate and carry out a program of intelligence and research activities required to solve the problem of instant positive identification of unidentified flying objects.” But Smith refuses to approve or sign the directive because he is briefing the president directly. (H. Marshall Chadwell, “[Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” December 2, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 20–21](#); Swords 175; Clark III 1013)

1952, December 3 — In another “Flying Saucer” memo, [Chadwell](#) admits the Air Force would be suspicious of any MIT Lincoln Laboratory involvement (the Beacon Hill Group), and that Princeton or Cal Tech would do, and that “it will be necessary to secure the full backing of the DCI in order that a scientific review of the problem may be laid on.” However, he recommends that this “External Research Project Concerned with Unidentified Flying Objects” be administered by [Max Millikan](#) at the MIT Center for International Studies. (P. G. Strong, “[Flying Saucers](#),” December 3, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; Swords 185–186)

- 1952**, December 4 — The CIA Intelligence Advisory Committee recommends that “the Director of Central Intelligence will ‘enlist the services of selected scientists to review and appraise the available evidence in the light of pertinent scientific theories.’” The meeting, chaired by [Chadwell](#), is attended by [Robert Amory Jr.](#), Gen. [John Samford](#), Rear Admiral [Carl F. Espe](#), Gen. [John M. Willems](#), [William Park Armstrong](#), [Walter F. Colby](#), Col. [Edward R. Porter](#), and Col. [Jere Boggs](#). This is to be done “immediately” through a National Security Council Intelligence Directive and is essentially the go-ahead for what will be the Robertson Panel. (Robert Amory Jr., “[Intelligence Advisory Committee: Minutes of Meeting Held in Director’s Conference Room, Administration Building, Central Intelligence Agency, on 4 December 1952](#),” December 4, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; Swords 184, 186–187; *Hynek UFO Report*, [p. 20](#); Clark III 1013)
- 1952**, December 4 — 8:46 p.m. USAF pilot Lt. Robert O. Arnold, 3640th Pilot Training Wing, Laredo AFB [now Laredo International Airport], Texas, is flying a T-28 trainer at 6,000 feet when he sees a bright bluish-white glowing object below him at about 1,500–2,000 feet and rapidly climbing to his level. It shows no navigation lights. He tightens his left turn to keep the object in view, but it suddenly climbs to 9,000 feet in several seconds and drops down to his altitude again, then stops and hovers. Arnold pursues but after 2 seconds the object suddenly heads towards him on a collision course at high speed at 8:53 p.m., wavering slightly at about 300 feet. He sees the object as a blurred reddish-bluish haze smaller than his T-28. It rapidly ascends to 15,000 feet then circles left as if positioning for another pass. In fear Arnold turns off his running lights, spirals down to 1,500 feet while keeping the object in sight as it continues to head towards him in a dive, then pulls up and climbs out of sight. A lighted weather balloon is launched at 8:53 p.m. from Laredo AFB but it is not observed near any aircraft. (NICAP, “[The Laredo / ‘Earl Fogle’ Case](#)”; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [pp. 3–4](#), [17–18](#); [Sparks](#), p. 182)
- 1952**, December 6 — 5:24 a.m. The pilots of a USAF B-29 (1st Lt. [Norman Karas](#) and 1st Lt. William W. Naumann) over the Gulf of Mexico 100 miles south of Louisiana track five unidentified blips on the bomber’s radar. They maneuver around the plane at a speed of 5,240 mph. The crew sees some flashes of light, but the targets are 20 miles or more away. The five UFOs merge with a huge blip that accelerates and vanishes at a speed of 9,000 mph. Additional crewmen involved are 1st Lt. William W. Naumann, Jr., Staff Sgt B. R. Purcell, Staff Sgt. William J. De Rause, 2nd Lt. Robert J. Eckert, and Staff Sgt. Harry D. Shogren. (NICAP, “[B-29 Encounters High Speed Objects over Gulf](#)”; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [pp. 161–166](#); [Sparks](#), p. 183; Condon, [pp. 148–150](#); Patrick Gross, “[B-29 Radar and Visual Multiple Witnesses Observations, Dec. 6, 1952](#)”)
- 1952**, December 9 — Col. [Donald L. Bower](#) forbids [Ruppelt](#) from visiting the CIA to give its Office of Scientific Intelligence certain UFO cases in preparation for the Robertson Panel in January. CIA consultant [Frederick C. Durant](#) learns about this the same day in a phone call to Ruppelt. Shortly afterward, Ruppelt requests a transfer out of Project Blue Book, but agrees to stay on until the end of February so that a replacement can be obtained. (Frederick C. Durant, “[Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” December 9, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; Ruppelt, [p. 228](#); Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 47; Clark III 1014)
- 1952**, December 10 — [H. Marshall Chadwell](#) writes to [Walter Bedell Smith](#) that OSI has been working with mathematician [Howard P. Robertson](#) of Cal Tech to establish a panel of scientists (including astronomer [Thornton Leigh Page](#)) and engineers to review the status of UFOs in January. Somewhere along the line, MIT’s Lincoln Labs and CIS have been eliminated. (Thornton Page, [[Letter](#)], December 12, 1952; CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; Swords 187–188)
- 1952**, December 10 — 7:15 p.m. The pilot and radar observer of an F-94 patrolling from Moses Lake AFB [now the Grant County International Airport] spots a light over the Hanford nuclear plant near Richland, Washington, while flying at 26,000 feet. They contact the ground control station, which reports that they know of no planes in the area and that their ground radar shows nothing. They close in on the object, which is large, white, and round and features a dim reddish light coming from two windows. They lose visual contact then get a lock-on from their ARC-33 airborne radar. As they attempt to close in, the object reverses direction and dives away. They attempt several more times to approach the light and have to alter course to avoid a collision that seems imminent. (NICAP, “[F-94 R/V with Round Object](#)”; Ruppelt, [pp. 61–62](#); [Sparks](#), p. 185; James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 66; Condon, [pp. 140–141](#); Center for UFO Studies, [[case file](#)]; Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, [pp. 3–4](#); Patrick Gross, “[Radar Visual Aircraft UFO Encounter near Hanford Nuclear Plant, December 10, 1952](#)”)
- 1952**, December 12 — The CIA, having learned that ATIC is withholding significant case reports for the upcoming Robertson Panel, sends a three-man team to Wright-Patterson AFB in order to obtain relevant documents. The

team includes [Robertson](#) himself, CIA Assistant Director [H. Marshall Chadwell](#), and CIA rocket consultant [Frederick C. Durant](#), a personal friend of [Ruppelt](#) who urges him to comply. At ATIC they meet with personnel from Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, which has been studying the UFO data in great secrecy. Battelle requests the CIA to postpone the panel until March so they can finish the study. Robertson agrees to postpone the panel, but is later overruled by CIA Director Gen. [Walter Bedell Smith](#). (CUFON, “[The CUFON 1952 CIA UFO-Related Document Sampler, Part 1 of 2 Parts](#),” May 17, 1996; NICAP, “[The 1952 Sighting Wave](#)”; Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 47; Clark III 1014)

- 1952**, December 13 — Morning. [George Adamski](#)’s scout ship makes a second appearance, this time at the Palomar Gardens Café in California, ostensibly so that Orthon can return the photo he borrowed. The film holder is pushed out of a porthole to the ground. One of the three Venusian photos taken by Adamski, though credited to Jerrold E. Baker, is taken secretly the day before by Adamski, probably of a model. [Bill Moore](#) claims in 1985 that the photos resemble the prototype space vehicle described in [Mason Rose](#)’s *A Simplified Explanation of the Application of the Biefeld-Brown Effect to the Solution of the Problems of Space Navigation*, published in February 1952 (Clark III 40; Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, British Book Centre, 1953, pp. 217–221; Paul E. Potter, “[The Flying Saucer](#)”; “[Some New Facts about Flying Saucers Have Landed](#),” *Nexus* 2, no. 1 (January 1955): 13–17; James W. Moseley, “[Special Adamski Exposé Issue](#),” *Saucer News*, no. 27 (October 1957); Curt Collins, “[Saucer News Presents: The George Adamski Exposé](#),” In Honor of James Moseley, May 30, 2014; George M. Eberhart, “[Postcards with a UFO Theme](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 21; Rene Erik Olsen, “[The 13th December 1952 Photos of George Adamski Analysis](#),” April 23, 2019; Rene Erik Olsen, [[George Adamski photo analysis](#)], Adamski Foundation; Marc Hallet, *A Critical Appraisal of George Adamski: The Man Who Spoke to the Space Brothers*, The Author, 2016)
- 1952**, December 15 — 7:15 p.m. Two Air Force pilots get a momentary lock on a strange object above Goose Bay, Labrador. A T-33 and an F-94B (piloted by Capt. E. T. Johnson and Radar Observer Lt. H. S. Norris) see a bright red and white light. (NICAP, “[Momentary Lock On](#)”; Condon, pp. 126–127; [Sparks](#), p. 186)
- 1952**, December 16 — [Chadwell](#) tells CIA Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence [Robert Amory Jr.](#) that he is unimpressed with the three Blue Book cases, especially since Presque Isle was identified as the planet Jupiter. (Clark III 1014)
- 1952**, December 18 — [Chadwell](#) prepares a memorandum on “British Activity in the Field of ‘Unidentified Flying Objects’” that refers to a British “standing committee created about sixteen months ago on flying saucers.” (David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, p. 111; Patrick Gross, “[U-K Adopts the CIA Position on UFOs, 1951](#),” June 18, 2002; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: January 1, 1947–December 31, 1959*, The Author, 2003, pp. 72–74;)
- 1952**, December 21 — [Lyman Streeter](#) and five other witnesses observe a large, cigar-shaped object over Winslow, Arizona. (Michael D. Swords, “[Strange Days](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (Aug. 2006): 24)
- 1952**, December 21 — Evening. J. E. Hawkey, civil commissioner of Fort Victoria [now Masvingo], Zimbabwe, is driving near Mvuma when he sees a bright red light crossing the road about 30 feet in the air, then hovering. Suddenly it shoots straight up and disappears. After a short while it descends some distance away and travels straight down the road. Hawkey follows it at about 80 mph, after which it speeds up and disappears at three or more times the speed. He has the object in sight for about 20 minutes. (*Southern Rhodesia Newsletter*; Jan Aldrich)
- 1952**, December 22 — [Ruppelt](#) finds out that the CIA Robertson Panel is back on again after being postponed on December 12. Apparently under pressure from the Air Force, which is setting a trap to embarrass the CIA with sensational IFO cases dressed up as “best” unknown UFO cases, CIA Director Gen. [Walter Bedell Smith](#) reverses the decision to postpone the panel meeting till March 1953 or later. Smith orders the Robertson Panel to be carried out immediately. A rush-to-judgment panel will have no time to reflect on the USAF trickery involved in the IFOs-as-UFOs deception and will just react in dismissive skepticism that there is no scientific evidence for UFO reality, and hence no reason for the CIA to intrude into USAF jurisdiction over air intelligence matters such as unidentified aerial threats (UFOs). Ruppelt calls ADC to say that he will not be able to conduct the ADC UFO briefing tour as previously scheduled due to the CIA meeting now tentatively set in early January 1953 (he confirms the call by teletype December 23). (Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 48; Clark III 1014)
- 1952**, December 22 — 7:30 p.m. An instrument technician driving toward Larson AFB [now Grant County International Airport] near Moses Lake, Washington, stops his car to watch a hat-shaped glowing object rising vertically in odd spurts right and left, then level off at high speed. The object glows white with a red side when it is rotated.

Halfway through a roll the light disappears, then it holds stationary in the sky with jumpy movements. Duration is about 15 minutes. (NICAP, "[Hat-Shaped Object Observed by Technician](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 186)

1952, December 29 — 7:48 p.m. Col. [Donald J. M. Blakeslee](#), 27th Fighter Escort Wing, while flying near Misawa, northern Honshu, Japan, in an F-84G at 27,000 feet altitude, observes an object like a rotating cluster of lights colored white, green, and red. He reports that the object is "rotating slowly in a counterclockwise direction," or from east to west, and moving slowly west at aircraft speed. It is projecting three beams of light. Blakeslee climbs to 35,000 feet, at which point he is level with the unknown object. He attempts a pursuit, but the UFO disappears in 30 seconds. Four other aircraft in the vicinity of Chitose Air Force Base [now Chitose Air Base] on Hokkaido also see the object. Radar operators at Misawa Air Base on Honshu had notified their counterparts at Chitose of a radar target heading their way, but it disappears shortly afterward and is never correlated with the visual observation. (NICAP, "[Col. Blakeslee / F-84 Incident](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 187; Swords 212–213)

1952, December 29 — 9:05 p.m. Capt. [William T. Bowley](#) and Capt. [Herbert T. Lange](#), both of Perrin AFB [now North Texas Regional Airport] near Denison, Texas, are piloting a B-26 on a training flight headed west at 6,000 feet altitude and 300 mph when they see a large, intense, bluish-white light near Vega, Texas. It is about 350 feet long at their 11 o'clock position, paralleling their course at the same altitude and closing slightly. After 5 minutes, the object suddenly climbs vertically 7,000 feet in 5 seconds (about 2,000 mph) to disappear in thin clouds at 13,000 feet and causing the clouds to glow as if lit by a searchlight. Bowley radios the CAA controller in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Shortly after, the object reappears under the clouds and the CAA controller is told to look for it but he can't see it (possibly because he is told to look in the wrong direction). After 2 minutes, it climbs to the west and disappears. (NICAP, "[Object Closing on B-36 Suddenly Climbs](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 187)

1952, December 31 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #8, classified "confidential." (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 131–154)

1953

1953 — During off-shore combat maneuvers, a squadron of carrier-based Navy AD-3 attack planes is approached by a rocket-shaped UFO that swoops down on the flight from above. The object levels off about 1,000 feet overhead, slows, and paces the aircraft. When the Squadron Commander leads his flight in pursuit of the UFO, it turns sharply so that its tail is pointed away and shoots upward out of sight in seconds. (Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 266–267).

1953 — Midday. A member of the crew of a Shell tanker in Hong Kong harbor, China, watches, along with many others on shore and aboard the ship, a silver-white disc hovering at 6,000–7,000 feet. Within a second or so, it moves a full 45° arc to an area where there are some white clouds at about 5,000 feet. It shines through the cloud cover like the moon through a mist. (J. Allen Hynek, "[A Daylight Disc in Hong Kong Harbor](#)," *IUR* 2, no. 8 (August 1977): wrap)

1953 — Evening. An Air Force pilot and a student are flying an F-84 Thunderjet on the home leg of a training flight over North Texas when the student notes an out-of-place light. At first the pilot thinks it's Venus, but they realize it is moving. The student steers the plane toward the light, but it zooms past them at high speed. The pilot takes the stick and turns the aircraft to follow it. The light, which now looks like a metallic domed disc with windows, passes them again. The pilot accelerates to more than 500 mph and pursues it; the disc roars past them again. The chase goes on for 10–15 minutes until a final pass when the object shines a bright light into the cockpit. The pilot takes an evasive measure and flies back to base. (CUFOS case file)

1953 — Fred P. Stone founds the Australian Flying Saucer Club in Adelaide, South Australia. It later becomes the Australian Flying Saucer Research Society and publishes the *Australian Saucer Record* from 1955 to 1963. From 1962 to 1971, it publishes *Panorama*. ([Australian Saucer Record](#) 1, no. 2 (2nd Quarter, 1955); [Panorama](#) 1, no. 1 (1962))

1953, January — Beams of microwaves, varying between 2.5 and 4 gigahertz, from Soviet sources aimed at the US embassy in Moscow are first detected, increasing in intensity by 1975. Detected by routine background radiation testing, the beams come from a source in a Soviet apartment building about 325 feet west of the embassy, affecting the west façade of the central building, with highest intensities between the third and eighth floors. The microwave transmissions are only five microwatts per square centimeter, well below the power level of microwave ovens and well below what would be needed to heat anything. Shielding is put in place by 1964, but the discovery is kept secret. (Wikipedia, "[Moscow Signal](#)"; J. Mark Elwood, "[Microwaves in the Cold War: The Moscow Embassy Study and Its Interpretation](#)," *Environmental Health* 11 (2012))

- 1953**, January 1 — 8:45 p.m. While driving on Hwy 91 between Craig and Wolf Creek, Montana, [Warner E. Anderson](#), manager of a photo shop with wartime air spotter experience; Mrs. Greta C. Wills, manager of women's apparel store; and teenager Marlene Wills see a saucer-shaped object above horizon about 5 miles away to the southwest. The object is an estimated 25–40 feet long and 6–8 or 18–25 feet thick and looks like two soup bowls joined at the rims. It has a red glowing bottom and portholes. The object dives low over the Missouri River to within 150–300 feet away then climbs fast horizontally at an estimated 3,600 mph to the northeast. (NICAP, "[The 1953 UFO Chronology](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 188)
- 1953**, January 3 — The 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron (AISS) is reorganized at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, by Air Defense Command Regulation AFR 24-4. Its primary mission is the collection of air combat intelligence, and it has detachments at numerous military bases nationwide. (CUFON, "[4602d AISS Unit History Sampler](#)"; Brian Skow and Terry Endres, "[The 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron and UFOs](#)," *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 9)
- 1953**, January 6 — 1:05 a.m. The 147th AC&W Squadron at Duncanville, Texas, is notified by the CAA at Meacham Field [now Fort Worth Meacham International Airport] about a UFO northeast of Dallas. Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City reports a radar target 20 miles southwest of Paris, Texas. An arrowhead-shaped UFO with green and white lights is seen by some witnesses in the Dallas area. (NICAP, "[Arrow-Shaped Object Tracked at 600 Knots](#)"; "[Flying Arrowhead Seen over Dallas: 'Not a Star or Plane.'](#)" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 6, 1953, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History, 1953, January–February*, The Author, 1988, pp. 6–7; [Sparks](#), p. 188)
- 1953**, January 8 — 7:15–7:30 a.m. USAF ADC 82nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron personnel at Larson AFB [now Grant County International Airport], Moses Lake, Washington, all on the ground, see a green, disc-shaped object about the size of large weather balloon flying to the southwest. It has a vertical bobbing motion and makes sideways movements at about 8,000 feet below scattered clouds. It moves away against the wind until it disappears in the distance. The object is also observed by base personnel at Ephrata, Washington. An F-94 is scrambled at 7:43 a.m. and searches for 30 minutes, but the UFO is gone. (NICAP, "[The 1953 UFO Chronology](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 188; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 50–51)
- 1953**, January 8 — 10:20 p.m. A triangular object with a brilliant reddish glow is seen for 10 minutes at Mosgiel, New Zealand. It fades, then reappears with a rising and falling motion, accompanied by a small white light. ("[The New Zealand Sightings](#)," *Flying Saucer News*, no. 1 (Spring 1953): 8)
- 1953**, January 9 — Howard C. Cross, a senior staff member at Battelle, writes a letter to Col. [Miles E. Goll](#) of ATIC, arguing that "agreement between Project Stork [Battelle's study] and ATIC should be reached as to what can and what cannot be discussed at the meeting in Washington on January 14–16." Referring to the Air Force's plan for an instrumented study of UFO sightings, he suggests a "controlled experiment" be undertaken by USAF to obtain physical data. This would consist of "observation posts with complete visual skywatch, with radar and photographic coverage, plus all other instruments necessary or helpful in obtaining positive and reliable data on everything in the air over the area." The suggestion is that "Many different types of aerial activity should be secretly and purposefully scheduled within the area," meaning that the Air Force would release balloons to generate spurious UFO phenomena. The memo is a desperate effort to buy time for Battelle to finish its statistical analysis. [Jacques Vallée](#) speculates that this letter by Cross (to whom Vallée assigns the pseudonym "Pentacle") could have led to the military setting up artificial UFO waves and simulated cases in selected areas; however, this is clearly not the case, as [Jennie Zeidman](#) and [Mark Rodeghier](#) elaborately demonstrate in *IUR*. ([H. C. Cross letter to Miles E. Goll](#), January 9, 1952; NICAP, "[The 'Pentacle Memorandum,' Including Text of Correspondence with Dr. Jacques Vallee](#)," August 17, 1993; Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [p. 191](#); *The Hynek UFO Report*, [p. 21](#); Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, Signet ed., 1976, [p. 79](#); Jacques Vallée, *Forbidden Science*, North Atlantic, 1992, [p. 428](#); Thomas Tulien, ed., *Proceedings of the Sign Historical Group UFO History Workshop*, Sign Historical Group, November 2001, p. 48; Jennie Zeidman, "[I Remember Blue Book](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 7–12, 23; Jennie Zeidman and Mark Rodeghier, "[The Pentacle Letter and the Battelle UFO Project](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 3 (May/June 1993): 4–12, 19–21; "[The Pentacle Memo: How Important?](#)" *Just Cause*, no. 35 (March 1993): 1–8; Clark III 1214–1215; Francis Ridge, "[The 1952 Top-Secret USAF Instrumented UFO Data Collection Plan](#)," *The SCU Review* 4, no. 3 (August 21, 2023): 9–11)
- 1953**, January 9 — The CIA/OSI attempts to get [Walter Bedell Smith](#)'s approval for "two series" of scientific panels in January and February, which would buy some time, but the suggestion is rejected. (Clark III 1014)
- 1953**, January 9 — Radio station KVET in Kerrville, Texas, blames a 75-second interruption in its operation on a red-orange oval object seen by four junior high school students over the city at the same time. Ivan Young, 13, and Edgar Rasmussen, 14, see the object fly in from the west, circle, and disappear to the north. They see two fins on its end shooting out red and green flames. It is making a buzzing noise. KVET engineer Britt Lamb says the radio

interference is the weirdest he has ever seen—heavy static “with a roar that traveled up and down the scale.” (“[Fiery Object Jams Radio at Kerrville](#),” *Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram*, January 10, 1953, p. 2; [Schopick](#), pp. 78–79)

- 1953**, January 9 — 6:50 p.m. An F-94 makes radar contact with a UFO at a range of about 13.5 miles over Misawa Air Base, Honshu, Japan. The radar locks on at 15,000 feet and contact is broken at a range of 600 feet. The radar observer reports unusual interference on the set throughout the mission, but the set appears to be operative both before and after. The radar contact lasts approximately 2 minutes. (NICAP, “[F-94 Radar/Visual of Rotating UFO](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 189)
- 1953**, January 9 — 7:27 p.m. B-29 copilot 1st Lt. Charles C. Loveless sees a V-formation of bluish-white lights approaching his aircraft over Santa Ana, California. Pilot 1st Lt. Lowell D. Brandt turns to avoid them. (NICAP, “[B-29 Bomber Crew Watch V-Formation](#)”; UFOEv, [p. 21](#))
- 1953**, January 10 — 4:45 p.m. Retired Air Force Col. Robert McNab and a Mr. Hunter of the Federal Security Agency see a flat object to the northwest of their location 8 miles west of Sonoma, California. It is traveling about 2,400 mph and makes three 360° right turns in 2–3 seconds each in about 1/8 the radius required for jets (about 1/4 mile) and two abrupt 90° turns to the right and left, each turn 5 seconds apart. It almost stops, accelerates to its original high speed, almost stops again, speeds up again, and finally flies out of sight vertically. (NICAP, “[Flat Object at 2,400 MPH](#)”; *The Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 115–116](#); [Sparks](#), p. 189)
- 1953**, January 12 — 1:00 p.m. Maurício Ramos is driving on grassy terrain near Santana dos Montes, Minas Gerais, Brazil, when he sees a luminous, metallic disc smaller than a Volkswagen hovering 6 feet from the ground. He approaches to within 6 feet of it, and a door opens. Two entities shorter than 5 feet tall, wearing lead-colored clothing with shiny balls fitted to the shoes, jump out. Ramos thinks they invite him aboard, but he does not answer because he is getting an increasingly severe headache as he watches. When the headache goes away, the disc and creatures have disappeared. (“[Pesquisas sobre Tripulantes de DV](#),” *Boletim SBEDV*, no. 55/59 (1967): 1–2, 8–9; Brazil 25–26)
- 1953**, January 14 — 9:30 a.m. The opening meeting of the Robertson Panel convenes in the OSI conference room at CIA Building “M” in Washington, D.C. Present are scientists [Howard P. Robertson](#), [Samuel A. Goudsmit](#), [Luis Walter Alvarez](#), and [Thornton Leigh Page](#). CIA members [Philip Grandin Strong](#), Lt. Col. [Frederick C. E. Oder](#), David B. Stevenson, and [Frederick C. Durant](#) are also present. All are skeptical, if not openly hostile to UFO reports. Page later says that “H. P. Robertson told us in the first private (no outsiders) session that our job was to reduce public concern and show that UFO reports could be explained by conventional reasoning.” The panel first reviews the CIA OSI study from August, the ATIC November 21 meeting, the December 4 IAC decision, the visit to ATIC by [Chadwell](#) and Robertson, and CIA concern over potential national security dangers. They watch the Montana and Utah films. Lt. [Robert S. Neasham](#) and Harry Woo of the Navy Photo Interpretation Laboratory report on their analyses of both films, which conclude that the objects are unidentified. [Ruppelt](#) speaks for 40 minutes on the Blue Book method of UFO investigation. It is possibly here that he first suggests using 4602nd AISS field units to conduct Blue Book field investigations. The meeting adjourns at 5:15 p.m. (Frederick C. Durant, “[Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects, January 14–18, 1953](#),” memorandum for Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, February 16, 1953; Clark III 1014–1015; “[Letters Exchanged between CUFON and Dr. Thornton Page](#),” October 3, 1992; Michael D. Swords, “[Dr. Robertson Requests the Honor of Your Attendance](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 16–20; Good Above, [pp. 335–339](#); Swords 188–192)
- 1953**, January 15 — The second day of the Robertson Panel. [Ruppelt](#) completes his presentation, then [Hynek](#) discusses Battelle’s Project Stork. The CIA shows a film of seagulls in flight. Lt. Col. [Oder](#) gives a 40-minute presentation on Project Twinkle. In the afternoon, Gen. [William M. Garland](#) states his desire to increase the use of thoroughly briefed USAF intelligence officers to investigate UFO reports, declassify as many reports as possible, and enlarge Blue Book. Other USAF representatives discuss the difficulties of setting up instrument watches to monitor sightings. (Frederick C. Durant, “[Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects, January 14–18, 1953](#),” memorandum for Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, February 16, 1953; O’Connell 87–89; Clark III 1015; Michael D. Swords, “[Dr. Robertson Requests the Honor of Your Attendance](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 16–20; “[Robertson Panel – Dr. J. Allen Hynek](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013)
- 1953**, January 16 — The third day of the Robertson Panel. [Hynek](#) speaks again, followed by Maj. [Dewey Fournet](#), who talks about his motion studies of UFOs that indicate controlled flight. Physicist [Lloyd Berkner](#) joins the panel in the afternoon. In the afternoon, panel members talk about conclusions they have reached, and [Robertson](#) agrees to draft a report for review (although it has already been written by [Durant](#) prior to the meetings, which Fournet has suspected). (Frederick C. Durant, “[Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying](#)

[Objects, January 14–18, 1953.](#)” memorandum for Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, February 16, 1953; O’Connell 87–89; Clark III 1015; Michael D. Swords, “[Dr. Robertson Requests the Honor of Your Attendance.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 16–20; “[Robertson Panel – Dr. Lloyd Berkner.](#)” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013)

- 1953**, January 17 — The final day of the Robertson Panel. The panel reviews [Robertson](#)’s draft report ([Berkner](#) has already seen it) and puts it into final form. (By 11:00 a.m., both CIA Director [Walter Bedell Smith](#) and Gen. [John A. Samford](#) have seen and approved the draft.) The scientists agree that since most sightings can be explained, the rest can be accounted for with further investigation, which is a “great waste of effort.” They reject [Fournet](#)’s UFO reports as “raw” and “unevaluated.” The Montana film is said to depict aircraft. They reject the Navy analysis of the Utah film, calling the objects “high reflectivity of seagulls in bright sunlight.” Because the “mass receipt of low-grade reports [tends] to overload channels of communication with material quite irrelevant to hostile objects that might some day appear” (a phony issue invented by [Thornton Page](#)), the Air Force should embark on a debunking campaign that would “result in reduction of public interest in flying saucers” with the help of scientific pronouncements (suggested by [Hynek](#)) and media, including [Walt Disney](#) Inc. animated cartoons. Blue Book should be expanded to 18 staff members (it has 5) so that it can educate and debunk effectively, but this never happens. Civilian UFO groups such as CSI and APRO should be watched “because of their potentially great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur. The apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind.” The panel and report are kept classified until a brief summary is declassified in 1958, and the CIA’s involvement is kept secret until 1966. (Frederick C. Durant, “[Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects, January 14–18, 1953.](#)” memorandum for Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, February 16, 1953; Clark III 1014–1016; Michael D. Swords, “[Dr. Robertson Requests the Honor of Your Attendance.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 16–20; Swords 192–200; John Greenewald, “[The Robertson Panel, the Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects Convened by the CIA.](#)” *The Black Vault*, August 8, 2023; Graff 89–93)
- 1953**, January 17 — 3:55 p.m. Geologist/salesman John Townsend Sackett is riding in a bus with about a dozen passengers near Guatemala City, Guatemala, when he observes a brilliant greenish-gold object, shaped like the Goodyear blimp. It is later described as being about twice the size of a DC-3. The object is traveling at about 400 mph straight and level in a northwesterly direction at about 6,500 feet. It almost stops in mid-flight then rises vertically about 1,500 feet, hovers for about 2 seconds, then immediately resumes flight at a new altitude. The object is lost to view because of intervening terrain. (NICAP, “[Blimp-Like Object Sighted by Geologist](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 189)
- 1953**, January 18 — Upon [Hynek](#)’s return to Ohio State University from the Robertson Panel, he and his new research assistant [Jennie Zeidman](#) come up with the name “Project Henry” to describe his consultancy with the Air Force. It is based on the Flit bug-spray advertisement that has a woman saying, “Quick, Henry, the Flit!” About once a week, a courier from Battelle arrives at Hynek’s office with a manila envelope stuffed with teletype UFO reports for him to examine. Hynek travels to the Blue Book facility in Building 263 at Wright-Patterson about 2–3 times a month, with Zeidman sometimes accompanying him. (Jennie Zeidman, “[I Remember Blue Book.](#)” *IUR* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 7–12, 23)
- 1953**, January 20 — [Robertson](#) writes a letter to [Chadwell](#), saying “perhaps that’ll take care of the Fortean for a while” and mentions an upcoming meeting with the “NSA group” on February 5. ([Letter](#) from H. P. Robertson to H. Marshall Chadwell, January 20, 1953; Swords 189)
- 1953**, January 20 — [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) is sworn in as president.
- 1953**, January 23 — Lockheed employee Nathan C. Price files a patent for a disc-shaped aircraft capable of landing or taking off vertically. It is never built, but it is designed for long-range flights at speeds up to Mach 4, with a ceiling around 100,000 feet. (Google Patents, “[High Velocity High Altitude VTOL Aircraft](#)”)
- 1953**, January 24 — [Ruppelt](#) travels to Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to brief the 4602nd AISS on how they might help Blue Book investigate UFOs. He also requests to transfer to Air Defense Command here after his time at Blue Book is up.
- 1953**, January 26 — Air Force Press Officer [Albert M. Chop](#) writes a letter to [Keyhoe](#)’s publisher Henry Holt & Co., declaring that all the sighting reports he is using for his upcoming *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* were cleared and made available to him from Air Technical Intelligence records. (Albert E. Chop, [Letter to Henry Holt & Company](#), January 26, 1953; Good Above, [p. 542](#))
- 1953**, January 28 — 1:06 p.m. R. W. Love and a Mr. Ferrenti, while engaged in retrieving radio-controlled drones on a boat 1,100 yards offshore and south of Naval Air Station Point Mugu [now Naval Base Ventura County] near Oxnard, California, see a white, flat disc with fuzzy or shimmering edges rapidly approach from the northwest flying straight

and level, overtake a jet aircraft, pass overhead, and disappear in the haze to the east. (NICAP, "[Flat Disc Observed Overtaking Jet](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 190)

- 1953**, January 28 — A Maj. Geyer at Mitchel AFB [now closed] near Uniondale, New York, investigates reports of a UFO seen by both civilian and military witnesses. The UFO is an oval object glowing with different colors and having a tail or projection. He quickly concludes that it is a meteor and submits a report to Blue Book. However, one of the witnesses, author Marie Armstrong Essipoff ([Ben Hecht](#)'s first wife), later writes to [Keyhoe](#) saying that she had told Geyer that the object wobbled and it had a turret on top. She draws a picture and Geyer says it looks like one of their flight simulators. But it's "still a meteor," he says. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs a History, 1953, January–February Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, pp. 24–25; [Swords](#) 199–200)
- 1953**, January 28 — 9:00 p.m. The control tower at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro [now closed], California, spots a large, luminous, red object and asks Maj. Harvey N. Patton to give chase. He pursues it from Newport Beach to Long Beach and has it in sight for 3–4 minutes but is unable to gain on it. (NICAP, "[Marine Fighter Asked to Check on Amber Object](#)")
- 1953**, January 28 — 9:40 p.m. Maj. Hal W. Lamb, USAF senior pilot at Moody AFB in Valdosta, Georgia, apparently sees the setting planet Venus (although this is disputed) changing color and shape while flying a T-33 (or an F-86). It is also seen by Turner AFB [now Naval Air Station Albany] tower operators in Albany [[not](#) Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta], Georgia (with time errors of about 10 minutes). About the same time, two GCA radar maintenance men at Turner AFB radar track three moving targets and a stationary target. At 10:10 p.m., the GCA reports two stationary targets at 17 and 27 miles, both 300° azimuth. No visual confirmation, though binoculars are used. (NICAP, "[Several Radar Contacts](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 191; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, January–March](#), The Author, 1988, p. 66; [Marler](#) [129–130](#))
- 1953**, January 29 — [Ruppelt](#) still thinks that the Robertson Panel has accepted [Garland](#)'s recommendation to expand Blue Book (it hasn't) and that its education and debunking recommendation means that UFO information should be released to the public (it didn't). [Fournet](#), [Chop](#), and Col. Teabert ([Kenneth E. Thiebaud](#)?) of AFOIN-2 think the same. In Washington, Ruppelt hears that the press has heard rumors about the Utah film, and he decides to release it, focusing on the seagull explanation. (*The Hynek UFO Report*, [p. 236](#))
- 1953**, January 29 — A briefing of the Office of Naval Estimates Board by the CIA on UFOs includes the showing of the Utah and Montana films. (Frederick C. Durant, "[Briefing of ONE Board on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," January 30, 1953)
- 1953**, January 29 — 9:55 a.m. A small gray oval-shaped object is seen between Houlton and Chatham, Maine, by 2nd Lt. Fred T. Goetting Jr., pilot of an F-94B. Goetting points out the object to his radar observer, Lt. [Howard C. Kelley](#). The object appears to be 10° above the F-94B, which is at 23,000 feet. Goetting attempts to intercept the object at a speed of 0.8 Mach. This chase continues for 8 minutes without the F-94 gaining, and the chase is broken off because of low fuel. The object is seen by at least two fighter aircraft from other squadrons. (NICAP, "[Gray Oval Sighted by 3 Fighter Aircraft](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 191)
- 1953**, January 29 — 11:30 p.m. A farmer named [Lloyd C. Booth](#) just north of Conway, South Carolina, hears a commotion of animals, grabs his .22 revolver, and sees an oblong-shaped, lighted object 10 feet above the trees moving slowly or hovering, with a low humming sound. He shoots at the object twice. The first bullet bounces off with a metallic sound; at the second shot the object tilts slightly and ascends at a 65° angle to the west at 600–700 mph and disappears. One of his cows had died the previous evening. (NICAP, "[Man Fires 0.22 at Hovering Object](#)"; "[SC. Man Tells of Studying Hovering 'Flying Saucer,' Shooting into It](#)," *Columbia (S.C.) The State*, February 7, 1953, pp. 1, 3; "[Says He Observed and Shot 'Flying Saucer.'](#)" *Columbia (S.C.) The State*, February 8, 1953, p. 3-D; "[CAA Man Says Booth Saw Navy Blimp](#)," *Columbia (S.C.) The State*, February 16, 1953, p. 1; [Sparks](#), p. 191; "[Conway S.C. Man Shoots Saucer](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 1, no. 5 (March 15, 1953): 1, 4–5; Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore Jr., [Strange Effects from UFOs](#), NICAP, 1969, pp. 64–66)
- 1953**, January 29 — 2:20 p.m. Northrup test pilot [Rex Hardy Jr.](#), test pilot Chester Mathews, and Northrup photographer Jim Wilkinson see four metallic, disc-shaped object the size of a B-36 flying in squadron formation over Malibu Beach, California. They estimate their height as 20,000 feet and speed as 1,200 mph. They watch for about 5 minutes. (NICAP, "[Four B-36-Sized Discs Observed by 3-Man Crew](#)"; "[More Discs Sighted By Southland Fliers](#)," *Long Beach (Calif.) Independent*, January 31, 1953, p. 12; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 50; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, January–February](#), The Author, 1988, pp. 66–69)
- 1953**, January 31 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #9. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 155–174)

- 1953**, February — [Albert K. Bender](#) appoints [Gray Barker](#) as IFSB's chief investigator. ("[IFSB Forms Dept. of Investigation](#)," *Space Review* 2, no. 2 (April 1953): 1; Clark III 189)
- 1953**, February 1 — 9:30 p.m. A T-33 flying 10 miles west of Terre Haute, Indiana, sights a close group of moving lights changing color from red to blue, to green to yellow. The pilot estimates their altitude to range between 15,000 feet to 30,000 feet flying in a manner similar to conventional aircraft. Searchlights from the St. Louis, Missouri, area seem to be following the unidentified lights. (NICAP, "[T-33 Pilot Observes Unidentified Lights](#)")
- 1953**, February 3 — 8:00 p.m. [George Hunt Williamson](#) and his wife Betty Jane watch two UFOs near the ground from their home on Brookside Boulevard in Prescott, Arizona. Another UFO passes over the house at 10:00 p.m. (Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 363–364)
- 1953**, February 4 — 1:50 p.m. US Weather Bureau observer Stanley H. Brown in Yuma, Arizona, tracks with a theodolite a white, oblong object. It is surrounded by a thin white mist and flies straight up and levels off. After 20 seconds, the object is joined by a second one that flies away twice and returns. Both are lost to sight behind clouds to the south-southwest. The sighting lasts 5 minutes. (NICAP, "[Theodolite Tracking of Two Elliptical Objects](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 191; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 62–63)
- 1953**, February 6 — 1:34 a.m. A B-36 aircraft piloted by Maj. [Leo J. Moffatt](#) is over Rosalia, Washington, when he sees one round white omnidirectional light at an altitude of approximately 7,000 feet on a southeast course, circling and rising as it proceeds. It is visually observed for a period of 3–5 minutes. The B-36 makes a 180° descending turn toward the light, which is estimated to be moving at a speed of 170–230 mph. Blue Book explains it as a weather balloon launched from Geiger Field [now Spokane International Airport]. (NICAP, "[B-36 Encounters Light at 7,000](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 192; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 67–68)
- 1953**, February 6 — Journalist Donald Thomson and four other persons in Victoria, Australia, found the Australian Flying Saucer Investigation Committee. (Bill Chalker, "[The Early Days of the Public UFO Drama in Australia: Even an Atomic Connection of a Sort](#)," *The OzFiles*, October 2, 2023)
- 1953**, February 7 — 9:22 p.m. A USAF F-94 crew and other witnesses near Nemuro, Hokkaido, Japan, see a bright orange object change color to red and green at intervals and disappear behind a cloud. It is also tracked by ground radar. (NICAP, "[F-94 Crew in Air and Ground Radar Tracking](#)"; Condon, [p. 122](#); [Sparks](#), p. 192)
- 1953**, February 9 — [Al Chop](#) has written a press release on the Utah film with the approval of Capt. Harry B. Smith of AFOIN. They decide to also release the USAF (possible aircraft) and Navy (self-luminous or light sources) analyses, otherwise the press might suspect a cover-up. The release would state that, although no positive identification has been made, further analysis will result in an identification. Gen. [Garland](#) approves the release, which then goes on to the Pentagon, which "screamed 'No!'" [Ruppelt](#) is ordered into silence. Chop says the CIA "killed the whole program. We've been ordered to work up a national debunking campaign, planting articles in magazines and arranging broadcasts to make UFO reports seem like poppycock." Ruppelt tells [Keyhoe](#) that Blue Book must even discredit USAF pilots who report UFOs. "It's a raw deal, but we can't buck the CIA." (Ruppelt, [p. 228](#); Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, [pp. 70–71](#); *The Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 236–237](#))
- 1953**, February 9 — CIA agent Hayden Channing writes a memo to the Domestic Contact Division describing a recent [late January?] public meeting of the Civilian Saucer Investigation group in Los Angeles, California. North American Aviation project engineer [Walther A. Riedel](#) is a member of the organization, and he describes the analyses of the UFO reports it receives. Only about 25 sightings are unidentified, and these they forward to Project Blue Book. Channing writes: "Apparently, an eye and interest are also directed to the USSR for reactions to sightings as reported in the PRAVDA." (Hayden Channing, "[California Committee for Saucer Investigation](#)," February 9, 1953)
- 1953**, February 11 (or 19) — 10:00 p.m. At the Naval Auxiliary Air Station [now Northeastern Regional Airport] in Edenton, North Carolina, Marine 1st Lt. Edward Balocco is on intercept stand-by duty when the alert whistle goes off. Minutes later he is in his F9F Panther jet heading north to Virginia Beach, Virginia, while being vectored to an unknown target by the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, North Carolina. By the time he gets close to the target, it has disappeared from radar at Norfolk, Virginia. After searching the area for 15 minutes, he heads back for fuel. Flying south at 20,000 feet, he notices a light below him on the port side on or near the ocean. After turning his navigation lights back on, he notices that the light has risen to his altitude and is only 2,000 feet away. Closing in on it, he sees it is a disc with blinking red lights. At 350 feet away, his cockpit is bathed in blue-white light and everything seems motionless and silent. He looks at his gloved hand and he can see the bones in his hand like an X-ray. Suddenly there is a flash, and the UFO breaks away as sound and motion return. Balocco tries to pursue it again unsuccessfully. Captain Thomas Riggs, whose F9F

Panther has also been scrambled, reports the UFO is moving south along the North Carolina coast. He is debriefed and told not to mention the incident. ("[Cherry Point, N.C.](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 1, no. 5 (March 15, 1953): 9–10; Good Need, [pp. 183–184](#); Shoot 60–61)

- 1953**, Mid-February — Weapons engineer [Chester W. Lytle Sr.](#), deputy director of operations for SAC's Eighth Air Force Headquarters, is visiting Eielson AFB near Moose Creek, Alaska, with Gen. [William H. Blanchard](#) when he finds out his wife is about to give birth in Chicago, Illinois. Blanchard offers to personally fly him in a bomber to an air force base in Illinois so he can get home quickly. During the long flight, their conversation turns to UFOs. Blanchard unexpectedly mentions the 1947 Roswell incident and that a crashed alien spacecraft had indeed been recovered. He tells Lytle that four dead humanoid beings had been aboard. (Nukes 478–481)
- 1953**, February 23 — Project Stork's William T. Reid writes to [Miles E. Goll](#) at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, saying that UFO reports have been processed through October 15, 1952, and evaluations completed for reports through July 31, 1952. ("[Seven Status Reports for Project Stork, Part 4 of 4 Parts.](#)" CUFON)
- 1953**, February 25 — Pentagon press officer [Albert M. Chop](#) writes to Maj. [Donald E. Keyhoe](#) and verifies that the files on 41 cases investigated by the Air Force for his upcoming book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* were indeed cleared for release by ATIC. (Albert M. Chop, [Letter to Donald E. Keyhoe](#), February 25, 1953; Keyhoe, *FS from OS*, [pp. 253–259](#); NICAP, "[The Chop Clearance List](#)")
- 1953**, February 25 — Project Second Storey meets for the last known time, chaired by astrophysicist [Peter M. Millman](#) of the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa, Ontario, and consisting of military and intelligence officers, as well as [Wilbert Smith](#). It concludes that, because details of most sightings cannot be adequately confirmed, UFO reports do not lend themselves to a "scientific method of investigation." It determines that UFOs do not require a Canadian armed forces investigation, but reports should still be sent to the Directorate of Scientific Intelligence. ("[Wilbert B. Smith](#)," Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, p. 229; Good Above, [p. 182](#); Story, [p. 276](#))
- 1953**, Late February — ADC commander [Benjamin Chidlaw](#) at Ent AFB [now US Olympic Training Center] near Colorado Springs, Colorado, tells future UFO researcher Robert C. Gardner that he has "stacks of reports about flying saucers. We take them seriously when you consider we have lost many men and planes trying to intercept them." (Stringfield, [3-0 Blue](#), p. 91; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [pp. 137–138](#))
- 1953**, February 27 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #10, classified "secret." (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 175–198)
- 1953**, February 28 — Capt. [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) transfers out of Blue Book for a seven-month assignment in Denver, Colorado. He is replaced by Lt. Robert M. Olsson, who has one staff member. (Ruppelt, [p. 228](#))
- 1953**, March — 10:00 a.m. Pilot [Howard C. Strand](#) is flying a routine patrol mission in a F-94B out of Selfridge AFB [now Selfridge Air National Guard Base] near Mount Clemens, Michigan, when he is asked to check out a radar target over downtown Detroit. He and his radar operator see tiny specks that seem to be a ragged formation of aircraft. As he approaches, he cannot see any wings or tails. Ground radar has the UFOs as "good, strong targets." Strand looks at his instruments briefly and when he looks up the objects are gone, though ground radar tracks them another 4 minutes. [Gordon Thayer](#) calls it an inferior mirage. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1953 March–July, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2002, pp. 24–26; Condon, [pp. 151–153](#))
- 1953**, March — Harvard University astronomer [Donald H. Menzel](#) publishes *Flying Saucers*, in which he explains all UFO sightings as known phenomena such as mirages and temperature inversions. It is the first book-length argument against UFOs, one of the few published by an academic institution, and the first UFO book by a scientist. ATIC personnel are displeased that Menzel has used a few classified reports supplied to him for an examination of patterns, which he has never produced. However, he has an imaginative vision of what Venus looks like, with "warm seas" in which life teems. (Donald H. Menzel, *Flying Saucers*, Harvard University, 1953; Getty Images, "[Dr. Donald H. Menzel, Harvard Professor and Native Denverite, Refers to His Book.](#)" March 13, 1953; Clark III 742; Graff 96–97)
- 1953**, March — Gen. [John A. Samford](#) is interviewed in *See* magazine and provides straightforward, factual answers about Project Blue Book, UFOs, and the inadequacy of [Menzel](#)'s theories. He claims the view of the Air Force is that "many credible people have seen incredible things." (Swords 210–211)
- 1953**, March 3 — 1:25 p.m. USAF Capt. [Roderick D. Thompson](#), 3600th Fighter Training Group out of Luke AFB near Glendale, Arizona, is an instructor pilot flying an F-84 at 25,000 feet over Blythe, California. He spots an object 300–500 feet wide leaving a contrail crossing his path from left to right at about 35,000–45,000 feet at about 400 mph. It is visible only by condensation vapor emitted from its manta-ray shaped flat surface. Student pilots flying two F-84s, Lt. Jack E. Brasher and Lt. Thomas W. Hale, also see the object but do not follow in pursuit. When

Thompson turns to pursue it, the object makes a slight dipping turn to the northwest and begins climbing at about 20°. It appears to be very thin and immediately begins to form a heavy condensation trail behind it for roughly 1,000 feet and splits in two. Thompson reaches 30,000 feet and closes to within roughly 5–10 miles to a point over the Colorado River north of Parker Dam on the Arizona border. He takes 151 frames of gun camera film of the object with a 16mm N-9 camera, apparently at 16 fps 1/40 second exposure setting. (NICAP, “[Three F-94 Pilots Encounter Manta-Ray, Gun Camera Shots](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 194; Ruppelt, [pp. 229–231](#); Barry J. Greenwood, “[The Luke Air Force Base UFO Sighting](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 2 (August 1978): 11–15; “[Luke AFB, Arizona, 03/03/1953](#),” US National Archives YouTube channel, October 24, 2013; Swords 213–214)

- 1953**, March 5 — Brig. Gen. [Woodbury M. Burgess](#), commander at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, sends a memo to Air Defense Command and the director of intelligence at Ent suggesting that field teams of 4602nd personnel interview UFO witnesses. (Maj. Robert C. Brown, “[Utilisation of 4602nd AISS Personnel in Project Blue Book Field Investigations](#),” March 5, 1953; Kevin D. Randle, “[UFO Coverup: The Early Days](#),” *A Different Perspective*, June 20, 2011)
- 1953**, March 8 — Journalist [Peter H. Wyden](#)’s interview with [Ruppelt](#) appears in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Ruppelt tells him that Project Blue Book “has no evidence of any of these objects being anything other than misinterpretation of known objects.... We can’t say positively because our data isn’t good enough. But we’re not worried.” The lengthy article provides a good overview of Blue Book’s investigations and staff of seven, including Ruppelt’s assistants Lt. [Anderson G. Flues](#) and Max Futch. (Peter Wyden, “[They’re Still Chasing Flying Saucers](#),” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 8, 1953, p. 1G)
- 1953**, March 8 — 9:02 p.m. Physics teacher [Leigh Van Etten](#), two other teachers, and 10 students at Kents Hill School, Maine, watch a big red ball of fire moving west-northwest for 12 minutes before it disappears beyond the horizon. He estimates it is about 40–60 miles away. (Jennie Zeidman, “[I Remember Blue Book](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 10)
- 1953**, March 14 — 11:43 p.m. Lt. [Robert J. Wooten](#) is flying a Navy P2V-5 antisubmarine plane over the Sea of Japan northwest of Nishinoshima, Japan, when he encounters an “electrifying display” of groups of 5–10 colored lights, totaling 90–100, slowly moving to the left side of the aircraft at a range of 3–7 miles and maintaining an extremely precise formation. Some of the objects are also tracked on radar. A 1955 RAND report falsely attributes this to an armada of 100 MiG-15 fighter aircraft (actually only 11) that menaced four US Navy Panther jets from the carrier *USS Oriskany*, but this earlier incident took place on November 18, 1952, resulting in damage to one of the MiGs. (NICAP, “[Groups of Lights / IFF Signals](#)”; Clark III 53–59; [Sparks](#), p. 195; Swords 214)
- 1953**, March 15 — The International Flying Saucer Bureau declares today World Contact Day and calls upon the UFO occupants to make a public appearance on earth. (Wikipedia, “[World Contact Day](#)”; Albert K. Bender, *FS and the Three Men*, Saucerian, 1962, [pp. 82–86](#))
- 1953**, March 17 — An FBI agent and two AFOSI officers interview [George Adamski](#) and ask him to draft a statement saying that neither the FBI nor Air Force has approved material used in his speeches. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1953, March–July*, The Author, 1989, pp. 4–5; Clark III 44)
- 1953**, March 18 — Ohio Northern University’s Project A reports that UFOs are usually disc-shaped, silent, and fast-moving. “Our major conclusion to date is that no one explanation fits all sightings, and about 20% of all the sightings definitely fit the category of unnatural phenomena.” (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1953, March–July*, The Author, 1989, pp. 15, 18)
- 1953**, March 22 — 2:00 a.m. Sara Shaw and Jan Whitley [pseudonyms], who share an isolated one-bedroom cabin in the forest around Tujunga Canyon north of Burbank, California, wake up when an odd light shines through the window. An eerie silence falls over the cabin and neighboring forest. They get out of bed but feel paralyzed. Then suddenly and inexplicably, it is 4:20 a.m. Shaw, who was originally kneeling on the bed, is now sitting on it with her feet on the floor. The two women flee the cabin. As they run, they pass an apparition or “vaporous something” with the “head and shoulders of a long-haired” person. When they return to the cabin two days later, they feel a sense of dread. Shaw can remember nothing more and the two women move apart. In 1975 Shaw watches a UFO documentary that evokes some memories, and she contacts ufologist [Ann Druffel](#). During three hypnotic regression sessions—December 5, 1975; February 26, 1976; and October 22, 1978—Shaw recalls her abduction by black-garbed aliens. She undergoes a physical examination and the aliens show her a cure for cancer. (Ann Druffel and D. Scott Rogo, *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts*, Prentice-Hall, 1980, updated in New American Library, 1989; UFOEv II 525–526)
- 1953**, March 23 — Gen. [Burgess](#)’s 4602nd AISS plan is approved. It is seen as aiding ATIC and giving AISS personnel valuable experience in field interrogations and cooperating with other agencies (Kevin D. Randle, *The Government UFO Files*, Visible Ink, 2014, [p. 249](#))

- 1953**, March 24 — The Upshot-Knothole Nancy nuclear test at Nevada Test Site Area 4 sends radioactive fallout on livestock across the region, including those grazing at Papoose Lake, Nevada. Sixteen horses and numerous cows belonging to local farmers, the Stewart brothers, die from acute radiation poisoning. The Army compensates them for the horses, but claim the cows died from Vitamin A deficiency. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Upshot-Knothole](#)"; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [p. 102](#))
- 1953**, Spring — After 12:00 noon. RAF Flight Lt. Cyril George Townsend-Withers is asked to test some new ECM radar equipment using an experimental English Electric Canberra aircraft. The jet has been stripped of all removable parts to make it as light as possible. With this modification, he is able to leave RAF Boscombe Down [now MoD Boscombe Down] in Wiltshire, England, and soar to 55,000 feet, then a record for the aircraft. Cruising over Salisbury Plain, Townsend-Withers picks up a blip on his screen. It shows an object traveling 5 miles behind him and maintaining a steady course. His immediate reaction is to curse the "anomalous propagation" effects that they have gone to so much trouble to avoid. However, he soon becomes aware that this was an image of something flying right behind them. The science officer goes up to the turret to take a look and sees, glinting in the sun or pouring out a fantastic amount of its own light, a round shape trailing in their wake. Townsend-Withers calls his pilot on the microphone and tells him that he can see an unknown and suggests trying to outpace it. They reach 260 mph but the thing cannot be shaken off, so the pilot executes a sweeping radius turn. As the Canberra comes around from its turn, the object comes into view dead ahead. For half a minute they are on a collision course, swiftly trying to calculate what to do next. The object is round like a thin disc, but with two small tailfins at the rear. It seems to be metallic and enormous, and it is simply sitting there waiting for them to fly right into it. Suddenly, it flips vertically into the air and climbs upwards at an astonishing rate. Leaving no vapor trail, wake, or detectable sound, the object vanishes within just a couple of seconds. (NICAP, "[Canberra Crew Encounters UFO / Radar/Visual](#)"; Jenny Randles, "[Collision Course](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 4 (Winter 2002–2003): 16–18; Jenny Randles, "Scramble, UFO! Part Three, The Team," *Fortean Times* 388 (January 2020): 31)
- 1953**, Spring — A US Army radar specialist with secret security clearance at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, claims that he and a small number of other radar technicians are summoned to view a special 16-millimeter film at the base theater. The 5-minute film first presents a desert scene dominated by a silver, disc-shaped object embedded in the sand with a domed section at the top. At the bottom is an open hatch. A subsequent scene shows 10–15 military personnel standing around the craft, which is 15–20 feet wide. The view switches to an apparent interior shot of the object, which has a panel with several levers. Another scene inside a tent shows two tables on which are three small dead bodies. Their heads are large with small noses, mouths, and eyes. The film ends abruptly. Two weeks later, he is approached by an intelligence officer who tells him to forget the movie because it was a hoax. (Leonard H. Stringfield, "[Retrievals of the Third Kind, Part 1](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1979): 13, 17–18)
- 1953**, April — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) is drafting a report on Project Magnet for the Canadian Department of Transport. He writes [Keyhoe](#) that their conclusion will probably be that UFOs are alien vehicles. (Clark III 1078)
- 1953**, April–June — The US Army Chemical Corps' Dew II project involves the secret release of fluorescent particles (zinc cadmium sulfide) and plant spores (*Lycopodium*) from an aircraft over St. Louis, Missouri. (Minneapolis, Minnesota, was a previous target.) It only targets black ghetto sections of St. Louis and arranges for local police surveillance "to minimize the possibility of loss of equipment." The Army reports "much less curiosity and interference" than Minneapolis. Dew II is described in a 1953 Army report that remains classified at the time of a 1997 report by the US National Research Council concerning the zinc cadmium sulfide dispersion program. (Leonard A. Cole, *Clouds of Secrecy: The Army's Germ Warfare Tests over Populated Areas*, Rowman & Littlefield, 1988, [pp. 63–65](#))
- 1953**, April 12 — 4:10 p.m. Ten round, flat, metallic objects changing formation are observed traveling at a high rate of speed at an estimated altitude of 7,500 feet over Sweetwater, Nevada. No trail, sound, or exhaust are noted. The objects pass under the right nacelle of the observers' C-47 aircraft, which is en route to Stead AFB [now Reno Stead Airport]. The copilot takes control of the aircraft and turns to the right in a tight 300° turn for a better view. The objects are then picked up unassisted by two more members of the crew. The objects are seen in a right turn of a greater radius than that of the C-47 and at a lower altitude. They are observed for approximately 120° of their turn and disappear on a heading of 300°. Observers are unable to estimate the speed of the objects because of the distance and the large turn radius. (NICAP, "[Ten Round Flat Objects Changing Formation](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 197)
- 1953**, April 13 — The MKUltra project is launched on the order of CIA Director [Allen Dulles](#) and under the direction of [Sidney Gottlieb](#). Its aim is to develop mind-controlling drugs for use against the Soviet bloc, largely in response to alleged Soviet, Chinese, and North Korean use of mind-control techniques on US prisoners of war in Korea. The project attempts to produce a perfect truth drug for use in interrogating suspected Soviet spies, and generally

to explore any other possibilities of mind control. Another MKUltra effort, Subproject 54, is the Navy's top secret "Perfect Concussion" program, which uses subaural frequency blasts to erase memory. However, the program is never carried out. Because most MKUltra records are deliberately destroyed in 1973 by order of then-CIA director [Richard Helms](#), it is difficult, if not impossible, for investigators to gain a complete understanding of the more than 150 individually funded research subprojects sponsored by MKUltra and related CIA programs. A cache of some 20,000 documents survive Helms's purge, as they are incorrectly stored in a financial-records building and discovered following a FOIA request in 1977. These documents are fully investigated during the Senate Hearings of 1977. (Wikipedia, "[MKUltra](#)"; US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, [Project MKUltra, the CIA's Program of Research in Behavioral Modification](#), 95th Congress, 1st Session, August 3, 1977; John D. Marks, [The Search for the "Manchurian Candidate": The CIA and Mind Control](#), Times Books, 1978; Jon Ronson, [The Men Who Stare at Goats](#), Simon & Schuster, 2004; "[Project MK-Ultra: The CIA's Experiments with Mind Control](#)," ZazenLife.com, December 2011; Stephen Kinzer, [Poisoner in Chief: Sidney Gottlieb and the CIA Search for Mind Control](#), Henry Holt, 2019)

- 1953**, April 14 — 9:23–11:50 p.m. A Navy P2V Neptune spy plane on an electronic intelligence (ELINT/ferret) mission over the Sea of Japan (about 200 miles southeast of Vladivostok, Russia) is paced and attacked by 10 agile and highly maneuverable UFOs. The encounter takes place with only 400 feet of distance between the aircraft and the sea. The objects make more than "70 aggressive non-firing passes" in "high-speed runs," many just a few hundred feet directly underneath the Navy aircraft for just over an hour. The UFOs transmit Morse Code light signals (the letter "D"), an unprecedented occurrence in UFO history. The objects are tracked on radar and by the Navy's ELINT systems (which pick up and analyze radar beams emitted from the objects) for almost two and a half hours. (NICAP, "[Two Lights Flashing Morse Code Letter 'D'](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 198; Clark III 53–59)
- 1953**, April 16 — 3:45 p.m. The crew of a commercial Maritime Central airliner flying at 9,000 feet above Chatham, New Brunswick, watches a metallic disc approach their plane and pass underneath. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 64–67)
- 1953**, April 19 — 1:00 p.m. Four US Army reconnaissance observers (including pilot Lt. Julius T. Morgan, Lt. [James O. Rymus](#), and Lt. Jack E. Myers) in two aircraft see a white, rounded, delta-shaped object 5–7 feet in diameter flying at 60–80 mph with a "vibrating" motion over Communist-held territory in Korea. An official G-2 Intelligence Report says the object is in the Old Baldy (Hill 266) and Pork Chop Hill areas. Radar supposedly tracks them also moving faster than sound (>767 mph). ("[Small 'Delta-Shaped Object' Sighted over Commie Lines](#)," *Eugene (Oreg.) Register-Guard*, April 20, 1953, p. 2; NICAP, [[news clippings](#)]; [Sparks](#), p. 199; Jennie Zeidman, "[I Remember Blue Book](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 9)
- 1953**, April 23 — Gen. [Charles P. Cabell](#) becomes deputy director of the CIA.
- 1953**, April 23 — 3:00 p.m. Two witnesses in Iberville [now Saint-Jean-de-Richelieu], Quebec, see a disc the size of a car approach their house while they are eating dinner. It stops 250 feet above the Richelieu River a bit more than a half-mile away. The man runs outside for a better look and sees that it is a dome and is spinning as it hovers. After 15 seconds it flies to the southwest and disappears. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 65, 68–69, 151)
- 1953**, May — A flawed CAA report states the July 1952 Washington National Airport radar returns were weather targets. (Civil Aviation Authority, [A Preliminary Study of Unidentified Targets Observed on Air Traffic Control](#), Technical Development Report 180, May 1953)
- 1953**, May — CIA Assistant Director [H. Marshall Chadwell](#) transfers chief responsibility for keeping abreast of UFOs to OSI's Physics and Electronic Division. [Todos M. Odarenko](#), chief of the division, does not want to take on the problem, saying it requires too much analytic and clerical time. Given the Robertson Panel findings, he proposes to call the project "inactive" and devote only one part-time analyst and a file clerk to maintain a reference file of activities of USAF and other agencies on UFOs. (Gerald K. Haines, "[CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947–90](#)," *Studies in Intelligence*, 1997, p. 72)
- 1953**, May — The Air Force publishes, under the signatures of Chief of Staff Gen. [Hoyt S. Vandenberg](#) and Air Adjutant General Col. [Kenneth E. Thiebaud](#), Air Force Manual 200-3, titled *Handbook for Air Intelligence Officers*. It is classified Restricted. Intended as a general guide for air intelligence officers conducting any type of investigation, the 6-page manual's only illustration is of an Air Force plane accompanied by three flying saucers; the caption is "The Air Technical Intelligence center is responsible for the prevention of technological surprises." It is discovered by [Keyhoe](#) in 1961 because someone forgot to reclassify the manual as Confidential in November 1953 when the Restricted classification is retired. (Department of the Air Force, *Handbook for Air Intelligence Officers*, Air Force Manual 200-3, May 1953, chapter 9, [pp. 9-1–9-6](#); Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, [p. 80](#))

- 1953**, May 1 — 11:35 p.m. USAF pilot Capt. R. L. Emberry and radar operator 1Lt J. R. Morin are flying an F-94 interceptor at 24,000 feet about 10 miles south of Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador. Both men and a control tower operator see a white light with a visible afterburner at 10,000 feet. The F-94 pursues it, both climbing to 40,000 feet, but the object climbs out of sight after 30 minutes. (NICAP, "[Unidentified Evades Interception by F-94](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 199; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 262)
- 1953**, May 2 — BOAC Flight 783, a de Havilland Comet 1, crashes in a severe thundersquall six minutes after taking off from Calcutta-Dum Dum [now Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport], India, killing all 43 on board. Witnesses observe the wingless Comet on fire plunging into the village of Jagalgori. A British aviation investigator, J. H. Lett, announces that the plane "collided with a fairly heavy body" and UFO rumors persist for about a year. However, leading investigators suspect structural failure. (Wikipedia, "[de Havilland Comet](#)"; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [p. 141](#))
- 1953**, May 4 — 1:50 a.m. A witness sees a football-shaped, metallic object caught in the glare of a rotating beacon near Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador. It is traveling south at high speed and a low altitude, and disappears into low-hanging stratus clouds. She hears a sound "like tins striking together." ([Sparks](#), p. 199; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 262)
- 1953**, May 5 — 9:45 a.m. Chemist Wells Alan Webb is standing in a field near the Vacuum Cooling Company plant, not far from Spain Flying Field and about a mile north of Yuma AFB [now Marine Corps Air Station Yuma] near Yuma, Arizona, when he sees a fuzzy-white oblong object at an angle of 45° in the north. He observes it both with the naked eye and with Polaroid glasses with a greenish tint that he uses for cloud observations. It is about one-half the diameter of the full moon. After 5 minutes, the object moves to a position 30° eastward and suddenly becomes circular in appearance, becoming gradually smaller. Three concentric dark rings appear around the object, the largest about six times its diameter when viewed with Polaroid glasses. Webb thinks that the rings are the result of the rotation of polarized light scattered from the atmosphere (Faraday effect). (NICAP, "[Polaroid Glasses Expose Concentric Circles around Disc](#)"; Wells Alan Webb, *Mars, the New Frontier: Lowell's Hypothesis*, Fearon, 1956, pp. 126–127; "[Book Reviews](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 2 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 24; UFOEv, [p. 51](#))
- 1953**, May 10 — 6:08 p.m. Capt. B. L. Jones is flying an Australian National Airways DC-3 just south of Mackay, Queensland. He radios the local control tower that a "strange object like a lighted glass dome" is maneuvering around his plane. He and his copilot watch the object for about 5 minutes during which time it climbs and dives at a speed of 200–700 mph. Finally, it crosses the path of the aircraft and disappears swiftly to the west. A Mr. W. Overell, the officer in charge at Mackay tower, sees the light climbing from about 4,000–5,000 feet in the west at great speed, although the radar shows no other aircraft in the vicinity. ("['Flying Saucer' Buzzing My Plane](#)," *Brisbane (Queensland) Sunday Mail*, May 17, 1953, p. 1; "[Inquiry on 'Flying Saucer](#)," *Sydney (N.S.W.) Daily Telegraph*, May 18, 1953, p. 7; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 52; Swords 377–378)
- 1953**, May 10 — 11:00 p.m. Capt. Bob Jackson is piloting an Australian National Airways DC-3 near Woronora Dam, New South Wales, when he sees an object with an orange-colored light at the tail flash past toward the east near Wollongong. The radar tower at Mascot shows no traffic in the area. About 2 minutes later, the object reappears, makes a complete circle around the airliner, and speeds away toward the coast. ("[Fear of Ridicule, So Kept Quiet](#)," *Adelaide (S.A.) News*, January 5, 1954, p. 5; Swords 378)
- 1953**, May 11 — A declassified MKUltra document indicates hypnosis is a major focus. Experimental goals include: the creation of "hypnotically induced anxieties," "hypnotically increasing ability to learn and recall complex written matter," studying hypnosis and polygraph examinations, "hypnotically increasing ability to observe and recall complex arrangements of physical objects," and studying "relationship of personality to susceptibility to hypnosis." Experiments are conducted with drug-induced hypnosis and with anterograde and retrograde amnesia while under the influence of such drugs. (Wikipedia, "[MKUltra](#)")
- 1953**, May 12 — 3:20 a.m. USAF F-94 pilot Lt. D. C. Rogers and radar operator Lt. J. A. Lane track a radar target about 39 miles northwest of Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador. Rogers attempts to intercept but cannot make visual contact. ([Sparks](#), p. 199; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 262)
- 1953**, May 16 — 8:15 p.m. Photographer Herman Charmanne is near Bouffloulx, Belgium, when he hears a strange metallic vibration. Looking up, he sees a long white trail in the wake of an object that shoots off at a great speed. The object, a luminous sphere, stops and hovers, allowing him to take two photos that depict a fried-egg-looking shape with a long tail. Recent analyses indicate that the photos are likely the result of a chemical reaction during the developing process, perhaps a flammable fluid deliberately poured on the image carrier that is then ignited.

(Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Wim van Utrecht, [Belgium in UFO Photographs, Volume 1 \(1950–1988\)](#), FOTOCAT Report no. 7, 2017, pp. 12–30)

1953, May 18 — 6:55 p.m. A bright, luminous object is seen over Abadan, Iran. It travels very fast and is visible for 20 minutes. It is also seen over oil fields in Khuzestan Province. (ClearIntent, [pp. 129–130](#))

1953, May 20 — At the junction of Jordan and Marble Creeks in Plumas National Forest, northern California, titanium prospector John Q. Black sees a silvery object, 8 feet in diameter, land on a nearby sand bar. On June 20 the saucer returns, along with a barrel-chested “midget pilot” wearing a “forest-green outfit” and a “peak-billed cap with a cord” around it. The UFO is about 40 feet away, resting on a rock, and has tripod-like landing gear. The pilot fills a rubber-like pail with creek water and goes back inside the craft (which has one small window) after hearing Black step on a stick. The craft takes off at a 45° angle with a hissing sound. Black had seen the same object on March 20, for a total of seven times. Black is alone for each sighting, so his partner John Van Allen cannot corroborate the story. The UFO’s expected return on July 20 does not occur, perhaps because scores of sightseers descend on the Brush Creek area (snack bars are set up so that no one goes hungry during the vigil). (Coral Lorenzen, [“Saucer Men with Buckets!!”](#) *APRO Bulletin* 2, no. 1 (July 15, 1953): 1, 5; [“Miners and Friend with Camera Wait Return of Men from Mars,”](#) *Stockton (Calif.) Evening and Sunday Record*, July 20, 1953, p. 1; [“Little Men in Flying Saucer Miss Brush Creek Rendezvous,”](#) *San Francisco (Calif.) Chronicle*, July 21, 1953, p. 3; [“Recent Sightings,”](#) *APRO Bulletin* 2, no. 2 (September 15, 1953): 6; Gray Barker, [“The Report on the Brush Creek Saucer,”](#) *The Saucerian* 1, no. 2 (November 1953): 12–20; Wallace Kunkel, [“The Little Man Who Wasn’t There,”](#) *Fate* 7, no. 5 (May 1954): 48–52; Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, Citadel, 1954, [pp. 261–262](#); Gray Barker, *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers*, University Books, 1956, [pp. 36–58](#); Coral Lorenzen, [“UFO Occupants in United States Reports,”](#) in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, special issue of *FSR*, Oct./Dec. 1966, pp. 52, 53; Lorenzen, *Occupants*, Signet, 1967, [pp. 118–119](#); Clark III 269; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 15, 2006; Curt Collins, [“Flying Saucer Ambush: Brush Creek, CA, 1953,”](#) *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, November 17, 2017)

1953, May 21 — 10:00 a.m. Eight disc-like objects are observed maneuvering in the sky for an hour or so above Prescott, Arizona, by sportsmen’s club president Bill Beers, post office employee Ray Temple, and O. Ed Olson. Two of the discs are stationary, while the other six discs participate in maneuvers similar to a dogfight. The six swoop around in formation, peel off, and shoot directly up and down in a maneuver that cannot be duplicated by a plane. When they move, they vary from very slow to speeds faster than a jet plane. (“Flying Saucers Return to Prescott,” *Prescott (Ariz.) Evening Courier*, May 22, 1953, pp. 1–2; Nukes 87)

1953, May 21 — Date of an alleged UFO crash and retrieval near Kingman, Arizona. “Fritz Werner” [pseudonym of [Arthur G. Stansel Jr.](#)] claims to have worked on the retrieval. An informant in 1977 tells [Leonard Stringfield](#) that he had seen three alien bodies in a crate at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio after a UFO crash in Arizona. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [pp. 171–185](#); Leonard H. Stringfield, [“Retrievals of the Third Kind: Part 1,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1979): 13, 18–19; Leonard H. Stringfield, [“Retrievals of the Third Kind: Part 2,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 6–7; Harry Lebelson, [“The Kingman, Arizona UFO Enigma: A Closer Look,”](#) *Pursuit* 19, no. 4 (Winter 1986): 162–165; Kevin D. Randle, *A History of UFO Crashes*, Avon, 1995, [pp. 57–68](#); Good Above, [pp. 398–400](#); Leonard H. Stringfield, *UFO Crash Retrievals: Status Report VII, Search for Proof in a Hall of Mirrors*, The Author, February 1994, [pp. 3–5](#); Linda Moulton Howe, [“Part 1: An Alleged 1953 UFO Crash and Burial near Garrison, Utah,”](#) Earthfiles, November 10, 2005; Clark III 335–338; Kevin D. Randle, [“Kingman UFO Crash...Really?”](#) *A Different Perspective*, May 11, 2011; George Knapp, [“I-Team: Kingman UFO Incident in 1953 Followed Nevada Explosions; Radar Blamed,”](#) KLAS-TV, Las Vegas, Nevada, February 3, 2020; Kevin D. Randle, [“Kingman UFO Crash,”](#) *A Different Perspective*, May 14, 2020; Kevin D. Randle, [“Kingman Rises from the Dead?”](#) *A Different Perspective*, March 3, 2021; Kevin D. Randle, [“UFO Crash Retrievals: Three with Explanations,”](#) *A Different Perspective*, January 15, 2024; Adam Goldsack, [“The Kingman UFO Incident \(1953\),”](#) *The Unidentified*, June 8, 2024; David Rudiak, [“Kingman UFO Crash Main Page,”](#) Roswell Proof, August 2024; Kevin D. Randle, [“The Kingman UFO Crash Conundrum,”](#) *A Different Perspective*, August 14, 2024; Kevin D. Randle, [“David Rudiak, Kingman UFO Crash, and Other Rabbit Holes,”](#) *A Different Perspective*, September 1, 2024; Kevin D. Randle, [“Kingman UFO Crash and Michael Schratt,”](#) *A Different Perspective*, September 26, 2024)

1953, May 23 — Radar tracks a target over Cape Province, South Africa, that makes six passes at more than 1,250 mph at 5,000–15,000 feet altitude. (Aimé Michel, *The Truth about FS*, p. 123; James E. McDonald, [“Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects,”](#) in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 70–71)

1953, May 26 — 5:10 a.m. D. Beyers, driving 80 miles south of Brandvlei in Northern Cape Province, South Africa, sees a bright yellowish-green light in the clouds, then emerges. The light has the appearance of “burning hydrogen”

and emits three streaks that maintain a fixed position with regard to the main light. He watches it for 50 minutes. (ClearIntent, [p. 130](#))

- 1953**, May 30 — After a small, bright-blue object with a strange irregular motion passes overhead at Palmerston North, New Zealand, numerous filaments of a “substance resembling spider webs, white in color and ashy in texture” float to earth. (“[Palmerston North, New Zealand](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 2, no. 2 (September 15, 1953): 8; Charles A. Maney and Richard Hall, *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*, NICAP, 1961, [pp. 59–60](#); Clark III 124)
- 1953**, May 31 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #11. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 199–214)
- 1953**, Summer — Two F-94 jets are scrambled at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base [now Stephenville International Airport], near Stephenville, Newfoundland, after base radar picks up an unknown target. One of the pilots gets radar and visual confirmation, then radios that he is going into a steep climb to give chase. The jet crashes into a mountain. The base is supposedly placed on red alert. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [p. 142](#))
- 1953**, Summer — 10:00 p.m. A family is returning home on Scenic Avenue in Central Point, Oregon, when they see three entities along the side of the road only 6 feet away. They stop the car, and the beings glide across the road and disappear into the woods. They are 4 feet high, white, with satiny fur, and resemble very large geese, but with no beaks or wings. (“[No UFO Seen: Just Creatures](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 5, no. 2 (April/May 1984): 3)
- 1953**, June — Night. An F-94C Starfire with classified electronic gear takes off from Otis AFB [now Otis Air National Guard Base] in western Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Piloted by Capt. Suggs and radar operator Lt. Robert Markhoff, the jet takes off in a westerly direction. Shortly after attaining 1,500 feet over the Base Rifle Range, the engine quits functioning and the electrical system fails. The jet’s nose drops and Suggs signals Markhoff to bail out. Suggs bails out and he and his parachute wind up in a homeowner’s backyard. The jet should have crashed nearby, but neither Markhoff or the airplane can be located, despite months of searching. Although this account comes from M/Sgt [Clarence O. Dargie](#), and investigator [Raymond Fowler](#) obtains the accident report from Norton AFB [now San Bernardino International Airport], California, there appears to be no open record of this incident. The F-94C models, especially at first, have fire-control problems and electrical short circuiting. (Raymond Fowler, *UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors*, Prentice-Hall, 1974, [pp. 287–291](#); Good Need, [pp. 189–191](#); Bob Pratt, “[Conversations with Major Donald Keyhoe](#),” Mutual UFO Network; Barry Greenwood, “[Questions on a 1953 Cape Cod Mystery](#),” *UFO Historical Revue*, no. 8 (February 2001): 1–3)
- 1953**, June — Secretary of Defense [Charles Erwin Wilson](#) abolishes the Research and Development Board for the politically motivated reason that suspected communist sympathizer [Robert Oppenheimer](#) is a sitting member. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, “[The Research and Development Board: Unanswered Questions](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 9)
- 1953**, June — Lt. Robert M. Olsson and [J. Allen Hynek](#) visit [Coral Lorenzen](#) at the Hotel Schroedr in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and try to convince her that it is in the national interest for her to reduce excitement about UFOs by publishing cases. (Swords 197; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [pp. 82–83](#); Powell, *Keyhoe*, 101–102)
- 1953**, June — [Max B. Miller](#) publishes the first issue of *Saucers*, a digest-sized quarterly of Flying Saucers International in Los Angeles, California. It continues until the Fall 1959 issue. ([Saucers](#) 1, no. 1 (1953); Clark III 1033)
- 1953**, June 9 — [Sidney Gottlieb](#) approves Project MKUltra’s “Subproject 8” on LSD. Experiments include administering LSD to mental patients, prisoners, drug addicts, and prostitutes—“people who could not fight back,” as one agency officer puts it.
- 1953**, June 17 — 7:30 a.m. Several witnesses in Galveston, Texas, see a large, cigar-shaped object silently flying in from the Gulf of Mexico. One estimates it to be about 300 feet long and no greater than 150 feet in the air. The object makes a cloud and disappears. (“[NUFORC Sighting 17561](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, August 5, 2001; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 19)
- 1953**, June 24 — 11:30 a.m. A weather observer stationed at remote Simiutaq island, western Greenland, is tracking a weather balloon with a theodolite. He notices a rotating red object flying from southeast to northwest and approaching the balloon, which is at 18,000 feet. The object collides with the balloon, disintegrating it. Afterward, it hovers in a circular motion for 15 seconds and departs into the wind. He watches it another 5 minutes until it is lost to view. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 69–70)
- 1953**, June 24 — Night. A flight of US Navy F2H Banshee jets out of NAS Quonset Point [now Quonset Point Air National Guard Station] are on a night training mission over southern Rhode Island when two aircraft in the formation collide in mid-air. The crash occurs at 19,000 feet near or over the Exeter/West Greenwich town lines, and debris is scattered for several miles in all directions. The pilot of one Banshee, Lt. Jg. [Jack Oliver Snipes](#), is killed. An emergency cable sent to the Director of Air Force Intelligence in the Pentagon indicates that “flying objects” are seen by the pilots prior to the accident. Its distribution list includes the fledgling National Security

Agency. (“[Exeter/West Greenwich, Rhode Island: June 24, 1953](#),” New England Aviation History, October 2017; Good Above, [pp. 272–273, 488](#))

- 1953**, June 30 — 11:45 p.m. An orange-colored, oval object is seen for a period of 20 minutes in the northern sky moving to the southeast by at least 10 personnel of the US 912th Air Control and Warning Squadron stationed at Ramore Air Station radar site [now CFS Ramore], 3 miles west of Ramore, Ontario. The first person to see it is A/2c Dean McDonald who comes out of the maintenance room to inspect a power unit that has caused a minor breakdown of the search radar set. He calls two other airmen to witness it. One of the two thinks the object is the moon. The first airman gets hysterical and calls the Charge of Quarters at the Domestic Area three miles to the southwest. At least seven witnesses in that area see the object, and two of them report that the moon is visible and the UFO is distinct and separate. The object soon fades away slowly to the north. ([[Project Blue Book file](#)]; NICAP, “[Ramore, Ontario, Pinetree Line Radar Site, UFO Sighting, June 30, 1953](#)”)
- 1953**, July — The 4602nd AISS has taken over nearly all of Blue Book’s field investigations. The unit then is supposed to send the reports to ATIC for evaluation or explanation, and ATIC would determine if a follow-up investigation is needed. In practice, the 4602d does much of the analysis. (Ruppelt, [p. 232](#); Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, Signet ed., 1976, [p. 119](#))
- 1953**, July — Lt. Robert M. Olsson of Project Blue Book sends five supposedly unsolved UFO cases of 1953 to Cal Tech physicist [Howard P. Robertson](#) in an effort to see if any change in the Robertson Panel’s conclusions is warranted. One of them is the Sea of Japan ELINT case of April 14. Apparently, Robertson’s mind is not changed. He is now heading up the Robertson Committee of the newly formed National Security Agency, tasked with developing better use of intercepted communications and radars in order to provide strategic warning of a military attack by the Soviet Union. (Clark III 55)
- 1953**, July 1 — 1:00 p.m. A cowherd, Maximo Munoz Olivares [or Hernáiz], 14, sees a “big balloon” on the ground behind him in Villares del Saz, Cuenca, Spain, after a faint whistling attracts his attention. Shaped like a water jug, the object is metallic. Through an opening come three dwarfs 2 feet tall, with yellow faces, narrow eyes, and oriental features. They speak in a language he cannot understand. They are dressed in blue and have a sort of flat hat with a visor in front and a metal sheet on their arms. One of them smacks the boy’s face, then they reenter the machine, which glows very brightly, makes a soft whistling sound, and goes off “like a rocket.” Footprints and four holes 2 inches deep, forming a perfect square 13 inches in size, are found by police. Possible hoax. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, [A Catalogue of 200 Type I UFO Events in Spain and Portugal](#), Center for UFO Studies, 1976, p. 3; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, March–July](#), The Author, 1989, pp. 92–93; Antonio Ribera, “[The Landing at Villares del Saz](#),” in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, special issue of *FSR*, Oct./Dec. 1966, pp. 28–30; Clark III 270)
- 1953**, July 7 — Evening. An Atlanta, Georgia, barber named Edward Watters buys a monkey from a pet shop, shaves and kills it, cuts off its tail, then takes it with two friends, Tom Wilson and Arnold Payne, to US Highway 78 near Leland, Georgia, and waits for the first car to stop. They tell the driver, who turns out to be Cobb County policeman [Sherley Brown](#), that they had seen a flying saucer and accidentally killed one of its occupants. They bring the dead animal to the *Atlanta Constitution* office, where reporter Thomas McRae notifies the FBI, which alerts the Air Force at Dobbins AFB [now Dobbins Air Reserve Base] in Marietta. The animal is taken to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, where Anatomy Professor Marion Hines identifies it properly as a shaved Capuchin monkey. Watters admits the hoax and is fined \$40 by a judge. (Wikipedia, “[Martian Monkey](#)”; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, March–July](#), The Author, 1989, pp. 96–102; “[Monkey from Mars Graces Ga. Crime Lab Display](#),” NBC News, July 29, 2008; Clark III 593; “[Project Blue Book Files Contain Records of Notorious 1953 Mableton UFO Hoax](#),” *Cobb County (Ga.) Courier*, October 5, 2024)
- 1953**, July 16 — Lt. Col. William F. Barns attains an official world airspeed record of 716 mph in a North American F-86D Sabre over the Salton Sea, California. (Wikipedia, “[North American F-86D Sabre](#)”; “[16 July 1953](#),” This Day in Aviation History, July 16, 2021)
- 1953**, July 19 — 3:00 p.m. After an F-86 has been circling over a particular spot in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a black object emerges from a high white cloud and takes up its position after the plane has left toward Knoxville. “This object was extremely black in color, having an appearance of a deep black metal exterior with a fine gloss. It did not leave a vapor trail or were there any lights of shine noticed. No sound was heard. The object flew east at a tremendous speed for what appeared to be approximately three miles where it stopped. The object was then joined by two more of these same objects. A formation similar to a spread V was formed and the objects, at a tremendous speed flew in an eastward direction.” The report is made by the Atomic Energy Commission and addressed to Army Adjutant General [William Edward Bergin](#) in Washington, D.C. (NICAP, “[Black Objects Maneuver over Area nr F-86](#)”; “[Air Space Violation at Oak Ridge, Tennessee](#),” July 27, 1953)

- 1953**, July 20 — [Ed Ruppelt](#) returns to Project Blue Book as either acting chief or consultant until August 31. ([Sparks](#), p. 14; Clark III 55)
- 1953**, July 25 — ATIC guide, *How to Make FLYOBRPTS*, a 68-page manual for officials required to make UFO reports, is published. (Air Technical Intelligence Center, [How to Make FLYOBRPTS](#), July 26, 1953)
- 1953**, July 26 — 9:39 p.m. At Perrin AFB [now North Texas Regional Airport] in Sherman, Texas, ground observers see 7 UFOs, each carrying a bright red light, hovering at 5,000–8,000 feet. They are in a formation of two groups of three, and one trailing, then come together to form the letter “Z.” Then they circle, gain altitude, and fade from sight. Citizens in Sherman and Denison also see the objects. Total duration is 16 minutes. This is classified as a “Vital Intelligence Sighting” and sent to the Air Defense Command, the Secretary of Defense, and the CIA. ([CIRVIS Report](#), July 26, 1953)
- 1953**, July 30 — Science journalist [John Joseph O’Neill](#) observes through a telescope a feature on the western edge of the lunar Mare Crisium that he interprets as a giant natural bridge. The observation is prematurely confirmed by amateur Welsh astronomer [Hugh Percy Wilkins](#). Although it turns out to be an illusion, the location is still known as O’Neill’s bridge. When viewing conditions are poor or the telescope’s aperture is small, the feature resembles a bridge joining the tips of the capes Promontorium Lavinium and Promontorium Olivium. If viewing conditions are good and the instrument is large enough, the feature is seen as two small, eroded crater pits. (The Moon Wiki, [“O’Neill’s Bridge”](#); Andrew May, “The Lost Ruins of the Moon,” *Fortean Times* 358 (October 2017): 56–57)
- 1953**, July 30–August 1 — A large UFO is seen for three nights over Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California. Park Superintendent [Elvind T. Scoyen](#) and his staff observe it once at close range. On August 1, a squadron of Air Force fighters sees the object streaking downward just before midnight. It stops abruptly then shoots upward. (Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, [pp. 40–41](#))
- 1953**, July 31 — Lt. Robert Olsson leaves Project Blue Book. He later tells [Ruppelt](#) his 5-month tenure “was like being president of Antarctica on a nonexpedition year.” He is replaced by Airman 1C Max G. Futch. (Ruppelt, [p. 228](#); Clark III 55; [Sparks](#), p. 14)
- 1953**, July 31 — 7:00 p.m. Five Poles and two Germans see a disc-shaped object about 16 feet in diameter land in a field near a railroad track on Wolin Island, Poland. After several minutes it rises up and flies away at great speed. (Bronislaw Rzepecki, [“UFOs and Ufologists in Poland,”](#) *IUR* 11, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1986): 15; Vallée, *Magonia*, [p. 203](#))
- 1953**, August — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) completes his classified report on Project Magnet for the Canadian Department of Transport, writing that it can be deduced that UFOs are 100 or more feet in diameter, they can travel at speeds of several thousand miles per hour, and can reach high altitudes. “It is difficult to reconcile this performance with the capabilities of our technology [and] we are forced to the conclusion that the vehicles are probably extraterrestrial, in spite of our prejudices to the contrary.” The DOT agrees to his proposal to set up an electronic station for a “24-hour watch for flying saucers” in a hut at Shirley’s Bay, off Lake Manitou, Ontario. Equipment includes an ionospheric reactor, electronic sound measurement devices, gamma-ray detector, gravimeter, magnetometer, and radio set. (Clark III 1078–1079)
- 1953**, August 1 — The US Air Force Security Service moves its headquarters from Brooks Air Force Base [now closed] to Kelly Air Force Base [now Kelly Field Annex], both in San Antonio, Texas. (Wikipedia, [“Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency”](#))
- 1953**, August 5–6 — Around 8:00 p.m. Ground Observer Corps observer Phyllis Killian spots a UFO in Black Hawk, South Dakota. Soon after, radar at Ellsworth AFB near Rapid City tracks a “well-defined, solid, and bright” object. The base scrambles an F-84 and the pilot sees the UFO. Many witnesses see the object accelerate and climb. The F-84 pursues but can reach no closer than 3 miles. Now low on fuel, the F-84 returns, followed by the UFO. Immediately, another F-84 is sent up. Before long, the pilot receives strong radar returns of a target right in front of him. Fear prevails and he breaks off the chase. The UFO goes off the scope, traveling northeast. Reports soon come from Brunswick of a fast-moving, bright blue object, similar to the Rapid City object. It hovers near an air filter center, performing more maneuvers and disappearing after midnight. Before it leaves, three more UFOs are seen at 10,000 feet for three hours. [Ruppelt](#) personally investigates and calls it “the best” in the USAF files, [Hynek](#) writes that the “entire incident...has too much of an Alice-in-Wonderland flavor for comfort.” [Menzel](#) blames the star Capella. The official file is several hundred pages long. (NICAP, [“The Rapid City / Ellsworth AFB Incident \(RV\)”](#); Edward J. Ruppelt, [“What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers,”](#) *True*, May 1954, pp. 19–20; Condon, [pp. 132–136](#); Ruppelt, [pp. 232–235](#); [Sparks](#), p. 203; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 2–3; Swords 215; Jan Aldrich; Patrick Gross, [“The Ellsworth AFB Radar Multiple Visual Case, 1953”](#); Powell, *Keyhoe*, 137)

- 1953**, August 6 — 5:00 p.m.–12:00 midnight. An estimated 75 objects with lights are seen by many witnesses on the ground around Naval Air Station Barbers Point [now Kalaeloa Airport], Hawaii, from the airport control tower and from the air. Many are also detected by radar. At 9:00 p.m., the crew of a Navy patrol aircraft reports three head-on passes. These close calls alarm the pilot so much he lands immediately. Jet fighters are scrambled and the same night an interceptor pilot sees a “glowing blob” rising rapidly toward him. It comes to a sudden stop just behind his aircraft then accelerates briefly until it is beside him for four more seconds before accelerating away out of sight at several times his own top speed. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), p. 63; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December](#), The Author, 1990, p. 30)
- 1953**, August 9 — 9:34 p.m. Supervisor Larry E. Towner and other Ground Observer Corps personnel report a glowing disc about 200 feet in diameter over Moscow, Idaho. At 10:10 p.m., the first of two F-86s is scrambled. The object lingers, with other lights seen, until around 5:00 a.m. (NICAP, “[Three F-86’s Chase Disc Spotted by GOC](#)”; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 3–4)
- 1953**, August 10 — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) issues another report on Project Magnet, in which he concludes there is a “substantial probability of the real existence of extraterrestrial vehicles” that use a “technology considerably in advance of what we have.” The report is eventually sent to Prime Minister [Louis St. Laurent](#). (Good Above, [pp. 185, 187](#))
- 1953**, August 12 — The USSR tests its first thermonuclear device, RDS-6s or Joe 4, at the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan. A tenfold increase in explosive power is achieved by a combination of fusion energy and neutron-initiated fission. Scholars dispute the authenticity of RDS-6 as a true thermonuclear device, as it does not manage to produce a yield consistent with a true hydrogen bomb. (Wikipedia, “[Joe 4](#)”)
- 1953**, August 13 — Paramount Pictures’ *The War of the Worlds* premieres in New York City. It is a modern retelling of [H. G. Wells](#)’s story of an invasion from Mars and features a Northrop YB-49 flying wing dropping an atomic bomb on the invading Martians. The color footage comes from a test flight. The film is produced by [George Pal](#), directed by [Byron Haskin](#), and stars [Gene Barry](#) and [Ann Robinson](#). (Wikipedia, “[The War of the Worlds \(1953 film\)](#)”; Internet Movie Database, “[The War of the Worlds](#)”)
- 1953**, August 16–18 — Flying Saucers International, directed by Max Miller, holds the first UFO conference at the Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles, California, featuring contactee speakers [Orfeo Angelucci](#), [Truman Bethurum](#), [George Van Tassel](#), and [George Adamski](#), as well as [Frank Scully](#), science-fiction illustrator [Mel Hunter](#), and the [Amazing Criswell](#). Some 1,500 people attend, and 2,000 are turned away at the door. On the final day, the attendees vote to petition the US government to release all UFO data that does not jeopardize national security, and someone manages to draft and send a letter to President [Eisenhower](#). (Jack Jones, “[Flying Saucer Believers Hear Erstwhile Skeptic](#),” *Los Angeles Daily News*, August 18, 1953, p. 8; Orfeo Angelucci, “[A Release: On Flying Saucers First Convention](#),” *Interplanetary News Digest* 1, no. 2 (October 1953): 1; Max Miller, “[First Flying Saucer Convention](#),” *Saucers* 1, no. 3 (December 1953): 2–4; Frank Scully, “[Summary of Lecture Given at Convention](#),” *Saucers* 1, no. 3 (December 1953): 3–4; Max Miller, “[Editorial](#),” *Saucers* 2, no. 3 (September 1954): 2–3; Story, [p. 91](#); Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953 August–December](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 7–8; James W. Moseley and Karl T. Pflock, *Shockingly Close to the Truth! Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist*, Prometheus, 2002, pp. 72–75)
- 1953**, August 17?— Lina Ivanova Kravets is in her garden in Shtanivka, Ukraine, when she sees a trio of intruders cutting branches off her apple, plum, and cherry trees. Approaching closer, she sees they are 11-foot-tall entities wearing dark overalls, helmets, and gloves. They claim to be extraterrestrials, converse with her about God and their peaceful home world that is prone to natural disasters and somehow affected by the earth’s wars, and insist they are on a mission to rescue a missing scout team. They then point out a silvery sphere hovering just above the ground with similar tall being standing next to it. Before the lengthy encounter ends, the beings offer Kravets a piece of bread the size of a small coin. Breaking it open, she sees something dark and odorless inside, so she refuses it. The beings then walk to the sphere in a peculiar waddling manner, wave as they enter, and take off in the craft at terrific speed. (Peter Rogerson, “[INTCAT 1953](#)”; Joshua Cutchin, “The Great Alien Bake-Off,” *Fortean Times* 332 (November 2015): 44)
- 1953**, August 19 — A small, fast-moving, ricocheting fireball rips a foot-wide hole through a metal billboard at Middlestone Avenue and Front Street in East New Haven, Connecticut. IFSB investigator [August C. Roberts](#) and Joseph Barbieri steal a piece of the sign during an investigation by Naval Ordnance personnel. IFSB sends the sample to Col. [Robert B. Emerson](#), an Army physicist at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, who contacts friends at Oak Ridge Laboratory in Tennessee to have it analyzed, but nothing else is heard of this sample. APRO arranges for a separate analysis of the deposits on the sign performed by Anderson Laboratories in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the Chicago Spectrographic Service Laboratory. They determine that the fragments consist of copper and copper oxide and are not meteoritic. [Michael D. Swords](#) suggests that Roberts’s retrieval of the metal

- fragments would have attracted the attention of federal officials. (NICAP, "[New Haven Signboard Case](#)"; Michael D. Swords, "[Tales from the Barker Zone](#)," *IUR* 17, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1992): 5–7; Clark III 728–729)
- 1953**, August 20 — 9:05 p.m. The crew of a TB-29 sees a grayish oval object near Castle AFB [now Castle Airport Aviation and Development Center], northeast of Atwater, California. The UFO makes four passes at the plane, then dives vertically as if it consists of two objects. (NICAP, "[TB-29 Crew Files CIRVIS Report](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 203; Covert 23)
- 1953**, August 21 — Test pilot Lt. Col. [Marion Eugene Carl](#) reaches an unofficial altitude of 83,235 feet in a Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket. (Wikipedia, "[Marion Eugene Carl](#)")
- 1953**, August 23 — 12:00 noon. Tom P. Drury, deputy director of the Civilian Aviation Department at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, takes 24 frames of 8mm color film of a silvery object that emerges from a cloud and climbs quickly, leaving a vapor trail. The Royal Australian Air Force and USAF intelligence are said to have studied the film, which has since disappeared, with only a few third-generation stills of poor quality remaining. Later researchers suspect a daytime meteor. (NICAP, "[Drury Film / Saucer-Like Object Climbing](#)"; "[‘Missile’ over N.G. Reported](#)," *Warwick (Queensland) Daily News*, September 7, 1953, p. 2; "[Flying Saucer Filmed](#)," *Lithgow (N.S.W.) Mercury*, January 25, 1954, p. 2; "[America Will Examine Our ‘Saucer’ Film](#)," *Perth West Australian*, January 25, 1954, p. 1; "[The Port Moresby Film: Does It Support Rev. Father Gill’s Case?](#)" *Australian Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 1 (June 1960): 5; Norman Cruttwell, "[The New Guinea Sightings](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, July 1961, p. 6; Norman E. G. Cruttwell, "[Flying Saucers over Papua](#)," in Charles Bowen, ed., *UFOs in Two Worlds*, special issue of *FSR*, August 1971, pp. 3–38; [Sparks](#), p. 204; Good Above, pp. 162–163; Bill Chalker, "[The Drury UFO Film Affair: A Study of a Celebrated Australian Case, Part 1](#)," 2001; Bill Chalker, "[The Drury UFO Film Affair: A Study of a Celebrated Australian Case, Part 2](#)," 2001; Herbert S. Taylor, "[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 17–18; Keith Basterfield and Paul Dean, "[Cold Case Review of the 23 August 1953, Port Moresby Visual Sighting and Colour Movie Film](#)," April 2017; Clark III 416–417)
- 1953**, August 24 — Contactee [George Van Tassel](#) gets to step, for the first time, inside a flying saucer, when an extraterrestrial named Solganda wakes him up and leads him to a waiting ship, giving him a tour of the interior and a technique for rejuvenating the human body before dropping him off and shooting back into space. (Jody Rosen, "[Welcome to the Integratron](#)," *New York Times Magazine*, August 20, 2014; Lesla Miller Schnur, "[G. W. Van Tassel’s Integratron](#)," *The Haunted Librarian*, August 27, 2021)
- 1953**, August 26 — USAF issues Air Force Regulation 200-2, which tightens UFO reporting and investigating procedures, further restricting the release of UFO information and superseding Air Force Letter 200-5. It directs that all confirmed UFO reports be sent electronically to air force intelligence. Tangible evidence must go to ATIC in Dayton. It also confines UFO investigations to three groups: USAF intelligence at the Pentagon, the 4602nd AISS, and ATIC (although ATIC only gets reports after they go to the 4602nd). Sightings are only to be discussed with "authorized personnel." Reports by USAF personnel no longer go to Project Blue Book, which is now only a PR front. Some good cases still go there, but far fewer unidentifieds. Only solved cases are to be discussed publicly; those still unidentified are to remain classified at the Restricted level. ("[Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting](#)," Air Force Regulation 200-2, August 26, 1953; Clark III 918; Swords 198–199)
- 1953**, August 27 — 9:45 p.m. A USAF pilot, M/Sgt, and others, all on the ground, see a meandering light for 50 minutes at Greenville AFB [now Mid-Delta Regional Airport], Mississippi. ([Sparks](#), p. 204)
- 1953**, August 28 — A Ground Observer Corps volunteer watches 14 cigar-shaped UFOs silently moving over San Rafael, California. One appears to be leading the formation at about 200 mph. They are first seen heading west through breaks in the clouds, then turn north and disappear behind clouds. (Good Above, p. 278)
- 1953**, August 31 — [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) leaves Project Blue Book permanently to take up a job as senior engineer at Northrop Aircraft, leaving Max Futch in charge as acting chief through December. ([Sparks](#), p. 14; Clark III 55; Powell, *Keyhole*, 111)
- 1953**, September — [George Adamski](#)’s account (ghostwritten or at least heavily edited by [Clara John](#)) of his meeting in the desert with the Venusian named Orthon is appended to an already completed manuscript on modern and historical UFO reports by Irish occultist [Desmond Leslie](#) and published as *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. Leslie asserts that the first spaceman (a Venusian) arrived on earth in 18,617,841 B.C. [in the early Miocene Epoch] and claims that early UFOs were called vimanas in Sanskrit epics like the *Ramayana*. He also argues that the Great Pyramid and megalithic structures were built with levitation techniques derived from space people. (Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, British Book Centre, 1953; Clark III 40)
- 1953**, September — Airline stewardess [Gloria Lee](#) of Westchester, California, begins to hear a voice in her head that identifies itself as "J.W.," a resident of Jupiter. Lee insists on a physical visit. Not long afterward, as she is hanging wash in her backyard, she hears the voice say, "Well, you’ve been wanting to see me." She looks up and

sees “a saucer, big as life, flying toward Santa Monica.” She has other experiences and founds the Cosmon Research Organization to publish and study J.W.’s teachings, much of which resemble philosophy in the 1882 book *Oahspe*, produced by automatic writing by [John Ballou Newbrough](#). She goes on the contactee lecture circuit. (Clark III 682–683)

- 1953**, September — Genevieve A. Johnston begins publishing the contactee newsletter *Interplanetary News Digest* in Joshua Tree, California. It continues through spring 1955. ([Interplanetary News Digest](#) 1, no. 1 (September 1953))
- 1953**, September — [Gray Barker](#) starts publishing *The Saucerian Bulletin* in Clarksburg, West Virginia, which covers UFO reports, monster yarns, contactee tales, and the latest rumors about [Albert K. Bender](#). It continues through October 1962. ([Saucerian Bulletin](#) 1, no. 1 (September 1953); Clark III 178)
- 1953**, September 7 — British pilot [Neville Duke](#) reaches 728 mph in a Hawker Hunter Mk.3 at Littlehampton, England. (Wikipedia, “[Neville Duke](#)”)
- 1953**, September 7 — 6:30 p.m. Don P. Hollister, a technical writer for Goodyear Aircraft, notices a grayish-blue object heading north directly over his backyard in Cleveland, Ohio, at less than 3,000 feet altitude. It is shaped like an equilateral triangle, but rounded somewhat on the sides and angles. It is rotating on a central axis. The object disappears after 5 seconds. (UFOEv, [p. 70](#))
- 1953**, September 10 — Truck driver Gene Davis is traveling on State Highway 67 between Breckenridge and Graham, Texas, when he sees a triangular object cross the road in front of him at a height of about 6–7 feet. He estimates it is about 4 feet from one tip of the triangle to the next, about one foot thick, and appears to be made of shiny metal. Another driver headed in the opposite direction also sees the object. They both jump out of their vehicles, but by that time the object is hovering in a field about 200 feet away and some 9–10 feet off the ground. It takes off straight up. (“[Driver Asserts Flying Saucer Crossed Path](#),” *Freeport (Tex.) Daily Facts-Review*, September 11, 1953, p. 7)
- 1953**, September 15–19 — Operation Top Hat, a “local field exercise,” takes place at the Army Chemical School [now the US Army CBRN School] at Fort McClellan [now closed], Alabama. The experiments use Chemical Corps personnel to test decontamination methods for biological and chemical weapons, including sulfur mustard and nerve agents. The personnel are deliberately exposed to these contaminants, are not volunteers, and are not informed of the tests. In a 1975 Pentagon Inspector General’s report, the military maintain that Operation Top Hat is not subject to the guidelines requiring approval because it is a line-of-duty exercise in the Chemical Corps. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Top Hat](#)”)
- 1953**, September 26 — British pilot [Mike Lithgow](#) attains an official world airspeed record of 736 mph in a Supermarine Swift F 4 at Castel Idris, Tripoli, Libya. (Wikipedia, “[Mike Lithgow](#)”)
- 1953**, September 28 — [Albert K. Bender](#) confides to [Gray Barker](#) and a few others that three menacing men dressed in black suits have called on him, told him the answer to the UFO mystery, and insisted that he will go to jail if he repeats it. The experience allegedly terrifies him, and he decides to close the International Flying Saucer Bureau. Barker immortalizes the episode in a 1956 book, *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers*, and Bender breaks his long silence in 1962 with *Flying Saucers and the Three Men*, in which he claims that the visitors are not government agents but monsters from the distant planet Kazik. Even Barker concedes privately that he cannot swallow Bender’s fantastic tale of abduction to the South Pole by monstrous space beings. Bender does little to promote the book and soon moves to Los Angeles and secures an unlisted telephone number. However, the book does reveal Bender’s long-time obsession with science fiction, horror movies, and the occult. (Gray Barker, [They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers](#), University Books, 1956; Albert K. Bender, *Flying Saucers and the Three Men*, Saucerian, 1962; Clark III 189–192, 623; Story, [pp. 50–51](#); Michael D. Swords, “[Tales from the Barker Zone](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1992): 6; “[Men in Black – Albert K. Bender on MIB and International Flying Saucer Bureau](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013)
- 1953**, September 28 — 7:10 p.m. In Palmdale, California, a UFO appears on an F-94C radarscope for a period of 15 seconds. The object is traveling on a 60° course at an estimated speed of 2,300 mph. It is 4 miles away when first seen and compares with a C-47 in size on the radarscope. The F-94 was moving at 345 mph at 21,000 feet. The same or another object is observed visually from another F-94C for six seconds at 7:00 p.m. The object is described as round, orange in color, and traveling on the same course as the first object. (NICAP, “[F-94C Tracks UFO at 200 Knots](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 204)
- 1953**, Late September — Night. Baltimore, Maryland, astronomer [James C. Bartlett Jr.](#) is observing a transit of the star Fomalhaut when he notices four large lights moving slowly in the sky. He looks at them through binoculars and sees that they are on the noses of two enormous cigar-shaped objects at about 3,000 feet altitude. He can also see an apparent cabin and portholes and he hears a sound like a piston engine. (“[Two Huge UFOs Sighted by Baltimore Astronomer](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 5 (Aug./Sept. 1958): 1, 3)

- 1953**, September 30 — Project Blue Book issues its Status Report #12. (US Air Force, [Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1–12](#), NICAP, 1968, pp. 215–235)
- 1953**, Autumn — Dusk. Cecil Tenney is driving near Dutton, Montana, when he sees a cigar-shaped object about 200 feet away. Apparently in trouble, it belches fire and smoke, and after a few minutes he hears an explosion. Balls of fire rain down from the sky. He tells the story to a highway patrol officer at a nearby bar before driving on to Conrad, Montana. That evening a colonel from Great Falls AFB [now Malmstrom AFB] calls and tells him to show up at the base in the morning. He is interrogated there for 30 minutes, and on the way out sees soldiers carrying bags that he thinks might contain body parts. (Leonard H. Stringfield, “Retrievals of the Third Kind: A Case Study of Alleged UFOs and Occupants in Military Custody,” *MUFON 1978 UFO Symposium Proceedings*, Mutual UFO Network, 1978, pp. 77–105; Clark III 342)
- 1953**, October — The final issue of *Space Review* edited by [Albert K. Bender](#) states that UFOs are “no longer a mystery. The source is already known, but any information about this is being withheld by orders from a higher source.” (“[Statement of Importance](#),” *Space Review* 2, no. 4 (October 1953): 1; Clark III 189)
- 1953**, October 1 — [Donald E. Keyhoe](#)’s *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* is published by Henry Holt. Excerpts appear in the October 20 issue of *Look*. His message is that aliens are here, the military knows it, and they are covering it up from the public to avoid panic. He has gotten clearance from [Ruppelt](#) and [Chop](#) to include 51 classified UFO reports from the Air Technical Intelligence Center, which runs Project Blue Book. The Air Force states that Keyhoe is misrepresenting their analyses, so he sends a telegram to USAF Secretary [Harold E. Talbott](#) and Gen. [Sory Smith](#), saying that if he really misrepresented anything, as a Marine Corps officer he should be disciplined. The Air Force offers no comment. In the book, he takes note of a curious document (never published and now lost) prepared by USAF Col. [William C. Odell](#) titled “Planet Earth: Host to Extraterrestrial Life,” in which he speculates on aliens crossing space in search of new planets to live on once their own fails. (Donald E. Keyhoe, *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, Holt, 1953; Douglas Larsen, “[Saucer Scribe Believes Public Convinced Reports Are Authentic](#),” *Hazelton (Pa.) Plain Speaker*, December 16, 1953, p. 5; Wikipedia, “[Flying Saucers from Outer Space](#)”; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 55; James W. Moseley and Karl T. Pflock, *Shockingly Close to the Truth! Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist*, Prometheus, 2002, pp. 44–45; Michael D. Swords, “[Colonel Odell and the Invasion of Earth](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 3–6; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 130; Graff 99–100)
- 1953**, October 3 — USN pilot [James B. Verdin](#) reaches 753 mph in a Douglas F4D Skyray over the Salton Sea, California. (Wikipedia, “[Douglas F4D Skyray](#)”)
- 1953**, October 9 — 3:50 p.m. A UFO is seen at Caulfield, Melbourne, Victoria, discharging a white trail described as “strange shiney filaments” that cover wires and trees. A sample turns out to be a “nylon-like amorphous mass with traces of magnesium, calcium, boron, and silicon.” It shrinks from 3 inches to one-half inch in an air-tight container. (“[Wispy Threads from Sky](#),” *Australian Flying Saucer Review (UFOIC)*, no. 9 (November 1966): 12; Brian Boldman, “[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#),” *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 101; Keith Basterfield, “[Angel Hair: An Australian Perspective](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 6)
- 1953**, October 9 — 4:30 p.m. Three unidentified objects are tracked on radar at RAF Bawdsey [now Bawdsey Manor], Suffolk, England, at an altitude of 36,000 feet above the Netherlands. Soon they are tracked flying east to west over the Harwich area. Some jets at RAF Waterbeach [now Waterbeach Barracks], Cambridgeshire, are scrambled but can locate nothing. Airmen at Bawdsey can see nothing but four contrails heading north. The objects then reverse and move back across the English Channel at 32,000–34,000 feet. The apparent speed on the approach is 430 mph, increasing to 483 mph on the short leg over the UK and 564 mph on the return. (NICAP, “[Three UFOs Flew over Area, Tracked on Radar](#)”; “[English Channel](#),” *APRO Bulletin* 2, no. 6 (May 15, 1954): 12; “[Sightings Continue at a Steady Pace during Last Half of 1953](#),” *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Bulletin* 1, no. 4 (Winter 1954): 2, 3; Covert 24–25)
- 1953**, October 15 — 10:10 a.m. During the tracking of a Project Grab Bag balloon launch, a 40-foot object leaving a brief vapor trail is seen by three General Mills Aeronautical Lab research engineers ([James A. Winker](#), [Fletcher L. Bartholomew](#), and [Richard J. Reilly](#)) near Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is traveling south in horizontal flight at 1,100 mph, moving 10° in nine seconds at about 40,000 ft altitude and 25° elevation. The object goes into a vertical dive for about 10–15 seconds, then glows or flashes in the sun two or three times for 1 second each. It is seen in the theodolite as a gray mass. It levels off and the vapor trail stops. (NICAP, “[Project GRAB BAG Sighting](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 205; Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine eds., 1974, pp. 71–72; Hynek *UFO Report*, pp. 113–114)
- 1953**, October 16 — Harvard astronomer [Donald Menzel](#) writes to USAF Director of Intelligence Gen. [John A. Samford](#) that he would like to meet with ATIC officers in Washington, D.C. (Good Above, p. 278)
- 1953**, October 16 — 4:00–4:30 p.m. Emerson “Slim” F. Morris watches a large, cigar-shaped object as it approaches Brigantine, New Jersey, from over the Atlantic. It releases several smaller objects from both ends. The smaller

discs are white, rotating counterclockwise, and rapidly speed away. Before the large object disappears, it emits a blinding ray of light toward the ground that hurts Morris's eyes. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 7)

- 1953**, October 19 — 12:10 a.m. Capt. J. L. Kidd is flying an American Airlines DC-6 between Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., when over the Conowingo Dam, Maryland, his copilot sees something gleaming in the moonlight dead ahead and closing rapidly. Kidd blinks on his landing lights and the UFO beams back a blinding light back at the DC-6. Kidd puts the plane into a steep dive. Caught unaware, the passengers are tossed about the cabin, many suffering injuries. Kidd radios Washington National Airport [now Ronald Reagan International Airport] to report a near collision and complain about air traffic. Air traffic control reports no known aircraft in his vicinity. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 60–61; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 34, 38; Good Above, [p. 282](#))
- 1953**, October 20 — The NSA Robertson Committee report is completed and classified top secret. It recommends better and faster use of electronic intelligence in radar activity that might indicate an imminent attack, noting that the Air Force is not cooperating with the Army or Navy on these matters. (Clark III 55–56)
- 1953**, October 22 — [Menzel](#) meets with USAF headquarters personnel (including Col. [George E. Perry](#)) and ATIC at the Pentagon. (Good Above, [p. 279](#))
- 1953**, October 25 — 8:15–8:30 p.m. Air Force weather observers at Lubbock, Texas, notice a V formation of 5–7 dull white lights sweep north to south. In three seconds, the formation goes from a point overhead to 3° above the horizon where they disappear. Other groups of two or more lights follow at about 5-minute intervals. ("[Lubbock Lights Repeat](#)," *Civilian Saucer Investigations Quarterly Bulletin*, no. 4 (Winter 1954): 4–5; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 35–36)
- 1953**, October 29 — USAF pilot [Frank Kendall Everest Jr.](#) reaches 755 mph in a North American F-100 Super Sabre over the Salton Sea, California. (Wikipedia, "[Frank Kendall Everest Jr.](#)")
- 1953**, November — Capt. [Charles A. Hardin](#) takes charge of Project Blue Book. ([Sparks](#), p. 14)
- 1953**, November — Terence M. Tibando, 5, is on a walk around RCAF Station St. Jean, Quebec, with his mother and baby brother James when they see a domed, disc-shaped, silvery object flying over the military buildings at an altitude of 300–500 feet. It hovers momentarily then flies off. A few nights later, three small luminous beings (similar to Casper the Friendly Ghost) float through his bedroom wall. Tibando becomes frightened and calls out to his mother several times, who inspects the room and finds nothing. However, they reappear after she leaves, and this happens once more. The beings walk around to the head of his bed and appear luminously white with small mouths and large, human-like eyes. He pulls the bedcovers over his head to hide, but soon falls asleep. From that time on, he begins drawing pictures of rockets, planets, and stars. (Nigel Watson, "UAPs and Luminous Ghosts," *Fortean Times* 415 (February 2022): 30–31)
- 1953**, November — 6:30 p.m. Trygve Jansen and two other witnesses are driving north on the Gamle Mossevei road at the Gjersjøen bridge, Norway, when they see an object rise from behind a hill, swing out over the lake, and move back to the road, circling and following their car. Suddenly it stops and hovers above the road 30 feet in front of them, emitting a green light. Jansen stops, and all three witnesses experience mild electrical shocks until the object rises and disappears. When he returns home, Jansen's wife points out that the car's beige paint has turned a bright green. (Carl Olsen, "[Chased by a Flying Saucer!](#)" *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1956): 16; K. Gösta Rehn, "[Saucer Blocked Road in Norway](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, March 1962, pp. 1, 3)
- 1953**, November 3 — 10:00 a.m. An RAF NF.10 Vampire pilot (Flight Lt. Terry S. Johnson) and navigator (Flying Officer Geoffrey Smythe) flying at 30,000 feet near RAF West Malling [now closed], Kent, England, see a star-like light far above them. Suddenly it moves toward them at tremendous speed. They see it as circular and emitting a bright light around its periphery. The duration is 30 seconds. Air Minister [George Ward](#) calls it a "balloon"; when author [Desmond Leslie](#) calls him up to suggest this is incorrect, Ward tells him: "I know it wasn't a balloon. You know it wasn't a balloon. But until I've got a saucer on the ground in Hyde Park and can charge the public sixpence a go to enter, it must be balloons, otherwise the government would fall and I'd lose my job." It is possible that this object was a Skyhook balloon launched from Holloman AFB in New Mexico on October 27 that failed to drop into the Atlantic after a 12-hour flight. (Desmond Leslie, "[Politicians and the UFO](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 9, no. 3 (May/June 1963): 8–9; Good Above, [pp. 35, 53](#); Good Need, [p. 154](#); UFOFiles2, [pp. 57, 62–63](#); David Clarke, "The Prince and the Saucers," *Fortean Times*, no. 406 (June 2021): 18)
- 1953**, November 3 — 2:45 p.m. In Lee, southeast London, a solid target is tracked on radar by the 256th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment moving slowly at a distance of 17 miles. Through a telescope it appears to be a circular white object. The target is tracked for 25 minutes by four aircraft technicians, including Sgt. H. Waller, who says it is about 350–450 feet in diameter and definitely not a balloon. The War Office claims the object is a radiosonde

- balloon. (NICAP, "[Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment Tracks UFO](#)"; "[‘Glowing’ Object Only a Balloon](#)," *Palm Beach (Fla.) Post*, November 20, 1953, p. 14; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 79; Good Above, [pp. 35–36](#))
- 1953**, November 5 — President [Eisenhower](#) issues Executive Order 10501, abolishing the classification of "Restricted." UFO sightings are unaffected, as meaningful sightings are classified at higher levels. There are now explicit guidelines for the remaining three classification levels to prevent a systematic flood of classified documents coming from the Pentagon and other agencies. The Pentagon responds by creating its own "special access" labels to further insulate classified information from outside influence. ("[Executive Order 10501](#)")
- 1953**, November 16 — A fluffy material streams out of a UFO over the San Fernando Valley, California, and falls to the ground mostly near the intersection of White Oak Avenue and Haynes Street in Reseda. A reporter who examines it describes it as "a fluffy blanket dead-white, almost ephemeral in its delicacy and apparently electrically charged." Mr. and Mrs. Louis D'Angelo of Reseda see a huge silvery ball flying up, down, and sideways; the substance seems to come out of its back end. Clinging bits of web-like material remain on trees and telephone lines for several months. She reports that it has static qualities. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 227–228; Clark III 124; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 26–27)
- 1953**, November 16 — 9:00 p.m. [Keyhoe](#) debates *Time* magazine's science editor, [Jonathan Norton Leonard](#), on ABC Radio's *America's Town Meeting on the Air* on "Flying Saucers: Fact or Illusion?" Leonard tries to refute Keyhoe's assertions of Air Force secrecy, while Keyhoe cites many cases and documents from his book that Leonard dismisses out of hand. ("[Keyhoe/Leonard Debate – Town Meeting 11.16.1953](#)," in *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1939–1959*, November 21, 2013)
- 1953**, November 19 — Bacteriologist [Frank Olson](#) is a leading scientist at the army's Chemical Corps, Special Operations Division at Fort Detrick, Maryland. SOD supplies the CIA with an array of deadly microbes and chemicals that cannot be detected in an autopsy. It also supplies delivery methods for anthrax. The CIA pays SOD \$200,000 a year for these services until 1969. Olson is duped into a meeting with MKUltra Director [Sidney Gottlieb](#) at a secluded cabin. Olson has a very bad trip and still hasn't recovered after several days. (H. P. Albarelli Jr., [A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Cold War Experiments](#), Trine Day, 2009; Stephen Kinzer, "[The Secret History of Fort Detrick, the CIA's Base for Mind Control Experiments](#)," *Politico Magazine*, September 15, 2019)
- 1953**, November 20 — Australian Minister for Air [William McMahon](#) tells Parliament that all UFO reports "are still being investigated closely and recorded as an aid to further research," but the RAAF's approach is a bit more ad hoc. ("[Flying Saucers Start World-wide Storm in a Teacup](#)," *Launceston (Tas.) Examiner*, November 21, 1953, p. 4; Swords 377)
- 1953**, November 22 — Navy Capt. [Walter Karig](#), author of the 1947 novel *Zotz!*, writes "Operation UFO: The Official Truth about Flying Saucers" for *The American Weekly* newspaper insert. He covers Secretary of the Navy [Kimball](#)'s 1952 UFO sighting and the ONR saucer probe. He emphasizes the Air Force's 20% unexplained rate and does not rule out the extraterrestrial hypothesis. (Walter Karig, "[Operation UFO: The Official Truth about Flying Saucers](#)," *American Weekly* insert, *San Francisco Examiner*, November 22, 1953, pp. 4–5; Swords 217)
- 1953**, November 22 — 10:00 p.m. A man who works in the supply transport office of the RAAF Woomera Rocket Range near Woomera, South Australia, sees a green object like a saucer fly to the north between Woocalla and Birthday Siding. It is emitting blue exhaust. Another man driving the same route around 2:00 a.m. about 50 miles from Woomera sees a bluish-green circular object moving north. It is seen again by another man in the same area around 2:30 a.m. A fourth party sees two orange flares dropping from the sky near Pimba at 3:15 a.m. All of the objects are at an altitude of more than 5,000 feet. (Keith Basterfield, "[Listing of Reports from Woomera, South Australia](#)," 2008)
- 1953**, November 23 — Evening. ADC radar detects an unknown object moving at 500 mph over Lake Superior. An F-89C Scorpion interceptor, piloted by Lt. [Felix Moncla Jr.](#) with radar observer Lt. [Robert L. Wilson](#) in the rear cockpit, is dispatched from Kinross AFB [now Chippewa County International Airport], south of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The jet heads toward the target under radar guidance. At 8,000 feet, 160 miles northwest of the Soo Locks, the blips of the F-89 and the UFO merge then fade from the screen. Nothing more is heard from the plane and no trace of it is found. Attempts are made to contact Moncla via radio, but without success. A search and rescue operation by both the USAF and the Royal Canadian Air Force is quickly mounted, but fails to find any trace of the plane or its pilots. Weather conditions are a factor in hampering the search. A Pentagon spokesman claims the UFO is an RCAF C-47 Dakota VC-912 that was never closer than 3–4 miles to the F-89, which has crashed for unknown reasons. In 2006, a group of divers claimed to have discovered the F-89 and taken photos on side-scan sonar, but the claim is a hoax. (NICAP, "[UFO Intercept / Missing F-89 Case](#)"; "[Two More Truax Fliers Lost](#)," *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 25, 1953, pp. 1–2; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 13–23; UFOEv, [pp. 114–115](#); Raymond E. Fowler, *UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors*, Exposition, 1974, [pp. 291–293](#); Keyhoe, *Aliens*

from Space, Signet ed., 1974, pp. 166–167; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, pp. 106–109; Good Above, p. 273; Andrew Griffin, “[Missing! Avoyelles Parish Man’s Disappearance Still a Mystery after 50 Years.](#)” *Alexandria (La.) Town Talk*, July 20, 2003, pp. E1, E3; Clark III 654–656)

- 1953**, November 24 — The UK House of Commons discusses the November 3 Lee case and others. [Nigel Birch](#), Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, explains the sightings as experimental weather balloons. MP [George Isaacs](#) asks, “Will the Minister agree that this story about flying saucers is all ballooney?” (Good Above, p. 36; Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).](#)” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1953**, November 28 — [Frank Olson](#) is depressed, incoherent, and uncommunicative after his LSD dose nine days earlier. His CIA contacts take him to a “doctor” in New York City, who prescribes him alcohol. He then plunges to his death from the 10th floor window of the Hotel Statler in New York City. The US government calls it a suicide, the Olson family alleges murder because, especially in the aftermath of his LSD experience, he has become a security risk who might divulge state secrets associated with highly classified CIA programs of which he has direct personal knowledge. A few days before his death, Olson quits his position as acting chief of the Special Operations Division at Camp Detrick [later Fort Detrick] in Frederick, Maryland, because of a severe moral crisis concerning the nature of his biological weapons research. Among Olson’s concerns are the development of assassination materials used by the CIA. The CIA’s use of biological warfare materials in covert operations, experimentation with biological weapons in populated areas, collaboration with former Nazi scientists under Operation Paperclip, LSD mind-control research, and the use of psychoactive drugs during “terminal” interrogations under a program code-named Project Artichoke. Later forensic evidence conflicts with the official version of events; when Olson’s body is exhumed in 1994, cranial injuries indicate that Olson was knocked unconscious before he exited the window. The medical examiner terms Olson’s death a “homicide.” (Michael Ignatieff, “[What Did the C.I.A. Do to His Father?](#)” *New York Times Magazine*, April 1, 2001, pp. 56–61; H. P. Albarelli Jr., *A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA’s Cold War Experiments*, Trine Day, 2009; Stephen Kinzer, “[The Secret History of Fort Detrick, the CIA’s Base for Mind Control Experiments.](#)” *Politico Magazine*, September 15, 2019)
- 1953**, December — [Wilbert B. Smith](#) sets up his Department of Transport observatory at Shirley’s Bay, Ontario. His equipment includes an ionospheric reactor, electronic sound measurement devices, gamma-ray detector, gravimeter, magnetometer, and radio set. (Wikipedia, “[Project Magnet \(UFO\)](#)”; Good Above, pp. 185–186)
- 1953**, December — [Noall Brice Cornwell](#) (who uses the pseudonyms Mel Noel and Guy Kirkwood) claims to have been stationed at Lowry AFB [now Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum] in Denver, Colorado, and engaged in several dogfight-type maneuvers with UFOs involving gun-camera film. His stories are bogus, and later he runs phony investment scams and becomes a contactee who describes meeting pink-haired, platinum-skinned, fish-eating Martians said to be running a Mars-Earth transportation system. (Mel Noel, *The Mel Noel Story*, Saucerian, 1960; Good Above, pp. 273–277; Kevin D. Randle, “[Mel Noel / Guy Kirkwood in the 1960s.](#)” *A Different Perspective*, December 20, 2010; Adam Gorightly, “[Mel Noel’s Phony Flying Saucer Trip to the Stars.](#)” *Chasing UFOs*, April 17, 2020; Richard Geldreich Jr., “[‘Mel Noel’ aka ‘Guy Kirkwood’ aka ‘Noall Brice Cornwell’: Buried with Military Honors at Miramar National Cemetery.](#)” *Medium*, October 21, 2024)
- 1953**, December — Australian UFO researcher Edgar Jarrold is visited four times by a mysterious man who swears him to secrecy. What the visitor tells him amazes him “beyond belief,” but he never publicly reveals who the man is. However, it turns out that the man is Gordon Deller, a minor figure in Australian ufology who has some quaint and original theories about the saucers. He believes that UFOs are piloted by etherians from another dimension. He tells Jarrold this, along with some insights into a geological cataclysm and telepathic communication. [Harold Fulton](#), a ufologist from New Zealand, suspects Deller is a nut. However, Jarrold’s obsession with UFOs leads to the breakup of his family and the disintegration of his personal life by 1955. (Clark III 632–633)
- 1953**, December 7 — 9:30 p.m. Pfc Alfred V. De Bonise and Sgt1C James Conley of the 89th Anti-Aircraft Battalion at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, spot a white object, “shining like a star.” It makes a noise like an artillery shell in flight. It moves erratically and eventually falls out of sight. (Good Above, p. 280; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December*, The Author, 1990, p. 60)
- 1953**, December 7 — Radio Moscow proclaims that saucers are “figments of the imagination of western warmongers.” (Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, p. 156)
- 1953**, December 8 — CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence Chief of Operations Staff [Philip Grandin Strong](#) writes a memo to the Assistant Director of Scientific Intelligence saying that [Keyhoe](#)’s book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* has been reviewed by “one of our consultants” for “possible security violations” related to the CIA’s UFO involvement. It notes that Keyhoe suspects the Robertson panel meeting but has no solid knowledge of it. The

- memo suggests that no breach is involved and an investigation would only lend undue attention to Keyhoe's claims. (P. G. Strong, "[Report on Book Entitled 'Flying Saucers from Outer Space,'](#)" memo, December 8, 1953)
- 1953,** December 8 — The US Air Force downplays its interest in UFOs, suggesting that most sightings are explainable by weather balloons, meteors, and Venus, with radar reports easily attributable to temperature inversions, "ionized clouds," and ground reflections. Project Blue Book is not even mentioned, although the Air Technical Information Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is credited with "regular investigations of reports of flying saucers." Air Force spokesmen mention a plan to install, in airport control towers, special cameras covered by a diffraction grid that will act as a makeshift spectrometer and supposedly help identify unknown lights. The plan was first suggested by physicist [Joseph Kaplan](#) in 1952 to help in identifying the green fireballs. ("[AF Studies, But No Longer Jumps at 'Saucer' Reports,](#)" *Baltimore (Md.) Sun*, December 8, 1953, p. 29; Jenny Randles, *UFO Conspiracy*, Cassell, 1987, [p. 45](#))
- 1953,** December 9 — 3:45 p.m. Charles Huaut sees a luminous, golden, round object poised motionless at a high altitude over Saint-Émilion, Gironde, France. After 10 minutes it noiselessly changes position and assumes the form of several horseshoes enveloped in smoke trails. Then it disappears. (Central Intelligence Agency, "[Sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects,](#)" April 20, 1954, p. 2; ClearIntent, [p. 130](#))
- 1953,** December 15 — 2:37 p.m. While flying a Transair Sweden DC-3 in the vicinity of Hässleholm, Skåne, Sweden, pilot [Ulf Christiernsson](#) and flight mechanic Olle Johansson encounter an "unorthodox, metallic, symmetric, round object" closing in on their aircraft for about 10 seconds. It passes about 1,970 feet under the DC-3 at an altitude of 7,055 feet. Air Force Gen. [Bengt Nordenskiöld](#) calls in reports from all relevant Swedish radar stations to identify the object, and the Defence Research Institute spends many hours reconstructing the event. However, the owner of a local perfume company confessed in late December to releasing 300 hydrogen-filled balloons south of Hässleholm as an advertising promotion around 12:30 p.m. that day. (Swords 365)
- 1953,** December 16 — The British Air Ministry sends orders to all RAF stations saying that UFO reports are to be classified "Restricted" and personnel must not communicate any sighting information to unauthorized persons. Reports must be sent to the air intelligence branch DDI (Tech) that is now responsible for UFO investigations. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 57–60](#))
- 1953,** December 16 — 4:58 p.m. Lockheed Skunk Works chief [Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson](#) and his wife Althea (near Agoura, California) and a Lockheed crew (Rudy Thoren, [Roy Wimmer](#), and 3 others) flying the WV-2 Warning Star aircraft near Long Beach, California, independently of each other observe a black flying-wing (or ellipse or crescent-shaped) object about 170–230 feet wide flying at about 15,000 ±2,000 feet altitude to the west, hovering about 30–60 miles away. At 5:04 p.m., after four minutes (to the Johnsons) and six minutes (to WV-2 crew) the UFO suddenly takes off in a shallow climb accelerating to approximately earth escape velocity (25,000 mph) to the west over the Pacific. It disappears in 10–13 seconds (to WV-2 crew) or in 90 seconds (to Johnson using 8x binoculars) after reaching 90+ miles altitude. (NICAP, "[The Lockheed UFO Case](#)"; Joel Carpenter, "[The Lockheed UFO Case, 1953,](#)" *IUR* 26, no. 3 (Fall 2001): 6–9, 33; [Sparks](#), p. 206)
- 1953,** December 17 — After the crew of a Swedish airliner reports a wingless circular UFO over Hässleholm, Sweden, the Swedish Armed Forces orders a full-scale investigation. Capt. [Ulf Christiernsson](#) says the object is an "entirely unorthodox, metallic, symmetrical, and circular object." Later reports claim it is a radiosonde balloon. ("[Swedish Pilot Spots Mystery Object above Clouds; Called 'Russ Robot,'](#)" *Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram*, December 18, 1953, p. A-9; UFOEv, [p. 121](#); [Sparks](#), p. 206)
- 1953,** December 17 — A memo from [Todos M. Odarenko](#), chief of the CIA/OSI physics and electronics division, condescendingly reviews the status of various government UFO efforts. (Todos M. Odarenko, "[Current Status of Unidentified Flying Objects \(UFOB\) Project,](#)" December 17, 1953)
- 1953,** December 23 — USAF Intelligence Col. [George E. Perry](#) writes to Gen. [Woodbury M. Burgess](#), ADC Deputy for Intelligence at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, recommending that when the 4602nd investigates a UFO sighting and it is *not* a conventional object, personnel should state "The information on this sighting will be analyzed by the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Dayton, Ohio," and leave it at that. (Col. George E. Perry, [Letter to Brig. Gen. W. M. Burgess](#), December 23, 1953)
- 1953,** December 24 — 8:04 a.m. US Navy Lts. J. B. Howard and L. D. Linhard, flying F9F-2 jet fighters, see 10 silver oval objects flying in formation at 450+ mph, straight and level, over El Cajon, California. (NICAP, "[Navy Lts. Encounter 10 Oval Objects](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 206)
- 1953,** December 26 — The first of a series of articles in the *Washington (D.C.) Times-Herald* by Richard Reilly questions the Air Force's openness about UFOs. (Richard Reilly, "Air Force Baffled by Flying Discs," *Washington (D.C.) Times-Herald*, December 26, 1953; "[Saucer Bandwagon,](#)" *APRO Bulletin* 2, no. 4 (January 15, 1954): 8; "[The American Scene,](#)" *Flying Saucers* (Civilian Saucer Investigation (NZ)) 1, no. 4 (March 1954): 4–10; Dolan, [p. 145](#))

- 1953**, December 29 — [Keyhoe](#) has a confrontation with [Delos Smith](#), the science editor of the United Press wire service, and a UP executive editor. Smith is preparing a three-part series debunking Keyhoe's claims because a "certain Air Force general *swears* your book is a complete fraud." Forewarned by [Frank Edwards](#), Keyhoe counters his arguments with documentation. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 85–88)
- 1953**, December 30 — 9:05 p.m. Pfc Norman Viet, on guard duty at the tank park in Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, watches a blinking red light about 18 inches in diameter moving slowly over a tree line about 200 feet away. It soon drops down out of sight. Fifteen minutes later it is seen again, rising up and floating toward the tank shed. Viet says it is completely soundless. At 10:15 p.m. it returns, also witnessed by Sgt. Francis R. Salinder, who alerts the base and a combat team searches the area. At midnight, a red light appears above the search area, spooking a guard. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [p. 202](#); *Washington (D.C.) Daily News*, January 5, 1954; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1953, August–December](#), The Author, 1990, p. 75)

1954

- 1954** — [Jim and Coral Lorenzen](#) move from Wisconsin to Alamogordo, New Mexico, to work as civilian employees at Holloman AFB. (Clark III 50)
- 1954** — Contactee [George Van Tassel](#) begins building the Integratron at Giant Rock, California, based on the rejuvenation techniques imparted to him by space aliens from Venus. (Wikipedia, "[Integratron](#)"; Jody Rosen, "[Welcome to the Integratron](#)," *New York Times Magazine*, August 20, 2014; Lesla Miller Schnur, "[G. W. Van Tassel's Integratron](#)," The Haunted Librarian, August 27, 2021)
- 1954** — An official in the UK Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical) mentions to investigator Ronald N. Russell that the DDI has 15,000 reports on file since 1947 stored in nine drawers in three wooden filing cabinets with Yale locks, doubly secured by a hinged plate locked with a large padlock. (John Pitt, "[Tell Us Please, Mr. Birch](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1956): 10–13; Good Above, [p. 33](#))
- 1954** — A promotional photo of a Martin B-57 Canberra bomber taken near Edwards Air Force Base in California shows a saucer-like object in the upper right portion of the frame. No one actually reports seeing the object, which seems to be trailing the B-57 in flight. NICAP photoanalyst Ralph Rankow points out that the object has dimension, does not appear to be a scratch or rub on the film, and has a pattern of light and shadow consistent with the rest of the photo. (Story, [pp. 36–37](#); Robert A. Schmidt, "[The Strange Case of the B-57 Photographs](#)," *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 6 (August 1971): 1–2)
- 1954** — The powerful Type 80 centimetric radars introduced in the UK this year are plagued by radar "angels" that become a hazard for air traffic controllers. A Fighter Command investigation concludes that most of them are caused by migrating seabirds, and others are the result of "anomalous propagation." Later computers filter out smaller echoes and increase the strength of those created by aircraft. (David Clarke, "Gremlins and Black Projects," *Fortean Times* 291 (August 2012): 26–27)
- 1954** — After RCAF pilots fail to intercept several UFOs in Canadian air space, the Defence Research Board sets up a restricted landing field near the Suffield Experimental Station [now CFB Suffield], Alberta. All RCAF planes and commercial aircraft are restricted from the area. However, the effort is abandoned after the government determines that UFOs are not a national security risk. The project is kept secret until July 1967 when it is revealed by Defence Minister [Paul Hellyer](#). ("[UFO Landing Site was 13-Year Secret](#)," *Ottawa (Ont.) Journal*, July 20, 1967, p. 5)
- 1954**, January — [Ed J. Sullivan](#)'s Civilian Saucer Investigation Los Angeles disbands. ("[CSI Conclusions](#)," *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Bulletin* 1, no. 4 (Winter 1954): 7–9)
- 1954**, January — 5:00 a.m. A strange object streaks across the sky over Harts Range, Northern Territory, Australia, seen and heard by four Native Australians. On the same day, an anonymous photographer is taking photos of Mount Gillen, Northern Territory, when suddenly an enormous (150 feet) round object appears from behind it. It moves high, then drops low. He takes a photo, then it shoots off at high speed to the west. The photo, reproduced in the newspaper, shows a dubious-looking round object on edge with six spokes. ("[Flying Saucer at Harts Range?](#)" *Alice Springs (N.T.) Centralian Advocate*, January 15, 1954, p. 1; "['Unknown' Claims Snapped Flying Saucer over Alice](#)," *Alice Springs (N.T.) Centralian Advocate*, February 5, 1954, p. 1; Keith Basterfield, "[Cold Case: The Mount Gillen Photograph, Alice Springs, 1954](#)," Unidentified Aerial Phenomena–Scientific Research, January 12, 2012)
- 1954**, January 1 — 10:15 a.m. Capt. Douglas Barker, a pilot with Australian National Airways, is at his home in Doncaster East, Melbourne, Victoria. He sees a "metallic, mushroom-shaped object" flying over the Yarra River

valley toward the Templestowe brickworks in the northwest. He estimates it is traveling at 700 mph at a height of 2,000 feet. Its apparent size is four times that of a DC-4 aircraft. It is oscillating rapidly in and out of thick cloud. It is elliptical with a “long shaft about the same length as its body hanging below it.” Total duration of the sighting is 12 seconds. (NICAP, [“Mushroom Flying over Yarra Valley”](#); [“‘Flying Saucer’ Pilot Reports,”](#) *Melbourne (Vic.) Herald*, January 1, 1954, p. 1; [“‘Flying Saucer’ Reported by A.N.A. Captain,”](#) *Cairns (Tas.) Post*, January 2, 1954, p. 1; [“Pilot Said He Saw a ‘Flying Mushroom,’”](#) *Sydney (N.S.W.) Daily Telegraph*, January 2, 1954, p. 9)

- 1954**, January 1–2 — 10:35 p.m.–12:05 a.m. Navy pilot Lt. JG George G. Morgan of Naval Air Station Lakehurst [now Joint Base McGuire–Dix–Lakehurst], Toms River, New Jersey, police chief [Richard Clement](#), police officer [Oliver G. Osborne](#), and other witnesses see 3–12 round white objects with fuzzy edges slightly smaller than the full moon hovering in the south for 90 minutes as 2 objects circled around another one. They then switch places. Some witnesses attempt to drive toward the objects to investigate. The objects suddenly depart to the southwest at extremely high speed, growing smaller until they disappear in 1–2 seconds. Multiple independent witnesses across a baseline of at least 12 miles allow for triangulation that locates the objects near Beach Haven, New Jersey, from distances of 15–40 miles. At least five witnesses use binoculars. [Hynek](#) calculates a departure speed of 90,000 mph, a hovering altitude of 4 miles, and a diameter of 1,500 feet. (NICAP, [“Multiple-Witness Sightings Triangulate Location”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 207; Swords 223–224)
- 1954**, January 4 — Shortly after 9:00 p.m. A round luminous machine, coming from the south, lands at the Marignane Airfield [now Marseille Provence Airport], Bouches-du-Rhône, France. There is only one witness present, a fireman at the airport named Chesneau. The machine disappears while he is telephoning the control tower. Careful scrutiny of the runway the next morning turns up a few pieces of metallic debris. The story is confirmed by a Marseille resident who is driving from Arles to Marseille and sees a large, round, reddish fireball, but places the time at 10:45 p.m. (Jimmy Guieu, *Les soucoupes volantes viennent d'un autre monde*, Fleuve Noir, 1954; ClearIntent, [p. 132](#); Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) March 15, 2003)
- 1954**, January 6 — The *Cleveland Press* runs the headline “Brass Curtain Hides Flying Saucers” and reveals that ATIC will no longer allow reporters seeking UFO information into Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Its reporter is given the runaround on the Utah film. ([“Air Force Closes Brass Curtain,”](#) *Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel*, January 14, 1954, p. 3; UFOEv, [p. 134](#))
- 1954**, January 7 — 4:27 a.m. A fiery disk, followed by a luminous trail, is seen in Arras, Pas-de-Calais, France. The disc remains motionless in the sky for an instant, after which it flies away and disappears over the horizon. (ClearIntent, [p. 133](#); Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) December 4, 2005)
- 1954**, January 9 — Three residents of Lunéville, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France, see a round object flying from north to south. The object flies more slowly than a jet plane and leaves a luminous yellow trail. It flies noiselessly, although it appears to be at a low altitude. Several students of the College de Lunéville also see the object. (ClearIntent, [p. 132](#); Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) December 28, 2004)
- 1954**, January 10 — 5:25–5:40 p.m. [James E. McDonald](#), two other University of Chicago meteorologists, and another passenger are driving on Hwy 83 north of Sonoita, Arizona, when McDonald spots a brilliant white stationary object in the southwest above the Santa Rita Mountains about 10 miles away. They lose sight of it as the car moves on. McDonald searches carefully for alternate explanations, but can find none, so he reports the sighting to the Air Force in a 4-page letter. (Clark III 695; [Sparks](#), p. 207; Ann Druffel, *Firestorm*, Wild Flower, 2003, [pp. 19–20](#))
- 1954**, January 13 — Mutual Radio broadcaster [Frank Edwards](#) alleges on his show that the wreckage of a flying saucer is being held in a “West Coast military field.” (Clark III 330–331)
- 1954**, January 13–16 — Gen. [Woodbury M. Burgess](#) chairs a conference at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with 4602nd officers Capt. Joseph A. Cybulski and Capt. Bellovin and emphasizes that it is now the agency responsible to ATIC for investigating UFOs. Cybulski says that “We here in Headquarters will keep a complete file on all the sightings. That’s why we want the information copied. We will file them under separate headings, such as the type of personnel involved, military or civilian, or air-lines. We will record it under the type of object it was eventually determined to be.” Capt. Cybulski leaves for Dayton, Ohio, the next day to coordinate activities more closely. He reports that [Hynek](#) is “ready to quit” because he is “ridiculed by members of my profession for chasing these imaginary objects.” But Burgess persuades him to stay. (CUFON, [“4602d AISS Unit History Sampler, Part 3 of 7 Parts”](#); Brian Skow and Terry Endres, [“The 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron and UFOs,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 9–10; Capt. Joseph A. Cybulski, [“How the Air Force Investigated UFOs,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 11, 30–32)
- 1954**, January 18 — Cosette Weiss of Las Cruces, New Mexico, is visiting the Kilbourne Hole, a maar volcanic crater in the Potrillo Volcanic Field of southern New Mexico, to collect gemstones with a companion, Mrs. Sanders. They

discover 25–30 disc-shaped tracks in the sand. The largest are about 2 feet in diameter, perfectly round, and consist of four concentric rings. They find more fresh tracks on January 22. Sanders reports this to White Sands Proving Grounds. Two Army security agents, Capt. [Ross Orcutt](#) and CID agent Henry Herman, spend the night of February 6 at the location and report that the tracks are “nothing more than a combination of wind, sand, and roots.” The mystery lights seen in the area by Weiss are labeled “vehicular traffic.” (“Report from the Readers,” *Fate* 7, no. 6 (June 1954): 109–129; Michael D. Swords, “[Fun and Games in the Desert near Las Cruces](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 21)

- 1954**, January 18 — 1:30 p.m. Many people in Saint-Arnaud [now El Eulma], Algeria, observe an object that leaves a double trail of white smoke, making an immense circle over the town. Several officers at Bordj de la Remonte fort (southwest of Magra) hear the object make a strange sound. It seems to arrive from the north. A meteorological station near Oued Hmimim (southeast of Constantine) observes a double trail of smoke at 2:00 p.m., but it concludes that the smoke comes from a plane flying at great altitude. At 2:30 p.m., inhabitants of Sétif see an object arrive from the east, emitting bluish smoke trails and moving relatively slowly. After circling above the town for several seconds, it suddenly heads back in the direction of Saint-Arnaud at great speed. Witnesses describe it as it being cigar-shaped and flying at high altitude. Finally, at 4:45 p.m., a large, luminous, rectangular-shaped object is seen over Ouled Djellal (125 miles southwest of Sétif) for over 30 minutes following a rectilinear course. The object comes from the east and disappears toward the west. (ClearIntent, [p. 133](#))
- 1954**, January 25 — The British Air Ministry and the British War Office order airmen and soldiers to tell the public nothing about UFOs. (Harold T. Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, Citadel, 1954, [p. 318](#))
- 1954**, January 25 — 10:00 p.m. A civilian employee and astronomer, [Robert D. Schaldach](#) in the Technical Service Unit at White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico, is setting up his ballistic camera to monitor a missile test. As he looks at the stars to calibrate his instrument, he notices a yellow-white light moving from northeast to southeast in a shallow arc. It pulses in brightness at regular intervals. At the same time, another observer 17 miles to the southeast also sees the object. They perform some triangulation measurements and determine that the object is about 12 miles distant and moving at 12,000 mph. Schaldach says it is not a meteor. Blue Book, no doubt [Hynek](#), labels it as a meteor. (Michael D. Swords, “[Fun and Games in the Desert near Las Cruces](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 20–21)
- 1954**, January 27 — The US successfully launches a Redstone surface-to-surface missile that flies 55 miles from Cape Canaveral, Florida. (Wikipedia, “[PGM-11 Redstone](#)”)
- 1954**, January 28 — Australian Minister for External Affairs [Richard Casey](#) suggests there is a correlation between UFO sightings and “periods of intense meteorite activity.” (“[Flying Saucer Investigations](#),” *Burnie (Tas.) Advocate*, February 1, 1954, p. 9; Swords 374)
- 1954**, January 29 — Afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Whitaker are driving 6 miles south of Santa Ana, California, when they see a round object emitting a blurry light-blue light moving off a hilly field. It passes over their car at an altitude of 25 feet. The radio goes blank and the motor coughs and continues to act roughly after the UFO had gone. Whitaker estimates it is 60 feet in diameter and traveling at 600 mph. It makes a vertical ascent and disappears. ([Schopick](#), p. 5)
- 1954**, February — Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York is founded by [Ted Bloecher](#), Isabel Davis, and [Alexander Mebane](#). The group holds regular meetings, sponsors lecturers, and begins publishing a *CSI Newsletter* in February 1955. It disbands in 1959. (Wikipedia, “[Civilian Saucer Intelligence](#)”; *CSI Publication*, no. 0 (April 23, 1954); Clark III 241)
- 1954**, February — [Clara John](#) begins publishing *The Little Listening Post* newsletter in Washington, D.C., although she claims that she began a form of it in 1948. It continues through August 1965. (*Little Listening Post*, February 9, 1954; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 146)
- 1954**, February — Mr. and Mrs. Forster of Peekskill, New York, see a UFO on the ground with a woman close by. She holds a tube in one hand and a box in the other, wears luminous clothing and a hood over part of her head. Mrs. Forster has to be taken to the hospital in a state of shock. (Dominick C. Lucchesi, “[They Saw a Saucer Woman](#),” *The Saucerian* 2, no. 2 (September 1954): 12–17; Vallée, *Magonia*, [p. 205](#); Clark III 267)
- 1954**, February — Newlyweds [Ernest L. Norman](#) and [Ruth E. Norman](#) found a contactee group, the Unarius Academy of Science, in Los Angeles, California. Ernest, a spiritualist medium, wants the group to promote the interdimensional science of life expounded in the books he has written, all of them channeled psychically from extraterrestrial intelligences. Both claim impressive credentials from past lives. Ruth styles herself the Archangel Uriel and after the death of Ernest in 1971, she becomes the public face of Unarius. Before her death in 1993, she predicts a mass landing of flying saucers in 2001 on a piece of scrubland near the Unarius headquarters in El

Cajon, California. (Wikipedia, "[Unarius Academy of Science](#)"; Clark III 1186–1187; Douglas Curran, *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*, Abbeville, 1985, [pp. 27–37](#))

- 1954**, February 1 — 10:00 a.m. Mrs. W. J. Daily of La Puente, California, sees a silvery, bright, round object through binoculars. It tilts, revealing a fiery-red bottom. The UFO spins and drifts away with an odd-looking vapor trail. A large amount of cobwebby substance falls on her property. She takes three samples to the Mount Wilson Observatory. The material apparently falls over three city blocks, catching on trees, fences, and telephone wires. Mrs. Mel Barnes sees a similar white object spewing the material. (*San Fernando (Calif.) Valley Times*, February 15, 1954; James C. McNamara, "Angel's Hair," *Pageant* 10 (November 1954): 52–56; Olsen, sec. 3, p. 27; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May*, The Author, 1990, pp. 24–25; Story, [p. 19](#); Michael D. Swords, "[Angel Hair: Spindrift between Worlds](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 1 (August 2008): 4–5)
- 1954**, February 4 — 11:00 p.m. A target is detected by the Carswell AFB [now Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth] Ground Control Approach radar, near Fort Worth, Texas, at a distance of 13–15 miles to the southwest. A "mystery aircraft" passes over Carswell tower at just over 3,000 feet. Seen through binoculars, the UFO has a long fuselage, elliptical wings, some kind of stabilizer, a bright light on its nose and tail, two yellowish lights on the bottom, and possible lights on each wing tip. It is silent. The report is sent directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CIA, and NSA. (NICAP, "[Radar/Visual with Two Radars](#)"; Good Above, [pp. 281–282](#), [495–496](#); [Sparks](#), p. 208)
- 1954**, February 13 — [Jim G. Lucas](#) of Scripps-Howard papers reports that representatives of major US airlines will meet in Los Angeles with Military Air Transport Service intelligence officers to discuss speeding up UFO reporting procedures. "Airline pilots are asked not to discuss their sightings publicly or give them to newspapers." ("[Airline Pilots Sighting 5–10 'Saucers' Nightly](#)," *Pittsburgh (Pa.) Press*, February 13, 1954, pp. 1, 3; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), p. 98–99; UFOEv, [p. 134](#))
- 1954**, February 13 — Astronomer [Clyde Tombaugh](#) gives a talk to the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces, New Mexico. He predicts an increase in UFO sightings and tells the audience to keep its eyes open and be ready to report sightings. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), p. 99)
- 1954**, February 15 — American syndicated columnist [Dorothy Kilgallen](#) writes: "Flying saucers are regarded as of such vital importance that they will be the subject of a special hush-hush meeting of world military heads next summer." (Dorothy Kilgallen, "[Voice of Broadway](#)" [column](#), *Dover (Ohio) Daily Reporter*, February 15, 1954, p. 8)
- 1954**, February 15 — *Aviation Week* publishes an article describing new Soviet jet bombers capable of carrying a nuclear bomb to the US. The aircraft is the Myasishchev M-4 Bison. The rumors are soon debated publicly in the press and Congress. The Air Force begins promoting its unfounded myth of a bomber gap, in which the Soviet Union has 500 bombers capable of delivering nuclear weapons. (Wikipedia, "[Myasishchev M-4](#)"; David A. Anderton, "[Pictures Reveal Reds' New 'Sunday Punch](#)," *Aviation Week*, February 15, 1954, pp. 12–13)
- 1954**, February 15 — Morning. [Stephen Darbishire](#), 13, and his cousin Adrian Meyer, 8, set off for an expedition to the Old Man of Coniston, a fell in the Lake District, England, armed with a Kodak box camera. Meyer notices an object above Dow Crag with a silvery, glassy appearance, shining like aluminum. It glides toward them and approaches within 400 yards, travelling at tremendous speed, and then stops suddenly and hovers noiselessly, in the sky. Darbishire takes two photos, which resemble those of scoutships taken by [George Adamski](#) in the US. A probable hoax, although Darbishire still refuses to say anything explicit about the photos, which no longer exist. (Clark III 42; "[Coniston Puzzle](#)," *Flying Saucer News*, no. 9 (Summer 1955): 19; Leonard G. Cramp, [Space, Gravity, and the Flying Saucer](#), British Book Centre, 1955; Good Above, [p. 377](#); David Clarke and Andy Roberts, "[UFO Hoaxing and the Story of Stephen Darbishire](#)," *Magonia*, no. 75 (July 2001))
- 1954**, February 17 — Commercial airline representatives meet with Military Air Transport Service officers at the Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles, California, and are told that pilots are subject to JANAP 146 (CIRVIS) and must radio reports to the nearest airport and make no public statements or face a prison term of 10 years and/or a fine of \$10,000. (Raymond E. Fowler, *Casebook of a UFO Investigator*, Prentice-Hall, 1981, pp. [182–183](#); Good Above, [p. 283](#))
- 1954**, February 19 — CIA agent [Morris "Morse" Allen](#) simulates the ultimate experiment in hypnosis: the creation of a "Manchurian Candidate," or programmed assassin. Allen's victim is a secretary whom he puts into a deep trance and tells to keep sleeping until he orders otherwise. He then hypnotizes a second secretary and tells her that if she cannot wake up her friend, "her rage would be so great that she would not hesitate to 'kill.'" Allen leaves a pistol nearby, which the secretary has no way of knowing is unloaded. Even though she has earlier expressed a fear of firearms of any kind, she picks up the gun and pulls the trigger on her sleeping friend. After Allen brings the "killer" out of her trance, she has apparent amnesia for the event, denying she could ever shoot anyone. (John D. Marks, *The Search for the "Manchurian Candidate": The CIA and Mind Control*, Times Books, 1978, [pp. 182–186](#))

- 1954**, February 20–21 — President [Eisenhower](#) is on a golf vacation at Smoke Tree Ranch in Palm Springs, California, when he breaks the porcelain cap of his “upper left central incisor” and has it repaired by Dr. [Francis A. Purcell](#). However, the incident is not reported in the press, and rumors start buzzing that he made a secret trip to Edwards Air Force Base to view the remains of aliens who had crashed at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. Later stories claim he actually visited with live aliens and conducted a treaty with them. The lack of any dental record from Purcell’s office has fueled the rumors, but Ike’s dental history is thoroughly covered in the November 1995 issue of the *Bulletin of the History of Dentistry*. (“[‘Object’ Studied at Edwards Air Base as ‘Brass Curtain’ Falls around Saucer Data](#),” *Flying Saucer News-Service Research Bulletin* 1, no. 9 (August 20, 1955): 3; Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, pp. 45–48; Riley Crabb, *Flying Saucers and the Coming Space Probes*, The Author, 1959; Michael D. Swords, “[Tales from the Barker Zone](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1992): 4–10; Jerome Clark, “[A Catalog of Early Crash Claims](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1993): 18, 24; James M. Mixson, “[A History of Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Oral Health](#),” *Journal of the History of Dentistry* 43, no. 3 (November 1995): 93–103; Good Need, pp. 208–209; Juan A. Lorenzo Rivas, “[President Eisenhower’s ‘E.T.’ Encounter: What Really Happened at Muroc Base?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 44, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 2–6; Gordon Creighton, “[More on the ‘Muroc’ Story](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 44, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 6–10; Michael E. Salla, “[Eisenhower’s 1954 Meeting with Extraterrestrials: The Fiftieth Anniversary of First Contact?](#)” Research Study No. 8, Exopolitics, February 12, 2004; Peter Carlson, “[Ike and the Alien Ambassadors](#),” *Washington Post*, February 19, 2004; John Joyce, “[Ike’s Space Alien Encounter](#),” The Ike Blog, November 10, 2011; Clark III 330–331)
- 1954**, February 23 — Scripps-Howard papers report that the “nation’s 8,500 commercial airline pilots have been seeing a lot of unusual objects while flying at night, here and overseas.” They confirm that plans for a detailed reporting system were agreed upon at the February 17 meeting in Los Angeles, California, so that the Air Force can investigate quickly. Each airline is to have an “internal security specialist” as a liaison with the military. (“[Flying Saucers Reports System to Be Organized](#),” *Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Tribune*, February 23, 1954, p. 10; UFOEv, p. 134)
- 1954**, March? — Two Native Australians, employees of Arthur Pope, see a UFO at close range at Santa Teresa Mission 50 miles south [more like 20 miles southeast] of Alice Springs, Northern Territory. One named Sonny is riding up over a ridge when a spherical object flies directly toward him then veers away. Sonny feels a heavy wind when the UFO passes. Others see the object, which has a glassy appearance, with four trails of smoke coming from each side. (“[Claims Natives Terrified by Flying Saucer 50 Miles from Alice](#),” *Alice Springs (N.T.) Centralian Advocate*, April 2, 1954, p. 1; Keith Basterfield, “[Alice Springs: 1954 Encounter](#),” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, February 7, 2012)
- 1954**, March — Cincinnati, Ohio, businessman Thomas B. Eickhoff informs [Keyhoe](#) that *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* was “not submitted to the air force for authentication prior to publication,” although it contains official UFO reports. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 108)
- 1954**, March 1 — 6:45 a.m. Castle Bravo is the most powerful nuclear device detonated by the US and its first lithium deuteride-fueled thermonuclear weapon. The test’s yield is 15 megatons of TNT, 2.5 times the predicted 6.0 megatons (due to unforeseen additional reactions involving lithium-7), which leads to the unexpected radioactive contamination of areas to the east of Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. At the time, it is the most powerful artificial explosion in history. Fallout, the heaviest of which in the form of pulverized surface coral from the detonation, falls on residents of Rongelap and Utrik atolls, while the more particulate and gaseous fallout spreads around the world. The inhabitants of the islands are not evacuated until three days later and suffer radiation sickness. Twenty-three crew members of the Japanese fishing vessel [Daigo Fukuryū Maru](#) are also contaminated by the heavy fallout, experiencing acute radiation syndrome. The blast incites international reaction over atmospheric thermonuclear testing. (Wikipedia, “[Castle Bravo](#)”)
- 1954**, March 1 — Morning. Airborne Radar Operator W/O [Olin H. Hasty](#) is aboard an RB-36 controller aircraft monitoring the Castle Bravo test at Bikini Atoll. Shortly after the detonation, the RB-36 is flying at 40,000 feet and Hasty picks up two or three unidentified targets operating above 60,000 feet. From the cockpit the pilot and copilot can see the objects, which are flying in holding patterns above the area of the blast. Task force headquarters advises them that the objects are Canberra aircraft flown by the Royal Australian Air Force on air-sampling missions. However, there is only one British Canberra in the area at the time. (Nukes 110–113)
- 1954**, March 1 — An article in *American Aviation* planted by the Air Force attributes the latest wave of sightings to [Keyhoe](#)’s 1953 book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*. (“The Saucers Again,” *American Aviation* 17 (March 1, 1954): 3; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 104; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May](#), The Author, 1990, p. 49)

- 1954**, March 1 — Numerous bathers at the beaches near Montevideo, Uruguay, observe a metallic disc emitting yellowish reflections. It remains stationary for 2 minutes at an altitude of several thousand feet. (ClearIntent, [p. 133](#); Lorenzen, *The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May](#), The Author, 1990, p. 45; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History, 1954 January–May, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, p. 19)
- 1954**, March 1 — 2:30 p.m. Employees at Carrasco International Airport in Montevideo, Uruguay, watch a strange oval object above the northeast horizon. It changes shape and ejects a smaller body that moves below and behind. An operator named de Rizzardo in the control tower sees an oval object with protuberances, accompanied by a pair of smaller bodies. Chief Controller Pedro V. Ocamp is still fumbling with binoculars as the objects speed away. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May](#), The Author, 1990, p. 45)
- 1954**, March 5 — Evening. At Nouasseur Air Base [now closed] near Casablanca, Morocco, crews of USAF KC-97 aerial tanker planes and a C-54 transport see one or two white or amber objects or lights make passes at the aircraft on collision courses as they practice ground-controlled approach landings. At 7:15 p.m., KC-97 pilots Capt. G. E. Brown, 1st Lt. L. B. Gordon, and 1st Lt. J. P. Glover, 301st Air Refueling Squadron, 301st Bomb Wing, while flying a KC-97 to a practice landing at 1,500 feet about 5-8 miles southwest of the base, see two white lights to the right on an apparent collision course. The KC-97 takes evasive action. Later [at 8:20 p.m.? 9:20 p.m.?], after landing and takeoff, they see the same or similar two white lights on the same course from the south on a collision course and they made an evasive 360° turn. At 7:38 p.m., pilots Capt. Robert R. Zadnick, Lt. Paul R. Fisher, and Lt. George A. Kerr flying another KC-97 at 1,500 feet about 5 miles southwest of Nouasseur base see a light at about the same altitude and to the left, apparently headed west on a collision course. As it crosses, they see 2 lights like jets but with no aircraft running lights. One light passes over and one under the KC-97. At 9:55 p.m., senior pilot Capt. [William M. Pond](#), copilot Lt. I. W. Gilchrist, and navigator Capt. James F. Pullen, while flying a C-54 at 2,000 feet at Nouasseur base see a white or amber light like an aircraft landing light at about the same altitude approaching on a collision course heading west 2–3 miles away. It then turns onto a direct head-on course, passing within 2 miles, then suddenly disappears like turning off a light. It then reappears 10–15 seconds later, hovers, descends to the ground, then rises and disappears behind the C-54 after completing its turn onto final landing approach. No radar or other visual contact is made. (NICAP, [“Aircraft \(2\) Encounter Lights on Collision Course”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 210)
- 1954**, March 5 — A photo supposedly taken near Rouen, France, by a fighter pilot is actually a retouched photo showing the 1950 McMinnville, Oregon, UFO photo taken by [Paul Trent](#). (NICAP, [“RAF Flying Review Photo”](#))
- 1954**, March 8 — 11:07 p.m. A red disc-shaped UFO flies over Laredo AFB [now Laredo International Airport], Texas. It tilts to a vertical orientation and then shoots straight up into the sky. It is reported by a pilot. Ten to twenty nocturnal lights in a crescent formation—possibly a single crescent-shaped object—fly over San Antonio, Texas. They make no sound. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), p. 110)
- 1954**, March 9 — 3:57 a.m. John H. Stewart is driving north on Paddock Road in Cincinnati, Ohio. He sees a bright halo of pulsating, bluish-white light moving slowly toward the south. Inside the halo is a dark, ellipsoidal body, seemingly solid and soundless. The object hovers for 7–8 minutes above the General Electric plant. Stewart estimates its size as a half dollar held at arm’s length and its altitude as 2,000–3,000 feet. The object starts moving to the east, changes color to yellow then red, and disappears straight up. ([“Saucer Marginalia,” CRIFO Newsletter](#) 1, no. 1 (April 7, 1954): 4)
- 1954**, March 10 — JANAP 146 (C), “Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Aircraft and Waterborne Sources.” This directive allows waterborne sources for CIRVIS and adds MERINT reports. Civilian pilots must also report UFOs to the Air Force and refrain from talking about it. (Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Communications–Electronics Committee, [“JANAP 146\(C\) Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Airborne and Waterborne Sources,”](#) March 10, 1954; Good Above, [p. 283](#); Antonio F. Rullán, [“Blue Book UFO Reports at Sea by Ships,”](#) December 10, 2002)
- 1954**, March 10 — [Leonard H. Stringfield](#) founds Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects (CRIFO) in Cincinnati, Ohio. (Clark III 1114)
- 1954**, March 12 — 9:35 a.m. USAF 1st Lt. Robert Johnson, flying an F-86 over Nouasseur Air Base [now closed] near Casablanca, Morocco, chases an object at more than 530 mph for 30 seconds, but is unable to catch it. The object appears to be the size of a fighter plane but has neither tanks nor vapor trails. (NICAP, [“F-86 Chases Object at 500 MPH”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 210)
- 1954**, March 15 — A memo about a recent Project Second Storey meeting show that experiments at [Wilbert B. Smith’s](#) Shirley’s Bay detecting station is running experiments correlating UFO reports with magnetic disturbances and gamma radiation. It recommends looking into as yet undiscovered gravity waves. (Good Above, [pp. 187–188](#); Arthur Bray, *The UFO Connection*, Jupiter, 1979, pp. 70, 191)

- 1954**, Mid-March — [Prince Philip](#), Duke of Edinburgh, invites probable UFO photo hoaxer [Stephen Darbishire](#) to Buckingham Palace in London, England, to relate his story to an aide. A full report of the interview is sent to the duke, who is in Australia. (Good Above, [p. 39](#))
- 1954**, March 18 — 4:25 p.m. Two conservation officers stationed on Hecla Island in Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, are driving their snowmobile across the frozen lake when they see a slim silver object 100 feet long and only 8 feet thick. They watch the object as it changes orientation from vertical to horizontal and back again. They estimate it is 15,000 feet high and 10 miles away. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 69)
- 1954**, March 23 — Capt. [William B. Nash](#) gives a talk at a Greater Miami (Florida) Aviation Association luncheon at the Seven Seas Restaurant and offers his assessment of the Air Force's handling of UFO investigations. He suspects that the Air Force has concluded that UFOs are a real phenomenon, but they fear creating a state of panic by admitting as much. (Michael Hall, "[Was There a Second Estimate of the Situation?](#)" *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 11)
- 1954**, March 24 — Night. Civil Defense Deputy Coordinator Adolph Wagner sees 13 sharply defined triangular objects moving west to east over Baltimore, Maryland, in a V formation. They are glowing a fluorescent blue. From the north, a larger object approaches and stations itself in front of the V. When a commercial airliner appears, the objects split formation. Six execute a sharp turn, the color shifts to purplish, and they head toward the airplane in single file. The other 8 objects continue flying east. ("[Multiple Object Sightings by Creditable Observers Continue.](#)" *CRIFO Orbit* 1, no. 4 (July 2, 1954): 3; UFOEv, [p. 66](#))
- 1954**, March 25 — 3:20 p.m. USMC Capt. [Dan C. Holland](#) is flying one of three jets with the 3rd Marine Air Wing on an easterly heading at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at about 26,000 feet and 400+ mph. He sees a gleaming white, ball-shaped object with a gold ring around the lower third, about 2 times size of his jet, descending vertically on a collision course. He takes evasive action and radios the other jet pilots to look. The object suddenly stops 3,000–4,000 feet above his jet. He banks toward it and activates the gun camera, but the UFO accelerates and disappears to the east at tremendous speed in about 15 seconds. The other two pilots flying ahead of him do not see the object. (NICAP, "[Ball with Golden Rings Stops near F-9F](#)"; "[Pilot's Tale: 'Flying Saucer' Reported.](#)" *Miami (Fla.) News*, March 26, 1954, p. 2; "Saucer Skeptic Sees 'Object,'" *Stars and Stripes*, March 28, 1954, p. 3; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 115–116; [Sparks](#), p. 211; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May*, The Author, 1990, pp. 61–62)
- 1954**, March 28 — 1:25 a.m. Capt. Sperry and his copilot on United Air Lines Flight 600, flying east at 19,000 feet 12 miles east of Cherokee (near Creston), Wyoming, spot a bright green glowing object at 12°–15° above the horizon coming downward at an angle of 30° to the left of vertical and disappearing behind a cloud bank. It is also seen by the pilot of a DC-3 west of Sinclair, Wyoming, at 13,000 feet. (Good Above, [pp. 283–284](#); [Sparks](#), p. 211)
- 1954**, March 28 — Following the success of *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, [George Adamski](#) gives a talk to the Detroit Flying Saucer Club at the Masonic Temple in Detroit, Michigan, which draws 4,700 people. ("[Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame.](#)" The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019)
- 1954**, Late spring — Noon. A family living in a cottage on the outskirts of Norco, California, is sitting down for lunch when they hear a metallic droning sound. The mother and daughter go outside and see an object like a rowboat with a transparent dome, 20 feet long and 10 feet wide, pass slowly overhead, then stop and hover over a nearby tree. Inside the dome are five helmeted men staring at the witnesses. Their "rather long faces" are olive-colored, and their eyes and hair are dark. After a minute the droning sound resumes, and the object takes off slowly. (Donald B. Hanlon, "[Occupants Observed at Norco.](#)" *Flying Saucer Review* 14, no. 3 (May/June 1968): 15–16; Clark III 267)
- 1954**, April — 2:00 p.m. Two male witnesses watch through binoculars a vividly white object hovering high in the sky for 10 minutes above Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. A cone-shaped mist appears on its leeward side, then the object shoots straight up and disappears. (Jessup, *The UFO Annual*, Citadel, 1956; Nukes 114)
- 1954**, April — The Royal Australian Air Force issues its first statement of policy on UFOs, admitting that it does attempt to evaluate reports: "There is no doubt that reliable observers have reported sightings which today are inexplicable within the resources available to the RAAF." ("[R.A.A.F. to Investigate 'Saucers.'](#)" *Lismore (N.S.W.) Northern Star*, May 20, p. 3; Project 1947, "[The Former Air Board / Department of Air / Current RAAF](#)")
- 1954**, April — Oak Park, Illinois, contactee [Dorothy Martin](#) has been channeling entities through automatic writing. One introduces himself as Sananda, who lives on the utopian planet Clarion. She begins typing up the messages in newsletters and distributing them to readers, including Charles and Lilian Loughead from Detroit, Michigan, whom she met in March. (Clark III 717)

- 1954, April 4 — [Keyhoe](#) meets with [Ruppelt](#) at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles, California, and shares recent UFO reports. Ruppelt agrees to write a letter supporting the claim that Keyhoe has used genuine ATIC reports for his book. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 116–120; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 137)
- 1954, April 4–5 — Contactee [George Van Tassel](#) holds the first Giant Rock Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention at Giant Rock, a huge boulder in the Mojave Desert near Landers, California. Speakers include [Orfeo Angelucci](#), [Truman Bethurum](#), [Daniel Fry](#), and [George Hunt Williamson](#). It draws a crowd variously estimated at 2,500–6,000. (“[Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention Draws 6,000.](#)” *San Bernardino County (Calif.) Sun*, April 5, 1954, p. 9; Clark III 531, 717)
- 1954, April 5 — [Keyhoe](#) appears on [The Betty White Show](#) and asserts that, contrary to what the Air Force claims, some UFO reports are kept secret. (“[Former Marine Corps Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe.](#)” *Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat*, April 8, 1954, p. 17; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 117–118; “[Betty White on UFOs with Don Keyhoe et al.](#),” Tom Owens UAP YouTube channel, 2022; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 135–137, 140)
- 1954, April 7 — [Leonard H. Stringfield](#) publishes the first issue of *CRIFO Newsletter*. ([CRIFO Newsletter](#) 1, no. 1 (April 7, 1954; Clark III 1114)
- 1954, April 7 — Publication date of the dubious Majestic-12 Group Special Operations Manual that surfaced on March 14, 1994, when ufologist Don Berliner received a roll of undeveloped 35-millimeter film that had been mailed from La Crosse, Wisconsin, by an anonymous source. When the film is developed, it shows photos of 21 pages from a 31+-page document titled *Extraterrestrial Entities and Technology Recovery and Disposal* and prominently labeled “Top Secret/MAJIC Eyes Only.” The manual contains information on “determination, documentation, collection, and disposition of debris, devices, craft, and occupants” of crashed UFOs. It describes the characteristics of extraterrestrial craft, Extraterrestrial Biological Entities (EBEs), and extraterrestrial technology. Specific types of alien technology are supposedly to be shipped to either Area 51 S-4 at the Nevada Test and Training Range, the Blue Lab at Wright-Patterson AFB WP-61, Building 21 at Kirtland AFB KB-88, or OPNAC BBS-01 (unidentified). ([Extraterrestrial Entities and Technology Recovery and Disposal](#), April 7, 1954; Stanton T. Friedman, *Top Secret/MAJIC*, Marlowe, 1996, pp. 161–184; Philip J. Klass, “‘MJ-12 Special Operations Manual,’ Which Surfaced in Early 1994, Also Is Endorsed by Dr. Wood Despite Its Many Flaws,” *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*, no. 55 (January 1999): 4–6)
- 1954, April 7 — 11:05 p.m. US Navy sailors and Marines, as well as nuclear scientists from Los Alamos and Sandia Laboratories in New Mexico, are aboard the AEC flagship [USS Curtiss](#) cruising between Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the Marshall Islands just hours after the Castle Koon thermonuclear test on Bikini. An unidentified oval-shaped luminous object, yellowish-orange in color, passes silently over the ship from bow to stern, traveling at a high rate of speed and low altitude. Once it is clear of the ship, the object performs some zigzag maneuvers before racing away at high speed. (Nukes 107–109)
- 1954, April 8 — 4:30–5:00 p.m. Lelah H. Stoker of 3121 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois, sees a brilliant white round-topped disc, parachute-shaped, with a humanoid suspended beneath it, skim back and forth over the water of Lake Michigan. Stoker calls the Coast Guard. A cutter appears after 10 minutes, then the UFO approaches the shore. Stoker sees a short human-like occupant in a green, tight, one-piece suit suspended below the object. It gets out in undergrowth along the shore then walks around. When the cutter gives up searching, the occupant returns to the object which moves back over the lake then takes off at high speed to the east. (NICAP, “[Lady Observes Saucer / Small Entity Gets Out](#)”; Clark III 270; [Sparks](#), p. 211)
- 1954, April 11 — [Ruppelt](#)’s letter to [Keyhoe](#) states that the request to clear classified UFO reports came from both AF Intelligence and the Office of Public Information, after which his superiors cleared them; Keyhoe has correctly quoted the ATIC material; the Utah film analysis is classified; a 1953 letter from [Al Chop](#) to Henry Holt & Co. attacking the “silence group” is quoted accurately; and except in a very few cases, ATIC rejects [Donald Menzel](#)’s explanations of halos, sundogs, and mirages for UFOs. (Donald E. Keyhoe, “[The Captain Ruppelt Letters.](#)” *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 2 (October 1961): 6; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 119–120, 307–308; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 138)
- 1954, April 12 — Approximately 7:00 p.m. An anonymous source of [Leonard H. Stringfield](#)’s claims he is stationed at Roswell AFB in New Mexico for special training in the Sikorsky H-19 helicopter when he and his other crew members are scrambled for a flight 35–40 miles to the north-northwest where a silvery UFO has crashed edgewise into the sand. Four small bodies are allegedly scattered outside the craft, clad in dark-blue, tight-fitting uniforms. The informant is ordered to take several photos from different angles while the helicopter hovers at 30 feet altitude. The helicopter then is ordered to land about 100 feet away from the object. Several ground vehicles arrive on the scene and 15–20 men emerge to surround the area. The informant reports an overpowering stench pervading the scene, which causes one man to throw up. He then takes more photos of the crashed UFO and alien bodies. One of the ground crew tells him there are more dead bodies inside the craft. After returning to Roswell AFB he and the others are debriefed by intelligence officers for three days in isolation. On April 15, the helicopter

crew is flown to the site again, where it has been cleaned up as if nothing has happened. He hears a rumor that the UFO has been stored at Hangar 18 on the base. Another rumor goes around that a UFO has also crashed at Bandelier, New Mexico, on April 24. The informant has recurring nightmares about the event for the next 30+ years. (Leonard H. Stringfield, *UFO Crash Retrievals: Status Report III, Amassing the Evidence*, The Author, 1982, pp. 81–85)

- 1954**, April 14 — Night. Capt. John M. Schidel of United Air Lines Flight 193 is forced to make a sharp climbing turn in order to avoid colliding with an unknown object over Long Beach, California. One passenger (Coles Barber) is thrown to the floor and suffers a knee fracture, and stewardess [Naomi J. Penaat](#) breaks an ankle. The object is only in sight for 2 seconds. (“[Two Injured As Airliner Banks in Sudden Turn](#),” *Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 1954, p. II-3; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 130–132)
- 1954**, April 18 — Colin McCarthy and two other men are driving an Austin sedan in the Australian outback near the border of Western Australia and South Australia when a UFO begins pacing them. They snap some 200 photos and take some ciné film of the object. Shortly after they report the incident, a helicopter suddenly appears and lands in front of their car. An RAAF officer gets out, walks over to their car, and confiscates the photos and film. They are never returned. (Stan Seers and William Lasich, “[North Queensland UFO Saga, 1966](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 29, no. 1 (October 1983): 20–21; Good Above, [p. 163](#))
- 1954**, April 18 — Airline pilot [William B. Nash](#) writes to his friend Capt. [William Joseph Hull](#) about the emphatic denials of UFO reality issued by the Air Force shortly after his March 23 speech. He reveals that in August 1952 he was participating in a TV panel in New York City when someone in the WJZ-TV studio said he had just gotten back from Washington, D.C., where he has been given the “whole story” about the National Airport sightings. He claims the Air Force had operated a radio found in a retrieved saucer and that had caused the flurry of sightings. Nash also admits hearing rumors, especially one from syndicated aviation columnist [Robert S. Allen](#), about a pro-UFO report that USAF was going to release in the fall of 1952 but never did. (Michael Hall, “[Was There a Second Estimate of the Situation?](#)” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 11–12)
- 1954**, April 22 — 2:00 p.m. USN Seaman Apprentice James B. Stephens Jr. and Seaman Bernard G. Klein Jr., are driving a vehicle on the Naval Outlying Field San Nicolas Island, California, when they see a 4–6-foot long, gray, cigar-shaped object with a pointed nose traveling just above the ground on a near-parallel course. The object suddenly hits the ground, sends up a cloud of dirt, and disappears from sight. They stop and search for 20+ minutes but find nothing. (NICAP, “[April 22, 1954: San Nicholas Island, Calif.](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 212)
- 1954**, April 22 — 10:30 p.m. Six workers from the Reynolds Metals plant in Jones Mills, Arkansas, are waiting on a carpool near Percy, Arkansas, to go to work when they see a gleaming white ball about 10 feet in diameter float 50 feet above a house. It appears alternately as a sphere and an oblong, and sometimes circles and sometimes hovers above the house for a total of 20 minutes. One man claims it approaches him to within a few feet, causing him to duck behind a car. One of the vehicles has a spotlight that they try to point at the object, but it always avoids the beam. (“Flying Saucer! Flying Ball! 6 Swear They Saw the Thing,” *Hot Springs (Ark.) Sentinel-Record*, April 23, 1954, pp. 1, 3; “[Fire Ball Sighted in Arkansas Skies](#),” *Montgomery Alabama Journal*, April 23, 1954, p. 11; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May*, The Author, 1990, pp. 76–77; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2002, p. 35)
- 1954**, Late April — Afternoon. Roger Mougeolle and Gilbert Doridant are logging in a clearing in a forest area near Bois-de-Champ, Vosges, France, when they hear a noise above them “like the sound of a train passing over a metal bridge.” They then see three metallic, cigar-shaped objects silently approaching them from over a nearby hill. Two pass over them, but the third slowly descends above their clearing and stops only a few feet from the ground. It is over 600 feet long. Doridant flees, but Mougeolle walks toward it and touches it. The object is smooth, cold, and hard like steel. He touches it with his woodsman’s axe, and he is instantly thrown about 18 feet away toward the base of a large rock. He feels paralyzed for a few minutes, but the object ascends and disappears, and he can move again. (Joël Mesnard, “[The ‘Steel Airship’ at Bois-de-Champ \(April 1954\)](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 32, no. 5 (August 1987): 16–19)
- 1954**, April 29 — 10:11 p.m. An unidentified illuminated object is seen above the Second Army Radio Station, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, by the supervisor radio operator and two coworkers, Cpl. Flath and Pfc. Hough. Described as round, the color of the sun, and 3–4 times the size of a star, the UFO appears in the southwest, blinking on and off. As it reaches the station, it stops blinking and disappears by going straight up. The sighting lasts 7 minutes. (Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May*, The Author, 1990, p. 86; Good Above, [p. 281](#))

- 1954, May** — [Ruppelt](#)'s article appears in *True* magazine. It features his investigations of the Lubbock Lights and the DesVergers case for Project Blue Book. (Edward J. Ruppelt, "[What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers](#)," *True*, May 1954, pp. 18–30, 124–134; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 138–140)
- 1954, May** — Midnight. Capt. Uthai Lunayattajata is on a training flight with a student, flying out of the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base near Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. While flying toward the city at an altitude of 3,000 feet, he sees an orange fireball about 6 feet in diameter approaching his T-6 Texan on a parallel course to his right. It passes them at 800–1,000 mph. The control tower reports no other aircraft in the area. Lunayattajata makes a 180° turn to the right to follow it, and he notices a smaller fireball, blue in color, that is apparently attached to the orange ball. Before he completes the turn, the fireball makes a fast half-circle and appears about 600 feet off his tail, reduces its speed, and paces them for a short distance at their speed of 140–160 mph. They notice that the center of the orange fireball is dark. After 20 seconds it increases speed, flies ahead, and makes a right-hand climbing turn. Lunayattajata chases it up to about 5,000 feet but cannot get close, and it disappears in the distance. ("[Pilot of Royal Thai Air Force Describes Encounter with UFO over Korat](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 7 (October 7, 1955): 3)
- 1954, May 1** — 11:55 p.m. A large explosion is heard, felt, and seen over an 8-mile area near Logan, Utah. The blast nearly upsets cars, throws open heavy doors, and sends an earthquake-like shock through the area. Some people report seeing a glowing ball before the explosion; other witnesses report a flash of light at ground level. [Lincoln LaPaz](#) investigates, along with [J. Stewart Williams](#) and [Clyde T. Hardy](#) at Utah State Agricultural College [now Utah State University]. LaPaz says it is either a falling object of an explosive nature or buried high explosives set off by pranksters. A crater 16 feet in diameter and at least 6 feet deep is found, but no debris, even though LaPaz digs down 25 feet for five days. Nearly 50 years later, Theron Blazzard admits to the *Logan Herald-Journal* that as a geology student at Utah State he had detonated some dynamite at the spot because he had to dispose of it in order to move out of state. ("[Meteor Sought in Crater after Logan Explosion](#)," *Salt Lake Tribune*, May 3, 1954, p. 21; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 138–139; Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, pp. 223–224; "[Friday Finishers: When Meteor Mania Struck Cache Valley](#)," *Logan (Utah) Herald-Journal*, November 30, 2018)
- 1954, May 5** — 4:45 p.m. Sydney Baker is at a radar post in the RAAF Woomera Range Complex in South Australia when he notices a gray, circular object at 60,000 feet maneuvering around an English Electric Canberra aircraft he is monitoring from about 35 miles away. It appears to be traveling three times as fast as the Canberra. He watches it for about 5 minutes before it shoots out of sight to the south at about 3,600 mph. The same object is apparently tracked on Woomera radar at approximately the same time. (NICAP, [case documents](#)]; Bill Chalker, *The Oz Files: The Australian UFO Story*, Duffy and Snellgrove, 1996, p. 85; Swords 381–383; Bill Chalker, "['Tommy Leader': Tom Dalton-Morgan and the 3% UFO Solution](#)," *TheOzFiles*, June 25, 2024)
- 1954, May 7** — Naval radar around Washington, D.C., tracks a huge object maneuvering at 90,000 feet and moving down to 15 miles altitude. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 144–145)
- 1954, May 8** — [George King](#) is washing dishes in his flat in Maida Vale, London, England, when he receives a psychic message telling him that he has been chosen to be the voice of the Interplanetary Parliament. Several days later, while he is in a meditative trance, an Indian yoga master enters his flat and tells him he has been selected to act as the Primary Terrestrial Channel for messages from cosmic intelligences who are visiting Earth. (Douglas Curran, *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*, Abbeville, 1985, p. 63; "[Dr. George King's Initial Contact in May 1954](#)," The Aetherius Society YouTube channel, April 15, 2010)
- 1954, May 12** — 12:45 a.m. Three USAF Air Policemen (A/1C [Mason W. Augst](#), A/1C George F. Wright, and A/1C Elmer A. Cruver) are standing guard next to a hangar at National Airport in Washington, D.C. They see a formation of two UFOs fly over the Capitol building. The objects are glowing white. They appear just above the horizon to the northeast in a straight line, make a 90° turn, then move away to the south. The objects reappear twice more, at 1:15 a.m. and 2:10 a.m. Each pass takes 45 seconds. (Edwards, *FS—Here and Now!*, Lyle Stuart, 1967, pp. 84–85; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, January–May*, The Author, 1990, p. 94; [Sparks](#), p. 212)
- 1954, May 12** — 4:00 p.m. White, silky filaments fall in strands averaging 30 feet in length over Shepparton, Victoria, Australia. A witness gathers some and, although they become wrinkled, they do not disintegrate. An analysis indicates in is a "pure white, silky, odorless, warm on touch like cotton, and different from cobwebs." The threads are not sticky and stretch easily. It resembles raw silk or nylon, is not water soluble, and burns rapidly. (Keith Basterfield, "[Angel Hair: An Australian Perspective](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 6–7; Brian Boldman, "[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#)," *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 101)
- 1954, May 14** — Around 12 noon. A flight of Marine Reserve jets led by Maj. Charles Scarborough is headed north near Dallas, Texas. At a point 6 miles west of the city, Scarborough sights 16 unidentified objects in groups of four, dead ahead but at higher altitude, 15° above. He radios Capt. Roy L. Jorgensen, whose jet he has in sight by its contrail. Jorgensen, at a higher altitude, sees the UFOs below his left wing. Just as the two pilots try to box in the

UFOs, Scarborough sees them fade from glowing white to orange and disappear, apparently speeding away due north. Triangulation shows that the UFOs were at about 32,000 feet. (NICAP, "[Four Navy Fighters Encounter 16 UFOs](#)"; "[4 Jet Fighters Report Race with 'Saucers' over Dallas](#)," *Dallas (Tex.) Times Herald*, May 18, 1954; "[4 Pilots Report Flying Saucers over Dallas Area](#)," *Abilene (Tex.) Reporter-News*, May 18, 1954, p. 8-B; UFOEv, p. 32; [Sparks](#), p. 213)

- 1954**, May 15 — Gen. [Nathan F. Twining](#), USAF Chief of Staff, speaking at an Armed Forces Day dinner at Amarillo AFB [now Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport], Texas, says that the Air Force has the best brains in the country working on the "flying saucer problem." He adds that about 90% of the reports are pure imagination, with the rest unexplained. ("[Air Force Looks into 'Saucers](#)," *Miami (Fla.) Herald*, May 17, 1954, p. 38; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 145–146)
- 1954**, May 18 — [Frank Edwards](#) mentions CRIFO on his radio program, and within a week [Stringfield](#) gets 6,000 letters. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [pp. 10–11](#))
- 1954**, May 20 — FBI officials recommend that Attorney General [Herbert Brownell Jr.](#) authorize FBI break-ins to install bugs during national security investigations. The FBI would seek the Attorney General's prior approval, as with wiretaps. Brownell concurs, but concludes that he "would be in a much better position to defend the Bureau in the event there should be a technical trespass if he had not heretofore approved it." His directive empowers the FBI to break into homes and offices and install surveillance microphones without having to notify him or obtain advance approval in each case. The FBI has carte blanche on this until 1965. (Bernie Horowitz, "[Wiretapping and J. Edgar Hoover](#)," Unredacted, December 20, 2010)
- 1954**, May 24 — 12:25 p.m. While flying on a photographic mapping mission 10 miles west-northwest of Richmond, Indiana, in a B-17, USAF Maj. [Leo N. Brubaker](#) observes and photographs a bright object below the plane for 45 seconds. The aircraft is flying at an altitude of 18,500 feet at 253 mph. The speed of the object is estimated at 506 mph. The object travels six miles at that speed. The photos are taken with a USAF T-11 mapping camera. Brubaker denies the object is a sundog. (NICAP, "[B-17 Photographic Mission Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 213)
- 1954**, May 28 — Test pilot [Arthur W. Murray](#) reaches an unofficial record altitude of 90,440 feet in a Bell X-1A. (Wikipedia, "[Arthur W. Murray](#)")
- 1954**, May 29–31 — The first conference of European and North American political, business, finance, academic, and media leaders later to become known as the Bilderberg group, meets at the Hotel de Bilderberg in Oosterbeek, Netherlands. Its agenda, originally to prevent another world war, is now defined as bolstering a consensus around free market Western capitalism and its interests around the globe. The first meeting is initiated by several people, including Polish politician-in-exile [Józef Retinger](#) who, concerned about the growth of anti-Americanism in Western Europe, proposes an international conference at which leaders from European countries and the United States would be brought together with the aim of promoting Atlanticism. Retinger approaches [Prince Bernhard](#) of the Netherlands who agrees to promote the idea, together with former Belgian prime minister [Paul van Zeeland](#) and the then-head of Unilever, [Paul Rykens](#). (Wikipedia, "[Bilderberg meeting](#)")
- 1954**, May 30 — 12:25 a.m. David Reese, [Christopher Muir](#), and four others are at the doorstep of a house in East Malvern, Victoria, Australia, when they see an orange, oval-shaped UFO appear in the sky at close range. The UFO maneuvers in a downward curve and then pulls up. A cloud of yellow smoke and flame is seen at the rear. Three of the witnesses see shapes that look like human-shaped shadows inside the craft. (Bill Chalker, *The Oz Files: The Australian UFO Story*, Duffy and Snellgrove, 1996, p. 79; UFO Evidence, "[Human Figures Seen in Saucer](#)"; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 January–May*, [Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, pp. 46–50)
- 1954**, June 1 — 9:30–9:40 a.m. TWA pilot Capt. [Charles J. Kratovil](#), copilot W. R. Davis, and flight engineer Harold Raney, on a Paris to New York TWA Constellation heading southwest, spot near Boston, Massachusetts, "a large, white-colored disc-like object" overhead, occasionally losing it behind overlying clouds. Flying into west-southwest headwinds at 300 mph, they conclude it cannot be a balloon, and radio Boston airport control tower, which tells them jets are scrambled. They then see the object at about 10,000 feet higher than their 10,000 feet altitude but cannot close with the object. (NICAP, "[TWA Crew Spot White Disc / Kratovil Case](#)"; "[Flying Saucer Seen by Pilots in Boston Area](#)," *New York Daily News*, June 2, 1954, p. 42; "[Pilot Sights a 'Flying Disk](#)," *New York Daily News*, later ed., June 2, 1954, p. 5; "[Saucer Sightings](#)," *Flying Saucer News* 1, no. 1 (March 1955): 8; James E. McDonald, "[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, pp. 68–69; [Sparks](#), p. 214)
- 1954**, June 1 — The Air Force announces that it only received 87 UFO sightings in January–April. ("[Most 'Saucers' Explainable](#)," *Traverse City (Mich.) Record-Eagle*, June 1, 1954, p. 5)

- 1954, June 5** — 6:23 p.m. Janette Brown, 16, is standing on Princes Highway (M1) at Dandenong, Victoria, Australia, when she hears a loud drumming noise. A large, dark cylinder, about 30 feet long and 15 feet high with a canopy and window on top and a window at each end, appears above a nearby factory. She shines a flashlight on it, and it whirrs toward her. It hovers about 60 feet away. Her friend, Jeanette Johnston, 13, arrives and watches it before it disappears behind trees. Janette's wristwatch stops, although it starts running again when it is demagnetized. The case is investigated for the RAAF by University of Melbourne physicist O. H. "Harry" Turner. ("Saucer" Terrifies Two Schoolgirls," *Melbourne (Vic.) Argus*, June 9, 1954, p. 3; "'Saucers' Do Exist—And Why!" *Melbourne (Vic.) Argus*, June 26, 1954, p. 7; Bill Chalker, "UFOs: Sub Rosa* Down Under The Australian Military and Government Role in the UFO Controversy, Part 3)," *Project Red Book* 6, no. 6 (February 2003): 13–14; UFO Evidence, "[Teenage Girls See Saucer](#)")
- 1954, June 7–8** — PIO Capt. Robert White at the Pentagon repeats the 87 reports statistic from June 1 and counters that reports are at a three-year-low because of less publicity. [Stringfield](#)'s colleague, Cincinnati, Ohio, businessman Tom Eickhoff, storms into the office of ATIC Deputy Commander of Intelligence Col. [John O'Mara](#) and demands that ATIC press legal action against contactees [Truman Bethurum](#), [George Adamski](#), and [George Hunt Williamson](#). O'Mara replies that these people are obvious hoaxers and need no special action. But he lets slip that USAF fighters regularly carry movie cameras to take photos of UFOs. Eickhoff says that is a big waste of money if there is nothing to UFOs. O'Mara then states to Stringfield the next day that the Air Force actually receives 700 UFO reports a week, the 87 figure only applies to cases under "special analysis," over 1,000 leading scientists are working on government UFO projects, the material used by [Keyhoe](#) in his book was not cleared through official channels, and the Utah film exists but only shows conventional objects. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 157–160; "700 'Saucer' Sightings Weekly Reported to Air Force," *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (July 2, 1954): 1; "[Proof of Air Force Cover-Up](#)," *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 4 (July 2, 1954): 1–2; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, pp. 85, 167–168; Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, pp. 137–138; Frank Edwards, *Flying Saucers—Here and Now!* Lyle Stuart, 1967, p. 86; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 142)
- 1954, June 8** — Contactee Frances Swan of Eliot, Maine, has been in telepathic contact with Affa, a spaceman from Uranus, since 1954. She manages to impress her next-door neighbor, retired Adm. [Herbert B. Knowles](#), sufficiently for him to write Rear Adm. [Carl F. Espe](#), head of the Office of Naval Intelligence. He encloses some of Affa's transcribed messages and suggests that ONI try to communicate with Affa through Band CMM-306, repeating the signal M4M4 AFFA. Two ONI officers, Captains John Bromley and [Harry Baltazzi](#), visit Swan and through her interview Affa, who agrees to communicate with them by radio on June 10. When that does not happen, Espe writes to Knowles saying that ONI will pursue the matter no further. He turns the letters over to the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics. (Clark III 1118; "[The Obscure Case of Contactee Frances Swan with Alien Contact through Automatic Writing and Channeling](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 27, 2023)
- 1954, June 9** — Col. [Frank Milani](#), director of Civil Defense in Baltimore, Maryland, demands that the Air Force ease its restrictions on UFO information and blasts its policy on [Lou Corbin](#)'s radio show. ("Every Woman's Hour (WFBR Radio) with Helen Brooks and Lou Corbin, Special Broadcast, 'Unidentified Flying Objects,' Wednesday, June 9, 1954," transcribed in Project 1947; "A Lot of People Are Upset," *Washington (D.C.) Daily News*, June 10, 1954; "Opinions," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 1 (July 1954): 11–12; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 157–160; Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, pp. 137–138; Project 1947, "UFO Reports, 1954"; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, June–August*, The Author, 1990, pp. 11–12)
- 1954, June 12?** — [Keyhoe](#) and [Edwards](#) find out about the [O'Mara](#) interview, and Edwards puts it on his radio broadcast, generating more press calls to ATIC. Capt. [Charles A. Hardin](#), head of Blue Book, states that "Colonel O'Mara's words were misinterpreted. What he meant to say was that if all the sightings were reported to the Air Force, they would total about 700 a week." (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 157–160; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, June–August*, The Author, 1990, pp. 11–14)
- 1954, June 12** — 11:30 p.m. [Walter L. Tatspaugh](#) of Hyattsville, Maryland, observes a large bluish-green oval or round object circling and hovering in the sky for at least 45 minutes. The Baltimore GOC Filter Center allegedly tracks an object on radar over Wilmington, Delaware, for an hour. Two F-86D fighters are scrambled but cannot reach it. (NICAP, "[Object Tracked / Jets Scrambled](#)"; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 161–162; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, A History: 1954 June–August*, The Author, 1990, p. 18)
- 1954, June 14** — A UFO is again tracked over Wilmington, Delaware, flying in a rectangular course at 75,000 feet for more than 2 hours. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 161–162; UFOEv, p. 66)
- 1954, June 18** — 7:35 p.m. Monsignor [Émile Élie Verhille](#), Apostolic Vicar of Fort-Rousset [modern Owando, Republic of the Congo], reports in the Brazzaville newspaper *La Semaine de L'akf* that he and others had seen a UFO over Laketi Mission in the Mossaka District. A luminous globe arrives from the north and heads towards Laketi. It suddenly stops, rises and falls, stops again, gyrates, and seems to shake. A noise like that of an airplane engine is

heard until the moment when it also stops. Seen through binoculars, the object has a dark mass in the center with light rays of unequal length coming out of it alternately. It goes through its maneuvers for 15 minutes then shoots back over the northern horizon. (ClearIntent, [p. 134](#))

- 1954**, June 21 — 1:00 a.m. Near Ridgeway, Ontario, [Guy](#) and [Valeria Baker](#) see a hovering, domed disc about 40 feet in diameter with several rotating, flashing lights around the rim. They drive to get a closer look. The object crosses the road in front of them and lands in a field. The car stalls, and they watch as the lights move around the area. They find a large, brown, circular spot in the pasture where the disc has been resting. ([Schopick](#), pp. 6–7; Valeria Baker, [[Letter](#)], *Canadian UFO Report* 4, no. 2 (Spring 1977): 22; Mark Rodeghier, [UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference](#), CUFOS, 1981, p. 2; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 June–August, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, pp. 12–13)
- 1954**, June 22 — 8:14 p.m. An unidentified radar blip located over central Vancouver Island, British Columbia, responds to coded IFF Mode 1 signals from the Naselle Air Force Station radar site [now Fort Stevens Historic Site] in southwestern Washington State, and instantly transmits back the correct coded responses. The blip is tracked on 3 ground radars at both Naselle and McChord AFB [now Joint Base Lewis-McChord] in Tacoma. The UFO splits into two (or consists of two objects in close formation), separates, and outmaneuvers one of two F-86D jet interceptors, both of which also radar-tracked the UFOs. Possible visual sightings of the radar target are called in to sheriff's offices and news media. The case is forwarded to Project Blue Book, but it does not appear in its files. (NICAP, "[Coded IFF Signal from UFO](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 215)
- 1954**, June 23 — 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. Pilot Capt. [Harry Roe Jr.](#), flying an Ohio Air National Guard F-51 Mustang fighter at 240 mph from Dayton to Columbus, Ohio, sees a round white object with no exhaust trailing him in the same position a little above and behind at close range, possibly detected on airborne radar. Roe maneuvers to try to lose it or collide with it, but the UFO remains in relatively the same position until it departs to the southeast. S/Sgt Maynard Harris at Wright-Patterson AFB picks up the plane and the UFO on radar. He scrambles two F-86s in the Columbus area to check it out, but they see nothing. At 10:00 p.m., Maj. Frank J. Gshwandtner and 2nd Lt. Robert P. Lommori, flying in the Columbus area in an RB-47E aircraft, observe a white object the size of a baseball at 25,000 feet. The object is extremely fast and makes a gradual turn to begin a slight climb. It then flies out of sight. The duration is 30 seconds. (NICAP, "[F-51 Trailed by Object / Lt. Roe Sighting](#)"; NICAP, "[Something Follows C-47 and Observed by RB-47 Crew](#)"; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 167–168; [Sparks](#), p. 216)
- 1954**, Late June — Some 300 people in West Berlin, Germany, see three silvery UFOs on several occasions. Moving in a zigzag motion and accelerating at high speed. Rudolf Hermes, a director at Tempelhof Airport [now closed], says the witnesses describe the objects as "shiny." ("[Triangle Saucers Reported Seen near Berlin](#)," *Lancaster (Pa.) Sunday News*, July 4, 1954, p. 19)
- 1954**, June 26 — Around 7:30 a.m. A metallic blob is seen high in the sky near Columbus, Ohio. According to a newspaper article, a crew of an airliner is asked to investigate; the crew circles under the object while the 60 passengers take a look. Zanesville Radio says at 5:55 a.m. a round, silvery object is detected on an azimuth of 80°. At 5:35 a.m., an Air Force charter flight, No. 46 AF 23-24 to Wilmington, Delaware, flying at 3,000 feet observes an object in the Zanesville, Ohio, area at approximately 18,000 to 20,000 feet. (NICAP, "[Airliner Investigates Strange Object](#)"; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 168–169)
- 1954**, June 27 — The Obninsk Nuclear Power Plant, at the Institute of Physics and Power Engineering in Obninsk, Kaluga Oblast, Russia, becomes the first grid-connected nuclear power plant in the world. The plan achieves criticality on May 6 and now is set up to provide electrical power to Moscow. (Wikipedia, "[Obninsk Nuclear Power Plant](#)")
- 1954**, June 28 — [Keyhoe](#) replies to a letter from [Ruppelt](#) asking him for business advice after his retirement from the Air Force. Keyhoe advises: "If you didn't have to travel out of your area, you would make some money. They'd want about a 30-minute talk, for noonday clubs; 45 minutes to an hour for evening talks. My trouble was that I was scheduled for isolated talks involving expensive travel—to Milwaukee, Kansas City, Buffalo, etc. Considering the lost time, plus expenses, I figure I barely broke even; however, I did it at first in order to get more people talking about my book. I learned later that one good TV program, on a network, is worth twenty such lectures, probably worth a hundred of them." (Curt Collins, "[Donald E. Keyhoe: From Saucers to Swamp Gas](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, September 14, 2023)
- 1954**, June 29 — 5:03 p.m. A BOAC Stratocruiser leaves New York City bound for London, England. 30 minutes later, Capt. James R. Howard receives directions from Boston Air Traffic Center to hold his position over the Rhode Island coast. Howard circles for 10–12 minutes, after which Boston tells him to detour over Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Around 11:30 p.m. while crossing at 19,000 feet near Sept-Îles, Quebec, Howard, his copilot Lee Boyd, and navigator H. McDonnell see a large cigar-shaped object and six smaller black ovals moving the same speed as his airliner, 265 mph, on a parallel course. The small objects are strung out in a line, changing relative

positions but always at the same level. The large object slowly and continually changes shape, “in a way that a swarm of bees might alter its appearance.” They appear opaque, hard-edged, gray in color, with no lights or flames visible. Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador, orders an F-94 to vector toward the location. Just as Howard is giving the pilot his position, the small objects disappear. McDonnell says they enter the large object. As the F-94 approaches, the large object dwindles in size and disappears. Howard lands at Goose Bay and is questioned by RCAF and USAF officials (McConnell says they take the flight logs); when he lands in London, the Air Ministry does the same, telling the pilots they viewed a solar eclipse (which took place at 7:00 a.m. on June 30). Howard later hears that there are UFO sightings in Massachusetts while he is in a holding pattern, and he contests in the December 11 issue of *Everybody's Magazine* that what he saw was solid, not a mirage. [Gordon Thayer](#) of the Colorado project identifies the objects as superior mirages, reflections of the “dark terrain below seen against the bright, ‘silvery’ sky to the left of the setting sun,” a “phenomenon so rare that it apparently has never been reported before or since.” [James McDonald](#) disagrees. In 2010, ufologist [Martin Shough](#) reexamines the case and concludes that the object might well have been an unusual mirage. (NICAP, “[BOAC Stratocruiser Case](#)”; “[Flying Saucer, 6 Butter Chips Chase British Airliner near U.S.](#),” *Long Beach (Calif.) Independent*, July 2, 1954, p. 8; James Howard, “[We Were Shadowed from Outer Space](#),” *Everybody's Weekly*, December 11, 1954; John Carnell, “[BOAC's Flying Jellyfish](#),” *Fate* 7, no. 11 (November 1954): 16–23; Leonard Cramp, “[Mystery over Labrador](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1955): 6–8; UFOEv, [p. 126](#); James E. McDonald, “[Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” in *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Hearings, US House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 90th Cong., 2nd Sess., July 29, 1968, p. 46; Condon, [pp. 139–140](#); “[Are They 'Projections'?](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 3 (November 1981): 1–2; “[A Record Put Straight](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 6 (June 1982): 1–2; James Howard, “[The BOAC Labrador Sighting of 1954](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 27, no. 6 (June 1982): 2–3; Phillip Robertson, “[Some Considerations on the Seven Isles, Quebec, Canada, Case of June 29, 1954](#),” May 31, 1991; Good Above, [pp. 189–191](#); “[Captain James Howard Reflects on His Sighting of 1954 \(BOAC\)](#),” nutsandbolts ufo YouTube channel, March 7, 2009; Martin Shough, “[Study of an Unusual Phenomenon Observed by BOAC Aircrew over Labrador, Newfoundland, June 29, 1954](#),” September 2009; “[BOAC Pilot Case of 7-2-1954 – Capt. James Howard](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; “[BOAC Pilot Case of 7-2-1954 – Stewardess Daphne Webster](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Martin Shough, “[The BOAC Labrador Sighting of June 29, 1954](#),” *Caelestia*, October 31, 2018; Kevin D. Randle, “[Coast to Coast AM: The Labrador Sighting from 1954](#),” *A Different Perspective*, March 31, 2023; [Sparks](#), p. 216; Clark III 195; Covert 54–55)

1954, June 30 — 2:17 p.m. Johnny Björnulf and Raun Conradi are aboard one of three Scandinavian Airlines planes flying above the Lifjell plateau, Telemark, Norway, to observe a total solar eclipse. Conradi takes some footage through a window on the north (port) side of one airplane. When developed it shows two small light sources that are fairly obvious window reflections, but media coverage causes much confusion about the circumstances under which the film is shot. (“[Pictures of Solar Eclipse Shows Saucer-Like Objects](#),” *Hanford (Calif.) Sentinel*, July 7, 1954, p. 1; E. Graham, “[Scandinavian Eclipse Expedition Films U.F.O.s](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1956): 6–7; UFOEv, [p. 5](#); Clas Svahn, “[The Björnulf Solar Eclipse Film](#),” *Clas Svahns Blogg*, October 6, 2006)

1954, June 30 — 6:50 p.m. Four civilians and several military personnel at Brookley AFB [now Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley] in Mobile, Alabama, see a brilliant silver or white object with short stubby wings approach from the south, circle over Mobile, then depart to the northeast. A radar contact at 6:30 p.m. with a stationary object is evidently unrelated anomalous propagation. (NICAP, “[Object with Short Stubby Wings Tracked on Radar](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 216)

1954, Summer — [George Hunt Williamson](#) spends a few months in Noblesville, Indiana, working at Soulcraft Publications, run by mystic and fascist [William Dudley Pelley](#). Mostly he contributes UFO news for the magazine, but some of Pelley's antisemitic attitudes creep into Williamson's later writings. (Clark III 1285; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechieri, 2016, pp. 100–103)

1954, Summer — Late night. A young girl in Arbutus, Maryland, wakes up when a bright light shines into her bedroom window. Looking outside, she sees a triangle of brilliant white lights parallel to the ground, illuminating everything, hanging in the air, and pointing directly at her. All of a sudden they are gone. For the next two days, she has a fever that forces her to stay home from school. (Michael D. Swords, “[Timmerman's Triangles](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 17)

1954, Summer (or Summer 1955) — Evening. Dianne Vezza and two other teen girls are sitting in a backyard in Marietta, Ohio, when they see a star-like light moving at great speed. Suddenly it comes to a dead stop and two other stars speed in and come to an abrupt stop. The three objects form a perfect triangle. An oval object then becomes

visible as the starlike objects disappear. Two other oval objects take up the same triangular position with the first. They then begin a light display with wildly colored lights that continues for a few seconds. The lights go out, and each of the objects beams a bright white light to the center of the triangle. The beams meet in the center for a few seconds and then go out. The oval objects disappear and the starlike lights return, but they soon speed off in different directions faster than a jet. The display is completely soundless. (Michael D. Swords, "[Another Type of UFO Display](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 2 (January 2006): 11)

- 1954**, July — A saucer-buff zine titled *Nexus* is first published by [James W. Moseley](#) in New Jersey. (*Nexus* 1, no. 1 (July 1954); Clark III 1032; Curt Collins, "[Saucer News Archives: The Historic UFO Magazine by Jim Moseley](#)," The Saucers That Time Forgot, September 28, 2023)
- 1954**, July 2 — 11:05 a.m. An F-94C Starfire takes off from Griffiss AFB [now Griffiss Business and Technology Park] in Rome, New York, on an operational training mission. It is only a few miles out when the Griffiss control tower orders the plane diverted to intercept an unidentified aircraft. When Pilot Lt. William E. Atkins cannot find the aircraft, the controller tells him about a second unidentified aircraft, which Atkins identifies as an Air Force C-47. The control tower vectors him back to the first target. Atkins cannot see any aircraft above the cloud cover, so he descends below the clouds. During the descent, a furnace-like heat fills the cockpit and the engine plenum chamber fire warning light goes on. Atkins shuts the engine off, but the light remains on. Atkins and his radar man, Henry F. Coudon [or Condon], eject, landing without injury. At 11:27 a.m., the plane crashes into the town of Walesville, west of Utica, striking a building and an auto, killing 4 people, and injuring 5 others. Atkins tells reporters about the heat but clams up under Air Force pressure. The official investigation confirms the fire was caused by a malfunction of the fire detector circuit. There is no evidence of an in-flight fire. [Kevin Randle](#) suspects a balloon is responsible for one of the radar targets, because an apparent balloon is sighted later, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., in a 25-square-mile area from Rome to Frankfort, New York. ("[Abandoned Jet Kills 3 in Car, 1 in House](#)," *New York Times*, July 3, 1954, pp. 1, 6; "[Jet Plane Crashes in Flames, Kills 3 in Auto, One in House](#)," *Syracuse (N.Y.) Post-Standard*, July 3, 1954, pp. 1, 3; NICAP, "[The Walesville Incident / F-94 Crash](#)"; Kevin D. Randle, "[Walesville Revisited](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 3–5; Frank J. Reid, "[Keyhoe's Context](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 6–7, 28–29; Kevin D. Randle, "[Walesville UFO Jet Chase](#)," A Different Perspective, March 28, 2009; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 174–177; Condon, [p. 161](#); Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, [pp. 22–23](#); "['Balloon' Excites Utica](#)," *New York Times*, July 3, 1954, p. 13)
- 1954**, July 3 — Nine green spheres hover, speed away at 2,600 mph, and are tracked on radar at 24,000 feet 20 miles north of Albuquerque, New Mexico. (UFOEv, [p. 85](#))
- 1954**, July 3 — 8:15 a.m. The captain, officers, and 463 passengers of a Dutch ocean liner watch a "greenish-colored, saucer-shaped object about half the size of a full moon" speed across the sky and disappear in clouds. (Ruppelt, [p. 237](#)) [same as July 29 entry?]
- 1954**, July 8 — 9:25 p.m. Amateur astronomer [Harold Hill](#) is at his observatory in Orrell, Greater Manchester, England, when he sees a bright star in the southern sky that he at first thinks is a supernova. Soon it resolves itself into a bright, metallic globe with a cluster of 15–20 smaller, dimmer objects moving around. Clouds intervene and when they clear, he sees two bright objects, gyrating and flashing and moving slowly around each other. The objects are at a great altitude, because even through binoculars they have "shown no sensible size." The total time of the observation is 25 minutes, after which clouds obscure the objects from view. ("[Strange Sight Seen over... Wigan](#)," *Flying Saucer News*, no. 6 (Summer 1954): 7; "An Unusual Sky Phenomenon," *Strolling Astronomer* 9 (1955): 48; "[Through the Telescope: Lights on the Moon](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 9 (December 2, 1955): 2–3; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: January 1, 1947–December 31, 1959*, The Author, 2003, pp. 80–81)
- 1954**, July 9 — *Die Weltwoche* in Zürich, Switzerland, publishes two letters by psychologist [Carl Jung](#), who says he has been interested in UFOs since 1946, but he has difficulty comprehending what they might be, since they seem to have both subjective and objective properties. (Clark III 636–637)
- 1954**, July 11 — UK Air Chief Marshal [Hugh Dowding](#) states in an article in the London *Sunday Telegraph* that "I am convinced that these objects do exist and that they are not manufactured by any nation on earth. I can therefore see no alternative to accepting the theory that they come from some extraterrestrial source." ("[I Believe In Flying Saucers](#)," London *Sunday Dispatch*, July 11, 1954, p. 6; UFOEv, [p. 122](#); Good Above, [pp. 47–48](#))
- 1954**, July 14 — A fake memo, supposedly written by or for [Robert Cutler](#), special assistant to President [Eisenhower](#), to Gen. [Nathan Twining](#), indicates that an MJ-12 briefing should take place at the White House July 16. Cutler is in Europe at the time of the memo, although the memo could have been prepared by NSC Executive Secretary [James S. Lay Jr.](#) or his associate, J. Patrick Coyne. (Robert Cutler, "[Memorandum for General Twining: NSC/MJ-12 Special Studies Project](#)," July 14, 1954; Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study, "[Majestic-12](#)"; Stanton T. Friedman, "[MJ-12: The Evidence So Far](#)," *IUR* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1987): 14–18; Stanton T. Friedman, *Top*

Secret / MAJIC, Marlowe, 1996, pp. 86–102; [“Majestic-12 or ‘MJ-12’ Reference Report,”](#) US National Archives, September 29, 2020)

- 1954**, July 20 — Two men are chased in their car by a UFO near Oslo, Norway, and stop to observe it. Afterward, one of the witnesses’ watches stops working and the car’s paint changes color. (Vallée, *Magonia*, p. 207)
- 1954**, July 20–21 — [Ruppelt](#) visits the Project Blue Book office at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio to gather information for his upcoming book. He is told that all UFO publicity is handled by a lieutenant colonel in Air Force intelligence. He writes in an August 3 letter to [Keyhoe](#): “They claim to have gotten the unknowns down to about 10% but from what I saw this was just due to a more skeptical attitude. The reports are just as good as the ones we got and their analysis procedures are a hell of a lot worse.” (Donald E. Keyhoe, [“The Captain Ruppelt Letters,”](#) *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 2 (October 1961): 6; Clark III 1023)
- 1954**, July 23 — The US Navy issues a new directive that orders the immediate reporting of UFO sightings (FLYOBRTs) to the director of AFOSI, ATIC, commanding officer of Eastern ADC, director of Naval Intelligence, commanding officer of the Eastern Sea Frontier, and the commandant of the Potomac River Naval Command. The directive cites JANAP 146, AFR 200-2, OPNAV 3820, and Directive 3820.2 and is intended to plug leaks coming from navy and marine personnel. It is unpublicized but unclassified, so it threatens disclosure of AFR 200-2, which is still classified. USAF begins work on a new version of AFR 200-2 without the “restricted” label. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 188–189, 309–311)
- 1954**, July 24–25 — A security officer at the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics develops a personal interest in the Frances Swan contact case and accepts Adm. [Knowles](#)’s invitation to Eliot, Maine, to visit with Swan. On his return, he gives the FBI a report on his visit. On July 29 an FBI agent interviews him, and on August 9 [J. Edgar Hoover](#) sends an account of the interview to Rear Adm. [Carl F. Espe](#) and to the Army’s Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. Hoover writes, “No further action is being taken in this matter by this Bureau.” (Clark III 1118)
- 1954**, July 25 — Policeman J. H. Flanagan and friends see 6 UFOs over Enkeldoorn [now Chivhu], Zimbabwe. Nearly stationary, they are visible for about 20 minutes and disappear when night falls. (ClearIntent, p. 134)
- 1954**, July 28 — [Wilbert Smith](#), at the invitation of retired Navy Adm. [Herbert B. Knowles](#), visits contactee Frances Swan in Eliot, Maine, his neighbor. Her two space friends, Affa and Alomar, direct Swan’s hand to draw a series of circles demonstrating the use of magnetic fields in spacecraft propulsion. Smith asks the aliens to communicate by radio at an appointed time a few days later, but the message does not come through. Nevertheless, Smith attempts to decipher the alien charts in hopes of learning how to build a saucer for Canada. (Clark III 1079–1080, 1118)
- 1954**, July 29 — Capt. Jan P. Bos and five officers of the Dutch ocean liner [Groote Beer](#) see a moon-like object rising out of the Atlantic Ocean 90 miles east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. They watch it through a sextant, allowing them to estimate its rate of ascent at a half degree in 2 minutes. (Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954, June–August](#), The Author, 1990, p. 60)
- 1954**, July 31 — 12:40 a.m. The Atomic Energy Commission’s National Reactor Testing Station near Idaho Falls, Idaho, is suddenly lit up by a blinding glow that explodes in the night sky. Kelly Brooks and A. L. Taylor say the source of the light remains motionless for a few seconds, then shoots upwards at a tremendous speed. (“AEC Workers Again See Strange Lights,” *Idaho Falls Post Register*, August 2, 1954, pp. 1, 9; “Idaho AEC Workers Sight Mysterious Light in Sky,” *Nampa Idaho Free Press*, August 3, 1954, p. 10; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), p. 168)
- 1954**, August — 10:30 p.m. An astronomer sees a bright white disc, 20 times the apparent size of the moon, moving from west to northeast at a high rate of speed over Park Hills, Kentucky. The seemingly solid object is about 100 feet in diameter and flying at an altitude of 500 feet. It disappears abruptly after 3–4 seconds. (“[Astronomers and UFO’s: A Survey, Part 2, Sightings](#),” *IUR* 2, no. 4 (April 1977): 3)
- 1954**, August 1 — 11:15 p.m. Desmond O’Reilly and others at Templeogue Tennis Club in Dublin, Ireland, watch an object fly over the Dublin Mountains in the direction of Howth. Initially he thinks he is looking at a meteor because he can only see it when it passes by gaps in the clouds. He watches it split into two pieces. (*Irish Times*, August 5, 1954; Shane Cochrane, “Ireland vs. the Flying Saucers,” *Fortean Times* 317 (September 2014): 54)
- 1954**, August 1 — 11:30 p.m. P. D. McCormack sees a bluish-white object flying at 1,000 mph at an altitude of 5,000 feet above the Dublin Mountains, Ireland, to the south. The trails seem to “fall away from the object at each side.” Two men fishing in the River Dargle near Powerscourt, County Wicklow, see a rocket-shaped object dropping balls of fire. At 11:35 p.m., on the North Beach in Rush, County Dublin, Mrs. W. Gray and others watch an object “like a bright electric bulb” fly overhead from the mountains and out to sea. Possible meteor. (*Irish Times*, August 3, 5, 1954; Shane Cochrane, “Ireland vs. the Flying Saucers,” *Fortean Times* 317 (September 2014): 54)
- 1954**, August 2 — The US Joint Chiefs of Staff direct the establishment of a Continental Air Defense Command. Secretary of Defense [Charles Erwin Wilson](#) announces the command’s formation publicly later in the month to

integrate “the air defense capabilities of the three military departments into an air defense system responsible to the control of one military commander.” (Wikipedia, “[Continental Air Defense Command](#)”)

- 1954**, August 4 — 11:00 p.m.–12:00 midnight. Ten firemen and their chief observe two flying saucers over The Hague, Netherlands. The objects are seen in the clear night air at a high altitude. They move at incredible speed, at times remaining motionless for as long as 30 seconds. They are described as flat ovals with whitish-gray light. All agree that the objects are neither aircraft or balloons. (ClearIntent, [p. 134](#))
- 1954**, August 6 — A bright white ball shoots across the sky over Santa Fe, New Mexico, leaving a luminous trail that persists for 15 minutes. Meteorite expert [Lincoln LaPaz](#) says it is not a meteor. It apparently disrupts TV signals and aircraft transmissions, but not ham radio. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [p. 226](#))
- 1954**, August 7–8 — One of the first UFO meetings in California is held on the slopes of Palomar Mountain, with lectures by [George Adamski](#), [Daniel Fry](#), [Truman Bethurum](#), and [Desmond Leslie](#). (“[Palomar Mountain, 1940–1960: From Obscurity to World Fame](#),” The Adamski Case, September 22, 2019)
- 1954**, August 8 — 3:01 p.m. Project Magnet’s only UFO incident of note occurs when the Shirley’s Bay, Ontario, gravimeter indicates a greater deflection in the gravitational field than a conventional object would cause. Heavy clouds obstruct [Wilbert Smith](#)’s view of the sky. (Clark III 1079; “[Wilbert B. Smith](#),” Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study; Good Above, [p. 186](#))
- 1954**, August 10 — The Canadian Department of Transport officially folds Project Magnet but permits [Wilbert Smith](#) to continue using its facility on his own time at no expense to the government. Smith continues his work privately until his death in December 1962. (Story, [p. 276](#))
- 1954**, August 11 — [Frank Edwards](#) is fired by his sponsor at the Mutual Broadcasting Network, the American Federation of Labor. He had offered to resign on August 7, citing a conflict over the type of material he has been required to report on, including AFL interests and [George Meany](#)’s personal outlook. His UFO reportage may or may not be an issue. (Clark III 435; Frank Edwards, “[The Plot to Silence Me](#),” *Fate* 10, no. 6 (June 1957): 17–23)
- 1954**, August 11 — 8:54 p.m. A1C Chase E. Lewis, tower operator at Lawson AFB [now Lawson Army Airfield] in Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, sees a strange stationary object in the west. It varies in brightness, changing color from white to red to orange to white again, with seemingly high-speed motions. An Army helicopter piloted by WO R. T. Wade is sent to investigate; he locates the object 20 miles west of Lawson at 2,000 feet. Wade abandons the chase due to low fuel after 2 minutes. At 9:05 p.m., two additional tower operators (including A1C William N. Watson) view the object. A second Army helicopter, piloted by U. S. Tarma, is diverted to the object at 9:27 p.m. He sees it, but it disappears at 9:29 p.m. (NICAP, “[Two Helicopters Encounter Venus \(CIRVIS\)](#)”; Good Above, [pp. 284–285](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954, June–August*, The Author, 1990, pp. 77–80; [Sparks](#), p. 219)
- 1954**, August 11 — 8:55 p.m. P. L. Percharde, electrical engineer and assistant manager of the Moeller Shipwrecker Company, of Okinawa, sees a line of blue lights underneath a blue circle with a black center fly over the *SS Docteur Angier* off Yoron-Jima, Japan, and climb, illuminating and agitating the clouds. (Patrick Gross, “[Disk Seen from SS Docteur Angier, August 11, 1954](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 219)
- 1954**, August 12 — 2:29 a.m. Four military men on US Army helicopters at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, see a glowing red disc soar around the base tower. There are both ground and air witnesses, as well as radar-visual confirmation. (Good Above, [pp. 284–285, 493–494](#))
- 1954**, August 12 — An updated version of AFR 200-2 is issued by the Department of the Air Force and declassified by Air Force Chief of Staff [Nathan Twining](#). The public can now know that the 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron was brought in to assist ATIC (Blue Book) with preliminary and field UFO investigations, and that USAF considers UFOs to be “any airborne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features, does not conform to any presently known aircraft or missile type, or which cannot be positively identified as a familiar object.” It lists the objectives of UFO reporting as: “First as a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces, and secondly, to determine technical aspects involved.” (Department of the Air Force, “[Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting](#),” Air Force Regulation 200-2, August 12, 1954; Good Above, [pp. 489–492](#))
- 1954**, August 16 — 5:00 p.m. A green ball is seen in the sky over Tananarive [now Antananarivo], Madagascar, and disappears behind a hill. It reappears a minute later and flies over the higher part of Tananarive. When the object flies in front of them, some witnesses see a lentil-shaped device with a silvery metallic aspect enveloped in electric luminous gas. According to Jean-Luc Bruneau, inspector general at the Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique, Gen. [Charles de Gaulle](#) is concerned about this sighting and quietly approves having a French study group involved with investigating UFO cases. (“[1954, Tananarive, Madagascar: Multiple Witnesses to UFOs](#),” UFO Casebook, July 30, 2008; Gildas Bourdais, “[From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 11; Patrick Gross, “[Tananarive, Madagascar, August 1954](#)”; “[Madagascar](#)