

[Multiple Witness CE-II of 8-16-1954 – Edmond Carpraunac](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013)

- 1954**, August 20 — Morning. Edith Jacobsen, 24, and Åsta Solvang, 32, are on a blueberry-picking trip to Øyfjellet, near Mosjøen, Norway, with their uncle, Halvdan Jacobsen. The two sisters wander off to a fen when suddenly they see a man in the distance. They approach him and he smiles and stretches out his hand, but he only brushes Edith’s palm with it. He has long hair with a natural wave, a dark complexion, and a tight-fitting suit with a wide belt. He begins to talk but they can’t understand him. It does not sound like Norwegian, English, German, Spanish, French, or Russian. He takes out a “little mirror” from a pocket and with something like a pencil draws circles, apparently representing planets. He finally indicates he wants the women to accompany him and he takes them to a landed disc in a clearing. It is gray-blue and looks like two giant pot lids put together. He makes a sign to not come too close, then he opens a hatch on the top, crawls in, and shuts the door. The sisters hear a faint humming and the UFO rises while rotating on its own axis. (“[Flyvende tallarken med en mann landet ved Mosjøen!](#)” *Harstad Tidende*, August 25, 1954, p. 1; Gordon Creighton, “[Mosjøen: An Early Norwegian CE-III Case](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 34, no. 2 (June 1989): 1–7; Clark III 267–268)
- 1954**, August 23 — 1:00 a.m. Businessman [Bernard Miserey](#) has just parked his car in a garage at Vernon, Eure, France, when he notices a sudden illumination. He sees an object like an enormous (300 feet long) cigar standing on end, hovering above the north bank of the Seine River about 1,000 feet away. Suddenly from the bottom of the object comes a horizontal disc that drops, slows, and suddenly dives horizontally across the river at him. It vanishes at a high rate of speed toward the southwest. Three other discs follow in sequence. A fifth disc drops much lower than the earlier ones and remains still for an instant, swaying slightly. During this time the cigar has faded and sinks into darkness. The spectacle has lasted 45 minutes. Two police officers and an Army engineer also see the display. (Clark III 293; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954, June–August](#), The Author, 1990, pp. 77–80; [Sparks](#), pp. 85–86; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” February 2, 2007; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects and Cloud Cigars](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 4–5)
- 1954**, August 26 — 9:35 p.m. Crowds of people in Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland, see an object traveling at great speed over Bray Head. It is a brilliant blue light, traveling at “2,000 miles an hour” toward the sea before changing direction and moving toward Wicklow. (*Irish Times*, August 27, 1954; Shane Cochrane, “Ireland vs. the Flying Saucers,” *Fortean Times* 317 (September 2014): 54)
- 1954**, August 28 — 8:30 p.m. Several USAF fighter pilots pursue a triangular formation of 15 objects near Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, tracked by ground radar. As the jets approach, the formation breaks, changes to a semicircle, and the objects speed up and vanish to the west. (NICAP, “[USAF Fighters Report Formation Tracked by Radar](#)”; Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 25–26; [Sparks](#), p. 220)
- 1954**, August 29 — A witness in Mérida, Venezuela, sees a large, intensely yellow, glowing object moving at great speed from west to east. When it reaches the Sierra Nevada de Mérida, it suddenly stops and two disc-shaped blue objects emerge from it. All three continue to the east and disappear behind buildings. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 58)
- 1954**, August 29 — 11:05 p.m. First Officer H. G. Gardner and Engineer J. V. D. Whitisy, flying on a Royal Dutch Airlines DC-4, see 3–4 dark, lens-shaped objects over Prins Christianssund radio and weather station, Greenland. They veer north and change position in formation. (NICAP, “[Lens-Shaped Objects Veer North](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 220)
- 1954**, August 30 — The Atomic Energy Act goes into effect, covering the development, regulation, and disposal of nuclear materials and facilities in the US. It makes it possible for the government to allow private companies to gain technical information about nuclear energy production and the production of fissile materials. (Wikipedia, “[Atomic Energy Act of 1954](#)”; Dustin Slaughter, “[UAP Disclosure Act Challenges Department of Energy Secrecy](#),” *The UAP Register*, September 18, 2023)
- 1954**, August 30 — Contactee [Dorothy Martin](#) of Oak Park, Illinois, and Charles and Lilian Laughead of Detroit, Michigan, send out a 7-page press release announcing that a geological disaster will cause great environmental changes in North America and Europe. It warns that December 20 will be the last available date for evacuation, as a great flood will strike on December 21. Martin and her followers hope to board a landed flying saucer before doom falls. (“[The End of the World](#),” *The Saucerian* 3, no. 2 (Spring 1955): 4–7, 55–60; Leon Festinger, Henry Riecken, and Stanley Schachter, [When Prophecy Fails](#), University of Minnesota, 1956; Wikipedia, “[When Prophecy Fails](#)”; Clark III 718; Julie Beck, “[The Christmas the Aliens Didn’t Come](#),” *The Atlantic*, December 18, 2015)
- 1954**, August 31 — 7:10 p.m. RAN Lieutenant J. A. “Shamus” O’Farrell is returning to HMAS *Albatross* Naval Air Station near Nowra, New South Wales, after a night cross-country in a Hawker Sea Fury aircraft. After contacting Nowra, O’Farrell sees a very bright light closing fast at one o’clock. It crosses in front of his aircraft, taking up position on his port beam, where it appears to orbit. A second and similar light is observed at nine o’clock. It

passes about a mile in front of the Sea Fury and then turns in the position where the first light was observed. According to O'Farrell, the apparent crossing speeds of the lights are the fastest he has ever encountered. He has been flying at 250 mph. O'Farrell contacts *Albatross*, which in turn confirms that it has two radar "paints" in company with him. Radar operator Petty Officer Keith Jessop confirms the presence of 2 objects near the Sea Fury on the GCI remote display. The two lights reform at nine o'clock and then disappear on a northeasterly heading. O'Farrell can only make out "a vague shape with the white light situated centrally on top." The Directorate of Naval Intelligence at the time writes that O'Farrell is "an entirely credible witness" and that he "was visibly shaken by his experience but remains adamant that he saw these objects." News of the incident leaks out in December, but the official RAN file remains classified until 1982. (NICAP, "[Sea Fury Encounter](#)"; Swords 379–380; 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. 70; Good Above, [p. 162](#); An Adelaide UFO Researcher, "[The 'Sea Fury' Radar Incident Revisited](#)," 2017; "[The Sea Fury Incident](#)," Australian Disclosure Project, April 30, 2006; Bill Chalker, "[The Australian Government and UFOs](#)," *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 18–19)

1954, August 31 — Deputy Department of Transport Minister [John Baldwin](#) closes the Shirley's Bay, Ontario, UFO station to save money, although he says [Smith](#) can work on his own time. ("[Saucer Station Closes](#)," *The Saucerian*, no. 6 (Spring 1955): 12; Clark III 1079)

1954, September 1 — The Continental Air Defense Command is established, primarily to defend the continental United States against air attack. It is also tasked to support US commanders in the Pacific, Atlantic, Caribbean, Alaska, Northeast, and of Strategic Air Command in their missions to the maximum extent consistent with its primary mission. ADC's commander, Gen. [Benjamin W. Chidlaw](#), becomes the first CINCONAD, and USAF is designated as the executive agency. (Wikipedia, "[Continental Air Defense Command](#)")

1954, September 2 — Dusk. John Jacob Swaim, 12, is working on a tractor at his family's farm in Coldwater, Kansas, when he sees a small man about 3 feet tall with long, pointed ears and a pointed nose standing in a crouched position about 20 feet away. It is dressed in a shiny garment and has two cylinders strapped on its back. The being floats to a nearby UFO hovering 5 feet from the ground. The next day his father and Sheriff Floyd Hadley find pear-shaped footprints, wide at the toes and tapering to a narrow heel. ("[Pint-Sized Man with Pointed Ears Flees in Saucer' As Boy Approaches](#)," *Wichita (Kan.) Beacon*, September 8, 1954, pp. 1A, 1C; "Lad Spots Weird Little Man Who Takes Off in a 'Cucumber Ship,'" *Hutchinson (Kan.) News*, September 15, 1954; "[Footprints Found at 'Saucer' Scene](#)," *Lincoln (Nebr.) Star*, September 24, 1954, p. 8; "[Little Man in Kansas Wheat Field](#)," *The Saucerian*, no. 6 (Spring 1955): 12–13; Clark III 270–271; Curt Collins, "[A Flying Cucumber Comes to Kansas, Sept. 1954](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, February 23, 2018)

1954, September 3 — 4:30 p.m. USAF Maj. [Robert J. Waste](#) and the 9-man crew of his B-47 bomber are flying at 25,000 feet in the vicinity of Dallas, Texas, on their way to Barksdale AFB in Bossier City, Louisiana. Carswell AFB [now Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth] in Texas directs them to be on the lookout for unusual objects. The crew discovers they are being paced by a missile-shaped object only 100 feet overhead that is slightly larger and longer than their own fuselage. It has two rows of oval-shaped portholes along the sides and an orange exhaust. The bottom of the object seems to be glowing. After pacing the B-47 a short time, it shoots ahead and zooms upward at incredible speed. Carswell tells them to pursue, but they can't keep up. The UFO then descends to within 300 feet of the bomber and begins circling it. The UFO stays with the plane, pacing it above and below, and performing figure-eights and other maneuvers for over an hour. Two other B-47s in the squadron are behind the lead bomber and also view the object. The UFO finally shoots upward and disappears again. Waste takes 32 frames of 35mm color film of the UFO with his personal camera, but his film and that of his copilot is confiscated during a 3-day debriefing at Barksdale. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 September, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, pp. 1–2; Paul Cerny, "[Close Encounter at 25,000 Feet: Government Coverup](#)," *IUR* 8, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1983): 6–7)

1954, September 7 — 12:30 a.m. Robert Chovel and two others are driving home from the theater in Hirson, Aisne, France, when they see a luminous red-orange disc flying above the railroad tracks. It stops suddenly across the road, 900–1,200 feet from the ground. When the car reaches the bridge at Buire, the object shoots away at great speed. (ClearIntent, [p. 134](#); Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," May 12, 2003)

1954, September 7 — 7:15 a.m. Two bricklayers, Emile Renard, 27, and Yves de Gillaboz, 23, see a bluish-gray object floating less than 2 feet above a beet field as they are bicycling between Harponville and Contay, Somme, France. It looks like an unfinished haystack "with a plate turned upside down on top of it." It has a diameter of 33 feet, and they notice it has a kind of door. Some black smoke appears to be issuing from a pipe in its base, which is oscillating. The observation lasts more than 3 minutes. They walk toward the object, but when they are about 500

feet away it rises rapidly about 50 feet, slows down, then heads northwest, disappearing in the fog. (Aimé Michel, *Straight Line*, p. 35; Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," March 20, 2003)

- 1954**, September 8 — 11:00 p.m. Thomas Farquhar sees a "large oval-shaped disc," crackling and hissing, fly over Derryhubbert, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. He thinks it is about 3 feet wide and flying at a height of 2,000 feet. Daniel McWilliam and James Bingham, in Carrickfergus, County Antrim, see a rocket soar into the sky and explode silently. Mr. L. Hauser is on a boat leaving Belfast when he sees a rocket come up out of the sea and explode when it reaches about 15,000 feet. (*Belfast Telegraph*, September 9–11, 1954; Shane Cochrane, "Ireland vs. the Flying Saucers," *Fortean Times* 317 (September 2014): 54)
- 1954**, September 9 — 2:20 a.m. Mr. K. M. Gibbons of Nelson, New Zealand, gets out of bed and sees through the window three discs hovering above a mudflat 3 miles away in a V-formation. They radiate a blue-white light from their edges. He grabs a camera with a telephoto lens and takes a photo. After 5 minutes, the discs begin to wobble, tip on edge, then shoot vertically out of sight. Other reports come from the area that morning. The photo shows a blurry oval with a small dark area on top. ("[Foreign Sightings and New Zealand's First Genuine Photos of Saucers](#)," *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 8 (November 5, 1954): 5–6; UFOEv, [pp. 89, 92](#); Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [opp. p. 96](#))
- 1954**, September 10 — 8:30 p.m. Antoine Mazaud is walking home from his fields at Mourieras, north of Bugeat, Corrèze, France, when he is confronted by a helmeted being of average height who makes friendly gestures. It shakes hands with him and embraces him while uttering unintelligible words. Then it goes back into the brush, enters a cigar-shaped object about 13 feet long, which takes off to the northwest. A few minutes later, witnesses in Limoges report a disc-shaped, red object leaving a bluish trail. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," June 21, 2005; Mark Cashman, "[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 18)
- 1954**, September 10 — Around 10:30 p.m. 34-year-old metal worker Marius Dewilde comes out of his house at Quarouble, Nord, France, to see why his dog is barking. He hears hurried footsteps on his right and with his flashlight sees two creatures just beyond his fence walking in single file toward a dark object sitting on the railroad tracks. The creatures are about 3.5 feet tall with wide shoulders, short legs, and helmets covering large heads. No faces or arms are visible. When he tries to cut them off and gets within 6 feet, he finds himself paralyzed as a powerful orange beam of light is projected at him from a square opening in the dark object. The creatures continue toward the railroad tracks, a door closes, the dark object rises to 100 feet, hovers, and speeds away. Five imprints on three wooden railroad ties are found, made by an object that an engineer estimates must have weighed 30 tons. French police and the French Air Force investigate the case. (Wikipedia, "[Marius Dewilde](#)"; "[2 Little Armless Men 'Visit' Frenchman in Flying Saucer](#)," *Minneapolis (Minn.) Morning Tribune*, September 14, 1954, p. 9; "[In France, Rumors Are Flying... Or Maybe They Are Saucers](#)," *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star*, October 18, 1954, p. 4; "[Martians over France](#)," *Time*, October 25, 1954; "Astral Adventurers: Frenchmen Report Meetings with Unlikely Creatures," *Life*, November 1, 1954, p. 29; Gray Barker, "[Europe Invaded by Little Men](#)," *The Saucerian* 3, no. 1 (January 1955): 15–17; Aimé Michel, *Straight Line*, 44–46; Marc Thirouin, "[Marius Dewilde n'a pas menti](#)," *Ouranos*, no. 25 (1960): 20–25; Vallée, *Magonia*, [pp. 17–18, 209](#); Loren E. Gross, *UFOs: A History, 1954 September*, 1991, pp. 18–20; Jean F. Gilles, "[The Bankruptcy of the French UFO Research Body, GEPAN](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 28, no. 5 (June 1983): 15–16; Mark Cashman, "[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 18; Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," July 22, 2004; James Miller, "[Seeing the Future of Civilization in the Skies of Quarouble: UFO Encounters and the Problem of Empire in Postwar France](#)," in Alexander C. T. Geppert, ed., *Imagining Outer Space: European Astroculture in the Twentieth Century*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, pp. 245–264; "[1954 MF #UFOB \[CASE\] Marius Dewilde Saw a UFO Land, Two Beings Walking Around](#)," UFOB | Your UAP Library YouTube channel, September 15, 2022; "[Marius Dewilde 10 septembre 1954](#)," Dailymotion [Pathé video and Temps X show]; Covert 27)
- 1954**, September 12 or 13 — Late afternoon. A witness is driving a van in the vicinity of Quarouble, Nord, France, when he sees a domed disc descending vertically into a small thicket about 160 feet off the road and land. He can see a kind of gallery around the dome where human-like beings are standing. He stops the car, gets out, and walks toward the object, but when he gets closer the object shines a green ray at him. The disc immediately ascends vertically, then moves gently away. His paralysis ceases. A rush of air shakes him at the time it takes off. (Marc Thirouin, "[Marius Dewilde n'a pas menti](#)," *Ouranos*, no. 25 (1960): 25; Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," March 23, 2006)
- 1954**, September 14 — 5:00 p.m. Farm worker Georges Fortin, 34, and more than 200 other witnesses in Saint-Prouant, Vendée, France, watch a cigar or carrot-shaped UFO as it emerges from a cloud, tilts toward the ground, hovers, and then elevates its front end quickly into a vertical position. It emits vapor from its lower end. Next, a metallic disc-shaped object flies out, spins around the cigar, and then reenters the vertical object. (Aimé Michel, *Flying*

Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery, Criterion, 1958, pp. 23–26; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954 September, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, pp. 9–10; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” July 2, 2004; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects and Cloud Cigars](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 5; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Cloud Cigars: A Further Look](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 10–12; Clark III 293; Martin Shough and Wim van Utrecht, “[‘Cloud Cigar’ over Saint-Prouant, France](#),” June 13, 2011)

- 1954**, September 14 — Night. Several people see a circular UFO over Helsinki, Finland. Flying at 2,600 feet, it gives off an intense light and leaves a trail of reddish smoke about 3 times its diameter. It is visible 7 seconds. (ClearIntent, p. 134)
- 1954**, September 15 — Ijapada Chatterjee, the manager of the Kadori mica mine, and hundreds of others watch a disc descend to an altitude of 500 feet over three adjoining villages (Kadori, Barshi, and Mangalda) in the Manbhum district, West Bengal, India. It hovers, then soars upwards at terrific speed, creating a tremendous gust of wind. The UFO is over a mine that supplies beryllium for the US Atomic Energy Commission. (“800 Biharis See Flying Saucer,” *Times of India* (Bombay), October 3, 1954; “[India](#),” *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 10 (January 7, 1955): 3–4; UFOEv, p. 124; Olsen, sec. 3, p. 33; Project 1947, “[UFO Reports, 1954](#)”)
- 1954**, September 16 — 6:00 a.m. The radio transmitter for WMEV in Marion, Virginia, fails as a round, shiny object, 10–15 feet in diameter, flies over the tower toward the east. (“[Flying Saucers Are Sighted in Virginia](#),” *Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer-Journal*, September 17, 1954, p. 44; [Schopick](#), p. 79)
- 1954**, September 17 — Around 4:45 p.m. Hundreds of people see a UFO over Rome, Italy, making staccato thunder sounds as it hovers. It makes a brief dive, returns to position, then zooms straight up, leaving a stream of white smoke behind. Around 5:45 p.m., Lt. Bruno Giustiniani and other personnel at a military unit at Ciampino Airport in Rome see it as a “half cigar” moving at 179 mph at 3,500 feet. Blue Book receives a teletype about the object, saying it is in the shape of a jellyfish when stationary but in the shape of a cigar when in motion. At 6:49 p.m., radar at Pratica di Mare Air Base south of Rome picks up a target for 20–45 minutes, plotting a slow course along the coast. (Michael Chinigo, “[‘Flying Cigar’ in Rome’s Sky](#),” *San Francisco (Calif.) Examiner*, September 19, 1954, p. 16; “[Case File Review](#),” *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 7 (October 1, 1954): 7, 8; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954 September](#), The Author, 1994, pp. 24–27; IPinotti 54–58)
- 1954**, September 17 — 7:15 p.m. A widow named Mellé sees a luminous, orange-yellow, cigar-shaped object near her villa in Gelles, Puy-de-Dôme, France. Her neighbors also see it and watch for 5 minutes. Possible contrail. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 11, 2006)
- 1954**, September 18 — 8:15 p.m. A Mr. Guffitta is driving along the coastal road in Casablanca, Morocco, when he sees a gray disc diving toward him in his rear-view mirror. He ducks instinctively and the object passes him on the left at ground level and at a terrific speed. It is followed by a strong gust of cold air that blows the car to the left. The object disappears in the distance ahead of him. (Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 60)
- 1954**, September 18 — 8:30 p.m. A round glowing UFO is seen approaching then hovering above Danané, Ivory Coast, by many people: a Catholic priest named Fr. Myard, the local chief of police, a Dr. Mariani, a businessman named Sory Diallo, and a group of women. The object moves again at 9:05 p.m., changes from a circle to an ellipse, then flies away. (Aimé Michel, *Straight Line*, 61; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954 September](#), The Author, 1994, pp. 28–29)
- 1954**, September 18 — 8:40 p.m. A huge green fireball streaks across Colorado and New Mexico. It zooms above Santa Fe, New Mexico, giving off a blinding glare and takes 30 seconds to cross the sky, disturbing TV and radio signals. [Lincoln LaPaz](#) remarks that it does not seem to be an ordinary meteor. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 198–199; Ruppelt, p. 47; [Sparks](#), p. 220)
- 1954**, September 19 — 10:00 p.m. Yves David, 28, is riding his moped on the D-1 road south of Cenon-sur-Vienne, France, when his headlight begins malfunctioning and he feels a prickling sensation like electricity. He sees a 9-foot-long UFO in the road ahead and a small man in a diving suit coming toward him. It touches David on the shoulder, mutters something incomprehensible, and returns to the object. The object emits a green light that temporarily stuns David before it takes off. (Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 58–59; Clark III 269; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 20, 2003)
- 1954**, September 20 — 9:00 p.m. Elie Cisterne, a farm worker in the hamlet of La Chassagne, Ussac, Corrèze, France, is returning home on his tractor when he sees a luminous object coming toward him. He jumps off the tractor and lies down, fearful, as the object stops a short distance above the road and hovers silently for several minutes. Cisterne runs away when the UFO starts moving again, flying over his tractor and into the distance. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” December 29, 2005)
- 1954**, September 21 — 9:45 p.m. A guard at the Santa Maria Airport in Vila so Porto, Azores, sees a 10 x 5-foot, light metallic blue, pecan-shaped object with a clear glass or plastic nose and door, poles or aials on its nose. It hums or whines as it hovers, then lands vertically 50 feet away. A blond man, 5 feet 10 inches tall, appears, speaks in a

strange language, pats the guard on the shoulder, gets in the object, hooks up his harness, pushes a button, takes off with the object's nose pointed up, then levels off and climbs vertically. (NICAP, "[Blond Humanoid Reported by Airport Guard](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 220)

- 1954**, September 21 — [Leonard Stringfield](#) has a private talk for 26 minutes with Lt. Col. [John O'Mara](#), USAF Deputy Commander for Intelligence, who tells him that flying saucers do exist—three types, actually: a craft from outer space, a secret US aircraft, and unexplained natural phenomena. (Leonard Stringfield, "[Private Talk with Lt. Colonel John O'Mara, Deputy Commander, Intelligence, Confirms the Existence of 'Flying Saucers.'](#)" *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 7 (October 1, 1954): 1; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 143)
- 1954**, September 22 — Shortly after 8:00 p.m. Mme. Gamundi is driving on the N7 north of Fontainebleau, France, when she notices a light in the sky. She stops and gets out and sees a huge luminous ball hanging motionless. It is reddish and surrounded by a luminous, moving smoke. Suddenly, another bright ball emerges from the bottom, falls, slows, turns, and disappears at high speed. At least 4 other objects emerge. When an aircraft from Orly Airport approaches, the ball rises at high speed and disappears. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," April 9, 2006)
- 1954**, September 22 — 11:00 p.m. Jean Besse, a draftsman for a power company in Tulle, Corrèze, France, watches a UFO through binoculars. It changes color three times in a few seconds. Probably astronomical. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," March 23, 2006)
- 1954**, September 23 — Afternoon. Several residents of Bayonne, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France, see three mysterious objects high in the sky. One witness, policeman M. Corriens, says they are arranged in the shape of a triangle. Possible helicopters. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," April 20, 2006)
- 1954**, September 23 — 9:00 p.m. Irene Vrignolles sees a "flying cigar" that lands slowly in a meadow behind a rectory in Lencouacq, Landes, France. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," December 16, 2005)
- 1954**, September 24 — Hoaxed story of an alleged sighting by Cesar Cardoso at Castelo Branco, Portugal, who sees two entities in shining metal suits emerge from a landed UFO and pick up flowers, shrubs, and twigs. (Crosby S. Noyes, "[In France, Rumors Are Flying ... Or Maybe They Are Saucers](#)," *Washington (D.C.) Evening Star*, October 18, 1954, p. 4; Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, p. 58; Loren E. Gross, *UFOs, a History: 1954 September*, The Author, 1994, pp. 71–72; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 8, 2006; Mark Cashman, "[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 18)
- 1954**, September 26 — 2:30 p.m. At Chabeuil, Drôme, France, Lucette Leboeuf is walking her dog when she sees a short being wearing a translucent helmet and diving suit. She can see large eyes looking at her through the helmet. The creature approaches her, hopping. The dog barks at it and she runs away and hides in a bush. About 15 feet away, she sees an object about 16 feet in diameter resembling a top with a flat top. It rises above the cornfield and takes off at tremendous speed. Other people notice a circular area about 10 feet in diameter where the ground and grass are tightly packed. Tree branches are broken from above. Shocked, she stays in bed for two days. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)")
- 1954**, September 27 — 8:30 p.m. 12-year-old Raymond Romand and two other children on an isolated farm near Prémaman, Jura, France, see a brilliant rectangular object. He sees two occupants and throws stones at them, but he is thrown to the ground by an "ice-cold invisible force." Raymond confesses 6 weeks later that he made up the whole story, including making some physical trace marks. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," March 7, 2003)
- 1954**, September 28 — Around 12:00 midnight. Two witnesses at Rixheim, Haut-Rhin, France, watch an elongated luminous object through binoculars. Ten or more smaller luminous points are circling it in all directions. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," April 1, 2014)
- 1954**, September 28 — 10:30 p.m. Vintner M. Mercier of Saint-Armand-Montrond, Cher, France, notices that someone has stolen grapes from his vineyard and decides to stay up late and catch the thief. He sees a luminous object descend and three figures emerge. He is then paralyzed and loses consciousness. There is no sign of anything when he wakes up. Probable hoax. (Aimé Michel, *Straight Line*, 97–98; Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," April 5, 2007)
- 1954**, September 30 — Gen. [Jimmy Doolittle](#) submits a 69-page classified report on clandestine operations directly to President [Eisenhower](#). It negates the Second Hoover Commission's recommendation on intelligence oversight. It says: "We must develop effective espionage and counterespionage services and must learn to subvert, sabotage, and destroy our enemies by more clever, more sophisticated, and more effective methods than those used against us." (Richard A. Best Jr. and Herbert Andrew Boerstling, "[Proposals for Intelligence Reorganization, 1949–1996](#)," Report to the US House Select Committee on Intelligence, Congressional Research Service, February 28, 1996, p. 11)

- 1954**, September 30 — Aviation pioneer [Eugène Farnier](#) watches an unknown object for 20 minutes above his property at Jouy-sue-Morin, Seine-et-Marne, France. It is swinging back and forth over an area of about 984 feet. Farnier thinks it looks similar to the cigar-shaped object seen at Marignane in October 1952. (Patrick Gross, [“UFOs in the Daily Press”](#))
- 1954**, September 30 — Around 4:30 p.m. Georges Gatay and his team of construction workers at Marcilly-sur-Vienne, Indre-et-Loire, France, see a disc-shaped object on the ground with a small, helmeted being standing nearby. In his hand he holds an elongated object: “It could have been a pistol, or it could have been a metal rod.” On his chest is a light projector. Gatay tries to run, but he finds himself helplessly nailed to the spot. He is thus “paralyzed” during the whole observation until the object leaves. So are his seven coworkers, in a unique case of collective physiological reaction. Almost certainly a hoax. (Vallée, *Magonia*, pp. 68–69; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954 September](#), The Author, 1994, pp. 79–81; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs, a History: 1954 September. Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, p. 12; Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) November 8, 2006)
- 1954**, October — London publishing house Frederick Muller publishes a contactee book, *Flying Saucer from Mars*, allegedly written by one [Cedric Allingham](#), who claims that while vacationing in Scotland in February 1954 he saw a saucer land and talked to its occupant, a human-looking Martian. In 1969, science writer Robert Chapman concludes that no such person as Allingham existed. Christopher Allan and [Steuart Campbell](#) allege in 1986 that the book was written by arch-skeptical astronomer [Patrick Moore](#) using a pseudonym. His motive was to spoof Adamski and embarrass ufologists, but Moore never admits to the hoax. The photo of “Cedric Allingham” is really Peter Davies, who posed for the photograph with Moore’s reflecting telescope. Davies also edited the book to conceal Moore’s distinctive style of writing. (Cedric Allingham, *Flying Saucer from Mars*, Frederick Muller, 1954; Clark III 98; Robert Chapman, *Unidentified Flying Objects*, Barker, 1969, pp. 113–123; Christopher Allen and Steuart Campbell, [“Flying Saucer from Moore’s?”](#) *Magonia* 23 (July 1986): 15–18; Curt Collins, [“Contact! A Close Encounter of the Third Kind from 1954,”](#) The Saucers That Time Forgot, October 13, 2017)
- 1954**, October — Day. RAF pilot Michael Forrest, stationed at RAF Sek Kong [now Shek Kong Airfield] near Hong Kong is scrambled in a de Havilland Vampire ground attack fighter to intercept a target detected by ground radar approaching from China. The target appears to be the size of an aircraft and traveling at high speed with a continuous track. Ground control tells him that at times it is stationary, but it has the ability to change direction and height at fantastic speeds. Forrest and another pilot are vectored into the blip at 30,000 feet, but they can see nothing. Ground radar insists the blip is right there with them. After 15 minutes the aircraft break off and head home. On the base, he is told that the blip was caused by “anomalous propagation.” (“Scrambled for Bogies’: An Incident at RAF Sek Kong,” *Fortean Times* 403 (March 2021): 45)
- 1954**, Early October — Maxime Pignatelli, 65, is hunting with his dog on the banks of the Durance River near Corbières, Alpes-de-Hautes-Provence, France. He sees a gray object about 12 feet long and 3 feet high on the ground about 130 feet away. Two helmeted figures emerge from a dome. The man flees. His dog also retreats a bit later, walking awkwardly as if partly paralyzed. (Jacques Vallée, [“Un siècle d’atterrissages,”](#) *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 103 (December 1969): 7; Francis Schaefer and Pierre Delval, [“Un récit d’atterrissage inédit à Corbières,”](#) *Phénomènes Inconnus* 1, no. 14 (1971): 10–13; Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) May 20, 2003)
- 1954**, October 1 — The Swedish Defense Ministry allegedly requests a secret investigation into UFOs. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), p. 27)
- 1954**, October 1 — 9:20 a.m. An RCAF test pilot is flying at 30,000 feet over Montreal, Quebec, in an F-86 Sabre Mk 5 jet fighter when he notices a contrail high over the north end of Lake Champlain. He climbs to 51,000 feet at 540 mph but is unable to close on the object, which appears to him as a black dot. He turns to a different heading and sees that the contrail makes a similar turn about 10,000 feet above him. As he returns to Montreal, the contrail climbs at a 45° angle and disappears to the east. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 91–92)
- 1954**, October 1 — 4:00 p.m. An anonymous man and his dog are paralyzed as a luminous white object dives toward them and climbs away again at Bry-sur-Marne, Val-de-Marne, France. (Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) March 25, 2003)
- 1954**, October 1 — 6:45 p.m. Bernard Devoisin and René Condette are bicycling west of Ligescourt in the direction of Vron, Somme, France. They see a glowing orange object shaped like a beehive in the middle of the road. A small entity, about 3 feet tall and dressed in a “diving suit,” is standing close to it. When they get to within 200 feet of it, the object takes off at great speed. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 118–119; Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) May 8, 2004)
- 1954**, October 1 — 7:50 p.m. Mechanic Ernest Delattre, 19, is riding to his home in Croix d’Épine, Oise, France, on his motor scooter when a bright egg-shaped object lands on the left side of the road 45 feet away. He sees short, dark

shapes “like potato bags” moving around the object. He speeds up and the UFO changes its color and takes off. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 27, 2003)

- 1954**, October 1 — Around 10:00 p.m. Jean Defiz, a factory worker in Bergerac, Dordogne, France, is returning home on his bicycle when he sees a large shooting star. Later, he sees an intense light in his yard and rushes out to see a disc rise with a whistling sound. It becomes luminous and flies off. A neighbor also sees it and estimates it is 10 feet wide. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#)”)
- 1954**, October 2 — The French Air Ministry allegedly launches a UFO investigation after 267 citizens come forward to report UFOs. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, pp. 60–61)
- 1954**, October 2 — 3:45 p.m. A teacher, Mlle. Jaillet, along with 23 schoolchildren, see an elongated object in the sky to the southeast at Les Rousses, Jura, France. It approaches rapidly and they see it is a “cloud cigar.” It switches from horizontal to vertical and hovers. At one point, a gleaming yellow disc emerges from it and moves away. The long object switches to horizontal again and moves away to the northwest. The incident lasts 4–5 minutes. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 25, 2003)
- 1954**, October 3 — Dawn. Stockyard employee Angelo Girardo is going to his job in Bressuire, Deux-Sèvres, France, when he sees a small being wearing a diving suit standing near a circular craft about 10 feet in diameter. It swiftly takes off. Hoax. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” August 3, 2007)
- 1954**, October 3 — 7:20 p.m. Villagers of Chereng, Nord, France, are having their Ducasse festival meal when they see a fast, luminous object in the sky suddenly stop, give off sparks, and descend to ground level. As people run to the spot, it takes off again. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” January 9, 2009)
- 1954**, October 3 — 11:15 p.m. Young farmer Jean Allary sees a circular object near Ronsenac, Charente, France, that seems to be gliding on or near the ground, has luminous spots, and lights up as it takes off. He finds flattened and scorched grass over an area 25 feet across. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” January 31, 2007)
- 1954**, October 4 — 8:00 p.m. In Poncey-sur-l’Ignon, Côte-d’Or, France, Mme. Yvette (or Thérèse) Fournieret sees a luminous orange object about 10 feet wide land in a meadow on her farm. She runs to tell some men, who arrive at the spot with rifles but find nothing. Instead, they discover a strange quadrilateral hole from which soil appears to be sucked up. The roots of plants are not damaged. The French Air Force and local police investigate and learn there are other witnesses. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 10, 2003; Covert 27–28)
- 1954**, October 5 — A spindle-shaped UFO is seen for 20 minutes by hundreds of people over El Mahalla El Kubra, Egypt. At Bahnay, aerial cylinders emit dark smoke. One explodes, knocking a farmer to the ground, and kills two cows, whose hides show burn marks. Lt. Tewrik takes a photo of a rotating UFO that emits smoke above El-Qantara el-Sharqīya on the western side of the Suez Canal. He sends it to the Egyptian Army and to Khedivial Astronomical Observatory in Helwan. Adm. Youssef Hammad, director of the Egyptian Ports and Lights Administration, alerts pilots and astronomers to keep watch for UFOs over Cairo. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, pp. 231–232; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, p. 12)
- 1954**, October 5 — 4:00 a.m. Pierre Lucas, a baker in Loctudy, Finistère, France, is getting water from his well when he sees a UFO hovering nearby. A small being comes out of the object; it has an oval head covered with hair and large eyes. The creature touches Lucas’s shoulder and speaks to him in an unknown language. He calls for his boss, and the creature runs into the object and takes off. (“[Science: Martians over France](#),” *Time*, October 25, 1954, p. 71; “[Astral Adventurers: Frenchmen Report Meetings with Unlikely Creatures](#),” *Life*, November 1, 1954, p. 28; “[France Abuzz over Saucers: Craze Matches Witch-Hunting](#),” *Boston (Mass.) Globe*, December 12, 1954, p. 54; “[Troubled European Skies](#),” *The Saucerian* 3, no. 2 (Spring 1955): 20; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, pp. 10–11; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” October 3, 2003)
- 1954**, October 5 — 7:15 a.m. A road worker named Narcy sees an object near a road in Mertrud, Haute Marne, France. He also sees a hairy dwarf wearing an orange, tight-fitting jacket climb through a porthole on the UFO, which consists of a cigar-shaped section under a flat disc. Tracks are found. Probable hoax. (“[Science: Martians over France](#),” *Time*, October 25, 1954, p. 71; “[Astral Adventurers: Frenchmen Report Meetings with Unlikely Creatures](#),” *Life*, November 1, 1954, p. 28; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, pp. 19, 22, 30; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 25, 2003)
- 1954**, October 5 — 3:45 p.m. In Beaumont, Puy-de-Dôme, France, witnesses Brun, Marfaron, Douiti, and Marplat see a luminous ball moving west to east 1,500 feet away from them. It approaches to within 450 feet, and they feel paralyzed with faintness as a nitrobenzene odor spreads around them. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 24, 2006)

- 1954**, October 6 — Around 6:00 a.m. Mechanic Joseph Roy is riding to work on his bicycle at Isles-sur-Suippe, Marne, France, and sees a dazzling light at low altitude. It blinks out. When he gets to the spot where it disappeared, he sees a large object like an artillery shell 9 feet long. A small, dark form is standing in front of it. Roy becomes frightened and races to the nearest gendarmerie. Probable confusion, helicopter, and military personnel. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 142; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, p. 19; Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) January 16, 2006)
- 1954**, October 6 — 9:30 p.m. Two soldiers at the military barracks in La Fère, Aisne, France, watch a luminous craft in the shape of an artillery shell landed on the ground less than a quarter-mile away. As one soldier approaches it, he becomes paralyzed. (Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) April 9, 2006)
- 1954**, October 7 — 6:20 a.m. A group of workers at the Renault manufacturing plant at Le Mans, Sarthe, France, are bicycling to work when they feel an unpleasant tickling at the same moment an intense greenish light is emitted from a luminous object hovering above the Route N23 road. They are almost paralyzed, then the UFO leaves, flying low over the fields. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 143; [Schopick](#), pp. 8–9; Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) October 22, 2004)
- 1954**, October 7 — The Italian Air Ministry allegedly sets up UFO detection posts for 24/7 vigilance. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [p. 232](#))
- 1954**, October 7 — 2:30 p.m. Farmer René Margailon goes to work and notices a mysterious object about 300 feet away in a field between Monteux and Althen-des-Paluds, Vaucluse, France. He approaches the object, which is about 8 feet tall and phosphorescent. Suddenly it disappears and he feels suffocated. (Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) April 5, 2003)
- 1954**, October 7 — Night. Witnesses at Corbigny, Nièvre, France, see a luminous cylinder that appears orange when vertical and motionless, and white when moving forward horizontally. At one point, two small discs emerge from its lower part. (Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) September 12, 2005)
- 1954**, October 8 — 7:30 p.m. Four children—Gilbert Calda, 12, Daniel Hirsch, 9, J. P. Hirsch, 5, and Robert Maguin, 16—are roller skating at Pournoy-la-Chétive, Moselle, France, when they see a luminous object near the cemetery. It is round, about 8 feet in diameter, and standing on three legs. A dwarf, about 4 feet tall, dressed in black, with a face covered in hair and large eyes, emerges and shines a blinding light at them. It says something in an unknown language. The children run away but look back in time to see the object flying away high in the sky. (Clark III 269; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, 154; Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) March 7, 2003)
- 1954**, October 9 — The US Air Force releases a press statement saying that after studying 3,500 reports, it has found “no authentic physical evidence” that UFOs are spaceships or weapons. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October](#), The Author, 1991, p. 22)
- 1954**, October 9 — 4:00 p.m. Jean Bertrand is driving near Carcassonne, Aude, France, when he comes upon a metallic sphere in the road ahead. The top half seems to be transparent, and he sees two human-shaped figures inside. As he approaches, the object takes off at high speed. Probable helicopter. (Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) March 26, 2003)
- 1954**, October 9 — Around 7:00 p.m. Roger Barrault, a worker in Lavoux, Vienne, France, is riding a bicycle when he is stopped on the road by a double beam of light coming from a 4-foot-tall figure that looks like a diver. It wears boots without heels and has brilliant eyes and a large moustache. Hoax. (Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) March 26, 2003)
- 1954**, October 9 — 8:30 p.m. Jean-Pierre Mitto and his two cousins are driving on Road 631 from Toulouse to Briatexte, Tarn, France, at a crossroads known as “La Caiffe” when they see two small figures about the size of 11-year-old children cross the road. They enter a pasture where a convex disc rises vertically and shoots upwards rapidly. It is about 20 feet in diameter and orange. Brown, oily residue is found at the site. (Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) March 26, 2003)
- 1954**, October 9 — 9:20 p.m. Mechanics André Bartoli and Jean-Jacques Lalevée see the sky light up with a yellow-orange glow in Cuisy, Seine-et-Marne, France. Bartoli’s car motor and headlights fail, and they both see a yellow-orange cigar-shaped object moving to the southwest. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 150–152; [Schopick](#), pp. 9–11; Patrick Gross, [“The 1954 French Flap,”](#) August 26, 2004)
- 1954**, October 9 — 10:15 p.m. Max Favell, a representative of a German firm in Beirut, Lebanon, sees a white flying object land. It takes off vertically, spinning, and is lost to sight. (Vallée, *Magonia*, [pp. 222–223](#))
- 1954**, October 9 — Evening. As he is driving home from his job as a movie projectionist in Rinkerode [now part of Drensteinfurt], North Rhine-Westphalia, West Germany, Willi Hoge sees a blue light to one side of the road. He looks closer and sees four small figures with big heads and chests and small, thin legs, apparently doing repair work on a spindle-shaped machine. All are dressed in one-piece elastic body suits. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth](#)

[*Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*](#), The Author, 1991, p. 24; Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [p. 233](#))

- 1954**, October 10 — The Royal Observatory of Belgium in Uccle announces it will act as a clearinghouse for UFO reports. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [p. 233](#))
- 1954**, October 10 — A cylindrical UFO with red and green lights is seen over Alexandria, Egypt. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [pp. 232–233](#))
- 1954**, October 10 — 11:30 a.m. Marius Dewilde, along with his 14-year-old son, allegedly has a second encounter with a UFO occupant at Quarouble, Nord, France. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 3, 2003)
- 1954**, October 10 — Day. On the Greek island of Lesbos, off the coast of Turkey, a father and son are out hunting when they see a cigar-shaped object moving horizontally before separating in two. Two objects then appear to move vertically, at a steady distance from each other, until they are lost in the horizon. (Orestis Lazanakis, “[UAP in Greece](#),” UAP Check, July 27, 2024)
- 1954**, October 10 — In a newspaper interview, [Alfred Loedding](#) alludes to the 1948 Estimate of the Situation without calling it that. Loedding shows a study of some 100+ UFO reports to one of the “country’s leading scientists,” who glances at it briefly, then declares that “flying saucers are a figment of the imagination.” Shortly afterwards, the skeptics in Project Sign win out, and Loedding’s efforts are ignored. (*Trenton (N.J.) Sunday Times-Advertiser*, October 10, 1954; Michael Hall, “[Was There a Second Estimate of the Situation?](#)” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 13, 32)
- 1954**, October 10 — Night. M. Laugère, an SNCF railway employee, is near the railroad bridge over Le Cher in Montluçon, Allier, France, when he sees a torpedo-shaped metallic object resting on four legs either on or adjacent to an SNCF fuel tank. Next to it is a man covered in hair. Laugère asks him what he is doing and the man replies in an unintelligible language, although he hears the word “gasoil.” Laugère leaves to alert his colleagues, but turning around he sees the object rise silently and disappear from view. An apparent prank by co-workers of the witness. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” October 24, 2004)
- 1954**, October 11 — 4:15 a.m. Baptiste Jourdy is delivering milk near Fonfrède, Loire, France, when the truck engine dies and the headlights fail. He gets out to investigate and sees a glowing, multicolored object, moving at great speed, cross the road and disappear in the distance. The headlights return and he starts the truck again. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 157; [Schopick](#), pp. 11–12; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 6, 2003)
- 1954**, October 11 — 4:30 a.m. Two merchants, Henri Gallois and Louis Vigneron, are traveling to a fair in a van near Clamercy, Nièvre, France, when they both feel electrical shocks. The van motor dies, and the headlights go out. They become paralyzed and see on the ground, 150 feet away, a round object with three small figures around it. The figures go inside the object, which then leaves rapidly. The headlights come back on, the paralysis ends, and the engine can be restarted. Hoax. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 158; [Schopick](#), pp. 12–13; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 7, 2003)
- 1954**, October 11 — 6:00 a.m. Baptiste Potin of Méral, Mayenne, France, is riding a bicycle to his workplace when he spots a huge orange ball in the sky that seems to be above Saint-Poix. It apparently descends to the ground as he approaches, barring the road. After watching it 8–10 minutes, it rises slowly and disappears in the northwest. He finds when he arrives at a farm that he is covered in white fluff embedded in his clothes. Probably an observation of the moon, accompanied by plant seeds. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 14, 2003)
- 1954**, October 11 — The Romanian magazine *Contemporanul* claims that UFOs are US propaganda designed to “stir up against Moscow a flying-saucer psychosis.” (“[Saucers Are Not!](#)” *Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer*, October 12, 1954, p. 4; Ruppelt, [p. 238](#))
- 1954**, October 11 — 9:50 p.m. Julia Juste, Maria Barbereau, and Marion Tanneur are driving along D14 about 1 mile from Chateauneuf-sur-Charente, Charente, France. Two luminous globes, one smaller than the other, appear in the sky ahead of them at low altitude, and their car stalls and the headlights go out. The larger one becomes brilliant white with a reddish halo. After 5 minutes, they move out of sight in the Charente valley. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 160; [Schopick](#), p. 13; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 6, 2003)
- 1954**, October 12 — Morning. A UFO supposedly lands in a populous district on the south side of Tehran, Iran. It is said to have tried to kidnap a terrified man, Ghasim Faili, who says that on waking up he sees the UFO within 60 feet of him. It emits a magnetic force to capture him, but he shouts and neighbors gather, forcing the apparatus to take off. Later sources add some dubious details. (Gordon Creighton, “[Attempted Abduction by UFO Entity?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 13, no. 2 (March/April 1967): 23–24; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October](#), The Author, 1991, pp. 42, 50; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 20, 2007)
- 1954**, October 12 — Afternoon. A French engineer driving to Kenitra, Morocco, sees a small figure in a metallic suit climbing aboard a UFO that quickly lifts off and flies away. The location is said to be Mamora Forest, which could be modern Mehdiya, on the coast. (Lorenzen, *Occupants*, Signet, 1967, [p. 95](#))

- 1954**, October 12 — Around 2:00 p.m. A math professor at Lisieux named Bon is in Saint-Germain-de-Livet, Calvados, France, when he sees a silvery disc with a diameter of 21–24 feet hovering over a wooden area off the road. It dives toward the ground, then rises suddenly and silently into the sky at tremendous speed. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” October 24, 2004)
- 1954**, October 13 — 4:30 p.m. A Mr. Carcénaç sees a white object at high altitude heading toward the northwest at Graulhet, Tarn, France, that he at first takes for an airplane. He retrieves some opera glasses, through which he makes out a disc shape that is swaying as it moves at a high speed. After a few seconds, it explodes. A smaller silvery object moves away from the explosion to the south and disappears. Fragments from the airburst fall gently to the ground. Others rush to the spot and see debris, some of it like silvery filaments, catching on trees and telephone wires. It wilts away when handled. Possible hoax. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” September 9, 2004)
- 1954**, October 13 — 7:35 p.m. Three witnesses (Olivier, Perano, and a third man) see a reddish disc about 12 feet in diameter near Bourrasol, a suburb of Toulouse, France. A small being about 4 feet tall is standing nearby wearing a diver’s suit. Its head is large, and it has enormous eyes. One witness approaches to within 60–70 feet and is paralyzed. The UFO soon takes off. Definite hoax. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 24, 2003)
- 1954**, October 14 — 6:30 a.m. A resident of Shamsabad [which one?], Iran, sees a star-like object about 300 feet away from his house. Approaching to 60 feet, he sees a “short young man” who is standing on a circular piece of metal in the middle of the object and glancing around him. The man seems to be “laughing” at the witness. The UFO shoots up into the air and vanishes. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, p. 42)
- 1954**, October 14 — [Keyhoe](#) hears from an informant that the 4602nd AISS has a “crashed object” program. His contact [Lou Corbin](#) thinks the Air Force already has some recovered material. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 214–215)
- 1954**, October 14 — A farmer and his wife see a light green object traveling at tremendous speed, possibly 3,000 mph, in Kenya. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, [p. 234](#))
- 1954**, October 14 — 12:00 noon. Farmer Antonio Crepaldi is leading his cows to a pond near Ca’ Pisani, Rovigo, Italy, when an egg-shaped object emitting intense heat swoop over his house at an altitude of 50 feet. The cows panic and run away, apparently suffering burns. Some haystacks catch fire. The sighting lasts 2 minutes. (Pinotti 59)
- 1954**, October 14 — 3:30 p.m. Casimir Starovski, a miner, meets a strange figure in Erchin Forest, near Lewarde, Nord, France. It has large, slanted, protruding eyes and a squat, furry body. Its nose is flat, it has thick lips, and it wears a skullcap on its oversized head. (Clark III 269; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” December 21, 2005)
- 1954**, October 14 — 4:15 p.m. Flight Lt. James R. Salandin of the 604th Fighter Squadron is flying a Gloster Meteor F.8 out of North Weald Airfield, Essex, England, at 16,000 feet. He sees three objects heading towards him. Two of them (one gold, one silver) veer off to his port side, while the third closes to within a few hundred yards before veering to his port side. It is saucer-shaped with “buns” on top and underneath, silvery and metallic, with no portholes or flames. The report is sent to the Air Ministry where it disappears. (NICAP, “[Gloster ‘Meteor’ Encounters Disc / Salandin Case](#)”; “[Week-end Pilot in Near Collision with Flying Saucer](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1955): 2; Geoffrey Norris, “[Something in the Sky](#),” *RAF Flying Review*, July 1957, pp. 14, 15; “[The Famous Salandin Sighting](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 30, no. 2 (December 1984): 13–15; Good Above, [pp. 36–38](#); Good Need, [pp. 154–155](#); Patrick Gross, “[October 14, 1954, North Weald, Essex, UFO Encounters RAF Meteor Jet](#)”)
- 1954**, October 14 — 6:20 p.m. André Cognard is driving on the D60 road to the east of Gueugnon, Saône-et-Loire, France, when a brilliant reddish fireball passes near his car to the west at low altitude. It is so bright that he stops his car. Probable meteor. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 20, 2003)
- 1954**, October 14 — Twilight. A witness is riding a moped on the road between Saint-Romain-sous-Gourdon and Les Brosses Tillots, Saône-et-Loire, France. Suddenly his motor fails and, as he gets off the cycle, a bright circular object bursts ahead of him. He walks back with his moped and is able to start it again. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 175; [Schopick](#), p. 14; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” September 25, 2004)
- 1954**, October 15 — Early in the morning. A large, luminous, red object streaks across the sky above Hungary. A teacher from Győr-Ménfőcsanak county takes two photos of what is an apparent meteor. (Hobana and Weverbergh 199–201)
- 1954**, October 15 — In Boaria Pisani, Padua, Italy, a farmer is leading his cows to a pond when he sees an object fly over his house. The cows panic and run away, knocking a girl to the ground, while the object emits a burst of light. The farmer runs to the house and then faints. Three other persons see the craft depart. It is dark in color but surrounded by short blue and yellow flames. The object is egg-shaped, flies at 50 feet above the ground, and emits intense heat. The little pond is found desiccated, and haystacks catch fire as it flies over while the cattle suffers burns. (Vallée, *Magonia*, [pp. 229–230](#))

- 1954**, October 15 — Afternoon. Farmers near the Po della Donzella river channel, Veneto, Italy, see a disc-shaped object land then take off vertically. At the site is a deep crater about 18 feet in diameter. Poplar trees are partially burned. (Aimé Michel, *Straight Line*, p. 181)
- 1954**, October 15 — 7:45 p.m. Veterinarian Henri Robert of Londinières in Normandy, France, is driving on route RN 314, near Baillolet, Seine-Maritime, France. He sees four orange objects flying one above the other at 1,000 feet. One floats down like a leaf, landing about 350 feet in front of his car. Robert feels an electric shock and his engine dies for 20 seconds and the object disappears. Robert continues driving. As he is going through the village of Bailleul-Neuville, he sees in his headlights a four-foot-tall bluish-gray figure with arms and legs spread. His headlights go off then on again. He then sees on his left a 27-foot-long cigar-shaped object at the edge of a slope. It takes off vertically and quickly moves toward the north. Possible hoax. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 184–185; [Schopick](#), pp. 15–16; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 7, 2004)
- 1954**, October 15–25 — Thousands of witnesses in the former Yugoslavia report low-flying UFOs and high-flying cigar-shaped objects, especially around Ljubljana, Slovenia; Sarajevo, Bosnia; and Belgrade, Serbia. Yugoslavia announces on October 27 that it intends to launch an official investigation. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 61; Hobana and Weverbergh 90–91)
- 1954**, October 17 — Around 9:30 a.m. Guy Puyfourcat is returning from the fields near Cier-de-Rivière, Haute-Garonne, France, with his mare on a halter. The horse suddenly becomes restless and jumpy. A gray object about 4 feet in diameter rises from one side of the road and passes over them. The mare rises about 9 feet into the air and Puyfourcat releases her, and the animal falls to the ground and is unable to move for 10 minutes. The UFO moves away at high speed. (François Lagarde, “[Une jument s’envole au départ d’un M.O.C.](#),” *Lumières dans la nuit*, no. 109 (December 1970): 17–18; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” October 16, 2007; Sébastien Marti, “[Le mystère de l’Ovni de Cier](#),” *La Dépêche*, December 24, 2008)
- 1954**, October 17 — Around 8:30 p.m. Several motorists driving on route D10 toward Conflans-sur-Lanterne, Haute-Saône, France, notice a bright red, luminous object hovering above a field adjacent to the road. They stop at a nearby café and alert the owner, Mr. Beuclair, and a crossing guard. Beuclair and his daughter walk toward the object for a closer look, but it approaches them silently and rapidly, stopping about 60 feet away. The witnesses see the object is circular with a hemispherical section on top. Suddenly white and red rays burst from underneath the object. The Beuclairs retreat, but the object remains in view for several more minutes before flying away at high speed. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 188; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” December 4, 2005)
- 1954**, October 18 — 5:30 p.m. A M. Bachelard is driving a light truck southeast of Gelles, Puy-de-Dôme, France. As he goes around a bend, he feels paralyzed and his truck slows down to less than 20 mph. In a nearby field he sees an elongated object about 5 feet high. A few minutes later he reaches the village of Coheix, which is off his normal route, and starts telling people about the event. Later ufologists suspect there may be some missing time involved. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 198; M. and Mme. Ameil, “[Gelles \(Puy-de-Dôme\)](#),” *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 97 (December 1968): 11; “[The Landing at Gelles](#),” *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 5 (June 1971): iii; [Schopick](#), pp. 16–17; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, pp. 65–66; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 20, 2003)
- 1954**, October 18 — 6:00 p.m. Two farmers near Saint-Cirgues, Haute-Loire, France, watch two bright balls connected by a rod for 15 minutes. They disappear at a fast pace. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” December 21, 2006)
- 1954**, October 18 — 9:00 p.m. M. and Mme. Labussière are driving on the N150 southwest of Saintes, Charente-Maritime, France, when they see a balance-shaped object in the sky. One side is red and the other orange, while the rod connecting them is a luminous green. The object pauses above a field near their car, which they pull over to watch more closely. The green rod soon dissipates, and the two balls settle in the field. In the dim light emitted by the objects, the Labussières see a small creature emerge from each, walk toward each other, pass without stopping, and enter the other object. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” December 29, 2003)
- 1954**, October 19 — 8:00 p.m. A M. Fillonneau is driving in Criteuil-la-Madeleine, Charente, France, when he sees a bright fireball. His headlights go out and the engine stops, and he finds that his battery is completely dead and the headlight bulbs burned out. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” February 5, 2007)
- 1954**, October 19 — Around 12:00 midnight. Renzo Pugina has just put his car in his garage at Parravicino, Como, Italy, when he sees a humanoid about 4 feet 3 inches tall in a scaly, luminous suit standing near a tree. The lower part of its body is like a cone. It aims a light beam at Pugina that paralyzes him briefly. He only manages to move some fingers, but with some concentration makes a clenching motion with his fist on the garage keys that he holds in his hand. Freed from the temporary paralysis, he runs to attack the intruder, who flees with a soft whirring sound. A police investigation finds a spot of oil at the location. (Vallée, *Magonia*, pp. 235–236; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, p. 74; 1Pinotti 60)

- 1954**, October 20 — 6:30 p.m. Jean Schonbrenner is driving a truck southbound near Turquestein-Blancrupt, Moselle, France, when he sees a bright glow ahead on route N393. He continues to drive but feels paralyzed, his hands glued to the wheel. At about 30 feet away, his engine stops and the yellow-orange glow rises slowly and heads northwest. He feels a sensation of warmth and sees that the glow contains a cone-shaped object. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 203; [Schopick](#), pp. 17–18; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 21, 2003)
- 1954**, October 20 — 9:15 p.m. Jean Lalle (or Jean Lasse) is riding a motorcycle between Biozat, Alliers, and Effiat, Puy-de-Dôme, France, when his engine dies suddenly. He sees an egg-shaped object with a bright trail climbing in the sky. The motorcycle restarts once the object has left. (Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” December 21, 2005)
- 1954**, October 21 — 2:30 a.m. Construction worker Lazlo Ujvari is riding his bicycle to work from his farmhouse near Saint-Remy, Vosges, France, when he slows down and walks the bike to avoid a rough patch of road. He encounters a man wearing a helmet who is pointing a revolver at him and speaking to him in an unfamiliar language. Ujvari speaks to him in Russian, and the man asks him in Russian, “Where am I? In Spain or Italy?” Ujvari replies that he is in France, and the man asks how far it is to the German border. Ujvari says about 100 kilometers in a straight line. Then the unknown man asks him what time it is. Ujvari says it is about 2:30. The man switches the revolver to his left hand, takes out a watch from his clothing and says, “You lie, it’s four!” Then he asks the direction to Marseilles, and Ujvari gives him an estimate. The man tells him to “go, now” and Ujvari continues walking, followed by the man. Then he sees a gray domed disc, about 10 feet in diameter, landed in the road ahead. The man says goodbye and apparently gets on the UFO as Ujvari jumps on his bicycle. He hears a whistling sound and sees the object take off vertically, lit by a headlight on its dome, then levels off and speeds away to the southeast. (Vallée, *Magonia*, pp. 146–147; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” May 14, 2003)
- 1954**, October 21 — A young man hears a rustling sound and sees a landed UFO outside Melito di Napoli, Italy. It gives off a powerful bronze-green light. He then sees an occupant dressed in a diving suit emerge. A dog begins barking and the entity retreats inside and takes off. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October](#), The Author, 1991, p. 74; 1Pinotti 61)
- 1954**, October 21 — 4:45 p.m. Jessie Roestenburg and her two children observe a disc-shaped, aluminum object hovering above their house in Ranton, Stafford, England. Through two transparent panels they see two men with white skin, having shoulder-length hair and high foreheads. They wear transparent helmets and turquoise-blue clothing resembling ski suits. The object hovers at a tilted angle while the two occupants look at the scene “sternly, not in an unkind fashion, but almost sadly, compassionately.” (Clark III 268; Charles Bowen, “[Few and Far Between](#),” in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, special issue of *FSR*, Oct./Dec. 1966, p. 4; Gordon Creighton, “[The Roestenburg Story \(1954\)](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 38, no. 1 (Spring 1993): 6–9; Curt Collins, “[Jessie Roestenburg’s 1954 UFO Encounter and Beyond](#),” Blue Blurry Lines, October 19, 2018)
- 1954**, October 21 — Evening. A motorist is driving on the D220 road with his 4-year-old son between Paillé and Pouzou, Charente-Maritime, France. He feels a tingling like electric shocks all over his body. The child cries, the engine stops, and the headlights go out as a luminous red body with a tail flashes briefly in front of them. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 204; [Schopick](#), pp. 18–19; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” April 21, 2003)
- 1954**, October 21 — 9:25 p.m. Three observers at the Woomera Test Range in South Australia see an erratic, dancing light adjacent to rocket Launcher Apron 1, Range B, approximately 500 feet away. The light alternates from deep orange to yellow and is egg-shaped. Its apparent size is three times the magnitude of Venus. (NICAP, “[Dancing Light Adjacent to Rocket Launcher](#)”)
- 1954**, Mid-October — A merchant and his deliveryman are driving a van northeast of the village of Erquières, Pas-de-Calais, France, when they see a blinding light in front of them. As it passes over the van, the engine stalls and the headlights fail. Both men feel an electric shock. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 204–205; [Schopick](#), p. 19; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” March 12, 2005)
- 1954**, October 22 — Afternoon. Roger Reveillé is walking in the Fôret de Lusigny, Aube, France, when he hears a rustling noise. He looks up and sees an oval-shaped object about 20 feet long at treetop level. At the same time he feels an intense heat that also seems to be creating a thick fog. After a few minutes the object disappears upward, but the heat continues. Although it is raining, the ground underneath where the object had been is dry. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 204; [Schopick](#), p. 18; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap](#),” September 28, 2003)
- 1954**, October 22 — 3:00 p.m. Principal [Rodney Warrick](#) and teacher Mrs. George Dittmar of Jerome, Ohio, Special School watch a large, silvery, cigar-shaped object hanging motionless in the sky. Soon it takes off, and in its wake it leaves a trail of whitish, web-like substance that floats down and begins to hang from wires along the road. It descends in both strands and balls for 45 minutes. Both adults get greenish stains on their hands from it. All of it dissipates, but the substance placed in closed jars dissipates more slowly. (“Jerome Teachers, Students Watch

Strange Occurrence in the Sky,” *Marysville (Ohio) Evening Journal-Tribune*, October 25, 1954; “[‘Strange ‘Flying Cigar’ Puzzles Union Countians.](#),” *Marion (Ohio) Star*, November 2, 1954, pp. 1, 10; “[‘Saucer’ Trailing ‘Angel’s Hair’ Seen in Ohio.](#),” *Dayton (Ohio) Journal-Herald*, November 2, 1954, p. 11; “[‘Web-Spinning Saucer Visits Marysville, Ohio.’](#)” *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 9 (December 3, 1954): 5; “Jerome ‘Object’ Still Unexplained: Ex-Chief Recalls 1954 Sighting,” *Marysville (Ohio) Journal Tribune*, July 22, 1958; Charles A. Maney and Richard Hall, *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*, NICAP, 1961, pp. 40–42; Michael D. Swords, “[Angel Hair: Spindrift between Worlds.](#),” *IUR* 32, no. 1 (August 2008): 3–4)

- 1954**, October 23 — 1:30 a.m. A woman in Cincinnati, Ohio, has fallen asleep listening to the radio. Suddenly it makes a harsh shrieking noise and the volume increases. Dogs begin barking in the neighborhood, so she looks outside and sees a large reddish-orange disc with a halo around it moving in a circle overhead. After a minute it moves off to the south. (“[The Fort Wayne and Cincinnati Tie-In.](#),” *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 9 (December 3, 1954): 5)
- 1954**, October 23 — 3:00 a.m. A farmer named Carmelo Papotto near Tripoli, Libya, watches a UFO land 150 feet away with a sound like a compressor. It seems to be an oval machine with six wheels and complex machinery. The top half is transparent and flooded with bright light. Aboard are six men in yellowish overalls with human faces. When he touches part of the object, he gets an electric shock. One occupant warns him to stay away. For the next 20 minutes he watches them fiddle with instruments. The object then rises to 150 feet and takes off at a dizzying speed. (*The Sunday Ghibli* (Tripoli), October 31, 1954; Vallée, *Magonia*, p. 237; Pinotti 61–62; Mark Cashman, “[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants.](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 17–18)
- 1954**, October 24 — Rocket expert [Hermann Oberth](#) writes in the *American Weekly*: “It is my thesis that flying saucers are real and that they are space ships from another solar system. I think that they possibly are manned by intelligent observers who are members of a race that may have been investigating our Earth for centuries.” He thinks UFOs might fly by “distorting the gravitational field.” (Hermann Oberth, “[Flying Saucers Come from a Distant World.](#),” *American Weekly*, October 24, 1954, in *Cincinnati Enquirer*; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, p. 83; Hermann Oberth, “[Lecture Notes for Lecture about Flying Saucers, 1954.](#),” *Australian UFO Bulletin*, September 1991, pp. 4–9)
- 1954**, October 24 — A small man with strange glowing eyes is seen near Ain El Turk, Algeria, along the coast. (Vallée, *Magonia*, p. 237)
- 1954**, October 24 — 1:00–6:00 p.m. Officers and men at the Canoas Air Force Base near Porto Alegre, Brazil, watch a number of “circular silver-colored” objects moving at high speed. They are also seen by personnel of Varig airlines and some civilians. There are more than 100 witnesses. The chief military witness, jet pilot Lt. H. Ferraz de Almeida, sees a dull silver object moving apparently slowly above the base in a zigzag fashion. He estimates its altitude as 40,000–45,000 feet and suggests that its real speed must be tremendous. Maj. J. Magalhaes Mota is watching the same object as another one rapidly approaches the first and stops next to it. The second object then moves rapidly, abruptly changes course, and flies off in an arc. When the object is in motion, it is surrounded by a misty halo, and when it stops the halo disappears. Their movements appear mechanical and intermittent. The report is forwarded to the Air Ministry in Rio de Janeiro with a request to investigate. Brazilian Air Force Chief of Intelligence Col. João Adil de Oliveira heads the investigation, which concludes on December 2 that the “saucers appear to be some kind of revolutionary aircraft” that are not “conventional phenomena or illusions.” (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 212; UFOEv, p. 119; Swords 461–462)
- 1954**, October 25 — 6:15 a.m. Several UFOs, some described as spear-shaped and others as egg-shaped, speed over Belgrade, Yugoslavia [now Serbia], trailing bluish tails for about an hour. Witnesses include aeronautical engineer Vladimir Ajvas, AF Capt. Stjepan Djitkol, and staff at the nearby Zemun Polje Airport. [Milorad B. Protić](#) and other astronomers at Belgrade Observatory track the object and determine that it is not a meteor. After the launch of Sputnik in November 1957, Protić decides that the object must have been an experimental Soviet satellite. The event is a culmination of UFO sightings over Yugoslavia since October 15, few of which make the newspapers. (UFOEv, p. 123; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 68; Hobana and Weverbergh 90–91)
- 1954**, October 25 — Lucien Jeune, mayor of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Vaucluse, France, following numerous UFO sightings, issues a police order prohibiting “The overflight, landing, and take-off of aircraft, so-called flying saucers or flying cigars, on the communal territory.” The announcement, which also threatens the confiscation of any craft and the arrest of occupants, is done as a publicity stunt. Claude Avril, the city mayor in 2016, refuses to rescind it. (Louis de Gouyon Matignon, “[The French Anti-UFO Municipal Law of 1954.](#),” *Space Legal Issues*, May 29, 2019)
- 1954**, October 25 — 7:30 p.m. Farmer Gilbert Hée is gathering pears on his farm at Les-Jonquerets-de-Livet [now Mesnil-en-Ouche], Eure, France, when he sees an elongated object about 7 feet long with a green and a red light at both ends resting in the pasture. Some cows have gathered around it. The object is moving slowly and stops at a

barbed wire fence. Hée goes inside. At 11:00 p.m., his son-in-law René Marais and a friend, Jean Chéradame, arrive on a motorcycle. Chéradame agrees to ride into the field and take a look, but he only goes 300 feet along the road before the engine fails. He falls from the bike and sees two short creatures walking stiffly and wearing bright clothes. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," April 11, 2004)

1954, October 26 — 10:45 p.m. Aimé Bousard is returning on his bicycle from the town hall at Alleyrat, Creuse, France, to his residence at La Vaurreille when he sees a figure crouching on the roadway. When he stops, the figure stands up and points two powerful light-blue lights at him. The entity is 5 feet 3 inches tall and dressed in a diver's suit. It has two green lights on either side of its head. Bousard is paralyzed for 10 minutes while the lights are aimed at him. Then the entity crosses the road and disappears and Bousard can move again. Gendarmes investigate and note that his right hand is swollen and he has difficulty writing. They find a 27-inch circle of disturbed earth at the site. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," September 6, 2007)

1954, October 27 — 1:30 p.m. More than 10,000 soccer fans witness two luminous discs during a game at Florence, Italy. A large amount of "white filaments" falls that clings to everything. Engineering student Alfredo Jacopozzi collects samples in a jar and takes it to Prof. Cozzi at the Institute of Chemistry at the University of Florence. The lab finds the samples have a "fibrous structure, with mechanical resistance to contraction and torsion, burns rapidly, leaving a transparent residue." It contains calcium, silicon, aluminum, magnesium, iron, and boron. ("[Italy, Too!](#)" *Flying Saucer News*, no. 7 (Winter 1954–1955): 6; Charles A. Maney, "[The Phenomena of Angel Hair](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1956): pp. 16–18, 31; Stringfield, [3-0 Blue](#), CRIFO, 1957, pp. 49–53; Charles A. Maney and Richard Hall, *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*, NICAP, 1961, pp. 58–63; Roberto Pinotti, "[The Italian Scene](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 3 (May/June 1970): pp. 7–9; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, pp. 86–87; Brian Boldman, "[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#)," *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 101; Michael D. Swords, "[Angel Hair: Spindrift between Worlds](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 1 (August 2008): 5–6; Deirdre Pirro, "[Unexpected Fans](#)," *The Florentine*, June 17, 2010; Richard Padula, "[The Day UFOs Stopped Play](#)," BBC News, October 24, 2014; "[Door 9: Football, Geothermal Energy and the 1954 Wave of UFOs](#)," Geological Society of London Blog, December 9, 2014; Max De Luca, "[The Eye in the Tuscan Sky: The Day a UFO Sighting Stopped a Fiorentina Match](#)," *These Football Times*, April 21, 2020; 1Pinotti 63–64)

1954, October 28 — Hoaxed report of a landed UFO and occupants at Tradate, Italy, near Milan. (Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, pp. 108–109; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, p. 89; 1Pinotti 64)

1954, October 28 — Three luminous UFOs soar over Rome, Italy, seen by Associated Press reporter Maurizio Andreolo and US Ambassador [Clare Booth Luce](#). Some witnesses report "fine cotton or wool particles" falling from them. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 212–213; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 October*, The Author, 1991, p. 91; 1Pinotti 64)

1954, October 30 — 1:00 p.m. UFO researcher [Alberto Perego](#) is driving past the church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, Italy, when he notices a crowd of about 100 people gazing up at the sky. He sees two "white dots" moving toward the south then vanish in opposite directions. Later, two other objects appear and move to the north at an altitude of about 6,500 feet. (Alberto Perego, "[The Great 'Cross' above the Vatican](#)," *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 15 (June 1973): 3)

1954, Late October–early November — The UK War Office receives six reports of 40–50 unidentified radar targets that appear from nowhere, usually at midday, flying at a height of 12,000 feet. The targets first appear in a U-formation, then converge into two parallel lines and take up a Z-formation before disappearing. The location of the radar trackings is not revealed. (Good Above, pp. 38–39)

1954, November — Gen. [John A. Samford](#) summons Col. [John O'Mara](#) from Dayton and directs him to clear up any confusion about [Keyhoe](#)'s use of USAF data. O'Mara writes Eickhoff and says he had misunderstood and that Keyhoe's book does contain officially released Air Force UFO reports. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 231; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 143–144)

1954, November — The Hungarian government gets an "expert" to state that UFOs do not exist because all reports "originate in bourgeois countries, where they are invented by the capitalist warmongers." (Ruppelt, p. 238)

1954, November 1 — 6:00 a.m. Jack Holloway sees a large, round object that leaves a vapor trail that sprays sparks and moves at high speed for a few seconds to the south of Salem, Oregon. (NICAP case file)

1954, November 1 — 6:30 a.m. Rosa Lotti Dainelli sets out for the church at the castle of Cennina, Arezzo, Italy. As she passes through a wooded area, she sees a spindle-shaped object standing upright next to a cypress tree. It has two portholes and a little door, through which she can see two chairs. Two little men come out from behind the object; they are dressed in gray suits, cloaks that come down to their waists, and red helmets. They speak in an

unintelligible language and snatch flowers from her hands and throw them inside the UFO. Dainelli flees, glancing back only once. (*La Domenica del Corriere*, cover, November 14, 1954; “Calze e garofani attirano i marziani?” *Tutti*, November 14, 1954; “[Now They’re in Italy.](#)” *Life*, November 29, 1954, p. 133; “[Caso Rosa Lotti in Dainelli.](#)” *Notiziario UFO*, no. 44 (March/Apr. 1972): 11–15; Sergio Conti, “[The Cennina Landing of 1954.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 18, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1972): 11–15; “[Dossier retrospettivo.](#)” *Notiziario UFO*, no. 77 (Jan./Mar. 1977): 10–15; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, pp. 1–5; Clark III 228–229; 1Pinotti 65–74; Northern Ontario UFO Research and Study, “[The 1954 Cennina Landing and Encounter with Humanoids](#)”; Società Cooperativa Drammatica Filarmonica di Ambra, “[Incontro con umanoidi di Rosa Dainelli nei Lotti](#)”; “[Cennina 1954.](#)” Wikiufo, 2008)

- 1954**, November 1 — 10:40 p.m. Gonzalo Rubinos Ramos is driving at a spot called Curva del Obispo 42 kilometers from A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, when his engine stalls and the lights go out. He sees a large glowing red object near the road. After a while it moves upwards with a “soft explosion.” At the same time, the radio-telegraph station in A Coruña is affected by severe interference and static. Probable meteor. (Antonio Ribera, “[A UFO Survey of Spain: More Evidence.](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 9, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1963): 16; Herbert S. Taylor, “[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part Two.](#)” *IUR* 34, no. 1 (Sept. 2011): 18; Juan Carlos Victorio, “[El ‘platillo volante’ de Órdenes \(A Coruña\).](#)” *Misterios del Aire*, April 17, 2018)
- 1954**, November 2 — 10:30 a.m. Taxi driver Maurilio Braga Godoi leaves the streetcar trailer at Santo Amaro, a suburb of São Paulo, Brazil, and starts to walk home. When he arrives at the corner of Rua Andaguara, he is startled to find a glowing, circular object landed in an empty lot. It is about 90–120 feet in diameter and surrounded in a violet glow. He approaches it hesitantly from 60 feet away, feeling like running but he is rooted to the spot and is unable to call for help. The anxiety dissipates, and he walks toward it again, noticing a sliding door on the object. He goes inside, entering a circular room illuminated by a soft light. On a table he sees some maps, including one of South America with mushroom-shaped marks on it. He looks up and sees three humanoids less than 5 feet tall with dark brown skin and dressed in a light gray coverall and a belt that holds what might be a weapon. They appear to be conversing in an unknown language. He tries talking to them, but they don’t understand. He backs out of the object, dragging his feet. He jumps out of the door and runs away. Looking back at the object from 30 feet away, he sees it is hovering 30 feet above the ground then takes off swiftly and silently. Godoi is examined by psychiatrists, who find him neither neurotic nor psychotic. (Lorenzen, *Occupants*, Signet, 1967, pp. 198–199; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse, UFOs: A History, 1954 November–December, Supplemental Notes*, The author, 2002, pp. 3–5)
- 1954**, November 4 — A laborer named Jose Alves of Pontal, São Paulo, Brazil, is night fishing in the Rio Pardo in a deserted spot. He sees a silvery, glowing UFO like two washbowls placed on top of each other, closing in from a westerly direction and wobbling. It lands near him and three little men emerge from a window, 3 feet tall with dark brown skin. They are dressed in white clothes with tightly fitting skullcaps, and collect samples of grass, herbs, and leaves, as well as water, which they put into a metal tube. They jump back into the object, which takes off vertically. (Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 22, 2006)
- 1954**, November 4 (or 7) — 3:15 p.m. A motorcyclist, Gianni Cambosu, sees a silvery, disc-shaped object about 50 feet in diameter land near the road at Monte Ortobene, Sardinia, Italy. He swerves sharply to avoid it and falls off his cycle. A taxi driver, Francesco Tanca, stops to observe the object, which is making a soft whirring sound before it takes off. (Wilkins, *FS Uncensored*, Citadel, 1955, pp. 237–238; 1Pinotti 76)
- 1954**, November 5 — 10:09 a.m. A witness in La Roche-en-Brénil, Côte d’Or, France, sees an orange object making a noise like a generator land in a nearby pasture. He notices three men standing near it. One is holding a box that emits a beam of light and the other two hold objects that look like weapons. Physical traces are found at the landing site: a white substance and a circle 10 feet in diameter. (“[Fouillez les archives: La Roche-en-Brénil.](#)” *Lumières dans la Nuit*, no. 125 (May 1973): 22–23; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, p. 10; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse, UFOs: A History, 1954 November–December, Supplemental Notes*, The author, 2002, pp. 10–11; Patrick Gross, “[The 1954 French Flap.](#)” April 16, 2003)
- 1954**, November 6 — 11:00 a.m. [Alberto Perego](#) is in the Tuscolana district in Rome, Italy, when he sees dozens of small, white objects in the sky at a height of 4–5 miles. They are moving at variable speeds, as high as 750–850 mph. At first he calculates that there are about 50 of them, but later realizes there are 100. Sometimes they are single, other times in pairs, threes, fours, sevens, or twelves. Frequently they are in diamond formations of four or V-formations of seven. At 12:00 noon, a formation of 20 objects appears from the east, followed by another 20 moving from the west. The two V-formations converge until their vertices form a St. Andrews cross, with 10 objects to each bar. The convergence takes place over the Trastevere–Monte Mario district above Vatican City.

The cross then performs a three-quarter turn on its axis, turning into an X-formation, then breaks off into two separate curves that take off in opposite directions. Another concentration of about 100 objects appears 10 minutes later and Perego notices shining filaments falling from the sky. He grabs a handful of the glassy substance, which evaporates in a few hours. (Alberto Perego, "[The Great 'Cross' above the Vatican](#)," *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 15 (June 1973): 4–5; 1Pinotti 76–80)

- 1954**, November 7 — 11:30 a.m. [Alberto Perego](#) is returning from the Tuscolana district of Rome, Italy, when he sees more formations of about 50 white objects that remain for about two-and-a-half hours. They arrive from different directions and always in formation. More filamentous material falls from the sky. (Alberto Perego, "[The Great 'Cross' above the Vatican](#)," *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 15 (June 1973): 5; 1Pinotti 80)
- 1954**, November 8 — 6:00 p.m. Witnesses near Voussac, Allier, France, in the Vacheresse Forest watch a luminous sphere land and then dim, fading to black. Investigators find an area 12–15 feet in diameter where there are no leaves and the ground seems excavated. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," April 18, 2003)
- 1954**, November 8 — 7:30 p.m. Blacksmith André Chaillou is riding a moped one mile north of Loublande, Deux-Sèvres, France, when he notices a small blue light in front of him. His engine fails and he nearly falls off the bike. The blue dot is projecting a strong light and hovering about 6 feet in the air. He finds himself temporarily paralyzed with a tingling in his hands. The blue light goes out and he is able to move again and restart his moped, but the light reappears about 450 feet away, seemingly 18 feet long and cone-shaped. It takes off vertically with a whistling sound. (Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," October 22, 2006)
- 1954**, November 10 — An agronomist and his family encounter a landed UFO along a road in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Two men with long hair and one-piece suits emerge and approach them with raised arms. The witnesses speed away. (Clark III 268; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, pp. 48–49)
- 1954**, November 11 (or 14) — 7:45 p.m. Near Isola, Spezia, Italy, Amerigo (or Americo) Lorenzini sees a cigar-shaped UFO land and a trio of small creatures wearing diving suits emerge. They walk over to Lorenzini's rabbit cages and stare at the animals, talking in a strange language. He runs inside to grab his gun and tries to pull the trigger as they are taking some rabbits to the UFO, but he becomes paralyzed. The UFO takes off, leaving a bright trail. ("[Recent Sightings](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 3 (November 15, 1954): 5, 7; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, pp. 20–21; Peter Rogerson, "[INTCAT 1954](#)"; 1Pinotti 88)
- 1954**, November 12 — 11:30 a.m. [Alberto Perego](#) watches even more formations of white objects over Rome. He has contacted the Italian air defense office, which tells him that the objects would be out of radar range. This time the objects are also observed by Fr. Zilwes, a Brazilian priest at the Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. (Alberto Perego, "[The Great 'Cross' above the Vatican](#)," *Flying Saucer Review Case Histories*, no. 15 (June 1973): 5–6; 1Pinotti 81–82)
- 1954**, November 12 — 3:00–6:00 p.m. A white, motionless object appears over Louisville, Kentucky. A radar unit 30 miles southwest of Louisville tracks the object but loses sight about 12 miles northwest of Godman Army Airfield at Fort Knox. It is later sighted at Bedford, Indiana. Kentucky National Guard pilot Lt. Col. [Lee J. Merkel](#) notifies Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio, which sends an F-86 to investigate. The pilot sees nothing and returns to the base. Merkel and another National Guard pilot give chase in F-51 Mustangs, but they are also unsuccessful. Merkel says the object is moving into the wind, which is not likely for a balloon. [Henry P. Julliard](#), deputy director of Standiford Field [now Louisville International Airport] follows the object for 45 minutes on the weather bureau's theodolite; he says the object has no more motion than a star and that after sundown the object turns amber. ("[That 'Thing' in the Sky Still 'Unidentified Object'](#)," *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, November 13, 1954, pp. 1, 12; "[Louisville Stops Work to Watch Saucer](#)," *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 9 (December 3, 1954): 3–4; NICAP, "[Sphere Startles Thousands](#)"; UFOEv, p. 134; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 51–52)
- 1954**, November 13 — 2:00 a.m. A witness is driving a 4 CV Renault auto in Buchy, Seine-Maritime, France, and sees a luminous object take off as he feels a mild electric shock and is paralyzed. His car engine slows but does not stall. The object leaves, the paralysis goes away, and the car returns to normal. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, p. 20; Patrick Gross, "[The 1954 French Flap](#)," October 22, 2006)
- 1954**, November 13 — 3:30 a.m. Railroad worker José Rodrigues comes across three figures in tight-fitting suits inspecting the ground with the help of luminous objects near railroad tracks near Urai, Paraná, Brazil. They see him and run back into the UFO. ("Vistos no norte do Paraná e nos céus de Pôrto Alegre," *Correio da Manhã* (Rio de Janeiro), November 14, 1954; NICAP, "[Railroad Men See 'Men' Inspecting Tracks](#)"; "[Recent Sightings](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 3 (November 15, 1954): 5, 7)
- 1954**, November 14 — Two or three tractor drivers in Forlì, Italy, watch a bright-red, luminous UFO approach them in a farm field. As it approaches, the engine that works by internal combustion fail, but the diesel engine still runs. The

men run away; when they return, the UFO has departed. The engine that failed still causes some trouble after the sighting. ("[Recent Sightings](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 3 (November 15, 1954): 5, 7; Aimé Michel, *Straight Line*, p. 211; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 62–63, 145; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, p. 21)

- 1954**, November 17 — 4:10 p.m. [Iden K. Zimmerman](#) is standing just under the roof of a shed by the railing of gate number six of the Willamette Falls Locks in Oregon City, Oregon. His gloved hands are resting on the railing. He feels something like "icy rain" on his hands. The rain seems to penetrate his clothing and gloves as if his arms are bare. He feels the same thing on his legs, from the knees down. Looking up, he sees a bright orange object as large as the full moon flying in a straight line from west to east. It disappears over the Crown Zellerbach Paper Mill roof across the river. He can find no trace of rain on the wooden deck or cement walks, and the moisture disappears from his clothing. A few minutes later he begins to feel dizzy and has trouble maintaining his balance. The effect wears off in about one hour. (Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore Jr., *Strange Effects from UFOs*, NICAP, 1969, pp. 16–17)
- 1954**, November 17–18 — Blue Book head Capt. [Charles Hardin](#) and [Allen Hynek](#) meet with Col. John M. White Jr., commander of the 4602nd AISS at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in order to help out with a guide for investigating and processing UFO reports. (Col. John M. White Jr., "[Report of Visit of ATIC Representatives](#)," November 23, 1954, in *History of 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron*, vol. 1, January 1–June 30, 1955, pp. 55–57)
- 1954**, November 21 — 11:30 a.m. Copilot Cmdr. Armando Braulino, pilot Cmdr. Pedro Luiz Teixeira, steward, radio operator, and passengers of National Airlines Douglas PP-ANM airliner at 9,000 feet over Paraíbo do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, see a UFO formation, described as disc-shaped with cupola or dome on top, like aluminum with a polished surface. The formation is coming from the northeast at 7,200 feet and passes below the airliner at high speed. The duration is 40–50 seconds. (NICAP, "[Shiny Objects Encountered by Airliner](#)"; "[Why Flying Saucers Are Not All Earth-Made Devices](#)," *CRIFO Newsletter* 1, no. 12 (March 4, 1955): 1, 3)
- 1954**, November 22 — Charles Laughead is forced to resign his position at Michigan State College [now Michigan State University] in East Lansing, Michigan, because of his flying saucer activities. (Clark III 718)
- 1954**, November 22 — Anor Ferreira da Silva, a bored telegraph operator in Caratinga, Minas Gerais, Brazil, transmits a Morse code message to his friend Geraldo Bastos in Belo Horizonte, claiming that a flying saucer has crashed in a nearby quarry. His messages continue for an hour, repeatedly asking the authorities to defend the city from Martian invaders. Bastos takes the messages seriously, and a friend looking over his shoulder runs out to the nearest newspaper office to relay the news. The telephone system of Caratinga shuts down from all the press inquiries, and soon the Brazilian military investigates, finding nothing amiss in the city. (John Gosling, *Waging the War of the Worlds*, McFarland, 2009, pp. 114–119)
- 1954**, November 22 — 9:45 p.m. At Santa Maria Air Force Base, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, radio operator Arquimedes Fernandez sees a strange cloud above the trees, like an upside-down washbowl. It is a solid body 160 feet across, oscillating with a small light on top. Fernandez radios a report to weather headquarters at Porto Alegre. The object remains in view until his duty shift ends at 1:15 a.m. (Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, pp. 51–52; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, pp. 28–29)
- 1954**, November 23 — Afternoon. A UFO follows three 10-year-old girls (Anne Storedal, Tora Storedal, and Tora Moy Haugo) returning home from school in Torpo, Viken County, Norway. It descends and hovers only 3 or 4 feet away from them. It is round, about 10 feet in diameter, and the bottom is black, trimmed with yellow spots which could have been lights, with a number of small "red jags." The upper part is a transparent dome; a man who is operating controls is visible inside. He wears black trousers, a black jacket, and immense red goggles over his eyes. He stares at one of the girls. When the craft ascends it collides with a high-tension power line making a shower of sparks, and the girls run away. They notice a smell "like fried sausages." A "streak" is found in the snow, apparently left by the craft having brushed the surface of the ground. (Oddvar J. Larsen, "Were the Flying Saucers in Norway Real?" *Sir* magazine, August 1956, pp. 49, 70–72 "[Remarkable Norwegian Near-Landing Case of 1954 Now Published](#)," *CSI News Letter*, no. 19 (May 1, 1957): 16; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1954](#), p. 160; Clark III 268)
- 1954**, November 28 — 2:00 a.m. Meat merchants José Ponce and Gustavo Gonzáles are driving a panel truck along Calle Bella Vista in Petare, Caracas, Venezuela. They find their way blocked by a 10-foot-wide, glowing ball hovering 6 feet above the street. When they get out to investigate, they are confronted by a dwarfish creature covered with stiff, bristly hair. Gonzáles grabs it, but it tosses him to one side. Two more dwarfs, gathering dirt and rocks nearby, approach. Ponce sees them and runs to find a police station. Gonzáles recovers in time to see two of the entities climb through an opening in the UFO. The third comes toward him, claws extended, and Gonzáles tries to stab it in the shoulder with his knife, but the blade glances off. One of the dwarfs inside the UFO points a tube at

González that emits a brilliant beam of energy. He is paralyzed and temporarily blinded but manages to stagger to the police station. A doctor at the emergency room at Esquina de Sálas hospital treats an abrasion on González's left side. Other witnesses to a UFO in the area come forward. ("[Petare, Venezuela](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 3 (November 15, 1954): 11; Mary Louise Edgar, "[Ex-Wacoan in Venezuela Relates Saucer Saga There](#)," *Waco (Tex.) Tribune-Herald*, February 13, 1955, p. III-7; "[US Press Reps Visit Caracas](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 5 (April 15, 1955, pp. 1–3; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 239–240; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, pp. 57–58; Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, pp. 100–102; Lorenzen, *Encounters with UFO Occupants*, Berkley Medallion, 1976, pp. 144–145; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, pp. 32–33; Michael D. Swords, "[Classic Cases from the APRO Files](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 31; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 4, 2006)

1954, November 28 — A group of peasants at Palmarito, Mérida, Venezuela, see a strange craft land. Three small-statured beings emerge from it. (Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 5, 2006)

1954, November 28 — Night. A 37-year-old medical doctor is being driven by his chauffeur along Highway 54 south of Manila in the Philippines. As he looks out the window, he notices a bright orange glow in the south at an elevation of 30°. When it appears to approach them, he tells the driver to stop the car. The object is traveling due north and continues to approach soundlessly for about 3 minutes then stops at an elevation of 45° and a distance of 8,000 feet. It is circular with a dome-shaped top and a flat bottom. It appears to be 65–70 feet in diameter and 18–20 feet high, with four evenly spaced yellow spots along the side. The color is bright orange with red flecks. After standing still for one minute, it begins moving south, then reverses direction, continues north at a constant altitude, and disappears. (NICAP, "[Domed Disc Stops, Reverses Course](#)"; Olsen, sec. 3, p. 39; [Sparks](#), p. 222)

1954, December — Aviation inventor [Bill Lear](#) sees a flying disc giving off greenish light near Palm Springs, California. It hovers for 2 seconds then swiftly moves out of sight. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June*, The Author, 1992, p. 22)

1954, December — The US Air Force acknowledges that it is contemplating a "New type of jet aircraft, powered by a turbine larger than any now in use, [that] is expected to take off, land vertically, and be able to hover. It may cruise at 1,500 knots and have a range of 15,000 nautical miles." It speculates: "If the Soviets now have such an aircraft in operational use, would the United States air defense system be able to detect, identify, intercept and destroy a bomber or reconnaissance aircraft moving at a 1,500 knot clip at an altitude of 65,000 feet?" ("[The Flying Disc](#)," *Air Intelligence Digest* 7, no 12 (December 1954): 6+)

1954, December — Contactee [Orfeo Angelucci](#), now working in Twentynine Palms, California, is at Tiny's Café when he meets someone named Adam, who claims to have read his book and gives him some kind of mind-altering pill. After taking the pill, Angelucci finds himself in an "exalted state" and talks freely with Adam about outer space and politics. Prior to this time, Angelucci has caught the attention of the FBI because he has been approached several times by a group of seeming left-wing agents. (Orfeo Angelucci, *The Son of the Sun*, DeVorss, 1959; Kremlin 100–107)

1954, December — Charles Laughead and his wife Lillian meet [George Hunt Williamson](#) at a lecture he is giving in Detroit, Michigan. (Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, p. 103)

1954, December 1 — President [Eisenhower](#) approves the development of the Lockheed U-2 reconnaissance plane as a CIA project under the direction of [Allen Dulles](#). (Wikipedia, "[Lockheed U-2](#)")

1954, December 3 — Morning. Victoriano Maeso, Luis Brugada, and Francisco Huertos are at Las Gastanas farm about 3 miles from Granja de Torrehermosa, Badajoz, Spain, when they hear an unusual noise and notice an object in the branches of an oak tree about 165 feet away. It is pyramid-shaped and about 8 feet high and 2 feet in diameter, with four fins and a box suspended from it by apparent ropes. They approach it, but the object rises and disappears toward the west. This observation is the first of about a dozen others reported over the next two weeks in Badajoz, Zaragoza, Teruel, Guipúzcoa, and Huelva provinces that seem to involve wayward balloons released in Germany by Radio Free Europe that carry leaflets intended to be dropped in the Soviet bloc. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Juan Carlos Victorio Uranga, "[Los ovnis de diciembre de 1954](#)," Academia.edu)

1954, December 3 — 12:12 p.m. [Sargent Prentiss Mellen](#), a flight instructor, and his wife [Dottie](#) are driving along Highway 49 in Gulfport, Mississippi, near the Mississippi Aluminum Company building. They see a round, flat object about 30–35 feet in diameter, hovering with an up-and-down motion, and rotating on its vertical axis at high speed. It ascends at a 10–20° angle, moving off to the east at an estimated speed of 500–600 mph. It appears to be shaped as though two plates were placed together. (NICAP, "[Couple Observe Rotating Object](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 222; Olsen, sec. 3, p. 39)

- 1954**, December 5 — 8:15 a.m. Miguel Sevil is hunting in the Montes de Zuera north of Zaragoza, Spain, when he hears a prolonged whistle and sees a luminous, transparent object landed about 165 feet away. It has several rods protruding from it, each apparently with a propeller. Two men about 6 feet tall with blond hair and speaking an unintelligible language enter the UFO through a door on the side. It rises vertically at tremendous speed and disappears. Probable hoax. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Juan Carlos Victorio Uranga, "[Los ovnis de diciembre de 1954](#)," Academia.edu)
- 1954**, December 7 — A Project Blue Book memo acknowledges the many "Foreign Sightings" in Europe, but attributes the cause to an increase in "meteorite activity" and overseas translations of [Keyhoe](#)'s book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December](#), The Author, 1991, pp. 49)
- 1954**, December 7 — 1:15 p.m. R. H. Kleyweg, officer-in-charge of the meteorological station at Upington, Northern Cape, South Africa, is looking for a red balloon he has just released. He sees an object just east of the sun, moving slowly west, but when he begins tracking it with a theodolite, he realizes it is white, not red. It looks like a half circle with sunlight gleaming from its sloped top. He follows it for 3 minutes, but then it accelerates and he cannot keep it in sight. (UFOEv, [p. 124](#); 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. 63)
- 1954**, December 9 — Giovanni Aquilante, a farmer of Gricignano d'Aversa, Caserta, Italy, disappears after leaving home to work in the fields. His family and police fail to find him. On December 10, near 12:00 midnight, two of Aquilante's sons and a friend see two mysterious entities with luminous eyes in a field. They quickly vanish. Aquilante returns home on the morning of December 11, silent and shocked, and explains that he met two "dwarfs" in the field wearing multicolored suits. They float him in the air and take him to "unknown places." They release him, but promise to come back for him later. Aquilante is terrified of being abducted again. (1Pinotti 89)
- 1954**, December 9 — Evening. Farmer Olmiro de Costa e Rosa is feeding his animals at Linha Bela Vista, said to be 2.5 miles from Venâncio Aires, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, when he hears a sound like a sewing machine that causes some of his cows to run. An object shaped like an "enormous polished brass kettle" with a rectangular structure on top is hovering in the air with an oscillating motion. Two small humanoids "enveloped in a kind of yellow sack from head to toe" are standing in a nearby field. As he approaches, one runs toward him and the other raises its arm. The first one kneels down and plucks a tobacco plant from the field, then both jump into the craft, which vanishes within a few seconds. (Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 27, 2007)
- 1954**, December 9 — Night. Lorenzo Flores and Jesús Gómez are hunting rabbits near an unfindable town called Carera [or, alternatively, between the equally unfindable places Chico and Cerro de las Tres Torros] along the Transandean Highway in Venezuela. They run across a huge red UFO like two washbowls put together hovering above the road with flames spurting out. Four small hairy figures, 3 feet tall, scramble out and grab Gómez and try to drag him toward the craft. Flores strikes one with his gun butt, but it has no effect and feels like striking rock. The wooden rifle butt cracks from the impact. Gómez faints from fright, and both men are scratched and bruised. A passing motorist takes them to a police station, their clothes torn and skin abraded. When they tell their story to the police, it is obvious that their shirts have been shredded into ribbons. ("[Hunters Clawed and Beaten](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 4 (January 15, 1955): 2; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [pp. 56–57](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December](#), The Author, 1991, pp. 51–52; Mark Cashman, "[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 18)
- 1954**, December 10 — An American petroleum engineer takes a photo of a formation of UFOs over El Tigre, Venezuela. ("[Engineer Snaps Photo of Covey of Flying Saucers](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 4 (January 15, 1955): 4; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [p. 50](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December](#), The Author, 1991, p. 52)
- 1954**, December 10 — 6:30 p.m. A doctor is driving near Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda Air Base in Caracas, Venezuela, when he and his father see two little men running near the road and ducking into shrubbery. Moments later a UFO rises up from the same spot and zooms away. ("[Doctor Sees Little Men, Disc](#)," *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 4 (January 15, 1955): 4; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [pp. 49–50](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December](#), The Author, 1991, p. 52)
- 1954**, December 14 — 11:00 a.m. Three bright lights appear in the sky above Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. Around 12:00 noon, they descend to a lower altitude, and witnesses see they are metallic discs. The Brazilian Air Force scrambles some jets, but they fail to intercept any of the objects. By 1:00 p.m., several groups of witnesses around the city are watching when two of the objects take off to the south, while the third comes closer and approaches some buildings in the city center. Chief of Police Col. Carlos Assunção sees a "reddish and slightly bluish object"

moving at incredible speed. Maxim Cicaida, a professional photographer for Foto Heisler, snaps a photo of the disc above a building. He sends the negatives to the Brazilian Naval School in Rio de Janeiro, but they are never returned, and no analysis is released. (Brazil 29–31)

- 1954,** December 15 — A man is fishing in a river near Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, when he sees an unusual object landing a few hundred feet away. His dog gets nervous and begins to howl. He uses his telescopic gunsight to get a closer look. He sees two spheres of different sizes, the smaller one revolving around the larger one, which is about 6 feet above the ground and has three balls attached to its underside. Soon he sees small beings come down from the large object, moving rapidly. One is holding a phosphorescent bucket, and another has a metallic tube that is cone-shaped at one end. They use these tools to collect calcareous soil from the riverbank. They take two buckets' worth inside the craft, which then takes off. The witness later finds square-shaped holes in the riverbank. Col. Adil de Oliveira of the Brazilian Air Force has the soil analyzed and it yields a composition of 61% silica, 19% aluminum oxide, 11% magnesium and iron, with other trace elements. (Lorenzen, *Flying Saucer Occupants*, Signet, 1967, [pp. 195–196](#))
- 1954,** December 15 — Asked about UFOs at a press conference, [Eisenhower](#) says that no reports have come to him, “either verbally or in written form,” and it is “completely inaccurate to believe that they came from any outside planet or otherwise.” Immediately after the press conference, Eisenhower asks for a full briefing on UFOs. (“[The President’s News Conference](#),” December 15, 1954; “[President Discounts ‘Saucer’ from Space](#),” *New York Times*, December 16, 1954, pp. 1, 26; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, p. 62; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 238)
- 1954,** December 16 — Jesús Paz, Luis Mejia, and another young man are driving home after dinner at a restaurant in San Carlos, Venezuela, when Paz stops to relieve himself in a park. He claims he is jumped by a hairy dwarf from a flying disc (both of which his friends see when he screams). His friends rush the unconscious Paz to a hospital. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1954 November–December*, The Author, 1991, p. 60; Mark Cashman, “[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 18)
- 1954,** December 19 — 11:00 p.m. José Parra, an 18-year-old jockey, watches a disc-shaped UFO land in Valencia, Venezuela. Six 3-foot-tall humanoids disembark and set about collecting vegetation samples and loading stones into the disc. When he tries to approach them, he is paralyzed by a violet beam aimed at him by one of the creatures. All the short beings enter the craft and it takes off. The UFO leaves behind ground traces. (Clark III 270; “[‘Little Men’ Fail in Kidnap Attempt!!](#)” *APRO Bulletin* 3, no. 4 (January 15, 1955): 3; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 243; Gordon Creighton, “[The Humanoids in Latin America](#),” in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, Special Issue 1 of *FSR*, October/November 1966, p. 35; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), November 24, 2006)
- 1954,** December 20–21 — A group of [Dorothy Martin](#)’s followers has gathered at her Oak Park, Illinois, home to await the midnight arrival of a flying saucer that is to rescue them from planetary disaster. They have left jobs, college, and spouses, and given away money and possessions to prepare for their departure. When no spaceman arrives, the group sits in stunned silence. Martin begins to cry, and at 4:45 a.m. she receives a message by automatic writing saying that the God of Earth has decided to spare the planet from destruction. The cataclysm has been called off: “The little group, sitting all night long, had spread so much light that God had saved the world from destruction.” The group begins an urgent campaign to spread its message to a broader audience. (“[Doctor Denies Predicting End of World; Only Expects Upheavals](#),” *Danville (Pa.) Times*, December 17, 1954, p. 8; Robert Schultz, “[Prophet Awaits Flood, Saucer Men Promised](#),” *Binghamton (N.Y.) Press and Sun-Bulletin*, December 19, 1954, p. 6; Leon Festinger, Henry Riecken, and Stanley Schachter, *When Prophecy Fails*, University of Minnesota, 1956; Wikipedia, “[When Prophecy Fails](#)”; Clark III 718–719)
- 1954,** December 26 — Australian physicist O. H. “Harry” Turner has been tasked with reviewing UFO reports in the RAAF files and writing an assessment for the Australian Directorate of Air Force Intelligence. Now in England, he sends the report to the Secretary, Department of Air, in Melbourne, Victoria. He writes: “If one assumes these Intelligence reports are authentic, then the evidence presented is such that it is difficult to assume any interpretation other than that unidentified flying objects are being observed.... Indeed, the superiority is such that it is highly improbable that such objects have a terrestrial origin... the evidence presented by the reports held by the RAAF tend to support the above conclusion—namely that certain strange aircraft have been observed to behave in a manner suggestive of an extra-terrestrial origin.” Turner goes on to recommend appointing at least one full-time investigator; publicity to encourage more people to report sightings; a liaison with the USAF to exchange information and verify [Keyhoe](#)’s claims; liaison with the RAF and the possibility of forming a panel to assist in analyzing reports. The Director of RAAF Intelligence checks with USAF on the reliability of Keyhoe’s work, and they ultimately reject it as impractical and unjustified. (Project 1947, “[The Former Air Board /](#)

- [Department of Air / Current RAAF](#)"; Bill Chalker, "[UFOs Sub Rosa, Down Under: The Australian Military and Government Role in the UFO Controversy](#)," 1996; "[The Project Interviews Harry Turner](#)," *Disclosure Australia Newsletter*, no. 16, September 2004; Bill Chalker, "[Harry Turner and UFOs](#)," *The Oz Files*, March 30, 2022)
- 1954**, December 26 — 8:30 p.m. Willis St.-Jean, a hoistman at the Agaunico Mine on the shore of Lake Timiskaming northeast of Cobalt, Ontario, sees a bright white light maneuvering in the sky. He calls John Hunt, a reporter at the *North Bay Nugget* office in Cobalt, to drive 3 miles to the mine to view it. The light is emanating from a large, rotating, slightly wedge-shaped disc. They watch the object for an hour after he arrives there. It circles, moves away, dances in the sky, disappears (apparently when it banks), and returns repeatedly, and at one point it flies over the lake, illuminating the surface. It disappears for good shortly after 10:15 p.m. (John Hunt, "[Reporter Sees 'Saucer' over Cobalt Mine](#)," *North Bay (Ont.) Nugget*, December 27, 1954, p. 1)
- 1954**, December 27 — [Elizabeth Klarer](#), having been alerted by her sister May that the local Zulu people are reporting appearances of a mythical lightning bird in the sky, travels from Johannesburg, South Africa, with her children to a hill southwest of Rosetta, KwaZulu Natal, that she later calls Flying Saucer Hill. There she claims to see a star ship descend and hover 8 feet above the ground, emitting a soft hum. Its hull is spinning, though its central dome remains stationary. The friendly extraterrestrial Akon, with whom she has been in telepathic contact, is clearly visible through one of three portholes, but a blast of heat emanating from the ship prevents her from approaching. The UFO leaves by shooting high into the sky. (Clark III 657; Elizabeth Klarer, *Beyond the Light Barrier*, Howard Timmins, 1980)
- 1954**, December 28 — The NSC 5412/2 Special Group, often referred simply as the Special Group, is an initially secret, but later public, subcommittee of the US National Security Council responsible for coordinating government covert operations. Presidential Directive NSC 5412/2 assigns responsibility for coordination of covert actions to representatives of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the President respectively. All proposals pass through the Special Group on the way to [Richard Helms](#) at the CIA, who is responsible for covert operations. It changes names several times to avoid public exposure. In 1964, it is known as the 303 Committee, and in 1970 it is renamed the 40 Committee. Within this organization—which includes such familiar names as [Nelson Rockefeller](#), [Robert McNamara](#), [McGeorge Bundy](#), [Gordon Gray](#), and [Allen Dulles](#)—is a subcommittee dealing with science and technology. It is here that the connection between the corporate and financial world and government-held technological secrets can be found. (Wikipedia, "[Oversight of United States covert operations](#)"; Gregory W. Pedlow and Donald E. Welzenbach, *The Central Intelligence Agency and Overhead Reconnaissance: The U-2 and OXCART Programs, 1954–1974*, CIA History Staff, 1992, p. 188)
- 1954**, December 30 — Fifty residents of Lima, Peru, watch a flight of 5 iridescent silver UFOs for at least 5 minutes. (*La Nación*, December 31, 1954)

1955

- Early 1955** — A secure test site is needed for the CIA Project Aquatone (the Lockheed U-2 spy plane). Lockheed test pilot [Kelly Johnson](#) sends project pilot [Tony LeVier](#) and Skunk Works chief foreman Dorsey Kammerer on a two-week survey mission to scout locations for a new base in an unmarked Beechcraft V-35 Bonanza. CIA official [Richard M. Bissell Jr.](#) reviews 50 potential sites with USAF liaison Col. [Osmond J. Ritland](#). None seem to meet the stringent requirements of the program. They reject Johnson's proposed Site I (Mud Lake?) because it is too close to populated areas. Ritland recalls a "little X-shaped field" just off the eastern side of Groom Lake, Nevada, just outside the AEC nuclear proving ground at Yucca Flat. (Peter W. Merlin, "[Area 51 Timeline](#)," *Secret Heroes*, November 10, 2021)
- 1955** — Project Rover, a US project to develop a nuclear-thermal rocket, is initiated at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, New Mexico, and runs until January 1973. It begins as an Air Force project to develop a nuclear-powered upper stage for an intercontinental ballistic missile. The project is transferred to NASA in 1958 after the Sputnik crisis. It is managed by the Space Nuclear Propulsion Office, a joint agency of the Atomic Energy Commission and NASA. Project Rover becomes part of NASA's Nuclear Engine for Rocket Vehicle Application (NERVA) project and henceforth deals with the research into nuclear rocket reactor design, while NERVA involves the overall development and deployment of nuclear rocket engines and the planning for space missions. (Wikipedia, "[Project Rover](#)"; Wikipedia, "[NERVA](#)"; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 303–312)
- 1955** — The US nuclear stockpile totals 2,422 bombs. (Ryan Crierie, "[U.S. Nuclear Stockpile, 1945–2009](#)")
- 1955** — An informant of Charles Wilhelm claims that, while working at the Foreign Materials Division at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio, she is assigned the duty of cataloging all incoming UFO material. She processes approximately 1,000 items, including objects from the interior of a recovered UFO brought to the base.

All items are photographed and tagged. At the time, she also witnesses two dead humanoid bodies being conveyed by cart from one room to another. The bodies, preserved in chemicals, are 4–5 feet tall, large heads in relation to their bodies, and slanted eyes. (Leonard H. Stringfield, "[Retrievals of the Third Kind, Part 2](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 25, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1979): 6, 8)

- 1955** — [Otis T. Carr](#) founds OTC Enterprises in Baltimore, Maryland, to advance and supply technology originating from ideas of [Nikola Tesla](#). Carr claims he met Tesla while working as a night clerk in New York City's Hotel Pennsylvania, where Tesla was living in the late 1920s. Tesla befriended Carr and revealed to him secrets he was not ready to make public yet. Carr attracts the funding of local businessman [Wilfred C. Gosnell](#). Soon he hires a promotions man named Norman Evans Colton and sends out regular information bulletins to investors. (Clark III 860)
- 1955** — After selling his share of *Fate* magazine to [Curtis](#) and [Mary Margaret Stiehm Fuller](#), [Ray Palmer](#) founds a would-be competitor, *Mystic* (later *Search*) and several short-lived SF titles. *Other Worlds* evolves in 1957 into *Flying Saucers*, a more or less nonfiction magazine that features articles of widely varying credibility and a column of saucer fan-club news. (Clark III 873)
- 1955** — [George Adamski's](#) *Inside the Space Ships*, ghostwritten by Adamski follower Charlotte Blodget, is published by Abelard Schuman in the United States and Foster and Scott in Canada. Adamski claims that Orthon arranged for him to be taken on a trip to see the Solar System, including the planet [Venus](#), the location where Orthon said the late Mary Adamski had been reincarnated. He claims that in another voyage he met the 1,000-year-old "elder philosopher of the space people," who is called "the Master." Adamski says he and the Master discussed philosophy, religion, and the "Earth's place in the universe." Adamski learns that he has been selected by Nordic aliens to bring their message of peace to Earth people and that other humans throughout history have also served as their messengers, including Jesus Christ. Adamski further claims that aliens are peacefully living on Earth, and that he has met with them in bars and restaurants in Southern California. (George Adamski, [Inside the Space Ships](#), Abelard-Schuman, 1955; Clark III 40; Lou Zinsstag and Timothy Good, *George Adamski: The Untold Story*, Ceti, 1983; David Stuppel, "The Man Who Talked with Venusians," *Fate* 32, no. 1 (January 1979): 30–39)
- 1955**, January — [George King](#) gives the first public demonstration of his contacts with the Cosmic Masters in Caxton Hall, London, England. After mounting the platform, he enters a trance, and Aetherius (the Cosmic Master from Venus) reveals a plan for human peace and enlightenment. (Douglas Curran, *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*, Abbeville, 1985, [p. 63](#))
- 1955**, Early January — [Dorothy Martin](#) leaves the Chicago area for Prescott, Arizona, home of the like-minded [George Hunt Williamson](#), after being threatened with arrest and involuntary commitment. She later founds the Association of Sananda and Sanat Kumara. Under the name Sister Thedra, she continues to practice channeling and participate in contactee groups until her death in 1992. (Clark III 719)
- 1955**, January 3 — 4:00 p.m. Félix Galarraga and Gerardo Izuesta see a red balloon-like object about 7–10 feet in diameter land near Oiartzun, Spain. Galarraga rushes towards it, but the UFO rises and speeds away. From a separate location, brothers Miguel and Martín Arraspio also see the object descend. Possibly another Radio Free Europe balloon with leaflets. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June](#), The Author, 1992, p. 4; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Juan Carlos Vistorio Uranga, "[Los ovnis de diciembre de 1954](#)," Academia.edu)
- 1955**, January 7 — The *Air Force Information Services Letter* warns that service members are talking too much about UFOs. (Ruppelt, [p. 228](#))
- 1955**, January 14 — 5:30 p.m. A luminous UFO drops from the sky near Idyllwild, California. Immediately afterwards, a B-47 pilot reports to March AFB [now March Air Reserve Base] near Riverside, California, that an "unknown object just hit our wing." The pilot guides the plane to a landing. No trace of a crashed object can be found. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), pp. 247–248)
- 1955**, January 31 — 2:00 a.m. Peruvian Air Force Commander Guillermo Serpa and Col. Juan Rodriguez Cavero are returning to El Pata Air Force Base near Talara, Peru, by car through the Sechura Desert on the Pan-American Highway 1N when they see a bright light in the sky ahead. The object, a deep red domed disc, draws nearer and Serpa stops the car to observe it. It tilts slightly toward them, making occasional clicking sounds. Several minutes later it accelerates quickly in their direction, changing to a bright orange color then to a bright white as it shoots past them at terrific speed. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs a History: 1955, January–June, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, pp. 14–18)
- 1955**, February — An ATIC officer tells the commander of the 4602d AISS that its investigators should solve as many UFO cases as possible in order to reduce unknowns to a minimum. The Air Force changes its earlier classification

(identified, insufficient data, unreliable, or unknown) by broadening the identified category to include probable and possible. In its final statistics, Blue Book lists these sightings as simply identified. (Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, Signet ed., 1976, [p. 119](#))

- 1955**, February 1 — 7:55 p.m. Instructor Capt. [Delwyn F. Ritzdorf](#) and aviation cadet Frederick W. Miller are flying a TB-25 bomber-trainer about 20 miles east of Cochise, Arizona, at 13,000 feet and 238 mph when they see a bright round object with red and white hues. It approaches them then hovers off the left wing for 5 minutes about 5° above the horizontal. Radio interference prevents Ritzdorf from reporting the sighting. The object climbs rapidly on a parallel flight track for 3 minutes before pulling away at 500–600 mph and disappearing. (NICAP, “[Huge Metallic Disc Paces B-25](#)”)
- 1955**, February 2 — Aviation inventor [Bill Lear](#), during a press conference in Bogotá, Colombia, states his belief that “flying saucers came from outer space and are piloted by beings of superior intelligence.” He suspects that they might use gravitational fields as propulsion. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 250–251; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June*, The Author, 1992, p. 18)
- 1955**, February 2 — 11:15 a.m. A Venezuelan Aeropostal airliner piloted by Captain Dario Celis is flying between Barquisimeto and Valera, Venezuela, at 7,500 feet. Celis and his copilot B. J. Cortes spot a strange, round “apparatus” flying swiftly toward the plane. Rotating counterclockwise, the object shines with a greenish light. Around its center is a red ring or band that emits flashes of brilliant light. Above and below this band are lighted portholes. Hurriedly the pilot cuts in his mike to call the Barquisimeto radio station. After reporting the UFO, he waits for an answer, but the receiver is dead. Later the radio operators state that just as the pilot began his report, communication is cut off. The copilot banks toward the rotating UFO. Instantly the object whirls downward, then levels off, and races away at tremendous speed. (NICAP, “[Plane Encounters Saucer and Radio Goes Dead](#)”; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 249–250)
- 1955**, February 6 — Several witnesses in Greymouth, New Zealand, see a dazzling, silvery, cigar-shaped object moving inland at a high speed. Two observers see it consisting of two parts, with the leading part larger than the other. A loud explosion like a thunderclap is heard, causing the earth to tremble slightly. (“[World Roundup](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 2 (May/June 1955): 8)
- 1955**, February 10 — 9:30 p.m. Many residents of Caracas, Venezuela, see a strange object crossing the sky silently from northeast to southwest. José Agustín Díaz in Altamira clocks its time as 6–8 minutes. It looks like a disc with two bright, pulsating, bluish lights on the underside. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 64)
- 1955**, February 13 — Midnight. A green fireball shoots across east Texas like a “huge electric arc,” passing from Tyler towards Lufkin. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June*, The Author, 1992, p. 24)
- 1955**, February 15 — ATIC sends a memo to Maj. Joseph A. Cybulski, commander of the 4602nd AISS at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center] in Colorado Springs, Colorado, complaining about the high number of unknowns. It suggests that AISS and ATIC “strive to reach as many case solutions as possible, thereby reducing the percentage of the unknowns to a bare minimum.” As long as there is sufficient information, most cases “will fit to some extent one of the hypotheses.” The probable and possible cases are merged into the “identified” category. (Maj. T. G. Connair Jr., “Evaluation of Unidentified Flying Objects,” February 15, 1955, in CUFON, “[4602d AISS Unit History Sampler, Part 7 of 7 Parts](#)”)
- 1955**, February 18 — The nuclear Teapot Wasp test takes place at the Nevada Test Site. Ground forces take part in Exercise Desert Rock VI, which includes an armored task force *Razor* moving to within 3,000 feet of ground zero, under the still-forming mushroom cloud. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Teapot](#)”)
- 1955**, February 21 — Early morning. “Cobwebby gray fibers” fall in Horseheads, New York, covering one-half square mile. Some “ragged sheets” are many feet in length. Chemist [Charles B. Rutenber](#) of Elmira College in Elmira, New York, describes it as “badly damaged, slightly radioactive cotton fiber” that might have come from a Nevada atomic test. He concludes it is a “short-staple cotton, possibly lint from waste cotton used in industrial plants.” [John B. Diffenderfer](#), a chemist at a local Westinghouse laboratory, finds it is 30% carbon, with calcium, silica, aluminum, iron, and 10 other trace elements. He thinks it comes from powdered milk residue, perhaps from the Dairylea milk processing plant in Elmira. But milk plant chemists Louis R. Hermani and Robert L. Mix say the material is composed of “cotton and wool fibers with pieces of fine copper wire mixed in” and looks like it comes from a carpet sweeper bag. (“[Further Tests Made of Fibers Collected in Horseheads Area](#),” *Elmira (N.Y.) Star-Gazette*, February 23, 1955, p. 13; Brian Boldman, “[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#),” *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 101–102)
- 1955**, February 23 — 8:30 a.m. Frederick S. Briggs, a bricklayer and former army sergeant employed at Broadlands, Romsey, Hampshire, England, the manor then owned by [Lord Mountbatten](#), [Prince Philip](#)’s uncle, sees a large disc-shaped UFO over a nearby meadow as he is bicycling to work. The object is shaped like a spinning top,

metallic, and about 20–30 feet in diameter with portholes around the center. Watching from less than 100 yards away, Briggs estimates that the object is 80 feet above the ground. He sees a humanoid figure dressed in what look like overalls and a helmet descend from the craft on some sort of column with a platform at the bottom. He is then dazzled by a bright blue light from the craft and falls over, unable to move, as if held by a strange force. The UFO then flies off at high speed. Mountbatten takes a personal interest in this incident, interviews Briggs, and searches the area of the meadow over which the UFO is seen. He subsequently has a statement prepared, detailing Briggs's claims. This story is written up by [Desmond Leslie](#) in *Flying Saucer Review* in 1981. Mountbatten's signed statement on the incident is held with many of his other private papers at the Broadlands Archive. (Desmond Leslie, "[Did Flying Saucers Land at Broadlands?](#)" *Flying Saucer Review* 26, no. 5 (January 1981): 2–4; Good Above, [pp. 40–42, 451–454](#); Colin Bennett, *Looking for Orthon*, Paraview, [pp. 162–164](#); Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), February 7, 2008)

- 1955, March** — Technician and businessman [Morris K. Jessup](#) publishes *The Case for the UFO*, the first book to use the relatively new US Air Force term "UFO" instead of flying saucer. He engages in speculation about Fortean phenomena, ancient astronauts, levitating forces to explain megalithic structures, and experiments in ancient times with flight and even space flight. He identifies 1877–1887 as an "Incredible Decade," in which astronomers observe strange space objects, and meteorologists note strange falls from the sky. He speculates that mysterious disappearances of ship crews might constitute a curiosity among "our space friends" on "what has happened to us since they put us down here." (Morris K. Jessup, *The Case for the UFO*, Citadel, 1955; Clark III 634; Story, [p. 51](#))
- 1955, March** — [James S. Rigberg](#), owner of the Flying Saucer Bookstore in New York City, begins publishing *Flying Saucer News* as the official publication of the Flying Saucer News Club of America, founded in 1953. It is published twice a year until at least May 1982. (*Flying Saucer News* 1, no. 1 (March 1955))
- 1955, March** — The CIA obtains quantities of *Hemophilus pertussis*, whooping cough bacteria, from Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland. The agency field tests it covertly along Florida's Gulf Coast. The incidence of whooping cough triples this year, but the CIA's role remains unknown until 1979. (Bill Richards, "[Report Suggests CIA Involvement in Fla. Illnesses](#)," *Washington Post*, December 17, 1979)
- 1955, March 1** — The Douglas Aircraft Company is conducting a study of "Unconventional Propulsion Schemes/Systems" for the USAF Air Technical Information Center from 1954 to 1955, headed by [Wolfgang Klemperer](#), who writes a memo to E. P. Wheaton that says: "Our studies of the possible merit or significance of occasionally appearing publications concerning Unconventional Propulsion Systems have been carefully continuing since the first memo (MTM-622) about the progress to mid-December 1954." Apparently the project examines some Project Blue Book UFO reports (including Willis Sperry's) and UFO books, concluding that the objects use multi-dimensional physics for propulsion. (Douglas Aircraft Company, "[Unconventional Propulsion Schemes](#)," MTM-622, March 1, 1955; Keith Basterfield, "[Aerospace Companies and UFOs 3](#)," Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, January 23, 2010; Michael Salla, "[Secret History of RAND Corporation in Reverse Engineering Antigravity UFOs, Part 1](#)," Secret Space Programs, September 2016; Keith Basterfield, "[Documents Located from that 1955 'Secret' UAP Study by Douglas Aircraft Company](#)," Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, January 11, 2019; Keith Basterfield, "[Which Aerospace Company Is Hiding a UAP Black Project?](#)" Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, August 28, 2021)
- 1955, March 11** — 7:50 p.m. Lawrence Grab and his son see a brilliant flash of light from their home at 714 West Lakeside Street in Madison, Wisconsin, then watch a phosphorescent object speed over the city from southwest to northeast. ("[Season's First Saucer Flies in at High Speed](#)," *Madison Wisconsin State Journal*, March 12, 1955, p. 7)
- 1955, March 12–13** — [George Van Tassel](#)'s second Giant Rock Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention in the Mojave Desert near Landers, California, attracts a smaller crowd than the first. This time [George Adamski](#) is in attendance, along with Charles Laughhead, [Dorothy Martin](#), [George Hunt Williamson](#), [Dana Howard](#), [Daniel Fry](#), [Truman Bethurum](#), and Dick Miller. Retired USAF Project Blue Book head [Edward J. Ruppelt](#) is in the audience and writes up a report. ("[Six Claim Rides on Interplanetary Ships](#)," *Los Angeles Times*, March 13, 1955, pp. 3, 4; Edward J. Ruppelt, "[Among the Contactees](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 3–6, 23–24; Clark III 531; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 157–158)
- 1955, March 15** — The 4602nd AISS guide to investigating UFOs is complete and gets distributed to appropriate personnel. The new methods of investigating and classifying cases results in a drop of the percentage of the unknowns from 60% in August 1954 to 5.9% in 1955 and 0.4% in 1956. (4602d AISS, "[UFOB Guide](#)," in *History of 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron*, vol. 1, January 1–June 30, 1955, reprinted in CUFON, "[4602d AISS Unit History Sampler, Part 6 of 7 Parts](#)"; Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, Signet ed., 1976, [pp. 119–120](#))

- 1955**, March 24 — 2:30 p.m. The pilot of a private Beechcraft plane is flying at 1,500 feet with a student in the Ryukyu Islands, Japan. They see a domed disc with three windows about 900 feet on their left that appears to change color from white to orange and back again. Over the next few minutes, the object flies over, in front of, and under the airplane. When the pilot puts the plane into a dive, the craft stays with it. The plane's instruments stop working. The pilot makes a steep right turn but the object still paces the plane. When the Beechcraft's engine begins to stall, the pilot calls Naha Airport on Okinawa, which alerts the US Kadena Air Base. Two jets are scrambled, but by the time they arrive the object is long gone. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 65–66)
- 1955**, March 29? — Early morning. A bus driving past Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio, sees a silver, triangular object hovering above the base for 15 minutes. ("[Sightings](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, August 1955, p. 9)
- 1955**, Spring — *Flying Saucer Review* is launched in London, England, as a small-circulation quarterly, with aviation journalist and former RAF pilot [Derek Dempster](#) as its first editor. (Denis Montgomery, "[How It All Began: Founding the Flying Saucer Review](#)," May 5, 2004; *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1955); Clark III 498)
- 1955**, Early April — Pentagon press officer Capt. Robert White writes to [Claude H. Marck Jr.](#), an interested citizen in Colorado, that [Dewey Fournet](#)'s motion studies project was a personal endeavor, that the probability of UFOs being spacecraft is "extremely remote," and that the Air Force does not try to influence public opinion on the matter. (Swords 209–210)
- 1955**, April — U-2 project director [Richard M. Bissell Jr.](#) secures a presidential action adding the Groom Lake area in Nevada to the AEC proving grounds for CIA use. [Kelly Johnson](#) meets with CIA officials in Washington, D.C., and discusses progress on Project Aquatone, proposing to use the name "Paradise Ranch" for the new base. (Peter W. Merlin, "[Area 51 Timeline](#)," Secret Heroes, November 10, 2021)
- 1955**, April 5 — 9:55–10:15 a.m. Three or four fireballs fall in various places in southern New Mexico. Air Force Sgt. Camilla Saenz is stationed on Sacramento Peak near Cloudcroft when she sees a yellow fireball with a red tail traveling fast from east to west on the south side of the peak. An airplane from Biggs Air Force Base [now Biggs Army Airfield] in El Paso, Texas, sees an apparent meteor strike near Weed, New Mexico, but USAF planes comb the area for 2 hours afterward without finding anything. Bill Watson sees a dark object smash into the earth near Oil Center, New Mexico, but he can find no fragments. [Lincoln LaPaz](#) reports that heavy shortwave and TV interference accompany the appearance of the fireballs. ("[Fireballs Shower on State](#)," *Alamogordo (N.Mex.) Daily News*, April 6, 1955, p. 1)
- 1955**, April 5 — Producer [Ivan Tors](#) debuts *Science Fiction Theatre*, a science fiction anthology TV series that presents scientifically plausible stories in an unsensational manner. Many episodes deal with UFO or alien themes, including the season opener, "Beyond," in which a test pilot bails out and loses his plane because he thinks he's going to crash into a UFO. The program runs 78 episodes through 1957 and is hosted by veteran announcer [Truman Bradley](#). Each episode opens with Bradley on a laboratory set, sometimes quoting from a recent *Scientific American* article, and he discusses and demonstrates a scientific principle that plays a role in the story he is introducing. (Internet Movie Database, "[Science Fiction Theatre](#)"; Curt Collins, "[The UFO Message of Science Fiction Theatre](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, January 18, 2019)
- 1955**, April 6 — Night. Three unusual green fireballs pass over New Mexico. Radio and TV interference are reported over a wide area. ("[Green Fireballs Strike: Target New Mexico! Alarmed Air Force Takes Action](#)," *CRIFO Newsletter* 2, no. 2 (May 6, 1955): 1; Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, pp. 264–265)
- 1955**, April 8 — 9:30 a.m. Four members of the Ground Observer Corps in Rockford, Illinois, witness a UFO near their post and send in a report to the Filter Center in Chicago. Within minutes, jets are scrambled on an intercept mission and reportedly fire on the mysterious object, causing it to explode. Before the explosion, however, the GOC observers see a smaller round object shoot out of the side of the parent device. In horizontal flight it passes the jets, then turns on edge and disappears straight up into the sky. Civil Defense Director John C. Gregory in Rockford, reports the object is said to be a quarter-mile in diameter. (NICAP, "[Silver Disc Shot Down over Rockford](#)"; "[U.S. Jets Fire on UFO](#)," *CRIFO Newsletter* 2, no. 3 (June 3, 1955): 2–3; "[The Rockford, Illinois Incident: More Evidence](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 4 (July 1, 1955): 3; "[Official Postscript to the Rockford Incident](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 5 (August 5, 1955): 2; Lewis Barton, "[If It Moves—Shoot](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 3 (July/Aug. 1955): 11; "[Readers' Questions](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 8 (June 1959): 8)
- 1955**, April 8 — 7:15 p.m. [Dominic Sondy](#) is looking west through his front door at Roseville, Michigan, when he sees a white bar in the sky that appears sharp, rigid, and frosted. The ends are square, and the length of the object is perfectly straight. It fails to disintegrate after 5 minutes, as a vapor trail would. The object starts to move from the northeast to the southwest, against the wind, while changing its apparent angle. He calls Frank Gallagher, who lived a short distance away, and Gallagher can also see the object. They watch it for about 20 minutes before it

- vanishes over the horizon. ([“The Rockford, Illinois Incident: More Evidence,”](#) *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 4 (July 1, 1955): 3)
- 1955**, April 8 — 9:25 p.m. Three residents of Albuquerque, New Mexico, watch a blue-green fireball streak west over the city. It appears to have a rose-orange tail. ([“Fire Balls Again Seen over City,”](#) *Albuquerque Journal*, April 9, 1955, p. 1)
- 1955**, April 25 — 1:00–1:30 a.m. Residents and motorists see a brilliant fireball streak across the sky above Council Bluffs, Iowa. State Highway Patrolman John Ebert says the light was as bright as an arc welder. One resident sees the light burst into flame and drop to earth. Witnesses in Nebraska think the fireball descends about 3 miles southeast of Waverly, Nebraska. ([“Sky Lights Up,”](#) *Council Bluffs (Iowa) Nonpareil*, April 26, 1955, p. 1; [“Meteor May Have Fallen near Waverly,”](#) *Norfolk (Nebr.) Daily News*, April 25, 1955, p. 1; [“Travelers Sight Probable Meteor in Area Southwest of Lincoln,”](#) *Fairbury (Nebr.) Daily News*, April 25, 1955, p. 1; Nukes 93)
- 1955**, April 30 — A member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences tells a radio audience that UFOs do not exist. (Ruppelt, [pp. 238–239](#))
- 1955**, May — 15-year-old Jacques Vallée and his mother see a “gray, metallic disc with a clear bubble on top” hovering above a church in Pontoise, France. (Jacques Vallée, *Forbidden Science*, North Atlantic, 1992, [pp. 15–16](#))
- 1955**, May 4 — A survey team arrives at Groom Lake, Nevada, and lays out a 5,000-foot north to south runway on the southwest corner of the lakebed and designates a site for a base support facility. The “Ranch” initially consists of little more than a few shelters, workshops, and trailer homes in which to house its small team. In a little over three months, the base consists of a single paved runway, three hangars, a control tower, and rudimentary accommodations for test personnel. The few amenities include a movie theater and volleyball court. There is also a mess hall, several wells, and fuel storage tanks. (Wikipedia, [“Area 51”](#); Peter W. Merlin, [“Area 51 Timeline,”](#) Secret Heroes, November 10, 2021)
- 1955**, May 4 — Afternoon. Lt. Col. [Edward J. Stealy](#), commander of the 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Keflavík Airfield, Iceland, and 1stLt. Joseph Burt see 10–15 flying objects, 60–70 feet in diameter, at about 25,000 feet. They fly in loose formation for about 4–5 seconds and are traveling at a tremendous rate of speed (perhaps 1,150 mph). (NICAP, [“Air Force Officers Observe 10 Maneuvering Objects”](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June](#), The Author, 1992, pp. 57–58; [Sparks](#), p. 226; Clark III 376)
- 1955**, May 4 — The UK Air Ministry announces that the report in March on a five-year investigation into UFOs by the RAF has been submitted to high-ranking officers, but the results cannot be released publicly for security reasons. MP Maj. [Patrick Wall](#) asks the Under-Secretary of State for Air [George Ward](#) to confirm whether or not he would publish a report. Ward replies that only 10% of UFO reports are unidentified and that is because of lack of data. (Derek Dempster, [\[Editorial\]](#), *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 2 (May/June 1955): 1; Good Above, [p. 43](#); David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Out of the Shadows*, Piatkus, 2002, pp. 121, 145; UFOFiles2, [p. 60–61](#); Isaac Koi, [“UFOs in Parliament \(UK\),”](#) Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1955**, May 5 — ATIC declassifies Battelle Memorial Institute’s 1951–1954 study of UFOs, completed in March 1954, as *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14* but does not release it until October 25. ([Special Report No. 14: Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Aerial Objects](#), US Air Force, 1955; Clark III 929–932)
- 1955**, May 16 — [Jonathan N. Leonard](#), science editor of *Time* magazine, debates UFOs on NBC’s *Tonight Show* where he sides with [Willy Ley](#) against [Donald Keyhoe](#) and [Morris K. Jessup](#). ([“Saucers of Yesteryear: The Link to Credulity,”](#) *CRIFO Newsletter* 2, no. 3 (June 3, 1955): 3; Morris K. Jessup, *The UFO Annual*, Citadel, 1956, p. 170)
- 1955**, May 22 — Journalist [Dorothy Kilgallen](#) writes in the *Los Angeles Examiner* that “British scientists and airmen” have examined the wreckage of a crashed flying saucer. Her informant is a “British official of Cabinet rank,” who tells her that the “saucers were staffed by small men—probably under four feet tall.” *Flying Saucer Review* editor [Gordon Creighton](#) later researches this story in detail and thinks Kilgallen’s source is First Sea Lord [Louis Mountbatten](#). Some suggest that Kilgallen picked the story up at a cocktail party hosted by Mountbatten. Her story is widely dismissed as a hoax, but other events put her claims in a new light. ([“U.F.O. Crash in Britain?”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 3 (July/Aug. 1955): 6; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June](#), The Author, 1992, p. 69; Good Above, [pp. 43–44](#); [“Saucer Wreckage Examined’: Journalist Dorothy Kilgallen Wrote in the 1950s about Crashed UFOs,”](#) Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, August 8, 2023)
- 1955**, May 23–26 — At the Fifth AISS Commander’s Conference at Ent AFB [now the US Olympic Training Center], Colorado Springs, Colorado, an analysis of UFOs and science fiction is presented that notes: “General public not qualified to evaluate material propounded in science fiction. Absurd and fantastic theories given credence solely

- on the basis of ignorance.” Also, “Abnormal predisposition to attach belief to the more fanciful aspects of UFOBs, e.g. ‘Flying Saucers’ would tend to negate the source’s reliability as a factual observer.” (“Report of Fifth Commander’s Conference, 23 May to 26 May 1955,” in *History of 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron*, vol. 2, January 1–June 30, 1955, reprinted in CUFON, [“4602d AISS Unit History Sampler, Part 7 of 7 Parts”](#))
- 1955**, May 24 — 7:48 p.m. GOC spotter [Charlotte Whitecotton](#) and another woman at Loveland, Ohio, watch four UFOs in formation pass low over their enclosure, then zoom to the north. They report the incident to the Columbus Filter Center. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June](#), The Author, 1992, p. 71; Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher, [Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955](#), CUFOS, 1978, pp. 145–146)
- 1955**, May 25 — Around 3:30 a.m. Robert Hunnicutt is driving along the Loveland-Madeira Road in the Branch Hill area of Loveland, Ohio. At the Hopewell Road intersection, his headlights illuminate three short figures kneeling next to the road. They are grayish humanoids with a wide slit for a mouth, an indistinct nose, and normal eyes without eyebrows. The heads are hairless with prominent wrinkles on the forehead. They are wearing one-piece grayish garments. One arm seems longer than the other and the upper torso is lopsided. One of the figures is holding a rod emitting blue-white sparks. Hunnicutt gets out of the car and walks towards them. They look towards him and there is a 3-minute standoff. Hunnicutt goes to the police station and returns with Police Chief John K. Fritz. No trace of anything is found. (Stringfield, [3-0 Blue](#), CRIFO, 1957, pp. 66–68; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [pp. 115–116](#); Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher, [Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955](#), CUFOS, 1978, pp. 138–148; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 January–June](#), The Author, 1992, pp. 71–73; Clark III 270; Rob Ryder, “On the Trail of the Loveland Frogman,” *Fortean Times* 361 (Christmas 2017): 38–41)
- 1955**, May 25 — The crew of a Portuguese Air Lines airliner flying between Dunsfold and Epsom, England, see a long, wingless, silvery, cigar-shaped object approach from their port side and pass under their nose. (“[Yet Another Airline Crew See Mysterious Flying Object!](#)” *Flying Saucer News*, no. 9 (Summer 1955): 1, 5)
- 1955**, Summer — 12:30 a.m. Dumitru Coca watches a strange object emitting a ring of white sparks at an altitude of 3,000 feet above Hârșeni, Romania. It is blue with white stripes and flying noiselessly at high speed. He watches it for 3 minutes. (Hobana and Weverberh 229–230; Romania 11)
- 1955**, June — [James W. Moseley](#) renames *Nexus* as *Saucer News* and it becomes a popular bimonthly UFO magazine. ([Saucer News](#) 2, no. 6 (June/July 1955); Clark III 1032)
- 1955**, June — Cincinnati, Ohio, businessman Thomas Eickhoff buys a copy of [George Adamski](#)’s *Inside the Space Ships*. Upset with Adamski’s statement that his space contacts can be corroborated, he takes steps to take him to federal court to make him prove his story or face fraud for using the US mail system to sell his book. Eickhoff’s lawyer brings in a government adviser who advises them to drop the lawsuit. Eickhoff’s efforts eventually bring a reply from a lawyer for CIA Director [Allen Dulles](#), who says the problem is that Adamski could “prevent anyone from testifying in court concerning this book because maximum security exists concerning the subject of UFOs.” The lawyer says he would be subject to a countersuit. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [pp. 169–170](#); Good Above, [pp. 341–342](#))
- 1955**, June 4 — A Boeing RB-47 reconnaissance aircraft of the Air Force Special Security Service (air arm of NSA?) tracks an unknown object visually and by radar for 9 minutes near Melville Sound, Nunavut, Canada. The crew chief describes it as “glistening silver metallic.” The crew obtains gun camera film, but of poor quality. The object speeds off to the north. (Good Above, [p. 285](#); [Sparks](#), p. 226; Clark 788; Tim Printy, “[The RB-47 Contacts from 1955](#),” *SUNlite* 4, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2012): 36)
- 1955**, June 5 — 7:30 p.m. François-Gilbert Muyldermans is cycling on a deserted road near Saint-Marc, near Namur, Belgium, when he sees a bright disc moving at a high speed at an altitude of around 4,900 feet. He takes out his camera and snaps a photo. The object descends, then rises again emitting a cloud of white smoke. He takes two more photos. Anomalies in the blurred grain, inconsistencies in orientation, and the circumstances by which the story entered UFO lore suggest a deliberate hoax, perhaps with the help of a journalist. (“[A ‘Classic’ from Belgium](#),” *BUFORA Journal* 4, no. 12 (March/April 1976): 12–13; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Wim van Utrecht, [Belgium in UFO Photographs, Volume 1 \(1950–1988\)](#), FOTOCAT Report no. 7, 2017, pp. 38–69)
- 1955**, June 7 — An RB-47 en route to Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska, registers an electronic contact southeast of Banks Island, Northwest Territories, Canada, at 10,500 feet range. The radar return is small and rectangular. (Good Above, [p. 286](#); [Sparks](#), p. 227)
- 1955**, June 13 — [Frank Edwards](#) travels with a TV film producer to the Navy Department at the Pentagon and asks for some unclassified photos of rockets. When the Navy learns that Edwards wants to show them on TV during a panel discussion on UFOs, the office refuses to cooperate. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), p. 269)

- 1955, June 23** — 12:15 p.m. A Mohawk Airlines DC-3 is cruising at 3,000 feet in good daylight visibility about 15 miles east of Utica, New York, on a heading to Albany. Both pilot and copilot see an object come over the top of the aircraft from behind, an estimated 500 feet above their altitude. They estimate the length of the object at about 150 feet. It is described as “light gray, almost round, with a center line Beneath the line there were several (at least four) windows which emitted a bright blue-green light. It was not rotating but went straight. [The lights] seemed to change color slightly from greenish to bluish or vice versa [as the object receded]. A few minutes after it went out of sight, two other aircraft (one, a Colonial DC-3, the other I did not catch the number) reported that they saw it and wondered if anyone else had seen it. The Albany control tower also reported that they had seen an object go by on Victor-2 [airway]. As we approached Albany, we overheard that Boston radar had also tracked an object along Victor-2, passing Boston.” (NICAP, “[150' Object Passes over DC-3 Crew from Behind](#)”; Condon, p. 143; Martin Shough, “[RADCAT Radar Catalogue: A Review of Twenty One Ground and Airborne Radar UAP Contact Reports Generally Related to Aviation Safety for the Period October 15, 1948, to September 19, 1976](#),” National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, 2002, pp. 54–55)
- 1955, June 25** — 10:45 p.m. Two civilian and two military witnesses in Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, see a brilliant round object with a trail 4–5 times its own length approaching National Airport in Washington, D.C. Ceiling lights at the airport go out when the object approaches and return to operation when the UFO leaves. Searchlights are trained on the object, but when they catch it in their beams, the searchlights go out. The object appears to oscillate in the air, stop, and oscillate again. It travels nearly overhead and then is lost in the sky at a 45° elevation. It is visible for 7 minutes. A check with the Silver Hill Observatory in Hillcrest Heights determines that a small weather balloon carrying a magnesium flare was released about the same time as the visual sighting. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 236; [Schopick](#), p. 21; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955, January–June*, The Author, 1992, pp. 84–85; Michael D. Swords, “[Air Force UFO Investigations in the Mid-1950s](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 8–10)
- 1955, June 26** — Several civilian and military witnesses in Holt, Florida, see a disc with blinking lights. ([Sparks](#), p. 227; Michael D. Swords, “[Air Force UFO Investigations in the Mid-1950s](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 10; *Hynek UFO Report*, p. 45)
- 1955, June 29** — The Second Hoover Commission presents its final report to Congress on streamlining procedures in the executive branch. Gen. [Mark W. Clark](#), heading the commission’s task force on intelligence, notes the CIA’s lack of accountability and recommends establishing an intelligence oversight committee. (Wikipedia, “[Hoover Commission](#)”; Richard A. Best Jr. and Herbert Andrew Boerstling, “[Proposals for Intelligence Reorganization, 1949–1996](#),” Report to the US House Select Committee on Intelligence, Congressional Research Service, February 28, 1996, pp. 9–10)
- 1955, June 30** — The 4602nd AISS reports that of its 194 preliminary UFO reports for 1955, it has made 23 field investigations and has 25 unsolved reports, or an unknown rate of 13%. Going back to August 12, 1954, and removing cases of insufficient evidence, the percentage of unknowns is lower: 23 unknowns from 306 reports, or about 7.5%. In reality, however, none of these numbers mean much; they reflect the creativity and audacity of the explainers at ADC and ATIC.
- 1955, Late June or early July** — Early evening. A 19-year-old Civil Defense worker named Carlos Flannigan is driving a truck across a bridge over the Little Miami River near Loveland, Ohio, when he notices 4 small figures about 3 feet high on the riverbank. A terrible smell hangs over the area. He only watches them for about 10 seconds then immediately drives to police headquarters to report the incident. (Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher, *Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955*, CUFOS, 1978, pp. 129–132; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), February 14, 2008)
- 1955, July** — Construction of the Groom Lake base in Nevada is completed and the CIA begins utilizing it, along with the US Air Force, for Project Aquatone, the development of the Lockheed U-2 strategic reconnaissance aircraft, the nation’s first aerial espionage program. It consists of one paved runway, three hangars, a control tower, a makeshift mess hall, and rudimentary accommodations. A movie theater and volleyball court are added. CIA officer Richard Newton is assigned as base commander. Other key organizations are briefed on Area 51’s existence—the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the US Navy, the National Security Agency, and the Defense Intelligence Agency. A small group of four Lockheed test pilots, two dozen Lockheed mechanics and engineers, a handful of CIA officers who double as security guards, and some of Col. [Ritland](#)’s staff take up residence. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 5, 51–53; Peter W. Merlin, “[Area 51 Timeline](#),” Secret Heroes, November 10, 2021; “[Pilots of the U-2](#),” Secret Heroes, November 10, 2021)
- 1955, July** — 2:00 p.m. Col. [William T. Coleman](#) is flying a B-25 out of Miami, Florida, with a copilot, flight engineer, a Lockheed test engineer, and a General Motors jet engine technician. As he is moving northward into southern Alabama, he spots at 2 o’clock high what he calls a “craze” in the windshield. He calls the others’ attention to

it. He gives chase to it at low altitude over farmland and sees its shadow on the ground, as well as two vortices coming out of the shiny metallic disc that kicks up dust on the ground. When he tries to cut it off at a maximum speed of 345 mph, the object is gone, leaving behind the vortices on the ground. Duration of the sighting is 10–11 minutes. (NICAP, “[Col. Coleman Case / Chases UFO at Low Altitude](#)”)

1955, July 1 — *CRIFO Newsletter* becomes *CRIFO Orbit*. This issue reviews several airplane crashes and disappearances that [Stringfield](#) thinks might be related to UFO activity. (“[World’s Air Forces, in Joint Operations, Challenge Incursion of UFO’s](#),” *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 4 (July 1, 1955): 1–2; Clark III 460, 1114)

1955, July 3 — 3:30 a.m. [Margaret Symmonds](#) is driving on US 129 seven miles south of Stockton, Georgia, when four small humanoid figures with caps and huge eyes are caught in the headlights. They seem to be digging a hole in the road with some sticks. She yells and swerves the car, driving past them. The figures seem oblivious. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 July–September 15th*, The Author, 1992, pp. 2–3; Stringfield, [3-0 Blue](#), CRIFO, 1957, pp. 63–64; Clark III 270; Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher, [Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955](#), CUFOS, 1978, pp. 149–160; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), February 16, 2008)

1955, July 5 — 3:00 a.m. USAF pilot Lt. [Homer H. Speer Jr.](#) and copilot Lt. [Paul Daily](#), call sign Archie 29, and pilot Lt. Robert W. Schneck and copilot Lt. David Cueldner, call sign Archie 91, are flying Boeing KC-97 Stratofreighters at 20,000 feet on a refueling mission off the coast of Newfoundland. They see two bright objects at 20,000 feet, apparently stationary. Ground radar picks up several objects, some in a distant cluster flying erratically. Speer is able to maintain visual contact, calling direction change of the object to the radar site by radio. The objects are tracked on radar for 49 minutes. (NICAP, “[Archie 29 KC-97 Radar Case](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 228; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 296–297; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 263–264)

1955, Late July — A man, a female companion, and two children are picnicking on a Lake Ontario beach in St. Catharines, Ontario, when a silvery disc approaches them rapidly across the water, then hovers above them before heading to another family nearby. It swings back to the original group, “moving like a clock pendulum.” The man flees to his car but finds it will not start. Through the windows of the UFO, just a few feet above the ground, the witnesses see the faces of four pale-faced men with black hoods covering their ears and heads, sitting straight and rigid. The object shoots over the lake, ascends rapidly, and disappears. (Clark III 268)

1955, July 24 — The Groom Lake “Ranch” in Nevada receives its first delivery of U-2s from Burbank, California, in a C-124 Globemaster II cargo plane, accompanied by Lockheed technicians on a Douglas DC-3. Regular Military Air Transport Service flights are set up between Area 51 and Lockheed’s offices in Burbank. To preserve secrecy, personnel fly to Nevada on Monday mornings and return to California on Friday evenings. (Wikipedia, “[Area 51](#)”)

1955, July 26 — A brilliant round object with a trail 4–5 times its own length approaches National Airport [now Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport] in Washington, D.C., stops, oscillates, and moves off at high speed. Ceiling lights at the airport go out when the object approaches and returns to operation when the UFO departs. (UFOEv, [p. 135](#))

1955, July 29 — President [Eisenhower](#) announces a program to launch a scientific satellite during the International Geophysical Year. The program will be run by the National Science Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences, with advice coming from the Department of Defense. (Amy Shira Teitel, “[How the Stage Was Set for the Satellite Race](#),” *Popular Science*, January 3, 2016; Amy Shira Teitel, *Breaking the Chains of Gravity: The Story of Spaceflight before NASA*, Bloomsbury Sigma, 2017)

1955, July 29 — 8:30–9:30 p.m. An aircraft engineer and four others notice a “2nd magnitude star” in the vicinity of Saturn at Lake Ronkonkoma on Long Island, New York. The star moves in a perfect circle around Saturn, heads east until it gets to the Moon, where it executes a half-circle pass and disappears. The object then appears 120° away and moves horizontally until it takes an abrupt turn vertically. It disappears again at about 70° above the horizon. Then it reappears in a straight dive-like descent until it reacquires its original 30° elevation. It proceeds horizontally again, makes an abrupt angular shift again downwards, and is lost in the trees. Through binoculars the object looks spherical and yellowish. (Michael D. Swords, “[We Know Where You Live](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 2 (January 2006): 8–9; Swords 227)

1955, August — Hundreds of people gather each night at the Black Arch, on the Antrim Coast Road near Larne, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, to watch a mysterious display of lights at sea. The light flashes three or four times in quick succession, then flashes again about 6 minutes later. The Larne police suspect that the lights are flares dropped from aircraft. (*Larne Times*, August 18, 1955; Shane Cochrane, “Ireland vs. the Flying Saucers,” *Fortean Times* 317 (September 2014): 54–55)

- 1955**, August — Police from Luzern, Switzerland, investigate a sighting of a shiny metallic disc seen at Waldibrücke and Eschenbach. ([“Forscher findet verschollene UFO-Akten der Schweiz,”](#) Grenzwissenschaft-Aktuell, July 8, 2013; “The Swiss X-Files,” *Fortean Times* 312 (April 2014): 24)
- 1955**, August 1 — The first test flight of the Lockheed U-2 takes place at Groom Lake, Nevada. During a high-speed-taxi test in the first U-2, Lockheed’s chief test pilot, [Tony LeVier](#), inadvertently becomes airborne after accelerating the U-2 to 70 knots. He is unable to land the U-2 on his first attempt, and it bounces back into the air, but he manages to successfully bring it down on a second try. Damage to the prototype U-2 is very minor. (Wikipedia, [“Lockheed U-2”](#); [“Area 51 and the Accidental Test Flight,”](#) Central Intelligence Agency, August 6, 2015)
- 1955**, August 1 — 8:45 p.m. William M. Sheneman, the owner of a radio/TV store in Willoughby, Ohio, pulls into his driveway and walks across the street to check his mailbox. He sees a red light about 1,000 feet away coming at him at a right angle. He thinks it is a plane about to crash. Then the ground is illuminated with two brilliant lights aimed directly from the object. He runs back into the house as the UFO moves over his garage about 50–100 feet in the air. He sees a big red light at the front and a green light at the rear. Then all the lights turn off and the object moves away over the woods. He and his wife can now see the outline of a dome lit up with tiny lights inside. It hovers there for 5 minutes then moves away. (UFOEv, [p. 114](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 July–September 15th](#), The Author, 1992, pp. 31–32; Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher, [Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955](#), CUFOs, 1978, p. 180; Clark III 244–245)
- 1955**, August 2 — [Frederick C. Durant](#) informs the Sixth Congress of the International Astronautical Federation in Copenhagen, Denmark, that President [Eisenhower](#) has decided to back the launch of a US scientific satellite during the upcoming International Geophysical Year. Not to be outdone, Soviet delegate [Leonid I. Sedov](#) calls a press conference and announces that Russia can launch an artificial satellite within the next 2 years that will be more sophisticated than the Americans’ efforts. (Amy Shira Teitel, [“How the Stage Was Set for the Satellite Race,”](#) *Popular Science*, January 3, 2016; Amy Shira Teitel, [Breaking the Chains of Gravity: The Story of Spaceflight before NASA](#), Bloomsbury Sigma, 2017)
- 1955**, August 8 — The CIA’s [Todos Odarenko](#) writes an office memorandum recommending that the CIA should maintain a file of UFO sightings but deny that all investigations are inactive, and separate explainable UFOs from unidentifiable reports. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 75–76](#))
- 1955**, August 11 — 9:30 p.m. A witness in Cairo, Illinois, sees a triangular-shaped UFO low on the horizon above the trees, heading silently north and slightly west. Its front end is dark, its middle section bluish green, and its end very bright. ([“Sightings,”](#) *APRO Bulletin*, August 1955, p. 9)
- 1955**, August 16 — Early morning. Truck driver Ernest Suddard and his 13-year-old son are returning home to Bradford, West Yorks, England, when their headlights light up a small figure in the street. It is 4 feet tall, dressed in skin-tight black clothes, and is hopping forward in a series of jerky movements. A circular, silvery object, perforated with holes, appears on the figure’s chest just below its throat. It approaches the truck then turns away abruptly into a passage. Suddard alerts the police, but they find nothing. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 July–September 15th](#), The Author, 1992, p. 50; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), February 19, 2008)
- 1955**, August 16 — 3:55 p.m. Mechanic Hugh Saunders sees a silver object above a white cloudbank above Cave Hill in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It is flat and moves swiftly. (*Belfast Telegraph*, August 17, 1955; Shane Cochrane, “Ireland vs. the Flying Saucers,” *Fortean Times* 317 (September 2014): 55)
- 1955**, August 19 — 2:00 p.m. A “shining, glittering ball” zigzags across the sky over Lisburn, Northern Ireland. It is seen by many people for about 10 minutes. Jeffrey Moore, 17, says it looks like a steel ball at first, then as it gets closer it appears “cross-shaped.” It moves in a variety of directions before disappearing into the clouds. (*Belfast Telegraph*, August 20, 1955; Shane Cochrane, “Ireland vs. the Flying Saucers,” *Fortean Times* 317 (September 2014): 55)
- 1955**, August 19 — Dusk. A large UFO and 5–6 smaller objects appear in a V-formation over the city of Pisa, Italy. The smaller objects form the arms of the V in the leading position, with the larger object at the vertex in the back. ([“Fleet over Midlands,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 1, no. 4 (Sept./Oct. 1955): 3; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 July–September 15th](#), The Author, 1992, p. 52)
- 1955**, August 20 — Pilot [Horace A. Hanes](#) attains an airspeed record of 822 mph in a North American F-100C Super Sabre at Palmdale, California. (Wikipedia, [“North American F-100 Super Sabre”](#))
- 1955**, August 20 — 10:45 p.m. The president of a small Canadian air service and his nightwatchman are checking their seaplanes in their dock at Kenora, Ontario, when they see an object “shaped like two saucers with their open tops touching, one above the other” streaking toward them from the west. It is silvery-white in color and sending out rays from its surface or sparkling “as if some electric force or very hot air was flowing from all the surfaces.” It tilts on its side about 600 feet from them, then straightens out with the flat side parallel with the ground and

hovers about 225 feet from them and 40 feet above the surface of the lake. It is completely silent and looks to be only 4–5 feet across. (J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 111–112](#))

1955, August 21–22 — About 7:00 p.m. Billy Ray Taylor goes into the backyard of the Elmer “Lucky” Sutton farmhouse 7 miles north of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and sees a bright object come from the south-southwest, pass over, and descend into a gully about 500 feet north and about 35–40 feet lower elevation. [Glennie Lankford](#) and 6 other adults (Elmer Sutton, Vera Sutton, John Charley Sutton, Alene Sutton, June Taylor, O. P. Baker) plus 3 children (Charlton, Lonnie, and Mary Lankford), see several gremlin-like creatures float down from trees and approach the house from the dark. They are about 3 feet high with roundish heads, elephantine ears, slit-like mouths extending ear to ear, huge and wide-set eyes, no visible necks, and long arms ending in clawed hands. They wear glowing silver clothing. When they run, they drop on all fours. When one of them approaches the house, Sutton and Taylor fire shotguns through the window screen, scoring a direct hit. The creature is knocked over, but gets up and scuttles off. Taylor walks out the door and one of the creatures grabs at his head. This activity continues the greater part of the night and includes heavy gunfire at times. Sutton fires point blank at it, knocking it from the roof, but it just “floats down.” At about 11:00 p.m. they run out of ammunition, and the entire group flees in terror in two cars and drives at high speed into Hopkinsville to report the incident to the police. A state patrolman leaves the Shady Oaks restaurant 3 miles north of Hopkinsville in a car to respond to the call and sees several meteor-like objects streaking over him sounding like artillery fire. He sees two in a series looking like meteors coming from the southwest, headed towards Kelly from the direction of Fort Campbell, a US Army installation. City, county, state, and military police and reporters drive out to the Sutton farm to investigate from 11:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The UFO entities return at about 2:30 a.m. Glennie Lankford is trying to get to sleep when she sees one outside her window stretching its claw-like hands up to the screen. Elmer Sutton again shoots at them without effect. The last one is seen at about 5:15 a.m. Clark writes that investigations by “police, Air Force officers from nearby Fort Campbell, and civilian ufologists found no evidence of a hoax”; however, [Brian Dunning](#) reports that “the claim that Air Force investigators showed up the next day at Mrs. Lankford’s house has been published a number of times by later authors, but I could find no corroborating evidence of this.” Dunning also observes that “the four military police who accompanied the police officers on the night of the event were from an Army base [Fort Campbell], not an Air Force base.” Skeptic [Joe Nickell](#) notes that the family could have misidentified great horned owls, which are nocturnal, fly silently, have yellow eyes, and aggressively defend their nests. He thinks Taylor and Sutton were drinking heavily. Meteor sightings also occurred at the time that could explain Billy Ray Taylor’s claim that he saw “a bright light streak across the sky and disappear beyond a tree line some distance from the house.” (Wikipedia, [“Kelly–Hopkinsville encounter”](#); [“Story of Space-Ship, 12 Little Men Probed Today.”](#) *Hopkinsville Kentucky New Era*, August 22, 1955, p. 1; Jacqueline Sanders, [“Panic in Kentucky.”](#) in Gray Barker ed., *The Saucerian Review*, Gray Barker, 1956, pp. 19–23; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 July–September 15th](#), The Author, 1992, pp. 54–75; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 July–September 15th, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2002, pp. 18–36; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 172–178](#); Story, [pp. 190–192](#); Clark III 642–643; Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher, [Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955](#), CUFOS, 1978; [Sparks](#), p. 230; [“The Close Encounter of the Third Kind at Kelly Re-examined.”](#) *IUR* 3, no. 5 (May 1978): 4–6; Kim Hansen, “UFO Casebook,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 53–56; John W. Coates, [“Kelly Case Reconsidered.”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal* 299 (March 1993): 15–16; Michele Carlton, [“Children of Kelly Witness Firmly Believe Their Father Shot at Entities.”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal* 418 (February 2003): 9–10; Joe Nickell, [“Siege of ‘Little Green Men’: The 1955 Kelly, Kentucky, Incident.”](#) *Skeptical Inquirer* 30, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2006); Brian Dunning, [“The Kelly-Hopkinsville Encounter.”](#) Skeptoid podcast no. 331, October 9, 2012; Rodney Schmaltz and Scott O. Lilienfeld, [“Hauntings, Homeopathy, and the Hopkinsville Goblins: Using Pseudoscience to Teach Scientific Thinking.”](#) *Frontiers in Psychology* 5 (2014): 336ff.; [“The Kelly-Hopkinsville Encounter | Documentary.”](#) Fire of Learning YouTube channel, October 20, 2020; Patrick Gross, [“The Kelly-Hopkinsville Case, 1955”](#))

1955, August 23–24 — 11:50 p.m. Personnel at the Ground Observer Corps tower in Hamilton County, Ohio, notice three white spheres between Columbus and Cincinnati. Tracking the UFOs on radar, they notify SAC at Lockbourne AFB [now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base], which scrambles jets to investigate. The UFO approaches the tower and hovers in pendulum-like motions directly above it. The interceptors give chase, but the UFO disappears at an incredible speed. The Greater Cincinnati Airport also tracks unidentified blips on radar. To his surprise, [Stringfield](#) obtains clearance to write about these sightings in *CRIFO Orbit*. But when he tries to interest the Cincinnati newspapers, they are not interested. A Wright-Patterson AFB spokesperson denies the incident to the press and claims to know nothing about Stringfield’s relationship with ADC. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett

- Crest, 1977, pp. 12–14; [Sparks](#), p. 230; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 July–September 15th](#), The Author, 1992, p. 75)
- 1955**, August 25 — 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Lloyd Wright and Mrs. Lester Parsons of Bedford, Indiana, see a huge white object with a black streak down the center. The object seems to expand and contract regularly as it hovers over Mrs. Parsons's home. The houselights appear to dim and pulsate in rhythm with the object. ([Schopick](#), p. 114)
- 1955**, August 29 — RAF pilot [Walter Gibb](#) reaches an official record altitude of 65,876 feet in an English Electric Canberra B.2 turbojet. (Wikipedia, "[Walter Gibb](#)")
- 1955**, August 30 — 9:30 a.m. Pedro Navarro, 25, takes a photograph of some swirling storm clouds over Dudignac, Buenos Aires province, Argentina. When he develops them, he notes that the disturbance looks more like a giant disc. The newspapers reproduce enhanced versions of the photo, but it is never critically analyzed until several decades later. The best guess is that the photo shows a round cloud. (Vicente-Juan Ballester-Olmos, "[Exegesis of the Dudignac Saucer of 1955](#)," UFO FOTOCAT Blog, December 26, 2021; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "[Exegesis of the Dudignac Saucer of 1955](#)," January 2022)
- 1955**, September — Austrian Countess [Zoe Wassilko von Serecki](#) writes an article for *American Astrology* in which she conceives of UFOs as living animals that inhabit the ionosphere and are attracted to electrical sources. (Zoë Wassilko-Serecki, "Startling Theory on Flying Saucers," *American Astrology* 23 (September 1955): 2–5; Clark III 1099–1100)
- 1955**, September — Day. Several witnesses see four silver discs flying in formation over Lima, Ohio. (Michael D. Swords, "[The Timmerman Files](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 13)
- 1955**, September 2–4 — 9:05 p.m. [Eddy Geddes](#) notices a fireball as he is driving to Kalispell, Montana, from Whitefish. He stops at a Ground Observer post and notifies the women stationed there. Jets are scrambled from Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls and arrive shortly after midnight, long after the object is gone, but another fireball is apparently seen later. The same scenario occurs on September 4 when five F-94C Starfire jets (as well as other aircraft from Great Falls and Spokane, Washington, are sent to the Kalispell area. ("[Air Force Jets Called in Search for 'Fireball' over Kalispell](#)," *The Missoulian*, September 5, 1955, p. 7; "[Recent Sightings](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, September 15, 1956, p. 19)
- 1955**, September 3 — 9:30 p.m. A grocery store clerk and Ground Observer Corps member in Bellingham, Washington, named Saunders sees an unusual light moving approximately 30° across the Big Dipper. It moves in varying speeds, the intensity of its light growing when it moves faster. Saunders watches the light for 15 minutes. (Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 41–42; [Sparks](#), p. 230)
- 1955**, September 8 — Test pilot [Ray J. Goudey](#) reaches an altitude of 65,000 feet in a Lockheed U-2 at Groom Lake, Nevada, a feat not revealed until declassification in 1998. "From where I was up above Nevada I could see the Pacific Ocean, which was 300 miles away." (Wikipedia, "[Lockheed U-2](#)")
- 1955**, September 9 — Capt. Hugh McKenzie of the Air Defense Command in Columbus, Ohio, contacts UFO researcher [Leonard Stringfield](#) in Cincinnati and asks for CRIFO's cooperation in providing them with new UFO reports. He also says that Ground Observer Corps in southwestern Ohio is to report UFO activity to CRIFO for screening. Screened reports are then to be forwarded to the ADC filter center using the code "Fox Trot Kilo 3-0 Blue." All expenses will be reimbursed by the Air Force. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, p. 11; Clark III 1114)
- 1955**, September 20 — In response to a September 13 letter from Rep. [Gordon H. Scherer](#) (R-Ohio) about the contactee claims of [George Adamski](#), CIA Director [Allen Dulles](#) replies that the "CIA shall have no police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers, or internal-security functions" over mail fraud related to UFOs. (Allen W. Dulles, [Letter to Gordon H. Scherer](#), September 20, 1955)
- 1955**, September 22 — [Murray Shockett](#) and H. Charles Robinson organize the Civilian Research Society of Maryland in Baltimore, with [Gladys Rose Hackett](#) as secretary. It publishes two issues of the *Maryland Saucer Mag* in 1955. ([Maryland Saucer Mag](#) 1, no. 1 (October 1955); Powell, *Keyhoe*, 150–151)
- 1955**, October — President [Eisenhower](#) gives the CIA control over the U-2 spy plane program and Area 51. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, p. 58)
- 1955**, October — 8:00 p.m. A student at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary in Peterborough, New Hampshire, sees four glowing, bluish-white objects to the southwest. One appears to be on the ground with 3–4 figures beside it. He goes into the recreation room to find more witnesses. When they go outside, the objects are slowly moving above the school building toward the northeast. ("[New Hampshire](#)," *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 6, no. 2 (April/May 1985): 4–5)

- 1955**, October 3 — A B-47 from Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, Arizona, crashes northwest of Lovington, New Mexico. The lone survivor, 2nd Lt. William Daniel Borggen, says the plane is flying at 15,000 feet when three instruments go out after it breaks away from a refueling plane in a pre-dawn flight. The crew drops 5,000 feet, then the bomber hits something and crashes. ("[B-47 Crash Is Probed](#)," *Clovis (N.Mex.) News-Journal*, October 3, 1955, pp. 1-2)
- 1955**, October 4 — 7:10 p.m. Senator [Richard B. Russell Jr.](#) (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, on a trip to the USSR, is on a Soviet train near Baku, Azerbaijan, when he spots a disc-shaped craft taking off near the tracks. Russell sees the "first flying disc ascend and pass over the train" and goes "rushing in to get Mr. Efron [Reuben Efron, his interpreter] and Col. Hathaway [Col. E. U. Hathaway, his aide] to see it," the report says. "Col. Hathaway stated that he got to the window with the Senator in time to see the first [UFO], while Mr. Efron said that he got only a short glimpse of the first. However, all three saw the second disc and all agreed that they saw the same round, disc-shaped craft...as the first." A fourth witness is unidentified. "One disc ascended almost vertically, at a relatively slow speed, with its outer surface revolving slowly to the right, to an altitude of about 6,000 feet, where its speed then increased sharply as it headed north," the report states. "The second flying disc was seen performing the same actions about one minute later. The take-off area was about 1–2 miles south of the rail line." The Air Force report is written by Lieut. Col. Thomas Ryan, who interviews Russell's companions in Prague, Czechoslovakia [now Czech Republic], on October 13, after they arrive there from Russia shortly after the sighting. The report remains Top Secret until April 30, 1959, and Secret until March 1985 when [Stanton Friedman](#) manages to get it declassified following a FOIA request. (NICAP, "[Senator Russell Observes UFO from Train](#)"; "[Reported Sighting of Unusual Aircraft in USSR](#)," *CIA Current Intelligence Bulletin*, October 15, 1955, pp. 3–4; Tom Towers, "About 'Saucers' and Sen. Russell's Letter," *Los Angeles Examiner*, January 20, 1957; Tom Towers, "[Flying Saucers and Senator Russell](#)," *Saucers* 5, no. 1 (Spring 1957): 2–3; Dan Schwartz, "[Top U.S. Senator Saw Two UFOs](#)," *National Enquirer*, February 11, 1986, via *APCIC Clipping Service* 11, no. 2 (February 1986): 22–23; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 September 16th–December 31st*, The Author, 1993, pp. 19–24; Joel Carpenter, "[The Senator, the Saucer, and Special Report 14](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 3–7; Swords 227–228; Good Above, [pp. 224–226](#); Clark III 1049–1050; [Sparks](#), p. 231; John Greenewald, "[Declassified Top Secret CIA Memo Reveals Senator's 'Saucer-Like' Craft Sighting in 1955](#)," *The Black Vault*, July 11, 2023)
- 1955**, October 7 — Retired Gen. [Douglas MacArthur](#) tells [Achille Lauro](#), the mayor of Naples, that he does not think there will be a war with the Soviet bloc, but that "because of the developments of science all countries on earth will have to survive and to make a common front against attack by people from other planets." The meeting takes place in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. ("[M'Arthur Greets Mayor of Naples](#)," *New York Times*, October 8, 1955, p. 7; "[Space War Possible Is MacArthur Hint](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 8 (November 4, 1955): 1; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 September 15th–December 31st*, The Author, 1993, pp. 15–17)
- 1955**, October 10 — The Air Force releases a statement from Fort Worth, Texas, saying that anyone reporting flashing lights for the next two months across the US is seeing wind-driven experimental plastic balloons that might travel as fast as 110 mph. (Keyhoe, *FS Conspiracy*, p. 206; Keyhoe, *FSTS*, p. 43)
- 1955**, October 18 — CIA Director [Allen Dulles](#) informs the joint Intelligence Advisory Committee about Senator [Russell](#)'s sighting. (Joel Carpenter, "[The Senator, the Saucer, and Special Report 14](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 7)
- 1955**, October 19 — [Wilton E. Lexow](#), head of the CIA Applied Science Division, notes the similarity of the objects seen by Sen. [Russell](#) to the Avro Canada Project Y-2 (Silver Bug), a proposed vertical take-off gyroplane now under development by the US Air Force. (Wikipedia, "[Avro Canada](#)"; Wikipedia, "[Avro Canada VZ-9 Avrocar](#)"; Air Technical Intelligence Center, *Joint ATIC-WADC Report on Project Silver Bug*, Project no. 9961, Technical Report TR-AC-47, February 15, 1955; Joel Carpenter, "[The Senator, the Saucer, and Special Report 14](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 8)
- 1955**, October 25 — *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14* is released, months after it is completed by analysts at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, using cases supplied by the Air Force and tabulated on IBM punch cards. The original report by Battelle is about 300 pages, but the Air Force distills this down to 100. It is accompanied by a press release in which Secretary of the Air Force [Donald A. Quarles](#) states: "On the basis of this study we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflown the United States." (At the same time, Quarles states that the Air Force is working on radical new aircraft that "are sure to be mistaken for flying saucers.") Only 100 copies are printed initially, but scientist [Leon Davidson](#) prints and sells copies of it beginning in 1956, along with his analysis and commentary. The report includes 3,201 reported UFO sightings. Battelle employs four scientific analysts, who divide cases into knowns, unknowns, and a

third category of insufficient information. They also break down knowns and unknowns into four categories of quality, from excellent to poor. For a case to be called identified, two analysts must independently agree on a solution; for a case to be called unidentified, all four analysts must agree. A report classified as unidentified is defined as: “Those reports of sightings wherein the description of the object and its maneuvers could not be fitted to the pattern of any known object or phenomenon.” Out of 3,201 cases, 69% are judged to be identified, 22% are unidentified, and 9% have insufficient information to make a determination. The report further breaks these results down based on whether the identification is considered certain or merely doubtful. For example, in both the astronomical and aircraft IFO categories, 12% are considered certain and 9% are doubtful. Overall, of the 69% listed as IFOs, 42% are thought to be solved with certainty, while 27% are still considered doubtful. In addition, if a case is lacking in adequate data, it is placed in the insufficient information category, separate from both IFOs and UFOs. A key feature is to statistically compare IFOs and UFOs by six characteristics: color, number of objects, shape, duration, speed, and brightness. If there are no significant differences, the two classes are probably the same, the UFOs then representing merely a failure to properly identify prosaic phenomena that can already account for IFOs. On the other hand, if the differences are statistically significant, this suggests IFOs and UFOs are indeed distinctly different phenomena. In the initial results, all characteristics except brightness test significant at less or much less than 1% (brightness is greater than 5%). By removing astronomical sightings from the knowns and redoing the test, just two categories, number and speed, are significant at less than 1%, the remainder having results between 3% and 5%. This indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the characteristics ascribed to UFOs and IFOs, but perhaps not as significant as the initial results suggested. For two characteristics, brightness and speed, the significance actually increases with the revised test. [Hynek](#) later calls the Battelle report a “shamefully biased interpretation of statistics to support a preconceived notion.” [Keyhoe](#) asks [Ruppelt](#) what he thinks. Ruppelt says the report “was a shock to me. I was the one that had the IBM system tried out. It didn’t prove a thing, and I had written it off as worthless before I left the project. . . also this report was drawn up in 1953, yet the Air Force released it as the latest hot dope in October, 1955.” The Air Force releases a second edition, with a new preface and an addendum that brings the subject up to date, in July 1957. In the 1990s, after interviewing three men (Art Westerman, [Perry Rieppel](#), and William T. Reid) who had participated in the Battelle project, [Mark Rodeghier](#) and [Jennie Zeidman](#) of the Center for UFO Studies conclude that the engineering mindset at Battelle had caused a disconnect between its data and its conclusions. Because the project cannot reverse engineer a UFO from the reports (because of faulty witness testimony, multicausal UFOs, etc.), the engineers conclude that a structured craft does not exist. (Wikipedia, “[Identification studies of UFOs](#)”; Wikipedia, “[Project Blue Book](#)”; US Air Force Air Technical Intelligence Center, [Special Report No. 14; Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects](#), May 5, 1955; Leon Davidson, [Flying Saucers: An Analysis of Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14](#), [1956], 3d ed., Ramsey-Wallace, 1966; “[Plan Radical New Aircraft](#),” *Franklin (Pa.) News-Herald*, October 26, 1955, p. 1; Clark III 929–932; Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America*, Signet ed., 1976, pp. 123–126; Keyhoe, FSTS, p. 770; 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; Joel Carpenter, “[The Senator, the Saucer, and Special Report 14](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 3, 9; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 September 15th–December 31st](#), The Author, 1993, pp. 30–63; Swords 220–224, 239–241)

1955, October 27 — Afternoon. [Hosea D. Lambeth](#), principal of Whitsett Elementary School, North Carolina, and about 100 students watch 10 objects like “steel balls” dart through the sky for 25 minutes. Light-colored wispy material in 2–3-inch strips falls from the sky at the same time. Nearby Burlington Industries tests a sample and declares it not a synthetic material. No spiders are found in the strands. (Clark III 124; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1955 September 15th–December 31st](#), The Author, 1993, pp. 72–75)

1955, November — An unnamed CIA source receives a letter from his niece in Budapest, Hungary, that says reports of UFOs or “rockets” in formation reaching speeds exceeding 7,400 mph have been keeping “scientific groups very busy.” (John Greenewald, “[CIA Document Talks about ‘Flying Saucers’ Traveling 7,400+ mph in 1955; More Information Discovered Yet Withheld by Agency](#),” The Black Vault, March 12, 2024)

1955, November — J. Heinrich Ragaz begins publishing *Weltraumbote* in Zürich, Switzerland. It continues through June 1961. ([Weltraumbote](#), no. 1 (November 1955))

1955, November 1 — 8:06 p.m. A flying light paces New Zealand National Airways DC-3 Flight 108 west of Waitara, New Zealand, at 8,000 feet for about 5 minutes. Capt. [Wiliam T. Rainbow](#) and Copilot [Stanley G. Trounce](#) spot the object behind them flying along the coast on a parallel course. Changing color from white to yellow to gold to red, it overtakes the aircraft and flies alongside it for 15 miles, then picks up speed and disappears into the

distance ahead. Rainbow estimates it is traveling at 850 mph. (UFOEv, [p. 125](#); “[1955: ‘Flying Light’ Seen by NAC Captain and Crew](#),” Ufocus.nz, June 15, 2021)

- 1955**, November 2 — 10:15 p.m. Police officer [Corrie F. Bell](#) is parked in downtown Williston, Florida, when he sees six lighted objects approaching slowly in formation from the south. Occasionally, one of the objects is left behind and puts on a burst of speed to catch up. After the objects pass over the city, one of them turns in a gradual bank and begins losing altitude. Bell drives about a mile and a half north to a point where the object appears to be headed. He gets out of his car and the object passes directly over him. He has the object in close view for about 7 minutes. The light is so bright that it lights up an area 50–70 feet in diameter. Bell judges the object is about 150 feet away and 3 feet wide, silent, shaped like a washtub, and pure white in color with no marks or windows. The heat from the object gives him a stinging sensation and his clothes become hot. It then moves off to the east and disappears from view. ([[Blue Book case file](#)]; “[Saucer Numbs Policeman](#),” *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 12 (March 2, 1956): 6)
- 1955**, November 3 — 9:30 p.m. Sam Verones is approaching the porch of his home in Williston, Florida, when the ground lights up around him. The light is coming from an object that is shining through a tree and moving across the railroad tracks. Another witness sees the light from his car. (“[Saucer Numbs Policeman](#),” *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 12 (March 2, 1956): 6)
- 1955**, November 5 — 6:00 p.m. Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Hoffman are driving south on Lee Road in Cleveland, Ohio. When they cross Fairmount Boulevard, they see a row of bright lights in the sky approach them and stop. They continue to watch as they drive, but they stop and get out of the car on the south side of Shaker Boulevard. The lights are coming from a huge oval-shaped object like two saucers placed together. Around the perimeter are eight large windows, which are where the light is coming from. The light rays are so bright, they can see the air dust in them. The object seems to be hovering at about 500 feet, and they estimate it is 100 feet in diameter. Mrs. Hoffman describes the object as a pearly aluminum color. They continue watching for 10 minutes, then they start the car again and drive south, hoping to get underneath it, but when they reach Fernway Road, it moves toward the west slowly and silently, disappearing from view. (UFOEv, [p. 69](#))
- 1955**, November 17 — 6:10 a.m. J. A. Mapes and his wife in St. Louis, Missouri, see 12 round, flat objects, silver on top and dark on the bottom, flying in formation three abreast and four deep. They are tipped at an angle and fly silently. The duration is 45 seconds. ([Project Blue Book case file](#); [Sparks](#), p. 231)
- 1955**, November 20 — Aviation journalist [Ansel E. Talbert](#) writes an article in the *New York Herald Tribune* that discusses antigravity research taking place at Princeton University, the University of Indiana, Purdue University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Gravity Research Foundation at New Boston, New Hampshire. (Ansel E. Talbert, “[Conquest of Gravity Aim of Top Scientists in U.S.](#),” *New York Herald Tribune*, November 20, 1955, p. 1; Brett Tingley, “[The Truth Is the Military Has Been Researching ‘Anti-Gravity’ for Nearly 70 Years](#),” *The War Zone*, December 1, 2019)
- 1955**, November 20 — 5:20 p.m. Operations Officer Capt. [Edward G. Denkler Jr.](#) and 5 men of the USAF 663rd AC&W Squadron see two oblong, bright orange, semi-transparent objects fly erratically at terrific speed toward and away from each other, over Lake City [now Rocky Top], Tennessee. The investigating AISS commander determines it is likely Venus, but Project Blue Book apparently disagrees and labels it Unknown. Researcher Brad Sparks believes the case is poorly investigated and fits with Venus or atmospheric distortion of stars and planets low on the horizon. (NICAP, “[Seven Witnesses Observe Maneuvering Objects near Oak Ridge Plant](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 232)
- 1955**, November 22 — The first Soviet test of a true thermonuclear bomb takes place at the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan. (Wikipedia, “[RDS-37](#)”)
- 1955**, November 25 — 10:30 a.m. Colorado State Senator [Samuel Tesitor Taylor](#) sees an unusual cigar-shaped object near La Veta, Colorado. It is greenish-blue in color, appears luminous, and is completely silent. He estimates it is flying at 7,000–8,000 feet, traveling about 10 miles in 5 seconds, and suddenly disappears from view over Mount Mestas to the northeast. (NICAP, “[Senator Sees Dirigible](#)”)
- 1955**, November 30 and December 2 — The *Miami Herald* publishes two articles by aviation journalist [Ansel Talbert](#) in which he lists the names of aerospace firms conducting gravity-control propulsion research, including Glenn L. Martin Company, Convair, Bell Aircraft, Lear Inc., Clarke Electronics, and Sperry Gyroscope Division. The Gravity Research Group indicates these companies have constructed “rigs” to improve the performance of [Thomas Townsend Brown](#)’s gravitators through attempts to develop materials with high dielectric constants. Articles about the gravity propulsion research by the aerospace firms cease after 1974. Follow-up studies on Brown’s work and other claims are conducted by [R. L. Talley](#) in 1990 and 2013 US Air Force studies, NASA scientist [Jonathan W. Campbell](#) in a 2003 experiment, and [Martin Tajmar](#) in a 2004 paper. They find that no thrust can be observed in a vacuum and that Brown’s and other ion-lifter devices produce thrust along their axis regardless of the direction of gravity—consistent with electrohydrodynamic effects. (Wikipedia, “[United States gravity control propulsion research](#)”; Wikipedia, “[Anti-gravity](#)”; Ansel E. Talbert, “[Scientists Begin Work to](#)

[Break Gravity Barrier](#),” *Miami Herald*, November 30, 1955, pp. 1–2; Ansel E. Talbert, “[Future Planes May Defy Gravity and Air Lift in Space Travels](#),” *Miami Herald*, December 2, 1955, p. 8)

- 1955**, December — Henry Holt publishes Donald Keyhoe’s *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, which continues to criticize the “silence group” within the US military for its conspiracy to cover up knowledge of UFOs. Keyhoe argues that ‘the United States has developed protocols in dealing with UFOs and actively undertakes measures to silence critics and hide the existence of extraterrestrial life. (Keyhoe, [FS Conspiracy](#), Henry Holt, 1955; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 153)
- 1955**, December 5 — *Life* magazine publishes an article that contains the UFO shapes from *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*. (“[The Strange Shapes Seen in the Sky](#),” *Life*, December 5, 1955, pp. 177–178; Loren E. Gross, [UFOs: A History, 1955, September 16th–December 31st](#), The Author, 1993, pp. 104–106)
- 1955**, December 11 — 9:00 p.m. Near Jacksonville, Florida, two airline pilots and ground observers see a fast-maneuvering, orange-red, round object, with ground radar tracking. Two USN jets on a practice night-flying mission are vectored to the object by a Naval Air Station Jacksonville controller. On approach the object suddenly rises up to 30,000 feet then dives back down in a circle, buzzing the jets. ([Sparks](#), p. 232)
- 1955**, December 11 — [Wilbert Smith](#) writes to [Keyhoe](#), saying he has not been in touch with him for a long time “at the request of the saucer people themselves.” (Powell, *Keyhoe*, 125–126)
- 1955**, December 21 — 11:00 p.m. Roberta Vesta Jacobs sees a round, bright gold, domed disc climbing above her farmyard near Caribou, Maine. It rotates, hovers silently, and accelerates. ([Sparks](#), p. 232; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 43–45)

1956

- 1956** — French ufologist [Aimé Michel](#) publishes *The Truth about Flying Saucers*, one of the best early books on UFOs, originally published in French in 1954. (Aimé Michel, *The Truth about Flying Saucers*, Criterion, 1956; “[First Read: Aimé Michel’s ‘The Truth about Flying Saucers’](#),” *Magonia*, February 25, 2012)
- 1956** — [Gray Barker](#) publishes *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers*, a bestselling book about the supposed [Albert K. Bender](#) mystery and his encounter with three men in black. (Gray Barker, [They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers](#), University Books, 1956; Clark III 178, 190; David Halperin, “[‘They Knew Too Much’: The Book That \(Almost\) Scared Me under My Bed](#),” *Ms.Horror.com*, March 16, 2017)
- 1956** — [Morris K. Jessup](#) publishes *The UFO Annual*, an anthology of newspaper and magazine articles about UFOs, and *UFO and the Bible*, the first book-length attempt to connect biblical miracles with space visitors. Jessup is the first writer to use the term “ufology” in his introduction (dated December 31, 1955). (Morris K. Jessup, *The UFO Annual*, Citadel, 1956; Clark III 106, 634–635)
- 1956** — Soviet polar aviator [Valentin Akkuratov](#) is flying a Tupolev Tu-4 aircraft near Cape Morris Jesup, Greenland, performing strategic ice reconnaissance. Dropping down below the clouds, he sees an unknown object moving on the port side parallel to his course. It looks like a “large pearl-colored lens with wavy, pulsating edges.” Thinking it is a US aircraft, Akkuratov heads back into the clouds. After flying for 40 minutes to the southeast, the cloud cover ends and Akkuratov encounters it again. He decides to approach the object, which changes course and paces the airplane at the same speed. After 15–18 minutes, the UFO sharply alters course, speeds ahead, and rises quickly until it disappears. (Felix Ziegel, “[Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” *Soviet Life*, no. 137 (February 1968): 27–29; Good Above, [pp. 226–227](#))
- 1956** — Fishermen at lake Ozero Blagodati, Primorsky Krai, Russia, allegedly see an enormous silvery object with an apparent diameter of 4,900 feet rapidly flying above them at 1,960 feet. It resembles a hat with red portholes around its rim and is accompanied by loud grinding sounds and black smoke. The object emits numerous thin metal threads resembling horse hairs that the fishermen pick up the next day. The object crashes into the Sea of Japan. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 113–114)
- 1956 or 1957** — 7:45 p.m. W. J. Kyncey is aboard the destroyer [USS Maddox](#) in the North Pacific between Midway Island and Japan. He and some 30 other sailors on the stern see a steady orange light coming toward them at about 50 mph. It stops for 2 minutes about 1,300 feet away at about 400 feet altitude. It begins moving again at 35 mph then blinks out after 5–10 seconds. (“[Correspondence](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 4 (Aug./Sept. 1982): 6)
- 1956**, January — The US Army Chemical Corps begins classified human experiments at its Edgewood Arsenal facility at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The Medical Research Volunteer Program (1956–1975) is driven by intelligence requirements and the need for new and more effective interrogation techniques. Overall, about 7,000

soldiers take part in these experiments that involve exposure to more than 250 different chemicals. Some of the volunteers exhibit symptoms at the time of exposure to these agents but long-term follow-up is not planned as part of the Department of Defense studies. The experiments are abruptly terminated by the Army in late 1975 amid an atmosphere of scandal and recrimination as lawmakers accuse researchers of questionable ethics. Many official government reports and civilian lawsuits follow in the wake of the controversy. The chemical agents include VX, sarin, mustard gas, atropine, scopolamine, 2-PAM chloride, LSD, PCP, cannabinoids, riot control agents, alcohol, and caffeine. (Wikipedia, "[Edgewood Arsenal human experiments](#)")

- 1956**, January — [Edward J. Ruppelt](#)'s *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* is published. His candid opinions about UFOs contradict many of the positions taken on UFOs by the Air Force. He has personally seen the Estimate of the Situation, he confirms the existence of [Fournet](#)'s motion study, and he first describes the basic contours of the Robertson Panel. (Edward J. Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Doubleday, 1956; Michael D. Swords, [[Review](#)], *JUFOS* 3 (1991): 179–183; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 154–164; Graff 122–124)
- 1956**, January 9 — The CIA's Applied Science Division takes on the job of holding UFO reports. (ClearIntent, [p. 135](#))
- 1956**, January 13 — UFO researcher [Morris K. Jessup](#) receives a letter from someone in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, who calls himself [Carlos Miguel Allende](#) [a pseudonym of Carl Allen], who alludes to a US Navy experiment to make a destroyer invisible in October 1943 [the bogus Philadelphia Experiment]. He writes another letter postmarked May 25 that suggests hypnosis or truth serum might bring out more details. (Wikipedia, "[Philadelphia Experiment](#)"; Clark III 95; Andrew H. Hochheimer, "[The Carl Allen Letters](#)," *The Philadelphia Experiment* from A–Z, January 31, 2001)
- 1956**, January 15 — An object the apparent size of a washtub is seen falling into the sea 150 feet offshore from Busan, South Korea, by large numbers of townspeople. The glow continues for an hour and a half before the object sinks. Korean and American military authorities are alerted. Military Police Cpl. Ben Elliot observes the glow, which resembles burning alcohol or benzene. (Samuel Norman, "Recent UFOs over Japan," *Fate* 9, no. 6 (June 1956): 22–24; Carl Feindt, "[Report #127](#)," [waterufo.net](#))
- 1956**, January 22 — [Jonathan N. Leonard](#) reviews [Harold T. Wilkins](#)'s *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, [Keyhoe](#)'s *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, and [Ruppelt](#)'s *Report on UFOs* in the *New York Times*. He calls Wilkins a mystic, Keyhoe "repetitious and unconvincing," and Ruppelt (most unfairly) "the longest and dullest of the current crop of saucer books." (Jonathan N. Leonard, "[Visitors from Space](#)," *New York Times Book Review*, January 22, 1956, p. 25)
- 1956**, January 24 — A message from the US Air Attaché in Afghanistan to ATIC at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, mentions the "reported landing of a flying saucer" near the town of Takala [according to the coordinates, near the modern village of Bayram in Baghlan Province]. It is supposedly metallic, 49 feet in circumference, with small glass windows around the leading edge. (USAIRA Afghanistan to COMATIC WPAFB Ohio, [[communication](#)], January 26, 1955)
- 1956**, January 31 — 3:24 p.m. Kentucky National Guard pilot Lt. Col. [Lee J. Merkel](#) is flying an F-51 Mustang out of Standiford Field [now Louisville International Airport] in Louisville, Kentucky, on a maintenance test flight. His aircraft crashes 10 miles north of Bedford, Indiana, following some confusing information from various sources about an unknown radar target or visual observation in the vicinity. (ClearIntent, [pp. 62–63](#); Good Need, [pp. 215–216](#))
- 1956**, February 9 — 1:30 a.m. Patrolmen Marvin Poer and John Freeland see a ball of fire plunge behind the breakwater at Redondo Beach, California. It bobs on the water's surface before sinking into 15 feet of water some 300 feet off the shore. Five county lifeguards row out to look for it and retrieve a US Army Signal Corps battery light that was dropped from an airplane. ("[Sea Cools Mystery of Hot Disk](#)," *Los Angeles (Calif.) Mirror-News*, February 9, 1956, p. 8; "[Sea-Saucer or Searchlight?](#)" *CRIFO Orbit* 2, no. 12 (March 2, 1956): 4)
- 1956**, February 9 — In a memo, "Responsibility for Unidentified Flying Objects," the CIA's Applied Science Division retains files for incoming raw reports that might provide information on foreign weapons R&D. Other (more significant?) reports are forwarded to the Fundamental Sciences Area for review of information on foreign science developments. Still others are to be destroyed. (ClearIntent, [pp. 135–136](#))
- 1956**, February 12 — 10:55 p.m. Two F-89D fighters flying at 20,000 feet, one crewed by pilot Bowen and radar observer Crawford, suddenly see a green and red object 40 miles southeast of Goose Bay AFB [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador. It rapidly circles their jet, and the other fighter tracks it on radar but cannot see it visually. About 15 minutes later, operators at Goose Bay paint a stationary target about 40 miles southwest of the base. The two pilots vector toward the object and obtain radar contact, but it vanishes when they get within 8 miles. ([Sparks](#), p. 233; Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 262)
- 1956**, February 17 — 10:50 p.m. Air traffic controllers at Orly Airport, Paris, France, see a target appear on their radar screens that is twice the size of a conventional aircraft. It cruises around, hovers, and accelerates at fantastic

speeds, and is tracked for a total of 4 hours. When it first appears on radar it is directly above Gometz-le-Châtel, Seine et Oise, and 30 seconds later it is 19 miles away, having moved at nearly 2,500 mph. A second, smaller target appears, identified as an Air France DC-3 airliner flying over the Les Mureaux military base, Yvelines, at 4,500 feet (800 feet lower than the UFO). Only radios the pilot to alert him to the unidentified target. Radio Officer Beaupertuis sees the object through a window on the starboard side of the plane—enormous in size, indistinct in outline, and lit in some areas with a red glow. Capt. Michel Desavoie confirms the sighting, saying he and the crew watched the object for 30 seconds and are certain it is no civil airliner. The sighting duration is nearly 3 hours. (NICAP, “[Large UFO Tracked on Ground Radar](#)”; “[A Saucer Shows Up over Paris and Creates a Stir in a Radar Room and a Cockpit](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 2 (March/April 1956): 3; Patrick Gross, “[Only Airport, France, February 1956](#)”)

- 1956**, February 18 — [Stringfield](#) receives a letter from [Lord Hugh Dowding](#) that says he doesn’t think there is an official “British attitude to UFOs.” (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [p. 165](#))
- 1956**, February 25 — In the review article “The Latest on the Flying Saucer,” *Saturday Review* editors ask five people—[Harold T. Wilkins](#), [Donald E. Keyhoe](#), [Donald H. Menzel](#), [Edward J. Ruppelt](#), and [Jackie Gleason](#)—whether they ever saw a saucer and what they think they are. Gleason writes that he never saw one, but he thinks “it is almost certain that their jumping off place is the moon. I think that their purpose in visiting us is to get geographic information and to find out all that they would have to contend with if they decide to make an absolute communication with us.” (“The Latest on the Flying Saucer,” *Saturday Review*, February 25, 1956; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, A History: 1956, January–April*, The Author, 1993, pp. 43–44)
- 1956**, February 25 — The Special Weapons Study Unit of Aviation Studies International Ltd. In London, England, provides a summary of anti-gravity research (electrogravitics systems) to Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio. It mentions that researchers at the Glenn Martin Company claim that gravity control can be achieved by 1962, but only with a “Manhattan District type of effort.” (“[Electrogravitics Systems](#),” Special Weapons Study Unit, London, February 25, 1956)
- 1956**, March — *Mechanix Illustrated* publishes a story on the Avro Canada MX-1794 (Y-2, or Silver Bug) vertical take-off gyroplane under development by the US Air Force. The cover proclaims, “U.S. Air Force Reveals Our Flying Saucer.” Through 1958, Avro spends \$2.5 million and the USAF \$5.4 million funding the project. Numerous models are built, and wind-tunnel testing is undertaken at MIT and Wright-Patterson AFB. The design includes eight Armstrong Siddeley Viper turbojet engines, a very large center rotor/impeller with Lundstrom compressor turbines, with the cockpit mounted in the top center. Control is achieved through eight small exhausts at the outer edge, directed either through the top or bottom, in addition to the main turbine exhaust through the bottom center of the craft. A multiengine test rig is built and tested in 1956, resulting in powerful thrust, a great deal of noise, and vibrations. In 1957, the USAF provides additional funding to extend the project, by then highly classified and designated as Weapon System 606A. The concept developed is for a circular-winged, supersonic aircraft. Over 1,000 hours of wind-tunnel testing are performed. Drawings developed by Avro show an aircraft that appears to be a merging of a flying saucer with more conventional fuselage shapes—a tailless aircraft with circular wings. (Wikipedia, “[Avro Canada](#)”; Willy Ley, “[How the Flying Saucer Works](#),” *Mechanix Illustrated* 52 (March 1956): 78–81; Good Need, [p. 215](#); Charles Mandel, “[A Saucer from Mars? Nope, Canada](#),” *Wired*, July 5, 2001; Joe Pappalardo, “Declassified: America’s Secret Flying Saucer,” *Popular Mechanics*, February 11, 2013)
- 1956**, March 10 — British pilot [Peter Twiss](#) reaches an official airspeed of 1,132 mph in a Fairey Delta 2 over Chichester, England. (Wikipedia, “[Peter Twiss](#)”)
- 1956**, March 16 — [Stringfield](#) receives a letter from Gen. [John A. Samford](#) that ends his affiliation with ADC. (Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [p. 14](#))
- 1956**, Spring — The Flying Saucer Discussion Group begins meeting on a more-or-less monthly basis at the YWCA in Washington, D.C. It is begun by Mrs. [Walton C. “Clara” John](#), the publisher of a mimeographed zine called *The Little Listening Post*, which often covers UFOs. (“[“Toward a Broader Understanding...”: The Story of How NICAP Began](#),” *UFO Investigator*, October 1971, p. 2)
- 1956**, April — USAF Capt. [George T. Gregory](#) succeeds Capt. [Charles Hardin](#) as director of Project Blue Book. ([Sparks](#), p. 14)
- 1956**, April — An annotated copy of the paperback edition of [Morris K. Jessup](#)’s *The Case for the UFO* (1955) is sent in a manila envelope from Seminole, Texas, to Adm. [Frederick R. Furth](#), chief of the Office of Naval Research. The annotations are written in three different colors of ink, apparently by three persons, A, B, and Jemi, who claim to know a great deal about the UFO intelligences. They mention space people, underwater cities, force fields, and

much more. The book falls into the possession of Maj. [Darrell L. Ritter](#), USMC aeronautical project officer at ONR, who brings it to the attention of ONR Capt. Sidney Sherby and ONR Projects Officer Cmdr. [George W. Hoover](#), who become interested and get permission (as long as it does not involve official naval personnel) to send the copy to the Varo Manufacturing Company, in Garland, Texas, which has contracts with the military. Varo publishes 25 spiral-bound copies of the book in black and red ink, which shows the annotations. Meanwhile, Jessup has been receiving at least two strange letters (January 13 and May 25, 1956) from someone calling himself [Carlos Miguel Allende](#), which claim that as a result of a strange experiment at sea utilizing principles of Einstein's Field Theory, a destroyer (identified by some as the [USS Eldridge](#) and others by the [USS Engstrom](#), which were not in the Philadelphia Navy Yard at the time) and all its crew became invisible in October 1943, but the sailors showed side effects. Allende says he has witnessed all of this. Sherby talks to Jessup about the Varo edition; Jessup isn't much interested but tells him about the Allende letters, which talk about the same things as the annotations and are obviously written by the same person. [Gray Barker](#)'s Saucerian Press publishes the Varo edition in July 1972. Sometime in the 1970s, Carlos Allende appears at APRO headquarters and confesses that the whole annotations thing was a hoax, but he surfaces a few years later saying that the CIA coerced him into saying it was a hoax. In the late 1970s, [Robert A. Goerman](#) identifies Allende as Carl Allen, who lives near him in Pennsylvania. In the October 1980 issue of *Fate*, Goerman explains the entire mess, saying that Allen had written all three of the annotation types. [Bill Moore](#) and [Charles Berlitz](#) take the whole thing seriously enough to write *The Philadelphia Experiment* in 1979, which links the force fields back to [T. Townsend Brown](#), later the founder of NICAP. (Morris K. Jessup, *The Case for the UFO*, annotated Varo ed., Saucerian, 1972; Wikipedia, "[Philadelphia Experiment](#)"; Ivan T. Sanderson, "[Jessup and the Allende Case](#)," *Pursuit* 1, no. 4 (September 30, 1968): 8–10; William L. Moore, with Charles Berlitz, *The Philadelphia Experiment: Project Invisibility*, Grosset and Dunlap, 1979; Robert A. Goerman, "Alias Carlos Allende," *Fate* 33, no. 10 (October 1980): 69–75; Clark III 95–97; Kevin D. Randle, "[The Allende Letters](#)," *A Different Perspective*, July 5, 2009; Kevin D. Randle, "[Chasing Sources: The Philadelphia Experiment](#)," *A Different Perspective*, August 9, 2016; Andrew H. Hochheimer, "[Carlos Miguel Allende or Carl Meredith Allen or...](#)," *The Philadelphia Experiment from A–Z*, August 13, 2016; Andrew H. Hochheimer, "[The Varo Edition](#)," *The Philadelphia Experiment from A–Z*, December 13, 2016)

- 1956**, April 3 — [Keyhoe](#) writes a lengthy letter to Sen. [Harry F. Byrd](#) (D-Va.), criticizing Air Force secrecy, deconstructing *Blue Book Special Report no. 14*, and requesting a congressional hearing. Keyhoe asks Byrd to forward his letter to the Air Force for a response, but he forwards it himself anyway, as does Byrd. The Air Force's Gen. [Joe W. Kelly](#) responds, dismissing both Keyhoe and UFOs. ("[Maj. Keyhoe's Eleven Unanswered Questions](#)," *Saucers* 4, no. 2 (June 1956): 2–5; *Swords* 222–223)
- 1956**, April 4 — [T. Townsend Brown](#) and his family in their home in Leesburg, Virginia are discussing flying saucers and a national organization to study them. They are joined by a close friend, [Helen Brasee Towt](#), who suggests the name, National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. (Powell, *Keyhoe*, 168)
- 1956**, April 5–May 10 — Some 156 overflight missions into Soviet territory by RB-47 reconnaissance aircraft from Thule Air Base in Greenland begin in Operation Home Run. They fly over the North Pole and into Siberia, probing for electronic intelligence. (Wikipedia, "[Project HOMERUN](#)"; R. Cargill Hall and Clayton D. Laurie, eds., *Early Cold War Overflights, 1950–1956: Symposium Proceedings Held at the Tighe Auditorium, Defense Intelligence Agency, 22–23 February 2001, Volume 1*, US National Reconnaissance Office, 2003, pp. 259–313)
- 1956**, April 7 — [Elizabeth Klarer](#) returns to Flying Saucer Hill southwest of Rosetta, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, drawn by a strange compulsion. The spaceship is waiting for her, and Akon takes her in his hands and says, "Not afraid this time?" He leads her on board the craft, which she learns also carries a second alien, who looks much like Akon except he is darker and more muscular. As the ship first rises into space, Akon says he has been watching her for some time. He lets her look at the earth below through a viewing lens that also has x-ray capability. The saucer goes to a "mother ship" filled with friendly space people. At one point a huge video image projected on the wall allows her to view scenes from their home planet, Meton, in the Alpha Centauri system. They serve her a vegetarian meal. Klarer and Akon begin a lifelong romantic attachment that includes sexual activity. ("[Landing in South Africa](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1956): 2–5; Edgar Sievers, "[Encounter in South Africa](#)," *Uranus* 3, no. 3 (December 1956): 46–49; "[Elizabeth Klarer's Flying Saucer](#)," *Flying Saucers from Other Worlds*, June 1957, pp. 65–69, 75; Elizabeth Klarer, *Beyond the Light Barrier*, Howard Timmins, 1980; Clark III 657; Paul Seaburn, "[Woman from Earth Claimed to Have Already Been to Proxima b](#)," *Mysterious Universe*, August 31, 2016; "[Beyond the Light Barrier | Elizabeth Klarer \(Documentary\)](#)," Elizabeth Klarer YouTube channel, January 6, 2017; "[Elizabeth Klarer: Live Speech of Her UFO Experiences](#)," Objects Tree YouTube channel, March 3, 2022; Internet Movie Database, *Beyond the Light Barrier*, 2023)

- 1956, April 8** — 10:15 p.m. Capt. [Raymond E. Ryan](#), First Officer William Neff, flight attendant Phyllis Reynolds, and many passengers take off on American Airlines Flight 715 from Albany, New York, heading north then nearly due west at 260 mph and 6,000 feet north of Schenectady, when a brilliant white light about 2–3 miles away is spotted about 90° to the left appearing like an airliner heading in to land at Albany. The white light moves about 90° to dead ahead position about 8–10 miles away at high speed, estimated at about 800–1,000 mph, where it changes color to orange and seems to block the airliner's path or risk collision. It disappears briefly and reappears as an orange light again but standing still ahead of the airliner to the west. The Convair airliner contacts Griffiss AFB [now Griffiss International Airport], Rome, New York, where controllers ask Ryan to turn his lights off and on to help identify aircraft. He is told the airliner is seen and the orange UFO are to the south. The airliner is ordered to maintain course to follow the UFO to the west, skipping its scheduled landing at Syracuse after nearly 30 minutes of following the object. The promised fighter jet interception is never seen. The object disappears at high speed to the northwest towards Oswego, New York. (NICAP, "[Air Force Requests Plane Loaded with Passengers to Chase UFO](#)"; "[Airliner Chases Bright Light Miles across the State](#)," *Buffalo (N.Y.) Evening News*, April 10, 1956, p. 1; "[Unidentified Aerial 'Bright Object' Mystifies Area Fliers, CAA Man](#)," *Albany (N.Y.) Times-Union*, April 11, 1956; "[April 8, 1956](#)," *CSI News Letter*, no. 14 (May 6, 1956): 5–6; [Sparks](#), p. 236; "[Cover-Up Suspected in Reported Air-UFO Chase](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 3 (January 1958): 10–12; UFOEv, [p. 117](#); Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956, January–April*, The Author, 1993, pp. 59–75; "[American Airlines CE-II Pilot Case of 4-8-1956 – Capt. Ryan and Co-Pilot Neff](#)," *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013)
- 1956, April 9** — CIA agent [Joseph Bryan III](#) writes to [Ruppelt](#), saying that while he served as special assistant to Air Force Secretary [Thomas Finletter](#), he tried to "have him prepare a statement for release when communication was established with a Saucer." Finletter declines to do so. (Michael David Hall and Wendy Ann Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers*, Rose Press International, 2000, p. 10)
- 1956, April 16** — An interview with [Ryan](#) and Neff is taped on the TV show *Meet the Millers*. They claim that Griffiss AFB "asked us our next point of landing and to identify the aircraft. I told them Syracuse and identified the flight number. Then they told us: 'Abandon that next landing temporarily. Maintain your course and altitude. We're sending two jets to intercept the object.'" About the UFO, Ryan says, "This was absolutely real. I'm convinced there was something fantastic up there." [Keyhoe](#) obtains a copy of the tape. (NICAP, [[transcript of Meet the Millers program](#), April 16, 1956]; UFO Ev, [pp. 41–42](#))
- 1956, April 28** — At the third Giant Rock Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention near Landers, California, contactee Dick Miller plays tape recordings allegedly made by Mon-Ka, a Martian, in which he asks Los Angeles radio stations to shut down for two minutes at 10:30 p.m. on November 7, 1956, so that Mon-Ka can speak from his spacecraft. As a publicity gimmick, two radio stations (KATY [now KYNS] of San Luis Obispo and KBIA of Los Angeles) go off the air at that time, and KTTV in Los Angeles sends up an airplane to watch for the approaching spacecraft. Nothing happens. (Clark III 531, 766–767)
- 1956, May 1** — USAF Gen. [Joe W. Kelly](#) writes to Sen. [Harry F. Byrd](#) (D-Va.) that there is a "total lack of evidence that [UFOs] are interplanetary vehicles." ("[The Air Force Answers Keyhoe](#)," *Saucers* 4, no. 2 (June 1956): 6–7; "[How about Those Three Secret Reports, General Kelly?](#)" *CSI News Letter*, no. 5 (September 21, 1956): 1)
- 1956, May 1** — Air Force Manual section 190-4 goes into effect. It affects all USAF official press releases, statements to Congress and the public, and publications about UFOs. It requires the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information to "delete all evidence of UFO reality and intelligent control, which would, of course, contradict the Air Force stand that UFOs do not exist." NICAP is made aware of the regulation in 1962 when former USAF information spokesman Maj. [William T. Coleman](#) admits to a NICAP member that Maj. [Lawrence J. Tacker](#)'s book *Flying Saucers and the US Air Force* was reviewed under AFM 190-4. ("[Air Force Reveals Censorship Controls](#)," *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 4 (July 1962): 1; "[New Air Force Attacks on NICAP](#)," *UFO Investigator* 2, no. 7 (Jan./Feb. 1963): 3)
- 1956, May 1** — 7:55 p.m. Koto Ward, a factory worker, along with many others, see a large bright object flying low over the rooftops in Tokyo, Japan. Turuko Kurihara, in a different location, sees a greenish object at 7:59 p.m. The object makes no noise but causes severe distortion on the TV sets in the area. ("[Flying Saucers' over Tokyo](#)," *Flying Saucers* (N.Z.) 4, no. 2 (Sept. 1956): 18; [Schopick](#), p. 103)
- 1956, May 3** — Hollywood producer [Clarence Greene](#) releases a semi-documentary about the UFO phenomenon in the US, *U.F.O.* [Edward J. Ruppelt](#), [Dewey Fournet](#), and [Albert M. Chop](#) assist in the production. The principal character is Chop, played by *Los Angeles Examiner* journalist [Tom Towers](#), and examines his career going from skeptical USAF public information officer to Pentagon UFO press spokesman. The film uses professional actor [Harry Morgan](#) in a voiceover part; [Bert Freed](#) plays an Air Force colonel, and [Robert Phillips](#) plays Ruppelt's

part in a speaking role. UFO witnesses Delbert Newhouse, [Nicholas Mariana](#), and [Willis Sperry](#) play themselves, and Los Angeles policemen stand in for Ruppelt, Fournet, and Gen [William Garland](#). The Air Force carefully monitors its reception and readies itself to counter the film's impact. The documentary analyzes two famous pieces of UFO footage: the Montana film of 1950 and the 1952 UFO Utah film (both shown for the first time in public). It concludes with the famous 1952 Washington, D.C., UFO incident, in which Chop played a central role, and recreates his experiences. At the end of the documentary, Chop states his belief that UFOs are a real, physical phenomenon of unknown origin. (Wikipedia, "[UFO \(1956 film\)](#)"; "[Unidentified Flying Objects: The True Story of Flying Saucers](#)," Nicholas Marshall YouTube channel, August 23, 2020; A. H. Weiler, "[Screen: 'Saucer' Story](#)," *New York Times*, June 13, 1956, p. 45; Internet Movie Database, "[Unidentified Flying Objects: The True Story of Flying Saucers](#)"; Robert Barrow, "'UFO' Revisited," *Official UFO*, February 1977; Robert Barrow, "'Unidentified Flying Objects': A Most Remarkable UFO Documentary Film," *Argosy UFO*, Winter 1977/1978; Robert Barrow, "[Unidentified Flying Objects, Accidental Epic](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 2 (January 2006): 3–6; Robert Barrow, "[Tom Towers: The Other Al Chop](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 17–19; Clark III 1188–1189; Swords 222; Curt Collins, "[Project Blue Book: UFO, the Motion Picture](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, August 24, 2018; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 172–174)

1956, May 4 — 9:30 p.m. Rev. Charles Burmeister, an amateur astronomer, sees five "orange blobs" flying in a U-shape formation east to west at high speed over Marinette, Wisconsin. His son joins him to watch. One more object passes in the same flight path, then a group of six, then one more, followed by another. Blue Book classes the sighting as meteors without even consulting [Hynek](#), who later says that meteors do not fly in formation. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956 May–July](#), The Author, 1993, pp. 2–7; Swords 229–230)

1956, May 9 — 11:00 p.m. Jean Frost and Gertie Wynn are waiting for a bus on Water Street in Jacksonville, Florida, when they see two moving lights in the sky that are flashing on and off. After 15 minutes they return in the opposite direction; when almost overhead, they stop suddenly and the lower object merges with the upper one, which then drops earthward at terrific speed until it is only 150 feet above the witnesses. They see that the object has three pulsating white lights on top, is surrounded by an eerie red mist, and seems about 50–75 feet in diameter. A door is visible in the bottom, outlined in red. Just as their bus is approaching, the smaller object is ejected from the larger disc. The bus driver, [Wallace L. Marlowe](#), gets out of the bus and sees the two objects before they ascend at a high speed. (C. W. Fitch, "[Strange Disappearances and Pursuing Saucers](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, March 1959, p. 7)

1956, May 22 — 11:05 p.m. USAF 1st Lt. Earl D. Holwadel and 1st Lt. Curtis Carley are piloting a T-33 jet at 18,000 feet 58 miles northwest of Monroe, Louisiana, when they see a bright light due east. They see it again in the east at 11:15 p.m. Holwadel banks right to the southeast somewhat behind the object, which is now a great distance away. The object suddenly comes straight at them at high speed, passing in front of the T-33 at about 225 feet away. It flashes an intensely bright white light from a "greenhouse-shaped dome" or cockpit window at its front end that lights up the canopy of the T-33. The object is about 30–40 feet long, elliptical in shape, shorter than a C-47 but wider, a small steady red running light in the center, with no wings, only stubby protrusions extending 3–4 feet and 25 feet long on each side. The bottom surface is like steel with ribs extending down 2–4 feet with a wave-like appearance. It moves away then returns at high speed on a westerly course with "fantastic" maneuverability. It never changes flight attitude at any time. (NICAP, "[Elliptical Object Comes Straight at T-33](#)"; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 44–47; Walter N. Webb, "[Inside Building 263: A Visit to Blue Book, 1956](#)," *IUR* 17, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1992): cover, 5; [Sparks](#), p. 237)

1956, Summer? — [Morris K. Jessup](#) is invited to the Office of Naval Research to examine the mysteriously annotated version of his *The Case for the UFO*. He becomes convinced that his correspondent [Carl Allen](#) has written all or most of it. Capt. Sidney Sherby and Cmdr. [Hoover](#) ask for the Allen letters and these are included in a special printing of the annotated book by the Varo Publishing Company of Garland, Texas. In 1969, Allen confesses to APRO that he had written the annotations, but he retracts the confession later. (Clark III 95–97; Andrew H. Hochheimer, "[The Varo Edition](#)," *The Philadelphia Experiment from A–Z*, December 13, 2016; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 277–278).

1956, Summer — 11:30 p.m. A cigar-shaped UFO with lighted portholes is seen by two witnesses in the southwest part of Springfield, Illinois. The car driven by one of the witnesses quits, and the UFO seems to affect the traffic lights as well. The object looks slightly smaller than a blimp. After about 30 seconds it moves straight up and disappears. (Michael D. Swords, "[The Timmerman Files](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 14, 30)

1956, June (or June 1957) — RNZAF Airman Derek Mansell is a passenger in a Bristol 170 Freighter Mk 31M near Wellington, New Zealand, when the aircraft encounters severe turbulence and its compass and other instruments spin wildly. All communications fail and the engine spurts intermittently for 25 minutes before everything returns

to normal. When the Freighter lands at RNZAF Base Ohakea near Bulls, the pilot of a Douglas C-47 Dakota lands and asks them whether they had seen a huge metallic disc about 250 feet in diameter with a blue light on top and a red light on the bottom, which he had observed just above the Freighter pacing it. The Dakota crew apparently took photos, but these have not turned up. After a two-hour debriefing, both crews are told never to discuss the matter. (Good Above, [pp. 432–433](#))

1956, June — 10:00 p.m. Two women are driving north toward New Hampshire, Ohio, when a bright light approaches them from a small wooded area. They stop their car to look at it. The light is attached to a large rectangular object resembling a railroad box car that settles near the ground at the edge of the highway opposite to them about 30 feet away. Suddenly the side of the object facing them lights up from inside with a pale green light and they can see three small entities. One is standing next to a console “operating some kind of controls,” and the two others are also active. For 5 minutes, they appear to be observing the women. The entities have dark hair on their heads and arms and are wearing short-sleeved smocks. The object moves up and away toward the southwest and disappears. (“[Unreported 1956 CEIII Discovered in Ohio](#),” *CUFOS Associate Newsletter* 3, no. 3 (June/July 1982): 4–5)

1956, June 6 — 6:30 a.m. A cosmetics salesman named Bierman is driving on US Highway 70 about 3–5 miles west of Banning, California, when he notices an object on his right, about 300 feet away and 100 feet in the air. It first appears silvery and cigar-shaped. Bierman stops his car to watch the object, which moves across the highway in front of him then banks left, changing to a domed-disc shape, somewhat bluish, about 20 feet in diameter. It recrosses the highway in back of him, circling back to its original position in 8–9 seconds, then zooming away silently at tremendous speed toward the west-northwest. (NICAP, “[Domed Disc Maneuvers at CE Range](#)”; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 46–47; [Sparks](#), p. 238)

1956, June 13 — *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, an American black-and-white science fiction film from Columbia Pictures, produced by [Charles H. Schneer](#), directed by [Fred F. Sears](#), starring [Hugh Marlowe](#) and [Joan Taylor](#), and with special effects by [Ray Harryhausen](#), is released in Los Angeles. The film’s storyline is suggested by [Donald E. Keyhoe](#)’s nonfiction *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* (1953), but bears little resemblance to the content. Keyhoe has sold the rights to Clover Productions in Hollywood. (“[Earth vs the Flying Saucers | 1956 Sci-fi Movie](#),” Variety & Co YouTube channel, June 29, 2022; “[Government Helps Promote a Movie](#),” *Boston (Mass.) Sunday Globe*, July 8, 1956, p. 59; Wikipedia, “[Earth vs. the Flying Saucers](#)”; Internet Movie Database, “[Earth vs. the Flying Saucers](#)”; Clark III 434; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 171–172)

1956, June 14 — [Walter N. Webb](#) visits and interviews Project Blue Book head Capt. [George T. Gregory](#) at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. (Walter N. Webb, “[Inside Building 263: A Visit to Blue Book, 1956](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1992): 3–5)

1956, June 25 — ATIC’s Col. [John Eriksen](#), writing for Secretary of the Air Force [Donald A. Quarles](#), replies to a query from Rep. [John E. Moss](#) (D-Calif.), explaining why USAF is not handing out multiple copies of *Blue Book Special Report no. 14* (basically it printed 100 copies that were distributed to government agencies) and that it does not intend to withhold UFO information from the public. ([Letter](#), John C. Eriksen to John E. Moss, June 25, 1956; Swords 223)

1956, July — [Brinsley Le Poer Trench](#), 8th Earl of Clancarty, takes over as editor of *Flying Saucer Review* from [Derek Dempster](#). (*Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1956); Clark III 498)

1956, July — US parapsychologist [Andrija Puharich](#) and Dutch psychic [Peter Hurkos](#) accidentally meet Charles Laughead and his wife Lillian in Acámbaro, Guanajuato, Mexico, both groups in town to view the famous figurines of [Waldemar Julsrud](#), during the time that Hurkos is being studied by Puharich at his medical facility in Glen Cove, Maine. The Laugheads are convinced that Puharich and Hurkos are space people come to assist them, based on the channelings of their associate [George Hunt Williamson](#) (although they do not name him). (Andrija Puharich, *Uri: A Journal of the Mystery of Uri Geller*, Bantam, 1975, [pp. xviii–xxiv](#); Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, p. 104)

1956, July 4 — Pilot [Hervey Stockman](#) makes the first of eight U-2 flights over Soviet Russia, Mission 2013. He flies from Wiesbaden over East Germany and Poland before crossing the Soviet border near Grodno, Belarus, then over bomber bases at Minsk, Belarus; Leningrad [now St. Petersburg], Russia; and the Baltic states. The mission is tracked by Soviet radar; a number of MiG fighters unsuccessfully try to intercept the U-2. (Spyflight, “[Lockheed U-2](#)”; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 86–88](#))

1956, July 9 — One early U-2 mission, Mission 2020, flown by [Martin Knutson](#), flies over Engels-2 airfield, near Saratov, Russia, and photographs 20 M-4 Bison bombers on the ramp. Multiplying by the number of Soviet bomber bases, the intelligence suggests the Soviets are already well on their way to deploying hundreds of aircraft. Ironically, the U-2 has actually photographed the entire Bison fleet; there is no bomber at any of the other

bases. Similar missions over the next year finally prove that. At least in official circles, the bomber gap is disproven. (Spyflight, "[Lockheed U-2](#)")

1956, July 10 — The Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, coastline and suburbs are draped with "angel hair" that hangs from utility lines and trees. It vanishes within hours, but a sample is recovered for analysis by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organisation. It cannot be identified, although six scientists rule out wool, cotton, feathers, cellulose, and synthetic fibers. (Brian Boldman, "[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#)," *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 102; Keith Basterfield, "[Angel Hair: An Australian Perspective](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 7)

1956, July 12 — [Clara John](#) records an interview with [Morris K. Jessup](#) in which he proposes a civilian "centralized clearinghouse" for UFO sightings. (Wendy Connors, "High Strangeness Guide," [Track 15](#), November 21, 2013; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 170–171)

1956, July 16 — 7:00 p.m. Lawyer (or law professor) João de Freitas Guimarães is taking a walk on the beach at Caraguatutuba, São Paulo, Brazil, when he observes a hat-shaped, luminous object leave the sea between São Sebastião and Ilhabela and land only a few yards away from him. A door opens, a metallic stairway emerges, and two tall, human-looking men with long, fair hair emerge wearing green jumpsuits. Through gestures, they encourage him to enter the craft. Inside, the saucer takes off and the crew communicate with him telepathically, telling him about a radiation protection system that exists around the ship and that they have left the atmosphere. They are supposedly from Venus. His alleged trip lasts an hour. When he returns, his watch no longer works. (Luiz do Rosário Real, "[Caso Dr. Freitas Guimarães](#)," April 1976; Clark III 548–549; Vallée, *Magonia*, pp. 257–258; Equipe UFO, "[João de Freitas Guimarães, o advogado que passeou em um UFO](#)," Portal UFO, October 1, 2013; Brazil 32–35)

1956, July 17 — [Elizabeth Klarer](#) takes several photos of a silvery disc as it is hovering around Flying Saucer Hill, southwest of Rosetta, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. (Clark III 657–658)

1956, July 19 — President [Eisenhower](#) temporarily halts U-2 overflights above eastern Europe. (Wikipedia, "[Lockheed U-2](#)")

1956, July 19 — Naval Air Station Hutchinson [now Hutchinson Air Force Station], Kansas, reports tracking "a moving unidentified object" on radar, observed visually by state police as a "teardrop shaped" light source. Witnesses report "noticeable maneuvers of UFO vertically and horizontally over a wide area of the sky." (NICAP, "[NAS Tracks UFO](#)")

1956, July 20 — In a lecture delivered at a meeting of [Clara John](#)'s Flying Saucer Discussion Group, author [Morris K. Jessup](#) declares that it is time for a new UFO organization. A consensus is reached that a Washington, D.C.-based agency should investigate UFOs, and [T. Townsend Brown](#) offers to draft a preliminary proposal. ("[Toward a Broader Understanding...: The Story of How NICAP Began](#)," *UFO Investigator*, October 1971, p. 2; Letter from T. Townsend Brown to Stuart Nixon, October 27, 1971, p. 2; Clark III 792; "[T. Townsend Brown Timeline](#)," Thomas Townsend Brown Family Website, 1996; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 170–171, 175–176)

1956, July 20 — Three witnesses in the Panorama City neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, independently observe a huge, ball-shaped object from which emerge three beings. They are nearly 6 feet tall and have long, blond hair, and wear tight, green suits. (Donald B. Hanlon, "[Questions on the Occupants](#)," in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, special issue of *FSR*, Oct./Dec. 1966, p. 64)

1956, July 22 — 5:30 a.m. Mrs. Ray Brown sees an egg-shaped object giving off a green-colored light from its rear end over Highway City, California. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 72)

1956, July 22 — 11:00 a.m. USAF Maj. [Merwin Stenvers](#) is flying at 16,000 feet over Pixley, California, in a Convair C-131D and is suddenly staggered and knocked to the right by a terrific blow. He makes an emergency landing at Kern County Airport [now closed] in Lost Hills. An examination shows that more than half of the left elevator control surface is gone or smashed, leading to speculation that the airplane had been hit by something. However, an accident investigation team finds that a series of rivets had popped, jamming a rod that controls the elevator servotab and causing the elevator to get stuck. ("[Plane's Dive Is Laid to Control Device Failure](#)," *Fresno (Calif.) Bee*, July 25, 1956, p. 4-B; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 71–73; Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, pp. 39–40)

1956, Late July — A group of US Navy pilots based at Naval Air Station Los Alamitos [now Joint Forces Training Base—Los Alamitos], California, tell news reporters from Orange County News Service that they have orders to shoot down any UFOs that seem hostile. The pilots say this is a standard command issued to pilots on the US to Hawaii run. ("[Unanswered Questions: No. 4, Have UFOs Been Fired Upon?](#)" *Flying Saucer Review* 3, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1957): 18–19)

1956, July 23 — 9:30 p.m. Virginia Maratea and her sister-in-law watch several yellow lights "the size of golf balls held at arm's length" moving swiftly through the sky in Putney, Vermont, sometimes coming to a complete stop and turning blue-white. When jets roar over, they dart away and return later. At a later time, they see a glowing red,

bar-bell-shaped object the size of a large bomber moving swiftly in the west. ("[Case 236](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 9 (December 7, 1956): 1–2)

- 1956**, July 26 — Two disc-shaped objects are suspended in mid-air, one above the other, over the aircraft carrier [USS Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) as it is berthed in the port of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They are 75–100 feet in diameter and have two rows of counter-rotating lights. The upper one releases a ball of fire that drops into the top of the lower one. Within seconds they vanish with tremendous speed. One of the witnesses is Petty Officer 3rd Class (OI) [Leon Treadwell](#), who signs papers agreeing he will tell no one for 20 years. Chief Warrant Officer John C. Hau reports that the ship's radar tracked a cigar-shaped object the day before or after. (Good Need, [p. 231](#); "Another Account of '56 Sighting," *Rockford (Ill.) Register-Star*, July 9, 1992)
- 1956**, July 26 — 8:20 p.m. Physician J. L. Bennet and his wife watch two spinning, powder-blue lights for 10 minutes outside his home in Kilburn Estate, in District 21 near King Albert Park, Singapore. They dart about the sky "like fish in a tank," come together, hover, and separate at great speed, disappearing from sight. He manages to take several photos, one of which shows two objects, one a nearly perfect oval, the other blurred. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 73)
- 1956**, July 28 — 9:55 p.m. Seven witnesses in Brentwood, California, see a sparkling green light flash through the sky and seemingly land in an orchard. Television reception is briefly interrupted. Sheriff's deputies and reserve officers search a square-mile area for 3 hours but find nothing. ("[Mystery Light Falls in Contra Costa Co.](#)," *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, July 29, 1956, p. 1; "[Saucer Sightings Mount As Mars Swings Close](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 6 (September 7, 1956): 2)
- 1956**, August — FBI Director [J. Edgar Hoover](#) launches COINTELPRO (counter-intelligence programs). These are employed against American dissidents and their organizations; the first one targets the American Communist Party. Typical methods are anonymous or fictitious letters, false defamatory or threatening information, forged signatures, and other disinformation. The FBI blackmails insiders to spread false rumors or promote factionalism. It creates bogus organizations to attack or disrupt a bona fide group, and instigates hostile actions through third parties, such as employers, elected officials, and the media. It enables the FBI to investigate any political organization on the pretext of checking for Communists, including the NAACP, women's rights groups, and gay rights groups. These programs prompt nearly 330,000 FBI investigations and create a Security Index of over 200,000 dangerous Americans to be detained in the event of war. Documents relating to these programs are marked "Do not file," offering no clues that they exist. (Wikipedia, "[COINTELPRO](#)")
- 1956**, August — [John P. Cahn](#) publishes a second article in *True* on the [Scully](#) hoax. (J. P. Cahn, "[Flying Saucer Swindlers](#)," *True*, August 1956, pp. 36–37, 69–72)
- 1956**, August — [George King](#) forms the Aetherius Society in London, England, as the result of what King claims are contacts with extraterrestrial intelligences, whom he refers to as "Cosmic Masters." The main goal of the believer is to cooperate with these Cosmic Masters to help humanity solve its current earthly problems and advance into the New Age. Life on other planets is described as free from war, hatred, disease, want, and ignorance. According to King, the civilizations of Atlantis and Lemuria both vanished during an atomic war. (Wikipedia, "[Aetherius Society](#)"; Clark III 52–53; Douglas Curran, *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*, Abbeville, 1985, [pp. 62–69](#))
- 1956**, August — Late night. Two young men are camping near Newark, Ohio, when they see five bright lights in a rigid V-formation. They fly in erratic, sharp-turning patterns for about 5 minutes, including sharp 30° turns. One man takes a photo. They report the sighting to the newspapers and the Air Force, but a USAF officer confiscate both the print and the negatives; the newspaper's copies are also taken. (Michael D. Swords, "[Timmerman's Triangles](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 16)
- 1956**, August 2 — 4:00 a.m. Jesse G. Kirby Jr., his wife, and two children are driving home overnight from Colorado Springs, Colorado, when they see a bright round object releasing beams of light intermittently from its top and bottom, but never simultaneously, as they are passing between Amarillo and Memphis, Texas. It is visible from time to time between the clouds for a total of 2 hours, 15 minutes. It gradually appears to be moving upward, diminishing to the size of a star, and is no longer seen. Kirby photographs the object with a Kodak 620 camera and submits two photos to the Air Force for analysis. The photos show an odd exhaust trail of glowing material. Over one year later, Project Blue Book suggests the photos either show a missile trail or is a hoax. ("[Strange Light Photographed near Amarillo a Year Ago](#)," *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, November 5, 1957, p. 1; "[Air Force Denies UFO Witnesses Muzzled Despite Order at Dallas](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 3 (January 1958): 21; Curt Collins, "[UFO Exploitation: The 1956 Texas Photo Fumble](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, January 15, 2023)

1956, August 3 — A press leak from the Air Force Association reveals that proposals for two types of UFO-detecting satellites are under development. A television subsystem is cancelled as impractical, but an infrared subsystem requires much lower data transmission rates. Lockheed has signed an Air Force contract. The CIA's [Richard M. Bissell](#) later reveals that the CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence Deputy Director Gen. [Philip G. Strong](#) has been pushing the Air Force to develop an infrared tracking satellite. The infrared system actually begins as planned in 1968, with initial operational status in 1970. (Clark III 813, 1032)

1956, August 10 — 5:00 p.m. Lilla Padgett and a friend hear the sound of a motor above them on Empire Boulevard in Brooklyn, New York, and notice a domed metallic disc hovering about 1,200–1,500 feet in the air. After 90 seconds, it suddenly tilts and takes off at an incredible speed to the north. ([NICAP case file](#))

1956, August 11 — [T. Townsend Brown](#) develops a tentative prospectus for a National Committee for the Investigation of Aerial Phenomena in Washington, D.C., that will “direct a united scientific investigation of aerial phenomena” with a minimum staff of 12 and a Board of Governors. (NICAP, [Tentative Prospectus](#), August 11, 1956; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 176–178)

1956, August 13–14 — 9:30 p.m. A radar-visual UFO sighting begins at RAF Bentwaters [now Bentwaters Parks], Suffolk, England. A blip traveling approximately 4,000–8,000 mph on an east-west course is picked up on radar. It moves in a straight line to a position about 15 miles northwest of Bentwaters. Within a few minutes, about a dozen normal targets are spotted 8 miles southwest, moving northeast at about 100 mph. In front of the targets are three objects in a triangular formation, about 1,000 feet apart. All the targets then appear to converge into one extremely large target (several times the size of a B-36), which continues moving to the northeast, then stops for a few minutes, then resumes, and is lost to radar. The entire sighting up to this point takes 25 minutes. Five minutes later, another solid target appears, flying east to west at 4,000 mph or more, then vanishes when it moves out of range. A T-33 trainer from the 512th Fighter Interceptor Squadron crewed by 1st Lts. Charles Metz and Andrew Rowe is sent to investigate the radar contacts, but sees nothing. No visual sightings of the objects are made from Bentwaters in this period, with the exception of a single amber star-like object which was subsequently identified as probably being Mars. At 10:55 p.m., another target is picked up 30 miles to the east, traveling west at 2,000–4,000 mph. It passes directly overhead and is seen as a white light by both air (a C-47 at 4,000 feet reports it passed underneath him) and ground observers. Bentwaters notifies RAF Lakenheath, also in Suffolk, about what is going on, and Lakenheath personnel see a luminous object stop, then zoom off to the east. Also, two white lights are seen joining from different directions, which are tracked on two screens at Lakenheath. According to T/Sgt. Forrest Perkins, watch supervisor at the Lakenheath radar center, at midnight Lakenheath notifies RAF Neatishead, Norfolk, that a strange object is buzzing the base. A de Havilland Venom night fighter is scrambled, directed by Neatishead radar controller Flight Lt. Freddie H. C. Wimbledon. Perkins and Wimbledon claim the jets are sent up around midnight, but the crews think it is at 2:00 a.m. The Venom, crewed by Flight Officers David Chambers and John Brady from 23 Squadron at RAF Waterbeach [now closed] in Cambridgeshire, finds the object on radar north of Cambridge and sees it as a bright white light, which then disappears. The navigator says it is the “clearest target I have ever seen on radar.” The object, however, is behind the plane and stays there for some time, despite climbs, dives, and circling. Ground radar operators say that the object is glued right behind the fighter. After 10 minutes, the fighter heads back. The UFO follows briefly, then stops and hovers. Another Venom, crewed by Flight Officers Ian Fraser-Ker and Ivan Logan, is scrambled at 2:40 a.m. but experiences engine problems and aborts. Ministry of Defence officer Ralph Noyes says that one of the Venom pilots has taken a gun-camera film, which was later shown at a briefing in Whitehall. The object is tracked on two radars, leaving the area at 600 mph. The encounter is classified until 1969, when it is analyzed by the Colorado project. [Gordon Thayer](#) suggests that the “apparently rational, intelligent behavior of the UFO suggests a mechanical device of unknown origin as the most probable explanation of this sighting.” A later investigation is conducted by [David Clarke](#), [Andy Roberts](#), and [Jenny Randles](#). In contrast to the reports given in the original classified teleprinter message (from 3910th Air Base Group to ADC at Ent AFB, now the US Olympic Training Center) three days after the event and in the accounts of both Wimbledon and Perkins, the air crews now state that the radar contacts were unimpressive and that no “tail-chase” or action on the part of the target occurred. They also assert no visual contacts were made. Chambers and Brady comment that “my feeling is that there was nothing there, it was some sort of mistake,” while Ivan Logan, the second Venom’s navigator, states that “all we saw was a blip which rather indicated a stationary target.” At the time 23 Squadron decides that the radar contact had, if anything, been with a weather balloon. [Martin Shough](#) concludes that there are actually several incidents at different times and places and that the relationship between each is unclear. (Wikipedia, “[Lakenheath-Bentwaters incident](#)”; NICAP, “[Several Incidents of R/V at Bentwaters](#)”; Center for UFO Studies, [[case documents 1](#), [case documents 2](#), [case documents 3](#)]; Condon, pp. 163–164, 248–256; 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. 9–20; James E. McDonald,

- [“UFOs over Lakenheath in 1956,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1970): 9–17, 29; Gordon D. Thayer, “UFO Encounter II,” *Astronautics and Aeronautics* 9, no. 9 (September 1971): 60–64; Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, eds., *UFO’s: A Scientific Debate*, Cornell University, 1972, [pp. xxv–xxvi](#); J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [p. 91](#); Philip J. Klass, *UFOs Explained*, Random House, 1974, pp. 175–233; RAF Fighter Controller (Rtd.), [“UFOs over Lakenheath,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 24, no. 1 (June 1978): 31; Ian Ridpath, [“New Light on Lakenheath,”](#) *IUR* 3, no. 8 (August 1978): 6–7; Martin L. Shough, [“Background & History”](#); Martin L. Shough, “Radar and the UFO,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Times, 1987, pp. 219–226; Clark III 665–670; Good Above, [pp. 44–46](#); [Sparks](#), p. 238; Ivan Logan, [\[Letter to Dave Clarke\]](#), October 23, 2000; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, [pp. 64–66](#); David Clarke, Paul Fuller, Jenny Randles, Andy Roberts, and Martin Shough, [“The RAF Lakenheath/Bentwaters/Neatishead Incidents,”](#) The Lakenheath Collaboration, 2003; UFOFiles2, [pp. 66–69](#))
- 1956**, August 15 — The RAND Corporation releases a top-secret 1955 summary detailing more than 143 aircraft incidents in the Far East. (Alexander L. George, [“Case Studies of Actual and Alleged Overflights, 1930–1953,”](#) Rand Corporation, RM-1349, August 15, 1956; Clark III 56)
- 1956**, Mid-August — 10:15 p.m. North American Aviation research technician [Edison F. Carpenter](#) observes a formation of five flat, circular, pinkish UFOs over Boulder City, Nevada. (Center for UFO Studies, [\[case documents\]](#); UFOEv, [p. 58](#))
- 1956**, August 16 — The CIA’s [Richard M. Bissell](#) assembles a group of advisers to begin work on solving the problem of Soviets tracking the U-2 flights. Among the group are [Edwin H. Land](#), [Edward Mills Purcell](#), and [Kelly Johnson](#). They look into radar-absorbing paint. (Wikipedia, [“Lockheed A-12”](#))
- 1956**, August 21 — After 8:00 p.m. Businessman J. Gordon Campbell is flying his private plane at 4,000 feet near Billings, Montana, when he sees a black, elongated object with knobs at each end (like a dog bone) rapidly approaching. He estimates its length at 150 feet. It hovers, then speeds away. Seconds later, four similar objects appear, hover, then speed away. The Billings control tower does not track any of them. (UFOEv, [p. 64](#); Olsen, sec. 3, p. 48)
- 1956**, August 22 — 8:50–11:59 p.m. Radars on the island of Bornholm, Denmark, first report 2–3 objects on an easterly heading at 800 mph. Approximately 2 hours later, four objects appear and orbit over the location. About 90 minutes later, the tracks fade. (NICAP, [“Objects Orbiting Location and Tracked on Radar”](#))
- 1956**, August 27 — 7:20 p.m. Royal Canadian Air Force pilot [Robert James “Chick” Childerhose](#) is flying nearly due west over the Canadian Rockies near Fort Macleod, Alberta. He is flying at 36,000 feet in the second position (far left side) of a formation of four F-86 Sabre jet aircraft. While approaching a large thunderhead (cumulonimbus) at a ground speed of about 460 mph, he sees at a much lower altitude a “bright light which was sharply defined and disc-shaped” or “like a shiny silver dollar sitting horizontal.” He takes a color photo. An analysis suggests that it would have been radiating in excess of a gigawatt of power within the spectral range of the film. (NICAP, [“RCAF Pilot Photographs Object Radiating Power”](#); Robert J. Childerhose, [“Flying Saucers: Still with Us,”](#) *Toronto Telegram*, January 9, 1965, via *Saucers, Space, and Science*, no. 38 (Spring 1965): 2–4; [“RCAF Jet Pilot Report,”](#) *UFO Investigator* 3, no. 2 (April/May 1965): 6; Phil Klass, *UFOs—Identified*, Random House, 1968, pp. 146–148 and plate 5a; Condon, [pp. 733–734](#); Jacques Vallée, [“Estimates of Power Optical Output in Six Cases of Unexplained Aerial Objects with Defined Luminosity Characteristics,”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 3 (1998): 346–348; Bruce Maccabee, [“Optical Power Output of an Unidentified High Altitude Light Source,”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 13, no. 2 (1998): 207–209; Peter A. Sturrock, *The UFO Enigma*, Warner, 1999, pp. 217–220; Richard F. Haines, [“Analysis of Photograph of a High-Speed Ball of Light,”](#) *JUFOS* 8 (2003): 27–48; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 68–69)
- 1956**, August 27 — 9:55 p.m. Mrs. R. S. Pope goes outside to her clothesline at her home in Juniata Township, [Blair County?], Pennsylvania. She sees a bright disc hovering 4 feet off the ground to the north. It seems to be 2–3 feet in diameter and is lighting up her backyard. The object has a dome protruding from its top. As she watches it, she feels a cold breeze emanating from it. It rises vertically 20 feet, then heads north, gains altitude, and moves out of sight. She has watched it for 3 minutes. (Olsen, sec. 3, p. 48; [Sparks](#), p. 238)
- 1956**, August 28 — 11:30 p.m. León Febres, Miguel Talavera, Jesús Prada, and Tomás Hernández are returning home in Calabozo, Venezuela, when the ground around them is lit up by a bright white light. Looking up, they see a large disc hovering silently. Several smaller objects emerge from the large disc, leaving behind a wake of phosphorescent smoke that dissipates quickly. The whole group flies off to the west in a V formation with the large object in the lead. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 74)
- 1956**, August 29 — [T. Townsend Brown](#) files incorporation papers for a new UFO group, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) in Washington, D.C. (Little Listening Post, [\[press release\]](#), August 30, 1956; [“Toward a Broader Understanding...: The Story of How NICAP Began,”](#) *UFO Investigator*, October

1971, pp. 2–3; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956 August](#), The Author, 1994, pp. 46–56, 82, 85; Clark III 792; Powell, *Keyhole*, 178–182)

1956, August 30 — Day. Two RAF Gloster Javelin interceptors, one piloted by E. H. “Wilbur” Wright, are flying west over the English Channel south of the Isle of Wight, England, when one of the navigators obtains a radar return at 19 miles distance (later calculations indicate it has a diameter of 600 feet). The pilots get permission to abandon their test exercise and investigate the object. Wright turns north toward the object on his right wing, but it has apparently slowed down and is maintaining its position. The second Javelin pilot has caught up from behind and confirms radar and visual sightings. The two aircraft bank steeply so the object is at 15 miles dead ahead on the radar screen. They close the distance to 10 miles and see that the object has a metallic gray appearance. At 8 miles distance, the object suddenly climbs vertically too fast for radar to track (estimated at 18,000 mph) and vanishes. After landing at RAF Odiham in Hampshire, the crews are told that ground radar at RAF Sopley [now closed] has tracked the object. They are ordered not to speak about the event. (Jenny Randles, “Scramble, UFO!” *Fortean Times* 386 (December 2019): 26–27)

1956, September — The General Physics Laboratory of the Aeronautical Research Laboratories (ARL) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, launches an intense program to coordinate research into gravitational and unified field theories with the hiring of [Joshua N. Goldberg](#). The precise rationale for creating the program and justifying its budgets and personnel may never be determined. Neither Goldberg nor USAF Deputy for Scientific and Technical Information [Walter Blados](#) can locate the founding documents. [Roy Kerr](#), a former ARL scientist, says the antigravity propulsion purpose of ARL was “rubbish” and that “The only real use that the USAF made of us was when some crackpot sent them a proposal for antigravity or for converting rotary motion inside a spaceship to a translational driving system.” (Wikipedia, “[United States gravity control propulsion research](#)”)

1956, September — Just before 8:00 a.m. A domed, disc-shaped craft allegedly lands within White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, just 150 feet away from US Highway 70. Radios and ignition systems of passing cars go dead, as witnesses—including two USAF colonels, two sergeants, and dozens of base personnel—observe the object as it takes off with a whirring sound. All personnel at Holloman AFB are assembled in a hangar, debriefed, and sworn to secrecy. (Ralph and Judy Blum, *Beyond Earth: Man’s Contact with UFOs*, Bantam, 1974; Good Need, [pp. 219–220](#))

1956, September 4 — Several fireball-like objects fly over Copenhagen, Denmark, tracked by radar at about 1,800 mph. (UFOEv, [p. 79](#))

1956, September 7 — 12:30 p.m. Thomas J. and Maud Hutchinson watch an object drop out of low clouds and land in the middle of a bog at The Loup (near Moneymore), County Derry, Northern Ireland. They wade 600 feet into the bog until they come upon the small (3 feet high, 18 inches in diameter), red, rubbery, motionless object. There are 3 white stripes around the middle and it is pointed at both ends. Hutchinson kicks the object, which rolls over then resumes its upright position. He picks it up and is surprised at its lightness (estimated 2 pounds); the top is spinning while the bottom (a small, saucer-shaped base) remains stationary. It appears to be made of canvas-like material. They try to take it back with them, but Thomas has to put it down to negotiate a hedge, and the object takes off and disappears. (“[Irishman Caught a ‘Saucer,’](#)” *The Guardian* (UK), September 8, 1956, p. 10; Desmond Leslie, “[The Strangest UFO Case of All](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 2, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1956): 2–4; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 74–76; Clark III 328)

1956, September 7 — Test pilot [Iven Carl Kincheloe Jr.](#) reaches an altitude of 126,283 feet in the Bell X-2. (Wikipedia, “[Iven Carl Kincheloe Jr.](#)”)

1956, September 8 — 4:00 a.m. Three men are fishing on a US Steel pier on Lake Michigan at Gary, Indiana. They notice four domed discs in the sky moving in single file from east to west. They stop abruptly, and the lead object tilts at a 45° angle. All of them wobble as they hover and seem to be spinning clockwise as sparks drop from their bases. The lead object then levels off and all four dart forward about 1,000 feet, hover momentarily, then shoot up at a 45°–60° angle and disappear. The duration of the sighting is 2 minutes. ([Letter to J. Allen Hynek](#))

1956, September 8 — 9:30 p.m. Frank C. Clark is observing Mars with a 12.5-inch reflector in Las Cruces, New Mexico, when he sees a faint starlike object passing in a direction opposite to the apparent drift of Mars. It is visible for 10 seconds before passing out of the field. Clark moves the telescope and is able to see it again for another 10 seconds. It is a yellowish color. (Frank C. Clark, “[An Observation of an Unidentified Celestial Object](#),” *The Strolling Astronomer* 10 (May/June 1956): 67–68)

1956, September 11 — The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory officially launches Operation Moonwatch, an effort to enlist amateur astronomers in tracking an artificial satellite that the US intends to launch during the International Geophysical Year. The announcement is made at a news conference by [Armand Spitz](#), coordinator of visual satellite observations. The program is largely the brainchild of Harvard University’s [Fred Whipple](#), who

recruits [J. Allen Hynek](#) as assistant director to help with the central operation. Until professionally manned optical tracking stations (using Baker-Nunn camera-telescopes) come online in 1958, this network of amateur scientists and other interested citizens plays a critical role in providing crucial information on the world's first satellites. The team records some 36 UFO reports from 1957 to 1966. The program is discontinued in 1975. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Moonwatch](#)"; Walter N. Webb, "[Allen Hynek As I Knew Him](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 4–5; Michael D. Swords, "[Gazing at the Moons](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 4 (October 2009): 9–16, 24; Center for UFO Studies, "[Moonwatch Mystery Satellites, 1958–1962](#)"; Graff 126–128, 133)

1956, September 12 — 11:30 a.m. Riverside County Schools Consultant Dwight Lewis sees an oval object emerge from a cloud of smoke and ashes coming from a forest fire in Elsinore, California. It hovers for 5 minutes at about 5,000 feet, glittering in the sun. It moves away in a southerly direction. ("[Case 218](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 8 (November 2, 1956): 1; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956, September–October*, The Author, 1994, pp. 19, 23)

1956, September 15 — About 6:30 a.m. A married couple is driving in Salem, Indiana, when they notice a saucer hovering about 100 feet away in a field by the road. They stop the car and get out for a better look. The object is gunmetal gray in color and looks like two shallow bowls with a dark gap between them. Wisps of smoke are coming from the gap. The object looks as large as the town's courthouse. It begins undulating as it hovers. After 5 minutes, it tips over on its edge and vanishes. (NICAP case file)

1956, September 22 — 7:50 p.m. Amateur astronomer [Reuben O. Borrud](#) in Williston, North Dakota, sees a dull-metallic, elliptical object the size of a small airplane, oscillating side to side as it moves at 150 mph above the Missouri River. (*Williston (N.Dak.) Plains Register*, September 22, 1956; "[Case 222](#)," *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 8 (November 2, 1956): 3; Richard F. Haines and Franklin Carter, "[A 1956 Military Aircraft–UFO Close Encounter](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 25)

1956, September 25 — [Leonard Stringfield](#)'s wife [Adelia](#) observes several white tufts of angel's hair floating down in the front yard of their home in Cincinnati, Ohio. She places it in an airtight jar. After the Stringfields contact the Air Force, M/Sgt Oliver D. Hill retrieves the sample on October 12. Analysis was done by C. G. Cocks and L. Leatherland, who find that the fibers are "multifilament bundles" that are characteristic of "regenerated cellulose fibers, either viscose or cuprammonium rayon," perhaps from a defective filter. (Brian Boldman, "[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#)," *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 102–103)

1956, Fall — More than 30 pilots, navigators, and flight engineers are on their way home from special duty in Europe on a US Navy Super Constellation transport. When they are about 50 miles northeast of Gander, Newfoundland, the pilot notices a cluster of lights beneath the aircraft. Suddenly, the lights dim and spread out, the largest light ascending on an apparent collision course with the transport. As it reaches the plane's altitude, it tilts, shoots to one side, and paces them at a distance of 300 feet. It is a huge metallic disc, 30 feet thick at the center and 350–400 feet wide, with a blurry glow around the rim. Gradually it pulls ahead, tilts upward, accelerates, and zooms away in 5–8 seconds. Gander Airport confirms that it had a radar target near them. (Keyhoe, *FSTS*, pp. 16–19; Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, pp. 78–84; Yurko Bondarchuk, *UFO Sightings, Landings, and Abductions*, Methuen, 1979, pp. 104–106)

1956, Fall — A man in Falls City, Nebraska, sees a winged human with a demonic face that approaches him from three blocks away. It is about 8–9 feet tall and approaches him closely, hovering in the air about 25 feet away. As it passes over him, the man feels numb and paralyzed. The episode haunts him for the next 23 years when he talks to an investigator. (Clark III 778)

1956, Fall or winter — Shortly after 12:00 noon. An Air Force Convair RB-36H of the 28th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing based at Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, South Dakota, captained by Lt. C. Lenny Marquis, is flying in northern South Dakota at 423 mph when one of the crew sees a metallic disc 100 feet in diameter fly toward the airplane from the left and take up a fixed position on the left wing less than 300 feet away. Other crew members rush to the portholes to take photos. The object has a low dome at the top with three round openings or light sources. The bottom is nearly flat. Its narrow vertical sides are populated by many separate light sources, each a different color. The rest of the disc is a "light golden" hue. After 5–8 minutes, the object suddenly accelerates in parallel with the B-36 and then rises about 30° above the horizontal. The peripheral lights become brighter and turn greenish as it speeds out of sight in several seconds. Both inflight and ground radars detect the object. Substitute navigator Lt. Jimmie Lloyd says the crew turned in all photos, logs, and equipment to an intelligence unit after landing. (Richard F. Haines and Franklin Carter, "[A 1956 Military Aircraft–UFO Close Encounter](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 22–25)

1956, October — Karl L. Veit founds the Deutsche UFO/IFO-Studiengemeinschaft in Wiesbaden, Germany, which publishes the newspaper-format *UFO-Nachrichten*. ("[60 Jahre UFO-Nachrichten](#)," 2016)

- 1956**, October 2 — 3:45 a.m. Harry J. Sturdevant is on duty as a night watchman at Herbert Elkin and Company, a construction firm in Trenton, New Jersey. He sees a cigar-shaped object some 60–100 feet long and 15 feet in diameter swiftly descending toward him. Emitting a red glow, the object is making a hissing noise like steam and generating a foul odor. It swoops past him and vanishes. He loses his sense of taste and smell, possibly permanently. His face is burned to the point where he cannot shave for two weeks. He begins to lose hearing in his right ear. When he returns to work the next day, he finds leaves on the ground that have burned up like tissue paper. Sturdevant applies for workmen's compensation from the state for his medical expenses. An adjudicator awards him the money based on the fact that he may have only thought he saw something, but was injured when he went to investigate it, which his job required. However, the state denies his claim is reversed in 1958. ("Eerie Object Reported Hovering over River," *Camden (N.J.) Courier-Post*, October 3, 1956, p. 2; "Case 229," *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 8 (November 2, 1956): 4; "Watchman Wins UFO Injury Grant," *The Trentonian* (Trenton, N.J.), November 27, 1956, pp. 1–2; Emil Sloboda, "He Collected on a Flying Saucer," *Fate* 10, no. 6 (June 1957): 66–69; "No Workmen's Compensation for 'Flying Saucer' Observer," *Paterson (N.J.) Evening News*, April 23, 1958, p. 11; Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore Jr., *Strange Effects from UFOs*, NICAP, 1969, p. 9)
- 1956**, October 7 — 10:45 p.m. UFO reports by police and civilians around Merced, California, reach Castle AFB [now Castle Airport Aviation and Development Center] and a lighted elliptical object about 100–120 feet in diameter is seen by the tower. Two interceptors are scrambled. The object ducks under and above a narrow cloud bank. The pilots can see it from various angles and as close as a few hundred yards. It appears to be a flattened circular shape. The pilots decide to fly one above and one below the overcast. Ground radar picks up the planes but not the UFO. One pilot breaks off to return but sees that the UFO is now chasing his buddy's plane. Several officers arrive from another base to debrief the pilots and they appear very knowledgeable about UFOs. They seek "confirmation, not information" and tell the pilots not to discuss the sighting at all. Citizen witnesses are told the pilots were chasing ducks or geese. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956 November–December*, The Author, 1994, pp. 52, 59; Richard H. Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, Aurora, 1988, pp. 242–244; Sparks, p. 239)
- 1956**, October 9 — 3:30 p.m. Mrs. James Petrey and three other witnesses in Springdale, Ohio, watch six pinpoints of light moving up and down and side to side at great speed. A silverish streak seems to connect three of the objects. Later, a large number of red objects, swarming like birds, fly in from the east in a straight horizontal path, "flopping over and over," then disappear behind some trees. ("Case 231," *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 8 (November 2, 1956): 4)
- 1956**, October 10 — 10:30 p.m. Stockbreeder Giuseppe Fenu is returning to his home near Villamassargia, Sardinia, Italy, when he sees a luminous globe moving north to south. Suddenly it vanishes over the horizon, and three more globes appear in formation. About 30 minutes later, Fenu and other witnesses see a luminous cigar-shaped object about 60 feet long with a bluish-colored strip running along its perimeter. The strip is intersected by vertical bands like "grid holes." The globes begin to circle around the large object. (Renato Albanesi, "The Italian Scene: Part 2," *Flying Saucer Review* 9, no. 2 (Feb./Mar. 1963): 3–4)
- 1956**, October 19 — NICAP's initial board of governors includes T. Townsend Brown (founder), Frank Edwards, Leon C. LeVan, Albert H. Baller, Charles A. Maney, Talbot T. Speer, Abraham M. Sonnabend, Col. Robert B. Emerson, Rear Adm. Delmer S. Fahrney, Gen. William E. Kepner, and Brig. Gen. Thomas B. Catron. Gladys Rose Hackett and Margaret Naylor are hired to do secretarial work, and Martin H. Heflin is hired as public relations specialist. The headquarters are at 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Incorporation is granted on October 24. (Robert Serling, [memo to Ivan T. Sanderson], September 1956; Jim Lucas, "They're after Flying Saucers and \$2 Million," *Cincinnati (Ohio) Post*, October 24, 1956; NICAP, [press release], November 4, 1956; "Toward a Broader Understanding...: The Story of How NICAP Began," *UFO Investigator*, October 1971, p. 3; Clark III 792; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956 September–October*, The Author, 1994, pp. 77–78; Powell, Keyhoe, 190–199)
- 1956**, October 29 — Howard Menger, a sign painter from High Bridge, New Jersey, goes public on the Long John Nebel show on WOR-AM in New York City with a story of his contacts with "Aryan-type" Venusians in spaceships. Menger reports that his contacts started in childhood, when he experienced flashbacks of life on another world and sightings of flying discs. In 1932 he met a beautiful blonde woman who could read his mind, and in 1946 he again sees her stepping out of a flying saucer. She is supposedly 500 years old, although she looks 25. Many contacts follow. (Clark III 738)
- 1956**, November 4 — NICAP issues its first news release. T. Townsend Brown emphasizes the group's "growing membership of responsible citizens from every walk of life and profession" and stresses that "there does exist

more than enough evidence of certain and obvious aerial phenomena to justify independent evaluation.” (NICAP, [\[press release\]](#), November 4, 1956)

- 1956**, November 14 — 10:10 p.m. Captain [William Joseph Hull](#) and his copilot Peter H. Macintosh are flying Capital Airlines Flight 77 from New York City to Mobile, Alabama. While approximately above Jackson, Alabama, at 25,000 feet they see something like a brilliant meteor flash by the aircraft. The object stops, hovers, and engages in a range of acrobatics (crazy gyrations, lazy 8’s, square chandeliers, 90° turns) for several minutes before shooting out over the Gulf of Mexico at “fantastic speed” and diminishing to a pinpoint. (NICAP, “[Capital Airlines Pilots Sees Acrobatic UFO](#)”; Sign Historical Group, “[Captain Joe Hull’s UFO Sighting](#)”; “[UFO Encounter Convinces Airline Captain, Former Skeptic](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 2 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 21; Condon, pp. 127–129; Sparks, p. 240; Swords 230–231; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: November–December 1956*, The Author, 1994, p. 19; Powell, *Scientist*, 66)
- 1956**, November 16 — Morning. Telephones and an automatic railroad block mechanism in Lemmon, South Dakota, fail to operate as a glowing red object about 3 feet in diameter flies over the railroad yards. (*Mobridge (S.Dak.) Tribune*, November 22, 1956; [Schopick](#), pp. 21–22; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956, November–December*, The Author, 1994, p. 24; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956 November–December, Supplemental Notes*, The Author, 2003, p. 14; Richard F. Haines and Franklin Carter, “[A 1956 Military Aircraft–UFO Close Encounter](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 25)
- 1956**, November 21 — 8:23 p.m. A customs officer named Ueda and a maritime safety officer named Kume are walking along Number 1 Pier, Kobe, Japan, when they hear an explosion. They see something resembling fireworks on the bay and watch as two whirling balls of fire submerge. (Sanderson, *InvRes*, p. 46)
- 1956**, November 25 — 4:30 a.m. Police radio at Hot Springs, South Dakota, picks up transmissions made by a jet interceptor from the 54th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City that makes three passes at a brilliantly lit UFO bobbing up and down in the sky. On the third pass, the pilot reports that the object registers on his radar. It is rumored that a blip is picked up on ground radar by the 740th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. Pennington County Sheriff Glenn Best and patrolman C. D. Erickson in Rapid City watch a UFO with a light changing from green, red, and white lights for 30 minutes; an upward-shining white light appears at intervals. They follow it toward the Badlands. (NICAP, “[Gnd/Air/Visual, Jets Scrambled](#)”; “[Saucers’ Stir Speculation](#),” *Rapid City (S.Dak.) Daily Journal*, November 26, 1956, p. 1; “[Hills Residents Tell of Shining Objects](#),” *Rapid City (S.Dak.) Daily Journal*, November 26, 1956, pp. 1, 7; *Pierre (S.Dak.) Capitol Journal*, November 26, 1956; “[Case 256](#),” *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 10 (January 4, 1957): 2–3; UFOEv, pp. 22, 79; Richard F. Haines and Franklin Carter, “[A 1956 Military Aircraft–UFO Close Encounter](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 25)
- 1956**, November 30 — About 12:15 p.m. Charles Malott, 17, is driving his truck north on State Highway 61 about 2.5 miles south of Petersburg, Indiana, when he hears a loud noise behind him. He pulls to the side of the road and finds that the noise is coming from a spherical object about 16 feet in diameter slowly rising from some woods about 3,000 feet away. After attaining a height of 150 feet, the object becomes silent and takes off at great speed to the northeast. (“[Case 275](#),” *CRIFO Orbit* 3, no. 11 (February 1, 1957): 3)
- 1956**, December — Chemical engineer [Leon Davidson](#) begins to distribute privately printed copies of *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*, together with his analysis and commentary. He has become convinced that UFOs are secret devices developed by the US government and that *Special Report No. 14* is a clever attempt to hide the fact. Mostly, however, he focuses on discrepancies in the Air Force’s public announcements and the actual data in the report. Davidson publishes further editions in October 1957, July 1966, January 1971, and 1976. (Leon Davidson, *Flying Saucers: An Analysis of Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*, [1956], 3d ed., Ramsey-Wallace, 1966; Clark III 930)
- 1956**, December 1 — 12:20 a.m. A round object, red to orange in color, is observed moving at approximately 1,000 foot above Valley City, North Dakota. It moves rapidly up, down, sideways, and hovers. A police car approaches it, but the car loses radio contact with the station. Valley City also loses contact with Jamestown, South Dakota. All radio contact returns after the object leaves the area. (NICAP, [\[Blue Book file\]](#))
- 1956**, December 2 — [Dorothy Martin](#) sets off from Prescott, Arizona, with the Laugheads, ufologist brothers [Ray](#) and [Rex G. Stanford](#), and [George Hunt Williamson](#), his wife Betty, and toddler son Mark. They are acting in response to a series of Williamson channelings that had begun April 18 when Lord Aramu-Muru announced that “those we have commissioned” are to establish a priory of the Brotherhood of the Seven Rays “in a remote area of another country to the south.” After spending some time in Mexico, they head for Moyobamba, Peru, under the direction of their spirit masters. The Laugheads (who apparently were in Mexico in July) and Stanfords leave around this time. After a while, those remaining move to the Valley of Pariahuanca east of Lima, Peru, and set up the Outer

Retreat of the Monastery of the Seven Rays, which has some cult-like attributes. There they attract new members, including Williamson's later coauthor John McCoy. Williamson devotes himself for several years to paranormally guided archaeological expeditions. (Clark III 719–720, 1286; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiar, 2016, pp. 105–115)

- 1956**, December 3 — Day. Curvin F. Bush and Robert Bryant, guards at the nearby Walters Art Gallery, are standing at the intersection of Charles and Centre streets in Baltimore, Maryland, when they see a bright disc-shaped object streak away from a transport plane. The plane then reverses its direction from northeast to southwest to follow the object, which is spinning counterclockwise and disappears behind a building. (“[Museum Guards Report Strange Antics Overhead](#),” *Baltimore Sun*, December 4, 1956, p. 40)
- 1956**, December 10 — 2:00 p.m. A US Air Force pilot sees a silver object with a “straight wing, having engine rods or large wing pods [or] intakes” flying at 56,000–62,000 feet for 15 minutes at Victoria, Texas. The pilot’s description is a dead ringer for a secret U-2 aircraft, which is what Blue Book suspects. (Mark Rodeghier, “[The U-2 Spy Plane and Blue Book: Another Look](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 20–21)
- 1956**, December 13 — Capt. Karl Hars Dersson and the crew of the Danish ship [Dorthe Mærsk](#) view an intensely bright, cone-shaped fireball giving off weird flashes of light north of Isla La Orchila, Venezuela. It gets brighter as it descends, then explodes on hitting the water. The crew hears a loud concussion. Afterwards, the surface of the sea shimmers with various colors and is disturbed for 5 minutes. (“[Recent Sightings](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, January 1957, p. 6; “[Disc Submerged in Brazilian River](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, January 1964, pp. 1, 2; Lorenzen, *UFOs over the Americas*, Signet, 1968, pp. 50–51; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1956 November–December, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2003, pp. 39–40)
- 1956**, December 15 — 11:00 a.m. While out gathering Christmas greens near Derry, New Hampshire, A. G. Horne looks up and sees a 2-foot tall green dwarf with a high-domed head, floppy ears, a face like a bloodhound, and lidless eyes like a snake. His skin hangs in folds like an elephant’s. After a few minutes, the being “started for me with a kind of screeching sound,” and Horne flees. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1956](#), p. 23; Clark III 271)
- 1956**, December 17 — NICAP Executive Vice Chairman [T. Townsend Brown](#) issues a Progress Report no. 1 before resigning and appointing [Nicolas de Rochefort](#) to replace him. [Keyhoe](#) has been appointed editorial consultant for its newsletter. (NICAP, Progress Report no. 1, December 17, 1956, [pp. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5](#))
- 1956**, December 17 — 4:20 p.m. Near Itazuke Air Base [now Fukuoka Airport] in Fukuoka, Japan, a USAF pilot flying an F-86D interceptor picks up a large blip on airborne radar. The pilot sees a tan object, round on top, at 9.2 miles and closes to within 5.7 miles. The object starts to pull away from the fighter and at 13.8 miles all radar disappears. The pilot estimates its speed as 1,700–2,000 mph. Both the pilot and his wingman report interference resembling ECM (radar jamming). (NICAP, “[Radar/Visual from F-86](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 240; “Jet Planes Chased Big Flying Object,” *Auckland (N.Z.) Star*, October 4, 1957; “[Jet Chase of Large Circular Object Investigated by Far East Air Force](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 2 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 1–2; Richard Hall, “[Radar/Visual UFOs and Air Force Debunking](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 3 (May/June 1993): 15–16)
- 1956**, December 17 — Night. Marie Carow goes outside her home in Conashaugh, Pennsylvania, with a flashlight and discovers two little men, 3.5 and 3 feet tall, standing motionless in her back lawn. Both wear helmets and snug-fitting suits of silvery material. Carow shines the light on them for 3 minutes, then runs back to tell her husband. 15 minutes later, they are gone. (J. E. Myer, “[Space Men](#),” *Pike County (Pa.) Dispatch*, April 17, 1958, p. 6; Berthold Eric Schwarz, “[UFO Occupants: Fact or Fantasy?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1969): 16–18; Clark III 269; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), October 18, 2007)
- 1956**, December 21 — At a special meeting, the NICAP Executive Committee annuls the appointment of [Nicolas de Rochefort](#) as Executive Vice Chairman and continues [T. Townsend Brown](#) in the office as pro tempore vice chairman. (NICAP, Progress Report no. 2, January 7, 1957, [p. 2](#))

1957

- 1957** — [Morris K. Jessup](#) publishes *The Expanding Case for the UFO*, which argues that human “little people” (like the pygmy peoples of the Congo basin) were “planted” from UFOs thousands of years ago. Citing reports of anomalous lights on the moon, Jessup speculates that the pygmy races either colonized the moon or came to the Earth from there. They are the remnants of an advanced civilization that developed levitation, teleportation, and space flight, but had to leave Earth when Atlantis and Mu were sinking into the oceans. (Morris K. Jessup, [The Expanding Case for the UFO](#), Citadel, 1957; Clark III 106–107, 635; Jerome Clark, “[Vimanas Have Landed: Ancient Astronautics in Ufology](#),” *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 26)

- 1957** — Metaphysical author [George Hunt Williamson](#) writes *Other Tongues—Other Flesh* (although it bears a copyright date of 1953), the first of three books that set forth an alternative occult history shaped by Atlantis, Lemuria, reincarnation, and space people—both benign and malevolent. He writes that space people first arrived 1 billion years ago [prior to the earliest known multicellular life on land], were 12 feet tall, and built an underground city beneath Lake Titicaca, Peru. Migrants from the “Sirius system” arrive during the Miocene Epoch [23–5 million years ago] looking for terrestrial bodies to inhabit—they select the evolving apes. The next visitation took place in Arizona in 10,000 B.C. [the beginning of the Neolithic Revolution] when Venusians land and interact with the Lemurians. Records documenting earth’s unknown history are hidden in various inaccessible places (“secret places of the lion”) around the globe. Williamson’s book *Secret Places of the Lion* follows in 1958 and *Road in the Sky* in 1959. These are among the first ancient astronaut books. In the latter book, Williamson claims that the Hopi’s ancestors are Martians, while their neighbors the Navajo are from Maldek, the planet whose destruction formed the asteroid belt. (George Hunt Williamson, [Other Tongues—Other Flesh](#), Amherst, [1957]; George Hunt Williamson, [Secret Places of the Lion](#), Destiny Books ed., 1996; Clark III 104–106, 1286; Jerome Clark, [“Vimanas Have Landed: Ancient Astronautics in Ufology.”](#) *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 23–26; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 113–120, 235–243)
- 1957** — New Jersey contactee [Howard Menger](#) releases an album of “Authentic Music from Another Planet,” featuring a narrative by Menger and bland piano music written by his wife [Connie](#) (under her nom de plume Marla Baxter, sister of the blonde spacewoman he had met in 1946). (Discogs, [“Authentic Music from Another Planet”](#); [“Authentic Music from Another Planet by Howard Menger.”](#) Libertad450 YouTube channel, February 22, 2016)
- 1957** — [Otis T. Carr](#) announces his invention of a fourth-dimensional space vehicle, a Circular-Foil Spacecraft powered by an Utron Electric Accumulator that makes use of the “free energy of the universe.” (Clark III 860)
- 1957** — Ground Saucer Watch is established in Phoenix, Arizona, by Ted Starrett. William H. Spaulding is the Western Division Director, with James A. Spaulding as the Eastern Division Director in Cleveland, Ohio. It publishes *Ground Saucer Watch Bulletin* from 1976 to 1982. By 1979, GSW has analyzed nearly 700 UFO photographs and films, of which they verify 38 as bona fide. (Margaret Sachs, *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Putnam, 1980, [p. 132](#))
- 1957** — [George Fawcett](#) founds the New England UFO Study Group in Marlborough, Massachusetts. It publishes the *New England UFO Newsletter* from 1976 to 1982.
- 1957** — [Hayden C. Hewes](#) founds the International UFO Bureau in Edmond, Oklahoma. It publishes the *Interplanetary Intelligence Report* from 1965 to 1966.
- 1957** — Engineer Pantelimon Mizof and others see an object in the Bucegi Mountains, Romania, pass over them silently and land. Some of them approach to get a better look, but when they are 150 feet away, it takes off suddenly. (Hobana and Weverbergh 158–159)
- 1957** — The Victorian branch of the Australian Flying Saucer Research Society becomes a separate organization, the Victorian UFO Research Society. It publishes the *Australian UFO Bulletin* from 1957 to September 2007, edited by Les Bristol. (Keith Basterfield, Vladimir Godic, and Pony Godic, [“Australian Ufology: A Review.”](#) *JUFOS* 2 (1990): 24; [Australian UFO Bulletin](#) 1, no. 3 (December 1957))
- 1957** — The Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios is founded in Barcelona, Spain. From 1970 to 1981 it publishes a quarterly magazine titled *Stendek*, and since then it has published occasional groups of papers on UFOs. ([Stendek](#) 1, no. 1 (June 1970); [Papers d’OVNIs](#), no. 1 (1994); [Nous Papers d’OVNIs](#), no. 1 (December 2014))
- 1957, January** — Contactee [Gabriel Green](#) establishes the Los Angeles Interplanetary Study Groups, which in 1959 evolves into Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America in Los Angeles, California. It assumes that UFOs are piloted by friendly extraterrestrials. Around the same time, Green announces his meeting with flying saucer crewmen from the hitherto unknown planet Korendor, orbiting the triple star Alpha Centauri. At its peak, AFSCA has more than 5,000 members. (Wikipedia, [“Gabriel Green”](#); Clark III 99; [Thy Kingdom Come](#), no. 4 (April/May 1957))
- 1957, January** — [Norbert F. Gariety](#) begins publishing *S.P.A.C.E.* (Saucer Phenomena and Celestial Enigma), a monthly newsletter, in Coral Gables, Florida. It continues until January 1963. ([S.P.A.C.E.](#), no. 1 (January 1957))
- 1957, January 1** — Shortly before 12:00 midnight. Herbert Naderson and his wife and sons are driving northeast to their home in Ashby, Minnesota, when they see a triangular object traveling slowly at a high altitude. They watch it for 45 minutes. (*Fergus Falls (Minn.) Daily Journal*, January 3, 1957; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 January–March 22nd](#), The Author, 1995, p. 2)
- 1957, January 14–16** — [T. Townsend Brown](#) has proven so financially inept that the NICAP board asks him to step down. [Delmer S. Fahrney](#) replaces him as board chairman, [Keyhoe](#) steps in as director, and Fahrney convenes a press conference in which he announces that UFOs are under intelligent control, but that they are not American or Soviet aircraft. [Stringfield](#) is made public relations adviser. (T. Townsend Brown, [Letter to NICAP Board of](#)

[Governors](#), January 16, 1957; NICAP, [\[press release\]](#), January 16, 1957; “[High Speed Objects Reported in the Sky](#),” *New York Times*, January 17, 1957, p. 31; Stringfield, *Situation Red*, Fawcett Crest, 1977, [p. 15](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 January–March 22nd](#), The Author, 1995, pp. 14–20; Clark III 792; Jack Brewer, “[Jessup Letters Reflect NICAP Turmoil](#),” Expanding Frontiers Research, November 21, 2023; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 199–204; Graff 120–121)

- 1957**, January 16 — 8:00 p.m. The crews of two Air Force B-25s are flying about 90 miles north of Sweetwater, Texas, when they see a round white object make rapid maneuvers. Lt. Col. [Howard T. Wright](#) notes that his radio compass starts pointing directly toward the object, following its movements, instead of the beacon at its destination at Reese AFB [now Reese Technology Center] in Lubbock, Texas. The entire object begins blinking on and off and continues to follow the plane for an hour. When the aircraft gets within range of Lubbock, the object moves toward the aircraft, hangs motionless in front of them for 5 seconds, then flies away on a straight-line course in about 12 seconds. One of the B-25s refuels and is sent on a 4-hour search of the vicinity with no results. (NICAP, “[Object Maneuvers near B-25’s / EME](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 241; Swords 244–245; Powell, *Scientist*, 90–91)
- 1957**, January 21 — 10:45 a.m. Near Kagnev Station [now closed], Asmara, Eritrea, five enlisted men of the US Army’s 4th Detachment of the Second Signal Service Battalion (M/Sgt Billy J. Woodruff, Sgt. Frank Haverly, SP2 Robert O. Clewell, SP2 George R. Dean, and SP3 Gerald L. Fennell) watch a large, shiny, metal sphere hovering at about 2,000 feet. It suddenly disappears but reappears later for a few minutes, then disappears again. Later in the day, Woodruff and Capt. Jesse M. Strong see two brownish, disc-shaped objects maneuvering in formation at a high altitude. One breaks away from the other, moving at high speed. (UFOEv, [p. 29](#))
- 1957**, January 27 — Former CIA director Rear Adm. [Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter](#) joins NICAP’s board of directors. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 January–March 22nd](#), The Author, 1995, p. 31; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 208–209)
- 1957**, January 31 — US Army Order number 30-13, “Sightings of Unconventional Aircraft,” stipulates that personnel involved in sightings must “not discuss or disseminate such information to persons or agencies other than their superior officer(s) and other personnel authorized by the Acting Chief of Staff, G-2, this headquarters,” by order of Col. [Charles L. Olin](#). (“[Air Force Sees Plenty: Tells Nothing](#),” *CSI News Letter*, no. 8 (July 25, 1957): 7–8)
- 1957**, February — Project MKUltra chief [Sidney Gottlieb](#) organizes field trials of psilocybin for injection into 9 black inmates at the Addiction Center in Lexington, Kentucky. [Allen Dulles](#) approves psychiatrist [Donald Ewen Cameron](#)’s application for mind-control experiments to be administered at the Allan Memorial Institute of McGill University in Montreal, funded through the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology, a CIA cutout organization. Cameron does not know that the money originates from the CIA. In addition to LSD, Cameron experiments with various paralytic drugs, electroconvulsive therapy at 30–40 times the normal power, and sensory deprivation in a “sleep room.” This is a dimly lit dormitory of about 20 beds, which the nurses call “The Zombie Room.” His “psychic driving” experiments consist of putting subjects into drug-induced comas for weeks at a time (up to three months in one case) while playing tape loops of noise or simple repetitive statements. His experiments are typically carried out on patients who have entered the institute for minor problems such as anxiety disorders and postpartum depression, many of whom suffer permanently from his actions. His treatments result in victims’ incontinence, amnesia, forgetting how to talk, forgetting their parents, and thinking their interrogators are their parents. The Canadian government is apparently unaware of these activities. [Naomi Klein](#) argues that Cameron’s research and his contribution to the MKUltra project is actually not about mind control and brainwashing, but about designing “a scientifically based system for extracting information from ‘resistant sources.’ In other words, torture.” (Gordon Thomas, [Journey into Madness: The True Story of Secret CIA Mind Control and Medical Abuse](#), Bantam, 1989; Anne Collins, *In the Sleep Room: The Story of the CIA Brainwashing Experiments in Canada*, Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1988; John D. Marks, [The Search for the “Manchurian Candidate”](#): *The CIA and Mind Control*, Times Books, 1978; Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*, Picador, 2008; Jim Keith, [Mind Control, World Control: The Encyclopedia of Mind Control](#), 2014)
- 1957**, February 3 (or 10) — 10:15 p.m. Ina Salter is driving on Redding Road toward Georgetown, Connecticut, when she sees a cigar-shaped object about 10–15 feet hovering low to the left of the road. It has 3–4 portholes, about 18–20 inches in diameter, illuminated with a yellowish light. She can see some shadows moving inside. The object has a large square opening on its base. As she approaches it, the object suddenly rises straight up, hovers for a second or two at treetop height, then speeds away, still parallel to the ground. (“[Connecticut Landing, 1957](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, March 1962, p. 1)

- 1957**, February 13 — 2:30 a.m. The USAF operations director and three tower controllers at two radar sites within Lincoln AFB [now Lincoln Airport, Nebraska], the GCA and NCOIC, track several targets flying behind an airliner at a distance of 5–6 miles and traveling twice as fast. There is no IFF response. The objects hover and move at high speed. One splits into two objects, another executes an 180° turn. The radar blips are the size of a B-47. (NICAP, “[Radar/Visual at Lincoln AFB](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 241; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 96–97)
- 1957**, February 13 — 9:40 p.m. Amateur astronomer Steve Papina is walking south in Placerville, California, when he notices off to his left the ionized track of what he takes to be a meteor. It is about 20° above the eastern horizon, rising at a 70° angle. The trail begins widening at about 35° above the horizon and veers in a westerly direction. Suddenly a black disc appears directly in front of the trail, whose diameter is approximately the width of the trail and the size of a nickel held at a distance of 5 feet. Its surface is not smooth but crisscrossed with grooves. It continues to move from east to west and acquires a white, dusty appearance before speeding directly away from Papina at high speed. (“[ALPO Refers Sighting to APRO](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, July 1957, p. 3; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 76–77)
- 1957**, February 15 — 10:00 p.m. A large, circular object is seen by independent witnesses in Wardle, Lancashire, England. Shortly afterward, a commercial aircraft is seen following the same course as the UFO and displaying unusually powerful lights. Later, at a point along the flight path, a small radio transmitter like those attached to balloons is found, then another piece of meteorological equipment in another spot. In the House of Commons, MP [Tony Leavey](#) asks the Secretary of State for Air for an explanation. On March 20, Under-Secretary of State for Air [Ian Orr-Ewing](#) responds, saying that the objects were toy balloons illuminated by a flashlight bulb released by Neil Robinson, a laundry mechanic from Rochdale. But on April 17, the Air Ministry sends an investigator to interview the witnesses and tells them not to talk about the sighting. Robinson says he has no idea how to launch a balloon, but there is some evidence that he has considerable technical know-how and a penchant for pranks. (Clifford Thornton, “[The Wardle Mystery](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 3, no. 3 (May/June 1957): 4; Geoffrey Norris, “[Something in the Sky](#),” *Royal Air Force Flying Review*, July 1957, pp. 14–16, 46; Good Above, pp. 46–47; David Clarke, “The Wardle ‘Thing,’” *Fortean Times* 196 (June 2005): 40–41)
- 1957**, February 17 — 9:56 p.m. Ground Observer Corps volunteer Dave Henderson sees two “orangish-colored” spheres traveling northeast above Albany, Oregon. They are on a horizontal trajectory and going as fast or faster than a jet airplane. After about 7 seconds, the objects split apart and vanish. (“[UFO News](#),” *Saucers* 5, no. 2 (Summer 1957): 15)
- 1957**, February 19 — In testimony before the House Appropriations Committee, National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics officials [Hugh Latimer Dryden](#) and [Jimmy Doolittle](#) are asked about UFOs. They “flatly denied the existence of such space vehicles.” When asked why they don’t speak out more often, they remark that they “cannot compete with the science-fiction people.” (US House Appropriations Committee, Hearings, *Independent Offices Appropriations for 1958*, National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, February 19, 1957, pp. 1417–1419)
- 1957**, February 26 — UK Air Chief Marshal [Hugh Dowding](#) writes to retired Italian diplomat [Alberto Perego](#) that he is most interested in “accounts of intelligible contacts between human beings and the occupants of interplanetary ships.” (Good Above, p. 48)
- 1957**, March 1 — [Leonard H. Stringfield](#) publishes the final issue of *CRIFO Orbit*. ([CRIFO Orbit](#) 3, no. 12 (March 1, 1957); Clark III 1114)
- 1957**, March 6 — 2:00 p.m. Hearing the family dogs barking in the backyard, a Mrs. Martin who lives on Hope Road near Great Meadows, New Jersey, looks outside and sees the dogs looking at a white hovering object that looks like a “huge derby hat” about 50 feet in diameter. It is rocking slightly in the air and makes a low, rumbling sound. Beneath it are “streamers or lines” that “twinkle like the fragile strands” of Christmas tinsel. (*Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 150–154; [Sparks](#), p. 241)
- 1957**, March 7 — [Keyhoe](#) issues a “personal statement” to potential NICAP associates in which he offers assurances that the organization is “beginning to operate as originally planned” and that membership fees have been cut in half from \$15 to \$7.50 annually. (Donald E. Keyhoe, [letter to potential NICAP members], March 7, 1957, pp. 1, [1a](#), [1b](#), [2a](#), [2b](#); Donald E. Keyhoe, [letter to NICAP members], March 18, 1957; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 204–205)
- 1957**, March 8 — A pilot watches a UFO from the ground at Baudette, Minnesota. It is circular, 15–18 feet in diameter, and its odd glow shines on the snow-covered ground. It is flying so low that it seems to suck the loose snow up under it as it passes. (Keyhoe, *FSTS*, p. 56; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 January–March 22nd](#), The Author, 1995, p. 74)

- 1957**, March 8 — 9:45 p.m. Victor Hancock and Guy Miller are flying a DC-3 owned by the Tennessee Gas Transmission Company above Pasadena, Texas, when they see a UFO bearing three brilliant white lights. After the UFO speeds by the aircraft, it slows down. When the DC-3 catches up, it speeds ahead. This cat-and-mouse chase continues for some 10 minutes. (NICAP, “[UFO Maneuvers near DC-3](#)”; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 January–March 22nd*, The Author, 1995, pp. 68–69)
- 1957**, March 9 — 4:33 a.m. Capt. [Matthew A. Van Winkle](#), piloting a Pan American World Airways DC-6A airliner at a point over the Atlantic Ocean approximately 350 miles northeast of Jacksonville, Florida, observes a “burning greenish white round object” to the right of the aircraft that appears to be on a collision course. Van Winkle pulls the plane upward in a climb to avoid the object. This sudden maneuver causes four of the passengers to be thrown out of their seats, resulting in injuries. Copilot Dion W. Taylor and Flight Engineer John Washuta also observe the object. Washuta says the UFO is a high-intensity light that appears to stand still for approximately four seconds until it is lost to sight during the evasive action. [Ed Perry](#), piloting Pan Am Flight 269 about 175 miles behind him, also sees it. Miami Air Traffic Control sends a flash message to the Civil Aeronautics Board describing the incident: “Pilot took evasive action, object appeared to have a brilliant greenish-white center with an outer ring which reflected the glow from the center. ... Above description fits with what seven other flights saw.... Miami reports no missile activity.... Original reports of jet activity discounted.” The Air Force quickly explains the sighting as a meteor, but the CAB declares it unexplained after a thorough investigation. (NICAP, “[DC6-A Crew Take Evasive Action](#)”; “[Capt. Matthew Van Winkle Tells Hair Raising Story of Near Hit with Luminous Object](#),” *Greenfield (Ind.) Daily Reporter*, March 11, 1957, p. 1; “[Three Injured As Pilot Avoids Fiery Object](#),” *Eau Claire (Wis.) Daily Telegram*, March 11, 1957, p. 12; “[Pan American Airliner Case Still Unsolved, Says CAB](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 1 (July 1957): 16–17; Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 54–56; Swords 245–246; Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, pp. 38–39; Good Above, pp. 282–283)
- 1957**, March 20 — MPs in the House of Commons discuss the Wardle incident of February 15. MP [Ian Orr-Ewing](#) asserts that the object was a lighted balloon launched from a laundry in Rochdale. MP [Tony Leavey](#) replies that “it is most unlikely that that explanation will be accepted by those who saw this object.” (Good Above, pp. 46–47; Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1957**, March 22 — 11:15 p.m. Mrs. Robert Beaudoin, the wife of an [Air Force officer](#), along with her 17-year-old daughter Carol Litten, sees a series of unusual lights northeast of Camarillo, California. First they see a large, soundless, and pulsing light, with something like a pole on top, making fast and erratic motions. She calls a military friend and then 1st Lt. [Leonard E. Ott](#) at nearby Oxnard AFB [now Camarillo Airport]. At 12:30 a.m., they see a green object accompanied by two smaller red lights below the horizon of the Los Palos Hills. The green object seems to be hovering over the North American Rocketdyne plant in the Simi Hills. At this time both the green object and the red objects seem to jump around, and the two red objects are zooming past the green object at tremendous velocities. Ott inquires about radar and a Lt. Martin tells him that radar is detecting a stationary object in the same area. The sheriff’s office is contacted, and they send a patrol car. Deputy Sheriffs Segura and Rausch confirm Beaudoin’s report, with the exception that by that time there are five red objects flying well below the green one. All are in motion and constantly changing altitude. Radar calls Ott back and says they have a scramble underway and they will have the aircraft check the area upon their return. Upon the arrival of the interceptors from Oxnard the red objects join the green object and speed away up and to the east. The aircraft are unsuccessful and return to base. At this time two Navy aircraft are sent to the area. Somehow, between the time of this report to Oxnard and the later Air Force investigation by the 4602nd, these red objects are changed, on the report, to stars and the moon above. This happens despite the witness stating that the red lights were below the hills on the horizon. To deal with that, the Air Force adds the theory that a temperature inversion caused light to bend the images of the stars, or, alternatively, the witness saw lights on a barn. Beaudoin herself is judged hysterical due to her pregnancy. The Air Force’s explanation is completed without anyone bothering to interview the teenage daughter or taking anything associated with the airbase into account (for example, the radar returns). (NICAP, “[Objects Seen, Radar Tracked, Jets Scrambled](#)”; Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 58–61; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 53–54; [Sparks](#), p. 242; Swords 246–247)
- 1957**, March 22 — 11:55 p.m. A swiftly moving unknown rectangular target is picked up on Civil Aeronautics Administration radar at Los Angeles International Airport, California, at a position 10 miles to the northwest. Tower Operator Norman Johnson says that at a distance of 40 miles it comes to an abrupt halt and reverses course in about 3 seconds. It returns to about 20 miles away, reverses course again, and disappears off the scope. About 5 minutes later, two more objects appear, also traveling at high speed. These also disappear off the scope to the northwest. A minute or so later, a fourth object appears and speeds off the scope at an estimated 3,600 mph. Two F-89 jet fighters are dispatched to the area from Oxnard AFB. Probably coincidentally, the airport radar’s electricity shuts off at 12:07 a.m. (NICAP, “[Rectangular Targets Tracked on Radar? Maybe Not](#)”; “[Four Saucers](#)

- over California at Speeds up to 3600 M.P.H., Revealed in Radar Report Certified by NICAP Board Members,” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 1 (July 1957): 1, 3–4, 29–30; Sparks, p. 242; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 215–216)
- 1957**, March 23 — Agriculturist Luis Petriera, along with several others, watches a glowing object plunge into Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela. No planes are missing. Officials drag the lake but find nothing. (“[Report from Venezuela](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, July 1957, p. 10)
- 1957**, March 28 — AEC physician and Navy Capt. [Charles Wesley Shilling](#) releases a press statement saying that “excessively hot baths can be as damaging to the human sex glands as radioactive fallout in the amount received in the last five years from the testing of atomic weapons.” It is intended to counter the antinuclear activism of biochemist [Linus Pauling](#). (“[Says Hot Baths As Bad for Sex Glands As Fallout](#),” *Newport (R.I.) Daily News*, March 29, 1957, p. 2)
- 1957**, Early April — USAF Brig. Gen. Arno H. Leuhman, director of Air Force information, tells the press that “There’s no valid evidence that there are flying saucers.” (“[AF Intelligence Chief Visits Here](#),” *Miami (Fla.) News*, April 14, 1957, p. 12A)
- 1957**, April — 7:30 a.m. An anonymous resident of Córdoba, Argentina, is motorcycling to Rio Ceballos when his engine stops. He sees a large UFO hovering nearby, from which a human-like occupant emerges. He entices the man to enter the UFO with him. Inside, he sees 5–6 screens and intricate equipment, at each of which a similar occupant is seated. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 March 23rd–May 25th](#), The Author, 1995, pp. 63–64)
- 1957**, April 4 — Pilot [Robert L. Sieker](#) takes a U-2 covered in radar-deflecting paint for a test run out of Area 51 and flies almost 90 miles without incident when suddenly the paint causes the aircraft to overheat, spin out of control, and crash near Pioche, Nevada. Sieker ejects but is killed when a piece of metal hits him in the head. (Aviation Safety Network, “[Wikibase Occurrence #155905](#)”)
- 1957**, April 4 — Five unusual radar contacts are detected simultaneously on three tracking radars of the Bombing Trials Unit based at RAF West Freugh [now MOD West Freugh], southeast of Stranraer, Scotland, and followed for 36 minutes. The three radars are located at two different sites near Luce Bay, Wigtownshire, Scotland. The object flashes across the sky at 60,000 feet, dives to 14,000 feet, circles, and speeds away. Wing Commander Walter Whitworth, in command at West Freugh, is ordered to say nothing about the object. Researcher Martin Shough notes that the case is unique in the UK in that there is “a document detailing an official technical investigation which is known to have had access to hard evidence—permanent radar recordings by multiple independent instruments—and which concluded in secret that real unidentified flying objects were detected.” After looking at 12 likely causes for the returns, Shough concludes that “There appears to be no satisfactory explanation of these radar targets.” (NICAP, “[Three Radars Track Maneuvering UFO](#)”; Good Above, pp. 48–49; UFOFiles2, pp. 51–53; Martin Shough, “[Study of Unusual Radar Observations near RAF West Freugh, Wigtownshire, SW Scotland, April 4, 1957](#),” March 2010; Patrick Gross, “[The West Freugh Incident, 1957](#)”)
- 1957**, April 8 — USAF Maj. Gen. [Joe W. Kelly](#) answers a question from Rep. [Lee Metcalf](#) (D-Mont.) and denies that the Air Force has muzzled pilots. “Answers are provided on any unidentified flying objects which have attracted national attention.” He admits that interceptors are still sent up “as a matter of security.” (Keyhoe, FSTS)
- 1957**, April 10 — [Delmer S. Fahrney](#) leaves NICAP’s board of directors for urgent and personal reasons, partially because his [wife](#) is seriously ill, but also because of the ridicule generated by his peers in the military. (NICAP Special Bulletin, [April 22, 1957](#); Clark III 792–793; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 207)
- 1957**, April 14 — 3:00 p.m. Marie Garcin and Julia Rami are walking along road D24 a half-mile east of Vins-sur-Caramy, Var, France, when they hear a deafening noise and see a 5-foot-tall, 3-foot-wide, metallic, top-shaped object covered with vibrating sharp spines that is landing near a road sign. The sign starts to vibrate loudly, then the object hops over the road at a height of about 15–30 feet. Another witness, Jules Boglio, is about 1,000 feet away and sees the object land a second time in the adjoining road, then jump over another road sign which then vibrates loudly. Two other witnesses see the object at a much greater distance. (NICAP, “[Top-Shaped Object Hovers at 300](#)”; Jimmy Guieu, “[Vins-sur-Caramy \(Var\), 14 avril 1957](#),” *Ouranos*, no. 21 (1957): 50–52; “[Soucoupe Lands Briefly in Provence](#),” *CSI News Letter*, no. 20 (July 25, 1957): 13; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 145–146; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 154–156)
- 1957**, April 15 — Two civilian technical representatives for the Philco Company see an object stalking a B-47 bomber during a landing approach at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Project Blue Book attributes the sighting to optical phenomena associated with the turbulence following the B-47. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 March 23rd–May 25th](#), The Author, 1995, pp. 39–40)

- 1957**, April 17 — Secretary of State for Air [George Ward](#) tells the House of Commons that the Air Ministry investigates UFO reports “whenever the details are sufficient.” (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1957**, April 19 — 11:52 a.m. Two metallic discs are seen entering the Pacific Ocean about 300 miles southeast of Tokyo, Japan, by Japanese fisherman aboard the *Kitsukawa Maru*. A violent turbulence disturbs the ocean after they submerge. The objects are 30 feet long and wingless. (NICAP, “[Two Discs Enter Pacific](#)”; “[Two Mystery Craft Dive into Pacific Ocean](#),” *S.P.A.C.E.*, no. 7 (July 1957): 5)
- 1957**, April 24 — 6:27 a.m. Project 57 is an open-air nuclear “dirty-bomb” test conducted in Area 13 at the Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada. The high explosives of a nuclear weapon are detonated asymmetrically to simulate an accidental detonation of an XW-25 warhead in an airplane crash. The purpose of the test is to verify that no yield would result, as well as study the extent of plutonium contamination. Some 4,000 galvanized steel pans sprayed with tacky resin are set up around a 10-by-16-square-mile block of land to capture plutonium samples. Some 68 air-sampler stations equipped with micropore paper are spread over 70 square miles. Mock-ups of sidewalks, curbs, and asphalt are set up in the desert; cars and trucks are added; giant air-sampling balloons are tethered in place; 9 burros, 109 beagles, 10 sheep, and 31 white rats are put in cages. Afterward, the contaminated area is fenced off and the contaminated equipment buried in place. Data from the test confirms that plutonium has a 24,000-year half-life; many of the test animals are killed, but security guard [Richard Mingus](#) manages not to inhale any particles. A radiological survey team detects alpha radiation, but no serious beta or gamma radiation. In 1981, the US Department of Energy decontaminates and decommissions the site. Hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of soil and debris are removed from Area 13 and disposed of in a waste facility at the Nevada Test Site. (Wikipedia, “[Project 57](#)”; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 100–116)
- 1957**, Late spring — Between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. Airman 2nd Class Wallace Fowler is sitting on the front steps of his barracks at Ellsworth AFB near Rapid City, South Dakota, when a silver domed disc with portholes appears directly above him. Shadows are moving behind the portholes. The UFO is motionless and the size of a house. After about 2–3 minutes it takes off straight up at high speed. Many others on the base have seen the object as well, and jets are scrambled. The UFO maneuvers around the jets as if toying with them. One of the pursuing jets allegedly goes missing and the wreckage is never found. (Good Need, pp. 218–219)
- 1957**, May — NICAP is fed a phony UFO crash story in the Everglades, Florida, by an Associated Press employee who is a “former Signal Corps engineer” with possible ties to the NSA. He admits faking the story but refuses to give any motive. (Keyhoe, *FSTS*, pp. 64–68)
- 1957**, May — 4:50 a.m. A truck driver pulls over at the edge of the disused RAF Winkleigh Airfield [now the site of the West of England Transport Collection], Devon, England, to drink some coffee. He notices an object like a metallic, fluorescent-blue submarine with tail fins sitting at the end of the runway. It is about the size of an airliner. He watches it a while, then gets out of the truck and approaches it. He has the object in sight a total of 10–15 minutes and realizes it is hovering just above the ground. When he is 600 feet away, he encounters a type of force field that prevents him from approaching. The object then rises straight up into the sky to about 1,200 feet and shoots off to the north. The force field disappears. (Ron Toth, “[UFO Landing at War-time Aerodrome](#),” *Pegasus* 2, no. 3 (May-June 1970): 2–4)
- 1957**, May — 6:00 a.m. Frances Stichler is working in her barn in Milford, Pennsylvania, when she hears a whirring sound and sees a bowl-shaped object approaching at a height of 15 feet. It is 15 feet in diameter with a rim about 3 feet wide. It hovers with one side tilted toward her 50 feet away. Its lone occupant, a helmeted figure with a long, olive-colored face and a shiny, light gray suit, gazes at her with a quizzical expression on his tanned face. It is sitting on the far rim with feet and legs hidden by the lower part of the object. Inside the open vehicle, she can see levers. After a minute, the object takes off to the southwest making a spinning sound. Her chickens do not seem disturbed by any of this. (Berthold Eric Schwarz, “[UFO Occupants: Fact or Fantasy?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 15, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1969): 14–15; Clark III 268; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 May 24th–July 31st](#), The Author, 1996, p. 10; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 17, 2006)
- 1957**, May? — 3:45 p.m. Two men in Orlando, Florida, see an oval object emerge from a larger cigar-shaped UFO about 75–100 feet long. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects: A Further Look](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 7, 25)
- 1957**, May 1 — 7:00 a.m. A man driving a motorcycle about 9 miles from Pajas Blancas International Airport in Córdoba, Argentina, sees a UFO shortly after his engine fails. It is 65 feet in diameter and 16 feet thick, hovering about 50 feet above the ground. He hides in a ditch and sees the craft come down, making a sound similar to air escaping from a valve. A lift descends from its base almost to the ground. In it is a man of average height who makes friendly gestures. He is dressed in a plastic diving suit. The witness enters the machine and sees several people inside seated in front of instrument panels, lit by an extraordinary light. He is then escorted out, and the disc rises

to the northwest. During the next hour, there are 6 other sightings made by independent witnesses. (Charles Bowen, "[A South American Trio](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1965): 19–20; Oscar A. Galíndez, "[A New Photograph](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1965): 10, 23; Gordon Creighton, "[The Humanoids in Latin America](#)," in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, Special Issue 1 of *FSR*, Oct./Nov. 1966, p. 35; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 March 23rd–May 25th*, The Author, 1995, pp. 61–64; Mark Cashman, "[Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 19)

- 1957**, May 2— 6:55–7:20 a.m. Frank E. Baker, supervisor of civilian camera operators at Edwards AFB, California, sends the standard two-man crews out to their Askania tracking telescopes for their daily shifts. Veterans James D. Bittick and [John R. Gettys Jr.](#) are in their pickup expecting a normal day. As they approach their station in the Mojave Desert, they see a bright object in the sky. It is initially at about a 45° elevation and seems to be hovering. They need to get permission from Baker to photograph anything, so they call it in, begin readying the scope, load the film, and wait for the okay. Gettys says the base of the object has a circular appearance when high in the sky. Baker gives them his approval and they begin filming, each viewing the object through spotting scopes while the film rolls. They shoot about 100 feet then stop. During filming, the object moves from 1 mile away to 5 miles. What they see is a disc-shaped object with a low dome on top. They contact the base, which scrambles two jets, but they are too late. After they turn the film in, three officers show up and interrogate them. Future astronaut [Gordon Cooper](#) claims he was there that day, involved with the tracking. (NICAP, "[Edwards AFB Case](#)"; "[Unidentified Flying Object Filmed, Studied](#)," *Miami (Fla.) News*, May 12, 1957, p. 2; 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. 75–76; Michael D. Swords, "[As Great an Enigma As the UFOs Themselves](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 1 (October 2005): 10–12; [Sparks](#), p. 243; "[Astronaut Gordon Cooper Talks about UFOs](#)," Elhardt YouTube channel, December 27, 2007; Swords 247–248; Gordon Cooper and Bruce Henderson, *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey into the Unknown*, HarperTorch, 2000, pp. 83–86; Good Need, [pp. 220–222](#))
- 1957**, May 10 — After 10:45 p.m. At Beaucourt-sur-l'Ancre, Somme, France, a 29-year-old Hungarian refugee named Michel Sekete (or Fekete) is cycling when he is "dazzled by a strange projectile." He sees four men 4–5 feet tall approaching him in a threatening manner. One of them carries a bright light which prevents him from seeing much detail. He flees on his cycle to a nearby home, where others look out and see the occupants 300 feet away. The UFO is emitting red and white (or yellow) rays of light alternatively. They watch for about 20 minutes until 11:15 p.m. when the UFO takes off at a 45° angle. ("[Flying Saucer Just a Lady with a Lamp](#)," *New York Daily News*, May 12, 1957, p. 76; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 March 23rd–May 25th*, The Author, 1995, pp. 69–72)
- 1957**, May 11 — While attending the Giant Rock Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention in the Mojave Desert near Landers, California, [Wayne Sulo Aho](#) goes for a walk and sees a "majestic egg-shaped light." He directs a telepathic message to it, and the UFO lands 2 miles away. He begins receiving subtle psychic messages on his earthly mission. That night, Aho undergoes a "cosmic initiation." (Wayne S. Aho, *Mojave Desert Experience*, *May 11, 1957*, New Age, 1972; Clark III 59)
- 1957**, May 15 — Secretary of State for Air [George Ward](#) responds to a question in the House of Commons by MP [Frank Beswick](#) concerning radar targets tracked over the English Channel on April 29 by saying that the speed of the objects was far less than 1000 mph as reported in the press. (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1957**, May 20? (or 1956?) — Near 12:00 midnight. USAF Lt. Milton Torres is flying F-86D Sabre fighters with the 406th Bomber Wing based at RAF Manston [now closed], Kent, England. He receives an order from an RAF controller, who is tracking an unidentified target from Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker [now closed] in Essex, to go up with a wingman to 32,000 feet over East Anglia in pursuit. Over the radio he receives an order to fire a salvo of rockets at the target; the order is so unusual that Torres seeks authentication before firing. Torres locates the large target on his aircraft radar, but when he closes in on it, it shoots away at tremendous speed, disappearing from the radar screens. The target might be explained by a secret CIA-MoD experiment, codenamed [Palladium](#), to simulate an aircraft blip on Soviet radar screens. On his return to base, Torres is debriefed by a secret service agent and told his mission is top secret. (NICAP, "[Milton Torres / Intercept Mission](#)"; UFOFiles2, [pp. 69–72](#); "[U.S. Pilot Was Ordered to Shoot Down UFO](#)," Reuters, October 20, 2008; David Clarke, "Intercept and Destroy," *Fortean Times* 242 (December 2008): 34–35; Paul Crickmore, "[Project Palladium: Testing Soviet Radars](#)," *Tails Through Time*, January 3, 2011; Curt Collins, "[Area 51, the CIA, and Cold War UFOS: T. D. Barnes](#)," *Blue Blurry Lines*, January 9, 2014; "[Milton Torres, F86D Pilot, Ordered to Shoot a UFO with Rockets after 50 Years](#)," *The Portugal News*, August 2, 2022)

- 1957, May 26** — An article in the UK *Empire News* on “Flying Saucer Clubs Probe: Peace Messages ‘from Outer Space’” reveals that [George King](#)’s Aetherius Society has been publishing channeled messages in its *Cosmic Voice* newsletter that are antiwar and anti-nuclear. It attracts the attention of Scotland Yard’s Special Branch, thanks to an informant on the newspaper. King writes to explain that his group is religious and not political. A Special Branch officer visits King in his home in London, England, on May 31, and the group’s writings and activities are watched for at least the next two years. (Kremlin 121–126)
- 1957, May 28** — Boltzmann, the first of 29 nuclear tests in Operation Plumbbob, takes place at the Nevada Test Site. At 12 kilotons, it is about the same size as the Hiroshima bomb and causes Area 51 personnel 11 miles away to be temporarily evacuated. Another test blast buckles aircraft hangar doors in Area 51, shatters windows in the mess hall, and breaks a dormitory ventilator panel. The Plumbbob tests continue until October 7, 1957. While most tests contribute to the development of warheads for intercontinental and intermediate range missiles, they also test air defense and anti-submarine warheads with small yields. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Plumbbob](#)”)
- 1957, May 31** — 7:17 a.m. A British airliner is flying over Kent, two miles south of Rochester, England, when both the captain and first officer see a brilliant light approaching them. All radio communications cut out. The UFO blinks out and the radio equipment goes back into operation. ([Schopick](#), pp. 122–123; Good Above, [p. 50](#))
- 1957, June 3** — 9:35 p.m. Shortly after takeoff from Shreveport (Louisiana) Airport, Capt. Lynn Kern and Flight Officer [Abbey Zimmerman](#), flying Trans-Texas Airlines Flight 103, are told by the control tower that a small light is visible nearby. They see the star-like, blue-green object at about 400 feet altitude. It then climbs rapidly to 1,000 feet and parallels the airliner at a higher altitude and about a half-mile away. Kern flashes his landing lights, and the object responds with a beam of light. A second blue-green, pulsating object joins the first on the opposite side of the airliner (then at 9,000 feet). A crew from the air tower confirms that it has both objects on radar and visually through binoculars. The objects head south, climbing to about 10,000 feet, and follow the airliner to Converse, Louisiana, where the pilot queries ADC radar site, England AFB [now Alexandria International Airport], which confirms the two targets in the airliner’s vicinity. The objects disappear from sight in a cloud deck to the southwest. (NICAP, “[Flight 103 & 2 UFOs Tracked on Radar](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 244; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 94–96](#))
- 1957, June 5** — AEC Commissioner [Willard Libby](#) tells Congress that nuclear weapons testing is a “small risk” that must be measured against the “risk of annihilation.” (“[Bomb Testing Is Viewed As Risk to Be Compared with Annihilation](#),” *Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle*, June 5, 1957, p. 2)
- 1957, June 11** — CIA operative [Wallace R. Lampshire](#) sends a memo to CIA operative [Richard M. Bissell Jr.](#), explaining that the agency’s involvement with UFOs is passive, handing off reports to its geophysics or former weapons units. Lampshire has talked with Gen. [Philip J. Strong](#), who knows of no Soviet technology that might be responsible for UFOs. (Staff memorandum from Wallace Lampshire to Richard Bissell, “[Unidentified Flying Saucers \(UFO\)](#),” June 11, 1957; Swords 264–265)
- 1957, June 15** — 5:06 p.m. George Marsden is resting by the side of the road during a bicycle ride with his 10-year-old son at Mawdesley, Lancashire, England, when he sees a light in the sky. He gets out his 35x pocket telescope and sees that it is a Saturn-shaped object with portholes. It appears to be 25 feet in diameter and is moving horizontally west-northwest at 500–600 mph at an altitude of 6,000–7,000 feet. The object is silver with a bluish tint and is in sight for about 11 seconds before it takes off vertically. (UFOEv, [p. 146](#); Center for UFO Studies, [[case documents](#)])
- 1957, June 15** — A report in the UK weekly newspaper *Reynold’s News* claims that an Air Ministry spokesman has admitted the agency conducts top secret UFO research in Room 801 of one of its offices on Northumberland Avenue, London, England. The spokesman says the room has “something like 10,000 sightings” on file and a large map of the British Isles with thousands of colored pins representing sightings. *Flying Saucer Review* editor [Gordon Creighton](#) says the office belongs to the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical), which employs UFO researchers full-time. (“[The Secret of Room 801: Reynolds News Reporter](#),” *Flying Saucers* (C.S.I. N. Z.) 5, no. 1 (July/Sept. 1957): 20; Good Above, [p. 49](#); Marcus Lowth, “[The Secrets of Room 801 and Britain’s ‘Lost’ 1950s UFO Cases](#),” *UFO Insight*, October 14, 2021)
- 1957, June 18** — 8:00 p.m. Captain C. G. Wertz and the crew of the Matson freighter *Hawaiian Fisherman* see two brightly lit objects off the port beam as they are steaming 150 miles off San Francisco, California. A third object joins them at 8:15. They appear as small moons, giving off a cold, white, unchanging light. The three move off in a V formation and pace the ship for a short time. The lights continue their controlled flight as dusk turns to night. (“[Flying Saucers Back with Us](#),” *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, June 20, 1957, p. 46; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 78)

- 1957**, June 20 — Mysterious radar echoes begin turning up on Bluff Hill, near Invercargill, New Zealand, for several months. The targets are visible from several minutes up to an hour and are located somewhere in the ionosphere. [Michael Gadsden](#) of the Imperial College in London is in New Zealand for the International Geophysical Year and he says the targets' movements are unusual and suspects that ionized particles are the cause. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 81–82)
- 1957**, Summer — [P. Craig Phillips](#), curator of the Miami Seaquarium, and two other scientists witness a fall of angel hair for two hours as they are sailing northward toward the Florida Keys. Assuming them to be cobwebs from migrating airborne spiders, Phillips takes some samples and puts them in a mason jar. But when he uncaps the jar later in his office, no trace of the material is found, which is uncharacteristic of spider web. (UFOEv, [pp. 99–100](#); Brian Boldman, "[An Analysis of Angel Hair, 1947–2000](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 3 (Fall 2001): 15)
- 1957**, Summer — Early morning. Contactee [Trevor Constable](#) and an associate named James Woods take many infrared photos of the desert sky over southern California. When developed, the film reveals a variety of shapes from vague blobs and amoeba-like forms to clearly defined discs. Constable calls them "critters" and thinks they are some kind of life form invisible to the naked eye. (Clark III 1102; Trevor James [Constable], *They Live in the Sky*, New Age, 1958)
- 1957**, Summer — Allan Haney and some friends "on a number of occasions" climb onto someone's roof in Levelland, Texas, to watch 3–4 objects hovering over Reese AFB [now Reese Technology Center] in Lubbock, 26 miles to the east. (Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 5)
- 1957**, July — The Air Defense Command disbands the 4602nd AISS and reassigns UFO investigative duties to the 1127th Field Activities Group of the 1006th AISS at Norton AFB [San Bernardino International Airport], California. Soon afterwards, the Air Force reduces funds for the unit, impairing its investigative ability. (Clark III 919)
- 1957**, July — NICAP publishes the first issue of *The UFO Investigator*. ([UFO Investigator](#) 1, no. 1 (July 1957); Clark III 793; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 214–215)
- 1957**, Early July — NICAP learns that the US Senate Subcommittee on Investigations is considering hearings on UFOs and wants its assistance. [Hillenkoetter](#) suggests withholding the best cases, at least initially. (Keyhoe, *FSTS*, pp. 70–79; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 218–219)
- 1957**, July 5 — During the 74-kiloton Plumbbob Hood nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site, the Marine Corps conducts a tactical maneuver involving the use of a helicopter airlift, tactical air support, and an amphibian tractor called the LVTP5. Despite the AEC's assurance that no thermonuclear devices are being tested, Hood is thermonuclear and is the largest atmospheric test in the continental US. All Area 51 personnel are evacuated prior to the blast, but the military neglects to secure the sensitive information in the buildings with security guards. Seventy anesthetized Chester White pigs in military uniforms (as test fabrics) are placed in cages a short distance from ground zero. Several types of wood houses are constructed to see how each handles the blast. The Mosler Safe Company sponsors the construction of a steel vault to withstand the blast. Some 100 soldiers, lying in trenches, are stationed to gauge the psychological impact of the bomb. The flash is visible from Canada to Mexico and 800 miles out in the Pacific. The blast wave reaches Los Angeles 25 minutes later. Afterwards, security guard [Richard Mingus](#) has to drive through a highly radioactive ground zero to reach the buildings at Area 51 ten miles away. Area 51 remains an evacuated ghost town until the summer of 1959. (Wikipedia, "[Desert Rock exercises](#)"; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 119–123](#))
- 1957**, July 10 — [George Hunt Williamson](#), exploring in Peru from his base at the Monastery of the Seven Rays and spurred by his own channelings, rediscovers a wall of petroglyphs [now known as the Petroglyphs of Pusharo, in the Manú National Park] in an area northeast of Cuzco called Cadena del Pantiacolla. (George Hunt Williamson, "[Project Scroll](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 3, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1957): 18–19; George Hunt Williamson, [Road in the Sky](#), Neville Spearman, 1959; Brother Philip [Williamson], [Secret of the Andes](#), Neville Spearman, 1961; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 97–98, 109–115)
- 1957**, Mid-July — [Keyhoe](#) meets with US Rep. [James C. Healey](#) (D-N.Y.) regarding USAF secrecy about UFOs. He shows Healey the 1949 Grudge report and apparently convinces him that the Air Force's explanations for the 24 cases are "sheer speculation" or "deliberately fitted." He also presents him Gen. [Joe W. Kelly](#)'s April 8 letter to [Lee Metcalf](#), indicating serious interest in UFOs. (Keyhoe, *FSTS*, pp. 81–82, 91, 96)
- 1957**, July 16 — 1:56 p.m. 1st Lt. Clifford E. Pocock, scope operator A2C Walter Lyons, and control technician A1C Armand Therrien at Las Vegas Air Force Station [now closed] at Angel Peak, Nevada, are using the FPS-3A L-band search radar and track an inbound target at about 6,200 mph when it "stopped abruptly" and "remained stationary" for 12 seconds to the east-northeast 85 miles away to the north of Grand Canyon in Arizona. Then it heads outbound at about 7,000 mph before disappearing at the radar's maximum range at 224 miles (near Marble

Canyon, Arizona). The target responds to encrypted military IFF transponder signals and transmits encrypted responses. (NICAP, "[6200 MPH Target Hovers near Grand Canyon](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 244; Powell, *Scientist*, 92)

1957, July 17 — Before dawn. The crew of a USAF RB-47 reconnaissance aircraft is flying out of Forbes Field [now Topeka Regional Airport], Kansas, on an electronic warfare training flight over Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The RB-47 is carrying a 6-man crew, of whom three are electronic warfare officers manning ECM gear in the aft portion of the aircraft. Their names are Lewis Dormon Chase, pilot; [James H. McCoid](#), copilot; Thomas H. Hanley, navigator; John J. Provenzano, No. 1 monitor; Frank B. McClure, No. 2 monitor; and [Walter A. Tuchscherer](#), No. 3 monitor. The crew detects on its Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) equipment an airborne radar source at 2.8 GHz that mimics some but not all of the signal characteristics of a common air defense ground radar. Aircraft normally do not carry such high-powered radars. As the key ELINT officer on the RB-47 puts it, "an antenna bigger than the airplane" would be required to emit as strong a signal as the one detected from the UFO. Because the UFO signal appears to have comparable or greater received signal strength than the one-megawatt ground radar beam and the UFO's distance is about 5 times closer than the ground radar, a crude estimate of the UFO radar power output using the inverse-square law would be about 40 kilowatts. The maneuvering radar signal coincides in location with a bright UFO. At times the signal moves ahead of the RB-47, then circles around as if airborne, highly maneuverable, and flying faster than the RB-47. The 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Intelligence report states that the Wing's director of intelligence "has no doubt the electronic D/F's coincided exactly with visual observations by a/c numerous times thus indicating positively the object being the signal source." An air defense radar station near Dallas, Texas, reportedly confirms tracking a UFO at the same location reported by the RB-47 crew but later tries to deny it in an unclassified message to ATIC. The UFO is reportedly tracked by the RB-47's airborne navigation radar as well, though the crew has differing recollections on this point. Twice the UFO blinks out visually when pursued by the RB-47. At the same time the strange signal disappears; either that, or the ground radar site and the RB-47 onboard radar loses the object from their scopes. At least once, the UFO suddenly reappears visually at about the same time the ground radar regains tracking of the object. The main part of the incident occupies 30 minutes over the Fort Worth, Texas, area from 5:30–6:00 a.m. Some earlier ELINT and visual incidents are noted as early as about 4:30 a.m., but they catch the crew off guard, and consequently reports at the time and later recollections have had to be carefully reconstructed. The UFO may have trailed the RB-47 up to 6:40 a.m. following the main events, for a total duration of possibly more than 126 minutes. The RB-47 incident is the first conclusive instrumented proof for the existence of UFOs. Calibrations of the RB-47's electronic measurements provide an irrefutable case. When the Colorado Project scientists asked the Air Force for the Blue Book file on the RB-47 case, the file could not be found. Ultimately, the case was put together by better file searching at Blue Book, [James E. McDonald](#)'s success at locating several crew members and interviewing them, and FOIA searches that located more of the lost documents. Particularly in the [George T. Gregory](#) years at ATIC, this sort of rejection of the need to clarify almost any significant aspect of a UFO case was constant. If we did not know, from our earlier information, what Captain Gregory understood to be his duty as chief of Blue Book, we would label this as reckless and incompetent. Colorado project investigator [Gordon Thayer](#) declares the case unexplained, and later describes the official USAF explanation (airliner) as "literally ridiculous." [Brad Sparks](#) sums it up in 1998 (and in 2018): "This case certainly now ranks as among the best documented unexplained UFO incidents in history, and it has the potential for further revealing disclosures if records of an extremely highly classified investigation can be found and released. All of the UFO observations by multiple visual observers, multiple ELINT receivers, and multiple radar sets, as well as the serendipitous calibrations of the UFO signals against the separately identifiable Duncanville radar signals, provide a unique, tight, interlocking web of intricately fitted evidence." (NICAP, "[RB-47 Incident](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 244; Condon, [pp. 56, 136–139, 260–266](#); UFOs Yes, 126–127; 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. 4–9; James E. McDonald, "[The 1957 Gulf Coast RB-47 Incident](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 3 (May/June 1970): 2–6; "[UFO Encounter 1: Sample Case Selected by the UFO Subcommittee of the AIAA](#)," *Astronautics and Aeronautics*, July 1971, pp. 66–70; Gert Herb, "[A Rebuttal to Philip J. Klass's Analysis of the RB-47 Incident of July 17, 1957](#)," *CUFOS Bulletin*, Summer 1977, pp. 3–10; Philip J. Klass, [[response to Gert Herb](#)], *CUFOS Bulletin*, Fall 1977, pp. 7–10; Gert Herb, "[Gert Herb Replies](#)," *CUFOS Bulletin*, Fall 1977, pp. 9–10; Roy Craig, *UFOs: An Insider's View of the Official Quest for Evidence*, University of North Texas, 1995, [pp. 134–150](#); Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 May 24th–July 31st*, The Author, 1996, pp. 64–71; Center for UFO Studies, [[case interviews](#)]; Center for UFO Studies, [[case documents](#)]; Center for UFO Studies, [[more case documents](#)]; Swords 248–249; Clark III 953–999; Covert 24; Powell, *Scientist*, 91–92)

- 1957, July 17** — Flight 655 en route from Dallas to Los Angeles, piloted by Capt. Ed Bachner, has a near collision with an object “at least the size of a B-47” over the salt flats some 100 miles east of El Paso, Texas. Bachner puts the plane into a dive and the object passes only 50 feet above them. Two passengers suffer slight injuries and are taken to the hospital on landing. However, the Civil Aeronautics Administration establishes the UFO in this case is American Airlines Flight 966, which had departed El Paso en route to Dallas. (“[Airline Pilot Tells How 85 Persons Missed Death](#),” *Los Angeles (Calif.) Mirror*, July 18, 1957, p. 2; “[Near Collision In Air Reported](#),” *Roanoke (Va.) Times*, July 18, 1957, p. B-8; Letter from Roy Keeley, Director of CAA Office of Flight Operations and Airworthiness, to USAF Brig. Gen. Harold E. Watson, November 8, 1957, [Blue Book document, p. 57]; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 79; Good Above, p. 283; Richard F. Haines, “[Aviation Safety in America: A Previously Neglected Factor](#),” NARCAP Technical Report 01-2000, October 15, 2000, p. 52)
- 1957, July 17** — [Keyhoe](#) asks [Ruppelt](#), who is now an engineer with Northrup Aircraft, to join the NICAP board following the *I’ve Got a Secret Show* on which he is appearing. Ruppelt considers it an honor, but declines two weeks later. (Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 70–79; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 219–220)
- 1957, July 18** — 10:46 p.m. Capt. Claiborne F. Bickham and a radar crew at Mount Lemmon Air Force Station [now closed] northeast of Tucson, Arizona, using both MPS-7 L-band search and MPS-14 S-band height-finder radars, track a stationary target at 42,000 feet to the northwest about 82 miles away south of Chandler. The target responds to encrypted military IFF Mode 3 transponder signals and transmits encrypted responses that result in “normal Mode 3 paint” on radar scopes. A very slight strobe comes from the object that appears like Electronic Counter Measures jamming. (NICAP, “[Ground Radar Track Responds to IFF Mode 3](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 245; Powell, *Scientist*, 92)
- 1957, July 19** — The Plumbbob John nuclear test at Yucca Flats, Nevada, is the only test of the Air Force’s AIR-2 Genie missile with a nuclear warhead. On the ground, the Air Force carries out a public relations event by having five Air Force officers and a videographer stand under ground zero of the blast, which takes place at between 18,500 and 20,000 feet altitude, with the idea of demonstrating the possibility of the use of the weapon over civilian populations without ill effects. (Wikipedia, “[Operation Plumbbob](#)”)
- 1957, July 22** — Night. Capt. G. M. Schemel, the pilot of a TWA Constellation aircraft, is flying at 18,000 feet near Amarillo, Texas, when a big red and green light bears down on his plane in a collision course. He puts the aircraft into a dive and the object passes above him. Schemel has to make an unscheduled landing at Amarillo to hospitalize one passenger who is injured during the maneuver. (“[Kenosha Pilot Tells of Mysterious Object](#),” *Kenosha (Wis.) News*, July 24, 1957, p. 1; “[Scientists Say Near Collisions May Involve Space Vehicles](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 2 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 9)
- 1957, July 24** — Russian anti-aircraft batteries on the Kuril Islands, Sakhalin Oblast, Russia, in the Pacific Ocean open fire on luminous, fast-moving UFOs. No hits are made. The US claims it has no aircraft in the area. However, at 10:00 a.m., two USAF pilots flying F-86s are scrambled to intercept a disc-shaped object over the Nemuro Strait, north of Hokkaido, Japan, that is tracked by ground radar and seen by ground witnesses. (Keyhoe, *Aliens from Space*, Signet ed., 1974, p. 42; [Sparks](#), p. 245)
- 1957, July 24** — White Sands Missile Flight Safety Director [Nathan Wagner](#) is driving with his wife [Alma](#) south of Las Cruces, New Mexico, when they see a large, fast object at high altitude moving east toward the Organ Mountains. They watch it for 30 seconds until it disappears. (“[Space Vehicles Sighted?](#)” *El Paso (Tex.) Times*, July 30, 1957, p. 1; “[Missile Flight Safety Chief Reports Sighting of Large UFO](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 2 (Aug./Sept. 1957): 6; NICAP, “[Missile Safety Chief Says Object Unknown](#)”; Swords 249)
- 1957, July 25** — 12:25 a.m. USAF pilot 1st Lt. Robert S. Hipkins and alert center operator S/Sgt Raymond C. Henry, both 47th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, see a circular brilliant white object with six smaller pale-green lights on its perimeter moving slowly at constant altitude at Niagara Falls Municipal Airport in New York. It makes fast pivoting turns, maneuvering radically from southeast to northeast and disappears in about 5–8 minutes in a rapid, steep climb. A CPS-6B radar tracks it for 3 minutes. (NICAP, “[CPS6 ADC Radar Tracks Brilliant White Light](#)”; Condon, p. 145; [Sparks](#), p. 245)
- 1957, July 25** — 4:00 a.m. Several workers are taking a break at the Daye Steel Plant in Huangshi, Hubei, China, when they hear a humming sound. They notice a bright spot in the clear sky that is increasing in apparent size. As it comes closer, it is seen as a circular plate giving off a dazzling white light and leaving a white trail. It flies above the observers at an altitude of 3,300 feet and produces a whistling sound that is louder than a jet. As the object approaches the witnesses, the low pitch changes to a high pitch. (Wendelle Stevens and Paul Dong, *UFOs over Modern China*, UFO Photo Archives, 1983)
- 1957, July 28** — A Douglas Aircraft Company employee named Edward K. Current Jr. makes an emergency landing on the former U-2 airstrip at Groom Lake, Nevada. He claims he has been on a cross-country training flight when he

became lost and ran low on fuel. The area is still evacuated for nuclear testing. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 125–126; T. D. Barnes, “[False Emergency Landings at Groom Lake](#),” Roadrunners Internationale, November 22, 2021)

1957, July 30 — 10:30 a.m. Jack Stephenson is walking his dog four miles south of Galt, Ontario, when he sees an aluminum-colored object with a dome. It circles, stops, and hovers, then lands in a gulley surrounded by woods. He watches it for 45 minutes as it hovers about 2 feet off the ground. It finally takes off at a 45° angle to avoid a power line, then shoots away. Local residents examine the area and find burned patches on the ground and small tree limbs that are broken. There are four burned or charred areas, each about 1 foot 3 inches in diameter, forming a four-sided figure with these measurements: 20 feet x 20 feet x 6.5 feet x 11.5 feet. Two large three-toed prints are also found, but the relationship of the prints to the object is unknown. (“[Boy Reports ‘Saucer,’](#)” *Brantford (Ont.) Expositor*, August 3, 1957, p. 1; “[Says He Saw Flying Saucer for 45 Minutes](#),” *Milk River (Alberta) Review*, August 25, 1957; Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore Jr., *Strange Effects from UFOs*, NICAP, 1969, pp. 51–53)

1957, August — Radar technician [Edward Lovick Jr.](#) begins work at Lockheed’s secret Advanced Development Projects facility (the Skunk Works) in Burbank, California. His first assignment is to investigate radar-deflecting technology for the U-2 aircraft. (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, pp. 126–127)

1957, August — Night. A young woman is driving home after work in Peru, Indiana, and notices people standing along the road looking at the sky. She stops, and they point to a large black object hovering above some nearby trees at about 100 feet. It is about 1,000 feet long and has a “soft delta” shape with rounded corners and window-like lighted areas underneath. There seems to be movement within the lighted areas. In the middle of the bottom is a round area that looks like it might be the outline of an entryway. It moves slowly away, making a noise like a quiet vacuum cleaner. (Michael D. Swords, “[Timmerman’s Triangles](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 16)

1957, August 1 — The North American Air Defense Command is announced by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Wikipedia, “[North American Aerospace Defense Command](#)”)

1957, August 3 — 7:45 p.m. 1st Lt. Robert J. Springer Jr., T/Sgt. [Herman L. Giles](#), and 16 other air crewmen, while on routine Airborne Operations Center radar early warning patrol over the Pacific Ocean about 175 miles southwest of San Francisco, California, aboard an RC-121D aircraft, detect a radar target on IFF Mode 2 transponder only. At 7:56 p.m., the IFF target becomes a direct radar “skinpaint.” At 8:02 p.m., the IFF equipment APX-6/APX-7 is turned off, but the target is still tracked on airborne radar. At 8:15 p.m., the target is at a 2 o’clock position 10 miles away when the aircraft starts a right turn to reverse course, putting the target dead ahead. It suddenly takes off to the northwest at very high speed, disappearing 58 miles away. Radar contact is regained at 8:18 p.m. as the target is tracked moving right to left, crossing in front of the aircraft again, and closing distance to 8 miles at 11 o’clock. At 8:20 p.m., the target turns to head on a parallel path. The crew loses contact at 8:24 p.m., 15 miles behind the plane. No visual confirmation. (NICAP, “[RC-121D Has IFF Radar Targets](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 246; Powell, *Scientist*, 92)

1957, August 4 — An Italian Air Force noncommissioned officer on duty in the control tower at Naples International Airport, Italy, and about 30 other witnesses see a number of luminous, disc-shaped objects passing above them. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 80)

1957, August 5 — 10:00 p.m. Policeman Ernst W. Akerberg and his wife Karin are at their summer cottage on the island of Gotland, Sweden, in the Baltic Sea when they see a disc-shaped object heading toward them from the sea. When it reaches the shore about 600 feet away, the object changes course and executes a sharp turn at less than 90° of arc and turns on its edge, swaying briefly. The disc moves toward the southeast and makes another sharp turn just over a half-mile away, again turning on its edge and fluttering before passing out of view. A second, smaller object approaches and goes through the same maneuvers. Air currents from both objects make the water surface ripple and the treetops swing. Estimated to be about 80 feet in diameter, the objects seem to be made of shining metal, and the upper part rotates slowly over the lower part. Both objects have a kind of tube with two red lights. They are silent except for a hollow clicking sound. (Story, pp. 152–153; Clas Svahn, “[1957 Diskusarna svängde framför polismannen](#),” Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige)

1957, August 14 — 8:55 p.m. Varig Airlines pilot Capt. Jorgé Campos Araujo and First Officer Edgar Onofre Soares observe a domed disc pacing their C-47 cargo plane at 6,300 feet over Joinville, Santa Catarina, Brazil. The UFO speeds up and crosses just in front of them, hovers briefly, then dives into the undercast at 5,700 feet. When the object hovers, it affects the engines, which cough and wheeze, and dims the cabin lights. (“[Tinha a forma de disco o objeto voador visto de bordo do avião da Varig](#),” *Diário de Notícias* (Porto Alegre, Brazil), August 16, 1957; “[Fazia y evoluções em torno do aviao, o objeto visto no CE’U](#),” *A Nação* (Blumenau, Brazil), August 23, 1957; Olavo T. Fontes, “[Top Secret Report Unveiled](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, September 1959, pp. 1, 5; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*,

pp. 153–155; UFOEv, p. 120; [Schopick](#), pp. 123–127; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 August–September, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2003, pp. 11–13)

- 1957**, August 20 — 11:28 a.m. Shinichi Takeda takes a photo of a silvery disc near Enoshima Beach, Kanagawa, Japan. The object is also seen by his sister, who calls his attention to it. It gives off a brilliant glow at an estimated altitude of 3,000–4,000 feet, traveling north to south. The object makes a 90° left turn, speeds up, and disappears in the clouds. The photo shows capsule-shaped image near bank of cumulus clouds. A few minutes later, 15 people on the beach report a similar object that passes over at high speed. (NICAP, “[Capsule-Shaped Object in Clouds / Takeda Photo](#)”)
- 1957**, August 20 or 22 — A member of the Argentine Air Force guarding a downed aircraft is in a tent near Quilinos, Córdoba, Argentina, when he hears a high-pitched hum. Dashing out, he sees a disc slowly descending, making the grass and plants flutter wildly. Reaching for his revolver, he feels that something is preventing him from drawing his weapon, which seems glued in his holster. A voice from the disc tells him in Spanish that spacecraft have a base in the Salta region and that they are here to warn about nuclear energy. The craft rises vertically and speeds off to the north. Probable hoax. (“[UFO Bases in South America?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1965): 30–31; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), December 8, 2006)
- 1957**, August 22 — 3:40 p.m. A couple named Sheetz in a car at Naval Air Station Cecil [now Cecil Airport] in Jacksonville, Florida, chase a 50-foot, black, rotating, bell-shaped object bearing two bright white lights at the top. Their engine stalls when object hovers 10 feet away. Its underside resembles a disc with fins. When a jet takes off from the airfield, the object goes out of sight almost instantly. The car battery is completely dead. Noise from the object is compared to a helicopter, although there are no helicopters in the area. (NICAP, “[Car Chases Bell-Shaped Object, Engine Stalls](#)”; Mark Rodeghier, [UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference](#), CUFOS, 1981, p. 7; [Sparks](#), p. 246)
- 1957**, August 27 — Russia makes the first successful long flight of an ICBM, the R-7 Semyorka, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The dummy warhead lands in the Pacific Ocean. (Wikipedia, “[R-7 Semyorka](#)”)
- 1957**, August 30 — Night. A Capital Airlines pilot is flying a Viscount at 12,000 feet approaching Norfolk, Virginia, with a Northeast Airlines DC-6 directly above on the same heading at 20,000 feet. The Viscount pilot sees a brilliant object that “flew fast and then abruptly halted 20 miles in front of us at 60,000 feet altitude.” The Northeast pilot tries to acquire the object on radar. With the antenna at 0° elevation, nothing is detected, but with the antenna elevated to 15° he acquires “an excellent blip right where I told him to look for the object.” According to the Viscount pilot, the object “dissolved right in front of my eyes, and the crew above lost it from the scope at the same time. They said it just faded away.” The entire incident lasts several minutes. (NICAP, “[Two Aircraft Observe Object / Excellent Blip on Radar](#)”; Condon, pp. 128–129)
- 1957**, August 31 — After nuclear test Plumbbob Smokey, Army troops conduct an airlift assault. (Wikipedia, “[Desert Rock exercises](#)”)
- 1957**, August 31 — Sen. [Barry Goldwater](#) (R-Ariz.) sends a letter to a constituent about UFOs, saying, “I, frankly, feel that there is a great deal to this.” (UFOEv, p. 173)
- 1957**, September — Soviet defector [Nikolai Khokhlov](#) suffers a sudden and severe illness while attending an anti-Communist meeting in Frankfurt, Germany. He is treated for thallium poisoning and survives. This case is often claimed to be the first radiological attack by the KGB, especially when compared to the poisoning of [Alexander Litvinenko](#) in 2006, although it remains unclear what isotope was used, if any. Former KGB officer Stanislav Lekarev claims, however, that Khokhlov is poisoned by radioactive polonium (not thallium), exactly as Litvinenko is later. Litvinenko’s poisoning is also initially mistaken for thallium. A unique mechanism for administering poison is described by a knowledgeable source at the time as a pneumatically operated poison ice “atomizer” that leaves no wound or other evidence of the cause of death. (Wikipedia, “[Nikolai Khokhlov](#)”; Andy Wright, “[The Russian Spy Who Convinced America to Take ESP Seriously](#),” Atlas Obscura, January 13, 2017; Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin, [The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive and the Secret History of the KGB](#), Basic Books, 1999; David Kurlander, “[Ending in a Fall: America’s Response to the Poisoning of Soviet Defector Nikolai Khokhlov](#),” Café, September 3, 2020)
- 1957**, Early September — Several people fishing near Ubatuba, São Paulo, Brazil, watch a disc dive down from the sky and explode, showering the area with flaming fragments. One of the witnesses writes an anonymous letter and sends three pieces to *O Globo*, but no witnesses to the event have ever come forward. APRO representative [Olavo T. Fontes](#) examines the fragments, which are dull gray, irregular, and strongly oxidized. One sample is shot through with microscopic cracks and shows a fissure running through two-thirds of its length. All three have whitish smears of a powdery substance like cinders. Fontes takes one sample to the Mineral Production Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture for analysis, which shows it to be “magnesium of a high degree of

purity.” Chemist Luisa Maria A. Barbosa, who conducts a spectrographic analysis, says that not even trace elements are apparent. Fontes also has it analyzed by chemist Elson Teixeira and the Brazilian Army. The Laboratory of Crystallography conducts some X-ray diffraction work. All conclude that the material is pure magnesium, while one gives it a density of 1.866 (normal magnesium is 1.741). APRO sends a second fragment to the US Air Force, which accidentally destroys it. The third sample is sent to the Colorado Project in February 1968. [Roy Craig](#) runs tests on it at the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the IRS in Washington and Dow Chemical’s Metallurgical Laboratory. Both determine that the level of purity is not as high as was determined in 1957 (although this is now seen as a major misrepresentation of the actual results). APRO does two further tests with University of Arizona metallurgical engineer Walter A. Walker and Robert W. Johnson of the Materials Research Corporation at Orangeburg, New Jersey. Walker and Johnson both find that the sample “had undergone a directional crystal growth type of manufacture.” Walker concludes that the material was likely exposed to the earth’s atmosphere at elevated temperatures. Researchers [Brad Sparks](#) and [Michael Swords](#) examine Roy Craig’s [archived original notes](#) from the Colorado Project and find that the team had covered up the fact that an abnormal concentration of magnesium isotope Mg-26 had indeed been found and knowingly misrepresented the sample to APRO as “essentially the same as terrestrial magnesium,” blaming them for cherry-picking the Brazilian lab results. [Peter A. Sturrock](#) acquires the remnant of the samples from APRO and performs further analysis on two of them in 1997. In 2018, Michael Swords and [Robert Powell](#) borrow one Ubatuba sample from Sturrock and arrange for further tests at an accredited lab, finding variations well outside the normal range for magnesium, strontium, copper, and barium. (NICAP, “[The Ubatuba Incident](#)”; “[Physical Evidence](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, March 1960, pp. 1, 3; Olavo T. Fontes, “[A Report on the Investigation of Magnesium Samples from a UFO Explosion over the Sea in the Ubatuba Region of Brazil](#),” 1962; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, pp. 104–145; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 212–216; Condon, pp. 94–97, 257–260; Michael D. Swords, “[Analysis of Alleged Fragments from an Exploding UFO near Ubatuba, Brazil: An Introduction](#),” *JUFOS* 4 (1992): 1–5; Walter W. Walker and Robert W. Johnson, “[Further Studies on the Ubatuba UFO Magnesium Samples](#),” *JUFOS* 4 (1992): 6–25; Walter W. Walker, “[Scientific Studies of the Ubatuba Magnesium Fragments: A 1992 Perspective](#),” *JUFOS* 4 (1992): 26–37; Peter A. Sturrock, “[Letter: Ubatuba](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 2 (March/April 1993): 19; Paul R. Hill, *Unconventional Flying Objects: A Scientific Analysis*, Hampton Roads, 1995, pp. 226–234; Peter A. Sturrock, “[Composition Analysis of the Brazil Magnesium](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 15, no. 1 (2001): 69–95; Pierre Kaufmann and Peter A. Sturrock, “[On Events Possibly Related to the ‘Brazil Magnesium](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 18, no. 2 (2004): 283–291; Clark III 1143–1155; Brazil 510–517; Robert M. Powell, Michael D. Swords, Mark Rodeghier, and Phyllis Budinger, “[Isotope Ratios and Chemical Analysis of the 1957 Brazilian Ubatuba Fragment](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 36, no. 1 (Spring 2022): 39–48; “[Crashed UFO Material Analysis Discussed in a 1964 Radio Broadcast](#),” Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, August 25, 2024)

1957, September — 3:00 p.m. Hélio Penteadó and his foreman Zaca Sabiá are repairing a fence on Penteadó’s farm in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, when Sabiá’s dog begins growling at something in the mint field. They hear a loud, irritating sound and see a disc about 50 feet wide landing in the field and supported by three legs with spheres on the end that pierce the ground. Penteadó goes closer to investigate and sees two beings about 4 feet tall leave the UFO wearing green coveralls. They seem to float along the ground and take a vessel from under the craft. One of them is carrying something like a gun or flamethrower. They pass through a fence on the way to a river. After 10 minutes the beings return with the vessel apparently full of river water. The entity with the flamethrower shoots it at a jacaranda tree and a eucalyptus tree, damaging their trunks. They reenter the object via the dome, which takes off toward the city. Back at his barn, Penteadó notices that all his metallic tools are stacked in a cone, the birds are dead, his monkey is agitated, and his watch has stopped working. The same day, people observe a UFO over a hospital on the Avenida Julio Mesquita, where the object dumps two drops of liquid metal that falls in the street. The UFO goes so low that it hits the corner of a parked truck. An analysis of the metal by an unnamed organization (possibly the Brazilian Air Force) shows that the metal is high in magnesium. Penteadó later goes to the landing site and takes plaster casts of the footprints, which he sends to the Agronomy Institute of Campinas. (“[Caso do disco proximo de Campinas](#),” *Boletim SBEDV*, no. 14 (March 1, 1960): 1–3; Brazil 35–37)

1957, September 2 — After the Plumbbob Galileo nuclear shot at the Nevada Test Site, Army troops are tested to determine their psychological reactions to witnessing the nuclear detonation. (Wikipedia, “[Desert Rock exercises](#)”)

1957, September 4 — Four Portuguese jet fighter-bombers under the command of Capt. [José Lemos Ferreira](#) are flying at night at 24,600 feet between Ota, Portugal, and Granada, Spain. Near Granada they turn to head to Portalegre, Portugal. At this point, Ferreira notices a UFO like a bright star with a scintillating, colored nucleus that changes from deep green to blue. The object suddenly grows to 5 or 6 times its original size, then shrinks to a barely visible yellow point. These changes repeat several times, possibly due to changes in position. The UFO maintains

its position 90° to the left of the squadron. Suddenly a small circle of yellow light emerges from the object and three smaller yellow objects appear, maneuver, then disappear. (NICAP, "[Portuguese Air Force Jets Have 40-Min. Encounter / E-M](#)"; "[Portuguese Pilots Meet Saucers](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 2 (March/April 1958): 7; Marciano Alves, "[Air Force Pilots Spend 40 Minutes with Saucers](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 3 (May/June 1958): 2–3; Good Above, pp. 147–148; Kean, p. 50)

- 1957**, September 12 — NORAD's command headquarters is established at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Canada and the United States agree that the NORAD commander will always be a US officer, with a Canadian vice commander, and Canada "agreed the command's primary purpose would be...early warning and defense for SAC's retaliatory forces." Every continental US military radar UFO case in the Blue Book files from now on is a NORAD case because the subordinate USAF Air Defense Command belongs to NORAD. (Clark III 801; Wikipedia, "[North American Aerospace Defense Command](#)")
- 1957**, September 16 — ATIC briefs [Howard P. Robertson](#), now chairman of the Defense Science Board, on Project Blue Book, presumably because he wants to find out how the Air Force is implementing the recommendations of the 1953 Robertson Panel. The briefing book (including *Special Report no. 14* as well as reports on [Keyhoe](#) and the *UFO* movie) is delivered by the Pentagon's Maj. James F. Byrne. (Swords 265–266)
- 1957**, September 19 — The Plumbbob Rainier nuclear shot at the Nevada Test Site is the first fully contained underground nuclear test, meaning that no fission products are vented into the atmosphere. This test of 1.7 kilotons can be detected around the world by seismologists using ordinary seismic instruments. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Plumbbob](#)")
- 1957**, September 20 — 3:05 p.m. A national defense alert is called when the first of two or three supersonic objects, varying in speed for the next 30 minutes from 800 to 12,000 mph and varying in altitude from 50,000 to 135,000 feet, is picked up over the Atlantic by NORAD radar at Montauk, New York. A second (or same) UFO heads straight toward SAC headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska, in what is perceived as a threat trajectory potentially aiming for a nuclear knockout kill of the entire US nuclear force. At 3:10 p.m., interception is attempted by two F-102 jets from Kinross AFB [now Chippewa County International Airport] south of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and later from Truax AFB [now Truax Field Air National Guard Base] northeast of Madison, Wisconsin. At 3:24 p.m., another UFO joins the first on a similar trajectory 150 miles behind. It passes over Ontario, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. The UFO sends radio replies to IFF interrogation signals, on different frequencies, confirming its location on the radar plots and making it impossible to explain as a malfunction or interference. Interception is impossible at these speeds and altitudes. SAC goes on high alert and apparently launches nuclear bombers toward Russia, but the alert is called off when the UFOs disappear. NORAD triggers a White House alert. High-level meetings of CIA and USAF intelligence, and the Intelligence Advisory Committee meet in executive session. The CIA Director of the Office of Scientific Intelligence, [Herbert Scoville Jr.](#), suggests that the object might be a maneuverable Soviet cruise missile, but that is not yet in the Soviet inventory. President [Eisenhower](#) is briefed multiple times. One year later, NORAD still cannot identify any malfunction that could possibly make the radar targets agree with the IFF signals. (NICAP, "[Multiple Radars Track 4,500 MPH Target](#)"; [memo], R. Roach to A. H. Belmont, "[Unidentified Flying Object Reported on September 20, 1957; Intelligence Advisory Committee / Watch Committee](#)," September 24, 1957; Clark III 802–804, 814–824; [Sparks](#), pp. 249–250; Swords 266–267; Brad Sparks, "[NORAD National Air Defense UFO Alert, Sept. 20, 1957](#)," christophermellon.net, May 2, 2023)
- 1957**, September 29 — 4:20 p.m. A nuclear waste storage tank explodes spontaneously at the Mayak plutonium production site (Chelyabinsk-40) for nuclear weapons and fuel reprocessing at Ozyorsk, Chelyabinsk Oblast, Russia. It launches a kilometer-tall pillar of dust and smoke into the sky. Gray radioactive ash and debris settles over the industrial zone. There are no immediate fatalities, though up to 200+ additional cancer deaths perhaps ensue from the radioactive contamination of some 20,000 square miles; 270,000 people are exposed to dangerous radiation levels. Over 30 small communities are removed from Soviet maps between 1958 and 1991. (Wikipedia, "[Kyshtym disaster](#)"; John Greenewald, "[Declassified NRC Document Sheds Light on Kyshtym Nuclear Explosion](#)," The Black Vault, June 24, 2024)
- 1957**, October — [Leonard H. Stringfield](#) privately publishes *Inside Saucer Post...3-0 Blue* that summarizes his early years as a UFO investigator and as director of Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects. (Leonard H. Stringfield, *Inside Saucer Post...3-0 Blue*, The Author, 1957)
- 1957**, October — 10:00 p.m. Mrs. James Masterson and her sister Bernice Childers while driving see a reddish-orange disc, 30 feet in diameter, just above the treetops in Allen Park, Michigan. They chase it for a block or two before it streaks off. One of the women sees two figures wearing white Navy uniforms in a window on the lower section. (Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1957](#), p. 17; Clark III 268)

- 1957**, October 1 — 11:10 a.m. Three witnesses in Santa Barbara, California, including H. F. Hoag from Victoria, British Columbia, are watching a jet's vapor trail from La Mesa Park when they see a red object, approximately 100 feet in diameter, speed by. The object is silent and traverses a 90° arc of the sky in about 15 seconds. At the same time, the witnesses can also see the jet plane over Carpinteria to the east. On October 2, a 6:00 p.m. broadcast on Radio Station WATE reports that an Air Force jet interceptor had detected a UFO on its radar and pursued it. When the UFO comes into visual range, the pilot sees a circular object roughly the size of a B-29 bomber. Within seconds, the UFO accelerates away at an estimated speed of over 1,800 mph. ("[Flying Object' Seen by Victoria Visitor](#)," *Santa Barbara (Calif.) News-Press*, October 1, 1957, p. A-2; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History, 1957, October 1st–November 2nd](#), The Author, 1997, p. 2)
- 1957**, October 1 — The initial issue of NICAP's newsletter, the *UFO Investigator*, comes under scrutiny and criticism from Air Force officials through Capt. [George T. Gregory](#). Demonstrating a lack of regard for the potential value in studying the UFO phenomenon, an official letter condemns [Keyhoe](#)-led NICAP's motives, characterizing the organization as an "instrument of rabble rousing and agitation." This viewpoint is contained in a briefing given to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History, 1957, October 1st–November 2nd](#), The Author, 1997, pp. 2, 4)
- 1957**, October 1 — 7:00 p.m. John Karcher, a former city councilman and farm owner, is outside Rochester, Pennsylvania, with his friend, Lee Plunkett, when they notice something unusual approaching from the west, flying at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. It is a luminous, torpedo-shaped object, estimated to be 200 feet long. Its top half is green, the bottom half reddish-orange, with a strip of yellow separating the two colors. The object is moving around 15 mph. Karcher grabs a pair of binoculars and calls some neighbors, a Mrs. Norderbugger and her daughter and son-in-law. The three of them also observe the object as it continues on a steady course southward, towards the Shippingport Atomic Power Station on the Ohio River. Karcher sees no further details through the binoculars and thinks the sighting is over when the UFO moves out of view. However, the object reappears after a few minutes, retracing its path. Karcher speculates that the object has made a U-turn over the nuclear facility, given its speed and the distance it traveled. ("County 'Whatnik' Report Is Probed," *Beaver Valley Times* (Aliquippa, Pa.), November 8, 1957; NICAP, "[Torpedo' Circles Atomic Plant](#)"; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History, 1957, October 1st–November 2nd](#), The Author, 1997, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History, 1957, October 1st–November 2nd, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2003, pp. 1–3)
- 1957**, October 4 — The USSR launches the first artificial earth satellite, [Sputnik 1](#), which transmits radio pulses for 21 days. Some 4% of Americans claim to have seen Sputnik in orbit. However, what most are actually seeing is the 100-foot-long R-7 rocket core stage, outfitted with reflective panels that make it a first magnitude object, trailing 600 miles behind the 22-inch satellite until October 26 when the batteries run out. The satellite is barely visible at sixth magnitude. (Wikipedia, "[Sputnik 1](#)"; C. C. Furnas, "[Why Did U.S. Lose the Race? Critics Speak Up](#)," *Life* 43, no. 7 (October 21, 1957): 22–24; Walter N. Webb, "[Allen Hynek As I Knew Him](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 7; Graff 127–128)
- 1957**, October 4 — 10:00 a.m. A tadpole-like UFO is seen at Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture, Japan. Afterwards, material like spider web falls in great profusion around Saguramachi Middle School for about 2 hours. Chemical analysis reveals that it is organic, dissolvable in hydrochloric acid, and burns. The crystal structure is different from spider web. ("[Angel Hair](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1958): 21; Robert N. Webster, "Things That Fall from UFO's," *Fate* 11, no. 10 (October 1958): 26; George M. Eberhart, "[Postcards with a UFO Theme](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 21; Brian Boldman, "[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#)," *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 103; Clark III 124–125)
- 1957**, October 5 — 11:00 p.m. [Antonio Vilas-Boas](#) gets up from bed on his family's farm near São Francisco de Sales, Minas Gerais, Brazil, to open a window and notices a silvery reflection over the corral. After a short time, it moves towards the window. He and his brother watch as an object approaches and lights up the room. It disappears. (Clark III 1226)
- 1957**, October 6 — 4:15 p.m. Amateur astronomer [Earl Sydow](#) spots a bright object with the magnitude of the planet Venus through his telescope over Tucson, Arizona. Six other observers also watch the object, which measures approximately 3 minutes in diameter along its major axis and 1 minute along its minor axis. Smaller flat-white or silver-white objects, as many as 6–10, seem to emerge from the primary object as observations continue. The smaller objects are apparently short traces of light at some times and semi-wedge-shaped at other times. The smaller objects disappear from the field of the telescope until only the original object is visible, and it disappears as if moving directly away. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 80)
- 1957**, October 8 — Day. Four Fijians in a punt with an outboard motor off Nabouwalu, Viti Levu, Fiji, see a white, circular object, which is hovering about 20 feet above the ocean. They approach it. It appears to be revolving, and

they can see the figure of a man standing on the outside. The figure shines a blinding light at their boat, which makes them feel dazed and weak. As they draw closer, the figure disappears and the object rises rapidly upward, disappearing straight up. R. O. Aveling, an official of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, sees a similar object at the same time but at a different location. It is hovering at about 5,000 feet and swinging in a balloon-like fashion. Its color varies from bright white to deep, flashing red. (*New Zealand Herald*, October 21, 1957; “[Fiji Reports Sighting Object Like Texas Saucer](#),” *Honolulu (Hawaii) Advertiser*, November 5, 1957, p. 1; “[Strange Object Seen in South Pacific Skies](#),” *Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram*, November 5, 1957, p. 3; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 81; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History, 1957, October 1st–November 2nd*, The Author, 1997, p. 19; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), February 16, 2007; Bill Chalker, “[The Great USO Show of Oz](#),” *TheOzFiles*, August 26, 2022)

1957, October 9 — Evening. Fire ignites Windscale Pile Number One, an air-cooled, graphite-moderated, uranium-fueled reactor used for plutonium and isotope production at the Windscale facility [now Sellafield] in Cumbria, England. It burns for three days, and there is a release of radioactive iodine that spreads across the UK, contaminating surrounding dairy farms, as well as the rest of Europe. (Wikipedia, “[Windscale fire](#)”)

1957, October 9 — Night. Radio station CKOV in Kelowna, British Columbia, after reports on Sputnik, rebroadcasts [Orson Welles](#)’s 1938 *War of the Worlds* radio drama. Some 60 phone calls come in from listeners who think that Russians have landed in North America. (“[Welles, ‘Moon,’ Terrify Town](#),” *Windsor (Ont.) Star*, October 10, 1957, p. 28)

1957, October 9 — 7:24 p.m. The tower operator at Naval Air Station South Weymouth [now the Shea Field Naval Aviation Historical Museum], Massachusetts, sights a constant, conical, greenish-blue object with a phosphorescent glow through binoculars. In sight approximately 90 seconds, the observer sees no navigation lights. It is traveling faster than a jet plane on a track from northeast to south-southwest. The object comes out of the horizon and toward the end of its path makes three “crazy” gyrations then vanishes, possibly behind cloud cover. The object has no trail like a meteor. (Walter N. Webb, “[Allen Hynek As I Knew Him](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 7)

1957, October 10 — 4:00 a.m. A huge fireball plunges from the sky near Myton, Utah, just missing a US Navy DC-6 transport plane out of NAS Alameda [now closed], California, with 36 persons aboard. Pilot Lt. Cmdr. W. F. Norris reports the incident to Salt Lake City Airport. (“[Big Fireball Perils Plane](#),” *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*, October 10, 1957, p. 1)

1957, October 10 — The coffee truck driven by Miguel Espanhol Navarrete and his driver stalls northwest of Ceres near Quebra Coco, Goiás, Brazil, as a UFO lands nearby. They see an intense light as they begin a steep ascent, and then realize that the flying object appears to be more than 600 feet long. It lights up the entire area, even though it is gliding at a great height. The driver panics and tries to speed away, but the truck’s engine stalls as the object approaches and flies over the vehicle about 130 feet away. The object is about 3 feet in diameter by 40 inches high and is unevenly oval, with the upper section greater than the lower section. It looks like two superimposed plates separated by a strip 65 feet thick. When it is at an altitude of 20 feet, the UFO stops in the air and its light goes out. It lands, a door opens, and seven apparently human people come out dressed in luminous suits. Then the crew reenters the UFO and takes off, stopping at about 1,650 feet altitude. At that moment a smaller object detaches itself from the larger one and flies north. The larger object follows in a southeasterly direction. Navarrete is interviewed by Judge Gabriel Barbosa de Andrade, then-Secretary of the Interior and justice of the State of Goiás; Joaquim Neves Pereira; and Antenor Gomes, then-Secretary of Public Security for Goiás. (Lorenzen, *Occupants*, Signet, 1967, pp. 192–193; Clark III 230; “[Caso Ceres](#),” *Portal Fenomenum*, June 15, 2016; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), October 17, 2006; Brazil 40–41)

1957, October 12 — 9:15 p.m. Many witnesses see a luminous oval object pass over Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, at great speed. The same or a similar object is seen at Coro at 9:25 p.m. and at Trujillo at 12:00 midnight. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 82)

1957, October 14 — 7:00 p.m. The Naval Air Station North Island tower in San Diego, California, directs a Navy S2F-1 Tracker anti-submarine aircraft toward a bright light over Point Loma. The aircraft, piloted by Lt. [Allen L. Ries](#), tracks the UFO on airborne radar at some points suddenly moving at 1,700 mph average speed (3,500 mph at peak) and 1,100 mph average relative to the aircraft’s (peak 2,200 mph). Radar indicates the object is about 12 miles ahead. After 3 minutes the aircraft loses the object visually and on radar. Blue Book explains this as the star Arcturus, which is in the wrong direction in the sky, then changes the explanation to a balloon. (NICAP, [Blue Book documents](#)); Clark III 389–390)

1957, October 14 — Around 9:30 p.m. [Antonio Vilas-Boas](#) and another brother are plowing and see a bright object hovering 300 feet in the air. He approaches it, but it evades him and disappears. (Clark III 1226–1227)

- 1957**, October 15 — Afternoon. Robert Moudy sees a glowing object hovering above his combine in Franklin County, Indiana, at about 1,500 feet. It appears to be silver and platter-shaped, perhaps 12 feet in diameter, with a pink flame coming from its base. It makes a loud whirring noise as it hovers. When it starts ascending at a 22° angle, its color changes from pink to light blue and the combine stops working. He notices two stalled cars on a nearby road. ([“Indiana Farmer Says ‘Whatsit’ Was Overhead,”](#) *Indianapolis News*, November 5, 1957, p. 17)
- 1957**, October 16 — 1:00 a.m. [Antonio Vilas-Boas](#) is plowing alone near São Francisco de Sales, Minas Gerais, Brazil, when a red, egg-shaped object appears above him. His tractor motor and lights fail. It lands nearby and something grabs him as he tries to run away. Three small figures bring him into the object, where he is subjected to tests and made to have sex twice with a short, odd-looking woman with seemingly bleached hair, slanted eyes, and a pointed chin. Afterwards, she points to her belly then points to the sky. Then he is given a tour of the craft and taken outside again around 5:30 a.m. ([“The A.V.B. Contact Case,”](#) *Boletim SBEDV*, no. 26/27 (Apr./July 1962): 7–9; Gordon Creighton, [“The Most Amazing Case of All, Part 1: A Brazilian Farmer’s Story,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1965): 13–17; Gordon Creighton, [“The Most Amazing Case of All, Part 2: Analysis of the Brazilian Farmer’s Story,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1965): 5–8; Gordon Creighton, [“Postscript to the Most Amazing Case of All,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1965): 24–26; Gordon Creighton, [“Even More Amazing...: Further Light on the A.V.B. Case,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 12, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1966): 23–27; Gordon Creighton, [“Even More Amazing...Part 2: The A.V.B. Case Continued,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1966): 22–25; Gordon Creighton, [“Even More Amazing...Part III,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 12, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1966): 14–16; Gordon Creighton, [“Even More Amazing...Part IV,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 13, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1967): 25–27; Olavo T. Fontes, [“Even More Amazing...Part V,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 13, no. 3 (May/June 1967): 22–25; Gordon Creighton, [“Even More Amazing...Part VI: The Medical Report,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 14, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1968): 18–20; Lorenzen, *Occupants*, Signet, 1967, pp. 42–72; [“Brazil: New Light on a Sexual Abduction,”](#) *IUR/Probe*, Sept. 1980, p. 79; Kim Hansen, “UFO Casebook,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 56–59; Brazil 41–47; Clark III 1227–1229; Mark Cashman, [“Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants,”](#) *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 19; UFOEv II 526–528; Randle, 1973, pp. 36–41; [“Antonio Villas-Boas CE-IV Case of October 1957,”](#) *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; [“Antonio Villas Boas: Um dos maiores casos de abdução da ufologia,”](#) *ovnis&ufos insanos* YouTube channel, September 15, 2018; [“The Mysterious Case of Antonio Villas Boas That Can’t Be Explained,”](#) *Unexplained Mysteries* YouTube channel, October 9, 2019; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 273–274)
- 1957**, October 16 — Day. Nurse Ella Louise Fortune is driving north of Tularosa, New Mexico, when she sees a brilliant-white, elliptical object hovering in a deep-blue sky. It seems to have a faint exhaust trail at one edge. She stops her car and snaps a 35mm Kodachrome photo. Analysts generally agree this is a bright lenticular cloud with a trail of ice crystals. ([“UAO Photographed over Holloman Test Range,”](#) *APRO Bulletin*, May 1958, pp. 1, 7; John T. Hopf, [“Photographic Analysis of the Fortune Photo,”](#) *APRO Bulletin*, September 1958, p. 3; UFOEv, [p. 90](#); Story, [p. 140](#); Walter N. Webb, [“The Fortune Photo Revisited,”](#) *IUR* 18, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1993): 14–15; [“Gigantic Cigar-Shaped UFO Witnessed near Holloman Air Force Base, Discussed by Frank Edwards in 1958,”](#) *Eyes on Cinema* YouTube channel, December 30, 2023)
- 1957**, October 16 — Evening. Former Australian Air Marshal [George Jones](#) and his wife see a round object like a “flying balloon” moving silently at the speed of a jet over their home in Mentone, Victoria, Australia. It moves from south to north at an altitude of 1,000–1,500 feet. ([“Former Air Chief Describes ‘Flying Saucer,’”](#) *Canberra Times*, January 4, 1958, p. 3; George Jones, [“Former Air Chief Sees Saucers,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 3 (May/June 1958): 6)
- 1957**, October 17 — Groundbreaking ceremonies take place in Green Bank, West Virginia, for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory established by the National Science Foundation. In 1958, the land is set aside by the Federal Communications Commission as a National Radio Quiet Zone where no fixed transmitters are allowed within the area closest to the telescope. All other fixed radio transmitters including TV and radio towers inside the zone are required to transmit in such a way that interference at the antennas is minimized by using limited power and highly directional antennas. (Wikipedia, [“National Radio Astronomy Observatory”](#); Wikipedia, [“United States National Radio Quiet Zone”](#); Graham DuShane, [“Radio Astronomy at Green Bank,”](#) *Science* 126 (1957): 955)
- 1957**, October 21 — 9:18 p.m. Flying Officer D. W. Sweeney is flying a Meteor jet at 28,000 feet on a training exercise from RAF North Luffenham [now St. George’s Barracks] when he nearly collides with an unidentified object over RAF Gaydon [now closed], North Warwickshire, England. After taking evasive action, Sweeney tries to approach the object, whereupon its six lights go out and it disappears. The UFO is tracked on radar at RAF Langtoft [now closed] in South Kesteven. ([“UFO over British A-Bomber Base: Air Ministry Baffled,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1958): 6; Good Above, [pp. 50–51](#); Powell, *Scientist*, 24–25)

- 1957**, October 22 — The US Continental Army Command sends a memo to the Army Chief of Research and Development indicating its interest in the flying saucer concept and requesting initiation of a feasibility study of a “manned flying saucer.” (Richard P. Weinert, *History of Army Aviation, 1950–1962*, US Army Training and Doctrine Command, November 1976, [pp. 220–221](#))
- 1957**, October 25 — On a farm near Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a housekeeper (pseudonym = Anazia Maria) is taking care of a family member who is dying of stomach cancer. She claims that two diminutive, long-haired beings emerge from a landed UFO, come inside the house, examine the girl for an hour with a device that looks like a flashlight, communicate telepathically to the family, cure the girl, and leave behind some medication to give her. (Olavo T. Fontes, “[Dying Girl Saved by Humanoid Surgeons](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 13, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1967): 5–6)
- 1957**, October 30 — 9:00 p.m. Hugh Pulju and Shirley Moyer are driving 10 miles north of Casper, Wyoming, when a round, shiny object appears in the road about 250 feet ahead. Pulju tries to turn around, but the engine keeps stalling. It works well once he reaches a main highway. (“[‘Mystery Object’ Is Reported Here](#),” *Casper (Wyo.) Tribune-Herald*, November 5, 1957, p. 1; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 237–238; [Schopick](#), p. 24)
- 1957**, October 31 — [Keyhoe](#) meets with Rep. [James C. Healey](#) again, who tells him the Air Force has “made a strong attempt to disprove your claims.” (Keyhoe, *FSTS*, p. 113)
- 1957**, October 31 — A businessman and his wife at Longchaumois, Jura, France, see a large lighted object with openings. It hovers close to the ground and takes off with a great increase in brightness, silently, at high speed. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, October 1st–November 2nd](#), The Author, 1997, p. 83)
- 1957**, October 31 — 8:00 p.m. Barbara Jean Stokes, her husband Paul, and another couple are driving in Lumberton, North Carolina, when they spot an object about 200 feet long in the sky. Suddenly the object rises straight up and flames. As this happens, the car stalls until the object disappears a few seconds later. (“[Woman Says She Saw Ball of Fire on Road](#),” *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, November 5, 1957, p. 1)
- 1957**, Late October — Late one afternoon, a British RAF team is planning to return home from the Maralinga, South Australia, nuclear test site where the Operation Antler series of blasts have occurred (September 14, 25, October 9). They go outside and see a silvery-blue, metallic UFO with a flat base and a dome on top. Several squarish portholes are visible around the center. The object tilts at 45° and hovers. After 15 minutes, the UFO shoots up out of sight without a sound. One of the witnesses is Derek Murray, later a Home Office photographer. (Bill Chalker, “[The UFO Connection: Startling Implications for Australia’s North West Cape, and for Australia’s Security](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 31, no. 5 (July 1986): 18–19; Jenny Randles, *UFO Conspiracy*, Cassell, 1987, [pp. 94–95](#); Good Above, [p. 163](#))
- 1957**, November — Lt. Gen. [John A. Samford](#) succeeds Maj. Gen. [Ralph Canine](#) as director of the National Security Agency.
- 1957**, November — [Gene Duplantier](#) launches the quarterly magazine *Saucers, Space, and Science* in Willowdale, Ontario. It continues through 1972. (*Saucers, Space & Science*, no. 1 (November 1957))
- 1957**, November 1 — 9:15 a.m. More than 50 workers at the Luipaardsvlei mine near Krugersdorp, Gauteng, South Africa, watch two UFOs hanging motionless in the air at a great height until the afternoon. A Sabre jet from the South African Air Force is sent up to investigate. It climbs to 45,000 feet, but the objects are still above it. One of the witnesses is Maj. G. Ogilvie-Watson, from an ACF squadron at Pretoria. They move off at great speed. (“[Jet Unable to Reach UFO](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1958): 2; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, October 1st–November 2nd](#), The Author, 1997, p. 85)
- 1957**, November 2 — 3:30 a.m. Three miles west of Canadian, Texas, S/Sgt. [Alfred A. Calvin](#) and a civilian witness see a submarine-shaped object, red and white, about 40–60 feet long and about 10 feet high, at ground level. A figure is near the object holding a white flag. When he stops the car, a flash of light from the object coincides with the sudden failure of the headlights. (NICAP, “[Submarine-Shaped UFO, Entity, E-M Case](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 253; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 11–12)
- 1957**, November 2 — 8:30 p.m. A witness is driving between Seminole and Seagraves, Texas, on US Highway 62 when he sees lights on the road ahead. As he approaches them, his headlights go out and his engine dies. A few seconds later, the lights rise into the air and disappear. (*Hobbs (N.Mex.) News-Sun*, November 5, 1957; [Schopick](#), p. 25)
- 1957**, November 2 — 10:50 p.m. Farmhand and veteran [Pedro Saucedo](#) and Joe Salaz are driving four miles west of Levelland, Texas, on Route 116 [now 114] south of Pettit (near its intersection with Five Mile Road). They see a flash of light to the right of the road. Then a 200-foot-long, 6-foot-wide blue rocket-shaped object, with yellow flame and white smoke coming from the rear, rises up out of the field, heads straight toward their truck, passes directly overhead at about 200 feet with a loud thundering roar, a rush of wind, and great heat. Their truck engine

dies and the headlights to go out. The UFO disappears in the east towards Levelland. The lights come back on spontaneously and the engine restarts. A frightened Saucedo calls the occurrence in to Patrolman A. J. Fowler of the Levelland sheriff's office. At Pettit, Texas, the same night, two grain combines, each with two engines, fail as a UFO passes overhead. The Air Force calls the Levelland sightings ball lightning or St. Elmo's fire, even though there are no electrical storms in the area. [Donald Menzel](#) calls it a mirage. (Wikipedia, "[Levelland UFO case](#)"; NICAP, "[The Levelland Sightings / Saucedo](#)"; "[Flying 'Fiery Object' Seen](#)," *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, November 3, 1957, pp. 1, 14; "[Many West Texans See Mystery Flying Object](#)," *Abilene (Tex.) Reporter-News*, November 4, 1957, p. 1; "[Levelland 'Flaming Thing' Brings World Knocking at City's Door](#)," *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, November 4, 1957, pp. 1, 10; "[Whatnik Sidelines Sputnik, Woofnik](#)," *Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram*, November 4, 1957, pp. 1–2; "[The Levelland Case](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, November 1957, p. 1; "[Did the Air Force Deceive the Public about the November Sightings?](#)" *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 3 (January 1958): 1, 3; [Schopick](#), pp. 26–27, 32; Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 174–176; UFOEv, [p. 168](#); J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 141–142](#), [146–147](#); [Sparks](#), p. 253; Walter N. Webb, "[Allen Hynek As I Knew Him](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 8; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History, 1957, November 3rd–5th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 1–13; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, [pp. 67–70](#); "[Levelland 1957](#)," Texas UFO Museum & Research Library, March 15, 2002; Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 4; Antonio F. Rullán, "[The Southwestern UFO Wave of 1957](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 3 (October 2007): 8–15, 22; Clark III 683–684; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 12–16, 43–55, 128–136, 150–152, 215–217, 234; Powell, *Scientist*, 41–42)

- 1957**, November 2 — 11:55 p.m. Two married couples driving near Shallowater, Texas, see a flash of orange light in the southwestern sky. The headlights and radio of their car fail for three seconds as they see the light. The car motor is not affected. (Mark Rodeghier, [UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference](#), CUFOS, 1981, p. 9; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 16, 220–221)
- 1957**, November 2 — About midnight. José Alvarez is driving along Route 51 in Whitharral, Texas, when he comes across a 200-foot-long object sitting in the road. His car engine stops as he approaches, and the headlights go out. At that point, the object rises quickly into the air. (UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 27–28; Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 4; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, p. 19)
- 1957**, November 2 — About midnight. Jim Wheeler sees a 200-foot-long, egg-shaped, brightly lit object on Route 114 four miles east of Levelland, Texas. As he gets close to it, his engine and lights cease functioning. He gets out of his car as the light ascends; its lights blink out, and his engine and lights resume functioning. (UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), p. 27; Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 4; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 17–18)
- 1957**, November 3 — 12:05 a.m. Texas Tech college student Newell H. Wright is driving west one mile west of Smyer, Texas, when the ammeter gauge on his car dashboard starts fluctuating widely. The car motor gradually goes out then the headlights and radio die. He gets out to check and sees a white or aluminum-colored, oval-shaped object flat on the bottom like a loaf of bread, with a bluish-green tint, about 75–125 feet long. After a few minutes, the object suddenly rises up from the road ahead and ascends almost vertically at great speed slightly to the north, disappearing in seconds. Afterward the car can start again. (NICAP, "[Oval-Shaped Object & EME on Ammeter](#)"; "[Many West Texans See Mystery Flying Object](#)," *Abilene (Tex.) Reporter-News*, November 4, 1957, p. 1; UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 28–29; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [p. 143](#); [Sparks](#), p. 254; Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 4; Swords 253–256; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 16–17, 212–214)
- 1957**, November 3 — 12:15 a.m. Frank Williams, a farmer, is near Whitharral, Texas, when he encounters an object described as an egg sitting on the crossroads. The UFO pulsates steadily; each time it glows bright, the car's power goes on and off. The object leaves with a thunderous sound. ("[Whatnik Sidelines Sputnik, Woofnik](#)," *Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram*, November 4, 1957, pp. 1–2; "[Levelland 'Flaming Thing' Brings World Knocking at City's Door](#)," *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, November 4, 1957, pp. 1, 10; UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 29–30; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 143–144](#); Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 4; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, p. 17)
- 1957**, November 3 — 12:45 a.m. Ronald Martin is on Highway 116 near Smyer, Texas, when he sees a glowing red UFO land ahead of his truck, then turn to bluish-green. The truck's electrical system fails. When the UFO takes off, it turns reddish again. ("[Many West Texans See Mystery Flying Object](#)," *Abilene (Tex.) Reporter-News*, November 4, 1957, p. 1; "[Levelland 'Flaming Thing' Brings World Knocking at City's Door](#)," *Lubbock (Tex.) Morning Avalanche*, November 4, 1957, pp. 1, 10; UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 30–31; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO*

- Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [p. 144](#); Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 4; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 18–19)
- 1957**, November 3 — Around 1:00 a.m. Levelland (Texas) Fire Marshall Ray Jones, while out driving around and looking for some explanation of the many UFO reports, sees a "streak of light" north of the Oklahoma Flat. His headlights dim and engine sputters as he sees the light. (UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), p. 32; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 145–146](#)); Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, p. 21)
- 1957**, November 3 — 1:15 a.m. James D. Long is 5 miles northwest of Levelland, Texas, on a farm-to-market road. He reports a bright object that is egg or oval-shaped, about 200 feet long, 200 feet away, sitting in the road. He hears a "thunderclap." The car's lights and motor quit. The object rises quickly and speeds away. ("[Flying 'Fiery Object' Seen](#)," *Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal*, November 3, 1957, pp. 1, 14; UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), p. 31; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 144–145](#); Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, p. 19)
- 1957**, November 3 — 1:30 a.m. Near the same spot as James Long, Hockley County (Texas) Sheriff [Weir Clem](#) and Pat McCullough see a flash of light "like a brilliant red sunset" 300–400 yards to the south of them, lighting up the pavement. (UFOEv, [p. 168](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 31–32; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [pp. 145–146](#); Donald R. Burleson, "[Levelland, Texas, 1957: Case Reopened](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 4; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 19–21, 170–181, 218–219)
- 1957**, November 3 — About 3:00 a.m. Two MPs at White Sands Missile Test Range, New Mexico, Cpl. Glenn H. Toy and Pfc. James E. Wilbanks, are making rounds in their jeep when they notice a bright object high in the sky. It drops down to about 150 feet and the light goes out. A few minutes later the light goes on again and it drops to the ground in a bunker area 3 miles away and goes out. The UFO is egg-shaped and about 225–300 feet in diameter. (NICAP, "[Three MPs Report Object over White Sands Base](#)"; [Schopick](#), pp. 37–38; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 3rd–5th*, The Author, 1997, p. 6; UFOEv, [p. 169](#); [Sparks](#), p. 254; [Swords](#) 259; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 23–27)
- 1957**, November 3 — 7:00 p.m. Edna Ireland is driving with two friends near Sibbald, Alberta, when a blinking light appears in the sky and passes nearly above the car toward the northwest. Their engine coughs and the headlights flicker. ("Satellites Apparently Not Lonely Way Up There," *Winnipeg (Man.) Tribune*, November 7, 1957, p. 12; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 239; [Schopick](#), pp. 42–43)
- 1957**, November 3 — 8:00 p.m. Army Specialist 3rd Class [Henry R. Barlow](#) and Specialist 3rd Class Forest R. Oakes, Army Garrison Detachment 5, are in a jeep patrol driving west near the site of the first A-bomb explosion, Trinity Site, in White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico. They see a pulsating red light that turns to white, possibly 200–300 feet in size and 4–5 miles away. It brightens and dims then sometimes goes out, rising in the sky from the ground or from about 50 feet over the bunker up to about 45° elevation until it looks like a star or point source. They watch it for 25 minutes before it disappears. Possibly Venus in the southwest, which sets at about 8:30 p.m. ([Sparks](#), p. 254; [Schopick](#), p. 38; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 27–31)
- 1957**, November 3 — The USSR launches [Sputnik 2](#) carrying Laika the dog. (Wikipedia, "[Sputnik 2](#)")
- 1957**, November 4 — Portuguese Air Force Capt. Lenos Ferreira is conducting a training mission at the head of three jet fighters over Grenada, Spain, when he observes a luminous object changing color from an intense green to bright red. The object maintains a constant altitude while oscillating. Ferreira orders a change of course toward Córdoba, but the object follows his group for 40 minutes, dropping four smaller objects that also accompany the jets. Suddenly the objects go into a dive and disappear. (Patrick Gross, "[UFO Chasing Jet Fighter Squadron, Lisbon, 1957](#)")
- 1957**, November 4 — After 12:00 midnight. A young couple are returning to Amarillo, Texas, from Palo Duro Canyon when they see a glowing object in the middle of the road, surrounded by fog. As they drive closer and enter the fog, the car engine and battery die. Another car has to push them into town to get the battery recharged. (*Amarillo (Tex.) Daily News*, November 4, 1957; [Schopick](#), pp. 43–44)
- 1957**, November 4 — 1:30 a.m. Chief Pilot Captain Jean Vincent de Beyssac and his copilot are flying a Varig Airlines C-46 cargo plane from Porto Alegre to São Paulo, Brazil. They are near Araranguá, Santa Catarina, when de Beyssac notices a red light on his left. It seems to be getting bigger, so he banks towards it out of curiosity. The light gets much bigger then begins to glow more brilliantly. The pilot and copilot smell smoke and, as they are looking for the source, the light disappears. De Beyssac returns to Porto Alegre. It turns out that the right engine's magneto (or generator), automatic direction finder, and the radio (both receiver and transmitter) have burnt out, allegedly simultaneously. (NICAP, "[Aircraft Encounters UFO / ADF, etc. Affected](#)"; Olavo T. Fontes, "[Top Secret Report Unveiled](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, September 1959, pp. 5–6; Lorenzen, *FS Hoax*, [p. 155](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 126–127; Patrick Gross, "[UFO / Aircraft Close Encounter in Brazil, 1957](#)")
- 1957**, November 4 — 2:00 a.m. Two sentries at the Fortaleza de Itaipu in Praia Grande, São Paulo, Brazil, watch an orange object approaching the fort. It holds its course until it is directly above them. Its diameter is at least as

large as the wingspan of a DC-3 and scarcely 300 feet away. Suddenly there is a strange buzzing noise and the men feel a wave of glowing heat. One of them collapses on the spot, but the other succeeds in reaching safety in the shadow of the gun emplacements. His shouts of alarm rouse his comrades inside the fort, where the lights suddenly go out. In the meantime, the emergency power is switched on but immediately gives out. Only a few minutes after the alarm, two other men are out of the fort and at their sides. They too see the UFO, which is now heading out to sea. It leaves a luminous trail as it shoots away across the Atlantic. The two sentries are taken to a hospital in Rio de Janeiro. They suffer second and third-degree burns on large areas of their body, chiefly in areas covered by clothing. Afterwards, Brazilian Army and USAF personnel, along with investigators of the Brazilian Air Force, fly to the fort to interview them. There is some reason to think that [Olavo T. Fontes](#) made this case up, as no first-hand witnesses to the event have come forward. (NICAP, "[Fort Itaipu Incident](#)"; Wikipedia, "[Caso do Forte de Itaipu](#)"; Olavo T. Fontes, "[Top Secret Report Unveiled](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, September 1959, pp. 6–7; Jules Lemaître, "[A Strange Story from Brazil](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 6, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1960): 9–11; [Schopick](#), pp. 135–140; Kevin D. Randle, "[Fort Itaipu and Footnotes](#)," *A Different Perspective*, October 12, 2014; Kevin D. Randle, "[Fort Itaipu and Olavo Fontes Revisited](#)," *A Different Perspective*, June 15, 2016; Clark 537)

- 1957**, November 4 — 3:12 a.m. At Elmwood Park, Illinois, three policemen (Clifford Shaw, [Joseph Lukasek](#), and Dan Digiovanni) see a bright cigar-shaped object in the sky. The headlights and spotlight on the squad car dim. The car chases the UFO for a mile and a half, which dips and rises before speeding off. Fireman Bob Volz also sees a reddish-orange UFO about the same time. (NICAP, "[Bright Cylinder Chased by Police, E-M Effects](#)"; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 239; Keyhoe, *FSTS*, p. 117; [Schopick](#), pp. 90–91; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 3rd–5th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 22–27; [Sparks](#), p. 255; "[UFO Spotted over Elmwood Cemetery, Chased by Policemen Joe Lukasek and Clifford Shaw, Illinois, 1957](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, October 2023)
- 1957**, November 4 — 1:10 p.m. James W. Stokes, electronics technician at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, is driving on US Highway 54 about 8 miles south of Orogrande, New Mexico. The car radio fades, and the car slows as if the battery is failing. Stokes notices 6–12 cars ahead of him have also stopped and drivers are out looking at the sky (looking behind him to the northeast), including a Mr. Duncan and Allan D. Baker. Stokes stops and gets out, sees a pearl-white oval or egg-shaped object about 500 feet wide with a slight purplish tinge heading south at an estimated speed of 1,500–2,000 mph. It is below the elevation angle of the Sacramento Mountains ridgeline, descending from about 5,000 feet above ground level in a shallow dive to about 1,500–2,500 feet altitude as it swerves to pass to the south of Stokes and the other stopped cars. At its closest it is about 2–5 miles away. It then circles around headed west and disappears. The same or another object appears in the northeast (as if the object has completely circled) and performs the same rounded course but passing farther to the south of the parked cars and disappears in the west. Duncan takes a 35mm film of the object. Stokes notices a wave of heat from the object at closest approach. Later that evening he is sunburned, but it clears up the next day. The Air Force calls it a hoax based on the Levelland sightings. (NICAP, "[Stokes Incident](#)"; "[The New Mexico Story](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, November 1957, pp. 1–2; L. J. Lorenzen, "[The Stokes Case](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, January 1958, pp. 2, 6; UFOEv, [p. 169](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 39–42; [Sparks](#), p. 255; Swords 256–259; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 32–42, 228; Covert 43–44)
- 1957**, November 4 — 7:30 p.m. A Texas state border inspector is driving 3 miles southeast of El Paso Airport in Texas when his car engine stalls and the headlights go dim then out. He gets out and notices an object approaching that is making a whirring sound like an artillery shell. It passes above his car at about 150 feet, heading west and changing altitude occasionally. When it gets to the Franklin Mountains, it lifts into the air vertically. (NICAP, "[Egg-Shaped Object Stalls Car](#)"; *Hynek UFO Report*, [p. 181](#))
- 1957**, November 4 — 10:00 p.m. Jan Boucher, a policeman in Kodiak, Alaska, sees a red ball of fire with a greenish-yellow trail as he is patrolling on Mission Road. It apparently moves 50 feet above a nearby school. He tries to radio in a report but his radio gets interference for 2 minutes after the sighting. (*Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News*, November 7, 1957; [Schopick](#), pp. 89–90)
- 1957**, November 4 — 10:45 p.m. CAA air traffic controllers R. M. Kaser and E. G. Brink see a highly maneuverable 15–20-foot egg-shaped object with a white light at its base circle over one end of Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at 150–200 mph. It comes down in a steep 30° dive as if landing on Runway 26 to the north of the tower at about 1,500 feet. Radar tracks part of this maneuver. The object then crosses the flight line, runways, and taxiways heading towards the tower at about 50 mph and 20–30 feet above ground, observed through 7x binoculars until it reaches about 3,000 feet near the northeast corner of the flood-lit restricted Manzano Nuclear Weapons Storage Area and a B-58 bomber service site. It hovers for 20–60 seconds, then heads east again at about 200–300 feet altitude. Suddenly it shoots up in a steep climb. Controllers contact Radar Approach Control, which tracks the object on CPN-18 radar traveling east, then turning south, circling the Albuquerque Low

Frequency Range Station. It then heads north, disappearing at 10 miles and reappearing 20 minutes later to follow 1/2 mile behind a USAF C-46 that has just taken off to the south. It continues for 14 miles until both go off the scope. A hovering radar target then appears to the north over an outer marker for 90 seconds before fading. (Wikipedia, "[Kirtland AFB UFO sighting](#)"; NICAP, "[Kirtland UFO Incident / Radar Case](#)"; [Sparks](#), p. 256; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 87–90; Condon, pp. 141–143; 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. 34–38; James E. McDonald, "[The Kirtland Airfield UFO](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 16, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1970): 6–8; Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, eds., *UFO's: A Scientific Debate*, Cornell University, 1972, pp. xxiv–xxv; Swords 259–260)

- 1957**, November 5 — 5:10 a.m. The US Coast Guard Cutter [Sebago](#) (WHEC-42), Commander [Clarence H. Waring Jr.](#), cruising in the Gulf of Mexico about 200 miles south of Mobile, Alabama, tracks a radar target at a range of 22 miles moving at 650 mph. It disappears at 55 miles range. Three other unusual radar contacts are made in the next 10 minutes. A visual object like a brilliant planet is seen at 5:21 a.m. speeding north to south for five seconds by Ensign Wayne Schotley, Lt. Donald E. Shaffer, 1stClass Quartermaster Kenneth Smith, and radio operator Thomas Kirk. The Air Force ascribes it to confused radar operators who mistake ordinary plane blips for a UFO. (NICAP, "[The Coast Guard Cutter Sebago Case](#)"; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 3rd–5th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 50–51; Condon, pp. 165–167; [Sparks](#), p. 256; Swords 260–262)
- 1957**, November 5 — Late afternoon. Grain buyer [Reinhold O. Schmidt](#) is driving through the countryside near Kearney, Nebraska, when he notices a large, cigar-shaped object resting in a field. He is soon escorted inside the spaceship, which turns out to be crewed by completely human-looking space aliens, four males and two females, who apparently speak perfect German and claim to be from the planet Saturn. They also claim to be interested in the recently launched Russian sputniks and the satellite-launching plans of the US. Later Schmidt brings local police to view the landing site, where they find deep imprints and some "mysterious green residue." Schmidt also claims subsequent visits to the spaceship and many friendly conversations with its learned crew. Schmidt notices they drink MJB brand coffee, and also carry in their cigar-shaped craft an ordinary terrestrial MG sports car, which they use for running errands and buying groceries. (A schematic drawing of the ship's interior in Schmidt's later booklet depicts a Volkswagen Beetle.) Unlike most spaceships, the Saturnian ship has large propellers at both ends. Eventually Schmidt gets a ride up to earth orbit and a tour of the mother ship. On October 26, 1961, Schmidt is convicted in Oakland, California, for grand theft after bilking a widow out of \$5,000 for a worthless mining venture in Tulare County, where he claims to have seen huge quartz crystals from a spaceship. Judge [Donald K. Quayle](#) sentences him to 1–10 years in prison. (Clark III 1038–1039; Swords 262; Curt Collins, "[The Trial of a UFO Gold Digger](#)," *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, August 27, 2020)
- 1957**, November 5 — The Department of Defense Office of Public Affairs issues a new UFO fact sheet, emphasizing the high percentage of explained cases and the lack of a threat to national security. (UFOEv, p. 107; Swords 262)
- 1957**, November 5 — 6:30 p.m. Larry and Marilyn Beaman are driving near Antioch, Illinois, when they notice a ball of fire fluctuating from white to yellow pacing their car on the right side, about 1,000 feet up. It goes out for a time then switches back on. At its largest, it seems 30 feet in diameter. It follows them all the way to Ringwood and then lands in some trees behind a school building two blocks from where they live. It glitters like a welder's arc and makes a sound like water swishing. Beaman rounds up some other witnesses and goes back to the landing site, but the object takes off, changes to purple, and moves away to the southwest. TV sets in town dim, finally losing both picture and sound during the same time period. ("Ringwood Residents Scared by 'Thing,'" *Aurora (Ill.) Beacon-News*, November 7, 1957; [Schopick](#), pp. 104–109; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 3rd–5th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 76–78, 86)
- 1957**, November 5 — 8:43 p.m. A witness in Woodstock, Illinois, sees a large, red, triangular object with a green light in the front and a yellow light in the rear. It makes a low droning sound and moves west to east. Woodstock police officers and another individual in Genoa City see the same object. At 10:15 p.m., an amber or orange UFO 200 feet long is seen for 5 minutes at Delavan, Wisconsin. Project Blue Book claims it is an aurora or jet aircraft. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 3rd–5th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 86, 88; Marler [131–132](#))
- 1957**, November 5 — 9:30 p.m. Civil service employee Lon Yarborough is driving along US Highway 81 about 1.5 miles southwest of San Antonio, Texas, when he sees an extremely bright object settle down in a ravine about 600 feet from him. The egg-shaped object is approximately 60 foot long and causes the lights and engine of his car to fail. The object rests a few minutes and finally takes off to the northeast. (*San Antonio (Tex.) Light*, November 6, 1957; NICAP, "[60' Egg-Shaped Object Disables Auto](#)"; [Schopick](#), pp. 44–45)

- 1957**, November 5 — 11:00 p.m. Two young men see a red light north of US Highway 62 at a point 38 miles west of Hobbs, New Mexico. They watch for 9–10 minutes, thinking it is an oil flare, but the light suddenly rises straight up. After pacing their car for a few minutes, the light turns toward the car, passes over it, and hovers over the Permian Basin Pipeline plant. As it passes overhead, the car engine sputters, then dies, and the lights go out. After the men coast the car down the road, the motor restarts and they drive away. The battery is found to be dead the following morning and the dashboard clock is stopped. ([Schopick](#), pp. 45–47; Mark Rodeghier, [UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference](#), CUFOS, 1981, p. 12)
- 1957**, November 6 — Just after 12:00 midnight. A taxicab company owner, Joe Martinez, and one of his drivers, Alberto Gallegos, sees a UFO approach them in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They hear a humming sound as it comes close. The object is egg-shaped and multicolored. As it passes over their car, the engine stalls and the dashboard clock stops. The UFO then pulls up and moves rapidly into the southeast. One witness later discovers that his wristwatch has also stopped at the time of sighting. (Aimé Michel, *Straight Line*, pp. 246–247; [Schopick](#), pp. 47–48; Mark Rodeghier, [UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference](#), CUFOS, 1981, p. 12)
- 1957**, November 6 — 4:30 a.m. William Rush II is driving on Long Point Road in Houston, Texas. A brilliant red, egg-shaped UFO kills his car engine and causes static on his radio. (*Houston (Tex.) Chronicle*, November 6, 1957; [Schopick](#), p. 48)
- 1957**, November 6 — 5:40 a.m. Richard Kehoe is driving along Vista Del Mar in Playa Del Rey, California, when his engine fails. Two other cars on the highway are also affected, and the drivers (Ronald Burke and Joe Thomas) all get out. They see an egg-shaped object that seems to be wrapped in a blue haze. It is tan or cream-colored and has two metallic rings around it. Two smallish men, about 5 feet 5 inches tall and wearing black leather pants, a white belt, and a light-colored jersey, exit the object. They ask Kehoe and the others where they are and what time it is in something approaching English. They walk back to the object, which takes off. After it leaves, Kehoe's car starts with no problem. (Lorenzen, *Flying Saucer Occupants*, Signet, 1967, [pp. 126–127](#))
- 1957**, November 6 — 6:30 a.m. [Everett Orain Clark](#), 12, of Dante, Knoxville, Tennessee, lets his dog Frisky outside and sees an object like an elongated egg in a field 300 feet away from his house. 20 minutes later, he calls to bring the dog back and sees Frisky with other dogs on the other side of the road close to the object. Clark walks toward the UFO and sees two men and women, apparently dressed in a normal manner. One of the men tries to catch Frisky who grunts and moves away. They are speaking in a foreign language that sounds like German to him. The four people go into the craft by seemingly walking right through the wall. Journalist [Carson Brewer](#) goes back to the site with Clark and finds an “oblong ring of pressed grass” 24 feet by 4.5 feet. In the afternoon, two men from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (engineer [Wallace Russell Gambill](#) and physicist N. D. Greene) collect soil samples and check for radiation (they find none). (“[Scientists Check ‘Space Ship’ Field](#),” *Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel*, November 7, 1957, pp. 1, 12; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 6th](#), The Author, 1997, pp. 17–19; Clark III 672–673; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), August 17, 2006)
- 1957**, November 6 — US scientists are “pretty shook up” about the recent UFO sightings, according to astronomer Charles F. “Chick” Capen in the November 7 *El Paso Times*. However, Capen talks more about missile launches and lunar photography than UFO sightings. (“[Sighting ‘Shakes’ Scientists](#),” *El Paso (Tex.) Times*, November 7, 1957, p. 21; “[El Pasoans Take Look at Sputnik](#),” *El Paso (Tex.) Times*, November 7, 1957, pp. 1, 3; Swords 264)
- 1957**, November 6 — 5:00 p.m. Two Malay fisherman are in a waterway near Bagansiapiapi, Sumatra, Indonesia, when they see a black and red object swiftly approaching their boat and trailing black and greenish smoke. The top and bottom of the object are curved like discs. When it is 60 feet away it stops in mid-air about 35 feet above the water, and the bottom part continues to rotate as the water foams below it. The object is a triangular shape and white smoke is coming out from each point. The object speeds up and disappears, leaving behind black and greenish smoke lines. (Marler [133](#))
- 1957**, November 6 — Early evening. [Varine “Rene” Gilham](#) sees a brilliant object radiating a strong red light as he is using an outhouse on his farm near Merom, Indiana. The whole farm and surrounding area are bathed in the light for 10 minutes. A small object joins the larger one and the light grows more intense. The two objects fly away. The next day, Gilham has “sunburn” in many places. Two days later he is admitted to a hospital for treatment. (NICAP, “[Merom/Gilham Incident](#)”; “Ironworker Burned by Shiny Object,” *Sullivan (Ind.) Daily Times*, November 11, 1957; “[Hush-Hush Adds to Mystery of Space Object’s Visitation](#),” *Terre Haute (Ind.) Tribune*, November 12, 1957, p. 1; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 249–251; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 6th](#), The Author, 1997, pp. 67, 72–73. Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 6th, Supplemental Notes](#), The Author, 2003, pp. 6–7; Michael D. Swords, “[Messing Around with the Force](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 4 (March 2008): 30)
- 1957**, November 6 — 8:02 p.m. Six people in Toronto, Ontario, watch a yellow-white light travel silently from south to north across the eastern sky. One experiences static on his TV set as the object passes, slower than a meteor.

(“Was It Sputnik or Vapor Trail?” *Toronto (Ont.) Daily Star*, November 6, 1957; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 248–249; [Schopick](#), pp. 80–81; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 6th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 73–74)

- 1957**, November 6 — Night. Two state policemen, Calvin Showers and [John Matulis](#), in Danville, Illinois, observe a brilliant white light that changes color successively to amber and orange. They chase it for 15 miles because the light appears to be low in the sky. During the chase, their communications radio does not function. The light eventually flies out of sight. (“[2 State Troopers See ‘Object.’](#)” *Hammond (Ind.) Times*, November 7, 1957, p. 12; “‘Experienced, Trusted’ State Troopers Follow Brilliant Flying Object 15 Miles As Squad Car Radio Goes Dead,” *Du Quoin (Ill.) Call*, November 7, 1957; “[Did the Air Force Deceive the Public about the November Sightings?](#)” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 3 (January 1958): 1, 7; [Schopick](#), pp. 91–92; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 6th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 50–52)
- 1957**, November 6 — 9:00 p.m. Jacques N. Jacobsen Jr. and three friends (William Munday, William Totten, and Robert Dawson) are in a hunting lodge on the Baskatong Reservoir, Quebec, listening to a battery-powered radio. Outside, they see a glowing, yellow-white sphere 2–3 miles away to the southwest. It remains in place for 15 minutes. During this time their portable radio goes silent, and one of the men’s shortwave radios is working on only one frequency that emits a strong, rapidly modulated tone that sounds like, but is not, Morse code. The UFO rises into the clouds and the radios function normally again. (“[First-Hand Report of a UFO Emitting a Radio Signal.](#)” *CSI News Letter*, no. 22 (December 15, 1957): 9–10; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 248–249; [Schopick](#), pp. 79–80; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 November 6th*, The Author, 1997, pp. 67, 70–71; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, p. 114)
- 1957**, November 6 — 9:43 p.m. [Kenneth J. Delano](#), who is participating in aurora and meteor watches for the International Geophysical Year, is observing the sky at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland, when he sees a brilliant white light in the northwest. He watches it approach until it is nearly overhead. Then a faint, silvery-gray, elliptical disc is visible for a few seconds above the light. It is silent, except for a faint whirring sound. He watches it for a total of 4 minutes until it passes behind some buildings. (Kenneth J. Delano, “[UFO over Baltimore.](#)” *IUR* 32, no. 4 (October 2009): 17–18, 24)
- 1957**, November 6 — 11:30 p.m. Olden J. Moore is driving home in Montville, Ohio, when he sees an object like a bright meteor split into two pieces, one of which heads straight up. The other becomes larger while its color changes from bright white to blue green. It hovers about 200 feet above a field and lands with a soft whirring sound, perhaps 500 feet away. Moore watches cautiously for 15 minutes, then approaches it. The UFO is shaped like a “covered dish,” and is about 50 feet in diameter, 15 feet high, with a cone on top about 10 feet high. It is pulsating slowly, and a haze surrounds it. Moore goes home to get another witness (his wife) but when they return the UFO is gone. Mrs. Moore reports the sighting to County Sheriff [Louis Robusky](#) the next morning, and a civil defense director, Kenneth Locke, visits the site. Locke finds high levels of radioactivity (a maximum of 150 microroentgens/hour, suggestive of an approximately one-hour radionuclide half-life or less) two perfectly formed holes six inches in diameter, and unusual footprints that come from nowhere and go nowhere. (NICAP, “[Olden Moore Case / Close Encounter](#)”; UFOEv, pp. 169–170; Center for UFO Studies, [[case files](#)]; Clark III 772–773, 950; [Sparks](#), p. 257)
- 1957**, November 7 — 1:45–1:55 a.m. Seven airmen at Holloman Air Force Base near Alamogordo, New Mexico—Bradford Rickets, James Cole, Dennis Murphy, Wayne Hurlburt, and Harry Uhlrich—see a UFO while on duty at a salvage yard on the north side of the base. The object makes a whistling noise and turns from white to orange to red. (Lorenzen, *FSHoax*, pp. 100–101)
- 1957**, November 7 — 7:25 a.m. Truck driver Malvin Stevens stops one mile east of House, Mississippi, because a silvery “blimp” about 5 feet high and 2 feet long is blocking the road. He walks toward it, a sliding door opens, and three small, pasty-faced men about 4.5 feet tall emerge. Stevens feels paralyzed. After a short time, the beings make a military about-face and reenter the UFO, which takes off vertically. (“[Flying Saucer Lands near Meridian Thursday.](#)” *Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger*, November 8, 1957, p. 5; Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, pp. 263, 272–273; Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1957](#), p. 32; Clark III 269)
- 1957**, November 7 — 9:20 a.m. Trent Lindsey and his wife and son Byron are driving on US Highway 54 near Orogrande, New Mexico, when Byron notices that the speedometer is jumping wildly back and forth from the top to the bottom of its range. It then stops just as suddenly. The three witnesses later see a metallic-appearing UFO high in the sky to the southwest. It continues moving away for three minutes until it was lost from view over the Organ Mountains. The speedometer functions normally after the UFO is gone. (“[Family Reports Seeing Large Object over NM.](#)” *Albuquerque Tribune*, November 8, 1957, p. 1; Lorenzen, *FSHoax*, pp. 99–100)
- 1957**, November 7 — 9:38 a.m. Mysterious radio signals on the 108 megacycle radio band are recorded by RCA Communications at Riverhead, Long Island, New York. The signal is a continuous, tone-modulated hum at a low

pitch of 200 cycles per second. The FCC admits it is baffled, but suspects that it comes from a radio amateur or equipment testing in the New York City area. Another report claims that Vanguard and Federal Communications Commission watchers at 18 monitoring stations throughout the Western Hemisphere are picking up signals at 14.286 megacycles, possibly connected with Sputnik 2. The signal is a long note of low pitch followed after a few seconds by two short notes. ("[Mystery Signals Are Unconnected with Satellites](#)," *Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press*, November 8, 1957, pp. 1–2; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 83)

- 1957**, November 7 — 7:46 p.m. Bright, flashing objects hover for 30 minutes over the Atomic Energy Commission's Pantex Plant 15 miles east of Amarillo, Texas. The UFOs are reported to the State Highway Patrol office by plant guards, and a patrolman dispatched to the plant arrives at 8:15 p.m. and sees a strange light. Guards at the plant are "all shook up" from watching three objects floating 50 feet above the ground. One of the objects apparently lands on Farin Road 2373, three miles north of Highway 60. Guards tell the patrolman they tried to approach the objects by turning off their lights, "but the things would just slip away from them when they got near." They are unable to estimate the size of the objects but seem positive "they saw more than just lights." (NICAP, "[Lights Shake Up Guards at Nuclear Plant](#)"; "[Mystery Objects Sighted at Pantex](#)," *Amarillo (Tex.) Globe-Times*, November 8, 1957, p. 1; [Sparks](#), p. 258)
- 1957**, November 7 — Night. Paul Rutledge, a packinghouse worker at Waterloo, Iowa, sees an object hovering above his garage. He can see two figures walking around inside. The object is about 30 feet long and has a shiny bottom and a glass top. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 84; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), January 24, 2007)
- 1957**, November 8 — 3:03 a.m. Polish-Australian astronomer [Antoni Przybylski](#) and Dutch-American astronomer [Bart Bok](#) see a vivid pink object moving slowly across the sky at Mount Stromlo Observatory near Canberra, Australia. It is visible to the naked eye for two minutes. Przybylski has just finished observing Sputnik 1 and 2, so it wasn't a satellite or a meteor. Assistant Director [Arthur Robert Hogg](#) thinks it might be circling the earth like a satellite. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, November 7th–12th](#), The Author, 1998, p. 36; Michael D. Swords, "[Gazing at the Moons](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 4 (October 2009): 10–11; Center for UFO Studies, "[Moonwatch Mystery Satellites, 1958–1962](#)")
- 1957**, November 8 — 6:22 a.m. Connie Foster watches a lighted triangular object flying from southeast to northwest over Camarillo, California. It is moving with the base facing forward and has bright lights on the tips of the triangle. She watches it for nearly 30 minutes before it disappears. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, November 7th–12th](#), The Author, 1998, p. 37)
- 1957**, November 8 — Spencer Whedon, chief of Air Intelligence at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio, tells the press that of 5,700 UFO reports received by his office since 1940, 97% have been identified satisfactorily and the other 8% remain unidentified due to insufficient information. ("[Seeing Things? No, Sky Really Red](#)," *Cincinnati (Ohio) Post*, November 7, 1957, p. 8)
- 1957**, November 8 — 6:00 p.m. Pan Am Flight 7, a Boeing Stratocruiser flying across the Pacific mysteriously crashes midway between San Francisco and Honolulu. One of the crew is UFO witness Capt. [William H. Fortenberry](#). The cause of the crash is never determined. Fortenberry's journalist son, [Ken H. Fortenberry](#), suspects that the bereaved and mentally unstable purser Oliver Eugene Crosthwaite, has deliberately caused the crash, killing himself and murdering 43 innocent people in the process. (Wikipedia, "[Pan Am Flight 7](#)"; Ken H. Fortenberry, *Flight 7 Is Missing: The Search for My Father's Killer*, Fayetteville Mafia, 2020)
- 1957**, November 8 — Night. 12 female and 4 male farmworkers are in a truck on the Newhailes Road returning to Edinburgh from picking Brussels sprouts in a nursey at Musselburgh, Scotland. One of them spots a gray, round object seemingly following the truck at a distance of 60 feet. Mary Horne says it is domed on the top and bottom. It follows them for 5–10 minutes then moves off towards Portobello leaving a double vapor trail. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, November 7th–12th](#), The Author, 1998, pp. 54–55)
- 1957**, November 9 — 12:15 a.m. A man is driving in Sacramento, California, when his car engine and headlights fail. He looks up and sees an elongated egg-shaped object with delta-shaped wings, 150–200 feet long and 40–50 feet wide. The wings come back to about 30 feet from the rear of the fuselage. It has a bright bluish hue and leaves a bluish fluorescent trail. The sighting lasts 2–3 minutes. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part Two](#)," *IUR* 34, no. 1 (September 2011): 19)
- 1957**, November 9 — 9:15 a.m. Eastern Airline pilot Capt. [Truman Gile Jr.](#) is preparing to take off from Lafayette (Louisiana) Airport when he sees a big silvery object about 20,000 feet in the air. Gile watches it for 3 minutes (or seconds) and it doesn't move. He alerts copilot James E. Hall, the stewardess, and the ground agents, and they all watch it another 5 minutes (or seconds) before it fades away. ("Veteran Pilot Spots 'Object' at Lafayette," *New Orleans (La.) Item*, November 10, 1957; "[Sooner Pilot Has View of Louisiana 'Sky Spook](#)," *Duncan (Okla.) Banner*, November 10, 1957, p. 15-T; "[Jean Mayo on Airliner When 'Bright, Shiny Object' Seen](#)," *Jonesboro*

(Ark.) *Sun*, November 11, 1957, p. 1; Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, November 7th–12th*](#), The Author, 1998, pp. 61–62)

- 1957**, November 9 — 7:20 p.m. Several witnesses are driving 12 miles northeast of Carrizozo, New Mexico, on US Highway 54 in the vicinity of White Oaks when a large, rapidly moving light approaches their car from the south and apparently causes the vehicle's lighting system to fail. The light changes course and speeds off to the southwest. [Jim and Coral Lorenzen](#) are driving east on US Highway 380 about 10 miles east of Carrizozo when they spot an anomalous light that might be the same object. (Lorenzen, *FSHoax*, pp. 101–102)
- 1957**, November 10 — 1:25 a.m. [Leita Mae Kuhn](#) is checking the stove in her Doberman dog kennel at Madison, Ohio, when she notices a glowing, domed disc hovering 60 feet above the rear of the kennel. It is about 40 feet in diameter and emitting puffy clouds of smoke. Her eyes begin to burn after watching it for 20–30 minutes, and she runs back into the house and locks the door. She has rashes and her eyes hurt so badly she visits a doctor. (Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore Jr., [*Strange Effects from UFOs*](#), NICAP, 1969, pp. 11–12; Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, November 7th–12th*](#), The Author, 1998, pp. 69–71; Michael D. Swords, "[Messing Around with the Force](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 4 (March 2008): 30–31; Michael D. Swords, "[Can UFOs Cause Physiological Effects? Part 1](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 10)
- 1957**, November 10 — Residents of Skaryszew, Poland, watch a huge, radiant, cigar-shaped object slowly moving west. (Poland 20)
- 1957**, November 10 — Evening. UFO witness Olden Moore of Montville, Ohio, is visited by Sheriff [Robusky](#), a deputy, and a USAF officer who asks him to go with them to Youngstown to be interviewed by military officers. They drive him to the field where the encounter took place and put him aboard a military helicopter. He is interviewed in Youngstown, then he is returned to the field at 11:00 p.m. (Clark III 773)
- 1957**, November 10 — 5:55 p.m. [Wilfred S. Hardy](#), an assistant safety engineer at the Tokyo, Japan, Engineer Supply Center, sees (along with his wife and a Japanese boat boy) a huge cigar-shaped object with lighted portholes above Lake Imba-numa 10 miles away. He estimates it is about 200–500 feet long. The object lights up the entire lake, then disappears to the south 10 seconds later. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 86)
- 1957**, November 10 — 7:00 p.m. Many people see a UFO at Hammond, Indiana. Two policemen (Sgt. [Charles J. Mauder](#), Office Steve Betuslak) see a red and white light hovering 500–1,000 feet overhead. They hear a beeping sound and there is interference on the police radio while the object is in view. Another witness sees a green light on a basket-shaped object; his car radio fails. The lights fly away when anyone tries to approach. (Aimé Michel, *Straight-Line*, p. 268; [Schopick](#), pp. 92–95; Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, November 7th–12th*](#), The Author, 1998, pp. 73, 75)
- 1957**, November 10 — Night. French astronomer Jacques Chapuis at Toulouse Observatory in France observes a maneuvering, yellow, star-like object for 5 minutes. It ascends straight up out of sight. (UFOEv, p. 50)
- 1957**, November 11 — A silvery elliptical UFO is seen flying below Western Airlines Flight 61 over the desert east of Los Angeles, California. Robert D. Hahn, a jewelry designer, is a passenger and describes it as a large, elliptical, metallic object with dark patches zigzagging about 200 feet above the ground. (UFOEv, p. 67)
- 1957**, November 13 — An object explodes over the State Hospital at Crownsville, Maryland, and two or three burned pieces of metal fall on the hospital grounds. It is recovered by employees William A. Zick and J. Caswell. The pieces are checked for radiation and confiscated by army intelligence officers at Fort George G. Meade. They are apparently sent to the Air Research and Development Center in Baltimore. An ARD colonel tells NICAP member and WFBR news director [Lou Corbin](#) that he has no idea what the metal is. Some of the material is perhaps sent to ATIC. ("[Metal Object from Skies Rushed to ATIC for Analysis](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 3 (January 1958): 5–6)
- 1957**, November 14 — Afternoon. [Evalyn Riead](#) hears a sputtering noise like someone is pulling into her driveway in Tamaroa, Illinois. She looks outside and sees a bright, moon-shaped object with a tail moving above the trees bordering US Highway 51. It disappears after 5–6 booms and 3 flashes of light. As soon as this happens, the lights in her home go out. Electrical power in a 4-mile area between Tamaroa and Du Bois is interrupted for 10 minutes. Power is restored when the company closes an open circuit breaker, but they could find no cause. ("[Current Cut Off As Flying 'Thing' Appears in Illinois](#)," *Lima (Ohio) Citizen*, November 15, 1957, p. 10; [Schopick](#), pp. 140–141)
- 1957**, Mid-November — The US Senate Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Sen. [John L. McClellan](#) (D-Ark.), begins an inquiry into UFOs. [Ruppelt](#) is called to give testimony. (Ruppelt, 1960 ed., p. 253)
- 1957**, November 16 — Afternoon. [Cynthia Appleton](#) blacks out unexpectedly at her home in 87 Fentham Road in Aston, a suburb of Birmingham, England. On November 19, she feels faint again as the light outside dims, and a man with blond hair and wearing coveralls materializes in the center of the room. She hears him speaking to her telepathically. He tells her not to be afraid and that he is from a world he calls Gharnasvarn (which we know as

Venus) and he shows her what seems to be a holographic image of two spaceships. She has other visitations by entities on January 7 and February 7, 1958. In September 1958, the spaceman informs her that she is pregnant, which is apparently true, as she gives birth on June 2, 1958, to a boy with blond hair that she and her husband Ron name Matthew. Appleton says the Venusians visited her a few more times, but the trail grows cold in July 1960. ([“Birmingham Woman Meets Spacemen,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 2 (March/April 1958): 5–6; Charles Bowen, [“Few and Far Between,”](#) in Charles Bowen, ed., *The Humanoids*, special issue of *FSR*, Oct./Dec. 1966, pp. 3, 4; Jenny Randles, [“A Visitor from Gharnasvarn,”](#) *IUR* 13, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1988): 4–8; Jenny Randles and Peter Hough, *The Complete Book of UFOs*, Piatkus, 1994, pp. 137–140; Martin Kottmeyer, [“Titium and Aston’s CE3K,”](#) *Magonia Monthly Supplement*, no. 20 (October 1999): 1–2; Martyn Leek, [“The Riddle of Brum’s Alien Baby, 44 Years on: Where Is ‘Boy from Venus’?”](#) *Birmingham (UK) Sunday Mercury*, January 26, 2003; Andy Roberts, [“The Space Baby,”](#) *Fortean Times* 191 (December 2004): 32–38; Bill Chalker, [“Flying Saucery, Cosmic Bethlehem, and Midwich Cuckoos: The Cynthia Appleton Contacts \(1957–1959\),”](#) Australian UFO Researcher Bill Chalker, 2005; Bill Chalker, [“Flying Saucery, Cosmic Bethlehem, and Midwich Cuckoos,”](#) TheOzFiles, May 16, 2005; David Clarke and Andy Roberts, *Flying Saucerers: A Social History of UFOlogy*, Alternative Albion, 2007, pp. 96–103)

- 1957**, November 17 — An Air Force car with two officers comes to UFO witness Olden Moore’s house in Montville, Ohio. He is told they are taking him to Washington, D.C., for extended questioning. They drive him to a waiting airplane, which stops briefly at Wright-Patterson AFB to pick up one officer and drop another off. In Washington, Moore is housed in a building said to be a federal courthouse [US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces?]. He is kept there and interrogated for several days. Officers watch him constantly, even when he is sleeping. Toward the end of his stay, Moore is shown slides of UFO photos and a UFO film taken from inside a military plane. Moore is asked to sign a document that swears him to secrecy. (UFOEv, p. 114; Clark III 773)
- 1957**, November 21 — The Army Chief of Research and Development responds to CONARC’s October 22 request on the feasibility of building a manned “flying saucer,” stating that he had reviewed the Avrocar disc concept and that it looked promising. (Richard P. Weinert, *History of Army Aviation, 1950–1962*, US Army Training and Doctrine Command, November 1976, pp. 220–221; Wikipedia, [“Avro Canada VZ-9 Avrocar”](#))
- 1957**, November 21 — Merchant [Hans Haugaard Hansen](#) is driving out of Gesten, Denmark, on the road to Egholt when he sees a triangular UFO moving low over a field some 300–600 feet away. It is emitting a red or orange light and makes no sound. The bottom of the object is solid, but the upper part is transparent, and he can see two figures inside. He stops the car to watch as it moves about 40 mph. Similar objects are seen at Jordrup and Vorbasse. Lt. Col. [Hans-Christian Petersen](#) of the Danish Air Force (and later in the year a co-founder of Skandinavisk UFO Information) is taking the reports seriously. ([“Flying Saucer Reports Pour in from Denmark,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 2; Loren E. Gross, [“The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957, November 13th–30th,”](#) The Author, 1998, p. 56; Willy Wegner, [“UFO bogen, Kapitel 19: Rumfolkene viser sig,”](#) Skeptica, September 1, 2004)
- 1957**, November 21 — Night. Frank Dickenson and two friends are driving up Reasty Hill near the village of Silpho, North Yorkshire, England, when their car stalls and they see a glowing object in the sky that appears to fall to the ground on a ridge above Broxa Forest. Dickenson leaves the car with a flashlight, climbs up a bank, and finds in a patch of bracken a metallic saucer shaped like a “large flattish spinning top,” 18 inches in diameter and weighing 33 pounds. As he returns to tell his friends, he passes a young couple walking toward the scene. When the tree men return to search for it, the disc is gone. Dickenson places an advertisement in a Scarborough newspaper about the disc, and he is able to recover it for £10 from a man who claims he was the mystery man on the moor. Photos taken by UFO researcher John Dale show that the copper base of the object is inscribed with a mystery script. The top of the disc is made from layers of laminated metal that has been painted with a white substance. The two halves are stuck together with a grayish substance resembling cellulose, and a pencil-thick iron rod runs through a “white metal bearing” in the top. When the bearing is drilled out, they find a heap of ash inside the cavity, as well as pieces of fused glass and a tightly rolled cylinder of copper. Also inside is a tiny booklet of 17 sheets of thin copper foil fastened at one edge. The booklet is engraved with script similar to that found on the outside. The coded script is translated by a café proprietor from Scarborough named Philip Longbottom, who claims the 2,000-word inscription is from an alien named Ulo, with later text added by an apparently female companion named Tarnee. A metallurgist at the University of Manchester analyzes the disc and finds the outer casing is made primarily from lead, and the copper foil is triple laminated and unusually free from impurities. In 2017, [David Clarke](#) discovers that five specimens from the Silpho disc have been preserved in a tin cigarette box housed in London’s Science Museum. The specimens were sent to aviation historian [Charles Harvard Gibbs-Smith](#) in 1963 by Essex ufologist C. C. Stevens for analysis. Gibbs-Smith judged the items to be of terrestrial origin, and they were donated to the Science Museum with his papers after his death in 1981. Veteran *Scarborough Evening News*

editor Mick Jefferson said in 2003 the newspaper had long ago exposed the object as a hoax made from a “domestic hot-water cylinder.” However, the hoaxers have never surfaced. (“[The Silpho Moor Mystery](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 2 (March/April 1958): 4; “[Silpho Moor Controversy](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 19; Philip Longbottom, “[The Silpho Moor Mystery](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1958): 15–17; Jenny Randles, *UFO Retrievals*, Blandford, 1995, pp. 77–82; “[Missing Wreckage of UFO Which ‘Crash Landed’ in Yorkshire Is Found, 60 Years On](#),” *The Yorkshire Post*, February 8, 2018; “[Silpho Moor ‘UFO Bits’ Found in Science Museum Archive](#),” BBC News, February 9, 2018; David Clarke, “The Return of the Silpho Moor Saucer,” *Fortean Times* 364 (March 2018): 42–46)

- 1957**, November 23 — 6:10 p.m. Fighter pilot 1st Lt. Joseph F. Long’s car engine stalls 30 miles west of Tonopah, Nevada. He hears a high-pitched whining noise and sees four 50-foot, domed, saucer-shaped UFOs landed on the right side of the road about 900–1,200 feet away. They are glowing brightly and equipped with three landing gears. Long estimates they are about 10–15 feet tall. When he approaches to within 50 feet of the closest object, the hum increases in intensity and Long’s ears begin to hurt. The objects take off abruptly, retracting the landing gears. The rise about 50 feet into the air and proceed across the highway to the north at about 10 mph. The total time of the sighting is 20 minutes. Shallow, bowl-shaped ground impressions in the shape of a triangle are found at the landing site. (NICAP, “[Four Huge Saucers Land near Car, Engine Stalls](#)”; *Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 182–186; UFOEv II 74–75; Good Need, pp. 222–223, 228; Sparks, p. 259; Willy Smith, *On Pilots and UFOs*, UNICAT Project, 1997, pp. 71–80; Randle, *Levelland*, 2021, pp. 101–106)
- 1957**, November 23 — 7:30 p.m. Six truck drivers watch a strange object with three lights in a triangular pattern hovering above a field off State Highway 8 just north of the Butler Valley Turnpike exit in Richland Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. It has a green light at the bottom, a red light at the right corner, and a yellow light at the left corner. They get out of their car and approach the object, but when they are 75 feet away, it moves to the east, then south. They go back to the car and shine their lights on the object, which is about 20 feet above some trees. The lights go out and the object disappears. (“[3-Lighted ‘Whatsit’ Floats over Field](#),” *Pittsburgh (Pa.) Sun-Telegraph*, November 27, 1957, p. 3)
- 1957**, November 25 — 10:00 p.m. All the lights in the town of Mogi Mirim, São Paulo, Brazil, suddenly dim and fail. Numerous people see a circular light traveling directly overhead. Two similar lights follow a short time later. The blackout only lasts 5 minutes, but the power station has no explanation. (Schopick, pp. 141–142)
- 1957**, November 26 — 8:41 p.m. Radar technicians at West Mesa Air Force Station [now closed] 9.5 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico, detect a target emitting a civilian mode 3 signal while traveling at a speed of 3,500 mph. (NICAP, “[Blip Tracked at 3,000 Knots](#)”; Powell, *Scientist*, 93)
- 1957**, November 27 — The director of an engineering firm and four of his staff members see five black, disc-shaped objects hovering in the French Alps for 8 minutes. The group performs a series of maneuvers, after which a parachute-shaped object emerges from one of them. Suddenly they all shoot away at supersonic speed toward the Swiss border. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 87)
- 1957**, November 28 — 8:30 p.m. Regino Lacuesta is driving on the Hawaii Belt Road near Hakalau, Hawaii, when his car engine begins sputtering. Suddenly he sees a bright flash of light 20 feet above the highway in front of him. The engine dies, the headlights go out, and the car rolls to a stop at the point where the light had been. Lacuesta feels numb and cannot move. Soon the headlights come on and the car starts up again, although it is in high gear and he has not touched the starter. He drives straight home to Ninole. (“[Big Isle Man Says Light from Sky Stalled His Car](#),” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, November 29, 1957, p. 1; Schopick, pp. 49–51)
- 1957**, November 29 — 2:30 a.m. Capt. Fred Sutton, skipper of the fishing trawler *Ella Hewett*, is 4 miles off Port Jack, Douglas, Isle of Man, when an orange ball of fire crosses the sky. As it passes over the hull of the small boat, the vessel grows luminous, with firefly-like sparks of luminescence everywhere. The fireball bursts like fireworks, seen by others on the island as well as Scotland. The crew notices that the white paint on the metal railings at the edge of the boat has disappeared, leaving only the red undercoating. At daybreak, however, the paintwork is perfectly normal again. (Jenny Randles, “[Mysterious Island: The UFO Legacy of the Isle of Man](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 13–14)
- 1957**, November 29 — Two German expatriates, G. R. Miczaika and Eberhart W. Wahl, form Project Space Track in Building 1535 of the Geophysics Research Directorate at the Air Force Cambridge Research Center at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Massachusetts. Its mission is to track and compute orbits for all artificial earth satellites and space probes, including US and Soviet payloads, booster rockets, and debris. (Wikipedia, “[Project Space Track](#)”)
- 1957**, December — National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) 11-10-57 predicts that the Soviets will “probably have a first operational capability with up to 10 prototype ICBMs” at “sometime during the period from mid-1958 to mid-1959.” The numbers of the missile gap start to inflate. (Wikipedia, “[Missile gap](#)”)

- 1957**, December — A classified Canadian Department of National Defence memorandum states that the “RCAF has no official policy concerning the subject” of UFOs and “there has never been a serious investigation of any report on file” at RCAF headquarters. (Gregory M. Kanon, [“UFOs and the Canadian Government, Part One,”](#) *Canadian UFO Report*, no. 22 (1975): 22)
- 1957**, December — Several UFO sightings take place along the Finland-Russia border. A cigar-shaped object is seen by two Finnish farmers moving horizontally at a high altitude from west to east. (Good Above, [pp. 307–308](#))
- 1957**, December — Walter K. Buhler launches the Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos sobre Discos Voadores in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It publishes the *Boletim SBEDV* through 1988. ([Boletim SBEDV](#), no. 1 (December 1957))
- 1957**, December — Night. Edmund Rucker is awakened by a roaring noise in El Cajon, California, and watches a strange object land near his house. Its windows are lighted and he can see some strange-looking heads inside. An opening becomes visible, and four creatures emerge. They have large heads, dome-like foreheads, and bulging eyeballs. They deliver a message to Rucker in English, saying they have philanthropic and scientific purposes. (Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), July 28, 2007; Mark Cashman, [“Behavioral Classification System for UFO Occupants,”](#) *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 19)
- 1957**, December — [Keyhoe](#) is invited to appear on the CBS *Armstrong Circle Theater* anthology drama TV program hosted by [Douglas Edwards](#) to talk about UFOs with [Kenneth Arnold](#) and [Clarence S. Chiles](#). Others invited are [Edward J. Ruppelt](#), [Donald Menzel](#), and an Air Force representative. But Keyhoe finds out that it will not be a panel discussion but a scripted conversation, and he will only have 7 minutes. He is promised he will have final say over his part of the script, and he agrees. However, writer [Irve Tunick](#) cuts out critical portions of Keyhoe’s material (including references to the Estimate of the Situation and the Robertson Panel), saying it is too long. Ruppelt, Chiles, and Arnold soon withdraw from the program, expanding Keyhoe’s segment to 11 minutes. (Clark III 167–168)
- 1957**, December 1 — 1:30 a.m. Swissair pilot [Walter Borner](#) is flying a DC-6B at 18,000 feet over Ras El-Kanayis, Egypt, when he sees a “giant, red, burning cylinder falling down vertically, leaving a yellowish trail.” It is possible that this is the reentry of the final stage of the rocket that launched Sputnik I. (Luis Schoenherr, [“Unknown Missiles,”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 22)
- 1957**, December 3 — 2:30 p.m. [Z. Thad Fogl](#), radio officer of the *SS Ramsey*, claims to have taken a photo of a saucer off the coast of San Pedro, California. The photo appears in *Flying Saucer Review* in 1959 and *Life* in 1966. However, in 1967 Fogl admits that he had faked the photo using parts of plastic airplane models. (NICAP, [“Disc with Landing Gear Photo / Fogl Case,”](#) [“Radio Officer’s Amazing Story: UFO Snapped from Ship,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 5, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1959): 6–7; B. E. Finch, [“The Under-Carriage,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 7, no. 2 (March/April 1961): 23–24; Paul O’Neil, [“A Well-Witnessed ‘Invasion’—by Something,”](#) *Life*, April 1, 1966, pp. 24, 29; [“A Hoax Exposed,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 12, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1966): 7)
- 1957**, December 3 — 7:00 p.m. Many residents of the Menastash Ridge area of Ellensburg, Washington, watch a “strange ball of fire” for 20 minutes. A truck driver sees the light hovering above his truck, causing the motor to cough and sputter. His engine does not stop completely, however, so he drives away. The night is misty, but the object is so bright that it lights up the sky as if it were daytime. ([Schopick](#), pp. 51–52)
- 1957**, December 4 — Blue Book Capt. [George T. Gregory](#) complains that as a result of pressure from the press and public, “Assistant Secretary of Defense requested that ATIC immediately submit a preliminary analysis to the press” of the Levelland, Texas, cases, even though he has “limited data.” (J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, [p. 147](#))
- 1957**, December 5 — Morning. An unidentified beeping sound is picked up for three minutes on KBR Rural Public Power Radio in Ainsworth, Nebraska, operating at 72.3 AM. ([“Unidentified Beeping Heard on KBR Power Radio on Thursday,”](#) *Ainsworth (Nebr.) Star-Journal*, December 12, 1957, p. 1)
- 1957**, December 6 — A letter written to contactee [George Adamski](#) on State Department stationery from R. E. Straith, Cultural Exchange Committee, is a hoax concocted by ufologists [Gray Barker](#) and [James W. Moseley](#). The letter informs Adamski that the State Department knows his claims are true and they encourage his activities. (Max B. Miller, [“That State Department Letter,”](#) *Saucers* 6, no. 2 (Spring 1958): 9–12; [“U.S. Govt. Has Evidence of Extra-Terrestrials,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 2 (March/April 1958): 2–3, 36; [“State Department Checking Apparent Hoax,”](#) *Confidential NICAP Bulletin*, April 4, 1958, p. 1; [“Cosmic Science,”](#) *Saucerian Bulletin* 3, no. 2 (May 1, 1958): 5–6; [“Adamski,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 3 (May/June 1958): 4; [“More on the Controversial State Department Letter,”](#) *Saucerian Bulletin* 3, no. 3 (June 15, 1958): 10–13; [“The Straith Letter: And Then There Were Three,”](#) *APRO Bulletin*, July 1958, pp. 7–8; [“Straith Letter False, State Department Tells Adamski,”](#) *Confidential NICAP Bulletin*, July 9, 1958, p. 4; [“Adamski Answers Washington Denial Regarding R. E. Straith,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 8–9; [“More about Straith,”](#) *Saucerian Bulletin* 3, no. 4 (October 15, 1958): 2–5; [“Justice Dept. Hunting ‘Straith’ Hoaxer,”](#) *NICAP Special Bulletin*, November 1958, p. 4;

[“Richard Ogden ‘Visited,’”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1958): 3; James D. Villard, [“The ‘R. E. Straith’ Case,”](#) *Saucers* 6, no. 4 (Winter 1958/1959): 2–6; Lou Zinsstag and Timothy Good, *George Adamski: The Untold Story*, Ceti, 1983, pp. 148–153; [“In Which We Offer a Possible Solution to the Long-Time Mystery of the Infamous ‘R. E. Straith’ Letter Written to George Adamski Many Years Ago \(Circa 1957\),”](#) *Saucer Smear* 32, no. 1 (January 10, 1985): 1–2; James W. Moseley and Karl T. Pflock, *Shockingly Close to the Truth! Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist*, Prometheus, 2002, pp. 124–127, 381–402; Curt Collins, [“George Adamski, R. E. Straith, and the Seven Letters of Mischief,”](#) In Honor of Jim Moseley, February 10, 2014; Marc Hallet, [“A Critical Appraisal of George Adamski: The Man Who Spoke to the Space Brothers,”](#) The Author, 2016; Clark III 44–45; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 235–238)

- 1957**, December 7 — 10:00 p.m. In western Victoria and eastern South Australia, witnesses see a moon-like object explode with a vivid flash. Unexpected blackouts are reported in the area. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 87)
- 1957**, December 8 — 5:30 p.m. A disc-shaped UFO with a dome and three pads on the underside suddenly comes toward a car with three passengers at Woodward, Oklahoma. The car heater, wipers, and radio fail and finally the car stalls out as the UFO hovers overhead at 200 feet. It emits a high-pitched whining sound. It is over 50 feet in diameter and has portholes. The whine increases in pitch after about two minutes, and the UFO rises vertically out of sight. The headlights come on and the engine of the car starts by itself. The driver spends 4 hours with two officers from Kirtland AFB in New Mexico who tell him of similar observations. (Vallée, *Magonia*, [pp. 267–268](#))
- 1957**, December 8 — 9:00 p.m. Eight people traveling together in two cars on Highway 17 between Coulee City and Soap Lake, Washington, see a huge, fiery object pass overhead from north to south. Both cars stall out and their headlights also fail as the UFO passes overhead. In addition, the inside dome lights come on, even though they aren’t turned on. The cars remain stalled until the object passes out of sight. Police say the object stalled as many as six cars along that sparsely traveled road. ([Schopick](#), pp. 52–53)
- 1957**, December 11 — Night. Mexican pilot Gilberto Castillo del Valle is flying at 10,000 feet near Mexico City when a brilliant light illuminates his cockpit. He turns off the aircraft lights and sees a large luminous object darting from left to right and back again ahead of him. Passengers and crew also see the light, as do personnel at the Mexico City control tower. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 88)
- 1957**, December 12 — A USAF pilot attains 1,208 mph in a McDonnell F-101A Voodoo at Edwards AFB, California. (Wikipedia, [“McDonnell F-101 Voodoo”](#))
- 1957**, December 12 — 5:45 p.m. At least 13 witnesses see a bright light over the Sea of Japan. The object is tracked on radar and seen through binoculars. At 7:22 p.m., a scramble is ordered and two F-86D’s take off from Misawa Air Base, Japan. Multiple radar and visual sightings take place over the next three days. (NICAP, [“Jets Scrambled after Radar/Visual UFO”](#); [Sparks](#), p. 261; Powell, *Scientist*, 25–26)
- 1957**, December 14 — Night. Ed Waslashi sees a lighted green object fall into a haystack on his farm at Langdon, North Dakota. He picks out a strange metallic substance from the ashes of the burned hay. The material finds its way to geologist [Nicholas N. Kohanowski](#) at the University of North Dakota, who finds that it is light, porous, and mostly magnesium dioxide. ([“What Is It?”](#) *Winona (Minn.) Daily News*, December 17, 1957, p. 1; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 87)
- 1957**, December 15 — 1:00–2:00 a.m. Three young men see a huge light in the sky at Almind, Denmark. It is oval-shaped, emits red or orange rays, and appears to be descending. They watch it for 18–19 minutes as it hovers at a 10° angle and quivers. Suddenly it becomes still and from its center emerge two small objects that drift away in a northerly direction and soon disappear. The large object lies on its side and quivers some more. Later it ascends and a fan-shaped tail of light spreads after it. The UFO is seen later along the coast and photographed. ([“Flying Saucer Reports Pour in from Denmark,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 2; Herbert S. Taylor, [“Satellite Objects: A Further Look,”](#) *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 25)
- 1957**, December 16 — Between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. Mary M. Starr, a resident of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, and a former teacher with a master’s degree from Yale, is awakened by a bright light in her room. A cigar-shaped object, brightly lit and with square portholes, hovers just above her clothesline. She can see men inside. The object is approximately 20–30 feet long and dark gray or black in color, hovering motionless about 5 feet above the ground. Through its lighted windows Starr sees two figures that pass each other, walking in opposite directions. (NICAP, [“Cigar Hovers over Clothesline / Entities Observed”](#); [“The Near-Landing at Old Saybrook, Connecticut, December 16, 1957,”](#) *CSI News Letter*, no. 25 (July 15, 1959): 9–10; Mary M. Starr, “My First UFO,” *Fate* 13, no. 3 (March 1960): 61–62; Mary M. Starr, [“My Visitor from Outer Space,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 6, no. 3 (May/June 1960): 7–8; Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore, eds, *UFOs: A New Look*, NICAP, 1969, [pp. 27–28](#); Center for UFO Studies, [HUMCAT Index 1957](#), p. 42; Clark III 269)

- 1957**, December 16 — 8:45 p.m. A cargo train en route from Miguel Burnier to Chrockatt de Sá, Minas Gerais, Brazil, is followed by an object with an estimated diameter of six inches [at arm's length?]. The UFO glows brightly and seems to be at a height of about 5,000 feet. The object gives off an intense orange light that is so strong that the faces of the witnesses take on an orange tint as they gaze upward. It appears round-shaped and maneuvers from the right to the left. The sighting lasts 10 minutes as some 20 people view the UFO. ("[Florianopolis, Santarina State](#)," *S.P.A.C.E.*, no. 15 (March 1958): 2; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 December*, The Author, 1998, p. 53)
- 1957**, December 17 — Skandinavisk UFO Information is founded in Denmark by [Hans-Christian Petersen](#) under the name Sydjysk UFO Information. It publishes the journal *UFO-Nyt* from 1958 to 2010. (Wikipedia, "[Skandinavisk UFO Information](#)")
- 1957**, December 17 — The US conducts its first successful launch of an SM-65A Atlas missile at Cape Canaveral, Florida. (Wikipedia, "[SM-65A Atlas](#)")
- 1957**, December 18 — Luis E. Corrales of Caracas, Venezuela, finds an odd luminous streak on a photographic plate recording the passage of [Sputnik 2](#). It is a luminous trail running parallel to the satellite's trail, then veering away. (Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 December*, The Author, 1998, p. 57)
- 1957**, December 21 — 6:30 p.m. Yvonne Torres de Mendonça, her three small children, and a servant are traveling in a jeep driven by her mechanic, Marcio Gonçalves, towards Ponta Porã, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, along the Paraguayan border. They see a large ball of light about the size of the full moon that starts moving toward them, and they realize that it is two lights flying silently side by side. The lights straddle the road, oscillating from one side to the other in a strange wobbling motion and spinning on their axes. One of them stops in mid-air and dives toward the ground in a falling-leaf motion 60 feet ahead of them, while the other maneuvers in circles around the jeep. The lights are spherical and encircled by a Saturn-like ring at the center. The upper hemisphere and rim are fiery red, while the lower hemisphere is silvery white. The two objects follow the jeep for 2 hours, all the way to town, maneuvering intelligently around them, especially when the jeep stops twice to evaluate the objects. (Olavo T. Fontes, "[Shadow of the Unknown, Part II: UAOs Chase Cars](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, March 1959, pp. 3–6; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 148–150; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1957 December*, The Author, 1998, pp. 60–63; Clark III 245–246)
- 1957**, December 30 — Night. George Chowanski is cutting wood at his home in Schooley's Mountain, New Jersey, when his two dogs begin to bark and howl. He hears a whirring noise like an electric shaver that persists for one minute. Then he sees a saucer-shaped object, 5 feet high and 15 feet wide, hovering about 2 feet above the ground in a grove of trees 100 feet from the back porch. Three individuals come out of the craft and walk about in the clearing. One of them bends over to pick something up and carries something heavy back to the object. After 2–3 minutes, it slowly rises, spiraling through the tall trees, and flies off. (Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 88–89)

1958

- 1958** — The Atomic Energy Commission puts a barbed wire fence around Area 13 at the Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada, where the Project 57 "dirty bomb" had been detonated in April 1957, with signs indicating "do not enter / nuclear material." (Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [p. 297](#))
- 1958** — Project Orion, an effort to build a nuclear-powered spacecraft, begins at a maximum-security facility in Area 25 of the Nevada Test Site. Led by [Ted Taylor](#) of General Atomics and physicist [Freeman Dyson](#), its initial focus is to send astronauts to Mars and back. The spaceship would be 16 stories tall and piloted by 150 men. Soon ARPA and the Air Force take over the project and redesign it for a space-based battleship that could launch nuclear missiles from space. But no one builds Orion and it is effectively disbanded by the 1963 nuclear test ban. (Wikipedia, "[Project Orion \(nuclear propulsion\)](#)"; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 304–305](#))
- 1958** — French ufologist [Aimé Michel](#) publishes *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, an examination of the UFO wave of September–October 1954 in France. The book's preface is written by Gen. [Lionel-Max Chassin](#), in which he expresses his opinion that UFOs are genuinely mysterious ("That strange things have been seen is now beyond question, and the 'psychological' explanations seem to have misfired"). Michel contends that each day's sightings, when plotted on a map, occur along straight-line paths, even though different objects seem to figure in each sighting. The alignments, which he calls "orthotenic lines," do not necessarily correspond to a trajectory. However, [Jacques Vallée](#) later concludes that the alignments can be explained by chance alone. (Aimé Michel, *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, Criterion, 1958; "[An Evaluation of Aimé Michel's Study of the](#)

[Straight Line Mystery](#),” in Charles A. Maney and Richard Hall, *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*, NICAP, 1961, pp. 90–98; Jacques Vallee and Janine Vallee, *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*, Regnery, 1966, pp. 57–82; Don Johnson, “[New Lines in UFO Research: Orthoteny Revisited](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 18–19, 32; Claude Maugé, “[Orthoteny: Lost Cause, or a Redeemed One?](#)” *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 24–28; Clark III 747, 858–860)

- 1958** — [Trevor James Constable](#) writes *They Live in the Sky*, which explains UFOs as etheric (good) and astral (bad) entities that are engaged in a battle for control of earthly minds. He bases this on his analysis of occult texts and channeled communications from cosmic informant Ashtar. The astral entities are based inside the earth, but they can leave it through an opening in the South Pole and fly 125,000 miles into space. Only the atomic bomb can penetrate the astral realm, which is why astrals disguised as benevolent Space Brothers argue fervently for nuclear disarmament. The men in black are reincarnated versions of [Richard Shaver](#)’s deros. (Trevor James [Constable]. *They Live in the Sky*, New Age, 1958; Trevor James [Constable], “[Scientists, Contactees, and Equilibrium](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 6, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1960): 19–21; Clark III 1102)
- 1958** — Night. A sergeant in charge of a fire truck crash crew at an air base in South Korea is positioned near the runway awaiting an emergency landing by an American jet fighter low on fuel. The men see a bright light approaching from across the Yellow Sea. It grows bigger and, within several hundred yards of the shore, stops and hovers. The control tower operators, watching the object through binoculars, do not know what it is. Suddenly the object shines a beam of light straight down on the water. It soon goes out, but the water remains luminescent for a while before fading out. The object again shines a light on the water and turns it off a minute or so later. By this time, the jet that is low on fuel is landing. A second jet is asked to check out the object, which instantly shoots back toward China and disappears in seconds. (Bob Pratt, *UFO Danger Zone: Terror and Death in Brazil—Where Next?*, Horus House, 1996, online ed., p. 164; Carl W. Feindt, “[Beam of Light into a Body of Water](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 22)
- 1958**, January — The US Senate Committee on Government Operations asks to meet with representatives from the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Legislative Action to discuss the possibility of holding open hearings on the Air Force UFO program. USAF fears “uncontrolled publicity,” but agrees to go along with it. Soon, however, [Richard E. Horner](#), USAF assistant secretary for research and development, persuades the committee’s chief counsel, Donald O’Donnell, that hearings are “not in the best interest of the air force,” nor necessary for national security. Horner says Project Blue Book has things well in hand, and he tells Sen. [Barry Goldwater](#) (R-Ariz.) that allegations about the Air Force withholding information are “entirely in error.” People who report UFOs simply want confidentiality, and the Air Force respects that. (Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America*, Signet ed., 1976, pp. 140–141, 144)
- 1958**, January — Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, asks for [Keyhoe](#)’s permission to use *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy* to develop a script for closed-circuit broadcast at the base. Keyhoe agrees. (Keyhoe, FSTS, p. 218)
- 1958**, January — 1:30 a.m. A woman is driving along the New York State Thruway near Niagara Falls, New York, when she sees an illuminated 50-foot pole in the center parkway ahead. It seems to be retracting and getting shorter. As she closes in on it, her engine stops and the headlights go out. The pole is attached to a saucer-shaped object, and she sees shadowy figures floating around it. The UFO rises and moves away, and she starts the car again. An area of snow a foot in diameter has melted dry where the pole has been. (Michael D. Swords, “[Messing Around with the Force](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 4 (Mar. 2008): 16)
- 1958**, January 3 — Cliff DeLacey, a 23-year-old college student from Vallejo, California, shoots 90 seconds of film of UFOs at Diamond Head, Hawaii. DeLacey sees nine UFOs flashing across the sky and immediately grabs his camera. He is careful enough to shoot the tops of nearby trees, allowing a reference to the height and relative speed of the unknown objects. The objects appear to be about 3–4 miles away from the camera, flying at an altitude of 7,000–8,000 feet, and moving at a speed slightly greater than that of a jet. The silvery globules appear to be no more than 20 feet in diameter. They are spherical, and no tail fins or protrusions of any kind are visible. The film, in color, is said to be clear and to show at least two of the nine UFOs in considerable detail. (NICAP, “[Genuine Flying Saucer...Caught on Movie Film](#)”; Max B. Miller and Norman S. Kossuth, “[How to Film Unidentified Flying Objects](#),” *Saucers* 6, no. 3 (Autumn 1958): 8)
- 1958**, January 10 — Day. Capt. Chrysólogo Rocha is sitting with his wife on the porch of a house in Guarujá, São Paulo, Brazil, overlooking the South Atlantic. He is trying to focus with his binoculars on what appears to be a small island. When he does get focused, he realizes the island is getting bigger and is in two parts, both a clear, gray color. One part is in the sea, while the other seems suspended above it. Without warning, both parts suddenly sink out of sight. Shortly afterwards, a steamer comes into view, on a course that will take it very close to the object. About 15 minutes later, when the ship is out of sight, the object again rises slowly out of the sea. He now sees

clearly that the two parts are joined by several narrow upright shafts or tubes that are bright and visible to the naked eye. These shafts, “like beads on a necklace” pass in a “disorderly and simultaneous movement.” Shortly afterwards the two parts of the object close up again, and it disappears below the waves. Probably an inferior mirage of an island in combination with a towering effect. (Charles Bowen, “[A South American Trio](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 11, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1965): 20–21; Wim van Utrecht, “[A UFO Dives in and Out of the Ocean](#),” *Caelestia*)

- 1958**, January 13 — 11:45 p.m. Brian Crittenden sees a dome-shaped light with a long narrow light underneath coming directly towards him as he is leaving a friend’s house southwest of Casino, New South Wales, Australia. He jumps into his car and heads home. The UFO chases his car along Benns Road, practically touching the telephone poles. His car radio develops interference when the UFO approaches him. It follows him all the way to town, 7 miles away. ([Schopick](#), p. 81; Loren E. Gross, *[The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 January–February](#)*, The Author, 1998, p. 21)
- 1958**, January 16 — Around 12:00 noon. As the International Geophysical Year research ship [Almirante Saldanha](#) is anchored on the south side of Ilha da Trindade, Brazil, 730 miles off the coast in the Atlantic Ocean, the commander and many crew members, including photographer Almiro Baraúna, see a Saturn-shaped object maneuvering over the island. It reportedly comes toward the island from the east, flies towards the Pico Desejado, makes a steep turn, and goes away very quickly to the northwest. Baraúna takes four photos with a Rolleiflex 2.8 model E. Commander [Paulo Moreira da Silva](#) of the Brazilian Navy Hydrography and Navigation Department (who technically outranks the ship’s captain, [José Santos de Saldanha da Gama](#)), is apparently an eyewitness and states, “the object was encircled by a greenish glow, our [meteorological] balloon was of a red color.” Baraúna is officially there to take photos of the island, underwater photos, photos of the IGY activities, and the ship’s operations. The radar detection of an unexplained supersonic target reportedly occurs the day before, at about 12:05 p.m. There is a power failure on the ship when the object is seen; the power returns upon the object’s departure. Instruments like radio transmitters and apparatus with magnetic needles cease operating while the flying object remains in the island’s proximity. [Willy Smith](#)’s April 20, 1983, interview of Baraúna takes on more significance: “I asked if the object had been detected by ship’s radar. He [Baraúna] replied that it hadn’t because all the electrical power aboard ship was out at the time. He was sure of the reality of the power outage because just before the object appeared a launch was being hauled up from the water by electric pulley, and it stopped midway just as the UFO appeared!” The ship’s log is provably incomplete since it does not even mention the UFO photo incident. A 1999 analysis by [Martin J. Powell](#) seems to indicate that the object photographed is an airplane, distorted by Baraúna through a double-exposure process. In August 2010, a major TV show in Brazil airs information stating that the original photographer had made hoax photographs in the past. (Wikipedia, “[Caso da Ilha da Trindade](#)”; NICAP, “[Trindade Island Photo \(E-M, Radar, AR\) Case](#)”; NICAP, “[The Trindade Island Photos \(1/16/58\)](#)”; Brazil, Department of the Navy, General Staff of the Fleet, Subdivision of Information, “[Clarification of the Observation of Unidentified Flying Objects Sighted on the Island of Trinidad, in the Period of 12/5/57 to 1/16/58](#),” March 2, 1958; Olavo T. Fontes, “[The UAO Sightings at the Island of Trindade, Part I](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, January 1960, pp. 5–9; Olavo T. Fontes, “[UAO Sightings over Trindade, Part II](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, March 1960, pp. 5–8; Olavo T. Fontes, “[UAO Sightings at the Island of Trindade, Part III](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, May 1960, pp. 4–9; John T. Hopf, “[Exclusive IGY Photo Analysis](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, May 1960, pp. 1, 4; “[UFO Photo Certified by Brazilian Navy Labeled a Hoax by USAF](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 10 (July/August 1960): 3; “[New Evidence on IGY Photos](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, January 1965, pp. 1, 3–8; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 205–210; Willy Smith, “[Trindade Revisited](#),” *IUR* 8, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1983): 3–5, 14; Willy Smith, “UFOs in Latin America,” *UFOs 1947–1987*, Fortean Tomes, 1987, pp. 109–111; Martin J. Powell, “[The Trindade Island UFO: A Detailed Study of Photos 1 and 2](#),” *Aenigmatis*, Summer 1999; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, pp. 71–77; Martin Shough, “[The Trindade Island Photographs, 16 Jan 1958](#),” *Aerial Phenomena Studies Index*, 2004; Tim Printy, “[UFO over Trindade Island: Details Overlooked or Ignored](#),” March 2005; Kentaro Mori, “[Como forjar fotos OVNI, por Almiro Baraúna](#),” *Ceticismo Aberto*, January 17, 2008; Equipe UFO, “[Documento raro sobre o caso Trindade ressurge no exterior](#),” *Portal UFO*, August 31, 2010; [Sparks](#), p. 262; Story, pp. 366–369; Swords 463–465; Alexandre de Carvalho Borges, “[Caso Ilha da Trindade: Documentos sigilosos são revelados](#),” *Além da Ciência*, May 6, 2011; Alexandre de Carvalho Borges, “[Caso Ilha da Trindade: O que não querem que você saiba](#),” *Além da Ciência*, May 19, 2015; Alexandre de Carvalho Borges, “[Caso Ilha da Trindade: Um ardil publicitário ou uma sólida evidência dos UFOs?](#)” *Além da Ciência*, April 20, 2021; Brazil 49–57; Clark III 1132–1136; Patrick Gross, “[The Trindade Island Photographic Case of 1958](#)”; “[Trindade Isle Radar/Visual Case of 1-16-1958 – Almiro Barauna Interview by Dr. Hynek](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; [[Project Blue Book case files](#)])

- 1958, January 22** — The “UFO: The Enigma of the Skies” segment of *Armstrong Circle Theater* airs on CBS. USAF Reserve Lt. Col. Spencer Whedon from ATIC says all UFOs are explainable. [Keyhoe](#) comes on and starts reading his script for a few minutes, then shocks everyone by deviating from it, saying “And now, Mr. [Edwards](#), I would like to make a disclosure, something which has never been revealed to the public. For the last six months our committee has been working with a Senate committee which is investigating official secrecy on UFOs. If the hearings are held, open hearings, I feel it would prove that the flying saucers are real—”. Then his microphone is cut off, although the filming continues. [Menzel](#) then appears, then USAF spokesman [Richard E. Horner](#) comes on afterward and says that the Air Force is not hiding anything about UFOs. Keyhoe later claims this is not censorship by the show, although he thinks it is the Air Force silence group at work. In April, CBS director of editing Herbert A. Carlborg tells NICAP that Keyhoe’s deviation “might lead to statements that neither this network nor the individuals on the program were authorized to release. As a consequence, public interest was served.” (“[Author Digresses on TV, Sound Is Cut](#),” *New York Times*, January 23, 1958, p. 55; “[Armstrong Circle Theatre](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, January 1958, p. 5; “[Major Keyhoe Cut Off the Air](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 2 (March/April 1958): 2–3; Clark III 167–168; Keyhoe, *FSTS*, pp. 22–23, 155–165; “[UFO Archives: Project Blue Book—Col. Spenser Whedon, Dr. Donald Menzel, Major Donald Keyhoe](#)” [audio only], UFO Archives YouTube channel, May 22, 2014; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 January–February*, The Author, 1998, pp. 23, 28–30, 35–39; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 March–April*, The Author, 1998, pp. 10–17; Swords 272; Good Above, [pp. 286–287](#); Richard H. Hall, “[Air Force Censorship of TV Broadcast about UFOs Stirred Controversy in 1958](#),” *Journal of UFO History* 1, no. 6 (Jan./Feb. 2005): 3–6; “[Richard Horner, Ass’t Director of USAF Research and Development, on UFOs 1-22-1958](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; “[Irving Tunick, Producer of Armstrong Circle Theater on Keyhoe Censorship, LJM 1-23-1958](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio*, 1938–1959, November 21, 2013; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 221–229; Graff 130–131)
- 1958, January 23** — Capt. G. H. Oldenburgh, public information officer at Langley AFB, Virginia, writes to a NICAP member who has been denied a request to place an ad in the base newspaper asking for UFO reports: “I felt it would encourage Air Force personnel to violate present Air Force policy and specifically AF Regulation 200-2.” (Frank Edwards, *FS Serious Business*, Bantam ed., 1966, [p. 51](#))
- 1958, January 26** — 4:00 p.m. Some chemical workers at Shimada, Japan, see a bright object land and claim that beings fell from the sky without parachutes. They wear strange suits and speak an unknown language. (“[They Are Landing in Japan, Too](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 3 (May/June 1958): 33)
- 1958, January 28** — [Hillenkoetter](#) announces that “two committees on Capitol Hill” are investigating the UFO controversy. Rep. [William Hanes Ayres](#) (R-Ohio) writes a letter to constituent Melvin V. Knapp, saying that “Congressional investigations have been held and are still being held on the problem of unidentified flying objects (UFO’s). Since most of the material presented to the committees is classified, the hearings are never printed. When conclusions are reached, they will be released if possible.” (“[Flying Saucer Proof Clouded by Air Force, Private Probers Say](#),” *Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle*, August 3, 1958, p. 8; UFOEv, [p. 173](#))
- 1958, January 30** — 11:45 p.m. Attorney José Valencia Dongo, his wife, and their nephew feel an electric shock as they are driving between Arequipa and Lima, Peru, at a point (roughly around the Yauca District) along the Pan American Highway 220 miles northwest of Arequipa. Several seconds later the headlights and engine of their car fails. They then see an inverted mushroom-shaped object, about 15 feet in diameter, descending from the sky. It hovers for about 8 minutes at a 150-foot altitude, glowing red. A truck and bus are also affected. (Civilian Saucer Intelligence, “[Shapes in the Sky](#),” *Fantastic Universe*, 10, no. 4 (October 1958): 111; Charles A. Maney and Richard Hall, *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*, NICAP, 1961, [p. 82](#); [Schopick](#), pp. 58–59; Mark Rodeghier, *UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference*, CUFOs, 1981, p. 14)
- 1958, January 31** — A meeting is held in the office of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force [Richard E. Horner](#) under the auspices of the Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, even though Sen. [John L. McClellan](#) (D-Ark.) and other senators are absent. The Air Force is represented by Maj. James F. Byrne, Maj. [Joseph E. Boland](#), and Maj. [Lawrence J. Tacker](#) who meet with the subcommittee’s FBI liaisons. Tacker declares that USAF does not want a congressional investigation, and the McClellan effort dies immediately. (Swords 275)
- 1958, January 31** — 10:48 p.m. The US launches its first satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral Missile Annex, Florida. It is the first spacecraft to detect the Van Allen radiation belt. (Wikipedia, “[Explorer 1](#)”; Graff 132)
- 1958, February** — [Keyhoe](#) meets again with Rep. [James C. Healey](#) and tells him that the *Armstrong Circle Theater* incident was Air Force censorship. A few days later, Healey tells Keyhoe that the Air Force is claiming that the program proves “there are no such things as flying saucers.” Keyhoe gives Healey the facts about the 1956 [Ryan](#)

case pointing to USAF ordering a commercial flight to pursue UFOs, citing the *Meet the Millers* tape from April 16, 1956, which he has obtained. He offers to get the committee a transcript. (Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 166–167, 182–184)

1958, February — Ufologist Raymond Veillith launches the UFO journal *Lumières dans la Nuit* in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, Haute-Loire, France. It continues on under various editors until at least 2018. ([*Lumières dans la Nuit*](#), no. 1 (February 1958); Wikipedia, “[Lumières dans la Nuit](#)”; Story, [p. 218](#))

1958, February 2 — An elliptical UFO with two porthole-like markings is seen somewhere in New South Wales, Australia. (UFOEv, [p. 137](#))

1958, February 3 — OTC Enterprises runs a two-page ad in a Baltimore, Maryland, newspaper and distributes a well-printed brochure announcing that [Otis T. Carr](#) has approached the US government and offered to build it a working spacecraft called the OTC-X1—circular, 45 feet in diameter and 15 feet high—for \$20 million. He sets a date of December 7, 1959, to take a three-man crew on the spacecraft on a round trip to the Moon. Some press accounts treat Carr as if he is a real scientist. (Clark III 860)

1958, February 5 — The Air Force revises AFR 200-2 and recreates the system of air base commanders conducting initial investigations of sightings in their areas. It also continues ATIC’s responsibility to “reduce the percentage of unidentifieds to the minimum.” (Department of the Air Force, “[Intelligence: Unidentified Flying Objects \(UFO\)](#),” Air Force Regulation 200-2, February 5, 1958; Department of the Air Force, “[Intelligence: Unidentified Flying Objects \(UFO\)](#),” Air Force Regulation 200-2A, July 3, 1958)

1958, February 7 — In response to the launching of Sputnik, President [Eisenhower](#) creates the Advanced Research Projects Agency and houses it in the Pentagon. (Wikipedia, “[DARPA](#)”)

1958, February 17 — Evening. [Flora Evans](#) and Bernice McIntosh twice encounter an intensely brilliant orange light about 15 feet in diameter that sends out peculiar grid-like or diamond-shaped patterns and lights up a canyon northeast of Alcalde, New Mexico, along State Highway 68. The two women are temporarily blinded. Their trip home to Albuquerque inexplicably takes 4 hours instead of the normal 2 hours. Both witnesses are exhausted and have burned or reddened areas on their skin, some on their kneecaps and the back of their lower legs, even though they have not left the car. Evans has a reddened area shaped like a triangle on her back. An acquaintance, Paul Boyett, has a Geiger counter, with which he gets a high radiation count from both women on February 19. The next day Evans, who is working in some capacity in civil defense, goes to her doctor at the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, to see about possible radiation burns and exposure. She overhears a comment about “178 roentgens” exposure, but the doctor says there is nothing to worry about. McIntosh’s symptoms (nausea, vomiting, rash) are initially more irritating but subside substantially, although both women have swellings in their lower legs, and both gain serious weight (some 50 pounds) over the next few months. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 January–February](#), The Author, 1998, pp. 60–64 ; Michael D. Swords, “[Can UFOs Cause Physiological Effects? Part 2](#),” *IUR* 34, no. 1 (Sept. 2011): 4–5; Swords 280–281; Clark III 1–2, 950)

1958, February 19 — 10:30 p.m. Cicero Claudino da Silva, Mustafa Esgaib, Alegario Campos, and João Manuel Vasquez are investigating the Ponta Porã case from December. They are at Porteiro Ortiz, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, along Highway 463 and shining their lights in the direction of the Paraguayan frontier when a reddish light appears and becomes larger, as if approaching them. The ground around their car is illuminated for a few seconds, and they realize that another red light is nearing them on the other side of the car. They head for Ponta Porã at breakneck speed. (Olavo T. Fontes, “[The Shadow of the Unknown](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, March 1959, p. 6)

1958, February 24 — 3:05 a.m. Attorney Carlos José de Costa Pereira, Manoel Mendes, and Antônio de Araujo are driving near Santo Antônio de Jesus, Bahia, Brazil. The car engine sputters and fails. All attempts to detect the trouble fail. The next inhabited place is far away, so the travelers decide that the best thing to do is to sleep at that spot, beside the road. Next morning they will try to do something about their situation, getting help from some nearby village or farm. It was then that they notice a large luminous Saturn-shaped object silently approaching to about 240 feet from them and only 90 feet from the ground. It then descends in a falling-leaf pattern to about 12 feet. They can see it is about 60–75 feet in diameter with a rotating center section. Suddenly it climbs vertically to 600 feet, makes a tight circle, then tilts to 45° and makes a number of high-speed maneuvers, then descends again in a falling-leaf motion before shooting up vertically at tremendous speed. After this, the car starts easily and they proceed to Salvador. (Olavo T. Fontes, “[The Shadow of the Unknown](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, May 1959, p. 7; [Schopick](#), pp. 59–61)

1958, February 28 — USAF Director of Information Maj. Gen. [Arno H. Luehman](#) naively inquires of the McClellan Senate subcommittee whether, based on its “preliminary informal investigation,” it would state that the Air Force is investigating UFOs and not withholding information. (Arno H. Luehman to Director of Legislative Liaison,

[“McClellan Subcommittee Statement Concerning Air Force Handling of UFO Reports,”](#) February 28, 1958; Swords 275)

- 1958,** February 28 — Brig. Gen. [João Adil Oliveira](#), chief of the Brazilian Air Force’s General Staff information service, tells *O Globo* that the UFO phenomenon is a “fact confirmed by material evidence. There are thousands of documents, photos, and sighting evidence demonstrating its existence.” (Good Need, [p. 233](#))
- 1958,** February 28 — Police detective [Faustin Gallegos](#) and his wife Dorothy see something like a “large medicine ball” descend and land in their back yard in Miami, Florida. Outside, he sees a football-shaped object 20 inches long and 8 inches high, lined with “thousands of minute cells resembling those of a honeycomb. It is clear and pulsating. He touches it and his fingers leave marks. They put it in a jar, but it evaporates on the way to the police station. (Faustin Gallegos, “The Pulsing Honeycomb from Space,” *Fate* 11, no. 9 (September 1958): 40–43; Clark III 1102)
- 1958,** March — The Air Force releases parts of the 1953 Robertson Panel report, a mere three paragraphs recommending that “the national security agencies take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired.” (“[CIA Evades, Then Denies Charge of Attempted UFO Censorship](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 4 (June 1958): 4)
- 1958,** March — A French Foreign Legionnaire on sentry duty at Bouamama, near Sidi Chami, Algeria, hears a whistling noise and sees an enormous, elliptical-shaped object descend and hover 115–131 feet above the ground 165 feet away. The object is surrounded by pale green light, and a relaxing emerald-green beam of light is coming from its base to the ground. Seemingly paralyzed, he stares at the object for 45–50 minutes. The noise returns, the object rises gently, and flies off at tremendous speed. (Joël Mesnard, “[Tranquillizing Visitation at Bouahmama: An Algerian Report of 1958](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 19, no. 3 (May/June 1973): 17–18)
- 1958,** March 2 — The Brazilian Navy, after an analysis of the January 16 Ilha da Trindade sighting and photos, offers an ambiguous conclusion: “the existence of personal testimonies and of a photographer, of some value given the circumstances involved permit the admission that there are indications of the existence of the UFO.” (Brazil Department of the Navy, “[Clarification of the Observation of Unidentified Flying Objects Sighted on the Island of Trinidad, in the Period of 12/5/57 to 1/16/58](#),” March 2, 1958)
- 1958,** March 3 — Gen. [Joe W. Kelly](#) responds to [Luehman](#), falsely stating that the Air Force has done “considerable work” with the McClellan subcommittee. (Swords 275–276)
- 1958,** March 8 — A USAF radar site in Korea tracks a UFO slowly descending from 77,000 to 25,000 feet. (UFOEv, [p. 80](#))
- 1958,** March 8 — [Keyhoe](#) appears on ABC’s *The Mike Wallace Interview* and mentions the Estimate of the Situation, [Fournet](#)’s motion study, and the CIA Robertson Panel. [Wallace](#) surprises him by saying Assistant Secretary of the Air Force [Richard E. Horner](#) told his producers that the Senate Committee “show no interest in any hearings.” This is news to Keyhoe. Wallace also quotes from the Robertson Panel summary that was just released. A few days later, Keyhoe receives two letters from the Senate Committee confirming that it “does not intend to investigate the United States Air Force.” (“[1958 ‘UFOs Are Real’ Interview by Mike Wallace with Former Marine Air Corps Major Donald E. Keyhoe](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, February 26, 2024; “[NICAP – Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe Interviewed by Mike Wallace 3-8-1958](#),” *Ufology: A Primer in Audio, 1938–1959*, November 21, 2013; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 March–April*, The Author, 1998, p. 9; Keyhoe, *FSTS*, pp. 189–190; Swords 272–273; “[Mike Wallace Interview of Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe: A Sequel to the Armstrong Circle Theater](#),” *Journal of UFO History* 2, no. 1 (March/April 2005): 8–11; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 229–231)
- 1958,** March 13 — [Keyhoe](#) writes a four-page letter to CIA Director [Allen Dulles](#), criticizing the Air Force for its censorship on the *Armstrong Circle Theater* and asking for a copy of the Robertson Panel report. He asks Dulles if the CIA has been interrogating and intimidating UFO witnesses. (Powell, *Keyhoe*, 253–254)
- 1958,** Late March — NICAP begins a new campaign to open another government UFO investigation. This time it approaches the Department of Justice, the National Security Council, the CIA, and the US Army. It receives rebuffs and denials. (Keyhoe, *FSTS*, p. 191)
- 1958,** March 31 — [Ruppelt](#) writes to [Keyhoe](#) that he is “completely out of the UFO business” and he thinks the “chances of UFOs being real are a billion to one.” (Powell, *Keyhoe*, 255)
- 1958,** April — Edgar Sievers begins publishing a pro-Adamski newsletter titled *Approach* in Pretoria, South Africa. It folds in March 1960. ([Approach](#) 1, no. 1 (April 1958))
- 1958,** April — 6:00 a.m. At some place along the Brazilian coast between Maceió and Paripueira, Alagoas, Brazil, Wilson Lustosa stops to ask some fishermen what they are looking at. He hears a humming sound and sees a disc-shaped

object hovering about 50 feet above the ocean and 120 feet away. It has a small lighted dome on top and a band of square portholes around its midsection through which a red light is shining. Under the UFO the water seems disturbed. The object is visible for an hour. (Gordon W. Creighton, "[A Brazilian Sighting](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 10, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1964): 18; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 56–57)

- 1958**, Early April — Night. A 2-foot red blinking light frightens children over the Walnut housing area in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. Police officers Joseph Scala and Emanuel Maverio investigate and watch the bright disc for 10 minutes. Their police radio malfunctions. They try to get closer, but it disappears when they get to the top of a hill. (C. W. Fitch, "[Monitoring and Scanning Discs](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, September 1964, p. 5)
- 1958**, April 1 — 5:30 a.m. Passengers on two buses moving south out of Tucson, Arizona, see a V-formation of white, round objects moving at a high altitude southeast parallel to the East Benson Highway. They remain visible while one of the buses travels 15 miles. A spokesman at Davis-Monthan AFB says the next day that the objects are probably delta-wing F-102 aircraft. ("[Tucsonans Sight Flight of High-Flying Saucers](#)," *Tucson Arizona Daily Star*, April 2, 1958, p. 1; "[UFOs May Have Been F102s](#)," *Tucson Arizona Daily Star*, April 3, 1958, p. B-1)
- 1958**, April 4 — [Wilton E. Lexow](#), chief of the CIA Applied Science Division, sends a memo to the assistant director for scientific intelligence regarding requests by [Keyhoe](#) and [Leon Davidson](#) to see a copy of the 1953 Robertson Panel report. Lexow indicates that Maj. [Lawrence J. Tacker](#) prefers all UFO information requests go to the Air Force for answering. He adds, "I think we can use this procedure as a precedent henceforth in all inquiries regarding UFO's." (Wilton E. Lexow, "[Comments on Letters Dealing with UFOs](#)," April 4, 1958; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 293)
- 1958**, April 9 — A family in Cleveland, Ohio, sees a flight of nine UFOs that suddenly separates into two groups of four and five objects. (UFOEv, [p. 15](#))
- 1958**, April 9 — 7:15 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. B. Mills are driving on St. Vincent Street in Nelson, New Zealand, when they see a bright-red triangular object with white lights around its perimeter. It is descending from the northeast at a 45° angle and moving across Tasman Bay. They see the object again, somewhat dimmer, around 8:00 p.m. from a friend's house on Matipo Terrace. ("[Another 'Object' Reported](#)," *Nelson (N.Z.) Evening Mail*, April 12, 1958, reprinted in *Space Probe* 6, no. 1–2 (July/Dec. 1958): 27–28; "[Triangular Object over New Zealand](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 6)
- 1958**, April 10 — A Danish fighter pilot reports seeing a formation of UFOs. They are also tracked on radar at Skrydstrup Airport in Vojens, Denmark. The pilot attempts to overtake them, but they accelerate and disappear. The commander of Fighter Wing Skrydstrup appeals to the public to report any UFOs. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 March–April](#), The Author, 1998, p. 69)
- 1958**, April 10 — Sen. [Barry Goldwater](#) (R-Ariz.) speaks out on the subject of UFOs after recent sightings in Arizona. He tells the press, "Flying saucers, unidentified objects or whatever you call them—are real," and that the "Air Force has a project to investigate these reports but when you ask about them they clam up." ("[Senator Goldwater States Belief Flying Saucers Are Real](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 4 (June 1958): 6)
- 1958**, April 13 — 9:40 p.m. Lester Billheimer and Carl Kern watch an object shaped like a "solid right angle" glowing like a white neon light over Allentown, Pennsylvania. It travels northwest at first, then turns west and disappears after three seconds. (NICAP case file)
- 1958**, April 15 — Day. A witness in Broager, Denmark, sees a large, black, low-flying, triangular object. As it flies over town, a number of horseshoe-shaped objects emerge, emitting a strong light. Twenty other witnesses see a triangular "spaceship" at the same time. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 March–April](#), The Author, 1998, p. 77)
- 1958**, April 16 — Wibren Heslenga and Adrian Keet, while working on construction of a barn in Ingersoll, Ontario, watch several glowing objects approach from the north. The men describe them as having corners and approximately two farm fields distant. While the other objects hover in the air, one appears to land. Before the men can go to the landed object, it takes off straight up with a jerky movement and disappears from view along with the other objects. No ground markings can be found. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 March–April](#), The Author, 1998, pp. 77–79)
- 1958**, April 25 — The officer for UFO investigation in Denmark, Lt. Col. [Hans-Christian Petersen](#), tells the magazine *B-T* that multiple-witness sightings are commonplace and that the current Danish wave is comparable to that of the US 1952 wave. "Nothing is gained by rejecting all the accounts as fantasy," he tells reporters. Petersen has founded the Skandinavisk UFO Information group in December with five other Danish military jet pilots. ("[Flying Saucer Reports Pour in from Denmark](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 2–4; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 March–April](#), The Author, 1998, pp. 97–99)

- 1958**, May 4 — [Dewey Fournet](#) confirms, in a statement to NICAP, the existence of the Estimate of the Situation and his own motion study from 1952. (UFOEv, [p. 110](#); Swords 509)
- 1958**, May 5 — 3:40 p.m. Experienced pilot [Carlos Alejo Rodriguez](#) is flying his Piper Cub in the vicinity of Capitán de Corbeta Naval Air Base [now part of Capitán de Corbeta Carlos A. Curbelo International Airport] near San Carlos, Uruguay, when a brilliant top-like object (symmetrical above and below) suddenly approaches his plane head-on. The UFO is about 45–60 feet in diameter, stops about 6,500 feet away and “rocked twice, in a balancing motion.” Rodriguez feels strong heat, so he removes his jacket and opens the aircraft windows. The UFO takes off abruptly toward the sea “at a fantastic speed,” leaving a thin vapor trail. (NICAP, “[Top-Like Object Heats Up Piper Cub](#)”; UFOEv, [p. 120](#); Donald E. Keyhoe and Gordon I. R. Lore Jr., [Strange Effects from UFOs](#), NICAP, 1969, p. 16)
- 1958**, May 6 — In a letter to NICAP member George Stocking of St. Petersburg, Florida, [Ruppelt](#) says he is “now convinced that the reports of UFO’s are nothing more than reports of balloons, aircraft, astronomical phenomena, etc. I don’t believe they are anything from outer space.” (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 May–July](#), The Author, 1999, p. 5; Powell, [Keyhoe](#), 256)
- 1958**, May 7 — [Keyhoe](#)’s friend [Lou Corbin](#) has received from a military friend of Gen. [Nathan Twining](#) news that Twining is still concerned about UFOs. Keyhoe writes to him and receives a note from Twining’s executive officer, Col. [James C. Sherrill](#): “No effective means have been developed for the establishment of communication by radio or otherwise with unknown aerial objects. The technical obstacles involved in such an endeavor, I am sure, are quite obvious to you.” (Keyhoe, [FSTS](#), pp. 198–199)
- 1958**, May 8 — US Rep. [John E. Henderson](#) (R-Ohio) writes to Secretary of Defense [Neil H. McElroy](#) asking about the status of UFO reports and the USAF investigation. ATIC decides to give Henderson a formal briefing. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 May–July](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 5–8, 42; Swords 276)
- 1958**, May 13 — 12:15 p.m. A Royal Canadian Air Force Dakota DC-3 is flying to RCAF Station Cold Lake, Alberta, from Victoria, British Columbia. When it changes its heading about 25 miles southwest of Calgary, Alberta, a large, thick, black cloud suddenly appears directly across its flight path at the same altitude. The VHF communications with Cold Lake and Calgary suddenly cease working. The cloud has indistinct, hazy edges, and it increases in size as the plane approaches at about 155 mph. The pilot unsuccessfully tries to radio Calgary to request a flight path change to avoid the cloud, which is now about 10 miles away. Suddenly he sees a brilliant white pinpoint of light materialize in the dark mass. It grows in size, forming a brilliant ball that quickly approaches the aircraft on a collision course. He braces himself, but the light disappears, and the black cloud vanishes. (Don Ledger, “[Two Spherical UAP Cases Witnessed by Pilots in Canadian Airspace](#),” [IUR](#) 33, no. 2 (July 2010): 7–9)
- 1958**, May 15 — The Soviets launch Sputnik 3 from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. (Wikipedia, “[Sputnik 3](#)”)
- 1958**, May 15 — Lackland AFB’s chief of education planning for the officer candidate school, Maj. Warren Akin, suggests, at a meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in San Antonio, Texas, that UFOs are spacecraft. (“[Visitors from Outer Space Already May Have Visited Us, Major Says](#),” [San Antonio \(Tex.\) Express](#), May 16, 1958, p. 2)
- 1958**, May 16 — USAF Capt. [Walter W. Irwin](#) reaches 1,404 mph in a Lockheed YF-104A Starfighter at Edwards AFB, California. (Wikipedia, “[Lockheed F-104 Starfighter](#)”)
- 1958**, May 31–June 1 — The fifth Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention takes place at Giant Rock, near Landers, California. [Dana Howard](#), [Truman Bethurum](#), John McCoy, [Wayne Aho](#), [Daniel Fry](#), and [Reinhold O. Schmidt](#) join host [George Van Tassel](#) for two days of contactee conviviality. (Dana Howard, “[Dana Howard Reporting the Giant Rock Convention, 1958](#),” [Flying Saucer Review](#) 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 20–21, 25)
- 1958**, Summer — At an unidentified Air Force base in the Southwest US, two jets are vectored in on two UFOs flying together as seen on radar. As the jets close in, one UFO disappears from the radarscope and quickly reappears behind the first jet. The first pilot reverses his course and again tries to close in. The UFO climbs out of range. The second pilot has the same difficulty with the other UFO. (“[UFO Chase by AF Jets Revealed to NICAP](#),” [UFO Investigator](#) 1, no. 8 (June 1959): 7)
- 1958**, Summer — Evening. A mechanic at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, allegedly sees a disc-like craft hovering silently above the tarmac. As the object retracts its landing gear, he manages to alert another mechanic in time for them both to see it take off at high speed. The Air Force officers who interrogate them tell them the object was also seen by control tower operators. (“[White Sands Sightings Kept Secret, Now Told](#),” [Skylook](#), no. 64 (March 1973): 4; “[UFO Landing in Proximity of Holloman Air Force Base Told](#),” [Skylook](#), no. 65 (April 1973): 5; Good Need, [p. 223](#))

- 1958, June** — A USAF officer secretly meets with [Keyhoe](#) and gives him three UFO reports and warns him that the Air Force will ask him for “certain UFO information. Think it over carefully before you decide.” NICAP could be in trouble, he says. Two days later, NICAP receives a request from the Air Force requesting any cases that indicate intelligent maneuvers by UFOs. Keyhoe refuses the request, sensing a setup. (Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 199, 232–233)
- 1958, June** — [Richard H. Hall](#) joins NICAP as executive secretary and associate editor. (Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 30, 208; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 233–234)
- 1958, June** — Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, has prepared a 17-page TV script based on a straightforward interpretation of [Keyhoe](#)’s *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, even including the 1953 [Moncla](#) case. The script states that “the most logical explanation is that the saucers are interplanetary.” It also says that USAF has “concealed information which was thought to be of danger because of the impending possibility of hysteria and panic.” Keyhoe approves the script, but Lackland withdraws it from consideration by December. (Keyhoe, FSTS, pp. 219–227)
- 1958, June** — 4:00 a.m. A woman doctor at a resort at Sinaia, Romania, sees a silvery domed disc traveling slowly and silently toward the southeast at 1,500 feet. On its underside it has a bluish triangular section with rounded points. It passes within 900 feet of her hotel. (Hobana and Weverbergh 159–160)
- 1958, June** — 9:00 p.m. B. Muratov and his father are returning home to Chimbay, Uzbekistan, after a fishing expedition to the Aral Sea. They notice a disc-shaped object approaching them directly at low altitude from the northeast. It flies over them and see that its diameter is about 82 feet and it is traveling at 150–180 mph. Its hull is shiny and one side shines with a red color. A pipe is attached to one side, and it gives off a steady “zing zing zing” sound. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, p. 123)
- 1958, June 1** — 11:15 a.m. Bjørn Taraldsen, Nils M. Turi, Kate Julsen, and Rasmus Hykkerud watch a silent “unknown aircraft” like a twin-engine, delta-wing jet with no identifying marks plunge into the Altafjord, Troms og Finnmark, Norway. A column of water rises up, and dead fish float to the surface. The frigate [KNM Arendal](#) and the submarine *KNM Sarpen*, along with divers, search fruitlessly for more than a week, although the *Arendal* does get a sonar reading of a mobile object. (Ole Jonny Brønne, “[Observations of Unidentified Submarine Objects in Norway](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 12)
- 1958, June 6** — [Keyhoe](#) writes to NICAP member George Stocking saying that [Ruppelt](#) has a job at an aircraft company that contracts with the Air Force and thus might be playing it safe about UFOs. (Clark III 1023)
- 1958, June 10** — MP [George Chetwynd](#) in the UK House of Commons asks the Air Ministry how many instances of UFOs were reported in the past 12 months and what steps were taken to look into them. Under-Secretary of State for Air [Ian Orr-Ewing](#) replies that 54 reports were received and that most were meteors, balloons, aircraft, and satellites. (“[Unsatisfactory Answer to M.P.’s Question on UFOs by Undersecretary for Air](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1958): 5; Good Above, [p. 51](#); Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1958, June 20** — USAF Maj. [Joseph E. Boland](#) and Maj. [Lawrence J. Tacker](#) brief Rep. [John E. Henderson](#) (R-Ohio) for one hour on the status of Air Force UFO investigations in the Capitol building in Columbus, Ohio. Also in attendance are Rep. [William C. Cramer](#) (R-Fla.), and Rep. [Donald H. Magnuson](#) (D-Wash.). Afterward, the legislators express confidence in the investigation and agree that publicity is unwise, “particularly in an open or closed formal congressional hearing.” ([documents], “[20 June 1958 Briefing Representative Henderson](#),” USAF Historical Archives; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 May–July](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 48–50; Swords 276–277)
- 1958, June 20** — 11:05 p.m. US Army Sgt. A. Parsley notices an unusual object from a point one mile north of the Army hospital at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The light-silver object is circular and the apparent size of the full moon (which is below the horizon). Its lower section is surrounded by a thick greenish haze. He has it in view for 10 minutes. It is hovering at first, then begins a slight oscillating motion and speeds away due north. (NICAP, “[Communications Chief Reports Full Moon-Sized Object](#)”; [Sparks](#), p. 264)
- 1958, June 25** — The US Air Force selects nine men to be the first astronauts in a pre-NASA program known as Man In Space Soonest. Among them are [Neil Armstrong](#), [Albert Scott Crossfield](#), [Joseph A. Walker](#), and [Robert Michael White](#). The program is canceled on August 1, 1958 and replaced by NASA’s Project Mercury. (Wikipedia, “[Man In Space Soonest](#)”; Dwayne A. Day, “[A Darker Shade of Blue: The Unknown Air Force Manned Space Program](#),” *The Space Review*, September 12, 2022)
- 1958, June 25** — 8:05 p.m. Rádio Renascença in Lisbon, Portugal, broadcasts a Portuguese-language version of *The War of the Worlds* with only the names of characters and places changed. The Martians are supposedly landing in Caracavelos, Portugal. A certain amount of confusion results. (John Gosling, *Waging the War of the Worlds*, McFarland, 2009, pp. 120–129)

- 1958**, June 26 — The New York sector becomes the first operational component of the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment, a system of large computers that coordinates data from many radar sites and processes it to produce a single unified image of airspace over a wide area. SAGE directs and controls the NORAD response to a Soviet air attack, operating in this role from the late 1950s into the 1980s. Its enormous computers and huge displays remain a part of Cold War lore. (Wikipedia, "[Semi-Automatic Ground Environment](#)")
- 1958**, June 28 — [Otis T. Carr](#) and Norman Evans Colton appear on the [Long John Nebel](#) show on WOR-AM in New York City. After Carr praises his mentor, [Nikola Tesla](#), another guest asks Carr to enumerate one or two of his discoveries. Carr feigns a memory lapse, then later is unable to recite even one of [Newton](#)'s three laws of motion. (Clark III 860)
- 1958**, June 28–29 — [Lee Childers Jr.](#), a baker from Detroit, Michigan, speaks at a flying saucer convention near Mountain View, Missouri, in the Ozarks hosted by contactee [Buck Nelson](#). He claims that since April 1955 he has made 21 trips to other planets (and even to "Wolf Star 359 in the Titanian system" that has 2 planets revolving around it) on a saucer piloted by a spaceman named Commander Marcosan. He also went to a space station 2,000 miles in diameter called Trijanon. Other people tell their personal fantastic stories, among them [Wayne Aho](#) and Buck Nelson himself. ("[Out-of-This-World Ozark Convention](#)," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, July 6, 1958, p. 71; Clark III 915)
- 1958**, June 29 — Day. Former RAF Flight Engineer Peter Spencer is flying in an Auster aircraft piloted by Dennis Jackson at 800 feet near the docks at Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England. A large black dumbbell appears below them, flying against the wind. Suddenly it rises up to their height and flies along with them for a while at their speed. Then it accelerates in a terrific burst of speed to a position above them. They try to follow it, but it speeds out over the docks at 1,000 feet and 800 mph. Spencer manages to take three photos of it, but the images show a speed blur. (Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958, May–July](#), The Author, 1999, p. 59)
- 1958**, July — President [Dwight Eisenhower](#) requests permission from Pakistan to establish a secret US intelligence facility at Badaber (Peshawar Air Station) to fly U-2 reconnaissance missions over the Soviet Union. (Wikipedia, "[1960 U-2 incident](#)")
- 1958**, July — Dusk. [Michael D. Swords](#) and his brother Tom are at home in St. Albans, West Virginia, and listening to WCHS-AM radio where someone is calling in a UFO report. They rush to a window and see a domed disc with a revolving top cruise quietly across the landscape. (Michael D. Swords, "[We Know Where You Live](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 2 (January 2006): 12)
- 1958**, July — Night. A 509th Refueling Mission is returning to an Air Force Base in New Hampshire [Pease AFB in Portsmouth?] from Goose Bay [now CFB Goose Bay], Labrador. The crew is flying a KC-97 at about 17,000–18,000 feet. A light like a "moving star" appears. It approaches below the cloud cover and seems to be spherical and as bright as Venus. It soon becomes the apparent size of the Moon, lighting up the clouds above it. The light is a brilliant blue-white with two dark spots, possibly indicating a structure. The object angles upwards and speeds out of sight in 5 seconds. (Michael D. Swords, *GrassRoots UFOs: Case Reports from the Timmerman Files*, Fund for UFO Research, 2005, pp. 24–25)
- 1958**, July–September — A civilian in Washington, D.C., manages to repeatedly photograph "geometrically shaped flying objects as they passed between his telescope and the moon." The photos are "remarkably clear and certainly indicated a phenomenon for which he had no ready explanation." The writer of an October 1 memo, a CIA employee, requests advice on "how we might get our hands on these materials to examine them firsthand and to make a more complete analysis of them." (ClearIntent, [pp. 136–137](#))
- 1958**, July 8 — One hour before sunset. John A. Collins is fishing with a friend in a boat on Canistear Reservoir near Stockholm, New Jersey. They notice a bright light slowly and silently approaching from the south. It first appears as a cherry-red rectangle then, after 10 minutes, it tilts 45°, levels off, and tilts another 45°, turning from red to bluish-white to white. The object takes two 90° turns and approaches them once more, again turning cherry red. At its lowest point it was about 400 feet in altitude. After a total of 45 minutes, it speeds up, rises swiftly, and disappears. (Berthold E. Schwartz, "[UFOs in New Jersey](#)," *Pursuit* 7, no. 2 (April 1974): 31–32)
- 1958**, July 17 — [Keyhoe](#) writes to [Ruppelt](#) to say he is puzzled about his current stance on UFOs, but understands that he might be under pressure from the Air Force. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "[The Forgotten Correspondence of Edward J. Ruppelt: The Story behind Report on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," pp. 15–16; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 257)
- 1958**, July 18 — 8:30 p.m. High-school student Chris Kauffman is gazing at the night sky in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when he sees an object shaped like an equilateral triangle pass directly overhead in a north to south direction at 70–100 mph and 1,000 feet altitude for 10 seconds. It is flying with one point of the triangle as a forward edge

and has 12 small orange lights along its edges. (Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958, May–July*](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 76–77)

- 1958**, July 29 — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration succeeds the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. The new agency is to have a distinctly civilian orientation, encouraging peaceful applications in space science. (Wikipedia, "[NASA](#)")
- 1958**, July 29 — An Associated Press writer in Alamogordo, New Mexico, sees an abridged version of [Carl Jung](#)'s 1954 letters on UFOs in the *APRO Bulletin* and jumps to the conclusion that the psychologist believes them to be extraterrestrial in origin. (Carl Jung, "[On Unconventional Aerial Objects](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, July 1958, pp. 1, 5; "[Dr. Jung Says 'Saucers' Exist: Bars Psychological Explanations](#)," *New York Times*, July 30, 1958, p. 13; Clark III 637; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 264–265)
- 1958**, July 30 — [Ruppelt](#) writes [Keyhoe](#) back, saying he has "always been convinced that UFO's were nothing more than reports of airplanes, balloons, astronomical phenomena, etc." He says he is not being intimidated, he is just not interested in UFOs anymore and too busy. (Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, "[The Forgotten Correspondence of Edward J. Ruppelt: The Story behind Report on Unidentified Flying Objects](#)," p. 16; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 257–258)
- 1958**, July 30 — MP [George Chetwynd](#) presses further questions in the UK House of Commons by asking the Secretary of State for Air [George Ward](#) what action is taken to identify unexplained UFOs. Ward replies that the unidentified reports are "not sufficiently precise." ("[More Questions in House of Commons](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 4, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1958): iv; Good Above, [pp. 51–52](#); Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1958**, August — Polish Air Force pilot Apoloniusz Czernów of the 3rd Fighter Regiment in Warsaw, is returning from an attempted balloon interception in the area around Świdnica, Poland. Flying at 26,000 feet, he sees another possible balloon 9 miles away at a height of 3,200 feet and turns his MiG-17 toward it. But when he approaches it, he sees it is a cigar-shaped object tilted at a 45° angle, silvery-orange in color, and pulsating with a weird light. He gets closer and the object ascends at high speed, heads north, changes to orange-red, and disappears. Base radar has detected nothing. (Poland 63–64)
- 1958**, August 1 — The Teak thermonuclear test, part of Operation Hardtack I, is launched from Johnston Atoll in the North Pacific Ocean and carries a payload of 3.8 megatons. The warhead is carried on a Redstone missile, which has a "program failure," causing it to go straight up and detonate directly above the island. In a sanitized film record of the event, men in flip-flops and shorts can be seen ducking for cover as a phenomenal fireball consumes the sky overhead. During the Teak test, all crew on and around Johnston Atoll are given protective eyewear to prevent flash blindness from the explosion. Besides the hazard of blindness, thermal radiation is another concern—even at an altitude of 50 miles. A crew member on Johnston at the time is said to have received a slight sunburn from the amount of thermal radiation that had reached the island. While only slight to the crew member, it creates issues for the local fauna. Many birds are seen in distress. Unsure if this is caused by blindness or thermal radiation, the project members decide to take precautions to protect local wildlife during the next test. The explosion can be seen from Hawaii 806 miles away and is said to be visible for almost half an hour. After the explosion, high-frequency, long-distance communication is interrupted across the Pacific. Due to this failure, Johnston Atoll personnel are unable to contact their superiors to advise of the test results until about 8 hours after the detonation. The detonation disturbs [Wernher Von Braun](#) so greatly that he leaves the island shortly after comms are restored. The explosion causes the blue sky to turn red, white, and gray, and it creates an aurora 2,100 miles long along the geomagnetic meridian. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Hardtack I](#)"; Wikipedia, "[Hardtack Teak](#)"; Jacobsen, *Area 51*, [pp. 170–171](#))
- 1958**, August 3 — 2:25 a.m. A sudden violet-orange brightness illuminates the sky over Rome, Italy, for about 3 seconds. Lights in the city dim, failing completely in some areas. Physician Angelo Corsi witnesses it 37 miles southeast of Rome in Sgurgola. After his car radio fails, and the house and streetlights go out, he sees a long whitish trail like a fan in the sky. At 2:22 a.m., in Rieti a sergeant and some guards see a yellow-green cigar-shaped object moving rapidly toward the southeast. It leaves a luminous trail that lights up roads, mountains, and houses for several seconds. A similar sight is seen in Naples. ([Schopick](#), pp. 142–143; Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 August–September*](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 1, 3)
- 1958**, August 8 — An informal two-hour hearing on UFOs is held by the House Subcommittee on Atmospheric Phenomena, chaired by Rep. [William Natcher](#) (D-Ky.), which is part of the Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration, chaired by Rep. [John W. McCormack](#) (D-Mass.). Although McCormack wants an extended hearing in closed secret session, unrecorded, ATIC Capt. [George T. Gregory](#) persuades him to allow the Air Force to give a briefing, while allowing people like [Menzel](#), [Ruppelt](#), and [Keyhoe](#) to offer their opinions later. NICAP as a whole should be excluded, he emphasizes. The main witnesses turn out to be Gregory and Maj. [Tacker](#). The

subcommittee, which also includes [Kenneth Keating](#) (R-N.Y.) and [Lee Metcalf](#) (D-Mont.), commends Gregory for his presentation on Project Blue Book's "improved" methods. The hearings were to have been extended to the following week, but they decide to call no more witnesses at the suggestion of scientific consultant Dr. [Charles S. Sheldon II](#), who thus maneuvers Keyhoe out of appearing. ([documents], "[8 August 1958, McCormack Sub-Committee Briefing](#)," USAF Historical Archives; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 August–September*, The Author, 1999, pp. 5–27; Swords 277–279; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 231–232; Graff 136)

- 1958**, August 9 — [Carl Jung](#) issues a denial to the Associated Press about his "extraterrestrial" statement, saying that witnesses are "in need of fantasy." He thinks "something is being seen," but his interest is more in what they think they are seeing. ("[Dr. Jung Says Flying Saucers Are a New 'Savior Myth](#),'" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 9, 1958, p. 5; Coral Lorenzen, "[Editorial](#)," *APRO Bulletin*, September 1958, p. 6; "[Dr. Jung Sets Record Straight](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 5 (Aug./Sept. 1958): 1, 3–4; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 265–267)
- 1958**, August 11 — The Orange thermonuclear test is launched by Redstone missile from Johnston Atoll with a yield of 3.8 megatons. Although Orange is visible from Hawaii, it is not the great spectacle Teak had been. The light from the 28-mile-high blast is visible for about 5 minutes, but does not cause a large communication interruption; however, some commercial flights to Hawaii are said to have lost contact with air traffic controllers for a short period of time. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Hardtack I](#)")
- 1958**, August 11 — Betty Jane Williamson dies in Lima, Peru, when her husband [George Hunt Williamson](#) is on a lecture tour in Europe. Her death is caused by malnutrition generated by an alternative diet regimen. [James W. Moseley](#) later circulates an outrageously false accusation that Williamson killed Betty by pushing her off a cliff, but the charge is a complete fabrication. (Clark III 1286; James W. Moseley and Karl T. Pflock, *Shockingly Close to the Truth! Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist*, Prometheus, 2002, pp. 137–138; Jerome Clark, "[The Trivialist](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 15–19, 29–30; Zirger and Martinelli, *The Incredible Life of George Hunt Williamson*, Verdechiari, 2016, pp. 117, 123–124)
- 1958**, August 16 — Around 5:00 p.m. Several persons on Lake Geneva, Switzerland, watch a bright light descending. It comes to hover about 45 feet above their boat. It is saucer-shaped, about 39 feet in diameter, and has a cabin on top with several windows. It causes a noticeable current in the water. After several leaps in the air, it flies off at high speed. (Vallée, *Magonia*, [p. 272](#))
- 1958**, August 18 — 7:05 or 7:10 p.m. Typewriter repairman Alex Donald Chisholm is at home at 21950 Cunningham Avenue in Warren, Michigan, with Walter Moilanion and his wife and possibly a young daughter, when he sees a light much brighter than Venus in the vicinity of a flight of four military aircraft. He watches the object through 8x30 mm Japanese artillery-observer field glasses. It looks to be a Saturn-shaped grayish object like a "fried egg in pan." Later it flips over, and another more elongated ring can be seen surrounding it. The object is about 60 feet long and is stationary for 5-8 minutes. However, the object is probably a Skyhook balloon launched from the University of Minnesota on August 17. (Clark III 392; NICAP, [[case file](#)])
- 1958**, August 27–September 6 — In Operation Argus, three nuclear warheads are launched from X-17 rockets from the deck of the [USS Norton Sound](#) in the South Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Africa. They explode approximately 300 miles into space. The tests are proposed by [Nicholas Christofilos](#) in an unpublished paper of the Livermore branch [now the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory] of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley, California, as a means to verify the Christofilos effect, which argues that high-altitude nuclear detonations will create a radiation belt in the extreme upper regions of the Earth's atmosphere (they do create artificial electron belts that persist several weeks), or an electronic pulse that could hypothetically damage the arming devices on Soviet ICBM warheads (they do not). (Wikipedia, "[Operation Argus](#)")
- 1958**, August 27 — NICAP accepts the resignation of its office manager, treasurer, and typist [Rose Hackett Campbell](#) after she gives membership cards to [George Adamski](#) and other contactees. [Richard H. Hall](#) begins work at NICAP as associate editor. ("[Resignations](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 5 (Aug./Sept. 1958): 2; "[Richard Hall Becomes Assoc. Editor](#)," *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 5 (Aug./Sept. 1958): 2; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 239–249)
- 1958**, August 28 — 4:20 p.m. Two Ohio highway patrolmen are headed east on State Highway 125 about two miles east of Georgetown, Ohio, when they see a huge, silver disc apparently hovering near a power line and above a field to the northwest. It is about 500 feet away and 500 feet in the air, apparently solid, and wobbling slightly. The patrolmen turn the car around for a better look and drive back to their station where they call the dispatcher outside to view the object as well. The object moves upward for about 50 feet, then goes away at an angle, disappearing into the distance. (Delbert E. Anderson, "[A Compelling Patrol](#)," *Ohio UFO Notebook*, no. 11 (1996): 15; Powell, *Scientist*, 46)

- 1958**, September — Around 9:00 p.m. The [USS Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) is on a shakedown cruise in the Caribbean Sea out of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, when at least 25 of the 3,000 crew members notice a light following the aircraft carrier. Fireman's apprentice [Chester C. Grusinski](#) watches it as it comes close and sees a cigar-shaped object with portholes and figures inside looking out. Grusinski can feel heat coming from the object, and some of the ship's power apparently goes out. After a few minutes, the object turns red-orange and takes off. (Chester C. Grusinski, "[UFOs Seen by Crew of an American Aircraft Carrier \(1952–1958\)](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 40, no. 3 (Autumn 1995): 1–4; Jon Baughman, "[A Moment in \(Recent\) History: UFOs Shadowed US Aircraft Carrier](#)," *Broad Top Bulletin* (Saxton, Pa.), December 1, 1999; Gordon Creighton, "[Confirmation of an Important U.S. Naval Sighting](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 46, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 17–20; Good Need, [pp. 234–236](#))
- 1958**, September 8 — 6:40 p.m. At Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska, SAC Operations Officer Maj. [Paul A. Duich](#), plus several officers from USAF Ballistic Missiles Division, Los Angeles AFB in El Segundo, California; many other air base officers and airmen; and Offutt air traffic control tower personnel see a brilliant-white, elongated, cylindrical object hovering in the west just after sunset. The object is oriented vertically with the blunter end highest. After several minutes, the object turns dull orange-red and becomes sharper in outline. A swarm of about 10 "black specks" appears to "cavort" around the lower end of the object for about one minute before disappearing. Then the cylindrical object begins to rotate counterclockwise and starts drifting slowly to the south from due west and drops in elevation angle over about 5 minutes. During the final 5-minute observation, the object continues angular descent and gradually decreases in angular size, but it begins rotating clockwise until it disappears by fading into the slight atmospheric haze. A USAF colonel takes several color photos with a 35mm camera on a tripod but later claims nothing came out. (UFOEv, [pp. 25, 27](#); Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 August–September](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 59–63; Olsen, sec. 3, pp. 58–59; Herbert S. Taylor, "[Satellite Objects and Cloud Cigars](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 5–6; [Sparks](#), p. 265; Swords 280)
- 1958**, September 12 — The Operation Hardtack II series of 37 nuclear tests takes place at the Nevada Test Site through October 30, all within 18 miles of Area 51. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Hardtack II](#)")
- 1958**, September 21 — 3:00 a.m. Mrs. William H. Fitzgerald of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, sees through her east-facing bedroom window a metallic domed disc, 12–22 feet in diameter and 6 feet thick. It sweeps in over the front lawn heading north and descending in a falling-leaf oscillating motion to about 6 feet altitude, then crosses over her driveway, and stops for several seconds about 40 feet away. It then reverses course heading south and hovers 5 feet above the lawn about 25 feet away, making a jetlike sound. The object wobbles and emits gray smoke, makes two tight clockwise turns, then rises and takes off straight up over the house towards the east. Her 10-year-old son also observes the event from another room. (NICAP, "[12' Diameter 6' Thick Disc within 40'](#)"; UFO Research Committee of Akron, Ohio, *The Fitzgerald Report: A Complete and Detailed Account of the Sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, September 21, 1958*, December 1, 1958; Coral Lorenzen, "The Fitzgerald Investigation: What It Means," *Flying Saucers*, May 1959, pp. 47–50; Donald Menzel and Lyle Boyd, *The World of Flying Saucers*, Doubleday, 1963, pp. 279–288; UFO Ev, [p. 113](#); "[A Documented Case of Governmental Dishonesty](#)," *Pursuit* 5, no. 2 (April 1972): 28–30; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 August–September](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 68–72)
- 1958**, September 25 — The Project Moonwatch team in Portland, Oregon, is looking at the Moon when they see objects crossing the lunar disc. Occasionally they recognize the transit as a bird, but there are "tiny dark objects" that behave differently. All the objects pass in the same direction and in the same location for about one second. Supervisor Alex Geddes, who was not present, sends a supportive letter to the observers, thanking them for the data. (Michael D. Swords, "[Gazing at the Moons](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 4 (October 2009): 15; CUFOs files, [1958–1962 Moonwatch Mystery Satellites], [pp. 45–50](#))
- 1958**, September 29 — 5:30 a.m. Pvt. Jerome A. Scanlon, stationed at Nike missile base W-93 in Derwood, Maryland, is walking from his sentry post to the barracks to sound reveille when he hears a humming sound above him. He looks up and sees a teardrop-shaped object 300 feet up and coming in for a landing at 30 mph. It moves over trees, breaking branches, and lands about 1.5 miles away. Exhaust flames issue from its rear, and its luminous green skin illuminates the terrain. It rises again and disappears. Scanlon runs to inform Riney Farris, the sergeant of the guard, who has also seen the object. They go to the landing site and find broken branches and a scorched strip of earth and vegetation about half a mile long. After the story appears in newspapers, the Air Force explains the incident as repair trucks doing welding jobs. ("Brass to Hear GI's Account of Fiery 'Saucer,'" *New York Journal-American*, October 7, 1958; "'Saucer' Landed, Say Two Soldiers," *Goldsboro (N.C.) Record*, October 9, 1958; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, pp. 90–91; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 August–September](#), The Author, 1999, p. 79)

- 1958**, October — Maj. [Robert J. Friend](#) takes over as head of Project Blue Book, relieving Capt. [George T. Gregory](#). About this time, a new USAF fact sheet states that investigative improvements have reduced unsolved sightings to 1.8%. The “refinement” comes from lumping “probable” and “possible” identifications into “identified.” At the same time, a secret staff study by USAF intelligence officers addresses the public relations problems caused by [Keyhoe](#), who is characterized as a “political adventurer” allied with [Ruppelt](#), both of whom are in the UFO “business” strictly for the money. Yet together “they represent a formidable team from which plenty of trouble can be expected.” The study recommends that 18–20 personnel be assigned to temporary UFO investigation duty. They would solve reports that have not been sent directly to Blue Book. Though ATIC urges implementation of the plan, Air Force Headquarters kills it. (Jacobs, *UFO Controversy in America*, Signet ed., 1976, [pp. 146–151](#); Clark III 920; *Hynek UFO Report*, [pp. 25–27](#); [Sparks](#), p. 14)
- 1958**, October 1 — NASA begins operations. It includes three major labs: Langley Aeronautical Laboratory [now Langley Research Center] in Hampton, Virginia; Ames Aeronautical Laboratory [now Ames Research Center] in Mountain View, California; and Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory [now Glenn Research Center] in Brook Park, Ohio. It incorporates elements of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and the US Naval Research Laboratory. (Wikipedia, “[NASA](#)”)
- 1958**, October 2 — Shortly after 5:00 p.m. Naturalist [Ivan T. Sanderson](#) and his wife Alma see a dull-gray object, shaped like a pickle with a flat bottom, fly erratically in loops over the Delaware Water Gap near Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. It appears sometimes edge-on, other times oval or circular. It vanishes once but quickly reappears, continuing its rapid gyrations, and speeds away to the west after a 30-second performance. Sanderson writes: “The best way I can describe the motion is that somebody was flying a 1000-foot circular kite on a 500-foot lead in a 250-mile hurricane over Stroudsburg. The thing had just the erratic flipping, with sudden stops and sharp-angle turns, of a kite in a really rough updraft.” (NICAP, “[Nickel-Shaped Object Flies Loops \(Sanderson Case\)](#)”; UFOEv, [p. 52](#); Ivan T. Sanderson, *Uninvited Visitors*, Tandem ed., 1969, [pp. 33–38](#); [Sparks](#), p. 266)
- 1958**, October 3 — 3:10 a.m. A Monon Railroad freight train is traveling between Owasco and Kirklin, Indiana, when a formation of four odd white lights crosses ahead of the train. The entire crew watch the UFOs turn and traverse the full length of the train, front to back (about a half mile). After passing the rear of the train, the objects swing east, turn back, and follow the train. The bright glow conceals their exact shape, but they appear flattened and sometimes fly on edge. The objects follow the train until the conductor shines a bright light on them. Immediately the objects speed away, but return quickly and continue to pace the train. Total time of observation is about 1 hour 10 minutes. Finally the UFOs move away to the northeast and disappear. (NICAP, “[The Monon RR UFO Incident](#)”; “[They’re Back Again—in Indiana](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, November 1958, pp. 1, 3; Frank Edwards, “UFO Buzzes Train,” *Fate* 12, no. 2 (February 1959): 25–30; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 October*, The Author, 1999, pp. 5–8; Jazz Shaw, “[More Evidence the Pentagon Has Always Lied about UFOs](#),” *Mysterious Universe*, February 22, 2024)
- 1958**, October 7 — 2:55 p.m. Joseph Gwooz, master of the [SS Nantucket](#), sees a gray, oval object in the sky at an altitude of 8,000–10,000 feet at the entrance to the Nantucket Channel, Massachusetts. It remains stationary for more than one minute, then shoots up and away to the northeast. (UFOEv, [p. 71](#))
- 1958**, October 7 — 6:02 p.m. Chemist John R. Townsend, special assistant for research and engineering to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, sees a large, stationary, sharply outlined Saturn-shaped silvery object (with a “gossamer” surface appearance and a rim or girdle around its equator) in a clear sky in Alexandria, Virginia. It rapidly rises at an estimated speed of 1,000 mph and disappears to the south after 40 seconds. At one point a passing Capitol Airlines Flight 407 flies directly between his line of sight and the UFO at 2 miles distance, allowing him to estimate the UFO’s size as about 500 feet. Townsend reenacts the timing by walking the half block down Lee Street to get a better feeling for its distance and size. (NICAP, “[Saturn-Shaped Object Observed, Object Confirmed by Pilot](#)”; [Swords](#) 282; [Sparks](#), p. 267)
- 1958**, October 26 — 10:30 p.m. Alvin Cohen and Phillip Small are rounding a curve on Maryland Route 146 some 600–900 feet south of the bridge at Loch Raven Reservoir, Maryland. They see a large (100 feet long) egg-shaped object hanging 100–150 feet above the bridge. When they drive to within 75 feet of it their car stalls and the dash lights turn off. They get out of the car and watch the UFO from behind it for 30–45 seconds. The UFO flashes a beam of white light and they feel heat on their faces. They also hear a dull explosion. The UFO rises vertically and disappears in 5–10 seconds. They are able to start the car and drive into Towson, Maryland, to make a phone call to the Ground Observer Corps and the police. Police Cpl. Kenneth Hartmann and Patrolman Richard Fink drive up and they tell them the story, then they go to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Baltimore and are given a cursory examination for burns. Other people in the neighborhood either see an object at the time or hear the boom. (“[Baltimore’s Flying Saucer](#),” *Baltimore (Md.) Evening Sun*, December 15, 1958, p. 21; NICAP, “[Egg-Shaped Object & E-M Effects over Bridge](#)”; [Schopick](#), pp. 62–63; Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the*

Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 October, The Author, 1999, pp. 73–86; J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine ed., 1974, pp. 132, 139–140; *Sparks*, p. 268; Clark III 686)

- 1958**, October 28 — 7:55 p.m. Jean Boyer is driving on Route Nationale 75 along the valley of Le Grand Buëch river near a cliff formation called Pont-la-Dame about 5.6 miles northeast of Aspres-sur-Buëch, Hautes-Alpes, France. He notices a luminous disc, like two plates together, motionless in the sky above Pont-la-Dame. It seems to be floating about 650–1,300 feet above the ground. He stops the car on a bridge roughly beneath the object for a better look. A smaller circle on the disc is emitting dark red sparks. After 2 minutes, the object shoots off a stream of blinding sparks and rises vertically, leaving a fiery trail and a faint glow that soon vanishes. At the same time, he feels a current of air that rocks his station wagon. (Jacques and Janine Vallée. *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*, Regnery, 1966, pp. 194–197)
- 1958**, November — Skandinavisk UFO Information in Denmark begins publishing *UFO-Nyt*. (*UFO-Nyt*, November 1958)
- 1958**, November 3 — 2:01 p.m. At Minot, North Dakota, M/Sgt. William R. Butler, a medic, sees one bright-green object, shaped like a 10-cent piece, and one smaller, silver round object. The first object explodes, then the second object moves toward the location of the first at high speed. Sighting lasts 1 minute. (*Sparks*, p. 268)
- 1958**, November 4 — 9:03 p.m. The pilot of a KB-50 USAF tanker is in the downwind leg of the traffic pattern during a ground-controlled approach to Pope AFB [now Pope Field] in Fayetteville, North Carolina, when he notices an object on a collision course. He and his flight crew also notice that “strange lights were observed in his cockpit while he was on the final approach...” He executes a go-around maneuver and climbs in altitude to await the disappearance of the object. Air Force tower personnel also see the UFO hovering above the airport, watching it through their binoculars for 20 minutes. They are convinced it is not an atmospheric phenomenon. They say that “the UFO presented a hazard to aircraft operating in the area.” (NICAP, “[Object on Collision Course with KB-50 Tanker, Circles](#)”; Richard F. Haines, “[Aviation Safety in America: A Previously Neglected Factor](#),” NARCAP, October 15, 2000, pp. 53–54; *Sparks*, p. 268)
- 1958**, November 5 — MP [Roy Mason](#) asks the Air Minister in the UK House of Commons to what extent official records are kept of UFO sightings and what departments are involved. Air Minister [George Ward](#) replies in writing that reports involving national security are investigated but “nothing suggests that they are other than mundane.” (“[Come Off It, Mr. Ward! ‘Nothing Suggests That They Are Other Than Mundane.’](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 5, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1959): 2; Good Above, p. 52; Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1958**, November 9 — Residents of Trinidad, Rio Dell, and other towns in northern California report showers of cobweblike material, some in strands 5–6 feet long. Two fishermen at sea, [George Korkan](#) and Jack Curry, say the substance settles on their boat in such quantity that it makes the boat appear “a million years old.” A sample obtained at McKinleyville is examined by biologist Erwin Bielfuss at Humboldt State College. He rules out mold or an animal product and suggests it is plant material or plastic. (“[Cobweb Like Substance in Area Mystifies Zoologist](#),” *Eureka* (Calif.) *Humboldt Standard*, November 10, 1958, p. 5; UFOEv, p. 99)
- 1958**, November 9 — 10:00 p.m. Two carpenters, Stig Ekberg and Harry Sjöberg, are returning from Stockholm, Sweden, to their cabin on Vaddö island, about 20 miles to the northeast. About 6 miles north of Älmstä the engine of their Ford V8 pickup begins to sputter and fail, and the headlights go out. They see a huge, shining object descending toward them and making a turn above Vaddö Bay to the left of the road. It lands in the middle of the road about 300 feet in front of their car. The object illuminates the surrounding landscape with such a tremendous amount of light that a nearby barn is clearly visible. The air smells of ozone and smoldering insulation. They estimate it is 53 feet long and 20 feet high, with a bright glow underneath the object and a dazzling mist surrounding it. They watch the object for about 10 minutes, then the object gets brighter, lifts off the ground, moves to the left and up, makes a sudden turn, and speeds away in the direction it had come. Afterward, the air is stifling and hot, but the engine starts up right away. A few minutes later they return to the landing site and find flattened grass and a still-hot, smooth, triangular piece of metal the size of a matchbox, which they retrieve. They submit the metal to several labs over the next few years, apparently without ambiguous results, but in the process it is split into three pieces. Finally, an engineer in Linköping named Schalin finds the metal has the hardness of sapphire and a specific weight of 15.2. It can take several thousand degrees C. heat without getting red hot. One of the pieces is submitted to the US Air Force and not returned. In the early 1970s, another piece is examined by [James Harder](#) at the University of California, Berkeley, who establishes it is composed of tungsten carbide, cobalt, and traces of titanium, and that it has been manufactured. (Christer Nordin, “[The Vaddö Case](#),” *Nordic UFO Newsletter*, no. 1 (1981): 2–6; Jacques Vallée, “[Physical Analyses in Ten Cases of Unexplained Aerial Objects with Material Samples](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 3 (1998): 365–366)

- 1958**, November 11 — 1:35 a.m. A Mrs. Robert J. Kinney, who is a Lt. Col. in the Civil Air Patrol in Topeka, Kansas, wakes up when her bedroom floods with an amber-colored light and her three dogs begin barking. The source is a 25-foot diameter sphere that is sitting on the walkway in the yard about 30 feet away. Kinney opens a door to go out on a porch, but the light zooms straight up and out of sight. She goes back to bed and the phone rings; it is a neighbor who has seen the light going toward her house. At 7:30 a.m., the phone rings again; this time it is the controllers at the Philip Billard Municipal Airport, who know her well and tell her about the light they saw. In the evening, she finds there is an electrical failure on the east side of the house. Lights, radios, and refrigerators are not working. Kinney replaces some fuses, but not everything turns on again. An electrician comes and replaces some wiring on November 12, but Kinney's eyes develop subconjunctival hemorrhages and sensitivity to bright light. She begins to wear sunglasses regularly. Both of her male dogs develop cataracts. (Loren E. Gross, [*The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A History, 1958 November–December*](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 5–7; Swords 287–288)
- 1958**, November 17 — 10:03 p.m. Somewhere in Russia a luminous object hovers and lands. It is seen for 2 minutes. (Vallée, *Magonia*, [p. 273](#))
- 1958**, November 30 — Tom Gerber of the *Boston Herald* features interviews with unnamed Air Force officers who proclaim an “undeclared war on phony organizations that capitalize on the ‘mystery’ of flying saucers.” Supposedly, the Air Force has evidence that “perhaps as many as 100,000 persons belong to these UFO organizations” and are “making a wad of money.” As many as 16% of the UFO sightings investigated by USAF are “hoaxes originated by members or officials of these organizations”—an obvious swipe at NICAP. (Swords 282–283)
- 1958**, December — The Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, is transferred to NASA from the Army, becoming the agency's primary planetary spacecraft center. (Wikipedia, “[Jet Propulsion Laboratory](#)”)
- 1958**, December — Some 450 airline pilots have signed a petition protesting the official policy of debunking UFO sightings. One pilot describes the policy as a “lesson in lying, intrigue, and the ‘Big Brother’ attitude carried to the ultimate extreme.” Of the signatories, more than 50 personally have reported UFO sightings but are told by the Air Force that they are mistaken. USAF warns them that they face up to 10 years in prison under JANAP 146 if they reveal details of their sighting to the media. Because of situations like this, Maj. [Friend](#) unsuccessfully requests that Blue Book be transferred from ATIC to Air Research and Development Command on the grounds that UFOs are a scientific, not a military problem. His staff complains that the work is time-consuming and unproductive, and ARDC could speak to the public with authority and persuasiveness. ARDC briefly considers, then declines, the offer. (Good Above, [p. 284](#); Clark III 922)
- 1958**, Early December — Contactee [Lee Childers](#) visits a New York City group called the Bureau of UFO Research and Analysis to present a lecture. By now he is calling himself Prince Neosom of Tythan, which is 8.5 light years from Earth. He also answers to the name Dana. (Clark III 915)
- 1958**, December 1 — Adamski claims that during a delay on a Rock Island Railroad train from Kansas City, Missouri, to Davenport, Iowa, he steps outside to stretch his legs and is picked up by a car that takes him to a spacecraft concealed in a wooded area. The saucer takes him to Davenport, where another car brings him to his hotel. NICAP elaborately deconstructs this fiction. (“[Adamski's Latest Claim Blasted by NICAP Affiliate](#),” *UFO Investigator* 1, no. 8 (June 1959): 1, 3–4; Powell, *Keyhoe*, 279–280)
- 1958**, December 6 — Between 6:38 and 6:40 p.m. Along the border of Russia and India, an observer sees a bright UFO cross his field of vision through his telescope from north to south as he is observing Mars. He thinks it might be Sputnik 3, but the location and direction of the object do not bear that out. (ClearIntent, [pp. 137–138](#))
- 1958**, December 6 — 5:44 a.m. The first launch of a Juno II, carrying Pioneer 3, at LC-5 at Cape Canaveral, Florida, suffers a premature first-stage cutoff, preventing the upper stages from achieving sufficient velocity. Pioneer 3 cannot escape Earth orbit but transmits data for some 40 hours before reentering the atmosphere. A malfunction in a propellant depletion circuit is found to be the cause of the failure, although the exact nature of it cannot be determined. The circuit is redesigned afterwards. (Wikipedia, “[Juno II](#)”)
- 1958**, December 18 — Sunrise. Launch control and safety officer Capt. Jack Hembree is near a launch tower beginning the fueling process for a PGM-11 Redstone missile test launch at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. He notices three or four bright, transparent spheres, each about 30 feet across, moving at a low elevation about 150 feet away from the missile. Each contains horizontal and vertical bands containing points of light. The spheres are moving as if connected. He watches them for 30–40 seconds, after which they move in unison at a high rate of speed, elongate slightly, and fly west out of sight. There are no other witnesses. (Steve Pokin, “[Springfield Man Says He Was at White Sands Missile Range When He Saw a UFO in 1959](#),” *Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader*, July

11, 2021; Steve Pokin, “[In 1958 He Saw a UFO, This Is What It Looked Like](#),” *Springfield (Mo.) Daily Citizen*, February 2, 2024; personal communication, Steve Pokin, February 2, 2024)

- 1958**, December 19 — John Lester, a writer for the *Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger*, has polled 1,000 US government radar operators over the past month and found that 80% have observed UFOs traveling at fantastic speeds, executing perfect 90° turns, steep vertical climbs, and hovering stops. They fly in formation and manage to stay just ahead of USAF jets scrambled to intercept them. [Tacker](#) responds immediately that the UFOs are natural phenomena (“lightning, meteors, and meteorites”). (*Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger*, December 19, 21, 1958)
- 1958**, December 20 — 12:30 a.m. [Franklin](#) and [Louise Richardson](#) are driving on Spivey-Tapp road near School Creek, roughly 10 miles north of Lampasas, Texas, “headlight-hunting rabbits,” when they spot six blue-white lights, roughly four times the size of a car headlight, hanging about 75 feet in the air about a quarter mile away. After a short while, the lights begin moving in no discernible pattern, jumping around and blinking on and off. Two of them break loose from the others and rapidly approach, coming within 150 feet of the car before slowly sinking into the ground. This is the first of several sightings the Richardsons encounter over the next six weeks. (“Lampasas Couple ‘Victims’ of Mysterious, Fast-Flying Lights,” *Lampasas (Tex.) Record*, January 29, 1959; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 November–December](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 44, 51)
- 1958**, December 20 — 2:55 a.m. Hans Gustafsson, a 24-year-old truck driver, and Stig Rydberg, a 30-year-old student, claim that while driving home to Helsingborg, Sweden, from a dance they see a strange light in a glade on their right near Domsten. They leave the car and walk up to the object, which turns out to be a disc-shaped vehicle 16 feet in diameter resting on 3 legs. The two are suddenly attacked by four gray creatures about 4 feet tall who try to drag them to the UFO. In January 1959, a medical doctor, Lars-Erik Essén, hypnotizes the men in what is perhaps the first use of hypnosis of a UFO witness, but the two manage to fool Essén. In the late 1980s, Gustafsson’s brother Artur reveals to ufologist [Clas Svahn](#) that before he died his brother had told him the story was a hoax. (“[A Saucer, Two Men, and ‘Little Creatures’](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, January 1959, pp. 1, 7–8; Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, *Domstensfallet: En svensk närkontakt 1958*, AFU, 1989; Anders Liljegren, “[Hoax Exposed after 30 Years](#),” *AFU Newsletter* 33 (January/June 1989): 16–20; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 November–December](#), The Author, 1999, pp. 44–50; Swords 366–367; Clark III 413–414; Rob Morphy, “[Terrible Flying Jelly Bags aka Domsten Blobs \(Sweden\)](#),” *Cryptopia*, May 6, 2018)
- 1958**, December 21 — A group of more than 50 commercial airline pilots, all of whom have had at least one UFO sighting, tell reporter John Lester with the *Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger* that the Air Force policy of censorship and denial regarding reports is the “Big Brother attitude carried to the ultimate extreme.” Most express disgust with the USAF methods of interrogating civilian pilots and complain about the gag order about publicly talking about their sightings under penalty of 10 years in prison or \$10,000 in fines (JANAP 146). “Nuts to that. Who needs it?” (*Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger*, December 22, 1958, p. 4; Loren E. Gross, [The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs, a History: 1958 November–December](#), The Author, 1999, p. 55)
- 1958**, December 22 — 3:00 p.m. Stanislaw Kowalczewski, a physician, takes a photograph of a dark, disc-shaped object over Muszyna, Poland. (Hobana and Weverbergh 67–68; Wiki Meteorica, “[Muszyna 1958](#)”; Poland 21–23)
- 1958**, December 30 — 3:30 p.m. Joseph Bennett, a farmer in Portglenone, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, is out walking and hears a noise like a rush of wind. A black object 7 feet across comes hurtling through the air about 20 feet above the ground. Moving from south to northwest, it crashes into an oak tree, splitting it in two at a height of 10 feet, then ascends and disappears in seconds. The tree has no burn or scorch marks. (“[UAOs Collide with Tree, Roof](#),” *APRO Bulletin*, March 1959, p. 2; “[We’re Not Roswell, We’re Portglenone](#),” *Fortean Ireland*, March 17, 2019)

1959

- 1959?** — According to weapons specialist David Middleton, sometime in the late 1950s a few hours prior to a nuclear weapons test at the Nevada Test Site, he and several other technicians watch two silver discs race across then swoop down and maneuver near the detonation tower where the atomic weapon is mounted. The two objects fly a tight circle around the tower before zooming off at high velocity. The test is immediately postponed by senior AEC personnel. Middleton is debriefed and sworn to secrecy. (Nukes 58–59)
- 1959** — Night. Shortly before the test firing of a Black Knight rocket at the RAAF Woomera Range Complex in South Australia, the recovery officer, Percy Hawkins, sees an exceptionally bright greenish-white light traveling at high speed directly toward the test site at an altitude of about 2.8 miles. Group Captain Tom Dalton-Morgan, the officer in charge, and his team can see the light approaching from their elevated control building, even though

they are located 87 miles to the southeast of Hawkins's position. The light flies in silently and orbits around the range buildings some 5 miles to the south. When the object is east of the control building, it accelerates and climbs steeply away. (Tom Dalton-Morgan and Clive Williams, *Tommy Leader*, Griffon, 2007; Bill Chalker, "[‘Tommy Leader’: Tom Dalton-Morgan and the 3% UFO Solution](#)," TheOzFiles, June 25, 2024)

- 1959** — The original US Navy Space Surveillance System goes into operation. From 1960 until the early 1990s the system is used in conjunction with a network of Baker-Nunn cameras that can see an object the size of a basketball at 25,000 miles. The system is operated by the US Navy for NORAD from 1961 to October 2004. Initially independent, it is run by Naval Space Command from 1993 to 2002, and then by Naval Network and Space Operations Command from 2002 to 2004, when it is taken over by the Air Force. (Wikipedia, "[Air Force Space Surveillance System](#)")
- 1959** — The US Army and CIA at Edgewood Arsenal at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, show significant interest in deploying a new drug, 3-quinuclidinyl benzilate (BZ), as a chemical warfare agent. The drug's effects last for three days, perhaps as long as six. Between 1959 and 1975, some 2,800 soldiers are given BZ at Edgewood. (Reid Kirby, "[Paradise Lost: The Psycho Agents](#)," *The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, no. 71 (May 2006): 1–5)
- 1959** — Psychologist [Carl Jung](#) publishes *Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies* in the UK, a translation of *Ein moderner Mythos von Dingen, die am Himmel gesehen werden*, published in Zürich, Switzerland, in 1958, in which he compares the discs to archetypes, dreams, visions, paintings, and the metaphysical symbol of a mandala: "the rounded wholeness of the mandala becomes a space ship controlled by an intelligent being." However, he remains puzzled by the physical evidence. (Carl Jung, *Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1959; Clark III 637–638)
- 1959** — Author Hugo Correa founds UFO Chile in Santiago, Chile. Its newsletter appears from August 1967 to May 1969. (Hugo Correa, "[¿Que es ‘UFO Chile’?](#)" *UFO Chile*, no. 1 (August 1967): 1)
- 1959** — The Soviet KGB has created its own disinformation Department D (*Dezinformatsiya*) in the First Chief Directorate, which under [Yuri Andropov](#) is later renamed Department A (for "active measures"). It specializes in the fabrication and dissemination of forged documents, tapes, letters, manuscripts, photos, rumors, and false intelligence. (Wikipedia, "[Active measures](#)"; John Barron, *KGB: The Secret Work of Soviet Secret Agents*, Bantam, 1974; Richard H. Shultz and Roy Godson, *Dezinformatsia: Active Measures in Soviet Strategy*, Pergamon-Brassey's, 1984)
- 1959** — Contactee [Howard Menger](#) publishes *From Outer Space to You*, an account of his meetings with space people. (Howard Menger, *From Outer Space to You*, Saucerian, 1959; Clark III 739)
- 1959** — [George Van Tassel](#) claims the space people have taught him a method of rejuvenating the human body. Using his new-found knowledge and funds provided by [Howard Hughes](#), he completes the outer structure of the Integraton at Giant Rock, California, a four-story domed structure, 55 feet in diameter, built mostly of wood without nails, screws, iron, or steel. Van Tassel claims it will harness the EMF energy required for recharging the cells in our bodies. In the course of its construction, Van Tassel discovers that the Integraton functions as a time machine. (Wikipedia, "[Integraton](#)"; Clark III 1219; Douglas Curran, *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*, Abbeville, 1985, pp. 79–81; David Clarke and Tom Clark, "Going 'Out There' in SoCal," *Fortean Times* 388 (January 2020): 75–76)
- 1959, January** — Leonard Hewins sees a fiery, round object come down near Stratford-on-Avon, England, from the east and land 300 feet away. A blue haze forms and three figures emerge and sit down with clumsy movements. Hewins is unable to move until the UFO takes off. (John D. Llewellyn, "[Stratford-on-Avon Landing with Occupants: January 1959](#)," *Flying Saucer Review* 13, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1967): 15; Patrick Gross, [URECAT](#), March 9, 2008)
- 1959, January 1** — Rocket scientist [Wernher von Braun](#), on holiday in Germany, makes a cryptic statement about the failed launch of [Pioneer 3](#) by a Juno II rocket on December 6, 1958: "We find ourselves faced by powers which are far stronger than we had hitherto assumed, and whose base is at present unknown to us. More I cannot say at present. We are now engaged in entering into closer contact with those powers, and in six or nine months' time it may be possible to speak with more precision on the matter." (Good Above, p. 370)
- 1959, January 1** — 4:55 p.m. Deputy Fred Gunzelman of the Harbor Department in Corona del Mar, California, spots a bright object outside department headquarters. He summons Deputy Elmer Sandling and Sgt. Bruce Young and the three watch the object through binoculars, where it appears to be a disc-shaped object with a rotating tail. They notify the lifeguard headquarters at Newport Beach, where Lt. Mike Henry, Guard Jack Bell, and Lt. Jim Richards also see the UFO. The planet Venus is clearly visible in the same section of sky. During the 15 minutes it is visible, it starts moving to the southeast and then splits into four parts. Two rise vertically at high speed,