

1790 Addenda

1790-1: June 12, 1790 0500 Near Alençon, France

Type B

At 5 AM, some peasants perceived an enormous globe apparently wrapped in flames, which flew at a high speed with a hissing noise. It slowed down, oscillated, then fell on the crest of a hill, uprooting some plants on the hillside. It emitted such great heat that it started a brush fire, which the peasants brought under control. By evening, the sphere was still warm! A crowd including among others 2 mayors, a doctor, and "3 other authorities" had assembled. A sort of door suddenly opened, and a person dressed in a skin-tight garment emerged. Seeing the crowd, he muttered something incomprehensible, and ran into the woods. Shortly afterwards, the sphere silently exploded, throwing in every direction fragments that burned to a powder. A search for the mysterious man proved fruitless. A police inspector named Liabeuf made a report to the Académie des sciences, which did not take it seriously. The crater in the hillside left by the sphere remained visible for years.

Investigator: Inspector Liabeuf.

Source: R. Jack Perrin, Le Mystère des OVNI (Editions Pygmalion, Paris, 1976), pp. 19f.

96-01 Late August, 1896 Tamalpais Mountains, Calif.

Type G

William Jordan wrote to the paper to say that in late August, while chasing a wounded deer in the Tamalpais Mountains, he came upon a circular brush pile 10 ft high; a man was there who asked him his business, helped him find the deer, and helped him carry it into the brush corral. Inside was "a perfect machine shop & an almost completed airship. I was sworn to secrecy & have kept it till this moment."

Investigator:

Source: San Francisco Call, Nov. 23, 1896, quoted in J. Clark & L. Coleman, The Unidentified (Warner Paperback, 1975), pp. 137f.

R. L. Lowry heard a voice above him calling out "Throw her up higher, she'll hit the steeple", evidently having mistaken the brewery tower for a church steeple; then he saw a light, as if "within a globular glass covering that magnified it." Above the light he saw 2 men as if engaged in bicycling, and above them was "a kind of mezzanine box capable of holding 2 or more people"; above this was "a cigar-shaped body, with wheels at the sides." He heard one of the men say, "We will get to San Francisco about half-past 12."

Investigator:

Source: Sacramento Bee, Nov. 18, 1896, quoted in Loren Gross: The UFO Wave of 1896 (Privately printed, Fremont, Cal., 1974), p. 2.

New

Nov. 18 or 25, 1896 1800 Stockton
Between Lodi & ~~Stockton~~, California

Colonel H. G. Shaw and Camille Spooner were driving home to Stockton from Lodi when their horse stopped in terror, and they saw 3 very slender men nearly 7 ft tall. On being addressed, these beings spoke to each other in a "warbling", guttural language. They had small hands with no fingernails, and bare feet nearly twice as long as ours, with long slender prehensile toes. Col. Shaw lifted one of them with a hand under his elbow, and judged him to weigh less than an ounce. They were unclothed, but covered with a soft natural growth, neither hair nor feathers; their skin was like velvet. They had bald heads, small ears & mouths, and large eyes. Each carried under his arm a bag from which from time to time he breathed. In their hands they held brilliantly luminous egg-like objects. After examining the horse & buggy, they attempted to lift Col. Shaw, but could not move him. Their lights revealed, near the bridge over the Woodbridge canal, a spindle-shaped airship 150 ft long and 20 ft thick in the center, hovering 20 ft over the canal. They walked, with 15-foot steps, toward this craft, & sprang up to enter it through a door in the side. Col. Shaw struck the vessel with a rock: it gave no sound. It moved off rapidly, "expanding & contracting with a muscular motion." The Colonel believed he had seen Martians.

Investigator:

Source: Loren E. Gross, Charles Fort, The Fortean Society, And Unidentified Flying Objects (privately printed, Fremont, Cal., 1976), pp. 5-8, quoting the Stockton (Cal.) Evening Mail, 11/27/96.

96-03 November 20, 1896 Evening Watertown, Calif.

Type A

5 Five Watertown men wrote to the S. F. Call to say that they had seen an enormous airship nearly collide with a cornice of the Watertown post office on the evening of Nov. 20. The craft had an "intensely brilliant" light, and the witnesses could see human forms aboard the ship.

Investigator:

Source: San Francisco Call, Dec. 6, 1896, quoted in Clark & Coleman, The Unidentified, p. 141.

NLT

96-04 December 1, 1896 Sandy Beach, Calif.

Type G

John A. Horen, an electrician of San José, said on this date that "on Thursday" he had gone to San Francisco to meet the airship's inventor. He boarded the airship at Sandy Beach on Thursday afternoon, and rode it to Hawaii before dawn, then back again by Saturday evening. The airship was driven by 2 propellers; he was sworn to divulge no more.

Investigator:

Source: Local newspaper story of 12/2/96 found by Lucius Farish.

96-05 December 2, 1896 Off California coast

Type G

Two fishermen, Giuseppe Valinziano & Luigi Valdivia, observed an airship descend and alight on the ocean a few hundred yards away. The 3 occupants directed the ship to the beach, then dragged it into the woods. The fishermen landed & spoke to the captain, while the other 2 men worked on repairs. They were invited to have dinner with the crew, & stayed with the aeronauts for some hours thereafter.

Investigator:

Source: Clark & Coleman, The Unidentified, pp. 141f.

A giant airship descended on Ramm's Hill, 2 miles from town. 5 young men went out to investigate and found its occupant to be a bearded man who seemed to be a deaf-mute. Questioned by writing, he said he had flown from the Montezuma Mountains, where his wife and children lived. He stayed until 4 PM the next day, then sailed away.

Investigator:

Source: Clark & Coleman, The Unidentified, pp. 142f.