

● L.A. AIR-RAID

Unknown enemy attack on Los Angeles

*Mx News (Sydney)
Australia
25th
February 2011
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On February 25 1942, a total blackout was ordered across Los Angeles after information centres were inundated with sightings of unknown objects flying off the coast of Santa Monica Bay.

US Naval radars tracked the unidentified aircraft as they approached Los Angeles and their anti-aircraft batteries opened fire

as they crossed the coastline in the early hours of the morning.

Thousands of witnesses observed swarms of aircraft over the L.A. skyline, while the anti-aircraft fire continued until dawn.

Although 1,440 rounds of ammunition were fired by U.S. forces, no enemy aircraft losses

were reported and no damage was inflicted by the enemy.

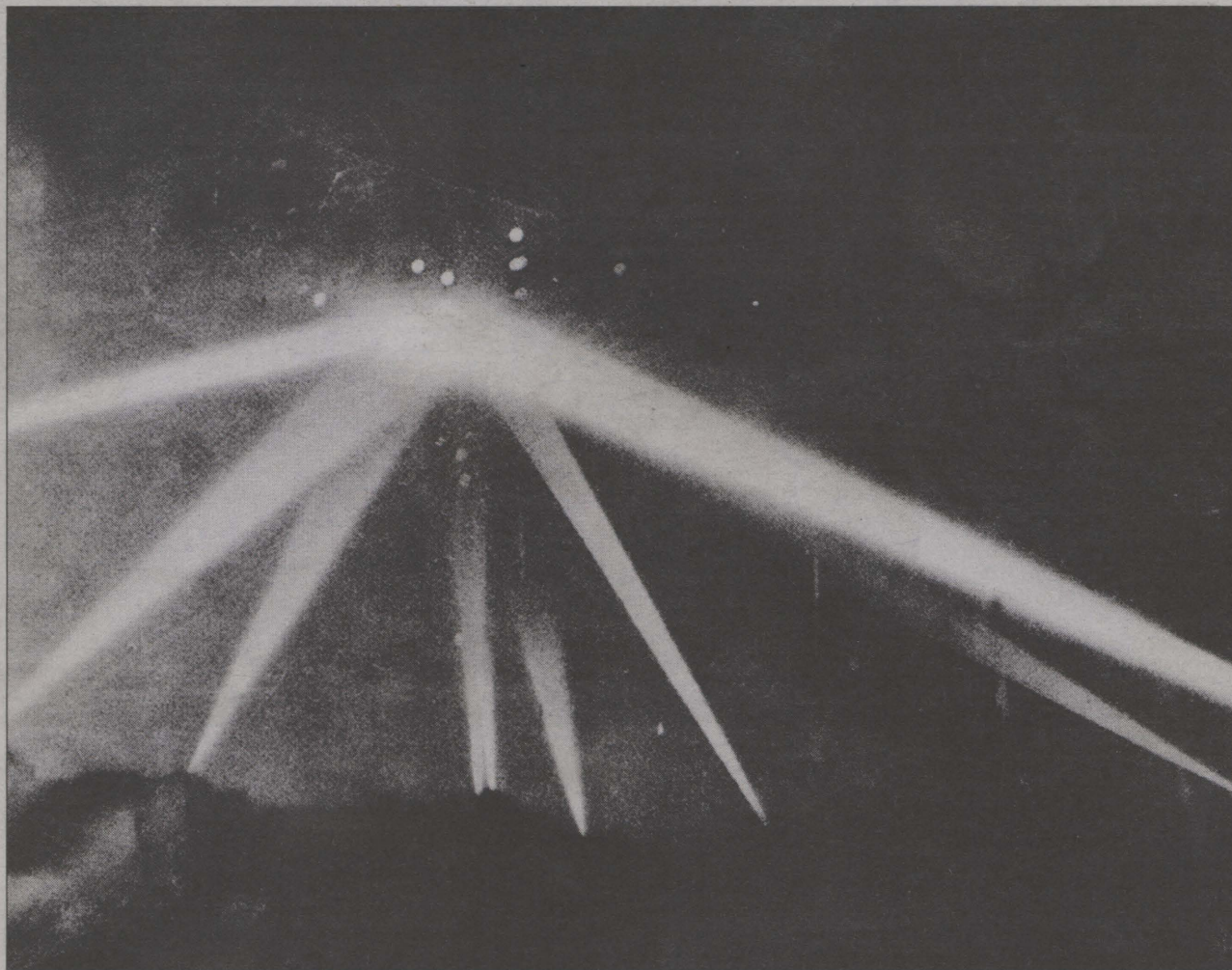
Frank Knox, secretary of the Navy, claimed in a press conference the next day that the whole event was "a false alarm". However, War Department officials disagreed and conceded that between one to five unidentified aircraft had been spotted over L.A.

The conflicting reports and censorship of information by officials lead local press to begin suspecting the event was subject to a government cover-up.

The incident came three months after the attack on Pearl Harbour, but when questioned after WWII, the Japanese stated they did not send aircraft over the area at the time of this alert.

Although several theories have been put forward over the years, including stray weather balloons, no official explanation of the objects has been proven.

Events involving sightings of unidentified flying objects have been recorded around the world for decades including Buenos Aires, Seoul, France, Germany, China and Australia.



US Naval searchlights scour the Los Angeles night sky for unknown enemy aircraft on Friday February 25, 1942. Today marks the official anniversary of the Battle of Los Angeles, also known as The Great Los Angeles Air Raid, which has never been fully explained by officials.