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Phantom Airships

Ghost zeppelins, flying cigars and other aerial sightings of the 1800s and early 1900s.

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People & Organizations

Selected in People File

[Murray Bott](#), [Thomas Bullard](#), [Jerome Clark](#), [Charles Fort](#), [Nicholas Roerich](#), [Project 1947](#) (Minor research goal), [Jan Aldrich](#) (1)

Footnotes for Above: (1) Research topic of Project 1947.

Topics

Other index pages on this server

1. [Foo-Fighters and Ghost Rockets of War World II](#)@ (46 links) - After the airships, the next strange sky sightings were the Foo-fighters in World War II and then the Ghost Rockets in 1946. <#16>

Print References

Books available through our catalog

- [clark3](#): Sighting waves described on pages 564-588
- [clark2](#): Airship Sightings in the Nineteenth Century, page 17; Anomalous Aerial Phenomena before 1800, page 49; UFOs in the Nineteenth Century, page 356; UFOs, 1900-1946, page 361 [jla]
- [The UFO Book: Encyclopedia of the Extraterrestrial](#): Airship sightings in the 19th century, p.27-39. Anomalous phenomena before 1800, p.44-58. UFOs in the 19th Century, p.571-574. UFOs, 1900-1946, p.571-574.
- [Spacemen, Demons & Conspiracies: The Evolution of UFO Hypotheses](#): Mystery airship wave of 1897, p.6

Past Events

Past events, earliest first. Dates are in form Year.Month.Day

- **1860**: [Project 1947 1860 and 1874+](#) - Incidents from the 1860s and 1874 from various publications. - Event: 1860 - Published: 1/31/97 - Source: (Mailing List) [Project 1947 Historical Files] <5/9/97 #5>
- **1872.12.07**: [A "Smoking Tornado"](#)+ (18 lines) - Message - By [Mark Cashman](#) - Event: 12/7/1872 - Published: 9/18/97 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) - Banbury, UK <9/19/97 #28>
- **1881.07.23**: ["Whirlwind" in Georgia](#)+ - An unusual phenomenon witnessed in a southern corn field. (29 lines) -

- Message - By [Jan Aldrich](#) - Event: 7/23/1881 - Published: 9/16/97 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) - Americus, GA, US <9/16/97 #26>
- **1890: [1890 Report & 1947 Report, Austin, Texas](#)**+ - Two UFO sightings separated by 57 years reported by Austin, Texas, resident. (49k) - Message - By Jan Aldrich - Event: 1890 - Published: 6/1/97 - Source: Austin Statesman (Newspaper), Page Page 1 [8 July 1947] - Austin, TX, US <6/2/97 #13>
 - **1897: [1897 Report](#)**+ - Article on 1897 airship stories. (46 lines) - Message - Event: 1897 - Published: 1/31/97 - US <3/10/97 #1>
 - **1897: [Great Airship Hoax](#)** - Various comments about the Hamilton airship hoax. - Message - By several - Event: 1897 - [Source](#): [Protree UFO Center] - KS, US <3/10/97 #3>
 - **1897.04: [The 1896-7 "Airship Wave" Some Michigan Sightings](#)** - A short summary of Michigan airship stories. - By Bill Kingsley & Bill Murphy - Event: 4/1897 - Source: (Web Site) - MI, US <6/11/97 #14>
 - **1897.08: [1897 Airships in British Columbia](#)** - Newspaper accounts of 1897 airships in the Vancouver and Victoria newspapers. - Article reprint - Event: 8/1897 - Published: 8/7/1897 - Source: Victoria Daily Colonist (Newspaper) - BC, CA <3/10/97 #2>
 - **1908.06.30: [The Tunguska Event](#)** - Excerpt from Jorgen Westman's "Nothing New on the Eastern Front" - Research report - By [Jorgen Westman](#) - Event: 6/30/1908 - Source: [Nar Kontakt](#) (Magazine) [Volume 3, 1996] - Tunguska, RU <10/2/97 #31>
 - **1909: [Project 1947 -- 1909-10 Accounts](#)**+ - New England newspaper accounts from the 1909-10 airship flap. - Message - By Jan Aldrich - Event: 1909 - Published: 2/13/97 - Source: (Newspaper) - New England, US <3/25/97 #4>
 - **1909.05: [Airship over Central Asia](#)**+ - Airship sightings over what is present day Uzbekistan. (18 lines) - By [Jan Aldrich](#) - Event: 5/1909 - Published: 9/17/97 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) - Tashkent, UZ <9/18/97 #27>
 - **1909.07.31: [People of Middletown Tell Tales of Ghostly Dirigible](#)**+ - News report of upstate New York sightings from a Delaware newspaper. (27 lines) - Article reprint - Event: 7/31/1909 - Published: 8/2/1909 - Source: Wilmington (DE) Morning News (Mailing List) [Posted by Jan Aldrich] - Middletown, NY, US <9/16/97 #25>
 - **1912.04.12: ["Nature" 1912 Letters to the Editor](#)**+ - Unusual events in 1912 from the science magazine, Nature. - Message - By Brian Zeiler - Event: 4/12/1912 - Published: 1/23/97 - Source: [UFO Updates](#) (Mailing List) - Little Bedwyn, Wilts., UK <5/17/97 #9>
 - **1915.03.26: [1915 Airship over the Canal Zone](#)**+ - Airship sighting investigated by military and civilian authorities in the Canal Zone. (26 lines) - By [Jan Aldrich](#) - Event: 3/26/1915 - Published: 9/15/1915 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) - PA <9/15/97 #23>
 - **1917.09: [Lights Thought To Be Airship](#)**+ - War World I sighting in Colorado - Message - By [Jan Aldrich](#) - Event: 9/1917 - Published: 9/12/1917 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) - Salida, CO, US <9/13/97 #22>
 - **1926.09: [1926 Utah Aircraft Encounter](#)**+ (34 lines) - Message - Event: 9/1926 - Published: 9/22/97 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) [Posted by Jan Aldrich] - Salt Lake City, UT, US <9/22/97 #29>
 - **1931.09.30: [Mystery Airship Sighting](#)**+ - Article from an Ohio newspaper (5 para) - Article reprint - Event: 9/30/1931 - Published: 10/1/1931 - Source: Sandusky Daily Register (Newspaper) - Sandusky, OH, US <9/11/97 #21>
 "The dim hazy form of a dirigible or blimp sailing over Marble peninsula in a northwesterly direction was seen by many Sandusky residents late Wednesday afternoon"

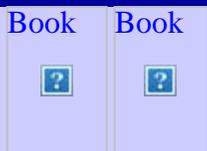
General Links

- **[Jan Aldrich](#)**+ - A major research topic for Project 1947 is UFO-like reports from 1900-1946. - Source: [Project 1947](#) <5/11/97 #6>
- **[Dr. Thomas E. \(Eddy\) Bullard](#)**+ - Dr. Bullard's PhD dissertation contained an exhaustive examination of pre-1947 UFO-like events. - Source: UFOmind Ufologists (Web Site) <5/13/97 #7>
- **[Barry Greenwood](#)**+ - Major historical researcher. Compiler of "UFO Historical Revue: Vol. 1: The New England Airship Wave of 1909." - Source: (Web Site) <5/14/97 #8>
- **[Airships: A 'Dim' Idea, Edison Says](#)**+ - Some background stories from the 1897 era. - Message - By [John Stepkowski](#) - Published: 12/21/96 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) <5/17/97 #10>
- **[Pre-1947 UFO-Type Incidents in Norway](#)** - UFO-type reports from the 16th Century to 1946 in Norway. - By Ole Jonny Braenne - Published: 6/92 - Source: [UFO Norway](#) (Web Site) <5/20/97 #12>
- **[The Airship of 1896](#)** - Summary of the airship wave of 1896-7. - By Lee Krystek - Source: [The Unmuseum](#) (Web Site) <6/11/97 #15>

- Project 1947: Index to Historical UFO Reports and Documents** - UFO reports prior to 1940 are contained in this index - Source: Project 1947 (Organization) <10/26/99 #17>
- **[Aircraft/UFO Encounters Before 1942+](#)** - Rare UFO sightings from aircraft before World War II. (99 lines) - Research report - By [Jan Aldrich](#) - Published: 9/6/97 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) <9/6/97 #19>
"After consulting much of the literature, talking to UFO historians, and visiting Dr. Richard Haines, here are the few cases, some of very doubtful reliability."
 - **[Early UFO Sighting Waves+](#)** - Summary based on Bullard's research. (40 lines) - Message - By [Jan Aldrich](#) - Published: 9/7/97 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) <9/7/97 #20>
 - **[Seeking World War I Pilot Sightings+](#)** - There are many vague references to pilot sightings during World War I. (30 lines) - Message - Query - By [Jan Aldrich](#) - Published: 9/15/97 - Source: UFO Updates (Mailing List) <9/16/97 #24>
 - **[Aerial Phenomena in Eastern Europe 919 to 1898](#)** - Excerpt from Jorgen Westman's "Nothing New on the Eastern Front" - By [Jorgen Westman](#) - Source: [Nar Kontakt](#) (Magazine) [Volume 7, 1996] <10/2/97 #30>
 - **[The Airship Era in Eastern Europe](#)** - Excerpt from Jorgen Westman's "Nothing New on the Eastern Front" - By [Jorgen Westman](#) - Source: [Nar Kontakt](#) (Magazine) [Volume 7, 1996] <10/2/97 #32>
 - **[Cannot Find /ufo/people/c/chalker/index.link](#)** <[Imported #34](#)>
 - **[Dossier X National Dutch UFO Database: sightings 1800 - 1939](#)** - The only Dutch National UFO sightings database ranging from the 4th century AD till 1998. This part features Dutch sightings between 1800 and 1939 - Language: Dutch - Data - By Theo Paijmans and Ivo Westerlaken - Source: [Dossier X](#) <2/28/99 #35>
"On the Dossier X website is to be found the only Dutch National Database, a research tool for those interested in the historical aspects of the UFO phenomenon. The database features sightings from a large variety of sources, annotated, referenced with locations list and bibliography. Although the language is Dutch, particular sightings may be translated into English by the authors at the request of serious researchers."
 - **[Dossier X National Dutch UFO Database: sightings 400 - 1800](#)** - The only Dutch National UFO sightings database ranging from the 4th century AD till 1998. This part features Dutch sightings from the 4th century AD till 1800 - Language: Dutch - Data - By Theo Paijmans and Ivo Westerlaken - Source: [Dossier X](#) <2/28/99 #36>
"On the Dossier X website is to be found the only Dutch National Database, a research tool for those interested in the historical aspects of the UFO phenomenon. The database features sightings from a large variety of sources, annotated, referenced with loc"
 - **[The Crash of 1897 \(part 1 in a series\)](#)** - Did an Alien crash in Aurora, Texas in 1897? - By Cary Darling - Source: Strange Texas News <12/3/99 #37>
 - **[Aurora from boomtown to ghost town \(part 2 ufo crash series\)](#)** - Second chapter in the Aurora alien crash series. - By Cary Darling - Source: Strange Texas News <12/3/99 #38>

Books from our Catalog

Listed in Random Order



- [The 1912-1913 British Phantom Airship Scare](#) by Nigel Watson & Granville Oldroyd - \$6.00
- [UFOs and Alien Contact: Two Centuries of Mystery](#) by Robert E. Bartholomew & George S. Howard - \$24.26 - **Skeptical**

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+indicates documents stored on this server. @indicates an index page in a different section. [Imported](#) indicates entry was copied from another page.

Reader Comments

Regarding "Phantom Airships" - Latest First

Great Granddad's UFO experience in the 1930's

My Greatgrandfather Thomas Franklin Self a noted physician in the small town of Roy, New Mexico had contact with a UFO that hovered over

his vehicle on the road between Roy and Mosquero, NM. The UFO described as a large dark object with lights on it hovered over him while he traveled and then landed in the roadway forcing him to stop his vehicle. He told of this event on his deathbed.

-- T.L. Self (Gunny@vtc.net) 2/22/98 (#1)

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