



# Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



## Our Bookstore is **OPEN**

*Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!*

Topics: [UFOs](#) - [Paranormal](#) - [Area 51](#) - [Ghosts](#) - [Fortean](#) - [Conspiracy](#) - [History](#) - [Biography](#) - [Psychology](#) - [Religion](#) - [Crime](#) - [Health](#) - [Geography](#) - [Maps](#) - [Science](#) - [Money](#) - [Language](#) - [Recreation](#) - [Technology](#) - [Fiction](#) - [Other](#) - [New](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1997](#) -> [Jun](#) -> 1947, Era of Confusion

## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### 1947, Era of Confusion

From: [jan@cyberzone.net](mailto:jan@cyberzone.net) (Jan Aldrich)  
Date: Tue, 03 Jun 1997 12:07:36 -0700  
Fwd Date: Tue, 03 Jun 1997 19:55:28 -0400  
Subject: 1947, Era of Confusion

The best overall book still available on the general situation in 1947 is:

UFOs A History: 1947 by Loren Gross. It is not new. So some things are out of date.

It is still available from Arcturus. It is written from a historian's point of view. I recommend it highly as an introduction. Several times Arcturus has tried to publish Gross' complete history series. The interest is about zero. Arcturus still has the booklets from 1949-1951. Sadly he can't give them away.

Generally, I would say the less people know about this era, the more confidently they speak about the situation. Ruppelt called it the Era of Confusion. Understatement if there ever was one.

There are plenty of myths or touchstones in the UFO field. It borders on sacrilege to question any of them. However, here is one. Ruppelt said he estimated he got 10% of the reports in the United States. This was off the top of his head and part of the absolutely >!\*MEANINGLESS STATISTICS\*!< (if I could put this in six inch letters I would) put out by the Air Force, the Air Ministry and scientists who should and do know better. In 1952 Ruppelt's had data that indicated this was incorrect.

For 1947 the Air Force list 122 incidents in Project Blue Book files. After surveying 40% of the North American newspapers for about 21 days the official cases are less the 4% of the known cases.

If the finding rate continued in the other 60% of North American newspapers, the Air Force percentage of reports would fall below 2% of the reports in the newspapers. Of course, some newspaper from ample evidence, I have collected, would have nothing to do with UFOs. And many people did not report their sightings. Officials were basing their decisions on less than 5% and more probably 1% or 2% of the available data. Statistics cut both ways don't they. <g>

When you are dealing with phenomena seen by chance observation, you need all the data you can get because a high percentage of your data will be considered useless.

Despite post to the contrary the military does not speak with one voice on this subject in the early part of this wave. Sometimes one spokesman will contradict another. High ranking officers were all over the map as were personnel from other

agencies.

The military did not make an concerted effort to gain control of the situation or speak with one voice until after Ramey's press conference. Some military UFO reports found in the press are not in official files.

Many hoaxes during this period are not in Project Blue Book files. About the 10th of July two boys in Twins Fall, Idaho make a flying disc and drop it near a house. It is reported widely in the press and the FBI stepped in to investigate. The hoaxers confessed and the fake disc is turned over to the Army at Fort Douglas, Utah.

Even though the military took possession of the object there is nothing about it in Project Blue Book files. A number of cases which caused worldwide attention are also not mentioned in the Project Blue Book files. (If it wasn't in the Dayton, Ohio newspaper or if one of the local military posts did not investigate it, it did get noticed. <g>)

The FBI was quick off the mark to investigate a number of cases; unlike the lagging military.

After the 4th of July weekend, the biggest sky watch since the Aircraft Warning Service shut down in May of 1944 began. People were out all over the place look for "flying discs." The mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, made national news by telling everyone to get back to work.

Balloons are a big part of this era. There are weather bureau and other civilian agencies launching balloons on a regular schedule. (Usually two a day at 0600 and 1800.) Army Field Artillery and Air Defense launch balloon for firings, but the meteorological sections of these units also exchange weather observations with other services and agencies. Beside Mogul, Princeton was working on high altitude balloons. The Weather Bureau records were not helpful. There was probably a major weather research project going on at the time. There were over 100 pibal stations in AAF, Col. McCoy did not get a complete list until 1948.

There were also a lot of surplus balloons and other devices like moored balloons on the surplus market. Later, in September 1947, the Civil Aviation Administration would ask the war surplus administration to stop selling weather balloons.

There were flood in the Missouri area, and there must have been an increased sounding schedule as weather instruments were coming down all over the state of Missouri. The Circleville, Ohio, incident was just one of over a hundred radar target, radiosondes, and pibals found around the country. Many were headlined as "flying discs," but unlike Circleville, they did not make it into the national news.

An easy local news story was for the local reporter to go out with a photographer to the weather station and report on the balloon release. However the General Yates head of the Weather Service said his balloons were not responsible for the furor. \*After\* General Ramey's press conference, the Army and the Navy invited press and wire services to balloon releases and they became national stories along with a debunking story that generally was under the headline of "Army, Navy Take Steps to Still Saucer Rumors."

Also, following fast on the heels of various rewards totaling \$3000, all kinds of crude hoax discs were found around the country.

Capsule:

24 June Kenneth Arnold's sighting.

25 June First reports reach the press and Associated Press carries the story that appears in mostly western newspapers.

26 June AP, UP, INS all carry stories on Arnold which appear all around the country. Other UFO stories also come out.

27 Jun-3 Jul Sighting continues. Lots of foolish enters: Wire story about beer bottle cap, comments in the press about

saucers with cups on them, or saucer sighters are in their cups. Various official statements mostly skeptical and several which are contradictory. Howard Blakeslee, AP Science Editor writes his first debunking article. AAF spokesman in Washington, DC says AAF not interested.

4-6 July, Independence weekend. United Airlines sighting by Captain Smith. Numerous other sightings. The Coast Guard photograph. Twining tells Dave Johnson he is interested and wants reports. Wright Field spokesman echos this to INS. Some National Guard and later CAP and private fliers organize air patrols for discs.

7 July probably the peak of serious interest. Blakeslee's second article on the fictitious "Laws of Eyesight." Many of the weekend reports are detailed. Flying "Yo-Yo" hoax tale comes out of Bozeman, Montana and is carried world wide. First rewards offered for flying discs. "Flying pancake" is suggested widely as disc explanation. Balloon start being seen in local press stories. Also, searchlights are reported by many as flying discs.

8 July Foolishness start to get the upper hand. International story branding the Bozemen flying yo-yo as a hoax. Most of the newspapers that carry Hal Boyle print his first story about being kidnapped by a Martain. Boyle's two humor stories have big influence and appear in over 1,000 newspapers. After this story many people, especially women, feel compelled to discuss there drinking habits when reporting UFOs. The first reports of Roswell in the western press. "Dust mote" theory gets big play from a number of scientists and a military doctor in Germany. DeWitt Miller suggest ET saucers in an article on historical sightings carried worldwide.

9 July This is about the center point for coverage of the the picture of the catholic priest with the circular saw blade. Hal Boyle's second column appears in many papers. Roswell--many times married up with reports of Ramey's press conference appear. Foolish is at its height pushing out good stories. At 1:00 p. m. local time reporters are watching the release at Alamogrodo of a balloon. This is not widely reported and not until the next day in most cases.

10-11 July Reports on wire services showing Army and Navy balloon releases. The wire service storys nearly end except for foreign and humor stories. Bloecher ceases his newspaper search around these dates. Local press reports continue. "Rumor" story. Hoax discs in Hollywood and Twin Falls widely reported. (Sort of the Coup de Grace of press coverage.)

12-15 July. Press accounts rapidly fall off. The 15th was the limit for Barry Greenwood's searches. Generally this was my limit East of the Mississippi River. South American stories are reported. Overseas report seem to increase. 4th Air Force gets around to interviewing Arnold.

16-20 July Reports are down to two or three a day. On the 19/20 Blakeslee third articles as a rap-up appears. He predicts that the flying saucer will become a huge folklore in America.

29 July Second United Airline sighting which is mostly reported in the west.

31 July-7 August The Muary Island story/AAF crash is reported in newspaper mostly in the west. Muary Island was reported in June by Reuter, but that was only overseas. The story was not well known in the US until these dates.

August 8 LTC Springer discussed with the coverage of case and the crash tells the press that UFO investigations are at an end. The story is carried worldwide, but says that the AAF has drop all investigations. Springer writes apolligies to the Air Defence Command and AMC, but he or no military correct the press story.

Now do you notice any debunking campagne using weather balloons prior to 9 July? I didn't. Neither did Bloecher nor did Gross. There are indeed stories about balloons and theories about balloons, but not an official effort to debunk UFOs

as balloons. Yates' statement is completely out line with  
an such alledged campaign.

Jan Aldrich  
Project 1947

Search for other documents to/from: [jan](#)

---

[ [Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#) ]  
[ [This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#) ]

**UFO UpDates - Toronto - [updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)**

Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.

To subscribe please send your first and last name to [updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)

Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

---

[ [UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#) ]

**To find this message again in the future...**  
Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.

Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: [webmaster@ufomind.com](mailto:webmaster@ufomind.com)

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).