

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
1976 CUFOS CONFERENCE

EDITED BY  
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## THE UFO WAVE OF 1947

CALIFORNIA: JUNE 25-JULY 16

Loren E. Gross

If a thorough search could be made of all newspapers throughout the country for this period (June-July, 1947) the total number of published sighting reports would at a conservative estimate be more than doubled. It would be enormously helpful if future readers of this report would consult their local libraries to supplement the material already collected.

Ted Bloecher  
Report on the UFO Wave of 1947  
pp. xiii-xiv

An attempt to supplement Ted Bloecher's study of the 1947 UFO wave has been undertaken. A total of 102 local California newspapers were examined with the main emphasis on the period of time from June 25th to July 16th.

No striking patterns emerged when the results of this newspaper search, combined with Bloecher's collection, were plotted on a map of California. Distribution of reports (the reader is referred to Bloecher's definition of a report as compared to a sighting, Report on the UFO Wave of 1947, pp. xiv-I-I) appears to conform to population density, with the possible exception of some UFO activity in the northwestern part of the state on July 7th.

A search of local California newspapers disclosed some 140 undocumented UFO reports not carried in the ten major California newspapers consulted by Bloecher, the number more than doubling Bloecher's California list of 109.

While one would hope that small town newspapers would offer good news coverage of local UFO activity, the generally conservative editorial policies and the limited size of such newspapers greatly inhibit the publication of UFO data. Nevertheless, further such library research is recommended.

### Listing of California newspapers consulted by Bloecher:

Hollywood Citizen-News  
Los Angeles Examiner  
Los Angeles Herald-Express  
Los Angeles News  
Los Angeles Times

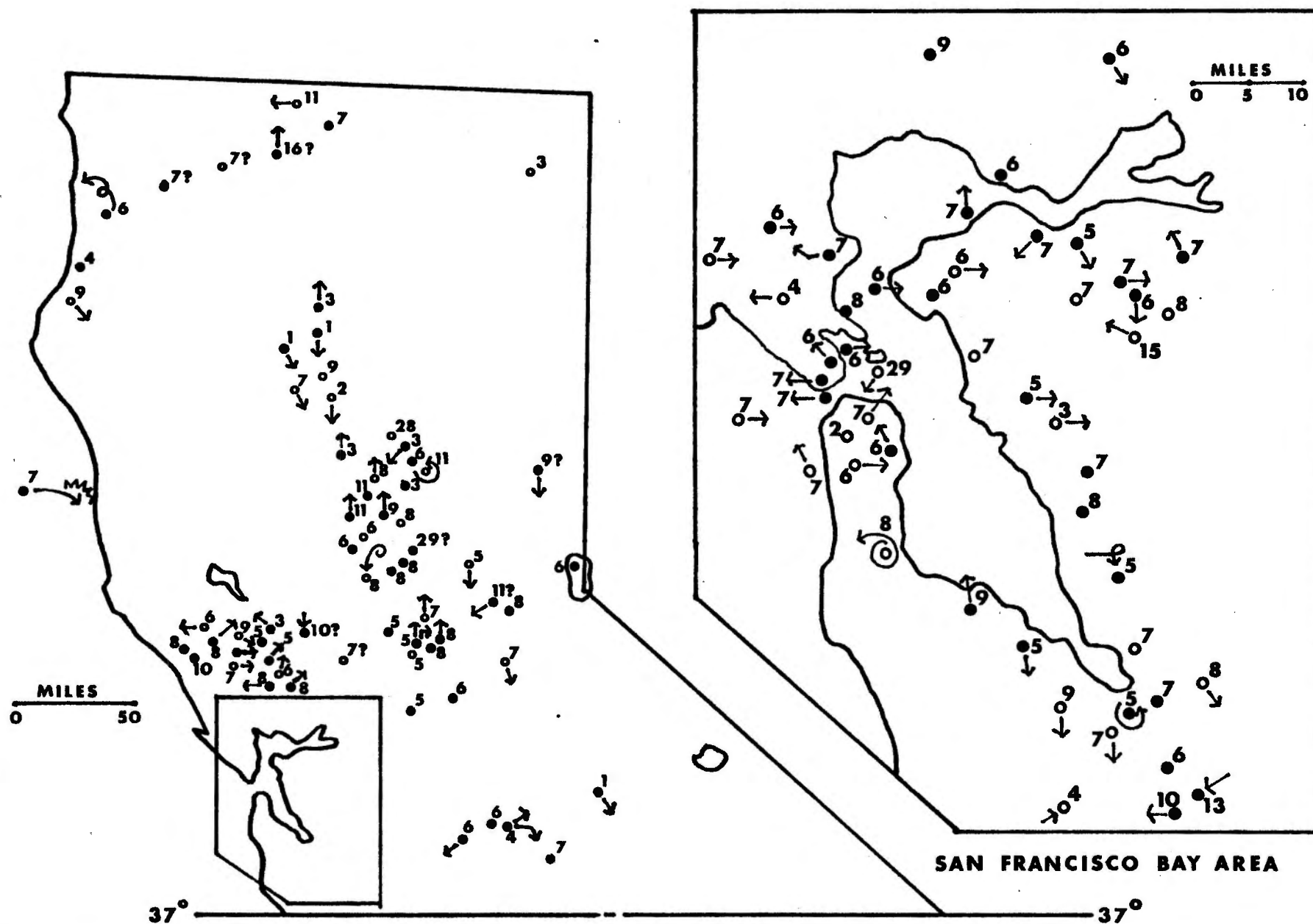
Sacramento Times  
San Francisco Call-Bulletin  
San Francisco Chronicle  
San Francisco Examiner  
San Francisco News

Listing of 102 local California newspapers consulted by Gross  
to supplement Bloecher's study

Bakersfield, <u>Bakersfield Californian</u>	Richmond, <u>Independent</u>
Chico, <u>Chico Record</u>	Richmond, <u>Record-Herald</u>
Davis, <u>Davis Enterprise</u>	Riverbank, <u>Riverbank News</u>
Delano, <u>Delano Record</u>	Riverside, <u>Daily Press</u>
Dinaba, <u>Sentinel</u>	Roseville, <u>Roseville Press-Tribune</u>
Dos Palos, <u>Dos Palos Star</u>	Salinas, <u>Salinas Californian</u>
Downieville, <u>Mountain Messenger</u>	San Andreas, <u>Calaveras Prospect Weekly</u>
Eureka, <u>Humbolt Standard</u>	<u>Citizen</u>
Exeter, <u>Exeter Sun</u>	San Diego, <u>Union</u>
Ferndale, <u>Ferndale Enterprise</u>	Sanger, <u>Herald</u>
Fort Bragg, <u>Fort Bragg Advocate</u>	San Jose, <u>Mercury-Herald-News</u>
Gilroy, <u>Gilroy Advocate</u>	San Juan, <u>San Juan Mission News</u>
Grass Valley, <u>The Union</u>	San Juan, <u>Mission News</u>
Gridley, <u>Gridley Herald</u>	San Leandro, <u>San Leandro Reporter</u>
Hanford, <u>Hanford Journal</u>	San Rafael, <u>Marin County Journal</u>
Heraldsburg, <u>Heraldsburg Tribune</u>	San Rafael, <u>San Rafael Daily Journal</u>
Hollister, <u>Evening Free Lance</u>	Santa Barbara, <u>News-Press</u>
Inyo, <u>Inyo Independent</u>	Santa Cruz, <u>Santa Cruz Sentinel-News</u>
Jackson, <u>Amador Dispatch</u>	Santa Maria, <u>Santa Maria Times</u>
Jackson, <u>Amador Ledger &amp; Record</u>	Santa Rosa, <u>Press-Democrat</u>
Kerman, <u>Kerman-News</u>	Sausalito, <u>Marin City News</u>
King City, <u>Rustler-Herald</u>	Sebastapol, <u>Sebastapol Times</u>
La Jolla, <u>La Jolla Light</u>	Selma, <u>Selma Enterprise</u>
Lakeport, <u>Lakeport County Bee</u>	Shasta, <u>Courier</u>
Lemoore, <u>Lemoore Advance</u>	Sonoma, <u>Index-Tribune</u>
Lincoln, <u>News Messenger</u>	Sonora, <u>Banner</u>
Livingston, <u>Livingston Chronicle</u>	Sonora, <u>Daily Union Democrat</u>
Los Banos, <u>Los Banos Enterprise</u>	St. Helena, <u>Star</u>
Mariposa, <u>Mariposa Gazette &amp; Miner</u>	Stockton, <u>Pathfinder-Union</u>
Merced, <u>Merced Express</u>	Stockton, <u>Record</u>
Merced, <u>Merced Sun-Star</u>	Susanville, <u>Lassen Advocate</u>
Modesto, <u>Modesto Bee</u>	Tracy, <u>The Tracy Press</u>
Modesto, <u>Modesto Tribune Weekly</u>	Tulare, <u>The Terra Bella News</u>
Monterey, <u>Monterey Peninsula Herald</u>	Tuolumne, <u>Tuolumne Prospector Weekly</u>
Morgan Hill, <u>Times</u>	Turlock, <u>Turlock Daily Journal</u>
Oakdale, <u>Leader</u>	Ukiah, <u>Redwood Journal</u>
Oakland, <u>Oakland Tribune</u>	Ukiah, <u>Ukiah Republican Press</u>
Ojai, <u>Ojai</u>	Vacaville, <u>Solano Republican Courier</u>
Oroville, <u>Mercury</u>	Vallejo, <u>News Chronicle</u>
Oroville, <u>Oroville Weekly Press</u>	Vallejo, <u>Vallejo Times-Herald</u>
Oxnard, <u>Oxnard Courier</u>	Ventura, <u>Ventura County Star-Free Press</u>
Pittsburg, <u>Pittsburg Post-Dispatch</u>	Visalia, <u>Visalia Times-Delta</u>
Pixley, <u>Pixley Enterprise</u>	Walnut Creek, <u>Walnut Creek Courier-Journal</u>
Placerville, <u>Mountain Democrat</u>	Watsonville, <u>Watsonville Register Pajaronian</u>
Placerville, <u>Times</u>	Weaverville, <u>Weekly Journal Trinity</u>
Port Hueneme, <u>Herald-Express</u>	Willits, <u>Willits News Weekly</u>
Portola, <u>Portola Reporter</u>	Willows, <u>Willows Journal &amp; Transcript</u>
Quincy, <u>Feather River Bulletin</u>	Woodland, <u>The Mail of Woodland</u>
Randsburg, <u>Randsburg Times</u>	Yreka, <u>Siskiyou Daily News</u>
Red Bluff, <u>Red Bluff Daily News</u>	Yreka, <u>Yreka Journal</u>
Redding, <u>Record-Searchlight</u>	Yuba City, <u>The Independent Farmer</u>
Redwood City, <u>Tribune</u>	

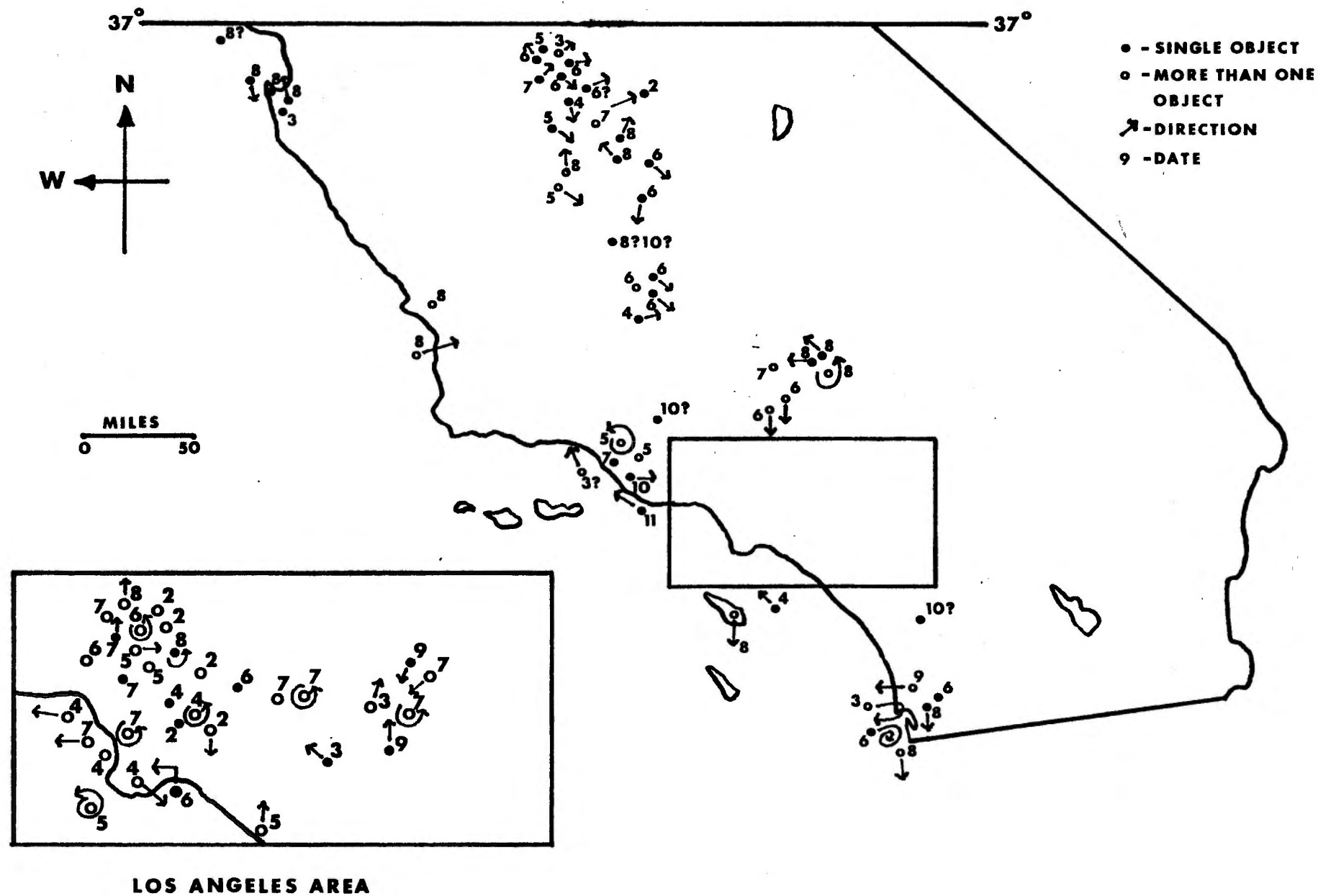
About 200 of the better 1947 California UFO reports have been plotted on a map of California. See the next two pages. Locations can be only approximate on this scale. Enlarged portions show Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area.

# U. F. O. REPORTS CALIFORNIA JUNE 25 - JULY 16, 1947



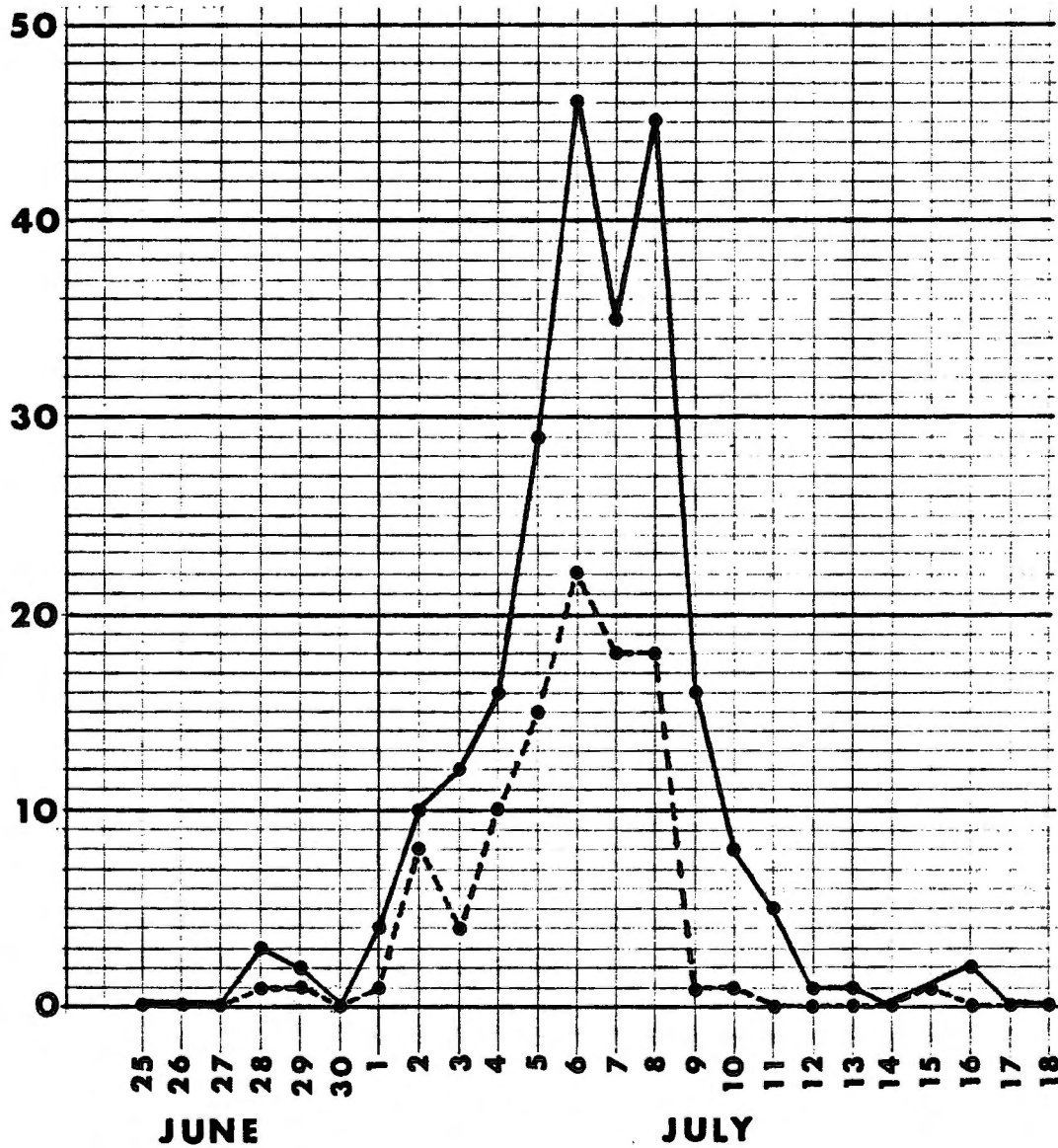
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# **U. F. O. REPORTS** **CALIFORNIA JUNE 25 - JULY 16, 1947**

**NUMBER OF REPORTS**



**Bloecker's California Reports**

**Bloecker's Reports Supplemented**

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Notes on Some UFO Reports of Interest

If the reader is familiar with this writer's recently published monograph, The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets, he will remember that some emphasis was given to the 1957 Ubatuba, Brazil, UFO case, because the episode appeared to have some relationship with the 1946 Ghost Rocket sightings. The Ubatuba case, as described in Coral Lorenzen's book, The Great Flying Saucer Hoax, tells of a Brazilian who, with a friend, was fishing on the coast near the town of Ubatuba when he suddenly spotted a small flying disc diving out of the sky from the direction of the ocean. The witness testified that the object approached at high speed:

...a crash into the sea seemed imminent. At the last moment, however, when it was almost striking the waters, it made a sharp turn upward and climbed rapidly on a fantastic impulse. We followed the spectacle with our eyes, startled, when we saw the disc exploded in flames. (1)

Now compare the foregoing story with a different UFO report in another Lorenzen book, UFOs - The Whole Story, which states:

On the 18th (of January, 1956), lifeguards initiated a hunt for a glowing 'saucer' that had been observed as it glided down from the sky, floated on the water, and then sunk beneath the surface off Redondo Beach, California. The spot where the saucer went down was about twenty-five feet deep. Despite a long search, however, the object was never found. (2)

This writer was intrigued, therefore, when a survey of local California newspapers turned up the following letter to the editor of the San Rafael Independent which was printed in the newspaper's July 10, 1947 edition. The letter read:

We are spending the summer at Fort Bragg (California) and yesterday while surf fishing three miles north of town we observed a flat, glistening object approach us from the ocean. We could not estimate its height as it was dropping rapidly and finally hit the water approximately a quarter of a mile off shore.

The enormity of the splash led us to believe that it was a heavy object. It was traveling at a high rate of speed and just before it hit the water we heard a humming sound.

The object floated for a few minutes and then, as we were unable to see any longer, we assumed that it had sunk. It was about the size of a large truck tire but at that distance we could not swear that it was perfectly round.

This incident occurred at 3:10 p.m. Monday July 8, 1947.

Don Wisher and Vic Levin (both residents of San Anselmo).

Another famous UFO case (also documented by Coral Lorenzen), the January 1958 Trindade episode, also seems to have something of a 1947 counterpart. A letter to the editor of the Watsonville, California Register-Pajaronian,

published in the July 18, 1947 edition, tells the following story:

Flying saucers have become quite a subject here of late, and not until I have heard so much about these mysterious objects, did I give much thought to an experience that was mine recently.

By re-checking the date I have discovered that at about the same time the mysterious flying saucers were reported by the pilot (Kenneth Arnold) up in Washington. I was driving alone on a business errand from Merced--where my family home is located--to the little town of Le Grand. At a point some four miles northward from Le Grand my attention was taken by some object glistening in the sunlight, forward and to my right. It was very high, was waving, or bouncing up and down in its course, traveling in a direction which would take it across my road further ahead. At first I thought it was some type of aircraft which was having trouble, and was bound for a crash landing. I shut my own motor off. Coasting, I put my head out the window listening for motor sounds. There was none. Next I thought to speed, and if possible be there when it came down, but before I could get my car up to 75 miles per hour the shiny object had disappeared behind the far-away distant clouds. I have never seen anything like it in appearance. The first sight of it suggested Saturn and his rings to me.

I told the incident in my family circle the same evening, but have never mentioned it again until now.

N. M. De Arman

The next report seems impressive. Did the Air Force ever investigate it? The sighting was supposed to have taken place less than 25 miles from Hamilton Air Force Base, Intelligence headquarters for the Western United States. The case was front-paged by the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat on July 8, 1947, when interest in the flying saucer phenomenon reached its peak. The Santa Rosa Press-Democrat should have been available on newsracks at Hamilton Field. The Press-Democrat, like many other newspapers that day, carried the headline: "MORE FLYING DISKS ARE SEEN HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN U.S." The newspaper then printed:

But the most startling development locally was the careful account of a single disk observed for more than a minute at the navy station while at least three private airplanes loafed in the air a few miles north.

The account was related to this newspaper by a trained observer whose business takes him in the vicinity of the airbase for long periods of time. Although he requested that his identity be withheld for fear of ridicule, the expert was positive that he had "seen something in the air that I have never seen before."

"No matter what may happen in relation to the current publicity given to the 'flying disks,' I know that I saw this object, and that I watched it carefully, and that I was sound of mind while I did so," he commented.

"I noticed it first a few minutes before 5 p.m. on Thursday (July 3rd). From my location, it seemed to be about 1,000 feet

above the main north-south runway at the airfield, and I would judge that it was 15 to 20 feet in diameter.

"This estimate of size and distance, I must emphasize, is my own. Actually, it might have been something six inches in diameter and only a few feet away from me, or a very large object located at a much greater distance than I thought.

"It was impossible to judge size and distance accurately, because there was nothing about the object that would enable me to make an accurate approximate of size.

"It was the shape of a giant pocket watch, without the stem, and it was covered by silver material that looked like airplane aluminum. There were no marks of any sort on the surface. It was perfectly smooth.

"The object was moving at about the speed of a glider in normal flight attitude, and indeed on my first glimpse I automatically recorded it in my mind as a glider.

"But an instant later I realized that there was something strange about it and looked back. Then I noted that it had no wings, no apparent projections of any sort.

"It moved smoothly in a northerly direction until it reached the north end of the runway, then turned to the east, banking slightly and headed toward Santa Rosa. I was forced to turn my attention away from it for a moment, and when I looked again it was gone.

"From my observation, I would believe that the object was controlled in its flight, either directly or by gyro-control. Its only deviation from a straight path was for wind currents, and after tipping or rising with a current it would recover its level flying position.

"The recovery was made in much the same manner as a glider appears to recover when a thermal current forces one wing up or down. At the same time, the return to normal was accompanied by an over-compensation effect which is typical of gyro-control."

At the same time that he saw the disc, the observer said he noted at least three private aircraft in the sky to the north of the airbase.

"The fact that these ships apparently did not see the discs led me to believe that my estimate of size and distance were approximately correct," he added.

"Had the object been larger and further from me, it would have been nearer the planes and they would probably have noticed it."

"I'd been scoffing at reports of the discs," he explained. "I didn't believe them. But after what I saw--I don't feel too comfortable."

The following day the Press-Democrat frontpaged more on the case:

Reports of still more 'flying saucers' over Santa Rosa and vicinity persisted yesterday while a prominent professional man dramatically verified the report of another observer that he saw one Thursday afternoon over the Santa Rosa Naval Auxiliary Air

Station.

Confirmation of a report by a trained observer who Monday revealed for the first time the detailed description of one seen hovering over the navy air station came from Dr. R. W. Nelson, a dentist who resides at 800 College Avenue.

His description of the mysterious object tallied closely with that given by the first observer who preferred to remain unidentified.

Dr. Nelson said that he saw the object about 5 p.m. while he was gazing out a window on the second story of his College Avenue residence. He estimated that it was approximately over the navy air station and that it was about 50 feet in diameter.

"There it was," he said, "with a beautiful silvery luminous sheen."

He explained that the object had a 'silver luster' as distinguished from a shiny appearance.

The object fluttered like a leaf, headed northwest and disappeared while he watched, Dr. Nelson said.

The observer who reported earlier that he had seen the object set the time as shortly before 5 p.m. and estimated the size as from 15 to 20 feet in diameter.

Dr. Nelson was considerably farther away than the first observer, who reported seeing it while in the vicinity of the navy field.

A detailed breakdown of all 140 newly documented California UFO cases, which is too extensive to list here, has been forwarded to Ted Bloecher. The form of documentation used is much like that used in his book Report on the UFO Wave of 1947.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- (1) Coral E. Lorenzen, The Great Flying Saucer Hoax (New York: The William Frederick Press, 1962), p. 90.
- (2) Coral and Jim Lorenzen, UFO's: The Whole Story (New York: The New American Library, Inc., June 1969), pp. 69-70.