

BEST UFO CASES - EUROPE

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Chapter One

1. Early Reports About Unusual Phenomena Over Europe

1.1 Historical Cases From France, Germany And England (16th To 18th Centuries)

The most essential questions in the investigation of unidentified flying objects are:

1. Are there really sometimes appearances in the sky which cannot be reduced to known physical phenomena, and
2. If so, have these inexplicable phenomena been seen all the time, or is this a relatively new phenomenon?

The first question simultaneously is the question whether UFO's are a matter of science or not. Science does not like to be confronted by new phenomena which could transgress the bounds of their world view, if they happen seldom and remain single events only. A new phenomenon must prove its existence in a suitable statistical frequency, and it must be reproducible under well-controlled conditions. Phenomena which cannot be localized and predicted don't exist. Only if there is a theory which can forecast their probability, are statements about their existence possible (for example for earthquakes and meteorites). This restriction is necessary to limit uncertainties in the predictions about the behavior of the course of natural events. Science is a way to discover truth and well-founded interconnections in physical, biological, mental and sociological events. It is not an ideology but a method of drawing conclusions.

The characteristics of the unidentified flying objects are so unbelievable and strange that at first glance their suitable investigation would require a lot of money. Only if the goal of investigation would be to reduce the phenomena to generally believable ones would the financial budget be sufficient for research. Such attempts have been made (Menzel & Boyd 1963, Condon 1969, Klass 1974, Oberg 1982). But the critical reader realized that the explanations by the skeptics have to change the real happenings so that what the witnesses have recorded is in general not consistent with the modified facts, which are the basis of the explanation. That is possible, since each witness might have a shift of perception, and this allegation is a legitimate scientific-theoretical possibility to treat the record in a scientific way.

Therefore, a database is required with cases which are gained by automatic measuring devices, and which do not allow skeptics to modify the stated events. Such devices are cameras, radar devices and magnetic sensors, for instance. If these instruments are not available, the investigator has to prove the reliability of the witnesses and the possibility that the witness could have mistaken known phenomena for inexplicable ones. Therefore, the field investigator must be as well educated in the areas of astronomy, meteorology, and military flight devices as in psychology.

There are many cases of UFO sightings in which these requirements are met, and for which no reasonable explanation can be given. So the UFO phenomenon is a scientific problem. Since the phenomenon of UFO's is so complex and multi layered, only a unification of scientific and military organizations of many countries can solve this enigma, since one has to investigate the activities of these objects simultaneously all over the world.

Perhaps a half-century of public discussion about UFO's is not long enough for a political decision to set up an international investigation program. Maybe the pressure from the public, who likes to know what the phenomena are, on politicians is as yet too weak for the political leaders to see a need for any effort to solve the UFO mystery. That situation can rapidly change, as the wave of sightings in Belgium has shown, and the UFO problem will be no longer be a purely scientific, if at all, but also a political problem.

The question as to whether unknown objects have also been seen in earlier centuries is essential for an understanding to judge the future behavior of the UFO occupants. A search for historical UFO cases in the literature has to answer the following questions:

1. Are there reliable reports of unknown objects in the sky which also today are not identifiable by natural appearances?
2. Were the same forms and similar characteristics of unknown objects reported in earlier times?
3. Can we discover a pattern or an evaluation of the behavior of the objects?

One has to prove the kind of perception, the manner of representation as well as the number of the informants, beginning with the witness and ending with the writer. Very frequently the people described an appearance in the sky not only in the way in which they had seen it, but added forms and apparitions to it which gave the phenomenon a meaning because all phenomena which could be assigned to a religious meaning were judged by the scholarly circles as credible. For instance, in the Middle Ages people believed that the rainbow had the meaning of a sign of God, to remind us of the Flood. In the innocent appearance of light beams and changing light curtains of the aurora borealis one imagined seeing fighting knights. And the painters of the time drew the reported phenomenon not as it had been seen but with forms of its alleged meaning. Paranormal projections and apparitions, whether real or only subjectively real, are frequently reported as historical events. Therefore, one has to be very careful in the interpretation of the published eye-witness' reports from medieval times (Brand 1977).

A critical look through the literature from the 16th and 17th centuries shows that in European countries, objects were seen in the sky several times which had the same characteristics as today's UFO reports.

In the *Himmels- und Naturerscheinungen in Einblattgedrucken des 15. bis 18. Jahrhunderts* (Celestial and natural appearances in singleprints of the 15th to 18th centuries) W. Hess (1911) a report by Nostradamus was quoted on an unidentified flying object which was seen in Salon, Province, France, on February 1, 1554, in a time period of 7-8 p.m. by many people. (Figure 1.1.1)

"... A big fire came from the east and moved to the west. This fire... in the form of a burning rod or torch, was brightly shining. Flames jumped from it, like glowing iron, worked by a smith. Sparks, shining like silver, of unequal length would be thrown up, like the street of Jacob in the sky, called galaxy. Rapidly as an arrow, and with a loud rustle and patter, and as if leaves and trees were moved to and fro by a violent storm, it flew past. It lasted nearly 20 minutes, when we could see it over the area of Arla, also called stony road. There it turned around to the south and flew far away to the sea. The fiery line it made maintained its fiery color for a long time and threw long sparkles like the flash falling from sky... Where it passed by at a low altitude it had burned all to powder... Its size in the sky has been estimated to about 200 meters.."

The duration of the observation and the changing of the flight path exclude the assumption that the object may have been a meteor or a fireball. A similar report in our century came from Asmara in Ethiopia. On August 7, 1970, the citizens of the village Saladare (14 km away from Asmara) heard a loud noise at 10:30 p.m. About 150 meters away from the village, a red glowing ball flew by. On its path it threw over trees, burned grass (without flame) and on some locations melted the asphalt on the road. It hovered for a few seconds over a spot, then returned the way it came. Some of the witnesses later described the object like a "fiery tree trunk" (which sounds like "burning rod").

Thereafter, the object started its attack against the 3-km-distant village Saladare. It got through 50-cm-thick walls of houses. About 50 buildings were destroyed one after the other by this noisy object. Eight people were injured. A child died of its injuries (Hynek & Vallée 1975, p.160).

The phenomena in 1554 and in 1970 were obviously of the same nature.

Erasmus Francisci (1680) writes about an "air vision" which was seen on April 8th, 1665, in the city of Stralsund. Several fishermen reported having seen at about 2 p.m. that from the north over the sea in the sky a big swarm of starling birds flew which changed to battle ships. These ships were fighting one against the other. A lot of smoke developed. All the time new ships appeared, small and big ones, and the battle lasted for a few hours. Such a kind of mass suggestion was frequent in the medieval age and has nothing in common with the perception of unknown flying objects, since whole settings were seen in suggestions which

could be assigned to a definitive meaning. The extraordinary signs were taken at the time as a divine warning.

After the vision had vanished, the scenario changed. Francisci writes:

"After a while out of the sky came a flat round form, like a plate, looking like the big hat of a man... Its color was that of the rising moon, and it hovered right over the St. Nicolai Church. There it remained stationary till the evening. The fishermen, worried to death, didn't want to look further at the spectacle and buried their faces in their huts. On the following days they fell sick with trembling all over and pain in head and limbs. Many scholarly people thought a lot about that." (Figure 1.1.2)

And the *Berliner Ordinari- und Postzeitungen* No. 65 wrote on April 4th, 1665 about the vision of the fishermen from Stralsund (Buchner 1926):

"...One of these fishermen had been sick on his feet. All of the citizens who have observed this are reliable. Yesterday, Herr Colonel von der Wegck and Doctor Gessman interrogated two of the 6 fishermen. May God change this miracle for the best."

What the fishermen saw was a plate with a dome (man's hat) orange in color (like the rising moon) which hovered motionless for a long time and acted on the witnesses as if they became sick from strong radiation. This is the description of a classical UFO as is frequently met with in our days. Erasmus Francisci hesitated to believe this account, because he could not find a suitable meaning:

"I read that at that time in the usual printed newspaper. But, to tell the truth, I didn't believe in that story, and I thought the fishermen had fished that out of the air or from a deceived imagination..."

Francisci, nevertheless, reported this account because in the meantime, between 1665 to 1680 several battles took place between the Swedish and the Prussians, and the spectacle could be given the meaning of a sign for an imminent war. Francisci states (p.625):

"...After the sea was colored with so much blood after that time, the affair now seems to me believable. What the disk-like thing would like to say to the good city shouldn't be so hard to quest, if one remembers how in 1670 the tower of the St. Nicolai Church was destroyed during wartime..."

Today a phenomenon must be measured by an instrument to be accepted as real. In the Middle Ages a phenomenon was thought to be real when it could be interpreted as a meaningful sign. Only the astronomers in the 18th centuries chose the language of science which we use also in our times. Therefore, reports of astronomers on unidentified objects are essential. On December 5th, 1737, the astronomer Thomas Short from Sheffield observed

"the apparition of a dark red cloud, below which was a luminous body which emitted intense beams of light. It was not all like the aurora borealis, for the light beams moved slowly for a while, then stopped. Suddenly it became so hot that I could take off my shirt even though I was out of doors. This meteor was observed over Kilkenny, Ireland, where it seemed like a great ball of fire. It was reported that it shook the entire island and that the whole sky seemed to burst into flames." (Bougard 1987)

This object moved to Romania within 24 hours. In a manuscript account is recorded that

"on the afternoon of Saint Nicholas' Day there appeared in the west a great sign in the sky, blood-red and very large. It stayed in place for two hours, then separated into two parts which then rejoined, and the object disappeared towards the west" (Manuseris Románesc 2343 folio 3-4).

These selected examples show that people in earlier centuries observed the same objects, which we now call UFO's. Physiological effects on the witnesses, light beams acting like "solid light", separating into two parts and the rejoining were also reported. But the frequency of these sightings is low in comparison with other than unexplained natural phenomena (ball lights, meteorites, will-o'-the-wisps, St. Elmo's fire, etc.). The main intention of these objects at that time and today seems to be to fly or hover in the air. Only since the 60s of our century are we discovering another unbelievable aim of the intelligence behind these objects. The behavior of the UFO phenomena shows an evolution. From time to time they seem to demonstrate their presence in special countries (France: 1954, New York State: 1984, Belgium: 1990). At that times waves of sightings as well as objects flying at a low altitude with many multi-colored lights appear, leaving the

impression that people should perceive them. In the time periods between such sighting flaps, it seems that the unknown objects want to remain undetected.

1.2 Foo Fighters and Miracle Weapons

Inexplicable appearances in the sky were seen all over the world from time to time. Such reports among other strange observations have collected by Charles Fort (1919). These events were counted among the many celestial phenomena, and no scientist made efforts to investigate them. That situation remained until military aircraft encountered these objects during the battles during World War Two in the air. Suddenly these small flying spheres and disks must have been taken very seriously since they were thought to be secret weapons of the enemy. The American Air Force pilots at the time nicknamed them "Kraut Fireballs" or "Foo Fighters" (after a maxim by a cartoon character named Smokey Stover, who was fond of saying: "Where there's foo there's fire". This latter term survived.

During a U.S. Air Force bomber raid on the German industrial complex at Schweinfurt, Mission 115, on October 14th, 1943, the aircraft encountered strange objects in the air. The former SECRET report reads:

"As the bombers of the 384th Group swung into the final bomb run, the fighter attacks fell off. This point is vital, and pilots were queried extensively, as were other crew members, as to the position at that time of the German fighter planes. Every man interrogated was firm in his statement that 'at the time there were no enemy aircraft above'. At this moment the pilots and top turret gunners, as well as several crewmen in the perspex noses of the bombers, reported a cluster of disks in the path of the 384's formation and closing with the bombers. The startled exclamations focused attention on the phenomenon, and the crews talked back and forth, discussing and confirming the astonishing sight before them.

"The disks in the cluster were agreed upon as being silver colored, about one inch thick and three inches in diameter. They were easily seen, gliding down in a very uniform cluster. "And then the 'impossible' happened. B-17 Number 026 closed rapidly with a cluster of disks; the pilot attempted to evade an imminent collision, but was unsuccessful in his maneuver. He reported at the intelligence debriefing that his right wing went directly through a cluster with absolutely no effect on engines or plane surface. It could be heard that one of the objects struck the tail section of the bomber, but no explosion or other effect followed.

"...Also observed were two other A/C flying through silver disks with no apparent damage. Observed disks and debris two other times but could not determine where it came from.

"No further information on this baffling incident has been uncovered, with the exception that such disks were observed by pilots and crew members on missions prior to, and after, Mission 115 of October 14, 1943" (Caidin 1960).

Toward the end of 1944 the Foo Fighters wave picked up again. On November 23, 1944, at 10 p.m. Lieut. Stiller, pilot in the U.S. 415th Night-Fighter Squadron based at Dijon, France, took off for a routine mission over the Visage mountains. The area radar had detected no enemy presence in the area. The sky was clear. Near Strasbourg the Intelligence Officer, Lieut. F. Ringwald, observed towards the west a linear formation of eight to ten fireballs flying at great speed. The formation vanished and appeared at another place. The pilots made no report (Chamberlin 1945).

When Lieuts. Giblin and Cleary on November 27, 1944 were on a mission south of Mannheim, they saw over the city of Speyer an enormous luminous orange sphere moving at about 400 km/h, scarcely 500 m above their aircraft.

A luminous orange-yellow disk about 3 m in diameter was observed by USAF Major Leet, over Klagenfurt, Austria. It kept a distance of about 50 m, and followed the B-17 almost all the way back from a bombing run on November 24, 1944. The sphere seemed to follow the maneuvers of the aircraft for 45 minutes (Leet 1979).

Two other bomber pilots of 415 Fighter Group were flying on December 22, 1944, over Hagenau, Germany, at an altitude of 3,000 m when the pilot at 6 p.m. reported:

"Two very bright lights have left the ground and are headed towards us. Right now they are following us." The two orange spheres stayed in the aircraft's wake for about 2 minutes, then they abandoned the aircraft and disappeared. The same two pilots had another similar encounter two nights later.

On January 2, 1945, *The New York Times* for the first time was permitted to publish the following about these observations:

"(From a U.S. Night-Fighter Base in France):

On December 13th, 1944, newspapermen were told that the Germans had thrown silvery balls into the air against day raiders. Pilots then reported that they had seen these balls, both individually and in clusters, during forays over the Rhine. Now, it seems, the Nazis have thrown something new into the night skies over Germany. It is the weird, mysterious "Foo Fighter" balls which race alongside the wings of Beafighters flying intruder missions over Germany. Pilots have been encountering this eerie weapon for more than a month in their night flights. No one apparently knows what this sky weapon is. The balls of fire appear suddenly and accompany the planes for miles. They seem to be radio-controlled from the ground, so official intelligence reports reveal.

"There are three kinds of these lights we call 'Foo Fighters,' said Lieutenant Donald Meiers, of Chicago. 'One is a red ball which appears off our wing tips and flies along with us. No 2 is a vertical row of three balls of fire, flying in front of us. No 3 is a group of about fifteen lights which appear in the distance, like a Christmas tree up in the air, and flicker on and off.

"The pilots of this night-fighter squadron, in operation since September, 1934, find these fiery balls the weirdest thing they have yet met. They are convinced that these "Foo Fighters" are designed to be a psychological weapon, as well as military; although it is not the nature of the balls to attack a plane...

"A 'Foo Fighter' picked me up recently, at 700 ft., and chased me 20 miles down the valley of the Rhine," says Meiers. "I turned to starboard, and two balls of fire turned with me. We were going at 260 miles an hour, and the balls were keeping right up with us. On another occasion, when a 'Foo Fighter' picked us up, I dived at 360 miles an hour. It kept right off our wing tips for a while, and then zoomed up into the sky. When I first saw the things off my wing tips, I had the horrible thought that a German, on the ground, was ready to press a button, and explode them. But they don't explode, or attack us. They just seem to follow us, like wills-o'-the-wisp!"

The Japanese and the Germans also saw these strange objects and didn't know how they could be explained.

In October 1943 during the major air offensive against the city of Kassel, the German Air force officer Robert Visarius was detached to the defense ground radar group near Kassel. He worked on the FuMG radar device (*Flak-Umwertgeraet 'Malsi'*). After an air attack, when the bombers of the Allied Forces were out of sight, Air Force Major Visarius checked the radar device. By chance he detected an object about 38 km away. First it was motionless, then it moved with terrible speed in his direction. On the axes of the radar device a powerful telescope was mounted, and Major Visarius observed through it a glittery silvery object which was not a known aircraft, since the distance now was 18 km, at which altitude no airplane at that time could fly. Although his companions saw this object too, nobody else witnessed the incident, and Major Visarius was laughed at (Visarius 1958).

A strange object was observed on December 18, 1943, flying over the German cities of Hamburg, Wittenberg and Neustrelitz. At 11.15 a.m. two Focke-Wulf 190 aircraft from the Hamburg base were sent to scramble. The pilots noticed a cylindrical object with a pointed nose like a rocket. The object vanished at high speed (Durrant 1970).

There is the rumor that the Germans had set up a special committee, called U 13, whose task it was to investigate the unknown flight objects. The French journalist Henry Durrant stated that he got former secret material from the British Intelligence Service. MUFON-CES member Adolf Schneider could not get a confirmation for that from the Study Group for Military Research (*Arbeitskreis fuer Wehrforschung*) in Stuttgart, and from the Federal Military Archives (*Bundesmilitaerarchiv*) in Freiburg. No knowledge of this special agency was had by the former Generals of the German Air Force Galland and Kamhuber.

The Commander of the Air Fleet 5 in Norway/North Finland and general manager for jet aircraft since February 1945 to the end of the war, and leader of development of the Heinkel jet HE-162, Carl Francke, as well as the former General Engineer of the German Air Force, Wolfram Eisenlohr, could not remember having heard anything about "U 13." The Deputy Commander of the Allied Air Forces in Central Europe until June 1976, General Wehnelt, didn't know about that agency (Schneider 1979).

The rocket scientist (a former colleague of I. von Ludwiger's father, who worked together with him and W. von Braun and H. Oberth at the rocket site in Berlin-Reinickendorf in the early thirties) and former Consultant in Department VI of Counter-Intelligence headed by Colonel Schellenberg, Rudolf Engel, confirmed the existence of a special office 13, but was not informed about its task (Engel 1979). Eventually, Professor Walter from Stuttgart, who in wartime collaborated with the chief of Counter-Intelligence, Admiral Canaris, knew Professor Georg Kamper, who founded the special group U 13. Walter confirmed that the members of U 13 had to investigate the enemy's new or strange weapon technology (Schneider 1979).

The physicist Dr. Sergej Kusionow in 1990 told MUFON-CES members in 1990 at a conference in Heidelberg that he has knowledge of German investigation reports concerning unknown flying objects, which are stored in Moscow, and which the Red Army had captured in WW II. Till now it was not yet possible to get the material back to German researchers.

It may be quite possible, that some of the observed luminous balls were indeed German secret weapons.

The Germans, for instance, released fluorescent balloons of different sizes into the air with the intention of producing trouble between the pilots of the night fighters. They were to make the fighters leave their formation, so that the German fighters could get into it more easily.

The rocket scientist Rolf Engel remembered another project: A Professor Ortmann, scientific advisor in the Reichs Air Ministry (*Reichsluftfahrt-Ministerium*) had the idea to send remote controlled missiles into a bomber group. The missiles should explode there and expel a special chemical substance, which should remove oxygen from the engines and produce damage by corroding the aircraft engines. It did not function. But a side effect was that after the explosion at high altitudes the chemicals generate an airglow.

In Spring 1945, the Research Center of the Air Force (*Forschungszentrum der Luftwaffe*), in the city of Oberammergau, Bavaria, carried out extensive investigations into electrical devices. Unmanned aerial vehicles should carry apparatus, which could influence the ignition systems of aircraft engines up to a distance of 30 meters, by radiating strong electromagnetic pulses. The range should be expanded 3 or 4 times. But the end of the war put an end to further investigations.

As a by-product of these studies, the Aircraft Factories (*Flugzeugwerke*) in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, as well as the Research Institute (*Forschungsanstalt*) in Oberpfaffenhofen, Bavaria, developed a small remote controlled aircraft. It was the intention to disturb the radio of the allied forces' night fighters. The flight object was driven by a flat and round turbo-jet engine. In flight, the engine generated an enormous halo from luminous flames, which gave the device the name "Fireball" (*Feuerball*). After takeoff the object was guided by radio near hostile aircraft. An automatic navigation system controlled by infrared sensors, which tracked the hot exhaust fumes, should track the aircraft.

The fiery halo around the object, which was produced by a special chemical admixture to the propellants, which could ionize the air at high altitudes, generated considerable jamming. Special Klystron tubes transmitted strong electromagnetic pulses, which had very disturbing effect. The clystron tubes were developed by the Research Institute of the German Reich's Post-Office (*Forschungsanstalt der Deutschen Reichspost*) in the city of Aach near Radolfzell, Germany.

A person who was present during the first launch of the "Fireball" remembered the flight characteristics exactly: "At day-time the thing looked like a luminous gyro which rotates about its own axis. At nighttime the "Fireball" was comparable with a burning sphere (Vesco 1974).

There were secret projects on so-called miracle weapons, which were flying disks. One of the projects was launched in 1941 and was developed by the German engineers Rudolph Schriever and Otto Habermohl according to a construction concept developed by Andreas Epp. This disk, 8 m in diameter, worked with rotating blades. It was developed starting in 1943 in the Skoda-Letow factories near Prague. It was to rise rapidly vertically and fly into high altitudes to engage bombers. The disk was called Retaliation Weapon (*Vergeltungs-Waffe*) V-3.

Another project, a disk 42 m in diameter, and driven by 12 turbine engines of type BMW 028, and adjustable jets, was developed by Dr. Richard Miethe and the Italian engineer Bellonzo in the cities Breslau, Dresden and at the Cesko-Morava company in Prague. That device was to fly over long distances and should eventually reach New York. It was given the name Retaliation Weapon V-7.

The Habermohl/Schriever basic model consisted of a semi-spherical cockpit with a flat rotating ring consisting of 12 adjustable rotor blades.

On March 14, 1944, at 6:30 a.m. a prototype of the Schriever/Habermohl disk was ready for a test flight. The test pilot Joachim Roehlike reached an altitude of 800 meters with the disk in one minute. This device was a super sonic helicopter. In horizontal flight it reached a final speed of 2,200 km/h (Betzl 1991).

In its first test flight it reached an altitude of about 20,000 meters. At the second climb it achieved 24,000 meters.

The jets of the V-7 developed a thrust of about 2,800 kilopounds. It must be launched aimed from a ramp. The disk was tested in Peenemunde, where the retaliation weapons V-1 and V-2 were also tested (Coppetti 1979). At the end of the year 1944, Miethe and Bellonco attached one of the V-7 disks-prototype under a bomber and flew it to the peninsula of Spitzbergen. From there it was to fly back remote controlled to Germany. Because of a mechanical malfunction in the steering of the engine, the disk crashed at Spitzbergen (Betzl 1991).

Only three of the V-3 flying disks could be produced by the end of war. Two of them were destroyed by the Germans themselves, and one of them and the design engineers fell into the hands of the Soviet Army (Lusar 1962).

The additional equipment with weapons made the flying disk heavy, and control of the landing procedure was difficult. (This is one of the main reasons why the currently developed flying disks also not used willingly by pilots).

It is not probable that the Allied Air Forces had ever encountered one of these disk in the air. Therefore, they don't count among the Foo Fighters observed.

In the CIA-sponsored Robertson panel meeting, convened in January 1953 to review Air Force UFO data, reference to the Foo Fighters was made. In the record one reads:

"Foo Fighters were believed to be electrostatic (similar to St. Elmo's fire) or electromagnetic phenomena, or possibly light reflections from ice crystals in the air, but their exact cause or nature was never defined. Both (physicist) HP Robertson and (physicist and fellow panel member) Luis Altares had been concerned in the investigation of these phenomena, but David T. Griggs (Professor of Geophysics at the University of California at Los Angeles) is believed to have been the most knowledgeable person on this subject. If the term 'flying saucer' had been popular in 1943-1945, these objects would have been labeled thus" (Durant 1953).

Since most Foo Fighters were not secret weapons, one must expect their appearance at all times. These objects should continue to be observed by pilots. That is indeed the case. But only a few pilots report their sightings. Dr. Richard Haines now has collected about 3,500 cases with UFO sightings reported by pilots from all over the world.

The military airspace controller Mr. H., who is a member of MUFON-CES, in November 1992 witnessed the encounter of military aircraft with unidentified spheres in the Swiss airspace. He was controlling the radar screen and simultaneously heard the conversations of the pilots who observed these objects in their vicinity. During a period of several days, bright luminous spheres were observed by aircraft crews at daytime near the flight course A-9. The spheres glistened like soap bubbles. These objects appeared suddenly and vanished, to appear again at another place. Sometimes it seemed as if an object would divide into two parts and join again after a few minutes. It was observed that the spheres sometimes or in a certain situation pushed out "something" which had an effect on radar visibility like chaff.

For the pilots this was not a surprising sight as their conversation proves:

"Again just one of these funny hovering spheres in our airspace with which nobody knows how to do something meaningful."

The Swiss military pilots are not allowed to take photographs. The witnesses without evidence of the incident refused to make an official report. These objects maneuvered with enormous climbing and sinking

speed up to a lower altitude of 3,000 m. The distance to the aircraft was estimated at 5 to 10 kilometers (Haas 1995).

Pilots of civilian airplanes likewise observe the spheres. Dr. Richard Haines in the spring of 1997, during a meeting in Stanford gave us documents about a pilots sighting case by two American pilots flying over Germany in 1978 near the city of Stuttgart at an altitude of about 11,000 m. High up in the blue sky ahead of them hovered two bright spheres close together. Soon a third object, shaped like Saturn and coming from the east flew near the two hovering spheres. When it had passed both, one of them started to move in an easterly direction with a high velocity. One of the spheres remained at the same location and passed out of sight when the frame of the cockpit window slowly covered it.

A German flying instructor, who is also a member of MUFON-CES, and his trainee on July 30, 1991, was flying at 9:30 a.m. (GMT) at about 8,500 ft. near the city of Cloppenburg (North Germany) when they observed three metallic-looking spheres in a vertical row. Quickly the flying trainee took his camera and made a photo just when the middle sphere began to shine brightly and flew away. Moments later the other two spheres also flew in a curve up into the sky (Figure 1.2.1). A computer enhancement shows that the middle object left three luminous trails when it accelerated. This photo confirms an observation made by the radar controller Petrozian at Mehrabad Airport on September 19, 1976 in Teheran, when two fighter pilots unsuccessfully tried to scramble an unknown object which had bright shining and flashing lights at its 4 corners in different colors. Another object, moving near ground level, has been described by the flight controller in just the same form as the second object seen near Cloppenburg (Figure 1.2.2 a and Figure 1.2.2 b). (One of the Iranian fighter pilots, Mr. Jaffari-Saghani, in the spring of 1997 informed us personally about his encounter with the UFO which in 1976 shot a luminous sphere at his Phantom fighter, and which he could not get "locked-on" for defending himself.

1.3 Ghost Rockets Over Europe

Soon after the end of the World War II, rumors of new weapons circulated in the news columns. Especially in Sweden, eyewitnesses recorded that they had seen cigar-shaped, silently flying metallic objects. Nobody could say where they came from and what they were. A characteristic of these "ghost rockets" was that they all came from the direction of the USSR. German progress in missile technology led to people fearing that the Soviets also have developed weapons which could bear nuclear bombs. During the War, 5 German V-1s and one V-2 had fallen on Swedish territory between 1943 and 1944. Since the Swedes had investigated samples from these rockets, they knew a little about rocket technology.

In May 1946, low flying rocket-like objects were recorded from all parts of the country. At nighttime the rockets were luminous objects. About 1,500 reports of sightings had been secretly collected, as was discovered when in 1984 the Swedish Government opened its files about "ghost rockets." The official statistics counted 997 ghost-rocket reports for 1946 alone.

On June 12, 1946 the Swedish Defense Staff ordered reports to be collected by all military and civilian defense units. 30 reports had reached the Defense Staff by July 9th. But on that day some 250 sightings were carefully logged by the Staff. Probably a daytime meteor polluted the collection of accounts. Nevertheless, many eyewitnesses described spindle-shaped objects flying low and slowly, with little or no sound.

The Swedish press on July 10th published that in all Sweden in the previous 24 hours spherical and cigar-shaped, blue-greenish luminous objects with a small jet flame had been seen. The Commander-in-Chief set up a special investigation committee. The general suspicion was that Soviet rockets were involved. The work of this committee remained secret until May 1983.

According to the *Svenska Dagbladet* of August 12, 1946, between 9 and 10 p.m. hundreds of persons saw "glowing bombs" which flew from south to north, giving off a brilliant blue-white light. Sometimes two of the objects were seen flying together, and some witnesses reported that smaller silver "balls" were emitted from the larger objects, which were variously described as "cylinders" and torpedoes "with a white nose" and "fire-spurting tail."

A correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor* stated on August 22nd that not only were the locations of the ghost rocket sightings being censored, but also the publication of reports themselves. A day

later the British Foreign Office admitted that British radar experts had been to Sweden to investigate the ghost rockets and that they had returned to submit secret reports as to the origin of the strange flying objects.

In many cases witnesses reported seeing the objects crash on land and in water (Liljegren 1986). But nothing was ever found, except mundane objects.

By December 1, 1946 the special committee had held 15 sessions. On December 23rd, the Swedish Commander-in-Chief received the final report from the committee. The report reads:

"Despite the extensive efforts which have been carried out with all available means, there is no actual proof that rocket projectiles have been tested over Sweden. The committee has therefore been forced to decide that the investigation has been unsuccessful and that it is useless to continue this activity in its present form and with the present limited resources. Even if the main part of the reports can be referred to as celestial phenomena, the committee cannot dismiss certain facts as being purely public imagination. From knowledge of German activity on the Baltic coast during the war and developments later on, one cannot deny the implications of the reports which have been received through various sources" (Liljegren 1985).

In 1986, the former Secretary of Sweden's Defense Staff Committee, Air Engineer Eric Malmberg stated in an interview on the "ghost rockets":

"I would like to say that everyone on the committee, as well as the chairman himself, was sure that the phenomena observed didn't originate from the Soviet Union. Nothing pointed to that solution.

"On the other hand, if the observations are correct, many details suggest that it was some kind of a cruise missile that was fired at Sweden. But nobody had that kind of sophisticated technology in 1946" (Liljegren 1989).

However, Sweden was not the only country which got visits from ghost rockets. They were seen in Norway, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium and Ireland. Norway notified the press on August 31, 1946, that in the future all rocket-sighting data were to be sent to the Intelligence Department of the Norwegian High Command. Any discussion of the ghost rockets in Norwegian newspapers was banned (Gross 1974).

During the night of September 1, 1946, ghost rockets had been seen in all parts of Greece, particularly in Macedonia and Salonika. On September 11th, ghost rockets appeared in Srinagar, India, and during the week of September 14 -21, 1946, they were reported over Portugal. In some cases the witnesses observed not rockets, but disks (Clark 1992).

In February 1948 the ghost rockets returned to Europe. The *London Times* on February 25th reported that according to "Scandinavian visitors to this country", rockets emitting a bluish-green flame, "almost invariably seen at 9:30 a.m." and traveling at speeds estimated to be between 4500 and 6750 mph, had been observed at various heights, everywhere from just above treetop level to 25,000 ft. The sightings ended in March, 1948. But at various times similar objects would continue to be reported around the world, in spite of the fact that unknown objects in general now were reported to have the shape of disks or flying saucers.

For example: In the summer of 1948, a woman then 28-years-old, with her child encountered a cigar-shaped object not far from the city of Kitzingen, Germany. It was in the late afternoon when the woman was walking over the fields, and she suddenly saw quite near, about 50 meters away, at an altitude of no more than 20 meters, a flying cigar, whose end was cut off. This object was about 20 m long and flew very slowly and absolutely noiselessly. From the end came a short fiery jet flame (1/5 of the object's length). Its color was dark-brown and metallic. The witness could trace the object, which flew straight away through the valley below. The witness said that she was annoyed at the American Army, stationed in Germany, "because they were shooting their rockets over our country" (v.Ludwiger 1995).

When in June 1947 Kenneth Arnold saw 9 flying objects which moved "like saucers which were thrown over the water surface", the ghost rockets soon were forgotten. Because of the publication of "Flying Saucer" sightings by Ray Palmer, who kept the subject alive through his magazines and books during the long periods of public disinterest, flying saucers have been the synonym for unidentified flying objects (UFO's), and Ray Palmer has in fact been the father of modern ufology.

The famous Arnold sighting followed several observations of flying disks in the United States. In April 1947, a meteorologist tracking a balloon instead found himself observing a saucer-shaped object. A silvery