



EARTHFILES

ENVIRONMENT

Reported and Edited by
Linda Moulton Howe

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"Battle of Los Angeles" On February 25, 1942:

When America's 37th Coast Artillery Brigade Fired Off
1,430 Anti-Aircraft Shells At A UFO

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Actual photograph taken of eight search lights aimed by American anti-aircraft batteries at an unidentified object or objects during the "Battle of Los Angeles" some time after 3:06 a.m. PT, February 25, 1942. Santa Monica, California, hills are silhouetted. Photographer, Mr. Calvert.

Earthfiles, news category.



Los Angeles Times Feb. 25, 1942

TOP SECRET

Top Secret

gm 25
February 27, 1942

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY

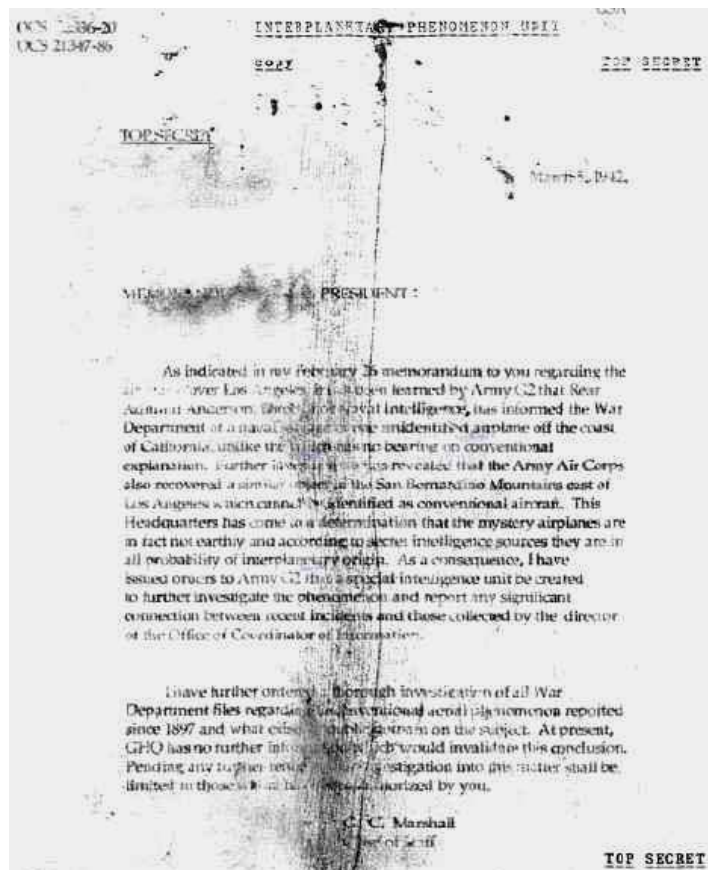
I have considered the disposition of the material in possession of the Army that may be of great significance toward the development of a super weapon of war. I disagree with the argument that such information should be shared with our ally the Soviet Union. Consultation with Dr. Bush and other scientists on the issue of finding practical uses for the atomic secrets learned from study of celestial devices precludes any further discussion and I therefore authorize Dr. Bush to proceed with the project without further delay. This information is vital to the nation's superiority and must remain within the confines of state secrets. Any further discussion on the matter will be restricted to General Donovan, Dr. Bush, the Secretary of War and yourself. The challenge our nation faces is daunting and perilous in this undertaking and I have committed the resources of the government towards that end. You have my assurance that when circumstances are favorable and we are victorious, the Army will have the fruits of research in exploring further applications of this new wonder.

You may speak to me about this if the above is not wholly clear.

F. D. R.

Above: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in communication with U. S. Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall soon after the "Battle of Los Angeles." FDR refers to "atomic secrets learned from study of celestial devices."

Below: General Marshall replied on Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit letterhead dated March 5, 1942. Marshall states the Army Air Corps also recovered an object similar to the UFO in the "Battle" from the San Bernardino Mountains that was of "interplanetary origin."



U. S. Army Chief of Staff George Marshall replied on March 5, 1942, to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit (IPU) letterhead about: "...Army Air Corps also recovered a similar object in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles," and "mystery airplanes are in fact not earthly and according to secret intelligence sources, they are in all probability of interplanetary origin." These documents and many others from pre-1948 are available at www.majesticdocuments.com.

April 14, 2005 Los Angeles, California - Sixty three years ago on February 24-25, 1942, all of southern California from the San Juquin Valley to the Mexico border were blacked

out. Fearing a WWII Japanese invasion attack, air raid sirens had gone on and off the evening of February 24, as intermittent unidentified aerial lights were reported. Then at 2:25 a.m. on February 25, most of the greater Los Angeles region's three million population was awakened by loud air raid sirens that kept wailing for the next thirty-eight minutes. Powerful searchlights were aimed at a glowing unidentified aerial object over the Santa Monica Mountains that was shaped like a "lozenge." Moments later, America's 37th Coast Artillery Brigade fired off 1,430 anti-aircraft shells at the UFO.

An eyewitness, who was 8-years-old that night, is C. Scott Littleton. As Professor of Anthropology Emeritus at Occidental College, in 2003 he wrote about what he recalled:

Prof. Scott Littleton: "I was an eyewitness to the events of that unforgettable February morning in February 25 of 1942. I was eight-years-old at the time, and my parents lived at 2500 Strand in Hermosa Beach, right on the beach. We thus had a grandstand seat. While my father went about his air-raid warden duties, my late mother and I watched the glowing object, which was caught in the glare of searchlights from both Palos Verdes and Malibu/Pacific/Palisades and surrounded by the puffs of ineffectual anti-aircraft fire, as it slowly flew across the ocean from northwest to southeast. It headed inland over Redondo Beach a couple of miles to the south of our vantage point, and eventually disappeared over the eastern end of the Palos Verdes Hills, what's today called Rancho Palos Verdes. The whole incident lasted, at least from our perspective, about half an hour, although we didn't time it. Like other kids in the neighborhood, I spent the next morning picking up pieces of shrapnel on the beach. Indeed, it's a wonder more people weren't injured by the stuff, as we were far from the only folks standing outside watching the action. [Editor's Note: Six people died during the event from injury and heart attacks.]

"In any case, I don't recall seeing any truly discernible configuration - just a small, glowing, slight lozenge-shaped blob of light - a single blob. We only saw one object, not several as some witnesses later reported. At the time, we were convinced that it was a 'Jap' reconnaissance plane, and that L. A. might be due for a major air-raid in the near future. Remember, this was less than three months after Pearl Harbor.

"...And yes, I'm pretty sure it was a UFO. However, what might at first glance be taken for a 'bubble' similar to those often reported atop disk-shaped UFOs is, I strongly suspect, simply an anti-aircraft burst that occurred a second or so before the picture was snapped. Also, as I think about it, the searchlight beams we saw simply converged on the object and did not extend beyond it, although after sixty-one years, I can't be certain. And the fuzzy lozenge shape I remember seeing does jibe with the much closer image in the photograph. By the way, did he (Calvert) use a telescopic lens? I strongly suspect he did, as they were available in the early 1940s, though not for Speed Graphics, which would mean that he used his private camera, perhaps a Leica. In this connection, I'm willing to be that at least one other person had the presence of mind to photograph the object during the hour or so it was visible from Santa Monica to Orange County. Indeed, one or more pictures of it might still be lurking in local family albums. Maybe we should put out a call on the internet asking for folks in Southern California to search their family albums and snapshot collections from that era."

To be continued in **Part 2** with photo analysis by Navy Physicist, Bruce Maccabee.

More Information:

See other Earthfiles reports about unidentified aerial craft:

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Leonard H. Stringfield

- 02/23/2005 -- **FINAL Part 4: UFO Crash/Retrievals: Status Report IV - Fatal Encounter At Ft. Dix-McGuire**
- 02/21/2005 -- **Updated - Bull and Cow Mutilations Northwest of Corpus Christi, Texas**
- 02/13/2005 -- **Part 1: UFO Crash/Retrievals: Status Report IV - Fatal Encounter At Ft. Dix-McGuire**
- 02/11/2005 -- **Story Behind "Inflation-Theory Implications for Extraterrestrial Visitation"**
- 02/07/2005 -- **FINAL Part 3: UFO Crash/Retrievals: Status Report V - Is The Cover-Up Lid Lifting?**
- 02/04/2005 -- **Part 2: UFO Crash/Retrievals: Status Report V - Is The Cover-Up Lid Lifting?**
- 01/30/2005 -- **Part 1: UFO Crash/Retrievals: Status Report V - Is The Cover-Up Lid Lifting?**
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- 12/30/2004 -- **September 12, 1952: America's "Secret War"? Part 1: UFO Retrieval in Flatwoods, West Va**
- 12/30/2004 -- **Audience Feedback About Earthfiles "September 12, 1952: America's 'Secret War'?"**
- 12/30/2004 -- **September 12, 1952: America's "Secret War"? Part 3: Nuclear Physicist Stanton Friedman**
- 12/30/2004 -- **September 12, 1952: America's "Secret War"? Part 2: USAF Starfire Disappeared Over Gulf**
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- 12/17/2004 -- **Updated - Feedback About Destruction of U. S. Military Records**
- 12/10/2004 -- **Part 4: "Peculiar Phenomena," V-2 Rockets - and UFOB Retaliation?**
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- 10/29/2004 -- **Part 1: Update On Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia, UFO Case.**
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Roswell UFO Crash

- 08/13/2004 -- **Part 15: UFO Crash/Retrievals - Status Report VI © July 1991 by Leonard H. Stringfield**
- 08/06/2004 -- **Truck Driver Who Allegedly Saw Craft and "Lizard" Arm from 1965 Kecksburg, PA Crash**
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- 04/13/2004 -- **Part 7: UFO Crash/Retrievals - Status Report VI © July 1991 by Leonard H. Stringfield**
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- 03/17/2004 -- **Part 2 - "Horrible Secret" in UFO Crash Retrievals Near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947?**
- 03/17/2004 -- **Part 1 - "Horrible Secret" in UFO Crash Retrievals Near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947?**
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- 03/28/2003 -- **Cattle Mutilation - The Unthinkable Truth, Chapter 4, Part One**
- 03/19/2003 -- **Cattle Mutilation - The Unthinkable Truth, Chapter 3, Part Three**
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- 01/21/2003 -- **Mutilated Horse Baffles Police in Des Moines, Iowa**

- 01/16/2003 -- **Dubayy, United Arab Emirates Shopping Mall Uses "UFO Fly-Over" to Promote**
- 01/15/2003 -- **Cattle Mutilation - The Unthinkable Truth, Chapter 2, Part Three**
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<http://brumac.8k.com/prosaic1.html>

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