

# PROJECT 1947

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## FOO FIGHTERS: THE STORY SO FAR

by  
Andy Roberts

The subject of Foo-Fighters, the mysterious aerial phenomenon seen by aircrew during W.W.II, is probably the most neglected area of study in the field of ufology. Once ufologists realised that their world did not in fact begin on June 24th 1947 with Arnold's infamous sighting, it has become fashionable to conduct research into "historical" UFO's which has led to some useful insights into the nature of the UFO phenomenon as a whole.

### IGNORED

The pre-Great War Airship and between the wars Mystery Flier Waves plus the post-war Mystery Rocket waves have all been admirably covered by researchers in the UK, USA and Sweden, but foo-fighters have been virtually ignored. With this in mind I began in 1987 to seek out all material extant relating to foo- fighters to try and put the subject into much-needed perspective and with the hopeful intention of publishing the end results in book form as a reference tool for other ufologists. This is some way off yet and so I think it may be worthwhile detailing the progress made and the problems encountered so far.

Neglected as an area of study they may be but every ufologist has at least heard of foo-fighters and almost every writer on the subject has mentioned them. Therefore you would think a mass of information would exist on the subject. Unfortunately this is just not the case. Look in any UFO book and you will find that foo-fighters are just given a few lines, at most in some rare cases a few pages and in only one or two instances a whole chapter.

This is pathetic really for an area of UFO activity which immediately preceeded the modern era and one which, if we are to believe the more "enthusiastic" ufologists, was the start of the so-called "Government Cover-Up". The history of foo-fighters as represented within the subject of ufology is riddled with problems which have put foo fighters in the historical niche they occupy today. These problems need stating and dealing with before the foo-fighter phenomenon can be seen in anything approaching a clear perspective.

For a start even the name 'foo-fighter' is problematic; did it come from the old Smokey Stover cartoon character saying "Where there's foo there's fire"; or was it from the French word *feu*, meaning fire, or was it, according to one ex-B17 waist gunner I spoke to, from "phooey". Needless to say, he didn't believe they existed! Also, what exactly is the definition of a "foo-fighter"? It usually depends on what obscure theory a particular writer is trying to prove. For the

purposes of my study I have used the criteria of any unexplained light source seen in conjunction with an aircraft either from the air or from the ground. This is deliberately descriptive as to include all war-time UFO's, which are as diverse as the ones we report nowadays, would need many years research itself.

### RE-ARRANGED

Firstly, when considering the written sources in the literature, it should be made known that almost every author who has mentioned the subject, in a book or a magazine article, has literally stolen his or her material from someone else and invariably left it unreferenced to create, no doubt, the illusion that the author in question discovered the facts themselves. Furthermore even the copied facts are often misquoted or conveniently "rearranged" to suit the author's particular argument and all obviously done without checking the salient facts at source.

For instance, if we constructed a "family tram" of foo-fighter material we would find, almost without exception, that the "grandpappy of them all" is the 1945 **American Legion Magazine** article, written by Jo Chamberlin. This article forms the substance of almost every piece written on the subject of foo-fighters. Fortunately this article is based on accounts which can be (has been) checked with squadron records and appears largely correct but its incessant copying has precluded any original work being done on the subject and has subsequently led to many writers extrapolating generalisations about the foo subject as a whole, most of which are demonstrably untrue. Examples of this armchair theorising are legion but for instance; many items dealing with foo-fighters state almost as an article of faith that foo-fighters only appeared in the later stages of the war, specifically around the winter of '44/'45.

### SECRET WEAPON

This is a direct result of Chamberlin's article and has led to further speculation that perhaps they were Nazi secret weapons pulled out of the hat at the last minute, or even perhaps that the foo were extraterrestrials keeping an eye on us before we used the atomic bomb. This time scaling is false and the first record I have of a foo-fighter being seen comes from 1940 and they were seen often throughout all the war years.

Another false fact of the foo-fanciers faith is that the phenomena was mainly seen over the European theatre of war and just occasionally over the Pacific. This is again false and the product of sloppy research. So far I have accounts of foo-fighters being seen over Norway, Germany, France, Italy, Sicily, The Pacific, Burma, Tunisia, and all the sea areas adjoining these countries. It was clearly an international phenomenon.

Still another mistake is the statement made by many authors that the axis pilots also were seeing the phenomena and that they thought, just as our pilots did, that it was an allied secret weapon. This may yet be proved true but I have

so far to find an original reference made by an axis pilot, or authority, that this was the case. The statement seems to be ufological canard employed on the basis of 'well if our boys saw them they must have too', and again has been used to support the ETH argument. The facts behind the rumour must await further verification. Axis aircrew were in fact seeing unexplained aerial phenomena but as yet most of their accounts await translation.

## HOAX

We have at least one outright hoax too in foo-fighter lore. For years rumours had been flying round that the Germans had been fully aware of the foo-fighter phenomenon (perhaps that's where the above canard originated) and that they had a special study group formed to look into the problem under the name of "Project Uranus," backed by a shadowy group by the name of Sonderburo 13 (reminds you of Majestic 12 doesn't it?). This was first detailed in *La Livres Noir De Soucupes Volantes* (The Black Book of Flying Saucers- 1970) by French ufologist Henry Durrant. The rumour spread in Europe and eventually took physical form in the English language in Tim Good's acclaimed book 'Above Top Secret' where it is used to help substantiate further vague rumours of an Anglo/American foo-fighter study. Good had not checked his facts and had in fact just copied the information direct from Durrant's book.

When I checked this out with Durrant he informed me that the whole "Project Uranus" affair was a hoax which he had inserted in his book precisely to see who would copy it without checking. The hoax apparently had been revealed in France some years before but hadn't percolated its way through to English speaking ufologists. Perhaps other foo hoaxes await discovery.

I could go on listing mistake after mistake and misquote after misquote from which we have drawn the current idea of foo-fighters. The quality of research and writing on the subject of foo-fighters has been truly appalling. Once these primary problems were realised I found trying to research the subject from within the UFO literature was pointless and incestuous and so attempted to get back to the source material -- the pilots and crew themselves and the official records.

## FRESH REPORTS

With this in mind I wrote to every air-related magazine in the UK with a request for information from ex-aircrew. To date I have had some thirty replies from pilots and crew detailing their experiences with strange balls of light (incidentally not one of them knew them by the name "foo-fighters," or any other name for that matter). I will be repeating the procedure this year both in the UK and the US to draw in more fresh reports. None of these respondents connected their sighting in any way with the modern idea of UFO's and their information is so much the better and clearer for that. In many cases I have copies of entries made in log-books immediately after the flight which details what took place.

## BALLS OF LIGHT

In the main, the descriptions are similar to the many already portrayed in the literature. Balls of light of varying colour (mainly orange) and number would appear from nowhere and play tag with aircraft for up to forty minutes. They were not hallucinations, being in some cases seen by the entire crew of a Lancaster bomber, and were not reflections as they were seen from many different angles or from two `planes at once.

Evasive action to shake them off was of no use. In one case a Lancaster almost burnt its engine out, going "through the gate," a slang term used by pilots to denote pushing the engine to its limits, in an effort to lose its incandescent follower, but to no avail.

None of my respondents had fired on the phenomena, in some cases fearing it to be a secret weapon which would explode when fired upon and in others just attempting to evade it on the basis that as long as it wasn't firing at them they weren't going to antagonise it. Having said this I have heard an unsubstantiated tape of an interview with an American gunner which cites a case in which a foo was fired on ... and the shells went straight through it! Interesting and supportive of the unexplained atmospheric phenomenon theory. Although some books note the (unreferenced!) fact that some foo's appeared inside the planes or affected the electrics etc. I have found no record of that taking place. Nor is there any verified account of foo-fighters showing up on ground radar. The phenomena whatever it was, clearly distinguished by the aircrew from common natural phenomena such as St. Elmo's Fire, and was a separate entity from the 'plane they were in. It appears to have been totally independent and able to change shape, speed and position at will.

## LACK OF INTEREST

Clearly something was being seen. A few pilots and crew chose not to report their experience at the time for fear of ridicule or for fear of being grounded for having hallucinations. Many though did record and report what they saw however and the response of the intelligence de-briefing staff varied considerably from total disinterest or hilarity to, in one case only, great interest and a further interview by intelligence officers. This apparent lack of interest on the part of the intelligence services begs the question of whether any official RAF or US 8th AF study was ever actually undertaken. It was certainly claimed to have, instigated by the untraceable Massey in the UK and Eisenhower in the US. Although my sample of respondents is small it seems odd that only one crew out of thirty or more were actually de-briefed at length specifically on the subject.

This was more than likely to be concerned with the possibility that the crew had seen one of the new German jets than anything else. In view of the amount of time, effort and expertise needed it seems unlikely that any nation during the hard pressed times of W.W.II took the time out to study what was essentially an ephemeral, elusive and ultimately harmless phenomenon. This will

not please cover-up aficionado's but it seems to be the case on current evidence.

My research so far with the RAF/MOD/PRO in the UK has drawn a total blank regarding official documentation and investigation of the subject, as have preliminary investigations in the USA. UFO skeptics will of course say that this is because it doesn't exist, proponents, especially cover-up buffs, will say it is because it is being kept secret.

The simple facts are that if documentation does exist in the UK I am unlikely to be able to get at it easily because of our archaic procedures for obtaining any government documents. We are not blessed by a FOI Act as is the USA, and obtaining any document depends on whether a department can be bothered to answer your letters or if so, can be bothered to undertake a meaningful search of their records. The situation is further complicated by the fact that many records in our Public Records Office are hard to locate due to how it is organised and furthermore are subject to "rules" such as the 30 year rule whereby information is not available for 30 years from date of classification. Worse still many W.W.II records are languishing under a 75 year rule for reasons I have not yet fathomed! In addition to this fact I have spoken to some ex-wartime RAF intelligence people in the UK and they claim no knowledge of the phenomena.

This area is clearly a matter for further study but, as with contemporary UFO research it should be borne in mind that whilst there are many rumours of government interest and intervention regarding foo-fighters the actual hard evidence cannot be found. I do not think this points to a 'cover-up' in any way. The situation in the US may yet turn out to be different as regards obtaining official documentation and I would welcome help from any US readers who have an interest in the foo-phenomenon.

### **NOT VALID**

The German secret weapon hypothesis (GSWH) promoted by such writers as Renato Vesco is unlikely to be valid. The reports are too widely spaced throughout the war and come from too many differing theatres for them to be a secret weapon of any kind. Certainly the Germans were experimenting with saucer-shaped craft, flying wings, etc., but they had not got very far beyond the drawing board and model stage. In addition, if foo-fighters were a weapon they were clearly ineffective as one. The GSWH can be seen in the same light vis a vis Foo-fighters as the way many people relate modern UFO sightings to alien craft. It is a cultural or, in the case of foo-fighters, an occupational artefact which when seen in retrospect (as will the ETH no doubt) can be identified and discounted.

### **CONCLUSION**

Out of all this some clear facts are apparent. Hundreds of aircrew saw and recorded what we now call foo-fighters during W.W.II. There must be many

thousands of ex-aircrew who have stories to tell. The problem is finding them and the odd ad. or article is only going to draw a few out and I have yet to attempt to get to American information from squadron survivors units etc. The situation regarding German information is further complicated by a language barrier but it is only a matter of time.

I firmly believe that foo-fighters were a real, although non- solid phenomena and I reject the hallucination/misperception hypothesis almost entirely. These people's lives depended on being able to see and identify aerial objects very quickly. One mistake and it was their last. Some crew have admitted misperceiving Venus etc., but realising it in seconds, and certainly not a whole crew being fooled for any length of time.

Foo-fighter reports give us a "genuine" UFO report, uncluttered by contemporary ideas about aliens, saucers and the like and which, as appear to be many 'genuine' UFO reports when they are stripped of cultural bias, consists basically of rudimentary light sources performing odd manoeuvres in the sky. My research has a long way to go yet but I would offer the suggestion that foo-fighters and their pre and antecedents which are still being seen today by people both pilots and ground observers are a type of natural phenomena, possibly related to ball or bead lightning, but equally possibly not. They may be something as yet totally undiscovered. They are also the stimulus for many of today's UFO reports which are subsequently overlaid by the prevailing cultural perceptions, i.e. alien craft. Mystery Airships, Ghost Fliers, Foo-Fighters, Flying Saucers - they may well all turn out to be different facets of the same phenomena.

Information about foo-fighters is, as can be seen, in short supply and at best fragmentary and I appeal to any readers with information on any aspect of the subject, however trivial or bizzarre, to contact me, Andy Roberts, at:  
[AndyRoberts@ancientassociates.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:AndyRoberts@ancientassociates.fsnet.co.uk)

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### UFOs: Foo Fighters and Ghost Rockets

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What's a *Foo Fighter*? If you said it's a band started by ex-*Nirvana* drummer David Grohl, you'd be right. But where did he get the name? He's interested in UFOs, and is an *X-Files* fan, y'know...

During World War II, there was a cartoon character named Smokey Stover who used to say, "Where there's foo, there's fire." When U.S. pilots and sailors began seeing odd balls of light or shiny metal that could fly circles around our planes and which followed ships at sea, somebody called them *Foo Fighters*, and the name stuck. Others called them *kraut fireballs* because it was thought that they were some sort of German secret weapon.

In reality, though, no one knew what they were. Hitler thought they were a U.S. secret weapon, and set up an organization to study them. The British thought they were German and allegedly set up a group called the "Massey Project" to study them. The U.S. 8th Army also scrutinized them, but once it was determined that they were not of German or Japanese origin, the studies were dropped. The *Foo Fighters*, however, kept appearing, as these examples from Timothy Good's *Above Top Secret* demonstrate:

12 August 1942  
Tulagi, Solomon Islands

Sergeant Stephen J. Brickner of the 1st Paratroop Brigade, 1st Marine Division, U.S. Marine Corps, reported that air raid sirens went off, and he observed over 150 objects fly over in straight lines

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of 10 or 12 objects, one behind the other. No wings or tails were visible to Sergeant Brickner, and the objects seemed to "wobble" slightly as they flew over at a speed that was "a little faster than Jap planes." Sergeant Brickner said that their appearance was that of highly polished silver that shimmered brightly in the sun. He said, "All in all, it was the most awe-inspiring and yet frightening spectacle I have seen in my life."

10 August 1944  
 Palembang, Sumatra

Captain Alvah M. Reida of the 486th Bomb Group, 792nd Squadron, 20th Bomber Command, based at Kharagapur, India was on a mission from Ceylon to bomb Palembang, Sumatra, flying a B-29 Bomber at an altitude of 14,000 feet and an indicated airspeed of 210 mph. The right gunner and copilot reported a bright red or orange spherical object pacing the plane about 500 yards off the starboard wing. It was about 5 or 6 feet in diameter and seemed to vibrate constantly. Captain Reida attempted evasive action, but the object followed every maneuver for about eight minutes, then suddenly made an abrupt 90 degree turn and accelerated away rapidly.

Various explanations were given for *Foo Fighters*. The *official* explanation was that they were the effect of magnetic fields created across the wings of aircraft. But why none of these effects are present on modern aircraft and why the objects were not always observed in contact with the wings and were often seen far away from aircraft has never been explained.

Military censorship kept reports of these phenomena out of the newspapers until December 1944. Throughout the war, similar objects were sighted by both military and civilian observers in the United States.

***Ghost Rockets are even stranger than Foo Fighters, if that's possible...***

It would seem that the Scandanavian countries, particularly Norway and Sweden, have been seeing mysterious things in their skies and under their

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seas for quite some time. Even as recently as a few years ago, you might recall, there were mysterious "submarines" being detected off Norway and Sweden.

As early as 1933, the Swedes, and even the British, were investigating mysterious unmarked aircraft that flew over their countries, according to *Above Top Secret*. Oddly, these craft flew in weather that grounded other aircraft of the time.

These could not compare, however with the *ghost rockets* that appeared in the skies after WWII.

What was a *ghost rocket*?

In 1946, according to Good, the Scandinavian countries reported over 2,000 unidentified flying objects over their airspace. These objects usually looked like rockets with fiery exhausts, and they sometimes performed unusual maneuvers as they passed overhead. At first they were thought to be captured German V-2 missiles that were being tested by the Russians, but British radar experts said they did not come from the U.S.S.R. Experts said that 80% of the reports were due to natural phenomena such as meteors, but they had no explanation for the other 20%. Oddly, the objects appeared over some of the southern European countries also, such as Greece, where an official investigation was conducted in 1947. The leader of that investigation, Professor Paul Santorini, revealed in 1967 that their investigation showed that the objects were not missiles. He also said that before they could proceed any further, the army ordered the investigation stopped. Even today, fifty years later, official files on the *ghost rockets* are still classified documents.

#### **Related Websites:**

- **Classic UFO Sightings**  
There are several links about *Foo Fighters* and *Ghost Rockets* on my link page.

#### **Of further interest:**

**The UFOs/Aliens Videostore!**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-2000

5/20 IN REPLY REFER TO  
Scr 69B307/US12390  
January 14, 1997

Mr. John Greenwald, Jr.  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

The following information is provided in response to your December 23, 1996, Freedom of Information Act request for information maintained in Navy files concerning Project X-148 and/or the too fighter.

In an effort to assist you, we have contacted the Naval Air Systems Command and the Naval Historical Center to determine whether records concerning the subject matter could be located and, if so, to obtain an estimate of the volume of material involved. We also contacted research historians with the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell Air Force Base. In all instances, no one had any knowledge of this program.

Further, please be advised that most Department of the Navy records do not qualify for permanent retention. Additionally, if the these files are older than two years, they would have been accessioned to a Federal Records Center for a limited period of retention. It is therefore critical that you provide more detailed information concerning the records you seek, such as a description of the X-148 project and its purpose, or who managed the X-148 project.

In your correspondence, you state that you are an academic requester and you also request a waiver of fees based on the statement that the requested information "is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, and is not primarily in my commercial interest." Neither of these statements on their face entitle you to classification as an academic requester nor to a waiver of fees.

In order to be considered as an academic requester, entitling you to a waiver of fees for all search and for the first 100 pages of reproduction, you must explain how you qualify as an educator and demonstrate how the requested information is of significant interest to academia. Furthermore, in order to be considered for a full waiver of fees, you must demonstrate how disclosure of the requested information would significantly contribute to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the Department of the Navy, explain how you intend to disseminate

5720  
Ser 09B30P/70512390  
January 14, 1997

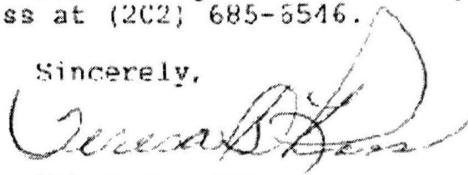
such information to the general public, and identify what portion of the general public such disclosure would benefit. Additionally, you have to explain how you intend to use the requested information in order to show how the disclosure of this information would not primarily benefit any commercial interests you may have.

Therefore, in addition to the records description clarification requested above, we also need for you to provide more detailed information for us to consider your requests to be treated as an academic requester and for a full waiver of fees.

In view of the above, your request is returned for refinement. Because the costs for processing this request are less than \$15.00, fees have been waived in this instance.

Should you have any questions concerning this action, please feel free to contact Ms. Tracy Ross at (202) 685-6546.

Sincerely,

  
for DORIS M. LAMA  
Head, DON PA/FOIA Policy Branch  
By direction of the  
Chief of Naval Operations  
(202) 685-6545

Enclosure (1)

## 1944-45, Foo Fighters

Although reports of sightings, which were eventually termed "UFOs," can be traced far back into history, students of the subject have arbitrarily placed the beginning of the modern era in the mid-1940s with the appearance of UFOs over both the European and Pacific Theaters of War. These UFOs were called by many names, all of which revealed a lack of understanding of their nature and source. To the Allies, they were "kraut fireballs" or "foo fighters," with the latter term surviving. It is believed that the Germans and Japanese saw them also.

Reports of "unexplained transparent, metallic and glowing balls" began in quantity in June, 1944, at about the same time the Allies invaded France, and Nazi Germany began launching V-1 flying bombs aimed at London, thus starting the era of unmanned missiles. Reports intensified in November 1944, not long after the first German V-2 ballistic rockets were fired at London and Paris.

Pilots and their air crews reported that the "odd things" flew in formation with their airplanes, "played tag" with them, and generally behaved as if they were under intelligent control. At no time were they said to have displayed aggressive behavior. Nevertheless, most people assumed they were an experimental enemy device being prepared for operational use. Rumors of highly advanced weapons were common at this time, fed by the awesome reality of the V1 and V2 weapons. The following are typical of the scores of "foo fighter" reports on record. Rumors persist that the U.S. Eighth Air Force in England commissioned a study on these reports, but no documentary evidence has yet been found.

### FOO FIGHTER PHOTOGRAPHS:

Photographs of Foo Fighters are very rare.

### FOO FIGHTER CASES:

#### Indian ocean August 1944:

On August 10, 1944 over the Indian Ocean, the co-pilot of a U.S. Army Air Force B-29 Superfortress heavy bomber reported that:

*"A strange object was pacing us about 500 yards [475 m.] off the starboard wing. At that distance it appeared as a spherical object, probably five or six feet [1\_ - 2 m.] in diameter, of a very bright and intense red or orange... it seemed to have a halo effect.*

*"My gunner reported it coming in from about a 5 o'clock position (right rear) at our level. It seemed to throb or vibrate constantly. Assuming it was some kind of radio-controlled object sent to pace us, I went into evasive action, changing direction constantly, as much as 90 degrees and altitude of about 2,000 feet [600 m.]. It followed our every maneuver for about eight minutes, always holding a position about 500 yards [475 m.] out and about 2 o'clock (right front) in relation to the plane. When it left, it made an abrupt 90 degree turn, accelerating rapidly, and disappeared into the overcast."*

(Clark, Jerome, and Farish, Lucius, "The Mysterious 'Foo Fighters' of World War II," in '1977 UFO Annual'.

**Hagenau Germany December 1944:**

On December 22, 1944 over Hagenau, Germany, the pilot and radar operator of an American night fighter encountered two "large orange glows" which climbed rapidly towards them. When the pilot dove steeply and banked sharply, the objects stayed with him. The pilot stated:

*"Upon reaching our altitude, they levelled off and stayed on my tail... After two minutes, they peeled off and turned away, flying under perfect control."*

(Clark, Jerome, and Farish, Lucius, "The Mysterious 'Foo Fighters' of World War II," in '1977 UFO Annual'.

**DOCUMENTS:**

Documents regarding foo fighter incidents are still being discovered even 50 years after the end of World War II. In 1992, researcher Barry Greenwood of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) went to the National Archives in Suitland, Maryland and located fifteen "Mission Reports" from the 415th Night Fighter Squadron, covering a period between September 1944 and April 1945. Here are two samples:

*"December 22/23, 1944 - Mission 1, 17:05-18:50. Put on bogie by Blunder at 17:50 hours, had A.I. [Airborne Intercept radar] contact 4 miles range at Q-7372. Overshot and could not pick up contact again. A.I. went out and weather started closing in so returned to base. Observed 2 lights, one of which seemed to be going on and off at Q-2422.*

*"February 13/14, 1945 - Mission 2, 18:00-20:00. About 19:10, between Rastatt and Bishwiller, encountered lights at 3,000 feet, two sets of them, turned into them, one set went out and the other went straight up 2-3,000 feet [600 - 900 m.], then went out. Turned back to base and looked back and saw lights in their original position again."*

(Greenwood, Barry, "More Foo-Fighter Records Released," *Just Cause*, No. 33, CAUS, September 1992.)

Suggested explanations, both at the time and subsequently, have included prototype enemy anti-aircraft devices, St. Elmo's fire (glowing balls of static electricity) and simple misidentification of other airplanes.

(Chamberlain, Jo, "The Foo Fighter Mystery," *The American Legion Magazine*, December 1965; Associated Press article, "Nazi Fire Balls May Be Kind of Ball Lightning," *New York Herald Tribune*, January 3, 1945; other miscellaneous press reports.)

Here is an article of the New York Times following a US Army press release.

**A CONCLUSION:**

In order to accept any of the above explanations, one would have to discount the observational skills of scores of veteran combat pilots and their crew members whose very survival depended on their ability to instantly identify and react to any potential threat.

Home 

## The UFO phenomenon in the daily Press:

### THE FOO FIGHTERS IN 1944 EXPLAINED AS NEW GERMAN WEAPONS:

The article underneath was published in the New York Times on December 14, 1944.

More information about the foo fighters here.

#### Floating Mystery Ball Is New German Weapon

##### **SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, Allied Expeditionary Force, Dec. 13**

A new German weapon has made its appearance on the western air front. It was disclosed today.

Airmen of the American Aif Force report that they are encountering silver colored spheres in the air over German territory. The spheres are tered either singly or in clusters. Sometimes they are semi-translucent.

The article is actually the New York Time's edit of the Reuter newswire transmitting a news item released by the Supreme Headquarters of the US Army reproduced underneath:

##### **SUPREME HEADQUARTERS Dec. 13 (Reuter)**

- The Germans have produced a "secret" weapon in keeping with the Christmas season.

The new device, apparently an air defense weapon resembles the huge glass balls that adorn Christmas trees. There was no information available as to whatholds them up like stars in the sky, what is in them or what their purpose is supposed to be.

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