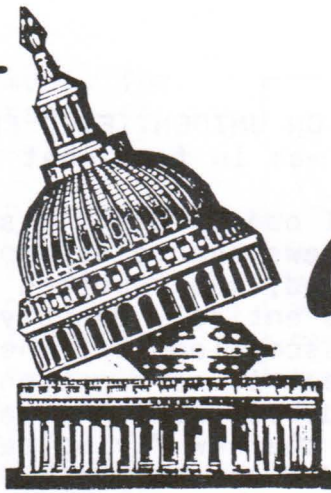


# JUST



# CAUSE

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

Exchange magazines are reminded that they must send to the following address: CAUS, Box 176, Stoneham, Mass. 02180. We cannot keep proper track of exchanges if this is not done.

This writer recently published an editorial comment in the International UFO Reporter, published by CUFOS, which reflected on the sad state of affairs I perceive UFO research to be in. Since then there have been two recent television shows; one praising the Billy Meier beamship video as, among other films, having been verified by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the other billed as "Close Encounters of the Sexual Kind." A number of times I have been interviewed at length by reporters only to find none of it printed because it didn't deal "people being kidnapped by flying saucers."

What UFO research has become now is entertainment, something to divert the trouble-plagued average citizen from the problems of society. At least that is the way the media, the government and much of the public see it. NASA is paying the price for serious mistakes; the shuttle disaster, the Hubble telescope fiasco, management gaffes all contributing to a poor public image. Present-day UFO research MUST change the way business is conducted from within to a more basic, less sensational approach. NASA's credibility problems are minor compared to UFOlogy's. CAUS will continue to hammer on this issue because we see this as the most serious threat to our activities in our brief history. We will not allow our work to be wasted, drowned in science fiction presented as fact.

## MORE ON UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL

There is no case file of any consequence on the alleged crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, amongst the Air Force's Project Blue Book case collection. There should be but there isn't. Why? Perhaps the Air Force did not consider the incident important enough to document. This is probably the least-likely explanation since the report was very much publicized in most important newspapers throughout the United States. If the story were real but highly-classified, then this would explain the absence of a detailed file but not of a general information file. Again the incident was too well-known to ignore. Though we can only speculate, the most likely reason is that the file was "borrowed" by a scientist doing research for the Air Force, or a souvenir hunter from the old Project Sign days, and never returned. Former Project Blue Book head, Captain

Edward Ruppelt, in his REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (Doubleday, 1956, page 99) said that this was in fact what had happened to "lots of reports."

The case for the Roswell object being a spacecraft seems to begin where what we know about the news events as reported in 1947 ends. An object came down, was discovered, was reported in the news, then quickly disappeared into history. It's entirely conceivable that the government would have worked under the assumption that the Roswell object was a strange aerial vehicle and treat it as a national security matter until analysis determined what the debris was. A great deal of attention, and uncertainty, circulated about the new flying saucer phenomena during the first week of July 1947. One did not have a UFO history to fall back upon as a guide on how to deal with such a situation.

It is for this reason that I choose not to interpret the secrecy itself as proof that an alien ship crashed. With the absence of official documents, debris, or bodies of aliens, one is left with verbal testimony only; a bevy of witnesses claiming, more often indirectly than not, that the object was indeed a flying saucer. It has been said that with testimony by hundreds of persons, such as has been put forth by Schmitt and Randle, the case for UFOs as extraordinary vehicles from somewhere other than the Earth could quickly be presented and won in a court of law; that somehow this would be the final arbiter of the UFO issue.

There is little doubt in my mind that the case for a flying saucer at Roswell could possibly be won in court. Mark my words on this carefully. It could be won, not proven.

While the legal system represents the pinnacle of our understanding of man's law in society, it is vastly different from interpreting issues relating to scientific standards, or our understanding of natural law. Legal standards frequently fall far short of the exacting demands by which we comprehend nature. Innocent people can be sent to jail while guilty ones are set free in a system that can be manipulated. Judgements of truth can be swayed by displays of style and charisma; by sheer force of personality rather than by hard fact. The very symbol of justice is blind. Sometimes the lawyer who puts on the best show in a clever distortion of facts can succeed. If the opposing viewpoint is not alert, outrages can be the norm. The Supreme Court, for example, once decided that slavery was lawful and right in the Dred Scott decision.

Assessments as to whether UFO crashes are fact or not cannot be made legally without enormous doubt, considering the absence of physical evidence. We are left with the standards of scientific study, more stringent and demanding that they are, to settle this matter. And until physical evidence does become available, scientific study cannot even be applied. So we are saddled with a fascinating tale and little more, unless one chooses to "believe" based upon one's personal preference, a dangerous way to present "facts" to a skeptical public.

Evidence in the UFO field is often that which tends to support one's pet theories regardless of how well-grounded it is. The same information can be seen by different persons in different ways. One example can be seen on page 175 of UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL. Reproduced in our Figure 1 are symbols drawn by Jesse Marcel Jr. said to have been visible on an "I" beam which was part of the UFO wreckage. The symbols have been said to be unlike any language seen before, according to previous Roswell reporting. Even here, the symbols are described as being unlike other reports of "languages" of the aliens by UFO percipients.

A superficial glance at the rendition gives the impression of an alien language. Looking at it more closely, one who looks at the symbols without interpreting them in an "alien way" can begin to see letters and

numbers. The second symbol, for example, has the appearance of an "8," the third an "I," the fourth an "x."

One must put recollections like this in context. Considering that Marcel's memory is the only source so far which concretely describes writing on the Roswell wreckage, we should not forget that 1) the recollection is more than forty years old, 2) it comes from a source who at the time was a young boy, 3) it comes from a source in an altered state of consciousness (hypnosis). There is no assurance that the symbols are correct.

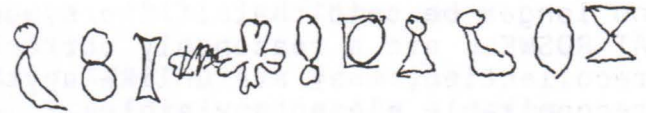
Let's assume that they are. Is there any way to decipher them? One who is convinced in advance that these are alien symbols will not likely find correlations to any man-understandable language; they are after all "alien" and unlike any writing that we know. A more skeptical individual, and I use "skeptical" in the broad sense of one who does not accept quick, unconventional answers, will look very hard for correlations. Indeed some of the symbols do look like crudely-drawn letters and numbers.

In examining the last six symbols in the sequence, the third and fourth seem to repeat - a clue that cryptographers look for in deciphering phrases. Let's use this as a springboard for a hypothetical exercise.

The first symbol in the last six-symbol sequence, the one resembling an exclamation point, might represent a letter "B." It has two enclosed loops, one over the other, and an exclamation point would be inappropriate for the middle of a letter sequence. The second, a circle with a sort of tail drawn around it, might represent a letter "a." The next two similar symbols don't seem to represent a dotted letter "i" as there appears to be a rightward slant on the bottom. The same holds true of the first symbol in the entire 10-symbol sequence. Could these be said to be more of a representation of the letter "L." The next to last symbol looks very much like an "O," while the last hourglass shape is difficult. An "x" perhaps? But the fourth symbol in the entire 10-symbol sequence appears to be more like an "x." Maybe it is a "z," or an "N" on its side.

We have a set of letters, hypothetically interpreted. It seems to spell either "BALLOZ" (which doesn't make much sense), or "BALLON." It couldn't be! A balloon-borne device had been the favored explanation for the anti-alien Roswell critics. Such critics could see something like this as a potential alternative interpretation of the symbols, a recollection of the word "balloon" corrupted by the passage of time and the altered mental state of the witness under hypnosis. Toss in the fact that young children often misspell balloon along with a similar interpretation of the other symbols in the sequence, one gets a phrase like "L81X Ballon" and the crashed object begins to sound more like a man-made device.

The whole point of this is to show that when there is an absence of physical evidence, the remaining information is subject to varying interpretations which can be as valid, or invalid, as the exotic ones. If, for example, the above exercise is not valid, then what is there to which to compare it that determines whether it is more or less a correct decipherment? In the case of Roswell it depends upon which verbal testimony one chooses to believe. At the very least, it can



While under hypnosis, Jesse Marcel, Jr. drew the symbols that were on the one I-beam he examined. Interestingly, these symbols do not resemble those published by others claiming to have knowledge of UFO's.

L81X BALLON

Figure One

no longer be said that if the symbols drawn on page 175 of UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL are a reasonably correct rendition of Jesse Marcel Jr.'s recollection, they are unlike anything man has seen before. There are recognizable elements visible.

Finally, there is the nagging feeling that if a crashed disc was recovered at Roswell or anywhere else, history from then to the present day should not be as it is. Somehow the technological leap that should have occurred in the recovery of an interstellar spacecraft in the late 1940s did not seem to take place. Aeronautical history has developed normally within the intellectual limitations of man. Our aircraft are not performing the way flying saucers have been reported to do through the decades. They don't look like what the various crashed-disc stories show flying saucers to be. We are still using bombs, bullets, and rocket propulsion and are still making lots of mistakes with them. We blew up a space shuttle in front of millions of people, along with annihilating a portion of our space program's credibility. To suggest that we have learned little from the study of flying saucers after having them in our possession for nearly fifty years is straining my will to believe in this to the point of dismemberment.

If crashed discs are real, how has knowledge of this influenced our technology? It will no longer suffice to say it simply has been influenced. Examples are needed that are solid and unambiguous. I can't see them. Where are they?

If they haven't influenced our science in nearly fifty years, if there are no examples, then what is the evidence that such wreckage exists at all? More anecdotes? It should have been long ago apparent to potential whistleblowers in the military that stories would not be enough anymore. Documentation was needed. The best attempt at that was MJ-12. We all saw what happened to it, smashed to eggshells with the yolk on UFOlogy.

Motivation as to why the military sometimes takes a particular action is not always clear, explaining the occasional reports of such things as Pentagon toilet paper receipts being classified. But can a secret project be absolutely ruled out beyond all shadow of a doubt as an explanation for Roswell? Until one can affirm and demonstrate that this is so, it is wreckless and opportunistic to say that aliens visited Earth in 1947.

UFO reports exist. Some are difficult to explain. I happen to think research on this subject is worthwhile, which is why I have a strident position on the question of crashed discs. Presentation of such information must be airtight and debunk-proof. Schmitt and Randle have tried very hard. Good people have offered interesting stories. It is still very far from a new era in cosmic awareness.

### SETI, UFOS AND THE GOLDEN FLEECE

Many will recall the highly-publicized "Golden Fleece" awards granted annually by former Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire. As a watchdog of government waste, Proxmire would award various federal agencies and individuals a virtual public condemnation for activities which the Senator deemed as wasteful or unproductive. The "Golden Fleece" refers to a prize that was the object of a quest by the mythological Jason and the Argonauts.

Proxmire gave his annual award in 1979 to the NASA SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) program. This was done after a writer for an ultra-conservative magazine penned an article on wasteful government pursuits and sent a copy to Proxmire. He had concluded after

reading this that attempts to detect and communicate with possible extraterrestrial intelligences were frivolous. This at a time when Reaganism and budget-cutting were on the rise.

Proxmire reversed himself in the early 1980s after actually investigating SETI and listening to scientists involved in the studies, something he had not done when he awarded NASA the Golden Fleece. NASA saw their efforts reinstated in 1983 after a brief lull due to Proxmire's initial actions.

Given the great public impact that Senator Proxmire's often-justified awards had, and considering his intolerance of waste and nonsense, one might find a thirty-year-old statement of his rather interesting.

In the January-February 1963 issue of NICAP's UFO Investigator, a letter from Senator Proxmire to a constituent was quoted. Referring to a NICAP compilation of their best UFO evidence sent to political leaders in Washington, he said, "The NICAP report is a fine document which does much to substantiate the allegation made. The very fact that so many inexplicable incidents have occurred is reason enough for a thorough investigation."

There was once a time when UFO matters were taken quite seriously by leaderships in Washington. Fine points, both pro and con, were aired in Congressional hearings twice during the 1960s. UFOs were a major topic of debate at the highly-respected annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1969.

Just a reminder of how things were, and how they could be with a change of attitude on the part of present-day UFO research.

#### THE MENDEZ STORY CONTINUES

Readers will recall the bizarre incident involving former Air Force Airman Simone Mendez (see June and September 1991 Just Cause).

On January 7, 1992, the FBI sent a letter to Mendez advising her that after consultation with another government agency (unspecified, but probably the Air Force) further documents were being denied her under the "b1" exemption of the Freedom of Information Act, covering national security. CAUS has appealed this decision based on the fact that the Air Force had specifically dismissed the document that Mendez had seen as a hoax and that there was no real basis for denying access to it under FOIA, nor for any other document related to the incident. How, we rationalized, may the Air Force withhold documents for national security purposes if they were nothing more than descriptions of completely false information from the beginning? We are awaiting the outcome of the appeal.

#### NSA STONEWALLING CONTINUES

Several researchers have informed us that the National Security Agency has admitted to having post-1980 UFO documents which are being withheld from release. The reason: release can cause "exceptionally grave damage" to the national security of the United States.

Given that our chief adversary in the world - the Soviet Union - no longer exists and the threat of Communism has significantly diminished, such excuses for not releasing UFO documents are growing weaker. We have made a habit of filing annual FOIA requests with the NSA, just so that they will be aware that people are still interested in the issue and will not let it go away.

Recent news stories have revealed that agencies like the CIA are

considering releasing large numbers of documents in the future due to the slackening of world tensions. Researchers should continue to file UFO document requests regularly, perhaps hitting the right moment for a substantial document windfall.

### GHOST ROCKETS - NEW INFORMATION

A formerly classified publication, Intelligence Review, was recently obtained from the Air Force's historical center at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Issue #47, 9 January 1947, printed the following article on the famous "Ghost Rocket" wave in the summer of 1946 over Sweden.

It will be obvious to the reader that the article is skeptical of any sensational explanation for the sightings. It casts doubt on General James Doolittle's involvement in the investigations. CAUS had discussed this matter in our June 1990 issue, quoting a Doolittle letter to us. Arguments that the article is "disinformation" to hide the extra-terrestrial nature of the missiles are blunted by the fact that the piece pre-dates the modern UFO era by several months and a glance at the security marking on the article shows that it was not intended for public distribution.

The article may be considered a reasonably accurate assessment of the U.S. intelligence community's attitude toward the phenomena during those years.

## FEATURE SECTION

### "GHOST ROCKETS" OVER SCANDINAVIA

Flying missiles were first reported over southern Sweden in late May 1946 by the press, which gave the missiles the name of "Ghost Rockets." In June, the missiles also had been reported over Finland and Denmark. By July, the number of sightings over Sweden had greatly increased, and several also had been reported over Norway. The great majority of these reports were made by untrained observers and, as would be expected, varied widely in the description of the actual missiles as well as, of their course, altitude, and speed.

#### Descriptions of the Missile

The two most common descriptions of the missiles were "a ball of fire with a tail" and a "shiny cigar-shaped object." The reported direction of flight covered all points of the compass, with a northerly direction being slightly predominant. Variations in altitude ranged from treetop height to 160,000 feet, the higher altitudes almost exclusively being reported from Finland. Speeds reported were from 65 m. p. h. to "lightning fast," with the majority described as having great or very great speed. The missiles generally have been described in horizontal flight; a few have been reported as diving into the ground or into lakes, or exploding in the air. In no case have fragments been found other than bits of material described as "nonmetallic slag."

One of the few reports available from an individual who should be more reliable and competent than the average

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#### GHOST ROCKETS

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layman is that of a Swedish Air Force pilot. On 14 August, at 1600 hours, he was flying at 650 feet over central Sweden when he saw a dark, cigar-shaped object about 50 feet long and 3 feet in diameter flying 200 feet above and approximately 6,500 feet away from him at an estimated speed of 400 m. p. h. The missile had no visible wings, rudder, or other projecting part; and there was no indication of any flame or light as has been reported in the majority of other sightings. His report states that the missile was maintaining a constant altitude over the ground and, consequently, was following the large features of the terrain. The last statement casts doubt on the reliability of the entire report because of the inability of a missile, without wings, to maintain a constant altitude over hilly terrain. However, the pilot does imply that there may have been wings which he was unable to see, because he stated that it could not have been a Swedish jet plane as there was none flying in the vicinity at that time.

The Scandinavian press, with the exception of the Communist papers, initially reported the incidents in some detail and openly attributed them to missiles fired by the U. S. S. R. In August, a partial censorship was imposed on the press, restricting the publication of exact details or localities where missiles were seen. The Communist press has continued to ridicule the entire matter and claims that there was no basis for the reports that the missiles were of Soviet origin. In fact, a charge was made that they came from the United States and that Gen. Doolittle was sent over to observe the effects of the missiles!

#### Official Investigations

Official investigations of these reports were begun by the Swedish authorities in June. The Defense Staff requested the public to report any unusual observations, and by the

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end of July almost 1,000 such reports had been received. The investigation has been carried out by the Swedish Defense Staff in a very peculiar manner. In the beginning, many of the key personnel were on summer leave, and they were not recalled to deal with the problem. Spokesmen for the Defense Staff repeatedly have told the United States Military Attaché that they definitely believed there were rockets over Sweden, and that they were launched by the Soviets from Peenemünde on the German Baltic coast. However, they have not been able to produce any evidence to support these statements. To date, no United States military or naval personnel in Sweden have seen any fragments, points of impact, or other direct evidence to prove that guided missiles have appeared over Sweden.

The official communiqués issued to the press by the Defense Staff have not reflected the same tone as the statements made by individual officers in conversations. In fact, the communiqués themselves have varied. The last one, issued on 10 October, very strongly indicated that the great majority of the reported incidents were of celestial origin, which is a complete change from the one of 6 August when it was reported that, except in a few cases, they could not be meteorites.\*

#### Attitude of Swedish Officials

To arrive at any definite conclusion from the conflicting evidence available on these reported missiles is impossible. The contradictory attitude of Swedish officialdom would tend to indicate that it was doing very little to arrive at a definite conclusion, perhaps for political purposes. The complete change in attitude between the communiqués issued on

\* In September and October, flying objects were reported over widely separate points in Europe and Africa, including Belgium, Greece, Italy, Mexico, and Vietnam. In the main, these reports have not been confirmed and appear to be due to explainable causes, such as meteors or V-2 flames, fireworks, etc.

6 August and 10 October indicates that the Swedish Staff was trying to minimize the entire matter which had grown to such a size that the Staff was afraid of its having official repercussions on Swedish-Soviet relations.

#### Conclusions

The Soviets are known to be working on various guided missiles. They have the ability to produce, and probably have tested, missiles of the V-1 type. Without warheads and with slightly improved motors, these missiles could have a range of 500 miles, and are the only available German missiles believed capable of horizontal flight at low altitudes. There is some evidence that such work has been carried out at Stolp (in Polish-administered Germany) or on the Baltic islands of Oesel or Dago. Three of the people reporting sightings have mentioned the noise of an outboard motor, a characteristic of the impulse duct motor used on the V-1 by the Germans; and one of them stated that what he saw looked like the V-1 he had seen over London during the war. Others have reported little or no sound, a condition which may indicate the use of a turbo-jet instead of a pulse-jet.

The best evidence, at present, is that there have been only 2 or 3 real incidents, perhaps as many as 5 or 10, of low-flying missiles of the V-1 type. The high-altitude missiles reported seem definitely to have been meteors or fireworks. The Swedish Defense Staff probably has taken advantage of the **situation for political purposes and allowed the newspapers** to make a big story out of the missiles, without admitting that the Staff had any evidence to indicate that there actually were any such missiles. This was done at a time when the Swedish public was demanding reductions in defense expenditures.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

With the present lack of substantive UFO sighting incidents of late, we have been able to focus energy toward filling the historical record. Slowly but surely we are building information files on early UFO sightings with military/government implications. Several researchers in the U.S. and overseas have contributed their information which has been extremely valuable in locating more. Notable have been AFU of Sweden for "Ghost Rocket" files and the Center for UFO Studies for a number of early classics. CAUS thanks all who have helped.

We are intensely interested in the "foo-fighter" reports of World War Two. There are a few inquiries out to military history centers. We have located assorted press coverage that has seen little exposure. Depending on the degree of cooperation that we receive from official sources, we hope to report positive results of some of these inquiries in our next number. Foo-fighter incidents seem to have been treated in much the same way as modern day UFO sightings, with the facts being rather difficult to obtain. One researcher astonished us last month by asking why we bother spending so much time and effort pursuing such old incidents. "No one cares about a report that long ago," he believed.

Hopefully, this doesn't reflect a general attitude toward this kind of work. Our historical files do not molder or collect dust, like the ones in most libraries and archives we've seen. How can one know the present without knowing the past?

Page 8 contains a small sample of our foo-fighter research. With luck we will be able to show more in our June issue.

January 3, 1945

# Nazi Fire Balls May Be Kind of Ball Lightning

## Foo-Fighters Are Seen as Electrical Charges Which Trail Planes by Induction

By Howard W. Blakeslee

Associated Press Science Editor

The descriptions of the new German "foo-fighters," or balls of fire, contained in dispatches from the western front, fit into several well-known electrical phenomena.

Two of these are induction and ball lightning, which have some of the aspects of another electrical phenomenon, St. Elmo's fire. If the foo-fighters are electrical, they are something created in the air close to the Allied planes, rather than anything shot like artillery shells or anything floating in the air in wait for planes.

Induction is suggested by the reports from Allied Airmen, that the foo-fighters keep up with their planes at fixed distances, regardless of plane speed, changes in speed or changes in direction.

Electrical induction of some sort would explain such marvelous synchronization. Nothing else that is well known would explain such perfect timing. Radio control from the ground does not explain the timing, unless radio control is meant to describe a beam which is part of the automatic induction.

Induction, however, fails completely to describe what happens when a fire-ball zooms upward, leaving its plane. Apparently the balls fly paths thousands of feet away from the planes.

The common experience that resembles this trick is ball lightning. How anybody could produce ball lightning is unknown. Exactly what ball lightning may be is also unknown. But it is a quite harmless thing, even as the German foo-fighters are reported to be. A lightning ball can explode in your front yard, making a loud bang, but doing little or no damage.

**Bright Electrical Discharge**

St. Elmo's fire is a brush discharge of static electricity, which streams off some solid object with a brilliant intensity. Aviators are

familiar with brush discharges and would recognize them, so the foo-balls are probably not ordinary St. Elmo's fire.

The deep purple color of brush discharge static would explain the reports that the foo-balls are red. The shade of red has not been reported. Ball lightning has been reported in slightly red shades.

A reason for the foo-balls, again based on experience, is interference, with radar, radio or perhaps with a plane's ignition. Ignition interference would stop a plane in the air. It was a real project in Italy before this war, and how to do it was well known in theory in the United States. All you needed then to stop a plane five or more miles away was a power plant equal to Niagara Falls.

A guess can be made that the foo-balls are evidence that German scientists have found some way to get around part of the power troubles in interference. The fact that they are using them, and so disclosing their secrets to the Allies, would indicate that they do not hope to attain to ignition interference power.

**War Department Is Silent**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (UP).—The War Department was not talking, but amateur physicists hereabouts wondered today if that ancient bugaboo, St. Elmo's fire, hadn't put in an appearance on the Western Front.

War Department authorities just looked mysterious when questioned about the balls of fire. They said they could not talk about them. Security, you know.

However, no security or censorship restrictions apply to St. Elmo's fire, which used to frighten uneasy sailors into repentance from time to time. Webster's New International Dictionary describes this phenomenon as follows: "A flame-like appearance sometimes seen in stormy weather at prominent points of a ship, particularly at the masthead and the yardarm, and also on land, as at the tops of trees or steeples. . . . It is in the nature of a brush discharge of electricity, reddish when positive, bluish when negative."

December 14, 1944

# New German War Device: Air-Floating Silvery Balls

## Censored Item Tells of Bubbles Seen by Allied Bombers

PARIS, Dec. 13 (AP).—The Germans were disclosed today to have thrown a new "device" into the war — mysterious silvery balls which float in the air.

Pilots report seeing these objects, both individually and in clusters, during forays over the Reich.

[The purpose of the floaters was not immediately evident. It is possible that they represent a new anti-aircraft defense instrument or weapon. This dispatch was heavily censored at Supreme Headquarters.]

**HALF A MINUTE that THRILLED AMERICA! See MGM's mighty "30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO"—Spencer Tracy, Van Johnson, Robert Walker. At the Capitol.—Adv.**

BOSTON DAILY GLOBE—TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1945

# Nazi Mystery Weapon Paces American Planes

A UNITED STATES FIGHTER BASE, France, Jan. 2 (AP)—American fighter pilots engaged in flying night intruder missions over Germany report the Nazis have come up with a new "secret weapon"—mysterious "balls of fire" which race along beside their planes for miles like will o' the wisps.

Yank pilots have dubbed them "Foo fighters," and at first thought they might explode, but so far there is no indication that any planes have been damaged by them.

Some pilots have expressed belief that the "Foo fighter" was designed strictly as a psychological weapon. Intelligence reports seem to indicate it is radio-controlled from the ground and can keep pace with planes flying at 300 miles per hour.

Lt Donald Meiers of Chicago, Ill., said there are three types of "Foo fighters"—red balls of fire that fly along at wing tip; a vertical row of three balls of fire which fly in front of the planes, and a group of about 15 lights which follow the plane at a distance, flickering on and off.