

The Battle of Los Angeles: Guns Against the Night

STR-SECRET-018 / REV A / 2026.09.08

Searchlights and antiaircraft fire tore across Los Angeles during an alarming wartime night. No enemy raid was established, and the confused episode later acquired a second life as a UFO story.

STATUS	Documented wartime false alarm; UFO interpretation unsubstantiated
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Los Angeles, California, United States
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Secrets & conspiracies
STORY HISTORY	February 24-25, 1942

THE ACCOUNT

In the early hours of February 25, 1942, Los Angeles experienced the machinery of an air raid: a blackout, searchlights and antiaircraft fire. The attack people feared was easy to imagine after Pearl Harbor and wartime alarms along the Pacific coast. What the guns were actually firing at proved far harder to establish. By morning, a spectacular public event had left authorities explaining a threat they could not confidently identify.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Official Air Force history treats the incident as a false alarm amid wartime anxiety, potentially triggered by a balloon and compounded by shell bursts and other misleading observations. Contemporary coverage recorded disagreement between military officials, and no attacking aircraft was established. Photographs and testimony document the barrage. They do not independently demonstrate that a solid extraordinary craft occupied the point where searchlight beams appeared to converge.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The distinction is eerie: the event was unmistakably real, while the object that supposedly caused it may never have existed in the form observers imagined. Once guns, beams and expectations interact, each can become evidence for the others. The night shows how an organized defense can help give a suspected presence the appearance of an actual attacker.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Air Defense history discussing the Battle of Los Angeles

Department of the Air Force

<https://media.defense.gov/2010/Dec/02/2001329904/-1/-1/0/AFD-101202-024.pdf>

See 10 Mysterious UFO Sighting Photos From History

TIME

<https://time.com/4232540/history-ufo-sightings/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

The Battle of Los Angeles: Guns Against the Night

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-SECRET-018>