

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,380

This is Edward R. Murrell. We're going to talk about flying saucers.

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00:00:04,380 --> 00:00:07,560

We're going to talk about them from the standpoint of reporters,

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00:00:07,560 --> 00:00:10,380

not as comedians, not as sensationists.

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00:00:10,380 --> 00:00:15,860

For the past three years, a large number of perfectly sane and reliable people

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00:00:15,860 --> 00:00:18,300

have been involved in this flying saucer business.

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00:00:18,300 --> 00:00:21,740

Even those of us who have never seen one have become involved.

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00:00:21,740 --> 00:00:27,740

We read about them, talk about them, wonder about these reports of strange phenomena in the skies.

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00:00:28,700 --> 00:00:32,460

So almost from the start, CBS has been following this story.

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00:00:32,460 --> 00:00:36,620

We have been collecting material on flying saucer observations for many months.

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00:00:36,620 --> 00:00:42,700

Checking, cross-checking, trying to track down leads, no matter how far afield they took us.

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00:00:42,700 --> 00:00:45,340

This tonight is our report.

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00:00:45,340 --> 00:00:49,660

We frankly admit that we don't know whether flying saucers actually exist.

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00:00:49,660 --> 00:00:51,740

We've never seen one.

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00:00:51,740 --> 00:00:54,620

We are going to bring you the facts at hand.

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00:00:54,620 --> 00:00:57,580

What they add up to? Well, that's for you to decide.

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00:00:57,740 --> 00:00:59,660

That's up to you.

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00:00:59,660 --> 00:01:03,500

It all began just a little less than three full years ago.

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00:01:03,500 --> 00:01:08,380

It began in the sky over western Washington, up there in the hip pocket of the country.

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00:01:08,380 --> 00:01:14,940

Early one June morning in 1947, a C-46 Marine transport with 32 Marines aboard

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00:01:14,940 --> 00:01:17,580

crashed in the vicinity of Montranier.

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00:01:17,580 --> 00:01:21,820

An air search was immediately organized to locate the downed plane.

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00:01:21,820 --> 00:01:25,740

Among the many service and private flyers who participated in this search

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00:01:25,740 --> 00:01:29,580

was Mr. Kenneth Arnold, a businessman of Boise, Idaho,

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00:01:29,580 --> 00:01:32,300

a veteran pilot in forest fire control work,

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00:01:32,300 --> 00:01:38,300

a man with six years experience flying over the rugged terrain in and around Montranier.

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00:01:38,300 --> 00:01:41,660

Yesterday morning, we spoke to Mr. Arnold over the phone.

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00:01:41,660 --> 00:01:44,540

We asked him to repeat for us, in his own words,

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00:01:44,540 --> 00:01:49,260

what he saw in the sky over Montranier on June 24th, 1947.

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00:01:49,260 --> 00:01:52,780

We recorded what he said, and we're going to play it for you now.

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00:01:52,860 --> 00:01:57,180

The slight beep that you will hear intermittently is required by law

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00:01:57,180 --> 00:02:00,540

to let both parties of a phone conversation know they are being recorded.

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00:02:01,260 --> 00:02:02,780

Here now is Mr. Kenneth Arnold.

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00:02:03,820 --> 00:02:10,300

It was while I was searching for this crash that I noticed a terrific blue flight path

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00:02:10,300 --> 00:02:11,420

nose of my airplane.

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00:02:12,620 --> 00:02:18,940

I noticed that the flight turned from a turn of very peculiar looking objects

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00:02:19,420 --> 00:02:23,900

that were rapidly approaching Montranier at about 107 degrees.

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00:02:25,100 --> 00:02:30,460

This train of objects were 9 in numbers.

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00:02:31,980 --> 00:02:36,540

I assumed at the time they were a new formation or a new type of jet.

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00:02:37,260 --> 00:02:40,300

Though I was baffled by the fact that they did not have any tails,

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00:02:41,180 --> 00:02:45,020

the path almost directly in front of me,

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00:02:45,660 --> 00:02:50,220

but at a distance of about 23 miles, which is not very great in repair,

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00:02:51,340 --> 00:02:55,660

I touched their wingspan to be at least 100 through the cross.

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00:02:56,620 --> 00:02:59,900

Their sighting did not particularly disturb me at the time,

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00:03:00,780 --> 00:03:03,900

except that I had never seen planes of that type.

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00:03:04,540 --> 00:03:09,340

Mr. Arnold, after landing, made a routine report of what he had seen to a civil aeronautics

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00:03:09,340 --> 00:03:11,900

administration representative. Promptly forgot the matter.

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00:03:12,460 --> 00:03:16,380

Until the wheels of publicity began to turn, the floodgates opened.

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00:03:17,900 --> 00:03:23,580

I never could understand at that time why the world got so upset about this.

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00:03:23,580 --> 00:03:25,500

These things didn't seem to be a minute.

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00:03:26,060 --> 00:03:28,940

I believe they had something to do with our army and airport.

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00:03:29,580 --> 00:03:33,340

On three different occasions, Mr. Arnold was questioned by military intelligence.

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00:03:34,140 --> 00:03:37,900

They expressed doubt as to the accuracy of some of his reported observations.

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00:03:38,540 --> 00:03:42,540

That's right. Now, of course, some of the reports they did take from newspapers,

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00:03:42,540 --> 00:03:48,940

which did not quote me properly. Now, when I told the press, they misquoted me,

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00:03:48,940 --> 00:03:54,380

and in the excitement of it all, one newspaper and another one got it so and smiled up that

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00:03:54,940 --> 00:03:57,900

nobody knew just exactly what they were talking about, I guess.

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00:03:58,700 --> 00:04:01,820

Here's how the name Flying Saucer was born.

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00:04:02,620 --> 00:04:08,780

These objects are more or less fluttered like they were, oh, I'd say boats on very rough water or

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00:04:09,340 --> 00:04:15,980

very rough air of some type. And when I described how they flew, I said that they flew like

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00:04:15,980 --> 00:04:21,820

we take a saucer and go it across the water. Most of the newspapers misunderstood and misquoted

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00:04:21,820 --> 00:04:28,460

that too. They said that I said that they were saucer-like. I said they flew in a saucer-like

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00:04:29,420 --> 00:04:35,180

That was an historic misquote. While Mr. Arnold's original explanation has been forgotten,

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00:04:35,180 --> 00:04:40,620

the term Flying Saucer has become a household word. Few people realize that Mr. Arnold has

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00:04:40,620 --> 00:04:46,300

reported seeing these same strange objects in the sky on three other occasions. He says that

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00:04:46,300 --> 00:04:51,660

some pilots in the Northwest have reported seeing them on eight separate occasions. We asked for

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00:04:51,660 --> 00:04:57,580

his own personal opinion on the nature of what he and the others had seen. I don't know how best

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00:04:57,580 --> 00:05:04,060

to explain that. I more or less have reserved an opinion as to what I think. It's actually been

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00:05:04,060 --> 00:05:10,700

a natural born American. If it's not made by our science or our army airports,

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00:05:11,660 --> 00:05:15,020

I am inclined to believe that it's of an extraterrestrial origin.

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00:05:15,580 --> 00:05:19,660

Extra-terrestrial origin? You mean you think there's a possibility they may be coming out of

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00:05:19,660 --> 00:05:24,060

space from other planets? I suppose that's pretty hard for people to take seriously.

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00:05:24,780 --> 00:05:31,660

Well, I'll tell you this much. All the airline pilots, none of us have appreciated this last

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00:05:31,660 --> 00:05:37,340

act. We made our report, essentially, to begin with because we thought that if our government

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00:05:37,340 --> 00:05:43,900

didn't know what it was, it was only our duty to report it to our nation and to our airport,

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00:05:43,900 --> 00:05:49,660

thought of it. I think it's something that is of concern to every person in the country. And I

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00:05:49,660 --> 00:05:54,300

don't think it's anything for people to get hysterical about. Now that's just my frank opinion of it.

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00:05:54,940 --> 00:05:57,740

So that's how it all began. That was the trigger action.

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00:05:58,620 --> 00:06:03,580

Kenneth Arnold's story went scudding over the news wires, radio and newspapers picked it up,

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00:06:03,580 --> 00:06:07,980

and then within days, the country broke out into a flood of flying saucer observations.

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00:06:09,420 --> 00:06:14,940

Many of these reports, a great many of them, obviously could be discounted. Others, reports

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00:06:14,940 --> 00:06:20,700

from perfectly competent, sober and reliable observers, found no easy answer. In the face of

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00:06:20,700 --> 00:06:27,260

this, late in 1947, the chief of staff of the Air Forces, at that time, General Carl Twei Spatz,

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00:06:27,260 --> 00:06:32,780

sent a directive to the Air Materiel Command located at Wright Field, Ohio. The Air Materiel

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00:06:32,780 --> 00:06:38,860

Command is directed to set up a project whose purpose is to collect, collate, evaluate, and

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00:06:38,860 --> 00:06:44,220

distribute to interested government agencies and contractors all pertinent information concerning

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00:06:44,220 --> 00:06:49,500

sightings of phenomena in the atmosphere, which can be construed to be of concern to the national

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00:06:49,500 --> 00:06:57,660

security. So was born between 300 and 400 miles per hour. Remember, these were trained observers,

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00:06:57,660 --> 00:07:04,380

Air Force men. The objects reportedly traveled in a straight line, taking the mean reported speed

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00:07:04,380 --> 00:07:12,940

350 miles per hour, and the time in sight, one half hour. The objects must then have traveled 175

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00:07:13,020 --> 00:07:19,020

miles while in sight. If the objects were of such proportions as to be seen at that distance,

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00:07:19,020 --> 00:07:24,780

it is believed that more details could have been observed at the first sighting. The Air Materiel

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00:07:24,780 --> 00:07:30,620

Command opinion on the Murroc airbase sightings was this. This report is a result of misinterpretation

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00:07:30,620 --> 00:07:38,540

of the nature of real stimuli, probably research balloons. Another report on January 7th, 1948.

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00:07:39,100 --> 00:07:43,820

Tech Sergeant Quintanae Blackwell, chief operator of the control tower at Godman Field,

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00:07:43,820 --> 00:07:48,540

an air force base at Fort Knox, Kentucky, spotted a strange object hovering over the

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00:07:48,540 --> 00:07:54,060

south portion of the field. In a matter of minutes, a flight of four P-51 fighter planes

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00:07:54,060 --> 00:07:59,820

approaching the field were contacted by radio and asked to chase the object. Leader of the flight

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00:07:59,820 --> 00:08:05,420

was Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr., veteran of the Normandy invasion with some 3,000 flying

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00:08:05,420 --> 00:08:12,220

hours to his credit. At 245, Mantell reported by radio. Object directly ahead and above,

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00:08:12,220 --> 00:08:19,420

and moving about half my speed, going up to take a look. At 315, Mantell reported again.

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00:08:19,420 --> 00:08:26,780

Objects still ahead and above, moving at about my speed or faster, 360 miles per hour. The thing

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00:08:26,780 --> 00:08:32,860

looks metallic and is of tremendous size. I'm trying to close in for a better look. By now,

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00:08:32,860 --> 00:08:38,860

Mantell and his flight were at about 15,000 feet. They had no oxygen equipment. At 18,000 feet,

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00:08:38,860 --> 00:08:44,780

the escorting planes turned back, but Mantell kept climbing. His next report came from 20,000 feet.

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00:08:45,340 --> 00:08:52,300

Going to 25,000. If no closer, we'll abandon search. That was the last report from Captain

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00:08:52,300 --> 00:08:59,020

Thomas Mantell. At approximately 25,000 feet, it is believed he blacked out for want of oxygen.

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00:08:59,820 --> 00:09:04,700

His plane climbed another 5,000 feet and then went into a dive. When it crashed,

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00:09:04,700 --> 00:09:11,180

parts of it were scattered around an area covering 1-6th of a mile. Project Saucer's conclusion.

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00:09:11,180 --> 00:09:17,260

It seems probable that the object observed was the planet Venus. Later, in a report dated April

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00:09:17,260 --> 00:09:23,900

27, 1949, this conclusion was reversed. Further investigation showed the elevation and azimuth

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00:09:23,900 --> 00:09:28,860

readings of Venus and the object as reported at specified time intervals just didn't jibe.

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00:09:29,900 --> 00:09:35,740

The object Captain Mantell chased to his tragic death is now officially marked unidentified.

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00:09:36,540 --> 00:09:44,860

In all, Project Saucer investigated 375 cases. The report takes in 244 different observations.

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00:09:45,660 --> 00:09:51,100

Just yesterday, we asked Major General William F. McKee, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff,

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00:09:51,100 --> 00:09:56,620

United States Air Forces, to summarize the conclusions reached by Project Saucer. He said,

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00:09:57,900 --> 00:10:03,500

During two years of thorough investigation, no evidence was found which would indicate that

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00:10:03,500 --> 00:10:10,780

the reported flying saucers were anything but the result of natural phenomena. On the other hand,

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00:10:10,780 --> 00:10:15,740

all the evidence indicated that the reports of unidentified flying objects could be accounted

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00:10:15,740 --> 00:10:25,100

for under three major headings. One, misinterpretation of various conventional objects. Two, a mile form

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00:10:25,100 --> 00:10:33,180

of hysteria. Three, or simple hoaxes. It has been suggested that what people actually have been

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00:10:33,180 --> 00:10:38,860

seeing is the result of some of our own secret experiments, guided missiles or new types of

122

00:10:38,860 --> 00:10:46,460

planes or flying weapons. This is emphatically not the case. None of the three military departments,

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00:10:47,020 --> 00:10:52,460

nor any other agency and government, is conducting experiments classified or otherwise,

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00:10:52,460 --> 00:10:57,180

with disc shaped flying objects which could be a basis for the reported phenomena.

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00:10:57,900 --> 00:11:03,900

On December 27th, 1949, Project Saucer went out of existence. The flying saucers, however,

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00:11:03,900 --> 00:11:08,460

refused to follow the project into Limbo. Just possibly one of the reasons behind the

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00:11:08,460 --> 00:11:13,100

stubbornness of the saucers to accept the mantle of oblivion was an article that appeared in True

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00:11:13,100 --> 00:11:18,540

Magazine, just about the time Project Saucer was abandoned. It had previously been shown pretty

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00:11:18,540 --> 00:11:23,580

conclusively that the number of sighting reports over a period of months usually followed closely

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00:11:23,580 --> 00:11:29,580

the amount of publicity given to flying saucer observations. A lot of stories, a lot of sightings,

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00:11:29,580 --> 00:11:37,180

few stories, few sightings. Psychologists call this mass suggestion. But to return to the

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00:11:37,180 --> 00:11:42,620

True Magazine article, printed in December of 1949, the some percentage of the new wave of

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00:11:42,620 --> 00:11:48,620

flying saucer reports can certainly be chalked off to mass suggestion. But again, as in the first

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00:11:48,620 --> 00:11:53,420

reports, there remain that same unexplained percentage of reliable trained observers who

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00:11:53,420 --> 00:11:58,620

claim to have seen some object or objects, wheeling, whirling, zooming, slicing or hovering in the

136

00:11:58,620 --> 00:12:03,820

sky. Douglas Gurley of Laguna Beach, California is an example. Here's his story.

137

00:12:04,780 --> 00:12:21,820

I was driving north March 21st on 101 Highway at about three o'clock in the afternoon when my

138

00:12:21,820 --> 00:12:27,580

attention was distracted by the sunlight reflecting off some objects. I counted eight of them,

139

00:12:27,580 --> 00:12:32,860

proceeding directly out to sea at 2,000 feet altitude. They gave the appearance of being

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00:12:32,860 --> 00:12:39,740

made out of aluminum and I could observe a perfect circle outline of these craft. They were

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00:12:40,780 --> 00:12:47,020

going, I would say, approximately 150 miles an hour. They were definitely a powered craft of some

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00:12:47,020 --> 00:12:54,140

sort. Here's a report from Selma, Alabama. We were riding along the open country and had been

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00:12:54,780 --> 00:13:01,740

observing a very beautiful sunset. And as the sun dipped over the western horizon,

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00:13:03,180 --> 00:13:11,580

I looked to my right and there in the sky were three small lights, which to me appeared to be

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00:13:11,580 --> 00:13:19,660

three very small clouds. I looked steadily and I said, no, they are not clouds. They are airplanes.

146

00:13:20,140 --> 00:13:25,580

Then I called my husband's attention to it and he said, no, those are not airplanes,

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00:13:25,580 --> 00:13:32,860

they are lights. And we observed them very closely. But being in motion ourselves, to us,

148

00:13:32,860 --> 00:13:41,980

they were motionless because we didn't stop. But as we rode along for something over a mile,

149

00:13:42,060 --> 00:13:51,020

they hung there in the sky and they were, to us, had the appearance of tubes of fluorescent light,

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00:13:51,020 --> 00:14:02,540

a beautiful, silvery, pink-tinged moonlight. And I said to my husband, that gives me a feeling

151

00:14:02,540 --> 00:14:10,860

that God is trying to say something to us. And we have had that feeling within us since.

152

00:14:11,740 --> 00:14:15,900

By mid-March of this year, the flood of flying saucer sightings had hit a new peak.

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00:14:16,780 --> 00:14:19,980

Into many of these reports, there now kept a new and somewhat eerie tone.

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00:14:20,700 --> 00:14:25,820

The feeling that these flying saucers were something out of this world, possibly interplanetary

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00:14:25,820 --> 00:14:30,220

aircraft, sent from some distant celestial sphere to investigate what manner of life

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00:14:30,220 --> 00:14:35,820

managed to exist here on Earth. In line with this, we went to Dr. Donald Menzel,

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00:14:35,820 --> 00:14:40,220

Professor of Astrophysics at Harvard University and Associate Director of the famous Harvard

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00:14:40,220 --> 00:14:46,540

Observatory, to find out just how feasible any such idea might be. Dr. Menzel had this to say,

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00:14:47,420 --> 00:14:51,500

Well, I suppose that anything is possible, but I consider it extremely unlikely.

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00:14:52,460 --> 00:14:55,740

Well, what could these flying bodies actually be, Dr. Menzel?

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00:14:56,540 --> 00:15:04,300

Sun shining from a very distant plane, shining so that you could see that there was an object there,

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00:15:04,300 --> 00:15:08,700

but the plane so far away that you couldn't hear it. Weather balloon. You have the bright

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00:15:09,580 --> 00:15:15,100

round patch at a fairly high altitude, sometimes three or four of them attached together.

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00:15:15,660 --> 00:15:23,260

And then again, just pieces of paper carried aloft. When it gets up to 200, 300 feet,

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00:15:23,260 --> 00:15:27,980

you can't tell whether it's 100 feet or a thousand or 10,000 feet away.

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00:15:28,540 --> 00:15:33,580

And prior to the middle of March, most observations, certainly all those which could be credited to

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00:15:33,580 --> 00:15:39,100

reliable, sober sources, stated that the object seems a good distance away, a distance that

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00:15:39,100 --> 00:15:45,020

ranged from a few miles to 10 and 20. But on March 16th, a physician, a man who holds a private

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00:15:45,020 --> 00:15:49,980

pilot's license, reported that he had seen some strange, unidentifiable type of flying body at

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00:15:49,980 --> 00:15:54,860

close range. Dr. Craig Hunter of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia had this experience.

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00:15:55,340 --> 00:16:01,660

I'm going north on Route 153 from Clearfield, Pennsylvania, towards Penfield, Pennsylvania.

172

00:16:02,220 --> 00:16:09,020

And about nine miles out of Clearfield, and I begin to hear a hissing, whistling sort of a sound,

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00:16:09,020 --> 00:16:16,620

something that I was completely strange to me. And then I looked up into the sky and coming from a

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00:16:16,700 --> 00:16:24,700

southeaster, easterly direction to a northwestern direction, was this flying disc, or for the

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00:16:24,700 --> 00:16:33,100

one of a better name, a flying saucer. It was, I would say, around 150 feet around in circumference.

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00:16:33,900 --> 00:16:39,340

And there was three distinct parts of it. There was an inner circle, a metal circle, which rotated

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00:16:39,340 --> 00:16:47,740

around this inner circle, and an outside circle, which are about one third of the area on each side,

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00:16:47,740 --> 00:16:56,220

was covered with openings somewhat similar to an airliner opening. Now, this inner circle rotated

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00:16:56,220 --> 00:17:03,820

and a clockwise very slowly, and it went over me practically right over my head. And I would say it

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00:17:03,820 --> 00:17:10,300

was traveling at a speed approximately 60 to 70 miles per hour. I would say that the plane was

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00:17:10,300 --> 00:17:17,500

approximately 250 to 300 feet above me, not over 400 feet. It was of a dirty aluminum color,

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00:17:18,220 --> 00:17:25,820

and I got a tendency to indicate the southern edge as sloping up, which would indicate to me that it

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00:17:25,820 --> 00:17:33,500

was about 15 to 20 feet thick at the center. It would give you the idea that it was a rocket type

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00:17:33,500 --> 00:17:40,780

of combustion, rather. It didn't give you the indication of a make and break, like a motor or

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00:17:40,780 --> 00:17:46,380

anything like that. It was a continuous hissing, whistling sound. Conditions were very, very fine

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00:17:46,380 --> 00:17:52,380

for observing it. I mean that it was just as clear as a bell, and I could distinctly see each and

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00:17:52,380 --> 00:17:58,540

every detail to the outline of it. In order to check the whole question of design, to find out

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00:17:58,540 --> 00:18:02,860

whether or not a saucer-like object such as the one described by Dr. Hunter could maintain itself

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00:18:02,860 --> 00:18:07,660

in flight, according to the basic laws of aerodynamics, we call for the opinion of one of the nation's

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00:18:07,660 --> 00:18:13,100

outstanding aeronautical engineers. Hall Hibbard is vice president and chief engineer of Lockheed

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00:18:13,100 --> 00:18:19,020

aircraft, and here is what he has to say over the beep recording telephone. Well, my feeling is that

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00:18:21,100 --> 00:18:28,540

that it is possible to build and fly something that looks like a saucer

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00:18:29,500 --> 00:18:37,820

just from a technical standpoint, but I do not believe that there is such a thing

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00:18:38,860 --> 00:18:46,700

at this time. I do not know of anything that would be considered in that category.

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00:18:47,820 --> 00:18:55,100

I'm very familiar with pretty much what's going on in the way of research and development,

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00:18:55,100 --> 00:19:04,220

and I know of nothing that would be considered as flying saucers or flying saucer material.

197

00:19:04,220 --> 00:19:12,220

You can make something that looks like a saucer fly if anybody would ever want to do it, but I do

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00:19:12,220 --> 00:19:17,820

not believe that what's possible with our president's knowledge to have them make the

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00:19:18,140 --> 00:19:22,140

food and everything that everybody has been talking about.

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00:19:22,940 --> 00:19:26,940

The Flying Saucers story came back into sharp focus on Monday of the present week.

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00:19:27,740 --> 00:19:32,300

On that day, the United States News and World Report, a national news magazine,

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00:19:32,300 --> 00:19:37,420

and Henry J. Taylor, a radio commentator, both came out with flat statements that flying saucers

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00:19:37,420 --> 00:19:42,860

actually exist. Mr. Taylor said that there are two or more different objects that have been cited

204

00:19:42,860 --> 00:19:48,300

and labeled flying saucers. One of these objects, the true flying saucer, according to Mr. Taylor,

205

00:19:48,300 --> 00:19:53,740

is a missile round in shape varying in size from 20 inches to 250 feet in diameter.

206

00:19:53,740 --> 00:19:58,700

Some are guided, others are not. The U.S. News and World Report article mentions nothing about

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00:19:58,700 --> 00:20:04,460

these objects. The magazine, however, describes a jet-propelled aircraft of revolutionary design

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00:20:04,460 --> 00:20:10,300

that agrees in some details with Mr. Taylor's second secret aircraft, a piloted plane capable

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00:20:10,300 --> 00:20:15,420

of high speeds and high maneuverability. Both accounts agree that the present model stemmed

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00:20:15,420 --> 00:20:22,380

directly from the XF-5U-1, the so-called Flying Pancake, a small edition of which was built and

211

00:20:22,380 --> 00:20:29,580

flown in 1942. Last night, we put a special recording line into the home of Mr. Charles H. Zimmerman

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00:20:29,580 --> 00:20:35,500

of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, the man who originally designed the XF-5U-1.

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00:20:36,300 --> 00:20:39,420

We asked him about the plane, whether it ever actually flew.

214

00:20:40,860 --> 00:20:50,460

This aircraft never flew. The official designation of the aircraft was the XF-5U-1,

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00:20:51,020 --> 00:20:56,860

which was to be a high-performance Navy fighter. However, a low-powered,

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00:20:57,740 --> 00:21:05,900

lightly loaded version of this craft, called a V-173, made a large number of successful flights.

217

00:21:06,780 --> 00:21:12,940

I conceived the original idea for this craft back in 1933.

218

00:21:13,820 --> 00:21:19,660

As a top plane designer, we asked Mr. Zimmerman to give us his opinion as to whether or not a plane

219

00:21:19,660 --> 00:21:26,140

could be built that could hover like a helicopter, then take off at almost supersonic speeds. He said,

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00:21:27,180 --> 00:21:34,700

it would be possible, using modern turboprop engines, to build a machine of this type,

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00:21:35,340 --> 00:21:42,380

which would be capable of hovering and of also flying at all forward speeds up to

222

00:21:43,100 --> 00:21:51,180

possibly 550 or 600 miles per hour. To follow through on the problem of whether or not disc-shaped

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00:21:51,180 --> 00:21:56,860

objects could actually fly, we got in touch with Mr. David C. Prince, Vice President of the

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00:21:56,860 --> 00:22:01,420

General Electric Company, and Chief of its General Engineering and Consulting Laboratory.

225

00:22:02,140 --> 00:22:05,100

Mr. Prince was having no part of flying saucers.

226

00:22:06,540 --> 00:22:11,020

My thought is simply that the ability of some people to kid themselves is extraordinary.

227

00:22:11,580 --> 00:22:16,140

For instance, the effect the searchlights on clouds has been taken to be flying discs.

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00:22:16,780 --> 00:22:23,260

Even radar evidence is not conclusive here because rain in the clouds would show up on a radar screen.

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00:22:23,900 --> 00:22:29,580

The only saucer-shaped aircraft which we know has flown, and that only a few times,

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00:22:29,580 --> 00:22:36,060

is a propeller-powered disc developed by NACA. As a matter of fact, a cigar-shaped craft

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00:22:36,060 --> 00:22:42,700

with a single revolving wing jet-powered could be faster and certainly would be much more maneuverable.

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00:22:43,260 --> 00:22:48,780

In flight, this plane might look like a disc because of the halo created by its rapidly

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00:22:48,780 --> 00:22:53,580

revolving wing. Such a craft would have flight characteristics similar to hummingbirds.

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00:22:55,100 --> 00:23:01,580

Late this afternoon, we tried to tote up the score. On one desk, we had a pile of clippings, news

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00:23:01,580 --> 00:23:07,020

reports, recordings of eyewitness accounts of flying saucer observations. We had the Taylor

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00:23:07,020 --> 00:23:12,940

broadcast, the U.S. News and World Report article. On another desk, we had our Project

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00:23:12,940 --> 00:23:18,380

Saucer Report, the transcripts of our conversations with leading scientists and engineers. Who,

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00:23:18,380 --> 00:23:24,780

to use a gentle phrase, discounted the possibility of any such thing as a flying saucer. On that desk,

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00:23:24,780 --> 00:23:29,580

too, was the news ticker dispatch from the United States Submarine Base at Key West, Florida,

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00:23:30,140 --> 00:23:35,260

a dispatch that quoted President Truman's press secretary, Charles Ross, as saying that President

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00:23:35,260 --> 00:23:40,700

Truman has no knowledge of any secret project by this government that would give substance to the

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00:23:40,700 --> 00:23:47,260

existence of such objects. Ross also said that both the Air Force and the Navy deny that such objects

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00:23:47,260 --> 00:23:54,940

exist. We tried to add it all up. We admit that now, as before we started our case, we have no

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00:23:54,940 --> 00:24:01,100

opinion. The figures just don't add up. So we went to the public. We went to the man and the woman

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00:24:01,100 --> 00:24:06,060

on the street to see how they were reacting to this barrage of positive sightings and just as

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00:24:06,060 --> 00:24:12,860

positive denials. We wondered how they felt. They told us. Well, I think there's more to it than meets

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00:24:12,860 --> 00:24:17,340

the eye, and I think it's more to it than what they're writing about. First, now, I don't think

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00:24:17,340 --> 00:24:23,020

such things exist. I don't see how it could exist. I have a confidence that something on that order

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00:24:23,020 --> 00:24:31,820

may exist. I lived in North Carolina in 1903 when the reporter for the New York world was fired

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00:24:31,820 --> 00:24:38,060

for reporting that the Wright Brothers flew. Some say they're stars. Some say they're enemy

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00:24:38,060 --> 00:24:42,540

action and all kinds of things, but I really don't know. There might be something to it.

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00:24:42,540 --> 00:24:46,380

Clearly imagination. I didn't believe it at first, but now I'm beginning to believe it.

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00:24:46,380 --> 00:24:51,020

Most of the thing is a flying saucer. Well, I believe President Truman, like the rest of us,

254

00:24:51,020 --> 00:24:57,980

has a right to his own opinion. And now, just in case all this has added to the celestial confusion

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00:24:57,980 --> 00:25:02,940

about your heads, we've summarized the data we've been able to gather, sorted out the points of

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00:25:02,940 --> 00:25:09,020

agreement and disagreement among those who claim to have seen flying saucers. Here is what we found.

257

00:25:09,980 --> 00:25:14,460

Nearly all these observers are in agreement on the color of the objects. It's a metallic color,

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00:25:14,460 --> 00:25:19,980

they say, something like aluminum or silver. Almost everybody agrees the objects are generally

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00:25:19,980 --> 00:25:25,420

disc-shaped, but with wide variations, sometimes balloon-like or resembling a giant rubber ball.

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00:25:26,300 --> 00:25:33,260

Still others describe them as elongated cigar-shaped things. Speed of the saucers has been estimated

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00:25:33,260 --> 00:25:39,820

at from zero to 1200 miles an hour. And when we get into the question of maneuverability,

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00:25:39,820 --> 00:25:44,060

the observers seem not to be able to find the precise or adequate words.

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00:25:45,020 --> 00:25:51,500

They say that the saucers hover, accelerate, and decelerate rapidly. They say that some of the

264

00:25:51,500 --> 00:25:59,660

objects flutter, oscillate, drift, hurl, or float. There seems to be no fixed pattern of flight

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00:25:59,660 --> 00:26:05,340

in cases where more than one or two discs have been reported. But several persons have said

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00:26:05,340 --> 00:26:11,420

that in group flights, one of the discs seems to be of a distinct color, indicating, possibly,

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00:26:11,500 --> 00:26:16,300

that this off-colored disc was the monitor or the controlled disc for the others.

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00:26:17,660 --> 00:26:23,020

A small percentage of the observers has said the discs bore light, and in five cases,

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00:26:23,580 --> 00:26:29,580

at points as far apart as Alabama and California, the viewers said the discs suddenly disappeared in

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00:26:29,580 --> 00:26:35,180

flight. But when we get around to estimating altitudes at which the objects were sighted,

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00:26:35,180 --> 00:26:41,100

we find that some observers say they saw them at 250 feet. Others guessed the discs were at 40,000

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00:26:41,100 --> 00:26:47,420

feet in the sky. While one observer estimated the number of discs seen at 100, nearly all thought

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00:26:47,420 --> 00:26:52,700

the number was less than 10. And about half those who claimed to have seen the objects said they

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00:26:52,700 --> 00:26:59,900

saw only single saucers. Well, these are the things men and women in various parts of the

275

00:26:59,900 --> 00:27:07,980

United States say they have seen in the sky. Men of science and high government officials cast a

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00:27:07,980 --> 00:27:15,260

skeptical eye at these reported sightings of celestial phenomena. So far in the course of

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00:27:15,260 --> 00:27:20,540

this broadcast, there have been no reliable reports of the sighting of any new flying saucers.

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00:27:22,380 --> 00:27:28,380

Frankly, we don't know the answer. We wonder, do you believe in flying saucers?

279

00:27:31,580 --> 00:27:36,060

You'll be listening to the case of the flying saucer, a special report narrated by Edward R.

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00:27:36,140 --> 00:27:41,180

Murrow. The case of the flying saucer was based on extensive research collected with the aid of

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00:27:41,180 --> 00:27:47,340

CBS-affiliated stations and CBS Newsmen across the country. Portions of this broadcast were

282

00:27:47,340 --> 00:27:52,860

transcribed. This program was written by Irv Tunick, directed by John Deets and produced by Robert

283

00:27:52,860 --> 00:27:53,820

Bendick and Irving Getty.