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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,000

In 1948, they were having quite a round of UFO sightings at that time.

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00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:16,000

And at the time I was back in North Carolina flying in reserve, we had 407s there.

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00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:20,000

Changed the designation now to F-47s, fighter.

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00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:22,000

The old jugs we used to call it.

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:26,000

And we were going out to do some flying one Saturday morning.

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00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:30,000

And there was really this taking off on this particular flight.

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00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:34,000

We were going to look over the countryside, do a little formation work.

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00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:36,000

And that was about it.

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:38,000

So the boys lined up.

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00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:40,000

I was number two in takeoff position.

11

00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:44,000

The other ship took off ahead of me.

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00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:47,000

This was approximately nine o'clock in the morning.

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00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:51,000

And the ship took off and I cleared the deck.

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00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:57,000

And we were to join up somewhere around 8 to 10,000 feet.

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:02,000

I had taken off and climbed up to approximately 5 or 6,000 feet.

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:05,000

I'm not exactly sure right now, the altitude.

17

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:09,000

And the tower called me, or not necessarily called me,

18

00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:14,000

called to the three fighters just clearing the area.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:21,000

If they saw anything in the air, such a position from the field,

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:25,000

with that I looked up and to my right.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:30,000

At approximately, or I would say about a clock,

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,000

probably around 1 o'clock or 2 o'clock in position,

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:38,000

1 or 2 o'clock position, I saw a large ball of fire.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:40,000

That's what it looked like to me anyway.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:42,000

As I say, I got the call.

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00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:44,000

With that, of course, I immediately started looking around.

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:48,000

I looked up to the right, saw this ball of fire at approximately 2 o'clock.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000

And with that, I shoved the throttle to the firewall

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:55,000

and pulled up in its direction.

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:56,000

I wasn't sure at the moment.

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:58,000

I sort of blinked my eyes.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:01:59,000

I turned my head for a second.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:05,000

Then possibly it was the sun reflecting off the canopy of the aircraft.

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:09,000

It was a normal, sunshiney morning.

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Visibility was unlimited.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:14,000

Very few scattered clouds.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:17,000

I imagine the ceiling at that time was probably somewhere around,

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:20,000

oh, 20, 25,000 feet.

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:24,000

I say ceiling, any clouds that were in the area were approximately that altitude.

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,000

And I pulled up and to my right,

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

climbing up in the direction.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

As I pulled up on the nose of the aircraft,

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,000

this object or ball of fire as it appeared to me

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:38,000

moved across in front of me.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:43,000

Not necessarily at any rapid rate of speed,

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:47,000

nor was it slow, but it moved to my eyesight anyway,

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:49,000

moved across in front of me.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:53,000

I then sort of over on left wing, still climbing,

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:55,000

and pulled up toward it.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:00,000

And with that, as I made my turn to the left and still climbing,

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00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:07,000

I was then approximately, I would say, at about 15,000 feet.

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:09,000

Exactly sure the altitude right now.

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:14,000

I know when I started it, I believe I was around 6 or 7,000 feet.

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00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:18,000

And I had climbed almost that much more, another 7 or 8,000 feet,

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:21,000

as I started making my turn to the left with that,

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:25,000

the object in a very rapid rate of speed

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00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:31,000

pulled directly up, straight up, and disappeared from view.

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00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:35,000

I mean, it just, it didn't abruptly fade from view,

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:36,000

it just disappeared.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,000

I mean, gradually just, sure, you know,

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:42,000

I was, something in your line of vision just goes out of sight.

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

By that time, as I pulled up then,

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:48,000

I know that my last altitude check was around,

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,000

I believe, 16,000, 17,000 feet, something were in there.

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:53,000

And of course, I didn't have any oxygen.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:58,000

I immediately over on a wing and down again, I called the tower.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:03,000

I had made no contact with the tower whatsoever until this point.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,000

I called the tower to tell them that I had seen this object.

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00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:12,000

They themselves said that they, the man on the tower,

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:15,000

spotted the object and called the aircraft in the area

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:18,000

to see whether anyone was having any trouble

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:20,000

or just what they might have seen.

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:24,000

I then came down and called the other aircraft

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:26,000

and asked them if they had seen them.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:28,000

One of the other pilots said he thought he saw something.

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,000

He wasn't sure, but he did see me

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:34,000

pull the cord with my aircraft and started climbing

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:36,000

and he couldn't figure out why.

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:39,000

We were supposed to meet in a certain area

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:41,000

and I was going in the opposite direction.

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:43,000

I told them what I had seen just briefly,

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:45,000

I said I spotted something

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:47,000

and with that the tower operator cut in

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:49,000

and wanted to come down and make a report.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:53,000

So I immediately landed and went into operations

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:55,000

and filed my report.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

Oh, I imagine it was some two or three weeks later,

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:00,000

so the people from Washington,

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00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:02,000

I guess they were from Washington where they came from,

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00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:04,000

came down to talk to me.

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00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:08,000

As far as any more elaboration on this particular UFO sighting,

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:11,000

and I would have to say that it is UFO,

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:13,000

it certainly was unidentified.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Another thing is that I did not see any shape whatsoever

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00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:19,000

to this object.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,000

I mean, I've heard reports,

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:24,000

I had heard reports prior to this one,

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:26,000

I've heard them since,

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:28,000

but they said that the people seeing them

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00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:34,000

had actually seen a definite shape to the object

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:40,000

with possibly a blurred outline of light to it.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:46,000

But in my sighting, there was absolutely no shape to it whatsoever,

103

00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:49,000

other than just a ball.

104

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:51,000

I would have to say it was round,

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:53,000

a round ball of fire,

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00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:56,000

not necessarily any brighter in the center

107

00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:58,000

than it was on the outer edge.

108

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

It did fade off on the outer edge.

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:03,000

The outer edge was not clearly defined.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:10,000

It was hazy as fire, as you know when you see fire burning,

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00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:13,000

it's not that clearly outlined flame,

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00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:18,000

it's jagged edges or fuzzy edges,

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00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:21,000

and that's what there was to this.

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00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:24,000

There was absolutely no definite outline to it whatsoever.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:26,000

And as far as moving, when it moved,

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:30,000

it moved in the same shape, it did not leave a tail behind it,

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:36,000

nor did it change in shape or size or color

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:39,000

in any manner, shape or form.

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00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:43,000

And I was fairly sure in my own estimation

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:47,000

that possible runs of the sun reflecting off of the canopy.

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00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:51,000

I don't know, I've had in various maneuvers in an aircraft

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:55,000

with a plexiglass canopy on it.

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00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

I've had the sun glare off of it,

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00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:01,000

and I always wear sunglasses when I fly,

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:06,000

except of course in real cloudy rainy weather,

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:08,000

where you naturally wouldn't need it,

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:11,000

but on both suns and those,

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:13,000

I always wear sunglasses,

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:17,000

and even that I have made turns where the sun, we say, is behind me,

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:22,000

and I would make a turn which would cause the sun to reflect off of the canopy of the aircraft,

131

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:25,000

and I've had it reflect in a streak,

132

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

or just a fly-ish or ball of the sun.

133

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:33,000

My sunglasses would be diffusing the bright, direct portion of the sunlight,

134

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:36,000

and I've used polar glasses,

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:39,000

but I don't know.

136

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:43,000

I say I'm not going to sit here and try to say that I know what it was because I don't.