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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,000

Good evening everybody, Coast to Coast. This is Douglas Edwards.

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00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:15,000

Tonight, Armstrong Circle Theater goes after a most unusual story, the riddle of the flying

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00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:21,000

saucers. We will depart from our usual format and instead of dramatizing an adventure, we

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00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:29,000

ask you to participate in a controversy. Are UFO unidentified flying objects real or imagined?

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00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:36,000

Now if these so-called flying saucers are real, where do they come from? Are they secret weapons

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:44,000

being tested by our own or foreign governments? Or are they, as many believe, spacecraft from other

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00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:50,000

planets, invading our atmosphere, actually observing life on Earth? Tonight, we're going after

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00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:55,000

this story, we're going to the government files and to experts on all sides of the issue.

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00:00:55,000 --> 00:01:02,000

We're going after facts. In just a few moments, UFO, the enigma of the skies on the Armstrong

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,000

Circle Theater.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:36,000

Today, we stand on the threshold of outer space. Is space the emptiness we've long believed?

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:43,000

It may not be. For life, intelligent life, may already exist somewhere out in the unmeasurable

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:50,000

vastness of space. In a universe containing billions of planets, millions of galaxies,

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:56,000

by the simple law of chance, there must be planets enough like our own to sustain life.

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:02:03,000

Actually, some authorities have gone so far as to offer evidence that such life does exist.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:09,000

Here's an example of the evidence they offer. This is the planet Mars with its mysterious

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:16,000

canali, the lines crisscrossing its surface. Forty years ago, first of all Lowell, a distinguished

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:22,000

American astronomer stated that the canali are evidence of intelligent life on Mars.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:28,000

He said Mars was a dying planet from lack of water and the lines were actually irrigation

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00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:34,000

canals that the Martians had dug to bring water from the melting polar ice caps into their

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:42,000

parts' planet. Let's look at another example. This is the moon, our nearest neighbor in space,

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:49,000

and the only one our powerful telescopes can carefully survey. For years, astronomers

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:56,000

have been mapping its surface. Some have seen strange things indeed. Here, for example, is

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00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:02,000

a rough sketch that was supposed to show streets and avenues in a region of the moon known as

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:09,000

Schroeder's Valley. In 1953, a report was made that a gigantic bridge now stretches across

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:15,000

the region of the moon known as the Marais-Cresium. Scientists charted this region many years ago

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00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:21,000

and no such bridge was in evidence then. If it's a natural object, why wasn't it seen before?

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:28,000

If it's not a natural object, then what can it be? There are those who claim that its construction

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:34,000

proves the existence of intelligence on the moon, not necessarily moon people but beings

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:40,000

from outer space who are using the moon as a space station for their observation of Earth.

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00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:47,000

How can we find out about this? Where do we start? Well, we start with background, with history.

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:53,000

Unidentified flying objects are nothing new. The Bible gives us a report of a sighting by

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:04:00,000

the prophet Ezekiel, a sign in the heavens, large, brilliantly colored in the shape of

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

a wheel within a wheel. 1554, a mysterious object flashed across the sky near Saint-Saint-Charles-Mont-France.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:23,000

In 1709, a flock of strange phenomena invaded the skies over Europe.

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:33,000

Today, science explains most of these ancient sightings in terms of natural phenomena, meteors,

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:41,000

shooting stars, comets, or unusual auroral displays. But not too easily explained are some occurrences

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:50,000

of not too long ago. November 23rd, 1896, Oakland, California. A mysterious object appeared in the sky.

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:56,000

A strange cigar-shaped object reportedly witnessed by thousands sailed eastward.

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:05:04,000

Moving slowly, gathering headlines, the UFO was reported from Salt Lake City, Denver, Omaha,

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00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:10,000

and finally Chicago, where it sailed off the front page into the unknown.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:16,000

The first few decades of the 20th century brought few sightings, possibly because the flying saucers

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:22,000

took a dim view of this newly invented earthly airplane suddenly trespassing their private

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:30,000

no-bain. But in 1947, year two of the atomic age of the real UFO story began. It began here,

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00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:37,000

the Pacific Northwest, one June morning, 10 years ago, in the vicinity of Mount Rainier,

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:43,000

a C-46 Marine transport plane crashed. Among the volunteer civilians who aided the military

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:48,000

searchers was a veteran mountain pilot who had logged thousands of hours of flying in the area.

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00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:55,000

What he saw and reported made international news. Here now is Earth Tunic, a man who over the past

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:01,000

months has literally spent hundreds of hours reading the massive material printed on the subject,

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:08,000

interviewing the people involved. Earth, what was seen near Mount Rainier on that memorable afternoon?

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00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:13,000

Well, to begin with, Doug, though it's popularly thought that the Mount Rainier incident represents

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00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:19,000

the opening of the current phase of flying saucer history, that's not quite right.

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00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:25,000

The fact is that during World War II, a number of military pilots reported rather strange,

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00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:31,000

rather than objects mysteriously circled or paced their planes in flight.

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:37,000

Now, Air Force Intelligence investigated these reports. That's on the record. However, the incident

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:42,000

that did trigger the current interest in UFO was the Mount Rainier occurrence.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:47,000

With Wilder Mountain pilot was searching for the crash marine transport, that he noticed

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00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:53,000

the terrific blue flash reflect from his airplane. The pilot noticed that the flash came from a chain

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00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:58,000

of rather peculiar looking objects that were approaching Mount Rainier, flying at course

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:06,000

at about 170 degrees. Now, he assumed at the time that they were a formation of some new type of jet,

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:11,000

but it rather baffled him because they just didn't seem to have any tail.

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:18,000

And he judged their wingspan to be about, oh, 120 feet across. The pilot watched them for several minutes.

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00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:24,000

They were traveling from north to south and flying in a rather reversed echelon formation.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:28,000

And as they flew, they weaved in and out between the mountain peaks.

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

They had kind of a skipping motion as they sailed along, and after the sighting,

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00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:38,000

the pilot landed and reported the incident to the local representative of the CAA,

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00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:43,000

the Civil Aeronautics Administration. The pilot didn't make too much of the incident.

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00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:48,000

He thought they were just a new type of jet. Described them as fluttering, and well,

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00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:52,000

he said they flew like you, took a saucer and skimmed it across the water.

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00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:57,000

And some newspapers printed a rather gobble version of this, and they quoted him as saying

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00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:03,000

that they looked like saucers when he said that they flew in a saucer like fashion.

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00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:09,000

And that was rather an historic misquote, because that's how the name Flying Saucers came to be.

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:16,000

Now, our air forces investigated at the time, and they said no air force or naval aircraft were flying

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00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:23,000

in the vicinity of Mount Vrigny on that day. The possibility of foreign aircraft being present was just not believable.

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00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:30,000

So the only conclusion that the pilot could come to was that they must be of extraterrestrial origin

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:33,000

from another world, another planet.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:39,000

This Mount Vrnigny sighting might have been quickly forgotten, except that within the next 30 days,

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:46,000

there were 53 more reports of so-called flying saucers, but making allowances for illusion,

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00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:54,000

delusion, hoax, and hallucination, there remained enough incredible reports by credible observers

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:00,000

to set people thinking. They came from every section of the country, San Fernando, California,

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

Boulder, Colorado, Washington, D.C., Greenwich Point, Long Island.

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:14,000

And if anyone was less than serious about flying saucers, the tragic Mantell incident that Godman field,

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:18,000

Fort Knox, Kentucky, gave them real cause to reflect.

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00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:26,000

On January 7, 1948, early in the afternoon, Kentucky State Police reported an unidentified flying object,

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:30,000

circular in appearance, moving westward at a good cliff.

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:34,000

The UFO was also sighted by the commanding officer of Godman Field.

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00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:40,000

The control tower at the field checked and found no experimental aircraft in the neighborhood.

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Just at this time, a flight of F-51s under the command of Captain Thomas Mantell,

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:55,000

a veteran combat pilot, neared the field and was immediately vectored in on a strange, spherical shaped object.

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00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:59,000

What happened then depends upon what version you read.

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:05,000

There were seven witnesses in Godman Tower, and there are accounts differ in many details, but this is sure.

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00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:09,000

Captain Mantell, by radio, reported sighting the object above him.

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00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:14,000

He said it was a metallic thing in a tremendous size.

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00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:18,000

Mantell's plane was not equipped with oxygen, and yet he headed upward.

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00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:22,000

By 15,000 feet, his wingman had broken off.

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00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:28,000

Mantell was in a maximum climb at 22,500, his plane under perfect control.

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00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:31,000

Well, from this point on, there's nothing but mystery.

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00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:36,000

The transmission was garbled and attempts to contact Mantell went unanswered.

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00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:41,000

Mantell's plane began to level off at 30,000 feet, began a gradual turn to the left,

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00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:46,000

and then it nose downward, and at full power began to dive.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Between 10,000 and 20,000 feet, the plane literally tore apart.

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:57,000

Mantell was killed. Parts of his plane were found more than half a mile from the wreckage.

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00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:01,000

And are there questions that must be answered about this tragic incident?

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00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:07,000

Why did an experienced pilot like Mantell break one of the cardinal rules of flying,

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00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:10,000

never go above 10,000 feet without oxygen?

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00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:15,000

What did he see that forced him to throw caution to the winds?

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00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:20,000

After the Mantell crash, UFO reports continued to pile in.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:26,000

During January and February of 1948, the sightings took on an international flavor.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:33,000

Falls of fire traveling slowly across the sky were reported from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany,

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:37,000

then Southern Europe chimed in, and then South America.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:45,000

On July 21, a report came in from Holland of a UFO, rocket-shaped, with two rows of windows along the sides.

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00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:50,000

This might have been forgotten fast, except for what happened just one week later.

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00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:57,000

On July 24, 1948, a commercial airliner flying from Houston, Texas to Atlanta,

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00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:06,000

was 20 miles southwest of Montgomery, Alabama, at the controls Clarence S. Chiles and his co-pilot John B. Whithid.

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00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:12,000

At 2.45 in the morning, these veteran flyers saw light dead ahead and closing in fast,

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00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:16,000

traveling at a speed estimated between 500 and 700 miles an hour.

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00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,000

The light bore in on them. The rocket-shaped object was brilliantly lighted,

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00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:24,000

and it appeared to have two rows of windows underneath.

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00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:28,000

From the belly of the ship, there was a sort of a blue fluorescent glow.

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00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:34,000

As they watched, fascinated, the object flashed by about 700 feet to their right.

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00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,000

On landing, Chiles and Whithid reported the incident to the proper authorities,

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00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:42,000

and then each drew a sketch of what he'd seen.

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:45,000

This is the child sketch.

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00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Double windows in size about twice the diameter of a B29.

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:02,000

And this is the sketch drawn by a co-pilot, Whithid.

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00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:09,000

The same general shape with double row of windows, or what appear to be windows, no wings.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:11,000

What was it?

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00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:17,000

To this day, according to the two pilots involved, no logical explanation offered by scientists,

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00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:20,000

by experts, fits the bill.

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:25,000

People may argue about what they saw, but they can't deny that they saw something.

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:29,000

Something that these men, with thousands of hours of flying experience,

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00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:33,000

had never seen before and haven't seen since.

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00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Well, is there an explanation, a reasonable, natural explanation

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:44,000

for the mysterious objects seen by so many credible observers over the past ten years?

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00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:47,000

For this?

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00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:49,000

Or this?

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:54,000

To get the official Air Force point of view, we're going directly to the source,

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00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:58,000

directly to the Air Force files that have been thrown open to us.

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00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:04,000

Can every sighting be reasonably explained, or must we accept the proposition, the fact,

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00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:08,000

that at least some of these objects originate in outer space,

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00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:13,000

and that our Earth is now being observed by creatures from another world?

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00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:18,000

Fairly a day passes by that sightings of flying saucers are reported.

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00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:23,000

People are seeing something. Something is there.

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00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:31,000

An employee of a supersonic laboratory saw a thick, ruddered object shaped like this.

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00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:36,000

Two airline pilots spotted a round object with portholes and planks,

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00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:43,000

two airline pilots spotted a round object with portholes and flashing lights.

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00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:52,000

A group of college professors in Lubbock, Texas saw these lights moving across the sky.

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00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:58,000

Authorities have been accused of dropping a paper curtain on this problem,

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00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:02,000

issuing statements hiding the true facts from the public.

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00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:04,000

What are the facts?

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00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:07,000

Here's the evidence. Where do we go for our story?

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00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:13,000

Right Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, location of the Air Technical Intelligence Center,

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00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:17,000

Air Force collecting point for all UFO sighting reports.

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00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:22,000

The outfit chart with the responsibility of analyzing all flying saucer data.

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00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:28,000

Project Lubbock, since January 1953, the investigation work of Project Lubbock

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00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:34,000

has had the services of the 42nd-oh-second Air Intelligence Service Squadron, Air Defense Command,

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00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:39,000

that's a highly trained field investigation outfit, with field units scattered around the country,

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00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:46,000

so deployed that they can arrive on the spot almost immediately after a sighting is reported to them.

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00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Over 6,000 reported flying saucer sightings since 1947,

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00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:56,000

each sighting, investigative and analyzed by specialists in top-notch military

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00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:01,000

and non-military scientific personnel at Wright-Patterson.

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00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:05,000

We get the full promise, the full cooperation from the Air Force,

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00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:09,000

and to explain how the Air Force reaches certain conclusions on certain sightings,

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00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:14,000

the Air Force has detailed to us Lieutenant Colonel Spencer Whedon,

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00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:19,000

Chief of the Air Intelligence Office, Air Technical Intelligence Center.

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00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:26,000

He will explain these files, many of which were hitherto classified, but now thrown open to us.

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00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:33,000

This, for instance, is the complete file on the Mantell case, the tragic incident we talked about earlier.

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00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:39,000

Originally it was reported that Mantell might have mistaken the planet Venus for a UFO

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00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:43,000

flown too high, blacked out and crashed.

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00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Colonel, I understand the Air Force no longer holds to that opinion.

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00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:54,000

No, we don't, Mr. Edwards. We still believe that he blacked out from lack of oxygen and crashed,

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00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:59,000

and this is supported by findings of the Air Force accident investigators,

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00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:02,000

an outfit completely independent of Project Blue Book.

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00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:08,000

But we are now sure that this is what he was chasing, a skyhook balloon,

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00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:14,000

a giant 100-foot balloon used to gather information about the upper air,

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00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:19,000

cosmic radiation, wind flow, temperature.

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00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:24,000

In 1948, these were top secret, you knew about them.

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:32,000

Later, the investigation revealed that in January 1948, that is the time of the Mantell crash,

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00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:40,000

these skyhook balloons were being launched from Clinton County Air Force Base in Southern Ohio.

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00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:48,000

We examined a weather map showing wind direction on 7 January 1948.

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00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:52,000

Starting here at Clinton County Air Force Base,

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00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:58,000

prevailing winds would have carried the balloon west for a while as it climbed.

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00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:08,000

At about 35,000 feet, the balloon would have entered the wind jet stream, flowing south.

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00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:13,000

It would have moved rapidly south, still climbing.

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00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:20,000

At a point south to southwest of gun Air Force Base here,

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00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:25,000

it would have climbed up out of the jet stream into a calm belt,

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00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:31,000

and from there it would have drifted very slowly south and southeast,

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00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:35,000

directly over the area where the UFO was spotted.

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00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:42,000

The Colonel, you believe it's possible for trained observers, pilots like Captain Mantell,

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00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:46,000

to see a balloon and not recognize it as such?

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00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:51,000

Certainly, Mr. Edwards, in a period when balloons of that size were rare,

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00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:56,000

a balloon can be sent into an almost horizontal position by strong wind currents.

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00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:03,000

During the day, a balloon can look like this, but visibility can play tricks.

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00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:08,000

The same balloon at twilight or dawn can look like this.

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00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:11,000

Angle of vision is important.

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00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Now this sighting, reported over Minneapolis,

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00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:21,000

photographed with the gun camera of an F-86 fighter, also turned out to be a balloon.

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00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:23,000

And here's another.

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00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:30,000

A balloon launched in Japan was tracked by government facilities all the way across the Pacific.

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00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:35,000

It meandered all over the country before it finally sailed off into the Atlantic.

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00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:39,000

This resulted in literally dozens of UFO reports.

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00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:41,000

On that basis then, Colonel Wheaton,

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00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:46,000

some large percentage of flying saucer reports are actually nothing but balloons, right?

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00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Oh, right, Mr. Edwards.

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00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:54,000

They can show that balloons account for 26.4% of all recent UFO sightings.

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00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Well, let's take another case.

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00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:03,000

Three objects observed, round shaped, steady white light, no trail or exhaust,

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00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:07,000

moving slowly southwest of Macon, Georgia.

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00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:12,000

Weather clear and visibility unlimited, photographs made and available.

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00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:15,000

No interception or identification action taken,

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00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:19,000

no air traffic in general area at time of sighting.

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00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:21,000

What about this case, Colonel?

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00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Well, the first thing we did was to get a map.

214

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Now, here's West Macon, Georgia.

215

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:31,000

And here's Fort Benning.

216

00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:36,000

We immediately established that training operations were being conducted at Benning.

217

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Part of the operation was the dropping of parachute flares from aircraft,

218

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:44,000

as well as jet support for our ground operations.

219

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:48,000

We obtained the photographs mentioned in the report.

220

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:54,000

Using a new photo analysis technique, we managed to get some surprising results.

221

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:59,000

The first slide showed little more than two brilliant dots,

222

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:02,000

with some indefinite green shading around them.

223

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:08,000

But on further enlargement, the wings and body of jets come into view.

224

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:12,000

The bright object is the flame from the jets after burn.

225

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Oh, conventional aircraft often seem to be what they are not.

226

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:21,000

This is the plane flying at high speed in a fog-shrouded sky.

227

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

Speed causes a moisture condensation around the wings,

228

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:29,000

which gives the appearance of a disk or saucer.

229

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:35,000

Planes of unorthodox configuration, a swept wing or delta jobs.

230

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:43,000

Or this radar plane called the flying pancake, give rise to many UFO sightings.

231

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:52,000

Based on our latest reports, the cases where aircraft have been reported as UFOs account for 28.8%.

232

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:57,000

Another case now, spring 1957.

233

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:03,000

The commercial airliner flying between New York and Puerto Rico had an extraordinary experience.

234

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Flying at 19,000 feet, it sighted a large bright object that appeared to be coming directly towards the liner.

235

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:15,000

It was described as a magnesium flash in color with a pale green tint.

236

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:19,000

The pilot had to swerve his plane violently to avoid collision.

237

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:22,000

What does the Air Force have to say about it, Colonel?

238

00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:29,000

Well, a check of military positions in the area ruled out any unusual plane or missile activity.

239

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:35,000

However, the Civil Air Naughty Squad did report six other commercial flights,

240

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:39,000

over approximately the same area at the time of the sighting.

241

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Five of the six planes reported similar sightings.

242

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Flooding their positions on a map showed all the planes that sighted the same object.

243

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:56,000

The major clues we had to work on were the color, the trajectory,

244

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:03,000

and the fact that three of the planes reported that the object seemed to split apart from the air.

245

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:10,000

This description coincides with the known features of what are called bow lights or fireballs.

246

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Rather rare astronomical phenomena, but reported from time to time and especially from the southwest.

247

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:21,000

And so the Air Force attributes this sighting to a fireball, right?

248

00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:24,000

Oh, it wasn't only our finding, Mr. Edwards.

249

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:28,000

We submitted all the data to a member of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory,

250

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:31,000

who confirmed our conclusions completely.

251

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:36,000

Do these astronomical phenomena play a large part in the UFO story?

252

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:43,000

Pretty large. The moon and the planets, observed through haze, light fog or moving clouds.

253

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:46,000

All these things can play optical tricks.

254

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:52,000

And then there are the rarest celestial sights, mirages, rural displays.

255

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Or how about this, caused by an Air Force photographic mission over Richmond at the end,

256

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:02,000

and actually a subsun effect.

257

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:08,000

A rare aerial phenomenon caused by the reflection of the sun's rays on suspended ice particles.

258

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:12,000

Strange or unusual weather tricks not only fool the eye,

259

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:17,000

but such supposedly foolproof mechanical marvels as radar.

260

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:26,000

Temperature inversion, where a massive cold air collides with a layer of warm air.

261

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Or even thunder clouds sometimes come up on the radar scope as blips.

262

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:34,000

One minute you see them, and the next moment you don't.

263

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:38,000

Even the most experienced radar operator can be fooled by these.

264

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:45,000

We attribute 24.4 percent current UFO sightings to astronomical phenomena.

265

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:52,000

Well, here's another case, Colonel Whedon. The date? August 1955, the place Kentucky.

266

00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:59,000

Now, according to press reports, an entire family was besieged all night by goblin-like creatures

267

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:03,000

reported to have emerged from a flying saucer that landed nearby.

268

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:10,000

Here is a sketch of one of these extraterrestrial visitors drawn by a local artist

269

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:13,000

and sworn to as accurate by the family.

270

00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:17,000

One of your investigators didn't get a chance to interview him, did he, Colonel?

271

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:21,000

No, unfortunately he didn't seem to be around, Mr. Edwards.

272

00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:23,000

We did interview the family.

273

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:27,000

They had spent the evening attending a spirited meeting.

274

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:31,000

They'd all undergone a tremendous emotional experience which,

275

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:34,000

quite possibly, might account for the incident.

276

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:41,000

I suppose this whole UFO situation is complicated by crackpots, publicity seekers, and hoaxers, is it not?

277

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:43,000

Oh, it definitely is, Mr. Edwards.

278

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:47,000

One of the roughest areas involves the so-called contact sightings.

279

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:51,000

People who claim to have spoken to creatures from flying saucers.

280

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:53,000

Some who claim to have written in them.

281

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:56,000

And one, at least, who was whooshed off to Venus.

282

00:25:56,000 --> 00:25:59,000

And they're married into Venusian royals.

283

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:00,000

Oh, what a trip.

284

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:03,000

A whole cult is drawn up around these contact incidents.

285

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:06,000

And woe to him who dares to question.

286

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:08,000

Doesn't the Air Force question, Colonel?

287

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:13,000

Well, we never go on the assumption that anything is a fraud.

288

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:17,000

We put all material sent to us through the analysis mill.

289

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:21,000

Cleverness knows no end in this flying saucer business.

290

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:23,000

Here's a beauty.

291

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:29,000

Enlargement reveals strange lines coming from the object.

292

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:36,000

And further enlargement shows these lines to be part of the corner ceiling of a room.

293

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:40,000

The saucer turned out to be a light fixture.

294

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:42,000

Oh, here's a flying saucer.

295

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:45,000

It turned out to be a flying hat.

296

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:50,000

And here's a real fry.

297

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:53,000

Supposedly a UFO.

298

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:56,000

Fixed up by a sky science teacher.

299

00:26:56,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Looks very, very formidable. A genuine Sputnik, maybe, Colonel?

300

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

Well, afraid not, Mr. Edwards.

301

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:07,000

Whoever made it went through a lot of trouble trying to letter Russian words on the inside,

302

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:15,000

but they got the letters wrong and forgot to remove the name of the New Jersey manufacturer from the tubes.

303

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:17,000

I see the words there, and the tubes.

304

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:20,000

There's nothing but a hodgepodge of wires inside.

305

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:23,000

There are no real circuits. They don't go any place.

306

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:28,000

To finish it off, to give the effect that this thing went through space, I suppose,

307

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:32,000

they used a blow torch to scorch the sides.

308

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:36,000

Still a rather neat job for those of us not up on our Sputniks.

309

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:44,000

Well, the important thing with Edward T. is that this type of hoax could be a violation of federal law,

310

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:47,000

and it is a rather expensive job.

311

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:53,000

A single UFO investigation may well cost the government thousands of dollars.

312

00:27:53,000 --> 00:28:02,000

The perpetrators of these childish pranks might think twice about it when they remember that it's their own tax money that's being wasted.

313

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:09,000

Money that could go into, should go into the serious research so badly needed at this time.

314

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:17,000

In the total picture, Colonel, what percentage of current UFO reports does the Air Force classify

as hoaxes?

315

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:25,000

When we lump this category into a general heading, along with sightings that turn out to be birds, search lights, and so on.

316

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

They add up to 6.4 percent.

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

And can ATIC solve all UFO reports referred to it?

318

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:37,000

No. Many sightings come to us with insufficient data.

319

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:40,000

Fertinent items of information missing.

320

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:45,000

No precise description of size, shape, or color of the object.

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00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:55,000

Without knowing direction and altitude, time and location, wind and weather conditions, we cannot reach a valid conclusion.

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00:28:55,000 --> 00:29:00,000

The Air Force provides every observer of a UFO with a detailed questionnaire.

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00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:03,000

The answer is kept in confidence if it is so desired.

324

00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:09,000

But we must have full information if a sighting is to get a complete analysis.

325

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:18,000

Sightings that come to us with insufficient information account for 12.1 percent of all current UFO reports.

326

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:22,000

Colonel, let's do a little arithmetic.

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00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:25,000

A little rapid calculation here.

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00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:35,000

Adding these percentages, if it comes out right, let's see, it would figure out to 98.1 percent.

329

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:38,000

Now, that's a large percentage, but it's not 100 percent.

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00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:43,000

That still leaves 1.9 percent.

331

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Still to be explained.

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00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:47,000

Let 1.9 percent remain.

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00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:55,000

It represents the cases the Air Force classifies as unknown, and this category is different from insufficient information, I take it.

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00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:56,000

Yes?

335

00:29:56,000 --> 00:29:57,000

In what way, Colonel?

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00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:00,000

Well, take the child sighting you mentioned earlier.

337

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:04,000

This case has all the elements we require for investigation.

338

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:11,000

Yet after the most careful study and analysis, we cannot fit it into any of our regular categories.

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00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:15,000

It doesn't appear to have been a balloon, a plane of any kind.

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00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:19,000

Nor does it put the circumstances of an astronomical phenomenon.

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00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:25,000

In view of this, that is sufficient data, but no logical explanation.

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00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:28,000

We classify it as a true unknown.

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00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:33,000

Now, this doesn't happen often, but when it does happen, we don't dodge the issue.

344

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:36,000

It's an unknown and so listed.

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00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:49,000

Unknown, not because it's anything new and strange, but simply because we can't identify it with the particular normal phenomenon it undoubtedly is.

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00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:51,000

Not too high a figure.

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00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Little less than 2 percent.

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00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:56,000

Two out of a hundred.

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00:30:56,000 --> 00:31:02,000

Yet, if even only one in a hundred represented an object of interplanetary origin,

350

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:07,000

we still would have to call this the biggest news of this or any century.

351

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:12,000

What's the opinion of those who believe in flying saucers about that 2 percent?

352

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:18,000

Or for that matter, what about their opinion of the Air Force Analysis Program Project Blue Book?

353

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:20,000

There's several sides to every story.

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00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:22,000

You've heard only one.

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00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:35,000

Unknown is defined in the dictionary as not discovered, not identified, not brought to knowledge.

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00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:44,000

After 10 years of investigation and analysis, the Air Force still lists a small percentage of UFO sightings flying saucers as unknown.

357

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:51,000

But to many who have become intensely involved in the puzzle of UFO, this figure seems utterly unrealistic.

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00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:59,000

Of the scores of private, non-government organizations that are devoted to UFO, possibly the most

active and eminent,

359

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:04,000

is the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena of Washington, D.C.

360

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:08,000

On its board of governors are a number of outstanding citizens.

361

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:13,000

Among them are Vice Admiral R.H. Hillencoater, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency,

362

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:22,000

Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles, U.S. Navy retired, Major Dewey Fornay Jr., former Air Force UFO investigator.

363

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:28,000

Its director is Major Donald E. Kehoe, anapolis graduate and a former Marine Corps pilot,

364

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:31,000

author of Flying Saucers from Outer Space.

365

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:38,000

Well, Major, you've seen our report on the Air Force conclusions dealing with the current UFO sightings.

366

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:42,000

They've narrowed the unknowns down to 1.9 percent.

367

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:44,000

How do you feel about that figure?

368

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Well, even if you accept that figure, Mr. Edwards, there's one thing you have to remember.

369

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:52,000

It covers only the last two months of sightings.

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00:32:52,000 --> 00:33:01,000

Actually, the figure for all unknowns since 1947, using official Air Force statistics, is over 12 percent.

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00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:07,000

Now, that is based on this official Air Force record known as Project Blue Book,

372

00:33:07,000 --> 00:33:12,000

and tables which you will find showing various percentages over the years.

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00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:19,000

Out of the 6,000 cases investigated by the Air Force, 700 still remain unknown.

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00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:21,000

It comes down to this.

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00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:30,000

Either all of the hundreds of skilled observers, that means pilots, missile trackers, radar operators, and astronomers,

376

00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:36,000

were either deluded or incompetent, or they saw exactly what they reported.

377

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:41,000

I think everyone will agree that deluded pilots would have been grounded very quickly,

378

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:44,000

and imminent radar men would have been fired.

379

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:47,000

Not one such case is on record.

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00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:54,000

Our National Investigations Committee has hundreds of UFO reports from highly trained observers

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00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:58,000

describing real objects maneuvering under intelligent control.

382

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:01,000

Real objects under intelligent control,

383

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:06,000

the implication being that they originate in outer space, that's for sure.

384

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:11,000

Well, actually, that is a probability which is shared by many pilots and many scientists,

385

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:15,000

including, for instance, Professor Herman Oberth, a great rocket designer.

386

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:19,000

So we must agree that it is a probability.

387

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:25,000

Well, all right. We'd like to hear the evidence on which you base this particular assumption, Major.

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00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Fine. And I want to begin by saying that all the cases I intend to cite are known to the Air Force.

389

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:36,000

I also want to point out that our analysts on the committee include astronomers,

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00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:45,000

missile engineers, pilots, radar men, former intelligence officers, and experts in many associated fields.

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00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:48,000

Now, here is a verified case.

392

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:52,000

May 1954, Dallas, Texas.

393

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:57,000

A flight of four Marine Corps jets commanded by Major Charles Scarborough,

394

00:34:57,000 --> 00:35:05,000

cited in broad daylight a formation of 16 discs flying in groups of four.

395

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:11,000

When the jets tried to box in these discs, they climbed a terrific speed and disappeared.

396

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:14,000

Here's a quote from Major Scarborough.

397

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:18,000

These discs were real. They flew at incredible speeds.

398

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:20,000

Another case.

399

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:24,000

November 1957, Long Beach, California.

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00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:29,000

Major Lewis F. Baker, commanding officer of the Air Force Weather Station at Long Beach,

401

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:34,000

along with two other Air Force weather experts, and 10 airmen.

402

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:42,000

This group saw a formation of six discs making terrifically fast turns and maneuvering at an

altitude of 7,000 feet.

403

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:48,000

They appeared to be larger, according to Major Baker, than a twin-engine airliner.

404

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:53,000

Statements from Major Baker. They were circular in the color of spun aluminum.

405

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:56,000

They changed course instantaneously.

406

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:59,000

A case in 1952.

407

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:03,000

This was from Captain William B. Nash, a veteran airline pilot.

408

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:10,000

He and his co-pilot cited a formation of eight 100-foot discs flying in echelon below their plane.

409

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:14,000

Captain Nash told me personally,

410

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:19,000

I am convinced these were machines from outer space.

411

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:21,000

End quote.

412

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:26,000

Our committee agrees with the announcement of the Air Force on this particular case.

413

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:28,000

Objects unknown.

414

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:31,000

Let's take another. Another commercial airliner case.

415

00:36:31,000 --> 00:36:35,000

This one, this airliner was flying near South Bend, Indiana.

416

00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:39,000

At the controls was a veteran, Captain Robert Adicus.

417

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:45,000

Adicus is crew and 10 passengers, so a spherical object pacing the plane.

418

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:50,000

When Adicus tried to close in, the UFO accelerated and raced out of sight.

419

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:53,000

A quote from Captain Adicus.

420

00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:56,000

Before then, I wasn't convinced by the saucer reports.

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00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:59,000

Now I know they do exist.

422

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:01,000

Let me show you one more case.

423

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:05,000

This from an eminent astronomer, Dr. Clyde Tombow.

424

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:08,000

Discover of the planet Pluto.

425

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Dr. Tombow cited a cigar-shaped object with what appeared to be windows and moving at tremendous speed.

426

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:27,000

Now note how similar this object is to the one cited by Captain Charles and Whithitt that you mentioned earlier.

427

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:36,000

Dr. Tombow, these things which do appear to be directed are unlike any other phenomena I ever observed.

428

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:41,000

Other stars in our galaxy may have hundreds of thousands of inhabitable worlds.

429

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:50,000

Races on these worlds may have been able to utilize the tremendous amounts of power required to bridge the space between the stars.

430

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:51,000

End quote.

431

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:56,000

These cases you've cited, Major, from the files of the National Investigating Committee.

432

00:37:56,000 --> 00:38:01,000

You also have some analyses on some of the cases the Air Force discussed earlier, have you?

433

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:05,000

Yes, we do, and I'd like very much to go into two of them.

434

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,000

First, the Mantell case.

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00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:13,000

A Project Blue Book says that or suggests that Mantell died chasing a skyhook balloon.

436

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:20,000

The Air Force has never provided any record of a balloon being launched on the day Mantell crashed.

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00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:28,000

There is absolutely no record that any Air Force or Navy balloon was launched then from Clinton Air Force Base or any other station.

438

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:34,000

Now, any project in a top secret category must keep detailed, accurate records.

439

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:37,000

It's not any casual operation.

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00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Yet no such report has ever been produced.

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00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:44,000

And now another point which I believe is conclusive.

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00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:50,000

The Air Force tells us that the balloon hovered over Godwin Field for two hours, almost motionless.

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:59,000

Minutes after Mantell's disappearance, one of his wingmen, equipped with oxygen, took off and searched the entire area for 100 miles.

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00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:01,000

He found absolutely nothing.

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00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:04,000

Now what happened to the balloon?

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00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:09,000

The searching plane was an F-51, which could fly at 350 miles per hour.

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00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:16,000

Any slowly moving balloon would have been sighted in minutes, but the sky was completely empty.

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00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:20,000

Now just a word about another case the Air Force presented.

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00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:27,000

This was the airliner which flew between New York and Puerto Rico and which Project Blue Book says,

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00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:33,000

sighted a bow-eyed or fireball, which caused the pilot to zoom to miss it.

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00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:40,000

Now when we investigated, we found that the similar non-explored disagreed entirely with that conclusion.

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00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:48,000

The professional astronomers, the CAB consulted, said there was no evidence that this UFO was a fireball or a meteor.

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00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Our committee agrees that this case is an unknown, just like the tragic Mantell incident.

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:03,000

Well now Major, you believe that the massive weight of evidence proves that flying saucers are real?

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00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:05,000

The committee and I.

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00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:07,000

We believe that absolutely.

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00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:15,000

We believe that despite the frauds and hopes that have clouded the issue and which we completely disavow and try to disprove,

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00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:20,000

we believe the facts prove that flying saucers actually exist.

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00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:26,000

And of course which puts you on exactly the opposite side of the fence from the Air Force, how do you account for that Major?

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00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:29,000

Well there are two possibilities Mr. Edwards.

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00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:33,000

First, an honest difference among analysts.

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00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:44,000

Second, there is an official Air Force policy believed in the best interests of the people, not to confirm the existence of UFOs until all answers are known.

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00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:51,000

It is the belief of our committee, and this belief is substantiated by many scientists and experts in the field,

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00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:56,000

that the public should be given all official information relative to UFOs.

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00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:03,000

The American people are wise enough to evaluate this material, providing it is presented fully and accurately.

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00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:08,000

The National Investigations Committee hopes that this will be done properly.

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00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:15,000

And now Mr. Edwards, I would like to make a disclosure, something which has never been revealed to the public.

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00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:23,000

For the last six months our committee has been working with the Externet Committee, which is investigating official secrecy on UFOs.

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00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:32,000

If the hearings are held, open hearings, I feel it will prove beyond doubt that the flanks are preserved.

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00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:42,000

In order to confirm the information we need, we suggest that all of the feathers of the committee should be considered right.

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00:41:42,000 --> 00:41:44,000

Thank you Major Kehoe.

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00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:50,000

One of the most eminent men of science who has taken a deep interest in the problem of UFO is Professor Donald H. Menzel,

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00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:59,000

Professor of Astrophysics and Director of the Observatory at Harvard University and author of Flying Saucers published by the Harvard University Press.

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00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:07,000

Professor Menzel, in your considered opinion, has our atmosphere been invaded by spaceships, flying objects originating in outer space?

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00:42:07,000 --> 00:42:10,000

No, emphatically no.

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00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:14,000

Now I don't quarrel with the assumption that there is life on other planets.

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00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:22,000

As I have stated on a number of occasions, life, even human or superhuman life, may exist in millions of places in the universe.

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00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:26,000

And I also concede that space travel for earthlings is imminent.

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00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:33,000

But these two facts can't justify the conclusion that flying saucers represent space travel in reverse.

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00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:40,000

And yet tonight we've heard a good bit of evidence that UFO unidentified flying objects do exist, Professor.

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00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:47,000

They are unidentified flying objects only because of mistaken identity. In fact, they're often not even objects.

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00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:56,000

That is why I prefer the name flying saucer to the term unidentified flying objects, which implies that they are material or tangible.

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00:42:56,000 --> 00:43:03,000

The observations, and most particularly the interpretation of these observations, is strictly a scientific matter.

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00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:07,000

You wouldn't call in a carpenter to diagnose a pain in your stomach.

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00:43:07,000 --> 00:43:13,000

Well, why call in untrained laymen when you want to diagnose a strange occurrence in the sky?

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00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:16,000

And strange things do occur, all the time.

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00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:22,000

I think Project Blue Book hasn't paid enough attention to aerial phenomena in its analysis work.

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00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:32,000

Merages, ice crystal reflections, even cloud formations such as this one, these can undo account for many UFO reports.

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00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:44,000

It's understandable that untrained observers are startled when they see unusual occurrences in the sky.

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00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:49,000

It even happens to many of us who have studied the heavens for years. It happened to me.

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00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:55,000

Let me give you the bare details. Just three years ago when I was flying from the North Pole to Alaska,

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00:43:55,000 --> 00:44:00,000

I saw an object pop over the horizon and buzzed my plane twice.

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00:44:00,000 --> 00:44:06,000

Then it stopped and flew along parallel to it, at an apparent distance of 300 feet.

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00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:14,000

I judged it to be about two feet in diameter. It seemed to have flashing red and green lights and something looked like a lighted propeller on the top.

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00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:16,000

Did you ever find out what it was?

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00:44:16,000 --> 00:44:22,000

Certainly, as soon as I got over the initial shock, I did a little calm analyzing.

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00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:27,000

The mysterious saucer proved to be a mirage of the bright star Sirius.

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00:44:27,000 --> 00:44:30,000

Actually, the star was slightly below the horizon.

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00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:36,000

But the queer bending of light by the atmosphere, called refraction, had brought it into view.

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00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:42,000

Distortion and diffusion caused by alternate layers of warm and cold air had added the finishing touches,

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00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:47,000

creating a bizarre pulsating whirling effect similar to the twinkling of a star.

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00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:53,000

That was the answer to my saucer and to a lot of other people's saucers I'd like to bet.

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00:44:53,000 --> 00:44:57,000

And I've seen hundreds of other saucers from dozens of causes.

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00:44:57,000 --> 00:45:02,000

For instance, high-flying spider webs, owls that glow in the dark.

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00:45:02,000 --> 00:45:07,000

In other words, Professor, if more people were astronomers, there'd be fewer flying saucers.

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00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:13,000

Fewer flying saucers and a lot less declauding of the issue by over-eager amateurs.

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00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:20,000

Earlier in the program, you mentioned the reported sighting of a bridge on the Maura Cresium region

of the moon.

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00:45:20,000 --> 00:45:22,000

Now, that's my special field.

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00:45:22,000 --> 00:45:28,000

I'm now preparing some new lunar maps for a field guide to the skies that will soon be published.

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00:45:28,000 --> 00:45:34,000

The first man who reported that bridge, an amateur, used only a four-inch telescope.

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00:45:34,000 --> 00:45:37,000

Now, that's like using a BB gun in an elephant hunt.

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00:45:37,000 --> 00:45:44,000

I've examined that area with the Harvard 15-inch telescope, and there is no bridge there.

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00:45:44,000 --> 00:45:51,000

Here's a photograph of the Maura Cresium region taken with the 12-inch telescope at Griffith Observatory.

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00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:58,000

An untrained observer might possibly interpret this fan of light as coming from under a bridge.

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00:45:58,000 --> 00:46:04,000

Actually, it is light shining through a well-known deep pass bordered by high peaks.

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00:46:04,000 --> 00:46:06,000

No bridge exists.

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00:46:06,000 --> 00:46:15,000

This only emphasizes the importance of careful observation by experienced people who are capable of evaluating what they see.

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00:46:15,000 --> 00:46:20,000

Well, let's agree that astronomers are best equipped to evaluate aerial phenomena.

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00:46:20,000 --> 00:46:28,000

But wouldn't you agree that pilots, meteorologists, are also trained observers, and many of them have reported UFOs?

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00:46:28,000 --> 00:46:31,000

No, they're not trained observers in this sense.

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00:46:31,000 --> 00:46:34,000

A pilot can observe a plane and know what it is.

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00:46:34,000 --> 00:46:44,000

A meteorologist can spot a cloud and not be fooled, but many things occur in the sky that are completely beyond the knowledge or experience of many pilots or weathermen.

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00:46:44,000 --> 00:46:55,000

Mirages, moxons, caused by the reflection from ice crystals, they're fairly uncommon, but when they do happen, only trained scientists can recognize them and understand them.

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00:46:55,000 --> 00:47:07,000

If a pilot swerves his plane to avoid a fireball that misses him by hundreds of miles, or if he fails to identify a sun dog, that doesn't mean he's incompetent as a flyer.

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00:47:07,000 --> 00:47:13,000

I think Mantell didn't die chasing a balloon, nor I do. I think he died chasing a spaceship.

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00:47:13,000 --> 00:47:21,000

I believe he mistook some sort of aerial phenomenon, a moxon perhaps for a flying saucer.

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00:47:21,000 --> 00:47:29,000

I believe he mistook some sort of aerial phenomenon, a moxon perhaps for a flying saucer, one that's too high and crashed.

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00:47:29,000 --> 00:47:37,000

Well, summing up then, Professor, you feel that all the flying saucers reported in the past ten and a half years, even before that,

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00:47:37,000 --> 00:47:46,000

including the 1.9% of the Air Force classifies as unknown, can be explained then as completely natural occurrence.

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00:47:46,000 --> 00:47:52,000

I most certainly do. And I think the Air Force has been put upon in this whole affair.

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00:47:52,000 --> 00:48:00,000

They've had to make their investigation, of course. They're bound by the most serious of considerations, the security of our country. But it's gone far enough.

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00:48:00,000 --> 00:48:11,000

In my opinion, it's not the reports of the flying saucers that should be analyzed. It's the non-qualified interpreters themselves who argue that these saucers come from outer space.

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00:48:11,000 --> 00:48:18,000

Thank you, Dr. Mantell. We've given the facts, we've had the opinions. What about our own conclusions?

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00:48:18,000 --> 00:48:27,000

Well, for thousands of years, man has been studying his own body, and yet today, he can only explain about 25% of bodily functions.

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00:48:27,000 --> 00:48:36,000

It's only 350 years since Galileo invented the telescope. Certainly, there must be much in the heavens left to be explained.

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00:48:36,000 --> 00:48:45,000

Perhaps in time, the enigma of the skies, flying saucers, will be explained to the satisfaction of all.

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00:48:45,000 --> 00:48:52,000

This evening, we've given you the facts as we've found them. We leave them with you. What do you think?

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00:48:52,000 --> 00:49:10,000

In just a few moments, the Honorable Richard E. Horner, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Research and Development, will bring you a summary of the Air Force's position and the report by a special scientific panel.

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00:49:10,000 --> 00:49:18,000

Now, the Honorable Richard E. Horner, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Research and Development.

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00:49:18,000 --> 00:49:32,000

Thank you, Mr. Edwards. During recent years, there has been a mistaken belief that the Air Force has been hiding from the public information concerning unidentified flying objects.

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00:49:32,000 --> 00:49:40,000

Nothing could be further from the truth. And I do not qualify this statement in any way.

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00:49:40,000 --> 00:50:01,000

The activities of the International Geophysical Year, which is serving to focus more trained eyes on the skies than ever before, climaxes 10 years of Air Force investigation of UFO sightings.

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00:50:01,000 --> 00:50:12,000

All but a small percentage of these reports have been definitely attributed to natural phenomena that are neither mysterious nor dire.

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00:50:12,000 --> 00:50:30,000

A report of a special scientific panel on UFOs assembled at the request of the United States government concludes that the evidence shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

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00:50:30,000 --> 00:50:44,000

They find no evidence that UFOs are capable of hostile acts. They find no evidence that UFOs indicate a need for revision of current scientific concepts.

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00:50:44,000 --> 00:50:53,000

And finally, they recommend that the subject be stripped of the aura of mystery it has unfortunately acquired.

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00:50:54,000 --> 00:51:09,000

The panel's findings coincide completely with the announced position of the Air Force. There is no evidence at hand that objects popularly known as flying saucers actually exist.

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00:51:09,000 --> 00:51:18,000

Not a single speck of material evidence, not a fragment of a flying saucer has ever been found.

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00:51:18,000 --> 00:51:26,000

This does not mean that the Air Force can or will be complacent about UFO reports.

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00:51:26,000 --> 00:51:46,000

We will continue our program of detailed investigation of all UFO sightings and invite everyone who observes an object in the sky he sincerely cannot identify or explain to report it immediately to the nearest Air Force activity.

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00:51:46,000 --> 00:51:49,000

Thank you and good night.