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

Alaska, a vast remote wilderness twice the size of Texas.

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

There are dangerous, unpredictable forces at work here.

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00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:12,000

In one of the most mysterious corners of the globe.

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

A lot of things can kill you out here without even trying.

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

This is a place hundreds of times more deadly than the Bermuda Triangle.

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

Oh my God.

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

Stories of alien abductions.

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

I believe it was a UFO.

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

The paranormal, vanishing airplanes and strange beasts.

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

The Alaskan Bigfoot.

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00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:35,000

He can rip you in half.

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00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:37,000

These accounts are a really wide spread.

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00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,000

It peeked out of the tree right there.

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

Have hunted those who dare set foot here.

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00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:49,000

In the last 30 years, 16,000 people have disappeared without a trace.

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

More people have disappeared than the Bermuda Triangle.

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

Two to three times the amount.

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

Witnesses tell us their shocking stories.

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

I was petrified.

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

And we've gathered some of the world's leading experts in their field.

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:09,000

I'm always after scientific evidence that can be independently corroborated.

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

To try and unlock the mystery of the Alaska Triangle.

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:30,000

The coast of Alaska includes some of the most treacherous waterways in the world.

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

It's no surprise that ships go down.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:39,000

But some of these wrecks are shrouded in mystery.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:44,000

Extraordinary terrifying events seem to plague the seas of the Alaska Triangle.

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:49,000

It's as though some mysterious forces alluring ships to their doom.

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:54,000

And that includes the biggest of all, the Princess Sophia.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:03,000

The sinking of the SS Princess Sophia is without doubt the worst maritime tragedy in Alaskan history.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:07,000

It's a huge tragedy in the Pacific Northwest.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

It took rich and poor. It took everybody.

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:16,000

It's a long forgotten maritime disaster, unknown and unexplained.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:23,000

This is one of the big mysteries of the Alaska Triangle.

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:40,000

The sinking of the SS Princess Sophia in 1918 was the greatest loss of life in a single event in Alaskan history.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:49,000

Yet to this day, the reason why it went down in the southern corner of the Triangle remains an enigma.

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:59,000

And there are stories even today of ghosts and paranormal activity linked with the Sophia,

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:04,000

including right in the very center of the Alaskan capital, Juno.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:12,000

As an investigator, we hear these stories and what it's all about really is trying to establish if there's credibility,

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:18,000

if there's truth to those stories. You know, there's paranormal events that have been said to have happened there,

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

but what is actually going on?

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00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:32,000

The story of the Princess Sophia is bound up with the story of Alaska at the turn of the 20th century.

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:41,000

The gold rush was over, but the remote interior was still peppered with small mining communities and lone prospectors.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:46,000

But it was seasonal work, impossible over the Alaskan winter.

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00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:57,000

Bjorn Dila is an Alaskan rider who's researched the history of the miners during that era.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:07,000

Alaskan 1918, there's still people making a living mining, many of who spend spring and summer in Alaska,

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00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:13,000

and then in the winter time come and travel by steamer down south.

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00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:17,000

And one of these steamers was the Princess Sophia.

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:25,000

The embarkation point for the steamers was Skagway, a small gold rush port on the south coast.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:38,000

It's late October in Skagway. It's the last run of the year to get prospectors, miners, other folks out of the interior of Alaska.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:45,000

There's no road in or out. So the Princess Sophia is the last chance.

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:51,000

You're stuck if you don't. You're in Alaska until May, June.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:56,000

So you have all these people that are just kind of fleeing to Skagway.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:04,000

One man who knows these waters well is British author Anthony Dalton.

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

He's written extensively about the maritime history of this area, and in particular, the Princess Sophia.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:23,000

It was a Canadian Pacific steam ship. She was a passenger and cargo ship sailing between Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and Skagway, Alaska.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:33,000

In October 1918, Princess Sophia was at the dock in Skagway.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:37,000

There was a flurry of activity getting her loaded.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:45,000

353 people were legally on board, plus 24 horses, one dog, and there were some storeways.

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00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:53,000

Mostly the passengers would have been men heading south for the winter back to Vancouver.

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00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:57,000

They left Skagway and headed down the Lynn Canal.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:13,000

At over 2,000 feet deep, the 90-mile Lynn Canal is the deepest fjord in North America and one of the deepest and longest in the world.

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

It's renowned for its treacherous and unpredictable weather.

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00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:28,000

From having spent a lot of time in that waterway, Lynn Canal, even on days where it is plastic calm,

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:45,000

it has gone in a matter of a couple minutes to all of a sudden you're in 2-meter high seas, 5-meter chop, no visibility, snow all over the deck, icy spray.

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:51,000

And you're fighting for your life to get out of there.

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00:06:52,000 --> 00:07:03,000

As it made its way down the fjord, the Princess Sophia was hit by an unusually fierce storm with winds of 80 to 90 miles per hour.

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

80 mile per hour winds in Northern Lynn Canal is essentially hell on Earth.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:17,000

The men who had been digging for gold in Alaska were now under attack by Alaska's forces of nature.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:24,000

But none of this should have been a problem for the Princess Sophia.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:32,000

Her maiden voyage had been just six years before and she had sailed the Atlantic, rounding the hazardous Cape Horn.

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

This is a big boat we're talking about. This boat's designed to take terrible weather.

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:45,000

But for some unknown reason, the Princess Sophia strayed off course.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:52,000

Around two o'clock in the morning, traveling at 12 knots, which was full speed.

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00:07:53,000 --> 00:08:01,000

Princess Sophia was one mile away from where she should be and she ran straight up on Vanderbilt Reef.

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:03,000

The Vanderbilt Reef.

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00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:20,000

Explorer Hugh Newman has been looking into the Princess Sophia story.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:27,000

The Vanderbilt Reef was well known to the captain.

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00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:31,000

It was like a rocky outcrop just slightly sticking out of the water.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:38,000

There were gale force winds, but still the ship should have handled this.

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:45,000

It had a double steel hull, unlike the previous wooden ships that were around at that time.

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00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:48,000

It's why the ship ended up on the reef.

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00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:51,000

A mile off course is a big mystery.

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00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:56,000

It's almost like the elements were conspiring to bring down this ship.

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00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:58,000

It's a really strange story.

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00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:04,000

The ship was stuck, but it was low tide. There was still no need to panic.

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:12,000

The captain decided there was nothing they could do to wait for the tide to come up more.

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00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:15,000

He really felt the ship would float off.

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00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:20,000

So after the Sophia kind of grounded on the reef and got trapped there,

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00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:29,000

emergency ships and other boats were called to go and help remove the people from the ship onto other ships and back onto land.

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:34,000

But the weather was so bad, it was so choppy, it was still snowing.

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00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:36,000

They couldn't move anyone off.

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00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:42,000

And so the captain made a decision to have them come back around 5am the next morning

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00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:46,000

when the weather would have calmed down and it would have been safe for them to leave the ship.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:56,000

Support boats come and they're kind of hanging in the lee of the storm, watching, asking if they want,

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00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:01,000

if the captain Locke wants them to approach and try to take passengers.

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00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:06,000

The captain recognizes that if he starts trying to offload people,

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:11,000

there's a really good chance that a number of people will die just in the offloading process.

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00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:20,000

Theoretically, you refloat and you're able to limp into port and not go down.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:25,000

So they wait and they wait, they wait 40 hours and the storm never lessens.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:29,000

In fact, the storm worsened.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:33,000

But still, the ship should have been safe.

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00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:39,000

But later that night, the unthinkable happened.

103

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:42,000

The ship suddenly turned on the reef.

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00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:51,000

When the ship started to pirouette, I believe terror would have been a very large part of the emotion on board,

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:59,000

not just for the passengers but also for the crew, because the sound alone would have been really frightening.

106

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

The steel hull tore open and water came rushing in.

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00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:10,000

It's recorded that the boiler exploded, the oil went everywhere.

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00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:17,000

And then the boat properly then sank.

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00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:22,000

The last message from the radio operator is a good indication.

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00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:30,000

He called for help and said, we are moving, we are moving, and then it was gone. There's nothing.

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00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:36,000

One of the big questions about this whole story is the fact that it appears,

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00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:45,000

even though it took half an hour for the ship to actually sink, people stayed in their cabins in pitch blackness of white and earth. Would they do that?

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00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:53,000

Others entered the freezing oil-covered water, some putting their trust in the life preservers.

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:58,000

Those who didn't have life jackets on would have gone down with the ship.

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00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:08,000

It sucked in. When a ship goes down, it tends to create almost a vacuum, and if you're within that area, you're pulled down into it.

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00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:18,000

Those who weren't sucked in by the ship would have drowned in the waves and, of course, from the effects of the viscous bunker oil.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:27,000

So all in all, 353 people died, potentially more that weren't accounted for, all hands except for a dog.

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00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:38,000

One dog, the lone survivor, an English setter, found exhausted and covered in oil, washed ashore two days after the sinking.

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00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:47,000

180 bodies were also washed ashore, the rest up to 200 bodies unaccounted for.

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00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:58,000

The SS Princess Sophia had become a mass grave. It's the greatest maritime disaster of the Pacific

Northwest.

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00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:10,000

But the end of the Princess Sophia was just the beginning of the strange events surrounding the Alaska Triangle's most tragic incident.

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00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:24,000

Just how did this sturdy state-of-the-art steamer hit a well-known reef and end up at the bottom of the Lynn Canal?

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:33,000

The SS Princess Sophia really should have handled moving down through the Lynn Canal.

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00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:37,000

It should not have hit the reef, it shouldn't have gone anywhere near it.

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00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:42,000

And so the fact that this happened does suggest it was human error.

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00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:48,000

If it was human error, maybe the captain was at fault.

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

And since the disaster, he's borne much of the blame.

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00:13:55,000 --> 00:14:04,000

Captain Locke of the Princess Sophia has long been villainized just because he was the easiest scapegoat for this massive tragedy, but he was super experienced.

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00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:10,000

There's no proof that he was anything but a very accomplished and responsible captain.

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00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:22,000

The captain had been on her for two years running that route between Skagway and Vancouver, back and forth for the whole summer.

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00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:30,000

He knew the route, he knew the dangers. All skippers on that route knew the dangers of Vanderbilt Reef.

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00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:43,000

As this remarkable photo shows, it's simply astonishing that Captain Locke would have made such a mistake.

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00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:52,000

So much so that Hugh Newman has been drawn towards an interesting new theory.

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00:14:52,000 --> 00:15:00,000

In Southern Alaska, around the point where this disaster happened, there are reported major magnetic anomalies.

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

We have strange geology, shifts in the magnetic field, that up to 20% different to the standard reading.

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00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:13,000

And these can have an effect on navigation, on compasses, and even on the mind.

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

So perhaps this was one of the causes of this disaster.

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00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:36,000

Strange magnetic forces have been cited as being behind other mysteries of the triangle, such as the 1950 disappearance of a Douglas C-54, lost without a trace near the Canadian border.

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00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:46,000

Mike Ricksecker is a paranormal investigator with a particular interest in the effects of electromagnetism.

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00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:54,000

The Alaska Triangle has a lot of potency with it. You have the proximity to the North Pole, magnetic North.

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00:15:54,000 --> 00:16:02,000

All this swelling of the electromagnetic activity can disorient, can affect people's mood swings.

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00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:06,000

These releases of energy could certainly drastically affect people.

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00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:12,000

So perhaps the crew of the Sophia were disoriented and confused.

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00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:27,000

There's even a theory that extreme electromagnetism can lead to the distortion of space and the creation of vortices, blamed by some for the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle.

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00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:35,000

Our bodies are our greatest asset in picking up and sensing supernatural phenomena.

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00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:39,000

But these vortices can affect objects that are even larger, like ships.

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00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:46,000

You hear about these disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle, same thing in Alaska, around the Alaska Triangle.

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00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:53,000

Ships have gone down from these vortices. Ships have gone completely missing from these vortices without a trace.

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

So is this all connected and is this all part of the mystery of the Alaska Triangle?

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00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:11,000

Alternatively, could it even be the case that the Triangle is somehow striking back against those taking away its valuable minerals?

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00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:25,000

So there are traditions all around the world of when you take things from certain places, especially, you know, reserves of gold and diamonds and riches,

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00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:29,000

that are really part of the sacred landscape to the indigenous people of these areas.

153

00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:35,000

The often great thunder and lightning and bad weather can sometimes be manifested.

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00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:41,000

Will you disturb just the spirit of the land? These kind of things can happen.

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00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:48,000

And wrecks of steamships associated with the gold rush litter this corner of the Triangle.

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00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:59,000

Annette Smith is a local diver who knows these waters as well as anyone.

157

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

This area around Juno, we have many shipwrecks here. We are lined with shipwrecks.

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

You can start down at Gambier Bay, which is just south of Juno.

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

Here's the wreck of the state of California. You come up behind Douglas Island as the wreck of the islander.

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

These waters are not waters to be tripled with. This is a dangerous area.

161

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:34,000

In 1910, the Princess May ran aground on rocks in the Lynn Canal, within sight of Vanderbilt Reef.

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:37,000

She was laden with Alaskan gold.

163

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:48,000

But it's the sinking of the Princess Sophia that was the region's greatest tragedy.

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00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:57,000

After the Sophia went down, a huge search and rescue party went out and we were recovering all the bodies that they could.

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00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:02,000

Even the governor is out there collecting bodies. They're all looking for people.

166

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:06,000

And of course, no one besides the dog has ever found a life.

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00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Despite extensive searches by divers at the time, over 200 bodies were still unaccounted for.

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

The owners of the ship, Canadian Pacific, said that they were not found on the ship and they were never washed up.

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00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:24,000

So what happened to these bodies? We really don't know.

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00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:33,000

Now, local diver Annette Smith is going to dive down to investigate the wreck itself.

171

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:41,000

So where we are sitting right now is the wreck itself.

172

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:48,000

So where we are sitting right now, the wreck of the Princess Sophia is directly underneath us.

173

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:55,000

And where she lived the last 40 hours of her life is right over there, on that reef.

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00:19:55,000 --> 00:20:02,000

And she's laid out facing that reef and coming out this way at an angle.

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00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:09,000

So she, at some point, came across the reef. It was very fast and she went down.

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00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:14,000

This isn't a dive for the faint-hearted. The currents can be treacherous.

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00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:20,000

And if you become separated from your own life, you can't go back to the wreck.

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

So what happens when you're stranded? The currents can be treacherous.

179

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:30,000

And if you become separated from your boat, it's seven miles to shore.

180

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:57,000

When you're down, cloaked in white, bulbous sea enemies, the lost ship comes into view.

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00:20:57,000 --> 00:21:02,000

Inevitably, thoughts are with the victims in their last moments.

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00:21:50,000 --> 00:22:05,000

Nobody knows what really happened or what the final minutes were.

183

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

We do know there was a radio transmission that said, for God's sakes, come waters coming into the cabin.

184

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:21,000

We do know that it was quick.

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00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:27,000

But what really happened that night, we don't know.

186

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:38,000

But you can imagine the terror of sitting here all alone, hearing the ship you're on being ripped apart, and going down.

187

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:41,000

It must have been horrible.

188

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:49,000

It must have been horrible.

189

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:19,000

It must have been horrible.

190

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:48,000

It must have been horrible.

191

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:22,000

Why much of the reason is because of the timing.

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00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:28,000

The story of the Princess of Fy is a story that has been lost in time in history.

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00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:34,000

It was lost because it happened at the same time that the end of World War I occurred.

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00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:40,000

We were in the middle of the Spanish flu, so these were big events that overshadowed this wreck.

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00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:51,000

The ship was destroyed.

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00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:54,000

The ship was destroyed.

197

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:58,000

The ship was destroyed.

198

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:02,000

The ship was destroyed.

199

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:05,000

The ship was destroyed.

200

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:11,000

So I went down and just swam up the bow.

201

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:21,000

And the bow sits like this, the rails, and it's covered in these white plumescent enemies, and

they're huge in enemies.

202

00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:26,000

Tall white ghostly figures moving in the current.

203

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:35,000

And for me, it was like the ghost of the Sophia said it was okay for me to be there.

204

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:42,000

It really brought home to me what really happened there.

205

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:47,000

You know, you know what you're diving. You're diving a graveyard.

206

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:58,000

The wreck is corroded and overgrown, but Annette was able to make out the boilers of the ship, and they're intact.

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00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:01,000

There's a lot of questions about the wreck.

208

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:07,000

There's questions of what really happened, what history says happened, didn't happen.

209

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:11,000

This history said the boilers exploded and they did not. All three of them were down there.

210

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:15,000

They're still down there. We saw them today, and they're still whole.

211

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:21,000

There's mysteries of what happened to the other hundred people. Where are they?

212

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:25,000

So there's a lot of questions.

213

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:32,000

The bodies that were recovered were still enough to overwhelm the local resources.

214

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:36,000

They were brought back to Juno, which you got to remember, they were a tiny little town at the time.

215

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:48,000

They didn't have the resources. They didn't have a morgue that was designed to carry more than 10 bodies.

216

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:53,000

They were to be stored temporarily wherever was possible.

217

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:59,000

The bodies that were recovered, many of them were placed inside the Juno drugstore in the center of town.

218

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Others were placed in various other buildings all over the area.

219

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:10,000

Paranormal activity was then widely reported.

220

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:19,000

Ghosts were seen, strange noises and voices were heard, and even possible poltergeist activity.

221

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:32,000

The focus of this activity was the basement of the drugstore, and it's said to continue to this day.

222

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:44,000

In 2017, nearly 100 years after the tragedy, an employee of the drugstore went down to the basement, which is used for storage.

223

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:49,000

A distressed ghostly figure appeared.

224

00:27:49,000 --> 00:28:05,000

The store worker watched in terror as the figure looked at her and then vanished.

225

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Jeff Richards is a leading paranormal investigator from Saskatchewan in Canada.

226

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:19,000

In his experience, ghostly activity is common at a scene of great tragedy.

227

00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:32,000

That amount of loss and death combined with the outpouring of grief that the community would have felt, that would have torn a pretty big hole energy-wise in the area.

228

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:46,000

And I think that sometimes when those pockets are created, or when we have these massive moments of great pain and strife and suffering and death, those places become sort of like beacons for spirit.

229

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:55,000

As an investigator, we hear these stories, and what it's all about really is trying to establish if there's credibility, if there's truth to those stories.

230

00:28:55,000 --> 00:29:02,000

There's paranormal events that have been said to have happened there, but what is actually going on?

231

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:13,000

So I'm heading to Juno Drug to the basement to have a look for myself to see if there's a way that I can potentially communicate and interact with the energies that are there and really verify the supernatural events.

232

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:32,000

Going into a place that housed those bodies, the final resting spot of a lot of those individuals, it's definitely going to be a challenge.

233

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:37,000

It's going to be a place that's going to have a heavy energy all its own.

234

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:44,000

Jeff has now come to Juno to visit the infamous drugstore.

235

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:51,000

It's exciting because it gives us an opportunity to find out the truth behind the tales that were being told.

236

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:57,000

The manager of the drugstore is Brenda Lamasse.

237

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

Hello, hi.

238

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:02,000

Hi.

239

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:03,000

Brenda?

240

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:04,000

Yes.

241

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Jeff.

242

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:06,000

Brenda, nice to meet you.

243

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:08,000

Hello, Juno Drug.

244

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:15,000

I understand that the Princess Sophia goes down and a lot of the bodies are brought here to Juno Drug.

245

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:16,000

Yes, right in the basement.

246

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:17,000

We're stored in the basement.

247

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:18,000

Yes.

248

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:20,000

Have you had any experiences personally?

249

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:25,000

I've been pushed or touched on my shoulder.

250

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:27,000

It was kind of like a heavy push.

251

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:29,000

I turned back and nothing was there.

252

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:31,000

Something physically pushed your shoulder?

253

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:32,000

Yeah.

254

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:33,000

Something that you could not see?

255

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:34,000

No.

256

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:35,000

Now, do you mind if I have a look down there?

257

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:36,000

Let's go.

258

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:37,000

Yeah, I'll show you where it is.

259

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:47,000

All right, and the basement's just right down there.

260

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:48,000

Okay.

261

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:52,000

Now, do you feel comfortable going down there?

262

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:53,000

I'd rather not.

263

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Okay.

264

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:55,000

I'll get started.

265

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:56,000

Okay.

266

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:57,000

Thanks.

267

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:21,000

If I was trying to hide away from people, I would probably, I would want to go hide away in here.

268

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:32,000

As a paranormal investigator, Jeff's first step is to use his intuition to try to pick up sensations caused by the spirits.

269

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:36,000

There's a sensation that I'm picking up right now.

270

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:39,000

It's in this back corner here.

271

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:42,000

There's, this feels like masculine.

272

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:44,000

This feels like father to me.

273

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:47,000

Sort of this masculine, this male sort of energy there.

274

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:52,000

And he's sort of holding his arms like this.

275

00:31:53,000 --> 00:31:58,000

And he's sort of protecting.

276

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:03,000

Oh my God, I feel like his son.

277

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:07,000

He's got his arms wrapped around his son right here, like this.

278

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:13,000

From what I'm seeing, it's almost like silhouette.

279

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:27,000

So sketching what I'm seeing here, because it's not, I mean, it's not detailed.

280

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:35,000

It's not in a lot of detail, but it is this sort of boy is facing in, into, like this, into dad.

281

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:41,000

Hands clasped.

282

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:49,000

There's Matt, Matthew, Matthias.

283

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:55,000

I don't know if this is first or last name, right?

284

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:59,000

I felt short of breath coming down the stairs and walking into that room.

285

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:00,000

I felt leapt.

286

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:03,000

Like it felt like my clothing had this sort of dampness to it.

287

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:04,000

My neck hurt.

288

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:06,000

I had a hard time sort of pulling up my head.

289

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:08,000

There was this pain right at the back of my neck.

290

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:13,000

And all these feelings were things that I was picking up from that energy.

291

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:16,000

But definitely a presence that you could feel in the room.

292

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:17,000

It was palpable.

293

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:19,000

It's cold. It's really cold.

294

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:24,000

I can feel myself physically cold.

295

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:29,000

Also, there's a sort of this feeling in the back of my neck right back here.

296

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:35,000

There's these two hands.

297

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

I should get a judge of size.

298

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:42,000

I'd be able to have a size hand.

299

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:54,000

Believing that there's a spirit present, Jeff's principle method is to will it to make contact by its use of electromagnetic forces.

300

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:59,000

I'm going to ask you to come forward.

301

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:03,000

Talk to us if you can.

302

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:19,000

I'm going to try to pull the energy out of the batteries.

303

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:26,000

That's what I'm trying to do.

304

00:34:33,000 --> 00:34:36,000

Can you make the flashlight go completely off?

305

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:45,000

Can you make that flashlight go off?

306

00:34:54,000 --> 00:35:00,000

One of Jeff's major tools is his EMF meter, which detects electromagnetic energy.

307

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:03,000

Can you touch this meter right here?

308

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:05,000

Good.

309

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:06,000

Touch this light.

310

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:07,000

A green light.

311

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:09,000

Can you touch that?

312

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:11,000

A little bit of power there.

313

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:12,000

I don't know your name.

314

00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:14,000

I don't know who you are.

315

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:16,000

Touch that meter.

316

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:17,000

Touch that light.

317

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

This green light right here.

318

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:22,000

It's killed my flashlight.

319

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:23,000

I'll touch that green light.

320

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:32,000

I'm going to count to three.

321

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:38,000

And on three, what I want you to do is I want you to touch this meter.

322

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Touch it just your whole hand.

323

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:43,000

Okay.

324

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:48,000

One.

325

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:51,000

Two.

326

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:54,000

Three.

327

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:55,000

Touch the lights.

328

00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:56,000

Three.

329

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:57,000

Oh, good.

330

00:35:57,000 --> 00:35:58,000

Good, good, good, good.

331

00:35:58,000 --> 00:35:59,000

Amazing.

332

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

One more time.

333

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Can you do that again with the lights there?

334

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Okay.

335

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:08,000

Good, good.

336

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:09,000

See, you touched that.

337

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:10,000

It's fine.

338

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:11,000

It doesn't hurt you.

339

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:13,000

It does not hurt you.

340

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:18,000

I'm going to count to three.

341

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:21,000

And when I hit three, I want you to touch the green light for me.

342

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

Just grab it.

343

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:25,000

One.

344

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:27,000

Two.

345

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:29,000

Three.

346

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:31,000

Very good.

347

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:38,000

Having established contact, Jeff wants to try to get information out of the spirit

348

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:41,000

using other specially developed technology.

349

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Paranormal investigator Jeff Richards is in the basement of the Juno drugstore

350

00:36:55,000 --> 00:37:00,000

trying to communicate with restless spirits believed to be present here.

351

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:07,000

The ghosts are said to be of the dead of the SS Princess Sophia,

352

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:10,000

Alaska's greatest maritime tragedy.

353

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:15,000

Many bodies from the wreck were stored here before burial.

354

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:23,000

Jeff has with him an electronic device called a spirit box,

355

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:30,000

which scans the airwaves, amalgamating the frequency sounds into what's known as white noise.

356

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:38,000

So the idea here is that this device actually gives a way for the spirit to communicate vocally.

357

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:44,000

So we'll be able to hear their words in real time as I'm asking them questions.

358

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:49,000

So I'm going to try to give you a voice.

359

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:51,000

If you're here, I want to hear you speak.

360

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

So if you can please come forward and say your name.

361

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

Jeff listens beyond the normal background sound for the words of any spirit trying to communicate.

362

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:13,000

Say your name for me.

363

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:16,000

I'd like your name.

364

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:18,000

Can you tell me your name?

365

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:29,000

Boy.

366

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:32,000

Boy, very clearly boy.

367

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:37,000

Jeff hears the word boy.

368

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

Are you looking for your boy?

369

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:42,000

Are you looking for your boy?

370

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:54,000

If this is a father looking for his son, I just want you to touch the light in my hand or say the word yes.

371

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

This time the answer is clearer.

372

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:08,000

What sounds like a distant yes is shouted.

373

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:17,000

If this is a father looking for his son, I just want you to touch the light in my hand or say the word yes.

374

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:23,000

The sound here has not been doctored in any way.

375

00:39:23,000 --> 00:39:27,000

I just want you to touch the light in my hand or say the word yes.

376

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:28,000

Yes.

377

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:38,000

You're looking for your son?

378

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

Is there a boy touching this right now?

379

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:43,000

Oh, here we go.

380

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:46,000

Just say your name for me please.

381

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:49,000

No.

382

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:53,000

Just say your name for me please.

383

00:39:55,000 --> 00:39:56,000

No.

384

00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:01,000

You don't want to tell me your name?

385

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:15,000

Wait.

386

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:16,000

You want us to wait?

387

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:18,000

What do you want me to wait for?

388

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:26,000

Your message isn't coming through very clearly.

389

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:35,000

So I'd like for you to say the word yes or no when I ask a question.

390

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:37,000

Just a simple yes or no.

391

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Are you a father looking for his son?

392

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:53,000

Yes.

393

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:57,000

What is your son in this building?

394

00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:08,000

Here.

395

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:12,000

Just say your name for me please.

396

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:13,000

Fuck.

397

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:14,000

Scott.

398

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:15,000

Did you hear that?

399

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:17,000

Very clearly, Scott.

400

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:21,000

Did you pass away on the Sophia?

401

00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:24,000

No.

402

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

Most of the first names are absent from the records of the passenger and crew list of the Princess Sophia.

403

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

The children and of course any stowaways aren't named at all.

404

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:51,000

But there are three men listed with the first initial S.

405

00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:58,000

Thank you very much for communicating with us here today.

406

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:01,000

I'm going to leave you in this space.

407

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:04,000

I'm going to ask for you to stay in this space.

408

00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:08,000

Do not follow myself or any member of this crew.

409

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:09,000

Do not attach yourself to any of us.

410

00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:11,000

You need to stay where you are.

411

00:42:11,000 --> 00:42:12,000

Stay where you're comfortable.

412

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:13,000

This is your home.

413

00:42:13,000 --> 00:42:15,000

This is your safe space.

414

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:17,000

Thank you for communicating.

415

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:19,000

We leave you with love and respect.

416

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:30,000

In Alaska, the tragedy of the Princess Sophia is not forgotten.

417

00:42:30,000 --> 00:42:38,000

Here, in the basement of this drugstore, Jeff believes he has actually communicated with its dad.

418

00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:52,000

When the SS Princess Sophia hit the Vanderbilt Reef in October 1918, it was the beginning of a series of events that haunt Alaska to this day.

419

00:42:53,000 --> 00:43:03,000

And for paranormal investigator Jeff Richards, there's clear evidence that spirits of the deceased have remained in the area.

420

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:04,000

It's very clear to me.

421

00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:07,000

There is definitely someone here.

422

00:43:07,000 --> 00:43:11,000

There's someone here in the lower level of the Juno drugstore.

423

00:43:11,000 --> 00:43:12,000

Three.

424

00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:13,000

Touch the lights.

425

00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:14,000

Three.

426

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:16,000

Oh, good, good, good, good, good.

427

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:17,000

Good.

428

00:43:17,000 --> 00:43:18,000

Amazing.

429

00:43:19,000 --> 00:43:26,000

Paranormal activity like this is unusual in the middle of a populated area.

430

00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:34,000

In Alaska, most reports come from remote areas, somewhere out in the vast wilderness.

431

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:36,000

It's all over the Alaska Triangle.

432

00:43:36,000 --> 00:43:40,000

We have paranormal activity, ghostly sightings.

433

00:43:41,000 --> 00:43:47,000

But this time, it's actually in the capital city of Alaska, right in the center of Juno.

434

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:53,000

I certainly think there's a possibility there's paranormal events happening underneath the Juno drugstore.

435

00:43:53,000 --> 00:44:01,000

And I certainly do believe that the people who experienced these events 100% believe they were happening.

436

00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:14,000

As big and mysterious as Alaska is, I think more incredibly, it's a place that has been marred by such upheaval, such progress.

437

00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:24,000

And in terms of that comes tragedy, heartbreak, you know, all of these huge outpourings of emotion that people feel and experience.

438

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:32,000

You know, it's bound to have many spots that are haunted and many stories that persist.

439

00:44:33,000 --> 00:44:38,000

The stories about the Princess Sophia show no sign of going away.

440

00:44:38,000 --> 00:44:45,000

Tales from the Juno drugstore endure, as well as all the mysteries surrounding her sinking.

441

00:44:45,000 --> 00:44:49,000

This really is Alaska's Titanic.

442

00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:57,000

When Princess Sophia slid backwards off that reef and took over 300 people to their deaths,

443

00:44:57,000 --> 00:45:06,000

it was a maritime disaster reminiscent in some ways of when the Titanic hit an iceberg in the Atlantic

444

00:45:06,000 --> 00:45:10,000

and went down with huge loss of life.

445

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:15,000

The difference is with Princess Sophia, it was total loss of life.

446

00:45:15,000 --> 00:45:18,000

No human survived that sinking.

447

00:45:20,000 --> 00:45:25,000

We have to question why did it go a mile off course? Why did it hit the reef?

448

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:29,000

Why do people stay in their cabins? And what happened to the bodies?

449

00:45:29,000 --> 00:45:37,000

Was it some kind of elemental forces? Was it some kind of curse placed on the boat or some of the people on the boat?

450

00:45:37,000 --> 00:45:41,000

So this really is one of the big mysteries of the Alaska Triangle.

451

00:45:43,000 --> 00:45:47,000

The SS Princess Sophia is at rest.

452

00:45:49,000 --> 00:45:53,000

The spirits of its dead, however, may not be.

453

00:45:55,000 --> 00:46:02,000

It was the Alaska Triangle's greatest tragedy, and it still haunts the region to this day.