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

Over the last 30 years, there have been thousands of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects over the British Isles.

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

My first thoughts were, wow, what was that?

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

You think I'm bloodied up, but this is a UFO.

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

In the summer of 2008, reports of flying saucers and other crafts were capturing the headlines again.

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

Over the years, numerous eyewitnesses including military personnel, police officers and experienced airline pilots

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

have testified to seeing strange lights in the sky and other mysterious phenomena.

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

Wow, what's that? Very bright yellow object.

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

It was nothing like an airplane that I'd ever seen before.

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

It's the brightest light I've ever seen in my life.

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

We could offer no explanation.

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

Many of these UFO sightings remain unexplained to this day, but what or who were they?

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

Could they really be evidence of extraterrestrial life?

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

My thoughts, what's that? I couldn't believe my eyes.

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:18,000

Tonight, we hear firsthand from those who witnessed them and examine the truth behind some of Britain's most celebrated UFO sightings.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:26,000

The World's Most Familiar UFOs

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:31,000

The World's Most Familiar UFOs

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:36,000

The World's Most Familiar UFOs

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:45,000

At the beginning of 1980, Todd Madden was a little known West Yorkshire mill town.

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:52,000

But before the year's end, the town would be associated with one of the strangest stories in British UFO history.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:02:01,000

For something you only read about or seen on television, you know, and suddenly, it's there.

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:07,000

If you think of a double-decker bus sideways, that's how big it was.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:13,000

And he wasn't the sort of person that would suddenly say something, you know, that hadn't happened.

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:16,000

So, I believed him.

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

I felt quite safe in the police car. Now if somebody got out of it, I'd be bloody scared.

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:29,000

The story of a young Yorkshire police officer sighting of an unidentified object became headline news.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:33,000

I believe Alan Gottfried's telling the truth. If he's lying, he deserves an Oscar.

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00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:38,000

Almost 30 years later, his experience has become part of UFO folklore.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:44,000

I've had a journalist for 50 years and covered quite a few rather strange stories.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:51,000

But the Alan Gottfried story is undoubtedly the most astonishing thing I ever covered.

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:58,000

In 1980, Alan Gottfried had been a police officer in the Todd Madden area for six years.

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:07,000

On the night of the 28th of November, he claims to have witnessed something extraordinary.

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

We got radio messages from our control room that people were reporting seeing a small herd of cows roaming around a local council estate.

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00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:26,000

And as I'm going up Burnley Road, I can see in the distance about 500-600 yards up the road,

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:31,000

and I thought it was a staff bus that had skidded across the road for some reason.

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

Whatever it was, I decided to go and investigate.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:44,000

So I'm driving towards this object and I got within about 20 yards and there it was.

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:51,000

An object, nuts and bolts hovering above the road surface.

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00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:59,000

It was shaped in a diamond shape and the bottom flange was rotating.

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

The top half appeared to be stationary.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:08,000

I didn't know what to do. I mean, what would you do?

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00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Well, if it were you, you'd probably ring the police up.

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:16,000

But in my case, I'm already there. So I thought I'd add radio, have a come tour.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:18,000

Alfa Pop, stop, 2-0-3 to control.

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:22,000

Now with two radios, we've got a VHF, which is the car radio,

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:25,000

a new HF, which is the personal radio.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

I tried both and none of them had worked.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:35,000

It was eerily silent.

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:41,000

That really does stick in my mind now. That was really eerily silent.

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:46,000

And for some reason, I don't know why, I picked my clipboard up and started to draw it.

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:54,000

I made a quick sketch. So it's there. Rather than me editing, it's there. It's black and white.

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00:04:54,000 --> 00:05:00,000

Although he'd made a sketch, Alan Godfrey's story would ultimately center around what happened

next.

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

Now with black and white, and I'm at the other side of it, driving.

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:10,000

Quick glance at mirror, it's not there.

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:14,000

I got out of the car.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:24,000

The road surface was whirlpool dry, like a spinning object would make, you know.

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:28,000

With all these leaves and branches and what-a-b-w-e.

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00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:32,000

You could see an area of road surface that wasn't like the other.

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:35,000

The other was wet, this was dry.

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:41,000

Unsure of what had happened to him, P.C. Godfrey drove straight back to the police station in Toddledon.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:45,000

When Alan came into the police station, he was very agitated.

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00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:52,000

I says to him, you'll never guess what I've just seen, you know.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:55,000

You won't believe what I've just seen.

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:59,000

At first, you know, you think he's totally outrageous, you know.

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:04,000

But I've no reason to doubt him. I mean, I've known him for a long time.

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00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:09,000

And we know each other really well, and I've no reason to doubt what he said.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:12,000

But the night still had one more surprise left.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:16,000

As Alan Godfrey ended his shift, he noticed something else he couldn't explain.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:22,000

There was approximately 30, 35 minutes missing that couldn't be accounted for.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:26,000

When we leave the police station, he comes back.

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:29,000

To me, I don't have been away 15 minutes.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:33,000

I've only been away approximately 45, 50 minutes.

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00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:37,000

What Alan Godfrey claimed to have experienced was strange enough.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:41,000

But he wasn't alone in witnessing unusual phenomena that night.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:54,000

On the night of the 28th of November, 1980,

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00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:59,000

police constable Alan Godfrey was driving through the pen in town of Toddledon

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00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:02,000

when he witnessed a strange object in the road.

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:08,000

It was something you only read about or seen on television.

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:13,000

And suddenly, it's there, in front of you.

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00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:20,000

It was just something out of a science fiction film. It was totally unbelievable.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:26,000

PC Godfrey had no rational explanation for what he'd seen, or for what he discovered later.

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00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:30,000

I had this irritating itch on my foot.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:35,000

The boot on my left foot was split.

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:41,000

If that's the sole of the... It was split that way.

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00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:47,000

I have no idea why they were split, but when I took it off,

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00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:51,000

I removed my sock and it was on the instep of my foot

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:56,000

and it was around a circle like that, red.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:01,000

And it was very, very itchy. It wasn't sore, but it was very, very itchy.

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:05,000

At work the following day, Alan Godfrey received some surprising news.

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00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:10,000

He hadn't been the only officer who claimed to have seen something strange the previous night.

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00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:14,000

I came on duty and there was an inspector awaiting to see me.

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00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:20,000

I went into the inspector's office and he then informed me that I wasn't alone

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00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:25,000

at three police officers in Halifax, in fact, in a police car.

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00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:29,000

In fact, he had some sort of an encounter the same night

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00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:33,000

and he was putting a report together and he wanted a statement of me.

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00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:39,000

Coming out of the inspector's office thinking, yeah, right on.

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00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:46,000

12 miles from Todd Morden on the moors above Halifax,

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00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:53,000

PCs John Porter, Howard Turnpenny and Julie Baxter had been looking for stolen motorbikes.

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00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:57,000

What they witnessed compelled them to make an official report.

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00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:06,000

We packed up, got out, walked down over the fields, what it was.

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00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:13,000

We nearly reached the quarries and then something, nothing verbally,

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00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:15,000

but something told us to turn.

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00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:17,000

We turned and just stood.

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

And in the sky there was a very cold, and I would describe it as cold steel, blue light.

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:36,000

Not flashing but pulsating and the ears on my arms and my neck just stood up.

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00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:41,000

I cannot tell you in all honesty how big this thing was

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00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:47,000

because there was no definite shape to it other than a pulsating steel blow.

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00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:55,000

But wherever it went, wherever it went, it was very, very fast.

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00:09:55,000 --> 00:10:02,000

As fast as I'm moving my hand now. A second, a second, a second, a second.

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00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:07,000

And that's how fast it moved with no noise.

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00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:18,000

Tried to speak to Halifax on the radio. Nothing. Absolutely dead.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:23,000

I wasn't frightened, I was intrigued to what this was.

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00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:28,000

But for WPC Julie Baxter, the experience proved unsettling.

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00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:33,000

Julie was scared. There was no doubt about it, she made her feelings very plain.

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00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Scared. Howard was like me, he wanted to know what it was.

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00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:39,000

He wanted to see this thing.

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00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:44,000

He had a plumb on his ear and shot off a big overhead heart towards Todd with him.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Whatever it was, was not of...

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00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:55,000

I can't explain whatever it was about making.

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:59,000

It was something completely alien to my understanding.

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00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:05,000

And the night was getting even stranger.

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

Two traffic officers on the moors near Littleborough, 12 miles from both Alan Godfrey and the Halifax patrol,

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00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:20,000

reported seeing a bright pulsating sphere hovering between two electricity pylons before it sped off over the hills.

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00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:26,000

In all, six separate police officers had witnessed strange phenomena that night.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:32,000

But it was Alan Godfrey's story which caught the attention of both the local press and UFO investigators,

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00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:36,000

many of whom descended on Todd Mudden in the wake of the sighting.

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00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:41,000

In 1980 Jenny Randall's headed British UFO investigation group, Bufora.

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00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:46,000

She was born near Todd Mudden and has written about British UFO sightings for over 35 years.

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00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:53,000

The Alan Godfrey experience when it happened came at the culmination of a whole series of events

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:57,000

during the preceding three or four months that had been occurring in and around that area.

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

They'd been getting stranger and stranger.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:05,000

The penines are the backbone of the United Kingdom.

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

The area stretches from the Scottish borders to the Derbyshire peaks, a distance of 250 miles.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:24,000

Throughout the 1970s there had been dozens of reports of objects in the sky over Yorkshire and Lancashire.

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00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:29,000

So numerous with the sightings, the area earned itself the name UFO Alley.

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00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:35,000

John Sheerd was a Yorkshire based journalist reporting for both the local and national press.

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00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:41,000

This was the time when the whole nation was obsessed with UFO stories.

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00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:47,000

We had reports almost every day up here, particularly in the penines,

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00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:51,000

but also throughout the country and in fact throughout the world.

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00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:56,000

The late 1970s and early 80s were the heyday of UFO mania.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:04,000

The release of films like Star Wars and Close Encounters coincided with the doubling of reports of UFO sightings in Britain.

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00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:12,000

For the time being, news of Alan Godfrey's Close Encounter had stayed within Todd Maddon,

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00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:18,000

but it hadn't escaped the attentions of a group of UFO investigators, led by Jenny Randalls.

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:24,000

When I first met Alan, he struck me immediately as being a very typical, no-nonsense Yorkshire Bobby.

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00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:30,000

He would not have reported something like this unless he was absolutely sure in his own mind that it was real.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:36,000

Although there was little physical evidence to support his claims, Alan Godfrey did have a damaged boot.

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00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:40,000

There was a split across the bottom of his boot. There was no question at all that that happened

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:43,000

because we were able to immediately photograph it and it was real.

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00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:46,000

There was also the sketch made at the time of the sighting.

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00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:50,000

You just have to try and make a value judgment when you put all the evidence together.

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00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:55,000

What you believe about the credibility of the witness, what the sincerity of the witness's story is,

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00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:58,000

how it holds together again and again over the years.

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00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:03,000

But for Andy Roberts, who has researched hundreds of British UFO sightings,

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00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:07,000

the origin of what PC Godfrey witnessed is relatively straightforward.

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00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:12,000

My personal belief is that he went into some form of altered state of consciousness,

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00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:16,000

whether you call it a trance or something like that, something triggered that.

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00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:20,000

In his narratives, when he's described what he saw, he always says,

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00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:22,000

when he was driving up to it, he thought it was a bus.

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00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Now, it's possible that was the point when he slipped into this altered state of consciousness.

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00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:29,000

When he got near it, he was seeing it as a UFO.

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00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Interestingly, he describes it as having two rows of windows. Quite like a bus, actually.

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00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:37,000

And it was on a main road near a bus stop.

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00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:41,000

So it's possible he saw a bus delivering mill workers or picking mill workers up.

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00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:45,000

And in his altered state of consciousness, it had transformed into a UFO.

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00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:50,000

This object, that saw, was hovering off the ground with no wheels.

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00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:55,000

It was of a metallic colour, and it had black paneling of dark windows.

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00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:59,000

And it certainly wasn't a bus.

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00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:05,000

I know the difference between a bus and what that saw that night.

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00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

And what are the strange lights witnessed by police officers John Porter,

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

Julie Baxter and Howard Turnpenny, just minutes before Alan Godfrey's encounter?

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

Could they have a perfectly rational, scientific explanation?

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00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Dr Ian Griffin worked for NASA on the Hubble Telescope Project for a decade

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00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:31,000

before returning to the UK to carry out research into the movement of asteroids.

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00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:36,000

He now watches the night skies from his home observatory in Tudmadon.

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00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:42,000

My view is that nearly every UFO that has ever been seen has some kind of explanation.

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00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:46,000

And it's probably because people don't really understand what they're looking at

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00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,000

that they just call it a UFO.

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00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:52,000

The planet Venus is often mistaken for a UFO.

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00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:57,000

This is because it's very bright and it's very close to the sun in the sky.

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00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:02,000

So very often if you don't know what you're looking at and you see this stonkingly bright light

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

beaming towards you, you think what on earth is that?

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00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Meteors are sometimes mistaken for UFOs as well, caused by a very fast moving rock

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00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:13,000

entering the Earth's atmosphere high up.

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00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:18,000

As the rock moves through the atmosphere it ionises it and causes the gas atoms to glow in different colours.

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00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:23,000

The colours can be green, they can be blue and sometimes they can even be an orangey red colour.

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00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:28,000

There are other phenomena which may have existed for as long as the penines themselves

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00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:31,000

and which stem from more natural causes.

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00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:35,000

Could these be the reason for the many sightings in the area

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

including those of Alan Godfrey and the other police officers in 1980?

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00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:45,000

Dr David Clark undertook a major study of the area known as Project Penine.

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00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:52,000

It described naturally occurring phenomena that range from glowing hillsides to bizarre balls of light.

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00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:56,000

It's known that lights have been seen and reported by people

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00:16:56,000 --> 00:17:00,000

following major earthquakes and earth tremors around the world.

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00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:06,000

So we were interested in checking out whether similar correlations could be made

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00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:10,000

with the lights that had been seen on a regular basis in the penines of Northern England.

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00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:14,000

Basically you've got underground huge rock movements going on

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

and rocks crushing against each other and electrons escaping from that movement.

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00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:24,000

People have described seeing these light forms as following valleys

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:29,000

or appearing above electricity pylons or even apparently pacing cars

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00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:34,000

but what may be happening here is that these lights are actually following fault lines

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00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:39,000

or magnetic variations in the local area

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00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:44,000

and that those movements are interpreted by people who see them as being intelligent

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00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:46,000

as if it's a piloted craft of some description.

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:51,000

In November 1980, PC John Porter and his fellow officers

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00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:55,000

had reported seeing a bright object moving at incredibly high speed.

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00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:00,000

Could it have been a naturally occurring light or something man-made?

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00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:04,000

Aircraft can actually cause UFO sightings too.

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00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:08,000

Oftentimes they'll have lights that flash under the wings

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

and viewed from certain angles they can appear to be coming straight towards you

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00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,000

or whizzing across the sky relatively quickly.

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

So it's not unknown for an aircraft to cause UFO sighting.

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00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:23,000

We've all seen aircraft in the sky at night.

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00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:28,000

I've been on nights, many many years as a police officer, I've seen all sorts moving in the sky

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00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:33,000

but on this occasion whatever it was was not an aircraft.

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00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:38,000

It was not. There's no way it was an aircraft.

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00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:41,000

Moving too fast and no noise.

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

Air traffic records both civilian and military

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00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:49,000

reveal that there were no flights in the area at the time.

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00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:58,000

Routinely official police reports of UFO sightings would be passed to the Ministry of Defence

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00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:02,000

as part of the Freedom of Information Act they've now been released.

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00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:10,000

Dr David Clark has been researching official reports into UFO sightings for over 20 years.

221

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:14,000

When the Ministry of Defence files on UFOs from 1980 were opened

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

I went to the National Archives and immediately went looking for any mention of the sightings in  
Tudmadden in 1980

223

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:26,000

and straight away I found a copy of the report by the police officers from Halifax.

224

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:32,000

PC John Porter and his colleagues who'd seen a bright blue ball of light in the sky

225

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:39,000

but there was absolutely no trace of the report that was made by Alan Godfrey the same night, about 30 minutes later.

226

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:47,000

Maybe they just thought that his sighting was a bit too weird and a bit too disturbing, you know, to pass it on to the Ministry.

227

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:54,000

But Alan Godfrey and John Porter were not the first police officers to have made an official report of the UFO sightings.

228

00:19:54,000 --> 00:20:01,000

Over the last three decades police officers have contributed to a large proportion of British UFO reports.

229

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:08,000

Gary Heseltine runs a database of UFO sightings made by both serving and retired police officers.

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00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:13,000

It's my belief that police officer testimony is of a very high calibre.

231

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

There is no reason to think that these officers are mistaken because of their training

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00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:26,000

and I believe that police officer testimony should be regarded very highly in the world of the way we treat UFOs.

233

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:33,000

Police officers do see quite a lot of UFOs and that's because they spend an awful lot of time out at night

234

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:37,000

often by themselves, often remote areas like up on moors and industrial estates,

235

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:42,000

places where there are, you know, not much ground light, you can see things in the sky.

236

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:47,000

So anything that's up there, explicable or inexplicable, will be seen by police officers.

237

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Between 1970 and 2000 alone there were more than 700 UFO sightings made by serving police officers.

238

00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:02,000

Clearly police officers aren't going to make an official report about something they've seen in the sky in a frivolous way.

239

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:07,000

It's not something that they would do lightly because it has all kinds of impacts upon their career

240

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:09,000

and whether they're taken seriously or not.

241

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:17,000

15th of August 1975, two uniformed police officers observed a bright-lighted UFO heading in the direction of Haywood.

242

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

The uniformed officers saw huge UFOs, two undue to uniformed police officers including a chief

superintendent,

243

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

and on a routine, at 2.15 hours, Roffton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire,

244

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:34,000

PC Patrick Tunney was checking on a couple of shops during the early hours of a winter's morning

245

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:39,000

when he suddenly noticed three green lights approaching from around a mile distance.

246

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:45,000

Wakefield lies on the very edge of the Pennines, 30 miles from Togmedan.

247

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:54,000

At the time of his sighting in 1976, PC Patrick Tunney was a well-respected police officer with over 20 years' experience.

248

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:58,000

I thought at first it was an helicopter having trouble and we were looking at it, I thought,

249

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:00,000

there's no noise, no engine noise, nothing.

250

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

Just these three lights drifting towards me at about, say, 150 feet high.

251

00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:13,000

The next minute it didn't slow down, it didn't increase and suddenly it turned to its left

252

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:18,000

and then it accelerated at a speed I've never seen before that fast of a life.

253

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:20,000

Or would it be a streak of light?

254

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:23,000

And that was it, gone.

255

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:31,000

Could what PC Tunney saw have been an aircraft, meteor or even a naturally-occurring ball of light?

256

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:37,000

And could any of these account for what Alan Godfrey claimed to have experienced in November 1980?

257

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:44,000

Whatever the explanation, within a few months Alan Godfrey's story would take a much more bizarre turn.

258

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:55,000

After police officer Alan Godfrey reported an encounter with a strange object in West Yorkshire in 1980,

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00:22:55,000 --> 00:23:00,000

some researchers claimed it to be a landmark in British UFO history.

260

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

After Alan Godfrey's experience had happened, we were immediately aware that this had cemented the importance of the Pennine area

261

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:17,000

as the hotspot for UFO activity in Britain and in fact probably the most active location for UFO encounters anywhere in Europe.

262

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:28,000

18 months before Alan Godfrey's sighting, mysterious bright orange lights had been reported speeding across the night skies of Lancashire.

263

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:37,000

At 2am on the morning of February 24th, 1979, Mike Sax was at home in the village of Staksteads, getting ready for bed.

264

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:44,000

All of a sudden, the room lit. The light was moving.

265

00:23:49,000 --> 00:24:00,000

I rushed to the window to be confronted with this huge, old void about 8-10ft across light, all diffused around the edges.

266

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

It was pulsing, brilliant to intense, very orangey white.

267

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:17,000

There was no sound. I remember that distinctly. We were in awe at this. We couldn't believe what we were seeing.

268

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:28,000

It slowly descended out of sight into the quarry. It went through my mind. They do exist. These things do exist.

269

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:43,000

And Mike Sax wasn't the only witness to the mysterious object. Local farmer Alf Keim, then 19, was out working with another farmhand when he too saw something strange in the sky.

270

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:49,000

We thought we were shooting star flying down in this building blocked to, so we shot past the building to see it.

271

00:24:49,000 --> 00:25:07,000

It was amazing, really, because it was a two-double deck of buses. It was spinning round, changing colours, a lot of orange.

272

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:13,000

It went right across the skyline, right over the valley.

273

00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:15,000

Right over the valley.

274

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:19,000

It went over the chopper houses, right over the quarry.

275

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

Somebody must see that. Even though it was late, we can't live only months to see this.

276

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:38,000

I immediately phoned Baker Police, reported what I'd seen, and they said, right, they said, well, two of our police officers have also phoned in.

277

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:44,000

They were parked just below the quarry, and they reported it.

278

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:51,000

I phoned my brother, Raymond. I went up for him. We came back to the quarry.

279

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:57,000

Where the panda car was still parked there.

280

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:03,000

And I said, did you see it? And he said, see it. We thought it was coming down on our blooming heads.

281

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:09,000

So we decided then to go up to the quarry.

282

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:13,000

Now the police officers went up with us.

283

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:20,000

But there was nothing to be seen.

284

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:24,000

By 3am, Althcime had arrived home.

285

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:28,000

When we got back that night, my dad said, is everything all right? You know, the car was all right?

286

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:34,000

I said, yeah, everything's perfect. I said, but we've seen a flying saucer or something to that description.

287

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:37,000

And he said, don't you think so?

288

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:42,000

Well, have you been smoking? And obviously we're laughing to himself.

289

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:47,000

And he said, have you been drinking? And Mike said, no, he said, we've actually seen it.

290

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:52,000

You know, we've seen some of it anyway. He said, all right, I'll see you in the morning then.

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00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:59,000

That night between 2.30 and 2.50am, there were a dozen separate sightings reported throughout Lancashire

292

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:02,000

and as far west as Merseyside.

293

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:09,000

The reports varied from fiercely bright orange orbs to the oval-shaped craft seen by Mike Sax and Althcime.

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00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:15,000

The following week, when he started the local free press, you didn't feel as if I was telling it, you know,

295

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:19,000

because we told this story and you could say people didn't believe you when you were telling it,

296

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:22,000

because, you know, I don't think I'd believe it myself really.

297

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

If the oval-shaped craft seemed inexplicable, what were the bright orange lights that you saw?

298

00:27:27,000 --> 00:27:34,000

If the oval-shaped craft seemed inexplicable, what were the bright orange lights seen shooting across the sky that night?

299

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:38,000

Astronomer Dr Ian Griffin may have one explanation.

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00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:43,000

Since the dawn of the space age, several thousand objects have been launched into space

301

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:48,000

and the re-entry of a satellite can cause a bright flash of light in the sky

302

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:56,000

and certainly big satellites, for example, Skylab in the late 1970s or the Miya Station in the 1990s,

303

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:01,000

when they entered the Earth's atmosphere, they looked like tremendous fireballs with bits breaking off.

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00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:04,000

So oftentimes, yes, space junk can cause UFO sightings.

305

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:09,000

For many skeptics, the explanation for the sightings is even more straightforward.

306

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:14,000

The Pennines has two busy civilian airports situated at its edge.

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00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:18,000

There was a huge explosion of air travel in the 70s and 80s

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00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:23,000

and that led to the expansion of Manchester Airport, of Leeds-Brackford Airport and international airplanes.

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

Now, the Pennine's quite wild, it's very dark at night

310

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:33,000

and if you see an aircraft in the sky through unusual weather conditions or coming into land or taking off,

311

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

its beams, its light configuration can appear very, very strange

312

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:44,000

and I think that's largely been the result of why there have been so many UFO sightings over the Pennines from the 1970s onwards.

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00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:49,000

When it comes to UFO sightings over the Pennines or anywhere else for that matter,

314

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:55,000

we can readily explain away 99% more as mistaken identity.

315

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

But it leaves that niggling little number every time that no matter how much research, no matter how much you try,

316

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:08,000

you can't get rid of these particular cases and after a lot of legwork, they still remain unexplained.

317

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:14,000

There was another possible explanation that the lights in the sky being witnessed that night

318

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:18,000

were connected with some secret Cold War military operation.

319

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:26,000

After some of his constituents had reported seeing the lights, the MP for Ormskirk even raised the question in Parliament.

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00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:31,000

On the 12th of June 1979, the Ministry of Defence issued a statement.

321

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:37,000

It said that a US Air Force exercise had taken place between the 21st and 24th of February,

322

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:42,000

during which fighter aircraft had been flying at very low levels throughout the British Isles.

323

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:48,000

Were both Alfheim and Mike Sax simply witnesses to a routine military manoeuvre?

324

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:56,000

We get many, many aircraft flying over the valley, all different shapes and sizes.

325

00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:00,000

There are air cargo, passenger, military.

326

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:08,000

This was totally unlike anything I've ever seen in my life.

327

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:17,000

I can only conclude, and I don't say this lightly, it is extraterrestrial.

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00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:27,000

We can never rule out military technology, but I think in this case it looks as if something genuinely unidentified

329

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

was present in the Pennines that night.

330

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

Whatever the source of the strange lights seen over Lancashire,

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00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:38,000

PC Alan Godfrey's experience continued to fascinate the UFO community.

332

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:46,000

After Alan Godfrey's sighting in Todmeden, he claimed to have lost some 30 minutes in time.

333

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:51,000

The only physical evidence of his encounter, a damaged boot and a sketch he'd made at the time.

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00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:57,000

In an attempt to find out more, UFO investigators suggested a radical idea.

335

00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:03,000

When they contacted me and asked me, would I be willing to go under hypnotic regression?

336

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:09,000

I declined straight away. I wasn't sure, you know, I thought, what is hypnotic regression?

337

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:17,000

The only hypnosis I'd ever seen was on television, on a stage, you know, where they make fun of you.

338

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:22,000

Eventually Alan Godfrey was persuaded to undergo hypnosis,

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00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:27,000

which was conducted by two psychiatrists, Dr Jaffe and Professor Blair.

340

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:33,000

They wouldn't tell either of the psychiatrists what the subject matter was.

341

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:38,000

They would only tell them that it was a policeman, or they were going to try to regress to a certain time,

342

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:43,000

on a certain date, to an incident that may or may not have happened.

343

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:50,000

Mike Sacks, whose interest in UFOs had been sparked by his own experiences the previous year, was present at the sessions.

344

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:57,000

The atmosphere in the room was absolutely electric, as Alan is relating this series of events.

345

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:03,000

All of a sudden, and under hypnosis, he goes...

346

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:06,000

and covers his eyes.

347

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:12,000

And somehow he's floating, and he's taken into this room.

348

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:21,000

I have no recollection whatsoever what went on during that hypnotic regression.

349

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:26,000

Under hypnosis, Alan Godfrey's claims grew more bizarre.

350

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:31,000

Not only had he witnessed a UFO, he'd also come into contact with alien beings.

351

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:35,000

In UFO terminology, he had been abducted.

352

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:44,000

We were actually present at possibly one of the first abduction cases that has happened in the UK.

353

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:50,000

Whatever Alan Godfrey had experienced in November 1980, and whatever had happened to the missing 30 minutes,

354

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:53,000

the latest revelations seemed scarcely credible.

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00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:57,000

UFO abductions, very big in America, not so big in Britain.

356

00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:00,000

A handful of people allegedly being abducted by UFOs.

357

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

So when you get a policeman seeing a UFO, later coming out under hypnosis with a story he was abducted,

358

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:12,000

you've got something that's quite solid there, and people have latched onto it as being a real event.

359

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:19,000

I'm asking myself, did that really happen?

360

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:23,000

No, I couldn't have done it. I don't believe it.

361

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:25,000

But why am I saying it?

362

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:32,000

Psychologist Chris French has conducted several studies in the area of so-called paranormal experiences.

363

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:38,000

There are a number of different factors which seem to play a role in people reporting that they've had an alien abduction experience.

364

00:33:38,000 --> 00:33:47,000

Very often there is some initial triggering event, like say, an episode of sleep paralysis or missing time,

365

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:51,000

that leads people to believe they may have been abducted by aliens.

366

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:58,000

What's probably happening is that they are getting confused between things that are happening in here

367

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

and things that are happening in external reality.

368

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:08,000

And basically, as a result, they're having sometimes hallucinatory experiences, sometimes false memories,

369

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:11,000

but that's leading them to believe that they've had these alien encounters.

370

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:16,000

But it wasn't just Alan Godfrey's supposed abduction that intrigued ufologists.

371

00:34:17,000 --> 00:34:24,000

The investigators also discovered a connection to another unsolved local mystery,

372

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

one they believed could have extraterrestrial origins.

373

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

Six months before his UFO sighting, Alan Godfrey and colleague Malcolm Agley

374

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

had received a call about a body found at a local coal yard.

375

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:43,000

He received a radio message that found a body at Thomadon railway station.

376

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:47,000

So I attended with PC Alan Godfrey.

377

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:55,000

I also was instinctively told you there's something not right.

378

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:59,000

You know, you come across dead bodies all the time, it sounds like.

379

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:00,000

What you do?

380

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:04,000

And he was lying on his back just staring up into the sky.

381

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:09,000

There's no disturbance to the call, you know, to say how he got there.

382

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

You just can't explain it at all.

383

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:15,000

It was being treated as a crime scene.

384

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:19,000

I think everybody at that stage thought it was a crime.

385

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:21,000

That's how obvious it was.

386

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:28,000

Why would a man climb a stack of coal,

387

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:31,000

lie down on his back on top and die?

388

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

The body was that of a Polish emigre named Zygmunt Damski,

389

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

a former miner who'd moved to the UK after the Second World War

390

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:43,000

and had settled in Wakefield, 20 miles from where he was found.

391

00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:46,000

To me, I don't think he'd died there.

392

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:48,000

I think he'd been put there.

393

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:51,000

It looked to me as if he had anywhere.

394

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:53,000

The evidence was inconclusive.

395

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:58,000

You'd expect if somebody had been lying on his back

396

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:03,000

or had climbed up the coal, it'd be covered in coal dust.

397

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:06,000

It'd been raining, it'd stick to him like glue.

398

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:12,000

There was no visual coal on him, on the front of him, anywhere.

399

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:14,000

And either on his face or anything.

400

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:17,000

And he'd these black marks that transpired to be burn marks

401

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:19,000

round the back of the head.

402

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:23,000

And there was one at the nape of the neck here, like an autumn wound,

403

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:27,000

like a blistering, like a burning, like a burning, like a burning.

404

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:30,000

And it had had an ointment applied to it.

405

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:37,000

We just thought it was strange, you know, that he had these injuries

406

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:40,000

and this sort of green ointment, which...

407

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:45,000

Nothing I've seen before at all.

408

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:49,000

It just seemed strange and a bit unnatural, really.

409

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:54,000

Zygmunt Damski had gone missing after a shopping trip.

410

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:58,000

There was no suggestion that he'd planned to disappear

411

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:02,000

and he was known as a loving family man with no obvious enemies.

412

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:08,000

The autopsy confirmed that Damski had died of a heart attack.

413

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:11,000

Korona James Turnbull was mystified,

414

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

not least by the strange substance found on Damski's burns.

415

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:19,000

We had the substance analysed and the toxicologists and the scientists

416

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:22,000

couldn't come up with any answers to what it was.

417

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:27,000

And we came up against a blank at every line of investigation.

418

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:33,000

This is one of the most puzzling cases that I've come across in 25 years.

419

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

If somebody proved to me that UFOs exist and that there was one

420

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

around there at that time and that in some way we could associate it with this case,

421

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:46,000

then perhaps I might say I'd only raise half an eyebrow.

422

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:51,000

Whatever the truth behind Damski's death, which remains unsolved,

423

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

Alan Godfrey's association with it was to turn him into a UFO celebrity.

424

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:08,000

In November 1980, PC Alan Godfrey had witnessed a mysterious object

425

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:10,000

whilst on patrol in Toddwooden.

426

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:15,000

If I'd had got out the car and thrown a brick at it, it would have gone clang.

427

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:17,000

That's how real it was.

428

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:21,000

Alan Godfrey was also connected to a mysterious death,

429

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:24,000

which remains unsolved after almost 30 years.

430

00:38:26,000 --> 00:38:30,000

Zygmunt Adamski had gone missing in June 1980.

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00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:35,000

His body had been found five days later lying on top of a coal heap in Toddwooden.

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At the inquest, Koran and James Turnbull was mystified,

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00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:44,000

recording an open verdict and even suggesting a link with UFOs.

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00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:50,000

In nearly 27 years in the police, and it's the one thing that I've never really got to the bottom of,

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:56,000

and it is bizarre and it's always been there at the back of my mind.

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00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:59,000

There's just no explanation for it at all.

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

Nobody has ever been charged in relation to the death of Zygmunt Adamski

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

and the strange ointment which covered his burns has never been identified.

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00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:14,000

To this day, we don't know whether or not there actually is any connection with the Adamski death.

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00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:20,000

The case is still unsolved. They've never found out how his body got onto the top of that coal heap.

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00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:24,000

Some UFO researchers looked at all the pieces of the puzzle.

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00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:28,000

The fact that he was put on a coal tip and how did he get there is mysterious.

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00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:31,000

And they just jumped to the most massive of conclusions.

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00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:37,000

The only explanation must be that he's been abducted by aliens and something's gone wrong.

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00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:42,000

The Adamski story was picked up by Sunday Meri journalist John Sheard.

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00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:46,000

Although more used to covering Northern Ireland and the trial of the Yorkshire Ripper,

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00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:49,000

he recognised the opportunity for an exclusive.

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00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:53,000

I sat down and tried to write it as straight as I could.

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00:39:53,000 --> 00:40:01,000

I didn't want it to sound over sensational because it was already a very sensational story.

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00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:07,000

What I didn't know was that when it hit the streets that Sunday,

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00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:14,000

as the front page lead, was the incredible reaction that would happen.

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00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:21,000

I'm talking about literally thousands of letters, hundreds of phone calls.

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00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:28,000

I began to realise that this was a story that even though I was still a bit iffy about it,

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00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:31,000

had gripped millions of people throughout the world.

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00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:36,000

John Sheard soon discovered PC Allen Godfrey's involvement with the Adamski case.

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00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:41,000

And the later claims made under hypnosis that he'd been the subject of an alien abduction.

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00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:46,000

I've been a journalist for 50 years and covered quite a few rather strange stories.

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00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:54,000

But the Allen Godfrey story is undoubtedly the most astonishing thing I ever covered.

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00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:05,000

What made Allen's story so special from my point of view was the fact that he was a serving policeman.

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00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:10,000

And what expects them to be fairly straightforward in recording facts.

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00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:19,000

And of course it came on the heels of the Adamski story and the very strange inquest.

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00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:29,000

Individually there were good pieces, but when you add the two together and a possible connection, you've got dynamite.

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00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:33,000

At the time Allen Godfrey's story captured the public imagination.

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00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Whatever the truth behind it, it's become one of Britain's classic UFO cases.

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00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:43,000

I've got no doubt that Allen's UFO experience was to him real.

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

Whether it was objectively real is a different kettle of fish altogether.

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00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:54,000

We can all have experiences which we believe are real to us and they can happen some form of lucid dreaming for instance.

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00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:59,000

Hallucinatory states, fugue states, trans states, they're all real to the person.

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00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:02,000

But that's a subjective reality, not an objective reality.

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00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:09,000

On the moors above Halifax, former police officer John Porter is meeting Allen Godfrey.

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00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:16,000

Both reported seeing something unexplained on the night of the 28th of November 1980.

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00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:23,000

You're going grey. You still got yours, don't you? Yeah, I know. Stuck on.

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00:42:27,000 --> 00:42:33,000

It was only when I found out about you, lads, that it made me feel a lot more comfortable.

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00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:37,000

I can understand that one. Do you know what I'm on about? Three of us can't be wrong.

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

Three of us cannot be wrong. Three of us saw what we saw. Exactly.

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

I was on my own and I've been told I was hallucinating.

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00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:55,000

I've had all this. I've fallen asleep at the wheel. I'm driving, you know what I mean?

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00:42:55,000 --> 00:42:58,000

I've only left the police station five minutes earlier.

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00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:04,000

Allen has never changed his story. He's a very down to earth gentleman.

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00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:09,000

He had more to lose than to gain by relating such an incident.

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00:43:09,000 --> 00:43:14,000

And that's why Allen's story goes down as a classic close encounter from the UK.

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00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:18,000

The Pennines continue to be fertile ground for strange phenomena.

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00:43:18,000 --> 00:43:26,000

The numbers of reported UFO sightings are nowhere near those of the late 1970s and 80s, but they do still happen.

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00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:30,000

If you look at the number of sightings that have been reported over the years, you know,

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00:43:30,000 --> 00:43:36,000

we appear to be absolutely swamped with aliens. You know, the whole planet must be swarming with their ships

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00:43:36,000 --> 00:43:41,000

and the population across the universe to visitors. It simply does not add up.

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00:43:41,000 --> 00:43:48,000

I have not come across a UFO that cannot be explained when you go through the various things that it possibly could be.

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00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:51,000

If you know the sky, you can understand what you're seeing.

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00:43:51,000 --> 00:43:57,000

But for many who experience their own close encounter, the passing of time hasn't diminished the impact.

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00:43:57,000 --> 00:44:05,000

I have to say, after this experience, it all understood. I believe there's something out there other than us.

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00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:10,000

I've never seen anything like it, but I'm lucky enough to work on it. I've never seen anything like it.

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00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:20,000

Where they come from? Why are they here? I wouldn't know what they are here.

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00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:29,000

Allen Godfrey left the police force in 1985. Almost 30 years on, he's still sticking to his story.

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00:44:29,000 --> 00:44:35,000

About 18 years ago, and I still believe in what I saw was really there.

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00:44:39,000 --> 00:44:45,000

They've brains that work like human computers. Their description, not mine, meet Flo and Kay next year on five.

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00:44:45,000 --> 00:44:50,000

Identical twins who are also artistic savantes and extraordinary people, the Rain Man twins.

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00:44:59,000 --> 00:45:04,000

Thank you for watching!