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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

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

objects over the British Isles.

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:18,800

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

4

00:00:18,800 --> 00:00:23,600

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

5

00:00:23,600 --> 00:00:27,760

again.

6

00:00:27,760 --> 00:00:32,960

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

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00:00:32,960 --> 00:00:38,960

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

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00:00:38,960 --> 00:00:49,760

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

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00:00:49,760 --> 00:00:53,760

Many of these UFO sightings remain unexplained to this day.

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00:00:53,760 --> 00:00:56,760

But what or who were they?

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00:00:56,760 --> 00:01:00,760

Could they really be evidence of extraterrestrial life?

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00:01:00,760 --> 00:01:12,760

It was just something out of the science fiction film.

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00:01:12,760 --> 00:01:14,760

It was totally unbelievable.

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00:01:14,760 --> 00:01:20,760

Tonight, we hear firsthand from those who witnessed them and examine the truth behind some of

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00:01:20,760 --> 00:01:45,760

Britain's most celebrated UFO sightings.

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00:01:45,760 --> 00:01:57,760

In April 2007, the airspace above the Channel Island of Alderney played host to one of the more unusual British UFO sightings.

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00:01:57,760 --> 00:02:07,760

I thought initially it was an airplane, but clearly nothing like I'd ever seen before.

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00:02:07,760 --> 00:02:11,760

I saw a single Lodin shape light below us.

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00:02:11,760 --> 00:02:17,760

I didn't see any outline to the shape because the light was so bright.

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00:02:17,760 --> 00:02:19,760

I was in the front looking at it through binoculars.

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00:02:19,760 --> 00:02:21,760

Pretty scary.

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00:02:21,760 --> 00:02:25,760

The second one appears to be beyond the first from where I am.

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00:02:25,760 --> 00:02:30,760

This is probably the best witness that I've interviewed in 30 years.

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00:02:30,760 --> 00:02:37,760

If it was designed by an engineer, that man would like to shake him by the hand because it was a fantastic piece of equipment.

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00:02:42,760 --> 00:03:01,760

On April 23rd 2007, Captain Ray Bogier was making a routine passenger flight from the south coast to the Channel Islands.

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00:03:01,760 --> 00:03:07,760

He've flown the same route for almost 10 years.

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00:03:08,760 --> 00:03:13,760

We're loading the passengers normally, ordinary day, little wind, nice smooth conditions.

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00:03:13,760 --> 00:03:18,760

Very good visibility, you can see very well.

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00:03:18,760 --> 00:03:26,760

Normal day, into the cruise, 4000 feet, no problems.

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00:03:26,760 --> 00:03:31,760

The 80 mile journey to Alderney takes just 45 minutes.

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00:03:31,760 --> 00:03:38,760

From France, it's the most northerly of the Channel Islands.

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00:03:38,760 --> 00:03:43,760

Ray Bogier was expecting it to be a routine flight.

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00:03:43,760 --> 00:03:47,760

Just a little bit of paperwork, getting a good look out for other aircraft.

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00:03:47,760 --> 00:03:53,760

And that's when I saw the first signs of the sighting on that day.

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00:03:53,760 --> 00:03:57,760

It was about 10 miles south of the island.

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00:03:57,760 --> 00:04:02,760

Basically, what was a brilliant yellow lamp, brilliant yellow light ahead.

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00:04:09,760 --> 00:04:13,760

Sometimes these are reflections from the ground.

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00:04:13,760 --> 00:04:19,760

And in fact, I could see even from that distance that Guernsey was immediately behind that light.

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00:04:19,760 --> 00:04:26,760

So I presumed at the very first sight that it was a reflection of the sun on a greenhouse.

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00:04:26,760 --> 00:04:32,760

I looked at it for a moment, then expected it not to be there the next time I looked back at it.

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00:04:34,760 --> 00:04:40,760

This didn't go away, it wasn't a couple of moments, it was a minute and then a couple of minutes.

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00:04:42,760 --> 00:04:47,760

I thought, that's strange, that's very different to anything I've seen previously.

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00:04:47,760 --> 00:04:51,760

It wasn't a reflection, it was an emission of light.

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00:04:51,760 --> 00:04:56,760

And I thought, well, better have a look at this, and that's when I picked up my binoculars that I always carry.

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00:05:08,760 --> 00:05:12,760

It was a definite shape.

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00:05:12,760 --> 00:05:21,760

I pointed at each end about 15 to 1 ratio, brilliant yellow and a dark band about two thirds away along from left to right.

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00:05:23,760 --> 00:05:29,760

Don't forget, I'm looking at it through between 7 and 10 times magnification to normal eyesight.

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00:05:29,760 --> 00:05:36,760

I could see exactly very quickly and quite plainly that it was nothing like an airplane that I'd ever seen before.

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00:05:37,760 --> 00:05:46,760

I actually had to take my glasses off and lift them up just to make sure that there wasn't a reflection from behind or something like that.

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00:05:46,760 --> 00:05:49,760

Just to be sure that I was seeing what I was seeing.

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00:05:54,760 --> 00:05:59,760

By now the other passengers in the plane were aware that something unusual was going on.

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00:06:00,760 --> 00:06:07,760

He sort of looked over the nose of the aircraft and when he put the pilot does that you take notice.

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00:06:08,760 --> 00:06:12,760

Kate and John Russell fly regularly between their home and Alderney and the mainland.

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00:06:12,760 --> 00:06:16,760

I thought, okay, there's something unusual going on here.

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00:06:16,760 --> 00:06:20,760

Kate then drew my attention to what was going on.

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00:06:20,760 --> 00:06:24,760

Then he got out of binoculars and stared out through the windscreen at that.

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00:06:24,760 --> 00:06:26,760

It never happened before.

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00:06:29,760 --> 00:06:31,760

I didn't want them to get scared or frightened.

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00:06:31,760 --> 00:06:33,760

You know, it's run a professional outfit.

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00:06:33,760 --> 00:06:36,760

You don't want them to be worried about anything really.

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00:06:36,760 --> 00:06:39,760

However, I didn't want to turn back.

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00:06:41,760 --> 00:06:46,760

Ray Bowie's immediate thought was to radio air traffic control in Jersey.

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00:06:52,760 --> 00:06:55,760

The controller guiding the plane into Alderney was Paul Kelly.

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00:06:55,760 --> 00:06:59,760

On that flight there's very little to communicate to Ray.

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00:06:59,760 --> 00:07:04,760

It's not normal for someone to suddenly start up a conversation on the RT.

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00:07:05,760 --> 00:07:09,760

This is the actual air traffic control recording of the flight.

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00:07:10,760 --> 00:07:13,760

Roger, I've got a very bright object.

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00:07:13,760 --> 00:07:16,760

Can you see how far it's really bright?

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00:07:16,760 --> 00:07:24,760

Do you have any traffic, obviously, how far, at my 12 o'clock level?

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00:07:24,760 --> 00:07:26,760

He was reasonably calm.

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00:07:26,760 --> 00:07:32,760

Albeit I could detect he was a bit uncertain about something.

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00:07:32,760 --> 00:07:36,760

I've no known traffic at all in your 12 o'clock.

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00:07:37,760 --> 00:07:40,760

Whilst air traffic control were trying to locate the sighting,

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00:07:40,760 --> 00:07:44,760

Ray Bowie was more concerned with avoiding a potential collision.

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00:07:44,760 --> 00:07:48,760

By now he'd been heading towards what he believed was a solid object for almost four minutes.

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00:07:48,760 --> 00:07:53,760

My emotions at that time was simply, what is it?

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00:07:53,760 --> 00:07:57,760

Is it coming towards me or us in the airplane?

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00:07:57,760 --> 00:07:59,760

What's it up to?

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00:08:07,760 --> 00:08:12,760

In April 2007, Captain Ray Bowie was 4,000 feet above the English Channel,

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00:08:12,760 --> 00:08:15,760

flying towards the island of Alderney,

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00:08:15,760 --> 00:08:19,760

when he spotted a strange light in the sky directly ahead of him.

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00:08:22,760 --> 00:08:25,760

I thought, well, was it coming towards us?

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00:08:25,760 --> 00:08:27,760

What speeds it doing?

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00:08:27,760 --> 00:08:30,760

Is it going to be in our way in a few moments?

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00:08:30,760 --> 00:08:33,760

He immediately spoke to air traffic controller Paul Kelly.

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00:08:33,760 --> 00:08:36,760

I've got a very bright object.

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00:08:36,760 --> 00:08:40,760

Well, so it doesn't say how far, it's really bright.

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00:08:40,760 --> 00:08:45,760

Looking, well, like a cigar.

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00:08:45,760 --> 00:08:49,760

It's a classic cliché, a cigar shaped object in the sky.

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00:08:49,760 --> 00:08:52,760

It's what you hear about in reports over the years.

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00:08:52,760 --> 00:08:54,760

So, it immediately was very out of the ordinary.

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00:08:54,760 --> 00:08:56,760

He seemed very sure.

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00:08:57,760 --> 00:09:02,760

I was looking for something on my radar that fitted the bill.

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00:09:02,760 --> 00:09:05,760

That may or may not be an object.

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00:09:05,760 --> 00:09:10,760

It was now 10 minutes since Ray Bowie had first noticed the object.

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00:09:10,760 --> 00:09:15,760

Neither he nor air traffic control had any idea what it could be.

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00:09:15,760 --> 00:09:20,760

I think I was more concerned initially about any conflict.

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00:09:20,760 --> 00:09:22,760

Was it an airplane?

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00:09:22,760 --> 00:09:25,760

Even with 20 years of flying experience to his name,

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00:09:25,760 --> 00:09:29,760

Ray Bowie wasn't sure he could believe what he was seeing.

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00:09:29,760 --> 00:09:33,760

For a second opinion, he turned to the passenger sitting behind him.

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00:09:33,760 --> 00:09:36,760

I suggested to him, would you like to have a look and see what you can see?

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00:09:36,760 --> 00:09:38,760

And straight away he said, yeah, I can see this.

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00:09:38,760 --> 00:09:42,760

And about that time he said, there's another one.

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00:09:43,760 --> 00:09:50,760

Sure enough, almost directly beyond that one was a very similar looking object.

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00:09:51,760 --> 00:10:00,760

People are further down the fuselage were looking out to see what we were looking at.

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00:10:01,760 --> 00:10:06,760

I sort of went forward to look around at the people in front

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00:10:06,760 --> 00:10:10,760

and saw an orange, lozenge shaped light.

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00:10:11,760 --> 00:10:15,760

It was at that point when he had tipped the nose of the plane down

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00:10:15,760 --> 00:10:18,760

that I noticed two very, very bright lights.

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00:10:18,760 --> 00:10:24,760

I didn't see any outline to the shape because the light was so bright.

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00:10:24,760 --> 00:10:28,760

You know, if you look at a headlight at night, you don't see the edges of the light.

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00:10:28,760 --> 00:10:33,760

You just see the center of the light and then a diffused glow.

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00:10:33,760 --> 00:10:36,760

The second one appears to be beyond the first from where I am.

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00:10:36,760 --> 00:10:38,760

It's exactly the same. It's got a gap.

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00:10:38,760 --> 00:10:44,760

It's a cylindrical object, very bright yellow, and there's a gap in the light.

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00:10:44,760 --> 00:10:46,760

About two thirds of the way along it.

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00:10:47,760 --> 00:10:52,760

I gave the air traffic controller that it was probably the size of a Boeing 737

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00:10:52,760 --> 00:10:55,760

thinking that it was about five or ten miles away.

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00:10:55,760 --> 00:11:00,760

But it would have appeared that from first sighting it was about 55 miles away.

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00:11:00,760 --> 00:11:04,760

So that must have given it a massive size, really.

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00:11:04,760 --> 00:11:06,760

Very, very large indeed.

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00:11:06,760 --> 00:11:12,760

And with that possibility of it being up to perhaps a mile across

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00:11:12,760 --> 00:11:18,760

you've got to worry for the safety of an airplane, which is the size of a postage stamp in comparison.

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00:11:23,760 --> 00:11:27,760

Despite what Ray Beare and his passengers said they were seeing,

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00:11:27,760 --> 00:11:32,760

air traffic controller Paul Kelly could see no evidence of anything in the air.

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00:11:32,760 --> 00:11:40,760

8544 negative, nothing at all in your travel clock for the next 40 miles or so.

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00:11:40,760 --> 00:11:44,760

There was nothing I could determine on the radar that was unusual.

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00:11:46,760 --> 00:11:51,760

Air traffic initially were fairly dismissive, but of course my sightings were dead ahead.

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00:11:51,760 --> 00:11:53,760

There's definitely something there.

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00:11:54,760 --> 00:11:58,760

The objects he was describing were very bright, quite large.

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00:11:58,760 --> 00:12:05,760

You'd think very obvious, so you would think that other pilots, perhaps in the area, would be able to see the objects.

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00:12:05,760 --> 00:12:12,760

Although Paul Kelly could see nothing on his radar, Ray Beure was still convinced that what he was seeing was a solid object.

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00:12:23,760 --> 00:12:29,760

Kelly radioed the other aircraft under his control, asking if anyone could see the unidentified object.

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00:12:36,760 --> 00:12:44,760

The moment when another pilot said he could see something in the vicinity of Alderney, it really did make it much more interesting.

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00:12:46,760 --> 00:12:49,760

A call came in from a pilot corroborating the sighting.

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00:12:49,760 --> 00:12:53,760

The objects had now been in sight for nearly 12 minutes.

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00:12:53,760 --> 00:12:57,760

Ray Beure was concerned about getting his passengers onto the ground safely.

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00:12:59,760 --> 00:13:02,760

Align 544, would you like to send?

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00:13:02,760 --> 00:13:04,760

Please, I better go down on him.

141

00:13:05,760 --> 00:13:10,760

It was getting to that point where I was pleased to descend and get on the ground.

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00:13:12,760 --> 00:13:19,760

Despite the mysterious encounter, flight GR554 landed on time and on schedule at Alderney Airport.

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00:13:22,760 --> 00:13:32,760

When we landed, Ray turned around and said that he had seen something extraordinary, something he hadn't seen in his 20 years or so of flying.

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00:13:32,760 --> 00:13:37,760

And he was quite obviously disturbed by the experience.

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00:13:38,760 --> 00:13:45,760

The girl there who works as a crewing, Lucia, she said, you look like you've seen a ghost, you look pale.

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00:13:45,760 --> 00:13:48,760

I said, well, I'm not sure if it's a ghost or not, but it was certainly something old.

147

00:13:55,760 --> 00:14:00,760

At Jersey Air Traffic Control, Paul Kelly followed the standard procedures for reporting the

incident.

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00:14:01,760 --> 00:14:08,760

I had taken down notes as I was going along and a sketch drawing as Ray had described it.

149

00:14:08,760 --> 00:14:13,760

And I asked him to fax me his sheet from his flight.

150

00:14:14,760 --> 00:14:22,760

In the back of the manual air traffic services, there's a section tucked away on reporting unidentified flying objects.

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00:14:23,760 --> 00:14:29,760

It's all quite strange. You phone up the phone number, which is the MOD, and you get an answer machine.

152

00:14:38,760 --> 00:14:43,760

Paul Kelly faxed his report to the MOD and awaited developments.

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00:14:44,760 --> 00:14:50,760

In the days following the incident, word spread quickly through the Channel Islands.

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00:14:51,760 --> 00:14:56,760

Local Guernsey journalist Joel DeWolfsen first heard the story from a contact in Alderney.

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00:14:56,760 --> 00:14:59,760

He followed his lead and got in touch with Ray Bowyer.

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00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:06,760

I got the feeling that Ray was worried initially about it being, you know, all we need pilots,

157

00:15:07,760 --> 00:15:12,760

his little green aliens are coming to visit Guernsey and damage his reputation because of it.

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00:15:13,760 --> 00:15:16,760

But the headlines took both Ray Bowyer and the sightings seriously.

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00:15:17,760 --> 00:15:20,760

Ray is a very honest, straight down the line kind of guy.

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00:15:21,760 --> 00:15:26,760

The MOD were investigating it, so it added weight to the story straight away.

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00:15:27,760 --> 00:15:30,760

The story was soon taken up by the national media.

162

00:15:37,760 --> 00:15:44,760

If you had to take an instinctive guess, would you say that it was something of this planet or something from outer space?

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00:15:45,760 --> 00:15:50,760

I have been asked a question by the press and my simple answer was I don't think it's from around here.

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00:15:51,760 --> 00:15:56,760

This looks like a CD-Disc on edge, if you like, but very sharp and extremely well defined.

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00:15:57,760 --> 00:15:59,760

Thank you very much for coming and describing it to us. That's fascinating. Thank you.

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00:16:00,760 --> 00:16:06,760

The circumstances surrounding the case caught the attention of UFO investigator Dr David Clark.

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00:16:08,760 --> 00:16:13,760

In the last 20 years he's studied over 500 UFO cases from the British Isles.

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00:16:15,760 --> 00:16:21,760

It stood out from the usual reports that are received on a weekly basis of people seeing lights in the sky.

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00:16:22,760 --> 00:16:28,760

It's not very often that UFOs make the news, but in this particular case, you know, the news media realised that there was something unusual about this.

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00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:32,760

David Clark was keen to investigate the incident.

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00:16:33,760 --> 00:16:38,760

There was hundreds of invites to say, can we investigate your case and we'd like to have a look at this, can we?

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00:16:39,760 --> 00:16:48,760

And I waited and waited and until the right team came along really, and I didn't really want a team of believers because they are only trying to prove the point.

173

00:16:49,760 --> 00:16:50,760

I wanted a team of skeptics.

174

00:16:51,760 --> 00:16:55,760

He's a good witness, he's probably the best witness that I've interviewed in 30 years.

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00:16:55,760 --> 00:17:04,760

There's very little speculation, he's never added further details to his description, he's been very, very consistent in what is described.

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00:17:05,760 --> 00:17:11,760

Putting UFOs aside, David Clark and his team considered a number of other possible explanations for the sighting.

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00:17:12,760 --> 00:17:19,760

The UFO phenomena includes lots and lots of different unconnected things, you know, natural phenomena, inexplicable phenomena.

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00:17:19,760 --> 00:17:24,760

There's no definitive connection between any of them other than the fact that they're all things that are seen in the sky.

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00:17:25,760 --> 00:17:29,760

So there is no one UFO phenomenon, there are lots of UFO phenomena.

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00:17:30,760 --> 00:17:38,760

One of the more straightforward explanations for supposed UFO sightings is the weather and the effect of unusual atmospheric conditions.

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00:17:40,760 --> 00:17:45,760

One of the leading experts in the field is Dr. Grant Allen of Manchester University.

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00:17:45,760 --> 00:17:50,760

The atmosphere can play all sorts of tricks with light, especially light from the sun.

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00:17:51,760 --> 00:17:58,760

Anybody that's ever come into land over an airport might have noticed below them rainbows, dances of light on the tops of the clouds, shadows.

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00:17:59,760 --> 00:18:06,760

I think because they were described as sunlight yellow, that gives the game away, that it's some sort of reflection of sunlight.

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00:18:07,760 --> 00:18:12,760

Dr. Allen created a computer model of the prevailing weather conditions over the Channel Islands at the time of the incident.

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00:18:16,760 --> 00:18:29,760

His model indicated an unusual meteorological anomaly, a temperature inversion, where bands of hot and cold air switch places to create an effect which causes the sun to appear as a narrow band of light.

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00:18:31,760 --> 00:18:42,760

Even for Captain Boeho who might have had years of experience and many flight hours, the range of atmospheric conditions could be such that he just wouldn't have recognized this optical phenomena in this case.

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00:18:43,760 --> 00:18:56,760

I'm sure some other sightings are likely meteorological phenomena, but as I was actually seeing something which was tangible and physical, and not a reflected light, not some sort of atmospheric effect.

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00:18:57,760 --> 00:19:03,760

If what Ray Boeho saw over the English Channel wasn't a natural phenomenon, then what was it?

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00:19:12,760 --> 00:19:22,760

Pilot Troy Querypell knows the skies over the Channel Islands well. With 15 years experience of flying in the region, he has his own theory as to the cause of the mysterious lights.

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00:19:23,760 --> 00:19:29,760

After overhearing the conversations with air traffic control, he met Ray Boeho when he returned to Southampton.

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00:19:30,760 --> 00:19:41,760

Ray convinced me that what he'd seen was real. It was hardware, it wasn't weather phenomenon. He'd never seen anything like it before.

193

00:19:43,760 --> 00:19:55,760

My theory was that it could be military activity. About 15 miles to the west of Guernsey, there's military controlled danger zones.

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00:19:56,760 --> 00:20:02,760

These zones are restricted airspace and can only be entered with the express permission of the Ministry of Defence.

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00:20:06,760 --> 00:20:10,760

Nick Pope worked on the MOD's UFO desk for three years.

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00:20:11,760 --> 00:20:25,760

The UK Air Defence region, which goes out in some cases for hundreds of miles into the seas surrounding Britain, contains a number of areas where military exercises take place.

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00:20:27,760 --> 00:20:37,760

You'll also, in some of these areas, see more exotic things going on in terms of the testing of prototype aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles.

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00:20:37,760 --> 00:20:46,760

There are things flying around, maybe not operational, but certainly in prototype stage that you won't see for 10 or even 15 years.

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00:20:47,760 --> 00:20:59,760

A very good example is the stealth fighter. This was publicly declared in 1988 during the Panama campaign to House General Noriega.

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00:20:59,760 --> 00:21:12,760

Now it's a matter of record now that of course the stealth fighter had been operational and before that had been flying in prototype since for many, many years, probably even back in the 70s.

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00:21:16,760 --> 00:21:20,760

Could a military test aircraft have been responsible for Ray Boeier's sighting?

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00:21:21,760 --> 00:21:28,760

As part of his investigation, David Clark followed up all the leads that might explain the ordinary sighting.

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00:21:29,760 --> 00:21:33,760

He contacted the Ministry of Defence and obtained a copy of their report on the case.

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00:21:39,760 --> 00:21:43,760

In this particular case we were able to eliminate military activity pretty early on.

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00:21:44,760 --> 00:21:48,760

The Ministry of Defence said on the record that there were no military exercises taking place.

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00:21:48,760 --> 00:21:53,760

For Ray Boeier it confirmed his own theory as to what he'd seen.

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00:22:18,760 --> 00:22:20,760

It was an omission of light.

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00:22:25,760 --> 00:22:29,760

As it transpired the sighting of Alderney was not an isolated incident.

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00:22:32,760 --> 00:22:37,760

Builder Paul Godian claimed to have witnessed a similar phenomenon on the island seven weeks earlier.

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00:22:39,760 --> 00:22:47,760

I thought, wow, this is within a fairly short space of time. Somebody else has actually seen something up there.

211

00:22:49,760 --> 00:22:53,760

It just seemed all too real. Very real.

212

00:22:58,760 --> 00:23:02,760

Paul Godian was alone on the northern tip of the island just before dawn.

213

00:23:05,760 --> 00:23:10,760

I like the walk in the morning. It's a nice part of the island and I do that every day.

214

00:23:11,760 --> 00:23:16,760

I saw two lights start to appear under the cloud base just directly ahead of me.

215

00:23:17,760 --> 00:23:22,760

I presumed they were coming towards me. They were sort of bobbing in and out of the cloud base at what I'd presumed to be about three or four hundred feet.

216

00:23:24,760 --> 00:23:29,760

This seems strange as the only aircraft at about half six in the morning would be the paper plane.

217

00:23:30,760 --> 00:23:34,760

I thought, well, I'm going to have to go to the airport and get my plane.

218

00:23:34,760 --> 00:23:41,760

This seems strange as the only aircraft at about half six in the morning would be the paper plane going over to Guernsey.

219

00:23:42,760 --> 00:23:47,760

And at that height in misty weather it just didn't seem as if it would be feasible for it to do so.

220

00:23:48,760 --> 00:23:51,760

But the set of lights did something completely unexpected.

221

00:23:52,760 --> 00:23:57,760

The one on the left darted at a really high speed towards the left, the west.

222

00:23:57,760 --> 00:24:06,760

I panned around to follow the line of sight and all of a sudden between myself and the two forts appeared,

223

00:24:07,760 --> 00:24:12,760

twenty, twenty-five maybe, lights of the same size, bright white lights.

224

00:24:14,760 --> 00:24:24,760

In a sort of broken arrowhead shape, broken dart shape, they were moving horizontally along the skyline below the cloud base south towards Guernsey.

225

00:24:25,760 --> 00:24:30,760

And there was no noise, absolutely no noise from any of it at all.

226

00:24:31,760 --> 00:24:34,760

I didn't know what to think, I really didn't know what to think.

227

00:24:35,760 --> 00:24:38,760

I just thought that is really strange.

228

00:24:39,760 --> 00:24:43,760

After two seemingly inexplicable sightings in less than two months,

229

00:24:44,760 --> 00:24:47,760

was there something about the island of Alderney itself that could provide the answer?

230

00:24:55,760 --> 00:25:06,760

On April the 23rd 2007, two bright lights were reported in the sky above the Channel Island of Alderney.

231

00:25:07,760 --> 00:25:11,760

They were witnessed by airline pilot Ray Boeyer and his passengers.

232

00:25:14,760 --> 00:25:21,760

I thought, what is it? Is it coming towards me or us on the airplane? What's it up to?

233

00:25:22,760 --> 00:25:28,760

Just seven weeks earlier, Paul Godion also claimed to have seen strange lights floating above the island.

234

00:25:29,760 --> 00:25:33,760

It just seemed all too real, very real.

235

00:25:35,760 --> 00:25:40,760

If these sightings did have a rational explanation, one theory was that they were earth lights.

236

00:25:41,760 --> 00:25:48,760

A natural phenomenon caused by movement of the earth's tectonic plates, earth lights are often seen in the sky before an earthquake.

237

00:25:49,760 --> 00:25:52,760

Geologists Professor Peter Salmond has studied them in detail.

238

00:25:53,760 --> 00:26:02,760

Earth lights can have many forms and certainly seeing a pair of lights looking like a low-lying aircraft who easily have been earth lights.

239

00:26:03,760 --> 00:26:08,760

They hover close to the ground and bathe the air in this sort of mysterious sort of glow.

240

00:26:11,760 --> 00:26:16,760

The island of Alderney does lie on the geological fault line known as the Alderney-Ushand Fault.

241

00:26:16,760 --> 00:26:20,760

Could this have been the cause of the mysterious lights in the sky?

242

00:26:23,760 --> 00:26:29,760

Four days after Ray Boeyer's sighting, seemingly compelling evidence for this theory presented itself.

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00:26:36,760 --> 00:26:41,760

The Kent coastline suffered the largest earthquake in the region for 50 years.

244

00:26:46,760 --> 00:26:51,760

During the build-up to the earthquake, the tremors would have been large enough to reach the Alderney fault lines,

245

00:26:52,760 --> 00:26:55,760

with a force sufficient to create the lights in the sky.

246

00:27:00,760 --> 00:27:05,760

But one thing makes the theory unlikely to explain the events of April the 23rd.

247

00:27:06,760 --> 00:27:11,760

We wouldn't expect to see earth lights with a large body of water present.

248

00:27:12,760 --> 00:27:19,760

Our understanding is you need to have a discharge from the earth through an earthquake fault into the atmosphere.

249

00:27:25,760 --> 00:27:31,760

Whatever the explanation, Ray Boeyer isn't the only airline pilot to have witnessed strange lights in the sky.

250

00:27:33,760 --> 00:27:38,760

Since World War II, there have been thousands of sightings of unidentified flying objects recorded by pilots.

251

00:27:39,760 --> 00:27:46,760

Some of the crew and passengers of a BOAC Stratocruiser reported seeing mysterious objects in the sky over the Atlantic.

252

00:27:47,760 --> 00:27:54,760

In 1954, Captain James Howard, on a flight from New York to London, claimed to have seen something resembling a flying saucer.

253

00:28:09,760 --> 00:28:11,760

These shapes appear like this.

254

00:28:12,760 --> 00:28:19,760

And I think there's no question that it was no illusion and that it was being intelligently handled.

255

00:28:22,760 --> 00:28:28,760

UFO historian Tim Goode has compiled hundreds of declassified eyewitness accounts from pilots.

256

00:28:29,760 --> 00:28:36,760

In the United Kingdom, sightings tended to increase from about 1950 onwards, I would say.

257

00:28:37,760 --> 00:28:41,760

And there were many reports from pilots beginning around that period.

258

00:28:42,760 --> 00:28:45,760

I would say it peaked in 1952.

259

00:28:46,760 --> 00:28:53,760

And Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Britain at the time, demanded of his air staff what the hell was going on.

260

00:28:53,760 --> 00:28:57,760

He said, what's all this stuff about flying saucer's amount? What's the truth?

261

00:28:58,760 --> 00:29:03,760

And in a few weeks, they came back to him and said, Prime Minister, don't worry, it's all been dealt with.

262

00:29:04,760 --> 00:29:07,760

We've been in touch with our American counterparts in intelligence.

263

00:29:08,760 --> 00:29:12,760

And all the unexplained sightings have been explained and there's nothing to it at all.

264

00:29:13,760 --> 00:29:18,760

The response of Churchill's air staff was designed to end investigations into UFOs.

265

00:29:19,760 --> 00:29:24,760

But despite official denial that such objects existed, sightings by pilots continued.

266

00:29:25,760 --> 00:29:32,760

In October 1954, Flight Lieutenant James Salondin was flying a Gloucester meteor out of RAF Northwold in Essex.

267

00:29:39,760 --> 00:29:42,760

I was flying at about 16,000 feet at the time.

268

00:29:42,760 --> 00:29:46,760

And suddenly I saw three, what I thought were aeroplanes, come down.

269

00:29:47,760 --> 00:29:53,760

And when they were, it must have been about 800 to 900 yards away, the first two peeled off to the left.

270

00:29:57,760 --> 00:30:03,760

A gold spherical object and a silver one with buns on top and bun below.

271

00:30:04,760 --> 00:30:06,760

No flames, no portals, no nothing.

272

00:30:06,760 --> 00:30:12,760

I have never seen any aircraft produced by anybody in the world that looked anything like these things.

273

00:30:15,760 --> 00:30:18,760

Whatever Salondin saw, the objects then moved closer.

274

00:30:19,760 --> 00:30:22,760

And then the third one was coming straight towards me.

275

00:30:23,760 --> 00:30:28,760

I suppose he'd probably be about 300 to 400 yards away, so it's quite a clear picture.

276

00:30:29,760 --> 00:30:30,760

Couldn't have been anything else.

277

00:30:30,760 --> 00:30:35,760

And when he got to that distance, he went off to follow his two buddies.

278

00:30:37,760 --> 00:30:41,760

I tried to follow after the third one, but it was impossible.

279

00:30:42,760 --> 00:30:48,760

The thing was so quick, the closing speed between us was about 900 to 1000 miles an hour.

280

00:30:50,760 --> 00:30:52,760

I shall remember it to my dying day.

281

00:30:53,760 --> 00:30:57,760

What they were, I don't know, where they came from, I don't know.

282

00:30:57,760 --> 00:31:01,760

But I definitely saw them. I was at an experienced pilot at the time.

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00:31:03,760 --> 00:31:08,760

Experienced pilots have been seeing objects in the sky for over 50 years.

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00:31:09,760 --> 00:31:13,760

But could the explanation for their sightings be more psychological than physical?

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00:31:15,760 --> 00:31:17,760

Professor Richard Wiseman has studied the phenomenon.

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00:31:19,760 --> 00:31:23,760

If you are up there in the sky and you're travelling very very far,

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00:31:23,760 --> 00:31:27,760

and you see something in the distance, well you have to make a snap decision about it.

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00:31:29,760 --> 00:31:34,760

You've got to size it, its size, the direction it's travelling, exactly what it is and so on.

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00:31:35,760 --> 00:31:37,760

And that has to be done in the blink of an eye.

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00:31:39,760 --> 00:31:43,760

If they do see something anomalous, they've got no kind of category to put that into.

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00:31:43,760 --> 00:31:46,760

They're trying to work out what it is they're actually perceiving there.

292

00:31:47,760 --> 00:31:49,760

I think they're sincere in their testimony.

293

00:31:49,760 --> 00:31:53,760

I think they're trying to tell us best they can what they think they saw.

294

00:31:53,760 --> 00:31:55,760

The question is one of accuracy, not of honesty.

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00:31:57,760 --> 00:32:01,760

But what have Ray Beure's experience above Alderney in April 2007?

296

00:32:05,760 --> 00:32:08,760

The lights he saw in front of his plane for a period of time,

297

00:32:08,760 --> 00:32:11,760

and the light he saw in front of his plane for a period of time,

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00:32:12,760 --> 00:32:16,760

the lights he saw in front of his plane for a period of some 12 minutes

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00:32:16,760 --> 00:32:19,760

were also witnessed by several of his passengers.

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00:32:21,760 --> 00:32:23,760

He probably saw it for something like quarter an hour.

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00:32:23,760 --> 00:32:25,760

We probably saw it for a matter of minutes.

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00:32:25,760 --> 00:32:27,760

The size was almost impossible to say.

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00:32:27,760 --> 00:32:29,760

It wasn't a clearly defined edge to it.

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00:32:29,760 --> 00:32:33,760

So you have no real idea as to where the centre core is and how much you're actually seeing.

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00:32:35,760 --> 00:32:40,760

When UFO investigator David Clark examined air traffic control recordings of the flight,

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00:32:40,760 --> 00:32:44,760

he found a reference to an object which could be seen clearly on the radar.

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00:32:56,760 --> 00:32:59,760

Could this object have been what was seen from the cockpit of the plane?

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00:32:59,760 --> 00:33:03,760

You can hear the inflections in Ray's voice when he's speaking to the controller

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00:33:03,760 --> 00:33:06,760

that he's seen something really, really unusual.

310

00:33:06,760 --> 00:33:08,760

You know, there's no hoax here.

311

00:33:10,760 --> 00:33:12,760

Possibly over maybe to the west of Alderney.

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00:33:12,760 --> 00:33:13,760

Roger.

313

00:33:13,760 --> 00:33:19,760

I do have a primary contact, just one blob if you like,

314

00:33:19,760 --> 00:33:23,760

eight miles or so to the west of Alderney.

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00:33:23,760 --> 00:33:27,760

We were initially intrigued about this suggestion that something had been seen on radar

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00:33:27,760 --> 00:33:34,760

because in the initial conversation between Paul Kelly, the air traffic controller and Ray,

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00:33:34,760 --> 00:33:37,760

he does mention at one point that he could see something on radar,

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00:33:37,760 --> 00:33:39,760

but he thought it was an anaprop.

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00:33:39,760 --> 00:33:43,760

Anaprop is something normally ignored by air traffic controllers.

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00:33:43,760 --> 00:33:49,760

It's caused by radar signals bouncing off solid objects such as flocks of birds or even large waves.

321

00:33:53,760 --> 00:33:58,760

David Clark was convinced that there might be something in the fleeting anaprop image

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00:33:58,760 --> 00:34:00,760

if only it could be seen clearly.

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00:34:01,760 --> 00:34:06,760

The radar information he had to examine was filled with the traces of the 600 flights a day

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00:34:06,760 --> 00:34:08,760

that travel in and out of the Channel Islands.

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00:34:10,760 --> 00:34:15,760

If you look at the raw radar data, what you see is a screen that's absolutely filled

326

00:34:15,760 --> 00:34:18,760

with moving dots and colours and shapes.

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00:34:18,760 --> 00:34:22,760

And you know, you really have to know what you're looking at in order to be able to determine

328

00:34:22,760 --> 00:34:24,760

whether there is something on there of significance.

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00:34:26,760 --> 00:34:31,760

Jersey Air Traffic Control Engineering Department began the job of examining the radar recordings

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00:34:31,760 --> 00:34:35,760

to see if they could find any clues to what lay underneath.

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00:34:36,760 --> 00:34:42,760

For once, it seemed here was the opportunity that we may be able to get something definitively solid

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00:34:42,760 --> 00:34:46,760

in terms of a radar trace of something that had been reported visually.

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00:34:46,760 --> 00:34:52,760

And that really, science would have to sit up and take notice if we had some kind of evidence of that kind.

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00:34:52,760 --> 00:34:57,760

David Clark now had concrete radar evidence with which to analyse whether the alternate incident

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00:34:57,760 --> 00:35:00,760

was really as mysterious as it appeared.

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00:35:01,760 --> 00:35:07,760

But not all sightings of UFOs are as well documented.

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00:35:07,760 --> 00:35:10,760

Some cases are still shrouded in official secrecy.

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00:35:15,760 --> 00:35:21,760

On April the 21st, 1971, Wing Commander Alan Turner was supervising air traffic controller

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00:35:21,760 --> 00:35:23,760

at RAF Sockley in Hampshire.

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00:35:24,760 --> 00:35:28,760

He's never spoken publicly about his experience before.

341

00:35:32,760 --> 00:35:36,760

I was sitting at the desk just tulling the thumbs.

342

00:35:36,760 --> 00:35:40,760

All of a sudden the coordinator said, what is that?

343

00:35:40,760 --> 00:35:47,760

To the east of Sockley Plain were, at that point, two radar returns were called blips.

344

00:35:48,760 --> 00:35:51,760

They were travelling in a south-easterly direction.

345

00:35:51,760 --> 00:35:58,760

And a third appeared, a fourth appeared, a fifth, the sixth appeared, all from the same spot.

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00:35:58,760 --> 00:36:04,760

Very, very unusual indeed. What is this? It doesn't obey any of the known rules.

347

00:36:05,760 --> 00:36:10,760

Turner examined the blips on his screen and concluded that the only thing that could have been moving at that speed

348

00:36:10,760 --> 00:36:14,760

was the most advanced fighter of the day, the lightning.

349

00:36:14,760 --> 00:36:18,760

But the sheer number of aircraft indicated was simply unbelievable.

350

00:36:18,760 --> 00:36:23,760

It was so unusual, people just looked at it and said, what is going on?

351

00:36:23,760 --> 00:36:25,760

We're talking 35 aircraft.

352

00:36:25,760 --> 00:36:31,760

No air defence commander of his right mind would get the entire lightning force at one location.

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00:36:31,760 --> 00:36:36,760

He'd have absolutely nothing left with which to defend the United Kingdom air defence region.

354

00:36:36,760 --> 00:36:38,760

You could cut the air with a knife.

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00:36:38,760 --> 00:36:45,760

It became electric rapidly. People were more than surprised.

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00:36:46,760 --> 00:36:50,760

Alan Turner decided to dispatch an RAF bomber to investigate.

357

00:36:51,760 --> 00:36:53,760

I kept asking the pilot, are you visual?

358

00:36:56,760 --> 00:36:59,760

And then he said, the voice sounded quite jittery.

359

00:36:59,760 --> 00:37:01,760

I don't know what that was.

360

00:37:01,760 --> 00:37:04,760

It was a quarter of a mile away, climbing like the clappers.

361

00:37:04,760 --> 00:37:07,760

And I saw it, we saw it on radar.

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00:37:07,760 --> 00:37:09,760

We did not see it visually.

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00:37:10,760 --> 00:37:14,760

And the radar within the plane was not the only one that picked up this event.

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00:37:14,760 --> 00:37:20,760

There were seven technically different radars, all seeing exactly the same thing.

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00:37:20,760 --> 00:37:26,760

Two radars at Southern radar, two radars at Heathrow, two at the fighter control establishment

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00:37:26,760 --> 00:37:29,760

and the airborne one with the counter bomber.

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00:37:30,760 --> 00:37:35,760

Alan Turner gathered together all the physical evidence that was being recorded during the incident.

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00:37:37,760 --> 00:37:43,760

There are two types of tape. One is the videotape taken from the radar and the other is the voice tape.

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00:37:44,760 --> 00:37:46,760

And that is air to ground, ground to air.

370

00:37:47,760 --> 00:37:53,760

That is all landlines and all the conversations between the controllers at each other.

371

00:37:53,760 --> 00:37:56,760

I have absolutely no idea where it is or even if it still exists.

372

00:37:56,760 --> 00:37:58,760

All I do know is that it did exist.

373

00:37:59,760 --> 00:38:05,760

I am absolutely certain that there was some very strange phenomenon on radar

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00:38:05,760 --> 00:38:08,760

which no one has yet come up with any rational explanation for.

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00:38:18,760 --> 00:38:24,760

Over 30 years later, the evidence of Alan Turner's encounter has still to be released into the public domain.

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00:38:26,760 --> 00:38:31,760

I think the policy behind this was they were baffled, they didn't know what these UFOs were

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00:38:31,760 --> 00:38:36,760

and they didn't want that fact emerging in public that they couldn't explain what was going on.

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00:38:39,760 --> 00:38:44,760

Whilst evidence of military UFO encounters is rarely available for public scrutiny,

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00:38:44,760 --> 00:38:47,760

Ray Boeier's sighting over Alderney was different.

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00:38:48,760 --> 00:38:53,760

Engineers at Jersey Air Traffic Control had access to their original radar records.

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00:38:54,760 --> 00:39:00,760

They isolated the 12 minute period in which Ray Boeier claimed to have seen objects in the sky in front of him.

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00:39:00,760 --> 00:39:04,760

Then stripped away the tracks produced by identifiable aircraft.

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00:39:04,760 --> 00:39:07,760

Two distinct traces emerged from the data.

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00:39:07,760 --> 00:39:14,760

What they revealed were the tracks of two unidentified objects, one heading north and one south.

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00:39:15,760 --> 00:39:21,760

It looks to me like very likely that the positions of the objects that I saw

386

00:39:21,760 --> 00:39:25,760

were in the right place for the radar returns that I have received.

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00:39:25,760 --> 00:39:32,760

Were these traces really proof that two UFOs had been witnessed flying in the skies over Alderney?

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00:39:43,760 --> 00:39:49,760

In April 2007, Pilot Ray Boeier witnessed two unidentified objects over the Channel Islands.

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00:39:50,760 --> 00:39:58,760

It was a definite shape pointed at each end, about 15 to 1 ratio.

390

00:39:58,760 --> 00:40:04,760

Brilliant yellow and a dark band about two thirds away along from left to right.

391

00:40:10,760 --> 00:40:14,760

UFO investigator David Clark studied the available documentary Evans.

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00:40:14,760 --> 00:40:21,760

Paying particular attention to the data provided by Air Traffic Control.

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00:40:24,760 --> 00:40:29,760

You really have to know what you're looking at in order to be able to determine whether there is something on there of significance.

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00:40:29,760 --> 00:40:35,760

And a lot of the returns on that screen can be eliminated.

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00:40:36,760 --> 00:40:42,760

When engineers stripped away identifiable air traffic, radar revealed two slow-moving objects

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00:40:42,760 --> 00:40:47,760

which seemed to fit the piles of the mysterious lights seen by Ray Boeier.

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00:40:50,760 --> 00:40:56,760

Now Ray, when he saw those returns, initially made a connection that possibly that was the UFO he'd seen.

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00:40:56,760 --> 00:40:59,760

They would appear to be in exactly the right position at the right time.

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00:41:00,760 --> 00:41:06,760

They both appeared for about 55 minutes at one point, travelled in different directions away from each other

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00:41:06,760 --> 00:41:11,760

and then both appeared to disappear after 55 minutes.

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00:41:12,760 --> 00:41:15,760

But David Clark was not convinced.

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00:41:15,760 --> 00:41:20,760

He felt the traces could have been caused by radar bouncing off objects on the sea below.

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00:41:20,760 --> 00:41:24,760

So he studied the schedules for the passenger ferries that moved between the islands.

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00:41:24,760 --> 00:41:30,760

We know from reconstructing the route taken by the ferry that it would have been in that general area

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00:41:30,760 --> 00:41:33,760

at precisely that time or certainly around that time.

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00:41:33,760 --> 00:41:38,760

So I think it's far more likely that one of those prominent tracks is a ferry.

407

00:41:39,760 --> 00:41:46,760

With a seemingly rational explanation for at least one of the radar images, this line of inquiry was closed.

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00:41:47,760 --> 00:41:55,760

There was now no physical evidence to back up the sightings of Ray Boeier and his passengers in April 2007.

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00:41:56,760 --> 00:42:03,760

The final report by Dr David Clark and his investigation team could reach no definitive conclusion

410

00:42:03,760 --> 00:42:07,760

as to the real explanation for what appeared in the sky over Alderney.

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00:42:08,760 --> 00:42:15,760

I think it's much more accurate to describe what he saw as a UAP, an unidentified aerial phenomena.

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00:42:15,760 --> 00:42:21,760

Some kind of natural phenomena that's yet to be identified and categorized by scientists.

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00:42:23,760 --> 00:42:31,760

Whatever caused the lights over Alderney, Ray Boeier and his passengers still stand by what they saw on April 23rd 2007.

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00:42:36,760 --> 00:42:40,760

I was a bit disappointed that they hadn't found a solution

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00:42:40,760 --> 00:42:44,760

because it now hangs in the air with all the other hundreds of cases.

416

00:42:45,760 --> 00:42:50,760

It isn't until later on that you realize that somebody like Ray is regarding something quite out of the ordinary

417

00:42:50,760 --> 00:42:53,760

that we've been to wish that you pay more attention.

418

00:42:56,760 --> 00:42:58,760

I hope we live long enough to know the explanation.

419

00:42:59,760 --> 00:43:05,760

I have to confess now, every time we get in a plane, I keep wondering, you know, are we going to see the lights?

420

00:43:05,760 --> 00:43:11,760

As for Captain Ray Boeier, he wasn't the first pilot to spot something unexplained in British airspace

421

00:43:11,760 --> 00:43:13,760

and it's unlikely he'll be the last.

422

00:43:14,760 --> 00:43:17,760

I kept asking the pilot, are you visual? He sounded shaken.

423

00:43:18,760 --> 00:43:23,760

There was clearly something which he did not understand and couldn't explain any more than we could.

424

00:43:24,760 --> 00:43:29,760

The description I've given you was quite true, I shall remember it to my dying day.

425

00:43:30,760 --> 00:43:37,760

If it was designed by an engineer, that man, I'd like to shake him by the hand because it was a fantastic piece of equipment.

426

00:43:38,760 --> 00:43:39,760

That's what it was.

427

00:43:42,760 --> 00:43:48,760

I can't really go much further than to say what I've said all along is that this thing's not from around here.

