

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,500

Tonight on History's Greatest Mysteries.

2

00:00:08,500 --> 00:00:10,500

Ready to find D.B. Cooper?

3

00:00:10,500 --> 00:00:12,500

Do you think that he could be D.B. Cooper?

4

00:00:12,500 --> 00:00:13,500

Yeah, I do.

5

00:00:13,500 --> 00:00:15,500

I think I've pinpointed where it is.

6

00:00:15,500 --> 00:00:17,500

This could be our smoking gun.

7

00:00:17,500 --> 00:00:19,500

They've got to take this back and reopen it.

8

00:00:22,500 --> 00:00:26,000

It's a mystery that's confounded law enforcement

9

00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:27,500

for 48 years.

10

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

On November 24, 1971,

11

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

a man who would become known as D.B. Cooper

12

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

hijacks a plane and then jumps out,

13

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

taking with him a ransom of \$200,000.

14

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

I'm Lawrence Fishburne,

15

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

and tonight, who is D.B. Cooper?

16

00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:54,000

And how did he escape?

17

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

Neither his identity nor his body

18

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

has ever been recovered.

19

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

It's impossible.

20

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

Or is it?

21

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,000

Can investigator Eric Eulis finally close

22

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

the only unsolved skyjacking in U.S. history?

23

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,000

Eric and his team will re-examine the plane's

24

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

alleged flight path.

25

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:20,000

They'll search alternate landing sites for fresh clues

26

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000

and profile a possible suspect.

27

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,000

Tonight, a search for new answers

28

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:29,000

to one of history's greatest mysteries.

29

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:32,000

Who is D.B. Cooper?

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

D.B. Cooper investigator Eric Eulis

31

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:56,000

is on his way to Washington State,

32

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

but his research and investigation

33

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:02,000

started 12 years earlier in Arizona.

34

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

I've always had a fascination with aviation,

35

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

which is what I believe ultimately drew me into the case.

36

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Here was a man who developed a cult-like following

37

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

over the years, despite the fact that nobody

38

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

really knew anything about the guy at all.

39

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:19,000

He became a legend overnight.

40

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:23,000

I think D.B. was like the coolest guy in America.

41

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:25,000

He did the ultimate crime.

42

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

Eventually, I found the case was being hijacked

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:30,000

by conspiracy theories and so forth.

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:35,000

And I just ended up getting sucked into this D.B. Cooper vortex.

45

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:37,000

And ultimately, I decided that I was going to undertake

46

00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:40,000

an investigation of my own into the case.

47

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:43,000

Over the years, more than 1,000 suspects have been scrutinized.

48

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:46,000

When this case happened in the 1970s,

49

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:49,000

the era of DNA was not upon us.

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

And agents really didn't look out to preserve

51

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

this evidence in the way that we do now.

52

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:58,000

In order to identify where the FBI and others

53

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,000

went sideways with this case,

54

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

I knew that I was going to have to personally read

55

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

all 20,000 pages of redacted FBI files regarding the case.

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

Thanks to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed in 2016,

57

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:17,000

every few months, the FBI releases files

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:19,000

from the case in chronological order.

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00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:23,000

This constant drip of new information and new sources

60

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,000

is key to Eric's theory about what really happened

61

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:29,000

on Northwest Flight 305.

62

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:34,000

The night of the skyjacking,

63

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:38,000

we know a man boarded Northwest Orient flight

64

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:40,000

in Portland, destined for Seattle.

65

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,000

He bought the ticket with \$20 bill at the airport.

66

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:46,000

There was no ID required,

67

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:50,000

so he gave the name Dan Cooper to the ticket agent.

68

00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:54,000

He would end up taking a seat in the very back row of the jet,

69

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:57,000

18E, to be exact.

70

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,000

The flight attendants recall D.B. Cooper being a guy

71

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

who was in his mid-40s,

72

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

dressed as a business person wearing a black suit,

73

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

wearing loafers with a skinny black tie,

74

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:08,000

and a raincoat.

75

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:11,000

And he would later put on a pair of dark sunglasses

76

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

as the jet was about to take off.

77

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:16,000

On the other side of the plane,

78

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

he had a black attaché case.

79

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:21,000

As the plane starts taxiing toward the runway,

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,000

D.B. Cooper hands one of the flight attendants,

81

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

Florence Schaffner, a note,

82

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

which says that he has a bum.

83

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:33,000

36 passengers got off the jetliner in Seattle last night,

84

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:35,000

left aboard four crew members,

85

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

and the hijacker dressed in a business suit

86

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:39,000

demanding \$200,000,

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

with the full ransom collected from Seattle banks,

88

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:44,000

and the pressure to board, the plane headed for Reno.

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:46,000

What many people don't know is that Reno

90

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,000

was not the intended destination.

91

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:53,000

Cooper actually requested that the plane fly to Mexico nonstop,

92

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:56,000

but the problem is that he wanted the jet to fly

93

00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:58,000

with the landing gear down.

94

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:00,000

He wanted the jet to fly with the flaps down.

95

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

He wanted the jet to fly at a very slow speed

96

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

and not fly over 10,000 feet in altitude.

97

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

So there was simply no way that they could fly nonstop

98

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

to Mexico City.

99

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:12,000

They would need to refuel somewhere,

100

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:14,000

and they decided Reno.

101

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:16,000

According to Eric,

102

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:20,000

Cooper's request to be flown to Mexico was a ruse.

103

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:23,000

Seven minutes after the plane left Seattle,

104

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:25,000

the flight crew received an alert.

105

00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:28,000

The rear air stairs were activated.

106

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:30,000

The Boeing 727 was unique

107

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:32,000

in that it had air stairs that would deploy

108

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:36,000

from the back bottom of the fuse lodge.

109

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:38,000

In fact, it's these air stairs

110

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:41,000

that the passengers actually boarded the jet with.

111

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:46,000

Roughly 27 minutes after the air stairs deployment alert,

112

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

the crew experienced a cabin pressure disturbance.

113

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:52,000

At approximately 8.12 p.m.,

114

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

the pilots experienced what they described

115

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

as a pressure bump on the plane.

116

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:02,000

What felt like a popping in the ears.

117

00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:04,000

This pressure bump was created

118

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:07,000

when D.B. Cooper jumped off the back air stairs

119

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:10,000

and the air stairs snapped back up

120

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:12,000

into the bottom of the fuse lodge.

121

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

That bump holds the key to everything.

122

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:19,000

Estimating where and when that bump took place is key.

123

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:23,000

It determined the area in which FBI, Air Force,

124

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:25,000

and local law enforcement members

125

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:28,000

looked for Cooper in a coordinated ground search

126

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:30,000

that lasted for months.

127

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,000

The FBI never found anything,

128

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:38,000

and their original search area,

129

00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:42,000

and my research indicates that the reason they came up empty-handed

130

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:45,000

is because they were actually searching in the wrong place.

131

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Why were they searching in the wrong place?

132

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

Because the flight path was off.

133

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:51,000

Understanding that pressure bump

134

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

and identifying the correct search area

135

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:58,000

will allow us to ask the basic fundamental questions.

136

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

To test his theory about the plane's path,

137

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:05,000

Eric is meeting with the person charged

138

00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:09,000

with tracking Flight 305 on the night of the hijacking.

139

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:13,000

The air traffic controller on duty, Cliff Ammerman.

140

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

My name is Cliff Ammerman,

141

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:17,000

and I'm a retired air traffic controller.

142

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:20,000

I worked at the Seattle Center Air Route Traffic Control

143

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:23,000

from 1969 until 1998.

144

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:29,000

Did the FBI or law enforcement at all ever reach out to you?

145

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:30,000

Never did.

146

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:32,000

I never got a request like that at all.

147

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,000

What did you know about 305?

148

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:38,000

I mean, I assume you knew it was a Skyjack jet.

149

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:40,000

We knew it was a hijacking.

150

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:42,000

We didn't have a flight plan on it

151

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:45,000

because nobody knew exactly what the routing was going to be,

152

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:47,000

so we were told just follow him,

153

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:49,000

keep everybody else away from him.

154

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:53,000

It became fairly obvious that he was on Victor 2-3.

155

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Now, Victor 2-3 is one airway

156

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:59,000

in a low altitude airway structure that's nationwide.

157

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:03,000

It's a system of ground-based navigational aids

158

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:05,000

that pilots can follow,

159

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

and it allows them to hold a track over the ground.

160

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

Just like when you're on an interstate 5 in a car,

161

00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:13,000

Victor 2-3 is a highway in the sky.

162

00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:17,000

The first priority here when tackling this case

163

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

is trying to figure out the path that the jet took.

164

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:24,000

Can you gauge how precisely you could identify

165

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

the exact location of Flight 305?

166

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

Yeah, what I'm looking at is a map on a video screen.

167

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:35,000

Aircrafts are being presented in what would look to you

168

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:36,000

like an equal sign,

169

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:38,000

and on the leading slash,

170

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:41,000

the aircraft itself could be any place on that line,

171

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:44,000

so it could be in the center, it might be at the left side,

172

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:45,000

the line that might be at the right side.

173

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:46,000

We don't know.

174

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:48,000

Any idea of roughly what kind of distance

175

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:50,000

you're looking at there?

176

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:55,000

I would guess four to five nautical miles long that line is.

177

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:59,000

How do you know that he's actually within Victor 2-3

178

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:01,000

if you've got sort of that much play there?

179

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:02,000

Sure, sure.

180

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:06,000

It's very uncertain just exactly where the airplane was

181

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:10,000

within that target area that we're seeing,

182

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:12,000

so where's the airplane actually?

183

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

There's quite a bit of variance in there.

184

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:19,000

Indeed, the jet could have actually been a handful of miles

185

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:23,000

outside of this Victor 2-3 airway

186

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:26,000

and not have been noticed by any button.

187

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:29,000

It seems to indicate that the jet indeed took a path

188

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:31,000

that was more along the western side

189

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:34,000

to lines it up with the money find and all that good stuff.

190

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:38,000

That is not at all consistent with the official version

191

00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:39,000

of the flight path.

192

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:41,000

The pilot of Northwest Thru of Five

193

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:44,000

also said that they were not looking far enough west.

194

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:48,000

Well, that confirms it for me.

195

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Yeah.

196

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:51,000

That's an area that they should have looked,

197

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:53,000

but they didn't look.

198

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:00,000

Convinced the plane was actually eight miles west

199

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

of the original FBI search zone,

200

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:06,000

Eric and his team head up to a remote wilderness refuge

201

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:08,000

that's never been searched.

202

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:11,000

They're looking for any evidence of D.B. Cooper,

203

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:14,000

including possible remains of his parachute.

204

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:16,000

Hey, hey, how's it going?

205

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:17,000

It's going well, Eric Eulis.

206

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:18,000

Hey, Ryan.

207

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:20,000

To maximize the time he'll have on the ground,

208

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:24,000

Eric first takes to the sky to see how closely his search

209

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

lines up with an area known as Tina Barre.

210

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:32,000

In 1980, the FBI found important evidence there.

211

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:35,000

A child has led the FBI to the start of a trail

212

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:38,000

it hopes will help them solve the eight and a half year old

213

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:41,000

mystery of Skyjacker D.B. Cooper,

214

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:44,000

the first rake in the only unsolved airplane hijacking

215

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:47,000

in United States history came on a Columbia River Beach

216

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:50,000

along the Oregon-Washington border where an eight-year-old boy

217

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:54,000

dug up the shreds of \$3,000 on Sunday.

218

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:57,000

The money was found about 20 miles from the FBI's

219

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:59,000

original search zone.

220

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,000

Also, it was found about eight or nine miles against the current

221

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:05,000

along the Columbia River.

222

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:10,000

So there was no possible way that the money just washed the shore.

223

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:14,000

The bundles of 20s were found just below the surface of the sand,

224

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:18,000

neatly stacked upon each other with the original rubber band

225

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:20,000

still intact.

226

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:23,000

So by all appearances, it looks like somebody actually

227

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:27,000

buried those three packets of 20s.

228

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Since it's impossible to know the precise altitude at which Cooper

229

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:35,000

pulled his parachute ripcord, Eric plans to search a wide area

230

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:37,000

the FBI missed.

231

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:43,000

The first is an island a few miles north of Tina Barre.

232

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:49,000

So we're going to be searching if this one area is actually part of the

233

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:54,000

refuge, thought being that Cooper could have landed in some of that

234

00:11:54,000 --> 00:12:00,000

passenger land on the island or landed a little closer to the town itself.

235

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

It's up for debate.

236

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

The second zone is an extended meadow along the tree line

237

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:08,000

on the west side of the train tracks.

238

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

If Cooper landed there, Eric believes he could have walked south

239

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

along these train tracks, crossing over from the mainland at the river

240

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:19,000

S-bridge to Tina Barre.

241

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:25,000

Eric thinks Cooper might have buried the ransom here temporarily and then fled.

242

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:29,000

The third zone, private properties across from the refuge

243

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:33,000

provide access to a large untouched ravine which could have given

244

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:36,000

perfect cover for D.B. Cooper.

245

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:42,000

Part of what has guided me to these three specific search areas

246

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:48,000

is that they're pristine and largely untouched in the last 50 years.

247

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:51,000

Eric, you look good to meet you.

248

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:58,000

I'm thinking about, you know, the 12 years of research I have put into this case.

249

00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:03,000

This is what I have been waiting for, the opportunity to actually get boots on the

250

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

ground and dig through the brush and look for those missing parachutes.

251

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

Look for any sign of D.B. Cooper.

252

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:21,000

Eric Eulis has investigated the D.B. Cooper case for 12 years.

253

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:26,000

The pilot of Northwest 305 also said that they were not looking far enough west.

254

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:30,000

Convinced the FBI misjudged the hijacked plane's flight path,

255

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:34,000

Eric's assembled a team to look for new evidence.

256

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:38,000

They hope to find something to reopen this cold case.

257

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:42,000

Hey, guys, how you doing?

258

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:44,000

Alex Gull with Archeological Services.

259

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

This area was home to thousands of Native Americans, villages.

260

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:51,000

So in order for the project to have special access to the refuge,

261

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:56,000

it needed an archaeologist to join the project and that archaeologist is me.

262

00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:00,000

Given the terrain, it's going to require a lot of luck.

263

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

Accompanying Eric on his mission, geophysicist Colin Miazka,

264

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

who will help examine any ground disturbance or man-made materials left behind by the Skyjacker.

265

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:15,000

With my geoscience background, you look for man-made objects.

266

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:19,000

In this case, though, there's a very small object in a very big area,

267

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

so it's incredibly challenging.

268

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:26,000

There's just so much ground to cover and the only real best way to do that

269

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

is by physically walking over the area.

270

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:33,000

Who wouldn't want to be the person responsible for solving a 50-year-old case

271

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:36,000

that the FBI gave up on, essentially?

272

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:39,000

He's also enlisted the help of local search and rescue volunteers,

273

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:42,000

Jason Koe and Barry Wells.

274

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:45,000

Both have a vast knowledge of the area.

275

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:49,000

I was here when the event happened and there was a lot of theories going around.

276

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:52,000

So today, what we're going to be doing is getting on the boats.

277

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:55,000

We're going to be traveling along Lake River up to the Columbia River.

278

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:58,000

Then once we're on the Columbia River, we're going to go upstream a little bit.

279

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:01,000

This area we're talking about here was not part of the original search area.

280

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:06,000

And obviously, the fact that it's a refuge as well and is off limits to people,

281

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

essentially, provides a real opportunity where this stuff would have never been found.

282

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:12,000

Ready to find D.B. Cooper?

283

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:16,000

With restrictions in place to protect local wildlife,

284

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:20,000

Eric and his team must also contact a state environmental expert

285

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:23,000

before they can begin their search on the island.

286

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:25,000

Hey, Brent, how you doing?

287

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Good, Earth.

288

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:29,000

We'll work our way north, see if we can actually get over to where you are,

289

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:34,000

because I think the refuge is where we want to start versus the DNR land,

290

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:37,000

and then we'll go from there.

291

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:40,000

Let's give these guys over on this shoreline here.

292

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:42,000

Landfall. There we go.

293

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

Right now we're on Washington Department of Natural Resources land,

294

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

and basically at the tree line there is where the wildlife refuge starts.

295

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

They'll be limited in the tools they can use and are forbidden to dig anything up

296

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:59,000

or remove any evidence from the refuge.

297

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:03,000

If you want to go over some of these maps that I pulled...

298

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:05,000

This is 1970.

299

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:07,000

So this is 70.

300

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:10,000

Compared to now, the footprint...

301

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:11,000

It looks pretty stable.

302

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

It looks pretty consistent.

303

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:20,000

So the only thing that might give us a little pause is the 1996 aerial.

304

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:23,000

I know there was quite a bit of flooding in 96.

305

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:27,000

So it looks like to me that this area here is actually underwater.

306

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:33,000

In 1996 there was actually a very big flood in the area.

307

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:36,000

In reality, if the parachutes were in that area,

308

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:39,000

they could have easily been swept out to the Columbia River

309

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:41,000

and out to the Pacific Ocean.

310

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:45,000

I believe that the parachutes were placed a little bit further inland,

311

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:48,000

which wasn't affected nearly as much.

312

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:50,000

So you said the parachute was white and the...

313

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:52,000

The parachuted sauce was green.

314

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:53,000

That's correct.

315

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

It always helps me to know what colors to be looking for.

316

00:16:56,000 --> 00:17:01,000

Eric's team is looking for D.B. Cooper's missing parachutes and other evidence,

317

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:06,000

including his attaché case, ransom notes, or unrecovered money.

318

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:12,000

They must notify local authorities and the FBI immediately if they find anything.

319

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

But Eric's search permit for the refuge is limited and will expire.

320

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

We'll just start working off in this direction and put our way through.

321

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

A little bit of rain.

322

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:32,000

I think we got to go a little further down to the open field, basically.

323

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:36,000

I was surprised to see how he was dressed as a businessman.

324

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:40,000

You bring up a great point because a lot of people said, you know,

325

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:43,000

who in their right mind would jump into the middle of the woods

326

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:46,000

wearing loafers and a tie?

327

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:49,000

And I've always argued nobody.

328

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

I believe that the evidence clearly shows that D.B. Cooper intended to jump

329

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:59,000

initially in the outskirts of Seattle.

330

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:03,000

After the skyjacking, flight attendant Tina Muklow told authorities

331

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:07,000

that D.B. Cooper was visibly frustrated and complained to her

332

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:10,000

about how the money was delivered.

333

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:17,000

He made me feel very sure that we had a very real and horrifying threat.

334

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:21,000

When the money showed up, it was not in a knapsack as he requested.

335

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:27,000

It was actually just delivered in a white, open-top canvas bank bag.

336

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:30,000

Didn't have any zippers, didn't have any snaps, didn't even have a handle on it.

337

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:35,000

Cooper needed to figure out a way to secure the top of that bank bag.

338

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:39,000

If he didn't, the force of the free fall would have immediately ejected

339

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:42,000

all of the cash out of that bag.

340

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

It was also reported by co-pilot Bill Radicek

341

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

that Cooper had difficulties lowering the air stairs.

342

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:52,000

He called us on the interphone and requested that he was having trouble with the stairs.

343

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:54,000

I can't get the stairs down.

344

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Eric believes these delays forced Cooper to jump into rougher terrain than originally planned.

345

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:04,000

I think that's really ground zero as far as searching for D.B. Cooper's parachutes

346

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:06,000

if he landed in this area.

347

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:10,000

And basically we need to start right around here where these sticker bushes are

348

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

but start working our way down around to the south.

349

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

Along the edges.

350

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:21,000

To ensure a thorough ground search, the team walks at arm's length from each other

351

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

searching in a traditional grid pattern.

352

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:26,000

Let's move.

353

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:31,000

That looks like an unpenetrable wall back there.

354

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:34,000

Somebody ain't gonna try that.

355

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:37,000

Looks pretty thick in front of us, sir.

356

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:40,000

This stuff is brutal.

357

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:43,000

Yikes.

358

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:47,000

Yeah. That looks prime spot to dump a parachute.

359

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Exactly.

360

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Eric believes Cooper left his parachute behind wherever he landed.

361

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

All the soil around here is pretty packed clay out.

362

00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:01,000

There's no way he's digging more than whatever you can kick with his boot.

363

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:03,000

Right. It's dark too, right?

364

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:04,000

Yeah.

365

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:06,000

So he's not gonna go too far in there?

366

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:07,000

No.

367

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

Although the parachute may have deteriorated, metallic and nylon material could have survived.

368

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:13,000

Alex found some...

369

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:14,000

Let's check it out.

370

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:18,000

Really the first sign of human activity I've seen in here.

371

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:19,000

Oh yeah.

372

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

This could be promising.

373

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Searching on federally protected land on an island along the Washington, Oregon border,

374

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:37,000

investigator Eric Eulis and his team make what they hope is a significant discovery.

375

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Alex found some...

376

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:39,000

Let's check it out.

377

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:43,000

Really the first sign of human activity I've seen in here.

378

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:44,000

Oh yeah.

379

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:46,000

This could be promising.

380

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:51,000

I don't know anything about parachutes and the kinds of shroud lines they would use.

381

00:20:54,000 --> 00:21:01,000

The problem is the color of the shroud lines were either white or light pink.

382

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:03,000

And so that would not be part of...

383

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:04,000

Okay.

384

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:06,000

D.B. Cooper's parachute.

385

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:08,000

This area is clear.

386

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:22,000

After ten grueling hours, the team ends the search for the day.

387

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

With the restrictions that we have from the refuge, limiting the number of people that

388

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:34,000

we can actually search with and seeing how vast this area is and how dense the growth

389

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:40,000

is that we have to fight through, it just made me realize how difficult this search

390

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:42,000

is actually going to be.

391

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:52,000

With only a few days remaining to search what he believes is the landing area, Eric reviews

392

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:55,000

the mystery of D.B. Cooper.

393

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:58,000

There are really two parts to the D.B. Cooper mystery.

394

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:02,000

There's the part that relates to what actually happened.

395

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:06,000

All these years later, they're still looking for D.B. Cooper.

396

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:12,000

Everything FBI special agent Larry Carr has on Cooper fits in one battered box, mostly

397

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:14,000

what Cooper left on the plane.

398

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:19,000

And there is this other part that relates to who the guy actually was.

399

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:20,000

D.B. Cooper came from someone.

400

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:21,000

He came from somewhere.

401

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:24,000

You know, he just didn't miracle himself here.

402

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

And so someone has information.

403

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:34,000

During the 45 years that D.B. Cooper skyjack in case remained open, the FBI investigated

404

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:37,000

more than a thousand possible suspects.

405

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:40,000

Some simply matched the crime sketch.

406

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Others confessed on their deathbeds.

407

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:46,000

Hospitalized here in Florida with kidney disease.

408

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

Dwayne Weber motioned to his wife to come close.

409

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:52,000

He says, I have a secret to tell you.

410

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:53,000

I said what?

411

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:56,000

He says, I'm Dan Cooper.

412

00:22:56,000 --> 00:22:58,000

Even a woman was investigated.

413

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:00,000

Pilot Barbara Dayton.

414

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

Eric's determined to provide a definitive answer about one person of interest.

415

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:10,000

A man DNA tested in 2003, but never publicly eliminated.

416

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:14,000

Eric believes this man could be D.B. Cooper.

417

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:17,000

His name is Sheridan Peterson.

418

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

He actually became a suspect within one week of the skyjacking.

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

However, it wasn't even until 2003, the FBI was actually able to interview him.

420

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:34,000

That FBI agent was a woman named Mary Jean Friar.

421

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:41,000

And what she told me when I first reached out to her has completely changed the trajectory in my case.

422

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:42,000

I'm Mary Jean Friar.

423

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:46,000

I'm a special agent with the FBI from 1985 to 2006.

424

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:55,000

In 2003, I received a communication from the Seattle office to locate and interview Sheridan Peterson,

425

00:23:55,000 --> 00:24:01,000

who was residing in Santa Rosa and obtain a voluntary DNA sample.

426

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:10,000

In late 2007, the FBI announced that they had a partial DNA profile that they got from D.B. Cooper's clip on tie.

427

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:13,000

This is the tie we got the DNA from.

428

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:23,000

This could explain why the FBI had Mary Jean Friar obtain a DNA sample from Sheridan Peterson to compare it against the partial DNA profile.

429

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

When I met with Sheridan Peterson in 2003, it was special because it was a historic case.

430

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:35,000

During my training at the FBI Academy, we had instructors that came in and talked about it.

431

00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:41,000

Sheridan's alibi since I talked to him in 2003 was always that he was present in Nepal for his children's birth.

432

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:45,000

He was saying he wasn't in the country, so he couldn't have been D.B. Cooper.

433

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:51,000

He did show me his birth certificates of his kids, but his wife could have very easily given birth without him there.

434

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:59,000

Sheridan worked in the department that literally wrote the flight manual for the Boeing 727 jet.

435

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:01,000

He worked as a smoke jumper in Montana.

436

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:03,000

He's an expert skydiver.

437

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:06,000

He's a former Boeing employee.

438

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:18,000

Then in 1966, Sheridan found himself in Vietnam working as a refugee advisor until August of 1970 when he and his wife moved to Nepal.

439

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:30,000

There is nothing that Sheridan can point to that proves unequivocally that he was in Nepal at the time that the skyjacking took place, with the exception of his second wife.

440

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:38,000

The problem is, according to Sheridan, his second wife died in 1977.

441

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:46,000

Sheridan Peterson was interviewed for a program related to D.B. Cooper, and there are some

inconsistencies in there.

442

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:50,000

There are things that he stated that just don't add up.

443

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:54,000

There are two things that I found that could rule Sheridan out as a suspect.

444

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:57,000

There's some discrepancy with respect to eye color.

445

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:07,000

Specifically, Sheridan has blue eyes, and the FBI's very first description of D.B. Cooper had him having brown eyes.

446

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:19,000

However, very quickly after they put out the initial description for D.B. Cooper, the FBI updated the description and described D.B. Cooper as possibly having brown eyes.

447

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:27,000

The second being, we know that D.B. Cooper definitely smoked cigarettes. In fact, he smoked eight

cigarettes during the skyjacking.

448

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:32,000

I have never been able to prove that Sheridan Peterson was ever a smoker.

449

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:37,000

Eric's asked Mary Jean to help secure an interview with Sheridan.

450

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

Her goal? Get him to request his DNA test results.

451

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:53,000

Now, we can't use DNA to prove that he was D.B. Cooper because the profile that the FBI has is only a partial DNA profile.

452

00:26:53,000 --> 00:27:07,000

But if we can get Sheridan Peterson to actually request to get his DNA comparison results from the FBI, we may actually be able to prove definitively that he wasn't D.B. Cooper.

453

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:16,000

Eric's and his team of investigators continue their hunt.

454

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:22,000

Yesterday, they searched a remote island. Today, they're searching an extended meadow area.

455

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

None of this land has been searched before because the FBI used a different flight path to calculate its search area in 1971.

456

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:39,000

If Eric's can find any evidence that D.B. Cooper landed here, it might lead to finally identifying the skyjacker.

457

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:47,000

All right, so today we're continuing to search for the missing parachutes. We've got our survivalist with us as well, Dan.

458

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:51,000

I'm Dan Barrett. I am a backcountry guide in the United States.

459

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:58,000

I'm not an expert on D.B. Cooper himself, but to me it seems like it's a survival situation. I'm looking forward to this search. This is going to be awesome.

460

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:07,000

There are several copycat jumps that took place after Cooper's jump. Every single person who did it survived.

461

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:13,000

Although every copycat jumped, every single person who did it survived.

462

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:18,000

Although every copycat jumper survived, none of them got away with the crime.

463

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:27,000

Most notable, a man named Richard Floyd McCoy, who in 1972 remained free for two days before being arrested.

464

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:36,000

It seems that the real challenge comes once he hits the ground, how he gets out of the area.

465

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:41,000

Were these tracks in place at that time? Yes, they were.

466

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:46,000

We're on top of the BNSF railway tracks.

467

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:56,000

If D.B. Cooper landed in this area, the railroad tracks provide a perfect corridor that he could have used to get to Tina Bar, where the money was found.

468

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:06,000

You would think looking into what the train schedule was like that night. If he landed, started walking for 20 minutes, half hour, I'm sure a train would have gone by.

469

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:15,000

There was a railroad conductor who was driving down the tracks that night who actually did report to the FBI that there was somebody on the tracks.

470

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:33,000

And it's important to remember that as the conductor is bringing this to the attention of the FBI, the FBI actually thinks that D.B. Cooper landed six or seven or eight miles east of the railroad tracks.

471

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:42,000

Today we're going to be doing half of the meadow because there's just too much territory to cover in one day. Tomorrow we'll deal with the other half.

472

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:46,000

That said, the search starts right here.

473

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:53,000

There's gonna be four of us that are gonna have to work as the actual line search of these guys. They're gonna be a little bit more independent.

474

00:29:55,000 --> 00:30:01,000

Look along the edge here. That's due north. We need to work our way further north.

475

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:09,000

It's more of like a pin point, so then it'll open up. It'll make it really sensitive, so you'll pick up everything. And then you can kind of do your criss cross.

476

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:12,000

If I left it on that, it would be like, woo, exactly.

477

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:23,000

If somebody is landing in some place like this, I'm in all this thicket, that'd be pretty brutal. I mean, I just don't see how you land in something like this without getting injured.

478

00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:32,000

On the night D.B. Cooper jumped, moderate wind gusts upwards of 11 miles per hour were reported on the ground with sporadic rainfall.

479

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

When Cooper hit land, he would have experienced ground temperatures dropping into the 30s.

480

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:40,000

This is swampy right here.

481

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:45,000

Is it dry over there, Jason, or?

482

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:48,000

Yeah, if you come around the north side, follow the grass.

483

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Can I go forward and back a little bit?

484

00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:59,000

This could be promising. Bound it.

485

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:07,000

Yeah, if you come around the north side, follow the grass.

486

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:17,000

Eric Ulus and his search team are in a protected wildlife refuge in southwest Washington, searching for evidence that D.B. Cooper landed here.

487

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:24,000

Halfway through searching a large meadow area, they uncover something that could be connected with this unsolved mystery.

488

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

I think I've pinpointed where it is.

489

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:30,000

Cooper's NB-6 parachute had stainless steel parts.

490

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

This must have been old.

491

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:36,000

So a hit on the metal detector is encouraging news.

492

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

Yeah, looks good.

493

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:45,000

See, there are two separate objects or one slightly stretched out, like the backpack I think would be.

494

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:47,000

Alright, we got something underground.

495

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

Wow. So what does that mean as far as the size of the piece?

496

00:31:52,000 --> 00:32:03,000

With any metal detection, it's hard to get size until you start digging it up, because you could have something really small that's really conductive right at surface,

497

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:06,000

and that's going to give you a really solid response.

498

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:12,000

But if you have something larger that's at depth, it'll give you a smaller response.

499

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:15,000

So it's just how close the object is to the sensors.

500

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:26,000

Although the metal detector registered a strong hit, the size of the object, how conductive it is, and how close it is to the surface can all influence the strength of the signal.

501

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

It seems really pinpointed at that little soft spot right there.

502

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

I mean that's a robust signal. I mean clearly there's something down there.

503

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:40,000

Well and maybe...

504

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

Oh, there we are.

505

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:43,000

Oh, wire.

506

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:48,000

What kind of wire though? Parachute pull cord?

507

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:56,000

So the wire has to stay in the ground, so let me try to see if I can sell servers in here and give Mark a really quick call.

508

00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:15,000

Mark Meltzer is an expert skydiver. He's going to know this parachute inside and out, so he's the perfect person to reach out to to see if he recognizes this piece of wire, and if he thinks it has anything to do with a parachute.

509

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:23,000

Hey Mark, yeah it's Eric. So we found what appears to be like a wire buried, kind of half buried in here.

510

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:34,000

Is there any sort of wire? It's a little heavier gauge wire. Anything like that in the parachutes, either the reserve or the main that is consistent with that?

511

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:39,000

In a pilot's shoot there's a spring. It's not stranded, it's solid wire, but it's springy.

512

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:46,000

So what kind of gauge are we talking about relative to like the size of a hanger, for example?

513

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:47,000

About the same.

514

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:53,000

Okay. Is it okay if we take a picture and send a picture to you and just kind of get your impression?

515

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:54,000

Yeah, that's fine.

516

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:55,000

Okay.

517

00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:57,000

Hold on a second here Mark.

518

00:33:57,000 --> 00:33:59,000

Is it rusted?

519

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:09,000

I mean it's not shiny, but it doesn't appear to be rusted to me, but let me send this over to you. Hopefully it lets me send it out to you here.

520

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:13,000

And then you can just shoot me a call back as soon as you have a chance to take a look at it.

521

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:15,000

Alright, thanks Mark.

522

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:20,000

There's an old road in here too, about 100 yards in.

523

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:22,000

Got a gate on it even.

524

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:26,000

Let's see what kind of metal they use on the fencing here.

525

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:29,000

That's what it looks like actually, right there.

526

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:31,000

That's what it looks like.

527

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

Yeah, as you can see down there, that's how they secure the posts together and make them stand up.

528

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:42,000

Yeah, it looks just like that. It looks just like that, exactly like that.

529

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:45,000

At least we have an idea of what it is now, so.

530

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:47,000

Yeah, that appears to be the case.

531

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:53,000

I was hoping that we would have found something a little bit more concrete at this point.

532

00:34:53,000 --> 00:35:00,000

We've only got one more day left to search the refuge, then it's on to searching the private property.

533

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:10,000

While Eric and the team call it a day, retired FBI agent Mary Jean Friar is in Santa Rosa.

534

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:14,000

She's spoken with Sheridan Peterson, Eric's key person of interest.

535

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:20,000

And now, she says she has even more reason to believe he could be D.B. Cooper.

536

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:26,000

In September, I received communication from Sheridan Peterson, which was very strange.

537

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:32,000

I've never had another person I've ever interviewed in my 21.4 years ever contact me again.

538

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:40,000

And he sent me two messages about things that were upsetting him and signed them both D.B.

539

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:49,000

I think Sheridan loves the stimulation, the engagement, the thrill of him being a suspect is D.B. Cooper.

540

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:51,000

Do you think that he could be D.B. Cooper?

541

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:52,000

Yeah, I do.

542

00:35:53,000 --> 00:36:00,000

To prepare for her meeting, Mary Jean watches an interview Sheridan did for a 2016 documentary.

543

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:05,000

In it, Sheridan acknowledges he sky jumped at Issaquah Skyport,

544

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:11,000

the place that supplied the parachutes D.B. Cooper requested during Flight 305 skyjacking.

545

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:16,000

Oh, I was the most obvious suspect of anyone.

546

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:22,000

I had jumped in Issaquah and I had got my instructor's license there.

547

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:30,000

And that is where the guy got the parachutes and I had worked for Boeing.

548

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

He's building a very good case against himself.

549

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:35,000

She said, where were you?

550

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:39,000

And I said, I was in Nepal.

551

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:43,000

Oh, in Nepal. Come on, you can think of a better one then.

552

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:44,000

No, I did not say that.

553

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:48,000

Then they didn't keep track of people going back and forth from the country.

554

00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:51,000

If he was there, that's great, but that doesn't prove that he was there.

555

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:55,000

And I told him, I said, he had four parachutes.

556

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

He had one parachute with a red X across it. That was a reserve.

557

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

Another reserve was perfectly good.

558

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:05,000

Which reserve did you take?

559

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

The one that was Daisy changed. I remember that one.

560

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:10,000

This is interesting that he's so detailed.

561

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:13,000

It took more than taking the right parachute.

562

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:18,000

It also meant that the person would have to know those stairs come down on the 727.

563

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:20,000

I wouldn't know what to do.

564

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:21,000

That's what I'm saying.

565

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:24,000

So anybody saying that you would have been a great TV cooper,

566

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:26,000

not if you didn't know how to get off the airplane.

567

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:27,000

Oh, yeah.

568

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:32,000

That made him nervous when that conversation didn't know about the stairs

569

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:34,000

and he's kind of fidgeting with his cup.

570

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

And did you ever hear from Mary Jean again?

571

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:44,000

She came back for some reason and told me that there's no match.

572

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:46,000

Well, it's very fortunate for me.

573

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:50,000

I'm about to go see Sheridan Peterson for the first time since 2003.

574

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:55,000

And I'm hoping that maybe at this point he's finally ready to accept

575

00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:57,000

that he's going to tell us that he's DB Cooper.

576

00:37:57,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Don't take it to your death.

577

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:00,000

Set the record straight.

578

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

Put this to rest so that everyone can appreciate what you did and got away with

579

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:06,000

and not let anyone else take credit for it.

580

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:14,000

With their permit expired at the refuge,

581

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:17,000

Eric and his team arrive at their final search zone,

582

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:20,000

a ravine on private property.

583

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:22,000

It's on Lake River,

584

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:25,000

and Eric believes Cooper could have used it for cover

585

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:27,000

as he made his way to Tina Barre,

586

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:30,000

where some ransom money was uncovered in 1980.

587

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:31,000

How's it going, man?

588

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

Good. Good to see you.

589

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

Good to see you as well.

590

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:34,000

Yep. Yep.

591

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:35,000

How you doing?

592

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:36,000

Good morning.

593

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:37,000

So my name's Eric.

594

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:42,000

Barry, I want to thank you very much for getting these group of people together.

595

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:44,000

And why don't you give me an idea of who we've got here?

596

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:46,000

Because clearly we have two different teams.

597

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:49,000

We have, as you see by the different colors of blue and the red.

598

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:52,000

So I'm with the Southwest Washington Search and Rescue.

599

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:56,000

And these folks here in the red are with the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

600

00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:01,000

How many of you have actually heard of DB Cooper or haven't heard of DB Cooper

601

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:03,000

or are familiar with the case?

602

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:05,000

I think I know what you guys are.

603

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:07,000

I think it would be more surprised if somebody hadn't heard about it.

604

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:08,000

Yeah.

605

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:10,000

I'm not.

606

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:12,000

I'm from the East Coast.

607

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:16,000

So I read a little bit about it and thought it was interesting.

608

00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:20,000

And being here with the rest of the team is exciting and it's fun.

609

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:25,000

So hopefully we do come across something and get to learn a little bit more

610

00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:27,000

about the Pacific Northwest legend.

611

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:34,000

There's a lot of evidence that suggests that DB Cooper landed somewhere in this vicinity.

612

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:37,000

We did some searching on the refuge side of Lake River.

613

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:40,000

Now it's time to focus on this side of Lake River.

614

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:44,000

My thought is that Cooper, you know, if he landed in this area here,

615

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:50,000

would have, you know, walked his way down to the ravine looking for a path out of the area,

616

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:53,000

a path toward the railroad tracks.

617

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:57,000

Today's search will cover over 12 acres.

618

00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:59,000

So they've doubled their search team.

619

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:05,000

Each member is outfitted with a GPS tracker and monitored from a mobile command center.

620

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

All right, folks, we ready.

621

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:12,000

If evidence of DB Cooper is here, Eric's confident his team can find it.

622

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:19,000

Right side good.

623

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Right good.

624

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:21,000

Left side.

625

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:22,000

Left side good.

626

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:23,000

Okay, moving.

627

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:24,000

All right, slow methodical.

628

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:27,000

Just follow this ravine straight down.

629

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:29,000

Low and slow, folks.

630

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:30,000

Low and slow.

631

00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Make sure you're clear under trees and things like that.

632

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:36,000

Look up every once in a while.

633

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:38,000

Yeah, look behind you too.

634

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:41,000

You can break as much as you need to.

635

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:43,000

We got permission.

636

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:44,000

Keep going.

637

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:45,000

Keep going.

638

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:46,000

Keep going.

639

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:49,000

Think, where would I hide a parachute?

640

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:52,000

One other thing to consider as I look at these trees up here,

641

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:59,000

one of the premier suspects in this case was actually a smoke jumper.

642

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:01,000

If he happened to land in this type of environment,

643

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:04,000

he would have known exactly what to do and how to handle the situation.

644

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:07,000

If he had caught up in these trees, you know, 60, 70 feet up,

645

00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:09,000

we know that he had a pocket knife on him.

646

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:12,000

He actually used that to cut some of the shroud lines.

647

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:14,000

So he would have figured out a way to get down.

648

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:17,000

It wouldn't have been an issue for him.

649

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:18,000

Oh, yeah.

650

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:19,000

Something.

651

00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:20,000

They got something.

652

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:22,000

They're digging in something over there, Eric.

653

00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:23,000

I'm not sure.

654

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

Eric, you want to come over here?

655

00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:25,000

Yeah.

656

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:26,000

Hold on.

657

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:27,000

Right holding.

658

00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:30,000

Yeah, it's just the same area.

659

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:33,000

What is this?

660

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:35,000

The wine bottle.

661

00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:37,000

Might be a piece of aluminum.

662

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:39,000

Yeah, I think that's all it is.

663

00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:40,000

You got some cork on it.

664

00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:43,000

Yeah, it's definitely like a top of a wine cork.

665

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

I know the guy was drinking, um, had a bourbon on the flight.

666

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:50,000

You know, this is one of those things I'm just curious to be...

667

00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:51,000

Took a couple.

668

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:53,000

Yeah, yeah, I mean, he never had a couple of mini-bos with him.

669

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:54,000

He had a couple of mini-bos with him.

670

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

You don't know, so it'd be kind of a bit of just to save for the heck of it,

671

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:03,000

but it seems unlikely that there's any significance, but...

672

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

It gives you an idea of how sensitive this instrument is.

673

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

Yeah.

674

00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:10,000

All right.

675

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:11,000

Let's continue.

676

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

Pocket that and we'll continue, yeah.

677

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:14,000

So, I look like something from a plane.

678

00:42:20,000 --> 00:42:22,000

Cabinet or something?

679

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:24,000

Hey, Eric.

680

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:25,000

Yeah.

681

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:27,000

You want to come here for a second?

682

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:29,000

Yeah.

683

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:32,000

Large metal box that I assume somebody's filled it with rocks,

684

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:35,000

but I just want to make sure that you don't have any...

685

00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:36,000

You see it anywhere?

686

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:37,000

This right here.

687

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:38,000

Oh, yeah.

688

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

Yeah, that's the kind of thing that...

689

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

I don't know how it ended up here,

690

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

but it's certainly not associated with the parachute.

691

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:47,000

Yeah, it's not associated with anything that would have fallen off the airplane.

692

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:48,000

Nothing I'm aware of, yeah.

693

00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:49,000

It doesn't...

694

00:42:49,000 --> 00:42:52,000

It's certainly much bigger than the Ateche case would have been.

695

00:42:52,000 --> 00:42:53,000

It looks just to appear.

696

00:42:53,000 --> 00:42:57,000

It looks to me just like a, you know, large metal box.

697

00:42:57,000 --> 00:42:58,000

Just a little metal box, yeah.

698

00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:00,000

Yeah, okay.

699

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

All right.

700

00:43:01,000 --> 00:43:03,000

Good to check out, though.

701

00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:09,000

Although they've yet to find definitive evidence,

702

00:43:09,000 --> 00:43:12,000

the search team has recovered a few items of interest,

703

00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:14,000

including this small gauge wire,

704

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:17,000

which could have been part of the NB6 parachute.

705

00:43:17,000 --> 00:43:21,000

They also found nylon rope hanging from a tree

706

00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:26,000

and aluminum that could be from beverages served on Flight 305.

707

00:43:28,000 --> 00:43:31,000

A few, you know, false positives, so to speak.

708

00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:36,000

It helps keep a little fresh in your mind that this is a very real case.

709

00:43:36,000 --> 00:43:38,000

This guy really did exist.

710

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:40,000

He really did jump somewhere in this area.

711

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

Those parachutes are somewhere in this vicinity.

712

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

It's just a matter of finding them.

713

00:43:51,000 --> 00:43:54,000

Investigator Eric Eulis is on the last day of his search

714

00:43:54,000 --> 00:43:58,000

for evidence that could solve the mystery of D.B. Cooper.

715

00:43:58,000 --> 00:44:02,000

Eric believes the FBI got it wrong,

716

00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:05,000

and Cooper actually landed eight miles west

717

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:08,000

of law enforcement's original search zone.

718

00:44:08,000 --> 00:44:10,000

If he can find any sign of Cooper,

719

00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:15,000

it would prove he survived the jump and may be alive today.

720

00:44:18,000 --> 00:44:22,000

I wonder what this area looked like 48 years ago.

721

00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:24,000

I think it looked just like this.

722

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:30,000

The ravine the team's searching has remained untouched by loggers for 50 years.

723

00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:35,000

Eric believes decades of overgrowth could have helped preserve evidence.

724

00:44:35,000 --> 00:44:37,000

There's an awful lot of vegetation,

725

00:44:37,000 --> 00:44:41,000

and this is exactly the kind of area that we would expect to find something

726

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

if he was in this area and happened to stash it.

727

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

It wouldn't be fun to land a parachute in and get caught up.

728

00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:49,000

This is actually a pretty long property.

729

00:44:49,000 --> 00:44:51,000

Is it a long line?

730

00:44:51,000 --> 00:44:53,000

Yeah, we're about a fifth of the way right now.

731

00:44:53,000 --> 00:44:55,000

Oh, wow.

732

00:44:56,000 --> 00:44:59,000

Watch your right, folks. Don't out walk your flanks.

733

00:44:59,000 --> 00:45:04,000

Hey, Joe. See that big tree on the other side of that ravine right there?

734

00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:05,000

That one right there?

735

00:45:05,000 --> 00:45:08,000

So once we get to that, we want to spread out to the right.

736

00:45:08,000 --> 00:45:09,000

Okay.

737

00:45:09,000 --> 00:45:10,000

There we go.

738

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:11,000

All right.

739

00:45:11,000 --> 00:45:12,000

There you go.

740

00:45:12,000 --> 00:45:13,000

There you go.

741

00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:15,000

Yeah, and then catch it if you fall.

742

00:45:15,000 --> 00:45:16,000

There you go.

743

00:45:16,000 --> 00:45:17,000

All right.

744

00:45:17,000 --> 00:45:19,000

So let's do it again.

745

00:45:19,000 --> 00:45:20,000

All right.

746

00:45:20,000 --> 00:45:21,000

There you go.

747

00:45:23,000 --> 00:45:27,000

So \$200,000 in 1971, what would be the value of that today?

748

00:45:27,000 --> 00:45:30,000

It would be \$1.2 million today.

749

00:45:30,000 --> 00:45:33,000

So it'd be a millionaire, and today's the dollar.

750

00:45:33,000 --> 00:45:35,000

All of that for \$1 million.

751

00:45:35,000 --> 00:45:37,000

The FBI's never been able to prove one way or the other

752

00:45:37,000 --> 00:45:40,000

whether any of the ransom was spent.

753

00:45:40,000 --> 00:45:43,000

If D.B. Cooper did actually spend this money,

754

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

my research indicates that there would be approximately 50 of those bills

755

00:45:47,000 --> 00:45:51,000

still out there in circulation today.

756

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:59,000

There is a very strong chance that someone out there right now has one of those bills,

757

00:45:59,000 --> 00:46:01,000

but they just don't know it.

758

00:46:01,000 --> 00:46:05,000

As you can see here, this is not a complete \$20 bill.

759

00:46:05,000 --> 00:46:13,000

In fact, I estimate that what we're looking at is only about 25% of the original bill.

760

00:46:13,000 --> 00:46:18,000

After a difficult grid search, the team finally reaches the ravine.

761

00:46:18,000 --> 00:46:21,000

Okay, guys, you're going to have to a little slower,

762

00:46:21,000 --> 00:46:24,000

it's a little bit more brushier here for both sides, so...

763

00:46:24,000 --> 00:46:31,000

From here, Eric believes Cooper could hear trains running on the BNSF railway tracks,

764

00:46:31,000 --> 00:46:34,000

tracks leading to Tina Barre.

765

00:46:34,000 --> 00:46:37,000

Look at it right here, right in front of you.

766

00:46:37,000 --> 00:46:40,000

There's some white something here.

767

00:46:40,000 --> 00:46:42,000

I don't know.

768

00:46:42,000 --> 00:46:44,000

Yeah.

769

00:46:48,000 --> 00:46:50,000

The material is interesting.

770

00:46:50,000 --> 00:46:55,000

We have a parachute expert, and I'm going to ask him about it.

771

00:46:55,000 --> 00:46:56,000

Where'd you find it?

772

00:46:56,000 --> 00:46:59,000

Just right under the log here.

773

00:47:06,000 --> 00:47:09,000

It looks like a mixed material, some of which could be under parachutes.

774

00:47:09,000 --> 00:47:13,000

It's a mixed material, so it's a very good idea to have the expert,

775

00:47:13,000 --> 00:47:15,000

and he'll be able to tell us definitively.

776

00:47:15,000 --> 00:47:17,000

Something with tension.

777

00:47:17,000 --> 00:47:19,000

This had to be on something with some serious tension.

778

00:47:19,000 --> 00:47:23,000

The team sets up a GPS locator on the spot where the cloth fragment was found.

779

00:47:23,000 --> 00:47:27,000

To provide coordinates, they can plot on a map.

780

00:47:27,000 --> 00:47:33,000

The situation we find ourselves in right now is rare, unique, and a very limited time.

781

00:47:33,000 --> 00:47:36,000

So we just cannot afford to pass up on situations like this.

782

00:47:36,000 --> 00:47:39,000

We're just working with here, because this may be it.

783

00:47:39,000 --> 00:47:44,000

This may be the one final golden opportunity to figure out once and for all

784

00:47:44,000 --> 00:47:46,000

what happened to D.B. Cooper.

785

00:47:46,000 --> 00:47:49,000

We'll get it checked out. We'll see what the expert says.

786

00:47:49,000 --> 00:47:51,000

We'll see.

787

00:47:51,000 --> 00:47:56,000

Could this fabric be part of D.B. Cooper's missing parachutes?

788

00:47:58,000 --> 00:48:02,000

It appears to be nylon and canvas, which looked very durable.

789

00:48:02,000 --> 00:48:04,000

It resembled a piece of a parachute.

790

00:48:04,000 --> 00:48:07,000

It certainly looked like it could be, but I'm not sure.

791

00:48:07,000 --> 00:48:10,000

So now that we've got the piece in hand, we've marked where we found it,

792

00:48:10,000 --> 00:48:13,000

we'll present it to our parachute expert, Mark Meltzer,

793

00:48:13,000 --> 00:48:18,000

and he'll be able to tell us definitively whether or not this is a piece of a parachute or not.

794

00:48:20,000 --> 00:48:26,000

To learn more about the fabric he found, Eric heads to L.A. to meet with Mark Meltzer.

795

00:48:26,000 --> 00:48:29,000

Not only is he very knowledgeable about the Cooper case,

796

00:48:29,000 --> 00:48:33,000

he's also got something like 1,500, 2,000 parachute jumps.

797

00:48:33,000 --> 00:48:38,000

Gives us the opportunity to give him that piece of evidence that we found during the search,

798

00:48:38,000 --> 00:48:41,000

see if he thinks it could have possibly come from a parachute,

799

00:48:41,000 --> 00:48:45,000

either the main parachute or the reserve parachute or something else.

800

00:48:45,000 --> 00:48:49,000

He actually personally knows Sheridan Peterson.

801

00:48:49,000 --> 00:48:56,000

I wanted to start out talking to you a little bit about D.B. Cooper's skill level with respect to parachutes,

802

00:48:56,000 --> 00:49:00,000

giving everything you know about this case specifically in skydiving in particular.

803

00:49:00,000 --> 00:49:06,000

What indicates to me that he probably had some experience with military parachute gear is

804

00:49:06,000 --> 00:49:14,000

the type of main parachute rigs that were brought to him were either Navy NB6 or NB8 containers and harnesses,

805

00:49:14,000 --> 00:49:19,000

and parachute instructions were brought to the plane, printed instructions on how to use the gear.

806

00:49:19,000 --> 00:49:20,000

He didn't need them.

807

00:49:20,000 --> 00:49:28,000

Tina Muclow, the sort of person who spent the most time with Cooper, noted Cooper taking out a packing card out of one of the parachute rigs,

808

00:49:28,000 --> 00:49:33,000

and to me that's a huge clue that Cooper was most likely a skydiver.

809

00:49:33,000 --> 00:49:38,000

I mean skydivers know what a packing card is, nobody else does, it's very well concealed.

810

00:49:38,000 --> 00:49:46,000

So if Cooper actually found the packing card and knew how to put on an NB8 or NB6, that's very telling.

811

00:49:46,000 --> 00:49:51,000

I think we'll find something that may or may not be related to a parachute.

812

00:49:51,000 --> 00:49:52,000

You'd like to see it?

813

00:49:52,000 --> 00:49:53,000

I'll take it out.

814

00:49:53,000 --> 00:49:55,000

Let's get this open here.

815

00:50:06,000 --> 00:50:13,000

Well it's interesting in that it has sort of a ripstop weave in the fabric material here, the porous fabric material.

816

00:50:13,000 --> 00:50:21,000

It has nylon webbing, and I see nothing in the materials that's inconsistent with the late 60s, early 70s.

817

00:50:27,000 --> 00:50:33,000

Investigator Eric Eulis is in Los Angeles, meeting with parachute expert Mark Meltzer.

818

00:50:33,000 --> 00:50:37,000

He hopes Mark can shed light on a piece of possible evidence.

819

00:50:37,000 --> 00:50:40,000

I'm looking for the missing parachute.

820

00:50:40,000 --> 00:50:45,000

We did find something that may or may not be related to a parachute.

821

00:50:57,000 --> 00:51:04,000

Well it's interesting in that it has sort of a ripstop weave in the fabric material here, the porous fabric material.

822

00:51:04,000 --> 00:51:06,000

It has nylon webbing.

823

00:51:06,000 --> 00:51:11,000

A ripstop weave is commonly found in fabrics made to resist tearing.

824

00:51:11,000 --> 00:51:16,000

Yarns are interwoven at regular intervals in a crosshatch pattern.

825

00:51:16,000 --> 00:51:25,000

I see nothing in the materials that's inconsistent with the late 60s, early 70s, but it's not the right color for military parachute gear.

826

00:51:25,000 --> 00:51:31,000

This is a turquoise blue, and it apparently has leather over sewn on the perimeter of the thing.

827

00:51:31,000 --> 00:51:38,000

There is no leather on the type of gear that Cooper jumped, but it does have components in common with parachute gear.

828

00:51:38,000 --> 00:51:46,000

It has nylon webbing, it has some sort of ripstop weave fabric, but I can say with 100% certainty that this was not from D.B. Cooper's parachute gear.

829

00:51:46,000 --> 00:51:52,000

So you've pretty much established that it's absolutely not related to the parachute that he jumped with.

830

00:51:52,000 --> 00:51:57,000

What's the possibility that there's some sort of relation to the dummy reserve parachute?

831

00:51:57,000 --> 00:52:02,000

That's an interesting question, Eric. I've seen some crude things done to those training reserves.

832

00:52:02,000 --> 00:52:10,000

The only thing you want to do is have it be able to be deployed and packed up really quickly so they cut panels out, they sometimes cut some of the suspension lines off.

833

00:52:10,000 --> 00:52:17,000

It doesn't have to be done to FAA specs, and so I can't definitively say this wasn't part of the training reserve.

834

00:52:17,000 --> 00:52:20,000

I think it's unlikely, but I certainly can't rule it out.

835

00:52:20,000 --> 00:52:30,000

This is very exciting for me because there's a possibility that this piece could be part of the modification that was made to the dummy reserve parachute.

836

00:52:30,000 --> 00:52:43,000

You personally know Sheridan Peterson. What are your overall impressions of Peterson as they pertain to the possibility of this guy being the real D.B. Cooper?

837

00:52:43,000 --> 00:52:51,000

Sheridan Peterson is absolutely a qualified candidate. There is no aspect of that jump that he wasn't a master of.

838

00:52:51,000 --> 00:52:58,000

He knew how to jump into wilderness and egress. Do I think he's D.B. Cooper? I just don't know.

839

00:53:02,000 --> 00:53:10,000

To further his investigation, Eric Eulis next visits Claire Peterson, Sheridan Peterson's first wife.

840

00:53:10,000 --> 00:53:15,000

He hopes she may have some insight into whether Sheridan could have pulled off the skyjacking.

841

00:53:15,000 --> 00:53:21,000

She also has details about Sheridan's second wife, the key person who could cooperate his alibi.

842

00:53:21,000 --> 00:53:31,000

Sheridan has three children, all grown with Claire. They were married in the 50s and divorced in 1962,

843

00:53:31,000 --> 00:53:36,000

which is right before Sheridan moved up to Seattle and got the job at Boeing.

844

00:53:36,000 --> 00:53:45,000

Actually, Sheridan started working at Boeing in May of 1962, so they went their separate ways right before that.

845

00:53:45,000 --> 00:53:50,000

This is going to be fascinating to speak with Claire about her time with Sheridan.

846

00:53:50,000 --> 00:53:59,000

Sheridan, Claire Peterson, was interviewed by the FBI in 1974 about Sheridan and about this case.

847

00:53:59,000 --> 00:54:10,000

At that time, Sheridan was living in Asia, so she knew as of 1974 that Sheridan was a suspect in the D.B. Cooper skyjacking.

848

00:54:10,000 --> 00:54:19,000

Sheridan was 45 at the time of the skyjacking, and Eric believes his appearance is similar to the original sketch of D.B. Cooper.

849

00:54:19,000 --> 00:54:27,000

Sheridan lived in Seattle prior to the skyjacking and was photographed in a suit and tie while posing as a skydiver.

850

00:54:27,000 --> 00:54:33,000

As a Boeing employee, it's also likely that Sheridan knew the inner workings of the Boeing 727.

851

00:54:33,000 --> 00:54:40,000

And finally, Eric does not believe that Sheridan's alibi can be cooperated for the time of the skyjacking.

852

00:54:50,000 --> 00:54:53,000

Hi Claire. Hi Eric Eulis.

853

00:54:53,000 --> 00:54:55,000

Hi Eric. How are you?

854

00:54:55,000 --> 00:54:56,000

Fine, thank you.

855

00:54:56,000 --> 00:54:57,000

Good to meet you.

856

00:54:58,000 --> 00:55:03,000

Claire agreed to help Eric obtain a DNA profile from one of their children.

857

00:55:03,000 --> 00:55:09,000

It will be compared to the DNA from D.B. Cooper's tie left aboard Flight 305.

858

00:55:09,000 --> 00:55:15,000

If it's a match, Eric could finally have the answer to the mystery of D.B. Cooper's identity.

859

00:55:16,000 --> 00:55:25,000

First of all, Claire, thank you very much for taking the time to sit down with me and talk a little bit about your life and your life with Sheridan.

860

00:55:25,000 --> 00:55:32,000

Can you describe just the nature of your relationship during that seven years with Sheridan?

861

00:55:32,000 --> 00:55:40,000

Well, the relationship was bumpy. He did have tirades of anger.

862

00:55:40,000 --> 00:55:48,000

I don't think he could control it. So I knew there was a time when I was going to have to say goodbye to him.

863

00:55:48,000 --> 00:55:53,000

And that's the way it went. Something had to be done because I didn't want to get hurt.

864

00:55:53,000 --> 00:56:03,000

In terms of being clever and deceptive when there's something that he wanted or what have you, did you detect any of that in him?

865

00:56:03,000 --> 00:56:05,000

The ability to be deceptive?

866

00:56:05,000 --> 00:56:12,000

I think he was deceptive, yes, in a way that would work for him.

867

00:56:12,000 --> 00:56:21,000

As Eric speaks with Claire Peterson, former FBI agent Mary Jean Friar is en route to visit Sheridan

Peterson.

868

00:56:21,000 --> 00:56:28,000

In 2003, she interviewed him as a person of interest and collected a DNA sample.

869

00:56:29,000 --> 00:56:35,000

This is the first time they've met since then.

870

00:56:35,000 --> 00:56:48,000

I was glad you reached out to me on Twitter when you sent me the message that you wished I was still in the FBI because you had things that were happening to your computer.

871

00:56:48,000 --> 00:56:52,000

Do you remember that in September?

872

00:56:52,000 --> 00:56:54,000

With your book.

873

00:56:54,000 --> 00:56:58,000

You signed it, DB.

874

00:56:58,000 --> 00:57:01,000

Because I thought I didn't use you.

875

00:57:01,000 --> 00:57:05,000

Yeah, you did amuse me. Twice you signed DB.

876

00:57:05,000 --> 00:57:12,000

Yeah, I was so surprised to find you.

877

00:57:12,000 --> 00:57:15,000

It's been a long time since we've seen each other.

878

00:57:15,000 --> 00:57:18,000

Yes, it has. That was 20 years ago.

879

00:57:18,000 --> 00:57:20,000

A long time ago.

880

00:57:20,000 --> 00:57:24,000

I was in a high sting of aircraft.

881

00:57:24,000 --> 00:57:27,000

That wasn't me.

882

00:57:27,000 --> 00:57:31,000

There were easier ways to get 200,000, I would say.

883

00:57:31,000 --> 00:57:34,000

I'm surprised that you guys are still interested.

884

00:57:34,000 --> 00:57:36,000

They never caught the guy.

885

00:57:36,000 --> 00:57:38,000

The FBI gave up on it and closed it.

886

00:57:38,000 --> 00:57:40,000

Oh, did they?

887

00:57:40,000 --> 00:57:43,000

The fact that people think that you could be D.V. Cooper makes sense.

888

00:57:43,000 --> 00:57:48,000

D.V. Cooper was a gangster. He was a thief.

889

00:57:48,000 --> 00:57:51,000

That was \$200,000.

890

00:57:51,000 --> 00:57:53,000

Also, he wanted to blow up a plane.

891

00:57:53,000 --> 00:57:56,000

He would have killed a lot of people.

892

00:57:56,000 --> 00:57:58,000

Do you think the bombs are real?

893

00:57:58,000 --> 00:58:01,000

Oh, they weren't real, no.

894

00:58:01,000 --> 00:58:04,000

How do you know that?

895

00:58:04,000 --> 00:58:09,000

Retired FBI investigator Mary Jean Friar is meeting with Sheridan Peterson.

896

00:58:09,000 --> 00:58:14,000

A man she interviewed in 2003 has a person of interest in the D.V. Cooper case.

897

00:58:14,000 --> 00:58:16,000

Do you think the bombs are real?

898

00:58:16,000 --> 00:58:22,000

No. The FBI found and proved that the bombs weren't real.

899

00:58:22,000 --> 00:58:25,000

They did? I didn't hear that.

900

00:58:25,000 --> 00:58:31,000

Oh, yeah. Once he had jumped there, he left the stuff behind.

901

00:58:31,000 --> 00:58:34,000

He only left the tie behind.

902

00:58:34,000 --> 00:58:40,000

The only items recovered from the hijack plane were a long skinny black clip on tie,

903

00:58:40,000 --> 00:58:44,000

a gold tie clip and eight cigarette butts.

904

00:58:44,000 --> 00:58:49,000

It's believed Cooper jumped with everything else, including the handwritten notes

905

00:58:49,000 --> 00:58:52,000

exchanged between he and the flight attendants.

906

00:58:52,000 --> 00:58:54,000

Why would he do that?

907

00:58:54,000 --> 00:59:00,000

I feel that my personal opinion that he ended up in the Columbia River.

908

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

That money, all of Rotten and everything, was in the sand along the bank,

909

00:59:06,000 --> 00:59:08,000

north of the doll.

910

00:59:08,000 --> 00:59:11,000

Actually, I think the money was buried, not lost.

911

00:59:11,000 --> 00:59:13,000

Buried?

912

00:59:13,000 --> 00:59:19,000

Because it was like in a stack in the sand, not like just drifted there.

913

00:59:19,000 --> 00:59:26,000

If he jumped in a just, in a tire that he was wearing, he was crazy.

914

00:59:26,000 --> 00:59:28,000

And I'm not crazy.

915

00:59:28,000 --> 00:59:30,000

That took a lot of guts to do what he did.

916

00:59:30,000 --> 00:59:34,000

Oh, yeah, I think so. Yeah.

917

00:59:36,000 --> 00:59:38,000

You know, your life story is fascinating.

918

00:59:38,000 --> 00:59:42,000

Can we start after your first wife, Claire?

919

00:59:42,000 --> 00:59:48,000

Yes, right after my first wife, I took a sabbatical in the Philippines.

920

00:59:48,000 --> 00:59:53,000

I was just an English teacher, and I met Zinni.

921

00:59:53,000 --> 00:59:56,000

She lived in a very poor area.

922

00:59:56,000 --> 01:00:02,000

She wasn't well educated, but I married a Zinni.

923

01:00:02,000 --> 01:00:06,000

We had two children, and then I went to Vietnam.

924

01:00:06,000 --> 01:00:11,000

It was an express purpose of writing a documentary on the Vietnam War.

925

01:00:11,000 --> 01:00:14,000

You know, I needed a passport.

926

01:00:14,000 --> 01:00:16,000

Oh, I have those passports.

927

01:00:16,000 --> 01:00:18,000

Can we see them?

928

01:00:18,000 --> 01:00:20,000

Yeah, I'll get them.

929

01:00:20,000 --> 01:00:23,000

This is all your travel everywhere?

930

01:00:23,000 --> 01:00:26,000

Well, I'm not sure it's all of them, but...

931

01:00:26,000 --> 01:00:28,000

You keep everything. I love that.

932

01:00:28,000 --> 01:00:32,000

So here's Catman due in August of 71.

933

01:00:32,000 --> 01:00:37,000

Now, after August of 71, then where'd you go?

934

01:00:37,000 --> 01:00:40,000

Oh, I went back to Vietnam.

935

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

Yeah, I remember that.

936

01:00:42,000 --> 01:00:49,000

I went back and I left the family in Malaysia in Penang.

937

01:00:49,000 --> 01:00:51,000

Your wife died in 1977?

938

01:00:54,000 --> 01:00:56,000

Well, yeah.

939

01:00:56,000 --> 01:00:59,000

I don't want them to know where I am.

940

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

I don't want them to know anything.

941

01:01:03,000 --> 01:01:09,000

Back in Idaho, Eric Eules continues his meetings with Sheridan's first wife, Claire.

942

01:01:09,000 --> 01:01:16,000

He was not money crazy, but he did not want to work, but, you know, he wanted to have a living.

943

01:01:16,000 --> 01:01:23,000

And I knew he wanted to go to Asia, and it looked like he was doing what he wanted to do.

944

01:01:23,000 --> 01:01:28,000

So you were made aware at some point that he, like, headed to Asia?

945

01:01:28,000 --> 01:01:32,000

I did know that he left and he went overseas.

946

01:01:32,000 --> 01:01:35,000

And was there any contact with him while he was over there?

947

01:01:35,000 --> 01:01:42,000

Probably a couple of letters, and then, but for years and years, no contact.

948

01:01:42,000 --> 01:01:50,000

One thing that was intriguing that we talked about related to his second wife.

949

01:01:50,000 --> 01:01:55,000

And you're talking about a wife that he led me to believe was alive.

950

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

What did he say to you in 2007 that made you think she was still alive?

951

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

I met his daughter, their daughter, and she wanted to see her mother,

952

01:02:07,000 --> 01:02:12,000

and she wanted to see her, that her mother got over here to the United States from the Philippines.

953

01:02:12,000 --> 01:02:13,000

What year was this?

954

01:02:13,000 --> 01:02:15,000

Well, this was 2007.

955

01:02:15,000 --> 01:02:20,000

So you talked, you had a conversation with Sheridan about this right here at your house, where we are right now.

956

01:02:20,000 --> 01:02:21,000

Yes.

957

01:02:21,000 --> 01:02:22,000

What did Sheridan say about that?

958

01:02:22,000 --> 01:02:24,000

Well, I asked Sheridan, why don't you send for her?

959

01:02:24,000 --> 01:02:26,000

Why don't you see that she can get here?

960

01:02:26,000 --> 01:02:32,000

And he laughed, and what he said was, oh, she wants to bring her entire family over with her.

961

01:02:32,000 --> 01:02:37,000

Clearly, you're under the distinct impression that his second wife, at least as of 2007,

962

01:02:37,000 --> 01:02:39,000

is alive and well, and is living in the Philippines.

963

01:02:39,000 --> 01:02:40,000

Is that correct?

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01:02:40,000 --> 01:02:41,000

Exactly.

965

01:02:41,000 --> 01:02:48,000

According to Sheridan, his second wife had passed away in 1977.

966

01:02:49,000 --> 01:02:52,000

Well, he's lying about something.

967

01:02:52,000 --> 01:02:59,000

If he is possibly Dan Cooper, she would know.

968

01:02:59,000 --> 01:03:07,000

Well, that's what I started to really think, perhaps, it was he who did it.

969

01:03:07,000 --> 01:03:17,000

He had the knowledge and probably, he probably had the courage to do something like that.

970

01:03:17,000 --> 01:03:25,000

Look, I read Eric's work, and I have to ask you, I want to know how you knew the reserve parachute was Daisy Chained.

971

01:03:25,000 --> 01:03:27,000

I, Daisy Chained it.

972

01:03:27,000 --> 01:03:29,000

You, Daisy Chained it?

973

01:03:29,000 --> 01:03:30,000

Yeah, I, Daisy Chained it.

974

01:03:30,000 --> 01:03:35,000

We used it there at Issaquah for years.

975

01:03:35,000 --> 01:03:40,000

Sheridan Peterson worked at the Issaquah Skydive Center in the early 1960s,

976

01:03:40,000 --> 01:03:46,000

the same place that would later provide parachutes used by Cooper in his escape.

977

01:03:46,000 --> 01:03:51,000

Our Daisy Chained it, so they throw it down and out, see.

978

01:03:51,000 --> 01:03:54,000

The reserve, I put the red X on it.

979

01:03:54,000 --> 01:03:56,000

You hadn't been to Issaquah in five years.

980

01:03:56,000 --> 01:03:59,000

How did you know that that's the same reserve you made?

981

01:03:59,000 --> 01:04:01,000

Well, I was sure it was.

982

01:04:01,000 --> 01:04:03,000

Why would they change it?

983

01:04:03,000 --> 01:04:05,000

Who gave it to him?

984

01:04:05,000 --> 01:04:06,000

Lynn Emmerich.

985

01:04:06,000 --> 01:04:10,000

Yeah, that's why Lynn Emmerich figured it was me.

986

01:04:10,000 --> 01:04:15,000

Lynn Emmerich worked at Issaquah Skyport at the same time as the hijacking.

987

01:04:15,000 --> 01:04:23,000

But the others no longer think that I'm a DB Trooper.

988

01:04:23,000 --> 01:04:25,000

And there's still that DNA out there?

989

01:04:25,000 --> 01:04:27,000

Yeah, you still have my DNA.

990

01:04:27,000 --> 01:04:29,000

It's still there, yeah.

991

01:04:29,000 --> 01:04:31,000

I've never heard that it was cleared.

992

01:04:31,000 --> 01:04:33,000

But I thought you said there.

993

01:04:33,000 --> 01:04:35,000

No, because I never found out.

994

01:04:35,000 --> 01:04:38,000

But you can find out yourself.

995

01:04:38,000 --> 01:04:40,000

I can send you the form.

996

01:04:40,000 --> 01:04:42,000

You just make the request and they'll tell you.

997

01:04:42,000 --> 01:04:48,000

There was a little part of me that was hoping you were going to confess to being DB Cooper today.

998

01:04:48,000 --> 01:04:49,000

A little part of you?

999

01:04:49,000 --> 01:04:50,000

Yeah.

1000

01:04:50,000 --> 01:04:54,000

Oh, she really is an FBI.

1001

01:04:54,000 --> 01:04:55,000

Yeah.

1002

01:04:55,000 --> 01:05:03,000

I just hope that whoever it is, that takes some credit for it before they die, if they're still alive.

1003

01:05:03,000 --> 01:05:06,000

Because it's quite the accomplishment.

1004

01:05:06,000 --> 01:05:14,000

And so many people have claimed it or tried to steal it from this person saying, oh, I was DB Cooper or on their deathbed or family members will come out.

1005

01:05:14,000 --> 01:05:23,000

But it would be nice if the person doesn't let it go unsolved.

1006

01:05:23,000 --> 01:05:25,000

All right, listen, I have to say goodbye.

1007

01:05:25,000 --> 01:05:26,000

Yeah.

1008

01:05:26,000 --> 01:05:27,000

Hey.

1009

01:05:27,000 --> 01:05:28,000

Yeah.

1010

01:05:28,000 --> 01:05:30,000

All right, you take care of yourself.

1011

01:05:30,000 --> 01:05:31,000

Yeah.

1012

01:05:31,000 --> 01:05:32,000

I will send you that form.

1013

01:05:32,000 --> 01:05:33,000

All right.

1014

01:05:33,000 --> 01:05:34,000

All right.

1015

01:05:34,000 --> 01:05:37,000

Then we can put this to rest unless you want to confess to me.

1016

01:05:37,000 --> 01:05:38,000

Huh?

1017

01:05:38,000 --> 01:05:39,000

Unless you want to confess to me.

1018

01:05:39,000 --> 01:05:41,000

Oh, I got to get on my knees.

1019

01:05:41,000 --> 01:05:42,000

Yeah.

1020

01:05:42,000 --> 01:05:43,000

While I hit sister.

1021

01:05:43,000 --> 01:05:44,000

You take care of yourself.

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01:05:44,000 --> 01:05:46,000

I'll remember this forever.

1023

01:05:46,000 --> 01:05:47,000

Oh, well, good.

1024

01:05:47,000 --> 01:05:48,000

I will too.

1025

01:05:55,000 --> 01:06:03,000

12 years after he began his obsessive search into DB Cooper, Eric Ulysses in Arizona, meeting with one of the only researchers ever to begin.

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01:06:04,000 --> 01:06:09,000

He was given access to Cooper evidence by the FBI.

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01:06:09,000 --> 01:06:17,000

Eric hopes that he will finally learn if the man he believes could be DB Cooper really is.

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01:06:17,000 --> 01:06:20,000

Tom Kay is a rock star in the DB Cooper world.

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01:06:20,000 --> 01:06:29,000

And the reason the guys are rock stars because he actually got special access to the evidence in 2008 as well as 2011.

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01:06:29,000 --> 01:06:39,000

Knowing this, it only makes sense to see if Tom Kay happened to extract some of DB Cooper's DNA while testing the tie.

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01:06:43,000 --> 01:06:45,000

Eric, how you doing, man?

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01:06:45,000 --> 01:06:46,000

Good to see you.

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01:06:46,000 --> 01:06:47,000

Good to see you.

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01:06:47,000 --> 01:06:48,000

Come on in.

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01:06:48,000 --> 01:06:57,000

Back in 2008, I was approached by a Cooper group that was looking for somebody to analyze the money that was found on Tina Barr and had been buried there for a long time.

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01:06:57,000 --> 01:07:11,000

Then we went back to the FBI in 2011, and by that time we were working with Special Agent Curtis Ang, and he allowed us then to have access to the tie specifically so we could do a series of tests, and we also vacuumed the tie for particles.

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01:07:11,000 --> 01:07:17,000

What we found that was really amazing is we found metallic titanium on the tie.

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01:07:17,000 --> 01:07:29,000

Titanium is used to manufacture aircrafts and is found at plane manufacturing plants like the Boeing facility, where Sheridan worked from 1962 to 1964.

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01:07:29,000 --> 01:07:43,000

There were very few applications for commercially pure titanium back in 1971, and I know that some of my research has actually shown that indeed the 727 itself specifically the engine has commercially pure titanium.

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01:07:43,000 --> 01:07:54,000

At that time, titanium wasn't very common. It was used primarily in aerospace and also in the chemical industry, so it goes a long ways towards narrowing down criteria for DB Cooper.

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01:07:54,000 --> 01:07:59,000

Now we knew how vitally important the particles were on the tie, and we knew what we were looking for.

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01:07:59,000 --> 01:08:06,000

We hooked up a vacuum to a filter like this. This is a sterile filter inside of a sterile jar.

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01:08:06,000 --> 01:08:15,000

We had a small nozzle coming out the end here, and then we hooked a vacuum to the back end of this, and we vacuumed the tie, including the knot of the tie.

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01:08:15,000 --> 01:08:22,000

The tie knot seems like the most logical place to look, the place that would have been touched the most by DB Cooper.

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01:08:22,000 --> 01:08:32,000

This filter that remains unopened to this day has particles from DB Cooper's tie in it, but most importantly it also has Cooper's DNA in it.

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01:08:32,000 --> 01:08:38,000

The thing is there's only one shot with the DNA here. I will never see that again. It is destroyed in the process of getting the DNA.

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01:08:38,000 --> 01:08:48,000

I think that the lab that's been appropriated for this job is a good one, and it'll do a good job. The extent of the job that it can do, nobody knows yet, not even the lab.

1048

01:08:48,000 --> 01:09:01,000

Tom, I want to thank you for entrusting us with this very viable DB Cooper evidence. We're going to take it, send it right off to the lab, see what they can find out, and I'll get back to you with the results as soon as I have something.

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

Alright Tom. Let's go get them.

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01:09:04,000 --> 01:09:18,000

While Eric waits to send the MVAC tie sample to a Florida lab specializing in older forensics cases, former FBI agent Mary Jean Friar receives an unexpected call from Sheridan.

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01:09:18,000 --> 01:09:23,000

When I met with Sheridan Peterson, I thought it was intriguing and kind of confusing.

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01:09:23,000 --> 01:09:27,000

They evidently found the guy that made the highs.

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01:09:27,000 --> 01:09:29,000

No, they never caught the guy.

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01:09:30,000 --> 01:09:32,000

The FBI gave up on it and closed it.

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01:09:32,000 --> 01:09:33,000

Oh, it does that.

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01:09:33,000 --> 01:09:40,000

During the interview, I thought it wasn't him. And then when he pulled out the passports, I said, oh, I think it might be him.

1057

01:09:40,000 --> 01:09:48,000

So here's Catmandu in August of 71. Now you didn't have these when I interviewed you way back when.

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01:09:48,000 --> 01:09:55,000

There was two faded stamps for Nepal for Catmandu. One ended late on 1971 before the hijacking.

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01:09:55,000 --> 01:10:04,000

And then the other one started in April of 1972. By the time the interview was over, I walked out thinking, I don't know anymore.

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01:10:04,000 --> 01:10:06,000

I'm totally confused.

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01:10:06,000 --> 01:10:15,000

Probably about a month after I was up in Santa Rosa, I called Sheridan and I asked him, I thought you were going to do the paperwork and follow through with the DNA filing.

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01:10:16,000 --> 01:10:23,000

He said, oh, you told me that I wasn't D.B. Cooper and I don't think I'm going to do it.

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01:10:23,000 --> 01:10:32,000

And then that was it. The conversation ended. And I hung up thinking, oh my God, now that makes me really suspicious.

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01:10:32,000 --> 01:10:38,000

He just wants to keep it till he dies, which is probably how it's going to play out.

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01:10:39,000 --> 01:10:53,000

Five weeks later, Eric arrives back in California. He's set up a video conference meeting with a senior analyst at the lab comparing D.B. Cooper's DNA to one of Sheridan's daughters.

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01:10:53,000 --> 01:10:59,000

If his theory is right, he may finally learn the true identity of D.B. Cooper.

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01:10:59,000 --> 01:11:05,000

When I first embarked upon this investigation, I had no idea where it's going to take me.

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01:11:05,000 --> 01:11:14,000

I had no idea who I was going to encounter, let alone that I'd find a suspect who couldn't be ruled out by the known facts.

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01:11:14,000 --> 01:11:21,000

According to Sheridan, his second wife had passed away in 1977.

1070

01:11:21,000 --> 01:11:25,000

Well, he's lying about something.

1071

01:11:25,000 --> 01:11:34,000

I've often said that I believe with 98% certainty that Sheridan Peterson could be D.B. Cooper.

1072

01:11:34,000 --> 01:11:41,000

But there's always been that missing 2% because truthfully, I've never been able to find a smoking gun.

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01:11:41,000 --> 01:11:46,000

There's an awful lot riding on what the lab comes back with.

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01:11:47,000 --> 01:11:52,000

Eric Eules reads himself for DNA results that could break the case wide open.

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01:11:52,000 --> 01:12:00,000

He'll be speaking to an analyst at the lab, cast with testing a sample taken directly from the Thai Cooper left behind on the plane.

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01:12:00,000 --> 01:12:10,000

Should DNA be found within the sample, the results could reopen a near 50-year-old case and confirm

Eric's suspicions about a person of interest.

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01:12:10,000 --> 01:12:12,000

How are you?

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01:12:12,000 --> 01:12:13,000

I'm good, how are you?

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01:12:13,000 --> 01:12:15,000

I'm doing well.

1080

01:12:15,000 --> 01:12:19,000

Well, my name is Samantha Wanzak and I currently work at DNA Labs International.

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01:12:19,000 --> 01:12:22,000

We're a private laboratory out of Deerfield Beach in Florida.

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01:12:22,000 --> 01:12:29,000

But we have clients in over 40 states, so it's very easy to go back to any cold case and find more work to be done.

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01:12:29,000 --> 01:12:32,000

So for this case, I was actually the reporting analyst for it.

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01:12:32,000 --> 01:12:38,000

And how did you tackle this material that I sent you to try to ascertain whether or not there's any DNA or not?

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01:12:38,000 --> 01:12:45,000

Due to the size of the filter, we actually cut it up with teeny tiny chunks and then sent the whole filter for extraction.

1086

01:12:45,000 --> 01:12:48,000

That's the first stage of the DNA testing process.

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01:12:48,000 --> 01:12:51,000

We then try to determine how much DNA of any is present in the sample.

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01:12:51,000 --> 01:12:55,000

If we have enough DNA, we'll then send it forward for amplification.

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01:12:55,000 --> 01:12:59,000

When you have cases that are old, typically you'll see a sample will be degraded.

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01:12:59,000 --> 01:13:04,000

That DNA is just going to break apart over time and you're just not going to have as much intact DNA.

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01:13:04,000 --> 01:13:07,000

But I was very surprised with the results.

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01:13:07,000 --> 01:13:11,000

So there was DNA in the filter.

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01:13:11,000 --> 01:13:16,000

We did end up with a profile from one male individual.

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01:13:16,000 --> 01:13:19,000

Is there some way to quantify the strength?

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01:13:19,000 --> 01:13:24,000

I mean, is it one of these things where one out of a billion people would match this particular profile?

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01:13:24,000 --> 01:13:27,000

Like how strong is it? What can it tell us?

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01:13:27,000 --> 01:13:36,000

Typically, once you have over 20 locations, you would have to see hundreds, thousands, millions of planet Earths with our same current population

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01:13:36,000 --> 01:13:38,000

to expect to see that profile one time.

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01:13:38,000 --> 01:13:42,000

So once you have over those 20 locations, it usually becomes very rare.

1100

01:13:42,000 --> 01:13:54,000

So what you're telling me is that we are the very first people outside of the FBI to actually have D.B. Cooper's DNA profile.

1101

01:13:54,000 --> 01:13:57,000

I'm anxious to find out what that means.

1102

01:13:57,000 --> 01:14:04,000

What can it tell us in comparison to DNA profile from one of Sheridan Peterson's daughters?

1103

01:14:04,000 --> 01:14:06,000

Does it match?

1104

01:14:09,000 --> 01:14:13,000

She is not the biological daughter of the male donor that we found.

1105

01:14:13,000 --> 01:14:17,000

Wow. That's stunning.

1106

01:14:17,000 --> 01:14:24,000

I mean, that's really remarkable given everything I know about this guy.

1107

01:14:24,000 --> 01:14:26,000

It's a game changer, obviously.

1108

01:14:26,000 --> 01:14:36,000

The one thing that's very encouraging to me, though, is that we have a very solid DNA profile from the tie.

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01:14:36,000 --> 01:14:46,000

Getting a DNA profile is so important because it can provide assurance to me and others that this case is actually solvable.

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01:14:46,000 --> 01:14:51,000

I do very much appreciate all the effort that you folks put into this.

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01:14:51,000 --> 01:14:59,000

And I'm just very grateful that we've got a solid DNA profile and I'm grateful that we have some resolution with respect to Sheridan Peterson.

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01:14:59,000 --> 01:15:02,000

So again, thank you very much for your efforts and your time.

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01:15:02,000 --> 01:15:05,000

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions that you have.

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01:15:05,000 --> 01:15:07,000

We will do that.

1115

01:15:09,000 --> 01:15:16,000

Now armed with new information from the lab, Eric calls Agent Mary Jean Friar to share the results.

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01:15:17,000 --> 01:15:23,000

Right now, I want to give Mary Jean a call and I want to let her know what I have learned.

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01:15:23,000 --> 01:15:33,000

Because Mary Jean has really helped move my investigation forward and I'm sure she's going to want to know what I've learned about the DNA.

1118

01:15:33,000 --> 01:15:37,000

Hey Mary Jean, how are you doing? It's Eric Hulis calling.

1119

01:15:37,000 --> 01:15:38,000

I'm here.

1120

01:15:38,000 --> 01:15:40,000

I've got a DNA update.

1121

01:15:40,000 --> 01:15:44,000

Finally have some results from the lab in Florida.

1122

01:15:44,000 --> 01:15:51,000

They did come up with a full DNA profile and it's from a male.

1123

01:15:51,000 --> 01:15:53,000

I'm getting really excited.

1124

01:15:53,000 --> 01:15:58,000

My stomach is like a knot because I'm hoping that it's him.

1125

01:15:58,000 --> 01:16:04,000

They proved 100% that the DNA does not match.

1126

01:16:04,000 --> 01:16:06,000

Oh, damn!

1127

01:16:06,000 --> 01:16:10,000

Sheridan Peterson is not D.B. Cooper.

1128

01:16:10,000 --> 01:16:16,000

Last conversation I have with Sheridan, his point blank refused to go forward with the DNA.

1129

01:16:16,000 --> 01:16:23,000

I am absolutely convinced that the DNA that we have is D.B. Cooper's DNA.

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01:16:23,000 --> 01:16:28,000

So if anybody matches this DNA profile, all 20 points, that's your guy.

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01:16:28,000 --> 01:16:30,000

There's absolutely no doubt about it.

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01:16:30,000 --> 01:16:34,000

Can we run it in databases and find him or is this a lost cause at this point?

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01:16:34,000 --> 01:16:43,000

They actually can utilize it to run through the CODIS system, but of course that involves, you know, law enforcement getting involved and the courts getting involved.

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01:16:43,000 --> 01:16:52,000

Eric, I think what you've done is more than the FBI ever did and I would think this is enough that if we need law enforcement, they've got to take this back when we open it.

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01:16:52,000 --> 01:16:59,000

This is damn good evidence. This is better than they've ever come with and maybe they can actually solve this case with your help.

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01:16:59,000 --> 01:17:03,000

I honestly believe we will eventually figure out who this guy was.

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01:17:03,000 --> 01:17:05,000

Thank you very much.

1138

01:17:05,000 --> 01:17:16,000

After narrowing down Cooper's possible landing site and eliminating an FBI person of interest, Eric's even more determined to continue his mission.

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01:17:16,000 --> 01:17:27,000

I feel very empowered at the moment. I feel more motivated than ever because having this DNA profile provides an outstanding blueprint.

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01:17:27,000 --> 01:17:42,000

As I continue to pursue this case, I am now actually armed with precisely what I need to determine who D.B. Cooper was and more importantly, to prove it.

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01:17:42,000 --> 01:17:46,000

Time in a D.B. Cooper case has served as a double-edged sword.

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01:17:46,000 --> 01:17:57,000

In one sense, you have, you know, first-hand witnesses that pass on and memories fade, but in another sense, we have advances in science and technology.

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01:17:57,000 --> 01:18:14,000

And I think when all is said and done, time is going to be our friend because I firmly believe that this DNA profile is ultimately what's going to break this case wide open and is what is going to solve this case.

1144

01:18:14,000 --> 01:18:19,000

The identity of D.B. Cooper has haunted investigators for nearly five decades.

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01:18:19,000 --> 01:18:27,000

Who is this mysterious hijacker? And will we ever finally discover his true identity? I'm Lawrence Fishburne.

1146

01:18:27,000 --> 01:18:30,000

Thank you for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.