

1

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

Tonight on History's Greatest Mysteries.

2

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

Late this afternoon, a person from New Mexico

3

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

suggested that one of the strange discs had been found and infected.

4

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

In 1947, something crashed in the desert in the American Southwest.

5

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

Whatever the object was, it has created shock waves still felt today.

6

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

I'm Lawrence Fishburne.

7

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

On tonight's mystery, what crashed in Roswell, New Mexico?

8

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

Was it a flying saucer, as headlines first announced, or a secret military aircraft?

9

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

A new investigation seeks answers.

10

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

This might be that piece of the puzzle.

11

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

An ex-CIA officer named Ben Smith has obtained a cryptic journal.

12

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

It was found among the papers of Major Jesse Marcel,

13

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

the first U.S. Army officer to investigate the wreckage.

14

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

He always said that he was sworn to secrecy.

15

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

Does it contain coded clues of what Marcel really saw?

16

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:07,000

It was not anything from this earth.

17

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:12,000

What about stories of alleged alien bodies in the wreckage?

18

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:16,000

She said there were little people and there were some dead and some alive.

19

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:21,000

Did the U.S. government cover up the truth and does it still possess the wreckage of a UFO?

20

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:25,000

I do know one name of a man who had pieces of debris.

21

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:30,000

The truth behind Roswell, according to those who were there.

22

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

A former CIA operative, investigator and author, Ben Smith has been intrigued by Roswell and UFOs for years.

23

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

Investigating was at the core of my work at CIA.

24

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:10,000

I went under deep cover, lived a double life to collect intel on terrorist networks,

25

00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,000

foreign spy activities, even weapons of mass destruction.

26

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

Smith says this may be his most challenging mission,

27

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

trying to figure out the truth about what really crashed near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947.

28

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:26,000

So this is it, huh?

29

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:28,000

This is it. Ground zero.

30

00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:32,000

Don Schmidt has written seven bestsellers about Roswell

31

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,000

and interviewed more people connected to the incident than anyone alive.

32

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:40,000

Take a look at the impact site now, that creation of 47.

33

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:45,000

I was a special investigator for the late Dr. Jalen Heineck.

34

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:48,000

Who was consultant to the Air Force Project Blue Book.

35

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:50,000

I was a skeptic.

36

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:54,000

And the one case that I wanted to investigate was Roswell.

37

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

And for having talked to over 600 witnesses, either directly or indirectly involved,

38

00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:07,000

I am 99% convinced that what indeed crashed here back in 1947

39

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:12,000

was a craft of unknown origin not manufactured on this planet.

40

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:22,000

Ben Smith asked Schmidt to show him the site where the crash debris was found.

41

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:27,000

This is it, Beth.

42

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:34,000

What we consider the most significant location as far as in the entire history of the UFO phenomenon.

43

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

It's total isolation.

44

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:44,000

We could just as well be on the dark side of the moon.

45

00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:49,000

You know, my background is in the CIA.

46

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:54,000

And I have no agenda except to explore this mystery,

47

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

bring some clarity to some unanswered questions.

48

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:02,000

It's thrilling to finally be out here after having read so much about it, a lot of your work.

49

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:05,000

This is where it all began back in 1947.

50

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:18,000

In the 1940s, New Mexico was home to some of America's most sensitive military installations,

51

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

including where the atomic bomb was developed.

52

00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:29,000

By the summer of 1947, the U.S. was worried that the Soviets were building their own atomic bomb.

53

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:35,000

And Americans were worried about something else, hundreds of reports of UFOs.

54

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

What is the flying saucer?

55

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:41,000

What's behind the daily reports of aerial phenomena in the nation's press?

56

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

These supposed societies were reported in a number of newspapers throughout the United States,

57

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:51,000

and they actually started to grow in number in kind of a mass hysteria.

58

00:04:53,000 --> 00:05:00,000

Much of the activity seemed to be focused in New Mexico, the hotbed of military activity at that time.

59

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

New Mexico became the focus, not only the Soviet Union,

60

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

but also the UFO phenomenon, as though someone else was very interested in our military potential.

61

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:22,000

By late June 1947, more than a week before the Roswell crash,

62

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:28,000

residents in the southern part of the state were spooked by nearly 70 sightings of UFOs.

63

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:37,000

It was just going in a earthly motion at a pretty rapidly speed, but nothing like a falling star or meteorite.

64

00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:41,000

So bright like that, you couldn't look directly at it very long at a time,

65

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

and you had to look to the side of it, just like looking into a bright sun.

66

00:05:46,000 --> 00:06:02,000

Then on the morning of July 6, 1947, something even stranger occurred.

67

00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:11,000

Roswell's sheriff called the nearby army airfield to say that a sheep rancher had come in

68

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

with pieces of debris that he believed came from a crashed flying saucer.

69

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:24,000

The base's commander was Colonel William H. Blanchard, a highly decorated military pilot,

70

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:32,000

who in 1945 had supervised the mission of the Enola Gay, the bomber that destroyed Hiroshima.

71

00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:41,000

By 1947, the base was still home to the 509th, the world's only nuclear-equipped bomber squadron.

72

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Roswell was the headquarters of the elite military at that time.

73

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:52,000

The base was always on full alert because they had the atomic bomb.

74

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

In response to the call from the sheriff, Colonel Blanchard dispatched the base's intelligence officer,

75

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

Major Jesse Marcell, with him was Sheridan Kavett, an agent for Army Counterintelligence.

76

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

According to Don Schmitz' research, this is what happened next.

77

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:25,000

Monday morning, July 7, Jesse Marcell and Sheridan Kavett arrived at the debris field with the rancher.

78

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:36,000

Major Jesse Marcell said the first thing that struck him was the massive amount of debris.

79

00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:42,000

As he would say, there was just so much of it covered an area almost a mile long.

80

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:53,000

Interviewed later about what he saw in the debris field, Marcell claimed it was three-quarters of a mile long, a couple of hundred feet wide.

81

00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:07,000

But at that point, that material has been out there for days and no one else is looking for it, which would clearly suggest it's not ours.

82

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:11,000

And if it's not ours, then whose is it?

83

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

So Marcell and Kavett spend the better part of the day out there looking at this thing and trying to determine what it was.

84

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:30,000

Marcell picked up different pieces of the debris and put them in boxes in the trunk of his car.

85

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Kavett would stay behind and concentrate more of the wreckage in a general area. Marcell would make the drive back to Roswell.

86

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:56,000

What Jesse did next, according to his family, was an uncharacteristic breach of military protocol.

87

00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:05,000

He knew the material would be classified top secret the moment it would cross the front gate at the Roswell Army airfield.

88

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:17,000

It was important enough, strange enough, unusual enough that Major Marcell would stop at his home on the way back to the base.

89

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:26,000

He came back real late one night, about two o'clock in the morning as I recall.

90

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:33,000

Very excited because he found parts of a UFO or a flying saucer at that time and he wanted me to see it.

91

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Marcell would describe paper thin metal like material, practically weightless in your hands that you couldn't cut, you couldn't burn.

92

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:54,000

There were silken strands of material that Marcell described that a lighter could be held to one end and the light would emit out the opposing end.

93

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,000

They were describing fiber optics in 1947.

94

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:03,000

The fiber optics didn't come into development until around 1970.

95

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:05,000

And then the I-beam structures.

96

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:12,000

The most unusual part of the debris that I saw was the I-beam fragments.

97

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:21,000

Jesse Marcell Jr. spent a lifetime thinking about the strange materials his father brought home and let him handle.

98

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

They were very light, very strong and they had some writing along the inside surface of this.

99

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

And that was the thing that really set this apart from anything I'd ever seen before.

100

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:57,000

I am on my way to meet with the Marcell family, the grandchildren of the first American official on the scene at Roswell in 1947.

101

00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Having learned of Ben Smith's investigation, the Marcell family is eager to talk with him.

102

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:06,000

They believe they have something he will certainly want to see.

103

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

The Roswell incident could potentially be the greatest event in the history of humankind.

104

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:25,000

You know, we have how many 300 trillion stars and 200 billion galaxies and scattered across like 15 billion light years.

105

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:31,000

And to think that we're all alone and all of that space is pretty sad.

106

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:40,000

So I personally want to know, is there anybody out there and have they been here?

107

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:54,000

The Roswell incident has got the potential for physical evidence and, you know, a host of reliable witnesses who all describe something the world has never seen before.

108

00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:01,000

There's no way for me to know, but to research, to start at the bottom and work my way through the facts.

109

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

The Marcell family has a journal belonging to their grandfather.

110

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:19,000

This journal could change the entire story about what happened in Roswell.

111

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:34,000

Hi, Jesse Marcell.

112

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:36,000

Jesse, pleasure to meet you. Ben.

113

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:38,000

Ben, nice to finally meet you. Come on in.

114

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:42,000

My brother and sister are here as well.

115

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:51,000

I first saw the journal going through some military documents of my grandfather and it was just in with the military documents.

116

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Here's a diary.

117

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Oh, OK. Wow.

118

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:58,000

He put it in a cedar chest and it was in there until the day he died.

119

00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:01,000

There's something very important about that journal.

120

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:04,000

This is pretty wild.

121

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:05,000

Right?

122

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:10,000

Until now, no one outside the Marcell family has ever seen this journal.

123

00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:14,000

Does it contain fresh details about what really happened in Roswell?

124

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:29,000

January 4th, 1946 to 1948. See, that would have been a year, almost a year after.

125

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:31,000

About a year after August? Almost exactly a year.

126

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:42,000

Ben Smith's investigation of the Roswell incident has taken him to Spokane, Washington to meet the grandchildren of Jesse Marcell who believe they have a crucial piece of evidence.

127

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:47,000

Well, this really does run the gamut then. It starts before Roswell and ends about a year after.

128

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:48,000

Right.

129

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:55,000

After his death, Marcell's family found a journal hidden with his military records that he had never shared with anyone.

130

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:59,000

There's something very important about that journal.

131

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:06,000

There are entries dated from around the time of Roswell, but the notations are strange and confusing.

132

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:10,000

Could they be coded clues to what Marcell really saw?

133

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

Why was he writing movie quotes or songs?

134

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

How into pop culture and movie and books was your grandfather?

135

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

We never talked about that kind of thing with our grandfather.

136

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:21,000

No.

137

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:29,000

You know, it could also be something like a mnemonic device where you memorize something totally different from the subject matter so that it prompts your recall later.

138

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:40,000

Ben wonders if their grandfather, a seasoned intelligence officer, was trying to hide information because he'd been warned, never to reveal the truth about the UFO.

139

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:44,000

Since he worked in intelligence, you're not going to stay it out.

140

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:48,000

Oh, hell, wow. I just found a UFO. You know, you're not going to write it out like that.

141

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:49,000

Right.

142

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:53,000

You're going to be kind of cryptic about it because you don't want anybody else to maybe see what you're writing.

143

00:14:53,000 --> 00:15:00,000

At one point, the military came back and said, yeah, you guys stop making this stuff up about the UFO crash.

144

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

And he grabbed his medals and threw them away.

145

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:08,000

He said he was done. He was done. And he was very upset.

146

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

Jesse Marcel was born in 1907 in the Bayou country of southern Louisiana.

147

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

His childhood fascination with maps would lead to a job with shell oil where he worked with aerial photographs.

148

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:32,000

This combination of skills made him an obvious candidate for Air Force Intelligence School after America went to war in 1942.

149

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:40,000

Lieutenant Marcel's job, mapping targets for bomber squadrons in the Pacific, earned him two air medals and a bronze star.

150

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:47,000

When World War II ended, Marcel, with a young family to support, decided to stay in the military,

151

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:54,000

receiving a plum assignment with the Army Air Force's most elite unit, the 500 and 9th bomber squadron based in Roswell.

152

00:15:54,000 --> 00:16:01,000

He always said that he was sworn to secrecy, so he never shared everything that had happened out there.

153

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:11,000

But whatever he saw was so significant, he was willing to take a chance with his entire military career to show his son and his wife this stuff.

154

00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:22,000

The Marcel's say that after stopping at home to show the debris to his wife and son, Jesse arrived at the Roswell Army Airfield for the regular morning officers meeting.

155

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:30,000

He presented the strange debris he'd collected to the base's commanding officer, Colonel William H. Blanchard.

156

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:37,000

Blanchard ordered his public affairs officer, First Lieutenant Walter Hout, to issue an immediate press release.

157

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:50,000

I was instructed by Colonel Blanchard to put out a press release, which in effect stated that we had in our possession a flying saucer.

158

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:58,000

As soon as that hit the Roswell Daily Record, it was broadcast by the local radio station.

159

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:03,000

It went. They didn't use that term back then, but it went viral across the whole globe.

160

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:13,000

Late this afternoon, a bulletin from New Mexico suggested that the widely publicized mystery of the flying saucers may soon be solved.

161

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:18,000

Army Air Force officers reported that one of the strange discs had been found and infected sometime last week.

162

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:26,000

As news that a flying saucer had been discovered spread around the world, the Army chain of command took control.

163

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Millions of Americans believe that what happened next, the effort to conceal the UFO crash, is one of the greatest cover-ups in U.S. history.

164

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Colonel Blanchard ordered Major Marcel to fly to Carswell Army Airfield in Fort Worth, Texas to present the material to Brigadier General Roger Ramey,

165

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:55,000

head of the 8th Air Force Commanding Officer over the 519th Bomb Group.

166

00:17:57,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Marcel thought he was flying to Fort Worth with pieces of flying saucer debris.

167

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:12,000

Major Marcel would arrive at Fort Worth approximately four o'clock that afternoon and he presented the material.

168

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:17,000

Ramey took Marcel to an adjoining map room.

169

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

When Marcel would return with the general back to his office, the real material was gone.

170

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

And its place was a weather balloon.

171

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:42,000

The Army called a hasty press conference. It's at this moment, according to Schmidt, that the alleged cover-up begins.

172

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:54,000

Ladies and gentlemen, mystery solved. It's just a weather balloon device. Nothing to worry about. And the press accepted it.

173

00:18:55,000 --> 00:19:04,000

All the personnel at the base were ordered never to bring it up again, never to talk about what had transpired, and they got away with it.

174

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:16,000

Thirty-one years later, however, the man at the center of the Roswell incident from the very beginning came forward with what he said was the real story.

175

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

The following morning we went out to the site where the crash was. And what I saw, I couldn't believe.

176

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:28,000

Marcel says in interviews, that's not the stuff I brought from Roswell.

177

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:38,000

In a 1980 interview for the series, in search of with Leonard Nimoy, Marcel claims he was forced to go along with a cover-up.

178

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:48,000

They took pictures of course, they had a whole flock of microphones there. They wanted some comments from me, but I wasn't that good, but they do that.

179

00:19:49,000 --> 00:20:02,000

So all I could do is keep a mouth shut. And General Rayme is the one who told the newspapers, I mean the newsmen, what it was and to forget about it.

180

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:08,000

It was nothing more than an observation balloon, of course we both knew differently.

181

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:17,000

I had never seen anything like that before. I don't know what it was. It was not anything from this earth that I'm quite sure of.

182

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Watching this interview with his grandchildren, you can really feel the emotion in the room. Marcel claimed the military swore him to secrecy and hid the truth.

183

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:32,000

For his family, it was a government cover-up, plain and simple.

184

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:39,000

Our grandpa wasn't really a public person, he didn't want the spotlight. He didn't, in fact he kind of shied away from it.

185

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:51,000

But I really think this gave him a way to release a lot of weight on his shoulders. This was like a cleansing in a way, a way just to let off this office chest, going to kind of go where it's going to go.

186

00:20:52,000 --> 00:21:03,000

I mean he's incredibly courageous. There are very few intelligence officers who ever come forward in public about what they did. So there's a very admirable trait of bravery.

187

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:09,000

He stood up for what he believed and he went out and he spoke to everyone and that takes guts and then to deal with the blowback.

188

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:16,000

He felt that there was an importance for it to come out, to be seen, you know that something did occur.

189

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:25,000

No, I think he was really upset that they made him the fall guy and that he couldn't believe that it's still at this point that it was still being covered up.

190

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:32,000

And then I think he did want it to be out, but at the same point he knew that there were seekers that had to stay secret.

191

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:40,000

I think grandpa wanted us to learn more. I think he was really wanted to tell everything he knew about it.

192

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

That's the reason I think there's evidence out there that he did. We just got to get to it.

193

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:57,000

Jesse Marcel's grandchildren hope the journal will vindicate him by revealing the truth about what really crashed at Roswell and the cover-up they say he was forced to participate in.

194

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:06,000

Somebody come out and says, you know what, he served his country well and we apologize for making him go through this. And also my father, I want some vindication for him too.

195

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

I probably want to have answers immediately just looking at it, but over time and as we start to build the investigation, perhaps some of these clues will come into focus.

196

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:23,000

This could be a game changer. The rest of the story about what happened at Roswell from its most important witness.

197

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:41,000

During his investigation, Smith will work with Joe Papalardo, a veteran journalist who specializes in aviation.

198

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:55,000

My investigation really starts from this man here, Jesse Marcel Sr., the chief of intelligence at the 509th bomber group at Roswell Army Air Force Base.

199

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:06,000

Jesse Marcel Sr. kept a small army portfolio of his military records and in it a small journal.

200

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

Jesse Marcel, the man at the center of the claim that Roswell was a cover-up, kept this journal among his most important papers. Obviously it was very valuable to him. The question is, is it a key to my investigation?

201

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:33,000

Some of the dates described in the journal capture 1947. It's a remarkable piece of history and nobody really knows about it yet.

202

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:44,000

You're right to be excited. If this is real, if this is an actual journal from that time, it would represent a primary source document from that era. So that's the thing that you want to go after as a researcher.

203

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:48,000

I would like to take a look at what you got to see a little bit more about this diary.

204

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:51,000

Let me actually bring it up on the projector here.

205

00:23:52,000 --> 00:24:02,000

This is the notebook here. Right away I see a typical Army field issue notebook. So here we have a date 1946.

206

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:05,000

This entire journal comes from when he was at Roswell.

207

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:18,000

Correct. Our date here, we have August 31, 1947. About six weeks, seven weeks after the U.S. Army Corps put out their infamous UFO crash at Roswell flying disc.

208

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:33,000

There's a beautiful cursive handwriting. And then if we fast forward, shift just kind of erratic mixed case blocky lettering. And I can't make sense of it.

209

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:44,000

A couple of things leap to mind immediately when you see a change that's this drastic. It's impossible not to notice that it's different. It's either a different person writing it or it's a same person in different mindset.

210

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:47,000

Is that by design or is that just unintentional?

211

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:49,000

The content seems the same.

212

00:24:50,000 --> 00:24:53,000

How does the journal compare with the timeline of the incident?

213

00:24:54,000 --> 00:25:06,000

Well, there's no mention of Roswell at all. No mention of any events, no mention of any wreckage. It's just these jokes and quotes and musings and ideas captured in different handwriting. And there's only sporadic dates.

214

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

They read like quotes from Reader's Digest. Life is what you make it until someone comes along and changes it. Two half brothers make one. Well, now that I am too old to set a bad example, I delight in giving good advice.

215

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

So it meant something to him, but no one knows what?

216

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:39,000

Yeah. He's a soldier. He was in charge of intelligence at the 509th. He knew a lot of secrets. He took them very seriously.

217

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:54,000

It's kind of hard to imagine the seriousness that people back then took secrecy and took nuclear secrecy and nuclear weapons in particular. I mean, there were hordes of Soviet spies trying to get this information at the time.

218

00:25:55,000 --> 00:26:11,000

In 1947, the United States and the Soviet Union were already Cold War enemies. The U.S. possessed nuclear weapons while the Soviets did not. Major Jesse Marcel and his colleagues in the 509th bomber squadron wanted to keep it that way.

219

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:20,000

They were basically the only nuclear bombing group in the world. He was entrusted with the biggest secrets that the military has.

220

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:36,000

One thing that the Marcel children insist on is that their grandfather was absolutely certain that the debris that he was holding in this photo right here, the official government photos and the press release, is not the debris that he found in the field.

221

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

I see my grandfather holding up something that he knew that wasn't what he found.

222

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:46,000

He was adamant that this was not what he saw in the drill field.

223

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:56,000

I see a man that is not liking what they're having him do, but he knows he has to do it because that's his job.

224

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:03,000

That's not what he found. And at that point in time, I'm sure he kind of felt, well, maybe I'm going to be made out to be a fall guy.

225

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:13,000

Keeping a secret is one thing, but telling a lie is another, and being the face of that lie in the newspaper could break a man like Jesse Marcel.

226

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:21,000

That could explain the difference in the journal as well. Someone under that much stress, who knows how that manifests, it's different handwriting because in a different mental state.

227

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

What made the writing so cryptic, and why did it suddenly change? Did it have to do with the UFO or

its passengers?

228

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

Okay, so you've got this hot piece of evidence in your hands. How do you plan on verifying that it's real?

229

00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:47,000

I think the first step is to authenticate the document itself. Is this dated to the time period or is this a recreation? If we can exclude the fact that it's a forgery, then we're winning.

230

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Do the forensics first to make sure that it's actually of the era?

231

00:27:52,000 --> 00:28:00,000

Another interesting question. Why did he have it? Why was it so important to him that he kept it and left it among his things to pass on to his children?

232

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:02,000

And then the third tier is trying to figure what the hell it says.

233

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Yeah, exactly.

234

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:05,000

We're cut out for you in this one.

235

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:24,000

To further his investigation of Marcel's journal, Ben Smith contacts Jennifer Nassau, a leading handwriting expert. She will perform a forensic analysis on the document to determine if it's genuine or a forgery and also whether Jesse Marcel wrote it himself.

236

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:29,000

I understand you worked for the Secret Service.

237

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:34,000

I did. I completed my training with the Secret Service and worked there for a number of years.

238

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:38,000

I used to work for the CIA, so we have a little bit of like USG connection going on.

239

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:49,000

My name is Jennifer Nassau. I'm a forensic document examiner. And what I do is I receive documents

that are in question and I analyze them to determine their authenticity.

240

00:28:50,000 --> 00:29:00,000

At the Secret Service, I authenticated a lot of the threat letters that came in. We also did a lot of work with documents that were false and forged.

241

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:04,000

I do have a very interesting document that I need your help authenticating.

242

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:12,000

A document belonging to the first guy on the scene of the alleged Roswell incident in 1947.

243

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:13,000

Okay.

244

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:24,000

The man named Jesse Marcel Sr. This could potentially hold Marcel's private thoughts about the incidents that July, about the crash, about the materials, about the potential cover up.

245

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:28,000

So I need to determine that this is not in fact a forgery.

246

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

If the journal was written by Jesse Marcel in 1947, could it hold the key to unlocking the mystery of Roswell?

247

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:49,000

I do have a very interesting document that I need your help authenticating.

248

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:58,000

Former CIA operative Ben Smith has brought Jesse Marcel's mysterious journal to a forensic document examiner for testing.

249

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:05,000

This could potentially hold Marcel's private thoughts about the incidents that July.

250

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:15,000

Marcel was the first investigator at the Roswell crash site. While the U.S. Army claimed the wreckage was from a weather balloon, Marcel's family alleges something different.

251

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:20,000

That the journal may hold coded clues about what really happened.

252

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:26,000

I would like to believe that the journal is going to give us the truth we've been looking for for the last 70 years.

253

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:39,000

So I see most of the document is written in a cursive writing and then when you get to the end it changes to a print writing.

254

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:41,000

Yeah.

255

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:48,000

It may be an indication that there were two different writers in this journal. That I would have to do a more thorough examination in order to determine.

256

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:56,000

It's important to authenticate historical documents because it can turn the tables in terms of what we know versus what we thought we knew.

257

00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:04,000

The date of the document is important to know because what I'm going to do is static dating. We

know the introduction dates of certain elements of the paper or the inks.

258

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:10,000

We can see whether or not they were available during the time that this document was reportedly produced.

259

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:19,000

Some of the dates in the journal itself range from 1946 to 1948 and 49. So they cover the period of the Roswell incident.

260

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:30,000

But one of my biggest concerns about this document is forgery. I want to make sure that this document is real. What can you tell me about what you've seen in forged documents?

261

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

Have you seen forgeries of this length before?

262

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:43,000

I have not. But there is a famous case where there were several diaries purportedly written by Hitler.

263

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:57,000

On April 25th 1983 the West German magazine Stern announced that it was in possession of never before seen diaries written by Adolf Hitler that could rewrite the history of World War II.

264

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:05,000

Stern had paid close to four million dollars for the diaries and sold the rights to other major publications around the world.

265

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

Totalling 60 volumes, the writings were authenticated by several prominent historians.

266

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:20,000

But just days before publication, the diaries were exposed as fakes.

267

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:30,000

A forensics analysis by the West German archives quickly discovered that the diaries were made from a kind of paper and ink that wasn't even invented until after World War II.

268

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:39,000

Their author was a prolific East German forger named Konrad Kujau, who wrote out his own confession in the style of Hitler's Penmanship.

269

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:50,000

The way that they ended up determining that they were fraudulent is because the paper contains optical brighteners that were not available until after Hitler's death.

270

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:56,000

Interesting. You know, there's always conspiracy in every corner that I look. How long do you think it will take?

271

00:32:57,000 --> 00:32:58,000

It usually takes a few weeks.

272

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

Oh, it does. OK.

273

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:02,000

Especially something of this magnitude.

274

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:13,000

While Jennifer Nassau performs a forensic analysis of the journal, Smith asks a team of archaeologists and geophysicists to meet him at the debris field.

275

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:20,000

He hopes state-of-the-art technology will find signs that something more powerful than a balloon crashed here.

276

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:29,000

Even 70 years later, if we can find evidence that what crashed here was not a balloon, it could prove that Jesse Marcel was telling the truth.

277

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:32,000

That whatever crashed here was not of this world.

278

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

According to author Kevin Randall, the weather balloon explanation put forward by the military at that 1947 press conference,

279

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:47,000

blindsided not only Jesse Marcel, but also Mac Brazel, the rancher who found the ranch.

280

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:50,000

General Ramey, of course, trotted it out. It's a weather balloon.

281

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:54,000

The problem with that is Mac Brazel knew what weather balloons looked like.

282

00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:59,000

This is Bill Brazel's memory of how his dad reacted.

283

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:04,000

He said that's what the Air Force tried to make him believe, that it was a weather balloon.

284

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:07,000

He said Bill, he said it was not a weather balloon.

285

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:09,000

He said I don't want it, but...

286

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:17,000

But he said it was something all the other different and much bigger.

287

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:29,000

In this 1991 interview, Jud Roberts, manager of Roswell's local radio station KGFL, says that local residents were very familiar with the military's weather balloons.

288

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

What was the general reaction to the weather balloon story?

289

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:40,000

Hell, the weather balloons would be a lot about a block from us every night.

290

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:45,000

So, weather balloons per se were not that interesting to us.

291

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:57,000

If local residents were indeed familiar with weather balloons, is it likely Jesse Marcel, an intelligence officer, could have mistaken a balloon for a flying saucer?

292

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:05,000

It was definitely not a weather balloon. And it was an aircraft. So, what it could have been, I wouldn't know.

293

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:12,000

She mentioned Roswell, and most places these days, people bring up UFOs.

294

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:19,000

It's a question, a story, a myth that is known practically worldwide.

295

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:25,000

Smith has asked Bill Doleman to join the team of experts at the debris field.

296

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:34,000

Doleman is the former principal investigator for the University of New Mexico's Office of Contrary.

297

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

He's also the director of the Interact Archaeology.

298

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

Of all the disputed locations, this is the one that is least disputed.

299

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:48,000

You're the only one who's actually done a dig out there, and you've done two of them.

300

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:56,000

Doleman made two previous expeditions to the debris field in 2002 and 2006.

301

00:35:57,000 --> 00:36:00,000

But he's hopeful that using new technology might uncover fresh evidence.

302

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

So, a potential debris site. I'm hoping that we can turn up some fresh new evidence.

303

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:14,000

So, what hit the debris field? There are a lot of conflicting counts.

304

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:19,000

A craft, just debris. Some people saw a meteor-like object.

305

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:26,000

What do you recommend we do first? Start with the archaeology dig, or deploy the drone technology?

306

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:38,000

We definitely deploy the drone technology because the archaeology comes in where they identify anomalies that we can then go investigate using standard archaeological methods.

307

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:47,000

There isn't a U.S. government map with this mark, but I actually happened to have a journal that belonged to Jesse Marcel Sr.

308

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

And Jesse was an intelligence officer. He was a smart guy.

309

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:56,000

It's possible that he could have hidden some of what he knew in this journal.

310

00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:01,000

I would like to determine one way or the other if there was any evidence of a cover-up.

311

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:09,000

If there was a debris site or an impact site and it was removed and then leveled over, we might be able to see something like that.

312

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:14,000

I am finally back at the Roswell debris field.

313

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:26,000

It's kind of hard to believe that a place this abandoned and a quiet could be the birthplace of ufology in the United States or in the world, actually.

314

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:38,000

The term ufology refers to the study of UFOs and for some, Roswell is the most important UFO because it is the site where an alien spaceship allegedly crashed to Earth.

315

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:52,000

With Roswell, you have the best elements of all UFO cases, crash sites, physical bodies recovered, and then all the eyewitness testimony on top of that.

316

00:37:53,000 --> 00:38:00,000

It's just this big mystery. Did it happen? What was it? That's still not solved. It's hard to write it off.

317

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:06,000

And so you're left with this big question about something of incredible potential significance.

318

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:12,000

This is the famous back-o-trench 103.

319

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:23,000

So this would be what ufologists considered the actual furrow in the ground where some kind of craft made contact with the Earth.

320

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:31,000

You were here in 2002. You conducted an archeological dig here right in this furrow.

321

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:44,000

Yeah, and the furrow runs that way supposedly. There are nails, big nails and rebar spikes in the ground marking the grid system that we used for locational control in 2002.

322

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:55,000

Archeologists are the crime scene investigators of the past. We treat archeological sites just the way a CSI treats a crime scene to use our methods to look for the evidence of it.

323

00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:01,000

122.8.

324

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:16,000

Those methods are about to get a serious upgrade. Joining the team are two Canadian geophysicists, Colin Meisga and Eric Johnson, who will deploy 21st century technology to investigate abnormalities in the terrain.

325

00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:26,000

So density altitude 6770 feet.

326

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:38,000

This may be the best equipped team ever to answer the question that has stumped generations of investigators. What kind of airborne vehicle crashed outside of Roswell?

327

00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:48,000

I'd like to find additional proof of that impact zone. What crashed here and how heavy it was and at what velocity?

328

00:39:49,000 --> 00:40:03,000

At the Roswell crash site, Ben Smith and a team of experts are using state of the art equipment to find possible evidence that Jesse Marcell may have been telling the truth that what crashed landed here was no weather balloon.

329

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:08,000

It makes the most sense to start here and then widen the search from there.

330

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:21,000

One curious aspect is that weeks before that early July day, when Marcell found what he believed

was the wreckage of a flying saucer, there were a huge number of headlines making UFO sightings in the area.

331

00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:32,000

At the local radio station, Jud Roberts remembers fielding dozens of callers reporting UFOs.

332

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:47,000

I knew who were highly respectable and saw some of these things and they had no reason to forget anybody about standing on the side of their pickup and watching these lights go back and forth up in the middle.

333

00:40:50,000 --> 00:41:00,000

Dad looked up in the west and saw an object that came down and had lights blinking and it was rather frightening to him.

334

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

In 1947, Paul Wilmont's elderly parents were sitting on their porch when they were sure they saw a flying saucer.

335

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:20,000

He said all of a sudden it seemed to rock a little bit and started to counterbalance itself, wiggle a little bit, then seemed to settle down and take off at rapid rate of speed.

336

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:30,000

Then came Roswell, the event that would become the Holy Grail of Ufology, a discovery that would be proof for many that aliens had visited the earth.

337

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:38,000

In truth, there is no agreement on what day the crash occurred. UFO investigator Don Schmidt believes it was July 2nd.

338

00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:47,000

On the late evening of July 2nd, 1947, there was a severe lightning storm in the central high desert of Lincoln County.

339

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:55,000

All ranchers go out on the porch to see where it's raining. My husband, he had to stand out there and see where it was raining.

340

00:41:56,000 --> 00:42:10,000

There was so much thunder and lightning that I begged him to come to the house and finally there was this terrible thunder clap and he came in and he says, boy, that hit something.

341

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:22,000

People think about desert as just pure dry and most of the time it is, but once that moisture starts creeping in, all it needs is something to lift it and that's going to give you incredible thunderstorms.

342

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:37,000

Witnesses describe not only the storm, but between the thunder claps, they heard what sounded like an explosion and then seeing something in the northern portion of the sky.

343

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:48,000

A large red pole sliding like came directly at us and all I could think of was that it was a plane that was in trouble.

344

00:42:48,000 --> 00:43:07,000

While there is no definitive proof about what crashed in the field 75 miles west of Roswell, no one disputes that it was rancher Mack Brasil who made the first discovery while taking his sheep to pasture.

345

00:43:08,000 --> 00:43:22,000

Ranching in New Mexico would be very focused on the monsoon season and so a rancher, they'd be watching for those storms and watching where the rain chefs come down because their cattle or whatever they're raising needs water.

346

00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:34,000

There was a young boy who was with Mack Brasil, the son of Floyd and Loretta Proctor. His name was Timothy D. Proctor. D. as he was called.

347

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:46,000

Mack happened to stumble upon this huge debris field, strange, unusual wreckage.

348

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:59,000

Mack had found huge field filled with metallic debris and he was annoyed because A. he didn't know who's going to clean it up and B. he had to drive the sheep around it to get him to water.

349

00:43:59,000 --> 00:44:07,000

They would not cross it. They were either spooked or they sense something else coming from the wreckage.

350

00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:20,000

Mack then takes D. Proctor back to his parents and he presents some of the material to the proctors.

351

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:35,000

He showed us this piece that looked like plastic or wood of some kind and he said that there was some metallic looking stuff that when you crushed it it just straightened right back out.

352

00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:38,000

It wouldn't, you know, wouldn't stay crushed.

353

00:44:39,000 --> 00:44:48,000

According to Roswell author and researcher Don Schmitt, Loretta Proctor was the first person to see samples of the debris that Mack Brasil brought back from the fields.

354

00:44:49,000 --> 00:44:53,000

Well, we told him it's probably a UFO and he should report it.

355

00:44:54,000 --> 00:44:58,000

Mack Brasil was convinced by his neighbor that he should take it into Roswell.

356

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

Mack would take samples of the debris to Wade's Bar in Corona and present pieces there to fellow ranchers, his friends, his neighbors.

357

00:45:11,000 --> 00:45:15,000

The small farming community of Corona was only 15 miles from the debris field.

358

00:45:16,000 --> 00:45:19,000

It would be Mack Brasil's first stop before going on to Roswell.

359

00:45:22,000 --> 00:45:28,000

Mack Brasil came to Corona and talked to my dad about the debris that he had found out on the foster ranch.

360

00:45:29,000 --> 00:45:36,000

The material was as thin as a wrapper on a lucky strike package which he couldn't break it.

361

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

And if you twisted it and scrunched it up together it would come back to its own.

362

00:45:43,000 --> 00:45:49,000

He had no idea what it was and they said, I bet you have one of them UFOs we've been reading about.

363

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:56,000

Mack Brasil was convinced by his neighbor that he should take it into Roswell and show it to the sheriff.

364

00:45:57,000 --> 00:46:10,000

But Brasil is still responsible for the ranch and it isn't until the end of the week, Sunday, his day off that he finally makes the trek.

365

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:17,000

The 75 mile drive into Roswell to present it to the sheriff, George Wilcox.

366

00:46:17,000 --> 00:46:21,000

Lieutenant George Wilcox had been the county sheriff for 20 years.

367

00:46:22,000 --> 00:46:28,000

Most of his work involved locking up drunks and settling disputes between ranchers over livestock and grazing rights.

368

00:46:30,000 --> 00:46:35,000

Mack Brasil brought in two boxes of wreckage.

369

00:46:35,000 --> 00:46:40,000

Sheriff George Wilcox handled and observed the material firsthand.

370

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

The sheriff immediately suggested that Mack Brasil would report this to the Roswell Army Airfield, the 509th bomb group.

371

00:46:51,000 --> 00:46:55,000

It sounds like a matter they need to know about most urgently.

372

00:46:56,000 --> 00:47:06,000

It was that call to the 500th knife that led its commander to dispatch Jesse Marcell, his intelligence officer, to investigate the strange report.

373

00:47:07,000 --> 00:47:13,000

I had never seen anything like that before and as of now I don't know what it was.

374

00:47:14,000 --> 00:47:24,000

When Marcell returned to the air base and showed colleagues pieces of the debris he'd collected, base commander William Blanchard made the decision to go public and issue that famous press release.

375

00:47:25,000 --> 00:47:32,000

Late this afternoon a bulletin from New Mexico suggested that the widely publicized mystery of the flying saucers may soon be solved.

376

00:47:33,000 --> 00:47:40,000

With the story of the flying disc making international news, Mack Brasil didn't see any harm in being interviewed by the local radio station.

377

00:47:42,000 --> 00:47:53,000

That morning reporters from KGFL and Roswell brought Mack Brasil over to the radio station to finally tell the world the truth about what had happened.

378

00:47:53,000 --> 00:48:04,000

The military was waiting for him. They nabbed Brasil and they would then hide him out at the base for the next five full days.

379

00:48:05,000 --> 00:48:18,000

He would later complain he felt like he was in jail, that they had asked him the same questions over and over and over again, 24 hours around the clock, over a weather balloon.

380

00:48:19,000 --> 00:48:29,000

According to alleged eyewitness accounts, in the days that followed the military swept through Roswell and Corone, threatening scores of individuals who heard Brasil's story.

381

00:48:30,000 --> 00:48:37,000

These local residents were warned to keep quiet or they could be charged with treason which carried the death penalty.

382

00:48:38,000 --> 00:48:45,000

The whole neighborhood was scandalized that the army, that the services would treat people like that.

383

00:48:46,000 --> 00:48:54,000

The military reportedly used Brasil to walk back the previous day's front page story that a flying saucer had crashed.

384

00:48:55,000 --> 00:49:06,000

Days later Brasil was escorted by the military, taken to the newspapers, taken to the two radio stations, but specifically KGFL.

385

00:49:06,000 --> 00:49:15,000

When Frank Joyce, reporter, meets Mac Brasil in two his dismay, Brasil only describes a weather balloon.

386

00:49:16,000 --> 00:49:21,000

Joyce sees the two MPs and is like, oh, now I see what's happening.

387

00:49:22,000 --> 00:49:27,000

Agents or agencies or people unknown wanted him to change off of the original story.

388

00:49:28,000 --> 00:49:34,000

And in his total frustration, Joyce takes him off the air.

389

00:49:35,000 --> 00:49:41,000

Right at that point, the little green men and that's where he said, yeah, only they weren't green.

390

00:49:48,000 --> 00:49:55,000

At the Roswell crash site, Smith is with a team of experts searching for evidence of the wreckage found here in 1947.

391

00:49:56,000 --> 00:50:01,000

The best plan for us would be to start getting our multispect data going out of the area.

392

00:50:02,000 --> 00:50:07,000

We can cover a broad area, get the highest resolution, most up-to-date aerial imagery.

393

00:50:08,000 --> 00:50:09,000

We also have the multispectral camera.

394

00:50:10,000 --> 00:50:11,000

Oh, cool. So you can do both at once?

395

00:50:12,000 --> 00:50:17,000

Yeah, so in one flight we're getting multispectral imagery and the regular RGB.

396

00:50:17,000 --> 00:50:25,000

Until now, no one has ever used this technology here. Whatever we find, we'll know more about this place than anyone ever has.

397

00:50:26,000 --> 00:50:32,000

We want to look for unnatural features. We want to look for straight lines and that impact and then that skid mark kind of thing.

398

00:50:33,000 --> 00:50:38,000

So the common thought spot is just down in this area.

399

00:50:39,000 --> 00:50:45,000

Archaeologist Bill Doleman gives the geophysicists some never-before-seen images of the area.

400

00:50:46,000 --> 00:50:56,000

By comparing an aerial photograph of the terrain taken just months before the Roswell incident to one taken seven years later, the team can identify distinct changes.

401

00:50:57,000 --> 00:50:58,000

Look at that.

402

00:50:59,000 --> 00:51:00,000

Wow, that is.

403

00:51:01,000 --> 00:51:02,000

Here's the original location of interest.

404

00:51:02,000 --> 00:51:08,000

And then there's a big linear feature that we're interested in.

405

00:51:11,000 --> 00:51:21,000

Just 800 meters from where Jesse Marcell examined the debris, the 1954 photo shows what could be several long furrows carved into the earth.

406

00:51:22,000 --> 00:51:35,000

There are delineations in the soil from a northwestern to a southeastern direction that match witness descriptions of something falling from the sky, hitting the earth, skipping and scattering debris.

407

00:51:36,000 --> 00:51:38,000

That's what we see in the aerial footage.

408

00:51:40,000 --> 00:51:49,000

I want to throw everything we got now at that new site. What can we bring to exploit these linear features here?

409

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

We'll send the drone over there for sure.

410

00:51:52,000 --> 00:51:58,000

If the team can show something with more force and velocity than a weather balloon hit here, it would be a major discovery.

411

00:52:02,000 --> 00:52:07,000

At any time there's differences in soil, different vegetation can arise.

412

00:52:08,000 --> 00:52:13,000

And if there's something that doesn't look natural in the vegetation that we pick up in the multi-spectral, we'll see that very well.

413

00:52:14,000 --> 00:52:20,000

So the drone is going back and forth, taking thousands of photos across parallel lines across the whole site.

414

00:52:27,000 --> 00:52:32,000

So here we have the aerial photography collected by the drone on the entire site.

415

00:52:33,000 --> 00:52:36,000

Then we can turn on the multi-spectral imagery.

416

00:52:36,000 --> 00:52:45,000

So we have the reds are little to no vegetation. Blue is going to be kind of dense vegetation and kind of everything in between.

417

00:52:46,000 --> 00:52:50,000

But after hours of searching, the team gets disappointing news.

418

00:52:51,000 --> 00:52:56,000

At the moment we're not picking up any distinct feature near the furrow.

419

00:52:58,000 --> 00:53:05,000

So the multi-spectral imaging didn't really show us the anomalies other than trenches that we've

already done.

420

00:53:05,000 --> 00:53:07,000

Yeah, nothing that can't be unexplained at the moment.

421

00:53:08,000 --> 00:53:11,000

The team concludes the archival image had a defect.

422

00:53:12,000 --> 00:53:15,000

What else can we throw at that puzzle to figure out what happened?

423

00:53:16,000 --> 00:53:22,000

Really what we have right now is surface information. So we need to get boots on the ground, get subsurface information.

424

00:53:23,000 --> 00:53:29,000

Next, Colin Meisge will use a magnetometer, a tool that can detect changes in the Earth's magnetic field.

425

00:53:30,000 --> 00:53:36,000

So something really hot hit the Earth and heated up the surrounding soil.

426

00:53:37,000 --> 00:53:46,000

It basically hits the reset button on the Earth's magnetic field of that soil and it'll take on the Earth's magnetic field at the time as it cools back down.

427

00:53:47,000 --> 00:53:50,000

So this thing is going to pick up anything with iron, magnetite.

428

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

And then what else do you have left in your toolbox?

429

00:53:53,000 --> 00:54:01,000

We've got the ground penetrating radar and the gamma ray spectrometer to measure for radioactive material.

430

00:54:02,000 --> 00:54:09,000

So anything that's been in really high altitude or space is going to be exposed to a lot more radiation.

431

00:54:10,000 --> 00:54:16,000

That radiation is going to stay with that material and then it's going to give a strong signature when it hits the ground. It's going to stay there forever.

432

00:54:24,000 --> 00:54:33,000

Colin hopes to pick up a strong magnetic signal in the vicinity where rancher Mack Brazel first came across the debris.

433

00:54:37,000 --> 00:54:41,000

It's enough metal to basically max out the sensor.

434

00:54:42,000 --> 00:54:47,000

We did find an interesting anomaly. As we were walking around I was doing the magnetometer survey.

435

00:54:47,000 --> 00:54:55,000

So now this is the magnetometer. You can see all these high spots. Those are all the metal pins in the ground. They're really, really high responses.

436

00:54:56,000 --> 00:55:01,000

The most interesting thing was something up here. Definitely an interesting magnetic anomaly that I want to investigate.

437

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

So could this be one of those instances where the heat of an impact could change the magnetism of the soil around it or beneath it?

438

00:55:11,000 --> 00:55:12,000

Potentially, yeah, absolutely.

439

00:55:12,000 --> 00:55:26,000

Many hours into their search, Colin finds something exciting. A patch of ground with unusually high magnetic readings. It's an anomaly that could provide groundbreaking new evidence of what crashed here.

440

00:55:27,000 --> 00:55:31,000

So given its possible depth, is that agent out of our 70 year time span?

441

00:55:32,000 --> 00:55:39,000

I won't be able to say until we start digging and I'm going to leave that to the archaeologists to start dating as they dig down.

442

00:55:39,000 --> 00:55:45,000

So this was one of the high points hovering between 10, 15 nano teslas per meter.

443

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

Colin marks the perimeter of the anomaly so that archaeologist Esperanza Juarez can collect soil samples to analyze for radiation traces.

444

00:55:57,000 --> 00:56:03,000

Run your line along the major axis. Definitely hitting right over top of this spot.

445

00:56:03,000 --> 00:56:08,000

So the flags here outline the general shape of the anomaly?

446

00:56:09,000 --> 00:56:22,000

Exactly. And conveniently enough, it's the same orientation as Bill's original furrow. If we keep the UFO crash site in mind, it's like something hit here.

447

00:56:23,000 --> 00:56:26,000

Maybe there was slightly more minerals that could become magnetized in this area.

448

00:56:26,000 --> 00:56:36,000

And then as it kind of skidded, it still was hot enough to cause that magnetization, but maybe there's just slightly less particles in that spot.

449

00:56:36,000 --> 00:56:38,000

So there's a slightly weaker signature.

450

00:56:41,000 --> 00:56:51,000

After stringing a grid across the site of the anomaly, Esperanza begins her work, collecting a range of samples and documenting the location of each.

451

00:56:52,000 --> 00:56:56,000

The strongest signature was over in this square right here?

452

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

Yes.

453

00:56:57,000 --> 00:56:58,000

OK.

454

00:56:58,000 --> 00:57:00,000

And then plus, I've also taken a soil sample.

455

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

The team wants to rule out routine earthly causes for the anomaly.

456

00:57:05,000 --> 00:57:11,000

No clear signs of a campfire or like a prehistoric site or anything like that.

457

00:57:11,000 --> 00:57:16,000

So we've eliminated a volcanic anomaly.

458

00:57:16,000 --> 00:57:18,000

That's out. There's just no volcanic.

459

00:57:18,000 --> 00:57:22,000

We've eliminated a campfire anomaly. There's no firehards.

460

00:57:22,000 --> 00:57:31,000

So we're still looking at that. The most likely candidate for this anomaly right now is the remnant magnetization due to heat.

461

00:57:31,000 --> 00:57:34,000

The soil will be able to tell you the time frame.

462

00:57:35,000 --> 00:57:47,000

So the idea is that we test the soil and if the magnetism of that soil matches 1947, then we know that something potentially an impact froze its signature to 1947.

463

00:57:47,000 --> 00:57:48,000

Yeah.

464

00:57:50,000 --> 00:58:00,000

The soil and rock samples will be sent to a lab where they will be analyzed to see if they contain metals not from this area and possibly not from this world.

465

00:58:01,000 --> 00:58:20,000

While he waits for the soil analysis to be completed, Ben goes to visit the grandson of Mack Brasil, the rancher who took his sheep into the field looking for water but found crash debris.

466

00:58:20,000 --> 00:58:27,000

It was Mack who alerted the military and according to local legend was then detained and threatened to keep quiet.

467

00:58:28,000 --> 00:58:35,000

Joe Brasil lives a few miles outside of Roswell and has avoided journalists and researchers for years.

468

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

Hello.

469

00:58:36,000 --> 00:58:47,000

With no proof about what crashed, spaceship, weather balloon or something else, Ben believes Joe might have a piece of the puzzle that could help unravel the mystery of Roswell.

470

00:58:49,000 --> 00:58:52,000

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me.

471

00:58:53,000 --> 00:58:59,000

Joe rarely talks about how the Roswell incident impacted his family but he's agreed to meet me.

472

00:58:59,000 --> 00:59:21,000

The Roswell incident recently has popped up in my research as one of the more credible phenomenon to investigate and in particular the first people to encounter the debris on the field, your grandfather Mack being the patient zero, the first person to encounter this debris makes a huge impact.

473

00:59:22,000 --> 00:59:32,000

People close to him, especially important to the investigation and I would love to hear about some of the details you inherited from your father and from your grandfather Mack.

474

00:59:33,000 --> 00:59:36,000

Well, everything I heard was from my dad.

475

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

Okay.

476

00:59:37,000 --> 00:59:49,000

You know, he told me what he knew and what he experienced with it and then you know what had Mack, you know, the few things that he said after he came back to Roswell.

477

00:59:49,000 --> 00:59:58,000

I think if you really want to hear what my dad had to say, you know, we have a clip that you can watch, you know, and then we can talk a little bit more about it after that.

478

00:59:58,000 --> 01:00:00,000

Yeah, absolutely. I'd love to hear.

479

01:00:03,000 --> 01:00:10,000

Joe Brazell's dad, Bill, was Mack's son. He was interviewed in 1989 by Japanese television.

480

01:00:11,000 --> 01:00:23,000

I was not out at the ranch at the time and I picked up an Albuquerque paper and here's my dad's picture looking at me and I thought, well, I wonder what he's done now.

481

01:00:24,000 --> 01:00:38,000

My dad was living in Albuquerque and what he found out about it. Well, he went to the ranch because he knew that his dad was gone and he went down there to actually take care of the stock and the army had it blocked off.

482

01:00:38,000 --> 01:00:44,000

They had a detachment out there picking up the pieces and everything and wouldn't let him in.

483

01:00:44,000 --> 01:01:03,000

The Air Force had asked him to stay in Roswell and I went out to the ranch and stayed until he got back and I asked him what he'd got into and oh, he says I found a bunch of trash.

484

01:01:04,000 --> 01:01:15,000

And I kept asking him questions and he said, well, I told the Air Force I wouldn't tell anybody. He said, you probably better off without knowing.

485

01:01:17,000 --> 01:01:28,000

After the army did their thing and you know, dad was down there helping Mack on the ranch, you know, rainstorms or whatever they'd be riding, they'd see a little piece and he'd pick it up.

486

01:01:28,000 --> 01:01:33,000

So, and of course riding horseback, you see lots of things, you know.

487

01:01:33,000 --> 01:01:41,000

And I picked up a few scraps and the army hadn't picked up.

488

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

And I made them and I'd bring them in my Shaps pocket and put them in a cigar box down at the barn.

489

01:01:50,000 --> 01:01:57,000

His description of some of this stuff is like tinfoil but it was, you know, just a lot tougher.

490

01:01:57,000 --> 01:02:02,000

And he'd bend it over like a crease and it'd straighten right back out.

491

01:02:02,000 --> 01:02:10,000

This is the way my dad put it to me. It's material that he never saw before or ever saw again.

492

01:02:12,000 --> 01:02:19,000

Bill Brazel's decision to collect his own souvenirs eventually brought the military to his door, just as it had with his father.

493

01:02:20,000 --> 01:02:27,000

The debris was confiscated and military police told him to keep quiet about what he knew and had seen or he would face arrest.

494

01:02:29,000 --> 01:02:37,000

The debris that he had collected was confiscated by the military police or somebody from the base.

495

01:02:37,000 --> 01:02:39,000

He just said two guys in a car.

496

01:02:39,000 --> 01:02:41,000

Two guys in a car.

497

01:02:41,000 --> 01:02:43,000

That's all he ever told me.

498

01:02:43,000 --> 01:02:45,000

See whether they were government.

499

01:02:45,000 --> 01:02:51,000

He just said that there's two guys that showed up in a car and they said they weren't going to take it but they weren't leaving without it.

500

01:02:51,000 --> 01:02:53,000

Did they ever identify themselves?

501

01:02:53,000 --> 01:02:54,000

No.

502

01:02:54,000 --> 01:02:55,000

Well, that's...

503

01:02:55,000 --> 01:03:01,000

You know, and the other thing you got to understand is that Matt gave his word. He wouldn't talk about it.

504

01:03:01,000 --> 01:03:07,000

You know, and his dad, if he gave his word, that kind of extended to him as well.

505

01:03:07,000 --> 01:03:08,000

Right.

506

01:03:08,000 --> 01:03:18,000

I don't mean to misinterpret your father's claims, but I did want to ask, was there anything ever in your life that would make you question what your dad saw?

507

01:03:18,000 --> 01:03:19,000

No.

508

01:03:19,000 --> 01:03:25,000

Nothing about his character? Nothing about his mental stability or his emotions?

509

01:03:25,000 --> 01:03:26,000

No.

510

01:03:26,000 --> 01:03:27,000

Okay.

511

01:03:27,000 --> 01:03:32,000

I like to explain my dad this way and myself. What you see is what you get.

512

01:03:32,000 --> 01:03:33,000

Mm-hmm.

513

01:03:33,000 --> 01:03:41,000

He's not going to tell you something to your face that isn't true or, you know, tell you something and then go tell somebody else something else.

514

01:03:41,000 --> 01:03:42,000

Right.

515

01:03:42,000 --> 01:03:43,000

Yeah.

516

01:03:43,000 --> 01:03:52,000

There's a rumored intelligence, as we say in the business, that Mac or your bill, your dad hid some of the material on their property.

517

01:03:52,000 --> 01:03:56,000

And some might even claim here on this property.

518

01:03:57,000 --> 01:04:08,000

One of the most persistent rumors about Joe's father is that despite surrendering the cigar box, he managed to hide a few shards of the wreckage somewhere on this property.

519

01:04:08,000 --> 01:04:18,000

To just to get a little more specific, I think there was a claim at one point that there was perhaps some debris buried under a cement slab on the old Brazzel property.

520

01:04:18,000 --> 01:04:19,000

Yeah.

521

01:04:19,000 --> 01:04:23,000

And I wanted to know, is there any truth to that story?

522

01:04:23,000 --> 01:04:25,000

Why don't I just show you where that slab is?

523

01:04:25,000 --> 01:04:26,000

Lead the way.

524

01:04:26,000 --> 01:04:33,000

If Joe still has a piece of what he believes his dad took from the debris field, it could be a bombshell development.

525

01:04:33,000 --> 01:04:37,000

They hid it underneath this house, right here.

526

01:04:38,000 --> 01:04:55,000

Investigator Ben Smith is meeting with Joe Brazzel, the reclusive grandson of Mac Brazzel, the rancher who first stumbled upon the mysterious crash debris at Roswell, but never spoke publicly about how the army threatened him into silence.

527

01:04:55,000 --> 01:04:58,000

He said he gave his word that he wouldn't talk about it.

528

01:04:58,000 --> 01:05:01,000

He said very little about it after that.

529

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

Jesse Marcell also never disclosed everything he'd seen or the full story of the cover-up.

530

01:05:08,000 --> 01:05:10,000

They hid it underneath this house.

531

01:05:10,000 --> 01:05:23,000

Meanwhile, back in New York, handwriting expert Jennifer Nassau is doing a test to try and authenticate the journal that belonged to Marcell and could contain the secrets of Roswell.

532

01:05:23,000 --> 01:05:33,000

This is the journal I was given as a question document to compare the handwriting of Jesse Marcell, but it's not just handwriting.

533

01:05:33,000 --> 01:05:37,000

I'm looking at a lot of elements to help try to solve this puzzle.

534

01:05:37,000 --> 01:05:40,000

The first thing I do is I look at the paper.

535

01:05:40,000 --> 01:05:50,000

I use specialized equipment in order to analyze to see what might be in the paper, and that might help to date the document.

536

01:05:50,000 --> 01:05:59,000

I then look under my microscope and determine what type of writing instrument was used to create this document.

537

01:05:59,000 --> 01:06:12,000

In order to conduct a handwriting analysis, I do a side-by-side comparison between the question and the known, in this particular case, Jesse Marcell, and determine whether or not there are similarities or differences.

538

01:06:12,000 --> 01:06:23,000

For example, the formation of the lowercase p had a very tall introduction stroke, which dropped down below the baseline and then wrapped around to form the bowl of the p.

539

01:06:23,000 --> 01:06:30,000

And that p is found throughout the entirety of the question document.

540

01:06:30,000 --> 01:06:34,000

Jennifer Nassau is trying to determine whether the journal is genuine or fake.

541

01:06:34,000 --> 01:06:43,000

The first step before decoding its meaning to learn if it might change what we know about Roswell.

542

01:06:43,000 --> 01:06:45,000

Back in New Mexico...

543

01:06:45,000 --> 01:06:47,000

So tell me a little bit more about this house here.

544

01:06:47,000 --> 01:06:52,000

This house was built in 1902, so it's kind of in rough shape.

545

01:06:52,000 --> 01:06:56,000

Smith has reached what he hopes will be the most interesting part of his visit.

546

01:06:56,000 --> 01:07:01,000

I asked Joe about the rumor that there might still be some debris hidden on his property.

547

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

The story goes that Bill Brazel, Joe's dad, might have kept some of the debris as souvenirs.

548

01:07:08,000 --> 01:07:14,000

Some researchers have claimed that your father or Mac might have buried something or hidden it under a cement slab.

549

01:07:14,000 --> 01:07:22,000

Yeah, well I can show you right here. This is where the rumor was that this house, they hid it underneath this house.

550

01:07:22,000 --> 01:07:31,000

And as you can see right here, there is no foundation. There is no cement slab under this house.

551

01:07:31,000 --> 01:07:33,000

Yeah, looks just like dirt under there.

552

01:07:33,000 --> 01:07:43,000

It is. In fact, when this house was first built, of course they put the hardwood floors in, but this is built on the dirt.

553

01:07:43,000 --> 01:07:54,000

The only slab that was ever put in this house, as far as this rock slab right here for the old fireplace.

554

01:07:54,000 --> 01:07:55,000

Yeah.

555

01:07:55,000 --> 01:08:03,000

That's it. And there's nothing under there that's on dirt. It's been there since 1902, long before the UFO.

556

01:08:03,000 --> 01:08:04,000

Yeah.

557

01:08:04,000 --> 01:08:11,000

I could put the rumor to rest that there's nothing underneath this cement slab here, because there is no cement slab.

558

01:08:13,000 --> 01:08:20,000

There's no truth to that rumor whatsoever. When they took that cigar box he had, they took everything he had.

559

01:08:20,000 --> 01:08:26,000

I guarantee you if there had been something buried underneath this house, my dad would have dug it up a long time ago.

560

01:08:26,000 --> 01:08:35,000

How do you think the rumor about debris hidden under this cement slab that is not here sort of impacted the way your dad approached the story?

561

01:08:35,000 --> 01:08:41,000

What it did was it put a fear into him that something might happen to one of his family members.

562

01:08:41,000 --> 01:08:42,000

Yeah, that's true.

563

01:08:42,000 --> 01:08:48,000

Because they focus on the monetary and think he has a piece of it and it's worth so much money.

564

01:08:48,000 --> 01:08:49,000

Right.

565

01:08:49,000 --> 01:08:59,000

And then so he got real reluctant about talking about it, and therefore you don't really get at the truth because you're always trying to fight and debunk the rumors.

566

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

You've confirmed a lot of things for me that I think is pretty fascinating. One, the integrity and the quality of the person that your father and your grandfather, the people that they were.

567

01:09:09,000 --> 01:09:20,000

And two, that you've confirmed some things in the timeline for me that make me think that it's reasonable for me to continue the search, continue to use resources.

568

01:09:20,000 --> 01:09:28,000

Well, something happened because they spent a lot of money trying to figure out what happened and they spent a lot of money hiding what really did happen.

569

01:09:28,000 --> 01:09:36,000

Is there any other information that I could use to help me in my investigation to get to that ground level truth?

570

01:09:36,000 --> 01:09:42,000

There's some other people you can talk to you, but I don't feel comfortable telling you on camera.

571

01:09:42,000 --> 01:09:47,000

Okay. Would you mind typing their names into my phone so at least I could.

572

01:09:47,000 --> 01:09:49,000

I'll give you one name.

573

01:09:50,000 --> 01:09:58,000

Joe Brazel doesn't have any crash degree, but he does have something else. The name of someone Ben Smith has never heard of.

574

01:09:58,000 --> 01:10:06,000

Someone Smith hopes can bring this investigation closer to the truth.

575

01:10:07,000 --> 01:10:23,000

Following up on a promising lead from Joe Brazel, Ben Smith is on his way to a senior center in the farming community closest to where the debris was found.

576

01:10:23,000 --> 01:10:29,000

He hopes the local residents who gather for lunch every day will have memories they'd be willing to share.

577

01:10:29,000 --> 01:10:34,000

Well, I've got all the village elders around the table here today.

578

01:10:34,000 --> 01:10:41,000

I wanted to learn a little bit more about your perspective on what happened in that early July 1947.

579

01:10:41,000 --> 01:10:51,000

My father-in-law, he was on top of a windmill tower working and this was about the same time that this supposed incident happened.

580

01:10:51,000 --> 01:11:02,000

He said there was something that came at him out of the sky. There was really no noise and he was afraid it was fixing to cut his head off.

581

01:11:02,000 --> 01:11:11,000

So he went running down the windmill and he said it was just a flash. It was there and he just like to never got out of the way quick enough.

582

01:11:11,000 --> 01:11:16,000

And then when he looked up, it was going gone.

583

01:11:16,000 --> 01:11:20,000

That's not a story that I have not heard in connection to the events before.

584

01:11:20,000 --> 01:11:29,000

It hasn't been out a whole lot. He's for it by it. When this man said something, he was truthful.

585

01:11:29,000 --> 01:11:35,000

I have a lot of questions. There's some characters here that are involved in this incident in 1947. Do you remember Mack Brazel?

586

01:11:35,000 --> 01:11:40,000

I've seen that. That's the one I'm talking about, the UFO fold? I remember Mack.

587

01:11:40,000 --> 01:11:43,000

Oh, you do? Can you tell me what you remember about Mack?

588

01:11:43,000 --> 01:11:44,000

He was cowboy.

589

01:11:44,000 --> 01:11:55,000

Mack had a reputation for being honest. He had a reputation for working hard. He just was a hard working cowboy.

590

01:11:55,000 --> 01:12:04,000

Cheryl Perkins' parents owned the drugstore from which Mack Brazel called the sheriff to report

finding some strange crash debris in his grazing fields.

591

01:12:05,000 --> 01:12:13,000

Mack Brazel goes to the Du Bois Pharmacy and he makes the phone call with your mother, Geraldine.

592

01:12:13,000 --> 01:12:20,000

Mack calls the sheriff and from there, that's really the first time that information gets transmitted to the public.

593

01:12:20,000 --> 01:12:26,000

I'm curious whether you overheard any of these details and what you recall from that whole sequence of events.

594

01:12:26,000 --> 01:12:32,000

I remember conversations about it, but probably was not there when that call was made.

595

01:12:32,000 --> 01:12:38,000

The main thing that I remember my parents talking about was they certainly believed that something happened.

596

01:12:38,000 --> 01:12:44,000

Do you recall your mother ever talking to Mack Brazel about what he saw out in the field?

597

01:12:44,000 --> 01:12:46,000

I think that did not happen.

598

01:12:46,000 --> 01:12:47,000

Oh, really?

599

01:12:47,000 --> 01:12:54,000

It would have been natural for him to have followed up with, yeah, I had to go to Roswell and stay for three nights.

600

01:12:54,000 --> 01:13:00,000

Or yeah, I did this or yeah, I did that. He didn't say anything.

601

01:13:00,000 --> 01:13:04,000

It just didn't stand a reason that they wouldn't have talked about it.

602

01:13:04,000 --> 01:13:05,000

Right.

603

01:13:05,000 --> 01:13:07,000

So something happened after they took him to Roswell.

604

01:13:07,000 --> 01:13:19,000

My daddy was a World War II veteran and when the government says you don't talk about something, you didn't talk about anything.

605

01:13:19,000 --> 01:13:23,000

And that was my theory as to why it was never talked about.

606

01:13:23,000 --> 01:13:29,000

The ethos, the attitude at the time, like you said was, look, this is your duty not to say anything and to follow orders.

607

01:13:29,000 --> 01:13:33,000

And so keep your mouth quiet about anything that might have happened here.

608

01:13:33,000 --> 01:13:37,000

And the general attitude was it was not a weather balloon.

609

01:13:37,000 --> 01:13:39,000

If there was anything, it wasn't that.

610

01:13:39,000 --> 01:13:41,000

It was not a weather balloon. No, it was not.

611

01:13:41,000 --> 01:13:44,000

What about the Proctor family?

612

01:13:44,000 --> 01:13:47,000

Well, D, Proctor was in my class.

613

01:13:47,000 --> 01:13:51,000

Started first grade together and graduated from high school together.

614

01:13:51,000 --> 01:13:56,000

D Proctor was the young boy who was with Mack Brazel when he found the wreckage.

615

01:13:56,000 --> 01:14:02,000

Brazel would allegedly take D home and show his mother some of what they found.

616

01:14:02,000 --> 01:14:10,000

There was some metallic looking stuff that when you crushed it, it just straightened right back out.

617

01:14:10,000 --> 01:14:12,000

It wouldn't, you know, wouldn't stay crushed.

618

01:14:12,000 --> 01:14:18,000

Well, we told him it was probably a UFO and he should report it.

619

01:14:18,000 --> 01:14:21,000

D was seven when all of this happened.

620

01:14:21,000 --> 01:14:29,000

And D's sister told me for positive sure that he was with Mack Brazel.

621

01:14:29,000 --> 01:14:37,000

Looking back on it and knowing for sure that D was with Mack, he never ever talked about it.

622

01:14:37,000 --> 01:14:42,000

So that makes me think for sure something happened.

623

01:14:42,000 --> 01:14:46,000

I do believe that people purposely kept quiet about what happened

624

01:14:46,000 --> 01:14:49,000

because I think they were probably threatened by the government

625

01:14:49,000 --> 01:14:54,000

or their sense of patriotic duty was appealed to and they said,

626

01:14:54,000 --> 01:14:59,000

don't say anything about this because if it's true and they were truly aliens,

627

01:14:59,000 --> 01:15:02,000

then we think everybody is going to panic.

628

01:15:06,000 --> 01:15:11,000

Has anybody that you know personally ever claimed to have found a piece of this debris?

629

01:15:11,000 --> 01:15:18,000

I do know one name of a man who supposedly had several pieces of debris.

630

01:15:18,000 --> 01:15:24,000

And I haven't heard his name mentioned at all today, so I'm not mentioning it either.

631

01:15:24,000 --> 01:15:28,000

Why the hesitancy to share with me his name?

632

01:15:28,000 --> 01:15:30,000

It's privacy.

633

01:15:30,000 --> 01:15:36,000

I don't know I can ask if they would be willing to talk, but I can bet you that they would not.

634

01:15:36,000 --> 01:15:38,000

Put in a good word for me.

635

01:15:38,000 --> 01:15:39,000

I will.

636

01:15:39,000 --> 01:15:40,000

I will.

637

01:15:40,000 --> 01:15:46,000

We're still pretty private about protecting the people who have been most affected.

638

01:15:49,000 --> 01:15:55,000

As I was leaving, one of the seniors slipped me the name of someone related to another eyewitness.

639

01:15:55,000 --> 01:16:02,000

The Roswell incident is like an intricate puzzle and I finally feel like the pieces are starting to fall into place.

640

01:16:10,000 --> 01:16:16,000

Investigator Ben Smith heads to the office of handwriting expert Jennifer Nassau,

641

01:16:16,000 --> 01:16:24,000

who has spent nearly a month doing a forensic examination of the journal to find out if it is genuine or a fake.

642

01:16:24,000 --> 01:16:34,000

With him is Jesse Marcel's grandson, who believes the journal may contain the intelligence officers coded secrets about what really happened at Roswell.

643

01:16:35,000 --> 01:16:43,000

It's fascinating and potentially helpful to solving, you know, for me, the larger story about the Roswell incident.

644

01:16:43,000 --> 01:16:53,000

I just can't imagine he wouldn't leave some kind of evidence, some writings of some kind, about what was a very, very important event.

645

01:16:53,000 --> 01:16:54,000

Right.

646

01:16:54,000 --> 01:16:57,000

This might be that piece of the puzzle.

647

01:16:57,000 --> 01:16:58,000

Jennifer?

648

01:16:58,000 --> 01:16:59,000

Hi.

649

01:16:59,000 --> 01:17:00,000

Hey.

650

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

Nice to see you again.

651

01:17:01,000 --> 01:17:02,000

Good to see you.

652

01:17:02,000 --> 01:17:03,000

This is Jesse.

653

01:17:03,000 --> 01:17:04,000

Hi, Jesse.

654

01:17:04,000 --> 01:17:05,000

Jennifer Nassau.

655

01:17:05,000 --> 01:17:06,000

Nice to meet you.

656

01:17:06,000 --> 01:17:07,000

Jennifer Nassau.

657

01:17:07,000 --> 01:17:08,000

Follow me.

658

01:17:08,000 --> 01:17:09,000

I'll show you what I've been doing.

659

01:17:09,000 --> 01:17:10,000

Great.

660

01:17:10,000 --> 01:17:24,000

So I looked at the writing ink lines of every passage in the journal and I'll show you under magnification.

661

01:17:24,000 --> 01:17:29,000

You can see a little bit better image of the ink line.

662

01:17:29,000 --> 01:17:32,000

This is consistent with non-ballpoint pen ink.

663

01:17:32,000 --> 01:17:33,000

Oh, okay.

664

01:17:33,000 --> 01:17:38,000

And the way I can tell is you can see the ink line, how the ink kind of bleeds into the paper fibers.

665

01:17:38,000 --> 01:17:39,000

Sure.

666

01:17:39,000 --> 01:17:45,000

Whereas in ballpoint pen, the pen ink is more viscous and so it kind of sits a little bit more on top of the paper.

667

01:17:45,000 --> 01:17:49,000

Here is an example of ballpoint pen ink.

668

01:17:49,000 --> 01:17:50,000

Okay.

669

01:17:51,000 --> 01:18:00,000

And the characteristics commonly seen with ballpoint pen ink is you don't see that ink bleed into the paper and kind of sits more on top and has a sheen to it.

670

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

Okay.

671

01:18:01,000 --> 01:18:07,000

And on curvatures, you see what we call burst striations that move from inside to outside on a curve.

672

01:18:07,000 --> 01:18:14,000

So what I'm seeing throughout the document that the entirety of the document is created with that non-ballpoint pen ink.

673

01:18:14,000 --> 01:18:15,000

Okay.

674

01:18:15,000 --> 01:18:19,000

That is consistent with the time period which this document is reportedly created.

675

01:18:19,000 --> 01:18:20,000

Yes.

676

01:18:20,000 --> 01:18:26,000

The next thing I looked at was the paper itself and what I'm looking for are optical brighteners.

677

01:18:26,000 --> 01:18:27,000

Okay.

678

01:18:27,000 --> 01:18:35,000

Optical brighteners are added in the paper manufacturing process and it's to make the paper look nice and bright and bright.

679

01:18:35,000 --> 01:18:40,000

So the way to look for optical brighteners is to look under UV radiation.

680

01:18:40,000 --> 01:18:45,000

And what should happen if it contains optical brighteners is that the paper should luminous.

681

01:18:45,000 --> 01:18:48,000

It should glow under UV.

682

01:18:48,000 --> 01:18:52,000

Here I'll put the journal in so you can see.

683

01:18:52,000 --> 01:19:00,000

And just to give you a comparison, I'll put a document which I know contains optical brighteners under right on top.

684

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

Wow.

685

01:19:01,000 --> 01:19:04,000

So that technology began in around 1950.

686

01:19:04,000 --> 01:19:05,000

Correct.

687

01:19:05,000 --> 01:19:09,000

Well that makes sense because I think the last date that I saw in the journal was like 1948.

688

01:19:09,000 --> 01:19:15,000

So professional opinion and the evidence showing that it was created before 1950 anyway.

689

01:19:15,000 --> 01:19:16,000

Yes.

690

01:19:16,000 --> 01:19:19,000

It is consistent with documents that were produced during that time period.

691

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

Great.

692

01:19:20,000 --> 01:19:21,000

Okay.

693

01:19:21,000 --> 01:19:26,000

So did you find anything like a watermark that might also provide a clues about the time period?

694

01:19:26,000 --> 01:19:27,000

Right.

695

01:19:27,000 --> 01:19:36,000

So there is no logos or insignia on either cover or in the pages which would indicate the company that manufactured this document.

696

01:19:36,000 --> 01:19:43,000

However, when I looked with transmitted light shining through the document, there is a watermark present on the document.

697

01:19:44,000 --> 01:19:46,000

In looking at...

698

01:19:46,000 --> 01:19:47,000

Oh, yeah, I see it.

699

01:19:47,000 --> 01:19:49,000

You can see the watermark.

700

01:19:49,000 --> 01:19:59,000

And on the top, looking through several pages and being able to piece it together, the top actually says Juniata, J-U-N-I-A-T-A.

701

01:19:59,000 --> 01:20:01,000

So curiosity got the better of me.

702

01:20:01,000 --> 01:20:02,000

Okay.

703

01:20:02,000 --> 01:20:07,000

And a quick internet search revealed that Juniata is a university in Pennsylvania.

704

01:20:07,000 --> 01:20:08,000

Interesting.

705

01:20:08,000 --> 01:20:10,000

That was the area where my grandfather went through intelligence school.

706

01:20:10,000 --> 01:20:11,000

In Pennsylvania.

707

01:20:11,000 --> 01:20:12,000

Yeah.

708

01:20:12,000 --> 01:20:13,000

He went to intelligence school in Pennsylvania.

709

01:20:13,000 --> 01:20:14,000

Yeah.

710

01:20:14,000 --> 01:20:17,000

He was actually a member in the very first class of the very first intelligence school.

711

01:20:17,000 --> 01:20:18,000

Oh, really?

712

01:20:18,000 --> 01:20:21,000

When he finished that class, he turned around and they had him teach that class to the...

713

01:20:21,000 --> 01:20:22,000

Oh, I did read that.

714

01:20:22,000 --> 01:20:25,000

And again, it was written in the same area where this paper came from.

715

01:20:25,000 --> 01:20:26,000

And that was in what year?

716

01:20:26,000 --> 01:20:27,000

1940?

717

01:20:27,000 --> 01:20:29,000

It had been 41, 42, something like that.

718

01:20:29,000 --> 01:20:31,000

Yeah, it was after the war and I already started it.

719

01:20:31,000 --> 01:20:32,000

Exactly.

720

01:20:32,000 --> 01:20:34,000

Yeah, he joined really right after Pearl Harbor.

721

01:20:34,000 --> 01:20:40,000

To sum up, this document does appear to be consistent with the time period with which

722

01:20:40,000 --> 01:20:41,000

it's reported to be written.

723

01:20:41,000 --> 01:20:43,000

It's half the battle right there.

724

01:20:43,000 --> 01:20:49,000

So I did a hand-write comparison with the journal and the known specimens I had for Jesse Marcel.

725

01:20:49,000 --> 01:20:56,000

Now, I will say that in flipping through the journals, the handwriting did appear to be

726

01:20:56,000 --> 01:20:57,000

freely and naturally executed.

727

01:20:57,000 --> 01:20:58,000

Okay.

728

01:20:58,000 --> 01:21:02,000

It does not appear to be deliberate or hesitant in its execution.

729

01:21:02,000 --> 01:21:09,000

There is one feature that I'll point out and that is the capital letter M, where it is

730

01:21:09,000 --> 01:21:14,000

written almost like three sevens attached.

731

01:21:14,000 --> 01:21:17,000

So this is in the printed section.

732

01:21:17,000 --> 01:21:23,000

This M does appear in the cursive section from time to time.

733

01:21:23,000 --> 01:21:28,000

Oh, it's just like it.

734

01:21:28,000 --> 01:21:30,000

It is stunning news.

735

01:21:30,000 --> 01:21:34,000

Both the cursive script and the print were written by the same person.

736

01:21:34,000 --> 01:21:38,000

The journal is genuine.

737

01:21:38,000 --> 01:21:42,000

Next on Roswell, the first witness.

738

01:21:42,000 --> 01:21:45,000

The Roswell incident is real.

739

01:21:45,000 --> 01:21:48,000

The investigation moves into uncharted territory.

740

01:21:48,000 --> 01:21:52,000

It negates the skeptical arguments about the Roswell case.

741

01:21:52,000 --> 01:21:55,000

With new leads that have never been explored before.

742

01:21:55,000 --> 01:21:58,000

It actually raises more questions than answers that.

743

01:21:58,000 --> 01:22:04,000

Was the mysterious journal Jesse Marcel kept secret, written in code, to hide its meaning from the government?

744

01:22:04,000 --> 01:22:08,000

To a cryptographer, this indicates a certain kind of cipher.

745

01:22:08,000 --> 01:22:12,000

Or was it something more sinister that forced Jesse Marcel into silence?

746

01:22:12,000 --> 01:22:16,000

He said there are things that this world is not ready for.

747

01:22:16,000 --> 01:22:21,000

The impact site remains of the craft and the body's recovered.

748

01:22:21,000 --> 01:22:25,000

What else was Jesse Marcel hiding from the world?

749

01:22:25,000 --> 01:22:27,000

I know I've got to just pin it.

750

01:22:27,000 --> 01:22:29,000

32 years without saying anything else.

751

01:22:29,000 --> 01:22:33,000

The investigation uncovers shocking possibilities.

752

01:22:33,000 --> 01:22:35,000

You think the debris could still be at the house?

753

01:22:35,000 --> 01:22:37,000

I know it could, babe.

754

01:22:37,000 --> 01:22:41,000

Could it change what we know about Roswell?

755

01:22:41,000 --> 01:22:43,000

I'm Lawrence Fishburne.

756

01:22:43,000 --> 01:22:46,000

Thanks for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.