



1966 UFO CHASE

1
00:00:40,790 --> 00:00:27,670

[Music]

2
00:00:44,310 --> 00:00:43,430

the portage county ufo chase by charles

3
00:00:47,670 --> 00:00:44,320

lear

4
00:00:49,590 --> 00:00:47,680

in 1966 there was a ufo case that

5
00:00:51,430 --> 00:00:49,600

involved a chase and sightings by

6
00:00:53,510 --> 00:00:51,440

multiple police witnesses

7
00:00:55,670 --> 00:00:53,520

in addition to their testimonies there

8
00:00:58,470 --> 00:00:55,680

was a reported radar confirmation

9
00:00:59,430 --> 00:00:58,480

and a possible pilot witness faced with

10
00:01:01,830 --> 00:00:59,440

all this evidence

11
00:01:02,869 --> 00:01:01,840

the initial air force investigation

12
00:01:05,509 --> 00:01:02,879

consisted of two

13
00:01:07,429 --> 00:01:05,519

phone calls to a single witness based on

14

00:01:08,310 --> 00:01:07,439

interviews lasting a total of around

15

00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:08,320

four minutes

16

00:01:12,070 --> 00:01:10,880

the conclusion was that the officers had

17

00:01:14,710 --> 00:01:12,080

seen a satellite

18

00:01:16,630 --> 00:01:14,720

and chased the planet venus the case was

19

00:01:17,670 --> 00:01:16,640

re-evaluated after a more thorough

20

00:01:19,510 --> 00:01:17,680

investigation

21

00:01:21,830 --> 00:01:19,520

thanks to the efforts of an outraged

22

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:21,840

congressman and the conclusion was

23

00:01:26,310 --> 00:01:24,240

that the officers had seen a satellite

24

00:01:29,670 --> 00:01:26,320

and chased the planet venus

25

00:01:31,910 --> 00:01:29,680

on the morning of april 17 1966

26

00:01:33,350 --> 00:01:31,920

two sheriff deputies dale sparr and

27

00:01:35,990 --> 00:01:33,360

wilbur barney neff

28

00:01:38,230 --> 00:01:36,000

chased a ufo from portage county ohio

29

00:01:39,350 --> 00:01:38,240

for 86 miles all the way into

30

00:01:41,510 --> 00:01:39,360

pennsylvania

31

00:01:44,230 --> 00:01:41,520

they chased the object at speeds ranging

32

00:01:44,789 --> 00:01:44,240

from 80 miles per hour to 105 miles per

33

00:01:46,789 --> 00:01:44,799

hour

34

00:01:48,789 --> 00:01:46,799

and according to them there were times

35

00:01:50,789 --> 00:01:48,799

when the object actually stopped and

36

00:01:53,109 --> 00:01:50,799

waited for them to catch up to it

37

00:01:53,990 --> 00:01:53,119

other law enforcement officers witnessed

38

00:01:56,310 --> 00:01:54,000

the object after

39

00:01:57,749 --> 00:01:56,320

being alerted by radio communications

40

00:01:58,870 --> 00:01:57,759

between the deputies and their

41

00:02:02,069 --> 00:01:58,880

dispatcher

42

00:02:03,749 --> 00:02:02,079

the strangeness began at 4 30 am a call

43

00:02:04,469 --> 00:02:03,759

came over the radio informing the

44

00:02:06,389 --> 00:02:04,479

deputies

45

00:02:08,229 --> 00:02:06,399

that a woman in summit county had

46

00:02:10,710 --> 00:02:08,239

reported seeing a bright object

47

00:02:12,949 --> 00:02:10,720

that flew low over our property she said

48

00:02:15,110 --> 00:02:12,959

it was moving towards portage county

49

00:02:17,110 --> 00:02:15,120

spar and neff laughed it off and went on

50

00:02:19,670 --> 00:02:17,120

with their schedule of spot checks

51
00:02:21,430 --> 00:02:19,680
at around 5 am they saw an abandoned

52
00:02:23,510 --> 00:02:21,440
vehicle on route 224

53
00:02:24,470 --> 00:02:23,520
near ravenna and got out of their car to

54
00:02:26,630 --> 00:02:24,480
investigate

55
00:02:28,309 --> 00:02:26,640
according to sparr he was in the habit

56
00:02:30,550 --> 00:02:28,319
of looking behind him to make sure

57
00:02:32,630 --> 00:02:30,560
no one was sneaking up on him he turned

58
00:02:33,670 --> 00:02:32,640
around and saw a light over the trees of

59
00:02:36,150 --> 00:02:33,680
a nearby hill

60
00:02:38,150 --> 00:02:36,160
he alerted neff and as they watched it

61
00:02:40,550 --> 00:02:38,160
moved over the police car and hovered

62
00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:40,560
they could now see it was an object 35

63
00:02:43,910 --> 00:02:41,840

to 40 feet wide

64

00:02:45,430 --> 00:02:43,920

with a bright white glow that lit up the

65

00:02:48,070 --> 00:02:45,440

area around the car

66

00:02:49,589 --> 00:02:48,080

it hummed like a loaded transformer

67

00:02:49,990 --> 00:02:49,599

thinking it best he gets something

68

00:02:52,070 --> 00:02:50,000

between

69

00:02:54,390 --> 00:02:52,080

them and the object they got into the

70

00:02:54,869 --> 00:02:54,400

car the object moved off towards the

71

00:02:56,550 --> 00:02:54,879

east

72

00:02:58,550 --> 00:02:56,560

and then stopped about a hundred feet

73

00:03:00,790 --> 00:02:58,560

away as if it was waiting for them

74

00:03:01,830 --> 00:03:00,800

they contacted their dispatcher deputy

75

00:03:03,350 --> 00:03:01,840

robert wilson

76
00:03:04,949 --> 00:03:03,360
and told him they were looking at what

77
00:03:05,670 --> 00:03:04,959
might have been the object reported

78
00:03:08,149 --> 00:03:05,680
earlier

79
00:03:09,190 --> 00:03:08,159
wilson asked sparr if he had his 44

80
00:03:11,750 --> 00:03:09,200
magnum with him

81
00:03:13,430 --> 00:03:11,760
sparr confirmed and wilson suggested he

82
00:03:15,350 --> 00:03:13,440
take a shot at the object

83
00:03:17,270 --> 00:03:15,360
sparr considered this briefly and

84
00:03:18,309 --> 00:03:17,280
decided it was unwise to risk

85
00:03:20,070 --> 00:03:18,319
antagonizing

86
00:03:22,790 --> 00:03:20,080
whatever might be controlling such a

87
00:03:23,430 --> 00:03:22,800
large object wilson realized spar was

88
00:03:25,670 --> 00:03:23,440

serious

89

00:03:26,550 --> 00:03:25,680
and asked sergeant hank schoenfeld for

90

00:03:28,470 --> 00:03:26,560
advice

91

00:03:30,550 --> 00:03:28,480
schoenfeld got on the radio and told

92

00:03:32,149 --> 00:03:30,560
them to maintain visual contact

93

00:03:34,550 --> 00:03:32,159
while he arranged for a car to be

94

00:03:35,110 --> 00:03:34,560
dispatched he said he would send along a

95

00:03:37,350 --> 00:03:35,120
camera

96

00:03:38,550 --> 00:03:37,360
in order to take a picture of the object

97

00:03:40,550 --> 00:03:38,560
spar acknowledged

98

00:03:41,830 --> 00:03:40,560
put the car in gear and moved slowly

99

00:03:44,390 --> 00:03:41,840
towards the object

100

00:03:47,190 --> 00:03:44,400
the object responded by moving away at a

101
00:03:47,990 --> 00:03:47,200
similar speed sparr told schoenfeld what

102
00:03:49,990 --> 00:03:48,000
was happening

103
00:03:52,070 --> 00:03:50,000
and asked if they should keep up with it

104
00:03:53,830 --> 00:03:52,080
shone felt confirmed and repeated that

105
00:03:56,229 --> 00:03:53,840
there was a camera on the way

106
00:03:56,949 --> 00:03:56,239
spar accelerated and the object did as

107
00:03:59,350 --> 00:03:56,959
well

108
00:04:01,670 --> 00:03:59,360
soon they were after it at 85 miles per

109
00:04:03,589 --> 00:04:01,680
hour they noticed that the object tilted

110
00:04:04,949 --> 00:04:03,599
its leading edge down as it moved

111
00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:04,959
and the light below it remained

112
00:04:08,630 --> 00:04:07,200
perpendicular to the object and followed

113
00:04:10,789 --> 00:04:08,640

on the ground behind it

114

00:04:11,670 --> 00:04:10,799

as daylight came on they could see more

115

00:04:13,750 --> 00:04:11,680

details

116

00:04:15,750 --> 00:04:13,760

the object had a definite outline with a

117

00:04:16,469 --> 00:04:15,760

metallic top and what looked like an

118

00:04:18,789 --> 00:04:16,479

antenna

119

00:04:19,590 --> 00:04:18,799

whenever spars slowed down to negotiate

120

00:04:21,909 --> 00:04:19,600

in traffic

121

00:04:23,270 --> 00:04:21,919

the object slowed down let him catch up

122

00:04:25,670 --> 00:04:23,280

and then accelerated

123

00:04:26,310 --> 00:04:25,680

before long the deputies were in another

124

00:04:28,150 --> 00:04:26,320

county

125

00:04:29,830 --> 00:04:28,160

they were out of their jurisdiction and

126
00:04:32,629 --> 00:04:29,840
headed for the state line

127
00:04:34,390 --> 00:04:32,639
they approached unity ohio on route 14

128
00:04:36,469 --> 00:04:34,400
and patrolman wayne houston

129
00:04:38,150 --> 00:04:36,479
of the east palestine police force was

130
00:04:40,710 --> 00:04:38,160
waiting for them after hearing them

131
00:04:42,310 --> 00:04:40,720
on the radio he called spar and asked

132
00:04:44,629 --> 00:04:42,320
him where to look for the object

133
00:04:46,629 --> 00:04:44,639
spar told him to look to the northwest

134
00:04:47,749 --> 00:04:46,639
houston did so and saw the object

135
00:04:49,990 --> 00:04:47,759
heading towards him

136
00:04:51,749 --> 00:04:50,000
it passed him at over 80 miles per hour

137
00:04:53,749 --> 00:04:51,759
followed by spar and neff

138
00:04:55,670 --> 00:04:53,759

houston got into his car and joined the

139

00:04:57,830 --> 00:04:55,680

pursuit in pennsylvania

140

00:04:59,830 --> 00:04:57,840

conway patrolman frank panzanella

141

00:05:01,350 --> 00:04:59,840

spotted the object while on his way home

142

00:05:03,270 --> 00:05:01,360

after a night on duty

143

00:05:05,110 --> 00:05:03,280

he pulled over and got out of his car to

144

00:05:07,350 --> 00:05:05,120

look at it as it hovered by

145

00:05:08,390 --> 00:05:07,360

the cars from ohio came up from behind

146

00:05:10,310 --> 00:05:08,400

him and stopped

147

00:05:12,629 --> 00:05:10,320

houston spa sparring neph got out and

148

00:05:13,909 --> 00:05:12,639

ran towards him they asked panzanella if

149

00:05:16,469 --> 00:05:13,919

he was seeing the object

150

00:05:18,070 --> 00:05:16,479

and he reluctantly admitted he was the

151

00:05:20,150 --> 00:05:18,080

object moved straight up

152

00:05:22,710 --> 00:05:20,160

hovered and a commercial airliner flew

153

00:05:23,990 --> 00:05:22,720

under it panzanella called the rochester

154

00:05:26,550 --> 00:05:24,000

base radio station

155

00:05:28,150 --> 00:05:26,560

and asked operator john b to call

156

00:05:30,469 --> 00:05:28,160

greater pittsburgh airport

157

00:05:32,629 --> 00:05:30,479

and see if they had the object on radar

158

00:05:34,390 --> 00:05:32,639

be he complied and reported back

159

00:05:36,629 --> 00:05:34,400

that they had it on radar and were

160

00:05:38,710 --> 00:05:36,639

sending two planes up to intercept

161

00:05:40,710 --> 00:05:38,720

as soon as the planes were mentioned the

162

00:05:41,430 --> 00:05:40,720

object shot upwards until it was out of

163

00:05:43,749 --> 00:05:41,440

sight

164

00:05:44,710 --> 00:05:43,759

the ohio officers headed back towards

165

00:05:47,510 --> 00:05:44,720

portage county

166

00:05:49,909 --> 00:05:47,520

and panzanella got a call from b the u.s

167

00:05:51,909 --> 00:05:49,919

air reserve at the airport had requested

168

00:05:52,790 --> 00:05:51,919

that the officers give them a report on

169

00:05:55,510 --> 00:05:52,800

the object

170

00:05:57,350 --> 00:05:55,520

panzanella contacted the ohio officers

171

00:05:58,550 --> 00:05:57,360

relayed the message and a report was

172

00:06:00,790 --> 00:05:58,560

given to the air reserve

173

00:06:02,390 --> 00:06:00,800

office from there it made its way to the

174

00:06:04,309 --> 00:06:02,400

office of project blue book

175

00:06:05,590 --> 00:06:04,319

at wright-patterson air force base in

176

00:06:07,270 --> 00:06:05,600

dayton ohio

177

00:06:09,670 --> 00:06:07,280

sparr was interviewed by the head of

178

00:06:11,909 --> 00:06:09,680

blue book major hector quintanilla

179

00:06:13,189 --> 00:06:11,919

the next morning quintanilla started the

180

00:06:15,430 --> 00:06:13,199

conversation with

181

00:06:17,670 --> 00:06:15,440

what was this mirage you saw the

182

00:06:20,390 --> 00:06:17,680

interview lasted two and a half minutes

183

00:06:22,390 --> 00:06:20,400

quintanilla called again on april 21st

184

00:06:23,350 --> 00:06:22,400

and that interview lasted one and a half

185

00:06:25,430 --> 00:06:23,360

minutes

186

00:06:27,670 --> 00:06:25,440

sparse sensed that quintanilla wanted

187

00:06:29,029 --> 00:06:27,680

him to say he'd only observed the object

188

00:06:31,029 --> 00:06:29,039

for a matter of minutes

189

00:06:33,189 --> 00:06:31,039

he noted that quintanilla broke off the

190

00:06:34,629 --> 00:06:33,199

conversation when he told him he'd seen

191

00:06:36,870 --> 00:06:34,639

it for much longer

192

00:06:39,430 --> 00:06:36,880

civilian investigators were far more

193

00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:39,440

thorough two members of the akron flying

194

00:06:43,749 --> 00:06:41,120

saucer investigating committee

195

00:06:44,870 --> 00:06:43,759

a.e canduso and larry moyers brought a

196

00:06:46,469 --> 00:06:44,880

geiger counter

197

00:06:48,710 --> 00:06:46,479

they checked the area of the initial

198

00:06:49,670 --> 00:06:48,720

sighting for radiation and found nothing

199

00:06:51,749 --> 00:06:49,680

unusual

200

00:06:53,749 --> 00:06:51,759

three members of the cleveland ufology

201
00:06:55,589 --> 00:06:53,759
project visited the portage county

202
00:06:56,070 --> 00:06:55,599
police station to interview sparr and

203
00:06:58,070 --> 00:06:56,080
neff

204
00:06:59,909 --> 00:06:58,080
and william weitzel representing the

205
00:07:00,950 --> 00:06:59,919
national investigations committee on

206
00:07:02,950 --> 00:07:00,960
aerial phenomena

207
00:07:04,950 --> 00:07:02,960
was there as well weitzel was the

208
00:07:05,749 --> 00:07:04,960
chairman of the pennsylvania nycap

209
00:07:07,589 --> 00:07:05,759
subcommittee

210
00:07:10,469 --> 00:07:07,599
and he wrote up a narrative account that

211
00:07:12,390 --> 00:07:10,479
can be found on the qfos.org website

212
00:07:14,790 --> 00:07:12,400
reports and documents relating to the

213
00:07:15,670 --> 00:07:14,800

case can be found at the nycap.org

214

00:07:18,710 --> 00:07:15,680

website

215

00:07:19,830 --> 00:07:18,720

on april 22nd quintanilla called sheriff

216

00:07:22,309 --> 00:07:19,840

ross dustman

217

00:07:24,150 --> 00:07:22,319

at the station and gave his evaluation

218

00:07:24,710 --> 00:07:24,160

he told the sheriff that the deputies

219

00:07:26,550 --> 00:07:24,720

had seen

220

00:07:28,870 --> 00:07:26,560

an echo satellite moving to the

221

00:07:29,830 --> 00:07:28,880

southeast venus was also in the

222

00:07:31,909 --> 00:07:29,840

southeast

223

00:07:33,430 --> 00:07:31,919

according to quintinea they mistook

224

00:07:35,270 --> 00:07:33,440

venus for the satellite

225

00:07:36,629 --> 00:07:35,280

and proceeded to chase it all the way

226

00:07:38,790 --> 00:07:36,639

into pennsylvania

227

00:07:40,390 --> 00:07:38,800

according to weitzel's account dussman

228

00:07:41,510 --> 00:07:40,400

laughed out loud when he heard the

229

00:07:43,510 --> 00:07:41,520

explanation

230

00:07:45,110 --> 00:07:43,520

the congressman representing portage

231

00:07:46,790 --> 00:07:45,120

county william stanton

232

00:07:48,550 --> 00:07:46,800

was preparing to be interviewed about

233

00:07:50,390 --> 00:07:48,560

the case for the record courier

234

00:07:51,909 --> 00:07:50,400

and he wanted to know the facts

235

00:07:53,749 --> 00:07:51,919

whitesell sent him a letter and the

236

00:07:54,230 --> 00:07:53,759

congressman forwarded it to the air

237

00:07:56,950 --> 00:07:54,240

force

238

00:07:58,629 --> 00:07:56,960

and asked for an explanation after two

239

00:08:00,469 --> 00:07:58,639

weeks of waiting for a reply

240

00:08:02,469 --> 00:08:00,479

he went to the pentagon and spoke to

241

00:08:04,550 --> 00:08:02,479

lieutenant colonel john spalding

242

00:08:05,749 --> 00:08:04,560

chief of community relations division

243

00:08:07,670 --> 00:08:05,759

usaf

244

00:08:09,749 --> 00:08:07,680

spalding admitted that not sending

245

00:08:11,990 --> 00:08:09,759

someone to portage county had been

246

00:08:13,110 --> 00:08:12,000

an error and promised someone would come

247

00:08:15,270 --> 00:08:13,120

within a week

248

00:08:17,029 --> 00:08:15,280

that someone was quintanilla and he

249

00:08:18,230 --> 00:08:17,039

interviewed sparr in an office at the

250

00:08:20,150 --> 00:08:18,240

county courthouse

251
00:08:22,309 --> 00:08:20,160
sparr asked weitzel to tape the

252
00:08:24,070 --> 00:08:22,319
interview sparr filled out a report

253
00:08:26,070 --> 00:08:24,080
and was interviewed alone with the tape

254
00:08:28,390 --> 00:08:26,080
running after this was done

255
00:08:29,430 --> 00:08:28,400
quintanilla repeated his original

256
00:08:31,749 --> 00:08:29,440
evaluation

257
00:08:33,670 --> 00:08:31,759
and stubbornly stuck to it despite

258
00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:33,680
long-term attempts by white soul and

259
00:08:37,350 --> 00:08:35,120
others to reason with him

260
00:08:38,469 --> 00:08:37,360
sparr was encouraged by nikop to speak

261
00:08:40,870 --> 00:08:38,479
out about the case

262
00:08:41,589 --> 00:08:40,880
and he did so as other witnesses went

263
00:08:43,029 --> 00:08:41,599

silent

264

00:08:45,269 --> 00:08:43,039

he was hounded by the press and

265

00:08:47,829 --> 00:08:45,279

ridiculed the pressure took its toll

266

00:08:48,550 --> 00:08:47,839

and spar lost his job his wife and his

267

00:08:50,470 --> 00:08:48,560

children

268

00:08:51,670 --> 00:08:50,480

he ended up working in a coal mine in

269

00:08:53,990 --> 00:08:51,680

west virginia

270

00:08:55,750 --> 00:08:54,000

this case came just after quintanilla

271

00:08:56,949 --> 00:08:55,760

had been called to appear at hearings

272

00:08:58,630 --> 00:08:56,959

before congress

273

00:09:00,550 --> 00:08:58,640

these were convened in the wake of blue

274

00:09:01,910 --> 00:09:00,560

book scientific consultant jaylen

275

00:09:03,829 --> 00:09:01,920

heineck's explanation

276

00:09:05,829 --> 00:09:03,839

that swamp gas might have been the cause

277

00:09:07,829 --> 00:09:05,839

of ufo sightings in michigan

278

00:09:09,910 --> 00:09:07,839

the air force was moved by the hearings

279

00:09:12,870 --> 00:09:09,920

to fund the condon committee study that

280

00:09:15,269 --> 00:09:12,880

led to blue books demise in 1969

281

00:09:26,970 --> 00:09:15,279

it's likely that quintanilla didn't lose