



1  
00:00:39,830 --> 00:00:16,100

[Music]

2  
00:00:43,270 --> 00:00:40,709

a ufo

3  
00:00:44,229 --> 00:00:43,280

in lumberton north carolina by charles

4  
00:00:45,990 --> 00:00:44,239

lear

5  
00:00:48,150 --> 00:00:46,000

it is often the case with ufo

6  
00:00:50,389 --> 00:00:48,160

investigators that once they get to an

7  
00:00:53,270 --> 00:00:50,399

area where a ufo has been reported

8  
00:00:55,029 --> 00:00:53,280

the ufo is long gone and all they can do

9  
00:00:57,189 --> 00:00:55,039

is interview witnesses

10  
00:00:58,389 --> 00:00:57,199

this is important as a means of creating

11  
00:01:00,310 --> 00:00:58,399

a record of the case

12  
00:01:02,229 --> 00:01:00,320

that can be referred to by future

13  
00:01:04,549 --> 00:01:02,239

investigators and researchers

14

00:01:05,270 --> 00:01:04,559

but occasionally an investigator gets

15

00:01:07,590 --> 00:01:05,280

the chance

16

00:01:09,030 --> 00:01:07,600

to be a witness and actually observe

17

00:01:10,950 --> 00:01:09,040

what had been reported

18

00:01:13,270 --> 00:01:10,960

this happened to investigator lee

19

00:01:13,910 --> 00:01:13,280

spiegel who's looking into a series of

20

00:01:16,950 --> 00:01:13,920

sightings

21

00:01:19,710 --> 00:01:16,960

by as many as 30 police officers and 50

22

00:01:21,190 --> 00:01:19,720

civilians in lumerton north carolina in

23

00:01:23,590 --> 00:01:21,200

1975.

24

00:01:25,590 --> 00:01:23,600

spiegel submitted a report on the case

25

00:01:26,230 --> 00:01:25,600

to the director of the center for ufo

26

00:01:28,310 --> 00:01:26,240

studies

27

00:01:29,429 --> 00:01:28,320

and former project blue book scientific

28

00:01:32,069 --> 00:01:29,439

consultant j

29

00:01:32,950 --> 00:01:32,079

alan heineck the case file resides in

30

00:01:35,830 --> 00:01:32,960

the archives

31

00:01:37,429 --> 00:01:35,840

housed by david marlar in new mexico

32

00:01:39,749 --> 00:01:37,439

along with spiegel's report

33

00:01:41,749 --> 00:01:39,759

and contemporary newspaper clippings

34

00:01:42,789 --> 00:01:41,759

there is also a series of paper slips in

35

00:01:45,350 --> 00:01:42,799

the file folder

36

00:01:48,149 --> 00:01:45,360

containing call information presumably

37

00:01:49,990 --> 00:01:48,159

filled out at a kufos ufo call center

38

00:01:52,469 --> 00:01:50,000

if anyone can confirm this please

39

00:01:54,870 --> 00:01:52,479

comment according to spiegel's report

40

00:01:56,069 --> 00:01:54,880

a violent thunderstorm in the area ended

41

00:01:59,350 --> 00:01:56,079

at 1 35

42

00:02:02,069 --> 00:01:59,360

a.m on april 3 1975.

43

00:02:03,350 --> 00:02:02,079

a call slip in the case file has the

44

00:02:05,910 --> 00:02:03,360

information that at 1

45

00:02:07,910 --> 00:02:05,920

45 a.m sheriff ron thompson was

46

00:02:09,669 --> 00:02:07,920

monitoring the radio while working as a

47

00:02:10,630 --> 00:02:09,679

dispatcher at the robeson county

48

00:02:12,790 --> 00:02:10,640

sheriff's office

49

00:02:14,470 --> 00:02:12,800

in lumberton when the first report of a

50

00:02:16,869 --> 00:02:14,480

strange object came in

51  
00:02:17,910 --> 00:02:16,879  
it was seen by robeson county officer

52  
00:02:20,550 --> 00:02:17,920  
phil stanton

53  
00:02:21,190 --> 00:02:20,560  
and then by two officers from saint paul

54  
00:02:23,750 --> 00:02:21,200  
all three

55  
00:02:25,589 --> 00:02:23,760  
describe the object as v-shaped with red

56  
00:02:28,470 --> 00:02:25,599  
blue and clear lights

57  
00:02:29,110 --> 00:02:28,480  
a slip with 5 15 am filled in for the

58  
00:02:31,509 --> 00:02:29,120  
time

59  
00:02:32,630 --> 00:02:31,519  
has the information that two samson

60  
00:02:34,550 --> 00:02:32,640  
county officers

61  
00:02:36,949 --> 00:02:34,560  
saw a similar object that put a

62  
00:02:39,430 --> 00:02:36,959  
spotlight on them as it moved off

63  
00:02:40,710 --> 00:02:39,440

one of the officers clocked it at 200

64

00:02:42,550 --> 00:02:40,720

miles per hour

65

00:02:45,030 --> 00:02:42,560

it appears that there was a full-fledged

66

00:02:48,390 --> 00:02:45,040

flap after 10 pm that night

67

00:02:50,229 --> 00:02:48,400

because a slip with 10 15 to 10 30 pm

68

00:02:51,589 --> 00:02:50,239

filled in for the time has the

69

00:02:53,910 --> 00:02:51,599

information on the back

70

00:02:54,790 --> 00:02:53,920

that officers from four different police

71

00:02:57,190 --> 00:02:54,800

departments

72

00:02:57,990 --> 00:02:57,200

and 50 citizens reported seeing

73

00:03:00,309 --> 00:02:58,000

something

74

00:03:02,309 --> 00:03:00,319

according to spiegel's report thompson

75

00:03:03,190 --> 00:03:02,319

called kufos to let them know about the

76

00:03:04,949 --> 00:03:03,200

sightings

77

00:03:07,110 --> 00:03:04,959

thompson said that he didn't share the

78

00:03:08,149 --> 00:03:07,120

descriptions of the object with any

79

00:03:10,070 --> 00:03:08,159

other officers

80

00:03:11,910 --> 00:03:10,080

and was amazed by the similarities

81

00:03:14,470 --> 00:03:11,920

between all the reports

82

00:03:16,869 --> 00:03:14,480

on the evening of april 3rd a report was

83

00:03:18,710 --> 00:03:16,879

sent out over the upi newswire

84

00:03:20,149 --> 00:03:18,720

which caught the attention of someone at

85

00:03:21,990 --> 00:03:20,159

the national star

86

00:03:23,270 --> 00:03:22,000

spiegel was asked if he would be willing

87

00:03:25,110 --> 00:03:23,280

to fly to lumberton

88

00:03:27,030 --> 00:03:25,120

with one of the reporters and cover the

89

00:03:29,030 --> 00:03:27,040

situation firsthand

90

00:03:30,789 --> 00:03:29,040

spiegel discussed the matter with heinek

91

00:03:32,630 --> 00:03:30,799

and then headed for lumberton

92

00:03:34,869 --> 00:03:32,640

seriously wondering what it was that

93

00:03:37,990 --> 00:03:34,879

made so many law enforcement people

94

00:03:39,910 --> 00:03:38,000

begin to believe in ufos spiegel wrote

95

00:03:41,030 --> 00:03:39,920

that he surveyed the area from the air

96

00:03:43,670 --> 00:03:41,040

as he was landing

97

00:03:44,789 --> 00:03:43,680

and saw it consisted of forests swamps

98

00:03:46,630 --> 00:03:44,799

lakes canals

99

00:03:49,270 --> 00:03:46,640

and that the atlantic ocean was to the

100

00:03:51,670 --> 00:03:49,280

east he was determined to find a logical

101  
00:03:54,470 --> 00:03:51,680  
explanation for what were reports from

102  
00:03:56,470 --> 00:03:54,480  
credible and reliable witnesses he got

103  
00:03:57,750 --> 00:03:56,480  
to the robeson county sheriff's office

104  
00:04:00,390 --> 00:03:57,760  
on april 4th at 9

105  
00:04:02,390 --> 00:04:00,400  
15 pm and there were reports coming into

106  
00:04:05,190 --> 00:04:02,400  
the dispatcher at that time from

107  
00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:05,200  
citizens and police officers a statement

108  
00:04:09,350 --> 00:04:07,200  
from the title page of the report

109  
00:04:10,550 --> 00:04:09,360  
informs the reader that the material is

110  
00:04:12,949 --> 00:04:10,560  
taken directly from

111  
00:04:15,030 --> 00:04:12,959  
taped interviews of witnesses involved

112  
00:04:15,910 --> 00:04:15,040  
and there are witness reports and quotes

113  
00:04:18,069 --> 00:04:15,920

throughout

114

00:04:19,590 --> 00:04:18,079

a common description was of a bright

115

00:04:21,430 --> 00:04:19,600

light in the front of the object

116

00:04:23,990 --> 00:04:21,440

that would light up the area underneath

117

00:04:26,710 --> 00:04:24,000

it and one witness said it got so bright

118

00:04:28,550 --> 00:04:26,720

that he had to look away one report was

119

00:04:29,670 --> 00:04:28,560

of the object lighting up the woods like

120

00:04:31,990 --> 00:04:29,680

they were on fire

121

00:04:33,510 --> 00:04:32,000

and then rising up to 300 feet and

122

00:04:36,710 --> 00:04:33,520

taking off to the east

123

00:04:39,350 --> 00:04:36,720

real fast spiegel investigated the area

124

00:04:41,350 --> 00:04:39,360

and saw no evidence of a landing all of

125

00:04:43,430 --> 00:04:41,360

the witnesses described hearing no

126  
00:04:44,390 --> 00:04:43,440  
noise from the object except one who

127  
00:04:47,110 --> 00:04:44,400  
said it made a

128  
00:04:49,270 --> 00:04:47,120  
sh type of noise when it turned

129  
00:04:51,510 --> 00:04:49,280  
descriptions of the object's size

130  
00:04:53,030 --> 00:04:51,520  
range from the size of an average car to

131  
00:04:55,110 --> 00:04:53,040  
a twin-engine cessna

132  
00:04:56,790 --> 00:04:55,120  
it reportedly hovered for periods of up

133  
00:04:59,189 --> 00:04:56,800  
to 45 minutes

134  
00:05:00,230 --> 00:04:59,199  
on several occasions officers pursued

135  
00:05:02,310 --> 00:05:00,240  
the object

136  
00:05:04,629 --> 00:05:02,320  
ron thompson reported that he was off

137  
00:05:05,590 --> 00:05:04,639  
duty but on alert on friday night after

138  
00:05:07,670 --> 00:05:05,600

nine pm

139

00:05:09,749 --> 00:05:07,680

when he spotted a craft and then chased

140

00:05:10,629 --> 00:05:09,759

it he caught up with it and it hovered

141

00:05:12,790 --> 00:05:10,639

above him

142

00:05:14,790 --> 00:05:12,800

he got out of his car reached into it

143

00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:14,800

and blinked his headlights twice

144

00:05:19,029 --> 00:05:16,800

according to him the craft blinked its

145

00:05:21,110 --> 00:05:19,039

headlight twice in response

146

00:05:22,870 --> 00:05:21,120

in addition to the light up front

147

00:05:23,670 --> 00:05:22,880

thompson noticed the light on the back

148

00:05:25,749 --> 00:05:23,680

as well

149

00:05:27,830 --> 00:05:25,759

the craft moved off and thompson

150

00:05:29,270 --> 00:05:27,840

continued his pursuit until he lost it

151  
00:05:31,990 --> 00:05:29,280  
behind some trees

152  
00:05:33,189 --> 00:05:32,000  
he said he got to within 100 yards of it

153  
00:05:35,830 --> 00:05:33,199  
and that it was unlike

154  
00:05:37,670 --> 00:05:35,840  
any conventional man-made aircraft

155  
00:05:39,830 --> 00:05:37,680  
meanwhile spiegel was told by

156  
00:05:41,029 --> 00:05:39,840  
robeson county sheriff's office director

157  
00:05:43,830 --> 00:05:41,039  
of communications

158  
00:05:45,670 --> 00:05:43,840  
jay freeman that an faa official at

159  
00:05:47,670 --> 00:05:45,680  
granite field in fayetteville

160  
00:05:49,590 --> 00:05:47,680  
had offered the suggestion that the

161  
00:05:51,350 --> 00:05:49,600  
sightings on thursday had been of a

162  
00:05:53,830 --> 00:05:51,360  
boeing 737

163  
00:05:55,510 --> 00:05:53,840

during a series of training flights as

164

00:05:57,830 --> 00:05:55,520

for the sightings on friday

165

00:05:59,909 --> 00:05:57,840

once the report started coming in no one

166

00:06:00,469 --> 00:05:59,919

had been able to contact the faa

167

00:06:03,029 --> 00:06:00,479

official

168

00:06:04,790 --> 00:06:03,039

who had made the suggestion spiegel met

169

00:06:06,309 --> 00:06:04,800

up with thompson in the hopes of seeing

170

00:06:08,469 --> 00:06:06,319

the object for himself

171

00:06:10,710 --> 00:06:08,479

it was 10 pm and they drove through

172

00:06:12,710 --> 00:06:10,720

areas where sightings had been reported

173

00:06:14,469 --> 00:06:12,720

they heard reports from other officers

174

00:06:15,029 --> 00:06:14,479

over the radio and moved towards the

175

00:06:18,550 --> 00:06:15,039

area

176  
00:06:20,550 --> 00:06:18,560  
then at 11 54 pm they saw a large light

177  
00:06:22,070 --> 00:06:20,560  
that seemed to be approaching them as it

178  
00:06:24,390 --> 00:06:22,080  
increased in brightness

179  
00:06:26,469 --> 00:06:24,400  
they stopped the car and heard no noise

180  
00:06:27,909 --> 00:06:26,479  
but spiegel notes that they were about

181  
00:06:29,749 --> 00:06:27,919  
500 yards from it

182  
00:06:31,270 --> 00:06:29,759  
and might not have heard noise even if

183  
00:06:33,430 --> 00:06:31,280  
it was an aircraft

184  
00:06:34,309 --> 00:06:33,440  
the light then turned red and started

185  
00:06:36,309 --> 00:06:34,319  
pulsating

186  
00:06:37,670 --> 00:06:36,319  
then spiegel saw another red light on

187  
00:06:39,590 --> 00:06:37,680  
the other side of the road

188  
00:06:41,350 --> 00:06:39,600

moving in the same direction and

189

00:06:43,189 --> 00:06:41,360

pulsating at the same rate

190

00:06:45,029 --> 00:06:43,199

spiegel wrote that he still wasn't

191

00:06:48,150 --> 00:06:45,039

impressed or convinced

192

00:06:49,510 --> 00:06:48,160

then at 1 30 am on saturday as they were

193

00:06:51,670 --> 00:06:49,520

driving near pembroke

194

00:06:53,510 --> 00:06:51,680

they got a call over the radio that a

195

00:06:54,390 --> 00:06:53,520

v-shaped craft was headed in their

196

00:06:56,550 --> 00:06:54,400

direction

197

00:06:57,749 --> 00:06:56,560

they soon saw a bright white light

198

00:07:01,510 --> 00:06:57,759

moving slowly

199

00:07:02,070 --> 00:07:01,520

15 to 20 feet above the trees 500 to 600

200

00:07:04,469 --> 00:07:02,080

feet away

201  
00:07:06,790 --> 00:07:04,479  
from them they stopped and watched as

202  
00:07:08,950 --> 00:07:06,800  
the object moved slowly to the north

203  
00:07:10,629 --> 00:07:08,960  
stopping and starting never going more

204  
00:07:13,110 --> 00:07:10,639  
than 20 miles per hour

205  
00:07:14,950 --> 00:07:13,120  
freeman and reporter paul doherty joined

206  
00:07:16,150 --> 00:07:14,960  
them and verified that they were seeing

207  
00:07:18,550 --> 00:07:16,160  
the same thing

208  
00:07:20,550 --> 00:07:18,560  
the car's engines and lights were off

209  
00:07:21,670 --> 00:07:20,560  
the craft stopped and its light became

210  
00:07:24,390 --> 00:07:21,680  
intensely bright

211  
00:07:26,950 --> 00:07:24,400  
remining spiegel of a magnesium flare

212  
00:07:29,110 --> 00:07:26,960  
it hovered silently for over a minute

213  
00:07:30,230 --> 00:07:29,120

a car with three deputies had got to a

214

00:07:32,469 --> 00:07:30,240

good vantage point

215

00:07:33,510 --> 00:07:32,479

and radioed that they too were observing

216

00:07:37,909 --> 00:07:33,520

the craft

217

00:07:38,710 --> 00:07:37,919

the flash of an eye and began the

218

00:07:41,029 --> 00:07:38,720

pulsate

219

00:07:43,270 --> 00:07:41,039

it moved slowly and haltingly to the

220

00:07:45,830 --> 00:07:43,280

south and the observers watched it

221

00:07:46,790 --> 00:07:45,840

for around 6 minutes until it was gone

222

00:07:48,469 --> 00:07:46,800

from view

223

00:07:49,990 --> 00:07:48,479

there were more sightings and more

224

00:07:52,710 --> 00:07:50,000

pursuits after that

225

00:07:53,189 --> 00:07:52,720

in his report spiegel says he concluded

226

00:07:55,029 --> 00:07:53,199

that the

227

00:07:58,150 --> 00:07:55,039

object could not have been any type of

228

00:07:59,909 --> 00:07:58,160

airplane it was very strange indeed

229

00:08:02,230 --> 00:07:59,919

despite the large number of police

230

00:08:04,309 --> 00:08:02,240

witnesses and civilian witnesses

231

00:08:05,350 --> 00:08:04,319

this case has not received a great deal

232

00:08:07,830 --> 00:08:05,360

of attention

233

00:08:08,869 --> 00:08:07,840

it lives in the memory of ron thompson

234

00:08:11,350 --> 00:08:08,879

lee spiegel

235

00:08:12,950 --> 00:08:11,360

the many other witnesses and in a file

236

00:08:24,830 --> 00:08:12,960

cabinet in new mexico

237

00:08:31,460 --> 00:08:26,300

story