

1

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

It was a day that redefined the horrors of war.

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:37,000

We heard rumors that Lucitania was going to be sank by the Germans, which we thought was quite the most ridiculous thing we'd ever heard.

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

She became a symbol of man's inhumanity to his fellow man.

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

There was just this thud and explosion under the water, followed by another one immediately.

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

And we all knew at once what had happened.

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

The eyes swept away the innocent and covered up the guilty. The last voyage of the Lucitania.

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:10,000

The unwholesome was an unexplored world of shadows and phantoms.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:18,000

A land that knows no limits of time or space.

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:35,000

From the dawn of discovery to the nightfall of catastrophe, the journey to a universe of the unexplained, the unperceived, and the unbelievable.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:40,000

A place beyond reality where no question will go unanswered.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:46,000

A place where mission legends are law, superstition, and science.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:02:08,000

Trapped into a world of secrets and mysteries.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:16,000

It's time for our journey to begin.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:21,000

You say you only did your duty.

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:30,000

But at what price?

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:48,000

Knowledge surrounds these library walls. And with these instruments, that knowledge can be ours.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:59,000

Words of wisdom that illuminate the following story about something that happened on a pleasant afternoon in May 1915.

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:04,000

It's set in motion a chain of events that brought the United States into World War I.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:09,000

It's set a precedent for brutality that lives on to this day.

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:21,000

But perhaps we can learn from history. Our lesson begins during the long autumn of 1940.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:30,000

Europe burst into flames during August of that year. And as the great powers were hurled into a seemingly endless pit of brutality,

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:38,000

England and France were swept into war with Germany. And what the politicians could not prevent, soldiers settled in their own fashion,

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:49,000

harnessing technology in new and more effective ways to kill.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:04:01,000

New machine guns spat out death to the troops on the ground. The airplane brought death from the sky.

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:10,000

Glow the ocean's surface, submarines lashed out at any target that presented itself.

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:15,000

There were new rules of warfare and carnage on this scale was inconceivable to many.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:26,000

But as the winter of 1915 passed into spring, the worst was still to come.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:33,000

At the same time that Europe was being turned into a slaughterhouse, the United States were roaring through the new century.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:41,000

The terrible carnage in Europe out of sight and out of mind.

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

America was aloof from the war and that infuriated the British.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:05:00,000

Their propaganda portrayed the Huns as barbarians, butchers of the innocent, bent on world domination.

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

The United States sat on the sidelines selling arms to both sides, watching and waiting.

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:20,000

But on May 1st, the United States was warned in no uncertain terms that their isolation would soon end.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:24,000

On that day, the German government took an ad in the major New York newspapers,

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:32,000

warning that any ship flying the flag of Great Britain or any of her allies are liable to destruction.

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:40,000

The warning was ignored, which only compounded the tragedy that began the very day this advertisement appeared.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:48,000

As we boarded, we were given leaflets to tell us that we were travelling at our own risk as they were going to sink it.

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00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:51,000

And we took no notice to think it was propaganda.

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:58,000

We kind of lapped it off. Didn't take much notice of it, because we thought the speed of the loose tainier, which was 25 knots,

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:02,000

would be too fast for the new boats that time.

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:08,000

The idea of a crack British liner being sunk by a mere German was almost sacrilege.

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00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:19,000

I just finished five years of wandering around the world when you walked down a high street of foreign places and stuck your chest out, because you were British.

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00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:27,000

The loose tainier left New York on May 1st, 1915 at 12.30pm, two and a half hours late.

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:31,000

Had she left on time, history might be different.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:43,000

Among those on board, Alfred Vanderbilt, multimillionaire, on route to a horse show, and Charles Froman, perhaps Broadway's greatest producer.

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00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:58,000

1957 other men, women and children were also on board, including this family with six children, the Comptons from Philadelphia.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:04,000

If anyone took the German warning seriously, then it has escaped historians.

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:16,000

The New York was sailing about the same time as we were, and if anyone wished to leave the loose tainier, they could and sail under the American flag.

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:24,000

But no one believed that the loose tainier could sink, therefore I don't think one passenger left the boat.

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

Captain Turner was confident that his ship could outrun and outmanoeuvre anything at sea, and as the voyage neared completion, his confidence seemed justified.

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:42,000

At lurking just off the coast of Ireland, the loose tainier's destiny lay in waiting.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:53,000

The U-20, commanded by Walter Schweiger, and at 2.09 in the afternoon of May 7th, 1915, Schweiger saw something through his periscope that he could scarcely believe.

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:03,000

Despite warnings of submarine activity, the loose tainier seemed determined to give the U-20 the best possible target.

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:16,000

Even though he was well aware of U-belt activity in the area, Captain Turner ordered the loose tainier to proceed at a constant rate of speed, and even reduced that speed.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:27,000

Relevant zig-zagging, he cruised in a straight line giving the U-20 a perfect shot, and Captain Schweiger took full advantage of that opportunity.

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00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:34,000

The loose tainier presented a perfect target, and it only took one shot.

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:47,000

The ship shuddered but kept steaming forward. There was a second tremendous explosion, and she went down in just 18 minutes.

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00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:54,000

The 1,959 passengers, 1,198 perished.

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00:08:55,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Vanderbilt, Throman, the entire Crompton family all went down with the ship.

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

Captain Turner survived. Of the 129 children on board, only 34 lived.

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00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:12,000

The world reaction to this atrocity was immediate.

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00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:22,000

Outrage, disgust, shock. America was stunned. It would be impossible for the United States not to choose sides in the years to come, and in April of 1917, a little less than two years later, America declared war on Germany.

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00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:32,000

Captain Turner faced inquiries as to his questionable performance. He rode out those trials and was given command of another ship in 1916.

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00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:38,000

The ship was not in the air, and it was in the air.

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00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:44,000

The ship was in the air, and the ship was in the air.

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00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:49,000

The ship was in the air, and the ship was in the air.

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00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:58,000

Captain Turner, who was an American, was not an American, but a American, and was an American.

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:04,000

The ship was in the air, and the ship was in the air.

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00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:19,000

The men have charged that the Lucitania was not the virtuous lady she appeared. In fact, some say she was armed and dangerous, and that she was deliberately sacrificed so as to turn the Great War into a world war.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:27,000

The Lucitania sailed into history and controversy. That may afternoon.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:35,000

Almost immediately, some people were dissatisfied with the official story, and they posed questions that persist to this day.

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00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:49,000

These questions began almost immediately after the disaster. The German government went on the defensive and made claims that at first seemed ludicrous, and then as evidence began to surface, more reasonable.

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00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:58,000

They concerned the Lucitania's cargo and the role of the British government. Question number one, was the Lucitania carrying munitions?

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Secondly, what caused the second explosion?

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

And finally, did Captain Turner needlessly endanger the lives of his passengers by his strange course of action?

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00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:18,000

These questions have persisted for years, than theories and theorists about.

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00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:34,000

An English author, Colin Simpson, has been investigating these charges for many years, and he feels that there's an easy, though controversial answer to them.

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00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:47,000

The Lucitania was certainly not a passenger ship. She was carrying munitions, she was carrying troops disguised as civilians, and she was carrying 700 foreign citizens, including a great many

women and children.

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00:11:48,000 --> 00:12:07,000

The prime bridge priority at the time was to get all they could from the United States, not only in war materials, but persuade the officials concerned, the politicians concerned, to turn the blind eye to their activities, to their smuggling activities.

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:16,000

The Lucitania and many other British passenger ships were stuck with war material, and the Germans understandably not very irritated by this.

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00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:29,000

They responded by deliberately declaring an open war on any ship flying the British flag, but the English stubbornly maintained that their warships were clearly marked as such, and that the Germans were in violation of the rules of war.

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00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:46,000

It was passengers only, no contraband allowed, and the British went to great lengths to stress this point. The Germans went to great lengths to say, oh, that's not true, these ships are floating landmines if anything hit them.

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00:12:46,000 --> 00:13:11,000

The Lucitania sank in 18 minutes after two explosions. The Germans argued that they were justified in sinking her. If the Lucitania was indeed carrying arms, then she was a military target. Some say that catastrophic second explosion was caused by detonated ammunition.

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00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:31,000

The torpedo could not have impacted in a more dangerous area, for allegedly, munitions were stored there. But others claim an exploding boiler caused the second tremendous explosion, and that munitions had nothing to do with it.

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00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:46,000

Not every question concerning the Lucitania involves its cargo. Captain Ternet's performance has also invited controversy.

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00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:27,000

Before the day, the Lucitania was sunk, warning of submarines in the area, and reminding him to zigzag past the headlands at full speed. He disobeyed all his orders, so I think the sinking has to be laid entirely at his doorstep. I have wondered whether he even had a small stroke at the time. He didn't seem to really know what he was doing.

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00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:42,000

Other theorists argue that Ternet believed the Lucitania could outrun any submarine, forgetting the fact that his ship was running at slow speed. But Colin Simpson disagrees, and he feels that Ternet was made a scapegoat.

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00:14:42,000 --> 00:15:04,000

Ternet was blameless, he was doing his duty. He's been accused of not zigzagging. The instruction to zigzag wasn't issued until after he had left England for New York on his outward voyage, and the British Admiral had backdated the instruction to try and implicate him.

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00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:20,000

The true villains of this affair were all faceless people who could have stopped what was going on, who could have stopped ammunition being loaded onto passenger ships. They were all people who regarded it as a bit of a game.

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00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:31,000

The final score of that game may have been 1198 lives. No one could possibly justify such a loss merely to ship arms. Could there have been a larger issue at stake?

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00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:41,000

It was primarily to ensure continuity of supplies in munitions in the short term and in the long term to bring the United States into the war.

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00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:58,000

If we are to accept the existence of such a monstrous conspiracy, then we must assume that someone orchestrated it. There are those who claimed that the guilty escaped justice and became leaders of two of the world's great powers, Britain and the United States.

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00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Their friendship united two nations against the growing threat of Nazism. Their personal bond transcended national interests and together they made history. Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

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00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:29,000

While the war raged on, Churchill and Roosevelt held similar jobs in their respective countries. Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, and Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. And each may have been involved in the Lucentania affair.

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00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:46,000

I have no doubt in my own mind that Churchill and his assistants in the British Admiralty deliberately risked the Lucentania. He sought his duty to enrol Germany with the neutral powers, particularly the United States.

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00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:56,000

According to some theorists, Churchill deliberately risked the Lucentania, hoping to provoke an incident that would bring the United States into the war with Britain.

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00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:06,000

The great mystery about the Lucentania is the fact that its escort, which would have met it when it arrived off the Irish coast, wasn't there to be cancelled.

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00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:16,000

On the direct orders of Mr Churchill, the master of the Lucentania found himself off the Irish coast in sort of misty foggy conditions.

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00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:26,000

Churchill, having laid down all his instructions, cancelling the coast coast and everything else, he then went off the weekend in Paris and booked into a hotel under the name Spencer.

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

And came back on the Monday morning when it was all over. There's never been a satisfactory explanation for that behaviour and it went to the grave within.

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

While such a monstrous plot possible, many historians disagree.

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00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:53,000

I think Churchill's role in the sinking of the Lucentania was ill-sneal, nothing. England had no reason at that time to need us as a combatant.

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00:17:54,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Our army was a joke and our navy left a good deal to be desired. We were much better as a supplier.

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00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:12,000

Either Churchill was trying to get the Lucentania across the ocean safely with all these munitions, or Churchill was trying to lure the Lucentania to her death so America would come into the war.

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00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:15,000

But I don't see how you can argue both at the same time.

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00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:20,000

And what about Franklin Roosevelt? Where does he fit in?

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00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:33,000

It has been charged that there were two manifests of the Lucentania's cargo. The real one showed that ammunition was on board.

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:46,000

Both of these lists reportedly vanished during the subsequent investigation, but allegedly turned up almost 25 years later when they were given to an avid collector of naval memorabilia.

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00:18:46,000 --> 00:19:01,000

His name Franklin Roosevelt. History would repeat itself in the beginning of the Second World War. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill worked together to bring the United States into the war against Germany.

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00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:10,000

And on December the 7th, with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States would cross that brink and enter into a Second World War.

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00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:23,000

It would be comforting to think that times have changed, that violence against the innocent is a thing of the past. But tragically, history does repeat itself.

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00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:35,000

In 1983, a modern equivalent to the Lucentania disaster took place. And once again, the world could only look on with horror.

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00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:45,000

In the early morning hours of September 1st, 1983, a Korean Airlines jetliner with 269 people vanished.

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00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:52,000

It was shot down by a Soviet fighter and the men, women and children aboard were never seen again.

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00:19:53,000 --> 00:20:06,000

World opinion was almost unanimous in condemning this seemingly unprovoked action, that the Soviet Air Force maintained they fired in self-defense few accepted that explanation.

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

It seemed to many that the Cold War was in danger of igniting and KAL-007 had become a rallying cry, just like the Lucentania had 68 years before.

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00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:40,000

This time, a world war was averted. This time, Lucentania and KAL-007 were both sacrificed because

of global tensions. Both caused the world to pause and reflect.

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00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Perhaps someday, such tragic stories will be obsolete.

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

Your faces still haunt our present. Your memory could save our future.

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00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:19,000

Secrets and mysteries presents information based in part on theories and opinions, some of which are controversial.

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00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:31,000

The producer's purpose is not to validate any side of an issue, but through the use of actualities and dramatic recreation relate a possible answer, but not the only answer to this material.

123

00:21:49,000 --> 00:22:06,000

According to a recent poll taken in the United States, half of its population believed that the universe is inhabited by other intelligent life.

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00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:21,000

The rest of the world cannot be far behind. The 1950s witnessed a sharp increase in the number of sightings all around the world, and with it more and more evidence that something unusual was happening in our skies.

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

Even the United States government took notice, beginning an official Air Force investigation called Project Blue Book. Their files soon overflowed with more than 12,000 sightings.

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00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:45,000

These water beasts may well be the most ancient surviving inhabitants of our planet.

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00:22:46,000 --> 00:23:00,000

Did I see the monster? I don't know, but I do believe that, you know, I saw, I obviously saw some things, and nobody's been able to tell me what I saw, so I think I must have seen the monster.

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

Stonehenge, that place has become a metaphor for the magnificent, the unfathomable, and the mysterious.

129

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:32,000

I have the feeling that the people who built it had something very strong in mind, maybe more than the astronomy and the worship, and I wish to get to know what it was, and maybe I never will.

130

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:55,000

German scientist Wernher von Braun is considered to be the architect of America's space program. Von Braun and his team took the technology from the German V2 rocket which had been created for destruction and applied it to the development of the rockets that would take man to new worlds.

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00:23:56,000 --> 00:24:07,000

There's never been an astronaut who got on a spacecraft, whether it was Mercury, Apollo, or even Shuttle, who didn't fully understand the risk involved and who wasn't willing to take it.

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00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:26,000

The only voyage of the Titanic was surrounded by bad luck that defies belief. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. It was as if she was cursed. A curse some say began when she was launched.

133

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

When he came back, he said there's nothing much there, and he struck a nice bird.

134

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:48,000

This magnificent object is a symbol of genius, of ambition and of dedication, for it is believed to have taken 30 years to construct, and that construction is not the least of its miracles.

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00:24:48,000 --> 00:25:04,000

It stands as one of the most prominent monuments for its size and complexity, and also its lack of information about it, to be able to plan and economically accomplish such a large feat for the pharaoh is extraordinary.

136

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:22,000

This is the mark of Sasquatch, taken from a set of tracks that covered a five mile stretch of dense forest. The depth of each print indicates that whatever made it weighed 800 pounds.

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00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:26,000

800 pounds.

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00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:45,000

And there's other, more dramatic evidence. On a hot afternoon in October, Roger Patterson and a friend were riding through some woods in Northern California. Not only are their horses shied, they looked ahead and saw something squatting by the creek.

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00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:54,000

As the creek jumbled away, Patterson took this film, the film that has been analyzed, debated and contested ever since.

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00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:56,000

Thank you.