

1

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

Hundreds of unidentified...

2

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

Every year, hundreds of unidentified flying objects, UFOs, are reported over the British Isles.

3

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

Most of them can be explained, but about one in ten defy the investigators.

4

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

Witnesses make astonishing claims of their close encounters, of bizarre lights darting around the sky,

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

communication with other forms of intelligence, even of being abducted by aliens.

6

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

But none is more remarkable than the story we're going to tell tonight.

7

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

It resulted in inquiries on both sides of the Atlantic and questions in Parliament.

8

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

It involved senior American Air Force personnel and a former chief of staff at the Ministry of Defense.

9

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

The witnesses and the evidence they gathered are impossible to ignore.

10

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

This is the first time all those directly involved have told their story, and we reconstructed what they describe.

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00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:57,000

American airmen stationed in Britain tell of events that would change their lives.

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

I came to Britain from a tour in the Pentagon, having previously served in the Far East and, of course, in Vietnam like many other people.

13

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:10,000

And I kind of expected it to be a somewhat of a quiet tour.

14

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

I was at the height of the Cold War, but we weren't directly involved like the bases in Europe.

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:26,000

It was very late back, not much happened, and you never expected much to happen, especially at Christmas time.

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,000

Bent waters and Woodbridge twin military air bases in East Anglia.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:38,000

The three miles that divide them are filled by Rendlesham Forest.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:47,000

Until last year, the bases were occupied by the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing of the United States Air Force.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:53,000

Although a normally uneventful assignment, they formed a strategic part of Western Europe's defenses.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:59,000

And such they had top security status. Nothing could get in or out without being detected.

21

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:07,000

An RAF radar station nearby. During the monitoring of a night flying exercise, a strange object was picked up.

22

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:13,000

We didn't have the faintest idea what it was. We checked through the air traffic agencies.

23

00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,000

There should have been nothing in that area at the time.

24

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:25,000

Colin, have a look at this. It's just completely static. It's just hovering there.

25

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:30,000

The only thing we could do was send the jet aircraft in to find out what it was.

26

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:36,000

Bravo 6-0, Bravo 6-0. We have unidentified traffic in your area.

27

00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:44,000

Your new target is 2-7-0 degrees, range 10 miles, indicating 5,000 feet over.

28

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:46,000

No, sir.

29

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:57,000

They got to within about a quarter of a mile and the pilots suddenly started reporting that they could see a very bright light in the sky in front of them.

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

And extremely bright lights. It's moving away, target accelerating away.

31

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:11,000

Look at that thing go. Bravo 6-0, target is still in front of you. It's going straight up. Target going straight up, over.

32

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:21,000

It was stationary on the screen and then in seconds it moved off at a fantastic rate of speed within a space of 5 minutes.

33

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:31,000

It was reaching 90,000 feet and higher and we lost it off the top end of the radar scope.

34

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:36,000

Target is accelerating too fast. We can't keep up with it. We're disengaging.

35

00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:39,000

The radar operators were mystified.

36

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:50,000

There's nothing we have in this day that can perform those kind of maneuvers. The pilots wouldn't be able to take it. You tell me what it was.

37

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:55,000

The first day of flight, Airman John Burroughs was on security patrol with a colleague.

38

00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:01,000

Stop the car. Look at that. Do you see that in the woods?

39

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:08,000

There were strange lights out in the forest. To me it almost looked like Christmas lights at first, a Christmas display.

40

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

I'll open the gate.

41

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:17,000

At that point we looked at each other and we decided that we better go out and take a closer look because we weren't sure what we were dealing with.

42

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:22,000

What we were looking at wasn't real.

43

00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:25,000

Those are no Christmas lights. Come on, let's get out of here.

44

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:31,000

Airman Burroughs and his colleague raced back to the gate house where he contacted the security controller.

45

00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:46,000

Hi, this is Burroughs here. I'm not at the East Gate. We've got a problem here.

46

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:52,000

He had a lot of trouble believing what I was telling him because it was Christmas and I played a lot of jokes on him before.

47

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:56,000

I'm serious. This is not a joke. There's something out there.

48

00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:02,000

Eventually persuaded by the Airman's tone, the controller contacted Sergeant Jim Peniston.

49

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:06,000

Roger control. We're on our way over.

50

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

We received a call from the control center to go on down to the East Gate and contact John

Burroughs.

51

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

And I asked him what was the nature of the problem down there.

52

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

And they said that they'd rather not tell me. They'd rather have me go down there and talk to the patrolman on scene.

53

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,000

What is that?

54

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

I don't know. And I don't want to know.

55

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:29,000

Did you hear an explosion, John?

56

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

It didn't crash. It landed.

57

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:41,000

The first thing that came to mind was an aircraft crash. I've had at least 30 or 40 crashes that I have been to at that point in time.

58

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:44,000

And that's definitely what I thought it was.

59

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:47,000

I'm going to contact control.

60

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:56,000

Sergeant Peniston at the East Gate. I've got a possible aircraft down just beyond the perimeter.

61

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:01,000

They notified me that they were tracking an undefined bogey about 15 minutes ago.

62

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

And they confirmed it with contact with Eastern radar and Heathrow in London.

63

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:11,000

And at the approximate location, about five miles off base when they lost contact with it.

64

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

They registered it. They don't know what it is.

65

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:17,000

So a plane or what?

66

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:20,000

It was Christmas time and there was no scheduled flying for that night.

67

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:26,000

I'd heard rumors that it possibly could have been a British exercise with ships and planes out at sea.

68

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:30,000

Whatever it was, Sergeant Peniston knew they had to go and find out.

69

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

I got permission to proceed off base to investigate.

70

00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:39,000

Following military rules, the Americans had to leave their weapons behind.

71

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:44,000

One part of me wanted to go ahead and go out there and figure out what we were dealing with.

72

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:47,000

And the other part of me was saying, nah, you don't need to go out there.

73

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:51,000

Just go ahead and stay back at the gate where it's safe and you don't have to worry about what's going on.

74

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:55,000

The men went through the forest towards the lights.

75

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

This is as far as we go.

76

00:06:57,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Stand on foot now.

77

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:01,000

I started to see a defined shape.

78

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

And at that point, when I realized it wasn't an aircraft crash, a fire or anything of that sort.

79

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:18,000

The air was filled with electricity that could feel it on your skin as we approached the object.

80

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:22,000

It felt like you were moving in slow motion.

81

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:25,000

Your hair on the back of your head was standing up.

82

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

And you felt like you had very little control over your body.

83

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:30,000

Then they saw it.

84

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

I wish I had my weapon because I felt totally defenseless.

85

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:37,000

It was about the size of a tank.

86

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:39,000

It was triangular in shape.

87

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:44,000

Underneath the craft was a high intensity white light emulating out of it.

88

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:48,000

And it was bordered by red and blue light and automated.

89

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:55,000

When nothing happened, the men deciding the object wasn't hostile got up to take a closer look.

90

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

On the upper left side of the craft was an inscription that measured six inches high of symbols.

91

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:06,000

They looked familiar, but I couldn't ascertain why.

92

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,000

The Americans watched for about 20 minutes.

93

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

And slowly started moving back, weaving in around the trees.

94

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:20,000

Got about 40 feet away, then it raised up into the air and it shot off as fast as you could blink.

95

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Enter!

96

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:26,000

Come on in.

97

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:31,000

On their return to the airbase, the men were called in by the officer in charge.

98

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Well, what happened out there last night?

99

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:35,000

We know radar saw something.

100

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:39,000

Now I want you to tell me in your words exactly what you saw.

101

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Well, sir, Burroughs was the first to say.

102

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:47,000

As we were standing there reporting in, then I hit me and I realized what in the world am I doing here?

103

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:52,000

Standing in front of my lieutenant, getting ready to explain this situation that I had just observed.

104

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:54,000

I thought, there goes the career, Jim.

105

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:56,000

Had markings on it.

106

00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:57,000

This is what I want you to do.

107

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:05,000

Gentlemen, he says, I need to go over to the woods, he says, and take a look at the area in

daylight to see if you can find any more physical evidence.

108

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:06,000

Anything.

109

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:08,000

Dismissed.

110

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:12,000

The Tigers did.

111

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:16,000

Branches on the ground. We found indentations in the ground.

112

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:18,000

The local Suffolk police went out too.

113

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:23,000

An officer found the indentations, but reported they'd been caused by animals burrowing.

114

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:29,000

I asked him why, and he says because he's not going to put anything other than that in his report.

115

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:32,000

We found that just totally absurd.

116

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:37,000

The ground was frozen and it was just impossible for that to happen.

117

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:41,000

Then the airmen remembered that the object they'd seen was triangular.

118

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:47,000

They measured the distance between the indentations and discovered that they formed a perfect triangle.

119

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:54,000

The activities soon came to the attention of the deputy base commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Holt.

120

00:09:57,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Well, it's the aliens I feel sorry for.

121

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:02,000

I wouldn't want a close encounter of any kind with burrows.

122

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

Who's been having close encounters?

123

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:08,000

Sir, well, I guess you could say we were having a few Christmas festivities.

124

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:09,000

Oh, yeah?

125

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Well, Burrows and Peniston said they were out chasing a UFO in the forest.

126

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

Are you serious?

127

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

Well, that's what they said.

128

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:18,000

Has anybody confirmed it wasn't an aircraft?

129

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

Nothing I know of.

130

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Whatever they saw, I want it moved on.

131

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:24,000

Okay.

132

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:27,000

I personally knew the individuals that had reported it and I knew there were very credible people.

133

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:30,000

I was sure something had happened. It was obviously something.

134

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:34,000

I certainly wasn't convinced it was a UFO, but I didn't know what it was.

135

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

There was only one way to find out.

136

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:43,000

Huge portable floodlights known as lighttalls were rigged in the forest ready for anything which might appear the next night.

137

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:47,000

But as darkness fell, the lighttalls began to malfunction.

138

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Lieutenant Colonel Holt was interrupted at a Christmas dinner.

139

00:10:55,000 --> 00:11:02,000

The duty flight attendant came in and he was quite shaken and insisted upon speaking myself and the base commander about a matter of utmost urgency.

140

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:04,000

He said, it's back.

141

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:06,000

And I said, what's back?

142

00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:09,000

And he said the UFO is back.

143

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:11,000

What's back?

144

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

We assembled a small team of experts and we set off in the forest really to debunk it.

145

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:27,000

About 30 men followed the lights into the forest armed with special equipment including a night vision scope, geiger counter and a tape recorder.

146

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:29,000

Right, this way.

147

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:35,000

I'm certainly glad we made the tape because if we hadn't made the tape even I would have trouble believing what happened that night.

148

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

But would anyone else believe it?

149

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:39,000

Right, this way.

150

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:45,000

It appears that he may be moving a little bit this way.

151

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:47,000

It's brighter than it has been.

152

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:49,000

It's coming this way.

153

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:51,000

It is definitely coming this way.

154

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:53,000

I knew there was something there, there had to be something there.

155

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:57,000

But I also was firmly convinced there was a logical explanation for what was going on.

156

00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:03,000

Portable floodlights known as lightalls positioned in the forest mysteriously refused to work.

157

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:06,000

It's very unusual to have a problem with the lightall.

158

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

That night the lighttalls wouldn't work even when they swapped out and got other ones from the base.

159

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

In addition we had problems with our radios.

160

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

All three frequencies we were using were intermittent and did not work properly that night.

161

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:20,000

But other equipment was working.

162

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:24,000

A night vision scope, a geiger counter and a tape recorder.

163

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:30,000

The sound in this reconstruction is taken from the actual tape they claim to have recorded that night.

164

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:34,000

There was no doubt about it. There was some type of strange flash in the red light ahead.

165

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

I saw a yellow tint in it too.

166

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

Weird.

167

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:41,000

It appears that you may be moving a little bit this way.

168

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:43,000

It's brighter than it has been.

169

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:46,000

It's coming this way. It is definitely coming this way.

170

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

It pulsed as though it were an eye winking at you.

171

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:54,000

And around the edges it appeared to have molten metal dripping off it.

172

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:56,000

Just like falling to the ground.

173

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:59,000

But I didn't see any evidence of anything on the ground.

174

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:01,000

I just couldn't believe what I was saying.

175

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:03,000

None of us could.

176

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:06,000

Here I am a senior official that routinely denies this sort of thing

177

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:08,000

and diligently works to debunk them.

178

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

And I'm involved in the middle of something that I can't explain.

179

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

The geiger counter was measuring levels 25 times normal background radiation.

180

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:19,000

It jumped up to 7 tenths.

181

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

7 tenths right there in the center.

182

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:23,000

We're getting very positive readings.

183

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:26,000

We're getting readings on the tree you're taking samples from.

184

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:28,000

We're clicks, max.

185

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:29,000

That's the strongest point on the tree?

186

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:30,000

Yes, sir.

187

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:33,000

The night vision scope showed strange readings too.

188

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:37,000

We're picking up heat reflection off the trees.

189

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:41,000

Working directly overhead, one can see an opening in the trees

190

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:46,000

plus some freshly broken pine branches underground underneath.

191

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:49,000

Looks like some of them came off about 15 to 20 feet up.

192

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:53,000

The men stayed in pursuit through the woods for six hours.

193

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,000

The object suddenly exploded.

194

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:59,000

A silent explosion and broken into three to five white objects

195

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:01,000

and rapidly disappeared.

196

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:05,000

A mile away, Airman John Burroughs was with the broken down light holds.

197

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:10,000

All of a sudden out of the distance, a blue light streak passed us.

198

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

Passing the light off, they came on.

199

00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:15,000

They passed through the open window on the truck,

200

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

going off into the distance and the light holds went out.

201

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:23,000

As we moved out of the forest, we noticed three objects in the sky.

202

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:25,000

The objects in the sky were moving about.

203

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:28,000

Sharp angular movements, very high speed.

204

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:30,000

This is it. It's looking for something.

205

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:33,000

I kept getting on the radio and calling the command post.

206

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Thunder, this is Stopper.

207

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:37,000

Call Radar and ask them what they've got.

208

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:40,000

30 degrees above the horizon and 10 miles out.

209

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:43,000

I wanted to know if they were finding anything on the radar scope.

210

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:46,000

One of the objects in the sky was sending down beams.

211

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:49,000

Beams of light, beams of energy. I'm not sure what they were.

212

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:54,000

But at the same time I could hear on the radio voices talking about the beams coming down on the base.

213

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:57,000

That's all. It's all the further down now.

214

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

Then a beam shone straight at them.

215

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:09,000

At this stage, my skepticism had definitely disappeared.

216

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:11,000

I was really in awe.

217

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

Almost as rapidly as it appeared, it went.

218

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:18,000

An extraordinary story.

219

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:20,000

But what could be behind it?

220

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

Some of what the airman saw can be explained, astronomers say,

221

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:26,000

by a rare coincidence of events in the sky that night.

222

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

One of these was the re-entry of a Russian rocket.

223

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:38,000

This came in and burnt up in the Earth's atmosphere.

224

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:42,000

It was seen by thousands of eyewitnesses all over South-Eastern England.

225

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

And the second was a brilliant natural fireball,

226

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,000

a piece of interplanetary rock burning up in the atmosphere.

227

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:53,000

Another astronomer thinks further confusion was caused by a third factor,

228

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:56,000

a lighthouse on the nearby coast.

229

00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:00,000

Although it's six miles away, it only looks as though it's a few hundred yards away in between the trees.

230

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

And as the airman moved around, the lighthouse beam, too, would have appeared to moved in between the trees

231

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:10,000

and retreated in front of them as they moved forward, which is exactly the way they described it.

232

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:15,000

That theory was backed up when the tape was played against the flashing of the lighthouse.

233

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

Right at misposition here, straight ahead in between the trees. There it is again.

234

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:25,000

Watch. Straight ahead off my flashlight there. So there it is. I see it, too.

235

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:31,000

The two matched, but the Americans were well aware of the lighthouse and say that wasn't what they

saw.

236

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:33,000

A lighthouse doesn't move through the forest.

237

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:40,000

A lighthouse doesn't go up and down, doesn't explode, doesn't change shape, size, doesn't send down beams of light from the sky.

238

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:43,000

The Rendlesham Forest encounters became the talk of the airbase.

239

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Lieutenant Colonel Holt knew he had to act.

240

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:49,000

I really didn't know quite how to handle it. I reported it to my superior,

241

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:52,000

and I was quite concerned, to be honest with you, what his reaction would be.

242

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:54,000

But he was very supportive.

243

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:59,000

He was told to write a memo to the British Ministry of Defense.

244

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:02,000

Including the undersigned?

245

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:07,000

I sent the memo, but I never heard. I kept checking and asking, but I never got a response.

246

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:08,000

Please.

247

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:12,000

But other airmen say secret investigations were taking place.

248

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:14,000

Two, three.

249

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:20,000

After the incident happened, there seemed to be some strange activity going on in the base.

250

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:24,000

I'm really not sure what it was, but it wasn't normal activity.

251

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:28,000

At that time, we noticed that there was many unscheduled flights coming in.

252

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:33,000

They told me that I was supposed to keep it quiet and not to take the issue any farther.

253

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:39,000

According to a former US military intelligence officer, the flights were ordered by his colleagues.

254

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:43,000

There was a total blackout of any information leaving the base.

255

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Even the senior officials on the base were not told about these flights coming in and leaving.

256

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:54,000

These flights contained teams of specialists.

257

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:59,000

They were together specific data in their fields of expertise.

258

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:02,000

All of that information then was to be sent to Washington, D.C.

259

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:08,000

where it would be assessed and accumulated in a finalized, highly classified report.

260

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:13,000

Whatever conclusions may have been reached, Lieutenant Colonel Halt wasn't told.

261

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

He's mystified as to why, as a senior officer, his report never even received a reply.

262

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

To this day, I'm very puzzled why nobody ever came back and asked for additional information, asked questions, or even interviewed me.

263

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:27,000

It doesn't really add up.

264

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

But news of the sightings began to leak out.

265

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:34,000

Local investigators began to take matters into their own hands.

266

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:38,000

We asked the local people if they'd heard anything and seen anything.

267

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:43,000

And most of the local people said that they'd seen the lights over the forest.

268

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:47,000

A few days later, though, they seemed less forthcoming.

269

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:50,000

They'd all been told to keep quiet.

270

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:57,000

And two of the local people who lived near the air base told us originally what they'd seen from their bedroom window.

271

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:04,000

And then when we went back, they'd got M.O.D., property, private, keep out, and they'd got barriers around the house.

272

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:07,000

The thing that worries all parents...

273

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:11,000

...gators managed to get a copy from the U.S. government of the deputy commander's memo.

274

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:14,000

In Britain, it prompted a question in Parliament.

275

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

I have seen the memorandum to which my honorable friend refers.

276

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

I'm ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defense standpoint.

277

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:28,000

But there have been none to date.

278

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:36,000

The case intrigued Lord Hill Norton, a former chief of staff at the Ministry of Defense.

279

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:41,000

One can't help feeling that something is being concealed.

280

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:47,000

Either the Americans and indeed the deputy-based commander were hallucinating,

281

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:53,000

or they believed that something had landed there and they had taken photographs and records of it.

282

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:58,000

And in either event, it must be of interest to the defense of the United Kingdom.

283

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Sergeant Jim Peniston is not only convinced by what he saw then.

284

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:06,000

A cover-up could explain what he says happened after he left the U.S. Air Force.

285

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:14,000

As time went by, a year or two, I had noticed that my mail was being tampered with, opened and resealed.

286

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

And we also got to the one point where we found a listening device within my home.

287

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Soon after the story surrounding the Suffolk Air Base surfaced, a large swathe of Rendlesham Forest was cut down.

288

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:31,000

Locals believed because of the radiation left behind.

289

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:40,000

When we asked why the trees were cleared so quickly, we were told because of the traces that were left on them.

290

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:45,000

And we tried to find out who had taken the trees away.

291

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:48,000

We were told that they were just taken.

292

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:55,000

The air bases have gone too. With the end of the Cold War, the Americans left.

293

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:58,000

But the mystery won't go away.

294

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

The ministry had doggedly denied that anything untoward occurred there and I simply don't believe it.

295

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:11,000

Therefore, somebody, I don't know who it is, is sitting on information which by now should be public.

296

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:15,000

If a secret report is in Washington, what could it contain?

297

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:18,000

The former intelligence officer claims he knows.

298

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:24,000

That finalized report concluded that real objects were seen.

299

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:30,000

That these objects were a result of a highly evolved advanced technology.

300

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:35,000

The technology was so advanced that we cannot to this day replicate it.

301

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:42,000

That there was an intelligence involved and that that intelligence did not originate on Earth.

302

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:51,000

And according to the radar operator who first saw an object, it's far from being the only UFO incident.

303

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:58,000

These things are being picked up by radar operators throughout the whole world, not just in Britain.

304

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:04,000

And we're not told what they are and we're not expected to ask questions about what they are.

305

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:09,000

The Ministry of Defense admits they have more than 8,000 cases of UFOs on file.

306

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:17,000

As for Lieutenant Colonel Charles Holt, although he never heard any more about his UFO report, it didn't as he feared damage his career.

307

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

Soon afterwards he was promoted from deputy commander to commander of the air base.

308

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:27,000

Rather strange you might think if he'd been suspected of not telling the truth.

309

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:30,000

We're going under cover now but see you again soon.

310

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Good night.