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Reports of mysterious lights in the sky and unidentified flying objects date back to the ancient Egyptians.

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

But something happened in 1947 that would forever change the face of ufology.

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:22,000

A civilian pilot flying over Mount Rainier saw nine boomerang-like UFOs and described them as flying saucers.

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

By years end there would be more sightings, rumors of a crash in alien bodies,

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

and the first official acknowledgement by our government that something had to be done.

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

If modern ufology has a birth date, it is June 24th, 1947.

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

The day Kenneth Arnold saw nine unidentified craft flying in formation over Mount Rainier, Washington state.

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

Arnold, an accomplished search and rescue pilot, was shaken by his encounter.

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

This is how he described it to a radio reporter only hours later.

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:34,000

By timing how long it took the UFOs to fly between two peaks, Arnold estimated their speed to be 12 to 1500 miles per hour,

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:38,000

twice the speed of the fastest conventional craft of the day.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:46,000

And Arnold's description of the craft as flying like a saucer captivated the public and etched a new catchphrase in the UFO lexicon.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:51,000

1947 marks the beginning of the UFO era. This is something that everybody agrees on.

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:59,000

What Arnold's sighting did was to give these things a name, flying saucers, and connect them with a larger phenomenon.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:07,000

Jerome Clark is the author of a comprehensive three-volume encyclopedia that traces the timeline of the UFO phenomena.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:14,000

Clark believes that Kenneth Arnold's reliable sighting was one of the most significant events in the history of ufology.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:21,000

Ken Arnold was about as honest a man as they come. He had bedrock conservative western values.

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:27,000

He believed that a man's word was his bond, a good guy, solid citizen.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:34,000

Arnold's encounter was significant for another reason. It was the first in a series of sightings by credible witnesses.

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:42,000

The next came two weeks later when Captain Amel Smith and his United Airlines crew, bound for Seattle, saw six disc-shaped craft.

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:48,000

And as Arnold and Smith compared notes, more and more flying saucer sightings were reported.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:55,000

The summer 1947 wave was dominated by reports of what we now call daylight discs.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:11,000

They look like the product of somebody's technology. The way these things moved, their extraordinary performance characteristics caused people to believe that some kind of extraordinary breakthrough in aviation technology had been accomplished.

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:28,000

But the U.S. government disclaimed any connection to the discs. So when another major UFO sighting came to light just days after the United event, it was pulp magazine publisher Ray Palmer and Kenneth Arnold who initiated an investigation.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:41,000

On June 21, 1947, in the waters off Moray Island, also in Washington state, Harold Dahl, his son and two crew members were aboard Dahl's fishing boat when they reportedly spotted five or six donut-shaped objects.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:53,000

One of the UFOs appeared from their point of view to perhaps be having mechanical problems. It was coming down in this falling leaf fashion.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:04:04,000

When the UFO got down closer to the water, a second UFO approached it. It touched it as if to jumpstart perhaps.

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

When it jumped-started, the first UFO, the one that had been in trouble, dropped some residue, then all of the craft took off into the sky and disappeared.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:31,000

When Kenneth Arnold arrived to investigate the Moray Island UFO event, Harold Dahl said he had fragments of crash wreckage and he had a partner, Fred Christman, a man whose contribution to ufology is considered doobies at best.

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

Fred Christman was a guy who had shown up earlier as a teller of tall tales. For example, two or three years earlier, he had written Ray Palmer who was the editor of a couple of science fiction magazines and told him that when he was in Burma during World War II, he had encountered malevolent humanoid creatures and had a machine gun fight with them and had to fight his way out of the cave.

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

But while public doubt was being cast on Christman, Arnold was working behind the scenes with Air Force intelligence officers.

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00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:25,000

At this point, Dahl apparently became frightened that they were going to get into trouble, whereas Christman, who was a more experienced spinner of yarns, thought maybe here was a real opportunity to make some money to tell a big tale and let it fly, and if he could get it endorsed by the U.S. Air Force, all the better.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:38,000

That plan was never put into action. When officers Davidson and Brown wrapped up their investigation, they took their research, boarded an Air Force transport and died minutes later in a fiery crash.

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:57,000

The Air Force concluded and so did several local newspaper reporters that this story began not as a well-thought-out hoax, but just as a joke, which was to be played on Ray Palmer, the magazine editor, and it was of course inspired by all the UFO settings that were happening during the summer of 1947.

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:09,000

Murray Island may be most famous today as a great UFO hoax, but there were other witnesses on the water that day, and Hal Prater has interviewed one man who did not go public.

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00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:20,000

Barney Leroy saw the same donut shapes. Barney Leroy saw the UFO in the falling leaf pattern, and Barney Leroy saw the jump start.

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00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:31,000

Barney Leroy, a local fisherman and a minister, passed away in 1980, but sightings found Barney's brother Bob, who'd recounted this little known side of the Murray Island store.

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

He said, Bob, one of these discs looked like it was going to crash right near his boat, right over here, maybe a hundred yards from the sighting.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:55,000

And he said that another one suddenly came down over the woods and over the trees and touched it, didn't crash into it, but touched it just enough to give it life, then bigger in vitality.

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00:06:56,000 --> 00:07:04,000

Is Murray Island the birthplace of UFOlogy's sceny side, or was it an oracle for future events that would take the world by storm less than two weeks later?

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:14,000

We may never know, but what is known is that within a matter of months, the Air Force created the top secret project sign to investigate reports of UFOs,

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00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:27,000

and all of the believability and doubt, all of the clever hoaxes and hard evidence that surround the study of UFOs today can all be traced back to one three-week period in the summer of 1947.

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:36,000

I did see it and I did clock it, and it's just as much a mystery to me as it is to everyone else who's been calling me the last 24 hours wondering what it was.

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:46,000

The incident at Murray Island is also important because it marked the first signing of Mibbs, the so-called men in black.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:59,000

And whether or not Harold Dahl's claims were real, the fallout from his disclosure certainly was by the 1950s, mysterious G-men wearing black fedoras and driving black sedans were a permanent part of the UFO landscape.

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00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:19,000

They're back! UFOs are again being spotted throughout Israel, and as we reported on an earlier edition of sightings, there are those who see these saucers over the Holy Land as an omen of biblical proportions.

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00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:35,000

It started in 1987 when auto mechanic Amy Arai spotted a fiery UFO over Shikmona Beach near Tel Aviv. His encounter and the debris left behind are as famous in Israel as Roswell is in the U.S.

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00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:49,000

For the next six years, reports of UFO sightings, crop circles, and livestock mutilations poured in from all over Israel. But then in 1993, the sightings suddenly stopped, until now.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:57,000

In February of this year, 1996, the UFO is returned dramatically.

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00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:05,000

Barry Shamish is an Israeli journalist and UFO investigator who is researching the return of bizarre craft over the Holy Land.

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

There's no conspiracy, there's no plan, there's no plot. For some reason or another, there are craft over the skies of Israel.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:23,000

Not everyone has accepted his fact, the presence of unidentified craft over Israel. Photojournalist

Yossi Elani was skeptical, even cynical, until he snapped this UFO hovering over the Tel Aviv skyline.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:38,000

I don't believe in UFOs, absolutely. But I have to tell you that I know what picture is. It was absolutely unusual object on this bloody air, on the sky. Absolutely.

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00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:49,000

As of this report, sightings over Israel are occurring almost nightly. This is home video taken by members of a Tel Aviv family who claim to have seen this same UFO three times.

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00:09:50,000 --> 00:10:01,000

I woke up in the middle of the night. Very strong light was shining on me. It was so bright, it woke me up. It was a big light in the middle of the sky.

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00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:17,000

My son came to our home and woke us up. He said, Dad, Mom, wake up and don't panic. There is a UFO outside in the sky. And we saw a very, very strong light, shiny light in the sky.

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00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:24,000

At that moment, my wife said, let's take, let's shoot pictures of our video.

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:34,000

By the time of the third sighting, more than 100 people were gathered outside the Shua's apartment building with their own cameras to videotape what has become known as the balcony crap.

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00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:49,000

The shape of this orange balcony, for lack of a better word, is something like a skull. And there is a line in the middle dividing these two levels of what I think are vents.

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:11:07,000

Now, the size of it I can only estimate. But you have a Zoom 200 capturing two rows, perhaps two dozen windows. I didn't count them. One could only guess that this was a very, very large ship to be captured with that camera.

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00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:16,000

Intense political times, the UFOs over Israel are particularly unsettling and some biblical scholars are fueling the sinister nature of recent sightings.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:32,000

You've got two schools of thought here. School of thought number one assumes that the angels of the Old Testament are returning. And this bodes very well for Israel.

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:48,000

Thought number two, it's not the angels returning, it's the giants, the Anakim of the ancient scriptures returning. These were the enemies of God that he ordered Joshua, David to destroy. And that bodes very badly for Israel.

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00:11:49,000 --> 00:12:01,000

Searching the Old Testament for answers to the UFO question has been extremely controversial. But so far, academic researchers have offered little or no explanation for the Holy Land's newest UFO flap.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:17,000

Barry Chomish believes that the flap over Israel is far from at its peak. He's anticipating that there will be many more encounters, including more reports of contact. And sightings will continue to update you on this developing story.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Welcome to Sightings. I'm Tim White. In 1995, a spectacular UFO sighting occurred over the city of Bariloche in Argentina. There was an enormous luminous object in the sky and then an abrupt and unexplained power outage.

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00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:47,000

There were hundreds of frightened eyewitnesses on the ground. But more frightened still were the passengers and crew of an Argentine Airlines jet who saw the UFO head on from their vantage point at 15,000 feet.

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00:12:48,000 --> 00:13:07,000

July 31st. Aralina, Argentina's Flight 674 is clear to land at Bariloche Airport. It's a quiet night, just two planes on radar, Flight 674, and a distant military jet. But then, suddenly, a third craft appears.

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00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:18,000

A UFO so disturbing that it has changed the course of this pilot's life as he tells sightings in his first interview outside Argentina.

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:29,000

Our worries began when we saw the light. We consulted with the tower and they said they didn't know of any other craft in the area.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:38,000

The tower questioned whether Palanco might be seen in the military aircraft, but Palanco insisted that there was a third craft bearing down on his jet.

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:48,000

We asked the tower again and they said they could see our lights, that there was no craft near ours, and they confirmed that there was the military craft in its position.

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:54,000

We were approaching the airport at Bariloche.

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00:13:54,000 --> 00:14:00,000

Argentine Air Force Commandant Rubens Apusak was the other identified pilot in the air that night.

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00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:08,000

At 38 miles outside of the airport, I set my radio to the same frequency as the control tower.

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00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:17,000

We could hear the communication between the control tower and the pilot of an Aerolines Arientines aircraft, who was asking the controller if there was any other flight in this area.

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00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:21,000

The controller answered that there was no other craft around.

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00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:31,000

The first impression was shock from the people inside the plane. The lights of the object were well defined.

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00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:38,000

There was an orange light on top of it, green lights on the side, and the solid part of the object was dark.

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00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:45,000

Horrified passengers stared out the window and watched as the UFO flew dangerously close to the port wing.

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00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:55,000

I was looking through the window and I saw blue lights and orange lights passing very quickly, very close to the plane.

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00:14:56,000 --> 00:15:01,000

We heard the AA pilot saying that there was something flying parallel to them.

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00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:05,000

The controller said it couldn't be. They couldn't see anything.

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00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:08,000

The control tower then called us to ask if we didn't see anything.

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00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:13,000

We were 6,000 feet above the AA flight and paying attention to its communication.

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00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:16,000

We told the controller that we couldn't see anything.

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00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:21,000

Just after that, we heard the AA pilot say that the lights at the airport had gone out.

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00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:31,000

There was a general power cut throughout the city, which made us use the emergency services at the airport.

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00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:38,000

I told the control tower that we couldn't generate electricity anymore and that they should tell the plane to start an escape maneuver

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

because we couldn't keep even the emergency lights on properly.

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00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:49,000

The blackout forced Polanco to abort his landing. He was ordered to circle until power could be restored.

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00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:55,000

As the streets were enveloped in darkness, the brightest source of light in the city was the UFO.

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00:15:55,000 --> 00:16:01,000

That night we had a big blackout. My husband and I went out to buy cigarettes.

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00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:07,000

When we went out, we saw that it was all dark. There wasn't anyone outside, not even cars on the streets.

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00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:14,000

Maria and Silvario Cabral were among the hundreds of Beralogian residents who reported seeing the UFO.

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00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:20,000

I was driving the car when my husband said with panic that there was something standing still above us.

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00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:28,000

I was pretty amazed to stare at something that wasn't normal. The lights were amber and orange and they were about 3,000 meters high.

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00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:36,000

The light was really powerful. When we decided to get out of the car, the light suddenly disappeared going east.

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00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:42,000

That means it went toward the airport. It went so quickly that it was impossible to follow with our eyes.

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00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:53,000

We were about to enter the airspace when we again heard the Arolinas Argentinas pilot asking for confirmation of the existence of another aircraft in the area.

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00:16:53,000 --> 00:17:00,000

The control tower denied it again. The controller said that the only aircraft close to him was mine.

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

Then we saw a small light 5,000 feet below our aircraft. It was an amber and clear light blinking,

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00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:18,000

which went by us at a speed of about 600 or 800 miles per hour. This light flew horizontally, then suddenly it turned vertically and suddenly it was up above us.

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00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:22,000

We raised our eyes up to the window to see the light going up higher.

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:31,000

The control tower didn't confirm it, but the military confirmed that he could see the light as he saw our plane from a different position.

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00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:38,000

The lights at the runways on the airport were gone. We started our escape maneuver and I noticed that the crew started getting nervous.

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00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:52,000

People were very nervous. They didn't know what was happening, so everyone chatted inside and talked and they were asking, wondering what was happening that we couldn't land.

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00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:58,000

We said we were making an escape maneuver because there was no electricity at the airport.

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

While we went up, the object to our right went up, forward toward the lake and went up at a 90 degree angle at incredible speed and waited for our turn at the lake.

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00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:22,000

All of a sudden we saw nothing else, so we started looking toward our horizon and we saw the light just in front of us, standing still about 29 miles from us.

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00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:29,000

Polako thought the UFO was moving away, but suddenly there it was again, directly in front of it.

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

When we turned over the lake toward the airport, we saw the UFO again, waiting for us in our trajectory.

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:39,000

Once we finished our turn toward the airport, the UFO disappeared below us.

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00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:43,000

As soon as the UFO disappeared, the lights came back on.

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00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:51,000

Polako landed and immediately filed an official report. Fear turned to frustration when the pilot tried to follow up with airport investigators.

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00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:58,000

We were approached by the airport director who asked me for the report of what had happened. He had to take it to the authorities.

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00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:04,000

We gave this report to the airport authorities, but so far I haven't received an answer about it.

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00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:10,000

With the civil investigation going nowhere, Polako turned to the military.

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00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:18,000

An official investigation was denied by the Air Force, but after two months I was approached by a Defense Ministry Department official.

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00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:22,000

He wrote a report, but I haven't received a copy.

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00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:30,000

Fellow pilots warned him to let the incident drop, but Polako believes that fighting the truth is more important than just one man's career.

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00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:39,000

I decided not to keep quiet about it, so I decided to let the public know what happened that night.

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00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:48,000

I would like to know what it was. Since the light was flying in a very strange way, it didn't fly like a normal plane.

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00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:54,000

I started to ask myself questions, but there are questions for which one has no answer.

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00:19:54,000 --> 00:20:02,000

If there are answers, Polako says he must find them, because he believes there is something out there, a UFO under intelligent control.

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00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:10,000

What I always ask myself is how they could know the maneuvers I was going to make, and if the object knew what I was thinking.

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

I had the impression that this object could foresee what I was thinking. This is an experience that has changed me for the rest of my life.

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00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:25,000

Jorge Polako believes that there may be more repercussions from his employer and his friends as a result of this broadcast,

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00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:31,000

but Polako has told sightings that he must continue to search for an answer to his UFO encounter.

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00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:33,000

No matter what the cost.

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00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:37,000

Next, man's best friend in the fight against cancer.

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00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:43,000

His record in the cancer thing is 99.7% out of 451 surgeries.