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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,060

One of the most puzzling and controversial UFO sightings in U.S. history occurred nearly

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00:00:06,060 --> 00:00:09,440

27 years ago in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania.

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00:00:09,440 --> 00:00:13,120

To this day, many people who have studied this sighting believe there is a continuing

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00:00:13,120 --> 00:00:17,440

government cover-up of what really happened in 1965.

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00:00:17,440 --> 00:00:21,920

As I discovered on my trip to Kecksburg, some believe the UFO was a meteor, others that it

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00:00:21,920 --> 00:00:28,480

was an alien spacecraft, and still others that it was all an elaborate hoax.

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00:00:28,480 --> 00:00:33,240

It used to be just like a lot of other small villages in western Pennsylvania.

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00:00:33,240 --> 00:00:38,480

But in 1965, Kecksburg lost its anonymity when it became one of the world's most famous

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00:00:38,480 --> 00:00:41,400

UFO landing sites.

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00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:45,120

I happened to look up in the sky and I seen this red farball.

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00:00:45,120 --> 00:00:49,240

It sure wasn't a meteor, because I've seen them fall before.

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00:00:49,240 --> 00:00:51,320

I've never seen any of them with blue lights on.

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00:00:51,320 --> 00:00:54,120

And it looked like it made a turn and it came back again.

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00:00:54,520 --> 00:00:59,200

And when it came back, it seemed like it went down.

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00:00:59,200 --> 00:01:06,200

It was December 9th, 1965, a night that many townspeople will never forget.

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00:01:06,200 --> 00:01:10,920

I got my flashlight and I started down through the woods up to where it was at.

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00:01:10,920 --> 00:01:16,440

There was no wings, there was no tail section, there was no motors, there was no windows,

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00:01:16,440 --> 00:01:17,440

there was no doors.

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00:01:17,440 --> 00:01:19,920

There was big enough for a grown person to stand up in.

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00:01:19,920 --> 00:01:23,360

It had like Egyptian writing, like backwards writing on it.

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00:01:23,360 --> 00:01:26,560

Stars and circles and dashes and lines and things like that.

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00:01:26,560 --> 00:01:28,760

It looked like an acorn.

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00:01:28,760 --> 00:01:29,840

It was really weird.

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00:01:29,840 --> 00:01:33,560

Some claim the UFO wasn't the only thing to arrive that night.

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00:01:33,560 --> 00:01:38,000

It wasn't too much longer down through the woods come two gentlemen.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:43,360

The one gentleman, very ramrod straight, very authoritative voice, crew cut hair.

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00:01:43,360 --> 00:01:45,240

I mean, he just wrecked a military.

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00:01:45,240 --> 00:01:49,160

He looked at the object and he looked at us and he says, alright, this is not a restricted

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00:01:49,160 --> 00:01:50,160

area.

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00:01:50,160 --> 00:01:51,560

These were all ordered out of here.

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00:01:51,560 --> 00:01:57,040

Some military people come to the house and just said they'd like to use the phone.

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00:01:57,040 --> 00:01:59,960

They sort of took the house over and start talking among ourselves.

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00:01:59,960 --> 00:02:02,480

What's going on?

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00:02:02,480 --> 00:02:06,400

About that time up through on the road comes a big flatbed truck in the flatbed went down

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00:02:06,400 --> 00:02:11,080

and empty and they come back out with something on the back of it covered up about the size

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00:02:11,080 --> 00:02:12,320

of a Volkswagen.

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00:02:12,320 --> 00:02:13,560

That truck was hell bent for leather.

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00:02:13,560 --> 00:02:16,320

And if you walked out on that road, you'd have still been there.

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00:02:16,320 --> 00:02:18,480

They'd have scraped you up with a putty knife.

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00:02:18,480 --> 00:02:20,560

They weren't stopping for anything or anybody.

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00:02:20,560 --> 00:02:24,000

And that began the real mystery of this whole thing.

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:29,920

Twenty seven years later, what happened down there in that woods surrounded by fields,

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00:02:29,920 --> 00:02:34,640

if anything happened down there at all, is still a matter of bitter controversy.

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00:02:34,640 --> 00:02:36,760

You've got this town split into two groups.

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00:02:36,760 --> 00:02:38,880

You got the believers and the nonbelievers.

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00:02:38,880 --> 00:02:43,120

There's been some friendship lost and it's foolish as far as I'm concerned.

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00:02:43,120 --> 00:02:49,160

I have a brother-in-law that he hadn't spoke to me for two years and said that I lied about

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00:02:49,160 --> 00:02:51,280

everything that I never lied about a thing.

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00:02:51,280 --> 00:02:55,560

You got neighbors and neighbors that have known each other all their life.

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00:02:55,560 --> 00:02:59,640

Now they don't want to talk cause one believes it and one don't believe it.

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00:02:59,640 --> 00:03:04,440

Just as the town is divided, so too are experts who have researched what really happened in

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00:03:04,440 --> 00:03:06,160

Kecksburg.

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00:03:06,160 --> 00:03:10,520

Planetary expert Robert Young believes that some citizens may have perpetrated a hoax.

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00:03:10,520 --> 00:03:15,120

He claims the UFO was merely a meteor known to have passed over Ontario and several northern

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00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:17,320

states that evening.

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00:03:17,320 --> 00:03:22,640

Probably all of the accounts can be explained by people having looked toward and seeing

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00:03:22,640 --> 00:03:24,240

the Ontario meteor.

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00:03:24,240 --> 00:03:29,160

How about the accounts though of the military that turned out in large numbers, kept people

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00:03:29,160 --> 00:03:33,080

away from going down there, truck that went down into the area and came out.

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00:03:33,080 --> 00:03:36,000

You got eyewitnesses that say, this happened.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,600

I understand.

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00:03:38,600 --> 00:03:45,320

I have written signed eyewitness accounts from 61 local people who say that that did

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00:03:45,320 --> 00:03:46,320

not.

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00:03:46,320 --> 00:03:49,440

There was nothing crashed here, it was recovered, there was no military occupant.

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00:03:49,440 --> 00:03:51,240

A lot of people probably think you're the government.

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00:03:51,240 --> 00:03:52,960

Well sure, yeah, but I'm not.

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00:03:52,960 --> 00:03:56,920

I don't know how some people can say that nothing ever happened when there was so many

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00:03:56,920 --> 00:03:59,680

people that saw things that night.

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00:03:59,680 --> 00:04:01,160

Something had to happen.

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00:04:01,160 --> 00:04:05,840

I know what I saw and I'm not going to deny it.

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00:04:05,840 --> 00:04:10,720

They can tell me I'm lying but I know that I've seen the military in my house that night.

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00:04:10,720 --> 00:04:18,120

The Department of Information Act states there was 212 military personnel here that

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00:04:18,120 --> 00:04:19,920

night.

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00:04:19,920 --> 00:04:24,200

Sightings attempted to speak with the Kexburg residents who deny anything extraterrestrial

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00:04:24,200 --> 00:04:28,200

ever happened here, but they all refused our invitation to talk.

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00:04:28,200 --> 00:04:32,200

Even the landowner whose property was the alleged crash site remains silent.

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00:04:32,200 --> 00:04:37,280

I think the government bought them off or threatened them with something that got them

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00:04:37,280 --> 00:04:38,600

scared half to wits.

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00:04:38,600 --> 00:04:43,200

Ironically, their refusal to talk has only deepened the controversy.

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00:04:43,200 --> 00:04:47,400

UFO researcher Stan Gorton heard about the Kexburg incident on the radio.

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00:04:47,400 --> 00:04:50,480

The night had allegedly happened in 1965.

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00:04:50,480 --> 00:04:53,520

He's been investigating the sighting ever since.

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00:04:53,520 --> 00:04:58,680

So much of what we know about the case now, we've learned since about 1987 with the fact

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00:04:58,680 --> 00:05:03,400

that now we have at least four different eyewitnesses who apparently saw the object on the ground

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00:05:03,400 --> 00:05:04,400

at Kexburg.

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00:05:04,400 --> 00:05:08,440

The fact that there are dozens of people independent of each other who don't even know each other

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00:05:08,440 --> 00:05:12,840

yet who have given us detailed information about what they experienced and saw that night

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00:05:12,840 --> 00:05:16,360

and they're giving us confirming information that has not been published yet.

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00:05:16,360 --> 00:05:20,360

The skeptics, and these include the people who own the land and some very substantial

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00:05:20,360 --> 00:05:25,000

citizens of Kexburg, think that this whole thing is loony.

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:27,520

Why do they feel so strongly the other way?

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00:05:27,520 --> 00:05:30,840

Could be that some of these people were in the wrong places at that time.

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00:05:30,840 --> 00:05:33,400

They were in a position where they didn't see what was going on.

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00:05:33,400 --> 00:05:37,400

And if you see the geography of the area and where the majority of people were that night,

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00:05:37,400 --> 00:05:42,360

they could not have seen the military activity that was happening on the land on the other

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00:05:42,360 --> 00:05:43,800

side of the area down there.

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00:05:43,800 --> 00:05:49,640

Do you have any hard evidence at all that what went down in the woods near Kexburg was

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00:05:49,640 --> 00:05:52,360

something other than a meteor or was anything at all?

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00:05:52,360 --> 00:05:53,480

Unfortunately not.

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00:05:53,480 --> 00:05:56,920

As in so many of these cases, you have to go by the eyewitness accounts.

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00:05:56,920 --> 00:06:01,080

And in this case, the eyewitness accounts are very, very strong.

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00:06:01,080 --> 00:06:04,240

And again, unfortunately, we don't have that type of information.

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00:06:04,240 --> 00:06:09,040

If this was the case, whether it be a space probe or in other UFO cases, sure, if we had

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00:06:09,040 --> 00:06:11,040

the physical hardware, the mystery would be over.

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00:06:11,040 --> 00:06:12,040

What do you think it is?

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00:06:12,040 --> 00:06:13,480

What do I think it is?

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00:06:13,480 --> 00:06:19,080

At this point, and again, this is not conclusive, at this point, the weight of evidence would

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00:06:19,080 --> 00:06:23,440

point in the direction that this may have been a Soviet space probe.

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00:06:23,440 --> 00:06:28,880

If the object were proven to be a Soviet space probe, then many questions would be answered.

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00:06:28,880 --> 00:06:33,440

If a Soviet device landed in Kexburg, the government would have been required by international

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00:06:33,520 --> 00:06:38,720

treaty to recover and return immediately any space debris to the country of origin.

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00:06:38,720 --> 00:06:43,720

But retired Army Sergeant Clifford Stone doesn't believe the Soviet probe theory.

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00:06:43,720 --> 00:06:49,920

If this was of Soviet origin in 1965, the State Department would have released documentation

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00:06:49,920 --> 00:06:52,440

to me under their Moondust files.

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00:06:52,440 --> 00:06:56,120

To date, none of that information has been forth.

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00:06:56,120 --> 00:07:01,160

Clifford Stone collects government documents about space debris recovery operations like

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00:07:01,200 --> 00:07:04,240

Project Moondust and Project Blue Fly.

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00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:09,720

He began his investigations in 1965 when, as an Army Sergeant, he witnessed a top-secret

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00:07:09,720 --> 00:07:14,440

delivery to Lockborn Air Force Base about 200 miles from Kexburg.

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00:07:14,440 --> 00:07:20,000

I noticed that on the back of the vehicle, it had something that was covered by a tarp.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:24,080

It was about 10 to 12 foot at the base, 12 foot tall.

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00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:25,920

It looked like a chocolate drop.

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00:07:25,920 --> 00:07:32,920

When my friend told me that every question I ever had about UFOs was under that canvas,

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00:07:34,960 --> 00:07:36,560

I was mystified.

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00:07:36,560 --> 00:07:41,080

Since that time, Stone has repeatedly attempted to obtain information from the government

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00:07:41,080 --> 00:07:42,880

regarding that object.

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00:07:42,880 --> 00:07:45,880

Each time the government's response has been the same.

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00:07:45,880 --> 00:07:49,760

They have taken the stance by direction of the President of the United States.

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00:07:49,760 --> 00:07:55,080

We may neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of any information that all

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00:07:55,120 --> 00:07:57,160

involve the recovery of unknowns.

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00:07:57,160 --> 00:08:00,000

Kexburg remains a town divided.

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00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:05,200

The only thing on which believers and non-believers can agree is that all they want to know once

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00:08:05,200 --> 00:08:10,120

and for all is what really happened on December 9th, 1965.

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00:08:10,120 --> 00:08:11,480

What would you like to see happen next?

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00:08:11,480 --> 00:08:15,600

It's time after 27 years that the public has to write to know the true facts regardless

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00:08:15,600 --> 00:08:18,120

of what the object was and what really occurred.

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00:08:18,120 --> 00:08:23,400

Something came down from numerous eyewitness accounts to a lot of military activity into

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00:08:23,400 --> 00:08:24,400

this small village.

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00:08:24,400 --> 00:08:30,000

Then an object was located, that it was recovered, it was transported away for study.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:35,800

What was the object and why after 27 years having there revealed what really was found?

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00:08:35,800 --> 00:08:40,640

Joining us now from Houston is space flight engineer and author James Oberg, who has studied

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00:08:40,640 --> 00:08:47,120

the reported sighting in Kexburg and has his own theory about what landed there in 1965.

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00:08:47,120 --> 00:08:53,000

Mr. Oberg, first of all, do you believe that something crashed in Kexburg in 1965?

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00:08:53,520 --> 00:08:55,120

Was it a UFO?

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00:08:55,120 --> 00:08:58,760

If it's anything, it might be something a lot more earth-like.

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00:08:58,760 --> 00:09:01,960

It might be a spacecraft from Russia and not from Mars.

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00:09:01,960 --> 00:09:06,980

It turns out we do know that a Russian probe fell back to Earth that day and it was a special

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00:09:06,980 --> 00:09:07,980

kind of probe.

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00:09:07,980 --> 00:09:09,960

It was one of their probes to the planet Venus.

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00:09:09,960 --> 00:09:13,680

It failed, was trapped in Earth orbit and eventually fell out of orbit.

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00:09:13,680 --> 00:09:17,920

What might have been on that Russian space probe that the U.S. would have been so interested

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00:09:17,920 --> 00:09:18,920

in?

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00:09:18,920 --> 00:09:21,600

Oh, the most important thing about the probe would be the heat shield.

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00:09:21,600 --> 00:09:25,640

How thick it was, what material was made out of, how heavy it was.

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00:09:25,640 --> 00:09:30,320

Once we knew that, we could then analyze how big their warheads would be in their ICBMs.

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00:09:30,320 --> 00:09:32,240

The same kind of material was used there.

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00:09:32,240 --> 00:09:35,520

Also, their most advanced electronics would be in that probe.

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00:09:35,520 --> 00:09:38,320

Their most heat-resistant kinds of materials.

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00:09:38,320 --> 00:09:42,080

The very best of their entire military industrial complex technology.

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00:09:42,080 --> 00:09:46,800

It would have been a treasure trove in terms of the Russian space and missile technology.

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00:09:46,800 --> 00:09:51,880

Do you think we will ever know with certainty what really happened in Kecksburg?

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00:09:51,880 --> 00:09:55,960

Well I guess the dream is that someone will go forward with an official government report.

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00:09:55,960 --> 00:09:59,360

It might exist, it might not.

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00:09:59,360 --> 00:10:03,260

Twenty, thirty, forty years ago, people's memories, as you know, tend to keep changing

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00:10:03,260 --> 00:10:05,880

and growing as the stories get told and retold.

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00:10:05,880 --> 00:10:10,840

I think there's lots of stories in UFO folklore that will never really know what happened

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00:10:10,840 --> 00:10:12,340

behind them.

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00:10:12,340 --> 00:10:13,840

That's the fascination.

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00:10:13,840 --> 00:10:15,560

James Oberg, thank you very much for joining us.

