

1

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

Even though Freddie Valentich has been missing for close to 20 years, his father has not given up hope.

2

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

He believes that one day the extraterrestrials who took his son away may decide to bring him back to Earth.

3

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:27,000

He was a 20-year-old pilot with the Australian Air Training Corps who took off on October 21, 1978 and was never seen again.

4

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

Freddie Valentich took off from a raven airport in Victoria, bound for Cape Otway on King Island.

5

00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:40,000

45 minutes into the flight, the control tower in Cape Otway received an alarming SOS.

6

00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:45,000

Valentich was on a collision course with a strange craft he could not identify.

7

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

According to the tower, the radar screen was clean.

8

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

For six minutes, Valentich continued to insist that a UFO was approaching him at a high rate of speed.

9

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

Then his radio went dead.

10

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

Is there traffic below 5,000?

11

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

No traffic.

12

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

Traffic above me at 5,000?

13

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:06,000

None. And none, up to none, near your position and altitude.

14

00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:08,000

Tower, you must reach check.

15

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:11,000

Above it, not below me, at terrible brightness.

16

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Nothing. Nothing.

17

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:16,000

And then he was gone.

18

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:20,000

Freddie Valentich and his airplane disappeared without a trace.

19

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000

He is considered legally dead by everyone but his father.

20

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:29,000

17 years after Fred's disappearance, Guido Valentich still makes an annual pilgrimage to Cape Otway,

21

00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:33,000

where he believes he lost his eldest son to a UFO.

22

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:39,000

That particular day I was supposed to be with my son on the airplanes.

23

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:43,000

And I feel a little bit sorry that I didn't go.

24

00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:51,000

Because in my mind I felt that if I would have been with him, perhaps one would say

25

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:55,000

the situation could turn out slightly different.

26

00:01:56,000 --> 00:02:01,000

Why would a father return here every year on the anniversary of his son's disappearance

27

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:06,000

and reflect on the possibility that his child had a close encounter with a UFO?

28

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Because Guido Valentich says knowing Freddie, it's the only explanation that makes sense.

29

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:16,000

He was hardworking and honest, a straight shooter who knew how to fly.

30

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:20,000

His future was to be a commercial pilot.

31

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

He had about close to 200 hours flying.

32

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:32,000

The last time I spoke to him was that morning, the 21st of October, at the breakfast table.

33

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:37,000

And as he went there, I remember Dick was saying to me, you know, the last word he said,

34

00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:41,000

oh, it's gotta be a beautiful day to fly today.

35

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:46,000

Freddie's flight plan that warm, cloudless evening took him over the infamous Bass Strait,

36

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:50,000

an area known as the Australian Bermuda Triangle.

37

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:55,000

There had been other disappearances, reports of mechanical failures and magnetic anomalies.

38

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:59,000

But Valentich was the first pilot to ever report into the control tower

39

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

that he was in the presence of a threatening UFO.

40

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:06,000

His voice told the controller to take this SOS seriously.

41

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:11,000

Tower is not an aircraft. Repeat, not an aircraft known to us.

42

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:15,000

An identified vehicle is a green light at terminus of upper cylinder.

43

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:20,000

Now the projection appears to be aluminium or some other light metal.

44

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:22,000

Windows are unmistakable.

45

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:25,000

Now see four other lights from the interior.

46

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:28,000

No, no windows. Some other observation area.

47

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:31,000

Tower, he's playing a game.

48

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

The actual tapes of Freddie's communication with the tower were considered top secret

49

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:41,000

and Guido Valentich was allowed to listen to his son's last words only one time.

50

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:44,000

Soon after, the tapes were erased.

51

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:49,000

A version of the tape transcript was leaked to the media by anonymous airport personnel.

52

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:55,000

Valentich gave a complete description of the type of the craft, the shape, the portholes,

53

00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:59,000

what it was doing, how it was buzzing him, circling him,

54

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

going off at great speeds, disappearing, coming back.

55

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

And he was in constant contact with the tower over this period of time until 714.

56

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

When all of a sudden he said this was approaching him and bathed him in a green light,

57

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:19,000

the plane and everything.

58

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:26,000

And then there was a metal scraping sound and he just disappeared off the place of the earth, the plane and everything.

59

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:28,000

You believe me, Log?

60

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:30,000

Sure do. We know it's Valentich.

61

00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:36,000

Thank you, Tower. In proceeding at a speed of 110 at the same course moving up to 4000.

62

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:38,000

Wait, wait, ancient faltering.

63

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:41,000

We've got rough idling, she may call.

64

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:43,000

She's caught up for real, it's horrendous burst.

65

00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:46,000

His green light is all over his, he...

66

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,000

It's not an aircraft.

67

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:55,000

Count up to 5000, 6000, long wingless metallic tubes spouting flame, I feel scorched, I feel.

68

00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

229, 229, we hear something tearing.

69

00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:02,000

229, 229, please reply.

70

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:11,000

When the tower lost radio contact, a search plane was sent to the point of last contact, 12 miles off the coast of Melbourne.

71

00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:13,000

There was no sign of Valentich.

72

00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:16,000

They searched by air, by land and by sea.

73

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:21,000

But after three weeks, searchers had found nothing and the operation was suspended.

74

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:27,000

21st of the tower because it's one die which I can never forget.

75

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:36,000

I'd like to go down to respect and study some of the area when this phenomenon occurred

76

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:42,000

and to be able to see some strange thing perhaps on that particular die.

77

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:48,000

Officially, there were no eyewitnesses to Freddie Valentich's disappearance nearly 20 years ago.

78

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

But a small group of UFO researchers claim there were eyewitnesses working here, working for the United States government.

79

00:05:56,000 --> 00:06:02,000

This is the Pine Gap Research Facility, a tracking station located in the Australian outback.

80

00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:09,000

And according to researcher Robert Dean, Pine Gap knows more than it's willing to tell about Fred Valentich.

81

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:13,000

They can track anything from a basketball-sized meteor.

82

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:18,000

There's no question in my mind that the Pine Gap facility tracked that object.

83

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:21,000

They were tracking Fred, they were tracking that object.

84

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:24,000

God knows when the truth will come out.

85

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:32,000

But I think Fred was grabbed and I know Pine Gap must have monitored the whole damn thing because we monitor everything.

86

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

According to Dean and others, the Pine Gap tracking station did much more than simply track the last moments of Fred Valentich's life.

87

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Did officials there have a hand in the death of an innocent man?

88

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:48,000

More on this story when sightings returns.

89

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:53,000

Next, the Pine Gap connection to the disappearance of Freddie Valentich.

90

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:56,000

The real secret behind it involves the alien...

91

00:06:56,000 --> 00:07:03,000

No wings, no observable propulsion system, soaring above Australia at unbelievable speed.

92

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

It was the last thing Pilot Fred Valentich saw before he disappeared off the face of the earth.

93

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:15,000

That was 17 years ago and from that day to this, his father and a handful of dedicated researchers

94

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:20,000

have searched for information about who or what was controlling that UFO.

95

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:29,000

229, are you on a collision course? Over.

96

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:33,000

No, it's still at my side. It can hang motionless.

97

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:35,000

Or it over and under me.

98

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

Proceed to 29.

99

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

Wingless tubes, yes.

100

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:43,000

Maybe 100 feet long with a green blast, sometimes green paper.

101

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:54,000

These were Freddie Valentich's exact words to an air traffic controller when he encountered an unknown object over Australia's bass straight.

102

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

He disappeared minutes later.

103

00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:03,000

Now, a small but convincing group of researchers believe that Valentich's encounter must have been observed

104

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:09,000

and was then covered up by a super secret government tracking facility at Pine Gap, Australia.

105

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:16,000

Anything that comes in from out there in space on the planet is immediately picked up,

106

00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:19,000

whether it's a meteor or whatever.

107

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:24,000

If it's one of our own satellites, if it's something we don't know, immediately they pick it up.

108

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:28,000

They monitor it, they photograph it, they track it.

109

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:30,000

That's what Pine Gap does.

110

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:34,000

Robert Dean is a retired United States Army Command Sergeant Major.

111

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:43,000

In his 27-year military career, Dean claims that he was involved in several top secret military operations concerning UFOs.

112

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:49,000

Your program has got a hold of a tiger by the tail here when you start looking into Pine Gap.

113

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:58,000

And I must be honest with you that the Pine Gap facility and all that it's involved with is probably one of the most secret installations in the world.

114

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

The NSA is involved, the CIA is involved and the National Reconnaissance Office is part of that.

115

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:12,000

They call it a joint space defense facility, but it's a hell of a lot more than that.

116

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:17,000

But other experts insist the location is simply an advanced satellite communications facility.

117

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:25,000

Most governments don't even publicly admit that they are involved in satellite intelligence operations.

118

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:32,000

That's probably about as close as any government is ever going to go to saying that they're involved in signals intelligence collection functions.

119

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:38,000

Well, I can tell you that as a result of 30 years of my personal research, the fact that I am ex-military,

120

00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:43,000

the fact that I still have a bunch of old cronies in sensitive places,

121

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:51,000

the real secret behind it, the real undercover, unannounced, unpublished operation,

122

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:56,000

involves the alien reality and UFOs.

123

00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:04,000

The Pine Gap research facility has never commented publicly on a possible link between their operations and Freddie Valentich's disappearance.

124

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:07,000

But this photograph suggests there is a link.

125

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

It was taken in the same area at nearly the same time Valentich disappeared.

126

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:16,000

If the eyes and ears of Pine Gap are as powerful as Robert Dean suggests,

127

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:21,000

they must know something about the UFO snapped by amateur photographer Roy Manifold.

128

00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:30,000

It was quite a clear night. It was cool. We had the fire going in the front room and everything seemed normal that night.

129

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:36,000

I'd taken the photographs and I'd taken the six consecutive ones.

130

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:40,000

And I'd walked inside and I'd just come inside.

131

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:47,000

I was only been there about maybe five minutes and I heard an airplane pass overhead.

132

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:54,000

The airplane was Freddie's Cessna just moments before Valentich's fateful UFO encounter.

133

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:59,000

And later, when Roy had his film developed, along with the beautiful sunset,

134

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,000

there was this important clue to Freddie's mysterious disappearance.

135

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:09,000

He got this object here on his sixth frame.

136

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:17,000

And it was quite strange that he thought that one incident was something wrong with the camera.

137

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:25,000

But then when he took back to the laboratory, they assured that that object there is nothing wrong with it.

138

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:27,000

He's definitely got an object on it.

139

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:32,000

Computer analysis and enhancement of the UFO in Manifold's photograph

140

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:39,000

reveals that the object was a solid metallic reflective sphere approximately 70 feet in diameter.

141

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:43,000

The fact that this picture was taken just minutes before Manifold heard Valentich's airplane

142

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:49,000

suggests this may be the craft Freddie saw moments before he vanished without a trace.

143

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Air Corps officials, however, vehemently disagree.

144

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:59,000

Some of the experts said that he got disorientated and that he was flying upside down.

145

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:08,000

But the Cessna 182 has got the petrol or gas, aviation gas, is in the wings and is gravity fed to the motor.

146

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:13,000

So 49 seconds of flying upside down, the motor would have cut out.

147

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:16,000

He was talking for six and a half minutes.

148

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,000

So that tells you he wasn't flying upside down, he wasn't disorientated.

149

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

Now we all clear 229 and there's no strange craft, right?

150

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:27,000

Could be a miscalculation. Did you hear a vibratory?

151

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:30,000

Tower, heard nothing but my own sound.

152

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

Electrical phenomena 229, perhaps more lightning can do strange things.

153

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

Mirage is not uncommon with storm flare.

154

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:40,000

Storm flare far off to East Tower. Not vapor to here either.

155

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:45,000

Holy, here he comes from the south west. All shiny and metallic.

156

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:47,000

My God, he's talking to me!

157

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:55,000

Now in Frederick he wouldn't deviate rules and regulations.

158

00:12:55,000 --> 00:13:05,000

I'm quite certain that he would not go on that ride here and inquire about to the air traffic controller what he's got around him.

159

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:15,000

Unless it was something really worthwhile to ask because to him it wasn't like convention or a craft before something else.

160

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:21,000

It could have been extra terrestrial but the time will tell.

161

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:29,000

For 17 years a family has searched for answers and now they hope that Pine Gap will share its information concerning Freddie,

162

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:36,000

the UFO in this photograph and one of the most puzzling encounters in UFO history.

163

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:41,000

Only two pilots are believed to have disappeared as a result of their aerial contact with the UFO.

164

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

Fred Valentich and Thomas Mantell, a military pilot from Louisville, Kentucky.

165

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:51,000

The consensus among ufologists is that these incidents occurred not because the UFOs were aggressive,

166

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:57,000

but because pilots have never been taught what to do in the event of a UFO encounter.