

1

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

Good evening. In 1947, American pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing objects flying in formation

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00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:43,760

at nearly 2,000 miles an hour. The media leapt on two words he used to describe what he saw,

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00:00:44,480 --> 00:00:51,120

flying sources. And so began the modern UFO phenomenon. Today there is one small town in

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00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:57,760

America where UFO mania has swept through the local population, sparking off an unprecedented frenzy

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00:00:57,760 --> 00:01:03,520

of reported sightings and bizarre claims. Could hundreds of witnesses be mistaken,

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00:01:03,520 --> 00:01:05,600

or is there really something out there?

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00:01:08,560 --> 00:01:14,000

The town of Gulf Breeze spends its time basking in the subtropical sun of the Florida Panhandle.

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00:01:14,640 --> 00:01:20,080

Separated from the mainland, it wallows in the superheated waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Nothing

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00:01:20,080 --> 00:01:27,040

much used to happen in this small, atlantic town, but on November 11, 1987, a new storm hit town

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00:01:27,040 --> 00:01:30,000

that would change the lives of some of the residents forever.

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00:01:31,200 --> 00:01:33,840

My thoughts were to catch a picture of it as it went overhead.

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00:01:34,640 --> 00:01:39,440

We're seeing something that we're obviously seeing, but we have no concept of what it is

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00:01:39,440 --> 00:01:40,080

that we're seeing.

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00:01:45,760 --> 00:01:50,640

It was a reader's contribution to a local Gulf Breeze newspaper, which sparked off a unique

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00:01:50,640 --> 00:01:53,600

phenomenon which would draw in tens of thousands of people.

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00:01:54,320 --> 00:02:01,120

I returned to the office one day, and my secretary said that a man had brought in some UFO photographs

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00:02:01,920 --> 00:02:09,360

taken in Gulf Breeze. I looked at them and there were polaroids, and I felt, how do you fake a

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00:02:09,360 --> 00:02:15,840

polaroid? My folks stopped in the office and I said, you're not going to believe what we're

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00:02:15,840 --> 00:02:19,760

getting ready to run the paper this week. And they looked at the photographs and they said,

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:27,280

where'd you get these photographs? That's what we saw. And it turns out that they saw the same

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00:02:27,280 --> 00:02:34,160

night, the same crowd. I lost all inhibitions about going big with the story because if you

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00:02:34,160 --> 00:02:39,280

can't trust your mother, who can you trust? The story had a major impact on the town. TV and

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00:02:39,280 --> 00:02:48,080

newspaper reporters flocked to the area to investigate. They weren't the only ones looking

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00:02:48,080 --> 00:02:54,320

into it. Don Ware, a retired colonel in the US Air Force, and Charles Flanagan were sent by MUFON,

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00:02:54,320 --> 00:02:59,200

the international UFO organization, to investigate the origin of the polaroids.

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00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:05,360

In those photos, there were two key details that was of primary interest to me. One was an

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00:03:05,360 --> 00:03:12,000

electrical junction box that sets high on the pole. And the other was where the photographer had to

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:18,320

have been standing behind a cedar tree. The photos have been delivered by a local man,

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00:03:18,320 --> 00:03:24,400

Ed Walters, who said they'd been taken by a neighbor who wanted to remain known only as Mr. X.

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00:03:24,400 --> 00:03:32,560

We were kind of concerned about finding out exactly which neighbor of Ed's was Mr. X and where the

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00:03:32,560 --> 00:03:39,760

pictures were taken. We drove streets at all times of the day looking for those two key objects,

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00:03:39,760 --> 00:03:46,080

eventually after seven or eight days we found the location. Long behold, it turned out to be

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00:03:46,080 --> 00:03:51,920

Ed's front yard. Ed Walters was a well-known man in Gulf Breeze, a pillar of the community. He

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00:03:51,920 --> 00:03:57,360

employed over 200 people in his successful building firm and had a good reputation, something he

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00:03:57,360 --> 00:04:07,600

didn't want to lose. I was concerned the UFO stigma would stick and certainly you just don't want

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00:04:07,600 --> 00:04:13,200

to be known as the general contractor who sees UFOs. So when I first went to the newspaper I said,

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00:04:13,200 --> 00:04:21,360

oh, a friend of mine, you know, but of course, you know, the friend of mine story just never does hold

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00:04:21,360 --> 00:04:26,880

up. With Ed Walters admitting he had taken the Polaroids, the move on investigators moved up a

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00:04:26,880 --> 00:04:36,000

gear. Had no idea at all at that point how big this case may may become. January 7, 1988. But

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:46,560

as with all investigations, we must remain skeptical but with an open mind. Mr. Walters,

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00:04:46,560 --> 00:04:53,040

you mind telling us how you came to take these photographs? Our ideal in concrete and steel and

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00:04:53,040 --> 00:04:58,640

real life and to look out my window at my office at my house and see something unusual

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00:04:58,880 --> 00:05:04,000

didn't necessarily bother me because normally you would explain it away.

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00:05:09,760 --> 00:05:15,200

And I got up from my desk and kind of looked through the window and just behind the trees.

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00:05:18,160 --> 00:05:24,480

So I grabbed a camera, a little Polaroid camera I use on job sites. The more time I looked at it,

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00:05:24,480 --> 00:05:29,920

which this was all happening very quickly, the more I realized that this was not something I could

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00:05:29,920 --> 00:05:41,680

explain away. A lot of thoughts went through my mind. Oh my goodness, could I really be looking at a UFO?

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00:05:42,400 --> 00:05:55,600

This was a very magnificent looking craft. Silent, wingless.

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00:05:59,440 --> 00:06:06,720

The UFO turned and started in my direction. My thoughts were to catch a picture of it as it

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00:06:06,800 --> 00:06:21,040

went overhead. This strange blue beam came out of it and struck me. Having said that,

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00:06:22,880 --> 00:06:32,320

you must realize that that sounds bizarre to my ears. So I know that somebody listening to me say

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00:06:32,400 --> 00:06:37,440

I was struck by a blue beam. Their eyes have got to roll back in their head and go, oh my goodness,

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00:06:38,400 --> 00:06:44,960

this is true. From the initial meeting with Ed Walters, he was extremely cooperative. I found

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00:06:44,960 --> 00:06:51,360

him to be a very detailed individual and I enjoyed working with him. I would ask Ed the same question

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00:06:51,360 --> 00:06:57,920

two or three times only. I would word it in different ways and always it came up with the same conclusion.

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00:06:58,560 --> 00:07:02,400

Ed Walters' pictures also attracted the interest of Dr. Bruce McAbee,

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00:07:02,400 --> 00:07:07,600

an optical physicist with the U.S. Navy. He's worked, among other things, on the Strategic

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00:07:07,600 --> 00:07:14,320

Defense Initiative or Star Wars project. He spent over 30 years investigating UFO sightings.

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00:07:14,960 --> 00:07:20,560

A lot of time was spent on the first photograph to determine whether or not it could have been

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00:07:20,560 --> 00:07:29,440

created as a simple double exposure seemed to be a, if not a legitimate photo, if it was a hoax,

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00:07:29,440 --> 00:07:35,440

it was extremely difficult. George Lucas could probably do with the strange light company that he

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:41,600

runs, but Ed Walters couldn't do with his little Polaroid. But not everyone was impressed.

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00:07:41,600 --> 00:07:47,360

Ed was accused of hoaxing and publicly ridiculed in the press. The story might have ended there

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00:07:47,360 --> 00:07:53,040

until another witness came forward, Church Elder Art Hufford. They were putting front page

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00:07:53,040 --> 00:08:00,160

headlines about UFO experts declaring Gulf Breeze photographs of hoax and claiming that it was

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00:08:00,160 --> 00:08:08,160

something that somebody had done in a dark room with trick photography. And that made me a little

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00:08:08,160 --> 00:08:14,240

angry because I knew there was no trick photography or mirrors on the windshield of my car.

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00:08:15,120 --> 00:08:20,560

Art claimed to have witnessed the same UFO as Ed photographed just a few miles away on the same day.

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00:08:21,360 --> 00:08:28,400

My wife and I had been in town and setting up tables at our church. As we were driving towards

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00:08:28,400 --> 00:08:36,320

our home, suddenly up ahead, I saw this craft hovering above trees and I pointed out to my wife

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00:08:36,320 --> 00:08:43,680

and we watched this thing as I drove toward it. It looked like nothing we had ever seen before.

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00:08:44,480 --> 00:08:49,520

This oval crown shape looking craft had a very bright white light on the top.

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00:08:50,160 --> 00:08:53,760

And the base of the craft was emitting a bright white light as well.

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00:08:54,720 --> 00:08:58,000

That's not a helicopter, that's not a point. And it was just hovering there above trees,

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00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:04,480

probably two, maybe three blocks in front of our car. My concept at the time of people who

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00:09:04,480 --> 00:09:09,280

had reported UFO sightings, I always thought that was probably somebody who had had too much to drink

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00:09:09,280 --> 00:09:18,000

or something. It became apparent that it was not just Ed Walters UFO because many, many other

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00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:24,880

witnesses came forward. City council people, ministers, so many people that we felt like it

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00:09:24,880 --> 00:09:32,480

was a whole community wide thing. From November of 1987 to July of 1988, there were probably

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00:09:32,480 --> 00:09:37,040

well over a hundred sightings with several hundred witnesses involved. The floodgates had opened.

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00:09:37,040 --> 00:09:43,360

It seemed that everyone had a UFO story. I saw what I thought was a shooting star and it went

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00:09:43,360 --> 00:09:50,240

like this and just stopped. And then all of a sudden another one came like this. The red light

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00:09:50,240 --> 00:09:56,800

came in and it pulsated for a while and then it turned bright white. And there was this huge

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00:09:56,800 --> 00:10:03,200

orange globe hanging there. It was about like four stories high and it was hovering over the water.

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00:10:03,200 --> 00:10:07,680

I was walking and looked up and I saw a big shining green oval shining right through the

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00:10:07,680 --> 00:10:14,560

cloud. It was very vivid color, very bright neon green. It was a very bright red light,

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00:10:14,560 --> 00:10:20,320

most like a traffic light up in the sky almost all by itself and it just came in from nowhere.

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00:10:20,320 --> 00:10:24,480

It terrified me because I was afraid to keep on walking but I didn't, there's nowhere I could

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00:10:24,480 --> 00:10:31,200

go and nobody could hear me if anything was going to happen to me. My wife was driving me to the

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00:10:31,200 --> 00:10:35,760

post office, that's where it was. And she noticed something shooting in front of our car and she

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00:10:35,760 --> 00:10:41,200

said, Ken did you see that? And I could only yell at him saying look out the window, look out the

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00:10:41,200 --> 00:10:45,040

side window, there's something out there, look out there, there's a plane or a helicopter.

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00:10:47,680 --> 00:10:52,320

It appeared like you could see through some layers of it although it wasn't totally

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00:10:52,320 --> 00:10:59,920

transparent like a marble would be, okay. And inside there appeared to be some swirling gas or fluids.

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00:11:01,200 --> 00:11:09,840

Around the center of it there was one light that was chasing around you like Christmas tree lights

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00:11:09,840 --> 00:11:18,240

and this object was just hovering. I wasn't really afraid, I couldn't use that term just sheer

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00:11:18,240 --> 00:11:21,840

amazement because I just couldn't believe, you know you can't believe your eyes.

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00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,440

I spent seven years in the Air Force, I've seen many different aircraft.

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00:11:28,320 --> 00:11:33,680

We're seeing something that we're obviously seeing but we have no concept of what it is that we're seeing.

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00:11:33,680 --> 00:12:00,960

The atmosphere in Gulf Breeze started to reach Fever pitch with people desperate to see their own UFO.

101

00:12:04,560 --> 00:12:10,960

Residents started to congregate on the beaches at night and became known as the sky watchers.

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00:12:10,960 --> 00:12:12,960

Oh my god!

103

00:12:12,960 --> 00:12:22,960

Shoot her up, shoot her up, shoot her up.

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00:12:22,960 --> 00:12:24,960

Something's pointing down now.

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00:12:25,920 --> 00:12:29,920

Oh, a big red. It's coming towards us, isn't it?

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00:12:29,920 --> 00:12:31,920

You can see that with my naked eye.

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00:12:31,920 --> 00:12:33,920

And it's shooting out to the white.

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00:12:33,920 --> 00:12:43,920

They started going out on watches and from there on it's just been a wild and crazy ride of watching UFOs in the sky around here.

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00:12:43,920 --> 00:12:49,920

There's two of them! Did you see the white? Did you see the white light spot in the middle with the ring on it?

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00:12:50,880 --> 00:12:52,880

Look, look, look!

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00:12:52,880 --> 00:12:54,880

Oh, look, it's a rider rider!

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00:12:54,880 --> 00:12:56,880

Oh my god!

113

00:12:56,880 --> 00:12:58,880

Yo, look! It's right there!

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00:12:58,880 --> 00:13:02,880

Yo, baby, yo, come on over here and show us some more.

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00:13:02,880 --> 00:13:04,880

Come on, mama!

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00:13:04,880 --> 00:13:06,880

Oh, don't go back, come back.

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00:13:06,880 --> 00:13:08,880

That baby went in warp drive.

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00:13:08,880 --> 00:13:14,880

They did strange things, moved around strange motions in the sky.

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00:13:14,880 --> 00:13:18,880

Sometimes they would fall and disappear, sometimes they would stop and turn rip.

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00:13:19,840 --> 00:13:21,840

At times you could see the object revolving.

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00:13:21,840 --> 00:13:23,840

Lully, what's going on up there?

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00:13:23,840 --> 00:13:25,840

If this is a model, it's a model.

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00:13:25,840 --> 00:13:27,840

Cut something hanging out the side!

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00:13:27,840 --> 00:13:29,840

Damn!

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00:13:29,840 --> 00:13:31,840

Good lord!

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00:13:31,840 --> 00:13:33,840

What is that baby doing?

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00:13:33,840 --> 00:13:39,840

And one of the things we were trying to do was to see if we could get some sort of interaction with the UFOs themselves.

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00:13:39,840 --> 00:13:43,840

Two waves of UFOs, bright cherry red lights appeared.

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00:13:44,800 --> 00:13:54,800

They had this handheld 500,000 candle power light and by flashing that light three times at the UFO, the UFO blinked back three times.

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00:13:54,800 --> 00:13:56,800

Look, look, look!

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00:13:56,800 --> 00:13:58,800

Very profound to have that interaction.

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00:13:58,800 --> 00:14:04,800

So there's some intelligence on the other side of this thing that's aware of us and is responding to us.

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00:14:04,800 --> 00:14:08,800

So what were the sky watchers seeing?

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00:14:08,800 --> 00:14:12,800

They believed that they were UFOs, but was there another answer?

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00:14:12,800 --> 00:14:22,800

They wanted to be a part of the crowd or to be a part of what's going on and I think this may have something to do with some people's experiences.

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00:14:22,800 --> 00:14:30,800

There are some people on the periphery of the experience that will feel like they have a need to be a part of what's actually happening.

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00:14:30,800 --> 00:14:40,800

We were getting calls of people seeing a very bright red light or a very bright white light and it disappears.

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00:14:40,800 --> 00:14:44,800

We were getting calls and these people say, okay, it's over by the park.

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00:14:44,800 --> 00:14:52,800

So we go there and we look up in the sky and try to see if it was there or not and of course when we got there it wasn't there.

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00:14:52,800 --> 00:14:57,800

If people really had seen something, could the answer be found closer to home?

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00:14:57,800 --> 00:15:05,800

Gulf Breeze has one of the world's highest concentrations of air bases which makes it almost impossible not to see an aircraft when you look up at the sky.

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00:15:05,800 --> 00:15:26,800

A large number of people, perhaps even as much as 80% of the more people observed, crafted in the area, are simply observing misidentified objects such as the planet Venus or meteorite or simply airplanes.

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00:15:26,800 --> 00:15:33,800

Observed by an untrained eye and we identify a lot of reports as being aircraft.

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00:15:33,800 --> 00:15:39,800

But ex-USFF pilot, Bland Pugh, believes he has pictures which prove otherwise.

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00:15:39,800 --> 00:15:44,800

I started out taking fast photography, if you will, using a thousand millimeter film.

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00:15:44,800 --> 00:15:53,800

All I was getting, no matter what I did, was a red light and or a red light with an orange center.

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00:15:53,800 --> 00:16:00,800

I knew there had to be something else there so the only thing that I could think of was to go to a time exposure.

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00:16:00,800 --> 00:16:05,800

We noticed that there was some movement left to right, left to right.

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00:16:05,800 --> 00:16:11,800

We could see that these oscillations were in a set pattern.

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00:16:11,800 --> 00:16:20,800

Bland also photographed airplanes comparing their straight flight patterns with the erratic path of the UFOs.

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00:16:21,800 --> 00:16:26,800

I spent almost five years in the military, in the Air Force.

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00:16:26,800 --> 00:16:31,800

I've seen enough airplanes, I've been in enough airplanes, I was a pilot at one time.

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00:16:31,800 --> 00:16:35,800

You know, I'm sorry, they're not airplanes.

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00:16:35,800 --> 00:16:41,800

More intriguing are a set of pictures taken of a reported incident in January 1994.

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00:16:41,800 --> 00:16:50,800

These three F-15 Eagle fighters were claimed to have approached an unidentified craft hovering over Santa Rosa Sound Gulf Breeze.

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00:16:50,800 --> 00:16:56,800

There are three jets, two high and one low, coming in towards this object.

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00:17:00,800 --> 00:17:05,800

And it turns out that the photo shows the jet actually blocking part of the image of the UFO.

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00:17:05,800 --> 00:17:11,800

This jet flew along and actually made a little bit of a turn around the thing indicating the guy must have seen it.

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00:17:11,800 --> 00:17:16,800

If the picture isn't faked, could there be a more down-to-earth explanation for the object in the sky?

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00:17:16,800 --> 00:17:30,800

I am now convinced that some major contractors in the US of A are building vehicles that appear similar to some of the UFO sightings.

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00:17:30,800 --> 00:17:42,800

Gulf Breeze has a population of 30,000 people. I don't think that the military is going to use a populated area of this size to experiment.

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00:17:42,800 --> 00:17:45,800

The military remained tight-lipped on the affair.

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00:17:45,800 --> 00:17:50,800

Their only comment is that all investigations into UFOs ceased in 1969.

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00:17:53,800 --> 00:17:56,800

Their silence has been fueled for the conspiracy theorists.

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00:17:57,800 --> 00:18:06,800

Top of their list was an incident involving six soldiers from the 701st Army Intelligence Unit based in Augsburg, West Germany.

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00:18:09,800 --> 00:18:15,800

Their job had been to decipher highly sensitive and top-secret radio and satellite transmissions.

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00:18:16,800 --> 00:18:25,800

A group of people who turned out to be military intelligence people who had just plain left their observation post in Germany.

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00:18:25,800 --> 00:18:33,800

And come to the United States, they were missing in action for five days. The government didn't know where they were.

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00:18:33,800 --> 00:18:44,800

No one knew why on July 9, 1990, the unit deserted, all where they'd gone, until one of them turned up in Gulf Breeze and was arrested by patrol officer Donald Stevens.

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00:18:44,800 --> 00:18:51,800

We talked to this guy, interviewed him, and he just kept telling us, you know, you just don't know

what you got.

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00:18:51,800 --> 00:19:13,800

And finally, he gave in and told us that him and five other deserters from the Army had stolen some computer chips and some high-classified documents involved in UFOs, documents that the government had, and these guys were going to just blow this whole thing open.

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00:19:13,800 --> 00:19:20,800

The rest of the deserters were rounded up at a nearby house. The question on everyone's lips was, what did they know?

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00:19:20,800 --> 00:19:40,800

The NIA was involved, Naval Intelligence, CIA was involved, the FBI was involved, the Army Intelligence, you know, and we had, I bet you, at least 10 to 15 different federal agencies in our police department interviewing these people at the same time.

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00:19:40,800 --> 00:19:51,800

An anonymous letter was sent to the Army and the media demanding the release of the soldiers. If not, documents linking the government with UFOs would be released.

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00:19:51,800 --> 00:20:04,800

Four days later, the soldiers were freed and given an honorable discharge. Conspiracy theories, thousands of sightings. Were they just a product of the imaginations of people brought up on Star Trek and ET?

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00:20:04,800 --> 00:20:14,800

There has been a suggestion that many of the sightings are a result of people sort of, I wouldn't say mass hysteria, but the excitement of seeing things in the sky.

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00:20:14,800 --> 00:20:17,800

Wow! What is that?

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00:20:17,800 --> 00:20:25,800

I was riding my bicycle and a craft did come down and take me and they were doing surgery on my knees.

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00:20:25,800 --> 00:20:35,800

Whether the stories are true or not, it certainly seems that many people in Gulf Breeze believe they've had a close encounter. This has led to the foundation of a most unlikely support group.

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00:20:35,800 --> 00:20:50,800

I started this support group about three years ago for people who felt that they had been abducted by aliens and taken aboard a craft and had medical procedures formed on them, then brought back.

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00:20:50,800 --> 00:21:03,800

What I was was I was standing at my kitchen window and one of the little fellows was outside the window, eye-high, even though he was really a short fellow. Somehow he was eye-to-eye with me and I'm pounding on the blinds and just screaming at him.

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00:21:03,800 --> 00:21:14,800

Go away, you can't come in. And all his reaction was just kind of thinking to me, well gee, I thought we had some kind of a relationship here. He was surprised that he thought I would ask them in.

183

00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:28,800

People can come together and talk with each other about their experiences. So many times if they talk to other people about it, people tell them that they're crazy. This helps them to talk with each other without fear of ridicule.

184

00:21:28,800 --> 00:21:42,800

The little short black ones took us to the ship and one of the beings came and put their hand on my forehead and the pain just totally went away. It was like a feeling of euphoria. It was the most wonderful feeling.

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00:21:42,800 --> 00:22:00,800

The support group shows just how far UFO mania has snowballed in Gulf Breeze. But there's an even more startling barometer of the locals' belief that there is something out there. They're joining 5,000 people across America who have taken out insurance against alien abduction.

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00:22:00,800 --> 00:22:11,800

If you find that difficult to believe, take a look at this. It's a policy form issued by the American UFO Abduction Insurance Company of Altamonte Springs, Florida.

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00:22:11,800 --> 00:22:26,800

Motto, beam me up, I'm covered. For \$20, your relatives have the comfort of knowing that they will get \$10 million if you're carried off. And the only proof required is the signature of the abducting alien. Good night.

188

00:22:30,800 --> 00:22:52,800

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