

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,520

A fiery object streaks across six states and reportedly crashed lands near a small town

2

00:00:10,520 --> 00:00:11,520

in Pennsylvania.

3

00:00:11,520 --> 00:00:16,300

There was something down in the woods that was of great importance to our government

4

00:00:16,300 --> 00:00:21,360

military for the military to respond the way it did.

5

00:00:21,360 --> 00:00:25,840

In Spain, an amateur astronomer sees a bizarre glowing object from his rooftop.

6

00:00:26,360 --> 00:00:30,640

It's also picked up on radar in Portugal, sending the media into overdrive.

7

00:00:30,640 --> 00:00:40,000

It was impossible not to notice because everyone was talking about it.

8

00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:45,640

And in Vietnam, a U.S. military camp is plunged into darkness as a mysterious bright light

9

00:00:45,640 --> 00:00:47,200

appears in the sky.

10

00:00:47,200 --> 00:00:52,640

It couldn't have been anything that we could reasonably come up with that could do what

11

00:00:52,640 --> 00:00:54,840

it did.

12

00:00:54,840 --> 00:00:58,280

Does anyone know what these phenomena are?

13

00:00:58,280 --> 00:01:03,000

And do the governments of the world know more than they ever reveal to us?

14

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:13,040

The answers may lie in the fascinating stories of UFO conspiracies.

15

00:01:13,040 --> 00:01:17,840

It's almost 50 years since the small, rural community became the center of a bizarre and

16

00:01:17,840 --> 00:01:20,600

controversial event.

17

00:01:20,600 --> 00:01:24,760

In the decades since, life has returned to normal here.

18

00:01:24,840 --> 00:01:29,520

But for many of the people in these parts, the events of that night are unfinished business.

19

00:01:34,760 --> 00:01:37,440

Kecksburg, Pennsylvania.

20

00:01:37,440 --> 00:01:40,560

December 9th, 1965.

21

00:01:40,560 --> 00:01:45,720

It's just getting dark when multiple witnesses see a fiery object race across the sky.

22

00:01:46,720 --> 00:01:52,720

Some report that as it flies overhead, it changes course.

23

00:01:52,720 --> 00:02:00,720

Ronnie Strubel is at home in nearby Greensburg when he spots the fireball.

24

00:02:00,720 --> 00:02:07,280

Ronnie's been a fireman for almost 40 years, but it's still the strangest thing he's ever

25

00:02:07,280 --> 00:02:08,280

seen.

26

00:02:09,280 --> 00:02:15,840

At that point in time, I would have thought that it could have been a plane, a pipe or

27

00:02:15,840 --> 00:02:25,840

cub or something like that that could have been on fire and went down.

28

00:02:25,840 --> 00:02:32,280

Whatever the object is, the news spreads that it has come down to the woods near Kecksburg.

29

00:02:33,280 --> 00:02:39,280

Meanwhile, factory worker Bill Weaver is driving near town.

30

00:02:39,280 --> 00:02:46,280

I was 19 years old, and at that age, you're out just riding around.

31

00:02:46,280 --> 00:02:51,280

Reports are coming in that something has come down to the woods northeast of town.

32

00:02:51,280 --> 00:02:56,280

The word got around that something had landed in Kecksburg.

33

00:02:57,280 --> 00:03:03,280

Bill turns his car around and races off to investigate.

34

00:03:11,280 --> 00:03:17,280

Almost 50 years on, this quiet country road still holds vivid memories for him.

35

00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:23,280

When I got here, it was almost dark, and we were looking down into the woods.

36

00:03:24,280 --> 00:03:28,280

And we could see that blue light.

37

00:03:28,280 --> 00:03:32,280

It was like a welder.

38

00:03:32,280 --> 00:03:36,280

We couldn't see from my advantage point exactly what it was.

39

00:03:36,280 --> 00:03:44,280

You could see that something went down through there, that the trees and the shrubbery was tore up.

40

00:03:45,280 --> 00:03:48,280

It's not long before people start gathering at the site.

41

00:03:48,280 --> 00:03:51,280

The news is spreading fast.

42

00:03:54,280 --> 00:04:00,280

Local radio station WHJB is inundated with calls from listeners.

43

00:04:00,280 --> 00:04:04,280

Stan Wall is the DJ on shift that evening.

44

00:04:04,280 --> 00:04:07,280

He still runs a radio station in the area today.

45

00:04:07,280 --> 00:04:13,280

All of a sudden, my phone line started to light up. People were calling in and saying,

46

00:04:13,280 --> 00:04:18,280

are you aware of something peculiar happening in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania tonight?

47

00:04:18,280 --> 00:04:23,280

The station's news reporter, John Murphy, grabs his tape recorder and heads to Kecksburg.

48

00:04:23,280 --> 00:04:27,280

He's not alone. Within hours, the state police and the military are on the scene.

49

00:04:27,280 --> 00:04:31,280

When Ronnie Struble arrives from Greensburg, he finds the roads blocked.

50

00:04:31,280 --> 00:04:43,280

We've seen a cackety type military men walking about as to whether they were army or navy or whatever we couldn't tell.

51

00:04:44,280 --> 00:04:50,280

Stan Gordon has spent the last 40 years researching the case.

52

00:04:50,280 --> 00:04:57,280

Various independent people have gone on public record and stated that soldiers actually stopped them

53

00:04:57,280 --> 00:05:01,280

and aimed their weapons at them to prevent them from going further down to the woods.

54

00:05:02,280 --> 00:05:07,280

Bill and the rest of the locals are moved away and the area is sealed off.

55

00:05:07,280 --> 00:05:12,280

Then the state police and the military come up. They told us that we had to move.

56

00:05:12,280 --> 00:05:19,280

They told me to move my car. And if that I didn't, they would confiscate my car.

57

00:05:26,280 --> 00:05:31,280

It's early evening by the time WHJB reporter John Murphy arrives at the scene.

58

00:05:32,280 --> 00:05:36,280

Like any good journalist, Murphy wants a closer look.

59

00:05:40,280 --> 00:05:47,280

Although he died in 1969, he described the events of that night to his colleague Stan Wall.

60

00:05:47,280 --> 00:05:55,280

He viewed it, but it was from a distance. And he said it was something that was a cone shaped for him.

61

00:05:56,280 --> 00:06:01,280

Some later accounts claim that Murphy gets close enough to take a series of photographs.

62

00:06:02,280 --> 00:06:06,280

But allegedly, he is stopped by officials.

63

00:06:06,280 --> 00:06:14,280

John did mention that some of the equipment that he had that he used that night were no longer in his possession.

64

00:06:14,280 --> 00:06:18,280

He said that they were taken away from him.

65

00:06:18,280 --> 00:06:26,280

Murphy then starts to interview witnesses and calls into his radio station to go live with the story.

66

00:06:28,280 --> 00:06:31,280

He said, Stan, you will not believe this.

67

00:06:31,280 --> 00:06:35,280

There is something happening out here tonight that is beyond question.

68

00:06:35,280 --> 00:06:40,280

He said something landed here in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania.

69

00:06:41,280 --> 00:06:49,280

Curiosity is further heightened when a truck reportedly leaves the area several hours later, carrying a large covered object on the back.

70

00:06:49,280 --> 00:06:57,280

What happened was they came in and took the object away, and the object was covered up with a tarp.

71

00:06:57,280 --> 00:07:00,280

And no one actually saw what was under that tarp.

72

00:07:01,280 --> 00:07:09,280

Yet, upon completion of their search, state police and military officials tell residents they have found absolutely nothing.

73

00:07:10,280 --> 00:07:18,280

As early as the next day, the official explanation comes out in the media that people had been mistaken,

74

00:07:18,280 --> 00:07:23,280

that nothing had been found. In other words, that there was indeed a search, but nothing was found.

75

00:07:23,280 --> 00:07:28,280

You just can't take the multitude of these people and say, well, nothing happened.

76

00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:31,280

It was just a fragment of your imagination.

77

00:07:32,280 --> 00:07:38,280

Bill, Ronnie and many of the other eyewitnesses suspect a government cover-up.

78

00:07:38,280 --> 00:07:43,280

Stan Gordon has spent decades trying to discover exactly what happened that night.

79

00:07:43,280 --> 00:07:51,280

There was something down in the woods that apparently was of great importance to our government military for the military to respond the way it did.

80

00:07:51,280 --> 00:07:54,280

But what was it?

81

00:07:54,280 --> 00:08:04,280

December 9th, 1965. People witness a bright object streak across the early evening skies of Pennsylvania.

82

00:08:08,280 --> 00:08:14,280

The Federal Aviation Administration received 23,000 copies of the paper.

83

00:08:14,280 --> 00:08:21,280

The Federal Aviation Administration received 23 reports from pilots about the fireball.

84

00:08:21,280 --> 00:08:26,280

A mystery object is reported to crash land near the small town of Kecksburg.

85

00:08:35,280 --> 00:08:38,280

Locals are kept out of the site.

86

00:08:38,280 --> 00:08:43,280

While the military and state police conduct a search.

87

00:08:53,280 --> 00:09:01,280

Officially, of course, the next day the report came out that nothing was found and in fact it was just a bright meteor in the sky that people had been mistaken.

88

00:09:02,280 --> 00:09:08,280

Witnesses Bill Weaver and Ronnie Strubel believe that what they saw that night was no meteor.

89

00:09:08,280 --> 00:09:13,280

Astronomer James McGay-Hey has spent his career watching the skies.

90

00:09:13,280 --> 00:09:27,280

Now it is a fact that on a daily basis all kinds of space debris, that is rocks, dust, crystals hit the Earth's atmosphere. Millions of these things a day.

91

00:09:28,280 --> 00:09:42,280

In the case of Kecksburg, you have a situation where people saw bright light in the sky and then many people in the towns of Kecksburg thought this had landed nearby and went out to look for it.

92

00:09:42,280 --> 00:09:46,280

But you have a classic case of a fireball meteor.

93

00:09:47,280 --> 00:09:58,280

Like the Chelyabinsk Meteor of 2013, the fireball in Pennsylvania was well documented by the scientific community and was spotted by multiple witnesses.

94

00:09:58,280 --> 00:10:04,280

When you have something very bright, very impressive, it always appears to be closer.

95

00:10:04,280 --> 00:10:12,280

The reality is that most of the time it's probably hundreds of miles away. It's not nearby.

96

00:10:12,280 --> 00:10:15,280

But Stan Gordon is not convinced.

97

00:10:15,280 --> 00:10:22,280

Now many of the people I've interviewed said that whatever this object was, it was moving relatively slowly.

98

00:10:22,280 --> 00:10:30,280

Indications are that it may change the direction along its path and when it came down into the woods, it did not come down at a higher rate of speed.

99

00:10:30,280 --> 00:10:32,280

But this came down almost like it was controlled.

100

00:10:32,280 --> 00:10:40,280

As far as it being a meteor theory, I don't think that's possible because of the way the pattern is now known that it came down.

101

00:10:40,280 --> 00:10:43,280

It was a zigzag pattern and meteors do not do that.

102

00:10:43,280 --> 00:10:49,280

Astronomer and science writer Professor Nigel Hennbest is familiar with how meteors behave.

103

00:10:49,280 --> 00:10:51,280

A meteor can't change directions.

104

00:10:51,280 --> 00:10:57,280

So when we have reports here that it seemed to go in a different direction, then that can't actually have happened.

105

00:10:57,280 --> 00:11:04,280

But on the other hand, there is a psychological effect that if you move your head while you're watching a meteor, the meteor can seem to change direction.

106

00:11:04,280 --> 00:11:05,280

And I've certainly seen that myself.

107

00:11:05,280 --> 00:11:09,280

If I have a bright shooting star, it catches the corner of my eye.

108

00:11:09,280 --> 00:11:15,280

And I turn my head around, swivele around, take a look, the meteor seemed to change its direction

because my head is turning.

109

00:11:15,280 --> 00:11:21,280

But when some people report seeing on the ground that night, looks nothing like a chunk of space rock.

110

00:11:21,280 --> 00:11:28,280

Several witnesses independently give similar descriptions of the object, which they say landed in the woods.

111

00:11:28,280 --> 00:11:37,280

A number of local people went down into the woods and came across this large, metallic, acorn-shaped object, semi-buried in the ground.

112

00:11:38,280 --> 00:11:41,280

The object they saw appeared to be one solid piece of metal.

113

00:11:41,280 --> 00:11:44,280

There was no rivets, no weld marks, no seams.

114

00:11:44,280 --> 00:11:50,280

On the back of the object was this raised-up area, something like a rim or a ringed area.

115

00:11:50,280 --> 00:11:53,280

One witness actually calls it a bumper area.

116

00:11:53,280 --> 00:11:59,280

That was maybe about 8 to 10 inches wide and raised up on that surface with these unusual markings.

117

00:12:00,280 --> 00:12:08,280

And in fact, one witness, after seeing this, spent years in libraries trying to find what type of language might be similar.

118

00:12:08,280 --> 00:12:12,280

And he said the closest thing he could find was ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

119

00:12:12,280 --> 00:12:17,280

A life-size model of the object today stands outside Kecksburg Fire Station.

120

00:12:17,280 --> 00:12:23,280

The model and the incident divide the town, with many people still reluctant to talk about it.

121

00:12:23,280 --> 00:12:27,280

People wanted to hush this up. It was like you were a communist.

122

00:12:27,280 --> 00:12:35,280

If you were talking about this, you were against your government, you know, if you even spoke about it.

123

00:12:35,280 --> 00:12:39,280

So most of these people said, hey, we're just going to keep our mouth shut, we're not going to get involved.

124

00:12:42,280 --> 00:12:49,280

One person determined to uncover the truth is local reporter John Murphy, one of the first people at the scene.

125

00:12:50,280 --> 00:12:54,280

Stan Wall worked with Murphy at WHJB Radio.

126

00:12:55,280 --> 00:13:00,280

John was going to do a documentary on what really went on in Kecksburg.

127

00:13:00,280 --> 00:13:07,280

And he was going to air the program, I think it was an hour program, that John had planned to put on the air.

128

00:13:07,280 --> 00:13:14,280

A few days before the show is broadcast, two men in suits turn up at the radio station demanding to see Murphy.

129

00:13:14,280 --> 00:13:19,280

Witnesses claim that these men identify themselves as government employees.

130

00:13:20,280 --> 00:13:28,280

They went into the newsroom. The newsroom was separate from the main studios in which I was broadcasting from.

131

00:13:28,280 --> 00:13:34,280

And the doors closed and John was in there with the military.

132

00:13:34,280 --> 00:13:51,280

John came in to me about maybe an hour or two after they left. He said, we have to pull this, we are not going to air the program.

133

00:13:51,280 --> 00:13:59,280

I asked him why and he said, let's just leave it at that, we're not going to do it. And don't ask me any more questions.

134

00:13:59,280 --> 00:14:06,280

Despite the visit from the two men, Murphy insists he was not pressured to change his program in any way.

135

00:14:07,280 --> 00:14:17,280

John was visibly shook up. I think he was scared really at that time, very scared to go divulge more into the story.

136

00:14:19,280 --> 00:14:24,280

Nobody knows what was said in that room. What did they have to hide?

137

00:14:24,280 --> 00:14:34,280

December 1965. A fiery object reportedly crashed lands near Kecksburg, Pennsylvania.

138

00:14:34,280 --> 00:14:41,280

Locals witness a large military presence and some claim to see a metallic object in the woods.

139

00:14:41,280 --> 00:14:47,280

In the mid 1980s, a Project Blue Book report on the Kecksburg event comes to light.

140

00:14:48,280 --> 00:14:54,280

The U.S. Air Force set up Project Blue Book in 1947 to investigate UFO sightings.

141

00:14:54,280 --> 00:15:02,280

By the time the project closes in 1969, they have over 700 reports classified as unidentified.

142

00:15:04,280 --> 00:15:14,280

During my search for documents on the Kecksburg case, the only official government document on the Kecksburg incident which is shown up was part of the Air Force Project Blue Book files.

143

00:15:14,280 --> 00:15:23,280

But there was one handwritten memo that really stood out and was very interesting and it indicated that a three-man team has been dispatched to investigate and pick up an object.

144

00:15:24,280 --> 00:15:27,280

But witnesses on the scene report a different story.

145

00:15:27,280 --> 00:15:31,280

There was a lot more military than just three Air Force personnel.

146

00:15:31,280 --> 00:15:39,280

Many, many people tell us about a rather large military presence of what appeared to be army, personnel and equipment.

147

00:15:40,280 --> 00:15:47,280

This apparent incompleteness of official accounts has led researchers to ask a simple but arresting question.

148

00:15:47,280 --> 00:15:50,280

Are the authorities hiding something?

149

00:15:50,280 --> 00:15:52,280

Did something fall from space?

150

00:15:52,280 --> 00:15:56,280

And does that mean its origin was extraterrestrial?

151

00:15:56,280 --> 00:16:01,280

Earth orbit is absolutely choppers with human material.

152

00:16:01,280 --> 00:16:08,280

So it's a little bit surprising perhaps to think that there might be human artifacts that re-enter the atmosphere.

153

00:16:09,280 --> 00:16:12,280

Dr. Alice Gorman studies man-made objects in space.

154

00:16:12,280 --> 00:16:15,280

She's one of the world's first space archeologists.

155

00:16:15,280 --> 00:16:19,280

There are millions of tiny fragments, literally millions.

156

00:16:19,280 --> 00:16:30,280

We have a huge range, an uncountable number of little bits of stuff ranging up to satellites that are tens of thousands of kilograms the size of houses and buses up there.

157

00:16:31,280 --> 00:16:41,280

In December 1965, NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, tracks Cosmos 96, a damaged Soviet spacecraft.

158

00:16:41,280 --> 00:16:46,280

The Cosmos 96 was a spacecraft that originally been designed to go to Mars.

159

00:16:46,280 --> 00:16:57,280

But they decided they would divert it for a Venus flyby mission, meaning that they would launch it towards Venus and it would fly by and make observations and then fly off into the rest of interplanetary space.

160

00:16:58,280 --> 00:17:03,280

But when they launched it, the actual platform started to break up and it started to re-enter the atmosphere.

161

00:17:06,280 --> 00:17:14,280

It plummets back to Earth, landing somewhere in North America on December 9th 1965, the same day as the Kecksburg event.

162

00:17:14,280 --> 00:17:20,280

Could the Cosmos 96 spacecraft be what the witnesses saw in Pennsylvania?

163

00:17:20,280 --> 00:17:28,280

For me, one of the things that's really fascinating about this case is the description that the people in Kecksburg gave of it as being acorn-shaped.

164

00:17:28,280 --> 00:17:35,280

Now you can go onto the web and you take a look at the early series of Venus probes that the Russians launched and they are acorn-shaped.

165

00:17:35,280 --> 00:17:40,280

I'm very intrigued about these reports of hieroglyphic lettering going around the base.

166

00:17:40,280 --> 00:17:44,280

Obviously, it's a natural object, you're not going to have any kind of lettering on it.

167

00:17:44,280 --> 00:17:52,280

But if they were maybe Russian Cyrillic script, then somebody in America not knowing the language, those perhaps could look like hieroglyphs.

168

00:17:54,280 --> 00:17:59,280

In 1965, Cold War tensions between the US and the Soviet Union were high.

169

00:17:59,280 --> 00:18:07,280

If the US did retrieve a piece of Russian space technology, it would have been a priceless piece of intelligence.

170

00:18:08,280 --> 00:18:14,280

Could it be that the Air Force intentionally released misleading information to cover up their find?

171

00:18:14,280 --> 00:18:18,280

I think the government would use any excuse to cover this up.

172

00:18:18,280 --> 00:18:26,280

For whatever their reason, I don't know exactly what their reasoning is behind the cover-up, but they're making up stories.

173

00:18:27,280 --> 00:18:30,280

But there's a snag in the Cosmos explanation.

174

00:18:30,280 --> 00:18:36,280

So there was the obvious presumption that maybe what they'd seen was the Cosmos 96 re-entering.

175

00:18:36,280 --> 00:18:43,280

However, all of the available data on its re-entry suggests that it actually had come back down about 13 hours earlier.

176

00:18:44,280 --> 00:18:51,280

The data also appears to show that the Soviet spacecraft broke up in the atmosphere over Canada, hundreds of miles from Kecksburg.

177

00:18:53,280 --> 00:19:01,280

With a question mark hanging over the Cosmos 96 theory, what happened in Kecksburg in 1965 remains unexplained.

178

00:19:01,280 --> 00:19:08,280

For almost 50 years, witnesses and investigators are frustrated by a lack of solid information from official sources.

179

00:19:10,280 --> 00:19:19,280

My feeling after interviewing many people and looking at this for many years is that, one, we're either dealing with some type of very secretive man-made space probe

180

00:19:19,280 --> 00:19:25,280

that has some type of re-entry control capability, or we're dealing with something that's extra-terrestrial.

181

00:19:26,280 --> 00:19:34,280

To date, NASA and the military insist that all that was seen by the people of Kecksburg that night was a passing meteor.

182

00:19:36,280 --> 00:19:46,280

I think it's something that's going to go on for many years until somebody's willing to give us information to back up what happened here in Kecksburg.

183

00:19:47,280 --> 00:19:50,280

Do I believe that something happened? Yes.

184

00:19:51,280 --> 00:19:58,280

I think that the people in the area are owed an explanation as to what happened that they were not crazy that night.

185

00:19:59,280 --> 00:20:06,280

To the people that say that nothing happened, I'll say to them either they weren't there or they're just plain out lying.

186

00:20:06,280 --> 00:20:26,280

A major capital city, home to three million people, and in 2004 the setting for a remarkable incident.

187

00:20:30,280 --> 00:20:31,280

Madrid, Spain.

188

00:20:36,280 --> 00:20:47,280

On the night of June 1st, amateur astronomer and science student, Jesus Merchan Ribera, is on the roof of his apartment building enjoying the fine weather and the clear night skies.

189

00:20:48,280 --> 00:20:55,280

I was preparing my equipment to do some photographs of a comet, but then a neat comet.

190

00:20:56,280 --> 00:21:05,280

It's while setting up to photograph the comet that Jesus sees what he initially assumes to be an ordinary aircraft moving from north to west.

191

00:21:06,280 --> 00:21:16,280

I looked at it just the same way as any other plane, but then it started to expel dust and to create a dust cloud in the sky.

192

00:21:16,280 --> 00:21:20,280

It was very large and like yellow.

193

00:21:21,280 --> 00:21:30,280

And then the object became to rotate, to turn over itself and to go upwards like in an erratic trajectory.

194

00:21:31,280 --> 00:21:35,280

And I started to get worried because I thought it was a plane crash.

195

00:21:36,280 --> 00:21:41,280

I was very scared because I think those people were about to die and I was witnessing that.

196

00:21:41,280 --> 00:21:44,280

And then the object appears to explode.

197

00:21:46,280 --> 00:21:54,280

That time I had my camera ready and I took the picture, the only picture that I managed to take.

198

00:21:55,280 --> 00:21:57,280

This is the image that he took that night.

199

00:21:58,280 --> 00:22:08,280

When the whole event was over, I found a friend of mine to have him check the news to see if a plane crash has happened.

200

00:22:08,280 --> 00:22:12,280

But we didn't find anything about that or about anything. It was like it never existed.

201

00:22:13,280 --> 00:22:17,280

But as it turns out, Jesus was not the only person to see the object that night.

202

00:22:18,280 --> 00:22:24,280

Over 360 miles away in Beja, Portugal, George Fernandez is out hunting.

203

00:22:25,280 --> 00:22:30,280

Around 11pm I finished hunting and headed back towards the truck.

204

00:22:30,280 --> 00:22:36,280

On my way back there, I looked towards the mountains and I saw smoke from something falling very fast.

205

00:22:37,280 --> 00:22:38,280

I got scared.

206

00:22:39,280 --> 00:22:43,280

I thought it was a plane that was about to crash. I watched it for a few seconds.

207

00:22:44,280 --> 00:22:48,280

Suddenly it stopped in the air and I saw a plane crash.

208

00:22:49,280 --> 00:22:52,280

I thought it was a plane that was about to crash.

209

00:22:53,280 --> 00:22:54,280

I watched it for a few seconds.

210

00:22:55,280 --> 00:22:59,280

Suddenly it stopped in the air and I saw a plane crash.

211

00:23:00,280 --> 00:23:07,280

It just hovered there. Still, a strong light came on as if there was an explosion inside the smoke.

212

00:23:08,280 --> 00:23:09,280

There was always smoke around it.

213

00:23:16,280 --> 00:23:24,280

Nearby, in the town of Algestrel, graphic designer Pedro Pinheiro also claims to see a bizarre phenomenon in the sky that night.

214

00:23:25,280 --> 00:23:32,280

I saw a triangular shape and in one of the corners there was a more intense light.

215

00:23:33,280 --> 00:23:39,280

It was a bluish-white colour and it was moving slowly at a constant speed.

216

00:23:43,280 --> 00:23:45,280

Pinheiro is astonished by what he's seeing.

217

00:23:46,280 --> 00:23:49,280

I got a bit scared. I'd never seen anything like that.

218

00:23:50,280 --> 00:23:57,280

So I called my brother and his girlfriend and they came running out and we just watched it in silence.

219

00:23:58,280 --> 00:23:59,280

Totally speechless.

220

00:24:01,280 --> 00:24:08,280

Being a graphic designer but not having a camera to hand, Pinheiro comes up with a novel way of documenting the incident.

221

00:24:11,280 --> 00:24:16,280

This is an illustration I made the next day and it shows what I saw in the first few moments.

222

00:24:16,280 --> 00:24:20,280

The very first time I looked up at it in the sky.

223

00:24:25,280 --> 00:24:29,280

It's not just ordinary citizens who say they witness the strange bright object.

224

00:24:30,280 --> 00:24:35,280

The sighting is also confirmed by radar, leading to an official study by the Portuguese Air Force.

225

00:24:37,280 --> 00:24:41,280

Francisco Morao Correa is a Portuguese UFO investigator.

226

00:24:41,280 --> 00:24:46,280

At least two different air bases in Portugal, Montigio and Beja captured the object on radar.

227

00:24:47,280 --> 00:24:53,280

And later also the civilian tower, air tower in Porto also captured the object.

228

00:24:54,280 --> 00:24:57,280

This official evidence sends the media into overdrive.

229

00:24:58,280 --> 00:25:01,280

Intense, white, surrounded by smoke, without sound.

230

00:25:02,280 --> 00:25:08,280

The 2004 sighting was widely spoken across all the media in Portugal.

231

00:25:08,280 --> 00:25:17,280

TV, newspapers, radios, because it was such a big event seen from the north to south.

232

00:25:19,280 --> 00:25:27,280

And as more photographs and accounts of the strange phenomenon surface, there is little doubt that something unusual passed through the skies that night.

233

00:25:28,280 --> 00:25:37,280

Some people were panicking. They called the Civilian Protection Agency, they called police departments, they called the fire departments.

234

00:25:38,280 --> 00:25:40,280

They called the police department because they wanted answers.

235

00:25:41,280 --> 00:25:43,280

Just what was it that people were seeing?

236

00:25:48,280 --> 00:25:58,280

Jesus Merchan Rubira, an amateur astronomer, sees a strange object over Madrid in 2004, which is witnessed by others across Spain and Portugal.

237

00:25:59,280 --> 00:26:01,280

He sees it when he's attempting to photograph a comet.

238

00:26:02,280 --> 00:26:08,280

But could it be that the object he saw was in fact the comet he was looking for? He just didn't recognize it.

239

00:26:10,280 --> 00:26:21,280

It wasn't possible at all that this object was in the comet I was looking for because the comet was in the other point of the sky, because the comet was very, very far away.

240

00:26:22,280 --> 00:26:24,280

So I was sure it wasn't the comet.

241

00:26:25,280 --> 00:26:31,280

With his interest in astronomy, it's hard to imagine that Jesus wouldn't recognize the comet he was looking for.

242

00:26:32,280 --> 00:26:34,280

So what else could the strange lights have been?

243

00:26:36,280 --> 00:26:40,280

Astronomer and science writer Professor Nigel Hennbest has noticed a vital clue.

244

00:26:41,280 --> 00:26:48,280

This object was also picked up on radar, which gives us an indication that it was launched from low down in the Earth's atmosphere, not something coming from extraterrestrial space.

245

00:26:49,280 --> 00:26:54,280

And based on the images and descriptions of the event, another theory emerges.

246

00:26:55,280 --> 00:27:02,280

There are other things that can cause a trail of light in the sky, in this case definitely going upwards, and that will be a missile being launched, a rocket or a missile.

247

00:27:03,280 --> 00:27:08,280

You see the bright ball of light from the rocket's exhaust and then a trail of the exhaust gases going out behind it.

248

00:27:09,280 --> 00:27:13,280

So could the object in the sky over Spain and Portugal really be a missile?

249

00:27:13,280 --> 00:27:16,280

Hard evidence has come to light that supports this theory.

250

00:27:17,280 --> 00:27:28,280

On the night of June the French actually launched a missile from a submarine off the coast of Brittany at M45C to ground missile.

251

00:27:31,280 --> 00:27:36,280

This communique from the French Navy confirms there was a missile test flight that night.

252

00:27:37,280 --> 00:27:46,280

They launched a missile targeted towards French Guiana in South America, so that missile launched from Brittany would have actually gone over both Spain and Portugal en route.

253

00:27:47,280 --> 00:27:50,280

But I think this case is pretty well sewn up, it was that particular missile.

254

00:27:55,280 --> 00:28:03,280

But despite the evidence for the French naval test, some of the people involved with the case refused to believe that what they saw was a missile.

255

00:28:07,280 --> 00:28:14,280

I don't think that even a missile is able to stop suddenly and then change direction and start going up. I don't think it's possible.

256

00:28:19,280 --> 00:28:28,280

From what I have seen of missiles on the news or in films, I don't think what I saw that night corresponds in any way to a missile.

257

00:28:29,280 --> 00:28:45,280

I did not see it. I cannot say based only on the several witness accounts. It's strange that it would be a missile.

258

00:28:46,280 --> 00:28:51,280

So in the face of what appears to be compelling evidence, why are some witnesses unconvinced?

259

00:28:52,280 --> 00:28:56,280

Could it be that what some people thought they saw was different to what actually happened?

260

00:28:58,280 --> 00:29:02,280

Dr. Boulotto is a neuroscientist who studies how we perceive the world around us.

261

00:29:04,280 --> 00:29:08,280

When we open our eyes, we never see the world that's really there. We can't. We're forever separate from that world.

262

00:29:09,280 --> 00:29:17,280

We only ever receive information from that world onto our senses, so onto our eyes, into our ears, onto our skin. That's the only information we get.

263

00:29:18,280 --> 00:29:25,280

So your brain can only ever use its history of experience to make sense of that information, to literally make sense.

264

00:29:25,280 --> 00:29:30,280

That then shapes our assumptions. So in a sense, we see what we believe. We see what our assumptions are.

265

00:29:31,280 --> 00:29:36,280

Which means some people might be more likely to think they've seen a UFO than others.

266

00:29:37,280 --> 00:29:41,280

So you can be self-priming. You can prime yourself to see something. We all know this to be true.

267

00:29:42,280 --> 00:29:47,280

So if suddenly you want to buy a car and you're interested in buying one particular car, you'll notice that car everywhere.

268

00:29:47,280 --> 00:29:54,280

Suddenly, your brain over biases the probability of those cars existing in the world, even though, of course, nothing's changed.

269

00:29:55,280 --> 00:29:56,280

It's just because you're noticing them all.

270

00:30:01,280 --> 00:30:07,280

Many times when I'm out in the fields, I wish that I could see a UFO. And it happened on that night.

271

00:30:09,280 --> 00:30:16,280

The point is that they're not crazy. Their brain is simply making a meaning based on what makes most sense.

272

00:30:17,280 --> 00:30:24,280

So they're giving it an interpretation that makes sense. What makes sense for them is specific to

them.

273

00:30:25,280 --> 00:30:29,280

So it's not surprising some people believe that what they saw that night was not a missile.

274

00:30:30,280 --> 00:30:35,280

In the end, what a witness sees comes down to what they want to believe.

275

00:30:39,280 --> 00:30:45,280

The simplest explanation is usually the correct one. So for me, the case is closed.

276

00:30:45,280 --> 00:30:52,280

With this missile test, I am comfortable with this hypothesis.

277

00:30:55,280 --> 00:30:57,280

But not all cases are so easily explained.

278

00:31:00,280 --> 00:31:02,280

I think it came from the west and just stopped.

279

00:31:03,280 --> 00:31:11,280

And went up a ways, came down a ways, zigged back and forth a ways, and then it just went, I would say, at a 45 degree angle.

280

00:31:12,280 --> 00:31:14,280

Just gone that fast.

281

00:31:16,280 --> 00:31:21,280

Today, this corner of Southeast Asia is a tourist mecca.

282

00:31:22,280 --> 00:31:27,280

Sunseekers and backpackers flock to the miles of sandy beaches and luxurious resorts.

283

00:31:28,280 --> 00:31:32,280

But 50 years ago, the visitors were here for a very different reason.

284

00:31:35,280 --> 00:31:39,280

Not trained in what was then South Vietnam.

285

00:31:39,280 --> 00:31:43,280

Nha Trang, in what was then South Vietnam.

286

00:31:48,280 --> 00:31:53,280

Late June 1966, and America is deeply involved in the Vietnam War.

287

00:31:57,280 --> 00:32:03,280

By the end of the year, around 400,000 U.S. military personnel will be on the ground.

288

00:32:03,280 --> 00:32:08,280

The Air Force and Army bases at Nha Trang are vital footholds for U.S. operations.

289

00:32:09,280 --> 00:32:14,280

One of the American soldiers there at the time was Wayne Dao Rimpel, now a retired sergeant.

290

00:32:14,280 --> 00:32:20,280

I was in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. I spent a year and a half there.

291

00:32:20,280 --> 00:32:26,280

The unit I was with was a supply company, and I was a truck driver in that supply company.

292

00:32:26,280 --> 00:32:34,280

And we drove from there to Cameran Bay to pick up supplies, and we delivered supplies up and down the coast.

293

00:32:34,280 --> 00:32:44,280

Dao Rimpel vividly remembers a remarkable event that occurred one evening as he joined a group of off-duty soldiers enjoying some R&R.

294

00:32:46,280 --> 00:32:52,280

It was 8.00, 8.30 at night, and it was a screen set up to show movies when we could get them.

295

00:32:52,280 --> 00:32:58,280

They were showing a movie, and I pulled the truck in and parked it right behind the last row of seats there.

296

00:32:58,280 --> 00:33:00,280

It was kind of like a drive-in.

297

00:33:01,280 --> 00:33:05,280

But the movie is about to get an unscheduled intermission.

298

00:33:08,280 --> 00:33:15,280

And that's when the generators went out, and of course we didn't realize anything else had gone out right away.

299

00:33:15,280 --> 00:33:24,280

It's not just their movie projector that stopped. Across the base, the generators are silent, and the backups aren't kicking in.

300

00:33:24,280 --> 00:33:29,280

Just everything within earshot, everything was dead quiet. There was nothing running.

301

00:33:31,280 --> 00:33:40,280

We just got up, started wandering around, and we realized some other stuff had stopped running, and there was a guy coming into camp with a Jeep,

302

00:33:40,280 --> 00:33:47,280

and his Jeep stopped at the middle of the road, and that's when we got wondering what the heck is going on.

303

00:33:49,280 --> 00:33:54,280

And the power outage isn't confined to the base. It's down as far as the eye can see.

304

00:33:55,280 --> 00:34:01,280

We realized everything else was out too. We could walk around the end of a couple of the tents,

305

00:34:01,280 --> 00:34:06,280

and look up on the mountain and see that there was no lights up there operating.

306

00:34:06,280 --> 00:34:09,280

So we figured something weird is going on.

307

00:34:11,280 --> 00:34:15,280

In the middle of the blackout, Dowrymple's tail gets even stranger.

308

00:34:18,280 --> 00:34:22,280

And it was just a minute or two after that when this bright light appeared in the sky.

309

00:34:25,280 --> 00:34:32,280

I think it came from the west, and just came right straight over, kind of about halfway between the mountaintop and where we were,

310

00:34:32,280 --> 00:34:40,280

and just stopped, and went up a ways, come down a ways, and did that a couple of times, and zigged back and forth a ways,

311

00:34:40,280 --> 00:34:45,280

and kind of looked like a white sun, if you can picture a white sun.

312

00:34:45,280 --> 00:34:57,280

It just lit up the whole area just like daytime from basically pitch black, and it just went, I would say, at a 45-degree angle.

313

00:34:57,280 --> 00:35:03,280

Just gone that fast, and things powered back up again.

314

00:35:06,280 --> 00:35:11,280

Could the blackout and this mysterious, silent, fast-moving light be linked?

315

00:35:12,280 --> 00:35:17,280

Nick Pope, formerly of the UK's Ministry of Defence, has studied the case.

316

00:35:17,280 --> 00:35:26,280

What was extraordinary about these nartrang sightings was the effect that the UFO seemed to have on equipment.

317

00:35:26,280 --> 00:35:35,280

It was as if all power sources at the military base were somehow adversely affected by this UFO.

318

00:35:36,280 --> 00:35:43,280

One vital record of this incident is written by Dalrymple himself.

319

00:35:43,280 --> 00:35:51,280

I had written home to my mother, and had told her, I don't know, a day or two later when I'd written home,

320

00:35:51,280 --> 00:35:57,280

you know, you're always looking for something to say besides what's going on, and I had told her about it.

321

00:35:58,280 --> 00:36:09,280

In this letter he documents the UFO sighting and actually sets out what he and probably hundreds of other people at the base saw.

322

00:36:09,280 --> 00:36:20,280

One of the other critical pieces of evidence comes from the National Archive and consists of a confirmation from the original base records

323

00:36:20,280 --> 00:36:26,280

that there were indeed blackouts that affected the base at this exact time.

324

00:36:27,280 --> 00:36:34,280

Dalrymple's letter suggests that he and his friends aren't the only ones rattled by the events that night.

325

00:36:34,280 --> 00:36:43,280

Sergeant Dalrymple describes how a plain load of senior officials flew in shortly afterwards to investigate.

326

00:36:44,280 --> 00:37:00,280

To me this is standard procedure. An investigation, not maybe into the UFO sighting, but certainly into the loss of power will have been ordered immediately.

327

00:37:00,280 --> 00:37:09,280

We talked about what it could have been and what it couldn't have been, and it couldn't have been anything that we could reasonably come up with that could do what it did.

328

00:37:10,280 --> 00:37:18,280

But it would appear that there was no investigation at the time into the connection between the blackout and the light that Dalrymple saw.

329

00:37:18,280 --> 00:37:27,280

We don't have a case file in the way that, for example, Project Blue Book documents a lot of the domestic US UFO sightings.

330

00:37:27,280 --> 00:37:38,280

The reason for this is, of course, there was a war going on. Investigating UFOs in the middle of a war when people are shooting at you is not high on the US military's priority list.

331

00:37:40,280 --> 00:37:48,280

Almost 50 years on, specialists have revisited Wayne Dalrymple's eye witness account in the hope of finally explaining the incident.

332

00:37:48,280 --> 00:37:57,280

Among them is Carolyn Crawford, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, who has focused her attention on the strange light in the sky.

333

00:37:57,280 --> 00:38:07,280

There are many things that happen in the night sky that can look odd or unusual to people who are not familiar with what is up there.

334

00:38:07,280 --> 00:38:13,280

But Professor Crawford has found some key elements of Dalrymple's testimony difficult to explain.

335

00:38:13,280 --> 00:38:23,280

As soon as you hear that an object has been seen moving rapidly through the sky, you can immediately discount the idea that it could be due to one of the bright planets.

336

00:38:23,280 --> 00:38:27,280

They don't create any rapid motion, and so they can't possibly be the cause.

337

00:38:27,280 --> 00:38:36,280

There are, of course, transitory appearances of things that happen in the sky, and for example, a bit of space rock burning up in our atmosphere as a meteor is a prime example.

338

00:38:36,280 --> 00:38:46,280

But of course, as soon as you hear that an object is changing position in that motion, perhaps zigzagging, that does not fit what we understand from meteors.

339

00:38:47,280 --> 00:38:53,280

If not an astronomical object, could the light in the blackout have been caused by some kind of aircraft?

340

00:38:54,280 --> 00:38:59,280

David Higgins is a commercial helicopter pilot and an aviation safety expert.

341

00:38:59,280 --> 00:39:05,280

He has studied the nautrain case and wonders whether one of America's war planes could explain the strange light.

342

00:39:06,280 --> 00:39:16,280

The McDonnell Douglas Phantom was certainly an aircraft used during the Vietnam War, and that has two jet engines, both with wreaking to our afterburners.

343

00:39:17,280 --> 00:39:26,280

Now, an afterburner is a system where fuel is actually injected aft of a rear turbine jet engine to produce thrust,

344

00:39:26,280 --> 00:39:33,280

and this thrust is either used for takeoff, to achieve supersonic flight, or indeed for aerial combat.

345

00:39:33,280 --> 00:39:38,280

But the glow from a distant afterburner doesn't seem to tally with Dowrymple's report.

346

00:39:39,280 --> 00:39:47,280

The afterburner theories kind of on hold at that point, because the witnesses also say that the light was very bright and intense.

347

00:39:49,280 --> 00:39:56,280

The description of how bright the light was suggests a different piece of military hardware. Flares.

348

00:39:57,280 --> 00:40:04,280

The fact that eye witnesses on the ground say that it almost turned like daylight, the fact that the whole area was lit,

349

00:40:04,280 --> 00:40:11,280

points initially to the fact that it is some sort of illumination flare to actually illuminate an area of land beneath it.

350

00:40:12,280 --> 00:40:16,280

But even the flare theory is not a perfect match for the light in the sky.

351

00:40:17,280 --> 00:40:24,280

There were several witness reports saying that these objects were actually moving very, very

quickly and zigzagging,

352

00:40:24,280 --> 00:40:29,280

and that obviously doesn't fall in line how we recognize a flare would behave.

353

00:40:30,280 --> 00:40:40,280

No one solution seems to fit, and no one can explain the blackout on the base, unless the light and the blackout are unrelated.

354

00:40:41,280 --> 00:40:45,280

It's very easy to link things together that are just purely coincidence.

355

00:40:46,280 --> 00:40:54,280

We may never know if the two phenomena were linked, but if so, it would certainly have posed some serious questions for the American military.

356

00:40:55,280 --> 00:40:59,280

I think what will have been in people's minds will have been two things.

357

00:40:59,280 --> 00:41:08,280

Firstly, is this just some sort of bizarre equipment malfunction, in which case you need to

identify it and rectify it immediately.

358

00:41:09,280 --> 00:41:14,280

But a far more concern is the possibility that this was perhaps some sort of weapon.

359

00:41:15,280 --> 00:41:21,280

No weapon capable of the disruption described in Dalrymple's account has ever been documented.

360

00:41:22,280 --> 00:41:26,280

To this day, the not-trying sightings remain unexplained.

361

00:41:27,280 --> 00:41:34,280

For Wayne Dalrymple, he's had to accept that what he saw that night may always remain a mystery.

362

00:41:35,280 --> 00:41:39,280

I've never heard of whether any more incidences like that happen in Vietnam or not.

363

00:41:41,280 --> 00:41:44,280

I never heard of another one in Vietnam, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen.

364

00:41:45,280 --> 00:41:52,280

It was just another day in the fun zone.