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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000

two helicopter pilots flying over Louisville, Kentucky

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

are confronted with a strange glowing object.

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

When it came back in our sight,

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

that's when it shot the three fireballs out.

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

I think they really thought at the time

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00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:18,000

that this was something shooting at.

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

The Brazilian Air Force investigates an Amazonian town

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

that has been terrorized by a series of bizarre attacks.

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00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:31,000

They were dealing with something knocked from the sky.

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00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:35,000

And a young man driving along a dark and lonely Australian road

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00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:38,000

dies in a mysterious car crash.

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

As police investigate the death,

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

another driver comes forward claiming the crash could have been caused by a UFO.

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

You can see in his eyes that man had experienced something truly unknown.

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00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:54,000

Does anyone know what these phenomena are?

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

And do our governments know more than they ever reveal to us?

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:04,000

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

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:15,000

Louisville, Kentucky, February 27, 1993

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:22,000

A police helicopter is on routine night patrol over the city.

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00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:26,000

On board are officers Kenny Downs and Kenny Graham.

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:31,000

Graham is a seasoned pilot with 11 years' experience on the force.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

We had been up for about an hour,

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

and we were landing back at our heliport where we took the helicopter,

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

and a call came out of a possible break-in

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:47,000

at a location roughly three miles from where we were.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:50,000

So we started in the direction of the call,

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:54,000

and when we got near an officer in one of the cars,

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,000

the council said it was not a break-in.

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:02,000

But at that point, Kenny saw a light.

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

We brought the helicopter to a hover, and we were looking straight at it.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:14,000

It came up, it looked like it came out of a tree line

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:17,000

and just came right up towards the helicopter, and it stopped.

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:23,000

It seemed to be sort of an egg-shaped glow.

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:30,000

But as we looked at it further, the glow was inside this sort of transparent encasement.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:35,000

We got the feeling that it was trying to figure out what we were

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00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:37,000

at the same time we were trying to figure out what it was.

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

I didn't know what it was gonna do, what it was capable of.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

I just wanted to keep clear of it, but keep it in sight.

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:51,000

I said, I'm gonna get on the radio, and I'm gonna call for some cars to come over here,

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:56,000

and hopefully they'll see the same thing we are, and so I did.

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00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:01,000

Jefferson County police officer, Joe Smolenski, takes the call.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:08,000

Within moments, he too is tracking the same mysterious object.

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

But up in the skies, the light doesn't stay visible for much longer.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:25,000

And then all of a sudden, it just took off up and out, and it went very high, very fast.

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00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:30,000

And we were flying along and then trying to see where it went,

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:35,000

and then Kenny all of a sudden yells out, Kenny, it's chasing us, it's chasing us.

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:42,000

That's when it started circling, and it kind of circled us a couple of times.

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:47,000

And then after it circled a couple of times, it stopped again in front of the helicopter.

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:53,000

And then when it came back in our sight the second time, that's when it shot the three fireballs out.

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:04:00,000

And it shot out three fireballs, just like you would see on Star Trek with their full-ton torpedoes.

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

And as it did that, our bank left.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:10,000

Five hundred feet beneath Graham's helicopter, officer Joe Smolenski has parked his patrol car in a

quiet industrial neighborhood.

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:15,000

He too reports witnessing the fireball attack.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:20,000

And then when I came back around to see where it was, it was gone.

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00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:30,000

The pilot's encounter lasts no more than a few minutes, but both officers are shaken by the experience.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:39,000

The pilot's encounter lasts no more than a few minutes, but both officers are shaken by the experience.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:44,000

We both looked at each other and we both looked like we had just ran a marathon.

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:49,000

And we were kind of excited, and we went in, we thought about it, we sat down and talked to each

other about it for a few minutes.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:52,000

And we thought, well, we better call our boss.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:57,000

We were on the ground and it was just, just now at this point, what was it? What was it?

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:01,000

And we tried to think of anything that it could have been.

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

As police officers, the two men feel it is a very serious matter.

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

But the scale of the media interest takes them by surprise.

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00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:13,000

I believe in this earth and people and anything is possible, that's all I can say.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:18,000

I'm not saying it wasn't man-made. I'm, you know, I'm, I just know, I know it was traveling speeds I've never seen before.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:23,000

I personally did not want to talk to the press, but at the same time we're police officers and we have to tell what we see.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:28,000

We can't just say, well, we're going to be in the police, we're going to be in the police, we're going to be in the police.

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00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:32,000

We're going to be in the police, we're going to be in the police, we're going to be in the police.

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:35,000

At the same time we're police officers and we have to tell what we see.

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:38,000

We can't hide anything from the public.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:46,000

I took some ridicule from fellow officers and some people that were not police officers when they came out in the news.

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00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:54,000

They told me I was crazy because people are going to think I'm crazy, but I saw what I saw and I'm very proud of, you know, being me

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:58,000

and being able to say, okay, this is what I saw and standing back what I saw.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:08,000

Glenn Rutherford is a journalist working in Louisville at the time of the incident.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:22,000

I didn't know what to make of it at the time because here were two officers of the law, experienced aviators, who make some of the best witnesses in the world when it comes to things like this.

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Glenn believes the sighting is all the more significant because of the men's esteemed position within the community.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:36,000

I know them through friends in the police department and they were all very highly thought of, so they wouldn't make something like this up.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:41,000

The two pilots are keen to know if their sighting could be confirmed by anyone else.

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Shortly after landing, they contact the Air Traffic Control Tower at the nearby airport.

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:07:01,000

We contacted Blueville International and asked the traffic controllers if they had spotted anything on their radar and they said no, but they were wondering why we were flying in circles like we were flying.

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:16,000

With three reliable witnesses to the object but no signal on radar, the mystery seems destined to go unexplained until a local couple approached the press with an extraordinary claim.

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:22,000

This gentleman comes forward and says, here's what I did and I wondered why are they flying around it?

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:32,000

Two police helicopter pilots have a strange encounter with a glowing object in the night sky.

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

The media coverage generated by their sighting produces a compelling rational explanation.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:50,000

Shortly after the event, a local couple approached the press claiming they were responsible for the floating object in the sky.

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00:07:53,000 --> 00:08:05,000

The couple had come forward to say, you know, what was really shooting at you was in fact this hot air balloon that we made out of a laundry bag and cardboard and birthday cake candles.

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:07,000

Ready? Let's go.

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00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:13,000

This video shows how a similar homemade balloon rises quickly when filled with the hot air from a small flame.

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00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:24,000

This gentleman comes forward and says, here's what I did. I made this, I saw the helicopter and I wondered why are they flying around it?

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00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:29,000

Well, I think there was someone just trying to get his 15 minutes of fame.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:36,000

We were up there, we saw this object, there was no wood in it, we were close enough to see.

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:46,000

A balloon would have floated. That traveled at least a mile, a mile, half a way and it was going too fast. A balloon couldn't have done that.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:53,000

Commercial helicopter pilot David Higgins disagrees.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:05,000

He believes that the airflow produced by helicopter rotor blades is capable of forcing lightweight objects around the sky at high speeds.

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00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:19,000

In and around the helicopter there is a lot of disturbed air. So if something like a Chinese lantern or a helium balloon, child's helium balloon entered that area of disturbed air, they would move erratically.

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00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Higgins also believes that the balloon theory could explain the object's absence from radar.

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:39,000

Air traffic control radar does have its limitations. So if an object is very small and very slow moving, it may not be detected on radar.

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:46,000

So I wouldn't be surprised as a pilot if a balloon doesn't produce a radar return.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:57,000

And what of the fireballs that were observed shooting out? Not just by the two pilots, but also by Officer Smolensky on the ground.

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00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:05,000

Glenn Rutherford thinks there's a simple explanation.

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:21,000

One of them said he's shooting at me. And I think it's because the falling parts of burning paper and whatnot coming off of the hot air balloon may well have looked like projectiles being fired at the helicopter.

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00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:31,000

And it's easy to see how it can happen because when you're in the air, that added dimension is confusing for people.

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00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:38,000

But the two pilots are adamant that whatever fired at them that night remains unexplained.

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00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:44,000

There's no way that this could be a balloon that somebody would fly. No way possible.

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00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:56,000

I don't see how it could have shot three fireballs out. The biggest thing that I have is, I'd like to know what explanation there is if there is one.

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00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:08,000

When the projectiles were fired, it was like I said, it was something like off a Star Trek. The

only thing I could say is that we saw it. I don't think we'll ever get to the bottom of this one.

107

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:17,000

But for Glenn Rutherford, the evidence for a homemade balloon is overwhelming and he considers the case closed.

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00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:31,000

The problem with the phenomena, with the whole study of UFO events to me is that so many of these people want so desperately for this to be real to them that they'll discount evidence that's obvious.

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00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:55,000

Calares, Brazil, July 1977. It's a warm evening in this small fishing town on the fringes of the Amazon rainforest. Local resident Carmen Vale is getting ready to go to sleep.

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00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:04,000

Now 82 years old, she vividly recalls the events of that night.

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00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:18,000

I was dosing, not completely sleeping but not completely awake and it was probably about 11 at night. Suddenly I was disturbed by something above me.

112

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:30,000

It was a light. It landed on my arm. Then I was numb, unable to move.

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00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:37,000

Carmen claims to feel a searing light piercing her arm.

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00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:46,000

When it finally let go of me, I started rubbing my arm. It was agony.

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:58,000

And then the next morning, I didn't want to get out of bed. When I woke up, it was already 11. I felt so weak.

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00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Because of her weakness, Carmen is unable to work for a month following the incident. And the strangest thing of all, she's not alone.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:19,000

Throughout the summer of 1977, dozens of glowing lights are seen darting around the skies over the stretch of coastline. And they're even observed at sea.

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:26,000

Local fisherman Rodrigo Oranha de Oliveira had his own strange encounter.

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00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:39,000

That same year, he's fishing the Calara's coastline with his 15-year-old brother. It's late at night when they spot a small object high in the sky above.

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:54,000

At that moment, it focused its light on us, right onto our boat. Everything seemed to be a deep red, like Burgundy. Then my brother panicked. He wanted to jump into the water.

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00:13:55,000 --> 00:14:03,000

I said, easy brother, easy brother. I was trying to calm him down. As it stayed focused on us, it felt so powerful.

122

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:12,000

My brother calmed down. Everything seemed to happen so fast. Afterwards, he started to feel unwell and fell ill.

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00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:17,000

Rodrigo's brother survives the encounter, but the story is far from over.

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00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Soon, other witnesses come forward, this time bearing strange, unexplained scars.

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00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:33,000

Usually, there were two little holes or parallel puncture marks on either side of the body.

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00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:44,000

In 1977, reports of UFO sightings spread through the Brazilian town of Calara's.

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00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:50,000

Often, people report being struck by a sharp, powerful light.

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00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:57,000

This is followed by a biting sensation, which drains them of energy and leaves mysterious marks on the skin.

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00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:04,000

It soon earns a gruesome nickname, chupa-chupa, meaning the sucker.

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00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:17,000

I felt all sorts of emotions, fear, despair, because these things were attacking the people, and it was happening everywhere. It was a disaster for Calaris.

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00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Carlos Mendez is a journalist who at the time is working in Belém, the state capital, 40 miles south of Calara's.

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00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:39,000

That year, the terrified people of Calara's reach out for help.

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00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:48,000

The residents contacted the newspaper and told me what was happening there, and that I needed to go. So I did.

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00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:54,000

Mendez is shocked to find a community in chaos.

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

The people were in a charged emotional state. They were distressed and confused.

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

Bonfires are lit along the seafront, and locals create a cacophony of noise in an attempt to ward off the chupa-chupa.

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

But the UFO sightings continue.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:28,000

They would explain how the lights came from the sky and would direct their beams on them, and would make them dizzy.

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00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:38,000

So what exactly are they seeing? And is there anything to explain their violent physical reactions?

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00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:50,000

Dr. Robert Bartholomew is a sociologist who has studied the Calara story.

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00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:58,000

He believes that the reason so many people were affected can be explained by a phenomenon known as mass hysteria.

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00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:07,000

Mass hysteria is the rapid spread of illness signs and symptoms for which there is no identifiable cause.

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00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:11,000

Mass hysteria is actually when people become physically ill.

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

Bartholomew points out that the most significant element in such cases is word of mouth.

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00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:30,000

If I give someone a drink of water, and suddenly someone comes in the room and says, oh, there's poison in it, they might actually vomit and get physically sick, but there's nothing wrong with them.

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00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:37,000

So it's the rapid spread of illness like that among a group, and it's usually spread by a belief.

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00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:46,000

But what of the injuries? Can hysteria really account for the burns and strange marks on the victims?

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:52,000

Dr. Valde Carvalho has first-hand experience of the injuries in Calara.

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00:17:53,000 --> 00:18:00,000

In 1977, she sees more than 80 patients, all suffering burn marks, nausea and weakness.

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

I was intrigued. Why were all the stories the same? Even when they were attacked in places far from one another.

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00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:17,000

And one recurring injury fascinates Dr. Carvalho.

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00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:26,000

Usually, there were two little holes or parallel puncture marks, and they could be either on the neck or on the chest, on either side of the body.

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00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:31,000

They were accompanied by dermatological burns.

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:38,000

One theory suggests a more earthly cause of the scars.

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00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:45,000

The Amazon basin has nearly 150 different species of bat, three of which are infamous vampire bats.

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00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:54,000

Vampire bats are prolific feeders, and their natural source of blood comes from small mammals and birds.

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00:18:55,000 --> 00:19:01,000

But in some rare cases, they've been known to take care of the animals.

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00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:05,000

Ecologist Leonardo Trevelyne explains how this can happen.

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

The interior of the Amazon forest, the populations live in houses that are not so protected, they sleep in hammocks.

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00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:20,000

So this may make it easy for the bats.

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00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:26,000

But Trevelyne finds a way to make it easier for the animals.

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00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:29,000

So this may make it easy for the bats.

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00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:36,000

But Trevelyne finds little in the accounts of the Kalaris attacks that indicates typical bat behavior.

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00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Human encounter with blood-feeding bats, this is not frequent, doesn't happen a lot in big numbers, so that sounds kind of strange to me.

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00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:56,000

But the situation in Kalaris is about to take an even stranger turn.

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00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:05,000

When the locals' reports reach the Brazilian Air Force, a team of investigators are dispatched to stake out the sleepy corner of the Amazon.

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00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Kalaris, Brazil, 1977.

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00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:34,000

Locals claim that this small fishing community is being terrorized by beams of light shooting down at them from UFOs.

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00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:42,000

Dozens of residents are admitted to the hospital complaining of weakness and bearing strange unexplained marks.

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00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:49,000

In October 1977, the Brazilian Air Force sent in a team of investigators.

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00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:57,000

But in a bizarre twist, that month a doctor treating the patient's injuries has an encounter of her own.

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00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:07,000

On October 16th, Dr. Valde Carvalho is returning home from work with a colleague who suddenly becomes weak and faints.

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00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:15,000

At that moment, Dr. Carvalho claims to witness a cylindrical metallic object barely 40 feet off the ground.

174

00:21:21,000 --> 00:21:25,000

It was so low that I could see the color of the metal.

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00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:31,000

And to this day, I can't say which metal it was.

176

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:35,000

But it was extremely shiny.

177

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:41,000

Unlike other sightings, there is no powerful beam of light.

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00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:49,000

But Carvalho reports to observe the UFO performing wide circular maneuvers overhead, before disappearing into the distance.

179

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:56,000

For the doctor, it's further proof that her patients are telling the truth.

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00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:03,000

But when she reports her sighting, the Air Force investigators show little sympathy.

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00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:16,000

They told me not to talk anymore, and that if I said that people were being attacked by unidentified flying objects, I could be arrested or kidnapped.

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00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:27,000

It soon becomes clear to residents that the Air Force is taking a keen interest in the reports.

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00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:33,000

For several months, they camp out in the town to carry out surveillance of the skies.

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00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:39,000

The question is, what's keeping them occupied for so long?

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00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:56,000

UFO researcher Ajay Javard has studied the Kalara's case.

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00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:02,000

A case the Air Force investigators call Operation Saucer.

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00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:11,000

This case was investigated by a large structure of men from the Brazilian Air Force.

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00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:24,000

In an official report, it means it is the largest military operation that we know in the world that was put together to investigate, to do something about the UFO phenomenon.

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00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:32,000

And even more mysterious, in January 1978, Operation Saucer is abruptly brought to a halt.

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00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:39,000

The Air Force leaves town, no results are released, and the locals' reports seem destined to be buried forever.

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00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:47,000

Since the mid-1980s, Ajay has been trying to uncover the truth about the investigation.

192

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:56,000

And we put together a campaign that gathered 70,000 signatures asking the government to come clean about it.

193

00:23:56,000 --> 00:24:01,000

To release its files, they were all old files anyway.

194

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:06,000

Then, in 1997, a breakthrough.

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00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:13,000

Yurengue Holanda Lima, the captain in charge of Operation Saucer, agrees to a filmed interview with Ajay.

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00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:17,000

He confirms what many locals had suspected all along.

197

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:22,000

Members of the Air Force had also seen the UFOs.

198

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:28,000

After a month, these things appeared right above our team.

199

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:31,000

They were right above us, as if they knew what we would do.

200

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:42,000

And he gave me very much detailed information of what went on in the previous years of the war.

201

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:49,000

During all the four months of Operation Saucer, and after that, during that four months period of time,

202

00:24:49,000 --> 00:25:01,000

they had the opportunity to film over 16 hours of footage of these objects, sometimes coming from the water,

203

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:08,000

sometimes from the air, sometimes several of them, all together in space, coming close.

204

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:12,000

And they made over 500 pictures of this.

205

00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:15,000

They were all classified, of course.

206

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:23,000

The captain dies just two months after giving the interview, but it's a major turning point in the quest for information.

207

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:27,000

The Brazilian government finally relents and releases the files.

208

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:37,000

300 pages of official documentation on Operation Saucer, including drawings, witness statements,

209

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:41,000

and most revealing of all, detailed military observations.

210

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:54,000

The behavior of the phenomena, the maneuvers of the phenomena, the way they would come so close to the people, to the military,

211

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:59,000

and attacking the people, but not the military, while the Operation Saucer lasted.

212

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:06,000

All together, all put together, gave to those men, and to their commander in Belém,

213

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:13,000

the solid idea that they were dealing with something not from this Earth.

214

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:19,000

But the files come to no solid conclusions about what the objects might have been.

215

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:31,000

Professor Carolyn Crawford is an astronomer at the University of Cambridge.

216

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:37,000

She believes mass sightings of streaking lights in the sky can often be easily explained.

217

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:45,000

Ametia is a lump of space rock that's burning up in our atmosphere.

218

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:50,000

And there are certainly things about this sighting that are reminiscent of Ametia's shower.

219

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:57,000

The idea of the beams of light matches quite well the streaks of light that are left after the passage of Ametia through the sky.

220

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:04,000

And according to Professor Crawford, the untrained eye can place subtle tricks on the mind of the observer.

221

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:12,000

If you have an isolated bright light in the sky at night, especially if you don't know what it is,

222

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:18,000

it's very difficult to judge distances because you don't know how big it should be, you don't know how bright it should be.

223

00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:22,000

You may be assumed just because it's bright, it's much nearer than it actually is,

224

00:27:22,000 --> 00:27:26,000

or if it's faint that it's actually further away than it really is.

225

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:34,000

And without that sort of comparison, it's very easy for the brain to be forward into the misestimating distances to objects.

226

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:44,000

Is it possible a combination of Ametia's shower and collective hysteria led to the mass sightings in Calaris?

227

00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:52,000

In the 1960s and 70s, Brazil was under the rule of a military dictatorship.

228

00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:59,000

Paranoia and fear gripped the nation, and many regions suffered poverty.

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00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Psychologist Dr. Susan Clancy believes the political climate is important in the Calaris case.

230

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:22,000

So what we do know about Massist Area is it is most likely to occur during times of socioeconomic decline or change.

231

00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:29,000

So if you've got a situation when a community is under extreme conditions of poverty or war,

232

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:32,000

you're going to be more likely to see this type of thing happen.

233

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:36,000

Psychologists think it's like some sort of unconscious manifestation of distress.

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00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:40,000

Like because they feel so powerless, they can't address the real issues,

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00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:43,000

it's coming out in this sort of type of event.

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00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Clancy believes that hysteria can escalate even further when respected members of the community are affected.

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00:28:56,000 --> 00:29:03,000

The more people that claim they saw it, the more impetus that gives for other people to think they saw it too.

238

00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:05,000

And then all you need is somebody with authority.

239

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:12,000

Somebody who is a respectable member of society or a person that everybody trusts saying this is what happens.

240

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:15,000

And then you sort of start seeing this mass panic.

241

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:28,000

The key to solving the riddle of the Calaris UFOs could lie in the photographs and films of the objects taken by the military.

242

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

But when the files are declassified in 2005, the films are conspicuous by their absence.

243

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:38,000

So where are they?

244

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:43,000

There are approximately 1,300 pages about Operation Saurcer.

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00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:46,000

So far only about 300 have been disclosed.

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00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:49,000

Why didn't they release the remaining 1,000?

247

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:52,000

Why didn't they release the 30 plus hours of footage?

248

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:55,000

Why didn't they release all of the photographs?

249

00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:02,000

The Calaris UFO at Nigma may only be cracked if the tapes and the rest of the files are released.

250

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:09,000

Until then, A.J. Givard will continue digging for the truth.

251

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:20,000

The population of the society has the right to know this information as well as UF researchers because after all we are society as well.

252

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:24,000

And we are very interested in knowing what the government is still hiding about it.

253

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:29,000

We don't want only the tip of the iceberg, we want the entire iceberg.

254

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:44,000

In 1966, a young driver dies in a mysterious car crash on a straight and empty road.

255

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:53,000

But one possible explanation given for his death is shocking.

256

00:30:55,000 --> 00:31:00,000

You could see in his eyes that that man had experienced something truly unknown.

257

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:10,000

Victoria, Australia, April 7th, 1966.

258

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:26,000

On a clear night, 19-year-old Gary Taylor is on a long-distance journey from Melbourne to visit relatives in the north of the state.

259

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:39,000

He's been on the road for more than six hours when he reaches a straight, empty stretch of road in central Victoria.

260

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:49,000

UFO investigator Ben Hurl has studied Gary's story.

261

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:57,000

He's driving along the Wimmera Highway by himself and he's approaching an area called Berks Flat.

262

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:05,000

As he's approached that area, his car has gotten into a skit and he skidded for about 70 feet.

263

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:13,000

For some reason, Gary suddenly loses control of his vehicle. He fears off the road and slams into a tree.

264

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:20,000

And Gary was ejected from the car and landed on the side of the road.

265

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:31,000

About half an hour later, the police arrive and the ambulance arrive and basically Gary's body is taken to the Sonata Hospital where he is pronounced dead.

266

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:37,000

At first light, police begin a road traffic accident investigation.

267

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:42,000

The puzzle is, what caused Gary to lose control?

268

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:48,000

The highway is dry and there are no sharp bends to explain what happened.

269

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:57,000

The report reveals that the 70-foot-long tire marks enable police to calculate the car's speed as it squirms off the road.

270

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:07,000

When he actually hit the tree, he was travelling at 70 miles an hour and 70 miles an hour in a Mark I Zephyr is just about got it wound out to the clock.

271

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:12,000

Did something spook Gary on that empty road to make him break so suddenly?

272

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:23,000

With no witnesses, the investigation draws a blank.

273

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:39,000

Gary's death might have been consigned to the road traffic accident records, were it not for an extraordinary twist to the story.

274

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:45,000

It comes from 39-year-old Victoria resident Ron Sullivan.

275

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:56,000

When the newspaper article appeared and it said that Gary Taylor had been killed at Birks Flat, Ron felt a civic duty to come forward and go to the Maryborough police.

276

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:02,000

It mentioned the fact that he had a really strange encounter in that same area.

277

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:07,000

8pm April 4th 1966.

278

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:14,000

It's just three days before Gary's accident and Ron Sullivan is driving across Birks Flat.

279

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:20,000

In the fields ahead and off to the side of the road, he spots a light.

280

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:26,000

Actually I thought it was a backlight of a tractor, I didn't take much notice.

281

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:33,000

As I got close to it, it flared out on the ground and then the bottom came up.

282

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

It's like a tube, a vertical cone.

283

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:41,000

The cone-shaped light appears to sit on the ground.

284

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:48,000

The light was contained, it was a very strange light, it never let off shadows or anything.

285

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:52,000

It was like a vertical ice cream cone.

286

00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:56,000

And I thought, holy moly, what in the hell is going on here?

287

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:04,000

Seconds later, the phenomenon performs an extraordinary maneuver.

288

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:10,000

I went as fast as speed of light straight up in the sky and I thought, what in the hell is going on?

289

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:17,000

Ron is shaken by the encounter but thinks nothing more of it until he learns about Gary's death on Birks Flat.

290

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:24,000

He had a friend called Hugh Hunter who worked for the Maryborough Advertiser.

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00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:30,000

He was a reporter and he was very interested in the actual gun.

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00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:34,000

So they both agreed that they would go back to the site.

293

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:42,000

Four days after his UFO encounter, Ron and his friend Hugh find a strange circular imprint in the soil of the paddock.

294

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:51,000

It's in the exact same spot he believes he saw the UFO and barely 60 feet from the tree where Gary Taylor crashed.

295

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:57,000

But is there really a connection between this and the UFO?

296

00:35:57,000 --> 00:36:02,000

But is there really a connection between this extraordinary series of events?

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00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

Australia 1966.

298

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:22,000

In search of a story, newspapers are quick to connect the mystery hole in the ground, Ron's UFO sighting and the death of Gary Taylor.

299

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:28,000

But what could possibly link a light in the sky and a crater on the ground?

300

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

Professor Carolyn Crawford offers one possible explanation.

301

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:49,000

There certainly are aspects that are very familiar to the idea of meteors or even fireballs streaking through the sky.

302

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:55,000

The idea of the colours, the bright lights, the motion, even potentially an impact sight in the ground.

303

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:04,000

But for astronomer Nigel Henbest, something about the meteor theory doesn't add up.

304

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:09,000

The eyewitness report doesn't say that it moved across the sky to look so about a bright light in a field.

305

00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:14,000

It looked as if it was on a tractor. That doesn't sound like something moving at a high speed if you thought it was a tractor.

306

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:19,000

And the photographs I've seen of the hole in the ground doesn't look like a meteor crater.

307

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:23,000

Instead, Henbest sees another potential answer.

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00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:31,000

And for me what's interesting is that the planet Jupiter, the second brightest planet, was brilliant that night.

309

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Quite low down close to the horizon. If you saw Jupiter on the horizon, you might well judge it to be in the field next to you if you didn't know any better.

310

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,000

So the light in the sky could have been Jupiter.

311

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:51,000

But at the Australian National University, Dr. Alice Gorman sees a third possibility.

312

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:58,000

She sees striking similarities between Ron's encounter and a strange Australian weather phenomenon.

313

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

I think this is a case of the classic Min Min lights. The Min Min lights are a light phenomenon which was originally identified by Aboriginal people.

314

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:16,000

And they're lights which appear to come close and then move far away, they're close to the horizon.

315

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:20,000

And they can be quite frightening when people aren't expecting them.

316

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:28,000

Dad, no, we have to get driving. We're not stopping.

317

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:32,000

The Min Min lights have been reported in Australia for centuries.

318

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:36,000

They are said to be hovering orbs of light that appear at night.

319

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:43,000

This rare footage shot in Queensland in 2013 shows one family's eerie encounter.

320

00:38:52,000 --> 00:39:03,000

Scientists think this bizarre phenomenon is created by light from a source many miles away, being refracted through the atmosphere and appearing as a mirage in a new and unlikely place.

321

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:10,000

Sometimes called a superior mirage, it's caused by an extreme temperature switch in the air.

322

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:16,000

Professor Randy Cerveni is a meteorologist at Arizona State University.

323

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:27,000

One of the most plausible explanations that I can see for the Burke's flat situation is that idea of a temperature inversion.

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00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Temperature inversions are where we have two different layers of the atmosphere with different temperatures.

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00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:45,000

So that when you're driving across the desert, for example, and you see a mirage of water, that's usually due to a temperature inversion that has taken place.

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00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:54,000

Temperature inversions occur when a layer of cold dense air becomes trapped at ground level beneath a layer of warmer air.

327

00:39:55,000 --> 00:40:00,000

Common in deserts, they also appear at sea or on vast stretches of wide, flat land.

328

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:07,000

And they can refract normal light rays into spectacular, hovering illusions.

329

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:17,000

As light goes down through two different layers of air that have different temperatures, it's going to be refracted in different ways.

330

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:23,000

And in fact, in some cases, actually totally separate it from the horizon and make it kind of floating in sky.

331

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:26,000

So that's why we have a superior mirage.

332

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:29,000

In the daytime, mirages can be mesmerizing.

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00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:33,000

But at night, the effect can be shocking.

334

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:38,000

Dad, no, we have to get driving. We're not stopping.

335

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:48,000

Whether Gary Taylor was spooked by Minmin lights or any other phenomenon that night remains a mystery.

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00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:59,000

And when Hurl suspects there may be more down-to-earth explanations for Gary's crash.

337

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:07,000

He could have easily been avoiding a kangaroo, a rabbit, a fox, or any other number of nighttime creatures.

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00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:11,000

It's unknown how much nighttime driving experience he actually had.

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00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:16,000

These are the factors that sort of, I think, are around the accident.

340

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:20,000

And any one of them is arguably possible.

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00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:24,000

Sadly, these are questions for which we may never find answers.

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00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:35,000

But for Ron Sullivan, the thing he saw on Burke's flat that night and the memories of what happened to Gary have haunted him ever since.

343

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

I do not know exactly what I saw, but all I know is that it was something out of this world.

344

00:41:42,000 --> 00:41:48,000

I never believed in your effusion in those days, as all of you are.

345

00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:54,000

But lately, in the last few years, I often thought, what the heck was that?