

1

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

It takes chisiness.

2

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

In Phoenix, Arizona,

3

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

formations of glowing orbs are seen by thousands.

4

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

We questioned what we saw.

5

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

What are we crazy?

6

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

Officials deny any knowledge as public pressure mounts.

7

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

The mysterious lights quickly gained national attention.

8

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

In southeast Brazil, fighter jets scramble

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

as mystery contacts light up military radar.

10

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

This guy was full of UFOs.

11

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

Pilots get close enough for a tantalizing glimpse.

12

00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:31,000

But who or what could they be?

13

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

They didn't know what it was.

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

And in Texas, two women claim to confront a massive diamond-shaped UFO.

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

We thought it was the end of time.

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00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:44,000

Witnesses develop physical injuries

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00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:46,000

that even their doctors can't explain.

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

I asked her how she got the burns and she said,

19

00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:51,000

you won't believe anything I'm going to tell you.

20

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

Does anyone know what these phenomena are?

21

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

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

22

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

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

23

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

On the edge of the solar system,

24

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:16,000

a visitor from deep space hurtles towards the Earth.

25

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:22,000

This vast body of ice and rock is the comet Hale-Both.

26

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

It will pass within 120 million miles of our planet.

27

00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:32,000

NASA prepares to launch a probe as it nears Earth

28

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:35,000

and around the globe astronomers look to the skies.

29

00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:40,000

On the outskirts of Phoenix,

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:43,000

amateur stargazers gather on a hillside.

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:45,000

But the mysterious scene they witness

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:48,000

goes far beyond their expectations.

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:52,000

March 13, 1997,

34

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:54,000

Phoenix, Arizona.

35

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

This is what people all over the valley saw

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:59,000

on the night of March 13.

37

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

It marks what some believe may be the greatest UFO mass sighting in history.

38

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

It was very strange

39

00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:12,000

because at first we questioned what we saw.

40

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:14,000

What are we crazy?

41

00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,000

People were in awe.

42

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:19,000

People were mesmerized. People were in wonder.

43

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:21,000

All of the calls were about the strange lights in the sky

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:24,000

and they wanted to know if we knew what they were.

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:26,000

Speculation leaned towards UFOs

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:30,000

as officials ruled out any commercial aircraft and the military.

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

We gathered here to take photos of a comet.

48

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

That was a real event for us.

49

00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:40,000

Local photographer and stargazer Jerry Church

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:42,000

is in the hills above Phoenix.

51

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:44,000

When we first saw them,

52

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:48,000

they were coming from sort of the northwest coming south.

53

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:51,000

And we didn't know what they were.

54

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

The lights seemed to be moving southward very slowly.

55

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

They appeared to be in a straight line

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:04,000

until you really looked at them

57

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:07,000

and you realized they're more of a V-shape.

58

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:13,000

Another witness to the mysterious event

59

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:15,000

is Greg.

60

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:17,000

He will only appear on camera with his identity hidden.

61

00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:20,000

I've been flying for 30-some years.

62

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

I mean, I can't figure out what this is.

63

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

He works for a defense contractor

64

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

and is a former military and commercial pilot.

65

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:32,000

He fears that talking openly will jeopardize his career.

66

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

On the evening of this incident,

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:37,000

Greg and his wife are driving home.

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00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:39,000

And my wife was driving,

69

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:42,000

so I was just kind of relaxing in the right seat there.

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:48,000

We lived on an area that was largely undeveloped

71

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,000

and lots of open land and open streets.

72

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:54,000

And just as we're cruising along,

73

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:57,000

she says, what are those lights?

74

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

I looked up through the windshield

75

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

and I saw kind of a V-shaped formation of lights

76

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

and I went, that's just fighters out of loop.

77

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:10,000

I was just like, what's going on?

78

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:13,000

I looked up through the windshield and I saw lights

79

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:16,000

and I went, that's just fighters out of loop.

80

00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:17,000

And as I said that, I realized,

81

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

nah, they're not fighters,

82

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:21,000

because I flew fighters at Luke

83

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,000

and you wouldn't fly around in a V-shaped formation.

84

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:26,000

As I looked some more, I noticed,

85

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

well, I don't see any navigation lights

86

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

or anti-collision lights,

87

00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:32,000

and it seems to be going pretty slow.

88

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:34,000

So she pulled off to the side of the road

89

00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:37,000

in an area that was actually fairly dark.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:40,000

I just stood by the car

91

00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:44,000

and then about the time the lights were overhead,

92

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:46,000

I realized I also didn't hear anything.

93

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

There wasn't any sound.

94

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:55,000

They didn't do anything dramatic.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

They just pretty much stayed in that V-shaped formation

96

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

and flew on an east-south-easterly heading

97

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

until they were out of sight.

98

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

Unbeknown to Greg and his wife,

99

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

other people across two states

100

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:10,000

are also witnessing unknown lights in the sky.

101

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:27,000

The massive scale of the sighting becomes clear

102

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:29,000

as calls flood into the authorities.

103

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:39,000

Verley Nanaman was a 911 operator with a Phoenix police.

104

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:42,000

She's on duty answering calls that evening.

105

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:48,000

It wasn't a busy night and there were about 15 operators working.

106

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:50,000

911, where's your emergency?

107

00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:53,000

And the calls were very steady until about 8.15

108

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:56,000

and then they just went crazy.

109

00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:58,000

911, where's the emergency?

110

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

All of our callers were saying basically the same thing.

111

00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:04,000

They saw a V-shaped craft in the sky.

112

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:06,000

It had 5 to 7 lights.

113

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

Very low, no noise. It was very quiet.

114

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:12,000

It was slow and it was traveling from the north to the south.

115

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

So people in the whole valley, our area were calling,

116

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

wondering what the lights were.

117

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:19,000

We didn't know what they were, of course.

118

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Dr. Lynn Katai manages to fill the lights from her mountainside home.

119

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

As we're just about to settle in in our bedroom,

120

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,000

suddenly the 6 lights pop on it.

121

00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:41,000

I grabbed my video camera

122

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:47,000

and by the time I focused it and got out there, it had changed to 3.

123

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:57,000

And what I captured were the 3 endpoints of a V or triangle object.

124

00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:04,000

And many people actually witnessed the same exact phenomenon

125

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

gliding right over their heads, about 30 miles an hour, totally silent.

126

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:17,000

As many more witnesses come forward,

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:21,000

pressure for an official explanation reaches Feverpitch.

128

00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Vice Mayor Francis Emma Barwood is the first to ask questions of the city government.

129

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:30,000

Her curiosity will cost her dearly.

130

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,000

I was the council person for District 2.

131

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:38,000

I had 160,000 people in my district.

132

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:43,000

And I felt that my job was to represent them and listen to them.

133

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:50,000

During the council meeting, my turn came and I said,

134

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:54,000

could we find out whatever this was that flew over Arizona?

135

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

And everybody kind of stopped and looked at me.

136

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:05,000

So I kind of felt a little funny and I didn't understand why.

137

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

And then somebody cracked a joke and they went on with the meeting.

138

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

And I thought, well, that was odd.

139

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:14,000

And in my mind I'm thinking if something flew over Arizona

140

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:17,000

and they don't know what it is, isn't this a safety issue?

141

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:21,000

And I thought, something's wrong here. Nobody wants to talk about it.

142

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:26,000

Barwood believes she's the victim of a campaign to discredit and ridicule her.

143

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:29,000

There were cartoons in the paper.

144

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:33,000

One cartoon was a rocket going in one ear and coming out the other.

145

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:35,000

The other one was a Dr. Spock.

146

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:39,000

And then on my picture in the lobby, they hung a little sign and it said,

147

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Francis Emma Barwood from the planet Xenon,

148

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:44,000

Speak into the foil and she'll hear you.

149

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:48,000

You know, one thing after another and I thought, wow, you know, they're really,

150

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:50,000

like, they want to shut me up.

151

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:55,000

Barwood's constituents, though, are taking the matter seriously.

152

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:58,000

Soon after, she receives call after call.

153

00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Little League game, they all saw it.

154

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:03,000

There were some joggers that saw it.

155

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:07,000

There was people that came shopping at the mall they saw it.

156

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:11,000

After counting all the people and all the people they said they were with,

157

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:14,000

had to be somewhere around 10,000 people that saw this.

158

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:17,000

So many people in so many places.

159

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:21,000

I mean, I got calls from all over the state of people who saw it.

160

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:24,000

There's no doubt in my mind that they really did.

161

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:31,000

To this day, none of the government people ever interviewed any of those 10,000 people.

162

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:37,000

UFO believers say that the Phoenix Police Department played down the reports they receive,

163

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:42,000

even though their own staff admit that calls are pouring in that night.

164

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:45,000

We were swamped with calls, all calling about the same thing,

165

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:48,000

the mysterious lights in the sky.

166

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:50,000

9-1-1, where's your number?

167

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:51,000

9-1-1, where's your emergency?

168

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:57,000

9-1-1 operator Verley Nanaman is certain that many reports had been made to the police.

169

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:05,000

Rumors of a government cover-up soon emerge, as the public demands answers.

170

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:08,000

It was time to end months of speculation on the question

171

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

and investigate the matter once and for all.

172

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:27,000

After the unexplained mass sighting over Phoenix, witnesses are left without any official explanation.

173

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:31,000

But then, there is an unexpected breakthrough.

174

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:40,000

For months there was nothing, and then on June 18, there was a front page USA Today article

175

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:45,000

that opened up the sighting for the first time to international scrutiny.

176

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:47,000

We were deluged by media.

177

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:52,000

This is what people all over the Valley saw on the night of March 13th.

178

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:59,000

The next morning it was on every news station, every morning show, Dan Rather, Peter Jennings, on and on.

179

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

And by late morning, the very next morning, after nothing for months,

180

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:09,000

suddenly we get an announcement that the governor, Simington, was holding a press conference that afternoon.

181

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:14,000

To reveal the culprit of the lights over Phoenix.

182

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:18,000

I suggested that it was time to end months of speculation on the question

183

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:21,000

and investigate the matter once and for all to clear it up.

184

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:27,000

Finally, it seems that the mystery will be taken seriously and officially investigated.

185

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:35,000

And now I'll ask Officer Stein and his colleagues to escort the accused into the room so that we may all look upon the guilty party.

186

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:45,000

And it was very disconcerting when he marches out one of his aides with a giant alien head and makes a mockery of the whole thing.

187

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Don't get him too close to me please.

188

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:55,000

This just goes to show that you guys are entirely too serious.

189

00:11:55,000 --> 00:12:01,000

The publicity stunt angers eyewitnesses and prompts accusations of a government cover up.

190

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:05,000

Everybody else thought, you know, how could he do this?

191

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:11,000

You know, this is not funny. These people were serious at what they saw and they wanted to know what it is.

192

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:20,000

In the aftermath, several explanations emerge.

193

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

The military at first deny any of their jets are airborne.

194

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:30,000

But it later emerges that a flight of F-16 fighters were in the air that night.

195

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:35,000

They were conducting a training exercise south of Phoenix.

196

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:42,000

Could aerial flares drop during this exercise solve the mystery?

197

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:48,000

Former U.S. Air Force Major James McGehey has researched the events of that night.

198

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:55,000

The flares that were dropped were L-U-U-2B slash B ground illumination flares.

199

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

They burn with 2 million candle power. They're incredibly bright.

200

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

These high-intensity magnesium flares are designed to burn for five minutes.

201

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

Since they normally don't land with these, at the end of the night operations, they dumped nine of them all at once.

202

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

That was at about 10 p.m. The same time the mysterious lights were spotted.

203

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:27,000

But not everyone is convinced. Former military pilot Greg witnessed the phenomena and has firsthand experience with flares.

204

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:32,000

So the flare is actually flickering. It's a very distinctive wavelength.

205

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:38,000

You can actually perceive kind of the smoke coming off it because it's burning and it has a parachute that's suspending it.

206

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:42,000

And it descends and then eventually burns out.

207

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:48,000

I could say that what I saw that night was absolutely not flares.

208

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:58,000

When you're looking at a 36-inch long tube that's anointed at 80 miles, you're not going to see any smoke. It's too far away.

209

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:10,000

And they hang because of the heat coming up from the flare, goes up into the parachute and sort of gives the parachute more lift so it doesn't descend as rapidly.

210

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:16,000

But does that explain how the lights could have stayed in formation? Would flares disperse in the wind?

211

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:21,000

Meteorologist Professor Randy Cervini explains.

212

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Very rarely, except during dust storm events here in the Southwest, do we get very strong winds.

213

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:34,000

So if you drop a parachute with something hanging from it, the winds are not going to bounce it around very much.

214

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:41,000

As long as we can keep that parachute aloft, that's going to fall fairly steadily and slowly down through the atmosphere.

215

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:46,000

Because the turbulence of this particular area is pretty weak.

216

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:56,000

To my mind, launching of flares by a plane that's traveling in a straight line is a pretty good explanation for the Phoenix Light scenario.

217

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

That is not what I saw. I can say really beyond a shadow of a doubt that what I saw that night were not flares.

218

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

But what could explain the reports of a V-shaped object passing directly overhead?

219

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

At the same time that Greg witnesses five lights in the sky, a flight of military aircraft are en route from Las Vegas, Nevada to Tucson, Arizona.

220

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:31,000

Many people saw the five lights and connected the dots and assumed it was this huge object.

221

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:39,000

In fact, an amateur astronomer in Phoenix that night happened to put his 10-inch telescope on it and saw the aircraft.

222

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:45,000

Could these jet aircraft explain the sighting? Former pilot Greg is skeptical.

223

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:50,000

I flew fighters at Luke and you wouldn't fly around in a V-shaped formation.

224

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:56,000

As I looked some more, I noticed I don't see any nav lights and it seems to be going pretty slow.

225

00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:00,000

I realized I also didn't hear anything that wasn't any sound.

226

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:09,000

How could aircraft flying close formation without any navigation lights and without making any sound?

227

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:19,000

They were flying that night under VFR conditions, visual flight rules, and they were flying with their formation lights on.

228

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:31,000

They said they made no sound, but they were flying in cruise and it turns out the A-10 aircraft, which all of these aircraft were, it's a ground attack airplane, is the quietest airplane in the Air Force.

229

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:42,000

If you're flying in cruise speed, when you're up to 15,000 feet, these airplanes are very, very quiet, so it's not unusual that they didn't hear anything.

230

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:55,000

They flew right along the air corridor, the air traffic highway in the sky, so if they were alien spacecraft, they must know our FAA rules.

231

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:04,000

McGehee believes the mass sighting is actually two events, each with its own explanation.

232

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:17,000

And this very often happens in UFO cases. Multiple different things are going on, but they sort of get blended together and they're not really the same thing occurring.

233

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:21,000

But could thousands of witnesses all be mistaken?

234

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:27,000

That's possible, says cognitive psychologist Dr. Susan Clancy.

235

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:38,000

It's very interesting because you have a group of people that claim to have seen the same thing at the same time, and people often think of that as very compelling evidence that something actually happened.

236

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:51,000

In fact, it's anecdotal evidence, which from a scientific perspective doesn't count as data. It doesn't matter how many people saw the same thing. They saw something, it was difficult to interpret, and they interpreted it as a UFO.

237

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:58,000

But some witnesses of the Phoenix lights remain convinced they saw something unexplainable that night.

238

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:07,000

And in a strange twist of fate, ten years after ridiculing witnesses, the now former Governor Simington makes a startling admission.

239

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:09,000

My remarks are pretty short.

240

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:11,000

He too had seen the Phoenix lights.

241

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:28,000

I saw something that defied logic and challenged my reality. I witnessed a massive delta-shaped craft that silently navigated over the Squall Peak area in North Phoenix in the evening, and it was truly breathtaking.

242

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:38,000

And so the Governor joins Lynn, Greg, and countless others who are certain they saw something incredible that to this day is still not adequately explained.

243

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

I'm open. If somebody would tell me what it is, show me what it is, I am open to that possibility.

244

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:49,000

I think about it now again, and I just wish I could see it again.

245

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:00,000

May 19, 1986, São Paulo State, Brazil.

246

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:07,000

Air traffic controllers spot unidentified lights in the skies above São José dos Campos Airport.

247

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

Alarmingly, the unknown lights seem larger than any plane.

248

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:27,000

Operators at two other centers track multiple objects breaching their airspace.

249

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:32,000

Their size is estimated to be an excess of 300 feet.

250

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:43,000

Thiago Ciccici is a leading UFO researcher and author on the subject. He's been investigating UFO incidents for nearly 20 years.

251

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Blas was just appearing in the screen for more than four hours, five hours. This guy was full of UFOs.

252

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:06,000

Military commanders are anxious. They scramble five jet fighters. Their orders pursue and intercept.

253

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

Captain Marcio Prizala Jordeo was piloting one of these aircraft. He's a former military and commercial pilot.

254

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:18,000

He has over 5,000 flying hours.

255

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Yet even 30 years later, it's this mission that vividly sticks in his memory.

256

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Nearing the scene, controllers in Brasilia vector him towards the unknown contacts.

257

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:42,000

I was informed that I had some contacts approaching. Ten miles ahead of my aircraft.

258

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

But Jordeo's onboard radar shows nothing, and he can't see anything in the skies ahead of him.

259

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:56,000

Ground radar alerts him that the contacts are now in the air.

260

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:02,000

He's now closing from directly behind him.

261

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:10,000

He was amazin' 13 UFOs. Seven on the left side, six on the right side.

262

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:17,000

As the radar contacts approach, Jordeo maneuvers his aircraft, but struggles to get a visual fix.

263

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:23,000

He continues to patrol the area, and eventually manages to get something in his sights.

264

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:31,000

I saw a red light. It was just like a warning light on top of a building.

265

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Controllers in Brasilia order him to pursue the unknown contact.

266

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:43,000

But Jordeo is unable to intercept it.

267

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:49,000

I was going towards the contact, but it was moving away from me at the same speed.

268

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:53,000

Controllers confirm his visual sighting on their ground radar.

269

00:21:55,000 --> 00:22:00,000

But running low on fuel, Jordeo is forced to break off and return to base.

270

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:07,000

Another of the jets scrambled that night reports a similar sighting.

271

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:16,000

Unlike Jordeo, the pilot describes the object as a glowing orb. Sometimes white, sometimes green or red.

272

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:26,000

On-board radar confirms his visual fix. It rapidly accelerates and then slows, and performs what appear to be deliberate maneuvers.

273

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

But before the pilot is able to intercept the contact, it accelerates out of sight and vanishes from radar.

274

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:41,000

After the incident, the aircrews return to base.

275

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:46,000

Unbeknown to them, details have already been leaked to the press.

276

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:53,000

The pilots find themselves in the middle of a media storm as military commanders make an astonishing confession.

277

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:58,000

They have no idea who or what the mysterious contacts are.

278

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:10,000

After an extraordinary night, the Minister of Aeronautics Brigadier Marrera Lima takes the unprecedented step of hosting a press conference.

279

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:16,000

He confirms that multiple unknown contacts have reached their airspace.

280

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:22,000

And he confesses they have no idea of what the mystery objects might be, nor who might be flying

them.

281

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

It was more than a thousand kilometers an hour, because at that time I was flying at about the same speed.

282

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:32,000

Control were telling me I was getting closer and closer.

283

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:34,000

Were you scared?

284

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:38,000

I wasn't afraid. I was extremely curious.

285

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:43,000

Bewildered military commanders promise a thorough investigation.

286

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:47,000

But the results are immediately classified.

287

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:52,000

For 20 years, the public is left without any official explanation.

288

00:23:53,000 --> 00:24:00,000

The government promised to society to come up with the report of what happened in 30 days.

289

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:02,000

And it never did.

290

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:05,000

This was top secret, like the top.

291

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:10,000

Because they didn't know what it was.

292

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:15,000

The evening would become known as the official night of the UFOs.

293

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:23,000

Nick Pope ran the UFO project at the British Ministry of Defense.

294

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

For him, who the witnesses are, speaks volumes.

295

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:32,000

This isn't just some vague reports of lights in the sky from members of the public.

296

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:40,000

This is a properly documented case where the witnesses and the investigators with government themselves.

297

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:45,000

But does the military's involvement add any credibility to the sighting?

298

00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:54,000

Cognitive psychologist Dr. Susan Clancy believes that the testimony of pilots and military officials is as fallible as any other.

299

00:24:54,000 --> 00:25:04,000

Just because a pilot was involved and just because the government may have been involved or airports doesn't make it any more real.

300

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:14,000

We're all prone to perceptual distortion, to memory fallibility, to getting confused between reality and fantasy.

301

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:16,000

It's actually just a sign of being human.

302

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:22,000

And we're biased to distort things in the direction of what we fear or what we hope or what we expect.

303

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

But what about the radar contacts received by multiple control centers?

304

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:31,000

Could a technical error be to blame?

305

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:40,000

One of the interesting things about these sightings is that two different ground radar installations actually detected the objects.

306

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:47,000

This eliminates the possibility that what you had was a technical fault with one of the sets of equipment.

307

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:53,000

So what could explain visual sightings verified by both ground and onboard radar?

308

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:58,000

One suggestion is a rare atmospheric phenomenon known as ball lightning.

309

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:03,000

Ball lightning is a very poorly understood scientific phenomenon.

310

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:05,000

We know that it has to do with thunderstorms.

311

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:17,000

It apparently involves some kind of discharge of lightning such that the discharge of lightning

takes on a globular or ball-like structure.

312

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:24,000

This rare amateur footage of the phenomena was shot in 2001 on the outskirts of Lyons, Colorado.

313

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:29,000

Even under the best of circumstances, ball lightning is a very rare occurrence.

314

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:36,000

We have good observational evidence of ball lightning, but we've never been able to reproduce it adequately in the laboratory.

315

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:43,000

Although ball lightning is little understood, experts do agree on the conditions required to create it.

316

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:49,000

In order to have ball lightning, you have to have a convective thunderstorm.

317

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:52,000

A thunderstorm that's putting out a lot of lightning.

318

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:58,000

But what are the weather conditions that night? Do they rule out the ball lightning theory?

319

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:03,000

The weather condition was perfect as we say in Portuguese,

320

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Céu de Brigadeiro, like a clear sky.

321

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:12,000

Is it possible the eyewitness reports were simply wrong?

322

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:18,000

Experts suggest a psychological principle known as priming may hold the answer.

323

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:22,000

Professor of neuroscience, Bo Lotto explains.

324

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:26,000

Because your brain has expectations, it's only ever seeing what it's expecting to see.

325

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:28,000

You can actually create those expectations.

326

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:34,000

I can suggest something to you, and even though you're not aware of my suggestion, it can alter what you see.

327

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:41,000

It's possible the pilots were primed by the earlier reports and misinterpreted otherwise ordinary lights.

328

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:45,000

But shouldn't pilots be able to make accurate observations?

329

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

Experts are usually very good at observing the things that are in their sphere, the things that are relevant to their experience.

330

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:58,000

What's interesting is sometimes becoming an expert or being an expert makes you worse at noticing things.

331

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:02,000

The reason is because an expert has a tremendous amount of expectations and assumptions,

332

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:06,000

which means they can become blind to the things that are unexpected.

333

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:15,000

Twenty years on from the incident, UFO researchers finally get hold of the once top secret report.

334

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:18,000

Its conclusions are shocking.

335

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:30,000

When we got the package in the middle of those 1,000 and some pages, there was this report, a very important report.

336

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:45,000

And it said in this report that it's a conclusion of the Brazilian Air Force Defense Command that the UFOs observed on that occasion were under intelligent control.

337

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:54,000

Although a startling admission, the declassified documents offer no explanations of who or what the unidentified flying objects are.

338

00:28:55,000 --> 00:28:57,000

We don't think that all the documents are here.

339

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:06,000

We're looking for the investigation documents, we're looking for photos, we don't know if they have.

340

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:11,000

And we're looking for the films of the airplanes.

341

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:16,000

We are sure that there's some film to come.

342

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:21,000

It seems that for now at least the incident will remain unexplained.

343

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:30,000

I know I saw a light. Whether it was a UFO or an alien, I'm waiting for the answer.

344

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:39,000

Montgomery County, Texas December 29th, 1980.

345

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:46,000

Betty Cash, Vicki Landrum and Vicki's grandson Colby are driving home after a night out.

346

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:50,000

The women are from a conservative religious upbringing.

347

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:57,000

As they drive down a quiet country road, they are oblivious to the terrifying ordeal that lies ahead.

348

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:08,000

Colby Lee saw a light and he kept asking us what the light was.

349

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:10,000

I said honey, I don't know.

350

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:15,000

Betty said I believe it's getting closer.

351

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:17,000

I said well it kind of looks like it.

352

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:21,000

All of us noticed it because it lit up the entire sky.

353

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:23,000

There was no way you could have missed it.

354

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:27,000

But we had no idea that we were going to get hurt.

355

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:34,000

The women claim they are confronted by a large diamond shaped UFO hovering over the road.

356

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:40,000

Here was this huge object and flames shooting from it.

357

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:47,000

And they weren't just small flames. They were gushing from it.

358

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:50,000

Colby is terrified.

359

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:55,000

His grandmother Vicki tries desperately to calm him.

360

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:58,000

I said Colby don't be afraid.

361

00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:03,000

I said if you see a man, it'll be Jesus. He will not hurt you.

362

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:08,000

They describe flames shooting from the base and intense heat.

363

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:11,000

It looked like the woods were being set on fire.

364

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:14,000

Inside the car it was so hot.

365

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:19,000

So my handprint is yet on the dashboard of Betty's car.

366

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:25,000

They stare in awe at the mysterious object before slowly venturing out of the car.

367

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:27,000

They got out on the other side of the car.

368

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

I stepped out on mine and I walked toward the front of automobile.

369

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:38,000

Vicki and Colby return to the car.

370

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:42,000

But Betty remains outside captivated by what she sees.

371

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:45,000

I stood there. I don't know how long.

372

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:49,000

Trying to see what I could figure this out.

373

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:53,000

It was just burning. It was just too much heat. I could not tolerate it.

374

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:57,000

The heat becomes unbearable and Betty is forced to retreat to the car.

375

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:01,000

They claim the object hovers over the road and then slowly climbs into the sky.

376

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:06,000

They say a fleet of military helicopters arrives and surrounds the UFO.

377

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:08,000

We counted it.

378

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:10,000

We counted it.

379

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:12,000

We counted it.

380

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:14,000

We counted it.

381

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:15,000

We counted it.

382

00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:17,000

We counted it.

383

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:20,000

I don't know how many of you have heard of it.

384

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:23,000

The fleet of military helicopters arrives and surrounds the UFO.

385

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:25,000

We counted it.

386

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:27,000

Twenty-three.

387

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:30,000

There were so many of them it sounded like a tornado.

388

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:34,000

They circle the UFO and follow it as it moves into the distance

389

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:36,000

and eventually out of sight.

390

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:40,000

But the terrifying ordeal is far from over.

391

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:43,300

and diarrhea.

392

00:32:43,300 --> 00:32:46,120

Several days later, Betty is admitted to hospital.

393

00:32:50,760 --> 00:32:53,000

Dr. Brian McClelland was Betty's physician

394

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:56,280

for nearly 15 years and is familiar with her medical

395

00:32:56,280 --> 00:32:57,240

history.

396

00:32:57,240 --> 00:33:00,040

Well, I first met Betty when she came back from Houston

397

00:33:00,040 --> 00:33:02,520

to Birmingham, Alabama.

398

00:33:02,520 --> 00:33:04,520

She got this bright exposure the next day.

399

00:33:04,520 --> 00:33:06,360

She felt she was sunburned.

400

00:33:06,360 --> 00:33:09,080

By the afternoon, she was getting sick to her stomach.

401

00:33:09,080 --> 00:33:11,720

And she then was hospitalized.

402

00:33:11,720 --> 00:33:14,440

Her hair starts to fall out while she's in hospital.

403

00:33:14,440 --> 00:33:17,960

She had burns on her.

404

00:33:17,960 --> 00:33:21,480

Well, she very closely follows exactly what would happen

405

00:33:21,480 --> 00:33:22,720

after radiation exposure.

406

00:33:25,320 --> 00:33:28,280

Betty is isolated for the protection of staff and patients.

407

00:33:31,040 --> 00:33:34,040

Vicki and Colby say their symptoms are less severe,

408

00:33:34,040 --> 00:33:38,840

but they also suffer from weakness and skin sores.

409

00:33:38,840 --> 00:33:40,280

The women believe their illnesses

410

00:33:40,280 --> 00:33:42,400

are the result of the incident and begin

411

00:33:42,400 --> 00:33:43,520

searching for answers.

412

00:33:47,240 --> 00:33:50,280

Journalist and former UFO investigator Nick Hope

413

00:33:50,280 --> 00:33:54,760

has been studying the case for nearly 15 years.

414

00:33:54,760 --> 00:33:57,720

After this encounter, a cash and land

415

00:33:57,720 --> 00:34:00,240

room reached out to the local authorities,

416

00:34:00,240 --> 00:34:04,560

both government and military, to say, what happened to us?

417

00:34:04,560 --> 00:34:05,640

Please investigate.

418

00:34:05,640 --> 00:34:09,000

Please tell us what it was that we encountered.

419

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:13,880

The women believe the military is involved and demand answers.

420

00:34:13,880 --> 00:34:16,520

Their struggle for truth would bring them face to face

421

00:34:16,520 --> 00:34:18,560

with those they believe are responsible.

422

00:34:22,120 --> 00:34:24,440

Following her bizarre encounter, Betty

423

00:34:24,440 --> 00:34:27,760

meets with officials at Bergstrom Air Force Base.

424

00:34:27,760 --> 00:34:31,000

She explains the incident as well as her physical and psychological

425

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:32,640

injuries.

426

00:34:32,640 --> 00:34:34,600

She believes the military is involved

427

00:34:34,680 --> 00:34:37,240

and submits a claim for damages.

428

00:34:37,240 --> 00:34:40,120

The local air base denied having any activity that

429

00:34:40,120 --> 00:34:42,840

could explain what had happened to the witnesses.

430

00:34:42,840 --> 00:34:46,240

No one, it seemed, knew what was happening to these people.

431

00:34:46,240 --> 00:34:49,320

No one wanted to talk.

432

00:34:49,320 --> 00:34:52,800

Their claim for damages is denied.

433

00:34:52,800 --> 00:34:54,600

Left with mounting medical bills,

434

00:34:54,600 --> 00:34:58,080

the women are no closer to explaining their ordeal.

435

00:34:58,080 --> 00:35:00,080

Was it because no one knew anything

436

00:35:00,080 --> 00:35:02,120

or was it as some conspiracy theorists

437

00:35:02,160 --> 00:35:04,360

allege because there was a cover-up

438

00:35:04,360 --> 00:35:08,360

and a conspiracy had already started?

439

00:35:08,360 --> 00:35:11,480

One theory is that the women witnessed a prototype nuclear

440

00:35:11,480 --> 00:35:13,200

powered aircraft.

441

00:35:13,200 --> 00:35:15,840

My bet would be this was some sort of test

442

00:35:15,840 --> 00:35:20,520

involving a new secret prototype spy plane or drone.

443

00:35:20,520 --> 00:35:22,880

Perhaps something went wrong.

444

00:35:22,880 --> 00:35:26,880

Perhaps there was a power source that was not properly shielded.

445

00:35:26,880 --> 00:35:29,720

If there's any cover-up, it's unlikely to be aliens.

446

00:35:29,720 --> 00:35:32,720

It's more likely to be deep black projects

447

00:35:32,720 --> 00:35:36,200

and new terrestrial technology.

448

00:35:36,200 --> 00:35:38,280

But the proximity to populated areas

449

00:35:38,280 --> 00:35:41,440

casts doubt on that theory.

450

00:35:41,440 --> 00:35:44,600

Military testing is conducted in vast, empty ranges,

451

00:35:44,600 --> 00:35:48,160

out of harm's way, and away from prying eyes.

452

00:35:48,160 --> 00:35:51,440

Defense journalist Chris Pocock explains.

453

00:35:51,440 --> 00:35:54,840

Testing of secret aircraft is routinely

454

00:35:54,840 --> 00:35:57,120

conducted in out-of-the-way places,

455

00:35:57,120 --> 00:35:59,400

not just for reasons of secrecy,

456

00:35:59,400 --> 00:36:03,200

but simply because the large airspace that can be reserved

457

00:36:03,200 --> 00:36:08,000

for such testing is not going to be overpopulated areas.

458

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:12,520

In the US, there are big areas of military-controlled airspace

459

00:36:12,520 --> 00:36:16,480

in Nevada and Texas in particular.

460

00:36:16,480 --> 00:36:20,280

They ain't going to do it over a big city.

461

00:36:20,280 --> 00:36:22,920

As Betty's health continues to deteriorate,

462

00:36:22,920 --> 00:36:26,000

doctors struggle to diagnose her.

463

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:28,680

Dr. McClellan believes some form of radiation poisoning

464

00:36:28,680 --> 00:36:31,480

is the cause.

465

00:36:31,480 --> 00:36:35,440

I did a biopsy of her arm, and it had radiation dermatitis

466

00:36:35,440 --> 00:36:40,120

with the diagnosis on the biopsy, which I can't get

467

00:36:40,120 --> 00:36:42,800

radiation dermatitis myself because you

468

00:36:42,800 --> 00:36:44,560

have to put your hand into a nuclear reactor,

469

00:36:44,560 --> 00:36:46,720

and I don't have one.

470

00:36:46,720 --> 00:36:50,760

Could radiation poisoning have caused Betty's symptoms?

471

00:36:50,760 --> 00:36:53,680

Jim Thurston is a radiation specialist.

472

00:36:53,720 --> 00:36:56,400

He dismisses the idea of radiation exposure

473

00:36:56,400 --> 00:36:59,760

as their symptoms are only possible following a lethal dose.

474

00:36:59,760 --> 00:37:03,200

The onset of the symptom would indicate

475

00:37:03,200 --> 00:37:06,880

a very high radiation dose, a dose which

476

00:37:06,880 --> 00:37:12,240

is two, three, or even four times the expected lethal dose.

477

00:37:14,720 --> 00:37:19,040

So what else could have caused Betty's symptoms?

478

00:37:19,040 --> 00:37:22,400

A particular issue I have with these symptoms

479

00:37:22,400 --> 00:37:25,920

is that some of them you could just as easily attribute

480

00:37:25,920 --> 00:37:29,920

to a chemical agent rather than a radiation exposure.

481

00:37:33,040 --> 00:37:35,240

A test to determine radiation exposure

482

00:37:35,240 --> 00:37:39,160

is never conducted during Betty's hospitalization.

483

00:37:39,160 --> 00:37:42,720

Her medical history prior to the incident is not released.

484

00:37:42,720 --> 00:37:45,800

Without it, it's impossible to verify the cause of her symptoms.

485

00:37:46,800 --> 00:37:48,920

Some believe the incident may even

486

00:37:48,920 --> 00:37:50,720

have been an elaborate hoax.

487

00:37:53,600 --> 00:37:55,960

But sociologist Dr. Robert Bartholomew

488

00:37:55,960 --> 00:37:57,960

suggests otherwise.

489

00:37:57,960 --> 00:38:01,920

Most people are honest, sincere witnesses.

490

00:38:01,920 --> 00:38:06,520

They are ordinary people reporting extraordinary things.

491

00:38:06,520 --> 00:38:07,800

They're not lying.

492

00:38:07,800 --> 00:38:10,120

They're not hoaxing, and they're very sincere,

493

00:38:10,120 --> 00:38:11,920

and it's very easy to get carried away.

494

00:38:11,920 --> 00:38:17,640

When people see things and they describe later what they saw,

495

00:38:17,640 --> 00:38:19,240

they are reconstructing.

496

00:38:19,240 --> 00:38:21,520

They are not telling you what they saw.

497

00:38:21,520 --> 00:38:24,120

They're telling you what they remember

498

00:38:24,120 --> 00:38:27,640

and how they remember they saw.

499

00:38:27,640 --> 00:38:30,480

That's because the human mind does not take in information

500

00:38:30,480 --> 00:38:32,080

like a videocassette recorder.

501

00:38:32,080 --> 00:38:36,240

It interprets information as it takes it in.

502

00:38:36,240 --> 00:38:38,280

Could Betty and Vicky have witnessed something

503

00:38:38,280 --> 00:38:39,920

that they had never seen before?

504

00:38:39,920 --> 00:38:42,720

Could Betty and Vicky have witnessed something altogether

505

00:38:42,720 --> 00:38:44,920

more down to earth?

506

00:38:44,920 --> 00:38:47,320

Meteorologist Professor Randy Servenny

507

00:38:47,320 --> 00:38:49,720

believes it may have been an optical illusion.

508

00:38:49,720 --> 00:38:52,760

As meteorologist, when I first heard about the cashlandrum

509

00:38:52,760 --> 00:38:55,520

situation, I was thinking of something

510

00:38:55,520 --> 00:38:58,640

along the lines of a superior mirage,

511

00:38:58,640 --> 00:39:03,640

the result of light passing through different densities

512

00:39:03,640 --> 00:39:04,520

of air.

513

00:39:04,520 --> 00:39:08,000

It can, on rare occasions, get focused up into the sky

514

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:10,520

to create what we call a superior mirage,

515

00:39:10,520 --> 00:39:12,800

so that lights near the surface might actually

516

00:39:12,800 --> 00:39:16,240

be projected up in the sky.

517

00:39:16,240 --> 00:39:19,480

What could be the source of such lights?

518

00:39:19,480 --> 00:39:22,520

Within 30 miles of the incident are some of the world's largest

519

00:39:22,520 --> 00:39:25,200

petrochemical plants.

520

00:39:25,200 --> 00:39:27,000

They routinely burn off waste gases

521

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:29,640

in a process known as flaring.

522

00:39:29,640 --> 00:39:33,880

Columns of flames can often reach hundreds of feet in the air.

523

00:39:33,880 --> 00:39:36,160

Could these flames explain the sighting?

524

00:39:36,200 --> 00:39:39,080

The lights from the petrochemical plant

525

00:39:39,080 --> 00:39:42,920

could also be then worked upon by the atmosphere itself,

526

00:39:42,920 --> 00:39:45,440

that if we have cold air near the surface,

527

00:39:45,440 --> 00:39:48,440

that light can actually be bent as it's passing

528

00:39:48,440 --> 00:39:51,960

through the cold air inversion and actually be magnified,

529

00:39:51,960 --> 00:39:54,280

so that to a person at the plant itself,

530

00:39:54,280 --> 00:39:56,440

they may not see anything unusual about the lights.

531

00:39:56,440 --> 00:39:59,040

But to someone many miles away, those lights

532

00:39:59,040 --> 00:40:01,800

could be transformed into a superior mirage that

533

00:40:01,800 --> 00:40:04,600

could be made much bigger than it would actually

534

00:40:04,600 --> 00:40:05,840

be in real life.

535

00:40:05,840 --> 00:40:09,960

I think the idea of having that petrochemical plant nearby

536

00:40:09,960 --> 00:40:13,080

is one of the more plausible explanations for what

537

00:40:13,080 --> 00:40:15,720

these particular lights were.

538

00:40:15,720 --> 00:40:17,800

But how does this explain the physical injury

539

00:40:17,800 --> 00:40:20,760

is that Betty, Vicki, and Colby suffered?

540

00:40:20,760 --> 00:40:23,400

Skeptics have suggested they may have been pre-existing

541

00:40:23,400 --> 00:40:24,960

conditions.

542

00:40:24,960 --> 00:40:28,280

Others suggest that the injuries might have been psychosomatic.

543

00:40:28,280 --> 00:40:31,000

The human mind is very powerful.

544

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:35,760

And it's very well known that with the placebo effect,

545

00:40:35,800 --> 00:40:37,760

if you ingest something that you think

546

00:40:37,760 --> 00:40:40,000

is going to make you feel better,

547

00:40:40,000 --> 00:40:43,320

often you could heal yourself.

548

00:40:43,320 --> 00:40:45,880

It also works in reverse.

549

00:40:45,880 --> 00:40:48,080

So if I give you something and you

550

00:40:48,080 --> 00:40:49,760

think that it's going to make you sick,

551

00:40:49,760 --> 00:40:52,680

then you can actually become physically ill.

552

00:40:52,680 --> 00:40:54,760

If they think they've been exposed to something

553

00:40:54,760 --> 00:40:58,160

that's harmful, can actually have a reaction

554

00:40:58,160 --> 00:41:02,040

with rashes on their body, with headaches,

555

00:41:02,040 --> 00:41:05,320

with even vomiting.

556

00:41:05,360 --> 00:41:08,640

However, Betty's physician remains convinced she suffered

557

00:41:08,640 --> 00:41:12,040

severe psychological and physical injuries.

558

00:41:12,040 --> 00:41:15,800

I think it's just completely true that she had some kind

559

00:41:15,800 --> 00:41:17,320

of radiation exposure.

560

00:41:17,320 --> 00:41:19,920

I think that it's most likely that she had an exposure

561

00:41:19,920 --> 00:41:22,680

to a military experimental vehicle.

562

00:41:25,680 --> 00:41:27,920

Facing crippling medical bills, the women

563

00:41:27,920 --> 00:41:31,120

take the unprecedented step of suing the US government.

564

00:41:32,120 --> 00:41:37,120

But officials deny any knowledge of such a craft.

565

00:41:37,120 --> 00:41:41,120

And their case is thrown out.

566

00:41:41,120 --> 00:41:46,120

Betty died in 1998 and Vicky in 2007.

567

00:41:46,120 --> 00:41:48,120

Both went to their graves convinced they'd

568

00:41:48,120 --> 00:41:51,120

witnessed something extraordinary.

569

00:41:51,120 --> 00:41:54,120

After more than 30 years, many doubt we will ever

570

00:41:54,120 --> 00:41:57,120

know the truth about what happened that night.