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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:15,640

November 26, 2001.

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00:00:15,640 --> 00:00:21,480

The History Channel convened a team of investigators at the National Archives outside Washington,

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00:00:21,480 --> 00:00:28,560

D.C. These experts came here for an exclusive first look at top secret government files,

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00:00:28,560 --> 00:00:34,600

only now being declassified, decades after the United States government began its cover-up

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00:00:34,600 --> 00:00:41,720

of the Roswell incident.

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00:00:41,720 --> 00:00:48,680

Until this day, the public had been denied access to these boxes, containing 17 notebooks

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00:00:48,680 --> 00:00:56,440

of top secret information, hundreds of photographs, transcripts and audio tapes of dozens of witnesses,

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00:00:56,440 --> 00:00:59,880

and 22 films and videos.

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00:00:59,880 --> 00:01:05,720

Inside these boxes, our experts discovered new evidence of a controversy over the handling

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00:01:05,720 --> 00:01:11,360

of the Roswell incident that raged behind the scenes.

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00:01:11,360 --> 00:01:18,320

Through these files, our experts retraced the steps of the government's own investigation.

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00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:23,120

Finally we get to look at the records that were generated by the researchers who were

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00:01:23,120 --> 00:01:25,680

at the center of this story.

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00:01:25,680 --> 00:01:30,880

Among the boxes of files and photographs, researchers were surprised to find a crate

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00:01:30,880 --> 00:01:38,640

containing what government inventories listed only as an unidentified metallic object.

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00:01:38,640 --> 00:01:44,880

Even those who were skeptical of the UFO reports at Roswell hoped that this crate might contain

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00:01:44,880 --> 00:01:49,120

what so many have sought for so long.

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00:01:49,120 --> 00:01:51,400

I hope to see some physical evidence.

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00:01:51,400 --> 00:01:54,440

That's what's always missing.

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00:01:54,440 --> 00:02:00,480

From these newly declassified materials, we hoped to uncover clues that would solve one

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00:02:00,480 --> 00:02:03,840

of the greatest mysteries of the 20th century.

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00:02:03,840 --> 00:02:12,400

What really happened in the desert outside Roswell, New Mexico in the summer of 1947?

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00:02:12,400 --> 00:02:19,160

July 7, a storm swept across the desert outside Roswell.

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00:02:19,160 --> 00:02:24,520

Rancher, Mac Roswell, went out the next day to inspect his fields and fences for storm

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00:02:24,520 --> 00:02:29,760

damage and discovered a small pile of debris.

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00:02:29,760 --> 00:02:35,280

He gathered up a sample and took it home to show his family.

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00:02:35,280 --> 00:02:40,840

Some of it was clearly balsa wood and paper, but the family was mystified by what looked

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00:02:40,840 --> 00:02:46,400

like purple hieroglyphics and an unfamiliar foil-like material that seemed unnaturally

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00:02:46,400 --> 00:02:48,600

resilient.

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00:02:48,600 --> 00:02:53,240

This rancher who retrieved the wreckage initially must have been surprised and shocked by what

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00:02:53,240 --> 00:02:54,240

he found.

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00:02:54,240 --> 00:02:58,640

It simply wasn't like anything else you'd find in the desert at the time.

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00:02:58,640 --> 00:03:04,800

As originally reported back in 1947, Brazil assumed that the debris was associated somehow

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00:03:04,800 --> 00:03:09,680

with operations at nearby Roswell Airfield.

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00:03:09,680 --> 00:03:14,760

Through the local sheriff, he contacted the base and two officers were sent out to retrieve

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00:03:14,760 --> 00:03:18,040

the unidentified materials.

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00:03:18,040 --> 00:03:22,480

And when they brought it back to the base, Colonel Blanchard, who was the commander there,

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00:03:22,480 --> 00:03:27,360

directed that his press guy, Walter Hart, put out a press announcement saying that they

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00:03:27,360 --> 00:03:29,520

had captured a flying saucer.

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00:03:29,520 --> 00:03:37,920

I did that and took it to the local news media and from there it went around literally the

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00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:40,480

world.

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00:03:40,480 --> 00:03:44,120

The public reaction was immediate and overwhelming.

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00:03:44,120 --> 00:03:50,000

The base switchboard was jammed with calls and the story made the front pages of newspapers

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00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:53,040

across the country.

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00:03:53,040 --> 00:04:01,880

Once the media started grabbing it, we telephone calls from morning to night and from night

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00:04:01,880 --> 00:04:02,880

to morning.

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00:04:02,880 --> 00:04:07,400

There was a tremendous amount of active interest, not just amongst the public, but in the government,

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00:04:07,400 --> 00:04:08,400

in the military.

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00:04:08,400 --> 00:04:09,400

They were very concerned.

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00:04:09,400 --> 00:04:12,120

They thought people were seeing something real and it was something that was intruding

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00:04:12,120 --> 00:04:18,040

into our airspace and they had serious concerns about it.

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00:04:18,040 --> 00:04:23,400

Within hours, the material was flown to Fort Worth, Texas for inspection by high-ranking

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00:04:23,400 --> 00:04:27,880

Air Force experts.

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00:04:27,880 --> 00:04:31,480

Brigadier General Roger Ramey examined the debris.

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00:04:31,480 --> 00:04:36,600

Immediately he retracted the original press release, denying that the debris was evidence

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00:04:36,600 --> 00:04:38,440

of a flying saucer.

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00:04:38,440 --> 00:04:43,760

Instead, he said, the foil and balsa wood scraps were remnants of a reflective radar

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00:04:43,760 --> 00:04:48,000

target from a downed weather balloon.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:52,720

And here's where the disagreement over the Roswell incident begins.

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00:04:52,720 --> 00:04:57,920

To some, the misidentification of the debris was a simple mistake.

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00:04:57,920 --> 00:05:03,600

But others weren't buying the Air Force's new and improved story.

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00:05:03,600 --> 00:05:08,920

I think that they were trying to cover up materials that they had picked up that were

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00:05:08,920 --> 00:05:13,320

foreign to anything that we were familiar with.

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00:05:13,320 --> 00:05:18,600

Years later, the authenticity of the debris displayed by Ramey became the subject of heated

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00:05:18,600 --> 00:05:21,760

debate in the UFO community.

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00:05:21,760 --> 00:05:28,040

Was it actually the foil and balsa wood debris MacBrosel had retrieved, or had the government

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00:05:28,040 --> 00:05:33,640

substituted something else as part of a cover-up?

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00:05:33,640 --> 00:05:34,640

Oh, it was definitely a cover-up.

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00:05:34,640 --> 00:05:36,600

There's no fans or butts about it.

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00:05:36,600 --> 00:05:41,680

There was a cover-up about what happened near Roswell in July of 1947, but it had nothing

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00:05:41,680 --> 00:05:47,960

to do with a crash-flying saucer.

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00:05:47,960 --> 00:05:54,080

In 1947, the year of the first sightings at Roswell, the Cold War was just beginning to

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00:05:54,080 --> 00:05:57,480

heat up.

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00:05:57,480 --> 00:06:03,360

The Air Force was concerned that UFO reports might be evidence of a serious threat to national

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00:06:03,360 --> 00:06:09,040

security, either from the Soviet Union or possibly even another planet.

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00:06:09,040 --> 00:06:15,880

So in 1949, they began investigating these sightings in earnest with Project Blue Book.

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00:06:15,880 --> 00:06:22,600

We have also talked to some people who have claimed to have contacted these from outer

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00:06:22,600 --> 00:06:23,600

space.

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00:06:23,960 --> 00:06:30,680

The primary concern of the Air Force was the potential of the Soviet surprise attack.

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00:06:30,680 --> 00:06:39,440

They were concerned about UFOs, particularly in the 1952 period, by the idea that the Soviets

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00:06:39,440 --> 00:06:48,160

could exploit American belief in flying saucers to hide preparations for a strike on the United

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00:06:48,160 --> 00:06:50,840

States.

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00:06:51,200 --> 00:06:55,720

Project Blue Book wasn't the only government investigation into UFOs conducted during the

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00:06:55,720 --> 00:06:57,360

1950s.

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00:06:57,360 --> 00:07:03,160

The CIA did its own research and eventually concluded that there was no actual threat

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00:07:03,160 --> 00:07:04,800

involved.

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00:07:04,800 --> 00:07:11,640

But instead of going public with their findings, the CIA used reports of UFO sightings to deliberately

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00:07:11,640 --> 00:07:15,400

mislead and confuse the American public.

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00:07:15,400 --> 00:07:22,080

All in an effort to protect the agency's most closely guarded secret, the U-2 spy plane.

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00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:29,560

The CIA for many years was testing its own high-altitude planes, spy planes, that they

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00:07:29,560 --> 00:07:33,840

wanted to keep secret from the public and from America's enemies.

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00:07:33,840 --> 00:07:38,560

In the process, they collaborated with the Air Force in misleading the American public

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00:07:38,560 --> 00:07:41,880

about sightings of strange craft.

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00:07:41,880 --> 00:07:47,760

The CIA tried to deflect interest away from their top secret spy planes by encouraging

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00:07:47,760 --> 00:07:51,880

the public to think of them as unidentified flying objects.

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00:07:51,880 --> 00:07:59,520

When public sightings of U-2s were reported, the CIA claimed that they were UFOs, UFOs

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00:07:59,520 --> 00:08:05,000

that they then explained away as optical illusions caused by natural phenomena.

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:11,560

And in many cases, the explanations that came out were just so ludicrous that they

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00:08:11,560 --> 00:08:15,440

perpetuated the myth that the government was lying and covering something up.

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00:08:15,440 --> 00:08:19,120

We are your friends.

101

00:08:19,120 --> 00:08:20,120

We are your friends.

102

00:08:20,120 --> 00:08:25,280

But the CIA had underestimated the public's interest in UFOs.

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00:08:25,280 --> 00:08:31,320

Their disinformation campaign backfired, fueling a firestorm of speculation that the government

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00:08:31,320 --> 00:08:35,960

was hiding evidence of extraterrestrial encounters.

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00:08:35,960 --> 00:08:40,680

Even more people became curious about what was really happening in the skies over the

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00:08:40,680 --> 00:08:43,080

Southwest.

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00:08:43,080 --> 00:08:48,760

Nowhere was that reaction more extreme than in the case of Roswell.

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00:08:48,760 --> 00:08:52,800

The military shot itself in the foot about Roswell by coming forward with this misleading

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00:08:52,800 --> 00:08:57,480

cover story initially and because it was not forthcoming with the public, the public filled

110

00:08:57,480 --> 00:08:58,640

in the blanks on its own.

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00:09:02,320 --> 00:09:08,560

When we return, eyewitnesses come forward with new details of an alien crash landing

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00:09:08,560 --> 00:09:10,000

at Roswell.

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00:09:12,680 --> 00:09:18,200

Today, Roswell, New Mexico is synonymous with the UFO phenomenon.

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00:09:18,200 --> 00:09:24,680

And for the U.S. Air Force, it has become a PR nightmare, breeding suspicion and mistrust

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00:09:24,680 --> 00:09:26,960

among the American public.

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00:09:26,960 --> 00:09:31,840

People believe that the government was withholding actual physical evidence of an alien landing

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00:09:31,840 --> 00:09:34,240

at Roswell.

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00:09:34,240 --> 00:09:39,680

Evidence that UFologists were hoping to find among the government's recently declassified

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00:09:39,680 --> 00:09:43,080

files in the case.

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00:09:43,080 --> 00:09:47,120

But this collection of formerly classified files would never have been generated in the

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00:09:47,120 --> 00:09:52,440

first place, except for an event that occurred in 1978.

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00:09:52,440 --> 00:10:00,440

More than 30 years after the Roswell story first hit the headlines.

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00:10:00,440 --> 00:10:06,560

In 1978, Jesse Marsil, one of the officers who recovered the debris from Mac Brosil's

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00:10:06,560 --> 00:10:15,720

ranch, went public for the first time with a new version of the facts.

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00:10:15,720 --> 00:10:21,480

According to the original 1947 reports, the debris he found was nothing more than a handful

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00:10:21,480 --> 00:10:24,560

of balsa wood, plastic and foil.

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00:10:24,560 --> 00:10:29,640

But in Marsil's new version of the story, he claimed that the debris blanketed an area

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00:10:29,640 --> 00:10:34,400

three quarters of a mile long and several hundred feet wide.

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00:10:34,400 --> 00:10:40,120

In this updated account, Marsil contradicted the Air Force explanation that the debris was

130

00:10:40,120 --> 00:10:42,400

from a downed weather balloon.

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00:10:42,400 --> 00:10:49,080

Instead, he speculated that it could have been evidence of an alien crash landing.

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00:10:50,080 --> 00:10:57,240

UFO researchers immediately caught wind of the story and began to dig deeper.

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00:10:57,240 --> 00:11:02,600

They descended on the town of Roswell and the nearby airfield, tracking down many of

134

00:11:02,600 --> 00:11:06,280

the principals and their friends and relatives.

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00:11:06,280 --> 00:11:10,280

A new picture began to emerge.

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00:11:10,280 --> 00:11:15,280

In the updated accounts, the two officers from Roswell airfield who went out to retrieve

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00:11:15,280 --> 00:11:20,600

the debris were now joined by a platoon of soldiers who set up a blockade and combed

138

00:11:20,600 --> 00:11:26,440

the fields, picking up vast amounts of debris that were trucked to Roswell airfield and

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00:11:26,440 --> 00:11:30,680

kept under the tightest possible security.

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00:11:30,680 --> 00:11:35,920

According to these news stories, massive amounts of debris were airlifted via several

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00:11:35,920 --> 00:11:41,160

large military transports to a secret location.

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00:11:41,160 --> 00:11:46,880

As UFO researchers continued to dig, new witnesses came forward volunteering details

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00:11:46,880 --> 00:11:48,880

of a second crash site.

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00:11:48,880 --> 00:11:55,360

Among them, Gerald Anderson, who was five years old at the time.

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00:11:55,360 --> 00:12:01,200

Anderson told a fantastic tale of a discovery he made with his father and uncle while searching

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00:12:01,200 --> 00:12:10,440

for rocks in the desert outside Socorro, New Mexico, about 200 miles from Roswell.

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00:12:10,440 --> 00:12:15,720

In this videotape, discovered among the newly declassified materials and seen here on television

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00:12:15,720 --> 00:12:21,960

for the first time, Anderson repeated his story to government investigators in 1991.

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00:12:21,960 --> 00:12:31,080

There was a large silver disc-shaped object embedded in the side of the ridge line.

150

00:12:31,080 --> 00:12:37,320

I would estimate in size from an adult perspective to be something like 35 feet in diameter.

151

00:12:37,320 --> 00:12:46,480

When we got up to it, there were four bodies there.

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00:12:46,480 --> 00:12:52,680

In Anderson's fantastic story, there were four aliens at the crash site, two dead, one

153

00:12:52,680 --> 00:12:56,000

severely injured, one ambulatory.

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00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:02,080

He described the aliens as diminutive in size, not more than four feet tall, with large heads

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00:13:02,080 --> 00:13:04,240

and long thin limbs.

156

00:13:04,240 --> 00:13:09,240

He remembered their faces as strangely featureless.

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00:13:09,240 --> 00:13:15,880

Then came an even more stunning revelation, this time from a man named Glenn Dennis.

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00:13:15,880 --> 00:13:22,520

In 1947, Dennis was a mortician at the Ballard Funeral Home in Roswell.

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00:13:22,520 --> 00:13:27,400

He recalled driving an injured airman to the hospital at Roswell Airfield shortly after

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00:13:27,400 --> 00:13:32,840

the initial discovery of debris on Brosels Ranch.

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00:13:32,840 --> 00:13:37,840

In the hospital, Dennis claimed to have encountered a friend of his, an Air Force nurse by the

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00:13:37,840 --> 00:13:41,920

name of Naomi Maria Self.

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00:13:41,920 --> 00:13:46,400

Well she screamed at me, Glenn get out as fast as you can because she says you're going

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00:13:46,400 --> 00:13:50,600

to get in a lot of trouble, get out as fast as you can.

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00:13:50,600 --> 00:13:55,600

Dennis claimed that he was then confronted by a redheaded Air Force captain and a black

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00:13:55,600 --> 00:14:00,680

sergeant who threatened him and then escorted him off the base.

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00:14:00,680 --> 00:14:06,080

I said get this SOB out of here and then I got my hands started, told him go to hell

168

00:14:06,080 --> 00:14:09,360

I was surveilling and all this.

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00:14:09,360 --> 00:14:14,480

According to Dennis, he arranged to meet the nurse again the next day.

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00:14:14,480 --> 00:14:19,520

In this second encounter, she gave him a graphic and disturbing account of the events that

171

00:14:19,520 --> 00:14:23,360

had driven her to hysterics.

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00:14:23,360 --> 00:14:28,080

She said that she had been called into the operating room by doctors who were conducting

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00:14:28,080 --> 00:14:38,800

autopsies on bodies like none she had ever seen before.

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00:14:38,800 --> 00:14:43,520

Still had tincture to your offices for the nostrils air and the mouth was only like one

175

00:14:43,520 --> 00:14:48,680

inch, no teeth, no tongue.

176

00:14:48,680 --> 00:14:54,200

As the nurse described it, the bodies were burned and mutilated, clearly crash victims

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00:14:54,320 --> 00:15:01,080

and they gave off an overpowering odor that eventually forced doctors to abandon the autopsies.

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00:15:01,080 --> 00:15:03,440

She was evidently very traumatized.

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00:15:03,440 --> 00:15:11,320

She drew a little picture apparently of the body that she had seen and immediately destroyed

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00:15:11,320 --> 00:15:15,320

it and kept looking over her shoulders as if people were listening, which they might

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00:15:15,320 --> 00:15:16,680

have been.

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00:15:16,680 --> 00:15:19,760

And then he tried to get back in touch with her soon after that and she was gone, shipped

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00:15:19,760 --> 00:15:24,920

out.

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00:15:24,920 --> 00:15:29,680

These new eyewitness accounts about the events at Roswell fired the public imagination as

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00:15:29,680 --> 00:15:31,840

never before.

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00:15:31,840 --> 00:15:39,960

Books, movies and television programs about the Roswell case fanned the flames.

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00:15:39,960 --> 00:15:45,200

The Air Force was inundated with questions about the events at Roswell.

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00:15:45,200 --> 00:15:52,680

As the myth grew, they began to be driven nuts by requests for this kind of information,

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00:15:52,680 --> 00:15:54,400

that kind of information.

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00:15:54,400 --> 00:15:59,680

They wanted desperately to get this all behind them.

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00:15:59,680 --> 00:16:04,840

The sheer volume of files recently declassified in the Roswell case is a testament to the

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00:16:04,840 --> 00:16:10,960

government's high level of concern.

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00:16:10,960 --> 00:16:17,240

As our story continues, the public outcry about UFO sightings at Roswell forces the

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00:16:17,240 --> 00:16:28,440

government to reveal top secret projects that were kept hidden for more than 50 years.

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00:16:28,440 --> 00:16:33,760

As investigators combed through the recently declassified materials in the Roswell case,

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00:16:33,760 --> 00:16:40,200

they discovered logbooks filled with detailed launch records, records of a top secret project

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00:16:40,200 --> 00:16:44,240

being carried out in 1947.

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00:16:44,240 --> 00:16:49,000

These logs provide first hand evidence of a project that the government kept under wraps

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00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:58,080

for almost 50 years, until this report on the Roswell incident was published in 1995.

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00:16:58,080 --> 00:17:03,040

In this report, the Air Force revealed the project for the first time, admitting that

201

00:17:03,040 --> 00:17:09,120

the weather balloon story was indeed a cover up.

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00:17:09,520 --> 00:17:15,200

According to this 1995 government report, the debris did include remnants of radar targets

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00:17:15,200 --> 00:17:20,840

and balloon fabric, but not from an ordinary weather balloon.

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00:17:20,840 --> 00:17:25,160

It turns out that what this debris was from was from a highly classified project called

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00:17:25,160 --> 00:17:29,120

Mogul.

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00:17:29,120 --> 00:17:34,680

Project Mogul was this top secret experiment, an attempt to monitor Soviet nuclear tests

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00:17:34,680 --> 00:17:41,800

with microphones, listening devices hoisted high into the air by balloons.

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00:17:41,800 --> 00:17:47,360

Formerly classified government films show that, unlike smaller weather balloons, Project

209

00:17:47,360 --> 00:17:52,800

Mogul involved several large balloons strung together, forming a long train that, once

210

00:17:52,800 --> 00:17:57,040

in flight, could stretch up to 650 feet.

211

00:17:57,040 --> 00:18:03,680

The Mogul balloon was as tall as the Washington Monument.

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00:18:03,680 --> 00:18:07,160

It was 20-some rubber weather balloons.

213

00:18:07,160 --> 00:18:10,520

You had three to five of the radar reflectors.

214

00:18:10,520 --> 00:18:12,280

You had ballast canisters.

215

00:18:12,280 --> 00:18:16,960

You had the sonoboy for detecting signals.

216

00:18:16,960 --> 00:18:23,520

So this was the biggest man-made object in New Mexico at the time.

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00:18:23,520 --> 00:18:28,680

According to the government's original report, what Mac Brazzel found on his land was actually

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00:18:28,680 --> 00:18:35,680

the remnants of one of these Project Mogul balloons.

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00:18:35,680 --> 00:18:41,400

Deep inside a vault at the National Archives, this mysterious wooden crate was stored among

220

00:18:41,400 --> 00:18:45,720

the recently declassified files.

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00:18:45,720 --> 00:18:58,040

Does it hold evidence of Project Mogul or proof of an alien crash landing at Roswell?

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00:18:58,040 --> 00:19:03,960

We can now see for ourselves the balsa and paper construction and the shiny foil-like

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00:19:03,960 --> 00:19:19,040

material that mystified so many eyewitnesses when General Ramey first displayed it in 1947.

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00:19:19,040 --> 00:19:24,760

Most investigators, even those who believe that we have been visited by UFOs, are now

225

00:19:24,840 --> 00:19:30,720

convinced that a Project Mogul radar target like this one is at the heart of the Roswell

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00:19:30,720 --> 00:19:33,640

mystery.

227

00:19:33,640 --> 00:19:38,800

When you read and listen to the descriptions by the witnesses, the people who actually saw

228

00:19:38,800 --> 00:19:44,200

this material, the people who actually handled this material, the parallels between what

229

00:19:44,200 --> 00:19:51,600

they describe and what we know as being flown on Project Mogul are effectively one for one.

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00:19:51,600 --> 00:19:55,760

Investigators, however, still doubt that the Air Force has revealed everything they know

231

00:19:55,760 --> 00:19:58,680

about the case.

232

00:19:58,680 --> 00:20:00,280

They put together this report as well.

233

00:20:00,280 --> 00:20:03,760

We found out it was this Project Mogul balloon and Mogul was highly classified and that's

234

00:20:03,760 --> 00:20:04,760

the end of the story.

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00:20:04,760 --> 00:20:08,280

But it really isn't the end of the story because they didn't deal with all of the facts.

236

00:20:08,280 --> 00:20:12,400

They dealt only with the facts that they thought were consistent with their theory of Project

237

00:20:12,400 --> 00:20:13,760

Mogul.

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00:20:13,760 --> 00:20:19,720

By revealing the details of Project Mogul in their 1995 report, the Air Force had hoped

239

00:20:19,840 --> 00:20:23,840

to close the book on the Roswell case.

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00:20:23,840 --> 00:20:29,360

Instead, they raised even more questions about what really happened in the desert outside

241

00:20:29,360 --> 00:20:36,200

Roswell, New Mexico, in the summer of 1947 and what other secrets the government might

242

00:20:36,200 --> 00:20:38,400

still be hiding.

243

00:20:38,400 --> 00:20:39,880

Where was the debris?

244

00:20:39,880 --> 00:20:44,760

Where were the alien bodies described by so many eyewitnesses?

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00:20:44,760 --> 00:20:49,520

So the Air Force decided to prepare a second report, more detailed, more expansive, addressing

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00:20:49,520 --> 00:20:54,800

more of the strange and fantastic stories that surround Roswell.

247

00:20:54,800 --> 00:21:00,800

The second government report was a bonanza for both UFO investigators and national security

248

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:05,600

specialists.

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00:21:05,600 --> 00:21:11,840

To explain the eyewitness accounts at Roswell, the US Air Force was forced to release information

250

00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:17,560

and film footage on a wide range of top secret government projects.

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00:21:17,560 --> 00:21:23,120

These files contain the nuts and bolts information about secret Air Force projects that span

252

00:21:23,120 --> 00:21:24,920

decades.

253

00:21:24,920 --> 00:21:31,920

We have the day-to-day details of top secret balloon flights, of all manner of experimental

254

00:21:31,920 --> 00:21:36,920

craft that were tested in secret in the desert.

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00:21:37,280 --> 00:21:44,280

The bulk of the second Air Force report was devoted to Operation High Dive, a top secret

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00:21:47,840 --> 00:21:52,760

project carried out during the 1950s.

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00:21:52,760 --> 00:21:57,480

Operation High Dive was designed to test high altitude parachutes, using anthropomorphic

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00:21:57,480 --> 00:22:01,880

dummies.

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00:22:01,880 --> 00:22:08,240

The government claimed that these dummies could easily be mistaken for aliens.

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00:22:08,240 --> 00:22:13,080

They pointed out the close resemblance between eyewitness descriptions of aliens and the

261

00:22:13,080 --> 00:22:20,080

dummies, the strange lifeless expressions, the lack of prominent facial features, shiny,

262

00:22:20,520 --> 00:22:25,000

pallid skin, and the one-piece jumpsuits.

263

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:30,440

Of course these dummies, well they're human-like, that's just exactly it, they're human-like,

264

00:22:30,480 --> 00:22:33,640

they're not quite human, they're very peculiar looking in some regard.

265

00:22:33,640 --> 00:22:38,240

I think that these dummies, while they resemble a human form, also look unearthly.

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00:22:38,240 --> 00:22:42,600

Naturally, if you'd have seen one of these dummies coming down in the desert on a parachute

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00:22:42,600 --> 00:22:47,480

or otherwise, and if you're a civilian who's heard some stories about strange aircraft

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00:22:47,480 --> 00:22:51,120

and aliens and the like, you might draw the conclusion that aliens had landed in your

269

00:22:51,120 --> 00:22:52,720

desert.

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00:22:52,720 --> 00:22:58,120

In addition to Operation High Dive, the second Air Force report revealed other top secret

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00:22:58,200 --> 00:23:04,200

high-altitude experiments carried out during the 40s, 50s and 60s.

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00:23:05,880 --> 00:23:11,200

In these experiments, massive balloon trains carried scientific payloads weighing up to

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00:23:11,200 --> 00:23:18,200

15,000 pounds, to altitudes as high as 170,000 feet, more than 32 miles above the Earth's

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00:23:19,800 --> 00:23:24,080

surface.

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00:23:24,080 --> 00:23:29,760

As shown in these recently declassified films, high-altitude balloons were also used to test

276

00:23:29,760 --> 00:23:34,640

atmosphere re-entry prototypes built by NASA.

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00:23:34,640 --> 00:23:41,280

Some of these prototypes were capable of self-propulsion and guided landings, and even today, many of

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00:23:41,280 --> 00:23:45,480

these prototypes seem otherworldly in origin.

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00:23:45,480 --> 00:23:50,720

In the 1940s and even into the 1950s, most people knew about airplanes from newsreels

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00:23:50,760 --> 00:23:54,200

of movie stars getting onto DC-3s.

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00:23:54,200 --> 00:24:01,120

They had a very clear idea of how big an airplane was, that it had big wings, that it had propellers,

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00:24:01,120 --> 00:24:05,320

and that was their frame of reference for what an aircraft a flying machine should look

283

00:24:05,320 --> 00:24:07,040

like.

284

00:24:07,040 --> 00:24:11,640

Something round was truly out of this world.

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00:24:11,640 --> 00:24:15,600

A balloon floating at 100,000 feet, it's a huge object.

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00:24:15,960 --> 00:24:18,400

It's potentially several hundred feet in diameter.

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00:24:18,400 --> 00:24:23,960

The balloons can also seem to hover, and then if they're caught by a high-altitude jet

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00:24:23,960 --> 00:24:28,680

stream, suddenly take off at 100 or more miles an hour.

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00:24:28,680 --> 00:24:35,680

So you had a very exotic-looking object which was disc-shaped, behaving in a manner that

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00:24:35,680 --> 00:24:38,840

a conventional airplane couldn't.

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00:24:38,840 --> 00:24:43,040

So of course they will be reported as flying saucers.

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00:24:43,040 --> 00:24:47,720

The Air Force's second report offered some plausible explanations for many of the more

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00:24:47,720 --> 00:24:52,040

outrageous elements of eyewitness accounts at Roswell.

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00:24:52,040 --> 00:24:57,680

But was it really a complete accounting of the government's top secret activities?

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00:24:57,680 --> 00:25:01,680

Were they still hiding evidence that could shed light on the case?

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00:25:04,680 --> 00:25:10,840

Coming up next, independent investigators revealed new evidence of top secret projects

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00:25:10,840 --> 00:25:16,400

that may explain some of the most dramatic claims of eyewitnesses.

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00:25:20,400 --> 00:25:26,480

In the weeks after the US government's files on the infamous Roswell incident were declassified,

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00:25:26,480 --> 00:25:35,600

the history channels experts examined the contents of the 11 boxes of files, films, and photographs.

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00:25:35,600 --> 00:25:40,800

They were looking for evidence that might help explain the many fantastic claims made

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00:25:40,800 --> 00:25:47,280

about alien crash landings at Roswell in the summer of 1947.

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00:25:47,280 --> 00:25:55,080

Claims not fully accounted for in either of the Air Force's two official reports.

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00:25:55,080 --> 00:26:01,480

But in the search for answers, our investigators were surprised to discover new mysteries.

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00:26:01,480 --> 00:26:05,440

There are a few items in these files that are hard to explain.

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00:26:05,440 --> 00:26:10,880

There is for example a lengthy court-martial record dating from the 1950s.

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00:26:10,880 --> 00:26:18,320

These 300 pages of court transcripts told the sordid details of an affair between a doctor and a nurse,

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00:26:18,320 --> 00:26:22,200

assigned to the Roswell Airfield Hospital.

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00:26:22,200 --> 00:26:30,200

In the court transcript, the nurse was described as having a highly suggestible hysterical personality.

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00:26:30,200 --> 00:26:33,840

Could this be the nurse that Glenn Dennis claimed to have encountered,

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00:26:33,840 --> 00:26:38,640

who described alien autopsies at the hospital in Roswell?

311

00:26:38,640 --> 00:26:42,480

Elements of the two stories seem to match.

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00:26:42,480 --> 00:26:45,720

But there is one overriding discrepancy.

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00:26:45,720 --> 00:26:53,600

The trial happened in 1956, almost nine years after Dennis claimed to have had his encounter.

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00:26:53,600 --> 00:26:58,440

The identity of this nurse is one of the most persistent mysteries in the Roswell case,

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00:26:58,440 --> 00:27:02,960

stumping both government and independent UFO investigators.

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00:27:02,960 --> 00:27:10,840

Personnel records showed that no nurse by the name of Naomi Maria Self had ever been assigned to a hospital in Roswell.

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00:27:10,840 --> 00:27:15,360

Not in 1947 or at any other time.

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00:27:15,360 --> 00:27:21,960

In its 1998 report, the Air Force speculated that Glenn Dennis had been lying or mistaken

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00:27:21,960 --> 00:27:25,360

about the year he encountered the mysterious nurse,

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00:27:25,400 --> 00:27:30,000

claiming that many details of Dennis' story could be explained by accidents

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00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:36,440

that occurred as part of regular flight activities much later in the 1950s.

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00:27:36,440 --> 00:27:43,200

There was a crash of a KC-97 tanker taking off from the air base there at Roswell.

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00:27:43,200 --> 00:27:46,120

And all the crew were killed and burned very, very badly.

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00:27:46,120 --> 00:27:49,760

And a number of the bodies were brought to the base hospital at Roswell.

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00:27:49,760 --> 00:27:53,960

And the descriptions of those bodies and what transpired when they were brought there

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00:27:53,960 --> 00:27:58,880

matches very closely with the story that Glenn Dennis told about the alien bodies allegedly

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00:27:58,880 --> 00:28:01,800

that being brought in about nine years before.

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00:28:01,800 --> 00:28:07,320

The bodies were later taken to the Ballard Funeral Home where Glenn Dennis had worked.

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00:28:07,320 --> 00:28:14,720

Air Force investigators theorized that Dennis drew on this experience to develop his story of alien bodies.

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00:28:14,720 --> 00:28:20,680

Supposedly, as told to him by the elusive nurse, Naomi Maria Self.

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00:28:21,680 --> 00:28:27,680

According to the Air Force, other details of Dennis' story could be explained by a second accident

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00:28:27,680 --> 00:28:32,680

involving one of the Air Force's first manned high altitude balloon experiments.

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00:28:32,680 --> 00:28:38,680

Project Excelsior, which was carried out in the late 50s and early 60s.

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00:28:38,680 --> 00:28:45,680

As shown in these recently declassified films, Project Excelsior was designed to test the effects

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00:28:46,680 --> 00:28:51,680

of high altitude parachuting on human subjects.

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00:28:53,680 --> 00:28:59,680

Excelsior test pilots were taken to the very edge of space in open gondolas

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00:28:59,680 --> 00:29:03,680

where they parachuted to Earth from 100,000 feet up.

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00:29:03,680 --> 00:29:10,680

Led by a red-headed pilot, Captain Joe Kittenger, Excelsior was considered a high-risk assignment

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00:29:10,680 --> 00:29:14,680

in which even low-level training flights could be hazardous.

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00:29:14,680 --> 00:29:21,680

As yet another pilot, Captain Dan Folgem discovered on May 21, 1959.

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00:29:22,680 --> 00:29:27,680

His flight that day was uneventful, but the landing did not go as planned.

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00:29:27,680 --> 00:29:32,680

The gondola tipped over, trapping Folgem's head against the ground.

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00:29:33,680 --> 00:29:38,680

The red-headed Captain Kittenger accompanied Folgem to the hospital at Roswell.

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00:29:39,680 --> 00:29:44,680

By the time they arrived there, Folgem's head had swelled up to twice its normal size.

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00:29:45,680 --> 00:29:51,680

At the hospital, the size of Folgem's head was exaggerated even more by a thick layer of bandages.

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00:29:52,680 --> 00:29:56,680

His face was black and blue and his eyes swollen shut.

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00:29:57,680 --> 00:30:04,680

Aspects of this event and the accident involving the crash of the KC-97 bear a striking resemblance

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00:30:04,680 --> 00:30:07,680

to the details of Glenn Dennis's story.

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00:30:08,680 --> 00:30:15,680

And the later time period of these events could explain some of the glaring anachronisms in

Dennis's story,

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00:30:15,680 --> 00:30:21,680

including his allegations that the red-headed Captain who threatened him was accompanied by a black sergeant.

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00:30:23,680 --> 00:30:28,680

In July 1947, the Army Air Forces was not integrated.

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00:30:28,680 --> 00:30:31,680

Like the rest of American society was segregated.

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00:30:31,680 --> 00:30:33,680

There were separate black units.

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00:30:33,680 --> 00:30:41,680

It was incomprehensible that a white officer would have a black sergeant.

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00:30:43,680 --> 00:30:50,680

It becomes reasonable if what we are seeing is a description of an event which occurred later

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00:30:50,680 --> 00:30:56,680

after the then Air Force had become integrated.

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00:30:57,680 --> 00:31:04,680

Even UFO believer Kevin Randall concedes that Dennis's accounts have been largely discredited,

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00:31:04,680 --> 00:31:10,680

citing his own exhaustive search for the mysterious Naomi Maria Self.

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00:31:11,680 --> 00:31:13,680

Glenn Dennis tells us the name of the nurse.

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00:31:14,680 --> 00:31:16,680

So we've got to find the nurse.

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00:31:16,680 --> 00:31:17,680

We're going through the record.

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00:31:17,680 --> 00:31:18,680

Well, she's not in the yearbook.

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00:31:18,680 --> 00:31:20,680

She's not in the base telephone directory.

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00:31:20,680 --> 00:31:23,680

I went through the Froswordator record for the year of 1947.

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00:31:23,680 --> 00:31:24,680

Couldn't find her mentioned.

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00:31:24,680 --> 00:31:26,680

We went through the morning reports.

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00:31:26,680 --> 00:31:27,680

We looked everywhere.

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00:31:27,680 --> 00:31:31,680

We could find no record of a nurse with her name anywhere.

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00:31:31,680 --> 00:31:34,680

And when Glenn Dennis was confronted with this, he said,

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00:31:34,680 --> 00:31:36,680

well, I never told you guys the right name.

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00:31:36,680 --> 00:31:39,680

So immediately his story falls to pieces.

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00:31:41,680 --> 00:31:47,680

Despite the holes in Dennis's story, some UFO researchers still don't buy the government's explanations

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00:31:47,680 --> 00:31:50,680

for his and other eyewitness claims.

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00:31:50,680 --> 00:31:54,680

The crash test dummy thing was preposterous for one thing.

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00:31:54,680 --> 00:31:58,680

If you've seen the one that's at the UFO museum, it's six feet tall.

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00:31:58,680 --> 00:32:00,680

I don't see anybody can make a mistake like that.

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00:32:00,680 --> 00:32:02,680

You know, people that were at the crash site, you know,

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00:32:02,680 --> 00:32:05,680

and said that the bodies were diminutive.

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00:32:06,680 --> 00:32:09,680

I don't see anybody could make a mistake of that kind.

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00:32:09,680 --> 00:32:13,680

There are many UFO researchers who are not persuaded by these Air Force reports.

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00:32:13,680 --> 00:32:17,680

These researchers remain convinced that we're not getting the whole story.

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00:32:17,680 --> 00:32:20,680

And they have a sound basis for that speculation,

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00:32:20,680 --> 00:32:25,680

given that the government has not told the full truth about UFOs for many decades.

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00:32:26,680 --> 00:32:30,680

But now the government's own files have been declassified,

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00:32:30,680 --> 00:32:37,680

and it's possible to conduct a firsthand analysis of the original historical documents from the period.

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00:32:39,680 --> 00:32:44,680

Popular mechanics, science editor and aerospace historian Jim Wilson

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00:32:44,680 --> 00:32:47,680

has carefully examined these primary sources,

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00:32:47,680 --> 00:32:53,680

documents that represent the cold hard facts of the day-to-day events at Roswell,

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00:32:54,680 --> 00:32:59,680

looking for evidence of the massive recovery effort of an alien spacecraft

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00:32:59,680 --> 00:33:02,680

or the tell-tale signs of a cover-up.

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00:33:05,680 --> 00:33:08,680

And this is where the records, the declassified records are very useful.

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00:33:08,680 --> 00:33:10,680

Let me give you an example.

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00:33:10,680 --> 00:33:13,680

If you live in a town where there had once been a great mill fire, for example,

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00:33:13,680 --> 00:33:18,680

and it was a local legend, you could go to the records of, say, the fire company

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00:33:18,680 --> 00:33:21,680

on that particular day, or the police department.

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00:33:21,680 --> 00:33:24,680

And you could see noted in the logbooks and the police blotters,

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00:33:24,680 --> 00:33:28,680

so many additional police crawled in, so many police dispatched.

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00:33:28,680 --> 00:33:34,680

When you look at the Officer Day reports for what was happening at the Roswell Army airfield,

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00:33:34,680 --> 00:33:37,680

you see no disruption in normal activity.

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00:33:38,680 --> 00:33:44,680

As pedestrian as they may seem, these detailed and seemingly authentic logbooks

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00:33:44,680 --> 00:33:48,680

may be the most important piece of evidence in these boxes.

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00:33:48,680 --> 00:33:54,680

They provide the simplest but most eloquent argument in support of the government's case,

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00:33:54,680 --> 00:34:00,680

undermining many of the most fantastic claims about alien crash landings at Roswell.

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00:34:01,680 --> 00:34:08,680

But UFO investigators claim that there is still much to be learned about what really happened at Roswell,

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00:34:08,680 --> 00:34:12,680

as our story of the government's cover-up continues.

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00:34:17,680 --> 00:34:23,680

In its 1998 report, the Air Force cited a number of top secret government projects

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00:34:23,680 --> 00:34:27,680

as possible explanations for UFO sightings at Roswell,

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00:34:27,680 --> 00:34:30,680

hoping to close the book on the case.

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00:34:32,680 --> 00:34:39,680

The Air Force report Roswell case closed is probably a premature use of that term.

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00:34:39,680 --> 00:34:44,680

It certainly doesn't close the case on all of the UFO sightings.

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00:34:44,680 --> 00:34:48,680

And as we found out in doing our own stories, there were many projects

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00:34:48,680 --> 00:34:53,680

that were involved with the UFO phenomenon that the story doesn't even vaguely address.

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00:34:54,680 --> 00:34:58,680

Among these files and other recently declassified materials,

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00:34:58,680 --> 00:35:04,680

our experts have found extensive evidence of other top secret government projects.

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00:35:05,680 --> 00:35:13,680

These projects may help explain some of the strange stories told by eyewitnesses to UFO crash landings.

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00:35:14,680 --> 00:35:20,680

A case in point. In its 1998 report, the Air Force makes only one brief mention

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00:35:20,680 --> 00:35:26,680

of space biology experiments associated with the testing of high-altitude balloons.

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00:35:27,680 --> 00:35:33,680

But a thorough examination of the government's files reveals that experiments with live animals

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00:35:33,680 --> 00:35:37,680

were an integral part of many flight test programs.

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00:35:37,680 --> 00:35:42,680

These experiments on space biology began with animals, mice, monkeys,

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00:35:42,680 --> 00:35:45,680

other creatures were jettisoned up into the sky.

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00:35:45,680 --> 00:35:51,680

These experiments were documented by films that show the effects on animal subjects,

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00:35:51,680 --> 00:35:55,680

effects of cosmic radiation, changes in gravity forces,

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00:35:55,680 --> 00:36:00,680

and the unthinkable trauma caused by a high-speed return to Earth.

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00:36:00,680 --> 00:36:05,680

This was very risky business because what was the reason for the fact

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00:36:05,680 --> 00:36:12,680

that these animals met their deaths in the desert as a result of their participation in these experiments.

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00:36:12,680 --> 00:36:17,680

Details of the space biology program raised new questions.

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00:36:17,680 --> 00:36:25,680

Could the alien survivors spotted by eyewitnesses actually have been primates used in space biology experiments?

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00:36:26,680 --> 00:36:29,680

Just imagine being a civilian traveling through the desert

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00:36:29,680 --> 00:36:36,680

and coming upon a crashed ship of some kind with dead animals inside it, or monkeys in space suits.

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00:36:36,680 --> 00:36:38,680

What would you think?

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00:36:39,680 --> 00:36:45,680

Aerospace historian Jim Wilson has found evidence of several other top-secret projects

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00:36:45,680 --> 00:36:49,680

also never revealed in the Air Force reports.

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00:36:49,680 --> 00:36:56,680

These include a covert project in which the Air Force designed a 40-foot-thick,

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00:36:56,680 --> 00:37:03,680

flying saucer, a craft with the potential to rain nuclear destruction on the Soviet Union.

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00:37:03,680 --> 00:37:10,680

Manned by a crew of four and nuclear-powered, the lenticular reentry vehicle was designed to be carried aloft via rocket

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00:37:10,680 --> 00:37:17,680

and maintain an orbit 300 miles above the Earth's surface.

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00:37:17,680 --> 00:37:24,680

We believe that a large number of the UFO sites are located in the air.

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00:37:24,680 --> 00:37:29,680

A large number of the UFO sightings that happened in the 50s and through the 60s

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00:37:29,680 --> 00:37:33,680

may have been involved with this type of technology.

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00:37:33,680 --> 00:37:39,680

And this type of technology may also, for example, explain those cases where people show up with radiation burns

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00:37:39,680 --> 00:37:43,680

after seeing unusual things in the sky.

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00:37:44,680 --> 00:37:52,680

Jim Wilson and other prominent members of the scientific community now believe that projects like Project Mogul,

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00:37:52,680 --> 00:38:04,680

Operation High Dive, Project Excelsior, and the lenticular reentry vehicle are just the tip of the iceberg.

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00:38:04,680 --> 00:38:10,680

They predict the government still has much more to reveal about other top-secret projects

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00:38:10,680 --> 00:38:18,680

carried out in the skies above the New Mexico Desert beginning in the 1940s.

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00:38:18,680 --> 00:38:25,680

So while the government may still be involved in a cover-up, it's a cover-up that has nothing to do with aliens

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00:38:25,680 --> 00:38:29,680

and much to do with military secrecy.

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00:38:29,680 --> 00:38:35,680

Despite the continuing controversy about the government's role in the Roswell case,

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00:38:35,680 --> 00:38:38,680

more and more experts do agree on one thing.

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00:38:38,680 --> 00:38:46,680

But the evidence to prove an alien presence at Roswell probably does not exist.

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00:38:46,680 --> 00:38:53,680

If a saucer had crashed at Roswell, you would have seen evidence in national security policy of an effort to do something about it.

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00:38:53,680 --> 00:38:55,680

You would have seen the development of countermeasures.

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00:38:55,680 --> 00:38:58,680

You would have seen the development of detection devices.

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00:38:58,680 --> 00:39:04,680

And there would have been a whole focus on the problem of the possibility of alien invasion from another planet.

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00:39:04,680 --> 00:39:05,680

You didn't see it.

457

00:39:05,680 --> 00:39:12,680

You saw all kinds of reactions in terms of billions of dollars and all sorts of people to Earthly threats

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00:39:12,680 --> 00:39:17,680

and not a thing to do with anything possibly from another planet.

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00:39:17,680 --> 00:39:27,680

After years of research, two massive government reports and the testimony of hundreds of witnesses all documented in these 11 boxes,

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00:39:27,680 --> 00:39:35,680

there is still no tangible evidence of an alien crash landing at Roswell.

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00:39:35,680 --> 00:39:42,680

But that lack of concrete evidence may never convince the UFO true believers.

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00:39:42,680 --> 00:39:51,680

The fundamental problem that the government has always had with the Roswell incident is that it has to prove a negative.

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00:39:51,680 --> 00:39:57,680

It has to prove it doesn't have a flying saucer.

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00:39:57,680 --> 00:40:00,680

And how do you prove you don't have something?

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00:40:00,680 --> 00:40:03,680

You cannot disprove something.

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00:40:03,680 --> 00:40:12,680

Particularly when belief in the existence of the Roswell crash is so attractive.

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00:40:12,680 --> 00:40:16,680

Hundreds of thousands of people visit Roswell each year.

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00:40:16,680 --> 00:40:21,680

Glenn Dennis and Walter Hott, two of the principals in the Roswell story,

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00:40:21,680 --> 00:40:29,680

are now co-owners of the UFO International Research Center, one of the town's biggest tourist

attractions.

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00:40:29,680 --> 00:40:34,680

And Roswell itself has been transformed by public interest in UFOs.

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00:40:34,680 --> 00:40:42,680

What was once a sleepy farming community is now a thriving city of 50,000.

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00:40:42,680 --> 00:40:48,680

Roswell is like a circus. If you go to the circus or if you go to a side show, it's fun.

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00:40:48,680 --> 00:40:52,680

But if you believe it, then you've made a big mistake.

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00:40:52,680 --> 00:40:56,680

So it's kind of like wink, wink, this is fun. Wouldn't it be great if it was real?

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00:40:56,680 --> 00:41:01,680

But unfortunately there are a lot of people who are saying not wink, wink, but they're saying this is real.

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00:41:01,680 --> 00:41:09,680

And we really did have alien beings from another planet crash year back in 1947.

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00:41:09,680 --> 00:41:13,680

Regardless of what experts and investigators now say about Roswell,

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00:41:13,680 --> 00:41:18,680

more than 50 years after Mac Brazell found that pile of debris in the desert,

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00:41:18,680 --> 00:41:23,680

public interest in the case continues to grow.

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00:41:23,680 --> 00:41:28,680

I can't imagine that Roswell will be a case closed for the UFO community,

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00:41:28,680 --> 00:41:33,680

not after this Air Force report, not after any government report.

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00:41:33,680 --> 00:41:36,680

More than 50 years after the first sightings,

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00:41:36,680 --> 00:41:42,680

one quarter of all inquiries received by the Air Force Public Information Office

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00:41:42,680 --> 00:41:46,680

still relate to what happened in the desert skies.

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00:41:46,680 --> 00:41:56,680

It's a dream come true to discover the answer to the ultimate question, are we alone?

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00:41:56,680 --> 00:42:02,680

And are we the only intelligent being in all this vast universe?

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00:42:02,680 --> 00:42:10,680

If aliens are crashed at Roswell, it is one of the most important events in human history.

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00:42:10,680 --> 00:42:13,680

Suddenly we know we're not alone in the universe.

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00:42:13,680 --> 00:42:16,680

Roswell is a case that will never die, I think.

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00:42:16,680 --> 00:42:20,680

I think that the mythology of Roswell, the legend of Roswell,

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00:42:20,680 --> 00:42:24,680

has taken on the life of its own and it's bigger and stronger than the reality.

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00:42:43,680 --> 00:42:46,680

These are the things that can render us extinct.