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

Unidentified flying objects, UFOs. They appear as sleek metallic disks in daylight skies,

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

or mysterious shapes that illuminate the night. Where do UFOs come from? What do they want?

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

Are they merely inventions of the modern age? If so, why do they appear in early paintings?

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

If UFOs are kites or planes or weather balloons, why do they move like nothing else from Earth?

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

The extraordinary answers to these age-old questions. Next.

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00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:58,000

UFOs are now hauntingly familiar. They have shared our skies for an uneasy 50 years.

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

Eyewitness accounts testify to their breathtaking speed, unparalleled maneuverability, and uncanny silence.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:10,000

They are different than any aircraft made here on Earth.

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00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:18,000

These stealthy visitors are called UFOs, unidentified flying objects.

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:24,000

They have shown up unexpectedly in photographs taken all across the globe.

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:32,000

Yet if we turn back the pages of history, there are intriguing hints that UFOs have been with us all along.

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:39,000

Perhaps even as far back as 12,000 years ago, when our ancestors found shelter in the darkness of caves.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:48,000

The walls of these primitive dwellings were often painted with figures of hunters and the animals they hoped to snare.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000

Recently, other images have come to light.

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:02:01,000

These tracings were made from caves in France and Spain, and they show pictures not ordinarily associated with hunting.

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:08,000

Their shapes are very peculiar because they do oftentimes look like UFOs and saucers.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:12,000

I'm not saying that they are UFOs, that they do represent craft of any type,

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00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:20,000

only that they have a similarity to what we now perceive as maybe craft from another planet as UFOs.

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:26,000

One wonders where the cave people were getting the impetus for putting these on their walls.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:31,000

Obviously, putting paintings on cave walls was a laborious process,

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00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:35,000

and you would only put down the most important things of your daily life.

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00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:42,000

And here these objects appear not once, not twice, but fairly numerous times on the cave walls.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:49,000

The advance of civilization brought us out of caves and into cities.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:03:00,000

Some 4,000 years ago, scribes recorded what sounds like the sighting of UFOs during the reign of a pharaoh named Tothmosis III.

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00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:07,000

In the year 22 of the third month of the winter, a circle of fire appeared in the sky.

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:15,000

After some days, it became more numerous and shown with the brightness of the sun extending to the very limits of the heavens.

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00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:19,000

Royal records of Tothmosis III, 1480 BC.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:27,000

A millennium later, young Alexander the Great conquered his way across the known world.

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00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:33,000

In 332 BC, he laid siege to the Phoenician city of Tyre,

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:39,000

and accounts from both sides report that shield-shaped silver objects appeared in the sky.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:45,000

One supposedly sent down a beam of light that destroyed the city walls.

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

Even the Bible itself contains passages that some say refer to alien spacecraft.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:04:03,000

I looked and behold, a stormy wind came from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing through it, and a radiance round about it,

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:09,000

while out of the midst of it gleamed something with a luster like that of shining metal.

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00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:11,000

Ezekiel 1

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00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:19,000

There are a number of reports from the past, and I believe that some of them are quite legitimate.

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:24,000

But one of the things is you can't interview witnesses, of course.

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:29,000

You can't get independent witnesses, you can't ask, well, what angle was it above the horizon?

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:34,000

The problem we have with them is we have to take them totally at face value.

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:40,000

It's always important in looking at these to remember that there are a lot of strange astronomical phenomena

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:46,000

that only occur once in a while, like a star going supernova and suddenly appearing in the sky,

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:49,000

or a comet which appeared unexpectedly.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:53,000

And so you always have to look at these from the point of view of astronomy.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:59,000

There could be some atmospheric phenomenon or an astronomical phenomenon that they were depicting as something supernatural.

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:09,000

As the scientific awareness of the population grew, superstition was replaced by knowledge of what was actually going on in the heavens.

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00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:17,000

However, when an object would fly across the sky and stop, or hover, or seemingly descend to the ground,

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00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:22,000

or maybe exhibit many different color changes or change shape or what have you,

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:26,000

then even those people knew that they were looking at something out of the ordinary.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:34,000

The residents of Nuremberg, Germany had just such an experience on April 4th, 1561.

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:41,000

On that day, the skies above the city filled with a chaotic array of tube-shaped objects and balls of light.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:45,000

Eyewitnesses called it a frightful spectacle.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:55,000

Chronicles of the time also report extraordinary displays over Basel, Switzerland during the summer of 1566.

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:00,000

These events were depicted in primitive woodcuts made by eyewitnesses.

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:08,000

However, it was the talented master artists that have left us the most fascinating images.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:21,000

In 1998, an Italian writer named Daniella Giordano earned an award for her landmark study of the enigmatic flying objects depicted by Renaissance artists.

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:29,000

She discovered that not only did the artist have these objects in the picture, but he also had people looking at these objects

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:35,000

and shielding their eyes as all the people were actually noting with amazement that something unusual was in the sky.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:41,000

I don't know on why the objects there, but it does appear and it looks like a UFO.

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:49,000

This apparently traditional religious work is known as the Madonna and St Giovanni.

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

Here too, a witness to the flying object is placed unobtrusively, yet unmistakably, in the background.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:03,000

It's very obvious that this person's attention is directed to the flying object.

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

And the artist obviously wanted viewers of the painting to see that not only is there the Madonna in the painting,

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00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:12,000

but that there's also an object in the background.

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:18,000

Curious airborne craft show up in other media as well.

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00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:23,000

These tapestries from the 1500s depict the life of the Virgin Mary.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:30,000

Looking in the background is the familiar shape of a 1950s style UFO.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:45,000

This fresco from a 14th century monastery in Kosovo prominently features what appears to be a flying vehicle.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:54,000

On this French coin minted in 1680, a ray of light beams down from a colossal wheel-shaped object.

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:03,000

Sporadic sightings continue to be recorded for the next 250 years.

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00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:14,000

In the 1940s, World War II pilots joined the long list of UFO eyewitnesses.

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00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:23,000

Some of these pilots would later come forward to tell their stories, as interest in UFOs increased after the war.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:30,000

Pilots on all sides of the conflict, the Axis and the Allied pilots reported strange objects,

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:35,000

sometimes flying off the wingtips of their airplanes, and seemingly exhibit intelligent maneuvering.

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00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:41,000

If you tried to fly the airplane toward it, the object would fly along with you and just keeping off the wing

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:45,000

or dive down or fly above, you couldn't catch up with it.

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00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:54,000

I talked to a pilot of a B-24 bomber during World War II, and he said one circled around their airplane.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:02,000

Round, smooth, sleek, they all expected to die instantly, because this must be a new German secret weapon.

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00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:07,000

I was going to shoot him down, and we sure don't have anything that looks like that and flies like that.

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:12,000

I have one account where they actually fired on, they seemingly went through it, they didn't damage the object at all.

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00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:15,000

Allied pilots thought they were secret weapons of the Germans,

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00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:22,000

Germans thought they were secret weapons of the Allies, England and America, and they were even seen in the Pacific Theater.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:33,000

However, after the war, it became clear that neither the Allies nor the Axis had produced these super aircraft, someone else had.

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00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:45,000

And they did exhibit maneuvering that, again, was much like the types of objects that were seen immediately after the war ended and called flying saucers at that time.

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:10:00,000

Many believe that in July of 1947, near the top secret air base at Roswell, New Mexico, the United States military finally got a close-up look at these mysterious spacecraft.

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00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:09,000

The Army Air Force has announced that a flying disc has been found and is now in the possession of the Army.

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00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:23,000

In the fall of 1945, American boys came home to a hard-earned welcome. They had faced unspeakable horrors.

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00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:28,000

Now they would head for suburbia and get started on the baby boom.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:36,000

At the same time, another new era was dawning, the age of flying saucers.

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00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:43,000

The enigmatic spacecraft that had appeared from time to time through the centuries would now take center stage.

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00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:46,000

The age of innocence was over.

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00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:56,000

The wave of modern UFO sightings began simply with no photos, no radar returns and no physical evidence.

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00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:01,000

Just a story told by one man at the right time in history.

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

Kenneth Arnold was a 32-year-old successful businessman on the summer day that his sighting took place.

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

He sold firefighting equipment and flew his own light plane.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:25,000

On Tuesday, June 24, 1947, Arnold was flying toward Mount Rainier above the Cascade Mountains of Washington State.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:33,000

The air was smooth and clear as he reached 9,200 feet and noticed a bright flash.

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00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:43,000

To the left and north of Mount Rainier, Arnold saw what he described as nine unusual aircraft flying at over 1,200 miles per hour.

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00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:49,000

As they passed the mountain, the objects were outlined against the snow.

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00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:58,000

They traveled in a v-formation and skittered across the sky in such a way that Arnold said they resembled a saucer skipping across water.

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

Arnold first told his story upon landing at the Yakima, Washington airport.

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00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:09,000

He sketched a series of diagrams to illustrate what he had seen.

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00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:15,000

What he drew was shaped like a crescent, 50 feet long and only 3 feet thick.

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00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:17,000

It had a rounded point in the rear.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:22,000

When seen edge on, he reported, it looked like a black line.

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00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:29,000

It wasn't long before the story of Arnold's sighting startled the world.

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00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:33,000

The newspapers quickly coined a name for Arnold's skipping discs.

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00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:36,000

The name was Flying Saucers.

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00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:41,000

Kenneth Arnold was soon to enjoy a celebrity status.

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00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:51,000

The author of a book and the subject of magazine cover stories, he was looked upon as a combination of space age visionary and screwball eccentric.

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00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:55,000

The press would anoint him, the man who started it all.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:03,000

In the days and weeks after Arnold's landmark flight, Flying Saucers became big news.

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00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Sightings were reported across the country.

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00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:17,000

Indeed, at that time, more people knew about Flying Saucers than about the Marshall Plan for the post-war reconstruction of Europe.

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00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:23,000

But one incident above all established Flying Saucers in the public mind.

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

Roswell, New Mexico lies deep in the empty expanse of the American Southwest.

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00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Today, its very name conjures up memories of a supposed UFO crash and government cover-up.

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00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:44,000

It is remembered as the Roswell incident.

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00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:55,000

In the summer of 1947, the Army airfield in Roswell was home to the elite 509th bomb group.

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00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:04,000

During World War II, the B-29s that carried atom bombs to Hiroshima and Nagasaki had originated here.

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00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:10,000

And so would an event that gave substance to the belief in Flying Saucers.

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00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:32,000

Walter Hott was public information officer of the 509th bomb group.

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00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:39,000

He was the official instructed to dispatch press releases to the radio station and newspapers in Roswell.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:46,000

The story fed the imagination of the country, but has been the source of controversy ever since.

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00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:52,000

A press release that I received stated that the bomb was a bomb.

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00:14:52,000 --> 00:15:03,000

A press release that I received stated that we had in our possession parts of a crashed flying disc.

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00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:08,000

The material was found on a ranch north of Roswell.

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00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,000

Then the story abruptly changed.

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00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:18,000

General Roger Ramey took command of the Roswell situation and issued a new statement.

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00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:21,000

It wasn't a flying disc after all.

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00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:30,000

To me, I think it was one of the slickest cover-ups by admitting that we had the material and then a higher authority says,

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00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:32,000

No, you don't.

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00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:35,000

Flying saucer or weather balloon.

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00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:38,000

Both Air Force stories couldn't be true.

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00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:41,000

One fact was undisputed.

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00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Something had crashed at Roswell.

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00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:54,000

A rancher named Mac Brazel discovered the metallic debris in this isolated rangeland outside of town.

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00:15:54,000 --> 00:16:03,000

The wreckage was strewn over more than half a mile and Brazel alerted the base, assuming a military plane had crashed.

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00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Jesse Marcell Jr. recalls that his father, the intelligence officer at the Roswell Army Airfield,

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

had been dispatched to the debris site to determine what had crashed there.

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00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:21,000

The night that my dad came home, he was very excited.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:27,000

He woke my mother, myself up and said he wanted to show us something very strange.

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00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:32,000

As I recall, he said this was part of a flying saucer.

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00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:41,000

I was 11, almost 12 at the time, and I had seen pieces of an airplane and weather balloons and things like that,

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00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:44,000

but this was not like anything that I'd ever seen before.

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00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:52,000

The most intriguing portion of the debris that I recall seeing was what appeared to be eye beams.

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00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:57,000

When I looked at this with the light reflecting on it, I noticed what appeared to be some symbols

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00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:06,000

were writing along the inner surface of this eye beam, and the implication was this was something that came from some other planetary system.

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

Author Kevin Randall researched the Roswell incident and learned more about the debris Major Marcell had collected.

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00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:22,000

You have something called metal foil. It's been described by various people as tinfoil or lead foil.

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00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:28,000

You water it up into a ball, you drop it on the table, it unfolds itself and there's no sign of a crease.

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00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Randall interviewed some people who say they actually handled the mysterious wreckage back in 1947.

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00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:45,000

It was all watered up when he dropped it and when he dropped it on the table and it hit the table, it spread out just like it was water.

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:58,000

And so they all started holding it and playing with it. They were trying to cut it with their knives and they tried to burn it with their lighters,

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00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:02,000

and they couldn't do any damage to it at all.

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00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:08,000

There were also rumors of a second crash site with even more stunning discoveries.

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00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:19,000

Frankie Rosefather said that the fire department was called to the scene. There he had observed nothing less than actual extraterrestrial beings.

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00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:25,000

They got in a car on what they thought was a plane crash about 30 miles north of Roswell.

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00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:35,000

And when they got out there, it was not an airplane. He said it was a flying saucer that had crashed.

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00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:48,000

And there were little, what he called little people, and he said one of them was still alive.

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00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:59,000

There were two that were covered up laying on the ground and he called, he said they had been covered up, it looked like with body bags.

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00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:07,000

And the one that was walking around there didn't appear to be hurt.

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00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Through his research, Kevin Randall has established what he believes happened next.

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00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:28,000

According to a number of Liai witnesses, the craft and the bodies were taken to Hangar 84 at the Roswell Army Airfield where they were held for a period of time before the various flights were initiated and sent out of Roswell.

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00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:41,000

Randall believes that crates containing the alien bodies and flying saucer wreckage were shipped out of the heavily guarded Hangar 84, never to be seen again.

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00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:53,000

When the Air Force produced one meagre weather balloon at the Roswell crash debris, many concluded it was part of a cover-up.

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00:19:55,000 --> 00:20:06,000

In the 50s, there was the belief that the U.S. Air Force had proof of some sort that these were alien spaceships and was covering it up to prevent panic.

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00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:18,000

There obviously was a cover-up of this action because years later my dad said he was actually part of the cover-up because he went along with the weather balloon story.

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

Indeed, according to Marcel, his father revealed that he had been ordered to pose with wreckage from a weather balloon.

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00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:34,000

My dad explained to my mother that this was a non-event, don't even discuss it with your friends, don't talk about it.

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

It was a true Air Force brat, believed in following the orders, you know, he didn't want me to talk about it, so we did not talk about it.

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00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:48,000

These people were visited by military authorities, they were told to keep quiet.

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00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Frankie Rowe recalls such a visit from a man in a uniform.

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00:20:56,000 --> 00:21:00,000

He started getting louder and he kept saying, don't you understand, you did not see anything.

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00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:09,000

And he had a night stick type of thing with him that was kind of hanging on his belt.

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

And he took that out and he got very loud and he started talking and every time he would make a point, he would hit his hand with the night stick.

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

So he would say, you didn't see anything, you were not there.

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00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:33,000

And he said, if you ever say one word about this, the rest of your life, we will spread up this family.

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00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:37,000

If that's not enough, he said, you know, this is a big desert out here.

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00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:40,000

We can take you out in the desert.

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00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:43,000

And he said, no one will ever find your bodies.

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00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:54,000

If this disturbing account is true, it can only be described as a death threat, a warning to remain silent about the Roswell incident.

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00:21:55,000 --> 00:22:05,000

What was so vital to protect? In January of 1948, the Air Force would launch an investigation into the escalating flood of UFO reports.

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00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:16,000

Something crashed at Roswell, New Mexico.

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00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:28,000

But whether the object that fell from the sky in July of 1947 originated here on Earth or somewhere in outer space has been hotly debated for more than a half century.

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00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:35,000

Perhaps it truly was a weather balloon, as the Air Force insists.

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00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:41,000

If so, that would deflate one of the seminal events in the history of UFOs.

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00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:50,000

However, if the object was in fact extraterrestrial, the issue then becomes, what business did it have at Roswell?

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00:22:52,000 --> 00:23:00,000

At the time of the Roswell crash, New Mexico was host to the most advanced military and scientific experiments on the face of the planet.

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00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:13,000

In fact, the Roswell area was the only place in the world where testing of cutting-edge radar, rockets and nuclear weapons could all be found.

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00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:18,000

Perhaps these lurking UFOs had become a threat to national security.

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00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:28,000

The Air Force quietly began investigating the rash of post-war sightings in January of 1948.

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00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:36,000

This inquiry was codenamed Project Sine, and by October it would reach a truly stunning conclusion.

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00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:45,000

Project Sine wrote a final report called The Estimid of the Situation, which concluded that UFOs were interplanetary vehicles.

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00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:49,000

You can imagine that this didn't go over well to Pentagon.

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00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:56,000

The government could not have the idea of UFOs as an interplanetary spacecraft coming out when they'd been trying to cover up the Roswell crash.

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00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:03,000

It went all the way to the chief of staff of the Air Force who said, I don't find this document

particularly persuasive.

197

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:07,000

He batted it back down and fired practically everybody in Project Sine.

198

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:11,000

The people who were left at Project Sine could read the handwriting on the wall.

199

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

If you said they were extraterrestrial, you lost your job. Your career is over.

200

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

After the purge, the inquiry was revamped as Project Grudge, a name that may have suggested a certain skepticism.

201

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:33,000

An Air Force insider actually characterized Project Grudge as the dark ages of UFO investigation.

202

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:46,000

In August of 1951, this v-shaped pattern of objects appeared over Texas and became known as the Lubbock Lights.

203

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:51,000

Grudge said it was a flock of birds reflecting the glow of the city.

204

00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:59,000

This film was submitted from Great Falls, Montana in 1950.

205

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:04,000

It depicts bright white dots moving behind the smokestacks of a green mill.

206

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:11,000

The photographer described the objects as shiny, bright and metallic, like polished silver.

207

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:18,000

Project Grudge concluded that they were F-94 Air Force interceptors landing nearby.

208

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:29,000

After three years of debunking UFO reports, Grudge was reorganized into the supposedly more objective Project Blue Book.

209

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:35,000

Blue Book became the focus for public attention and press attention.

210

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:40,000

But it was never scientific. It was never comprehensive. They didn't have radar. They didn't have computers.

211

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:46,000

They didn't have people ready to go up, you know, in aircraft with instruments to monitor UFO science.

212

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:55,000

Typically an officer, a sergeant, several secretaries, their job was primarily to try to tell us that there was nothing to flying saucers.

213

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:02,000

Major Hector Quintanilla Jr. became Blue Book director in 1963.

214

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:12,000

The objectives of the program are twofold. They're the same as they have been since 1953 when the regulation was written.

215

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:19,000

First of all, to try to determine if the UFO phenomena presents a threat to the security of the United States.

216

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:28,000

And second to determine if the UFO phenomena exhibits any technological advances which could be channeled to research and development.

217

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:39,000

Many of the UFO reports were easily explainable as atmospheric anomalies, like this saucer-shaped lenticular cloud formation.

218

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:48,000

The man who shot this film, a Navy officer and aerial photographer, claimed he saw these objects up close before getting out his camera.

219

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:56,000

He said they were disjaped and gunmetal colored. Blue Book determined they were high-flying birds.

220

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:06,000

Astronomer J. Allen Hineck, a Blue Book consultant for its entire 16-year run, had this assessment of the project.

221

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:14,000

Quote, when Major Quintanilla came in, the flag of the Uttern Nonsense School was flying at its highest.

222

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Blue Book's most notorious nonsense came in March of 1966 when it dismissed a wave of credible sightings, including many by policemen, as swamp gas.

223

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:37,000

In December of 1969, the Air Force closed down Project Blue Book and washed its hands of UFOs.

224

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:49,000

Few scientists were willing to approach the subject. However, there were some who embraced UFOs without reservation.

225

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:07,000

During the 1950s, the Air Force stood by its finding in the Roswell case. The crash was nothing more than a weather balloon.

226

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:14,000

But newsreels show a public that continued to watch the skies, hoping to glimpse a spacecraft.

227

00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:19,000

Suddenly, people from coast to coast began seeing UFOs.

228

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:26,000

What followed was a popular movement that embraced flying saucers and the spacemen who flew them.

229

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:30,000

Ready or not, the flying saucers were coming.

230

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:38,000

Within a matter of several days, I will, myself, make what might be called a flying saucer.

231

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:44,000

Although I don't choose to call it that, because it may not respond to our controls.

232

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:52,000

To the vast majority of the people in the late 40s and 1950s, flying saucers were a terrific novelty.

233

00:28:52,000 --> 00:29:05,000

And there was a great deal of popular fascination. There were cheesy science fiction films based on the idea that margeons were invading the Earth and flying saucers.

234

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:17,000

Popular magazines printed on pulp paper would hit the newsstands in time to cash in on the trend and expand it to legendary proportions.

235

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:23,000

The man behind those flying saucer legends was publisher Raymond Palmer.

236

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:33,000

Palmer was a man who, in his youth, had been severely injured, and so he was crippled up, and he was what you would call a hunchback, I guess.

237

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:39,000

He had the instincts of a carnival barker. He liked to put something over on you.

238

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:46,000

And the thing about Palmer was that his fans liked having Palmer put something over on them.

239

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:58,000

It was Palmer's Fate magazine, later called Flying Saucers Magazine, which helped spread the idea of UFOs in the 1950s.

240

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Spacecraft from around the universe played across these colorful pages.

241

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:14,000

It was here that the UFO was finally identified. Now everyone knew they were spaceships from other worlds.

242

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:21,000

What followed was a craze in the 1950s known as the Contactee Movement.

243

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:26,000

Contactees were people who said that they had made contact with space people.

244

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:32,000

I was aboard a flying saucer in the Nevada desert on 11 different occasions.

245

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:38,000

I was taken into this monstrous saucer by one of the men and confronted with a lady captain.

246

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:43,000

Beautiful complexion, beautiful appearing woman, and the peaceful people.

247

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:48,000

They mean no harm to us. They come down here to investigate what's going on on Earth,

248

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:54,000

and they certainly convince me that they're peaceful and they come from another planet they call Clarion.

249

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:59,000

They told me there was life on Mars and that there were life on other planets as well,

250

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:03,000

and all planets except Earth had interplanetary means of travel.

251

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:13,000

The man credited with starting the Contactee Movement was a Polish immigrant and self-styled philosopher named George Adamski.

252

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:23,000

In his book *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, Adamski claimed that in 1952 he had been aboard an alien spacecraft.

253

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

We were picked up on a desert in California desert and I was taken to the mother ship and they were flowing around,

254

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

not too close to the moon but with instruments.

255

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Similarly, you might say they accepted it wasn't the camera, it was a wiggly sort of a telescopic instrument

256

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:44,000

that we were able to see what was on the moon on the other side of it. See?

257

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:50,000

Adamski's book detailed his meeting with a man from Venus called Orthon.

258

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:55,000

There were also photographs of the spaceship he supposedly flew in.

259

00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:01,000

Adamski's books also reflected the political climate of the 1950s,

260

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:07,000

like growing concerns about the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

261

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:14,000

When Orthon departed, he would leave behind these enigmatic footprints.

262

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:20,000

Adamski said they contained a message urging an end to nuclear testing on Earth.

263

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:30,000

In a similar vein, other Contactees spoke of aliens from utopian planets who wanted to prevent all-out nuclear war.

264

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:35,000

Best of all, these aliens looked just like us.

265

00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:42,000

I have a picture here of the gentleman who escorted me through the craft and I would like to share with and describe it.

266

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:57,000

This gentleman, he appeared almost as I am, except that he was about 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing about 150 to 155 pounds.

267

00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:01,000

And they all appeared about that same size, including the lady.

268

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:11,000

George Adamski would publish two more volumes on his contacts with beautiful space people from Saturn and Mars.

269

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:20,000

He even had opportunity to take home movies of the scout ships that transported him, guided by robot pilots from Venus.

270

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:30,000

The impact of Adamski's tales led to an explosion of flying saucer clubs and conventions.

271

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:37,000

As the flying saucer phenomena continued into the 50s, civilians began to become very interested, of course.

272

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:52,000

People did and clubs formed up with a classic meaning of the term club, hobbyist as it were, that were just interested in the wilder esoteric aspects of the phenomena, particularly the stories of people who said they were in contact with aliens.

273

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:59,000

Many of the Contactees would gather at the largest flying saucer festival of all time.

274

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:11,000

It took place in California at a place called Giant Rock in March of 1954. It attracted over 5,000 outer space enthusiasts.

275

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:36,000

With many space people from many areas of space, both inside and outside of the solar system.

276

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:45,000

Lectures were given from the Giant Rock and stalls were set up to sell books, photos and space-age souvenirs.

277

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:55,000

Most importantly, conventions like this gave the Contactees a place to exchange ideas, rumors and reports.

278

00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:01,000

But I do believe what I see and I am one of those who was inside of flying saucer.

279

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:10,000

I seem to become one with the entire universe. Everything in the universe seems to be contracted down to one small stop.

280

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:25,000

What's what that goes like? The woman had a radiant red box pleated skirt and a black velvet appearing blouse and a black and red stem or beret and the men had clothes very similar to our Greyhound bus driver.

281

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:33,000

Contactees also described the alien spacecraft they had seen in astonishing detail.

282

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:42,000

On July the 12th, I took a trip in a flying saucer which I am pointing right here.

283

00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:54,000

The saucer was well equipped with rooms, bedrooms, bathroom, toilets and this saucer.

284

00:35:55,000 --> 00:36:02,000

I went up in two Mars over the moon, Venus, Florian and Orion.

285

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:10,000

When I say Orion, I do not mean Orion. It is a planet outside of our galaxy.

286

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:19,000

Also popular among Contactees was a belief that startling evidence was about to be revealed.

287

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

We are going to see more and more of these visitors from space and that before too long the evidence will be in controversial that you will have on your TV screens and on your movie screen concrete evidence that the ships are here and that they are real and they are not fantastic things

which have been cooked up to make a movie.

288

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:52,000

The Contactee wave of the 1950s was a light hearted sideshow to the UFO phenomenon.

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00:36:53,000 --> 00:37:02,000

However during the same period photographs began to surface that suggested UFOs were no joke and had to be taken seriously.

290

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:06,040

The

291

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:17,000

They are round, they are cigar shaped and they are cylindrical. Some appear to be sleek and smooth as if made of stainless steel.

292

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:27,000

While others appear bolted together from some alien cast iron. At night they are described as having flashing lights.

293

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:33,000

They appear without warning, streak across the sky and disappear.

294

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:40,000

Many UFO films and photographs have been identified as natural phenomenon or hoaxes.

295

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:47,000

But some UFOs appear in photos when we least expect them and defy explanation.

296

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:54,000

UFO photo cases are tantalizing because there is some type of what you might think of as objective proof.

297

00:37:55,000 --> 00:38:01,000

The UFO phenomenon is ephemeral and normally all we have are reports of witnesses on a piece of paper and a tape recorder.

298

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:06,000

But with photos you think you have something physical.

299

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:14,000

Indeed photos offer some of the most convincing evidence that extraterrestrial aircraft may be

real.

300

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:22,000

This series of photos remains among the most compelling examples of what ufologists call a daylight disc.

301

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:33,000

The photographs were taken on July 29, 1952 by George Stock outside of his lawnmower shop in Pasek, New Jersey.

302

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:43,000

Stock reported that as he was working outside at 4.30pm he looked up to see something unusual flying overhead.

303

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:53,000

Using an inexpensive box reflex camera he snapped pictures of what he described as a disc shaped object with a metallic bottom.

304

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:58,000

It hovered momentarily and accelerated and flew away.

305

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:04,000

All that remains of this astonishing daytime visitation are a few pictures.

306

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:08,000

But are photos reliable evidence for UFOs?

307

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:14,000

Dr. Bruce McAbee is an optical physicist employed by the United States Navy.

308

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:24,000

His official research involves high energy space lasers but his interest also lies in the detailed analysis of UFO photographs.

309

00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Of particular interest to Dr. McAbee are photos which show no evidence of a hoax or misidentification and cannot be otherwise explained.

310

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:41,000

One such case began at a farm in rural Oregon in 1950.

311

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:49,000

These are two photos taken by a farmer and his wife in 1950 in Macmillan, Oregon.

312

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:57,000

Here's the first photo and here's the second and we'll get a little bit of a blow up on these.

313

00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:06,000

Using image enhancement equipment, McAbee brings into focus the startling photographs that were taken in the early evening with a simple camera.

314

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:13,000

You can see that it's an oval object with a little thing on the top, like a little protrusion at the top of it.

315

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:17,000

This is obviously a hoax or the real thing, there's no halfway point.

316

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:21,000

You can see the image clearly enough to see that it's not a bird or plane or Superman.

317

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:24,000

So the next question is what could it be?

318

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:33,000

And if we go back over here we can see that there are electrical wires right up above the object.

319

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:35,000

Looking again at the blow up.

320

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:41,000

And now the question is is there any evidence of a suspension underneath the wires?

321

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:54,000

A contrast enhanced version of the Oregon photo reveals minute scratches that McAbee must distinguish from a string or line that might have been attached to the object to suspend it for a hoax.

322

00:40:55,000 --> 00:41:00,000

No one has found any evidence of a line going up above the object.

323

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:08,000

There is a possibility that this thing might have been thrown in photograph except that the image is not blurred by motion.

324

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:18,000

Agents of the Air Force and FBI questioned the couple who took this picture and authorities later confiscated a copy held by the local newspaper.

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00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:21,000

No one has yet explained why.

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00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:28,000

This photograph is another of the more credible UFO pictures ever taken.

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00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:33,000

It was snapped in Brazil by a government survey team in 1958.

328

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:43,000

A Brazilian naval photographer on a ship was there with the rest of the men when they saw an object shaped like Saturn.

329

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:53,000

In other words an object with a ring around it flying toward an island that they were near, Trinidad Island, flying around the island and then taking off in the distance.

330

00:41:54,000 --> 00:42:01,000

And he snapped four or five or so or more photos of the object with literally dozens and dozens of witnesses.

331

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:11,000

The sighting lasted nearly two minutes.

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00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:18,000

First the object was reported to have approached the island then it disappeared behind a mountain.

333

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:23,000

It then reappeared before moving off at high speed toward the sea.

334

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:31,000

This is clearly a structure that somebody builds that doesn't look like anything that we have on Earth.

335

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:35,000

There were all these witnesses who saw the picture being taken.

336

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:46,000

For these reasons the photographs are unusually evidential and have to figure in any kind of case for the reality of UFOs is somebody's technology.

337

00:42:47,000 --> 00:43:02,000

Because this is a multiple witness case done by scientists and a professional photographer and has many photographs it probably has to be taken seriously as the number one photographic case in UFO history.

338

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:13,000

Soon after the photos were taken Brazil's president, Juscelino Kubocek ordered them released to the press.

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00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:25,000

His action stands in stark contrast to the apparent secrecy of official UFO inquiries in the United States beginning with the Roswell incident in 1947.

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00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:31,000

Even today requests for government records are routinely refused.

341

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:36,000

Documents that are released are often censored to the point of uselessness.

342

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

Perhaps it is no surprise that many suspect a government cover-up and conclude that unidentified flying objects may indeed originate somewhere other than Earth.

343

00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:11,000

For the young, Brazil's self-reliance and eruption are mega disasters. Tuesday night at 9 on the History Channel.