

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:19,280

The following program presents theories about an historical event that is shrouded in mystery.

2

00:00:19,280 --> 00:00:25,000

It contains archival footage, reenactments and dramatizations which invite you, the viewer,

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00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:30,920

to draw your own conclusions.

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00:00:30,920 --> 00:00:36,080

Nearly 40 years ago, on an early December evening, something strange is spotted in the

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00:00:36,080 --> 00:00:43,360

sky above the village of Kecksburg, Pennsylvania.

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00:00:43,360 --> 00:00:48,320

Radiating off for the back or side was a blue light, much like a welder's light.

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00:00:48,320 --> 00:00:52,880

Something went across the sky, it was just like a big far bowl, and it plunged into the

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00:00:52,880 --> 00:00:53,880

ground.

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00:00:53,880 --> 00:01:04,080

It scared me, it really scared me.

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00:01:04,080 --> 00:01:09,160

Some believe they have witnessed a UFO crash.

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00:01:09,160 --> 00:01:14,400

They say local officials and the military tried to conceal the mysterious object.

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00:01:14,400 --> 00:01:21,640

There were army trucks, cars, they had the rifles, all kind of military people that were

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00:01:21,640 --> 00:01:22,640

coming in.

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00:01:22,640 --> 00:01:32,920

When the military walked up in front of my car, I was told not to go into the woods.

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00:01:32,920 --> 00:01:41,320

But since 1965, the US government has maintained that nothing at all came down outside Kecksburg.

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00:01:41,320 --> 00:01:46,400

Others contend that natural science can account for the eyewitness reports.

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00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:52,240

What people saw was a very bright fireball meteor over Lake Erie.

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00:01:52,360 --> 00:01:54,680

This was an intensely bright object.

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00:01:54,680 --> 00:01:58,960

Why do people have so many different interpretations of the same event?

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00:01:58,960 --> 00:02:04,840

The Project Bluebook file on the event basically said that the search continued until about

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00:02:04,840 --> 00:02:08,320

2 a.m. that nothing was found.

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00:02:08,320 --> 00:02:14,680

Skeptics claim these explanations are part of a conspiracy to cover up the truth.

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00:02:14,680 --> 00:02:20,720

Something landed, or something came down through those trees and hit the ground.

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00:02:20,720 --> 00:02:25,760

I wouldn't, our own government, come out and tell us that was a satellite or a missile.

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00:02:25,760 --> 00:02:29,240

It was Russian or one of our own.

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00:02:29,240 --> 00:02:36,040

Now I'm beginning to wonder what it actually was.

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00:02:36,040 --> 00:02:39,800

So what was so important down in those woods that the military didn't want those people

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00:02:39,800 --> 00:02:43,680

to see?

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00:02:43,680 --> 00:02:49,040

These are American citizens who deserve this information, who have every right to this

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00:02:49,120 --> 00:02:52,120

information.

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00:02:52,120 --> 00:02:58,040

Right down through here, right down through here.

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00:02:58,040 --> 00:03:01,120

See, this wasn't here, this is all grown in.

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00:03:01,120 --> 00:03:03,120

This was an open field like this.

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00:03:03,120 --> 00:03:05,120

And that went down.

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00:03:05,120 --> 00:03:09,880

79-year-old Bill Bullybush is a lifelong resident of the Kecksburg area.

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00:03:09,880 --> 00:03:16,480

For more than 20 years, he kept a secret from his neighbors in this small rural community

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00:03:16,560 --> 00:03:23,560

that one December night, he believes he saw an unidentified flying object over Kecksburg.

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00:03:23,560 --> 00:03:29,560

Little did he know that many of his fellow citizens believe they saw the same thing.

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00:03:29,560 --> 00:03:31,560

Nobody changed my mind.

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00:03:31,560 --> 00:03:34,560

I know what I was saying.

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00:03:34,560 --> 00:03:41,560

That was it.

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00:03:41,640 --> 00:03:44,560

December 9th, 1965.

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00:03:44,560 --> 00:03:50,880

It's about 4.30 p.m. just before sunset in Kecksburg, which is about 45 miles southeast

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00:03:50,880 --> 00:03:54,880

of Pittsburgh.

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00:03:54,880 --> 00:04:00,040

Bill Bullybush has just come home from work.

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00:04:00,040 --> 00:04:06,040

As his wife prepares dinner, Bullybush heads outside to work on his pride and joy, a 1964

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00:04:06,040 --> 00:04:08,040

Chevy Corvair.

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00:04:09,040 --> 00:04:14,040

He listens to the car's CV radio while he tinkers under the dash.

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00:04:14,040 --> 00:04:21,040

And I heard guys from Ohio talking on there, and they were jabbering, they were coming

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00:04:21,040 --> 00:04:22,040

east.

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00:04:22,040 --> 00:04:26,040

And they said that they seen this thing too going east, you know, and they wondered what

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00:04:26,040 --> 00:04:28,040

it was.

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00:04:28,040 --> 00:04:30,040

Bullybush suddenly hears a hissing sound.

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00:04:30,040 --> 00:04:35,040

He looks up, catching a glimpse of a glowing object in the sky.

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00:04:35,040 --> 00:04:42,040

To get a better look, he gets out of his car and can plainly see the bright object overhead.

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00:04:43,040 --> 00:04:45,040

I watched it.

57

00:04:45,040 --> 00:04:47,040

It was just like a big far bowl.

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00:04:47,040 --> 00:04:49,040

It was headed towards the mountain.

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00:04:49,040 --> 00:04:51,040

It came back a pretty good piece.

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00:04:51,040 --> 00:04:54,040

And the first thing I knew, it made a U-turn.

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00:04:54,040 --> 00:05:00,040

And when down in the Kecksburg, down in the woods there.

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00:05:01,040 --> 00:05:07,040

Less than two miles away, 16-year-old Robert Blystone sits on the back porch of his parents' home.

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00:05:07,040 --> 00:05:10,040

He also spots the strange light.

64

00:05:11,040 --> 00:05:13,040

It was just a round far bowl.

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00:05:13,040 --> 00:05:19,040

You know, flames all around it with these different cow vapors behind it.

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00:05:19,040 --> 00:05:24,040

And it just starts slowing down, like it's being controlled.

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00:05:24,040 --> 00:05:28,040

And the next thing I know, it's beyond the hill where I can't see it in the world.

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

But then I start seeing smoke dust coming up out of the woods.

69

00:05:33,040 --> 00:05:36,040

So I kind of fear it kind of crashed.

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00:05:38,040 --> 00:05:46,040

Across town, Bill Bullybush jumps into his corvair and drives to the Kecksburg woods.

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00:05:47,040 --> 00:05:59,040

At the top of the hill overlooking the woods, Bullybush stops, then turns on his parking lights so he can see into the valley.

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00:06:01,040 --> 00:06:05,040

A strong smell of sulfur permeates the air.

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00:06:05,040 --> 00:06:10,040

As Bullybush makes his way down the hill, he hears a sizzling sound.

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00:06:11,040 --> 00:06:13,040

I could see it down in the valley there.

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00:06:13,040 --> 00:06:19,040

And that's where it landed, right in there, and knocked top of the trees out and everything else.

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00:06:19,040 --> 00:06:24,040

So I stood there for, well, I'll say, 15 minutes looking at it.

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00:06:25,040 --> 00:06:33,040

Meanwhile, 12 miles away in nearby Greensburg, the switchboard at radio station WHJB jumps to life.

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00:06:33,040 --> 00:06:36,040

WHJB, could you hold on one second?

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00:06:37,040 --> 00:06:41,040

Office manager Mabel Mesa answers the sudden flurry of phone calls.

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00:06:41,040 --> 00:06:46,040

People were telling me something fell in Kecksburg and somebody said it was a ball of fire.

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00:06:46,040 --> 00:06:52,040

Somebody said it was a plane wreck. There were just a number of stories that kept coming in.

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00:06:52,040 --> 00:06:54,040

The phones just kept ringing.

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00:06:54,040 --> 00:06:59,040

When Mabel fields a call from someone claiming to have seen a UFO outside Kecksburg,

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00:06:59,040 --> 00:07:03,040

she hands the phone to John Murphy, the station's news director.

85

00:07:04,040 --> 00:07:06,040

I said, here, you take this one.

86

00:07:07,040 --> 00:07:10,040

John Murphy, all right, what would you say?

87

00:07:10,040 --> 00:07:15,040

And he came back and he said to me, he said, this is a big one, kid, I'm going to Kecksburg.

88

00:07:16,040 --> 00:07:19,040

Camera. Thanks, kid. See you later.

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00:07:24,040 --> 00:07:32,040

Back at the crash site, Bill Bullybush is trying to decide whether to move closer to the smoldering object partially embedded in the ground.

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00:07:34,040 --> 00:07:39,040

The color of it was like a burnt orange. It was burnt from the front, cleared to the back.

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00:07:40,040 --> 00:07:46,040

And I could see this ring around the back of it. And it looked like Egyptian writing on the back of it.

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00:07:46,040 --> 00:07:52,040

There was no windows in it, no seams, no rivet marking, it was just a solid piece.

93

00:07:52,040 --> 00:07:59,040

Bullybush fears the smoking object may explode. So after 15 minutes, he retreats.

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00:08:00,040 --> 00:08:06,040

On the way to his car, he hears curious residents already gathering outside the woods.

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00:08:06,040 --> 00:08:10,040

Bullybush climbs into his corvair and returns home.

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00:08:14,040 --> 00:08:21,040

Within an hour, the area has been cordoned off by a growing number of military personnel and local officials.

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00:08:21,040 --> 00:08:25,040

They refuse to let onlookers get closer to the mysterious object.

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00:08:26,040 --> 00:08:32,040

Though they have a limited view, the group can see a plume of blue smoke rising from the forest.

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00:08:34,040 --> 00:08:42,040

19-year-old Bill Weaver is out for a joyride in Kecksburg when he hears a radio bulletin describing a strange light in the sky.

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00:08:46,040 --> 00:08:53,040

Intrigued, he heads to the south side of the woods, an area that has not been secured by the military.

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00:08:56,040 --> 00:09:01,040

Weaver finds a handful of people there, peering into the wooded valley.

102

00:09:01,040 --> 00:09:08,040

We thought it was a Russian satellite at first, but at 19-years-old I was still curious.

103

00:09:08,040 --> 00:09:15,040

Actually, I went back in there, was out of curiosity to see if there was something that did land there.

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00:09:15,040 --> 00:09:21,040

In the waning evening light, Weaver says that he and the others can barely make out the object below.

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00:09:22,040 --> 00:09:25,040

It looked like it had plowed into the ground somewhat.

106

00:09:25,040 --> 00:09:32,040

Radiating off, I don't know if it was the front or the back or side, it was a blue light, much like a welder's light.

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00:09:32,040 --> 00:09:37,040

It gets real bright and then it gets dull. It would go back and forth.

108

00:09:38,040 --> 00:09:45,040

As Weaver and the others try to get a better look, he says officials move them further back, away from the woods.

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00:09:52,040 --> 00:10:00,040

Around 6.30pm, Bill Bullibush returns to the scene, this time with his 7-year-old son, Ricky.

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00:10:00,040 --> 00:10:06,040

I never seen so many people and the army was there. I couldn't figure out how the army got there so quick.

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00:10:07,040 --> 00:10:10,040

The army kept everybody away.

112

00:10:14,040 --> 00:10:20,040

About an hour later, W.H.J.B. newsman John Murphy arrives on the scene.

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00:10:20,040 --> 00:10:25,040

He sneaks into the woods and secretly takes a few photographs of the strange object.

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00:10:28,040 --> 00:10:34,040

Accounts differ, but those close to Murphy believe some key photographs are confiscated by officials.

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00:10:38,040 --> 00:10:41,040

He begins recording statements from a number of people.

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00:10:41,040 --> 00:10:46,040

What you are about to hear are excerpts of the actual interviews Murphy conducted.

117

00:10:51,040 --> 00:10:54,040

A spy on fire? Can you point out what part of the woods you saw there?

118

00:10:54,040 --> 00:10:55,040

A spy on fire.

119

00:10:55,040 --> 00:10:57,040

Down in there. Was there any smoke coming from it?

120

00:10:57,040 --> 00:10:58,040

Yeah.

121

00:10:59,040 --> 00:11:04,040

Murphy calls in a bulletin to his colleague Stan Wolholt, W.H.J.B.'s evening disjunker.

122

00:11:04,040 --> 00:11:09,040

John Murphy, I'm out in the woods here outside of Kecksburg. It's bright and there's smoke everywhere.

123

00:11:09,040 --> 00:11:13,040

Okay John, I'll give you a... you're gonna be online in like 30 seconds, okay?

124

00:11:14,040 --> 00:11:17,040

John didn't like to go on the air if he wasn't certain with something.

125

00:11:17,040 --> 00:11:19,040

He didn't like to speculate.

126

00:11:19,040 --> 00:11:23,040

He gave us different opinions on what it could have been.

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00:11:24,040 --> 00:11:29,040

As the evening went on, people really became anxious to find out what really happened.

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00:11:30,040 --> 00:11:37,040

Then we had other radio stations and TV stations and so forth calling about this thing that had landed in Kecksburg.

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00:11:38,040 --> 00:11:50,040

A growing military contingent continues to clear the area of onlookers as Murphy tries to collect more eyewitness accounts.

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00:11:54,040 --> 00:12:03,040

About an hour and a half later at 9 p.m., Bob Gatti, a 22-year-old reporter arrives at the scene from the Greensburg paper, the Tribune Review.

131

00:12:04,040 --> 00:12:14,040

Along the road were state police and there were some military people there and I believe they were army people and they had guns.

132

00:12:14,040 --> 00:12:18,040

They were keeping people from going back into this field.

133

00:12:19,040 --> 00:12:23,040

Robert Blystone is less than a quarter mile from his parents' home.

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00:12:24,040 --> 00:12:30,040

From there, he sees a flurry of activity.

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00:12:30,040 --> 00:12:36,040

A large flatbed truck accompanied by army jeeps disappears into the wooded valley.

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00:12:36,040 --> 00:12:47,040

Almost two hours later, the convoy emerges, but Blystone notices that the flatbed is no longer empty and he sees what the military is trying to hide.

137

00:12:48,040 --> 00:12:58,040

And you can see on the flatbed, a design under the tarp, like a bell shape or an egg-coin shape vehicle.

138

00:12:58,040 --> 00:12:59,040

That was under there.

139

00:12:59,040 --> 00:13:04,040

Robert Blystone isn't the only one who sees this strange cargo.

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00:13:05,040 --> 00:13:18,040

By the next day, several eyewitnesses tell John Murphy, Bob Gatti and others that they saw a strange object in the sky that they believe came to Earth.

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00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:29,040

The front page of a local paper, the Greensburg Tribune Review, had big headlines on army ropes off the area and identified flying object falls near Kexpert.

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00:13:29,040 --> 00:13:35,040

But another article in a later edition of the paper suggests that the eyewitnesses are mistaken.

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00:13:35,040 --> 00:13:42,040

In that piece, state troopers say they have recovered, quote, absolutely nothing from the site.

144

00:13:43,040 --> 00:13:51,040

According to at least one researcher, this story and later statements make eyewitnesses suspect a government cover-up.

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00:13:51,040 --> 00:13:54,040

The question still remains, what was this object?

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00:13:55,040 --> 00:13:58,040

And we've been trying to track down to get answers to that for many, many years.

147

00:13:58,040 --> 00:14:02,040

The people want to know the truth, they want to know we're alone out there.

148

00:14:10,040 --> 00:14:12,040

December 10th, 1965.

149

00:14:14,040 --> 00:14:21,040

One day after about a dozen people near Kexpert, Pennsylvania, witness what they believe was a UFO crash.

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00:14:24,040 --> 00:14:30,040

Many are surprised to read in their local paper that government officials have discovered no physical evidence.

151

00:14:31,040 --> 00:14:39,040

They made a thorough search in the woods and there was nothing there and that officially the government was saying now that people had been mistaken, nothing had fallen into the woods.

152

00:14:40,040 --> 00:14:45,040

Stan Gordon is a local UFO researcher who has studied the Kexpert case for nearly 40 years.

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00:14:45,040 --> 00:14:48,040

He was 16 years old at the time of the incident.

154

00:14:49,040 --> 00:14:54,040

Gordon and others will challenge that conclusion for the next four decades.

155

00:15:02,040 --> 00:15:12,040

In the days following the events of December 9th, local radio station WHJB's news director, John Murphy, gathers the eyewitness accounts he had recorded that night.

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00:15:13,040 --> 00:15:19,040

The journalist is intrigued by the tapes which indicate that something fell into the woods outside Kexpert.

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00:15:19,040 --> 00:15:22,040

The following is an excerpt from Murphy's tapes.

158

00:15:27,040 --> 00:15:33,040

To describe the explosion, well I've seen two big, bright flashes on the long streak of water's lake. I think it was a plane.

159

00:15:33,040 --> 00:15:36,040

He decides to produce a documentary about that night.

160

00:15:36,040 --> 00:15:38,040

Murphy titles his project.

161

00:15:38,040 --> 00:15:40,040

Object in the Woods.

162

00:15:45,040 --> 00:15:51,040

John had me help him write up a story and he wanted to make sure everything got in there included and he was real excited.

163

00:15:54,040 --> 00:15:57,040

For several days they work on the program.

164

00:16:00,040 --> 00:16:04,040

Murphy also listens to his interviews with local authorities.

165

00:16:08,040 --> 00:16:11,040

I'll write an area this report had come in from.

166

00:16:11,040 --> 00:16:20,040

Oh my, as far as Canada, in Ohio, it's been seen all over and these flashes have come all over Northeastern United States.

167

00:16:23,040 --> 00:16:33,040

But just a few days before Object in the Woods is set to air, two men identifying themselves to Mabel Mazza as government agents visit Murphy at the station.

168

00:16:34,040 --> 00:16:42,040

We wanted to let them talk privately so we put them in the FM studio so the men went in there with John and closed the door.

169

00:16:52,040 --> 00:16:55,040

Mabel says the meeting lasts about 30 minutes.

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00:16:55,040 --> 00:17:02,040

For some reason John Murphy was afraid. He just, I can't talk about it. I cannot talk about it. And he said, just leave me alone.

171

00:17:02,040 --> 00:17:08,040

He sort of lost some of his spark and I have no idea what it was, but it was after the visit of those two men.

172

00:17:08,040 --> 00:17:15,040

But the excitement in John was completely gone. And when I tried to question him on it, he didn't want to talk about it.

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00:17:15,040 --> 00:17:22,040

Murphy moves ahead with plans to broadcast Object in the Woods. The show airs on WHJB in late December.

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00:17:22,040 --> 00:17:28,040

But the documentary that listeners hear is not the one Murphy had intended.

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00:17:28,040 --> 00:17:33,040

Object in the Woods. I say John, that's not what you said the other day.

176

00:17:33,040 --> 00:17:36,040

I said, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

177

00:17:36,040 --> 00:17:40,040

The documentary that listeners hear is not the one Murphy had intended.

178

00:17:40,040 --> 00:17:45,040

Object in the Woods. I say John, that's not what you said the other night.

179

00:17:45,040 --> 00:17:52,040

Well, he said, I have to change it. I said, why do you have to change it? But he would never tell me.

180

00:17:52,040 --> 00:18:00,040

When it was aired, it was absolutely not the same documentary as it was prepared.

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00:18:01,040 --> 00:18:08,040

At the beginning of the broadcast, Murphy advises his audience that his report has been edited.

182

00:18:08,040 --> 00:18:16,040

We regret that part of the program had to be censored and other parts of the program had to be cut out entirely.

183

00:18:16,040 --> 00:18:22,040

Despite his meeting just days before with the men who tell Mabel Mazza they were with the government,

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00:18:22,040 --> 00:18:29,040

Murphy asserts that there has been no official pressure to alter his production.

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00:18:30,040 --> 00:18:40,040

This station has not been contacted by any official agency of the state, federal or local government in connection with this program.

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00:18:40,040 --> 00:18:49,040

Murphy instead explains that the program has been changed because some interviewees became nervous about having their statements broadcast.

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00:18:49,040 --> 00:18:56,040

We received other calls every tonight from some other people who said they had changed their minds now at the last minute

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00:18:56,040 --> 00:19:01,040

and did not want the statements they had made over this past weekend used on this radio program tonight.

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00:19:01,040 --> 00:19:12,040

In the years that followed, Murphy never discusses his meeting with the two men or his decision to run the edited version of the documentary.

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00:19:12,040 --> 00:19:19,040

I don't think John ever became his real self then again because it's something that lingered with him.

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00:19:20,040 --> 00:19:29,040

Years later, Murphy's ex-wife remembers the importance he placed on the Kecksburg event and the effect it had on him personally.

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00:19:29,040 --> 00:19:40,040

This is like the story of his lifetime. I mean it's the way he treated it and all of a sudden nothing, not a word.

193

00:19:40,040 --> 00:19:45,040

It was totally unlikable to drop something like that.

194

00:19:45,040 --> 00:19:52,040

She also maintains that authorities confiscated some of the photos Murphy had taken in the woods that night.

195

00:19:52,040 --> 00:19:59,040

I know John had pictures of the object. He told me he did. He wouldn't lie about that. It's too good a story to pass up.

196

00:20:01,040 --> 00:20:07,040

Whatever secrets John Murphy held about that mysterious visit, he took to his grave.

197

00:20:08,040 --> 00:20:16,040

In February of 1969, Murphy was struck and killed by a car on a highway near Ventura, California.

198

00:20:19,040 --> 00:20:26,040

His dad gave me the police reportery. There was too many things in it that didn't make sense.

199

00:20:27,040 --> 00:20:40,040

For the next 20 years, the events of December 9th, 1965, seem to fade from public memory, only occasionally becoming the subject of talk for Kecksburg area residents.

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00:20:40,040 --> 00:20:47,040

Nevertheless, local researcher Stan Goudin is committed to collecting whatever information he can find.

201

00:20:48,040 --> 00:20:53,040

I would periodically get a relative of somebody who was there that night, somebody knew something else.

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00:20:53,040 --> 00:21:00,040

Most people that have experiences don't want any publicity. They're afraid of being ridiculed and for various reasons they don't want to go public.

203

00:21:02,040 --> 00:21:09,040

In the mid-1980s, one of Gordon's colleagues unearthed a Project Blue Book report concerning Kecksburg.

204

00:21:10,040 --> 00:21:19,040

The Air Force developed Project Blue Book to investigate all reported UFO sightings and determine if they were a national security threat.

205

00:21:19,040 --> 00:21:30,040

From 1947 until 1969, the study gathered more than 12,000 reports, 700 of which were classified unidentified.

206

00:21:31,040 --> 00:21:39,040

Though the report erroneously cites Acme, Pennsylvania as the location, Gordon knows that it refers to the crash in the Kecksburg woods.

207

00:21:39,040 --> 00:21:52,040

While it's possible that the formerly classified file will finally shed new light on the events of that night, after nearly two decades of waiting, Stan Goudin is not surprised with the military's explanation.

208

00:21:52,040 --> 00:22:01,040

The Project Blue Book report basically states that a search was conducted until about 2 a.m. that only three Air Force personnel were involved in the search and that nothing was found

209

00:22:01,040 --> 00:22:06,040

and that officially people had seen just a bright meteor in the sky that nothing had fallen to the ground that day.

210

00:22:07,040 --> 00:22:16,040

Gordon doubts the veracity of the Blue Book report. He's talked to eyewitnesses who describe a much larger military presence at the scene.

211

00:22:17,040 --> 00:22:28,040

So here you have military personnel coming in to other people's private property, they're preventing other civilians from going down to other people's property to stop you turning them around.

212

00:22:28,040 --> 00:22:33,040

So what was so important down in those woods that the military didn't want those people to see?

213

00:22:35,040 --> 00:22:40,040

Gordon looks for eyewitnesses, but many are reluctant to come forward.

214

00:22:41,040 --> 00:22:49,040

Then, in September of 1988, Stan Goudin gets an indication of what the military may have been hiding.

215

00:22:49,040 --> 00:22:55,040

Through an anonymous tip, he finds truck driver Bill Bullibush, who is now 62 years old.

216

00:22:58,040 --> 00:23:05,040

Bullibush, who Gordon believes may be the first person to see the object, has kept his silence for 23 years.

217

00:23:10,040 --> 00:23:17,040

During that meeting, Gordon takes Bullibush out to the Kecksburg Woods and has him retrace his steps from that night.

218

00:23:17,040 --> 00:23:25,040

He took us down from the top of the meteor road down through the woods, went behind the tree, said this is the tree I stood behind that night, pointed over to the spot.

219

00:23:28,040 --> 00:23:32,040

Bullibush's account matches that of another eyewitness Gordon has interviewed.

220

00:23:33,040 --> 00:23:40,040

Each man independently describes the solid, windowless object with strange writing along the sides.

221

00:23:42,040 --> 00:23:48,040

Bullibush also tells Gordon of the large amount of military personnel, mostly army, he saw that night.

222

00:23:49,040 --> 00:23:56,040

That memory, Bullibush says, has stayed with him because of the impact it seemed to have on his young son, Ricky.

223

00:23:57,040 --> 00:24:05,040

You see an army on a picture in a movie, you know, and that, but to see him out real life at seven years old, it really, really fixed him up.

224

00:24:07,040 --> 00:24:12,040

Gordon believes the strongest evidence that something occurred comes from objective eyewitnesses.

225

00:24:12,040 --> 00:24:23,040

We have not only civilians who report as seeing military personnel, but you also have reporters as eyewitnesses as well who reported seeing military personnel on the scene that evening.

226

00:24:24,040 --> 00:24:26,040

Bob Gatti is one of them.

227

00:24:29,040 --> 00:24:37,040

They had rifles. I come from an army family and I know what an army uniform looks like and I believe it was army.

228

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

I'm not sure how many altogether there were. It impressed me at the time that there were quite a few.

229

00:24:44,040 --> 00:24:52,040

I know it was army for one thing because I could see the star on the truck that showed that that was army.

230

00:24:55,040 --> 00:25:05,040

Mabel Mazza, WHJB's office manager, remembers receiving phone calls at the station from people identifying themselves as military authorities that night.

231

00:25:06,040 --> 00:25:20,040

Within about an hour of the phones ringing, I had military personnel call me on the phone and ask me the directions to Keckspark and they wanted to know what I knew and I said, I don't know anything, I'm just taking the phone calls.

232

00:25:23,040 --> 00:25:31,040

They just weren't coming from one direction. They seem to have just all come in at one time from all directions.

233

00:25:32,040 --> 00:25:46,040

In 1990, as the 25th anniversary of the Keckspark event nears, the story garners national media attention. Several of the eyewitness reports that Stan Gordon has uncovered are featured.

234

00:25:47,040 --> 00:25:52,040

The press coverage helps reignite the debate about what really happened in Keckspark.

235

00:25:53,040 --> 00:26:04,040

As I've looked at many of these stories that associate space events, satellites, re-entries, launchings, with UFO reports, I've been struck by how often they are connected.

236

00:26:05,040 --> 00:26:20,040

By 1991, the strange occurrence outside Keckspark, Pennsylvania, more than 25 years before, continues to be the subject of speculation. Could it have been a UFO?

237

00:26:21,040 --> 00:26:33,040

Based on what witnesses described, space consultant James Oberg believes he may have an alternate explanation for the Keckspark object.

238

00:26:34,040 --> 00:26:47,040

They talked about an acorn-shaped object and as a specialist in Soviet space history, I realized that wasn't a bad description of the re-entry capsule on the Soviet Venus probe.

239

00:26:51,040 --> 00:27:10,040

In 1965, NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, tracked Cosmos 96. NORAD knew that the satellite's Venus probe re-entered the atmosphere the same day as the Keckspark event, but the Soviets didn't acknowledge that the mission failed.

240

00:27:11,040 --> 00:27:21,040

Cosmos 96 was a Russian probe to Venus that got stuck in its parking orbit. The rocket failed. It never got any further. It fell back to Earth and burned up.

241

00:27:22,040 --> 00:27:39,040

Cosmos 96 was part of the USSR's Venera project, a 22-year study of the planet Venus. NORAD lacked

the technology to determine exactly where the craft landed, a mystery that the agency says remains to this day.

242

00:27:40,040 --> 00:27:51,040

Oberg thinks the Keckspark object could be Cosmos 96. To test his theory, he seeks out the Air Force tracking data from December 9th, 1965.

243

00:27:52,040 --> 00:27:57,040

The Air Force keeps very detailed historical records of satellites in space.

244

00:27:58,040 --> 00:28:12,040

Oberg believes they may be the key to solving the Keckspark mystery. But when Oberg examines the data, he finds a key inconsistency between the Cosmos probe and what happened in Keckspark.

245

00:28:15,040 --> 00:28:21,040

At the time of the Keckspark sightings, the flight path of Cosmos 96 was nowhere near Pennsylvania.

246

00:28:22,040 --> 00:28:32,040

People around Keckspark reported seeing the fireball in the early evening, around 4.45 p.m., as much as 13 hours after the Cosmos 96 re-entry.

247

00:28:34,040 --> 00:28:42,040

While the probe was believed to have entered the atmosphere over central Canada, NORAD now thinks it could have been as far away as the Indian Ocean.

248

00:28:43,040 --> 00:28:52,040

Oberg maintains it is possible that the Air Force intentionally released misleading data on Cosmos 96.

249

00:28:53,040 --> 00:29:03,040

Perhaps if it was a satellite and it did come down, the Air Force released false tracking data to camouflage this fact.

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00:29:04,040 --> 00:29:12,040

Oberg asserts that in the tense Cold War atmosphere, U.S. officials would have had every reason to keep such a find under wraps.

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00:29:15,040 --> 00:29:23,040

But by the year 2000, when he has access to more accurate data, Oberg finally dismisses the Cosmos 96 theory.

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00:29:24,040 --> 00:29:31,040

The coincidence of the satellite coming back to Earth the same day that this object was found in Pennsylvania, it was very tempting.

253

00:29:31,040 --> 00:29:37,040

Later on, better tracking data allowed us to see that this was not, in fact, a connection. It was a pure coincidence.

254

00:29:38,040 --> 00:29:43,040

Still, he maintains that other satellites can't be entirely ruled out.

255

00:29:44,040 --> 00:29:53,040

There are candidates from spacecraft, Russian and our spacecraft. The 60s was a period of very intense aerospace activity.

256

00:29:53,040 --> 00:30:04,040

Lots of stuff in the air, lots of it falling out of the air, and a lot of that really, really secret. Stuff that took years to come out if it ever did come out.

257

00:30:05,040 --> 00:30:16,040

It is possible, Oberg asserts, that a piece of a craft often referred to as orbital debris or space junk survived entry into the Earth's atmosphere and landed near Kecksburg.

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00:30:17,040 --> 00:30:21,040

People don't realize how much of the space junk that fell back to Earth survived.

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00:30:21,040 --> 00:30:28,040

We have struts and beams and insulation fragments that have re-entered the atmosphere. Most satellite burns up.

260

00:30:28,040 --> 00:30:37,040

These pieces survive, hit the ground, and those pieces that did hit the ground would be of immense interest to military intelligence officers.

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00:30:39,040 --> 00:30:43,040

Still, Oberg considers that an unlikely scenario.

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00:30:44,040 --> 00:30:53,040

For Stan Gordon, the space junk theory still fails to fully explain what eyewitnesses reported and what he's come to believe.

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00:30:54,040 --> 00:31:01,040

I'm convinced beyond any doubt that an object of unknown origin did fall from the sky and apparently the military came and recovered it.

264

00:31:02,040 --> 00:31:10,040

We've heard everything one witness told me years ago that a Gemini capsule had been expelled in the area that night, even though no information on that has ever been found.

265

00:31:11,040 --> 00:31:19,040

One witness indicated that he had information that the object was a projectile fired from a giant gun from a railroad car in Canada.

266

00:31:19,040 --> 00:31:30,040

We have something unidentified and the more we eliminate the possible options for it, the more mysterious it becomes and the more intriguing the question becomes as to what it actually was.

267

00:31:31,040 --> 00:31:40,040

Leslie Kane is a journalist working with the Coalition for Freedom of Information, a group funded by the SciFi Channel that has taken on the Kecksburg case.

268

00:31:41,040 --> 00:31:46,040

We have scientists down there that have actually been able to prove that there was something in those woods that came down.

269

00:31:46,040 --> 00:31:57,040

Still, in 1992, an amateur astronomer unearthed long forgotten evidence, which he believes settles the matter once and for all.

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00:31:58,040 --> 00:32:04,040

We have evidence. I think Kecksburg is a closed case.

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00:32:04,040 --> 00:32:21,040

In September of 1990, a nationally broadcast television program features a segment on the Kecksburg story.

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00:32:22,040 --> 00:32:28,040

Robert Young, an amateur astronomer and lecturer at a Pennsylvania planetarium, becomes intrigued by the case.

273

00:32:29,040 --> 00:32:35,040

He delves into newspaper articles and reexamines eyewitness reports.

274

00:32:36,040 --> 00:32:42,040

He later publishes an article declaring that there's nothing unsolved about the Kecksburg case.

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00:32:43,040 --> 00:32:47,040

The elements of this story might suggest that there's something unusual happen.

276

00:32:48,040 --> 00:32:53,040

The armed troops, an armed convoy, the object itself.

277

00:32:53,040 --> 00:32:57,040

These stories only come from a very tiny handful of people.

278

00:32:58,040 --> 00:33:05,040

Young suspects that those early reports from the night of December 9th may have simply been blown out of proportion.

279

00:33:06,040 --> 00:33:13,040

Hoping to learn more, he tracks down Ed Meyers, who was Kecksburg's fire chief in 1965.

280

00:33:14,040 --> 00:33:21,040

Ed Meyers told me that while there was a search and a lot of people were there, that nothing was recovered.

281

00:33:22,040 --> 00:33:24,040

And there weren't large numbers of military people.

282

00:33:25,040 --> 00:33:30,040

Young collects 150 eyewitness accounts from newspapers and his own interviews.

283

00:33:32,040 --> 00:33:36,040

They indicate that the official explanation is the closest to the truth.

284

00:33:37,040 --> 00:33:43,040

That nothing fell to earth and there was no major military presence in Kecksburg that night.

285

00:33:45,040 --> 00:33:49,040

Meyers also accounts for the blue lights seen in the woods.

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00:33:53,040 --> 00:33:59,040

There are some high school kids who were running through the woods flashing a camera strobe which created blue flashing lights.

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00:34:00,040 --> 00:34:13,040

Then, in early 1992, Young discovers an academic paper published in the August 1967 Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

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00:34:17,040 --> 00:34:24,040

Von Del Chamberlain is one of the two authors who suggests that the light seen over Kecksburg was a fireball meteor.

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00:34:24,040 --> 00:34:30,040

A celestial occurrence notable for its intense brightness and visibility over a large distance.

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00:34:32,040 --> 00:34:42,040

It was seen over several states. It was very well observed throughout lower Michigan and especially southwest Ontario over by Windsor.

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00:34:43,040 --> 00:34:54,040

Chamberlain and his colleague were able to map out the trajectory of the fireball by using these two photos of the objects dust trail taken by photographers in Michigan.

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00:34:55,040 --> 00:35:06,040

We were able to use these because the photos were taken from two different places. They had landscape features so that with the photographers we could go back to the place where the camera was.

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00:35:07,040 --> 00:35:17,040

By witnesses Bill Bullybush and Robert Blystone have maintained that the objects seemed to make a controlled landing into the Kecksburg woods.

294

00:35:19,040 --> 00:35:24,040

Von Del Chamberlain says these accounts are likely an illusion that's easily explained.

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00:35:25,040 --> 00:35:44,040

Typically when a bright fireball occurs people who are out on the periphery of its observation will believe they know where it came down because the fireball is still glowing, still bright in the sky when it goes to or even beyond the visible horizon.

296

00:35:45,040 --> 00:35:49,040

So it will look like it came down beyond the nearby buildings or trees.

297

00:35:50,040 --> 00:36:01,040

Chamberlain says if a meteor makes contact with the Earth's surface at all it can be several hundred miles away from where eyewitnesses believe it came down.

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00:36:03,040 --> 00:36:09,040

Chamberlain and Young conclude that the Kecksburg event was most likely a typical fireball meteor.

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00:36:10,040 --> 00:36:16,040

But what are the descriptions of the object making a series of S-turns over Kecksburg?

300

00:36:19,040 --> 00:36:26,040

Well the trail is left by dust particles in the atmosphere by the meteor that's coming in.

301

00:36:27,040 --> 00:36:32,040

The winds move the trail around as if you're looking at the contrail of an airplane a few minutes later.

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00:36:33,040 --> 00:36:40,040

And this contrail was visible for twenty minutes some people reported a half hour that they could see it in the western sky.

303

00:36:41,040 --> 00:36:44,040

So lots of chance for the thing to assume other shapes.

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00:36:45,040 --> 00:36:52,040

Leslie Cain however maintains that this argument ignores what some witnesses say was a significant military response.

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00:36:53,040 --> 00:36:57,040

In the military it wouldn't behave like that if a meteorite had come down.

306

00:36:58,040 --> 00:37:02,040

I mean it would have been known fairly quickly and they could have let the media know that this is what it was.

307

00:37:03,040 --> 00:37:12,040

And Stan Gorten a UFO researcher who has spent nearly thirty years investigating the Kecksburg case says the eyewitness reports provide compelling evidence.

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00:37:14,040 --> 00:37:17,040

I've interviewed hundreds of people who have directed in to acknowledge about the case.

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00:37:17,040 --> 00:37:22,040

And it's not been easy to find some of these witnesses because the majority of them didn't want any publicity.

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00:37:23,040 --> 00:37:30,040

And what's so intriguing is the fact that so many of their statements and information they have verify other people's accounts.

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00:37:32,040 --> 00:37:37,040

In 1992 Robert Young challenges Gorten to re-examine the facts.

312

00:37:38,040 --> 00:37:44,040

I sent Stan Gorten a copy of the chain growing cross paper and we had the photographs.

313

00:37:44,040 --> 00:37:48,040

And I asked him for his comment. How does this affect this particular story?

314

00:37:49,040 --> 00:37:50,040

Never heard from him again.

315

00:37:51,040 --> 00:37:57,040

But Gorten claims that Robert Young refuses to accept the eyewitness accounts of credible people.

316

00:38:00,040 --> 00:38:06,040

Investigative journalist Leslie Cain has pursued the case since 2002 and believes it's not a meteor.

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00:38:07,040 --> 00:38:09,040

There's too much information that doesn't add up.

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00:38:15,040 --> 00:38:21,040

In 2003 production began on a television program about the Kecksburg UFO.

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00:38:22,040 --> 00:38:29,040

The sci-fi channel funded CFI or the Coalition for Freedom of Information to research the Kecksburg incident.

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00:38:30,040 --> 00:38:34,040

It's time that CFI presses for the release of related government documents.

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00:38:35,040 --> 00:38:36,040

They have every right to this information.

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00:38:38,040 --> 00:38:40,040

Leslie Cain is the group's co-founder.

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00:38:40,040 --> 00:38:45,040

She describes her mission as that of an objective investigator, not a UFO hunter.

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00:38:46,040 --> 00:38:52,040

I'm trying to stay right on track as a journalist that all it means is that we don't know what the object is.

325

00:38:53,040 --> 00:38:59,040

Cain doubts the official explanation that the object residents saw over Kecksburg was a meteor.

326

00:39:00,040 --> 00:39:08,040

I'm sure there are many, there are scientists and others that believe that that's the most likely explanation for this event in 1965.

327

00:39:09,040 --> 00:39:15,040

The problem is that there are so many eyewitness accounts that describe a physical object coming down.

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00:39:16,040 --> 00:39:19,040

She believes that the reports of eyewitnesses are key.

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00:39:21,040 --> 00:39:27,040

Among them is Bill Weaver, who remembers a heavy military presence in and around the woods that night.

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00:39:28,040 --> 00:39:35,040

You know, these people that are saying that nothing happened that night, they never seen any military there.

331

00:39:35,040 --> 00:39:39,040

Either one, they weren't there or two, they aren't telling the truth.

332

00:39:40,040 --> 00:39:42,040

Because this did happen.

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00:39:43,040 --> 00:39:48,040

In an effort to determine scientifically if an object came down in the woods outside Kecksburg,

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00:39:49,040 --> 00:39:54,040

the TV program includes a study by Dr. Ray Hicks of West Virginia University.

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00:39:56,040 --> 00:40:02,040

A professor of forestry, Dr. Hicks examines the rings on a core sample of damaged trees there.

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00:40:03,040 --> 00:40:09,040

He studied those trees and went inside them and he was able to document that this was actually caused by something physical

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00:40:10,040 --> 00:40:14,040

and he was able to date the damage back to the year 1965.

338

00:40:15,040 --> 00:40:23,040

This is very, very significant proof or close to proof, smoking gun as it were, that there was a physical object that came down.

339

00:40:24,040 --> 00:40:27,040

And yes indeed, that object is an unidentified flying object.

340

00:40:28,040 --> 00:40:34,040

The result of Dr. Hicks' testing appears to support the eyewitness account of Bill Bullybush.

341

00:40:35,040 --> 00:40:42,040

You can see where it laid the trees over on the tops, knocks the top right out. They were all bent the way it came in.

342

00:40:43,040 --> 00:40:48,040

Cain and CFI also reexamine the Cosmos 96 claim.

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00:40:49,040 --> 00:40:54,040

She retained the assistance of Nicholas Johnson, NASA's chief scientist for orbital debris.

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00:40:55,040 --> 00:41:02,040

Johnson reconfirms that Cosmos 96, a failed Russian space mission, was not what fell in Kecksburg.

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00:41:03,040 --> 00:41:08,040

In an email to the History Channel, Johnson says he searched the US satellite catalog.

346

00:41:09,040 --> 00:41:16,040

It revealed that Cosmos 96 was the only cataloged object to reenter on December 9th, 1965.

347

00:41:17,040 --> 00:41:19,040

It was not a missile, it was not an aircraft.

348

00:41:19,040 --> 00:41:29,040

I thought that was a very, very powerful statement because he said everything is cataloged even if it's a somewhat sensitive military experiment.

349

00:41:30,040 --> 00:41:42,040

Robert Young dismisses the significance that Cain and others place on eyewitness accounts and points to the photos as the strongest pieces of evidence that the Kecksburg object was a meteor.

350

00:41:42,040 --> 00:41:49,040

They don't have anything except some stories against physical evidence, the pictures.

351

00:41:50,040 --> 00:41:55,040

Over the years, the media attention has taken its toll on this rural community.

352

00:41:56,040 --> 00:42:03,040

Some say a definite rift remains between those in Kecksburg who believe something fell from the sky and those who don't.

353

00:42:04,040 --> 00:42:11,040

You got relatives who, one was involved, the other one says this was bull nothing happened that night.

354

00:42:12,040 --> 00:42:14,040

Some don't talk to each other, some still don't talk today.

355

00:42:15,040 --> 00:42:20,040

Bill Weaver remembers feeling pressured not to talk about his experiences that night.

356

00:42:22,040 --> 00:42:31,040

It was just something that's secret. You'd be a damn near communist, you know, to talk about something like this.

357

00:42:32,040 --> 00:42:42,040

CFI continues to press for documents from agencies that might shed light on whatever happened in Kecksburg on December 9th, 1965.

358

00:42:43,040 --> 00:42:50,040

We are proceeding with both Air Force and Army investigations and we have every intention of filing lawsuits against those agencies.

359

00:42:51,040 --> 00:42:54,040

At a certain point if we do not receive satisfactory response from them.

360

00:42:54,040 --> 00:43:05,040

Kane cites the example of Project Blue Book as evidence demonstrating that the military is unwilling to reveal the truth.

361

00:43:06,040 --> 00:43:15,040

At one point there's an interesting section in there in which they say that the media has been calling and the head of Project Blue Book says,

362

00:43:16,040 --> 00:43:21,040

you can tell them it's a meteor but the document goes on to say, but we're still investigating the case.

363

00:43:22,040 --> 00:43:33,040

With Leslie Kane, CFI is a participant in a suit pending with NASA in hopes of forcing the space agency to release any documents it may have on the Kecksburg case.

364

00:43:36,040 --> 00:43:44,040

A previous request for documents in 2003 yielded 36 pages of what CFI calls irrelevant material.

365

00:43:45,040 --> 00:43:52,040

These are American citizens who deserve this information, who have every right to this information.

366

00:43:53,040 --> 00:44:01,040

Many of those who were in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania on the night of December 9th, 1965 agree.

367

00:44:02,040 --> 00:44:13,040

I'd really like to know what did come down because I can tell you it was no meteor, that's for short, because it was being controlled.

368

00:44:14,040 --> 00:44:16,040

It was somebody that saw it to tell you that.

369

00:44:17,040 --> 00:44:25,040

I don't believe the government will ever tell us the truth and tell generations down the road. My grandchildren may not.

370

00:44:26,040 --> 00:44:38,040

The trouble is we're all suspicious and if their evidence is that nothing occurred, how do they prove to us that nothing occurred?

371

00:44:39,040 --> 00:44:42,040

Will we believe them? I wonder about that.

372

00:44:44,040 --> 00:44:49,040

The preceding program presented theories about an historical event that is shrouded in mystery.

373

00:44:50,040 --> 00:44:56,040

It contained archival footage, reenactments and dramatizations which invite you, the viewer, to draw your own conclusions.

374

00:44:58,040 --> 00:45:00,040

It's truly an unidentified line object.

375

00:45:01,040 --> 00:45:03,040

The government has not told the truth about UFOs.

376

00:45:04,040 --> 00:45:06,040

Sightings tend to come in waves.

377

00:45:07,040 --> 00:45:08,040

There was definitely a camera.

378

00:45:09,040 --> 00:45:11,040

Most of the cases are never reported.

379

00:45:11,040 --> 00:45:14,040

It was not anything from this earth.