

1

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

MUSIC

2

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

It's an explosive tail that's been lost among the sands and weeds of the Mexican desert.

3

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

There were rumors, since long ago, that an object crashed in Mexico.

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

In 1974, a mysterious incident took place that some say involved a UFO and a small plane.

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

On a collision course, followed by a race between two governments to recover the debris.

6

00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:51,000

The Mexican recovery team finds a sort of a silver-shaped classic disc.

7

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

The Mexican military recovered an object and had it on a truck, and something killed all the men.

8

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:05,000

The U.S. government responded very quickly and very organized. They've done this before.

9

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:13,000

But what happened in the Mexican desert is just the beginning of that country's UFO history.

10

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:21,000

The eclipse from July 11, 1991, it practically branded the modern era of UFOs in Mexico.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:27,000

Over the last several decades, it has become a hotbed for UFO encounters.

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00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:33,000

When they picked up the object on radar, the first thing they did was start looking at it.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:37,000

There we are.

14

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

And everyone from pilots to politicians have been witness to sightings.

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:49,000

Would you say to the governor that he didn't see something strange in the sky?

16

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:54,000

In the next hour, eye-witness interviews, never-before-seen footage,

17

00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:02,000

an expert analysis tried to solve the mystery of what really happened that day in the Mexican desert in 1974,

18

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

and the rash of documented sightings ever since.

19

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:23,000

Coyame, Mexico, a small town not found on many maps, a place swallowed up by the Mexican desert,

20

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:26,000

home to more agave plants than people.

21

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:35,000

Coyame is situated in the northern part of the state of Chihuahua, and our municipality is 7,000 square feet.

22

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:41,000

We have between 2,000-2,500 people. It's a calm place, a beautiful place.

23

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:48,000

A place with no library, no archives, and no local historian.

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

But that doesn't mean it's a town without a history.

25

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:58,000

Here, history is passed from neighbor to neighbor, and it's this oral history that gives testimony

26

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:03,000

to an unsolved air collision that took place here just three decades ago.

27

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

It began as a civilian plane took off from El Paso, Texas, en route to Mexico City.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:16,000

August 25th, 1974, there was a plane that was coming out from El Paso.

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00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:20,000

It was going to Mexico City, and it was an accident.

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00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:29,000

They say that there was a crash between a plane and a UFO within the territories of the municipality.

31

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:37,000

I don't think this could be made up. How could someone make this up? It's true.

32

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:43,000

August 25th, 1974, 10.07 pm.

33

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

It's a quiet summer's night in Cuyame. The town's inhabitants are beginning to turn in.

34

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:59,000

500 miles away, United States air defense systems suddenly register an unknown flying object over the Gulf of Mexico.

35

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

Streaking across the sky at over 2,500 miles per hour, at an altitude of 75,000 feet, only one thing is for certain.

36

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:15,000

This is not something man-made. Initial indications are that it's probably nothing more than a meteor.

37

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

But 60 seconds later, it becomes clear that this is no meteor.

38

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:28,000

This object was traveling and descending through steps, unlike that of a meteor again, with more of an arc.

39

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:33,000

The object appears headed on a course towards Corpus Christi, Texas.

40

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,000

American air defense systems are alerted.

41

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:51,000

10.09 pm. The unidentified flying object now suddenly veers left and enters Mexican airspace just 40 miles south of Brownsville, Texas.

42

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

The U.S. continues tracking the puzzling spacecraft as it now races over Mexico.

43

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:04,000

Yet what isn't seen on radar is a small craft headed on a trajectory towards the UFO.

44

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

What's also interesting about this case is about the same time as this UFO was zinging and zagging, there was a plane that was leaving El Paso headed towards Mexico City.

45

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:24,000

Under the cover of night, the small civilian plane from El Paso heads towards Mexico's capital city.

46

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:28,000

But the plane from Texas never reaches its destination.

47

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:37,000

At the same time, the American military watches as their unidentified flying object disappears from radar.

48

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:45,000

It appears that the unthinkable has happened. A UFO plane collision.

49

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

There's an assumption that there was a collision of some type where both the craft and the plane had collided.

50

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:59,000

August 26, 1974, 8 a.m.

51

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

Nine hours after a civilian plane disappeared over the desert, a Mexican recovery team hunts for the downed craft.

52

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

Across the border, American intelligence is listening in.

53

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:18,000

At 10.35 a.m., the Americans intercept the Mexican military radio report.

54

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:23,000

The wreckage of the missing plane has been spotted just outside Cuyame.

55

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:32,000

Moments later, another report shockingly announces the sighting of a second wreck, but this is no plane.

56

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:39,000

The Mexican recovery team finds a sort of a silver-shaped classic disc.

57

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:46,000

Some 16 feet 5 inches, about 5 feet thick, convex on both sides, sort of like a saucer.

58

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:54,000

The saucer's surface has the appearance of polished steel. It has no markings, no lights, and there are no bodies inside.

59

00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:03,000

However, it does appear to be damaged in two spots, possibly caused by a collision with the civilian plane and then falling to the ground.

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

Immediately, Mexican officials declare a radio silence on all search activities.

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:19,000

Meanwhile, U.S. officials reach out to the Mexican government, offering assistance in the recovery.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Their offer is met with a denial.

63

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:27,000

The Mexican government denied it. They said, no, all we have is just a plane wreckage.

64

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:36,000

While the Mexican team collects the crash debris, the United States is busy assembling their own elite recovery force at Fort Bliss, Texas.

65

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:44,000

The team includes four helicopters, three small Hueys, and a large sea stallion.

66

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:52,000

Prepped and ready to move out, the team is placed on standby while U.S. surveillance scopes out the situation.

67

00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:09,000

The U.S. was keeping tabs again through its spy, well, what I call the spy surveillance network, through their cell light surveillance as well as airplanes that were flying over at low altitude.

68

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:17,000

American surveillance reveals that the Mexicans have placed the UFO on a flatbed truck and moved out from the crash site.

69

00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:26,000

They were able to see there were a number of dead bodies, which led them to believe that something very extraordinary had happened.

70

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:35,000

August 27th, 238 p.m. Unsure of what's happened, U.S. officials greenlight the rescue team.

71

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Four helicopters with team members aboard depart Fort Bliss.

72

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:51,000

One of the things that seems obvious in this case is that the government, the U.S. government, responded very expertly, very quickly and very organized.

73

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:59,000

They had this team that assembled in Fort Bliss and in no time were down there on site recovering this. They've done this before.

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

But nothing will prepare the Americans for what they are about to find.

75

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Dressed in bioprotection suits, the American soldiers approach the silent convoy and find all the Mexicans dead.

76

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:25,000

There is no time to investigate what killed the Mexican team, but U.F.ologists have their theories.

77

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:46,000

They somehow came in contact with a lethal agent, a bacteriological agent that was from out of this world or an extraterrestrial biological agent of some sort that killed them,

78

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:48,000

which is my favorite theory.

79

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:56,000

The U.S. recovery team quickly tends to business. It finds the 16-foot-wide silver UFO strapped to the back of a flatbed truck.

80

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:01,000

The straps are reconfigured and connected to a cargo cable from the Sea Stallion helicopter.

81

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:08,000

Safely secure, the estimated 1,500-pound disk is lifted up and headed back to the U.S.

82

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:24,000

With the saucer gone, the team immediately turns their attention to the remaining evidence. The plane wreckage, vehicles from the convoy and the Mexican team bodies are gathered.

83

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:36,000

They gathered the debris, the bodies from the Mexican recovery team, and then they exploded them with high explosives. The reason why is to hide the evidence.

84

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:50,000

Their work done, the recovery team heads back to base, where the UFO was taken is unknown. Some have speculated at Landa, Fort Bliss, or Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

85

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:56,000

It is an unprecedented event, and I think it's comparable to what happened in Roswell, New Mexico.

86

00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:02,000

If this 1974 UFO crash was real, there was no evidence to prove it.

87

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

Only the passing down of the story from generation to generation kept the tale alive, but few took it seriously.

88

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:19,000

That changed in 1991. That year, not one, not two, but dozens of UFO sightings are reported over Mexico.

89

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:32,000

What gives the 1991 sightings credibility is that strangers reported seeing the same thing at the same time on the same day, and yet they were hundreds of miles apart from each other.

90

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:43,000

For over three decades, the Mexican desert is alleged to have been the site of an incredible tale.

91

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:49,000

There were rumors since long ago that an object crashed in Mexico.

92

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:56,000

An object entered our atmosphere through the United States, and it crashed with a small plane.

93

00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:05,000

For the last two decades, Mexico has witnessed UFO incidents that rival anything reported in the United States.

94

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:13,000

Mexicans just needed one unifying event to keep their eyes focused to the sky. That happened in 1991.

95

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:24,000

In July of that year, one of the longest solar eclipses in history is set to happen.

96

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:30,000

The total eclipse is visible only in a narrow corridor that includes central Mexico.

97

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:39,000

A year in advance, all the Mexican people knew about the eclipse in 1991. I mean, it was an event, it was a moment.

98

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:43,000

All around Mexico, there were people waiting for the eclipse.

99

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:55,000

It was an important eclipse because even though there had been other eclipses that had taken place until that day, they were not on the magnitude of that eclipse.

100

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:04,000

Just after 1 p.m., the skies above Mexico darken. Astronomers adjust their telescopes, millions gaze skyward.

101

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

During 1991, consumer technology makes videos commonplace. On this day, many Mexicans use their cameras to capture the moon as it begins to pass in front of the sun.

102

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:21,000

To their disbelief, they also capture something unexpected.

103

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

It was a curious thing. During the eclipse, I heard some people who were around us saying, look, what is that there also?

104

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:39,000

Several people filmed and saw metallic objects that are clearly distinguished for the form of a cupola, on what is commonly called a flying object.

105

00:13:39,000 --> 00:14:01,000

In Mexico City, in Tepeji del Río, in Puebla, in Cerro de la Estrella, from all corners of Mexico come videos showing a strange metallic-looking object just below the eclipse.

106

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:08,000

The eclipse UFOs, or ovnis, as they are called in Mexico, become the talk of the country.

107

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:16,000

But while some are quick to claim that Mexico experienced a UFO encounter, skeptics aren't buying it.

108

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:23,000

This was one of the great events of the century as far as eclipses and astronomical events.

109

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:35,000

And hundreds and thousands of astronomers, professional and advanced amateur astronomers, came from all over the world and converged upon Mexico City and the other towns where the eclipse was visible.

110

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:40,000

Not a single professional astronomer reported seeing anything that wasn't supposed to be there.

111

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:47,000

Professional astronomers immediately doubt any UFO claims and instead offer a more scholarly response.

112

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:56,000

When the sun is totally eclipsed, like it was in Mexico on that day, the bright stars and planets become visible for a few minutes.

113

00:14:56,000 --> 00:15:01,000

And Venus was very brilliant and so it was very easy to see when people looked up.

114

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:05,000

And I'm sure that many of the people thought that they saw a UFO.

115

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

Sceptics have their answer, but UFO believers have their doubts.

116

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:21,000

Because of that, because so many people recorded in different cities these objects, some suggested that had to be the star Venus.

117

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:27,000

But Venus was in a different position than the UFOs were in the tapes.

118

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:31,000

It was something strange that happened during the eclipse.

119

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:38,000

It's afterwards when you start analyzing and looking at the videos that you can start to see in some of them that there are movements

120

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:40,000

that maybe wouldn't correspond to a planet.

121

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:46,000

When you start analyzing more calmly after the fact, that's when you start to wonder if it could have been a UFO.

122

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:53,000

The 1991 sightings ignite a UFO explosion in Mexico.

123

00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:01,000

The effect of the UFOs from the 1991 eclipse was like a snowball.

124

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:09,000

And this allowed people with an interest in UFOs to record sightings more frequently.

125

00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:22,000

While Mexico's UFO explosion comes as a surprise to most, some ufologists believe it was actually predicted over a thousand years ago.

126

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:27,000

The Maya were one of the great civilizations in history.

127

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:37,000

For over 600 years they built cities, constructed reservoirs and temple pyramids, and developed an incredible understanding of astronomy.

128

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:43,000

It is incredible the knowledge that the Maya had about the sky and the planets.

129

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:45,000

They had a great capacity of observation.

130

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:51,000

They knew the celestial movement and were able to determine every single important event that was going to be registered in Mexico.

131

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:58,000

The Maya recorded their information on foldable books called codices.

132

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:02,000

Most of these texts were burned by Spanish priests during the 1500s.

133

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:06,000

Today, just four Mayan codices remain.

134

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:14,000

Among them is the Dresden Codex, a document that offers an enigmatic glimpse into the Mayan's astral wisdom.

135

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:20,000

It's pure astronomical, the moon, the sun, the systems, everything. Everything is there.

136

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:27,000

Anybody who has a story and analyzed that, consider this document a real treasure from the past.

137

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:32,000

Among the information contained in this codex is an eclipse prediction cycle.

138

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:42,000

The eclipse of 1991 appears in the Dresden Codex, but did the Dresden Codex predict something more?

139

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:49,000

In it, they talk about the meeting with the brothers of the stars, which in our language we call extraterrestrials.

140

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:58,000

When I read this, after receiving all these videos, that struck me. That really affected me.

141

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:09,000

Because it's like if the Mayans knew long in advance that these sightings were going to take place that day.

142

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:16,000

How can you explain that? Is that a coincidence or they knew? I think they knew.

143

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

Over a century later, most Mexicans knew something out of the ordinary was happening.

144

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:29,000

Their UFO wave had turned into a tsunami.

145

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:39,000

Literally overnight, Mexicans are mesmerized by the apparent UFO wave striking their country.

146

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:47,000

Euphologists point to the open-mindedness of the Mexican people as being partly responsible for this UFO explosion.

147

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:56,000

Mexicans have been fascinated by legends, stories, elves, fairies.

148

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:05,000

That psychology and sociology allows Mexicans to keep an open mind when it comes to extraordinary occurrences.

149

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:14,000

When you open yourself up to other possibilities, it is much easier to accept the UFO phenomena.

150

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:26,000

However, skeptics claim that Mexico's UFO wave is more of a social phenomenon than any actual increase in visits from little green men.

151

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:31,000

Sightings always seem to come in waves and these waves are generally correlated with the publicity.

152

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:42,000

That if the newspapers or TV stations, whatever are filled with stories about UFO sightings, people will go out and pay much more attention to things that they see.

153

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Since the earliest UFO sightings, witnesses have always been subject to heavy ridicule.

154

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:54,000

They are portrayed as overzealous sky watchers who wouldn't know a DC-9 from a weather balloon.

155

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:58,000

But what happens when the witness is someone who doesn't fit into these categories?

156

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:02,000

What if the person has a solid reputation and career?

157

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:06,000

What if the witness doesn't just know a DC-9 but flies one?

158

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:11,000

Captain Reimundo Cervantes has been flying for over 40 years.

159

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:15,000

With 17,000 hours of flight time he has seen it all.

160

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Or at least he thought so.

161

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

July 28, 1994.

162

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

Captain Cervantes is piloting Arrow Mexico Flight 129 from Guadalajara to Mexico City.

163

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:31,000

He's taken the route before and everything seems in order, including the weather.

164

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:39,000

Totally clear, like we the aviators say. We could see the next day, totally clear.

165

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:47,000

As the flight nears Mexico City International Airport, Cervantes puts the DC-9 on course for landing.

166

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:54,000

5,000 feet in the air, he receives the all clear from the control tower and prepares to lower the landing gear.

167

00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:04,000

I ordered to lower the front wheel. At that moment we felt an impact on the plane. Very strong.

168

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:15,000

The plane is rocked. To Cervantes it appears obvious that they have collided with something in mid-air, but there is no time to investigate.

169

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

The pilot has already begun his descent of the DC-9.

170

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:36,000

At that moment I declare an emergency and I requested an area so that I can develop the list of emergency and coordinate my personnel of flight attendants, because I thought we were going to have an abnormal landing.

171

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:45,000

Unsure of the condition of the damage to his landing gear, Cervantes needs nerves of steel to coax the wounded jet to safety.

172

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:53,000

We level the plane. We tried to land softly and steady the front wheel.

173

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:57,000

I was concerned that there was damage.

174

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:05,000

We lower the front wheel and to our surprise, the plane starts rolling perfectly.

175

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:20,000

Disaster is averted. Captain Cervantes wonders if a helicopter has clipped his DC-9 on approach.

176

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:30,000

But the air tower's radar records discredit that theory. Yet an inspection of the DC-9 reveals damage and creates more questions than answers.

177

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:45,000

There was a flight inspector that searched the plane who detected that one of the hydraulic lines was cut. It was cut like if it was done with a cutter. Something very strange.

178

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:57,000

What caused the landing gear's hydraulic line to be cut? A subsequent investigation will place blame for the incident on worn out parts and the airline denies any mid-air collision.

179

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:09,000

But Captain Cervantes stands by his claim that the plane hit something. That isn't the end of the story. Flight 129 Strange Encounter is about to get even stranger.

180

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:22,000

Enrique Colbeck is an air traffic controller who was in the tower that night. Upon learning of Flight 129's incident, he instantly flashes back to a series of phone calls the tower had received earlier that evening.

181

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:42,000

An hour before that flight was initiated in Guadalajara, where you received phone calls from different sources. They were communicating to us that an object was flying very close to a building that is almost in the final trajectory to these runways.

182

00:23:42,000 --> 00:24:05,000

The sightings place the unidentified flying object right in the landing path of Flight 129. To most, the idea of a plane UFO collision seems unrealistic. But a few days later, another incident at the same airport raises suspicions that something out of the ordinary is going on.

183

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:26,000

August 8, 1994. Co-pilot Carlos Corzo is helping Aeromexico flight 304 from Acapulco begin its descent into Mexico City International Airport. The morning skies are partly cloudy as co-pilot Corzo looks out the cockpit window. The pilot's eyes are glued to the instruments.

184

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:43,000

He was flying by instruments. So all his view was on the instruments. I was taking care of the surroundings and seeing outside and even take the communications and helping him with the approach.

185

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:50,000

As the plane breaks through a cloud, a shocked Corzo finds something unexpected.

186

00:24:50,000 --> 00:25:09,000

I was leaving 12,000 feet and came out of the cloud and I see this big object in front of us and I really get scared. I thought we was going to have a collision and I tell my captain in a surprise expression that, oh my God, we're going to crash.

187

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:16,000

The mysterious craft streaks by the front of flight 304, barely missing the plane's nose.

188

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:33,000

It was a huge object, maybe 15 or 20 meters radio, something like a platinum or some kind of very neat metal.

189

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:39,000

Corzo quickly regains his composure and helps land the plane without further incident.

190

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:49,000

Afterward, he speaks to an air traffic controller who reveals that Corzo's plane was in fact the fifth plane that week to report seeing an unidentified object.

191

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:58,000

I can tell you about approximately 99% of pilots that I have talked to believe that we are not alone here.

192

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:08,000

And the evidence that we have had confirms it. We take it very seriously because it could affect our airspace.

193

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:19,000

Definitely, there is a potential danger because we do not know what produces the phenomenon and what it is made of and why it is manifested.

194

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

Nearly a decade later, another incident in the Mexican skies would send shockwaves worldwide.

195

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

Yet, unlike previous encounters, this one would have everyone believing, including the Mexican government.

196

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:41,000

Every year on the 9th of September 15th, they come together.

197

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:52,000

Thousands pack the main square in Mexico City to watch their president ring the very same bell that signaled the start of their fight for independence almost two centuries ago.

198

00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:57,000

The next 24 hours will be full of parades, parties and celebrations.

199

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:02,000

But in the early 1990s, a new Mexican Independence Day tradition is born.

200

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:12,000

September 16th is Mexican Independence and we have a military parade on the streets of Mexico.

201

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:21,000

For several years, we used to have an air show. The whole Mexican Air Force used to go out and fly over Mexico City.

202

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:28,000

A lot of people were filmed these events when the planes would pass over the houses.

203

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:35,000

There are many videos where certain objects are seen flying over and passing closely.

204

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:46,000

September 16th, 1991. During the flyover, an amateur videographer captures a mysterious bright round object.

205

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:54,000

September 16th, 1992. An unidentified object is spotted flying through the sky.

206

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:11,000

September 16th, 1993. As a squadron of helicopters conducts maneuvers, a metallic looking object appears to weave through their formation.

207

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:18,000

Three years, three sightings. Yet the Mexican military offers no comment on the encounters.

208

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:30,000

With respect to the sightings of these objects during military parades, the government never voiced

an opinion for or against.

209

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:38,000

The government here has always remained aloof.

210

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:49,000

This comes as no surprise to the UFO community, who for decades has claimed that governments are actively suppressing UFO encounters.

211

00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:57,000

Blacked out reports, secret projects and constant denials have all fed the notion of a massive cover-up.

212

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:10,000

March 5th, 2004. Mexico's 501 Air Squadron is on a routine search for drug smuggling aircraft, but the military pilots witness something far from routine.

213

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:22,000

The Air Force in Mexico patrols the South border to stop airplanes with narcotics from South America.

214

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

They regularly do this many times every day with different airplanes.

215

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:36,000

But this day is different. During an afternoon surveillance run, the team picks something up on their radar.

216

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:39,000

They assume it's a drug running plane and take off after it.

217

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:49,000

Following it on radar, the object appears to be changing speeds erratically, at times traveling at over 380 miles per hour.

218

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:55,000

While in pursuit, the crew turns on their forward-looking infrared system, or FLIR.

219

00:29:55,000 --> 00:30:07,000

It's like a camera that is mounted on the aircraft, and its purpose is to look not using visible light like an ordinary camera would, but using infrared.

220

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:17,000

The infrared eyes of the plane's exterior mounted FLIR system transmits video to the crew inside. This is the actual video, as seen by the crew.

221

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:26,000

But as Mexican Air Patrol gets closer to the object, the crew are unable to spot anything using the FLIR, or with their own eyes.

222

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:37,000

All this time that they're flying towards it, they are looking ahead of the aircraft, because that's where it says that this radar target is, ahead of the aircraft, and they're looking, they couldn't see anything.

223

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:54,000

After chasing the object for several minutes, the crew determines they are too low on gas to continue the hunt. They turn around and begin heading back to the base. The unknown object soon vanishes from radar. Yet, their adventure is just beginning.

224

00:30:55,000 --> 00:31:02,000

The FLIR operator was still operating the FLIR, and he started picking up bright lights that appeared to be at cloud level.

225

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:14,000

Suddenly, appearing on the FLIR through the clouds isn't just one ball of light, but at times as many as 11 objects appear to be weaving through the clouds.

226

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:21,000

The crew got a little bit spooked over what was going on, because they couldn't identify these things. They didn't know what it was they were looking at.

227

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:37,000

This is a veteran crew who have flown this route before, and have been using the FLIR system for almost two years. But on this day, even the most experience of pilots would be unnerved, as the cockpit recordings reveal.

228

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:50,000

It appears to the crew the objects aren't just traveling alongside their plane, but surrounding it.

229

00:31:50,000 --> 00:32:18,000

Then suddenly, the balls of light disappear, leaving a scared and confused crew to return to base. Over the next several weeks, the Mexican military conducts an investigation into the incident.

230

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:31,000

Crew members are interviewed. Images analyzed, and weather data evaluated. Yet, no answers are found. It appears this case is destined to go unsolved and forgotten.

231

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

Then, one phone call changes everything, and makes UFO history.

232

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:44,000

They called me and said, we have something that is from common interest.

233

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

Mexican TV journalist Jaime Masson is an expert on investigating Mexican UFO claims. Masson's impressive resume attracts the Mexican government, who asked the civilian reporter to assist.

234

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:05,000

In an unprecedented move, Mexico's Secretary of Defense hands over to Masson the classified FLIR UFO video.

235

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:24,000

He gave me the video and said, please be fair with the military, please be fair with these pilots. Do your investigation. You are authorized, officially, to do your investigation to present this in the media.

236

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:32,000

Masson is given complete access to flight records, weather reports, and most importantly, the crew members.

237

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:45,000

I am interviewing these pilots inside the Secretary of Defense. This is first in history in Mexico. They told me what they saw. They were very honest and sincere.

238

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:58,000

No, we never had the opportunity to identify them visually. I never saw this kind of object before. Something that we never saw before, it never happened to us before.

239

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:04,000

So yes, we had fear.

240

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:18,000

On May 11th, Masson holds a press conference to present the tape to the world. It doesn't take long for skeptics to denounce any UFO theory. Their explanations come fast and furious.

241

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:23,000

It's ball lighting. You'd have a whole fleet of these top secret aircraft flying.

242

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Some skeptics and UFO investigators suggested that the equipment was not working well.

243

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:41,000

One after another, explanations are given, and one after another, they are discredited. However, a new theory emerges that might solve the mystery.

244

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:52,000

There's a theory that what the officials filmed out there were the flames of the oil wells that are 100 to 120 kilometers from the account.

245

00:34:52,000 --> 00:35:07,000

They appear to be brilliant glowing objects in the infrared. Of course, they were not visible to the eye, but that's the whole purpose of the infrared camera system is so that you can see things by their heat signature.

246

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:09,000

You can see things that are not visible to the eye.

247

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:17,000

Could what was showing up on the FLIR system actually be distant oil wells? Those who've examined the case have their doubts.

248

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:32,000

First thing that we did was analyze the lights to determine their shape, to see if there was shape to them, and how did it change frame to frame minute to minute?

249

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:43,000

If the lights are oil wells, as skeptics have claimed, then they should flicker like a flame. But using computer programs to break down the lights reveals something very different.

250

00:35:44,000 --> 00:36:03,000

Over a period of frames and minutes, the glow may change on the outer edges, but there is an object in the center that is rock-steady. It's a ball, it's a sphere, and it's not possible that it's a flame.

251

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:13,000

Because if it was a flame, it would be undulating, not just from the edges out, but over the entire object.

252

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:23,000

Adding to the case against the oil well theory is the fact that despite flights in this area daily, no one has ever reported this kind of encounter before.

253

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:38,000

The only way really, really to prove this would be to do it under the same basis, using a FLIR camera, flying the same route, probably with the same airplane.

254

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:49,000

Until that happens, the Mexican Air Force encounter remains an unsolved mystery. But for UFO researchers, that doesn't take away from the importance of this landmark case.

255

00:36:50,000 --> 00:37:02,000

For the first time, a government turned to the UFO community for help. Mexican UFO investigators are optimistic that this incident may signal a new era of openness by governments.

256

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:17,000

This is going to produce many, many new cases and more openness in the future. There are many other people who are now trying to become investigators in Mexico. This is just the beginning.

257

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

It was just the beginning. In 2005, just when it appeared things couldn't get any stranger in Mexico, they did.

258

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:48,000

Since 1991, Mexican witnesses have videotaped hundreds of hours of footage containing alleged unidentified flying objects. But while the sheer volume of sightings has impressed some, it's what's on these tapes that matters.

259

00:37:49,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Out of the thousands and thousands of videos that we have, most of the times are balloons, airplanes, stars, mistakes, honest mistakes. Probably just 10 or 15% of them are good, really good.

260

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:24,000

It's this 10% that has drawn the attention of everyone from ufologists to the mainstream media. Among the most interesting UFO phenomena captured on tape are what is referred to as fleets.

261

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:36,000

A group of more than three objects we call fleets. They travel horizontally or vertically, with very strange forms as boomerangs, spheres, disks.

262

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:45,000

June 10, 2004, Guadalajara, Mexico, an amateur photographer captures unknown objects in the sky.

263

00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:54,000

June 21, 2004, 300 miles away in Quernavaca, Mexico, another fleet is caught on tape.

264

00:38:55,000 --> 00:39:07,000

March 30, 2005, almost 600 miles north in Torreón, yet more unexplainable objects dot the Mexican sky.

265

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:18,000

April 11, 2005, 500 miles to the south in Mexico City, the skies over the capital city are full of mysterious aircraft.

266

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:35,000

I believe it's a way that someone is using to communicate with us. I believe they are trying to say something similar to what happened in England with the formations.

267

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:49,000

Skeptics are quick to dismiss fleets as nothing more than weather balloons or birds, but seeing is believing. And in June 2005, a fleet sighting had people believing.

268

00:39:50,000 --> 00:40:01,000

One of the more recent accounts of UFO sightings here in Mexico happened here in Jalapa, Veracruz. And it is very interesting because the witnesses were of a very high caliber.

269

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:12,000

June 24, 2005, 10.30 am, a public ceremony is being held to celebrate the delivery of new patrol cars to the local police department.

270

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:20,000

On hand are such dignitaries as Governor Fidel Herrera Beltrán, high-ranking police department officials and the local media.

271

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:32,000

Moments after Governor Beltrán finishes his speech, cries of UFO, UFO echo through the crowd. Instantly, all eyes are on the mysterious objects hovering above.

272

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

We have as a first-hand witness the governor of Jalapa and the newspapers publish the news the next day, and it was spread throughout Mexico.

273

00:40:51,000 --> 00:41:04,000

Days later, a local newspaper reports that the alleged UFOs were actually balloons released by local school children. But this explanation only raises more questions for UFO believers.

274

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:10,000

If they were balloons, why did they appear frozen in formation for over half an hour?

275

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:20,000

As the witness says, it was more than 14 sphere objects that were shining in the sky, formed a triangle formation and remained there for 30 minutes.

276

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:26,000

I just find it hard to believe that balloons could stay in the same place and in the same formation for half an hour.

277

00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:39,000

I think this is an extraordinary observation because it's a governor and all of his advisors and police personnel who observed this case.

278

00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:44,000

Would you say to the governor that he didn't see something strange in the sky?

279

00:41:45,000 --> 00:41:56,000

It's those strange things in the sky that have brought together these UFO experts and enthusiasts. From all parts of Mexico, they have come to discuss the UFO wave that their country has undergone.

280

00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:02,000

For these men and women, the encounters that have taken place deserve attention and answers.

281

00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:10,000

Among the incidents they examined is the alleged 1974 UFO plane collision near Cuyama, Mexico.

282

00:42:13,000 --> 00:42:19,000

The word is getting around somehow that something happened and that the U.S. was interested in this crash.

283

00:42:21,000 --> 00:42:30,000

The information that Gilberto has is very little, but the data that makes this case lends itself to the possibility that this may have been real.

284

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

Three decades later, Cuyama still has more questions than answers. But are there clues out there that could break the case wide open?

285

00:42:43,000 --> 00:42:58,000

Any motivated investigative journalism student of today or professional who have a field day go to the town, track down all the people in the town that used to be there and lived there by address and find them and interview them?

286

00:42:59,000 --> 00:43:09,000

It requires more rigorous study. It requires more of a collaborative effort, hopefully among the research, UFO research communities between the United States and Mexico.

287

00:43:10,000 --> 00:43:13,000

So it's a case that's going to need more further investigation.

288

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:19,000

And like any seminal event in history, there is a last second plot twist.

289

00:43:19,000 --> 00:43:31,000

I was recently in Chihuahua and I asked about this case and there is a rumor that there are photographs around this case that I haven't seen.

290

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:44,000

I was promised that I was going to receive these photographs, but people there are still afraid. It seems that they have kept these photographs for a long, long time.

291

00:43:45,000 --> 00:43:50,000

Fittingly, once again, the Cuyama story is shrouded in mystery.

292

00:43:52,000 --> 00:44:02,000

Did a UFO crash in the Mexican desert in August of 1974? Did a Mexican recovery team fall prey to an unknown biological poison?

293

00:44:03,000 --> 00:44:12,000

The truth may never be known, but what we do know is that over the last 15 years, Mexico has experienced something out of the ordinary.

294

00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:20,000

For UFO believers, this appears to be a golden age of alien encounters. Only one thing is certain.

295

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:26,000

Mexico, a land steeped in history, is now steeped in mystery.

