

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:15,760

For more than 20 years, a handful of US Air Force personnel had been haunted by an event

2

00:00:15,760 --> 00:00:23,800

that took place in the Rendlesham Forest just outside their base in Suffolk, England.

3

00:00:23,800 --> 00:00:29,640

They maintained that for two nights in 1980, they experienced, up close, an encounter with

4

00:00:29,640 --> 00:00:36,160

an unidentified craft.

5

00:00:36,160 --> 00:00:40,960

Their accounts make the Rendlesham incident one of the most detailed and well-documented

6

00:00:40,960 --> 00:00:43,000

to date.

7

00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:48,360

These witnesses also say that the government launched an investigation and then tried to

8

00:00:48,360 --> 00:00:52,960

cover it up.

9

00:00:52,960 --> 00:00:58,840

This event has an eerie similarity to a sighting nearly 33 years earlier, when an extraterrestrial

10

00:00:58,840 --> 00:01:05,360

spacecraft allegedly crashed near a military base in Roswell, New Mexico.

11

00:01:05,360 --> 00:01:10,680

Both stories involve eyewitness accounts from respected officers, government investigations,

12

00:01:10,680 --> 00:01:13,680

and classified records and evidence.

13

00:01:13,680 --> 00:01:15,640

This really was the Holy Grail.

14

00:01:15,640 --> 00:01:19,480

This was certainly Britain's most famous UFO case.

15

00:01:19,480 --> 00:01:20,960

There's no doubt about it.

16

00:01:20,960 --> 00:01:21,960

This is Britain's Roswell.

17

00:01:22,200 --> 00:01:25,040

It appears that you may be moving a little bit this way.

18

00:01:25,040 --> 00:01:26,040

It's coming this way.

19

00:01:26,040 --> 00:01:28,040

It is definitely coming this way.

20

00:01:28,040 --> 00:01:32,320

This is unreal.

21

00:01:32,320 --> 00:01:37,000

What really happened in the woods outside the Woodbridge-Bentwater's airbase in December

22

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:38,760

1980?

23

00:01:38,760 --> 00:01:42,720

If you contact the Pentagon about what happened December 1980 at the R.F.

24

00:01:42,720 --> 00:01:46,800

Woodbridge, England, they're going to tell you right now nothing happened.

25

00:01:46,800 --> 00:01:51,520

People need to step up to the plate and say something.

26

00:01:51,600 --> 00:01:58,080

It happened and it was real and someone else visited Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

27

00:02:04,800 --> 00:02:09,760

This is Bentwater's Royal Air Force Base.

28

00:02:09,760 --> 00:02:15,920

Located 70 miles northeast of London, the now-Dormon site was once a highly sophisticated military

29

00:02:15,920 --> 00:02:17,480

installation.

30

00:02:17,480 --> 00:02:22,720

The main function of the twin bases there was to support the needle effort.

31

00:02:22,720 --> 00:02:30,800

In the case of a war in Europe, we would go ahead and mobilize our A-10 aircraft to support

32

00:02:30,800 --> 00:02:36,520

whatever war effort we're told to do.

33

00:02:36,520 --> 00:02:42,560

In 1980, with cold war tensions near their peak, Bentwater's and nearby Woodbridge airbases

34

00:02:42,560 --> 00:02:48,080

are operated by about 12,000 U.S. Air Force personnel, making it one of the largest NATO

35

00:02:48,080 --> 00:02:52,040

complexes in all of Europe.

36

00:02:52,040 --> 00:03:00,680

But the site, bordered by the dense Rendlesham Forest, has a secret.

37

00:03:00,680 --> 00:03:04,120

This was Bentwater's weapons storage area.

38

00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:07,160

Exactly what was kept here is officially classified.

39

00:03:07,160 --> 00:03:12,160

The researchers and observers agree that a massive nuclear arsenal was stockpiled beneath

40

00:03:12,160 --> 00:03:14,600

these concrete bunkers.

41

00:03:14,600 --> 00:03:21,720

The extraordinarily secured underground bunkers with alternating layers of steel, concrete

42

00:03:21,720 --> 00:03:29,280

earth, steel, concrete earth held something like 300,000 kilotons of nuclear ordnance.

43

00:03:29,280 --> 00:03:32,520

The American airmen who man this base are highly skilled.

44

00:03:32,520 --> 00:03:38,840

They're trained to deal with life and death situations with a cool, clear head.

45

00:03:38,840 --> 00:03:43,080

And that makes the events at Rendlesham even more mysterious, because what they saw on

46

00:03:43,080 --> 00:03:52,680

Christmas night, 1980, made these thick-skinned military men shudder with fear.

47

00:03:52,680 --> 00:03:54,120

It's 3 a.m.

48

00:03:54,120 --> 00:03:58,280

Airman John Burroughs is patrolling the East Gate of Woodbridge airbase, part of his normal

49

00:03:58,280 --> 00:04:01,800

routine as a security policeman.

50

00:04:01,800 --> 00:04:05,800

Security did the airfields, weapons storage areas, and stuff like that.

51

00:04:05,800 --> 00:04:08,400

You control the entry of the base.

52

00:04:08,400 --> 00:04:12,520

The 20-year-old has been with the Air Force for almost two years and has been stationed

53

00:04:12,520 --> 00:04:15,760

at Bentwater's for about a year and a half.

54

00:04:15,760 --> 00:04:19,840

Tonight there is nothing to observe but the stars overhead.

55

00:04:19,840 --> 00:04:20,840

It was cold that night.

56

00:04:20,840 --> 00:04:24,000

It was a clear night, pretty much, you know, it was a clear night.

57

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

There's a little bit of fog.

58

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:30,800

As he's walking, his superior, Bud Stevens, pulls up in a truck.

59

00:04:30,800 --> 00:04:33,840

He tracked me down and said, let's ride around for a while.

60

00:04:33,840 --> 00:04:37,520

The men drive into Rendlesham Forest.

61

00:04:37,520 --> 00:04:43,840

Suddenly, Sergeant Stevens notices a strange light in the woods, just off the road.

62

00:04:43,840 --> 00:04:45,840

He said, whoa, is that normal?

63

00:04:45,840 --> 00:04:48,400

And I looked out and it was just a weird glow in the woods.

64

00:04:48,400 --> 00:04:51,200

I said, no, it's not normal.

65

00:04:51,200 --> 00:04:54,200

Burroughs can't shake a bad feeling.

66

00:04:54,200 --> 00:04:57,560

You know, you just felt a real sense of danger or something wasn't right.

67

00:04:57,560 --> 00:05:00,960

There were different colored lights, you know, like his Santa Christmas display, different

68

00:05:00,960 --> 00:05:04,480

car lights that were blinking on and on.

69

00:05:04,480 --> 00:05:10,840

Alarmed, the men speed back to the gate to call the flight desk from a secure phone line.

70

00:05:10,840 --> 00:05:15,040

They do not want to broadcast the information over their radios.

71

00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:19,760

At Burroughs insistence, the call is transferred to the base's Central Security Control, or

72

00:05:19,760 --> 00:05:21,280

CSE.

73

00:05:21,280 --> 00:05:27,440

The shift commander dispatches 26-year-old Sergeant Jim Peniston to the site.

74

00:05:27,800 --> 00:05:33,720

Peniston has been a security policeman with the Air Force for seven years.

75

00:05:33,720 --> 00:05:35,760

They told me I need to go out the east gate.

76

00:05:35,760 --> 00:05:37,080

We have a situation out there.

77

00:05:37,080 --> 00:05:38,480

I said, what type of situation?

78

00:05:38,480 --> 00:05:42,480

He said, well, I'd rather have the on-scene patrolman tell you what that is.

79

00:05:42,480 --> 00:05:44,200

I said, well, can it wait?

80

00:05:44,200 --> 00:05:47,160

No, you've got to get out immediately.

81

00:05:47,160 --> 00:05:52,200

Within minutes, Peniston and his driver arrive at the east gate.

82

00:05:52,200 --> 00:05:56,160

Burroughs and Stevens direct his attention to the woods.

83

00:05:56,160 --> 00:06:00,680

I've seen this multicolor yellow and red.

84

00:06:00,680 --> 00:06:06,520

It's about, you know, two, three hundred meters away, and it looked like an aircraft crash

85

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

immediately.

86

00:06:07,520 --> 00:06:12,320

That's the color that you get from titanium and fuel burning.

87

00:06:12,320 --> 00:06:18,640

Peniston calls back to CSE and gets clearance to investigate a possible downed aircraft.

88

00:06:18,640 --> 00:06:24,000

If it is an aircraft crash, we can go ahead and, you know, render assistance and set up

89

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:25,560

security for it.

90

00:06:25,560 --> 00:06:31,760

As part of standard procedure, Sergeant Peniston tries to gather information from Bud Stevens.

91

00:06:31,760 --> 00:06:33,560

And I said, what, do you hear it crash?

92

00:06:33,560 --> 00:06:36,320

Bud, he said, no, I didn't crash.

93

00:06:36,320 --> 00:06:39,560

It landed.

94

00:06:39,560 --> 00:06:43,520

Stevens is too frightened to help with the investigation.

95

00:06:43,520 --> 00:06:50,760

He returns to his post while Burroughs and Peniston proceed without him.

96

00:06:50,760 --> 00:06:57,320

Soon after, they speed off with a driver and head toward the mysterious light.

97

00:06:57,320 --> 00:07:01,600

When they can no longer maneuver the vehicle around the dense trees, Burroughs and Peniston

98

00:07:01,600 --> 00:07:03,480

proceed on foot.

99

00:07:03,480 --> 00:07:08,800

They walk about 50 meters and notice strong interference on their radios.

100

00:07:08,800 --> 00:07:14,320

The fire that we got into the woods, it became more and more intermediate where it was harder

101

00:07:14,320 --> 00:07:16,720

and harder to talk to them.

102

00:07:16,720 --> 00:07:21,720

Suddenly, Sergeant Peniston feels an electrical charge in the air.

103

00:07:21,720 --> 00:07:30,600

I've been in excitable situations before on duty and I know the adrenaline feeling, but

104

00:07:30,600 --> 00:07:31,760

this here was different.

105

00:07:31,760 --> 00:07:36,760

You could feel on your clothes, your face, your hair.

106

00:07:36,760 --> 00:07:41,400

The closer they move toward the light, the less the scene resembles a crash.

107

00:07:41,400 --> 00:07:46,560

It didn't have no smell of smoke and it was too contained.

108

00:07:46,560 --> 00:07:49,840

It was just like a one ball out there.

109

00:07:49,840 --> 00:07:53,880

We came into a clearing and then that's when it was like a bright light lit up.

110

00:07:53,880 --> 00:07:57,920

The whole area was almost blinding.

111

00:07:57,920 --> 00:08:03,040

Sergeant Peniston moves within 10 feet of the object and the bright light dims.

112

00:08:03,040 --> 00:08:08,200

As his eyes adjust, he has trouble understanding what he's seeing.

113

00:08:08,200 --> 00:08:09,840

I'm a rational person.

114

00:08:09,840 --> 00:08:12,720

I wanted a rational explanation of what was going on.

115

00:08:12,720 --> 00:08:16,160

I could not come up with one.

116

00:08:16,160 --> 00:08:21,320

Peniston snaps pictures with his military-issued camera.

117

00:08:21,320 --> 00:08:29,400

The craft was franger-shaped and measured probably 9 feet wide by about 8 feet high.

118

00:08:29,400 --> 00:08:31,800

I couldn't tell the front or back to it.

119

00:08:31,800 --> 00:08:36,840

I mean, there was no engines on one side or no cockpit or nothing like that.

120

00:08:36,840 --> 00:08:41,160

It was all completely smoothed the outside of the craft.

121

00:08:41,160 --> 00:08:45,960

He then circles the object, writing descriptions in a notepad.

122

00:08:45,960 --> 00:08:49,120

These are the notes he wrote that night.

123

00:08:49,120 --> 00:08:52,000

Surfaces unknown.

124

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:56,360

Identity unknown.

125

00:08:56,360 --> 00:09:00,440

No apparent landing gear present.

126

00:09:00,440 --> 00:09:04,680

No sound but appears to be operating somehow.

127

00:09:04,680 --> 00:09:09,560

Peniston's handwriting changes dramatically as he gets closer to the craft.

128

00:09:09,560 --> 00:09:14,920

I was really having problems with the type of craft.

129

00:09:14,920 --> 00:09:23,120

I keep saying, I have a problem with understanding what I'm recording here.

130

00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:27,600

When he draws near enough, he reaches out and touches the object.

131

00:09:27,600 --> 00:09:30,960

The fabric of the craft was smooth, like glass.

132

00:09:30,960 --> 00:09:34,600

It was warm to touch but not hot.

133

00:09:34,600 --> 00:09:36,440

There was lights on it.

134

00:09:36,440 --> 00:09:40,920

It was somehow in the fabric of the craft.

135

00:09:40,920 --> 00:09:45,400

On the front side of the object, Peniston notices several strange symbols.

136

00:09:45,400 --> 00:09:49,160

He copies them in his notebook as well.

137

00:09:49,160 --> 00:09:54,800

They were like markings, not numbers, not language.

138

00:09:54,800 --> 00:10:00,480

There were several, maybe six symbols, measuring 3 feet wide.

139

00:10:00,480 --> 00:10:05,400

I wasn't trained for what I was experiencing.

140

00:10:05,400 --> 00:10:10,720

Suddenly, the object emits a blinding flash of light.

141

00:10:10,720 --> 00:10:13,480

The men take cover.

142

00:10:13,480 --> 00:10:20,880

The object, whatever it was, lifted up, went up and then moved back away over the trees.

143

00:10:20,880 --> 00:10:27,840

The speed of the craft leaving the area was the best way to describe it was probably in

144

00:10:27,840 --> 00:10:29,440

a blink of an eye.

145

00:10:29,440 --> 00:10:35,360

I've never seen any craft move that fast in my entire Air Force career.

146

00:10:35,360 --> 00:10:38,320

And I don't think I ever will again.

147

00:10:38,320 --> 00:10:43,320

As the men slowly rise to their feet, their attention is drawn by another flash of light

148

00:10:43,320 --> 00:10:46,200

through the trees.

149

00:10:46,200 --> 00:10:50,900

At first they assume it is the craft, but on second glance they realize it is the Orford

150

00:10:50,900 --> 00:10:56,560

Nest Lighthouse, five miles away.

151

00:10:56,560 --> 00:10:59,320

Burrows and Peniston check their radios.

152

00:10:59,320 --> 00:11:01,120

They're working again.

153

00:11:01,120 --> 00:11:06,160

It is now around 5 a.m., roughly two hours since they first spotted the mysterious lights

154

00:11:06,160 --> 00:11:07,660

in the woods.

155

00:11:07,660 --> 00:11:13,180

They contact the CSE and their commander orders them to rendezvous with a security team back

156

00:11:13,180 --> 00:11:14,420

at the East Gate.

157

00:11:14,420 --> 00:11:16,620

So we were like, what are we going to say?

158

00:11:16,620 --> 00:11:17,780

We can't explain what we saw.

159

00:11:17,780 --> 00:11:21,180

We can't explain what just happened.

160

00:11:21,180 --> 00:11:25,420

Later that morning, the men are brought in for debriefing.

161

00:11:25,420 --> 00:11:28,740

Peniston is reluctant to divulge everything he witnessed.

162

00:11:28,740 --> 00:11:33,860

It was not a good career move to report exactly what we've seen.

163

00:11:33,860 --> 00:11:41,980

I went into the shift commander's office with Burrows and we gave a sanitized briefing

164

00:11:41,980 --> 00:11:44,420

of what happened that night.

165

00:11:44,420 --> 00:11:49,740

After the debriefing, Peniston says the shift commander issues him a thinly veiled warning.

166

00:11:49,740 --> 00:11:56,180

Gentlemen, he says Project Blue Book ended in 1969 and sometimes things are best left

167

00:11:56,180 --> 00:12:00,540

alone.

168

00:12:00,540 --> 00:12:05,460

Project Blue Book was the codename for the U.S. Air Force's controversial UFO investigation

169

00:12:05,460 --> 00:12:09,340

unit.

170

00:12:09,340 --> 00:12:14,620

Before it was disbanded, its goal was to determine if UFOs were a potential threat to national

171

00:12:14,620 --> 00:12:18,140

security.

172

00:12:18,140 --> 00:12:22,700

Despite his commander's warning, Sergeant Peniston can't put the strange encounter out

173

00:12:22,700 --> 00:12:24,420

of his mind.

174

00:12:24,420 --> 00:12:27,780

I got back to my house and I couldn't go to sleep.

175

00:12:27,780 --> 00:12:33,140

I'd probably sit around the house for maybe two or three hours and finally I said, well,

176

00:12:33,140 --> 00:12:35,980

I gotta go back out there.

177

00:12:35,980 --> 00:12:41,180

He returns to the site with some plaster of Paris.

178

00:12:41,180 --> 00:12:42,260

His plan?

179

00:12:42,260 --> 00:12:46,580

To make casts of any indentations left by the craft.

180

00:12:46,580 --> 00:12:48,900

I wasn't going to leave there until I had answers.

181

00:12:48,900 --> 00:12:51,860

I wanted something tangible.

182

00:12:51,860 --> 00:12:57,980

He spots three round impressions in a symmetrical pattern on the ground.

183

00:12:57,980 --> 00:13:01,740

They are a few inches deep and roughly ten feet apart.

184

00:13:01,740 --> 00:13:06,140

They measure exactly the same distance apart, each of the pods, approximately two to three

185

00:13:06,140 --> 00:13:08,020

inches thick.

186

00:13:08,020 --> 00:13:12,260

These are the casts made by Peniston the morning after his sighting.

187

00:13:12,260 --> 00:13:17,740

He believes they show the marks left by the craft when it landed on the forest floor.

188

00:13:17,740 --> 00:13:22,060

He decides not to show them to his superiors.

189

00:13:22,060 --> 00:13:26,920

Along with his notes and role of film, the Sergeant now has the three plaster molds to

190

00:13:26,920 --> 00:13:29,060

help back up his story.

191

00:13:29,060 --> 00:13:33,860

But Peniston's physical evidence doesn't solve the mystery of Rendlesham.

192

00:13:33,860 --> 00:13:40,360

Just two nights later, the UFO returns and this time the deputy-based commander makes

193

00:13:40,360 --> 00:13:42,860

a chilling record of his own encounter.

194

00:13:42,860 --> 00:13:49,860

That we're observing what appears to be a beam coming down to the ground.

195

00:13:49,860 --> 00:13:56,220

This is unreal.

196

00:13:56,220 --> 00:14:02,220

Late December, 1980, sightings of a mysterious craft at the Woodbridge-Bentwater's NATO

197

00:14:02,220 --> 00:14:08,780

complex in Suffolk, England have put many airmen on edge.

198

00:14:08,780 --> 00:14:13,580

The strange encounters began the night of the 25th when airmen reported seeing unusual

199

00:14:13,580 --> 00:14:14,940

lights.

200

00:14:14,940 --> 00:14:19,940

By the early morning hours of the 26th, two men claim to have come within a few feet of

201

00:14:19,940 --> 00:14:26,060

a landed craft in the neighboring forest.

202

00:14:26,060 --> 00:14:28,220

It's now the evening of the 27th.

203

00:14:28,220 --> 00:14:33,620

40-year-old deputy-based commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, attends a holiday party

204

00:14:33,620 --> 00:14:36,460

at the officer's club.

205

00:14:36,460 --> 00:14:41,940

The celebration is cut short when one of his men arrives looking distressed.

206

00:14:41,940 --> 00:14:47,380

He showed up just wide as a sheet and he wasn't the type of person to get too excited too easily.

207

00:14:47,380 --> 00:14:48,460

He was a former Marine.

208

00:14:48,460 --> 00:14:50,220

He said it's back.

209

00:14:50,220 --> 00:14:51,820

We looked at each other and said, what's back?

210

00:14:51,820 --> 00:14:54,420

He said the UFO.

211

00:14:54,420 --> 00:15:00,060

After two nights of disturbing stories, Halt decides to investigate for himself.

212

00:15:00,060 --> 00:15:03,060

The police were spending more time looking in the sky than they were at the airplanes

213

00:15:03,060 --> 00:15:04,300

they were supposed to be protecting.

214

00:15:05,140 --> 00:15:07,300

It's time to put this to rest.

215

00:15:07,300 --> 00:15:13,380

Halt instructs a three-man security team to assemble their gear and meet him at his quarters.

216

00:15:13,380 --> 00:15:18,820

Within minutes, they head toward the Rendlesham Forest.

217

00:15:18,820 --> 00:15:22,980

By the time Halt arrives, a security cordon has been established around the perimeter

218

00:15:22,980 --> 00:15:24,900

of the woods.

219

00:15:24,900 --> 00:15:30,300

Halt is briefed on the situation and is told that the UFO is no longer visible.

220

00:15:30,300 --> 00:15:37,300

The men are experiencing mysterious outages in their high-powered floodlights called lightalls.

221

00:15:37,300 --> 00:15:43,300

Halt and his team collect their gear, a still camera, a Geiger counter for measuring radiation,

222

00:15:43,300 --> 00:15:46,660

and a night vision device called a star scope.

223

00:15:46,660 --> 00:15:50,220

I took my small personal cassette recorder, which I carry just about everywhere with me

224

00:15:50,220 --> 00:15:52,740

just to record the events.

225

00:15:52,740 --> 00:15:56,500

The team heads into the dark woods.

226

00:15:56,500 --> 00:16:04,780

I was going to investigate and show that there was definitely a good reasonable explanation for everything.

227

00:16:04,780 --> 00:16:08,980

The following is the recording Halt made that night.

228

00:16:08,980 --> 00:16:14,420

150 feet or more from the initial, I should say, suspected impact point.

229

00:16:14,420 --> 00:16:17,180

Heavy lift on it, we can't get the light all the way.

230

00:16:17,180 --> 00:16:20,540

This seems to be some kind of mechanical problem.

231

00:16:20,540 --> 00:16:25,540

Along with the malfunctioning lightalls, Halt's team encounters the same radio interference

232

00:16:25,580 --> 00:16:30,020

experienced by Burroughs and Peniston two nights prior.

233

00:16:30,020 --> 00:16:34,740

They are walking through the area where Burroughs and Peniston reported seeing the unidentified

234

00:16:34,740 --> 00:16:35,860

craft.

235

00:16:35,860 --> 00:16:41,060

When Halt notices gashes in the bark of several trees, it looks as if they have been struck

236

00:16:41,060 --> 00:16:43,420

by a large object.

237

00:16:43,420 --> 00:16:47,260

Halt orders one of his men to take photographs.

238

00:16:47,260 --> 00:16:50,220

He took pictures of the indentations of the trees and everything.

239

00:16:50,220 --> 00:16:53,740

He was taking snap, snap, snap all the time.

240

00:16:53,740 --> 00:16:58,820

The Geiger counter begins registering high levels of radiation, but only in the area

241

00:16:58,820 --> 00:17:01,100

surrounding the alleged landing site.

242

00:17:01,100 --> 00:17:07,100

There's a range on the tree you're taking samples from, on the side facing the suspected

243

00:17:07,100 --> 00:17:08,100

landing site.

244

00:17:08,100 --> 00:17:10,100

Work clicks, backs, up to four.

245

00:17:10,100 --> 00:17:12,380

Interesting, that's right, we're taking a sample now.

246

00:17:12,380 --> 00:17:13,380

Four.

247

00:17:13,380 --> 00:17:15,380

That's the strongest point on the tree.

248

00:17:15,380 --> 00:17:16,380

Yes, sir.

249

00:17:16,380 --> 00:17:22,020

If you come to the back, there's no place whatsoever.

250

00:17:22,020 --> 00:17:27,780

Suddenly, the dark woods are alive with sound.

251

00:17:27,780 --> 00:17:30,820

We're hearing very strange sounds out of the farmer's barnyard animals.

252

00:17:30,820 --> 00:17:35,740

They're very, very active, making a lot of noise.

253

00:17:35,740 --> 00:17:40,020

All the animals in the forest were acting up, making a lot of noise, and the barnyard

254

00:17:40,020 --> 00:17:44,820

animals from the farm, which was on the adjacent side of the particular location, were also

255

00:17:44,820 --> 00:17:46,340

acting up.

256

00:17:46,340 --> 00:17:49,940

One of his men points out a glowing light in the distance.

257

00:17:49,940 --> 00:17:54,700

With his tape recorder rolling, Halt documents every moment of this encounter.

258

00:17:54,700 --> 00:17:56,940

You just saw a light, sir.

259

00:17:56,940 --> 00:17:57,940

Where?

260

00:17:57,940 --> 00:18:02,940

Right at this position here, straight ahead in between, there it is again.

261

00:18:02,940 --> 00:18:05,940

Watch, straight ahead off my flag.

262

00:18:05,940 --> 00:18:07,940

There it is, I see it too.

263

00:18:07,940 --> 00:18:08,940

What is it?

264

00:18:08,940 --> 00:18:10,940

We don't know, sir.

265

00:18:10,940 --> 00:18:14,940

We saw this bright red glowing object, it looked like an eye.

266

00:18:14,940 --> 00:18:19,460

It's the best way I can describe it, it was bright red, had a dark center, and appeared

267

00:18:19,460 --> 00:18:20,460

like a zone, or a winking.

268

00:18:20,460 --> 00:18:23,460

We're about 150 to 200 yards from the site.

269

00:18:23,460 --> 00:18:25,460

Everything else is just definitely calm.

270

00:18:25,460 --> 00:18:30,460

There is no doubt about it, there's some type of strange flash and red lighting here.

271

00:18:30,460 --> 00:18:31,460

Yellow.

272

00:18:31,460 --> 00:18:33,460

I saw a yellow tinging it too.

273

00:18:33,460 --> 00:18:34,460

Weird.

274

00:18:34,460 --> 00:18:37,460

It appears that you may be moving a little bit this way.

275

00:18:37,460 --> 00:18:39,460

It's brighter than house bed.

276

00:18:39,460 --> 00:18:40,460

Yellow.

277

00:18:40,460 --> 00:18:41,460

It's coming this way.

278

00:18:41,460 --> 00:18:42,460

It is definitely coming this way.

279

00:18:42,460 --> 00:18:47,460

It was moving through the trees, horizontally, but also traveling vertically.

280

00:18:47,460 --> 00:18:51,460

In other words, it was zigzagging through the trees, and dripping would appear to be

281

00:18:51,460 --> 00:18:54,460

the best way I can describe it, is molten metal.

282

00:18:54,460 --> 00:18:58,460

Halton is men pursue the object into a nearby field.

283

00:18:58,460 --> 00:19:03,460

As we approached, it receded and went away from us, and went out into the farmer's field.

284

00:19:03,460 --> 00:19:07,460

It stayed there for probably 20, 30 seconds, maybe a little more.

285

00:19:07,460 --> 00:19:09,460

I bet you, that's what a shaman are.

286

00:19:09,460 --> 00:19:11,460

There is no doubt about it.

287

00:19:11,460 --> 00:19:13,460

This is weird.

288

00:19:13,460 --> 00:19:18,460

And then it silently exploded and broke into multiple white objects.

289

00:19:18,460 --> 00:19:22,460

So we went into the field and searched around the underground, looking for burnt marks or

290

00:19:22,460 --> 00:19:24,460

evidence of whatever was coming off the object.

291

00:19:24,460 --> 00:19:27,460

The men find nothing in the field.

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00:19:27,460 --> 00:19:30,460

Overhead, the object makes a sudden turn.

293

00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:33,460

It approaches at very, very high speed.

294

00:19:33,460 --> 00:19:38,460

Here he comes from the south, he's coming toward us now.

295

00:19:38,460 --> 00:19:41,460

It stopped overhead and sent down a beam.

296

00:19:41,460 --> 00:19:44,460

The best way I can describe it is like a laser beam.

297

00:19:44,460 --> 00:19:49,460

Now we're observing what appears to be a beam coming down to the ground.

298

00:19:49,460 --> 00:19:52,460

This is unreal.

299

00:19:52,460 --> 00:19:56,460

It was a steady constant beam as far as the diameter.

300

00:19:56,460 --> 00:20:00,460

It fell at our feet, and we all just were in awe.

301

00:20:00,460 --> 00:20:02,460

And I thought, was it trying to signal?

302

00:20:02,460 --> 00:20:03,460

Is it trying to warn us?

303

00:20:03,460 --> 00:20:05,460

Is it threatening us?

304

00:20:05,460 --> 00:20:07,460

Yeah.

305

00:20:07,460 --> 00:20:12,460

And then just as suddenly as it appeared, the light went click, was off.

306

00:20:12,460 --> 00:20:14,460

The object speeds away.

307

00:20:14,460 --> 00:20:21,460

The team watches mesmerized as it moves over the base and continues to beam lights to the ground.

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00:20:21,460 --> 00:20:27,460

To some, it appears that the light is beaming directly into the base's weapon storage area,

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00:20:27,460 --> 00:20:31,460

where nuclear missiles are reportedly housed.

310

00:20:31,460 --> 00:20:36,460

There's one object still over an overwood bridge base at about 5 to 10 degrees off the horizon,

311

00:20:36,460 --> 00:20:40,460

and it's got a good amount of static and similar lights and beaming down as earlier.

312

00:20:40,460 --> 00:20:44,460

At this point, Halt's recorder runs out of tape.

313

00:20:44,460 --> 00:20:51,460

A craft is still hovering in the distance, but Halt and his team aren't sure what to do next.

314

00:20:51,460 --> 00:20:54,460

There's no protocol for what they've just encountered.

315

00:20:54,460 --> 00:20:59,460

Unnerved and exhausted, the men head back to base.

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00:20:59,460 --> 00:21:05,460

Airman John Burroughs, who had witnessed a UFO two nights earlier, arrives at the site,

317

00:21:05,460 --> 00:21:08,460

along with Sergeant Adrian Bustenza.

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00:21:08,460 --> 00:21:14,460

Burroughs is immediately concerned by the behavior of the men returning from the field.

319

00:21:14,460 --> 00:21:18,460

They were kind of, I don't know, they were weird. I mean, they were upset.

320

00:21:18,460 --> 00:21:25,460

After a brief conversation, Burroughs spots a blue light glowing in the same clearing Halt has just examined.

321

00:21:25,460 --> 00:21:28,460

The airman is determined to investigate further.

322

00:21:28,460 --> 00:21:32,460

I was bugging him, come on, Colonel, let me go out and see. I mean, I want to see what it is.

323

00:21:32,460 --> 00:21:39,460

So he finally authorized myself and Bustenza to go forward to get a closer look.

324

00:21:39,460 --> 00:21:43,460

The men head toward the strange blue glow in the field.

325

00:21:43,460 --> 00:21:48,460

Adrenaline quickly takes over and Burroughs breaks into a run.

326

00:21:48,460 --> 00:21:52,460

As I was getting close to whatever it was, all of a sudden it was gone.

327

00:21:52,460 --> 00:21:58,460

The field is thrown into darkness, leaving the airman scared and confounded.

328

00:21:58,460 --> 00:22:02,460

This was gone and I'm standing out in the field and there's nothing left.

329

00:22:02,460 --> 00:22:06,460

Burroughs turns to Bustenza in disbelief.

330

00:22:06,460 --> 00:22:09,460

He goes, what happened to you? And I go, I don't know what you're talking about.

331

00:22:09,460 --> 00:22:13,460

He goes, and you were like involved in the lights. He said, you were just like,

332

00:22:13,460 --> 00:22:17,460

all of a sudden you were there and then you were in the lights and you were gone.

333

00:22:17,460 --> 00:22:20,460

Burroughs and Bustenza return to base.

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00:22:20,460 --> 00:22:26,460

Burroughs' second encounter with the Bazaar lights leaves him with nothing but questions.

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00:22:26,460 --> 00:22:34,460

They are unaware that a sweeping investigation involving covert government agencies is already underway.

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00:22:34,460 --> 00:22:42,460

The men claim that as they headed back to the base that night, they were walking into a government conspiracy.

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00:22:48,460 --> 00:22:51,460

January 1981.

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00:22:51,460 --> 00:22:56,460

Rumors are swirling around the Woodbridge-Bentwater's air bases in eastern England

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00:22:56,460 --> 00:23:01,460

after mysterious UFOs are sighted by the US Air Force personnel stationed there.

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00:23:01,460 --> 00:23:07,460

Many of them were some years into their tour of duty. These were highly trained witnesses.

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00:23:07,460 --> 00:23:11,460

It's not as if they'd all just turned up there the night before.

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00:23:11,460 --> 00:23:16,460

The military investigation that followed remains controversial to this day.

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00:23:16,460 --> 00:23:24,460

Those who say they witnessed the UFOs believe the military was more interested in damage control than in finding the truth.

344

00:23:24,460 --> 00:23:31,460

What our government did in the name of secrecy to these individuals is absolutely shameful.

345

00:23:31,460 --> 00:23:38,460

According to these airmen, they soon became unwilling participants in a government cover-up.

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00:23:38,460 --> 00:23:44,460

Initially, the investigation follows standard military procedure.

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00:23:44,460 --> 00:23:52,460

Deputy Base Commander Charles Halt, a witness himself, begins debriefing the airmen who reported seeing the craft.

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00:23:52,460 --> 00:23:58,460

I had no choice. I couldn't ignore it. There were so many witnesses and so many people at so many different places.

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00:23:58,460 --> 00:24:05,460

John Burroughs, who witnessed the UFOs on both nights, says his interview is clear-cut.

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00:24:05,460 --> 00:24:13,460

He took our statements, kind of looked at them, said it was really a wild thing and there's really

no explanation for what's going on and that's how it was kind of left.

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00:24:13,460 --> 00:24:22,460

Others, like Sergeant Jim Peniston, say that after their meeting with Halt, a long and disturbing process begins.

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00:24:22,460 --> 00:24:27,460

Two weeks after his initial interview, Peniston is called for another debriefing.

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00:24:27,460 --> 00:24:32,460

This time, it is with a high-ranking team of investigators, the OSI.

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00:24:32,460 --> 00:24:39,460

The OSI is the Office of Special Investigations. It's, how shall I say, the discrete police is one way to put it.

355

00:24:39,460 --> 00:24:50,460

And they are there to police the US Air Force and they can actually walk into the office of a general and, you know, even arrest him, if you like.

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00:24:50,460 --> 00:24:53,460

That's how powerful they are.

357

00:24:53,460 --> 00:24:58,460

When Peniston enters the room, the mood is ominous.

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00:24:58,460 --> 00:25:06,460

He begins to give a statement and offers the investigator sketches and notes of his encounter.

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00:25:06,460 --> 00:25:10,460

According to Peniston, the rest of the interview is a blur.

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00:25:10,460 --> 00:25:17,460

To this day, he has a difficult time recalling precisely what tactics the OSI used to extract his information.

361

00:25:17,460 --> 00:25:22,460

They took extra steps to make sure I was telling the truth.

362

00:25:22,460 --> 00:25:27,460

So did Panathol. I'm sure I gave a release for that.

363

00:25:27,460 --> 00:25:33,460

He found freedom in the right door.

364

00:25:33,460 --> 00:25:43,460

And the hope that they understood that everything I said was a truth, I think I believe I gave my permission for that, I would think.

365

00:25:48,460 --> 00:25:56,460

To Peniston, the military's investigation takes on a sinister tone, as more men are called in for questioning.

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00:25:56,460 --> 00:26:06,460

Shortly after the event, Sergeant Adrian Bustinza, who had accompanied John Burroughs to the field, is led to a room beneath the base for questioning.

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00:26:06,460 --> 00:26:13,460

Even now, Bustinza refuses to speak publicly about the events of that night.

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00:26:13,460 --> 00:26:18,460

According to author Georgina Bruni, he later confided in her.

369

00:26:18,460 --> 00:26:25,460

They said to him, look, you know, what you saw was the light from the local lighthouse.

370

00:26:25,460 --> 00:26:30,460

And he said, no, no, I saw much more than that. It was more than that. No, you don't get the picture, do you?

371

00:26:30,460 --> 00:26:36,460

And they would not let him go until he agreed that what he saw was the lighthouse.

372

00:26:36,460 --> 00:26:41,460

And the moment they said to him, bullets are cheap, a dime a dozen.

373

00:26:41,460 --> 00:26:45,460

It's when he said, OK, it was the lighthouse.

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00:26:45,460 --> 00:26:52,460

Other witnesses also say they are told to drop their stories about seeing a UFO.

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00:26:52,460 --> 00:26:59,460

We were told that we couldn't talk about it, was to treat it as top secret. And that was it. We never talked about it.

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00:26:59,460 --> 00:27:05,460

According to Airman Burroughs, the signs of a government cover-up are obvious.

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00:27:05,460 --> 00:27:10,460

Shortly after his interrogation, Burroughs is back on guard duty.

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00:27:10,460 --> 00:27:15,460

As he makes his rounds, he can see that the woods are bustling with activity.

379

00:27:15,460 --> 00:27:18,460

There was vehicles leaving the woodbrits going out into the forest.

380

00:27:18,460 --> 00:27:23,460

There was helicopters flying around out there. So there was some stuff going on out there. Exactly what I don't know.

381

00:27:23,460 --> 00:27:30,460

Deputy Base Commander Charles Halt is also aware of covert activities going on at the base.

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00:27:30,460 --> 00:27:39,460

I heard some stories that were substantiated by several people that a plane load of people did come in a day or so later and did do a lot of investigating.

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00:27:39,460 --> 00:27:44,460

Peniston and Halt claim they took pictures of the mysterious craft they encountered.

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00:27:44,460 --> 00:27:50,460

But when the prints returned from the base's photo lab, they are blank.

385

00:27:50,460 --> 00:27:57,460

The pictures are whiteed out most of them. I thought that was really unusual.

386

00:27:57,460 --> 00:28:05,460

And I believe that the photos that I got were intensely just whiteed out photographs. That's what I believe.

387

00:28:05,460 --> 00:28:13,460

Even Lieutenant Colonel Halt, the highest ranking eyewitness, believes he is being kept in the dark by the military.

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00:28:13,460 --> 00:28:22,460

As the investigation continues, he's asked to type up a memo based on his interviews with other witnesses and submit it to his superiors.

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00:28:22,460 --> 00:28:26,460

Halt's understanding is that the document will be shared with the British government.

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00:28:27,460 --> 00:28:33,460

Halt does as he is told and submits a memo entitled, Unexplained Lights.

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00:28:33,460 --> 00:28:39,460

He writes, the individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest.

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00:28:39,460 --> 00:28:45,460

The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape.

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00:28:45,460 --> 00:28:55,460

It is not a definitive report. Many of the details are missing or incorrect. And the descriptions

at times are vague.

394

00:28:57,460 --> 00:29:06,460

The memo was not meant for public consumption. It was meant as a tickler, if you will, to the Ministry of Defense to get them involved to do a proper investigation.

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00:29:06,460 --> 00:29:13,460

His superiors filed the memo away and the strange lights never returned to the base.

396

00:29:13,460 --> 00:29:18,460

Eventually, rumors of an extraterrestrial craft die down.

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00:29:18,460 --> 00:29:23,460

For three years, the public is kept in the dark about what happened at the air bases.

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00:29:26,460 --> 00:29:36,460

Then in 1983, a new witness surfaces with a startling claim about the UFO encounter, one that will only deepen the mystery of Rendlesham.

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00:29:43,460 --> 00:29:55,460

October 2, 1983, the British Sunday tabloid News of the World hits newsstands with the headline,

UFO Lands in Suffolk, and that's official.

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00:29:55,460 --> 00:30:06,460

The article claims that a mysterious craft moving under intelligent control invaded the skies above the Woodbridge-Bentwater's air bases in late December 1980.

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00:30:06,460 --> 00:30:15,460

But most intriguing is the offering of a piece of written evidence, an official U.S. Air Force memo confirming the alleged sightings.

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00:30:15,460 --> 00:30:22,460

The document was written by one of the men who encountered the mysterious object, Deputy Base Commander Charles Halt.

403

00:30:23,460 --> 00:30:30,460

Every local radio, TV station, Japanese TV, German TV, I had people swarming all over the place wanting to know their real story.

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00:30:30,460 --> 00:30:38,460

From there onwards, every single newspaper in the United Kingdom was featuring this story for about a week.

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00:30:39,460 --> 00:30:45,460

The memo, titled Unexplained Lights, offers a brief description of the late December encounters.

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00:30:46,460 --> 00:30:56,460

It includes Jim Peniston's description of a strange object that maneuvered through the trees, as well as Halt's account of a red, sun-like object in the night sky.

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00:30:56,460 --> 00:30:59,460

But how was the story leaked to the public?

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00:31:01,460 --> 00:31:09,460

The document, known as the Halt memo, was brought to light by Larry Warren, a former Air Force security policeman at Bentwaters.

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00:31:09,460 --> 00:31:12,460

He's blunt when he explains why he did it.

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00:31:12,460 --> 00:31:16,460

I want to drag people right by their hair through the thing and say, this happened.

411

00:31:16,460 --> 00:31:22,460

He was the one who brought this whole thing to public attention.

412

00:31:22,460 --> 00:31:33,460

It was his information specifically that resulted in a Freedom of Information Act that resulted in the release of the so-called Halt document.

413

00:31:33,460 --> 00:31:37,460

And once that single sheet of paper was out, the toothpaste was out of the tube.

414

00:31:38,460 --> 00:31:42,460

Warren has received both praise and criticism for his candidness.

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00:31:42,460 --> 00:31:48,460

The story he tells begins like the others, but the ending is even more bizarre.

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00:31:49,460 --> 00:31:55,460

In late 1980, Warren was a 19-year-old security policeman stationed at Bentwaters.

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00:31:56,460 --> 00:32:05,460

According to Warren, after midnight on December 29th, he is removed from his post and ordered to the woods to assist with Colonel Halt's investigation.

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00:32:05,460 --> 00:32:11,460

When he reaches a clearing, he sees a group of military personnel surrounding a glowing object.

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00:32:12,460 --> 00:32:18,460

In this field was this object on the ground. It's like science fiction movie, but there was something alive associated with it.

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00:32:18,460 --> 00:32:24,460

It didn't come out any doors. There were no windows. It was this thing, and it was changing all the time.

421

00:32:24,460 --> 00:32:30,460

As he draws within a few feet of the craft, Warren says he witnesses an amazing sight.

422

00:32:30,460 --> 00:32:37,460

There are officers and airmen facing the object and three small glowing entities standing in the light.

423

00:32:37,460 --> 00:32:44,460

What he observes, and the other men observe that are in proximity, is three humanoid shapes.

424

00:32:45,460 --> 00:32:51,460

There was something separate from it with these three, what you would perceive as kids.

425

00:32:51,460 --> 00:32:56,460

Warren then watches as a senior officer begins communicating with the beings.

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00:32:57,460 --> 00:33:04,460

The senior people there seem to be following like a protocol. It seemed to be there was a procedure.

427

00:33:04,460 --> 00:33:11,460

Warren is then pulled from the clearing. He's given no explanation for what he's just seen.

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00:33:13,460 --> 00:33:18,460

The next day he says he is brought into a room with other witnesses for debriefing.

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00:33:18,460 --> 00:33:22,460

He remembers a film projector and three men in suits.

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00:33:23,460 --> 00:33:32,460

They showed us the different films of UFO military activity going back probably, I don't know, the 40s.

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00:33:33,460 --> 00:33:40,460

Like other witnesses, Warren says the more he is questioned, the more distorted his memories become.

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00:33:40,460 --> 00:33:45,460

He remembers what happens next as a series of scenes that make little sense.

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00:33:46,460 --> 00:33:54,460

Warren recalls being taken against his will by men in dark suits, then being led to an underground facility on the base.

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00:33:54,460 --> 00:34:01,460

I remember being on a table and people talking to me and doctors and Air Force people behind them.

435

00:34:01,460 --> 00:34:11,460

I have another memory of being in a mess hall and trying to eat something and kind of being alone at a table.

436

00:34:12,460 --> 00:34:15,460

It's imagery. I mean this could all been plugged into my head.

437

00:34:16,460 --> 00:34:28,460

Warren says he isn't sure if what he remembers is real or if these images were planted by military investigators in order to confuse him and distract him from what really occurred.

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00:34:29,460 --> 00:34:34,460

After the Rendlesham story breaks, Warren's accusations infuriate other witnesses.

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00:34:34,460 --> 00:34:41,460

These airmen and officers say they too want the truth revealed, but that Warren's story is anything but.

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00:34:41,460 --> 00:34:48,460

It hurt the whole incident as far as this is, something really did happen to us but there's no way, the way he was describing it, what happened to us.

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00:34:48,460 --> 00:34:52,460

And it wasn't fair to the people that were involved to have that kind of extreme stuff coming up.

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00:34:54,460 --> 00:34:58,460

Parts of his story do correspond with other eyewitness accounts.

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00:34:58,460 --> 00:35:08,460

Warren, like Charles Halt and Jim Peniston, recalls seeing a glowing craft in the clearing of the Rendlesham Woods shortly after Christmas 1980.

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00:35:08,460 --> 00:35:13,460

But Larry Warren is the only airman who claims he saw alien life forms.

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00:35:14,460 --> 00:35:21,460

Another problem with Warren's version of events is that no one can remember seeing him in the woods on the night in question.

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00:35:21,460 --> 00:35:33,460

Nobody ever recalls him being out there that night. Nobody, I've talked to all the players and just about everybody was on the, even the fringes and nobody remembers seeing Larry Warren anywhere except around the base in training.

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00:35:35,460 --> 00:35:38,460

Warren remains steadfast in his convictions.

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00:35:38,460 --> 00:35:48,460

I've never lost a minute's sleep over my role in this. I've never intentionally misrepresented anything, lied or tried to gain anything unfairly.

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00:35:49,460 --> 00:35:54,460

The contradictions surrounding the Rendlesham case have proven frustrating for UFO researchers.

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00:35:55,460 --> 00:36:07,460

While there are multiple credible witnesses, airmen trained to be good observers and remain calm under extreme circumstances, the discrepancies between their stories are difficult to ignore.

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00:36:08,460 --> 00:36:13,460

In the years that follow, researchers struggle to unravel the mystery.

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00:36:14,460 --> 00:36:24,460

Then in 2002, declassified government files reveal new facts about those mysterious nights in the woods.

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00:36:29,460 --> 00:36:33,460

And which could have been a spot where the alien craft landed.

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00:36:33,460 --> 00:36:38,460

Since 1983, the Rendlesham UFO incident has garnered attention around the world.

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00:36:39,460 --> 00:36:47,460

But to this day, there is still no explanation for what U.S. Air Force personnel claim they saw in the woods and skies of Suffolk, England.

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00:36:49,460 --> 00:36:58,460

Some experts who have reviewed the reports of strange lights and a glowing spacecraft have concluded that these sightings are a simple case of optical illusion.

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00:36:59,460 --> 00:37:07,460

Retired Air Force Major and Astronomer James McGehee learned about the incident by chance.

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00:37:09,460 --> 00:37:19,460

I first heard about the Rendlesham Forest case in 1983 when I was at the base conducting a military exercise there on temporary duty.

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00:37:20,460 --> 00:37:28,460

During his tour, he discovers that five miles from the twin bases on the shores of the North Sea sits the Orford Ness Lighthouse.

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00:37:30,460 --> 00:37:34,460

McGehee feels that witnesses mistook this lighthouse for a UFO.

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00:37:36,460 --> 00:37:48,460

If you're out in a dark sky on a cold night in December and a lighthouse is swinging through the trees with this bright beam of light passing through the trees,

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00:37:48,460 --> 00:37:53,460

it's going to have some strange unusual effects. Light is going to get scattered by the trees.

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John Burroughs did mention this lighthouse in his first statement to his superiors.

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00:38:00,460 --> 00:38:09,460

In the report, he says that after the mysterious lights disappeared, he thought the lighthouse was another craft, but quickly realized his mistake.

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00:38:11,460 --> 00:38:15,460

I want to clarify something. This is always somebody who tries to twist it.

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00:38:15,460 --> 00:38:23,460

If you read the statement, especially mine, it clearly distinguished between what we saw at the beginning and then we did see a beacon of light and we followed it.

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00:38:24,460 --> 00:38:27,460

Nowhere in my statement does it say I felt the beacon of light was the object.

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00:38:28,460 --> 00:38:34,460

I've done a whole lot of research on this lighthouse. You know, you can talk about it from here to eternity.

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00:38:35,460 --> 00:38:44,460

And there's absolutely no way that a lighthouse can travel five miles, go in and out of trees, shoot beams down to the ground,

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00:38:46,460 --> 00:38:48,460

so anyway, it's not a lighthouse.

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00:38:50,460 --> 00:38:56,460

But McGehey claims there is a second explanation for the lights in the sky that has nothing to do with UFOs.

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00:38:58,460 --> 00:39:08,460

On the night of the 25th at around 9.30 in the evening, a cosmos satellite re-entered the Earth's atmosphere.

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00:39:09,460 --> 00:39:13,460

It would have looked like a fireball, which is a very, very bright meteor.

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00:39:13,460 --> 00:39:18,460

For nearly 20 years, skeptics and believers continue their search for answers.

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00:39:20,460 --> 00:39:28,460

In 2002, thanks in part to researchers like Georgina Bruni, the British government finally releases a new set of records.

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00:39:29,460 --> 00:39:34,460

The files provide additional information about the case, but also raise new questions.

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00:39:35,460 --> 00:39:41,460

They make it clear that the British government investigated the mysterious sightings back in 1981.

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00:39:43,460 --> 00:39:50,460

This fact seems to indicate that military investigators did not believe the sightings were caused by a lighthouse or a satellite.

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00:39:51,460 --> 00:39:55,460

But the files also reveal some of the shortcomings of that investigation.

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00:39:56,460 --> 00:40:00,460

We discovered that some of the radar facilities were actually faulty.

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00:40:00,460 --> 00:40:09,460

The cameras were faulty on the night scene question, or allegedly faulty, that the films were missing.

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00:40:10,460 --> 00:40:16,460

At the time, investigators based their research on the original memo written by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt.

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00:40:17,460 --> 00:40:24,460

His document states that the first event occurred on December 27th, but the sightings actually began on the 25th.

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00:40:25,460 --> 00:40:31,460

Halt's mistake has caused researchers to examine the wrong nights for 20 years.

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00:40:32,460 --> 00:40:37,460

It is a frustrating revelation for Nick Pope, an official with the Ministry of Defence.

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00:40:38,460 --> 00:40:44,460

Here we had possibly the most significant UFO event ever to have taken place on British soil.

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00:40:45,460 --> 00:40:50,460

And yet, not only were the dates wrong, but crucial days had been lost.

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00:40:50,460 --> 00:40:53,460

Moreover, much has been left out of the files.

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00:40:54,460 --> 00:41:02,460

Researchers hope the US and British governments will release further information, including pictures taken by Air Force personnel on the nights of the sightings.

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00:41:03,460 --> 00:41:06,460

These are the only photographs that remain from the investigation.

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00:41:07,460 --> 00:41:14,460

They show authorities examining the alleged landing site, but the pictures reveal no evidence of a landed craft.

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00:41:21,460 --> 00:41:26,460

The US Air Force's official stance is that the events were no threat to national security.

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00:41:30,460 --> 00:41:32,460

To many, this statement doesn't ring true.

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00:41:33,460 --> 00:41:41,460

If in fact nuclear weapons were housed at the base, then the military would have been very concerned about reports of an unidentified aircraft.

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00:41:42,460 --> 00:41:47,460

We had objects flying over the weapons storage areas, shining beams down to the ground.

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00:41:47,460 --> 00:41:50,460

If that ain't to fend significance, what is?

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00:41:51,460 --> 00:42:01,460

Skeptics grapple with the same question, but in their minds, the military's response bolsters their claim that UFOs did not visit the Rendlesham Forest.

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00:42:02,460 --> 00:42:06,460

This was during the Cold War. You have to realize that security was fairly tight.

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00:42:07,460 --> 00:42:16,460

Anything that would happen near the flight line when you have these high-value asset aircraft, tactical aircraft, or in weapons areas would amaze you.

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00:42:17,460 --> 00:42:25,460

It would immediately cause a response by the entire base. Everybody on the base would have been woken up and been reacting to something like that.

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00:42:26,460 --> 00:42:27,460

And of course that didn't happen.

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00:42:28,460 --> 00:42:33,460

Even Charles Holt, the deputy base commander, is frustrated with his search for answers.

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00:42:34,460 --> 00:42:40,460

I kept prodding Squadron Leader Moreland, the British Liaison Officer, for an answer. Doesn't somebody care? Doesn't somebody interested?

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00:42:41,460 --> 00:42:45,460

I got the feeling that I was kind of left hanging out there to drive, you know what I mean?

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00:42:45,460 --> 00:42:57,460

Though they continue to press the government for more information, some researchers believe that the missing files and early mistakes in the military investigation may leave the Rendlesham case a lasting mystery.

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00:42:58,460 --> 00:43:09,460

In any investigation, whatever you're investigating, if you don't really use the first 24 hours to try and chase it down, your chances of success diminish rapidly.

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00:43:09,460 --> 00:43:21,460

The problem with the Rendlesham incident is that this happened over the Christmas period. A lot of the key personnel were on leave and I think there was a bit of a decision-making vacuum.

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00:43:22,460 --> 00:43:28,460

The newly released information is not enough for the men involved at Rendlesham to put the incident to rest.

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00:43:29,460 --> 00:43:34,460

For now, they possess the few pieces of intriguing evidence that remain from their strange encounter.

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00:43:35,460 --> 00:43:38,460

Peniston's plaster casts and drawings.

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00:43:40,460 --> 00:43:41,460

Halt's tape recording.

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00:43:42,460 --> 00:43:47,460

We're about 150 to 200 yards from the site. Everybody else is just breathily calm.

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00:43:48,460 --> 00:43:56,460

Jim Peniston, Larry Warren, and John Burroughs continue to wonder why the government is hiding the truth.

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00:43:57,460 --> 00:44:04,460

There's a chain of coming in, there's a chain of custody, everything's kept track of, and for this stuff to play out like it disappeared and it's gone, it's not.

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00:44:05,460 --> 00:44:11,460

I guess technically we were part of a cover-up to ourselves. We probably started it by sanitizing the initial report.

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00:44:12,460 --> 00:44:17,460

Like John Lennon used to say, conspiracy of silence speaks louder than words, and that's fact.

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00:44:18,460 --> 00:44:27,460

And I'll be pissing off people as long as I can about this and screaming that this went down, take a look at it, then judge for yourself.

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00:44:28,460 --> 00:44:36,460

In America, everyone's heard of Roswell, but only the UFO researchers really know about this case.

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00:44:37,460 --> 00:44:41,460

And yet, in many ways, I consider this case to be bigger than Roswell.

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00:44:41,460 --> 00:44:49,460

This could be the biggest UFO incident of all time. Let's put it where it deserves to be. Let's put it in people's minds.

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00:44:50,460 --> 00:44:56,460

People keep telling me, well what really happened? I don't know, what was it? I really don't know, I mean I don't.