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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,360

This is a journey into a world of mystery and deceit, a fantastical place full of UFOs,

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00:00:11,360 --> 00:00:17,000

strange encounters and stories of alien abduction.

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00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:18,600

My name is Nick Cook.

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00:00:18,600 --> 00:00:26,160

I work for Jane's Information Group, which has reported on defence issues since 1898.

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I investigate secret military programs worth billions of dollars, but hidden from public view.

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00:00:32,960 --> 00:00:38,120

I dig out evidence of classified technologies developed by the defence industry and concealed

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00:00:38,120 --> 00:00:42,960

behind a network of false trails.

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00:00:42,960 --> 00:00:48,560

It's my job to find out what really has been flying through our airspace.

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00:00:48,560 --> 00:00:58,560

Also from time to time, I examine sighting evidence of unidentified flying objects.

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00:00:58,560 --> 00:01:03,560

Do these sightings offer evidence of top secret military and defence technology, or do they

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00:01:03,560 --> 00:01:11,160

hold clues to something more mysterious?

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00:01:11,160 --> 00:01:18,360

My plan is to trace the UFO story decade by decade, from early sightings during the Second World War,

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00:01:18,360 --> 00:01:25,360

to the mass reports of alien abduction that swept America in the 80s and 90s.

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This world is normally off limits for a journalist, but I wanted to discover for myself what is real and what is not.

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00:01:48,360 --> 00:02:02,360

People send me pictures like these every week, and most of them are pretty obvious hoaxes.

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00:02:02,360 --> 00:02:08,360

But very occasionally, something genuinely intriguing arrives, like this one for example,

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00:02:08,360 --> 00:02:17,360

a picture taken by a Canadian Air Force pilot on a military exercise, and what it shows is indeed quite startling.

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00:02:17,360 --> 00:02:24,360

I've seen many pictures like this, all of them taken by aircrew, people who are trained to record data.

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00:02:24,360 --> 00:02:30,360

UFOs are a taboo subject in the military, and very much for an aerospace journalist like me.

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00:02:30,360 --> 00:02:37,360

Pilots who report them risk being grounded, or perhaps even referred to a psychiatrist for an assessment.

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00:02:37,360 --> 00:02:43,360

So these pictures tend to arrive on my desk anonymously and for good reason.

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00:02:43,360 --> 00:02:53,360

But these pictures resonate with me because the matter of who you share airspace with when you're travelling at twice the speed of sound really is a matter of life and death.

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00:02:53,360 --> 00:02:58,360

I've spent 20 years writing about leading edge aerospace technology.

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00:02:58,360 --> 00:03:02,360

I've probably interviewed thousands of pilots in that time.

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00:03:02,360 --> 00:03:08,360

A handful of them are reporting UFO incidents that are genuinely mysterious.

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00:03:08,360 --> 00:03:12,360

I want to know what it is though, these men are really seeing.

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00:03:27,360 --> 00:03:34,360

The history of UFO sightings is not a long one, but it's a bit longer than most people suspect.

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00:03:35,360 --> 00:03:49,360

To start to make sense of UFOs you must go back to the 1940s, to the Second World War and these men, and what some of them saw in the night skies over Europe.

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00:03:49,360 --> 00:03:58,360

Allied aircrews described being tracked by glowing balls of light which they called Foo Fighters, after an American comic strip.

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00:03:59,360 --> 00:04:06,360

This is one of the first recorded reports of a UFO sighting.

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00:04:06,360 --> 00:04:12,360

It's taken from the official RAF archives and it is highly unusual.

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00:04:12,360 --> 00:04:23,360

It recounts the story of one pilot officer called B.C. Lumsden who saw something extremely unusual during a bombing raid over Germany on the 7th of December 1942.

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00:04:28,360 --> 00:04:34,360

The first one is about a man in a red suit.

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00:04:34,360 --> 00:04:39,360

It's a light on group 2.

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00:04:39,360 --> 00:04:47,360

We were cruising at 7000 feet when we discovered we had company, an orange-colored light off the port wing.

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00:04:47,360 --> 00:04:54,360

At first I thought it was tracer flak, but discounted this when I saw how slowly and controlled it was moving.

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00:04:54,360 --> 00:04:59,360

It seemed to be playing with red tooth, diving around the fuselage.

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00:04:59,360 --> 00:05:04,360

Suddenly it turned starboard and headed straight for us.

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00:05:04,360 --> 00:05:16,360

I found it hard to make other members of the squadron believe me, but the following night one of the squadron flight commanders had a similar experience with a green light.

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00:05:16,360 --> 00:05:20,360

It's gone, it's gone, it's gone!

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00:05:25,360 --> 00:05:34,360

A handful of Foo Fighter sightings could be dismissed as pilot error, but there were hundreds if not thousands of these unexplained phenomena.

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00:05:34,360 --> 00:05:40,360

Could they all be the hallucinations of tired or terrified men?

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00:05:40,360 --> 00:05:47,360

I've decided to find out more about these strange balls of fire.

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00:05:47,360 --> 00:05:59,360

Military historians Dave Clark and Andy Roberts are leading experts on UFO sightings during the Second World War.

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00:05:59,360 --> 00:06:10,360

People were seeing tiny balls of light, not much bigger than a beach ball, say, to full-blown flying saucers in the style that we would appreciate today.

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00:06:11,360 --> 00:06:20,360

There's a problem of reporting them at debriefing, because if you had bomber crews landing and saying, you know, we saw these peculiar lights chasing us for miles and miles and miles,

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00:06:20,360 --> 00:06:29,360

some of the bomber crews I've spoken to were fearful that they'd get grounded for lack of moral fibre, for, you know, for inventing things to get them grounded, some form of psychological problem.

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The first IRF at the Air Ministry were extremely concerned because they thought perhaps it was some form of German secret weapon.

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00:06:38,360 --> 00:06:49,360

And it is known that the Nazis did have some quite novel varieties of anti-aircraft, such as scarecrow and things of that nature, which threw huge metal bars around in the sky which people saw.

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00:06:49,360 --> 00:06:53,360

And that was designed to unnerve people as much as to damage aeroplanes.

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00:06:54,360 --> 00:07:07,360

These designs, taken from secret engineering blueprints seized by the Allies at the end of the war, show just how radical the Nazis' aerospace programmes were.

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00:07:07,360 --> 00:07:11,360

And it was plans like these that were unsettling the Allied forces.

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00:07:12,360 --> 00:07:29,360

Going through American files of the kind of technological plunder operation that they did on Germany after the war, they do describe technologies that could be pieced together to develop a kind of foo fighter type weapon.

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They were working on all these bizarre little things, but none of these things ever came to fruition.

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00:07:34,360 --> 00:07:43,360

If we had the war gone on much longer or had the Germans won, then we may have seen these things developing the same way that we saw the Americans develop at space technology after the war.

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00:07:46,360 --> 00:07:57,360

The evidence for foo fighters is intriguing, but I wonder whether there is anything more than the log reports by the pilots who described screaming dogfights with strange balls of light.

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00:08:05,360 --> 00:08:15,360

I've come to California to meet physicist and technology historian John Dering. He has first hand information on the development of foo fighters.

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I interviewed a German aircraft engineer who had actually worked on these vehicles in the prototype stage and in the early phases of production.

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These were vehicles that were unmanned. They were what we would probably best describe today as unmanned aerial combat vehicles.

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These were vehicles that were not just set up for surveillance purposes.

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00:08:34,360 --> 00:08:50,360

They actually had a purpose of remotely controlled to engage the Allied aircraft, the bombers in

particular, by basically trying to apply a mechanism that was not necessarily a catastrophic destructive effect such as blowing the foo fighter up and taking the aircraft down.

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This was intended to be something that could be reused multiple times.

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00:08:55,360 --> 00:09:05,360

There's plenty of anecdotal evidence that Allied air crewmen saw these things over Germany, but what about hard evidence on the ground that this technology was actually pursued by the Germans?

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One of the reports that I have seen and looked over was in reference to a project in the Black Forest that involved a small vehicle that was specifically intended to be an interceptor for advanced air defense against Allied bombers.

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00:09:21,360 --> 00:09:28,360

Now that document actually came from a US intelligence officer and so I have pretty high certainty that that was real.

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00:09:33,360 --> 00:09:45,360

I want to follow up on John Derring's research. His work indicates there was secret technology being developed in Nazi occupied central Europe, which might account for some of the UFO sightings.

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These are the Sudeten Mountains on the Polish-Czech border.

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00:09:52,360 --> 00:09:58,360

During World War II this beautiful valley was home to some of the finest scientific mines of the Third Reich.

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00:10:01,360 --> 00:10:07,360

It was here that the Nazis built one of their underground research facilities, the Wenceslas Mine.

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00:10:16,360 --> 00:10:31,360

I'm meeting Polish military historian Igor Wietkowski, who will guide me round the mine, a vast underground complex hidden away from Allied bombs which Nazi slave labor carved out of the Sudeten Mountains.

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An example of a surface infrastructure being kind of a reflection of the underground facility.

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00:10:40,360 --> 00:10:56,360

It was here in the desperate last months of the war that German scientists worked around the clock to produce Kriegensscheiden, the war-winning technology that might produce a stunning knockout blow, even as the Nazis were being pushed back towards Germany.

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00:11:02,360 --> 00:11:11,360

As Igor guided me through the flooded tunnels, the air became heavy and difficult to breathe.

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00:11:13,360 --> 00:11:20,360

So in effect we've come hundreds of metres through this complex and we're now deep into the mountain.

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00:11:20,360 --> 00:11:23,360

Not hundreds of metres, but several kilometres in fact.

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00:11:24,360 --> 00:11:33,360

Several kilometres into the mountain and this would have been a highly secure, impenetrable assembly site.

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00:11:33,360 --> 00:11:44,360

Exactly and the secret here on this place was very exceptional so that the Allies never found out about it.

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00:11:45,360 --> 00:12:00,360

Almost nothing exists of the original mine. As the Nazis retreated in 1945, they sealed most of the tunnels, leaving the advanced technology buried beneath impenetrable walls of rock.

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00:12:01,360 --> 00:12:07,360

The Allies did capture one man who knew all about this place and he wasn't a token find.

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00:12:07,360 --> 00:12:13,360

His name was SS General Jakob Spornberg and he was in charge of the technical programme at the mine.

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00:12:17,360 --> 00:12:20,360

What he revealed astonished his interrogators.

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Indeed I find it surprising 60 years later.

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He spoke of a secret experiment attempting nothing less than to conquer gravity.

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00:12:41,360 --> 00:12:46,360

He described a bell shaped device that needed enormous amounts of electrical power.

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00:12:47,360 --> 00:12:56,360

It was made of a hard heavy metal and filled with a mercury like substance that was violet in colour and glowed when under test.

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00:12:59,360 --> 00:13:03,360

People who worked on the bell suffered from sleep problems and severe vertigo.

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00:13:03,360 --> 00:13:07,360

Five of the seven scientists died while working on the project.

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00:13:08,360 --> 00:13:11,360

In a memo to Hitler the scientists wrote,

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00:13:11,360 --> 00:13:18,360

It is in our opinion that the scientific results ascertained from our experiments with the bell are truly decisive for the war.

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00:13:38,360 --> 00:13:42,360

Experiments with the bell happened deep underground in the mine,

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00:13:42,360 --> 00:13:46,360

but directly above it on the surface was this strange structure.

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00:13:49,360 --> 00:13:55,360

Called the flytrap, it first showed up on an Allied aerial reconnaissance photo in 1944.

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00:14:00,360 --> 00:14:05,360

Igor Witkowski believes that the flytrap was a test rig for advanced propulsion technology.

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

In other words, flying saucers.

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00:14:12,360 --> 00:14:18,360

There is an extremely strong and thick steel reinforcement of the pillars,

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00:14:18,360 --> 00:14:25,360

which means that it was to be, to withstand some great forces working on it.

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00:14:27,360 --> 00:14:30,360

How did it work? We don't know exactly,

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00:14:30,360 --> 00:14:35,360

but we do know from Sporenberg's evidence that the bell was a revolutionary device

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00:14:35,360 --> 00:14:42,360

and the flytrap, designed as its test rig, was fed with underground cables running to the heart of the structure.

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00:14:43,360 --> 00:14:48,360

So the cabling led down here, right away from the power station over there.

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00:14:48,360 --> 00:14:51,360

Yes, up to the flytrap.

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00:14:51,360 --> 00:14:53,360

Right.

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00:14:53,360 --> 00:14:59,360

It was visually filled with high voltage cables.

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00:15:00,360 --> 00:15:04,360

They take us in arms, that thickness.

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00:15:04,360 --> 00:15:08,360

I have the photographs of them.

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00:15:08,360 --> 00:15:15,360

And that's just another strange fact that points out to such a possibility

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00:15:15,360 --> 00:15:19,360

that it would have been used for some experimental purposes.

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00:15:19,360 --> 00:15:21,360

I mean, they're actually pretty sizable.

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00:15:21,360 --> 00:15:26,360

It's kind of like a metre and a half of a concrete lined ducting gun here.

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00:15:26,360 --> 00:15:28,360

Yes, exactly, pretty solid.

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00:15:28,360 --> 00:15:34,360

So it all adds up to, I mean, pretty strong evidence that the power station over there

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00:15:34,360 --> 00:15:40,360

was just was feeding this tremendous amount of power to the facility, the flytrap over there.

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00:15:40,360 --> 00:15:42,360

Just exactly.

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00:15:42,360 --> 00:15:44,360

In a way...

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00:15:44,360 --> 00:15:45,360

This is interesting.

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00:15:45,360 --> 00:15:50,360

I've spent a long time researching the quest to produce anti-gravity technology,

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00:15:50,360 --> 00:15:55,360

the holy grail of aerospace design, that would overturn conventional physics

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00:15:55,360 --> 00:15:58,360

and allow us to travel in deep space.

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00:15:58,360 --> 00:16:04,360

Is it possible that the UFO sightings over Nazi Germany were related to this quest?

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00:16:12,360 --> 00:16:18,360

There is a sense here that the Germans were engaged in very highly classified work

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00:16:18,360 --> 00:16:25,360

and that possibly they were engaged in anti-gravity type programs.

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00:16:28,360 --> 00:16:34,360

What I do know is that many of these bizarre projects like the Bell did not remain in German hands.

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00:16:34,360 --> 00:16:39,360

At the end of the war they were plundered secretly by the American High Command

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00:16:39,360 --> 00:16:41,360

and taken to the States.

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00:16:49,360 --> 00:16:56,360

The speculation about Foo Fighters was about to be overshadowed by one of the most sensational UFO sightings of all,

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00:16:56,360 --> 00:17:00,360

the 1947 incident at Roswell in New Mexico.

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00:17:04,360 --> 00:17:06,360

That's where I'm heading next.

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00:17:19,360 --> 00:17:26,360

The 509th atomic bomb group headquarters at Roswell, New Mexico,

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00:17:26,360 --> 00:17:31,360

reports that it has received one of the discs which landed on a ranch outside Roswell.

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00:17:31,360 --> 00:17:37,360

Colonel William Blanchard of the Roswell Air Base refuses to give details of what the flying disc looks like.

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00:17:37,360 --> 00:17:44,360

In July 1947, a UFO is supposed to have exploded in mid-air over Roswell, New Mexico,

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00:17:45,360 --> 00:17:49,360

showering its debris over a remote ranch nearby.

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00:17:49,360 --> 00:17:56,360

The actual saucer itself is said to have come down here on the plains of San Agustín.

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00:17:56,360 --> 00:18:05,360

UFO proponents doggedly say that this vehicle that allegedly crashed here was extraterrestrial.

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00:18:06,360 --> 00:18:13,360

The Roswell crash is the best known case in the annals of ufology.

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00:18:13,360 --> 00:18:19,360

Supporters of the extraterrestrial explanation claim that the military recovered crashed debris

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00:18:19,360 --> 00:18:26,360

and alien bodies from a site located on the very edge of a top secret military base called White Sands.

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00:18:26,360 --> 00:18:28,360

The press had a field day.

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00:18:28,360 --> 00:18:34,360

Reports of a crashed disc hit the headlines and Roswell quickly became a part of the military.

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00:18:34,360 --> 00:18:38,360

Roswell quickly became a national controversy.

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00:18:54,360 --> 00:18:58,360

The military were quick to retract stories of bodies and a disc,

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00:18:58,360 --> 00:19:03,360

but their denials just fuelled the belief they were hiding something.

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00:19:04,360 --> 00:19:26,840

The Roswell's

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00:19:29,360 --> 00:19:32,360

There's something strange about the sky here.

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00:19:32,360 --> 00:19:39,360

I'm over 5,000 feet above sea level and the air is crystal clear.

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00:19:39,360 --> 00:19:51,360

I've come to meet Mike Smith and Wayne Mattson, two former Air Force officers who have lived in the area for some time.

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00:19:51,360 --> 00:19:59,360

Mike explains that the desert climate can throw strange shapes into the air.

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00:19:59,360 --> 00:20:09,360

A lot of them are astronomical phenomena and our desert atmosphere here provides practically an infinity of weather conditions,

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00:20:09,360 --> 00:20:12,360

which can really play tricks with the eyes.

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00:20:12,360 --> 00:20:22,360

And I have seen things that were perfectly explainable that really looked like something totally extraordinary, but they were explainable.

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00:20:22,360 --> 00:20:28,360

And as Wayne tells me, even cloud formations can be misleading.

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00:20:28,360 --> 00:20:33,360

Lenticular clouds are often mistaken for UFOs.

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00:20:33,360 --> 00:20:35,360

Pretty extraordinary, don't they?

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00:20:35,360 --> 00:20:44,360

Lenticular clouds can, the wind comes hitting the mountains, swoops up and as it goes over the top, the clouds form.

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00:20:44,360 --> 00:20:56,360

I have seen a half a dozen UFOs, lenticular clouds that were one, about a minute later, a second one and so on.

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00:20:58,360 --> 00:21:09,360

The cloud story may explain some of the unusual sights witnessed in this area, but it doesn't begin to account for the Roswell incident.

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00:21:10,360 --> 00:21:21,360

Debris was recovered from the crash site, so there is physical evidence that something did come down on the plains of San Agustin.

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00:21:24,360 --> 00:21:32,360

But the mystery surrounding Roswell comes from the fact that the US Air Force changed their version of events three times.

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00:21:33,360 --> 00:21:39,360

One of those stories was linked to a covert military operation flying out of the Roswell area.

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00:21:39,360 --> 00:21:48,360

Duke Gildenberg ran a secret program called Skyhook, designed to fly balloons over the Soviet Union, with spy cameras attached.

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00:21:48,360 --> 00:22:01,360

The Skyhook balloon wasn't born until 1947, and therefore when it first appeared and for the first five, ten years, it was a new sight in the sky.

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00:22:03,360 --> 00:22:15,360

Solomon Air Force Base, then Alamogordo Air Base, was the prime launch site for the United States Air Force, and it happens to be just upwind of Roswell.

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00:22:15,360 --> 00:22:24,360

So when the balloons would fly them out, even if they were going to go a thousand miles the other way, the initial climb out would be in the direction of Roswell,

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00:22:24,360 --> 00:22:27,360

close enough to the sea, even if they get right overhead.

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00:22:33,360 --> 00:22:41,360

Every flight we flew, it generated UFO reports. In fact, for a while we were even using it as a backup tracking system.

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00:22:41,360 --> 00:22:51,360

We call up a town and say, anybody see a UFO this afternoon? Yeah, one to the... okay, what

direction? To the south? Okay, keep an eye on it.

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00:22:52,360 --> 00:23:08,360

We allowed them to remain UFO reports, with the hope being that once they got over the Soviet Union, they'd still be registered as UFO incidents, rather than our reconnaissance balloons.

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00:23:08,360 --> 00:23:14,360

Is it your contention that Roswell is explicable as a balloon crash?

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00:23:14,360 --> 00:23:22,360

That is correct, and I worked on the Pentagon report for months and months and months.

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00:23:23,360 --> 00:23:32,360

Was what crashed at Roswell a spy balloon from a secret program the government was trying to hide?  
I'm not sure.

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00:23:32,360 --> 00:23:39,360

I've seen a memo in the National Archives that suggests there was more to the incident than the Air Force was admitting.

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00:23:40,360 --> 00:23:50,360

In September 1947, just a few weeks after the Roswell crash, General Twining, head of the Air Materiel Command,

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00:23:50,360 --> 00:24:02,360

issued a classified memo to a small group of his senior officers, outlining his concern about the rash of flying saucer sightings that had been seen across America earlier that summer.

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00:24:02,360 --> 00:24:09,360

In the memo, he states that the phenomenon is something real and not visionary or fictitious.

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00:24:09,360 --> 00:24:14,360

That there were objects approximating the shape of a disk in the sky.

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00:24:14,360 --> 00:24:20,360

He talks of operating characteristics such as extreme rates of climb and manoeuvrability.

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00:24:20,360 --> 00:24:29,360

One of his conclusions indeed is that these disks might be the product of some high-security project not known to his command.

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00:24:33,360 --> 00:24:38,360

The Twining memo shows the Air Force was taking the flying saucer sightings seriously.

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00:24:38,360 --> 00:24:48,360

The next stop on my journey is Nevada, where I'm going to meet someone with high-security clearance who might throw light on what really crashed at Roswell.

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00:24:52,360 --> 00:24:59,360

I'm here to see Colonel John Alexander, Vietnam vet, ex-special forces and military intelligence.

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00:24:59,360 --> 00:25:03,360

He's taken a close interest in the Roswell incident.

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00:25:08,360 --> 00:25:13,360

Part of the problem has been the government itself, John Roswell.

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00:25:13,360 --> 00:25:20,360

They have been less than forthcoming. They've been caught time after time just overtly lying to the public.

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

The government's credibility in this field is pretty damn low.

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00:25:25,360 --> 00:25:29,360

They can't go out and say, well, here's the truth today.

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00:25:29,360 --> 00:25:37,360

Do you think that these vehicles have crashed to Earth and do you think that the U.S. military has recovered them?

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00:25:37,360 --> 00:25:38,360

No.

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00:25:38,360 --> 00:25:39,360

Why not?

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00:25:39,360 --> 00:25:44,360

Why? I'll tell you why not. This is where I get in trouble with everybody.

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00:25:45,360 --> 00:25:57,360

I look. I am kind of the one person who has gone nose to nose with the head of all of the intelligence agencies and whatnot.

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00:25:57,360 --> 00:25:59,360

We looked from a historical perspective.

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00:25:59,360 --> 00:26:06,360

I can mention now that Edward Teller was one of the folks who was interested in my work in other fields.

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00:26:07,360 --> 00:26:15,360

Edward Teller. He was the assistant director at Los Alamos National Laboratory and father of the H-bomb.

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00:26:15,360 --> 00:26:21,360

If alien technology had been found by the military, he would surely have known about it.

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00:26:21,360 --> 00:26:29,360

I actually had him over for dinner. We had this discussion. He was not opposed to the notion of UFOs.

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00:26:29,360 --> 00:26:41,360

We always said if five people knew at that time Teller would have been one of them because understanding energy and he was the one who was working on the most advanced energy source known at the time.

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00:26:41,360 --> 00:26:44,360

And you get the absolutely not.

198

00:26:45,360 --> 00:26:54,360

So Teller told Alexander that whatever crashed at Roswell and something certainly did, it was not extraterrestrial.

199

00:26:54,360 --> 00:26:59,360

Not a balloon, but a different secret program.

200

00:27:01,360 --> 00:27:08,360

Perhaps what really crashed at Roswell is related to the work of the German scientists during World War II.

201

00:27:09,360 --> 00:27:17,360

I'm going to examine an American operation to capture these scientists and bring their technology to the US at the end of the war.

202

00:27:26,360 --> 00:27:32,360

In 1945 President Truman ordered a secret operation codenamed Project Paperclip.

203

00:27:33,360 --> 00:27:41,360

It instructed the US military in Germany to round up German scientists and persuade them to carry on their work in America.

204

00:27:41,360 --> 00:27:59,360

This is where most of the paperclip scientists ended up. White Sands missile range in New Mexico.

205

00:27:59,360 --> 00:28:05,360

A top secret base surrounded by a no-go zone the size of a small country.

206

00:28:06,360 --> 00:28:12,360

Probably well over 2,000 scientists were brought to this country.

207

00:28:12,360 --> 00:28:19,360

I have a listing which I got from the Air Force History Office of all the scientists that were brought to right field.

208

00:28:19,360 --> 00:28:26,360

And nearly 200 top of the line scientists were brought to right field.

209

00:28:26,360 --> 00:28:31,360

The Germans were anywhere from 5 to 15 years ahead in certain areas.

210

00:28:31,360 --> 00:28:40,360

For instance you think of the V2A4 missile, not intercontinental at that time, but a ballistic, first ballistic missile.

211

00:28:40,360 --> 00:28:43,360

There was a huge step at the time.

212

00:28:46,360 --> 00:28:51,360

I visited this area many times and its power and beauty never diminishes.

213

00:28:51,360 --> 00:28:59,360

It's a strange mix of primitive landscape and high-tech doomsday hardware tucked into the southwest corner of America.

214

00:28:59,360 --> 00:29:09,360

And in 1946 it was really isolated, just the place to bring German scientists who would be totally cut off from the outside world.

215

00:29:09,360 --> 00:29:15,360

The thing that bothered most of them that I knew more than anything was the summertime.

216

00:29:15,360 --> 00:29:23,360

Because we get temperatures often here of 42 and 43 Celsius in July, June and July.

217

00:29:23,360 --> 00:29:28,360

And that was absolutely so incredible to them they couldn't believe it.

218

00:29:28,360 --> 00:29:35,360

It was a vast cry from being in Germany because they're used to mountains and forests.

219

00:29:35,360 --> 00:29:39,360

Okay, we got the mountains, but we don't have the forests down here.

220

00:29:39,360 --> 00:29:45,360

We don't have the water that they have and things are quite a desert.

221

00:29:45,360 --> 00:29:52,360

It was here that the German scientists created the beginnings of the American space program.

222

00:29:52,360 --> 00:30:02,360

And it is also here in this highly secret territory that the number of UFO sightings really started to take off.

223

00:30:03,360 --> 00:30:13,360

I was out stargazing and I looked up and I may have been for at the most five seconds.

224

00:30:13,360 --> 00:30:20,360

There was this large black triangle that just blacked out stars and it was moving across.

225

00:30:20,360 --> 00:30:21,360

Making any noise?

226

00:30:21,360 --> 00:30:28,360

No sound whatsoever, total silence. I never heard any reports about it, nothing.

227

00:30:28,360 --> 00:30:31,360

And you have a massive database.

228

00:30:33,360 --> 00:30:36,360

These are a few.

229

00:30:36,360 --> 00:30:48,360

And what are these all these detail sightings of UFOs in the White Sands, Alamogordo, New Mexico region?

230

00:30:52,360 --> 00:30:57,360

I see they kind of range from the jocular to the more serious.

231

00:30:57,360 --> 00:31:01,360

Anything I can get my hands on that I find.

232

00:31:01,360 --> 00:31:10,360

So after all of these years, all of this study, your own sightings, what are you forced to conclude, Wayne?

233

00:31:10,360 --> 00:31:15,360

I conclude that my government is lying to me.

234

00:31:15,360 --> 00:31:16,360

About what?

235

00:31:16,360 --> 00:31:18,360

About UFOs.

236

00:31:19,360 --> 00:31:32,360

The US government has changed its version of the events at Roswell so many times that my investigative instincts tell me they wanted us to follow a false lead.

237

00:31:32,360 --> 00:31:43,360

Perhaps the work of the German scientists could offer a completely new explanation for the Roswell incident.

238

00:31:44,360 --> 00:31:49,360

What evidence do you have that the Germans were working on flying saucer technology?

239

00:31:49,360 --> 00:31:54,360

There certainly was an interest in that type of a vehicle after the war.

240

00:31:54,360 --> 00:32:04,360

It presented the possibility of some maneuverability that would be greater than what they would have had with the conventional piston or jet engines of that time using a fixed wing.

241

00:32:05,360 --> 00:32:11,360

At the time of Roswell, the US Air Force was experimenting with radical new designs.

242

00:32:11,360 --> 00:32:15,360

Could this bizarre aircraft be based on this one?

243

00:32:15,360 --> 00:32:20,360

A design drawn from secret Nazi blueprints seized by the Americans after the war.

244

00:32:24,360 --> 00:32:28,360

Some of these may indeed have reached the point of being test flown.

245

00:32:28,360 --> 00:32:37,360

However, if they did not have a particularly remarkable advantage over other aircraft that were being pursued at that time, they may not have really gone much further than that.

246

00:32:39,360 --> 00:32:46,360

Perhaps the Roswell crash can be linked to the work of the German aircraft designers courted at White Sands in 1947.

247

00:32:46,360 --> 00:32:52,360

I think it's very possible that what crashed was a secret prototype based on these radical designs.

248

00:32:52,360 --> 00:32:55,360

But I can't prove it.

249

00:32:59,360 --> 00:33:14,360

The truth has been elusive, but what is certain is that UFO sightings in America were about to reach epidemic proportions, not just in New Mexico, but over the skies of the nation's capital, Washington DC.

250

00:33:18,360 --> 00:33:24,360

Sightings made headline news across the country and the government was forced to act.

251

00:33:25,360 --> 00:33:34,360

Within three years of Roswell, public concern caused President Harry Truman to address the country on the subject of UFOs.

252

00:33:34,360 --> 00:33:39,360

Oh yes, we discussed it at every conference that we had with the military.

253

00:33:39,360 --> 00:33:42,360

There's always things like that going on.

254

00:33:42,360 --> 00:33:46,360

They're flying saucers and they've had other things, you know.

255

00:33:46,360 --> 00:33:48,360

If I'm not mistaken.

256

00:33:48,360 --> 00:33:51,360

Flying saucers have invaded our planet.

257

00:33:51,360 --> 00:33:53,360

Washington, London, Paris.

258

00:33:55,360 --> 00:34:01,360

America was about to go.

259

00:34:01,360 --> 00:34:03,360

S saucer crazy.

260

00:34:03,360 --> 00:34:07,360

Best of our knowledge, my wife and I are the only ones left alive.

261

00:34:07,360 --> 00:34:14,360

The 1950s was a time of high tension in the Cold War.

262

00:34:14,360 --> 00:34:23,360

As nuclear annihilation threatened, there was also a huge jump in UFO sightings across America.

263

00:34:23,360 --> 00:34:33,360

My journey to look for the truth behind UFO sightings has led me to Washington DC, where in 1952 a series of strange lights were seen over Capitol Hill.

264

00:34:33,360 --> 00:34:36,360

The first light was a new light.

265

00:34:36,360 --> 00:34:38,360

The light was a new light.

266

00:34:38,360 --> 00:34:40,360

The light was a new light.

267

00:34:40,360 --> 00:34:42,360

The light was a new light.

268

00:34:42,360 --> 00:34:44,360

The light was a new light.

269

00:34:44,360 --> 00:34:46,360

The light was a new light.

270

00:34:46,360 --> 00:34:48,360

The light was a new light.

271

00:34:48,360 --> 00:34:54,360

In 1952 a series of strange lights were seen over Capitol Hill.

272

00:34:54,360 --> 00:35:01,360

In the midst of this big national flap, sightings occurred over Washington DC.

273

00:35:01,360 --> 00:35:14,360

This involved three radar sets in the Washington DC area, which picked up targets that were traveling around in restricted airspace over the Capitol.

274

00:35:14,360 --> 00:35:16,360

This couldn't be ignored.

275

00:35:16,360 --> 00:35:19,360

It had all the makings of a national emergency.

276

00:35:19,360 --> 00:35:31,360

Whether it was alien visitors or, as many in the military suspected, advanced Soviet spy technology, the Air Force had to act fast.

277

00:35:31,360 --> 00:35:40,360

Jets were launched against the UFOs and the military made sure their actions made headline news.

278

00:35:40,360 --> 00:35:50,360

The intention was to reassure the public, and it might have worked, but for the fact that following weekend, the 19th of July, the UFOs were sighted again.

279

00:35:50,360 --> 00:35:57,360

A thousand people reported sightings, including staff from President Truman's office.

280

00:35:57,360 --> 00:36:01,360

The government had to be seen to act.

281

00:36:01,360 --> 00:36:09,360

General John Sanford, head of Air Force Intelligence, was given the job of reassuring the nation and explaining what people had seen.

282

00:36:09,360 --> 00:36:22,360

In pursuit of this obligation since 1947, we have received and analyzed between one and two thousand reports that have come to us from all kinds of sources.

283

00:36:22,360 --> 00:36:30,360

Of this great mass of reports, we have been able adequately to explain the great bulk of them.

284

00:36:30,360 --> 00:36:37,360

So here he was saying specifically they're not a threat to the United States, the implication being the Air Force is doing its job, where there's no threat out there.

285

00:36:37,360 --> 00:36:46,360

In spite of the fact that the Air Force had internal documents that said, you know, it might be Soviet, and used that as a reason to investigate and so on.

286

00:36:46,360 --> 00:36:56,360

The Air Force's commitment to act on the UFO problem would result in one of the biggest military investigations in American history.

287

00:36:56,360 --> 00:37:06,360

The Air Force, which had secretly been investigating UFOs since 1947, were forced to set up an open inquiry.

288

00:37:06,360 --> 00:37:15,360

Called Project Blue Book, it promised to investigate each separate sighting report that was filed by the general public.

289

00:37:15,360 --> 00:37:25,360

In spite of Air Force Intelligence claims there was nothing to worry about, the U.S. Air Force was actually taking UFOs very seriously indeed.

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00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:31,360

Heading up, Blue Book's investigations was astronomer Dr J. Allen Hynek.

291

00:37:31,360 --> 00:37:41,360

With his scientific background, Hynek was hired by the Air Force to interview thousands of witnesses and collate some of the public's most bizarre encounters.

292

00:37:41,360 --> 00:37:44,360

Have you ever seen a meteor with headlights?

293

00:37:44,360 --> 00:37:46,360

No, I've never seen a meteor with headlights.

294

00:37:46,360 --> 00:37:49,360

But one might see a meteor that looks like it had headlights.

295

00:37:49,360 --> 00:37:54,360

Well, I think I do not drink and this had some kind of light on the surface.

296

00:37:54,360 --> 00:37:57,360

Good, fine.

297

00:37:57,360 --> 00:38:05,360

Hynek was a skeptic. During the course of his investigations, he was able to attribute many of the sightings to natural phenomena.

298

00:38:05,360 --> 00:38:10,360

All of them saying that they saw it predominantly in an eastern direction.

299

00:38:10,360 --> 00:38:17,360

Now, if it had been extremely close to any one of them, it could not have been seen to the east by all the people.

300

00:38:17,360 --> 00:38:21,360

But Project Blue Book had severe limitations.

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00:38:21,360 --> 00:38:25,360

No sightings by military personnel were included in its pages.

302

00:38:25,360 --> 00:38:30,360

Instead, they were immediately classified and buried deep in the files of the Pentagon.

303

00:38:30,360 --> 00:38:39,360

Much to Hynek's frustration, because reports by Air Force pilots of which there were many intrigued him very much.

304

00:38:39,360 --> 00:38:46,360

But now we can tell the story of one such sighting for the very first time.

305

00:38:46,360 --> 00:38:53,360

It involves the early reconnaissance missions by the United States over the Soviet Union.

306

00:38:56,360 --> 00:39:05,360

During the 50s, Major Thomas Hanley was a radar operator and one of the first Cold War spies in the sky.

307

00:39:05,360 --> 00:39:13,360

When you're flying, you are always aware of anything in your airspace.

308

00:39:13,360 --> 00:39:23,360

One particular night, the aircraft commander saw a bright light coming towards us.

309

00:39:23,360 --> 00:39:31,360

And all of a sudden, the light just went immediately to the other side of the aircraft.

310

00:39:31,360 --> 00:39:40,360

So we played cat and mouse with it, whatever it was, for an hour or anything.

311

00:39:40,360 --> 00:39:46,360

The ground was recording it, and they would lose it too on occasion.

312

00:39:46,360 --> 00:39:49,360

There was something out there, something very strange.

313

00:39:49,360 --> 00:39:55,360

It was performing not like a normal aircraft would perform.

314

00:39:55,360 --> 00:40:00,360

It was just too fast and too maneuverable.

315

00:40:00,360 --> 00:40:07,360

Certain something different was out there, but I had no idea what it was.

316

00:40:10,360 --> 00:40:15,360

The problem for the US Air Force was that this man was extremely credible.

317

00:40:15,360 --> 00:40:24,360

He was one of their surveillance specialists, highly qualified and working with what was then state-of-the-art technology.

318

00:40:29,360 --> 00:40:34,360

As far as Tom Hanley is concerned, his questions were never answered.

319

00:40:34,360 --> 00:40:41,360

And I have to admit, I'm at a loss to explain it myself.

320

00:40:42,360 --> 00:40:46,360

But in the meantime, as a recently declassified CIA memo shows,

321

00:40:46,360 --> 00:40:52,360

the agency was becoming very interested in the UFO phenomenon for its own purposes.

322

00:40:52,360 --> 00:40:56,360

The CIA was responsible for surveillance of the Soviet Union,

323

00:40:56,360 --> 00:41:03,360

and it realised that UFOs might offer the perfect cover for its more clandestine activities.

324

00:41:03,360 --> 00:41:08,360

This is a memo written by Walter B. Smith, the head of the CIA at the time.

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00:41:08,360 --> 00:41:13,360

And it's important because it shows that the CIA were happy to leave the US Air Force

326

00:41:13,360 --> 00:41:17,360

with the problem of analysing each UFO sighting.

327

00:41:17,360 --> 00:41:21,360

I suggest, Smith says, that we discuss at an early board meeting

328

00:41:21,360 --> 00:41:29,360

the possible offensive or defensive utilisation of these phenomena for psychological warfare purposes.

329

00:41:29,360 --> 00:41:34,360

This is a pretty stunning document, but when you read something like this,

330

00:41:34,360 --> 00:41:38,360

what you've got to keep in mind first and foremost is its context.

331

00:41:40,360 --> 00:41:46,360

The context, of course, was the Cold War and the struggle between America and the Soviet Union.

332

00:41:49,360 --> 00:41:57,360

But what really set the UFO story running for the CIA was the death in 1953 of Premier Joseph Stalin.

333

00:42:05,360 --> 00:42:10,360

I'm in Washington to meet Melvin Goodman,

334

00:42:10,360 --> 00:42:14,360

former senior analyst at the Soviet desk at the CIA,

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00:42:14,360 --> 00:42:20,360

who can tell me exactly how the CIA set about manipulating the UFO's story

336

00:42:20,360 --> 00:42:24,360

in order to gain the upper hand in the Cold War.

337

00:42:24,360 --> 00:42:28,360

Melvin, hi. Good to meet you. Good to meet you.

338

00:42:29,360 --> 00:42:35,360

Eisenhower had only been in office for two months, and Stalin died rather suddenly.

339

00:42:35,360 --> 00:42:42,360

And Eisenhower called in some of his major people, not only policy people and political people, but intelligence people.

340

00:42:42,360 --> 00:42:46,360

And so he went around the table in terms of what do we know about the Soviet Union,

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00:42:46,360 --> 00:42:52,360

what do we know about the contenders for power, what do we know about the direction the Soviet Union might take in its policy.

342

00:42:53,360 --> 00:42:58,360

And he asked people who were also there from the CIA,

343

00:42:58,360 --> 00:43:03,360

and not only was there no speculation on what it would be like in the Soviet Union

344

00:43:03,360 --> 00:43:08,360

and would the Soviet Union be more or less threatening to the United States, there was no intelligence collection.

345

00:43:08,360 --> 00:43:13,360

And I really think it was out of that discussion and that event

346

00:43:13,360 --> 00:43:17,360

that the beginning of the ideas that led to the U-2,

347

00:43:17,360 --> 00:43:23,360

the ability to conduct surveillance of the Soviet Union from the air with a high altitude spy plane,

348

00:43:23,360 --> 00:43:30,360

I think it began with the turning point of Stalin's death and no understanding of what it meant for the United States.

349

00:43:32,360 --> 00:43:37,360

This is the U-2. It's the direct result of American intelligence

350

00:43:37,360 --> 00:43:43,360

coming to terms with how little it really knew about post-Stalin Russia.

351

00:43:44,360 --> 00:43:48,360

We can't make sense of what happened next in ufology

352

00:43:48,360 --> 00:43:52,360

without trying to understand this once highly secret machine.

353

00:43:52,360 --> 00:43:57,360

It triggered a wave of UFO sightings all across America.

354

00:43:59,360 --> 00:44:02,360

What was needed were certain cover stories.

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00:44:02,360 --> 00:44:07,360

What do you do when people are spotting aircraft and then telling reporters

356

00:44:07,360 --> 00:44:11,360

that they've seen something very unusual flying out of an air base in Nevada?

357

00:44:11,360 --> 00:44:18,360

And frankly, this was the origin of a lot of the sightings that took place in the mid-50s, 1954, 55, 56,

358

00:44:18,360 --> 00:44:23,360

of unidentified flying objects, the UFOs.

359

00:44:23,360 --> 00:44:29,360

So the CIA was involved in encouraging people to believe that yes, they saw UFOs

360

00:44:29,360 --> 00:44:33,360

and the CIA and the military tried to be very helpful to reporters

361

00:44:33,360 --> 00:44:37,360

to get these stories out to divert the attention of the country

362

00:44:37,360 --> 00:44:41,360

and particularly the people in this region about what they had actually seen.

363

00:44:44,360 --> 00:44:52,360

We believe that UFOs are real, that they are from outer space, and that they are intelligently controlled.

364

00:44:52,360 --> 00:44:57,360

And then we went into a small cloud. Again, we started to have it come out of the cloud

365

00:44:57,360 --> 00:45:01,360

and very shortly after that it quickly disappeared.

366

00:45:02,360 --> 00:45:11,360

The CIA's strategy of encouraging public belief in UFOs seemed to be working

367

00:45:11,360 --> 00:45:17,360

and the U2's development and deployment was hidden behind a smoke screen of disinformation.

368

00:45:17,360 --> 00:45:24,360

It was a flying object of some sort that could hover, and such as I've never seen before.

369

00:45:25,360 --> 00:45:33,360

Right here is where this flying saucer, the UFO landed. Right here, about where I'm standing.

370

00:45:33,360 --> 00:45:39,360

And it was a big huge thing and I wondered what the heck it was.

371

00:45:39,360 --> 00:45:42,360

Within two or three seconds it was out of sight.

372

00:45:43,360 --> 00:45:48,360

That was in the Southwest and easy you might think to dismiss out of hand.

373

00:45:48,360 --> 00:45:55,360

But this isn't Life Magazine, a highly respected part of the American scene in the 1950s.

374

00:45:55,360 --> 00:45:59,360

Popular but hard-headed journalism.

375

00:46:01,360 --> 00:46:05,360

A very famous issue of the Life Magazine that has Marilyn Monroe on the front.

376

00:46:05,360 --> 00:46:09,360

And as you can get your eyes off Marilyn Monroe and look in the upper right-hand corner,

377

00:46:09,360 --> 00:46:12,360

you see this, have we visitors from outer space or whatever the title was.

378

00:46:13,360 --> 00:46:19,360

The writers said, well, we have been to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where Project Blue Blue was headed.

379

00:46:19,360 --> 00:46:21,360

We've looked through their sighting files.

380

00:46:21,360 --> 00:46:26,360

We've talked to the people who were on Project Blue Book and some Air Force generals and so on.

381

00:46:26,360 --> 00:46:30,360

And it appears that the Air Force is now treating this subject seriously.

382

00:46:30,360 --> 00:46:35,360

And their conclusion in the article was that, you know, right on the hairy edge of saying,

383

00:46:35,360 --> 00:46:40,360

yeah, there really are interplanetary visitors being involved here.

384

00:46:40,360 --> 00:46:44,360

That's what people are seeing. And the Air Force doesn't seem to be denying that.

385

00:46:44,360 --> 00:46:49,360

But you did have ways of supplying information to people you knew were Soviet assets

386

00:46:49,360 --> 00:46:54,360

or East European assets to send the Soviets looking in another direction.

387

00:47:00,360 --> 00:47:04,360

The real targets of the flying saucer fever were, of course, the Russians.

388

00:47:04,360 --> 00:47:07,360

What did they make of the UFOs, I wonder.

389

00:47:10,360 --> 00:47:22,360

I've come to Moscow to talk to Igor Sinitsin, a former KGB operative,

390

00:47:22,360 --> 00:47:27,360

who was the personal aide to the Bureau's number one, Yuri Andropov.

391

00:47:28,360 --> 00:47:40,360

While in this position, I once had the chance to acquaint myself with a document regarding UFOs,

392

00:47:40,360 --> 00:47:45,360

which had been prepared by one of the military intelligence officers.

393

00:47:45,360 --> 00:47:53,360

So when I read this series of articles on UFOs, I decided to give it to Andropov to read.

394

00:47:58,360 --> 00:48:03,360

Of course, I was somewhat nervous when I went to him with this article,

395

00:48:03,360 --> 00:48:10,360

because I thought that my boss would think that I was out of my mind.

396

00:48:10,360 --> 00:48:17,360

He read through the translation and began to study it very closely.

397

00:48:17,360 --> 00:48:22,360

Then quite unexpectedly, Yuri Andropov opened his desk

398

00:48:22,360 --> 00:48:28,360

and took out a very thin file from the top drawer, gave it to me to read and said,

399

00:48:28,360 --> 00:48:32,360

only read it here and don't take it away.

400

00:48:36,360 --> 00:48:41,360

Much to Sinitsin's surprise, the file contained highly classified UFO sightings

401

00:48:41,360 --> 00:48:44,360

occurring all over the Soviet Union.

402

00:48:44,360 --> 00:48:51,360

What people saw behind the iron curtain was what the CIA wanted them to see,

403

00:48:51,360 --> 00:48:56,360

not classified American technology, but something from outer space.

404

00:48:56,360 --> 00:49:02,360

The CIA cover story worked.

405

00:49:06,360 --> 00:49:11,360

But back in America, the UFO story was about to enter a new phase.

406

00:49:12,360 --> 00:49:18,360

A reliable witness reported a clear sighting of a UFO and its alien occupants.

407

00:49:21,360 --> 00:49:26,360

The first convincing close encounter of the Third Kai.

408

00:49:26,360 --> 00:49:33,360

On the 24th of April 1964, America experienced its first credible close encounter of the Third Kai.

409

00:49:33,360 --> 00:49:39,360

Officer Lonnie Zamora was driving along a quiet stretch of roads,

410

00:49:39,360 --> 00:49:44,360

skirting the edge of the White Sands missile range in New Mexico.

411

00:49:44,360 --> 00:49:47,360

What the hell was going on?

412

00:49:47,360 --> 00:49:52,360

The American police were trying to find out what the UFO was.

413

00:49:52,360 --> 00:49:56,360

He was skirting the edge of the White Sands missile range in New Mexico.

414

00:49:56,360 --> 00:49:58,360

What the hell was that?

415

00:49:58,360 --> 00:50:02,360

Suddenly he caught a glimpse of something strange in the sky.

416

00:50:06,360 --> 00:50:08,360

Whoa!

417

00:50:15,360 --> 00:50:19,360

He left the road and set off for the desert following the craft.

418

00:50:23,360 --> 00:50:29,360

He caught sight of a shiny object, now landed about 200 yards away.

419

00:50:30,360 --> 00:50:34,360

As he looked over, he saw two figures in white coveralls,

420

00:50:34,360 --> 00:50:38,360

close to what looked like a flying saucer.

421

00:50:46,360 --> 00:50:51,360

Suddenly without warning, the craft took off and headed straight for him.

422

00:50:52,360 --> 00:50:56,360

He was in a hurry to get off the car.

423

00:51:12,360 --> 00:51:18,360

And as quickly as it had arrived, it disappeared off into the distance at high speed.

424

00:51:22,360 --> 00:51:27,360

This statement by Lonnie Zamora is one of the most intriguing UFO reports on record.

425

00:51:27,360 --> 00:51:30,360

It made headline news at the time.

426

00:51:30,360 --> 00:51:35,360

Everyone acknowledged that Zamora was a first class witness, a police officer,

427

00:51:35,360 --> 00:51:39,360

a man not prone to exaggeration.

428

00:51:39,360 --> 00:51:46,360

The Zamora case remains one of a handful of unexplained sightings in Project Blue Book.

429

00:51:47,360 --> 00:51:52,360

When investigators arrived at the scene, they found an impression in the soil

430

00:51:52,360 --> 00:51:55,360

surrounded by burnt brushwood.

431

00:51:57,360 --> 00:52:04,360

Zamora was so distraught that he insisted on seeing a priest before handing in his report.

432

00:52:06,360 --> 00:52:11,360

The US Air Force was under pressure to explain what had actually landed.

433

00:52:11,360 --> 00:52:15,360

But there is one man who claims he knows what Lonnie Zamora saw.

434

00:52:16,360 --> 00:52:21,360

Duke Gildenburg ran Cold War spy programs out of White Sands missile range

435

00:52:21,360 --> 00:52:25,360

and had access to top secret flight logs at the time.

436

00:52:25,360 --> 00:52:34,360

That very same day, we had a mission scheduled for the surveyor unmanned spacecraft

437

00:52:34,360 --> 00:52:39,360

that was going to be attached to a small helicopter

438

00:52:39,360 --> 00:52:46,360

and flown all around the range by contractors, sampling lava

439

00:52:46,360 --> 00:52:49,360

and that kind of thing, which they might see on the moon.

440

00:52:51,360 --> 00:52:58,360

On board was the pilot and then there was an engineer and there were both in white coveralls.

441

00:52:58,360 --> 00:53:03,360

So to us that identified it almost perfectly.

442

00:53:03,360 --> 00:53:05,360

There's too much of a coincidence.

443

00:53:05,360 --> 00:53:08,360

Two guys in white coveralls that were doing the mission anyway

444

00:53:08,360 --> 00:53:16,360

and then the sampler which left a print in the dirt that was identical to what later left on the moon.

445

00:53:18,360 --> 00:53:21,360

I'm not at all convinced by Gildenburg's explanation.

446

00:53:22,360 --> 00:53:26,360

Zamora was a trained police officer and I'm sure would have known the difference

447

00:53:26,360 --> 00:53:29,360

between a helicopter and a flying saucer.

448

00:53:30,360 --> 00:53:35,360

To try and make sense of what Zamora saw, we need to go back to the U2 spy plane

449

00:53:35,360 --> 00:53:40,360

and to an event that shook the world on May the 1st 1960.

450

00:53:46,360 --> 00:53:53,360

When U2 pilot Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union, Cold War tensions intensified.

451

00:54:00,360 --> 00:54:05,360

The wreckage of his spy plane was put on public display in Moscow.

452

00:54:08,360 --> 00:54:15,360

This was a huge propaganda coup for Khrushchev and it signalled the end of the U2's covert life.

453

00:54:17,360 --> 00:54:23,360

It was understood very early in the U2 program that it wouldn't be able to fly safely

454

00:54:23,360 --> 00:54:27,360

over the most denied areas of the Soviet Union forever.

455

00:54:28,360 --> 00:54:31,360

Best it was given a few years.

456

00:54:31,360 --> 00:54:37,360

In fact it flew operationally for just about four years which was longer than anybody expected

457

00:54:37,360 --> 00:54:40,360

before one of the aircraft was shot down.

458

00:54:41,360 --> 00:54:49,360

The CIA launched an effort to produce a more workable aircraft with similar or better performance

459

00:54:49,360 --> 00:54:55,360

and one that would be so fast and so high flying that even the best missile technology

460

00:54:55,360 --> 00:55:00,360

that anybody could be looking at in those days would have a very hard time hitting it.

461

00:55:01,360 --> 00:55:08,360

Richard Bissell was head of the CIA's overflight program between 1956 and 1960

462

00:55:08,360 --> 00:55:12,360

set up to monitor the USSR at the height of the Cold War.

463

00:55:14,360 --> 00:55:17,360

He was the man who was given the job of replacing the U2

464

00:55:17,360 --> 00:55:20,360

and he had a radical idea about how to do it.

465

00:55:21,360 --> 00:55:28,360

We see here that he's urging his technical department to design a new aircraft for reconnaissance missions over Russia.

466

00:55:28,360 --> 00:55:33,360

According to Bissell who had a very good grasp of the technological challenges

467

00:55:33,360 --> 00:55:38,360

the optimal shape for that vehicle would be saucer shaped.

468

00:55:42,360 --> 00:55:46,360

The Avrocar which appears for all the world to be a flying disk.

469

00:55:47,360 --> 00:55:51,360

It wasn't just Bissell who had flying saucers on his mind.

470

00:55:51,360 --> 00:55:55,360

Just across the border Avro, a Canadian based company

471

00:55:55,360 --> 00:56:01,360

had recruited talented British aerospace designer John Frost to work on a flying saucer.

472

00:56:03,360 --> 00:56:10,360

Frost was a visionary and under his leadership the company began experimenting with disk shaped craft.

473

00:56:11,360 --> 00:56:17,360

Called the Avrocar it was a handful to fly and could barely get off the ground

474

00:56:17,360 --> 00:56:22,360

but it caught the eye of the United States Air Force.

475

00:56:24,360 --> 00:56:30,360

They bought all rights to the project and then it simply disappeared.

476

00:56:32,360 --> 00:56:37,360

Nothing more was heard or seen of Avro's saucer designs for over 40 years.

477

00:56:38,360 --> 00:56:43,360

But flying disks did not die with the Avrocar.

478

00:56:43,360 --> 00:56:49,360

Buried in the depths of the US Air Force archives I've discovered some blueprints

479

00:56:49,360 --> 00:56:54,360

which reveal something quite fantastic, a supersonic saucer.

480

00:56:54,360 --> 00:56:58,360

Called the Silverbug it was truly revolutionary.

481

00:56:58,360 --> 00:57:05,360

The plans show in detail a multi jet engine craft that boasted amazing maneuverability and speed.

482

00:57:08,360 --> 00:57:14,360

It's an intriguing thought that this concept may tie in with the work of the German scientists

483

00:57:14,360 --> 00:57:19,360

who brought saucer technology to the US at the close of the Second World War.

484

00:57:22,360 --> 00:57:31,360

I believe Silverbug could explain what Lonnie Zamora witnessed in the New Mexico Desert in April 1964.

485

00:57:32,360 --> 00:57:37,360

His description of a silver disk shaped object appears to fit the Silverbug profile.

486

00:57:37,360 --> 00:57:44,360

It's clear that a host of covert technologies were being developed by the Air Force during the 1960s.

487

00:57:44,360 --> 00:57:51,360

Some of the strange UFO sightings might be explained by activities at a secret base here in Nevada.

488

00:57:51,360 --> 00:57:57,360

So secret that according to the Pentagon it still doesn't officially exist.

489

00:57:58,360 --> 00:58:03,360

From a defence journalist's standpoint it doesn't get any stranger than this.

490

00:58:03,360 --> 00:58:06,360

Just behind me there is Nellis Air Force Base.

491

00:58:06,360 --> 00:58:10,360

Nellis is at the southernmost tip of the Nellis Air Force range.

492

00:58:10,360 --> 00:58:15,360

A closed off area totally barred to the public that's about the size of Switzerland.

493

00:58:15,360 --> 00:58:23,360

And messling within the Nellis Air Force range is Area 51, the world's most secret air force base.

494

00:58:24,360 --> 00:58:30,360

When Richard Bissell of the CIA urged his designers to think out of the box,

495

00:58:30,360 --> 00:58:33,360

this is where their imaginations ran wild.

496

00:58:38,360 --> 00:58:43,360

It's the testing ground for the US Air Force's most secret technology.

497

00:58:44,360 --> 00:58:51,360

When the U2's covert life ended, this is what Bissell's designers came up with.

498

00:58:58,360 --> 00:59:02,360

The Blackbird is the apex of aerospace technology.

499

00:59:05,360 --> 00:59:11,360

When the forerunner of this aircraft first flew, the CIA's A-12, in 1962,

500

00:59:12,360 --> 00:59:17,360

from Groom Lake, otherwise known as Area 51 in Nevada.

501

00:59:17,360 --> 00:59:21,360

Its mission and the aircraft itself were super black.

502

00:59:25,360 --> 00:59:29,360

That is to say, it was a super classified aircraft.

503

00:59:29,360 --> 00:59:35,360

It's very easy to imagine how anyone catching a glimpse of this aircraft in 1962

504

00:59:35,360 --> 00:59:37,360

might have mistaken it for a UFO.

505

00:59:37,360 --> 00:59:40,360

Everything about this airplane is strange.

506

00:59:40,360 --> 00:59:47,360

It's black, its shape is extraordinary, and its speed, of course, in excess of Mark III,

507

00:59:47,360 --> 00:59:53,360

that's three times the speed of sound, would have made it one of the most extraordinary sites

508

00:59:53,360 --> 00:59:55,360

that anyone could have seen at that time.

509

01:00:00,360 --> 01:00:04,360

Many Blackbird missions were flown at the height of the Cold War.

510

01:00:08,360 --> 01:00:14,360

The plane flew at over 100,000 feet at the very edge of space.

511

01:00:14,360 --> 01:00:21,360

It was so fast that when it overflowed the Soviet Union, it could simply outrun any missile attack.

512

01:00:21,360 --> 01:00:28,360

But it wasn't so much American spy planes that were worrying the Russians.

513

01:00:28,360 --> 01:00:32,360

There was something else in the skies that was causing them alarm.

514

01:00:32,360 --> 01:00:39,360

An incident over the small town of Petrozovodsk would trigger the largest study of UFOs on the face of the Earth.

515

01:00:39,360 --> 01:00:45,360

The Russian military had no idea that this was the only way to get to the Russian side.

516

01:00:45,360 --> 01:00:51,360

This small town of Petrozovodsk would trigger the largest study of UFOs on the face of the Earth.

517

01:00:51,360 --> 01:00:54,360

Russia's ex-viles had begun.

518

01:00:54,360 --> 01:01:19,360

On September 20, 1977, high over the Russian town of Petrozovodsk, a group of soldiers were on routine maneuvers.

519

01:01:19,360 --> 01:01:25,360

Suddenly, a bright star appeared radiating pulsating beams of light.

520

01:01:25,360 --> 01:01:29,360

The object lingered over the town like a huge jellyfish.

521

01:01:29,360 --> 01:01:34,360

After a few minutes, it wrapped into a bright half disk and shot off.

522

01:01:42,360 --> 01:01:45,360

News of the event reached the Kremlin.

523

01:01:46,360 --> 01:01:52,360

And Yuri Andropov, head of the KGB, gave an extraordinary order

524

01:01:52,360 --> 01:01:59,360

that the entire Soviet army should watch the skies for unidentified flying objects.

525

01:01:59,360 --> 01:02:03,360

The KGB was sent to the Russian border.

526

01:02:03,360 --> 01:02:07,360

The Russian army was sent to the Russian border.

527

01:02:07,360 --> 01:02:11,360

The Russian army was sent to the Russian border.

528

01:02:11,360 --> 01:02:17,360

I'm in Russia on my way to meet the two men, Colonel Boris Sokolov and Dr. Yuliy Platov,

529

01:02:17,360 --> 01:02:22,360

who were ordered by Andropov to coordinate the whole operation.

530

01:02:29,360 --> 01:02:31,360

Yuri!

531

01:02:44,360 --> 01:02:49,360

At that time, the army had a total of seven and a half million serving personnel

532

01:02:49,360 --> 01:02:55,360

stationed across the whole of the Soviet Union, which comprised the sixth of the world land mass.

533

01:02:55,360 --> 01:02:59,360

The army controlled the monitoring of these abnormal events.

534

01:03:01,360 --> 01:03:04,360

In the beginning, these reports were numerous.

535

01:03:04,360 --> 01:03:11,360

Literally every week there was someone who had seen a dish landing with somebody coming out of it.

536

01:03:11,360 --> 01:03:17,360

Even when a sighting was not considered sensitive, it was still stamped top secret.

537

01:03:17,360 --> 01:03:20,360

I don't know if anyone saw it.

538

01:03:24,360 --> 01:03:28,360

The observations continued every night for 13 years.

539

01:03:28,360 --> 01:03:36,360

No other nation has conducted such a long and thorough research program into unidentified flying objects.

540

01:03:39,360 --> 01:03:44,360

But as Sokolov tells me, the evidence was inconclusive.

541

01:03:47,360 --> 01:03:52,360

I would like to say that it is absolutely certain that in those 13 years

542

01:03:52,360 --> 01:03:56,360

there was not a single report of anybody's contact with aliens.

543

01:04:00,360 --> 01:04:06,360

Most of these sightings, which were taken by observers and thought to be something abnormal,

544

01:04:06,360 --> 01:04:13,360

were in fact, as our research has shown, connected to technical experiments by our own military.

545

01:04:18,360 --> 01:04:26,360

And as Dr. Platov explains, even the Petrozovodsk incident, which led to Andropov's UFO surveillance operation,

546

01:04:26,360 --> 01:04:30,360

was nothing more than a secret missile launch.

547

01:04:32,360 --> 01:04:39,360

That the strange lights and jellyfish shaped object was in reality the burning rocket engine and its exhaust plume.

548

01:04:40,360 --> 01:04:45,360

But not every sighting could be so easily dismissed.

549

01:04:52,360 --> 01:04:57,360

Even though we could explain some of these sightings, there were many unexplained events

550

01:04:57,360 --> 01:05:03,360

which caused scientists to scratch their heads and which still remain unanswered today.

551

01:05:10,360 --> 01:05:16,360

For some, these inexplicable sightings fueled concerns that the United States military

552

01:05:16,360 --> 01:05:20,360

was developing a radical piece of aerospace technology,

553

01:05:20,360 --> 01:05:27,360

something that behaved and looked like a UFO that could fly undetected into Russian airspace.

554

01:05:39,360 --> 01:05:49,360

And the Russian fears were well founded. This is stealth, a quantum leap in aerospace technology.

555

01:05:49,360 --> 01:05:54,360

The Americans had built an invisible plane.

556

01:05:56,360 --> 01:06:00,360

If you took one or two looks at the same time,

557

01:06:00,360 --> 01:06:05,360

and you saw how strange the shape was, it wouldn't take you very long to figure out

558

01:06:05,360 --> 01:06:10,360

that they were aiming at a very, very low level of radar cross-section.

559

01:06:10,360 --> 01:06:19,360

What was done with the first real stealth program was to produce something that had the radar signature over.

560

01:06:19,360 --> 01:06:25,360

And the first real stealth program was to produce something that had the radar signature over.

561

01:06:25,360 --> 01:06:32,360

Small shotgun pellet or perhaps maybe a small bird.

562

01:06:39,360 --> 01:06:47,360

My view is that it was advantageous for the Americans to keep up this kind of hype regarding UFOs.

563

01:06:48,360 --> 01:06:56,360

We guessed it was policy to conduct a campaign of misinformation, as far as the general public was concerned.

564

01:06:59,360 --> 01:07:05,360

Stealth was an enormous breakthrough and nobody out in the wider world really believed it was possible.

565

01:07:05,360 --> 01:07:10,360

Nobody could even imagine that it was possible for them to do it.

566

01:07:18,360 --> 01:07:25,360

The Americans had won the technological race. Stealth was a decisive instrument in the Cold War.

567

01:07:25,360 --> 01:07:32,360

Secrecy was vital and the US were able to hide the existence of stealth from Soviet surveillance

568

01:07:32,360 --> 01:07:37,360

for more than 10 years between 1977 and 1988.

569

01:07:38,360 --> 01:07:53,360

But stealth couldn't begin to explain the series of alleged alien encounters which were about to shock the American Southwest.

570

01:07:53,360 --> 01:07:59,360

The UFO story had come to ground in a very sinister fashion.

571

01:08:00,360 --> 01:08:13,360

This is New Mexico, an area that has witnessed UFO sightings since the 1940s.

572

01:08:13,360 --> 01:08:23,360

But in the early 70s a series of horrific events took these sightings to another level when aliens appeared to be attacking cattle.

573

01:08:24,360 --> 01:08:31,360

Ranchers began to find livestock with terrible injuries lying dead on their grazing plains.

574

01:08:31,360 --> 01:08:36,360

The rectum had been partially removed. The eyes were bulging out.

575

01:08:36,360 --> 01:08:42,360

I was horrified at the thought of what could do this in broad daylight.

576

01:08:44,360 --> 01:08:48,360

I really did believe something strange was going on.

577

01:08:48,360 --> 01:08:56,360

We had one up north where we believed the animal was paralyzed and was alive when it was being mutilated.

578

01:08:56,360 --> 01:09:07,360

I'm on my way to meet Edmund Gomez, a cattle rancher from Dolce, New Mexico, a town close to Los Alamos where the atomic bomb was developed.

579

01:09:08,360 --> 01:09:15,360

We met up and headed out to a desolate corner of his ranch.

580

01:09:25,360 --> 01:09:27,360

Where are we going? Where are you taking me to?

581

01:09:27,360 --> 01:09:30,360

I'm taking you to our animal graveyard.

582

01:09:30,360 --> 01:09:36,360

Normally we would bury carcasses that would die from disease or from natural causes.

583

01:09:36,360 --> 01:09:46,360

But during the cattle mutilations that we had, we never buried any of the animals so in case we ever needed any body parts in the future, especially the bones.

584

01:09:49,360 --> 01:09:52,360

The mutilations themselves took place over quite a time period, didn't they?

585

01:09:52,360 --> 01:09:58,360

Yes, on our wrenches from 1976 through 1982 approximately.

586

01:09:58,360 --> 01:10:03,360

When you found a mutilated cow, typically what kind of wounds would you find on the animal?

587

01:10:03,360 --> 01:10:10,360

The rectum had been cored out. The lower lip had been removed and the reproductive tract had also been removed.

588

01:10:10,360 --> 01:10:16,360

The organs that were removed were removed precisely without spilling of any blood.

589

01:10:16,360 --> 01:10:20,360

And it was very, very neatly done.

590

01:10:20,360 --> 01:10:29,360

Many of the ranchers believed the cattle mutilations were the result of UFOs, that aliens were dissecting the animals for experimentation.

591

01:10:29,360 --> 01:10:36,360

Usually when you find an animal that dies of disease or natural causes, the scavengers will attack the animal and attack the animals.

592

01:10:36,360 --> 01:10:40,360

But for Gomez, there were other clues.

593

01:10:40,360 --> 01:10:44,360

We saw this light kind of flying over our pastures.

594

01:10:44,360 --> 01:10:48,360

And all of a sudden it kind of just came out of the hole.

595

01:10:48,360 --> 01:10:54,360

And we saw that the animals were not just the animals, but the animals were the animals that were

killed.

596

01:10:54,360 --> 01:11:00,360

And we saw that the animals were not just the animals that were killed, but the animals that were killed.

597

01:11:00,360 --> 01:11:04,360

We saw this light kind of flying over our pastures.

598

01:11:04,360 --> 01:11:08,360

And all of a sudden it kind of just came to a standstill.

599

01:11:08,360 --> 01:11:18,360

It looked like it was saucer shaped, but had two dicks and had two sets of lights on it flashing one on top and one down towards the bottom.

600

01:11:18,360 --> 01:11:23,360

You know, when you look at them, you think, well, gosh, that looks like the typical flying saucer.

601

01:11:23,360 --> 01:11:29,360

When all of a sudden the lights inside the cockpit of this vehicle went on,

602

01:11:29,360 --> 01:11:34,360

and the lights went on, I could see the props of a chopper.

603

01:11:34,360 --> 01:11:41,360

And as Gomez tells me, he has his own theories about the fate of the targeted animals.

604

01:11:41,360 --> 01:11:49,360

They would put ropes or chains around the legs of the animal and lift them up and haul them off somewhere.

605

01:11:49,360 --> 01:11:56,360

Do their thing, come back, bring them back, and not lay them down, but drop them.

606

01:11:56,360 --> 01:12:02,360

Because we found several animals that had broken legs, broken backs, broken hips, and so forth.

607

01:12:02,360 --> 01:12:07,360

And why dump the cow, you know, leave the carcass here?

608

01:12:07,360 --> 01:12:14,360

We felt that whoever was doing this did it and brought it back and said,

609

01:12:14,360 --> 01:12:17,360

we're doing this and there's nothing you can do about it.

610

01:12:17,360 --> 01:12:22,360

There were a lot of consistencies with the way that they were harvesting these animals.

611

01:12:23,360 --> 01:12:30,360

For Edmund Gomez, there are many unanswered questions.

612

01:12:30,360 --> 01:12:38,360

He wants the cattle mutilations, which put him and his family out of the ranching business, reinvestigated.

613

01:12:38,360 --> 01:12:53,360

What do you think Gomez's hunch was that this was some sort of covert testing activity?

614

01:12:53,360 --> 01:12:55,360

It was bang on the money.

615

01:12:55,360 --> 01:13:01,360

The way the cows were mutilated, the organs that were removed from the cows,

616

01:13:01,360 --> 01:13:10,360

it seems very clear that this was some kind of covert testing, covert monitoring program of some kind of contamination in that region.

617

01:13:10,360 --> 01:13:18,360

It also seems very clear that someone is trying to put in some kind of linkage between this mutilation activity

618

01:13:18,360 --> 01:13:25,360

and UFOs, trying to dress helicopters up, for instance, to make them look like UFOs,

619

01:13:25,360 --> 01:13:34,360

in an area where people are very superstitious, very fearful of things they don't understand.

620

01:13:34,360 --> 01:13:41,360

So it's clear to me that some kind of disinformation campaign is going on,

621

01:13:41,360 --> 01:13:48,360

but the reality is whatever was going on up there has nothing to do with extraterrestrials or UFOs.

622

01:13:56,360 --> 01:14:04,360

In the alien encounters I have examined so far, military and defence technologies seem to be at the heart of what's going on.

623

01:14:09,360 --> 01:14:17,360

But parallel to these stories are other reports, reports of more direct encounters between aliens and humans,

624

01:14:17,360 --> 01:14:20,360

which seem to be of a wholly different order.

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01:14:21,360 --> 01:14:27,360

These are the chilling first-hand accounts of alien abduction.

626

01:14:38,360 --> 01:14:43,360

The most challenging aspect of the UFO phenomenon is alien abduction.

627

01:14:44,360 --> 01:14:50,360

Throughout the 80s and 90s stories of abduction swept across the US.

628

01:14:53,360 --> 01:14:58,360

Over two million Americans claimed to have been taken by aliens.

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01:15:01,360 --> 01:15:03,360

These stories followed a pattern.

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01:15:03,360 --> 01:15:09,360

Typically abductees claimed they had been taken in their sleep to an alien craft,

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01:15:09,360 --> 01:15:12,360

where they were subjected to invasive surgery.

632

01:15:13,360 --> 01:15:17,360

Samples were taken, probes were implanted.

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01:15:18,360 --> 01:15:23,360

Some victims reported they had been abducted not just once, but many times.

634

01:15:34,360 --> 01:15:37,360

I've come to meet Travis Walton.

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01:15:38,360 --> 01:15:44,360

He was the first alien abductee of this epidemic, and his story, which was widely reported,

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01:15:44,360 --> 01:15:47,360

had a powerful effect on the public imagination.

637

01:15:50,360 --> 01:15:56,360

I caught up with him near the Apache sick-reeves forest in Arizona, where the whole incident unfolded.

638

01:15:59,360 --> 01:16:02,360

Well, there was a group of seven of us men.

639

01:16:03,360 --> 01:16:06,360

We were working up in the mountains in the woods.

640

01:16:07,360 --> 01:16:14,360

We had a tree-cutting contract up there, and we just finished a long, hard-days work, and we were headed home.

641

01:16:16,360 --> 01:16:23,360

We'd worked late that night, so it was starting to get dark, and as we were driving down this rough track there,

642

01:16:23,360 --> 01:16:26,360

we saw light coming through the trees.

643

01:16:27,360 --> 01:16:29,360

What the hell is that?

644

01:16:33,360 --> 01:16:38,360

Travis, man! What the hell are you doing? Come back! Travis!

645

01:16:39,360 --> 01:16:43,360

Back then, you know, I was kind of a wild sort of a guy.

646

01:16:43,360 --> 01:16:47,360

You know, I was showing off, you know? It was stupid.

647

01:16:51,360 --> 01:16:59,360

Closer I got, you know, and it wasn't going anywhere, and I was, you know, thinking about how foolish it was for me to be doing this,

648

01:16:59,360 --> 01:17:06,360

but it was kind of showing off for the crew a little bit, and they were getting pretty excited and yelling at me to get back in the truck.

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01:17:12,360 --> 01:17:19,360

When I got up to it, and I was standing there looking up at it, the sound suddenly got louder and it started to move,

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01:17:19,360 --> 01:17:22,360

and it was making this sort of a rocking motion.

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01:17:25,360 --> 01:17:27,360

Right at that instant, something hit me.

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01:17:29,360 --> 01:17:45,360

Music

653

01:17:46,360 --> 01:17:51,360

Next thing I knew, I was regaining consciousness, but I was in a lot of pain.

654

01:17:52,360 --> 01:18:02,360

I saw these forms over me, and when I finally got into the focus, I could see this creature looking at me, and I just flipped out.

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01:18:04,360 --> 01:18:11,360

I looked around, there were three of them. The one that was closest to me, I tried to hit him, I could hardly move,

656

01:18:11,360 --> 01:18:14,360

and my arm felt real heavy and I was weak.

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01:18:14,360 --> 01:18:17,360

Somehow got the strength to get off the table.

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01:18:22,360 --> 01:18:28,360

Several nights later, Travis Walton reappeared, dazed and confused.

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01:18:29,360 --> 01:18:36,360

I didn't know how much time had gone by, and there's something in the conversation that made that apparent to me.

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01:18:36,360 --> 01:18:43,360

They said, hey, feel your face, and I felt, and I had this week's growth of beard, and I was just totally shocked by that.

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01:18:43,360 --> 01:18:45,360

I said, you've been gone five days.

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01:18:47,360 --> 01:18:53,360

I had enough trouble just dealing with the reality of this incredible thing that had happened to me.

663

01:18:53,360 --> 01:18:59,360

It was just so hard to explain what I'd been through, and there was nobody to relate to.

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01:18:59,360 --> 01:19:05,360

29 years ago, there was nobody to turn to, and I was just on my own.

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01:19:06,360 --> 01:19:15,360

Travis's story seems incredible, but is only one of many such tales.

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01:19:15,360 --> 01:19:20,360

Does the weight of evidence add up to a believable pattern of abduction?

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01:19:20,360 --> 01:19:27,360

Anthropologist Charles Sieglar has studied many abductee testimonies.

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01:19:27,360 --> 01:19:35,360

These people were not mentally impaired. Many of them were, in fact, highly trained.

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01:19:35,360 --> 01:19:42,360

They believed these things. It gave them the same kind of strength as they were.

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01:19:42,360 --> 01:19:49,360

The chief skeptic of all, Dr. J. Allen Heineck, who investigated UFOs for the U.S. military,

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01:19:49,360 --> 01:19:52,360

is now in the United States.

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01:19:52,360 --> 01:19:59,360

He's been a member of the United States of America since the beginning of the war.

673

01:19:59,360 --> 01:20:07,360

He's been a member of the United States of America since the beginning of the war.

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01:20:07,360 --> 01:20:14,360

Dr. J. Allen Heineck, who investigated UFOs for the U.S. military, also became a believer.

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01:20:14,360 --> 01:20:19,360

There were just too many cases that baffled him during his military work.

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01:20:19,360 --> 01:20:25,360

It was Heineck's interviews and expertise that formed the basis of the 1977 film, Close Encounters,

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01:20:25,360 --> 01:20:28,360

directed by Steven Spielberg.

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01:20:28,360 --> 01:20:33,360

I think that we're all interested in having the re-enchantment of the universe.

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01:20:33,360 --> 01:20:38,360

We want to feel that there are transcendent things out there that we're not aware of

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01:20:38,360 --> 01:20:42,360

and that bode good for the human race somehow.

681

01:20:42,360 --> 01:20:48,360

I think this is just a natural human feeling.

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01:20:53,360 --> 01:20:59,360

But what really fascinates me as a defense journalist is that you are as likely to find believers in UFOs

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01:20:59,360 --> 01:21:04,360

among the higher reaches of the aerospace industry as you are in Hollywood.

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01:21:08,360 --> 01:21:13,360

This is a report into future technology commissioned in 1968 by McDonnell Douglas,

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01:21:13,360 --> 01:21:18,360

which I received for a contact with connections to the company.

686

01:21:18,360 --> 01:21:21,360

It takes the existence of UFOs seriously.

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01:21:21,360 --> 01:21:27,360

It recommends using UFOs and copying their design in order to make the next quantum leap

688

01:21:27,360 --> 01:21:30,360

into aerospace technology.

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01:21:37,360 --> 01:21:41,360

Some UFOs may be extraterrestrial vehicles.

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01:21:41,360 --> 01:21:44,360

They certainly have not been proven otherwise.

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01:21:44,360 --> 01:21:49,360

The existence of extraterrestrial vehicles indicates vehicles can be built,

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01:21:49,360 --> 01:21:55,360

which would have capabilities quite useful to McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

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01:21:58,360 --> 01:22:04,360

The report even suggested interviewing contactees to gather data.

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01:22:04,360 --> 01:22:13,360

And if they were thinking that over 25 years ago, what advances might be on the horizon today?

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01:22:18,360 --> 01:22:25,360

What I've learnt during this journey is that UFOs have had a powerful impact on our real-world activities

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01:22:26,360 --> 01:22:29,360

for more than 60 years.

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01:22:29,360 --> 01:22:33,360

And they continue to inspire us today.

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01:22:35,360 --> 01:22:40,360

I'm here in Seattle to meet someone who's built a device in the basement of his garage,

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01:22:40,360 --> 01:22:48,360

indeed is flying it there, that he and others claim is able to do so by defying our current understanding of physics.

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01:22:49,360 --> 01:22:59,360

As unlikely as it sounds, I'm wondering whether what I'm about to witness may just be our first small step towards the stars.

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01:23:09,360 --> 01:23:15,360

This strange device is made of balsa wood and glue and covered in a layer of aluminium foil.

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01:23:19,360 --> 01:23:32,360

It's connected to the mains electricity and is tethered to a device that steps up the power to over 50,000 volts.

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01:23:35,360 --> 01:23:43,360

As the lifter's inventor Tim Ventura winds up the mains, the airframe buzzes with electrical activity.

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01:23:49,360 --> 01:23:57,360

So Tim, tell me why is this lifter demonstrating this levitation effect?

705

01:23:57,360 --> 01:24:03,360

Well, there's an interaction that occurs between the coronal wire which runs around the top and the foil underneath.

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01:24:03,360 --> 01:24:10,360

And there's a 3-4cm air gap in between there and literally a high-voltage electric field occurring.

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01:24:11,360 --> 01:24:14,360

Now, there's been some controversy. Is this an ion wind effect?

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01:24:14,360 --> 01:24:21,360

Is it the high-voltage literally taking air molecules with it and creating an upward thrust? Or is it something more?

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01:24:23,360 --> 01:24:30,360

Nobody knows for sure how the lifter flies, but one popular theory is that high-voltage current flows between the wires,

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01:24:30,360 --> 01:24:37,360

suspended on the top of the craft, through the air, down to the aluminium foil wrapped around the frame.

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01:24:37,360 --> 01:24:44,360

The current literally drags air molecules down with it, creating a downforce called an ion wind,

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01:24:44,360 --> 01:24:49,360

which provides the thrust needed to lift the airframe skywards.

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01:24:50,360 --> 01:24:58,360

This technology, not just the lifter, but this whole scope of technologies, is almost like looking at the internal combustion engine back in the 1800s.

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01:24:58,360 --> 01:25:01,360

We're trying to take it and say, look, these are real technologies.

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01:25:01,360 --> 01:25:08,360

They have the same flaws that any other technology does, but hopefully they can do things that other technologies can't.

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01:25:08,360 --> 01:25:14,360

So do you think what we're watching here could be the modest beginnings of a whole new industry?

717

01:25:14,360 --> 01:25:22,360

I think the lifter is literally sort of like the tricycle, and it may not end up becoming the technology that builds the starships of tomorrow,

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01:25:22,360 --> 01:25:28,360

but it at least shows us that given the right circumstances, given the right power, it will work.

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01:25:31,360 --> 01:25:36,360

I'm nearing the end of my journey, and I feel as if I've come full circle.

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01:25:37,360 --> 01:25:46,360

Because what Tim Ventura's lifter reminds me of, is the Nazi's secret experiment in anti-gravity propulsion I discovered in the Wenceslas Mine.

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01:25:52,360 --> 01:25:55,360

So what is the truth about UFOs?

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01:25:56,360 --> 01:26:03,360

To me, the story of successive attempts to develop radically new forms of flight, conducted under the strictest secrecy,

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01:26:03,360 --> 01:26:09,360

is inextricably bound up with our relationship with UFOs over the last 60 years.

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01:26:12,360 --> 01:26:20,360

Whether it was Allied pilots buzzed by strange balls of fire in 1942, or the Roswell incident five years later,

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01:26:20,360 --> 01:26:28,360

there is a strong case to be made that secret military technology offers a convincing explanation for many UFO stories.

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01:26:33,360 --> 01:26:42,360

For me, what is so striking about Roswell is that it was the first good example of an officially sanctioned UFO disinformation exercise.

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01:26:42,360 --> 01:26:49,360

It showed the CIA that UFOs could provide perfect cover for their Cold War activities.

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01:26:50,360 --> 01:26:58,360

It didn't take much for the CIA to spin the extraterrestrial story into the hearts and minds of the American public.

729

01:26:58,360 --> 01:27:07,360

And once it was there, all manner of experimental technology could, if it was spotted, be put down to the UFO phenomenon.

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01:27:07,360 --> 01:27:11,360

But there are some cases I just can't explain.

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01:27:11,360 --> 01:27:31,360

The sightings of UFOs over Capitol Hill in 1952 remain baffling, and navigator Tom Hanley's aerial encounter is testimony to the possibility we are not alone.

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01:27:31,360 --> 01:27:38,360

What is certain is that real world UFOs, the man-made ones, continue to develop.

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01:27:42,360 --> 01:27:50,360

In 2003, a series of sonic beams were heard exploding across California and Nevada.

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01:27:53,360 --> 01:27:58,360

Something was in the sky that could be heard and felt, but not seen.

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01:27:58,360 --> 01:28:05,360

Some informed observers, and I'm one of them, believe it was an aircraft traveling at several thousand miles per hour.

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01:28:05,360 --> 01:28:09,360

A secret project known as Aurora.

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01:28:10,360 --> 01:28:17,360

There is no trace of Aurora's physical existence, no evidence of government spending on its development or deployment.

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01:28:17,360 --> 01:28:22,360

But there are tantalizing images that point to its existence.

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01:28:22,360 --> 01:28:25,360

Pictures, for example, like this one.

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01:28:25,360 --> 01:28:34,360

It shows a donut-shaped exhaust pattern, a sign perhaps that Aurora makes use of something called a pulse detonation wave engine.

741

01:28:34,360 --> 01:28:42,360

And it delivers a hell of a punch, easily enough power to drive an aircraft to six times the speed of sound.

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01:28:42,360 --> 01:28:46,360

But perhaps the most intriguing are these images.

743

01:28:48,360 --> 01:28:55,360

This is a weather satellite image that shows a very interesting contrail originating out of Area 51 in Nevada,

744

01:28:55,360 --> 01:29:04,360

and moving all the way across the United States, out over the Atlantic, on across Europe, and into Russia and China.

745

01:29:04,360 --> 01:29:09,360

Whatever it is, it's moving in excess of 8,000 miles an hour.

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01:29:09,360 --> 01:29:19,360

If it is the contrail of a high-altitude hypersonic aircraft, in my book it's the best evidence yet that Aurora is real.

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01:29:20,360 --> 01:29:30,360

And Aurora's flights will probably give birth to a new wave of UFO sightings.

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01:29:33,360 --> 01:29:38,360

Because whether aliens exist or not, many of us want to believe in them.

749

01:29:41,360 --> 01:29:48,360

Perhaps the only way we will ever find out for sure is if we make the leap into deep space ourselves.

750

01:29:48,360 --> 01:29:52,360

That day may come sooner than we expect.

751

01:29:52,360 --> 01:29:58,360

Then there was an hour before the light-ejecting tension.

752

01:29:58,360 --> 01:30:05,360

Before the Da Vinci Code there was holy blood, holy grail, and an author who has been investigating

753

01:30:17,560 --> 01:30:23,940

the mysteries of the Templars for 35 years. Bloodlines, knights, and sacred geometry are

754

01:30:23,940 --> 01:30:29,220

all explained by the man behind the Da Vinci Code, part of Da Vinci Decoded Week, tonight

755

01:30:29,220 --> 01:30:30,900

at 8 on the History Channel.