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

This is a journey into a world of mystery and deceit.

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

A fantastical place full of UFOs, strange encounters and stories of alien abduction.

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

My name is Nick Cook. I work for Jane's Information Group, which has reported on defence issues since 1898.

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00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:44,000

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

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

I dig out evidence of classified technologies developed by the defence industry and concealed behind a network of false trails.

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

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

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00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:06,000

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

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:18,000

Do these sightings offer evidence of top secret military and defence technology, or do they hold clues to something more mysterious?

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:30,000

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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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:57,000

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

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:04,000

Officer Lonnie Zamora was driving along a quiet stretch of road, skirting the edge of the White Sands missile range in New Mexico.

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:06,000

What the hell was that?

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:10,000

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

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,000

Whoa!

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:27,000

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

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00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:39,000

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

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:47,000

As he looked over he saw two figures in white coveralls, close to what looks like a flying saucer.

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00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:01,000

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

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:27,000

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

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:36,000

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

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

It made headline news at the time.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:47,000

Everyone acknowledged that Zamora was a first class witness, a police officer, a man not prone to exaggeration.

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:54,000

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

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00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:05,000

When investigators arrived at the scene, they found an impression in the soil surrounded by burnt brushwood.

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00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:14,000

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

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

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

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:25,000

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

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:34,000

Duke Gildenburg ran Cold War spy programs out of White Sands missile range and had access to top secret flight logs at the time.

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:49,000

That very same day we had a mission scheduled for the surveyor unmanned spacecraft that was going to be attached to a small helicopter

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:58,000

and flown all around the range by contractors, sampling, lava and that kind of thing which they might see on the moon.

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

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

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:13,000

So to us that identified it almost perfectly.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:14,000

There's too much of a coincidence.

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:25,000

Two guys in white coveralls that were doing the mission anyway and then the sampler which left a print in the dirt that was identical to what later left on the moon.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:30,000

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

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:38,000

Zamora was a trained police officer and I'm sure would have known the difference between a helicopter and a flying saucer.

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00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:49,000

To try and make sense of what Zamora saw we need to go back to the U2 spy plane and to an event that shook the world on May the 1st 1960.

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:02,000

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

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:14,000

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

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00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:24,000

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

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:36,000

It was understood very early in the U2 program that it wouldn't be able to fly safely over the most denied areas of the Soviet Union forever.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Best it was given a few years. In fact it flew operationally for just about four years which was longer than anybody expected before one of the aircraft was shot down.

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00:06:50,000 --> 00:07:05,000

The CIA launched an effort to produce a more workable aircraft with similar or better performance and one that would be so fast and so high flying that even the best missile technology that anybody could be looking at.

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:09,000

Looking at in those days would have a very hard time hitting it.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Richard Bissell was head of the CIA's overflight program between 1956 and 1960 set up to monitor the USSR at the height of the Cold War.

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00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:29,000

He was the man who was given the job of replacing the U2 and he had a radical idea about how to do it.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:37,000

We see here that he's urging his technical department to design a new aircraft for reconnaissance missions over Russia.

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00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:47,000

According to Bissell who had a very good grasp of the technological challenges the optimal shape for that vehicle would be saucer shaped.

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00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:55,000

The Avrocar which appears for all the world to be a flying disk.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:09,000

It wasn't just Bissell who had flying saucers on his mind. Just across the border Avro a Canadian based company had recruited talented British aerospace designer John Frost to work on a flying saucer.

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:18,000

Frost was a visionary and under his leadership the company began experimenting with disk shaped craft.

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00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:30,000

Called the Avrocar it was a handful to fly and could barely get off the ground but it caught the eye of the United States Air Force.

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00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:38,000

They bought all rights to the project and then it simply disappeared.

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Nothing more was heard or seen of Avro's saucer designs for over 40 years.

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00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:51,000

But flying disks did not die with the Avrocar.

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00:08:53,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Buried in the depths of the US Air Force archives I've discovered some blueprints which reveal something quite fantastic.

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00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:02,000

A supersonic saucer.

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00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,000

Called the Silverbug it was truly revolutionary.

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00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:14,000

The plans show in detail a multi jet engine craft that boasted amazing maneuverability and speed.

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00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:28,000

It's an intriguing thought that this concept may tie in with the work of the German scientists who brought saucer technology to the US at the close of the Second World War.

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:39,000

I believe Silverbug could explain what Lonnie Zamora witnessed in the New Mexico Desert in April 1964.

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:45,000

His description of a silver disk shaped object appears to fit the Silverbug profile.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:52,000

It's clear that a host of covert technologies were being developed by the Air Force during the 1960s.

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00:09:53,000 --> 00:10:00,000

Some of the strange UFO sightings might be explained by activities at a secret base here in Nevada.

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00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:06,000

So secret that according to the Pentagon it still doesn't officially exist.

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00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:12,000

From a defence journalist standpoint it doesn't get any stranger than this.

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

Just behind me there is Nellis Air Force Base.

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00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:19,000

Nellis is at the southernmost tip of the Nellis Air Force range.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:24,000

A closed off area totally barred to the public that's about the size of Switzerland.

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:32,000

A messeling within the Nellis Air Force range is Area 51, the world's most secret air force base.

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:41,000

When Richard Bissell of the CIA urged his designers to think out of the box this is where their imaginations ran wild.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:52,000

It's the testing ground for the US Air Force's most secret technology.

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00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:04,000

When the U2's covert life ended this is what Bissell's designers came up with.

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00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:13,000

The Blackbird is the apex of aerospace technology.

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

When the forerunner of this aircraft first flew the CIA's A-12 in 1962 from Groom Lake otherwise known as Area 51 in Nevada.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:30,000

Its mission and the aircraft itself was super black.

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00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:38,000

That is to say it was a super classified aircraft.

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00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:46,000

It's very easy to imagine how anyone catching a glimpse of this aircraft in 1962 might have mistaken it for a UFO.

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00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:49,000

Everything about this airplane is strange.

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00:11:50,000 --> 00:12:04,000

It's black, its shape is extraordinary and its speed of course in excess of Mach 3 that's three

times the speed of sound would have made it one of the most extraordinary sites that anyone could have seen at that time.

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00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:13,000

Many Blackbird missions were flown at the height of the Cold War.

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00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:22,000

The plane flew at over 100,000 feet at the very edge of space.

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00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:30,000

It was so fast that when it over flew the Soviet Union it could simply outrun any missile attack.

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00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:45,000

But it wasn't so much American spy planes that were worrying the Russians.

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00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:49,000

There was something else in the skies that was causing them alarm.

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:57,000

An incident over the small town of Petrozovodsk would trigger the largest study of UFOs on the face of the earth.

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:01,000

Russia's ex-viles had begun.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:14,000

The Russian military was also involved in the Soviet invasion.

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00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:26,000

On September 20, 1977, high over the Russian town of Petrozovodsk, a group of soldiers were on routine maneuvers.

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00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:33,000

Suddenly a bright star appeared radiating pulsating beams of light.

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00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:38,000

The object lingered over the town like a huge jellyfish.

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00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:43,000

After a few minutes it wrapped into a bright half disk and shot off.

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00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:54,000

News of the event reached the Kremlin.

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00:13:55,000 --> 00:14:01,000

And Yuri Andropov, head of the KGB, gave an extraordinary order.

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00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:07,000

That the entire Soviet army should watch the skies for unidentified flying objects.

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

I'm in Russia on my way to meet the two men, Colonel Boris Sokolov and Dr. Yuliy Platov,

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00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:19,000

who were ordered by Andropov to coordinate the whole operation.

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00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Colonel Sokolov, next.

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00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:30,000

I'm in Russia on my way to meet the two men, Colonel Boris Sokolov and Dr. Yuliy Platov,

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00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:35,000

who were ordered by Andropov to coordinate the whole operation.

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00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:39,000

Yuri.

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00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,000

At that time the army had a total of 7.5 million serving personnel,

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00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:03,000

stationed across the whole of the Soviet Union, which comprised the sixth of the world land mass.

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

Their army controlled the monitoring of these abnormal events.

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

In the beginning these reports were numerous.

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

Literally every week there was someone who had seen a dish landing with somebody coming out of it.

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00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:25,000

Even when a sighting was not considered sensitive, it was still stamped top secret.

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00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:37,000

The observations continued every night for 13 years.

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00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:44,000

No other nation has conducted such a long and thorough research program into unidentified flying objects.

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00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:52,000

But as Sokolov tells me, the evidence was inconclusive.

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00:15:53,000 --> 00:16:04,000

I would like to say that it is absolutely certain that in those 13 years there was not a single report of anybody's contact with aliens.

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00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:14,000

Most of these sightings, which were taken by observers and thought to be something abnormal,

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00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:21,000

were in fact, as our researchers show, connected to technical experiments by our own military.

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00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:30,000

And as Dr. Platov explains, even the Petrozovodsk incident, which led to Andropov's UFO surveillance operation,

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00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:36,000

was nothing more than a secret missile launch.

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00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:47,000

That the strange lights and jellyfish shaped object was in reality the burning rocket engine and its exhaust plume.

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00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:56,000

But not every sighting could be so easily dismissed.

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00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:09,000

Even though we could explain some of these sightings, there were many unexplained events which caused scientists to scratch their heads

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00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:13,000

and which still remain unanswered today.

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

For some, these inexplicable sightings fueled concerns that the United States military was developing a radical piece of aerospace technology,

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:31,000

something that behaved and looked like a UFO that could fly undetected into Russian airspace.

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00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:50,000

And the Russian fears were well founded. This is stealth, a quantum leap in aerospace technology.

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00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:55,000

The Americans had built an invisible plane.

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00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:59,000

The Russian fear was well-founded.

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

The Russian fear was well-founded.

126

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:08,000

This is stealth, a quantum leap in aerospace technology.

127

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:12,000

The Americans had built an invisible plane.

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

If you took one or two looks at that airplane and you saw how strange the shape was,

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00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:29,000

it wouldn't take you very long to figure out that they were aiming at a very, very low level of radar cross-section.

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00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:40,000

What was done with the first real stealth program was to produce something that had the radar signature over a small shotgun pellet,

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00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:44,000

or perhaps maybe a small bird.

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00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:58,000

My view is that it was advantageous for the Americans to keep up this kind of hype regarding UFOs.

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00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:08,000

We guessed it was policy to conduct a campaign of misinformation, as far as the general public was concerned.

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00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:17,000

Stealth was an enormous breakthrough and nobody out in the wider world really believed it was possible.

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00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:20,000

Nobody could even imagine that it was possible for them.

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00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:34,000

The Americans had won the technological race. Stealth was a decisive instrument in the Cold War.

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00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Secrecy was vital and the US were able to hide the existence of stealth from Soviet surveillance for more than ten years between 1977 and 1988.

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00:19:51,000 --> 00:20:01,000

But stealth couldn't begin to explain the series of alleged alien encounters which were about to shock the American Southwest.

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00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:07,000

The UFO story had come to ground in a very sinister fashion.

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00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:14,000

This is New Mexico, an area that has witnessed UFO sightings since the 1940s.

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00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:24,000

But in the early 70s a series of horrific events took these sightings to another level when aliens appeared to be attacking cattle.

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00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:31,000

Ranchers began to find livestock with terrible injuries lying dead on their grazing plains.

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00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:41,000

The weapon had been partially removed. The eyes were bulging out. I was horrified at the thought of what could do this in broad daylight.

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00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:54,000

I really did believe something strange was going on. We had one up north where we believed the animal was paralyzed and was alive when it was being mutilated.

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00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:01,000

I'm on my way to meet Edmund Gomez, a cattle rancher from Dulce, California.

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00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:08,000

A town close to Los Alamos where the atomic bomb was developed.

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00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:19,000

We met up and headed out to a desolate corner of his ranch.

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00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:25,000

We were able to find the animal.

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00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:30,000

Where are we going? Where are you taking me to?

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00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:38,000

I'm taking you to our animal graveyard. Normally we would bury carcasses that would die from disease or from natural causes.

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00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:46,000

But during the cattle mutilation that we had, we never buried any of the animals so in case we ever needed any more.

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00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:51,000

The mutilation themselves took place over quite a time period, didn't it?

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00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:57,000

Yes, on our ranchers from 1976 through 1982 approximately.

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00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:05,000

When you found a mutilated cow, typically what kind of wounds would you find on the animal?

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00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:13,000

The rectum had been coured out. The lower lip had been removed and the reproductive tract had also

been removed.

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00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:21,000

The organs that were removed were removed precisely without spilling of any blood and it was very, very neatly done.

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

The rectum had been removed and the organ had been removed.

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00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:34,000

Many of the ranchers believed the cattle mutilations were the result of UFOs, that aliens were dissecting the animals for experimentation.

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00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:44,000

Usually when you find an animal that dies of disease or natural causes, the scavengers will attack the animal and attack the flesh.

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00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:50,000

The animals that were dissected were not the animals that were dissected.

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00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:57,000

But for Gomez, there were other clues.

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00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:06,000

We saw this light kind of flying over our pastures and all of a sudden it kind of just came to a standstill.

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00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:11,000

It looked like it was saucer shaped.

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00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:18,000

But it had two dicks and had two sets of lights on it flashing one on top and one down towards the bottom.

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00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:24,000

When you look at them, you think, well, gosh, that looks like the typical flying saucer.

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00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:32,000

When all of a sudden the lights inside the cockpit of this vehicle went on, and when the lights went on, I could see the property of the car.

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00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:39,000

And as Gomez tells me, he has his own theories about the fate of the targeted animals.

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00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:47,000

They would put ropes or chains around the legs of the animal and lift them up and haul them off somewhere.

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00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:53,000

Do their thing, come back, and then they would just go and get the animals.

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00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:57,000

And why dump the cow, leave the carcass here?

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

We felt that whoever was doing this did it and brought it back to the carcass.

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00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:10,000

We felt that the carcass was going to be a little bit more dangerous than it was.

173

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:16,000

We felt that the carcass was going to be a little bit more dangerous than it was.

174

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:26,000

We felt that whoever was doing this did it and brought it back and said, we're doing this and there's nothing you can do about it.

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00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:31,000

There were a lot of consistencies with the way that they were harvesting these animals.

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00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:38,000

For Edmund Gomez, there are many unanswered questions.

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00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:47,000

He wants the cattle mutilations, which put him and his family out of the ranching business, reinvestigated.

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00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:04,000

Well, I think Gomez's hunch that this was some sort of covert testing activity was bang on the money.

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00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:19,000

The way the cows were mutilated from the organs that were removed from the cows, it seems very clear that this was some kind of covert testing, covert monitoring program of some kind of

contamination in that region.

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00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:32,000

It also seems very clear that someone is trying to put in some kind of linkage between this mutilation activity and UFOs, trying to dress helicopters up, for instance,

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00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:43,000

to make them look like UFOs in an area where people are very superstitious, very fearful of things they don't understand.

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00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:57,000

So it's clear to me that some kind of disinformation campaign is going on, but the reality is whatever was going on up there has nothing to do with extraterrestrials or UFOs.

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00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:13,000

In the alien encounters I have examined so far, military and defence technologies seem to be at the heart of what's going on.

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00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:29,000

But parallel to these stories are other reports, reports of more direct encounters between aliens and humans, which seem to be of a wholly different order.

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00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:37,000

These are the chilling first-hand accounts of alien abduction.

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00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:53,000

The most challenging aspect of the UFO phenomenon is alien abduction.

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00:26:54,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Throughout the 80s and 90s stories of abduction swept across the US.

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00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:08,000

Over 2 million Americans claimed to have been taken by aliens.

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00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:13,000

These stories followed a pattern.

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00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:22,000

Typically abductees claimed they had been taken in their sleep to an alien craft, where they were subjected to invasive surgery.

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00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:33,000

Samples were taken, probes were implanted. Some victims reported they had been abducted not just once, but many times.

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00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:49,000

I've come to meet Travis Walton. He was the first alien abductee of this epidemic, and his story, which was widely reported, had a powerful effect on the public imagination.

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00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:56,000

I caught up with him near the Apache Sycamore Forest in Arizona, where the whole incident unfolded.

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00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Well, there was a group of seven of us, man. We were working up in the mountains in the woods.

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00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:06,000

We had a tree cutting contract.

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00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:08,000

We had a tree cutting contract.

197

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:10,000

We had a tree cutting contract.

198

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:17,000

Well, there was a group of seven of us, man. We were working up in the mountains in the woods.

199

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:20,000

We had a tree cutting contract up there.

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00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:24,000

We just finished a long, hard day's work, and we were headed home.

201

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:29,000

We'd worked late that night, so it was starting to get dark.

202

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:36,000

As we were driving down this rough track there, we saw light coming through the trees.

203

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:39,000

What the hell is that?

204

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:48,000

Travis, man! What the hell are you doing? Come back! Travis!

205

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:57,000

Back then, you know, I was kind of a wild sort of a guy. You know, I was showing off, you know. It was stupid.

206

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:09,000

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,

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00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:16,000

but I 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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00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:28,000

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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00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:32,000

and it was making this sort of a rocking motion.

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00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:37,000

Right at that instant, something hit me.

211

00:29:46,000 --> 00:30:01,000

The next thing I knew, I was regaining consciousness, but I was in a lot of pain.

212

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:12,000

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.

213

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:20,000

I looked around, there were three of them. The one that was closest to me, I tried to hit him, I could hardly move,

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00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:27,000

and my arm felt real heavy and I was weak. Somehow got the strength to get off the table.

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00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:38,000

Several nights later, Travis Walton reappeared, dazed and confused.

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00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:46,000

I didn't know how much time had gone by. Something in the conversation made that apparent to me.

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00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:52,000

He 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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00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:54,000

I said, you've been gone five days.

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00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:03,000

I had enough trouble just dealing with the reality of this incredible thing that had happened to me.

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

It was just so hard to explain what I'd been through, and there was nobody to relate to, and 29 years ago, there was nobody to turn to, and I was just on my own.

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00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:30,000

Travis's story seems incredible, but it's only one of many such tales. Does the weight of evidence add up to a believable pattern of abduction?

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

The story is about a man who was a Christian.

223

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:47,000

Anthropologist Charles Sieglar has studied many abductee testimonies.

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00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:58,000

These people were not mentally impaired. Many of them were, in fact, highly trained. They believed these things.

225

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:13,000

We gave them the same kind of satisfaction that religion gives other people. The notion that we're not alone, that there is some entity that's looking after us, that there's a better place waiting for us when we die.

226

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:23,000

The chief skeptic of all, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who investigated UFOs for the U.S. military, also became a believer.

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00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:37,000

There were just too many cases that baffled him during his military work. It was Hynek's interviews and expertise that formed the basis of the 1977 film *Close Encounters*, directed by Steven Spielberg.

228

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:52,000

I think that we're all interested in having the re-enchantment of the universe. We want to feel that there are transcendent things out there that we're not aware of and that bode good for the human race somehow.

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00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:57,000

I think this is just a natural human feeling.

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00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:13,000

But what really fascinates me as a defense journalist is that you are as likely to find believers in UFOs among the higher reaches of the aerospace industry as you are in Hollywood.

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00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:27,000

This is a report into future technology commissioned in 1968 by MacDonal Douglas, which I received for a contact with connections to the company.

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00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:38,000

It takes the existence of UFOs seriously. It recommends using UFOs and copying their design in order to make the next quantum leap into aerospace technology.

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00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:53,000

Some UFOs may be extraterrestrial vehicles. They certainly have not been proven otherwise.

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00:33:54,000 --> 00:34:04,000

The existence of extraterrestrial vehicles indicates vehicles can be built, which would have capabilities quite useful to MacDonald Douglas Corporation.

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00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:11,000

The report even suggested interviewing contactees to gather data.

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00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:23,000

And if they were thinking that over 25 years ago, what advances might be on the horizon today?

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00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:39,000

What I've learnt during this journey is that UFOs have had a powerful impact on our real world activities for more than 60 years.

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00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:43,000

And they continue to inspire us today.

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00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:52,000

I'm here in Seattle to meet someone who's built a device in the basement of his garage, indeed is flying it there.

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00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:58,000

That he and others claim is able to do so by defying our current understanding of physics.

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00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:09,000

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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00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:24,000

This strange device is made of balsa wood and glue and covered in a layer of aluminium foil.

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00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:42,000

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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00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:52,000

As the lifter's inventor Tim Ventura winds up the mains, the airframe buzzes with electrical activity.

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00:35:54,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Tim, tell me why is this lifter demonstrating this levitation effect?

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00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:13,000

There's an interaction that occurs between the coronal wire which runs around the top and the foil underneath.

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00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:20,000

There's a 3-4cm air gap in between there and literally a high voltage electric field occurring.

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00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:24,000

There's been some controversy, is this an ion wind effect?

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00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:30,000

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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00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:40,000

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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00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:46,000

suspended on the top of the craft, through the air, down to the aluminium foil wrapped around the frame.

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00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:58,000

The current literally drags air molecules down with it, creating a downforce called an ion wind which provides the thrust needed to lift the airframe skywards.

253

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

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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00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:11,000

We're trying to take it and say, look, these are real technologies.

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00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:17,000

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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00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:23,000

So do you think what we're watching here could be the modest beginnings of a whole new industry?

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00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:31,000

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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00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:38,000

but it at least shows us that given the right circumstances, given the right power, it will work.

259

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:47,000

So what is the truth about UFOs?

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00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:53,000

To me, the story of successive attempts to develop radically new forms of flight,

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00:37:53,000 --> 00:38:01,000

conducted under the strictest secrecy, is inextricably bound up with our relationship with UFOs over the last 60 years.

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00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Whether it was Allied pilots buzzed by strange balls of fire in 1942 or the Roswell incident five years later,

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00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:20,000

there is a strong case to be made that secret military technology offers a convincing explanation for many UFO stories.

264

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:33,000

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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00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:41,000

It showed the CIA that UFOs could provide perfect cover for their Cold War activities.

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00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:50,000

It didn't take much for the CIA to spin the extraterrestrial story into the hearts and minds of the American public.

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:59,000

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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00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:03,000

But there are some cases I just can't explain.

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00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:16,000

The sightings of UFOs over Capitol Hill in 1952 remain baffling,

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00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:23,000

and navigator Tom Hanley's aerial encounter is testimony to the possibility we are not alone.

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00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:31,000

What is certain is that real-world UFOs, the man-made ones, continue to develop.

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00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:40,000

In 2003, a series of sonic beams were heard exploding across California and Nevada.

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00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:48,000

Something was in the sky that could be heard and felt, but not seen.

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00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:55,000

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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00:39:55,000 --> 00:39:59,000

A secret project known as Aurora.

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00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:03,000

There is no trace of Aurora's physical existence.

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00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:07,000

No evidence of government spending on its development or deployment.

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00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:12,000

But there are tantalizing images that point to its existence.

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00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:15,000

Pictures, for example, like this one.

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00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:23,000

It shows a doughnut-shaped exhaust pattern, a sign perhaps that Aurora makes use of something called a pulsed air.

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00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:31,000

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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00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:35,000

But perhaps the most intriguing of these images.

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00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:41,000

This is a weather satellite image that shows a very interesting contrail originating out of Area 51 in Nevada

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00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:46,000

and moving all the way across the United States, out over the Atlantic,

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00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:50,000

on a cross-border plane, and on a cross-border plane.

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00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:54,000

It's moving in excess of 8,000 miles an hour.

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00:40:54,000 --> 00:41:02,000

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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00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:11,000

And Aurora's flights will probably give birth to a new aircraft.

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00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:16,000

And Aurora's flights will probably give birth to a new wave of UFO sightings.

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00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:24,000

Because whether aliens exist or not, many of us want to believe in them.

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00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:34,000

Perhaps the only way we will ever find out for sure is if we make the leap into deep space ourselves.

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00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:38,000

That day may come, sooner than we expect.

293

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:42,140

The original em accept And Pak James

294

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:10,180

and lost to legends.

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00:42:10,180 --> 00:42:14,040

Now teams of investigators use cutting edge technology

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00:42:14,040 --> 00:42:16,920

and reveal the hidden secrets to the most famous

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00:42:16,920 --> 00:42:19,300

of all lost worlds.

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00:42:19,300 --> 00:42:22,960

Atlantis, next only on the History Channel.