

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,120

Every July 4th weekend, thousands of people flock to Roswell, New Mexico to commemorate

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00:00:26,120 --> 00:00:33,320

the anniversary of what they believe is the most important UFO event ever recorded.

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00:00:33,320 --> 00:00:41,280

At the International UFO Museum and Research Center, believers pour over hundreds of controversial

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00:00:41,280 --> 00:00:43,600

exhibits.

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00:00:43,600 --> 00:00:48,640

To believers, the Roswell incident is the mecca.

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00:00:48,640 --> 00:00:55,600

It's the rosetta stone of all ufology and alien encounters.

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00:00:55,600 --> 00:01:02,680

Researchers are persuaded not by any concrete evidence, but by the stories of eyewitnesses.

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00:01:02,680 --> 00:01:08,400

People who claim to have seen a strange crash and alien bodies in the desert more than 50

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00:01:08,400 --> 00:01:09,400

years ago.

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00:01:09,400 --> 00:01:14,240

I would say the Roswell crash is the most significant event in human history.

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00:01:14,240 --> 00:01:21,560

We had an encounter, albeit a very sad one, because the creatures were, with the possible

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00:01:21,560 --> 00:01:23,920

exception of one, were dead.

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00:01:23,920 --> 00:01:28,080

We had an encounter with creatures from another world.

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00:01:28,080 --> 00:01:36,360

But to skeptics, there are plenty of down-to-earth explanations for these fantastic stories.

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00:01:36,360 --> 00:01:42,680

The ufologists that really believe something alien happened at Roswell, they've taken

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00:01:42,680 --> 00:01:48,280

just bits and pieces of events that did happen and distorted them and constructed around

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00:01:48,280 --> 00:01:53,000

them a myth.

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:59,280

The events that come to be known as the Roswell incident begin in the early summer of 1947,

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00:01:59,280 --> 00:02:04,480

a season which would change the town forever.

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00:02:04,480 --> 00:02:12,680

Flying saucer reports first started around June 25th of 1947, and almost immediately everyone

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00:02:12,680 --> 00:02:16,120

began seeing flying saucer.

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00:02:16,120 --> 00:02:21,120

Residents of southeast New Mexico start to see strange things in the sky, things they

23

00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:27,880

call unidentified flying objects, known as UFOs.

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00:02:27,880 --> 00:02:34,240

New Mexico is abuzz with UFO mania and talk of invading Martians.

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00:02:34,240 --> 00:02:39,800

Please contact us.

26

00:02:39,800 --> 00:02:42,880

Please contact us.

27

00:02:42,880 --> 00:02:47,080

We are your friends.

28

00:02:47,080 --> 00:02:54,160

Then on July 5th, 1947, something really does fall from the skies near Roswell, landing

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00:02:54,160 --> 00:02:58,040

on a field owned by sheep rancher, Mac Brazell.

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00:02:58,040 --> 00:03:10,520

He thought he had the debris of a flying saucer, and so on Monday, July 7th, he went into the

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00:03:10,520 --> 00:03:16,200

closest town to report his discovery.

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00:03:16,200 --> 00:03:24,680

People contact Sheriff Wilcox at Roswell, claiming he has found a flying saucer.

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00:03:24,680 --> 00:03:30,040

The sheriff then calls the closest military base, Roswell Army Airfield, located just

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00:03:30,040 --> 00:03:34,880

outside of town.

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00:03:34,880 --> 00:03:41,440

Roswell Army Airfield is home to the 509th Bombardment Wing, at the time the only atomic

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00:03:41,440 --> 00:03:46,920

strike force in the world.

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00:03:46,920 --> 00:03:52,080

The Army Air Force reacts quickly, sending two officers the same day to investigate the

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00:03:52,080 --> 00:03:54,920

site.

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00:03:54,920 --> 00:04:02,600

They check out the crash area and bring the debris to the base.

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00:04:02,600 --> 00:04:07,560

At noon the next day, Walter Hout, a public information officer at the base, issues a

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00:04:07,680 --> 00:04:14,760

press release announcing the retrieval of a flying saucer.

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00:04:14,760 --> 00:04:20,760

To this day, the mystery remains exactly why Hout issues this sensational release, but

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00:04:20,760 --> 00:04:25,760

its effect is immediate.

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00:04:25,760 --> 00:04:32,160

When Walter's story went out, it was a bombshell.

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00:04:32,160 --> 00:04:34,640

All of a sudden, the whole world was hearing this.

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00:04:34,840 --> 00:04:40,840

This is about a flying saucer having been retrieved on somebody's sheep ranch.

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00:04:40,840 --> 00:04:45,840

A phone calls jam the base switchboard.

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00:04:45,840 --> 00:04:51,360

Four hours later, Colonel Blanchard, commander of the 8th Air Force, takes steps to contain

49

00:04:51,360 --> 00:04:55,360

the frenzy.

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00:04:55,360 --> 00:05:01,960

Furious with a commotion, he orders a retraction of the press release.

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00:05:01,960 --> 00:05:06,800

The debris is flown to Fort Worth Army Airfield in Texas on orders from the government in

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00:05:06,800 --> 00:05:09,800

Washington.

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00:05:09,800 --> 00:05:14,400

Here they have chosen the commander of the base, high-ranking Brigadier General Roger

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00:05:14,400 --> 00:05:21,400

Ramey as the best person to diffuse the growing hysteria.

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00:05:22,920 --> 00:05:27,240

Ramey inspects the wreckage and declares at a press conference on July 8th that it's

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00:05:27,240 --> 00:05:32,920

nothing more than the remnants of a weather balloon.

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00:05:32,920 --> 00:05:37,680

The bits of wood and plastic are then crated up and flown to Wright Field Army Air Base

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00:05:37,680 --> 00:05:42,180

in Dayton, Ohio.

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00:05:42,180 --> 00:05:48,080

After this press conference, the public loses interest in the Roswell UFO story.

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00:05:48,080 --> 00:05:53,920

No eyewitnesses have come forward claiming to have seen aliens or a crashed flying disk.

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00:05:53,920 --> 00:05:58,240

The story fades from memory.

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00:05:58,240 --> 00:06:05,240

We have to remember that the Roswell incident was not an incident in 1947.

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00:06:05,240 --> 00:06:09,040

I mean, after those initial approaches, the whole thing just died.

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00:06:09,040 --> 00:06:15,800

For almost 30 years, stories about a crashed alien spacecraft at Roswell would lie dormant,

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00:06:15,800 --> 00:06:22,800

only to surface again later with renewed force.

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00:06:23,200 --> 00:06:28,560

When we continue, how the government admits to lying about the real story behind the crash

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00:06:28,560 --> 00:06:31,560

near Roswell in 1947.

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00:06:31,560 --> 00:06:35,200

It was a research effort.

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00:06:35,200 --> 00:06:42,200

It had a very high priority, but the existence of the program was highly classified.

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00:06:44,200 --> 00:06:51,200

In 1980, a book written by Charles Berlitz and William Moore called the Roswell Incident

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00:06:51,960 --> 00:06:58,960

revives interest in the story about a crashed flying saucer in Roswell in 1947.

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00:07:02,960 --> 00:07:07,880

Berlitz is convinced that there must be something more behind the tail of crashed wreckage that

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00:07:07,880 --> 00:07:14,880

was so quickly dismissed by the Air Force as a simple weather balloon.

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00:07:15,640 --> 00:07:20,880

The book contains interviews with witnesses who have come forward claiming to see incredible

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00:07:20,880 --> 00:07:24,560

things at the crash site.

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00:07:24,560 --> 00:07:31,560

Now, eyewitnesses claim the government really did retrieve a flying saucer and alien bodies

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00:07:32,040 --> 00:07:39,760

at Roswell and has lied about it ever since.

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00:07:39,760 --> 00:07:44,680

The alleged cover-up kicks off as soon as sheep rancher Mack Roswell reports finding

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00:07:44,680 --> 00:07:48,200

the debris.

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00:07:48,200 --> 00:07:52,560

The Army was out there probably before daybreak, the next morning, Saturday morning, picking

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00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:58,440

the pieces up, and the story went forward from there.

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00:07:58,440 --> 00:08:02,160

More accurately, the lack of story went forward from there because, of course, there was an

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00:08:02,160 --> 00:08:05,280

immediate and thorough cover-up.

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00:08:05,280 --> 00:08:11,280

Witnesses now describe the crash site as teaming with armed military police who comb over piles

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00:08:11,280 --> 00:08:13,440

of wreckage.

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00:08:13,440 --> 00:08:19,680

These people say it's clearly recognizable as a flying saucer and injured aliens.

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00:08:19,680 --> 00:08:26,680

In the more extravagant descriptions of this event, even President Truman arrives at the

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00:08:29,280 --> 00:08:35,600

impact site. There are still a few surviving aliens and there's translators trying to

89

00:08:35,600 --> 00:08:40,920

dissect what they're saying.

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00:08:40,920 --> 00:08:45,800

According to these stories, the alien bodies and parts of the flying saucer are transported

91

00:08:45,800 --> 00:08:52,000

to a hangar at the Roswell airbase.

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00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:55,480

That place, it's kind of a creepy feeling today to go by the building and look in there

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00:08:55,480 --> 00:09:00,240

and think, you know, this is where the stuff was brought.

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00:09:00,240 --> 00:09:06,000

The bodies and debris are then shipped on to their final destination.

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00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:12,360

The bodies, probably all of them eventually ended up, perhaps, by way of Washington, you

96

00:09:12,360 --> 00:09:18,360

know, going out to ride Patterson in their first place.

97

00:09:18,360 --> 00:09:23,280

Conspiracy theorists believe the aliens and wreckage reside somewhere in a heavily guarded,

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00:09:23,280 --> 00:09:29,560

top-secret government installation.

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00:09:29,560 --> 00:09:35,040

Since the first book about Roswell in 1980, many more witnesses have come forward and

100

00:09:35,240 --> 00:09:39,800

more books written fueling the angry claims that the government is hiding something of

101

00:09:39,800 --> 00:09:46,800

momentous importance.

102

00:09:47,200 --> 00:09:54,200

But the government sticks to its 1947 original story of a weather balloon.

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00:09:57,640 --> 00:10:04,400

In 1994, Congressman Stephen Schiff of New Mexico responds to pressure from his constituents

104

00:10:04,400 --> 00:10:11,400

by lobbying the General Accounting Office in Washington to fully investigate the matter.

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00:10:12,520 --> 00:10:19,280

Then in 1995, in a document called the Roswell Report, the Air Force finally claims to tell

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00:10:19,280 --> 00:10:26,280

the truth that the weather balloon explanation was indeed a cover story.

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00:10:27,960 --> 00:10:34,080

This report reveals that a debris found by sheep rancher Mack Brasil came from a top-secret

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00:10:34,080 --> 00:10:37,360

U.S. military program.

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00:10:37,360 --> 00:10:43,360

Given the codename of Mogul, the military was testing special devices attached to high-altitude

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00:10:43,360 --> 00:10:49,880

balloons as a way to spy on the Soviet Union.

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00:10:49,880 --> 00:10:56,560

After we used nuclear weapons to end World War II, the American military became very

112

00:10:56,560 --> 00:11:01,320

concerned that such weapons could be used against us.

113

00:11:01,320 --> 00:11:07,920

And in view of the knowledge of the Soviet espionage, there was great concern in monitoring

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00:11:07,920 --> 00:11:13,240

the development of the Soviet nuclear weapons. As a result, there was great, great pressure

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00:11:13,240 --> 00:11:20,240

to get some detection system going.

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00:11:22,080 --> 00:11:28,200

The base of operations for Project Mogul is 100 miles southwest of Roswell at Alamogordo

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00:11:28,320 --> 00:11:32,360

Army Airfield.

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00:11:32,360 --> 00:11:39,360

But the location has one drawback. Clear skies make it hard to conceal the balloon flights.

119

00:11:42,360 --> 00:11:48,160

As young scientists contracted by the Air Force, both Charles Moore and Duke Gildenberg

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00:11:48,160 --> 00:11:53,560

are among the few present at the secret launches.

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00:11:53,560 --> 00:12:00,560

The bizarre materials they use could easily mystify a civilian observer.

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00:12:02,080 --> 00:12:07,080

For the first time, they acknowledged that there were in fact many secret balloon flights

123

00:12:07,080 --> 00:12:11,840

in New Mexico in the summer of 1947.

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00:12:11,840 --> 00:12:16,560

In that whole period, there was great excitement throughout the United States about flying

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00:12:16,560 --> 00:12:22,560

saucers. I'm sure all balloons that were being put up at that time were summarily being reported.

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00:12:24,560 --> 00:12:30,560

The balloons in this never-before-released Air Force footage create an optical illusion

127

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:38,000

appearing like shiny silver jellyfish in the sky.

128

00:12:40,680 --> 00:12:46,180

Project Mogul will send aloft a highly classified device ringed with sensitive microphones

129

00:12:46,180 --> 00:12:53,180

attached to a 600-foot-long string of helium balloons.

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00:12:54,560 --> 00:13:00,560

This top-secret payload can acoustically detect atomic explosions, even from the other side

131

00:13:00,560 --> 00:13:06,560

of the world.

132

00:13:07,160 --> 00:13:14,160

The Air Material Command, or AMC, headquartered at Wright Field Ohio, coordinates the project.

133

00:13:14,640 --> 00:13:21,640

It was a research effort. It had a very high priority, but the existence of the program

134

00:13:22,120 --> 00:13:25,120

was highly classified.

135

00:13:25,120 --> 00:13:31,200

On June 4th, a mobile flight is launched with target devices attached to the balloon train

136

00:13:31,200 --> 00:13:36,200

for the crew to monitor the flight path.

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00:13:36,200 --> 00:13:42,440

The balloon sails freely over the mountain range towards Roswell. But something goes

138

00:13:42,440 --> 00:13:47,360

wrong and the tracking signal is lost.

139

00:13:47,360 --> 00:13:52,080

With no way to locate the balloon, the crew holds little hope of ever finding the classified

140

00:13:52,080 --> 00:13:58,080

payload.

141

00:13:58,080 --> 00:14:05,080

Mac Brazl, while working his vast ranch, discovers the wreckage on July 5th.

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00:14:06,080 --> 00:14:11,920

Brazl's own description of the wreckage sounds like balloon debris, except for one

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00:14:11,920 --> 00:14:14,920

unusual item.

144

00:14:14,920 --> 00:14:21,920

Brazil himself came right out and said it was tinfoil, scotch tape, balsa, and a few

145

00:14:23,520 --> 00:14:30,920

other very minor items like that. There was one piece that looked like maybe a hard plaster,

146

00:14:30,920 --> 00:14:37,920

which turned out incidentally to be the plexiglass cover for the classified mobile payload, but

147

00:14:38,600 --> 00:14:41,520

it had broken on impact.

148

00:14:41,520 --> 00:14:47,360

Very soon, this mutates into this unusual material that you ball up and it pops back

149

00:14:47,360 --> 00:14:52,560

out. Where did that come from? Well, in my opinion, that comes from up here. That comes

150

00:14:52,560 --> 00:14:57,000

from out of somebody's imagination and the retelling of the story from this original

151

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:01,120

kite-like balloon material, which doesn't sound very alien to this other stuff which

152

00:15:01,120 --> 00:15:06,600

sounds really alien.

153

00:15:06,600 --> 00:15:11,320

In the Roswell report, the Air Force admits there are grains of truth to some of the new

154

00:15:11,320 --> 00:15:16,840

stories. Specifically, eyewitness claims that the wreckage is adorned with some kind of

155

00:15:16,840 --> 00:15:23,840

alien hieroglyphic writing in pink or purple. The mogul target device does in fact have

156

00:15:26,640 --> 00:15:29,640

a similar appearance.

157

00:15:29,640 --> 00:15:36,120

It was put together with some tape that had some flower-like, abstract flower-like designs

158

00:15:36,120 --> 00:15:42,640

that were pinkish-purple in color. Every time I prepared a target for flight, I always puzzled

159

00:15:42,640 --> 00:15:48,080

what was the function of those flower-like designs.

160

00:15:48,080 --> 00:15:53,160

It turns out that the company that made the targets used the decorated tape simply because

161

00:15:53,160 --> 00:15:58,640

it was on hand.

162

00:15:58,640 --> 00:16:03,720

Over time, the story surrounding the visit by Major Jesse Marcell and Captain Sheridan

163

00:16:03,760 --> 00:16:10,040

Cabot to the crash site is also dramatically enhanced.

164

00:16:10,040 --> 00:16:16,640

The devil was in the details, and all the details were wrong. For instance, they described

165

00:16:16,640 --> 00:16:22,640

Cabot as driving a carrier. No, he never drove the carrier. They said Marcell used a

166

00:16:22,640 --> 00:16:29,640

Geiger counter. Nobody out there had a Geiger counter. They said they returned with a convoy

167

00:16:29,640 --> 00:16:36,640

and they never picked up any MPs. None of it ever happened. This is just nitty gritty

168

00:16:36,640 --> 00:16:38,360

details.

169

00:16:38,360 --> 00:16:42,480

When you really look into them in the Roswell incident, they're almost never really eyewitnesses.

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00:16:42,480 --> 00:16:47,040

They're usually somebody who knew somebody. In my opinion, that's what virtually all of

171

00:16:47,040 --> 00:16:50,720

these eyewitness accounts are nothing more than these sort of misleading, misremembered,

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00:16:50,720 --> 00:16:55,720

filled in the blank, false memories type eyewitness accounts.

173

00:16:55,800 --> 00:17:01,720

The Air Force's Roswell report doesn't end the controversy. The Air Force would have

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00:17:01,720 --> 00:17:07,160

to issue another document to explain why some people believe they saw aliens near Roswell

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00:17:07,160 --> 00:17:12,160

in 1947.

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00:17:12,160 --> 00:17:19,160

When we continue, how the recovery of crash dummies produced strange sightings around Roswell.

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00:17:19,920 --> 00:17:25,400

We were sent over with a helicopter and recovery crews with a number of body bags and packed

178

00:17:25,480 --> 00:17:32,000

them in the body bags.

179

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:39,000

In 1995, the U.S. Air Force tried to put an end to the mysteries of the alleged 1947

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00:17:39,120 --> 00:17:46,120

Roswell UFO crash with its official study, the Roswell report.

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00:17:47,200 --> 00:17:52,880

This explains how a top secret reconnaissance balloon project most likely accounts for descriptions

182

00:17:52,880 --> 00:17:59,880

of the unusual materials found on a remote New Mexico ranch.

183

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:05,840

But this report does not make any attempt to explain why many witnesses quoted by UFO

184

00:18:05,840 --> 00:18:12,840

researchers believe they saw aliens.

185

00:18:13,440 --> 00:18:20,440

Although their descriptions of the aliens vary in details, they do share many characteristics.

186

00:18:20,440 --> 00:18:25,720

We're generally looking at creatures of a very, very short stature, no more than probably

187

00:18:25,720 --> 00:18:32,720

three and a half feet. The four-fingered hand seems to be pretty much a point of agreement.

188

00:18:34,880 --> 00:18:40,680

Additionally, witnesses describe the bodies as having no hair, no eyelashes or eyebrows,

189

00:18:40,680 --> 00:18:43,520

and no visible ears.

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00:18:43,520 --> 00:18:49,480

The heads tend to be described as hair-shaped with somewhat larger than usual eyes, with

191

00:18:49,520 --> 00:18:53,720

other orifices not very well marked, you know, not much of a mouth, you know, not much of

192

00:18:53,720 --> 00:18:57,120

ears or nose.

193

00:18:57,120 --> 00:19:02,520

Witnesses compare the alien bodies to dummies or dolls with expressionless, serene looks

194

00:19:02,520 --> 00:19:06,240

on their faces.

195

00:19:06,240 --> 00:19:12,560

They are dressed in something like a one-piece jumpsuit.

196

00:19:12,560 --> 00:19:18,560

To dispel the myth that the government retrieved aliens at the Roswell crash site, the Air

197

00:19:18,640 --> 00:19:25,640

Force issues a second document called the Roswell Report Case Closed in 1997.

198

00:19:28,480 --> 00:19:34,480

This details another secret program, Project High Dive, conducted by the Air Force between

199

00:19:34,480 --> 00:19:39,480

1954 and 1959.

200

00:19:39,480 --> 00:19:46,480

High Dive tests a revolutionary parachute that will operate at extremely high altitudes.

201

00:19:46,880 --> 00:19:52,880

Too dangerous for humans, the first shoots are tested on anthropomorphic dummies.

202

00:19:52,880 --> 00:19:59,880

We had anthropomorphic dummies that we instrumented, and we could send these dummies to high altitude

203

00:20:00,880 --> 00:20:06,280

on single balloons, and what the command signal could separate the balloon from the dummy

204

00:20:06,280 --> 00:20:13,280

and let it free fall and open a parachute at some altitude just to see what data we

205

00:20:13,280 --> 00:20:16,280

could gather.

206

00:20:17,080 --> 00:20:24,080

The balloons carrying the dummies are launched from the desert near Holloman Air Force Base

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00:20:24,080 --> 00:20:27,480

in southeast New Mexico.

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00:20:27,480 --> 00:20:32,320

Although none are launched from Roswell, many dummies land and are recovered close to

209

00:20:32,320 --> 00:20:36,320

Roswell.

210

00:20:36,320 --> 00:20:43,320

We would send over the helicopter repair recruits with a number of body bags and pack them in

211

00:20:43,320 --> 00:20:47,400

the body bags as soon as we got there.

212

00:20:47,400 --> 00:20:53,160

The dummies are dressed in standard Air Force one-piece flight suits. The sight of them

213

00:20:53,160 --> 00:20:58,400

could easily alarm the uninitiated onlooker.

214

00:20:58,400 --> 00:21:05,400

They also describe the dummies in details like saying they had no hair, no ears, the

215

00:21:05,600 --> 00:21:12,600

mouth did not seem to serve as an opening for conversation or digestion, and on and

216

00:21:12,800 --> 00:21:14,880

on.

217

00:21:14,880 --> 00:21:21,880

One witness described an alien body as cold to the touch. This is entirely appropriate

218

00:21:21,880 --> 00:21:26,600

since the dummies plunge from the stratosphere where they have been subjected to sub-zero

219

00:21:26,600 --> 00:21:33,600

temperatures. On impact, they are still freezing, even as they lie on the desert floor.

220

00:21:34,240 --> 00:21:41,240

The recovery crews also use an ambulance converted into a communications vehicle and a type

221

00:21:43,160 --> 00:21:50,160

of 4x4 truck known as a weapons carrier. These same vehicles are frequently mentioned

222

00:21:50,200 --> 00:21:56,600

by witnesses as being present at the alien recovery site.

223

00:21:56,600 --> 00:22:02,320

But conspiracy theorists are not at all convinced that crash dummies explain alien sightings

224

00:22:02,320 --> 00:22:05,360

around Roswell.

225

00:22:05,360 --> 00:22:09,200

First of all, the crash dummies are around six feet tall, and compared to these little

226

00:22:09,200 --> 00:22:15,040

guys we're talking about, these little three and a half foot lithe, thin, you know, very,

227

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

very small figures, I really can't see how anybody could make that mistake.

228

00:22:22,520 --> 00:22:29,520

Also, the dummy experiments began seven years after the alleged Roswell crash. However,

229

00:22:29,720 --> 00:22:36,720

the Air Force believes the many similarities between the descriptions cannot be denied.

230

00:22:37,160 --> 00:22:44,160

But even those who support the Air Force's explanations are not entirely convinced.

231

00:22:45,280 --> 00:22:52,280

I think it's just the Air Force's attempt to provide some meat here to the story to

232

00:22:53,080 --> 00:22:57,920

explain it. What else could these aliens be? For most skeptics, they're entirely up

233

00:22:57,920 --> 00:23:03,880

here. Either they're making it up or they're just had a fantasy and pro and personalities

234

00:23:03,880 --> 00:23:11,380

they think they saw something. Did they see crash dummies? Maybe.

235

00:23:11,380 --> 00:23:16,600

The dummies used in Project High Dive cannot explain one important story about an alien

236

00:23:16,600 --> 00:23:23,600

encounter. A sighting held by conspiracy theorists to be the single most convincing proof that

237

00:23:24,360 --> 00:23:31,360

aliens did land in Roswell. When we continue, how a pilot becomes grotesquely disfigured

238

00:23:33,080 --> 00:23:40,080

and mistaken for an alien. But now my eyes are completely swollen,

239

00:23:40,440 --> 00:23:47,440

shutting head turned black. The star witness for Roswell conspiracy theorists is Glenn

240

00:23:48,200 --> 00:23:55,200

Dennis. In 1947, Dennis is a mortician at the Ballard Funeral Home in Roswell. He claims

241

00:23:58,920 --> 00:24:05,280

that on July 6th, he drives an injured airman to the hospital at Walker Air Force Base just

242

00:24:05,280 --> 00:24:12,280

outside Roswell. When I arrived there, where I usually parked the

243

00:24:12,520 --> 00:24:16,800

ammits, there were three old field ammits and they had these two old swinging doors

244

00:24:16,800 --> 00:24:23,000

and one of them was open maybe 12 or 14 inches or so and I saw a lot of debris in the back

245

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:30,000

of it. The debris is unusual and unlike anything he has ever seen before.

246

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:36,200

It looked more like maybe what fiberglass would look like today. It was very thin. There

247

00:24:36,200 --> 00:24:41,200

was a piece that kind of looked like the end of a canoe that was coming up like this.

248

00:24:41,200 --> 00:24:48,200

But what really got my attention was it looked like it had some maraglifers. Dennis then

249

00:24:49,400 --> 00:24:56,240

enters the hospital and encounters a nurse named Naomi Maria Self who is highly agitated.

250

00:24:56,240 --> 00:25:01,720

She tells him to leave immediately. He was in the process of leaving and these

251

00:25:01,720 --> 00:25:05,120

people accosted him and said, what are you doing here? And he said, well I came out here

252

00:25:05,160 --> 00:25:12,160

on business and they said, well you're not supposed to be here and in fact he ended up

253

00:25:12,160 --> 00:25:15,720

being dealt out by that famous threat. If you don't get out of here, you don't keep

254

00:25:15,720 --> 00:25:19,920

quiet. They're going to be picking your bones out of the sand.

255

00:25:19,920 --> 00:25:26,920

Dennis says this vicious threat was delivered by an angry red-headed captain. Dennis leaves

256

00:25:27,880 --> 00:25:34,240

but returns the next day to meet with the nurse. She then tells him of an incredible

257

00:25:34,240 --> 00:25:41,240

alien autopsy conducted by two doctors in the hospital the day before.

258

00:25:41,240 --> 00:25:46,920

She said, you won't believe this. She said they had done these crash bags that were laying

259

00:25:46,920 --> 00:25:53,920

on this iron gurney. It was too very mutilated. She said very, very small bodies. Some of

260

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:56,600

them looked like they were almost black.

261

00:25:56,600 --> 00:26:02,880

The nurse tells Dennis their odor is so overpowering that she and the doctors are forced to abandon

262

00:26:02,880 --> 00:26:09,880

the autopsy. After his conversation with the nurse, Dennis would never see her again.

263

00:26:13,200 --> 00:26:17,120

She was shipped out that afternoon after three o'clock one of the nurse officers that I

264

00:26:17,120 --> 00:26:23,080

knew called me and said that your friend had just been shipped, transferred out.

265

00:26:23,080 --> 00:26:28,480

The Air Force argues that Dennis's amazing story which has passed firmly into popular

266

00:26:28,600 --> 00:26:34,480

legend may be nothing more than a confused mix of details from two separate Air Force

267

00:26:34,480 --> 00:26:41,480

accidents that occurred near Roswell.

268

00:26:42,840 --> 00:26:49,840

The first accident occurs in 1956. An Air Force aircraft crashes into the desert outside

269

00:26:50,920 --> 00:26:52,480

Roswell.

270

00:26:53,480 --> 00:26:59,480

Eleven crew members perish. The crash site is surrounded by MPs to keep the public away

271

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:08,000

from the grizzly scene. The black mangled bodies of the crew are taken for autopsy to

272

00:27:08,560 --> 00:27:12,920

walk our Air Force base.

273

00:27:12,920 --> 00:27:19,120

Due to the overpowering smell of burnt flesh and fuel, the autopsy is stopped and the body

274

00:27:19,160 --> 00:27:24,000

is sealed in body bags.

275

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:29,360

The bags are then sent to the ballard funeral home in Roswell where proper refrigeration

276

00:27:29,360 --> 00:27:33,240

is available.

277

00:27:33,240 --> 00:27:40,240

Dennis, an employee of the funeral home, may have seen the bodies here placed in cold storage.

278

00:27:41,360 --> 00:27:46,720

The Air Force believes that Dennis's memory of the event may have evolved into this tale

279

00:27:46,800 --> 00:27:50,560

of an alien autopsy.

280

00:27:50,560 --> 00:27:56,160

In psychology we call this confabulation where you're mixing real memories with your own

281

00:27:56,160 --> 00:28:01,800

interpretations of them with fantasies that you've added to it with other people's accounts

282

00:28:01,800 --> 00:28:08,800

of what they think they saw and all that becomes a genuine memory for you. But it doesn't really

283

00:28:09,920 --> 00:28:15,600

exist anywhere else other than this one person's mind. Then that becomes the star eyewitness

284

00:28:15,640 --> 00:28:22,640

account in this Roswell incident when in fact it doesn't really represent anything at all.

285

00:28:22,640 --> 00:28:29,160

As for the nurse, government records show there was never anyone named Naomi Maria Self stationed

286

00:28:29,160 --> 00:28:36,160

at Walker Air Force Base and no one by that name ever served in the Air Force.

287

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:43,600

Other details of Dennis's experience at the hospital can be explained by an Air Force

288

00:28:43,600 --> 00:28:50,600

balloon accident. It is related here for the first time on camera by an Air Force officer

289

00:28:51,520 --> 00:28:56,800

involved in the accident.

290

00:28:56,800 --> 00:29:03,800

Here is the genesis of the observations by the off based non Air Force people that aliens

291

00:29:04,160 --> 00:29:11,160

were seen being taken into the hospital at Roswell.

292

00:29:12,040 --> 00:29:18,440

Since 1954 the Air Force has been testing a special high altitude parachute with anthropomorphic

293

00:29:18,440 --> 00:29:25,440

dummies. However, research gained from these dummies was inconclusive.

294

00:29:26,440 --> 00:29:33,440

We reached a point I would say beginning in about 1958, 1958 that we needed now to

295

00:29:33,440 --> 00:29:39,440

start looking at actual human subjects rather than just dummies.

296

00:29:40,120 --> 00:29:47,120

This new endeavor, codenamed Project Excelsior, is a risky undertaking. Captain Joe Kittenger,

297

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:53,720

a fearless red headed test pilot, volunteers to jump from an open gondola from the edge

298

00:29:53,720 --> 00:30:00,720

of space at 100,000 feet to test the parachute.

299

00:30:00,800 --> 00:30:07,800

The training for this dangerous project operates under strict secrecy. Two other pilots, Captain

300

00:30:09,080 --> 00:30:16,080

Dan Fulgum and Captain Bill Kaufman also prepare for the perilous mission.

301

00:30:16,520 --> 00:30:23,520

The three intrepid pilots ascend in a special gondola on May 21st, 1959 on a simple low-level

302

00:30:27,640 --> 00:30:34,640

training flight. But the landing outside Roswell doesn't go according to plan.

303

00:30:34,640 --> 00:30:41,640

In the gondola dropped to the ground, the lateral speed was such that it can't can it,

304

00:30:41,640 --> 00:30:46,040

it just turned it end over end over end. But as it came to rest, it came to rest upside

305

00:30:46,040 --> 00:30:53,040

down. I was lying on the ground. In the lip of the gondola, I trapped my head between

306

00:30:54,880 --> 00:31:01,880

the gondola and the ground. Fulgum's head immediately swells. The recovery helicopter

307

00:31:02,240 --> 00:31:09,240

flies him and Kittenger who has minor injuries to the hospital at Walker Air Force Base.

308

00:31:13,920 --> 00:31:20,920

The balloon units recovery crew, driving their communications vehicle, a converted ambulance,

309

00:31:21,120 --> 00:31:26,240

picks up Kaufman in the balloon wreckage and drives over to the base.

310

00:31:26,240 --> 00:31:32,560

We finally got in and I think one of the MP's drove us down to the hospital and guided

311

00:31:32,560 --> 00:31:36,760

us to the hospital. Once we got there, we parked by the emergency that was a ramp right

312

00:31:36,760 --> 00:31:43,440

there. The converted ambulance is parked exactly where Dennis claims to have seen an ambulance

313

00:31:43,440 --> 00:31:50,440

with bizarre wreckage inside. There are two panels similar to the ends of a canoe. There

314

00:31:51,440 --> 00:31:58,440

is also writing on them which could be difficult to decipher at a distance. Inside the hospital,

315

00:32:00,840 --> 00:32:07,840

Fulgum's head has swollen to twice its normal size. This remarkable photo was taken days

316

00:32:08,520 --> 00:32:15,520

after the swelling had already begun to subside. The first thing the flight surgeon did, of

317

00:32:15,800 --> 00:32:21,040

course, to try and contain the swelling in my head, was to wrap me in ace bandages. Of

318

00:32:21,040 --> 00:32:27,640

course, that further enhanced the bulk of the head. By now, my eyes had completely swollen,

319

00:32:27,640 --> 00:32:34,640

shutting head turned black from the bud. Fulgum, free to roam the hospital, draws stairs

320

00:32:36,080 --> 00:32:43,080

from startled onlookers. Meanwhile, Kittenger is desperately trying to arrange for a new

321

00:32:45,520 --> 00:32:50,440

service. They're returning to write Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio to avoid any unnecessary

322

00:32:50,440 --> 00:32:55,440

publicity for this secret project.

323

00:32:55,440 --> 00:33:02,440

Four alien Roswell writers talk about this redheaded captain, which was Joe Kittenger,

324

00:33:02,680 --> 00:33:09,680

talking to some of the people there and making even vicious threats toward them and even

325

00:33:10,680 --> 00:33:17,680

their families if they divulge what had happened. What the real story was that he had asked

326

00:33:18,680 --> 00:33:25,680

them very politely, please don't say anything about this balloon accident because I have

327

00:33:26,120 --> 00:33:33,120

forthcoming programs that could be compromised if too many people learned about this accident.

328

00:33:34,120 --> 00:33:41,120

The near fatal accident doesn't derail project Excelsior. Kittenger, Kaufman and Fulgum continue

329

00:33:41,920 --> 00:33:48,920

their balloon born exploration of the upper atmosphere. With the dawn of the space age,

330

00:33:52,840 --> 00:33:59,840

New Mexico will see more exotic Air Force experimentation in the 1960s and 70s. Experiments

331

00:34:00,840 --> 00:34:07,840

that will continue to fuel stories of UFOs in Roswell. When we return, how experiments

332

00:34:11,520 --> 00:34:16,520

with space probes triggered reports of UFOs.

333

00:34:16,520 --> 00:34:23,520

We launched the Viking nose cone with hot rockets on board from Roswell itself.

334

00:34:29,840 --> 00:34:36,840

Since the alleged crash at Roswell in 1947, residents of New Mexico have described silver

335

00:34:36,840 --> 00:34:43,840

discs zipping through the air. Between 1966 and 1972, the balloon unit at Holloman Airforce

336

00:34:49,960 --> 00:34:56,960

Base conducts experiments near Roswell with vehicles which actually arm spacecraft.

337

00:35:00,720 --> 00:35:06,680

But they aren't extraterrestrial. They're space probes for NASA's Viking Surveyor

338

00:35:06,680 --> 00:35:13,680

and Voyager program seen here in this newly collected footage.

339

00:35:14,880 --> 00:35:21,880

We flew a number of disc shaped objects and those were seen in the air sometimes as flying

340

00:35:22,880 --> 00:35:29,880

sources. We launched the Viking nose cone with hot rockets on board from Roswell itself.

341

00:35:33,720 --> 00:35:40,720

Several of the museums in Roswell, they made copies of the Viking nose cone and said,

342

00:35:40,760 --> 00:35:45,840

hey, this is what the spaceship looked like.

343

00:35:45,840 --> 00:35:52,440

The space probes are flown to 100,000 feet from a balloon and then released for self-propelled

344

00:35:52,440 --> 00:35:57,320

supersonic free flight back to the desert floor.

345

00:35:57,320 --> 00:36:02,660

To an imaginative observer, tests of these NASA space probes could easily be confused

346

00:36:02,660 --> 00:36:09,660

with the visitation from another world.

347

00:36:09,820 --> 00:36:16,820

The probes stored on base in hangars may have spurred tales of a captured flying saucer.

348

00:36:19,820 --> 00:36:25,100

And they kept things kind of locked up so people wouldn't get in their poke around.

349

00:36:25,100 --> 00:36:29,220

But people passing by maybe through a crack on the hangar door would occasionally see

350

00:36:29,220 --> 00:36:36,220

this thing and what it was interpreted as was a leftover from the 1947 crash.

351

00:36:40,540 --> 00:36:46,380

These giant tethered balloons used for weather experiments also add to the stories of strange

352

00:36:46,380 --> 00:36:53,380

objects hovering over the southwest.

353

00:36:53,420 --> 00:36:59,980

This rig, called a V-balloon, first flew in the 1960s and bears a remarkable resemblance

354

00:36:59,980 --> 00:37:06,980

to an eyewitness drawing of the UFO that allegedly crashed in Roswell in 1947.

355

00:37:10,660 --> 00:37:16,100

These are only the highlights of the Air Force's answer to questions about an alien encounter

356

00:37:16,100 --> 00:37:21,260

at Roswell more than 50 years ago.

357

00:37:21,260 --> 00:37:25,940

The two official reports try to illuminate the mysteries that have grown up around a

358

00:37:25,940 --> 00:37:31,540

highly sensitive Cold War balloon project and other experiments conducted in the remote

359

00:37:31,540 --> 00:37:37,740

New Mexico desert.

360

00:37:37,820 --> 00:37:42,820

Theory theorists totally reject their arguments.

361

00:37:42,820 --> 00:37:45,740

It's funny how they just kind of switch from one story to another and say, oh well you

362

00:37:45,740 --> 00:37:48,500

know don't think about the fact that we're relying the first time, you know, and then

363

00:37:48,500 --> 00:37:52,740

of course later it was the Crash Dummies story. I really just wish they would learn to say

364

00:37:52,740 --> 00:37:57,020

no comment, you know, that really I think dignifies the whole scenario more than anything

365

00:37:57,020 --> 00:38:00,020

else could.

366

00:38:00,020 --> 00:38:06,020

Disbelievers draw different conclusions to the Roswell myth.

367

00:38:06,300 --> 00:38:12,300

If I may make a parallel to the JFK assassination, the Roswell incident has all the makings

368

00:38:12,300 --> 00:38:19,300

of the same sort of conspiratorial thinking in that the case will never be closed in either

369

00:38:19,300 --> 00:38:26,300

of these things. And the reason is because the mystery is more compelling than the solution.

370

00:38:26,980 --> 00:38:32,100

But diehard believers refuse to give up the idea that the government covered up an alien

371

00:38:32,100 --> 00:38:39,100

UFO crash at Roswell. They still hope that one day this so-called cover-up will finally

372

00:38:40,780 --> 00:38:44,780

be exposed.

373

00:38:44,780 --> 00:38:51,780

I wish we had a piece of debris, we don't. You know, I wish we had a photograph of the

374

00:38:52,780 --> 00:38:58,260

crash site before the retrieval. We don't. I wish we had a photograph of the bodies.

375

00:38:58,260 --> 00:39:02,820

I wish we had the bodies, you know, but we don't have any of these things. What we have

376

00:39:02,820 --> 00:39:08,060

is as many hundreds of witnesses.

377

00:39:08,060 --> 00:39:12,860

Some believe the continued spinning of the Roswell myth is nothing more than a way to

378

00:39:12,860 --> 00:39:17,700

make a buck.

379

00:39:17,700 --> 00:39:24,060

And then it expands into a media feeding frenzy and that's the bottom line. The bottom line

380

00:39:24,060 --> 00:39:26,300

is the green bottom line, period.

381

00:39:27,300 --> 00:39:33,100

It's put Roswell on the map for one thing. We're averaging over 200,000 people a year

382

00:39:33,100 --> 00:39:38,500

that are coming. 86% of the people come to Roswell to come and see this museum. And that's

383

00:39:38,500 --> 00:39:43,380

a lot of people, you know.

384

00:39:43,380 --> 00:39:48,140

But people still remain firmly divided over the truth about the Roswell incident, which

385

00:39:48,140 --> 00:39:53,780

has nevertheless earned its place in history.

386

00:39:53,780 --> 00:39:59,140

We looked back in 100 years from now and let's say some social historian decides to

387

00:39:59,140 --> 00:40:03,860

write a history of the second half of 20th century America and some of the unusual things

388

00:40:03,860 --> 00:40:09,180

that people believe. I think Roswell will be up in the top 10 of the myths of America

389

00:40:09,180 --> 00:40:14,900

and the Cold War as a classic example of a mass hysteria and sort of an urban legend

390

00:40:14,900 --> 00:40:20,260

that gets told of the fears and anxieties that Americans had during the Cold War wrapped

391

00:40:20,260 --> 00:40:27,260

around all this new and exciting NASA science fiction culture that we lived in at that time.

392

00:40:50,260 --> 00:40:51,160

See?