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

During the Cold War, top secret military facilities appeared to be magnets for UFO sightings.

2

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

Why?

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00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:15,000

You've got this apparent interest in our technology.

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

Is it the Soviets or is it something else?

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

The fact that it's unexplained doesn't mean it's extraterrestrial.

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

It just means that you just means unidentified.

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

Declassified military documents reveal stunning eyewitness reports.

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

It appears to be a beam coming down to the ground.

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

But is that enough to prove anything?

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00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:38,000

Eyewitness testimony isn't all that reliable.

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

And in fact, in science, it's about the worst kind of evidence possible.

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00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:44,000

Damn it, what are they playing at?

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00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:46,000

Stop, stop, stop, stop, stop!

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00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:48,000

The speculation continues.

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00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:50,000

It's kind of the British Roswell.

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00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Could it have been extraterrestrial?

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

I can't rule that out.

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

Was it paranoia-fueled misperception, hoax, or truly unknown?

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

Unidentified flying objects.

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,000

They've been reported in our skies for decades.

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:11,000

Thousands of UFO sightings have been documented in official government files.

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00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Most have logical, scientific explanations.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:19,000

Yet some cases remain unexplained, classified, unidentified.

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:25,000

Can newly released files reveal the truth behind these UFO encounters?

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:31,000

Christmas night, 1980.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:37,000

Security personnel on a NATO Air Force base notice something is wrong.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:44,000

100 miles northeast of London, two RAF bases sit side by side.

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,000

Woodbridge and bent waters.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:52,000

They are separated by a wooded area known as Rendlesham Forest.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:57,000

During the Cold War, the British bases are operated by the U.S. Air Force.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:06,000

Airman First Class John Burroughs and Sergeant Bud Steffens are patrolmen of the Air Force Police.

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Sergeant Steffens, who was driving the vehicle, noticed some strange lights in the forest.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:16,000

According to their report, this is how the night unfolds.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:19,000

There were strange, like, white lights.

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:24,000

The two patrolmen head outside of the base into the adjoining forest to investigate.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:32,000

When Burroughs gets out of the car, he immediately notices something unusual.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:35,000

There was like a static electricity in the air.

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00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:38,000

Something just didn't feel right.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:42,000

He says, yeah, let's get out of here. Let's get back up to the gate.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:46,000

Burroughs and Steffens head back to the base.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:49,000

They need authorization before they can investigate further.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:53,000

I jumped out, went into the gate shack and picked up the phone.

43

00:02:54,000 --> 00:03:00,000

The shift commander got confirmation that something was over the area that disappeared off of radar.

44

00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:08,000

Woodbridge Central Security Command alerts the Suffolk Police that troops are investigating what they call a UFO.

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:14,000

This is the beginning of a three-night stretch of strange events.

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00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:23,000

Staff Sergeant Jim Peniston and Airman Edward Cabansag are assigned to join Burroughs.

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:28,000

Their orders investigate unidentified lights in Rendlesham Forest.

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00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:34,000

As we were driving down, you could still see the light in the forest.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:39,000

We eventually got to the point where the truck couldn't go any further and we stopped.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:48,000

We dismounted a vehicle, the three of us.

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00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:55,000

We followed the lights into the forest so the adrenaline was pumping and we just spread out.

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:02,000

More than 30 years later, John Burroughs retraces his steps in Rendlesham Forest.

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

This is where Sergeant Peniston and myself and Airman Cabansag were.

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:16,000

We came up over the burn.

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:23,000

All of a sudden, there was this whole area.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:29,000

This whole area was lit up almost like daylight.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,000

And then that's when we hit the ground.

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:42,000

Burroughs, Peniston and Cabansag don't know what they've just seen.

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:52,000

But their entire story is nothing more than a story, compelling but not supported by any hard evidence.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:58,000

UFO sightings are by definition unidentified, so we don't know what they are.

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00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:03,000

Dr. Roger Launius is an Associate Director at the National Air and Space Museum.

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00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:13,000

Many times, we tend to leap to conclusions about these sorts of things and clearly they can be any number of things.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:20,000

But given the military sensitivity of the area, the Rendlesham story triggered an investigation.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:26,000

Early the next morning, base personnel and local police went to the area of the sighting.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:31,000

They combed the scene and reported three strange indentations in the soil.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:37,000

In the Rendlesham Forest, which is near some British air bases, I've actually been there,

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:40,000

there were claims that they had found something strange going on.

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

There were lights in the sky, maybe aircraft, maybe people touched them, maybe they didn't touch them.

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00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:51,000

Seth Shostak is the lead astronomer for the SETI Institute, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:54,000

It's kind of the British Roswell.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:06:02,000

Like the Roswell incident in America, Shostak thinks the Rendlesham Forest incident in Britain has

been built into a legend that is overtaken logic.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:08,000

There seems to be a pretty strong connection between military bases and UFO activities,

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

as if the aliens have a lot of interest in our military facilities.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

They're buzzing our silos or something like that.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:17,000

Doesn't make any sense to me.

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00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:22,000

Any society that could come here is, you know, hundreds, maybe thousands of years more advanced than we are.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:27,000

Their interest in our military sounds like me spending all my time going back to the Roman Empire

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:30,000

and looking at the places where they make their spears.

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:37,000

Despite Shostak's skepticism, he looks for alien civilizations for a living.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:42,000

The SETI Institute uses a large array of radio dishes to scan the sky.

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:46,000

We can certainly see space from Earth, but can we hear it?

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:56,000

Our project SETI is designed to find out if there's anybody out there in space that's not just alive, not just biology, but intelligent.

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00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:01,000

So we try and eavesdrop on radio signals that they might be broadcasting our way.

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:08,000

No matter what we think the chances might be, we don't know how many societies are out there waiting to be found.

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00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:15,000

Shostak is an astronomer, but also an ambassador of sorts. He is in constant demand for media interviews.

86

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:17,000

So where are you looking at the moment?

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00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Well, at the moment we still look at the nearby stars that are pretty much like the sun.

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

Shostak knows that one of the fundamental questions of humanity is, who else is out there?

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:37,000

That question has created a universe of stories, books, TV shows, movies that show the infinite creativity of the human imagination.

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:47,000

But while the search for aliens is fascinating to ponder, Shostak wants it to be fundamentally rooted in science, not stories.

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00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:50,000

Look, I'm not against mysterious phenomena.

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:58,000

You know, this idea, and you hear this a lot, particularly from people who are convinced that UFOs represent alien visitation.

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00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:04,000

You scientists are so close-minded, you won't look at this evidence. You don't like the idea of mysteries.

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00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:10,000

Well, that's crazy. That's exactly what scientists are interested in. Of course we're interested in mysteries.

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00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:18,000

So the only question is, is there really a mystery here, or is it something that in fact if you looked at it deeply, you would find that, well, there actually isn't any mystery.

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00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:22,000

It's just a bunch of phenomena that are perfectly prosaic.

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00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:32,000

But some thought the phenomena of UFO sightings at nuclear facilities deserved more investigation.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:38,000

In the early 1990s, Nick Pope was an employee of the British government's Ministry of Defense.

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

One of his duties was to investigate UFO phenomena and determine any potential threats to national defense.

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00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:53,000

The vast majority of sightings were easily explainable, but a few remain riddles to Nick Pope.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:04,000

During my time on the Ministry of Defense's UFO project, it was clear to me that the Rendlesham Forest incident was Britain's most significant and compelling UFO case.

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00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:12,000

More than a decade after the sighting, he investigated the Rendlesham files, including the theory that something landed.

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00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:16,000

Though no photos of any landing evidence have ever surfaced.

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00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:22,000

The three indentations when plotted out formed a triangle shape.

105

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:29,000

What is this object? Is it the Soviets or is it something else?

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:41,000

It is 1980. World politics is dominated by two competing superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union.

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00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:45,000

And the fault line between them runs through the heart of Europe.

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:56,000

On the English North Sea coast, the twin bases Woodbridge and Bentwaters are within striking distance if the Soviets invade Western allies.

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00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:03,000

So any report of a violation of NATO airspace would be taken very seriously.

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00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:16,000

I think that the Cold War is probably responsible for a lot of our attitude towards UFOs because after the Second World War, we were worried about, of course, bombers from the Soviet Union.

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:20,000

So watching the skies was something that you had to do for survival.

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

Everybody was worried about this threat from above.

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:29,000

And I think that that did influence our attitude toward unknown objects seen in the skies.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:38,000

Less than a week after their unusual experience, burrows, peniston and caban sag were required to write statements.

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00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:43,000

Detailed witness statements were taken from the key participants.

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:51,000

These declassified documents from the US Air Force Archives are first person accounts of the events from that night.

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:11:02,000

The whole area just turned white. We all hit the ground, I would have been in the center, Edward would have been to my right, Jim would have been to my left.

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00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:08,000

The eyewitnesses were instructed to sketch their version of events.

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00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:12,000

I also drew what the object looked like to me, how I perceived it.

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00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:18,000

Red light, sunlight, had white light coming out from underneath it and blue lights mixed in with it.

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00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:24,000

The three statements were consistent, blue, red, white and yellow lights.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:32,000

Sergeant Peniston's statement includes his judgment that the object was definitely mechanical in nature.

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:38,000

Could this have been classified US technology in one way or another?

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00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:43,000

Author and UFO researcher Richard Dolan has studied the case in depth.

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00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:50,000

Could it have been a falling satellite like some people have said? No, I don't think it could at all have been a falling satellite. At all.

126

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:57,000

How does that explain what happened in the forest? The Russians? No, not really. I mean, there's just no evidence.

127

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

There's no reason to think that this was Russian technology.

128

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:08,000

Skeptics think this lack of evidence is okay as long as people don't try to fill the void with alien visitation theories.

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00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:11,000

Because we can't explain everything.

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00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:16,000

Michael Schermer is a science author and publisher of Skeptic Magazine.

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00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:25,000

What UFOlogists do, they take those handful of little anomalies like see, it wasn't Venus, it wasn't swamp gas, it wasn't, the Air Force wasn't there, so it has to be an alien.

132

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:29,000

No, it doesn't have to be anything, it can just be, I don't know what it is.

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00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Some believe the bizarre events at Bentwaters may have a simple explanation.

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00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:41,000

The mistaken observations of men in a situation of extreme stress.

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00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:49,000

During the 1980s, there was a heightened sense of that possibility of nuclear annihilation.

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Cold War tension may have influenced the perceptions of the men at Rendlesham.

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00:12:54,000 --> 00:13:00,000

One of the things that we've seen in the Cold War as it ebbed and flowed is sort of heightened awareness.

138

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:05,000

And I think when you have that heightened awareness, you tend to be more cautious and you see certain things.

139

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:10,000

And eyewitness reports in any environment are easily challenged.

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00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:22,000

Eyewitness reports are the backbone of our justice system, but as has been demonstrated many times, they are not necessarily what actually took place.

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:29,000

We got lights over Rendlesham Forest.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:34,000

For two more nights, the strange lights returned to the Twin Nato air bases near Rendlesham.

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00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:38,000

No documentation for the second night's sighting has ever surfaced.

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00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:44,000

The third night was different. This time, senior officers were involved.

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00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:49,000

Deputy Base Commander Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt was a first-hand witness.

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:56,000

He decided to go to the clearing where Burroughs and Peniston had had their encounter on the first night.

147

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:05,000

Halt's intention is to defuse this whole situation. Rumours about the UFO sightings have been sweeping the base.

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00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:10,000

So Halt wants to go out here and debunk this whole UFO nonsense.

149

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:16,000

While there is still no photographic evidence of that night, there is an audio recording.

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00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:23,000

Colonel Halt habitually carried with him a small handheld cassette recorder.

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00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:29,000

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

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00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:35,000

That night in Rendlesham Forest, Colonel Halt recorded a startling event in real time.

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00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:37,000

But was it real?

154

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:41,000

There is no doubt about it. This is weird.

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00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:50,000

Colonel Halt and his men are trying to identify the lights in Rendlesham Forest near two military bases.

156

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:54,000

We got lights over Rendlesham Forest. Anyone see it?

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00:14:55,000 --> 00:15:00,000

One reason for the extreme caution. The bases were rumoured to be hiding places for nuclear weapons.

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00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:04,000

There was absolutely no tolerance for a security breach.

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00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:13,000

There have been a number of allegations over the years that nuclear weapons were kept at Bent Waters and Orwood Bridge.

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00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:18,000

But it was not the first time UFOs were reported around secret nuclear facilities.

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00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:22,000

In the 1940s, Los Alamos was ground zero.

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00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:29,000

It was the real centre for US nuclear technology.

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00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:36,000

Los Alamos, New Mexico is the legendary birthplace of the atomic bomb.

164

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Here, the greatest minds of 20th century science crack the atom and unleash the power of nuclear fission.

165

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:52,000

An FBI document reveals one strange event that raised concern.

166

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:57,000

December 1948, University of New Mexico.

167

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:03,000

Astronomer Lincoln La Paz reports witnessing a green fireball from his lab in Albuquerque.

168

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:08,000

He triangulates his observations with other eyewitnesses.

169

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:12,000

He predicts it is heading towards Los Alamos.

170

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:17,000

An unknown object was tracked going at an unbelievable speed.

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00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:23,000

At one of America's most secret facilities, anything strange in the sky caused a reaction.

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00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:33,000

So out of caution and curiosity, the US government commissioned Dr. La Paz to study the phenomena at Los Alamos.

173

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:40,000

Other eyewitnesses agreed with La Paz, reporting that the object appeared as if controlled.

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00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Subsequent research and debate never fully explained the fireballs.

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00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Some thought it was a craft, others thought it was a natural phenomenon.

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00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:58,000

But all agreed it was mysterious at a time when mystery and tension ruled global politics.

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00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:02,000

During the Cold War, nuclear secrecy was the order of the day.

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00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:07,000

And he perceived security breach at a military facility was serious business.

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

Duc and cover.

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00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:15,000

Apprehension and sometimes paranoia pervaded both the armed forces and the general public.

181

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

Duc and cover under the table.

182

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:19,000

Then?

183

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:27,000

Such a mentality could have shaped perceptions of any UFO eyewitnesses in 1940s Los Alamos or 1980s Great Britain.

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00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:36,000

At Rendlesham Forest, Sergeant Jim Peniston reported something he believed to be a threat to the world.

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00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:39,000

He was definitely mechanical in nature.

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00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:47,000

Some thought that an entity, foreign or alien, was spying.

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00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:55,000

If nuclear weapons were secretly stored at Bentwater's and Woodbridge bases,

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00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:01,000

the heightened secrecy and watchfulness could have caused an overreaction to a strange phenomenon.

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00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:05,000

But the story was about to get even stranger.

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

On the third night of the incident, Colonel Charles Halt led a group into the woods, tape recorder in hand.

191

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:19,000

There is no question whatsoever about the authenticity of this tape.

192

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:23,000

But there are many mysteries about the story on the tape.

193

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:26,000

Nick Pope thinks the men did see something.

194

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:34,000

This audio tape is a key piece of evidence and documents exactly what Halt and the other men saw.

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00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:44,000

Halt's team came equipped with Geiger counters to detect anomalous radiation levels.

196

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:50,000

For abrasion or something in the ground where the pine needles were all pushed back and we'll be getting a high-yack reading.

197

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:53,000

So there's a positive after-effect? Yes, there is.

198

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Halt and his men observed damage to the trees at the suspected landing site.

199

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

Looking directly overhead, one can see an open tree across some freshly broken pine branches underground underneath.

200

00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:15,000

But also there seem to be burn marks, scorch marks on the sides of some of the trees around the clearing.

201

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:29,000

There are these peaks in radiation levels in the three indentations and on the faces of the trees.

202

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:36,000

And at that point it becomes a reality for Halt because somebody calls out,

203

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Sir, it's back. Look there, through the trees.

204

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:01,000

Halt's team moved forward.

205

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:04,000

They really don't know what to make of this thing.

206

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:13,000

But there's a point where they realise it's actually coming closer.

207

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:15,000

And it's like, it's coming this way.

208

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

You listen to that tape, you can hear the tension and the fear in those men's voices.

209

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:36,000

It starts off as just a light in the distance.

210

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:51,000

Was this communication? Was this a weapon? Was this a warning? What was this?

211

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:55,000

The story of the mysterious light created a lot of fascinating questions,

212

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:58,000

but it cannot create much of a scientific case.

213

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:03,000

This is a great story, it's fascinating, but we know from research that, you know,

214

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:08,000

eyewitnesses, counts are not reliable, mind's not any better than yours.

215

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:13,000

So we have to actually have physical evidence or else we don't really have a case.

216

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

There's this fascination amongst ufologists that the higher the rank you are in the military,

217

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:28,000

the better you are at perceiving things.

218

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:30,000

But what they're looking for is credibility.

219

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:34,000

And somehow the general has more credibility than the sergeant

220

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:37,000

who has more credibility than the average citizen standing there.

221

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:41,000

But in reality, to scientists, it doesn't make any difference.

222

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:46,000

Credible or not, when stories are similar, they become connected.

223

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:53,000

UFO researchers compared the Rendlesham story with others like it, including one from America.

224

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:58,000

So it's late October 1975, it's late at night, you're at Loring Air Force Base, northern Maine,

225

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:03,000

and an unknown something is being tracked coming toward the base.

226

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:07,000

Loring was one of over 50 strategic air command bases.

227

00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:12,000

Most had nuclear weapons, few at any UFO sightings,

228

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:15,000

but when they did, UFO researchers took notice.

229

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:27,000

A report from that night states that the unidentified object was at an altitude of 150 feet

230

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:30,000

and was sighted near the weapons storage area.

231

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:33,000

The sighting lasted almost two hours.

232

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:35,000

Identify yourself, over.

233

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:41,000

But when a National Guard helicopter attempted to intercept it, the pilot saw nothing.

234

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:45,000

Despite the report that it hovered over the Air Force Base for two hours,

235

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:49,000

it was never intercepted, filled, or photographed.

236

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:55,000

It's reported again the next night at the exact same time.

237

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:03,000

So you've got this case where this something comes in, it hangs out for a certain period of time and then it goes away.

238

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:05,000

And again, this is a pattern.

239

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:11,000

UFO investigators were drawing connections between the sightings in America and Britain

240

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:14,000

and saying that nuclear weapons were the bait.

241

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:26,000

We've got this apparent interest by whoever is behind this phenomenon in our technology.

242

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:31,000

While these sightings were compelling, they were not abnormal.

243

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:36,000

UFOs were reported no more frequently at nuclear sites than they were anywhere else.

244

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:41,000

But military security and sensitivity gave them an air of espionage.

245

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:44,000

We've got lights over Rendlesham Forest.

246

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Even without hard evidence, it could have been a dangerous breach of security.

247

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:53,000

Officials had to assume the threat was real.

248

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:58,000

And for one eyewitness, it is about to get personal.

249

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:02,000

It's coming this way.

250

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:04,000

It is definitely coming this way.

251

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:06,000

It should be.

252

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:07,000

It should be.

253

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:08,000

It should be.

254

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:09,000

There is no doubt about it.

255

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

This is weird.

256

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:15,000

This is the third night of sightings near Bentwater's Air Base in 1980.

257

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

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt is trying to get to the bottom of the mystery with a tape recorder in hand.

258

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:33,000

The Air Force cordons off the forest to military personnel only.

259

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

Off-duty patrolman John Burroughs, who witnessed the first night's events, rushes to the scene.

260

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:45,000

When I got out here, I found out there was already a group of people out in the forest doing an investigation.

261

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:48,000

Burroughs requests permission to join Halt's investigation.

262

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:56,000

Myself and one other airman were allowed to proceed forward out into the field and meet up with Colonel Halt's party.

263

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Halt and his men are on their way back to the base to report what they've seen.

264

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:06,000

When I met up with Colonel Halt, he turned and pointed out towards what would have been Bentwater's base.

265

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:11,000

And at that point, I could see a blue light which appeared to be flying around in the sky.

266

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:17,000

With Halt's permission, Burroughs and Sergeant Adrian Bestinza move forward.

267

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:21,000

What happens next is the story they came back with.

268

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:27,000

As the two men move toward the object, Sergeant Bestinza falls to the ground.

269

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:31,000

He felt something actually pushed him down to the ground and held him to the ground.

270

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:35,000

I looked up and it appeared like the object was almost on top of us at that point.

271

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Burroughs is mesmerized by the intense light.

272

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:44,000

Everything seemed like we were in slow motion.

273

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:47,000

And the next thing I know, the object was gone.

274

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:53,000

For John Burroughs, what happens next is a total mystery.

275

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:59,000

I have no memory from how I got back from the field all the way up till Sunday night,

276

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:03,000

which would have been about 14 hours where I don't remember how I got home or where I was.

277

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:12,000

According to Burroughs, Colonel Halt summoned him and the other eyewitnesses to file their reports.

278

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:19,000

When we were asked to write the report, I was told just to write a brief summary on the first night while we went out there.

279

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:24,000

Colonel Halt wanted this whole situation to go away.

280

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:28,000

He wanted to forget the whole thing and put it behind him.

281

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:34,000

Halt describes this whole subject as being not career enhancing.

282

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:41,000

Burroughs claims that Halt ordered him to limit his report to the first night and omit the rest,

283

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:47,000

only Halt reported on the third night, which remains the lone official document describing those events.

284

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:59,000

The Halt memo is entitled Unexplained Lights, but clearly goes on to describe something which goes over and above just lights in the sky.

285

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:08,000

The low key title is I think a deliberate attempt already at the outset to try and downplay this incident.

286

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:14,000

Halt speculates that Halt's report could be describing an extraordinary event,

287

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:21,000

but others think it may be a case of extraordinary imagination in reaction to a very ordinary light source.

288

00:27:22,000 --> 00:27:28,000

My feeling is that their original source of UFO was the Norford Nest Lighthouse.

289

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:34,000

Retired U.S. Navy Submariner Tim Printy is an amateur astronomer and UFO skeptic.

290

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:38,000

The lighthouse was in the direction that the airman went.

291

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:44,000

The Orford Lighthouse is located six miles directly east of Rendlesham Forest.

292

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:50,000

They went out the East Gate, they went into the woods, they ended up in a field,

293

00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:54,000

and in that field you can see the Orford Lighthouse out in the distance.

294

00:27:55,000 --> 00:27:58,000

Police documents back Printy's hypothesis.

295

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:01,000

During their investigation they state,

296

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:06,000

the only lights visible to the attending officers were those visible from the Orford Lighthouse.

297

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:09,000

I saw yellow tangent too.

298

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:15,000

And the only physical evidence of the night, Halt's audio tape appears to support Printy's theory.

299

00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:20,000

On the tape that Colonel Halt made, you get a time sequence on there.

300

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

And every five seconds that's the same rotation rate in which the lighthouse and Orford Nest flashes its light.

301

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:35,000

On the recording, Colonel Halt's reactions appear to line up with the five second interval of the rotating light.

302

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:39,000

Straight ahead, in between, there it is again.

303

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:43,000

Watch straight ahead off my flash back there.

304

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:44,000

There it is.

305

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:45,000

I see it too.

306

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Unfortunately, the Orford Lighthouse is now decommissioned, so no further analysis can be done.

307

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:57,000

The stories of Halt and Burroughs may never be fully explained.

308

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:02,000

But for another eyewitness, the story goes far beyond strange lights.

309

00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:08,000

Larry Warren is one of the most controversial figures in the Rendlesham story.

310

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:13,000

He was an Air Force security specialist at the time of the UFO event.

311

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:18,000

On the night in question I was involved, that is the night Charles Halt made his audio tape.

312

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:24,000

Larry Warren has returned to RAF Bentwaters for the first time in over 30 years.

313

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:26,000

Wow.

314

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:32,000

His account of what happened on the third night is far stranger than anything Burroughs and Halt have said so far.

315

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:36,000

We're at the end of the Bentwaters runway.

316

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:42,000

On this runway, on that night, Warren was on guard at the east end of Bentwaters base.

317

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:47,000

We got lights over Rendlesham Forest.

318

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:51,000

I started to hear the talk about lights being seen in the direction of Woodbridge.

319

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:56,000

Tell you say tell visual confirmation and again the five lights over Forest.

320

00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:01,000

I get a call from central security control saying deactivate your post.

321

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:04,000

Lieutenant England is going to be pulling up to your post soon.

322

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:10,000

So within 10 minutes I had three other individuals in the back of the secured police truck.

323

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:18,000

Warren realizes they are driving into Rendlesham Forest towards the east gate of Woodbridge base.

324

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

And that's where everything, you know, took a turn for me.

325

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:33,000

Warren arrives at operations base camp and is immediately ordered to investigate the forest.

326

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:37,000

I saw lights out of distance.

327

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:41,000

At first, nothing seems out of the ordinary to Warren.

328

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:47,000

Everything was normal. I thought it was an exercise, a training exercise.

329

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,000

But it got weird and it got strange.

330

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:59,000

Larry claims the bizarre phenomena that he saw was only the beginning of a mystery that became deeper and much darker.

331

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:08,000

December 28th, 1980, the third night of UFO sightings outside Bentwaters airbase.

332

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:15,000

U.S. Air Force Security Specialist Larry Warren is cautiously making his way through Rendlesham Forest.

333

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:24,000

This is the middle of the night now. Two nights after the initial contact.

334

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:29,000

Warren and the security detail are directed to a clearing in the woods.

335

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:36,000

There was a massive static electric charge in the forest. You can feel the hair on your arms.

336

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:39,000

It was an energy thing that was all over you.

337

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:43,000

Warren claims to have entered the clearing.

338

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:51,000

In this field was a mist on the ground. It was 50 foot in diameter. It wasn't hovering above it. It was like a fog.

339

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:55,000

His recollections go beyond anyone else's reports.

340

00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,000

The cameras now would be behind me off to the right, right over here.

341

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:03,000

Filming this thing, this glowing fog.

342

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:07,000

That was the axis where the commanders came in, right over here.

343

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:12,000

Above that stand of trees, a red light appeared.

344

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:18,000

And this red light came in and it did a downward arc over this field.

345

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:22,000

20 feet above, this mist on the ground, and detonated.

346

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:26,000

And exploded right instantly.

347

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:32,000

And it flashed so bright that it was a moment of blindness.

348

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

And then I was tapped out on the shoulder, head back to the vehicles.

349

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:43,000

That night changed my life forever.

350

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:49,000

I was one way when I got here. I was a total different person when I left this field.

351

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:55,000

Warren's claims get even stranger. He says he saw extraterrestrials.

352

00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:00,000

But when people interpret strange lights as spaceships, or even aliens themselves,

353

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

skeptics ask for more than a story. They ask for evidence.

354

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:12,000

With no physical evidence, really, accounts of aliens or any other activity like that

355

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:16,000

is automatically one that many people will be suspicious of.

356

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Scientists have studied how our imaginations can create memories

357

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:23,000

we sincerely think are real.

358

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:29,000

In the absence of facts, people are hardwired to supply an explanation

359

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:32,000

for something that they've seen, heard, or experienced.

360

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

Anybody can make conjectures about anything, and they do.

361

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:42,000

It takes extra effort. It's a lot of work to actually devise a method to find out if it's actually true.

362

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:47,000

Warren wrote a book detailing his experience.

363

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:51,000

But he remains a long voice in the Rendlesham Forest incident.

364

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:55,000

No known document verifies his account.

365

00:33:56,000 --> 00:34:01,000

No other eyewitnesses reported anything like it, and some of them, doubt Warren, was even there.

366

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:06,000

No footage from the cameras he said were nearby has ever surfaced.

367

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:12,000

No photographs. No traces of a craft or residue from any explosions.

368

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:18,000

There's no evidence that anything landed anywhere, let alone a spacecraft with passengers.

369

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:23,000

But Larry Warren stands by his story, proof or no proof.

370

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:32,000

Rendlesham is the most famous UFO incident near a weapons facility, but it is not the only one.

371

00:34:33,000 --> 00:34:38,000

Five years before, America experienced its own wave of weirdness.

372

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:48,000

All through late October and early November of 1975, there were a number of US bases that were subject to violations of airspace by unknown objects.

373

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:50,000

And one of them was Wurtsmouth Air Force Base.

374

00:34:54,000 --> 00:35:00,000

According to the report, a tower guard claimed to see an unidentified craft descending over the base.

375

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:04,000

A military airplane was dispatched to investigate.

376

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:13,000

And what ensued is this very bizarre cat and mouse chase.

377

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:18,000

The people operating the aircraft are thinking, are we following one object or two objects, and they couldn't really tell.

378

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:27,000

When military rank and file saw strange things during the Cold War, it's not surprising that officials tried to find out what they were.

379

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:34,000

But at that time, a military base may not have been the best place for a transparent scientific investigation.

380

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

The Cold War was defined by classified programs, top secret tests, and trust no one's security procedures.

381

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:47,000

Strange sightings at the most sensitive bases caused alarm, and perhaps confusion.

382

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:59,000

Certainly, Cold War anxieties about secrets in general, particularly nuclear weapons, would probably play into this in the sense that nobody actually knows everything that's going on.

383

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:08,000

The higher up you go in terms of military secrets, government secrets, the less you actually know about what other people know, and they don't know about what you know.

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00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:13,000

And consequently, where there are secrets, well, who knows what could be going on.

385

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

The thing is that a lot of things do happen near military bases involving aircraft that you don't know about because they're not landing at your local airport.

386

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

So I think that the connection is mostly bad, if not entirely bad.

387

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:30,000

But at the time, reports of anything unusual were taken seriously.

388

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:37,000

The sightings near the British bases involved some American personnel, and that drew a visit from an American general.

389

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:44,000

The most senior United States Air Force officer in Europe personally flew in to be briefed about this.

390

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:59,000

In a declassified memo dated February 16th, 1981, a senior RAF officer stated that General Charles Gabriel, commander-in-chief of the United States Air Force in Europe, flew in to bent waters.

391

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:11,000

The fact that General Gabriel visited the base and was briefed on this incident shows that this was taken seriously at the very highest levels within the US military.

392

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:16,000

General Gabriel could have had a perfectly rational reason for being on base.

393

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Tim Printy has an opposing theory.

394

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:30,000

There may have been a concern on his part as to his personnel actually going out into British territory on unauthorized visits in uniform.

395

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:36,000

People are going to be concerned about that. Why is the US military walking around in my backyard?

396

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Something bizarre was happening at Bent Waters.

397

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:41,000

It's coming this way.

398

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:46,000

And Colonel Halt is about to come forward 30 years later.

399

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:49,000

It's a real...

400

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:53,000

The strange phenomena at Bent Waters Air Base...

401

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:55,000

We got lights over Rendleship Forest.

402

00:37:55,000 --> 00:38:01,000

...have been described as everything from a UFO landing to the flashes of a nearby lighthouse.

403

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:07,000

Rank and file men like Burroughs and Warren continue to recount their version of events.

404

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:11,000

But what about the officer in command on the third night?

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00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:18,000

Colonel Halt maintains public silence about his experiences and has refused television interviews for nearly a decade.

406

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:22,000

Nick Pope interviewed Colonel Halt privately on this subject.

407

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:27,000

Halt felt strongly that something unexplained happened that night.

408

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:36,000

Colonel Halt felt extremely angry and frustrated by the way in which unmarked aircraft were flying in.

409

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Finally, Halt ended his silence.

410

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:50,000

In 2010, he signed a notarized affidavit offering his recollection of the night he had recorded on audio tape 30 years earlier.

411

00:38:54,000 --> 00:39:00,000

This is a little funny, but there is no doubt about it. This is weird.

412

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:08,000

Halt states that he believes the objects he saw were extraterrestrial in origin.

413

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:12,000

That looks like a beam coming down to the ground.

414

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:14,000

This is unreal.

415

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:19,000

Why would the military try to downplay these mysterious events at the time?

416

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:25,000

It may have been for a very timely reason. Global tension with the Soviet Union.

417

00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:29,000

We're in the war operations center at Bentwaters.

418

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:35,000

In the event of a nuclear war or incident, this room would have played a key role.

419

00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:45,000

The base's war room infrastructure signaled just how much the Cold War drove the mindset at Bentwaters and could have driven people to misperceptions.

420

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:52,000

The months leading up to the Rendlesham Forest incident were an unstable period of the Cold War.

421

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:57,000

The Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan just one year earlier.

422

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:06,000

They were also considering military intervention in Poland, where a growing solidarity movement threatened the Soviet grip on power.

423

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:11,000

The U.S. had boycotted the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

424

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Then, Ronald Reagan was elected president on a platform of strengthening the military to better face down Soviet aggression.

425

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:25,000

The delicate balance between superpowers was tenoring dangerously.

426

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:32,000

And any base with nuclear weapons felt the tension.

427

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:36,000

But did Bentwaters have nuclear weapons?

428

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

At that time, governments did not typically disclose where they were storing them.

429

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:46,000

When asked directly, Nick Pope refuses to speak openly.

430

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:54,000

I served for 21 years in the Ministry of Defense, and I signed the Official Secrets Act on my very first day.

431

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

It binds me for life. I must neither confirm nor deny any of the stories and rumors about nuclear weapons here.

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00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:08,000

But at the time, Larry Warren suspected what history has since revealed.

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00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:13,000

We're at the entrance to Hot Row, right here.

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00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:21,000

And it's called a Hot Row because of radiac material and the ordnance, nuclear ordnance, so it's hot nuke.

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00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:26,000

Frankly, no one would talk about the nukes here on the base or anything.

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00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:35,000

Of course, the military didn't announce the location of its weapons, but for those working on the base, it was hardly a secret.

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00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:44,000

I worked in here one night as a shadow for a cop, and I had a lot explained to me about what was here.

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00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:48,000

We had a huge backline storage of tactical nuclear weapons.

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00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:57,000

A report from the Environmental Watchdog Natural Resources Defense Council supports Larry Warren's claim of nuclear weapons at Bentwaters.

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00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:11,000

Their research suggests that until 1986, RAF Bentwaters was a storage facility for nuclear bombs with a capacity of 100 nuclear warheads.

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00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:17,000

Despite the government's neither confirmed nor deny stance on the nuclear rumors,

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00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:24,000

Lord Hill Norton, a former chief of the Defense Star for the Five Star Admiral, has been rather more outspoken.

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00:42:27,000 --> 00:42:32,000

In a 1997 letter asking for an investigation into Colonel Halt's claims,

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00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:37,000

Hill Norton appeared to confirm that Bentwaters was nuclear armed.

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00:42:39,000 --> 00:42:50,000

Ministers and the Ministry of Defense in particular saying that nothing that took place that December night in Suffolk is of defense interest. It simply isn't true.

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00:42:51,000 --> 00:42:58,000

For Hill Norton, the events at the Twin Bases were an embarrassing breach of military security at a secret weapons facility.

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00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:04,000

But whether that breach was real or imagined, human or alien remains in the realm of opinion.

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00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:11,000

Colonel Charles Halt is on record saying he believes the objects were extraterrestrial in origin.

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00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:15,000

There is no doubt about it. This is weird.

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00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:21,000

Richard Dolan believes the bases were hiding nukes, which could have attracted interest from somewhere.

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00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:32,000

Look, if you're an intelligence that's monitoring the Earth and you're seeing the native species blow up one nuclear bomb after another, after another, after another in these tests all over the planet,

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00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:38,000

you might find it interesting and you might even be a little bit concerned about what these natives are doing.

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00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:40,000

Tim Prenti has doubts about them both.

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00:43:41,000 --> 00:43:50,000

The energy released in a nuclear explosion while very devastating locally is relatively insignificant when you're observing from space.

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00:43:50,000 --> 00:43:53,000

If you're on the moon, you probably wouldn't even notice.

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00:43:53,000 --> 00:44:00,000

Radiation falls off with distance. In other words, the further you are away, the fainter it gets.

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00:44:00,000 --> 00:44:10,000

Many scientists point out that the power of nuclear weapons would be trivial to hypothetical aliens that have mastered faster-than-light space travel to get to Earth in the first place.

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00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:16,000

The UFO nuclear connection is tempting to make, but it is not supported by statistics.

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00:44:16,000 --> 00:44:21,000

UFO sightings were no more common at nuclear facilities than anywhere else.

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00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:31,000

But when bizarre happenings were reported near such facilities, a lack of evidence created a vacuum and people will always try to fill it up with theories.

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00:44:31,000 --> 00:44:36,000

UFO as a phenomenon is a fascinating area to look at from a cultural perspective.

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00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:41,000

We love the things that are unexplained and seemingly unexplainable.

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00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:47,000

Remember always that the fact that it's unexplained doesn't mean it's extraterrestrial.

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00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:51,000

It just means that you just means unidentified. That's it.

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00:44:51,000 --> 00:44:57,000

It isn't good enough to just tell me you think it's true. I mean, I'm going to ask you, so what are the data? What's the evidence?

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00:44:58,000 --> 00:45:05,000

In fact, if the evidence were better, you'd have thousands and thousands of academics beavering away on this problem.

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00:45:05,000 --> 00:45:09,000

I mean, there's nothing that would be more interesting than the show that we're being visited.

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00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:16,000

I'm not against the idea. I would love if it was true. I think it would be the most spectacular discovery of all time.

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00:45:16,000 --> 00:45:23,000

Certainly. But the continued lack of evidence for visitations here is a sign that they probably haven't come here.

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00:45:24,000 --> 00:45:32,000

Rumors flew and stories grew. Over 30 years later, it's still fascinating, but time usually reveals the truth.

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00:45:33,000 --> 00:45:40,000

It is possible to keep secrets for a few decades anyway. But at some point it comes out and we find

out what happened.

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00:45:40,000 --> 00:45:49,000

Never have we discovered, finally, once and for all, oh yes, there is an alien spacecraft. There it is. That has never happened.

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00:45:50,000 --> 00:45:59,000

Without evidence, there can be no proof. So the speculation continues and the sightings may forever remain unidentified.