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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,100

Roswell, New Mexico. It has become synonymous with UFOs and government secrecy. In 1947,

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00:00:11,100 --> 00:00:14,400

some say Roswell was visited by something we can't explain.

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00:00:14,400 --> 00:00:20,560

That it is not a weather balloon, nor an aircraft, nor a missile. It is something else.

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00:00:20,560 --> 00:00:26,200

In centers of classified government research, officials have always been quiet, which only

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00:00:26,200 --> 00:00:28,200

stokes the flames of conspiracy.

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00:00:28,200 --> 00:00:34,200

And I always felt that the government had not disclosed everything, that there was something

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00:00:34,200 --> 00:00:36,640

out there.

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00:00:36,640 --> 00:00:40,840

But with so little proof, people are looking for any scrap of evidence to support their

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00:00:40,840 --> 00:00:41,840

theories.

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00:00:41,840 --> 00:00:44,760

I've got it.

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00:00:44,760 --> 00:00:48,080

And Roswell continues to cash in on the legend.

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00:00:48,080 --> 00:00:51,120

You would never have heard of Roswell if it weren't for the fact that aliens are claimed

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00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:56,160

to have decided this was the place on earth that they wanted to visit the most.

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00:00:56,160 --> 00:01:01,640

Now, with 50-year-old military programs finally coming to light, will it explain the truth

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00:01:01,640 --> 00:01:04,240

or just explode the myth?

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00:01:04,240 --> 00:01:10,120

The government did lie about what the crash debris in New Mexico was. We didn't find out

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00:01:10,120 --> 00:01:12,920

until recently what they were really doing.

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00:01:12,920 --> 00:01:19,240

The battle between fact and fiction continues in the desert today. Explore the shifting landscape

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00:01:19,240 --> 00:01:21,680

of Roswell.

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00:01:21,680 --> 00:01:26,960

Unidentified flying objects. They've been reported in our skies for decades. Thousands

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00:01:26,960 --> 00:01:33,120

of UFO sightings have been documented in official government files. Most have logical, scientific

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00:01:33,120 --> 00:01:39,880

explanations. Yet some cases remain unexplained, classified, unidentified. Can newly released

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00:01:39,880 --> 00:01:48,240

files reveal the truth behind these UFO encounters?

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00:01:48,240 --> 00:01:53,280

The story begins with a loud explosion over one of the least populated places in the United

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00:01:53,280 --> 00:02:03,560

States, the New Mexico Desert.

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00:02:03,560 --> 00:02:10,200

Rancher Mack Brazel is one of the area's few occupants. At daybreak, Brazel decides to head

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00:02:10,200 --> 00:02:15,480

out to investigate whatever made the sound.

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00:02:15,480 --> 00:02:23,160

Deep in the desert, Brazel reports finding an incredible scene. A huge debris field of

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00:02:23,160 --> 00:02:31,840

wreckage. Something reduced to pieces that can't be identified. Whatever it is, it will

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00:02:31,840 --> 00:02:43,120

become the crux of a controversy that for some will never die.

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00:02:43,120 --> 00:02:51,440

Brazel loads an assortment of pieces onto his truck. He drives to the nearest town, 75

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00:02:51,440 --> 00:02:58,640

miles southeast, which happens to be Roswell. The sheriff in Roswell is just as puzzled

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00:02:58,640 --> 00:03:05,080

by the wreckage as Brazel. He directs him to the local military base, home of the Army

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00:03:05,080 --> 00:03:12,360

Air 509th Bomber Group. The base intelligence officer is Major Jesse Marcell, who became

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00:03:12,360 --> 00:03:19,160

a critical player in the Roswell story. Jesse Marcell is the lead intelligence officer

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00:03:19,160 --> 00:03:27,440

of the 509th Bomber Group. Donald Schmidt has been researching the incident for 30 years.

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00:03:27,440 --> 00:03:33,880

He contacts his base commander, Colonel William Blanchard. Blanchard's impressed enough with

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00:03:33,880 --> 00:03:41,240

the material that he sends out not only Major Marcell, but also his head of counterintelligence,

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00:03:41,240 --> 00:03:52,600

Captain Sheridan Cabot. In the event it's something foreign. The three men pick through

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00:03:52,600 --> 00:04:00,480

the debris. Pieces of something they can only speculate on. It could very well be a downed

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00:04:00,480 --> 00:04:07,120

aircraft, but they don't know about any downed aircraft. Nothing's been reported. Marcell

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00:04:07,120 --> 00:04:12,640

and Cabot were baffled by the strange material, so they collect some pieces to take back to

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00:04:12,640 --> 00:04:19,400

the base. They believe it could have come from anywhere, including outer space, because

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00:04:19,400 --> 00:04:25,560

at that very moment, the nation is in the midst of a flying saucer frenzy. The thing

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00:04:25,560 --> 00:04:30,280

about Roswell is that it didn't happen in a vacuum. Richard Dolan is a UFO researcher

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00:04:30,280 --> 00:04:35,520

and author. It was in the midst of a very significant wave of flying saucer sightings

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00:04:35,520 --> 00:04:40,200

that were being reported over the whole western part of the United States. Around the same

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00:04:40,200 --> 00:04:45,560

time as the debris discovery near Roswell, a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold reported

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00:04:45,560 --> 00:04:51,800

a series of strange connected objects flying at high speed in Washington state. He described

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00:04:51,800 --> 00:04:58,480

a series of airplanes or aircraft of some kind that seemed to move like saucers skipping

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00:04:58,480 --> 00:05:04,440

on water. Michael Shermer is a science author and publisher of Skeptic Magazine. Halsey

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00:05:04,440 --> 00:05:09,520

Met was by saucer was they were acting like a saucer skipping on what not that they were

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00:05:09,520 --> 00:05:14,440

saucer shape, but somehow that got confabulated as oh, they were saucer shaped and all of

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00:05:14,440 --> 00:05:21,840

a sudden flying saucers. The media made headlines and the government took notice. They were

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00:05:21,840 --> 00:05:26,360

unknown when they're unknown that concerns the Air Force because the Air Force is responsible

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00:05:26,360 --> 00:05:31,600

for protecting the airspace the United States. Richard Weaver wrote the official U.S. Air

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00:05:31,600 --> 00:05:36,920

Force report about the Roswell incident. Something's flying around in there that we

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00:05:36,920 --> 00:05:41,040

don't know about it can't stop or can't identify, but it may be a threat to the security of

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00:05:41,040 --> 00:05:46,440

the United States. Arnold's sighting and the publicity that followed set off a wave of

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00:05:46,440 --> 00:05:53,600

others. People reported UFOs all over the U.S., Canada and Europe. Back at the Roswell

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00:05:53,600 --> 00:05:59,080

Army Air Base, Major Marcel Mayiff had flying saucers on his mind when he saw the crash

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00:05:59,160 --> 00:06:05,920

debris for the first time. So he reported that he may have found the debris of a crashed

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00:06:05,920 --> 00:06:12,160

flying saucer. Then his superior officer, Colonel Blanchard, issued a public statement

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00:06:12,160 --> 00:06:28,600

using that phrase and fueling a fire. At the peak of the flying saucer frenzy, the government

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00:06:28,600 --> 00:06:37,920

reported that it had one. Newspapers went crazy. But the next day, the Army held a press

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00:06:37,920 --> 00:06:44,720

conference and changed its story. Brigadier General Roger Ramey, Blanchard's superior

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00:06:44,720 --> 00:06:53,640

officer, said that the debris was of a crashed weather balloon. Major Marcel posed with

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00:06:53,640 --> 00:07:00,360

the material but did not speak. That story seemed plausible but not as exciting as a

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00:07:00,360 --> 00:07:07,800

flying saucer. So the Roswell incident faded away. For decades, it was completely forgotten.

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00:07:07,800 --> 00:07:14,360

In 1959, there was a report issued of the top 500 UFO sightings of all time. And Roswell

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00:07:14,360 --> 00:07:20,920

isn't even on the list. It's not even one of the most interesting top 500. And by 1980,

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:24,600

it's the most important thing that ever happened. Okay, how does that happen?

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00:07:26,760 --> 00:07:32,600

It happened because 30 years after the incident that few people even remembered, Jesse Marcel

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00:07:32,600 --> 00:07:38,280

gave an interview. One thing I was certain of, being familiar with all our activities, that it

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00:07:38,280 --> 00:07:44,680

was not a weather balloon, nor an aircraft, nor a missile. It was something else of which we didn't

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00:07:44,680 --> 00:07:50,120

know what it was. Marcel didn't believe the military's weather balloon story. Instead, he

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00:07:50,120 --> 00:07:56,040

recounted an incident full of mystery and a hint of conspiracy, including new details that raised

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00:07:56,040 --> 00:08:01,240

new questions. The newsmen saw very little of that particular, very small portion of it. They wanted

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00:08:01,240 --> 00:08:06,360

me to tell them about it and I couldn't say anything. And when a general came in, he told me

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00:08:06,360 --> 00:08:13,480

not to say anything that he would handle it. In the 1978 interview, Marcel also revealed that he

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00:08:13,480 --> 00:08:18,360

stopped home on the way back to the airbase to show his family the strange debris he had found.

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00:08:20,360 --> 00:08:27,960

Marcel also told this story to Don Schmidt. Two o'clock in the morning, Tuesday, July 8th,

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00:08:27,960 --> 00:08:34,520

Jesse Jr. He's growls from his sleep by his father. Jesse, I want to show you something. Come out to

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00:08:34,520 --> 00:08:43,640

the kitchen and all this unusual metal-like debris. A lot of it had a lot of little members

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00:08:43,640 --> 00:08:49,640

with symbols that, to me, are called hieroglyphics because I could not interpret them. It could not

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00:08:49,640 --> 00:08:57,080

be read. These little members could not be broken. We even tried making a dent in it with a 16-pound

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00:08:57,080 --> 00:09:05,240

sledgehammer. Still no dent in it. Marcel nicknamed one piece of the debris memory metal because it

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00:09:05,240 --> 00:09:14,040

appeared to retake its original shape no matter how he crumpled it. In 1980, Marcel's story appeared

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00:09:14,040 --> 00:09:21,800

in the National Enquirer, visible to everyone at the supermarket checkout counter. That was the spark

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00:09:21,800 --> 00:09:30,040

that lit a thousand conspiracy theories. Well, the Roswell incident in 1947 has taken on this

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00:09:30,120 --> 00:09:34,680

character as being kind of the genesis story of UFOs in the United States.

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00:09:36,760 --> 00:09:42,840

Dr. Roger Launius is from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. And it wasn't really until

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00:09:42,840 --> 00:09:49,960

the 80s and 90s that this began to take on this large cultural phenomenon. A cottage industry

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00:09:49,960 --> 00:09:57,400

began to take shape, fueled by old questions, new allegations, and the timeless art of making a buck.

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00:09:57,640 --> 00:10:05,000

Thirty years after the incident, an anonymous town suddenly becomes anonymous with alien secrets

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00:10:05,720 --> 00:10:13,320

and government conspiracies. There seems to be a general phenomenon in UFology actually,

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00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:16,360

in which there's some incident and then the whole thing fades.

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00:10:17,880 --> 00:10:23,240

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

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00:10:24,040 --> 00:10:28,440

Then somebody resurrects it and says, no, no, no. There was some sort of cover up or there was

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00:10:28,440 --> 00:10:33,400

information you didn't know about. I've interviewed some more people, whatever. Suddenly it comes out

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00:10:33,400 --> 00:10:38,520

of the shadows again with renewed vigor. This happens over and over again. It certainly happened

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00:10:38,520 --> 00:10:42,840

with Roswell. Roswell went away. It was a discredited story for a long time. And then people started

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00:10:42,840 --> 00:10:50,440

writing books. Many came forward with new allegations, building the Roswell incident into a modern myth.

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00:10:51,400 --> 00:10:56,600

Frankie Rose says her father was sent to the crash site as a firefighter.

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00:10:58,360 --> 00:11:01,320

They thought they were going to a crash site of an airplane,

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00:11:01,960 --> 00:11:06,920

but when they got out there, it was a flying saucer. She says her father gave her a piece

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00:11:06,920 --> 00:11:13,080

of metal from the crash, echoing the story of Jesse Marcell and his family from 40 years earlier.

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00:11:13,720 --> 00:11:20,680

It was a piece of material that was so soft that my dad could wad it up into his hand

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00:11:21,400 --> 00:11:29,160

and then drop it. It had no wrinkles at all. The matching stories could be a sign of accuracy

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00:11:29,160 --> 00:11:33,720

or a sign of one person's accounts seeping into another's decades later.

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00:11:34,440 --> 00:11:43,800

Tales like this fuel the Roswell legend, which has grown far beyond simple crash debris.

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00:11:45,480 --> 00:11:51,160

Among other beliefs are alien bodies hidden in a government warehouse. Their images are now

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00:11:51,160 --> 00:11:57,960

embedded in pop culture. The stories have grown more bizarre over time. Roswell itself is morphed.

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00:11:58,840 --> 00:12:06,360

It gets more mythical as you go on. New things keep coming up and new people keep coming forward

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00:12:06,360 --> 00:12:15,160

after all these years. It's a business now. The business continues to grow with the continuous

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00:12:15,160 --> 00:12:21,960

seeding of government conspiracy theories. I always felt that the government had not disclosed

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00:12:21,960 --> 00:12:27,000

everything, that there was something out there. Even New Mexico's former governor Bill Richardson

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00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:33,320

is suspicious when the government keeps quiet. Everything seemed to be classified. I would ask

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00:12:33,320 --> 00:12:39,160

questions. They'd say, what's classified? National security. I said, well, come on. I'm a member of

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00:12:39,160 --> 00:12:46,120

Congress. What do you know? What can you tell me? And the government would just stare blankly, say

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00:12:46,120 --> 00:12:53,080

nothing. When it comes to classified programs, most politicians accept some secrecy as part of the

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00:12:53,080 --> 00:13:00,440

deal. Sometimes the government has to lie to keep something secret. And so when UFOlogists say,

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00:13:00,440 --> 00:13:06,200

yeah, the government lies, it's like, well, yeah, duh. I mean, you just figured that out. I mean,

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00:13:06,200 --> 00:13:09,640

I mean, you've been paying attention. But the fact that they lie about this over here doesn't mean

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00:13:09,640 --> 00:13:14,920

they're lying about the thing you would like to be true. So if someone wants UFOs to be true,

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00:13:14,920 --> 00:13:19,000

a secret government offers a wide open window to endless speculation.

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00:13:19,400 --> 00:13:25,000

Some are putting their own Roswell theories to the test under the baking sun of the New Mexico

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:35,000

desert. The exact location of the 1947 crash site near Roswell, New Mexico is not marked on any map.

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00:13:36,200 --> 00:13:41,800

Rancher Mack Brazils family has kept the site a secret to avoid curious, uninvited visitors.

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00:13:42,360 --> 00:13:49,480

Only a select few claim to know where it is. And one of those people is UFO researcher Donald Schmidt.

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00:13:50,840 --> 00:13:55,800

Schmidt believes this is the scene of the Roswell crash and the debris field was secretly cleaned

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00:13:55,800 --> 00:14:04,920

out by the US military in 1947. Well, what we have during the course of two and a half to three days,

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00:14:05,240 --> 00:14:15,960

you had 50 to 60 men that came out as far as in trucks and they would line up shoulder to shoulder,

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00:14:16,760 --> 00:14:22,920

even get down and hands and knees. As one of the MPs described to us, their orders were,

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00:14:22,920 --> 00:14:30,360

if it doesn't move, bag it. But more than 50 years later, some think there may still be crash debris

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00:14:30,360 --> 00:14:35,640

hidden in the vast desert and they will go to extreme lengths to look for it.

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00:14:37,720 --> 00:14:44,280

Geologist Frank Kimbler teaches Earth Sciences in New Mexico. He hopes the remoteness of the site

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00:14:44,280 --> 00:14:51,000

has kept some evidence from being disturbed. It's too remote. It's clean. And so the things that you

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00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:57,240

get in a metal detector are the types of things that might be odd, especially since this area

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00:14:57,240 --> 00:15:01,960

is the debris field from the crash site. So the potential for finding something is really good

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00:15:01,960 --> 00:15:08,840

because it has not been contaminated. But covering such a vast expanse on foot makes it very time

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00:15:08,840 --> 00:15:16,680

consuming. I have been out here many times in the past searching the area for hours on in. The search

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00:15:16,680 --> 00:15:22,440

for some kind of concrete debris is intense because you got to have it. It's what we skeptics are

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00:15:22,440 --> 00:15:28,840

demanding. That's a nice story. But what have you got to show me? Does Kimbler have a chance of finding

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00:15:28,840 --> 00:15:37,480

any useful evidence in the sand a half century later? Another mysterious crash site offers hope that

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00:15:37,480 --> 00:15:46,280

he does. In 1986, something crashed in a mountainous desert near Bakersfield, California. Government

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00:15:46,360 --> 00:15:52,040

officials kept everyone out and cleaned it up themselves, which roused a lot of suspicion.

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00:15:53,400 --> 00:16:00,040

In many ways, this incident parallels the classic UFO crash stories. Peter Merlin is an

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00:16:00,040 --> 00:16:07,160

investigator who has visited over 100 aviation crash sites. An unknown vehicle crashed in a

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00:16:07,160 --> 00:16:14,120

remote rural area. The government took control of the site and security was extremely high.

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00:16:14,680 --> 00:16:22,040

Armed guards everywhere. Controlled perimeter. No fly zone. A decade later, the incident was

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00:16:22,040 --> 00:16:29,720

declassified. The report reveals it was not an alien spacecraft, but an F-117, the famed stealth

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00:16:29,720 --> 00:16:38,440

fighter. The stealth fighter represented at that time the pinnacle of military aviation technology.

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00:16:38,440 --> 00:16:43,240

It was absolutely cutting edge. An airplane that was virtually invisible to radar detection.

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00:16:44,440 --> 00:16:49,480

The Air Force didn't want pieces of that falling into enemy hands. It was imperative that they try

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00:16:49,480 --> 00:16:56,840

to clean up as much as possible. The F-117 crashed on a remote mountain, deep in the wilderness.

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00:16:59,480 --> 00:17:05,240

Merlin knows the military swept the site. Now, he wants to find out if anything got left behind.

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00:17:06,440 --> 00:17:11,000

At the time this airplane crashed, it was a top secret special access program.

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00:17:11,560 --> 00:17:15,320

They tried to clean up the site, but as you can see it's very rugged terrain.

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00:17:16,600 --> 00:17:22,360

It's a steep mountainous canyon with lots of rocks. They had a couple hundred guys out here

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00:17:22,360 --> 00:17:30,600

working in the dead of summer. A lot of rattlesnakes, heat. Finding debris at the Bakersfield site

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00:17:30,600 --> 00:17:36,520

could offer hope that something could still be found near Roswell. Merlin scans an area near

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00:17:36,520 --> 00:17:43,720

the edge of the debris field. Almost three decades after the crash, the chance of finding anything

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00:17:43,720 --> 00:17:51,720

seems like a long shot. But then Merlin gets a hit.

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00:17:55,320 --> 00:17:57,320

Got something here.

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00:18:00,840 --> 00:18:02,840

Yep, here's a piece.

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00:18:03,560 --> 00:18:07,560

Looks like a piece of aluminum.

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00:18:10,520 --> 00:18:17,000

Then another. And another. Merlin finds over a dozen pieces of something.

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00:18:18,360 --> 00:18:24,600

Got a little piece of aluminum structure here. If the Roswell incident involved the crash of an

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00:18:24,600 --> 00:18:30,360

actual space vehicle, I would expect that you would be able to go there today and find physical

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00:18:30,440 --> 00:18:37,640

evidence. If you can find pieces of a known black project, surely you can find pieces of a UFO.

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00:18:39,320 --> 00:18:45,080

Merlin's logic may not so easily translate into success for Frank Kimbler near Roswell,

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00:18:45,080 --> 00:18:52,360

but that won't stop him from trying. Working in a grid, Kimbler combs an area he's never examined

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00:18:52,360 --> 00:18:56,360

before. He searches for two hours.

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00:18:59,480 --> 00:19:07,080

Oh, I got a hit. I got a nice clean ping on this, so it doesn't sound like iron, so I need to dig it up,

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00:19:07,080 --> 00:19:09,080

see what's there.

177

00:19:18,920 --> 00:19:20,920

It's in this thing, it's in that one.

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00:19:23,320 --> 00:19:25,320

There we go.

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00:19:26,520 --> 00:19:32,520

This tiny piece of metal could be anything, but the distorted and stressed appearance

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00:19:32,520 --> 00:19:36,520

raises Frank Kimbler's hopes that it's a piece of debris from the crash site.

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00:19:37,800 --> 00:19:44,920

That's what's exciting about this. When you come out here and find pieces like this that might be from a space

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00:19:45,880 --> 00:19:53,880

craft, now we have some proof in hand and it goes back to a lab to be tested and it just doesn't get any better than this.

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00:19:53,880 --> 00:20:01,560

A 20th century mystery is about to get some 21st century analysis. Did Kimbler find earthly junk

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00:20:01,560 --> 00:20:07,880

or otherworldly material? Is he about to break an old UFO cold base wide open?

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00:20:07,880 --> 00:20:09,880

Today is a wonderful day.

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00:20:10,840 --> 00:20:12,840

Roswell, New Mexico.

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00:20:14,840 --> 00:20:22,840

Geologist Frank Kimbler has discovered a tiny piece of metal in the desert where something crashed in 1947.

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00:20:22,840 --> 00:20:28,840

The Genesis of the Roswell UFO legend.

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00:20:28,840 --> 00:20:30,840

I think it's fantastic.

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00:20:30,840 --> 00:20:38,840

Kimbler's hope to unearth new evidence now hangs in the analysis of this mysterious piece of metal.

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00:20:39,800 --> 00:20:47,800

You know what? The next thing we need to do is we need to take this into a lab and we need to get it tested to find out exactly what it is

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00:20:47,800 --> 00:20:51,800

and hopefully find out where it came from, which is the key point.

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00:20:51,800 --> 00:20:55,800

He sends it to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

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00:20:55,800 --> 00:21:01,800

Mike Spildy studies minerals from extreme environments, including Mars.

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00:21:01,800 --> 00:21:07,800

The university's electron microscope can reveal exactly what it is.

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00:21:08,760 --> 00:21:14,760

Spildy mounts tiny fragments on an epoxy disc.

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00:21:14,760 --> 00:21:20,760

We need a very fine smooth surface for the micro probe analysis.

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00:21:20,760 --> 00:21:28,760

He then puts the sample in an electron microscope, which can measure every element in the metal.

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00:21:28,760 --> 00:21:32,760

So now the sample's inside underneath the electron column.

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00:21:33,720 --> 00:21:37,720

Edx will give us a spectrum of the metal.

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00:21:37,720 --> 00:21:39,720

Let's see what it is.

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00:21:39,720 --> 00:21:41,720

Spildy begins to interpret the readout.

203

00:21:41,720 --> 00:21:51,720

So on these lighter regions we have a lot of aluminum, some silicon, some manganese, and some iron.

204

00:21:51,720 --> 00:21:59,720

We can determine what type of alloy it is by measuring the aluminum, silicon, iron and manganese, which we'll do next down here.

205

00:22:00,680 --> 00:22:04,680

He consults a chart of known alloys.

206

00:22:04,680 --> 00:22:08,680

So we look for fairly high concentration of manganese.

207

00:22:08,680 --> 00:22:10,680

So we've got one there.

208

00:22:10,680 --> 00:22:16,680

Then we want to match up with silica and magnesium.

209

00:22:16,680 --> 00:22:18,680

The results are still unclear.

210

00:22:18,680 --> 00:22:24,680

Kimbler's piece is some kind of aluminum alloy and contains a significant amount of magnesium.

211

00:22:25,640 --> 00:22:31,640

It's the magnesium that could unlock the secret to where this metal comes from.

212

00:22:31,640 --> 00:22:37,640

Magnesium isotopes are kind of a chemical signature.

213

00:22:37,640 --> 00:22:41,640

David Thomas is a scientist at New Mexico Tech.

214

00:22:41,640 --> 00:22:51,640

If you had some spaceship from another star system that was made of magnesium and it crashed, on earth its magnesium content would be different.

215

00:22:52,600 --> 00:22:54,600

It's like a fingerprint.

216

00:22:54,600 --> 00:22:58,600

So we use isotopes to identify strange materials.

217

00:22:58,600 --> 00:23:08,600

An isotope test will reveal the exact physical structure of this mystery metal and determine whether it comes from earth or elsewhere.

218

00:23:12,600 --> 00:23:16,600

Frank Kimbler is one of many who are thirsting for new information about the Roswell incident.

219

00:23:17,560 --> 00:23:21,560

From 1947 to 1978, this was not on America's radar screen.

220

00:23:21,560 --> 00:23:29,560

Roswell had not been associated with UFOs and there was little reason to doubt the government's story at the time.

221

00:23:29,560 --> 00:23:31,560

It was a crashed weather balloon.

222

00:23:31,560 --> 00:23:37,560

But while the Roswell story remained dormant, the flying saucer craze swept America.

223

00:23:37,560 --> 00:23:43,560

It was fueled by constant media exposure, triggering all manner of claims and debates.

224

00:23:44,520 --> 00:23:58,520

There's kind of a feedback cycle when it comes to UFO sightings because as soon as you talk about flying discs and they start talking about those in 1947, then suddenly you're getting reports of a lot of flying discs.

225

00:23:58,520 --> 00:24:04,520

So by the time Jesse Marcell resurfaced and recast a 30 year old story nobody knew,

226

00:24:04,520 --> 00:24:06,520

and while Jaro came in,

227

00:24:06,520 --> 00:24:12,520

into a story everyone needed to hear, the Roswell incident grew into the great American mystery.

228

00:24:13,480 --> 00:24:17,480

And the quintessential government conspiracy story.

229

00:24:17,480 --> 00:24:21,480

America is very fertile ground for conspiracy theories.

230

00:24:21,480 --> 00:24:29,480

If there are things being seen in the sky all the time and you think that they are not just UFOs but actual alien craft and the government says no they're not,

231

00:24:29,480 --> 00:24:31,480

well what are you going to do?

232

00:24:31,480 --> 00:24:35,480

You could either change your mind or you could assume that maybe they're covering up.

233

00:24:35,480 --> 00:24:39,480

And I think for Americans it's a great temptation to assume yeah they're probably covering up.

234

00:24:40,440 --> 00:24:44,440

For years rumors swirled and stories flew and the government said little.

235

00:24:44,440 --> 00:24:48,440

It frustrated even those inside government.

236

00:24:48,440 --> 00:24:52,440

Finally at the request of Congress the U.S. Air Force officially reopened the case.

237

00:24:52,440 --> 00:25:00,440

In 1994 Colonel Richard Weaver led the official U.S. government investigation into the Roswell incident.

238

00:25:00,440 --> 00:25:04,440

I did go into this with a really open reasonable mind.

239

00:25:05,400 --> 00:25:09,400

The first part is something that would probably be one of the greatest things in history.

240

00:25:09,400 --> 00:25:11,400

How cool would that be?

241

00:25:11,400 --> 00:25:15,400

Weaver says his orders were to investigate all possibilities no matter where the evidence led him.

242

00:25:15,400 --> 00:25:21,400

The result is a comprehensive report that runs almost 1,000 pages.

243

00:25:21,400 --> 00:25:23,400

One theory he explored.

244

00:25:23,400 --> 00:25:27,400

The craft was a top secret project inherited from Nazi technology.

245

00:25:27,400 --> 00:25:33,400

At the time in New Mexico were a number of captured V-2s and their variants that we took from the Germans.

246

00:25:34,360 --> 00:25:38,360

The V-2 was the world's first long-range missile.

247

00:25:38,360 --> 00:25:44,360

Developed by the Nazis and seized by the U.S. immediately after the war.

248

00:25:44,360 --> 00:25:48,360

Weaver's team considered whether a secret V-2 crashed at Roswell.

249

00:25:48,360 --> 00:25:54,360

Because it wasn't a very reliable rocket it was kind of a point and shoot and hoped that it landed kind of where you wanted it to.

250

00:25:58,360 --> 00:26:02,360

But they uncovered no evidence to support this idea.

251

00:26:03,320 --> 00:26:07,320

Another theory. A top secret nuclear project gone awry.

252

00:26:07,320 --> 00:26:13,320

We looked at a nuclear accident because the 509th at the time was the only people in the world that had nuclear weapons.

253

00:26:13,320 --> 00:26:17,320

So it was a pretty big deal to see if something had gone wrong involving a nuclear weapon.

254

00:26:17,320 --> 00:26:19,320

And there was nothing there.

255

00:26:19,320 --> 00:26:23,320

With no evidence of a downed missile or radioactive debris.

256

00:26:23,320 --> 00:26:27,320

Weaver's team looked at mistaken identity for experimental planes.

257

00:26:28,280 --> 00:26:32,280

There were German aircraft developers that had advanced aircraft that the Nazis had been working on.

258

00:26:32,280 --> 00:26:36,280

We wanted to get our hands on. The Russians wanted to get their hands on.

259

00:26:36,280 --> 00:26:40,280

They looked at those to see if this possibly could have been something that had been exploited.

260

00:26:40,280 --> 00:26:44,280

But there was just nothing out there to support any of that kind of conjecture.

261

00:26:46,280 --> 00:26:52,280

The Air Force investigators examined classified files and interviewed witnesses and experts from every angle.

262

00:26:53,240 --> 00:26:57,240

They looked everywhere to find an explanation. Earthly or alien.

263

00:26:57,240 --> 00:27:01,240

And finally found something extraordinary.

264

00:27:01,240 --> 00:27:05,240

Army Intelligence Officer Jesse Marcell was right.

265

00:27:05,240 --> 00:27:09,240

It was nothing he had ever seen before.

266

00:27:09,240 --> 00:27:11,240

That it was not a weather balloon.

267

00:27:11,240 --> 00:27:13,240

Nor an aircraft nor a missile.

268

00:27:13,240 --> 00:27:17,240

It was something else which we didn't know what it was.

269

00:27:18,200 --> 00:27:26,200

In 1947 a rancher found a crash debris in the New Mexico desert.

270

00:27:26,200 --> 00:27:30,200

The mysterious materials baffled authorities.

271

00:27:30,200 --> 00:27:34,200

The military called it a crashed flying saucer.

272

00:27:34,200 --> 00:27:36,200

And the legend of Roswell was born.

273

00:27:36,200 --> 00:27:42,200

It is the most talked about UFO incident in history and the most controversial.

274

00:27:43,160 --> 00:27:49,160

But it is not included in the government's most famous compilation of UFO investigations.

275

00:27:49,160 --> 00:27:57,160

In 1952 the U.S. Air Force responded to a hailstorm of UFO sightings by starting project Blue Book.

276

00:27:57,160 --> 00:28:01,160

They were determined to investigate UFO phenomena.

277

00:28:01,160 --> 00:28:07,160

Blue Book was an effort by the Air Force to find out what these phenomena may have been

278

00:28:07,160 --> 00:28:11,160

if they were a threat to national security.

279

00:28:12,120 --> 00:28:18,120

In 17 straight years the Air Force investigated thousands of UFO reports all over the country.

280

00:28:18,120 --> 00:28:20,120

Out of genuine concern and caution.

281

00:28:20,120 --> 00:28:26,120

Typically what they would do is they would bring together a dozen or so experts.

282

00:28:26,120 --> 00:28:28,120

And these were very expert experts.

283

00:28:28,120 --> 00:28:32,120

These are people who knew about upper atmosphere physics.

284

00:28:32,120 --> 00:28:34,120

They knew astronomy. They knew aeronautics.

285

00:28:34,120 --> 00:28:38,120

They knew the things that you would need to know to try and figure out what these things were.

286

00:28:39,080 --> 00:28:43,080

Because the Roswell incident didn't resurface as a UFO mystery until much later.

287

00:28:43,080 --> 00:28:47,080

It was not investigated by Project Blue Book.

288

00:28:47,080 --> 00:28:51,080

But there is an incident within these pages that mirrors the circumstances of Roswell.

289

00:28:51,080 --> 00:28:53,080

A possible UFO crash.

290

00:28:53,080 --> 00:28:57,080

It's called the Kecksburg Incident.

291

00:28:57,080 --> 00:29:01,080

Which occurred in the Great Lakes region of the U.S. and Canada.

292

00:29:01,080 --> 00:29:05,080

The event happened late on the afternoon of December 9th 1965.

293

00:29:05,080 --> 00:29:07,080

Stan Gordon was 16 at the time.

294

00:29:08,040 --> 00:29:10,040

He's been researching the incident ever since.

295

00:29:10,040 --> 00:29:16,040

There were multitudes of eyewitnesses from Ontario Canada over Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania

296

00:29:16,040 --> 00:29:18,040

that observed this brilliant fireball moving across the sky.

297

00:29:18,040 --> 00:29:22,040

And that object whatever it was came in over the greater Pittsburgh area.

298

00:29:22,040 --> 00:29:28,040

And reportedly fell in a winter ravine for a close to where we're standing outside of Kecksburg, Pennsylvania.

299

00:29:28,040 --> 00:29:34,040

Many people saw this object making turns making kind of a slow landing.

300

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

Leslie Kane is an investigative journalist who has written extensively on the Kecksburg Incident.

301

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Some people saw it make turns. Some people saw a fire coming out the back of it.

302

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:49,000

And it crashed in the woods.

303

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:55,000

Was it a meteor? A fallen satellite?

304

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:59,000

Air Force investigators interviewed eyewitnesses and searched the area.

305

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:01,000

But they reported finding nothing.

306

00:30:01,960 --> 00:30:05,960

Officials concluded that the object was probably a meteor.

307

00:30:07,960 --> 00:30:09,960

Hear that?

308

00:30:09,960 --> 00:30:11,960

But locals near Kecksburg tell a far different story.

309

00:30:11,960 --> 00:30:15,960

In 1965 I was out cruising in my convertible.

310

00:30:15,960 --> 00:30:19,960

When I heard on WHJB that something had landed in Kecksburg.

311

00:30:23,960 --> 00:30:29,960

I come down the hill through Kecksburg and there was some people standing alongside a farm road.

312

00:30:29,960 --> 00:30:31,960

I stopped and asked them what had happened.

313

00:30:31,960 --> 00:30:35,960

They said well back this road something had landed.

314

00:30:35,960 --> 00:30:39,960

And I looked down in through the field into the woods.

315

00:30:39,960 --> 00:30:45,960

And I could see where something had tore up the underbrush and the trees as it landed.

316

00:30:45,960 --> 00:30:53,960

And I could see a blue bluish light like a welder's light that was getting bright.

317

00:30:53,960 --> 00:30:57,960

And then real dull and it continued to do that the whole time I was here.

318

00:30:59,960 --> 00:31:05,960

Locals say the military moved in quickly and forcefully to protect the site.

319

00:31:09,960 --> 00:31:13,960

The military were everywhere. They were going in every which direction.

320

00:31:13,960 --> 00:31:19,960

They were being positioned throughout the fields along with the state police.

321

00:31:19,960 --> 00:31:25,960

And then after that the state police and the military come up and they told everyone to leave.

322

00:31:25,960 --> 00:31:33,960

Those who claim to be eyewitnesses told a story that sounds nothing like the official explanation of a meteor.

323

00:31:33,960 --> 00:31:39,960

And though government investigators scoured the purported landing site and found nothing.

324

00:31:39,960 --> 00:31:45,960

Locals recall mysterious events on the ground.

325

00:31:45,960 --> 00:31:53,960

They described an object in the woods large metallic and shaped like an acorn big enough for a person to stand inside.

326

00:31:53,960 --> 00:31:59,960

They're estimating from the debris around it that this thing is maybe 10 to 12 feet or more in length.

327

00:31:59,960 --> 00:32:03,960

Approximately maybe 8 to 10 feet or so in diameter.

328

00:32:03,960 --> 00:32:09,960

And of course what's interesting is that back part with what they call the ring gear, the bumper, it's raised up on the back of the acorn.

329

00:32:09,960 --> 00:32:17,960

Raised up on that with these unusual markings that look more like symbols than writing.

330

00:32:17,960 --> 00:32:25,960

Bill Weaver says he saw men carrying a large wooden box.

331

00:32:25,960 --> 00:32:29,960

They was carrying a box about 4 to 5 foot square.

332

00:32:29,960 --> 00:32:36,960

And they walked down through the field into the woods toward this blue light that was flashing off and on.

333

00:32:36,960 --> 00:32:44,960

But when I left they hadn't come back out yet.

334

00:32:44,960 --> 00:32:47,960

Mike Slater was 14 years old at the time.

335

00:32:47,960 --> 00:32:55,960

All that remains of his childhood home are the steps where he says he had an encounter with the military.

336

00:32:55,960 --> 00:33:01,960

I was sitting on the steps of my home when we heard that there was a possible landing on top of Kexburg Hill.

337

00:33:01,960 --> 00:33:07,960

And as I was sitting there I had noticed a jeep coming into town.

338

00:33:07,960 --> 00:33:11,960

Slater says the jeep stopped right in front of his house.

339

00:33:11,960 --> 00:33:17,960

And he said to me, had there been a lot of people asking for directions to where the site is?

340

00:33:17,960 --> 00:33:20,960

And I went, well yes, they have been and I've been given directions.

341

00:33:20,960 --> 00:33:28,960

He said, you could do your country a great service if you would not give him directions or if you did, don't send him up there.

342

00:33:28,960 --> 00:33:33,960

So I didn't. I either said no or I gave him wrong directions.

343

00:33:33,960 --> 00:33:38,960

After that, Slater says he saw the military remove a large object.

344

00:33:38,960 --> 00:33:43,960

On the flatbed was a tarped object which was sitting more toward the front of the truck.

345

00:33:43,960 --> 00:33:48,960

And it wasn't going that fast. It went by me. I got a great view of it as it left town.

346

00:33:48,960 --> 00:33:56,960

Some have since wondered if instead of a meteor it was a crashed Soviet satellite that the government wanted to keep from the general public.

347

00:33:56,960 --> 00:34:00,960

There has never been a clear answer that satisfies everyone.

348

00:34:00,960 --> 00:34:08,960

So just like the Roswell incident, some are looking for physical evidence to solve the mystery decades later.

349

00:34:08,960 --> 00:34:15,960

In 2003, retired forestry professor Dr. Ray Hicks examined the alleged crash site.

350

00:34:15,960 --> 00:34:22,960

I was given some photographs and as I looked around I found one of the trees that was in the photograph.

351

00:34:22,960 --> 00:34:27,960

Hicks believes he identified the tree that was located in the center of the site.

352

00:34:30,960 --> 00:34:35,960

That tree right there is this one.

353

00:34:38,960 --> 00:34:46,960

This tree right here which was also apparently decapitated, something happened to knock the top out of it.

354

00:34:46,960 --> 00:34:50,960

That tree has broken down and fallen over.

355

00:34:50,960 --> 00:34:55,960

He finds a few damaged trees, isolated in a narrow area in the woods.

356

00:34:55,960 --> 00:35:03,960

I tried to establish what the path was that the object took through the woods and then I found some

trees that had damaged to their top.

357

00:35:03,960 --> 00:35:07,960

In fact, the top had been broken out.

358

00:35:07,960 --> 00:35:12,960

Core samples taken from the trees put an exact date on when they were damaged.

359

00:35:12,960 --> 00:35:21,960

And I noticed that a very dramatic decrease in growth occurred in a given year and it turned out that that was 1965.

360

00:35:21,960 --> 00:35:26,960

The men wonder what could have caused tree damage like this.

361

00:35:26,960 --> 00:35:36,960

So if we're looking at some type of weather event, whether it be an ice storm, a tornado, even a microburst, you would think it would be more extensive damage,

362

00:35:36,960 --> 00:35:40,960

but it seemed to be isolated just at that path where the tree damaged once.

363

00:35:40,960 --> 00:35:49,960

That tree experienced a very dramatic reduction in growth right at the year that this object had fallen here.

364

00:35:49,960 --> 00:35:55,960

Isolated tree damage could be caused by many factors, including a meteor strike.

365

00:35:55,960 --> 00:36:02,960

But after decades of searching, there is no evidence that anything landed here, let alone a UFO.

366

00:36:02,960 --> 00:36:11,960

Tree rings can tell a tree's story, but they can't confirm a UFO story.

367

00:36:11,960 --> 00:36:16,960

In Kecksburg, its official government report versus local legend.

368

00:36:16,960 --> 00:36:23,960

Without any new evidence, it remains a matter of opinion as to what happened in the Pennsylvania forest.

369

00:36:23,960 --> 00:36:30,960

But in the New Mexico desert, Frank Kimbler hopes he can shed some scientific light on the Roswell incident.

370

00:36:30,960 --> 00:36:38,960

With a tiny metal fragment he found buried in the dirt where many think a UFO crashed in 1947.

371

00:36:38,960 --> 00:36:43,960

New isotope tests on the piece could uncover evidence of non-earthly origin,

372

00:36:43,960 --> 00:36:48,960

and the U.S. Air Force rocks the Roswell case with a shocking discovery of its own.

373

00:36:48,960 --> 00:36:55,960

It was a top secret program that was considered to be as important as the Manhattan Project.

374

00:36:57,960 --> 00:37:06,960

Frank Kimbler uncovered a tiny piece of metal near the reported site of the famous Roswell crash of 1947.

375

00:37:07,960 --> 00:37:14,960

Electron microscope analysis already determined it to be aluminum alloy with a significant amount of magnesium.

376

00:37:16,960 --> 00:37:22,960

That magnesium can now undergo an isotope test to determine the origin of the metal.

377

00:37:25,960 --> 00:37:35,960

At Trent University near Toronto, isotope researcher Bastion Gayorg can discover whether the sample comes from our planet or somewhere else.

378

00:37:37,960 --> 00:37:43,960

The question would be really, if you find something that's very abnormal, doesn't fit what we typically see on Earth,

379

00:37:43,960 --> 00:37:51,960

or typically see meteorites from our solar system, could this be an indicator for magnesium being derived from either solar system,

380

00:37:51,960 --> 00:37:55,960

which would then obviously involve interstellar travel?

381

00:37:55,960 --> 00:37:59,960

He includes two other control samples in his test.

382

00:37:59,960 --> 00:38:04,960

One is a piece of aluminum from a 1940s military plane.

383

00:38:04,960 --> 00:38:07,960

The other is a common soda can.

384

00:38:08,960 --> 00:38:10,960

For good measure, we throw in a soda can.

385

00:38:10,960 --> 00:38:18,960

We just wanted to make sure that maybe these artifacts that have been discovered are not just cans that were lying in the desert for 50 odd years.

386

00:38:19,960 --> 00:38:25,960

So now we wait for the last bit of the iron and manganese to drip through into the waste.

387

00:38:27,960 --> 00:38:30,960

The results arrive in real time.

388

00:38:31,960 --> 00:38:37,960

On the screen I see now the isotope, the peak scan of the different isotopes of magnesium.

389

00:38:38,960 --> 00:38:40,960

The science is conclusive.

390

00:38:41,960 --> 00:38:45,960

So the magnesium isotope composition of all these three pieces is identical with an error.

391

00:38:46,960 --> 00:38:50,960

They're all plot in the range of what we would typically see on planet Earth.

392

00:38:53,960 --> 00:38:57,960

The fragment found in the Roswell Desert is not extraterrestrial.

393

00:38:58,960 --> 00:39:02,960

But could it still be an intriguing piece of history?

394

00:39:03,960 --> 00:39:12,960

Back in New Mexico, Michael Spildy performs further analysis on the fragment and discovers that the material is not what you would expect to find in the middle of the desert.

395

00:39:13,960 --> 00:39:17,960

High tensile strength, construction of aircraft structures.

396

00:39:18,960 --> 00:39:20,960

So it's basically an aircraft aluminum.

397

00:39:21,960 --> 00:39:24,960

If it's aircraft aluminum, it could be crash debris.

398

00:39:24,960 --> 00:39:27,960

Spildy dates the alloy and reveals a new mystery.

399

00:39:31,960 --> 00:39:35,960

The material predates the Roswell incident by more than 10 years.

400

00:39:44,960 --> 00:39:49,960

The fragment seems to be from aircraft aluminum developed in the 1930s.

401

00:39:50,960 --> 00:39:54,960

It could be from an unknown plane crash or a piece of military equipment.

402

00:39:55,960 --> 00:39:58,960

But it's definitely not evidence of an alien spaceship.

403

00:40:00,960 --> 00:40:06,960

Frank Kimbler did indeed make a fascinating historical discovery, just not the one he was hoping for.

404

00:40:07,960 --> 00:40:09,960

But he remains undaunted.

405

00:40:10,960 --> 00:40:16,960

I don't give up. I've never given up on anything and I'm certainly not going to give up on hunting Roswell artifacts.

406

00:40:16,960 --> 00:40:19,960

Richard Weaver didn't give up either.

407

00:40:19,960 --> 00:40:27,960

His official Air Force investigation into the Roswell incident had carte blanche to look into every file and under every rock.

408

00:40:28,960 --> 00:40:35,960

Despite decades of rumors, they did not uncover any flying saucer parts or alien bodies.

409

00:40:36,960 --> 00:40:44,960

But they did find something remarkable hidden in the shadows for over 50 years that appears to explain it all.

410

00:40:45,960 --> 00:40:48,960

It's codename Project Mogul.

411

00:40:49,960 --> 00:40:55,960

Project Mogul was a top secret program that was considered to be as important as the Manhattan Project.

412

00:40:56,960 --> 00:41:07,960

Project Mogul was an interesting project and in some respects one of a series of sort of weird ideas that got pursued in the early Cold War era.

413

00:41:07,960 --> 00:41:19,960

And it was a set of balloons that were attached like a guide wire and they have on these sensing instruments that would be able to detect a nuclear blast.

414

00:41:21,960 --> 00:41:33,960

And what they were trying to do was to get evidence by using ionospheric movement of sound waves for the so-called whom they believe were working on an atomic bomb.

415

00:41:33,960 --> 00:41:41,960

The time it was considered to be category A1 top secret because we didn't want the Russians to know that we were monitoring them.

416

00:41:42,960 --> 00:41:50,960

A Project Mogul balloon was actually an array of kite-like objects and instruments measuring an incredible 700 feet long.

417

00:41:51,960 --> 00:41:54,960

Weaver's team thinks they've discovered the smoking gun.

418

00:41:54,960 --> 00:42:01,960

A Mogul Array test flight in June 1947, simply known as number four, went missing.

419

00:42:03,960 --> 00:42:08,960

Number four fits the parameters of when this material was found.

420

00:42:09,960 --> 00:42:12,960

Brasel brought this in in the first week of July of 1947.

421

00:42:13,960 --> 00:42:19,960

The timing works out, but do the Project Mogul materials match up with what Mac Brasel found in the desert?

422

00:42:20,960 --> 00:42:26,960

A Mogul balloon was, to say it was a balloon, is kind of a misnomer because it's a balloon train.

423

00:42:26,960 --> 00:42:29,960

Sometimes these things were as tall as the Eiffel Tower.

424

00:42:30,960 --> 00:42:37,960

Part of the array is what's called Array One Target, which is strikingly similar to the materials found by Brasel.

425

00:42:38,960 --> 00:42:49,960

Array One Target is about a big, it's very silvery, it's a metallic substance, but it's like on parchment type of paper or material.

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00:42:50,960 --> 00:42:55,960

Almost kind of leathery feeling, you know, it's not easily ripped like tin foil that you get at the store,

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00:42:55,960 --> 00:42:59,960

but it wasn't this miraculous spring back thing that's been described.

428

00:43:01,960 --> 00:43:05,960

Super lightweight, balsa wood, tin foil, weird little symbols, military symbols.

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00:43:05,960 --> 00:43:08,960

So how would you describe this if you know nothing about it?

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00:43:08,960 --> 00:43:11,960

Oh, it's really spooky, it's weird, it's whatever.

431

00:43:11,960 --> 00:43:17,960

It has nothing to do with UFOs and extraterrestrials and aliens and astronomy and science.

432

00:43:17,960 --> 00:43:24,960

It has everything to do with myth making, storytelling, how the media operates, you know, how things take on a life of their own

433

00:43:24,960 --> 00:43:28,960

and become an event culturally but not in reality.

434

00:43:29,960 --> 00:43:36,960

Fifty years after the Roswell incident, the U.S. Air Force releases the most convincing explanation yet for the crash debris,

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00:43:36,960 --> 00:43:40,960

a covert spy balloon that had to be kept secret at the time.

436

00:43:42,960 --> 00:43:49,960

So at first, Jesse Marcell's theory of a crashed flying saucer seemed like a good ruse for the

press.

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00:43:50,960 --> 00:43:55,960

You've got a top secret program that's underway that you certainly don't want the Soviet Union to know about.

438

00:43:55,960 --> 00:44:00,960

It becomes almost a cover story for this particular instance.

439

00:44:00,960 --> 00:44:07,960

That's misdirection of the best possibility in terms of media attention because everybody's chasing flying saucers

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00:44:07,960 --> 00:44:10,960

and they're not chasing a secret government program.

441

00:44:10,960 --> 00:44:15,960

But perhaps the media attention to the flying saucer story was so immediate and intense

442

00:44:15,960 --> 00:44:22,960

that the Air Force changed the story a day later to a much less interesting crash of a standard

weather balloon.

443

00:44:23,960 --> 00:44:33,960

With the discovery of Project Mogul, Weaver is confident that his exhaustive research finally gives the Roswell incident a measure of investigative fact.

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00:44:33,960 --> 00:44:39,960

As we went through, we had to go where the evidence took us. So I'm satisfied with what we found.

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00:44:39,960 --> 00:44:48,960

It took almost 50 years for the military to uncover its own secrets and produce a plausible explanation for the Roswell incident.

446

00:44:48,960 --> 00:44:54,960

So that sounded like it just explained everything that had happened at Roswell. Yes, it was something secret, but it didn't involve aliens.

447

00:44:54,960 --> 00:45:01,960

But of course, that's not a very interesting story now, is it? Wouldn't you rather believe that, you know, the aliens had crash landed there?

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00:45:02,960 --> 00:45:07,960

The Roswell story has grown into a cornerstone of American conspiracy theories.

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00:45:08,960 --> 00:45:15,960

Despite a case that appears closed, it will provoke more scrutiny and certainly provide more income.

450

00:45:15,960 --> 00:45:28,960

The most quintessentially American thing about the Roswell incident is the free enterprise capitalist system that has grown up around Roswell in the aftermath of it.

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00:45:28,960 --> 00:45:37,960

There's stores and museums and, you know, all kinds of paraphernalia and the knickknacks you can buy and stuff like that. It's kind of a happening.

452

00:45:37,960 --> 00:45:44,960

That is a part of this whole particular story. I believe that is fundamentally American.

453

00:45:44,960 --> 00:45:53,960

A saucer crash. A spy balloon. A mystery. And a marketing bonanza.

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00:45:53,960 --> 00:45:58,960

Perhaps Americans will always want Roswell to remain unidentified.