

1

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

January the 8th, 2008.

2

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

It was approximately 6 p.m. in the afternoon.

3

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

Then the sun was just going down.

4

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

And my buddy Mike Odom called me and says he wanted to come over

5

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

and enjoy the afternoon.

6

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

We'll be able to camp fire up on the hill and just hang out.

7

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

And shoot the breeze.

8

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

And I said, sure can.

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

The second I got out of my pickup, I noticed some lights coming at us

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

at a very high rate of speed.

11

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

I asked Mike and Lance if they was seeing what I was seeing.

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

They replied back, yes, we're seeing it.

13

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

We saw craft coming from the east going west.

14

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

We saw the wind blowing through the trees.

15

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:51,000

We saw the wind blowing through the trees.

16

00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:53,000

We saw the wind blowing through the trees.

17

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

We saw the wind blowing through the trees.

18

00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:56,000

The wind was blowing through the trees.

19

00:00:56,000 --> 00:00:58,000

The trees were going west.

20

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

The trees were going west.

21

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

It had extremely large lights, like a magnesium flare.

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00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:08,000

It almost burnt your eyes to look at it.

23

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

And it was moving extremely fast, faster than any normal aircraft

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:14,000

that we have around here.

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

And as we watched it, we saw that it had two F-16 jets in hot pursuit

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:22,000

after it, chasing it.

27

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:23,400

I know what an F-16 is.

28

00:01:23,500 --> 00:01:26,100

I'll go to air shows and pretty familiar with aircraft.

29

00:01:28,840 --> 00:01:30,340

It was unbelievable.

30

00:01:30,440 --> 00:01:32,880

It left us all in shock.

31

00:01:32,980 --> 00:01:35,580

You know, it was out of this world.

32

00:01:41,680 --> 00:01:44,760

Last week, several people in Stephenville, Texas,

33

00:01:44,860 --> 00:01:47,200

witnessed what many are calling a UFO.

34

00:01:47,300 --> 00:01:51,600

The Air Force has lied about UFOs for 60 years, actually.

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00:01:51,620 --> 00:01:54,300

And this would be in keeping with that.

36

00:01:54,400 --> 00:01:56,200

In the late 40s and early 50s,

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00:01:56,300 --> 00:01:59,740

there was so many sightings across the United States.

38

00:01:59,840 --> 00:02:01,240

It was in the middle of Cold War,

39

00:02:01,340 --> 00:02:03,800

so government officials were trying to figure out

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00:02:03,900 --> 00:02:05,840

what these objects were.

41

00:02:05,940 --> 00:02:10,520

The government examined over 12,000 UFO sightings.

42

00:02:10,620 --> 00:02:13,220

Many of those were striking resemblance

43

00:02:13,320 --> 00:02:15,180

to what we're seeing today.

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00:02:15,280 --> 00:02:17,960

There have been a certain percentage of reports

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00:02:18,020 --> 00:02:22,860

by credible observers of relatively incredible things.

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00:02:22,960 --> 00:02:25,020

The Air Force, I think, for a time

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00:02:25,120 --> 00:02:27,460

may have been making an honest effort

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00:02:27,560 --> 00:02:30,200

to clear the air about the phenomenon.

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00:02:30,300 --> 00:02:32,340

Unfortunately, it didn't last too long.

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00:02:32,440 --> 00:02:35,800

To this time, there is no valid scientific proof

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00:02:35,900 --> 00:02:38,940

that we have been visited by spaceships.

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00:02:39,040 --> 00:02:41,640

They were inundated by these reports

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00:02:41,740 --> 00:02:44,480

and just wanted to be done with the whole thing.

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00:02:44,580 --> 00:02:46,280

We are not hiding anything.

55

00:02:46,300 --> 00:02:47,900

We have nothing too high.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:52,180

This became the launch of taboo on a more official level.

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00:02:52,280 --> 00:02:54,680

Ridicule became sanctioned.

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00:02:54,780 --> 00:02:56,480

I would like to have answers,

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00:02:56,580 --> 00:02:58,620

but I'm not sure if we'll ever get any.

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00:03:00,720 --> 00:03:02,420

We get reports every night.

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00:03:02,520 --> 00:03:03,760

I don't know what's happening.

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00:03:03,860 --> 00:03:06,100

It's just like a road peg right around it.

63

00:03:06,200 --> 00:03:08,260

I'd like to report a UFO.

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00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:20,680

In 2017, two colleagues and I published a story

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00:03:20,780 --> 00:03:21,780

in The New York Times

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00:03:21,880 --> 00:03:25,280

about a secret Pentagon program studying UFOs.

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00:03:25,380 --> 00:03:27,480

The story was on the front page of The New York Times

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00:03:27,580 --> 00:03:28,580

and it was huge.

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00:03:28,680 --> 00:03:30,980

It was covered everywhere, all over the world.

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00:03:31,080 --> 00:03:34,660

It was like such a sea change for me as a journalist

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00:03:34,760 --> 00:03:38,200

and also for the issue of UFOs in general.

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00:03:38,300 --> 00:03:40,000

For most people, this was the first time

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00:03:40,100 --> 00:03:42,660

they heard anything about any official relationship

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00:03:42,760 --> 00:03:44,700

between the government and UFOs.

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00:03:45,700 --> 00:03:47,920

But actually, in the late 1940s,

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00:03:48,020 --> 00:03:50,760

the government was really starting to wake up

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00:03:50,860 --> 00:03:53,700

to what this issue was really all about.

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00:03:55,700 --> 00:03:57,800

It's extremely important to understand

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00:03:57,900 --> 00:04:02,300

that the Cold War affected both the perception of UFOs

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00:04:02,400 --> 00:04:05,040

and how it was handled by the military.

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00:04:05,140 --> 00:04:09,580

It's hard for us today to remember what the mindset was,

82

00:04:09,680 --> 00:04:11,080

but it was dire.

83

00:04:11,180 --> 00:04:14,180

It was life and death between the United States

84

00:04:14,260 --> 00:04:15,880

and the Soviet Union.

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00:04:15,980 --> 00:04:18,480

There was people out with binoculars all over the country,

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00:04:18,580 --> 00:04:21,680

constantly searching the skies for a Russian strike.

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00:04:22,780 --> 00:04:24,980

It was only natural that during the Cold War,

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00:04:25,080 --> 00:04:28,780

UFOs sort of got folded into this overriding fear

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00:04:28,880 --> 00:04:32,080

of what might attack us at any given time.

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00:04:33,680 --> 00:04:35,180

Here to fence, go ahead.

91

00:04:35,280 --> 00:04:40,580

Blavro Hotel 3-5, Black West, check, thank you.

92

00:04:41,080 --> 00:04:43,080

And then, in 1947,

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00:04:43,180 --> 00:04:46,080

just when these Cold War fears were starting to take hold,

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00:04:46,180 --> 00:04:50,180

there was a very famous sighting by a pilot named Kenneth Arnold.

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00:04:50,280 --> 00:04:52,480

That was the sighting that marked the beginning

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00:04:52,580 --> 00:04:54,680

of the modern era of UFOs.

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00:04:56,280 --> 00:04:59,880

It all began with an incident which occurred in 1947.

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00:04:59,980 --> 00:05:02,980

On the afternoon of June 24th of that year,

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00:05:03,080 --> 00:05:06,980

Kenneth Arnold made the first report on flying saucers.

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00:05:07,080 --> 00:05:09,980

Kenneth Arnold was a private pilot,

101

00:05:09,980 --> 00:05:13,380

searching for a military plane that had crashed sometime earlier.

102

00:05:13,480 --> 00:05:15,980

And he sees, off in the distance,

103

00:05:16,080 --> 00:05:19,880

a chain of nine silvery objects.

104

00:05:19,980 --> 00:05:22,880

He said, they look sort of like silver pie plates

105

00:05:22,980 --> 00:05:24,880

with a crescent cut out of them.

106

00:05:24,980 --> 00:05:28,380

And he times them at going over 1,000 miles an hour.

107

00:05:29,280 --> 00:05:33,880

Nothing in 1947 was capable of traveling 1,200 miles an hour.

108

00:05:33,980 --> 00:05:37,380

Nor did we have any aircraft that looked like this.

109

00:05:37,380 --> 00:05:39,780

They seemed to flip and flash in the sun,

110

00:05:39,880 --> 00:05:44,280

just like a mirror, kind of weaving and going at a terrific speed.

111

00:05:45,280 --> 00:05:47,780

He landed at his next stop at the next airport

112

00:05:47,880 --> 00:05:49,980

and told the flight crew what he had encountered

113

00:05:50,080 --> 00:05:52,780

and people pretty much just laughed him off.

114

00:05:52,880 --> 00:05:54,780

But when he got to his next stop,

115

00:05:54,880 --> 00:05:56,780

there were reporters waiting for him.

116

00:05:58,280 --> 00:06:02,780

He described their movement as a saucer skipping across the water.

117

00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:05,280

And that reporter thought, ah, flying saucers,

118

00:06:05,380 --> 00:06:06,780

that's what we'll call them.

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00:06:06,780 --> 00:06:09,180

And that's what we've been using ever since.

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00:06:09,280 --> 00:06:12,680

In the aftermath of Kenneth Arnold's report,

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00:06:12,780 --> 00:06:17,180

there were hundreds and hundreds of reports pouring into the Air Force every day.

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00:06:17,280 --> 00:06:19,680

And the Air Force couldn't just ignore that.

123

00:06:19,780 --> 00:06:21,680

It was in the middle of Cold War,

124

00:06:21,780 --> 00:06:24,680

so government officials were trying to figure out

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00:06:24,780 --> 00:06:26,680

what these objects were.

126

00:06:26,780 --> 00:06:33,180

General Twining saw this phenomenon as a possible threat to our country.

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00:06:33,180 --> 00:06:36,580

So he issued a very famous memo in which he said,

128

00:06:36,680 --> 00:06:42,580

the phenomenon reported is something real, not visionary or fictitious.

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00:06:42,680 --> 00:06:46,580

Those were pretty big words coming from a general in the Air Force

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00:06:46,680 --> 00:06:48,580

in the summer of 1947.

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00:06:48,680 --> 00:06:52,080

The Twining memo marked the beginning of an era

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00:06:52,180 --> 00:06:55,080

in which the Air Force would become deeply involved

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00:06:55,180 --> 00:06:57,580

with the question of UFOs.

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00:06:57,680 --> 00:07:01,080

The government was put into position where it had to decide

135

00:07:01,080 --> 00:07:03,480

was it going to engage with this phenomenon,

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00:07:03,580 --> 00:07:06,480

and if so, how much of it was it going to make public?

137

00:07:06,580 --> 00:07:09,480

That continued on in the decades that followed.

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00:07:09,580 --> 00:07:13,980

And it impacted all the cases that came decades later.

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00:07:17,080 --> 00:07:22,480

The Stephenville, Texas UFO case is very intriguing to me.

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00:07:22,580 --> 00:07:26,980

In 2008, a large, unidentified flying object

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00:07:26,980 --> 00:07:32,380

was observed by a large number of people from the ground.

142

00:07:32,480 --> 00:07:36,380

When we first saw it, it had seven lights across the back of it,

143

00:07:36,480 --> 00:07:39,880

all blinking in no particular order.

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00:07:39,980 --> 00:07:44,380

As it approached Stephenville, these seven lights became

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00:07:44,480 --> 00:07:48,880

an arch shape of seven lights, and then a brief moment later,

146

00:07:48,980 --> 00:07:52,380

they burst into a flame, and it looked to me like

147

00:07:52,480 --> 00:07:56,380

the flame was contained in a rectangle box.

148

00:07:57,380 --> 00:07:59,280

Somebody had made the comment,

149

00:07:59,380 --> 00:08:02,280

well, is it half the size of a Walmart?

150

00:08:02,380 --> 00:08:05,780

I say it's much bigger than the normal Walmart.

151

00:08:05,880 --> 00:08:09,280

What made the Stephenville case so interesting

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00:08:09,380 --> 00:08:12,780

was that in a four-hour period of time,

153

00:08:12,880 --> 00:08:17,780

you had dozens of reports of an object.

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00:08:17,880 --> 00:08:20,780

They all described seeing the same thing.

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00:08:20,880 --> 00:08:24,780

It happened about 12 and a half, 13 years ago.

156

00:08:25,680 --> 00:08:28,180

I still think about it quite often.

157

00:08:28,280 --> 00:08:32,680

We're still trying to find out and discover what the cause of it was.

158

00:08:32,780 --> 00:08:36,680

It just had two large, bright, intense red lights

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00:08:36,780 --> 00:08:39,180

with a white light in the center of it.

160

00:08:39,280 --> 00:08:41,680

And it had two military jets behind it,

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00:08:41,780 --> 00:08:43,680

which everybody saw in town, the jets.

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00:08:43,780 --> 00:08:46,680

They was running full throttle, but they wasn't able to catch it.

163

00:08:46,780 --> 00:08:49,180

There were fighter jets chasing those lights,

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00:08:49,280 --> 00:08:51,680

and the jets couldn't keep up with them.

165

00:08:51,680 --> 00:08:55,580

And then it just left. It was gone that fast.

166

00:08:55,680 --> 00:08:57,580

What do you think it was?

167

00:08:57,680 --> 00:09:00,580

I don't know what it was, but I know what an airplane.

168

00:09:03,680 --> 00:09:06,580

After that, I spoke to probably 200 or 300 people

169

00:09:06,680 --> 00:09:11,580

that witnessed it, business owners, city councilmen, policemen.

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00:09:11,680 --> 00:09:16,580

But no one could say what we saw that night.

171

00:09:16,680 --> 00:09:19,080

I called a Stephenville Empire Tribune

172

00:09:19,080 --> 00:09:21,980

to see if anybody may have got a visual on it.

173

00:09:22,080 --> 00:09:26,980

The editor directed me to a newspaper reporter named Angela Joyner.

174

00:09:27,080 --> 00:09:28,980

She interviewed me over the phone,

175

00:09:29,080 --> 00:09:33,980

and she started digging deep to help find out what we were seeing.

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00:09:34,080 --> 00:09:36,980

She was hell bent to find out the truth.

177

00:09:44,080 --> 00:09:45,980

My name is Sarah Vandenberg,

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00:09:45,980 --> 00:09:50,880

and I was the managing editor of the Stephenville Empire Tribune for 14 years.

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00:09:50,980 --> 00:09:54,880

In 2008, Steve Allen and a couple of his friends saw some suspicious lights,

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00:09:54,980 --> 00:09:58,880

and they called into the newsroom and talked to Angela Joyner.

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00:09:58,980 --> 00:10:02,880

Angela Joyner was one of my reporters at the Empire Tribune.

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00:10:02,980 --> 00:10:06,880

Sadly, Angela passed away with COVID last year.

183

00:10:06,980 --> 00:10:10,880

Angela was a super fun person, but she took her job seriously.

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00:10:10,980 --> 00:10:13,880

Good writer. She was thorough. She was a good reporter.

185

00:10:13,880 --> 00:10:17,780

Steve Allen called me and said, Hey, I got a story for you.

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00:10:17,880 --> 00:10:21,780

And I could tell by talking to him, you know, the way his voice changed

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00:10:21,880 --> 00:10:26,780

and his inflections changed, and he was just so sincere

188

00:10:26,880 --> 00:10:29,780

when he was describing it to me.

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00:10:29,880 --> 00:10:34,780

I knew this guy saw something. He really saw something big.

190

00:10:34,880 --> 00:10:37,780

After Steve Allen called, she pitched the story to me and said,

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00:10:37,880 --> 00:10:39,780

here's what's happened. What do you think?

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00:10:39,880 --> 00:10:42,780

Did you have any concern at that point about reporting on this?

193

00:10:42,780 --> 00:10:45,680

Yeah, it just seems like, you know, it's the thought of the little green men

194

00:10:45,780 --> 00:10:50,680

coming out of the spaceship. It was sort of tabloidish to me.

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00:10:50,780 --> 00:10:53,680

That was my concern. As a journalist who wanted to be taken seriously,

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00:10:53,780 --> 00:10:57,680

I was afraid that, you know, this would somehow taint my reputation.

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00:10:57,780 --> 00:11:01,680

So I said, put something together and pitch it to me tomorrow evening

198

00:11:01,780 --> 00:11:04,680

when I get back to the office, and then we'll talk about it.

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00:11:04,780 --> 00:11:08,680

This setting was like right here in our core readership area,

200

00:11:08,780 --> 00:11:10,680

and I thought, you know, the readers are going to like this.

201

00:11:10,680 --> 00:11:12,580

They're going to really like this.

202

00:11:12,680 --> 00:11:16,580

And the people, they know the people in the story.

203

00:11:16,680 --> 00:11:21,580

That's another thing. So that was another reason I went ahead and did it.

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00:11:21,680 --> 00:11:23,580

Do you have one?

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00:11:23,680 --> 00:11:25,580

And the editor left early.

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00:11:25,680 --> 00:11:29,580

You had to cut that part. But she did.

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00:11:34,680 --> 00:11:36,580

Next morning, at the end of my driveway with the paper,

208

00:11:36,580 --> 00:11:41,480

I picked it up and across the top had UFO sightings in Erath County

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00:11:41,580 --> 00:11:44,480

and like 72-point font. It was just huge.

210

00:11:44,580 --> 00:11:47,480

After I had left for the day, the publisher and Angela,

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00:11:47,580 --> 00:11:50,480

we did the front page and went to press and I had no idea.

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00:11:50,580 --> 00:11:52,480

I almost had a nervous breakdown right then.

213

00:11:52,580 --> 00:11:55,480

I could not believe that that had happened overnight.

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00:11:55,580 --> 00:11:58,480

Two hours into my day, I got a call from the publisher.

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00:11:58,580 --> 00:12:00,480

She said, things are blowing up.

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00:12:00,580 --> 00:12:02,480

We've sold out of all the papers we've had.

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00:12:02,580 --> 00:12:06,480

That was my first indication like, wow, people are really interested in this.

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00:12:06,580 --> 00:12:09,480

You need to get a helmet.

219

00:12:09,580 --> 00:12:12,480

It generated a lot of excitement here.

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00:12:12,580 --> 00:12:15,480

A lot of businesses had t-shirts made and sold those

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00:12:15,580 --> 00:12:17,480

and the high school kids had fun with it.

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00:12:17,580 --> 00:12:21,480

Stephenville may be typical, but what's happening in the skies above it

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00:12:21,580 --> 00:12:23,480

is a whole other story.

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00:12:23,580 --> 00:12:26,480

It kind of is the talk of the town right now.

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00:12:26,580 --> 00:12:29,480

Angela Joiner is a reporter with the town's newspaper.

226

00:12:29,580 --> 00:12:34,480

She's now on the strangest and possibly the biggest story of her life.

227

00:12:34,480 --> 00:12:41,380

It went from this little story to this huge out of control worldwide frenzy.

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00:12:41,480 --> 00:12:44,380

I started getting phone calls from all over the world.

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00:12:44,480 --> 00:12:49,380

Brazil, Japan, England, and the next thing you know, CNN,

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00:12:49,480 --> 00:12:54,380

quite a few other TV things showed up and wanted our story.

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00:12:54,480 --> 00:12:59,380

What's notable about the Stephenville case and other cases that are similar to that

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00:12:59,480 --> 00:13:04,380

is that despite the numbers of witnesses seeing these gigantic craft,

233

00:13:04,480 --> 00:13:07,380

nobody in positions of authority came to investigate.

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00:13:07,480 --> 00:13:11,380

That's in contrast to what was going on in the 40s and 50s

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00:13:11,480 --> 00:13:18,380

where there was an Air Force program and they would investigate cases.

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00:13:18,480 --> 00:13:21,380

Here is a picture that was released just today.

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00:13:21,480 --> 00:13:26,380

It shows four luminous objects in formation in the sky over Salem, Massachusetts.

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00:13:26,480 --> 00:13:31,380

Now here on this map are pinpointed locations where some 30 saucers have been sighted

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00:13:31,380 --> 00:13:34,280

and are still unexplained.

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00:13:38,380 --> 00:13:44,280

In 1949, the military started looking into all these stacks of UFO reports

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00:13:44,380 --> 00:13:47,280

that the Air Force was receiving.

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00:13:47,380 --> 00:13:50,280

Headquarters, United States Air Forces, as you may directed,

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00:13:50,380 --> 00:13:54,280

for a detailed study of flying disc reports.

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00:13:54,380 --> 00:14:00,280

The program was initially called Project Sign, then became Project Grudge

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00:14:00,280 --> 00:14:05,180

and then it was named Project Blue Book.

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00:14:05,280 --> 00:14:13,180

Project Blue Book was operated out of the dingiest office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

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00:14:13,280 --> 00:14:17,180

They had a malfunctioning coffee pot, they had a couple desks,

248

00:14:17,280 --> 00:14:23,180

they had a big map up on the wall and that was it, but they just had a system down.

249

00:14:23,280 --> 00:14:27,180

Project Blue Book started as a good faith effort by the government

250

00:14:27,180 --> 00:14:31,080

to collect reports and investigate UFOs.

251

00:14:31,180 --> 00:14:36,080

When there were big cases, they would sometimes dispatch someone to interview the witnesses.

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00:14:36,180 --> 00:14:40,080

The Air Force was pretty open about Project Blue Book.

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00:14:40,180 --> 00:14:44,080

Major Quentin Ellis, what are the objectives of Project Blue Book?

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00:14:44,180 --> 00:14:51,080

First of all, to try to determine if the UFO phenomena presents a threat to the security of the United States.

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00:14:51,080 --> 00:14:56,980

And second to determine if the UFO phenomena exhibits any technology for Atlantis.

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00:14:57,080 --> 00:15:04,980

Alongside the military employees, the Air Force felt that they needed a credible scientific opinion

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00:15:05,080 --> 00:15:07,980

to support their research.

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00:15:08,080 --> 00:15:13,980

Is it in the realm of possibility that there are spaceships someplace in this universe?

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00:15:14,080 --> 00:15:18,980

Well, if you put it in the word, use the word possibility and not probability,

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00:15:18,980 --> 00:15:25,880

then I would have to say, I think as any scientist would have to say, it is certainly possible, yes.

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00:15:25,980 --> 00:15:31,880

J. L. and Heineck was a mild-mannered college professor from Ohio State University.

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00:15:31,980 --> 00:15:36,880

His job was to go through all these stacks of UFO reports that the Air Force was receiving

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00:15:36,980 --> 00:15:39,880

and try to find out what's going on.

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00:15:39,980 --> 00:15:45,880

Project Blue Book examined over 12,000 UFO sightings.

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00:15:45,880 --> 00:15:50,780

Many of them bore a striking resemblance to what we're seeing today.

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00:15:50,880 --> 00:15:54,780

Crafts with a similar shape, sometimes the same color.

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00:15:54,880 --> 00:15:59,780

Hovering, then shooting off instantaneously at hypersonic speeds.

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00:15:59,880 --> 00:16:02,780

Multiple, multiple cases like that.

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00:16:02,880 --> 00:16:09,780

While working for Project Blue Book, Heineck noticed that he was able to explain 80% of cases.

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00:16:09,780 --> 00:16:16,680

But he also noticed that there was about a 20% residue of cases that he hadn't been able to explain away.

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00:16:16,780 --> 00:16:22,680

Heineck came into the UFO project with the attitude, which is there's nothing to UFOs.

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00:16:22,780 --> 00:16:30,680

But he was a good enough scientist to say, wait a minute, I'm seeing reports here that are not easily explainable.

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00:16:30,780 --> 00:16:39,680

The Air Force and their UFO study project may have been making an honest effort to clear the air about the phenomenon.

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00:16:39,780 --> 00:16:45,680

Unfortunately, it didn't last too long, simply because they were just overwhelmed with reports.

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00:16:45,780 --> 00:16:50,680

Everyone got the window in there, because this strike to God saved our team.

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00:16:50,780 --> 00:16:56,680

And it goes to us in return of Blue Green, Britain's right.

277

00:16:56,780 --> 00:17:00,680

Balls were ahead of us and all of a sudden they zapped away from us.

278

00:17:03,780 --> 00:17:09,680

This is the Kremlin. Russia today is regarded as a grave threat to our nation, to our freedom.

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00:17:09,780 --> 00:17:12,680

To the peace of the world.

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00:17:15,780 --> 00:17:20,680

In the 40s and 50s, tensions with Russia were building.

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00:17:20,780 --> 00:17:28,680

The Cold War was so intense at that point, so there was a genuine concern that the UFO phenomenon could be exploited.

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00:17:28,780 --> 00:17:37,680

The US government felt adversaries could hoax UFO sightings and then clog up our reporting channels and then have a surprise attack.

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00:17:37,680 --> 00:17:44,580

So the idea was that the UFO problem was not a security problem as such, meaning aliens aren't going to land and attack us.

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00:17:44,680 --> 00:17:51,580

What the UFO problem was, it was a sociological problem. And it was one that demanded a different approach.

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00:17:52,680 --> 00:18:06,580

The CIA, under the picture, by convening a panel of top scientists to examine the UFO phenomenon,

the thinking was that the enemy could exploit UFOs as a decoy in the preparation for an attack on the United States.

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00:18:06,580 --> 00:18:15,480

Five outstanding scientists and various Air Force and CIA representatives would have met. Among the panel members was J. Allen Heineck.

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00:18:15,580 --> 00:18:28,480

In 1953, the Central Intelligence Agency formed a scientific panel led by a highly regarded scientist named Robertson to examine this phenomenon and its implications.

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00:18:28,480 --> 00:18:39,380

The Robertson panel was a group of hand-picked scientists who came together to try to determine a way to damp down public interest in UFOs.

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00:18:39,480 --> 00:18:45,380

Dr. Heineck was actually brought in to be a consulting witness to the Robertson panel.

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00:18:45,480 --> 00:18:52,380

The panel members were seated around this table. It was a rather somber and impressive occasion, actually.

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00:18:52,380 --> 00:19:01,280

The mission given by the Robertson panel was essentially to make people stop filing UFO reports.

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00:19:01,380 --> 00:19:16,280

They proposed two methods to damp down public enthusiasm. One was through debunking. The second one was through education, teaching people to explain UFOs in other ways and something extraordinary.

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00:19:16,280 --> 00:19:24,180

It was an extremely important moment in the evolution of how government was going to engage with this topic.

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00:19:24,280 --> 00:19:31,180

This became the launch of taboo on a more official level where it was becoming policy in a way.

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00:19:31,280 --> 00:19:35,180

Riddicule became sanctioned.

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00:19:35,280 --> 00:19:40,180

The Robertson panel conclusions seemed to have a big impact on Project Blue Book.

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00:19:40,180 --> 00:19:51,080

The project began to dismiss as many cases as possible and provide sometimes ridiculous explanations for them, just have an answer and make them go away.

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00:19:51,180 --> 00:20:02,080

Heineck's job became going through all these UFO reports and explain them away as natural occurrences. Comet, Meteor, Shooting Star, Sun Dog, Eclipse.

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00:20:02,080 --> 00:20:16,980

I would say the great majority are balloons, meteors, satellites, aircraft seen with the sun glinting off of them, generally quite usual things seen under unusual circumstances or surprising circumstances.

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00:20:17,080 --> 00:20:24,980

Dr. Heineck did his job very thoroughly. Allen was a fellow trying to please the Air Force and what they wanted.

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00:20:25,980 --> 00:20:31,880

Heineck would have a bunch of reports dropped on his desk and he would explain them all away.

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00:20:31,980 --> 00:20:39,880

If a report said probable airliner, they would cross out probable and just say airliner. That's what the witness saw.

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00:20:39,980 --> 00:20:45,880

It was kind of an insult to the intelligence of the American people.

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00:20:45,980 --> 00:20:48,880

Heineck had taken the job for the extra money.

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00:20:48,980 --> 00:20:53,880

Struggling young professional with a growing family, of course he's not going to turn down work.

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00:20:53,880 --> 00:20:59,780

But behind the scenes, Heineck gradually realized that this was a scientific problem.

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00:20:59,880 --> 00:21:10,780

But he wouldn't go out and state it publicly. He didn't want to do that because it would have been what the Air Force didn't want him to do.

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00:21:10,880 --> 00:21:23,780

Even though it took place in 1953, the Robertson panel was so potent in terms of its desire to clamp down, to ridicule, to debunk and to, quote, educate people to interpret UFOs in other ways.

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00:21:23,880 --> 00:21:32,780

Its legacy carried on through the decades and it impacted cases like Stephenville and other cases of the time.

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00:21:36,880 --> 00:21:44,780

Last week, several people in Stephenville, Texas, a small rural town of about 15,000, witnessed what many are calling a UFO.

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00:21:44,880 --> 00:21:52,780

In Selden, Texas is Steve Allen. Also there is Angela, a joiner, staff writer for the Empire Tribune, the local newspaper in Stephenville.

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00:21:52,780 --> 00:21:55,680

Angela, what are some witnesses telling you?

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00:21:55,780 --> 00:22:04,680

The thing that I hear over and over and over is how bright the lights were. So I think there's been a lot of consistency in the spottings.

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00:22:04,780 --> 00:22:17,680

It was Angela that started digging deep. She was hell bent on trying to find out what we saw and what happened. And it almost consumed her.

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00:22:17,680 --> 00:22:26,580

The incredible thing about the Stephenville sightings was the witnesses reported seeing F-16 fighters pursuing this object.

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00:22:26,680 --> 00:22:33,580

I heard this really, really loud noise and I ran out the front door and there were fighter jets chasing those lights.

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00:22:33,680 --> 00:22:39,580

Angela wanted to know what the Air Force knew about the two F-16s and what we saw.

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00:22:39,580 --> 00:22:46,480

So she got in touch with the Naval Air Station in Fort Worth and talked to Major Carl Lewis.

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00:22:46,580 --> 00:22:51,480

Major Carl Lewis said we didn't have any aircraft in your area at that time.

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00:22:54,580 --> 00:23:01,480

I feel like we wasn't given the truth and the military didn't seem like they was interested in any questions.

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00:23:01,580 --> 00:23:06,480

Then on about the tenth day, the military issued a press release.

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00:23:07,480 --> 00:23:17,380

Now in a plot line that's out of the X-Files, Air Force officials are saying they concede they had F-16s over Stephenville, Texas on the evening of January 8th.

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00:23:17,480 --> 00:23:22,380

Major Carl Lewis says there was an internal communications mistake.

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00:23:22,480 --> 00:23:28,380

Well, there was an error that was initially reported, sir, and we went and corrected that error as quickly as possible.

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00:23:29,380 --> 00:23:33,280

The plot thick and with the Air Force wouldn't say why.

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00:23:33,380 --> 00:23:37,280

They did in fact have F-16s in the area.

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00:23:38,380 --> 00:23:47,280

Angela Joyneth says that the Air Force's admission that it did indeed have fighter jets as reported by the witnesses bolsters their story all around.

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00:23:47,380 --> 00:23:55,280

Military coming out with this at this point just is going to fuel the fire for okay, there is something going on now, what is it?

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00:23:56,280 --> 00:24:02,180

We thought their attempt to try to explain it away was terribly strange.

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00:24:02,280 --> 00:24:06,180

We had more questions than answers.

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00:24:09,280 --> 00:24:16,180

UFO reports, hoax or serious sightings wind up here at Wright Patterson airfield in Dayton, Ohio.

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00:24:16,280 --> 00:24:20,180

The Air Force investigative unit is known as Project Blue Book.

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00:24:20,180 --> 00:24:29,080

In the wake of the Robertson panel, Project Blue Book was investigating these civilian reports as a

way to tamp down public concern.

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00:24:29,180 --> 00:24:42,080

For example, in Michigan, there were at one point a large number of sightings by people in the community there and Walter Cronkite, the arbiter of truth for many Americans covered the story.

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00:24:42,080 --> 00:24:48,980

Great flying saucer mystery of 1966 began here near Dexter, Michigan late in March.

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00:24:49,080 --> 00:24:59,980

As I turned around to come back on the porch, I looked to the north of me and it looked like a fallen star. It was red, kind of coming down.

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00:25:00,080 --> 00:25:09,980

Frank Manners UFO remained over his swamp more than four hours, 40 miles away another swamp land and another UFO sighting.

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00:25:09,980 --> 00:25:14,880

I believe I saw it but I can't fathom it because it seems so unreal.

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00:25:14,980 --> 00:25:21,880

This was a huge national story. Everyone was demanding that Blue Book solve the case.

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00:25:21,980 --> 00:25:30,880

And so they called in Heineck, his Air Force Project Blue Book boss, to get out there and put a lid on this.

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00:25:30,980 --> 00:25:37,880

The Air Force said it's chief scientific consultant on UFOs, Professor J. Allen Heineck, to check the Michigan sightings.

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00:25:37,880 --> 00:25:46,780

The illusion of motion frequently is given by the fact that a little bit of swamp light appears here, it goes out, another one appears over here, that goes out then.

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00:25:46,880 --> 00:25:51,780

But the illusion, as a view from a distance, is that the objects have moved back and forth.

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00:25:51,880 --> 00:25:57,780

And sometimes the gas will gather into a ball and actually float away.

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00:25:57,780 --> 00:26:09,680

Allen made an ill-fated remark about, well, some of these sightings could be caused by swamp gas.

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00:26:09,780 --> 00:26:14,680

And the witnesses were upset, to say the least.

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00:26:14,780 --> 00:26:23,680

The people of Michigan thought that Heineck was making fun of them, that he thought they were all loonies and kooks, and the whole thing blew up in Heineck's face.

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00:26:23,680 --> 00:26:28,580

They think you're a nut, to tell you the truth, that's just what they figure you are.

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00:26:28,680 --> 00:26:33,580

And I'm not going to take it no more, I don't want nobody down in here, I just leave me alone.

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00:26:33,680 --> 00:26:39,580

When Heineck came up with the swamp gas explanation, we don't really know whether he believed that or not.

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00:26:39,680 --> 00:26:46,580

But we do know that he was working for the Air Force and they were committed at that point to

discrediting sightings like this one.

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00:26:46,580 --> 00:26:57,480

It was a real turning point for the beginning of people really just having had enough of these kinds of bogus explanations for these events.

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00:27:00,580 --> 00:27:07,480

Following the swamp gas incident, the public was outraged and even members of Congress became involved.

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00:27:07,480 --> 00:27:27,380

We've had several incidents in Michigan that many reliable citizens felt were sufficient to justify some action by our government and not the kind of flip-and-answer that was given by the Air Force where they passed it off as swamp gas.

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00:27:27,480 --> 00:27:34,380

Gerald Ford, who was a congressman at the time at Michigan, decided that his constituents were not being taken seriously.

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00:27:34,380 --> 00:27:40,280

Gerald Ford listened to his constituents and decided that he should call for congressional hearings.

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00:27:40,380 --> 00:27:48,280

I think the American people would be more sure that there were or were not such a public hearing was held.

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00:27:48,280 --> 00:28:05,180

On April 5th, 1966, Harold Brown, the secretary of the Air Force and J. L. and Heineck walked into the Capitol Building to answer questions about Blue Book's investigation into UFOs.

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00:28:05,280 --> 00:28:17,180

We have not been hiding anything. The investigations have been made public. The explanations of those where there is a clear explanation have been made public.

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00:28:17,180 --> 00:28:36,080

They brought in the secretary of the Air Force and he just stonewalled and then came to Heineck's turn to talk. He made his own statement that he hadn't shared with anyone and he said, look, we need to sponsor a scientific study and tell us whether this is something we need to keep studying.

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00:28:36,080 --> 00:28:41,980

How many really mysterious incidents are there that you'd like to go back and look at again?

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00:28:42,080 --> 00:28:50,980

As I mentioned in the hearings this morning, I have picked some 20 cases. I think those I would recommend that they be looked at quite closely.

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00:28:51,080 --> 00:29:01,980

A scientist has to keep open-minded on an investigation. A scientific one without fanfare, a quiet look at the data, I think, is in order.

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00:29:01,980 --> 00:29:09,880

Heineck was initially a skeptic, but as he went through the years, he gradually learned that there really is something to this.

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00:29:09,980 --> 00:29:20,880

Heineck started to believe that we could learn a lot more about the phenomenon through a better scientific study. And in fact, that's what happened in Stephenville, Texas.

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00:29:20,880 --> 00:29:31,780

Good evening, everyone. My name is Steve Hudgens. I'm Senior Bill Investigator for MUFON. We're down here to investigate this extraordinary event.

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00:29:31,880 --> 00:29:38,780

We have our fiction director from Waco, Dave Peele, and director of research, Robert Powell.

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00:29:38,880 --> 00:29:47,780

My name is Robert Powell. My educational background is in chemistry and I work in the semiconductor industry as an engineering manager.

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00:29:47,780 --> 00:29:56,680

Early January of 2008, I'm the director of research at MUFON. The term MUFON stands for Mutual UFO Network.

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00:29:56,780 --> 00:30:03,680

I went up to Stephenville with multiple investigators and we began to interview the witnesses.

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00:30:03,780 --> 00:30:05,680

Hey. How are ya?

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00:30:05,780 --> 00:30:07,680

I'm good, how are you?

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00:30:07,680 --> 00:30:13,580

I met several key people such as Angela Joyner, Steve Allen, and Leroy Gaten.

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00:30:13,680 --> 00:30:20,580

And Leroy just gave me the best description of what happened that day to him.

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00:30:20,680 --> 00:30:29,580

As I walked out to my car, I saw 10 to 12 bright fluorescent orbs.

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00:30:29,680 --> 00:30:34,580

They're moving really quickly and then they stop and then all of a sudden they shoot off.

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00:30:34,580 --> 00:30:42,480

But what was surprising is I'm still looking probably 20, 30 seconds. I hear two jets.

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00:30:42,580 --> 00:30:50,480

After interviewing Leroy, the first thing I decided that I could do was get radar data.

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00:30:50,580 --> 00:31:01,480

Freedom of information requests to the FAA. And I got that data back after about six to eight weeks. And it was incredible.

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00:31:04,580 --> 00:31:10,480

Good morning. My name is Robert Powell. I'm the director of research with the MUFON organization.

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00:31:10,580 --> 00:31:16,480

We obtained radar data from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Stephenville area.

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00:31:16,580 --> 00:31:18,480

I talk about this a little bit on the screen here.

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00:31:18,580 --> 00:31:30,480

One of the first things I do when I get the radar data is I find the F-16s and I match that yes, that matches the time they went by Leroy's home.

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00:31:30,480 --> 00:31:44,380

Then I look on the radar data for unknowns and I find two miles south of his home just like he told me, objects on radar that are basically stationary just like he said.

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00:31:44,480 --> 00:31:55,380

And then the really interesting part was on radar, these objects that were over his home, the next radar blip,

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00:31:55,380 --> 00:32:05,280

the object is to the northeast, towards Stephenville, and it had traveled at a minimum speed of 1,900 miles per hour.

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00:32:05,380 --> 00:32:09,280

And that is from stationers.

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00:32:09,380 --> 00:32:14,280

There's no way for me to know what it was. The only thing I can say is what it was not.

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00:32:14,280 --> 00:32:29,180

It was not any type of aircraft because no aircraft can hover and then move to a speed of over 1,900 miles an hour at low altitude and then stop and hover again.

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00:32:29,280 --> 00:32:32,180

It's just not something we have the ability to do.

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00:32:32,180 --> 00:32:56,080

There are so many UFO sightings and the vast majority of them can be explained, but then there are those that involve mass sightings of something really unusual and in those cases people deserve an investigation by the officials.

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00:32:56,080 --> 00:33:04,980

In the aftermath of the swamp gas case, the government decided to fund a college research program of the UFO phenomenon.

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00:33:05,080 --> 00:33:12,980

At the time, the Air Force was trying to find a way to get out from under the burden of having to investigate UFOs and comment on this.

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00:33:13,080 --> 00:33:23,980

And so a scientific panel was established to investigate and assess the issue. It was led by a Dr. Robert Condon.

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00:33:23,980 --> 00:33:34,880

The Air Force has turned to the University of Colorado to investigate unidentified flying objects and they've asked Dr. Edward U. Condon to head the project.

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00:33:34,980 --> 00:33:38,880

How do you propose to go about studying this particular phenomenon?

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00:33:38,980 --> 00:33:47,880

We'll pick certain selected cases that seem especially interesting and go out and try to learn more about them and those few in greater depth.

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00:33:47,880 --> 00:33:54,780

The guy who was leading it, Professor Edward Condon, had no interest in the subject and had to be talked into it.

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00:33:54,880 --> 00:34:02,780

So you have a professor who was not looking to do a project, that was given the project and things didn't go well.

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00:34:02,880 --> 00:34:09,780

They reviewed 59 cases and wrote them up in a study that was close to a thousand pages.

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00:34:09,780 --> 00:34:20,680

One of the events they covered was the McMinnville incident in 1950 where the farmer and his wife took a photograph of a disc shaped object that came over their farm.

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00:34:20,780 --> 00:34:36,680

The McMinnville photograph taken by a poor rural couple in a remote area who didn't seek any press and it showed a UFO very clearly in black and white, maybe 200, 300 yards away.

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00:34:36,680 --> 00:34:40,580

Here's what the Condon report said about the McMinnville sighting.

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00:34:40,680 --> 00:34:56,580

This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological and physical appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object flew within sight of two witnesses.

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00:34:56,680 --> 00:34:59,580

And there were other cases they described in similar ways.

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00:35:00,480 --> 00:35:08,480

When the final report came out, the main body of the report was open to the possibility that UFOs might be real.

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00:35:08,580 --> 00:35:13,480

But the final summary of the report was written by Dr. Condon himself.

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00:35:13,580 --> 00:35:18,480

Dr. Condon said it's time for the government to just wash its hands of this whole thing.

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00:35:18,580 --> 00:35:21,480

That's about the only thing most people read.

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00:35:21,580 --> 00:35:28,480

The Condon report concluded in 1969 this was not a threat to national security.

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00:35:28,480 --> 00:35:37,380

There was no indication of extraterrestrial connection and there was likely no benefit scientifically from continuing to study this phenomenon.

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00:35:39,480 --> 00:35:47,380

Dr. Robert Condon was somebody that was strenuously opposed to the idea that UFOs could be alien craft of any kind.

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00:35:47,480 --> 00:35:50,380

So from the outset he had his mind made up.

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00:35:50,380 --> 00:35:56,280

Word is that Dr. Condon himself didn't even bother to read the report or review the data.

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00:35:56,380 --> 00:36:02,280

He just brought his conclusion because that's what the Air Force wanted to hear.

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00:36:02,380 --> 00:36:06,280

Condon was definitely the nail in the coffin for Project Blue Book.

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00:36:06,380 --> 00:36:11,280

The Air Force had been involved with looking into UFOs for more than 15 years.

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00:36:11,380 --> 00:36:18,280

They were inundated by these reports, frustrated and just wanted to be done with the whole thing.

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00:36:19,280 --> 00:36:23,180

The result was the Air Force said well we don't need to follow this anymore.

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00:36:23,280 --> 00:36:27,180

So they used that as a rationale to close down Project Blue Book.

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00:36:28,280 --> 00:36:35,180

Shortly thereafter Dr. Allen Heineck renounced the whole process and the way the Air Force handled it.

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00:36:35,280 --> 00:36:41,180

Some of us who followed this whole phenomena became interested in the Condon report.

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00:36:41,280 --> 00:36:43,180

What's your feeling about that?

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00:36:43,280 --> 00:36:46,180

Well my feeling is that the Condon report was a travesty on science.

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00:36:46,180 --> 00:36:48,080

I don't feel like presenting a fair picture.

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00:36:48,180 --> 00:36:55,080

Condon Committee was unable to explain one quarter of the cases that were submitted that they studied.

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00:36:58,180 --> 00:37:03,080

Our guest tonight is one of the world's foremost authorities on unidentified flying objects.

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00:37:03,180 --> 00:37:06,080

Dr. J. Allen Heineck.

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00:37:06,080 --> 00:37:22,980

When Project Blue Book is shut down in 1970, it freed Heineck to say and do whatever he wanted where UFOs were concerned.

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00:37:23,080 --> 00:37:31,980

Dr. Heineck worked nearly two decades on Project Blue Book and during that time in the data that Project Blue Book had collected.

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00:37:31,980 --> 00:37:35,880

The cases were still breaking down in that very same 80-20 ratio.

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00:37:35,980 --> 00:37:40,880

He was able to explain 80% of them away. He was not able to explain 20% of them.

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00:37:40,980 --> 00:37:43,880

And now he started to worry about that.

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00:37:43,980 --> 00:37:48,880

He was a scientist and he saw a trend and he thought that might mean something.

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00:37:48,980 --> 00:37:52,880

If these things didn't fit patterns then there's no way of studying it.

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00:37:52,980 --> 00:37:59,880

But when you get reports from Australia, Japan, France, then you have to say well either there's a virus going around

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00:37:59,880 --> 00:38:04,780

causing everybody to come crazy at the same time or there's something to it.

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00:38:04,880 --> 00:38:10,780

Heineck was finally free to start investigating what UFOs are in any way he wanted.

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00:38:20,880 --> 00:38:25,780

I'm so glad you're doing what you're doing. There aren't that many reporters that take this seriously.

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00:38:25,880 --> 00:38:26,780

Yeah.

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00:38:26,880 --> 00:38:27,780

I'm glad you're doing it.

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00:38:27,780 --> 00:38:32,680

Tons of people, you know, they walk up to me and say thank you for reporting it as straight news.

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00:38:32,780 --> 00:38:40,680

And then I think it was their news judgment, the publisher and the editor that okay we don't want any more of this.

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00:38:40,780 --> 00:38:42,680

Let's get back to normal.

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00:38:42,780 --> 00:38:46,680

Some people said you were fired. Some people said well you kind of wanted to leave anyway.

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00:38:46,780 --> 00:38:47,680

So what was the actual story?

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00:38:47,780 --> 00:38:51,680

I had to give in my notice. I was asked not to cover anything else on UFOs.

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00:38:51,680 --> 00:39:00,580

I came in, my computer was gone, my Rolodex was gone and called to the publisher's office and it wasn't a pleasant scene.

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00:39:00,680 --> 00:39:03,580

And they asked me to pack and go. So I did.

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00:39:03,680 --> 00:39:05,580

Thanks for your time.

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00:39:05,680 --> 00:39:09,580

Sadly when Angela left, we never spoke again.

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00:39:09,680 --> 00:39:13,580

I hate that that story really divided us, but it did.

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00:39:13,680 --> 00:39:20,580

She just could not get back to doing her regular reporting. It took over her life.

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00:39:22,680 --> 00:39:26,580

I thought you know the readers are going to like this. They're going to really like this.

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00:39:26,680 --> 00:39:29,580

So that was another reason I went and did it.

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00:39:29,680 --> 00:39:31,580

And the editor liked early.

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00:39:31,680 --> 00:39:34,580

You had to cut that part.

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00:39:34,680 --> 00:39:37,580

I have never seen this. That's hilarious.

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00:39:37,680 --> 00:39:44,580

You know it's funny to see that.

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00:39:44,680 --> 00:39:48,580

Sorry, I just, I haven't seen Angela in a long time. And she loved that story.

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00:39:48,580 --> 00:39:55,480

And you know I look back on that time and I think I was so wrong and I thought I was so smart and I was so wrong.

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00:39:55,580 --> 00:40:06,480

Because they had the foresight to see something that I couldn't and people did love that story. It was fun for them.

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00:40:06,580 --> 00:40:11,480

I've never spoken about this, but about a year after this story died down.

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00:40:11,580 --> 00:40:16,480

I was driving my daughter to gymnastics in one evening.

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00:40:16,480 --> 00:40:23,380

It was dusk and I saw the exact same thing that everyone else had been talking about the year prior.

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00:40:23,480 --> 00:40:34,380

A big thing with the lights, the clear lights that kind of went all over the place. They went straight line and it took off.

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00:40:34,480 --> 00:40:39,380

I get goosebumps now even just remembering it.

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00:40:39,480 --> 00:40:46,380

Oh my God, that's what we've been writing about for a year and I was the biggest skeptic of all and here I am.

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00:40:46,480 --> 00:40:50,380

It was a strange moment for sure.

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00:40:50,480 --> 00:40:55,380

The next day I got to the office, never planned to say a word to anybody.

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00:40:55,480 --> 00:41:04,380

And we had about a dozen calls that day from others who said, oh my gosh, I think I saw that again.

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00:41:04,480 --> 00:41:14,380

That's when I sort of went, okay, there really was something to this but it took me that long.

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00:41:14,380 --> 00:41:16,280

The government should be looking at this, of course.

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00:41:16,380 --> 00:41:23,280

I have to believe that what happened in Stephenville and Erath County was big enough that it got the attention of the government.

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00:41:23,380 --> 00:41:29,280

I just believe that and I believe they know a heck of a lot more than we do.

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00:41:29,380 --> 00:41:36,280

Please welcome from the center of UFO studies in Evansston Illinois, Dr. J. Allen Heineck.

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00:41:36,380 --> 00:41:42,280

In the years that followed, J. Allen Heineck became a hero, advocating for the study of UFOs.

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00:41:42,280 --> 00:41:47,180

Dr. Heineck realized that this was a serious problem.

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00:41:47,280 --> 00:41:50,180

These things are coming over our bases, over our nuclear facilities.

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00:41:50,280 --> 00:41:56,180

I thought we were under attack. By who or what, I had no idea.