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

One of these three men is an expert on unidentified flying objects.

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

What is your name, please?

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

My name is Jay Allen Heineck.

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

My name is Jay Allen Heineck.

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

My name is Jay Allen Heineck.

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

Jay Allen Heineck came into the UFO field with the typical scientific attitude,

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

which is they shouldn't be studied. There's nothing to them.

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

Ultimately, that changed, and that's sort of the core of the Jay Allen Heineck story.

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

I, Jay Allen Heineck, am a consultant to the United States Air Force on unidentified flying objects.

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

Like so many other key figures of that era, Heineck had to push against the government that he once worked for,

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

and stand up for the truth.

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

I am also professor of astronomy and director of a large university observatory.

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00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:07,000

Heineck believed that science was the tool. Science could get us to an understanding of what UFOs

are,

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,000

and that's what he advocated for.

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

There are a lot of people who don't always understand his rationale for the things he did or the things he said,

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:21,000

but Heineck's impact today, I think, is immeasurable.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:25,000

Only one of these men is the real Jay Allen Heineck.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:30,000

The other two are imposters, and will try to fool this panel on to tell the truth.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:37,000

We get reports every night.

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

I don't know what's happening.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:41,000

It looks like a real pain right around it.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:43,000

I'd like to report a UFO.

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:56,000

The U.S. government closed its formal study of UFOs, Project Blue Book, in late 1969,

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

and the government, as a whole, says we're not interested in UFO reports.

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:08,000

The Air Force made the decision, let's get out of this business of investigating UFOs.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:12,000

Our business is national security. We've seen no threat.

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00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:14,000

Let's stop Project Blue Book.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:22,000

Jay Allen Heineck, who was the scientist who worked for Project Blue Book for almost 20 years,

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:26,000

actually came through that with the opposite perspective,

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:31,000

which was that UFOs were something serious, and they should be investigated.

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00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:38,000

In my association with Project Blue Book, I know very well that it was not a scientific project.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:44,000

I also know that they never, never would notify the media when an interesting case came up.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:48,000

They did everything they could to keep the pressure to keep it down.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:50,000

So they definitely withheld information.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:55,000

Dr. Heineck realized that this was a serious problem.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:00,000

UFO reports could not all be explained, and that the military should be taking this more seriously.

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

We now know that there were UFO cases during this time period that did seem to have national security implications.

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00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:13,000

I know that when I was a part of Blue Book, there were a number of cases that never got into Blue Book.

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:18,000

They were witnesses. This was observed at a missile base. This was observed by an Air Force pilot.

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:23,000

You mean to tell me that something in the CIA or the FBI and the government hasn't investigated this?

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:31,000

I think the public would be shocked to realize that there were incidents going back even into the 60s,

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00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:36,000

where our nuclear missile silos were being interfered with.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:44,000

Production facilities, weapons facilities, we've had incidents over numerous ICBM bases.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:51,000

During the Cold War, intercontinental ballistic missiles, called ICBMs,

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:55,000

were strategically located throughout northern parts of the United States,

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:59,000

where they were within striking distance of the Soviet Union.

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00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:05,000

There were almost identical UFO events at two of the Minuteman ICBM locations.

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:10,000

At Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota in 1966,

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:15,000

and at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana in 1967.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:24,000

My name is Robert Salas. In 1967, I was a Lieutenant in the Air Force Station in Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana.

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:31,000

My name is David Shimley. I'm a retired Air Force Captain at Minut Air Force Base, North Dakota.

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:40,000

In 1966, my responsibility was to launch our 10 nuclear-tipped missiles upon appropriate and verified order.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:48,000

My name is Robert Jamison. I was a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, Malmstrom Air Force Base, in Montana.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:54,000

One of my jobs was to, if a missile goes off alert for any reason, is to go out and restart it.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:59,000

The Air Force includes missile men. Here at Malmstrom Air Force Base,

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:05,000

a strategic missile wing controls the most modern Minuteman in its underground silo.

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

The Air Force specialists on this job, by continuous readiness to launch their bird,

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:15,000

help prevent, rather than start, a nuclear war.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:21,000

We had Minuteman one missiles, and that's about 800 kiloton weapon.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:28,000

And just for reference, the weapons that were dropped on Hiroshima Nagasaki were 20 kilotons.

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:33,000

That capability is helping to keep the peace.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:38,000

We have a policy of mutually assured destruction, and we suicide for us,

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:47,000

or our potential adversaries to launch a nuclear attack, unless they could disable that capability in that system.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:55,000

Then they could conceivably decapitate the United States, destroy the capital without fear of retaliatory response,

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:58,000

and change the global balance of power.

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:02,000

Our location was 60 feet underground.

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

We were very well protected.

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00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:09,000

It was a concrete steel reinforced capsule.

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

And this capsule was sitting below what we call the launch control facility.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:17,000

We had six security guards top side.

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

They had the responsibility for making sure there was nobody trying to break in.

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

I traveled to base to attend the pre-departure crew briefing.

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:32,000

After the briefing, several missile crews came up to me and said,

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:34,000

did you hear what happened overnight?

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:43,000

Sometime in the evening hours, I get up a call from the main guard upstairs.

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:47,000

He tells me that there are strange lights flying over the facility.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:57,000

They're looking at reddish-orange glowing pulsating light that's hovering just above the front gate.

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

And he pointed with his arms, and he says,

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

it's right out there hovering, motionless and without sound.

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:10,000

They did think that there was a solid object within the light, sort of oval shaped.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:12,000

I kind of dismissed it.

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00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:14,000

I even said, you mean like UFOs?

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:17,000

And kind of laughed at him.

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:20,000

And he said, well, they're not airplanes, sir.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:25,000

About five minutes later, he calls back and he's screaming into the phone.

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00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

Now he's very frightened.

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00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:29,000

He's babbling.

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00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:32,000

He says he's got all the guards out there with their weapons drawn.

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00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,000

They wanted orders on what to do.

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:41,000

I told him, make sure nothing enters the fenced area.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:46,000

When I hung up the phone, I thought we were under attack.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:50,000

By who or what, I had no idea.

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00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:56,000

And then we get bells and whistles going off in our control panel.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:01,000

And we could see the lights going from green to red all across the board,

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:05,000

meaning the missiles were inoperable now.

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

If the president had given the order to launch the missiles, we could not have launched them.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Losing 10 missiles was a shock, except for that instance.

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00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:25,000

I never lost more than one missile at a time.

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00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:34,000

Somehow, some way, vehicles were able to maneuver right over those ICBMs and turn them off.

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

We don't know why they went down. They still don't know.

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00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:44,000

There's no other reason I can think of that would cause a 10-to-go-off alert within seconds.

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00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:51,000

We knew it. It wasn't an ordinary man-made machine because we had nothing like that.

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00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:58,000

After the incident, I was required not to speak to anybody about it.

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00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:02,000

I attempted to question the security guard, and he said,

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00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:06,000

Sorry, sir, I've been told to keep quiet.

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00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:11,000

And he was told that as far as you're concerned, it never happened.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:14,000

I had to go through a spatial briefing.

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:19,000

This is where they told me, you're not supposed to say ever again

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00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:23,000

that something happened because nothing happened.

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00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Of course, the first thing I did when I got home was, hey, I guess what happened?

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00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:33,000

There was a man from Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

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00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:40,000

All he wanted me to do was to sign this document stating I would never speak about this again.

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Once we signed that document, we were released, told to leave, and that was that.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:55,000

I never spoke about any of this until 1994, so it was about 27 years later.

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00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:03,000

Three years after the Mountstrom incident in which 10 missiles were shut down,

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00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:08,000

the Air Force released a fact sheet to the public announcing the close of Project Blue Book.

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00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:14,000

And it stated that no UFO reported, investigated, or evaluated by the Air Force,

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00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:18,000

was ever an indication of a threat to our national security,

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00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:24,000

meaning not even one has represented any kind of national security threat.

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00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:30,000

That was certainly a lie. Let's use the right word.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:36,000

The Air Force knew full well these were UFO related incidents

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00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:41,000

and the UFOs were responsible for the shutdown of these missiles.

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00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:49,000

We found out later in 1979 that in fact a secret memo had circulated called the Bollender Memo,

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:59,000

which stated that any national security cases could continue to be reported through channels already in place.

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00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:08,000

And so it was a complete black and white contradiction between what was being said to the public

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00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:12,000

and what was being said behind the scenes.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:24,000

There's something that's in our atmosphere that we just don't know what it is.

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00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:29,000

These things seem to be interested in our nuclear capabilities,

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00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:33,000

and that's something that we should be concerned about.

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:36,000

I kept a secret for 40 years.

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00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:41,000

It was a long time to have this burden on the back of my shoulders.

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00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:46,000

I'm normally quiet personality and I just don't want to be in the limelight,

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00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:50,000

but the public needs to know this.

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00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:54,000

Robert Salas did not speak out about what happened for many, many years

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00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:59,000

and it shows how intimidated these people are to come forward.

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:02,000

Decades will go by and they won't even talk about it.

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00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:06,000

Good morning. My name is David Shindley.

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00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:13,000

In 2001, I found an article describing Robert Salas' incident.

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00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:22,000

And when I saw that, I said, oh my God, the incident that he had was almost identical to the one I had.

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00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:30,000

And I experienced just a joyful freedom and I finally was able to tell my wife my secret.

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:37,000

And so, thanks Robert for helping me out.

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

After the incident, the guards had called me and literally begged me to come out and see them

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00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:49,000

because this was a very traumatic experience for the guards.

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00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:58,000

But I had just signed a nondisclosure statement, so I had to tell them on the phone that I could not see them.

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:08,000

So when I talk about this, I do it partly for those airmen that begged me to come see them and I just couldn't do it.

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00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:15,000

There is a shyness and a reluctance on the part of many witnesses and understandably so against reporting

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00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:21,000

because too many have been ridiculed and the life has been made somewhat miserable for them.

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:29,000

Dr. Heineck grew increasingly disillusioned by the Air Force's dismissive approach to these sightings

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00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:32,000

and dismissive approach to the evidence.

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00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Heineck gradually realized that this was a subject that demanded serious study.

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:42,000

Back when Heineck was in Project Blue Book, there was a case.

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00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:45,000

It involved a father and his two sons in Idaho.

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00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:53,000

One day they all saw this object just zoom down this gully down the riverbed and disappear.

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00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,000

They all three saw it. Heineck found it fairly convincing.

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00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:00,000

He ended up writing it off as something with a natural cause.

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

But that was Heineck's official report to Project Blue Book.

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00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:12,000

Why this is significant is years later when Heineck started to change his mind, he had regrets about that specific case.

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00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:17,000

He said with that case, I should have said, you know what, it doesn't add up completely.

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00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:22,000

I think there's more going on here. I'm not going to dismiss it. I'm going to try to find out more.

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

So that was kind of the first chink in Heineck's facade as a debunker.

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00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:33,000

I began to get certain doubts because it was the people themselves.

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00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:38,000

I said to myself, well, now come on, how much longer am I going to call these people crazy?

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00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:44,000

And when I changed my glasses, you might say a little bit and took a view that maybe these people aren't crazy.

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00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:49,000

And began to realize what two sort of people they were, good, solid people.

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00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:56,000

I said to myself, well, the time has come to maybe change my attitude.

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00:14:56,000 --> 00:15:14,000

With the United States Air Force leaving the role behind of taking in UFO investigations, this left a large vacuum that civilian organizations began to fill.

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00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:21,000

In 1974, J. Allen Heineck founded the Center for UFO Studies, abbreviated COOFOS.

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00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:35,000

This was a civilian group composed of very qualified people that runs the gamut of the average person with enthusiasm to a very highly trained scientist or academic.

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00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:40,000

And the records that they provided are absolutely crucial.

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00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:50,000

I'm Mark Rottiger, the scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

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00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:54,000

Dr. Heineck mentored me and designated me as a successor.

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00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Dr. Heineck was the classic professor. He loved teaching.

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00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:03,000

He also really enjoyed jokes, you know, in a good time.

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00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:06,000

He wasn't stuffy, he had a little twinkle in his eye.

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00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:09,000

People really warmed up to him.

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00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:17,000

Allen was very open-minded and that is really the background to him being interested in UFOs.

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00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:21,000

UFO groups, you know, they're not massive organizations.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:27,000

In fact, we're now sitting in the basement in my UFO office here in my house.

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00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:30,000

You know, the Center is really like a scientific think tank.

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00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:38,000

Dr. Heineck realized that there was a need for a focused professional group to study UFOs.

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00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:41,000

That involves mainly three things.

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00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:44,000

Being a place for people to report sightings.

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00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Number two is to be a place for reliable information.

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

We publish a journal, a periodical, with monographs.

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00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:54,000

And finally, of course, a place to do research.

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00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:58,000

We've stayed pretty close to that mission all through the years.

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00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:05,000

One of the first things that Kufos did was establish a national hotline for UFO reporting.

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00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:10,000

They distributed this hotline to law enforcement agencies around the country and said,

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00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:12,000

put this on your bulletin board.

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00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:19,000

If you ever get a call from someone who has seen a UFO, call us on this hotline and we will do the investigation.

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00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:24,000

But it didn't look like anything I know of.

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

But there was a big difference between civilian and military investigations of UFOs.

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00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:37,000

The military has access to other information civilian and stone.

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00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:40,000

I went to see Don Rumsfeld at the White House,

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00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:43,000

namely because he's a friend of mine, and said to him,

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

look, I have this Center for UFO Studies and I wanted you to know

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:52,000

that should this subject ever get to the presidential, the congressional level,

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00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:55,000

there is a group of scientists who are ready to work on it.

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00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:59,000

And I said, I do have a certain responsibility to these scientists.

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00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Are we spinning our wheels?

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00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:04,000

If this work has already been done by somebody else.

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00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:09,000

I said, because of my responsibility to these scientists, I felt that I had a need to know.

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00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:13,000

And he snapped right back at me, said, you do not have a need to know.

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00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:16,000

Now you interpret that any darn way you want.

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00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:19,000

In any case, you cannot stop scientists from working.

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00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:21,000

And it's the whole point of being a scientist.

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00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:22,000

They're individualists.

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00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:27,000

They're going to do what they damn please anyway.

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00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:32,000

In the 70s and 80s, in general, government officials were not talking about UFOs.

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00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:37,000

But some presidents were also interested in getting information about UFOs.

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00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:40,000

When Jimmy Carter was the governor of Georgia in 1969,

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00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:43,000

he had a sighting with a group of other witnesses.

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00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:47,000

All of it saw a very bright light in the western sky.

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00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:53,000

And he got closer and closer, and then it seemed to stop in its proximity to us.

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00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:58,000

And then the color of it changed from white to blue to red.

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00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:00,000

Jimmy Carter was very impressed by that.

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

It really impacted him.

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00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:08,000

Then in 1973, he filed a written report on this with a number of civilian UFO groups.

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00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:09,000

So it's on the record.

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00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:15,000

So when he did become president, he approached NASA to see if they would open up a new investigation

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00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:20,000

that could continue what the Air Force had been doing prior to closing down Project Blue Book.

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00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:26,000

The Air Force would not have wanted this to happen seven years after closing Project Blue Book.

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00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:31,000

So the Air Force jumped in on the process and said to NASA,

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00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:33,000

we don't want you to do this.

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00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:40,000

After a series of exchanges, NASA did decline the president's request.

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00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Under pressure to answer by the end of the year, NASA concluded that it would be pointless

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00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:49,000

to mount a new research effort because of the lack of physical evidence.

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00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:55,000

It was kind of stunning that a request from the president would have been denied.

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

If there is no concrete evidence of people from outer space, how do you write a whole book about UFOs?

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00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:08,000

Well, that's exactly why I called it the UFO experience

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00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:11,000

instead of something that would have sold more like sex in the UFO.

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00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:18,000

I called it the UFO experience because that's what I was talking about, the experience that people had.

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00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:22,000

And you can't convince a person who's had a real UFO experience that he hasn't had it.

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00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:29,000

In the early 70s, J.L. and Heineck came out with his monumental book called the UFO Experience.

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00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:32,000

It wasn't just about research.

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00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:38,000

He was somebody that would listen and took people seriously who had sightings and had experiences.

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00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:43,000

He would go on lots of TV shows and radio interviews,

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00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:50,000

and he was a public figure advocating for official recognition and study of UFOs.

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00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:59,000

With the space program taking off, there was a groundswell of interest in outer space.

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00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:06,000

That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.

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00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:13,000

It was a national movement, and so people's imaginations, of course, run wild.

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00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:19,000

Hollywood was able to capture that and feed people's thirst and imagination,

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00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:24,000

and it led to a long-standing, powerful genre.

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00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:27,000

Made of force and with use.

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00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:35,000

So UFOs became a cultural, creative, imaginative area, and Heineck's book was a big hit.

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00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Dr. J. Allen Heineck.

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00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:45,000

Steven Spielberg bought the rights to Heineck's book and hired Dr. Heineck as a technical consultant.

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00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:52,000

And so Spielberg worked with Heineck in helping to get the facts accurate for his movie Close Encounters.

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00:21:53,000 --> 00:22:00,000

I was very influenced by J. Allen Heineck because he was not looking at UFOs as science fiction,

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00:22:00,000 --> 00:22:04,000

but he was looking at them as science speculation.

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00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:09,000

So I met with him, and I used him, and I picked his brain, and he consulted with me.

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00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:13,000

Dr. Heineck was the fellow that coined the term Close Encounters.

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00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:18,000

Close Encounter, the first kind, is one is close, but nothing really happened.

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00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:24,000

Close Encounter, the second kind, includes physical damage to the environment.

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00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:29,000

That could be landing pad imprints in the grass where a UFO was said to have landed.

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00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:33,000

And the close encounters of the third kind are the most interesting of all.

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00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:39,000

Close Encounter, the third kind, is really what you meet them.

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00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:47,000

It was clear that Spielberg wanted real science, real data, accurate information about UFOs,

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00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:50,000

and that's why he called on J. Allen Heineck.

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

They were drawing from real US government information on how these things operated and maneuvered.

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00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:06,000

Hypersonic velocities are fast speeds, instantaneous acceleration, even biological effects where

Richard Dreyfus

262

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:08,000

has his face, has his sunburn.

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00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:13,000

Those were all observables that we were seeing in the US government, real observables,

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00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:16,000

that made their way onto the Hollywood screen.

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

And that's because Steven Spielberg was provided information from people from Project Blue Book.

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00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:29,000

Along with Heineck, Spielberg also talked to Jacques Valais,

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00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:35,000

a French scientist who was well known in the UFO field and had written numerous books on the topic.

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00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:39,000

I had the privilege of working with Dr. Heineck for five years.

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00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:48,000

We built the first computer-based data catalog of UFO sightings starting with the Air Force files,

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00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:52,000

which covered about 20,000 cases.

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00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:03,000

The French scientist in the movie, Character of la Combe, was based loosely on me.

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00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:15,000

France has an official scientific committee for UFOs that includes physicists, the military, including sociologists and psychologists.

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

By letting the project team leader be a Frenchman, it immediately gave more of a depth to the understanding of UFOs.

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00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:32,000

In the whole history of American movies, it's always, they come from somewhere, they kill somebody,

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00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:36,000

so we bring the tanks and they destroy all the tanks.

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00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:42,000

That's a very American way of looking at an alien life form.

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00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:48,000

If everything's ready here on the dark side of the moon, play the five tones.

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00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:57,000

The movie was the first movie in which we were greeting these aliens and they were coming to us as equal,

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00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:03,000

and we were going to have an intelligent discussion with them, or intelligent exchange.

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00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:08,000

Close Encounters

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00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:18,000

Close Encounters, we just captured the spirit of the mystery of the phenomenon, the scariness of the phenomenon,

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00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:21,000

and kind of the impact that it has on people.

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00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:26,000

Whatever the government may think about them, unidentified flying objects seem to be popular with the people.

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00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:33,000

Columbia Pictures reports that its film Close Encounters of a Third Kind has grossed \$39 million in three weeks.

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00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:42,000

I owe a lot to J. Allen Heineck. His instilling in me, a professional's point of view on this kind of field reporting,

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00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:46,000

and he helped me make the movie more credible than it would have been without his existence.

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00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:57,000

Steven Spielberg actually brought him on set for when they filmed the movie's huge climax at the secret UFO base in Wyoming.

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00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:01,000

United States Navy, 043-431.

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00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:07,000

Captain. And of course Close Encounters became a household term because of Steven Spielberg's movie,

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00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:10,000

and really catapulted Heineck to a degree of celebrity.

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00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:16,000

Therefore will the real Dr. J. Allen Heineck please stand up.

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

Even though Heineck worked for our government for almost two decades,

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

what he was doing in the 70s and 80s seemed to have no impact at all on the government, and sightings continued.

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00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:40,000

There's the fantastic sightings last year and this year in the Westchester and Putnam County areas.

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00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:46,000

Those are literally out of this world. I can find no logical explanation for them.

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00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:48,000

I don't know what the hell it is.

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00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:04,000

We were coming home from grad school, and we were just yacking like we are now,

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

and all of a sudden Doris says, what are those lights up there?

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00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:13,000

I was driving north on 118, and as I was approaching the light here,

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00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:18,000

I looked into the northern sky and saw what appeared to be a large aircraft with landing lights,

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00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:26,000

flying very low about 500 feet, and it stopped, and it rotated 180 degrees and started to head west.

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

I looked up at Interstate 84, and it was a parking lot.

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00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:37,000

People were out of their cars, blinking lights, pointing up at the sky,

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00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:41,000

and there was that city of lights hovering over in my backyard.

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00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:45,000

And it went from night to broad daylight.

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

And all of a sudden it was, it's going to land, it's going to land.

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

When I came to the station, the phones were ringing off the hook.

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00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:59,000

The object came directly over my head, less than 500 feet above me.

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00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:05,000

The covered whole sky was totally quiet, no sound whatsoever.

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00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:10,000

You could hear a pin drop.

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00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:16,000

I said, oh, what do I do with my family? How am I going to handle all this?

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00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:23,000

What I saw was unbelievable, mind boggling.

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00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:26,000

The whole town saw what I saw.

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

Beginning in around 1983, there was an incredibly dramatic series of sightings

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00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:38,000

that took place in the Hudson Valley area of New York State and in Connecticut,

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00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:42,000

which was actually a wave, because it took place over years.

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00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:48,000

People would report these UFOs to the police or maybe to local UFO groups,

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00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:52,000

and a lot of people were kind of awed and frightened.

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00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:54,000

It was a little spooky.

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00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:57,000

I come because it was unexplainable.

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00:28:57,000 --> 00:28:58,000

What Jim Brooks saw...

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00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:03,000

There was a lot of local reporting, some local civilian investigation.

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00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:06,000

Our researchers have set up a special UFO hotline in Westchester.

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00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:12,000

But it was something that involved hundreds, at least, witnesses, if not more.

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00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:23,000

There was nothing coming from our government, even though these gigantic craft were cruising around over a part of the United States.

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00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:28,000

The Federal Aviation Administration has joined the Air Force and many astronomers

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

in attributing most UFO sightings to man-made objects and natural phenomenon.

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00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:38,000

Believe it or not, the planet Venus is a fairly common UFO sighting.

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00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:40,000

It moved very slowly.

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00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:43,000

We looked up in the sky, we saw six lights in a V-shape.

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00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:48,000

Even after all these witnesses had seen these objects and had reported them to their local police,

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00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:51,000

it still became a kind of a joke.

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00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:56,000

The head of my school, he said, you know, some people might think you're crazy.

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00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:03,000

I was the commissioner of motor vehicles, and I was involved in a political race at that time.

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00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:09,000

The last thing I wanted to be known for was little green people or UFOs.

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00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:15,000

My husband also thought I was nuts, and so I didn't talk about it too much.

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00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:19,000

What is interesting, tragic and amusing, all at the one and the same time,

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00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:22,000

is that lots of people are afraid to talk about it.

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00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:32,000

They, their friends will laugh at them and so forth, and we need to let those people feel safe and talk about it.

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00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:40,000

On August 25th of 1984, Heineck came to the Hudson Valley, and he gave a talk at the middle school there.

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00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:46,000

This was the last case that he was involved with before he died, and it made a huge impression on him.

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00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:50,000

Here's a sketch of the thing going on in Westchester County now.

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00:30:50,000 --> 00:31:00,000

This is large, boomerang-shaped object that moves slowly, far below the stall speed of aircraft, moves silently.

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

I've been told by highly responsible witnesses that it is as large as the football field.

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00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:12,000

It speaks to the importance of the Hudson Valley wave that Jay Allen Heineck came here.

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00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:18,000

He thought it was important enough to speak to the witnesses, to go to the sites.

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00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:22,000

I spent a weekend with Dr. Heineck.

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00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:28,000

Dr. Heineck could ask you a question, and he'd sit back and he would listen,

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00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:33,000

and if one of my kids jumped into the conversation, he would just kindly just put up his hand and go,

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00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:40,000

I'll get right back to you with a little wink, and you were the most important person for that moment he was talking to you.

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00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:42,000

That's the way he made me feel.

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00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:50,000

It was very important for these witnesses who were not getting any official recognition that somebody like Jay Allen Heineck,

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00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:57,000

an astronomer who had worked for the government, that he came there and spoke with them and took them seriously.

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00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:04,000

And we walked through the whole sighting. He wanted to go every place, and every time we made a stop, he said,

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00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:09,000

well, what are you feeling? Are you feeling anything in your gut? Did you feel connected to this

object?

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00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:15,000

It made a huge difference to have him on site during the wave.

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00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:22,000

In the Westchester case in New York, we had witnesses geographically independent of each other, didn't know each other,

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00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:28,000

and yet reported identically the same things. Now, you cannot call that mass hallucination.

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00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:38,000

Lack of scientific involvement or government acknowledgement of UFOs encourages people's imaginations to go wild, but what are they hiding?

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00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:47,000

We called the police when we got home, and they didn't tell us that night, but a couple of days later we were reading they thought they were ultralights, the planes.

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00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:57,000

The chief meteorologist at the Westchester County Airport, with some 25 years experience, told me that when he saw it, it moved very slowly like a ship docking at a berth.

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00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:03,000

Now, that cannot possibly be ultralights flying in formation. That's just out of the question.

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00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:10,000

The planes flying in formation is one of the recent sighted, including an article in Discover Magazine.

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00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:21,000

This article that was in Discover Magazine talks about the pilots who were going up and hoaxing UFOs, and it implies that that's probably what all sightings were.

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

Can you hear the engines?

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00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:32,000

Planes fly all the time. You hear 7,000 people coming out and saying, ah, I saw planes over my head. No, they saw something different.

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00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:40,000

Ultralights, they make noise. They do make noise. So, ah, we've never had a good explanation.

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00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:57,000

So these pilots did a huge disservice by creating this hoax situation to confuse everything, and to bring a lack of credibility and to give the government something to hang their hat on when they were asked what people were actually seeing.

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00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:05,000

People began doubting themselves. It kept the entire wave suppressed.

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00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:10,000

Heineck, who was just stunned by the fact that this was not getting attention.

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00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:18,000

The subject came up in the United Nations recently. We have reports from 133 different countries, and the same pattern exists around the world.

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00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:22,000

It's not just localized in one particular country, you see.

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00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:37,000

So while our government was telling the public that there was nothing to UFOs, that the investigations had all been shut down, documents reveal that officials were, in fact, monitoring cases in other countries.

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00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:43,000

What they were saying is very similar to what was saying in the Hudson Valley.

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00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:48,000

We saw something happening in the middle of the United States.

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00:34:53,000 --> 00:35:00,000

This map was prepared by Dr. Jacques Ballet.

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

UFO reports are truly global, and they seem to occur in waves or flaps, as they are often called.

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00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:12,000

Notice how the flaps have been distributed throughout the years and over the world.

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00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:22,000

This is truly an international phenomenon. There's no question about it. There's a very similar

pattern, very similar reports.

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00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:29,000

Foreign militaries are also having encounters. The Belgian Air Force had some extraordinary encounters.

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00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:36,000

People claim to have seen for a long time and several times flying and luminous objects of triangular shape.

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00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:40,000

They saw in the sky a strange phenomenon, an UFO.

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00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:47,000

A few years after the Hudson Valley wave, a very similar wave occurred in Belgium.

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00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:57,000

These large black triangles, again, all the characteristics, silent, low beams of light, hovering.

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00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Belgian authorities would scramble jets in order to try to get a better look at the objects.

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00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:11,000

They wanted to identify what it was that was invading protected airspace over their country.

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00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:13,000

It felt that this was their responsibility.

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

The F-16s that the Belgian military had attract these objects on radar.

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00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:26,000

So they actually have radar imagery of the unknown moving through Belgian airspace.

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00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:35,000

And the contrast from how the Belgian government handled it there versus how our government didn't handle the events in Hudson Valley are really striking.

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00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:43,000

The Belgian Air Force became actively involved with a group of scientists to collect reports from witnesses.

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00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:47,000

They assigned a colonel to head up an investigation.

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00:36:47,000 --> 00:37:03,000

And they held a press conference packed with media in which they disclosed everything they knew and how they were approaching this.

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00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:06,000

And the public were encouraged to file reports.

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00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Air Force officers were coming forward and speaking about it.

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00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:25,000

They gave it a legitimacy that we have yet to see here in this country.

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00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:34,000

Instead of the government stop investigating back in 1969, do these UFO watchers have any reason to expect the government to get re-involved in investigating these claims?

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00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Right now they're a bit disappointed the government has not gotten more involved than it has in the last 10 years.

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00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:47,000

But we do know that the CIA and the Defense Department has been doing some research into other sightings in other nations like the Soviet Union and Iran.

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00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:50,000

But in the United States they seem very skeptical.

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00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:55,000

The Belgian case was documented by U.S. government officials.

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

Colonel De Brouwer had approached American officials to inquire whether this was ours.

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

And we had told them no.

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00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:05,000

And we had said also we'd like to know who's it was.

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00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:12,000

So there was a document filed about the Belgian wave, but no document filed about a wave in our own country.

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00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:17,000

At least that we are aware of.

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00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:25,000

To me, the greatest evidence for the existence of something strange going on is the caliber of many of the witnesses.

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00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:33,000

For instance, in Westchester we had meteorologists, Navy test pilot, IBM executives, priests, CPAs.

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00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:40,000

Are they all saying the same thing that it is not explainable to them by any conventional explanation?

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00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:44,000

You just said it, Charlie. That's exactly what they're saying. They're saying the same things.

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00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:51,000

You know, there were so many people that saw it. It wasn't, you know, if I saw it alone I probably wouldn't have told anybody.

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00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:54,000

The three of us saw it, I might have told my family.

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

But there were so many people that saw it that I was spined with, you know, spreading the word.

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

Me too.

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00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:04,000

And everybody that I told said they were sorry they didn't see it.

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00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:10,000

A lot of people took solace in the fact that Heineck was a guy who was on their side.

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00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:17,000

If you witnessed a UFO, Heineck was one person who would take you seriously, wouldn't make fun of you,

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00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:20,000

and really try to get a full picture of your experience.

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00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:27,000

And that's so huge to someone who has seen something weird in the sky and doesn't know how to tell anyone about it.

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00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:32,000

I felt validated. That's the way Dr. Heineck made me feel.

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

So I could say there's nothing wrong with me and nothing wrong with my eyes and nothing wrong with my intuition.

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

They're all intact.

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00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:47,000

Dr. Heineck was someone who was very alive, very open.

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00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:56,000

He told me once that the reason he became interested in UFOs was about the challenges, about, you know, what is this world?

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:01,000

If this is real, what does that mean for human existence?

426

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:12,000

The last thing Heineck did before leaving this earth was try to understand the nature of the denial and the disconnect among human beings

427

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:14,000

when something this dramatic happens.

428

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Heineck wrote an essay. It was a rough draft that was left on his computer when he died.

429

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:28,000

He said, how is it possible that in the United States where even trivial events are often flashed across the world,

430

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:35,000

only one national TV and radio network carried an account of these utterly astounding sightings.

431

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

Was no one minding the store? Was everyone asleep at the switch?

432

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

Heineck was a different person than he was previously when he worked at Project Blue Book.

433

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:53,000

Here he was saying UFOs, they're of scientific interest. The witnesses should be taken seriously.

434

00:40:53,000 --> 00:41:03,000

It was just the most profoundly important moment and setting a course of events that continued through the 70s, 80s and 90s.

435

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:12,000

Starting as a complete skeptic, I underwent a transformation and now I guess the best way of saying it is it's an itch that I just have to scratch.

436

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:20,000

I feel that we have a phenomenon that could be of tremendous potential importance to the human race.

437

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:22,000

I feel that strongly about it.

438

00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:33,000

It's a definite UFO or something like that. It's just the right over me.

439

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

This is highly restricted aerospace. You don't want something up there that doesn't belong there.

440

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

The culture as a whole didn't really take UFOs seriously.

441

00:41:42,000 --> 00:41:46,000

I stuck with it despite the level of ridicule for decades.

442

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:53,000

He described it as a huge ball with lights running around it. He said it was about four times bigger than the 747.

443

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:56,000

I'm an immediate response was I want to break the story.