

TIMELINE OF EVENTS AT RENDLESHAM FOREST, DECEMBER 1980

25 December 1980, 9.07pm.

A large meteor, or possibly the re-entry of a Russian satellite, Cosmos 749, seen over a wide area of Suffolk.

25 December 1980, Christmas night.

Bertie Coleman in Ipswich saw a huge bright object that left his dog trembling with fear. He said it was a solid object.

25 December 1980, 11.30pm

Garry Collins, in bar with friends from the base. Their pagers signalled a Red Alert and they left. As he drove home, at Capel Green saw an object 30 ft wide hovering about 60 ft up. It was triangular, black, and dripping some kind of fluid. It slowly tilted then took off and seemed to crash into the forest. Later his USAF friend Wayne claimed to have seen a huge UFO being repaired by aliens behind a force field, but he had been warned to say nothing about it.

25 December 1980, time unknown.

David Boast, the local gamekeeper, had been talking to a local woman near his home when they both saw an object descending into the forest. Later he was warned by the military to deny seeing anything. His daughter may also have seen it. He told his family what had happened but complied with the order.

26 December 1980, 1.30-2.00am

Roy Webb, his wife, and daughter Haley in their car driving home. Approaching Woodbridge, Haley noticed a red globe following the car. It disappeared in an instant.

26 December 1980, about 2am.

John Burroughs, on patrol near East Gate, and his supervisor, saw strange lights in forest. Red and blue lights due East. After getting permission to investigate, Burroughs, Penniston, and Cabansag went out to investigate. From that point everything is uncertain and the role of interventions by AFOSI and possible mind control operations is implied. The basic story is that something brightly illuminated was seen in a small clearing and allegedly left imprints and traces of radiation. However, the use of hypnotic regression therapy by investigators has severely compromised the narrative.

26 December 1980, early hours.

Arthur Smekle going home after day with friends at Butley. Saw a mass of lights, a bit triangular in shape.

26 December 1980, early hours

Randles told by USAF personnel that an A-10 jet using infra-red detectors had located the spot where something had crashed in the forest.

26 December 1980

Garry Collins heard many planes overhead during the day and went to investigate. He encountered a US manned roadblock on a road owned by the MoD, Tangham Road. They told him that there had been an aircraft accident. Later he met some foresters who told him that the trees where the crash had occurred had been cut down and removed by the Americans. Later a sergeant at RAF Woodbridge told him that residents who lived near the site had been warned to keep quiet.

26 December(?) 1980

A civilian radar operator at RAF Watton in Norfolk who remained anonymous, described picking up a target coming in from the coast which was lost over Randlesham. Two days later he said that USAF Intelligence men had requested to see the radar reports. They told him that a metallic UFO had crash landed in a forest near Ipswich, and remained on the ground for several hours, during which time entities had been seen and communicated with the base commander. Nigel Kerr, another civilian radar operator at Watton, confirmed the tracking but not the alleged UFO story.

27 December 1980, late in day.

Tony Sorrell saw a triangular object like frosted glass at Thetford, silent, not moving quickly. After 20 seconds it disappeared.

27 December 1980

It was reported to an investigator that Captain Sheepshanks, a local land owner, had complained to Bentwaters about a UFO that frightened his livestock. However he refused to discuss it. His son Andrew said they hadn't seen a UFO but he was sure that David Boast had.

27 December 1980, evening, extending into 28 December.

Gerry Harris and his wife, returning home, saw lights to the East of Rendlesham airfield. There were three "huge objects," bigger than normal aircraft, and after 30-45 minutes one dropped

down behind the trees, then all three shot off. Soon after he heard shouting and engine noises from the base, and vehicles starting up.

27 December 1980, approx 10.30 and extending into 28 December

Another light seen from Rendlesham and reported to Conrad and Halt, both at a Christmas function. Halt assembled a small team and went out to investigate. However, all the lightalls at the base were out of action, so he was issued with an image intensifier instead. On the way they examined the alleged landing site and found possible landing imprints, broken branches, and a higher than normal level of radiation. Subsequent sightings of a red object moving through the trees and a bright object that moved from the south and fired a light beam down in front of the men. Confusion with stars on the horizon and the lighthouse likely.

28 December 1980, around 1 am

Sarah Richardson saw three very unusual lights over the woods to the side of the runway. They were red, blue, and yellow. She thought perhaps someone was sending up fireworks. She described them as solid, metallic, and changing colour. After about two hours they suddenly shot off.

29 December 1980

Gerry Harris ran a garage and knew several base personnel as customers. He asked what had happened and was told they were not allowed to say. Later many ceased coming to him and a USAF patrol man told him that anyone who had "seen anything" had been shipped out.. Later that day Gerry walked into the woods along a footpath but a group of policemen and US military police stopped him. A few days later he noticed that a large area of trees had suddenly disappeared. He asked another customer at his garage, a forester, and was told that the trees were radioactive, and had to go.