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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Max Burns

From: **Andy Roberts** <Brigantia@compuserve.com>
Date: Sat, 2 May 1998 13:32:14 -0400
Fwd Date: Sat, 02 May 1998 14:20:36 -0400
Subject: Re: Max Burns

>Date: Fri, 10 Apr 1998 07:21:25 -0400
>From: Miles Johnston <TMilesJ@compuserve.com>
>Subject: Max Burns
>Sheffield Incident Response To: UFO Updates <updates@globalserve.net>

The current dialogue regarding the Sheffield UFO 'crash' case is important not only in itself but for its wider implications in the field of UFO studies. If I may, and as personal emails originating from myself are now being bandied about to 'prove' points in the Sheffield case, I'd like the opportunity to clear up some misunderstandings and to put certain matters into perspective.

Firstly I would heartily recommend that anyone interested obtains both Dave Clarke's *and* Max Burns' reports into the case. Trying to make your mind up from the fractured information on the Internet without first seeing the source materials is likely to prove unproductive, if not baffling.

Burns and Johnston are being illogical in their claims that they are being 'silenced'. That is not the issue at all. This whole argument is about the protocols for presenting evidence and proof, what constitutes same and the function of ufology.

And you just thought it was an argument between ufologists!

Are we in the subject just to make wild and unsubstantiated claims about UFOs coming from space being able to zap airplanes? Or are we involved to meticulously dissect witness claims *and* those of ufologists who reach conclusions which are not supported by facts? If any aliens are left after this process then fine. But you may all have noticed that in 41 years since Arnold, despite all the huff and puff, *no-one* has produced any conclusive evidence or proof for their existence. Therefore all such claims *and* their claimants should be rigorously interrogated. This is precisely the course of action Dave Clarke and myself have taken in this specific case.

Max Burns has told many people in the past that he was going to make the Sheffield 'crash' into the 'British Roswell' (!). That statement is a witnessed fact. Obviously that in itself is a challenge to any sensible ufologist. What we have seen over the past year or so is Max attempting to play out this fantasy in the real world.....

I offer selected comments on Miles' email.....

>IS the Email Being Bugged????.....I can only
>surmise, that it may be due to this Sheffield incident involving
>such sensitive issues, that even the "Psi-Corp" version of the

>National Guard is out on this one. (I stand to be totally
>corrected, as this is pure speculation).

This really worries me - that Miles actually thinks that either his email regarding a minor UFO case is being bugged. By whom and for what reason Miles? This is shoddy, unsubstantiated thinking, the type of which clogs the UFO subject and prevents progress.

In previous correspondence with Miles he has stated that 'certain' UFO researchers have had their houses 'torched' because of their interest and involvement. I *specifically* asked Miles for details of these crimes (because that is what he is alleging has taken place) so that I could investigate them and prove or disprove his allegations. He failed to reply.

>Max has been subjected to severe personal attack on his report,
>which is simply his report on an incident, involving RAF jets,
>civilian aircraft, military helicopters, massive sonic booms of
>unknown origin, the possible loss (NOT CRASH) of an RAF Tornado
>attack interceptor aircraft, and the reported sighting of a
>MASSIVE, quote "HUGE" triangular UFO hovering feet from houses in
>Dronfield, near Sheffield.

Any attacks made on Max's research have been because he is claiming things to be true which aren't. Put simply Max is saying that a Tornado jet was 'vanished' by a UFO - with loss of crew. He is saying that people have lost their lives because of a UFO incident.

This is a very serious allegation to make. Max cannot back it up with *one* shred of evidence. Imagine, for a moment, that you have a husband in the RAF flying Tornados and you read that one has been abstracted by a UFO with full loss of life and that the RAF are covering it up. Would you like to hear these ravings with no proof? *All* we want is Max to provide evidence and proof of his claims. His 'report' into the Sheffield case is little more than a log of claimed sightings of various mundane aerial objects and a copy of the police log. It contains no logical, structured approach to the case and fails to back up his claims or personal beliefs.

>Whether this meant ETs were involved is a matter for conjecture.

Max *has* stated he believes ETs are involved. These are claims which researchers in England at least take seriously as something to be challenged remorselessly. We are not debunkers! We are concerned sceptics, experienced ufologists, who are thoroughly sick of wild allegations being made with no back up evidence or proof.

Max and Miles do ufology a disservice with these claims.

We are trying to redress the balance. This is *not* entertainment - Miles and Max - if you are going to make claims then you are going to have to produce evidence to support them. So far you have not.

>Further attempts to discredit Max Burns, citing his arrest for a
>drugs offence have been inaccurately reported. These reports may
>be subject to legal proceedings. Mr Burns was today again given
>bail and will be fighting his case, at Sheffield Crown Court in
>due course.

If you see the email of mine which has been reposted by Miles you will note that we merely *note* Max's current circumstances, circumstances which he *freely* was telling all and sundry earlier this year. If you *want* some real meat then we have several witnesses to a conversation (at the 1997 BUFORA conference) regarding this case in which Max freely admitted to bribing a key witness with drugs to get information. I rest my case!

>In essence he has stated that the drugs case is a dirty tricks
>department operation in order to get him out of the way, so his
>findings on the Incident will not be reported. Mr Burns has
>already received a commendation after saving a policeman's life,
>at great personal risk to himself, in a separate incident in the
>Sheffield area.

Yes, Max *believes* that it is all a set up to discredit him by the security services. He claims he will ask Tim Good to give

evidence that this sort of thing happens. Why? Because he claims Tim Good is in fact working for the intelligence services himself! We look forward to the court case.

Do you see how weird all this gets when we dig below the surface?

If it wasn't for the fact that Max *himself* is connecting the alleged UFO incident with his unfortunate personal legal circumstances it would not merit a mention. However, if a researcher *himself* introduces something into a case then others who are investigating it have a right to comment. Because it is then a part of the case.

It is also worth noting that the inference in both Miles' and Max's emails is that Dave Clarke, myself or Tim Matthews is working for the government in some way. Well, obviously Tim is! But I'm sorry to say we're not. Whereas Dave Clarke can refute Burns' claims by producing evidence unfortunately Johnstone and Burns can only claim that their critics are 'wrong' and so therefore must be working for the government. We wish!

>It is hoped that Both Max Burns and David Clarke will be able to
>argue their respective points of view, at a BUFORA meeting on May
>2nd, in London.

Fortunately Max has been prevented from speaking at this event. No doubt allegations of cover-up, censorship and repression will follow. In fact we are all for Max putting his case across in public.

We *want* it to happen.

But we want it to be a *two* sided debate involving the principal investigator, Dave Clarke, so that the audience see *both* sides of the coin. Unfortunately Max cannot accept this and has since thrown his teddy out of the pram, barraging BUFORA Council members with abusive and threatening phone calls.

Yet again in this subject we are plagued by the forces of irrationality who expect to be able to make ludicrous claims and have them go unchallenged. Well, it's just not happening any more, certainly not in the UK. In the past year we have seen the rise of a new, highly critical and sceptical group of individuals who are devoting considerable time and energy to the detailed investigation of wild claims involving UFO incidents. Some ufologists may not like this way of looking at the subject. But we are satisfied that instead of floundering about in the ugly mire which is ufology the time has come to take a more pro-active role and to look carefully at wild claims and to present the counter-argument.

Answers to all points raised in Max Burns' reply can be found above.

Dave Clarke or myself will be happy to answer anyone's questions about this case, either on or off list. A full report on this case is available from Dave Clarke and it will also be featured in the next issue of the UK 'UFO' magazine as well as in Fortean Times.

I am sure Dave will respond in his own time to this silliness. However it may not be today as he has gone to claim our 'expenses' from a shadowy figure at the local railway station.

Happy Trails

Andy

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