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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: The Sheffield Incident

From: David Clarke <dclarke14@compuserve.com>
Date: Sat, 13 Feb 1999 06:45:38 -0500
Fwd Date: Sat, 13 Feb 1999 10:50:38 -0500
Subject: Re: The Sheffield Incident

>From: Martin Jeffrey <mbkc67@dial.pipex.com>
>To: <Updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Re: The Sheffield Incident
>Date: Thu, 11 Feb 1999 18:14:04 -0000

<snip>

>This case was nothing more than a mix of coincidence and
>hysteria inadvertantly caused by the police and Sheffield media.
>The RAF, broke the sound barrier over Sheffield and the Howden
>Moors twice and this coincided with sightings of a low flying
>aircraft.

<snip>

Martin's independent evidence bears out what I have been saying about this 'incident' for the best part of two years.

As for the "over-ambitious investigator" to whom Martin refers: Max Burn's most recent, voluminous, posts on UpDates are indicative of his confusing fantasy with reality to the point where he is actually playing a part in his own episode of the X-Files - and this one has more holes in the plot than average.

The more he posts to the Internet, the more it become obvious how little he knows about the geography of the area he is discussing, the rules of evidence and even basic investigation techniques.

I will dealing with his claims and allegations concerning my "intimidation" of witnesses and other investigators in a separate post.

My experience and qualifications - including a PhD from the University of Sheffield, ten years working as an investigative journalist, and a series of awards for my work - speak for themselves.

I am keeping Mr Dagenhart, in particular, informed about what Max is claiming and this may lead to separate action elsewhere. Some of those people whom Max is invoking are now starting to post their separate evidence to this List, and he will soon find himself having to eat his own words.

All I ask is that readers who are interested in this 'incident' should acquaint themselves with both sets of evidence before making their own minds up. My account appeared in the UK UFO Magazine in July/August last year and full updated 40 page

report will be available from the Independent UFO Network shortly.

The twists and turns of this case have illustrated the dichotomy that exists in the UK between serious ufology and the lunatic fringe.

Anyone like myself who ventures into the muddy waters and tries to take a serious and scientific look at the problem is demonised and pilloried by that lunatic fringe.

Their only method of responding to reasonable questions about their extreme claims is to throw the words "debunker", "skeptical" and "cover-up" like confetti.

It's a highly convenient way of avoiding having to produce a logical argument that adheres to the scientific method like the rest of us have to follow. The word of Max is all very amusing for those of us watching from the outside - but what worries me is the damage that it is doing to the reputation of ufology as a whole.

How can any serious UFO investigator and researcher expect scientists and Governments to take a serious look at the UFO evidence when the subject is entertaining unscientific claims of the kind he is promoting? One final point:

If Max wants to put an end to this saga once and for all, there is a quite simple way of doing it. We can argue about it on UpDates for years, but if he is so confident he has evidence which can "prove" (his words) that NATO lost a jet over the Peak District (with the loss of life) as a result of a UFO incident - then he should take his evidence to the appropriate authorities for an independent investigation.

It is a criminal offence in the United Kingdom to hide a dead body or the remains of a dead body from the HM Coroner - and that is in effect what Max is claiming has happened in this case.

I challenge Max to present his "report" and conclusions to HM Coroner for South Yorkshire. Christopher Dorries, at the Medico-Legal Centre, Sheffield, by March 1 this year.

If Mr Dorries finds there is any evidence to support such a claim I will accept my conclusions are wrong.

If Max fails to present his evidence by March 1 then it will be obvious he has none, and readers can draw their own conclusions.

It's time to put up or shut up once again, Mr Burns.

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