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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?

From: David Clarke <crazydiamonds@compuserve.com>
Date: Sun, 18 Jul 1999 06:37:13 -0400
Fwd Date: Sun, 18 Jul 1999 08:57:26 -0400
Subject: Re: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?

>From: Jenny Randles <nufon@currantbun.com>
>Subject: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?
>Date: Sat, 17 Jul 1999 18:35:48 +0100
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>

>-----Forwarded Message-----

>From: Martin Jeffrey <martin-j@lineone.net>
>To: Hauntedscotland@listbot.com <Hauntedscotland@listbot.com>
>Date: 17 July 1999 17:10
>Subject: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?

<snip>

>The above totally matches Mike France's statement to myself
>during the investigation of "The Sheffield Incident" that "it is
>a regular occurrence...people mistake aeroplanes taking off and
>landing at Manchester airport or they mis-judge the height of an
>aircraft when infact it is at a safe height." Mike France 20th
>April 1997

>Again the above case has the same commitment and dedication from
>the brave voluntary rescue teams combing over 25 square miles
>just because of several reports.

Hello,

Of course Martin and Jenny have hit the nail on its proverbial head. The "regular occurrence" of yet another search for a crashed plane on the Peak District moors bears out what I have been trying to put across to the hard-of-hearing diehard UFO nuts for the last two years.

Martin and Jenny know what they are talking about because they live in the Peak District, they are familiar with the toings and froings of aircraft and the dedication of the emergency services.

Just because helicopters and search teams have been called out is not proof that something must have crashed.

It is simply procedure - the police simply cannot take chances; if they receive a report they have to check it out.

In last weeks case, Mountain Rescue leader Mike France (with whom I discussed the case as the search was on-going) was happy to accept yet another down-to-earth explanation for this report - viz a low-flying light aircraft and the coincidence of a thunderclap which sounded like an explosion.

A similar series of coincidences are what produced the March 24,

1997 search and rescue operation in the Howden area of the Peaks - which some obsessive UFO buffs have been so determined to turn into something it never was.

As Mike, the Buxton Police and everyone else involved in the search on Tuesday were quick to point out - this sort of thing occurs all the time, on average three or four times per year. Two weeks ago I took part in a dummy-run search and rescue exercise involving three Peak District Mountain Rescue Teams, two helicopters and police mounted and underwater search teams in the Thorne Moors area of South Yorkshire.

I saw first hand how the different arms of the emergency search and rescue services work, and the professional way they perform their job.

During this operation I discussed the various claims made about the 1997 Peak district incident with Mike France and was able to inspect the area search maps used that night.

As readers will recall, one of the central planks of the UFO promoters of this case is that the Mountain Rescue teams (141 volunteers) were deliberately sent to the wrong area of the moor while the military secretly removed the wreckage of a crashed Tornado.

These maps provide conclusive proof that the Rescue Teams were sent to those areas where the logged eyewitness accounts suggested an aircraft might have crashed. Mike France then took up control of the incident and directed both the volunteer search teams from his communications base, and directed the RAF and Police helicopter to search the areas of moor he felt were involved.

If there was a cover-up then MIke, a civilian with 30 years experience of saving life in the mountains, must have been party to it.

Jenny Randles - in whose back garden this crash literally took place - has already commented upon the ludicrous nature of these claims. But the sad and simple fact is that not one of the UFO believers who have made these claims have made any attempt to contact those dedicated Mountain Rescue staff who took part that day.

What are the afraid of?

It's easy to make crazy claims if you simply use selective evidence, and ignore the bits which you don't like.

It seems in the days of post-X Files ufology the very basics of investigation skills - like talking to those who actually took part - have gone out of the window.

All we have now is just blind faith - pure and simple.

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