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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?

From: John Rimmer <[jrimmer@magonia.demon.co.uk](mailto:jrimmer@magonia.demon.co.uk)>  
Date: Wed, 21 Jul 1999 16:37:59 +0100  
Fwd Date: Wed, 21 Jul 1999 22:13:56 -0400  
Subject: Re: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?

>Date: Tue, 20 Jul 1999 13:25:23 -0700 (PDT)  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>,  
>From: Jim Deardorff <[deardorj@proaxis.com](mailto:deardorj@proaxis.com)>  
>Subject: Re: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?

>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@GlobalServe.net](mailto:updates@GlobalServe.net)>  
>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark@frontiernet.net](mailto:jkclark@frontiernet.net)>  
>>Subject: Re: Sheffield UFO Incident 2?  
>>Date: Tue, 20 Jul 99 09:58:15 PDT

>>In this context it may well be that scientists in the future,  
>>and maybe the not-so-distant future, will say that visitation by  
>>ET intelligence should have been evident as early as (say) the  
>>Nash-Fortenberry sighting of 1952. Or maybe the RB-47 case of  
>>1957. Pick your solid, unexplained report. It is entirely  
>>possible that science will eventually decide that the "leap of  
>>faith" you mention was not taken by advocates of UFO reality but  
>>by those who maintained the stubborn belief, in the face of  
>>serious contrary evidence, that no matter what all UFO  
>>sightings would all resolve into comfortably prosaic causes.  
>>They haven't, but hey, who's going to let a little reality  
>>intrude on somebody's dreams?

>I'd like to step in here to second your last two sentences  
>above, and to say that it seems more than just "possible" that  
>future science will make this judgment. It's a virtual  
>certainty, judging from the number of firm unexplainable UFO  
>reports.

>As a corollary, it will very likely be similarly decided that  
>the figure one often hears, that 90% or 95% of all UFO reports  
>have prosaic explanations, was part of the dream. It has never  
>been good science for a ufologist to claim an IFO solution to a  
>UFO report on the basis that it *\*might possibly\** have been  
>Venus, a weather balloon, aircraft, etc., over and against the  
>objections of witnesses who claim to know better. However, this  
>tactic made the dream easier to maintain, and made it easier for  
>the one-way "skeptics" to claim that if 95% of the cases can be  
>explained away, then surely the other 5% can be also. I suspect  
>the true percentage of IFOs lies somewhere between 50% and 75%.

We can play with statistics as long as we like. I could argue  
that if Jim Deardorff is only able to explain 50% to 75% of the  
UFO reports he comes across then he's not doing his job  
properly! Other investigators find they can explain 95%. Maybe  
they're being over-zealous in explaining cases, maybe they're  
just more thorough in getting the facts. Whatever the percentage  
there is no evidence whatsoever that any of the puzzling cases -  
and even a one-way skeptic like me admits that there are some

(Travis Walton, for instance) - represent "visitation by ET intelligence".

The only dreams and leaps of faith here are from those who think that, to misquote someone-or-other, "absence of evidence is evidence of ET".

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John Rimmer Magonia Magazine: a division of the P.L.A.  
Driftwood Military-Industrial Complex [www.magonia.demon.co.uk](http://www.magonia.demon.co.uk)

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