

Mission: A second close encounter

By Jim Danoch

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BURRELL

For two years forester Bob Taylor has been a man with a mission — to prove that his “close encounter” with a UFO was not simply a figment of his imagination.

Armed with a camera, he continually returns to the forest clearing near his home at Livingston Station in the hope that the dome-shaped object will return.

So far his trips have been in vain, but he refuses to give up. “I would love to get the chance to capture it on film and get some positive proof to show those people who doubt me,” said 63-year-old Mr Taylor.

Bizarre

All those who know him agree that he is a down-to-earth countryman, not given to flights of fancy or telling tall tales. His bizarre experience turned him overnight into a celebrity around the world, a situation which he hates.

“Even now, two years later, people still get in touch with me asking me to give lectures.

That is just not the sort of thing I could do, and sometimes I wish the whole thing had never happened and I could be left alone,” said Mr Taylor who works with the forestry and landscaping department of Livingston Development Corporation.

However, there is no going back on that morning, November 9, 1979, when he stumbled into his home at 4 Broomieknowe Drive, shocked and dishevelled, to tell his wife Mary that he had been “attacked” by a UFO. He was weak, hoarse, his trousers were torn and he was covered in mud.

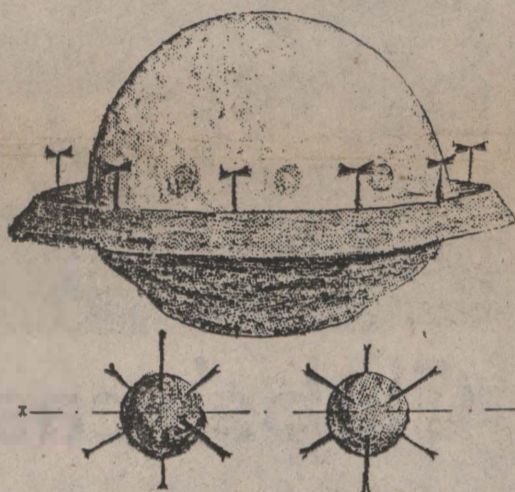
“I can remember it as if it were yesterday. I was on my way to check on some work in a part of the forest north of the town and I left the van parked at the end of the track.

Spheres

“My dog Lara was with me and as I rounded the corner into the clearing I couldn't believe my eyes — there was a UFO. I am in no doubt about that,” said Mr Taylor.

It seemed as if the dome-shaped object was hovering above the ground. Suddenly, it became partly transparent and then two spheres, with spikes like wartime mines, came rolling towards him.

They attached themselves to the sides of his trousers and he felt them tugging him towards the larger craft. At the same



Bob Taylor with his dog, Lara, and the UFO and “mines” as described by him.



time he noticed a strong acrid smell like burning brake linings.

Confusion

It was at this point that he passed out. When he came to, he was alone except for his red setter who was barking wildly.

He was too weak to walk at first and had to crawl part of the way back to his van. When he tried to use his radio to summon help, he found he couldn't speak.

In his confusion he ran his van off the road and had to stagger home on foot.

“I often go to that clearing with a camera in the hope that some day it will return. I'm not frightened, I just want to get it on film.

My son and some friends camped out there on the first anniversary last year, but they saw nothing,” added Mr Taylor.

Tracks

He admits that his experience has given him an interest in UFOs, something he had never thought about before.

“But I have never

joined any of the societies involved with that subject. I think I would find myself a bit out of my depth.”

Police who investigated the incident found a set of tracks at the scene and about 40 small holes surrounding them.

Various explanations have been put forward, but despite two years of investigations the mystery remains, in essence, unsolved and Bob Taylor continues to keep watch with his camera.