

# Forester tells of his close encounter . . .

By ERNEST McINTYRE

A STRANGE smell still lingers in the nostrils of foreman forester Mr Bob Taylor, 63, as a constant reminder of his close encounter with weird creatures from an even weirder craft in a West Lothian woodland clearing.

Mr Taylor was closely questioned yesterday by delegates to the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association conference on his experience on 200ft.-high Dechmont Law, just outside Livingston new town, in November, 1979.

The delegates travelled 18 miles from their meeting in Edinburgh to visit the spot where Mr Taylor claims he stumbled on the strange 20ft.-high machine.

Huddled together in squalls of sleet, they heard how two objects with protruding spikes rapidly approached and tried to drag him towards the machine, parts of which seemed to be disappearing and reappearing.

They heard, too, how the smell —like scorched car brake drums— coming from the objects knocked him out, and how he awoke with both legs of his trousers torn and his thighs scratched and bruised.

Detective-Sergeant Ian Wark, who was also there, pointed out where he found marks on the grass which could have been made by some sort of machine and others that might have been caused by Mr Taylor's body being dragged along the ground.

The delegates took pictures of Mr Taylor and of the spot, and

then confirmed their unanimous opinion: "Whatever happened that day, Mr Taylor is certainly not lying."

Mr Peter Hill, chairman of the Edinburgh branch of BUFORA, said: "Statements from Mr Taylor's closest associates all vouch for his integrity."

"We have studied reports from forensic scientists, police, and many others and we have no doubt Mr Taylor had the experience he describes."

Mr Stewart Campbell, BUFORA's investigations coordinator in Scotland, said Mr Taylor's experience remained the most inexplicable case of possible UFO sighting in Scotland.

"I have spoken to Mr Taylor several times and I am convinced he is telling the truth. He is not the type of person to become involved in a hoax. But from other investigations made I don't think this was a hoax," said Mr Campbell.

"Mr Taylor undoubtedly saw something, but whether it was a natural phenomenon, an object from outer space, or something which requires some medical explanation, I still cannot say."

"I must keep an open mind on the matter until there are many other investigations, and these may take some years."

Mr Taylor, although treated at Bangour Hospital after the incident, says he has remained unaffected. "I still come up here hoping I will see the thing again — but I always take my camera with me now," he said.



Bob Taylor . . . "constant reminder."

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