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UFO hunt chief's close encounter

MORE THAN a decade has passed since former police sergeant Tony Dodd saw the phenomenon which turned him into one of Britain's leading UFO experts.

He and a colleague from the North Yorkshire force had been called out to an incident in the South Craven village of Cononley, when they spotted a pool of bright light on the road ahead.

Emerging from the police car, they looked up to the darkened skies and saw a glowing disc-shaped craft, with rotating coloured lights around its base, hovering about 100ft above them.

It was his first encounter with what he believed was an alien overflight and one which was to launch him on a personal crusade



EVIDENCE: One of Tony's UFO picture collection to help solve the mystery of UFO's.

Since then, Mr Dodd, 54, has seen more than 60 similar objects, mostly in the Cononley and Carleton Moor areas.

Now, following his retirement from the police after 25 years service at Skipton and in his home community of Grassington, he has just been appointed to a top post in the Ufology sphere.

As Director of Research and Investigation with the country's biggest sky-watching organisation, Quest International, which has links throughout the world, he has an overview of exactly what is happening and where.

Mr Dodd has charge of a team of 50 investigators, who look into reports of unusual occurrences, aided if necessary by high-quality photographic equipment as well as geiger-counters and site sampling kits if there are indications a craft has landed.

"The reason I haven't been able to give up sky watching is that I know UFO's are operating in our air space and I want to help prove it," said Mr Dodd.

"The Government denies the existence of UFOs, but I feel the sheer volume of reports coming in is bound to take the cover off in the not too distant future."

Quest International's Hotline number is 0756-752216.



ON THE LOOKOUT ... Tony Dodd searches the sky