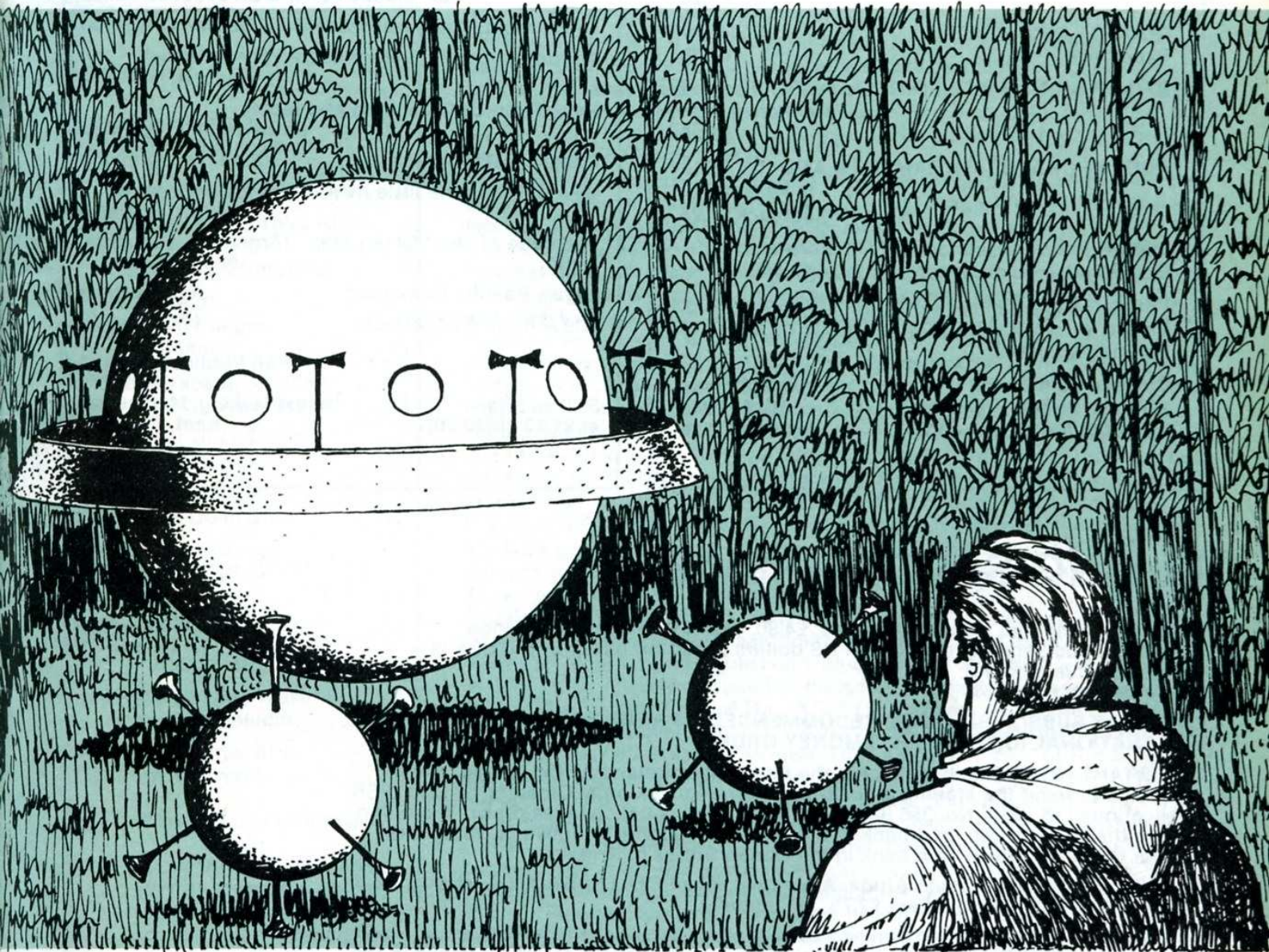


FLYING  
SAUCER  
REVIEW

# FSI

Volume 25, No. 6, November-December 1979

85p



## PHYSICAL ASSAULT AT LIVINGSTON

Scottish forestry worker "attacked" by spheres of unknown type at development area near Edinburgh

See page 2



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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Volume 25, No. 6  
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# SWAN SONG

WHENEVER a package containing a new article was received from Aimé Michel, it was always a time for pleasurable anticipation, for so many of those articles turned out to be landmarks in the history of the study of UFOs. His latest article, received by us in September 1979 but, regrettably caught up in the recent delays, was a landmark too — both for its content and for the shock of a message it conveyed: Aimé Michel had written his last article on the subject of UFOs.

In his covering letter he referred to the article as his *chant de cygne*, but assured your Editor that the reason for this was nothing more sinister than the fact that he had exhausted his store of ideas for research.

Although such news always comes as something of a shock, it was an event that was bound to occur one day. So, instead of bemoaning his retiring, we should be grateful that this distinguished French thinker, researcher, writer and broadcaster should, over the years following the successes of his books *Lueurs sur les Soucoupes Volantes* (English title — *The Truth about Flying Saucers*) and *Mystérieux Objets Célestes* (published in America as *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*) produced for his beloved FSR such valuable and engaging — and sometimes “biting” — pieces. Here are some of them: **Global Orthoteny** (FSR Vol. 9, No. 3 — 1963); **Where Dr. Menzel has gone wrong** (Vol. 10, No. 2 — 1964) in reply to criticism of the theory of orthoteny by the Harvard Professor of Astrophysics; **Reflections of an Honest Liar** (Vol. 11, No. 3 — 1965) when, in response to an implication by Waveney Girvan in an FSR Editorial that Dr. Menzel had impugned Michel’s integrity, the astrophysicist had denied this and stated that he had referred to Michel only as an “honest but incompetent statistician . . .” Then there was **The Valensole Affair** (Vol. 11, No. 6 — 1965); **The Problem of Non-Contact** (*The Humanoids* — Special issue No. 1, October 1966, published subsequently as both a hard-back and a paperback book); **A Visit to Valensole** (in conjunction with the Editor of FSR in Vol. 14, No. 1 — 1968; subsequently reprinted in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review* — 1977); **The Strange Case of Dr. ‘X’** (*UFO Percipients* — Special issue No. 3 — 1969) and its sequel in Vol. 17, No. 6 — 1971; **Palaeolithic UFO-shapes** (Vol. 15, No. 6 — 1969); **Project Dick** (Vol. 18, No. 1 — 1972); **An Enigmatic Figure of the XVIIth Century** (Vol. 18, No. 2 — 1972: a fascinating study of St. Vincent de Paul) and his swan song, **The “Cat-Flap” Effect** in the last issue (Vol. 25, No. 5) of *Flying Saucer Review*.

The list is impressive, and there have been many other contributions besides these from our good Provençal friend, occasionally writing from Paris, but mostly from his beloved Alpine eyrie, and thanks to his books, and all his brilliant studies in our magazine, he will never be lost to ufology. And, as far as FSR is concerned, he remains as a consultant. Indeed, consultations have gone on ever since that swan song article was sent to us.

We are sure our readers will join with us in thanking Aimé Michel for the great work he has done, for having produced the first scientific study of UFO reports, for having always delighted us with the freshness and charm of his writing, for having introduced us to so many fascinating and exciting ideas, and for having encouraged us to think. If such a man can ever be said to retire — and he has wide interests—then we wish him a long and happy retirement.

## CONTENTS

Physical Assault by unidentified objects at Livingston  
 M. Keatman & A. Collins . . . . 2

Retrievals of the Third Kind Part 3  
 Leonard H. Stringfield . . . . . 8

Projection of Humanoid Images  
 J. G. Adams . . . . . 15

A Terrible Night in Spain  
 J. Mateos Nogales et al. . . . 18

The Great UFO Enigma  
 Charles Bowen . . . . . 21

FSR Bookshelf — 2  
 Janet & Colin Bord . . . . . 22

The Winged Beings of Bluestone Walk  
 E. Morris . . . . . 24

Mail Bag . . . . . 27

World Round-up . . . . . 31

A Phillipine UFO Wave  
 Ahmad Jamaludin . . . . . 32

That’s a Quarter of a Century that was! . . . . . iii

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← For subscription details and address please see foot of page ii of cover

# PHYSICAL ASSAULT BY UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS AT LIVINGSTON — Part I

*Martin Keatman & Andrew Collins*

**This report has been specially prepared for UFOIN and Flying Saucer Review**

THE UFO phenomenon often throws up encounters of a staggering nature, but rarely does it provide an opportunity for an immediate and in depth investigation that permits the substantiation of such events. In the following case the investigators were lucky; a claimed close encounter of the second kind involving a reliable witness, a landed object that left significant traces, two independent devices that physically assaulted the percipient, severe post physiological and psychological effects, confirmation and other sightings, and a thorough investigation within one week of the incident. These combine to complete what must surely be the most important landing case ever to have been reported and recorded in the annals of British Ufology.

Mr. Robert Taylor, a forestry foreman from Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland, claimed that whilst carrying out his routine daily duties in the forests on Friday, November 9, 1979, he came across a strange domed object resting silently on the ground in a secluded clearing. Intrigued he watched, until two weird spheres with protruding spikes came hurtling towards him and toppled on to his sides, whereupon he fell unconscious. On waking he heard a *wooshing* noise and looked up to see that the object had gone. He had pains in his chin and legs, he had an intense headache and thirst and he could not walk or speak. With difficulty he crawled back to his pick-up truck some 300 metres away, but although being unable to control it, he was now able to struggle home on foot. Later, on returning with others the same day, remarkable physical traces were found to support his story. These also provided significant evidence for the investigators.

Such were the details of the claim as they reached our ears on Monday, November 12, 1979, after varying reports in the Sunday newspapers.\* Hasty arrangements were made for the authors to visit the area on behalf of UFOIN. By speaking to Mr. Malcolm Drummond — Bob Taylor's superior — on the Tuesday, we were able to arrange to meet the witness the following day, and he would take us to the site. Contact was also established with all the other authorities in the area, including the local police and newspapers, in order to pave the way ahead.

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\*After seeing the report in *The Sunday Express* on November 11 (see World Round-up in FSR Vol. 25, No. 5) the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* asked Miss J. Randles if it would be possible to arrange for UFOIN investigation of the report.

## Initial contact with percipient and environment

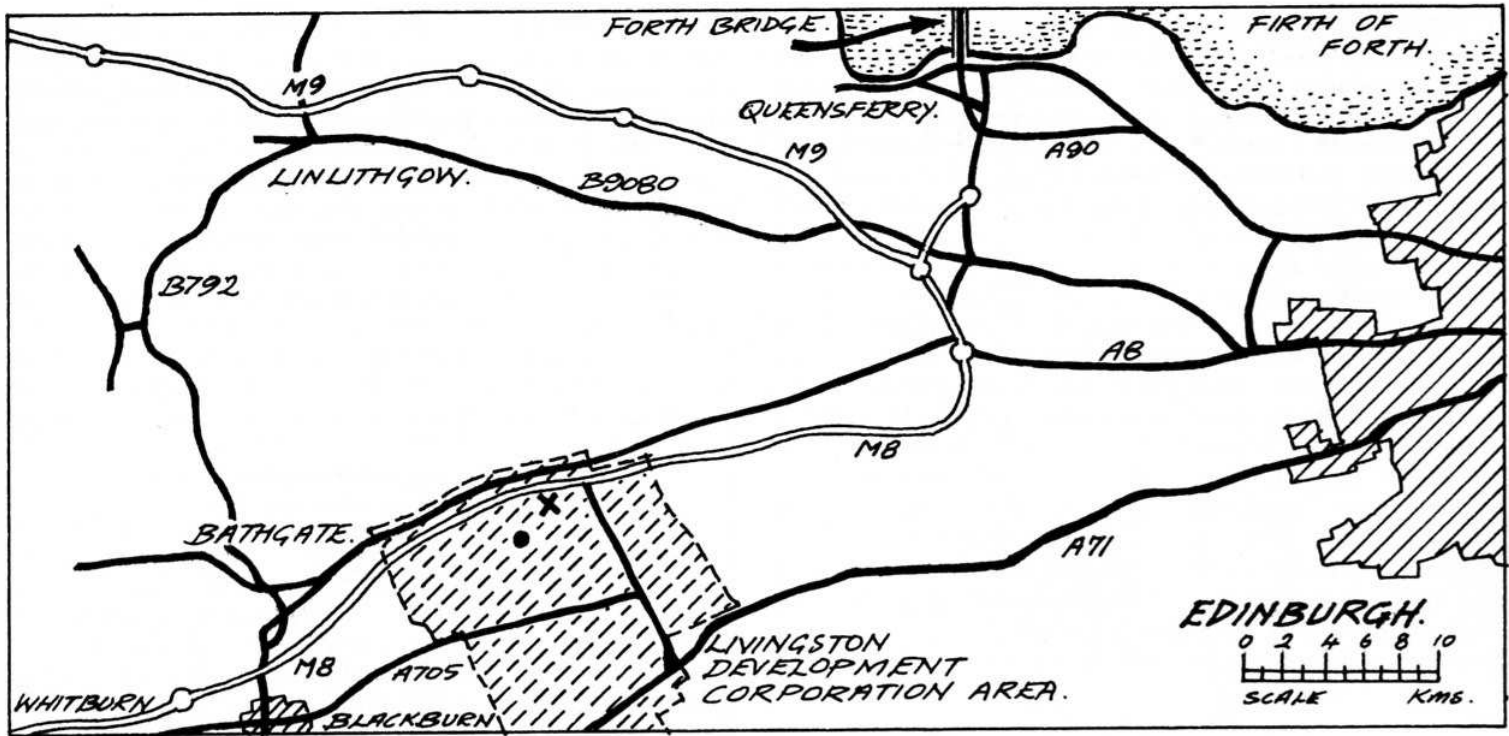
The authors arrived in the area late in the afternoon of Wednesday November 14, and made straight for Mr. Taylor's place of work, the Livingston Development Corporation (LDC) at Rosebank, Livingston. Travelling through the area around Livingston, a Scottish new town and satellite of Edinburgh, one somehow gets the impression of being in Canada, with immense and colourful factory complexes covered in fresh snow, and an interwoven maze of new roads constructed over the past twenty years. Everything is conveniently placed and laid back out of reach, as if lifted straight from a drawing board.

Both Mr. Drummond and Mr. Taylor were there to greet us on our arrival, and the latter immediately took us to the spot where the incident was said to have occurred. A drive of some 3 kms took us to an area known as Dechmont Woods, via a recently-built housing estate which lies scattered around an unkept mud track. This is bordered by the amenity forests planted by the LDC Forestry Commission.

Bob Taylor led us across open pasture land, through the neatly planted trees, and on to the location where his experience took place. Unfortunately, because of heavy snow that had been falling on and off since the previous Sunday, the site was completely covered with a glistening white sheet. Mr. Taylor indicated the exact position the object had been, and told us of the fence erected by the LDC on the day of the incident. This was to "protect" the indentations. As could be expected, the knowledge of the experience had reached many ears by this time, and it was obvious that dozens of people had tramped up through the snow to the site, almost treating it as a pilgrimage. You can imagine our feelings when we were greeted with the sight of a large snowman built in the centre!

Due to encroaching darkness only a tentative investigation was carried out at the site, with the agreement that all concerned should return next day to remove the snow, thus allowing a thorough analysis to be made.

We then returned to Livingston with Mr. Taylor, and spent the rest of the day interviewing him, his wife, his daughter and one of his sons. During the first evening we questioned Bob at length, and it is from this interview that we present the following account. Despite rapid questioning for more than three hours, and subsequent



**Figure 1: Location of the site. The encounter took place at X, while the dot marks the position of Bob Taylor's house.**

interrogations in the following three days, Mr. Taylor never veered from his original story, nor did the others involved in this bizarre saga.

### A day to remember

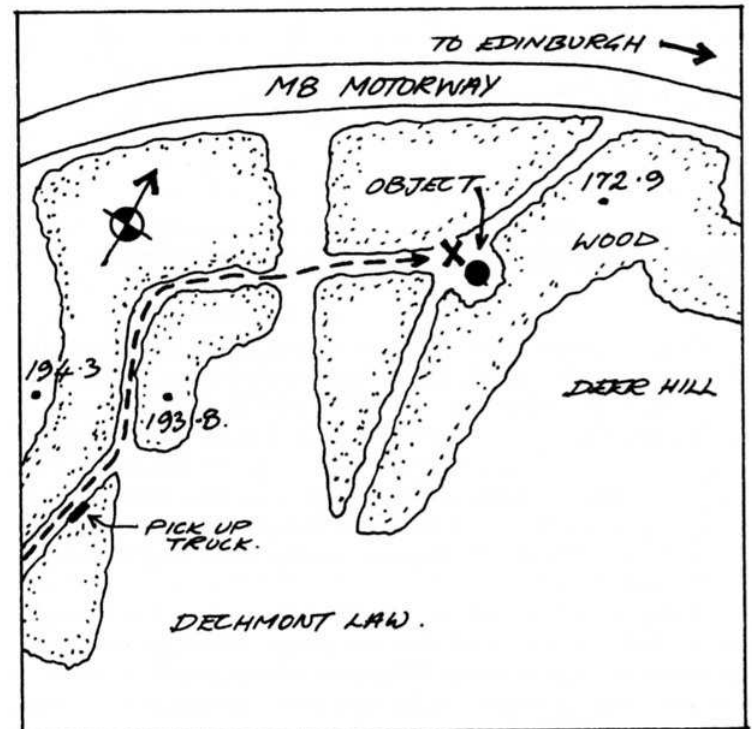
Mr. Bob Taylor is 61 years of age, and has resided in Livingston since 1964. It was some years before he was eventually appointed forestry foreman with the LDC, a job that allows him considerable freedom. He spends much of his time in his Bedford pick-up truck, visiting the various forests and hills used by the LDC forestry commission, checking and directing his four squads of workers, and ensuring that animals do not stray on to the land. Dechmont Woods is one such place which he visits virtually every week, and it was here on Friday, November 9, 1979, that Bob alleges he had his encounter.

He left his house at 4, Broomieknowe Drive, at about 09.45 hours GMT, having finished his early morning break. By pick-up it takes a good ten minutes to reach Dechmont Woods, so an arrival time of 09.55 hours may be assumed. A further ten minutes would allow Bob to pass through the two closed gates and along the unmade roadway used by the forestry workers to reach Deer Hill. He parked his vehicle at the end of the road (see fig. 2) some 300 metres from where the encounter was to take place.

As usual Bob allowed his six-year-old dog, a striking rust coloured Irish Setter called Lara, to accompany him on his quiet, and often lonely trek through the peaceful forests. All around stand tall, straight conifers, and a mass of natural green foliage. This is a chance for the dog to roam freely and chase small animals in the forest.

Bob carefully looked at the fencing, the fire paths, the gates, a keen eye searching for anything untoward. Lara shot off on her own, running carefree through the trees.

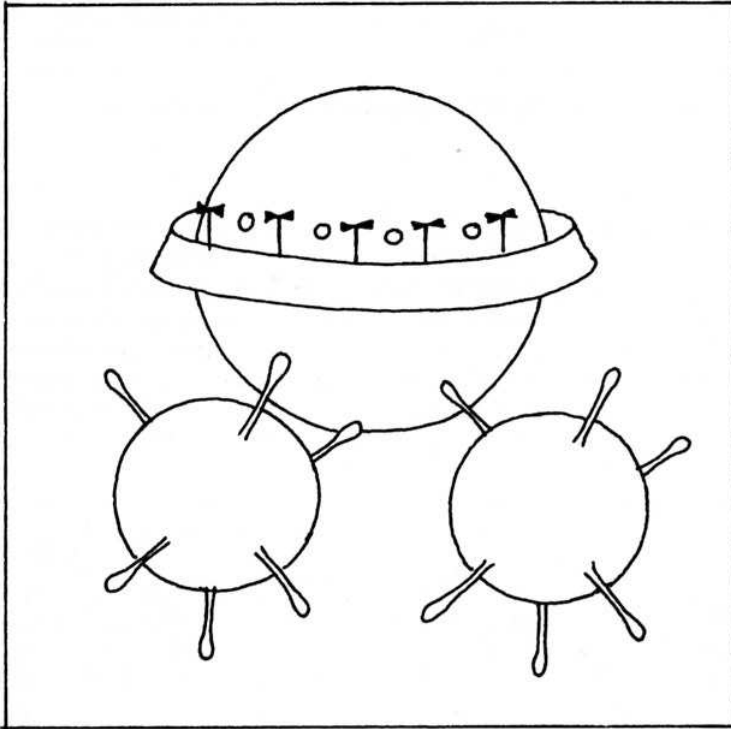
The weather was fresh, with frost stiffening the ground beneath his feet. The partially clear sky indicated that it would not stay cold for long. For Bob the day was the same as any other; he had no reason to assume otherwise. He was heading for a spacious cross-roads of fire paths on Deer Hill to check the gates. His course took him along one of these fire paths, shouldered either side by the tall trees. Those to the right are taller and not as thick as those on the left.



**Figure 2: Route taken by Bob Taylor**

He continued walking down the slight incline that he knew would take him out into the large clearing between the four areas of forest. As he reached the end of the path he was suddenly confronted by something large and quite out of context with the area as he knew it. This was at right angles to his line of vision. He swivelled round and faced, with surprise, something that sat motionless and silent on the ground only a few metres away.

Bob Taylor states that this "something" was like a "top" or dome-shaped object, with a flange of a larger diameter (see fig. 3). Protruding from the upper side of the flange were evenly spaced "stems" or cylindrical bars pointing vertically. Atop these were what appeared to be horizontal bars not unlike propellers. Between each of these features the witness could see dark circular areas on the dome. He feels these could have been "portholes," or perhaps just "markings," since nothing could be seen through them. The area below the flange was rather confusing, and Bob could only recall a structure likened to the upper dome. This gave the impression of a "Saturn-shape" overall, or as he put it "a child's top."



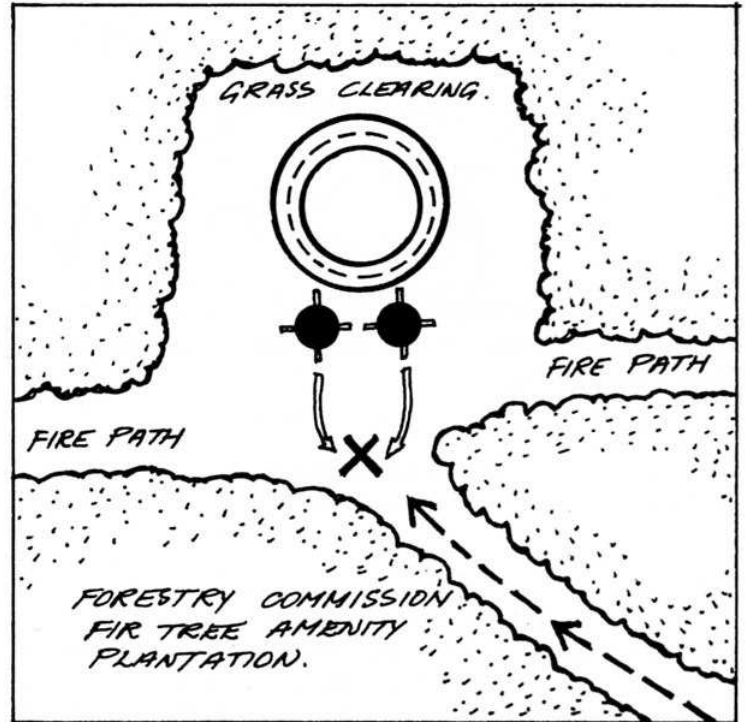
**Figure 3: The objects, based on Bob Taylor's sketch**

Judging from measurements taken at the site, it would appear that the object had a diameter of approximately 7 metres at its widest (the flange), and was a mere 8 metres away from Bob, who described the colour as dark grey, like "carborundum," which was uniform all over. The texture looked rough and there were no apparent seams, joins, or any other such features. As to its composition the witness could not enlighten us, stating only that it did not seem to be metallic.

After an estimated 30 seconds of viewing the strange craft, Mr. Taylor said that its structure began to alter. Parts of the upper dome began to "disappear" and areas of the background could be seen through it. Only moments before the object had seemed totally physical. Now, parts would fade out, and then return to their original physical appearance; first on the left hand side,

then across to the right, and then returning to the centre. This unusual phenomenon was apparent over the whole of the upper dome. This gave the appearance of partially blending in with the background, possibly suggesting that it was not quite as physical as it seemed at that point.

Suddenly, and quite unexpectedly, two objects hurtled towards the startled witness. Two spheres with "spikes" were heading straight for Bob from a point in front of the lower dome. They moved in unison, on parallel courses so that they approached one on either side of the witness. As they reached him they "fell" on to his sides" (see fig. 4). He recalls a sudden smell that overpowered him, a bad taste that filled his mouth, and something "tugging" at



**Figure 4: How it happened**

his trousers and pulling him forwards. Thereafter a blank. We can only assume from the later evidence that he fell unconscious, head first on to the ground.

The next thing he recalls is lying with his face in the mud, hearing a *wooshing* noise, and the dog barking furiously. He also had an intense headache (positioned over the forehead), and a pain in the chin as if it were burned. He had an itch in the left thigh and he felt sick. His body was facing the position where the object had been, and his arms were lying straight by his sides.

Bob attempted to climb to his feet, but found his legs so weak that he was unable to rise or even stagger up. He tried to talk to the dog which was standing close by, but found he could not speak. It was as if his jaw had ceased to function. Eventually he got to his knees and saw that the object and spheres had vanished. He then started to crawl along the fire path back towards the pick-up truck, covering some 100 metres on his hands and knees. Finally he staggered to his feet to walk for a short distance, but even then he fell down several times.

On reaching the pick-up he attempted to use the radio to call the forestry commission, but although he established contact he was still unable to speak. He pulled himself into the driving seat and started the engine,

hoping to be able to reverse it and turn round. Unfortunately, since he was still disorientated, he lost control and reversed the truck down a slight incline and into a dry shallow ditch. He clambered out and decided to walk the 1.5 kms across the woodlands, fields, and roads to his home. He passed only one person en route. He says he was slightly dazed and confused, and the physiological effects were still very much in evidence.

### Back at home

As soon as Bob entered the front door he asked for a drink to quench his intense thirst. His wife realised he was in a state of shock, or "ghastly," as she described it. He mumbled something about having been attacked, his speech having only partly returned to normal.

Mrs. Taylor suggested he take off his dirty clothes and have a bath, which he did a few minutes later. She then telephoned Mr. Malcolm Drummond, Bob's boss, who ordered two of his staff to "stand by," and drove straight to the Taylor residence.

According to Mr. Drummond the time was then approximately 10.50 hrs, although Mrs. Taylor puts it at around 11.30 hrs. On his arrival Mr. Drummond learned from Bob's wife what seemed to have happened. He then went upstairs to the bathroom. He realised that Bob had had a physically real experience, but at the mention of "space ships" with "things coming towards him" he suggested that Bob might have "fallen on his head, or something."

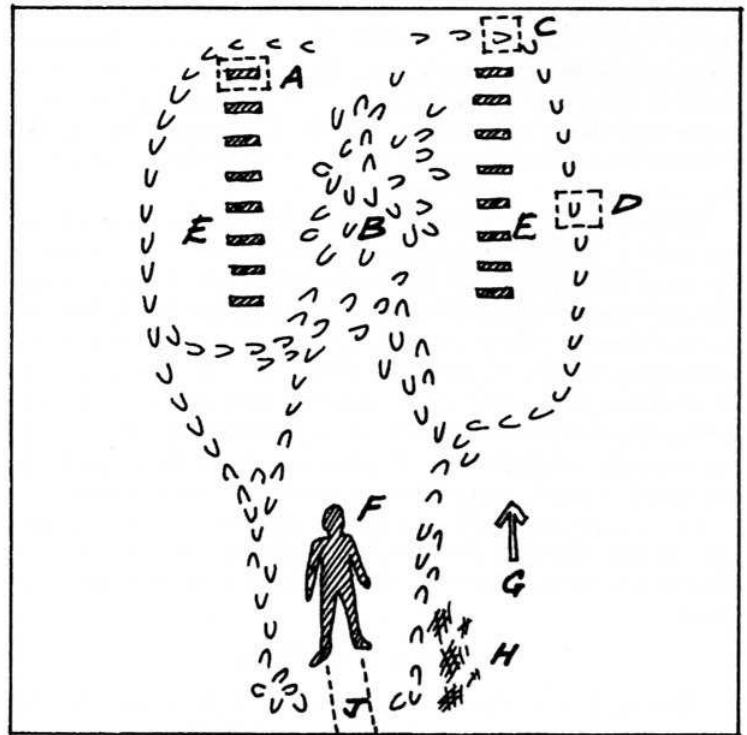
Mr. Drummond telephoned the local doctor, a Dr. Adams of the Blackburn surgery, who arrived within 10 or 15 minutes. He checked Mr. Taylor for any noticeable physiological defects, but concluded that he was in reasonable condition.

At this point it was noted that Bob had a large red mark, about 4 cms in length and 1.5 cms wide, underneath the round of his chin. This was comparable to a mild burn or scuff mark. A similar mark was also discovered on his left hip, which corresponded to the position in which he felt the tugging when the spheres "attacked" him. His trousers, a general purpose police issue, were torn on both hips, the left side in accordance with the mark on the leg. His "long johns" were also torn in the same position on the left side.

Hoping to find signs of a scuffle near the ditched pick-up truck, Mr. Drummond and Dr. Adams went up to Dechmont Woods and located the vehicle. The ignition was still on and the door was open. They wondered whether Bob had fallen from the van and knocked himself unconscious, but finding no marks they returned to the Taylor household. By this time Bob was out of the bath and fully dressed. He suggested he take them to the place where the experience occurred, as the "vehicle" must have left some sort of marks.

Dr. Adams then went home, leaving Bob and Mr. Drummond to return to Deer Hill. By now the witness was seemingly back to normal, with only the headache, slight pains, and some thirst still lingering on.

On arrival at the site a series of marks, indentations, and depressions were found. From the spot where Bob had stood before being knocked unconscious, to the position where his conscious recall resumed, there were two long marks which could have been made by his boots. These gave the impression that the percipient had been



**Figure 5: The traces left behind.**

- Key:**
- A. Depression sample from here.**
  - B. Indentations facing in every direction.**
  - C. Indentation sample taken here.**
  - D. Turf sample taken here.**
  - E. Lines of rectangular depressions.**
  - F. Bob Taylor regained consciousness here.**
  - G. Direction Bob viewed the object.**
  - H. Unidentifiable gashes and scuff marks.**
  - J. "Drag" marks stated to have been seen here.**

dragged, with his feet trailing, for some 61 cms. There was then a gap of about 18 cms, before the same parallel marks resumed for a further 4-5 cms, this suggesting the point at which Bob was left.

From where the object had been to where Bob had fallen, were two parallel lines of irregularly shaped indentations similar to horses' hooves. As they approached the spot where the object had been resting, they could clearly see two parallel lines of approximately eight rectangular-shaped depressions in the grass. These were about 21 cms apart (see fig. 5). It was apparent that something of considerable weight had caused the marks since they were sharp and deep. Around these "tracks" were more of the hoof-like indentations apparently left by the spikes on the spheres.

On their way back to Broomieknowe Drive, Mr. Drummond radioed for a "squad" to lay sheep net wire and posts around the tracks, this in the hope of saving them from destruction by passers by. Mr. Drummond then went home and telephoned the local police at Livingston. The time at this point was about 13.15 hrs.

Soon afterwards seven policemen arrived from two different stations, Livingston and the nearby Bathgate, including a superintendent. Mr. Drummond led them to the area concerned, and they seemed totally baffled. Although sceptical they were nonetheless very interested.

A police photographer took several shots of the marks, tracks, and the locale, while his colleagues obtained measurements and sketches. No radiation tests were carried out. Mr. Drummond was approached by the superintendent, who shook his head jokingly and said: "When I came on duty at 2 o'clock I didn't have a care in the world; now look at this!"

Meanwhile Bob Taylor had been taken to hospital on the advice of Dr. Adams, for a "head x-ray." Bob waited for over two and a half hours (much to his chagrin as he "knew" there was nothing wrong with his head) before being asked to "strip off." It seemed they wanted him to undergo a thorough medical, which he was not prepared to sit through since he felt completely normal. Also, he felt he had been deceived by Dr. Adams into believing that it was merely a head x-ray. Rather annoyed, he picked up his medical card, signed himself out, and went home.

The police interviewed him during the late afternoon, and in the evening the Taylor family set out on a pre-arranged visit to relatives. They returned on the Sunday night.

### Account breakdown

During the authors' stay with the Taylor family, the experience was recounted to us, and others, many times, but not once did it change in any way. We discussed the events, picking out the most minor details that may be relevant at some future date.

The object was positioned in a remote grass clearing between four separate plantations of conifers. This is about 18 metres wide by 30 metres long. The grass in the area is wild, with an average height of 15 cms. The tree plantations vary in height, although without doubt the highest and thickest are those to the right of where Bob was just prior to entering the clearing.

Bob had no strange feelings, and noticed nothing unusual about the dog before the encounter. On seeing the object he says he was mesmerized by its totally alien appearance. The dome was perfectly hemispherical, with an estimated height of 2.75 metres and diameter 5.4 metres. It was positioned on a large protruding flange of approximate height 1.20 metres. This flange was slanting outwards towards the ground. It appeared to protrude a distance of perhaps 0.66 metres from the dome.

The rods, on which the "blades" or "propellers" were evenly spaced, were along the upper surface of the flange about 0.7 metres apart. Each "rod" and "blade" were of equal size, estimated at 0.8 metres for the "rods" and a length of 0.4 metres for the "blades." Mr. Taylor could not make out the shape of the rods, but estimated their width as about 4 cms. The blades looked flat, with a width similar to that of the rods. The suggestion of "propellers" does not mean they were used as such since no movement was noted.

The "portholes" were positioned evenly around the upper dome at a height from the flange surface of approximately 0.5 metres. Each had a diameter of about 45 cms.

The lower dome was not clearly visible as the percipient's line of vision was towards the flange area. No clear description could thus be recalled.

For the same reason the point where the two spheres emanated is unknown, although Bob suggested they may have approached from behind the object, or from under the lower dome. The indications from the indentations said to have been left by the spheres were that either

assumption could have been correct.

Both spheres were identical in size, about 76 cms diameter, with six equidistant "spikes" of length 45 cms. Bob used the more commonly accepted "2½ feet by 1½ feet" to explain these two measurements. He was uncertain of the thickness or shape of the "spikes" due to the short time they were observed. However, he was able to state that the circumference was somewhat greater at the ends (see fig. 3), but he could not say whether the ends were solid or otherwise nor what shape they were.

Movement was effected by a single spike being in contact with the ground at any one time. The sphere moved horizontally about an imaginary horizontal axis at right angles to the path of travel. Only four of the six spikes (forming 360 degrees) were utilised in this mode of travel, the fifth and sixth remained unused and protruded horizontally. These two never made contact with the ground.

Bob Taylor said the only sound he heard during the whole of the encounter, apart from the *swishing* as he regained consciousness, was that of the "spikes" thudding into the ground as they hurtled towards him. This suggests some considerable weight was involved.

The sensation felt when the "spikes" tugged the percipient's trousers will be considered when studying the forensic analysis, but purely from Bob's account it would seem to suggest a type of grip, or sucking device, on the ends of the spikes, although no such device was actually observed. Bob said he could not recall the "spikes" actually touching either of his legs. He stated that after the "tugging" he felt the "spikes" pulling him forward, which may account for his unnatural position on regaining consciousness. The indications suggest he was dragged forwards, towards the object, whilst in either an upright position or prone.

The "taste", or "smell in the mouth" as he put it, began as the spheres were about to topple on to his sides. This seemingly caused him to lose consciousness. The "taste" was described as a "very heavy odour" that was overpowering and choking. It was still present after the experience, and persisted, to a lesser degree, until the early evening. Comparisons to other cases will be made later, but one immediately recalls the Cisco Grove "nightmare" of September 1964, where the witness, a Mr. S, repeatedly lost consciousness after a robot-like entity emitted a "white smoke or gas" that made him light headed. like Bob Taylor, Mr. S would awake feeling "sick and retching."<sup>(1)</sup>

The duration of the consciously recalled encounter was estimated at about 62 seconds. How long the percipient was unconscious we cannot tell, although he himself feels that it was only a matter of minutes at the outside.

Mr. Taylor was wearing a watch at the time of the encounter, but it has exhibited no defects, and he has had no problems with it since November 9, 1979.

The mark on the chin is interesting, since he has no recall of the "spikes" touching him anywhere other than on the trousers. Although the mark was similar to the one on his leg, it is possible that it was caused as Bob hit the hard frosty ground. This scrape disappeared three days after the experience, whereas the mark on his left hip was still visible on the occasion of our visit. This mark was a superficial scratch about 3 cms in length. Alongside it were two small circular scabs 1 cm apart. Photographs were taken of this area of Bob's anatomy.

## Media coverage

While relaxing during their Friday lunchbreak the newsdesk of *The Livingston Post* received a call from an unknown person at the LDC forestry commission regarding Bob Taylor's experience. They did not take this seriously. The same person repeated the call during the late afternoon, and this time they acted. Ian Dow spoke to Mr. Drummond on the Saturday morning, but of course Bob was already away for the weekend.

The *Scottish Evening News* at Edinburgh was notified of the incident on the Friday evening, and had two journalists at the site the next morning. They interviewed Mr. Drummond and an article appeared in that evening's edition. From this extensive piece there stemmed the initial national coverage, resulting in five national newspapers speaking to Mr. Drummond during the Saturday for articles the next day.

One newspaper and one television station contacted the local investigator in the area, a Mr. Stuart Campbell of the BUFORA Edinburgh branch, who stated that the phenomenon encountered by Bob Taylor was possibly ball lightning.

As already mentioned, news of the incident reached the authors from UFOIN on the Monday, and contact was made with Mr. Drummond on the Tuesday morning.

## LDC and police developments

Throughout the Saturday morning various members of the LDC visited the site, including Mr. Fred Brownleigh, the Forestry Commission photographer. He obtained a complete series of both black and white and colour pictures of the marks. Attempts to obtain copies of these have thus far been thwarted by the fact that the police have them.

On the Sunday morning Bob Taylor's daughter Anne, who had not gone away for the weekend, was visited by the police. They took all the clothes Bob had been wearing at the time of the incident. They said these were for forensic analysis.

Fortunately the first snow of the winter had fallen in Scotland on the Sunday afternoon, covering the whole area with a six-inch white sheet. Mr. Taylor's fame was spreading, and during the period between Sunday and the time we arrived, it was obvious that many people had visited the spot. As luck would have it the covering of snow had helped to preserve the traces.

## The sighting location

The position of the encounter is just north of the Scottish new town of Livingston, West Lothian. Deer Hill is situated some 4 kms from Livingston centre, and at its peak reaches a height of 192.20 metres. The geological strata in the area consist of mainly igneous rock caused by volcanic disturbance many millions of years ago, and shale, a sedimentary rock. Evidently shale mines in Livingston were the only local industry up until the 1960s, when it was decided to enlarge the town and make it a new industrial complex and satellite area of Edinburgh.

Numerous enquiries were made in an attempt to establish if any folklore, mystical, or UFO type events had been associated with Deer Hill or Livingston in the past.

In FSR Volume 24, No. 5, Paul Murray describes the encounter of a low level object with a "searchlight" that was an intensely bright white and appeared to be "scanning the ground." This was just before the turning off the M8 motorway into Livingston. Figure 1 shows that this was less than 2 kms from where Bob encountered his object, and it is thus most interesting.

Another strange tale we came across involved the overnight disappearance of a young girl a couple of years ago. It would seem that she suddenly disappeared under strange circumstances one harsh wintry evening, and that a large party (including Bob Taylor) spent all night vainly searching for her, only to find her dry and warm under the trees a few hundred metres from where Bob claimed to have had his experience. Her only explanation was that she had "followed the sheep." Interesting, and perhaps relevant?

\* \* \* \* \*

In the next part details of the on-site investigation, police involvement, and forensic investigation will be presented.

## Reference

1. *The Humanoids* edited by Charles Bowen. Neville Spearman 1969. "Nightmare incident near Cisco Grove," Coral Lorenzen, pp. 169-170.

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# RETRIEVALS OF THE THIRD KIND — Part 3

## A Case Study of Alleged UFOs and Occupants in Military Custody

*Leonard H. Stringfield*

This contribution to FSR is based on a paper delivered by the author at the MUFON Symposium on July 29, 1978. © Leonard H. Stringfield (address: 4412 Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227, U.S.A.)

IN the second part of this paper we learned of testimony to the effect that at least one of the retrieved alien bodies seemed to be female, and that there were accounts of rough treatment by service personnel of a witness of a crashing object, and of a "borrowed" photograph purported to show a dead humanoid who was said to have "put up a fight." There were also death-bed confessions by two people who claimed to have seen the refrigerated bodies of small aliens at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Furthermore there was the emergence of a new source of information about the once-controversial Aztec, New Mexico, story, and we closed with an account of an alleged secret visit by President Eisenhower (supposedly playing golf in Florida) to Wright-Patterson AFB, and of his stern reaction on seeing retrieved alien craft and dead crew members.

### **ABSTRACT XVIII: Recovery of unusual metallic fragments of remarkable strength**

On April 7, 1978, Steve Tom, NBC radio newsman, Chicago, and I were linked up by telephone for an interview with a former Air Force Intelligence Officer, Major J. M., residing in Houma, Louisiana.

Major J. M., I learned, shared some common ground with me. He had also served in the 5th Air Force in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, and had been in several combat areas such as Leyte, Phillipine Islands, where I had been assigned.

The purpose of our call was to obtain at first hand, an account of the major's role in the retrieval of an alleged crashed UFO northwest of Roswell, New Mexico, in the summer of 1947.

The debris of an apparent metallic aerial device, or craft, that had exploded in the air, or crashed, was first located by a sheep rancher who found fragments of metal and other materials on his 8000 acre property. When he informed the Air Force base in Roswell of his discovery, Major J. M. and aides were dispatched to the area for investigation. There Major J. M. found many metal fragments and what appeared to be "parchment" strewn over a one-mile-square area. "The metal fragments," said the Major, "varied in size up to six inches in length, but were of the thickness of tin foil. The fragments were unusual," he continued, "because they were of great strength. They could not be bent or broken, no matter what pressure we applied by hand."

The area was thoroughly checked, he said, but no fresh impact depressions in the sand were found. The area was not radioactive. The fragments, he added, were transported by a military carry-all to the air base in Roswell and from that point he was instructed by General Ramey to deliver the "hardware" to Fort Worth, to be forwarded to Wright-Patterson Field for analysis.

When the press learned of this retrieval operation, and wanted a story, Major J. M. stated, "To get the off my back I told them we were recovering a downed weather balloon."

When the major was asked for his opinion as to the identification of the fragments he was certain they were not from a balloon, aircraft or rocket. He said that, because of his technical background, he was certain that the metal and "parchment" were not a part of any military aerial device known at that time.

### **Comment**

The retrieval of "unusual" fragments in secrecy suggests they were part of an unknown aerial device or craft. Manned, or not, the major did not know. If there were entities aboard no evidence was found. Had there been any bodies aboard they would have been destroyed in what appeared to have been an aerial explosion.

It is significant to note in this instance, the year 1947, which was the year of the first great wave of UFO reports. Also the area of this retrieval was in the path of some of the "green fire-ball phenomena" observed from 1947 to 1948.

### **ABSTRACT XIX: Crashing object said to have been tracked on radar: occupants badly burned**

Following my lecture on April 6, 1978, before the Cincinnati Chapter of World Wings Association — a gathering of 50 or more pilots — I was approached by a highly reputable member of the Association who knew of "a person at work" who, in turn, knew about crashed UFOs and occupants. I promptly got in touch.

On April 18, 1978, I talked with former Air Force Sergeant M.S. of the 97th Bomber Wing. He was prepared to relate the data from a high intelligence source relative to the retrieval of an alien craft and humanoid occupants maintained at Wright-Patterson AFB. He also related a sobering story about a landing on an air force base, also from the same high source.