

between trees. It was now very definitely a red conical shape. Deborah put her foot down and they sped away. At last sight the colour had turned more yellowish. The object was lost behind trees but when they came past these it was no longer there.

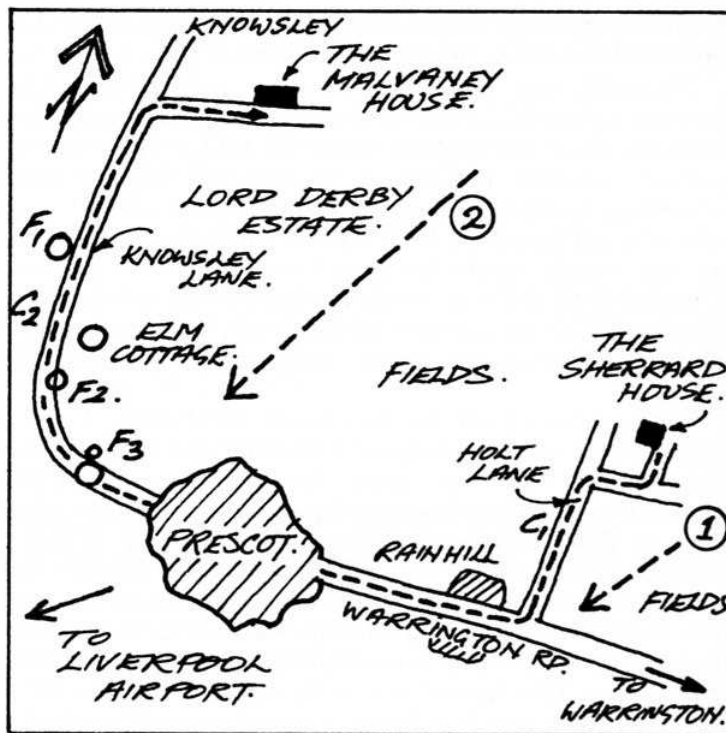
The two women returned home, arriving sometime shortly after midnight.

Subsidiary events

At first the witnesses did not want to report their observation of strange figures, but ultimately picked up courage to do so.

These figures which may have been two or three individuals (one figure may possibly have been seen twice) were all on Knowsley Lane. They were identical in appearance. They looked about 50/60 years old and each had a long, thin pale face with long grey hair. They were dressed in white mackintosh coats. None of the figures looked at them, despite their approach in the car, and did not move off the road, upon which they were walking, to avoid the vehicle. On all three occasions Deborah had to swerve to avoid hitting them. The first figure was seen just north of Elm Cottage by all three women. The second was seen only by Margery and Deborah, on their return journey, in the vicinity of Elm Cottage. The third was seen as they approached the roundabout towards Prescott.

No effects were noticed on the car during the sighting. However, next morning the radio (which is used regularly, but was *not* used during the sighting trip) failed to work. That evening Mr. Sherrard examined it and found that a fuse had blown. This was replaced and there



- (1) First UFO. C1 Position of car
 (2) Second UFO. C2 Position of car
 Figures seen at F1, F2, and F3

has been no trouble since. The car is a 1973 Morris Marina.

(Concluded on page iii of cover)

RESEARCH REPORT — No. 3

The spatial distribution of UFO events

Jenny Randles

IT is a well known fact of UFO life that sightings are not randomly distributed. Aimé Michel was probably the first to notice this with his now famous discourse on "orthoteny." Several articles around this theory of straight-line alignment have been featured in FSR, with particular reference to the so called BAVIC (or Bayonne to Vichy) line in France. The existence of this has been verified on computer by Dr David Saunders in the USA.

Following on from this Dr Jacques Vallée noted in the mid-sixties how sightings tended to be inversely related to population density. In other words UFO events were much less likely to occur in an area of major population than in somewhere remote or lightly populated. Clearly this constitutes a major piece of evidence about the true nature of the phenomenon, and we seem to have overlooked this fact. Very few studies have been conducted which have taken these preliminary conclusions any further. However, there are a few recent pieces of work which I think can be drawn together at this moment. They seem to offer scope for more detailed appraisal of this whole question.

Over in Sweden A.F.U. recently decided to test the Vallée hypothesis with a research project which would certainly merit duplication for other areas. They divided the country into units (akin to English counties) and obtained accurate population statistics for each unit. On the basis of the total population of the country they calculated what percentage of a sum total of UFO reports each unit should receive, assuming random distribution. In order to test this against actuality they could not simply use every UFO report on file for a number of reasons. The chief one of these was that there would be a bias according to the placement of UFO investigators. In order to attempt to overcome this they eliminated all cases which came to light through investigators, retaining only those received through channels such as military or police installations. From the final sample of reports they were able to calculate the expected total for each individual unit and compare it with the real total. The results showed quite conclusively that the less densely populated units had more than the expected number, and the more densely populated units had fewer. Indeed they even

seemed to indicate that the less dense the population the greater the positive deviation from the norm.

Naturally this work is embryonic and did not take account of many factors which might still be considered relevant (e.g. the reports must be taken from over a period, whereas population changes at varying rates according to fluctuating geographical movement). It was also a result based on *UFO* reports which is not the same as one which might be based on *True UFO* reports. Consequently there is no proof whether they are isolating a sociological bias in reporting factors, or an inherent facet of the phenomenon itself. Nevertheless a laudable attempt.

While working on my new book, *UFO Study*, I did a pilot project on the question of whether this non-random distribution was the same for all types of *UFO* phenomenon. I found clear indication that it was not. The type of event commonly referred to as the CE 4 shows definite preference for populated areas. Indeed such cases very frequently happen within major conurbations, and also from within a person's home, which is most certainly not the situation when one considers other types of Close Encounter. This has led me to the opinion that the CE 4 may well be a totally subjective experience (although not necessarily without an objective stimulus). In any case it is a different aspect of the phenomenon, and should be treated as such. At the present I am considering ways to further test this hypothesis (certainly supported by Dr Alvin Lawson's studies on imaginary abductees, created under the influence of regression hypnosis). If anyone has any proposals about this I would be interested to hear from them.

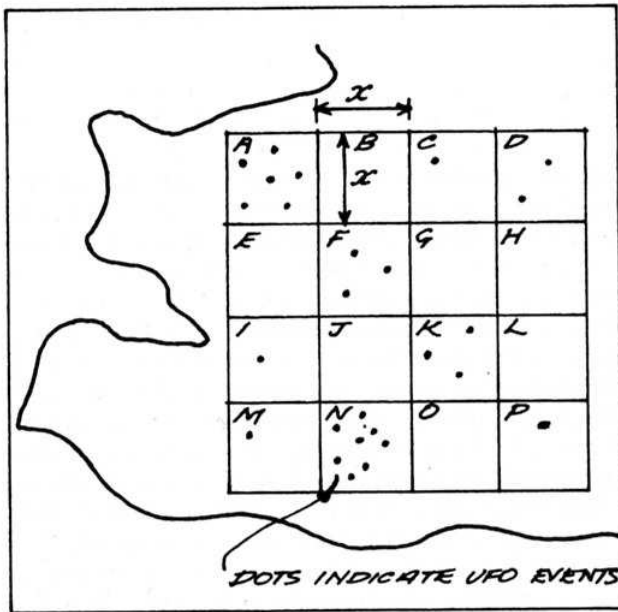
Despite the suggestion that something subjective is involved in the phenomenon, it is undeniable that something objective is also involved. Consequently I would support the proposals of *UFOIN* investigator Ken

Phillips for the testing of a hypothesis proposed by two scientists and known as the "Lafreniere/Persinger Hypothesis." He has given me a detailed plan of what he would do in order to test this. It could be conducted, he adds, with minimal resources and either by use of a computer or a team of researchers working together. *UFOIN* in the UK is prepared to cooperate in such a project and would be interested to hear from overseas organisations which might also be willing to participate.

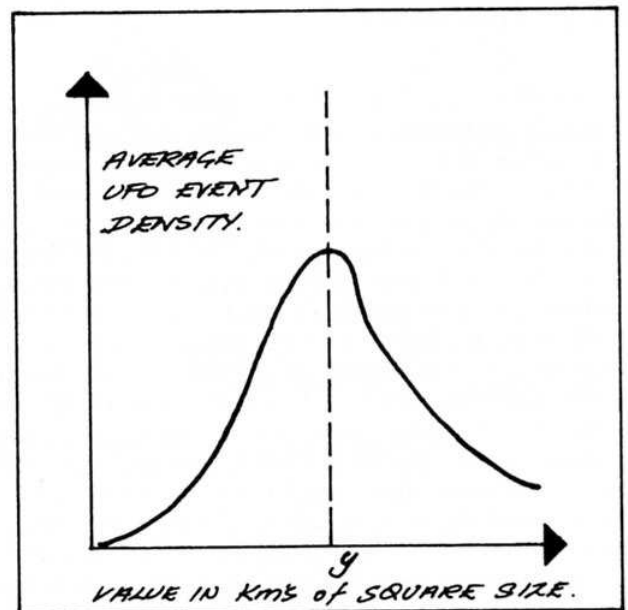
Phase One involves the compilation of a list of *True UFO* events. It is important that these be as free as possible from investigator placement bias, and so a similar process to that used by A.F.U. might be appropriate. All the data required for this phase is specific location of the witness. This should then be plotted on to a detailed regional map, simply as dots, with the map then divided by an overlay grid system. The size of the grid used in the overlay should be varied. For the first result a grid with squares 10 Km might be used, for example, with subsequent overlays reducing the square size by 1 Km until a final grid size of 1 Km square is used. For each overlay the number of events falling into each square on the grid is counted, producing an average event density for that particular overlay size. A graph can then be drawn which plots this average density against the overlay grid size (as shown). If the graph is similar to that illustrated an optimum grid size will have been found. When using this as an overlay, definite clusters of events will be found on the map. These will be akin to the so-called "Window Areas" or "Ufocals" and this particular theory will be validated. *UFO* events do tend to cluster in specific geographical locations.

While this in itself would be a valuable piece of evidence, Ken Phillips suggests that we move on to Phase Two. Check every available record within each unit area that shows a peak or cluster. Look for reports of Fortean phenomena, freak weather, poltergeist outbreaks etc. If the area is prone to these also then a further useful piece of data is added.

To check out the specific hypothesis proposed by



A grid overlays whole country with squares of side 'x' kms; 'x' can be variable (e.g. 1-10 kms). Average *UFO* event density = densities of squares added together, and divided by the number of squares (in the given example this is $26 \div 16 = 1.625$).



A result of this kind validates the hypothesis and provides an optimum square size (to be used in further phases) of 'y' kms.

Lafreniere and Persinger, Phase Three is necessary. Checking all astronomical, meteorological and seismic records a search must be made for major disturbances involving large quantities of energy at any point in space, provided there is a close chronological link with the events featured in the cluster.

Phase Four would involve the checking of the area for any geological structures which might be consistent within each cluster unit.

The principle aim of the project would be to ascertain the validity of geographical clustering, and to search for possible geophysical correlations. In order to double check it would be necessary to repeat all four phases with the

units (or some of them) which do *not* show clustering. If the hypothesis is to be proven these should not give the same results.

Certainly the idea has merit, and would be a step in the direction towards a better understanding of the physical nature of UFO events.

* * * * *

Miss Jenny Randles is Secretary of UFOIN (UFO Investigators' Network). Her address is 8 Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6PQ. Telephone 0925 824036.

THREE ODDITIES FROM ALBERTA, CANADA

W. K. Allan

A welcome return to our pages by veteran investigator Bill Allan who, when living in Edmonton, Alberta, had his own local radio spot for features on UFOs, so becoming a clearing house for reports of many incidents which otherwise might have gone unknown.

HERE are three reports from the Province of Alberta, one from the Calgary area, and the others from Wetaskiwin, which is some 50 miles to the south of Edmonton, which I feel may be of interest to readers of *Flying Saucer Review*. Many of the items which I receive come to me on tapes, while others are recorded from the telephone: sometimes they are taped recordings of interviews I have conducted personally with the witnesses. When these are transcribed, the vernacular is largely retained — at least where it is understandable.

Poltergeistic(?) bum's rush near Calgary

The first story is an account from Mrs. Rose Roberts, of Rural Route 8, Calgary, Alberta T2J 2T9 who reported by telephone — and confirmed by a letter — a curious experience (in 1967 she was a valuable source of reports of UFO events southwest of Calgary).

She first refers to the cattle mutilation outbreak around Calgary, and then continues with her own experience at 10.45 a.m. on Oct. 3, 1979.

"We have a herd of dairy goats on our farm, and they are not too anxious to pasture too far from home on account of coyotes and dogs, etc. They especially like to graze among the trees for a half-hour every day; they require a variety of forage. When I am ready to take them into the trees I give a hoot and a holler and they join me on the run. As we approached the tree line I became aware, above and around me a sound similar to several jets 'revving-up' for take-off. With this 'revving-up' was a metal clanking or clinking in harmony. This noise came closer and enveloped me, almost to the point where I wanted to hold my head and run. I took a quick look

around at the animals to see what they were doing — our cattle were a little distance from me, but showed no sign of disturbance — the goats, unnoticed, had already made a run for the trees about 50 yards away; they were grazing nervously. As I entered the trees two loud clankings of metal sounded, that had an echo, or a ring, or resonance. Could say that the clanking metal sounds were like they were not grounded, therefore they had a resonant ring.

"Being joined up with my goats again, all around me, there started up a booming (4 times). These booms would be identical with the Sarcee artillery training booms which are 20 miles away from us, and although at that distance the sound is muffled, we are quite familiar with them.

"The first boom came, and was sort of in the direction of Calgary (Sarcee). My goats jumped in reaction, a little in fright caught up close to myself and dog. They were still nervously, and ravenously, eating. Second boom made the animals, which were 10 ft. from me, scatter in a half circle, meaning that the origin of the boom would be pinpointed beside the goats. Third boom behind us made the animals rush ahead to bunch together. Fourth boom was to the south of us, in the opposite direction of Sarcee. We had turned, were heading back, and I had a side view of our dog, 15 ft. from me, heading down the trail the boom was directly in contact with the dog's back parts. You can picture what action a dog would perform when poked with an electric stock prod. The boom that made our dog react in such a manner amused me slightly, thinking of the humour that might be attached.

"After emerging from among the trees the whole experience was completely forgotten for at least three days. When looking out the window one day, and seeing the dog in the yard, I remembered only about him getting