

# U.F.O. was <sup>11M</sup> probably the planet Venus

AN AMATEUR astronomer has come up with an answer to the U.F.O. mystery which has been puzzling Petersfield.

Three people reported seeing a glowing object in the sky — and they appealed for information

about what it could be.

Now Mr. Sean Clarke, who has a small observatory in his back garden, says they must have seen the planet Venus and a slow-moving meteor known as a bolide.

A Petersfield woman reported seeing a large glowing object apparently

hovering in the sky at 3.45 a.m.

Shortly afterwards, a couple living at Rogate were astonished to see another bright flying object which appeared to disintegrate before their eyes.

Mr. Clarke says he is convinced that the first sighting was of the planet Venus, which appears as a very large, bright orb in the early morning sky at this time of year.

“It is made to appear even larger by irradiation, which is an effect of the atmosphere,” he added.

“It looks very, very bright and very, very big — certainly not like an ordinary star.”

He said that the second sighting was probably a bolide — a slow-moving meteor which appears as a very bright object and disintegrates after coming into the Earth’s atmosphere.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith, of Woodbury Avenue, Petersfield, said she was woken up by her frightened cat at 3.45 a.m. She got up to see what had alarmed it — and was astonished to see a large glowing object apparently hovering in the sky.

“I could not believe my eyes. I even went back to bed and got up again to see if it was still there.

“I rang the Meteorological Office at Bracknell to ask if they could tell me what it was, but even they were puzzled.”