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A not so very far away encounter

Three people who watched in amazement as a UFO hovered over Petersfield asked this week, "Did anyone else see it?"

The RAF, the Army and the Meteorological Office have been unable to shed any light on the mystery.

But two women who contacted the Post separately to report their sightings believe that other people must have seen the object — and that there must be a logical explanation for it.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith, of Woodbury Avenue, Petersfield, said she was woken up by her cat at 3.45 a.m. last Wednesday.

"I looked out of the window to see what might have alarmed him and I just could not believe my eyes.

"There was a brilliantly lit object hovering above the fir trees four gardens away. At first I thought it looked like an enormous gondola lit up with electric lights.

"I kept staring at it and trying to convince myself it was really there. I even went back to bed to get warm, and when I got up again 30 minutes later it was still there."

Mrs. Smith was so mystified that she rang the Meteorological Office at Bracknell to see if they could offer any explanation.

Experiment

"They said it was nothing to do with them, or with the military. But I still think it could have been something connected with an experiment of some kind," she said.

The second person to see the UFO was Mrs. Peggy Jones-Parry. She saw the UFO just after returning to her home in Rogate with her husband at about 9.30 p.m. on Thursday.

She described it as a pinkish red colour with glittering lights. As she watched, it sank gradually in the sky and suddenly disintegrated.

Mrs. Jones-Parry called her husband Christopher who also saw the UFO, but neither of them could think of any explanation for it.

"I cannot believe that no one else saw it. I have watched the television news and read the papers to find out if anyone had reported seeing the same thing, and I am amazed that no-one did.

"I am glad my husband was there so that someone saw what I did. I am sure there must be a perfectly logical explanation, and I would love to know what it is."