

for this" regarding the number of UFO reports.

These are not the first occasions Venus has been mistaken for something else and will certainly not be the last.

To avoid further confusion might I point out that Venus will be visible in the western part of the sky each evening until late March and the second brightest planet at present, Jupiter, will be seen in the South, South West and West throughout the next few months. There is a golden rule that you should always seek to explain the unexplained by the most likely means first and I feel Mr. Dutta would be well advised to remember this.

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● Reporter Ruby Williams, who spotted the third UFO in Deganwy disagrees with Mr. Roberts' theory because Venus was also visible at the time she saw the orange and white light.

"My first point is that this was a clear night and the thing I saw was much lower than the stars and was fading all the time. There was a big bright star in the sky at the time and I am quite sure that that was Venus."

Those UFO reports

Sir, — Having lived in Deganwy for some 12 years I still take an interest in that area and buy the Weekly News. I see in today's (February 3) issue, yet another report of a "UFO."

I wrote to the Weekly News in December explaining that the "second" sighting was almost certainly the very bright planet Venus and the third UFO was almost certainly the same planet.

The man who reported the December object said that when he looked at it through binoculars it appeared triangular. This was because Venus and Mercury as well both exhibit phases like the Moon — a phenomenon first seen by Galileo in the early 17th century.

At the time in question Venus's phase was like that of the moon a little after first quarter. This would produce the triangular effect, bearing in mind the limited magnification of binoculars.

The orange and white light seen by Miss Williams is easily explained by watching the rising or setting sun when the atmosphere is a little hazy. The sun appears orange and is red when the sky is a good deal less transparent.

The same effect is visible in Venus's case because of the great brilliancy of this planet, coupled size of the planet compared with the stars is again a result of the planet's brightness.

It is due to an optical effect of the eye by which, for example a lit light bulb seems bigger than the same bulb when it is unlit.

Finally, there is no cause for concern over Mr. Rex Dutta's remark that "There will be some very real reason

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