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Full, deep breaks—
Winds may be severe

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The Detroit Free Press

MONDAY, MAY 12, 1935

On Guard for Over a Century

Was Eerie Explosion a Meteor?

SKY BLAST ROCKS

RECAPTURED — An unknown missile—possibly a giant meteorite—"crashed" like a freight train" across the sky and exploded near Ecorse early Sunday.

The air forces command began an immediate investigation.

The explosion belted the industrial city of 100,000 persons in an eerie blue-white light and kindled city dwellers from their beds.

The blast was visible from 50 miles away, and scattered

at a height estimated as low as 2,000 feet.

TENSANDS of persons were awoken by the occurrence, but there was no report of damage.

The phenomenon was at first definitely believed to be caused by a meteor exploding within the earth's atmosphere.

But astronomers said it was almost impossible for a meteor to get within 2,000 feet of the ground before disintegrating.

Some pointed out, how-

ever, that it might have been higher than reported by observers.

Dr. Fred L. Whipple, Harvard University astronomy expert, said that if the Washington blast had been a fire ball lower than reported it might have spread out all its heat and its ionization.

Norwood, Astoria and Mrs. Gordon said they had problems for papers if they had seen the "Tennis oval-shaped object."

He said it was at about

7,000 feet when it suddenly shattered into eight pieces which landed the main lighting. What appeared to be fragments trailed to the north, he said.

AN EXPLOSION at the Yerkes Observatory, Lake Geneva, Wis., said the scientific phenomenon appeared to use a "bullet"—a big meteor heavy enough to penetrate into the earth's lower atmosphere.

But the Yerkes report, Prof. Gerard Kuiper, said he

was inclined to believe that the object exploded even as low as 7,000 feet.

"Probably usually explode 10 to 15 miles up," he said.

"However, anything can happen, and the reported, lower of the explosion suggests that it was somewhat lower than the usual height."

"METEORS" sometimes burn off rapidly from their paths with the air and they often explode from the tremendous heat. "Fragments are scattered