

MYSTERY LIGHT OVER IPSWICH; HOUSES SHAKEN

What was variously described as a "fireball," "flying saucer," "comet," "meteorite," and "lightning" passed over Ipswich a few minutes before 6 p.m. yesterday. At Redbank it was reported to have passed 8ft. over two children, and to have gone under electric and telephone wires.

It shook houses and rattled windows throughout Ipswich and suburbs, and was seen by hundreds who were dazzled by the brilliant glare for a few seconds. Two explosions, the rumble of thunder, and a trail of smoke are reported to have followed the phenomenon.

Dozens of Ipswich residents telephoned the office of the "Queensland Times" either to report the event or to inquire about the mysterious rumbling which had caused their homes to shake. A popular belief was that there had been an explosion in one of the many mines in the West Moreton area.

"LOW OVER REDBANK."

"Zig-zagging like lightning it flashed through our back yard less than 15ft. from the ground," said Mrs. K. Ward, of the Commercial Hotel, Redbank. "Passing between the garage and the laundry it went beneath electric light and telephone wires, then went straight off into the sky to the north out over the railway line and the military camp. Its light was so bright that the lights in my kitchen were dim in comparison, and I thought they had gone out.

"I had my two children in the backyard at the time

the backyard at the time and, after it had passed, a smell like burnt rubber seemed to cling to the kiddies' cardigans. A kind of smoke screen was left behind in the yard in its wake.

"After it went out of the yard it was visible for about another 10 minutes, but kept fading. The further away it went the higher it climbed into the sky."

"There was no noise at all," said Graham, 10-year-old son of Mrs. Ward. "I was just about to take my young sister 'Francie' into the house when the yard appeared to become as bright as day, and the thing passed over us. Francie caught hold of me, and we saw it pass under the electric light wires and out of the yard."

Mrs. Ward said her milkman (Mr. Swan) told her he had been serving customers just on the Redbank side of the loop line. He saw the object quite distinctly as it fell. His horse also noticed it, and reared up.

Mr. T. Fallon, Brisbane-road, East Ipswich, said he was having tea at the time the object passed over. He heard the explosion and thought it was a road accident in front of his home.

Mr. R. Rea, Junction-road,

Mr. R. Rea, Junction-road, Lower Tivoli, said it was like a large star with a trail about a mile long, brightly coloured like a rainbow. He heard two distinct rumblings, and the ground shook.

A "FLYING SAUCER."

Mr. D. Bevan, Blackall-street, East Ipswich, said the object which was elongated, passed over between north and north-east. "I am a member of the Interplanetary Rocket Society of America," said Mr. Bevan, "and I have been corresponding with the society in connection with the flying saucers reported to have been seen in the United States. Eye witnesses in America say they have seen a craft, and the society considers a craft may have landed from another planet and sent out flying saucers as a kind of spotting device. They could use the earth's gravitational field as a kind of drive for them. What was in the sky to-night appears to me to be something after the same style, and I think it may have some connection with the flying saucers."

Mr. Bevan added that if the object came to within a few feet of the ground then rose into the sky again it definitely could not have been a meteorite. A meteorite, he said, would have come to earth and would not have risen again.

Referring to a peculiar smell like burnt rubber which seemed to cling to the cardigans of the two children at Redbank, Mr. Bevan said the gamma ray of an atomic blast probably would have had that effect.