

Mystery "sky lights" flare above Darwin

Darwin, Monday

UNEXPLAINED lights off islands north of Darwin have given the town its own equivalent of the "flying saucer" mystery.

Flares and rockets have blossomed off Melville Island, 50 miles north, in the last fortnight.

They were first sighted by Father John Flynn at Garden Point Catholic Mission, near the top of Apsley Strait, which divides Bathurst and Melville Islands.

He reported a flare on September 21, another on September 25, and finally a rocket this weekend.

R.A.A.F. aircraft searched at the weekend, but found

at the weekend, but found nothing.

It was thought that a vessel might have grounded on a reef near the island, but none was seen.

Another theory was that the flares came from a landing barge which has been missing for three weeks on a trip from Darwin to Wyndham.

The barge was loaded with fuel and manned by two whites and two natives.

But the barge owner, Mr. Stan Kennon, said today the barge was not carrying rockets or flares.