

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 19 February 1955		2. LOCATION Palm Springs, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1035 PST GMT 19/1835Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION one minute		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE east		
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Solid, round, very bright, faded or went into cloud.			11. COMMENTS Probably a/c sighting.		

BIG EXPLOSION REPORTED

MYSTERIOUS OBJECT IN SKY

(New Zealand Press Association)

GREYMOUTH, February 6.

A mysterious explosion of terrific force, and a strange object seen in the sky over the West Coast this afternoon, caused much speculation throughout the district tonight. So far there has been no explanation of the explosion, nor of the object, with which it apparently was linked.

Responsible observers at widely-separated points gave similar descriptions of the object in the sky. It was stated to be cigar-shaped, bright silver in appearance, and travelling at a speed too great to estimate. It appeared to be losing altitude as it moved inland.

Two observers—one at Dobson and the other at Inchbonnie—claimed that the object was in two parts, and that the leading portion was much larger than the other. The object emitted a dazzling light.

Inquiries tonight indicated that the explosion occurred about 5 p.m. It was heard and felt over an area of several hundred square miles, and the strange object in the sky was observed simultaneously from at least four different places—the mouth of the Taramakau river, Greymouth, Dobson and Inchbonnie.

The explosion was heard by many persons in Greymouth; and at Nelson Creek, 20 miles north-east, it was as violent as a clap of thunder.

The line of flight of the object was approximately south-west to north-east. It came from over the sea about 10 miles south of Greymouth, and its course apparently took it into the foothills of the Southern Alps, about 25 miles from Greymouth.

An observer at Inchbonnie reported a huge column of smoke in the foothills of the Alps at the time of the explosion.

Mysterious Blast In New Zealand

AUCKLAND, N. Z., Feb. 6 (P.—)

A mysterious explosion of terrific force shook the west coast of New Zealand's South Island today. A strange silver shape flashing overhead at the same time was reported.

Observers at widely-separated points described the object as cigar-shaped and emitting a dazzling light and traveling at high speed. They said it lost altitude as it moved inland toward the Southern Alps.

The explosion was heard and felt in an area of several hundred square miles.

10 THE PRESS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1955.

On Monday, February 8, there appeared in The New York Herald Tribune an AP report from Auckland, New Zealand, saying that a mysterious explosion of terrific force had shaken the west coast of New Zealand's South Island the day before. A strange silver shape flashing overhead at the same time was reported. "Observers at widely separated points described the object as cigar-shaped and emitting a dazzling light and traveling at high speed. They said it lost altitude as it moved inland toward the Southern Alps. The explosion was heard and felt in an area of several hundred square miles."

METEORITE—OR WHAT?

Mysterious Green Fireball Brightens Night Over Texas

TYLER, Tex., Feb. 14 (AP) — A fireball, its weird green light casting a fiery glow over three men in an airport control tower, flashed like a "huge electric arc" across the east Texas piney woods Sunday night.

It was apparently a meteorite.

There were unconfirmed reports it exploded or hit the ground, but no evidence of it had been found.

Information indicated it was first seen here and disappeared some 60 miles south, near Lufkin. But the Weather Bureau at Dallas got reports of people seeing its glow

as far as Jackson, Miss., to the east and Mineral Wells in west Texas.

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THE MOST vivid account came from J. N. Aber, control tower operator at Pounds Field here.

Here's his story:

"Around midnight this light seemed to pop out of the sky directly above us. It looked like a huge electric arc. It was greenish, like the tip of a welder's torch.

• • •

"IT WAS going due south. There were three of us in the tower. We of course had the lights on, but the room lighted up brilliantly. It was a blinding light, the brightest I ever saw. We all turned and watched it disappear to the south, about 30 degrees above the horizon. It looked like a football with a short tail. It lasted just a second."

TEXAS - MISSISSIPPI

Radioactive Fiber At Horseheads

HORSEHEADS, N. Y., Feb. 22 (AP)—Dr. Charles B. Rutenber, chemistry professor at Elmira College, identified today as radioactive a curtain of wispy gray fuzz that spread over part of this village two days ago. He said the fuzz was badly damaged, slightly radioactive cotton fiber.

Where the fiber came from before it settled on trees, shrubbery and houses Sunday night was a mystery. Dr. Rutenber said tests showed that the fiber was apparently waste material of a substance which had been heavily damaged in some sort of explosion.

Horseheads is a village of about 3,500 population, six miles north of Elmira in the south-central part of New York State. Dr. Rutenber said the radioactivity was not present to dangerous degree.

The Atomic Energy Commission's New York office doubted that the radioactivity came from Friday's test shot in Nevada.

In one of the three incidents reported in other months (Horseheads, New York, February 21, 1955) the angel hair was identified as waste products from the local milk plant.

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On February 2[#], at Horseheads, N.Y., there fell a wispy gray fuzz of badly damaged cotton fiber. It was radioactive.

MARCH 1955 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
Spring	Washington (between Dayton and York)	Evolution	None
Spring	Little America, Wyoming	██████████ (PHOTOS)	Insufficient Data
2	Huntley, Illinois	██████████	Other (REFLECTION)
2	Las Vegas, Nevada	Civilian Pilot	Insufficient Data
2	Parkburg, Pennsylvania	██████████	Other (AA FIRING)
3	Wiesbaden, Germany	██████████	Astro (METEOR)
3	Pittsfield, Maine	██████████	Astro (VENUS)
3	Brooklyn, New York	Multiple	Other (SEARCHLIGHT)
5	Anderson AFB, Guam	Military	Balloon
8	Charleston, West Virginia	██████████	Insufficient Data
8	Lake Okechobee, Florida (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Other (FLARES)
9	Paris, Illinois	██████████	Other (PSYCHOLOGICAL)
9	Chesapeake Bay, Maryland	██████████	Insufficient Data
10	Edwards AFB, California (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Aircraft
10	Edwards AFB, California	██████████	Other (BIRDS)
10	Mettawameag, Maine (CASE MISSING)	Civilian Air & Gd	Astro (METEOR)
11	Redwood Valley, California	██████████	Aircraft
14	Klamath Falls, Oregon	Multi	1. Astro (JUPITER) 2. Astro (METEOR)
15	Avalon, Catalina Is., California	██████████	Astro (METEOR)
16	Salton Sea, California	██████████	Insufficient Data
16	Leguna, California (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Balloon
16	Hamilton-Cleves, Ohio	Multiple	Aircraft
17	Ripley, California	Military	Aircraft
17	29 Palms, California	██████████	Balloon
18	Azuza, California	Civilian	Aircraft
18	Burbank, California	██████████	Astro (METEOR)
18	San Francisco, California	██████████	Aircraft
19	Farmingdale, Long Island, New York	██████████	Insufficient Data
20	Tokyo, Japan	Air & Gd Radar	Other (WX INVERSION)
22	Colorado Springs, Colorado	██████████	Other (SHORTED POWER LINES)
25	Fitchburg, Massachusetts (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
26	Modesto, California (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Other (SEARCHLIGHT)
28	Montivedeo, Uruguay (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Balloon
28	Oakland, California (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Aircraft
DR 28	Iran	Multi	Balloon
29	Soledad, California	██████████	
	Sonoma, California	██████████	
	666th ACW	(RADAR)	Balloon
29	Pendleton, Oregon	██████████	Aircraft
29	Richmond, California (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
29	San Jose, California	██████████	Astro (METEOR)
30	Bakersfield, California	██████████	Insufficient Data
31	San Francisco, California (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
-	Fort Reservoir AFB, France	Recher	None
	(Lake only)		
31	Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio	Fitzma	None
	(News Clipping)		
32	Wright AFB, Nebraska	Brackman	None
	(News Clipping)		
3	Alaska (News Clipping)	US Naval officer	None
-	Windsor, Ohio (Lake only)	Hunter	None

MARCH 1955 SIGHTINGS

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
Mar	Toul Rosieres AFB, France	[REDACTED] (Green 164)	
Spring	Between Dayton-Yakima, Washington	[REDACTED]	
Mar	Loveland, Ohio (Stringfield)	[REDACTED] (Contactee)	
3	Point Barrow, Alaska (DHM)		(Mirage of Sirius)
6	Broadway, Virginia (Fawcett)	[REDACTED] (PHOTO)	
12	Lincoln, Nebraska (Flying Saucer Magazine)	Brockman	
30	Dayton, Ohio (Newsclipping)	[REDACTED]	

Witness IN

INFORMATION INFORMATION

CALLED A.T.I.C. O.D AT 20/0140

21 FEB 1955 07 28

Cpt. McCullough

Bm

will P.U. in a.m.

C4

EV

WPF005 YDAB10

XYAB10

XDB004JBA004JBG001

RR JEDEN JWPJB JEDWP JEPHQ

DE JWPJB1G

R 192236Z

FM COMDR 751ST ACW SQ NT LAGUNA CALIF

TO JEDENJXCOMDR AIR DEFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO

JWPJB/COMDR 27TH ADIV DEF NORTON AFB CALIF

INFO JEDWP/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS USAF

WASHINGTON 25 D C

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED/ 751ST OPS5-2 108 PD

UFOB

1. APPEARED SOLID (A) ROUND (B) 1/2 DIME (C) VERY BRIGHT (D) ONE (E) BLANK (F) BRIGHT REFLECTION AS OFF METAL (G) BLANK (H) BLANK (I) SHARP OUTLINE

2. FADED AWAY EAST (A) VERY BRIGHT REFLECTION (B) 45 DEGREES AND EAST (C) ABOUT 45 DEGREES EAST (D) STILL THEN MOVED 50-60 MPH AND FADED 15-20 MILES AWAY (E) FADED OR WENT INTO CLOUD (F) ONE MINUTE

3. (A) GROUND VISUAL (B) NONE (C) N/A

4. 1035 PST 19 FEB 55 (A) 191835Z (B) DAY

5. DD 25 BLACK PALM SPRINGS

- 1. A.T.I.C.
- 2. A.T.I.C.
- 3. A.T.I.C.
- 4. A.T.I.C.

PAGE TWO JWPJB 1G

UNEMPLOYED

7. (A) LIGHT BREEZE COOL DRY SUN OVERHEAD (B) 135 DEGREES AT 4 KNOTS

6000 FT 360 DEGREES 15 KNOTS 10000 FT 340 DEGREES 25 KNOTS 16000 FT

340 DEGREES 55 KNOTS 20000 FT 330 DEGREES 55 KNOTS EPPPP FT 300 DEGREES

90 KNOTS 50000 FT 290 DEGREES 60 KNOTS 80000 FT 320 DEGREES 20 KNOTS

(C) NONE (D) 40 MILES (E) NONE (F) NONE

8. NONE

9. NONE

JQPM ONE T-33 AT 26000 FT JUST WEST OF SITING

11. SENIOR DERECTOR C CREW NO COMMENT ON THIS SITING OTHER THAN
POSSIBLY A HIGH FLYING JET

12. NONE

BT

J20/0041Z FEB JWPJB

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PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 28 February 1955	2. LOCATION Palm Springs, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1922 PST GMT 01/0322Z March	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 19 minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE stationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round like a star. Orange to red to green. Edges sharply outlined. Stationary.		11. COMMENTS Possible balloon.	

1 Witness

INFORMATION

30

1 Mar 55 23 53

1. Aha
3. Atimpr
4. P. file

RF332

V MPF316 YDD151 NYD234 XDC237JBA103JBG 313

RR JEDEN JWPJB JEDNP JEPHQ

DE JWPJB 133

R 011945Z

FM CONDR 751ST ACURON FT LASUNA CALIF

TO JEDEN/CONDR AIR DEF COMND ENT AFB COLO

JWPJB/CONDR 27TH ADIV DEF WORTON AFB CALIF

JEDNP/CONDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS USAF WASH 25 D C

BT

7/UNCLASSIFIED/751ST OPS5-2 312 PD UFOB

1. (A) ROUND LIKE STAR (B) PEA (C) ORANGE TO RED TO GREEN (D) ONE (E) BLANK (F) EDGES SHARPLY OUTLINED (G) NONE (H) NONE (I) BLANK
2. STOOD STILL (A) BRIGHTER THAN SKY (B) 12 DEGREE ABOVE HORIZON IN SOUTH (C) SAME AS (B) (D) STOOD STILL (E) STOPPED SHINING (F) 19 MINUTES
3. (A) GROUND VISUAL (B) BINOCULARS (C) N/A
4. 1922 PST 23 FEB 1955 (A) 0322Z 1 MAR 55 (B) NIGHT
5. DE 5309 29 PALM
6. (A) [REDACTED] AGE 63 [REDACTED] PHONE [REDACTED] (B) BLANK

7. (A) 6 DRY- LIGHT BREEZE-COOL CMA MANY STARS (B) 0 VIS, 15 LGT AND
VAR PD

6,000 FT	240	34K	30,000 FT	230	22K
10,000 FT	310	12K	50,000 FT	250	70K
1616,000 FT	260	21K	70,000 FT	230	35K
20,000 FT	290	27K			

7. NONE

9. NONE

13. NONE

11. SENION DIRECTOR NO COMMENT

12. NONE PD END

BT

01/2123Z MAR JJPJB

- 89 20 000000 3-

NI

*****20
 FEB. 2, 1955 BETWEEN MAIQUETIA AND MERIDA (KEYHOE-1955 P 249) 5 WITNESSES00
 AN AEROPOST AIRLINER, PILOTED BY CAPTAIN [REDACTED], A FAMOUS VENEZUELAN 01
 FLYER, WAS FLYING AT 7500 FEET BETWEEN BARQUISIMETO AND VALERA. IT WAS A 02
 CLEAR DAY, WITH VISIBILITY UNLIMITED. UNTIL 11.15 A.M. THE FLIGHT WAS NORMAL.03
 SUDDENLY CAPTAIN [REDACTED] AND HIS COPILOT, [REDACTED] ES, SPOTTED A STRANGE 04
 ROUND *APPARATUS* FLYING SWIFTLY TOWARD THE PLANE. ROTATING COUNTERCLOCKWISE,05
 THE MYSTERIOUS MACHINE SHONE WITH A GREENISH LIGHT. AROUND ITS CENTER WAS A 06
 RED RING OR BAND WHICH EMITTED FLASHES OF BRILLIANT LIGHT. ABOVE AND BELOW 07
 THIS BAND WERE WHAT APPEARED TO BE LIGHTED PORTHOLES. 08
 HURRIEDLY CAPTAIN [REDACTED] CUT IN HIS MIKE TO CALL THE BARQUISIMETO RADIO 09
 STATION. AFTER REPORTING THE OBJECT. HE WAITED FOR AN ANSWER. BUT THE 10
 RECEIVER HAD GONE DEAD. (LATER THE BARQUISIMETO RADIO OPERATORS STATED THAT 11
 JUST AS CAPTAIN [REDACTED] HAD BEGUN HIS REPORT, COMMUNICATION WAS CUT OFF.) 12
 AS CAPTAIN [REDACTED] WENT BACK TO ALERT THE PASSENGERS, [REDACTED] BANKED TOWARD 13
 THE ROTATING UFO. INSTANTLY THE OBJECT WHIRLED DOWNWARD. THEN, LEVELING OFF, 14
 IT RACED AWAY AT TREMONDOUS SPEED. 15
 WHEN THE PLANE LANDED, THE PILOTS LEARNED OF THE SUDDEN BREAK IN RADIO 16
 COMMUNICATION -- NOT ONLY AT BARQUISIMETO BUT AT VALERA, WHICH WAS ALSO 17
 RECEIVING THE INFORMATION. NOT UNTIL THE AIRLINER WAS A FEW MILES FROM THE 18
 VALERA AIRPORT HAD THE RADIO RESUMED NORMAL OPERATION. 19
 BOTH FLYERS TOLD REPORTERS THEY HAD NEVER BELIEVED IN FLYING SAUCERS. 20
 BUT NOW, SAID CAPTAIN [REDACTED] *NOT ONLY ARE WE CONVINCED OF THEIR 21
 EXISTENCE, BUT ALSO THAT THEY ARE CONTROLLED.* THEN HE ADDED, *THIS WAS THE 22
 MOST SENSATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF MY CAREER AS A PILOT, AND I WILL REMEMBER THE 23
 INCIDENT FOREVER.* 24
 THE PILOTS- DETAILED REPORT, WHICH MADE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES, WAS FULLY 25
 CONFIRMED BY THE PASSENGERS. 26
 *****27

Brilliant meteors of a particularly fragile structure, which seldom deposit recoverable fragments, are common in February. Unsurprisingly, this month has also produced many fantastic UFO reports. According to various saucer publications, for example, in the nights between February 2 and February 14, 1955, the skies were thick with weird machines from beyond the earth.

On February 2 at 11:15 A.M. an airliner flying over Venezuela observed a phenomenon described as "a strange round apparatus flying swiftly toward the plane. Rotating counterclockwise, the mysterious machine shone with a greenish light. Around its center was a red ring or band which emitted flashes of brilliant light. Above and below this band were lighted portholes." [2, p. 249] As the pilot banked the plane, the object whirled downward, leveled off, and raced away at tremendous speed. The flyers told reporters that although they had never believed in flying saucers, they now were convinced of their existence and of their being controlled. After excavating the few specific facts buried in these dramatic interpretations, we recover a classic description of an ordinary daytime fireball: a flaming red body surrounded by greenish gases, breaking up into fragments that burn up in a brilliant flash. Three nights later, on February 5, the ocean liner *Vera Cruz* (time and position not stated) supposedly reported that a "huge, luminous craft, cruising at fantastic speed," had passed above the ship [2, p. 250]. On the night of February 7 the pilot of an Eastern Airlines flight over Florida saw what "looked like a ball of fire, ten or fifteen feet in diameter"; three similar objects "much brighter than aircraft flares" were sighted in the same area between 7:55 and 8:35 P.M. [2, p. 255]. On February 11 a Pan American flight between Miami and New York (time and position not given) was passed by "two strange reddish-green objects." [2, p. 259] On February 14 shortly before midnight a swiftly moving "weird" green fireball was seen from Texas to Mississippi, so blindingly brilliant that it lighted up a whole room [2, p. 260].

Not one of these descriptions provides enough factual information to allow positive identification, but every one fits the usual meteor pattern. It is highly probable that all these "UFOs" were merely meteors.

VENEZUELA

Coasters Startled by Meteorite

O.C. GREYMOUTH, To-day.

Excitement ran high in many parts of the Coast yesterday at an object which made a brief flight through the sky about five o'clock and disappeared shortly before a sound like the low rumble of thunder occurred, was caused by no more than a common meteorite, it is believed.

Yesterday reports from separate parts of the Coast gave the object differing shapes and differing altitudes, some holding it so low as to be seen hidden behind trees.

Some reports give the "explosion" which followed, a sharpness like a V-bomb or a loud clap of thunder, but to most, the noise was like a low roll of thunder, startling in the brilliantly fine day, but which seemed to set the ground faintly trembling.

That the object disintegrated on contact with the earth's atmosphere, as is common with meteorites, and did not approach the earth even closely, is indicated by a Greymouth man who was driving a car from Christchurch to Greymouth yesterday.

At five o'clock, when at Cass, he saw the object. It was only small, he said, moving north and high above the alpine chain.

Altitude 100,000ft

He is a former pilot, and he put its altitude at not less than 100,000ft.

After moving high in the air, it exploded in a puff of smoke. It looked like a 1s 6d rocket moving rapidly, he said.

This report discounts completely any suggestion that the object approached close to the ground or that part of it came to earth in the foothills. The report also places the object in the area in which it was seen by Coast residents—in line with Lake Brunner.

Many who did not see any object in the sky nevertheless heard an explosion which is agreed to have followed the disappearance.

Many cricketers, fishermen, and other sportsmen in Greymouth, Rotomanu, Brunner, Napahoe, and even Westport heard the noise. It very closely resembled a long roll of thunder, not particularly loud or sharp.

It was, nevertheless, distinct and many people were left with the impression that the ground trembled with it. They pointed out that had the meteorite disintegrated on reaching the earth's atmosphere at some point over the Coast, it is possible the percussion could have caused shock waves in the atmosphere which might have been felt and could have given out the rumble reported from many widely separated spots.

Observation Difficult

It seems that people some miles south of Greymouth who first saw the object come into sight, glowing with a bright silver light, and who saw it move beyond their vision, did not hear any subsequent noise which was generally heard in the north.

It was pointed out to-day that it is very difficult for ground observers to pick the altitude of a high-flying object or to estimate speed.

Meteorites are not uncommon sights on the Coast, but are mainly seen at night.

It is thought yesterday's meteorite was bigger than the usual "shooting star" to have been visible in daylight.

Very few meteorites ever reach the earth's surface, though there is a record of three or four having done so, including one which landed on a house in the United States within the past few months.

FLASH' ALSO SIGHTED AT ASHBURTON

D.C. ASHBURTON, To-day.

At least three reputable business men in Ashburton to-day reported seeing what they described as a "very brilliant light" high in the sky and travelling towards the Southern Alps, about 5 p.m. yesterday.

The sighting of the object, or light, which, according to one of the observers, was travelling at a phenomenal speed, coincides with the time of the "mysterious explosion" reported from West Coast centres yesterday afternoon.

One of the business men said that he was with a party of swimmers on the Ashburton River, just below the town, when he saw a bright flash in the sky above the Alps. Although he drew the attention of his companions to the "flash," they did not see it.

Magnesium Flare

"It was like a bright magnesium flare," he said this morning. "But, instead of going up into the sky, it was falling towards the hills."

Another man reported seeing a "very bright light" travelling in the western sky above the Alps at 4.56 p.m. yesterday. It was travelling at an extremely high speed in what appeared to him to be a north-westerly direction. He was unable to estimate its height and was not able to identify its shape accurately this morning.

A third observer reported that he saw a "bright light" in the sky over the Southern Alps at about 5 p.m. yesterday. He did not take a great deal of notice of it until he read this morning of the "explosion" on the West Coast.

New Zealand