

Other people described it as a "blob of brilliant whiteness" and a "sheet of white hot metal"

Chairman of Chard F.C., Mr. William Taunton, sitting in the stand, said: "It came right over the top of us like a brilliant streak and then seemed to dissolve before our eyes."

Snake-Shape

Miss Myra Scott, who was watching a football match at **Perry Street**, three miles south of Chard, said she saw a "low-flying, silvery star with a tail" shortly before four o'clock.

At **North Petherton**, near Bridgewater, spectators at another match saw an object in the north-west sky shortly before four o'clock.

It was described as "a long snake-shape thing which streaked through the sky at a terrific rate."

Mr. T. Hollinghurst, of North Petherton, said: "It appeared suddenly and went away suddenly, leaving a creamy smoke. There was no noise and there were no planes about."

Channel Explosion

A few minutes later a flash, as though from an explosion, was seen at a great height over the **Bristol Channel**, 50 miles to the north of Chard.

Reports from places as much as 130 miles apart were received at the Air Ministry.

Portishead (near Bristol) police reported that a white flash was seen between 4.5 and 4.10 p.m. which appeared to be an explosion. It turned pink and disintegrated. The estimated height was 20,000ft.

Weston-super-Mare police reported to the Air Ministry that they saw a similar flash in the **Portishead** direction at the same time.

Another sighting was reported from as far away as **Durham**.

Airmen Saw It

Pilots of four jet aircraft of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force coming in to land at **Llandaw**, near Cardiff, reported a flash of light at 15,000ft. to the north-east of the airfield.

At a football match at **Easton-in-Gordano**, near Bristol, spectators saw a flash. Mr. M. V. Perrett, of Ham Green, said: "It looked like a rocket coming down from 2,000ft. There was an intense white flash which left a trail of vapour."

Spectators at the match between **Shaftesbury** and **Longfleet St. Mary** reported what appeared like a giant rocket. It seemed to fall from the sky.

Bovingdon airport in Hertfordshire, 150 miles east of Llandaw, also reported to the Air Ministry that a brilliant white light was seen a long way to the west at 4.5 p.m. Observers estimated that it was at about 20,000ft. and say that it vanished in a trail of smoke.

Air Ministry said last night: "A thorough check has been made and no aircraft is missing or believed to have blown up in the air."

"It is most unlikely that an unscheduled private flight could have taken place at such a height. We cannot explain the phenomenon."

"No aircraft was flying in the **Portsmouth** area."

Game Stopped

At **Towyn**, near Rhyl, North Wales, Rugby players dropped the ball and, with spectators, stared into the sky as a yellow object trailed sparks flashed across it.

It vanished over **Tower Hill**, **Abergele**, within ten seconds.

At about 4 o'clock spectators at **Amersham**, Buckinghamshire, football ground saw a brilliant object "like a huge star" flash across the sky, leaving a volume of smoke in its wake.

Among people who saw the object at **Launceston**, Cornwall, were two ex-R.A.F. officers who were watching a Rugby match.

The object, which was circular, gave off a bright bluish-white light.

Footnote: One theory advanced last night by Professor F. A. Forester (Professor of Chemistry at **Durham** University and a leading expert on meteorites) was that the object was a meteor. "If pieces of meteorite are found," he said, "it will be only the tenth to have fallen in this country."

"I would like to appeal to anyone in the areas from which it was reported to report at once if they notice a hole in the ground or a damaged tree that was not there yesterday."