

two or three violent thunderbolts at about 12.30 P.M., a reddish (fire-like) ball moving across the street about five feet above the ground. The movement was from north to south. The resident of a house about 80—100 yards from the press was surprised to see a dazzling fire-ball (size estimated as that of a foot-ball) suddenly appearing 3 ft above the ground in the open corridor inside his house. The lightning ball had obviously passed into his house from the street. There were streaks of intense and blinding light about 4 to 6 ft all around the ball. It revolved for about a minute and flashed away upwards in eastern direction. This lightning had caused much damage in the adjoining house. The electric mains were completely burnt and the lid of the iron box of the switch-board was thrown off. In the first floor it burnt some wires and fuses. The hard surface of the open terrace was broken at four or five places. None of the residents could say whether the lightning ball had exploded with a bang.

551-594-9

**BALL LIGHTNING AT MADRAS ON 20
OCTOBER 1962**

The unusual phenomenon of ball lightning was observed at Madras on 20 October 1962. Madras was experiencing moderate to heavy thunderstorm activity from 17 October. A severe thunderstorm affected the city and suburbs about noon on the 20th. Low level lightning in the form of a glowing ball was observed in Venkitachala Chetty Street in the Triplicane area. This place is about a mile from the sea coast. Enquiries made from the residents in that locality have brought out the following details —

The Proprietor of a Printing Press in Venkitachala Chetty Street saw, following

On the 18th also there was severe thunderstorm and lightning struck three buildings in the city including a school. An extract from a local daily reads —

“The Doveton Corrie School in Vepery was shaken by a loud blast and struck by lightning. The switch board in the Principal's room exploded and a bright ball was seen to pass down the room below. The iron safe in the Principal's room was found melted at an edge by the lightning. Later the lightning passed to the laboratory where the electrical installations were damaged”.

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*Meteorological Office,
Madras
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