

# SEVERE EARTH TREMOR

## FELT OVER WIDE AREA

### GUNNING BELIEVED TO BE CENTRE

A severe earth tremor, believed to have originated in the Gunning-Gundaroo vicinity, was felt over a wide area of the Southern portion of New South Wales yesterday morning.

The tremor was the most severe yet experienced in Canberra, where the shock lasted for nearly a minute and shook buildings violently. Further shocks were felt between 5 and 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

At Gunning, the first shock occurred about 8 o'clock, and intermittent tremors occurred during the day.

No serious damage was reported, but bricks were dislodged from chimneys, while windows and doors rattled and light objects were shaken from shelves.

Between 5.0 p.m. and 5.30 p.m., four additional shocks were experienced and there appeared to be no diminution of their severity, and by 6 p.m. more than 30 tremors had been recorded.

Many of the older brick buildings in the Gunning township have become damaged by recent tremors, and it is feared that if the shocks continue, several of these may collapse.

#### ALARM AT GUNNING

A severe earth tremor lasting for about 30 to 40 seconds, occurred at Gunning at 8 o'clock yesterday morning, and was accompanied by low rumblings and the sound of heavy explosions underground.

Although residents have become accustomed to minor shakes and tremors, the severity of the first shock caused many to rush from their homes into the open.

Cracks appeared in buildings and bricks fell from chimneys, causing general alarm, while crockery was

broken in many homes.

Throughout the day the tremors and rumblings continued, and some difficulty was experienced in establishing telephonic communications. Many enquiries were received by telephone from neighbouring towns and cities concerning the safety of residents in the town and outlying districts.

#### VIOLENT SHOCK IN CANBERRA

Shortly before eight o'clock yesterday morning, Canberra residents were startled by a severe earth tremor

startled by a severe earth tremor which shook buildings and rattled crockery.

The tremor, which lasted for nearly a minute, was the most violent yet experienced in Canberra. It was accompanied by distant rumblings not unlike thunder.

The tremors were very noticeable at the swimming pool, and observers state that the water was agitated considerably. The baths attendant, Mr. Scott, stated that the tremor was accompanied by a rattling of lockers in the dressing sheds. The telephone wobbled and the bell tinkled as if it were ringing.

"Looking ahead of me," he added, "the road appeared as if it was undulating. I heard cracks in the buildings and afterwards found that some plaster above the office had cracked."

Several people state that they saw trees vibrating violently.

It is reported that one resident of Ainslie had two plates knocked from her hands while serving breakfast.

## REPORTS FROM WESTERN DISTRICTS

At Bogan Gate, in the Far West, severe tremors were felt and cracks were opened up in several buildings. The wall of one building subsided, leaving a long crack two inches wide.

Many western centres also reported earthquakes and residents had the uncanny experience of houses trembling gently. The shocks were not severe enough to do damage.

At Katoomba, several people ran into the streets, fearing more serious shocks, but after two or three shakes, the tremors ceased.

At Canowindra, the tremor was severe enough to dislodge the shelves of the bar of one of the local hotels, and dozens of bottles of liquor were smashed.