

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 14, 1935

A DOUBLE GREEN FLASH

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Authority on Meteorology

When the last speck of the sun's disk sinks below a sharply defined horizon, it often shows for an instant a brilliant green color. This is called the green flash, or green ray. It is most frequently seen over a sea horizon.

In the Radio Times (London) of November 2, 1934, a writer named Stewart reports that while serving on the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean in British tankers between 1926 and 1928 he saw the green flash scores of times, and on one occasion he and the mate saw it twice the same evening. Owing to a mirage effect, there was a double sunset -- a phenomenon that has been reported by others. Two suns about twice the solar diameter apart were seen to set successively, and the disappearance of each was attended by a vivid green flash.

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