

'Quake Shakes Rabaul

CANBERRA, Fri. — An earthquake described by U.S. seismologists as a "rip - snorter" occurred near Rabaul today, but no casualties resulted.

Houses, tanks, and power lines were damaged. There was no panic.

Brief details of the tremor cabled to the Minister for External Territories (Mr. Hasluck) stated that the District Commissioner at Rabaul had reported a severe earth tremor in the Rabaul-Kokopo area at 2.30 a.m. today.

Rabaul Town was jolted from its sleep when the whole island of New Britain was rocked by the severest earth tremor ever recorded here.

The shock was so great that it jammed the seismograph recording apparatus.

Landslides brought trees to earth, smashing light and power lines and blocking roads.

Further tremors have been felt throughout the day.

The epicentre of the upheaval was estimated within 30 miles, and New Britain is still feeling reaction to a settling down somewhere under the sea.

Water was sucked from Simpson Harbour, in which Rabaul nestles. It went and came back several times before the level became normal.

An hour after the first shock at 2.30 a.m., water rose to an

at 2.30 a.m., water rose to an unusual height at Kokopo, beyond Blanohe Bay, but quickly subsided.

A New York seismologist said a very severe earthquake centred near New Britain sent seismograph needles dancing.

He described the 'quake as a "rip-snorter." It caused a tidal wave alert in Hawaii, but the warning was later cancelled.

Another tremor shook Rabaul Town at 10 a.m.
