Stars & Stripes
London
Feb 19, 1945

Men Who See 'Em Say Foo-Fighters Can't Be Poohed

By Ed Clark
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 1ST TACTICAL AIR FORCE, Feb. 18—Discussion of the Foo-Fighters, weird thingamajigs spotted by U.S. night fighters over enemy territory, reached a new peak here today as Beaufighter crews received news from home that the Foo-Fighters were figments of the imagination and strictly from the realm of make-believe.

Particularly disgusting to the night fliers who have seen Foo-Fighters off and on for the past four months was a recent article in Time which said "Skeptical scientists, baffled by the whole affair, were inclined to dismiss the fireballs as an illusion, perhaps an image of light which remained in the pilots' eyes after they had been dazzled by flak bursts."

Nobody, the Beaufighter crew members agreed, was prepared to explain the Foo-Fighters, but they were incensed to learn that the phenomenon had been lightly passed off as a case of spots before their eyes.

Many of these night fighters are veterans of the African and Italian campaigns which lacked the added attraction of Foo-Fighters. As one pilot, Lt. Owen H. Davis, St. Petersburg, Fla., and his navigator, Lt. Warren G. Rodick, New Orleans, put it:

"If we're starting to see things now, we'd better quit and go home."

Without ever having actually met, these Beaufighter men have at least accumulated a passing acquaintance—better than others—with the Foo-Fighters, during their last four months of operation over German territory.

They described them as balls of colored light which rise from the ground in Krautland and move in on the U.S. night fighters shortly after they near or cross the battle lines. Sometimes they are in sets, as many as ten. Their color has ranged from red to orange, yellow, white and even blue.

Playing it safe, no Beaufighter crew has yet allowed the Foo-Fighters to close in, but has always gone into evasive dives and turns while the thingamajigs were still a sure distance off the wing or tail tips.

February 25, 1945

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO TIMES-NEWS, Sunday Morning,

SHOOTING STARS SILENT AFFAIRS

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Astronomer, General Extension Division, University of Oregon

Silence is a distinguishing feature of the hurried slipping of a small shooting star across the night. But when a dazzling speeding fireball tears the sky overhead, there is almost anything except silence after one to three minutes, the time required for the sound to travel down to earth. The growling, gutteral rumble is sometimes described as terrifying!

The huge daytime fireball over Portland July 2, 1939, is an excellent example of the confusion into which meteoric sounds may throw an entire city. Those indoors thought the siding was being ripped from their houses; those outside believed that a terrible explosion had occurred a block away.

Should Comfort

But knowledge that an unusual sky noise is likely of meteoric origin should be comforting rather than disturbing. Blame it on a harmless meteor, none of whose kind has ever caused a recorded human death.

Some assume that meteoric sounds result from impacts with the ground; others believe they are due to explosions high in the air. Surely it is true that explosions are often heard by those nearest them, but only as snapping noises of minor importance. An observer near the end of the flight of the Yakima fireball of April 20, 1933, saw three rapidly occurring bursts, then over a minute later (sound travels one-fifth of a mile per second) heard three light crackles.

The thunderous detonations sometimes come from parts of the fireball's path 40 or 50 miles behind the disappearance point. The substantial part of a meteor is solid metal or stone racing through the sky often at 30 or more miles a second.

Powerful Waves

The terrific atmospheric pressure developed in front of this body starts powerful air waves which give us the sensation of sound. These "shock waves" are of the same nature as those produced by artillery projectiles traveling with a speed greater than that of sound. Soldiers on active duty are quite familiar with these noisy overhead shells which sound like a heavy freight train rumbling through a tunnel.

Sounds of another kind are mentioned by 10 per cent of all observers reporting fireballs. These are said to be "swishing" effects like that of a skyrocket and audible at the time of the meteor's flight. But this is considered a "psychological" sound unintentionally created later by the observer because of its resemblance to a rocket.

READ TIMES-NEWS WANT ADS.

Hammond In
Times
May 25, 1945

Study Nippon "Balls of Fire"

New Defense Weapon Reported by Airmen

GUAM (INS) B-29 intelligence officers today scrutinized returning pilots' testimony the Japs are employing "balls of fire" as a defensive weapon.

American fliers who saw these bursts of meteor-like flame over the Jap homeland were inclined to believe that they were jet-propelled fighter planes.

Intelligence officers, however, would not confirm this belief.

Some believed the bursts could have been "scare bombs," such as were used by the Germans in the last stages of the European air war.

Great Flash Of Light Seen Here Early Today May Have Been Meteor

Flash That Lighted Heavens As Bright As Day Seen As Far North As Philadelphia; Looked Like Ball Of Fire, Says Local Woman.

Mystery continues to surround the great flash of light seen in the heavens early today by a few Hagerstonians. The same flash which lighted the heavens as bright as day, also was seen by persons as far north as Philadelphia.

At least two who saw the light here were Teddy Manahan, Western Maryland railroad yard checker, and Mrs. Florence Funk, 6 Magnolia avenue. Manahan said he checked his watch at the exact moment he saw the flash which "lighted the heavens" and it was exactly 3:36. He said there was no sound accompanying the flash. "It was as bright as daylight for just an instant," said Manahan.

Mrs. Funk, who was awake at the time, said she looked out her window just as the skies lighted up. She said that she saw a white fiery ball, with flames appearing to come from either side of the ball, shooting across the skies. It came from a southerly direction, she said, and was gone almost in an instant.

Dr. Roy K. Marshall, director of the Fels Planetarium at Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, said it probably was a "bolide" the largest kind of meteor. He said he based his statement on records coming to him from persons in Philadelphia and vicinity who saw the flash at approximately 3:45 a. m. and who felt tremors which shook buildings.

A meteor of this kind travels at the rate of from five to 20 miles a second, Dr. Marshall said. It may be as large as 1,000 miles in diameter.

It pushes the air ahead of it, producing waves of shocks with resulting loud explosive noises, he said. The inside of the ball is very cold and the outside highly heated, he explained and this difference in temperature causes the meteor to break into fragments.

Dr. Marshall said it may be hours or even days before it can be determined where the meteor ended its course. It may never be traced, he said, if it plunged into the ocean.

Earlier today, Army, Navy and Federal Bureau of Investigation authorities said they had nothing to report concerning the phenomenal

(Continued on Page 2)

Hagerstown Md
Daily Mail
May 4, 1945

Flash Of Light May Be Meteor

(Continued from Page 1)

light.

Several Philadelphia persons reported they had been thrown from beds. There were no authentic reports of damage in that city.

First rumors indicated there might be an explosion in Maryland. Other reports said the source of the flash was in Chester or Delaware counties, Pa., or in Southern New Jersey. No reports were verified by any authorities.

Capt. H. E. Axery, skipper of the Marylyand Pilots Association pilot transfer boat, said he saw "a blue ribbon of light about 20 feet wide with drifting fragments" in the Chesapeake Bay.

He said it "lighted up the whole sky and seemed to fall in the north." He added that a loud "whoosh" accompanied the light, but he heard no sound of a falling object."

THE MODESTO BEE, FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1945

Mysterious Light Flash Is Believed Caused By Meteor

PHILADELPHIA, May 4.—(AP)—A mysterious flash of light reported seen in the middle Atlantic states early today was probably a "bolide, the largest kind of meteor," Dr. Roy K. Marshall, director of the Fels Planetarium at Franklin Institute, said.

Dr. Marshall based his statement on reports coming to him from persons in Philadelphia and vicinity who saw the flash at approximately 3:45 A. M. and who felt tremors which shook buildings.

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June 7 1945

Page 4—THE INDEPENDENT——Long Beach, Calif.—Thurs., June 7, 1945

Mystery Sphere Sighted

PASO ROBLES, June 6. (INS) A silver spherical object, which appeared to be in line with the moon, puzzled residents of Paso Robles today.

The object was visible to the naked eye.

A pilot flew to 30,000 feet but reported it looked no larger from that altitude than it did from the ground. The pilot was sent up to see whether the object was a Japanese balloon.

The pilot said he believed the object was another planet but thus far astronomers have made no reports.

The object was sighted first at noon today, at which time another cylindrical object appeared to be underneath the silver sphere.

The second and smaller object disappeared shortly afterward and has not been sighted since.

Carnarvon WA
Northern Times
June 29 1945

FOO FIGHTER

If it was not a hoax or an optical illusion, it was certainly the most puzzling secret weapons that Allied fighters have yet encountered. Recently, night fighter pilots based in France told a strange story of balls of fire which for more than a month had been following their planes at night over Germany. No one seemed to know what, if anything, the fireballs were supposed to accomplish. Pilots, guessing that it was a new psychological weapon, named it the "foo-fighter."

Their descriptions of the apparition varied, but they agreed that the mysterious flares stuck close to their planes and appeared to follow them at high speed for miles. One pilot said that a foo-fighter, appearing as red balls off his wing, stuck with him until he dived at 360 miles an hour; then the balls zoomed into the sky.

Sceptical scientists, baffled by the whole affair, were inclined to dismiss the fireballs as an illusion, perhaps an after-image of light which remained in the pilots' eyes after they had been dazzled by flak bursts. But front-line correspondents and arm-chair experts had a field day. They solemnly guessed— (1) that the balls of fire were radio-controlled (an obvious absurdity, since they could not be synchronized with a plane's movements by remote control; (2) that they were created by "electrical induction of some sort," (2) that they were attracted to a plane by magnetism. The correspondents guessed that foo-fighters were intended—(1) to dazzle pilots; (2) to serve as aiming points for anti-aircraft gunners; (3) to interfere with a plane's radar; (4) to cut a plane's ignition, thus stop its engine in mid air.

Some scientists suggested another possibility: that the fireballs were nothing more than St. Elmo's Fire, a reddish, brush-like discharge of atmospheric electricity which has often been seen near the tips of church steeples, ships' masts and yardarms

MYSTERIOUS BLAST, MAY 4TH CAUSED BY A BOLIDE

By LESLIE C. BEARD

Member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific

According to late issues of astronomical journals the mysterious explosion and vivid flash of light seen by hundreds of persons about 3:30 a. m., EWT, May 4, in the Middle Atlantic States, including a few persons in Hagerstown, was caused by a bolide, the name given a meteor which explodes in its flight through the atmosphere. The June number of Sky and Telescope, just issued, concludes from descriptions of the phenomenon by observers in the area in which it was visible that the flash and noise made by the explosion was caused by a bolite after it had entered the earth's atmosphere and became incandescent by friction with the molecules of the air.

The bolide probably belonged to the Aquarid meteor swarm, associated with Halley's comet, which last visited the sun in 1910. The maximum display of the Aquarids usually comes around May 6.

Meteors have a high velocity. If they move in parabolic orbits, and therefore at the rate of 26 miles a second when they cross the earth's orbit, their speed when they enter the earth's atmosphere varies from 7½ miles a second when they overtake the earth, to 44½ miles a second when they collide head-on with the earth. The velocity increases from nightfall to dawn.

A meteor no larger than a pinhead may produce the effect of the average shooting star, while one as large as a golf ball can appear as bright as the full moon.

Dr. Charles P. Olivier, president of American Meteor Society, at the Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, Pa., says: "No doubt the mysterious blast of May 4 was a bolide. It lit up the whole sky. The explosion was accompanied by 7 seconds of lesser reverberations. Windows in many houses shook. So far accounts put the explosion south to southwest of Flower Observatory, and from 20 to 25 miles away. Cloudy skies prevented good azimuths and the foregoing position is very preliminary.

Dr. Roy K. Marshal, director of Fels Planetarium, states that thousands of people of Philadelphia and vicinity were awakened by a terrific blast, preceded by a brilliant flash of light. Estimates of the interval between flash and explosion range from 2 seconds to 5 minutes. Possible area for meteor fragments dropped by the exploding bolide include several counties in southern New Jersey.

Reports of the bolide have come as far away as Martinsville, W. Va., and Naples, N. Y. A 69-year-old man from Gerradstown, W. Va., wrote: "It was the greatest flash of light I have ever seen." A Long Branch, N. J., observer reported: "It made the night as light as day, passing to the south of me, from west to east." A tall pendulum clock at West Chester, Pa., stopped at 3:38, the time the bolide became visible.

From Philadelphia came this report: "In one or two minutes after the light was seen coming from the west, came the terrible crack and the whole house shook and it seemed to me like the odor of sul-

Ada Ok
Weekly News
July 5 1945

B-29's Strike Oil Resources

"Won't Have to Go Back" To One Refinery, Airmen Say After Maruzen Raid

By LEIF ERICKSON

GUAM, July 3. (AP)—Superfortresses struck at Japan's dwindling oil resources today for the third time in a week, blasting the Maruzen oil refinery with such precision returning airmen said "we won't have to go back there again."

Fifty precision-bombing B-29s hit the oil center 35 files from Osaka before dawn today in a quick follow up of yesterday's record 600-plane fire raid on four cities, while other allied air forces wrecked shipping and military installations from Nippon to Malaya. Two B-29s were lost in yesterday's 600 plane raid, but all but two crew members were rescued.

Black smoke which rose 10,000 feet above the important Maruben oil plant could be seen for 30 miles in the night sky.

Anti-aircraft fire was light and the few Japanese interceptors that took to the air "just seemed to want to play," said Cpl. W. H. Power of Carrolton, Ga.

"Our bombs looked like they went into the target areas," said Lt. Chester C. Gibbens of Hayward, Calif., riding in the newly commissioned Superfort named "Fleet Admiral Nimitz."

"Fire Ball" Missed Plane

Cpl. Andy Sevick of (Route 4) Bethel, Kan., whose crewmates claim that at 34 he's the oldest and best tailgunner in the business, watched a "fireball" come up through the clouds and tail the "Chicago Queen" for a seeming eternity of seven minutes before it dove through the clouds and out of sight.

Twenty-first bomber command headquarters announced, meanwhile, that 117 square miles of Japanese urban industrial area had been laid waste by B-29 strikes, not counting yesterday's record raid.

Reconnaissance photographs of firebomb strikes June 29 against Moji, Sasebo, Shimonoseki and Nobeoka showed approximately two square miles burned out.

The refinery hit today at Shimotsu, 25 miles southwest of Osaka on Honshu island, was the third oil center struck within a week. It had produced fuel and lubricating oil and aviation gasoline. It likewise was a storage center with many large fuel tanks in the target area.

July 27, 1945

THE ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS

Astronomer Asks Data on Meteor

The meteor which flashed across the sky about 10 o'clock last night has brought a variety of observations from Abilenians who saw it.

Estimates as to where it fell vary from "just outside the city limits" to "several states away."

Paul C. Atchison, local astronomer, said this morning he was interested in observations from those who say the meteor's whole train. He wants particularly to now the estimated altitude when it first appeared, the direction it was moving and the height and direction when last seen.

Atchison is seeking information for an astronomer friend in Fort Worth, Oscar Monnig, who telephoned here last night for data after he had seen the meteor from his home.

Some first impressions of observers was that the object was a Japanese balloon. It was reported seen as far west as Snyder.

It is difficult to guess where a meteor will land, Atchison warned, since one may be seen for hundreds of miles.

Although he did not see it last night, the local astronomer said that from reports he would estimate the "shooting star" was a piece of matter which weighed from five to 20 pounds.

Meteors are matter traveling through space and become ignited when they strike the earth's atmasphere. A very small object can give off an extremely bright light, Atchison said.

San Antonio
Express Tx
July 28 1945

Brilliant Meteor Seen in West Texas

By Associated Press

FORT WORTH, July 27.—Oscar Monnig, Fort Worth amateur astronomer, Friday requested West Texans who noticed last night's brilliant meteor, which lit up the western skies here at 9:55 o'clock, to notify him of its apparent course so it may be plotted.

The fireball apparently was traveling roughly south to north and also was seen at Throckmorton. Monnig, who was in his yard when the fireball appeared, said it was one of the most brilliant he ever saw. He said the "end point" was about 72 degrees west of north.

VE NIPPED NAZIS' USE OF BIG BAZOOKAS AND FOO FIGHTERS

By CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN

WITH BRITISH FORCES IN GERMANY, Aug. 19—(Delayed by Censor)—(AP)—The Germans were experimenting with huge bazookas as field artillery and aircraft cannon when the war ended and had perfected a new defense system against bombers.

The fantastic weapons which Hitler had for a last try for victory were taken off the secret list today by a team of American and British technicians.

Germany had made great strides perfecting guns without recoil. They were based on the bazooka principle of elminating recoil through ejection of gases from the rear of the barrel.

Several giant bazookas with 11-inch bore were found. These could have been used as artillery pieces or mounted on large aircraft. Shells weighed about a half ton and had terrific penetrating power.

A monstrous cannon of this type was found on the channel coast trained toward London. Gases could hurl shells 120 miles.

The defense against bombers was by use of planes which American fighters called "foo fighters." These were tiny jet-propelled craft which were "buttoned" to the base of steel poles and shot vertically into the air at the tremendous speed of rockets. Pilots inside guided the planes at 550 miles an hour, intercepting bomber formations with sprays of rocket shells fired from the noses of the craft.

After the pilot had used his two minutes of fuel, he pulled a lever and was catapulted out to float to safety by parachute. Simultaneously, the tail of the plane dropped off, releasing another parachute which brought the craft gently to earth where the Germans could salvage the jet units. Chains of stations for these jet craft were stationed all along the bombers' routes.

Another German weapon was the spider bomb—a winged missile fired from planes and electrically guided to targets by a thread of wire attached to the bomb from the parent craft.

For submarine warfare, the Germans developed a super-speed U-boat powered by ingolene, the powerful propellant used in V2 rocket bombs. The submarines attained high underwater speed.

They perfected a "splash bullet" which was used against troops with a deadly and horrible effect.

Abilene Tx
Reporter News
Aug 21 1945

Bothan AL
Eagle
Nov. 8, 1945

Lt. Col. Lewis Tells Of Mysterious Red Fireballs Pursuing Planes After Nip Raids

BY NAT C. FAULK

The Japanese threw everything in the book—and some things that weren't—in their efforts to defend the home islands against B29 Superfortress 'burn-out' raids. So says Cyrus Roys Lewis, who made 13 missions in B-29' against the Japs before the Nipponese called in quits last August.

Now home and practicing law, where he left off on July 22, 1941 to volunteer for active duty with the Army, Lewis can recall those raids without wondering whether he and his crew will get back to their base at Tinian island. "That was the thought of everyone after we reached our objective, and had it not been for that," he said, "we might have enjoyed the fireworks display."

The displays, which were not staged for pyrotechnical purposes, had everything. "There were searchlights—and the Japs had some good ones—tracer bullets, streamers, flak, shells, rockets, fighter planes with blue lights in the cockpits, and strange red balls of fire," he said, adding that some pilots reported the ghostlike balls followed them for many miles.

"We never learned for sure what these balls of fire were" he said "Too many said the balls followed them to doubt their story." He added that he encountered two of these balls on one mission, a ball a few hundred yards from each wing. "I started diving and outran them," he said, "but some pilots said the balls followed them a long way when they started home."

— Eagle Staff Photo.

LT. COL. ROYS LEWIS

BOMBED TOKYO ARSENAL

Lewis, who was appointed deputy group commander of the 505th Bombardment Group, 313th Bombardment Wing on Sept 28, made his first mission on Feb. 19, 1945 against an ordnance arsenal near Tokyo. It was a daylight precision raid. His last mission was on Aug. 1, to a town on Honshu Island when his plane was the first in the formation so it could give information on wind drift and other data to the other ships.

He drew "pathfinder assignments on four raids, to Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo and a town west of Hiroshima. On a "pathfinder" trip the first plane has the responsibility of hitting the target and lighting it up for the others in the formation.

Lewis recalled that his roughest trip was on a 6,000 - foot night "burn-out" raid to Nagoya. Twenty-five searchlights picked out his plane while it was on the bomb run. Fighter pilots jumped his ship and the craft also was caught by flak. "We could hear it popping outside," he said "but we were not hurt so much ' Japanese fighter pilots, incidentally, are not "very aggressive" in Lewis' opinion. "A lot of them came after us, but they seemed to keep a safe distance most of the time."

On Lewis' first mission he bagged an "Oscar" (Jap fighter) and though many "Oscars" were shot down by the B-29s, it was unusual for him to have the opportunity because he was the command pilot on his ship at the time. It happened because they were on a bomb run and the bombardier was engaged. He leaned downward from his position, managed to catch the enemy plane in the sights and pressed the trigger. The Jap wheeled under the B-29 in flames.

On another mission, Lewis' squadron got 15 fighters and the crew on his plane accounted for three of them. That was on a daylight precision raid to Kokobu

(Turn to No. 14 on Page 14)

Number 14

Continued From Page one

airfield on southern Kyushu In support of the Okinawa invasion Japanese suicide planes has been using the fields to operate against the Americans at Okinawa.

Lewis' 13 raids, besides including four at "pathfinder" assignments, consisted of mining operations the daylight precision raids and the night "burn-out" assaults.

LONG 'ROUND-TRIPS'

During the time he was in the Pacific he was permanently based on Tinian, about 1,400 miles from Tokyo Missions to Tokyo were "short runs" as compared with others to the Jap mainland, he said The average "round trip" was about 3 000 miles and took about fourteen and a half hours.

Until the Marines took Iwo Jima, about 700 miles from Tokyo or midway between Tinian and the Jap mainland, the missions "were rugged", Lewis said. But when Iwo was captured and converted into an emergency base where B-29' short on fuel could land and gas up again, the missions were less hazardous.

"Iwo Jima saved the lives of the 87th to make an emergency landing on that tiny island. 'Even then," he recalled," all the Japs had not been cleaned out. They were still killing some every day."

"Just before we set our plane down a Jap came out on the runway with hand grenades in each hand and he had the pins pulled out," Lewis said. "They shot him and were carrying him off as we came in."

LAUDS SEABEES

So far as Lewis is concerned, when anybody hands out credit for winning the war he wants a healthy share to go the Navy's "Seabees", or Construction Battalions. "We couldn't have fought the war without them," he said.

He recalled that when he first went to Tinian it was mostly an island two and a half miles wide by 11 miles in length filled with coral and sugar canefields. "The Seabees made it into a base lined with beautiful roads, built quarters and everything else," he said. "One day you would be on a part of the island on a little trail and the next week when you came

back it would be on a paved road."

The Seabees first "bulldozed" the thick growth of cane and then come back to bulldoze it again after it had resumed growing, he said, adding that eventually the Construction Battalions had the entire island leveled, and with excellent airstrips. "You could practically see the airstrips grow before your eyes," he said, "they worked that fast."

JAPS HID OUT

For months after he landed on Tinian, troops were still killing Japs and probably are doing the same now, Lewis said. "Some of them hid in the cane and you couldn't see them," he said, "while other—whole families—hid in the caves. Every now and then an American souvernir hunter would be killed by a Jap and a party would be sent out to get Japs."

Lewis was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery Reserve in March 1939 and after reporting for active duty in July, 1941 was ordered to Maxwell Field where he served as assistant staff judge advocate until March, 1942. He began flight training as a first lieutenant April 1, 1942 and was graduated from lying schools at Tuscaloosa, Greenville, Miss., and Columbus, Miss, winning his wings at the latter place Nov. 10, 1942.

In January, 1942 he was graduated rom B-24 transition at the Smyrna, Tenn., combat crew training school. He served as squadron operation officer of the 5th Squadron, 9th Bombardment Group at the AAFTAC Orlando, Fla., form February, 1943 to February, 1944, during which time he was promoted to Captain

In March, 1944 he became a Major and served as operations officer of the 483rd Squadron, 505th Bombardment Group while training in B-29s for combat duty. Upon arrival at Tinian on Jan. 6, 1945 he became commanding officer of the 483rd Bombardment Squadron and served as squadron commander until Sept. 28 when he became deputy group commander.

He piloted a B-29 from Tinian to the United States, arriving at Mathis Field, Sacramento, Cali. on Oct. 29th and was separated rom service on Nov. 3, being commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Corps Reserve. He was awarded the American Deesne Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Thatre ribbon with four battle stars, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf cluster.

He has resumed law practice as a partner with his ather, Oscar S. Lewis.

El Paso Tx
Herald Post
Nov 20 1945

Airlines Pilot Says Big Meteor Broke Up in Sky Over Mexico

Capt. G. P. Eckardt of the Hilton Hotel says the brilliant meteor which flashed across Southwestern skies Saturday apparently dissipated into gas before reaching the ground.

He said he saw the meteor disintegrate over mountains in Mexico south of Rodeo, N. M., as he was piloting an eastbound American Airline plane to El Paso.

"The meteor played out in the air at about 170 degrees and did not hit the ground" Captain Eckardt said.

Did Not Leave Trail

"At that time it appeared as a green ball but had no tail. It was a burning trajectory traveling horizontally with the ground. It did not leave a trail."

Captain Eckardt said he recognized the object instantly as a meteor because he has seen several other celestial phenomena during the four years he has been flying.

He saw the big meteor which struck the earth in North Texas last year. "That meteor left a big trail in its wake," he said. "It traveled much faster than the one which passed south of El Paso Saturday.

"The meteor El Pasoans saw was neither as big nor as fast as the one over North Texas. However, it had an unusual coloring, a green tinged with blue."

Meteors are transient, luminous celestial bodies that enter the earth's atmosphere with great velocity. The brilliant light is due to the incandescence caused by the heat generated by the meteor's resistance to the air around the earth. Because of the heat, most of the meteors are dissipated into gas before reaching the ground.

Bright meteors are called fireballs; if they explode, they are bolides.

When a meteor hits the ground, it becomes a meteorite. Most are remnants of disintegrated comets.

Captain Eckardt said he had time to call the attention of his co-pilot, Ken Buis, to the phenomena before the fireball dissipated into gas.

The captain's story of how the meteor disintegrated probably will stop the search for remains of the meteorite in the mountains west of Babicora.

Frank Fry of Babicora reported yesterday he saw the meteor pass over Babicora and thought it landed in the Mexican mountains 100 miles west of there.

H. H. Nininger of Artesia, N. M., nationally famous meteorologist, had asked Southwest and Mexico residents to hunt for the remains. Mr. Nininger is compiling information on the meteor for scientific study.

Abilene Tx
Reporter-News
Nov 8, 1945

and Ohio.

Coleman Countians Report Meteor Falls

COLEMAN, Nov. 7.—(Spl.)— At least two Coleman people saw a meteor falling through the northern sky shortly after noon Saturday.

Oscar Ward, Coleman farmer, was in town Monday and reports that he was looking down the barrel of a gun at a ground squirrel when he saw a flaming ball streaking earthward with a cone of blue fire trailing. At that time he was on the Arthur Young place, 23 miles north of Coleman, and said the meteor appeared due north from him.

Saturday afternoon a farmer who had seen the meteor and thought that it was a flaming airplane, reported the incident to local authorities and an immediate search was made by plane. Results of the search were negative and local people were puzzled as to what the farmer had seen when it was brought to light the next day that a meteor had been seen by people in other sections.