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Chicago Tribune 3/25/85 Mike Diamond

Ball of fire streaks Southeastern sky

WASHINGTON—A lightning-quick "ball of fire" streaked across the Southeastern sky Sunday night "brighter and bigger than a shooting star," and authorities speculated it was caused by a meteor or meteor shower. "I saw it fall from the sky," said Tennessee Highway patrolman Harold Munger, who said he was about 10 miles east of Chattanooga when he spotted a bright flying object overhead around 8 p.m. Sunday. "It appeared to be a ball of fire and seemed much brighter and bigger than a shooting star," Munger said. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Dennis Feldman said air traffic controllers reported sighting a fireball as far north as Chattanooga and as far south as Orlando. People as far north as southern Illinois reported seeing bright lights in the sky. The Scientific Event Alert Network at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History is assuming the fireball was a meteor and wants to determine if any remains can be found.

Haydon preparing
respirator

Meteor shower alert

COASTGUARDS throughout the South were put on alert early today when a meteor shower was reported.

Dozens of emergency calls were received from people all along the South Coast who thought the white, red and green lights were distress flares from a ship in trouble.

Skywatchers from the Royal Greenwich Observatory, based at Hertsmonceux, say the shower was not one of the 20 or so regular "visitors" each year.

A spokesman said: "It may just be a one-off thing."

Many calls came from the Hastings area. The sighting will be investigated by the British Astronomical Society.

Evening Argus 28 Mar 85
(Brighton)
Chris Seale

Pilots Report 'Fireball' Over Southeastern U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said Sunday night the agency's air traffic controllers have received reports from pilots about sighting a "fireball" over a wide area of the southeastern United States.

The spokesman, Dennis Feldman, said, "Our people report a fireball as far north as Chattanooga and as far south as Orlando. FAA air traffic controllers at our Jacksonville center and the Atlanta center have received reports from pilots about this so-called fireball, but as far as we know it was not an airplane."

"We have no idea what it was—this is all fragmentary in-

formation," Feldman said. He added, "There were no aviation accidents as far as we can determine."

Cmdr. William Ranzinger, a duty officer at the North American Air Defense Command's Cheyenne Mountain complex in Colorado, said, "There is a possibility it could have been some meteor showers."

The complex, which tracks objects in space, had expected some debris to make a flaming return into the atmosphere from a Soviet rocket body, but "it doesn't correlate" with the time of the reported sightings, Ranzinger said.

He said the space debris was expected to come into atmosphere not over the United States but "way out in the ocean."

Cincinnati, Oh.
Enquirer
3/25/85

Ron Schatner
P.O. Box 315
Loveland, OH 45140

Fireball Was Probably Meteor

JZ

The Associated Press

A huge fireball that blazed across the night sky over the Southeast, changing colors as it flew above startled spectators, was probably a meteor, scientists said Monday as they began seeking fragments.

Air traffic controllers reported sighting the fireball as far north as Chattanooga, Tenn., and as far south as Orlando, Fla., FAA spokesman Dennis Feldman said in Washington, and people as far north as southern Illinois also reported seeing bright lights in the sky.

March 26, 1985
Buckeye Register & Press
The Press

The Weather

JZ