

Meteor Frightened Troops So Badly It Ended a War

True stories that boggle the mind fill the pages of the absorbing book "Strange World" by Frank Edwards. In this final installment, an ENQUIRER exclusive, Edwards tells how a meteor crushed a rebellion — and how two pilots vanished into thin air.

By FRANK EDWARDS

There is no stranger true story on record than that of the sudden and dramatic manner in which a civil war was brought to an end in Nicaragua.

The year was 1907, and a military group was seeking to shoot its way into office. The rebels were making considerable headway under the astute leadership of Gen. Pablo Castilliano.

He had ample weapons, plenty of money and an excellent background of military training.

Gen. Castilliano and his forces were within easy striking distance of complete victory. The government forces had been defeated twice in quick succession and many of the troops had deserted.

Castilliano and his officers had their troops strategically placed along a ridge overlooking the enemy positions. The blow which should bring them victory was timed for daylight the next morning. Castilliano retired to his tent to set down a record of the day's events in his diary.

At about 10 o'clock he blew out his candle and went to bed.

A few minutes later the camp was lighted up as if by a gigantic flare. A flaming

BOOK BONUS

mass was streaking down from the clear night sky — coming straight for the camp.

The terrified guard outside the general's tent yelled and threw himself to the earth.

The fireball squarely hit Gen. Castilliano's tent — blasting out a pit 10 feet deep and about 15 feet in diameter. The general died instantly.

His guard lived for two days, long enough to confirm that it had indeed been a fireball from the sky, just as the other sentries claimed.

Their story was later found to be true when pieces of the shattered meteorite were found in the pit. The general's dramatic death demoralized his troops.

They took it as a sign that their cause was in disfavor in heaven and the rebellion collapsed overnight.

It remains to this day the only known case where a war was brought to an end by direct intervention of a celestial object.

The Two Aviators Who Vanished Into Thin Air

On July 24, 1924, British Flight Lieut. W.T. Day and Pilot Officer D.R. Stewart took off in their single engine plane from a Middle East base for a routine reconnaissance over the desert.

They have not been seen since.

When their plane was found the day after they failed to return, there was gasoline in the tank, and the engine started readily when tried.

There were no signs that the plane had been shot at.

There was no clue to hint why they might have landed where they did ... in a broad stretch of inhospitable

desert. And the search party found something else that added question marks to the case of the missing fliers.

Beside the plane in the soft sand were the boot marks where officers Day and Stewart had jumped down from the craft.

Their tracks showed that they had left the plane and walked side by side for about 40 yards. There the tracks ended.

The arrangement of the footprints indicated that the men had simply stopped, standing side by side.

Then, and there, they vanished.

Armored trucks, planes and half a dozen patrols

scoured the desert for miles around — but there was never a trace of the missing fliers. The fate which befell them will probably never be known.

Soldier Traveled Thousands of Miles in the Blink of an Eye

Is it possible for a human being to be suddenly transported over great distances almost instantaneously, without harm?

Let us take a case from the official records of Mexico, a case which was never solved.

On the morning of Oct. 25, 1593, on the plaza before the palace in Mexico City, the guard was being changed. In the bright sunshine one soldier stood out from the rest, and small wonder — for he was dressed in a costume