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...ount Meteor Explodes With A Roar; ...On Scares Thousands In Seattle

By Associated Press

SEATTLE, May 11.—A giant meteor swished across western Washington and exploded with a tremendous flash and roar over Seattle at 1:26 a.m. today.

It frightened thousands of persons as it lighted the sky and rattled doors and windows.

No pieces were found, however, and the greatest damage seemed to have been inflicted on the people's nerves.

A 30-second rumble followed the breaking apart of the celestial visitor into an estimated four to ... large pieces.

Altitude Estimated

Witnesses found it difficult to estimate the object's altitude and speed, but triangulation fixed the ... explosion point somewhere over ... April 8 to just north of Greenlake in north ... central Seattle.

The Coast Guard estimated from ... early reports that it might have been as low as 2,000 feet when it burst. However, Capt. Bert Carlson, a Northwest Airlines pilot, said it appeared to be only a little below his altitude of 8,000 feet.

Carlson said he was flying toward Seattle when the ball of fire appeared, traveling from the southwest toward the northeast. It exploded in a brilliant flash and broke apart.

There were no estimates immediately available as to the size of the meteor.

Like Chain Lightning

Reports to the Coast Guard such as "Two other policemen, J. H. Davis and R. G. Carmody, witnessed the incident from the bridge across Lake Washington, five miles southeast of Greenlake.

"It was a blue-white magnesium color," they reported over the police radio. "It lit up the sky like chain lightning."

Newspaper and police switchboards were jammed by excited callers whose fears ranged from explosion of an atom bomb to an earthquake. Very few thought of a meteor.

Police and state patrolmen patrolling made fruitless efforts to find pieces of the meteor.

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