

MORE MENACING THAN FLYING SAUCERS

For years, eerie colored lights have cut a terror swath over parts of the U.S.—flying in formation, menacing people and, say some authorities, causing earthquakes, widespread power failures and resultant deaths . . .

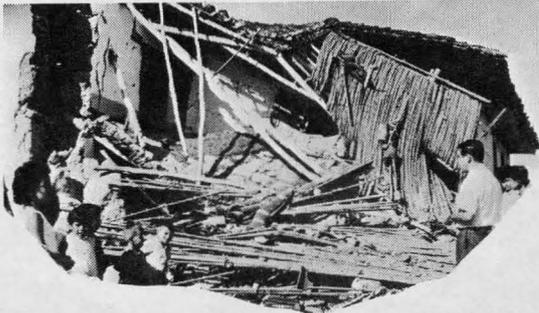
By JOHN A. KEEL

Scientists Puzzled by Blinding Lights Just Before Devastating Earthquake

By JIM WHELAN
Seconds before a disastrous earthquake rocked the Russian city of Tashkent, blinding lights and glowing objects raced across the sky.

The sightings, made by engineers and scientists, have spurred research into similar observations which took place just prior to other major earthquakes.

amid the reports of strange occurrences preceding the April 20, 1966, earthquake — just now inside world — is this



LEFT: The victims view devastation caused by earthquake that occurred just after huge fireballs were seen in sky. Above: Diagrammatic map shows path of "mystery lights" plotted by author after years of collecting documented reports of sightings

DEADLY FIREBALLS IN THE SKY

Greatest unexplained fiery-globes phenomenon is the "Lubbock Lights" photographed by a 19-year-old Texas youth

LA TE on the afternoon of Thursday, December 9, 1965, sirens screamed and lines of police cars, jeeps, and Army trucks converged on a thickly forested area about 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, Pa. Cordons were set up as teams of highly trained men from an unidentified military unit plunged into the woods with geiger counters and other instruments.

"We don't know what we have here," an Army spokesman told the gathering cluster of reporters and curiosity seekers, "but it looks as if there's an unidentified flying object in these woods."

That was the first, last and only official statement issued on the strange luminous thing which had sailed silently over several states, executed a deft 25-degree turn over Ohio, and then plummeted or crashed into that forest outside Pittsburgh. It first appeared over Michigan but was apparently high enough to be seen in

Indiana, then it scooted across Lake Erie, passing over Ontario, Canada, and seemed to alter its course in the Ohio sector, shifting towards Pittsburgh. Biologist Ivan Sanderson methodically collected all the reports of its flight and computed its speed, direction and altitude. He was able to estimate that it was traveling about 1,425 m.p.h., and that it was probably less than fifty miles high.

Most of the numerous witnesses scattered in its flight path described it as a brilliant orange sphere. The Pentagon, backed by astronomers such as Dr. Paul Annear of Baldwin-Wallace College, Pa. called it a "meteor." But the minimum speed ever recorded for a meteor is 27,000 m.p.h. and they usually burn up or break up very quickly once they enter the Earth's atmosphere. And "meteors" do not suddenly change direction.

What was the thing that flew across the northeast on December 9th? Sanderson's (Continued on page 80)

Deadly Fireballs

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study proved that it could not have been a "meteor." It was one of those unidentified flying objects (UFOs) that nobody—not even the hard-core UFO buffs—like to talk about. Giant luminous spheres seen by thousands as they cavort across our skies, defying all natural laws, yet not conforming to the popular concepts of "flying saucers." In nearly every case (and there are hundreds of cases), the scientists and the government shrug them off as "meteors" and natural phenomena. Since they don't seem to have fins, portholes and a metallic appearance, the UFO buffs quietly accept these explanations and concentrate instead on the reports of seemingly solid, metallic objects.

Four months after this object appeared over the Midwest, on the night of April 25, 1966, a very slow moving "meteor," greenish and trailing a long tail, gracefully arced over Canada and floated southwards over the Atlantic seaboard from New York to the Carolinas. It was so brilliant that it actually lit up the ground over which it passed, and moved so slowly that many excellent photographs of it were taken by amateur and professional photographers along its path. It looked like a meteor but it certainly didn't act like one. If you were out-of-doors anywhere along the Eastern Seaboard between the hours of 8 and 9 p.m. that night, you may have seen this thing yourself. It was visible throughout most of New York State, including New York City, and moved southwards.

Thousands of miles away, in the far-off Soviet state of Tashkent—exactly on the opposite side of the Earth from the northeastern United States—a Soviet scientist named Galina Lazarenko was awakened at 5:23 a.m. on April 26, 1966, by a brilliant flash of light.

"The courtyard and my room were brightly lit up," she said later. "It was so bright that I could clearly see all the objects in my room."

Simultaneously, an engineer named Alexei Melnichuk was walking down a Tashkent street when he heard a loud rumble followed by a brilliant flash of light.

"I seemed to be bathed in a white light that extended as far as I could see," he recalled. "I was forced to shield my face with my hands. After a few seconds, I took my hands away from my face and the light was gone."

A few seconds later the great Tashkent earth fault shuddered and buckled and a tremendous earthquake struck, killing 10 and leaving 200,000 people homeless. As the dazed and terrified residents staggered into the rubble-strewn streets, they saw strange "glowing spheres, floating through the air like lighted balloons," as one eyewitness said.

THERE is a nine-hour time difference between our Atlantic Seaboard and Tashkent. We were watching that "meteor" cruising majestically overhead at *exactly the same time* that a brilliant and inexplicable flash of light was announcing the impending disaster in Tashkent. These correlations are precise. There is no room for error. Our "meteor" and the Tashkent earthquake occurred simultaneously, at exactly opposite sides of the Earth!

What kind of a coincidence is this? A "meteor" appears on one side of the Earth, and a disastrous earthquake strikes exactly opposite. Science does not have the answer. In fact, most scientists making a study of

earthquakes admit that they don't even know all of the questions.

An hour before the Tashkent quake, a schoolteacher living near the fault said that her dog began to howl, and that when the quake began, the dog ran anxiously to the door *before* each shock struck. Scientists have long been puzzled by the apparent ability of animals—particularly dogs and horses—to sense impending disasters.

Is it possible that unidentified flying objects may have some tenuous relationship to natural disasters? There are many baffling cases which seem to point to such a relationship, particularly in Europe and South America. When a very heavy quake shook 11 counties in England on February 11, 1957, five "tadpole-like objects" were reported over the towns of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. The former was the epicenter of the quake.

Large numbers of UFOs were reported over Algeria shortly after the tragic quakes of September 9 and 26, 1954 (1,100 dead, 2,000 injured). "Flying saucer" sightings have been numerous and spectacular around the San Andreas fault in California since 1896.

Another "meteor," followed by earth tremors, zipped in over the Gulf of Mexico early on the morning of Wednesday, March 27, 1968. It was first sighted by the crew of the tanker Alfa Mex II who described "two or three objects in the center of a bright ball of fire." The crew of the Mexican warship Guanajuato also reported seeing a flaming object, and the men on both ships said that the waters of the Gulf were churned into fountains of spray after the object passed. This could indicate that whatever it was, it was exerting a direct gravitational pull.

At 2:10 a.m. that morning, residents in Veracruz, Mexico, about 25 miles from the ships' positions, were awakened by a deafening rumbling noise.

"Before I had a chance to realize what was happening," Senora Angelita de Villalobos Arana, 40, told investigators, "it was as bright as day, and the terrible noise kept on . . . I felt cool, then cold. The light got brighter."

Within minutes, the streets of Veracruz were filled with hysterical people. They thought the end of the world had arrived as the sky filled with unearthly light and the ground trembled. The strange "meteor" loomed over the scene, seemed to dip towards the ground then rose again and shot off.

Mr. Ernesto Dominguez, head of the Mexican Department of Meteorology at Veracruz, conducted a careful investigation and collected all of the reports.

"This probably was not a meteorite," Dominguez stated in his official report. "We cannot say for sure just what it was. We do know that it did not fall to earth or collide with the Earth."

"Its trajectory was curved. Imagine a jet or a space ship suddenly going out of control and plunging down directly toward Earth. Then—as if control was regained suddenly—the object or objects suddenly veered away from the Earth, only moments before collision point, and went out over the Gulf of Mexico. But I think it did not fall into the sea. It could have gone upward."

"A meteorite would hardly do such a thing."

These peculiar "meteors" and green fireballs have been turning up in increasing numbers for the past fifteen years. They usually look like the astronomers' concept of "meteors," with a long tail dangling behind, but their maneuvers alone rule out the simple natural explanation. They are far more numerous than the intriguing "flying saucer" type reports of metallic circular objects. In fact, the reports of mysterious lights and unlikely meteors outnumber the "saucer" reports by almost ten to one.

Furthermore, they pop up year after year in the same isolated, thinly populated areas. Natural meteors could hardly be so selective. And meteors don't change direction or angle of descent.

TOWARDS sunset on the evening of Friday, April 18, 1962, a giant reddish object appeared over the northern part of New York state, apparently moving down from Canada in a southwesterly direction. Air Force radar locked onto the object and carefully followed it across a dozen states as it sped westward. Then, at 7:30 p.m., a brilliant flash followed by deep rumbles and earth tremors occurred in southwestern Nevada. Shortly afterwards an unidentified circular machine landed near a power station outside of Eureka, Nevada, and the lights went out for thirty minutes.

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Rolph of the North American Air Defense Command Center at Colorado Springs, Colorado, faced a throng of excited newsmen that night. He admitted that NORAD's radar had tracked the object all the way across the U.S. and added, "A meteor can't be tracked on radar—but this thing was!"

What are these "things" and why don't we know more about them? The real problem lies in the scientific attitude. Because the objects do resemble meteors in appearance, astronomers have automatically dismissed them as such and have never made a concerted effort to study these piles of reports filled with obvious contradictions. If the thing passes over at a high altitude, glows, and hauls a tail then it *must be* a meteor according to the reasoning of astronomers.

But the non-conforming "meteors" are nothing new. They appeared repeatedly throughout places like Nebraska, Michigan, Canada and New Mexico during the 19th century. One Professor C.A. Chant of the University of Toronto made a study of the strange "train" of meteors that flashed across Canada on the night of Thursday, February 9, 1913. Unlike natural meteors, the fiery red objects traveled slowly across the sky in a straight horizontal line. They glided majestically out of the northwest and sailed away to the southeast.

"Other bodies were seen coming from the northwest," the Professor wrote, "emerging from precisely the same place as the first one. Onward they moved at the same deliberate pace. In twos or threes or fours, with tails streaming behind them they came . . . They traversed the same path and were headed for the same point in the southeastern sky . . ."

Very odd meteors, indeed!

The year 1913 was one of the many recently re-discovered UFO "flap" year, with all kinds of strange objects being reported in the sky. Contrary to the popular notion that "flying saucers" didn't begin to appear until 1947, the troublesome things have been around for a very long time. Back during the last week of December 1909, "mystery airplanes" and "ghost lights" plagued the skies of New England and were seen by thousands from Connecticut (and Long Island, N.Y.) to Massachusetts. Whatever they were, they outperformed any known aircraft of the period. (Few people realize that America was a late-starter in aviation. The Wright Brothers' ridiculous invention was taken far more seriously in Europe and most of the early advances were made there.) The New England states had another outbreak of "mystery aircraft" (mostly disc-shaped jobs) in 1940. More recently, on Sunday, September 15, 1968, a brilliant luminous object buzzed the New England states again, moving slowly enough so that thousands of people were able to get a good look at it. As usual, the astronomers quickly dismissed it as "a meteor." However, that same week a new "flap" of UFO sightings erupted in several states, from

Nebraska to Virginia. It is a curious coincidence that our "meteors" manage to turn up during the same periods when thousands of witnesses are getting close-up views of other strange lights, cigar-shaped objects, and those troublesome "flying saucers."

Not only do our "meteors" refuse to obey the laws and regulations set down for them by our learned astronomers, but they also have an unnerving habit of traveling in formations with a military-like precision.

Northern Texas had its first big UFO "flap" in 1897, and the darned things have been hanging around the panhandle state ever since. During the summer of 1951, the citizens of Lubbock, Texas, were intrigued and concerned over the strange lights which were visiting their city night after night. These glowing somethings flew in perfect "V" formations and were photographed by a young man named Carl Hart on August 25, 1951. His series of pictures were widely published and became known as "The Lubbock Lights." Although the Air Force took the sightings and the pictures very seriously at the time, they later attempted to explain it all away as merely being the reflection of the city lights on the bellies of birds flying overhead. It this was the case, then Mr. Hart's little Kodak had a most remarkable lens, for it is unlikely that such minor "reflections" would pick up on film at all.

AS we have noted, the majority of all UFO sightings are of spherical or shapeless blobs of very intense light (so intense that many witnesses complain of "eyeburn" afterwards—the searing of the cornea, similar to the sunburned eyes you can suffer at a beach). The soft diffused light of "swamp gas" is quite different from these objects, as is normal starlight. In addition, the objects have a talent for going through all the colors of the spectrum in front of the startled witness. Most often they are described as turning green, then fiery red just before descending or ascending. When traveling in a straight line overhead, they are usually a brilliant orange or a glaring white. Since the advent of man-made satellites, many people actually mistake UFOs for satellites instead of the other way around as the skeptics would have us believe. At present there are only two man-made satellites which are visible to the naked eye—and both are so small and so dim that you must know where and when they're going to appear in order to be able to see them. Those big, brilliant white "stars" moving across the sky during the summer months are *not* satellites.

In recent years, the official "explainers" have come up with a new one. Nine times since 1966, UFO-watchers have been told that they saw a "decaying rocket" hurtling through our atmosphere. This, like the shopworn "meteor" explanation, usually satisfies most of the witnesses who do not know that decaying rockets and satellites entering our atmosphere have even a shorter lifespan than falling stars. Since these objects are usually quite small, they ignite and burn out altogether within seconds and are difficult to see unless you happen to be very close to the re-entry point. On the night of March 3-4, 1968, thousands of people in over twenty states watched weird lights in the sky from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. The Air Force explained them away as the re-entry of the booster rocket of the Soviet Zond 4.

So now we've not only got crazy "meteors" to contend with, but "decaying rockets" are developing some mighty unnatural characteristics, too.

The author has collected and studied hundreds of these neglected reports and some startling patterns have come to light. In the majority of all these cases going all the way back to the 19th century, the objects (if they are "objects") have consistently appeared from the north and followed apparently controlled courses southwards. A surprising

number seem to enter the U.S. from the section of Canada lying north of Michigan. This is also a repetitive pattern for our "flying saucers" and can be traced all the way back to 1897. A large part of the great "flap" of that year took place along a "belt" stretching from Ann Arbor in the east to Benton Harbor in the western part of the state. That same area still produces the bulk of the Michigan UFO reports. Remember that the widely publicized Michigan sightings of March 1966 began around Ann Arbor.

Another puzzling pattern is the fact that, statistically, more "flying saucers" and "meteor-type" objects are reported on Wednesdays and Thursdays than any other days of the week. Natural phenomena would hardly occur consistently on the same weekdays over such a long period of time. So we have three characteristics which indicate that the objects are intelligently controlled: (1) They appear most frequently during the middle of the week. (2) They appear consistently in the same areas year after year. (3) They follow apparently planned courses, moving horizontally and often changing direction in mid-flight.

These "hard facts" can now be adequately proven by the mass of reported sighting data. No speculation is involved.

If these things are intelligently controlled objects, where do they come from? A careful examination of the overall situation can provide us with some real and astonishing clues to that mystery.

Our UFOs and "meteors" do follow precise patterns which can now be predicted to some degree. The state of Nebraska has a long history of UFO sightings. During the heavy but little publicized "flap" of July-August 1966, some definite patterns emerged. On Tuesday, July 5, 1966, at 10 p.m., a group of four witnesses viewed "a large octagon-shaped object with colored lights . . . The lights dimmed and brightened and the object swooped twice over a field and then went back into the air." This took place three miles northwest of Norfolk, Nebraska.

ON the 9th and 10th of July, there were sightings in North and South Dakota, the states north of Nebraska. On July 11th there

were several sightings in Iowa, the state bordering Nebraska on the east. The South Dakota sightings took place in the southwest corner of the state, close to the Nebraskan border. If we had been able to collect this data fast enough, we could have successfully predicted that "a flap" was due in Nebraska and statistically the odds were that it would take place on a Wednesday night at 10 p.m. (the majority of all UFO sightings occur around 10 p.m.)

Shortly after 10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 1966 (10:05 according to a newsman witness and another person), a blazing object hurtled across the skies, heading southward over York, Nebraska. Perhaps their watches were wrong, or perhaps they got a preliminary glimpse of the thing that would be seen by many thousands five minutes later at 10:10 p.m. At that time scores of people in Muny Park, Cozad, Nebraska, saw "a very bright object with multi-colored smaller bright 'stars' trailing it." They all agreed that it appeared in the northwest and headed southeast. If it had remained on this course, it would have angled straight across Kansas and all of the Kansas reports would have described a northwest to southeast course. However, a flood of reports from Kansas, including sightings by policemen, attorneys and many others, said that the "meteor" traveled northwest to northeast. This meant that it had to be skirting the Nebraska-Kansas border.

There was a particularly heavy concentration of reports in central Nebraska from small communities such as Scotia, Ord, Burwell, Comstock, Arcadia and North Loup. All of these were consistent, describing the object as passing from southwest to southeast. Another cluster of sightings were reported from the Omaha area on the eastern tip of the state. These all stated that the object was traveling from southwest to southeast.

A larger picture can be drawn from this. The "meteor" came from the northwest, from Wyoming perhaps, executed a slight turn south of Cozad, and moved along the Nebraska-Kansas border toward Missouri-Iowa. Then it turned again and headed northwards toward Illinois.

The sheriff of Warren County, Illinois was sitting in front of the police station in Monmouth, Ill. that night when he observed a fiery orange ball arcing across the sky towards the northeast. A few minutes later he received an excited phone call from a Galesburg, Ill. woman who said she and her three children had been driving along the U.S. 34 bypass when they saw a green light seemingly skirting the treetops. A white-colored fire seemed to burst from it, she said, and it appeared to dive towards the ground in the northeast. Thinking that a small plane might have crashed, she stopped at the nearest farmhouse and called the sheriff. He rushed to Monmouth Park, the area of the sighting, but found nothing. Eight other persons called radio station and newspapers in the area to report similar sightings. All agreed that the object was green with a red ring around it and trailed a short red trail. One other person, besides the sheriff, reported seeing an orange object. Everyone reported that it first appeared in the southwest and traveled northeast.

What lies to the northeast of Illinois? Michigan, of course.

A few minutes after 11 p.m., Michigan time (10 p.m. Nebraska time), Jack Westbrook and Carles Frye of Willis, Michigan, were walking across Rawsonville Road when Mr. Frye exclaimed, "Look at that!"

Both men saw what appeared to be a silver disc with one red and one white light on it. They estimated that it was no more than 1,000 feet high. The object moved forward swiftly, stopped, seemed to reverse itself, circled around, moved up and down, and finally shot out of sight. They said they watched it for about seven minutes and heard no sounds. "This is not a swampy area," the Ypsilanti Press noted when it recounted the sighting on July 15th, "and the only possibility of reflection would be from the micro-wave relay which has three red lights, but the object went over the top of it when it left."

Were the Monmouth, Illinois and Willis, Michigan sightings of completely different objects totally independent of the Nebraskan "meteor"? This is a possibility, of course. But it is equally possible, and probably very likely, that a UFO—or a group of UFOs—passed from Wyoming, crossed Nebraska and then turned northwards into Illinois and Michigan.

MR. Charles Tougas of the Meteorite Recovery Project at Lincoln, Nebraska was the man the press turned to for an answer. He said that special cameras had recorded the event and he estimated that the "meteor" had appeared somewhere near McCook, Nebraska, and had plummeted to earth somewhere outside of Phillipsburg, Kansas. A search for it was launched at Phillipsburg but the object was never found. If the object had enjoyed such a very brief life span, and had traveled such a very short distance in the western part of the state, it is very unlikely that it would have been so clearly seen in the Omaha sector hundreds of miles eastward and that all the witnesses would have described it as moving to the southeast. And it certainly would not have turned up in Illinois, still further to the northeast.

The "meteor" explanation simply does not work in this case. There are too many "ifs," and too many unnatural coincidences.

All of the descriptions were uniform. A newsman in Brewster, Nebraska, described it as being "the size of a basketball; the white fore-end changed colors, going from blue to green, trailing a long tail." A young witness on a ranch near Scotia, Nebraska described it as "round like a basketball, with a brilliant band of orange light encircling it." He said it crossed the southern skies and was visible for

about half a minute. Witnesses in York, Nebraska, said it was green, while one report from near Pleasanton, Nebraska, described it as being "a bright, whitish-yellowlight." Brilliant white lights were mentioned in a scattering of reports, but the overall consensus was that it was a green or "blue-green with a red band around it." Kansas viewers thought it was green.

Only two groups of witnesses reported hearing any sound. Both were located in the central Nebraskan cluster. People driving near Arcadia said they saw "a flashing red light" and heard "more than one explosion." George Gremer of Ord reported the same thing. (Viewers of that 1913 "meteor chain" in Canada said that the objects produced a heavy rumbling sound, indicating that they were low enough in the atmosphere to displace air as they passed.)

One week prior to the Nebraska "flap," a "green object with a long white tail" appeared over Muskegon, Michigan, traveling a horizontal path from east to west. It was seen by police officers and other reliable witnesses. The date was Wednesday, July 6, 1966. The time 11 p.m. (making it 10 p.m. Central Daylight Time in Nebraska). At 10 p.m., Monday, July 11th, a round blue object was observed over Lake Erie by witnesses in Ashtabula, Ohio, facing in the direction of Michigan. Some noted that it seemed to have a long tail. One person described it as "a round ball of bright blue light with an outer rim of pale gold." It appeared to descend westward.

WHEN we drew a great circle on a map of the U.S., looping through Nebraska and curving up through Monmouth-Galesburg, Illinois to Michigan, we found that the other end of the curve cut across the northeastern part of Wyoming. A quick review of our clippings and general report data revealed that *that very section of Wyoming* had a UFO "flap" a few days before the Nebraskan "meteor" arrived. Extensive UFO activity was also reported further to the northwest around Glacier National Park in Montana that month. Brilliant, fast-moving lights appeared there nightly on precise schedules, passing from the northwest to the southeast. This course would have carried them to the Wyoming "flap" area and, if extended along a perfect curve, would have continued into Nebraska to the McCook-Cozad sector.

So the plot thickens! Our Nebraska "flap" of July 13th was merely part of an overall "flap" involving several states, and all of the sightings fitted neatly into a perfect circle beginning in northwestern Montana, looping through the central states, and curving upwards through Illinois and Michigan and back into Canada. If we continue the same circle into Canada, we find that the uppermost part of it would rest in the densely forested and thinly populated regions of Maniotaba and Saskatchewan. Both of these provinces have had long UFO "flap" in 1967-68.

Suddenly the seemingly random sightings take on a tangible pattern. At least some of the "flying saucers" and "meteors" are coming down to us from northern Canada, emanating from isolated and nearly inaccessible areas. They move along geometric courses, going from point to point along a great circle, and by collecting all available sightings we can sometimes even predict where they are going to turn up next.

Whatever these things are, they've been around for a very long time and they've kept us fooled. We've tried to brush them off as "meteors," "swamp gas," "electrical plasma," and even mirages. The UFO buffs have bogged down in arguments over whether they come from Mars, Venus, or some distant star system.

Maybe we should stop all the arguing and nonsense and explore northern Canada.***

MALE, March 1969- "DEADLY FIREBALLS IN THE SKY". A detailed study of unusual "meteors", with many significant correlations. UFOs and earthquakes. The map published with this article is erroneous and not a faithful reproduction of the original. This is a very important article for all serious researchers. (***) [Reprinted in "BEYOND CONDON".]