

international waters in the Pacific. "There have been no indication of hostile intent by the submarine, if it is one, and the Navy is merely investigating," an official statement said. "There is no cause for alarm."

The first report of the object came during the preceding week when the crew of an Air Force plane reported sighting what was believed to be a submarine. The Navy said that the contact was "far out at sea in international waters, where any ship has a right to be."

A most curious release of news about what, on the face of it, would appear to be a quite ordinary occurrence.

Flaming object in sky causes plane disaster reports

The following account is taken from the *Peoria Journal Star* of November 15, 1960: the account was given a Cincinnati dateline. We are indebted to Mr. Wilbur Henry Bishop who sent us the cutting:

"Apparently it was a meteor that was seen shortly after six o'clock Monday evening over a wide area of Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois.

"At least personnel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton said a meteor passed over at about that time.

"But for almost four hours it had press associations and newspaper offices, Air Force bases and police in a dither trying to run down reports that an aeroplane had been seen to explode in the sky.

"The reports came from areas extending all the way from Fleming County, Kentucky, south to Maysville to Central Illinois. In Indiana there even were the old flying saucer reports.

"Astronomers say meteors often burn out in sight of the earth but seldom actually ever strike the ground except in the form of ashes.

"In Illinois, there were varied descriptions.

"Reports that an aeroplane fell

in a 'ball of fire' near Canton, Ill., sent Fulton County law enforcement officials on a futile search of farms and open strip mines.

"Citizens in Central Illinois and in Galesburg to the northwest reported seeing a flaming object headed northeast. One observer said it broke into three pieces 'each looking like molten metal.'

"Officials at Chanute Air Force Base near Rantoul, Ill., about 100 miles south of Chicago, said they received reports from several persons. Military spokesmen in Rantoul and Chicago said they knew of no military aircraft that could have been the source of the rumours.

"A police sergeant on Chicago's far Southeast Side, near Whiting, Ind., said he was nearly thrown from his chair by the shock wave of an explosion.

"A search of old refineries, demolition sites and harbour craft uncovered no explosions. But scores of residents said mysterious shock waves rattled windows.

"Chicago's Adler Planetarium and Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory asked that they be sent reports of the flash.

"Officials at the University of Chicago said a seismograph based on bedrock beneath the campus showed no record of disturbance at the time of the shock wave reports.

"An official said the shock waves probably were caused by a surface disturbance not strong enough to penetrate to the seismograph."

SOUTH AFRICA Magogong sighting

Mr. G. T. O'Reilly of Magogong telephoned the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* on October 2, 1960, to report that he had seen a bright object which resembled a star moving through the sky from north to south at about 6.40 p.m. The paper reported the incident next day.

The object had no tail and was visible for about five minutes as it moved slowly through the sky. Another report disclosed that a

rancher, Mr. G. C. Style, farming in the Fort Victoria area, had seen a moving object hovering and following a zig-zag course near the moon. He immediately phoned his neighbours who rushed outside and they were able to confirm his sighting. The object was moving from north to south. It took about 15 minutes travelling slowly to vanish out of sight.

Pretoria photographs

Four photographs of an unidentified object exploding in the sky near Louis Trichardt have been sent to the United States by the American Embassy in Pretoria, for analysis by experts. The photographs were taken by a Pretoria man, Mr. A. R. Gieffer. A spokesman at the Embassy said they had no way of determining what the object was and when Mr. Gieffer had brought them the photographs, they had offered to send them to be analysed in the United States. "According to the best information we have, this thing was a meteorite" he said. In which case, it does seem a waste of time to send the photographs to the United States. The foregoing report was taken from the *Friend*, Bloemfontein of September 29, 1960.

"Shock of my life"

According to the *Rand Daily Mail* of Johannesburg (September 28, 1960), an East African Airline pilot got the shock of his life the night before when two bright green mysterious objects flashed across the night sky in front of his Argonaut aircraft. He radioed the Jan Smuts Airport, but they could offer no explanation. The pilot, Captain C. H. Richter told a *Rand Daily Mail* reporter: "I was sitting in the cockpit with the lights out when two bright green balls of fire streaked across the sky above and beyond me. The speed was incredible and they soon disappeared behind a cloud bank. I waited for them to reappear. But they just vanished."

Other witnesses on the ground confirmed that the UFOs were first seen over Edenvale at dusk.