

APM NO. _____ DATE OF INFO Oct 1950
AM ID. _____ ILLUSTRATION Non-phot. Illustration
REPORT NO. _____ SOURCE _____
DATE OF REPORT _____ DATE IN TO ATIC _____
TIME OF OCCURRING 0415 COLOR _____
STATE _____ SPEED _____ MEASURE _____
SIZE _____ ALTITUDE _____ METERS _____
COURSE _____ LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED _____
NO. IN GROUP _____ TYPE OF OBSERVATION _____
SOUND Explosion MANEUVERS _____
PIRPOS _____ SKETCHES _____
Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

Report of residents being awakened by a
loud explosion which shook several building
Several observers reported seeing a bright
flash before the explosions the general
opinion seems to be that it
was a meteorite.

AF 259482

Report No. R-646-50

Country: Northern Rhodesia

I.D. No.: 735101

Subject: Big Explosion in Northern Rhodesia May Have Been Meteorite

From: OArmA, Ethiopia

Evaluation: C-2

Date of Information: October 1950

Date of Report: 10 Nov 50

Prepared by: Leo J. Query, Lt Col.

Source: East African Standard Newspaper

Residents in the Mazabuka district were awakened at 4:15 a.m. on Thursday morning by a loud explosion which shook several buildings. At first it was feared that a dynamite truck in the railway goods yard had exploded but after a thorough search of the area no trace was found of anything which could explain the explosion. Reports were received from several Africans who said that they had seen a bright flash in the sky just before the explosion took place. Reverberations lasted for about 15 seconds and the noise of the explosion was heard at Kafue, fifty miles away.

An official at the meteorological station said that it may have been a large meteorite which disintegrated before reaching the ground. There may have been many instances of meteorites breaking up in flight and leaving no trace. Meteorites vary in size and the larger variety, often as big in diameter as a table top, can be heard up to a radius of fifty miles. Other sources claim it was a comet but the general opinion seems to accept that the explosion was in fact caused by a meteorite of fairly substantial size.

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