

161 Irving Ave.,
Ottawa, Ontario.

4 November, 1950.

Dr. Millman,
Dominion Observatory,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your request in the Ottawa Citizen for persons viewing the meteor on the evening of 2nd November, 1950, to write to you giving details, I submit the following.

At 7.35 p.m., I was crossing Wellington Street at the corner of Irving Ave. when very suddenly the whole sky became like day. I continued to the north side of the street to be clear of oncoming traffic before investigating. I immediately turned and looked at the sky. About two seconds had elapsed by this time.

Appearing over the buildings on the south side of the street was a large ball of fire travelling at tremendous speed in a north westerly direction, and rather low in the sky.

The meteor was travelling slightly downward in a straight line, that is, it was not following a curved path.

Very suddenly, when it had travelled approximately two-thirds of the distance across the sky, it disintegrated in a shower of "sparks".

From the time that it first entered my line of vision over the buildings, the meteor was a very brilliant red in colour, and was throwing off "sparks" and remained in this form until it disintegrated.

As the meteor travelled in an apparent straight line I knew it could not be a flare, as all flares follow a curved path, and further, a flare usually burns out gradually whereas this object burned out instantaneously.

The Ottawa Citizen stated that the meteor was travelling in a southerly direction. I dispute that statement most emphatically. It was without a doubt travelling in a general north-westerly direction, and possibly in a west-north-westerly direction.

The statements I have made above are based on several years experience as a pilot. I am presently serving with the Air Branch of the Royal Canadian Navy and now stationed at Naval Headquarters. Hence, I am fully experienced in estimating direction and time and am also quite familiar with flares of various types.