

# A 50 YEAR OLD SOVIET UFO CASE IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE GIANT ALIEN MOTHERSHIPS



**James Oberg**

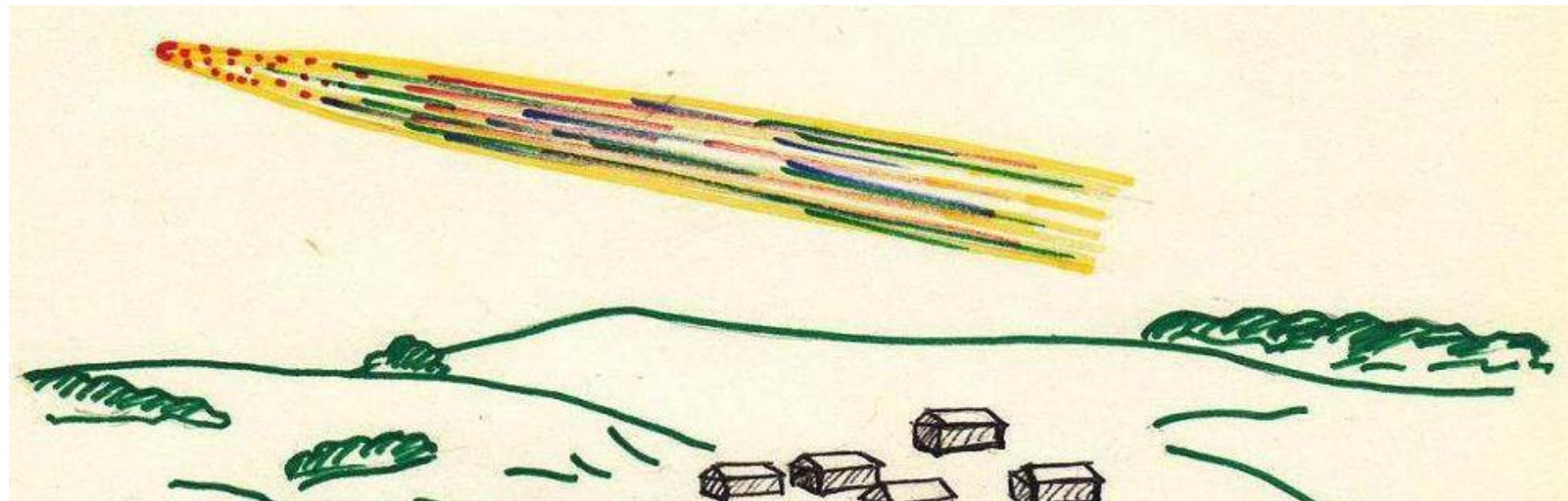
**October 4, 2014**

**DRAFT-2 [REV A]**

Can an appreciation of the perceptual lessons of that mass sighting provide a reliable bridge between major unsolved UFO reports and some previously poorly understood prosaic stimuli??

# Observations of anomalous observations of October 30, 1963, in the European parts of the USSR

GS Pisarenko & I S Kuznetsova  
N.N. Bernardov & V.I. Korneyev, artists  
S B Limonova, editor  
Kiev 1982





"НАБЛЮДЕНИЯ АНОМАЛЬНЫХ ЯВЛЕНИЙ В ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ"

Украинское республиканское научно-техническое общество  
радиоэлектроники и связи им. А.С.Попова

СЕКЦИЯ  
ИЗУЧЕНИЯ АНОМАЛЬНЫХ ЯВЛЕНИЙ В ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Отчет о работе секции  
Выпуск I

НАБЛЮДЕНИЯ АНОМАЛЬНЫХ ЯВЛЕНИЙ 30 ОКТЯБРЯ 1963 ГОДА  
НА ТЕРРИТОРИИ ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЙ ЧАСТИ СССР

- Массив первичных сообщений -

Том I

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академик АН УССР

Г.С.Писаренко

Ученый секретарь  
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И.С.Кузнецова

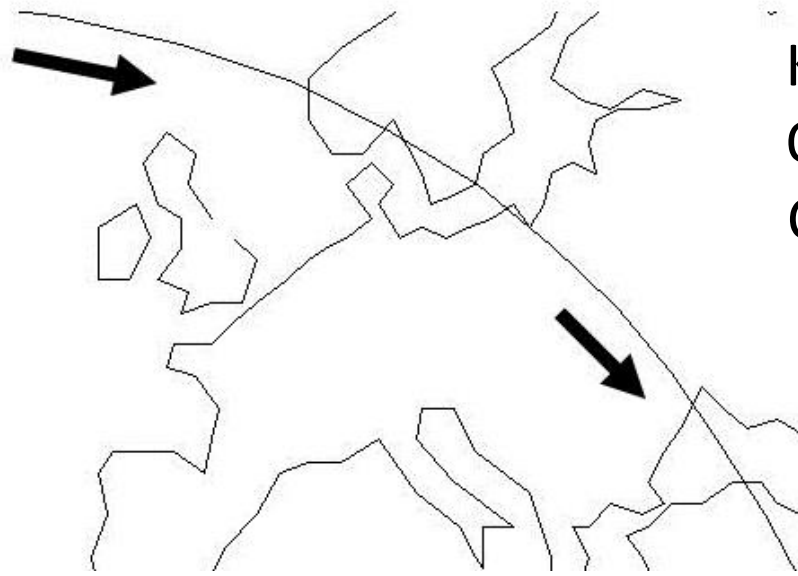
- Киев - 1982 -

Lavishly illustrated private report  
of horizontal fireball swarm over  
Ukraine in 1963 [published 1982]

- 'Samizdat' ufology
- Privately circulated
- Recent Russian blog revisits and comments
- Compilation only of raw observations
- MAY CONSTITUTE A "ROSETTA STONE" FOR WORLD UFO STUDIES OF HUMAN MISPERCEPTION

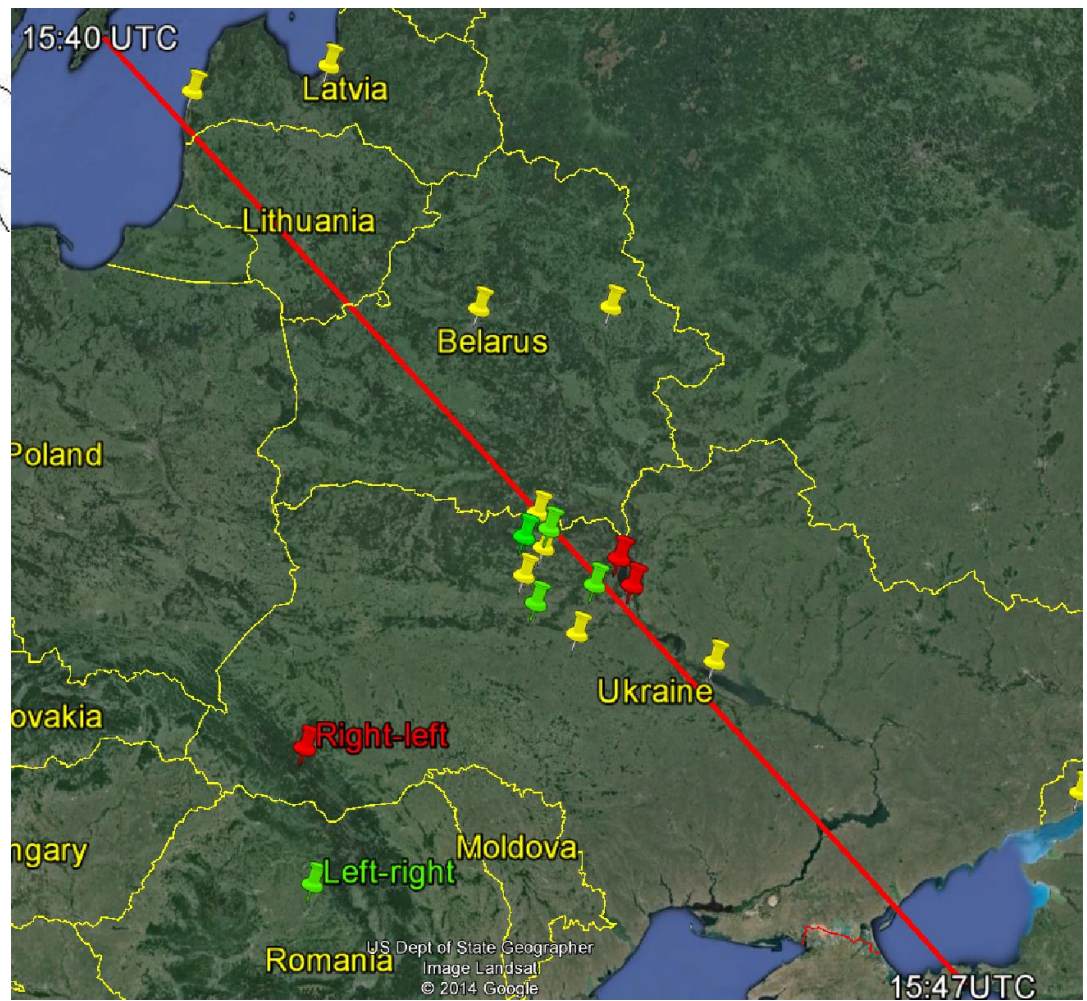
# Profound Importance of This Report

- A significant subset of world UFO reports consist of LARGE quiet slow-moving craft mounted with lights and emitting trails
- More than merely statistical, they are among the most spectacular “unsolved cases”
- Speculative prosaic explanations that involve formation-flying bright objects [aircraft or meteor fragments] require a significant degree of eyewitness mental misperception, defying common sense
- This report persuasively bridges that gap in a broad and visually compelling manner

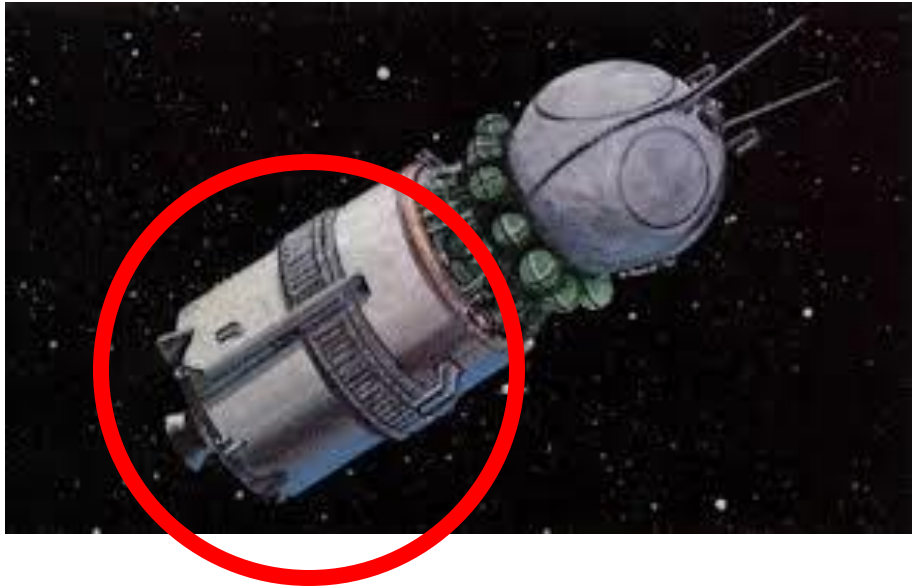


Kosmos-20 rocket body ground track  
October 30, 1963 [per Molczan 2014]  
Central area ~**15:42 GMT [6:42 pm local]**

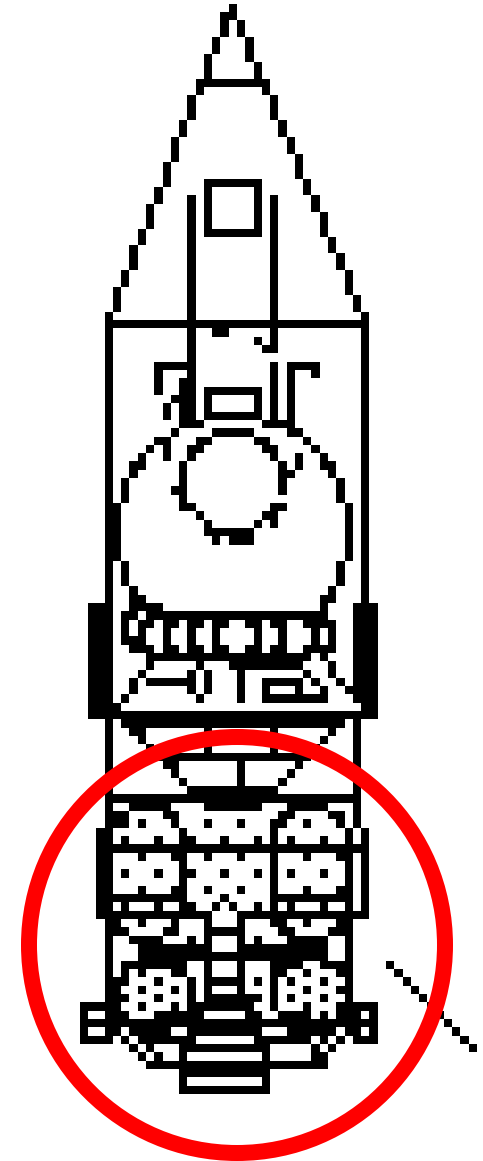
This explanation was only discovered in 2011 by NASA space debris guru Nicholas Johnson. The Soviet investigators were collecting raw data totally in-the-blind.



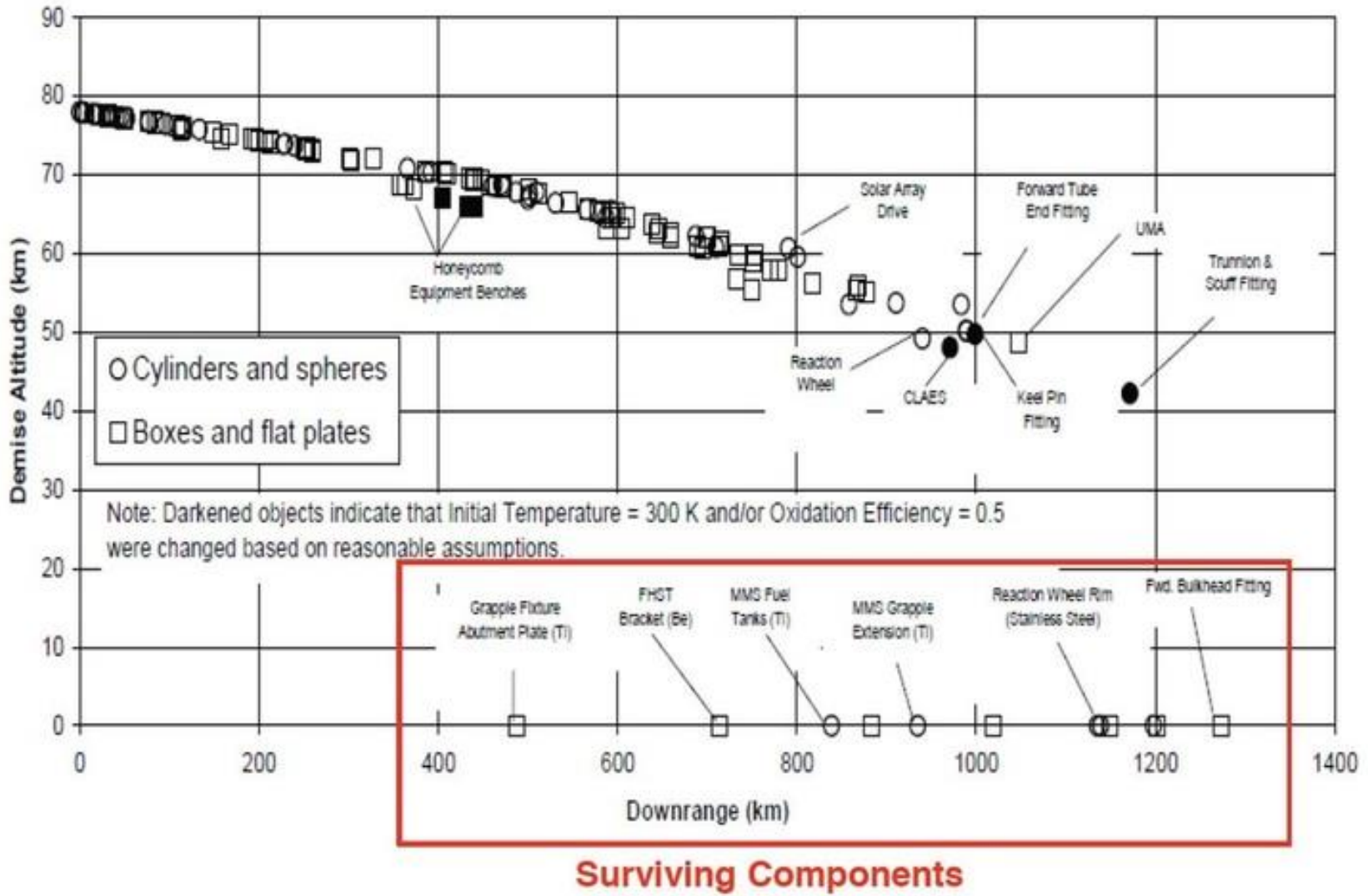
# Rocket stage that caused the fireballs



Besides being heavy, the stage was assembled from components such as tanks and rocket nozzles that can survive deep into the atmosphere.



# Typical reentry disintegration & scatter

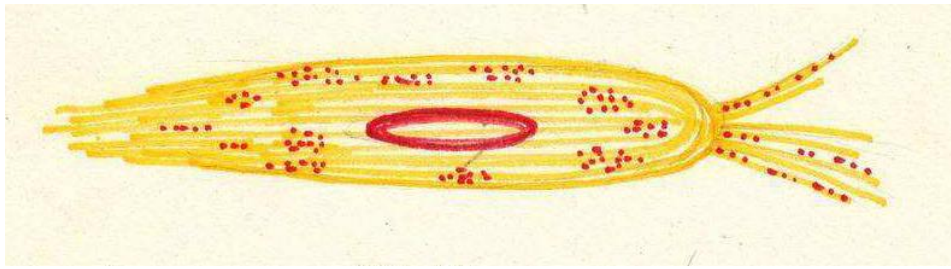


NASA UARS demise altitude/range schematic

# HOW DOES THIS HALF-CENTURY-OLD EVENT CAST LIGHT INTO TODAY??

- The unexplained fireball swarm chronicled by this team was, we NOW can demonstrate, caused by the atmospheric reentry of a Soviet satellite's discarded rocket stage
- Exactly such heavy vehicles break into many dense fragments that create a formation-flying pattern of bright lights
- About half the witness reports essentially accurately described the grouping of meteor-like individual objects
- THE OTHER HALF OF THE REPORTS DESCRIBE A LARGE FLYING VEHICLE WITH LIGHTS AND JETS ARRANGED ON ITS BODY
- The actual shape of that perceived body varied enormously, to a startlingly degree of "fill-in" structural details





# Examples: Fireball crosses sky

198.

98/93

30.10.63г.

Гловащенко В.Д.

г.Киев

ул.Космонавтов

...переливы голубовато-телесно-фиолетового цвета.

Время наблюдения около 1,5-2 минут.

г.Киев-43

ул.Авиации - 2/66, корп.8, кв.4

Гловащенко В.Д.,

инженер-радиот.

199.

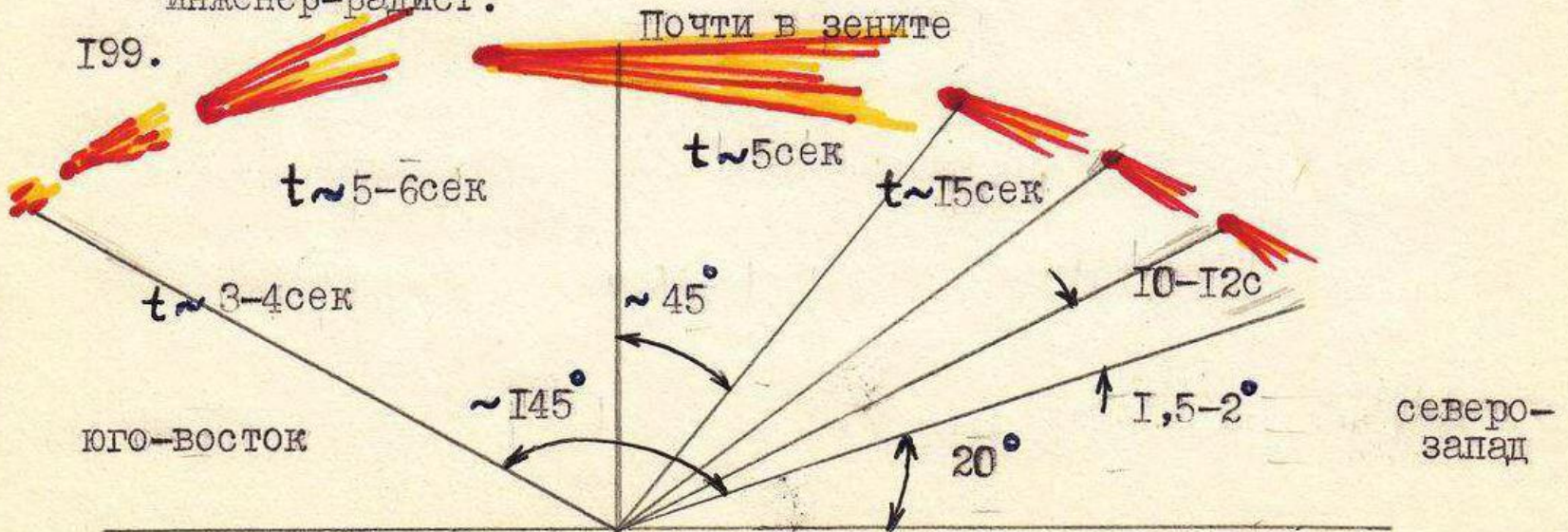
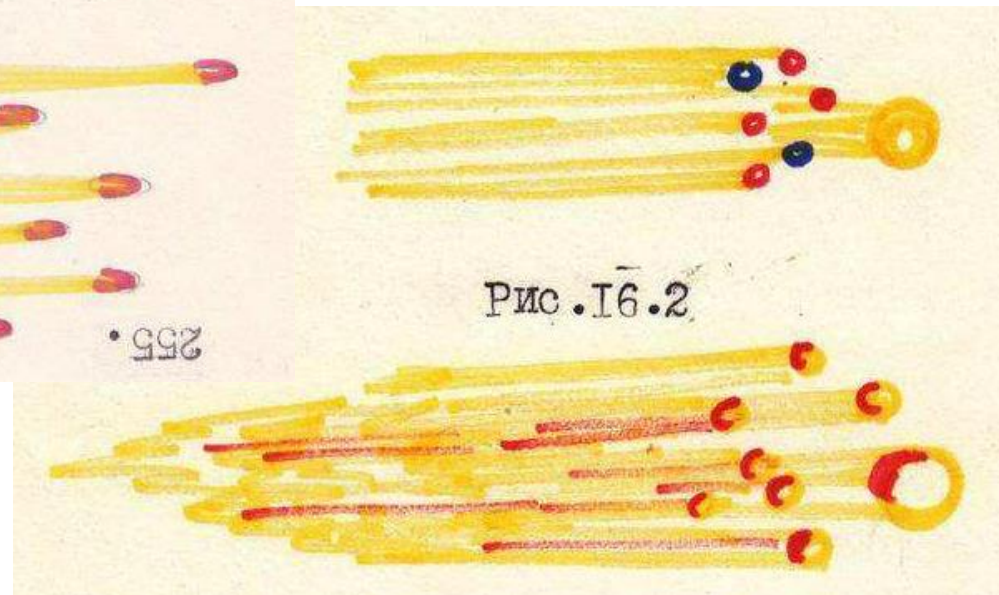
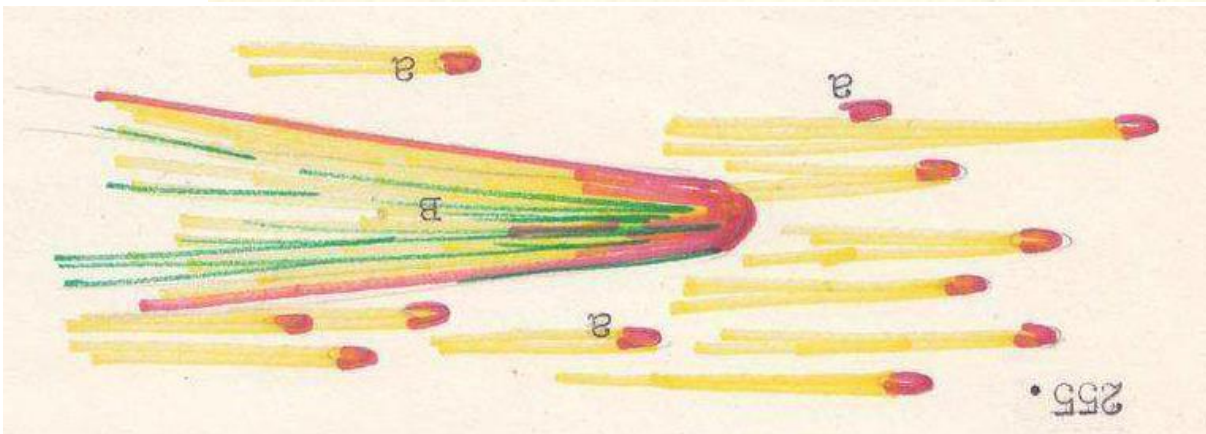
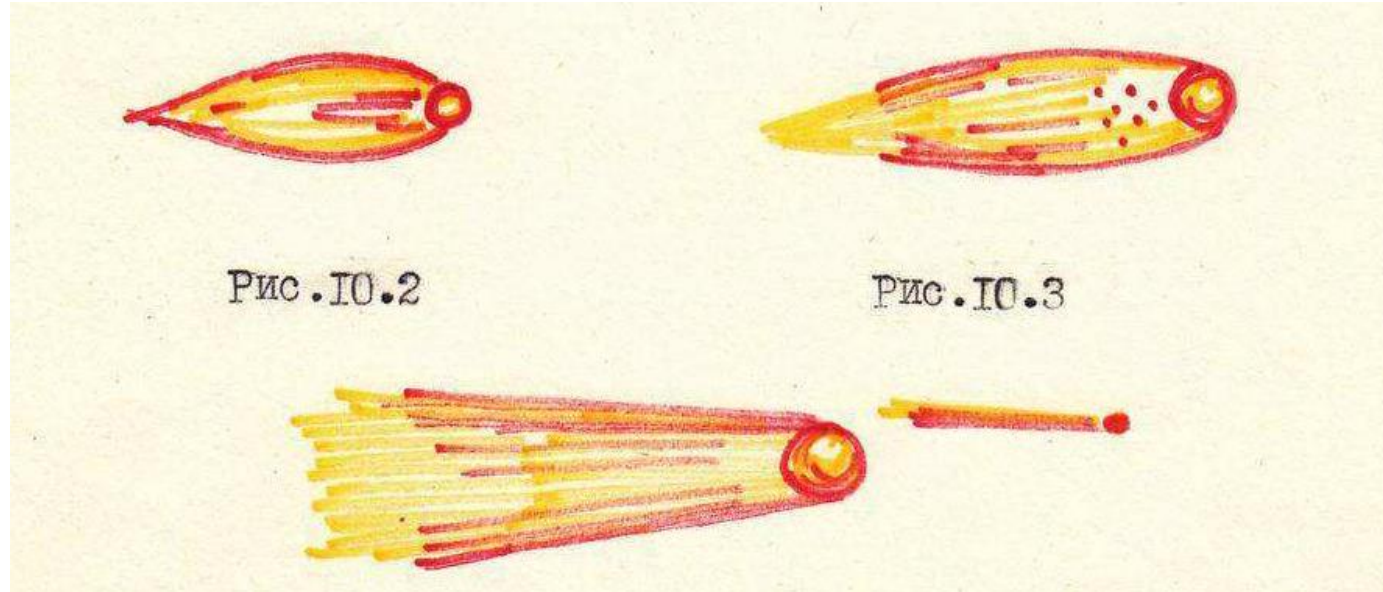


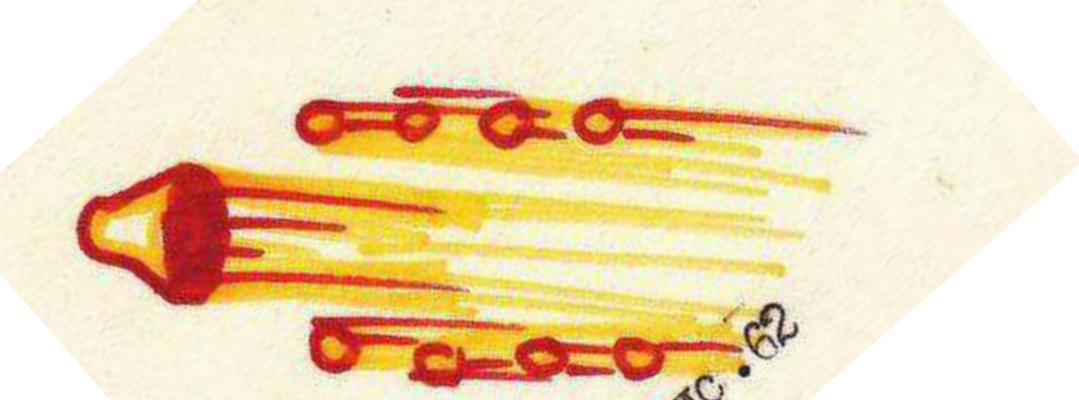
Рис.98

# Gradation of perceptual patterns

- The following pages present selected illustrations from the original report
- They are grouped [by me] typologically by shapes
- Actual report types appear randomly scattered across the region and from observers of many different professions
- Since the flight path bisected the region, some observers saw the phenomenon west of them moving right-to-left, some saw it east of them
- The reports represent those observers who came forward to talk with investigators, and may not be a random sample of all observers [the more 'extraordinary' views may be more represented]

# Fireball swarm perceptions





Fireball swarm  
with outer edge

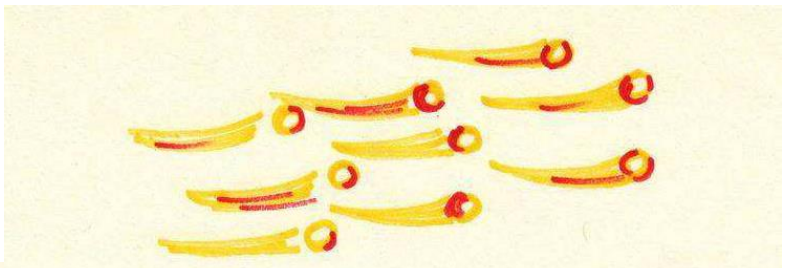
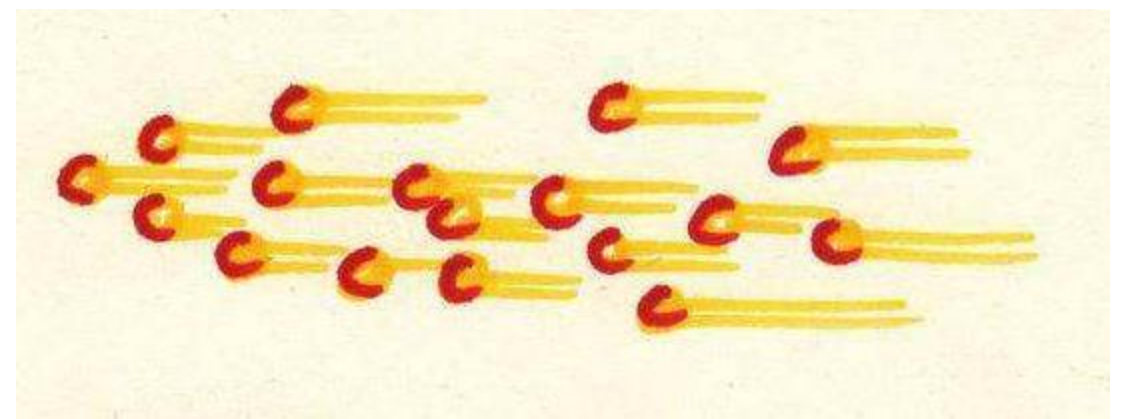
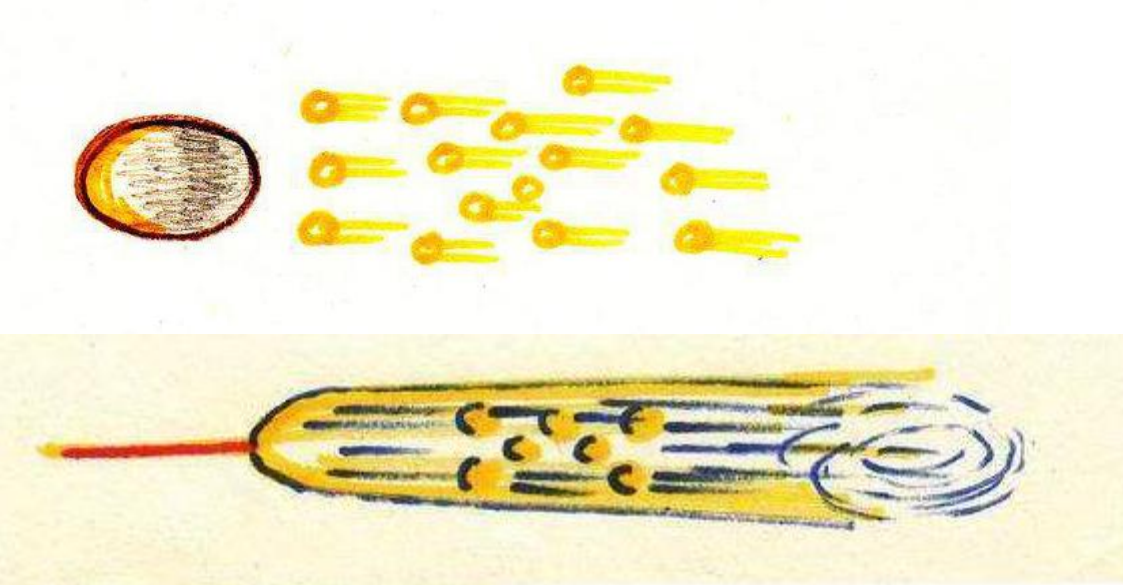


Рис.21.а

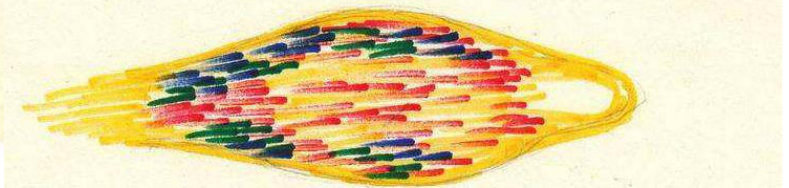
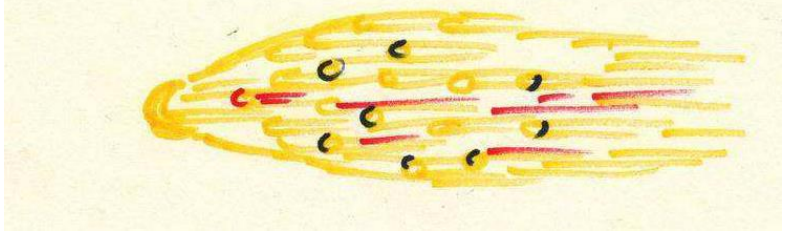
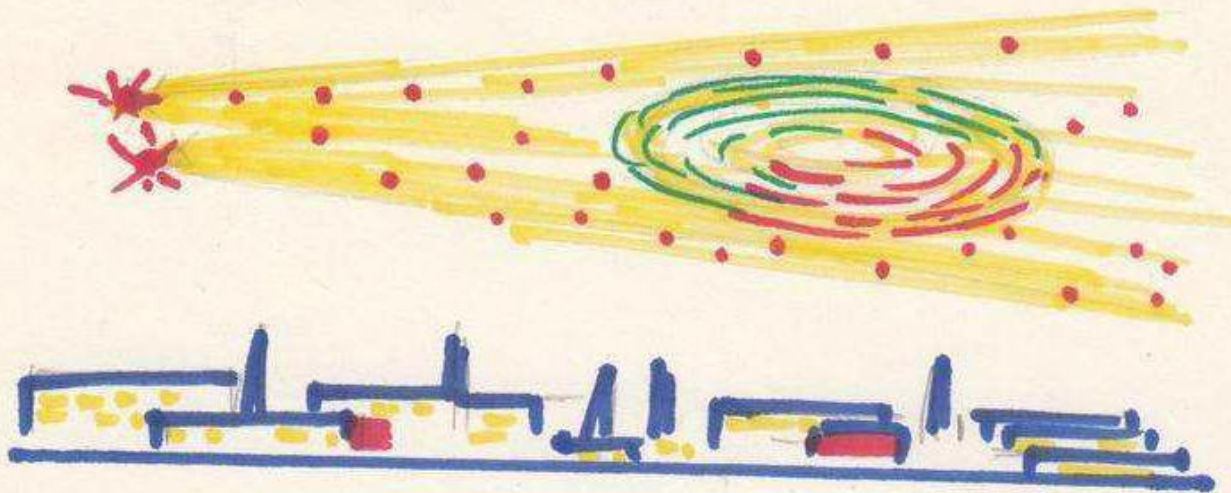


Рис.23а

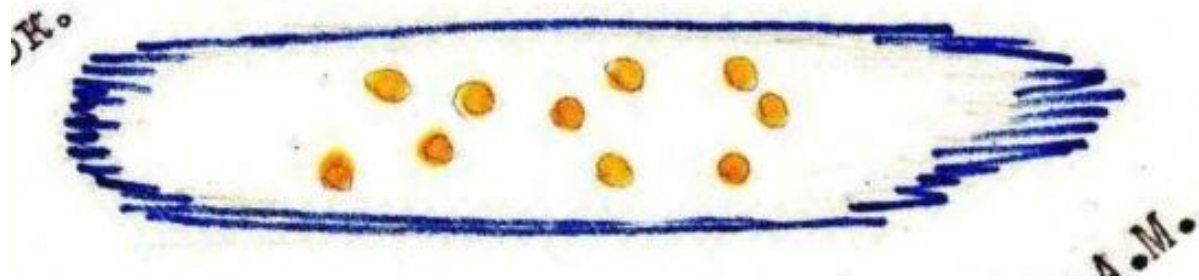




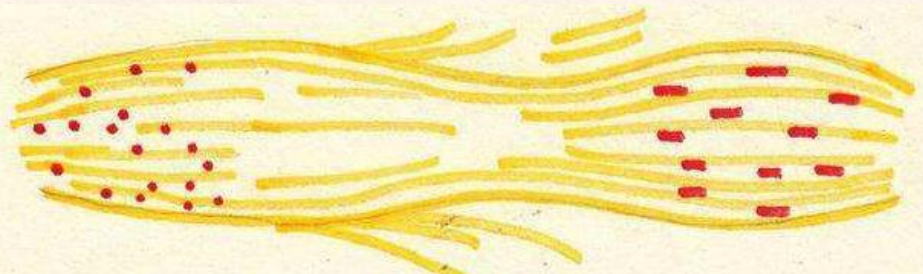
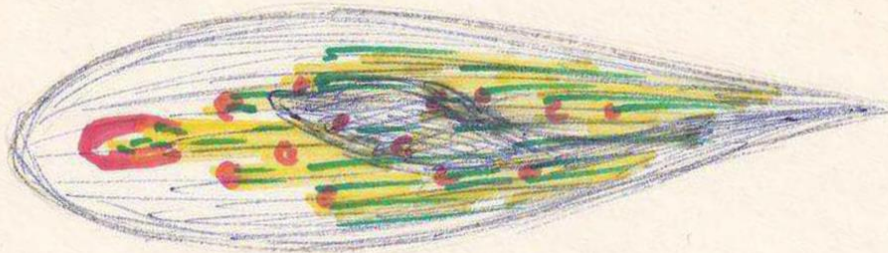
Flyover of full  
soccer stadium



Same event  
from other  
location in  
Kiev

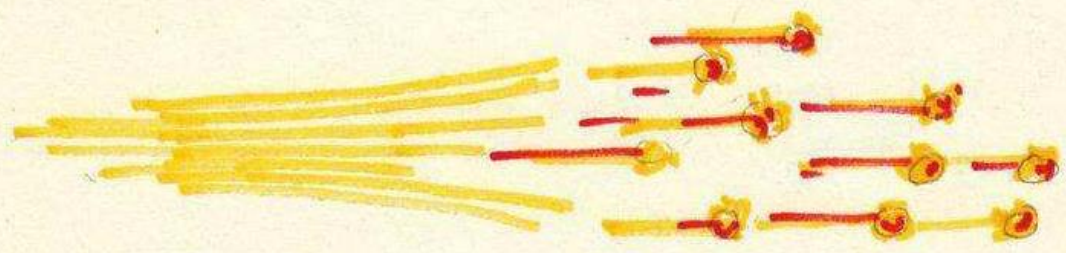


Grouped  
lights with  
border



запад      —————>      север      —————>

Рис. II



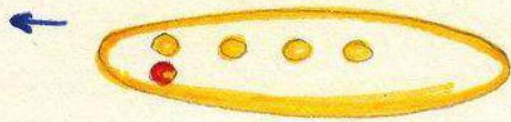
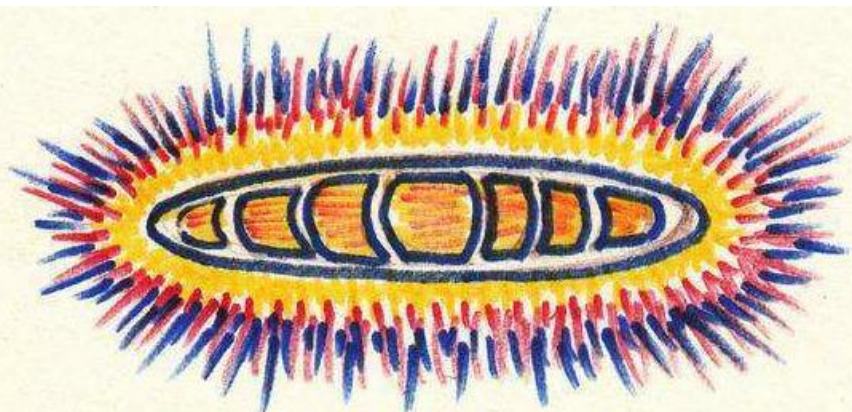
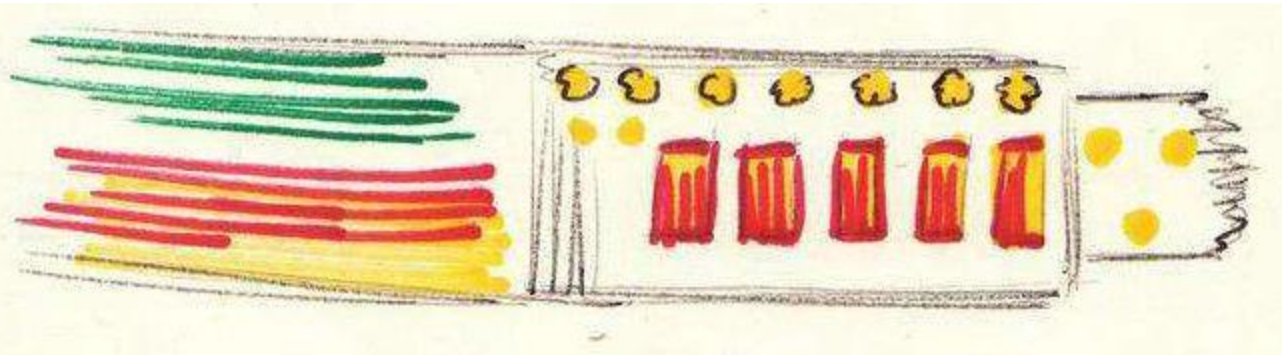


Рис. 29

Время нас



Structured sharp silhouette with mounted lights



Structures possessing hardware features of familiar human vehicles

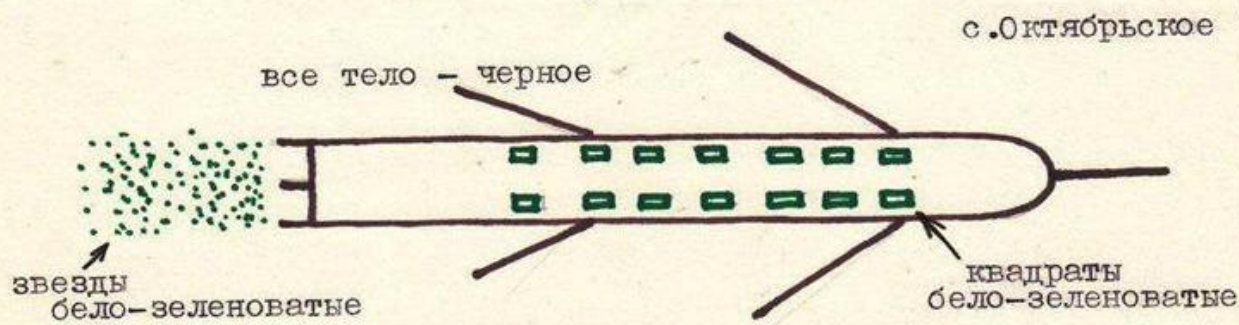
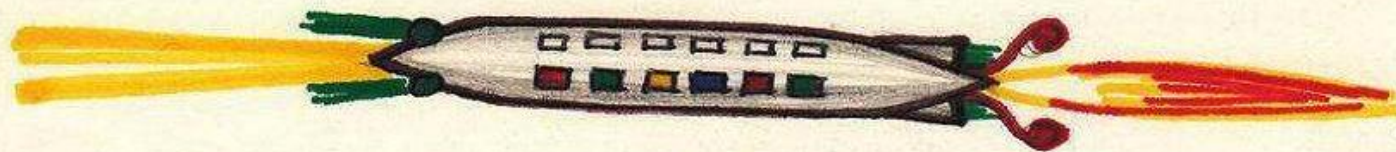
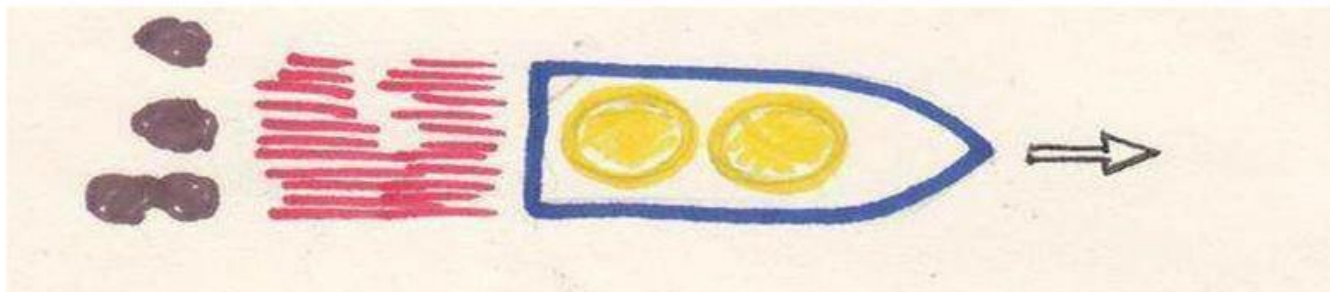


Рис.70





# What spaceships ought to look like

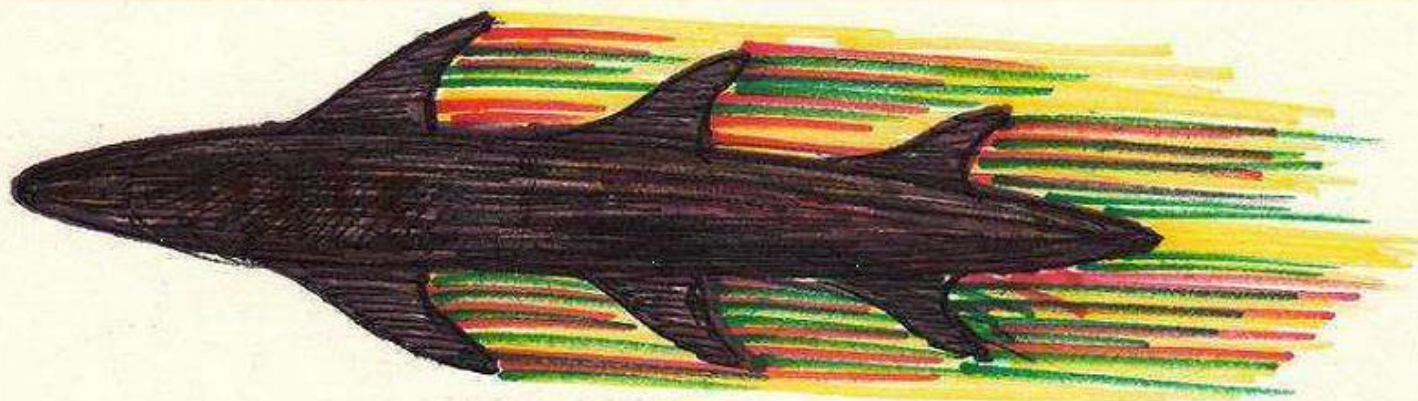
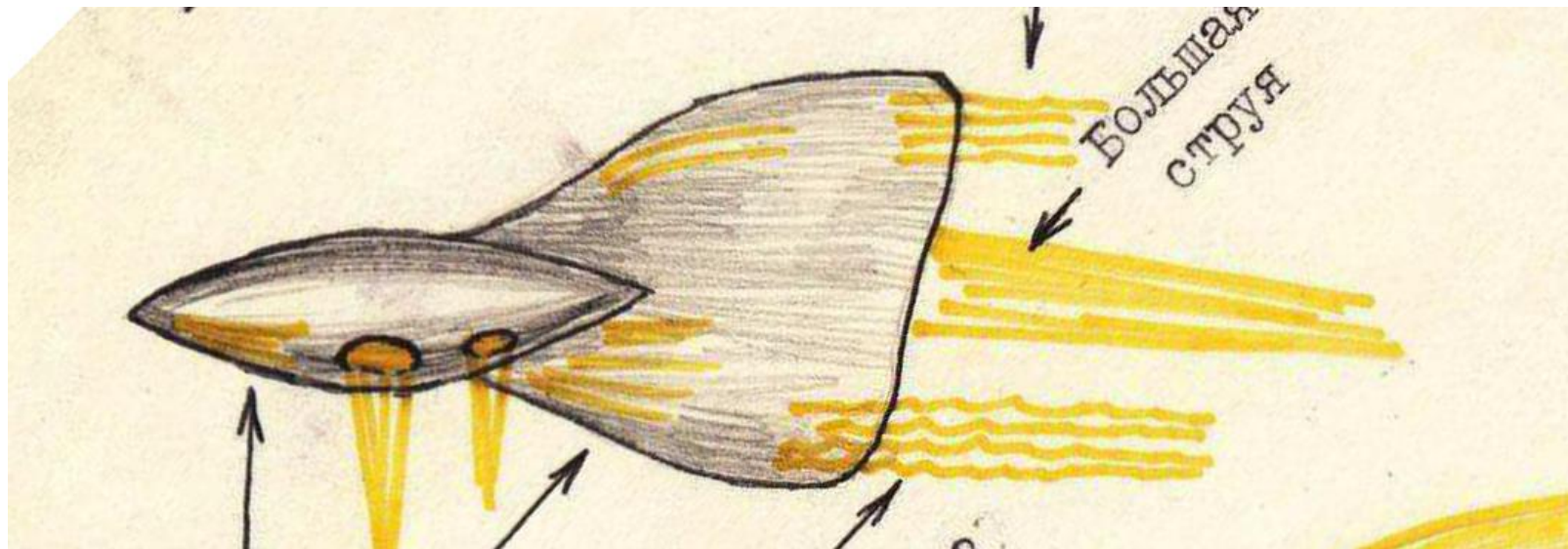


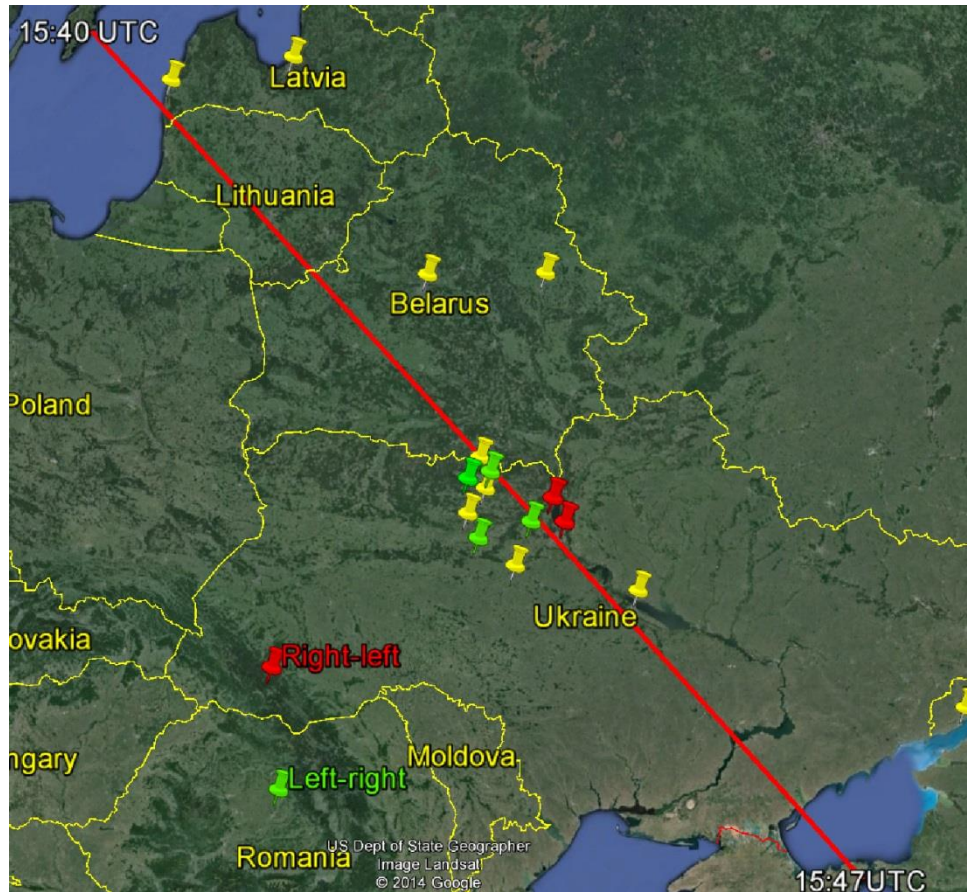
Рис. 102.



# THE PREVIOUS DRAWINGS WERE ALL BASED ON OBSERVERS SEEING THE IDENTICAL VISUAL STIMULUS

Kosmos-20 rocket body ground track Oct 30, 1963  
Central area ~**15:42 GMT** [6:42 pm local] -Molczan

Direction and time do match with observer reports, sort of



# Clock time scatter of witness reports

“in the interval 1830 to 1940, in Kiev mainly 1840-1850.. however, a separate observation an hour earlier, and a different one later toward 21:00.”

1	‘about 19:00’
6/6	about 18:50
7/7	after 7 pm
9/9	18:44
10/10	19:45 – 20:00
11/11	no clock, duration 5-6 minutes
12/12	‘about 7 pm’
14/14	‘about 19’
19&20	“about 19:30”
24&25	18:45, “altitude about 300 meters”
26&27	about 18:00, height 130 meters
30&31	18:00 5-10 minutes, passed 80-100 meters overhead
32	About 21:00
33	18:27
35	18:50
35&36	“19:00 or 19:30”, 1.5 to min, 150-200 meters altitude
42&43	about 18:46
60&62	18:45
93	18:44
99	19:15

Witness recollections  
of clock time of event  
clustered around  
actual time [6:45 pm]  
but with some range,  
and a few out-liers

# Document NOT sole-source

## "НАБЛЮДЕНИЯ АНОМАЛЬНЫХ ЯВЛЕНИЙ В ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ"

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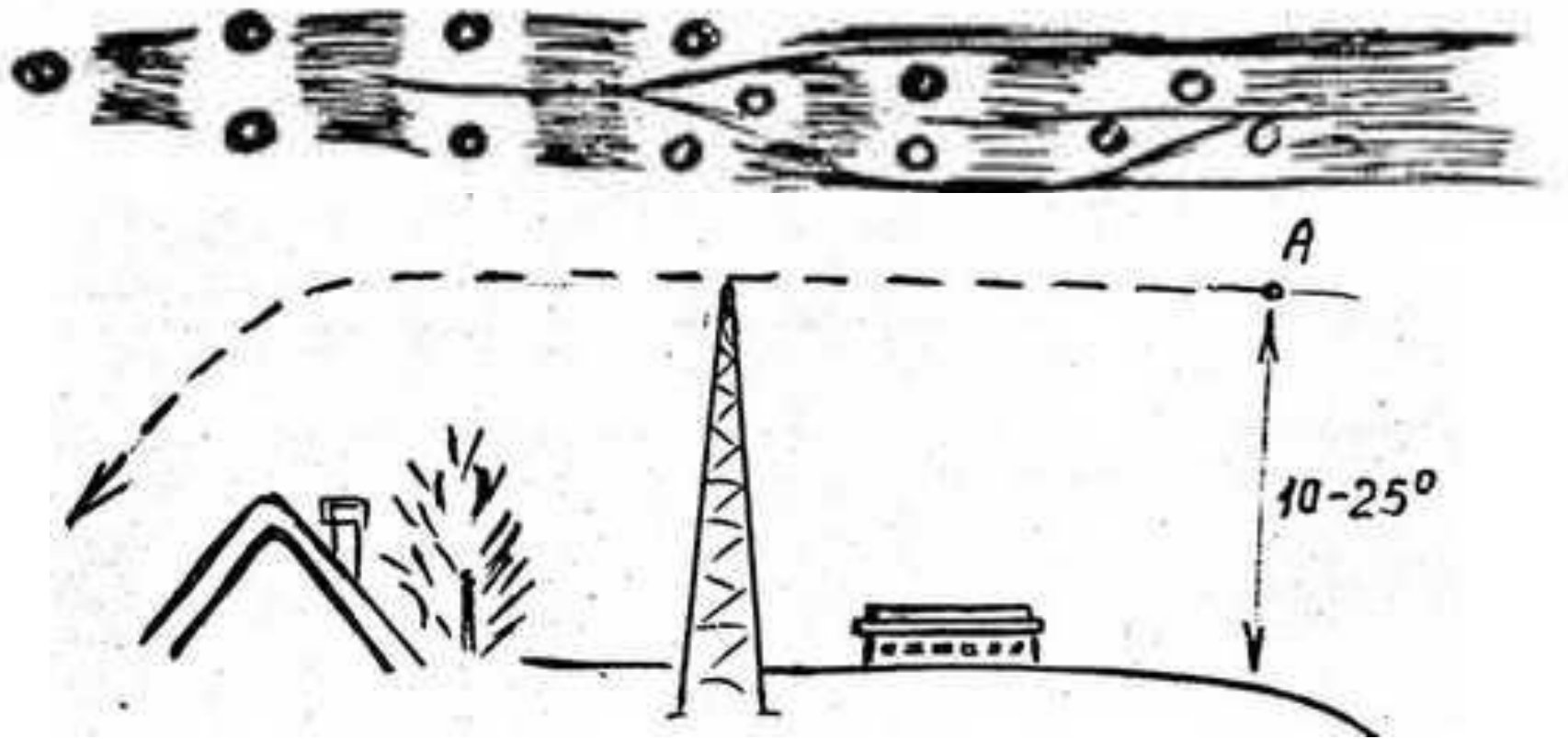
Ученый секретарь  
секции

И.С.Кузнецова

- Киев - 1982 -

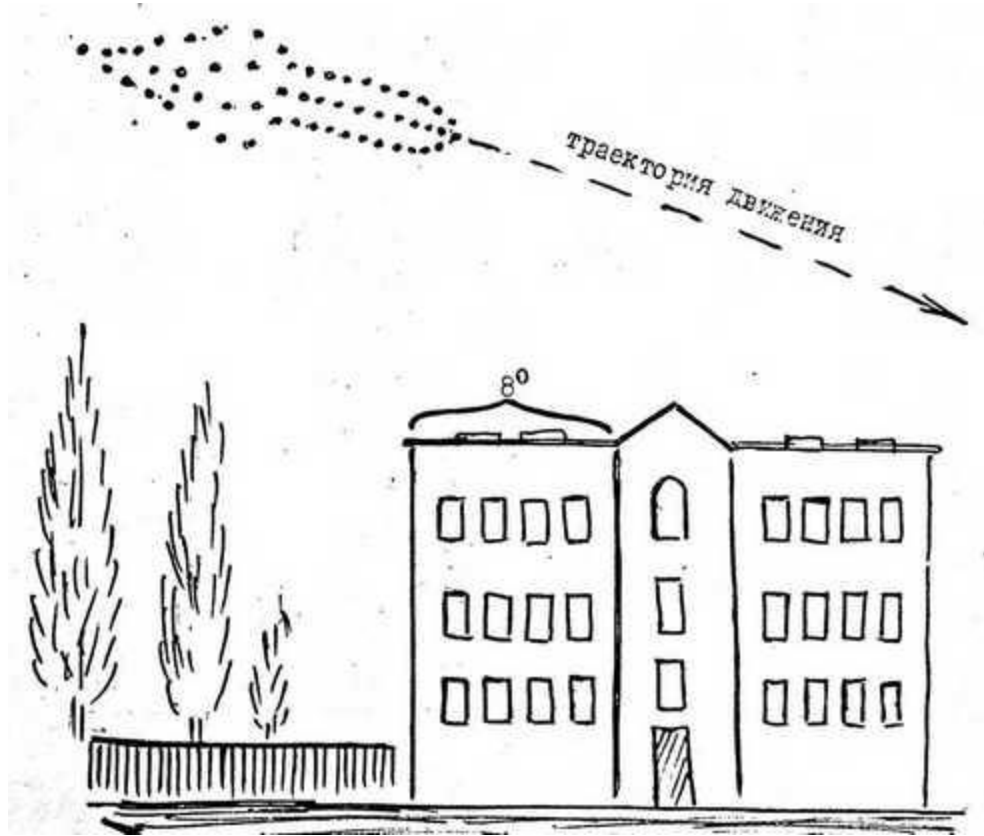
- 1 Event reappeared as "Болид" 30 октября 1963" M.Gershtein , 12/22/2009  
<http://aeninform.org/ufo-navigator/nablyudeniya-aya-30-10-1963-goda-na-territorii-sssr>
- 2 Blog reported discussion of various re-entry hypotheses. One investigator seems to have been close to figuring it out, but somehow he fixated on the payload and didn't think of the rocket body.
- 3
- 4
- 5

# Gersteyn blog

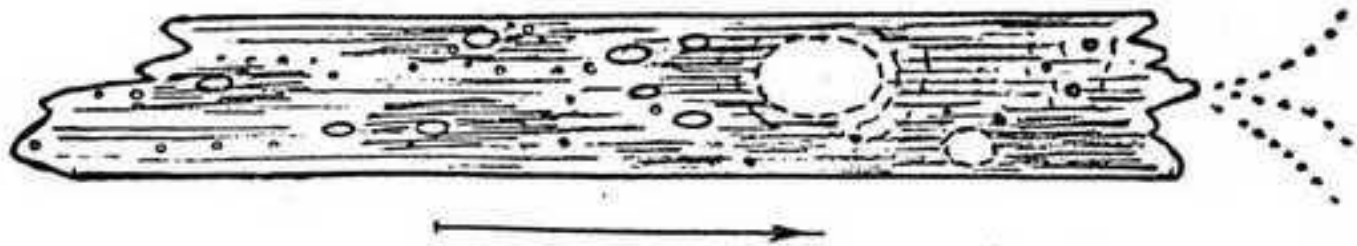
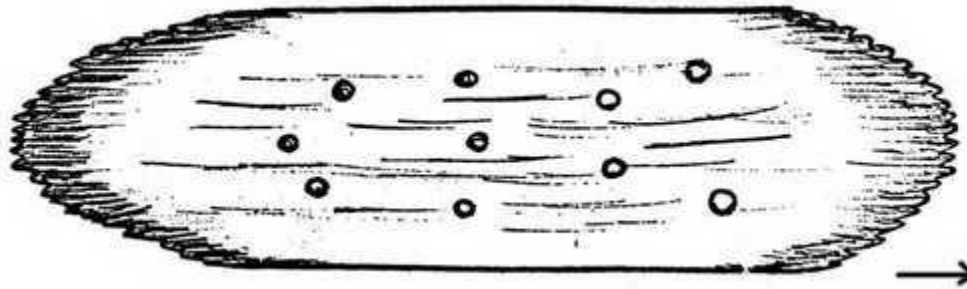


Зарисовка из журнала наблюдений астронома-любителя Ю. В. Дубровского, сделанная в 1963 году

# Gersteyn blog 2



# Gersteyn blog 3



# Implications

- Strong presumption that all observers were watching the same phenomenon
- Many – if not most – perceptions led to recognizable descriptions of known event
- Possible collection bias towards weirder ideas
- Investigators did NOT know what event was
- More distorted impressions may be largely influenced by past observing experiences
- NOT a “perceptual malfunction” but a normal recognition process where fragmentary or ambiguous visual cues elicit similar memories



# Characteristics of night reentry fireball swarms

- Multiple bright objects; some may go on or off
- Swarm spread can be LARGE – 40-50 degrees
- Unchanging relative positions [‘formation’]
- Dazzle of brights dim out background stars
- Totally silent, but often casts moving shadow
- Horizontal flight path, may seem to veer
- Up to 60-90 seconds to cross sky, 60 miles up
- Different flaming pieces may give varied colors
- Sometimes light beams project randomly
- Coincidental witness-centered events noticed

# How does this pertain to “UFOLOGY”?

- The degree of perceptual elaboration of many reports defies ‘common sense’ and ‘a priori’ would be patently incredible if suggested for a UFO
- Only faced with a thoroughly documented range of perceptions for a subsequently fully-explained stimulus, is it ‘believable’. It CAN happen because it DID.
- **1963 event may be the most important double-blind “control experiment” in the history of UFO studies, and it was completely accidental – and overlooked.**
- Its application to OTHER reports of large structured silent light-equipped craft is both unavoidably obvious AND revolutionary in its implications

# Fill-in suggestion not original

- Condon report contribution of William Hartmann
- <http://files.ncas.org/condon/text/s6chap02.htm#S3>
- [http://satobs.org/seesat\\_ref/Oberg/680304-Eastern-US.pdf](http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/Oberg/680304-Eastern-US.pdf)
- This case put us in the rare and fortunate position of knowing exactly what was involved even before we began to investigate the many UFO reports that were generated. In brief, many of these reports were quite good, but there is an admixture of spurious elements that are astonishingly familiar to students of the "flying saucer" literature. The latter vividly illustrate the problem of conception and interpretation, and shed light on the entire UFO phenomenon.
- It is scarcely short of amazing, and certainly suggestive, that the seemingly straightforward Zond IV incident produced a high percentage of the very phenomena that have puzzled students of the UFO problem. We have, in fact, reports of
  - –a cigar-shaped object with windows and a flaming exhaust,
  - –a vehicle or craft that passed low overhead in utter silence,
  - –psycho-physiological response of dread, or in another case, an urge to sleep, and,
  - –abnormal behavior of a nearby animal.

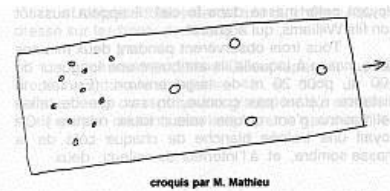
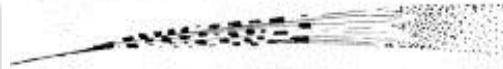
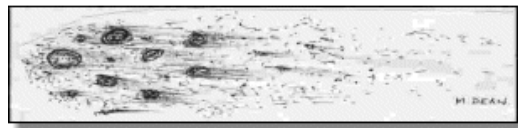
# Validation of Hartmann Hypothesis

- Hartmann's insight sprang from unique personal concatenation of planetary science and visual artistry
- When originally proposed for cases such as March 1968, it seemed vaguely 'ad hoc', a one-off special pleading
- By adding MANY more similar events, both earlier and later in time, and especially the visually overwhelming 1963 Kiev event, investigators have established the consistent, repeatable perceptual results beyond any reasonable doubt
- Across decades of time, on all continents, witnesses of all professional and educational levels, of all ages and social levels, seem to generate memory-based fill-in interpretations of bright fireball swarms in a startlingly similar format

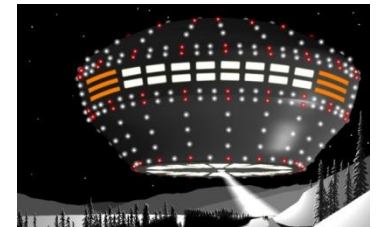
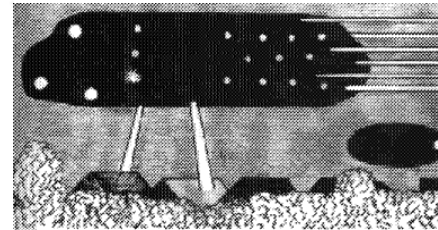
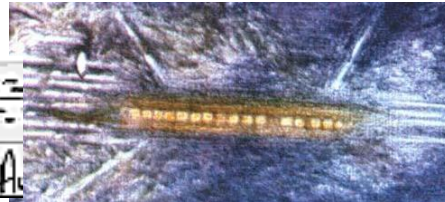
# Analogous events with varied perceptions

Other reentry apparitions also produced a similar range of perceptions from fireball swarm to light-studded craft

EXAMPLES: UPPER/LOWER fireballs/vehicle perceptions



TBS



Bahamas

1985

Baltic

1976

France

1990

Yukon

1996

# Other satellite reentry “mother ship” UFOs

- Bahamas, Jan 1985

[http://satobs.org/seesat\\_ref/Oberg/850111-Bahamas\\_spaceship.pdf](http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/Oberg/850111-Bahamas_spaceship.pdf)

- Eastern US, March 1968

[http://satobs.org/seesat\\_ref/Oberg/680304-Eastern-US.pdf](http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/Oberg/680304-Eastern-US.pdf)

- Baltic, Feb 1976

[http://satobs.org/seesat\\_ref/Oberg/760211-baltic\\_bolide.pdf](http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/Oberg/760211-baltic_bolide.pdf)

- Zimbabwe, 1994

[http://satobs.org/seesat\\_ref/Oberg/940914-africa-pdf1.pdf](http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/Oberg/940914-africa-pdf1.pdf)

- Chile-Argentina Apr 2013

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/bad\\_astronomy/2013/05/11/video\\_satellite\\_re\\_entry\\_looks\\_like\\_ufos\\_over\\_south\\_america.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/bad_astronomy/2013/05/11/video_satellite_re_entry_looks_like_ufos_over_south_america.html)

- France, Nov 1990,

[http://satobs.org/seesat\\_ref/Oberg/901105-French\\_wave.pdf](http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/Oberg/901105-French_wave.pdf)

- Yukon, Dec 1996

<http://badufos.blogspot.com/2012/04/top-ten-ufo-case-yukon-canada-1996.html>

# Ground-breaking new historical report



- **Misperception of Satellite Re-Entries - Seeing is Not Necessarily Believing.**
- **<http://satobs.org/seesat/Jan-2014/0039.html>**
- **From: Ted Molczan ([ssl3molcz@rogers.com](mailto:ssl3molcz@rogers.com))**  
**Date: Fri Jan 10 2014 - 05:09:23 UTC**
  
- **Photo: <http://spybusters.blogspot.com/2008/02/they-spy-back-on-spy-satellites.html>**

# Why “Rosetta Stone”??”

Rosetta Stone with multiple language versions of same text allowed decoding of hitherto unknown expression system [hieroglyphics] wherever else it was found.

Graphic 1963 case study of single spectacular once-in-lifetime event which generated distinct bimodal visual interpretations allows plausible interpretation of actual meaning of a hitherto opaque collection of reported perceptions, wherever else they may be encountered



# What it does NOT, and DOES, mean

- The results of this analysis cannot be interpreted as claiming ALL reports of large night-time fast-moving vehicles blocking background stars are caused by satellite entries
- Instead, by showing only that SOME such reports unarguably HAVE been caused by such visual stimuli, it validates an entirely new line of explanation-seeking [previously declared impossible by ufologists]
- Further, this demonstrates that argument from elimination [“there is no other possible explanation than...”] is as bankrupt as skeptics have always said.

# Evasive rationalizations

- Can't imagine it could ever happen
- Blah blah
- Blah blah
- Witness saw genuine UFO shadowing fireball to observe it or suck off energy

# WIDER IMPLICATIONS

- Satellite reentry fragmentation not only potential source of grouping of bright lights in night sky
- Other known sources [NOT exhaustive]
  - Grazing meteor [much faster]
  - Military jet formation
  - Mass parachute flare drop
  - Spoofing private pilots
  - Chinese lanterns
  - Orbiting formations [eg NOSS]

## Выводы

30 октября 1963 года примерно в 18.40 над северной окраиной города Киева с запада на восток пролетела группа светящихся тел.

В пределах города полет проходил горизонтально, на высоте порядка 1км со скоростью около 300км/ч и совершенно бесшумно. По одному из наблюдений, переднее тело, летевшее на некотором расстоянии от остальных, имело форму линзы. Остальные тела были округлой формы и светились довольно ярким белым светом с зеленоватым или голубоватым оттенком.

Все перечисленные параметры явления позволяют отбросить, как не соответствующие данным наблюдения, высказанное в свое время в печати предположение, что это явление могло представлять собой полет группы метеоритов, частей разрушенного болида или остатков ракетносителя.

1979г.

Р.С.Фурдуй.

- translation

# Further work

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# Molczan note on reentry ground track [Oct 3, 2014]

The re-entry propagation of this object has always been challenging because the epoch of the final TLE [two line element set] is nearly three days before re-entry, which can result in fairly large uncertainty in time and track. I have just completed what I believe to be a much improved trajectory estimate, due to the use of the numerical integrator in GMAT R2013A.

The plotted track begins at 15:40 UTC, when the object was ~92 km high and ends at 15:47 UTC, when it was ~16 km high (more theoretical than real by that point, but a good indication of the toe of the footprint of any debris that might have survived).

A key event was the descent through 78 km - the approximate altitude at which re-entering objects typically experience structural failure and break up into numerous fragments - which my analysis places over north-central Ukraine at about 15:42 UTC. The re-entry probably was most spectacular there due to the large number of fragments, which may explain, at least in part, the concentration of known sighting locations in that region.

I have colour coded the icons of sighting locations for which I know of drawings that clearly depict the direction of motion. Red denotes right to left; green denotes left-right. The proximity of several of those locations to the ground track leads me to conclude that it is accurate to within a few tens of kilometres.