

Ball Lightning Initial Report: Hokkaido, Japan, 1972

Prepared October 8, 2020 - R. Sonnenfeld

Details/Parameters

Timestamp 7/26/2020 21:50:42

Email Address jaeger11238@hotmail.com

Primary Observer No.

Photographic or Physical Evidence I am quoting from a 1972 Japanese sighting, documented in 2007 by Yasushi Fujiyoshi, a professor at Hokkaido University. I have no physical evidence.

Duration 5 to 8 seconds

Color and Brightness The color was described as blue-white, like the color of an electric spark, and it also had some blackish lines in it. The report doesn't mention the brightness.

Size/shape A little bigger than a ping-pong ball and a perfect sphere. The surface of the BL was fuzzy, not smooth.

Smell, Sound, Heat The report doesn't mention smell, but describes a crackling sound like a spark when the BL hit a stainless steel panel over the cooking area in the kitchen. The family did not feel heat nor did they report any other characteristics.

Weather Conditions Thunderstorm outside, immediately after very nearby lightning.

Environment Observation is indoors. Rural setting.

Date/time 1972

Location Hokkaido, Japan

Permission to Publish Already published https://www.metsoc.jp/tenki/pdf/2019/2019_01_0091.pdf

Behavior/Narrative

"Family was sitting at the dinner table. Lightning struck nearby and family members remarked ""that was close!"". The BL suddenly appeared inside the living room, in front of a closed window and just behind the TV. There was an aluminum storm shutter outside the window which was closed at the time. The BL glided slowly through the air over the dining table, right in front of the family's faces, in a curving path, at the speed of a person on a leisurely stroll, and crashed into a stainless steel sheet metal panel on the kitchen wall behind the cooking area. It made a crackling noise and disappeared. The surface of the BL was fuzzy, not smooth. The family did not feel heat nor did they report any other characteristics. The BL apparently traveled through a closed aluminum storm shutter and a closed glass window. The sighting was in 1972 but no one made a detailed report at the time. The parents have passed away and the two children both remember it and are confident that it's their "real" memory and not a composite memory from having heard the story so many times.