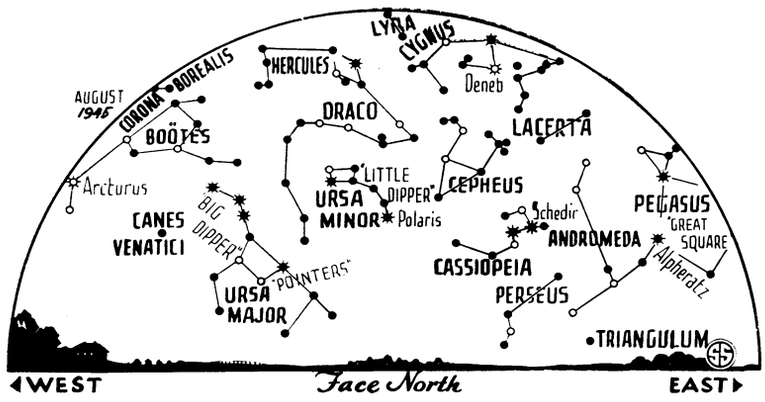

the air heats it and it vanishes in the flash of light that we see. Occasionally a larger mass comes in, big enough to survive the passage through the atmosphere so it can land on earth. This is called a meteorite. Apparently the meteors of the showers are all small, for there is no authenticated case of a meteorite being identified with one of the showers.

Professional astronomers always appreciate amateur help in observing meteors. Dr. Charles P. Olivier, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Flower Observatory, at Upper Darby, Pa., is an authority in this field and welcomes reports from laymen. The simplest report is to count the number of meteors that you see in half-hourly periods, say from midnight to 12:30, 12:30 to 1:00, 1:00 to 1:30 and so on. If you know the constellations, you can mark the paths of the meteors, particularly the bright ones, on a map.

Celestial Time Table for August

Aug.	EWT	
2	7:07 p.m.	Moon passes Mars
4	11:46 a.m.	Moon passes Venus
5	7:22 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
7	8:32 p.m.	New moon
11	1:38 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter
12	Early morning	Perseid meteors
14	2:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, 251,400 miles
15	8:36 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
21	Midnight	Venus passes Saturn
23	8:03 a.m.	Moon nearest, 226,500 miles
29	11:44 p.m.	Moon in last quarter
31	9:07 a.m.	Moon passes Mars

Subtract one hour for CWT, two hours for MWT, and three for PWT.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1945

AERONAUTICS

Air Congestion Expected

Anticipating greatly increased traffic over La-Guardia Field after the war's end, officials are now planning improved facilities for radio direction.

➤ EXTENSIVE planning is now under way by officials concerned with La-Guardia Field on Long Island, New York City's great airport, for controlling sky traffic because of the enormously increased use of the field expected in post-war days. This means particularly radio communication with approaching planes, instructing them relative to weather conditions, what air levels to use, and when and where to land.

LaGuardia field is now one of the largest and busiest traffic control centers in the world, according to the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration. But, it says, a tremendous increase in business after the war may be expected, and preparations for it must be made now.

"New York's problem is complicated," the Administration states. "Here, at La-Guardia Field, is a mixture of foreign traffic entering the streams of domestic traffic coming from every part of the continent centering at the country's greatest metropolis. New York is now, and will be increasingly, the terminus for inter-continental traffic."

Controlling sky traffic becomes increasingly important in bad flying weather. When instruments were developed to enable pilots to fly through storms and cloudy weather conditions, traffic control along the airways became necessary. Now, with many planes in the air in all kinds of weather, and scores converging on a spot like New York and other great American fields, the pilot must be helped to the ground.

The pilot must be given information by radio relative to weather conditions and landing conditions, and must be instructed at which thousand-foot level to approach, when to drop a thousand feet to a lower level, and when and on which strip to land. Three kinds of government workers perform these services, air traffic controllers, meteorologists and aircraft communicators.

These men rarely see the planes whose progress they chart and direct along the airways of the world. They sit before inclined posting boards with movable cards on which are recorded radio reports of planes received from pilots when miles away. As the planes approach the cards are moved downward on the board, and off the board when the plane lands.

New York's station handles both overseas-foreign and interstate-domestic communications, distinguishing it from others of the 400 stations operated by the Civil Aeronautics Administration. The big gun of the station is the intercontinental transmitter WSY at Sayville on Long Island. All overseas communication is handled by the Administration.

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