

IGY AURORA REPORT

MAIL TO
AURORAL CENTRE I G Y
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OTTAWA CANADA

LATITUDE _____ LONGITUDE _____

MONTH _____ NIGHT _____ YEAR _____

LOCATION _____ HOUR _____ MINUTE _____ TIME ZONE _____

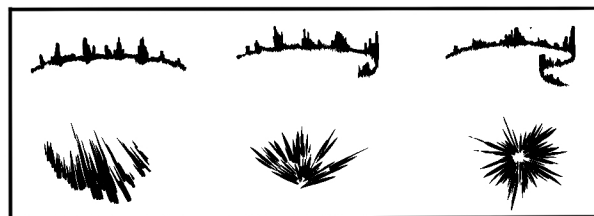
OVERHEAD

OVERHEAD

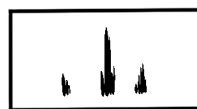
NO AURORA IN SKY MEASURED OVER _____ OBSERVER _____



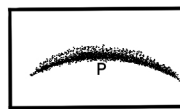
HA (HOMOGENEOUS ARC)



RA (RAYED ARC)



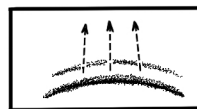
R (RAYS)



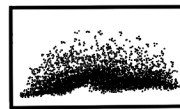
PA (PULSATING ARC)



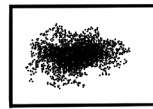
PS (PULSATING SPOT)



F (FLAMES)



G (GLOW)



S (SPOT OR PATCH)

BRIGHTNESS AND COLOUR

- w - weak or faint
- m - medium
- b - bright
- v - very bright
- RED - red feature

ACTIVITY AND MOTION

- q - quiet auroral form. Slow changes in position or shape
- a₁ - folds or irregularities move along the length of an arc or band
- a₂ - rapid change of shape of a form. The form itself may also move rapidly across the sky
- a₃ - rapid movement of rays horizontally along arc or band
- a₄ - Forms which fade rather quickly. New (similar or different) forms appear in other parts of the sky

VISUAL AURORA OBSERVATION FORMS

During the International Geophysical Year (I.G.Y.) of 1957-8 global, coordinated visual observations of the aurora were carried out by observers supplied with visual aurora observation forms on 4x6" cards which could be filled out and mailed to collection centres. The information from thousands of observation cards was used to create synoptic surveys (maps) of auroral activity across continents, providing some of the first big-picture data on visual aurora.

THE TOP SECTION is a faithful reproduction of the front of one of these forms, which can be quickly filled out on-site by an observer, the sky split into 4 quadrants. THE BOTTOM SECTION is a faithful reproduction of the simplified auroral forms and labelling conventions used to fill out the forms. The activity and motion annotations were added later on as an evolution of the original format.

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL THESE FORMS TO THE ADDRESS LISTED. THE ADDRESS IS REPRODUCED FOR HISTORICAL INTEREST ONLY TO LOG AN AURORA SIGHTING IN THE 21ST CENTURY VISIT AURORASAUROUS.ORG