

THE MYSTERY OF TWA FLIGHT 800

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The author presents an analysis of the TWA flight 800 explosion based on witness reports, noting that the closest witness was approximately 12 km away. The analysis emphasizes the difficulty of determining the yield of an explosion based on such reports, primarily because noise perception by the human ear is highly variable. Despite the variability of the witness reports for this accident, the fact that some noise reports came from as far as 30 km away from ground zero indicates that the accident was caused by an explosion equivalent to at least 1000 lbs TNT. This number takes atmospheric conditions and noise focusing into account. Various hypotheses as to the cause of the accident are considered with respect to their potential yield.