



## Lightning Balls in Estonia

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The presentation based on archive documents and press articles involves the data of 88 cases described in Estonia or nearby. The earliest events date from 18th century, the first on 31 of August 1737 in Tallinn Town Hall where the gun of guard was broken up but the guard himself was not injured. The second case happened in St. Petersburg on 4th of August 1753 where Russian academican (heritage from Pärnu, Estonia) G.W.Richmann testing atmospheric electricity with a kite was killed by lightning ball.

The broader interest in lightning balls was awoke at the end of the 19th century. During the period 1884 – 2016 85 reports of ball lightnings are presented which means, in average, one registered ball lightning per 1.5 years. The diameter of ball estimated by observers is between 2 and 100 cm and its lifetime is 5 to 30 seconds.

There have been 12 cases of people's death and 47 cases of casualties.