

Cone-shaped glowing object with 'halo' seen in sky

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CITY PEOPLE SEE U.F.O.

A STRANGE flying object was sighted by yesterday morning.

two different groups of people early

The sightings were at Britstown and Griquatown which are about 140 km apart as the crow flies. In both cases the glowing object was reported to have moved in an easterly direction.

Mr P. J. Labuschagne, a former principal of the Gladstone Primary School who lives in Robinson Street, Kimberley, said he saw the object while travelling to Kimberley from Mossel Bay with his son and daughter-in-law.

Mr Labuschagne said they stopped for a rest alongside the road near Britstown in the Karoo.

He looked out of the car window and saw a cone-shaped object travelling in an easterly direction. Mr Labuschagne said the cone-shaped object pointed slightly downwards and that it appeared to be trailing a cloudy, glowing mass.

Mr Labuschagne described this mass as a sort of a 'woolly halo.' He said the object shone with a dull light and was clearly visible in the dark sky.

They watched it for about 15 minutes as it moved towards the horizon and then disappeared. He said the object appeared to have a diameter of about one metre to the naked eye and appeared to move quite slowly, but he was left with the impression that in actual fact it was travelling very fast at high altitude.

Mr Labuschagne and his son, an army major, and his wife, a pharmacist, were also unable to offer any explanation of what the object might be.

The flying object was also spotted near Griquatown, by Mr H. du Plessis at 2 am yesterday.

Mr du Plessis said he saw two white light beams at an angle of about 10 to 15 degrees encased in a white 'halo.'

He said the apex of the V, formed by the beams, pointed towards the ground.

'I watched the strange light stay in the same position for about five minutes and then it moved off in a south-easterly direction, as if it was moving towards

Kimberley,' Mr du Plessis said.

'It was visible for about three minutes before it vanished from sight,' he said.

Mr du Plessis was staying on the farm of Mr G. van der Linde and he called the Van der Linde family to witness the sight.

'At dawn four of us drew what we saw, and all four drawings were identical,' said Mr du Plessis.

Professor A. Jarret, Director of the Boyden Observatory outside Bloemfontein, said that from the description given he was unable to say whether it was a UFO or not.

He said there were electrical storms on Thursday night and that the sightings could have been a result of this.

Professor Jarrett said he had not received any data on the comet which will be appearing in a few days time. However, he doubted that these people could have seen this comet with the naked eye. He said he knew of no other comets at present which could be seen without a telescope.

According to Professor Jarrett, Boyden often received reports of UFOs, which often turned out to be military flares.

Spokesmen for police stations around Kimberley said they had not received any reports of the flying object.