

# Mysterious UFO Witnessed by Edmond Halley in the 17th Century



Long before his name became forever linked to the famous Halley's Comet, English astronomer [Edmond Halley](#) reportedly witnessed unexplained aerial phenomena that continue to intrigue historians and researchers today.

In March 1676, while observing the night sky, Halley documented a strange object moving through the atmosphere at an astonishing speed. In his writings, the astronomer described the phenomenon as having a "vast body apparently bigger than the moon," a sight that defied scientific understanding at the time.

According to Halley's own calculations, the object was approximately 64 kilometers (40 miles) above the Earth. He also reported hearing a loud sound, comparing it to "the rattling of a great cart over stones." Fascinated by the event, Halley measured the distance traveled by the object over several minutes and estimated that it was moving at more than 15,500 kilometers per hour (9,600 mph).

At a time when aviation did not yet exist and knowledge of meteors remained limited, the observation sparked fascination and speculation. Modern historians suggest Halley may have witnessed an exceptionally bright meteor or bolide entering the atmosphere. Others interested in unexplained phenomena consider the account one of the earliest recorded sightings of an unidentified flying object.

The 1676 event was reportedly not the only unusual experience of Halley's career. Historical accounts mention a second mysterious sighting, further adding to the enigmatic legacy surrounding some astronomical observations of the 17th century.

Best known for documenting the periodic return of Halley's Comet, Edmond Halley remains one of the most influential figures in the history of astronomy. Yet more than three centuries later, his strange observations continue to fuel debate about unexplained phenomena in Earth's skies.

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