

Things that go "boom" in the night!

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It was another quiet evening in the slowveld. Colder than most would think it could get, at least not freezing. The silence was shattered by an unlikely, frightening explosion that shuddered buildings and rattled windows! Silence... No ambulances selling their news. No wailing police sirens. Life seemed to carry on as if nothing had happened. An eerie atmosphere enveloped Nelspruit like a thick ominous mist. What could it have been?

An hour passed and the hum-drum town did not even blink at the strange occurrence. I managed to reach Const. Mshale of the Nelspruit SAPD and finally reported the incident. She had heard nothing nor had anyone else reported the big bang. With the SAPD station being less than 1km away from where I was it was impossible that no one there heard what I had heard.

Relief splashed over my paranoid self a few minutes later when I noticed our local crime seeking helicopter now circling town. Spotlight turning night into day while it jiggered in an erratic pattern. Searching. To add to my relief security companies, the traffic department and the police were now patrolling the city (so declared with no cathedral). Clock ticking away and still no one seems to consider this an emergency except my colleague and myself.

At approximately 22:00 an ambulance wailed down the R40 heading to the outskirts of town. A transmission break, and another followed. I could not see where it went from my birds eye view of the city. It is disturbing that there has still been no report in the news media. No gossip. No discussions. It was just an explosion on the 13th of August 2008 that unsettled my nerves. Nothing newsworthy?