

UFOs and ‘missing time’: two cases from Glasgow

by

Peter A. McCue

Introduction

In the two cases discussed here, I was able to obtain first-hand testimony. However, the events in question had occurred some considerable time prior to my discussions with the percipients. The alleged incidents occurred in the eastern part of Glasgow. My informants reportedly experienced the phenomenon of ‘missing time’, which has, of course, featured in other UFO cases.

Case 1

Susan (pseudonym) is in her 50s. She had a disturbing UFO experience some 40 years ago. The incident occurred one night when she and a friend, both aged about 13 at the time, were heading home from a café where they worked part-time. They alighted from a bus around 10.45 p.m. and saw a light in the sky, which Susan assumed was a plane. They set off down a quiet lane. A woman was walking ahead of them.

The source of the light seemed to be motionless, but then it moved, very quickly, to another position. It seemed to remain stationary for a few seconds, and then it moved again, at very high speed, to another position, each of these movements bringing it closer. Susan now realized that it couldn't be an ordinary aircraft. She was able to make out some features. It seemed to be a large black or dark grey circular object, with a protuberance on top. (Susan informed me that she wasn't entirely sure whether the protuberance itself was round.) There were two flashing red lights opposite each other on the underside of the circular base. And there was a circle of other lights (not coloured) on the underside, close to the edge. They may have been shimmering.

The UFO made further movements, bringing it closer to Susan and her companion. They stopped and stared, and were unable to move. The woman ahead of them was closer to the UFO. She screamed, “Oh my God!” and ran back. She took hold of the girls, and the three of them ran towards, and huddled against, a locked gate. The woman made the sign of the cross, and the girls did likewise. The woman said, “Hold together!”, which they did. Then, they were strongly illuminated from above, and Susan assumed that the object was now directly above them. After what seemed like a matter of seconds or minutes (no more than three minutes), things went dark again. When she looked, Susan saw that the UFO was still quite close, perhaps 100 yards or so away.

The woman and the girls resumed their journey. After one or two further movements, the UFO took up a position in the sky in front of them, but somewhat to their right. Shortly after (perhaps within a few minutes), it shot up into the sky and disappeared.

Susan arrived home some 50 minutes later than she would have expected, and she informed me that the other girl also experienced missing time. But Susan has lost touch with her friend, and I've therefore been unable to obtain testimony from her.

Case 2

One night in the 1990s, Jane (pseudonym) and her friend James (pseudonym) set out on foot from Jane's house to buy some take-away food. According to James, they saw a light in the sky, to the west, and it moved slowly to the north-west. However, during a visit with me to the area of the sighting, he told me that he wasn't sure whether they saw the light again after they had bought the food. They should have been back at Jane's house within 20-25 minutes, but they were away for over an hour, and the food was cold. They are unable to account for the missing time.

The couple had another UFO experience one night as they were walking through the same area. James recalled the following: It was raining slightly. A light moved across the sky and seemed to descend towards them. As it got nearer, they walked faster. There was no one else in sight, and things seemed to be very still. They started running. They turned into a street from a short walkway, and the light rose up in the sky and was joined by another one. The two lights then headed in the direction of Coatbridge, which lies to the east of Glasgow.

For her part, Jane apparently recalled seeing an aerial light on two occasions, and she recalled that on at least one of them, the light appeared to descend towards them. Regarding the occasion when she and James had gone to buy take-away food, she recalled that her daughter had commented that they'd been away for over an hour.

Comments

It's noteworthy that James (Case 2) reports having experienced numerous anomalous or paranormal phenomena over the years, e.g. apparitional and poltergeist-type manifestations (see McCue, 2003). And Susan (Case 1) also reports psychic experiences (premonitions). An overlap between UFO experiences and the paranormal has, of course, been noted by others (e.g. Vallee, 1988).

If the events in these cases happened as described, how can we account for the 'missing time'? Were the percipients abducted by aliens and subjected to an amnesia-inducing process? Maybe. But there are other possibilities. As noted, in Case 1, the three pedestrians huddled together for what seemed to be a short time, and they were illuminated from above. But could they have actually been there for around three-quarters of an hour, perhaps in a state of stupor or paralysis? Did energy emissions from the UFO (if, indeed, it was a physical entity rather than a collective hallucination) prevent their brains from laying down memory traces? But, if so, that still leaves a big question: what *was* the UFO?

Similarly, regarding Case 2, could it be that after buying the take-away food, James and Jane spent over half an hour in some sort of 'dissociated' state, for which they were then amnesic. If so, how do we account for their recollection of seeing a light in the sky? Was it something physical, or could it have been a collective hallucination? Or was their recollection of it a false memory, choreographed by some mysterious process?

References

McCue, P. A. (2003). Recurrent spontaneous phenomena and UFO sightings: A case report. *The Paranormal Review*, **28**, 6-12.

Vallee, J. (1988). *Dimensions: A Casebook of Alien Contact*. London: Souvenir Press.