

Comparison of the Hudson and Belgium Waves

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Reports of unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP), or unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have been made for years. In the majority of instances when there has been a UAP sighting, there are not many people who witness the same phenomena. Usually it is just a small group of people who happened to be around the same area of the sighting or a singular person who had an encounter with a UAP. Even though this is the case with most of the documented sightings, there have been some instances where a large group of people have claimed to have witnessed the same UAPs. There are a few of these cases, but two well known examples are the Belgium Wave that happened in Belgium and the Hudson Wave, which occurred in the United States. These are two cases where a substantial number of people claimed to have witnessed the same event over an extended period of time, with many similarities between each of the reports that were given by witnesses.

These two waves are quite interesting because they were witnessed by hundreds of people over a time period of a couple of months. Both the Belgium Wave and the Hudson Wave have many similarities, yet they also have many interesting differences between them, which will be discussed and analyzed. Before analyzing the two UFO sighting waves, it is crucial to get some background information and context on each of the events so that we can understand what people witnessed and experienced during the waves.

Going in chronological order, the Hudson Wave happened a couple of years before the Belgium Wave. This mass sighting began during the summer of 1983 and continued for about one year until the following summer. During this time period, people near the Hudson River Valley in New York began calling the police with multiple reports about unidentified flying objects in the sky. The reports that people gave were all very similar, in that they each described

an object with a similar description. Taken from a clip of a New York Times newspaper article, New York resident William A. Pollard states, “I never believed in that stuff. But off in a field I saw this gigantic triangle with lights, about 30 feet off the ground - hovering” (1984). This quote from a UFO witness tells us that the aircrafts were triangular, with lights, and they could hover, which is not something that we can see in regular airplanes. Most of the other reports also described very similar characteristics, including the bright lights and that they were extremely large objects.

Following the Hudson Wave, just a few years later, people experienced the Belgium Wave. This phenomenon began in the late fall of 1989 in Belgium and it continued up until the early 1990s, with most of the sightings happening within the first year of the wave. The UFOs that were witnessed during this time period were seen by numerous people, ranging from regular civilians to police officers. Most of the people who made reports about these UAPs gave a similar description of what they saw. The authors of the article, *The Belgium UFO Wave*, state, “The craft was of a flat, triangular shape, with lights underneath. The giant craft made not a sound as it slowly, fearlessly moved across the landscape of Belgium” (2015). In other words, people were witnessing aircrafts that were in the shape of a triangle that moved very differently than any other aircraft that they had seen before. They also mention that given their large size, the unidentified objects did not make any noise as they passed above them. This is the same general description that was given by hundreds of different people throughout the months that the Belgium Wave happened.

After looking at the information from both of the waves, they seem to have a couple of similarities. One of the greatest similarities that can be seen between these two sightings is that they both seem to feature large objects in the air that were triangular shaped with very bright

lights. From the reports, we can see that even though there was no clear evidence linking these two events together, the descriptions that were given make the UAPs from the incident seem very closely related to one another.

Another interesting feature shared by both of these events is that, to this day, no one has been able to provide a definitive answer to explain the waves. There have only been theories and speculations about what happened. A handful of these theories dismiss the claims, for example some have said the Hudson Wave was a trick done by a couple of pilots while flying their planes at night. Then, there are also people who believe that the Hudson Wave was related to aliens. Discovery UK also gives some ideas about the potential explanations for the Belgium Wave. They say that it may have been extraterrestrial beings, military phenomena, phenomena in the atmosphere, and more. Even though people have created all of these theories to explain the events, none of them have ever been completely confirmed. Taking into account all the reports and investigations throughout the years, we may never know what really caused these waves and what people witnessed on those nights.

Even though there are some similarities between the Hudson Wave and the Belgium Wave, there are also some notable differences between the two. One of the greatest differences between these two events is the scale of the waves. When compared to the Hudson Wave, the Belgium Wave was a much larger UFO wave. There are a couple of reasons why it is considered a larger wave than the one in Belgium. One of the reasons is because it lasted much longer than the Hudson Wave. In Leslie Kean's book, *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On Record*, she writes about stories that people have shared about when they witnessed a UFO during the Belgium Wave. These reports began in 1989 and went through until 1992, meaning that the wave lasted around three years. This time frame is much different than the Hudson

Wave, because as we saw, it only lasted one year from the summer of 1983 to the following summer.

Another important difference between these two waves is that during the Belgium Wave, there was also radar data that can support the UFO sightings. In their 2024 article, *The Belgian UFO Wave: Close Encounter or Mass Hysteria?*, the authors state, “The radar data remains one of the most debated aspects of the case” (2024). This quote shows how they collected radar data from some of the aircrafts that were seen during the Belgium Wave. Even though some people are skeptical about the data, there are others who claim that this data supports the theory that these crafts were unknown objects. This radar information is not something that was collected from the Hudson Wave, since there was no one who collected any data.

Also, we can see a difference in how people viewed and treated the waves. In Belgium, they seemed to take the reports that people made more seriously. In her book, *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On Record*, Leslie Kean (2011) states, “The many... consistent case reports collected over time in Belgium - accumulated and investigated by a group of scientists working with the Air Force-created opportunities for radar detection and other technical applications” (p.20). This statement is saying that as all of the reports were coming in from people, there were many scientists and Air Force members that were working on trying to determine what they were. This demonstrates their dedication to the UFO reports made by the people and how they wanted to find out what it was. Rather than automatically dismissing the claims that people made, they were actively working to determine an explanation to the numerous sightings.

The attention given to the UFOs in Belgium was not the same treatment as the treatment given to the Hudson Wave in the United States. In their article about the Hudson Valley Wave,

the team at Unsolved Mysteries writes, “Ultimately, the entire episode was largely dismissed as a hoax perpetrated by a group of local stunt pilots” (Unsolved Mysteries). This statement helps show how they did not take the reports from the Hudson Wave as seriously as they did with the reports from the Belgium Wave. Rather than looking deeper into the many reports made during the one year period of the Hudson Wave, people just wanted to dismiss them. They wanted to look into something that could easily be explained instead of investigating if there was something to be concerned about. As we saw above, this reaction was very different to the reaction that people had in Belgium. Here in the U.S. they were actively searching for a way that they could quickly dismiss the UFO claims, while Belgium worked to try to understand what was really being witnessed.

Truly, the Hudson Wave and the Belgium Wave have many similarities and differences between them. Even though these waves happened over 35 years ago and investigations have been conducted, there is still not a clear answer as to what these waves were. From these stories, we know the importance of keeping an open mind and preparing in case that another wave were to happen someday. This way we can be prepared to investigate the encounters so that we can find a definite answer and identify the objects.

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