

Two texts from two consecutive viewings of the video “Missing Time”.

1.

Against the background of time, we only ever appear as blips on a screen.

Mists from volcanic rocks drift across forests. When written in Western and Arabic script and Pictographs, is anxiety the same? (Memory isn't a document/recording/photo. It transposes reality). A charlatan hypnotist dangling a watch in front of you. Let there be Light!

Tight, tight, locked tight, tight, locked tight, tight, tight.

Barney & Betty, black and white, in black and white. (I remember dramas and documentaries about 'mixed' couples in 60's mid-west America). The photo is a more reliable memory; it doesn't remember differently or choose to forget).

Barney's voice is soft. Betty, her voice dissolving. From over 40 years ago, the cat-eyed, grey-skinned beings. Birds tweet like sucking your own teeth. The train plays a drum kit, (floor toms, snare rim shots and hi-hats) and there's a horn section.. Satie's piano and yodelling The stars are sugar or dandruff flakes on black felt. Now, numbers, numbers, 821,821, (is this repeating?) 821. (No, wait it's changing) 704, 704, 42,42,60083 (did I get that right/write) 5382153913.. (does this 'mean' anything)..

British soldiers (Cat-eyed grey-skinned beings) running concentration camps, (less than 20 years after the Nazis) Hundreds of thousands tortured.. Numbers/statistics/lives/people. Operation Legacy to remove Britain's secret Legacy. Documents, hidden or burnt to erase memories and create a new one. Distorted conception (birth/idea?) of a nation, of the self. “I still feel that I have lived through a tragedy” “...the last thing at night and the first thing in the morning I remember.”

2.

Radar (I remember B&W sci-fi and Dada films.). Insomnia. Crying. A mountain encounter had captured the Hills, Kathleen tells Coast. A reporter tells her audience how Kathleen told her what her aunt and uncle told her they'd experienced. We are watching a memory of a memory of a memory.

“After WW2..” ‘... physical and mental deterioration’ (Is this metaphor? Their personal, individual experiences illustrate the nation's experience of War?) .We're going in, we're going in. keep your mind, deep keep your mind deep sleep, sleep deep, snap my fingers...

Numbers, numbers 1969,1963, dies at 46, over 40 years ago.

The MI5 building, cctv, internet and the Surveillance Society. We have no secrets; they have loads. (although we cannot remember everything, this system will never forget what we've done/allow us to escape memory. (The only refuge for secrets?)

Mountains, buildings like mountains. Press men, flash bulbs, thick rimmed glasses and suits. (Official records = chosen memory. Segue into next topics)

White faces on podiums. Independence = conflict & atrocities. Numbers. 100,000. routine, horrific Operation Legacy to deliberately conceal a deliberate strategy. Violence un-remembered in documents, now only memory in people's minds. Black faces behind placards. Truth constituted through memory.

“ The truth about... Eye-witness accounts...

“It's a haunting. It's always on my mind”

Memory is malleable, cognitive chewing gum, an unreliable narrator.