

A BIOGRAPHY OF L. RON HUBBARD

condensed from

"IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM"

by

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In the thirty years since L. Ron Hubbard created dianetics the 'Modern Science of mental health', there have been a number of books written about Scientology. None of these have included a detailed background of the man who built this multi-million dollar business which is thinly veiled as a religion. I believe that a better understanding of this man will result in a better understanding of Scientology, and show that it's members are a reflection of Hubbard himself.

This, the first in a series of articles, will examine the life of this reclusive man, from his birth in 1911 to the year 1945.

Hubbard is believed by his followers to be some sort of deity, a person who has access to certain 'cosmic truths' that few other men have - a channel into the secrets, the mysteries of life, perhaps Gods unlisted number.

Scientists believe that by studying the mind boggling array of books tape recordings and directives that Hubbard has made, that they can learn to see through walls, move matter through the power of their minds, leave their bodies and play among the stars, read minds, cure almost any disease and, most important, achieve true spiritual freedom and immortality.

It is written in various Scientology books that Hubbard began to formulate his creation of dianetics at a very early age, and that through his extended travels throughout the world when he was a teen-ager, where he has claimed to have spent much time with various wise and holy men in the hills of west China, magicians who could hypnotise cats, native bandits in Tibet (Nepal) and other Guru types. This, and his expertise in the sciences of math and engineering, and his 'forte' - Nuclear physics, and his great understanding of Humanity enabled him to heal himself of war injuries that left him blind crippled and not expected to live. So completely did he recover that this astonished Navy physicians and psychiatrists.

As the story continues, Hubbard continued his 'research' into the composition and destiny of man after his release from the Navy hospital, and made some incredible discoveries, how to brainwash masses of people. The government heard about this, and tried to force him into revealing his secrets.

Hubbard was able to prevent this, and on 30 October, 1950 resigned his commission in the Navy, to prevent this knowlege from falling into the hands of the government. Because of this, the government never forgave him(!) and for the last thirty years has waged a sophisticated multi-million dollar plot to discredit him, which included blackmail, and forged documents.

Not long after this, the Russians found out about Hubbards work, and offered him a complete laboratory, and everything that he needed, if he would go to Russia, and work for them.

As the story goes, Hubbard refused, so now he had the Communists after him. They- the Communists- infiltrated the dianetics foundations he had established and turned his wife and friends against him, destroyed his foundations, and drove him into bankruptcy. With the help of his traitor wife, someone, some group of people, perhaps the communists, maybe the F.B.I. broke into his home while he was sleeping, and knocked him out, gave him an electric shock treatment and then tried to kill him by injecting air into his heart with a needle. *

Since this attempt on his life failed, his wife started telling lies about him, accusing him of beating her, and forcing her to have two abortions, and claiming that he was 'incurably insane' in an attempt to railroad him into a mental institution. In fear, Hubbard fled to Cuba, and later, he was able to return, and start over, and build the billion dollar Church of Scientology.

This is the story that the Scientologists tell; what they believe, and what they want you to believe, that their leader is a kind wonderful unselfish man who only wants to help, and who deserves every penny of the tens of millions of dollars that he has made, the fleet of ocean going ships, the lavish sixty room Georgian mansion in England, the ranch in Mexico, the reported seventeen million dollars in Swiss bank accounts, as well as the untold millions in bank accounts in the Caribbean, and in Luxemburg, from which no money can be withdrawn without the signature of Hubbard, or his wife, Mary Sue, the second highest ranking Scientologist.

No matter that some members of the church have to work sixteen hour days for less money than many people earn in one hour; that certain Scientology 'training' costs \$500.00 per hour, that one reel of Hubbards taped lectures costs more than \$100.00, that some Scientology books cost more than \$100.00 each- no matter that the cost of reaching certain 'levels' of training is more than the average American family pays for a house, and it's really great that Hubbard has earmarked nearly fifty MILLION dollars for a movie "Revolt of the Planets" (with Hubbard directing). # So what, whatever Ron does, he does for a reason. For the good of mankind.

* if Hubbard was sleeping how is it that he knows anything happened?

I predict that this will be the biggest bomb in the history of motion pictures IF it even ever is shown in public movie theaters.

Only L. Ron Hubbard can save this planet from impending destruction. Without Ron we will all perish. We must help Ron clear the planet Earth by making every body become a Scientologist. Time is short. We must work fast.

Ron is a wonderful man who only wants to help-----.

In various Scientology publications (all copyright L. Ron Hubbard) over the last thirty years, Hubbard has been credited with a great many adventures and accomplishments. It is stated in the Scientology book "What Is Scientology" that he (Hubbard) makes none of these claims to fame- it is his followers that have given him credit for all of these great deeds. Nevertheless, they HAVE been made.

Here I present a list of these many accomplishments, quoted accurately, if not verbatim, from 'official' Scientology publications. Following these are the usually conflicting information from the documents that I have collected, and the source of said documents, which, incidentally are kept in a safety deposit box. In preparing this series of articles- in researching "In The Name of Freedom", I have gathered, or have access to, nearly everything that has ever been written on the subject of Scientology- pro or con or objective.

Of the many claims made about (or by) Hubbard, there are three that are of special importance. These are the 'foundation' of dianetics and Scientology.

As mentioned in the introduction to this series, these are Hubbards alleged travels as a child, his expertise in the physical sciences (engineering and nuclear physics), and his ability to heal himself of his war injuries. These will be examined in detail, but let us start at the beginning-----.

The "brief biography of L. Ron Hubbard" published for the first Scientology 'congress' in Australia, in 1963, states that Hubbard is descended from one Count de Loupe, who took part in the Norman invasion of England in the eleventh century. Count de Loupe founded the Dewolfe family in England, Dewolfe being (apparently) English for de Loupe.

On Hubbards mothers side, then, he is descended from royalty, and his maternal grandfather was the owner of a large cattle ranch in Montana.

On Hubbards fathers side, he is descended from the English Hubbards who came to America in the 18th century.

The documents that I have do not support this contention.

L. Ron Hubbard was born at Dr. Campbell's hospital on Oak Street in Tilden, Neb. early on a Monday morning (2:01 A.M.) of 13 March 1911. His mother- Ledora May Hubbard was also born in Tilden, and returned there for the "blessed event".

Ledora's father, L. Ron's grandfather was Lafayette O. Waterbury, born in the state of Michigan on 25 July 1864. Hubbards Grandmother was Ida Corinne DeWolfe born in Illinois on 6 August 1863. Whether Ida was descended from a French count is not known. What is known is that L. Ron, on his fathers side was not descended from an English Hubbard family. His father Commander Harry Ross Hubbard (U.S.N.) was born Henry August Wilson, in Fayette County, Iowa, on 31 August 1882. --

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When he was a child, his father died, and he was adopted by Mr. and Mrs James W. Hubbard, also of Fayette Co. Iowa, and his name was legally changed to Harry Ross Hubbard. In his Navy record are affidavits from both him, and his brother to that effect, and these were accepted by the Navy as true. There are also several letters to support these documents.

L. Ron's birth data is verified by his certificate of birth from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Lincoln Nebraska, file # 126-165-11. There are other supporting documents, such as magazine and newspaper articles and records from an astrologer to whom Hubbard personally gave this information, in an interview in Los Angeles in 1951.

According to the various biographies published in Scientology books Hubbard was raised in a large cattle ranch in Montana, which was owned by his maternal Grandfather. Hubbard is quoted in a Helena newspaper as saying that this ranch was "one quarter of Montana". This is about the size of the State of Indiana. It was here that young Hubbard was said to have learned to ride a horse before he could walk, became friends with an Indian medicine man, and blood brother of the Blackfoot(sic) Indians. Here he refused to go to school as he was more interested in exploring breaking wild horses and hunting coyotes, so the story goes. While this paints a fascinating picture for his followers, and certainly is romantic, it happens to be a lie.

Hubbards grandfather never owned a large cattle ranch in Montana. No records can be found that show that he owned any land at all in Montana. He did own a business several miles southeast of Helena, the Capital City Coal Company, where he sold coal, feed, and was a practicing Veterinarian.

While it is probable that young Hubbard spent time with his grandfather at his place of business (his father was in the Navy and away from home most of the time) and was around horses a lot, the place he actually lived was at 726 5th Ave. in Helena. This was the address of his father and mother and also his maternal grandparents, as well as a number of aunts and uncles. There are many records over a period of years that show this as being the family address, these include city directories listings Harry Ross' navy records where he lists the address of his dependants and L. Ron's school records from kindergarden, grade, and high school.

Other sources that have supporting documents are the Helena Public Library, the Montana Historical Society, Bureau of Land Management in Billings, and the Lewis and Clark County Court House.

That big cattle ranch existed only in the imagination of a small boy who grew up in a small town.

The part about being a blood brother with the indians could be true, as there were many people who were 'adopted' by Plains Indian tribes. There are no records of this, but in all fairness, it should be mentioned that these records (and there were records kept) are incomplete. What is interesting is that the name BlackFOOT is incorrect, it's BlackFEET, according to the Museum of the Plains Indians in Montana, and the Blackfeet Indian Agency, also in Montana. If Hubbard based his first book "Buck skin Brigades" on his vast experience with these Indians, it seems that he would have spelled their name correctly.

As the Scientology biographies continue, they tell of how L. Ron was able to spend several years traveling through Asia, China, Tibet India, the south Pacific, the Philippines, etc, from 1925 to 1929. It was because of his fathers Navy service, and his grandfathers wealth that he was able to do this. L. Ron is said to have spent time in the company of a magician descended from ancient masters, Lamas, priests and other wise men, learned an entire dialect in one night (the Igoriti of the Philippines) and lived among native bandits who didn't harm him " because of his honest interest in them and their way of life". Here, so the stories go, Hubbard first became interested in the 'composition and destiny of man'.

During most of the years 1925 to 1929, L. Ron was, in reality, just a student at Union High School in Bremerton, Washington- Queen Anne High School in Seattle, and Helena High School, in Helena, Montana. There are various documents to prove this, as follows.

From Hubbards fathers Navy records are the details of his stations which show that he never was stationed outside the continental United States until 1927, when he was sent to the island of Guam. This was in April of that year, and L. Ron's school records show that he left Union High the same time. Two years after L. Ron was supposed to have been in China. A copy of a letter from Hubbards father to George Washington University tells of L. Ron's high school years, and it matches with the other documents. City directory listings confirm this. Here is what really happened.

In 1925, when L. Ron was 14, his father was stationed at the Puget Sound (Washington) Naval Shipyards. He, and his wife lived in Bremerton (Wa.) as did L. Ron. L. Ron was a student at Union High School. L. Ron's mother was, incidentally, a school teacher. L. Ron's father remained at the Navy shipyards until April of 1927, when he was ordered to Guam as a supply officer. L. Rons father arranged for transportation for his wife and L. Ron to join him in Guam. There is an interesting letter L. Ron wrote to the Navy demanding that he be allowed to go to Guam, included in his fathers Navy record. The arrangements completed, L. Ron and his mother sailed aboard the liner 'President Madison' on 30 April, 1927 from San Francisco to the Philippines, and on to Guam. L.Ron spent the summer on Guam being tutored by his mother and returned to the U.S. a few months later. He went back to Montana, and was enrolled at Helena High School. A few months later, he dropped out because of poor grades.

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The State Department passport office records show that Hubbard was issued passport # Z 1889248 on 23 April, 1974. I made a freedom of information act request as to whether he had been issued any passport previous to the one of 1974, and was told that no further information could be released. In order to have traveled in China, and India, he would have had to have his own passport, as he could not be included on his parents after he was 14 years of age. Not only is the idea of a teenager travelling through remote areas like Tibet highly unlikely, Tibet was, back then, rather unfriendly to visitors, especially Americans. One of the very first to be allowed to do any traveling there was Lowell Thomas, in the 1950's. Had Hubbard done all the traveling he claims, there would be some record of this, and such organizations as the National Geographic Society, or the New York Zoological Society would have known about it. They don't.

As stated in the introduction, Hubbard is supposed to have combined his experiences as a traveler with his great knowledge of engineering math, and physics and discovered the secrets of life. He even wrote a book called "All About Radiation", which was written by a "Medical doctor and a Nuclear Physicist". Copyright L. Ron Hubbard. He also claims to have received the degree of Civil Engineer from George Washington University, and the degrees Doctor of Divinity, and Doctor of Philosophy.

As mentioned previously, when Hubbard returned from the island of Guam, he was enrolled at Helena High School. This was on 6 Sept, 1927. He dropped out on 11 May, 1928. After that he attended the Swavely prep school, in Manassas, Va. and then Woodward prep school, in Washington, D.C. Woodward was a school operated by the Y.M.C.A. for difficult students and slow learners. Hubbard attended Woodward from Feb to June, 1930. He graduated, and was accepted into the school of engineering at George Washington University. At the end of his first year, he was placed on probation because his grades were so bad, and at the end of his second year was asked to leave; again because of his poor grades. He did not receive the degree of Civil Engineer, does not have a LEGITIMATE degree of Doctor of Divinity, and the Doctor of Philosophy came from Sequoia University, a diploma mill, in California. No classes, no exams, just send in the \$20.00 and you have a Ph.D.

Hubbard's grades at George Washington University were as follows.

For the year 1930-1931, the first semester.

English 1/2, Rhetoric	C
General Chemistry 3/4	D
Mechanical Engineering 3/4	B
Analytical Geometry	F
Physical Education	C
First Year German	E
Civil Engineering	B

For the year 1930-1931, the second semester.

English 1/2 Rhetoric	B
General Chemistry 3/4	D
Mechanical Engineering	C
Physical Education	A
First Year German	F
Differential Calculus	F

For the year 1931-1932, the first semester.

Physics, dynamics of sound and light	E
Differential Calculus	D
Integral Calculus	
Plane Anal. Geometry	D
English, short stories	B

For the year 1931-1932, the second semester.

Integral Calculus	D
English, Short Stories	B
Physics, electricity and magnetism	D
Nuclear Physics.	F

Hubbards grade average was 2.28, or a "D" average.

Hubbard's knowledge of the 'composition and destiny of man' is also based in part, on his experiences as the leader of a number of expeditions to far away and exotic places. So the story goes. He studied primitive and 'savage' cultures all over the world, and this knowledge helped him to be able to complete his 'research' and formulate (create) dianetics.

There were a number of these expeditions, among which were:

The expedition into the jungles of central America, right after leaving college. The Scientology books do not give any details.

The 'Caribbean underwater motion picture expedition' which supposedly supplied the Navy Hydrographic Office, and the University of Michigan with valuable underwater films. It was also here that Hubbard is stated to have been the first person to use the bathysphere, or diving bell, as quoted by Hubbard in a newspaper article.

The third of the expeditions was the "first complete mineralogical survey of Puerto Rico." One of Hubbard's books "Mission into Time" contains a photograph of him, with helmet and all, supposedly sluicing for gold or something, in Puerto Rico.

The fourth of the alleged expeditions was to Alaska to rewrite the "Coast Pilot" which is a navigational guide.

Another romantic picture painted for his loyal (and gullible) followers to dote over as they picture brave, fearless Ron hacking his way through the dense jungle, braving ferocious wild animals, headhunters(!) malaria etc. Indeed, an impressive feat, except that it is a lie. Most of these great adventures have some element of truth behind them, but are exaggerated completely out of proportion.

Concerning the first expedition to Central America- there are no details given, only that Hubbard 'led an expedition'. He may have gone to Panama with his mother in 1932 when she traveled there to board a boat for the East Coast to join her husband who was stationed in New York then.

The second of these alleged expeditions- the Caribbean Motion Picture trip was, in reality, just a bunch of college kids island hopping in a small boat, according to an interview with Hubbard published in Life Magazine. The University of Michigan has no record of Hubbard, and never received any underwater film from any expedition in the Caribbean. Also the Navy Hydrographic office has no record of such an expedition and has never heard of Hubbard.

The so called First complete minerals survey of Puerto Rico is another fine example of something that really happened being exaggerated way out of proportion. This is what really happened.

In September of 1928 a hurricane swept the island, and damaged or destroyed some 200,000 acres of coffee trees, ruining the foremost income producing industry. The American Red Cross sent many volunteers there to help with replanting, medical aid, etc. In 1932, when Hubbard was asked to leave college (because of poor grades) his father sent him to Puerto Rico to help the Red Cross volunteers. He left from Hampton Roads, Va. on 26 Oct, 1932, aboard the Navy transport U.S.S Kittery, for San Juan. Hubbard's father made the arrangements, and copies of these are in his Navy record. Also, the Department of Natural Resources in San Juan have no record of L. Ron, nor does the U.S. Geological Survey, the department of the Interior, the National Geographic Society, or any of a number of prominent geologists who were working in Puerto Rico at that time.

The last of these 'expeditions' was to Alaska to re-write the Coast Pilot. The Coast Pilot being a navigational guide was not re-written the year that Hubbard claims to have been there. A number of sources have been checked, and no record of L. Ron can be found.

Regarding all these expeditions, when Hubbard joined the New York explorers club, he listed some of these non existant treks on his application. The club investigated them, apparently many years later, and was unable to find any record of them. By that time, apparently, L. Ron had become rich and bought a fleet of ocean going ships, and had sailed all over the Mediterranean, and possibly for this reason was allowed to stay in the club. What the club did find out was that there was a Hubbard in Puerto Rico, and he was a geologist. His name-Bella Hubbard, and his mineralogical surveys were about ten years before L. Ron was there. In addition to this, there was a Leonard S. Hubbard who did surveying in Alaska, and helped to re-write the Coast Pilot.

So much for L. Ron Hubbard and his expeditions.

The last part of this article concerns Hubbard's Navy Service, and is the most interesting part so far.

The various Scientology biographies tell a fascinating (and conflict ing) story of a brave young Naval officer who was so eager to defend his country that he was the first casualty of the war in the Pacific. So important was he that he was flown back to the United States in the Secretary of the Navy's personal airplane. Though severely wounded, he was ordered to take command of a fleet of ships without even a rest. He was "highly decorated" for his bravery in battle, and was a real life hero. One version of this story states that Hubbard was sent to the Philippines at the outbreak of WWII, and there wounded in action, another says that it was near the end of that war that he got "shot up". Neither is true.

L. Ron Hubbard (USN # 1133-92) was commissioned as an Ensign on the 19th of July, 1941, and spent the first five months of his service in the eastern United States. In December of that year, he was transferred to Melbourne, Australia, where he was an intelligence officer for about three months, and was sent back to the U.S. He bounced around from Maine to Florida to New York for a year, and then came to Portland, Oregon where he became commanding officer of the USS PC-815, a small destroyer escort type vessel. This ship remained at the Albina shipyards in Portland for about two months while she was being readied for duty, and on the middle of June, 1943, got underway down the Willamette and Columbia rivers to the Pacific Ocean, and steamed south to San Francisco, and San Diego.

A few days later, while at exercises in Mexican (neutral) Territorial waters, Hubbard ordered the crew to fire some practice rounds through the ship's three inch naval gun. The target was in line with the Coronados Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. That night the ship was anchored in Mexican waters.

When the Navy department found out about this, they convened a board of investigation aboard the ship. The transcript of that hearing (about one hundred pages) makes interesting reading. The testimony given was very conflicting, estimates of how far from the Coronados the ship was at the time the gun was fired vary from a few hundred yards to eight miles.

The results of the board were not released, but it is a matter of record that a few days later Hubbard was no longer in command of the PC-815.

After leaving the PC-815, L. Ron bounced around for a year, and once again was ordered to Portland, and assigned to the USS Algol. This was the ship on which the Scientologists claim Hubbard had the adventures that the movie "Mister Roberts" was based. *upon.*

The Algol was an armed troop carrier commissioned at Portland on 21 July 1944. Hubbard was aboard as navigating officer and training officer. Like the PC-815, she proceeded down the Wilamette and Columbia rivers to the Pacific, and then south to San Francisco, where she went through her 'shake down' cruise practicing maneuvers and training exercises.

On the afternoon of 27 September 44, while docked in Oakland, Ca. L. Ron reported to the officer of the day that he had discovered an attempt to sabotage the ship. Someone had filled a Coke bottle with gasoline and inserted a cloth wick, and then hidden it among some cargo that was to be hoisted aboard and placed in the No. 1 hold. The F.B.I. and Navy Intelligence were called in to investigate, but the records of this investigation are not available. The following day, just a few days before the Algol sailed for the South Pacific and into combat, L. Ron was relieved of duty and transferred to a training school in New Jersey, the Princeton School of Military Government.

After Hubbard left New Jersey, he spent nine months at the Office of Naval Civil Affairs, in Monterrey, Ca. and on 5 Sept. 1945, he was admitted to the Oak Knoll Military Hospital in Oakland, Ca. It was here that L. Ron was supposed to have been crippled, blind, and not expected to live from having been wounded in action. Facing an uncertain future, L. Ron applied all of his knowledge of nuclear physics, etc, and healed himself. Just by the sheer power of his mind. It is written that so complete and so miraculous was this recovery that he amazed Navy physicians and psychiatrists.

As reported in the Los Angeles Times, a spokesman for the Navy stated that there is nothing in Hubbards service record that indicates he ever recieved medical treatment for injuries sustained in the line of duty. He did not recieve the Purple Heart. The only decorations he was awarded were campaign ribbons and the WWII victory medal.

Hubbard was apparently discharged from Oak Knoll on 5 Dec, 1945- he was on active duty untill 17 Feb. 1946, but the Navy Department refuses to say where he was-, and on 6 Dec. he was awarded a 10 % disability for a duodenal ulcer but this did not become effective untill the 17th of Feb. 1946, the day after he was released from active duty. His disability was later increased to 40% for arthritis, bursitis, and conjunctivitis (an eye inflamation). The file number of his Veterans Administration is C-7017422, and the information given here comes from that file as released by the U.S. District Court in Washington.

It is written that while at Oak Knoll, and unconscious during an operation, L. Ron Hubbard recieved a great inspiration, a sort of message from God, and he then vowed to spend the rest of his life helping his fellow man.

To become a wonderful man, who only wants to help-----.