



# BARE-FACED MESSIAH: THE TRUE STORY OF L. RON HUBBARD

Rev Chris Worfolk



# TODAY'S SPEAKER

- ✿ Introductions probably aren't necessary
- ✿ But, hello, I'm Chris
- ✿ I grew up in Leeds. Then I went to university here. Then I started Skeptics. Then it's now.





# SCIENTOLOGY

- ✱ Scientology is a religion
- ✱ Or possibly a cult
- ✱ Though of course, we know the only difference between a religion and a cult - it size





# SCIENTOLOGY

- ✱ So what is this Scientology nonsense?
- ✱ I use the word nonsense as if a god sired zombie taking all our sins somehow makes more sense of course
- ✱ Let's open it up to the floor





# L. RON HUBBARD

- ✱ The man, the legend, their everything
- ✱ He'll be back!
- ✱ Born in 1911, died in 1986, but that is not quite all of his life





# L. RON HUBBARD

- ✿ Of course, Elrond is a fictional character
- ✿ But the L. Ron Hubbard many know and love could well be described as one too





# L. RON HUBBARD

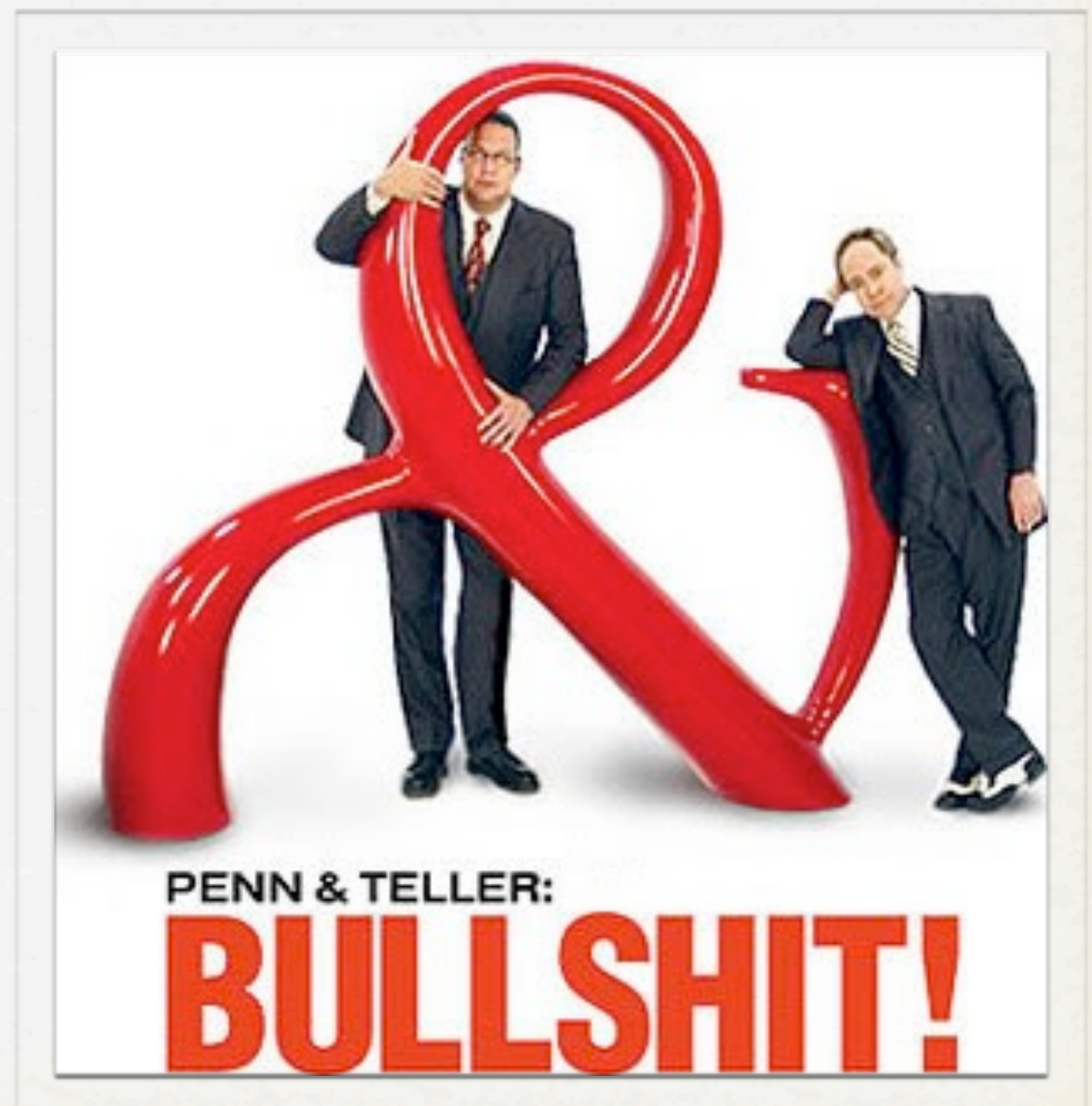
- ✿ Writer, explorer, pilot, nuclear scientist
- ✿ “I wouldn’t call Ron a renaissance man. A renaissance man is someone who is fairly good at a lot of things. Ron was amazing at everything.”





# L. RON HUBBARD

- ✱ As Penn & Teller would say...
- ✱ Well, Penn would say...
- ✱ It's all bullshit





# EARLY LIFE

- ✿ Not quite riding barely broken horses by the time he was 3 years old
- ✿ Though he was somewhat of a prolific writer
- ✿ Earned 21 Scout merit badges in as many days





# TRAVELS IN THE EAST

- ✿ “He travelled far and wide in the Far East, taming local natives and exploring new cultures”
- ✿ Except for the bit of bad luck he picked up being born on Friday the 13th





# RON THE EXPLORER

- ✱ “Between 14-18 (1925 - 1929) he travelled widely, went to George Washington University to do nuclear physics, became a director via the Caribbean Motion Picture Expedition and conducted the West Indies Mineral Survey”





# UNIVERSITY YEARS

- ✱ Joined the staff of The Hatchett
- ✱ Founded the Gliding Club
- ✱ Began writing for Sportsman Pilot





# THE CARIBBEAN

- ✿ That summer Hubbard said about organising the “Caribbean Motion Picture Expedition”
- ✿ Hundreds of students joined him in his brave quest





# PUERTO RICO

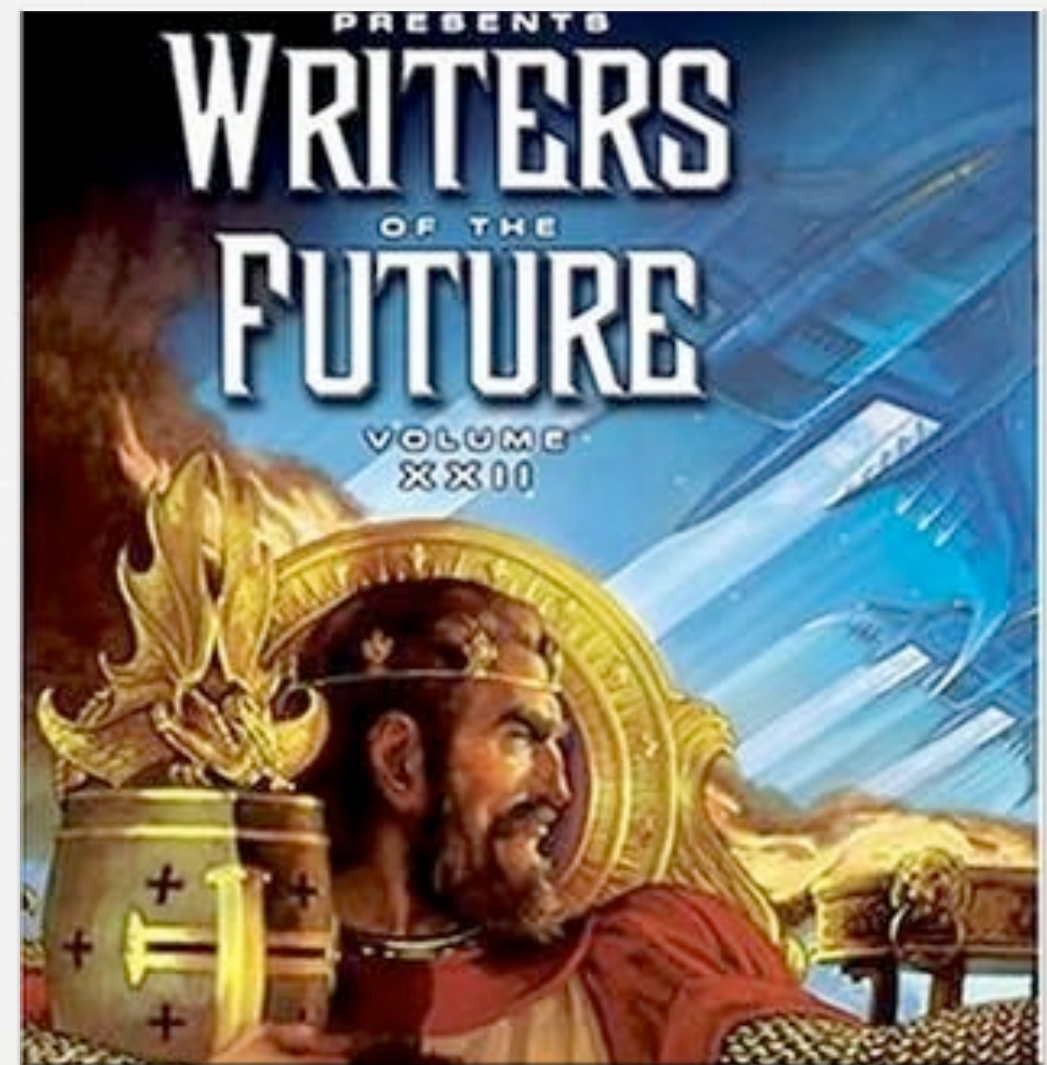
- ✿ Conducted the West Indies Mineral Survey
- ✿ The first complete survey of Puerto Rico
- ✿ It's just a shame that nobody can find all the records he made





# TRUE TALENT

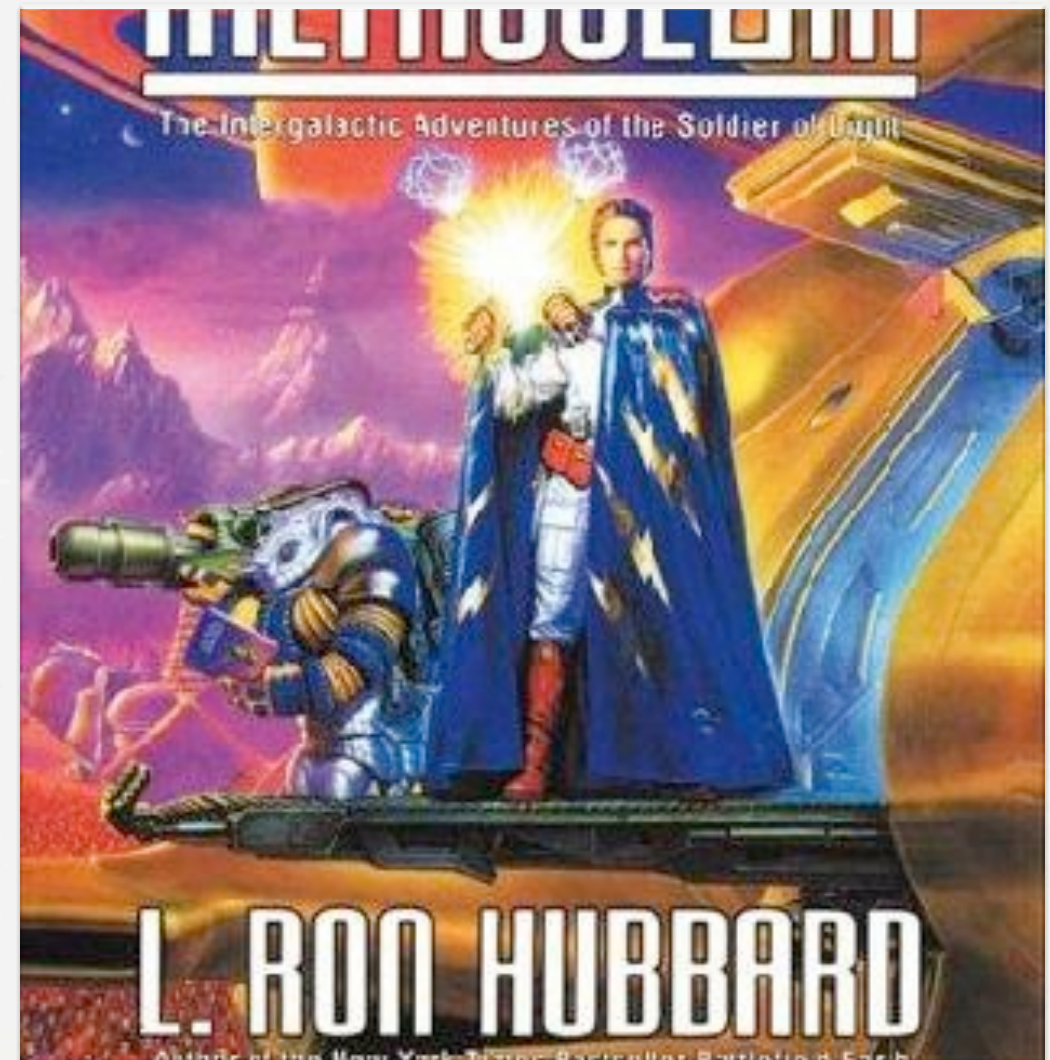
- ✿ “Between 1933 and 1941 Ron wrote over seven million words”
- ✿ This is probably the closest to the truth we’re going to get today





# SCIENCE FICTION

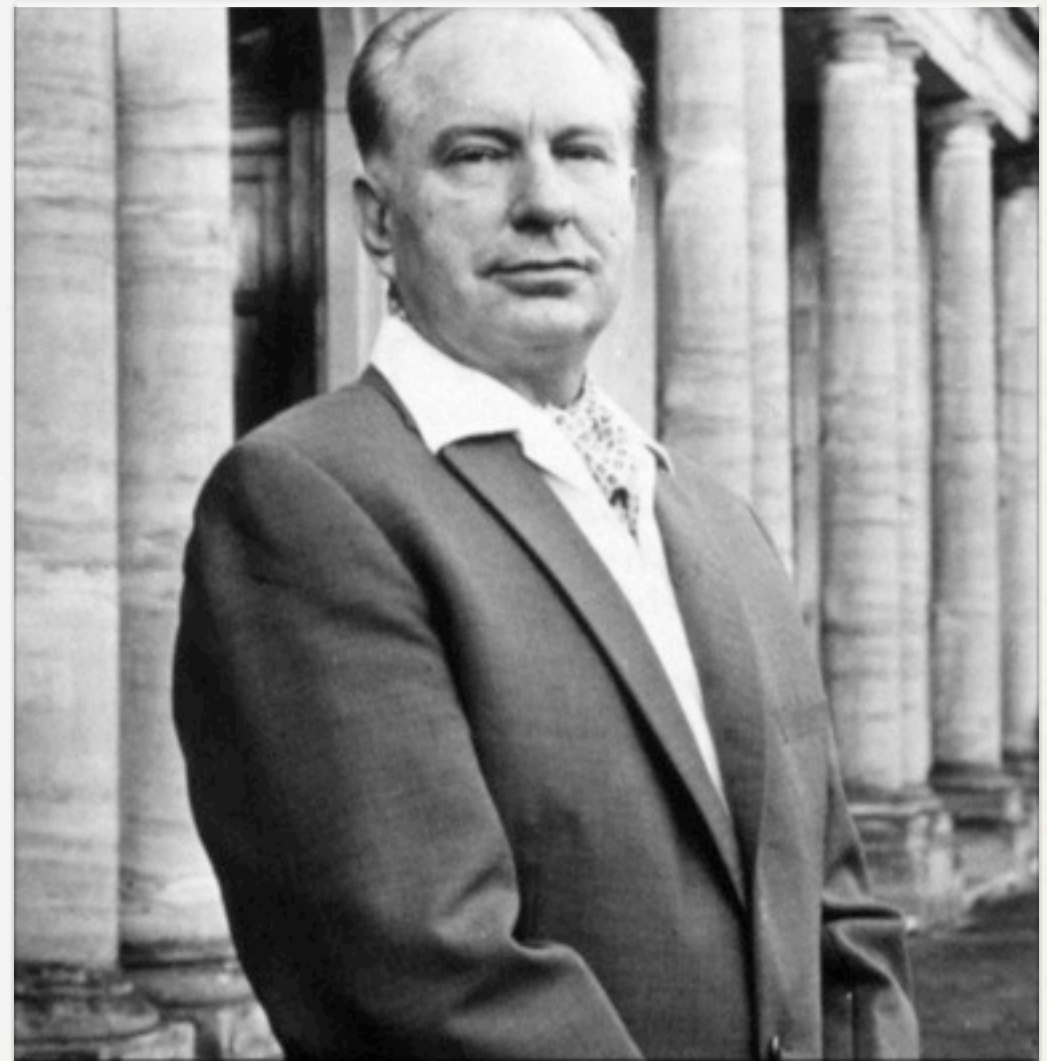
- ✿ “Ron was asked to try his science fiction and when he did, he changed the face of the genre”
- ✿ Because who hasn’t read a book by L. Ron Hubbard?





# WAR STORIES

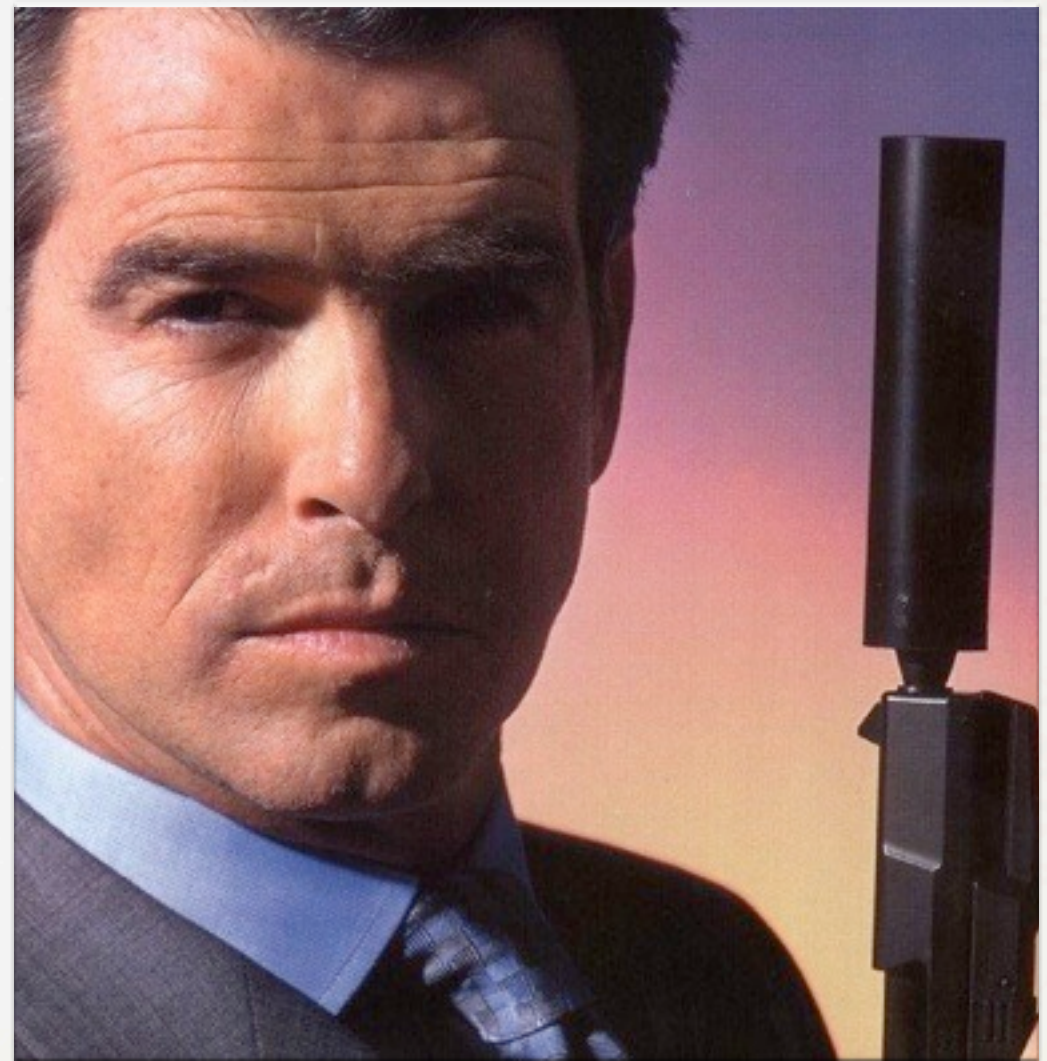
- ✱ “Ron was a war hero and the first causality to be returned from the Far East”
- ✱ Of course, if you draw your map the right way, anywhere can be East





# BLACK MAGIC

- ✿ “Hubbard broke up black magic in America and rescued a girl”
- ✿ How James Bond of him
- ✿ Not too busy to start a boating business however





# THE WORK BEGINS

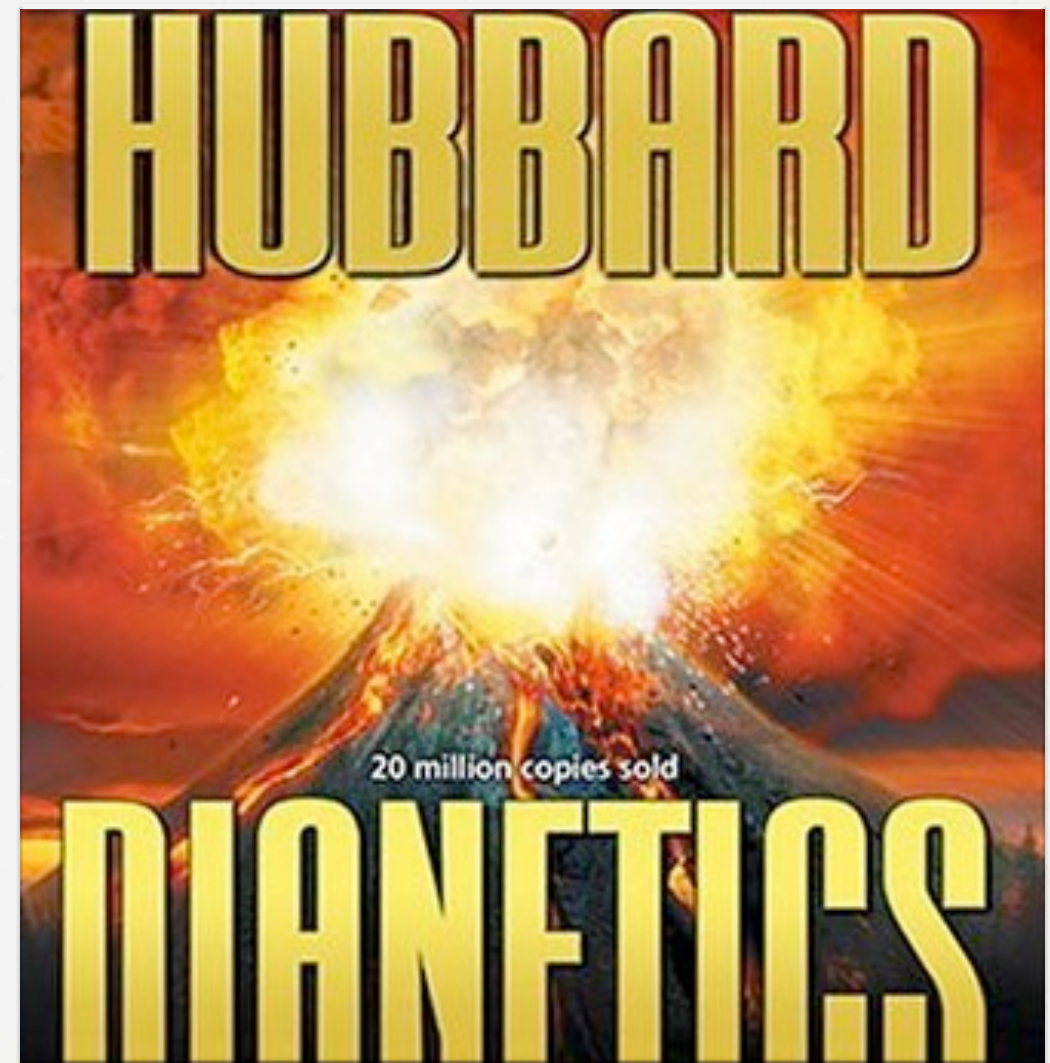
- ✿ “In 1948 his writings on the nature of life began to privately circulate and all that read it regarded it as a huge breakthrough”
- ✿ Even if Ron later admitted Excalibur didn't actually exist





# DIANETICS

- ✱ Launched in 1950  
Dianetics was received cautiously at first but soon became a national craze
- ✱ Not the lack of quote marks, this actually happened!





# THE FOUNDATION

- ✿ “The government tried to force him to work for them for evil but he resigned and escaped - and ever after the government hated him”
- ✿ Basically, the Navy said, “I’m sure you signed up with us...”





# BACK IN THE USA

- ✿ Millionaire Don Purcell began bankrolling Hubbard
- ✿ They said up a new foundation in Wichita
- ✿ At which point Ron began plotting the conversion to religion





# PHOENIX

- ✿ “Hubbard got many honours and awards including an honorary doctorate”
- ✿ Hubbard moved to Phoenix, Arizona and founded the Hubbard Association of Scientologists





# GETTING RELIGIOUS

- ✿ “In February 1954 the first Church of Scientology was founded”
- ✿ They got the date wrong but what do details like that matter in official biographies?





# MERRY OLD ENGLAND

- ✱ “I won the Maharajah’s Sussex estate in a poker game”
- ✱ Well if by “won” you mean bought
- ✱ And if by “poker game” you mean not a poker game





# BUMPS IN THE ROAD

- ✿ In 1963 the FDA raided the Scientology office in Washington
- ✿ Australia outlawed Scientology
- ✿ He was kicked out of Rhodesia





# THE SEA ORG

- ✿ In 1967 Hubbard founded “Sea Org” and appointed himself Commodore
- ✿ To distance himself from the church he also resigned as the head of the Church of Scientology





# MESSENGERS

- ✿ Hubbard became paranoid, checking everyone's mail and create fake companies for people to travel under
- ✿ But that's to be expected when you have your own private navy





# FRAUD & FEAR

- ✿ The French Church of Scientology was indicted for fraud
- ✿ Hubbard fled to New York and the CIA began to give chase





# BACK ON DRY LAND

- ✿ The Sea Org moved back to land and established a new headquarters in Clearwater, Florida
- ✿ From here Ron's paranoia spread to outright madness





# MAKING MOVIES

- ✿ In 1977 he launched “Purification Rundown” to rid the world of drugs
- ✿ He then wrote a film script about an alien named “Xenu” and formed Cine Org





# ONE LAST ROADTRIP

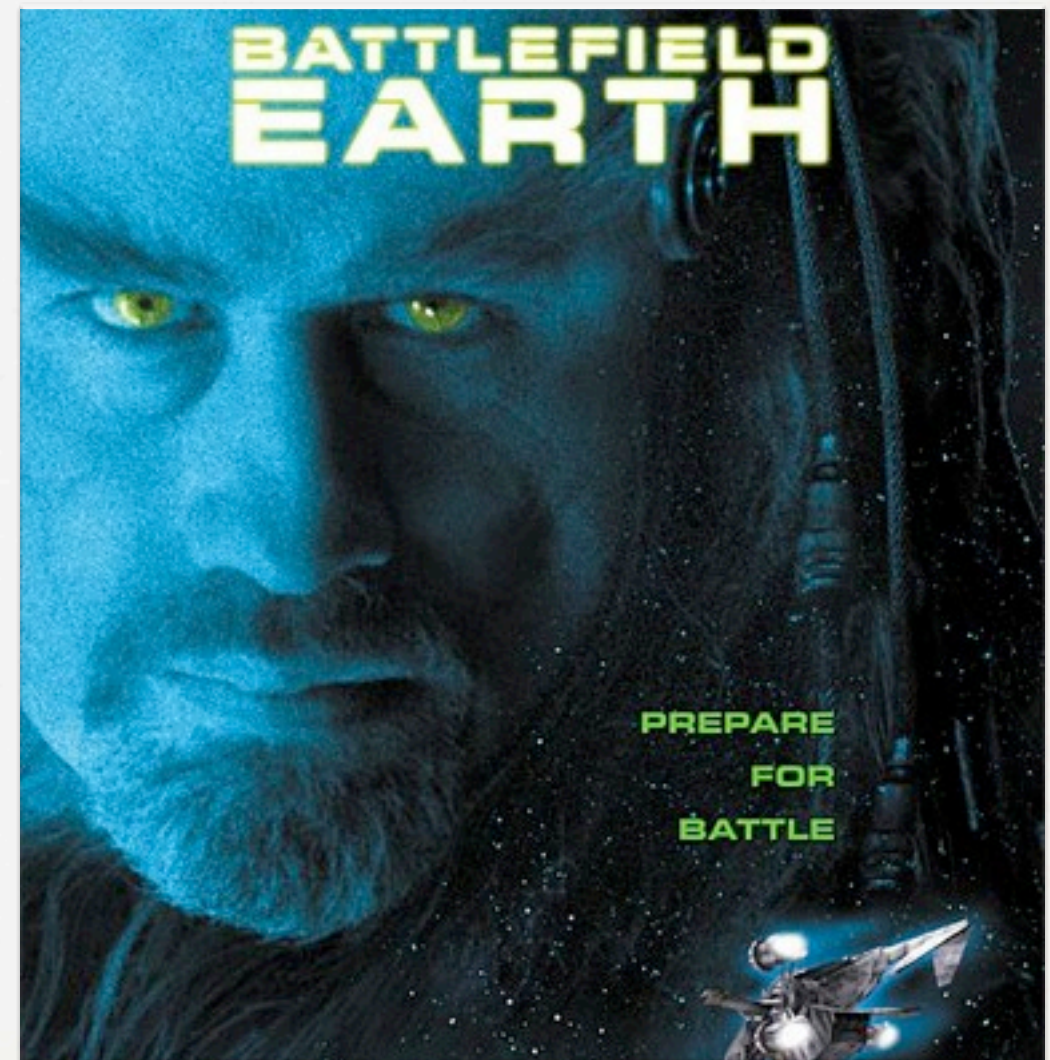
- ✿ Hubbard was incredibly paranoid by this point
- ✿ When someone was seen taking photos of the ranch Hubbard fled once again and came to the sleepy mountain town of Hemet





# END OF DAYS

- ✿ Even after his disappearance he released a novel “Battlefield Earth”
- ✿ Then on 19 January 1986 he sent his last communication ever - promoting himself to Admiral





# CONCLUSIONS

- ✿ L. Ron Hubbard may not match up to the legends of the Church's official biographies
- ✿ But he was without a doubt one of the greatest bullshitters in human history

