



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

Rev Chris Worfolk



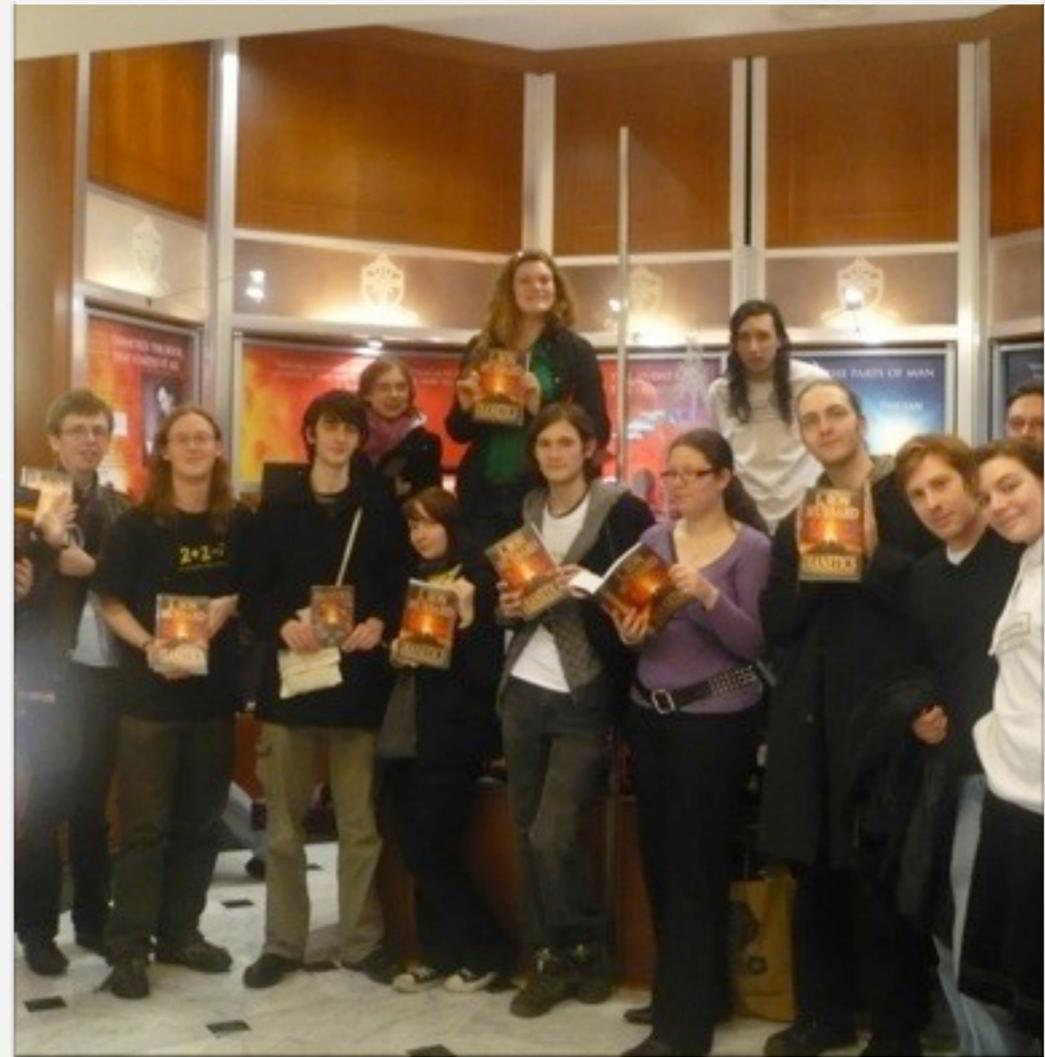
TODAY'S SPEAKER

- ✿ 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



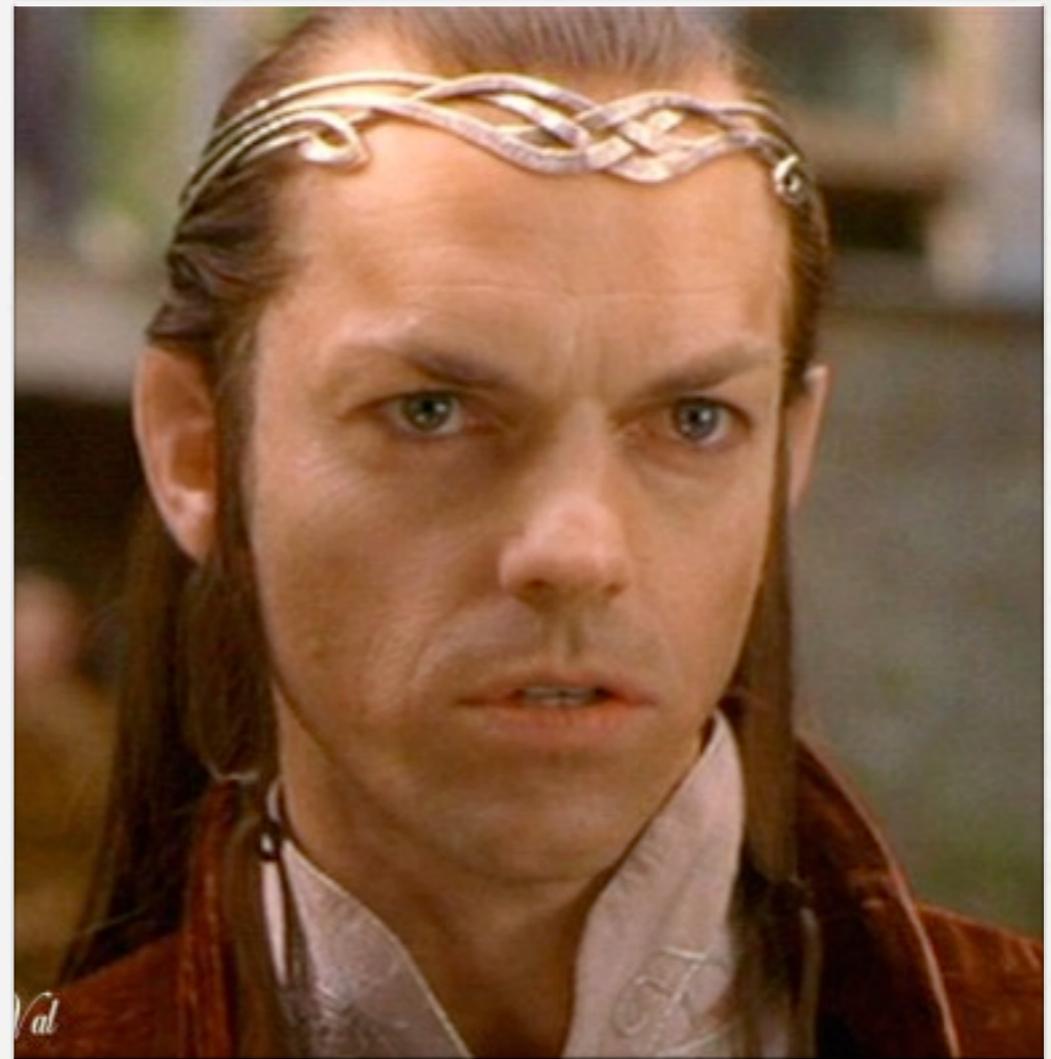
L. RON HUBBARD

- ✿ 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



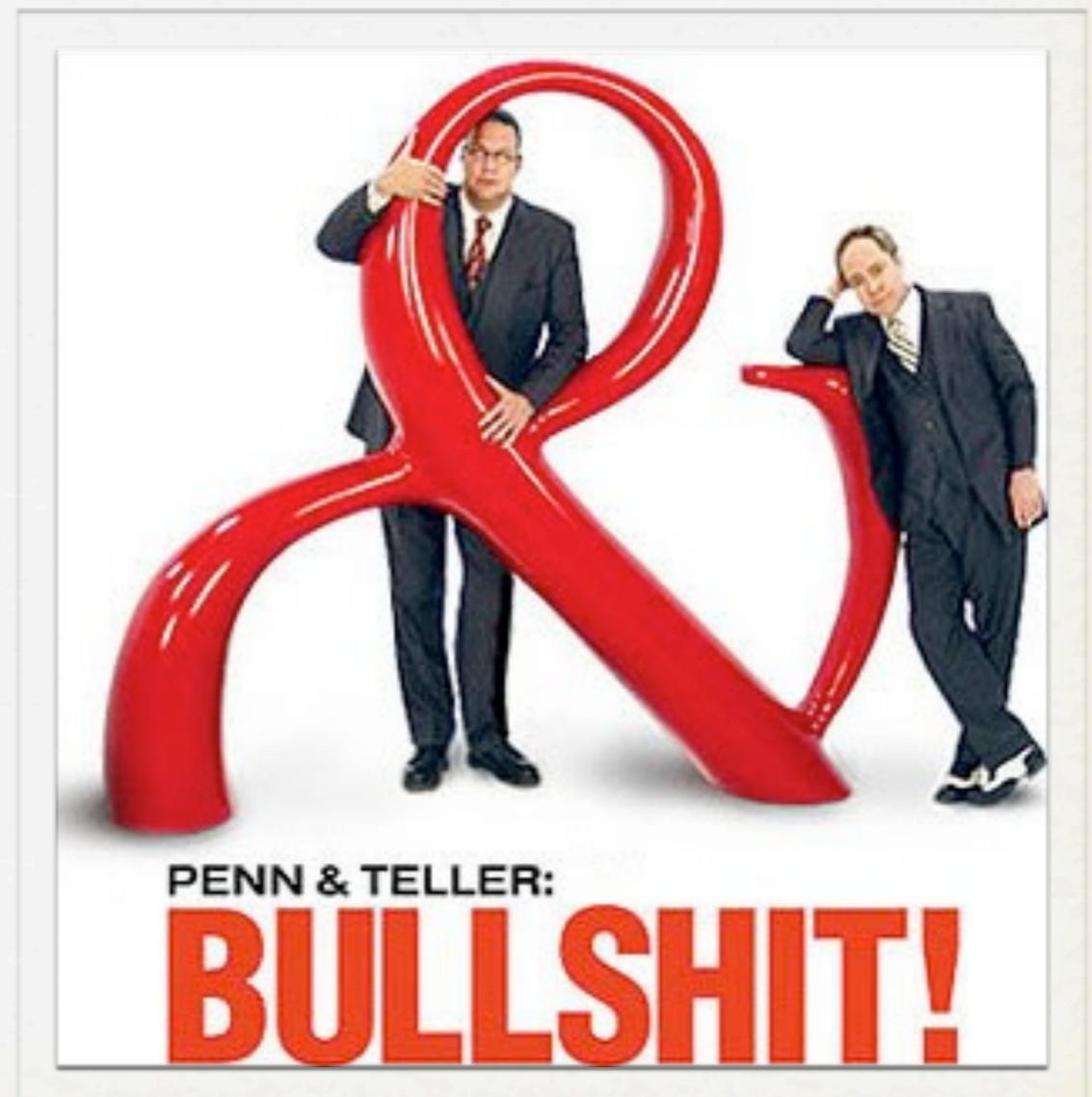
L. RON HUBBARD

- ✿ 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



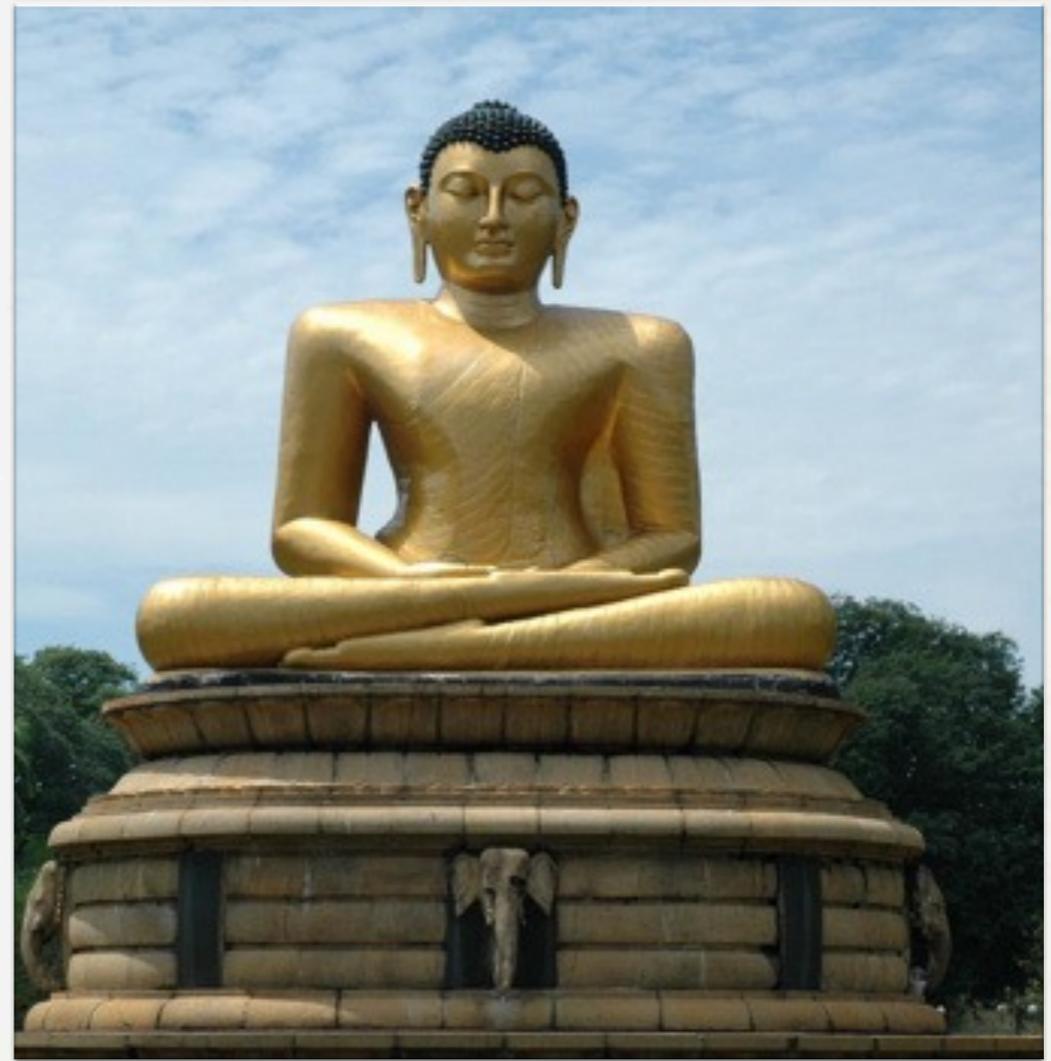
EARLY LIFE

- ✿ 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



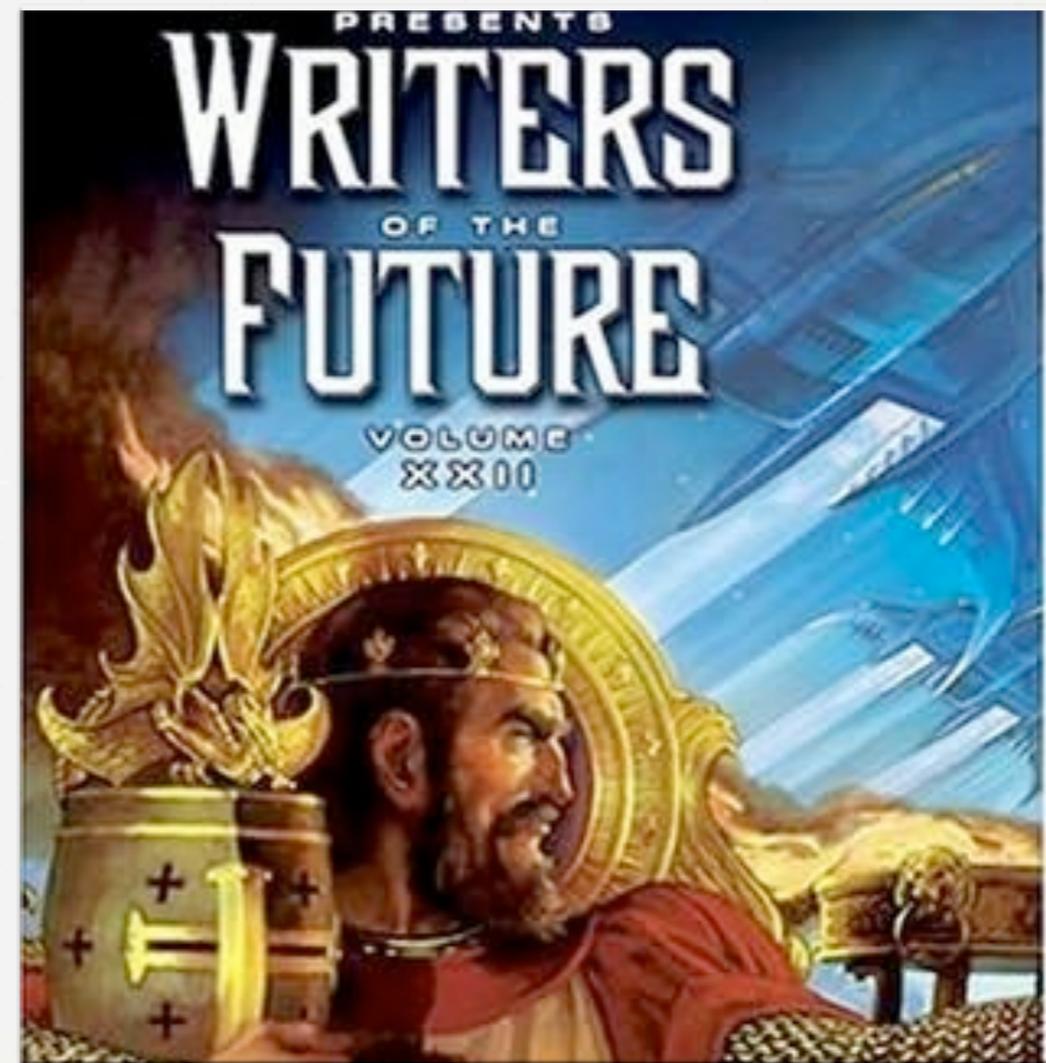
PUERTO RICO

- ✿ 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



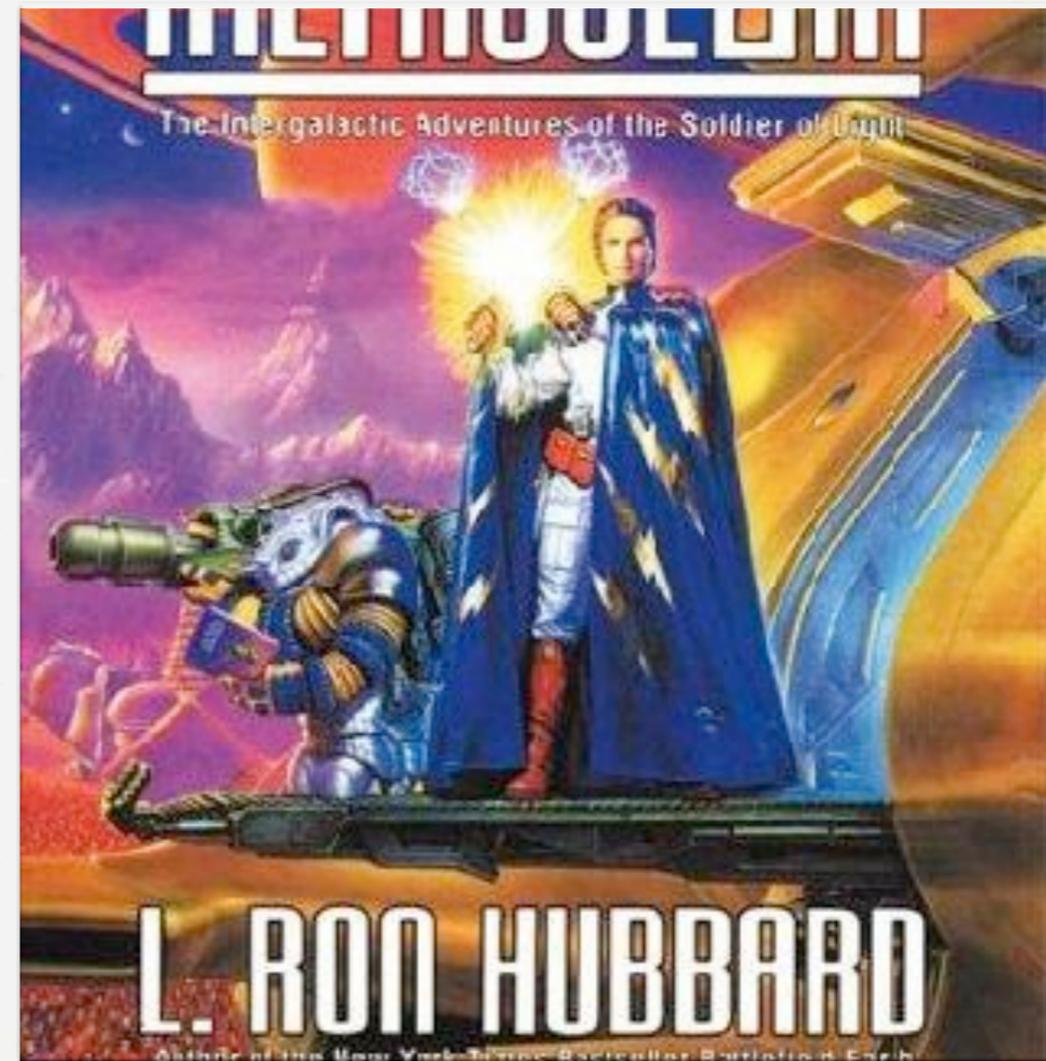
TRUE TALENT

- ✿ “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?



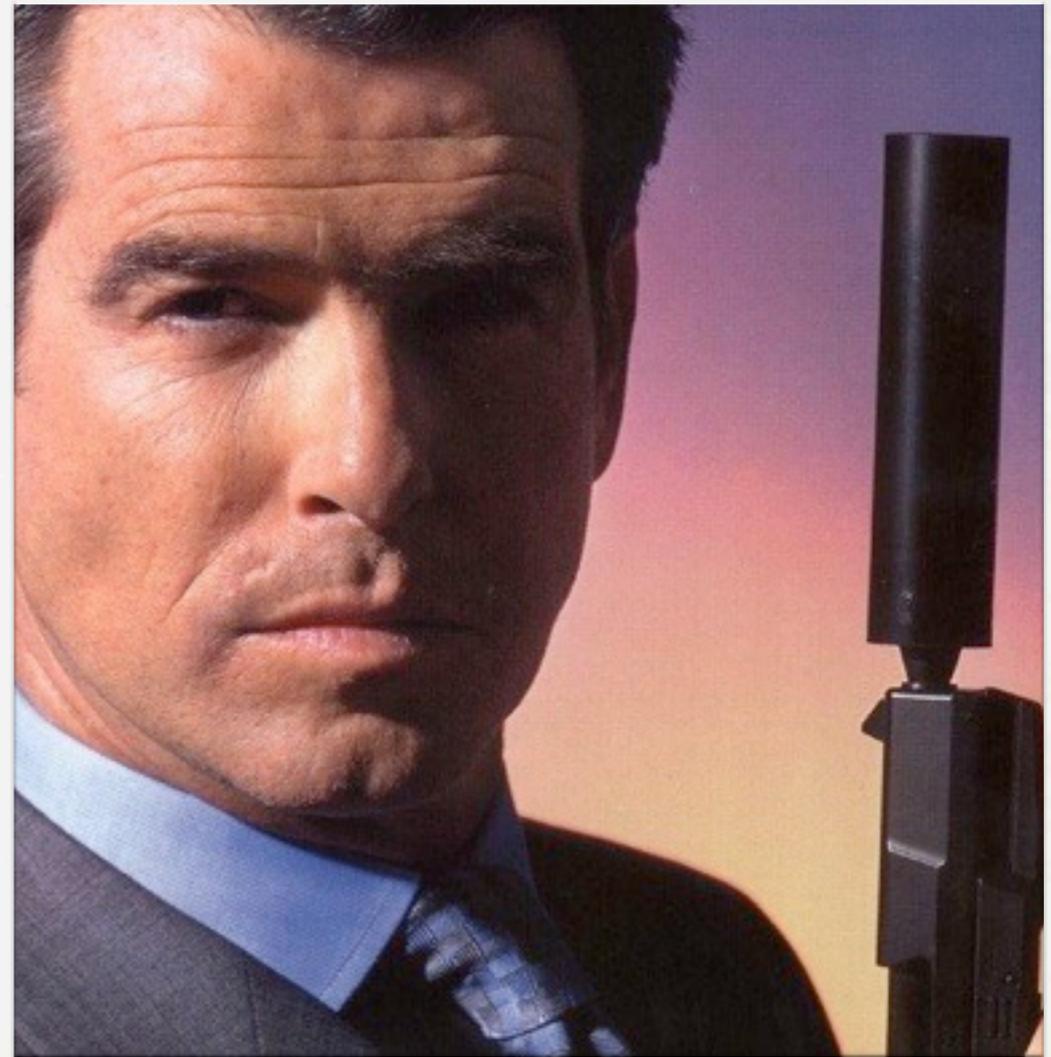
WAR STORIES

- ✿ “Ron was a war hero and the first casualty 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



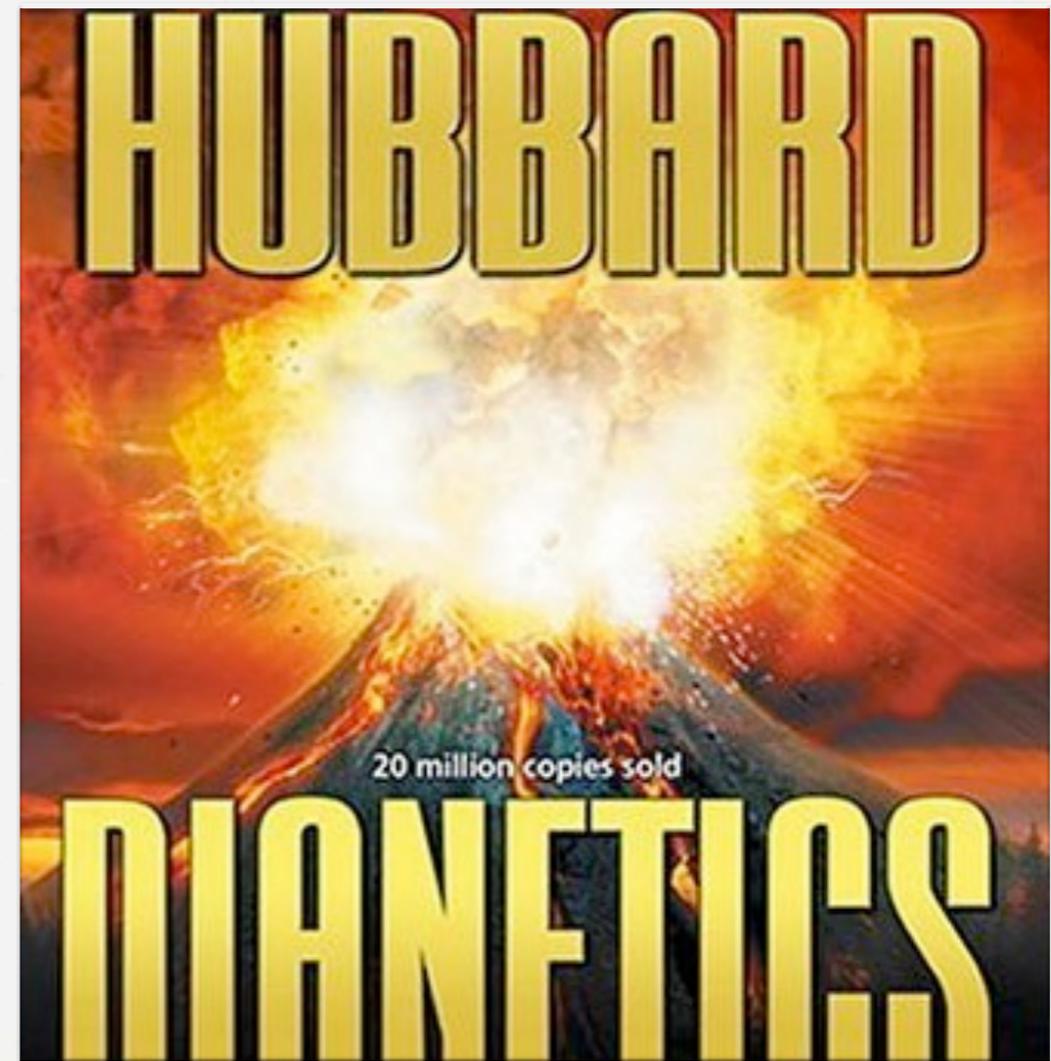
THE WORK BEGINS

- ✿ “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



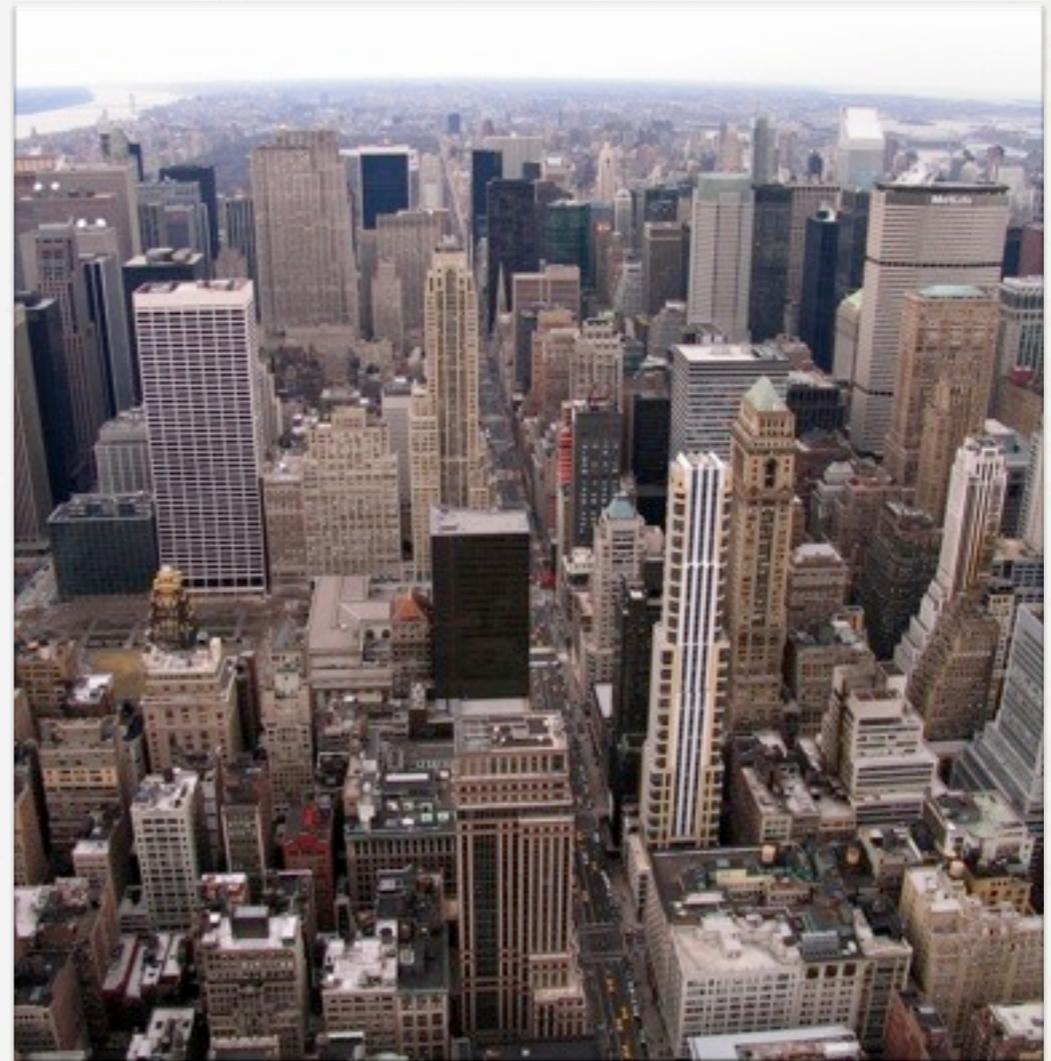
MESSENGERS

- ✿ 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



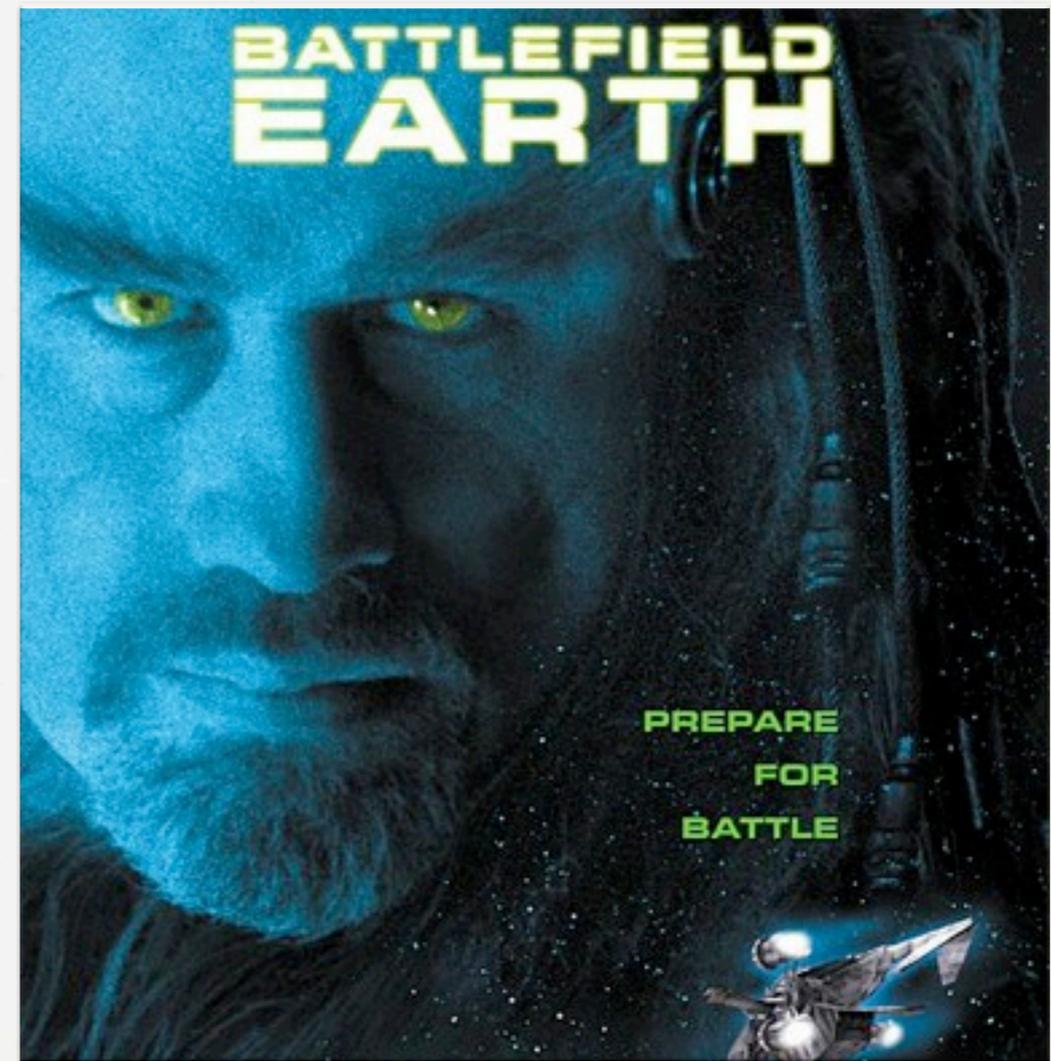
ONE LAST ROADTRIP

- ✿ 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

