

**1950 Shades of Pinks and Greys:  
Was L. Ron Hubbard Drugged Out When He Developed OT III?**

Ian C. Camacho  
*Independent Scholar*  
ian.c.camacho@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT:** Former Scientology archivist and ex-Scientologist Gerald “Gerry” Armstrong asserts that founder L. Ron Hubbard drank and used drugs in 1967 at Las Palmas when he researched OT III (Operating Thetan Level 3), per a purported letter admitting such to his wife Mary Sue Hubbard. Armstrong never introduced the letter into court as evidence, nor did it appear in any court transcript, which Armstrong freely admits. All of Hubbard’s letters to Mary Sue in the evidence log either lack descriptions or dates. Notably, Armstrong made this claim after the trial, and others soon echoed him. These claims do not hold up well under scrutiny, however, as many self-contradict or contradict each other. Furthermore, publicly available articles and earlier testimonies give an opposite narrative. While Hubbard’s whereabouts and activities in 1967 remain unclear, the burden of proof rests on the accusers, given that the currently available evidence suggests otherwise.

**KEYWORDS:** Captain Bill Robertson, Scientology and Fake News, Gerry Armstrong, Janis Gillham-Grady, L. Ron Hubbard, Mary Sue Hubbard, OT III, Pinks and Greys, Scientology, Virginia Downsborough.

*Acknowledgements*

Many people helped with the research for this project. First and foremost, I would like to thank Janis Gillham-Grady for spending an afternoon with me in Hollywood, CA for our in-depth interview regarding her time with L. Ron Hubbard from the 1960s and 1970s as well as further detailing her book *Commodore’s Messenger*. I also wish to thank Dan Koon for responding to my questions over email to clarify his (mis)quote in *Going Clear* about Hubbard’s 1967 letters. The Church of Scientology’s Bridge Publications representatives, though unable to provide any new data, did take the time to look into my

questions about two reels that appear in the 1978 *What is Scientology?* book, and so I thank them for investigating. Thanks also to Professor Hugh Urban for engaging with me over email regarding the citations of Hubbard and Benzedrine usage in 1950. I also appreciate both Gerald “Gerry” Armstrong and Lawrence Wright for responding to my questions via email. I would like to thank Randy Smith and Kay Christenson for reviewing the first drafts of this paper, their edits and overall feedback. Thanks also go to Trey Lotz for offering help with the citations. I’d also like to thank Jeff Young for finding the newspaper article citing Captain Jones. Major thanks go to Massimo Introvigne and the peer reviewers at *The Journal of CESNUR* for making sure I’m remaining within boundaries of the law, writing clearly, and also properly citing my references. And most of all, thanks to my lovely wife Olga for patiently supporting my work during all this time.

### *Introduction*

The claim that L. Ron Hubbard (1911–1986) told his wife Mary Sue (1931–2002) “I’m drinking lots of rum and popping pinks and greys” traces back to Gerald “Gerry” Armstrong. According to *L. Ron Hubbard: Messiah or Madman?* Armstrong first made this claim to author Bent Corydon sometime before the end of his 1984 trial (Corydon and DeWolf 1987, 59). Since then, other Scientology opponents, including Jon Atack, Janet Reitman, and Lawrence Wright, repeated Armstrong’s claims with almost no investigation into them. Armstrong has since speculated that Hubbard referenced Darvon, also known as Dextropropoxyphene, a narcotic painkiller in the purported letter with the “pinks and greys” sentence (Armstrong 2018a).



**Figure 1.** Pink and Grey Darvon pills.

Armstrong did not introduce this purported letter into trial evidence, nor does it appear in any court transcripts, which Armstrong himself admits on his website (Armstrong 2018a). The only items possibly fitting the description of such a letter would appear in a court inventory list of items appropriated by Armstrong: Hubbard's undated letters to Mary Sue, and four handwritten letters dated between January to February 1967 without descriptions or addressees, three of which Hubbard wrote in one week.

2 Wires from MSH to LRH  
 24 WIRES FROM LRH to MSH  
 18 MSH letters to LRH  
 33 LRH letters to MSH

Signed (all)

Figure 2. List of undated letters and wires from L. Ron Hubbard to Mary Sue Hubbard (MSH).

Los Angeles, California, 22 June 1984  
 Clerk of Dept. No. 57 of the Superior Court

*R. Hart*  
 Signature of Court Clerk

★ DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS	I.D. Only	Pif. or Defr.	Letter or Number	Date of Withdrawal	Signature Receipt
Copy of handwritten letter dated 7-11-66 and copy of envelope, eight pages			PLFFS 500-1	✓	
Copy of four page document entitled "constitution"			500-2	✓	
Copy of one-page letter dated 5-5-66 Thompson to Hubbard			500-3	✓	
Copy of handwritten letter dated 1-3-66 and copy of envelope, <u>TEN PAGES</u>			500-4	✓	
Copy of three-page handwritten letter dated 1-8-67			500-5	✓	
Copy of four-page handwritten letter, 1-25-67			500-6	✓	
Copy of seven-page handwritten letter, 2-1-67 and copy of envelope			500-7	✓	
Copy of six-page handwritten letter, 2-3-67 and copy of envelope (note: letter has no page numbered 5)			500-8	✓	

★ Describe fully. If for identification only, so state in appropriate column.

By Sherry Lewis Deputy  
 7-12-19-84

76R172X (REV. 2-78) 11-82  
 2-142

Figure 3. List of letters dated from 8 January to 3 February 1967 without recipients listed.

Tracing Hubbard's whereabouts during early 1967 proves difficult, as varying and conflicting perspectives emerge. Records from the Church of Scientology only further complicate matters, as these often contradict other information. The clearest indicator of what occurred comes from Hubbard himself in RJ 67 (Ron's Journal 1967) dated 20 September 1967, in which he stated:

[I]n January and February of this year, I became very ill, almost lost this body, and somehow or another brought it off and obtained the material, and was able to live through it. I am very sure that I was the first one that ever did live through any attempt to attain that material. This material I'm talking about, of course, is very upper level material and you will forgive me if I don't describe it to you in very broad detail because it's very likely to make you sick, too (Hubbard 2005).

Although Armstrong claims to have seen a letter detailing Hubbard's drug and alcohol use, given the evidence, nothing indicates that this occurred, outside of Armstrong's own claims.

### *The Burden of Proof*

Although it may appear that what follows provides a sort of proof that a letter exists in which L. Ron Hubbard stated to Mary Sue that he drank rum and popped pink and grey pills, one should note that the burden of proof does not rest upon the skeptic in this matter. The burden of proof weighs upon those who assert that an object, event, or process exists. Unless someone can provide verifiable evidence for the claim, skeptics and audiences should treat the claim as false.

Claiming that skeptics or those accused must show something to prove non-existence invokes the "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence" argument, ironically, an argument often used by religious devotees. This tactic occurs when Armstrong redirects skeptics to the Church of Scientology for a copy of the letter. Indeed, scholars such as Hugh Urban approached Armstrong in 2010 for more details about the purported letter. Armstrong insisted that the Church of Scientology claimed that he forged the letter, but because the church had not provided any such forgery, Armstrong used this as proof that the church had the letter, causing Urban to abandon further pursuit as he could not verify the claim (Armstrong 2018a).

Asking the Church of Scientology to produce a copy of the letter creates a lose-lose scenario, subtly shifting the burden of proof to the accused. If indeed

authentic, then presenting such a letter would invite scorn on Hubbard and the church. If it produced a forged copy, then it could not prove that Armstrong created it as he could deny having forged it—after all, a forger would attempt to pass off a phony document as authentic to deceive others. If the church presents nothing—whether because it has something potentially damning or because nothing exists—then Armstrong and his allies can claim that the Church of Scientology has something to hide in this matter, just as they do now.

Thus, Armstrong uses a sleight of hand with both red-herring arguments and circular reasoning to explain his lack of evidence: he alleges that the Church of Scientology claimed that he forged the purported “pinks and greys” document—which nobody else but he, Hubbard and Mary Sue supposedly saw—and, because the church has not provided a copy of this allegedly forged document, Armstrong uses their inability or unwillingness to produce it as evidence that they possess the letter. Witnessing Scientology’s skeptics’ failure to apply anywhere near the same level of scrutiny to Armstrong’s claims as they would do with claims by Scientologists or other religious adherents reveals a massive confirmation bias.

Again, Armstrong claims that he saw documents that nobody else did—aside from Hubbard and Mary Sue supposedly, both now dead. Armstrong also allegedly had exclusive access to this purported letter for years, and even stated in his trial that he appropriated Hubbard’s archives to prepare for a lawsuit against the Church of Scientology and made copies for his own protection from the church. Regardless of what one thinks of the ethics and morals involved, he not only had damaging and potentially embarrassing documents, but he has also leaked copies of them since, despite court orders not to do so, which has resulted in multiple findings of contempt of court and civil arrest warrants issued (Armstrong 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2009d, 2009e). Needless to say, for nearly forty years Armstrong described or published whatever documents that he could of Hubbard and Scientology in spite of the legal consequences. With this particular item, however, he has only redirected anybody who asked about it to the church.

One should also not infer that if Armstrong’s and others’ claims fail to meet the burden of proof, then Hubbard’s OT III claims therefore have truth; both claims may fail. This paper does not take a stance as to the veracity of Hubbard’s OT III claims, especially given that several others have already done so. Rather, it argues that dismissing Hubbard’s OT III claims because he supposedly drank and did

drugs during his research not only lacks any factual basis, but also fails to address counter claims and recently uncovered documentation. Thus, a timeline provided at the end of this article and a review of the claims presented will raise questions about an old narrative surrounding the ever-controversial OT III story, and may perhaps even settle some of them.

### *Church Contradictions*

Little material regarding Hubbard's whereabouts during early 1967 appears anywhere, and some claims even appear fabricated. For example, according to the 1978 edition of *What Is Scientology?* Hubbard gave a lecture on 12 January 1967 titled "OT & Clear Graduation aboard *Royal Scotman* [sic]" (Taylor 1978, 316). Yet the Church of Scientology's own promotional materials contradict this claim as their publications state that in November 1967 "Hubbard travels to England [from the Mediterranean] and accepts delivery of the 3,200-ton royal vessel *Royal Scotsman* as a further expansion of the Sea Org" (CSI 2007). Likewise, Flag Order 639 dated 28 April 1968 "Functions of the Sea Organization A Rapid Summary" also contradicts the January 1967 lecture date. Here Hubbard wrote, "The Royal Scotsman was bought in October '67 to take aboard Worldwide from SH [Saint Hill] as a Sea Based Org," which would place his possession of the boat 10 months after the supposed January 1967 graduation. Similarly, Flag Order 294 "Work Order" of 14 November 1967 gave the earliest known mention of the *Royal Scotsman*.

Hubbard might have stayed in England when his wife Mary Sue "went Clear" (a very important milestone for a Scientologist) in January, but even this event date came two weeks after the supposed 12 January 1967 lecture:

Finally, the Clearing Course Supervisor ordered her to be checked out and as suspected, Mary Sue had been Clear for some time and was working at O.T. level, Grade VIII, and passed a very thorough Clear check easily on January 26, 1967, becoming Clear 208 (Snoeck 2020; *The Auditor* 1967).

Given her graduation date, it would have made more sense for the "OT & Clear Graduation aboard *Royal Scotman* [sic]" to occur *after* she "went Clear." Furthermore, Hubbard did not own the *Royal Scotsman* until October/November 1967, nor does any evidence elsewhere suggest that Hubbard had early access to it or resided in England in January 1967.

Former Commodore’s Messenger Janis Gillham-Grady also stated that she had never heard of this lecture nor seen any transcript: “Hubbard didn’t have the *Royal Scotsman* until November 1967. That must be a typo/error. He would have done this lecture in 1968 if at all” (Gillham-Grady 2020). It thus appears that someone in the church either fabricated this date or made an error in the lecture date and details. When asked to clarify these contradictions with the published lecture date, a Bridge Publications representative stated that they would not provide any copies of this lecture, or even have it (Phone interview with Author, 8 October 2019).

Similarly, the 1978 edition of *What Is Scientology?* showed another lecture from 25 February 1967, titled “The Big Auditing Problem” (Taylor, Brice, and de Celle 1978, 316). Again, the Church of Scientology’s own materials contradict this, as supposedly “Hubbard meets the *Enchanter*” in Las Palmas during this time (CSI 2007). No other accounts of Hubbard having lectured that day have yet surfaced.

Nine HCO PLs also issued from Saint Hill from around this time: (1) “An Open Letter to All Clears” from 17 January, (2) “Non-Scientology Staff” revised 25 January 1967 and 7 March 1967 (originally issued 20 October 1961), (3) “LRH Property, Building and Plans Branch,” in which he turned his property over to the organization, also dated 22 February 1967, (4) “Personnel Requirement” from 22 March 1967, (5) “Safeguarding Technology” reissued 7 June 1967 (originally issued 14 February 1965), (6) “Office of LRH,” which lays out plans for the organization, and in this he mentions “LRH Ship Plans Unit” from 22 February 1967, (7) a 21 May 1967 reissue of “Theory Check-Out Data” (originally issued 4 October 1964), (8) a reissue on 7 June 1967 of “Responsibility Again” (originally issued 17 January 1962), and (9) a 23 June 1967 reissue of “Policies of Physical Healing, Insanity and Potential Trouble Sources” (originally issued 27 October 1964) (Hubbard 1967a, 1967b, 1967c, 1967d, 1967e, 1967f, 1967g, 1967h, 1967i).

Hubbard also published eight HCO Bulletins during this time: (1) “Dating-Forbidden Words” and (2) “Sub Zero Releases Examiner’s Safeguard” on 2 January 1967, (3) “Manifestations of Engrams and Secondaries Further Defined” on 19 January 1967, (4) “Scales” on 3 February 1967, (5) “Admin Know-How The Responsibility of Leaders” on 12 February 1967, (6) “Admin Know-How—Alter-Is and Degraded Beings” on 22 March 1967, (7) “Religious

Philosophy and Religious Practice” revised on 18 April 1967, and (8) “Evidences of an Aberrated Area” on 30 June 1967 (Hubbard 1967j, 1967k, 1967l, 1967m, 1967n, 1967o, 1967p, 1967q).

Hubbard also appeared as the editor of *Ability* magazine for issues 189–192, which spanned from January to April 1967 (Hubbard 1967r, 1967s, 1967t, 1967u). Hubbard either (1) wrote these HCO PLs and HCOBs and edited the magazine from Saint Hill, (2) sent these from abroad, (3) wrote them before his departure and instructed the staff to publish them later, or (4) someone else wrote them and edited them on his behalf. If he sent them from Saint Hill, then this upends all claims that follow. If he sent them from abroad, then Hubbard could not only answer mail effectively but also could edit a small magazine. If he did them before leaving, then it begs the question as to how the magazines had items from later months. If someone else wrote them, then it raises questions as to what other items people wrote and signed in his name during this time.

It remains unknown why the Church of Scientology’s chronology shows Hubbard aboard the *Royal Scotsman* on 25 February, nearly ten months before he took ownership. Likewise, why the church maintains that he gave a lecture aboard *The Enchanter* and met the crew in Las Palmas, whereas prior records show him already aboard *The Enchanter* on 25 February also remains unknown. Unfortunately, none of this confirms Hubbard’s whereabouts; the records only allow for speculation into what actually happened in early 1967.

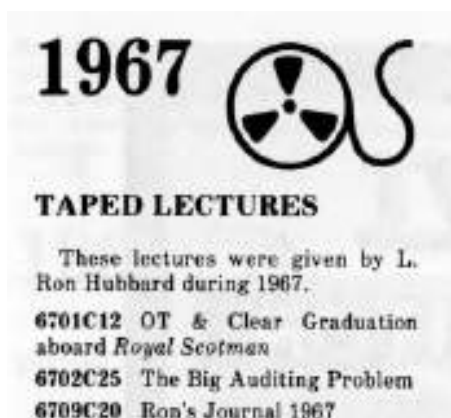


Figure 4. Two listed 1967 Taped Lectures prior to Ron’s Journal 1967.



*Letters Not Forget*

Bent Corydon's 1987 book *Messiah or Madman* published the first mention of Hubbard using drugs in Las Palmas:

Armstrong, told me, among other things, of a letter to his third wife, Mary Sue, when Hubbard was in Las Palmas during 1967 at the inception of the Sea Org. This letter is now in custody of the court. In it Hubbard tells his wife: "I'm drinking lots of rum and popping pinks and greys" (Corydon and DeWolf 1987, 59).

Armstrong gave additional information on his own website:

I met Corydon, I believe, before the 1984 trial, and he attended a number of days of the trial. He lived in Riverside, CA, which is about 50 miles from LA. We communicated a number of times about many subjects during that period and afterward. I think, however, that the p[inks] & g[reys] letter would have come up in our conversations, and Corydon would have recorded or noted my language, after he began his research and interviews for his book (Armstrong 2018a).

With the purported letter "now in custody of the court" as per Corydon's book, Armstrong's statement thus occurred by 8 June 1984, when the trial ended.

Nevertheless, Armstrong later contradicted his own timeline:

It's likely that this interview with [Jon] Atack [dated 20 June 1984] *was the earliest time I mentioned* the p[inks] & g[reys] letter to any writer who later wrote about it (Armstrong 2018a, emphasis added).

Atack also wrote: "Hubbard had spent the last weeks of 1966 'researching' OT3 in North Africa. In a letter of the time, he admitted that he was taking drugs ('pinks and grays' [sic]) to assist his research," with a relevant citation: "16. Interview with Gerald Armstrong, East Grinstead, June 1984" (Atack 1990, 171 and 409). Given that Armstrong's trial had ended twelve days previously on 8 June 1984, Corydon stated that the letter was "now in custody of the court," indicating that Armstrong spoke with Corydon before Atack.

This alone does not mean that the letter does not exist, but it shows that Armstrong has an unreliable memory, at least in this regard. For example, the two books that presented Armstrong's claims have glaring chronological contradictions. In the interview with Atack, Armstrong claimed, "Hubbard had spent the last weeks of 1966 'researching' OT3 in North Africa. In a letter of the time, he admitted that he was taking drugs ('pinks and grays' [sic]) to assist his

research” (Atack 1990, 171). Whereas in the interview that Armstrong had with Corydon:

Armstrong told [...] of a letter to [Hubbard’s] third wife, Mary Sue, when Hubbard was in Las Palmas during 1967 at the inception of the Sea Org [...] In it, Hubbard tells his wife: “I’m drinking lots of rum and popping pinks and greys” (Corydon 1987, 59).

In other words, when Armstrong gave his earliest recollections of the alleged incident, he described it as having occurred in two different years and locations.

Armstrong’s website also indicated that he last possessed Hubbard’s archive in 1980–81, and that he last read the letter sometime in 1982:

I probably last read the letter in 1982, and it was not referred to in my 1984 trial. During the time I possessed Hubbard’s archive, 1980–81, *I got the idea that Hubbard wrote “pinks and greys” in 1967* (Armstrong 2018a, emphasis added).

In other words, Armstrong claims that he last read the purported letter sometime in 1982, which means that he last *saw it 18 to 30 months before his interview with Atack on 20 June 1984* (or Corydon, depending on which of his stories one wishes to use), in which he gave an incorrect date and location based on an assumption.

Despite listing several criticisms of Hubbard and the Church of Scientology in the trial itself, Armstrong admits that he never mentioned the purported letter either in any court summary nor in any transcript. When asked what Hubbard did in Las Palmas, Armstrong did not mention that Hubbard took drugs and drank alcohol. While he stated that “He [Hubbard] lied to her [Mary Sue] continually” and criticized Hubbard throughout the trial, Armstrong stated the following:

Q: Other than refitting a vessel which was the or became the Enchanter, do you know what else Hubbard was doing in Las Palmas in that period?

A: Well he was creating some OT-3 processing. He created something called the Wall of Fire. He was operating Scientology.

Q: From Las Palmas; is that correct?

A: Yes. He operated it wherever he was (Armstrong 2018b).

Nevertheless, his legal team did not submit any easily identifiable letter into evidence, such as with a date or specifics regarding drinking and drug use on OT III, which again Armstrong admits on his own website. At best, this makes his claim extremely uncharacteristic, as Armstrong usually would not refrain from sharing an embarrassing document of Hubbard regardless of fear of legal

penalties. Equally noteworthy, however, only after Armstrong made this claim did others start supporting it.

### *Talking Downsborough From Allege*

Two years after Armstrong made the “pinks and greys” claim in 1984, former Scientologist Virginia Downsborough (1916–2003) told author Russell Miller that she witnessed Hubbard on copious amounts of drugs in 1967:

Before being driven to the airport, Hubbard scribbled instructions for various members of the “sea project.” One of them was Virginia Downsborough [...] “After he had gone I was given a sealed envelope with his initials on. Inside were my orders. I had to go to Hull, get the *Enchanter* ready for sea and sail her to Gibraltar for a refit. Ron gave me a list of things he wanted from Saint Hill, mainly personal possessions and clothes, which I was to bring with me. I left for Hull next day [...] A lot of things needed to be done before the *Enchanter* was ready to sail,” she recalled, “so I lived on the *Avon River*, which was moored alongside and was absolutely filthy, for a couple of weeks while the work was being carried out.”

The *Enchanter* sailed in the New Year with a hired skipper and a novice crew of four Scientologists, including Downsborough. [...] After putting in briefly at Oporto, the *Enchanter* arrived safely in Gibraltar, only to discover there was no room in the ways. A message arrived from a Hubbard aide in Tangier saying that Ron was ill, and they were to continue to Las Palmas, in the Canary Islands. “We got the *Enchanter* on the ways in Las Palmas,” said Downsborough, “and we had not been there very long before Ron turned up. Bill Robertson—another Scientologist—and myself went to the post office to post some letters and discovered a telegram there from Ron saying that he was arriving in Las Palmas almost at that minute and wanted to be met. We jumped into a taxi and got to the airport just in time to pick him up as he was coming through Customs. We found him a hotel in Las Palmas and next day I went back to see if he was all right, because he did not seem to be too well.” “When I went in to his room there were drugs of all kinds everywhere. He seemed to be taking about sixty thousand different pills. I was appalled, particularly after listening to all his tirades against drugs and the medical profession. There was something very wrong with him, but I didn’t know what it was except that he was in a state of deep depression; he told me he didn’t have any more gains and he wanted to die. That’s what he said: ‘I want to die.’” Virginia Downsborough did not observe any broken limbs, but recognized that Ron needed nursing. “I moved into an adjoining room in the hotel to take care of him. He refused to eat the hotel food, so I got a little hotplate and cooked meals for him in the room, simple things, things that he liked. My main concern was to try and get him off all the pills he was on and persuade him that there was still plenty for him to do. He was sleeping a lot and refused to get out of bed.”

“I don’t know what drugs he was taking—they certainly weren’t making him high—but I knew I had to get him over it. I discussed it with him and gradually took them away. He didn’t carry on about it. He had brought a great pile of unopened mail with him from Tangier, a lot of it from Mary Sue, and I got him to start reading her letters. After about three weeks he decided he would get out of bed and he started taking little walks and then he got interested in what was happening on the *Enchanter* and after that he was all right.”

Mary Sue flew in to Las Palmas as soon as Ron was back on his feet and Virginia Downsborough was instructed to find the Hubbards a house. She rented the Villa Estrella, a pretty white-painted hacienda with a red-tiled roof on a rocky promontory facing the sea, about forty-five minutes drive from Las Palmas [...] When the *Enchanter* came off the ways in the harbor at Las Palmas, Hubbard took her out on extended cruises round the Canary Islands to search for gold he had buried in previous lives. [...] All these activities were supposed to remain a closely guarded secret and Hubbard insisted on the use of elaborate codes in Sea Org communications. In a dispatch [dated 22 April 1967] to Saint Hill he urged his followers not to feel “007ish and silly” about security. [...] In April 1967, the *Avon River* steamed into the harbor at Las Palmas after a voyage from Hull which the skipper, Captain John Jones, later described as “the strangest trip of my life” (Miller 1987, 265-68).

Indeed, Jon Atack provided more of Captain Jones’ quote as given to the *Daily Mirror*:

A larger vessel had been purchased, and sailed with an inexperienced crew to meet Hubbard at Las Palmas. The *Avon River* was a 414-ton trawler. Her first voyage, from Hull, was reported in the British press after her non-Scientologist Captain’s return. Captain John Jones and the chief engineer were the only professional sailors aboard. Jones called it “the strangest trip of his life”:

“My crew were sixteen men and four women Scientologists, who wouldn’t know a trawler from a tramcar. But they intended to sail this tub 4,000 [sic 3,000] miles in accordance with the Org Book. I was instructed not to use any electrical equipment apart from the lights, radio and direction finder. We had radar and other advanced equipment which I was not allowed to use. I was told it was all in the Org Book, which was to be obeyed without question. We tried these methods. Getting out of Hull we bumped the dock. Then, using the Org Book navigation system based on radio beams from the BBC and other stations, we got down of Lowestoft before the navigator admitted he was lost. I stuck to my watch and sextant, so at least I knew where we were” (Atack 1990, 194; *The Daily Mirror* 1967, 4).

# The Org and I (for explanation see below) by skipper of the Scientology ship



Captain Jones

**THE** strange saga of the seagoing Scientologists is one which Captain John Jones will not forget in a hurry.

For a start it was the first time he had run a ship according

From George Martin Gibraltar, Saturday.

to the rules of the Org Book.

Then the ship got lost; there was a "monumental bust-up" over who was in command; four women and other members of the crew were seasick; and there

were strange tests with "E" meters, "a kind of lie detector."

But first, the Org Book. This is an instruction manual written by Mr. Lafayette Ron Hubbard the wealthy American who founded the controversial cult of Scientology with headquarters at East Grinstead, Sussex.

Captain Jones 39 sailed with the Scientologists in the 31-ton Avon-river from Hull to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.

The captain and the chief engineer were the only professional sailors on board.

Captain Jones, who described the voyage as "the strangest trip of my life," said:

"My crew were sixteen men and four women Scientologists, who wouldn't know a trawler from a tramcar. But they intended to sail this tub 3,000 miles in strict accordance with the Org Book.

## Bumped

"I was instructed not to use any electrical equipment, apart from lights, radio and direction finder.

"We had radar and other advanced equipment which I was not allowed to use. I was told it was all in the Org Book which was to be obeyed without question.

"We tried these methods. Getting out of Hull we bumped the dock. Then, using the Org Book navigation system based on radio beams from the BBC and other stations, we got down off Lowestoft before the navigator admitted he was lost.

"I stuck to my watch and sextant, so at least I knew where we were."

Captain Jones added: "The sleeping arrangements for the Scientologists were another strange feature of the Org Book. They shared the same saloon with only a blanket dividing the men's section from the women."

## Bust Up

"But the Org Book also said that anyone guilty of sexual misconduct would be instantly sent back to the Scientology headquarters at East Grinstead."

Captain Jones added: "Going into Falmouth for fuel there was a monumental bust up because one of the group's leaders had been countermanding my orders."

"The chief engineer and I packed our bags and walked off when the engine room crew did not give him enough power to dock safely. The Org Book said, it seemed."

"After a lot of telephoning to East Grinstead the group leader was ordered ashore. He pleaded and begged but he had to go. Hubbard had spoken."

Captain Jones set sail from Gibraltar today as the navigating officer in another ship. He was not using the Org Book.

Figures 5 and 6. 24 December 1967 Daily Mirror article about The Avon River trip.

Although Downsborough's version as recounted by Miller seems supported and corroborated by Captain John Jones, his story only contains qualitative information about the *Avon River* trip. Her story, which contains quantitative claims also has several discrepancies and many disprovable points. To review, Miller wrote:

When the *Enchanter* came off the ways in the harbor at Las Palmas, Hubbard took her [Downsborough] out on extended cruises round the Canary Islands to search for gold he had buried in previous lives (Miller 1987, 267).

Per a purported 22 April 1967 dispatch that Miller cited, none could discuss these events. Miller then claimed that “[i]n April 1967, the *Avon River* steamed into the harbor at Las Palmas after a voyage from Hull” (Miller 1987, 268). Furthermore, Miller explained that, “At Las Palmas, the *Avon River* was hauled up on the slips recently vacated by the *Enchanter* and prepared for a major re-fit.” Therefore, per Miller, the *Enchanter* vacated the harbor in April 1967 to make room for the *Avon River*, which arrived that month. Sometime during or before that time, Hubbard allegedly sailed with the crew reliving past life treasure hunts per Downsborough's story. According to the chronology established within these claims, Downsborough not only had completely helped wean Hubbard off of drugs by April 1967, but she also found a home at *Villa Estrella* for both him and his wife Mary Sue.

Unfortunately for the claims of Miller and Downsborough, the *Avon River* did not leave Hull until at least 15 May 1967 but more likely left on 21 May 1967 (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 1967a, 8). Indeed, on 19 April a report showed that it remained in Hull allegedly due to unpaid bills, and Anton James explained that once ready the crew would use it for a survey (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 1967b, 1). This disproves both Miller's and Downsborough's claim that the *Avon River* had arrived in Las Palmas in April 1967.

Janis Gillham-Grady correctly stated that the *Avon River* did not arrive until late May 1967. Interestingly, Gillham-Grady placed Downsborough on the *Avon River*:

In May of 1967, the *Avon River* finally left Hull. The crew did not know of their destination; only the Sailing Master knew they were headed for the port of Las Palmas in the Spanish Canary Islands, where the sailboat named the *Enchanter* was already under refit for use as a Sea Project training vessel [...] The original crew of *The Avon River* sailing from Hull to Las Palmas included: [...] Virginia Downsborough [...] The

*Avon River* was no speedboat; her average speed being around six knots [6.9 MPH]. The trip to Las Palmas, roughly 1,900 nautical miles, should have taken about two weeks [...]. The *Avon River* finally anchored off Las Palmas, Canary Islands, in late May 1967. The following morning, the local pilot came out to guide them into the harbor. They made their way up to the dock where they were greeted by Ron (Gillham-Grady 2017, 315–29).

**‘Sealed lips’**

**Ex-Aberdeen trawler has Admiralty writ nailed to her mast**

**RIDDLE OF AVONRIVER**

**NON-PAYMENT OF BILLS ALLEGED**



**THE** 414-ton former Aberdeen trawler *Avonriver* is detained at Hull under an Admiralty writ for the non-payment of bills. The writ is nailed to the after-mast of the vessel, which is moored in one of the docks, but her master refuses to comment on it or give his name. The *Avonriver* has been at Hull for some time undergoing a refit.

She is owned by Mr Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology.

The trawler's fishing gear has been stripped out and extra lifeboat fittings have been fixed to her deck.

Two women are among her crew, none of whom will talk about the ship's destination or her project.

The *Avonriver*, one of Aberdeen's last steam trawlers, was formerly operated by the North Star Steam Fishing Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of George Craig and Sons.

**SURVEY**

She was withdrawn from service because of mounting operational costs compared with a diesel-powered ship of similar class and it was announced in December that she had been sold to Hubbard Explorational Company, London.

A representative of the new owners, American Mr Anton James, said then that it was intended to refit the *Avonriver* for use as a survey vessel.

There were, he said, various aspects of survey work in which they were interested, but plans were not final.

While in Aberdeen the *Avonriver* was regarded as the most handsome trawler in Aberdeen's post-war fleet.

In May, 1960, she was the first Aberdeen trawler to run into trouble with an Icelandic gumbot when the fishing-limits dispute developed.

The British protection vessel *Cortés* joined an attempt by the Icelandic gumbot *Thor* to place a party aboard the *Avonriver*.

In September, 1961, an engine-room blaze broke out shortly after she sailed for the Icelandic grounds. It was fought by the chief engineer and the vessel returned to port to receive fire-service aid.

***Avonriver***  
**is free**  
**to sail**

**A**N Admiralty writ, which had been fixed to the mast of the former Aberdeen trawler, *Avonriver*, has been removed by a Customs Officer, and the vessel is now free to leave Victoria Dock, Hull, where she has been berthed.

The writ was issued following a claim alleging that money was outstanding for work done on the trawler by Lock Marine Services, boatbuilders and repairers, of Beckwith, Beverley.

At the time the Admiralty Marshal, Mr P. V. Gray, said: "There are a number of possibilities for the conclusion of this business. The ship is merely being held as security against the claim being heard in court. If the owners decide to put up other securities the ship could be released."

The 412-ton *Avonriver* was bought a few months ago by the American founder of the Scientology cult. She was taken to Hull for refitting and conversion.

It is believed that the ship will be sailing for Las Palmas and the Canaries, but she is unlikely to leave Hull until next week.

Figures 7 and 8. Newspaper articles from 19 April and 15 May 1967 about the *Avon River*.

Indeed, the *Avon River* arrived around 29 May according to Base Order 3, “Project Personnel.” It also clearly stated that “Equipment fo[r] the Base Office is aboard Avon (two typewriter[s]) and is on route from Rhodesia.” The order, however, shows a “V. Downsborough” assigned to “Cook” on *The Enchanter* (Hubbard 1967v, 1). As to whether Hubbard transferred her from the *Avon River* or simply designated her position aboard *The Enchanter* remains unclear. Conversely, Downsborough appeared on the *Avon River* in Gillham-Grady’s book, whereas the Base Order had Downsborough on the *Enchanter*. Given that her testimony and Bill Robertson’s clearly stated that she was aboard *The Enchanter*, however, it seems unlikely that Downsborough traveled from Hull aboard the *Avon River*.

Nevertheless, the Base Order appears consistent with Gillham-Grady’s recollection:

From what I know, she [Downsborough] was on the boat [*The Enchanter*] with him [Hubbard] before the *Avon River* came and they all ate together, and so since none of the rest of the crew got sick he likely trusted her (Gillham-Grady 2020).

The following names appear in both the passenger crew list of Gillham-Grady’s book and Base Order 3:

- 1) John O’Keefe
- 2) Thok Sundergaard
- 3) Blake Huffam (1930–2011)
- 4) Joe Van Staden
- 5) Wally Burgess
- 6) Leon Steinburg
- 7) Phoebe Maurer
- 8) Ivor Norris
- 9) Robin Lindsell
- 10) Roger Buckeridge
- 11) Craig Lipsitz
- 12) Ron Pook
- 13) Haskell Cooke



- 14) Yvonne Gilham (1927–1978)
- 15) Bob Smith
- 16) Ray Thacker
- 17) Hank Laarhuis
- 18) Jill Van Staden
- 19) Neville Chamberlain (Gillham-Grady 2017, 317–19; Hubbard 1967v, 1–2).

BASE ORDER 3

PROJECT PERSONNEL

RAY THACKER is temporarily assigned as HCO Exec Sec, Base, with orders to establish HCO Las Palmas in running condition and get the Dir Comm hat operating at once.

HANK LAARHUIS is appointed Org Exec Sec, Base.

JILL VAN STADEN is appointed Director of Communications, Las Palmas.

Two typists may be employed for the Base Office.

Equipment for the Base Office is aboard Avon (two typewriter) and is en route from Rhodesia.

SHIP PERSONNEL

-2-

ENCHANTER			
WILLIAM ROBERTSON	MATE	IVOR NORRIS	
FRANK McCALL	HAND	ROBIN LINDBELL	
V. DOWNSBOROUGH	COOK	PEGGY BANKSTON	
NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN	HAND	ROGER BUCKERIDGE	
AVON RIVER		CRAIG LIPSITZ	
JOHN O'KEEFE	1ST MATE	RON POOK	
GEORGE RUNCIE	CHIEF ENGINEER	JILL VAN STADEN	
THOMAS SUNDERGARD	2ND MATE	HASKELL COOKE	
BLAKE HUFFAM	1ST ENGINEER	YVONNE GILHAM	
JOE VAN STADEN	3RD ENGINEER	BOB SMITH	
WALLY BURGESS	2ND ENGINEER		
LEON STEINBERG	PURSER		
PHOEBE MAURER	COOK		

L. RON HUBBARD

Figures 9 and 10. Base Order 3 Project Personnel list circa 29 May 1967.

Notably, both the crew lists of Gillham-Grady and the Base Order listed more people than Jones’ twenty-person crew, not including the Chief Engineer and Captain: Anton James, John Thomas, Fred Payner, and Virginia Downsborough only appeared in Gillham-Grady’s crew list, whereas Frank McCall, Peggy Bankston, and George Runcie only appeared in the Base Order crew list. According to Gillham-Grady, McCall didn’t leave on the *Avon River* to Las Palmas. Anton James, cited in the April newspaper article about the *Avon River* stationed in Hull, most likely traveled, although this would make him the seventeenth male with three females assuming Captain Jones counted accurately (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 1967b, 1; *The Daily Mirror* 1967, 4).

Unless both Downsborough and Robertson had incorrect recollections, Virginia Downsborough did not travel on the *Avon River*, thus making Peggy Bankston the fourth female. Though difficult to determine, the other people arrived somehow, and even if accounting for two others on *The Enchanter* it does not explain the remaining names. Either way, these lists suggest that *at least* twenty people comprised the crew of the *Avon River* although more likely more people traveled, though it probably did not include Virginia Downsborough.

Regarding others' arrival times at Las Palmas, Virginia Downsborough claimed that Mary Sue came down as soon as L. Ron Hubbard got back on his feet, and then the couple ordered her to find them a house. The narrative she established with Miller explained that the *Enchanter* left the harbor to make way for the *Avon River* sometime in April—before which, she supposedly spent time sailing with Hubbard and searching for gold—therefore, his recovery with her took place no later than April, at which point Mary Sue came immediately to see him. Mary Sue remained in England in late April, having just published the HCO PL “STAFF ON SAINT HILL ADVANCED COURSES” for L. Ron Hubbard on 26 April 1967 (Hubbard 1967w). She also wrote HCO PL's from Saint Hill for her husband until at least 1 May, with two items published that day: “ADVANCED COURSES ADMINISTRATION” and “VOLUNTARY STAFF” (Hubbard 1967x, Hubbard 1967y). Furthermore, she did not appear in any Ship's Org Book references until 4 July 1967, per Base Order 81 (Hubbard 1967z), which stated that she would stay aboard the *Enchanter*—not a hotel nor the *Villa Estrella*. Furthermore, finding Hubbard a place would not have fallen to her but to Ray Thacker per Base Order 3: “RAY THACKER is temporarily assigned as HCO Exec Sec Base, with orders to establish HCO Las Palmas in running condition and get the Dir Comm hat operating at once.” This also indicated that the base already existed before she had any interaction with it. This matches Gillham-Grady's statement, who resided at Saint Hill in 1967, that “She [Mary Sue] left Saint Hill in July 1967 to visit Ron for her birthday, not because Hubbard was sick” (Gillham-Grady 2020).

Gillham-Grady's statements matched the earliest available known records for *Villa Estrella* found in several Base Orders published around 29 May 1967 (Hubbard 1967v). The first mention of *Villa Estrella* appeared five days later in Base Order 6, dated 4 June 1967 (Hubbard 1967aa). Two days later on 6 June 1967, Base Order 11 stated: “‘Estrella’ (Ess-Strayl-Yah)—Ron's Home”

(Hubbard 1967ab). Per this document, Hubbard’s purported three-week recovery under Downsborough’s care would have ended by 4 June as per the first Base Order mention of *Estrella*, about one week after the *Avon River* arrived. Yet, she and Miller made overwhelmingly clear that she nursed Hubbard back to health, and Mary Sue came immediately after, by no later than April.

Countering Captain Jones’ story of his difficulty navigating the *Avon River* due to Scientologists insisting on using the *Ship’s Org*, Gillham-Grady wrote:

Cabbie, the Scottish Chief Engineer, took time off, and was replaced by another drunken, non-Scientology Chief Engineer, Alex McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie arrived in a taxi, thoroughly drunk, and had to be carried aboard. The bilge is a ship’s lowest part, sitting below water level, where it collects all liquid runoff. Being below sea level, it was colder there than anywhere else on the ship. That’s where Mr. McKenzie chilled his hoard of beer cans (Gillham-Grady 2017, 317).

The trip quality, whether one believes Jones’ story of faulty advice from Hubbard’s *Ship’s Org* book or Gillham-Grady’s story regarding a drunk Chief Engineer, bears little relevance as to when the *Avon River* arrived and who arrived with it. Only that Neville Chamberlain, Blake Huffam, Joe Van Staden, and Yvonne Gillham arrived in late May or early June aboard the *Avon River* per these stories and lists has any relevance here.

### *Grays Areas*

Author Ashton Gray used the Church of Scientology’s claim that Hubbard met *The Enchanter* on 25 February to discredit Downsborough:

[O]n 28 February 1967—just three days after Hubbard met the *Enchanter* in Las Palmas on 25 February—he was nowhere near Las Palmas or any hotel there, hotplate or not; he was over 2,000 miles away, in the little burg of Crawley, West Sussex, England, where he and Mary Sue signed a notarized annual report for HASI, Inc. Crawley is 9.7 miles from East Grinstead, home of Saint Hill Manor” (Gray 2016a; Gray 2016b, 231–32).

Although an interesting theory, Gray missed the caret (^) qualifier next to “Subscribed and sworn to” which points to “by Mary Sue Hubbard” before continuing on to “before this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 1967.” In other words, only Mary Sue signed the notarized document for HASI in person. Additionally, a rather obvious stamp of L. Ron Hubbard’s name appears above Mary Sue’s

signature; unlike a regular signature, it tilts at a slight southeast angle, written as if in a straight line, and differs noticeably in pen thickness, boldness, pressure, and in several other aspects when compared to other handwritten portions of the document. Notably, Mary Sue signed so as to place the “d” in her surname between the gap in his stamped signature, indicating that he “signed” before she did (or more likely someone stamped it). Lastly, it makes no sense from a logistical perspective for Hubbard to have traveled out to Las Palmas and met the *Enchanter* as the church claims, only to return to England three days later to sign a standard accounting document, and then return to Las Palmas. While Gray correctly concluded that Downsborough had the chronology incorrect, he incorrectly concluded that Hubbard resided in England at the end of February 1967.

Figure 11. 1966 HASI, Inc. renewal from Arizona Corporation Commission, signed in person by Mary Sue Hubbard on 28 February 1967 (highlights by author).

Additionally, a week later Hubbard received a letter dated 8 March 1967 from someone named Irene—presumably, Irene Thrupp—asking him for feedback on a draft that she had started for an upcoming volume of *Who’s Who in California*. He responded with a handwritten chronology for her to use, in which he stated: “Currently engaged on expeditionary and motion picture work on the coast of Africa” (Camacho 2020, LXXVI; Armstrong 2020, 3). Unfortunately for the purposes of research, “the coast of Africa” could mean either Tangier, Morocco or the island of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. According to Gerald Armstrong’s court testimony, however, on 10 March 1967 Hubbard stayed in Las Palmas and so most likely he wrote it from there (Armstrong 2018b). Regardless, Hubbard responded to Irene via a handwritten letter, consistent with

the earlier issuances of HCO PL's from 17 January–22 February 1967, likely written from afar.

### *Quick-dissolving Time Capsules*

Downsborough's claim that Hubbard "seemed to be taking about sixty thousand different pills" seems dubious given that earlier she stated, "We jumped into a taxi and got to the airport just in time to pick him up as he was coming through Customs" (Miller 1987, 266). Given the trouble Hubbard experienced traveling abroad, transporting anything close to 60,000 pills through customs would have needlessly put him at risk. Hubbard receiving drugs from other Scientologists seems equally unlikely. Per Gillham-Grady:

A dispute arose with the local ship's [*Avon River*] chandler (supplier of food and other items required by ships) over a shortage in the delivery of food to the ship. The chandler's retaliation for being accused of ripping the *Avon River* off, was to tell customs that the *Avon River* had drugs on board. Customs inspection officers showed up, armed with unlimited powers of arrest and detention. The crew were confined to the ship while it was searched using the ship's blueprints to miss nothing. With the crew in tow, the customs officers opened compartments the crew did not even know existed. The *Avon River* was given a clean bill of health (Gillham-Grady 2017, 315–16).

Even the most ardent Scientology critics will acknowledge its well-documented anti-drug stance. Indeed, Armstrong's allegation persists precisely because it seems shocking that Hubbard used drugs and heavy alcohol while speaking publicly against them. Furthermore, had Hubbard brought around 60,000 pills, nothing in Downsborough's claim indicated that she could identify them: "I don't know what drugs he was taking—they certainly weren't making him high." A 2014 letter from Jon Atack to Gerry Armstrong, in which Atack gave a third-hand account of Downsborough's claim, further underscored her lack of recall:

David Mayo told me [Atack] that on her deathbed, Virginia Downsborough listed the pharmaceuticals on Hub's shelf when she rescued him ("Scientology is here to rescue you") from Gran Canaria. But he hasn't revealed this information to me (Virginia got as far as telling me that Hub was subsisting on a "shelf-full" of pharmaceuticals, but became bashful when asked precisely what. In fact, she claimed not to know) (Armstrong 2018a).

To the contrary, William "Captain Bill" Robertson, the person accompanying Downsborough in her story, gave a completely different account. Moreover, his statement came in May 1982, four years before her claim and two years before

Armstrong's. This made his recollection not only the earliest and thus closest to the alleged incident, thus making it more reliable, but the fact that he told it before Armstrong, Downsborough, and others did does not indicate intent to cover up or react to their stories:

I joined—as being on the Clearing Course, it was by invitation only—and I got invited to it and he went off again, in the fall/winter of 1966 to research OT III.

And for that he went to Africa and later met us in Las Palmas, when I was put into active service on the “Enchanter,” January 1st, 1967. So, in 1967, I started on the Sea Project and I've sailed as Chief Engineer on the “Enchanter” all the way from Hull, England down through, stopping at Oporto and Gibraltar and Agadir and ending up in Las Palmas.

And when I got there, as Virginia Downsborough and I were riding around doing some shopping, we decided to stop by the post office and see if there was any mail for the “Enchanter” or anything. And we found a telegram in there from LRH and it said, “Please meet the plane.” It was to the crew of the ‘Enchanter’ you know, and it said, “please meet the plane” arriving on a certain day from Tangier, at a certain time; “I will be on it.” And it happened to be that day, and it happened to be one hour from the time the plane was arriving.

So we jumped in a cab and went out to the airport and we met LRH coming with his full OT III research materials and we welcomed him, he welcomed us and we got him a place to stay and we set up right away into production getting the ships ready for sea and OT missions. He wanted to set up an OT Base to get OT III run.

At that time it was thought it had to be run in a special warm environment with medical service available and he later discovered easier ways to do it, but his research notes were approximately 3 feet high and handwritten and those had to be copied and sent into safekeeping back at St. Hill [...]

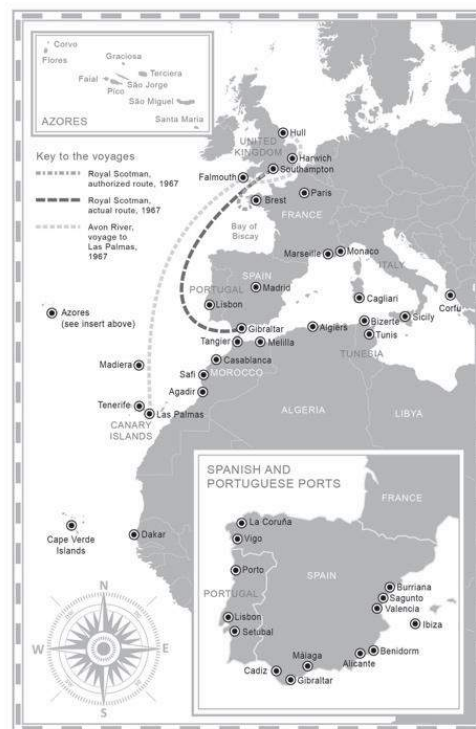
So anyway, we helped the Boss, and were totally on purpose and just working 16, 17, 18 hours a day. Got the ships ready. His main things were to set up OT Bases and do the researches into various plans for planetary control. [...] You'll see some—if you research the newspapers of those times—you'll find some really heavy duty attacks on the Sea Project and so on like that and especially when we went up to get the ‘Royal Scotsman’ in December of ‘67—no, late in November. And he also made Ron's Journal ‘67 that year (Robertson 1982).

Per Robertson's account, the crew worked 16- to 18-hour days while Hubbard wrote copious notes before he sent these off to Saint Hill, England. Additionally, Robertson stated that “[a]t the time it was thought it [OT III] had to be run in a special warm environment with medical service available.” If true, this explained the availability of medicine. Robertson did not state that Hubbard or any others

used drugs. Nor did Robertson’s story mention instructions to continue onto Las Palmas. Notably he did not mention any unnamed aide in Tangier having sent a letter about Hubbard’s illness; Hubbard himself sent a note to meet the plane but mentioned nothing about illness. When asked about Hubbard having an aide in Tangier, Janis Gillham-Grady stated that she “had no idea who that [aide] would have been, [I] never heard of one” (Gillham-Grady 2020). Although stories keep repeating that an aide accompanied Hubbard in Tangier, no records nor names of anyone having accompanied Hubbard have yet surfaced.

Furthermore, if Hubbard needed an aide to send a message for him due to his illness, and he could not move from his bed for three weeks, then his solo arrival at the airport seems all the more illogical. Even Janet Reitman provided a different account:

[An aide] who joined Hubbard in the late 1960s claimed that she never saw Hubbard intoxicated at all: “When I was with LRH, only twice in eight years on the ship did I see him take a drink of alcohol, and it was whiskey to warm up after a storm,” said one of Hubbard’s former aides, Karen Gregory [pseudonym,] “I never saw LRH take drugs. And I had access to all of his drawers, his closets. I never saw anything” (Reitman 2011, 92).



**Figure 12.** Routes for *Royal Scotsman* and *Avon River* (courtesy of Janis Gillham-Grady).

*An Enchant for Trouble*

Downsborough's claims about *The Enchanter* contain other chronological contradictions. The earliest mention of *The Enchanter* appears in "Enchanter Ship's Order I Appointments" dated 24 August 1966 in Ship's Org Book, Volume 0. This order assigned Anton James as Mate, John Lawrence as Engineer and Diver, Ray Thacker as Purser, and referred to Hubbard as Captain. Robertson stated "he [Hubbard] went off again, in the fall/winter of 1966 to research OT III. And for that he went to Africa" (Robertson 1982). Gillham-Grady contradicted this: "[Hubbard] purchased the *Enchanter*, a sixty foot Bermuda ketch, and left England with a small crew" at the end of 1966 (Gillham-Grady 2017, 305).

Hubbard did not leave with these men via the *Enchanter*, however, as James, Lawrence and Thacker remained in St. Hill per HCO PLs 11 November 1967 "Staff Responsibility for the Organization as a Whole" and "Postal Economy" (James, Lawrence, and Thacker 1967a, 1966b). At minimum, James remained in Hull, England through late April 1967 as per the newspaper interview regarding the stationed *Avon River*. Furthermore, Downsborough and Robertson both claimed that they left in January 1967 aboard the *Enchanter* with two other Scientologists and no mention of Hubbard. Downsborough also claimed that Hubbard left her notes before boarding a plane at the airport. Both claim that they later picked him up at the airport, and so he could not have traveled in the *Enchanter*.

Downsborough claimed:

"A lot of things needed to be done before the *Enchanter* was ready to sail," she recalled, "so I lived on the *Avon River*, which was moored alongside and was absolutely filthy, for a couple of weeks while the work was being carried out." The *Enchanter* sailed in the New Year with a hired skipper and a novice crew of four Scientologists, including Downsborough (Miller 1987, 265).

Base Order 8 from 4 June 1967 also placed Downsborough aboard the *Enchanter* "as Enchanter's cook [Downsborough] is ordered to Avon River as Assistant Cook, and is relieved of all other duties. She is also Captain's Steward when I am on board either ship."





**Figure 13.** The *Enchanter* (courtesy of Janis Gillham-Grady).

Furthermore, Gillham-Grady stated that her mother Yvonne Gillham (1927–1978), helped Hubbard:

While researching upper Scientology levels, the Commodore [Hubbard] came down with pneumonia, which he had previously said could be caused by misapplication of the materials under research. While Yvonne nursed him back to health, Ron spoke about his ordeal researching the OT Levels, notably, OT III, the Wall of Fire (Gillham-Grady 2017, 349).

Gillham-Grady did clarify that:

Both [women] may have done it [take care of him]. Virginia [Downsbrough] was the Commodore’s Steward and Yvonne [Gillham] was a Commodore’s Assistant (Gillham-Grady 2020).

Gillham-Grady further explained that:

If she [Yvonne Gillham] had seen him, or found him drunk or high, then she would have quit right there because that would have been unethical, and she was around him a lot. He did talk about vitamins a lot, and she came back talking about them when she returned from Las Palmas (Gillham-Grady 2020).

Hubbard explained in RJ 67 that he contracted pneumonia in January/February of that year.

Whether Gillham actually nursed Hubbard back to health remains moot; Downsbrough’s memories matched virtually no written records, and several documents contradict her claims. She could not recall the details of any of the

alleged 60,000 pills that Hubbard supposedly used while she purportedly nursed him back to health. Hubbard or Scientology crew sneaking 60,000 pills from Morocco through customs seems extremely unlikely given customs' fruitless searches, not to mention that Scientologists generally oppose drugs including aspirin and painkillers, unless vital. Even if he had used pills, Downsborough herself stated that Hubbard did not get high from them. Meanwhile, the other person mentioned in her story gave a totally different account. Given the overwhelming amount of evidence against her claims, one can consider them unreliable.



**Figure 14.** *Avon River* (courtesy of Janis Gillham-Grady).

### *Other Accounts*

After Downsborough, others began to claim that Hubbard used drugs around this time. Reitman mentioned one:

[Neville] Chamberlain didn't notice that Hubbard had any broken bones, but he did recall that he had a "pharmaceutical store of drugs" at the Villa Estrella. "Most of the stuff was codeine-type pills," he said. "But this wasn't just for migraine, it was a whole wall of stuff." Chamberlain was one of a number of followers who believed Hubbard did most of his early OT research under the influence of drugs, as well as, perhaps, Jameson Irish whiskey, which Chamberlain recalled he'd drunk liberally at Saint Hill. In one oft quoted 1967 letter to his wife, Hubbard admitted it: "I'm drinking lots of rum and

popping pinks and greys.” In Las Palmas, Hubbard eventually sobered up. “I don’t think that Hubbard did any drugs after 1967,” said Chamberlain (Reitman 2011).

Oddly, Chamberlain stated that Hubbard used drugs at *Villa Estrella*—well after Downsborough had supposedly weaned him off them. This raises the question as to which of these people, if either, told the truth. Chamberlain at least named a specific type of drug—codeine—despite his not having taken care of Hubbard for three weeks. Since then, Chamberlain has stated on a Facebook post that Hubbard used cocaine:

Interesting to see that Mike [Rinder] is still such a believer. He knows perfectly well that Hubbard was a cocaine addict. His whole premise about “removing the beings from your space” is based on Hubbard’s coca9ine [sic] problem. We wanted to “get rid of all those things crawling all over him.” I was with Hubbard when he was doing his research in Las Palmas. I saw what was going on and so did many others (Ex-Scientologists Message Boards 2012).

Additionally, Lawrence Wright later mentioned that:

Neville Chamberlain told me he saw Hubbard’s “pharmaceutical cabinet,” which was amply supplied with drugs, and he says he witnessed Hubbard injecting himself in the thigh on one occasion, but he doesn’t know what substance Hubbard was using. “He used drugs almost as a shaman,” Chamberlain speculated” (Wright 2013, 386).

To recap, Chamberlain has accused Hubbard of using codeine, cocaine, and some sort of injected drug at different times. Despite his claims that “many others” witnessed these occurrences, nobody else has supported his various and contradicting claims of Hubbard using codeine, cocaine, or injectable drugs with actual evidence.

Chamberlain arrived in Las Palmas in late May 1967 after traveling from Hull, England, however, and did not arrive at *Villa Estrella* until sometime in June 1967 per Base Order 3, which showed “Neville Chamberlain (Hand)” aboard *The Enchanter*. Furthermore, both Chamberlain and “Karen Gregory” stated that Hubbard drank whiskey, not rum as Armstrong claimed, and the amounts vary depending upon who gave the account. Regarding “Karen Gregory,” Janis Gillham-Grady confessed:

This was the pseudonym that Janet Reitman used for me. At the time she interviewed me, I was still laying under the Church of Scientology’s radar. Anyway, yes, the only time I saw him [Hubbard] drink was once when he had a shot of whiskey to warm up from a storm [...]. I rarely drink alcohol, maybe socially and I’ve never used drugs: I was born into Scientology. LRH was very strict about no drugs or alcohol within 24 hours of going

into session. He usually went into session daily. The one time I saw him drink, he did not go in session the next day. He felt it affected the auditing results. I don't believe this claim [about his abuse of drugs and alcohol] at all (Gillham-Grady 2020).

When asked if she had heard from anybody else besides Chamberlain that Hubbard injected himself, Gillham-Grady, who had also previously interviewed Chamberlain, stated:

No, and I don't believe him [Chamberlain]. I never saw Ron inject himself or anybody else. If he was getting injections for medicine, the medical officer would have given it to him. Ron was extremely anti-drugs and intolerant of others on them. He'd be on the lookout when we were on the ship and he'd watch as people climbed aboard. Sometimes he'd notice and point out one of them saying "He's high." He [Hubbard] had his [the Scientologist's] cabin inspected and if they found pot he was offloaded immediately. In the eleven years I was around Ron directly, I never saw him do drugs nor saw any in his quarters, nor did I see him use drugs as part of his research. He was adamantly against them (Gillham-Grady 2020).

Indeed, Gillham-Grady detailed this incident in her book:

One day, during a walk on deck while at anchor, the Commodore [Hubbard] happened to be leaning on the ship's rail, watching Lifeboat #8 below us as they unloaded crew and supplies. The MAA [Master At Arms], Baron Berez, was just returning to the ship from liberty with his girlfriend, and both of them were having trouble climbing up the ship's ladder to come aboard. The Commodore commented that they both looked like they were stoned. A few weeks later, a letter arrived for the Commodore from my father [Peter Gillham (1927–2020)] that triggered an investigation into Baron Berez. Pete's letter explained to Ron the injustices Pete had experienced on the ship, including the chain locker incident that he suffered under the duress of Baron. When Baron was investigated, it was found that he possessed a huge tin of marijuana in his cabin. It was Baron's job as MAA to get ethics in, yet it was he who personally fostered out-ethics. Baron was immediately offloaded from the ship, since drugs were not tolerated on any Sea Org ship (Gillham-Grady 2017, 692–93).

Aside from contradicting Downsborough almost entirely, Chamberlain's timeline makes even less sense as his claims come well after the purported "pinks and greys" letter, by which time Hubbard had apparently recovered fully according to Downsborough. Likewise, Chamberlain "believed" and "speculated" that Hubbard used drugs, yet contradicted himself per his statement that he saw Hubbard injecting himself "on one occasion" in his interview with Wright. Chamberlain omitted this reference with Reitman two years earlier in an interview when he stated that after 1967 Hubbard did not use drugs. Therefore, without

corroboration, Chamberlain's often changing and self-contradicting recollection seems not only unreliable but most likely false.

Likewise, according to Gillham-Grady's book:

When the *Avon River* later went out to anchor, Blake [Huffam] was responsible for taking the Commodore [Hubbard] to the ship and back to the motorboat. The Commodore with his arm in a sling (assumedly from pushing the car a few nights prior) was not very affable owing to his discomfort. Blake found the atmosphere quite tense. Blake had heard that the Commodore was on painkillers, presumably to alleviate the pain in his arm (Gillham-Grady 2017, 348).

When asked from whom Huffam had heard that Hubbard used painkillers, Gillham-Grady stated:

Blake never said who he heard it from, and it's too late to ask him now—he's dead. Supposedly it came from Hubbard and the rest pushing a stalled car and he injured himself. But nothing backs up his story. If he [Hubbard] was really drinking—as Joe Van Staden said he was with them—was he just drinking one glass while the rest were drinking more? And if that's the case, then how reliable are their memories if they were all drinking heavily? So, no, I don't believe it, even though Blake otherwise seemed honest when we spoke (Gillham-Grady 2020).

Chamberlain also stated that he did not see any broken bones or injuries with Hubbard, yet Huffam claimed that he did see Hubbard's arm in a sling. This makes either Chamberlain's recall less trustworthy, or calls Huffam's recall into doubt. In any case, the only relevant portion here deals with alcohol, and as Huffam's story comes secondhand from Joe Van Staden, who was drinking heavily, this makes both rather unreliable witnesses.

Finally, according to Corydon:

John McMasters [sic] told me that on the flagship *Apollo* in the late sixties, he witnessed Hubbard's drug supply. "It was the largest drug chest I had ever seen. He had everything!" (Corydon and De Wolf 1987, 54).

If true, then his claims discredit both Downsborough's and Chamberlain's that Hubbard was off drugs, unless of course his claim also has no merit. After all, McMaster claimed to see the drugs on the *Apollo*, yet Hubbard did not acquire this ship until November 1967 when it still used its former name, the *Royal Scotsman*. When asked about McMaster's statement, Gillham-Grady stated:

I don't know why he would have said that. Here's the thing, he also wouldn't have had access to LRH's personal quarters. Only the assistants and messengers were allowed in. I

don't know why he said it. I met John, I mean, he was a nice guy otherwise, but that makes no sense to me why he would have said that (Gillham-Grady 2020).

In any case, his claim also contains not only anachronisms but also contradicts all those who came before him, and, as with the rest, has no corroboration.

Janis Gillham-Grady concluded her interview with the following:

LRH was still auditing OT III years after he finished the research; he was not done with the level in 1967. I think he was still auditing the material in 1968, 1969, 70 to 72. I would set up his room before and after his sessions, and I never once saw drugs or alcohol in his room in my 11 years with him [May 1968–December 1979], and if he had as many drugs as they claimed I don't know where he'd have kept them. I only saw him drink once in all that time, and it was a shot of whiskey or brandy maybe, because of coming in from the cold. Besides, he had a very strict policy of no alcohol or drugs within 24 hours of session. Now, maybe in the later years he used drugs like painkillers as he was much older and suffering, such as when he had Dr. Gene Denk [d. 2004] attending to him in his later years, but definitely did not do any drugs in the 1960s and 70s when I was working with him directly, nor had I ever heard about it until Gerry first spoke about it. So, no, I don't believe a word of it (Gillham-Grady 2020).

### *Now Letters Continue*

Lawrence Wright repeated and combined the various versions of the same claims in his book *Going Clear*, in which he indicated that Hubbard wrote the letter from Tangier:

He admitted that he was “drinking lots of rum” and taking drugs—“pinks and grays”—while he was doing his research. He would sign off on the letters, “Your Sugie.” Hubbard stayed only a month in Tangier before moving to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, where one of his followers found him deeply depressed and surrounded by pills of all kinds. “I want to die,” he said. Alarmed, Mary Sue flew down to take care of him (Wright 2013, 93).

Oddly, Wright never saw the letter, and so it seems unclear how he could know what Hubbard used to sign off on it. The citation referenced an “Interview with Dan Koon” (Wright 2013, 386). When contacted for details, former Scientologist staff member Koon stated:

When I was doing a marketing flier for the OT levels when I worked in Marketing around 2000 or 2001, Andy Lenarcic showed me a bunch of letters, most of which were signed by LRH, “your Sugie.” Meaning, your sugar. You could tell that LRH really loved Mary Sue, at least at that time before he let her take the fall for Snow White. These letters were

sent to MSH while he was researching OT 3 in Las Palmas (email to author dated 24 October 2020).

When asked to clarify whether he actually saw the alleged “pinks and greys” letter, Koon stated, “Never saw anything about pinks and greys. Don’t know what that is about” (email to author dated 24 October 2020). Thus, Wright attributed a statement made regarding Hubbard’s *other* letters to an alleged letter that Wright himself never saw and could not confirm, and then incorrectly attributed a citation and quote to an interviewee who made no such claim.

Additionally, Wright’s statement incorrectly assumed that Hubbard arrived at Las Palmas first and that Downsborough found him depressed. Not even she made this claim, which would place Hubbard at Las Palmas as early as February 1967 before the arrival of the *Enchanter*. As nobody else made this claim, his statement appears to have no basis in reality.

In the related citation, Wright also noted, “The church says an apostate fabricated this letter” (Wright 2013, 386). Armstrong focused on this statement and changed the emphasis in his email to journalist Steve Cannane:

Following are three emails dated January 20 and 26 and February 4, 2011 to Katia Bachko, a New Yorker fact checker, and Lawrence Wright.

I included the complete emails so you can see the context in which I wrote about Hubbard’s pinks and greys comment during his Wall of Fire period. No dark night of the soul for Ron, no abyss. For Ron a flaming wall of fire.

I am not, as Jon [Atack] jokes, the world’s leading expert on pinks and greys. Hugh Urban doubtlessly asked me about the [pinks and greys] reference in 2010 because of mentions in Bent Corydon’s and Jon’s Hubbard biographies.

The New Yorker asked me about the reference because the Scientologists were telling Lawrence Wright that I forged, and disseminated, Hubbard’s letter to Mary Sue Hubbard in which, as I recall, he wrote that he was drinking rum and popping pinks and greys.

I am the world’s leading expert on my alleged forgery of the pinks and greys letter. I am guessing that you are not so much interested in chasing down the forgery charge, but what was going through Hubbard’s mind when he tripped through the wall of fire (Armstrong 2018a).

Upon contacting Wright as to whether the Church of Scientology representatives had either written or spoken to him that Armstrong forged the purported “pinks and greys” letter, Wright responded “I don’t recall” (Wright to author, 10

October 2019). I also attempted to contact his former fact-checker Katia Bachko multiple times, but she never responded. Nevertheless, according to Wright's book, the Church of Scientology claimed that Armstrong (the "unnamed apostate") "fabricated" the so-called "pinks and greys" letter. This means that Armstrong made up the letter and alleged it exists, which is a significantly different claim than a "forgery" in which he created a fake document. Wright even addressed this distinction in his book:

[Tommy] Davis charged that Armstrong had forged many of the documents he later disseminated in order to discredit the church's founder, although he produced no evidence to substantiate that allegation (Wright 2013, 342).

Given that nobody disseminated the "pinks and greys" letter, nor did Wright document or recall any claims from the Church of Scientology that Armstrong forged this document, nothing supports allegations that Tommy Davis or the Church of Scientology accused Armstrong of forging it. Rather, both claimed that Armstrong made it up.

Armstrong claimed that the Church of Scientology claimed that he forged the pinks and greys letter, and then calls upon skeptics to ask the church for a copy as he cannot provide any evidence to support his claim that the letter exists. Even after having contacted him, Armstrong could not provide any emails or letters or evidence from either Bachko or others showing that the Church of Scientology suggested that he had forged the letter (Armstrong email to author, 13 October 2019).

### *Bennie Fits*

Despite the unsupported allegations, the real question becomes whether Hubbard used drugs to research into auditing and mental phenomena for OT III. Hubbard talked about "narcosynthesis" in the Technical Bulletins, volume I, 1950–53, which Urban cited as evidence to support Armstrong's "pinks and greys" claim (email to author 16 October 2019):

Despite statements of those who have made no investigation of auditing under glutamic acid, the chemical assist is highly desirable as an adjunct to processing. It has the virtue of softening up engrams and of proofing the case against restimulation by permitting engrams in the middle of a chain to occasionally reduce. Further, it sometimes permits whole chains to roll up. Additionally, it often gets anaten off a case which is proving



difficult. The formula for the chemical assist at this time is simply glutamic acid and vitamin B1. B1 is given preclears as a matter of course, and it can hardly be considered as a part of the chemical assist. Hence the essential ingredient is glutamic acid.

Therapy does not depend upon hypnosis. A state has been found which is much more desirable. Hypnosis is amnesia trance for the purpose of planting suggestions. The problem of hypnosis is to put the patient to sleep. The purpose of the Dianetic reverie is to wake the patient up. Narcosynthesis and other drug therapies have some slight use in Dianetics. But the primary technique consists of stimulants. The best stimulant is Benzedrine. In its absence an overdose of coffee will do. [...]

Benzedrine often helps a case run. Benzedrine can be administered at the rate of 5 mg per day given at the beginning of each six hour session with the first dose of B1. If administration of Benzedrine is begun, however, it must be maintained throughout the whole of the intensive process. Skipping a day, it has been noted conditionally, sometimes inhibits the release of anaten. Which is to say that when Benzedrine is administered on Monday, on Tuesday, when none is administered, the case appears to be a little more difficult to run in that engrams do not as readily release and, if Benzedrine is still omitted, Wednesday may discover the engrams to be much more resistive. While this is based on a short series, there is enough evidence to warrant this caution. This is particularly true when glutamic acid is being given the preclear. Cases can be run on intensive processing without chemical assist or with chemical assist, at which time the processing may be called “intensive guk processing,” guk being the slang term for any chemical assist in Dianetics (Hubbard 1950g).

What Hubbard described falls under the section “Intensive Processing,” as he intended it primarily for cases (subjects) that had a hard time running Dianetic processes and to wake them up and improve focus. He saw a “chemical assist” as an adjunct to processing, but not required. Furthermore, he described “the formula for the chemical assist at this time” as a combination of B1 (thiamine) and glutamic acid. A chemical assist did not use Benzedrine.

Conversely, Hubbard mentioned “narcosynthesis”—a combination of “freewheeling” (free association) and a stimulant, whether Benzedrine or lots of caffeine—to get a person to wake up, the goal of Dianetics. As the more powerful stimulant of the two, “Benzedrine often helps a case run” and had “some slight use” but Dianetics did not require it, yet Hubbard had not entirely ruled out the possibility at the time.

Hubbard mentioned other uses of Benzedrine, but only for handling extreme cases such as psychotics: “[P]sychotics are not good people to work [on with Dianetics], and don’t try to work them under sedation when you can use

stimulants such as coffee, or Benzedrine” (Hubbard 1950a, 445). Another lecture titled “Institutional Dianetics” explained this distinction upfront and expressly forbade the use of Benzedrine without a doctor:

The main part of this lecture concerns the treatment of psychotics by Dianetic therapy. In this subject more than any other auditor must use imagination, perseverance and nerve, because in the treatment of psychotics one encounters engrams in the raw [...] One of the ways one can take a catatonic and raise his necessity level artificially is to feed him full of Benzedrine—he knows how to open his mouth and swallow—and it will bring up his attention level to a point where you can sometimes work him on engrams. In fact, almost any person who is disassociating badly will present a different aspect when he has been given a stimulant such as Benzedrine. You are not allowed to give Benzedrine, however. You do that in liaison with a medical doctor (Hubbard 1950b, 627; 632).

Yet another example appears in the aptly titled lecture “Handling Psychotics,” in which Hubbard stated:

Often it is very hard to get into communication with these people [psychotics]. It does no good usually to tell them that they have great responsibilities of their own and they ought to snap to, as that is what they are running away from. People sometimes do a lot of arguing with psychotics about the great responsibilities which are awaiting them. Of course the psychotic just retreats further and further. He doesn’t want anything to do with these responsibilities. Another means of gaining accessibility has to do with drugs. Someone who wants to gain accessibility with a psychotic via drugs should stay solidly in the field of stimulants and away from sedatives. It is amazing what a stimulant will do to return accessibility to lots of cases. A psychotic who could not even talk to you will suddenly be in communication after Benzedrine starts taking effect. Now, what is said to him does not make new engrams nor new locks. He is accessible and you can talk to him. In other words, a psychotic can be depressed by use of a sedative into a stupefied state where everything that is said to him or around him or done to him while he is worked with will be knocked right in there with the rest of the engrams, or he can be given a stimulant and brought up to a level where his accessibility will often return, and he can be processed while in that state. There are several stimulants. Benzedrine and Dexedrine are two, and lacking everything else, just simply enough hot coffee will sometimes produce results (Hubbard 1950c, 323).

Hubbard made quite clear that while not an optimal solution, it could work. He also stated that the power of suggestion via the placebo effect regarding Benzedrine often proved more useful than the drug itself:

It is said in the [Dianetics] Handbook that as a stimulant Benzedrine helps blow emotional charges. This is true. But from Smith, Kline and French you can get Benzedrine blanks which look exactly like the Benzedrine tablet, more or less triangular, with a crease down the center. Give the patient a Benzedrine run. If you feel that it

doesn't produce any marked effect on him the first time you give him a run with it, there is no reason to have him in a physiological state of nervousness because of the reaction to it. If he says, "Oh I need Benzedrine, Benzedrine will blow that charge," and he believes this will take place, feed him the blanks, and give him runs on blanks. You will very often get better results than if you were actually feeding him the drug (Hubbard 1950d, 454).

Hubbard made a similar observation in another lecture:

Benzedrine works somewhat, but some patients under Benzedrine hypnotize just as rapidly as ever. Hypnotism, by the way, is not sleep.

The value of Benzedrine is unfortunately not as good as it might be. In some patients the administration of Benzedrine assists markedly the contact and deintensification of emotional charges. Yet I've had patients that were quite null. In fact, one of the smoothest, easiest things an engram does if it has that as its content is to nullify or deepen the effect of drugs. I have had patients that I fed blanks to (probably made out of flour). I had one patient worked up on Benzedrine blanks to 100 milligrams a day, and this patient was going around quite high, feeling wonderful. If you get somebody who starts to demand Benzedrine runs of you and if you have a bottle of blanks, why, feed him all the blanks you want to, you may get remarkably better results (Hubbard 1950e, 177–78).

While Hubbard had advocated the occasional use of Benzedrine in 1949 and 1950, he also made clear that it should come only as a last resort and only for extreme cases such as psychotics, not mainstream or recreational use.

Hubbard's research in Dianetics initially involved using various techniques and discarding some. At the time, he considered Benzedrine a slight positive for the most extreme cases. When contrasted against a 1968 bulletin, however, Hubbard's views on Benzedrine, and mind-altering drugs in general, reveal a drastic shift:

LSD, marijuana (pot, hashish), peyote, opium, ether (in operations), nitrous oxide (laughing gas in dental operations), weird "biochemical" compounds used by "psychiatrists," Benzedrine, solid alcohol (canned heat), alcohol, turpentine, gasoline, witch herbs of various kinds, and even certain rays, in this lifetime and on the back track, could have caused a moment of release (Hubbard 1968).

This appears consistent with his anti-drug stance to and beyond 1967.

### *Prior Mentions*

Any claim that Hubbard researched or created the OT III material while on drugs and alcohol in Africa must ignore the fact that nearly fifteen years prior, he had already mentioned similar phenomena. For example, *Scientology: What To Audit* (later renamed as *A History of Man*) describes an incident titled “The Ice Cube”:

THE ICE CUBE: Here is an intriguing incident which, if your PC demands, should be audited. This is evidently a method of transportation of beings to a new area. The being is packed in ice, is taken to the new area and is usually dumped in the ocean. Your PC, if he has this one in restimulation, has very cold hands and feet chronically. A thetan responds to hypnosis, pain, force and other factors. He also responds to being frozen in ice. You may wonder how, the being, if the ice-cube is used or is necessary at all, can get into the between lives area so easily—in other words, if he can be transported between lives with ease, why should he be dumped originally in the form of an ice-pack. Possibly the answer lies in two invader crews at work; an old invader, already in command of an area but rather down scale, controls by between-lives; a new invader crew with more ambition plants beings in the same area. These beings then fall into the between-lives routine which exists unbeknownst to the new crew. The new crew in the area is later quite surprised to find that their planted beings, so carefully dumped in the sea from a saucer, are being picked up between-lives and given “treatment” by an old, established invader whose methods of political control are long since established. When such a discovery is made the new crew may very likely knock out some of the old crew installations and upset the routine (Hubbard 1952a, 69–70).

Similarly, Hubbard discussed “demon circuits”—the internal voices that OT III treats as separate entities—as early as 1950 in *Dianetics* and dedicated a whole chapter to the phenomena. At the time, however, Hubbard made clear that:

*there are no real demons in dianetics* (that’s underscored in case some mystic runs around telling people that a new science of mind believes in demons). *A dianetic demon is a parasitic circuit* [...] The data comes to him *spoken*. Like a voice inside his head. A clear does not have any “mental voices!” He does not think vocally. He thinks without articulation of his thoughts (Hubbard 1950f, 86–7).

Hubbard audited these “entities” as early as April 1952. A previously unreleased audio recording titled “Electropsychometric Scouting: Battles of the Universes,” which the Church of Scientology has not released, and which Tony Ortega publicized in 2014, reveals Mary Sue auditing Hubbard and his communicating with these “attached entities” (Ortega 2014; mediafire.com 2012; docdroid.net n.d.). The recording appears authentic and interestingly also mentions the “Ice

Cube” incident. Furthermore, other lectures from this period dealt with similar material, including the appropriately titled “Theta Body Entities” as well as “Entities (Demo Cont.)” in addition to “How to Audit a Theta Line, Parts I and II” and “How to Search for Incidents on The Track, Parts I and II” (Hubbard 1952b, 1952c, 1952d, 1952e, 1952f, 1952g).

The claim that Hubbard created the OT III story while both drunk and high clashes with the fact that he had the story ready fifteen years earlier. Both cannot simultaneously occur, and as we have evidence from 1952 but none from 1967, Occam’s Razor suggests the simpler of the two explanations. Indeed, even Ortega’s derisive title “Rare tape reveals how L. Ron Hubbard really came up with Scientology’s space cooties” suggests that Hubbard did not create the OT III story in 1967 under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Furthermore, even if Hubbard did invent the story while drunk and high, then it would not explain the associated, similar phenomena that several Scientologists—who may not use drugs or alcohol—claim to have experienced during and after auditing this level.

### *Conclusion*

While one cannot entirely disprove a negative, Armstrong has thus far failed to produce a copy of the letter, enter it into evidence, or read it into a transcript during a trial. If any substantial (and hidden) evidence ever comes to light that Hubbard wrote a pinks and greys letter and, more importantly, used drugs and drank copious amounts of alcohol during this period, then I will stand corrected. Despite nearly forty years of accusing without evidence, lots of counter evidence supporting the opposite narrative, and significant and numerous contradictions within the various claims, however, suggest that this event never occurred and that no such letter exists.

Only Armstrong alleges that the Church of Scientology claimed he forged the letter, when records suggest they claim the letter does not exist, a very important distinction. Armstrong also states that he has not seen the letter since 1982, two years before the trial ended, and his recollections of whom he first told about it contradict, as well as claims of when and where Hubbard purportedly wrote it.

Virginia Downsborough, who also claimed that Hubbard used drugs upon arrival in Las Palmas, could not recall the brand of any of the supposed 60,000

pills that she claimed to have seen, and yet also stated that he did not seem high, which makes sense as no evidence suggests that he had taken anything. Furthermore, she did not spend three weeks nursing him to health as per records and other witness accounts, nor did Hubbard or the ship crew sneak any drugs across customs per all known accounts and records. “Captain Bill” Robertson’s earliest account of this time period undermined all later claims, especially as he gave the earliest known account.

Similarly, others’ accounts of Hubbard abusing drugs while researching OT III occurred only after Armstrong made the claim, and every single one contradicts themselves or each other. John McMaster’s claims that Hubbard used drugs on the *Apollo* (1968 or later) got undermined by both Downsborough when she said Hubbard recovered after her care, and also by Chamberlain, who said Hubbard stopped using drugs after 1967, and by others like “Karen Gregory” (aka Janis Gillham-Grady), who stated that Hubbard did not use drugs and only had one or two drinks in eleven years.

Hubbard apparently had pneumonia as per his own and others’ accounts, and likely appeared unwell. If Hubbard used the heavy painkillers codeine or Darvon, as Chamberlain and Armstrong claimed respectively, then the fact that Hubbard wrote a number of Base Orders and answered letters with his arm in a sling according to Huffam, while simultaneously researching and also running multiple operations according to Robertson, seems odd, given that these drugs qualify as depressants.

Assuming for a moment such a letter does exist, then it would still lack context—Was Hubbard joking? Was he expressing desire or a wish? Was he quoting someone? Without a full context, we cannot determine the intent or usage, which has little value in terms of evaluative purposes.

From the perspective of a skeptic, it appears that no pinks and greys letter ever existed, as Armstrong already would have produced it to harm Hubbard’s reputation if it did. Again, this does not make Hubbard’s OT III claims any more true or false, but it should call into question such rumors due to their own internal contradictions, contradictions by others, and documented evidence. These findings thus make it not a pink or grey matter, but really no matter at all.

*TIMELINE*

**24 August 1966** – First mention of the *Enchanter* in “The Ketch Enchanter Ship’s Organization.” First mention of Hubbard as Commodore (Ship’s Org Book, no Volume).

**24 August 1966** – First mention of *Enchanter* in “Enchanter Ship’s Order I Appointments,” which assigned Anton James as Mate, John Lawrence as Engineer & Diver, Ray Thacker as Purser. Hubbard referred to as Captain. (Ship’s Org Book, no Volume).

**September 1966** – Flag Order 639 (28 April 1968) “Functions of the Sea Organization A Rapid Summary” states “At the time of this writing the Sea Org proper is only seven months old although under arrangement for about 19 months if one assumes the purchase of ‘Enchanter’ as the beginning and includes the reconstruction of the Avon River through the first 2/3rds of 67 at Hull and Las Palmas” (Ship’s Org Book, no Volume).

**11 November 1966** – Anton James, John Lawrence, and Ray Thacker still at St. Hill.

**22 November 1966** – Hubbard incorporates Hubbard Exploration Company Ltd. (HEC) at Companies House in London, England.

**Late November 1966** – Saint Hill meetings for Operating Thetan (OT) Central Committee begin per Janis Gillham-Grady. These involve seamanship drills with Virginia Downsborough.

**Early 1967** – Janis Gillham-Grady claims that confidential meetings take place in the St. Hill garage space regarding the planning of the Sea Project.

**January 1967** – Hubbard appears as the editor of *Ability* 189 and continues as editor through April, when the last issue of *Ability*—issue 192—finally publishes.

**2 January 1967** – HCOBs “Dating–Forbidden Words” and “Sub Zero Releases Examiner’s Safeguard” publish.

**8 January 1967** – Hubbard sends a 3-page letter to MSH per LA court archives.

**12 January 1967** – Hubbard purportedly gives a lecture titled “OT & Clear Graduation aboard *Royal Scotman* [sic]” per The Church of Scientology. No records of this lecture have yet surfaced.

**17 January 1967** – HCO PL “An Open Letter to All Clears” publishes from Saint Hill.

**19 January 1967** – HCOB “Manifestations of Engrams and Secondaries Further Defined” publishes.

**25 January 1967** – HCO PL “Non-Scientology Staff” publishes (revised) from Saint Hill.

**25 January 1967** – Hubbard sends 4-page handwritten letter to MSH per LA court archives.

**26 January 1967** – Mary Sue Hubbard attests to Clear number 208.

**1 February 1967** – Hubbard sends 7-page handwritten letter to MSH per LA court archives.



**3 February 1967** - Hubbard sends 6-page handwritten letter to MSH per LA court archives.

**3 February 1967** - HCOB “Scales” publishes.

**12 February 1967** - HCOB “Admin Know-How The Responsibility of Leaders” publishes from Saint Hill.

**22 February 1967** - HCO PL “LRH Property, Building and Plans Branch” publishes from St Hill.

**25 February 1967** - Hubbard purportedly gives a lecture titled “The Big Auditing Problem” per The Church of Scientology. No records of this lecture have surfaced.

**25 February 1967** - The Church of Scientology claims that Hubbard meets the *Enchanter*.

**28 February 1967** - Mary Sue signs and notarizes a HASI, Inc. annual report in Crawley, England with Hubbard’s (stamped) signature.

**3 March 1967** - HCO PL “Training Quality” reissues from Saint Hill.

**7 March 1967** - HCO PL “Non-Scientology Staff” re-publishes (revised) from Saint Hill.

**8 March 1967** - Irene (Thrupp?) mails Hubbard regarding an upcoming *Who’s Who in California* listing. He responds at a later date that he’s on the coast of Africa.

**10 March 1967** – Hubbard resides in Las Palmas per Gerry Armstrong’s 1984 court testimony.

**22 March 1967** – HCO PL “Personnel Requirement” and HCOB “Admin Know-How Alter-Is and Degraded Beings” publish from Saint Hill.

**3 April 1967** – John Lawrence, writes “Ship’s Organization Book Captain” for/approved by Hubbard, listed as Commodore and owner. A note says that Lawrence will resume his role as Director in Hull once the Captain takes over. (Ship’s Org Book, No Volume).

**April 1967** – Hubbard appears as the editor of *Ability* magazine’s final issue, number 192.

**April 1967** – A crew, which includes Neville Chamberlain, Anton James, Blake Huffam, and Yvonne Gillham, meets at the *Avon River* in Hull according to Janis Gillham-Grady.

**April 1967** – Russell Miller (falsely) claims that the *Avon River* arrives in Las Palmas with skipper Captain John Jones and cites a *Daily Mail* article as evidence.

**April 1967** – Downsborough claims that Hubbard took her and the *Enchanter* crew out on extended cruises around the Canary Islands to search for gold.

**11 April 1967** – HCO PL “Section III OT Prerequisite” by Hubbard publishes from Saint Hill.

**18 April 1967** – HCOB “Religious Philosophy and Religious Practice (revised)” publishes from Saint Hill.

**19 April 1967** - *Avon River* still in Hull as per a newspaper report due to its unpaid bills. Anton James present there and a photo shows it docked.

**22 April 1967** - Hubbard allegedly sends a dispatch to Saint Hill regarding security importance (Miller, *Bare-Faced Messiah*, Chapter 16).

**26 April 1967** - HCO PL “Staff on Saint Hill Advanced Courses” issues from Saint Hill, with the author listed as Mary Sue Hubbard for L. Ron Hubbard.

**April/May 1967** - Flag Order 639 (28 April 1968) “Functions of the Sea Organization A Rapid Summary” states “All these Missions of Enchanters (late spring and summer of 67 in the area of the Canary Islands) were taken while the *Avon River* was refitting at Hull or Las Palmas” (Ship’s Org Book, no Volume).

**May 1967** - Janis Gillham-Grady claims Virginia Downsborough on the original *Avon River* crew.

**1 May 1967** - HCO PL “ADVANCED COURSES ADMINISTRATION” and “VOLUNTARY STAFF” publish from Saint Hill, with the author listed as Mary Sue Hubbard for L. Ron Hubbard.

**15 May 1967** - The *Avon River* may leave Hull, but it will unlikely leave until next week per a newspaper report.

**c. 22 May 1967** - The *Avon River* leaves Hull for Las Palmas, per a newspaper report estimate.

**Late May 1967** - The *Avon River* anchors off of Las Palmas. The crew meets Hubbard the next day per Janis Gillham-Grady.

**On/before 29 May 1967** – Base Order 1 states that a Base can be ashore or on sea, with the Base in Las Palmas (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 1).

**On/before 29 May 1967** – Base Order 2 states that all posts and appointments are temporary (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 1).

**On/before 29 May 1967** – Base Order 3, “Project Personnel” gives the earliest known record of “William Robertson” (Mate) & “V. Downsborough” (Cook) aboard *The Enchanter*, along with Frank McCall (Hand) and Neville Chamberlain (Hand). It also states “Equipment fo[r] the Base Office is aboard Avon (two typewriter[s]) and is on route from Rhodesia.” *Avon River* is in Las Palmas because Jill Van Staden listed on and assigned to *Avon River*, as well as assigned “Director of Communications, Las Palmas” (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 2).

**4 June 1967** – Base Order 6 gives the first mention of *Estrella* (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 2).

**4 June 1967** – Base Order 8 orders Virginia Downsborough, a cook, from the *Enchanter* to the *Avon River* (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 2).

**c. 5 June 1967** – Base Order 9 states that John Lawrence is ordered back to the *Avon River* per a disciplinary measure, placing him in Las Palmas. Anton James and Frank McCall are also listed on this base order (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 3).

**On or by 6 June 1967** – Base Order 11 mentions: “Estrella (Ess-Strayl-Yah)—Ron’s Home.”

**6 June 1967** – Base Order 12 states: “BILL ROBERTSON is highly commended for his work in refitting Enchanter and is awarded a 100 pound bonus.”

**7 June 1967** - HCO PLs “Safeguarding Technology” and “Responsibility Again” reissue from Saint Hill.

**22 June 1967** - Base Order 56 mentions Downsborough’s promotion on *Enchanter*. Robertson gets a mention in this order as well (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 1).

**22 June 1967** - Base Order 51 states assignments of Downsborough and Robertson (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 2).

**23 June 1967** - HCO PL “Policies of Healing, Insanity and Potential Trouble Sources” reissues from Saint Hill.

**30 June 1967** - HCOB “Evidences of an Aberrated Area” publishes from Saint Hill.

**July 1967** – According to Janis Gillham-Grady, Mary Sue Hubbard travels from Saint Hill, Sussex, England, to Las Palmas to meet with L. Ron Hubbard for her birthday.

**On or before 4 July 1967** - Base Order 81 has the earliest mention of Mary Sue in Las Palmas. It states that she will stay aboard the *Enchanter* (Ship’s Org Book, Volume 4).

**18 July 1967** - Base Order 99 states, “Enchanter has just arrived back (18th July 1967) from a successful cruise. [...] Avon River is nearing operational completion [...] A base must be begun in Las Palmas.”

**12 August 1967** - Flag Order 1 creates the Sea Org.

**13 September 1967** – Flag Order 138 states that they successfully purchased a base in Las Palmas called *Villa Rosina*, and celebrates the completion and dispatch of the *Enchanter*.

**20 September 1967** – Ron’s Journal 1967 mentions Hubbard’s illness in January and February due to researching OT III material.

**October 1967** – Flag Order 639 (28 April 1968) “Functions of the Sea Organization A Rapid Summary” states that “The Royal Scotsman was bought in October ‘67 to take aboard Worldwide from SH as a Sea Based Org” (Ship’s Org Book, no Volume).

**14 Nov 1967** – Flag Order 294 “Work Order” has the earliest *Royal Scotsman* mention (Ship’s Org, Volume 3).

**November 1967** – Per the Church of Scientology, “Hubbard travels to England and accepts delivery of the 3,200-ton royal vessel *Royal Scotsman* as a further expansion of the Sea Org.”

**24 December 1967** – Article by *The Daily Mirror* publishes, giving Captain John Jones’ account of the *Avon River*’s trip to Las Palmas from Hull.

**1968-1969** – John McMaster claims to witness Hubbard’s drug supply on flagship *Apollo*.

**May 1968-December 1979** – Janis Gillham-Grady has the role of a Commodore’s Messenger. She claims that she never found drugs in Hubbard’s room, that she never saw him use drugs or give drugs to others, and that she only saw him drink once (either whiskey or brandy) after a storm to warm up, and that he did not audit for 24 hours after this one drink per his own policy.

**1980-81** - Armstrong claims that he last possessed Hubbard's archive at this time.

**May 1982** - "Bill Robertson Debrief" mentions that he and Virginia Downsborough went to pick up Hubbard, but nothing about him using drugs or being ill.

**1982** - Armstrong last read the purported pinks and greys letter, per his website.

**1982 - June 1984** - Armstrong tells Bent Corydon about the pinks and greys letter at some point.

**8 June 1984** - Armstrong court case concludes. No reference in the transcripts or court records mention any letter from Hubbard to Mary Sue regarding his drinking rum or taking drugs. Undated letters to Mary Sue appear in an item inventory as well as dated ones without any descriptions.

**20 June 1984** - Jon Atack interviews Gerry Armstrong in East Grinstead. Armstrong mentions an alleged 1967 letter of Hubbard confessing to drinking rum and popping pinks and greys.

**26 October 1986** - Russell Miller interviews Virginia Downsborough in Santa Barbara.

**6 July 1987** - The pinks and greys claim first publishes in *Messiah or Madman?*

**1990** - Jon Atack's *A Piece of Blue Sky* gives a different date for the pinks and greys claim: "Hubbard had spent the last weeks of 1966 'researching' OT3 in North Africa. In a letter of the time, he admitted that he was taking drugs ('pinks and grays') to assist his research."

**20 January 2011** – Armstrong emails Katia Bachko and Lawrence Wright at *The New Yorker*.

**26 January 2011** – Armstrong emails Katia Bachko and Lawrence Wright at *The New Yorker*.

**4 February 2011** – Armstrong emails Katia Bachko and Lawrence Wright at *The New Yorker*.

**2011** – *Inside Scientology* by Janet Reitman repeats the pinks and greys claim. Neville Chamberlain claims Hubbard did not have broken bones (unlike Blake Huffam) but that he had codeine at *Villa Estrella*. Aide Karen Gregory (a pseudonym for Janis Gillham-Grady) claims that she never saw him take drugs and that he only drank whiskey twice in eight years on the ship solely to warm up from the cold.

**2013** – *Going Clear* by Lawrence Wright repeats the previous rum and pinks and greys claims, mis-citing Dan Koon. His citation notes that “The church says an apostate fabricated this letter.” The book also explains that “[Spokesman Tommy] Davis charged that Armstrong had forged many of the documents he later disseminated in order to discredit the church’s founder, although he produced no evidence to substantiate that allegation.”

**31 January 2014** – Atack shares thirdhand knowledge of Downsborough’s alleged deathbed confession to David Mayo. She could not name one pharmaceutical Hubbard allegedly used.

**10 October 2019** – Wright responds “I don’t recall” to Camacho’s email asking about getting any claims of forgery about the pinks and greys letter, and did not mention any written claims of forgery from the Church of Scientology.



**24 October 2020** – Dan Koon states that he never saw the pinks and greys letter, nor that he told Lawrence Wright he did; but rather that he saw other letters, which mentioned “your sugie.”

**17 November 2020** – Author’s interview with Janis Gillham-Grady.

## References

- Aberdeen Press and Journal, The*. 1967a. “Avonriver Is Free to Sail.” May 15:1.
- Aberdeen Press and Journal, The*. 1967b. “Riddle of Avonriver.” April 19: 8.
- Armstrong, Gerald. 2009a. “Order of Contempt” in *Scientology v. Armstrong*. Created January 17, 2001. Accessed October 9, 2019. <http://www.gerryarmstrong.org/50k/legal/a4/3317.php>.
- Armstrong, Gerald. 2009b. “Order re Contempt” in *Scientology v. Armstrong*. Created June 3, 1997. Accessed October 9, 2019. <http://www.gerryarmstrong.org/50k/legal/a4/2882.php>.
- Armstrong, Gerald. 2009c. “Second Order of Contempt” in *Scientology v. Armstrong*. Created February 11, 1998. Accessed October 9, 2019. <http://www.gerryarmstrong.org/50k/legal/a4/3001.php>.
- Armstrong, Gerald. 2009d. “Bench Warrant (Civil)” in *Scientology v. Armstrong*. Created August 6, 1997. Accessed October 9, 2019. <http://www.gerryarmstrong.org/50k/legal/a4/2908.php>.
- Armstrong, Gerald. 2009e. “Bench Warrant (Civil)” in *Scientology v. Armstrong*. Created May 15, 1998. Accessed October 9, 2019. <http://www.gerryarmstrong.org/50k/legal/a4/3005.php>.
- Armstrong, Gerald. 2018a. “Aiding and Abetting Fair Game—2014” in *Gerry Talks...* Created August 29, 2018. Accessed October 9, 2019. <https://gerryarmstrong.ca/aiding-and-abetting-fair-game-2014>.
- Armstrong, Gerald. 2018b. “Reporter’s Transcript of Proceedings (May 21, 1984).” In *Gerry Armstrong’s Legal Archive*. Created October 17, 2018. Accessed March 29, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3f8oWCb>.
- Armstrong, Gerald D. 2020. “Exhibit 500-Z: Who’s Who (March 8, 1967).” In *Gerry Armstrong’s Legal Archive*. Accessed 14 February 2020. <https://bit.ly/3567ed6>.
- Atack, Jon. 1990. *A Piece of Blue Sky: Scientology, Dianetics and L. Ron Hubbard Exposed*. New York: Carol Publishing Group.

- Auditor, The*. 1967. Issue 21. "Clear 208, Mary Sue Hubbard." February.
- Camacho, Ian C. 2020. "Degrees of Truthiness: A Response to Stephen A. Kent." *The Journal of CESNUR* 3(1):LXI-LXXXIV. DOI: 10.26338/tjoc.2020.suppbis.3.1.
- Corydon, Bent and L. Ron Hubbard, Jr. [aka Ronald DeWolf]. 1987. *L. Ron Hubbard: Messiah or Madman?* Secaucus, NJ: Lyle Stuart, Inc.
- CSI (Church of Scientology International). 2007. "Chronicle: 1960-1969." *L. Ron Hubbard Media Resources*. Accessed December 30, 2019. <http://mediaresources.lronhubbard.org/chronicle/page05.htm>.
- Ex-Scientologist Message Boards (ESMB). 2012. "Who Actually Saw Hubbard Take Drugs?" *Ex-Scientologist Message Boards*. Created January 12, 2012. Accessed November 14, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2RcLtp>.
- Docdroid.net. n.d. "Transcript of 'Electropsychometric Scouting: Battle of the Universes.'" Accessed October 18, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2RJ2CGO>.
- Gillham-Grady, Janis. 2017. *Commodore's Messenger: A Child Adrift in the Scientology Sea Organization, Book One 1953–October 1970*. n.p.: Outback Publishing.
- Gillham-Grady, Janis. 2020. Interview with Author. Hollywood, CA. November 17, 2020.
- Gray, Ashton. 2016a. "CIA Crimes of Watergate: The Sea Project, Ingo Swann, and a Damned Liar." In *Watergate: The Hoax Excerpts*. Created April 5, 2016. Accessed November 14, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3uEBY0K>.
- Gray, Ashton. 2016b. *Watergate: The Hoax*. Chalet Books & Multimedia.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1950a. "Sound and Aberration, A Lecture Given on 15 June 1950." In L. Ron Hubbard, *Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life, Volume 1: June 1950*, 444–49. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1950b. "Institutional Dianetics, A Lecture Given on 23 June 1950." In L. Ron Hubbard, *Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life, Volume 1: June 1950*, 626–43. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1950c. "Handling Psychotics, A Lecture Given on 10 November 1950." In L. Ron Hubbard, *Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life, Volume 4: September–November 1950*, 318–29. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1950d. "Case Factors, A Lecture Given on 15 June 1950." In L. Ron Hubbard, *Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life, Volume 1: June 1950*, 454–58. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications.

- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1950e. "Address of Auditor to Preclear—Saturday Evening Course, A Lecture Given on 1 July 1950." In L. Ron Hubbard, *Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life, Volume 2: July–August 1950*, 167–204. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1950f. *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*. New York: Hermitage House.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1950g. "The Intensive Processing Procedure." November 1. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume I*, 139–42. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1952a. *Scientology: What to Audit, A List and Description of the Principal Incidents to Be Found in a Human Being*. Phoenix, Arizona: Scientific Press, Inc.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1952b. "Theta Body Entities, a Lecture and Auditing Demonstration Given on 16 April 1952." In *The Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life: Volume 10, March 8–June 26, 1952*, 419–39. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1996.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1952c. "Entities (Demo Cont.), a Lecture and Auditing Demonstration Given on 10 March 1952." Reel-to-reel tape, side 2. Copenhagen: Scientology Publications Organization, 1979.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1952d. "How to Audit a Theta Line, Part I, a Lecture Given on 16 April 1952." In *The Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life: Volume 10, March 8–June 26, 1952*, 321–31. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1996.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1952e. "How to Audit a Theta Line, Part II, a Lecture Given on 16 April 1952." In *The Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life: Volume 10, March 8–June 26, 1952*, 333–41. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1996.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1952f. "How to Search for Incidents on The Track, Part I, a Lecture and Auditing Demonstration Given on 16 April 1952." In *The Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life: Volume 10, March 8–June 26, 1952*, 343–85. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1996.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1952g. "How to Search for Incidents on The Track, Part II, a Lecture and Auditing Demonstration Given on 16 April 1952." In *The Research and Discovery Series: A Running Record of Research into the Mind and Life: Volume 10, March 8–June 26, 1952*, 387–413. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1996.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967a. "An Open Letter to All Clears." Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of January 17. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The*

- Organization Executive Course, Volume 4*, 796–97. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967b. “Non-Scientology Staff.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of October 20, 1961 (revised 25 January 1967 and 7 March 1967). In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 0*, 152–53. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967c. “LRH Property, Building and Plans Branch.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of February 22. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 7*, 1391–92. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967d. “Personnel Requirement.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of March 22. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 1*, 203–4. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967e. “Safeguarding Technology.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of February 14, 1965 (reissued 7 June 1967). In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 7*, 1209–10. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967f. “Office of LRH—LRH Personal Office Organization.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of February 22. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 7*, 1209–10. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967g. “Theory Check-Out Data.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of October 4, 1964 (reissued 21 May 1967). In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 5*, 181–3. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967h. “Responsibility Again.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of January 17, 1962 (reissued 7 June 1967). In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 5*, 566–67. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967i. “Policies of Physical Healing, Insanity and Potential Trouble Sources.” Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of October 27, 1964 (reissued 23 June 1967). In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course, Volume 1*, 517–20. Los Angeles: Church of Scientology, Publications Department, American Saint Hill Organization, 1974.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967j. “Dating—Forbidden Words.” Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of January 2. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume VIII*, 82. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.

- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967k. "Sub Zero Releases—Examiner's Safeguard." Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of January 2. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume VIII*, 81. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967l. "Manifestations of Engrams and Secondaries Further Defined." Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of January 19. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume VIII*, 83–4. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967m. "Scales." Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of February 3. Mimeograph 1. Saint Hill, East Grinstead, Essex, England.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967n. "Admin Know-How—The Responsibility of Leaders." Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of February 12. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume VIII*, 85–97. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967o. "Admin Know-How—Alter-Is and Degraded Beings." Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of March 22. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume VII*, 98–9. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967p. "Religious Philosophy and Religious Practice (HCOB of 21 June 1960, "Religious Philosophy and Religious Practice" Revised)." Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of April 18. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume V*, 416. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967q. "Evidences of an Aberrated Area." Hubbard Communications Office Bulletin of June 30. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume VIII*, 106–7. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron, ed. 1967r. *Ability*. Issue 189. Hubbard Society in Washington. Washington, D.C. January.
- Hubbard, L. Ron, ed. 1967s. *Ability*. Issue 190. February.
- Hubbard, L. Ron, ed. 1967t. *Ability*. Issue 191. March.
- Hubbard, L. Ron, ed. 1967u. *Ability*. Issue 192. April.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967v. "Base Order 3: Project Personnel." *Ship's Org.* Volume 2. Las Palmas, Spain. Circa May 29.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967w. "Staff on Saint Hill Advanced Courses." Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of April 26. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course. Volume 4*, 485. Los Angeles: Church of Scientology, Publications Department, American Saint Hill Organization, 1974.

- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967x. "Advanced Courses Administration." Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of May 1. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course. Volume 4*, 486. Los Angeles: Church of Scientology, Publications Department, American Saint Hill Organization, 1974.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967y. "Voluntary Staff." Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of May 1. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course. Volume 1*, 137. Los Angeles: Church of Scientology, Publications Department, American Saint Hill Organization, 1974.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967z. "Base Order 81: Enchanter Sailing Orders Received." *Ship's Org.* Volume 4. Las Palmas, Spain. July 6.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967aa. "Base Order 6: Publication or Order." *Ship's Org.* Volume 2. Las Palmas, Spain. June 4.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1967ab. "Base Order 11: Radio: Walkie Talkie Procedure Effective 10 June 1967." *Ship's Org.* Volume 2. Las Palmas, Spain. June 6.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 1968. "Drugs & Trippers." Hubbard Communication Office Bulletin of September 23. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Technical Bulletins of Dianetics and Scientology, Volume VI*, 258. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1991.
- Hubbard, L. Ron. 2005. *Ron's Journal 67*. Los Angeles: Golden Era Productions.
- James, Anton, John Lawrence, and Ray Thacker. 1966a. "Staff Responsibility for the Organization as a Whole." Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of November 11. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course. Volume 7*, 425. Los Angeles: Church of Scientology, Publications Department, American Saint Hill Organization, 1974.
- James, Anton, John Lawrence, and Ray Thacker. 1966b. "Postal Economy." Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of November 11. In L. Ron Hubbard, *The Organization Executive Course. Volume 1*, 184. Los Angeles: Church of Scientology, Publications Department, American Saint Hill Organization, 1974.
- Martin, George. 1967. "The Org and I (for Explanation See Below) by Skipper of the Scientology Ship." *The Daily Mirror*, December 24.
- Mediafire.com. 2012. "Audio of 'Electropsychometric Scouting: Battle of the Universes.'" Created October 16, 2012. Accessed March 18, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3tATcL1>.
- Miller, Russell. 1987. *Bare-Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard*. London: Penguin.

- Ortega, Tony. 2014. "LISTEN: Rare tape reveals how L. Ron Hubbard really came up with Scientology's space cooties." *The Underground Bunker*. Created June 17, 2014. Accessed May 2, 2021. <https://bit.ly/2RDdyGd>.
- Reitman, Janet. 2011. *Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
- Robertson, Bill. 1982. "Captain Bill Robertson Debrief." Accessed December 30, 2019. <https://bit.ly/3hejfoQ>.
- Snoeck, Michel. 2020. "The Story of Mary Sue Hubbard (1931–2002), or A Summary of Her Achievements and Downfall." In *An Overview of Scientology*. Created March 2006. Accessed October 6, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2SIOcY4>.
- Taylor, Alethia C., Pat Brice, and Barbara de Celle, eds. 1978. *What Is Scientology? Based on the Works of L. Ron Hubbard Founder of Dianetics and Scientology*. Los Angeles: Church of Scientology California.
- Wright, Lawrence. 2013. *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood and The Prison of Belief*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.