

7 July 1973

HW:

Re the concept of pushbutton spies controlled through RHIC (Radio Hypnotic Intercerebral Control) as described in "The Pushbutton Spy," by Leigh James, 1970.

This presupposes a technique has been developed of creating a post-hypnotic state in a subject, bringing him out of it, and then returning him to it through a radio signal. This in turn depends upon a receptive capacity in the brain so that the radio trigger signal can be received and achieve its purpose, that is, set him to doing whatever he may have been programmed to do.

I believe there is such a capacity. It probably varies with different individuals, but my own experience suggests strongly such a receptive capacity. How well it could be utilized to trigger the return of a hypnotic or post-hypnotic state I cannot say, but I can say that one brain I know of -- mine, -- has been receptive to one certain kind of signal, apparently closely related to those generated by radio stations, for almost as long as I can remember.

As a child and teenager, I spent much time out of doors at night during summer months and noticed rather early that I seemed to "hear" falling stars. Not always, but a good proportion of the time when a meteor would shoot across the sky, during the brightest part of its course, I would seem to "hear" a soft swishing sound. I put "hear" in quotes because it was not quite like hearing. The noise was in my head somewhere, not in my ears.

For a long time I was convinced I was imagining this. Especially when I checked with others and never found anyone who would admit to "hearing" the same thing. Their disbelief was even stronger than my own. However, the phenomenon continued, not with every shooting star, but almost unfailingly with the brightest of the meteors I happened to see.

With the advent of radio, I found that the soft hiss a radio produces when it's not tuned to any station and the volume is turned up closely resembled this soft whisper I had thought I got from the flight of meteors. This is particularly noticeable on the FM band when a station leaves the air. The silence ends, and a soft hiss comes through. I have seen technical explanations of this which I believe attribute the hiss to the ionization of electrons in the tubes or transistors. Still more recently, I have seen a similar explanation of that held that when meteors enter our atmosphere and become incandescent (and therefore visible) they set up an ionization process which, according to this explanation, registers with some center deep in the brain of some individuals. This was in an AP dispatch some years back which I sent to a friend who was interested and who never returned it. There is also an explanation of vapor trails created by high-flying planes which involves ionization. In a few cases I have thought I heard very faintly the soft hiss when B52s were flying relatively close and creating thick vapor trails, but I've never been able to be sure of this. I've never thought I heard it with smaller planes, no matter how thick the vapor trail they were creating.

We come now to the most startling example of this meteor hiss I've ever experienced. In 1955 shortly before Christmas I was returning from work at about midnight, driving north off the Golden Gate Bridge and starting up the Waldo grade toward the tunnel. Suddenly, in my head I heard the meteor hiss, far louder than I'd ever before experienced it. For some reason I knew it was coming from the left, and I looked away from the freeway and out the left window. A bright, glowing green fireball with an apparent diameter half that of the full moon was streaking northward past me, its "whisper" very loud inside my head, NOT in my ears. The fireball was on an apparently level trajectory, travelling far faster than any jet plane could have but still much slower than a meteor. It was within view for not more than two seconds before it disappeared over the brow of the hill ahead. As it did, its hiss faded as though the current had been turned off. There was no way of estimating its actual altitude, distance or size, of course, but I am certain it could not have been a meteor because of the level trajectory and its relatively slow speed. I am equally certain it could not have been a jet plane, or, for that matter, anything our civilization is capable of producing even now, much less in 1955.

Riding with me were two colleagues, one a former Air Force PIO and still a reservist, the other a civvie type who is remarkable for his conservatism. I asked both what they thought it was. The civvie type had no opinion and said frankly he didn't know. The AF type said it must be a flare, but could not explain how a flare could behave as this thing did. Both professed not to have heard anything. Years later, I asked both separately about what they thought of it, and both claimed they couldn't remember having seen it, although they remembered riding back to Marin County with me that night.

This is the only occasion when I have been without doubt that I have seen an unidentified flying object, and it remains unusually vivid because of the loudness of the "meteor hiss" it produced inside my head. As noted above, there was no way of estimating its height or distance, but it cleared easily a mountain which rises around 1500 feet above the north shore of the Golden Gate. On the other hand, this thing could have been at 1,500 miles altitude. There is simply no way of estimating. I do infer that the loudness was due to relative nearness and that it was caused by ionization of the atmosphere as the thing burned its way across the sky. It left no trail of sparks, as a meteor sometimes does. My impression was that it was propelled in some way. It look extremely businesslike.

In any case, it would appear that ionization generates a signal which registers in some cases in some center of the brain. I see no reason why, if the nature of this signal could be determined and reproduced, it could not be used as a trigger to re-induce a hypnotic or post-hypnotic state, possibly involving a programmed course of action which the subject then would embark on as per instructions.

It would appear that some individuals might be more receptive to such a signal than others, or that receptivity could even depend upon something like wavelengths or frequency. Certainly I never have found ANYone else who would admit to "hearing" a meteor.


jdw