

SAUCER NEWS

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NEW WAVE OF HOAX LETTERS HITS SAUCER NEWS HEADQUARTERS: While most of us are trying to concentrate our attention on serious research, there seems to be a "lunatic fringe" in Saucerdom which expends its energy sending around hoax letters which only serve to confuse the true issues. On May 30th of this year we received a letter postmarked Washington, D.C., which read in part: "Just a line to let you know that I am on my way to Fort Lee after I finish my business here in Washington. I am conferring with a Committee here concerning your activities. Soon I will be reaching Fort Lee and my personal investigation of you will mean the closing down of your operations immediately....Before I close down SAUCER NEWS, I will let you know the details of the 'Mr. X' letter written some years ago. You are correct that I wrote it and first tried to blame you and then Comella." (The reference here is to a hoax letter discussed in Newsletter #9.) - The above letter is signed "Richard Ogden, man called X," but the entire letter including the signature is typed. Therefore there is no way of being completely sure that Richard Ogden is actually the author of the Washington letter, or that his confession concerning the earlier hoax is valid.

However, still another hoax letter, received just the other day, throws more light on the situation. This one is dated July 12th, but, (curiously!), it is postmarked July 8th. It was mailed from Bridgeport, Connecticut, and purports to be from Albert K. Bender, the researcher who was supposedly "silenced" by three men in black, back in 1953. Like in the Washington letter, the signature is merely typed in. The Bridgeport letter reads in part as follows: "I recently held a conference with representatives of the U.S. Government. During this conference, your name and your saucer research activities were mentioned. It appears that you are being investigated by the Government. It seems that someone had filed a complaint against you with a Committee in Washington. As a result, an investigation is being made of you by an agency I am not allowed to name....You will probably be visited in a few days regarding this matter and I thought I would give you advance warning so that you may prepare yourself....Please keep the information in this letter confidential and destroy after reading in that I write this to you at great personal risk."

Needless to say, we have not been visited by anyone, and we don't expect to be! Upon receiving the latest in this series of strange communications, we phoned Albert K. Bender at his home in Bridgeport. He assured us that he did not write any such letter, and mentioned that he himself has been receiving a series of hoax letters, all postmarked Seattle, Washington. By strange co-incidence, Seattle is the home town of Mr. Richard Ogden, the man who likes to call himself "Mr. X," and who is the person most likely responsible for all these letters. Ogden is known to have written an endless series of letters under his own name to public officials from the President on down, concerning his various views and theories about flying saucers. A few months ago Ogden sent us a signed letter accusing your SAUCER NEWS Editor of being responsible for his not being able to publish a saucer book that he has been peddling around to various publishers for several years. Thus, the finger of suspicion points to Richard C. Ogden as the man who, for reasons best known to himself, is doing all he can to throw needless confusion into the saucer mystery.

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