

bil #7?

Speculations on EVP - S. A. Andrews

May I first thank those who kindly replied to my questions in a previous Newsletter.

There was no particular brief for either cassette or r/r equipment, as long as it was reasonably efficient. But there was decided opinions on the merits of the reception method. One researcher definitely decried the use of the microphone alone, describing it as a completely useless method. On the other hand another claimed the microphone was the only reliable and true way to success. Both researchers got voices. There was a general agreement that background noise was sometimes helpful, but not absolutely necessary.

It would seem that if the voices wish to manifest they will do so despite the method used. This being, so, could it be inferred that the reception mechanism is not of such vital importance, and that the voices can vocalise within the recorder itself by bypassing any form of 'aerial' ? Has any researcher made successful tapes without mic, diode etc attached ? I have not seen this stated in my readings. (There have been rare instances recorded of this happening - Alan)

I do not go along with Gilbert Bonner's statement that a beginner to EVP should not ask questions until he has read all the available literature on the subject, to avoid going over ground that has already been established. I would much rather hear a statement from a researcher within our Newsletter group than rely on the passages in the books by, for example, Iyall Watson, Von Daniken, Colin Wilson, etc. who seem only to have cribbed from 'Breakthrough' rather than by personally experiment.

A beginner may wonder why in view of the proliferation of voices, (GB states he has recorded over 10,000) that not one of them (the voices) has seen fit to explain the techniques they use to broadcast or how they hear the researcher's questions. Replies to this question by Dr Raudive do not seem to be positively informative from a technical point of view. Even if the technique limits the voice to fragmentary ejaculations, why not at least in some sort of running order, thereby building up a complete explanatory sentence.

Has ant researcher logged words that can be linked, despite the interruption of other voices in between, during the same reception period, that could form a sustained statement of facts ? One must accept that the voices exist on the tapes. However, listening to the 'Breakthrough' recorde issued by Vista Records, although they are daimed to be as clear as re-recording on sophisticated equipment can get them, they still require the strictest acoustic concentration. One wonders how confusing the original recordings were.

By the way I found Gilbert Bonner's article in Psychic News (29.478) most enlightening.

GB also suggested that NASA and kindred state organizations should release details of any voices received on their highly evolved hardware, used for space probes.

This is inferring that like the UFO problme the top brass know more than they care to divulge.

I have spoken to someone who is knowledgable on these subjects, and has need to keep up with the latest scientific papers on a wide

range of research. He stated that the present position is that a continual amount of cosmic sound pours into the great radio listening bowl (in Mexico, I think), but the problem is in trying to interpret the babble of sound. There are no recognisable voices.

The beginner may therefore be forgiven in thinking that the more sophisticated the hardware the less personal and successful the research becomes. It would be interesting to know how many experimenters, after a reasonable and serious period of research, DID NOT GET VOICES. How could one find out? If the percentage is higher than those who do succeed does not the possibility arise that human psychic sensitivity plays a major part in EVP? That a form of mediumship has developed within the researcher, a sensitivity that he has not mentally realised which can only manifest through electronic apparatus as direct voice can through the trumpet or ouija board or pendulum 'speak'.

The evp voices are there to be heard. The experimenter is there with the apparatus. The desire to hear is there, so what is the link? If we discount the voices as being from the dead, extraterrestrial entities, subconscious ESP, PK, spirit guides, angels, demons extraneous electro-magnetic, cosmic and acoustic vibrations, atmospheric disturbances, force fields, bio-rhythms, mechanical aberrations in the apparatus, self delusion or psychological fraud, where else do we look?

So the beginner in his ignorance feels free to ask questions and without any preconceived theories can delve into realms of speculation which seem far removed from the normal paranormal lines of research. This I am doing. It may turn out to be unrewarding, but the idea is exciting. If it comes to nothing it will at least be one theory less.

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RECORDING EQUIPMENT - Tony Williamson, Nottingham.

In response to the questions in issue no 3 of the newsletter here is a run down of equipment I use for recording the evp:

MICROPHONE: Kay KCM33 unidirectional, highly sensitive and with very little background noise; RADIO: Bush "Sigma Four" battery/mains receiver. Receives transmissions on the Long Wave, Medium Wave, VHF/FM and Aircraft bands. Signal strength meter (an important consideration for interfrequency recording). OPEN REEL SPOOL TAPE DECK: Akai 4000 DS MK11. Low noise circuits and components, high frequency response (up to 24,000Hz). Two tape speeds -  $3\frac{3}{4}$  and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches per second. CASSETTE DECK: Trio KX-620 Dobby system for reducing inherent tape hiss, switch for accommodating ferric, chrome and ferrichrome tapes. PORTABLE TAPE RECORDER: Philips N2214 battery/mains model. AMPLIFIER: Eagle A2006 output power 50 watt (stereo 2x25 watt). HEADPHONES: Eagle G3000B A very good pair of headphones capable of handling the higher frequencies.

The above equipment is used regularly for the recording of paranormal voices. The "Sigma Four" receiver is a recent acquisition, prior to purchasing this I used an old "Sobell" radiogram, which, on occasions, received voices of excellent audibility. The microphone is of the condenser type, and has its own built-in preamplifier worked off a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  volt battery. To date (June 1978) I have received approx. 500 voices using this microphone.

The portable cassette recorders are used mainly for the copying of voices only occasionally are they used for outside work (it's been my experience that these recorders can, on occasions, pick up radio broadcast material. My usual procedure is to make a recording with the microphone switched off and if the recorder is in fact picking up these signals I either postpone the experiment or wrap the machine in some conductive material such as tin foil or fine wire mesh. This material should, of course, be 'earthed').

I have found the spool deck to be of excellent quality both in design and performance. It's high signal to noise ratio and frequency response make it an ideal instrument for recording the normal whisper type microphone voice. The two speeds of this recorder make it possible to reproduce an evp recording at half or double speed, as voices often appear at, say,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  ips when the actual speed used for the recording was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ips, or vice versa. The brand of tape I use is of the Low Noise/Hi Fi type. The quality of the tape is crucial when using cassettes (or spool tapes at the same speed ie  $1\frac{7}{8}$  ips) the cheap, usually unbranded, type of tape leaves a lot to be desired, quality wise, when using this tape for evp research. This tape is also usually found to be abrasive on the recording side, leading to premature wear of the heads and tape guides. The brands I normally use are : Scotch (classic, high energy and dynarange) BASF (LH, Chrome and Ferrichrome) memorex and Decca.

I think the most important points to look for when purchasing equipment for recording the evp are: reliability, high signal/noise ratio (some where in the region of 55-65dB) and frequency response, in that order. I think it wise to remember that a recording system (source, deck, amplifier and headphones) is only as good as its weakest link. Since my research in February, 1977 I have used various forms of communication: radio, microphone, diode and interfrequency, and although I've received the odd loud voice through the radio and interfrequency methods my best results have come through the microphone. Some of these voices are loud enough to be heard through the recorders speakers. I think the key to microphone recordings is to have some sound available for the entities to utilize, I am currently doing experiments along these lines. So far I've had some success using the middle range of frequencies eg. the tone signal transmitted by most radio stations before they start broadcasting (this is a steady note of around 1,000 Hz). The generated noise must not be too high however, it should be adjusted so that it is just audible to the ear, it's amazing how these noises can improve the volume level of the voices.

I have tried the diode method described by Raudive in 'Breakthrough' but have had little success. We live quite close to powerful VHF transmitters (Radio Trent and Radio Nottingham) and these tend to break through when using this method, so I have given it up.

I have just completed a C30 compilation cassette of some of my voices, if anyone would like to borrow this tape, or exchange it, to compare with their own samples, please write to me enclosing 3 x 7p stamps for postage of the tape. My address is : T. Williamson, 21, Ashworth Close, Colwick woods, Nottingham, NG3 7FR

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Answers to questions on page 6 of May 1978 Newsletter - Joel Honig, USA

- 1) (any other reasons apart from bad hearing why people can't hear voices) Bad hearing is the main reason, or seems to be. Many people are so biased against the evp that they wouldn't hear voices if they shouted.
- 2) (what type of recorder is best?) The type of recorder is of little import. Cassette is the most practical. Battery is far preferable to line (mains); the latter can pick up normal signals.
- 3) (what type of mic. is best?) I like dynamic microphones but don't think it makes too much difference.
- 4) (best brand of tape; any particular?) No. But low-noise high out-put tape is to be preferred.
- 5) (best wave band to use on radio?) The radio method is virtually worthless for any scientific investigation unless it can be employed under the most stringent and strictly controlled laboratory conditions. (Raudive himself used to tune to around 1400 kHz, merely because there seemed to be the least number of stations broadcasting around there and also because his radio got the best white noise (he thought) there. The choice of frequency was largely arbitrary, as far as I could determine.)
- 6) (is voice reception better after the recording has been going for some time?) No. If anything, they seem to come when they want to.
- 7) (Does background music help?) Background music is a waste of time and impedes understanding of any possibly paranormal voices.
- 8) (have you considered alternative hypothesis to the survival one?,) Yes I have considered others but the survival hypothesis has not been discounted.

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Replies by Gilbert Bonner, (questions above)

- 1) It may be that the receiver must be a natural sensitive or that problems of hearing are of a physico-acoustic nature and that training can overcome this problem in many cases, in time.
- 2) Reel to reel or cassette or both achieve good results (two recorders are needed to copy and repeat selected passages).
- 3) Microphones supplied with recorders usually seem to give results. More research on this needed. A radio-mic as used on TV would be interesting to try.
- 5) Medium or short wave bands.
- 6) Depends if we establish contact.
- 7) All have been considered for years. There is no absolute proof but experienced researchers believe in 'survival hypothesis'.
- 8) The paranormal reality of the voices is 'established'.

- 9) Voices are heard on REPLAY are identified by REPEAT TECHNIQUES.
- 10) Serious research requires PATIENCE, time and trouble, and sincerity and sometimes years of research.
- 11) We have linked with another dimension of existence.

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TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THE SORT OF OUTLINE AND PROCEDURE IN AN EXPERIMENT WHEN STARTING HERE IS A REPORT ON A FIRST TENTATIVE EXPERIMENT BY BENNY BORROWS :

On Sunday 2/4/78 using my sister's recorder I did my first test at 7.30pm to 8pm using the "No 1" method described in Richard Sheargold's very instructive booklet.

Well, what I did was to tune in to 127 mhz on the "aircraft band", started the recorder, announced my name, address, time and date, and requested any of my friends in the Spirit World to answer me; 10 minutes later I again spoke into the mic. saying "thank you friends".

Following this, I commenced playback; I received a lot of "white noise" and traffic vehicle distortion interference, but alas no evp.

I then made a further announcement and proceeded as before until another ten minute period had elapsed but following another "playback" to no avail. I then began my third and final attempt speaking as before, and finally at the end of thirty minutes recording closedown by saying "Thank you friends and God Bless you".

I then commenced a complete "playback" with the following results: On the first ten minutes recording I heard a distinct and distant musical voice saying what I gathered was "Oh help me"; a kind of sing song voice. I have played back this part over and over again and although the white noise is terrific I feel sure I have heard a "voice". Even though this is only my first inexperienced report, I am not at this point making any claims, but I am encouraged by what has occurred up to now. Consequently, I intend to continue using the no 1 method (I think this should be the no 3 or interfrequency method - Alan), in a different part of my house, away from external traffic distort noise and in my report 2 I will hopefully have better results to tell you about.

Benny Borrows - South Wirral, - April, 1978.

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"VOICES" - THE LETTER PAGE !

Dear Alan,

As someone who is not psychic, has no success with evp recordings but is extremely interested in the subject, I feel that Mr Smith's comments (EVPN no 5) were nearer to the truth of the evp than anything I have read so far.

I doubt very much whether the entities will ever allow us to communicate with them at length by mechanical means, it would be very arrogant of us to assume that those who have passed to the Spirit World could be commanded to speak to us and when we wished.

F. Jurgenson has, we are told, had conversations lasting up to 20 mins. but unfortunately I have never learned whether these conversations are of any significance, but had they revealed anything of moment then surely details would be published world wide?

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(A letter by Thomas Maddock gave some very useful suggestions for the newsletter. Perhaps they will give others ideas? - as many of the suggestions will be carried out in the newsletter it will also serve as a "whats-to-come". - Alan)

1. To suggest what kind of equipment gets the best results.
2. What are the best listening times for the Northern Hemisphere, in the southern?
3. Some indecipherable messages given as they sound. Would some linguist like to comment?
4. The moral aspects - are some 'evil' spirits involved, trying to deceive us?
5. Will evp put Spiritualists out of business?
6. What are the best methods for logging evp?
7. An interview (possibly each month) with an evp researcher.
8. A review of books on evp.
9. Repeats of evp references in the press
10. A directory of evp researchers around the world.

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News comes from Nigel Watson of South Humberside of paranormal (?) music that was heard in the 1930's :

A man (RF) swede bashing in the middle of a field approximately six miles from Lincoln experienced a peculiar phenomenon in the early 1930's. He heard classical music coming from nowhere. This was at a time when transistor portable radios were unknown of, and most wireless sets were indeed bulky to say the least. He was puzzled by this music and he wondered where it came from. His theory was that the music was emanating from a pylon in a nearby field, which might have been acting as a radio receiver. Otherwise there was no possible explanation for the source of this musical emanation which ceased after a few minutes. He never experienced the phenomena again.

Source: RF interviewed by N Watson in October 1977.

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EVP newsletter - a monthly issue @ £1.20 available from Alan Cleaver, 12 Lime Tree Avenue, Old Bilton, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7QT.