

Nazis flying saucers – film sparks UFO debate

A new sci-fi film* about the Nazis has reignited a debate in Germany about Hitler's development of flying saucers. The Finnish sci-fi comedy '*Iron Sky*' centres on real life officer Hans Kammler, who was said to have made a significant breakthrough in anti-gravity experiments towards the end of World War Two. The film relates how, from a secret base built up in Antarctica, the first Nazi spaceships were launched in late 1945 to found the military base Schwartz Sonne – Black Sun – on the dark side of the moon. This base was to be used to build a powerful invasion fleet and return to the earth once the timing was right, in this case 2018.

A report in the German magazine *PM* in November 2010 purports that there was strong evidence that a Nazi flying saucer programme was well advanced. Hitler ordered Luftwaffe chief Hermann Goering to develop the super weapon that would change the war. The *PM* report quotes eyewitnesses who believe they saw a flying saucer marked with the Iron Cross of the German military flying low over the Thames in 1944. At the time the *New York Times* wrote about "a mysterious flying disc" with photos of the device seen travelling at extremely high speeds over the high rise buildings.

The best known of the Nazi flying saucer projects was the Schriever-Habermohl scheme, named after Rudolf Schriever and Otto Habermohl. Initially a Luftwaffe project, it fell under the auspices of armaments minister Albert Speer before being taken over once again in 1944 by Hans Kammler. The project was centred in Prague between 1941-1943. The article said the Nazis had embarked on a flying saucer building programme to destroy London and New York with the long-distance flying saucers and thus change the course of the war. The report adds that the Americans treated the existence of the weapons seriously, thinking it could bomb New York, a target the Fuehrer focused on as the war progressed and his armies began retreating on all fronts. Apparently the machine was capable on its very first maiden flight of travelling 2000km, the magazine claims. The Germans destroyed much of the paperwork of their activities but there are numerous hints it did exist, including an attempt in 1960 in Canada by UFO experts to recreate the device, which, to their amazement did actually fly.

Category: Nazis / Flying Saucers / Sci-Fi Movie

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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Nazis flying saucers – 10th December 2010

Eyewitnesses captured by the Allies after WW2 claimed to have seen the saucer, produced in Prague, fly on several occasions in early 1945. Joseph Andreas Epp, an engineer who served as a consultant to the Schriever-Habermohn project, stated 15 prototypes were built in all. He described how a central cockpit surrounded by rotating adjustable wing-vanes formed a circle.

“The vanes were held together by a band at the outer edge of the wheel-like device. The pitch of the vanes could be adjusted so that during take off more lift was generated by increasing their angle from a more horizontal setting. In flight the angle would be adjusted to a smaller angle, similar to the way helicopter rotors operate. The wing-vanes were to be set in rotation by small rockets placed around the rim like a pinwheel. Once rotational speed was sufficient, lift off was achieved.”

He continued, “After the craft had risen to some height the horizontal jets or rockets were ignited. After this the wing-blades would be allowed to rotate freely as the saucer moved forward, as in an auto-gyrocopter. In all probability, the wing blades speed, and so their lifting value, could easily also be increased by directing the adjustable horizontal jets slightly upwards to engage the blades, thus spinning them faster at the discretion of the pilot.”

A German official recorded that at the Prague-Gbell aerodrome in September 1943, he and a number of flying companions saw inside a hanger ‘a disk some 5-6 metres in diameter. Its body is relatively large at the centre. Underneath, it has four tall, thin legs. Colour: aluminium. Height: almost as tall as a man. Thickness: some 30-40cm, with a rim of external rods, perhaps square orifices’. The official added, “Along with my friends, I saw the device emerge from the hanger. It was then that we heard the roar of the engines; we saw the external side of the disk begin to rotate, and the vehicle began moving slowly and in a straight line towards the southern end of the field. It then rose one meter into the air. After moving around some 300 meters at that altitude, it stopped again. Its landing was rather rough... later on, the “thing” took off again, managing to reach the end of the aerodrome this time.” * **see links page 8**

All of this does beg the question about the 1947 Roswell incident – the area is also known as ‘Area 51’. German scientists were captured by the Allies and many disappeared. Did the USA secretly force the German scientists to build the Nazi flying saucer in the USA using the stolen technology to build their own version? If so, did it crash and was it a giant cover up? The dates are too coincidental...*

EXERCISES

1. **Flying saucers:** What three things do you know about flying saucers? What do you know about Nazi flying saucers? Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography: Antarctica, Prague:** Where is Antarctica? Where is Prague? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

7. **Let's think!** Think of five flying saucers/UFO or extra terrestrial sightings. Then add five different types of Aliens (e.g. from the TV) you know. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five FS/UFO or ET sightings	Five different aliens
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Let's discuss: Iron Sky trailer videos:** In pairs. Look at the link on page 8 to the *Iron Sky* webpage. Watch the two videos. Then ask your partner three questions about them. What are your conclusions?

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with the '**UFOs**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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10. Let's talk! Radio Sci-Fi: *In pairs/groups.* You are in the Radio Sci-Fi studio. One of you is the presenter; the other student(s) is/are one of the people listed below. You are here to discuss the Nazi flying saucers. Try to get a balanced interview. *5 minutes.*

1	An old witness of the Nazi flying saucers	3	A UFO expert
2	A US military expert	4	A journalist

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

11. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the movie.
- 2) Name the German magazine.
- 3) Name the German air force.
- 4) Who is behind the movie?
- 5) Who is Hans Kammler?

Student B

- 1) Name the airport.
- 2) Describe what the Nazi flying saucer looked like.
- 3) Describe how the Nazi flying saucer flew.
- 4) Name the American newspaper.
- 5) What happened in 1960?

12. Let's debate! Close Encounters: *In pairs.* Student A thinks UFOs and aliens are real. Student B thinks otherwise.

13. Let's draw a Nazi flying saucer! On the board draw a Nazi flying saucer. (Use your imagination using the information on page 2 and use the links on page 8 to help you)

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Nazi flying saucers.** Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a 2-minute presentation on: **UFOs.** Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

16. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Nazi flying saucers _____
- b) 'Iron Sky' _____
- c) UFOs _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Did life come from outer space?
- 3) Did flying saucers exist before the Nazis?
- 4) Are we alone or is there life in the universe?
- 5) Why were the Nazi flying saucers never developed? Or were they?!!!
- 6) Why did it take the Canadian scientists 17 years to test the Nazi flying saucer plans?
- 7) Why did the Canadian scientists never develop the technology further?
- 8) Do you think the US military used the Nazi flying saucer plans to develop their own flying saucers? Explain.
- 9) What happened to Hans Kammler?
- 10) Why has the Nazi flying saucer design never been redesigned and put in to the public domain?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever seen a UFO or met an ET?
- 3) Is there life in space?
- 4) Will we one day need to find another planet to live on?
- 5) What really happened at Roswell (Area 51)?
- 6) Should we search for extra terrestrial life?
- 7) NASA astronaut Ed Mitchell says aliens are among us. What do you think?
- 8) Have the American military deliberately been misleading the public for years over flying saucers? After all the Nazis developed flying saucers and were flying them in 1943!!
- 9) Were the Nazi scientists given new identities so the USA could develop the Nazi flying saucers for themselves at Roswell – away from Joe Public?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's debate! Do aliens exist?

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Do UFOs and Aliens exist? Nazis flying saucers – your opinion
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The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A new (1)_____ film* about the (2)_____ has reignited a debate in Germany about Hitler's development of flying saucers. The Finnish sci-fi comedy 'Iron Sky*' centres on real life officer Hans Kammler, who was said to have made a significant breakthrough in anti-(3)_____ experiments towards the end of World War Two. The film relates how, from a secret base built up in Antarctica, the first Nazi (4)_____ were launched in late 1945 to found the military base Schwartz Sonne – Black Sun – on the dark side of the moon. This base was to be used to build a powerful (5)_____ fleet and return to the earth once the timing was right, in this case 2018. A report in the German magazine *PM* in November 2010 purports that there was strong evidence that a Nazi flying saucer programme was well advanced. Hitler ordered Luftwaffe chief Hermann Goering to develop the super (6)_____ that would change the war. The *PM* report quotes eyewitnesses who believe they saw a (7)_____ _____ marked with the Iron Cross of the German military flying low over the Thames in 1944. At the time the *New York Times* wrote about "a mysterious flying (8)_____" with photos of the device seen travelling at extremely high speeds over the high rise buildings.

gravity

disc

invasion

weapon

flying

saucer

Nazis

spaceships

sci-fi

The best known of the Nazi flying saucer projects was the Schriever-Habermohl scheme, named after Rudolf Schriever and Otto Habermohl. Initially a Luftwaffe project, it fell under the (1)_____ of (2)_____ minister Albert Speer before being taken over once again in 1944 by Hans Kammler. The project was centred in (3)_____ between 1941-1943. The article said the Nazis had embarked on a flying saucer building programme to (4)_____ London and New York with the long-distance flying saucers and thus change the course of the war. The report adds that the Americans treated the existence of the weapons (5)_____, thinking it could bomb New York, a target the (6)_____ focused on as the war progressed and his armies began retreating on all fronts. (7)_____ the machine was capable on its very first (8)_____ flight of travelling 2000km, the magazine claims.

apparently

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armaments

Prague

Fuehrer

seriously

maiden

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings:
Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

1	development	11	breakthrough
2	Antarctica	12	prototypes
3	eyewitnesses	13	adjustable
4	invasion	14	horizontal
5	mysterious	15	helicopter
6	amazement	16	aerodrome
7	armaments	17	digression
8	extremely	18	ignited
9	auspices	19	rotational
10	apparently	20	sufficient

LINKS

<http://www.ironsky.net/site/> - Link re: Exercise 8 on page 3
<http://www.dhyra.com/2010/11/germany-nazi-hitler-era-build-ufo.html>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1330566/Hitlers-secret-flying-saucer-Did-Fuhrer-plan-UFO-attack-London-NY.html>
http://www.eyepod.org/images/L_Vril17_1_.gif
<http://www.thephora.net/forum/showthread.php?t=68263>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/ufo/8139811/Nazi-spaceship-film-sparks-UFO-debate.html>
<http://criticalbelievers.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=ufoalien&action=print&thead=8456>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Kammler
<http://www.eyepod.org/Nazi-Disc-Video.html>
http://www.eyepod.org/images/3_1_.gif

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