

Solution to Top Secret Communication

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The beginning of the coded text has the phrase "READ DOWN." Following those directions, you should find the phrases in the first and last column that say "ZERO INDEXED" and "PATTERSON CIPHER" respectively.

Researching the Patterson Cipher gives you directions on how to decode the message.

1. Using a sequence of two-digit numbers, group the lines with the coded message. This particular coded message was grouped into tens.
2. Using the two-digit number series, reorder the lines within each group such that first digit is in order: 0x, 1x, 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, etc.
3. Use the second digit in each number to index into the string.

Now, you just need to get a series of two-digit numbers. The historical facts all reflect a specific year, and the last two numbers of the year are used (as implied by the first fact).

1846	The world first learns of the barber and serial killer, Sweeney Todd.
1877	Thomas Edison writes a message that coins the word "hello" to begin telephone calls.
1910	Labor unions bomb the Los Angeles Times building.
1856	Camels from Egypt arrive to supply the U.S. Camel Corps.
1935	Parker Brothers is awarded a patent for what is now the most famous board game in the world.
1908	The event of the first marathon run sets the distance so the British royals could watch runners cross
1997	Britain elects its first prime minister that speaks French.
1889	The first modern structure to exceed the height of ancient manmade structures debuts at a World's
1922	A British newspaper invents the "Pharaoh's Curse," perhaps inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
1967	Australia's prime minister suddenly disappears and is presumed dead.
1941	A military chaplain gives the shortest, famous sermon, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."
1915	The first movie to be shown at the White House motivates the president to say it was "writing history
1906	The president of the United States makes the first foreign trip while still in office.
1962	Columbia University's trustees block awarding a famous prize to "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"
1990	Father and son play on the same major league baseball team for the first time.
1928	The most famous cartoon character speaks for the first time saying "Hot dogs, hot dogs!"
1938	Nationwide panic ensues when radio listeners learn of an Martian invasion from Orson Welles.
1954	The Senate votes to block lowering the voting age to eighteen after the idea is endorsed by the
1883	The first train known as the Orient Express runs for the first time.
1976	A flying pig grounds flights at London's Heathrow Airport.

This results in the following sequence of numbers: 46 77 10 56 35 08 97 89 22 67 41 15 06 62 90 28 38 54 83 76

Following the Patterson Cipher rules, the extracted text is: **FIRSTMANTOEVERDRIVEAGOLFBALLINTOSPACE**. Applying spacing, this reads **FIRST MAN TO EVER DRIVE A GOLF BALL INTO SPACE**.

Common knowledge might lead you to think this was Alan Shepard during the Apollo 14 mission, but his drive was only 400 yards and did not launch the ball into space. The longest terrestrial drive was long held by Mike Austin who drove a golf ball 515 yards back in 1974. The only [golf drive to launch a ball into space](#) was done in 2006 outside the International Space Station by Russian cosmonaut, **MIKHAIL TYURIN**.