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THE ROCKET IN BRITAIN 1900-1939

**Abstract**

Following a century of rocket development in the 19th century, termed the First Golden Age of Rocketry by Frank Winter in which Britain played a major role, the first four decades of the 20th century saw relatively little original rocket activity in this country.

Certainly when compared with rocket development in Germany, USA and the Soviet Union, Britain's contribution in the period under consideration was minor, but there were pockets of activity and a surprisingly amount of rocket work took place in certain fields.

This paper will look at the use in Britain of rockets in life saving and in postal rockets with the work of Zucker from Germany which raised the ire of British officialdom. Also covered will be the work of a small number of amateur experimenters – some linked to the British Interplanetary Society which was formed in 1933 – as well as the large scale development of the solid fuel cordite rockets, code named UPs, which saw major use as anti-aircraft and mass bombardment missiles during WW2.