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Steven B. Krivit,  
Publisher and Senior Editor, New Energy Times,  
369-B Third Street, Suite 556,  
San Rafael, California,  
USA 94901,

Dear Steven,

Thank you for your email concerning the work of Rutherford and Blackett on interactions of alpha particles with nitrogen gas, which I have discussed with Professor Freeman.

Indeed, the full interpretation of the experiments carried out at Manchester in 1917-19 did require the work of Patrick Blackett in Cambridge in the 1920's working under Rutherford. You are right in drawing attention to the lack of credit given to this work - especially given the painstaking effort involved in taking hundreds of thousands of photographs of cloud chamber tracks to yield the few images that led to the conclusion that the mechanism was *via* a compound system with an oxygen residual nucleus, rather than the "disintegration" that Rutherford had initially thought, noting also the rather limited conclusions in his 1919 paper.

We will ensure that in the future proper credit is given to both contributors to the full programme of work associated with the establishment of the first man-made nuclear reaction. We have initiated a process to correct the inaccuracies in the web-based news article.

With all best wishes,

