

GRAY: When we first met, you had already been involved in UFO investigation for about 12 years. But at that time you had just become interested in the Philadelphia Experiment about a year earlier. How did you become interested in this particular subject?

BILL: I first encountered the subject about 1965 when I read the book, INVISIBLE HORIZONS, by Vincent Gaddis. The last chapter dealt with strange disappearances at sea during the 19th century. He also recounted rumors of the so-called Philadelphia Experiment with the analogy that if this could be done artificially, it also might happen naturally.

Frankly, I was quite skeptical about the rumors, although I knew that at the basis of most any rumor one could find a kernel of truth. I had been kicking around the idea of doing a study on how a rumor or hoax could be perpetrated from some small element of truth.....

GRAY: You're saying you thought it was a hoax?

BILL: Absolutely. I planned to call my study "The Anatomy of a Hoax". The Philadelphia Experiment would, I believed, make an excellent subject. This, I thought, was a rumor that had been blown up into a fantastic story that many people believed. I wanted to find what few facts were involved and then show how they had been embellished.

I didn't have an opportunity to actually do anything with this idea right away. But during the summer about five years ago, I was spending a long, hot evening alone (my wife and family were away), and I didn't feel like going to bed at that time and this particular subject came back to my mind. I pulled out my files on the topic and began to organize them, and that got me interested again. The more I investigated, however, the more I began to be convinced that there was a great deal more to it than met the eye at first glance. I still wasn't convinced the rumor was true, but there seemed to be enough to it to go after it on grounds other than just trying to expose it.

GRAY: Those of us who have read your book know that you now believe it is not a hoax. Are these assumptions correct?

BILL: I think all the book is saying is that there is a very strong possibility that something very much out of the ordinary occurred.

Indeed, there WAS such a ship; there WAS an experiment; there WAS involvement by the Navy and scientific people -- an organized project put together for purposes perhaps somewhat different from the actual results. Of this much I have no doubt. The question is, "What DID happen?" Definitely something strange, something very, very strange, happened, and I think that part of the problem of determining what actually happened comes from the likelihood that those who were involved with it didn't know exactly what happened.

*SAT 10/10/65
made all connections
work in ADS
Foster*

*A work order
AD*

*make a file to
Hunt*

GRAY BARKER COLLECTION
CLARKSBURG-HARRISON PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLARKSBURG, WY 26301

GRAY: What were some of the first things you uncovered that began to convince you it wasn't a hoax and to get you really hot on the track?

BILL: I suppose some of the first things I uncovered were not "things" at all! When I began requesting documents from the military, government archives, shipping lines and so on, one of the first things to set me suspecting something was going on was not SOMETHING, but LACK of something.

Documents for other ships which should have been there WERE there, but NOT for the U.S.S. Eldridge, the ship allegedly involved in the experiment. The log for the ship was not available for three months after date of launch, the time frame during which the experiment allegedly took place.

People I tried to interview gave me reactions which led me to believe they were withholding information. For instance, if I were to accost an ordinary person on the street and ask him, "What about this secret experiment you were involved with?" his immediate reaction likely would be, "What's wrong with you? Are you out of your head?"

On the other hand, if you walk up to some other person, ask the same question, and they back away and say, "Well, wait a minute! I can't talk about that -- how did you find out I was involved with it?" -- When you get that kind of response, you begin to suspect, even more, that there WAS something to it. And if you get that kind of response from a number of people, and then put it all together, this certainly gives you grounds to dig further.

The Witnesses

GRAY: Are you saying that you have run across witnesses to the experiment and that they can't talk because the information is classified?

BILL: When we talk about witnesses we need to define the term. There really are two classes of witnesses involved here. The news media and the public first ask about the witnesses on board ship, and that would be one classification of witness. The second would be those who were not on board the ship, but those who were there -- those who may have witnessed the experiment but who were not actually affected by it.

Now, which of these two groups is most important to us? The men on the ship are NOT the most important group. First of all, they were only volunteers. They involved only a few sailors -- around 30 to 40 -- one source has it at 38. These men were told only that some kind of experiment would be carried out, and that their assignment would be to move the ship from point X to Point Y and back again. They were not told what the experiment would involve, of the expected results, and they certainly weren't prepared for what happened.

7

3
Consequently, even if we did find these men and questioned

Consequently, even if we did find these men and questioned them, they would be unable to tell us as much as we might at first suppose -- and certainly they couldn't tell us the complete story. Surely they could tell us of the horrifying results they experienced -- or maybe not even that much. For they were mentally affected by the electromagnetic field, whether temporarily or permanently we aren't certain.

Today we know -- although we didn't in 1943 -- that electromagnetic energy in certain wavelengths can indeed affect the mind in a variety of ways: Anything from a complete coma to ringing in the ears. Remember, we were onto the Russians a year or so ago, when we suspected they were beaming microwaves at our embassy in Moscow (but then nothing more was heard about this -- we probably were trying the same thing on them). In fact a great deal of research is being done on this today. Of course, electromagnetic energy in certain wavelengths can even cook things, for example, the microwave oven.

As far as I can determine, two of the men did not survive. Possibly more did not, but at least two didn't come back when the ship returned to visibility. Those who did survive were shipped off to the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, and put under treatment for unspecified lengths of time. I am told that only eight or nine were finally discharged, and that these suffered from mental incompetence -- or so it was alleged. After all, this would make a perfect cover if they did talk about the Experiment. The Navy could say, "Look, you're talking to a nut -- what do you expect to get from a person like that?"

I've got to some of these witnesses, second-hand. That is, I've talked to somebody who talked to the actual persons. But within the past week I've got to one of these men directly, and he has indicated he will come forward and tell his story to me first-hand.

GRAY: You mean you've personally talked with this witness?

BILL: No, I've talked to a third party who has promised to put me in touch with the witness.

GRAY: And you will be able to speak with him face-to-face?

BILL: I'm in the process of setting up a meeting. This person went to his friend and said, "I'm aware of this book that is out, and I think the story needs to be told. I don't want my name involved. I'm afraid to come forth, but on the other hand, it's been too long as it is and I have to get this out of my system. Set up the meeting and I'll talk to Moore as long as my identity is not revealed to him."

FBI

Interview 4

I don't want to get my hopes too high on this before the actual interview, for I don't know if I will be dealing with a bona fide witness or a crackpot. I do know that the third party involved is highly reputable.

Anyhow, let's now go to the other side of the coin: the witnesses who were military and scientific people involved with the project.....

"Dr. Reno"

GRAY: Are these the people you have written about in the book?

BILL: Yes. But there was a problem here. In order to print any information they gave us, we were required keep them anonymous and guarantee them the right to edit. So some of the best and most pertinent information had to be taken out of the manuscript because they would not allow it to be printed for fear it would lead to their identification.

One of these men procured the ship for the Experiment, and he described the process of obtaining the U.S.S. Eldridge. He also was actually there at the time the Experiment was carried out. But he would not allow us to print certain parts of his statements.

Another was a scientist who had been with the project on and off from its very beginning and had worked with the actual handwritten notes by Dr. Einstein.

GRAY: Are we talking about "Dr. Reno"?

BILL: That's how the Allende letters identified him, but of course that was a pseudonym he used. I've given him a more respectable pseudonym in the book -- that of Dr. Rinehart.

Although he had been off the project for a while before being brought back into it, he knew a great deal about it. Like the other witness I mentioned, he agreed to talk about it only with the condition of anonymity. And he wouldn't let us use anything connected with his second involvement.

GRAY: Doesn't that put me and other readers of your book at a disadvantage in evaluating your claims?

BILL: Of course it may. But after all, as I stated before, all the book is saying is that there is a very strong possibility the Experiment took place. The book doesn't make claims of final conclusions.

Dr. Rinehart was a very valuable witness. He named other people who were involved, and went into detail about the beginning of the project, what they were trying to accomplish, for example. He said very definitely that all they expected was radar camouflage. That is, all they were trying for was a way to make a ship or aircraft disappear from a radar scope -- not from eye sight!

Moore Galley 5 XXXXXXXXXXXXX
Moore Galley 5 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

But when the experiment was tried, something went wrong ---- and everybody was horrified.

What happened was the last thing they expected. His description is most interesting. He said it was like the opposite of a neon light being turned on. When you turn on a neon bulb you first get a blinking effect, and if you look at it closely, you then see a swirling effect before the light comes on.

In this case there was first the swirling effect, then blinks and flashes, and the ship was gone! According to his recollection the outline of the ship was visible where it displaced the water, but that soon that too was gone.

Everybody panicked, not knowing quite what to do. Finally, when some of them got their wits back together, they shut everything off, and at that point the ship came back. But that was when the fun began -- because when they counted heads not everybody came back with it!

And I asked, "What does that mean? Where are these men?" He answered that he heard some of the crewmen jumped overboard in their panic, and that some of them were so disoriented they could not swim.

Rhinehart didn't believe their disappearance was particularly important, except for their tragic loss of life.

Other people speculate that the men are still out there, caught in a "time flow" of 1943, and that some day they will reappear. Of course I don't quite buy this. I think it is too far-fetched, even in the context of the fantastic Experiment.

GRAY: What about charges in the press that Dr. Rhinehart never existed?

BILL: I think that if I could throw his real identity in their faces we could show them that he did exist. But I can't do that. Again, I don't think the thrust of the book is to prove anything. The book is saying that here is a rumor that is 30 years old and is still persistent, in spite of all attempts to put it down. And here are the results of as much of the investigation as we can write about. Now you know all about the rumors and what we can reveal about our investigations. Now you, the reader, decide: did it happen or didn't it?

What About Allende?

GRAY: We've talked about witnesses -- the crew members and the scientists and military personnel behind the scenes. Now, what about other observers, and I guess you know whom I'm leading up to. One of the most controversial persons connected, though, I must admit, my own personal favorite element of the thing. Of course I'm speaking of Carlos Miguel Allende, Carl M. Allen, or whoever. In your book you suggest he may be an imposter, but I gather you haven't made up your mind yet on this. He claims to have been a

BILL: The question about Allende is, just exactly who is he and what does he know? True, he knows SOMETHING, but I don't think he has the answers. I think that what he wrote in the Allende letters is about all this man knows. He is an extremely complex individual, and we're not even positive who he actually is!

There is some evidence to indicate that there was a DIFFERENT Carlos Allende, a merchant mariner who actually had the background that Allende ascribes to himself. And this man disappeared just a month and a half before Jessup got the first letter from the man who now calls himself Allende. The question is -- is this the same man? The same man that disappeared from his family roughly a month and a half earlier? Did Allende once know this man and assume his identity for purposes of his own choosing? Is he an intelligence agent thrown in to deliberately confuse the issue?

And just who IS he? I don't know. About all we can discover is that somebody, alternately using the names Allen and Allende, was on a merchant ship which was in a position according to official records so that its crew could have seen the Experiment. Let's say that some of these sailors did see what happened, and that when they got back to port and began circulating among the bars they frequented they told a lot of bizarre stories. This information, which could have been altered and even exaggerated in retellings, could have been the basis for the information conveyed by the Allende letters. The assumption about Allende has always been that since he wrote those letters to Jessup, therefore he must be privy to additional information and therefore would be the person who could solve the mystery. Unfortunately this just isn't true.

GRAY: But at least he is the person who was instrumental in bringing this all out into the open.

BILL: Yes, in a roundabout way by writing the letters to Jessup. And I don't think Jessup would have publicized the letters -- either because he didn't believe them, or because he may have been in on the thing -- had it not been for the VARO EDITION, and the notoriety that you and some other investigators, such as Riley Crabb and Rod Steiger, gave to it. Pardon me, I should use "publicity" rather than the term, "notoriety," since the latter has an unfavorable connotation.

GRAY: Speaking of "notoriety," the most notorious part of Allende's claims is that after the ship disappeared it was teleported for hundreds of miles and suddenly reappeared in Norfolk, Va. I'm not wearing a hat, so I can't hold onto it. Anyhow -- what do you think of this part of his story?

Moore interview galley 7

BILL: I can appreciate your skepticism, for to me this has always been the weakest link of all. I can also appreciate the question, for this is the one the media picks up on immediately.

Now, if we could believe this, we would assume the "teleportation" took place during a brief time span -- During the time Dr. Rinehart says the ship disappeared and the getting of wits together and shutting the whole thing down.

Let me give you what I have on this, but remember it's from second-hand sources:

A crew member who talked of having encountered alien creatures with large heads during the Experiment also said that for a brief time the port facilities of Philadelphia weren't the port facilities of Philadelphia! Something had happened to cause them to change shape and outline and they didn't seem to be in the right place any more!

The big question would be, is there anybody at Norfolk who saw anything out of the ordinary occur? This would represent confirmation from the other site.

This was the weak part of the story, until about six weeks ago. At that time a source from England popped up who has information from two seamen who were on special assignment at Norfolk in 1943 -- in fact at about the right time in 1943. They had been shipped over to learn how to operate Liberty Ships, which we were supplying to England on our lend-lease program. They would go back to England and train other seamen.

These seamen were at the Norfolk Naval Yard. They were part of a rather small group sharing their first time across, so they stuck pretty close together. All of a sudden there was a sweep of the yard area. MPs came through and ordered everybody out of the area and cordoned it off. These men went over against a group of pilings some distance away and were sitting around talking about what was going on.

Two of them, who were facing the bay area, suddenly stopped talking, looked at each other in horror and asked, "Did you see what I saw?" The other replied, "Well I saw it but did we really see it?"

Suddenly a ship had appeared, and, just as suddenly, it wasn't there any more. They got the impression this had something to do with the clearing of the area. Anyhow, they've now come forward with their story, and Berlitz is now in the process of checking it out.

GRAY: I understand your book is a best seller, and books, when widely circulated, have a way of turning up additional witnesses and data. I'm sure there was some lead time between your turning in your final manuscript and the publication of the book. Certainly, additional information must have surfaced since then. Do you plan to follow up on this with another book?

~~BILL: I'm working on another book~~

BILL: I'm planning a book on a different subject right now and have no plans now for another book about the Philadelphia Experiment. But I'm keeping an open file on it. Should enough additional information come in to warrant another book, I certainly would consider it -- or, if there isn't enough material to do a book, I could follow up with magazine articles.

GRAY: What aspects of the Philadelphia Experiment would you most like to follow up?

BILL: Since publication, much has come in that I would like to have been able to put in the book. But one particular interest of mine stands out. I would like to get into research on Townsend Brown, who appears to have been working on what's called electro-gravitic or anti-gravitic energy of some kind. And of course, he was involved in the Philadelphia project. Is he using knowledge learned on this project to further his research up to the present day? I think that he is. He certainly was involved and was in a position to know what was going on -- but he will NOT talk about this. Ask him point blank about this and he just "doesn't remember." Yet, ask him about something that happened in 1925 and he talks your head off!

GRAY: So he is conveniently forgetting!

BILL: Of course! I finally came down on him and said, "Look, does your lack of memory have anything to do with Naval Intelligence," and he said, "Well, I'll tell you this: if Naval Intelligence has it locked up, you're not going to get it."

GRAY: I assume you don't have much on Townsend Brown that wasn't in your book?

BILL: To the contrary, I DO have a great deal more on it, but at his request I'm not allowed to print it or talk about it. He's involved right now, for example, in something that's quite eye-opening. The results of this, I hope, are going to be very positive. It's not my place to blow his story at this time. I think he's worked a lifetime to get to a point where's he's ready to come up with a scientific discovery, and seems to be on the verge of one right away, if he is granted enough lifetime to finish the work. He's well into his 70's. He has been kind enough to let me in on this, and I'm not going to leak anything. In fact, he showed me some of his work and his equipment when I talked to him.

GRAY: Brown's refusal to talk about the Experiment demonstrates the security blanket which obviously has frustrated some of your research. But what about your own experiences? Has anybody tried to discourage or stop your research or writing about this?

~~NOT EX~~

BILL: Not exactly. I was approached by somebody who quite obviously was connected with one agency or another. He never said which one it was and I didn't ask him. He didn't seem greatly concerned whether I was going to publish the story of the Philadelphia Experiment. But he was concerned that I might publish technical data related to it.

He suggested that if I were, I was going to get into "a difficult area," and chances were I'd be stopped. It seemed as if there were a line involved with the material. As long as I stayed on my side of it I could print whatever I wanted to print, and it wouldn't worry too many people. But if I stopped across that line I could be stopped.

And I said, "Don't tell me, let me guess. That line has to do with the dissemination of technical information that would enable somebody to duplicate the experiment." He answered, "That's correct." I told him, "Rest assured I don't have any of that kind of data and if I did I wouldn't print it. I'm not writing a physics text; I'm writing the story of an investigation. If you think I've got anything you want, just don't hesitate to ask. Don't come banging on my door at three o'clock in the morning and wake me up, and I'll cooperate with you." The person went on to greater lengths than that -- but that's the gist of it.

GRAY: I'm sure our readers will think of a hundred questions I should have asked, and I probably will too. But we must limit this because of space and the fact that I know you're pretty tired from that long tour of television stations you just completed.

At the very beginning of your book you hooked me immediately by the account of a strange little man accosting two servicemen in a park in Colorado Springs. This character shows them an ID and claims to have been a Naval officer who had been "put out to pasture" after participating in an experiment involving making a ship become invisible. The inference is that this experience caused him to have a mental breakdown. The description of this person fits Allende in some details. Do you think it was Allende?

BILL: No, I know it wasn't Allende. I thought it might be at first, just as you did, until I set up a test.

I sent a series of photographs of different people to both of the servicemen, inserting one photo of Allende in each packet. I asked them if any one of the pictures resembled the man they talked with in the park. I figured that if either man picked Allende's photo, the odds would be pretty good that it was Allende. If both of them picked it, that would cinch it.

M
Moore Galley 10

Both of them did pick out one individual from the group as looking like the mystery man. But it wasn't Allende. It was the photo of a scientist who looked nothing at all like Allende.

GRAY: If the "present" Allende is an imposter, do you think the man could have been the person whose identity Allende took?

BILL: That certainly is a possibility. I tried to check this out further by going to Colorado Springs, visiting the park and doing considerable asking around. But of course in the last 10 years the neighborhood has changed considerably. Only one or two persons seemed to recall such a person, and then so vaguely this was of little help.

GRAY: Forgive me for playing the Devil's advocate, but toward the end of the book you come up with a real hunder. To me these ideas were fascinating, but I don't know what the average reader will think of them. In relating the Experiment to UFOs you suggest that during this period of invisibility the crew members may have been transported into another dimension in which they contacted UFO occupants. Don't you think, that at least for the average reader, this is a little too wild?

BILL: This IS a wild theory! But remember that I didn't say I thought it to be absolutely true. Again, we're asking a question: Why were these men suggesting there may have been a connection? Why do we have certain coincidences at a time when supposedly there was no UFO activity in the country? It's curious.

Of course, if there are alien intelligences, and if they are monitoring our civilization, what better way to do it than by utilizing electromagnetic fields? Our most common electromagnetic radiations, in the form of radio and television, are generated constantly. What better way to monitor us than simply to listen in! If this is the case, certainly something on the order of the Philadelphia Experiment would have released quite a burst of energy. It would have caught their attention and they may have come to investigate -- and that investigation may have led to early encounters between our military and what we commonly call "flying saucers".

GRAY: Do you think the Government IS in contact with "flying saucers"?

BILL: I don't know. But during my research on this aspect of the Philadelphia Experiment some information came my way which made me think in this direction.

Again this involves comments made rather off-handly by somebody who might have been in a position to know some things.

GRAY BARKER COLLECTION
CLARKSBURG-HARRISON PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLARKSBURG, WY 26301

This involved the idea that we had achieved contact, but that it was a one-way street. In other words, they contacted us, but we couldn't answer them. It was also suggested that people are being selected and trained for the purpose of keeping the end of the line open for these contacts by alien beings.

These people were at the top levels of Naval Intelligence, according to my source. I immediately came back with, "Couldn't you be misinterpreting this? Couldn't there be a select group in Naval Intelligence which is the designated group that would make contact in the event that such a contact became possible? In other words, if a saucer landed on the White House lawn, this would be the cadre that would be called out to put out the fire, so to speak -- that they're maintained in the event that such a thing might occur?"

I think this is the more likely explanation for this kind of story. At least, to me that makes more sense than saying there is a group that waits for the phone to ring!

Of course, this particular source replied, "That's hot what I meant at all," but you know, Carlos Allende said in one of his letters that perhaps the motive power of these UFOs was derived from something similar to the Philadelphia Experiment. That's a cryptic statement but maybe there is something to it. I think it's an area that needs to be considered and researched. But it's also a kind of topic that would involve incredible difficulty in trying to penetrate the official encloudments -- the coverup that seems to associate itself with all of this so far.

The Disappearing Books

GRAY: Bill, answer one final question and I guarantee this will be the last. Half of our subscribers will cancel if I don't ask you about the MIB -- the notorious Men In Black. The mysterious people who try to hush people up to keep them from revealing UFO sightings and information. I wonder if anybody has come knocking on your door, warning you to stop writing books, or if they have gone into book stores and bought up all your books, or made them mysteriously disappear, or anything like that.....

BILL: Not to that extent. I've already told you about the one contact who warned me about publishing technical data. But he was wearing BROWN, not black. And as far as strange stories about book stores go, the only one I can tell you does probably involve an informal "agency" we usually associate with big black cars and dark suits. One of the first truckloads of books going from the printer to the warehouse was HIJACKED!

A?
ACONS
FRANK
DAN

nl July 12

GRAY: Let's get off that subject right away. I'd rather have a run-in with the "real" MIB!

BILL: Book stores have reported considerable difficulties to me in obtaining copies of the book.

GRAY: That's because it's so good and selling so fast!

BILL: Book stores which have had orders in from as far back as well, even before the book was even in print have not been able to obtain copies. Certainly back orders that old should have been filled long ago, even considering the good sales the book has enjoyed.

GRAY: Knowing something of the book business and distribution practices, usually book publishers overwhelm stores with books. They send them more books than they can possibly sell, giving them return privileges.

BILL: That is my impression. Incidentally, the book is now in its fourth printing. Upward of 50,000 copies.

60,000 GRAY: I'd think that would classify it as a best seller.

BILL: It's certainly bordering that classification at this point. It is a best seller in Germany where it came out in February, about two months before its publication here. It's in 13 foreign countries now, or in the process of being published.

GRAY: I'm certainly aware of that. I'm getting letters from all over the world inquiring about THE VARO EDITION. In fact I got a letter yesterday from Saudi Arabia about it. Thanks for mentioning this in the book.

BILL: Hold on a moment, Gray..... My wife just informed me there's a visitor at the door. I'd better go and see who it is.

GRAY: I'll let you go. Thanks very much. I'm sure our readers will enjoy this very much. Congratulations your book is really great!

BILL: Thank you! But I'm a little worried about that caller at the door. If he has on a black suit I'll hand him one of your business cards I happen to have and refer him to you!

GRAY: You wouldn't.....

BILL: Good Night.

GRAY: Bless you!

36-7