



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, NAVAL BASE
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August 4, 1982

Mr. Hans Thoma
2910 Eisenhower
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Mr. Thoma:

The genesis of the Philadelphia Experiment myth dates to 1955 with the publication of The Case for UFOs by the late Morris K. Jessup.

Some time after the publication of the book, Jessup received correspondence from a Carlos Miguel Allende, who gave his address as RD #1, Box 223, New Kensington, PA. In his correspondence, Allende commented on Jessup's book and gave details of an alleged secret naval experiment, conducted by the Navy in Philadelphia in 1943. During the experiment, according to Allende, a ship was rendered invisible and teleported to and from Norfolk, VA, in a few minutes, with some terrible after effects for crewmembers. Supposedly, this incredible feat was accomplished by applying Einstein's unproven "unified field" theory. Allende claimed that he had witnessed the experiment from another ship and that the incident was reported in a Philadelphia newspaper. The identity of the newspaper has never been established. Similarly, the identity of Allende is unreliable, and no information exists as to his present address.

In 1956 a copy of Jessup's book was mailed anonymously to ONR (the Office of Naval Research). The pages of the book were interspersed with hand-written comments which alleged a knowledge of UFOs, their means of motion, the culture and ethos of the beings occupying these UFOs, all described in pseudo-scientific and incoherent terms.

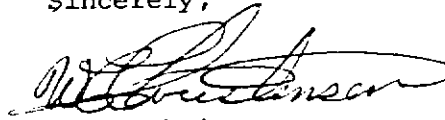
Two officers, then assigned to ONR, took a personal interest in the book and showed it to Jessup. Jessup concluded that the writer of the comments on his book was the same person who had written him about the Philadelphia Experiment. These two officers personally had the book re-typed and arranged for a reprint, in typewritten form, of 25 copies.

Here at Philadelphia, we believe that the questions surrounding the "Philadelphia Experiment" arise from quite routine research which occurred during World War II at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Until recently, it was believed that the foundation for the apocryphal stories arose from degaussing experiments which have the effect of making a ship undetectable or "invisible" to magnetic mines. Another likely genesis of the bizarre stories of levitation, teleportation and effects on human crewmembers might be attributed to experiments with the generating plant of a destroyer, USS Timmerman. In the early 1950s, this ship was part of an experiment to test the effects of a small, high frequency generator providing 1,000 hz instead of the standard 400 hz. The higher frequency generator provided corona discharges and other well-known phenomena associated with high frequency generators. None of the crew suffered after effects from the experiment.

ONR has never conducted any investigations on invisibility, either in 1943 or at any other time. In view of present scientific knowledge, ONR scientists do not believe that such an experiment could be possible except in the realm of science fiction.

I hope that this has answered your question about the "Philadelphia Experiment". Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Navy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. C. Christensen".

W. C. Christensen
Journalist First Class
U.S. Navy
Information Specialist

Aug. 15, '82

Dear Gray,

Thank you for "The Bieheld-Brown Effect" and the GBN #16.

I have enclosed a copy of yet another "new" type of "form" letter from the Philadelphia Marvel Base which I received last week. This type seems to be a combination between the old original "bedbug" letter and the one by A.E. Norton in GBN #10, with a few word changes. Some of these changes include "none of the crew suffered after effects" instead of "no lasting effects" and "claiming Allende is unreliable" and the "annotations" "pseudo-scientific" and "incoherent" terms. (I am sure ~~if~~ they were) so "unreliable" and "pseudo-scientific," why the amount of interest in them? Note that in none of the "bedbugs" the use of the "Unified Field Theory" was discredited.

As to the claimed "removal" of the May 82 Science Digest, I subscribe to this magazine and have

not observed any "withdrawal" at any newsstands or centers. Although the "starcraft" article was very interesting, it seems hardly worth of "removal"; the article even "claims" that "Such manipulation isn't possible today" (altering gravitational fields). However, it does include some data on certain "mechanics" involved.

If there is anyone wishing to acquire further data on "antigravity," here are a couple of organizations:

SAUCER TECHNOLOGY

Box 132-Z, Eureka Springs, Ark.
72632

RDA (Research & Development)

Box 873, Concord, N.C.
28025

Both organizations have technical, informative data on electrogravitic propulsion systems.

(You may publish this letter if you wish.)

Yours Truly, Hans Thoma
2910 Eisenhower
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104