

# Ancient Astronauts Modern Mysteries

JOHN A. KEEL

## Meanwhile, In The Bermuda Triangle

When zoologist Ivan Sanderson and I first discussed the Bermuda Triangle publicly, on the Alan Burke television show in 1967, we were flabbergasted by the audience reaction. As soon as the show went off the air the switchboard lit up like a christmas tree. Sacks of mail poured in for weeks following the broadcast. Public interest seemed all out of proportion to the few short minutes we had spent describing some of the mysterious disappearances in that sector of the Atlantic ocean between Bermuda and Florida. Although author Vincent Gaddis had published some excellent summaries of the strange events that had occurred in the Triangle a few years earlier, the general public had apparently never heard of the phenomenon and was hungry for more information. Sanderson later car-

ried out an in-depth research project into the mystery and published his findings in 1970.

In the past couple of years, several books have appeared, all borrowing heavily from the pioneering research of Gaddis and Sanderson, and some of these books have become national best sellers. Public interest in the Bermuda Triangle is at an all-time high. It has become a common topic on radio and television talk shows. Each new disappearance in that area (and there are several each year) is now headlined in newspapers from coast-to-coast and sensationalized in the tabloids.

Whenever a Fortean subject becomes this popular critics quickly appear. So it is not surprising that books debunking the mystery are now beginning to flow into the bookstores. Those

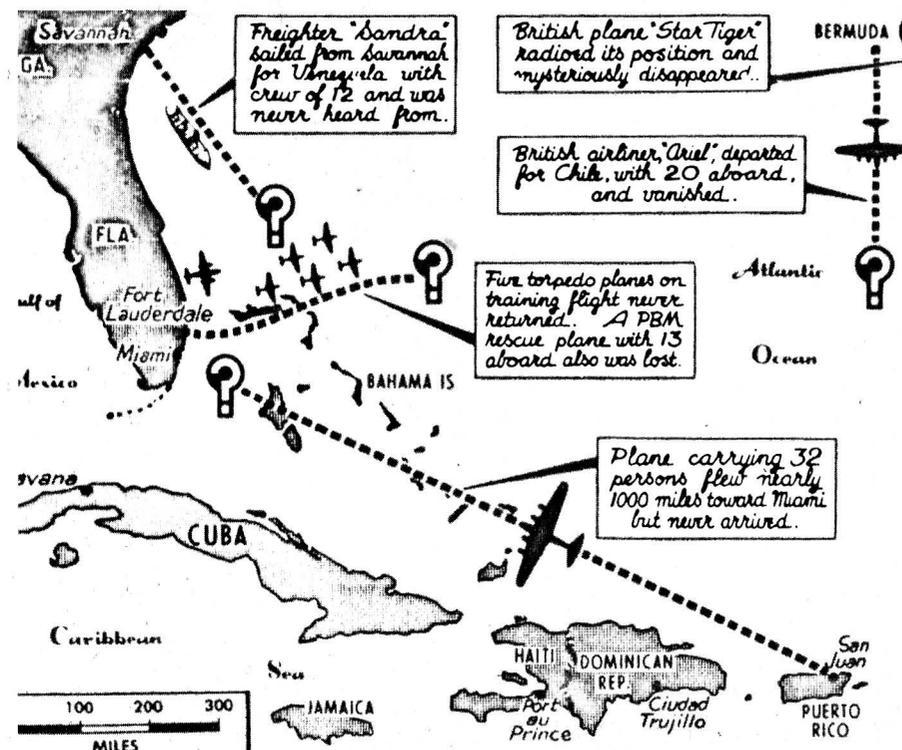
same learned gentlemen who once told us that flying saucers are nothing but swamp gas, weather inversions, and meteors are now informing us that the planes and ships that have vanished in the Atlantic without a trace, not even leaving an oil slick behind, were the victims of ordinary storms and natural occurrences.

Ivan Sanderson spent weeks laying out the known disappearances on maps and consulting with engineers and scientists. He discovered that the Triangle is really lozenge-shaped and that there are 12 of them equally spaced around the world. Some of these areas have been known for centuries and are surrounded by superstition. One lies just off the coast of Japan and has long been known as the Devil's Sea. The government of Japan decided to get to the bottom of the mystery in the 1950 s. A special ship was outfitted with the latest scientific instruments and equipment and a crew of scientists sailed into the Devil's Sea to solve the puzzle. The ship and its entire crew vanished completely without a clue! Today Japanese fishermen go many miles out of their way to sail around the area.

### AGONIC LINES

Both the Bermuda Triangle and the Devil's Sea share one factor in common. Both are pierced by magnetic agonic lines. An agonic line is a geographical line along which magnetic compasses point to true north. In most places on this planet compasses deviate from true north by as much as 20 degrees. These deviations have been carefully measured and charted and are known as isogonic lines. For example, the isogonic line in northern Maine is 20 degrees in variance, while in Texas, the isogonic line is 10 degrees off. Pilots and navigators take these deviations into account when they are charting their courses.

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# ANCIENT ASTROS

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The North American agonic line begins at the western tip of Lake Superior in the north, wends its way through Illinois into Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia, and passes into the Atlantic from the tip of northern Florida . . . where the dreaded Bermuda Triangle begins.

For years now pilots in that part of the Atlantic have been troubled by peculiar magnetic aberrations. There are several "dead spots" where radio signals cannot be transmitted or received. Since modern pilots depend heavily on radio navigation these dead spots can pose serious problems. A flier heading for Florida from the Bahamas can suddenly find himself cut off from all communication with the mainland. At the same time, his compass often starts spinning senselessly and his other navigational aids also malfunction. He can find himself flying by the seat of his pants even though a well-equipped airport is only a hundred or so miles away. Some pilots have, understandably, panicked and started flying in aimless circles until their fuel was exhausted.

If these dead spots were stationary it would be possible to investigate them and maybe figure out what causes them. But, unfortunately, they seem to move around like a radar beam being projected at this planet from another point in space. When they appear, these dead spots almost always straddle the agonic lines.

Flying saucer enthusiasts have talked about the electromagnetic (EM) effect for years. Pilots have often reported that their compasses have malfunctioned while they had visual contact with an unidentified flying object. It has been assumed that UFOs radiate powerful magnetic fields because of this effect. But it isn't that simple. Because magnetic compasses are not very reliable to begin with, most airplanes are also equipped with gyro compasses and other instruments such as artificial horizons which also employ gyroscopes. *Many of these gyro instruments are not electrical.* A stream of air strikes the blades of a small turbine-like wheel which spins the gyro once the plane is in flight. *Such instruments should be absolutely impervious to magnetic interference . . . but they often malfunction at the same time that the magnetic compass goes haywire.* Pilots in the Bermuda Triangle have reported that their gyro instruments have failed simultaneously with compass failure and radio blackouts in the dead spots! In short, these dead spots (and some UFOs) contain forces that are beyond ordinary electromagnetism.

## MAGNETIC ANOMALIES

For centuries sailors have observed and charted magnetic anomalies all over the world. A small island in the Red Sea causes ships' compasses to spin crazily when they sail past it. Aircraft charts also record such anomalies. The charts for the Washington, D.C., area note: "Magnetic disturbance of as much as 8°

exists at sea level in the Chesapeake Bay and Elk River from Latitude 39° 17' N Longitude 76° 16' W to Latitude 39° 30' N Longitude 75° 54' W."

But the dead spots of Sanderson's lozenges can not be charted. They are in constant motion, and since they affect gyro instruments as well as compasses and radios they must be made up of energies that extend beyond the normal electromagnetic spectrum. In many respects, these energies are more like the EM pulse that radiates from an atomic explosion, and the curious atmospheric anomalies that accompany earthquakes.

During an earthquake on a Pacific island a couple of years ago scientists discovered that the normal atmosphere above the affected area seemed to open up and swallow radio signals. Signals that normally bounce off layers in the upper atmosphere didn't bounce during the earthquake. They just kept going upwards and were lost in space. Similar "holes" over the Atlantic could produce the mysterious dead spots. Whether these "holes" are caused by geo-magnetic conditions or by something else remains unknown. If holes are somehow ripped in the protective atmospheric layers over the Atlantic, it is possible that other forces such as very intense cosmic rays could leak through and damage the machines and men caught in the dead spot.

Charles Berlitz, author of a best selling book about the Triangle, has another theory. He speculates that fabled Lost Atlantis was once located in the Atlantic and that it was populated by

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a technologically advanced race who produced a powerful energy generator of some kind. When Atlantis sank into the ocean the generator continued to function, and it is still out there under many fathoms of water, periodically sending out great waves of energy which have a destructive effect on the planes and ships passing over the generator.

### A LAND-LOCKED "TRIANGLE"

Ivan Sanderson, Berlitz, and all the other Bermuda Triangle investigators have overlooked one astonishing fact. Sudden disappearances are not limited to those 12 watery lozenges. In fact, disappearances on land are far more numerous. Airplanes have disappeared without a trace over heavily populated New Jersey. Ships have vanished suddenly and inexplicably from the surfaces of small inland lakes and rivers. Even automobiles have disappeared suddenly in Japan, South America, and the U.S. In several well-documented cases, drivers have suddenly found their cars enveloped by clouds of mysterious fog and when it cleared they were hundreds of miles away from the place where they had been only minutes before! This same kind of unnatural fog has been reported by pilots in the Bermuda Triangle area. One moment they were flying through a cloudless sky in perfect weather. The next moment they were in the midst of an impenetrable fog. Even people walk-

ing have reportedly been engulfed by a kind of fog which transposed them in space and time. We know very little about this bizarre phenomenon.

Fortean and UFO books recount dozens of mysterious land disappearances, some of them going back a century or more. There is, for example, the ever popular tale of David Lang who stepped into a farm field near Gallatin, Tenn., on September 23, 1880, and vanished instantaneously in front of several witnesses. *Gallatin is close to the agonic line.*

You may recall that the Great Flying Saucer Wave of October 1973 began in Georgia . . . *right on the agonic line.*

You don't have to fly a light plane over the Atlantic if you want to join those who have disappeared. Over 20 major disappearances in recent years have taken place far inland *right on the agonic line.* And literally hundreds of unusual UFO sightings and events have occurred along the same agonic line.

The second most active line in the U.S. is the isogonic line marking a five degree deviation beginning in Mississippi in the south and extending to Minnesota in the north. Not only have UFOs been uncommonly active along this line, but our strange giant, hair-

covered creatures with blazing red eyes have also staged their appearances along the line.

In previous issues of SAGA I have discussed the apparent link between paranormal manifestations and magnetism. The clustering of manifestations along the agonic and isogonic lines is further proof that the earth's magnetism plays a very important part in all unexplained phenomena . . . from the sudden disappearances of people and objects to the sudden appearances of phantom cats, hairy monsters, and spooky spacemen.

If you live directly on the agonic line you may be in as much danger from these unknown forces as you would be if you were sitting in a rowboat in the middle of the Bermuda Triangle. The ancient Chinese and northern Europeans somehow charted these lines of force with their leys or tracks. Perhaps we should try to do the same. Check with a local surveyor and find out about compass deviations in your area. You might make an interesting discovery. Perhaps you, like Ivan Sanderson, live in a place where a compass needle just floats in a circle. But if you find that the needle points to true magnetic north maybe you should consider moving. ★