



*For decades, the Atlantic Ocean's fabled Bermuda Triangle has captured the human imagination with unexplained disappearances of ships, planes, and people.*

*Some speculate that unknown and mysterious forces account for the unexplained disappearances, such as extraterrestrials capturing humans for study; the influence of the lost continent of Atlantis; vortices that suck objects into other dimensions; and other whimsical ideas. Some explanations are more grounded in science, if not in evidence. These include oceanic flatulence (methane gas erupting from ocean sediments) and disruptions in geomagnetic lines of flux.*

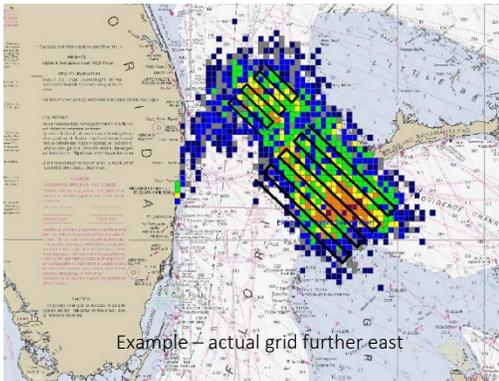
*Environmental considerations could explain many, if not most, of the disappearances. Most Atlantic tropical storms and hurricanes pass through the Bermuda Triangle, and in the days prior to improved weather forecasting, these dangerous storms claimed many ships. Also, the Gulf Stream can cause rapid, sometimes violent, changes in weather. Additionally, the large number of islands in the Caribbean Sea creates many areas of shallow water that can be treacherous to ship navigation. And there is some evidence to suggest that the Bermuda Triangle is a place where a "magnetic" compass sometimes points towards "true" north, as opposed to "magnetic" north.*

*The U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard contend that there are no supernatural explanations for disasters at sea. Their experience suggests that the combined forces of nature and human fallibility outdo even the most incredulous science fiction. They add that no official maps exist that delineate the boundaries of the Bermuda Triangle. The U. S. Board of Geographic Names does not recognize the Bermuda Triangle as an official name and does not maintain an official file on the area.*

*The ocean has always been a mysterious place to humans, and when foul weather or poor navigation is involved, it can be a very deadly place. This is true all over the world. There is no evidence that mysterious disappearances occur with any greater frequency in the Bermuda Triangle than in any other large, well-traveled area of the ocean.*

 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

With all that being said...



A bizarre occurrence during a search for a missing fishing boat, northwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1969. The U.S.C.G. Air Station San Juan dispatched 2 Grumman HU16e Albatross aircraft to join in a search with other aircraft from Miami and St. Peterburg stations. Without having any clear understanding of the location of the missing vessel we had an exceptionally large search pattern. A distress call could give you a precise location, but an overdue is an unknown for both position and time. This search was the later.

Our crew of 6, comprised of Pilot, Co-Pilot, Radioman, Navigator and 2 flight mechanics (search & rescue). The day was clear with enough wind to make for rough (white) waters to make the search a bit more difficult. We were well into the search on our specific grid, when the cockpit crew was amazed that the aircraft gauges in front of them were ALL erratic. Some were spinning, with others rolling but accurate readings were non-existing. The radioman indicated the radios were out and the navigator stated, no radar. The pilot with no altimeter or gyroscope was a least glad for the clear day and kept focused on the horizon. It seemed like it went on longer than it did, but it kept the crew busy for about 30 minutes or so.

Just as quickly everything went down it came back. During that time, the other search aircraft became concerned of our existence. The other aircraft were not experiencing the same bizarre conditions, but they could not see us on their radar or contact us by radio. They left their search patterns and headed towards our sector with the hopes of finding us still flying. As we regained completed control, we had a visual of a USCG Goat coming towards us at the same time we regained radio comm and relayed the last 30 minutes.

The event had us regroup and realign our search pattern so we could get back to the business of search and rescue.

Unknown and mysterious forces... no doubt. Somewhere in the science, strange electrical force maybe. It never occurred again on this search or any other that I am aware of. The events were relayed to local command. A report was written up by the pilot, but I do not remember hearing much more in the days that followed.

From that time, I have always had an interest in any writings about the subject. I am surprised that the bizarre event occurred over fifty years ago, and we still hear the same inconclusive stories regarding the Bermuda Triangle. If nothing else, I have my story.