

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
CRITICAL THINKING**

Unit 1: Credibility of Evidence

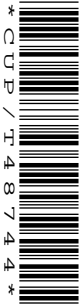
RESOURCE BOOKLET

MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2008

F491/RB

Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Use Documents 1, 2, 3 and 4 to answer the questions.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

It has been claimed that in 1943 an experiment was conducted to make the US navy ship Eldridge 'invisible'. However this has been widely disputed by others who claim that no such experiment took place.

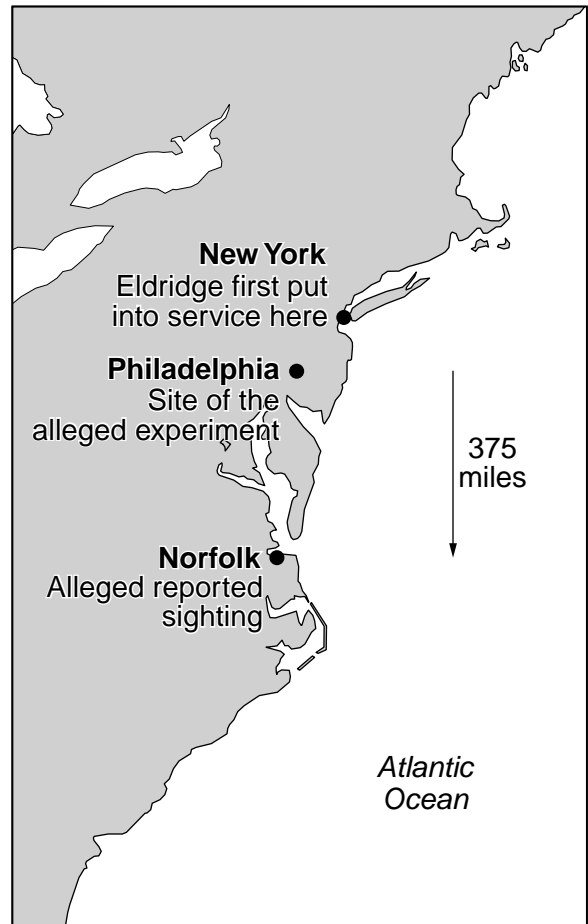
Document 1

The story of the Philadelphia experiment

The experiment was allegedly conducted as a military application of Einstein's* theory that if light could be bent around an object, it would make it essentially invisible. The US Navy considered this to be of value in wartime and sponsored the experiment. The USS Eldridge was fitted with the required generator equipment at the Naval Yards in Philadelphia. During the experiment it was reported that the Eldridge became invisible. At the same time the U.S. naval base at Norfolk in Virginia, just over 375 miles away, reported sighting the Eldridge offshore for several minutes. Following this it vanished again and reappeared in Philadelphia.

Source: Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia,
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

The website carries a note: This experiment has been widely challenged as unfounded and highly speculative.



Map of the east coast of America

Document 2

The Philadelphia Experiment: A Personal Saga in Time Travel by D. Cunningham

By the time our government got involved in the experiment, the possibilities of the technology had already been proven beyond a doubt. Einstein was also involved. From 1938 I worked closely with the government's project director. I was hired to work with the project primarily because of my abilities and training in Physics, Geometry and Electronics. My role also included the preparation and installation of the technology on the ship.

On August 15th, 1943 we were on the USS Eldridge, with special authority from the U.S. Naval Department to conduct a highly secretive scientific experiment. When we switched the generators to full power, it created a strong electromagnetic field, which totally overcame and engulfed us. I noted the ship disappearing from around and below me. Being extremely disoriented, 'time' did not seem to exist. I felt 'stuck' in place, unable to move in a field of energy of total darkness. After we had rematerialized 24 hours later, I was taken off the ship by stretcher. The Eldridge was no longer sea worthy, and of the 181 men, only 21 had survived. Forty men were confirmed dead as a result of radiation exposure, burns, electrocution, and fright. The remaining 120 men were just gone.

D. Cunningham has appeared on television's 'Ancient Prophecies' and 'The Other Side'. His lectures on Time Travel and The Philadelphia Experiment are internationally known.

*Einstein was a famous physicist

Document 3

Did the USS Eldridge really disappear?

In October 1955, author of an Astro-Physics research paper, Morris Jessup, received letters from a man who claimed to have witnessed a U.S. Navy experiment whilst aboard a merchant ship:

“The ‘result’ was complete invisibility of a war ship, and all of its crew while at sea (October, 1943). The field extended one hundred yards. Any person within this became vague in form and those aboard the ship were in this same state.”

Jessup thought the letters were from a crackpot until he was visited by two men from the Office of Naval Research (ONR), who attempted to find this man. In 1969, a man confessed to writing the letters and to have made up the story of the ship disappearing. However authors of a 1979 report about the Philadelphia Experiment suggested that this confession may have been false.

One thing is certain: No experiment was done in 1943 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard involving the Eldridge. During that period the Eldridge never stopped in Philadelphia. In March 1999 fifteen members of the crew of the Eldridge held a reunion in Atlantic City, when all denied anything like what was in the letter actually happened.

Source: www.unmuseum.org

Document 4

The “Philadelphia Experiment”

Records at the Naval Historical Centre have been repeatedly searched, but no documents have been found which confirm this event or any interest by the Navy in attempting such an experiment. The USS Eldridge was first put into naval service on 27 August 1943 at the New York Navy Yard. Its deck log and war diary have been reviewed from then until December 1943. They show that during this time, the Eldridge was never in Philadelphia.

Supposedly, the crew of a civilian merchant ship observed the mysterious arrival of the Eldridge into the Norfolk area. The merchant ship’s movement report cards are in the custody of the Modern Military National Archives, which has a letter from the Master of the ship in 1943. He denies that he or his crew observed any unusual event whilst in Norfolk.

ONR (Office of Naval Research) has stated that the use of force fields to make a ship and its crew invisible does not conform to known physical laws. During 1943-1944, Einstein was a part-time consultant to the Navy, undertaking theoretical research on explosives and explosions. Although electrical cables were installed around some Navy ships to cancel out the ship’s magnetic field, this makes a ship ‘invisible’ to the sensors of magnetic mines, but visible to the human eye and radar.

ONR is America’s naval research enterprise which reports to the Secretary of the Navy. Its mission is to “foster scientific research to enable future naval power and the preservation of national security.”

Source: Naval Historical Center, www.history.navy.mil

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- Document 3 Source: *The Philadelphia Experiment*, Lee Krystek, www.unmuseum.org. Reproduced by kind permission.
- Document 4 Source: *The Philadelphia Experiment*, Naval Historical Center, 28 November 2000, www.history.navy.mil

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