

The Mysterious



& Unknown

The Bermuda Triangle

Gail B. Stewart



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CHAPTER 2

Vanishing from the Air

While scores of documents record missing ships and boats within the Bermuda Triangle, it was not until airplanes began to disappear within that area that its mysterious reputation began to solidify. For one reason, planes are far more unlikely than ships to simply disappear. They are in almost constant radio contact with those on the ground, and they can check in immediately if they have mechanical issues or are experiencing bad weather. Finally, because they usually take off and land within a few hours' time, they are rarely out of range of a control tower's radar screen.

Even so, planes have nonetheless been disappearing regularly within the Bermuda Triangle—from small private planes to military bombers and passenger jets. Many have disappeared right off a radar screen as they have been coming in for a landing. In



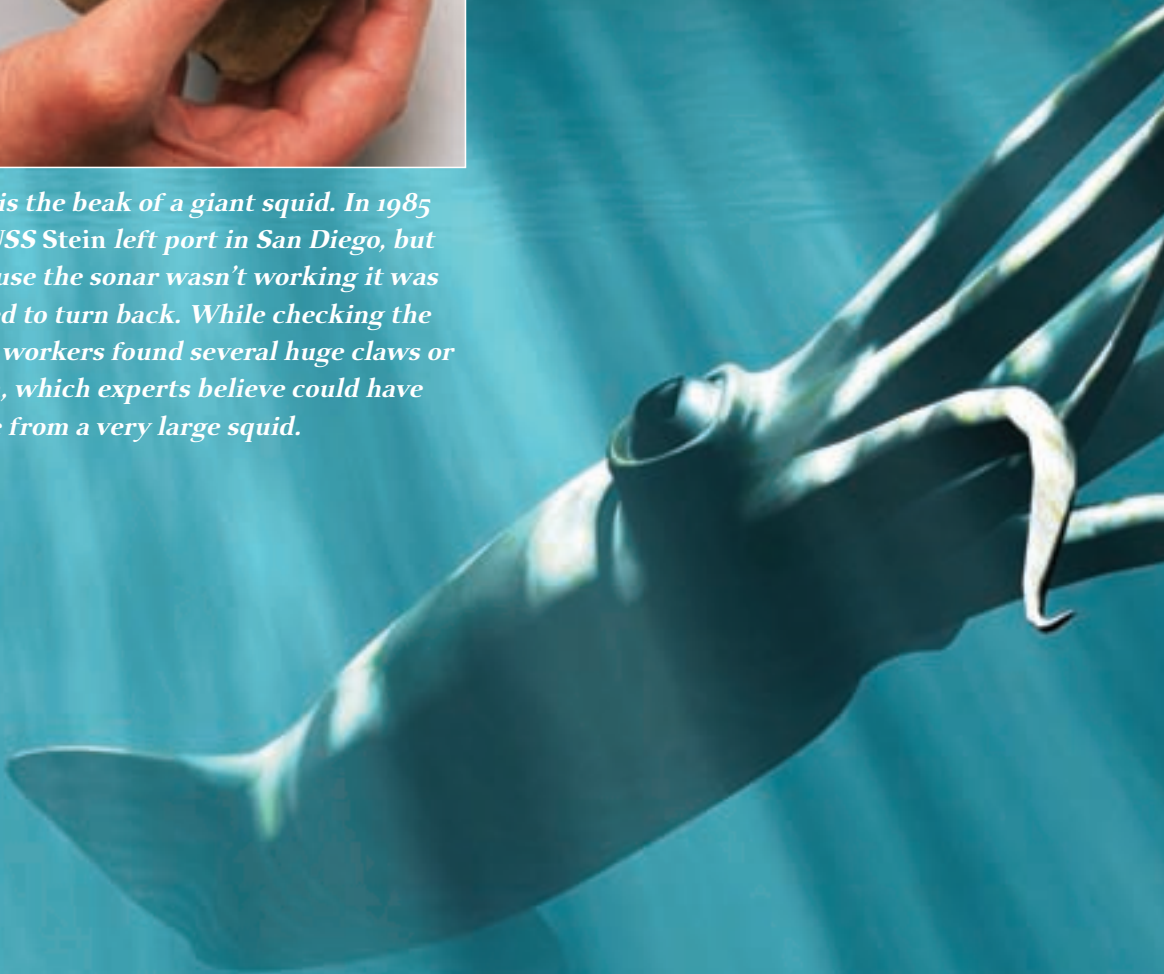
An air traffic controller monitors flights in the control tower at Newark International Airport in New Jersey. Planes are far more unlikely than ships to simply disappear. They are in almost constant radio contact with air traffic control, and they can check in immediately if they have mechanical issues or are experiencing bad weather. They are also rarely out of range of a control tower's radar screen.

more than a few cases, they have vanished in the midst of talking to an air traffic controller.

The most famous of all these disappearances occurred in 1945, when five U.S. Navy bombers and a plane dispatched to investigate their sudden disappearance vanished during a training exercise. According to Bermuda Triangle expert Charles Berlitz, “No incident before or since has been more remarkable than this *total* disappearance of an entire training flight, along with the giant rescue plane, a Martin Mariner with a crew of thirteen, which inexplicably vanished during rescue operations.”¹⁸



This is the beak of a giant squid. In 1985 the USS Stein left port in San Diego, but because the sonar wasn't working it was forced to turn back. While checking the ship, workers found several huge claws or teeth, which experts believe could have come from a very large squid.





This computer-generated image shows a giant squid. One of the earliest explanations for disappearances within the Triangle is that some sort of sea creature either attacks a ship or somehow becomes entangled in one. One particular creature mentioned by several researchers is the giant squid. While it may sound far-fetched, the idea of large, aggressive squids has been around for centuries.



FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Books

Judith Herbst, *Lands of Mystery*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. A very readable book that deals with the mystery of the underwater civilization of Atlantis.

Ann Margaret Lewis, *Atlantis*. New York: Rosen, 2002. This book provides background on the lost continent of Atlantis, with good illustrations and a helpful index.

Rob MacGregor and Bruce Gernon, *The Fog: A Never Before Published Theory of the Bermuda Triangle Phenomenon*. Woodbury, MN: Llewellyn, 2005. This is an interesting account of the theory of magnetic fog, which the authors believe is responsible for disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle.

Dougal Robertson, *Survive the Savage Sea*. Dobbs Ferry, NY: Sheridan House, 2002. This first-person account describes the ordeal of Robertson's family, when killer whales attacked their boat, the *Lucette*.

Gail Stewart, *UFOs*. San Diego: ReferencePoint, 2007. This book discusses the various theories of unidentified flying objects as well as famous sightings.

Internet Sources

ABC.net, "Great Moments in Science: Bermuda Triangle 3." www.abc.net.au/science/k2/moments/s1070889.htm.

Jason Dowling, "Bermuda Triangle Mystery Solved? It's a Load of Gas," *Fairfax-Digital*, October 23, 2003. www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/10/22/1066631498889.html.

Megan Sever, "Beneath the Bermuda Triangle," *Geotimes*, November 2004. www.geotimes.org/novo4/geophen.html.

Web Sites

The Bermuda Triangle (<http://unex-t.com/thetruth/bermuda.htm>). A very readable site that includes explanations from



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