

Leanna Szypowski

Mr. Peers

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### Bermuda Triangle – Behind the Conspiracy

“The Bermuda Triangle is cursed!” Many people believe that the Bermuda Triangle is cursed and causes people to disappear. However, the Bermuda Triangle isn't actually as dangerous as many people speculate. This triangle shaped region between Miami, San Juan, and Bermuda is more likely to be affected by natural weather conditions, human error, and the amount of traffic through the area than supernatural phenomenon. This is evidence that the Bermuda Triangles isn't as mystical and cursed as it is made out to be. Let's take a look at some of the conspiracies around the mysterious Bermuda Triangle.

The first disappearance I would like to talk about is the US Navy's Flight 19. The disappearance of the US Navy's Flight 19 training mission of five torpedo jets in 1945 is one of the most infamous stories of the triangle. Some accuse the military – which would be counterproductive to attack their own craft. Others speculate that aliens abducted the planes or that fire crystals from Atlantis are to blame. However, there is no evidence to support these theories. A more likely explanation is that it was human error. An unexpected storm, leading to them getting lost and draining all their fuel, is much more likely than Atlantean fire crystals. Radio transmissions right before the disappears show that the pilots didn't follow protocol as they believed they were somewhere they weren't – over the Florida Keys. This led to them flying North-east instead of West which is towards the mainland. When they lost all fuel, they would have sunk to the bottom of the ocean – without a trace. Speaking of disappearing, the next mystery I want to talk about is the SS Cotopaxi.

The famous disappearance of the SS Cotopaxi in November 1925 was one of the great stories surrounding the triangle. The boat was on journey from Charleston, South Carolina to Havana, Cuba. The ship never arrived, and the last transmission was a distress signal. As rescuers arrived, there was no trace with no debris and the 32 passengers nowhere to be found. The Gulf Stream, an area with a high frequency of storms due to the warm water flowing North goes right through the Bermuda triangle, an area known for rough waters. The Bermuda Triangle – despite its reputation, sees no more lost ships and planes than any other place on earth. The ship probably encountered issues due to rough waves or weather – not aliens. To add onto this, the ship was found last year 35 miles off shore from St. Augustine, Florida, which isn't even in the Bermuda Triangle! All in all, waves and weather, not aliens! However, the disappearance of the USS Cyclops, sounds particularly alien to me.

The last disappearance I would like to talk about is the USS Cyclops. This ship disappeared in March 1918 along with its 309 passengers on its journey from the United States to Brazil. While the ship was in Rio, Brazil, the commanding officer reported that the starboard engine was inoperable due to a crack in one of the cylinders. The boat was loaded with 11,000 tons of manganese ore, which suggested that the ship was overloaded – the USS Cyclops had never carried ore before. As the ship sailed at a slower speed, the ship disappeared, never reaching its destination, with no wreckage. Some say the ship's unexpected disappearance was aliens – the crew and ship abducted – really it was likely a combination of the heavy ore, overloading the ship with weight and being something never transported by the ship before and therefore the crew did not know how to handle it, and the damaged engine preventing maneuverability and lowering speed. This is combination, does not look good for the USS Cyclops and a shift in cargo, water flooding the hull, failure of the other engine, and many other problems, could have easily happened to cause such a ship to sink. Even though a wreckage was never found, the ocean is a

huge place. Equipment failure, new cargo, and undertrained staff leading to human error is incredibly more likely than an alien taking a ship full of manganese ore.

In closing, while many people jump to stories that are interesting and exciting such as aliens, Atlantean fire crystals or the United States military, these are not true. These three famous stories, about the Bermuda triangle, when broken down, are clearly more likely to be caused by either strong weather, which is common in the region, human error, equipment failure, and just the overall amount of ships that go through the area. In the future, it might be more productive to do a little research before jumping in and believing things that have no proof or basis. Taking apart these mysteries shows us that there are often more natural explanations than what they really are. It just shows that these stories are really just that – stories.

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