

Marc Seifer and the Unsolved Mysteries of Nikola Tesla

Marianne Macy

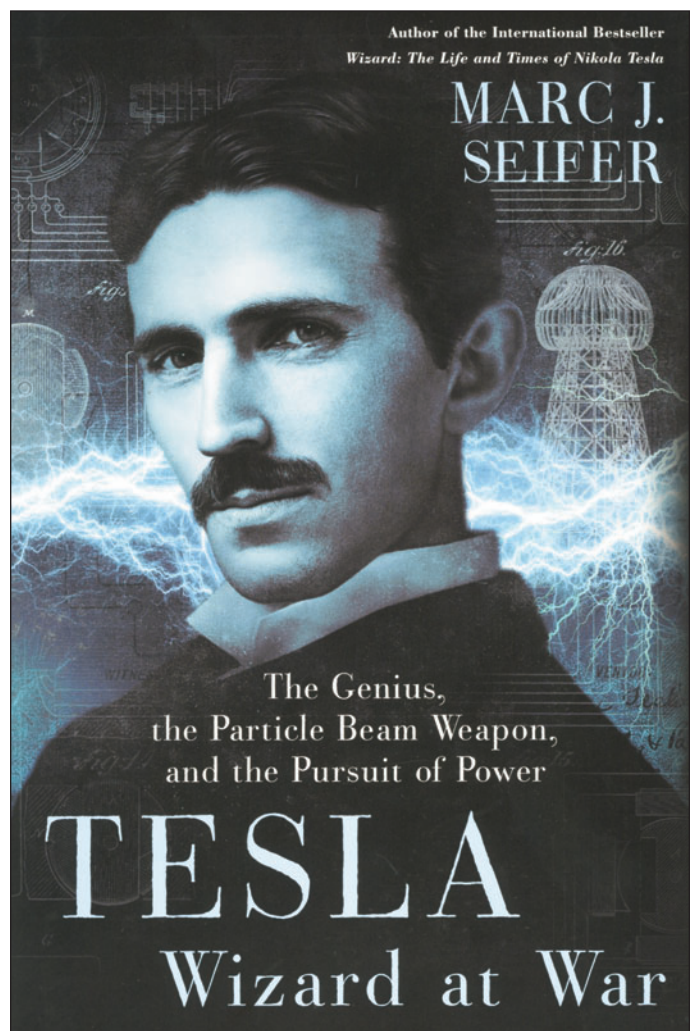
For years, there have only been pieces of the puzzle. The two-room suite on the 33rd floor of the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan where Tesla died is opened by the FBI, who remove papers. Pearl Harbor occurred just a little over a year earlier, putting the United States into World War II. A reported “death ray” or “particle beam weapon” that Tesla has been working on for years disappears—or doesn’t disappear?—from storage, where it was reportedly kept as payment for the inventor’s debts. Corporations and different governments are involved. There are ties to secret weapons and technologies of today. One of the most enduring unsolved mysteries of the Tesla saga is doggedly researched and now published by the author of the international best-selling biography *Wizard: The Life and Times of Nikola Tesla—Biography of a Genius*.

The publication of *Wizard*, innumerable interviews over the years, appearances in documentaries and a History Channel series “The Tesla Files” led to people all over the world contacting Marc Seifer with more information, more leads, more of the trail to follow to unravel hitherto unknown aspects of the Nikola Tesla story. After 40 years of his life spent traveling to New York, Colorado, Belgrade and Tesla’s birthplace Smiljan, Croatia, and documenting the world-changing inventions of alternating current electricity, radar, the Tesla coil, the induction motor, radio, wireless electricity and the extraordinary twists of Tesla’s life story, it would seem Seifer could retire, happy about his gift to the world of presenting a true biography of a genius. With the August 2022 publication of *Tesla: Wizard at War—The Genius, the Particle Beam Weapon and the Pursuit of Power*, Marc Seifer has come further than anyone in tracking down answers to one of the greatest unsolved questions left hanging at the time of Tesla’s death: What was the truth about his particle beam weapon? What was it? How far did he get with it? What countries got it? What became of it?

Wizard at War reads like an incredible mystery novel, the boiling point of which is the chapter “The Day Tesla Died,” in which Seifer lays out major players and events that circle at this critical juncture at the start of the United States’ entry into World War II, Tesla’s death, and the cast of characters and events around his particle beam weapon. Although they include military and political people from different countries, high level industrialists, J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI and Eleanor Roosevelt among others, one of the most unseen interesting characters in the book is the author, whose painstaking following of leads if not cracks the case, underlines the fact that this was/is a real technology that many serious parties were deeply interested in.

Seifer answered questions about the book for *Infinite Energy*, but our best recommendation is to get your own copy of *Tesla: Wizard at War*, and sit down to read it with a pen, paper, computer or whatever you write with, and follow the many people and paths laid out therein.

Marianne Macy: Marc, I’ve made my way through this book and what I think I gleaned, although I need confirmation from you, is that you have managed to come much further than anyone in following leads about Tesla and his particle beam weapon. But in the end, some things are still left hanging and we don’t have final answers. Do you believe more



people and facts will emerge after this book comes out, as they did when you wrote *Wizard*?

Marc Seifer: Yes. In particular, I think that more facts will emerge concerning additional details of the precise arrangement Tesla had with the British War Office in the run-up to the Second World War, and we will find out more about how Tesla's top secret particle beam weapon evolved into today's comparable weapon, the U.S. Navy rail gun.

Macy: You report (p.190) that the government dossier on this topic written by MIT Professor John G. Trump (uncle of a future president of the U.S.) "stated overtly that Tesla had sold the details of his particle beam weapon to the Soviet Union via the Amtorg Trading Corporation for \$25,000 and that Tesla also attempted to sell the weapon to the British." You go on to report that you interviewed "a somewhat mysterious World War II veteran, Ralph Bergstresser, who told me outright that the aging inventor had lent him various documents, including the particle beam weapon paper, so that Bergstresser could make copies to help the country in the war effort." The Bergstresser thread goes from June 1942 until Tesla's death in January 1943. What do you think his role was or might have been?

Seifer: In essence, I found out that Bergstresser spent considerable time with Tesla during the latter half of 1942. At that time, he took microfilm images of the secret weaponry papers, gave them to military intelligence and also kept a copy for himself. Then Bergstresser sat on the so-called death ray paper for the next 40 years before handing it off to a go-between who gave the paper to Dr. Andrija Puharich, the parapsychologist who, coincidentally, had introduced the Israeli spoonbender Uri Geller to the world.

Macy: Why would Bergstresser give the paper to Dr. Puharich?

Seifer: As I explain in *Tesla: Wizard at War*, Dr. Puharich had close ties to three people who knew Tesla intimately: Agnes Holden, who was the daughter of Katharine and Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of *Century Magazine*, who was Tesla's closest friend; John Hays Hammond Jr., who was Tesla's partner circa 1912, and an expert in radio guidance systems; and John O'Neill, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of the first major biography of Tesla, who knew Tesla for 40 years. Puharich had real inside knowledge about Tesla and, further, he had written a book (which was never published, but which I have a copy of) on Wardencllyffe, Tesla's world telegraphy center. Dr. Puharich was the perfect person to pass this all-important heavily sought-after paper to. And it was Puharich who then presented the paper to the world at the 1984 Tesla Centennial Conference held in Colorado Springs, where I was also a speaker.

Macy: What is in the Puharich book on Wardencllyffe? Is there any hitherto unreported information or revelations?

Seifer: Dr. Puharich titled the book *Tesla's Magnifying Transmitter: How to Protect Yourself from Omnipresent Electromagnetic Pollution*. He claimed that the reason the book was not published was because "this mss. has been

classified by the FBI." This statement remains ponderous. Had he claimed that the CIA had prohibited publication, that would have made some sense, as Puharich secretly worked for the CIA, particularly with his studies at Stanford Research Institute with the superpsychic Uri Geller, which were CIA funded. The table of contents discusses Tesla's life and accomplishments, gets into how Puharich thinks the Wardencllyffe wireless tower was supposed to operate and then covers "Titanic Forces Unleashed by the Soviet Union during 1976-1979 and by the USA during 1980-1984." Linked most likely to today's concerns that the Soviets have been bombarding U.S. embassies with microwaves which are causing headaches and other negative affects on our diplomats, Puharich cites "Alexandr P. Dubrov, of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR [who] has some 1228 references on...the history of Soviet research in affecting living things with electromagnetic radiation."

Macy: You report on Bergstresser's background (p.193), which includes, as you put it, being "ostensibly" raised with Tesla acolyte Bloyce Fitzgerald. Why "ostensibly?" Are you suggesting this history is fabricated? What are you suggesting with that adverb?

Seifer: When I read the O'Neill Tesla biography *Prodigal Genius*, he mentions pretty much in passing one Bloyce Fitzgerald, who emerges around the time of Tesla's death. This was such an unusual name, and because of that, I became intrigued. I thought, perhaps, at the time, that he was from the OSS. Then, when I got access to the FBI files through FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), this would be back around 1990, I found out that a Mr. Fitzgerald and also a Mr. Doty, who were portrayed as hotel managers, were present at Tesla's room the very day after Tesla died. Since I had other papers which mentioned Colonel Ralph Doty from military intelligence and Bloyce Fitzgerald, who had written to Tesla extensively from about 1935 until the inventor's death, I hypothesized that these were one and the same people, that they were not Hotel New Yorker managers but members of military intelligence. In writing this second book I was able to get new unredacted FBI files now that they were declassified and I was able to establish that I was indeed right.

However, I also found out that both Bloyce Fitzgerald and Ralph Bergstresser were raised in Wichita during the same time, although Bergstresser was four years older. I used the word "ostensibly" with the meaning of presumably. I presumed that since they were both electrical engineers from a relatively small city and they both were conferring with each other at the time of Tesla's death, that they most likely knew each other growing up. This was a significant find for me, as before I wrote this new book I didn't really know of their connection.

Macy: You go on to say that in 1945 Bergstresser was working for military intelligence and was concerned that Tesla's secret weaponry could pass to Tesla's heir, Sava Kosanovic, who, as ambassador to Yugoslavia, would pass these military weaponry papers to the Communists because Tito was in power and was, at that time, aligned with the Soviet Union. Bergstresser (p.193) writes a brief to the FBI where he states he is working with Fitzgerald who is at Wright Air Force Base

(soon after, Wright-Patterson) and with a group of Army scientists and professors at MIT, endeavoring to create a working particle beam weapon. At this point, the U.S. does not have the atom bomb and they fear Germany will build one before they do. Let me interrupt the flow here...Did Bergstresser show you supporting documents when you interviewed him? How did you find him?

Seifer: Bergstresser had written a comprehensive paper on Nikola Tesla dating from the 1950s, so it was clear that he knew all about who Tesla was. I literally have to go back about 35 years to remember how I got Bergstresser's name. I either got it from Andrija Puharich, who I knew quite well, or more likely from Toby Grotz, an IEEE member who headed up the 1984 Tesla conference with physicist Elizabeth Rauscher. In any event, I was able to call Bergstresser and he verified that he did indeed meet with Tesla on a number of occasions in mid-late 1942 and that at that time Tesla gave him key papers to copy and then Bergstresser would return them. I also knew from Toby Grotz that the initial Tesla "paper" he got from Dr. Puharich came from microfilm; this paper is published in the 1984 Proceedings ("The New Art of Projecting Concentrated Non-Dispersive Energy Through Natural Media").¹

Macy: You relate that Tesla was working on this weapon for years and, indeed, in 1916 publications such as the *Washington Post* (p.192) reported that "Tesla had invented an electrical machine that could potentially be placed on airplanes to shoot down hostile craft, sending out a 'death dealing blow at the speed of 300 miles per second. No person or corporation should be allowed to possess such an invention. The Tesla designs are in the patent office, and should be seized and appropriated by the government for its own uses and defense, or for ending the European war at will.'" You also point to a 1915 *New York Times* report entitled "Tesla's New Device Like Bolts of Thor" in which Tesla states that the device could work from the Wardencllyffe Tower on Long Island to protect New York. Later, you write fascinatingly about how the particle beam weapon could have been incorporated into the Wardencllyffe Tower utilizing high power transmission. Now...while you point out at this time he was desperately trying to save his tower from being shut down because of his financial troubles, what do you think of this?

Seifer: Tesla had put his entire life's work into Wardencllyffe, which was planned to be a world telegraphy center, set up to eventually employ many hundreds of workers. In essence, Tesla had conceived back in 1901 of what today we call cell phone technology, the ability to create an unlimited number of wireless channels so that anyone on the planet could talk to anyone else no matter where they were. Tesla even mentions such distances as New York to Australia as if the people were sitting in the same room together.

J.P. Morgan had given Tesla \$150,000 to construct this

transatlantic wireless station, which was supposed to be 90 feet tall. However, once Tesla found out that Marconi was pirating his apparatus when Tesla had offered Marconi equipment which Marconi turned down, Tesla literally freaked out and doubled the size of the tower. His rationale was that although the costs might be doubled, with such a tall tower he would now be able to not only send messages to England and Europe, but also to the entire world, so that revenues would come in at an exponential rate. When he tried to explain this to Morgan, the Wall Street mogul not only refused all additional funding, but worse than that, Morgan blocked other investors from coming in.

Macy: How do you know that Morgan actually blocked other investors?

Seifer: What we need to keep in mind is that Tesla was living in the Waldorf-Astoria as a veritable millionaire, hobnobbing with the likes of Thomas Fortune Ryan, Jacob Schiff and Henry Clay Frick, each easily worth several hundred million dollars. They were billionaires in today's dollars. For instance, in the case of Frick, when U.S. Steel was created, Morgan paid Frick \$60 million for his share of the original company. (Carnegie got around \$200 million.) So for Frick to invest, say, an additional \$100,000, this was a miniscule percentage of his total wealth. Tesla set up a meeting between Frick and Morgan and that deal went sour.

What we learned when we made the TV show "The Tesla Files," when we hired technicians proficient with ground penetrating radar, was that Tesla had constructed four tunnels 70 feet below the tower, three of which were 100 feet long, and also that he had placed a network of grounding rods he called "earth grippers," which spread out like spokes of a wheel, ten feet above the tunnels about 60 feet below the ground. This was an enormous enterprise that Tesla had constructed, and he didn't want to lose it. He owed the Waldorf-Astoria nearly \$20,000

in back rent, so he transferred the property, he assumed as collateral against what he owed, as he tried to pay them back and also raise the funds to complete the project.

This was during World War I while Tesla was working for Telefunken, the German wireless concern who, ironically, had a contract with the U.S. Navy, via Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was Assistant Secretary of the Navy while America was still neutral. This was 1915, and Marconi, who thought that he had invented the radio, sued both Telefunken and the U.S. Navy and both of them, including FDR in particular, turned to Tesla to testify on their behalf because they both knew that it was his technology that lay at the basis of what became the radio. And meanwhile, the Waldorf-Astoria was threatening to dismantle Wardencllyffe and sell the materials for cash to offset the debt Tesla owed.

It was at this time that Tesla revealed that he had a so-called "death ray," which was really a particle beam weapon. What I discovered was that Tesla revealed this secret weapon



The Electrical Experimenter cover from March 1916, featuring "The Tesla Destroyer." Seifer added in the "weapon" and beam to enhance the visual.

as early as 1915 in the *New York Times* because he was desperate to save the tower and felt that if he could impress Franklin Roosevelt, the U.S. Navy and even President Woodrow Wilson in the viability of his tower, they might come to his rescue. Unfortunately they did not, and indeed the tower was destroyed in 1917 by the posh hotel and Tesla's great plans were destroyed at that same time as well.

Macy: On page 191, you write, "Given that there are numerous FBI and OAP memos from colonels and brigadier generals from Wright-Patterson discussing Tesla's files, their constant denials and the simple fact that the OAP has never released the particle beam paper, even though their documents state overtly that this paper was in their possession, supports the contention that aspects of Tesla's work, even to this day, are top secret." What were you able to track down about the history of that paper?

Seifer: It really all stems from Bergstresser, whose military record I cover in depth in *Wizard at War*. Without any doubt, Bergstresser got this coveted top secret particle beam weapon paper and gave it to military intelligence. Through FOIA I was able to track the trail of this paper in particular to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and to Bloyce Fitzgerald who was working for the National Defense Research Council (NDRC), which was really another name for the secret weapons development branch of the U.S. military headed up by Vannevar Bush, former Dean of MIT physics department and co-founder of the Raytheon Corporation.

Macy: You note that after Tesla died, Vannevar Bush, then head of NDRC which included the ultra secret Manhattan Project, appointed John G. Trump to study Tesla's papers. Trump, who was a professor of physics from MIT going back to when Bush was Dean, concluded that there was no military use for this coveted paper because the scheme was unworkable. You write that this position was supported by Bush but opposed by other higher-ups in military intelligence.

Seifer: Exactly. Trump's position was that all of Tesla's estate should be handed over to Sava Kosanovic, Tesla's nephew who coincidentally was the ambassador from Yugoslavia, but that move was opposed by Bloyce Fitzgerald, who was actually working for Vannevar Bush's NDRC while he was a private in the Army.

Bergstresser, on the other hand, at this time was stationed in Southeast Asia fighting against the Japanese, but Fitzgerald was stationed in Washington, DC, able to freely go to both MIT where three professors were involved in the study of rapid fire weapons for the military, and also to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Fitzgerald was desperate to block the transference of the papers to the Soviet controlled state of Yugoslavia. At that time, he met with Colonel Parrott, who later became a higher up in the CIA, and General L.C. Craigie from Wright-Patterson, who happened to also be the first military person to fly a jet plane. This, like the Manhattan Project, was top secret work, and Craigie was high profile, in a sense the Chuck Yeager or John Glenn of his day, but only to the inner circle who knew that we were developing a jet fighter plane.

What I uncovered was a definite split in military intelligence. One group headed by John G. Trump, and most like-

ly Vannevar Bush, dismissed Tesla's work as a good try but unworkable, and another group headed by Bloyce Fitzgerald and General L.C. Craigie wanted very much to understand the details to Tesla's so-called "death ray." I also discovered that J. Edgar Hoover was interested as well in that device, but when he wrote to Vannevar Bush about it, Bush dismissed the idea.

Macy: Do you think it was a split, or doesn't it seem quite possible Trump and Bush were interested in the technology and this was a cover-up? As you write on page 208, two weeks after Tesla's death, "on January 26 and 27, 1943, the official examination of Tesla's effects was undertaken by MIT professor John G. Trump along with a Navy photographer, a stenographer and Willis George, a counterintelligence agent and safe cracker associated with both Naval Intelligence and the OSS."

Seifer: I do not believe that Trump and Bush were involved in a cover-up. Trump had a superb resume working at MIT with Robert Van de Graaff, involved in microwave transmission, X-rays, directed beams of electrons and particle accelerators. He spent a long weekend going over Tesla's top secret death ray paper and concluded that there was "no significant value to this country" of the information therein and literally staked his reputation on this conclusion. As I discuss in the book, Vannevar Bush and the other scientists simply took Trump at his word, but I also point out where Trump erred. For instance, although Trump reported that Tesla had a particle beam weapon, he states that Tesla was attempting to shoot electrons out of the barrel of this open-ended vacuum tube. That was simply not true. Trump also errs in the amount of voltage Tesla calculates would be needed to operate his death ray. This was another major error surmised by Trump. There had already been a disdain against Tesla by a number of scientists, and that might have colored Trump's vision. At the same time, as everyone in the inner circle knew, the real threat was the atomic bomb, so it was much easier to accept Trump's conclusions and put all their eggs into the work at Los Alamos.

With regards to Willis George, he was working for Wild Bill Donovan, head of the OSS. Quite simply, Donovan wanted to know what was going on with the Tesla papers and if a safe needed to be cracked or a locked trunk needed to be picked, Willis George was the man to do it. So I do not think it was a cover-up. Trump dismissed Tesla's invention and the people that hired him, particularly Vannevar Bush, accepted his findings at face value without studying this key paper for himself. However, as I mentioned, another faction headed by Bloyce Fitzgerald and General L.C. Craigie had a very different view and for those reasons, Tesla's affects were kept in their possession for the next decade, the end result being, in my assessment, that the particle beam weapon paper remained a top secret paper studied by the military, and that today's U.S. Navy rail gun is a direct outcropping based on essentials from this technology.

Macy: How so?

Seifer: Tesla's idea was basically to have very small, almost microscopic particles of tungsten be propelled out the barrel of the gun using the property of electronic propulsion, that

is to say when a highly charged negative ionic belt comes in contact with a negatively charged particle that particle will be repelled out at a terrific speed. That principle is the same mechanism behind the rail gun.

Macy: In the book, you indicate that this dismissive position was not at all the attitude of the British government. You bring up General Andrew McNaughton, for instance, who seemed quite interested in Tesla's particle beam weapon. Who exactly is General McNaughton, and how do you know all of this?

Seifer: I studied Tesla's correspondence with the British War Office, which was in the mid-to-late 1930s, at the Tesla Museum in Belgrade. I had spent a considerable amount of time physically at the Museum in the 1980s when I wrote *Wizard*, and again in 2017 when we were shooting "The Tesla Files" and through those connections I was able to continue my research online, paying the Museum for access to certain letters.

Macy: How did you come to look at McNaughton?

Seifer: Well, in one letter from General Hugh Elles to one of the heads of the British War Office, Elles mentions, almost in passing, that he decided to send Tesla's proposal to General McNaughton, and I keep reading. But then I said to myself, "Who the heck is General McNaughton?" I asked the Museum if they had any correspondence with him. And the Museum said yes and forwarded a dozen or more letters between Tesla and General McNaughton, who it turns out was head of secret weapons development for the Canadian government! Further investigation revealed that McNaughton was on the cover of both *Time* and *Life* magazines and was, at that time, third in line to head Allied Forces behind Eisenhower (who got the job) and Mountbatten (the present day king of England's grand uncle). Image search on Google shows General McNaughton poring over maps with Winston Churchill during the height of World War II. After the war broke out, McNaughton headed up Canadian forces in Europe. When I got the personal letters between McNaughton and Dr. C.J. Mackenzie who replaced him on the home front, I found that the general was flying to Washington, DC on a frequent basis to meet up with Vannevar Bush and President Roosevelt. In other words, General McNaughton was a big deal, at the very height of power for Allied Forces, and this was the guy who was quite actively negotiating with Tesla to get the details of his particle beam weapon as a way to protect England from a possible air and sea invasion by the Germans.

Macy: You mention that Tesla was negotiating with Ambassador Fotic, who predated Tesla's nephew Sava Kosanovic as ambassador from Yugoslavia. This was in 1937. Yugoslavia seemed to originally support Tesla's plan, paying him several thousand dollars, but then they ultimately passed

on this weapon. Why originally support it and then not?

Seifer: You ask the key question, which could also be asked about Great Britain, who apparently paid Tesla for the details.

Macy: Do you know, did Great Britain pay Tesla or not for his weapon?

Seifer: I don't know for sure. I know that Tesla was demanding a lot of money, ultimately about \$12,000 pounds for the details and then a very expensive royalty should the weapon be constructed and prove successful.

Macy: How much for the royalty?

Seifer: Tesla asked for \$10 million pounds, which would be somewhat north of \$50 million in today's dollars. There is a lot of new information in this book. Tesla never got over ripping up his royalty contract with Westinghouse almost 40 years earlier during the War of the Currents with Tom Edison. But to get back to your question, I don't know if

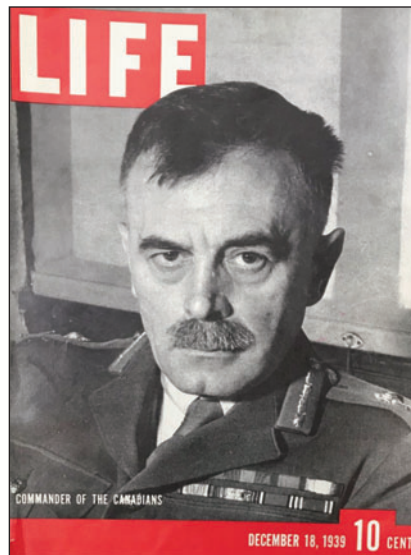
England paid Tesla, but what I can establish is that after they dickered about the price, at some point, Tesla changes his tune and begins to describe in detail the workings of this amazing invention. This suggests that some monies did exchange hands, but I don't know that for sure.

Macy: What I found fascinating is the timing of some of the meetings happening in Washington, DC involving not only General McNaughton but also Eleanor Roosevelt. You report that Tesla negotiates and clearly gives key details of his particle beam weapon to the Brits in the late 1930s. World War II breaks out but the U.S. is neutral for the first few years, and during that time General McNaughton flies into Washington to confer with Vannevar Bush and FDR, then Japan attacks Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 and we enter the war.

Seifer: Yes, and two weeks before President Roosevelt writes to Columbia University to "get the low-down" on Nikola Tesla, Vannevar Bush meets with the president to tell him the bad news that his scientists at Los Alamos think that the Germans will be able to build the atomic bomb in two years but they calculate that it will take us three years to accomplish the same feat.

Macy: But you can't prove that McNaughton discussed the details of his negotiations with Tesla with Bush or FDR?

Seifer: No. But all of this is one heck of a coincidence. However, what I can prove through actual documents is that Tesla was giving the details of his weapon to the British and that he shared its details with Ralph Bergstresser, who was working for military intelligence for the U.S. in the latter half of 1942. Then, shortly thereafter, with the real threat



Life cover from December 18, 1939, featuring General Andrew McNaughton.

that Germany might beat us in building the bomb, FDR seeks to contact Tesla. Unfortunately, Tesla died literally about a week after FDR writes of his interest.

Macy: What really intrigued me was your suggestion that President Roosevelt's interest in Tesla's so-called "death ray" might have actually stemmed from his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt. How much did you find on Eleanor's knowledge of Nikola Tesla and his particle beam weapon? Who led Eleanor to Tesla?

Seifer: I'm not really sure. Tesla was involved in certain societies that Eleanor was also a part of. However, I can show with actual documents that the day after Tesla died, the president thanked Eleanor for certain documents related to Tesla and returned them to her. This is clear evidence that the president's wife played a key role in this incredible story. I think the important thing to keep in mind is to put yourself in President Roosevelt's place. He obviously knows, in late 1942, while Tesla was still alive hawking his death ray, that if the Germans build the bomb before we do, Adolf Hitler would win the war. So it makes perfect sense for FDR to cover all his bases and explore the feasibility of constructing such a potentially powerful defensive weapon. At the same time I show that part of military intelligence headed by John G. Trump and most likely Vannevar Bush dismissed Tesla's invention whereas another part, headed by Bloyce Fitzgerald and General L.C. Craigie at Wright-Patterson, wanted very much to keep Tesla's military papers and not ship them across the Iron Curtain because the very fate of the nation might rest in developing this unique device. I also located a photograph of a big meeting where Vannevar Bush and General Craigie are at this same meeting, so obviously they knew each other. At least for me, this is very exciting stuff!

Macy: Your familiarity with Tesla's political thinking interestingly contrast with your quoting the tribute written by Guggenheim Fellowship winner Louis Adamic, and read by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia at Tesla's funeral, in which Tesla is justifiably praised for his contributions to humanity through his scientific genius, being a poet in science and contributing such extraordinary, amazing, miraculous things for mankind. And for his services he, according to Adamic, did not charge anything.

Seifer: Yes, Adamic's amazing eulogy read by the New York mayor is actually easily available online and I highly recommend your readers hearing it.² Mayor LaGuardia was an incredible orator. But Adamic was writing with rose colored glasses. Tesla was not this great altruist that he is made out to be, although he did offer his weapon to the United States with no thought of compensation once we entered the war.

Macy: You go on to report that Colonel Henry Breckenridge, who was a pallbearer at Tesla's funeral, was a political opponent of Franklin Roosevelt, and like Tesla and his other friend William Randolph Hearst was opposed to the New Deal. A very complex picture of Tesla emerges, in which you go as far as to suggest that Tesla might have sold the particle beam weapon to the Soviet Union because of this opposition. Trump says he did sell it to the Soviet Union. Did you see any further documentation of this?

Seifer: There is no doubt that the particle beam weapon paper that Dr. Puharich introduced to the world back in 1984 at the Tesla Conference held in Colorado Springs was the exact same paper that Tesla sold the Soviets back in 1934 for \$25,000. At the height of the Great Depression, when you could feed a family of five for about a dollar, that was a lot of money. When we shot "The Tesla Files" and I was at the Tesla Museum in Belgrade, I saw the correspondence between Tesla and the Soviets establishing that Tesla did, in fact, really sell the weapon to the Soviets. There, in the Soviet files, I saw the very same paper that Puharich presented at the 1984 Tesla conference. And because of the TV show, recently a fellow who had been in the Soviet Union in a graduate program sent me declassified Soviet documents further establishing this and also proving that Joseph Stalin himself had to okay the purchase.

Macy: You have that document?

Seifer: Yes. It's listed in the endnotes of *Wizard at War*.

Macy: But you didn't answer my question. Do you think Tesla sold the weapon to the Soviets because he was opposed to Franklin Roosevelt and his New Deal?

Seifer: The fact that Tesla did indeed oppose the New Deal, did play a role in Tesla, at first, not wanting to offer the weapon to FDR's administration. However, it was Roosevelt's actions that allowed Tesla to make this deal. What Roosevelt did was allow the Amtorg Trading Company, which was initially co-owned by the Soviets and by Armand Hammer, a U.S. citizen, to open up trade with the Soviets in 1934. Amtorg continued to operate in that capacity for the next 50 years. So, at that time, mid-1930s, the Soviets were actively trading with such companies as Ford, General Motors and literally hundreds of other companies. I personally am not happy about Tesla's decision to sell a weapon to the Soviets and as I point out in the book, it is clear that Tesla's closest friend, Robert Underwood Johnson, was opposed to this decision by FDR because it enabled the Soviets to infiltrate America with their communist propaganda. But for Tesla to sell this weapon to the Soviets at that time, it was perfectly legal.

Macy: So, Tesla's closest friend Johnson would have opposed Tesla's decision?

Seifer: Yes, exactly. That is why, most likely, almost nobody knew about this Soviet deal. I doubt very much that Johnson knew, and I think he would have been appalled had he found out. However, if we give Tesla the benefit of the doubt, he also saw this weapon as what he called a "Peace Ray." It was Tesla's belief that because this weapon was so destructive, and because it was purely or mostly defensive, if every nation had such an electronic shield, no country would ever invade another country because it would be suicide. This idea, which morphed later into MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction), with regards to the insanity of having a nuclear war, was Tesla's rationale for selling it to the Soviets. Tesla's plan was to sell it to every country except Germany because of the Nazis.

Macy: Is that because Tesla feared he could be killed by the

Germans because they were spying on him and because his workspace had been broken into? Is that why?

Seifer: Yes, Tesla did fear for his life, but linked to that, I also uncovered a strange relationship Tesla had with Germany, and it was through his friend George Sylvester Viereck, who was most likely the illegitimate son of the Kaiser. Tesla co-wrote the 1935 article "A Machine to End War" for *Liberty Magazine* with Viereck, which was on his particle beam weapon and on other topics including the future which would involve the advent of television and also eugenics, a form of population control achieved by not allowing so-called inferior people to propagate. Unfortunately, Tesla, most likely, would have supported that position, but it was probably put in there for subversive reasons by Viereck. What I uncovered was that Viereck was actually a German propagandist, literally on the Nazi payroll, and that he was also closely associated with Franz von Papen, who had been chancellor of Germany and was vice-chancellor when Hitler took power.

Macy: How do you know all this?

Seifer: I got Viereck's FBI files through FOIA. Viereck was on the Nazi payroll. From these documents I also learned that when Viereck would write a paper, it would be published

under his name in America and under von Papen's name when it was published in Germany. Five years after co-writing this article with Tesla, Viereck would be placed in jail for his activities as a German propagandist.

Macy: And you state that shortly after that paper was published, the Germans approached Tesla?

Seifer: Yes. The German ambassador did. He met with Tesla, perhaps even at Tesla's apartment, to try and get the details to his particle beam weapon, but Tesla turned him down. I have the correspondence. Shortly thereafter, during World War II, the Nazis, much like what they did to the Jews, set out to exterminate the Serbian people, killing about 90,000 Serbs at that time.

Macy: You write of a DARPA contractor (p.262) who told you in the 1990s that the invention was clandestinely worked on then. Any other details? Can you speak of this person's credentials or how you came to have this conversation or what they did? Did the DARPA contractor state that today's rail gun and Israel's Iron Dome anti-defense missile system were derived from Tesla's technology?

Seifer: What I can say is that a top-tier Tesla expert who I had met many moons ago was indeed hired by DARPA, the

Book Review — *Tesla: Wizard at War*

Marc J. Seifer, Citadel Press, 2022 — Review by Toby Grotz

In his second book about Tesla, Marc Seifer once again breaks through the legend, the enigma, and the life and times of a man who brought more technical innovation to humanity than any other in history. This book is a treasure trove of never before published details about Tesla's invention and his personal relationships with the celebrities, scientists and business moguls of the early twentieth century.

Seifer's detailed search of archived letters, correspondence, documents and new documents released under Freedom of Information Act requests has resulted in a detailed account of Nikola Tesla's involvement with scientists, diplomats and businessmen during the First World War and leading up to the Second World War. From what Tesla said, quoted in an article published in the *New York Times* on December 8, 1915, it appears that he had invented a particle beam weapon. Tesla announced his particle beam weapon in 1934, three years after he made the cover of *Time* magazine celebrating his 75th birthday. The details of the design were sold to the Russians shortly thereafter. How it worked and what became of the technology is detailed in *Wizard at War*. Included for experimenters, engineers and scientists are details not only of the particle beam weapon but of the design of the Wardencllyffe wireless power transmission installation. The intended patent application and drawings for the particle beam weapon were first published in 1984 in the proceedings of the Tesla Centennial Symposium held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, an event I co-hosted with physicist Elizabeth Rauscher. In fact, it was at that time that I first met Marc, who spoke at the conference.

In a major contribution to the study of gravity there is a chapter devoted to Tesla's Dynamic Theory of Gravity and the necessity of including the aether in any attempt at understanding gravity and the origin of matter. Well-known scientists such as Sir Oliver Lodge, J.J. Thompson, Lord Kelvin and Einstein all recognized the need for aether in order to explain the physical phenomenon of inertia and gravity. Tesla spoke of his theory in 1937 in a prepared statement to the press prior to interviews on his 81st birthday. This statement is presented in *Tesla Said*, published in 1984 by John T. Ratzlaff of the Tesla Book Company. On May 12, 1938 Tesla spoke again about his gravity theory to The Institute of Immigrant Welfare. In 1951 the U.S. Government Library of Congress acknowledged it had "research studies by Dr. Nikola Tesla...on gravity..." This theory closely resembles the theory of gravity and the aether worked out by Paramahansa Tewari (see <https://vimeo.com/161261940> and <https://vimeo.com/190251670>).

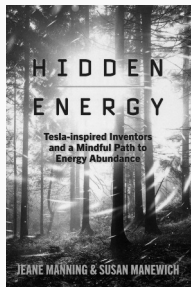
Tesla: Wizard at War is essential reading for anyone interested in the life and times of Nikola Tesla and an important follow-up to Seifer's 1997 book, *Wizard: The Life and Times of Nikola Tesla—Biography of a Genius*.

Swami Vivekananda, from whom Tesla learned the Sanskrit words from the ancient Vedic texts of India that describe the origins of matter, said "in Tesla's electrical discharges I even felt the presence of Brahma himself."

Samuel Cohen, writing in the *Electrical Experimenter* in July 1915, described Tesla as "...one of the world's most distinguished scientists of whom it has rightly been said, 'He lives a hundred years ahead of his time.'"

Hidden Energy:

Tesla-Inspired Inventors and a Mindful Path to Energy Abundance



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Defense Advanced Research Project Agency of the U.S. government, to attempt to replicate Tesla's particle beam weapon, and with his team, this individual was able to replicate aspects of the weapon. This would be in the 1990s. But the history of the rail gun goes back much farther and includes other inventors besides Tesla, such as the French inventor André Fauchon-Villeplée, who had an American patent on an electronic gun dating from 1922. So the history of the rail gun is rather complicated, but it is my belief that Tesla's work in that field played a key role in the development of this modern-day weapon.

Macy: What else would you like to point out about the revelations of *Tesla: Wizard at War*?

Seifer: I don't want your readers to think that the entire book is about this one event. Tesla's selling of the particle beam weapon to the Allies in the run-up to and during World War II is certainly a culminating aspect of the book, but I also cover many other topics, including Tesla's link to two other wars—the Spanish American War where he introduced his remote controlled robotic boat and World War I when Tesla worked for Telefunken, the German concern before we entered the war, and also tangentially for the U.S. Navy and thus for Franklin Roosevelt who was Assistant Secretary of the Navy at that time, when Marconi sued Telefunken and the Navy, as we discussed above.

However, what I also did was uncover Tesla's link to many other individuals he had never been linked to before: William Randolph Hearst (the subject of Orson Welles famous movie "Citizen Kane") and Phoebe Hearst, William's mother; to the artist Louis Comfort Tiffany; the writer Theodore Dreiser; the astronomer George Hale, who helped develop the huge telescopes at Palomar in San Diego and Mount Wilson about 30 miles outside of Los Angeles; and socialite Daisy Maud Gordon of Cleveland.

I also discuss Tesla's elusive so-called dynamic theory of gravity, which has a direct bearing on what today we call the God particle, the particle that gives matter its mass.

I'd like to thank you and *Infinite Energy* for this interview. I am truly honored for this consideration.

Macy: It will be interesting to see what information comes to you next after the publication of this book.

The Explanation of Low Energy Nuclear Reaction

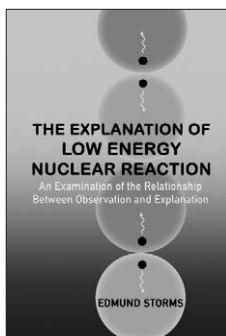
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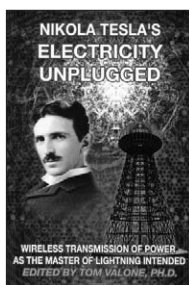
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