

Nikola Tesla's Death Ray

The controversies behind Nikola Tesla's invention of the death ray put this man of great genius, inventor of the rotating magnetic field, the modern world wide system of AC current, and many other break-through mechanisms, into different lights. Most articles and books written about Tesla celebrate his brilliance and influence in the 20th century. Yet, several documents, in print and on the Internet, portray Tesla as a greedy scientist, driven by the desire for money to negotiate with governments of different countries to sell his deadliest weapons. Among the mentioned mechanisms is the death ray. This device, whose mystery is still mostly unsolved, evokes many questions of ethics and creates wonder in the scientific and political world. In order to hypothesize about Nikola Tesla's true intentions with this weapon, one must first examine his unusual mind, the contexts in which it was invented, the ways in which it functions, and the myths surrounding the man and his inventions.

Tesla had an agitated mind, unconcerned with matters of merchandising and practicality. His eccentricity and ability to seemingly invent devices out of thin air was well known (he rarely recorded or drew models of many of his inventions). His ideas, especially during the later years of his life grew stranger to the public and the media. This is in part because of the press' exaggerations of Tesla's claims and in part because his ideas were unheard of in his time. Among the inventions he proposed at the moment were the anti-gravity airship, ozone generator, and the plasma ball, whose mysteries remain. The ideas and experiments that Tesla formulated for the death ray occurred in this period of his life.

According to John J O'Neill, author of *Prodigal Genius* (a biography of Tesla) and personal friend of his during the 1930's until his death, Tesla became more discrete with his last ideas and inventions. This was probably due to the fact that many of his ideas were copied and

used (especially Marconi's fraudulent claim that he invented the radio, using information that Tesla discovered a decade earlier), and also because the press ridiculed and criticized some of his most advanced plans and proposals. When Tesla did give hints about his working on the death ray, he spoke of transmitting power over great distances. In New York in 1934, he reacted to articles written by doubters of this project:

“...A report from Washington in the *World Telegram* of July 13, 1934...scientists doubt the death ray effects. I am quite in agreement with these doubters and probably more pessimistic in this respect than anybody else, for I speak from long experience....Rays of the requisite energy cannot be produced, and, then again, their intensity diminishes with the square of the distance. Not so the agent I employ, which will enable us to transmit to a distant point more energy than is possible by any other kind or ray. We are all fallible, but as I examine the subject in the light of my present theoretical and experimental knowledge I am filled with deep convictions that I am giving to the world something far beyond the wildest dreams of inventors of all time.”

About 6 years later, Tesla gave an interview to the *New York Times*. This article mentioned the possibility of Tesla divulging to the United States Government “the secrets of his teleforce.” The article quoted Tesla as claiming, “airplane motors would be melted at the distance of 250 miles.” At this time, however, reported responses to the large claim, even those coming from fellow scientists, seemed lukewarm due to the onset of WWII.

Speculations that Tesla negotiated with the United States government for his own profit are negated by a widely accepted observation. Tesla never appeared to be concerned with marketing his many inventions. He made many bad financial decisions and failed as a businessman. After the implementation of AC circuit, Tesla signed a contract with Westinghouse that was possibly worth billions. Yet, financial troubles plagued the company after Tesla's royalties started to exceed one millions dollars, he tore up his contract as a gesture of friendship. He was paid outright about \$216,600 for his patents.

Reasons behind the death ray weapon, then, appear to have had benevolent implica-

tions. The 1934 New York Times cited Tesla's notion that "this latest invention...would make war impossible." According to Tesla, the "teleforce" (his name for the death ray) would create a kind of invisible Great Wall of China with a million times the strength, making every nation impenetrable. Yet, the highly destructive nature of the weapon still creates controversy over Tesla's social conscience.

Thus one comes to the examination of the death ray, whose name connotes something out of science fiction. The death ray has many interesting features, many of which are still unexplained. It reportedly consisted of an open-ended vacuum tube sealed with a gas jet. It was supposed to simultaneously permit and facilitate the exit of particles. This device created a way to generate millions of volts for charging minute particles and allowed for a method of creating and directing a concentrated stream of those particles for many miles.

The word "ray" is misleading. According to Tesla, a ray would not have enough energy to be destructive. The below quote is taken from Tesla's notes from underground, 1937. (His treatise "The New Art of Projecting Concentrated Non-Dispersive Energy through the Natural Media" is still supposed to be in secret government files.)

"I perfected means for increasing enormously the intensity of the effects, but was baffled in all my efforts to materially reduce the dispersion and became fully convinced that this handicap could only be overcome by conveying the power through the medium of small particles projected, at prodigious velocity, from the transmitter."

In other words, a laser light ray would've dispersed over long distances. Thus, instead of shooting light, the weapon shot microscopic pellets. Hypothetically, the stream could not disperse, as it is one pellet thick.

The actual way in which the device worked is still not well understood. Apparently, it worked with a large metal sphere through which the aforementioned particles were sent. These were probably the element mercury. The sphere is then charged with about ten million volts, resulting in highly excited particles. The special open-ended vacuum tube could then direct the particles to any point, producing extremely destructive effects. The most puzzling factor about

this device is how particles were sent into the sphere, which must have been airtight. As for the vacuum tube, it had to be open, yet it also had to prohibit the entrance of air, etc. Tesla solved this problem by inventing a special tube, through which a huge blast of air (powered by a Tesla turbine) was sent. The air flowed along the tube and sealed the end with dynamic pressures. The end of the tube is connected to the sphere.

Of course, there were tremendous controversies over the death ray. Although not proven, it is widely accepted that Tesla's proposal to use the device as national defense was rejected by the government. There were also debates about whether Tesla ever succeeded in completing the construction of the mechanism, or that it was ever used. A popular story circulating suggests that it did work. In 1908 (though some reports say that it was 1907), a friend of Tesla was exploring near Russia. At this time, the infamous explosion in the nearby village of Tunguska, thought of as a meteor collision, occurred. Myths say that Tesla cryptically told the explorer to watch out for a message, and many speculate that this was his message after all.

Adding to the mystery, Tesla wrote in 1915:

“It is perfectly practical to transmit electrical energy without wires and produce destructive effects at a distance. I have already constructed a wireless transmitter which makes this possible. But when unavoidable [it] may be used to destroy property and life. The art is already so far developed that the great destructive effects can be produced at any point on the globe, defined beforehand with great accuracy.”

Further signs that the explosion was man made were the lack of a crater; the disturbances in the planet's magnetic field, the strange glow in the sky seen before and after the event; the radiation-like burns, and the electromagnetic pulse.

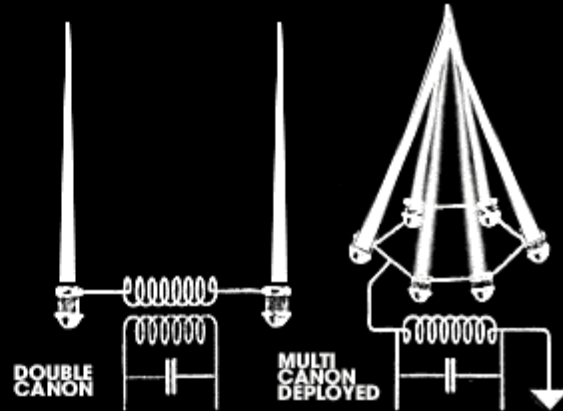
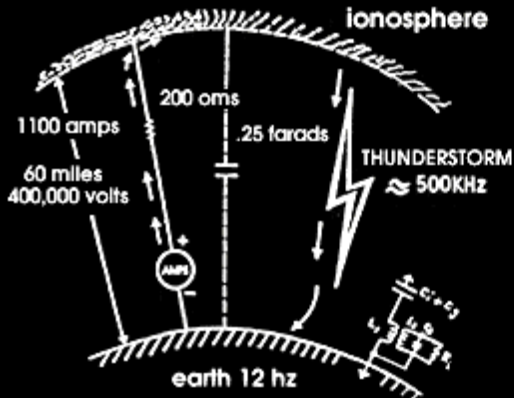
Thus the enigmatic death ray weapon remains as a legacy of the genius Nikola Tesla. Though it might never be reconstructed again, the machine is still in much speculation, inspiring science fiction pulps like Buck Rogers. It, among Tesla's other lost inventions, will always stir our imagination.

DEATH RAY

DIRECTED IONIZED BEAM TRANSMITTER

Caution: this device works and is capable of leveling a city or at least electrocuting you.

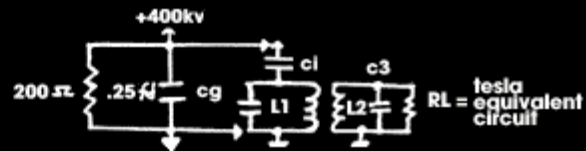
INVENTOR: TESLA



CONDITIONS FOR DEPLOYMENT

(equivalent circuit of earth's electrostatic voltage field)

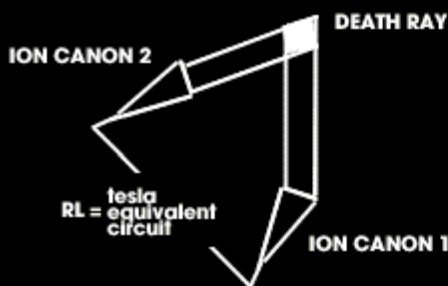
FREQUENCY = 12 HZ HARMONICS = 500 KZS
 ALL CURCUITS = 1/4 WAVELENGTH OR MULTIPLE
 RESONANT FREQUENCIES VALUES TO BE DETERMINED FROM THE TESLA EQUIVALENT CURCUIT DIAGRAM.



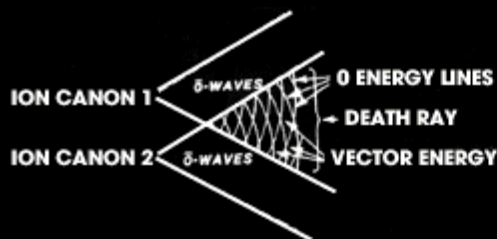
ELEVATED CAPACITORS FUNCTIONS:

- (1) cg capacitor to ground
- (2) c1 capacitor to ionosphere

c1, l2 c3 = resonant stepdown plates
 (air coil coupling at desired frequencies)
 cg = ground only



EQUIVELANT = 15 TONS TNT
 EFFECTIVE RANGE = 250 MILES



TESLA SCALAR WAVE SYSTEM EARTH AS A CAPACITOR

