

• PSF CF Ofc. of Scientific Research and Dev

July 6, 1942

*file
pres mail.*

~~Confidential~~
C.F.
Office of Scientific Research & Development

MEMORANDUM ON SHARK PROTECTION

The Navy Department and the Maritime Commission ^{xw.c.}

expressed keen interest in our proposal to organize experiments for protection against sharks, barracuda and jellyfish for men adrift in life belts.

x18
x1705

x108

As a direct result the Committee in Medical Research of Office of Scientific Research and Development of the National Academy of Sciences has appropriated funds for a three-month study which begins today.

x4482-6

x330

The following shows rapid action taken:

- June 24 Memorandum sent to the White House.
- June 25 Instructed to take up with Admiral Towers.
- June 26 Captain Davison expressed interest in project.
- June 27 Saw Dr. Carlson, Navy Dept., who suggested taking up with National Academy of Sciences.
- June 30 3 hour meeting of 14 specialists in National Academy of Sciences.
- July 1-2 Prepared plan for 3 month project.
- July 3 Plan approved by Committee. Funds voted.
- July 6 Research begins at Woods Hole and at Marineland.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of _____
OSD letter 9-23-60
By *WJZ* Date APR 13 1973

July 1, 1942

PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACT IN MEDICAL RESEARCH
OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

x526

- x4482
1. Committee or Subcommittee to which the proposal is submitted: Committee on Medical Research.
 2. Name of Institution: Marine Studios, Inc. x
 3. Name, official position and address of responsible investigator: W. Douglas Burden, President Marine Studios, Inc. % American Museum of Natural History New York and Associates, Stewart Springer, Homestead, Florida, and Arthur F. McBride, Marineland, Florida.
 4. Subject of investigation: Protection against sharks, barracuda and jelly-fish for men adrift in life belts.
 - a. Background: Reliable reports from the Navy and the Military Intelligence and from the Merchant Marine indicate that shark attacks have caused loss of life to our Armed Forces and Merchant Marine. The fear of being subjected to attack of sharks is reported to have a persistently bad effect on morale.
 - b. Present state of Knowledge: The Associations of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists reveal that no investigation of the subject of prevention from attacks has been undertaken. Scientific literature contains no evidence of previous attempts to solve this problem.
 - c. Significance to National Defense: It is desirable to afford some measure of protection to men in our Armed Forces and Merchant Marine who find themselves adrift in a life belt in shark infested waters. The purpose of this protection is to remove as far as possible the menace of sharks and thereby to offset the undermining influence on morale.
 - d. Plan of attack:
 1. To conduct experiments:
 - A. Under controlled conditions in tanks.
 - B. Under natural open sea conditions.

Every avenue will be investigated with particular emphasis on repellent chemicals, such as chlorine and ammonia. Studies will also be made on the effects of sound, protective clouds, protective clothing, and protective color.

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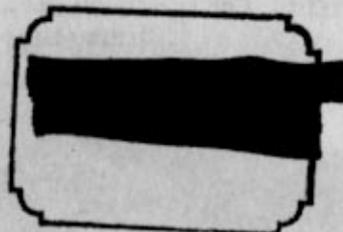
By Authority of _____

OSD letter 9-23-60

By DBJ

APR 13 1973

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x872



5. Requirements for investigation:

A. Total Annual Salaries

Stewart Springer	\$3600	full time
Arthur F. McBride	3300	full time
Dr. Alvin P. Black	1800	part time
Arthur H. Schmidt	2820	full time
Four assistants	5160	

B. Materials: For a period of three months.

Laboratory space and services at Woods Hole	\$675.00
Rental of equipment-Chlorinating Equipment	300.00
Chemicals	150.00
Experimental Animals	900.00
Laboratory equipment purchase	255.00
Boat operation and Baiting	1,290.00

6. Amount desired: For a period of three months

a. Professional assistants	\$2175.00	
b. Technical assistants	1995.00	- 4170
c. Equipment	255.00	- 2085
d. Supplies	3315.00	
e. Travel	1425.00	
f. Contingent fund	675.00	
Total	\$9840.00	
	2085.00	
	\$11925.00	

7. The relation of anticipated results to more general problems in this field: Unpredictable.

8. Nature of institutional collaboration in this work:

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Marine Biological Laboratory
American Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
University of Miami
U. S. Fish and Wild Life Service
Shark Industries, Inc.

9. Concise description of institutional facilities available for this investigation:

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Marine Biological Laboratory, Laboratory space, tanks, equipment and specimens.
American Museum - Library Research
University of Florida - Chemical analysis
University of Miami - Laboratory space
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - technological information
Shark Industries, Inc. Loans of equipment

10. Statement of expected time of beginning of work and estimate of its duration:

anticipate starting July 6, 1942
Estimate of duration, three months

Signed Wm. Douglas Burden x
American Museum Natural History x
West 77th Street
New York City

Additional information: Sponsoring associates in Washington,
Harold J. Coolidge, Office of Strategic Services, Henry Field,
Office of Strategic Services. x

x4485

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C. F.
Office of Scientific Research
& Development

March 6, 1944

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Dear Mr. Puryear:

Confirming our telephone conversation, the President is in receipt of a letter from the Secretary of War with respect to applications for deferment of a relatively "small number of special personnel engaged in work of a secret nature carried on for the most part by the Office of Scientific Research and Development and vital to the war effort." x4482

The Secretary has suggested to the President and the President has agreed that these men engaged in this highly technical, scientific and secret work should be deferred, but to a maximum of say seventy-five men on the request of Dr. Bush, if approved by the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy. Of course, as soon as any of these men leave the Office of Scientific Research and Development their deferment should come to an end. x1413

Very sincerely,

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN
Special Counsel to the
President

Hon. Edgar F. Puryear, Chairman,
Review Committee on Deferment of
Government Employees,
War Manpower Commission,
Washington, D. C.

x1413-10 Review Committee

sir/tmb

March 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I assume that you are familiar with the suggestion made by the Secretary of War to the President with respect to deferment of personnel in the Office of Scientific Research and Development who are engaged in research for the Army and Navy.

Pursuant to instructions from the President I have written the attached letter to the Chairman of the Review Committee on Deferment of Government Employees, which is self-explanatory.

Very sincerely,

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN
Special Counsel to the
President

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Navy, x18
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

sir/tmb

March 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I assume that you are familiar with the suggestion made by the Secretary of War to the President with respect to deferment of personnel in the Office of Scientific Research and Development who are engaged in research for the Army and Navy.

Pursuant to instructions from the President I have written the attached letter to the Chairman of the Review Committee on Deferment of Government Employees, which is self-explanatory.

Very sincerely,

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN
Special Counsel to the
President

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

slr/tmb

March 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With respect to your letter of March 4, 1944 concerning the deferment of personnel in the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the President has given me instructions pursuant to which I have sent the attached letter to Mr. Puryear, which is self-explanatory.

Very sincerely,

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN
Special Counsel to the
President

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

sir/tmb

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

S.I.R. x5433

To speak to me about this
today.

F.D.R.

*No copy made
of this memo.
E.B.*

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1944.

Dear Mr. President:

A serious personnel problem affecting programs vital to the war effort has arisen from the present deferment policy of the Government Agency Review Board, a policy with which in general I agree, because of the vital necessity of providing enough manpower for the Armed Services.

This problem involves a small number of special personnel engaged in work of a secret nature carried on for the most part by the Office of Scientific Research and Development and vital to the war effort. The nature of the work and the contacts necessary in its accomplishment make military status, commissioned or enlisted, impracticable. Under the existing policy of the Review Board, deferments have been refused in a number of such cases with the resulting loss to the agency involved of personnel essential to its effective operation.

Dr. Vannevar Bush advises me that although the personnel involved has been numerically small, the effects have been critical and will be increasingly so if allowed to continue with the result that he will have to curtail essential activities. The secrecy of the projects and oftentimes the difficulty of explaining the special talents and experience at stake embarrass an adequate presentation of the case to the Review Board.

Two solutions to this problem suggest themselves and I should greatly appreciate it if you could indicate which one appears the more desirable to you.

One solution would be for you to write the Review Board a

Franklin D. Roosevelt

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letter along the lines of the suggested draft attached hereto indicating your approval of deferments for these specified categories of personnel under certain prescribed conditions.

The other solution would be for the Army to place such personnel on inactive status after induction for the purpose of continuing their present work as civilians. The Army has been reluctant to do this in cases for which the Review Board has refused deferments. Your approval of this procedure would remove this reluctance on our part.

Under either solution the number of persons so processed could be limited to say seventy-five. This limited number would consist primarily of certain key men employed by the Office of Scientific Research and Development under Dr. Bush and possibly a few other similar technical and secret programs.

I wish to emphasize that although the number of men involved is small their importance to the war effort is very great.

Faithfully yours,

Henry L. Stimson

Secretary of War.

x 25

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 2/3/59

Signature- *Carl L. Spicer*

x G. F. Har

The President,

The White House.

~~SECRET~~

Mr. Edgar F. Puryear,
Chairman, Review Committee on Deferment
of Government Employees,
War Manpower Commission,
Washington, D. C.

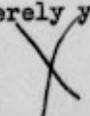
Dear Mr. Puryear:

There is a limited class of men holding key positions in programs of a secret nature of vital concern to the war effort. The unusual character of this limited class warrants its special treatment by your Committee.

These men are engaged in secret programs of military importance and hold key positions by reason of their ability, training and experience. Because many of the fields of activity in which these men are engaged are unique to the present war their experience in recent years represents an irreplaceable asset. Invariably in this class of case the secrecy of the activity and the impossibility of adequately expressing the intangible asset involved renders an effective presentation of the case to your Committee impracticable.

For these reasons I am authorizing and requesting your Committee to recommend deferments, not to exceed seventy-five in number, in cases which have been certified as being within the intent of this letter by the Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, if approved by the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,


The President.



WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 9, 1944.

C. F.
Office of Scientific Research & Development

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The Honorable Samuel I. Rosenman x 5433
The White House

Dear Judge Rosenman:

I have received your letter of March 6 with respect to applications for deferment of a "small number of special personnel engaged in work of a secret nature carried on for the most part by the Office of Scientific Research and Development and vital to the war effort".

The Review Committee will act on these cases in accordance with instructions given in your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar F. Puryear
Chairman, Review Committee on
Deferment of Government Employees.

x1413

x1413-18 Review Committee