

[Add Comment](#)

Finding Nemo Submarines

Finding Nemo
Submarines Now
Sailing Dive into
Nemo's Virtual
Lagoon
www.Disneyland.com/Sut

Submarine Ringtone

Send this ringtone
to your phone right
now!
RingRingMobile.com

Ala. Shakespeare Festival

Information on the
Alabama
Shakespeare
Festival in
Montgomery.
www.800alabama.com

Wintergarden Theatre Tix

Great Seats,
Cheap Prices. Buy
Wintergarden
Theatre Tickets!
www.TicketSpot.com

Support the
Museum of Hoaxes
[BUY MY BOOK](#)

—
[BUY SOME STUFF](#)

—
or

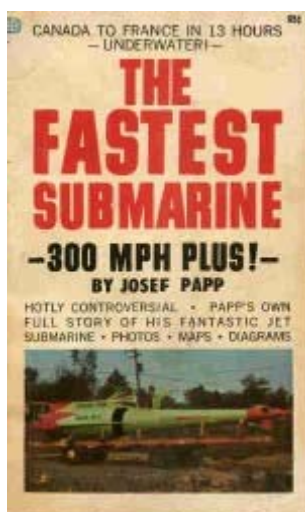
[MAKE A
DONATION](#)

[Main Page](#)

[Back to Gallery:
1950-1976](#)

Joseph Papp

Joseph Papp, Inventor. Born in Hungary, 1933. Left Hungary in 1957 and moved to Canada. In Montreal he began work on a submarine that, so he claimed, used a novel principle of propulsion that allowed it to reach speeds of 300 mph. In August 1966 he disappeared and showed up a few days later off the coast of France, claiming that he had crossed the ocean in thirteen hours in his submarine. The submarine, of course, had sunk. Authorities were immediately suspicious. There was the small fact that a submarine going almost as fast as an airplane sounded a little far-fetched. But also, a man resembling Papp had been seen in Montreal boarding a flight to Paris just about the time Papp disappeared. Papp's transatlantic adventure is documented in a book titled *The Fastest Submarine*. Papp later moved to America where he successfully attracted investors with his plans for the construction of a fusion-powered engine. Papp died in 1989.



Two views of Papp's submarine

Comments: most recent posts first

In personal conversations with Joe Papp, he said that he scuttled the submarine off the coast of France to keep it out of the hands of the Russians -

which he detested. If the submarine story is a hoax, why couldn't the Canadians find it off their coast? Have the French made a search in the vicinity where they picked him up? I was a witness to his homemade cannon demonstration in which he substantially demolished a three foot length of 3-inch schedule 50 stainless steel pipe (0.6 inch wall thickness) which was totally encased in one-foot thick reinforced concrete with 10cc of "inert" noble gases. The concrete encasement was mostly blasted into the air and reduced to rubble. It also made a crater about 3-foot diameter and about 3-foot deep and the 1-foot thick platform of plywood and 2x8 planks on which the "concrete coffin" was mounted was reduced to splinters. With that kind of power, it would not take more than a 55-gallon drum to propel him across the Atlantic!

Cecil Baumgartner

Wednesday, July 30, 2003 9:59 PM

Dear Alex,

I read the latest note about Papp on your site. Joseph Papp lived with his Wife Helen and Daughter Susannah in a comfortable Mansion in Daytona Beach Florida for over ten years. He died in April 1989 in Daytona Beach. By the way David Ansley lives now in Seattle Washington and I am also in touch with him by phone and email. By the way he has won a Pulitzer Price for his fine reporting and still is reporting. You can find many notes about him on the internet.

Monday, July 21, 2003 3:39 AM

Heinz

Dear Alex,

A Mr. Bob Sparrow, Ogden, Utah, who met Mr. Joseph Papp a lot of times claims he arranged the funeral, paid for the funeral and of course knows where Mr. Papp is buried. Please feel free to contact Bob Sparrow or contact me at ahk2@rcn.com. I have his phone number and have been in touch with Bob by phone and email as recently as last week. I also can get A. Llera in touch with Jake Sabori. I have his phone number and email. Jake Sabori lived for quite some time with Mr. and Mrs. Papp and worked with him on his engine. He also was at the funeral in April 1989. We also know that both Mrs. Papp as well as Susannah Papp is alive and they live in Florida near Orlando. We certainly would like to get in touch with Ernest Papp in Tatabanja Hungary as soon as possible.

Heinz Klostermann

Monday, July 21, 2003 3:11 AM

Dear A. Llera,

I believe he was living in Santa Ana when he died. But I'm not sure. You should try contacting David Ansley, the *San Jose Mercury News* reporter who wrote [an informative article](#) about him.

Alex

Sunday, July 20 2003

Dear Alex,

Ernest Papp, Josef Papp's brother who lives in Tatabanya, Hungary would like to know where his brother is buried. If there's any information out there, please let us know by providing us an e-mail or phone number.

A. LLera

Sunday, July 20, 2003 at 16:03:23

Further to your discussion on Papp's submarine and propulsion devices, you may find it interesting to know that New Scientist ran an article earlier this year, or last on the subject. As far as i recall, it not only dealt with submarines but aircraft too.

Sunday, June 29, 2003 at 06:24:17

Dear Alex, I like that you place a note in the guestbook about: "Joseph Papp the inventor of Hungary who died in April 1989. He received 3 US Patents on his "Pulsed Plasma Explosion Engine and the Bomb Patent". He raised more than \$10 Million for his research and development of the engine. After his death another \$25 Million Dollars have been spent to find the secret of the Papp Technology. I am involved for tree years now and we believe we are close to reinventing the Papp Technology. We are going public with the total Joseph Papp story in September 2003. Anyone who has info on Joseph Papp in particular his growing-up years in Hungary and his 10 years in Canada should feel free to contact me. Thank you, Heinz Klostermann, 650 5716140 email: AHK2@rcn.com."

Heinz Klostermann

Friday, June 20, 2003 9:31 PM

Dear Alex, I found the note below [Frank Harding: November 16, 2000]. I am interested in the book which you claim to have had about Joseph Papp and his work when he was in Canada. We are still in the process of reincarnating Papp's Pulsed Plasma Engine. Appreciate it if I hear from you. By the way we have the full Papp story and current. [See attached report by David Ansley](#) [Note: [a second article was also attached](#), apparently written by the physicist Richard Feynman describing a demonstration of Papp's engine that he witnessed that resulted in a fatality]

Heinz Klostermann

Friday, June 20, 2003 6:29 PM

...regarding the Josef Papp "fastest submarine" book - if you look closely at the open 'hatch' assembly, you will note that it is actually the door of a top-loading washing machine! - and the 'turbine engine' is the drum of the washer, with the shock-springs still in place... Also very telling... on his MAIDEN VOYAGE he sets sail from Montreal and winds up on the French coast - no tests, no shake-downs, no preliminary dives - this for something made of plywood in his garage and supposedly capable of 300mph... Chutzpah galore!

frank harding

Monday, April 14, 2003 at 05:57:41

To whom it may concern; I am married to Mr. Josef Papp's niece. We have the original book signed by him. I can assure you that Mr. Papp's submarine is true and authentic. His brother (Ernest Papp) whom is still alive today, can vouch for its accuracy.

A. Llera

Dallas, Tx USA - Monday, February 03, 2003 at 14:08:20 (PST)

An email you received, dated November 16, 2000, asks if you know of a man named Josef Papp who crossed the Atlantic in a jet-powered submarine. I have the book to which he is referring, "The Fastest Submarine" by Josef Papp, (Ballantine Books U7080, 1967). I have been unable to find any other info on him or the submarine, or even another copy of the book. I am curious for more information, as the ideas he talks about sound quite reasonable. For example, he says that his submarine travels in a pocket of air created around it, reducing friction, and allowing it to reach greater speeds than normally possible through water. This is referred to as "super-cavitation" and is being used experimentally for super-fast torpedos. Could it be that he is forgotten simply because everyone believed he was an imposter?

K Lo

Vancouver, BC Canada - Wednesday, October 30, 2002 at 09:40:35 (PST)

hi Alex - I should have responded more quickly - you mentioned that you were going to try to find a copy of "The Fastest Submarine" by Josef Papp - here is some info: it was published by Ballantine Books, New York, translated (presumably from the Hungarian) by Stephen Mezei, copyright 1967 by Josef Papp - printed in Canada - there is no ISBN # but on the spine I see 'U7080'... I am surprised it is not 'vanity-press' selfpublished - Ballantine is pretty big... let me know if you want more info.

Ever hear of Stephen Burroughs? A notorious scoundrel who finally settled in these parts, but only after once being imprisoned for - stealing his minister father's sermons, so that he could present himself as Reverend... he is known for his 'Confessions' to students of early American literature...

Frank

Monday, October 29, 2001 5:20 PM

You've skipped Joe Papp and his home built Nuclear Submarine hoax, of the canadian 60's..... even the Canadian navy went out searching for it. As I recall it was built near the banks of the Yamaska River in Quebec, and trucked to Nova Scotia, where he entered the water with it, and sped to the shores of Europe, landed at France, turned about and returned. The Canadian government wanted to seize his invention of course. There even yet was a book about it all.....quite an embarassement for the even more ridiculous Canadian government....why has it been excluded. left out.....notice no i-net stuff on it either. Is the imbecillic Canadian government that fearsome rather than simply inept and in it's usual state of retardation?

Frank J. Hermann,Esqre.,O.A. (Devonshire)

Sunday, March 25, 2001

hi - not a vote, just another hoax for you to investigate... when I was a child in 60's Montreal, there was a big flap about a local guy named (I believe) Joseph Papp... he was fished out of the ocean off Brittany, France, after surviving a sinking of some sort. Interviewed, he told a fantastic story about a home-made 300mph submarine that had just taken him across the Atlantic in a few hours, crashing into something at the last minute... he was a nine-day wonder but the authorities were suspicious - he was in good shape for a shipwreck survivor... and there were airline ticket stubs in his pocket - a hoax was announced, and he was sent home. Back in Montreal he swore it was all true - he had

discovered some mysterious technology that made his sub possible - a sub that he had constructed from plywood in his garage. A little later he published a book 'The Fastest Submarine', which I used to own... it contained photos of the craft under construction but was not forthcoming about the nuts'n'bolts stuff... he was quickly forgotten

Frank Harding

Thursday, November 16, 2000
