

No. _____

888
Finance Department.

Tokio, Japan 2 day of 5 month
Meiji 7 year.

Dear Mr. Yubida :

On Monday last Mr. Boynton, who I understand is a very ingenious mechanic and has invented many valuable machines, called at my house and wished me to let him know the address of Mr. Okuma, as he wished to write him a letter. He informed me that he understood the Chinese were building torpedo boats intended to destroy the Japanese fleet and that these boats were very expensive. He said, however, that several years since he (Mr. Boynton) had invented a torpedo boat of very simple construction which could be built within 30 days, and at a cost of not exceeding \$3,000. Mr. Boynton

Said that if the Japanese Government
wished anything of the kind he would
construct one of his torpedo boats
at his own expense and proceed
to Formosa with it and prove what
it could do before asking the
Government to pay him for it.

He explained its construction to me as
follows: He makes an iron
boiler about twenty feet long and
two feet in diameter shaped like
a cigar. This boiler is covered
with plaster of Paris and felt
so as to preserve the heat, and
then with wood. This is the boat.

A small engine is then affixed
to the boiler and various magnetic
and electrical instruments. ~~From~~ ~~up~~

the front or bow of the boat two
long iron arms extend upon which
is placed the torpedo. The boat
is used as follows: Fill the
boiler with compressed steam, which
will run the engine without con-
densing for 24 hours. The boat
will sink below the surface of
the water a few inches. So as to
be invisible, but its course may
be traced by a small jet of
steam which will escape by a
small pipe above the surface
of the water. The boat is steered
from the shore by means of magnetic
wires attached to the boat - the
direction of the boat being traced
by the jet of steam above referred to.

When you have steered the boat
directly under the enemy's ship
you explode the torpedoes by
electricity. The torpedoes will be
made of Nitro-glycerine and
if properly made would blow
the largest ship to pieces.

I would state that I
know nothing of the merits of Mr.
Bryant's invention - whether it will
work well or not, and only communicate
this to you in consequence of the rumor of
a war with China and Mr. Bryant's statement
that he would construct this boat at his
own expense.

Very truly yours,

Geo. P. Williams

H.C.

W. P. Williams

to be to