

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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6 October 1986

Walter Dardor, Federal No. 17300-034
Sigma Unit
F.C.I. Lalladego
Alabama 35160

Dear Walter,

Thank you very much for your recent letter expressing such interest in our work with the TITANIC. I appreciate your taking the time to write.

I am not an advocate of raising the TITANIC. I believe that the ship should be left in her resting place on the ocean floor and, judging from our recent exploration, that is exactly what will happen. The bow of the TITANIC is buried in mud up to the anchors; the ship is broken in two, with the stern a good distance away, facing the opposite direction. Wood-boring organisms have stripped her of the beautiful wood ornamentation for which she was famous. Encrusted with rust and coral, she is now truly a ship of the deep. I am very concerned that any attempts to salvage her will only result in further destruction of what remains of this once beautiful liner.

Because you sounded so enthusiastic about the article in last year's NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, I thought you might be interested in hearing about upcoming opportunities to share more in our adventures. The December issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC will feature an article about our explorations this past summer. Soon after that appears, National Geographic will televise a special program about the TITANIC, including our work. I am also writing a book about our discovery and our explorations of the TITANIC; the publication date has not yet been set, but I will try to keep you informed.

Just for your interest, I am enclosing a copy of the brochure which Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution produced after our 1985 discovery. I hope that you will enjoy it.

Again, I thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

RDB copy

Dr. Robert D. Ballard

Senior Scientist

Deep Submergence Laboratory

RDB:mva

SEP 31 1986

September 26, 1986
Friday

Dear Mr. Ballard

I've read your article in the December 1985 of National Geographic, on how you found the Titanic. That subject always interested me. I'm a boatbuilder myself and I've salvaged many boats and barges and most of the time I didn't have the equipment I needed, so I've learned to do with what I had available to me. I may can help you if you extend on raising the Titanic, my idea may not be of any interest to you, but it won't cost anything either, well let me not say anything, I would like you to help me get an early paroll, I'm in Federal prison, for conspency to transport marijuana, but I'm not a criminal or drug dealer, a hard working man who tried to make a fast dollar when the economy went down. This idea I have on how you can raise the Titanic wouldn't be too much harder then what you've already done. If this interest you, write me or arrange to come talk to me here, I live in F.C.D. Talladega, Ala. Sigma Unit my Federal No. is 17300-034

Thank you Walton Dordon