

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Breit, Gregory

1899 - 1981

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1921

PLACE: Johns Hopkins

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Ames

proved the existence of the Heaviside Layer of ionized particles in the Earth's atmosphere, by bouncing radio waves off it, a technique that preceded the development of radar; helped develop a proximity fuse and radar during WWII; contributed to the theory of molecular beam interaction (the Breit-Rabi equation) and to the theory of nuclear reactions (the Breit-Wigner formula); predicted the possibility of optical pumping (the basis of lasers); developed the basic principles of several particle accelerators; initiated the study of heavy-ion nuclear reactions and of nucleon-nucleon scattering.

1. Confirmation of research advisor from student file, Johns Hopkins Archives (27Jul93).
2. *Physics Today* **1983** 36(10), 102-104.
3. *Baltimore-Sun* (12Sept1981), B4, 4.