

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Compton, Karl Taylor

1887 - 1954

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1912

PLACE: Princeton

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Richardson

during WWI, helped develop sound and flash ranging devices for locating enemy artillery positions; investigated various aspects of electron physics, including the ionization of gas molecules by electron impacts, the chemical and spectrographic properties of excited atoms, oscillations in low-voltage arcs, and the dissociation of gases by excited atoms; during WWII, he was the director of Division 14 of the National Defense Research Committee, which developed many of the electronic devices, esp. radar, that revolutionized military technology during the war.

1. See *Phil. Mag.* **1912**, 23, 593 for confirmation of research advisor.
2. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 3, p372-373.
3. *Bull. Atomic Scientists* **1954**, 10, 296 and 304.
4. *Technol. Rev.* **1954**, 57(Dec.), 83-92.
5. *New York Times Magazine* **17Oct1948**, Sect. VI, p10 and p67-69.