

Young Soldiers Never Die Either

The Survival Files — Case 47 — ESS = 252

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This case comes from Dr. Alan Gauld's research into the occurrences at a "home circle" between 1937 and 1964. See case #46 for background details.

On July 3, 1950, a new spirit was introduced to the circle. He gave his name as "Harry Stockbridge" and said that he came to assist in various communications. He appeared for a total of 11 sessions. From time to time, an identifying fact was given; these were:

Appearance

- tall
- dark hair
- slender
- large brown eyes

Military

- Second Loot. [Lieutenant]
- in Tyneside Scottish battalion
- of Northumberland Fusiliers
- killed on 14 July 1916
- a record held at Leicester

Personal likes

- solving problems
- reading Pepys
- water colouring

Careful research confirmed all of these facts except for two. Stockbridge's appearance was confirmed by relatives and via a photograph. He did, indeed, hold the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the Tyneside Scottish battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers (all of which was spelled out correctly via the board, an impressive feat of itself). The official list of the British War Office states that he was killed, not on the 14th, but on the 19th of July, 1916. Further research, however, revealed that his death certificate was dated July 14th, and an inquiry of the Army Records Centre confirmed the spirit's accuracy. The school that Stockbridge had attended in Leicester did have a war memorial listing his name. Finally, his love of problem solving was demonstrated by his winning academic awards in both mathematics and physics.

As for what could not be confirmed, after 34 years, no one living could remember if Stockbridge liked to paint in water colors, nor was there any confirmation that he enjoyed reading Samuel Pepys — but an ancestor of his was believed to have been a friend of the famous 17th-century diarist.

Altogether then, out of 14 stated facts (including his names) 12 were confirmed and none were found to be false. Several, but not all, of these facts could be found here and there among a few obscure documents. But there is neither any evidence nor reason to believe that any members of the circle had ever been exposed to such arcane sources, nor met any of the young man's relatives. The only fact public enough to have been accidentally stumbled upon was the listing of

Stockbridge's name on the war memorial, but neither of the board operators had ever even been to Leicester.

Evidence of a different sort comes from something the spirit of Stockbridge did *not* say. The talking board was operated, in this case, by a husband and wife team. One morning, the husband awoke with the conviction, "no doubt as the result of a dream," that he knew the name of the street where Stockbridge lived as a child. Upon his mentioning this to his wife, she immediately said "Powis," which was the name he was about to utter. Impressed by this shared vision, they asked the spirit about Powis Street at their next opportunity, with the full expectation that it would be confirmed as his first home. Despite both their hands being on the pointer, however, Stockbridge merely replied that he knew the street well. In fact, Powis Street was a few blocks away from the house where Stockbridge was born. And so, we have further evidence that the operators' subconscious minds were not the source of the information received.

END CASE 47

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