

Could you be our spooky reporter?

# A spirit wrote in the sand

Every month, one plucky reader gets to join a ghost hunt and report back on the spooky goings-on



**John Loudwell** from Gillingham, Kent, went on a night-time ghost hunt at Fort Amherst in Chatham, Kent.

## Spooky night out:

This ruined fort from the 1700s has over 2500 feet of tunnels which have lain empty since the 1950s. Visitors and workers at the site have reported

weird noises, cold spots, orbs and apparitions. **Cost:** £41. **Duration:** 4½ hours.

**B**efore I retired, I worked at Fort Amherst for 20 years and knew for sure the place was haunted. I'd seen orbs and odd shapes and heard many weird noises. I was keen to explore it with professional ghost hunters. What spooky stuff would they unearth?

At 11pm, after being introduced to the four

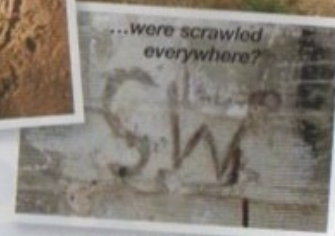
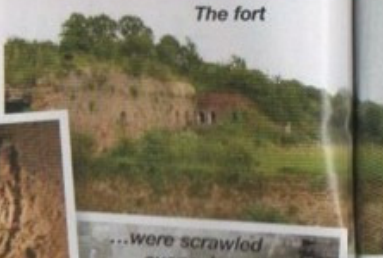
mediums on the ghost hunt, our small group began to explore. In the courtyard I had a real sense of being watched. The temperature plunged suddenly. We heard echoing footsteps and muffled distant voices – even though I knew the rest of the site was completely deserted.

One of the mediums told us there were several spirits of Napoleonic soldiers around us along with their spirit wives. Then, to my

amazement, I saw several large bright orbs floating in front of me. I snapped away on my camera and managed to capture them – proof positive I hadn't imagined it!

Next we moved into one of the old tunnels. The floor was sandy and the medium smoothed out an area and

asked any spirits present to leave a mark in the sand. We continued into other tunnels. However, on returning an hour later we got quite a shock. The initials 'SW' had been



written in the sand! It made the hairs on the back of my neck literally stand on end. I'd never seen anything like it. I know that none of the mediums or the people on the ghost hunt could have done it because we'd been together at all times.

In the old barracks the organisers had captured a strange light anomaly on their camera (see photo below). Again, there was no rational explanation for it.

Finally, we all took part in a seance. For some reason, I came over very giggly, and so did some of the others. It was the weirdest feeling – as if we'd just been told the funniest joke

in the world. The medium said a spirit was causing this strange euphoria in us. The feeling lasted for 15 minutes. By the end of the evening I was left feeling stunned by the whole experience.

But my story doesn't end there. Several weeks later I was visiting the fort during the day when I noticed the initials 'SW' carved in some brickwork. I took a photo of it and when I compared the

snapshots the lettering was the same as the writing that had appeared in the sand. I still don't know who SW is, but he



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or she clearly wants to let us know they are there.

## Verdict: 10 out of 10.

A chilling night filled with spooky experiences. I'd definitely go again.

● *The evening was run by Ghostsearch UK. For more details call 08707-203833 or visit ghostsearchuk.co.uk*

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