

Kathleen Gay, 'The Case of Edgar Vandy', *Psi Encyclopedia*. London: Society for Psychical Research, 2017. First published in the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 39, 1957, pp. 1-63.

## INTRODUCTION

By the courtesy of a member, Mr George Vandy, the Society has been allowed to publish some records of an unusually interesting series of sittings held by him and his brother, Mr Harold Vandy, with different mediums. The purpose of these sittings was to see whether any light could be thrown upon the circumstances of the death by drowning of their brother, Edgar Vandy, which occurred on 6 August 1933.

These sittings deserve study, as it is not often that such complete and careful records are kept and such scrupulous care taken by sitters to conceal their identity and to safeguard against any possible leakage of information. False names and addresses were used when making appointments and changed with each medium employed. All correspondence making appointments and all receipts for fees were kept. An experienced shorthand-writer took a verbatim record of every sitting, but the same person was not always employed, and the name was never mentioned. These note-takers were given special instructions to take down every word spoken by the sitters as well as those of the mediums. The annotations by the sitters were made immediately after receiving the note-takers' reports of the sittings.

With the exception of the late Mr Drayton Thomas and Mrs Gladys Leonard, the sitters and note-takers mentioned in this report were entirely unknown to the mediums concerned.

The verbatim and annotated reports of these experiments had been locked away for many years through conditions arising from the war, and they only came back into Mr Vandy's possession in 1953. On re-reading them he was struck by the vividness of the impressions and the accuracy and agreement of the mediums employed, and as he had just read the President of the SPR's Inaugural Address with its appeal to members to submit suitable cases for consideration, he sent in his records of this series of sittings complete with correspondence, receipts, etc. If ESP is the explanation of what occurred, we have here an example which may help to throw some light on the conditions necessary to produce results which even the most biased sceptic can hardly attribute to chance. The inquest on Edgar Vandy was only reported in the four local Sussex papers. These made no mention of a large number of correct statements about Edgar Vandy which were made at the sittings.

Edgar Vandy's death took place in the following circumstances:

He lived with his mother, sister and two brothers in London and was an exceptionally brilliant young engineer and inventor whose whole life was concentrated on his work.

On the morning of Sunday, 6 August 1933 a friend of his, Mr N. Jameson (pseudonym), called for him in his car and motored him to a private estate near N—, Sussex, where they were joined by Jameson's sister, secretary to the owner of the estate who was away at the time. They arrived at their destination at about 11.30am and, as it was a hot, sunny day, decided to have a bathe in the private swimming pool at some little distance from the house. Edgar Vandy had no swimming suit with him so he borrowed one from Miss Jameson which was not a very good fit. He was a poor swimmer and could not dive.

The pool was four feet deep at the shallow end and seven feet at the deep end and had an edging of crazy pavement and a shelving concrete bottom. It was fed by an underground stream and the water was not very clear. The two men did not use the cubicles provided but undressed in the bushes. It has not been mentioned by anyone if the sister remained in the vicinity or not, and recent efforts to trace her and obtain information on this point have failed.

According to Jameson, Vandy was ready and entered the pool first. Jameson stated subsequently at the inquest that he did not actually see him enter, as his view was obscured by the bushes.

The *Sussex Gazette*'s report of Jameson's evidence at the inquest was as follows:

About 12 o'clock they went to the bathing pool in the wood. Witness had never bathed there before. The deceased entered the water two or three minutes before witness, who did not actually see him enter, as his view was obscured by some shrubs. When witness first saw deceased in the water his arms were outstretched as if he had just broken the water after diving. He began splashing in the water, and witness realized something was wrong. Witness jumped in immediately. By the time he reached him deceased was beginning to sink. Witness seized hold of deceased but could not keep his grip, and deceased sank. He then went for assistance. Witness had never been swimming with deceased before, but understood he could swim. There were no weeds in the pool...

The body was not recovered until 1.15pm, after the arrival of the police and a doctor. The doctor, who was present at the pool when the body was found, and subsequently conducted the postmortem, said at the inquest that he could find no abnormalities that could have been the cause of death. There were two slight abrasions under the chin, one on the right shoulder, and one on the left side of the body. The cause of

death was drowning, and he suggested that deceased had dived into the water, struck his jaw and was rendered unconscious. The fact that he found less fluid in the lungs than was usual in a case of drowning supported this theory. No mention was made in the newspaper reports of any other injuries.

Edgar Vandy's brother, Harold Vandy, gave evidence that he had bathed with his brother a week previously in a London swimming bath and that the latter could not dive and could only just swim across the bath. He did not think he would ever have attempted to dive in a strange pool. His cousin, who held a certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society, put forward the theory that Edgar had entered the pool from the shallow end and suddenly stepped down on the ramp and was thrown into deep water.

The Coroner returned a verdict of 'Death by Misadventure' and said he accepted Mr Jameson's evidence.

The fact that the body was not recovered until over an hour after the fatality, and the uncertainty as to how the death actually occurred, caused the two brothers indescribable grief and distress. George Vandy held no beliefs concerning survival after death. He was, however, a member of the SPR and had taken an interest in psychical research for many years and was aware of the results of research in ESP. After the death of a sister about five years previously, he had twice visited a medium (Mrs Brittain) with his brother Edgar, but the sittings brought no conviction of survival to them and they both dismissed spiritualism as an answer to this problem. It should be mentioned that this attitude of mind persisted in George Vandy all through the sittings which will be described; but the possibility of ESP throwing more light on the details concerning Edgar's death (especially the failure to rescue him in time to save his life) was one which he was anxious to explore exhaustively.

This report is confined (with one exception) to the first sittings held with each of the four mediums mentioned, as although subsequent sittings contained correct statements, it is difficult to know to what extent memory, conscious or unconscious, may have been operative and deductions made from previous knowledge. Space forbids a complete repetition of the whole of the sittings, but care has been taken to inform the reader when unnecessary repetition and irrelevant details have been omitted. The full records are open to inspection by arrangement with the SPR.

The sentences in italics are statements which also appeared independently in sittings held with one or more of the mediums dealt with in this report. References are given in footnotes.

A list of any statements unknown to the sitter and afterwards found to be correct is given at the end of each sitting. The notes by George and Harold Vandy quoted in the accounts of the sittings are extracts from their annotations to the typewritten

records made by the note-takers. The records were annotated immediately on receipt of the typed transcriptions of the shorthand notes.

George Vandy's first step was to write to The Rev C. Drayton Thomas, whom he had never met but had once heard lecture on 'Proxy Sittings'. He asked if a proxy sitting with Mrs Leonard would be a possibility, and also for the names of any other mediums whom Mr Thomas could recommend. He informed Mr Thomas that the object of the sittings was to obtain information about a brother who had died recently, and that there was some doubt in the minds of his relatives regarding the cause of his death. No name or details were given, and Mr Drayton Thomas was quite unaware that the death was due to anything other than natural causes. He replied on 15 August, recommending three mediums, and said: 'I should like to take a proxy sitting for you with Mrs Leonard; just at present there is a waiting list as well as sundry experiments under weigh. But I will see what can be done as soon as opportunity offers.'

#### SITTING No. 1

24 August 1933

##### *Present*

Medium: Miss Frances Campbell

Sitter: Mr George Vandy ('Mr J. Felton')

Note-taker: Mr N. Jameson

##### *Place*

Hyde Park Mansions, London, NW1 (Miss Campbell's home)

George Vandy took Mr Thomas's advice and arranged his first sitting with Miss Frances Campbell at her home in Hyde Park Mansions on 24 August 1933, giving a false name (Mr J. Felton) and address. He took with him as note-taker Mr Jameson, Edgar's companion on the day of the fatality, and the only person who knew the full facts about his death, in the hope that his presence might lead to more particulars being given by the medium at the sitting. Jameson was also a competent shorthand writer. While waiting outside the medium's house, George Vandy arranged that if it was necessary to mention the note-taker's name Mr Jameson should be called 'Ernest Barnum'. However, this name was not given to the medium and he was introduced merely as 'a friend who will take notes'.

The sitting began with some inaccurate references by the medium to the Vandys' mother 'in the spirit world' while in fact she was still living.

Miss Campbell then proceeded:

You are one of five children.

G. V. Yes.

*Medium:* No, you are wrong, six children.

G. V. Yes, yes.

[*Note:* G. V. had forgotten a brother who had died in infancy.]

*Medium:* You have a brother in the spirit world who passed over as the result of an accident.<sup>1</sup>

G. V. Yes, that is so.

*Medium:* He is extremely anxious to communicate and is trying to give a little proof. He is deeply attached to you and expresses gratitude to you because of the effort you have made. He is quite different from you. He keeps brushing his hair back like this (passing her hand over her hair from back to front).

G. V. I don't recognize that.

*Medium:* He keeps doing it.

[G. V. afterwards remembered it was a regular habit of Edgar's when thinking, and he could not explain forgetting it.]

The members of your family are deeply attached to each other, but you are not demonstrative. (Pause.) He says he would not have bought that new suit if he had known this was going to happen. [*Note:* inaccurate.] (Turning to N. J., who was writing at the table.) He says you were connected with him. You were with him on his last day, not long before he went. It's a strong feeling he is giving. (N. J. made no comment.)

*He shows me the drawing of a car<sup>2</sup> and he says something about '5'. Did you meet him somewhere about 5pm?*

N. J. No.

[*Note:* N. J. took Edgar Vandy in his car to N—, where he met his death, but it was not at 5am or pm]

*Medium:* He mentions a business, as though you were connected with a business, and he says two other men are connected with it.

N. J. Only as employees.

*Medium:* Do you keep a shop?

N. J. Yes.

*Medium:* He used to go into your shop for a chat. If you were busy he would not stay long. He would walk in and pick up an article and put it down again as if he were familiar with the place.

N. J. Yes.

*Medium:* Do you sell something to eat in your shop?

N. J. No.

[*Note by G. V.:* Jameson kept two bicycle shops with an assistant in each. Until a short time before Edgar's death he had only one shop and it was this shop that Edgar used to frequent.

The medium's short account is quite correct. Edgar first became friendly through buying material for one of his inventions at Jameson's shop.]

*He is now getting on to something he does not want to discuss. He says if he had altered his plans a little this wouldn't have happened. He wishes he had discussed his plans more fully with you, but he does not want to speak about it now.<sup>3</sup> He is very glad he saw you before he passed out.*

There followed some trivial remarks of no value about some snapshots and a camera; also references to elderly relatives, which might apply to many people.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* Was your brother through the war?

*G. V.* Yes. [*Note:* He was not graded fit enough to go to the front.]

*Medium:* He said it was hard luck to come through safely and then end up like this. He had a cheery disposition but had a nasty knock. (Turning to N. J.) Ernest! Do you know anyone named Ernest?

*N. J.* No.

[*Note:* It will be remembered that it was decided before the sitting that Jameson should adopt the name of 'Ernest Barnum' should it be necessary to mention his name.]

*Medium:* (To *G. V.*) He had a great opinion of you. You have something in your pocket belonging to him, something metallic.

*G. V.* No.

*Medium:* He is forming his name, trying to experiment how to get it through. Getting through in a trance condition. He stands taller than you and a little broader.

*G. V.* Yes, he is taller.

*Medium* (excitedly): He *is* taller than you. He wants you to realize that he still *is*. He was about ten years younger than you and yet you feel you cannot get on without him. *Did he owe some money that was loaned?*<sup>4</sup> (No answer.)

[*Note:* Edgar was eight years younger than his brother, but he looked younger than his age. He owed some money that was loaned for the purpose of his invention.]

(Pointing to her front teeth): He is showing me a little gap in his mouth as if a tooth were missing. Now he shows me an old scar and says 'That's my identification mark!'

*G. V.* Where is the scar?

*Medium:* On his face.<sup>5</sup>

[*Note:* These remarks were very good. The cutting edge of one of Edgar's upper teeth had broken off, leaving a small gap between that and the corresponding lower tooth. He also had a

large scar on the right side of his forehead, obtained by being thrown from a trap as a child. G. V. had heard him make the remark, 'This scar will always identify me.'

You saw him the last time he was in the house. [*Note:* This was true.]

He refers to a scholarship. Did he win a scholarship?

G. V. He could have done so easily if he'd had the opportunity.

*Medium:* He says you won a scholarship but could not take it up.

[*Note:* This was correct; ill-health prevented G. V. taking up a scholarship at East London College.]

He wants you to know he is still here, still living, and still able to do the things he was interested in. He refers to his mother and says that, as she is, he would rather have her with him. He only wishes he had given her more of his time.

There are some foreign coins in one of his pockets?

G. V. I don't know. [*Note:* This was incorrect.]

*Medium* (placing her hand as though holding something up):

Now he is showing me a cigarette case, and that's funny, because he did not smoke.

G. V. I don't think he had a cigarette case.

*Medium:* He tells me where to find it - in his room - it seems to be at the end of a passage - there's a chest of drawers near the window. In one of the drawers you will find his things carefully folded up. I think you will find it there.

G. V. He didn't have a cigarette case.

*Medium:* Put it down and check it up.

[*Note by G. V.:* The statement that Edgar did not smoke is correct. The evening after the sitting my brother Harold and I went to the chest of drawers, the position of which in the room is correctly given. Edgar's drawer contained his underclothing, all carefully folded as explained by the medium, and placed methodically. We did not find a cigarette case, but in a corner at the bottom we found a new aluminium soap box. This when held in the hand, as shown by the medium, looks exactly like a metal cigarette case. The area is that of an average cigarette case, from which it only differs in its outward appearance by its thickness. Harold had looked into it casually a week or two before but retained no conscious memory of the soap box. Nevertheless, this spoils the value of the test.]

There was an element of complexity about his passing over. It's very vague and so quick he hardly knows how it happened. He says 'edge', 'E.D.G.'.

[*Note:* Was this a reference to the paved edge of the pool, or an attempt to give Edgar's name?]

The medium then changed the subject and alluded to trivial matters connected with his mother and grandmother, and also to 'some money owing, some money lost', which could refer to money borrowed for the commercial development of his last

invention. She also mentioned that Edgar was interested in psychic matters, though not actively. This was correct.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* He had a wrist watch.

G. V. No.

*Medium:* He had a watch that wouldn't go.

[*Note by G. V.:* I found afterwards that he had a wrist watch.]

Now he's showing me a tennis racquet. He is holding it up like this (holding her two hands diagonally), and that's strange, because he didn't play tennis. He doesn't look like a fellow who would play tennis.

G. V. I don't understand the racquet. He didn't play tennis.

*Medium:* Make a note of it and check it up.

[*Note by G. V.:* The reference to the tennis racquet was obscure to me, for I knew that Edgar did not play tennis or possess a racquet. My sister supplied the clue when I mentioned the incident to her. It appears that a few weeks previously she had a spare exposure on a spool and she used it to take a photograph of Edgar in the garden. It was a bright sunny day and he was dressed in tennis shirt, trousers and shoes. My sister, to complete the picture fetched her racquet and asked him to pose with it. He joked about it and said the picture would delude people into thinking he was a player. This was the last photo taken of him. I had probably seen a print of it amongst others and had forgotten it.]

The medium then made accurate references to the Vandys' dead sister, and 'someone named Annie' (the name of a living sister) and gave a correct description of their father's business losses owing to the dishonesty of 'those who should have been his friends' and which hastened his death.

\* \* \*

There followed a description of an incident, unknown to G. V., connected with Edgar's hat.

*Medium:* Your other brother makes short journeys in his work.

I get the letter 'H'. [*Note:* Correct - his name is Harold. This is the first mention of an 'other brother'.] He is wearing something belonging to your brother who has passed over.

G. V. I don't think that is right. What is it?

*Medium:* I think it is an article of clothing.

G. V. I'm sure that's not right.

*Medium:* He's persistent about it. Check it up.

[*Note by G. V.:* One morning after Edgar's death Harold took one of Edgar's hats by mistake. He did not return it but left it at the office with no intention of wearing it. On the day of this sitting his own hat was uncomfortable, so in the afternoon,

almost involuntarily, he took Edgar's hat off the peg in his office and wore it. He was wearing it at the time the sitting took place. I knew nothing of this until I discussed the incident with Harold after the sitting.]

Here followed accurate references to the 'shaky business' which could apply to the negotiations regarding Edgar's last invention, the 'Lectroline', particulars of which are given in subsequent sittings; also an inaccurate reference to an uncle 'Bob'.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* He wanted to play the piano. In fact he wanted to do too many things. He was rather shy among strangers, but when he got used to them was very friendly.

[*Note:* These statements are confirmed by entries in Edgar's diary.]

An inaccurate allusion to an August birthday followed.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* Do you want to ask him any questions? Anything you like.

*G. V.* Can he tell us his name?

*Medium:* He is trying hard to give proof. He writes in connection with the family and now he is writing 'D'. [*Note:* Incorrect.]

*G. V.* I don't understand that.

*Medium:* Do you know why he was interested in wireless? He seems very interested in it.<sup>6</sup> In fact he keeps using wireless terms; he calls this a transmission. He is showing me the letters 'B.B.C.'.

[*Note by G. V.:* Edgar was keenly interested in wireless and had an expert knowledge of the subject. In the early days of the industry he ran a small manufacturing business. He and I were founder shareholders in the original British Broadcasting Company.]

You have a wireless at home, but you have not had it going for some time.

[*Note:* Correct, silent since his death.]

*G. V.* Can he give us an idea of any particular talent he had?

*Medium:* He is showing me a bow, a violin bow. He played the violin and had another instrument which he played about with sometimes. He was very versatile and had great ability...

[*Note by G. V.:* When I asked this question I was consciously thinking of his outstanding mechanical ability, and I expected a reply to that effect and not his musical talent, a subject far from

my conscious thoughts. Edgar was an amateur violinist of considerable ability and had played in several orchestras. He was also a creditable performer on the banjo.]

He keeps touching his throat, as though he had something wrong with it. He might have had a nervous breakdown, for his physique was not equal to the strain of his mental activity.

[*Note by G. V.:* Many references in his diary indicate the strain he imposed upon himself by his constant thinking and solving of mechanical and other problems. Several times in recent years he seemed to be on the verge of a breakdown.]

Do you know who Molly is?

G. V. No, not Molly. (Here the medium tapped her mouth with the palm of her hand and continued to talk.)

*Medium:* Do you know why he keeps doing this? Was it a habit?

G. V. Not that I remember.

*Medium:* You have two violins belonging to him, one a standard violin that he used to play and was very fond of, and another, a little one, a sort of comic instrument.

[*Note by G. V.:* In addition to his violin he had a one-stringed fiddle given him some years ago - he disliked this crude instrument - I have since found it in the house.]

*His passing over involved someone else. I don't say directly, but indirectly by neglect or incompetence.<sup>7</sup> He was alone at the time but there were a lot of people on the scene immediately afterwards. Something hit him. He met his death in an unusual way, very difficult to describe.*

*Afterwards he was in a big house for a period.<sup>8</sup> He seemed to be in a sitting position and he got up. He cannot account for being at that spot. He had some blow to the head. His head was jerked back so violently that he thought at first his neck was broken. There were some bruises.<sup>9</sup> He had no one with him at the time. He had about five seconds' knowledge before he went. He shows me water. Was there water in connection with his death?<sup>10</sup>*

G. V. Yes.

*Medium:* He is not terribly keen on this enquiry. He does not want you to enquire too deeply into the cause of his death. No one saw him fall.<sup>11</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* This is an accurate description. His body rested in the garage attached to a large country mansion. One theory is that he was attempting to get out of the bathing pool at a point where he could not touch bottom, that he had got half out when he slipped back and, his chin hitting the edge of the pool, was stunned by a blow before he was drowned. There were several bruises on his body. It would be characteristic of his generous nature to shield a person from blame.]

Again he shows me snaps. There is a holiday spirit about this. Was he on holiday?

G. V. Only for a day.

*Medium:* I get the impression that this happened on a very sunny day.

[*Note by G. V.:* August 6th, the day of his death, was very hot and sunny.]

There was some money, a little money, some notes and some silver, but it was not on the body. [Correct.]

He keeps doing this (here the medium tapped her mouth again): do you know what he means?

G. V. I can't understand it.

*Medium:* Wait a minute. Oh, I see. *It's something to do with his death, his tongue.*<sup>12</sup> He shows me his arms and legs. He was dressed in a short swimming suit. He bent forward suddenly. *He could not get his breath. He had a struggle for breath. And the back, something came from the back. Was heart failure mentioned?*

G. V. No.

[*Note by G. V.:* His tongue was bitten through, due we believe to his tongue being between his teeth at the time his chin struck the edge of the pool. I did not know this fact at the time of the sitting, but it was known to Jameson. Edgar had no intention of bathing when he went on this visit and he did not even know there was a bathing pool on the estate, so he took no bathing costume with him. One was lent to him, and it was rather on the small side and somewhat tight.]

*Medium:* He keeps talking of a struggle to get breath, and he is opening his mouth. His clothes were some distance from where he was. He was not accustomed to being dressed as he was. *There was another person.*

[*Note by G. V.:* At Jameson's suggestion he and Edgar did not use the hut provided for undressing at the edge of the pool, but went into a small wood about 200 feet away. Edgar's clothes were found there. This wood effectively screened the bathing pool from sight and so Jameson, who was still undressing after Edgar had left him to enter the pool, did not see how the accident happened. Except for the previous Thursday, when he went to the Regent Street Polytechnic swimming bath with Harold, Edgar had not worn a swimming suit since a holiday in Holland in 1929.]

*Medium:* Do you know what he means by five pounds, about £5?

G. V. No.

[*Note by G. V.:* The money found in his pocket was just short of £5.]

*Medium:* *He was not responsible for his own death.*<sup>13</sup>

G. V. What does he mean?

*Medium:* *He did not commit suicide, and he says he was not foolish, it was not his fault. He was after a definite object. There was somebody else. There was another person.*<sup>14</sup> *His*

*death was quite sudden.* He disagrees with the verdict. Do the words 'Death by Misadventure' occur in it?

G. V. I don't know.

*Medium:* I think they do, and that is what he disagrees with.

[*Note by G. V.:* Up to this time I had been too distressed to look at the death certificate, or to read any accounts of the affair, but in view of this statement I examined it, and the verdict was 'Death by Drowning by Misadventure'.]

This sitting contains a high percentage of accurate statements regarding the life of Edgar Vandy, his unusual death and its mystery, his character and tastes, his work, and his marked ability. It also includes the following facts which were unknown consciously to G. V., although they were known to other persons:

- (1) The fact that Edgar's tongue was injured.
- (2) The incident of the 'cigarette' case. (This seems not to have been known consciously to anyone; Harold Vandy had no recollection of seeing it.)
- (3) The incident of the tennis racquet.
- (4) The wearing of Edgar's hat by his brother Harold at the time the sitting was being held.

## SITTING No. 2

30 August 1933

### *Present*

Medium: Miss Frances Campbell

Sitter: Mr Harold Vandy ('Mr W. Greenbaum')

Note-taker: Miss Jolivard

### *Place*

Hyde Park Mansions, London, NW1 (Miss Campbell's home)

After the first sitting Edgar's brother Harold Vandy decided he would have a sitting with the same medium. He made an appointment under an assumed name (W. Greenbaum) and gave a different address. He did not bear any resemblance to his brother George, and there was no obvious reason why the medium should connect them with each other. However, we cannot ignore the possibility that she may have sensed a connection between the two sittings, and it is important when comparing them to note any fresh information that was given in the second sitting which could not have been deduced from statements made in the first.

Harold Vandy's sitting was on 30 August, at Hyde Park Mansions, two weeks after his brother George's. He took with him as note-taker Miss Jolivard, a trained shorthand-typist from his office. Miss Jolivard had twice seen Edgar when he had called on his brother at his office but had not seen his invention the Lectro-line Drawing Machine.<sup>15</sup> Harold Vandy's attitude towards the investigation was both sceptical and critical, but he admitted that it might possibly serve as a test of survival. In a preface to his notes on the sitting he says, although not convinced of survival:

'If we survive, then it seems to me that communication by those departed would be not only desired by them but, if practicable, definitely attempted whenever possible. At least, I am certain that Edgar, with his previous knowledge and interest in the subject, would be one of the most anxious to make contact and give evidence of his identity. Furthermore, the unique nature of his work, which had occupied the latter part of his life, seemed to give exceptional opportunities to present evidential material of an unusual type.'

The medium began with a brief, correct allusion to the death of a parent, followed by comments on the sitter's health, and then opened the subject of Edgar's death as follows:

*Medium:* There is a man who passed over very suddenly, and he seems terribly anxious to communicate with you. You have something in your pocket belonging to him.

[*Note:* Correct, but common to most sitters.]

He is pointing to your pocket. He is in a very disturbed state, as if he is suffering from shock, as if he passed over feeling he would like to get back to clear matters up. Your father is in spirit - he says 'I am your father', and he writes up the initial 'J'. [Message of affection follows.]

[*Note by H. V.:* 'J' was wrong as far as my father was concerned, but he was the only person who frequently referred to Edgar as 'Joe', Joseph being his second name.]

*He is your brother, he tells me; he says 'brother'.*<sup>16</sup> (To Miss Jolivard). This young man says he knew you, but not intimately. He says you have seen him twice recently.

[*Correct.*] He is a little nervous, and he hurries, he seems to realize the seriousness of his position. He understands that you feel he is back with you, but you would like evidence of it, and he is trying to get through to you with some kind of proof. He talks of some matter which will possibly never be made clear, and he seems a little disturbed at it. He writes of 'B' as his friend.

[*Note by H. V.:* He had a great friend called 'Bartram', but mention of him here is irrelevant.]

He tells me you are using his handkerchief, and then ‘Did you get the money back?’ Make a note of this, because it is a record which is going to be proven if he refers to it again.  
 [Note by H. V.: I was not using his handkerchief, but some of his belongings from his pockets were handed to me by the constable wrapped up in his handkerchief. He also handed me some money at the same time, and as a reference to this quickly follows this can possibly be the meaning.]

Rather vague references to H. V.’s actions on the day of the accident followed.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* Do you use a car?

H. V. No.

*Medium:* Yet he speaks of a car - he is very excited, he is trying to talk about a car used in connection with his passing over.<sup>17</sup>

[Note: Edgar drove to N- in a car.]

He is trying to say something in connection with his passing over. Do you know whom he calls ‘George’? He writes up ‘Brother George’, and also the initial ‘T’. The ‘T’ will take a little finding, but you will be able to connect it up quite closely.

[Note by H. V.: Correct. George went down to N- with a cousin Ted, to whom he went immediately after the tragedy and who did much to assist us, taking in hand many of the necessary arrangements.]

Messages purporting to come from the Vandys’ father followed; also an inaccurate allusion to Edgar calling his brother ‘Kid’.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* Your father tells me I am to try and get down what he is saying... I cannot interfere with what I see no profit in enquiring into,’ he says, and your brother is saying (you remember the way he talked, very rapidly when he was excited, and the way he ran his fingers through his hair when talking): *There is someone on this side it gives me a feeling he is trying to protect, someone on this side. I cannot quite get it, but he is saying: ‘She was frightened and went away.’* Now he repeats that twice, and what it means I cannot tell.

A description followed of Edgar folding up his clothes very carefully and then moving them and ‘putting them down anyhow’, and a confused attempt to speak of an incident which ‘was before 5.0’, and a bridge.

[*Note:* H. V. did not hear of Edgar's death until his arrival home on the following day at 5pm and previously was having tea in a shop on the south side of London Bridge. But it should be noted that an erroneous reference to 5.0 was made in Miss Campbell's Sitting No. 1 with G. V. on 24 August (see page 7)]

\* \* \*

*Medium:* Your brother is talking a little as if he were afraid.

That is curious, he is telling me that there is a woman who can tell you more about him (he is pointing to himself). This will puzzle you very much, as you cannot in any way connect it up. 'I tell you she was frightened and went away,' he says. When I ask him to explain more, he just nods. 'That is right, it was to do with my passing over, but no one knew she was there.'

He shows me a watch which seems to have stopped. He put it into the pocket of his clothes and put the clothes on one side [Correct] and he is saying (he is trying to smile and make light of it): 'It seems so silly, I ought to have been able to save myself, but it was not long before my heart just seemed to stop.' Now he is trying to show me two conditions. He dived naturally and was killed. He is getting mixed up, he is trying to tell how he passed over, and he will insist upon this woman whom he knows could tell you more about it.

[*Note:* This account does not agree with that given to G. V. at his sitting previously. On that occasion no mention was made of an attempt to dive, which both brothers state was most unlikely, as he was a very poor swimmer. This is the first mention of a woman being present. H. V. states that Jameson informed him that his sister came *later* on the scene and made an effort to recover the body from the pool, but to the surprise of H. V. she was not asked to give evidence at the inquest, nor was she present.]

Do you know why he shows me stones? *He shows me something of water*, he tried to go across something hard, and *then he showed me there was someone*, because I can hear him trying to repeat to me what he was saying. Now he illustrates that he seemed to double up and fall, I think a fall on his head.<sup>18</sup> It is something about having to get his clothes. He had taken some of his clothing off. He gives me exactly the condition he was in, he was ill for only two or three minutes before he passed out, dazed, I get a quick drop. Even in the time he took to fall, the whole mind seemed to be upon his clothes. Your brother was very shy by nature, I would describe him as a person who laughed and talked more than he really meant; inwardly he was much more serious than he liked people to realize.

[*Note by H. V.:* Correct.]

According to your brother *there are two points you do not understand, and that is - how he could have been in that position, and how anyone else could have been there. One point he insists upon, and that is he was talking to someone and he deliberately does not give the name. It may seem remarkable. Your brother was very good-natured, and there is a lot of feeling behind not giving the name.*<sup>19</sup> *Do you know why he rubs the top of his head - did he get hurt there, did he get hit on the head, as if his head had touched something, but before his head had touched he had lost all sense? There is a curious importance between his thoughts and the actual passing out, he must have known he was going. There was a great feeling of stupidity.*<sup>20</sup> *He is trying to give things a little clearer. Do you know why he shows himself in a horizontal position, his head hanging down? This was evidently to do with the position of his death, the position he was found in.*<sup>21</sup> *Do you think someone could have moved your brother after his passing, he insists that he did not fall in the position in which he was found?*

[*Note by H. V.:* The position of the body described is exactly as Jameson stated he first saw him - lying on the top of the water, head down and arms outstretched.]

A repetition of Edgar's worry about his clothing followed, and a reference to a brown leather case with a snapshot (unidentified), and the medium continued:

*I get such a funny feeling with your brother, he is upset because there was no real necessity for him to have gone over - it was an accident which was foolish, but it brings in another person, and that is the point he seems to think you will have difficulty in being able to digest. There was some other person present,*<sup>22</sup> *and there is something very small which he is trying to show me; did they get anything out of his body which was very small?*

[*Note:* This is contradicted later by the statement 'I was wrong when I said it was something small, it was something big that he swallowed - big enough to make him not get his breath.']

*I can feel a definite sense of choking. He is showing me a row of teeth, he is drawing them and trying to illustrate something about them. They are white, rather nice teeth. Was his tongue found to be bleeding a little? He speaks that he got his tongue between his teeth.*<sup>23</sup>

*Someone beside him was very frightened, he was stupid with fear, he did not know what to do.*<sup>24</sup> *You know you will prove that fact and get a surprise over it. He has no anger towards them, only sympathy and sorrow.*

Further references followed to the handkerchief with his clothing, and the money that was there, and 'something big that

he swallowed, that was big enough to make him not get his breath'. This was followed by a correct allusion to an unfulfilled plan made in connection with a friend called 'Harry' (unknown to the sitter, but mentioned in Edgar's diary). There was also mention of an unidentified person called 'Eric', and some only partially correct remarks about the Vandys' mother.

There followed only vague items of no interest, except for a question by the medium (which the sitter did not answer), 'Did he have anything to do with a bell, he is showing me a bell, talking about a bell.' [Note: He was about to construct a special doorbell for his friend Jameson, described later.] Then H. V. decided to ask three definite questions.

*Question No. 1.*

H. V. Did he miss a volume of his diary? If not, where can the missing volume be found?

*Medium:* It is only half finished, it is in the house. He wrote one after that one. For some reason that one was not quite finished... [irrelevant allusion to cancer followed]. You have a room downstairs with books - some on shelves, some standing up, and he shows me a desk where there is writing paper, not an ordinary desk, and this volume you speak of is not the same size or the same colour. Can you understand it being brown leather? *His diary was not the ordinary small diary, it was big, and he is showing me between two books, just slipped in, quite easy to find.*<sup>25</sup>

*Do you know why he is showing me wooden boards? He is trying to show me something he used to do, it is out of the ordinary and has artistic lines to it, and his diary had reference to it, but he tells me he was not so interested in the diary which is missing at the time he was passing out... the diary is in the house, and he shows me some bags packed. Has he half his clothing away from home?*

H. V. No.

*Medium:* He shows me boxes and bags, and he is saying the diary is in there.<sup>26</sup>

[Note by H.V.: The books used for his diaries were larger than the ordinary size small diaries, being 6.75" x 4.5" x 1". A large number of the entries had bearing on his invention the 'Lectroline Drawing Machine' (described later), which did work of an artistic nature, and the allusion to 'wooden boards' may be an attempt to indicate the drawing board of the machine. We know also that the missing diary covered in part a period when he was away from the machine and engaged on other work. It could be inferred that it could not contain so many references to it, and the statement that he was not so interested in the machine at that time may be regarded as being correct.]

He talks about a lot of snapshots he has got. Is his room still intact? He speaks as if his room is not used. [Incorrect.]

And he also speaks of a lot of junk belonging to him. Have you got a cupboard on a landing? [Incorrect.]

[*Note:* The missing diary was found a few months afterwards in circumstances which will be described later.]

Irrelevant matter followed concerning his funeral, his clothes, his father's death from cancer (correct) and a journey abroad.

\* \* \*

*Question No. 2.*

*H. V.* Can he say the cause of the breakdown of his last job in the house, or where the fault can be traced?

[*Note by H. V.:* This question is framed in such a way that a shrewd person might think of something electrical at once.]

*Medium:* He is laughing, he is talking about a bell. He is trying to show me the type of thing to which he refers, and do you know why he is showing me some electric wire? He is saying something about 'You ought to be able to hear downstairs and up, taking something downstairs and making a double connection upstairs'.

[*Note:* According to *H. V.* there had been a breakdown in the circuit of a two-way switch which Edgar fitted at the top and bottom of the stairs. It was in going order until the day of the tragedy, when it suddenly failed. *H. V.* and *G. V.* spent some time trying to trace the fault and failed.]

Do you know of a little cupboard or kitchen arrangements where there is a battery? He is saying it wants to be absolutely straight for one thing, and the battery itself is wrong, it wants renewing... Some man who knows a great deal about it has been trying to do something and cannot understand it. You found it all right, according to him. He uses the word 'battery'. It looks all right and then, curiously enough, went wrong after his passing.

[*Note by H. V.:* Fixed to the wall of the basement which was his workshop is a plank of wood to which Edgar fastened an electric pendulum which was worked by an accumulator and which has to be perfectly upright. He kept this going, but a few days after the tragedy George noticed that it had stopped. The accumulator was an old one and needed recharging.]

Can you understand any particular thing he fixed up for his mother? He said 'It did not inconvenience Mother, that is why I chose it, but might have inconvenienced the house'. He laughs about this, because he thinks it is particularly clever, because it was an old idea with a new one. He shows me bedrooms, wrinkles up his brows and goes to a bedroom, and there is a lot of wiring on the top of the wall of a bedroom.<sup>27</sup> There is one room he is trying to tell you he has

done a lot with. ... If you go to the focusing point you will find it - two pieces of wire just parting.

[*Note by H. V.:* A week or so before he passed over, he pointed out to me an electric power plug he had arranged, so that by removing the plug and replacing one pin only into the socket the circuit was broken, thus preventing Mother from switching on the wireless. It was an old idea with a new use, but I'm doubtful if Edgar would have thought it very clever. It did not affect Mother, but her habit of turning on the wireless at unwanted times often inconvenienced the house. I should add that the switch did not turn on the wireless direct, but was the switch to the electrical converter from D.C. to A.C. in the basement below. Two weeks before the accident Edgar fitted the wire for the two-way circuit, and this involved leading the wire from the loft of the house through a hole in a bedroom ceiling close to the wall. This lead was taken down the wall parallel to the existing lead and concealed beneath the beading of the door. The wires run down to the basement and are there carried across the ceiling and down the wall to a plug in the switchboard. This is the circuit that was out of order, and this is the plug which appears to be referred to as the 'focusing point'. We could trace no fault here and could not discover 'two wires just parting'.]

Trivial remarks about repairs common to most houses followed.

\* \* \*

*Question No. 3.*

*H. V.* What are his desires, and what was the nature of his principal work?

Before giving the medium's reply to this question it is necessary to give a brief description of Edgar's most important invention, the 'Lectroline Drawing Machine'.<sup>28</sup> This invention was described recently by Mr George Vandy as follows:

It was unique, as it accomplished automatically, by machinery, work that had up to then never been attempted by machinery; and since the destruction of the only commercial model made, partly by dismantling after Edgar's death and finally by the bombing of London, has not again been attempted. The original experimental model was sent to the Science Museum, South Kensington, in October 1934. It would take too long to go into technical details, but briefly it drew the original lettering and decorative work for printing by lithography and other methods of printing, more quickly and accurately than is possible by hand. It was electro-mechanical, and the control for production was effected by perforated paper records, similar to but not the same as pianola records. The

original complex designs, which the machine drew at the rate of several inches per minute, could never be attempted by hand-work, as the great time it would take would make the cost prohibitive.

The first apparent references to the Lectroline Machine were a little confusing, as interspersed with them were some statements that apparently applied to the door bell which Edgar was making for his friend Jameson. For this reason H. V. considers their value is open to question.

*Medium:* If you tried to do his work, you could not... He shows me something he wants handed on to someone, which he wants utilized. It is a little thing he is trying to show me. Can you understand it is something he invented? He says, 'I invented.' He tells me there are lots of notes of it in the book which is missing that can be used, but not by you, but someone else can do something with it. It will be of commercial value if it is properly done, and he wants it pushed. Is it anything to do with air? He is talking about something to do with air pressure.

[*Note:* The Lectroline was not 'a little thing', nor had it anything to do with air.]

This other thing is so simple in construction that it is a wonder that it was not thought of before. [*Note:* the bell?] It is something which turns over. He laughs about something to do with a burglar. He is saying he is mixing things up. Now he is showing me something that stands about so (indicating with hand) high - three things in one - run in three ways - something very cheap indeed. I think he means cheap in comparison with what is now being used - it is not yet finished, it cannot quite be used yet. On another occasion, if you have a sitting, try and get through what he is saying about it. There is another man who comes to the house, too. There is another thing, a small point, and he worked on this one point a long time, but he got it. It has not been fitted in, but he knows what it wants now. Can you place a ship in connection with it? He is saying, 'used here.' You will be very careful how you use this thing of your brother's, it is something on the brink of being discovered. If you handle it wrongly, it will be borrowed and used. It makes a noise. Your brother had it working all but one thing. He shows me a car.

[*Note by H. V.:* Edgar was about to construct a new type of doorbell for his friend Jameson worked by a small electric motor and two brake-drums off an old car forming the gongs. Roughly speaking, when set in motion by the pulling of a rope at the frontdoor the motor revolved or 'turned over', causing two or three pegs to strike against the gongs, producing a somewhat musical effect. It had, of course, nothing to do with a 'burglar'. The three principal parts, the motor and the two gongs, might perhaps be regarded as the 'three things in one'.

Jameson came to the house to bring the necessary parts only a week before the calamity, and this may be 'the man' referred to.

The best part of the statements is the reference to a ship. The rope which was to be pulled to operate the bell was to be a piece of rope with a knot to imitate a similar rope of a ship's bell. I know he had some problems to solve with it, but beyond that I know no more.]

*Do you know of something to do with a machine?*<sup>29</sup> Do you know if he also knew how to make sound in greater volume? He is trying to show me a fine mesh thing attached to one of his inventions, very fine and sensitive and picks up quickly. *It comes up in print*<sup>30</sup> - that is the thing which is very good. It is different to the one I mentioned before.

At this moment the medium broke off, saying she had lost power.

[*Note by H. V.:* 'Sound in greater volume' is irrelevant. The 'fine mesh thing' is apparently the medium's crude interpretation of the paper record which forms a vital part of the Lectroline machine. It should be mentioned that at the sitting the medium held her hands apart, indicating something long. The record is similar to a pianola record, a long strip of paper full of small round holes punched on it which, if held up, would appear as a sort of mesh. It must be remembered that to a non-technical person who was ignorant of what was being indicated a description of such a thing would be extremely difficult. This does in fact record all the letters of the alphabet, and it is 'very sensitive' in so far that the small feelers fall into the holes referred to and pick up electric impulses very quickly. These electric impulses govern a moving bridge and carriage, to which is attached the drawing pen which draws letters and designs so that near enough the electric impulses 'come up in print'. It was finally stated to be 'the thing which is very good' and 'different from the one mentioned before'. It therefore stands on its own, and to those who know the machine there can be little doubt about the applicability of the description.]

It will be noticed in the photograph of the Lectroline that a screen of coarse wire mesh is attached to the same side of the machine as the paper record. This screen is purely for protective purposes and has no connection at all with the records. The medium's words 'very fine and sensitive and picks up quickly' are more apt for the record than for the protective screen.

When comparing H. V.'s sitting of 30 August with G. V.'s sitting held three weeks earlier, the similarity will be noticed of the two descriptions of Edgar Vandy's death by drowning, the blow to his head, his bitten tongue, his sensation of choking, the mystery surrounding his death, and the fact that there was

someone else there at the time. Also the description of Edgar's personality and his anxiety that his family would realize that his death was an accident and not suicide, and that no one should be blamed.

Information given for the first time in the sitting of 30 August held by H. V. consists of:

- (1) The first allusion to a woman being present 'who was frightened and went away' (of which we have no proof).
- (2) The position of the body when found.
- (3) The description of the missing diary (in reply to a question).
- (4) The first reference to Edgar's mechanical inventions, including apparently the Lectroline Drawing Machine.
- (5) The reference to the electrical wiring in the house and the unusual door-bell which he was making for his friend Jameson.
- (6) Correct details about Miss Jolivard.

*References to Machine at Sitting of 8 September 1933*

Only the first sittings held by G. V. and H. V. with each medium are described in this account, but further descriptions of the machine were given by Miss Campbell in later sittings. One of these is worthy of mention, as it gives fresh details and also the movements of the machine in correct sequence for the first time.

At a sitting by H. V. with Miss Campbell on 8 September (his second sitting), the following description was given:

*Medium:* Did he know a man called 'Mac'? He is saying something that sounds like 'Mac understands some work he is doing'. This man would understand, because he is saying Tress has not got quite the right weight behind it - something heavy - he holds on to a thing like - has he got something where two sides come together - where you insert something in between and two things come together'?

The medium here said she thought she would have to give up, as it was not coming through as she liked.

[*Note by H. V.:* Immediately before his death Edgar had finished designing and constructing an accessory to the machine whose function was the ruling of parallel lines in ink. A litho artist named Macnamara, familiarly called 'Mac', was deputed to place his technical knowledge of the method of using the ruling pen at his disposal. The reference to 'two sides coming together' seems to suggest the ruling pen. Two adjustable sides come together and the ink is placed between

them. A specially constructed pen on a carriage arrangement is balanced by an adjustable weight. By adjusting the weight the correct balance is given to the pen. When Mac first started to use it after the tragedy it was found to be incorrectly adjusted. None of this was known to me at the time.]

The medium dropped the subject of the machine at this point and urged the sitter to form a family circle for sittings in his own house. After a time she suddenly returned to the subject of the machine as follows:

*Medium: He shows me a red light and a green light, which I cannot understand the significance of. Did he for some purpose of his own change the electric bulb to a coloured bulb?*<sup>31</sup>

*H. V.:* No, I do not understand that.

[*Note by H. V.:* I had no knowledge of this fact at the time of the sitting, and I had entirely forgotten any lights in connection with the machine, it being some considerable time since I had seen it. Not till it was explained to me afterwards did I recall them. On the switchboard of the machine are two pilot lights, a red and a bluish green. Normally, both these light as soon as the machine starts running, indicating the flow of the two main currents, one to the charging circuit of the accumulators, and one from the consuming circuit.]

*Medium: He is trying to show me climbing on a ladder [Note by H. V.:* This is irrelevant] and something to do with a light, and again he talks about a main current, and he is very excited, because this thing is something new in electricity, something which has been worked in a new method. Is it connected with the house? If you can only get it pushed he is banking on it to advance things financially. It refers to something outside, something in a line of business, something which works automatically - he is clasping his coat lapels - he is a little impatient with me, he cannot get me to see what he has drawn. This is a fairly big thing he is trying to show me, and has a wooden board, and he presses something, and I get something rolling forward and then a click, click, click, that is the thing he is trying to tell me about. Do you know he is not trying to write up something, but *he is showing me a lot of letters: A, B, C, D, etc.*, and he shuffles them about a bit with his hands, and *then he shows me a funny thing just like a thin line, and then an arm comes up and projects about half-a-dozen letters.*<sup>32</sup>

[*Note by H. V.:* The machine is about six feet square and has a large drawing board 60" x 40". It is started by the pressing of a button. A long metal 'bridge' carrying a pen carriage then begins to move forward and the noise made by the machine when in motion is (as stated by the medium) a series of 'clicks'. The sound of these 'clicks' was made by a number of electro-

magnets and relays which controlled the intermittent motions of the machine. By the combined movements of the bridge and the carriage the letters and designs are drawn, hence the allusion to A, B, C, etc. It should be noted that all these movements are given in proper sequence. First, the lights of the main currents when switching on. Next, pressing the starting button and then the bridge moving forward; and lastly the letters appear.]

*Medium:* In the next three months he wants that completed and cleared off, as if something of a business can be done with it. He says: 'I had it working, and yet it will not work now.' He is not satisfied; whoever it is working this, it is not correct, as he had it going easily and smoothly. He makes a lot of marks in pencil on the bottom, as if he is making measures - distances.

[*Note by H. V.:* It is true that Edgar was the only person who had mastered the technique of working the machine. Since his passing it was used once for the purpose of drawing a chart by means of the new attachment to the machine which he had only recently completed. This method was to run the machine in the normal way by means of an electric motor, but the man who did the job referred to above, being insufficiently skilled, had drawn the chart operating the machine by hand, therefore the movement could not be as smooth as when mechanically propelled.

As a preliminary to the drawing of a poster on the machine, Edgar would measure off a series of spaces with a paper tape laid in a specially provided guide. This guide and tape were laid in position at the bottom of the line of lettering to be drawn and was a precautionary measure to ensure the line of lettering finishing at the correct position.

This is another fact of which I was *entirely ignorant* at the time of the sitting.]

There is a small point in connection with Edgar's death which is worth noticing in this sitting of 8 September. When describing his death Miss Campbell said, 'I do not think you and I are going to agree on the point of his death, because the feeling your brother gives me is that none of you have got it quite right, so what you think, I do not think, because I feel so strongly you have not really got the whole thing. Do you know why he should show me a bath? A container of water, not the sea. *Then he shows me - can you follow him having something in his hand and putting it down before he passed out?*'<sup>133</sup>

Correct information given for the first time in H. V.'s second sitting with Miss Campbell on 8 September consists chiefly of the more detailed description of the Lectroline and its attachments (which we have already quoted), some of which was quite unknown to the sitter and subsequently proved correct. It is noticeable in this sitting that only a few main facts

are given concerning Edgar's death, and these were in reply to a direct question on the subject. It bears the appearance of a direct development from the first sitting and seems to be concerned primarily with an effort to give evidential material from facts concerning his work, including a description of the Lectroline Drawing Machine which is much improved compared with that given in the previous sitting and gives the sequence of the movements of the machine when started with great accuracy.

Information unknown to the sitter at the time of the sitting of 8 September consists of:

- (1) The existence of red and green pilot lights on the switchboard.
- (2) The method of ensuring the correct position of the lines of lettering.
- (3) The details of the 'ruling pen' and its maladjustment, and 'Mac's' help in working this invention.

### SITTING No. 3

8 September 1933

*Present*

Medium: Mrs Gladys Leonard

Sitter and Note-taker: The Rev. C. Drayton Thomas

On 8 September 1933 Mr Drayton Thomas was having a personal sitting with Mrs Gladys Leonard when her control, 'Feda', remarked:

Do you know a man who passed just lately, it was quite sudden?

*D. T.* How long ago, weeks or days?

*Feda:* Days. He was well and vigorous till lately. I get an 'M' with him very close. First I got 'H', but that might be a place or something.

[*Note by G. V.:* Our youngest sister was always known to us as Millie, and my surviving brother is named Harold.]

*D. T.* Is he here?

*Feda:* Funny, I seem to get a thought from someone, as if they thought of you. Keep a look out; *this may be a proxy case about someone who went out through falling.*<sup>34</sup>

*D. T.* I am wondering if this has to do with one I was asked about three weeks back; I do not know anything about a fall.

*Feda:* *This is not a boy and not old, say an adult.*<sup>35</sup> *I get an idea of a fall, an accident, rather tragic. I get an idea that it*

*rather worried his head, as if he were giddy. It gives me the sensation of falling.*

[*Note by G. V.:* The evidence of the doctor at the inquest was that Edgar had been stunned before being drowned, and the bruises on his body suggested a fall. Mr Drayton Thomas knew nothing about the nature of Edgar's death.]

This was followed by a reference to two unknown ladies who could not be identified and the names 'Seymour' and 'Raffin or Ravin'.

\* \* \*

*Feda:* There is a man too on earth much interested in him, connected with the lady, and who has to do some business for the one who passed on, to carry through something for him. So the man passed over has to influence him rather carefully. He can do it, but it will require careful handling. *It is a very important matter. It might mean a lot to people on earth, as if they might lose or be sufferers in some way if this matter is not rightly handled. Not only his sudden passing, but Feda feels that his passing has affected people in other and more material ways, besides making them sad.*<sup>36</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* By a process of 'reading in' this statement can be taken as an oblique reference to me and the negotiations connected with Edgar's machine, which were still proceeding at the time of his death, but I had no connection with a lady. The negotiations failed, largely as the result of the loss of the master mind, for Edgar's genius was essential for the successful future development of the machine. The family and I in particular suffered a large financial loss through his death.]

Just before passing he seemed to be trying to carry through some alteration or change in his material life which would have made things easier for someone else. He was between two lots of people, pulled a bit in two ways. He had not quite made up his mind what to do in that condition, but it was while trying to be between them and do his best in both ways that he passed over, so leaving things 'in the air', he says. Therefore he wants to come back and help as much as he can.

*D. T.* If it is the man of whom I think, he has a brother who wrote to me; it was a younger brother who passed over recently. He would have at least two brothers on earth.

*Feda:* There is a lady.

*D. T.* They do not know the circumstances in which he died, something mysterious about it. Can he explain and relieve their minds?

[*Note by G. V.:* In my letter to Mr Thomas I mentioned that my brother and I were uncertain of the cause of Edgar's death. I did not give his name or any details. As far as he knew it might have been due to a disease. I mentioned my sister.]

*Feda: It was not his fault, he says 'it was not my fault'.<sup>37</sup> There was a funny feeling in his head, a 'woolly head', muddled, I feel; he gives me that feeling purposely after what you said - it was something he felt before, while, and even now, when he thinks of his passing.<sup>38</sup> He was not unhappy; he says 'it was not anyone's fault, certainly not mine'. He keeps saying 'stepping out unconsciously'. Have I got this right? I am not getting it in words - I feel I am moving forward unconsciously, unthinkingly. I am passing over; an aberration, not planned, not arranged, coming about in a way too much for me, closing round me, not realizing what is going to happen, moving automatically, doing things automatically for a short time - I bought a paper just before, ascertained the time too and was trying to fit things in.*

[*Note by G. V.:* The statements 'It was not my fault', and 'not anyone's fault' occur repeatedly in the experiments that my brother and I conducted with other mediums. I cannot verify the statement about the paper and I believe it to be incorrect.]

*My mind was not on myself at the moment, was thinking other things out, you see. I think I threw what I was holding on one side. I was holding, grasping something. I remember feeling I must be very careful of things.<sup>39</sup> Please write this down.*

[*Note:* There is an interesting incident in connection with this statement. On 8 September, the same day that Mr Drayton Thomas was having this sitting with Mrs Leonard, Edgar's brother Harold Vandy, was having his second sitting with Miss Campbell at 3pm. When describing what appeared to be Edgar's death towards the end of the sitting, Miss Campbell said: 'I do not think you and I are going to agree on the point of his death, because the feeling your brother gives me is that none of you have got it quite right, so what you think, I do not think, because I feel so strongly you have not really got the whole thing. Do you know why he should show me a bath? A container of water, not the sea. Then he shows me - *can you follow him having something in his hand and putting it down before he passed out?*'

In neither case was any explanation given of this incident, and it remains unverifiable, but it is curious that only in these two sittings (one of them an unexpected, spontaneous 'intrusion' into someone else's sitting) was the allusion made to 'something in his hand' which he threw on one side or 'put down', and that the two sittings were held on the same day by different persons with different mediums, neither sitter knowing that the other was having a sitting on that day.]

*Feda: I remember feeling I must be very careful about touching, grasping something - think I wanted to turn, or twist or move something.<sup>40</sup> I realize the importance of air, was rather tired, you know, very tired mentally.<sup>41</sup>*

[*Note by G. V.:* According to the statement of Jameson, the only person bathing with Edgar, he found him floating face downwards and fluttering his hands. If he could have turned him or pulled him ashore, he could have been saved. The doctor stated that he was already stunned and unconscious, and whatever happened must have occurred very quickly for, according to Jameson, Edgar was in the pool only a few moments before him.]

Am sure I closed something, had attended to something. Think I let go. I remember saying to myself, 'I must be careful what I do with this, turning something, how I handle and turn it'. Then it seemed as if my mind became curiously blank and I cannot remember exactly what happened, except that I was falling - thought *I was falling down and through something, as one does in sleep* - falling down and through something in sleep.

[*Note by G. V.:* This paragraph can be interpreted as the semiconscious thoughts of a drowning man.]

It has nothing to do with them at all, and they could not have helped me in any way at all. I am sure they would have done, had it been possible. *It was no one's fault. I don't want them to think it was anyone's fault.* It was a combination of circumstances and conditions being too much for one. One could not overcome and tackle them. I'm so deeply sorry about all the trouble that was necessary, could not be avoided - at the dragging something - I think he says dragging - someone or something in. Sorry, but it could not be helped. The malicious stupid, wrong interpretation given - possibly I should not say 'malicious', but it came to my mind - *wrong interpretation given to certain proceedings, exaggeration - I say so - certain aspects of the whole exaggerated.*<sup>42</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* The pool was dragged and had to be partly drained before his body was recovered.]

*Feda:* I ought to be here now, he says, here on earth now. I am sure they think so too. *I say again, blame no one, not even me.* I'll do my best to straighten things out, for three people's sakes. Tell them not to worry about me, I'm all right. It is wonderful that I am all right, but I am... You will see that I did not know, because they worry about it. They wonder why I ought to have been here now, but it cannot be helped. *I do not want them to think it was anyone's fault.* Yet I do not want them to think I was picked out by God, or some fate or some nonsense of that kind. Just a combination of circumstances were too much; no one's fault.

\* \* \*

After a message purporting to come from the sitter's father and unsuccessful efforts to give a woman's name which could

not be identified, the sitting ended with the following answer to the sitter's question:

*D. T.* Do you see the communicator?

*Feda:* No, I do not see them when they dictate, as he has been doing. It feels to Feda like a man labouring under a sort of anxiety, wanting to explain things, and as if he would only do it his own way.

It will be noticed in this sitting how the sensation of falling is emphasized (as in the Campbell sittings), also the fact, repeated so often, that it was 'no one's fault and no one should be blamed', an attitude very characteristic of Edgar.

Water is never mentioned, but 'the importance of air', and the 'dragging someone or something in' and the sensations described are all compatible with death by drowning and corroborate the previous sittings, in spite of the fact that this had become a spontaneous proxy sitting. Although Mr Drayton Thomas knew no details of Edgar Vandy's death, he decided that these references applied to him and sent the above record to George Vandy.

#### SITTING No. 4

15 September 1933

##### *Present*

Medium: Mrs Mason

Sitter: Mr George Vandy ('Mr J. Felton')

Note-taker: Miss Jolivard

##### *Place*

British College of Psychic Science, Queen's Gate,  
London, SW7

The next sitting in the series was held by Mr George Vandy on 15 September, with Mrs Mason at the British College of Psychic Science, Queen's Gate. The appointment was made in the name of 'John Felton' from an address in Jermyn Street, and Miss Jolivard accompanied him as note-taker. Neither of them had ever seen Mrs Mason previously.

The sitting began unsuccessfully with what G. V. describes as 'a certain amount of fumbling and fishing for a contact'. Allusions were made to four unidentifiable persons, until she finally mentioned the name of the Vandys' sister 'Millie'. This section is described by G. V. as 'vague and hazy, and left me wondering whether the fact that five years had passed since her death and the consequent loss of vividness in my own memory may account for the medium's blurred image. When Edgar

purported to come forward in answer to my vague request, the greater certainty of the statements and more vivid details are noticeable.’

G. V. Has she seen any other people yet?

*Medium: She speaks of having seen her brother, passed out young.*<sup>43</sup> She passed out before him. *There is a young man come in response to her call - I should think 34, or something like it.*<sup>44</sup>

[*Note: He was 38, but looked considerably younger.*]

An only partially correct description of Edgar’s appearance followed.

*Medium: He passed rather quick. I feel there was something – I would not say mystery about his passing - (pause) I really feel there was some mystery –*

G. V. Quite right.

*Medium: - as though none of you know much about his passing.*

G. V. Yes, I would like you to tell me something about it.

*Medium: He did not take his life. He definitely wanted to say that to you.*<sup>45</sup> He says he has not been dead long. Yes, he was a little older than he said, was he not about 36? I think I judged him 30 did I not? Speak to him will you?

There followed an effort to give initials connected with the Vandys, and then a repetitive description of Edgar’s death beginning with the statements:

*Medium: He died suddenly, and I am taken to a large building.*<sup>46</sup> [*Note: Edgar’s body was taken to the annexe of the house after being recovered from the pool.*] All I can really get from him is that he dropped down. Did he drop dead?

G. V. No.

*Medium: I get falling, feeling of falling (sometimes these conditions are rather vague).*<sup>47</sup> *He said he was with some other men and he said ‘I came over queer, everything went black and I do not know... [Repeated.] Do you know if he was shot or hurt in the back? He is giving me a pain right through here (touching back of the neck)*<sup>48</sup> and I feel almost as though I am tied up - a curious condition. It rather distresses him for the moment. He seems to be in a state of hardly knowing what did happen to him. Did he write a letter to you or to someone? Showing me a piece of paper to a lady.

G. V. No. Can he give us an idea of the few minutes before he passed out?

*Medium: He still persists in saying he was with these friends. Was he not found dead? He was suffocated, that is why I get the pain - he was suffocated, I can tell you that much.*

The medium continued to repeat the above statements; also that he had received a blow on the neck and that *he had called at a house just prior to his death*. She again repeated ‘Did he not meet with an accident?’

G. V. Yes.

*Medium: I get the blow. I get it he was knocked unconscious.*

*He was in a car or something was he not? He is showing a car.*<sup>49</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* Edgar drove to N- in Mr Jameson’s car accompanied by the latter’s mother. They called at the steward’s house immediately before Edgar and Jameson left for the pool and at this house were met by the steward and his wife and daughter.]

He is very rambling in his statements, showing me a scene as if he could have been near water, not a sea, a little amount of water. He does not give me the exact scene. I am sorry I cannot get whether he is not attempting to give it, or whether on the other hand his mind was temporarily paralyzed. I do not know. *At the time of his passing he was rather near this water. Was he drowned?*<sup>50</sup>

G. V. Yes.

*Medium:* Of course he was. *But I do not know how he came to get this blow, but he was found in the water.* I’m sure he was.

*How did he get the blow? Was it not found that he was hurt?*

He does not seem to know how, whether he was attacked. It must have been something of this kind. *He certainly had a blow, and I am getting as though he were semi-conscious when he was in the water. From what I see of the conditions it is as though it were strange that he was drowned. I feel that he can tell me more than he will tell me, but he might implicate someone else. That is what I feel, and he does not want to give it.*<sup>51</sup> He says it is a few months, is that so, but is it not a few weeks? It might seem like months or years to him.

G. V. Can he establish his identity?

*Medium:* He cannot give his name. Is there a Harry or Harold connected with him? Also I get the name of James? [*Note:* No answer was given, but ‘Harold’ was his brother. James was incorrect.] I am asking him to give me his name, but I only get the letter ‘P’ written up. [Incorrect.]

G. V. Can he for instance answer a simple question? Can he tell me the subject of the last book he was reading?

*Medium:* He answers ‘a book on travel’.

[*Note by G. V.:* Correct. It was *Scott’s Last Expedition.*]

There is a letter ‘T’ connected with him. I wish he could get his name, it would make it easier for him. There was a Ted or Fred connected with him.

[*Note by G. V.:* Our Cousin Ted accompanied me to the scene of the tragedy on the following day and rendered us very kindly service.]

G. V. Can he tell me something of his principal interest during the last ten years - his principal work?

*Medium:* First of all I will explain to you. This person is not talking to me. I am seeing it all, he shows pictures to me and I interpret it. *I interpret that he was rather fond of machinery. Is that so? He is putting up a lot of wires and machinery and wheels.*<sup>52</sup> I think from what I have seen of him he would have been very clever in that sort of work - inventive brain - very good inventor. References to the Vandys' mother and their dead sister Millie followed.

\* \* \*

After an unsuccessful attempt to give family names, to which G. V. gave no reply, G. V. asked the following question:

G. V. Cannot he give us a more specific idea of what he was doing, any particular thing?

*Medium:* He makes a funny answer - he says 'business'. Business does imply such a lot of things. He will not give any more than that, I am sorry.

The medium then alluded to having seen 'Harold' not long before he died (correct) and to a 'Peter' (incorrect) and continued -

*Medium:* He says 'I can remember Thursday, and went two days after', that would make it Sunday would it not?

[*Note:* Edgar spent the Thursday before his death with his brother Harold and had a bath with him at the Regent Street Polytechnic. He died on Sunday morning.]

*I cannot tell you whether the body was found, but I'm sure it had been in the water some little time before it was found.*<sup>53</sup> *He is quite certain of being found.* He said he entered the water early in the morning - about 10am [*Note:* incorrect, it was about 12pm] *He says he had been out in a car not long before he died and that it went wrong and that he had been with a lady?*<sup>54</sup>

[*Note:* Edgar drove to N- with Jameson's mother in the Car. Nothing went wrong with it.]

Please, does the name Ken or Len help you? I am sorry it is so snatchy. I hear the name of Ken or Len. Did he call you Ken or Len? There are two people please, two different people he knows. He knows Ken and Len and is pointing at you. There is a Ken and Len and this Harold, as though they were all friends.

[*Note by G. V.:* One of Edgar's greatest friends was 'Kenneth' and Edgar sometimes called him 'Ken'. A cousin named Leonard took a prominent part in the inquest; we refer to him familiarly as 'Len'. All were friendly with Edgar.]

In reply to a question by G. V. asking if Edgar could tell him what had gone wrong with some work Edgar had carried out in the house, the medium replied:

*Medium:* Painting?

G. V. No.

*Medium:* He says you mean a wireless, is that correct?

G. V. No.

*Medium:* Was he interested in that (wireless), because he speaks of that definitely to me.<sup>55</sup> He shows me, please, as though it is something to do with a building or a wall. He is going to the wall. I am afraid I would not understand what he means by this, he shows me the interior of a house, and all he does is to show me a room and that he is going to the wall or door.<sup>56</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* This is suspiciously like guesswork, but it happens to be correct. The job in question referred to the wiring in the house, part of which was concealed behind the beading of a door.]

*He was making something to do with machinery before he died. He shows me something - all I see is a jumble of wheels. Do you know what he means? He shows me as if he were going to patent it. It seems as if it is an engine kind of thing. Is that so? I cannot tell you exactly what it is, I would not understand it. It is machinery and wheels. He is showing me as if he were pulling it to pieces - as though it had got to be just so - he says if you will go on with it he will help you to get together, to make it work properly.*

[Remarks followed about the difficulty of communication.]

G. V. (handing the medium a sealed envelope): Can he say what is in this envelope?

*Medium:* This is to do with machinery, is it not? He says there is some drawing, and he shows me a sheet of paper, it looks as if it had some drawings on it. There is a tiny bit of writing, but I think you will find it more drawings. He cannot hold any longer. I am sorry he has not given his name.

[*Note by G. V.:* I did not know the contents of the envelope, which had been prepared unexpectedly by Harold and was handed to me when I called at his office for Miss Jolivard half an hour before the sitting. I deduced from the feel of it that it might be a small bundle of manuscript sheets or letters. I asked Miss Jolivard, the note-taker, for her impressions and she replied 'a bundle of letters'. The envelope contained a single sheet of paper folded, and on it was an experimental drawing made by the machine invented by Edgar. It was the words 'First Floor' in black outline letters with red centres, the whole surrounded by a geometric border. The two words might be interpreted as 'the little bit of writing'. The whole of the matter was drawn.]

G. V. points out in his comments on this sitting that the facts of Edgar's death were arrived at in a curiously indirect manner; the medium was obviously getting impressions of a blow on the head and (later) water, and she seemed unable to reconcile them. She did not give such a definite and detailed account of Edgar's work or his death as Miss Campbell, and there are contradictory statements to be found in the sitting. It would be an overstatement to describe this sitting as a complete success, but the medium displayed knowledge of the tragedy and Edgar's interest in mechanical matters.

Accurate information not already given by other mediums consisted of:

- (1) The subject of the last book read by Edgar.
- (2) The contents of the sealed envelope (unknown to the sitter).
- (3) The names of 'Harold' (brother), 'Millie' (sister), 'Ted' and 'Len' (cousins), 'Ken' (friend).

(It should be added that five inaccurate names were also given during the sitting.)

#### SITTING No. 5

##### *Present*

Medium: Miss Naomi Bacon

Sitter: Mr Harold Vandy ('Mr Greenbaum')

Note-taker: Miss Jolivard

##### *Place*

British College of Psychic Science, Queen's Gate,  
London, SW7

On 19 October Harold Vandy made an appointment (under the name of Greenbaum) with another medium, Miss Bacon, at Queen's Gate, and took Miss Jolivard with him as note-taker. He states that he was particularly careful to give no leads of any kind to the medium, with the result that after a time she removed the bandage she had placed over her eyes (her usual habit) and suggested that the sitting should be abandoned as a failure. However, as increasingly good impressions still appeared to be coming to her, although she was evidently unaware of their accuracy, he persuaded her to continue.

The sitting opened with the description of an elderly man (purporting to be the Vandys' father) and contained nothing of value until H. V. produced a roll which was one of the paper records from the original model of the Lectroline machine and

made by Edgar himself. After an inaccurate allusion to an unknown child, the sitting continued:

*Medium:* Whoever this belonged to, did he not pass out in a very tragic way?

H. V. Well, yes.

*Medium:* I have a sensation of something very difficult. I feel as though I am going under somewhere, as though in some way I am losing contact in a very extraordinary manner. Just as though something has happened. I feel very cold when I hold this, as though something had happened. (Long pause.) You see I am not allowed to tell you what I see unless I tell you correctly, because a gentleman came, but much younger than the one I described - rather light brown hair, blue-grey eyes - I cannot quite see his age, he seems as if he would have something to do with this. Would there not be two people who would pass over at the time?

H. V. No.

*Medium:* I do not know why I am getting that sensation, it is like bending over someone who has fallen on the ground. I am sorry to be so stupid. There is someone here, I cannot get him to manifest clearly or to show me how he passed over. I am only getting a rather sudden and tragic passing. Would you understand the reason why I feel so deadly cold?

H. V. I could probably understand that.

*Medium:* I am all wet and cold, I seem to be floating and in water for some reason. I have the sensation of someone passing out that way.<sup>57</sup> It seems to me that the one you want has only just passed out recently and are you not sure at the way he passed out?

H. V. Yes.

(Repetition of above remarks followed.)

*Medium:* It is rather upsetting me, as his passing was very extraordinary. He did not suffer in passing over - *I am getting a sensation of floating out on to water, as though something happened, but I am in water.* Is that wrong?

H. V. Not altogether.

*Medium:* Whoever it is giving me this feeling of floating out in water, there is some difficulty in getting him here. I do not know what it is. He is rather thin, the gentleman I see, but when the hair was not brushed back it would be very thick and stick up. [Note by H. V.: Correct.] He has got a very worried look and a very tragic look round his mouth. Whether it is the strain when passing over or before, I do not know, but he certainly looks very unhappy. He has bright coloured eyes and he is trying to enact the scene of his passing. *It was an accident* and I do not know why but it is so wet at the time. I am sorry to be so stupid, he is trying to assist me, but the way he passed out was most peculiar, and *I seem to get a grasping sensation of some sort, as though I*

*cannot hold on to the earth and had to let go. Someone here was drowned in water and I cannot make it out at all. Do you come from another country?*

H. V. No.

A short description of an unidentified place abroad followed.

H. V. No, that would not be correct.

*Medium:* Wait a moment, yes, I am not getting things right - I wonder why he is reluctant to give things... (repetition of previous description of Edgar's appearance followed)... I am sorry I am not able to make the right contact, there is something which is putting me out, and I cannot go on with it. It is to do with the passing of whoever this belongs to.

H. V. Can you not tell me about it, because this is really what I want to know?

*Medium:* It is so sad, and I am seeing the gentleman so upset.

He is in an awful state, and it seems as though the way it happened was so sad, but it was not anything to do with him.

*If anyone thought it was deliberate, I do not get it as so.*<sup>58</sup>

He seems to be in a most unhappy state - he is in such a muddle - yes, I feel his passing has caused a lot of trouble, a lot of sorrow.

H. V. This is usually the case.

*Medium:* No, more than usual by the way he passed out. *It was not his fault, it seems to be something which happened under very unusual conditions, as far as he is trying to show me. He seems to be very unwilling to assist me just now. He has got a very nice face but the eyes seem very worried and whether he was secretive on earth I cannot tell you, but he certainly seems like it now.*<sup>59</sup> I am sorry it would not be fair to go on with this sitting, because I am not able to tell you what he is talking about.

H. V. Who was there, I should like to know?

*Medium:* I do not know. *He seems to show me a scene where he was found and where he would be picked up, because he is showing me someone bending over him or picking him up. I cannot quite see what scene he is showing me, it seems all confusion, and I am out-of-doors when it happened. I am seeing two people bending over him, as though they were trying to help him.* (Long pause.)

[*Note by G. V.:* Artificial respiration was tried.]

*Oh, he gives me such frightful pain, I do not know what happened all over my body, it is just as though I had been broken.*<sup>60</sup> I am very, very sorry for this gentleman, but I think he is wrong in the way he is showing me. Perhaps I made more of it than what it was, but it was certainly very serious and very peculiar. [Repeated reference to 'two people bending over him', and to his reluctance to talk.] *Would you understand why I get this awful pain with the*

*body? It is most shocking and seemed to happen in a most unusual way.*

H. V. Where do you feel the pain? (Medium indicated from left hip to right shoulder.)

[*Note:* In the report of the inquest the doctor who held the postmortem was quoted as saying that there were ‘marks of abrasions’ on the right shoulder and left side of the body.]

*Medium:* I do not think he is capable yet to give the evidence that I wanted him to. You were not there when he passed. It is only a short time ago, and the whole thing is so complicated. *I get the sensation of wet and cold, I cannot tell you who stood near, but I get the impression of being in water, as though I was dropped in water.* I cannot get the message from him I want to. Did you go to another medium, and did he give you better evidence?

H. V. Yes.

*Medium:* Would not three weeks ago do with his passing?

H. V. No.

*Medium:* More than that? I do not know what he means. I am only seeing the scene of his passing which is so difficult.

It would not be fair for me to go on with this sitting, as I am not getting the contact right. It is best to cancel it. I am not allowed to talk unless it is correct. He is not old; this man, he is fairly young. My guides say they are unable to make the contact correctly so it is better to cancel it.

Here the medium came out of trance and spoke under normal conditions.

*I feel as if I had been drowned.* It seemed as if he wanted to get through to you more than you to him. *I do not get the passing out rapidly, it was not immediate. I also sense that it was quite an accident in a way, but if plans had been changed, or something had happened, it would not have happened.<sup>61</sup> It was all wrong, and I do not know whether a wrong conception has been put upon it,<sup>62</sup> but he is saying it is such a mistake, because he need not have been in that place at that time. Is it right that you cannot get accurate information as to what happened, and that they did not tell you, and there is something being hushed up,* because he is saying ‘I do not think you will be able to prove it on earth. It is something which was done and I do not know whether you will really get the truth about it?’

The medium again repeated her previous statements that it was not suicide - that Edgar was drowned - that his body was pulled out of the water eventually and that two people were bending over it. This was followed by two inaccurate statements, (1) that his body was not buried, and (2) that the scene was more like the sea than a pond or lake.

At this point H. V. pointed to the roll containing the record which lay on the table and said: ‘Can he give any information about that?’ but received a vague reply of no value.

The medium then continued about Edgar and said:

*Medium:* He was extremely clever and humorous and had a very unusual brain, and he keeps saying to me it was a mistake his being there at that time. He is telling me he gave you some evidence elsewhere. Have you got something through another medium?

H. V. Yes.

(Pause.)

*Medium:* *Someone was there and knows what happened but will not own up. It was not done when he was alone.*<sup>63</sup> Does the name 'James' mean anything to you? - I get a 'J' something like James. (The medium tried a long while but did not get beyond James.) There were three other people round, and there was a man who knew all about it.

[*Note by H. V.:* Eventually there must have been more than three people present. Jameson of course knows all there is to be known.]

Some repetition of the above remarks followed, and then the medium said:

I am not certain if he has ever been found. He seems as if he does not know. *If this other person who was with him had not been cowardly, it would not have happened. This other man knows about it and will not say. I do not know if he was frightened and got out of the way and left him, because he is asking me to tell you that.*<sup>64</sup> Is there someone called George in that connection, and this man he is trying to get 'J'?

[*Note by H. V.:* George, my brother, and 'J' Jameson?]

\* \* \*

More repetition followed about his friend not rescuing him and failing to admit it, until H. V. asked a question:

H. V. Can he describe the nature of his principal work?

*Medium:* *He was extremely clever at something he was doing, and it has upset him terribly because all his work has stopped on earth and that is his greatest grief.*

*He shows me a room, and I do not know if it is to do with wireless or radio, but it is like machinery and machines going very rapidly, as though they were producing something.*<sup>65</sup> *All this machinery seems to go up and down.* I do not say it is electrical, the machines are actually producing something... He seems to have something to do in tending them. I do not get it quite accurately. There is a terrific noise.

H. V. Were there several machines?

*Medium:* Not in the room he was in, there are in other parts, but there seems to be only one with him. Would lithography or

something of that work come into it? *He says lithography or something to do with printing,*<sup>66</sup> and I think he was clever in something he was helping to do.

[*Note by H. V.:* This is the first time a medium has definitely stated his work was connected with lithography and that he was particularly clever in something connected with it. It is a remarkable and evidential statement.]

There were more machines, but he did a particular thing, and *I do not know whether photography comes into it as well, but he is trying to show me plates or something.*<sup>67</sup> It seems to be very fine work, but in the actual room he is in I do not get many machines, but one special machine. In other parts of the building there are more, but he had a special thing. He was very accurate in it and took a great pride in it. They would have a difficulty in doing the exact work after he passed, because he was specially trained on it or had patented it.

[*Note by H. V.:* The last attachment Edgar made for the 'Lectroline' was a device for ruling very fine lines. In order to test how fine and close together he could draw the lines he used an old photographic negative and replaced the pen by a razor edge he specially made. This cut through the film. In an adjoining room of the premises are seven copper plate printing presses and an engraving machine. It is correct that no one understood or could work the Lectroline with the same efficiency as Edgar.]

He seems to know you so well, and I feel as though the thing goes on or would go on. Was it not a secret process? He says you know about it. I do not know whether a medal would have been given to him in an exhibition, or if he was going in for it, but it is a new process. Is lithography a kind of printing?

[*Note by H. V.:* 'New process' is correct. 'Medal' not understood. It is remarkable that the medium should be able to sense such an unusual and difficult word as 'lithography'.]

*Medium:* There is an initial 'B' given to me, a name like Baxter. Anyway, it is a man's name. 'B'.

[*Note:* Edgar's friend with the name nearest to this is a Mr Bracher, who made a few parts of the original experimental machine for Edgar. He also had a friend named Bartram.]

At this point the medium again returned to the circumstances of Edgar's death, repeating exactly what she had said before, about the failure of his friend to help him. H. V. then commented:

You cannot get hold of the nature of his work?

*Medium:* It would be a secret process like paper would be done in a secret way not known outside. *He is holding paper up to the light.*<sup>68</sup> It is a secret printing on this thing and would

only be known to himself. It would be a thing someone could not copy, a secret machine, like if you would hold up a bank-note you would see the water-mark through it. It would be more like Bank of England notes.

[*Note by H. V.:* It will be noted by the way I asked the question it would suggest to the medium that her former remarks on this subject were not quite correct. Nevertheless it will be seen she was not put off by this and continued with fairly accurate statements. The essential features of these statements are correct, but the medium has evidently put her own interpretation on to a strong impression of the machine.]

The remainder of the sitting was occupied by the medium in answering certain question put to her by the sitter.

The first concerned a time spent by Edgar in a camp with a friend in Ireland, but the answers were not verified or of any significance.

The subsequent questions (what was he doing with H. V. during the last time they went out together, and what was the nature of the last book he was reading) also produced replies of no significance. A method of direct question and answer is rarely successful in sittings, and the most accurate information usually comes spontaneously from the medium, in her own time.

An example of this is to be found in the answer to the final question: 'Can he tell me something outside my knowledge which his cousin Will would recognize?'

The reply consisted of a description of a non-existent silver watch, but was followed by an accurate account of the injuries received by Edgar in an accident as a child.

*Medium: I do not know whether it was as a child, but he had a scar on a certain part of his body which still remains.*

*H. V. What part of the body?*

*Medium: He was, as a child, knocked on the head or brow which left a scar.<sup>69</sup> Whether it was a fall I do not know, but he is also saying that under his arm there is a distinct mole.*

[*Note:* Edgar received a bad injury to his forehead as a child when, on being thrown from a trap, he fell on an old broken musical box which left a very prominent scar on his brow. This fact was also mentioned by Miss Campbell in her sitting with G. V. on 24 August (page 8). The statement about the mole is also correct and is made here for the first time.]

A further inaccurate reference to the silver watch followed and an allusion to 'a paper of some kind which his cousin William has in his pocket-case. There are only two or three lines written on a piece of paper and it is doubled over with these few lines of writing on it. He says there is something which this gentleman has in his pocket-book which he had from him, which he kept and which you do not know.'

[*Note added later by G. V.:* His cousin William had provided most of the financial aid for the first commercial model of the machine which was built in his City premises, so it is very likely that he had something in his pocket-book concerning Edgar. Unfortunately, his death made this reference unverifiable.]

The details of Edgar's death by drowning and his reluctance to discuss them, the denial that it was suicide, the presence of someone else who did not try to save him, and also the reference to the scar on his forehead as a proof of his identity, all are in line with previous statements made by other mediums - with the exception of the erroneous references to his body having been unburied and the scene having been 'more like the sea than a lake'.

Correct statements made for the first time in this sitting consisted of:

- (1) The mention of 'lithography' in connection with the 'new process' invented by Edgar.
- (2) The use of 'photographic plates' in connection with the machine.
- (3) The effort (only partially successful) to give Jameson's name as 'the man who was present' at Edgar's death 'but will not own up'.
- (4) The existence of a mole under Edgar's right arm.
- (5) The bruises on Edgar's right shoulder and left side of his body (mentioned in the report of the inquest).

The above facts were all known to the sitter.

#### SITTING No. 6

11 November 1933

#### *Present*

Medium: Miss Naomi Bacon  
 Sitter: Mr George Vandy ('Mr Calvert')  
 Note-taker: Mr E. Foster

#### *Place*

British College of Psychic Science, Queen's Gate,  
 London, SW7

Mr George Vandy decided to have a sitting with Miss Bacon, but as he had already had one sitting at the British College of Psychic Science, Queen's Gate (with Mrs Mason), he was very careful to cover his identity.

The appointment was made by letter from an address in Eltham, and he took the name of 'Mr Calvert'. He took with

him as note-taker, Mr E. Foster, an expert shorthand writer, but gave him no details of his task until the day of the sitting. The latter knew very little about Edgar and nothing about the machine, which he had never seen, and he had never visited a medium before.

On arrival at Queen's Gate they were admitted by a stranger and saw no one else. It was a Saturday afternoon and the office was closed and the house empty except for a housekeeper and the medium. They were shown upstairs to the medium by the housekeeper almost immediately, and it is safe to say that no one could have connected G. V. with the 'Mr Felton' who had been there on 15 September.

The question again arises (as in the case of Miss Campbell) whether the medium 'sensed' a connection between him and his brother's visit on 19 October, and this possibility must be borne in mind when studying the sitting, which contains a great deal of identical information.

Mr George Vandy states:

'The sitting was a long one. The preliminaries were brief and the medium bandaged her eyes with a yellow bandage (her usual habit) and apparently slipped into a light trance, her voice and mannerisms of speech remaining normal. She immediately began to talk of Edgar, who was the sole subject of the sitting. There were numerous pauses of varying duration, during which the medium appeared to get her impressions. A number of the statements are framed as questions to which I did not reply - indeed the manner in which they were put did not seem to call for a reply. It will be noted that I said very little during the sitting.'

The sitting began with a description of Edgar's death and the similarity with that given in H. V.'s sitting, including the inaccurate statement regarding 'the sea', will be noticed.

*Medium:* Good afternoon. If I talk very quickly - I will try not to - I don't want to get the message mixed up for you both, and will try and get over direct... A young man came first - I will describe him. He has a very nice face - looks as if he would be 28 or 27. He has a wide forehead - with thick hair on top of a rather light colour - bluish-grey eyes - a very firm mouth, and clean-shaven. He has got a very intense look and a *cut across the forehead*.<sup>70</sup> *I do not think he has been over very long.* I am very impressed by his face, especially the mouth and chin. There is a small cleft in the chin... there was no illness with his passing.

[*Note by G. V.:* This is a very good description of Edgar apart from the colour of his hair - which was dark. The mention of the intense look and the cut on his forehead - the scar of a

wound obtained as a child - calls for special attention... He was 38 but looked several years younger.]

He is standing in front of you as if he knows you. I am rather puzzled about his passing - he does not seem to understand very much about it at present. He is looking at you as if he had been through some ordeal - he is in a very worried state about it. I do not know whether he was a strong swimmer, - there is sea at the back of him - whether he has been swimming I cannot say. He seems to be very unhappy at the way he went over. I do not want to go on with this - of course - it is not as strong I want it to be - in his eyes there is a sort of expression as much as to say: 'Yes, it was all so extraordinary, and I was so helpless, and nothing apparently could be done.' It seems as if it was not a dark day when he went over - it seems daylight. I am seeing him as if he went into the sea, or near the sea, because I am seeing him on the shore about to go in. *I do not know what this means, whether he was not a strong swimmer and had an accident that way... I hardly like to tell you, but there was something very like anguish, as if he could have been saved. If help had been given, he need not have passed over. I am in the water - he was apparently in difficulties - and it is as if there was someone else - one is in difficulties, but no one listened to him calling out- no one heard him except this man, who was rather worried.*<sup>71</sup> I do not know if it is the turn of the tide, it is something like that - he got caught under, or in the turn of the tide. *He could swim, and he is saying that he went to the other side in a most despairing way, feeling there was not a hand or anything stretched out to save him.* He has been upset but has got over it now and is quiet and resigned. I do not think he knew this man [Note: incorrect], but he may have done, unless there were a party out together. He was not alone in the water - there are other people by the water [Note: incorrect, as far as is known], and it seems a very nice place. It looks something like the sea. *He is telling me he was not alone - there was somebody near him who swam away or got out and did not wait to help him.*<sup>72</sup> He is distinctly asking me to say that. It would seem strange, because he was accustomed to going in the water, and it is almost - I do not quite know - it was something beyond him - he seems to have been caught under. (*sotto voce*: yes, just a minute, please.) [Note by G. V.: Jameson told us he ran for assistance. When meagre assistance was given, it came too late.] He has got a very fine face, especially the forehead, and would have been very clever with his hands, and he uses them in a very delicate way on some very fine work that he was engaged upon at the time - it was something he was especially proud of. He had a very light touch with his hands, and this work would mean a great deal to him in the future. *It appears to me like an*

*improvement to a kind of thing which u very extraordinary to look at. It is a kind of frame set up on something, as though suggestive of a printing process, and he keeps peeling papers off.<sup>73</sup> At times he holds a thing up, and it looks transparent. He is trying to show me this and to say that no one could compete with him in what he was doing with this particular thing.*

[*Note by G. V.:* Two or three weeks before his death Edgar was experimenting with a method of using the machine for etching very fine parallel lines on a photographic plate. The lines could only be seen when the plate was held up to the light.]<sup>74</sup>

At this point the medium returned to the subject of Edgar's death and emphasized that it was not deliberate and again spoke of the water being 'high', which gives the impression that she was thinking in terms of the sea, which was not correct.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* He seemed... to have a genius for something he did with his hands. I cannot quite tell you what he is showing me - it is in a room - there is a crest on the paper, it is something to do with colouring matter - coloured inks - and I feel there would be pictures or etchings or engravings on it.

[*Note:* This is the first mention by any medium that the machine could draw with coloured inks or water colours.]

He showed me - *he held up something in his hands to the light, to look at it. Whether it was part of photography - lithographs or photographs - I could not say.*<sup>75</sup> Whether he inherited this gift, I could not say... He seems very upset, he was perfecting a process or was working in a way for his own advancement, something he wanted to bring through - some idea.

[*Note:* It would be remembered that the medium referred to lithographs and photography in her previous sitting with H. V. on 19 October, page 45.]

Who is Harold on the earth? Is it another friend? He is talking about Harold.

[*Note:* The name Harold was correctly given to H. V. also in his sitting.]

\* \* \*

The medium then described Edgar as having worn uniform while in camp in Ireland. This was accurate, as Edgar went to Ireland with his regiment in 1918, but she had already been given the lead on this subject by H. V.'s question in his sitting.

After an irrelevant description of an unidentified Cathedral city, the medium reverted to Edgar's work and said:

*Medium:* I do not know whether he was doing any other printing - would he understand printing?

G. V. Yes.

*Medium:* I am sorry I said printing, but what he showed me looked like that - perhaps it was not printing, I do not know if he was very clever when he was younger. He is most clever with his hands producing something on a machine. I do not quite see what he is talking about. He is trying to reproduce something on machinery, and it would seem as if this machinery would not be where he was, but in the place around him... [Attempts to give initials followed.] Whether he was connected with some telegraph or cable system I do not know, and that you cannot place exactly can you?

G. V. Not exactly.

*Medium:* He is trying to say it would be secret, inward or not known. Either cable or telegraph work or something like that - the thing came into it... [Repeated.]

[*Note by G. V.:* Edgar was very interested in cable and telegraph and this statement of the medium can have two interpretations: (a) the Lectroline Machine is controlled by electricity operating through a system of automatic telephone units; (b) at the time of his death he was actively engaged on his big improvement for automatic telephony.]

During the rest of the sitting the medium concentrated alternately on descriptions of Edgar's work and inventions and on the circumstances of his death, breaking off abruptly from one subject to the other, as if she had suddenly received a fresh impression and was anxious to describe it quickly before it vanished. In order not to confuse the reader by breaking the continuity of the descriptions of his work these will be given consecutively, and asterisks will mark the places where details of his death interrupted them. The descriptions of his death will not be omitted but will follow afterwards.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* Whether this thing he is trying to show me is a kind of code I do not know, but if it had been finished it would have made a great change in certain directions. *I have got to ask you a certain question: whether he was connected at one time with cables or wireless - or something like that? He seems to understand a switchboard, as though he is perfecting something to do with wireless - or television. He was so clever at this, and he is showing me a bulb, batteries and other things near the switchboard.<sup>76</sup> I seem as though I am looking through glass plates with pictures on them. He is sitting at the switchboard as though he knew all about it. Whether he transmitted messages I do not know, because I cannot describe it. He is trying to show me a picture of it.*

G. V. What does it look like?

*Medium: In some ways it looks like a printed thing, something beautifully printed. It came out of a thing in a beautiful print - he is trying to show me as well as he can - in a very beautiful finished manner and process of duplication?<sup>77</sup> I do not see any connection with this printing and the switchboard - whether he did two things at one time. I see him at a kind of switchboard, controlling valves - and then I see him at this secret thing, and whether he printed it himself I do not know, but it is most beautiful work. I do not know what the printing was, it is not an ordinary book, and he was not satisfied with it, because I do not feel by the way he is talking that he had come to the end of his research on that.*

[*Note by G. V.:* Edgar was intensely interested in wireless and all electrical science. The reference to a 'code' is too vague to be of value. It could apply equally well to the Lectroline machine or his improvements for automatic telephony. A switchboard with a red and greenish-blue bulb on it and batteries are parts of the equipment of the Lectroline Machine. The Lectroline draws lettering in a beautifully finished manner that is almost impossible of achievement by hand. He had not by any means finished his research and had worked out many ideas for improving future models.]

*Medium:* I do not know whether the machine has been covered over?

G. V. Yes.

*Medium:* Or if this was in his own home, I am not sure, because it has been covered over and has not been used since.

[*Note by G. V.:* It had been used once.]

I do not know whether he had a friend called 'D', a letter 'D' was shown me, also 'E'? I am trying to get his name.

[*Note by G. V.:* He had a cousin Donald who helped him considerably in the early days of record making.]

I do not know if this is right, but several other people would be interested in this invention beside himself and would want to put money into it. I think it includes you, does it not? However, he is so upset, because it would have been something to revolutionize - and meant a tremendous amount of success for everybody. *He is terribly upset because apparently people lent him money for this thing, and he says 'How can I ever pay them back? They put their faith in me. They put money into it, and however shall I pay the money back?'*<sup>78</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* It did include me. I think this remark is very characteristic of Edgar.]

He wants to set up, if possible, a code of communication with you. Haven't you a brother younger than yourself? I think Harold is mentioned - I am not positive about this - but

it is you and your brother and Harold and another gentleman.

\* \* \*

The medium continued by describing the method of communication by rapping on a table and urged the sitter to try it.

*Medium:* He is so desperately anxious and has said: 'All my plans have been destroyed because of this happening. He begs that you won't think he was worrying at the time. He was annoyed that anyone should have had that in their minds. *There are a lot of tiny things like letters - they are all inked.*<sup>79</sup> *I do not know if he was perfecting a process of secret printing,*<sup>80</sup> and is it not printing that could only be read and understood by certain people?

G. V. No, it could be read by anybody.

[*Note by G. V.:* The medium had an erroneous impression that the machine is a printing process. *Added later by G. V.:* Although the Lectroline Machine was not a printing machine it was invented to produce automatically originals for printing (a) by drawing originals on aluminium or zinc sheets for planographic printing, known as lithography; (b) by drawing automatically in black ink on white card originals which could be photographed for line blocks for typographic (or letterpress) printing. The beautifully drawn originals would seem to a non-technical and inexpert eye to be printed, and if the mediums got visual impressions of the machine and its work - and their remarks suggest that they had done so - they could easily fall into the error of describing it as printing. 'Printing' is also a common term for any series of words not in ordinary handwriting.]

*Medium:* Well, it is so fine I cannot explain - however, the letters looked different, they stood out, and the whole thing is so beautiful and well thought out, and if it were produced no one would be able to copy it, and it could be used for documents and things like that.

[*Note by G. V.:* Incorrect.]

He seems to live very simply, if you went to his home you would not find much that he had. He also was engaged on other work at the time, so that two things could be done at once.

[*Note by G. V.:* He was engaged on his improvement for automatic telephony.]

You have a knowledge of one - of electricity, and something else he was actually engaged in. He says: I am obsessed only with the idea of how to finish this - how to get it done.' At present you have only looked at the thing, you have touched it, but you have not gone on with it.

[*Note by G. V.:* I had only just peeped at his telephone model. I dared not touch it.]

The secret was something - it was a peculiar way - I do not know what he is trying to show me - I do not know if he typed the letters, *it is the peculiar way the letters were placed. Apparently they were placed in a little thing that he shows me, and it seems to simplify and do two or three things at once, as though instead of four or five people having to handle it, it could be handled by one man and the whole thing completed.*<sup>81</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* The letters are recorded on a roll of paper the size of a pianola roll, a complete alphabet on each roll. The same roll will draw many thousands of different sizes and variations. The originals for several printing colours can be drawn at one operation. The machine easily does the work of four or five men; on some classes of work it reaches ten man-power. (*Added later by G. V.:* The little thing is undoubtedly the paper roll on which the alphabet was recorded.)]

\* \* \*

There followed a repetition of trivial details about Edgar's appearance, and attempts to give initials or Christian names of his relatives and friends which were only partially correct; also an unsuccessful attempt to give the contents of a book (wrapped in a parcel) belonging to Edgar and handed to the medium by G. V.

\* \* \*

*Medium:* On this printing machine - [*sotto voce*] I'm sorry I called it that, Sir - would he not have printed his own books on it?

[*Note by G. V.:* The medium's apology was made under her breath, as though some other person was present who corrected her description of the machine. The Lectroline is definitely not a printing machine.]

It is something he was trying to do which would save such a lot of labour, like four people's work done at once. It seemed to do away with many things. I do not know whether folding comes into it, a pushing in of paper - it seems automatically to do that, and *I see a lot of block capitals.*<sup>82</sup>

[*Note by G. V.:* When the machine is at work the paper records unroll and rewind automatically. Edgar's favourite record for demonstrating was one with block capitals.]

\* \* \*

The descriptions of Edgar's death to which the medium repeatedly returned contained no new information, but confirmed what the other mediums had already said.

*Medium: I do not know whether he was suggesting that somebody might have prevented his passing out, or that there might have been a questionable incident about it. Was not somebody suspected? Well, he wants to make it quite clear that there was nothing intentionally done. It was merely done by fear on the part of somebody else who went away without giving assistance. It was a cowardly act, but not done intentionally.<sup>83</sup>*

An allusion to a friend named 'Walter' followed, and a reference to Edgar's death and the delay in finding his body; also his musical talent and skill with his hands.

*Medium: He says he feels very ashamed of the way he passed.*

It was so stupid, and such a crazy thing to do. I feel I want to ask them to forgive me for doing such a crazy thing at the time, but I did not know it was dangerous.'

G. V. Can he tell us exactly what happened?

*Medium: He passed out through water, and yet it seems it need not have happened. I do not think it was a swimming bath. I am in a private kind of pool, and I am getting diving and things like that. Yes, I am out-of-doors, I am not enclosed - it is like a private swimming pool.*

[*Note: It will be remembered that earlier in the sitting and also in the previous sitting with H. V. the medium described the sea as the scene of the tragedy. This is the first time she has given a correct impression.*]

*Medium: You know he had a blow on the head when he passed over - he banged part of his scalp.*

G. V. How did he do that?

*Medium: Were you diving [sotto voce]? No, his foot slipped, and the bottom of this pool is not bricked in.*

[*Note: The bottom was cemented.*]

He is talking about catching his foot in the bottom, being drawn under. I am not sure if someone was diving at the time. There was a diving board [correct] and whether someone knocked him or not I do not know, because he remembers going under and feeling a distinct blow on the head. He could not come up, as he apparently lost consciousness under water. This water should have been transparent, and it is very extraordinary nobody saw that, but *he distinctly said there was another man there at the same time who should have known he was hurt. He said: 'I do not altogether blame him'.*<sup>84</sup> He has a sensation of being drawn underneath. I do not know whether the bottom was bricked or tiled, but it seems as though there was some grass at the bottom.

[*Note by G. V.:* There was no grass, but a little slime, and the evidence at the inquest stated that the water was not transparent.]

It is an open-air pool, and he said he distinctly must have fallen forward and crashed in and knocked his head, but he knows there was somebody swimming there at the time... *he talks to me as though he was under the water some little time before he was found. It is very strange why he went to the bottom, and he is talking of the sensation of falling and dizziness.*<sup>85</sup> *He is not giving the agony of passing out as though of being drowned and fighting against it. With him I get a numbness of the brain, and I am not being choked at all, not like a swimmer fighting for his breath. As he stood near me I felt a distinct blow or crack on the head, and a pain at the back of the neck, and I seem as if I had fallen forward?*<sup>86</sup> Whether he was foolish enough to have dived I do not know. It is the first time he attempted it. He did not die of suffocation like a swimmer does. He is very calm. He said:

‘Of course I might, in the state of mind I am now, say I am not conscious. I am not bothering about what I did when I was on earth, but I am just as close, and more anxious about it than I was before. Feeling, thought and sensation are still with me and, as a matter of fact, more so.’

I do not think he was in love with anybody - he may have been, but he does not mention it to me. He was very devoted to his men friends. He had a beautiful mind - a technical mind - and also was joyous at the idea of this discovery. He was thinking how it would have brought in a sum of money afterwards, and his friends would understand his genius. He says ‘I have good friends’ and he asked me to talk about you, how good you were, and how you trusted him in this.

He gave me a date in July. Has it not something to do with him?

G. V. What did he say about July?

*Medium:* Whether he was doing a certain thing in July. I will try to re-act his passing which he is trying to show me: *‘I was sliding to the bottom of the pool in this very fainting condition, owing to pitching forward in some way and knocking his head just before. I seem to be sliding down below the water.’* He may have come up, but I do not know. *He was not discovered till about an hour afterwards.*<sup>87</sup>

[*Note:* This is correct, although he was drowned in only seven feet of water.]

*Whether he was tired when he went in I do not know - he is giving me a particularly tired feeling about himself.* That sometimes he wears glasses to read I do not know, but *he passed his hand before his head as though before going in he was very tired.*<sup>88</sup> I think this pool - would it belong to a certain place? I do not know - it seems so extraordinary.

There were not many people about at the time, there only seems to be him and another man, and nobody else. If there had been, I feel he could have been brought out and saved.

Do you know what 'A' means - you, sir?

G. V. I am not 'A'.

No further information regarding Edgar's death or his work was given in this sitting, but there were several topics of interest which are worth mentioning.

*1. Impressions of G. V.'s and H. V.'s places of employment.*

*Medium:* Someone paid the rent of the place where this machine was, didn't you?

G. V. No, I did not.

*Medium:* There was always a bother about getting rent - rent of a place. He is asking me about rent of a place. He is making me laugh. Didn't you have a lot to do with houses, sir, I am getting an impression of someone who built houses, or something rather to do with houses. It is some friend who built houses. It looks like on new ground, as though it were a line of new houses that stretch out in rather an extraordinary district. I do not know if it is outside London - suburb, it may be. The place he is showing me looks as if it were new land being built on.

[*Note by G. V.:* My younger brother, Harold, is an estate agent and has charge of an estate of small houses in an outlying suburb of London that agrees with this description.]

I do not know if I am far from the river, I am not quite sure about that - whether there is a river near - but it looks like what you might see the other side of the Thames, going downwards - you know - the way the big liners go when they go out to sea.

[*Note by G. V.:* My office window faces along Galleons Reach and is almost opposite the entrance to King George V Dock. I am able to see the largest liners that come to the Port of London enter and leave their berths. Galleons Reach is generally crowded with craft at high tide.]

He is making me laugh and is talking about somebody - a friend of his, who built houses or had an interest in them. It was on flat land - very much like, he is showing me - Rotherhithe - or it may mean anything going in that direction. He was trying to show me some scene or place he was interested in there.

[*Note by G. V.:* It will be seen that two impressions, one agreeing with my brother's work and one with mine, have become mixed.]

Irrelevant details followed and instructions about table-turning.

### 2. *Edgar's name*

For the first time his name was given correctly. After an unsuccessful attempt to describe dead relatives, the medium suddenly said:

May I ask a question? Have I given his initials all right?  
(No answer.) There is a 'D' in it - Ed. - Ed. - Ed - gar or Ed - ward. - Edgar.

G. V. His name was Edgar.

### 3. *The missing diary*

In reply to a direct question by the sitter where the missing volume was to be found the medium replied:

These diary books are small - he is trying to push one into his pocket. He is trying to show me the room that he used. It is a small bedroom, as if he would keep things in it. Would you know who would take care of either books or things that he is trying to show me? A file of his papers. He had a great many things that he wrote out. He is describing it as being *in a kind of case and about so big* (indicating size with her hands).<sup>89</sup> Is that not right? Somebody else is holding it. Well, I have it in a sense, that it was his - as if he stuffed into it a lot of odd papers. He did not keep a file, but he thinks these diary books are not large, they are of medium size. There is only one missing. *He keeps on taking me to this case.* You know his bedroom - would he not drag sometimes a case from under the bed?

[*Note by G. V.:* Several months after this sitting the missing diary was found with two other private note-books (one the beginning of a book on philosophic reasoning) locked away in Edgar's microscope box, a large mahogany box about the size indicated by the medium. It was not in his bedroom, but in the lounge.]

A description of his bedroom followed, and also a suggestion by the medium that some locked drawers in his desk might contain part of the missing diary, which was incorrect. After again begging his brother to try and make direct contact with him, the medium finished the sitting with the remark:

He has got a wonderful smile; wouldn't he look a bit like Lindbergh?

G. V. I have never noticed the resemblance.

*Medium:* He has got such a nice-shaped head.

[*Note by G. V.:* I have since asked several people who knew Edgar about this alleged resemblance, and I find there is unanimous opinion that Edgar was definitely of the Lindbergh type.] Attached to the record of this sitting is a letter from a

friend, saying that he and his wife had commented on it after meeting Edgar at least a year before his death.

The medium, on coming out of trance put her hand to the back of her neck and complained of a violent pain there and said: 'Have I been speaking of someone who broke their neck?' The question was not answered.

In this sitting, which Mr George Vandy described as the most vivid of the series, the medium corroborated details of Edgar's death already given by other mediums, and corrected her inaccuracy regarding the sea as the scene of the disaster. It also repeated many statements made in the previous sitting with H. V. on 19 October regarding the Lectroline.

Correct information given for the first time consisted of:

- (1) The use of 'coloured inks' by the 'Lectroline' machine, and also the process of 'folding in the paper' automatically and the use of block capitals.
- (2) The fact of the body not having been recovered until an hour after death.
- (3) Edgar's name was given correctly.
- (4) The missing diary was correctly described as being in a box with two other books, but was said to be in his bedroom which was inaccurate.
- (5) Edgar's likeness to Lindbergh.

The above statements were all known to the sitter except No. 4 (the location of the missing diary.)

## CONCLUSION

No fresh information regarding Edgar's death or his work was obtained by either of his brothers in subsequent sittings with Miss Bacon, so on 27 January 1934 it was arranged that Mr John Burke, Edgar's assistant in the manufacture of the Lectroline, should have a sitting with Miss Bacon. Mr Burke understood the technical details of the Lectroline, and the main object of the sitting was to see if this knowledge would facilitate the medium's description of the machine. The result was negative in this respect. Although the machine was mentioned, no more details were given about it than in the Vandys' sittings, and none of a technical character. The effect of Edgar's death on the future of the machine and also on Burke's personal prospects occupied a large part of the sitting. Edgar's death from a blow on the head and the fact that he should have been saved were mentioned, but no further details were given. Mr Foster was the note-taker, and as he had taken notes for Mr George Vandy in 1933 it is possible Miss Bacon

may have remembered this and associated Mr Burke with the whole story. However, the sitting contained no statements of fresh value.

The later sittings (held by the two brothers chiefly with Miss Bacon), which are not included in this survey, became little more than repetitions, until finally Miss Bacon herself declared that she could obtain nothing more and suggested the sittings should end.

It might be expected that a continuation of a series of apparently successful sittings with the same medium and sitter would facilitate the production of further information, but this was not the case. The quality of the later sittings is poor and the impetus apparently operating in the earlier sittings seems to have disappeared. There was no diminution of interest on the part of the sitters, nor any lessening of the need which led them to seek these sittings. Could the fall in quality of the later sittings have been due to the lessening of emotional tension with the passage of time? In the earlier sittings the two brothers were still suffering from the acute shock of Edgar's death and its circumstances. George Vandy was particularly affected, and for three weeks was unable to take solid food. Could his state of stress and concentration on the person and death of Edgar, combined with fasting, have contributed to the clarity of the main impressions received by the mediums?

The results of the whole series of sittings from August 1933 to May 1934 are not easy to assess. The first task is to see if there is any natural explanation of the accurate statements made at these sittings. We must consider the possibility of all the mediums having obtained the facts of Edgar's death from reports in the Press. A thorough examination has been made of the twelve chief London morning and evening newspapers published on the days following his death and after the inquest.<sup>90</sup> No reference was made to it in any of these papers, although mention was made in all of them of a record heat-wave at the time and many drowning fatalities, including 49 during the week-end. The question then arises, Could the minds of the mediums have been influenced by this fact? The only reports of Edgar's death appeared in four local Sussex papers, of which the most detailed (in the *Sussex Gazette*) is quoted in the foreword to this survey. If we assume the improbable likelihood of the mediums each having read the account of the inquest in the *Sussex Gazette*, and each having made a lucky guess when a stranger (under a different name) appeared for a sitting, we must discount the facts of his death as published! However, we still have to explain the description of Edgar's bitten tongue, the old scar on his forehead, the mole under his arm (an unlikely place), and the many details of his life and character which were never made public.

The attempts to describe the Lectroline Drawing Machine are particularly important in this respect. Only one commercial

model of this invention existed, and of those present at the sittings only the sitters had any knowledge of the machine. Neither of the note-takers had ever seen it nor knew anything about it. Mr George Vandy states that 'the parts of the machine were made by various engineering firms who were not told what they were for, and they were fitted in a private room, set aside for that purpose in the business premises of our cousin, William Vandy, in the City. This room was also used as a demonstration room, and the machine did not leave these premises until it was dismantled after Edgar's death. The experimental model, which was taken by the Science Museum several months after Edgar's death, was made and assembled by Edgar in his workshop at home... All the calculations and drawings were done by Edgar in our home.'

The question of sensory clues will be suggested, but although such indicia as the expression on the face of a sitter may indicate the correctness or otherwise of a statement made by a medium, it is difficult to see how any facial sign, movement, or inflexion of voice, however marked, could enable her to describe the details of a unique electrical machine! It may also be mentioned that Miss Bacon preferred to bandage her eyes.

The possibility of the operation of conscious or unconscious memory of previous sittings, although with different sitters, is a serious one, and there are signs of this having occurred in Miss Bacon's sitting with George Vandy on 11 November, when, in addition to the main facts, she repeated the same incorrect details about Edgar's death that were given to Harold Vandy on 19 October (note the reference to 'the sea', corrected later). It looks as if there was an association in her mind between these two sittings, although both the sitters and note-takers were different. On the other hand, we must remember that new and correct details about the Lectroline machine were given at the second sitting for the first time, which could not fairly be attributed to inference or guesswork.

The same comment might be made about Miss Campbell's sittings. Her sitting with Harold Vandy on 30 August contained a repetition of minor incorrect detail given in the earlier sitting with George Vandy on 24 August. However, the subsequent sitting with H. V. produced much fresh evidential material about the Lectroline which was unknown to the sitter.

It is a curious fact that there were more attempts to describe the technical details of the machine in H. V.'s sittings than in those held by G. V., although the latter was a skilled engineer and closely associated with Edgar in the manufacture of it, while H. V. played no part in this work and had no technical training. The same comment applies to Mr Burke's sitting, which produced no technical details about the machine although he had worked on it from the start.

When attempting to assess the value of these sittings it is not merely the repetition of the same correct statements by different mediums which is so notable; a more significant point is the number of correct statements which were individual to each medium and which yet gave the impression of being a continuation and were not a repetition of previous sittings. We see an example of this in the attempts made by Miss Campbell and Miss Bacon to describe the Lectroline.

The points of resemblance were the association of the machine with 'a printing process' and 'bulbs and batteries', but in addition each medium produced different new details. In Miss Campbell's sittings (August and September 1933) she described the coloured pilot lights, the method of starting the machine and the sequence of the movements, the measuring lines, and the help of 'Mac' with the invention of the ruling pen. Miss Bacon's sittings followed in October and November, and mentioned the word 'lithography' in connection with the machine; also the use of 'photographic plates', 'coloured inks', 'block capitals', and the automatic folding in of the paper. These sittings give the impression of being complementary and not duplicated, and the question still remains: Whose mind was the source of the information?

In spite of irrelevancies, confusing details, and some conflicting statements in these sittings, it may be said that the clearest picture left in the mind of the reader is the outstanding personality of Edgar Vandy, with his rare qualities of mind and character and his great ability. At every sitting this tragic figure is described with his frustrated hopes and his distress at the sorrow his untimely death had caused his family, and his inability to repay them for the help they had given so willingly. Above all, the repeated statements that his death was no one's fault and that no one should be blamed. It was an accident, and the fact that no one saved his life should be accepted 'without anger towards them, only sympathy and sorrow'.

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<sup>1</sup> Mason, p. 34.

<sup>2</sup> Campbell (2), p. 16.; Mason, p. 35.

<sup>3</sup> Mason, p. 36.; Bacon (1), pp. 42-43.

<sup>4</sup> Bacon (2), p. 53.

<sup>5</sup> Bacon (1), p. 46.; Bacon (2), p. 49.

<sup>6</sup> Mason, p. 38.

<sup>7</sup> Bacon (2), pp. 50, 56.

<sup>8</sup> Mason, p. 35.

<sup>9</sup> Mason, p. 35.; Bacon (1), p. 42.; Bacon (2), p. 57.

<sup>10</sup> Campbell (2), p. 18.; Mason, p. 36.; Bacon (1), p. 41.

<sup>11</sup> Mason, p. 36; Bacon (1), p. 42.

<sup>12</sup> Campbell (2), p. 19.

<sup>13</sup> Leonard, p. 30; Mason, p. 35; Bacon (1), p. 42.

<sup>14</sup> Bacon (1), p. 44; Bacon (2), p. 50.

<sup>15</sup> See above, p. 22.

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- <sup>16</sup> Mason, p. 34.
- <sup>17</sup> Campbell (1), p. 7; Mason, p. 35.
- <sup>18</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12; Leonard, p. 29; Mason, p. 35; Bacon (1), p. 41; Bacon (2), p. 57.
- <sup>19</sup> Bacon (1), p. 42; Campbell (1), pp. 12, 13; Mason, p. 36.
- <sup>20</sup> Leonard, p. 30.
- <sup>21</sup> Leonard, p. 31; Bacon (1), p. 41.
- <sup>22</sup> Bacon (1), p. 44; Bacon (2), p. 50.
- <sup>23</sup> Campbell (1), p. 13.
- <sup>24</sup> Bacon (2), pp. 49, 50, 56.
- <sup>25</sup> Bacon (2), p. 59.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Mason, p. 38.
- <sup>28</sup> See illustration facing p. 32.
- <sup>29</sup> Mason, p. 36; Bacon (1), p. 44.
- <sup>30</sup> Bacon (1), p. 45; Bacon (2), pp. 50, 54.
- <sup>31</sup> Bacon (2), p. 52.
- <sup>32</sup> Bacon (2), pp. 50, 54, 55.
- <sup>33</sup> A similar remark occurs also in a sitting held by Mr Drayton Thomas with Mrs Leonard on the same day (8 Sept.). See Leonard, p. 31.
- <sup>34</sup> Campbell (2), p. 18; Mason, p. 35; Bacon (2), p. 57.
- <sup>35</sup> Mason, p. 34.
- <sup>36</sup> Bacon (2), p. 53.
- <sup>37</sup> Campbell (1), p. 14; Mason, p. 35.
- <sup>38</sup> Campbell (2), p. 18.
- <sup>39</sup> Campbell (2), p. 28.
- <sup>40</sup> Campbell (2), p. 19.
- <sup>41</sup> Bacon (2), p. 58.
- <sup>42</sup> Bacon (1), p. 43.
- <sup>43</sup> Campbell (1), p. 6; Campbell (2), p. 16.
- <sup>44</sup> Leonard, p. 29.
- <sup>45</sup> Campbell (1), p. 14; Leonard, p. 30; Bacon (1), p. 42.
- <sup>46</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12.
- <sup>47</sup> Campbell (2), p. 18; Leonard, pp. 29, 32; Bacon (2), p. 57.
- <sup>48</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12; Bacon (2), p. 57.
- <sup>49</sup> Campbell (1), p. 7; Campbell (2), p. 16.
- <sup>50</sup> Campbell (1), pp. 12, 18; Bacon (1), pp. 41, 43.
- <sup>51</sup> Campbell (1), pp. 7, 12; Campbell (2), p. 18; Bacon (1), p. 42.
- <sup>52</sup> Campbell (2), p. 24; Bacon (1), p. 44.
- <sup>53</sup> Bacon (2), p. 57.
- <sup>54</sup> Campbell (1), p. 7; Campbell (2), p. 16.
- <sup>55</sup> Campbell (1), p. 11.
- <sup>56</sup> Campbell (2), p. 21.
- <sup>57</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12; Mason, p. 36; Campbell (2), pp. 18, 19; Bacon (2), p. 57.
- <sup>58</sup> Campbell (1), p. 14; Mason, p. 35.
- <sup>59</sup> Campbell (1), p. 7; Mason, p. 36.

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- <sup>60</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12.
- <sup>61</sup> Campbell (1), p. 7.
- <sup>62</sup> Leonard, p. 32.
- <sup>63</sup> Bacon (2), p. 50; Campbell (1), p. 14.
- <sup>64</sup> Campbell (2), p. 19; Bacon (2), pp. 49, 50.
- <sup>65</sup> Campbell (2), p. 24; Mason, pp. 36, 38.
- <sup>66</sup> Campbell (2), p. 24; Bacon (2), pp. 50, 51, 52.
- <sup>67</sup> Bacon (2), p. 51.
- <sup>68</sup> Bacon (2), p. 50.
- <sup>69</sup> Campbell (1), p. 8; Bacon (2), p. 49.
- <sup>70</sup> Campbell (1), p. 8; Bacon (1), p. 48.
- <sup>71</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12.
- <sup>72</sup> Bacon (1), p. 44; Campbell (2), p. 14.
- <sup>73</sup> Campbell (2), p. 24; Bacon (1), p. 45.
- <sup>74</sup> Bacon (1), pp. 45, 46.
- <sup>75</sup> Bacon (1), p. 45.
- <sup>76</sup> Campbell (2), p. 26.
- <sup>77</sup> Campbell (2), p. 24; Bacon (1), p. 45.
- <sup>78</sup> Campbell (1), p. 8; Leonard, p. 30.
- <sup>79</sup> Campbell (2), p. 27.
- <sup>80</sup> Campbell (2), p. 24; Bacon (1), p. 45.
- <sup>81</sup> Campbell (2), p. 27.
- <sup>82</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>83</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12; Campbell (2), p. 19.
- <sup>84</sup> Campbell (2), p. 19.
- <sup>85</sup> Leonard, pp. 29, 32; Mason, p. 35.
- <sup>86</sup> Campbell (1), p. 12; Mason, p. 35.
- <sup>87</sup> Campbell (2), p. 37.
- <sup>88</sup> Leonard, p. 31.
- <sup>89</sup> Campbell (2), p. 20.
- <sup>90</sup> We are indebted to Mr M. T. Hindson for his help in this matter.