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A NEW AND VERIFIED CASE SUGGESTIVE OF REINCARNATION BASED ON DREAMS AND FLASHBACKS

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ABSTRACT

A book, highly suggestive of reincarnation, was published in German in 2015 that recounted the paranormal experiences of Udo Wiczorek, one of the two authors. He had experienced nightmares of dramatic incidents from the age of four, recurring later in adulthood, and seemingly taking place in the high mountains during the First World War. In order to free himself of these nightmares he tried to verify the background of his dreams. With his wife's help and frequent flashbacks he realised the happenings must have taken place in the Dolomites near the village of Sexten. He slowly became convinced that he had lived as an Austrian-Hungarian soldier named "Vinz". In 1915, Vinz had accidentally shot dead his best friend "Josele" when he attempted to desert from the Italian side. Wiczorek found a letter written by Vinz shortly before he died indirectly verifying this tragic accident. The story was further substantiated by another paper Wiczorek found in the woods, written by Josele and addressed to Vinz. The book's co-author, Manfred Bomm, was fascinated by this story and persuaded Wiczorek to accompany him in an attempt to verify further facts. They tracked down information relating to Vinz by means of documents and by locating members of his family and his home. As an initially sceptical second independent investigator I contacted as many involved people as possible. This article presents an account of the book and reviews the case, setting it in the context of other cases in the academic literature. Several aspects of the case make it seem unlikely that Wiczorek and Bomm invented the story, leading to the conclusion that it represents another valuable piece of evidence for reincarnation.

INTRODUCTION

In August of 2015 author Manfred Bomm sent me a copy of his book "Seelenvermächtnis" (Legacy of the Soul; Wiczorek & Bomm, 2015), that he had published earlier that year together with Udo Wiczorek because he knew me to be engaged in reincarnation research. He wanted my opinion of the book, whose content can be seen as strongly suggestive of reincarnation. The story is so fantastical it is hard to believe it is real; yet the report is consistent with stories of verified cases of children who seem to remember previous lives (Hassler, 2011) and with accounts of persons who have been hypnotically regressed to past lives (Hassler, 2015a, 2015b). This, as well as the successful verification by the two authors, induced me to investigate this case in more depth as an independent third party.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE CASE

Most cases supporting the theory of reincarnation involve children who claim to remember a previous life. Nearly 3,000 cases of this nature are recorded at the University of Virginia thanks to the pioneering work of Stevenson (1974). About two thirds of 856 cases, spanning six different cultures, have been successfully verified. A lot less common are successfully verified cases of hypnotic regression into previous lives (e.g., Hassler, 2015a, 2015b). Dreams suggestive of reincarnation are also rare and only sporadically appear in the literature. They have appeared in only 0.3% of 1666 reported cases, as shown by a multicultural study of exotic dreams in six different countries (Krippner & Faith, 2001). I have divided dream-based cases of reincarnation into three categories:

1. Unsolved vs. Solved (where a previous person was located through documentation or by witness statements)
2. Anecdotal vs. Confirmed
3. Dreams only vs. Dreams and more (here the ‘more’ refers to mixed cases containing one or more spontaneous memories, flashbacks, past-life regressions, recognitions, mediumistic communications or near-death experiences)

There are examples of all combinations of these categories with the vast majority of cases belonging to unsolved anecdotes (Hassler, 2018). Nevertheless, they are discernible as reincarnation dreams by certain characteristics defined in the literature and which also apply to Wiczorek’s case.

For instance, Holzer (1994) described the following characteristics as typical of reincarnation dreams:

- They reoccur with the same or very similar content with which the dreamer is unfamiliar in his conscious existence
- They often describe a tragic event
- The dreamer is the protagonist
- If the dreamer sees himself he looks different to his usual self
- These dreams are very impressive and can be easily recalled
- They also leave the dreamer feeling restless and wanting to do something about them

These features are complemented by Berger and Berger (1991) and Krippner, Bogzaran and Carvalho (2002), who claim:

- The percipient is cognizant that the dream relates to a past-life
- The experience causes the percipient to change his/her viewpoint regarding death and dying
- The experience usually concerns the percipient’s past-life death
- Sometimes paranormal information is communicated through the dream
- The percipient notices the reincarnation “flavour” of the dream despite claiming little prior interest in the doctrine

Relevant in this context are the solved and confirmed cases. I am aware of only one single published verified case based solely on dreams of a previous

life and in which witnesses play a role¹ (Grubbs, 2006) — the rest are mixed cases, of which a number have been reported (see e.g., Hassler, 2011; Hassler, 2018; Stevenson 1997).

The case of “Wieczorek” can be classified as ‘solved’ based on the ‘mix’ of dreams and flashbacks and its verification by witnesses. Most other cases in this category involve another mixture of experiences. Due to these differences and the small number of solved cases of this class in general, the case at hand is of particular significance. Further characteristics of Wieczorek’s case are outlined in the analysis section of this paper.

Representation of the case

Since the source of this case is in the form of a novel (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015) written in an ornate style I need to extract the relevant facts and condense them into a synopsis which will serve as a basis for this article. The other basis is the numerous references to page numbers of the book, examples of which are given in round brackets in italics (e.g., *page number*). The numbers in bold that appear in square brackets [e.g., **number**] connect the synopsis to the analysis section. These numbers will be of interest only when reading the analysis section.

Childhood behaviour

Udo Wieczorek was born in Ulm, Germany in 1970 and lived in Elchingen near Ulm, working as a business conveyancer. As a child Wieczorek spoke dialect for the fun of it which later turned out to be South Tyrolean, even though he had never visited the area or come into contact with this dialect² [1] (255, 361). Little Udo also drew scenes of war [2] (see Figure 1 and Hassler, 2018).

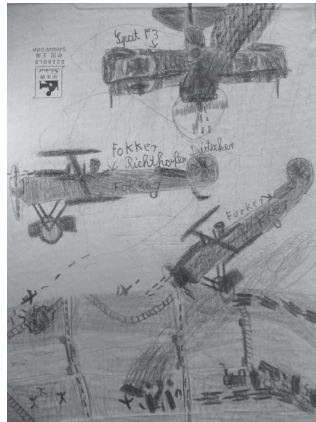


Figure 1. Wieczorek’s drawing as a child of 5–7 years

¹ Grubbs dreamed the full name of the previous person as well as the first name of her husband and the pet name of her daughter both from the previous life, as well as information relating to her previous neighbourhood and honeymoon which were sufficient to solve the case.

² Points later confirmed by Wieczorek’s mother and cousin

Childhood nightmares

At the age of four he suffered from reoccurring nightmares that seemed to be exceptionally real [3] (24). His dreams detailed frightful scenes of war. A man is silenced with a rag shoved into his mouth to stop him from screaming in pain. He hears the word “*Maschinengewehr*” (machine gun) for example and sees how one of these weapons “shakes” the body of a shooter. No one in the circle of friends and family has ever told the young boy about war and the parents did not own a television in 1974.

Nightmares in adulthood

Luckily the childhood nightmares disappear as unexpectedly as they occurred. However, 15 years later, in August 1989, dreams reoccur that seem to continue on from those childhood nightmares [4] (25, 31). The dreamer can see, smell and feel but can barely hear and his vision seems monochrome in different shades of grey. In these dreams the then 19-year-old shakes the hand of a man, whose name he simply knows is “Josele” [5] (33). Image quickly follows image (35): three fir trees growing in a close cluster with a little hollow created by knotted roots [6] and eventually an old gleaming, reddish coin [7] (35, 46, 52, 54, 133). Later he witnesses how two men exchange two coins during a friendship ceremony under the three fir trees [8] (40). The coins carry the double-headed eagle, the symbol of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Josele is holding a necklace with what looks like one of the coins as a pendant; Wiczorek has a foreboding of parting [9] (36). When he sees the face of a girl with dark braids he feels happy [10] (41, 125, 177). He even watches as his own hands seemingly carve the image of a rose into a wooden plank [11] (41). At this stage of his current life he has never encountered the valley nor the mountain area of his dreams.

In another dream Josele is shouting at him while wildly gesticulating [12] (48, 188). As per usual the dreamer can’t really distinguish much of Josele’s speech and only picks up single phrases like “one hundred thousand”, “ruins” and “ash”. But then there is a shout “*Vinz!!*” Josele is shouting in his face. Does this mean he is Vinz? [13] (48, 188). The ugly word “war” circles through Wiczorek’s thoughts.

In October 1993, when Wiczorek is 23, he has to have an emergency operation. From the time under anaesthetic he reports feelings resembling a near-death-experience (59). He is floating through a tunnel towards a warm light. Along the tunnel wall he sees familiar faces and he dreams the same story: He walks in trenches that connect the various lines of defence on the front. He smells the sickly, sweet mixture of rotting bodies and explosive gases. He climbs out of his shelter and is immediately knocked over by the force of an exploding shell [14] (61). He is unsure of whether the impact is deadly. He becomes aware that he still needs to complete some sort of mission on earth. He sees the face of his dead grandfather who reassures him that all will end well. After that he floats back through the tunnel and back to life (63).

The phase in which Wiczorek is awakening from the anaesthetic and still in a daze, is especially interesting as he retells his dream in a very strong Austrian dialect that is later identified as South Tyrolean slang [15] [16] (66). He says: “I need to get out of there. My comrades need me. My uniform, my

carbine. Where are my things? I have to get back to my checkpoint. There is nothing wrong with me” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 66). At this stage doctors and nurses assume that he is completing his military service when actually he is studying at college. “I have to go back up to my comrades. The Italian dogs will get over the pass if I don’t return!! Give me back my things. Now!!” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 66). A doctor tries to calm him by saying “It’s Ok, everything will be fine” but Wieczorek replies “Shit is what it is!! They are dying in droves up there and I am lying around here while the whole valley goes to shit” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 67; see also, Hassler, 2018).

INVESTIGATION

Following his operation his dreams return. Naturally, Wieczorek is curious about them and decides that after so many years of suffering from nightmares he is not going to wait for his dreams to offer a conclusion. He needs to actively research the origin of his dreams, which is what he starts doing in 1994 (70). He doesn’t have a lot of information to go on. The two names ‘Josele’ and ‘Vinz’ are not helpful without any indication of time or place.

Wieczorek requests material from the tourist information office in the Hochpuster Valley as well as other regions that might be applicable to his dreams. His partner and later wife Daniela notices that he spends most of his time pouring over information from Sexten and Wolkenstein and supports his decision to spend two week’s holiday each in Wolkenstein and Sexten (Hochpuster Valley) (74).

First Trip to the Grödner And Hochpuster Valley in 1994

The first two weeks of the trip to Wolkenstein are without consequence: Nothing seems to be associated with his dream sequences (75). The situation changes dramatically on their way to Sexten. Even before he can read signposts he knows exactly where he is and says village names and landmarks out loud for Daniela to check [17] (77). The names prove to be correct. Every now and then his sight loses all colour. He uses a dialect. So, even though he has never visited this area everything is strangely familiar. When they arrive at their accommodation their hostess comments on his dialect [18] (83) that he must originate from the south or even north of Tyrol but certainly not from Germany.

Wieczorek hikes into the mountains without a map [19] and somehow knows his way around (Hassler, 2018). Now and then he correctly predicts to Daniela points of interest lying ahead, but still unseen. On his way to a local restaurant Wieczorek suddenly sees black and white facades and rooflines that aren’t actually there as well as a girl with braids [20] (97-). She is leaning against the weathered wall of a hay barn. Just seconds later the flashback is over. The only thing remaining is the barn. On one of the planks he discovers a carved rose — the rose of his dream [21]. Daniela says “*I wonder who would have...*” and Wieczorek exclaims “*Me! For her!!*” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 98).

On the wall of the restaurant Daniela discovers a faded photograph of a group of soldiers [22] (99). Wieczorek explains, that the guy in the middle is called “Shanni”. Only the grandmother can confirm this to be true.

On a hike to the Rotwand, when Daniela remains quite a bit behind him, Wieczorek is suddenly filled with fear for her safety [23]. She has no cover and he can hear the whistling of shells. He is scared (Hassler, 2018). As quickly as it occurred, his flashback is gone (Hassler, 2018). The view from the peak down onto the village Moos is more or less identical with the image in his dreams (Hassler, 2018). By this stage Wieczorek is convinced that it was indeed the 'Rotwand', which he as Vinz scaled with Josele.

When Wieczorek sees a woman kneeling down to drink from a waterhole, he experiences the flash of a bomb crater filled with mud and corpses. It stinks of decomposition. When the flashback is over he warns the woman that the water is still contaminated from the war [24] (117). In an old WW1 trench he has another flashback. Barbed wire, freshly turned soil, a mass of warped metal, an explosion and a number of dead [25] (120). Following this he feels a stabbing pain in his right thigh and burning in his lungs [26].

In a tiring/wearying sequence of dreams, Wieczorek stands in billows of smoke (125). He is looking for the girl with the braids and finds her dead body on the ground [27]. When he is dragged away he yells "Maiiii...aii...aii!" (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 126). When he wakes up he can again feel the pain in his right thigh for some seconds and the burning in his ribs [28]. He later discovers in a book covering wartime in Sexten, that his dreams in fact seem to cover true events. During the first shelling the restaurant 'Zur Post' took a direct hit. A young girl of 19 died [29]. Further investigation in 2013 confirmed that the girl was a certain 'Marie' (Watschinger) (272).

Shortly after the first trip to Sexten the dreams return. Wieczorek sees himself in the trenches (131, 280). He is on duty on a mountain peak and in the darkness he aims his rifle at a figure slowly emerging from the darkness. Something whistles through the air, he gets a fright and pulls the trigger, and at the same moment hears "Defector, on't" (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 133). Then he sees the pleading face of a dying man with blood trickling from his mouth. It is 'Josele' [30]. Wieczorek recognises the chain around his neck with the coin (heller) as a pendant [31]. It is his very own chain that they exchanged during times of peace as a symbol of their friendship [32].

Second Trip to the Hochpuster Valley in 1995

Wieczorek and Daniela visited the valley scene of his probable previous life for a second time the following year (137). During the night he dreams that he has tied Josele's corpse to a rope and lowers him down the rock face in order to take him back to the Italian side [33] (156, 180). Back home in Elchingen after his second trip, Wieczorek dreams again of shooting Josele and lowering his body down the rock face. But this time his dream continues. He becomes aware that his feeling of guilt made him tempt fate: He runs out from under cover and is shot (Hassler, 2018) [34]. When he wakes up he experiences searing pain in his upper thigh and his rib cage stings every time he draws breath [35] (179).

Third Trip to the Hochpuster Valley in 1997

In 1997, Wieczorek travelled back to the Hochpuster Valley with Daniela for a third time. There he experiences in intensive dreams a feeling of indifference and lust for death that makes him leave his cover [36] (188).

During these dreams he experiences something stab him in his ribs, he stumbles and feels a burning sensation in his ribs. An explosion close by hurls him into the air. He wants to be where the dead girl with the braids is and he wants to be with Josele. He feels weightless. After he regains consciousness he feels for his right leg and knows that a slow and painful death is his destiny. Riddled with pain he crawls onto a stretcher. In front of him he can see a piece of paper and next to it a round container. He seems to be writing something. A farewell letter? [37] As he is contemplating the question as to who might some day find the letter he “hears” a clear answer: “Yes, he will find it!” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 192) (192, 195).

During the next night he is back in the past — in a dugout with a table where he is writing. “But to whom? Then it resounds within me: You are here!” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 206–207). From this we can assume that Wieczorek was dreaming into the future and the writer of the letter believed in reincarnation and was purposefully writing a letter to himself in his next life (206). In his dream, Wieczorek is aware of the fact that his injuries are fatal. He hears the words: “It’s time, Vinz.” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 207). He pulls himself along the trench using one arm, whilst clutching something to his chest with the other. He eventually reaches a wall built from loose red stones. With his free hand he dislodges stones from the wall and shoves the things he is clutching into the crevice he has created. Then he returns the stones to their original place [38]. In doing so he stumbles backwards, feels no heartbeat and no pain. The face of the soldier that is recurring in his dreams appears and gives him a nod. The soldier passes him a necklace with a coin as a pendant, enclosed in a little wire mesh basket [39]. He is speaking a foreign language but Wieczorek still seems to understand the gist of it: “You will need to return three times before you will see yourself. Pace, (peace) Vinz, pace.” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 209). The face fades away. Wieczorek is now convinced the story is at an end. He has just died in his dream.

After Wieczorek tells Daniela about the details of his dream they both consider the prophecy made by the soldier that they had to return three times. They have been up to the Seikofel only twice. Wieczorek is convinced that he must have hidden something up there in his previous life and that he needs to find it [40] (211). He draws a sketch of the reddish stonewall in the trench just like it appeared in his dream [41] (212).

Once Wieczorek and Daniela reach the peak of the Seikofel they end up in a half-overgrown former trench. All of a sudden Wieczorek falls into an altered state of consciousness and “sees” the place as it once was. “I know this place,” he says to Daniela (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 216). He feels that they are close to the place where he wrote the letter in a previous life [42]. He gets dizzy and feels sick, his lungs are burning and his right leg is throbbing again [43]. As they continue on they find a collapsed shelter. He knows for sure: this is where he spent the last few hours of his previous life (218). Not far ahead he discovers the reddish wall, covered in moss and lichen. His sketch tallies perfectly with the position of the trenches.

Behind the wall he finally discovers a rusty tin can in which something is rattling. He pulls a folded piece of paper from the can (227) (see Figure 2). It

is partly covered in mould but due to the light wax cover of the paper it has been saved from complete ruin. He unfolds the letter and discovers a handwritten text which he seems to recognise as 'Sütterlin' script. He discovers two dates (13 and 14 August 1915) as well as a signature "Vince". Finally Daniela hands him the remaining content of the tin: a coin encased in a wire basket (see Figure 3) [44]. Is it pure coincidence that this all occurs on the 14 August 1997? Wieczorek is stunned.

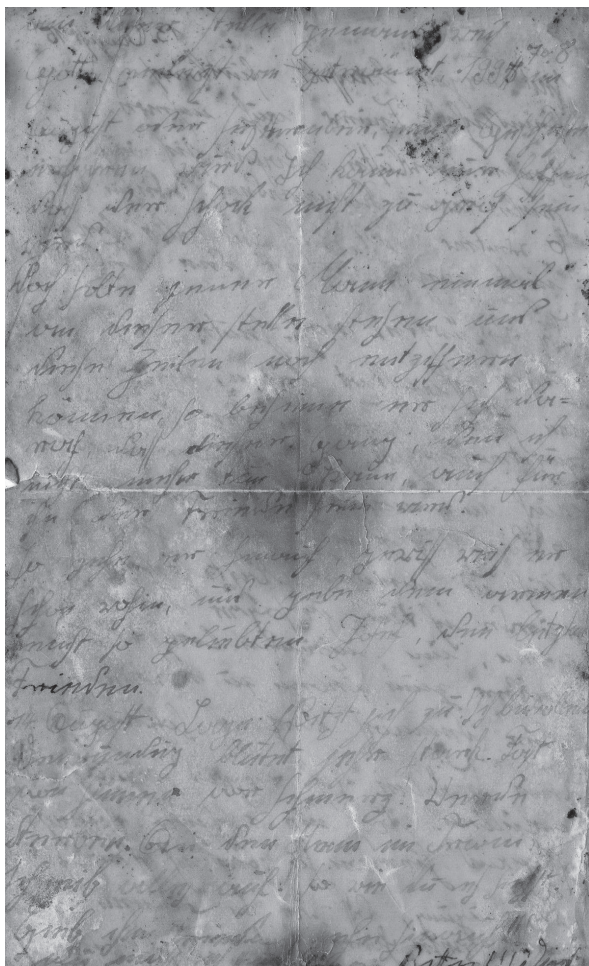


Figure 2. Letter of Vinz

A lady working in their hotel as a charwoman is able to partly decipher the script (230). The author, Vinz, in his letter describes heavy enemy fire, his fallen comrades and his fear of death. He continues with these significant sentences: "I fear today I will have to pay penance for a traitorous action that took place at the Rotwand. As much as this troubles me I cannot undo the



Figure 3. Austrian coins in wire cages (1902)

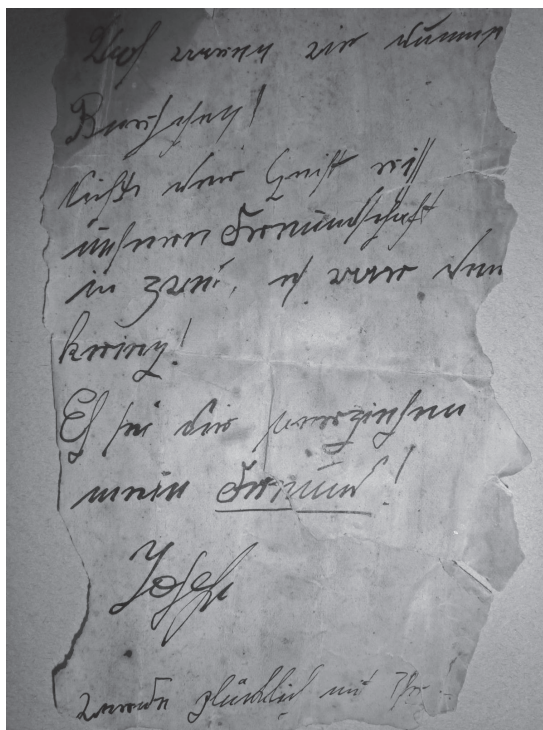
things I have done. I would do everything in my power, even give up my own life, if I could bring back my dear friend... I have never told this story before” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 236). For Wieczorek this is clear proof in support of his dreams: the night watch, the defector, and the rifle shot that killed his best friend Josele [45].

The letter also states the conviction that “someone will find this here after I am dead... only God knows, maybe as dreamed about it in August or September of 1995 (the 5 in 1995 is crossed out and a 7 or 8 added on) and will learn about his story” [46] (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 236). How was it possible for Vinz to foresee the future so precisely? The letter continues: “The man who might stand one day in this spot and might be able to decipher these lines may remember that he too will find peace by continuing the journey that I am unable to conclude. So, I ask that he goes from here to where he already knows he must go and gives my beloved Josele his final peace” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 236).

On the reverse side of this piece of paper Vinz describes his seriously bleeding wound and unbearable pain [47]. In the final lines he asks this man from his dreams to note down all his experiences. Wieczorek followed suit and published his experiences as a fictional story (Mercz, 2009).

A few days later Wieczorek decides to fulfil Vinz’s last wish, which he had written in his letter “Give him peace, go up there” (236, 243) (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 236). Wieczorek hikes to the foot of the ‘Rotwand’, also known as ‘Burgstall’, and says a prayer for Josele. On his way back he takes a different path and discovers a boulder and three mighty tree stumps on it. They remind him of the three fir trees where he and Josele promised eternal friendship (245, 282). He scratches around the base of the tree but discontinues his search because he thinks it most unlikely that he will find further proof of his dream-memories. Daniela’s stubbornness however leads to them discovering a small rotten wooden box, wrapped in wire that contains a greenish coin and a piece of folded waxen paper [48] (see Figure 4).

The note, clearly written in haste, reads “What silly boys we were. Not our souls tore our friendship apart — it was the war. I forgive you, my dear friend. Josele.” Followed by a postscript “Be happy with her!” (Wieczorek & Bomm, 2015, p. 249). From that day forward Wieczorek has never again dreamt of the wartime in Sexten (249) and he has also lost all fear of his own demise [49] (251).



Liebster Mann!
Ich habe dich sehr lieb
und will in deiner Freundschaft
in Zukunft leben.
Ich werde dich lieben!
Ich bin die Person, die du suchst!
Mein Freund!
Josef
Lass dich glücklich sein!

Figure 4. Josele's letter

VERIFICATION

In 2009, Journalist and crime writer Manfred Bomm was given Wiczorek's novel to review (Mercz, 2009) (17). The story line fascinated him because the postscript seemed to suggest that the story was actually an autobiographical description. Bomm decided to meet the author in person to interview him about the book. He and his partner Doris visited Udo and Daniela Wiczorek in Elchingen in June 2010. Bomm's assumption was proven correct: the novel was based on real-life experiences. Even though the whole story seemed so unbelievable that it invited disbelief, the author seemed modest and uninterested in causing a public sensation (254). Bomm planned to investigate whether Vinz, Wiczorek's assumed earlier self, was an actual person and he eventually succeeded in convincing Wiczorek to participate (20).

The first point of interest was to see whether Vinz's farewell letter could truly be dated back to 1915. The script is known as cursive, commonly taught in schools in Austro-Hungary around the turn of the last century (not Sütterlin, which was taught in Germany). Prof. Dr Ing. Lothar Götsching at the Institute for Paper Fabrication at the Technical University in Darmstadt was, after thorough analysis, able to date the piece of paper back to a time period between 1875 and 1960 (257). Therefore it could date back to 1915. He does not state how a coating of wax might be applied. In theory the script

could also have been added after 1960 and then sealed with a layer of wax. So it was discussed whether a forgery was possible. A motive could not be established for Wieczorek, so the argument goes. He did not play up his experiences nor was he seeking financial gain.

Via the town hall in Sexten Wieczorek and Bomm found the knowledgeable and helpful local historian Rudolf Holzer in 2013 (263). He was able to provide the details of four soldiers named 'Vinzenz' who died in the area of Sexten around that time. Only one of them, Vinzenz Rossi, seems plausible, because he died on August 17, 1915 in the military hospital of the neighbouring village Innichen, as a result of heavy injuries. He was also buried there [50]. It seems quite possible that he was injured on August 14, 1915, especially seeing that there was heavy fighting on the Seikofel during that time. Documents make him out to have been a 20 year-old 'Kaiserjäger', who originated from Trient. He would have been an Italian-speaking Tyrolean, also known as 'Welschtiroler' who was fighting for the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.

An Internet search of the military cemetery at Innichen rendered some additional information: In addition to the name 'Rossi, Vinzenz' there is an inscription 'CENTA' and 'BORGO' (266). With this information Google Earth completed this to 'Centa di San Nicolo'. According to Daniela, during an earlier holiday in this region her husband immediately knew his way around without any need of a map [51].

First Fact-finding Trip May 2013

Wieczorek and Bomm travelled to Sexten for their first fact-finding trip in May 2013. They met the local historian 'Holzer' personally and received more detailed information from him. He had found out that there was indeed a girl called 'Marie Watschinger' who lost her life during the first Italian attack on Sexten [52] (272, 283, 292, 295). Her biological uncle ran the local pub on the outskirts of Moss, a part of Sexten. Opposite the pub was the barn where Wieczorek found the carved rose on the wooden plank when he visited in 1994, just as he had dreamt [53]. In his autobiographical novel, Marie is a waitress at the pub and meets Vinz and Josele there. Holzer even produced a photograph of Marie as well as an image of three women from which Wieczorek immediately recognised 'his Marie'. Wieczorek also visits the house where Marie was killed and found that it was the same as in his dream [54].

Holzer authenticated the script on the farewell letter (280). To answer the question as to why Vinz would write in German rather than Italian, he replied that German was taught as the first language in school in the Austro-Hungarian Reich, even in Italian speaking areas.

Holzer also put the travellers in touch with another local historian (273) Brother Siegfried Volgger of the Franziscan monastery in Bozen, who formerly lived at the monastery Innichen, near Sexten where there was a military hospital and also a military cemetery during the war. Brother Siegfried has ensured that the cemetery ('Zur Burg') that was falling into disrepair was returned to its former state. Volgger's paperwork states that there was only one Vinzenzo Rossi (290), who lived in Centa/ Borgo, a small village close to Lavarone that used to also be known as 'Zehnten' and is called 'Centa di San Nicolo' today [55]. The Brother also explained that in a region so close to the

border it was quite possible that men from the same village could end up fighting on opposite sides (289). Wieczorek and Bomm travelled there and located the war memorial but could only find a 'Luigi' and 'Carlo Rossi' (285).

In the meantime the Brother had found out not only the date of birth but also the full name of Vinz [56] (301), which turned out to be 'Vincenzo Luigi Rossi'. It was established later that he was simply called 'Luigi' at home, the name that is on the plaque at his hometown of Centa. Carlo Rossi, who is also listed, turned out to be Vincenzo's brother.

The Franciscan monk also discovered a living relative of Vincenzo Rossi [57], his niece 'Giuseppina Armida Rossi' and visited her in Centa (301). Armida's father Mario was one of Vincenzo's brothers. The niece can remember her father and uncle 'Adriano' talking about Sexten and the 'Kreuzbergpass' as the place where Vinz died.

In an email Brother Siegfried sent an image with 34 oval-shaped death portraits (303). Wieczorek immediately recognised Vinz/Luigi, Carlo and a certain 'Onibene' and this was confirmed once the images were enlarged so as to render the names legible [58]. A picture of Josele is not amongst the images. The picture of the soldier that Wieczorek saw at the end of his dreams is the same as the portrait of Luigi Rossi. That is why he could identify him immediately before seeing the name.

The email also contained a copy of the death register for the parish in Innichen with the following notice: 'Number 63, 17. August (1915) 8pm, k.k. Landwehr-Marodenhaus, Vinzenz Rossi, k.u.k. hunter from Centa Borgo, Fourth Regiment, ninth company, 20 years, shot through the lung, 'provisus' buried here on 19. August' [59] (308).

Second Fact-finding Trip in August 2013

In August 2013 Wieczorek and Bomm together with Brother Siegfried and his fellow Brother Enrico travelled to Centa again, this time to visit relatives of Vincenzo Rossi (314). The group was welcomed with open arms by Armida Rossi, her son 'Fulvio' with his German-speaking wife Mariangela Giolito-Weiss. They live in Vinz's parents' home (320). As it has been significantly changed architecturally, Wieczorek did not recognise it at first. Old pictures were passed around. Even before Mariangela could explain who was in the picture, Wieczorek explained in Italian that it was Vincenzo's father and grandmother [60] (319). He was indeed correct and mentioned that he knew his father's face from his dreams. Fulvio made a point of mentioning that Vincenzo died at the 'Kreuzberg' [61] (323). When Bomm asked what Vincenzo did for a living Wieczorek had a notion that it must have something to do with wood [62] (320). This was correct; the dead man was a carpenter. Is that why Wieczorek had made so many things from wood? Fulvio brought out Vincenzo's old plane that he had kept and Wieczorek interrupted him saying 'mia pialla'.

Another picture was passed around (324). It was a group photograph of six young men, Vincenzo among them. When Wieczorek looked at the photo the name 'Obele Oni' came to mind [63]. But no one in the room was familiar with the name. Later it was discovered that 'Obele Ognibene' is inscribed on the memorial plaque in Centa. Wieczorek had a short flashback and following that asked whether anyone knew the occasion on which the photograph was

taken. No one knew. Then he explained that all six people were holding a hat with a white piece of paper attached. The pieces of paper must be call-up papers for the war. This seemed to make sense to everyone [64].

Towards the end of the visit with the Rossis' Fulvio showed their guests around the newly added garage (327). Even before he could remove some items from a tall cupboard, Wieczorek remembered in a flash: Vincenzo had begun to draw a sundial on the facade of the house, shortly before he was drafted. The dial was never finished but the sketch was still clearly visible. Fulvio couldn't bring himself to paint over it [65].

During a stroll following the visit Wieczorek, yet again, astonished Daniela with his local knowledge. The waterfall in the small river 'Zenta' was named 'Fallimboch' he explained (331). A few hundred metres further on there was a signpost in Italian reading 'Cascata di Vallimpach' [66]. After this visit he knew he had found home [67].

REVIEW OF THE CASE

Many readers of the book "Seelenvermächtnis" or the synopsis may feel the same as I did: Wieczorek's story seems too perfect to be accepted — without hesitation — as fact. It seems contrived that a dying soldier hiding out in a dugout at the front would write a farewell letter to his reincarnated self, hide it and that the reincarnate would then find the letter on the exact predicted date 82 years later and still be able to read it. And if that's not enough there is the fact that the current person digs handwritten proof of the friendship out of the knotted roots of a tree in the middle of the mountains. It really seems too much!

If during my studies since 2000 I hadn't come across unbelievable stories about young children ostensibly remembering their previous lives that in the end stood up to detailed scrutiny I probably would have put Wieczorek's book to one side and would never have looked at it again. However, as a scholar of Stevenson (1974), my motto is: Look at things without prejudice, check them as thoroughly as possible, take into consideration all possible normal explanations and only then form your opinion.

Accordingly I met as many witnesses as possible and interviewed them independently. I met both authors on Monday 30.11.2015 in Elchingen near Ulm, accompanied by my wife. We were shown the two letters, supposedly dating back to 1915, the two coins enclosed by wire cages and the rusty tin can and were permitted to take photographs. Our initial suspicion that the authors might well be bestselling authors was proven incorrect. Both my wife and I commented following the visit that we would happily buy a used car from either of them. Of course I also interviewed Wieczorek's wife Daniela who was at the meeting and takes the role of crown witness as she was in attendance on most occasions. She confirmed the truth of the story as described.

But anyone can be fooled, therefore I made contact with every witness named in their book, independently of Wieczorek or Bomm, and asked them whether they could confirm their respective parts of the book.

From the witnesses named in the book I was able to collect written confirmations stating the correct representation of their respective contributions (see Hassler, 2018). I got this from:

- Local historian Rudolf Holzer from Sexten
- Franciscan monk Brother Siegfried Volgger from Bozen
- Vinz's niece Mariangela Giolito-Weiss from Centa di San Nicolò

I further had telephone or face-to-face conversations with:

- Udo Wieczorek's mother, Isolde Wieczorek
- Rita Tschurtschenthaler from Sexten, who was the first to decipher the document found by Wieczorek
- Wieczorek's great cousin, Bianka Schneider from Elchingen

I was given the opportunity, on July 22, 2016, to accompany Udo Wieczorek and his wife to the location where he found Vinz's letter in the WW1 trenches on the Seikofel as well as to the spot where they found Josele's note. In addition I had a conversation (with my wife in attendance) on 19.7.2016 with local historian Rudolf Holzer in Sexten as well as telephone conversations with Rita Tschurtschenthaler and the Franciscan Brother. We also spoke to the char woman, Johanna Holzer (not related to Rudolf Holzer) who is said to have been the first independent person to see and decipher the farewell letter in 1997. During my travels (with my wife) to South Tyrol we also visited the surviving relatives of Vinz, Mariangela Giolito-Weiss, as well as her husband Fulvio Weiss in Centa di San Nicolò. We also met Vinz's niece, the now 83 year-old Armida Guiseppina Rossi.

EVALUATION

The locality where the farewell letter was found closely resembles the sketch of his dream memory (213) and the photograph on page 278 in the book. A former dugout is very close to the locality where the letter was said to be found. Wieczorek mentioned how much he is affected physically and emotionally every time he returns to the location [68]. He feels pressure in the area of his ribcage.

The conversation with Rudolph Holzer brought to light the fact that he does not believe reincarnation to be the true explanation of this case. He is far more of the opinion that it is the influence of the dead over the living. As a result it is highly unlikely that he is a conspirator of Wieczorek's on a mission to prove reincarnation.

Ms Giolito-Weiss married into the family of Vinz's descendants. Her knowledge comes from her husband who is very interested in family history. She is a teacher of catholic religion and as such not an advocate of the reincarnation theory. She too would prefer to believe the suggestion of the dead influencing the living.

Prof. (em) Dr-Ing. Lothar Götsching distances himself from the interpretation as a reincarnation case. He certainly did not act as a conspirator.

At no point in time was there any doubt expressed by the witnesses about the credibility of both authors or of the story itself.

Deception as an Explanation

After reading the book, one cannot help thinking that Wieczorek as an author of crime fiction might have been disappointed with the sales of his previous novel "Flieg, mein roter Adler" ("Fly, My Red Eagle") and was

striving for a rerun that would garner more interest. Maybe that is why he contrived a story that was possible to be proven accurate. To make it convincing, Wieczorek forges both Vinz's farewell letter as well as the message from Josele. He is very clever in this endeavour, as he uses paper that had to be produced prior to 1960 and by hiring someone to write a text in cursive writing (not Sütterlin), age the paper artificially and seal the paper in a wax coating. To garner more credibility he might have brought in an experienced journalist and crime novelist, namely Manfred Bomm — whom he does or does not include in his plan — to head the investigation and accompany him.

For the benefit of the deception hypothesis, I suppose Wieczorek somehow knew that his childhood dialect was South Tyrolean. In order to create conformity with his drawings and when it comes to his speaking dialect, he could well have chosen a fallen soldier from WWI from South Tyrol, whose details such as name and date of death he could find in documentation. This would ensure that a check at a later time, through an independent historian, would be successful. He also manages — so the theory goes — to win Daniela over as an accomplice meaning that she, much like co-author Manfred Bomm, loses her credibility as a witness. During the investigation Wieczorek played the surprised innocent for the other participants named as witnesses. It would have been unwise and risky to widen the circle of accomplices to these other witnesses. I think it is highly unlikely that he would have managed to include Brother Siegfried Volgger, religious teacher Mariangela Giolito-Weiss or the local historian Holzer. None of them are believers in reincarnation nor are they interested in the esoteric.

Appraisal of the Deception Scenario

The storyteller is well advised to choose a soldier, information about whom is readily available and plentiful, so his story doesn't clash with historic occasions during a future investigation. As a smart author he will have tried to find a soldier where he knew not only place and time of death but also where he was wounded, as he differentiates between the two in his book. This clearly wasn't possible, as there is no documentation in the book about the location of his being wounded. Wieczorek could have chosen the case of Vincento Rossi, because at least he knew the troupe number and the location of action (337). This should have led him to suppose that the injury must have taken place at the site of action.

In this case the author would have described the place of injury at Monte Piano, as this is where the company (k.u.k. Kaiserjäger, 4. Reg, 9. Comp) was that Vinz belonged to. However, Wieczorek lays Vinz's place of injury on the Seikofel, which is nearly eight kilometres from there. Why would he create this stumbling block? And why does he do this without explaining why Vinz was injured at a different location to where his company was stationed? How can it be that by this he correctly meets the historical reality only discovered and verified in 2013, at the end of the examination process?

The last question is answered if one supposes that the story-teller either didn't come across the information on troop location until late in the development of his book or else didn't seem bothered about this detail and instead took the known place of death (Innichen) and supposed the place of

injury is the Seikoff because it is situated in the catchment area of the Innichen military hospital. The location was later confirmed (Hassler, 2018). However, there are other options within the catchment area as both Holzer and Volgger pointed out to me. Let's assume that Wieczorek took a lucky guess. The question arises as to why the storyteller didn't choose a different soldier with a different vita that didn't force him to guess and thus would avoid any discrepancies during an investigation. According to Volgger there are such cases although they are quite rare.

In answer to the other questions posed above: if the author truly was not interested in the location of the troop, as mentioned, then why would he not just stay silent in the book, on the assumption that most readers would be oblivious to the discrepancy between the troop location and the spot where he was injured? Wieczorek, however, even explicitly points this out (337); how is it possible that Vinz was fighting so far away from his troop's base? In a constructed case study one would expect him to come up with an enlightened explanation for this discrepancy. Wieczorek doesn't — instead he speculates about possible reasons (Hassler, 2018). These questions indicate how dubious the theory is that Wieczorek made up the story around the information concerning Vincenzo Rossi. But it doesn't stop at just the questionable.

The following occurrence cannot be explained with conspiracy or deception as it is confirmed by unsuspecting witnesses, i.e. not only by Daniela Wieczorek or Manfred Bomm. During the initial visit of the authors together with the two monks to Vinz's parents' house at Centa the following is confirmed by Mariangela Giolito-Weiss or Siegfried Volgger by their written statements and in personal conversation: [60] Wieczorek spontaneously recognises Vinz' relatives in old photographs as Vinz's father and grandmother (319). Wieczorek could not have access to such images before this visit and therefore could not prepare for deception.

Sceptics may doubt that Vinz would have been able to seal his letter with wax in the trenches. Even after intensive research I found no literature to describe the necessary technique, so I decided to carry out my own experiment. With seven tea-lights as a substitute for a stove I was able to liquidise normal candle wax in a pan and dip a sheet of paper (DIN-A5) in it and then drip-dry. Even a piece of paper folded twice could be treated in the same way and I was still able to unfold it which means a smaller pot and a smaller number of candles could have been used instead of a pan. Trial scripts with three different types of ink did not smudge when dipped into the hot wax bath. The result in each case was comparable to the letter that Wieczorek supposedly found. So, Vinz would have been able to seal his letter, but of course this also holds for a potential deceiver.

Concerning this possible deception scenario I would like to note that I have been able to gain my own impression of most of the participants. Following this I do not think it appropriate to consider the journalist Manfred Bomm an untrustworthy witness. It was on his insistence, after all, that Wieczorek joined him in resuming the research and continued to pursue it. He can be seen as the first independent investigator of this case. The only reason he could be part of the deception scenario is because he published together with Wieczorek. I also think Daniela Wieczorek is inconspicuous:

she was the driving force behind the initial research in the nineties, to help him rid himself of the wearying dreams and flashbacks, by discovering the past. To paint Udo Wieczorek as a charlatan seems at odds with the impression of his nature as was perceived by my wife, Mr Bomm and myself. Also all the above mentioned witnesses showed no doubt about the credibility of the persons involved or the case itself, even though they certainly cannot be seen as supporters of the esoteric or the reincarnation hypothesis.

Therefore the deception scenario is unconvincing and we may reasonably assume that the two authors are reporting to the best of their knowledge as they have assured us all along.

ANALYSIS

To analyse the case, elements of relevance to paranormal explanations have been extracted from the book or the synopsis and put into a table (see Table 1). Their credibility will be assessed by pointing out how well they are witnessed and they will be compared to elements of other fields of reincarnation research.

The elements of Wieczorek's case are assembled in the broad column labelled 'Case Elements'. Seventeen general phenomena are depicted in bold type and underlined (e.g. "**Dreams as adult**"). Forty-eight individual forms of these general phenomena, identified by numbers in braces {1, 2, etc.}, are printed in bold but not underlined (e.g. different dream contents like **Daa** about the coins {7}). Because of the brevity of the individual statements a connection to the synopsis is established via numbers in square brackets e.g., [1] and to Wieczorek's book using round brackets in italics (*page number*). Items not mentioned in the synopsis are marked by "nmis".

Credibility

The right hand column labelled "independent" indicates by an **X** which individual phenomena were witnessed by additional independent witnesses named in the review section and not only by Manfred Bomm and Daniela. Under 'Case Elements' unverified items are marked by "uv". As a personal judgement I marked items under case elements that may be explained by cryptomnesia (cr), logical inference (in) or lucky guess (gu).

Comparison

The 4 columns to the left indicate, by use of an "x", which phenomena were also found in other types of reincarnation experiences. Such as the Cases Of the Reincarnation Type (CORT: Hassler, 2011), other "**mixed cases**" (i.e., dreams and more), "**dreams only**" (Grubbs, 2006) and "**regression**" cases (Hassler, 2015a). The numbers in the 4 left columns refer to the number of phenomena that are unique to Wieczorek's case.

RESULTS

Credibility

As the most right column shows, only 7 of the 17 general phenomena (bold, underlined) or 10 of 48 individual items (bold only) are testified by independent witnesses. Hence the case relies to a great deal on the honesty and fidelity of detail of the authors and of Daniela.

Comparison

CORT: As the authors implicitly claim to present a case for reincarnation Wieczorek’s case was compared to CORT, the strongest support for reincarnation. The most detailed cases in Stevenson’s (1997; 2003) published case material render the paranormal elements in tables. They are 80 cases comprising typically 25 elements (Hassler, 2011).

Table 1
Summarising and comparing the case elements from Wieczorek to other cases with themes (bold and underlined) and items (bold only) identified

CORT	Mixed Cases	Dreams Only	Regression	Case Elements	Independent
x	x	1	x	[1] <u>Dialect</u> that Wieczorek spoke as a child. Confirmation see footnote 2 {1} [15] <u>Dialect</u> of South Tyrol after an operation (66) [18] Dialect that he uses in front of Daniela and the hotel owner in Sexten (83, 109, 168, 192, 219, 271) <u>Dialect</u> in a dream (131) and after (nmis) (192)	X
1	x	2	x	[2] <u>Drawings</u> of war scenes in Wieczorek’s childhood (confirmed by Wieczorek’s mother and cousin; (see, Hassler, 2018) {2}	X
x	x	3	x	[3] <u>Nightmares as a child</u> featuring scenes of war (confirmed by the mother; see (Hassler, 2018) {3}	X
2	1	4	x	[4] <u>Nightmares as adult</u> end, once the probable reason had been discovered (typical for regression cases) (249) (relevant content see “dreams”) {4}	
x	x	x	x	[5] <u>Dreams as adult (Daa)</u> knowing of the name “Josele” {5} [6] <u>Daa</u> about a cluster of three fir trees (35, 52) {6} [7] [31] <u>Daa</u> about the coins (finding them (229) confirmed the wire basket (209, 228) and the previously dreamt different size of the coins (52, 228) correctly assigned (the larger coin was given by Vinz to Josele) {7} [8] [32] [39] <u>Daa</u> about the exchange of two coins {8} [9] [12] <u>Daa</u> about the unfriendly separation of Vinz and Josele (uv){9} [10] [27] [29] <u>Daa</u> about a girl with dark braids (uv) {10} [11] [21] <u>Daa</u> about the rose carved in wood that he later locates (97) {11} [13] <u>Daa</u> hearing the name “Vinz” (48, 188), that helps to solve the case and is later confirmed through the finding of the letter (233, 247). {12} [30] <u>Daa</u> about shooting Josele dead (uv) {13} [33] <u>Daa</u> about lowering Josele’ corpse (uv) {14} [34] [36] <u>Daa</u> about the wounding of Vinz {15} [37] <u>Daa</u> about writing a letter {16} [38] [40] <u>Daa</u> about hiding the letter {17} <u>Daa</u> about a tower in Southern Tyrol that existed (340) but is no longer there today, verified by a sketch he had made tallying well with a historic photograph (341). (nmis) (cr) {18}	

x	2	5	x	[14] [16] NDE showing the life-threatening situation of war Vinz lives in (Hassler, 2018) {19}	
x	x	x	x	[17] [19] [51] Local knowledge only in areas known to Vinz (Hassler, 2018) (cr, in, gu) {20} [66] Local knowledge of a waterfall in Centa (cr, in, gu) {21}	
x	x	6	x	[22] Recognition and naming of Shanni on the photograph in the restaurant (cr) {22} [58] Recognition of Vinz, Carlo and Onibene on portraits {23}{24}{25} Recognitions in and around Sexten (nmis) (cr, in, gu) (Hassler, 2018) {26} [48] Recognition of stumps of the trio of trees where Josele's letter (248) and coin were found {27}	
				[54] Recognition of Marie in a photograph (speaking to Holzer) (284) {28}	X
				[60] Recognition of father and grandmother in photographs with the correct reference to their names during his visit to Centa (319) {29}{30}	X
3	x	x	x	[41] [44] Discovery of evidence : Vinz' letter (234), coin and rusty tin can (236) confirming the existence of Vinz {31} [48] Discovery of evidence : Josele's letter (248) and coin confirming the existence of Josele as a close friend of Vinz {32}	
x	x	7	x	[23] Fear of stepping out of cover during hikes (Hassler, 2018)	
x	x	8	x	[35] Pain after dreaming {34} [68] Pain physically and emotionally every time he returns to the trench where Vinz' was wounded (Wieczorek disclosed in a conversation with me that he believed his pains to be due to Vinz' tuberculosis and not the shot that injured his lung (308). Vinz would probably not have been able to survive for three days with a shot lung. Lung shot was often the diagnosis given to enable relatives to claim a war pension.) {35}	
4	3	9	1	[24] Warning of others about contaminated water	
x	x	10	x	Special knowledge of the munitions used during WWI (nmis) (115, 279) (cr, in, gu) {36} Special knowledge of 'Schluzern' (99), term used locally (nmis) (cr) {37} Special knowledge of the grave of a man with the uncommon name "Ermengildo Malfer" (nmis) (159) {38}	
				[10] [20] [27] Special knowledge about the girl Marie who died and quite possibly truly passed away during the war (283-) (cr, in, gu) {39}	X
				[62] Special knowledge about Vinz' occupation (During my visit at his home Wieczorek pointed out a beautifully carpentered cupboard that he had made himself as he likes working with wood. This fits in well with Vinz's profession as a carpenter.) (gu) {40}	X
				[65] Special knowledge about the sundial that Vinz had started to paint (see, Hassler, 2018) (in, gu) {41}	X

CORT	Mixed Cases	Dreams Only	Regression	Case Elements	Independent
5	4	11	x	[24] [25] Flashbacks in black and white that show images of the past (Hassler, 2018) {42} [20] [23] Flashbacks revealing things no longer in existence today (97, 141, 174, 177) {43} [26] [28] [43] Flashbacks accompanied by the same appropriate phantom pain (upper thigh, lungs) (see [68] Pain above) (121, 127, 191, 194, 217, 218) {44} [42] Flashback leading to the discovery of Vinz’ shelter where he wrote his farewell letter(236) {45} [64] Flashback knowing of call-up papers (uv) {46}	
6	5	12	2	[46] Premonition of the previous person of the point in time (month and year) when the farewell letter would be found {47}	X
x	x	13	x	[67] Identification with the previous person Vinz (193, 210) {48}	
x	x	x	x	[45] [47] [50] [52] [53] [54] [55] [56] [57] [59] [61] Solution of the case through documents (264, 274, 289, 293, 308), through witness statements by relatives (301, 319) and through his signature on his farewell letter (233)	X

The number of 48 individual paranormal items in the case in hand is comparable to the best CORT, rendering Wieczorek’s case a strong one.

Eleven general phenomena (marked with an ‘x’ in the left hand column) of the total of 17 coincide with those of the case in hand and the remaining 6 numbered terms are unique to Wieczorek’s case. These are:

- Nightmares of the subject as adult
- Drawings by the subject
- Discoveries of evidence by the subject
- Warning of others by the subject
- Flashbacks of the subject
- Premonition of the previous person

Mixed cases: Wieczorek’s case is of the “mixed” type because it is not based on dreams alone. Therefore it is compared to other mixed cases showing correspondences in 12 terms and is unique in five.

Dreams only: Comparison with Grubbs (2006) dreams only case shows 4 correspondences: In dreams in childhood and as an adult. Those dreams enabled her to discover evidence for the previous person (discoveries of evidence) and to know of the layout of a church as it was in earlier times (local knowledge). Thirteen terms remain unique for Wieczorek’s case.

Regression: Regressions into previous lives show correspondences on 15 terms of Wieczorek’s case and only 2 unique for the case at hand.

Individual elements which to my personal judgement theoretically could be explained by cryptomnesia (cr), logical inference (in) or a lucky guess (gu) comprise only 10 of 48 items. Given the lack of support for these views I would suggest that cryptomnesia, logical inference or lucky guessing does not, in my opinion, play a decisive role in explaining the case.

Precognition as in the case of the dates in the farewell letter reaching into a very distant future, as seen from 1915, which then occurs with unimaginable precision deserves a remark. A glimpse into ones' own future is described as an occasional sign of a near-death-experience (Morse & Perry, 1993; Ring, 1985). It also often seems to be an after-effect of a near-death-experience (Morse & Perry, 1993; Ring, 1985; Sutherland, 1989). Vinz writes in his letter that he "dreamed" the date. It is quite possible that he temporarily lost consciousness during this three-day struggle with death and that he had one or more near-death experiences.

Weak points in the case are that the centre of the story, Vinz's friendship with Josele and Josele's unintentional death through a shot fired by his former best friend Vinz remains in the darkness of history. The same holds for their relationship to their mutual friend Marie, Josele's position on the hostile, Italian side, his attempt at desertion and the lowering of Josele's body.

Yet there is the material evidence of Josele's existence through the discovery of the letters. Up until now, however, no other trace of Josele could be found. We do not even know his last name. Everything about Josele, that exceeds the confirmation of pure existence, can only be based on — albeit quite convincing — interpretation of the two written documents which Wiczorek found.

There are quite a number of theories trying to explain paranormal phenomena like those of the case in hand, reincarnation being but one of them (Hassler, 2011). However, it is beyond the scope of this article to describe and discuss the relative merits of each of them and in my opinion this should not be done on the basis of just one single — even though singular — case, but on a broader basis of all the best cases we have available.

CONCLUSIONS

It has been shown that the deception scenario is unconvincing and we may accept with reasonable confidence this case to be real. It has also been shown that Wiczorek's case is outstanding in its paranormal phenomena unique to this case compared to other cases of the reincarnation type. It is also outstanding in the large amount of phenomena found in one single case. Therefor this case — together with others — should be taken into consideration when trying to look for the best interpretation, explanation or theory for hitherto not well understood phenomena. This would ideally also include a statistical analysis of the data.

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ERRATUM

Robert A. Charman sent in the following correction to his paper in the previous issue, (Charman & Hume, 2018, p.39, line 2):

[Error]

Henderson read the *Daily Telegraph*

[Correction]

her father read the *Daily Telegraph*

Charman, R. A. & Hume, S. (2018). The Case of Colonel Henderson and the Apparition of Captain Hinchliffe Revisited — A Crisis Apparition? *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, 82(1), 28–42.

s. a. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJygmK7GAOc>