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|  | *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* [Vol. 65.2, No. 863 CORRESPONDENCE To the Editor, **The Psi Track—practical yet unproven** In 1987 Mr Gôte Andersson of Vàrmlands Nysàter, Sweden, discovered a phenomenon which has been named 'the psi track'. *The Psi Track* Briefly, the psi *track* has the following basis:- A person, called the sender, is in a place called the sending place. For a few minutes the sender concentrates vividly on a target object hidden in the surrounding area. The distance to the target object may be tens or hundreds of metres, or even further. After some minutes, a 'track' is established from the sending place to the target object. This track can be detected by dowsing, until it gradually fades away after one to two hours. In real life, the *psi track* may be used to find lost objects. Jacobson and Tellefsen (1994) published a study of the psi *track,* consisting of a detailed description of the procedure, discussion of anecdotal cases, and a report of controlled field experiments. The authors hoped that their study would encourage other researchers to repeat similar experiments. Unfortunately, neither I nor my co-author have so far seen any such reports. On the other hand, Gôte Andersson and my co-author and I have received reports about the practical use of the psi *track* to recover lost objects. Information about the procedure has been published in popular articles in Swedish magazines, and in a book by Gôte Andersson (1994). *A Real-Life Report* The latest report of the practical use of the psi *track* comes from Gote Andersson. The event took place at the Skaggebol farm in Vàrmlands Nysàter, where Mr Andersson lives and works part time. He writes :— On 2nd October 2000 Ms Elisabeth Hebbe, living on the farm, told me that her half-grown kitten had not been seen for two days. We decided to try the psi-track. Ms Gertrud Holm, living nearby, is a skilled dowser and was willing to help. I (Gote) acted as sender. Standing in the garden, I mentally concentrated on the kitten. Gertrud walked around me with her dowsing rod, and very soon got a distinct reaction. The track pointed straight towards the laundry room on the ground floor of Elisabeth's house. We searched the laundry room believing that the kitten was locked up there, but without result. It then occurred to me that the psi track could go straight through the house and continue round the back. Gertrud started dowsing again, behind the house. Soon she got a new contact with the track and followed it towards a hillside where there was an underground cellar, used for storing potatoes. I went into the cellar, and the poor kitten crawled out. The kitten had probably sneaked in there when someone fetched potatoes. Elisabeth later told me that it was very thirsty. None of us had any idea that the kitten could be in the cellar. Instead it was speculated that it might have fallen victim to a fox, which had been seen sneaking round the garden. 158  |  |
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|  | April 2001]  | *Correspondence*  |  |
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|  | The distance from the sending place to the cellar is about 60 meters. The whole trial, from beginning of the sending until I entered the cellar, took about 15 minutes. [The report is signed: Gote Andersson, Elisabeth Hebbe, Gertrud Holm.] *Comments* This is a typical example of the practical use of the psi *track.* Of course such a trial has no 'scientific' value. It is impossible to prove that no one knew that the kitten might be in the cellar. Perhaps someone had noticed the kitten around there and then forgotten about it. However, we have dozens of reports of similar cases, some of them rather remarkable, where actual lost objects of very different kinds have been found, again with this procedure. In this case, we may even assume that the psi *track* saved the kitten's life, which is more important than scientific proof. A real test of the psi *track* would be in connection with a police search for a missing person. However, this would need skilled dowsers who were well trained in the procedure beforehand. I would be glad if this case report might inspire researchers to investigate the psi *track.* Until confirmatory studies are reported, the psi *track* may continue to be regarded as useful in practice but scientifically unproven.  |  |
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|  | To the Editor, At the SPR Study Day on Precognition on the 7th October 2000, one of the speakers, Dr Peter Hallson, referred to Holger Klintman's (1983) research from the *European Journal of Parapsychology* and suggested that this was such a simple experiment that some SPR members might like to attempt to replicate it. With the same idea in mind I had previously looked at the study and had seen what I thought was a possible statistical flaw in it which would render the result non-significant. I mentioned this at the Study Day and have since contacted Professor Klintman. Although he was too busy to consider it fully immediately, he conceded that "there could possibly be a flaw involved which affected the final results". Therefore until this has been fully resolved it is advisable that SPR members do not attempt to replicate this experiment. Note, however, that this probably does not affect any subsequent experiments based on this one, other than the one in Part I of the above study.  |  |
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