



Phantom on the Queen Mary

SPECIFICATIONS:

Date: Early 2000's

Location: S.S. Queen Mary, permanently docked in Long Beach, California

Photographer: George LaRocca

Type Camera: Unknown

Other Information:

Location is considered a "hot spot" of paranormal activity.

This is either a really bad case of motion blur or one of the better spirit captures ever made. The photo was taken in the early 2000's by a gentlemen who had been staying onboard the famous liner (long since converted to a floating hotel/restaurant) and wanted only to take a picture of one of the many passageways that run throughout the ship. When he got home and printed out his pictures, he found what appears to be a blurry ghost walking down the hall, which apparently unnerved him to such a degree that his nephew claimed he never wanted to talk about it again.

Is this a ghost or just someone walking away from the camera caught un-awares? Clearly such an effect could

be achieved in Photoshop, but it would be even simpler to pull it off by simply setting the shutter exposure to three seconds and shooting a picture of someone walking away. Since we don't have the metafile data to examine on this photo, there's no way of telling what the shutter speed was, and since everything else in the photo is fixed, motion blur would achieve precisely this effect. Seems like an open and shut case to me.

There are a few problems with this explanation, however: First, there is no blur evident anywhere else in the photo, which is almost impossible to achieve with a hand-held camera unless it was mounted to a tripod. Second, The

Queen Mary has a reputation as being one of the most haunted locales in the world—and with good reason—making the prospect that this is a genuine ghost extremely plausible, and, third, I have stayed on this vessel myself and have witnessed some unusual things there, making me especially open to the possibility that this is a real ghost. That's a purely subjective opinion, I know, but one I'm willing to live with.

Could it be a hoax? Of course it could, though I would be surprised if it were. The place is as haunted as Dracula's mausoleum.