

## **A review into the mysterious events surrounding Mr. Zigmund Adamski.**

*By John Hanson and David Sankey*

### **The incident**

Many of the readers, will be all to familiar with the mysterious events that surrounded the discovery of the above named, who was found deceased at Tomlin's Coal yard at the side of Todmorden railway station, 30 miles away from where he lived, at 3.45pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1980 and of the controversy surrounding his departure from the family home a few days before the wedding of his God Daughter on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June.



*Photograph: View of where the coal was located*

His unusual death, led to much newspaper speculation in the months that followed, including ridiculous suggestions made by journalists John Sheard and Stewart Bonney from the Sunday Mirror 27<sup>th</sup> September 1981, quote *"UFO Death Riddle"* who inferred that Mr. Adamski's death was in some way connected with UFO activity, a hypothesis given further weight by the suggestion that the only way this man could have ended up on the coal pile was from having been put there from above!

His peculiar disappearance, seemingly out of character for a man who presumably would have been looking forward to giving his god-daughter Stephanie away and the circumstances in which it occurred, raised much suspicion by the investigating Police Officers, especially after discovering the injuries inflicted to the back of the neck. One of the police officers, PC Alan Godfrey, to whom we spoke to about this case, still remains unsatisfied that the real truth has never come to light.

Enquiries made into this matter, which transpired some 26 years ago, and recently looked into by the authors revealed further insight into the background of the deceased. It was said by one source that Adamski was not looking forward to giving his god-daughter away, as he felt this responsibility should have been carried out by somebody else within the family circle, who unfortunately at that particular time, he had been on bad terms with. This is in contrast to the much held view of the time as to why Mr. Adamski would choose to go missing shortly before giving his god-daughter away at her wedding.

We felt it was time to put the record straight with regard to the ridiculous and long held speculation that Mr. Adamski's death had been brought about through alien intervention, being literally frightened to death, according to one unsubstantiated source and in view of the 'open verdict' recorded by the Coroner Mr. James Turnbull! We decided to contact the West Yorkshire Police, under the Freedom of Information Act, in December 2005 and ask them if they were willing to allow access to any relevant police documents pertaining to this incident still on file. Taking into consideration the nature of information obtained recently from someone who was a close family friend of Mr. Adamski and his wife who we consider to be a reliable source, which alleges Adamski was held against his will and that his unlawful detention ultimately led to his death.

In an answer dated 19th December 2005, an Officer advised us that although the verdict was an open verdict, all documentary evidence is lodged with the Coroner's department and we should approach them for information.

We emailed the Coroner's Court at Bradford and asked if we could have sight of the original Coroner's file on the death of Zigmund Adamski, explaining the reasons behind our request and we were advised by Angela Plovie, from that department, this would not be possible as we were not judged 'interested parties'.

We then sent both email and letter to Mr. James Turnbull hoping he would be prepared to discuss the matter with us, knowing over the years he had made himself available for interview with members of the Press and other documentary film makers who briefly looked into the strange circumstances surrounding Mr. Adamski's death. Unfortunately we never received any acknowledgment to our enquiries. Could Mr. Turnbull's attitude be governed by the alleged remarks he

made in the newspapers at the time, *“the failure of the forensic scientists to identify the corrosive substance which caused Mr. Adamski’s burns could lend some weight to the UFO theory”*?\*

\* Ironically opinions expressed in this way were to be banned following new guidelines for Coroners laid out in Rule 36(2) The Coroners Rules 1984.

Having seen a photograph of Mr. Adamski taken shortly after the body was recovered, found dressed in a string vest, no shirt and a brown ‘john collier’ jacket, with trousers incorrectly buttoned, his watch and wallet were later found to be missing. It is clear from the amount of coal residue on his face that he was probably found by the ambulance men lying face down, presumably turned over by them during their examination and then left on his back which was the position the Police found him in when they arrived a short time later. The police were greeted by one of the ambulance crew who said, *“I think you’ve got a murder on your hands”*.



*Photograph: Alan Godfrey*

Alan Godfrey said, *“He was lying on his back with his eyes open, looking straight up, no sign of rigor mortis, I remember a theory suggested by the CID who thought he might have fallen asleep under a lorry and the acid fell on his neck, but this wasn’t the explanation. I remember the Pathologist telling me that it*

*wasn't acid on his neck, he was certainly alive on the day he was found. It's a real mystery, although one thing I do know, it was nothing to do with any Aliens, that's a load of rubbish."*

According to Trevor Parker, in charge of the coal yard and to whom we spoke, he had started work that morning at 8am and left the coal yard unattended at about 11am to visit other premises, not returning until 4pm. On his return he found the deceased lying face down approximately ten feet up the pile of anthracite beans (man made coal) with his head facing to the top of the heap. So it would appear that Mr. Adamski was taken there after 11am as the Bunker was in full view of Mr. Parker, who initially thought this was a drunken man sleeping off a bout of drink and contacted the ambulance station.

The Police considered various theories as to how Mr. Adamski had arrived at the site of the station:

- Had he arrived on a train from Leeds and walked down into the coal yard of his own accord?
- Had he been taken to the coal yard by somebody and placed onto the pile of coal as some sort of 'statement' by his captors? (Note: Mr. Adamski was in the process of applying for retirement from Lofthouse Colliery Pit, due for closure in 1981, as he wanted to look after his wife Leokadia (Lottie) who suffered from multiple sclerosis.)
- Could he have jumped from a bridge onto a passing coal lorry on its way to Parkers coal yard, causing the injuries and then been transferred onto the coal pile by an unsuspecting operator?

We believe it is unlikely he caught a train to Todmorden coal yard, he certainly wasn't "delivered" there by a coal lorry, as Mr. Parker confirms no coal deliveries took place on that day or the previous few days.

Another line of enquiry we looked into involved a telephone conversation made to a representative of UFO Magazine, whom we spoke to stating Mr. Adamski had fallen out with a family member just before a wedding. This person, whose identity is known, is alleged to have locked Mr. Adamski in a garden shed, who then while trying to escape came into contact with battery acid causing the burns to the back of his neck.

The acidic substance remains unidentified despite forensic analysis made at the time. There must have been far more information given to the Court by the Forensic Expert. Unfortunately we are not privy to the evidence submitted by that official to the Coroner's Inquest, so any further comment would be pure speculation. We were able to ascertain the burns to his head had probably occurred between eight and ten hours prior to the body being found, which would put it at around 7am on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1980.



We wondered about the peculiar ring or cup marks found on the back of the head of the deceased and pondered this with other previously unpublished information whether there was any truth in the suggestion made by an unnamed Police Officer that Mr. Adamski had been receiving moxi bustion treatment from an unidentified acupuncturist in Nelson. This treatment consists of placing small glass or bamboo jars or cups containing a cotton ball soaked in alcohol against the skin, and igniting it. This treatment is often used for rheumatism and painful joints, sprains, paralysis and asthma.



*Photograph: Sample treatment marks*

Was this treatment used on Mr. Adamski? Did it go wrong? Were ointments prescribed? Could this tie in with his missing shirt, as this was a procedure often used in administration of the treatment?

This leaves us with the distinct possibility, bearing in mind the nature of conversations held with a person whose identity is known to us, that Mr. Adamski was the victim of a family feud. A theory which appears to have been given credibility by a statement made by Mrs. Adamski shortly after her husband's disappearance to the media, She believed her husband had been kidnapped.

We now know he was found with one day's stubble on his face, indicating that wherever he had been for those missing 4-5 days he had washed and shaved, his hair had even been cropped.

We had learned that Mr. Adamski had fallen out with an immediate male family member whose wife, being a friend of Mrs. Adamski had allegedly "sought sanctuary" with them following an injunction being taken out by her against him from the risk of further harassment and intimidation. This may evidently tell us much about why Mr. Adamski went missing.

We have every reason to believe the offender is still out there despite being interviewed, albeit briefly, by the West Yorkshire Police during their investigation into the matter. Not that we necessarily infer that Mr. Adamski was murdered, it is more likely he died whilst in the hands of his captors, suffering from a heart attack as was discovered during the post mortem procedure.

Ironically, although an open verdict was recorded, which means the case is still open and that the Police have not closed their file, there appears to be nobody interested in wanting to 'reopen this case' and finally remove this smear from Mr. Adamski's hitherto good character. We believe that some one out there knows the answer. Will they finally have the courage to come forward and clear the name of this man? We doubt it after so long, but know there are at least two or three other parties still living in the Leeds area whose identity is known to us, that can provide the key to uncovering what really happened to Mr. Adamski. Whatever it was, it certainly was not through alien intervention

The authors are grateful for the cooperation and information provided by all those concerned in preparation for this brief synopsis into the strange circumstances surrounding Mr. Zigmund Adamski's death – may he finally rest in peace!

John Hanson is a retired Police Officer who served nearly 28 years with the police force, 14 of which were spent in the CID. He has served on a number of major incident rooms and is currently preparing a book entitled Haunted Skies along with his partner Dawn Holloway, which catalogues numerous UFO sightings going back to 1940.

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