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copy: Michael Jay (Shapiro) [I do not know his nationality]
Richard Spearman
Smart Gregor - William Roberts - no name, SD (B)
Ken O'Flaherty - can you do
Paris passport check?

How did Diana paparazzo die?

h/5/6 a quick check?

FROM GREE SWIFT
IN MILLAU

THE SHADY dealings and secret meetings that led to top paparazzi cameraman James Anderson being linked with Princess Diana's death may ultimately have caused his own. Anderson's barely-identifiable remains were found in his burned-out car in a French woodland last month.

Initially police believed that he had committed suicide; but now there is growing speculation that he may have been murdered. His widow Elizabeth, 45, was yesterday at their luxurious farmhouse in central France, still stunned by his death but unable to believe that he had killed himself.

Meanwhile, confidential police forensic reports - seen by the Daily Express - about Anderson's possible role in the Diana tragedy potentially place him squarely at the centre of events.

They indicate that paintwork and plastics from a white Fiat Uno owned by Anderson, 54, match exactly evidence recovered from Diana's Mercedes which had clipped a Uno before crashing in a Paris tunnel in August 1997.

Those findings, coupled with question marks about an alibi Anderson gave to prove he was not in Paris on the night Diana died, have led to fears that his death may be connected to the Paris crash. For Elizabeth, the mystery surrounding his death has only added to the agonies she has suffered since losing her husband of more than 20 years.

Reminders of him are everywhere in their home, built 10 years ago with the profits made from years of chasing stars and royals across Europe.

On the edge of Lignieres village, the house called Le Manoir de la Bergerie has a Union flag fluttering in the garden, a symbol, his wife said, of

Anderson's great affection for Britain. Mrs Anderson said she could not begin to understand the circumstances of his death and still waited for the police to provide some answers.

The elegant, attractive widow said: "James came home on May 4 from a job in Paris and left almost at once for another job. That was not unusual and in all the years of our marriage I had got used to him dashing in and out without saying where he had been or where he was going. There were periods when we hardly saw each other."

"I had assumed he was going back to Paris but the next day a gendarme came to see me and told me a body had been found inside a car in Nant, in southern France, and they thought it was James."

"I was too shocked. My reaction was one of utter disbelief. There had been nothing unusual about James before he had left. Everything had been normal and now this awful news."

"The next day the police came round once more and told me that they had identified the body in the car as being my husband's, from DNA results. The judge investigating the case in Millau has told me that she excludes no explanation for the tragedy but I have heard nothing for some time now. I am not sure what happened or why. My husband had been stressed for a while before he died but I put that down to the normal stresses of being a journalist. Did he have any enemies? There were none that I knew of but then, in his line of work, anything was possible."

Anderson was well-known on the paparazzi circuit, which operates around the Mediterranean during the summer. Starting at St Tropez in southern France, it spreads round the coast to northern Italy a haven for celebrities from May to August.

While Anderson would photograph any celebrity he had made a speciality of travelling around Europe snapping royals, in particular the British Royal Family, while working for the Sigma and lately the Syda photographic agencies in France.

It is rumoured that he once made £100,000 from a picture of Prince Charles kissing royal nanny Tiggy Legge-Bourke while they were skiing with his sons in Klosters.

Anderson was at the head of the paparazzi chasing Diana around the Mediterranean in the weeks before she died, but his wife insisted that he was doing no more than he would have done in any summer.

James travelled to St Tropez every

summer; it was part of his routine," she said. "He would always be photographing on that circuit and I would often travel down to see him and stay with him there."

"He was not hounding Diana during that period - he spent two months in that area every year."

"But I didn't keep a track of his movements as he was always rushing in and out. When he was at home, he was at home. When he was off on a job, he was on a job. Police have given me no hard evidence and until they do, I will have no firm opinion. There is no point in my trying to guess if it was suicide or murder."

It will now be the task of Alain Dyrand, the public prosecutor at the High Court of Millau, to run an investigation that will seek to establish the true cause of his death.

The location of Anderson's death is suspicious in itself. Instead of driving the 190 miles north to Paris, Anderson's car travelled in the opposite direction, ending up almost 400 miles south of his home, on the Larzac plateau near Montpellier. Taking a narrow, unmarked road, his car was driven to a tiny hamlet called Les Lessiques Basses where it turned off on to a dusty, pot-holed farm track.

Two miles later, and surrounded by empty countryside, his car turned off the track and bounced almost a mile uphill across a cow field before crashing through dense forest to a clearing that few locals knew existed.

Yesterday a trail of melted metal led to the huge patch of scorched earth and trees that marks the spot where Anderson's body was found.

Farmer Julian Christian, 57, who owns the land, was one of the first at the scene after the alarm had been raised by a nearby army base, whose sentries spotted smoke on the horizon. The police

continues.