

TVP - 4

Three Men in Black

1. On the morning of Friday 18th July 2003, a keen walker was walking beside the River Thames in a westerly direction that would eventually take him towards Harrowdown Hill. This was something he often did on his days off.
2. At about 10.30am he noticed a helicopter arriving from the East. It was circling above Harrowdown Hill, he also noticed two police cars at Harrowdown Hill.
3. At this point he left the riverside slightly and followed a track parallel to the river but a short distance from it. After he rejoined the river path he followed it along the side of a very large grass field. As he got about a third of the way across the side of the field, he saw three men walking across the field from the direction of the willow trees. They were initially about 3-400 metres away and walking in a straight line towards the Thames path. At their closest point they were about 100 metres away from him. The males were white and were walking abreast, close enough that they could have touched each other and conversed.
4. The walker describes the males all wearing black trousers with one of the men wearing a light weight black leather jacket. The other two wore long-sleeved t-shirts, also black. None of the males was carrying anything. It was very apparent that the three males were not walkers, and at the time the witness found their presence quite sinister.
5. He returned to his car at around 1.20pm where he recounted the above incident to a police officer.
6. As a result of this sighting the walker was interviewed by officers from the Dr Kelly investigation and a statement obtained together with a sketch map of the location. A force wide appeal was made for any Police officer who believed he may have been one of these males or who may have seen them to come forward.

7. The three men were identified as Police Officers who were engaged in the search operation.
8. It must be borne in mind that this sighting was an hour after the body of Dr Kelly was discovered and some nine hours after the latest time of death as defined by Dr Hunt.
9. There is no obvious scenario of a third party involvement in Dr Kelly's death which would give rise to the suspicion that the three individuals seen at that time could be anything other than the officers engaged in the search operation.