

Princess Diana's last hours

A reconstruction: What took place 10 years ago in the Alma tunnel in Paris?



Ambulance drives slowly to prevent exacerbating internal injuries

Crash site in Alma underpass

Slow moving white Fiat Uno

Mercedes S280 driven by Henri Paul

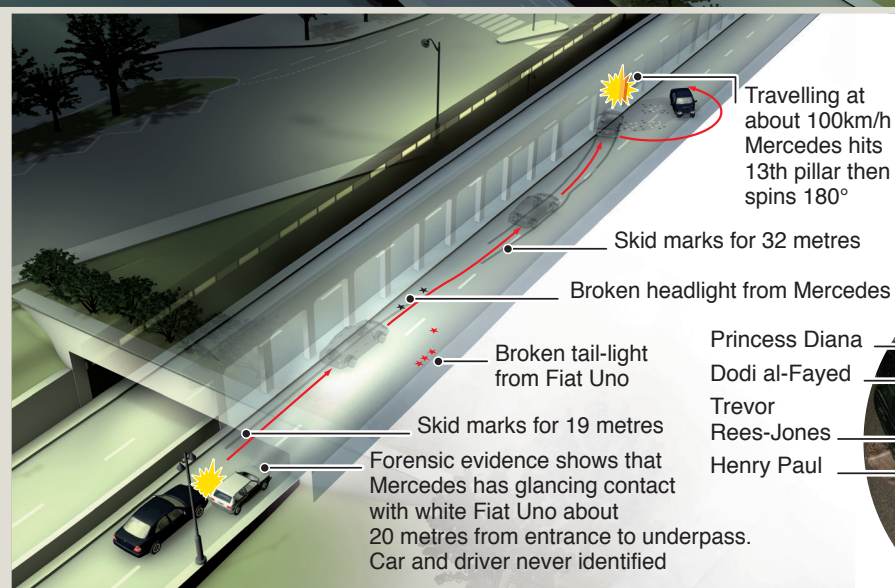
Conspiracy theories

◆ Dodi's father Mohammed al-Fayed remains convinced that his son and the princess were murdered by the British Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, to prevent a forthcoming announcement of their engagement

Evidence of Diana's close friends and associates suggests she was not engaged and she was not about to get engaged

◆ Al-Fayed claims that driver of a white Fiat Uno involved in the crash was a secret service agent.

The official inquiry finds no evidence for his claims



Travelling at about 100km/h Mercedes hits 13th pillar then spins 180°

Skid marks for 32 metres

Broken headlight from Mercedes

Broken tail-light from Fiat Uno

Skid marks for 19 metres

Forensic evidence shows that Mercedes has glancing contact with white Fiat Uno about 20 metres from entrance to underpass. Car and driver never identified

Princess Diana
Dodi al-Fayed
Trevor Rees-Jones
Henry Paul



Chronology of events



1 Aug 30, 1997: Princess Diana and Dodi al-Fayed fly from Sardinia to Paris

2 21:30: Dodi's planned romantic dinner at Chez Benoit is ruined by paparazzi. They decide to dine at Ritz Hotel

3 23:37: Following dinner, couple decide to drive to Dodi's apartment. Dodi plans diversion to escape paparazzi by leaving from rear in unmarked car

4 Aug 31, 00:20: Mercedes carrying Diana, Dodi, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, and driven by Henri Paul, leaves Ritz

5 00:23: Mercedes crashes in Alma tunnel, killing Dodi and Paul. Rees-Jones and Diana are seriously injured. Off-duty doctor stops in tunnel, calls emergency services and provides initial treatment

6 00:40: Ambulance team struggles to free Diana from wreckage. While being treated at site she suffers two cardiac arrests

7 01:41: Ambulance drives to Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital

02:06: Surgical team at La Pitié works for nearly two hours to repair a tear in her pulmonary vein. During this period she suffers two more heart attacks

04:00: Diana, Princess of Wales pronounced dead

Operation Paget

The official three-year inquiry – which brought together 1,500 witness statements – found that there was no evidence that the couple were murdered. Operation Paget, the Metropolitan Police's probe, concluded the crash was a "tragic accident"

A Brian Anderson: Travelling in taxi along Cours Albert 1er. He sees black Mercedes overtake his taxi on left at high speed. Three motorbikes are "swarming" around it. One motorbike, with passenger, is attempting to overtake Mercedes in narrow space between offside of car and central barrier

B Christophe Lascaux: He sees Mercedes in opposite lane swerving at very high speed in "zigzag", followed by at least two motorbikes. In his rear view mirror he sees it enter underpass. Almost immediately he hears bang followed by screeching of tyres and then sound of second very loud impact

C Mohammed Medjahdi: Driving through tunnel with passenger Souad Mouffakir in Citroen BX ahead of Mercedes. Immediately after being passed by motorbike with female passenger he hears screech of tyres from behind and sees Mercedes in his rear view mirror approaching at high speed. Mercedes skids at angle of

roughly 45 degrees, its front facing eastbound lanes. It strikes central pillar and rebounds to right. His passenger, Mouffakir, turns and sees Mercedes collide with concrete pillar, roughly 30-40 metres behind Citroen

D David Laurent and Blanchard family: Driving Volkswagen Polo, Laurent overtakes slow-moving white or beige Fiat Uno type vehicle before entering underpass. Approaching end of tunnel Laurent and his passengers hear insistent hooting from behind, sounds of braking and skidding tyres followed by large crash