

NAPOLEON 'MAY HAVE BEEN POISONED'

New evidence suggests the French emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, did not die of cancer but was poisoned.

According to two French forensic specialists in Strasbourg, tests on five strands of Napoleon's hair preserved since his death confirm "major exposure to arsenic". Napoleon, who was born in Corsica, died at the age of 52 on 5 May 1821, on the island of St Helena in the south Atlantic Ocean, where he had been banished after his defeat at Waterloo.



Napoleon died in 1821 on the island of St Helena

Officially, he was said to have died of stomach cancer.

Poison theory

According to Pascal Kintz, one of the two Strasbourg Forensic Institute's experts, "the level of arsenic found in Napoleon's hair is higher than 7 to 38 times normal amounts and is an unmistakable sign of poisoning".

The analysis was commissioned by Ben Weider, a Canadian millionaire businessman and Napoleon enthusiast who for years has defended the poison theory.

Mr Weider, the founder of the International Napoleonic Society, received confirmation from an American laboratory of arsenic concentrations in the emperor's hair five years ago.

A year ago, he presented French journalists with evidence of his claims.

One theory for the presence of the arsenic is that it was found in paint or wallpaper in Napoleon's room on St Helena, or that the local water was contaminated with it.

But the experts ruled this out, saying the amounts showed it must have been deliberately administered.



Mr Weider believes Napoleon was poisoned as the result of a conspiracy

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| forensic | used to discover information about a crime by scientifically examining the objects or substances that are involved in the crime | Forensic examination revealed a large quantity of poison in the dead man's stomach. | preiskovalec (?) |
| strand | a shore | | plaža |
| preserve | to keep (something) as it is, esp. in order to prevent it from decaying or being damaged or destroyed; to conserve | We want to preserve the character of the town while improving the facilities. | ohraniti |
| banish | to send (someone) away from their country and forbid them to come back | They were banished from their country for criticizing the government. | izgnati |
| deliberately | I'm sure he says these things deliberately (= intentionally) to annoy me. | Calmly and deliberately (= slowly and carefully), she poured petrol over the car and set it alight. | namenoma |