

Gangsters - A Whiter Shade of Pale

By Alan Miles [[Email](#)], Jan 2014

Back in the mid 60s, I was having a drink in The Bell pub in Walthamstow with Chrissie. We both drank up and visited the new fish and chips shop called Seafare, which was then popular at the Arcade in Hoe Street. Later on I think it became a pub.

So along we went, inside and at the front of the queue Chrissie asked what I wanted. I asked for Cod n Chips. I like fish n chips just with vinegar and maybe with a wally. It was there, that I first tried tartar sauce, I had never seen it before and it came in little squidgy packages, it was horrible. As I said, I like my fish n chips plain.

We both sat down at a table, and opposite the table and chairs were empty, but not for long though as a young man sat down. He started to eat his fish n chips, I remember that he wore a large wave in his hair, 'a good blow hob' we would have said back then. He also wore a pale blue sports jacket, a white shirt, and dark slacks. He pulled his trousers up as he sat to help prevent them from creasing.

I have had to say all this, because he was a smartly dressed young man who obviously took good care of his clothes, and to me he looked like 'One of The Lads'. He really was smart, very very smart.

Whilst eating Chrissie said to me, as he looked across at the table opposite "He's Teddy Smith". Teddy looked up at us, and his face went white and Chrissie said out loud "He suffers from white rage". He then explained to me, that when some men's blood turned white, they were raging-mad. He said it was called "White Rage", this man's name was Mad Teddy Smith. For some sad reason, I can't forget him. So I shall tell you why.

I think Teddy, thought twice about having a row with Chrissie; he ate his meal quickly and left.

Mad Teddy Smith was one of The Firm that snatched Mad Axmen, Frank Mitchell from Dartmoor Prison. Frank Mitchell was later bumped-off by some of The Firm. However, the police being suspicious asked Ronnie Kray where Frank Mitchell was. Ronnie Kray replied "He left for the continent". This probably meant that his body was dumped in the channel. When the police asked Ronnie Kray, if he knew anything about the disappearance of Teddy Smith, Kray replied "He had started a new life down-under", which probably meant he was buried.