

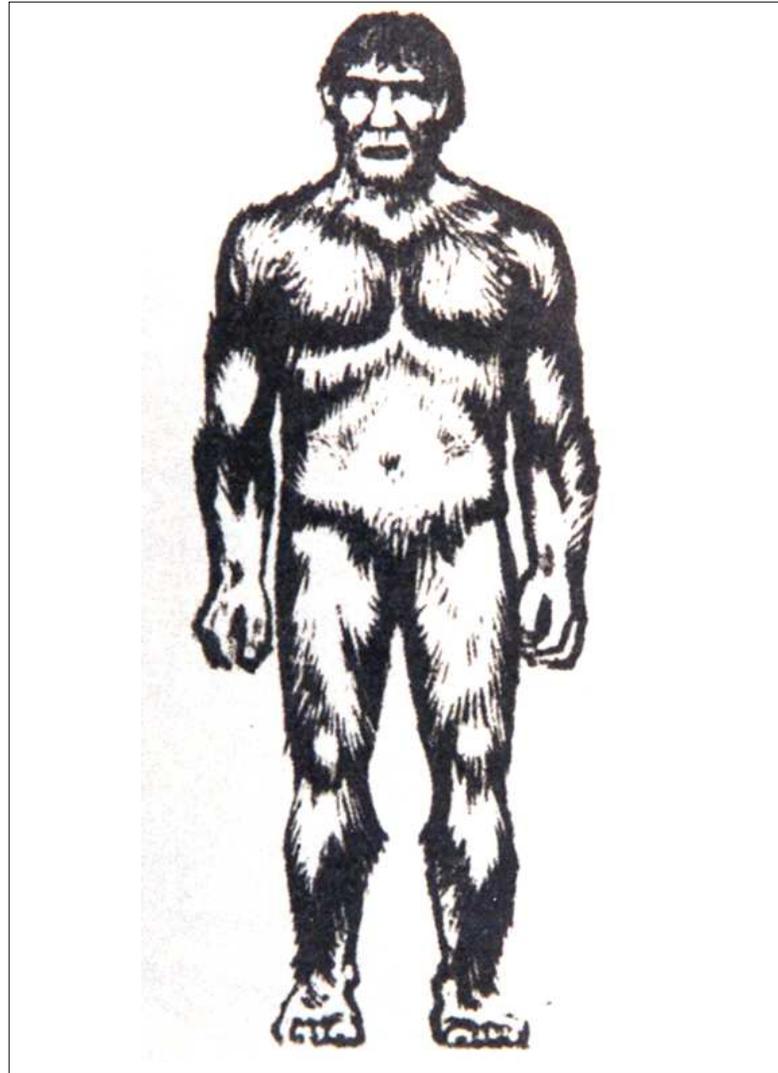
Tragic Victim of Circumstances

The story of the “Karapetian Hominid,” as it is generally called, has been widely publicized. The unusual hairy man wandered near a remote Soviet outpost during the war with Germany (1941). He was taken prisoner by partisan Soviet soldiers and examined by Lt. Col. V. Karapetian, MD, who declared him a highly unusual man-like creature and left it at that.

The soldiers, not wishing to take any chances, executed their hapless prisoner by firing squad. Subsequent research by Dr. Marie-Jeanne Koffmann on the fate of the unusual homin revealed a rather sad story. The homin was an almasty (a Russian snowman) and the people in the highlands where it was found held such beings in sacred regard under their Moslem belief. They would leave out food for them, and this process became part of almasty livelihood. The partisans who found, arrested, and executed the homin were from the lowlands, and had no knowledge of such beings. When it was first spotted, it was carrying a large head of cabbage under one arm. The illustration shown here was prepared by an unknown artist. Sometime after 1967, Karapetian was shown a still from the Patterson/Gimlin film and he said the subject filmed was like the hairy man he examined.

As far as I know, there has never been a “decent” photograph taken of an almasty. Some years ago, I was sent three photographs of an odd homin seen by a tourist in Poland. I have provided them below for interest.

NOTE: Russia is a very large country and there are many names for homins of this nature. One name “almasty” has sort of emerged as a common name in North America. Also, for the record, the words “hominid,” “hominin” and “hominoid” are really not correct for this subject, so for arguments sake I have used the word “homin” as in “hominology,” but both are not recognized words.



Homin said to be that seen by Dr. Karapetian; however he was not involved in the creation of the drawing. It appears it was created for a magazine article on the Karapetian story and has become the “accepted” image.



What might be a homin seen in Poland, although not beyond a fabrication. The last image gives the impression of the subject sort of “slinking” (move smoothly and quietly with gliding steps, in a stealthy or sensuous manner), which would likely be appropriate.