

FIGHTING TALK

Issue 8

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***THE SPIRIT
LIVES ON!***

Anti-Fascist Action

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AFA in action in East London.

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APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

WE URGE ALL OUR READERS TO SEND ANY INFORMATION ON FASCISTS IN THEIR AREA DIRECT TO AFA. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE THE MILITANT ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENT HAS THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SUCCESSFULLY BEAT THE FASCISTS.

JOIN AFA

In the fight against fascism in Britain, Anti-Fascist Action has a record that is second to none. Our unique combination of physical confrontation and ideological struggle has produced results time and again. We say no platform for fascists - no meetings, no marches, no paper sales, no leafleting - and we mean it, as the fascists know only too well. Our aim is to cause the maximum disruption to fascist activities. But that doesn't mean that AFA only needs street-fighters. Far from it. Everyone has a role to play in AFA, whether they feel confident in physical confrontations or not. None of our successes in physically confronting the fascists would have been possible without the contribution of non-combatants. From legal observers to scouts, from leafleters to people who can write articles or speak at meetings, AFA needs people with a whole range of skills if it is to continue to succeed.

There's a lot to do, so don't wait around. Join today.

Contact your local group for affiliation rates and activities.

AFA CONTACTS

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THE UNPALATABLE TRUTH

The Left's sense of triumphalism after the recent elections is not only misplaced, it is perverse. It is also predictable. When Derek Beackon first received 20% of the vote in October 1992 it was, the ANL insisted, entirely due "to a low turn out". His subsequent victory only months later was put down to "special conditions" on the Isle of Dogs. On May 5th this year the turn out was 70%, more than might be expected for a General Election, and Beackon's vote went up by 560, an increase of 30%. So much for the "low turn out" theory. Now we are told that the Labour victory on the Isle of Dogs means that the ANL "has turned the tide". Once again, reality says otherwise. In the St James ward of Bethnal Green, the BNP candidate polled 653, a 700% increase on the last election. In nearby St Peters ward they got 889 to Labour's 2000. In the Borough of Newham two BNP candidates collectively polled 906, the equivalent of 80% of the total Labour vote. So much then for the "special conditions" theory peddled by sections of the media and the left.

Prior to Beackon's election Socialist Worker boasted: "the Nazis are on the run ... the ANL .. have done a brilliant job ..." The BNP vote went up again this time by 800. Later this BNP victory was described as a "blip". Some months prior to the launch of the ANL in February 1992, its SWP sponsors had dismissed the far right "as no more than a hard core of extremely isolated fanatics." Today little more than two years later,

10,000 votes for the BNP across London is being described as "turning the tide."

Unpalatable though it may be for some, the truth is that support for the far right is growing steadily and there is little the middle class left can do about it. There have been too many lies, and as a result the working class is largely immune to its propaganda. In many areas their tactics simply make them an irrelevance, in other areas the only impact is to undo good work previously done by others. Their politics have little resonance in working class areas and the SWP knows it. Otherwise, instead of being mere cheerleaders for Labour they would stand candidates themselves. As a result of the ANL/YRE ("if you don't want a fascist as a neighbour, vote Labour") strategy, the BNP is now nationally regarded as the radical, and only, alternative to the establishment parties. The ANL campaign has made a difference: it has increased the Labour vote, but crucially - NOT at the expense of the BNP. The politics of the ANL is the politics of the SWP, and the politics of the SWP is still the shrill '60s style campus protest: slogans, placards, demonstrations. In simple terms, the SWP/ANL combination has been proved a failure; despite endless media promotion and seemingly unlimited resources it has not even curbed the influence of the BNP. The BNP can be stopped, and on many occasions up and down the country Anti-Fascist Action has physically stopped them. However, we are not blind to the

fact that the fight is political and accept that the re-emergence of support for the far right is a symptom of a deeper malaise. We do not see it as our job to campaign for Labour. It is not AFA's role to argue that change is not needed.

The function of anti-fascism is not to see the electoral threat from the far right



Lost his seat, but his vote increased by 30%

beaten back, so that Labour and the middle class left can, as happened between 1982-92, turn their backs on both the social causes and their own collaboration in the political betrayals that gave rise to the NF and the BNP in the first place.

The ambition of militant anti-fascism is not simply to see the far-right defeated and removed from working class areas: the ultimate solution is to see them replaced there. The BNP's attack on Labour is from the right, and is racist, ultra conservative and anti-working class. Our primary role is to guarantee that a successful challenge to Labour comes ONLY from the left.

Furthermore, and purely from an anti-fascist point of view, as the best insurance against any nazi renaissance, it would be the duty of militants to offer protection and encouragement to any genuine working class revolt.

SUMMARY OF FASCIST RESULTS

BNP vote in London area	13,731	8.39%
Total BNP vote in England	15,603	7.86%
NF vote in London area	203	2.97%
Total NF vote in England	2,741	5.04%
Total London vote (all far right)	16,428	7.22%
Total England vote (all far right)	21,335	6.80%

OUT FOR THE COUNT

Until an hour before the final results of the local elections were announced in Rochdale, the BNP campaign in the town had been a fairly quiet and low-key affair. The BNP had called no public meetings or marches in support of their three local candidates, and had relied chiefly upon letter writing campaigns to local papers to spread their propaganda. The strategy appears to have been to avoid confrontation with AFA at all costs (the BNP have suffered a number of humiliating defeats in Rochdale at the hands of AFA in the past). The strategy worked reasonably well until election night itself.

AFA had been present in Rochdale from the early evening, but had been unable to track down any BNP canvassers or leafleters as they had apparently hidden themselves away in a pub outside town, and only revealed their presence when they chased some ANL leafleters from outside a polling station. AFA decided to wait outside the Town Hall where the count was taking place as it was felt the BNP would have to make an appearance at some stage during the evening.

At 9.00pm, the ANL set up a picket outside the Town Hall. They waved yellow lollipops and shouted blood-curdling threats down megaphones. The large numbers of police on duty looked suitably unimpressed.

By 11.00pm we'd heard that the three BNP candidates had been smuggled into the Town Hall in the back of a police van, but still no sign of the main BNP mob. By now, even the ANL picket had quietened down and the chanting became more subdued. It became obvious that the BNP had scouted the area and had decided to lie low in the hope that people would start drifting away.

Calling the BNP's bluff, AFA withdrew from the Town Hall. As AFA withdrew, the BNP arrived and arrogantly pushed aside the ANL picket. Unfortunately for the BNP, the AFA contingent returned at that moment, and charged into the fascists. The effect was dramatic as fascists and police fled before the onslaught. Half the BNP mob fought each other and the police in a vain attempt to squeeze through a single door into the safety of the Town Hall, while the other

half scattered into the ANL picket. This caused the ANL in turn to scatter before the retreating fascists and caused a scene of complete

chaos before the police regained the initiative.

When the dust had settled, the demoralised BNP (including a contingent bussed down from Scotland) had lost control of the Town Hall steps, the ANL were shame-faced, and AFA, who by now included a gang of local Asians who had been won over from the ANL, were jubilant.

However, on the downside, despite the low level of BNP activity during the election campaign, their vote actually increased. This can only be due to the compliance of both local and national media in allowing the BNP free publicity. The Rochdale Observer in particular deserves a mention in this respect. It has continually printed letters and statements from the BNP without comment. It is strongly rumoured that the editor plays golf with a leading BNP member, and the paper itself refuses to ban BNP contributions on the grounds that it would "prove as counter-effective as the Government's edict that the voices of Sinn Fein members must not be broadcast."

In moving the battleground from the streets to the media, the BNP have found a willing accomplice in the Rochdale Observer. We will take up this challenge with the same vigour with which we have conducted the physical battle. In the words of one local Asian youth who had witnessed both the ANL's passivity, and AFA's determination to take the fight to the BNP - "Respect to AFA."

Three anti-fascists were arrested after the events in Rochdale. They have been charged with various public order offences including affray. A defence campaign has been set up to help with the defendants costs. If you wish to make a contribution please send donations to:

**Rochdale Three Defence Campaign,
c/o P.O. Box 83,
SWDO,
Manchester, M15 5NJ**

TOO MUCH PRESSURE

South Manchester BNP Destroyed

The September 1993 issue of British Nationalist carried a contact address for a new BNP branch in South Manchester. Manchester AFA can now reveal that despite the fact that the BNP continue to publish the address of the branch, it had in fact collapsed by the end of November 1993.

The attempt to establish a branch in the area failed when BNP members came under pressure from AFA activists and local residents, many of whom regarded it as a personal insult that the BNP had tried to set up shop in the area.

This setback represents merely the latest in a long line of disasters for the BNP in Manchester. They cannot hold regular paper sales, public meetings or marches in the city, and are reduced to scratching around on the outskirts of Manchester in an attempt to avoid the attentions of AFA.



On the Road to Wigan Pier

Manchester AFA recently helped organise a public meeting in Wigan, where the National Front threatened to stand a candidate in the May local elections. Despite a concerted attempt by the ANL to wreck the meeting by spreading malicious rumours about AFA to the other speakers invited to the meeting, it was a great success, with over 15 people pledging their support to a new AFA branch in the town.

Threats by the local branch of the NF to wreck the meeting failed to materialise, and the brave Aryan warriors could only muster up enough courage to put a couple of stickers outside the hall on the day before the meeting.

AFA IN SCOTLAND

No Remorse No Concert

Due to the efforts of Edinburgh Anti-Fascist Action, a planned gig by neo-nazi band No Remorse was cancelled at the last minute.

Acting on rumours of a Blood and Honour gig in Galashiels, in the Scottish Borders, Edinburgh AFA arrived in Galashiels in the morning of Friday 11th February to check out local gig venues, leaflet the town centre and to make contact with local people. Several locals came forward with the information that the gig was to take place in the nearby town of Selkirk at a pub called the "Tower Tavern." Local people said that the BNP had recently targeted Galashiels for paper sales and supported our efforts to stop the gig.

In Selkirk, an AFA contingent entered the "Tower Tavern" and were told by a worker that a function had been booked for that night under the name of the "Twenty-first celebration with skinhead disco." When asked if the landlord knew the nature of the function we were told "Yes. But he wants the money." AFA contacted the local council, the Southern Reporter newspaper and a reporter from the Scotsman. Eventually after much persuasion the landlord agreed that the consequences of going ahead with the concert would outweigh the benefits of the night's bar takings.

AFA is determined to stop by any means necessary any attempt by Fascists to establish a base in the Border towns. We plan to follow up this success with more local action.

'Neo-nazi' concert thwarted

PLANNED plans for a gathering of 'neo-nazis' in Selkirk sparked a major police presence in the town on Friday night.

Members of fascist and right-wing groups from as far afield as Carlisle, Dumfries, Newcastle and Edinburgh, were said to have made their way to Selkirk for a concert by the infamous skin-

their real name."

Mr Oliver told the "Southern Reporter" he had no idea that neo-nazis were involved when the booking was made. "They booked us for a private disco and said a band would be coming on later."

By MARK ENTWISTLE

From the front page of the Southern Reporter 11/2/94

Little shop of horrors

At the end of last year Glasgow and Edinburgh AFA groups mounted a successful campaign against the sale of Nazi material and memorabilia by the Treasure Bunker, a small military memorabilia shop in Glasgow city centre. After observing the shop and its clientele over a long period it was decided to picket the shop and leaflet other users of the market that it is situated within. Initially, a small "occupying force" took over the interior of the premises and debated the rights and wrongs of selling such material with the proprietor and his assistant who seemed a bit shaken to say the least. The shop is a well known haunt for boneheads and other assorted

fascists who bought their supply of replica and original swastika armbands, tapes of Waffen SS marching songs and Hitler books and videos.

Initially, the proprietor argued that the goods were only of interest to "historians and collectors" but eventually admitted that some of the most avid "collectors and historians" were the local fash!

The leaflet appeared to have some effect and a lot of people in the market were put off even looking around the shop due to the AFA tactics. Subsequently, all of the offending material was withdrawn from display and the proprietor of the shop approached a local AFA member to assure him that he had withdrawn all of it and that he would deal in replica material such as flags, armbands and badges only with genuine military historians in the future.

AFA have since engaged in a monthly "health inspection" of the premises and are satisfied that the owner has complied with our demands!

The fascists appear to have got the message also, and are no longer visiting the shop since the goods were withdrawn.

FASCISM THE DISEASE-



ANTI -FASCIST ACTION THE CURE

SETTLER WATCH

Some recent activity of a dodgy nature has taken place in Scotland but appears not to be the work of the BNP. Slogans proclaiming "English Out" have appeared on walls and English people living in the north east have been singled out for some special treatment by a new group called Settler Watch. A young couple who have lived in Scotland since childhood but who are English by birth were harassed out of their council house in Fraserburgh by supporters of this anti-English group. Tactics such as daubing slogans on walls and doors, sending shit through the post and telephone death threats have more in common with C18 and the BNP than with progressive nationalist politics. The Scottish National

Party (SNP) have proscribed the group and its supporters who are, paradoxically, led by a German woman who lectures in Gaelic studies. It seems some "settlers" are more welcome than others!

Attacks on individuals purely because of their nationality are unacceptable. Working class people in Scotland have plenty of justifiable grievances against the Tories who are responsible for anti-working class policies like the Poll Tax which was first implemented in Scotland.

However, to conclude that the plight of the people in Scotland is the responsibility of the 100,000 English people who live there is way off the mark. In the same

way that the BNP scapegoat blacks and Asians for unemployment and housing, "Settler Watch" is scapegoating the English regardless of class for the economic problems in Scotland.

Bosses are bosses whether they wear a kilt or talk with an Oxbridge accent. Any attempts to reduce class antagonisms to racial antagonism must be resisted by anti-racists and anti-fascists including those in Scottish nationalist groups. Its one thing to want independence, but quite another to see it on grounds of racial hatred and racial supremacy. The English may well be the soft targets of this group at the moment but where does it end? Which other non-Scots are not part of Settler Watch's ideal of an independent nation? The logic of their position means that all non-Scots are potential targets in the long run.

Making Progress

The attack on Mushroom Books was seen by many as a frightening example of the fash threat in the Midlands. The local people were outraged and the police made all the usual threats about not tolerating political violence etc. Intolerable as the attack was, Mushroom was a soft target. The same crew of fascists have run away every time they've been confronted by AFA.

The attack was badly planned and turned into a shambles with over 20 fascists arrested when they tried to take the BUS back to Heanor! Other fascists were arrested in Nottingham City Centre. Three were arrested for attacking a black man - among them, Mansfield's Tony Roy (son of a police inspector). He is now charged with violent disorder along with most of those involved in the attack.

Those fascists named by the police come from all over the North. Identified locations are Bridlington, Burton on Trent, Glasgow, Derby, Grimsby, as well as locals from Kirby in Ashfield, Nottingham, Heanor and Mansfield.

Fighting broke out in Heanor that night between local people and fascists. A pub

landlord was assaulted as well as several locals who fought back. So much for Heanor being a fascist stronghold where everyone loves them. The Red Lion in Heanor has since been closed by the brewery and it looks like the fash will be losing their traditional drinking hole and redirection point.

The following Saturday, in Nottingham, a stall was held jointly between Nottingham AFA and East Midlands AFA. A National Front paper sale was expected but after an NF scout had "a bit of an accident" this failed to materialise. The Anti-Nazi League had organised their own demo to take advantage of the publicity arising from the Mushroom attack. They had the usual lollipop-waving session and refused to let anyone, including Mushroom books, speak!

Next came the Notts Unity March called by Mushroom, NAFA, AFA and other independent groups. Midlands AFA stewarded the March and its route with the fascists nowhere to be seen. The march attracted over 1000 people.

Fascists in Mansfield have now completely stopped paper selling in the

town due to AFA activity, but leafleting door-to-door is still happening all over the town and in the outskirts of Nottingham as well as in the small towns and villages in the area.

Nazi paper sales were held in Sutton and one in Kirby. It seems that the fascists are now trying to concentrate on building in the Ashfield area.

AFA street leafleting and stalls in conjunction with local groups and individuals have been well received but there are still fresh sightings of the Nazis holding stalls in Ashfield. There are plenty of local sympathisers to Anti-Fascism and AFA are confident the fash can be driven out of this area too.

East Midlands AFA have also stewarded Morris Beckman meetings in Notts and Leicester and a meeting between Newham Monitoring Project and NAFA.

Sentences were finally handed out to the four Nazis who attacked a Jewish solicitor in Mansfield Town Centre. Graham (the poison gnome) Tasker and Simon (Mr Blobby) Chadwick each received 120 hours community service and a £200 fine. (Chadwick is doing his CS in London).

The Beishaw brothers, Adrian and Steve, of Mansfield were each given 80 hours community service. At this rate, we suspect the Nazis arrested for attacking Mushroom will each be given a slap on the wrist and a book token.

The FLAG No.73 Page 7.

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The Times they are a-changin' (or more precisely the Guardian). It's hard to believe the Guardian would have carried an advert for the National Front ten years ago. The item (on the left) appeared on Saturday 14th May. The advert on the right is taken from the NF paper 'The Flag'.

BBC PAPER SALES

AFA groups in the South of England have been keeping the pressure on John Morse, the leading BNP figure in the area. BNP activity has been minimal, except for one paper sale in Southampton, which was only arranged because the BBC contacted the fash, saying they wanted to film them in action. Naturally the BNP took advantage of this free offer of publicity from the BBC.



John Morse - Raw Sex



Militant Anti-fascism in Canada

AFA is actively making contact with militant anti-fascists around the world. We recently contacted the Canadian group ARA (absolutely no connection to the British group with the same initials!) and are pleased to print their reply.

ARA was born in the Fall of '92, in response to a fascist presence at a court hearing over the operation of a racist telephone hotline in Toronto. By word of mouth, a street-level response was organised overnight so when the fascists attempted to make their presence known, they were sent running for cover. Since then they have not been able to show strength in the streets. ARA formed in the wake of the Los Angeles Rebellion, whereby a spark ignited here what was known by most as the Yonge Street Riots of 1992. Mere days after the fires of L.A., a racist police shooting occurred in Toronto on the night prior to the day of a demo organised by Toronto's Black Action Defence Committee. This demo erupted into an unconstrained and focused expression of resistance as the police were forced to retreat. Among other targets, the demo smashed up an IXL (fascist owned skinhead/mod fashion store). This ushered in a space for a new generation of street-level activists, disillusioned by the broader left's armchair politics, paper-flogging, and faceless 'mass mobilisations'. ARA came together of mostly youth from various backgrounds, interested in working with other groups in coalition, but concerned primarily with confronting the fascists on a street level. Throughout 1993, the main battleground existed in the highschools where neo-Nazi organisations like the Heritage Front hoped to find their recruits. Anti-racist highschool students succeeded in running the HF off their turf. Demonstrations were held against long-standing Canadian fascist Paul Fromm,

who taught in a Mississauga highschool.

In the meantime, ARA took to the streets in a number of successful actions which climaxed last summer in an attack on the home of Gary Schipper, where the Heritage Front hotline operated from. Police stood by helpless as the action commenced, and later on that night a fascist retaliation at an anti-racist club resulted in a rag-tag collection of hospitalised and humiliated boneheads and HF organisers. The day was ARA's, but it also scored many blows against the fascists. They were financially devastated by court costs which made ashes of plans to set up a shopfront, fund a racist rock band's tour across Canada, and tore their energies away from recruiting and general group maintenance for months to come. Anti-fascists struck them where it hurt most and demonstrated that we could achieve more gains against them than the police and court systems could.

This action also drew clear political lines within the so-called left, and resulted in certain groups distancing themselves from ARA and the tactics it employs. Certain dogmatic tendencies within the left made it their mission to condemn militant anti-fascism at every turn, instead opting to sit back on their privilege, and dream towards that special day in their future when they ride the wave of a mass mobilisation against all the wrongs in society. How can they sensibly work towards such a set goal when they can't even rid their own communities of a few fascists? At any rate, ARA continued to hold parties, events and demonstrations into '94 up to a renewed campaign against Ernst Zundel, whose production and distribution centre in Toronto fuels the neo-Nazi movement at home and abroad, with a steady flow of propaganda and financial assistance.

ARA now finds itself at a stage where it faces many new obstacles: lack of support for demos, police repression/collaboration with fascists, etc. We have found that anti-fascists organising runs in cycles of up and down times, where at first there might be many opportunities to be gained from, then followed by a lull in activity that could be interpreted as a loss of momentum. The need to develop new strategies to counter these obstacles over ever-changing political terrain is essential in being able to keep ahead of the fascists. Currently, the HF are making their comeback in the cultivation of the skinhead street scene. The initiation of the "Racialist Rock" hotline has led to an expansion and linkage of a network of fascist bands and bonehead groups across Toronto, Southern Ontario, and the United States. Their aim, as always, is to recruit and organise white youth to fill the ranks of the HF, but also to funnel members into paramilitary organisations such as the Church of the Creator (COTC), in preparation for the 'Racial Holy War' they envision.

Hopefully this short overview will cover a little of what is going on here. We agree that it is essential to maintain an effective network of info-exchange and we are willing to engage in this.

Our organisation is not altogether 'formally' associated with the ARA in the Twin Cities (US) as we are only now beginning to establish these necessary communication links. Our concept borrowed from the examples of that organisation as well as others such as your own, applying them to our local situation. We are now finding that as other groups are becoming interested in our activities, it is essential to form the communication links to help strengthen each other's efforts.



**PULL 'EM UP NOW
BEFORE THEY TAKE ROOT**



GERMANY CALLING

The historical date January 30th marks the beginning of anti-fascist actions in 1994. Adolf Hitler was named Chancellor on January 30, 1933. The anniversary of the Nazi accession is commemorated every year in the mainstream media. Because of comparatively large public sensitivity to the issue of fascism, this date provides a good opportunity to remember radical anti-fascist resistance as well.

Historical work is an important part of Autonomes Antifa (M)'s politics, both in order for us to learn from the past and to be able to interpret our own politics in a historical context. Rather than placing ourselves in direct descendance from a single historical organization, we focus on debating time periods in order to understand under what political prerequisites and conditions particular developments took place. We examine, of course, the strategy and concepts of radical left organizations and look for what can be adopted in contemporary struggles. Historical material that would otherwise be lost is saved and made accessible; we work on correcting mainstream history through exhibits, presentations and other actions.

This year we concentrated our activities on January 30th in the town of Bad Lauterberg in Lower Saxony. This small town, today politically neutralised, was a red stronghold during the Weimar Republic. The KPD (Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands) was proportionally stronger in Bad Lauterberg than in any other area except in the Berlin working class quarter, Wedding, the so-called "red Wedding". Because of this, the region took on nation-wide meaning for anti-fascist resistance. The Nazis only march in the town before Hitler's coming to power was an attempt to show that they could prevail in this region as well. Despite their large numbers, they were prevented by the anti-fascists from going more than 50 metres.

On the date the Nazis' came to power, anti-fascists in Bad Lauterberg staged a general strike. The KPD was openly active in the region until March 1933. There were massive arrests of hundreds

of anti-fascists in the area at that time. Nevertheless, the KPD reorganized illegally and published a newspaper with the goal of developing mass actions against the NS-state. The illegal organization was finally destroyed by the Gestapo. Most of the anti-fascists were sent to concentration camps. Of the resistance fighters in Bad Lauterberg, 3 were murdered in concentration camps.

Because this information is almost entirely absent in mainstream historical accounts, our action to highlight local anti-fascism was right on target. We organised a presentation on Bad Lauterberg anti-fascist history and a demonstration that pointed out the places in town that played an important role in anti-fascist resistance. After the demo, we set up an exhibition with relevant texts and pictures. Contrary to what was expected, the regional press covered our actions positively. The press was full of reports on our actions for 2 weeks, including a series of articles, printed uncensored from us, in the most important daily paper.

Two hundred people participated in the

demonstration on January 29th, a number that can be considered a success for this part of Lower Saxony. Altogether, we reached several thousand people in the region, for many of whom it was the first time hearing about radical anti-fascist action.

Another anti-fascist demonstration with 1,000 participants took place in Berlin/Friedrichshain on January 29th. It was organized by Autonomes groups organized in the AA/BO (the nation-wide anti-fascist organization) under the motto "Gegen die fascistischen Zentren Vorgehen" (Advance on fascist centres).

Large demonstration against Nazi-centre in Pivitsheide

A nation-wide demo against the NF (National Front) centre in Detmold-Pivitsheide in the Bundesland (state) Nordrhein-Westfalen took place on February 5th. The NF is one of the most militant neo-Nazi groups in the BRD. Although it was banned on November 27, 1992, no members were jailed and the infrastructure - including the house and publishing company - was not touched. The house, Quellenstraße 20, is still a meeting place and co-ordination point of organized fascism.

The demo, organized by Unabhängige Antifa Bielefeld, (organized in the AA/BO), in coalition with 32 other groups, totalled 5,000 people. There were no direct actions due to the enormous police presence. Demonstrators were met on the Autobahn by police doing identification checks. The Nazi centre itself was protected by a large police contingent.



The picture shows a street fight between members of the RFB (Rotèr Frontkèmpferbund), a proletarian defence organization in the 20s, and Nazis. A reproduction was used on the demo in January 1994, as a memorial to events in April 1932 in Bad Lauterberg.

Forum against the §129a investigations

The Lower Saxony police department has been investigating Autonomen Antifas since the Fall of 1991 under §129a, the law against the formation of terrorist organizations. Autonomen Antifa (M) stands as central point in these investigations. In order to build political pressure, Autonomen Antifa (M) organized a forum against the investigations on March 10th.

The forum was unusual in that city officials from the SPD (Social Democrats) and the Grünen (Greens) as well as mainstream citizens who have been affected by the police observations sat at the podium next to Autonomen Antifa (M). The event met with great interest, with 300 people attending. It was an important step in publicizing the investigation practices of the police against anti-fascists.

Elections in Lower Saxony

Six important elections are scheduled in the BRD in 1994, the first of which were the elections in Lower Saxony on March 13th. It was generally feared that support for the radical right parties, especially the Republikaner (REP), would increase. A disruption of the election battle was therefore quite important. There were many disruptions of Republikaner's events during this time. One of their central rallies, where party head Franz Schönhuber was scheduled to speak, was organized in Hannover on February 11th. 500 REP members gathered around the hall before the rally.

An anti-fascist coalition counter-demo of 1500 people took place at the same time. The demo ended at the hall, with the goal of blocking the entrance. It came to a conflict between Autonomen and police. The police used water cannons and mounted squadrons and sent in SEK-troops (similar to riot police in England). At least 30 people were injured (20 of whom were police) and 13 Autonomen were arrested.

The elections were a disappointment for the right and especially the Republikaner. They stayed well below the 5% line and therefore did not get a seat in Parliament. The SPD will govern alone in Lower Saxony, from which not much positive can be expected.

June 4, 1994 - Fight the FAP!

The nationally known neo-Nazi leader Thorsten Heise has been using a house in Northeim, near Göttingen, for a Nazi meeting-point for about a year. Thorsten Heise is chairperson of the FAP (Freiheitlichen Deutschen Arbeiterpartei) in Lower Saxony. He was the primary initiator of the Nazi march in Fulda in

Summer, 1993. He and his colleagues have been active in the fascist international brigades in Croatia and South Africa.

The Autonomen Antifa (M), together with a coalition that includes mainstream groups, is mobilizing nation-wide for a demonstration against the Nazi centre on June 4th. The goal of the demo is to reach the Nazis' house. In order to lend these plans the necessary weight, an equipped black block will lead the demo. Equipment in this case means helmets and other important utensils. All anti-fascists are called to participate in the demo!

Appendix

The meaning of the FAP and the anti-fascist politics against them are explained in the following article. Although it is a bit different from our regular column on fascist organizations, it provides a timely view - in context of the upcoming demonstration - into the mix between anti-fascist militant practice and legal activities.

The Fight Against the FAP in Lower Saxony

The FAP, founded in 1979 in Stuttgart, was at first only a right-leaning regional splinter party. The FAP took on a fascist orientation first in 1983 when the ANS/NA (Aktionsfront Nationaler Sozialisten/ National Aktivisten) was banned. The well-known neo-Nazi Michael Kühnen was one of the leaders of the organization. Shortly before the ban he started thinking about being sole leader of the organization. He contacted the FAP chairperson, Pape, and began discussing plans to build the FAP into a nation-wide party. In order to avoid having the FAP banned, Kühnen himself did not join the FAP. Nevertheless, it was clear that he and his ANS/NA colleagues were leading it. Within a year the FAP became the most important neo-Nazi party in the BRD. It continues to hold this position today.

Lower Saxony has been a focal point of FAP activity since the mid 80s, partly because one of the FAP leading activists, Karl Polacek, lived in Mackenrode, a small village near Göttingen. His house was known nation-wide as a fascist training centre. The Austrian Polacek began his political career in the NDP (National Demokratische Partei Deutschlands), which turned out to be too insipid for him. After Polacek, at the time over 50 years old, switched to the FAP, the party developed quickly in Lower Saxony.

FAP strategy was to get the party talked about. To do this, Polacek brought Nazi-skinheads into his circle. They began their campaign to become well-known in 1986 with stickers, graffiti and street fights. On January 16, 1987, the young fascist Ingo Kretschmann blew himself up while building a bomb. Kretschmann had been living at the fascist centre until shortly before then. The police admitted publicly that he had begun working with explosives while he was living there. On the day of Kretschmann's funeral, a youth centre used primarily by immigrant youth burned down. Witnesses saw skinheads on the scene. The police caught none of the perpetrators.

The FAP-Nazis received their first big blow in Göttingen on March 20, 1987. A party meeting, disguised as a harmless youth group party, was attacked by autonomen and the "party guests" beaten up. From this time on brawls with fascists became more common. The Nazis in Northeim, near Göttingen, began to provoke conflicts more and more, especially with Turkish youth. During this phase Thorsten Heise joined the FAP.

The first successful systematic attack on the FAP-centre took place on June 25, 1987. An antifa commando, named after the 1930s resistance fighters Siegbert and Lotte Rotholz, sneaked by the watch dogs and other security measures into the house. The Nazis were snug upstairs in their beds while the antifas prepared a fire in the basement of the wooden house. As the antifa-commando left the house undiscovered, the basement went up in flames. Only the quick arrival of the fire department prevented the whole house from burning down. The basement and garage - where Polacek's car had been - could not be saved. After that, Polacek went everywhere by foot.

The fascists became more careful, while at the same time increased their terror. There were conflicts in Göttingen every weekend, especially at what was the Autonomen meeting place at the time, JuZI. The organized attack by 30 fascists on JuZI on January 23, 1988 was the highpoint of their attacks. Some Nazis were equipped with steel helmets and threw army fog grenades. Their attack was unsuccessful, thanks to a quickly barricaded JuZI.

The Autonomen response was quick: several hundred anti-fascists were alerted over a telephone chain that Nazis were swarming around JuZI. Lucky for the Nazis, a large police squadron came quickly to the scene to protect them. During this action, the apartment of a

well-known FAP-activist was stormed and completely destroyed. After this defeat, the Nazis ceased their activities in Göttingen and concentrated on Northeim.

The Autonomen Antifas, however, kept on their tail. An anti-fascist coalition of school/youth initiatives, student groups, the Greens, and trade unions was formed.



Heise (speaking) with Polacek (seated).

A demonstration on May 7, 1988 marched directly past the training centre in Mackenrode. It was a large political success with its 1500 participants. This was the beginning of Autonomen coalition politics and is the background to the demonstration on June 4th.

With this action, the Nazis were politically subdued, but of course their training centre did not disappear. The fascists began a new round of attacks and assaults at the end of 1988. Retaliative actions from Autonomen were regularly attacked by the police. Many Antifas were arrested during this time. During such an action against Autonomen, on November 17, 1989, Conny was chased into traffic by the police and killed. The political murder of Conny had an enormous effect on the population. Because the police held back in the time after Conny's death, Autonomen were able to push the Nazis more and more out of Göttingen.

Starting in 1988, Thorsten Heise appeared increasingly often as an FAP leader. In 1990, he became a definitive leader of the party. In April he organized a mass meeting of skinheads in Nordhausen. Nordhausen, near Göttingen, was still part of the DDR at the time. The fascists tried to use that to their advantage. The 1000 Nazis gathered there rioted. Stores were smashed and plundered and there were heavy clashes with the police. Many were injured and 150 skinheads were arrested.

Thorsten Heise was called to court on a number of charges in May 1990. After leaving the court a paper in which he declared his plans to build the Nazi

movement in the DDR, he went underground in the DDR. He was finally arrested in East Berlin in February 1991 and was sentenced to probation.

There was another dangerous confrontation in July 1991. As Autonomen were observing the centre in Mackenrode, Polacek stormed them and tried to hit one woman over the head with an axe. Thanks to quick reflexes, the axe only grazed her head. Shortly after, during a spontaneous Antifa demo at Polacek's house, the police used CS-gas grenades in order to protect it.

New Years Eve 1990/1991: the situation escalated further. In Rosdorf, a village neighbouring Göttingen, Alexander Selchow was stabbed to death by 2 FAP Nazis. Because Selchow was an anti-fascist, but not part of the Autonomen scene, a larger part of the population was affected by his murder than Conny's murder in 1989. The pressure on fascists increased. They were pushed entirely out of downtown Göttingen, with some Nazi circles dissolving entirely due to permanent political pressure and direct militant actions.

After the murder of Alexander Selchow, the Lower Saxony government recognized that they had to do something. It had become clear that not dealing with fascists was official policy. In order not to lose even more credibility in the public eye and to paint themselves in anti-fascist colours, the department of the interior led a deportation investigation against Polacek. As an Austrian, Polacek was of course subject to the *Ausländergesetz* (immigration law).

Mackenrode - October 1991

At first nothing concrete happened and the wave of indignation calmed down. Further agitation came from the house in Mackenrode. It was clear to everyone by the end of 1991, when still nothing had been done, that the state would not do anything more. A new round of militant actions by Autonomen Antifas began.

A large training weekend took place in the Mackenrode house in October 1991. This meeting was object of a frontal attack by less than 40 Autonomen. When the Nazis saw them coming, they swarmed into the street. Most of the approximately 50 fascists, all leading FAP activists, were in uniform and armed with Molotov-cocktails and straightened out scythes.

An intense street fight broke out immediately. The Autonomen's advantages were that surprise was on their side, that they attacked without hesitation, and that some wore helmets

and had sling shots. The helmets provided protection against the stones and the steel balls shot from the sling shots turned out to be quite effective. Because the fascists were not wearing helmets, many of them were injured within a short time. Each time they tried to advance the ones in front were shot down. The intensity of the conflict can be seen in that many of the Nazis had to be brought to the hospital in ambulances because of their heavy head injuries.

The local population also took part in the action in that the Autonomen used stones from their front yards as ammunition. Finally the determination of the Autonomen settled the conflict. The Nazis were pushed back into the house and the Autonomen retreated.

The entire action lasted about 20 minutes. The police were just as surprised as the fascists. Therefore the anti-fascists were able to retreat before the police established any significant presence. The Autonomen simply drove around a quickly set up police barricade. Not a single Antifa was caught by the police on the scene and there were no injured Antifas. Of the Nazis, 15 people were injured, some seriously.

The anti-fascist attack met with a favourable response. The Lower Saxony government reacted politically by deporting Polacek to Austria in January 1992. After the deportation of Polacek, Thorsten Heise took over his function. Heise has subsequently become one of the leading neo-Nazis in the BRD. In the recent past he has been the organizer of Nazi provocation like the march in Fulda in August 1993. His party colleagues are the ones who are openly spreading terror on the streets.

Some actions against Heise have already taken place. On the way to work on August 12, 1992, he was approached by Autonomen who battered him hospital ripe. This action was timed so he would be prevented in taking part in the Wunsiedel Nazi meeting that year. There were many small attacks on Heise's house in 1993. Nazi's cars parked at his house are also regularly burned.

All of this led to Heise leaving his former residence in Nörten-Hardenberg, a neighbouring village to Göttingen, for Northeim. He hoped to be able to agitate there without continuous attacks from antifas. These plans will be thwarted with the demo on June 4th. The goal is to isolate Heise and the FAP politically and socially. Further, the demo will show him clearly that resistance will be carried out on all levels, regardless of where he lives.

No Platform for Tories?

A combination of the demise of the National Front and the crisis in the Tory Party over Europe has given a focus for fascists in the Tory Party. In the South West the Torbay branch of the NF defected to the Tory Party, who welcomed them with open hands. Mark Cotterill, a former SW NF Organiser launched the Patriotic Forum and its paper the British Patriot.

For anti-fascists these groups bring new questions on how to approach the struggle against them. The response of the ANL to the news that the Patriotic Forum had been launched was to demand that the Tory Party expel them. Exeter AFA took the view that this was tantamount to calling on the Tories and the bosses to fight fascism. Besides, surely working class militants should not be in the business of telling the ruling class how to run their organisations. We concluded that to call on the Tories to fight fascists in their own ranks was a reactionary demand. However how should AFA groups deal with such situations?

We have concluded that we should be seeking to disrupt the activities of the fascists whether they are in the Tory Party or not and if this means disrupting meetings of a local Tory Party then so be it. This is not to say that 'no platform' should be extended to the Tory Party as a whole. However, in the context of Torbay the local Tory Association welcomed Cotterill and Co. despite widespread media coverage of the fascist activities of his group. If Tory meetings are disrupted then they only have themselves to blame.

Of course another crucial way of disrupting the activities of groups like the Patriotic Forum is to expose them for the fascist scum that they are. In the context of fascists entering the Tory Party this has been quite important because they have to take "respectability" far more seriously. In the case of the Patriotic Forum it has been quite entertaining watching both the local Tories and the fascists squirm with every new revelation.

The Torbay Tories, including Rupert Allason MP, claimed that Cotterill and

the Patriotic Forum hold broadly Conservative beliefs when the fascist nature of this group was prominently exposed in the national press last year. However British Patriot has serialised the BNP pamphlet on Europe, has carried articles advocating ethnic cleansing in Britain and Northern Ireland

According to the most recent edition of British Patriot, the Patriotic Forum have now disbanded. This is hardly surprising given that nearly every activity of the Patriotic Forum has either been exposed or disrupted in some way. Supporters of British Patriot, which Cotterill continues to produce, are urged to support the many other "patriotic" groupings in the Tory Party. These groups presumably include the Revolutionary Conservative Caucus set up by Millson and Bowden out of the remnants of the now defunct Western Goals and groups such as the Freedom Association and the various Anti-Federal Europe groups. The Anti-Federal Europe groups have been littered with fascist activists trying to pick up on the chauvinism in the Tory Party. Of perhaps most interest has been the Cheltenham Connection and more recently the case of David Moon.

In Cheltenham there was much controversy when the local Tory Party became divided over having a Black candidate in the General Election. It just so happens that a group called the Anti Federal Europe (AFE) group chose to stand a candidate in Cheltenham during this controversy. The agent for this AFE candidate happened to be Stuart Millson of the Revolutionary Conservative Caucus which according to its first magazine of the same name stands for "ruthless elitism and racial purity". Millson's address for this campaign was the Cheltenham office of the reactionary nostalgia magazine This England. Millson has been accredited as being an assistant editor of this rag available in most large newsagents.

As an aside it is interesting to note that Roy Faiers, the editor of This England, was arrested last year for alleged non-payment of taxes. This great "patriot", whose magazine has been at the centre of all the "Don't Let Europe Rule Britannia"

propaganda being put around for the last few years by fascists and chauvinists alike, was accused by the Inland Revenue of falsely claiming to live for the last 20 years outside of Britain (for tax purposes) in the Channel Islands whilst in reality living in Cheltenham. According to Private Eye this poor patriot coughed up an undisclosed "millions" in an out of court settlement.

A more recent case of the anti-federal Europe groups was the case of the Essex CIB (Campaign for an Independent Britain) Organiser and regular contributor to British Patriot, David Moon. Mr. Moon is an officer of the Essex Tory Association that called for the resignation of John Major. It turns out that Moon was a former NF activist. The CIB as a whole is a dodgy organisation littered with ex-NF activists. A more recent group has arisen from the CIB called the UK Independence Party. Again in Devon the Secretary of this outfit is Kevin Jowsey, a character who has had involvement in the NF since the 70's up until the defection of the Torbay branch of the NF to the Tory Party. The UKIP claim that they are to stand candidates in every seat in the Euro elections. This would imply that this alliance of chauvinists and fascists has quite a considerable amount of money behind it.

What are the prospects of the fascist entryists into the Tory Party? Given that the Patriotic Forum has now collapsed it has to be said that they have completely failed to recruit. This is really not that surprising. For the fascists in the Tory Party to be attractive they really need a large fascist pole of attraction outside of the Tory Party. This may exist in a few isolated areas but generally this is far from the case. The "Conservatives Against Unfair Labour Ethnic Policies" candidates in the 5 wards contested by the BNP in Newham is perhaps an example of this.

The entryists may well find an echo over issues of Europe and "race" but this does not necessarily mean that this will lead to a significant audience for street fascist politics. Perhaps in this context it is worth looking at the collaboration between the BNP and the Monday Club in Yorkshire. Apparently the Bradford BNP branch has now defected from the BNP but despite the collaboration with the far right in the Tory Party they have gone to the British Movement. It would seem that the cause of Tory entryism is yet to be successful for the fascists. All the same anti-fascists should keep a watchful eye on the activity of these groups.

Exeter AFA

Ignorance

In this article, Terry Mitchell argues that the ANL, far from being 'harmless' players in the anti-fascist movement, can in fact, be a negative force. Judging by some of the discussions we had with ANL members at the recent (massive) carnival in Brockwell Park, there is a disgruntled minority within that organisation. The question is; what are they going to do about it?

After the fascist gains in the recent local elections, the response of the anti-fascist movement will be critical. The ANL/SWP, the largest anti-fascist group with the most resources, believe the fascists "suffered a serious reverse", so presumably they believe their campaigning is effective and by merely increasing the level of campaigning the "serious reverse" can become a full blown defeat. As we explain elsewhere in this issue, this analysis is wrong, and in fact in the same article in Socialist Worker that talks of the BNP suffering "a serious reverse" they admit the fascists "are still stronger than they were before." This confusion and inability to assess the situation accurately does not just damage the ANL, it has far wider implications, and is responsible for undermining the gains made by genuine militants.

The "best" example of this is in East London. Between 1990 and 1991 AFA ran an effective campaign in the area which not only challenged the fascists but started to radically change the balance of forces - with anti-fascists on the up. AFA's unique blend of physical and ideological opposition put the fascists under real pressure. We took their paper sale off them, disrupted their public meetings, stopped them using several pubs, and managed to re-route one of their mass-leafletting efforts into a local canal. On a number of occasions the BNP and AFA clashed head-on, in front of their potential supporters, and AFA won, damaging the local reputation of the fascists.

We successfully leafletted the most racist estates in the area, held public meetings, spoke to other local organisations, staged the first Unity Carnival, and, in November 1991, led a 4,000 strong demonstration through the middle of Bethnal Green which went completely unchallenged by the opposition. Genuine progress had been made.

So what happened? During this period the SWP said the fascists were a few "isolated fanatics" and rejected AFA's approaches to discuss joint anti-fascist

Their placards demand "No Platform for Nazis" and their posters proudly boast that they will stop the fascists "By Any Means Necessary"; a slogan associated with Malcolm X, the Black Panthers, and guns. They talk a good fight, but are completely unable to turn the theory into practice.

work. But by the end of 1991 they could no longer sustain this pretence, and without any consultation with existing anti-fascist organisations, they relaunched the ANL. After 12 years absence they re-entered the anti-fascist arena to show us how to do it.

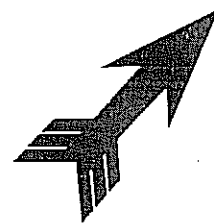
Their first major expedition into the East End was a mass leaflet in Whitechapel which ended in disaster. They walked straight into a BNP ambush, and having no stewards, they got stabbed, battered and beaten unconscious, with people ending up in hospital. Rather than learn from this early mistake they continued as if nothing had happened - so it's hardly surprising their paper sales got turned over regularly, stalls got wrecked, meetings attacked, flyposters stabbed.

The ANL continually point out the violent nature of the fascists but fail to heed their own advice. Their propaganda makes frequent use of the famous Hitler quote, "Only one thing could have stopped our movement - if our adversaries had understood its principle and, from the first day, had smashed with the utmost brutality the nucleus of our new movement." Their placards demand "No Platform for Nazis" and their posters proudly boast they will stop the fascists "By Any Means Necessary", a slogan associated with Malcolm X, the Black Panthers, and guns. They talk a good fight, but are completely unable to turn the theory into practice.

So while AFA spent two years



is Strength?



challenging all the working class stereotypes of the left, the ANL came along, and using similar "militant" slogans to our own, undid all the good work we had done. Where we had shown we could challenge, and beat, the fascists on their own terms, on what they considered "home" ground, the ANL proved we were the exception to the rule, that most "lefties" did lack the ambition and the ability to replace the fascists as the "radical" force in the area. By not taking the physical side seriously, suffering humiliating defeats in front of local people, and not being prepared to retaliate, the "opposition", the "Left", once again failed to present a credible alternative. And the fact is, people not involved in political organisations are unlikely to distinguish between the different groups. We all get tarred with the same brush.

Many people feel betrayed by the Establishment parties and are disillusioned with "politics" in general, so to break people away from this apathy, in support of a radical alternative, puts pressure on organisations to show themselves to be worth supporting. Political organisations must address real problems and be effective. Who's going to back a loser?

The BNP take their security seriously because they understand the damage that is done to their "Party of Action" image when they suffer physical defeats. The disillusioned white working class people who are attracted by their talk on housing or "Rights for Whites", their ability to sweep the opposition aside, will only question their allegiance to the BNP when the alternatives, both political and physical, are stronger.

And where the ANL have shown that the "Left" cannot operate at will in working class areas, they have also failed on the political front. In an SWP pamphlet ("Killing the Nazi Menace, How to Stop the Fascists") they quite rightly say: "There is a sea of

bitterness in Britain. The Tories are hated. But Labour offers no answers. The collapse of so much of the Left has created a vacuum." So how do they propose to fill the vacuum? - "Vote Labour!" We have come full circle. In Tower Hamlets, a Labour stronghold for years, disillusion and despair at their inability to improve things led to the Liberal Democrats taking power. In turn, the inevitable failure of the Liberal Democrats to make the slightest bit of difference led to the BNP winning their council seat on the Isle of Dogs.

So what is the solution of the "radical opposition"? - to vote for the party that was the root of the problem. While AFA has consistently pointed out the failures of the "status quo" to defend the interests of working class people, the ANL back the "establishment". While the Labour Party has managed to unseat the BNP, this backward step by the "radical alternative" (the ANL) will have done

nothing to win back the working class support from the BNP. The BNP, with less than 3,000 members, were able to win a council seat in the Isle of Dogs, while the SWP, with 8,000 members, can't even contemplate a challenge to the Labour Party/TUC hierarchy.

The physical and political mistakes of the ANL encourage the fascists because, despite their hyper-active approach to anti-fascism, they are ineffective. They allow the fascists to be seen as the "working class alternative". This obviously makes the job a lot harder for genuine militants who not only have to fight the fascists, but point out to people the differences between the anti-fascists. People attracted by the ANL's forceful image as militants can easily be lost to the movement, once they've seen what's behind the glossy cover. Fortunately there is an alternative which shows, by example, what real militant anti-fascism can achieve - Anti-Fascist Action.

EXCITING EXTRACTS FROM THE ANL CARNIVAL PROGRAMME

● Smashed the BNP paper sale on Brick Lane the week after Derek Beackon was elected. The only regular BNP sale has never taken place since the ANL drove them from the streets.

★ **FACT**
It was YRE and DAM stewards, along with other anti-fascists who lead the charge on the paper sale. The BNP gave it up because it was expedient.

● Chased Derek Beackon when he tries to attend council meetings on the Isle of Dogs.

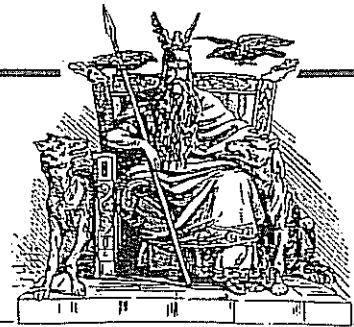
★ **OH Really..??**

● Successfully stopped the Nazi Blood and Honour organisation from holding Nazi gigs in Milton Keynes and Huntingdon, Waterloo, Folkestone, Becontree and Camden. Last July we prevented a European Aryan festival taking place in Derby which cost the Nazis about £30,000.

★ **FACT**
Milton Keynes and Huntingdon were wind ups. Waterloo...!!? absolutely outrageous, an **AFA** victory. Folkestone more lies - AFA and YRE. Becontree, well... they were there. Camden, not a Blood & Honour gig but a right-wing wedding reception. And finally this sorry list of inaccuracies and down right lies claims the banning of the 'Aryan Festival', for which Searchlight can claim the credit.

● Organised D-DAY, won the 1966 world cup, invented the wheel...

A VIEW FROM VALHALLA



In this issue's VFV, Dan Woinsaiker gives his personal obituary to the far-right's "martyr" Ian Stuart Donaldson, and poses the question: ZOG?, Instant Karma? or failure to observe Highway Code Restriction 18b?

On the 24th September 1993 Ian Stuart Donaldson died after a car accident the previous evening. Also killed in the crash was Steven "Boo" Flint, drummer with Stuart's band Skrewdriver. Stuart's death has sent shockwaves through the fascist music scene worldwide. "He gave us his idea of a pure land, his great talent in music and the lyrics ... we lost a living LEGEND." (British Oi, 26).

Legendary lyrics such as these: "One minute I'm in Camden, the next I'm in Euston / Then they send me back to Kentish Town / I've completed lap two, there's a hole in my shoe / And I'm down, yes I'm down" (Pennies from Heaven).

In Issue 15 of Last Chance we get: "I woke up early and went to my bookshelf and read through his short biography 'Skrewdriver the first ten years' then came the tears, and the tears kept falling." I know the book is bad, but really!

When you get to the British Movement and C.18 tributes things start to get a little weird.

"It looks like ZOG (Zionist Occupation Government) had him on their hit list and he was a victim of ZOG assassination!" (Sigrun 2, British Movement mag).

These words are from an obituary by Charlie "Pay me and I'll tell" Sargent. "In my mind and heart, I believe Ian was the victim of ZOG assassination" he goes on to say "Ian will live to haunt his enemies as I believe he will, like Elvis, become a bigger star in death than he was in life." (The Order, 4). Rumour has it that Kirsty McColl won't be updating one of her old singles "There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Ian Stuart." Somehow it doesn't have the same ring about it.

In my last column I revealed the existence of "The Mechanic". C-18 obviously don't

believe that and point the finger at ZOG (although where the deposed King of Albania comes into it I don't really know), but by far the best explanation for Stuart's death comes from the London Psychogeographical Association. They reckon Derek Beackon got elected by using sinister occult powers, but "the karmic law is remorseless. Having used the power of the leyline, a human life had to be sacrificed. As the principle culprits had protected themselves from psychic attack, another top Nazi occultist would be the victim. It was Ian Stuart, lead singer of the cult band Skrewdriver. The official story is that the car he was travelling in crashed, and that the two passengers in the back escaped before the car became a ball of fire. However, the truth is that the driver succumbed to demonic possession before spontaneously bursting into flames." Excellent stuff!

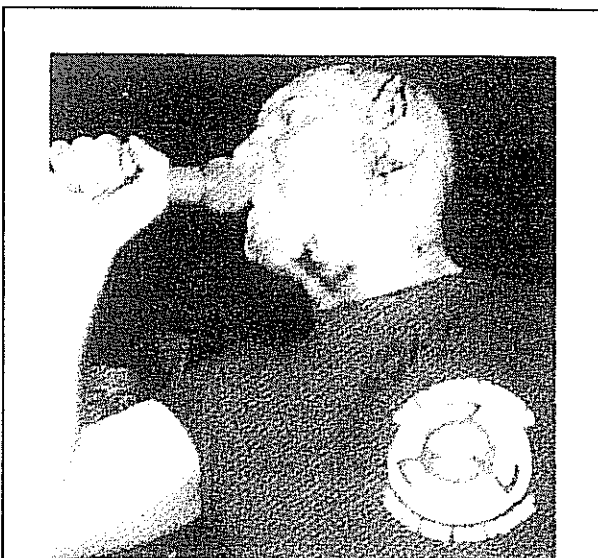
Getting back to Ian's "legendary" lyrics for a moment, these stirring lines from "Flying the Flag" caught my eye: "We don't run from anyone, we never back down / If we see a red flag we tear it to the ground." The truth was always a bit of a problem for Stuart, because in fact he was well known to AFA activists as a complete bottle job. I don't know if you get Fighting Talk in Valhalla, but what about Chapel Market, Ian? A group of anti-fascists were trying to buy a copy of NF News from Stuart and his mates but he seemed to get a stutter which prevented the conversation developing. Getting bored, the anti-fascists decided to "liberate" the papers anyway and tried a radical new cure to help his speech impediment. Trouble was Stuart legged it before the "treatment" had time to work, leaving his mates behind to pay the bill. And I hear it was expensive!

Never shy of the spotlight, Ian loved to give interviews, and in this one to the Evening Standard, explaining a badly cut head, he says "They [The "Reds"]

found out we were doing a gig near Swiss Cottage and I was having a quiet drink in the pub with my mates and about 15 of them came storming in. They had baseball bats. They tried to smash my elbows and knees with the bats and I got this cut on the head." Having done some research I can assure you this is grossly exaggerated. Apparently, a four-man anti-fascist surveillance team, acting against orders, simply couldn't control themselves any longer, and attacked Stuart and his mates in the pub. If it wasn't for Ken McLellan (of Brutal Attack) Stuart probably would have got worse injuries, but as it happens he got a bottle over the head and the anti-fascists withdrew. All in all not a very dramatic incident but that wouldn't have suited Stuart's "cult of the personality" campaign. He didn't even wash the blood off before going on stage - what a poser! (See photo).

About the only true thing in the whole interview is when he complains: "We have to advertise our gigs by word of mouth. If they [AFA] get to hear about it they want to turn it into a bloodbath." Talking of which ...

As a memorial to Ian Stuart a large concert in London had been planned for January 15. This gig was to have a ten band line up including American group Bound For Glory. Also on the bill was
Continued Over...



Stuart at a gig in Swiss Cottage after an anti-fascist attack.

A View From Valhalla - continued...

South London based Squadron who had not played in a while due to a dispute with C.18, but it seems money has changed hands so they are now allowed to play again. The next people who should be hearing from C.18 is British Oi who criticised their handling of the gig. "2000 nationalists [were] there for the gig which is very surprising as the venue would only have handled 800 at a squeeze." Obviously C.18 have learnt from previous large Blood & Honour gigs that due to militant anti-fascist activity only a third make it to the gigs so they take this into account when selling tickets.

A letter sent out to disappointed punters from the organisers explains the gig was cancelled due to pressure upon the police by anti-nazis and the BNP. Richard Edmonds, the BNP's national organiser, has since said all he wanted to do was disassociate the BNP from nazi salutes and swastikas as it would lose the BNP votes in the local council elections. C.18 are claiming the BNP holds equal responsibility with the reds for the gig's cancellation. If you can't do something properly, then blame someone else is the line being taken at the C.18 bunker. (Full report in Issue 7, Waterloo Sunset)

The ill-fated memorial gig failed to happen, which is the latest in a long line of disasters for B & H especially since C.18 have taken over control of security. So much so that B&H has split into two warring factions. The whole national B & H network has split and is being run on a regional basis. Martin Cross, former Skrewdriver/Brutal Attack and current English Rose guitarist, is acting as C.18 mouthpiece. He is also backed by East Anglian and Midlands regional divisions. On the other side is Paul Burnley of No Remorse. The criticisms being made of Burnley is his inability to produce the B & H magazine on a regular basis. The last one was dated Summer '93.

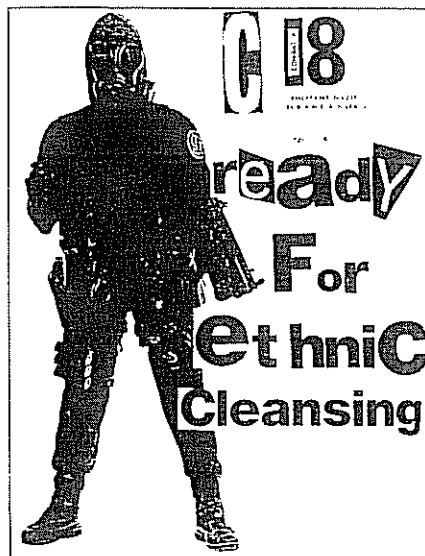
The main point of attack is "The shift by the B & H editor Paul Burnley away from National Socialism to the international Third Position (ITP) group", which is led by Derek Holland, who, along with Patrick Harrington was in control of the White Noise Club in the eighties which Ian Stuart left to form B & H after being ripped off by the White Noise Club! As proof of this they point to the last B & H mag carrying an advert for the ITP's "Final Conflict". If this is the case they should look at the latest Last Chance which in its recommended reading column has dropped Thor Would, a C.18 aligned mag and retained "Final Conflict", so it looks like "Last Chance" editor and

Battle Zone leader Alex has chosen his corner.

And finally, my friend down the 'Stool and Pigeon' gave me a copy of Combat 18's new magazine, imaginatively called 'Combat 18'. The introduction claims that they will "tell the truth about this modern day nightmare", then the rest of the rag is dedicated to doing the exact opposite.

Talk about re-writing history - their version of events at the Unity demonstration on October 16th last year is well... not quite accurate! C18 were in the Harrow Inn, near Abbey Wood station, waiting to ambush people on their way home. AFA found them and on our approach, they scuttled back into the pub where the riot police held them for several hours. But according to C18, the riot police "got a bloodied nose, next time they'll get worse. WE SAY, DON'T TAKE ANY MORE LIBERTIES WITH US MR. PLOD. WE AIN'T GONNA TAKE IT ANY MORE, BE WARNED". This bravado was obviously penned before C18's meeting with "Mr. Plod" at the attempted Blood and Honour gig in Waterloo in January this year. We thought you weren't gonna take it any more lads!

There are various other thrilling tales of how "we smashed the Reds", including a gripping account of a battle in Abbey Wood back in 1990, when AFA (not Red Action), had to make a 'fighting withdrawal' from the Abbey Arms. In that respect the fascists seized their opportunity well - but they fail to mention that 6 of them were hospitalised during the process (ask Mr. Pitts! - I don't see any point in exaggerating on these matters.). 'Combat 18' also prints a "hit list", all the rage with right-wing "terror" groups at the moment, which includes the Chappeltown Community Nursery (I kid you not!).



Tangerine Dream!? (you'll never get the full Jaffa under that gas mask!)

VLAD THE IMPALER

Thank you for your letter, and yes, we would be interested in receiving more information, in particular something we can use in Fighting Talk.

St George's Day Bash

The Birmingham branch of the BNP certainly won't look back on St George's Day 1994 with much glee.

A dozen of them had been spotted in the city centre making their way towards Oscott Ward where Keith Axon was standing in the May Council elections. The ANL chased them onto a bus and, after much back slapping decided to retire to the local hostelry for a victory drink.

Meanwhile a local AFA scout got in touch to say that five BNP members including the candidate were in the area. Sure enough, before you could say "Happy St George's Day" Axon and his cronies turned the corner. Much chanting of "Nazi scum" seemed to quite amuse this motley bunch of fascists, but the smiles seemed to disappear when they realised a small group of AFA supporters had also turned up.

Axon's last words to a couple of his cronies were "Let's get out of here." As he scurried along the road he left two of his foot soldiers to endure a "meaningful discussion" with AFA, this resulting in flag poles exchanging hands, with the BNP looking a bit "worse for wear."

In true spirit the ANL actually pulled the AFA supporters off the fash, muttering something about "they've had enough!!" and "Discipline, comrades!!" In true AFA style the AFA supporters were out of there before the ANL could finish their chorus of "can you hear the nazis sing?" How quaint!!

THE RED ORCHESTRA

Anti-nazi espionage during the Second World War

During the Second World War there are many tales of heroic resistance to fascism in occupied Europe - one of these is the story of Leopold Trepper and the Red Orchestra.

Born in Poland in 1904 to a poor Jewish family he experienced anti-semitism at an early age and soon became involved in left-wing Zionist and Communist groups. He was an active militant and after a general strike in Cracow was smashed by the army he had to disappear, and went to Palestine in 1924. His dream of building a socialist society was quickly shattered by right-wing Zionists and he joined the Communist Party in 1925, setting up the Ichud organisation for Jewish and Arab workers. It was here he met his wife Luba Brodje who had also had to leave Poland in a hurry after a police informer was shot. By 1929 his militant activities led the British authorities to deport him and he moved to France, where he played an active role in the Communist Party until 1932 when he got permission to go to Moscow to further his education.

His arrival in Moscow soon exposed the



Leopold Trepper (1939)

difference between the Soviet propaganda he had read and reality, but despite the Stalinist terror that was wiping out many of the best militants in the Soviet Union many activists felt the military strength of the Red Army would be crucial in defeating fascism.

In 1937, Soviet Military Intelligence decided to set up a specifically anti-Nazi intelligence gathering network in Europe, realising (against official policy) that war with Nazi Germany would be inevitable. The network was to remain dormant until the outbreak of war to protect its existence. Trepper was asked to set it up, his experience as a militant would be invaluable, having endured prison sentences and learned how to operate illegally. In fact many of the members of this new network had the same background, militant activists with a real desire to defeat fascism. These experienced militants were better operators "in the field" and prepared to endure torture much more than agents trained in "spy school."

And so in 1939 Trepper, with his wife and son, arrived in Belgium as a "Canadian businessman". Using the cover of a genuine business (the operation needed money), more agents were gradually recruited. In 1940 the Germans attacked Belgium and the authorities set about interning German citizens. Although a "naturalized Canadian" the police thought the Treppers were originally German and came to arrest them. Trepper's wife persuaded them they were in fact Polish and the police left to check what to do. By the time they returned the Treppers were gone, his wife and son back to Moscow, and he became a "Belgian industrialist."

Trepper had befriended a Bulgarian diplomat (Nazi allies) who he persuaded to drive him round northern France on "business trips" in his official car during the German invasion - which enabled

him to send an 80 page report on the effectiveness of Nazi military tactics. Again with the unwitting help of their Bulgarian "friend" a network was established in Paris in 1940 and new companies established to provide cover in Brussels (Simexco) and Paris (Simex). Their main business was with the Todt organisation, who looked after all construction and fortification for the German army, and this work opened many official doors for the "employees" of Simex. Their cover was so good the French Resistance had them marked down as German collaborators, which was duly reported back to the Gestapo by Nazi infiltrators in the Resistance.

By 1941 the network was established in Germany, Holland, Belgium and France. Through their "business" contacts they mixed with high ranking officers and businessmen, a source of good information. In Paris, they managed to monitor the phones at the headquarters of German counter-espionage, and in Berlin they had agents high up in military circles. For example, while the Germans were developing their "top secret" new tank - the T6 Tiger - the Red Army, armed with the plans, were building the superior KV tank, which came as an unhappy surprise to the German High Command on the battlefield.

When Hitler summoned his generals to plan the attack on Moscow in 1941, he didn't know the person taking minutes at the meeting was a Soviet agent, and armed with this information the Red Army was able to carry out a successful counter-offensive.

The Germans didn't believe there was a Soviet intelligence network in Europe until they discovered radio messages were being transmitted to Moscow in September 1941. They dubbed the network the Red Orchestra. By December they had traced a transmitter in Brussels and captured three members of the Red Orchestra. They even got

hold of Trepper but his official papers from the Todt Organisation fooled them and he escaped. Trepper immediately closed down the Belgian group but Moscow insisted on sending a new, inexperienced agent to run the operation in 1942. Almost inevitably he was quickly arrested and willingly became a Nazi double agent. Most of the Belgian and Dutch groups were arrested as a result, and the head of German counter-intelligence in Brussels found out he worked in the same building as the head of the Red Orchestra and he used to greet him every day on the stairs!

In July 1942 the Gestapo cracked the Red Orchestra's code and this immediately led to the destruction of the Berlin group as Moscow had unbelievably transmitted the addresses of the leaders over the air. In November a key member of the Red Orchestra was captured in France, another graduate of the Moscow "spy school" who happily changed sides and worked for the Gestapo, causing many good militants to be tortured and killed.

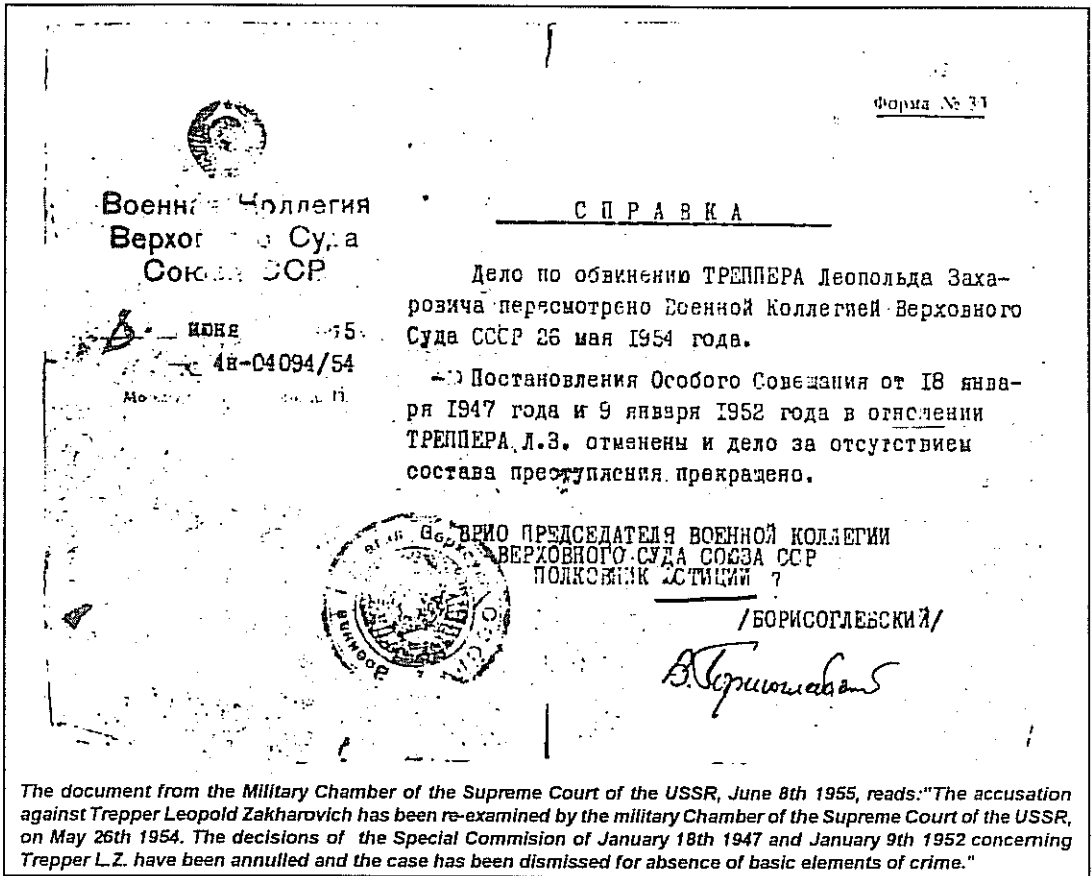
Moscow didn't believe Trepper's reports on this and other arrests because their transmitters continued to send good information. Shortly after this latest arrest Trepper himself was finally captured - by sheer bad luck - and the Gestapo's plan became clear. They were using captured radios of the Red Orchestra to try to convince the Soviet Union that America and Britain wanted to make a separate peace with Germany - and so destroy the unity of the Allies. By continuing to supply genuine information they hoped to give credibility to their bogus reports. It was known as the Great Game, and now they had the head of the Red Orchestra, if he could be persuaded to join them then how could they fail?

Trepper realised that the survival of many members of the Orchestra depended on him - but also if he could fool the

Germans that he had "turned", yet still warn Moscow, the nature of the "Game" and its result could be very different. Despite the continuing arrests, and deaths, of many of his friends, he fooled the Gestapo so well he was able to compile a report under the noses of his guards and smuggle it out. So by February 1943 Moscow not only knew about the Great Game but were using it to their own advantage.

In September 1943 the main contact between the French Communist Party and the Red Orchestra was arrested, and one of their radio stations captured. Trepper feared his warning to Moscow about the Great Game would be discovered and felt he had to try and

capture members of the Gestapo - he arrived in January 1945. Between 1940-42 the Red Orchestra had sent 1500 despatches to Moscow. 217 people had been arrested in connection with the Red Orchestra. Of these, 143 were executed or died in Nazi camps. Only 65 members of the Orchestra weren't captured. Despite the success of the operation and the sacrifices made, Leopold Trepper was jailed for 15 years for being a "counter-revolutionary" and "enemy agent" - simply because the people who had recruited him to Military Intelligence in 1937 (old Communists who had fought in the October Revolution and Civil War) had been "purged" by Stalin. If only it was unbelievable that this was the reward for a man who spent his whole life fighting



escape. Because Trepper had "played the Game" so well the Gestapo became over-confident and he was able to escape out the back of a chemists while collecting some medicine for his guard. The next year was spent in hiding, just managing to stay one step in front of the Gestapo manhunt, until August 1944 when the Nazis were driven out of Paris.

Eager to return to Moscow to discuss his work, try to rescue Red Orchestra operators still held by the Nazis, and

for the working class and against fascism.

Footnote: In 1953 Stalin died, and having served nearly 10 years in jail Trepper was released in May 1954. Reunited with his wife and children - who had been told he was dead - he was finally allowed to return to his native Poland in 1957. The resurgence of anti-semitism made life unbearable, and although his family were allowed to leave, it took a three year campaign before the authorities finally allowed Leopold Trepper to leave in 1973.

FIGHTING TALK

BACK

The Rangers Debate *continued... (1)*

Dear Fighting Talk,

As the author of the previous FT articles on "Loyalism and Fascism" and "The BNP/Rangers Connection". I felt obliged to add my tuppence worth in reply to the smart-arsed letter in FT7 from the "Rangers fan and Hibs fan." Firstly, there was nothing in either of the previous articles which could be construed as a deliberate attempt at "alienating all Rangers fans from anti-racist/anti-sectarian views and driving them into the hands of the fascists." In fact, some of the letter writers' associates in Glasgow, who left AFA almost two years ago, are much better at alienating Rangers fans than the present members of

AFA. To illustrate the point: at last year's Day Against Racism and Fascism in Glasgow, the large AFA contingent confronted a group of 12 suspected fascists in a pub. Despite a couple of these guys making racist remarks towards a black member of AFA - which is what drew our attention to them - we established that they were not in fact fascists but were ICF Rangers Casuals. They claimed they were not fash and seeing no "faces" amongst them, we decided to give them the benefit of the doubt and issued a strong warning, rather than bash them which could have proved counter-productive. We're not in the business of handing the BNP recruits by default.

Contrast this to the behaviour of a group previously associated with AFA who were in another part of the city centre allegedly looking for the BNP. Three members of AFA (incidentally all of them Rangers fans) were late in arriving, couldn't find the main AFA group, and ended up bumping into this other mob who informed them that they had a "positive sighting of five known fascists." Our three lads decided to wait with this groups and have a pop at these "known fascists". The five "fascists" emerged from a pub they had been drinking in with their Rangers scarves and tops - none of them were BNP, C18 or even ICF! Just five Rangers fans having a pint on their way to the game! The next time our Hibs "fan" and Rangers "fan" are out on a fact finding mission "making enquiries" and playing at secret squirrel could they please make sure that they know what they're talking about - 'cos the people up here who are feeding you this crap wouldn't know a fascist if there was one sitting next to them in the stand at Firhill!

The only other point I'd like to make in relation to the letter is that "Celtic Fans Against Fascism" stickers are not produced by Glasgow AFA. They are, in fact, financed and produced by a Celtic fanzine. Glasgow AFA aren't a bunch of lefties who try to substitute themselves for a genuine fan-based alternative to the fascists on the terraces. The ANL/SWP and Militant have both been peddling the lie to anyone who'll take it in that they have leafletted the Rangers fans with anti-racist leaflets. We know this to be a lie because we do have some tentative links with Rangers fans which we are seeking to develop into a genuine campaign that doesn't just sloganize about the BNP but will actually be capable of making a difference in terms of ending the sale of fascist material at Ibrox. (Incidentally, the BNP sale is as strong as ever and is only ever hassled by the cops, despite what our two doubting friends think!)

The ANL have produced a sticker which they have been putting up in colleges and trendy West End pubs (the fash must be shitting themselves on the other side of the Clyde!). The sticker is sensibly in the St. Mirren colours of black and white even though it's supposed to be aimed at Rangers fans. It says "Rangers Against the Nazis" which appropriately enough for the ANL when abbreviated spells RAN. I rest my case!

Yours, for a fascist free Ibrox,

S. Harper (Glasgow AFA)



The Rangers Debate continued...(2)

Dear Fighting Talk,

I read with interest the letter from the Rangers fan and the Hibs fan (FT7) concerning AFA coverage of the fascist element amongst the Rangers support.

The fact is Rangers do have a substantial number of fascist sympathisers who follow them. Whenever they visit Celtic Park the majority of Rangers fans accompany the singing of God Save The Queen and Rule Britannia with fascist salutes. It is not uncommon during an Old Firm game for Rangers fans to sing nothing but sectarian loyalist songs and songs in support of the UDA/UFF loyalist death squads who have links with Combat 18.

It is beyond me how any person who holds leftwing views can support Rangers. They are from top to bottom an ultra conservative club. They are owned by a staunch Thatcherite in David Murray, who, along with team manager Walter Smith, placed an advertisement in the Scottish Daily Record prior to the 1992 General Election urging Scots to vote to save the union. The team is captained by Richard Gough, a white South African who was alleged to have made racist remarks to Celtic's Paul Elliot during an Old Firm game in 1991. They are sponsored by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries who also make substantial financial donations to the Tory Party. They even have supporters clubs linked to Young Conservative associations. Recently several Young Conservatives were expelled by the Tory Party in Scotland for singing sectarian Rangers songs on a visit to a Scottish nuclear plant. One of them subsequently appeared on STV and called all Celtic fans "beggars".

If, according to their letter, a fair amount of Celtic fans are anti-Protestant, why are people like Jock Stein, Kenny Dalglish, Danny McGrain and John Thomson held in such reverence by the Celtic fans. All are Protestants, all are held in great affection. What we Celtic fans are anti is anti-Orange Order, anti-Monarchy, anti-Loyalist and increasingly anti-fascist.

The letter writers find it funny to describe Celtic fans as anti-fascist but whenever Celtic fans have come up against organised fascists we have never shirked physically confronting them. In August 1992 at Middlesbrough after provocation from a BNP organised element among the home support, many wearing Rangers tops, hundreds of Celtic fans invaded the pitch and attacked the stand where the fascists were gathered. In true fascist tradition, when faced with anti-fascists willing to take them on the majority fled.

Celtic fans have also formed a strong friendship with the militant anti-fascist St. Pauli fans from Hamburg, and our Republican fanzine "Tiochfaidh Ar La" supports the Anti-Fascist Action cause.

To end, I would like to pick up on part of their letter where they mention that at the

Dear Sir

Re the debate on whether Germans understand Northern Irish battle songs or not, during the recent Hibs-Rangers league encounter at Easter Road we were treated to the spectacle of not a few Rangers fans lustily singing "Rule Britannia" while giving the Nazi salute.

The Germans may not comprehend the Orange ditties but unsavoury aspects of German history appear to have been adopted by some of our tbrox chums.

Yours in sport

D S , Edinburgh

Hibs v Rangers game they attended Rule Britannia was not sung once. I have enclosed a cutting from a supporter at

the same game which gives a different view on the activities of the Rangers support that day.

Yours,
Martin, Glasgow.

FT: Just one point about your letter Martin, although there are bigots and idiots at football, there are also progressive elements at every club. To say that you don't know how left-wingers can support Rangers, is a bit off the mark. Many members of AFA support Chelsea, another club with an unhappy reputation, you may think that's strange too? Surely the effort should be to combat fascism and bigotry at a club, rather than decide not to support your team because you're worried that might not be 'right-on'?

Home Ground for the BNP?

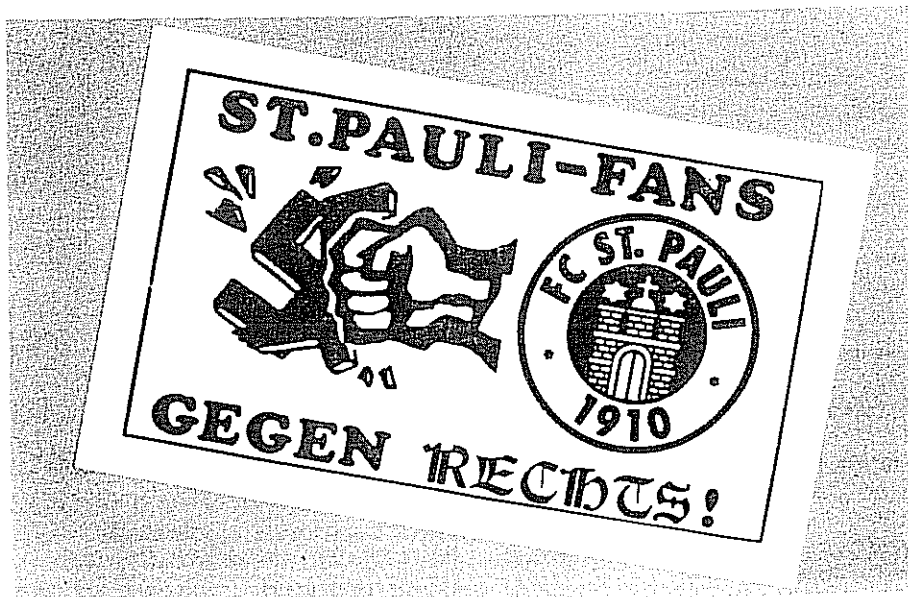
Dear Fighting Talk,

Enclosed is a BNP leaflet which was handed out among Linfield fans at the recent match against Cliftonville (my team).

I knew they campaigned at grounds in England and Scotland but it's the first time I've seen them here. I believe they were also selling their paper. The sooner these cunts are stopped from trying to poison people's minds the better.

Yours Faithfully,

JK
County Down



The Swedish Model

Dear Comrades,

The situation in Sweden is in many ways similar to the situation in Great Britain as you describe it. The absence of a revolutionary force has left the door wide open for revisionists and middle class opportunistic alternatives to fill the political vacuum. Of course we work for a change of attitude within the disoriented left. We have been trying for some time to get the idea across that a movement which wants to achieve results must be a material force as well as an ideological force. Left wing activities in this part of the world have for a long time been reduced to chanting slogans.

We would like to fill you in on what's been happening in Malmo in recent years. On 30 November 1991 the Swedish fascists tried to carry out their annual march in the streets of Lund, a town

outside Malmo. The anti-fascists declared that they would blockade the fascists' route and defend themselves if they were attacked by the police. The police attacked and were met by violence on a scale they had never before experienced. The activists together with supporting local youth took control of the streets and defeated the police and the fascists utterly. When the activists had reached their objectives, they threw away their hoods, helmets, iron bars and stones, broke up and went home. At this point the humiliated police managed to arrest a few anti-fascists, but soon they were forced to drop all charges against the arrested.

On 30 November 1992 the fascists tried to march again. Anti-fascists once again blockaded the streets. This time the blockade was 2000 women and men strong. The police had learned their lesson and sent the fascists home without testing the patience of the anti-fascists. After the anti-fascists had assured themselves of the fascists being sent away, they dispersed without having thrown a single stone, thus showing that we don't use violence whenever possible, only whenever necessary.

On 30 November 1993, it was once again time to stop the fascists from marching on Lund. The fascists had been forbidden

to march along the usual route and therefore cancelled their demonstration. The anti-fascists wanted to carry out a peaceful demonstration in the centre of Lund but were forbidden to do so. We decided to defy the police and march anyway. This time the police had mobilised 2000 policemen in full riot gear. They sealed off the whole town centre and managed to divide the anti-fascists by stopping different sections of them and dealing with them separately before they could join forces. They also managed to cut off the anti-fascists supplies of hoods and defensive weapons. When the largest section of the demonstrators went into the town centre, unarmed and outnumbered three to one, the police went berserk, savagely beating up everyone in sight, including the press, and arrested 400 demonstrators.

There has been a change in attitude among sections of the left in Sweden towards revolutionary violence, and we have learned some valuable lessons. This is a step forward but far from enough.

Yours in Solidarity,

Malmo Fria Press
Box 4519
203 20 Malmo
Sweden

A word from our sponsors

Hello London AFA!

How's things? Cheers for writing back to me. As I said, I do a fanzine and Punk Shocker #4 sales are going to London AFA, so find enclosed a cheque for £50 - spend it wisely and the very best of luck brothers and sisters.

Also thanks for letting me know what you'll be spending the money on, and hopefully the anti-BNP leaflets will get the message across to the masses.

Cheers for sending a copy of Fighting Talk. Great read. I'll review it in Punk Shocker #5 (which will be the last issue) and I'm getting 750 to 1000 copies printed so there should be some interest created.

Could you also send me a copy of the anti-BNP leaflet you're getting done for the May election - much appreciated.

Yours in Solidarity,

Punk Shocker

Dear AFA,

Enclosed is a cheque for £626.42.

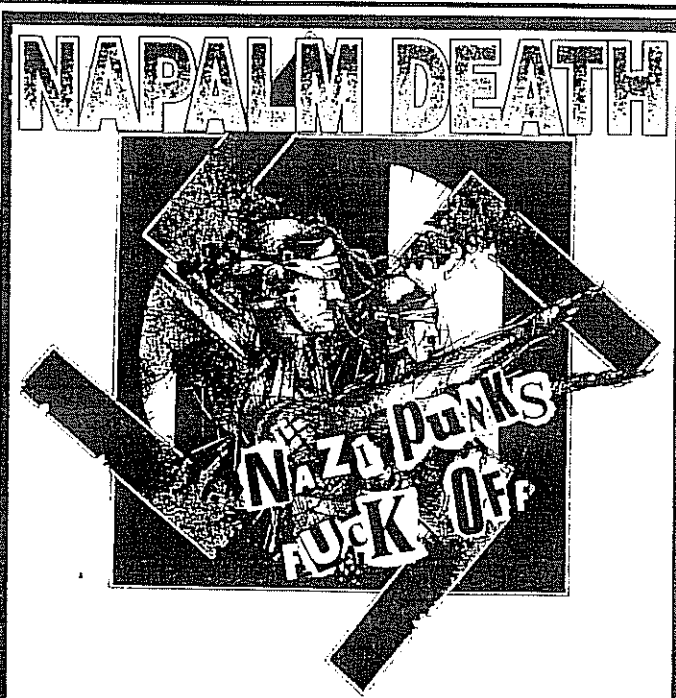
It was the desire of both the band (Napalm Death) and the label (Earache Records) that all proceeds of the Napalm Death 'Nazi Punks Fuck Off' single should be donated to anti-fascist organisations such as yourselves.

It gives us great pleasure to present you with this money and hope it will be of use to your cause. After all, every little counts.

Keep up the good work on behalf of everyone.

Yours Sincerely,

Earache Records



COMPETITION!

We've got two copies of the 'NAZI PUNKS FUCK OFF' single to give away. All entrants need to work out is what FT's View from Valhalla correspondent's name: DAN WOINSAIKER, is actually an anagram of. Please send your answers on a postcard to Fighting Talk. First two correct entries received get the record.

FILM REVIEW:

SCHINDLER'S LIST

It seems the 90's heralds the return of films with a social conscience, which, while they are in the main a reflection of the conscience of rich liberals, are nonetheless helpful to the growth of radical and progressive ideas. Steven Spielberg's Schindler's list, by default if not by design, fits this category.

The film details events leading to the rounding up, segregation and ultimate extermination of Jews in Cracow, Poland from 1939-45. The German Profiteer, Oskar Schindler, and his enamel works factory staffed by non-paid Jewish workers being used as the central focus. The film details Schindler's transformation from complete scumbag to fairly sound scumbag, while showing the various stages of the "Final Solution" going on around him. Schindler's relationships with his reluctant Jewish accountant, Itzhak Stern, and the commandant of the Cracow Labour camp, Untersturmfuhrer (second lieutenant) Amon Goeth and his superiors, are used to dramatic effect.

The photography is brilliant, the hand-held black and white cameras used creating a "fly on the wall" atmosphere. The acting (especially Ralph Fiennes' performance) was also a plus. The length (3 and a half hours) is justified if only by it's ability to keep you reluctant from taking the well-needed leak for the full running time. The ending unfortunately lets the film down; both the script and Liam Neeson are unconvincing and the 'Sound of Music' style march over the hill was an unnecessary irritation in what is otherwise an excellent film. Still, after a little growling you tend to concentrate on the film's better points.

One of the strongest of these is the portrayal of life under fascism. The random brutality of rounding up, haphazard beatings and killings, gradually being augmented and overtaken by systematic wholesale slaughter. Dialogue between the characters being used to detail the various stages of Holocaust implementation; "Katherine the Great allowed the Jew's to settle this land.. Today is history, soon, the last 700 years will be just a rumour", Goeth's speech is followed by the "clearing" of the Cracow Ghetto and the relocation of the survivors to the Plaszow camp or

Auschwitz depending on their deemed usefulness.

As the film and the war move to an end Schindler is told to stop "fancying Jewish 'skirt'", as soon it won't exist any more; "this is not just good old-fashioned 'Jew hating', it's policy now". A reference to the fact that the Jewish population of Poland was all but wiped out - not, in the end, by pogroms and abandoned slaughter, but by cold-blooded bureaucracy in ordered death camps.

During a conversation in the women's dormitory of the labour camp, someone is detailing the procedure she's heard is used on the way to the gas chamber. The cutting of hair, stripping of clothes, handing out of soap, and direction to "the showers". Nobody wants to believe the story; "...surely they won't want to kill us, we're their workforce..."

The fascists themselves are handled in an intelligent way. Amon Goeth the camp commandant was an Austrian, who had risen through the ranks of the SS after some considered arse-licking during the Anschluss (Nazi march into Austria)... (And it turns out, was actually put in charge of the Cracow operation because of the zeal he had shown during a previous 'liquidation'). He's portrayed as an arsehole, a sad character, yuppie without a cause. These people were the average minions of the state, officer class and civil servant types, carrying out their function in much the same manner as they do their filing. The fact was, there was by this time no opposition, individual murders being carried out in the same way as if the victims were rabbits or grouse. No one can fight back, the lord of the estate comes into his own.

In another episode, thousands of bodies buried in nearby woods after the Cracow Ghetto 'clearance' are ordered to be exhumed and burnt (these were mainly women and children shot in their hiding places). An SS officer fires his pistol into the massive stack of burning bodies, exultant. Burning kids, sums up fascism.

This is not all to say the film was a wonderful political statement. The treatment of communists, gypsies, trade unionists etc., and the rise of Nazism itself being overlooked completely. It's

excused in a way by the plot (ie: the focus on the factory), and the fact that (even just by sheer weight of numbers) the Jews lost far more than any other category of people. As well as this, you can't really expect the full historical analysis from Spielberg/Hollywood. During the Oscar ceremonies Spielberg remarked that "everyone should have an Oskar Schindler", the tragedy is, an Oskar Schindler should never have been necessary.

To a large extent though, it's being a little bit too pedantic to criticise the film at any great length. At the end of the day Schindler's List delivered more than I had anticipated. Like I've said, it's an important film, and it's certainly not a 'nice' one. It's worthwhile viewing for anti-fascists, and it should prove educational viewing for those who have forgotten, or were never told, the full extent of fascism's ultimate expression. See it at the pictures if you can, it probably won't have the same impact on video.

S.M.

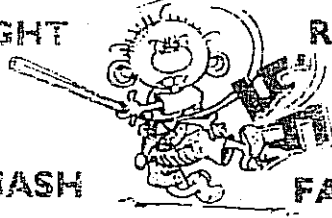


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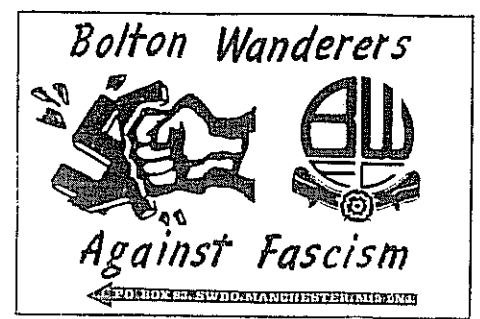
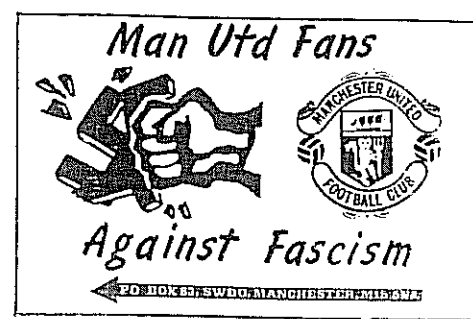
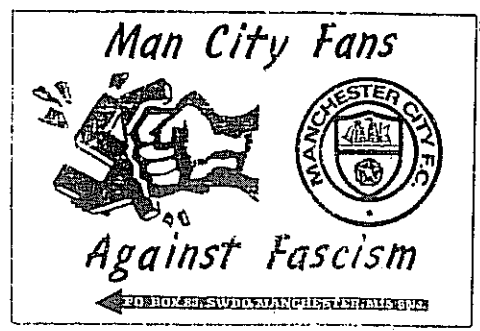
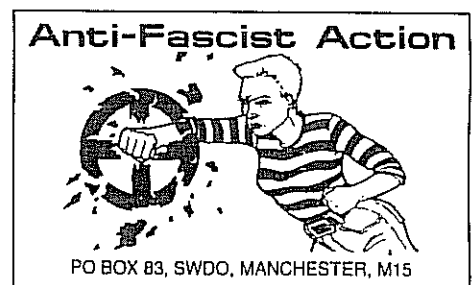


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