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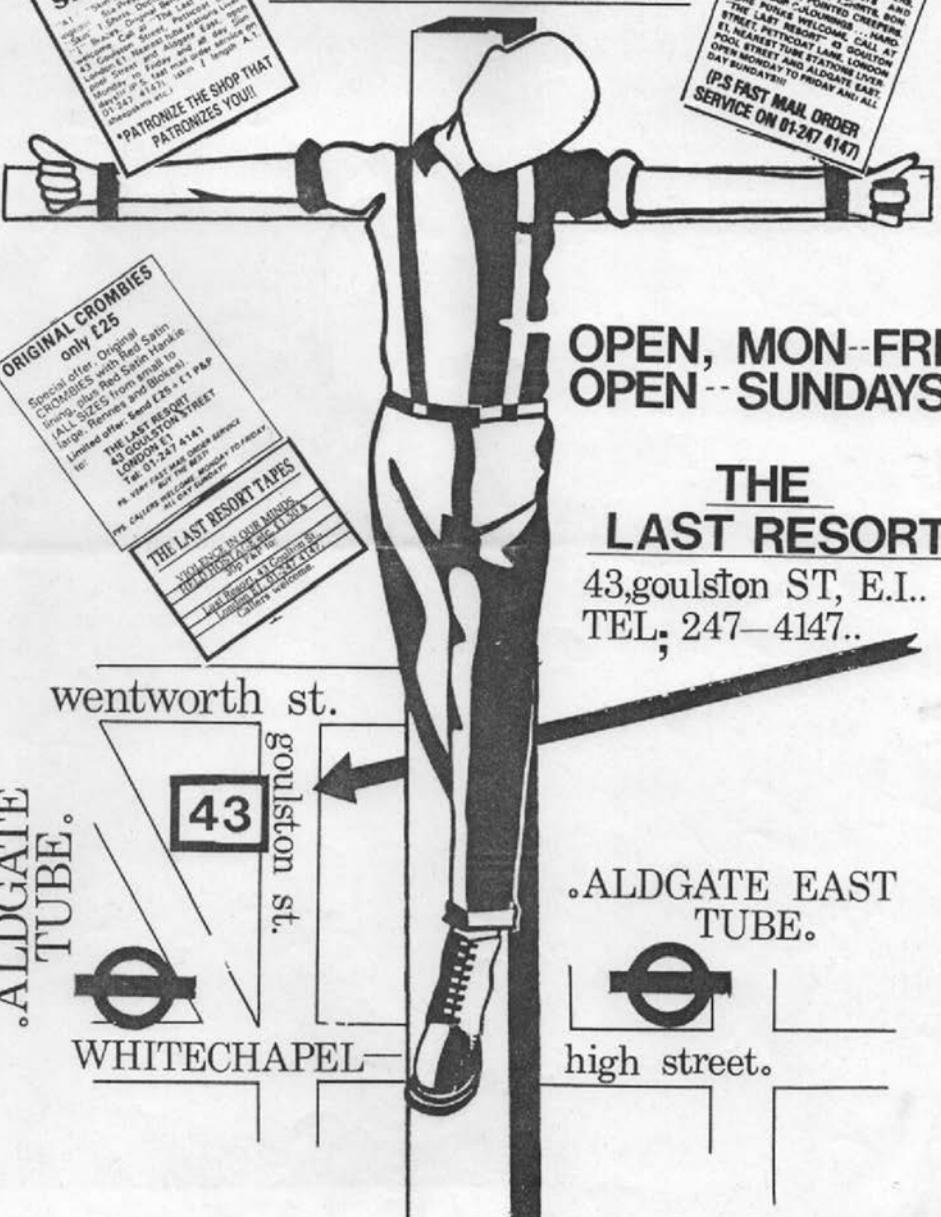


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CHAPTER ONE

1977-1979

National Front

By the mid-1970s Britain was polarised like never before. The reason for this was the emergence of the National Front. Founded in 1967, the National Front [NF], a right-wing political party, campaigned for an end to 'coloured' immigration, the humane repatriation of immigrants living in Britain, withdrawal from the European community, and the reintroduction of capital punishment.

Even though the NF regarded 'International Communism as the number one enemy of civilization' and 'International Monopoly Capitalism' as dangerous an enemy as communism, only one issue was ever likely to arouse the feelings of the masses and that was race. And racial tension was running high because of the large influx of immigrants from the Commonwealth, which the NF exploited to the full. Indeed, the expulsion of all Asians with British passports from Uganda by General Idi Amin and their arrival in Britain had ignited widespread popular protests. If ever the political climate was favourable for the growth of an openly racist right-wing party the time was now.

The 1973 West Bromwich by-election shocked many when the NF candidate, Martin Webster, managed to poll 16.2 percent of the votes, coming in third and saving his deposit for the first time in the NF's history. This was a danger sign to the major parties that NF support was on the increase in certain areas, particularly those badly hit by the recession with considerable social problems.

In the general election of February 1974, the NF fielded 54 candidates, polling only 74,000 votes. Eight months later and another general election its candidates attracted over 113,000 votes. In some Greater London constituencies the NF share of the vote was as much as 9.4 percent. Nevertheless, with every one of their candidates losing their deposit, the NF still remained a long way from winning even one parliamentary seat.

As the recession deepened the NF made considerable improvement in its electoral showing. In the local elections of 1976 48 NF candidates in Leicester received some 44,000 votes, a staggering 18 percent of the total vote. In the Greater London Council elections of May 1977 the NF polled over 119,000 votes, beating the Liberals into third place in 33 of 92 constituencies and winning 19 percent of votes cast in Hackney South and Shoreditch. This time it seemed as though the National Front was on the verge of an electoral breakthrough and poised to become Britain's third political party. The left looked on with real concern, if not alarm.

Pogo on a Communist

Arguably, the story of 'Rock Against Communism' starts with Eddy Morrison, the National Front Leeds District organiser, who had a taste for punk music, attending many early punk gigs. Notably, he saw the Sex Pistols at the Manchester Lesser Free Trade Hall and again on the Anarchy tour at Leeds Poly, supported by the Clash. And if that were not enough to tell the grandchildren, at the Leeds gig he met a Pistols groupie by the name of Sid Vicious: 'He had a ripped swastika T-shirt on and was skint so I bought him a bottle of Pils lager. He noticed my sunwheel badge and muttered his approval, a bit blurry as he was well out of it.'

Eddy Morrison recognised that punk rock, which was fast becoming the dominant youth cult, would be a 'powerful weapon for anyone who could turn it politically.' However, the left had already stolen a march on the National Front by forming in late 1976 an organization called Rock Against Racism [RAR], which embraced the new sounds of punk, and later the Anti-Nazi League [ANL] to promote action against the National Front. For Eddy Morrison, this situation could not continue. He explained:¹

We either had to condemn Punk or use it. I chose the latter option and started a spoof fanzine called *Punk Front* which featured a NF logo with a safety pin in it. To my great surprise, *Punk Front* was a huge success and soon, especially in Leeds, NF members and supporters were going to the biggest Punk club around — the infamous F Club. I started to regularly go to the club and NF Punks were recruiting other punks.

In a few months, the NF was the dominant political force on the big punk scene in Leeds. Music papers such as *Sounds* and the *New Musical Express* were taking an interest in us. Gary Bushell was sent up to look into the phenomenon. We had pro-NF letters published in many music papers and other punks started bringing out pro-NF fanzines. We even started two bands — the Vents and the Dentists. Both these bands were to feature later on in the start of 'Rock Against Communism.'

His local branch was very supportive of his activity. Admittedly, some of the older members were shocked by the punk appearance of the new recruits, but they were very happy when they saw the numbers being recruited. By 1978, Leeds NF had some four hundred members. Indeed, such was the NF stranglehold on the punk scene in Leeds that Eddy Morrison could claim:

We controlled the F Club basically. The F Club actually started in a room at Leeds Poly, then to Brannigans, then to Chapeltown, then back to Brannigans. The club in Chapeltown was actually called 'The Continental Club' and downstairs was a black-only gambling club. Upstairs was all White. Weird and actually quite hairy! We also held a weekly *Friday Bowie/Roxy night at the Adelphi pub* in Leeds city centre with some nationalist stuff in between — strictly 'All-White Music Night' we billed it. Those Friday night events were 100% NF whereas at the F Club, although we dominated, a lot of normal punks came along too. The reds attacked the pub three times, but the landlord was very pro-NF and we kicked them out of it each time.

1. *Memoirs of a Street Soldier*, Eddy Morrison.

The Adelphi, the Prince of Wales and the Scarborough Taps were all NF/RAC pubs. The Prince of Wales was basically 100% NF customers. Alan the manager was totally reliant on our customers to the extent that once when John Tyndall came up and we had lost the main city centre venue, we went to the Prince and put the pool table out into the street to give room inside for John Tyndall to speak! We had three punk discos there.

The red bands, in particular the Mekons from Leeds, stopped playing the F Club because we brought every one of their gigs to a halt. We ghettoed them back to the student areas and out of the city centre pubs and clubs. It kicked off big-time when 999 played the F Club. 999 weren't left — they weren't nationalists either — but with them being a big band at the time they attracted a lot of non-NF punks and quite a few were RAR. Well, we started 'removing' their badges. That's what started the bother. West Yorkshire NF members had an unofficial 'league' for how many ANL/RAR/Commie badges a unit could rip off in a month. That's rip off a red in broad daylight. Leeds won and at our unofficial HQ (some of the lads had a sort of high-class squat in Headingley) we had a nicked SWP banner where you came and attached your badge haul. In the end it was covered in hundreds! I remember Darren in Hull walking up to a red who was talking to a copper (I kid you not) and ripping his badge then walking away and not getting nicked!

Reporting for the *New Musical Express*, journalists John Hamblett and Phil McNeill wrote a piece called 'NF prints punkzine'²:

LATEST ENTRANT to the wonderful world of literature is a creepy little leaflet called *The Punk Front*, which has been spotted in the Leeds/Bradford area. Adorned prominently with the National Front symbol, it sets out the attitudes that are expected of the NF-supporting punk about town. See the picture of Tom Robinson! See the speech bubble. "I'm against the Front coz they'll ban Vaseline." What wit! See Paul Simonon! "I hate the National Front because they don't like me turning the new wave into commie propaganda." Quite a new twist, huh? The NF as defenders of the new wave...

In the middle of the sheet is a cartoon of a Jewish-looking guy with long hair, glasses and a moustache. His talk bubble: "We in the Anti-Nazi League tell you the NF eat black babies for breakfast and gas their own mothers — we haf pictures, already." In the corner, a cut-out picture of four men carrying Anti-Nazi banners: three black, one white with a huge nose drawn on and glasses again (why do they think all Jews wear spex?) — and underneath, the caption: "British' people stand against the National Front." Opposite them, a couple of young punks are positioned to gaze malevolently at the picture of the demonstrators. "If that lot's against the National Front," says one, "then me and my mates are joining." Which, believe it or not, is what a few Leeds punks — a very few Leeds punks — are actually doing.

Apart from the outbreak of fighting at a recent Buzzcocks gig in Bradford — reported in *Thrills* three weeks ago — they've also been known to dance the

2. *New Musical Express*, 17 June 1978.

goose-step at the 'F' Club, much to the disgust of the left-wing local bands who supplied the backing — the Gang of Four and the Mekons. Both bands, in fact, have decided not to play the club again until it changes its current 'apolitical' stance and bans the NF aggravators. 'F' Club promoter John Keenan, however, dismisses them as "basically yobboes. There's never more than half a dozen of them. I'm doing my best to keep politics out of the club." The latest incident involving these guys — who claimed to be supporters of the ultra-right-wing British National Party until that folded recently — came on May 24, when Sham 69 were due to play the 'F' Club but had to pull out to record a *Top of the Pops* appearance. Keenan turned a bunch of people away, and later that evening they turned up in the Fenton pub, where members of both the Mekons and Gang of Four were drinking, and began singing "Tomorrow Belongs to Me" as performed by the Hitler Youth in *Cabaret*. Inevitably, a fight broke out. One student received a badly cut eye which required immediate surgery, and among other injured parties was a girl student who took a serious kicking in the head. Police arrested students and Front supporters..."

Photocopied, *Punk Front* ran for five issues. As well as the *Punk Front* fanzine, *British News*, the Leeds-based newsletter of the National Front edited by Eddy Morrison,³ started to devote a surprising amount of space to punk and new wave. Anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight* reported:⁴ 'In August Morrison wrote a page about David Bowie in *British News* describing him as a 'force to be reckoned with' and an influential star who was moving youth away from the left and therefore deserving close attention from nationalists. This was because Bowie had made public statements like 'Hitler was the first rock star — he really got it together' and 'Britain needs an extreme right-wing government' which, as Morrison correctly points out, along with one or two other such comments from rock heroes, led to the formation of RAR.'

The September issue of *British News* contained an interview with the lead singer of a band called the Vents, who stated that they were 'definitely' anti-communist. He explained that they had been forced to come out and support Rock Against Communism by 'lefty groups such as Tom Robinson Band, pushing homosexuality and all that trash.' He talked bravely of the future: 'There is a lot of things to be done. We would really like to make a record with a straight Rock Against Communism message — but of course we need some backing for a big project like that.'

The existence of Leeds right-wing band the Dentists made it into the pages of *Sounds* following a piece about the formation of Skins Against the Nazis. Eddy Morrison and his friends wrote in supporting the Dentists and the Vents, and a couple of their letters were printed. *Searchlight* investigated, but could not come up with much, other than 'both groups consist of the same small circle of Morrison's friends' and 'their support was limited to a small following of ex-BNP and YNF people in Leeds.'⁵ This was true, but there is much more to the story of the Dentists.

3. *British News* had actually started life in 1974 in support of the British National Party. When Morrison wound up the BNP in late 1977 *British News* continued as an 'independent paper which gives its support to the National Front — the biggest White Nationalist movement in the world.'

4. *Searchlight* #44, February 1979.

5. *Ibid.*

**Meanwhile, Across
the Pond...**

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

WE'RE AN AMERICAN BAND!

Skinheads and skinhead bands in America grew out of the punk and later the hardcore scene. The very first White Power skinhead band was undoubtedly the Bully Boys. The band was formed by Scott Lessig and lead guitarist Rusty Primrose in November 1983 in Orlando, Florida. Scott had become a skinhead at an early age. The band started to gig in early 1984 and quickly gained support and respect from the Orlando underground skinhead/punk scene. In the beginning they were helped by a friend who owned a store that would showcase Sunday hardcore matinees. By 1985 the Bully Boys were playing all the time. That year alone they notched up a dozen gigs just playing around Florida. And yet the band was still not satisfied with this and made the decision to relocate to Los Angeles and try their luck there. Because of their political stance, they were not well received by the Southern California punk scene. Even so they stayed in L.A. for over a year, playing some gigs, before deciding to return to Florida. The original line-up broke up in 1987. Scott moved to Dallas, Texas where Rachel met him, becoming best friends. This is Rachel's story of her upbringing, her life as a skinhead and her pathway to embracing White Power:

I grew up in Tyler, about 90 minutes east of Dallas. Smallish (50k back then), famous for rose-growing and being a hot spot in the East Texas oil boom in the early 20th century. It's more old South, and Tyler is a fairly affluent city. It was still pretty segregated when I was growing up, the only black people I knew were maids and gardeners. I went to Catholic school there (somewhat of an odd thing in the area), so we only had a few (seriously, less than ten) black kids in our school, and their parents were like doctors and college professors and such. I did not have much knowledge of ghetto niggers, although we moved to the country for a couple of years and there were a lot of country niggers out there. My parents were divorced and my dad moved back to Dallas, so although I was familiar with Dallas, I didn't live there all the time and my father was very strict so I never got to go out and run in the streets. I found the Ramones in 1981 on a TV show from Jersey I saw on cable, and scoured every record store I came across for their albums. I fancied myself a punk rocker, but only had what information I could find in the public library to base it off of. I learned about skinheads and Oi music during this time, but there wasn't much skinhead representation in the U.S. at the time. I bought albums that I found in the markdown bin at our local record store, and I was really into the Ramones, the Dead Boys, X, the Clash, the Damned, etc. When I got to Austin I realized that

I was seriously misinformed on punk rock, and spent the time I should have been in class learning about punk rock and the scene, ultimately becoming embraced by the Austin punk rock scene and flunking out of school. I met a couple of skinheads, and realized that was what I wanted. To me, skinheads were the 'I' of punk rock (Spinal Tap reference). They were the top of the food chain in the scene. Also, some punk rockers called me racist because I wouldn't date out of my race. (Yuck!)

Drugs were rampant back then, we were doing speed, acid, and cocaine (it was the '80s is my only defense). Skinhead in America was a bit different from the UK, I imagine. For example, it was about race for us, not nationalism because we are a raceless nation. Although America was founded by white people, there are no indigenous people (even the Indians came from Asia), so we have no native race and heritage to defend, unlike in the UK. We didn't dress so proper (Ben Shermans were impossible to find over here, only a few shops sold Doc Martens back then, and we just wore cheap bombers from the army-navy store, not Alphas) because we didn't have English fashion in our stores and we were POOR! Docs and jackets were often stolen from someone else (taxing). If you knew someone going to London, you begged, borrowed or stole to give them money to bring you back something, ANYTHING, haha! Over here, I think we were scruffie, more of a gang. The violence was insane, just insane. Skinheads started in the U.S. in NYC, Harley Flanagan was the first one who brought it over and it spread from the NYHC scene through the country. Every skinhead I met in the '80s didn't like blacks, but had the odd Mexican or Jew because they were part of the crew before they were skinheads. It's hard to explain, but it wasn't until around 1987–1988 that skinheads here got serious about racialism. The drugs stopped, the old non-white friends were sent packing.

I moved in with my dad after dropping out of college and was in Dallas in 1987. I met Rusty and Scott from the Bully Boys straight off the bat. We had mutual friends in Austin, and I ended up hanging out with them. Rusty got extradited to Florida so it was pretty much Scott and I until we were brought together with the other white power crew in Dallas. There was also a crew we called the slob skins that were sloppier and grubbier than we were and kept their random non-whites and collected our castoffs. We didn't like each other much, but we were brought together by a girl from CASH (Clark Martell's crew in Chicago) and we all became Confederate Hammerskins. The original CHS crew was about 10–15 people.

Musically, I personally went from old punk to hardcore to Oi to white power rock 'n' roll. The Bully Boys were the first white power band over here, and actually played with mainstream hardcore bands like Agnostic Front. We didn't have great access to skinhead music as English bands were all imports and a Skrewdriver album was \$20 in 1987. We had lots of tapes that we would copy off of a friend's records. Sometimes you would have a fourth-generation tape and it was virtually impossible to hear the music. I remember when one of my friends moved from Austin to Tulsa in 1987 and he told me that some of his new friends were putting together a new band called Midtown Bootboys!

In late 1988, I got the opportunity to go to San Diego, California, when a friend from Austin moved there, and his family invited me to come and stay with them. I stayed out there for about a year. I went to Tom Metzger's meetings. I knew who Tom Metzger was from reading *WAR* papers (I used to have a big box full of them, but chucked them out about ten years ago after lugging them around forever, wish I still had them!), and my friend had hooked up with the SD *WAR* skins, so they took me to meetings at Tom Metzger's place up on a mountain northeast of San Diego. I think that is really when I came into my own as a racist. To me, Tom was a terrific mentor and I learned so much from attending those meetings. I learned an awful lot about being a skinhead and white power while I was there.

I returned to Dallas wearing another crew's patch, and was told that I was considered a part of the original CHS crew and should never wear another patch. The American government had been preparing a case against some of our members, and it became the first time our government prosecuted skinheads, and the basis of the federal hate crime laws that are now in place. One of the charges was 'conspiracy to violate the civil rights of an unknown black man,' which is just an example of the ridiculous bullshit that the government pulled out of their hat. Our guys got convicted and most sent to federal prison for ten years.

Also of note is that because of the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, elements within the White Power skinhead scene took on a far more militaristic bent than elsewhere, often morphing into 'militia'-like activity, which has yet to be discussed and documented in any great detail for obvious reasons.

Tom Metzger was one of the first to forge real links with skinheads and shape the White Power skinhead scene throughout the '80s. A television repairman by trade, Tom Metzger had had a long career in the extreme right, starting with the John Birch Society, then the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, then the new Christian Crusade Church and then his own Californian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He then tried his hand in the world of politics, running for the House of Representatives, but failed to be elected. He then created the White American Political Association which was followed by White Aryan Resistance (*WAR*). As well as publishing his *WAR* tabloid five or six times a year, he used emerging technology like community access cable television, bulletin boards and computers to spread his message. He pioneered the use of recorded telephone messages by White nationalist groups.

WAR now regularly featured approving news about skinhead achievements. It published letters and articles from skinheads, advertised skinhead organisations and carried cartoons of neo-nazi skinheads indulging in racial violence. In this way, according to one source, 'Metzger allowed his tabloid to become a forum for skinheads.' Metzger also recognised the importance of music when attempting to draw skinheads into his white power movement. As early as 1983, his tabloid was promoting Skrewdriver and 'Rock Against Communism.' He tried to demonstrate that skinhead music is thoroughly white and attacked the idea that it's tainted with black strains. Tapes of Skrewdriver and the Midtown Bootboys were sold through *WAR*.

THIS IS WAR

WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE

is an association dedicated to the struggle of WHITE people in North America and worldwide. We are actively involved in changing the corrupt system in Washington, D.C. that has turned its back on WHITE people in this country as well as WHITE people in other nations. Since the rich, White sell-outs have long ago abandoned their less prosperous brothers and sisters, WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE champions the cause of Whites who are proud and love their race, especially our White youth. We feel our number one enemy now occupies the financial centers of this nation, along with Washington, D.C. itself. The corporations conspire against our people, and ship our means for livelihood to China or other Third World nations, so the corporations make lots of money by paying these people slave wages. Obviously, WHITES who do not feel that their Race is an important factor in the future of this nation would not be acceptable as associates.

WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE

opposes White abortion. 93% of all the abortions since 1972 have been White. 60 million Whites have been exterminated in a self-induced program of genocide against our race. While it is obvious that women have rights, the right to murder their own children is not acceptable. The economic pressures that drive men and women to abandon the family must cease.