

Britain First

Army of the Right



HOPE not hate research special



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Cover photo: Paul Golding flanked
by uniformed supporters addresses
a party rally in Kent, 2014
(Jim Dowson is obscured by flag)



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From Goebbels to Gospels

OVER THE LAST few months a new group has taken Britain's far-right scene by storm. Seeking to fill a vacuum left by the declining British National Party (BNP) and the splintering English Defence League (EDL), Britain First is confrontational, uncompromising and dangerous.

Combining the anti-immigrant rhetoric of the BNP with the hostility to Islam of the EDL, Britain First is attracting supporters from both by its direct action and stunts. It has particularly targeted Anjem Choudary's media savvy network in a way the EDL never did.

Its direct style of taking the fight to their opponents – all of course caught on camera – is attracting huge support on social media and creating a climate of fear amongst Muslim communities.

It is too simplistic to simply pigeon-hole Britain First as just another far right group. Whilst the BNP was born out of an adherence to Nazism that traced its organisational roots back to the 1960s and the EDL is a tabloid headline driven car-crash of alcoholic misspent patriotism and violent criminality and Islamophobia, the Britain First leadership is driven by a man dedicated to Calvinist chauvinism, religious bigotry and the raptures of evangelical and biblical Armagedon prophesies.

Jim Dowson, founder and leader of Britain First, has been a religious antagonist and extremist since the early 1980s. For several years Dowson was the key fundraiser for the BNP, but after falling out with Nick Griffin he set off alone and eventually formed a partnership with Paul Golding – and Britain First was born.

Britain First is the most dangerous group to have emerged on the British far-right scene for several years. Its confrontational tactics are attracting huge publicity and could potentially lead to a violent backlash. If nothing else, its provocative actions – such as distributing bibles inside mosques and doorstepping Muslim community leaders in their homes – are generating a climate of fear.

HOPE not hate has produced this pamphlet to reveal the truth behind Britain First. It is the first proper investigation into a group that has gained 1,500 members in just six months (and nearly 500,000 Facebook followers). It profiles the leaders, explores the ideology and examines the groups successful use of social media.

Above all, the pamphlet is a useful tool in dealing with Britain First when they arrive in our communities.

We hope you find it useful

Matthew Collins

Director of Research, HOPE not hate

GOD'S SOLDIERS

The story of Britain First



London 2014: Golding (with microphone) leads supporters in a chant of "Jesus Christ" as they confront a protest by supporters of Anjem Choudary outside of the Indian Embassy last month.

“You’ll be hearing from me, you’ll be seeing us on your doorstep very soon. I’ll find out where you live and we’ll be around.”

It’s outside the Indian Embassy and Paul Golding is shouting at a young Muslim man on a demonstration demanding Sharia law for India. It’s a pointless demonstration and the counter-protest is also almost as pointless. But they’re all here, Islamists and fascists alike.

Golding then puts a loudhailer to his lips and begins shouting “Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ!”, not in anger or surprise, but in seeming exultation.

A minute later, he and four of his followers break through a peace line and try to attack a large number of Islamists. Not for the first time this year, Golding is being carried away in handcuffs. So are his colleagues. “Get your hands off of me” one bitterly shouts pushing against the arresting officer. “I’m doing your job for you...”



Golding leads his group into a confrontation with supporters of Choudary
(inset) Three people were arrested, including Golding

For many people, Britain First (BF) is a relatively new phenomenon that emerged as a split within the British National Party (BNP) and the demise of the English Defence League (EDL).

In a way, both are true. BF is full of former BNP and EDL activists. They share similar characteristics to both groups: the anti-immigrant rhetoric of the BNP and the uniform thuggery of the EDL.

However, while the BNP was born of adherence to Nazism and the EDL is a tabloid headline driven car-crash of alcoholic, misspent patriotism, violent criminality and Islamophobia, BF is the creation of a man dedicated to Calvinist chauvinism, religious bigotry and the raptures of evangelical and biblical Armageddon prophecies.

BF Jim Dowson founder and leader has been religiously antagonising since the early 1980s. He even crossed swords with Roberto Fiore, an Italian fascist and dangerous friend of Nick Griffin.

Dowson has raised funds for all manner of extremist groups he believes are in tune to some degree with his most damning, violent and obscure ideas. In more recent times he oversaw the BNP’s fundraising operation.

A former member of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), since falling foul of the BNP he has surrounded himself with people like Golding – undereducated and empty of purpose – and convinced them that it is a distorted version of the Gospels and not the deeds of Goebbels that can bring a new authoritarian society dominated by Christian and moral values.

In effect, Britain First is the far-right mirror image of **al-Muhajiroun**, the Islamist group led by Anjem Choudary and with whom it has a symbiotic relationship.

Thirty years in the planning and dreaming, Dowson is building a street army of fascists, malcontents and violent psychopaths who believe they have religious purpose to their extremism.

Despite his extreme Protestantism, Dowson outlined his belief in a religious conflict with Islam at a meeting with the Pope Pius Catholic order in Wimbledon, west London in 2007. In his speech, Dowson spoke of his desire for “new crusades”.

BUILDING AN ARMY

For several years Dowson “owned” the BNP through his company, Midas Consultancy. He oversaw the party’s fundraising and membership system and during a two-and-a-half year period raised more than £2m.

The relationship was not to last and within six months of their “amicable” parting, there had been a kidnapping, clandestine envelopes stuffed with cash, threats and counter threats, court cases and an explosive employment tribunal. Jenny Matthys, who had once worked out of Dowson’s Belfast base, fled to the safety of the BNP’s offices in Cumbria, but found herself driven off the road by a car load of men who had followed her from Belfast, demanding cash and issuing threats against the Griffin family.

While the campaign against the Griffins was the work of people linked to paramilitaries, they were, in their own words, a “commercial rival” running from their old Belfast offices. That rival was Britain First.

BRITAIN FIRST

In May 2011 some 40,000 current and former BNP members, supporters and donors received an unsolicited email from a new group calling itself Britain First. A further 5,000 people received a glossy mailshot introducing the new group and its chairman Paul Golding, a former Hitler-worshipping BNP high flyer who had for a short while headed up the party’s communications department. Golding had moved to Northern Ireland late in 2010 to live and work with Dowson, abandoning a council seat he had won the previous year on Sevenoaks District Council in Kent.

Up until Golding was introduced as the leader of Britain First (and a short-lived political wing the National People’s Party), most people in the BNP were unaware he had quit their party.

Shortly before his departure for Northern Ireland, he borrowed entire back catalogues of fascist publications from the BNP, including from Nick Griffin himself, under the guise of researching the launch of a new, radical magazine for the party. Golding had briefly edited a BNP magazine, *Identity*.

He was particularly interested in the Political Soldier wing of the old National Front and their adoption of an extreme form of Catholicism.

After living and working with Dowson, the former would-be Calvinist minister managed to convert Golding to his own blend of hatred: Christian identity politics. He eschewed the scientific racial hatred and ideas of racial supremacy in favour of dire biblical warnings which meshed well with Golding’s own sense of prevailing Armageddon.

Joining them were others who had converted to Christianity – Andy McBride and Gary Raikes, both former regional organisers in the BNP, and Graham Thomas, believed to be Dowson’s brother-in-law. Raikes soon suffered what was rumoured to be a nervous breakdown, declaring himself the reincarnation of Oswald Mosley and running off to form another new group.

For a while Dowson aired his thoughts on the state of the British far right on a number of accommodating and rudderless far-right websites arguing that religion, not race, was the call to arms in the face of the supposed ‘Islamification’ of Britain.

Viewing the demise of the EDL, Dowson argued that to build a movement capable of changing Britain, people would have to dump Nazism and anti-Semitism and find God. Although it stimulated debate, the articles were pulled because the content was considered too extreme even for people who made a habit of making jokes about gas chambers. He pitted himself politically in the same orbit as the EDL, but until 2013 BF remained firmly as a Belfast-based mailing outfit antagonising both it and the BNP.

In 2012 Dowson trained his attention on to the Northern Ireland “flag disputes”, getting himself into trouble with the authorities and Protestant paramilitaries over his activities. Up until then, Golding had been drawn to a number of churches in Comber, including the Church of Ireland and the evangelical offshoots of the Presbyterian and Pentecostal churches in central Belfast. Like most interlopers who find their way into the quiet and picturesque village, Golding



(above) Belfast 2013: Golding on a Protestant Coalition demonstration with a cut out of Dowson, who is banned from all political and religious marches (extracts below) Dowson’s blueprint for confrontation and rallies

What will you do when the invaders march down your street? An observation on the London riots and growing Islamic violence. .

Written by James Dowson

The reality is simple; the English can no longer depend on the state for protection of life and livelihood. I watched in horror as hundreds of decent, mainly white locals stood powerlessly observing their homes and businesses being put to the torch.

No police, no fire brigade, no nationalist vigilantes, no English youth defenders, no resistance of any kind, no hope.

OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN COULD HAVE BEEN RAPED AND MURDERED AND NO ONE WOULD HAVE LIFTED A FINGER!!

I know the English are very brave and tough but unlike us Celts, most are calm, private and very individual in nature but unless Englishmen stand together to defend their homes and families they will be destroyed. This violence is a mere taste to what is

Where were the massed ranks of the shaven headed nationalist “defenders” who march around England looking for a fight every weekend as the invaders burnt Croydon? Where were the bomber jacketed loud mouth yob nationalists when our people were jumping out of their burning homes?

As things stand there will be no culture/race/religious war in England, it will be a massacre and those in the multi cult areas won’t stand a cat in hell’s chance of survival, never mind silly thoughts of a glorious nationalist, patriotic victory.

A real Patriots’ first duty is to defend our people and country, let’s be honest... we failed. Our young men (you know, the ones that often boast of how patriotic they are, always waving flags

It is time for defence committees to be formed, not only in the affected areas but in ALL areas of the country, so that assistance can be offered by those more fortunate. I am not talking about hooligan vigilantes, **ABSOLUTELY NOT**, but we need ALL decent British citizens who are patriots to start acting in the way every man in previous generations would have: Stand together and hope for the best but prepare for the worst.

In the last riots it was property, indeed the mobs attacked many private dwellings, kicking domestic doors in and entering family homes. Then, theft was the main impulse, but rape and pillage always go hand in hand and that did occur but was hushed up.

is remembered by the locals as "troubled".

As rioting became a regular fixture of the flag dispute, Golding sensed it was a good time to leave and slipped back into England to rebuild Dowson's reputation among the far right, laying plans for their own private army.

LAUNCHING AN ARMY

In January 2013 Dowson and Golding engineered a meeting between the newly formed EDL splinter group South East Alliance (SEA) and one of Dowson's other political clients, the English Democrats.

The meeting, held in Kent, heard Dowson outline the formation of an *English National Resistance* a group that would merge all the splintered Counter-Jihad and anti-immigration groups under one banner, take control of the streets and impose martial law when the time came for a conflict with the Islamism enemy.

It was a boozy meeting. Dowson felt like he was off the leash from the mounting trouble in Belfast. He flashed his cash around and bought rounds of drinks and enjoyed some notoriety that the publicity Golding had drummed up gave him. Dowson was in the front line of a real conflict and tried to impress upon the meeting the role he was playing in trying to shift the entire Loyalist and Unionist community towards confronting the "sell out" by their politicians.

The meeting broke up without firm agreement between the three sides. The SEA was suspicious of Dowson, who in turn looked down on them and in particular their leader Paul Prodromou, while the English Dems, when they sobered up, took issue with some of Dowson's outlandish plans. The English Democrats are almost vehemently anti the union between Britain and Northern Ireland.

WARRANT FOR CHOUDARY

In May 2013 British soldier Lee Rigby was murdered on the streets of South London. The BNP suffered momentary and seemingly terminal paralysis in the aftermath of the event, and the near moribund EDL sprung to temporary life when its erstwhile leader Stephen Lennon took the organisation to the streets for a

series of noisy protests.

Dowson had long warned that this was an eventuality that Britain First could capitalise on. Golding's response was to issue a video warrant warning that they would "arrest" Choudary if they could find his address. As the video went viral, a caller to their Belfast office passed what proved to be accurate information as to where the man who radicalised Lee Rigby's killers was living in East London. *HOPE not hate* understands that this call was actually made by a misguided member of the Muslim community, though others claim it was made by the former EDL leader Stephen Lennon.

On 30 May, newspapers reported that the security services had rushed to the home of Choudary to move him and his family to safety.



An article about the action on the website of the *Daily Mail* drew hundreds of comments approving of Britain First and chastising the police and government. A Britain First begging email that night went out to some 120,000 people across Britain, Ireland, Europe and north America.

The Choudary incident and others that have followed targeting Islamists at their homes, catapulted Britain First into the forefront of Britain's far-right. The noticeable, sneering reactions of the BNP and the EDL (who both christened Britain First as 'Dowson First') were indication enough that Dowson and Golding had upped the ante. Neither Griffin nor Lennon, two leaders of men with violent interests, have ever challenged the likes of Anjem Choudary or Sajeel Shahid on their doorsteps.

Despite having Choudary's address, Golding did not turn up on his doorstep until January



Christian Patrol: Leaflet handed out by Britain First's "crusaders" in East London



Jayda Fransen takes centre stage the Britain First protest outside the trial of Lee Rigby's killers at the Old Bailey

2014. By then, the EDL was leaderless and Dowson had been unceremoniously dumped by the Protestant Coalition after raising the ire of the UVF aligned Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) for a series of homophobic rants.

In November 2013 as Dowson's secluded home in County Down, Northern Ireland, underwent what appeared to be major security refit, the group held a conference in Sandhurst, Berkshire. Here he expanded on his earlier writings, citing both Che Guevara and Sinn Fein as models for the next step in electoral and militant community engagement. He announced that Golding would now be building a "defence force" of "disciplined, heterosexual Christian men" in preparation for the forthcoming conflict with "liberals, Jihadists and Communists".

The 40 people present cheered wildly as Dowson laid into the BNP and the EDL for deserting their Christian obligations. In a speech HOPE not hate is in possession of,

Dowson spoke about controlling streets and council estates, building barricades and imposing a Christian martial law where Muslims would fear to tread. Prophesising that a holy war was underway already in Britain, Dowson concluded that the BNP would have to be unseated and the heretics' of the EDL destroyed.

CHRISTIAN PATROLS

In December 2013 the five-man Britain First 'Standing committee', all unelected, met and confirmed that Golding was to stand against BNP leader Nick Griffin, MEP, in the European elections. This was both tactical and personal. Golding, however, suffered from nerves. Despite being ridiculed and tormented publicly by Griffin for his alleged traveller background, Golding was later to withdraw from the race at the last minute and switch to Wales instead, causing a funding headache and severe embarrassment to Dowson.



(above) Vital Training: How Britain First first advertised their plans to train for combat

Further outrage was caused when it became apparent that Golding was pressing ahead with "Remember Lee Rigby" as the party's election statement, coming only two days after a council in Essex issued a warning that shoppers were not to confuse the Britain First stall collecting monies, with that of Help for Heroes, the forces charity.

Golding was to "destroy" all street competition, if necessary, physically intimidating the likes of the SEA, EVF and "Infidels", (described as "Naziscum" by Dowson) In March and April of this year, teams of Britain First activists began appearing on the doorsteps of the group's internecine detractors. The man leading the intimidation teams was Matthew King, who claimed to be a former enforcer for the Loyalist terrorist Johnny Adair.

Thick set and with a strong Belfast accent, King allegedly threatened to come back and knee-cap people who criticised Britain First or Golding online. The Britain First activists were primed by attending a series of bloody "fight clubs" organised around the country and at a sports academy in Strood, Kent, overseen by ex-military personnel and a former professional cage fighter. They told the venues it was "military training".

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Protestant Coalition

AFTER FRONTING a number of violent clashes in Belfast for three months, Dowson was finally arrested by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in March 2013 for organising illegal protests. The police raids confiscated his computers and mobile telephones, banning him from all political or religious demonstrations, as well as the internet and the use of any telecommunication equipment. The PSNI were unequivocal that paramilitaries were behind the violence in Northern Ireland and Dowson had been front and centre in news reports. His links to the BNP had made his organising the protests even more "sexy" for journalists there.

Opposing bail, a female police officer read from an extract of a speech Dowson allegedly delivered to the media outside City Hall. She told the court that Dowson had spoken of a "wake-up call to the people of Ulster" and it being "a time to get on the streets". Hundreds of police officers had been injured in the months of rioting and police officers had been drafted in from Britain to provide cover and respite. On one occasion, when rioters grew tired, Dowson had even publicly approved of shots being fired at the police by Loyalist gunmen.

The cross-community Alliance Party had its offices firebombed and a number of people were forced to flee areas of Belfast where protestors took either exception to their political beliefs or just simply, their religion or ethnicity.

News of his activities and arrest saw support for Dowson and Britain First rocket on social media, particularly among disaffected EDL supporters. As Golding and Dowson dreamt up plans of fully replacing the EDL on the streets of England, Dowson flew to London again in March 2013 for a meeting with the SEA and the fledgling English Volunteer Force (EVF) another EDL splinter group, at a Loyalist protest organised at Downing Street. The meeting ended in drunken

acrimony between Britain First and the alleged Commander of London Ulster Defence Association (UDA), Frank Portinari in a pub on the strand when serial trouble maker and nazi clown Eddie Stampton crossed swords with Dowson. The meeting then broke up when one member of the EVF bizarrely threatened Dowson on what he claimed was the behalf of a faction of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) a terrorist group responsible for hundreds of deaths in Northern Ireland.

Returning to Belfast, Dowson and Golding launched the Protestant Coalition in April 2013 with a number of people with previous paramilitary links and high profile "victims campaigner". Among the charges Dowson now faced were "hate preaching" under the Serious Crimes Act, putting him in the same league as the likes of Abu Hamza and Anjem Choudary, to whom the laws were allegedly drafted to curtail. At a later trial that year, Dowson was represented in court by fellow defendant Jamie Bryson, alleged to also be linked to the Ulster Volunteer Force, though the UVF appear to have very little nice to say about him.



UVF: Belfast marchers re-enact the formation of the original UVF in 1912. Their uniforms and call to arms are an inspiration to Dowson



(above) Rubbish: Dowson's cardboard image dumped by the bins at his home. He no longer speaks for the Protestant Coalition

(below) Coalition launch: Golding (3rd from left) joins Dowson (1st left) and his daughter (centre) to launch the Protestant Coalition in April 2013



UNIFORMED THUGS ON PATROL

As well as intimidating Choudary at his home, Britain First has launched 'Christian Patrols' in response to a small number of Choudary's supporters patrolling parts of East London using the name 'Muslim patrol', for which a number of men have since been convicted and imprisoned.

Driving military Land Rovers supplied by a Kent-based group of military "enthusiasts" and "re-enactors", Golding and a dozen other Britain First activists carried cans of lager and intimidated Muslims in east London in a desperate attempt to draw out the Muslim patrols for confrontation.

A series of high-profile radical hate preachers have been visited and intimidated by Golding and his followers.

Britain First's 'Defence Force' was to establish a uniform modelled on the early UVF of 1912, Lord Carson's citizen army set up to defend protestants from "marauding" nationalist interests in British-controlled Ireland. The uniforms and expensive operation to perform such a feat were to be paid for by money raised on the back of appeals made every time Golding was arrested by anti-terror police, and from the sale of Britain First merchandise.

So far, Golding has been held by the anti-terror police four times.

In March this year, Britain First held a flag ceremony in Kent where battle standards were handed out to masked activists who have been divided into battalions and companies. A clear indication that Britain First has modelled and drilled itself along paramilitary lines.

If Dowson had previously lent heavily on Che Guevara and Sinn Fein for street battles and political organisation, he flew in personally and gave it a stamp of pure Loyalist paramilitarism. A Loyalist marching band drummed activists into the venue to collect their standards bearing the insignia of Christian crusaders and Dowson reiterated from his mock pulpit that this was a Christian "defence force" and that the standards were to signify the blood sacrifices of the Christian soldiers before him. Nobody blinked an eyelid.

Dowson and Golding truly believe they are fighting a holy war. Golding, wild eyed and reckless,



The blood of Christ: Dowson captured on a rare outing from his home without a police escort

has bought into the idea that some kind of Armageddon is coming soon. The confrontations with followers of Anjem Choudary are now becoming more threatening and physical, much to the delight of the remnants of the far right.

As well as issuing warnings to individuals that they are going to either face a judgement by God – or Golding turning up on their doorsteps – even Choudary's supporters were surprised when Golding and others began chanting passages from the Bible at them and calling the name of Jesus Christ in a confrontation outside the Indian embassy in May.

Both sides appear to know they are antagonising dangerous individuals quite prepared to use violence to silence their critics. How far Britain First is prepared to go is not in question. Golding is prepared to go to prison and his other green jacketed activists seem quite prepared to follow him.

In an appalling interview with the BBC's Andrew Neil, Golding denied that the group's

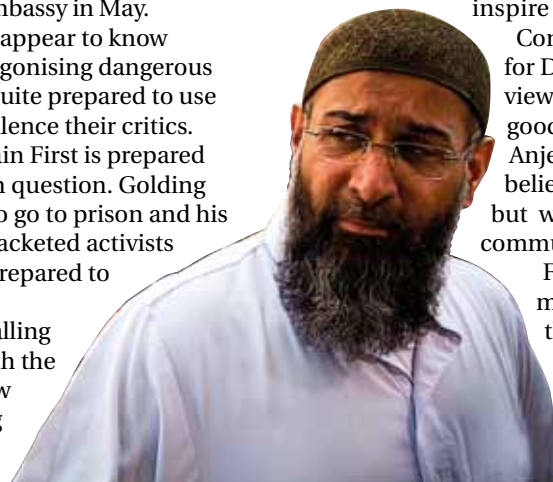
green jackets were anything sinister and were only "activist jackets" to distinguish Britain First activists from the EDL. There was no mention of the group's masks and full paramilitary dressage behind closed doors.

Britain First is filling the void left by the electoral defeat of the BNP and the splintering of the EDL, but it is also taking the British far right on a new confrontational path and one that can lead to violent community disorder. It is not just if they can directly instigate it but the fear and retaliation they can inspire in others.

Confrontation is all good news for Dowson, with his Biblical views of Armageddon. It is also good news his for nemesis, Anjem Choudary, whose belief system is polar opposite but who is equally to polarise communities .

Fortunately, the vast majority of Britons reject their respective extremisms. However, nothing can be taken for granted: we need to work tirelessly to isolate these groups and defend our communities.

Choudary: Mildly amused by Britain First's antics until they turned up at his home



Britain First Timeline

2011-2013

May 2011
Britain First/
National People's
Party Launched
with glossy
mailshot and
begging email



December 2012
Flag protests begin in Northern
Ireland. Dowson ceases
opportunity to build Britain
First. He fronts a series of
illegal parades as Belfast suffers
outbreaks of serious rioting



March 2013
ENR launch protest
outside Mosque in
Crayford

April 2013
Dowson behind the launch
of Protestant Coalition in
Ulster, named as its leader

August 2012
Dowson tests the water
by issuing a leaflet
written and designed for
the BNP under the Britain
First label. The BNP make
murmurs about legal action



March 2013
Dowson arrested for
organising Belfast
protests. No phone or
computers allowed,
not allowed anywhere
near a protest

March 2013
Britain First launch
"Operation Fightback"
mimicking the
BNP and reproducing
a BNP booklet as
their own

April 2013
SEA film themselves
attacking man in a pub
thought to be a Britain
First supporter. Things
look shaky between them
and Britain First



January 2014
Golding arrives in Tower
Hamlets, East London,
being driven in an ex-army
Land Rover, looking to
confront the "Muslim
patrols"

February 2014
Golding hands in
letter to the police
refusing to abide by
bail conditions

February 2014
Britain First clash with other
far-right groups outside the Old
Bailey in London at the sentencing
of Drummer Lee Rigby's killers

March 2014
Golding and an alleged
former Loyalist
terrorist lead Britain
First activists in
visiting the homes of
other far-right figures

April 2014
Golding arrested
after visiting the
home of alleged Al
Qaeda operative
teacher Sajeel
Shahid

January 2014
Britain First
activists
target the
home of hate
preacher Anjem
Choudary

January 2014
Golding arrested by
anti-terror police.
In a statement, he
describes himself
as being on a "Holy
Crusade"

February 2014
Britain First
launches a series
of "visits" on
radical Islamists
both at home and
at work

February 2014
Britain First launch a
series of "fight clubs"
under the guidance
of professional cage
fighters and martial
arts experts

March 2014
Dowson flies in to present
battle standards to Kent
activists dressed as
paramilitaries at a function
in Kent where a Loyalist
flute band play them in



2014



Michael Adebolajo



May 2013

Lee Rigby murdered. Britain First issue an internet warrant for Anjem Choudary's arrest, which goes viral on social media

June 2013

Court in Belfast bans Dowson from attending any religious marches or parades and bars him from entering Belfast

June 2013

Dowson ditched by Protestant Coalition after running foul of UVF-aligned Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) over homophobic postings on their Facebook site

November 2013

Dowson outlines plans to launch a "Defence Force of patriotic, heterosexual Christians" at a meeting in Berkshire, England. Expensive fortifications begin on his home

May 2013

Police in Northern Ireland raid Dowson's home. Members of the Protestant coalition go on the run

May 2013

Choudary moved from his home in East London as police take threat against him seriously

June 2013

Court in Belfast bans Dowson from attending any religious marches or parades and bars him from entering Belfast

November 2013

Golding flies to Belfast to take part in flag protest and meets with Loyalists on behalf of Dowson

December 2013

Britain First leadership pressures Golding to stand in Euro elections against BNP leader Nick Griffin



April 2014

Police in Southend, Essex, issue warning to shoppers after people complain BF is imitating forces charity Help for Heroes to raise funds

April 2014

Britain First claims it will protect the meetings of UKIP leader Nigel Farage, with "former soldiers and armoured cars" put at Farage's disposal

May 2014

Golding arrested again, this time after a confrontation with members of Anjem Choudary's al-Muhajiroun outside of the Indian Embassy in London

May 2014

20 BF activists turn up outside a UKIP meeting in Margate, Kent, offering to protect the meeting from a peaceful demonstration outside

May 2014

Five BF members enter the East London Mosque in Tower Hamlets

April 2014

Britain First holds a medal ceremony in Kent, handing out medals to activists. Dowson tells meeting "The war is now on the streets of Luton... Britain First is interested in taking the war to these people."

April 2014

Golding switches his electoral ambitions to Wales instead of Griffin's North West constituency, but still causes further suffering to the family of Drummer Lee Rigby by invoking his name in his election slogan, leading to an enquiry by the Electoral Commission

May 2014

Golding and ten others invade Mosques in Bradford and Scotland handing out Bibles whilst bullying imams. In Bradford they invade a local Labour Party office as well as going mob handed to the home of the Mayor. Later they issue a warning that they will return to visit the home of every councillor in the city

Britain First



JIM DOWSON

FOR NEARLY thirty years 49-year-old James “Jim” Dowson was making headlines in Scotland and Northern Ireland for his confrontational pro-life, anti-abortion and homophobic activities. Before tying up with the British National Party (BNP) in 2007, Dowson, originally from Cumbernauld in Scotland, trained to be a Calvinist minister while working as a travelling salesman. He moved to Northern Ireland in mid eighties at the height of the Troubles.

Dowson is part of a radical anti-abortion Christian network that stretches across Europe, with links to other activists in Poland, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland and Spain. He owns a number of properties across Europe and has in the past received funding from the European Union to provide “sanctuary” for young women.

Despite being a radical evangelical Protestant with past links to Loyalist paramilitaries, Dowson has in the past raised money from selling pictures of the Pope and has shared platforms with a number of extreme Catholic groups. There appears to be nothing Dowson will not turn his hand to in his bid to sow disharmony. In the early 1980’s he held meetings with Roberto Fiore, an Italian fascist, who was at the time helping radicalise the National Front here in the UK whilst on the run from Italian authorities.

His work with the BNP, running its call centre from his offices in Belfast, opened him up to much adverse publicity and scrutiny. As fundraiser, it is claimed that he brought over £2 million into the party coffers.

As well as bragging to one local paper there that he was “raking it in” he was later instrumental in the BNP’s collapse. We even dubbed him “the man who owns the BNP”. Former employees claim that, among other things, Dowson has threatened them with shotguns.

The BNP invented a sex scandal to discredit him after he began dismantling the party by feuding and withholding documents in 2010.

In Northern Ireland, Dowson is a controversial character currently on police bail for his part in organising violent demonstrations against the removal of the Union Flag from Belfast City Hall.

He has also raised funds for the English Democrats using the name of his dubious fundraising company, “Midas Consultancy.”

Dowson is now the most powerful identity on the far right in this country.

leadership

PAUL GOLDING

PAUL GOLDING HAS BEEN active in far-right politics since the late 1990s when as a member of the young BNP, he turned up at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday drunk, and with a pair of ladies underwear on his head.

Recognising his potential, Golding was soon recruited as a party propagandist and began editing a youth publication "Excalibur". Golding was groomed for a while by Nick Griffin as someone with great potential, although others in the party felt he was a little "wooden" and prone to displays of stupidity when influenced by others and alcohol.

In 2002, Golding became the BNP's "Director of Publicity" and was one of Nick Griffin's closest confidants, ardent lapdogs and admirers.

In the first of a long-line of feuding about the affections of females, Golding was smitten with the leader's daughter, Jennifer, but lost out to Mark Collett, sparking a feud that continues to this day. By 2009, Golding's star was beginning to wane. His recreational activities began to take their toll on him and he developed a reputation for reacting violently towards other BNP members, most notably the then councillor, Lawrence Rustem, who Golding attacked after a drunken leafleting session.

In 2009 Golding surprised everyone by being elected to Sevenoaks District Council, in Kent. A few months later it was reported that despite taking a salary for the position, Golding had actually done nothing. He was at the time editor of the party periodical which had ground to a standstill, as the BNP was beginning to silently implode.

In 2010 Golding was one of those responsible for "uncovering" the alleged murder plot being hatched against BNP leader Nick Griffin by Mark Collett. Golding was assisted in his investigation by Jim Dowson.

The following year Golding moved to Northern Ireland, belatedly quitting his council post and the BNP, and helped Dowson start up Britain First.

During his two years in Belfast Golding underwent somewhat of a religious conversion. It is believed he was suffering depression. He left Belfast in 2013 under the auspicious guise of building links for Dowson with the EDL and their satellites/splinters.

Despite building a private army under his own control, members are wary of his mood swings and new "fads" which include diets and religious chanting.



Activist profiles

In building their private army, Golding and Dowson have insisted on members closing their social media pages down from scrutiny and removing public pictures and tags. The Kent “Battalion” – those that are best organised and close to Golding – appear the most secretive.

BRADLEY ANDREWS: From Dartford in Kent, now based in Chingford, Essex. Drives one of the ex-military Land Rovers Britain First uses.

BRADLEY CASE: From Bromley in Kent. Professional close protection bodyguard and instructor in martial arts. Skills including surveillance, survivalist and “sniper”.

CHRIS DOHERTY: Ex-soldier from Sittingbourne in Kent. Leader of the “B Company” of the Kent battalion.

JAYDA FRANSEN: Former recruitment consultant from Penge, south London, Fransen is a dedicated Roman Catholic who studied law while working for a now defunct firm of conveyancing solicitors in Forest Hill.

GLENN GARDNER: Dartford based football hooligan and Loyalist

MATT KING: Passed away last month. Made wild claims that he was the “provost Marshall” for the notorious terror chief Johnny Adair of UDA infamy. Nobody in the Irish media had ever heard of him. King was behind a number of visits to Golding and Britain First’s critics on the far-right, threatening to “knee cap” one member in Blackburn who had posted abusive messages to Golding via Facebook. Resided close to Golding in Swanley, Kent.

STEVE LEWIS: Former EDL high flyer from Ramsgate in Kent. Responsible for recruiting in Sheffield recently when 30 people moved over to the group. Also organised for Britain First activists to turn up outside the UKIP meeting in Margate last month.



TONY POTTER: Ex-military, runs security at functions where Dowson is present. From Swanley, in Kent. Close to the Golding family

PAUL RAWLINGS: Ex-military based in Cricklewood, north London, believes himself to be the BF “intelligence” officer, due to having dark skin and able to mount “reconnaissance” missions.

BILL RILEY. Former leader of Hull EDL. Was with Golding during the mosque invasions in Bradford and Edinburgh.

DANNY RUTHERFORD: From Kent. Former EDL footsoldier.

MARCO SPILLONI: Former leader of the EDL in Sheffield. Was once shot in the groin during a “dispute” in the city. Now spends his time flitting between Britain and Spain. The son of a secular Yemeni couple



Top row (left to right): Bradley Case, Bill Riley, Marco Spilloni, Paul Rawlings, Chris Doherty and Glenn Gardner. Bottom row (left to right): Tony Potter, Steve Lewis, Jayda Fransen and Matt King



Social Media: A gateway fundamentalism

BRITAIN FIRST has taken the already impressive far right use of social media to new heights. With almost 475,000+ followers on Facebook, an impressive and imaginative use of online videos and a highly successful fundraising operation, Britain First proves that an organisation with very few members can have a real impact.

The growth in the use of social media by the extreme right was exemplified by the English Defence League (EDL). Although all political groups have long used Facebook and Twitter, it was the EDL that first used it as a successful organising tool to build its organisation, its demonstrations and spread its hate. However, Britain First has taken far right social media use to a new level.

Where the EDL led the way in using Facebook, operating via several hundred different pages and divisions, this paradoxically contributed to its downfall. Britain First, by contrast, has centralised its social media work by having two central pages with one used as a back-up in case the primary page should be culled by Facebook administrators. The main page is administered primarily from the group's Belfast office, though Britain First has some 16 overall administrators who mix tabloid horror stories about immigrants and Islam with emotive images about soldiers, crime, anti-social behaviour and moral values.

Unlike the EDL, Britain First does not use Facebook or Twitter to organise. It gives no clues to its future or long term activities and the security of its core activists appears paramount with Golding and those close to him having completely shut down their personal profiles. Their activities are recorded and distributed through the group's main page and also through the 'Liveleak' video channel.

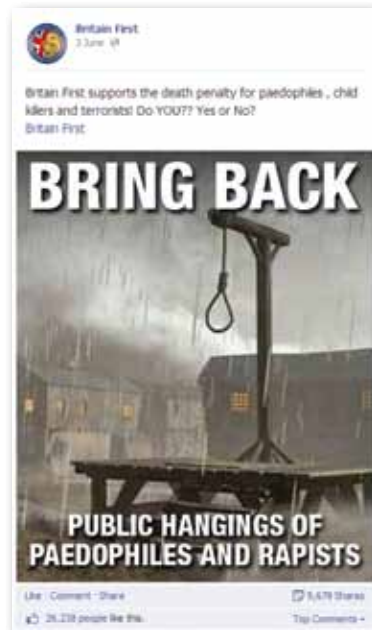
With regularity, members of its Facebook page are ruthlessly removed for querying either the excessive Christian moralising or the glorifying portrayals of the British royal family. Having spent countless hours and monies drawing people in, moderators ruthlessly remove even the slightest deviation.

Dowson's daughter, Alice, former membership secretary of the BNP, is a constant and argumentative thorn in the side of detractors. She is so prolific, one has to question whether her father Jim is circumventing his bail conditions by using her profile.

More than the EDL ever did or could, Britain First has managed to escape the ghetto of race hate pages on social media by pressing and heavily pushing a message of moral outrage and panic into the mainstream on issues such as animal abuse, child neglect and abuse and a general decline in the country's supposed morality. It plays on, as does Dowson's belief in radicalising activists, in pressing heavily on people's sense of helplessness and isolation—one of the prime reasons that some people take to social media.

Evidence of the growth of BF on social media is far from just anecdotal. A large number of progressive social media users have complained that they are witnessing Britain First media from unexpected sources.

This follows a pattern of behaviour by Dowson who, when in the BNP, pressed the leadership to focus harder on moral as well as cultural and financial insecurity and alienation. Forcing people to "choose" between having a God or none appears



Viral: Britain First's Facebook "virals" have exploded onto social media

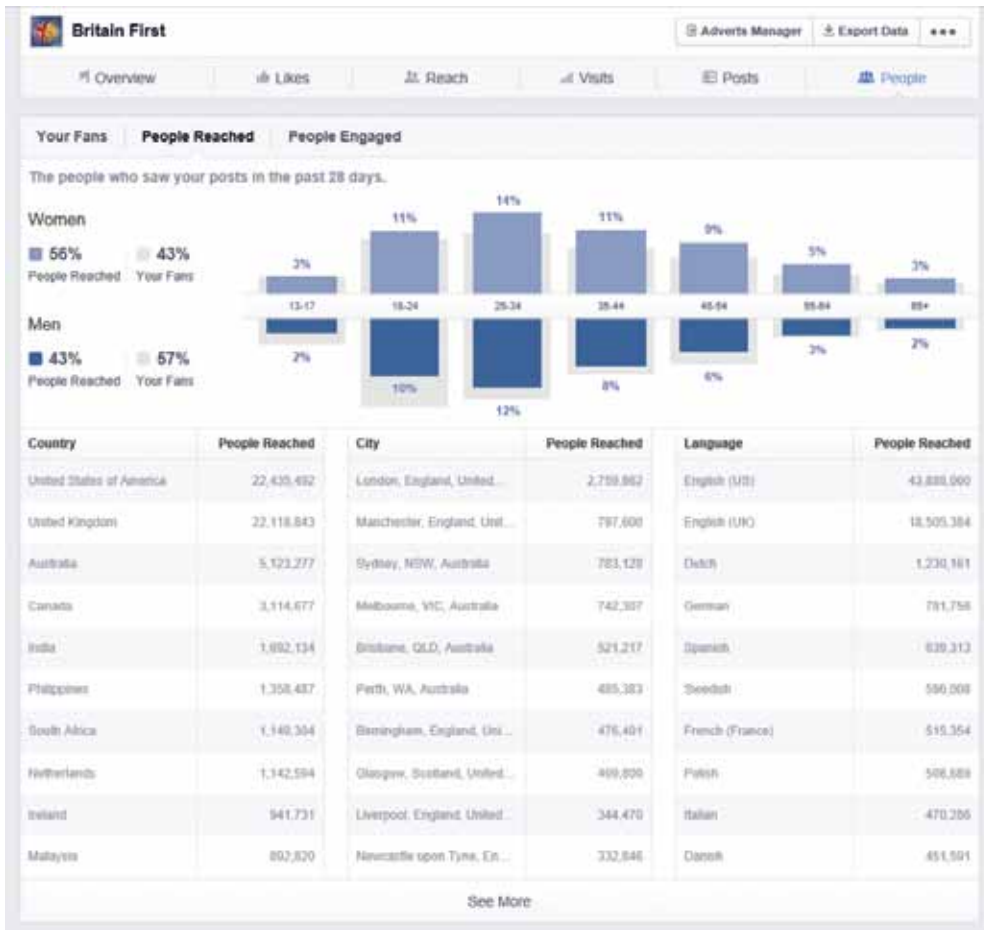
paramount. A godless society is often portrayed as one that is dominated by Sharia, child abuse and homosexuality.

Dowson has made his living by "scooping" the names and details of people for over twenty years. Quite clearly, in comparison to the other far-right groups that operate, Dowson is streets ahead. Before social media, Dowson's main source of income was selling pictures of the Pope through Irish newspapers before following them up with begging letters for his anti-abortion activities.

The growth of Britain First on social media among the traditional followers of hate pages has been in large part to the explosive activities of Paul Golding and the "Defence Force" that has grown around him since the start of the year. The group's use of video of its activities confronting the likes of Anjem Choudary and his ilk on their doorsteps is also very popular and spread widely.

The size of the group on Facebook does not of course translate into activists or members. Most of its "likes" on Facebook are incidental as a result



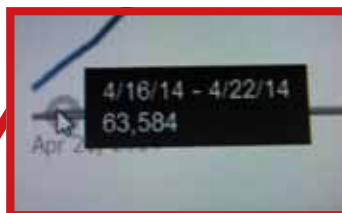
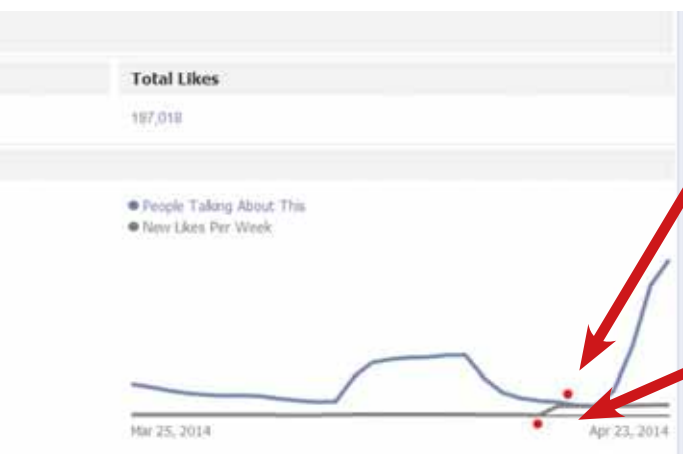


of its ability to transcend the traditional methods of spreading religious or racial hatred into the same pools as the EDL or the BNP. The ability to force a less confrontational message has come by paying for space on Facebook to spread its message. Although the group denies it pays for some of its members, it appears that there have been huge spurts of growth over very short periods that even outstrip the two peak times of phenomenal growth for the EDL; the burning of the poppy by radical Islamists in 2010, and the murder of Lee Rigby in May 2013.

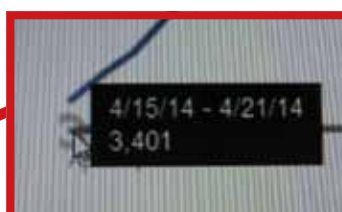
To put the Britain First Facebook page in context, HOPE not hate in the same period put on a similar 700 new likes per week, then as the elections and publicity about the organisation increased, we managed to pick up towards 2000 per week for the last fortnight. At the time of writing Britain First's current total is 475,000+ Some of the growth will be obviously organic and does follow a similar pattern that follows media exposure that spikes an interest in controversial groups, and of course not everyone who 'likes' the page will be approving of the group's aims.

However, even accounting for BF's growing profile in media it should be noted that neither the EDL nor the BNP has ever reached this level of online "support", even in the aftermath of the murder of Lee Rigby and despite their greater public profiles.

The amount of "sharing" of BF's materials is indicated in the astonishing figure at the time of the screen grab opposite, over two million Facebook users were interacting with materials related to the BF page.



(above and left) An exclusive look at the internal workings of BF's Facebook page



During March and early April of this year, Britain First was gathering around 1000 new likes per week. The step up in the grey line between the two red dots on image 1 shows 58,000 new likes between 11th -17th April all of whom liked their page on the 17th April. The overlapping period of 10-16th April shows only 794 new "likes". A further jump that took their total likes from around 130,000 to 197,000 took place on St Georges Day, 23rd April 2014, when Britain First released its video of their flag ceremony. That growth is illustrated in pics 2 and 3.

Friends, rivals & enemies

Jim Dowson and Paul Golding are two of the most disliked characters on the far-right. Hardly any group on the far-right has not had some kind of contact with the two. Here's how they fair with their contemporaries:



BRITISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Not that Dowson would care what the rapidly diminishing BDP thinks, but they christened his new venture "Dowson First". The BDP chose Goebbels over the Gospels everytime and constituted the main anti-Dowson faction when they were all in the BNP together.



BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY

Golding and Dowson were both once high-profile BNP members. A kidnapping, numerous court cases, Loyalist death threats and the alleged theft of membership details mean there is no love lost here. Earlier this year, Griffin described Dowson as a con man and Golding as a "chav". Having built the BNP up for Griffin, Dowson has done his upmost to knock it down.



ENGLISH DEFENCE LEAGUE

The EDL hate Dowson with a passion. He tried to raise funds off the back of Lennon's imprisonment and stole their members. Golding's "Defence Force" has made the EDL look washed up, dubious and irrelevant.



ENGLISH DEMOCRATS

Despite their almost comical dislike of the Irish and the Scottish, the English Democrats like Dowson. He showed them how to raise money. They surprised even him with how quickly they could waste it.



LIBERTY GB

No love lost here. The would-be similarities aside. Britain First had a secret meeting with Liberty GB in June of this year. Although the two sides could not agree, Britain First did announce former Liberty GB member Lee Cooper as their new chairman a few days later.



NEW BRITISH UNION

New British Union leader Garry Raikes left Britain First before it took off. The two groups tend to ignore each other.



NATIONAL FRONT

Dowson has very little to do with fascism's bottom rung. The NF saw Dowson's involvement with the BNP as another symptom of its sickness. Golding cut his teeth on the NF before switching to the BNP with a host of others in the 1990.



SOUTH EAST ALLIANCE

After getting into bed with Paul Prodromou's EDL splinter group, the two groups separated once Dowson had weighed up Prodromou and adjudged him an "idiot". Pure hatred.



US COUNTER JIHADISTS

Hard to gauge as yet. Though Dowson and Golding reject their Zionism, BF's Facebook page is inundated with American Christian rightists.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR HOPE NOT HATE READERS

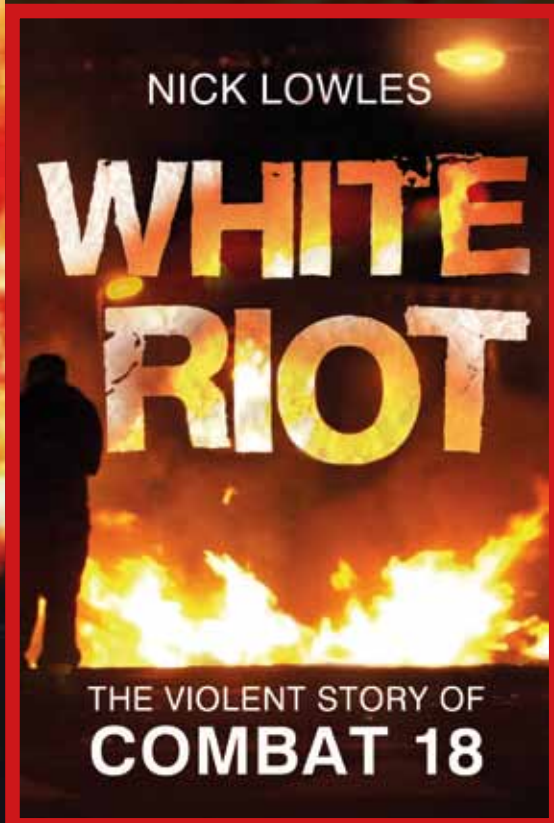
WHITE RIOT

The first edition of White Riot appeared in 2002 and charted the rise and fall of the nazi terror group, Combat 18. With the death of Chris Castle and the imprisonment of Charlie Sargent it had appeared that C18 was finished. Twelve years later and this new edition proves otherwise. While C18 is pretty much dormant in the UK, the organisation is still very much alive across Europe.

With 25,000 new words, White Riot charts:

- What the key players did next
- How C18 now operates in over 20 countries
- Will Browning's Plan B
- Belgium C18's plot to kill leading politicians
- German C18 links to the NSU killers
- The plot to raise a C18 army for action in Kosovo
- The burning hatred Browning and Sargent still have with one another

White Riot is the most authoritative and detailed account of Combat 18. This new version brings its story up to date.

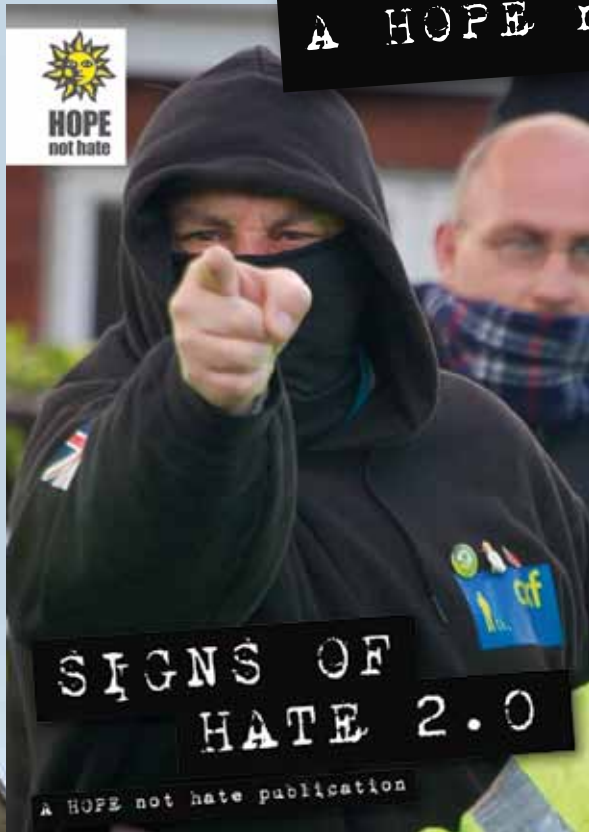


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