

221 DAYS TO
2000 AD

Tuesday May 25 1999

The Mirror

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30p

John Stalker's
verdict
on Jill



SEE PAGES 12 & 13

THE LINK



**HE is the nail
bomb suspect**

**..and HE is the
leader of BNP**

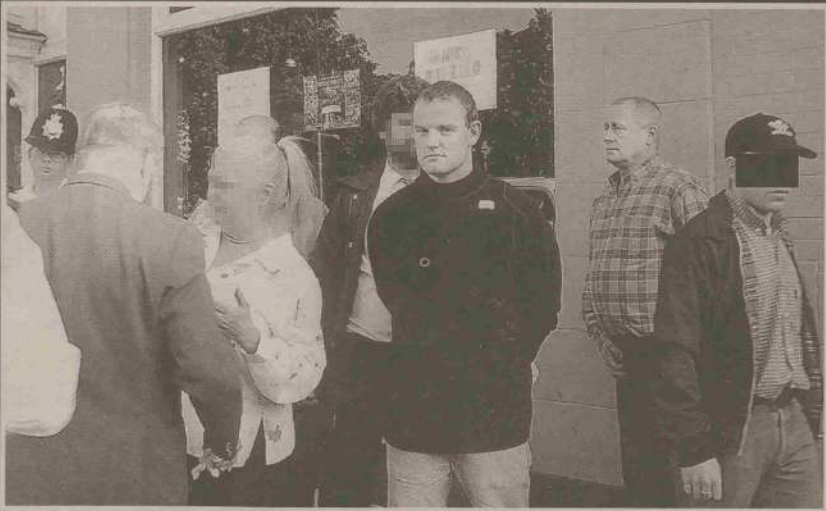
REVEALED: Nail bomb murder suspect David Copeland is pictured next to the bloodied leader of the British National Party, John Tyndall, proving a link to Britain's neo-Nazi racists. Tyndall was cut in the face after a dust-up with anti-Nazi protesters.

EXCLUSIVE STORY AND PICTURES: PAGES 4 & 5

SNAPPED AT

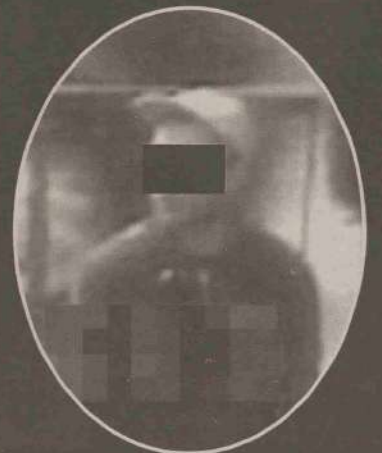


REVEALED: Copeland, his face blanked out, leaves the meeting — bloodied BNP leader Tyndall is on right



SNAPPED: Copeland, right, walking away a few minutes after the dust-up with anti-Nazi protesters

He met with
right-wing
activists to
celebrate
party's 15th
anniversary



ON FILM: Video grab of the bomb suspect

THESE are the dramatic pictures that prove nail bomb suspect David Copeland's links with Britain's evil far Right.

They show the 22-year-old engineer who is accused of three murders standing next to bloodied John Tyndall, leader of the fascist British National Party, after a brawl with anti-Nazis.

The Mirror has discovered that Copeland was a member of the East London branch of the party in 1997.

Yet up to now senior Scotland Yard detectives have insisted he was a "lone wolf" with no known connections to the far Right. The Mirror is making its findings available to police.

Our exclusive pictures show Copeland outside a meeting of the BNP in The Swan pub, in



MIRROR INVESTIGATION

By OONAGH BLACKMAN

Stratford High Street, East London, on September 15, 1997. Tyndall and his colleagues had hired an upstairs function room at the pub — but kept their neo-Nazi racist politics secret from the landlord.

The event was to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the party.

After the meeting the BNP were confronted on the street by a rival gang, believed to be from the Anti-Nazi League.

Missiles, including broken bottles, were hurled at the BNP members. Tyndall was hit several times.

Despite blood pouring from his head the 64-year-old fascist, who has been jailed for

possessing offensive weapons and incitement to racial hatred, refused hospital treatment.

Dozens of police officers descended on the scene. Two people were arrested for affray and one on suspicion of GBH. They were later released without charge and no further action was taken.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said of the brawl: "We can confirm there was an altercation between two groups outside The Swan pub in Stratford. Two of the injured were taken to hospital but denied treatment."

Copeland is believed to have joined the East London branch

of the BNP as it was convenient to his work on the Jubilee underground line.

As an active member, he and his fellow racists would meet regularly in pubs and clubs to discuss how to promote their far Right beliefs.

One of the men he associated with was Tony Lecomber, 36, a former branch leader and key figure in the BNP's Euro election campaign.

There is no suggestion that either Tyndall or Lecomber had any involvement in the three bombings — at Brixton, Brick Lane and a gay pub in Soho — over which Copeland is charged.

Home Secretary Jack Straw came under intense pressure to outlaw extremist groups after the bombings.

But last Friday the BNP was granted a prime time party political broadcast, having entered the required

number of candidates for the upcoming Euro elections to qualify for the free slot.

The BNP is desperately trying to get a foothold in mainstream politics and has candidates standing in every constituency for the June poll.

Last week, a Mirror investigation revealed that at least eight BNP candidates had used bogus home addresses on nomination papers.

Because the false details were not spotted when candidates were selected a week earlier, no action can be taken until after the elections.

Commons Leader Margaret Beckett has launched an inquiry into the allegations of fraud. And more than 50 MPs have signed a motion condemning the abuse.

Mainly black Brixton market was nail bombed on April 17. Almost 40 people were

THE BNP BASH



AFTER THE BRAWL: Copeland, in the background left, and Tyndall behind police after the protest in which the BNP leader was cut in the face Pictures: Searchlight

hurt. Later, a video grab of a suspect was issued.
Brick Lane — the heartland of London's Bangladeshi community — was bombed a week later. Nine Asians were injured.

Six days later three people died and 65 were injured when a third bomb ripped through the Admiral Duncan gay pub in London's Soho.

Yesterday Soho bomb victim Julian Dykes, 25, of Colchester, Essex, was trying to come to terms with the loss of his pregnant wife and two pals.

Julian was told after regaining consciousness that wife Andrea, 27, best man John Light, 32, and pal Nicholas Moore, 31, died in the blast.

Copeland, of Cove, Hampshire, is accused of three murders and causing three explosions. He is due to appear in court again next month.

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NEO-NAZI: John Tyndall

DANGER OF HITLER'S FANS

By DAVID PILDITCH

THE Hitler-worshipping British National Party are the largest neo-Nazi group in Britain.

They claim the Nazi holocaust never happened.

They want all non-whites kicked out of the country forever and have demanded ethnic cleansing in the playgrounds of London's schools.

And they also have strong links to Loyalist paramilitary organisations in Ulster and want to seal the Irish border.

Based in Kent, the BNP grew from the remnants of the neo-Nazi National Front in 1983. They were formed

by ex-National Front leader John Tyndall, pictured left in his NF uniform.

More violent hardliners broke away to form Combat 18 and other racist groups - in protest at Tyndall's turn to "constitutional" politics.

But many believe the BNP's phoney cloak of respectability makes them more dangerous.

In 1993 the BNP's Derek Beackon was briefly an elected Tower Hamlets councillor. He won his Isle of Dogs seat under the slogan "Rights for Whites". Its current Euro election

campaign is being overseen by Tony Lecomber, who was convicted of bombing a left-wing London bookshop.

The 600-strong membership is riddled with people who have serious criminal convictions, including Tyndall, who has been jailed for incitement to racial hatred and having a loaded gun.

And they have desperately tried to field enough candidates at elections to qualify for national television broadcasts. They plan to have 69 candidates in the Euro elections.

Only last month senior BNP figures went to America on an IRA-style fundraising tour and

met leading fascists such as David Duke. The party also gets hefty donations from anonymous businessmen and from the sales of vile neo-Nazi CDs.

The Mirror has repeatedly exposed links between BNP figures and other extremist groups such as Combat 18.

Gerry Gable, adviser to Scotland Yard's anti-racist task force and founder of the Searchlight organisation, told The Mirror last night: "The BNP is hiding behind a mask of law and order but it is a racist and fascist party."

"His ideology is offensive to the ordinary man and woman in the street."

VOICE OF The Mirror

Sinister link

OUR front page photograph of nail bomb suspect David Copeland and BNP leader John Tyndall is shocking and important.

The police have always stated that Mr Copeland had no connection with any right-wing groups.

Our picture suggests otherwise. In fact he was an active member of one of Britain's most far right and unpleasant organisations.

This adds a sinister twist to the story behind these nail bombings.

And one the police must investigate thoroughly as a matter of urgency.