

Key activists pose in the uniform of the illegal paramilitary Spearhead organisation inside the Princedale Road, west London, headquarters of Colin Jordan's National Socialist Movement



Webb, an ex-commando, was heavily involved in gun running for the far right. He went on to plant a bomb in the basement of a black family's home in the 1970s, which exploded killing a visiting teenage relative. The rest of the family escaped injury because they were attending church.

The two most spectacular NSM bombings involved Brendan Wilmer, a young man who in later life moved to South Africa. Wilmer planted a bomb at the newly opened premises of the *Jewish Chronicle* in Holborn, central London, and was one of those responsible for a second bomb that destroyed the Karl Marx memorial in Highgate cemetery. No arrests were made but the identity of those who carried out the attacks, in which military-issue plastic explosive was used, was almost an open secret.

In the mid 1960s a gang of fascists carried out a series of 34 arsons against Jewish buildings in London over a period of more than a year. One attack on a theological college in Stamford Hill left one student dead and another with serious spinal injuries. The arsonists were members of the NSM and the Greater Britain Movement (GMB), a splinter group formed by John Tyndall, who later founded the

present BNP. The theological college attack was never investigated by the police but the killer was unofficially identified as an NSM activist.

The police initially failed to catch the perpetrators of the arsons. It was only after intelligence officers from the Jewish anti-fascist 1962 Committee – known as the 62 Group, a partial successor to the 43 Group – conducted their own investigation that a series of arrests took place which resulted in three trials at the Old Bailey. In the dock in these trials were a former Welsh Guardsman Hugh Hughes, a former Parachute Regiment soldier, and a

number of disturbed and inadequate youngsters. They were all convicted. In the final trial Jordan's wife, the French perfume heiress Françoise Dior, was convicted and received a custodial sentence. The gang's targets had included large and small synagogues, other religious premises and an infants' school.

Jordan himself was never charged despite having prior knowledge of at least one attack, but in 1967 he was imprisoned for 18 months for distributing racist literature. In his absence the NSM collapsed and was reconstituted as the British Movement.