

What Causes False Memory Syndrome?



CRIME FEATURED GNEWS

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By Alexander Baron



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Ever remember something that never happened? Sure you have, it's easily done. Often it is something very trivial, perhaps misremembering a scene in a film. There are though many instances which are not trivial, and at times the consequences of false memories can be devastating and tragic, [false memories of Satanic abuse](#) is one example, or the false memories in the recent trial of Marie Black and others that have resulted in the convictions of four people for heinous crimes that [almost certainly never happened](#).

False memories of Satanic abuse have a number of causes, including therapists, but false memories of other imaginary crimes can have very prosaic causes, such as the urge to win fame, or to demonise an enemy, either real people or an ideology, or perhaps both.

A classic example of this happened over a period of decades which resulted in an accidental fire being transformed into an arson attack. This is a long story but briefly, in November 1964, a fire at a Jewish theological college in Stamford Hill, London, resulted in one student suffering serious injuries and another dying. There was a careful and thorough investigation, and on December 4, an inquest returned a verdict of accidental death on 15 year old Woolf Katz.

On March 13, the following year, a fire destroyed Brondesbury Synagogue, and this time it was no accident. Two groups of young men inspired by the fanatically anti-Jewish French heiress Françoise Dior – sometime wife of the British Nazi leader Colin Jordan – were responsible for this and a number of other non-fatal arson attacks; they were brought to book in two separate trials at the Central Criminal Court. Mrs Jordan fled the country, but on her return she too stood trial, was convicted, and gaoled. This was all very unpleasant, but although the sentences handed down were arguably too lenient, justice was done.



5th October 1963 was the day that Colin Jordan married Françoise Dior the niece of the French fashion designer Christian Dior.

However, in 1984, the editor and publisher of *Searchlight* magazine claimed that the November 1964 fire had likewise been arson, and that his recently deceased mentor had brought the gangs to book.

Three years later in a *Jewish Chronicle* interview, he made an even bolder claim, that he himself had stopped the arson gangs and solved this non-murder. He continued to make this claim until sometime after July 10, 2009 when acting on information received, detectives from New Scotland Yard called on him and asked him what he knew about this crime. It was only then that Gerry Gable realised he had **imagined the entire episode**.

A more prosaic cause of false memory syndrome is money, as poor Rolf Harris knows after his betrayal by an old friend. The screengrab below is a comment made by his (former) friend Chris Brosnan. However, Mr Brosnan has recently been spouting off to the media, and now he **remembers things very differently**. Sadly, money has that effect on people, even on friends, but a friend who will betray you for 30 pieces of silver, or whatever is the current going rate, is no friend at all.

Chris 'Bea'r Brosnan

January 3, 2013 at 9:13 pm



None of you know the man in question, and as a close and personal friend of his, I will tell you straight. In the 13 years I worked with Rolf from 1997-2010 I only ever witnessed him acting in total integrity, respect and support of youth across the world, let alone the UK. None of you are privy to the facts of what's going on, and simply based on the media circus around him, you are judging from a place where you know nothing.

[Reply](#)*Chris Brosnan's comment*

Finally, someone else who has recently been in the news for imaginary crimes against the young is the former Prime Minister of England, Edward Heath, who died in 2005. In order to bolster the **absurd claims** being made about him, some tabloid worm invented a story about his patronising a local brothel. The madam who owned that brothel did not take kindly to that claim, and **issued a statement** through her solicitor to the effect that she had no personal knowledge either of Sir Edward or of his mythical misdeeds.

Alas, that blanket denial did not last for long, she has **since claimed** Heath did indeed patronise her establishment, but says he was simply a shy, lonely homosexual and not a paedophile. It may be that Myra Forde is hoping to sell her non-story to a tabloid in future, it may be she simply likes the limelight, or perhaps she is even a Conservative who wants to straddle the fence. Who knows? False memories of this kind hurt only the reputations of the dead, but when they concern the living, they can and do wreak havoc on the lives of total innocents, as is continuing to happen now.

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