

anti-fascist ACTION

COMBAT 18 - BACK TO BASICS

As Anti-Fascist Action predicted, in our press statement of 10 January 1994, the Blood and Honour concert organised as a tribute to Ian Stewart and planned for 15 January 1994 ended as a replay of The Battle of Waterloo (September 1992), this time between Combat 18 stewards and the riot police.

After their first choice venue in Beckontree had been rumbled by AFA Combat 18 directed their supporters to the Wellington (an old British Movement pub from the 80s), near Waterloo Station.

Earlier in the day at around 4.30 pm., taking advantage of the confusion caused by the Anti-Nazi League and Youth Against Racism in Europe and the concentration of police at Beckontree and Barking, one hundred and fifty AFA militants descended unexpectedly on the Little Driver pub in Bow Road, the nerve centre of the fascist operation on the day.

Police managed to stop the AFA advance just yards from the pub, when the fascists scattered as a flare fired from the advance hit a near by bridge.

After Waterloo, a major disaster for Blood and Honour, C18 took over security for Blood and Honour events, talking of a 'back to basics' return to secret gigs organised on a word of mouth basis. The events of Saturday 15 January were a disaster in turn for C18 and the 'back to basics' strategy.

Rather the Combat Adolf Hitler this was more like Combat Arthur Fowler.

The arrival of AFA at the centre of operations caused total panic and confusion with one of C18's leading activists seeking refuge in the back of a police car.

AFA militants were forced by the police into a sealed train and taken from Bow Road to Earls Court, throwing the rail network into chaos.

Later in the evening, about 8.00 pm., the ANL were attacked by the police at Earls Court. In the confusion AFA regrouped and re-emerged at 9.30 pm, at Waterloo where the fascists were attempting to hold their gig. Police later described the ability of AFA to find the opposition as 'uncanny'.

News of the arrival of over one hundred AFA militants in the immediate vicinity caused C18 organisation at the Wellington to internally combust. Initially the fascists wanted to get out, seconds later the riot police smashed their way in. Badly beaten fascists, covered in blood, were dragged faced down from the pub and laid on the pavement. The pub smashed, the gig was cancelled. Fascists attempting to flee the Wellington met a similar fate, at the hands of AFA militants in the area.

For C18 and Blood and Honour this has to be seen as a major disaster. For AFA, with all the players - ANL, YRE, C18, Blood and Honour and the Met in the arena it is a triumph. It was AFA's intelligence gathering capacity which revealed the redirection points and the planned venues. On the day we controlled the play, were ahead of the game and made all the decisive moves

Join Anti-Fascist Action, BM Box 1734, London WC1N 3XX