



Police arrest a young punk outside Peter Jones store.



New Wavers throw taunts at Teds.



Anarchic messages on punk tee shirts.

Below, bloodstained youths escape from Sloane Square by tube.



PICTURES BY ROCO

A new wave of violence

Scuffles broke out in Chelsea's King's Road on Saturday afternoon when up to a 100 punk rockers clashed with police near Sloane Square.

Traffic was stopped as a number of arrests were made as the punks (or 'New Wavers') yelled abuse at police along half the length of the King's Road.

It followed an earlier brawl at Sloane Square tube station where a group of Teddy boys and girls set about two 'New Wave' girls.

For the past few weeks Chelsea's number one tourist area has become a regular venue for a planned punch-up between the punks and the re-emerging Teds, sworn rivals.

Battle plans

I watched from the Sloane Square War Memorial as 15 yards away a band of about 40 Teds drew up battle plans outside the Kings Arms for an expected confrontation.

Some wore the archetypal frock coated, winkle picking, bootlace originals, while the majority were aged between 15 and 17. Most were supping beer and when they weren't doing that they were wearing out their Brylcreem'd comb.

By 2.15 p.m. there was not a punk in sight—they were sticking together at their base at the other end of the King's Road. The Teds had sent out scouts at regular intervals—much to the disdain of the older Teds who thought it foolhardy to send out lone eyes to check out the longed-for arrival of the punks.

"Who do you think you are? General Custer?" said one.

Suffered

At about 2.30 p.m. two girls, New Wavers with permed hair and long pin-striped shirts hanging over their jeans, began to cross the road by the Tube. They were immediately spotted by the Teds. The girls entered the ticket office and there was a rush by the Teds.

A one-sided fight broke out but within 50 seconds police were on the scene.

Nina, 17, from Staines takes up the story: "I was walking over the zebra with Tina and I said 'there are Teds over there. Don't take any notice, just ignore them'. We were just about to get a ticket and two girls, only about 12 or 13, said: 'You punk?', I said no. Then someone said 'Oh hit them'. Then one of them hit me bloody hard in the face."

Nina suffered a cut nose but declined hospital treatment.

At the same time another young Teddy girl, Tina, also aged 17, was in the face. As this was happening, a London Transport worker eye witness, Teddy boys were egging them on shouting, "Kill them—they're not dead yet." Then the police who were stationed only yards away arrived. The Teds fled.

I spoke to the two girl victims seconds after the attack. They were visibly shaken and keen to take the next tube out of town. "Yes, we are New Wavers but we didn't expect this kind of thing to happen. We came here from Staines on a shopping trip."

As they were hustled down a private staircase by London Transport staff to the Underground Nina and Tina told me: "For their size they really hit us hard. Will we be coming back to the Kings Road again? No thank you."

Attack

Thirty minutes later the news of the attack filtered back to the punks at the Worlds End. Tourists stood aghast and intrigued as the New Wavers, some almost indistinguishable from the so-called Teds, ran to Sloane Square seeking revenge. But by the time the motley band of punks and assorted violence seekers reached the square the Teds had vanished.

It was then that the minority section of punks, unable to wreak retribution, clashed with police. Traffic accidents were narrowly avoided as increased punks held up traffic by running in front of cars.

As youngsters yelled

There's a new fashion trend in The King's Road on Saturdays: violence. Reporter Neil Sargent witnesses last weekend's trouble.

"you f-ing bastards" at the police, a running battle took place for four hundred yards up the Kings Road. Screaming: "Kill the Teds," the punks, or new wavers, finally run out of opponents near World's End—the traditional hang-out of the latest fashion trends.

Bashing

Why were the punks out to get the Teds? 15-year-old Janne, from Putney, said: "They (the Teds) gave us a bashing three weeks ago and now we're going to get our own back. That's what we're here for—you've got to help out

your pals. Okay, so I am a girl but I don't mind violence."

Back at the top of Kings Road at about 4 p.m. both sides were still spoiling for a scrap. But violence was avoided partly because of the depleted numbers on both sides and partly because of the presence of the ever watchful Chelsea police.

One faction, however, did come in for a spot of aggravation... note other than the News and Post who were tarred with the same brush as other members of the press who are apparently capable of stirring up antagonism between the Teds and the Punks.



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Fines too low—magistrate

Horseferry Road Court magistrate Mr. Kenneth Harrington complained on Monday that he had inadequate power to deal with the gangs of punks and Teds involved in Saturday's clash because they had been charged with the wrong offences.

It was absurd, he claimed, that the accused had been prosecuted under the Metropolitan Police Act, under which the court's hands were tied to a fine of £26, instead of the Public Order Act, which would have allowed the magistrate to impose penalties of up to three years.

James Ford, 17, a member of the New Wavers, was found guilty of causing a public nuisance, was fined £15 and bound over to be of good behaviour for a year.

Mr. Harrington said: "I'm sorry you are a fortunate young man. If you were charged under the proper Act I would probably have you sent to a detention centre."

Stephen Griffin, 21, a postal worker, of Queens Lane, Muswell Hill, who shouted threats and swore abuse at police, was fined £20 and bound over after admitting threatening behaviour.

James Ford, 17, a hairdresser, of Dorset Road, South Lambeth, was ordered to serve 12 hours at an attendance centre after admitting obstructing the police and having a knife on him.

Aldo Watts, 22, an apprentice, of Albany Road, Hounslow, who was charged with causing a public nuisance, was fined £15 and bound over for threatening behaviour. Four others, including a girl, were released on bail on various charges.

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