

HATERS, BAITERS AND WOULD-BE DICTATORS

Anti-Semitism and the UK Far Right



Nick Toczek

ROUTLEDGE


HATERS, BAITERS AND WOULD-BE DICTATORS

For fifty-five years, from 1919 until 1975, The Britons published Jew-hating literature. For the forty years until his death in 1948, the founder and president of The Britons, Henry Hamilton Beamish, devoted his life to touring the world as an obsessive preacher of this hatred. Using material he has collected over the past thirty years, Nick Toczek tells their story. This is the first complete history of the organisation, which was the most prolific and influential advocate of extreme prejudice against all things Jewish – not least as the publisher of that notorious forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Likewise, this is the first biography of Beamish.

Putting both The Britons and Beamish into context, this book also examines and explains their precursors, their contemporaries and their legacy. Here, then, are detailed accounts of several anti-Jewish organisations and individuals. These include the late Victorian anti-Semitism of Arnold White and the British Brothers League; the curious life of Rotha Lintorn-Orman, who was the unlikely founder of British Fascisti, Britain's first fascist party; Anglo-American supporters of Hitler; the lives and roles of extreme haters such as Arnold Leese and Colin Jordan; and the whole history of *The Protocols*, including the key role played by American motor magnate Henry Ford. This shocking history of hatred takes us from South Africa to Nazi Germany, from America to Rhodesia.

Nick Toczek is a writer, performer and political researcher.

Oh, mind of man, what can you not be made to believe?

Johann Adam Weishaupt (6 February 1748–18 November 1830)
(German law professor, philosopher and founder of The Illuminati)

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DEDICATION

To my father, John Toczec (né Hans), who died in 2012 at the age of ninety-one.

It was his experiences during and after the Second World War that first awakened my interest in the politics of prejudice. He and his twin brother, then in their teens, were among the very few members of my extended paternal family to escape the Holocaust. As a pair of Germans arriving in wartime Britain, they were arrested under Defence Regulation 18b as enemy aliens and jailed on the Isle of Man alongside British fascists. The war years persuaded my father there could be no God. After the war, as a naturalised British Jew with a strong German accent who had chosen to reject his faith and to marry outside it, he learned to deal with a broad spectrum of prejudices. A couple of years before he died, the BBC contacted him to say that they had found his father's grave in France, close to the camp in which he and many other Jews had died. This was the first my father knew of the camp and of the existence of a grave. So, more than fifty years after that death, Dad featured in a documentary which ended with him placing flowers on the grave of my grandfather Otto.

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For the most part, I have not had to leave my house for research purposes. My own collection supplied the core source material, checked and embellished through internet research. I do, however, owe a debt of gratitude to the Churchill Archive Centre at the University of Cambridge, where I was able to look through some of the Beamish family papers.

I would also like to acknowledge the generous help given by two key suppliers of rare far-right literature – Blog Rare Books here in the UK (www.blograrebooks.co.uk) and the Patriot Bookshop in the USA (on AbeBook.com).

My thanks go to Craig Fowlie at Routledge for being keen to consider this book for publication from the moment I first phoned him to offer it, and for being such a knowledgeable, informative and constructive editor; and to his assistant, Emma Chappell, for her hard work on my behalf, especially in replying helpfully, quickly and cheerfully to all my procedural queries.

Finally, I owe thanks to my wife, Gaynor, not just for patiently tolerating my often obsessive work on this book, but also for constantly reminding me that there's more to life than writing!

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INTRODUCTION

I started this book almost two years ago with the intention of writing a history of The Britons, the small specifically anti-Jewish organisation founded in 1919 by a little-known man called Henry Hamilton Beamish. However, as the book came together, I began to realise the importance of extending it to include coverage of The Britons' precursors and of the numerous contemporary bigoted organisations with which they and their members cooperated, interacted, feuded and campaigned. The result is a book that has expanded to cover twentieth-century British anti-Jewish activism as a whole. In the course of doing so, it also deals with broader British xenophobia, American and European Jew-hatred, and anti-Jewish activity as far afield as Russia and the British colonies.

It's a popular misconception that twentieth-century Jew-hatred in Britain was spearheaded almost exclusively by Oswald Mosley and his followers via his pre-war British Union of Fascists and his post-war Union Movement, but there is a much bigger picture. While the Mosleyites played an important and high-profile role, this has been covered extensively by other authors and researchers. I have therefore focused on the rest of the story.

Before starting into this book, readers may find it useful first to skim through [appendices 1 to 4](#). In doing so, they will familiarise themselves with many of the organisations, journals and individuals referred to in the text.

Throughout, I have avoided footnotes in an effort to make the book an uninterrupted linear narrative (the note cues that appear in the text refer to the list of main sources of information which is given at the end of each chapter). It's also inevitable that occasional reference to the first four appendices serves as a useful means of clarifying what would otherwise be a confusing text milling with characters and organisations.

In order to avoid further clogging up the whole text with a mass of people, organisations, incidents and other details, I have opted for a series of chronological

accounts, beginning with the life of Henry Hamilton Beamish. Much of this is new. Most accounts elsewhere devote little more than a few paragraphs to his life.

My [second chapter](#) tackles Britain's seminal anti-Jewish organisation the British Brothers League, of which little has previously been written. In the course of this chapter I also introduce the key political writers whose work deeply influenced the anti-Jewish thinking of Beamish and his compatriots in The Britons.

The next three chapters are devoted to a chronological history of The Britons, based primarily on information gleaned from their four key journals – *Jewry Über Alles*, the *Hidden Hand*, the *British Guardian* and *Free Britain* – of which I have near complete collections. Again, much of this material is previously unpublished.

[Chapters 6](#) and [7](#) deal respectively with the lives of two notorious racist campaigners – Arnold Leese and Colin Jordan – both of whom had great influence over the course taken by The Britons after the Second World War. A third activist, A. K. Chesterton, deserves a similar chapter but, as I shall be devoting an entire future book to his activities, I have simply incorporated his role into my account of The Britons.

In [Chapter 8](#) I discuss the role, origin and influence of The Britons' primary publication, *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, while [Chapter 9](#) looks at how *The Protocols* fared in America, with particular reference to the role played by Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company.

Finally, my appendices provide an array of useful addenda and summaries.

Nick Toczek
May 2015

1

THE LIFE OF HENRY HAMILTON BEAMISH

For bigotry to thrive, rather than merely persist, it requires the steady sustenance of justification. To achieve this, it needs to build itself a culture, one within which prejudice has the appearance of rationality and reason. And, for those who would have it evolve into hatred, that culture must be all-embracing. It has to have its own literature, history, art, faith and philosophy. Within such an environment, even the most outlandish of views can gain the appearance of authority, authenticity and, indeed, normality. Since the 1920s, for those in the English-speaking world who have a propensity to dislike Jews, there's just one person and one organisation which have together established this milieu more successfully than any other. They are Henry Hamilton Beamish and The Britons.

Remarkably little has been published about either of them. As an avid collector of material from and about far-right activity in Britain, I was curious. I began to pursue every fragment I could find. I started to collate these pieces, to build time lines, to plug the gaps, to fill in the details. I wanted to understand this strange and elusive man, the nature of his obsessive zeal and the story of his organisation. Before you can counter prejudice, you need to understand it.

At the root of twentieth-century Jew-hatred there is a single book, *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*. Beamish, who had founded The Britons, based his life's work on the content of this book. It was one of the first books that The Britons published, and for more than fifty years it would consistently remain their best-selling title. Working on this material I was gathering, I knew there was a story to be told here.

The truth is never easy. Beamish and The Britons could both be secretive. And, when they weren't, they could and did embellish their achievements. Also, where there's no complete story, falsities thrive, so some widely accepted details are simply wrong. Thus, for example, we are often told that Beamish was born in Ireland.

2 The life of Henry Hamilton Beamish

Henry Hamilton Beamish was born in London on 2 June 1873, his birth registered in the civil parish of St George, Hanover Square. He was the fifth of nine surviving children born to Blanche and Henry Beamish. His was a family with a long history of political influence. For generations, most of his male antecedents had been military or naval officers. Many went on to become notable figures in the spheres of legal, clerical or political service. Those in his paternal line had, for centuries, also been wealthy Irish landowners, although this inheritance had dissipated well before his birth, or even that of his parents. Who were they?

Henry's mother, Blanche Georgina Hughes (1840–1904), was the granddaughter of Loftus William Otway (1775–1854), who was born in the family home, Castle Otway in Tipperary, Ireland. Like his forebears, he had an extensive and influential military career, as did his brother, Robert Waller Otway, who became both an admiral and a baronet.

Henry's father, also named Henry Hamilton Beamish (1829–1901), was a rear-admiral and naval aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria. His was an illustrious career which almost didn't happen. In 1871 he had been the commander of HMS *Agincourt*, 'the noisiest and worst disciplined ship in the squadron', when it ran aground on the Pearl Rock off Gibraltar and very nearly sank. He was relieved of his command, court-martialled and severely reprimanded. With the help of an inherited arrogance, he refused to let this setback hinder his progress. He had come through tragedy too. In 1864, three years before his marriage to Blanche, he had married Louisa Mary Ann Harrison. The following year she and their daughter, Louisa Esther, died in childbirth.

The Beamish men were expected to achieve greatness in serving their country. It was a long familial tradition. Go back, for example, a further six generations and you find Sir Richard Cox (1650–1733), himself born into an ancestral history of high public office. He was an Irish lawyer and judge who served as lord chancellor of Ireland (1703–7) and then lord chief justice of the queen's bench for Ireland (1711–14).

The year after Henry was born, Blanche gave birth to Tufton Percy Hamilton Beamish (1874–1951) who followed their father in becoming a rear-admiral before entering politics. He was MP for Lewes in Sussex from 1924 to 1932 and again from 1936 to 1945, when his place was taken by his son Tufton Beamish (1917–1989), MP for Lewes from 1945 until 1974.

The couple's surviving children – six boys and three girls – were all born in the twelve years between 1868 and 1880. In order of birth they were Robert Otway (1868–1949), Maude Louisa (1869–1951), Evelyn Frances Jane (1871–1913), Sackville Edward Cecil (1872–1947), our Henry (1873–1948), Tufton Percy (1874–1951), the short-lived Gustavus William Loftus (1875–1877), John Spread (1877–1915) and, finally, Margaret Esther (1880–1957).¹

The 1881 census tells us that, at the age of seven, Henry was the youngest pupil boarding at Romanoff House Boys' School in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. And ten years later we find him, via the 1891 census, as a seventeen-year-old agricultural student boarding at the Colonial College in Hollesley, Suffolk. This was an establishment

which specialised in taking the sons of well-to-do families, especially boys who had proved academically unfit for university.

Henry would later claim that, in his youth, it was his father who first informed him of the 'Jewish question', enlightening him about the 'intrigues of international Jewry'.² That may well be true. Anti-Jewish sentiment was widespread at this time. And there is one specific piece of evidence that casual familial anti-Jewish attitudes existed between Henry's siblings. On 17 November 1941, Sackville wrote a letter to Tufton, who devoted much of his spare time during the 1930s and 1940s in obsessively researching Beamish family history. His letter read:

My dear Tuf,

I have taken a copy of the enclosed & many thanks for it. I was glad to see you on Thursday, & as I told you then, to the best of my recollection from the old Adam & Eve bible, a big tome, practically all the younger members of Rev.^d H.H.B.'s family were born at Hamilton Terrace, London with the exception, I think, of Katie Palmer.★ I also think I remember our father stating that he was born at Youghal.★★ This would be easily possible, as the Rev.^d Spread (rector) father in law of Rev.^d H.H.B. was probably living there.★★★ I have discovered a resemblance between the Southern Irish and the Jews. They both clamour for independence, and both take damned good care they don't get it.

Yrs ever
Sack.³

Notes: ★Catherine Emily Beamish (1852–1930), their aunt, who married Joseph Blades Palmer in 1887.

★★Youghal is an Irish seaside resort town in County Cork.

★★★Rev. Edward Spread (1752–1814), their great-grandfather, lived in Ireland and was father-in-law of their grandfather, Rev. Henry Hamilton Beamish (1796–1872).

Intensely aware of his family history, our Henry Hamilton Beamish reached adulthood certain that he was destined for military and political greatness. It lent him a self-righteous determination in all he attempted, together with a generous and ill-concealed combination of vanity and arrogance.

During 1891, while still only seventeen, exhibiting a wanderlust that would last him a lifetime, Henry went to Canada, where he took up wheat farming. During 1892 he is reported to have taken part in an expedition to the North Pole.⁴ In 1895 he went to Ceylon, where he worked for several years on tea plantations, and from 1898 to 1899 held the post of assistant manager on the Hope Estate in Upper Hewaheta.⁵ During the Second Boer War (1899–1902) he served as second lieutenant with the South African contingent of the Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps. They left Ceylon for South Africa on 22 April 1900 aboard the P&O SS *Syria* and returned to Ceylon on 15 July 1902 after just over two years' service.⁶

During 1901, Beamish appears to have been given leave to attend his father's funeral. The admiral, who had been ill for some time and was bedridden, had died at his home – Mount House, Braxted, Kent – on 18 July 1901. Beamish then stayed

4 The life of Henry Hamilton Beamish

on in England, presumably to help sort out his father's estate, which was settled that October (he left £3,465 11s. 8p.).⁷ Beamish then sailed from Liverpool on 14 November 1901 aboard the SS *Staffordshire*, bound for Colombo in Ceylon.⁸ It's not clear if he rejoined his regiment, but within a year he had left Ceylon for good and was back in South Africa.

Beamish was now in his mid-thirties and living in Bloemfontein. Here, in 1903, he and a friend were running the Empire Tea Rooms.⁹ In 1904 he started the *Farmer's Advocate*, one of the country's first agricultural newspapers. This appears to have been his first venture into publishing. The paper's full title was the *South African Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine*, it being a pair of co-published but separately edited his-and-her journals which ran from 1904 until 1933.¹⁰ (NB: Beamish appears to have based his publication on a well-established Canadian journal, also called *Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine*, which had been founded around 1865 and was owned and edited by William Weld.) He remained the owner of the *Farmer's Advocate* for fifteen years. Thus, for example, when he returned briefly England in 1910, we find him described as a newspaper proprietor travelling as a second-class passenger aboard the SS *Briton*, which sailed from Natal and arrived in Southampton on 28 May.¹¹

Beamish seems to have been full of ideas for new enterprises. Also in 1904, he wrote as follows to the Secretary of the Industrial Commission in Bloemfontein:

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to say that I am still prepared to put down and work a modern Tobacco Manufacturing Plant in the Parys or Vredefort District, provided that the Government are willing to give me assistance in the way of a bonus or bounty on the produce of the factory.

I have made enquiries about the tobacco growing industry in the Vredefort district, and I find that the tobacco is put on the market in a very crude state.

With proper treatment and packaging a substantial trade might develop, and I believe with a good factory in the district there is every prospect of great improvement both in quantity and quality of the local crops.

I am awaiting replies to my enquiries in the United States about the engagement of an expert in manufacturing and packaging, and should certainly engage such a man should my proposal be accepted by the government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
H. H. Beamish¹²

During 1905 he was also on the six-strong executive council of an Orange River Colony consortium promoting the establishment of a Bloemfontein Consumptive Sanatorium on a piece of land in the Eagle's Nest district of Bloemfontein.¹³

It was in South Africa, during and after the Boer War, that Beamish first began to encounter the kind of extreme anti-Jewish sentiment that he would later so

vehemently preach.¹⁴ There was a belief, widely held within the post-Victorian southern African ex-pat community, that Jewish business interests – particularly of those involved in gold, diamonds and broader finance – had invested in that war, promoting it and profiting from it. One author in particular wrote extensively on this theme, thereby doing much to legitimise such prejudices. He was J. A. Hobson, a journalist who, in the autumn of 1899, had a series of articles published in the *Manchester Guardian*. These then formed the basis of his influential book *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Effects*, published in February 1900. In a chapter entitled ‘For Whom Are We Fighting?’, Hobson wrote:

A few of the financial pioneers in South Africa have been Englishmen, like Messrs. [Cecil] Rhodes and [Charles] Rudd; but recent developments of Transvaal gold-mining have thrown the economic resources of the country more and more into the hands of a small group of international financiers, chiefly German in origin and Jewish in race. Before I went there, the names Beit, Eckstein, Barnato, &c., were of course unknown to me; the very ship in which I crossed bore many scores of Jewish women and children. But until I came to examine closely the structure of industry and society upon the Rand I had no conception of their number or their power. I thus discovered that not Hamburg, not Vienna, not Frankfort, but Johannesburg is the New Jerusalem. It is not too much to say that this little ring of international financiers already controls the most valuable economic resources of the Transvaal. The first and incomparably the most important industry, the gold-mines of the Rand, are almost entirely in their hands.¹⁵

To reinforce the currency of such ideas among the non-Jewish white populations of southern Africa in the early years of the twentieth century, we have the work of another popular author, Arnold White, whose best-selling title *Efficiency and Empire* was published in 1901 and tackled this same subject. It included a chapter entitled ‘Our Moral Inefficiency’, which he blamed variously on ‘German Jews’ and ‘foreign Jews’. The main thrust of the book concerned the Boer War and the malign effect of Jewish influence – their ‘character flaws’, their devotion to materialism and their desire for ‘unearned’ wealth. All this, White believed, was counter-British. The British nation, he asserted, had become ‘infected’ by ‘bad smart society’ which was dominated by Jews, his solution being to create a new ‘true aristocracy’ characterised by patriotism, independence and hostility to ‘financial schemers’.¹⁶

These ideas expounded by Hobson and White are so strongly and directly echoed in those later expressed by Beamish that it’s fair to conclude that he gleaned much from their work, either by reading their books himself or from discussions with others who had read them. Beamish was never an original thinker. However, in developing his rabid speeches on the subject more than twenty years later, he would self-importantly claim identical themes to be his personal observations. By extension, he would claim that Jews had therefore secretly worked actually to bring

about the war – that they had caused it. That being the case, he began attempting to prove that they had done the same in the past and would do so again. Of course, he wasn't alone in embracing such prejudices. There was a strong climate of antipathy towards Jews in South Africa, throughout the British Empire and, indeed, in Britain itself. Beamish would have no problem finding like-minded allies.

This conspiracy theory, that the Jews were behind all the ills of the Western world and its empire territories, had long lingered in the wings. Coming conflicts, notably the Great War (1914–18) and the 1917 Russian Revolution, would see Beamish and co. strive to place that prejudice centre-stage.

Pinning down what predisposes a person to bigotry is difficult. When we look at how this possessed Beamish, several factors surface. Given his antecedents, he was under-achieving. The greatness that was expected of him by his family was proving elusive. Deprived of what he thought he deserved, he naturally looked for a scapegoat. At the same time, the world was in turmoil and was looking for a scapegoat too. For many white settlers in southern Africa, this was a difficult time. Anglo-German divisions in particular put black–white racial issues on the back-burner. Much more important was the cause of unrest between white Christians of European descent. As the Boer Wars demonstrated, these divisions were real, deep and very damaging. It was such a simple solution to blame the Jews. In that sense, what Hobson and White and their ilk wrote simply reflected pre-existing prejudices. However, the authority with which they wrote and the popularity of their books certainly served to reinforce and disperse anti-Jewish sentiment. One direct result was the Jew-hatred that would permanently characterise The Britons, the expressly anti-Jewish organisation which Beamish would found in 1919.

Beamish, meanwhile, became more involved in southern African issues. In 1907 he represented the Orange River Colony settlers at a London conference with the British government on the subject of land settlement. This was an ongoing issue, one which stemmed from the fact that many of the British settlers in the Orange River Colony had bought their land at the end of the Second Boer War, at which time land prices had been inflated. The settlers were now campaigning for the imperial government in London to readjust these evaluations because the current repayments meant that most of them faced losing both their land and much of their original investment. Thus, in the late summer of 1908, Beamish, who was still living in Bloemfontein, revisited London with H. A. Cole of the Heilbron district of the Orange River Colony. The two men, serving as representatives of the settlers, met with Lord Crewe (secretary of state for the colonies, 1908–10) to try to renegotiate terms. Although little came of these discussions, an offer surfaced two months later, in late November, under which the British Southern Africa Company, eager to recruit experienced settlers in Rhodesia, would sponsor resettlement by offering virtually free transport from South Africa to Rhodesia to those willing to make the move and generous grants towards the purchase of new land.¹⁷ As we shall see, Beamish himself appears to have taken advantage of these terms when, in 1920, he moved to Rhodesia to make it his permanent home. Meanwhile, he remained in Bloemfontein and later claimed to

have worked closely in or around 1912 with the prominent South African barrister Percival Frere Smith on labour issues.

Beamish was also involved in further business enterprises. From a history of the town of Parys comes the following for 1912:

About this time Mr H. H. Beamish who had been connected previously with Parys as the promoter of a jam and sweet factory, which was carried on for several years until the government subsidy for these undertakings was withdrawn, proposed to the Council a plan to build rondawels and bungalows on Woody Island, which is just opposite the town. To advertise them to let for holiday-makers, also to have boats to hire, and to carry on a bioscope in the Town Hall. The Council agreed to all these ideas, and Mr. Beamish duly carried out his plans. The scheme was carried on for several years, the Council receiving a monthly rental for the rights they granted.

The island plan idea was not as successful as was expected, mainly because of difficulty in access, particularly when the river was in flood. Years later the cinema and the whole scheme was bought from Mr. Beamish and formed the beginning of the present recreation department of the town.¹⁸

We learn some more about Beamish from the pro-Apartheid politician and journalist Arthur G. Barlow, who, in South Africa, spent a great deal of time in his company. In his entertaining South African memoir *Almost in Confidence*, Barlow paints a picture of Beamish that's both surprising and revealing. Having described him as 'one of the strangest personalities with whom I have come into contact', he continues:

Beamish, who stuttered, was the son of a British admiral who had been an A.D.C. to Queen Victoria, and was a happy-go-lucky, humorous fellow. He had lived in Canada, where he had been a farm labourer. In South Africa, he was a British officer in the Boer War, then a waiter in a café, a shopkeeper, owner of the *Farmer's Advocate*, a building contractor who specialised in constructing Dutch churches, a policeman, an owner of buildings to let to church congregations, a coconut grower in the Seychelles (where he was considered to be 'somewhat of a nuisance') ... On the Jewish question he was cracked – quite 'barmy'.¹⁹

From the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, Beamish was instrumental in the formation, organisation and promotion of several political bodies which – though nominally simply pro-British – echoed similar patriotic organisations in Britain in being intensely anti-German. Such sentiments were already rife within the British ex-pat community in southern Africa, stoked by regular reports of atrocities alleged to have been committed by German troops and their allies.

During 1914, Beamish had founded and become the chairman of the British Citizen Movement (BCM),²⁰ an anti-German organisation which campaigned for patriots to buy British products (or, failing that, allied products) in order to support

the war effort in Europe. He also became a prime mover within a second organisation, the Johannesburg-based Consumers' Alliance (CA, the full name of which was the British Patriotic Traders' and Consumers' Alliance of South Africa), which campaigned for the exclusion of Germans from the business community.

By 1915, the CA committee had begun drawing up lists of businesses funded by German or Austrian money, employing German or Austrian subjects, or owned by or otherwise associated with enemy subjects. And some of these findings began appearing in the press. Businesses not deemed to be enemy-linked were encouraged to join the CA. On payment of the 1 guinea subscription, each new member received a certificate of membership to display in their premises. In March of that year a pressure-group, the Petitioner's Committee (PC), was formed as an offshoot of the CA, founded and led by Beamish and three others – Catesby Holland, A. E. O'Flaherty and Fred W. Denbigh. Beamish, their spokesperson, was described by the authorities as the most vocal and troublesome of the four. The purpose of the PC was 'to procure the holding of a public meeting to protest against the attitude of the Government in the matter of the internment of enemy subjects, and against the carrying on of business by persons of enemy origin'.

Anti-German sentiment reached fever-pitch following the sinking of the British ocean liner RMS *Lusitania*, which was torpedoed by a German U-boat on 7 May 1915 with the loss of almost 1,200 lives of the almost 2,000 people on board. In sinking a non-military ship, the Germans had certainly broken international law; however, so had the British, because the ship – as the Germans claimed at the time and as was finally admitted by the British Foreign Office in 1982 – was secretly carrying a cargo of war munitions.

News of the sinking appeared in the South African press on Saturday 8 May. On the following Wednesday, a half-holiday, posters for that day's issue of the *Rand Daily Mail* featured the headline 'German shops sacked', referring to incidents in Liverpool and Birkenhead in England prompted by the sinking. This, it seemed, triggered events in Johannesburg (and other South African cities). Rioting began. In the centre of Johannesburg alone, 168 properties were wrecked or damaged, fifty of them totally destroyed by fire. The police did little to stop it all. While large crowds gathered to witness these events, relatively few individuals were directly or actively involved. Furthermore, properties displaying a CA membership certificate went undamaged. The inference was that this rioting was not only organised but planned, with suspicion inevitably falling on the CA and those connected with it.

A year later, during May 1916, the Select Committee on Incendiarism met to investigate the riots. Beamish was one of the twenty-one witnesses called to testify. On Tuesday 9 May he appeared before the committee on behalf of both the Petitioners' Committee and the British Citizens Movement (of which he was chairman):

Chairman: You reside in Johannesburg?

Beamish: Yes.

C: What is your occupation?

B: I am a journalist.

- C: We should like to have some information from you as to the anti-German riots that took place in Johannesburg in May of last year and more particularly with respect to the Consumers' Alliance and the Petitioners' Committee, of which we understand you are a member. When was the Consumers' Alliance first formed?
- B: Shortly after the war broke out, as far as I remember. I had nothing to do with it then.
- C: Do you know who formed it?
- B: Yes, Mr. Frank Brown; and a man named Parnham was the honorary secretary.
- C: What were its objects?
- B: To promote trade between Great Britain and her Allies. I was not a member when it started but became a member afterwards. I remained a member until after the riots. Here is a circular addressed to the Patriotic Traders' and Consumers' Alliance of South Africa. [Document handed in.]
- C: I take it that these circulars were sent round to the business men and traders of Johannesburg?
- B: Yes.
- C: Did you get many replies?
- B: Yes, a fair number. I had nothing to do with it at that time. I became a Vice-President of it afterwards.
- C: This circular is issued by the Patriotic Traders' and Consumers' Alliance which was a body known as the Consumers' Alliance?
- B: Yes.
- C: Mr. Frank Brown was the President?
- B: Yes, and Mr. Ward Jackson of the *Rand Daily Mail*, Mr. T. R. Purchus, and Senator Tucker.
- C: You resigned from this body after the riots?
- B: Yes, in May.
- C: Can you tell us when the Petitioners' Committee was formed?
- B: It was before the riots, about ten days I should think. I was connected with them. The principal member was myself, because I took the most prominent part in organising it, and there were three or four others.
- C: What were the objects of that committee?
- B: The object was to have a public meeting in order to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that all those Germans who had been interned had been let out, or the bulk of them had, and that they were really trading within the British Empire rather more strongly than they were before. Business with them was a great deal better than usual in many cases.
- C: Did you obtain a list in Johannesburg of people who were trading and were not British subjects? Of Germans?
- B: No. I have never lived in Johannesburg. I am not a Johannesburg man.
- C: Where did you live?

- B: In Bloemfontein mostly. At that time if you had offered me a hundred pounds I could not have given you the names of three German firms. That did not interest me, that part of it. It was the Government allowing these people to get out and so irritating the people.
- C: You did not at that stage trouble very much about the men who were trading in Johannesburg, Germans or Austrians? It was all over South Africa, not in Johannesburg alone.
- B: That was well known. They were trading and they are still trading. In many cases there is no difference now from that time.
- C: Did I understand you to say that the immediate object of the formation of that Committee was the holding of a public meeting in Johannesburg?
- B: Yes.
- C: What was done in connection with that meeting?
- B: The government would not allow the meeting.
- C: How was that?
- B: They said it would embarrass the Government.
- C: Who are they?
- B: General Smuts. The mayor refused to hold it. He wanted me and others to look at a confidential wire he had received, but I refused to look at it as it was confidential.
- C: What steps did the Government take to prevent the holding of that meeting?
- B: They wired the mayor that it would embarrass the government to hold the meeting.
- C: They suggested that it should not be held?
- B: The mayor told the Government that there was a big agitation. The country was under Martial Law and I presume the mayor wired to General Smuts and he was told that it would embarrass the Government if the meeting was held.
- C: Was there any refusal on the part of the Government to permit the meeting to be held?
- B: Well, under Martial Law I take it to be quite enough for them to say that it would embarrass the Government. At any rate it was made a refusal because the meeting was not held.
- C: What did you do after that?
- B: An extraordinary coincidence took place, for which I have been blamed. The Lusitania was sunk. I had not arranged for that, but I have been blamed for it all the same.
- C: Blamed for having arranged what?
- B: The sinking of The Lusitania.
- C: Who blamed you for such a thing?
- B: A few intriguers in the country. There was a very specific story spread about, as they will do in this country without the least foundation. I wonder that it has not been stated that I arranged for the rebellion, the armed protest.

C: Was this meeting held eventually?

B: Yes. The Mayor showed me a telegram which he said he had received from General Smuts, but I would not look at it because he said it was confidential. That was the same telegram that was afterwards published from Senator Ware. In the middle of this agitation the sinking of The Lusitania took place.

C: Did you see the same wire published in the press afterwards?

B: I presume it was the same wire, but I cannot tell you, as I refused to look at it when the Mayor offered to show it to me. The situation was of course completely altered by the sinking of The Lusitania. There had previously been just an ordinary desire on the part of the public to hold a meeting. That had been refused. They sent in one petition signed by 1,600 names some weeks before that, but I had nothing to do with that. The Mayor then refused to hold a meeting and it was felt that all these enemy alien people were being allowed out and that they were behaving in an extraordinary way. Then a second petition was got up, in the middle of this agitation the sinking of The Lusitania took place, and then it was not a question of whether you would like to hold a public meeting or not. The public were very incensed that they would have held their meeting if they had had to smash the doors open. Unfortunately the Mayor, still having this confidential telegram from General Smuts, still refused to hold the meeting. He could not have had any knowledge of human nature, could not see that, as happened in France, there was a revolution coming along. Still he hung out, and he hung out, until I pointed out in his office that the people were beginning to smash up things. He had only to look out of the window to see that. He would not consent to hold the meeting until he looked out of the window and saw that the people meant mischief. Then he gave in.

Beamish seemed to think that it was the banning of his meeting rather than the sinking that triggered the riots. As we'll see, throughout his life, evasive repetition coupled with an exaggerated perception of his own role in key events would prove typical of Beamish whenever he was questioned or called to account. When asked if the PC was an offshoot of the CA he replied:

It was when it started. There were certain people getting up the petition. They had no machinery of their own such as typewriters and stationery, so they came to me and I said I would help them. I was a member of the Consumers' Alliance and a Vice- President before the riots. The Petitioners' Committee was merely concerned in getting up that meeting, and it was to be dissolved immediately after the meeting. The Petitioners' Committee took upon itself the organisation of the meeting. There was nothing to be ashamed of in getting up the meeting. The Consumers' Alliance is still in existence, and the British Citizens' Movement. The latter is quite a different body from the Consumers' Association.

The meeting demanded by the PA was eventually held on 15 May in Johannesburg Town Hall, just after the two days of rioting. It was chaired by Beamish. Questioned about the meeting during his testimony, he said that an earlier meeting would have prevented the rioting:

- C: Might not the fact of a large number of people coming together and perhaps getting excited and hearing strong speeches have done more to inflame public feeling?
- B: It all depends on how you organise your public meeting. If you have an inflammatory man speaking, naturally he will inflame the people, but there was nothing of that kind. I started the agitation for the meeting, which I conducted myself, and not only was it all orderly, but they went home extremely quietly.²¹

This post-riot PA meeting, described by Beamish as ‘the best and most enthusiastic ever held in Johannesburg’, passed four resolutions which Beamish circulated to the press throughout the British Empire. They were:

- 1 That this meeting of citizens, Boer and British men and women of South Africa, themselves beset by treacherous enemies working in secret against the people who have afforded them a free life and prosperity on British soil, send to the headquarters of Empire this message – ‘We share your horror at the cowardly outrages of Germany, of which the destruction of the Lusitania is as yet the most hideous and towering crime; we sorrow with those made to mourn innocent victims; we vow to serve to the glorious end the righteous arms of Britain and her Allies.’ – Sent from Johannesburg Town Hall by the Mayor of Johannesburg, in the presence of assembled citizens.
- 2 That this meeting records its abhorrence of German barbarity, especially its revolting cold-blooded murdering of non-combatants, women, and children, and its brutality towards British prisoners of war, and binds itself to take all steps necessary to ensure that all Germans shall be interned or deported, and resolves that it shall be neither lawful nor possible for any German or his agent within our borders to transact business, in person or by deputy, or to occupy any position of authority or control over British subjects.
- 3 That whereas German trade and finance and fictitious naturalisation have been used as a mask for espionage and hostile preparation, we demand that the Government shall now order – (a) That all property and financial interests held by or on behalf of Germans be sequestered to the State, and be administered in such a way that no profit shall now or later be derived by such enemy or their assignees. (b) That all persons acting on behalf of German interests shall be required to hand over to the State such agencies, together with all securities, and documents belonging thereto, and that the same be administered for the benefit of genuine British subjects.

- 4 That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the Prime Minister, and also to the Governor-General, for transmission to the Imperial Government. Together with an assurance of our resolve to aid to the uttermost his Majesty's resistance and the overthrow of an enemy self-outlawed from the humane world.²²

As we shall see, within four years, in setting up The Britons and in publishing his book *The Jews' Who's Who*, Beamish would transfer this very language and these attitudes from Germans to Jews.

Following the riots, Beamish resigned from the CA, ostensibly in disgust after discovering that they had been selling their guinea membership and issuing membership certificates to non-British business owners. Here he is during his May 1916 testimony to the Select Committee:

- C: We have evidence that one firm took as many as nine of these certificates for their branches.
 B: One took forty-four, and he was not a British subject. He got as many as he wanted. They were being issued like cards to anybody, whether British subjects or not. That upset the whole thing and that is why I left it.
 C: Then the whole business was a farce?
 B: A perfect one. There is a Mr. Schlesinger, who is not even an ally, and he took out forty-four of the certificates for his places ... This man Schlesinger is a hyphenated Yankee Jew with a German name, so I do not know what nationality you make him out to be.

Throughout, his testimony Beamish repeatedly contradicted himself. Thus the man who 'could not have given the names of three German firms' later responded as follows:

- C: You say you informed the Government of some people whom you took to be German spies?
 B: Yes.
 C: Was it particularly your business to look out for spies?
 B: I think so, certainly, I think it is everybody's business to look after burglars and spies and people like that. I am very much interested in that, and I am of the opinion that one of the firms I mentioned were German spies and I informed the Government of that. The property of the firm was not touched during the riots. I had informed the Government about lots of other people in Johannesburg. I am always even now informing the Government, every day.
 C: Then you are acting as a kind of C.I.D.?
 B: I do not know whether I am a C.I.D. It is a question of my own country. I am a Nationalist, meaning an Irish Nationalist.
 C: You mean a South African Nationalist?
 B: I mean the same thing. They are both excellent bodies. I consider it my business to find out the enemies of my country and of the Empire.

Why Beamish should try to pass himself off as Irish is anyone's guess. That the Select Committee was unimpressed by him soon became clear, as expressed by one of their number, Reverend Vorster:

Vorster: I rather got this impression that you were a sort of responsible person, but your utterances this morning are very irresponsible. I may say that you make random utterances.

Beamish: All right. Put it that way. That is your personal view, Vorster. I have here a letter that you put in from the Commissioner of Police in which the following occurs: 'Will your committee kindly supply me with the names of enemy subjects which are known to them and which are at large, and it will render me great assistance in carrying out the duties I have to perform.'

The Select Committee had reason to suspect (a) that, before the riots, the CA had indeed prepared lists of non-British businesses and had probably been instrumental in provoking the rioting, and also that their lists had been used by the rioters; (b) that the CA had profited from this whole exercise by taking fees from a number of these businesses in exchange for certificates to display and thereby avoid being targeted – i.e. that they had effectively been running a protection and extortion racket. Seen in this light, Beamish's deliberate evasiveness and his abrupt post-riot resignation from the CA take on a much more sinister aspect. However, he was at pains to distance himself from such activity by blaming instead his former associates. Here's his account to the Select Committee:

All I know is that before the riots the Alliance had no money at all, but during the riots I believe that they made a great deal of money. It was of course legitimate and honest, as far as South African concerns can be honest, but they took this money, in my opinion, absolutely immorally, and I put it in writing at the time. I strongly objected to it.

With Beamish on the defensive, the questioning intensified:

C: How much money did they get?

B: I do not know. I was so utterly opposed to granting these things under stress that I refused to have anything more to do with it.

C: What do you mean by granting them under stress?

B: If a man comes to me with a gun and says I must do something to assist him I take it that is granted under stress. When people are burning places it is near the mark of duress.

Beamish then named two traders – Chudleigh and Herbert Evans – whom he said had complained to him and to the PC that they were being 'practically black-mailed' into obtaining certificates.

- C: Then the position in Johannesburg was this: that the merchants and traders had to take out these certificates. They were compelled to do so?
- B: I would not say that. I am giving you the names of two men who said that to me.
- C: That was for the purpose of protecting their property?
- B: That is what it amounted to.
- C: Against whom?
- B: Whoever were doing the damage, no doubt.
- C: Was that after the riots had commenced?
- B: During the riots.
- C: And before the riots?
- B: Not before the riots. Up to that time the people were simply being asked whether they would join the Association the same as they might be asked to join the YMCA or anything else, and if they did not like to join they needn't. Apparently during the riots these emblems saved a lot of people's windows, and then some of the people thought they would join at once.
- C: With regard to these lists of traders, were there any lists framed by the Consumers' Alliance?
- B: Not that I know of. There was only the list of people who took the emblems. There was no other list to my knowledge. The Petitioners' Committee did not frame any lists. I did not know the German firms then, but I know a good many of them now.
- C: Did you ever see a list of exclusively German firms?
- B: I have now a fairly good list, because some of the firms who were then trading are still trading. I make a list every day. The Petitioners' Committee was formed at a few hours' notice for the purpose of getting up the meeting.

The Petitioners' Committee was finally dissolved on 10 August 1915.

- C: Why was the Committee dissolved?
- B: It was only dissolved to be formed into something else. Then it became the British Citizens' Movement.
- C: Is this the body which organised these big petitions to Parliament? Is this the British Citizens' Movement?
- B: Yes, and I am the Chairman of it.

Beamish had already referred to Mr. Schlesinger being a Jew. Now he seemed to be singling out others. In his evidence, he drew attention to a Mr. Gebhardt, saying:

I may tell you that this Mr. Gebhardt is so keen on being a Britisher that he has changed his name to Martin. I suppose that you know that. My name is Beamish, my father's name is Beamish, and my brother's name is Beamish, but Mr. Gebhardt is so intensely British that he has changed his name to Martin.

The Select Committee, having been told by a former CA secretary that she had typed out copies of a list of German-owned companies, pressed Beamish further on this question:

- C: Are you definite there was no list prepared of Germans who were to be dealt with? There was a list of British subjects. Is it not rather surprising that there was, on the other hand, no list of people who were not to be dealt with in trade?
- B: We did not have any list of German firms.
- C: The only list to your knowledge was that of people who were to be traded with?
- B: Yes.
- C: Then if this young lady says she typed copies of such a list, she is not correct?
- B: She might have typed a list of people who refused to take that emblem. That was quite another thing. Lots of people were asked to take it and did not, but if a man did not take it it does not follow that he was a German.
- C: Were you in the Alliance office at all or did you know what was going on there?
- B: Yes.
- C: And you mean to say that there was no list actually prepared of German subjects in Johannesburg?
- B: Yes.
- C: You think that owing to the actions of the mob there was some power behind it and directing it?
- B: I think there must have been, but I have no idea as to who it was.²¹

Along these lines, Beamish's testimony drew to a close. It seems that there was no subsequent action taken against him. Soon after this, he again joined up and was commissioned to the 2nd Regiment of the South African Infantry (Overseas Brigade). This was a regiment specifically recruited from Natal and the Orange Free State.^{23, 24}

Was Beamish innocent? Not according to his friend Arthur G. Barlow. Here's what he had to say about it:

A few days after the sinking of the *Lusitania* by the Germans Henry Beamish took me into a basement in Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, where we found a small number of men drawing up lists. Two men who were there were D. C. Greig (afterwards a chairman of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and whom I had known well as a fellow member of the ill-fated 'Young Unionists' Movement) and Harry Lyons, who, at one time, had been editor of *The Star*.

Beamish led a mob of howling Johannesburgers through the streets of that city and the crowd burnt down many valuable properties. I have no doubt at all that Beamish was the arch-villain behind this stupid and criminal rioting.¹⁹

It's not unreasonable to hazard a guess that, in going off to war and subsequently returning to England, Beamish was making sure that he had no consequences to face.

Beamish, of course – by the simple act of omission – presented a very different version of his overseas life and work between 1891 and 1918. This can be found in a one-page document among the papers of his younger brother Tufton. These now make up the Beamish Collection held in the Churchill Archive Centre at Cambridge University. Typed out by Henry himself, with a handwritten footnote by Tufton which reads ‘my brother 1919 TPHB’, the sheet is headed ‘Experiences of Mr. H. H. Beamish in connection with Land Settlement Work and Employment of Labour’. It reads:

In early life spent 4 years in Canada, where, in addition to being employed on surveying, took up two farms in the North West Territory.

Proceeded to Ceylon and was Superintendent of second largest factory in the island. Took part in the South African War, was one of the Officers of the Ceylon Contingent, and since that War have lived in South Africa, where, in addition to owning a number of Commercial enterprises have been closely associated with land settlement work. Have been general Manager of the largest land Settlement Company in the Orange Free State, Managing Director of a Farmers Cooperative Business and have been Agent for the Land Department of the Chartered Company for a number of years.

Established a number of Colonial Industries some of which have been subsidised by the Government, and established and own the oldest Agricultural paper in South Africa, (Farmers Advocate).

Established a basket making industry and settled the Workers on irrigated plots, on which the necessary osiers are grown, and in connection with the various industries I control, employ approximately 1,000 workers.²⁵

The punctuation, grammar and capitalisations are Beamish’s. It’s the work of a vain man, overly keen to impress by selectively listing and aggrandising his achievements.

During late February and early March 1918, a special subcommittee of the British Empire Producers’ Organisation met in London to examine policy for securing the meat supplies of the empire. This body, made up of almost twenty meat trade representatives from throughout the British Empire, included Mr H. H. Beamish representing Western Canada and Orange River, South Africa. Protectionist and deeply opposed to foreign investment within the British Empire, the committee passed four resolutions designed to restrict trade involving companies which weren’t British, allied or neutral.²⁶

It seems likely that Beamish then remained in London. Certainly, by the end of 1918 he was living there. His xenophobia was, by this time, focused entirely on the Jews. He was utterly convinced that they operated an organised, powerful and corrupt global network. Having begun with their perceived control of South African mining, he had extended this to their control of finance and banking in general, and thence to global business, the manipulation of governments and the ownership of mass media, the cause of strikes and civil unrest, the instigation of wars and

revolutions, the destruction of Christianity, and the creation of communism. All of this and more stemmed, he now knew, from one vast Jewish plot to take over the world. He set about trying to find the proof and make it public.

Beamish's military service led him to start campaigning for the rights of returning combatants. He became a member of the Silver Badge Party (SBP) for ex-servicemen, founded during the Great War. Its leader and co-founder was a naval flying officer, Lieutenant Commander Harry MacLeod Fraser, who had been awarded his aviator's certificate from the Royal Aero Club in 1914. Fraser's naval record lists his three successive appointments as commander of a destroyer: HMS *Boyne* (31 July 1912), HMS *Swale* (7 February 1913) and HMS *Doon* (August 1914). He and Beamish became close friends, with Fraser quickly developing similar anti-Jewish views. When Beamish then embarked on compiling his supposed evidence of the 'hidden hand' of Jewish intrigue – an encyclopaedic index identifying influential Jews – Fraser became his willing co-compiler. This would become *The Jews' Who's Who*, which The Britons would publish as a 255-page book in 1920.

Fraser's SBP took its name from the silver war badge which was issued to servicemen who were invalided out of the forces. It was an organisation which had evolved out of the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (NADSS), which had been established following a meeting in Blackburn, Lancashire, in September 1916. Because of the subsequent politics of Fraser and Beamish, the SBP is often presumed to have been right-wing and anti-Jewish from the outset. There is no evidence that it was either of these. Indeed, it was initially a left-wing group linked with the labour and trade union movements.

In April 1917, at the National Liberal Club, the Liberal MP for Edinburgh, James Myles Hogge, sponsored a meeting over the Military Service (Review of Exemptions) Bill which proposed to reclassify those who might be recalled to service. This meeting led to the formation of a splinter group, the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors (NFDSS), often known simply as the Federation.

By a curious coincidence, there would soon be another influential ex-servicemen's organisation founded and run by left-wingers, one of whom would go on to become a prominent Jew-hater. This was the National Union of Ex-Servicemen (NUX), founded in 1919 by members of the Independent Labour Party. The activist who was central to NUX was John Beckett, then on the far left of British politics but later to become a leading fascist. He already harboured a paradoxical antipathy to Jews, one he would unleash only in the 1930s after the death of his mother, who was Jewish. Beckett and Beamish became acquainted at this time, primarily through their campaigning for ex-servicemen but also because of shared thinking about Jews.²⁷

The NFDSS decided to fight by-elections to promote its cause. Its candidate in the June 1917 Liverpool Abercrombie by-election polled an encouraging quarter of the vote. For the general election on 14 December 1918 (dubbed the 'Coupon' election), the NFDSS executive approved five candidates, with twenty-five more being sponsored by local branches. In three Leeds constituencies, the candidates

were jointly nominated by the NFDSS, the NADSS and the Comrades of the Great War. Although many of these secured a substantial proportion of the vote, none won. However, one NADSS-sponsored candidate in Sowerby, the one-time left-wing Liberal Robert Hewitt Barker, having inherited the position of unofficial Conservative Party candidate, did actually win a seat.

A notable maverick figure during this period was the wealthy and flamboyant airman Noel Pemberton Billing (of whom Lloyd George said 'This man is dangerous. He doesn't want anything'). Billing stood in the Mile End by-election on 25 January 1916 and lost, though only by a very narrow margin. On 9 March, he was elected MP for East Herefordshire. He had run as an Independent Air Candidate, securing 4,590 votes to beat the 3,559 acquired by the Unionist candidate, Captain Brodie Henderson. It was Billing who would bring Beamish his one brief stab at British political power.

On 7 October 1916, Billing launched *The Imperialist* as his own Hereford-based 'independent newspaper', which was published weekly from then until 2 February 1918, a total of seventy editions.²⁸ Less than a year later, on 29 July 1917, following two large meetings in London, Billing founded a pressure group, the Vigilante Society, to 'promote purity in life'. His stated aim, through this body and his journal, was to 'campaign against and expose corruption, malpractice, underhand tactics and political intrigue'. His main co-founder was Captain Henry Hamilton Beamish, who became a regular contributor to *The Imperialist*. A third founder member who also contributed pieces to *The Imperialist* was Dr John H. Clarke, who would later become vice-president of The Britons.²⁴

In the spring of 1918 the society headquarters moved from Hereford to London and *The Imperialist* changed its name to *The Vigilante*. The first issue appeared on 9 February 1918.²⁸ The industrious Billing needed someone to handle the running of the journal and so appointed a young American, Captain Harold Sherwood Spencer, as his assistant editor. Spencer, who had been in the British Army, claimed that he had been an MI6 agent. In fact, he had been dismissed from the army in September 1917 suffering from 'paranoid delusional insanity'.²⁹ It was Beamish who, having met Spencer at a National Party meeting, had introduced him to Billing.

Within months, Billing had to warn Beamish that the virulently anti-Jewish tone of his magazine contributions was unacceptable. The same problem soon arose with the extreme anti-Catholic views regularly expressed by Clarke. Despite these reprimands, and with the conspiracy-obsessed Spencer making many of the editorial decisions, anti-Jewish sentiment continued to feature in the journal – as did lurid articles decrying Billing's two personal bugbears. The first of these was a supposedly vast (and Jewish-linked) German spy network. The second was lesbianism and male homosexuality. A scurrilous front-page piece on lesbianism headlined 'The Cult of the Clitoris' resulted in a high-profile court case at the Old Bailey in May–June 1918, with Billing conducting his own defence and eventually, after much mud-slinging on all sides, securing an acquittal for himself. However, evidence suggesting that he had had sexual relationships with two women in the case left Billing, a married man, far from untainted.³⁰

During the case, which caused a sensation and attracted vast amounts of newspaper coverage, there was one notable figure among those called by Billing to give evidence in his defence. This was Arnold White. Another was Beamish, who, in his evidence, speaking as the treasurer of the Vigilante Society, said he had risen to the rank of sergeant in the war in the South African Brigade. He testified to the parlous financial state of the Vigilante Society and of its newspaper in particular, stating that it was ‘published at a heavy loss’.³¹

There is an interesting aside that demonstrates the power of literature in promoting bigotry. Both Spencer, in the pages of *The Vigilante*, and Billing, during the court case, made much of a so-called *Black Book* said to have been compiled by the Germans. They claimed that it listed 47,000 names of prominent English people who were ‘perverts’. The list of names, each followed by details of their sexual activities, was said to include cabinet ministers and their wives.³² There was no proof of the book’s existence then, nor has there been any such proof since. It’s a myth, but one people were willing to believe.

When, in [Chapter 8](#), we come to examine the unquestioned existence of *The Protocols*, we’ll see how cast-iron proof that it was a forgery didn’t stop people believing it to be true – quite the reverse: they defiantly embraced it, and continue to do so today.

The delusional Spencer, who claimed to have seen the *Black Book* himself while on special service in Albania, appears personally to have concocted the story of its existence. The book features in an article by him (probably co-written with Billing) entitled ‘The First 47,000’, which was published in the 26 January 1918 issue of *The Imperialist*. This article begins:

There exists in the cabinet noire of a certain German prince a book compiled by the Secret Service from the reports of German agents who have infested this country for the past 20 years, agents so vile and spreading debauchery of such a lasciviousness that only German minds could conceive and German bodies execute...

This *Black Book*, he claimed, contained instructions for ‘the propagation of evils which all decent men thought had perished in Sodom and Lesbia’. According to Spencer, the 47,000 English male and female ‘perverts’ listed in the book included ‘Privy Councillors, youths of the chorus, wives of Cabinet Ministers, dancing girls, even Cabinet Ministers themselves, while diplomats, poets, bankers, editors, newspaper proprietors and members of His Majesty’s household follow each other with no order of precedence.’ The book, Spencer continued, also contained details ‘of the unnatural defloration of children who were drawn to the parks by the summer evening concerts’.³³

The ‘German prince’ was actually Prince Wilhelm of Wied (26 March 1876–18 April 1945), who, though born and raised in Germany, had been selected to be prince of Albania. Spencer claimed to have served in Albania and that, while there, had acted as ADC to the prince in 1914, during which time the latter had shown him the *Black Book* and had read sections of it to him. All of this was part of Spencer’s testimony at Billing’s Old Bailey trial. The authorities, however, not only

maintained that Spencer had never been ADC to the prince but added that he had never even served in Albania.²⁴ They were also lying. Spencer is on record as having 'fought bravely in Albamia' in 1914.³⁴ There is also evidence that in 1914 he was a volunteer on the staff of Prince Wilhelm.³⁵

So where do we stand on all of this? Was Spencer mentally unstable and unreliable? Very probably. Would the authorities lie to defend themselves and the establishment? Most certainly. Conspiracy theory thrives where neither side can be shown categorically to be telling the truth or lying. However, with hindsight, we can be fairly sure that the *Black Book* was pure fiction, even though covert homosexual activity in England or Germany – or, indeed, anywhere else – was an obvious and fairly commonplace reality.

Interestingly, we can trace the origins of this obsession with 'perversion' on the part of the Vigilante Society to none other than Arnold White, who, at the end of 1917, published an article in the *English Review* under the title 'Efficiency and Vice', which was reprinted in *The Vigilante*. In it White maintained that most German men were homosexual. Using the German word *Urninge*, meaning gay men, he warned of 'the systematic seduction of young British soldiers by German urnings and their agents', describing this as 'a great cancer made in Germany'. The German troops, he said, were not only raping women but were out to spread homosexuality among Englishmen in order to undermine national efficiency. According to White, one of the prime aims of the German Empire was the legalisation of homosexuality and the restoration of Sodom and Gomorrah. 'Every father and mother in the British Empire should know', he asserted, that their aim was to 'infect clean nations with the Hunnish erotomania.' He further claimed that 'The English conception of their national life is that the home is the unit of the nation ... but if the conception of home life is replaced by the Kultur of the urnings, the spirit of the Anglo-Saxon world wilts and perishes.'³³ As an organisation avowedly established to 'expose corruption and malpractice', the Vigilante Society was now merely a vehicle for fantasised and jingoistic anti-German Jew-hatred and homophobia.

The 23 March 1918 issue of *The Vigilante* carried an article detailing how Germans and Jews were collaborating to spread venereal disease. It asserted that:

The German, through his efficient and clever agent, the Ashkenazim, has complete control of the White Slave Traffic. Germany has found that diseased women cause more casualties than bullets. Controlled by their Jew-agents, Germany maintains in Britain a self-supporting – even profit-making – army of prostitutes which puts more men out of action than does their army of soldiers.³³

In June, Beamish, who was by now the treasurer of the society, became the Vigilante-sponsored candidate in the Clapham by-election. In this, he was also part-sponsored by the NFDSS, of which he was now a member. There was also support from some branches of the NADSS, although not from the group's national executive. Beamish's campaign assistant was his friend Harry MacLeod

Fraser. The two men ran this operation from an office in the Silver Badge Party premises at 4 Spring Gardens, Charing Cross. Having together been thrown out of the Albert Hall for calling Lord Robert Cecil a traitor,²⁹ they rashly displayed a poster in their office window accusing Sir Alfred Mond, a prominent Jewish businessman and politician of German descent, of also being a traitor. The wording of this poster ('Sir Alfred Mond is a traitor, he allocated shares to the Germans during the war') was soon to plunge the pair into a disastrous libel case brought by Mond.

Meanwhile, Billing officially announced Beamish's candidature in a speech he made at the Royal Albert Hall on 15 June. The meeting, which began with a concert of songs and organ music, followed by the speech from Billing, ended with the unanimous passing of a resolution calling on the government to take steps to denaturalise and intern forthwith all enemy-born subjects and to take powers under the Defence of the Realm Act to provide that all aliens should, for the duration of the war, 'exhibit on the lapel of their coats the emblem of their nationality'. Thereafter, Billing campaigned hard in Parliament on this issue – knowing well that 'alien' was perceived by many as a euphemism for 'Jew' and that anti-Jewish campaigners such as Beamish regarded Jewishness as a separate nationality, not a religion.

Beamish, while standing as an Independent, adhered faithfully to Vigilante Society policies, and so the 21 June by-election hinged on his call for the rescinding of naturalisation, the immediate internment of all citizens of enemy countries, the closure of all foreign-owned banks, and the wearing of a badge by all people of non-British origin. These issues, as raised by Beamish's campaign, even occupied the prime minister, Lloyd George, as *The Times* reported that month under the headline 'Hun Influence – New British Policy – Drastic Action Proposed':

Mr. Lloyd George is determined, in view of public unrest, to intern all enemy aliens, if it is shown their freedom is a menace to the country. He will deal first with Germans recently naturalised, personally examining the departmental information, and dismissing all Government employees and munition workers of German extraction. He is also considering the closing of German banks.

The National Party is organising a petition 'for the immediate internment of all enemy aliens'.

Unusual interest is being taken in the Clapham by-election. The Coalitionist, Mr. Harry Green [a mistake; it was Harry Greer], is opposed by Mr. Hamilton Beamish, a nominee of Mr. Pemberton Billing. Both are giving attention to the enemy alien question. Mr. Beamish recently said that if returned and all the enemy aliens were not interned he would create a pandemonium in the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister's secretary has written to Mr. Green that Mr. Lloyd George is personally examining the whole question of alien enemies in this country and is determined to take whatever action is necessary.³⁶

As the most vociferous candidate in the election and a prominent member of both the Vigilante Society and the National Party, Beamish seemed truly to have caught the zeitgeist. This must have seemed as if it was to be his opportunity for the taking. However, he narrowly lost the by-election, Greer securing 4,512 votes against Beamish's creditable 3,331 (43 per cent). Undeterred by this defeat, Beamish stood once more in Clapham in the general election on 14 December 1918, this time running as an NFDSS candidate. Again he came second, but he lost by the much larger margin of 6,706 votes.³⁷

Immediately before the 21 June by-election, Spencer had sent a telegram, on behalf of Billing, to the prime minister, Lloyd George, in which he again called for the internment of all enemy-born subjects. Further controversy, stoked by Billing himself, arose when the prime minister's office denied that they had received the telegram.

On 24 June, after a series of persistent attempts to push forward issues related to allegations of covert alien involvement in British politics, Billing was forcibly removed from the House of Commons. The following evening he attended a play, *The Hidden Hand*, at the Strand Theatre. As the curtain fell, he stood up and addressed the astonished audience from his box, outlining what he saw as the play's relevance to the alien situation.

The next day, Billing nominated Spencer as the Vigilante Society's candidate in the forthcoming East Finchley by-election. Another telegram was then sent to Lloyd George offering to withdraw the candidacy if the Vigilante Society's recommendations on the alien question were adopted.

Despite this appearance of unity, all was far from well within the society. On 5 July, Billing received a letter of resignation from all three members of the Vigilante finance committee. The trio – Beamish, Clarke and James Horace Collings – were claiming that Billing was spending large amounts of the society's money without their sanction. From the outset, Billing had personally and extensively funded the impoverished society, providing roughly 75 per cent of its income. However, the financial committee, appointed a year earlier, had tried to regulate outgoings, only to find that Billing ignored them. In particular, they had failed in their attempts to limit his spending on election campaigning.

Billing's reaction to the resignation letter was to express concern that it would damage the good name of the Vigilante Society. He therefore suggested that every member should be informed not only of the committee's resignation letter but also of the origins of the schism – namely that Clarke was 'endeavouring to turn the Society into an anti-Catholic movement', while Beamish was anti-Jewish. It was agreed to call an extraordinary general meeting of the society at Queen's Hall at the end of the month.

In the meantime, the press began attacking Billing's anti-alien campaign by pointing out that his own wife, Lilian Maud Pemberton Billing (née Schweitzer), was German and therefore, according to her husband's campaign, should be interned. The couple initially issued a complete denial of her or her father's German ancestry but were soon proved to have been lying. She was, indeed, born in Germany of a German father.

As the East Finchley by-election approached, Billing campaigned heavily. On the eve of the poll a crowd of almost a thousand, led by Billing and Spencer, attacked a meeting of the other independent candidate, A. S. Belsher. Fighting broke out. Belsher's car was wrecked. Stones were hurled through windows into the meeting hall. Police reinforcements were called and, finding that Billing was using his own car as a platform from which he was speaking out against aliens and military shirkers, ordered him to stop. In response, some of his audience attacked anyone whom they took to be aliens or shirkers. Eventually, the ringleaders were arrested and order was restored. This was the version reported in *The Times*. A very different version, written by Billing, appeared in *The Vigilante*, painting his crowd as the heroes of the whole encounter.

At the extraordinary general meeting on 27 July, Beamish spoke on behalf of the finance committee, outlining their problems with party expenditure and adding that, contrary to their wishes, Billing had refused to allow a collection at the Albert Hall meeting, which had attracted nearly 10,000 people. Had the collection been allowed, it would, Beamish claimed, have raised at least £1,000 of much-needed funding. He added that it was this clash that lay behind their resignations. Billing's response was to point out that he had personally funded most of the society's work and that a collection at a meeting was against the constitution of the society. He then went on to call for strength and unity. When the vast majority of the 400 supporters present sided with Billing, Beamish flatly refused to return as treasurer. The upshot was the damaging departure from the society of a number of leading members, among them Beamish, Clarke and Collins, along with Spencer.

Billing was re-elected to parliament in that December 'Coupon' election and decided to devote his energies to parliamentary work. On 3 February 1919, a four-page *Review and Valediction* was published. Compiled by the Vigilante's former secretary, Euphemia Tait, it announced that both the journal and the Vigilante Society had been wound up.³⁰ The final issue of *The Vigilante* appeared on 8 February.²⁸

The departure of Beamish et al. from the Vigilante Society and its subsequent collapse can be seen as their prime reason for founding The Britons in 1919. And it was the intervening Mond trial that fully persuaded Beamish to establish the society as a specifically anti-Jewish organisation. That Beamish, Clarke and Spencer were three of the fourteen present at the inaugural meeting of The Britons is further proof that the organisation was a product of the collapse of the Vigilante Society.

In March 1919, Beamish and Fraser were taken to court by Sir Alfred Mond, who sought 'an injunction to restrain them from printing, publishing or exhibiting any poster or advertisement alleging that he was a traitor or from publishing any similar libel affecting him in his profession and office'. On 16 March, Beamish wrote to Clarke. In this letter, he detailed his plans to maintain the libel against Mond in court, accusing him (as the poster had done) of selling shares to the 'Huns' during the Great War. Beamish went on to say that he fully expected to lose the case if libel charges were brought, and that he wanted Dr Clarke to handle his affairs in his absence. He wrote:

This will no doubt lead to my arrest for criminal libel, but I am prepared to take the consequences. I have tried every avenue to expose the machinations of the International Jew financial gang who have been selling our dear old England – the head of which in my opinion is Mond – but without success owing to the press and leading politicians, including Lloyd George being controlled by this Jew gang.³⁸

Proof that Beamish was far from alone in antipathy to Jews comes from one of the most powerful and influential men in Britain at this time, Alfred Milner (1834–1925).

Milner had held the post of governor of the Cape Colonies and high commissioner for southern Africa (5 May 1897–6 March 1901) before being made responsible for the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, first as administrator (4 January 1901–23 June 1902) and then as first governor (23 June 1902–1 April 1905). Britain's annexation of South Africa in 1877 had already resulted in the Zulu War and then the First Boer War. Neither had resolved tensions, and Milner, regarded as a moderate Liberal, was sent out there by the colonial secretary, Joseph Chamberlain. As the representative of British empirical might, Milner pitted himself against the Transvaal Boers. He regarded their growing influence in the region as a direct threat to British hopes of establishing control of the whole of Africa, from Cape to Cairo. Boer wealth and power had greatly increased with the recent discovery of gold in the Transvaal. This had attracted thousands of European immigrants to the territory – many of them British. The Boers responded to this influx by instituting legislation denying rights to these 'Uitlanders', thus giving Milner the pretext he needed to precipitate the Second Boer War (11 October 1899–31 May 1902).

Despite arousing much controversy and criticism back in Britain, Milner retained his post in South Africa until forced by ill health to quit in 1905. After returning to England, he remained politically active while pursuing business interests. Now Viscount Milner, he became chairman of Rio Tinto Zinc and, in 1906, a director of the Joint Stock Bank (a precursor of Midland Bank). From December 1916 until November 1918 he served as a highly influential member of Lloyd George's five-strong war cabinet. In January 1917 he led a British delegation to Russia in support of the tsar (who was toppled a few weeks later). That same year he was also a key author of the Balfour Declaration, which stated that the British government favoured the founding of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.^{39, 40} This wasn't out of love or even sympathy for Jews, as is clearly illustrated in the letter he sent to his fellow war cabinet colleagues in January 1919. Urging British intervention in Russia to counter the threat to European freedom and civilisation presented by Bolshevism, Milner wrote:

We must not lose sight of the fact that this movement is engineered and managed by astute Jews, many of them criminals, and nearly every commissar in Russia is a Jew, and I have noticed, since I came to this country, that meetings of protest against intervention are largely composed of alien Jews, and that in constituencies where there is a large Jewish vote, it has invariably gone to the

extreme Socialist candidate ... For the sake of humanity it is imperative that something be done to put a speedy end to this criminal, bloodthirsty and horrible combination misnamed 'Peasants' and Workmen's Republic'.⁴¹

Note that this letter was written in the very year that Beamish faced Mond in court and founded The Britons. Note also that Beamish and Milner had very similar South African experiences during the first five years of the twentieth century. That Milner held views remarkably close to those of Beamish is illustrated by Milner's 'Credo', a document found among his papers after his death and widely published. Milner had written:

I am a Nationalist and not a cosmopolitan ... I am a British (indeed primarily an English) Nationalist. If I am also an Imperialist, it is because the destiny of the English race, owing to its insular position and long supremacy at sea, has been to strike roots in different parts of the world. I am an Imperialist and not a Little Englander because I am a British Race Patriot.⁴²

Strangely, not only was Milner's paternal grandmother German. He himself was born in Germany, brought up there, and educated there.

The Mond trial, starting in March 1919, ran for two months and drew extensive press coverage. Further hearings would see the entire proceedings last until March 1920. The statement of claim of the plaintiff, Alfred Moritz Mond, delivered on 11 April 1919, was itemised as follows:

- 1 The Plaintiff is and was at all material times a member of His Majesty's Government and a member of the Privy Council.
- 2 On or about the 18th day of March 1919 the Defendants falsely and maliciously wrote and published of and concerning the Plaintiff and of and concerning him in relation to his position as aforesaid the words following, that is to say, 'Sir Alfred Mond is a traitor he allocated shares to Huns during the war.'
- 3 The said words were written on a large poster which was exhibited to the public view in the window of No. 4 Spring Gardens, Charing Cross, London.
- 4 The said words meant and were understood to mean that the Plaintiff was a traitor, that he had business relations with an enemy country during the war and that he was unfitted to hold office in His Majesty's Government or to be a member of the Privy Council.
- 5 By reason of the premises the Plaintiff has been injured in his credit and reputation and has been brought into public scandal, hatred and contempt and has suffered damage.

The Plaintiff claims:—

- 1 An Injunction to restrain the Defendants, their servants or agents from printing publishing or exhibiting any poster or advertisement alleging

- the Plaintiff to be a traitor or any similar libel affecting the Plaintiff in his profession and office.
- 2 Damages.
 - 3 Further or other relief.⁴³

The defence of Henry Hamilton Beamish, signed by him and delivered on 10 May 1919, was trenchant and without a hint of regret or apology:

- 1 The defendant admits that he wrote the words set out in Paragraph 2 of the Statement of Claim. In so far as the said words consist of allegations of substance and fact they are true in substance and in fact, and in so far as they consist of expressions of opinion they are fair comment made in good faith and without malice upon the facts hereinafter more particularly referred to which are matters of public interest.
- 2 The said words were contained on a poster exhibited with a series of other posters and the Defendant craves leave to refer to the whole of the said series.
- 3 The Defendant repeats and adopts the separate Defence of his Co-Defendant Harry MacLeod Fraser as though same were set out seriatim in this Defence.

And as a further Plea this Defendant says:—

- 4 The Plaintiff (who is an international Jew Financier), by reason of his associations and his said actions, has committed a breach of faith which as a citizen and subject holding a public position he owes to the British Nation to the great scandal and the corruption of the purity of public life and patriotism, and by reason thereof it was for the public benefit that the allegations set forth in the Statement of Claim should be published, and these the said Henry Hamilton Beamish is ready to verify and justify.⁴⁴

The defence (for both Fraser and Beamish) was conducted by Percival Frere Smith, the lawyer with whom Beamish had been associated in South Africa some seven years earlier. Now living back in Britain, Smith wrote an article for the *New Witness* in which he too accused Mond of dealing in shares with the enemy during wartime. Mond responding by suing and won, because what deals he had done had been sanctioned by the Board of Trade and so couldn't be deemed illegal.⁴⁵

Hoping to benefit from this burst of public exposure, Beamish actually conducted a good part of his own defence and used his court appearance to hammer home his message of Jew-hatred. He was determined to convey his belief that Jews were of a separate race and that, as such, their loyalty could not be guaranteed. He told the court that 'A man can't be both a Jew and a German.' And, equally, 'A man can't be both English and Jew.' At this point in the proceedings, there was some applause at the back of the court. Clearly his supporters were present. Mond, however, won his case and was awarded £5,000 damages by Mr Justice Darling, plus costs.

As the trial drew to a close, the press reported that Beamish gave a final speech in which he stated that 'he had spent the most unhappy time of his life in that court. The cost of this trial on the other side was £1000 a day. He would have preferred the plaintiff to come into the court without the help of counsel, so that they could have had it out in the good old English way, like the prize fight the previous night' (this is a reference to a series of championship boxing matches in London marking the birth of British amateur boxing. It drew laughter in the courtroom). Beamish, clearly very bitter about the outcome, is reported to have then said that he 'came over here as a private at great sacrifice, and found the country absolutely putrid. The costs of this case would make him bankrupt.'⁴⁶ Beamish, who according to court files was in the early stages of founding The Britons, gave notice that 'he was about to take a sea voyage for the benefit of his health' and then quit Britain for southern Africa without paying the fine.⁴⁷

Faced with an order to pay this large fine, plus his own legal costs, plus the very considerable legal costs incurred by Mond, Beamish lodged an appeal and, on 12 January 1920, was instructed to post £100 as security. He couldn't even afford this relatively small sum. On 23 February, his secretary applied on his behalf for an extension of time for him to pay the £100. She explained that she was representing him because he was in South Africa, 'to which country he had been ordered for the benefit of his health'. This application was very bluntly dismissed, and incurred further costs.⁴⁸ Mond then launched a counter-appeal. A subsequent and final hearing was held on 8 March. The press reported that 'Counsel for Mr Beamish now stated he did not feel justified in pressing his notice of motion, and would agree to it being dismissed with costs, and to Sir Alfred Mond's motion being allowed with costs.'⁴⁹

The vast bill (the £5,000 fine, plus costs which ran into many thousands more) must have come as a shattering body-blow to Beamish. In anticipating a prison sentence, as outlined in his letter to Clarke, he had envisaged becoming a political martyr. However, these financial consequences were utterly beyond his means. Furthermore – even if he had been able to afford it – the payment of the fine alone to a Jew, and to Mond in particular, would have been against all his principles. Above all, though, in driving him from these shores, the verdict forced him to rely on others to set up and run The Britons.

The timing, in officially launching The Britons straight after the trial, appears to have been deliberate. As he stated in his letter to Clarke, Beamish saw Mond as the British head of the international Jewish conspiracy, so this trial was to have been the big showdown between Judaism and this self-appointed defender of 'dear old England', with The Britons intended as the phoenix rising gloriously from the ashes of that St George-and-the-dragon clash. In fact, the birth of The Britons was a tiny and almost unrecorded gathering. Beamish and just thirteen others attended that inaugural meeting in July 1919. Clarke, appointed vice-president, took charge of The Britons, while the president, Beamish, was packing his belongings, boarding his ship, and fleeing back to South Africa.

His South African friend, the journalist Arthur G. Barlow, reports encountering a rather frightened Beamish, who seemed convinced that Lord Melchett (the title later

adopted by Mond) would pursue him for his £5,000. By his own account, Beamish had no money left at this time and needed to sell his newspaper. Barlow wrote:

Passing rapidly through Bloemfontein in his haste to escape from Melchett's clutches, he asked me to sell his *Farmer's Advocate*, which I did to *The Friend*, and Beamish told me that his final hiding place 'until the coast is clear would be a cave in a forest in the Congo, somewhere near where the Pygmies live'.¹⁹

Based in fact in Southern Rhodesia, Beamish would retain the presidency of The Britons for the next three decades. However, apart from a few rare return visits, when he had attempted to inject more life into the society, he had to leave Clarke and a handful of other like-minded Jew-haters to handle the organisation's day-to-day London-based operation.

And what of Harry MacLeod Fraser? After becoming an early member of The Britons, he, like Beamish, went overseas in the wake of the Mond trial. Living in India, he wrote books, pamphlets and articles attacking Jewish influence.⁵⁰ His pamphlet *Truth* (1921) provoked outrage in the Indian press, which dismissed him as a racist. In it, he attacked Montagu (Edwin Samuel Montagu, a Jew who was secretary of state for India, 1917–22) and Lord Reading (Rufus Daniel Isaacs, also Jewish and viceroy of India, 1921–5). Montagu, he claimed, had created anarchy across the subcontinent 'to organise Asia's mute millions into a human avalanche to overwhelm Western civilisation and then Christianity'. Jews, Fraser maintained, 'were seeking to discredit and weaken the British connection under the guise of forwarding Indian Nationalism, merely in order to make the Jew control and dominion more complete.' He claimed that 'The British Raj has for a good many years, become less and less British and more a Jew Raj' and concluded that Indian Swaraj (self-government) 'merely means Jew Raj'.⁵¹ After eventually returning to Britain, Fraser continued to write and campaign on the same anti-Jewish platform. However, these activities came to an abrupt end on 15 July 1924, when he was killed in a motoring accident.⁵⁰

In 1920, its inaugural year, the Judaic Publishing Co. (as The Britons' publishing arm was initially known) produced a journal, leaflets, pamphlets and two books. The first of these books was *The Jews' Who's Who*, compiled jointly by Beamish and Fraser. Its stated aim was 'to make plain the garrotte-like grip of Finance when dominated by the International Jew and used for exploiting Trusts and Combines against national interests'. Though the book caused an initial stir, it soon sank from view. Not so The Britons' second book, George Shanks's translation of *The Protocols of Zion*. Although they would later opt for another translation, this book was destined to bestow a lasting notoriety on the society.

Beamish, meanwhile, acquired property in Tanganyika.⁴

During October 1920, Beamish and a Mr Salamon, who was Jewish, had a public exchange of views on the Jewish question in the letters pages of *The Spectator*. They continued to correspond privately for a year or so afterwards. Here is Beamish being typically abrasive and condescending in a letter written to Salamon from Johannesburg on 22 July 1921:

Dear Sir, – I am sorry I have been unable to reply to your letter before, but I have been away in Central Africa, and was only able to send you one of my ‘Britannia Rules the Waves’ postcards in acknowledgement. You are right to surmise that I am the individual who made myself look ‘ridiculous’, as you so kindly call it, in the Mond Libel Action. Incidentally, and being a Jew, I know how hard it will be for you to understand, I deliberately and openly attacked Mond in order to expose the Jew plot to destroy civilisation and Christianity. In taking the action I did I knew, of course, that I must ‘legally’ lose the case, as, pending a ‘White’ revolution against the on-coming Jew-led Reds, I know that it was impossible, under our Jew-controlled laws and lawyers, to win a case against International Jewry and its all-powerful finances. My case was not with Mond – I had never seen this Asiatic before I saw him in court – but was an attempt, and I am glad to say a very successful one, to expose the gigantic International Jew Plot to destroy our (not your) Empire, and with it Christianity and Civilisation. My effort entirely crippled me financially, and as a result I am now forced to live in the wilds of Central Africa. I will, however, not dwell on this, as, being a Jew, it will be impossible for you to understand what self-sacrifice and love of country means. You seem very anxious to know whether I am a Christian, and in so far as I try to follow the ethics of Christ, particularly in regard to his precepts on ‘Live and let live’ and in ‘doing unto others as I would be done by’, I am. This is, of course, in entire variance to Jews’ precepts, who don’t believe in letting others live, except under that all-polluting domination. Your bible, the Talmud, clearly defines what your ‘religion’ is, namely, materialism in the grossest and meanest form. As I wrote you before, I am *not* an anti-Semite, and I not only say that a Jew has a perfect right to live and enjoy life, but that snakes and other vermin have the same right. What Englishmen and other White races complain of is that Jews pollute all the races they come in contact with, and that they should be forced to live in Palestine in the same way that snakes and other vermin should be forced to live in the jungle and not in people’s houses. I am sending you some literature on the subject of your race (*not* religion, please), and you should really study and analyse the reasons for the rising storm against Jew domination of the White races. I quite admit that Englishmen are easily bluffed, and though long suffering you must admit that the ones who see the danger ahead have a perfect right to prevent their Empire – the last one remaining – from being destroyed by the alien Jew.

I trust you will continue this correspondence as you letters interest me.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) H. H. Beamish⁵²

Beamish spent the last few weeks of 1922 in America. The passenger manifest of the SS *Tartar Prince* records that he boarded at Port Elizabeth, South Africa, on 29 September and disembarked at Boston, Massachusetts, on 7 November. He was listed as an English miner, aged forty-nine, resident in Sonoia, Rhodesia, and able to read English and Zulu. His nearest relative or friend was given as Mr F. Gibaud of Rosebery Avenue, Port Elizabeth.⁵³

Beamish stayed in America for only a few weeks. In late December he boarded the SS *Dominion Miller* in Newport News, Virginia, and sailed for London, where he arrived on 2 January 1923 (in this manifest he is listed as the sole disembarking passenger, travelling first class, a miner, last resident in South Africa, whose UK address is given as the Royal Societies Club, St James Street, London).⁵⁴

Just over two weeks later, Beamish was in Germany. On 20 January 1923, *The Times* reported that 'Henry Beamish, said to be an English miner, addressed a meeting of the Bavarian Fascisti at Munich.' Having declared himself 'greatly impressed with the Organisation', he said he was 'returning to England with the idea of starting a similar movement'. This event, which had taken place on 18 January at the Krone Circus, had been organised by the NSDAP (the Nazi Party, founded in 1920). The speech delivered by Beamish had been in English, with a German translation by Dietrich Eckart. The very fact that a man of Eckart's stature served as his translator shows the level of respect that Beamish already commanded among his fellow Jew-hating racial nationalists in Germany. Eckart, who was to die of a heart attack less than a year later, came to be remembered as the 'spiritual father of National Socialism'. The second volume of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* is dedicated to him. Here is a brief extract from Beamish's speech, said to have been enthusiastically received:

I also was in the war as a private in the infantry, but it did not take me long to realise that instead of the Christian nations fighting each other, we ought all to turn our guns against the Jew, who brings about all these wars ... The magnificent way in which you Bavarians have tackled this Jew problem has filled me with courage, and I hope it may be possible for all the Aryan races to join forces against the common enemy to our civilisation and Christianity.²

There were rumours – but no proof – that Beamish went away from this German visit with money to assist his plan of 'starting a similar movement'. That seems unlikely. The new Nazi Party wasn't yet wealthy itself, and very little new cash went into The Britons' coffers at this time. What does seem more than possible – for a man 'crippled financially' by the Mond case – is that, throughout the 1920s and 1930s, he received sufficient German money to fund his globe-trotting as an unparalleled relentless apostle of Nazi-esque Jew-hatred. Thus, for example, from the early 1920s onwards, his ocean voyages were made by first-class ticket.

During January or February, Beamish was also in Rome, where he met with Mussolini. On 7 March he wrote to Henry Ford's Michigan-based *Dearborn Independent* newspaper and enclosed a copy of an earlier letter, written in Italy, which talked about this meeting. In his reply of 31 March 1923 (sent to Beamish c/o the Royal Societies Club in St James Street, the address he used for all correspondence), William John Cameron, the paper's assistant editor, refers to the encounter:

I see from your letter, and the press, that you have had the privilege of meeting Mussolini in Rome: which I hold to be a great privilege. Inasmuch as it will give you an insight into the mind of one of the most unusual figures of our

time. I was wondering if it would be within your convenience to give us an article sketching the characters of these men and your impressions of them.

During 1922, Cameron had been instrumental in the serialisation in the *Dearborn Independent* of *The International Jew*, their notorious series of articles based on *The Protocols*.⁵⁵

On 1 March 1923, the Vienna newspaper *Wiener Morgenzeitung* published what the *Hidden Hand*, the magazine of The Britons, called ‘a gross libel against our president’. Headed ‘The English Crown Witness of Adolph Hitler’, it read:

From Munich it is announced: the Social Democratic *Munich Post* has procured in England information about the English friend of Adolph Hitler, Mr Henry Beamish, which is to the effect that Beamish, who appeared on January 18th with Hitler in the Krone Circus in Munich and made an anti-semitic speech in English, is known in London as the leader of a gang of extortioners, and was some years ago condemned before a sworn jury to a punishment of several years in prison. At this meeting [Munich], Beamish stated that he had called the Cabinet Minister Mond a traitor, and in consequence had been in exile for three years in Central Africa. For this remark he was heartily applauded at the meeting, and was introduced as showing the existence of international solidarity on the part of anti-semites. From Nationalist circles it is stated that Hitler has given Beamish a large sum of money for the purpose of founding a Nationalist Party in England.

The claim by this German newspaper that Beamish had been ‘the leader of a gang of extortioners’ may in fact have been a garbled reference to his anti-German role within the ranks of the Consumers’ Alliance in Johannesburg during 1915, when that organisation did indeed appear to have been extorting money from German citizens.

Having returned to Britain after an absence of more than three years, on 5 March 1923 Beamish addressed a ‘large and enthusiastic’ London meeting of The Britons at the Plane Tree Restaurant, Great Russell Street. In his address, entitled ‘Future of the Society’, he outlined plans to reorganise The Britons and appointed J. D. Dell as office superintendent, tasked primarily with fund-raising via guarantees of regular donations from members, the aim being to use this income to produce more literature.⁵⁶

Beamish was in Paris in early April. While there, he visited the offices of the right-wing paper *L’Action Française* to place what he termed ‘an advertisement’, paying 480 francs for its publication. The Britons already worked closely with the fiercely anti-Jewish French journal *La Vieille France*, in which this ‘advertisement’ had already appeared. It read:

A Warning from our English friends. Are you aware that the present manipulation of the foreign exchange is entirely the work of the Jews? The Jews wish to Bolshevise France as they have done Russia. The Jews in England are

to be removed. Frenchmen, get rid of your Jews! The Jews are an Asiatic race and do not belong to Europe. All the White People must combine against this world menace or the Jews will destroy us.

The statement was signed 'The Britons'. A letter dated 9 April reached Beamish back in London two days later. It informed him that *L'Action Française* refused to publish such a text. An angry correspondence ensued which ended with the French paper refunding the 480 francs. Enraged, Beamish promptly donated this to *La Vieille France*.⁵⁷

The founding editor of *La Vieille France* was Urbain Gohier (17 December 1862–29 June 1951), a French lawyer, journalist and notorious Jew-hater who had actually started out as a socialist opponent of militarism but had become increasingly anti-Jewish. Having worked on various journals, he had founded *La Vieille France* (*The Old France*) in 1916, and would remain its editor and publisher until its demise in 1924. Throughout its existence, this Paris-based weekly was rabidly anti-Jewish. In 1920, *La Vieille France* published the first French edition of *The Protocols*, entitled *Procès-verbaux de réunions secrètes des Sages d'Israël*.⁵⁸ Beamish probably gave Gohier the 480 francs because he knew the journal was struggling, and because the money would have been well spent if it had kept this useful French counterpart of *The Britons* going. It proved to be of little assistance. Three months later, in the summer of 1923, Gohier announced that, after seven years as a weekly, *La Vieille France* had ceased publication, having 'completely exhausted its financial resources'. Reprinting the announcement, the July–August issue of the *Hidden Hand* described it as 'the only publication to stand up openly against the total conquest of France by the Jewish hordes'. The piece went on to mention Jean Drault as Gohier's co-worker and to say that there had been a total of 344 editions. Shortly afterwards, in a brief reversal of fortunes, Gohier resumed publication. However, due to 'lack of support', it ceased publication permanently in the summer of 1924, after issue 373. This sorry progress was fully reported in successive *Britons'* journals. In January 1925, Gohier would become a regular contributor of literate but obsessively anti-Jewish articles to *The Britons* journal, the *British Guardian*, though not for long. A year later, it too would cease publication due to lack of funds.

All this was yet to come. Back in London in the spring of 1923, *The Britons* – briefly reinvigorated by the presence of Beamish – became more active publicly. On 11 May 1923 they met in the council chamber at Hammersmith Town Hall. The 152-strong gathering,³⁵ chaired by Dr J. H. Clarke, heard a lengthy speech from Beamish on 'The Alien Menace', at the end of which he read out the following 'drastic resolution':

In view of the fact that there is a very serious shortage of houses for our people, which is largely due to the influx of Jews into these already crowded islands; that Great Britain still has over a million unemployed, which is largely due to the same cause; and believing that unless drastic steps are taken to prevent the influx of a race of people diametrically opposed to Christianity,

British morals and customs, that serious international trouble will result; this meeting of the citizens of the Borough of Hammersmith, here and now demand from his Majesty's Government that they take drastic steps: (1) To stop the further invasion of our country by these aliens; (2) To deport those already here; (3) That the Secretary of 'The Britons' be authorised to send copies of this resolution to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, all Cabinet Ministers, the Governors of the Dominions, the leading government bodies throughout the Empire, all patriotic societies, the Mayor of Hammersmith, and the Mayors throughout the United Kingdom.

After Beamish had fielded questions from this entirely sympathetic gathering, the resolution was 'put and carried by acclamation'.⁵⁹

The return of Beamish, four years after the Mond case, didn't go unnoticed in Jewish circles. The account of his speech at the Hammersmith Town Hall meeting, as subsequently published in the *Hidden Hand*, was reprinted verbatim in the *Jewish Chronicle* under the heading 'The Alien Menace' and subtitled 'Mr. Beamish's Anti-Semitic Outburst'.⁶⁰

Although he had undoubtedly been driven by his bigotry, Beamish hadn't been entirely wrong in accusing Mond of selling bonds to German nationals during the war. Mond was a wheeler-dealer who knew how to make money for himself and, despite his denials, certainly profited from the war. It seems likely that Mond's anger and indignation was not triggered by the slur itself but by Beamish's anti-Jewish stance.

Indeed, two years later Mond's brother-in-law, the artist Sigismund Goetze, would bring a similar case against Harold Sherwood Spencer. Lord Alfred Douglas had resigned his editorship of *Plain English* in October 1921 after a furious row with Spencer, his assistant editor. Douglas had had enough of Spencer's repeated publication of fictions as factual. Spencer took over the editorship of the journal and, the following month, published a vicious attack on Goetze, who sued him for libel and won. Spencer received a six-month prison sentence. Shortly after being released he was arrested and charged with unspecified 'disgusting behaviour', for which he received a fine of 40 shillings.⁶¹ By then, *Plain English* had ceased publication.

Spencer had always survived by depending on the wealth of others. In his early twenties, he had been briefly married to a wealthy countess twice his age. They had moved to Paris and lived there in style.⁶² On 10 November 1917 he had married Ella Shearer Beattie.⁶³ For the next ten years the pair lived at 52 Eaton Square, the home of her wealthy parents. In May 1927 they began divorce proceedings, each accusing the other of infidelity.⁶⁴ That same year Spencer sailed from London to New York aboard the *American Farmer*. The manifest lists him as a 37-year-old American, whose profession was given as 'none'.⁶⁵

In 1925 there was another attempt to prove that Mond was profiting through trickery. And the case may not be unconnected because the main person behind the accusations was the newly elected MP for Gateshead, John Beckett, who had been acquainted with Beamish at the tail-end of the Great War.

Beckett and two other new MPs, Neil Maclean and Hugh Dalton, discovered that Mond owned a lucrative company – Brunner, Mond – that was the only business in Britain efficiently extracting nitrogen from air for use in explosives and fertiliser. This was done by a highly secret method which the Germans had developed during the Great War. At the end of the war, the British government had sent a team of three army officers to Cologne, where they had spent several months discovering precisely how this process was carried out. They then returned to Britain and wrote a report on their findings. This report was never published. Instead, Mond, then a government minister, bought a publicly owned fertiliser factory in Billingham-on-Tees. This factory, which had cost the country £1,100,000 to establish and run, was sold to Mond for just £450,000. Here Mond began using the German extraction method. It further transpired that the senior officer of the team sent to Germany had been made a director of Brunner, Mond, the company running the factory. Furthermore, the other two officers who had gone with him were now both employed by the company. Try as they might, however, Beckett and co. were unable to prove that the wily and well-connected Mond was behind this corrupt profiteering. Tricked out of raising the issue in Parliament, Beckett found no editor willing to carry the story. Eventually, he managed to place it in the left-wing *Labour Weekly*. Ahead of publication, he sent a copy of the piece to Mond to see how the rascal would react. Mond's friendly reply simply thanked Beckett for his letter, adding that he had read the contents with the greatest interest!²⁷ That there was some truth in the slur against him might well explain why Mond doesn't appear to have pursued Beamish for the unpaid £5,000, not even following the latter's return to England in 1923.

Beamish was steadily cultivating useful friendships within the ranks of German Nazism. It was through two of these, the Jew-hating publisher and journalist Theodor Fritsch and the leading Nazi theoretician Alfred Rosenberg, that he had an influential article published in the prominent Nazi newspaper *Völkischer Beobachter* (*National Observer*). In this featured piece, which appeared on 26 June 1926, he outlined his theory that there were just three ways to deal with Jews – extermination, assimilation or isolation. Ruling out extermination on the grounds that all people have a right to exist and assimilation on the grounds that it had been resisted for centuries, he argued for isolation by sending every Jew to Madagascar and keeping them all there.⁶⁵

On 28 August 1926, Beamish boarded the SS *Ceramic* in Liverpool and sailed for Cape Town. His UK address was still given as the Royal Societies Club in St James Street, London, his occupation given as mining.⁶⁶ He was visiting the family home in Bloemfontein of his new wife, Frances Winifred Lingard Green. The pair had been married in Belgium at the British Consulate office in Brussels on 28 July. Eighteen years his junior, she was the daughter of Alfred Lingard Green, a retired British army Lieutenant-Colonel.¹ This marriage would be childless and appears not to have lasted. I can find no record of them living together and, by 1940, he was living alone as a mine-owner in Southern Rhodesia.

Beamish's international reputation as a Jew-hater was now spreading. In 1926 the New York-based Anti-Bolshevist Publishing Company (the publishing arm of

the Universal Anti-Bolshevist League) published *The Secret World Government or The Hidden Hand*, by Major General Count Cherep-Spiridovich, a White Russian who had fled to America following the overthrow of the tsar in 1917. In this book ‘the famous patriot H. H. Beamish’ is quoted thus: ‘I am prepared to prove that Bolshevism (which is merely a modern word for Judaism), the vicious manipulation of foreign exchanges, and the general ‘world unrest’ prevailing today, may be summed up in two words, namely, “Jew Finance”’.⁶⁷

Beamish was to find a kindred spirit in Arnold Leese, a retired veterinary surgeon, who had been one of Britain’s first two elected fascists. Leese and a fellow fascist, Harry Simpson, had served as councillors in Stamford for the British Fascists (see [Chapter 6](#) for a detailed account of Leese’s life and career). Their friendship began when Beamish visited Leese in Stamford in the mid-1920s after he had begun buying Britons publications, starting with *The Protocols*.

Having moved to London in 1928, Leese had co-founded the Imperial Fascist League (IFL). By 1932, when the group was actively and increasingly Jew-hating, he had taken over the leadership totally. Beamish was an enthusiastic member, and throughout 1931 he toured southern Britain speaking at a series of public meetings of the IFL, usually sharing the platform with Leese.

On Thursday 21 May he and Leese addressed a meeting held in the Kentish Rooms in Tunbridge Wells,⁶⁸ and on Thursday 11 June the pair spoke at an IFL gathering in Sedlescombe Village Hall, Rye, East Sussex, at which they ‘asserted that Britain was being fooled by politicians and Jews, and advocated a return to statesmanship by the setting up of a Fascist regime’.⁶⁹ On Tuesday 14 July Beamish and Dr White jointly addressed an IFL meeting held in Wadhurst Institute in Sussex.⁷⁰ On Wednesday 25 November, in Tunbridge Wells Town Hall, Beamish and Leese were the two ILF speakers debating the resolution ‘That the League of Nations is not worthy of trust’ with two speakers from the League of Nations Union.⁷¹ The ILF pair easily won this debate.⁷² And Beamish seems to have enjoyed this speaking tour. A couple of the reports mention him actually making his audience laugh.

On 28 October 1931, Beamish was the guest speaker at the weekly Wednesday IFL meeting at the society’s headquarters, where his topic was ‘The Real Causes of Wars’. Just over a week later, on 6 November 1931, the IFL held a public meeting at the Public Hall, Prince of Wales Road Baths, London, NW5. This gathering, under the title ‘The Nation in Pawn!’ was described by the IFL as a ‘Patriotic Demonstration’. The event was chaired by Brigadier General Blakeney and the speakers were Arnold S. Leese, H. H. Beamish and W.W. Drinkwater, supported by N. A. Thompson and Lieutenant H. D. Caslon.⁷³

Early in 1932, Oswald Mosley, still leading the remnants his New Party (all but destroyed by disastrous results in the general election of 27 October 1931), set about founding the British Union of Fascists. In doing so, he attempted to court like-minded groups, hoping they would join him. To this end, his representatives approached both the IFL and the British Fascists. Thus, on 27 April 1932, Mosley chaired a meeting of NUPA, the New Party’s youth wing. This, its most violent

section, founded only the previous September, was the New Party's only remaining intact section. Both Beamish and Leese addressed the gathering. The joint title they allocated to their two speeches was 'The Blindness of British Politics under the Jew Money-Power'.⁷⁴

Negotiations broke down soon after this meeting, with Mosley deciding that association with the virulent Jew-hatred of Beamish, Leese and their few dozen compatriots was too risky. Their views might cost the BUF its hoped-for mass appeal and 'respectable' support. Indeed, the BUF at this time actually set about actively denying that it was anti-Jewish. Leese, disgusted with Mosley's readiness to compromise, never forgave him, thereafter taking every opportunity to deride him as a phoney Jew-hater and a 'kosher fascist'. There would be many violent clashes between supporters of the ILF and the BUF.

Beamish, meanwhile, wasted no time leaving Britain. He sailed, first class, from London on board the SS *Umkuzi* on 18 June 1932, bound for Natal. In the manifest he was listed as a sixty-year-old farmer whose permanent residence was South-East Africa.⁷⁵

In South Africa in July 1934, three leading members of the South African Greyshirts were put on trial for slandering Rabbi A. Levy of the Western Road Synagogue in Port Elizabeth. The accused, who conducted their own defence, were Johannes von Moltke, leader of the South African Gentile Socialists and of the Southwest African Greyshirts; Harry Victor Inch, Eastern Cape leader of the Greyshirts; and David Olivier, editor of *Die Rapport*, the journal of the South African National Socialist Movement.

At a Nazi meeting held in March 1934 in the market square of the small town of Aberdeen, Inch had read out sections of a document that he claimed was signed by Rabbi Levy and had been stolen from his synagogue. The content of this document echoed sections of *The Protocols* and, claimed Inch, proved the existence of a new and local Jewish threat.

Beamish attended the trial as a witness for the defence, arrogantly attempting to use the courtroom as a platform for himself and his own views on Jews. Beamish, who would later be described by the judge, Sir Thomas Graham, as 'the witness in chief', had opened by declaring that he was 'a mining engineer residing in Rhodesia, who had been in South Africa for over thirty years'. He informed the court that he had studied the Jewish question for thirty years, that he knew Hitler and other Nazi leaders personally, and that the German Nazis had consulted him on the Jewish problem because of his friendship with Theodor Frisch, the notorious Leipzig publisher of anti-Semitic books. Beamish went on to assert that practically all the governments of the world were controlled by Jews, while the Soviet government was 90 per cent Jewish. He further offered to prove to the court that *The Protocols* were true in every aspect. Moltke then read out sections of *The Protocols*, with Beamish nodding in agreement throughout. Beamish then claimed that every plan outlined in *The Protocols* had come true. He backed up his assertions by declaring that 'practically all the landowners in England had been forced out of existence and forced to marry wealthy Jewesses'. He further added that 'All political parties in the

world are controlled by Jews' and that an integral part of the Jewish plot was the 'demoralisation of the young Christians of the world by Jewish films, jazz music and the sculpture of Jacob Epstein. The Jews', he continued, 'are a menace. They have secured a hold on English aristocracy, parliament and other English institutions.' He then boasted: 'I taught Henry Ford the meaning of the Jewish menace and I followed closely his utterances on the Jewish question', before adding that 'international financiers are Jews and have a stranglehold on the entire world. Rothschild controls gold, the Guggenheims control copper, and Oppenheims control all diamonds. That is why the Hitler movement was founded.'

Henry Ford, as we shall see, was an ardent advocate of *The Protocols*, which is the only book mentioned in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. While Beamish certainly wrote to both Hitler and Ford – and may well have met them – his repeated claims that he deeply and directly influenced and even educated both men seem more than far-fetched. However, they serve to indicate that he saw, in these two powerful individuals, not only justification for his own extremism but some real hope for a world in which he would be deemed to have been right all along in his Jew-hatred.

It was a distant hope. Even in racially segregated South Africa, no such world was yet evident. In a lengthy judgement on 24 August, Judge Graham found in favour of Levi, declared *The Protocols* to be a known and long-proven forgery, and fined Inch £1,000, Moltze £750 and Olivier £25, with costs in each case. Inch was subsequently sentenced to several years in prison after being criminally indicted and found guilty of compiling a forged document, making false statements in affidavits, and committing perjury.⁷⁶

Beamish had blithely believed that his very presence had impressed both judge and court and thereby greatly assisted the three defendants. He could not have been more wrong. In fact, his transparent vanity, posturing self-importance and extremism had the opposite effect entirely. In the course of this judgement, Graham expressed his opinion of Beamish as follows:

It is difficult to accept evidence of this character seriously. The witness Beamish impressed me as a man profoundly obsessed with the views he enunciated. Intolerant in his beliefs, with an exaggerated idea of his own importance, he regards himself as a modern crusader whose mission it is to reveal to the world the existence of a world plot organised by the Jews since the beginning of their history to overthrow Christianity and to destroy civilisation. He has greedily swallowed every anti-Jewish publication that he has discovered and accepted as facts every anti-Jewish statement they contained, and upon this question he is a fanatic; he has been unable to produce a vestige of relevant evidence in support of his charges.⁷⁷

What Beamish did succeed in doing was repeatedly to demonstrate to the court that he was Hitler's man. Asked if he studied the Jewish question before or after Hitler came to power, he replied: 'I have studied it for well over thirty years, probably nearer forty.' Asked if he knew Hitler personally, he said: 'I do.' Later in his evidence

he stated: 'I taught Hitler.' He was then asked if the Nazi leaders had ever consulted him on the Jewish question, to which he replied: 'Yes, very often.'

Beamish went on to tell the court that he had visited Germany, France, England, Italy, America, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary and most of the British Empire and China and India, adding that he had been associated with movements of a similar character to the Nazi movement in France, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Palestine, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, China, Manchuria, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and more.⁷⁸

Asked then if he occupied any prominent position with regard to racial movements in Great Britain, he replied: 'I belong to most of the Fascist movements in Great Britain. I'm also President of the League of Gentiles and President of the Bund Völkischer Europäer.'⁷⁴ The nominally pan-European Bund was a Nazi-affiliated Jew-hating organisation based in Germany, while the league was a South African 'secret society' formed in Johannesburg in 1925 expressly 'to boycott Jewish traders and professional men' across the Rand and 'to cast out socially, industrially and economically the Jewish element which is too prominent today'. The similarity between the aims of the league and the founding aims of The Britons six years earlier (see start of [Chapter 3](#)) certainly suggests the influence of Beamish. By the end of 1925, the league was extravagantly claiming to have a membership of 10,000.⁷⁹

It is interesting to note that Beamish singularly failed to mention his presidency of The Britons. Why? The fact is that, as the 1930s progressed, he lost much of his enthusiasm for the increasingly moribund society. While retaining his post as their president, and without actually dissociating himself from them, he largely lost interest in their work and got more involved with actively anti-Jewish groups, notably the Imperial Fascist League.

Beamish spent time in America during the second half of 1935. However, this wasn't one of his usual publicity-seeking trips. On the contrary, it was a secretive visit and – as such – offers us a first clear indication that he was now actively working as a representative of the German government as a Nazi agent.

One piece of evidence for this visit was provided by William Kullgren, an Englishman born in Plymouth, Devon, in 1885, who lived in Atascadero, California. He was a professional astrologer and far-right activist. In this latter capacity, he was a former member of the Silver Shirts who had become one of the most prolific distributors of anti-Jewish and related literature on the American west coast, including publications by The Britons and books by Arnold Leese. In 1933 he founded a nationalist magazine, the *Beacon Light Herald*, later shortened to the *Beacon Light*, which he continued to publish until 1960. In 1942 it was deemed so seditious that it was banned from the mail.⁸⁰ There is an interview with Kullgren in which he talks about his far-right associates and mentions, in passing, that in 1935 he had had Beamish as a guest in his California home.⁸¹

Further evidence came from Neil Howard Ness, an American engineer who had been a trusted member of the German-American Bund in Los Angeles and had worked closely with its leadership. In early October 1939, Ness testified in Washington before the Dies Committee. This committee, active between 1938 and

1944 under the chairmanship of Martin Dies, was established by the House Committee on Un-American Activities to investigate extremist groups in America. Ness was questioned by Dies Committee member Mr Rhea Whitley and spoke of having worked closely with Hermann Max Schwinn, who led the Los Angeles branch of the German-American Bund. Schwinn had been born in Hamburg, Germany, on 3 August 1905 and had arrived in America in 1924. He lived for a few years in Ohio, became a naturalised American citizen, and then moved to Los Angeles, where he had got involved with the Friends of New Germany (which later became the German-American Bund). In the mid-1930s he had been appointed western director of the German-American Bund. As a consequence of his pro-German activities, Schwinn's citizenship was revoked in 1940. In 1944, while in custody as an enemy alien, he became one of the defendants in the abortive Great Sedition Trial, which eventually failed in its attempt to criminalise dozens of American anti-Jewish activists.⁸² (Incidentally, William Kullgren was similarly arrested and charged, in 1943, but was never tried.)

On 6 October, Whitley asked Ness if, during the latter part of 1935, he had 'had occasion to meet or become acquainted with an individual called Captain Beamish'. Ness replied: 'I recall that Captain Beamish came from South Africa, and was the representative of the German Government in the World News Service.' When Whitley then asked: 'That is what is known as a German organisation known as 'World Service'?', Ness replied: 'That is right.' The questioning then continued as follows:

Whitley: Did Captain Beamish associate or work with Hermann Schwinn and the Bund officials while he was in Los Angeles?

Ness: Yes; he made his headquarters in the German House.

W: Did he wear any insignia of any kind to identify himself with any of the organisations of the German Government?

N: 'Yes; he wore on his left arm a band ... That was a stripe which had an insignia of the German Nazi Party.

W: The Swastika?

N: Yes.

W: Did he attend the meetings or address the meetings of the Bund while he was in Los Angeles?

N: Yes; he attended all the meetings while he was there, and he was also a speaker on one occasion.⁸³

So, here was Beamish visiting Schwinn's Bund in Los Angeles. They were based at the Deutsches Haus – what Ness called the 'German House' – at 634 West 15th Street. Beamish was wearing a Nazi armband and claiming to be a representative of the German propaganda machine that was World Service.

It doesn't end there. Talking about Bund activities, Ness told the Dies Committee: 'We frequently discussed plans for blowing up water works, dock and munitions plants. We had a hundred men on whom we could depend to paralyse the Pacific

Coast.' These plans, he said, were discussed at Bund meetings. There's an obvious inference here that Beamish was not simply a passive agent but was actually associating with men prepared – indeed preparing – to fight as mercenaries on behalf of Germany, and this four years before the outbreak of war. Ness clearly saw Beamish as party to this. He went on to name others, including prominent Silver Shirts members Kenneth Alexander and Roy Zachary and the leaders of the American Nationalist Party, as people who had also addressed Bund meetings and worked closely with them. However, first and foremost, he had singled out Beamish.

According to Ness, Schwinn 'outlined a platform for the Bund in Los Angeles based directly upon the policies of Hitler'. He informed the Dies Committee that 'Schwinn told me we would commence with an attack upon the Jews and after we had beaten down the Jews go for the Catholics.' Ness added that the German consulate in Los Angeles had, on several occasions, supplied Schwinn with funds for the Bund. Schwinn, he continued, had cautioned him that they would have to be very careful and guard against any congressional committee discovering that the counsellor of the German consulate gave cash to them.

Ness was very clear on the fact that this German funding related directly to espionage and Nazi propaganda. He told the committee that German espionage agents frequently came ashore in Los Angeles from German ships visiting the port. On one occasion, he said, one of these spies photographed the coast artillery proving grounds 20 miles south of Long Beach, adding that he and Schwinn were with the agent at the time. Ness also said that, in the course of a speech to a meeting of the Los Angeles Bund, the Silver Shirts' leader, William Dudley Pelley, had said that he was proud of being called America's Adolf Hitler, 'because that is what I consider myself'.

Ness additionally asserted that all Bund members, most of whom were naturalised Americans, took an oath of allegiance to Hitler and the National Socialist Party and that the Bund was directed by the Nazi headquarters in Berlin to fight the Roosevelt administration and American Jewry. To this end, a steady stream of propaganda came from Germany to be disseminated to Americans – either by being handed out directly at meetings or by being passed on to other Bund groups and allied organisations. Content would then be reproduced in their journals and other literature. One of the key sources of German propaganda of the kind described here by Ness was World Service, the very organisation which he had said Beamish represented.

Ness apparently startled the committee when he casually mentioned that, until the summer of 1936, Schwinn and other Bund leaders had exchanged documents with the captain of every German ship that put into Los Angeles harbour. He said the captains brought instructions for the Bund directly from Germany and in turn received confidential advice and information from the Bund leaders to take back to Germany.⁸³

Interviewed by the journalist John J. Spivak around the end of 1936, Schwinn admitted to little but was very thrown by the detailed research that Spivak had compiled. It seems clear that Schwinn and his associates were indeed meeting regularly with the captains of visiting German ships, taking briefcases with them.

At these meetings they would hand over details of American armaments, bases, etc., all gathered during spying missions by Bund members. Their now empty briefcases would then be filled with instructions and propaganda, including numerous copies of *World Service*, the journal of the organisation of that name, to be distributed to American Nazi sympathisers and to be used as source material for articles in their publications and talks by their members.⁸⁴

A report on the opening sessions of the Great Sedition Trial appeared in the *Salt Lake City Tribune* on 6 September 1944. Schwinn and several of his Bund associates, including 'youthful Nazi leader Hans Diebel', were among the twenty-six defendants. Diebel, who had been paid by the Bund to buy and distribute the work of leading American supporters of Nazism and to disseminate other pro-Nazi literature, had 'maintained a world-wide correspondence with other Nazi leaders'. Some of these letters were produced in court. One was from Beamish, in which he stated: 'Your branch of the German-American bund and the Deutsches-Haus will go down to fame as a rallying point in California of all decent people who do not want to be turned into Jew-soviet slaves.'

Among further documentary evidence against the Bund members was *The Golden Book of the Los Angeles Bund*. This was the record book of their activities. Its final page carried an inscription hand-written and signed by Beamish which read: 'It is better to live for your country than to die for the Jews.'

By November 1935, Beamish was in New York. Emory Carney Burke, a life-long far-right activist, claims to have met him there at that time and identified him as the man 'who headed England's Fascist League'.⁸⁵ Burke, then aged twenty-one, spent just six months in New York and was very specific about this meeting. While there, he had worked closely with Earnest Elmhurst, a key organiser for both the German-American Bund and the American National Socialists. Part of Burke's role was to help publish the *American Bulletin* and to serve on the staff of *The Storm*, both American Nazi journals that carried the sort of propaganda material supplied by the Germans via World Service.

In 1936, Beamish returned to England. Here he joined the Nordic League, a hard-line and covert pro-Nazi Jew-hating body founded with direct German assistance in 1935 and run by a fourteen-man leadership council chaired by the Unionist MP Archibald Maule Ramsay. It was a sinister outfit which met secretly, used passwords for entry to meetings and numbers instead of names for its officers, and fostered very close relationships with other European Nazis, particularly in Germany. In the late 1930s, as war became inevitable, the organisation (briefly before being disbanded) emerged publicly in opposition to the conflict.

Beamish's involvement with both the Imperial Fascist League (ILF) and the Nordic League is telling in itself. Key members of these two British leagues are known to have worked directly with and for German propagandists, just as Bund members were doing in America. We know that Beamish had just returned from America, where he had apparently been representing both the German World Service and the British ILF as a guest of the Bund in Los Angeles and then in New York. Clearly he was acting as a transatlantic go-between for pro-Nazi Jew-hatred.

And it was the Bund which would openly host his subsequent American visits. His relationship with World Service is crucial here. It existed specifically to provide German anti-Jewish stories and propaganda to sympathetic news outlets worldwide. In Britain, the IFL leader, Arnold Leese, worked particularly closely with World Service, supplying them directly with anti-Jewish pieces and reproducing pieces supplied by them in his publications, exactly as the Bund was doing in the USA. Beamish was the link man for this entire network.

Now, his efforts spread further. In September 1936 he visited Tokyo, where he was quoted as saying that, 'Even in Japan, I find something Jewish. Doesn't the Japanese system of foreign trade smell of the Jews?'⁸⁶ And he was in Canada in October 1936, when he was a guest anti-Jewish speaker at a rally held in the Winnipeg Auditorium.⁸⁷ This event was organised by the Canadian Nationalist Party (CNP), which had been founded in September 1933 by an Englishman, William Whittaker, who was a former Ku Klux Klan leader and a notorious Jew-hater. CNP members adopted a uniform of brown shirts and armbands bearing the swastika emblem. Unsurprisingly this group had faced strong legal and political opposition, especially from the Canadian Jewish community, and was consequently not in great shape. The arrival of Beamish – whose Jew-hating speech urged those in the CNP to act on his words – served greatly to reinvigorate the group. As a seasoned campaigner, Beamish impressed his audience by remaining unruffled when heckled by a small group of around twenty-five Jewish protesters. As fights broke out, he continued to speak.⁸⁸

The December 1936 issue of *Free Press*, the London-based and pro-Nazi Militant Christian Patriot journal, reported Beamish's return to England after a five-year absence. It was a brief stop-off en route to Germany, where he embarked on a major lecture tour starting in mid-December 1936 and continuing into January 1937. He was reported to have been there as the honoured guest of Foreign Minister Ribbentrop. Touring nationwide, wearing his swastika armband, Beamish addressed his audiences on the subject of 'Who Wants War?' His speech at Berlin University on 15 December was reported as follows in Berlin's leading Nazi daily newspaper *Der Angriff* (*The Attack*, founded in 1927 by Joseph Goebbels):

Professor Dr. Kraeger introduced the speaker. Beamish lives in South Africa. He was in the Boer War and in the World War he fought in Flanders. Behind those bloody events he recognised the hand of Jewry and based his life's struggle on that realisation. He founded, in 1918, the 'Britons' Association, which has now become known all over the globe. Beamish gave a picture of the present Jewish activities throughout the world. Specially revealing were his statements on South Africa, where the professions and the economic key positions were even more Jew-ridden than Germany was before the National Socialist revolution ... The speaker warned his younger listeners not to relax in their watchfulness regarding the Jewish world enemy. During his last trip round the world he could observe everywhere how Jewry was working day and night to the detriment of Germany.

Beamish's speech a few days later at Munich University was reported in the 19 December issue of *Der Völkischer Beobachter* (*The National Observer*, the Nazi's national daily newspaper, published under the banner 'The fighting paper of the National Socialist movement of Greater Germany'). He said that he envied German youngsters for being able to grow up in a philosophy which upholds racial purity. During his present stay in Germany he had been able to find out for himself that the vilifications of Germany everywhere in the world were based on foul lies. In Germany he had found nothing but order and humaneness. In conclusion, Beamish admonished the Germans to be ever thankful for what Adolf Hitler had achieved.

The climax of Beamish's tour came in Nuremberg, where he met his German counterpart in publishing rabid Jew-hatred – Julius Streicher, editor and publisher of *Der Stürmer*. There, Beamish addressed a gathering of leading Nazis in the Hotel Deutscher Hof, introduced by Streicher himself, who said: 'Germans and Englishmen are blood relations and must stretch out their hands to each other. A time will come when other nations too will realise the significance of the Jewish question.' He then said: 'Mr. Beamish has already been to Germany, in 1922, when Dietrich Eckart was still alive. Then he spoke to German workers. What he said was of immense importance.' In his opening response, Beamish stated:

I am happy to be able to speak at the same meeting as Julius Streicher. I have taken special care to see that the anti-Jewish movements in South Africa and Canada no longer work against but with each other. The paper of your Gauleiter, *Der Stürmer*, is read all over the world. I bow before this brave man.¹⁴

He went on to say that an agitation of the most evil kind and exceeding all bounds had caused him to seek a first-hand impression of the new Germany. During his visit his conviction had been strengthened that Germany desired nothing but peace.⁸⁹ Confident that his audience were with him, he then criticised his hosts for not dealing properly with the Jewish menace in Germany, outlining to them the Madagascar Plan, under which, he said, all Jews would be sent to the island off the coast of Africa. His reasoning was that 'Madagascar, being an island, would make the problem of complete segregation a simple one.'⁹⁰ Fifteen years earlier, however, in the pages of *The Jews' Who's Who*, Beamish had advocated Palestine rather than Madagascar as the best place for the banishment of all Jews:

There is only one cure for this world-evil, and that is for all the Christian white races to combine and to repatriate to Palestine and the neighbouring territories every Jew, male and female, and to take the most drastic steps to see that, once they have founded their Zionist state in their own Promised Land, they permanently remain there.⁹¹

The Madagascar Plan had originally been proposed in 1885 by the anti-Jewish orientalist scholar Paul de Lagarde. In the mid-1930s, Beamish became its most

fervent advocate. In this specific instance, Beamish may indeed have influenced Hitler, who initially adopted and advocated the Madagascar Plan. When hostilities then rendered Madagascar impossible, the Warsaw ghetto, then concentration camps (modelled on those instituted by the British during the Boer War) and, finally, extermination camps ensued.

According to another report in *Der Völkischer Beobachter* (24 January 1937), Beamish concluded his Nuremberg speech with the words: 'It is better to live and work for your country than it is to die for the Jews.'

Der Fränkische Tageszeitung (*The Franconian Daily Newspaper*, owned, published and founded in 1933 by Streicher) gave the greatest publicity to Beamish's tour, clearly suggesting that Streicher was delighted with his guest. Its issue of 23 January 1937 stated:

The great hall of the Hotel Deutscher Hof was packed out by District Leaders, Gau Office Leaders and Local Group Leaders of the Nazi Movement, by representatives of State and Municipal authorities, members of the armed forces, by men from the economic, scientific and artistic spheres. They had all accepted the invitation of Gauleiter Streicher to come to see and hear Henry Hamilton Beamish, the English writer and politician.

This fulsome praise heaped on Beamish wasn't quite what it seemed. The British Embassy reported that there were distinctly mixed feelings about his visit in the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs and in the *Auslandsorganisation* (the Nazi Party's foreign propaganda section). They were concerned that his extremism made him unrepresentative of Britain and that hosting him would be counter-productive. They were aware that in Britain he was known as an eccentric. British diplomatic staff had informed them that he was a 'Hyde Park orator' and an 'unbalanced and ill-educated propagandist with a bee in his bonnet'. The whole visit went ahead only after Ribbentrop had decided to endorse it,³⁷ so the high praise gleaned by Beamish may well have been primarily for show, backing up Ribbentrop's decision.

By 1937, Beamish had become the vice-president of the Imperial Fascist League. In this capacity, on 14 April 1937⁹² he addressed the weekly Wednesday HQ meeting of the party's core elite, a body known as the Graduates Association. His lecture, described as a Jewish intelligence report, was entitled 'National Socialism (Racial Fascism) in Practice in Germany'. Beamish told the London gathering that Germany was a great country today because Hitler had named the enemy. The IFL, he said, knew of three remedies to the Jewish question: to kill them, sterilise them or segregate them. Questioned after the lecture, he went on to say that the Russian Revolution had killed off the intelligentsia and that the country was now inhabited by 'animal life people', adding that it would be the task of a great leader, preferably Hitler, to march into Russia within the next five years and place one half of the population in the lethal chamber and the other half in the zoo.⁷⁴

In America, the German-American Bund was working hard to unite Nazi sympathisers. Through the Bund, those who shared Beamish's faith in Germanic

Jew-hatred could now find a forum for their views. Indeed, the Bund even organised some large-scale gatherings. On 12 February 1937, Beamish was one of 4,000 who attended a German-American Bund meeting held at the Hippodrome in New York. The speakers included Bund leaders Fritz Kuhn, James Wheeler-Hill and Rudolph Markmann, two representatives of White Russian groups – Colonel P. Kartacheff (for the All Russia Fascist Party and the Russian National Organisation) and Nicholas Melnikoff (editor of the fascist Russian-language paper *Rossiia*) – Luigi Ciancaglini and John Finizio (representing Italian fascist groups) and Russell J. Dunn (of the Common Cause League).⁸⁷

However, such gatherings were rare. Beamish, the globe-trotting preacher of anti-Jewry who had been driven from his own country by his refusal to pay money to a Jew (Mond), still found scant support for his extremism in most countries. Germany seemed his only real hope. Even in his adopted southern African homeland he was widely regarded with contempt. The Johannesburg *Sunday Express* of 4 October 1937 carried a portrait of Beamish by its editor, his one-time friend Arthur G. Barlow, who had clearly lost all patience with his extremism, especially as exhibited in his July 1934 courtroom testimony in South Africa. The piece was hardly flattering:

A queer fellow is Henry Hamilton Beamish, the South African who taught Hitler to be an anti-Semite.

Henry Beamish has just completed a triumphal tour of Germany, where he was acclaimed by large crowds as one of the original teachers of Nazism.

I have known him for 37 years and always found him interesting, full of knowledge and strange. Son of a British Admiral who was at one time A.D.C. to Queen Victoria, and brother of another British admiral who is a Conservative MP, Beamish left home when quite a boy and has wandered all over the face of the globe. First he tried Canada where he shod horses and ploughed fields.

The Anglo-Boer War gave him his opportunity to come to this country and, after serving as an officer in an Imperial regiment, to settle down and run a first-class night club in Bloemfontein of all towns.

It was successful because at all hours one got champagne at 10 shillings a bottle. And champagne at all hours was at that time a great attraction, for Bloemfontein was packed with young officers commanding the thousands of British troops who were quartered at Tempe.

When this stunt was played out he established a newspaper, *The Farmers' Advocate*, which became a well-known agricultural organ, and with it he made quite a lot of money. He also ran a farmers' supply store, built churches and did everything that came to hand.

The Great War came and he drifted to Johannesburg and was the leader of the little group who organised the burning down of the German shops and

buildings in Johannesburg. That, as will be remembered, was just after the sinking of the *Lusitania* by a German submarine. He led the crowd from building to building, and had matters so perfectly arranged that the marked out buildings for destruction went up in flames in five minutes after being attacked.

Beamish gloried in this work, which turned thousands of pounds of assets into ashes.

Then he went to Flanders to fight, and after the war visited Germany and fell in with Hitler and his crowd. About that time he was bitten by the anti-Jewish bug and, as in everything else he tackled, he went to extremes.

He propounded his anti-Jewish scheme to Adolf Hitler and his friends and found the Hitler junta to be ready listeners to his extraordinary and stupid tales. Beamish in England and Hitler in Germany started their anti-Semitic campaign and published an enormous amount of literature, some of which Beamish posted to me in South Africa.

It was dreadful stuff. Beamish crossed to London and launched a savage attack on the late Lord Melchett (then Sir Alfred Mond, M.P.).

Mond was not the type of man to sit quiet and he went for Beamish hammer and tongs. It ended in one of the biggest libel actions held in London and lasted for many days, Mr. Justice Darling presiding over the Court. The newspapers featured it and every word was published and the proceedings may still be read in the chronicles of the day. At times the proceedings were most amusing, as Beamish has a dry cutting wit – he spoke with a lisp – and Mr. Justice Darling could use the rapier as well as any politician. It was not long before these two were at it hammer and tongs, and before the case closed Darling gave Beamish a merciless choking-off.

The action brought by Sir Alfred Mond ended in him being awarded £5,000 damages and costs from Beamish; the latter folded up his tent and stole quietly away. He disappeared into the blue – without paying the damages, of course, and on his way to his retreat visited Bloemfontein and sold the *Farmers' Advocate* for a song. I bought the newspaper and sold it to the Friend Newspaper Company.

Beamish for his sins trekked into the interior of Africa, where for many a long day he hid his light under a bushel, and when I again heard of him he was planting cocoa-nuts on a small island in the Indian Ocean.

But that was too quiet for his restless soul and he trekked back to Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and seized the opportunity of once more indulging in his anti-Semitism in giving 'expert' evidence on behalf of Inch in the famous case at Port Elizabeth three years ago.

Now he is overseas and probably linked up with Mosley. As I said before he is 'a queer fellow', and anti-Semitism is his kink.

Strange as it may be Henry Beamish has quite a number of Jewish friends, some of them close friends, and he never attacks a Jew personally, but when it comes to the Jews on the whole he wants them all put in Palestine and nowhere else.

How one is going to settle 17,000,000 people in Palestine I do not know, but Beamish, like all anti-Semites, would waft that problem airily away with a light wand.

I suppose one of these days he will turn up in my office and again give me a full dose of his stupid anti-Semitism. Outside this particular question he is a man of great common sense and experience, and a delightful and amusing companion. But you know what a kink can do to a man.

Stung by this attack, especially coming from someone who had been a close friend, Beamish responded with a seven-page pamphlet, *South Africa's Kosher Press*, which was published by The Britons. It consisted of the piece by Barlow followed by Beamish's letter of response to Barlow at the Johannesburg *Sunday Express*.⁶⁸ That letter reads as follows:

Sir,

I feel it incumbent to reply to the article you wrote about me in your issue of August 29th, 1937, because it contains so many untruths. I am therefore reprinting your article together with my reply, and have only omitted reproducing Adolf Hitler's portrait and the array of the five-pointed stars of Judah with which you have embellished it, since this Ghetto symbol is an insult to all Aryans.

RAN NIGHT CLUB

I presume you are referring to a harmless concern called the 'Empire Tea Rooms' in which I had an interest in 1903, in conjunction with a friend of mine who was killed in the late Jew-won war, and it was such a 'success' that within a month after closing it, I was driving a traction engine for a living! You were born in the Orange Free State yourself, where even to-day it is illegal to fish on Sundays, and knowing Bloemfontein and the Free State laws as well as you do, you must know perfectly well that a night club was an impossibility.

THE LUSITANIA RIOTS

Not only is it totally untrue that the crowd 'went from building to building' and turned thousands of pounds into ashes, but I was the individual authorised in writing by certain members of the South African Cabinet to put down the riots, and, what is more important, did so with complete success. Perhaps, you and your kosher paper will now suggest that I was responsible also for similar riots which broke out simultaneously in practically every town in South Africa?

To prove my contention and to show conclusively the part I took in quelling those unfortunate riots, I challenge you to reproduce the evidence I gave before Parliament in Cape Town when I described the riots as being 'idiotic'. When asked by certain members of Parliament who was to blame for these riots, I replied that the fault lay entirely with a few members of the Cabinet for not interning certain

rich merchants, nine-tenths of whom were Jews and who were making themselves particularly obnoxious, while Aryans in Europe were being slaughtered at the rate of thousands every day. The sinking of the 'Lusitania' merely supplied the spark; the origin of the unfortunate riots was a much deeper one. My evidence before Parliament was printed in the Blue Book on Incendiarism which the Government issued after they had taken the proof submitted, and as your statement about myself is quite incorrect, I ask you, if you are a fair-minded man, to reproduce this evidence.

ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN

Nobody but a fool is 'anti-Semitic', because, by being this one would have to be anti-Arab. The Arabs are members of a manly and courageous race and are having a terrible time in trying to hold their own against the Jews, not only in Palestine but in all parts of North Africa. All good Aryans heartily sympathise with the efforts the Arabs are making to throw off the Jewish yoke.

The expression 'anti-Semitic' was coined by the Jews during the upheavals in Europe in the middle of the last century, in order to prevent Europeans from using the dreadful word Jew, Juif or Jude. You, being an educated man, must know this.

SIR ALFRED MOND (Melchett)

My reason for selecting the rich Jew for attack, shortly after the members of his race had won the late War, was because I realised that they debase the artistic temperament of all who have the misfortune to view them. People like Einstein, Epstein, Litvinoff (Finkelstein), Trotsky (Bronstein), and all the artistic leaders of Jewry will be able to show the non-Jewish world what a refined and cultured race they are, and as a Press will be required, not to mention numbers of theatres, cinemas, insurance companies and orange farms, it will be a simple matter for Theodore Shlesinger to arrange for a complete Jew monopoly amongst his own people, and so release the stranglehold he at present has on South African Gentiles throughout the length and breadth of South Africa. Having been for so many years associated with Judah, you will doubtless make this trek with the 'chosen' to Madagascar yourself, and to this no objection will be made by the Board which will be appointed to deal with such cases.

ADOLF HITLER AND ARYAN CIVILISATION

In conclusion let me say that I taught Adolf Hitler none of his 'monkey tricks', an insolent expression worthy of the Kosher press you edit. The Fuhrer of Germany is a really great man, he has saved our Aryan civilisation, and it is thanks to him that the British Empire, Kosherised though it be, is in existence today. If he had not taken the stand he did in 1933 and honestly stated that 'Bolshevism is Judaism' the entire civilised world would have crashed and followed the example of Russia, which, since the Jewish revolution of 1917, has been absolutely dominated by Jewish anarchists.

South Africa herself is rapidly awakening, and I hope I may live to see the day when National Socialism, headed by some of the present young leaders, will be able to replace the existing system of Judaised Democracy with a type of Government

which will not only give every citizen a chance to make good, but will eliminate Racism and the Koshier press, which had fostered Racism for many years.

I request you to publish this letter, and I reserve all rights to publish it myself, also.⁹

Barlow, of course, didn't publish Beamish's ranting reply.

His obsession with Jews had deeply changed Beamish. The Mond case had not only hit him financially, its aftermath had left him rootless and alienated. His monomaniacal cause, a lost one from the outset, had brought him few rewards and had demanded much of him. And, along the way, the 'happy-go-lucky, humorous fellow' whom Barlow had known in South Africa in the early years of the twentieth century had become embittered, humourless and – at times – unhinged. Now, however, as if in self-fulfilling prophesy, Hitler and Germany seemed to offer Beamish a true home for his barbed brand of Jew-hatred.

Back in 1882, Germany had hosted the first International Congress of Anti-Semites in Dresden. The idea was revived in the 1920s with similar gatherings in Florence (1923), Paris (1924), Budapest (1925), Springfield, Finland (1926) and Stockholm (1927). In 1930 the anti-Semites gathered again, this time in Lucerne, Switzerland. Two years later they met twice, once in Munich and once in Paris, and in 1933 they were in Bellinzona, Switzerland. There was a final gathering in Belgium (22–6 September 1934), after which the event found a permanent annual base in the central German city of Erfurt.

Now specifically a Nazi event, each annual gathering was organised by an Erfurt resident, Colonel Ulrich Fleischhauer (1876–1960), a fanatical Jew-hater who, on 1 December 1933, had founded the international Nazi newsletter *World Service*, which he published bimonthly in a variety of language editions. Under his editorship, this became the global organ of Nazi propaganda with which Beamish had been identified in the testimony of Bundist Neil Howard Ness to the Dies Committee. Such was the eventual intensity of Fleischhauer's all-embracing obsession with Jewish conspiracies that it finally became too much even for his fellow Nazis. In 1939 he would be quietly relieved of his post.^{93, 94}

Meanwhile, Beamish was an invited speaker at the September 1937 gathering which also featured the Reverend Doctor Stanisław Trzeciak (from Poland), Jean Drault (from France, Gohier's former co-worker on *La Vieille France*), Professor Herman de Vries de Heekelingen (from the Netherlands) and others, including speakers from German and South African fascist groups. Arnold Leese didn't attend but sent a long message expressing his solidarity.⁹² The speech by Beamish was again entitled 'Who Wants War?' Talking of his visit to a concentration camp, he told the audience:

I can frankly say that the treatment of prisoners was in every respect perfectly humane. I even was allowed to speak to all the prisoners and made use of that opportunity to enlighten some of them about the false doctrines that they had formerly embraced. Throughout the whole world, I have done my best to inform the Aryan world about the criminal elements of disorder and

their Communist accomplices who think that they can incite honest and loyal nations against each other. Everywhere I have delivered frontal attacks against the common enemy and I would remind you of my big law-suit after the war against the Jew Mond (alias Lord Melchett) ... I have helped many anti-Jews in the fight they are leading against the eternal parasite, especially in law-suits brought against them by the eternal enemy; for this I have made journeys of thousands of miles.

After telling his audience that he had paid a visit to his 'militant English comrade' Arnold Leese, he continued:

All have to thank the German Fuhrer for what he has done for the world: he has not only saved his country from Bolshevism and the sadistic slavery imposed on it by international Jewry, but he has also saved civilisation everywhere from ruin ... Systematic and intense propaganda directed against the sinister activities of Jewry is absolutely necessary and most urgent ... My watchword is: Compulsory segregation! I suggest Madagascar ... The greatest success of the Fuhrer's policy is undoubtedly the pact with Japan, that is the only country of the East which fights Bolshevism effectively. West meets East in the struggle against the common enemy. Communism and Jewry being international, can only be fought in the international field.

On 15 October 1937 Beamish sailed from London to New York aboard the SS *American Banker*. The passenger manifest listed him as an alien passenger and an English miner, aged sixty-four.⁹⁵

In New York Beamish had three speaking engagements, for each of which he appeared wearing a swastika armband. At the first of these, on 30 October, at the New York Hippodrome, he once more addressed a public gathering of the German-American Bund, many of whom gave the Nazi 'Sieg heil!' salute to the speakers. The audience, reported to have numbered 10,000, included members of other American, Canadian and British Empire anti-Jewish groups. Opening speeches were given by James Wheeler-Hill, Rudolph Markmann (in German) and John Finizio (in Italian), before Beamish and then Adrien Arcand spoke.⁹⁶

On 31 October Beamish spoke at a private banquet in the Harvard Club, and on 1 November he was the guest speaker at a private gathering in a prominent clubhouse. Speaking with him at all three events was Arcand, a long-time Jew-hater and the founding leader of the National Social Christian Party of Canada (also known as the Christian National Socialist Party). Arcand, already a firm friend of Beamish, would later declare himself Führer of Canada. In 1934, in a deliberate echo of Beamish's campaign for Jews to be deported to Madagascar, Arcand had advocated anti-communism and the deportation of Canadian Jews to Hudson Bay.

There was a third keynote speaker at the last two events. He was Robert Edward Edmondson, an American Nazi and close associate of William Kullgren. It has since

been revealed that Edmondson was believed by US intelligence to have been an agent of Nazi Germany.⁹⁷ Introducing Beamish at the Hippodrome, Edmondson, who hosted all three events, announced:

Captain Beamish, Veteran and Dean of this historic movement of Liberation, REAL representative of the Jew-oppressed people of Great Britain, brings a message of Truth. You will have the priceless privilege of listening to Nestorian words of wisdom from a great-hearted Soldier–Statesman who knows whereof he speaks by the unimpeachable authority of two–score years of unselfish personal service to a world–cause. Ponder well this warning!⁹⁶

The three men had together attended the German–American Bund meeting at the Hippodrome back in February. The importance that this triumvirate attached to their combined words is shown by the fact that a booklet was subsequently published by Edmondson containing the main parts of each of the three speeches. This was widely distributed. Here are the highlights of what Beamish had to say. Even to some of his sympathisers it must have seemed cranky:

We are engaged in the greatest war history has ever known. The last war was a picnic compared to the one we are now fighting. The question is, whether the Jew shall rule the world, or we white men.

The chairman has said that I was the originator of the racial movement in England. After taking part in three wars, I was tired seeing millions of people wiped out for this race of Asiatics. I started the movement after the Kosher Peace of 1918.

Communism is Judaism. The Jewish Revolution in Russia was in 1918. I found it out pretty quickly and I put it in writing. Jews are a race and not a religion.

Jews, being aliens in our midst, they must be segregated. They have debased art, music, architecture, etc. I am glad to say that the Germans have collected together all their pictures left in various parts of the world. If you really like filth, go and inspect some of them. It is so-called Jewish Leaders like Epstein who have ruined art, music, press, architecture, ethics, morals.

If not I am a lunatic, a criminal lunatic, something is radically wrong in the world today.

The Boer War occurred 37 years ago. Boer means Farmer. Many criticised a great power like Great Britain for trying to wipe out the Boers. Upon making enquiry, I found all the gold and diamond mines were owned by Jews; that Rothstein controlled gold; Samuels controlled silver; Samuels controlled oil; Baum controlled other minerals; and Moses controlled base metals. Anything these people touch they inevitably pollute.

The world condition up to 1933 was perfect for the Jews. The position in England was perfect for them. At the Kosher Peace there were so many Jews that they had to have Kosher food.

Up to 1933 Russia, France and other nations were politically Kosherized; England was going perfectly – all on complete Bolshevick architecture. Spain, with Prima Rivera, was really Judaized.

Conditions were the same in Germany until the Great Leader came through. It may interest you to know that I met the Fuehrer in 1922. Hitler had named a name in three letters – 'JEW'. When I got there I learned that the whole movement in Germany was for labor. Jews are not laborers. The movement in Germany was and is for the working classes, the one great asset to Germany and the entire world.

What we have to realise today is that the Jews are working overtime to bring another war. The position is serious. They tried their utmost in Spain. The movement having failed there, they have shifted to Shanghai, where there are 7,000 Jews – refugees, doctors and dentists – now working night and day to bring trouble to the far east.

There are very few newspapers not owned or controlled by Jews except in the countries that have named the Bolsheviks as the enemies of mankind. The newspapers never attack Kosher France, Belgium and England.

I was in Rome when Mussolini saved Italy. In Germany war really began in 1918. I was there during inflation, before and after. Germany has been re-born. It is a new country. I have never seen such a remarkable difference.

In discussing the Jew question, we must be race conscious of the fact that we are white people. We must not mix race with religion.

The answer to the problem is to be found only in one of three ways:

- (1) Kill them, which is out of the question.
- (2) Sterilise them, which is out of the question.
- (3) Segregate them – and there is only one place, Madagascar.

I have only been here a few days, but a few points strike me. I spent some time in your East side having a look at the ghettos of this country. I have been in many countries, but must say that the conditions in New York are perfectly appalling to me.

The whole essence of this fight is moral courage. Edmondson is a great fighter. Large numbers of people will die for their country, but few will live for it. It is infinitely better to live than to die, as the leaders have done in Germany.

When Lord Kitchener was asked to go to Russia to reorganise the Russian army, his boat, the S.S. Hampshire was torpedoed, and a meeting was held in

London on the question of how Lord Kitchener met his death. No one dared speak. Not one speaker would tell the audience how Kitchener met his death. Had he lived the whole war would have changed.

At the Kitchener meeting in London three speakers spoke, but not one dared name the enemy. The first two rows of the audience were filled with brass hats. The speakers merely spoke of some mysterious thing. This is what I had to say: That I was a private; that it was against regulations to talk on political matters; that I noticed in the first two rows all were soldiers. I challenged the war office to court-martial me for what I had to say. Anyone would know why Kitchener met his death, if he could spell JEW. Lord Kitchener was murdered by Jews and Jew Finance. I told them that if they wanted to know more they should ask Lord Rufus Isaacs, Chief Justice of England – and then said good night.

First know your subject, and then have the moral courage to say so. In my nine libel actions that was the whole point. I have arrived at the age of 64, and I am still living. You must get at the truth.

I regret that I cannot be here for the Edmondson trial on November 15th. Whether Mahoney on one side or LaGuardia on the other side, wins the election, the telegraphic address for both will be 'Kosher.' Please do not think you have a monopoly on Jew control. England, Belgium, France, etc., are now run by Jews. If you have never read The Protocols, you know nothing about the Jewish question.

Every man should be fined for saying 'anti-Semitic.' The Arabs are Semites and they have been standing up against the Jews. In 1848 the word 'anti-Semitic' was invented by the Jews to prevent the use of the word 'Jew.' The right word for them is 'Jew.' We are not against the Syrians, Armenians and Arabs, all of them Semites let down by the 'kosher' power behind England.

The real war began in Germany in 1918 when they had the 'kosher' peace terms. It is the power behind. The Jews make the wars. The Jews manufactured Bolshevism and inflation. The question of money is only the question of the Jews manipulating it. The Jew will inflate it or deflate it at will. Why is it done? To wipe out the upper and middle classes. It is the Jews who preach Communism for us, and who spread socialism, bolshevism and anarchy. Then the Jew is supreme.

I met Emma Goldman at a Red meeting in New York. I asked her who organised the revolution in 1917, and to tell me whether Jews are behind the Spanish revolution. She answered that the Jews have been persecuted in Spain and are behind the revolution there today. I asked 'Are you a Bolshevik?' She answered: 'I am an Anarchist.' Those are the steps, socialism, bolshevism and anarchism.

Do not allow any religion to cross the trail. In the fifteenth century the King of Spain, Ferdinand said to the Jews: 'You must all leave Spain unless you

become Christians.' All doors soon had crosses on them, but after four hundred years they have not become proper nationals in that country, any more than they have in France or any other country. Therefore, do not let any religious questions cross this trail.

I implore all of you to be accurate – call them Jews. There is no need to be delicate on this Jewish question. You must face them in this country. The Jew should be satisfied here. I was here forty-seven years ago; your doors were thrown open and you were then free. Now he has got you absolutely by the throat – that is your reward.

You people must be alive to the race question. I have nothing against negroes, but I don't believe in crossing blood. In Nuremberg the laws say 'don't join the Jew.' I once visited a concentration camp near Munich. I tackled a Jew. Do you belong to a pure race? He answered: 'Yes.' Then I asked 'Why then do you object to the Germans keeping their race pure?' If you ask that question in England they say you are a Communist.

Who rules Russia? How do you account for the fact that out of 550 commissars in Russia only 17 are Russian? The white man's country should be run by white people.

You must have leadership – not dictatorship. In England there is no soul we would follow. You must get a leader and define definitely what you stand for.

If Jews are 6% of the population, they must be allowed only that percentage of lawyers, doctors, etc. There must be no false persecution charge because of religion – that is an absolute lie. I went to church after church in Germany, and to the Salvation Army in Hanover, and found no persecution.

The first time I met Hitler I asked 'In the event you come to power what will you do with the Jews in Germany?' He replied 'I will send them all to the allies.' That will not cure it, nothing but segregation will.

The Jew today is the same as in the days of Pharaoh, a microbe in the body politic of any nation. He must be handled accordingly. When people begin to suffer they will collect and ask: 'What are we going to do?' How many countries are not tired of Judaism? The whole world is dissatisfied today.

I have discovered the spot for the segregation of the Jews. It is the only place in the world – Madagascar. The map of the island shows it to be 1,000 miles long, and it will hold 100,000,000 people. Segregation is the solution of our problem, and there is the place for segregation of the Jews.⁹⁷

After the New York meetings, it seems that Beamish visited Arcand in Montreal. We know of this because of evidence given to the Dies Committee in August 1939 by a man simply recorded as Mr Allen, who testified that Beamish was there.⁹⁸ Also,

the December 1936 issue of the French Canadian magazine *Le Fasciste Canadien* carried a piece entitled 'M. H. H. Beamish à Montréal', in which he is quoted as enthusing about French Canadians, 'who, with their religious, racial and linguistic unity, can form a bloc against the forces of evil'. While there, he took part in pro-Nazi meetings in Montreal and Quebec City, both of which were met with protests by left-wingers.⁹⁹

In January 1938, Beamish was once again in California. The 21 January 1944 issue of the New York-based German-Jewish journal *Aufbau* tells us that 'former Californian Bundists and their pals look upon Beamish as the dean of international anti-Semitism and travelling salesman par excellence of National Socialism. They treasure memories of Beamish's visit in California in January 1938.'¹⁰⁰

As war loomed, Beamish became increasingly anti-British, campaigning against what he called the 'Kosher War', in which he reckoned Britain was 'the headquarters of the plot for the destruction of our civilisation'.³²

In the summer of 1938, having returned to Rhodesia, Beamish actually achieved political power. Following the death of the Rhodesian MP Roger Edward Downes, there was a by-election in his Southern Rhodesian constituency of Hartley on 30 August. Beamish, standing as an Independent, secured 144 votes, narrowly beating his rival candidates to be elected to the Rhodesian parliament.¹⁰¹ In a letter dated 12 October 1938, addressed to Mr Kositzin, a White Russian leader in America, and sent from Box 952, Salisbury, Rhodesia, Beamish wrote:

It was a tough fight, because I not only had against me three candidates, but all their political organisations, representing the three local political parties which are under Judaic-Democracy, under which we suffer in Rhodesia as in other kosher countries ... I have already had over 100 telegrams and cables, which is a good sign as it shows that there are many people who realise that this election in an out of the way part of the world has much more behind it than appears on the surface ... It is some satisfaction to feel that I am the first Briton to be elected to any Parliament in this kosher British Empire with not only a knowledge of THE subject, but what is far more, with the MORAL courage to name THE enemy and tell the Truth.

In what was a lengthy letter, Beamish later talked of having read – in the latest issue of *World Service* – that his friend George Deatherage (a leading American klansman and Nazi sympathiser during the 1930s) had 'attended the Erfurt Conferences and made a most excellent speech and described most graphically the conditions of affairs in the United States'. Then, commenting on American affairs, he added: 'Racial instincts have practically disappeared or have been submerged under that senseless expression "100 per cent American" as if any animal except possibly a Jew and a skunk could be 100 per cent of anything.' After passing on the contact details of leading Jew-hating activists in Argentina and Chile, Beamish went on to praise Kositzin for his own activities:

The Bulletins you are issuing are splendid and you use the right expressions, such as kosher, continually. I am also delighted to see that both Robert E [Edmondson] and James True [an American Jew-baiter who co-founded America First] openly and squarely name THE enemy and do not camouflage under such senseless words as 'Internationalists' or 'Foreigners' etc. etc. ... I have heard from Klapproth [Johannes Klapproth, a German-American chemist for Shell Oil, who was a klansman and the main American agent for *World Service* until his death in spring 1938] and if you find that you cannot pull through with the American Nationalist Confederation [founded in August 1937 by Deatherage, with whom Kositzin was working], you might do worse than go to Erfurt, as matters all over the world are rapidly moving and a man with your knowledge of THE question is bound to get a suitable position before long ... Princess Karadja [a Jew-obsessed White Russian who founded the Christian Aryan Protection League] of Locarno, is a constant correspondent and considering her age it is wonderful how much useful work she does for the Cause and the tenacity she shows ... Arcand writes in excellent spirits, and there is no question that he is the *par excellence* leader of Canada. If he takes over Canada (as he expects to do within two years), I hope and expect he will ask me to run his propaganda department.

After offering the advice that American anti-Jewish campaigners such as Deatherage and Kositzin should look out 'for some rich industrialist to come forward and finance ... your excellent Movements', the letter ended – referencing the Czech crisis and the international situation – 'It will be interesting to see what the next Jew move will be now they have failed with Prague, and it is quite clear after trying to bolshevize, that is Judaize, all countries having only succeeded in Russia, that they must make a new move quickly or be found out.' As this letter clearly indicated, Beamish now saw himself as some kind of global anti-Jewish guru and overseer.

Beamish sat in the Rhodesian legislature for just eight months, during which time he is on record as having warned Ulster and Rhodesia not to obey the 'be-Jewed' House of Commons.¹⁰² An eccentric and ineffective MP, he lost his seat in the Rhodesian general election of 14 April 1939, coming third of four candidates, with just 196 of the 796 votes cast.¹⁰³

It was a bad year for him. By September, his 'kosher' war had come – and 1940 would be worse. In Britain, many of his fellow Jew-haters were being arrested and interned without trial under Defence Regulation 18b. If Beamish thought that he had been safe in Rhodesia, particularly as, until recently, he had been an MP, he was wrong.

Arrested on 10 June 1940 by order of the Rhodesian minister of justice, R. C. Tredgold, Beamish was taken into custody by 'four white men' who found him living alone at his Windsor mine. He was held in Salisbury Prison, where he confidently expected his case to be reviewed within a month. When this failed to happen, he began petitioning Tredgold and the Rhodesian prime minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins. The full correspondence was subsequently published in two

parts under the title *Justice in Rhodesia*. Part I covered his correspondence with Huggins, while part II consisted of his correspondence with Tredgold (only the latter is in this author's collection). On 26 October 1940 Beamish wrote to Tredgold from Salisbury Prison:

Sir, Several members of the deputation which waited on you on July 4, 1940 on the subject of my internment, have suggested to me that I write to you to review my case again. These gentlemen inform me that you expressed your willingness to review the case at a later date, and presuming that their information is correct, I trust I am adopting the correct procedure in addressing you this letter and requesting you review the case again. Yours faithfully, H. H. Beamish.

On 29 October the reply read:

Sir, With reference to your letter dated Oct 26 to the Minister of Justice, in which you ask that your case be reviewed, it would be of assistance if you would give an indication of your intentions in the event of your release being approved. The matter will receive the full consideration of the Minister. I have the honour to be Sir, Your obedient servant, T. O. Flynn.

Beamish wrote to Tredgold on 31 October:

Sir, Replying to your letter of Oct. 29, my letter to you of Oct 26 was written at the request of various members of the deputation which waited upon you on July 4, 1940. These gentlemen informed me that on July 4 you stated that you were agreeable to reopen the case at a later date, and that the period of one month was mentioned. On Nov. 10, I will have been in prison for five months, and during this period no approach has been made to me by yourself. I concluded that it was useless for me to take any steps in the matter. What I would prefer to do, is to petition the Prime Minister and Speaker for permission to appear before the Bar of the House, so that the case can be inquired into and myself examined. As precedents on such matters are often asked for, I would mention that several years ago, I gave evidence before the Union House of Assembly on a summons from the Speaker, and also was closely associated with Mr. Percival Frere Smith who appeared before the Bar of the Union House on behalf of the Labour leaders who were arrested and deported without trial shortly after the Rand strikes in 1912. You ask what my intentions would be if released: If the case had been reopened as I was informed it would be, my intention was to return to the 'Windsor' mine which has afforded me a good living for over five years, and which in the words of my late manager who left the mine on Oct. 15, would have given a 'nice living for a man like you for many years.' As, however, the mine could not afford to pay an expensive

manager and pay me as well, and as month after month went without receiving any word about the reopening of my case, the mine had to be sold on Oct. 18; incidentally, wretched prices were realised, and what is infinitely more important, I have been deprived of an excellent living and home. It is difficult to arrange anything with regard to the future from inside Prison walls, now that I cannot return to my mine, but what I wish to do is to get away as far as possible from enquiring Europeans, and that will take some arranging. I would like to visit my farm north of Sinoia, as I have recently received some information about it which demands my presence there. Unpleasant though this 'oubliette' Prison sentence has been for nearly five months, I visualise none too pleasant a time from inquisitive enquirers, as I am well known, and numbers of people are certain to ask me 'why have you been in prison?' and I would infinitely prefer to escape such enquiries. I am putting the position quite candidly to you, and if you have any suggestions with regard to the future, I am quite willing to entertain them. I shall not do anything with regard to petitioning the Speaker to appear at the Bar of the House until I hear from you, as I fully appreciate the fact that you are the responsible Minister for dealing with internments. Yours faithfully H. H. Beamish.

There was no reply.

On 10 January 1941 Beamish wrote to the prime minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins:

Dear Huggins, I am sorry to have to write to you again about myself, but am compelled to do so as the position daily becomes more impossible. You have apparently written to Mr. Rudman in Natal, a man I have not seen or heard of for over five years, what he describes as a 'cordial' letter and intimated to him that my 'release will soon be authorised'. This letter I received last November, i.e. about two months ago. On Oct. 29 last, your Minister of Defence (Mr. R. C. Tredgold) wrote me asking what are 'my intentions in event of release being approved'. I replied to him on Oct. 31, and inter alia stated that I first wished to visit my farm, and after pointing out that my mine had been sold, and which incidentally was my means of livelihood, asked him for any suggestions he would care to make. I have not had even an acknowledgement, let alone a reply to this letter, which I think you will agree is hardly polite. 'Toujours la Politesse'!! The only other letter I have written to your young Minister of Defence is the enclosed, and you as a medical man will appreciate that this 'Oubliette' existence I have experienced during the last seven months and with nobody to speak to is, if not inhuman, certainly detrimental to any human being. With the exception of a few more volumes of Greville's Memoirs written 100 years ago, I have now read nearly every decent book in this library, and though there are plenty of other books, I have not sunk so low as to be able to read Edgar Wallace and other similar trash. My mail is now entirely confiscated, even

to the extent of letters from my relatives in England, but I will not dwell on this and other matters as the purpose of this letter is to ask for a transfer to the internment camps so that at least I can associate with human beings, as the question of my release appears to have been side-tracked, buried and forgotten. I know you will be good enough to take the matter up without delay. Yours sincerely H. H. Beamish.

This letter was confiscated along with much other correspondence and returned only when he was released on 3 July 1943. On the same day (10 January) Beamish wrote to Tredgold:

Sir, I write to request to be transferred from this Prison to the Internment Camp. I make this request for humane reasons, as I contend that it is not humane to lock up any man of intelligence and of my age for nineteen to twenty hours a day and to deprive him from contact with human beings, which has been my lot for the last seven months. I am aware of the fact that large numbers of well known men in Britain and elsewhere have been put in prison for the same reason that I have, but I also know that they associate daily with their fellow internees, which enables them to retain their mental balance and to make the best of a most unpleasant situation. If you consider this 'Oubliette' existence I have been forced to lead for the last seven months is a humane one, I have nothing further to say at the moment, but if you think that my request to associate with human beings is a reasonable one, you may perhaps be willing to consider this application. I ask for the courtesy [*sic*] of a reply. Yours faithfully H. H. Beamish.

There was no reply, but five days later, on 15 January 1941, after seven months in Salisbury Prison, Beamish was removed to an internment camp.

One week later, on 23 January, Tredgold issued notice that he was prepared to approve Beamish's release on the following conditions:

- 1 He shall reside on Sunflower Farm, Norton, which shall be placed at his disposal for the duration of the war, by Messrs. Meston and Maitland.
- 2 He shall not go outside a radius of eight miles from the homestead on Sunflower Farm without permission of the Superintendent, Criminal Investigation Dept., Salisbury, obtained through the Police, Norton. Each application will be dealt with on its merits.
- 3 He will be required to enter into a written undertaking to refrain from arranging or attending meetings and from conducting or being a party to any form of propaganda by word or by writing.
- 4 He will be required to enter into an undertaking to transmit all letters written to him through Police, Norton, for censorship by the authorities.
- 5 Failure to comply with any conditions of release will render him liable to reinternment.

On 26 January Beamish replied from his internment camp to Tredgold's offer:

Sir, Your Memorandum dated 23 January relating to 'Conditions of Release' regarding myself was handed to me yesterday. I have now had an opportunity of studying the terms you wish to impose which I am unable to accept in view of the fact, that numbers of friends of mine in England, Canada, and elsewhere are still in Prison and have been refused Parole and release. The 'White Paper' recently issued by the House of Commons containing evidence given by Archibald Maule Ramsay, M.P. contains such astounding evidence as to the treatment he and others have received, that I feel, should I accept any conditions which even appear to be preferential, that I would be taking a mean advantage of friends, which is an attitude I could not possibly adopt. This is no question of martyrdom, but of standing by friends, many of whom are also my pupils, and if men like Admiral Sir Barry Domville, Cpt Ramsay, M.P. and a host of others can stay the course in spite of the treatment they have received, I feel that the least I can do is to do the same. I will not comment at the moment on the 'Conditions of Release' except to say that as at present drafted, I could not accept them. I have written to Messrs Meston & Maitland thanking them for their kind offer of 'Sunflower Farm' and explaining why their offer cannot be accepted. Yours faithfully, H. H. Beamish.

Just over a year later, on 15 February 1942, Beamish wrote again to Tredgold:

Sir, I am writing you this letter in view of certain information recently published in the African press. I am unable to refer to previous correspondence with you, or to my letters to and from the Prime Minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins, because all of my correspondence and papers when entering this camp, from Salisbury Prison over 12 months ago, i.e. in Jan 1941, were confiscated. Speaking from memory therefore, I last wrote to you in Jan. 1941, asking you to formulate any charges you wished to make against me and requested permission to appear at the Bar of the House so that I could answer those charges. You did not have the courtesy to acknowledge let alone reply to that letter! As all 'Hansards' are prohibited from entering this Camp, I have to rely on 'The Star' for the information that your counterpart in the Union of S.A. (Mr. Lawrence), has stated in the Union House that: A Union National Internee was within a short time supplied with a summary of the charges against him. If he wished to appeal he could reply to the charges in writing. He could also secure statements from persons outside. I realise, of course, that practical conditions and pressures within the Union automatically curbs any super autocratic action on the part of the Ministers, as is also the case in Canada, and that such conditions are entirely absent in Rhodesia, but in spite of this I feel that I am justified in requesting you to formulate any charges you have against me, particularly in view of the fact that the

Prime Minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins, who doubtless has inside secret information has stated this week that the war will continue for a further four years. As it is quite possible that I will not be in existence in another four years, I would at least like to know before I pass out, WHY I was thrown in prison, completely ignored during the seven months I was there by the Department of Justice over which you rule, and given no opportunity to defend myself against charges, which have NEVER been submitted to me. It is not a question of release, and I am certainly accepting no terms of Parole while friends of mine IN MANY countries are still in prison for the same reason as myself, but purely a question of wishing to know what I am accused of, whether I am entitled to the same treatment as Union Nationals, or whether I am considered as belonging to a special category? I trust you will have the courtesy to reply to this letter. Yours faithfully H. H. Beamish.

T. O. Flynn replied on 26 February:

Sir, with reference to your letter dated 15th, I am instructed to reply that your case was fully and carefully considered by the Tribunal which in this Colony corresponds to the body referred to by the Union Minister of Internal Affairs. Before this Tribunal the grounds upon which you were interned were fully canvassed and the Minister is not prepared to re-open this discussion. You have been offered release on Parole upon perfectly reasonable terms, and this offer still stands. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, T. O. Flynn.

On 28 February Beamish wrote to Tredgold:

Sir, Replying to your letter of Feb. 26, 1942, I must say at once that you have entirely avoided the issues I have raised in my letter of Feb. 15 and in my correspondence with you asking to be furnished with any charges you wished to make against me. I have now been in prison for over 20 months and have never been furnished with any document or written charges stating what crime I am alleged to have committed, proving conclusively, as stated in my letter of Feb 15, that I am under a 'special category' and am not entitled to the same treatment as Union Nationals. I put this on record to avoid any possible misunderstanding at some future date. I have a vague recollection of the Tribunal you mention but looked on the discussions raised at that enquiry, as merely preliminary to the launching of charges you might wish to make against me at some future date. The enquiry took place in June 1940, i.e. 20 months ago!! In my long experience of world affairs which far exceed your own, I have always understood that accused persons were entitled to know beforehand and in writing, what they were accused of before they were condemned, but my experiences under your hand have proved that this elementary principle of Justice does not meet with your

approval. I note that you are not prepared to 'reopen this discussion' which I can well believe, as even lawyers would find it difficult to 'reopen' a subject which has never been opened, as is clearly proved in convicting myself without ever attempting to furnish me with any indictment or charges in writing so that I might at least know what I am accused of. The Sword of Justice seems to have become somewhat blunted of late in this country, but now that another lawyer in Max Danziger has joined your Cabinet perhaps it will be resharpened? Parole: I have repeatedly told you, and it should be unnecessary to say it again, that on no account will I accept any form of Parole while friends of mine are in Prison for the same reason as myself. The prospect of remaining in Prison for another four years is not pleasant, but it must be faced, and the Prime Minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins, must know! Yours faithfully, H. H. Beamish.

There was no reply. On 10 June 1942 Beamish wrote again to Tredgold:

Sir, I address you this letter on June 10th as it is the second anniversary of my arrest by you on charges unknown to me, and from your consistent refusal to put any charges in writing against myself for the last two years, apparently unknown to you also. I am not in the least surprised that you did not reply to my letter of Feb. 28 1942, in which I again asked you to furnish me with any charges you wished to make against me. One would have thought that your 'Emergency Act' which covers everything from Espionage to whispering Drives. And possibly even sneezing out of turn, would have enabled you to frame some kind of charge, particularly when you have at your command a bevy of lawyers in the Cabinet, all thoroughly versed in the legal verbiage so dearly loved by members of your extraordinary profession. My remarks in my letter of Feb. 28 about the Sword of Justice, which you are at least supposed to keep sharpened, still apply, though it appears to be as blunt as formerly, and this in spite of the fact that you have recently admitted Mr Max Danziger to your innermost circle. As the war approaches its conclusion, and you have steadfastly declined in two years to formulate any charges against me, I am drafting up an indictment against myself, which I can promise you will be framed in such lucid coherent language, and so free from legal jargon, that any layman will be able to clearly understand why and on whose authority I was arrested, deprived of my living, and kept in prison indefinitely without any charges being preferred against me. This duty I owe to the public, who up to the present have only been regaled by you with the purely Jewish side of the question, and even as a lawyer you must admit that there are two sides to every question. I have now entered my 70th year, which probably does not interest you in the least, but for myself, it is ironical that I should be thrown into prison by a young lawyer with the most rudimentary knowledge of world affairs, simply because for more than 40 years I have openly and steadfastly objected to the Jewish

Domination of everything which every honest citizen should be taught to respect. Furthermore, for many years I have strenuously opposed Bolshevism, which is merely a spurious name for Judaism and today I view with much alarm the grave possibility of a Bolshevik wave sweeping over Europe as an aftermath of this war. These therefore, are my 'crimes', and I may tell you that I am completely unrepentant. In conclusion let me tell you Mr Tredgold, though your knowledge of law far exceeds my own for which I am grateful, your ideas of what constitutes justice are of the crudest description. Do not think I am asking for any favours; I am merely putting certain facts on record. Yours faithfully, H. H. Beamish.

There was, of course, no reply. Beamish wrote once more to Tredgold on 15 January 1943:

Sir, As it is two years since I was dumped in this Camp from the Salisbury Prison, it is a fitting occasion to again remind you that in spite of repeated requests during the last two and a half years, you have declined to put in writing any charges against me, and to furthermore remind you that the Sword of Justice which you are supposed to keep sharpened remains as blunt as ever. 'Fiat Justitia' will soon be a museum exhibit! Though my letters to you of Feb. 28 and June 10 remain unanswered, and in view of the fact that the war is rapidly approaching its conclusion, I feel that I should send you the enclosed Memorandum so that there may be a document on record defining the position as far as I am concerned with regard to my arrest and sojourn in Prison over the past two and a half years without being furnished with any charge of any kind in writing. I commend to your notice my final remark in the Memorandum, stating that we are heading straight for Undiluted Jewish Bolshevism, and if you are ignorant of this, it clearly indicates that you know nothing of the history of Russia since the Kerensky Revolution of 1917 and the perfectly candid statements made since that date with regard to world revolution by the various Jewish Bolshevik dictators of that unhappy country. The Tiflis Bankrobber and murderer, Stalin, openly boasts of his intentions with regard to world revolution, and if he succeeds as seems probable, I can at least say, which is more than you can do, that I did my best to WARN MANKIND of what is in store for them if a Jewish Bolshevik revolution sweeps over Europe. Democracy, if properly handled could be made workable, but today it is merely a Jewish instrument to sustain the Jewish Money Power, and conditions in Rhodesia give a glaring example of this. If there is one thing Stalin hates it is Democracy, and if he launches his world revolution, we may say farewell to 'Atlantic Charters' or any kind of 'Social Security' schemes, which schemes are merely disguised names for the principles of Fascism and National Socialism, because Stalin not only has a charter of his own, but has had in addition many years of practice in operating his bloodthirsty scheme for world domination. We are living in a fools

Paradise and when it is too late, this will be realised. Meanwhile, the Shofar is being continually sounded, and if you do not know what this indicates, ask Mr. Max Danziger. Yours faithfully H. H. Beamish.

The attached Memorandum, dated 15 January 1943, read:

H. H. Beamish, late member of Parliament in S. Rhodesia, was arrested on June 10 1940, when living alone in his mine, situated 25 miles from Salisbury. Four white policemen, including one Officer, arrested him and took him to Salisbury Prison, where he was locked up for 18 hours a day, his cell being in close proximity to the hanging and flogging places. Two people were hanged while he was in Prison, and on most days he had to listen to the howls of natives being flogged. During the seven months he was in Prison, no single member of the Dept. of Justice visited him to ascertain whether he was humanely treated, or whether the ordinary CONVICT food was adequate for a man approaching his SEVENTIETH (70) year. The head of the Dept of Justice during this period, and he still holds this position (1943), was a young lawyer – Mr. R. C. Tredgold – who in his capacity of MINISTER OF DEFENCE and MINISTER OF JUSTICE signed the document, which from memory read: ‘You will arrest H. H. Beamish and lodge him in Salisbury Prison.’ No reasons have ever been given for his arrest, and this in spite of the fact that he has made frequent requests to the Minister (R. C. Tredgold) to formulate some kind of a charge against him in writing. In addition, as is seen from the correspondence, he offered to appear before the Bar of the House in order to allow the Minister to make what charges he wished to, but the Minister did not have even the courtesy to acknowledge the letter containing this request, and furthermore, CONFISCATED the letter, the copy, together with other correspondence between the Prime Minister (Sir Godfrey Huggins) and H. H. Beamish. (!) After he had been in Salisbury Prison over SEVEN months he was removed to the German and Italian Internment Camp (Jan 15 1941) and from which camp this Memorandum is written. All his papers were confiscated on entering the Camp, including his Memoirs, which was written in the Salisbury Prison. At his own request, towards the end of June 1940, he appeared before some kind of Tribunal, consisting of a Judge (Sir Fraser Russel), a retired civil servant (Devine) and a Labour Member of Parliament (Lister), the latter having avowed Communistic leanings. What enquiry there was was held in camera, though he had made arrangements to have a shorthand writer as he is anxious for publicity and NOT secrecy. The proceedings were so informal that H. H. Beamish looked upon it as merely a preliminary to the launching of some charges of conspiracy against the State, or having been ‘subsidised’ by the German or Italian Governments. No charges were made, and the chief complaints appeared to be (1) That he did not approve of Democracy, which is correct, because as present practised, together with its OGPU methods of

throwing people into Prison without trial, it is merely JEWOCRACY, and is the slave of the Jewish Money Power; (2) That he did not approve of the King being a Mason, and furthermore being Grand Master of all British Masonic lodges. He admits his 'guilt' on these charges, and is furthermore of the opinion, that the King of a great Empire should not concern himself in not only International, but secret societies, and particularly so when it is well known that the higher degrees of Masonry, and particularly the 33rd degree are controlled by Jews. So concerned were the Tribunal in this Masonic business, that H. H. Beamish had grounds for thinking that the three members were Masons themselves. A lawyer Member of Parliament (H. Bertin, K.C.) who has known H. H. Beamish for nearly 40 years attended this Enquiry and offered 'Pro Deo' to appear for him, but as lawyers are only useful when a person is guilty, his offer, which was made in an entirely friendly spirit, was declined. Parole on several occasions has been offered to him, but has been refused on the following grounds:-

- 1 Because he was thrown into Prison without any charges being preferred against him, deprived of his living and treated like a criminal, except that ordinary criminals clearly understand why they are punished and in Prison, And,
- 2 Because many friends of his, many of whom are distinguished men, are still in Prison in many countries for the same reason as himself, namely for opposing the Jewish Money Power, — The REAL reason for his arrest and detention without trial is because for the last 40 years he has taken an active part in exposing the Jewish menace to European civilisation, and in consequence, is well known to all leaders in most countries who also realise that failing steps being taken to putting an end to Jewish domination of ALL phases of National life, and particularly with regard to Jewish control of finance, that civilisation is doomed, and that the future 'New Order' will be UNDILUTED JEWISH BOLSHEVISM.

H. H. Beamish.¹⁰⁴

So ends Beamish's prison correspondence. His 1943 claim to have actively campaigned against Jews for forty years is one more of his self-serving lies. A mere twenty-eight years earlier, in 1915, he had actually (and ironically in retrospect) been a fervent anti-German campaigner, with no more than the occasional derogatory verbal side-swipe at Jews.

On 21 July 1943 the following report – submitted by a reader, presumably Beamish himself or one of his acquaintances – appeared in the *Rhodesian Herald* under the headline 'Mr H. H. Beamish released':

Mr H. H. Beamish, who represented Hartley in Parliament prior to the 1939 general election, and who was arrested on June 10, 1940, by order of the Minister of Justice, Mr R. C. Tredgold, was released unconditionally on July 3.

The government have agreed to supply him with furnished accommodation, a maintenance allowance and have or will return to him all papers and documents confiscated from him when he was arrested.

The total period of his internment was three years and 23 days, a total of 1,118 days, of which 215 days were spent in Salisbury Prison.¹⁰⁵

The 26 July 1943 issue of the *Rhodesian Herald* carried the following statement for the Department of Justice:

The late Minister of Justice, Mr R. G. Tredgold, offered to release Mr Beamish in January, 1941, provided he undertook to reside on a particular farm and not engage in subversive activities, but these terms Mr Beamish refused to accept 'in view of the fact that numbers of friends of mine in England, Canada and elsewhere are still in prison and have been refused BOTH PAROLE AND RELEASE'.

Mr Beamish's age and the subsequent progress of the war have influenced the Government to the view that his unconditional release is justified.^{104, 106}

There were protests from Rhodesian and South African Jewish groups at the wartime release of such a notorious anti-Jewish activist. An editorial in the *Zionist Record* asked: 'Where is the justice, when men like Mosley and Beamish are released, while innocent victims of the Nazis remain in camps, and while hundreds of Jews remain in internment in Mauritius?' A question concerning the wisdom of his release was then raised in the Rhodesian Parliament. As reported in the *Rhodesia Herald* that August, it was answered by Beamish's long-term friend and supporter Captain H. Bertin, who, by then, had become the minister of justice. He is quoted as replying:

I assume the man referred to is Mr. H. H. Beamish. His Commandant at No. 1 (General) Internment Camp for the best part of a year had opportunities to form an opinion on his political outlook and he says that Mr. Beamish is not, as far as he knows, an avowed supporter of the Nazis – and that is my view. Particular enquiry as to whether persons are supporters of Communism, Nazism or any other 'isms' with a view to imprisoning [*sic*] has not been made.

Whatever that statement was supposed to mean, it wasn't merely obfuscated and evasive, it was quite simply wrong. Beamish hadn't wavered one iota in his support for Hitler and for Nazism. He kept in contact with his fellow Nazis during and after his internment. Even while he was interned, his message of Jew-hatred had continued – via supporters – to reach a public. And his reputation wasn't allowed to fade. Thus, for example, on 11 December 1941, just four days after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the American Nazi Elmer J. Garner brought out an issue of his weekly hate-sheet *Publicity*, featuring the text of

Beamish's talk 'Who Wants War?' The piece was the work of William Kullgren, the man with whom Beamish had stayed in 1935 during his time with the Bund in California. In his piece, Kullgren, described by the American German-Jewish journal *Aufbau* as 'a great admirer of Beamish', wrote: 'It took a Christian gentleman to present The Protocols to the English speaking world. It was Captain Henry H. Beamish who I had the honour of entertaining and associating with for a week when he lectured on the Pacific Coast.'

Despite seeing his internment as an 'oubliette' (secret dungeon) existence, Beamish was in fact a conspicuous figure. Not only had he become notorious worldwide for his Hitlerian politics, he had also been the only avowed fascist ever to be elected to the Southern Rhodesian legislature¹⁰⁷ and then the only British citizen to be interned in Southern Rhodesia.¹⁰⁸ Throughout this internment, he had been outraged by the fact that neither Tredgold nor Huggins was prepared to put into writing the charges against him. In truth, had they done so, he might well – like William Joyce – have been executed. It would seem, therefore, that Huggins in particular simply felt sorry for the aging bigot and wanted to protect him from such a fate.

The 8 June 1938 issue of the Southern Rhodesian *Parliamentary Report* offered a very different take on this. A piece concerning a Mr Cowrie, said at that time to be illegally detained in a lunatic asylum, read:

Through H. H. Beamish he joined the anti-semitic movement. He stated that Mr. Huggins was a member and a strong supporter behind the scenes. He was three years in an asylum, where he was seen by Messrs. Macintyre and Keller (both M.P.s). Many of his friends are of the opinion that he was put into an asylum because he was a danger to the Prime Minister (Mr. Huggins) from a political point of view.

Quoting the above, on 19 February 1944 the *Social Crediter* suggested that Huggins had Cowie put in the asylum and Beamish interned simply to prevent either man from exposing him as a covert Jew-hater. However, that seems an extremely far-fetched conspiracy theory – and one further weakened by being based entirely on the word of an asylum inmate.

To the end, Beamish sought the public platform, remaining not just utterly committed to anti-Jewish campaigning but also unshaken in his faith in himself and his ability to speak persuasively on this issue. Thus, in a long letter to Maule Ramsay in 1947, he wrote:

ARCAND:- The best news I have recently received is that his organisation known as the 'National Unity Party' intend taking what he calls a 'Hope ration' case against the kosher crowd who put him behind bars for over five years. If this case materialises it means PUBLICITY & this as you know is very urgently wanted. The Montreal GAZETTE has recently interviewed him & published three long articles which you should see. They are dated Feb 22nd,

23 & 24th. If this case comes off, and I was constantly mentioned, plus a bunch of photos, when the Jew M P Rose, really Rosenberg, got Arcand thrown in Prison, I will certainly give evidence & I am now anxiously awaiting details.¹⁰⁹

Arcand, who was more than twenty-six years younger than Beamish, had put a brave face on his internment, despite suffering health problems throughout. Arrested on 30 May 1940 for 'plotting to overthrow the state', he had faced a trial on 19 June. During this hearing, evidence for the defence included a written message of support sent from Rhodesia by Beamish which was read out in court. In it was the statement: 'After Adolf Hitler, I regard Adrien Arcand as being above all other Nazi leaders I have had the opportunity to meet.'

Once again, evidence in court from Beamish did nothing to help the defendants. The verdict went against Arcand and the eleven others tried alongside him. All were found guilty as charged and were interned, and Arcand's National Unity Party was banned.⁹⁹

Surrounded by sycophants in his internment camp, Arcand took to sitting on a throne which they had built for him and speaking of how he would rule Canada after Hitler had conquered it. In the post-war years, while fellow pro-Nazis worldwide faded from public view, Arcand twice ran for the Canadian House of Commons. Standing as a National Unity candidate in the 1949 federal election in the riding of Richelieu-Verchères, he came second, with 29 per cent of the vote. In 1953, as a Nationalist in Berthier-Maskinongé, he again came second, this time with 39 per cent. Until his death in 1967 he remained a totally committed Hitlerian.¹¹⁰

During his own internment, Beamish had written to Arcand and other interned Jew-hating friends, but all such outgoing mail had been stopped by the censor and returned to their senders. The contacts he maintained with his fellow internees around the world and with other Jew-haters were all through covert and unofficial channels. In 1946, however, Beamish and Arcand had resumed a warm and regular correspondence. There was even talk of Beamish crossing the Atlantic to join Arcand on an American tour. It never happened.

Beamish, now approaching his mid-seventies, was a burned-out wreck. His health was failing and he had only a year to live. He still corresponded worldwide with fellow fascists – including the French Canadian Dr Paul-Émile Lalanne – as always keen to build new networks. Meanwhile, Arcand kept up a similar, albeit more formal, correspondence with Arnold Leese.⁹⁹

Beamish's resignation as president of The Britons in 1947 came very soon after his letter to Maule Ramsay. In quitting, he cited ill health as his reason, but he had also lost all faith in the society. His utter disillusionment was made clear in a letter he addressed to them on 17 January 1948:

Being a realist, I have to face facts and the latter are that The Britons after being established for over twenty-five years for the one purpose of exposing the Jewish Menace, and which long ere this should have been the rallying centre of all Jew wise people throughout the world, is today practically a

derelict concern. To myself it is a complete tragedy and as you are unable to rebut what I have stated the moribund verdict must stand. En passant, the GID not only searched my house, but took away many sack loads of literature, little of which has been returned, while you state that The Britons office was not even searched and seem proud of it. Comment unnecessary.²

This was his last letter to them. Just two months later, on 27 March 1948, Henry Hamilton Beamish died suddenly at the age of seventy-five. He was buried in Salisbury.

Beamish left nothing to The Britons. Instead, part of his estate went to Arnold Leese. After paying succession duty, Leese received an inheritance of £3,350, which he used to help finance his journal *Gothic Ripples* and to subsidise The Britons.

The memoirs which Beamish wrote while in Salisbury Prison have never been published. If they were among the papers returned to him after his release from internment, they seem since to have been lost.

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