



TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019

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Today he's set for No 10. So can he emulate his hero Churchill and turn Brexit into HIS finest hour?



Carl Beech: The fantasist known as Nick

Aided by police, 'Nick' destroyed lives with sex abuse lies. Now he's been convicted of peddling a monstrous fantasy - as Labour's deputy faces calls to quit for his part in a...



Tom Watson: He has refused to apologise

SCOTLAND Yard was in the dock last night for launching a VIP paedophile probe based on the serial lies of a fantasist.

Carl Beech, also known as 'Nick',

By Stephen Wright and Glen Keogh

was convicted yesterday over outlandish allegations that led to a disastrous investigation in which homes were raided and lives ruined without a shred of evidence.

D-Day veteran Lord Bramall, 95, was

among the victims and endured a police search and interview under caution.

Railing at the Yard's 'incompetence', the field marshal said it was ridiculous that the officers involved had managed to retire without facing any disciplinary action. He added: "The police contributed to the perversion of justice. They didn't go out to pervert the course of justice but the way they handled uncorroborated evidence lent more credibility to Beech's statements than they deserved.'

Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson also faced calls to quit after meeting

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Go to: dailymail.co.uk/weather for UK and world 5 day forecast °F | °C 100 | 40 25 (TrF) 80 30 60 20 10 40 24 (75°F) 0 20 -10 0 -20 -20 -30 23 (73°F) 28 (82°F) 23 (73°F) 24 (75%F) 24 (75°F) 31 (88°F) London 31 (88°F) Plymouth

Summary: Warm and sunny

UK TODAY: After low cloud has cleared the north and west, it will be fine for most, with plenty of sunshine. Feeling humid and rather warm. Later, thunderstorms will develop over south-west Britain. Max 33c.

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	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm	
London	≥20c	● 27c	@ 32c	O 32c	△ 27c	
Plymouth	∠\$19c	© 23c	O 25c	O 24c	☆ 21c	
Cardiff	△\$19c	○ 22c	● 26c	● 27c	€>24c	
B'ham	≥320c	● 25c	© 29c	© 29c	<26c	
M'chester	△\$19c	O 24c	O 28c	O 29c	△26c	
Newcastle	∠\$20c	□ 23c	© 26c	○ 25c	△22c	
Glasgow	-△18c	△ 21c	△ 23c	△ 24c	△ 21c	
Aberdeen	● 20c	○ 23c	○ 23c	□ 22c	△ 19c	
Belfast	∠918c	≥ 21c	O 23c	o 22c	△ 19c	

5 day forecast

-	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
London	@ 33c	○ 36c	26c	240	25c
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Cardiff	≥325c	△ 28c	△ 22c	△3 21c	∠322c
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Belfast	≥322c	€9 22c	20c	A 190	△ 19c

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to 7pm	(hrs)	(Ins)	(min)	(mex)	Glasgow	4.5	0.37	15	24
Aberdeen	1.8	0.09	14	25	Hull	7.6	0.08	17	28
Aberporth	0.0	0.01	17	20	Ipswich	10.7	0.00	14	28
Belfast	4.6	0.24	18	25	Leeds	8.6	0.08	16	26
Birmingham	8.5	0.00	18	26	Lincoln	8.8	0.00	17	28
Bournemouth	2.8	0.00	17	24	London	5.8	0.00	16	28
Bristol	4.6	0.00	17	24	Manchester	11.4	0.12	16	25
Cardiff	2.2	0.00	18	23	Southampton	6.1	0.00	17	25
Durham	6.6	0.08	15	23	St Andrews	2.6	0.08	15	24
Information sur	oplied t	W Mete	noarou.	10	Stornoway	1.0	0.16	14	17

Moon and Sun

MOON rises: 11.59pm, sets: 11.50am Sun rises London: 5.10am, sets: 9.02pm Manchester rises: 5.09am, sets: 9.20pm HIGH TIDE London Bridge: 6.37pm Liverpool: 3.56pm

Extremes (24 hrs to 7pm y'day) Warmest: Cavendish, Suffolk, 31c (88f). Coldest: Baltasound, Shetland, 12c (54f). Wettest: Achnagart, Inverness-shire, 3.39ins. Sunniest: Shoeburyness, Essex, 12.0hrs.

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Europe forecast

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Brussels	sun	33	91	sun 37	99	Paris	sun	37 99	sun	40 104
Frankfurt	sun	34	93	sun 38	100	Rome	sun	32 90	sun	32 90

	weather	C	-		weather	C	1	,	veather	C	1
Algiers	Sunny	33	91	Florence	Fair	34	93	New Delhi	Sunny	35	95
Amsterdan	Sunny	24	75	Geneva	Sunny	30	86	New York	Fair	36	97
Athens	Sunny	32	90	Glbraltar	Sunny	26	79	Nice	Fair	27	8
Auckland	Sunny	13	55	Guernsey	Fair	21	70	Oslo	Fair	20	68
Bahrain	Sunny	43	109	Helsinki	Fair	24	75	Palma	Sunny	37	99
Barcelona	Sunny	30	86	Hong Kong	Thunder	r30	86	Paris	Sunny	29	84
Basra	Sunny	45	113	Innsbruck	Sunny	26	79	Perth	Fair	16	6
Belling	Cloudy	31	88	Istanbul	Fair	30	86	Prague	Cloudy	26	75
Belrut	Sunny	30	86	Jersey	Sunny	21	70	Rhodes	Sunny	32	90
Belfast	Fair	22	72	Larnaca	Sunny	33	91	Riga	Shower	5 21	70
Belgrade	Fair	28	82	Las Palmas	Sunny	25	77	Rome	Sunny	30	
Berlin	Cloudy	24	75	Lisbon	Sunny	29	84	Singapore	Fair	30	86
Blarritz	Fair	27	81	London	Fair	25	77	Stockholm	Cloudy	20	68
Brisbane	Fair	21	70	Los Angele	s Fair	21	70	Strasbourg	Sunny	29	84
Brussels	Sunny	25	77	Luxor	Sunny	36	97	Sydney	Sunny	21	70
Bucharest	Sunny	31	88	Madrid	Sunny	34	93	Tangler	Sunny	27	8
Budapest	Sunny	29	84	Malaga	Sunny	29	84	Tel Aviv	Sunny	32	
C'hagen	Cloudy	20	68	Malta	Sunny	33	91	Tenerife	Sunny	27	8
Calro	Fair	32	90	Melbourne		14	57	Tokyo	Drizzie	23	73
Cape Town	Cloudy	14	57	Mexico City	Cloudy	22	72	Toronto	Fair	27	8
Casablanca	Sunny	25	77	Miami	Cloudy	31	88	Tunis	Sunny	33	9
Corfu	Sunny	32	90	Milan	Fair	30	86	Vancouver	Fair	23	73
Dubal	Sunny	411	06	Montreal	Fair	29	84	Venice	Sunny	30	86
Dublin	Fair	23	73	Moscow	Sunny	23	73	Vienna	Fair	27	8
Dubrovník	Sunny		86	Mumbal	Shower	s30	86	Warsaw	Fair	25	77
Faro	Sunny	30	86	Nairobi	Cloudy	20	68	Wellington	Sunny	12	54

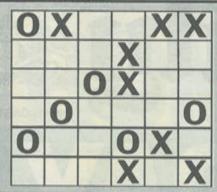
KUROSU

EVERY day in the Mail you can play Kurosu, the most addictive brainteaser since Sudoku. There are only two rules:

1: Fill in each space with either a nought or a cross so there are no more than two consecutive noughts or crosses in any row or column. Important note: diagonals don't count.

2: Each row and column must contain three noughts and three crosses.

Today's difficulty rating ★★☆



PLAY more Kurosu and 26 addictive puzzles like them every day on your smartphone or tablet with Mail Plus, your Mall newspaper on your screen. Get a FREE trial today at dailymailplus.co.uk Solution on Puzzles & Prizes back page

Continued from Page One

Beech, 51, in his Westminster office just months before he made his claims to Scotland Yard in late 2014. Mr Watson, who has refused to apologise, was accused of creating a 'moral panic' around alleged Establishment sex abuse.

Lord Bramall's son claimed that ex-Met chief Lord Hogan-Howe had indicated to his father that he didn't believe he was involved in the paedophile ring before officers raided his home but police were under pressure after the Jimmy Savile scandal. The former police

chief denies this.
Former Tory MP Harvey Proctor, another victim of Beech's lies, said the bungled probe was 'a truly disgraceful chapter in the history of

British policing'.
Mr Proctor, falsely accused of being a serial child killer, demanded a 'fully independent investigation' into what he called a 'rogue, malicious and apparently homophobic' inquiry. He also demanded an apology from Mr Watson.

Lincoln Seligman, godson of Ted Heath, who was also accused by Beech, said the impact of his 'ludicrous lies' had affected him, his family and friends of the late former prime minister very deeply.
'What I find astonishing is that

'Malicious and homophobic'

senior police officers in the Metropolitan Police and politicians like Tom Watson, and some elements of media, believed Beech and made frequent public statements to that effect,' he added.

'I and my family take great com-fort from this verdict which makes clear beyond doubt that Sir Edward was always innocent of these wicked accusations.

The scandal surrounding the VIP child sex ring case deepened after the police watchdog announced that not one officer involved in the Operation Midland inquiry would face disciplinary action.

At his ten-week trial for lying about the VIP child abuse gang, jurors heard that Beech told officers that he was used as a human dart board by the former heads of MI5 and MI6, that his dog was kidnapped by a spy chief, and that the paedophile ring shot dead his horse.

The court also heard that Beech is now a convicted paedophile after child porn offences came to light when an independent police force started investigating him on By Glen Keogh and Simon Trump

CONVICTED paedophile Carl Beech's astonishing level of officially-sanctioned access to young children can today be laid bare.

The fantasist, who admit-ted possessing indecent Images of children of the 'gravest kind', has repeatedly sought access to young people.

As recently as 2017, Beech was able to visit children as young as four In primary schools on behalf of the NSPCC to speak about child abuse. As part of the charity's Childline service he delivered assemblies on how young people can stay safe online and In person.

The fantasist started in the role in November 2012, shortly after making his first bogus claims of abuse to police.

Beech's ties with children stretch back to at least 1993 when, as a 25year-old married man, he specialised as a paediatric nurse on a children's ward at St Mary's Hospital In Paddington, London.

He later worked on a children's unit in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

By 2006, Beech had become chairman of governors at his son's primary school in Gloucester and Incredibly he also became

Paedophile's **NSPCC** role saw him visit children as

safeguarding representative. He was even interviewed by Ofsted, the education watchdog, during an April 2013 visit.

He went on to become vice-chairman of governors at a secondary school in the same area between 2014 and 2017. During the trial, Beech's hypocrisy, given his own sexual interest in young boys, was described as 'breathtaking.'

The prosecution pointed to an incident in 2014 when Beech wrote to his counsellor about a teacher arrested on suspicion of gathering child abuse images similar to those he had been collecting. In an email, he sald: 'I don't think I have been this cross before, it is a new feeling.'

Last night an NSPCC spokesman said: 'We sev-ered all ties with [Beech] in February 2017', adding that it was a 'mutual' decision 'taken after he had been out of contact with us for some time'.

'We did not find out until February 2018 that he had been charged in connection with the possession and distribution of Indecent Images of children.

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs St Mary's, confirmed Beech worked there in 1993 and 1994.

Vile lies of a pervert

SEE PAGES 8-15

suspicion of making false allegations.

Yesterday - after deliberating for under five hours jurors at Newcastle Crown Court convicted him of 12 charges of perverting the course of justice and one count of fraud.

In the wake of the verdicts: Mr Watson remained defiant, saying it was not his role to judge whether Beech was

telling the truth;

Two former journalists at

defunct news website Exaro, which gave prominence to Beech's claims, faced demands to be prosecuted;

Scotland Yard said the

phrase 'credible and true' to describe Beech was not discussed before it was said by a senior officer:

Legal sources said Beech could receive a sentence of between ten and 15 years; New details emerged of how

the paedophile fantasist went on the run in Sweden after

being charged with child sex offences and lying about VIP child sex abuse.

Lord Hogan-Howe, who was in charge of the Met during the bungled inquiry, said the 'investigations of claims of historical child abuse were complex and of great public interest at the time'. He added: 'There are clear lessons to be learned from this

investigation which caused damage to those who were investigated. I also believe that damage was made worse by the publication of the suspects'

identities before charge.
'In terms of my apology to
Lord Bramall, I have a different recollection of this conversation which tried to convey why apparently incredible claims had to be investigated

by the police.'
The Independent Office for Police Conduct said it had cleared three Met detectives following an investigation into how the force applied for search warrants in the case of Beech. IOPC interim director general Jonathan Green said: "The allegations Nick made were grave and warranted investigation." investigation.'

Comment - Page 18

Clarifications & corrections

FOLLOWING an article on July 18 about Britain's biggest privately run care homes, are happy to clarify that Dermot Desmond, JP McManus and John Magnier, Barchester Healthcare's longterm investors for over 20 years, have at all times acted in good faith in respect of Barchester's business. We have also been asked to point out that, since the Company's debt has been provided predominantly by its major shareholders rather than banks, the future of Barchester Healthcare is not 'uncertain'

(ipso.) Regulated

as our article may have implied. We apologise for any contrary impression given.

■ To report an inaccuracy, please email corrections@dailymail.co. uk. To make a formal complaint go to www.dailymail.co.uk/ readerseditor. You can also write to Readers' Editor, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT or contact IPSO directly at ipso.co.uk

INSIDE: Puzzles & Prizes 39-42, TV & Radio 52-55, Cainer 56, Letters 58 & 59, City 65-68 IF YOU CAN'T GET YOUR DAILY MAIL...

If the Mail was sold out at your retail outlet please let us know by emailing availability@ dallymail.co.uk and we will endeavour to ensure it doesn't happen again.



by Paul Bracchi and Stephen from his CARL Beech was introduced to the world on a primetime BBC News bulletin in 2014 as a shadowy silhouette under the now infamous He had a sensational story to tell. At the age of seven, he said, his own stepfather had farmed him out to paedophiles – and the paedophiles in question were among the most powerful and

influential figures in society. 'Give me some idea of the kind of people,' he was asked during the

pseudonym 'Nick'.

interview. 'Military?'
'Yes,' he replied, his words spo-ken by an actor, 'others from law enforcement, the political estab-

The abuse, he claimed, took place in hotels, apartments and private clubs around London, adding, chillingly: 'We weren't smuggled in under a blanket through the back door. It was done openly. They had no fear at all of being caught.

Beech had given the Metropolitan Police the names of his abusers. He singled out former prime minister Edward Heath, ex-home secretary Leon Brittan and Harvey Proctor, once a Tory MP.

Two senior Army generals were also implicated along with the former heads of MI5 and MI6. security establishment back in the Seventies and Eighties, in other words, were involved in the deprayity that culminated, Nick claimed, in three ritualistic murders.

Mr Proctor, he said, had strangled a fellow victim in front of his very eyes, having first stabbed him with a penknife

He was prevented from taking the penknife to the young Carl's genitals only by the intervention of the 'other [adult] male present'. That person was Heath.

At one point during his recorded testimony with officers from Scotland Yard. Beech broke down in tears. Surely, though, detectives on the international 'survivor'

Wright

value Beech's fantastical account without evidence to corroborate it. There was none. Not now. Not then. Nevertheless, his story, they Wright

concluded in a formal statement, was not only credible it was also

The decision to believe him unequivocally resulted in a £2million, 16-month investigation (Operation Midland) which closed without a single arrest. By then reputations had been trashed, homes raided and lives ruined.

POST-SAVILE HYSTERIA

Beech ruthlessly exploited the hysteria of the post-Savile era when the country was gripped by collec-Almost the entire top tier of the ings that allowed the now notori ous DJ to abuse at will.

> It's still hard to believe he was taken so seriously for so long The irony is that the 'star witness' was himself a danger to chil-

dren. At the time he was 'helping detectives, he was viewing child pornography, making him a paedophile and a dangerous fantasist.

Money was one motivating factor

in all this. Beech, now 51, was awarded £22,000 in criminal injuries compensation by falsely claiming he had suffered serious injuries as a result of having been sexually and physically abused as a child. He also intended to make a living

craved most was attention. Going of England vicar in 2001 after 37 setter dog. It was on Coombe Hill on TV, providing 'exclusives' for years in the NHS) and his late in Kingston, that Beech would the now defunct - and disgraced -'investigative' website Exaro, and working hand in hand with the police who praised him for his oravery, made up for the inadequa-

cies in his own life Beech might have had a good job as a £45,000-a-year inspector with independent health regulator, but he was a loner with no friends and

Beech may have also been attempting to assuage the guilt of his own paedophilia by creating an alternative reality in which he was

The prosecution - and a leading psychologist who followed the case are convinced this gave him a

form of sexual gratification. THE TEENAGE LONER

Either way, Beech's web of narcissism-driven lies would have been exposed at the very beginning but for the wilful blindness of the Metropolitan Police. So, who is

His mother Charmian, a commushould not have accepted at face speaking circuit. But the thing he nity nurse (who became a Church

father, a jeweller, separated when he was a baby.

Carl was eight. Her new husband, Raymond Beech, was a major in the Royal Artillery; he was the person who is said to have begun abusing him, physically and sexu-Army base in Wiltshire.

Raymond Beech was not a pleasant man. His Army records show he in the local paper. had a drink problem and was retired on mental health grounds after evidence came to light that he had been violent, not just to Charmian, but to a previous wife and a live-in lover. There is no suggestion whatsoever of sexual abuse, however. Major Beech died He trained at the Royal Berkshire in 1995 when Carl was 27.

Mother and son settled in Kingston-upon-Thames, south-west London, where neighbours remember a 'big, well-built boy,' without many friends.

Contemporaries at school paint a picture of a mummy's boy who went plane-spotting on his own Western Hospital where he later and loved horses and his English took up a managerial post with the

later say that he witnessed the hitand-run murder of a boy he remem-Charmian remarried in 1976 when bered only as Scott.

It was apparently carried out by or the Group as he referred to them - because Scott had disobeyed an order from his abusers. ally, after the family moved into officers' accommodation on an report anywhere of a boy going Funnily enough, there was no missing; not at the local police stan, not at local schools, and not

On leaving school, where his attendance was exemplary, Beech worked briefly as an estate agent before following his mother into the nursing profession.

A SELFISH HUSBAND

Hospital where he met future wife Dawn, also a nurse. They married in 1992; he was 24; she was 22. He then moved to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where - disturbingly he worked on the children's ward. His career in paediatrics also took him to Swindon and the Great

Patient Advice and Liaison Service. He and his wife, who had now had a young son, rented a threebed house in Gloucester. According to one relative Beech was 'self-ish, controlling and mean'. 'He didn't speak very much,' said the relative. 'You had a job getting into

any conversation with him. 'I don't think it was shyness. I think he thought he was a cut above us - intellectually superior. Dawn was so different. Happy, full

'I suppose she loved him in her own way. But they weren't a good match.

His discontentment with his own life manifested itself in delusions of grandeur and a string of expensive purchases, including a luxury motor home (and later a Ford Mustang) which, at one point, left the couple with debts of around £70,000.

Beech visited the Southampton boat show every year and talked of flying lessons. There is one further telling detail to add about his marriage. 'He told Dawn he'd been abused by his stepfather,' revealed

tioned anything about being abused by VIPs or ritualistic murders.

'When we heard about the allegations years later we just laughed and thought "what a load of rubbish". His lies just got bigger and

To everyone's astonishment, the marriage lasted 17 years. In 2012, the year their divorce was finalised, Beech started a new job with the CQC watchdog body.

More worryingly, given his recent from 2012 to 2017 a volunteer for the NSPCC's 'Childline schools service' - going into schools to deliver workshops and assemblies for children about the dangers of abuse and how to keep themselves safe in person and online.

MALEVOLENT FANTASIST

Savile had died in 2011 and the truth about his past had now emerged. Beech wasted no time in contacting Operation Yewtree the investigation into the DJ led by Scotland Yard - and was referred to Wiltshire Police.

'She believed him then but she stepfather had shared him among doesn't now. But he never men- a group of paedophiles and one of brought him to the attention of finally wound up in March 2016.

them, he said, was Savile. But there was no mention of a VIP ring. After investigating his allegations,

HOLDING HIS SON

police took no further action. Four months later, Beech submitted an application to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority as a victim of abuse.

He received £22,000 and used some of the money as a cash deposit on a brand new white convertible £34,000 Ford Mustang. Beech also started blogging about the Twitter handle 'CarlSurvivor'. writing poetry about his 'ordeal'.

The final few lines of one passage read: 'I'm taken upstairs, put on the bed/ Raped by each one of them, the sheets turn red/ It's the last one who helps me get clean/ But I'm still dirty, survivors know what I mean/ As a child this was part of my daily life/The hurt pain and terror and threat of the

the involvement of M15 and M16. Nor, initially, was there on the website he founded, RAVSCA In his statement, he told how his stepfather had shared him among (Raising Awareness for Victims & Survivors of Child Abuse) which Eight months later, officers from Northumbria Police, the outside force brought in to investigate the fiasco, raided

Beech's home in Gloucester. They found more than 362 indecent images of children on three laptop computers, a USB stick, camera memory card-and an iPad left on the passen ger seat of his Mustang parked outside. The names of the files recovered by police including: 'Man and two boys 12 years of age', 'Little boy and man' and '13-year-old with ten-year-old'.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

The filth was obtained on the 'dark web' with special software installed on one of Beech's computers. Police discovered he had also begun writing his memoirs Too Many Secrets: Surviving a Child Sex Ring, under the pen-

name Charles Chassereau. There were striking similarities it later emerged, between the 'experiences' described in his autobiography and an account of abuse contained in two books by an American author.

At Beech's home, the curtains remained drawn after the raid.
'His mother told us he had a breakdown,' said a neighbour. 'He cut a pretty sad figure. Then he was gone.'

Father: Carl Beech with his son

'investigations' website Exaro.

Before Beech went to Exaro, remember, there was nothing in his

online accounts - or his testimony to Wiltshire Police - which sug-

few months later: 'Police Probe

Exaro took their 'star source' to

the Metropolitan Police who, unlike Wiltshire Police, took him

seriously. Beech was given the

pseudonym 'Nick' and Operation

Beech now introduced the con-

cept of a VIP ring in his blog. Not

everyone took his 'revelations' at

THE FIRST SUSPICIONS

One of them was Ian McFadyen, a

survivor of childhood abuse, who

said: 'I rumbled he was not what

he seemed after he took a post I

had written about the abuse I suf-

days later, except he had added an

extra dimension of violence just

widely known, continued to lap up

the media interest, particularly his

TV interviews with the BBC and

other broadcasters when he

In a major article, which raised

serious doubts about his account,

disquiet: 'Nick: Victim or Fanta-sist?' Operation Midland was

source fuelling the inquiry.

Midland was set up.

face value, however.

for good measure.

"Abuse" At MPs' Luxury Block."

Above: Former wife Dawn

lons of the secret services.

While on bail, Beech fled to Swed ish Lapland and hid out in a remote forest cabin, which he told neighbours he was renovating.

He gave his name as 'Anderson' to workmen employed to renovate the cottage before disappearing, owing them nearly £15,000.

gested that some of his abusers **CORNERED IN LAPLAND** were MPs or men in the top eche-

A specialist fugitive unit in Swe An Exaro reporter helped him 'fill den worked closely with North in the blanks' by showing him picumbria Police and the National tures of potential suspects; previously, he could only 'identify' two of his abusers (Savile and his stepfather). Now, hey presto, he had a list of 12. His dealings with Exaro Crime Agency to secure his extradition and arrest. He was sent back to Britain where he pleaded guilty earlier this year to making and possessing child abuse images produced a series of explosive - including 'some of the gravest front page exclusives for the Sunkind' - as well as voyeurism for

day People. The first was published in July 2014 under the headline: 'We Were Raped By MPs In Flats covertly filming a young boy. Beech, who tried to blame his own son, was removed as a school governor and from the CQC. The second hit the news stands a

During the prosecution opening at Newcastle Crown Court, where Beech stood trial for perverting the course of justice and fraud, Tony Badenoch QC said: 'The fact Carl Beech is a paedophile may help explain how he was quite so able and willing to conceive of, and then relay, to a captive audience such detailed and graphic stories of the sadistic sexual abuse of young boys at the hands of much

He got a sexual kick out of it, in

Consultant clinical psychologist Roy Shuttleworth certainly believes this was the case. 'In one way or another I believe he gained sexual gratification from the stofered, being raped over a bath at school by a master, and then pre-sented it as his own only a few ries he was telling which extended to him giving evidence in court. In my professional opinion, I think he

got a thrill out of it.' In his devastating critique of Operation Midland, published in judge Richard Henriques identified 43 basic failings in the police investigation. But the very first, the most fundamental, was 'believ-

appeared in silhouette with a dising "Nick" at the outset' Finally, after leading detectives

on a merry dance for 16 months, There is only so long, though, that Beech has been held to account such a high-profile murder investifor his wicked lies. gation can be sustained without a But not a single officer has been shred of evidence. By September 2015 questions were beginning to

disciplined. In fact, three detectives investigated over the debacle be asked about the anonymous were allowed to retire before the Independent Office for Police Conduct had even concluded the Mail summed up the growing

Isn't this as grave a scandal? Additional reporting EMINE SINMAZ **Timeline** of police fiasco

Met backs claim that **VIP** abuse ring killed three boys

VIP ABUSE **INQUIRY IS**

Off the case, detective who said VIP abuse claims were 'credible'

October 20

January 16, 2016



By **Stephen** Wright ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

QUITE simply, it has rewritten the rule book for shambolic police

investigations.

Diabolical would be a more appropriate word to describe Operation Midland - the £2.5million inquiry into an alleged murderous, VIP paedophile ring involving a former prime armed forces chief and heads of the convicts corriects. the security services.

Haunted by police failings in the Jimmy Savile case, obsessed with the idea that any abuse allegations should automatically be believed and under ferocious pressure from the likes of Labour deputy leader Tom Watson, officers abandoned common sense.

But as the rudderless investigation descended into a black comedy, it appeared detectives were auditioning for a 21st century

revival of the Keystone Cops. Imagine the scenes at the North Yorkshire home of former home secretary Leon Brittan where, just six weeks after his death, a line of officers did a fingertip search of his garden looking for signs of 'disturbed earth'.

Detectives searching this property and his London house later took away dozens of items for further investigation - including a

'Fingertip search of his garden'

Teletubbies video. In an excruciating 100minute police interview, D-Day veteran Lord Bramall was asked if he could swim, if he ordered his accuser to eat his vomit, whether he chose to molest him on Remembrance Days and if disgraced TV presenter Savile was an accomplice

If that wasn't bad enough, police calmly carried out a follow-up interview shortly after his wife of 66 years had died. Within days of receiving Beech's allegations, it should have been clear they were the work of an atten-

tives, Beech began blogging on the internet about his alleged

child sex abuse. In August 2014 he

appeared in silhouette and with a

disguised voice in an obscure sat-

broadcast, Beech was also in con-

tact with Mark Conrad, a reporter

from a hitherto unknown investi-

Beech now named Tory ex-MP

Harvey Proctor as being among

his tormentors. His growing alle-

gations caught the eye of a detec-

tive from Scotland Yard's Opera-

tion Fairbank inquiry into alleged

historic child sex abuse by politi-

had witnessed the sadistic mur-

cians and other public figures.

abused by Savile.

ellite TV documentary under a dif-

But detectives on Operation Midland took 370 witness state-ments, launched 1,700 'actions' and produced 1.860 documents. The inquiry involved a minimum

of 20 police officers full time. mber 2012, Beech co tacted Metropolitan Police officers on Operation Yewtree, the force's umbrella investigation into spiralling claims against Savile

and other celebrities. His complaint was referred to gations website, Exaro. Wiltshire Police and Beech was interviewed the following month, when he gave more details of supposed abuse by Savile, his late

stepfather and others. He made no mention of VIPs. recollections were sketchy, and he struggled to answer basic questions. In May 2013, the Wiltshire probe was shelved due to insufficient evidence. A file saying so was

returned to the Met. After being snubbed by detec- der of three boys by various high-

described his ludicrous claims as 'credible and true', and wasted 16 months and £2.5m trying to prove it. How COULD so many senior police be so gullible?

They infamously



profile figures. In October 2014, Beech provided Detective Sergeant James Townly with a list of 12 alleged abusers, including Lord Bramall, Sir Edward Heath, Lord Brittan, Mr Proctor, Labour peer Lord (Greville) Janner, ex-MI5 boss Sir Michael Hanley and ex-

By the time the programme was MI6 chief Sir Maurice Oldfield. Police should not have taken such a list seriously - especially given Beech had made no mention of VIPs two years earlier. The decision not to check against Wiltshire

Police files was a major blunder. But they did take him seriously, almost certainly as a consequence of a new policy directive issued in November 2014, when Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary Sir Tom Winsor stated that By now Beech was using the 'the presumption that a victim should always be believed should be institutionalised'. pseudonym 'Nick' and had a

bombshell tale to tell: he said he Deputy Assistant Commissioner

ing from overseeing a bungled previous inquiry into Savile, formally opened an investigation and briefed senior officers, including Yard chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe and Assistant Commis-

mencing, a leading criminal psychologist was warning that Beech

was very likely to be a fantasist. ing child porn includi The basic detective's rule of children being raped. 'assume nothing, check everything' was thrown out of the win-McDonald held a press conference at Scotland Yard to describe allegations made by 'Nick' as 'credible and true'.

interviewed a single suspect, didn't know who the alleged murder victims were, and hadn't found a Steve Rodhouse, perhaps smart- were so concerned about 'under-

mining victim confidence' in the police that they decided against asking Beech for permission to look at his computers and elec-

Had they done so, they would established very quickly that he Within months of the probe com- had carried out internet research to identify his victims and fabricate his story, and downloaded appalling child porn including images of

It should not have taken long to establish that Heath and Mr Procdow in December 2014 when tor were sworn enemies, yet Beech Detective Superintendent Kenny suggested that they were part of the same paedophile ring.

The suggestion that Sir Michael kidnapped Beech's dog as a warning to comply with the abuse At that point officers hadn't gang's wishes was similarly

Mr Proctor firmly believes that the fantasist effectively ended up body. Sources claim Yard chiefs running Operation Midland: calling the shots, putting pressure on



Tissue of lies: Carl Beech being Interviewed by Operation Midland detectives in November 2014

updates on raids. Beech also of those accused by Beech. demanded that officers should not No evidence was found as would have rubbished his story.

speak to his ex-wife, a nurse who Yard came under increasing pres-In February 2015 - despite lack- front page article that the VIP ing any firm corroboration - police child abuse inquiry was beginning

police to make arrests and seeking search warrants to raid the homes

No evidence was found and the sure. The Daily Mail revealed in a took the decision to apply for to 'unravel' and that a number of

officers now believed 'Nick' was a fantasist. Detectives had still not found 'a shred of credible evidence' and in March 2016 Operation Midland closed without a single arrest, let alone charge.

Eight months later, a report by a retired High Court judge savaged

Officers escape sanction

NOT one police officer will face misconduct proceedings over the disastrous £2.5milllon Inquiry Into Carl Beech's

Five officers were referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct over fears they falled in their 'duties and responsibilities'. But last night It confirmed that no one on Operation Midland or those who supervised it would face any disciplinary action.

In any event, three detectives retired before the inquiry concluded - including senior investigating officer **Detective Superintendent** Diane Tudway.

Two further officers, Det Supt Kenny McDonald, who described Beech as 'credible and true', and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Steve Rodhouse were cleared of misconduct in March 2017.

This was despite a scathing 2016 report into Operation Midland by retired High Court Judge Sir Richard Henriques who identified 43 separate blunders.

However he absolved then Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe and his Assistant Commissioner Patricia-Gallan, who had oversight of Operation Midland, of any blame.

Bizarrely, Mr McDonald's now infamous 'credible and true' comments, which critics said prejudiced Operation Midland, were not even examined by watchdogs. He retired with an estimated £250,000 pension not week before the Beech trial.

Mr Rodhouse is now a

Detective Sergeant James Townly, who conducted around 20 hours of interviews with Beech, now works in counter-terrorism. Sir Bernard was given a peerage.

Retired: Kenny McDonald

ing warrant applications, he said,

adding that they had made a gross

But the worst was yet to come for

the Met over Operation Midland. Northumbria Police, which inves-

tigated Beech for perverting the

course of justice and fraud, discov-

ered evidence at his Gloucester

home that he had downloaded

hundreds of appalling child porn images and filmed an underage

It is a macabre and barely believ-

able post-script to an inquiry that

continues to shame Scotland Yard.

error in believing Beech.

boy urinating in a toilet.

Top job: Steve Rodhouse

the Met for giving credence to inquiry into him for allegedly perverting the course of justice. Sir Richard Henriques lambasted accused men's properties. Officers had even handed a district judge inaccurate and mislead-

£175,000-a-year director general at the National Crime Agency, Miss Gallan retired last year with an estimated £400,000 pension. Mrs Tudway was promoted to super-Intendent and retired on the eve of Beech's trial.

by Rebecca Hardy

FEW weeks ago, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, a man of impeccable character who has served this country with distinction in war and in peace, asked his son Nicolas: 'I'm not a bad

'Dad puts on a very brave face but what he's going through internally — I'm not sure,' says Nicolas. 'There's been a lot of suffering and I don't think that

'Look, I don't want to make out Dad's a shrinking violet. He's not. He's as tough as they come, but the longer this monstrous business has gone on...' He

shakes his head part in anger, part sadness.
'I find it mind-boggling the police could have got it so wrong. They took the word of a complete fantasist and threw Dad — a man who's been a wonderful servant to this country - to the wolves without a single piece of evidence.

'I think this has affected him more the longer it's gone on. The very fact you've been so publicly accused of paedophilia, rape and torture when it's absolute rubbish is enough to finish anybody, isn't it? The trial has been particularly hard for him.'

Lord Bramall did not attend the ten-week trial, where Carl Beech, persisted in making outrageous slurs against the war hero, and which ended yesterday, with Beech being convicted of 12 counts of perverting the course of justice, and another of fraud.

For Lord Bramall was not well enough to endure appearing at the trial. When I met this delightful old soldier 18 months ago, he needed sticks to walk owing to a degenerative neurological condition. Now he is

before he dies. It has dragged on and on,' says Nicolas. 'We hoped Nick/Carl Beech, whatever his name is, would plead guilty. Instead he's had such a platform

for his poison. It doesn't help a 95-year-old chap, does it? When we last saw Dad he was He started going through

the story all again: "The police came to the door. I greeted them. I thought it was a security issue, maybe a threat or something.

Lord Bramall was having breakfast with his frail wife Avril, who was suffering with Alzheimer's disease, at his home in Hampshire when police knocked on his door on March 4, 2015. More than 20 officers in

white overalls spent ten hours examining every inch of the house, leaving with an old visitors' book and copies of two speeches Lord Bramall

had made, one to Sandhurst cadets and another about a fellow

They went behind every picture in the house - every picture. They ripped the place apart,' says licolas. There was a busload of police in white suits. My parents ive right in the middle of the

village. They weren't being subtle. 'Most of the officers went down the pub for lunch and it wasn't long before the local paper got

GAN-HOWE [Sir Bernard ogan-Howe who was Met Dad twice. He said from very early on he'd never really believed Dad had been involved, but the police were under such pressure, after the Jimmy Savile scandal, to show no-one was above

'That was the key to this: it doesn't matter who they are or what they've achieved, we'll get them. They were absolutely seduced by the idea that they had

a top-level paedophile ring.' Nicolas's disgust is writ large upon his face. The very suggestion his father was involved in a VIP paedophile ring with, among other prominent men, former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath, ex Tory MP Harvey Proctor, former head of MI5 Michael Hanley, former head of MI6 Maurice Oldfield and

Aged 21, Lord Bramall led a platoon onto the Normandy beaches and rose to head our **Armed Forces – only for the** claims of a fantasist to shatter his reputation. Here, his furious son accuses the ex-Met chief of rank incompetence that saw the father he adores...



Supportive: Nicolas with his parents Edwin and Avril Bramall — whose lives were broken apart by the false claims



Daily Mall, Tuesday, July 23, 2019

former Home Secretary Leon Brittan would be laughable, if it wasn't so downright devastating.

'The trouble with all allegations, particularly paedophilia, is it sticks,

'Once it's out there you can't bring it back and people believe there can't be any smoke without fire. I've even had a few letters nasty letters - from people saying ne's as a guilty as...' The sentence

'The question I've always asked myself is this: here's this chap who has accused a prime minister, a home secretary, the head of the British armed forces, the head of MI5 and the head of MI6.

'Surely to God when this came up old Hogan-Howe or someone would have said, "Hang on a minute. Let's

'If only for self-preservation you'd think they'd think, "Before we start raiding these houses, we really need to be certain that this chap is who he says he is."

'But they didn't make sure. They took his story and ran with it. Nobody thought to look on his computer, look into his life or interview his wife. They just couldn't wait to get stuck into Dad.'

shares his father's sense of humour and passion for cricket, Nicolas, 66,

loves his father 'hugely'. agonised how best to support him. Way through Holland towards BerI feel angry about it. I'm his son. I lin, won the Military Cross. He got You can't get rid of it, can you?

counted. We need to draw a line Knight of the Garter. He had under this business. Dad was a lovely wife, never let his always there for us [Nicolas has a kids down. There was never a sister, Sara] whenever he could whiff of scandal - not men, possibly be. He was a hard act to women, boys or corruption ollow, but the great thing he said He's just been a wonderful to me was, "I don't mind what you do Nick, but try to do it well."'

Nicolas is a successful landscape gardener and lives in Dorset with his second wife, Pip. The past four cally incompetent years have, he says, 'been hell' for his father and hugely upsetting for fashion photographer who photographed Princess Eugenie's wedding last year - and his 38-year-old daughter Charlotte, who between

"Are you happy for him to see your made a complete arse of the grandchildren?" Nicolas looks truly whole thing." outraged, as well he should.

'This is a man who has achieved humour but .. just about everything you could Nicolas leans forward in his armpossibly achieve in one life. He was chair. 'Do you know the thing that captain of the Eton [cricket] XI, he hugely bothers Dad? When he's was a boxer, a very good artist — he dead his great-grandchildren will A thoroughly likeable man who had two pictures in the Royal Google him - or 'goggle' him as he Academy at the age of 16.

'But he's been dragged through four years of hell because the police are basi-

were totally incompetent. 'They overreacted and got i spectacularly wrong and Dad and other people — Dad's family, Lady Brittan [Lord the price.

close to his grandfather, would like to see Nick 'take a long walk off a short pier'. the police were Nicolas adds: 'I've often said

rummaging through Dad's to Dad, "Aren't you p****d off house, they actually said with Nick?" He always replies: to my sister, who was there, "No, it's the Met. They've

He's tried to keep his sense of

puts it - and all of this will come 'He landed in Normandy at the up. This is what really upsets him. age of 21 in charge of a platoon, In future years, when people do It is why he is speaking now. T've was wounded twice. He fought his military research, there'll be all this feel I should stand up and be to the top of the forces, was made a It's there for ever.' Nicolas was at they wouldn't say what it was.



Military legend: He led the Army and our Armed Forces

work when his wife Pip was called by a distressed Lord Bramall that March morning.

'He was upset,' she says today. 'He said the police had raided his house, and were there now. They were going through everything and he wasn't allowed to move. He said he'd been accused of something involving a minor 40 years ago but

Incredulous: Lord Bramall during his police Interview

Mum was very confused. It was so nods. 'It was so upsetting,' he says.

'As police went through the house, she was sort of shunted from one to reach him on his mobile, Pip room to another.

'She knew something was wrong, least sort of paedophile man you but wasn't quite sure what it was. It could meet. I felt complete shock. affected her quite badly. Do you remember she used to say, "What have I done, what have I done?"'

We needed to support him. Pip turns to her husband who I never doubted him for a second.'

Lord Bramall's lawyer badgered the Metropolitan Police for details of

by a detective constable. The allegations were so preposterous paedophilia, torture, rape - he

Beech alleged his stepfather Major Erskine Barracks, Wiltshire, in 1976 when he was in charge of the UK 'Some of the abuse was supposed

so Dad was asked if he could swim. He said he jolly nearly had to a detective constable. You'd think

to have taken place at a pool party,

interviewing a Field Marshal you'd get one of your heavyweights in, British Armed Forces and saying,

ran rings round him. At one point, Dad said something like, "Did he tell you I was circumcised?" 'The detective constable looked at his notes, saw nothing there, so asked. "Are you?" Dad said, "I'm not telling Nicolas was 'shocked, absolutely you." Nicolas chuckles, but in truth shocked', when, after being unable there has been little to laugh about went to tell him at work. 'Dad is the in the past four years.

one who would run away from the sound of a gun, but when you're 'The Bramalls closed ranks. From accused of heinous crimes like that, day one we were all in this together: it's a very lonely place,' he says. 'It

allegations are out there to stand up and show your face. He didn't mother-in-law's suffering. It was ten months before officers leading the want to cause embarrassment

So much so Lord Bramall offered not to attend that June's highwhere recipients of this, the oldest British order of chivalry, gather at Windsor for lunch with the Queen, followed by a service at St George's chapel

'He was encouraged to go and I think the Queen was very glad he went. Dad's never shied away. He's

'All his peers have been very supportive. His aides-de-camp went en masse to the police and said, "This is ridiculous." A lot of them appeared in court. They had gatekeepers at his office at the barracks

'The thought of a major bringing his son to the commander of the "Help yourself. I'll pick him up in a 'The questions were so banal. Dad couple of hours," was ridiculous.'

A second police interview took torture, paedophilia. Nick's place in July 2015 at Lord Bramall's home. By now, his wife of 66 years was terribly ill. He worried about missing a moment of the precious time they had left together. As it was, she sadly died before that interview.

'I believe this whole thing very 'You've met Dad. He's not some- much affected her,' says Pip. 'She sensed all this chaos and all these changes around her when what she

needed was a quiet predictable life.

'It makes me so angry. 'Dad's achieved just about every thing any man could possibly achieve in life. It should be his sort of pipe and slipper time to relax and be proud of all he's done.

now utterly discredited Operation

Midland finally told Lord Bramall

there was 'insufficient evidence' to

'There was never evidence of any

form,' says Nicolas. 'Nothing. Just

for it hook, line and sinker, but they

wouldn't put their hands in the air,

say "We've got it wrong" and clear

'An apology did eventually com

(in October, 18 months after the

raid], but it was fairly mealy

Dad, "This is awful". I was perhaps

more indignant than him in the

beginning. He'd say, "If you've

landed on the beaches of

Normandy, you've been through

'Since the trial began he's

endured a bombardment of

unpleasant accusations - rape

persisted in the accusations

against Dad in a lot of detail.

charge him.

Dad's name.

he'd say that now.

'Instead, he now gets quite wateryeyed and keeps saying, "I'm not a bad chap, am I?

'Dad? A bad chap?' Nicolas 'They were devoted to each other. repeats disbelievingly. 'He's a good

takes a lot of courage when all these To have died with all this going guy.' He is.

Labour No 2 told: Quit as MP for your smearing of the innocent

TOM Watson was last night told to quit as an MP as he was accused of fuelling a 'moral panic' and a climate of Establishment hysteria over child sex abuse.

The Labour deputy leader met Carl Beech in his Westminster office just months before he made his outlandish claims to Scotland Yard in late 2014.

The following year Mr Watson personally met a Metropolitan Police detective sergeant to discuss Beech's fantastical claims

following an initial phone dis-cussion, it can now be revealed. Last night, Mr Watson was slammed by victims of Beech's lies and accused of furthering his own career by making politi-cal capital out of their misery.

Daniel Janner QC, son of the late Labour peer Greville Janner, called on Mr Watson to resign and criticised him for taking the 'moral high ground' against anti-Semitism in the Labour Party, having helped smear innocent men as

paedophiles.
Former MP Harvey Proctor, who Beech accused of murdering a child, called on Mr Watson to apologise

But, in a 1,400 word statement last night, Mr Watson refused to apologise to victims of Beech's allegations and sought to defend himself, saying it was not his role to judge whether victims' stories were true. Referring to Beech by the pseudonymbo was using at the time. donym he was using at the time of their meeting, he said: 'I

By Glen Keogh

encouraged every person that came to me to take their story to the police and that is what I did with Nick.'

Mr Watson's direct role in the Beech case began in 2014 when he welcomed the former health worker to Westminster, know-ing he had made allegations, including the murder of a child by members of an Establishment paedophile ring. The pair spoke 'at length'. Mr

Watson would later be described by Beech as being part of a 'little group', alongside a journalist from the now-disgraced investi-gative news website Exaro and

'Whipped up a public frenzy'

a retired social worker, who helped him 'put my information

Shortly after this, Beech contacted the Metropolitan Police with his lurid claims

The MP initially retained a degree of scepticism. He said: 'What I'm certain of is that he's not delusional. He is either telling the truth, or he's made up a meticulous and elaborate story.

It's not for me to judge.'
His role, he would later say, was to offer 'Nick' 'a degree of protection' to make his allegations. Mr Watson had been basking in the praise he received for helping to expose the tabloid phone-hacking scandal which ultimately led to the closure of the News of the World.

Hysteria: Watson Is accused of fuelling a moral panic



In 2012, as the row over the late Jimmy Savile's paedophile crimes raged, he intervened during Prime Minister's Questions with the headline-grabbing statement that there is 'clear intelligence suggesting a powerful paedophile network linked to Parliament and No 10'

Mr Watson had been contacted by self-styled abuse 'whistleblower' Peter McKelvie - also part of Beech's 'little group' - who said he had evi-dence of a paedophile ring.

On his own admission, the Labour MP now found himself receiving an 'avalanche' of historic child sex abuse complaints from alleged victims.

Months before meeting Beech, Mr Watson spoke to a woman who said she had been abused by the former home secretary Lord Brittan. Mr Watson wrote to Alison Saunders, the Director of Public Prosecutions, complaining that the peer had not been interviewed by Scotland Yard over an alleged 1967 attack. In fact, police had already concluded there were no substance to the allegations made by a woman known as 'Jane', a Labour activist suffering from

mental health issues.

When Lord Brittan died in early 2015 under a cloud of accusations, Mr Watson traduced the former peer when he could no longer defend himself.

Repeating an unsubstantiated quote from a 'survivor', he wrote that Lord Brittan was 'as close to evil as a human being could get in my view'.

There was never any evidence to back up the claims and Mr Watson apologised to Lady Brittan in late 2015. He later admit-ted he had let his self-appointed status as child abuse campaigner take over his life.

Last night barrister Mr Janner, added: 'His motive was personal political advancement riding on a bandwagon of public frenzy which he had whipped up.

NE prominent individual was conspicuous by his absence when the paedophile con-artist formerly known only as 'Nick' was convicted at Newcastle Crown Court of perverting the course of justice by making false and malicious allegations of sex crimes and murder against a series of high-profile public figures.

We would never have heard of the man whose real name is Carl Beech had it not been for Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson, the self-appointed Nonce Finder General. I have maintained all along that Watson should have been in the dealer. Watson should have been in the dock alongside Beech.

Seven years ago he embarked on a vicious vendetta, smearing Conservative politicians and other Establishment fig-ures as kiddie-fiddlers and serial rapists, without a single shred of hard evidence.

Watson was Beech's enabler and cheerleader, using this evil fantasist's farrago of fabrications as a nuclear weapon in his seek-and-destroy mission, defaming lead-

ing Tories by accusing them of some of the most disgusting crimes imaginable.

His disgraceful behaviour has ruined the lives of distinguished public servants and their families. Watson's victims included not just former Tory treasurer Lord McAlpine but ex-Home Secretary Leon Brittan and the war hero Lord Bramall, ex-head of the Armed Forces. In 2012, two years before he discovered 'Nick', Watson hid behind Parliamentary

privilege to claim there was a 'powerful paedophile network linked to Parliament

Watson made wild, unsubstantiated allegations of sex abuse at a North Wales children's home, which sparked a media frenzy and emboldened soppy Sally Bercow, the Speaker's wife, to name Lord McAlpine on Twitter as one of the

guilty men.

McAlpine was wholly innocent and successfully sought redress for defamation from Bercow and broadcasters stupid enough to repeat and embellish these false allegations.

E WAS not in the best of health when these vile accusations surfaced and died just over a year later. Who can tell whether this disgraceful assault on his reputation hastened his death?

While Watson hadn't named McAlpine, he might just as well have led a torch-lit procession along Whitehall, burning

effigies of top Tories.
That's why I dubbed him The Nonce
Finder General.
The McAlpine scandal didn't, however,
give him pause for thought. Soon he was
back in the saddle, flaming torch in hand,

widening the scope of his Inquisition.
Watson wrote to the then Prime Minister
David Cameron, suggesting that
organised abuse of children may have
taken place in Downing Street during the

Menacingly, he charged that anyone counselling caution about these claims was a 'friend of the paedophile'.

guilt by association.

When Nick fell into his lap in 2014, Watson worked closely with a so-called (now discredited and defunct) 'news' agency, one of whose reporters conveniently showed

Nick pictures of prominent figures to help him identify his 'abusers'. Watson badgered the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to investigate. Brittan and others had their homes raided and were interviewed under caution,

though never charged.
According to the Labour-supporting Sunday Mirror, Watson said he had been in contact with someone who alleged a former 'top minister in Margaret Thatcher's government' had 'regularly abused boys'. After Brittan died, without

Defiance of the pair who 'peddled lies'





'Masquerade': Mark Watts (left) and Mark Conrad

JOURNALISTS behind the disgraced investigations website that peddled paedophile fantasist Carl Beech's lles should be prosecuted, one of his victims said last night.

Harvey Proctor called for an Investigation into the senior figures behind Exaro, including Mark Watts, the site's former editor-inchief, and Mark Conrad, a reporter who accompanied Beech to his police interview after showing him 42 Images of potential 'abusers'.

Exaro - now defunct - produced a string of 'exclusives' on the existence of a paedophile ring operating in Westminster, largely based on

the testimony of Beech. Mr Proctor said: 'Mark Watts and Mark Conrad [were] masquerading as journal-Ists... they reported manufactured and manipulated information.'

Yesterday Mr Watts Insisted that Beech's convictions were unsafe.

Mr Conrad, a friend of Labour deputy leader Tom Watson, was Interviewed by Northumbria Police at his home over three days earlier this year regarding his dealings with Beech.

He admitted he had doubts about Beech's allegations, but insisted: 'I have nothing to apologise for.' Exaro closed down in 2016.



Labour's Deputy championed the cause of fantasist 'Nick' — the malignant mud-slinger behind a vicious vendetta. LITTLEJOHN'S withering verdict...

concluded months earlier that he was entirely innocent), Watson continued to repeat allegations that the former Home Secretary was guilty of multiple child rapes.

He also claimed to have spoken to a man and a woman who said they had been raped by Brittan. My suspicions were aroused when it was revealed that the woman in question was a Labour activist with mental health problems.

At one stage the Yard, still smarting from their failure to nick Jimmy Savile while he was still alive, appeared to be taking their marching orders directly from Watson. Under the Home Secre-

his name having been cleared tary Theresa May's favourite Plod, pronounced Watson's allegations Howe, the police set up the heavyhanded, over-zealous, ruinously expensive Operation Midland, which mounted dawn raids, dragged the reputations of innocent men through the mud and left their families distraught.

Midland was eventually wound up ignominiously without a single arrest being made.

The Met even declared that the most lurid, and indeed ludicrous, allegations were both 'credible and true' - despite Nick's claims being a pack of lies.

This shameful miscarriage of justice was egged on by a credulous Mother Theresa herself. She

as 'just the tip of the iceberg' and ordered a full-scale Paedos In High Places public inquiry be established. This is still lumbering on and could last for many more costing at least £100 million.

In the process, innocent civilians became collateral damage — none more so than a young couple who had the misfortune to live in the same property as former Tory MP Harvey Proctor, another Conservative figure who found himself in the frame. During a police raid on Proctor, they were told that if they

didn't vacate the premises immediately, their th old daughter would be taken into care. The Old Bill had even taken along a social worker with a child's

I'm not going to name them again, because they've suffered enough. But everyone involved in this witch hunt should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

All of this madness, all this tyranny, all this outrageous abuse of police power, all this waste of taxpayers' money, all this misery inflicted on blameless men and their families, can be laid at the

LITTLEJOHN'S COLUMN RETURNS ON FRIDAY

door of Watson. Yet the man himself has never been called to account, and even after yesterday's verdict on Nick, remains shame-

lessly unrepentant.
Incredibly, he is now being touted in the political world as the saviour of the Labour Party, a voice of moderation prepared to take on Jerseny Corbus and his cohort of Jeremy Corbyn and his cohort of

anti-Semites.

Ever since Watson shed an entire forest of timber and bought a new wardrobe — something which, I'm told, generally happens when formerly married men take up with a woman half their age—some sections of the media have been carrying laudatory profiles of him, apparently oblivious to his previous

his previous.

His opportunist public criticism of Labour's endemic anti-Semitism is at odds with the fact that Leon Brittan, one of his principal targets, was one of this country's most prominent levice politicians. Jewish politicians.

And he seems not to have been troubled by the fact that the false allegations against Brittan first surfaced in the 1980s and were discredited by none other than Left-wing investigative journalist Paul Foot, who maintained they were motivated by, er, anti-Semitism in the security services. Then there was Watson's bromance with anti-Press cam-

paigner Max Mosley, son of Fascist leader Oswald Mosley, who gave Watson a £540,000 donation — money Watson refused to return even after the Mail exposed his benefactor's dubious, racist past.

HIS is also a man who wants to shackle our Free Press, bringing it under State control, yet has no compunction about using his own position and Parliamentary privilege to peddle false allegations of hideous crimes against his political opponents.

It's also forgotten — or conveniently overlooked — that while Watson refuses to accept the legitimate result of the FU refer

legitimate result of the EU referendum in which 'only' 52 per cent voted Leave (and is leading demands for a second People's Vote), he was elected as Labour's deputy leader with just a cigarette paper-slim 50.7 per cent share of

I haven't heard anyone suggesting that particular vote should be re-run, least of all Watson himself.

So we can add ocean-going hypocrite to the list of charges against him.

All this explains why, unlike the Boys In The Bubble, I'm not buying in to the reinvention and sanitisation of slimline Tommy Watson, the previously obese MP who once spent so much of his parliamentary expenses on food at Marks & Sparks they gave him a free pizza wheel.

I stand by my earlier assessment of Watson as mad, bad and dangerous, a malignant mudslinger, utterly unfit for high office, who conspired to exploit a fantasist to promote his ghastly

politically-motivated crusade.

We now know that 'Nick', aka Carl Beech, is himself a serial paedophile, guilty of the very crimes which he falsely accused other, innocent men of committing.

Of course, the great irony in all this is that the one nonce the Nonce Finder General failed to expose was Nick the Nonce, sitting right under his nose.

Daily Mail

COMMENT

Don't let disloyalty destroy the new PM

BY the time you read this column, or very soon afterwards, we will know the identity of the United Kingdom's next Prime Minister, bringing to an end a protracted Tory leadership contest.

And it's no exaggeration to say his mission is the most daunting of any Downing Street incomer since at least 1979 – arguably since 1940.

The country is angry, fractious, and deeply divided over Brexit – some because it hasn't happened yet, others because it's

happening at all.

Theresa May tried valiantly to heal the schism, with a withdrawal deal that was

both pragmatic and honourable.

Ultimately it was savaged in the Commons, bringing her premiership to a humiliating end. She deserved better.

So can her replacement succeed where she failed, or will he also be broken on the Brevit wheel?

the Brexit wheel?
The omens aren't encouraging.
Overwhelming favourite Boris Johnson has pledged to take Britain out of the EU by October 31, with or without a deal.
But how? He has little or no working majority and militant forces are ranged against him on all fronts.

against him on all fronts.

In Brussels, they say there can be no re-opening of the withdrawal agreement, and no change to the Irish backstop - the

and no change to the Irish backstop – the rock on which Mrs May's deal foundered.

Yet the intransigence of the EU may prove a minor obstacle compared with the backstabbing and wrecking tactics of MPs at home. And not just from opposition parties.

Already several Tory ministers are threatening to resign if Mr Johnson wins, in protest at his declaration that No Deal must remain on the table.

must remain on the table.

Some will see this as a principled stand.

Others as an act of treachery.

The party membership has just selected its new leader, but before he's even in place, the rebels are trashing their decision.

Outgoing Foreign Office minister Alan Duncan even called for a no confidence work in his own government. Could there vote in his own government. Could there be more flagrant disloyalty?

If the party is to move forward – indeed to survive at all – it must strive at every level

to find consensus.

Let's assume that Mr Johnson has indeed won. Yes, he's gaffe-prone and sometimes appears anything but the homme serieux Britain needs at this critical time.

But for all his flaws, he is a remarkable individual a clever engaging and deeply

individual - clever, engaging and deeply patriotic. Is it just possible that he could solve the backstop conundrum and untie the Brexit knot?

The Irish are beginning to fret about No Deal and may be ready to compromise. Perhaps Mr Johnson can pull off a miracle.

One thing is certain, however. Without the full support of his party, he is doomed to fail. The rebels must take a long hard look at themselves and ask whether they really want the likely consequences of that failure – Prime Minister Corbyn and Chancellor McDonnell – on their conscience.

A grotesque fiction

EXPLOITING the moral panic that followed the Jimmy Savile scandal, Carl Beech concocted a grotesque fiction about

a supposed VIP child-sex ring.

It was promoted by a now defunct news website, fuelled by the BBC, swallowed whole by a pathetically gullible Scotland Yard and manipulated for political motives by Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson.

Of those maliciously accused, Lord Brittan was hounded to his grave, and elderly Field Marshal Lord Bramall had his home ransacked and his good name smeared.

Beech is now bound for prison, where he belongs. But why has no one else - no police officer, no accomplice or accessory, and certainly not Mr Watson - been punished for allowing this outrage to happen?

If we are to learn from this appalling miscarriage of justice, the guilty must be

held to account.

Just like his hero Churchill, Boris is rackety, feckless and gaffe-prone. But this could also be HIS finest hour

ODAY, barring accidents, Boris Johnson will be pronounced the winner of the Tory leadership contest. Tomorrow afternoon, he will be driven to Buckingham Palace, where he will kiss hands with the Queen. He will be Prinster.

Like his hero, Winston Churchill, he has lived all his adult life yearning for this prize. Like his hero, he has been written off countless times. And, like his hero, he assumes power at a critical moment in our history.

The dangers are obviously not as great as they were when Churchill became PM on May 10, 1940, with the humiliating evacuation of Dunkirk and the capitulation of France, Britain's main ally, only weeks away. But they are bad enough.

Flawed

Britain is divided and isolated. We are being driven mad by Brexit. One might almost say that, although Churchill's task in 1940 was enormous, at least he knew what he had to do. It is hard to see how any politician can lead us out of the mess we're now in and bring our country together again. Can Boris save us? Or will he

be driven ignominiously out of No 10 in months, even weeks? Like many, I ask myself these questions constantly. And I must admit — again, I suspect, like many people — that there is no easy answer. But I hope.

One way to weigh Boris's weaknesses and strengths is to strip away the layers of gilt that have been lovingly applied to the figure of Churchill and to see the magnificent wartime leader for the flawed human being he was.

I don't suggest that Boris is remotely equal to his hero. But when considering our new Prime Minister's failings (which have been catalogued by his many detractors), it is comforting to recall that Churchill also came to the highest office bearing a long charge sheet.

He had been responsible for



by Stephen Glover

the Dardanelles fiasco in World War I, in which nearly 50,000 Allied lives were lost. His stint as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Twenties was a near disaster.

Always his judgment was being impugned: over his bigoted opposition to virtual home rule in India in the Thirties, and his rash championing of Edward VIII during the 1936 abdication crisis when public

abdication crisis when public opinion was firmly against the King marrying American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

It's true that, by 1940, Churchill's political career stretched back over four decades, whereas Boris's has been much briefer, and so he has had less scope. and so he has had less scope

and so he has had less scope for political gaffes. Still, he managed to pack in quite a few during his two-year spell as Foreign Secretary.

In his biography of Winston Churchill, Boris describes the great man as 'eccentric' and 'over the top' — words that could as well be used of himself 'Rackety' would be another self. 'Rackety' would be another way of describing what they

have in common.

Unlike Boris, Churchill had no appetite for extra-marital sex, but he drank much more prodigiously. He was far more feckless with money, though he earned even greater amounts as a newspaper columnist. In May 1940, many in the

parliamentary Tory Party regarded the country's new leader as flashy, unreliable and lacking in judgment. Rab Butler then a junior minister and, much later, very nearly Prime Minister — described Churchill as 'the greatest adventurer of modern political history' and 'a half-breed American'. Sound familiar? My point is

that Churchill has been deified, and so his faults and all the rude things said and thought about him by members of his own party, as well as by Labour, have been airbrushed out. Might Boris also succeed despite being written off by

nearly half the country and bien pensant intellectuals?

There is another similarity. In May 1940, Winston Churchill was opposed by a knot of conspirators in his own party, such as Lord Halifax and Rab Butler, who wanted to put out feelers to Hitler via the Italian leader Benito Mussolini and sue for peace. His most deadly adversaries were on his own side.

And so it is with Boris. The Tory Party is in disarray. All discipline has broken down. Philip Hammond has petulantly said he will resign as Chancellor to avoid being sacked, while Boris-hating Sir Alan Duncan child-ishly quit his job as a Foreign Office minister in the midst of a worsening international crisis involving Iran. Where is duty? Meanwhile, Iain Duncan

Meanwhile, fain Duncan Smith, who, in a couple of days, could be Deputy Prime Minister in a Johnson administration, publicly accuses the Government — and, by implication, Jeremy Hunt, Boris's rival and Foreign Secretary — of a 'major failure' over its Iran policy.

Respect

Actually, the treachery within the Tory Party is even more rampant than it was in May 1940, when many MPs who were suspicious of Churchill at least showed a measure of respect for their new leader and were prepared to give him a chance

Sir Alan Duncan has tried to table an emergency Commons motion on whether Johnson should become Prime Minister. Fortunately, he was rebuffed by Speaker John Bercow, who was sensible for once in his life.

Despite this setback, ultra Conservative Remainers (perhaps including erstwhile Eurosceptic Mr Hammond) may try to bring down Boris even before he starts talking to the EU.

An iron rule of politics is that voters abhor divided parties. A decisive early vote of No Confidence in Boris is almost bound to precipitate a general election, in which the Tories would be viewed as a fractious rabble who failed to honour the Leave vote in the referendum.

Leave vote in the referendum.
One difference between then
and now: in May 1940, Churchill formed a coalition with
Clement Attlee's Labour Party,
whereas Boris will confront
Jeremy Corbyn, whose only
concern is to achieve power so
that he can unleash his Marxist
experiment on Britain.

Ambition

Does our new Prime Minister have the political guile, force of personality and greatness of spirit to see off these threats and find his way through a bewildering maze to reach a reasonable accommodation with Brussels? with Brussels?

It is certainly a tall order. So it would be even for Winston Churchill, who, after all, proved himself a disappointing peace-time leader after he was returned to office in 1951.

But Boris, facing as he does the most perilous state of affairs that has bedevilled any prime minister since Churchill in 1940, can reasonably take comfort in the knowledge that his hero was prematurely written off by critics later forced to eat their words.

Maybe he will rise above the pygmies planning to bring him down. For all his faults, he has one striking advantage that he definitely shares with the wartime leader. He has craved the highest office in the land since he was a child.

All-encompassing ambition is rare, even in leading politicians. It amounts almost to a mystical sense of personal destiny. Churchill certainly had it. He wrote later of that moment in May 1940: 'I felt as if I were walking with destiny, and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial.

Such rare men are difficult to stop. Is Boris one of them? I don't know. But it seems to me his obsessively wanting to lead our country probably constitutes the best hope we have that he will make a decent job of it.