JAMES MASON’S SIEGE: TIES TO EXTREMISTS
Key Points:

- CEP has counted 21 global extremist individuals with ties to the book *Siege* by neo-Nazi James Mason.
- *Siege*’s publishers have praised the book as a guide for direct, violent action on par with Timothy McVeigh’s 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.
- Members of the U.S.-based neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division (AWD) have created an online subculture around the book and Mason called Siege Culture. AWD has been linked to at least five murders and has branches in Canada and Europe.
- Neo-Nazis online herald *Siege* as a must-read and use it as a recruitment tool to their ideology. Siege Culture activists promote the book and Mason through podcasts, websites, and social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Gab.

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*Siege* is an anthology of violent pro-Nazi and pro-Charles Manson essays written by American neo-Nazi James Mason in the 1980s and first published as a single volume in 1992.\(^1\) The book

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http://etext.ku.edu/view?docId=ksrlead/ksrl.kc.masonjames.xml
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has since inspired a generation of neo-Nazis who have formed a violent online subculture called Siege Culture devoted to Mason’s calls for independent terror cells to carry out a race war.\(^2\)

Mason originally published Siege in 1992 as a compilation of essays he wrote in the 1980s for the eponymous newsletter of the National Socialist Liberation Front, a now-defunct splinter group of the American Nazi Party.\(^3\) Throughout the book, Mason calls for so-called leaderless resistance and deliberate terrorist acts to bring about a race war and the downfall of the global political system. In one passage, Mason wrote, “White men will never rule their own lives and destinies again without a successful revolt, and no revolt can materialize without the intensive period of resistance….”\(^4\) Another passage describes a “healthy state” as one that will “expel – or kill – the Jew; a decadent one will take him to its bosom. The Jew corrupts the nation.”\(^5\) Other passages praise cult leader and murder Charles Manson, with whom Mason maintained a close relationship and formed the Universal Order movement in the late 1970s.\(^6\) Ryan Schuster, who published the second edition of Siege in 2003, wrote in the introduction that the book “is to be used as a cookbook and guide. It is sincerely hoped this edition will prevail the vigilant(e) intelligence to heed a clarion call, wage battles of attrition, and act in a manner commensurate to Timothy McVeigh of Oklahoma City fame.”\(^7\)


\(^4\) James Mason, Siege (IronMarch.org, 2015), 64.

\(^5\) James Mason, Siege (IronMarch.org, 2015), 55.

\(^6\) James Mason, Siege (IronMarch.org, 2015).

In 2015, members of the far-right IronMarch online forum formed the neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division (AWD). AWD has since been linked to multiple murders around the United States as well as racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic protests. On January 2, 2018, AWD member Sam Woodward allegedly murdered gay, Jewish college student Blaze Bernstein, an act AWD celebrated. AWD co-founder Brandon Russell is serving a five-year prison sentence for stockpiling explosives to carry out attacks on U.S. infrastructure. In 2015, AWD members republished Siege and began to popularize it online through the creation of an online subculture called Siege Culture, an umbrella brand publicized across social media, podcasts, and chatrooms dedicated to Mason’s book. At the center of Siege Culture is the website Siegekultur.info, which also bears the branding of Mason’s Universal Order movement. Throughout Siege, Mason describes the Universal Order as an American descendant of Nazism.

The Siege Culture/Universal Order website highlights James Mason, Charles Manson, and Siege. The above image is from the Siegeculture.biz website, which went offline in early 2019 and relaunched at a new URL that June.

The original Siege Culture/Universal Order (www.siegeculture.biz) website went offline in early 2019, but returned that June at a new address, www.siegekultur.info. The administrators of the Siege Culture/Universal Order website claim to be “working with James Mason to utilize and

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10 James Mason, Siege (IronMarch.org, 2015), 398, 437.
encourage the Universal Order worldview in people’s consciousness and physical daily life.”

The original site included links to the third edition of Siege on the Internet Archive and hosted essays by Mason, his Siegecast podcast, and links to various other neo-Nazi content. Its library included neo-Nazi and white supremacist literature such as Adolf Hitler’s Mein Kampf and The Turner Diaries by William Luther Pierce, as well as books on Satanism, the occult, and fantasy like The Lord of the Rings. The new iteration of Siege Culture has uploaded much of the same content. The Worldview section of the site declares that the page is “something that James Mason attempted to put into form himself, but due to circumstance, he never implemented it. This changed in the year of 2017, when the Atomwaffen Division discovered and met James Mason,” which led to “a new course of action for SIEGE.” The page administrators deny that Mason runs Universal Order, though he is cited as the author of blog posts and podcasts on the website. Reported AWD leader John Cameron Denton, a.k.a. “Rape,” claims to own the rights to Siege and Mason’s other writings.

In addition to the website, Mason’s followers have created Twitter, YouTube, and other social media accounts dedicated to Siege. Siege-related social media accounts directly call for violence against minorities and promote Nazi ideology. As of February 12, 2019, the Read Siege YouTube channel hosted 48 videos and had received more than 30,000 views since its creation in 2017. The SIEGE Culture Twitter account had 625 followers as of the same date. A Read Siege group on the free-speech platform Gab had 380 members as of that date. Siege Culture-related Twitter, Gab, and YouTube accounts have been offline since spring 2019.

CEP has documented 33 extremist entities—21 individuals and 12 organizations—with ties to Siege. Of these 21 individuals, nine have been involved in acts of violence, four have been involved in specific murders, and four have been involved in threats or acts of terrorism. Where applicable, CEP has included the charges against the individual profiled.

INDIVIDUALS

18 Read SIEGE YouTube account, accessed February 12, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdh4N2bPSIwn5Bbfyc8bIVQ.
1. Devon Arthurs [image] (ProPublica, Vice, Rolling Stone, Fox 13 News, Associated Press)
   a. Former white nationalist. Former roommate of members of AWD. Converted to Islam and reportedly tried to repeatedly convert his AWD roommates. Took hostages at a smoke shop in Tampa, Florida, on May 19, 2017. Eventually released the hostages without incident. Confessed to killing two of his roommates, Jeremy Himmelman and Andrew Oneschuk, because they made fun of his conversion to Islam. Told police that his other roommate, AWD co-founder Brandon Russell, was stockpiling explosives to blow up power plants and synagogues in Florida. Reportedly helped authorities in their case against Russell, who was sentenced to five years in prison. Remains in custody but deemed mentally unfit to stand trial.
   b. Co-founder of Siege-inspired AWD.
2. Brandon Cameron [image] (Vice, Vice, Radio Canada International)
   b. Northern Order is the Canadian branch of the Siege-inspired AWD.
3. Dion [no image] (Radio Wehrwolf, Motherboard, Whooli’s Blog, Radio Wehrwolf)
   a. White nationalist. Host of the white nationalist podcast Radio Wehrwolf. Radio Wehrwolf’s webhost, Bluehost, shut down the site down in March 2019 and the network moved to a different registrar.
   b. Called Siege “required reading for anyone who is pro-white.”
4. Kaleb J. Cole [image] (ProPublica, Vice, Twitter)
   a. White nationalist. A.k.a. “Khimaere.” Posts misogynistic and anti-Semitic comments online. Praised AWD member and suspected murderer Sam Woodward as a “Gay Jew Wrecking Crew.”
   b. Reported leader of AWD’s Washington state chapter.
5. John Cameron Denton [image] (Twitter, Vice, NPR, Medium, Der Spiegel)
   a. White nationalist. A.k.a. “Rape.” Reported leader of AWD, though Brandon Russell reaffirmed his position as leader in a May 2018 recording from prison. Reportedly responsible for introducing satanic influences into AWD.
   b. Claims to own the distribution rights to Siege and Mason’s other writings.
6. Andrew Dymock [image] (BBC News, Daily Mail)
   a. White nationalist. Reported leader of the British neo-Nazi group Sonnenkrieg Division. Identified as a founder of the group by a BBC News investigation in December 2018. Previously belonged to neo-Nazi group System Resistance
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Network, a rebranded version of British neo-Nazi group National Action, which was banned in 2016. Arrested in December 2018 on suspicion of terror offenses after Sonnenkrieg Division suggested Prince Harry be shot for marrying “race traitor” Megan Markle. Charged with possession of material likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.

b. Sonnenkrieg Division is a British offshoot of the Siege-inspired AWD. Dymock reportedly described Sonnenkrieg Division online as “atomwaffen with less guns.”

7. Sean Michael Fernandez [image] (ProPublica, Vice, Twitter)
   a. White nationalist. A.k.a. Wehrwolf on AWD online forums. Leader of AWD’s Texas cell. Wrote that publication of links between AWD and alleged murderer Sam Woodward were good publicity for the group and would inspire more copycat crimes.
   b. Member of Siege-inspired AWD.

   a. White nationalist. AWD member who at the age of 17 allegedly murdered his girlfriend’s parents, Buckley Kuhn-Fricker and Scott Fricker, in their Reston, Virginia, home on December 22, 2017. Previously tweeted about using Jews for target practice, his love for Adolf Hitler, and hatred of transgender people. Charged as a minor and later ruled incompetent to stand trial due to brain damage from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he allegedly murdered the Frickers.
   b. Member of Siege-inspired AWD.

   a. White nationalist. Member of AWD killed alongside his roommate Andrew Oneschuk in Tampa, Florida, on May 19, 2017, by roommate and AWD co-founder Devon Arthurs. Allegedly planning a terror attack with Oneschuk and roommate Brandon Russell. Authorities found guns, ammunition, and bomb-making material inside the shared apartment. Russell was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison.
   b. Reportedly the leader of Siege-inspired AWD’s Massachusetts branch. Four days after Himmelman’s murder, AWD posted a video to YouTube of members— their faces obscured by images of skulls—holding guns and raising their arms in a “Heil Hitler” salute in front of a swastika flag with the message “Join your local Nazis.”

10. Bob Igelston [no image] (Universal Order)
    a. White nationalist. Member of AWD.
    b. Member of Siege-inspired AWD and prolific writer on the Siege Culture/Universal Order website.

    a. White nationalist. Reported propagandist for the U.K.-based neo-Nazi Sonnenkrieg Division. A December 2018 BBC News investigation identified 17-year-old Koczorowski as a chief propagandist for the group responsible for
designing extremist material. Previously belonged to neo-Nazi group System Resistance Network, a rebranded version of British neo-Nazi group National Action, which was banned in 2016. Police arrested three Sonnenkrieg Division members, including an unidentified 17-year-old, a day after the BBC report in response to the group calling for Prince Harry be shot for marrying “race traitor” Megan Markle.

b. Sonnenkrieg Division is a British offshoot of the Siege-inspired AWD. Koczorowski posted images on social media of himself wearing an AWD t-shirt.

   a. White nationalist. Pseudonym of a British neo-Nazi who allegedly founded the occult neo-Nazi group Order of Nine Angles (ONA or O9A) in the 1970s. Alleged to be the pseudonym of neo-Nazi David Myatt, who founded the British National Socialist Movement and influenced London nail bomber David Copeland before converting to Islam in 1998 and taking the name Abdul Aziz Ibn Myatt. Myatt promoted suicide bombings and terrorism before later renouncing the religion.
   b. Wrote Hostia: Secret Teachings of the Order of Nine Angles, which details ONA’s beliefs. The book is featured on the Siege Culture/Universal Order website. The site also features ONA iconography.

13. Charles Manson [image] (Independent, Times of Israel, CNN, Imgur, Universal Order)
   a. White nationalist. Led a cult called the Manson Family, which was responsible for seven murders in 1969. Sentenced to multiple life sentences. Died in prison in November 2017.
   b. Influenced Mason’s creation of the Universal Order movement in the 1970s. Siege contains multiple pro-Manson sections. The Siege Culture/Universal Order website contains sections praising Manson. A banner on the top of the homepage displays Manson’s image next to the Universal Order logo and Mason’s image.

   b. Published the first edition of Siege in 1992 and later books by Mason. Received an autographed copy of Siege from Mason in 1993 and arranged press coverage for Siege, as later documented in Mason’s book Articles & Interviews. Mason credited Moynihan with “reaching way out across the country” to publicize Siege.

   a. White nationalist. Joined the French Foreign Legion in November 2016. Moved into a condo in Tampa, Florida, with Devon Arthurs, Brandon Russell, and
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Jeremy Himmelman. Killed alongside his roommate Andrew Oneschuk in Tampa, Florida, on May 19, 2017, by roommate and AWD co-founder Devon Arthurs. Allegedly planning a terror attack with Oneschuk and roommate Brandon Russell. Authorities found guns, ammunition and bomb-making material inside the shared apartment. Russell was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison.

b. Member of the *Siege*-inspired AWD. Four days after Oneschuk’s murder, AWD posted a video to YouTube of members—their faces obscured by images of skulls—holding guns and raising their arms in a “Heil Hitler” salute in front of a swastika flag with the message “Join your local Nazis.”

   a. White nationalist. A.k.a. “Vasillios the Greek” in AWD online forums. Active-duty Marine responsible for physical attacks during the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 12, 2017. Photographed clubbing an unidentified counter-protester with a wooden flagpole. Claimed online that he “cracked 3 skulls open with virtually no damage to myself.” The Marines court martialed and jailed Pistolis for one month on charges of disobeying orders and making false statements after the public revelation of his identity. Discharged after completing his sentence.
   b. Reportedly a cell leader of the *Siege*-inspired AWD.

17. Dakota Reed [image] (Anti-Defamation League, Daily Herald)
   a. White nationalist. Arrested December 7, 2018, at his mother’s home in Lake Forrest Park, Washington, for threatening to carry out mass killings. Posted online about his desire to create a white nation-state in the U.S. Pacific Northwest region, praise for Adolf Hitler, and photos of his weapons stockpiles.
   b. Wrote several Twitter posts about *Siege*.

18. Boyd Rice [image] (Articles & Interviews, YouTube, Healter Skelter)
   b. Received early signed copy of *Siege*. Appeared with Mason on his podcasts.

   a. White nationalist. A.k.a. “Odin” in AWD online forums. Served in the Florida National Guard. Shared a condo in Florida with AWD co-founder Devon Arthurs and members Andrew Oneschuk and Jeremy Himmelman. Arthurs killed Oneschuk and Himmelman on May 19, 2017, and told police Russell was stockpiling explosives to blow up power plants and synagogues in Florida. Police discovered explosive materials in the condo and a framed picture of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh belonging to Russell. Arrested days later after fleeing with AWD member William Tschantre. Police discovered rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition in their car, which the pair initially said were for self-defense and later said were for hunting. Pled guilty in September 2017 to one count of possessing an unregistered destructive device and one count of unlawfully storing explosive materials. Sentenced to five years in prison in
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January 2018.

b. Cofounded the Siege-inspired AWD in 2015. Described AWD in a 2015 online post as a “fanatical, ideological band of comrades who do both activism and militant training.” Claimed in a May 2018 recording from prison that he remained the group’s leader.

   a. White nationalist. Participated in picketing a vigil for victims of the ISIS-inspired Orlando gay nightclub shooting and posting racist flyers on college campuses. Fled with AWD Brandon Russell a day after Devon Arthurs killed two AWD members living with him and Russell. The pair bought two rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition. Initially told authorities they were for self-defense and later claimed they were for hunting. Present when authorities arrested Russell but was not himself arrested.
   b. Member of the Siege-inspired AWD. Described AWD to media as a group of trolls who just like to provoke outrage, not “to bomb the U.S. government,” which he described as ridiculous.

21. Sam Woodward [image] (Inquirer, NPR, Vice, ProPublica, Daily Pennsylvanian, Daily Pennsylvanian)
   b. Belongs to Siege-inspired AWD. Confirmed involvement with AWD co-founder and accused murderer Devon Arthurs. AWD has praised Bernstein's murder.

ORGANIZATIONS

1. American Nazi Party (University of Kansas Libraries, ProPublica, Northern Virginia, American Nazi Party)
   b. Mason joined the ANP in the 1960s. Siege is a collection of essays from the “Siege” newsletter, which Mason wrote for the ANP splinter group National Socialist Liberation Front.

2. Atomwaffen Division (Vice, Huffington Post, Der Spiegel, Universal Order)
   a. Members of AWD on the IronMarch Internet forum discovered Siege in 2015. AWD members met with Mason in 2017 and built an online subculture around Siege. Using Amazon’s self-publishing tool CreateSpace, AWD has republished Siege and published new Mason writings, which they sell through Amazon. AWD makes Siege required reading for its members.
b. The Worldview section of the Siege Culture/Universal Order website declares that the page is “something that James Mason attempted to put into form himself, but due to circumstance, he never implemented it. This changed in the year of 2017, when the Atomwaffen Division discovered and met James Mason,” which led to “a new course of action for SIEGE.” The Universal Order website has been offline since March 2019.

3. The Base (Winnipeg Free Press, Vice News, Vice News, Philadelphia Inquirer)
   a. Global neo-Nazi network that describes itself as an “international survivalist and self-defense network” that seeks to train their members for fighting a race war. The network is active in North America, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. The Base is an accelerationist group that encourages the onset of anarchy and so it can then “impose order from chaos.” Base founder Roman Wolf claimed The Base’s goal is to unite white nationalists for the coming race war that will overthrow the government and reshape society. The Base has described itself as a “white protection league” and has organized training camps around North America for their members in weaponry and military tactics. The Base has not yet claimed any violent activity but its members have been linked to anti-Semitic vandalism in the United States.
   b. The Base is influenced by the race war Mason calls for in Siege. Its membership includes members of the Atomwaffen Division.

4. Feuerkrieg Division (YouTube, Feuerkrieg Division, Gab, Fascist Forge, Twitter)
   a. European neo-Nazi group that has threatened widespread violence using AWD imagery. Its leader indicated in a January 2019 interview with a neo-Nazi podcast that he lived in the Netherlands, but that the group also has at least one member in Estonia. He also praised mass shooters Dylann Roof and Robert Bowers, noting that racial or anti-Semitic violence furthered racial, religious, and ethnic tension, which in turn creates more recruits for national socialist movements.
   b. Inspired by Siege and the AWD. Recruits individuals motivated by Siege and who want to participate in so-called real world activism, according to a January 2019 interview with the group’s leader.

5. The Mansonite Menace (YouTube, Motherboard, Radio Wehrwolf)
   a. Online podcast on white supremacist podcast network Radio Wehrwolf about being “racially conscious,” anti-Semitic, and anti-black. Radio Wehrwolf’s webhost, Bluehost, shut down the site down in March 2019 and the network moved to a different registrar.
   b. Hosts “Strongside” and “Riefen” praise Siege and Mason.

6. National Socialist Liberation Front (University of Kansas Libraries, ProPublica)
   a. Splinter group from the American Nazi Party after the group’s collapse following the 1967 assassination of founder George Lincoln Rockwell.
   b. The book Siege is the compilation of a series of essays Mason wrote in the “Siege” newsletter for the NSLF in the 1980s. Mason continued to publish “Siege” through 1986 despite the NSLF disbanding in 1982.

7. Northern Order (Vice, Ottawa Citizen, Facebook)
   a. Canadian white-nationalist group. Members reportedly seek to create an all-white
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enclave in Canada. The group has posted white-nationalist propaganda on Canadian mosques and distributed stickers calling to “join the white jihad.”

b. Reportedly the Canadian affiliate of Siege-inspired AWD.

8. Radio Wehrwolf (Radio Wehrwolf, Radio Wehrwolf, Motherboard, Radio Wehrwolf, Articles & Interviews)
   a. White nationalist podcast network that promotes messages of being “racially aware” and “Jew wise.” Radio Wehrwolf’s webhost, Bluehost, shut down the site down in March 2019 and the network moved to a different registrar.
   b. Hosted James Mason’s Siegecast podcast and promoted Siege as a must-read. Mason had also been a guest on the network’s podcasts.

9. Order of Nine Angles (Southern Poverty Law Center, The Order of Nine Angles – Labyrinthos Mythologicus, Anti-Defamation League, Southern Poverty Law Center, Universal Order)
   a. British satanic cult that promotes human sacrifice, Nazism, and fascism. Seeks the “breakdown and the downfall of existing societies” and their replacement with “new tribal societies.”
   b. The Siege Culture/Universal Order website features ONA iconography and multiple ONA books, including Hostia: Secret Teachings of the Order of Nine Angles by ONA leader Anton Long. The website has been offline since March 2019.

10. Sonnenkrieg Division (Daily Mail, BBC News, Medium, BBC News)
    b. British chapter of Siege-inspired AWD. Members described Sonnenkrieg Division as “atomwaffen with less guns.” In July 2018, a user on the social media site Gab posted a message of support for Sonnenkrieg Division and a link to the Siege Culture website.

    b. Aligned itself as a branch of AWD, which is inspired by and promotes Siege.

12. Universal Order (Independent, Times of Israel, Siege, Universal Order, Universal Order, Universal Order, Universal Order)
    a. Neo-Nazi movement founded by Mason and Charles Manson in the 1970s. According to the Universal Order website, the term “Universal Order” refers to the belief that “every action that occurs – everything that is invented, created, transformed or improved – begins with the Mind.” Universal Order adherents believe they have cleared “all dogmas and System-think garbage” from their
minds, which has left them with a clarified “Worldview.”

b. Described throughout Siege and the subject of its own chapter. The Siege Culture website promotes Siege and the Universal Order movement. According to the website, Mason was unable to actualize the Universal Order until he met with AWD members in 2017. They then created the website to promote Siege and Mason’s philosophies. The site’s administrators emphasize that they are not Mason, who they claim does not use the Internet. Rather, they “upload his writings and promote his material on his behalf.” The website went offline in March 2019, but relaunched at a new URL that June.