

Written by Jonny

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OKAY children, gather round the comfort of the fire, settle back and listen to a tale of way back; when denim and leather were the only fashion statement worth making, when bringing on the heartbreak was a source of joy and when we were running free to the sound of heavy metal.

As the winters of discontent and economic hardship merged into Thatcherite austerity for the poor and champagne lunches for the rich punk had become a statement rather than rebellious, and many of the originators of metal and hard rock were disappearing up their own arses with verbose shows that seemed to last decades.

But, before the fashionistas had even began to don frilly shirts and declare themselves as 'new wave' musicians, something stirred in the belly of the beast: punk attitude mind melded with the musicianship of rockers and metal heads.

Thus before it was even given a title, across the land the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM), was born and spread like a musical plague across the globe, delivering millions of teenagers the music they wanted to hear. A middle finger was extended to the mainstream, and BBC1 and ITV were forced to include these hairy type loud bands on to their shows.



However, while tapes were traded across the Atlantic to influence the birth of thrash here in the UK and Ireland the coveted hours were deep on a Friday night when the late, great Tommy Vance presented the Friday Rock Show, sharing classics and the new sounds of the NWOBHM.

If kiddies, you are expecting to check into the deep bowels of the NWOBHM cellar and find sounds that echo through to 'modern' metal and its scenes, you will be disappointed. In 2014 many of the bands from those halcyon days seem 'lighter'.

But whether it was **Sweet Savage, Praying Mantis, Tygers of Pan Tang, White Spirit, Girlschool** and many more they provided something vibrant, something combining the visceral with tunefulness.

Among those knighted warriors of metal were **Weapon**, now named **Weapon (UK)** to avoid confusion with a US act, who recorded a double 'A' sided single, and toured extensively with Motorhead.

ALBUM REVIEW: Weaponized NWOBHM - Weapon (UK) Rise from the Ashes with classic smooth metal r

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<http://www.fastmetalheadsreunited.blogspot.com/2014/09/album-review-weaponized-nwobhm-weapon.html>