

MINERS UPDATE

Wearing down the morale of the strikers is now the main objective of the government. MacGregor is trying for a company ballot to split the union. The Media are going for less coverage. The police, on the other hand, are stepping up their harassment of striking families.

In Arncliffe police in riot equipment arrived after a punch-up at the Miners Welfare Club. People turned on the police, there were 24 arrests.

On picket lines police are now regularly towing away pickets cars so that they are unable to travel back home without difficulty.

In one village one miner was arrested for merely visiting his mother in another pit village.

Many special night courts have been set up to hear cases where large numbers of strikers have been arrested.

In Staffordshire 200 miners were marooned after they were ordered off coaches by police in squad cars; the cops then ordered their coaches to return northwards.

At the siege outside Parliament it was later reported that a bomb disposal unit had been stationed in the vicinity. The police tried to stop one miner from revealing details: they confiscated and destroyed the film in his camera - unfortunately for the police the miner had made a switch of film and was able to provide shots of the unit for later examination.

A DAY AT ORGREAVE COKE DEPOT

Horses being galloped into people, young and old, scything them down. They were trampled down in a style reminiscent of the Cossaks of old Russia.

Only the sabres were missing. Instead, truncheons rained down repeatedly on unprotected heads.

I saw one man lying on the ground, white-faced and twitching. A policeman on horse-back deliberately rode back over him. I could not see which part of the body the hooves touched.

On the ground the psychopathic snatch squads kicked, elbowed, truncheoned and gouged in scenes which will live in memory for the rest of my life.

One miner had blood streaming from the corner of his eye where a member of the snatch squad had deliberately inserted his finger.

The use of truncheons became commonplace. One man's head was used like a drum as two policemen took it

in turns to beat down on either side of his skull in systematic and rhythmic style.

With blood pouring from a gaping wound in his head, they continued to truncheon him. Blue uniforms showed patches of dark brown as blood spattered them.

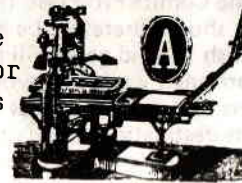
Finally, there was the riot squad themselves-used for the first time ever in an industrial dispute in Britain. They deserve a special mention.

The way they smashed their transparent shields into the faces of people was something unimaginable in civilised society. Their crash helmets were used equally nobly. One youngster, who could have been no more than 18, was head-butted full force by a riot policeman's helmet.

When he fell to the floor, the response was immediate. He was kicked repeatedly around the shoulders, chest and the small of his back. Similar sickening scenes were witnessed time and time again as the day wore on.

From "the Miner", written by Maurice Jones.

Doncaster Anarchists have been printing leaflets for free for Hatfield Women's Support Group and need help, donations etc to:
DAG c/o John Creaghe Society
PO Box 217 Sheffield S1-1FD



FOOD

Anyone wanting to donate food to miners in South Wales, contact: Bob Mander, 24 Pentremalwed St, Morryston. Swansea.

NOT THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS

MINERS LAY SIEGE TO PARLIAMENT

On June 7 around 20,000 miners and their supporters marched from Kings



At Maltby, near Doncaster, around 200 miners and local youths attacked a police station and bombarded it with bricks and bottles for more than an hour. Shops were also attacked and some looting was reported. The next night another 150 surrounded the same police station and a Chief Superintendent suffered a broken nose when he was punched twice in the face. Locals say the atmosphere in the village is tense, especially after Orgreave and also because it is known that police have been storing riot gear in the vicinity in preparation for local street disturbances.

In Woodlands police tried to arrest a miner - but people set on the police immediately. There were around 20 arrests.

In Staffordshire there have been more instances of sabotage: three pit top conveyor belts were cut at the Silverdale Colliery, causing around £5000 worth of damage. Also at Rignuir (anarkshire) machines and telephone wires were damaged.

In Wales up to 250,000 workers came out in sympathy in support of the miners in a one day strike. In Cardiff public transport was severely disrupted, as also were the docks, hospitals and government offices.

All of Britain's nine nuclear power stations have been placed on a emergency footing and staff are being asked to do overtime until the miners dispute is settled. The stations have had to double their normal output because of the effects of the strike on the coal-fired stations.

MINERS LAY SIEGE

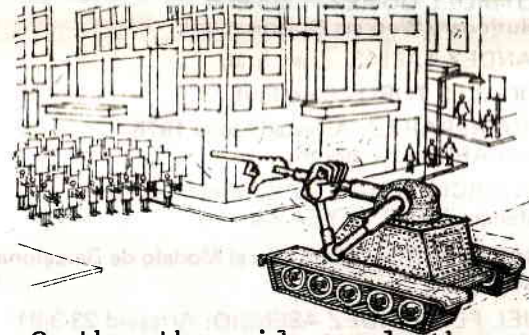
On June 7 around 20,000 miners and their supporters marched from Kings Cross through the city to the South Bank. The police diverted the march through the back streets but this proved to the miners advantage as they ended up going through housing estates and alongside working areas: people came out when they saw the march and waved and cheered.

At Grays Inn Road members of SOGAT, the print workers union, came out of 'The Times' building, thus disrupting production, to show solidarity to the passing marchers. Further down the road police tried to split the march in two: scuffles broke out, a cop was thrown through a plate-glass window and a snatch-squad attempted to make arrests. They were foiled though as everyone made it clear that the march would not proceed further until they were released.

All along the way there was police harassment. But the cops were clearly unprepared for the degree of solidarity and strength of feeling and the fact that, unlike at most other London demonstrations, people acted immediately to get those snatched back from the police.

After passing through Fleet Street (where the offices of the Dailies were jeered at) the marchers arrived at Jubilee Gardens, There were the usual speeches, with at least two Labour Party leaders getting heckled. As there was no official instruction to march to Parliament, where the strike was at the time being discussed, people decided to make their own way there. At Westminster Bridge cops made the marchers dispose of their banners and placards if they were to lobby parliament. (What about lobbing?) The cops also split those crossing the bridge into two, making those who wished to lobby go across the next bridge.

TO PARLIAMENT



On the other side people then gathered in Parliament Square, while others queued outside Parliament. Suddenly the cops got up to their pounce-and-drag-off-into-vans trick again. Everyone therefore rushed into the road to try and stop the arrests. The traffic in the road began to jam and the cops began to panic. Then, from nowhere came the mounted police, to jeers from the crowd.

With their backs to the statue of Winston Churchill and no doubt remembering his strikebreaking foray when he sent troops to quell the miners riots in Tonypanay, people fought back. There was much pushing and shoving as the police tried to break up the crowd. But the cops got a thumping. There were some arrests and later groups of people marched to the police station where they kept up a blockade until their comrades had been released.

Still outside Parliament, many people began to find themselves penned in by rows of police horses. In the square lumps of turf and beer cans were colliding with shaken-looking cops, who were attempting to keep the crowd in one place. Some individuals tried to climb the gates of Parliament itself but were pulled back by groups of cops.

Finally many people had to go back to their coaches to travel home. There was a visible relaxation as people began to drift away, leaving the cops and media types to stand around wondering what had happened... 'til next time.