

BLACK FLAG

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UNDER SEIGE

It all began in Cortonwood, where the strike first took momentum more than eight months ago. Cortonwood once more became the front line as over 1000 riot cops poured in during the early hours of the morning to escort one lone scab past thirteen pickets. Within two hours more than 4000 pickets had mobilised to resist this confrontation. Provocatively the police drove their transits at full speed straight at the mass pickets. Then the cavalry charged. The pickets responded by rolling a work-hut down the hill towards the lines of police. Another hut was set on fire. Next day the media had their field day on the violence, putting across the usual bias.

A couple of days later and the seige conditions worsened. Police descended on the mining communities in mass numbers. All this in order to wear down morale and ensure a few more arrests and the usual bail conditions.

Outnumbered, the response of the



and run tactics.

At Brampton a barricade was set on fire in the centre of the village. Police were warded off with stones and forced to disperse when a huge turf roller from the nearby cricket ground was rolled towards them down the main street. A police vehicle was petrol bombed but was not set alight. Later the police claimed to have found a crate of petrol bombs ready for throwing.

Dinnington, though, saw perhaps the best violence. Police sealed off the area but were forced on to the retreat when local people took defensive action. The police station was evacuated after two molotovs were allegedly thrown, one of which is supposed to have exploded in the entrance. Large numbers of police cavalry were also thwarted when it was soon realised that wire had been strung up at a certain height across highways throughout the village. Barricades were also set alight and electricity supplies temporarily sabotaged with the uprooting of street lamps.

Elsewhere in the county there was much retaliation against the seige. Cars were overturned and NCB property damaged at Rossington; lifting machinery and colliery offices were damaged at Dearne Valley; the same also at Dodworth, South Kirkby, Darfield Main, etc. At Hickleton two management cars were overturned and set alight and two bosses were attacked by a group of people wearing balaclavas.

While all this was happening in South Yorkshire, similar things were taking place in South Wales.

On one day alone more than 1000 police were sent in to increase the seige. The response in the Valleys was the same as the response up north. At Penallta there was an attempt to burn

DAY OF ACTION - in support of miners

Bradford

Building Society Occupied


On 5th Nov Price-Waterhouse offices in Manchester were picketed for 7 hours by Bolton, Manchester and Liverpool Direct Action Movement and other anarchists from all over the North West.

The protest was to protest the plundering of NUM funds by P.W. on behalf of the government. At the end of the 7 hour picket the offices were briefly invaded. The anarchists went up to the 10th floor, closely followed by lift loads of police and occupied the Price Waterhouse offices. After arguing with the scabs and pigs for half an hour the group escaped without any arrests.

down the NCB offices. At Abernant pickets tried to overturn a mini-bus carrying four scabs. At Cwm Colliery, Pontypridd, miners were forced to defend themselves with iron bolts and bars against the police mob...

Two days later and the seige in South Yorkshire was as bad as ever. 42 police were reported injured during clashes at Frinkley, near Doncaster. At Worsborough, near Barnsley, a power line was sabotaged. Clashes took place at Cwm, Abernant and Celyn. At the latter the NCB offices were occupied; around 300 riot cops stormed the building, but were temporarily beaten back.

Letter

On November 5th, as part of the Day of Action in support of the miners, our group smashed the plate glass of the DHSS Headquarters in Elephant & Castle, London, and painted the slogan 'PAY THE MINERS NOW!' 

Miners Support Group No. 5

Manchester

Price - Waterhouse Picket

In Bradford on November 5th, a group of 15 people occupied the main branch of Halifax Building Society in the city as a contribution to the National Day of Action in Support of the Mining Communities on that day.

The Halifax was chosen as a target for its harassment of striking miners and their families who are unable to pay their mortgages, by threatening to repossess their homes.

At about 11.30 most of us entered the main branch, handed out a few leaflets and sat down, the others remaining outside gave leaflets to passersby. The police were called in when we refused to leave, and as we had achieved our purpose in attracting some attention to the goings on in the Halifax, this time we complied.

Outside, local radio interviewed "Emma Goldman", and the local paper took a few pictures and were given a leaflet. This paper mentioned us in passing on a front page article about the miners "surge back to work", without explaining why we did the action, although the local radio reported us on news bulletins during the day.

FASCISTS?

Some time ago we wrote about the perverted rantings of a Nazi group trying to gain some credibility by jumping the Anarchist/Syndicalist bandwagon. In that case we responded to the Nazi shits with a firm and simple message: **FUCK OFF**

However that wasn't a one off approach, and more than one group is getting in on the act. In that case we can't pretend its a one off; but have to relate these incidents with the wider political scene, in this country and across Europe.

The Nazis have tried various methods of expanding from the lunatic/psychiatric wing of the political spectrum. From small groups of fanatics holding Hitler birthday parties and wanking each other off in SS uniforms they tried to form large scale organisations. SS uniforms were banished to the closet as groups like the *Greater Britain Movement*, *British National Party* and the *League of Empire Loyalists* formed the *National Front*. The NF provoked and responded to racial tensions, the group grew in strength and for a time looked like replacing the Liberals as the third-place losers party in elections. But all political parties are hierarchical mini-States, and various personalities fought for top place at the apex of the NF pyramid. In the fight to be Furer the NF has repeatedly been split, and the splits have split and resplit with heartening regularity. The more they in-fight the less time they have to out-fight.

These power struggles have usually taken on an ideological cover. It would be too brutally honest for the squabblers to admit they were fighting for personal rather than political gain. Again this is common to all political movements, how many people can actually fathom the same splits and in-fighting among the Trots? The ideological cover for the Nazi squabbles has often been out and out Hitlerites or Hitler cultists of the extreme Right and the Strasserites who place themselves on the 'Left'. Its really too boring to go through all the torturous round of splits between the Hitlerites and the Strasserites who are the most dynamic and are the ones who have made approaches to anarchists among others. Most of the larger Nazi groups have both Hitlerite and Strasserite wings among the activist cadre, most of the membership are either out of it on glue or totally apathetic on the whole.

When the Strasserites claim to be anti-capitalist and anti-Hitlerite there is little reason to doubt them. Hitler had Gregor Strasser shot and by no means of the imagination can Hitlerism be described as any form of socialism. The Strasserite dreams of racially pure socialism of small property owners and the self-employed, in Marxist terms they want a *petit-bourgeois socialism*, a socialism divorced of a real working class basis.

So why the sudden interest in Anarchism by the Nazis? The answer is part of a complex whole. Firstly in the last couple of years they have been in a period of decline and internal dissension.... With record levels of unemployment and record crime they should have been cleaning up but they have been unable to even get near their 1977 level. The obvious conclusion is that their old tactics don't work.

step is for them to either come out and say they accept us as allies, (even though we don't want to know). Or they could print a racist rag and call it Anarchist, cover it with A signs and union jacks. No matter how much we deny it as part of the "movement", the mud would stick. Can you imagine how our rivals on the Left would exploit that?

All that would fit in with the State's strategy of tension. Sow confusion, create tension, violence with the aim of producing a Rightist backlash.

And even more horrifying is the thought that the Nazis could do another Piazza Fontana. For many years now it has been Nazi policy to infiltrate Left groups and movements. Anarchists would be easy to infiltrate. And that fascination with armed struggle that certain youngish comrades have could be exploited. In the after-math of another Bologna train bombing we would be rounded up by the score. Public opinion would favour increased police state activity. Exactly what the State wants.

This begs the question, what relation does the State have with the Nazi groups? It seems ridiculous to claim that the State created the Nazi groups from scratch. But the police have informers and infiltrators in all political groups, from extreme Left to extreme Right. The Nazis serve a useful function for the State at certain times. In order to divert attention from the Government it uses the Nazis to stir up already existing racial tensions. To break up Leftist meetings the Nazis are useful. To destroy the unions the Nazis are useful.

Not all the Nazis, nor all the Leaders are police puppets. It only needs a few well placed individuals to keep the Right on the police line. Well founded rumours about people like Martin Webster, or Eddie Morrison for example suggest that their strings are pulled by the filth. Only a few individuals and the police get their way. And when the Nazis have out-lived their usefulness they'll be cleaned out and sent back into the looney wing.

No doubt some individuals among the Nazis are sincere. But anyone who genuinely wants a working class revolution has to reject the whole idea of the Nation. The working class have no country. The idea of the Nation has been used to destroy class unity and to spread the idea that workers and bosses have something in common. The workers and bosses have only one thing in common, class war. Either they'll keep us in our place by any means possible or we'll smash capitalism. The immigrant communities are part of the British working class. We are as exploited, just like our white brothers and sisters. Exploitation recognises no racial barriers, we are exploited along with our white fellow workers by black and white bosses. If any of the Nazis are genuinely interested in Anarchism then the first thing they must do is reject the racist logic of the Nation/State.

Somehow I doubt that many Nazis will suddenly become class conscious militants.

What we can do to counter the plans of the State / Nazis is to be ever vigilant. We must avoid any ambiguity, RACISM and ANARCHISM are poles apart. We must denounce any signs of racism among animal lib/ecology/Anarchist circles, we must beware of any signs of confusion. Anarchists have

MINERS UPDATE

Pickets outside the power station at Thorpe-Marsh tried to save a woman stuck in a car that crashed into the river Don, alas she disappeared but the strikers won local hero media coverage for a change.

5 people have died already trying to get coal from slagheaps - now dangerously wet - one young lad drowned trying to flee his police pursuers. On Sunday 18th November 2 children, aged 12 & 15 died in a collapse at a slagheap at Goldthorpe while digging up coal for heating.

Bentley NUM Branch have decided at a Branch meeting: "at no time, now or in the future will we represent or defend scabs for any purpose".

The NCB have said that out of a national capacity of 2,239,000 tonnes of coal only 581,000 is being mined. This is because of the miners strike and the overtime ban in Notts and Midlands areas which is now reducing production by up to 30%.

North Yorks area NCB is having problems with the coaches used to transport scabs. At least 2 have broken down. One of these the driver had the sense to run off and leave the coach blocking the road. The other coach driver stayed with his coach once the scabs had been taken to police station 'safety'; he was severely beaten up and required a stretcher.

Askern pickets were chased into a wood by cops with dogs. 3 pickets climbed a tree. The cops told them to get down. The pick

The answer is part of a complex whole. Firstly in the last couple of years they have been in a period of decline and internal dissension.... With record levels of unemployment and record crime they should have been cleaning up but they have been unable to even get near their 1977 level. The obvious conclusion is that their old tactics don't work. Thatcher has soaked up the support of the hang 'em birch 'em racist, (especially after the Falklands).

In the last couple of years ecology, disarmament and unemployment have been the big issues that have moved people. The unemployment issue is largely sewn up by the 'hard' left and would leave little room for the Nazis to manoeuvre. On the other hand ecology, animal lib and disarmament represent a large hazy area where the Nazis can manoeuvre without too much difficulty. And in getting involved in these areas the Nazi activist with only limited cover can get out of the Rightist ghetto and into contact with activists who are often unpoliticised or simply concerned on a one off issue. For example class struggle activists usually steer clear of animal lib activities, animal lib being a grey area for most of us. The Nazi can get involved, become genuinely active and without blowing his/her cover can switch to racist activity, by attacking immigrant butchers shops and slaughter-houses. In that case immigrant communities are attacked and harassed in the name of animal lib. In another sense the disarmament issue can be easily turned into a nationalist issue. CND often uses nationalist sentiments, the Nazis have only to shift from the language and emphasis a bit for the nationalism to become *the* issue.

And us? Why should the Nazis take any notice of us? Because we are open for exploitation, we are sitting ducks, an accident waiting to happen. We accept everyone and reject no one. Anyone who uses the magic incantation: "I'm an Anarchist too. . .", or "I'm an Anarcho-...", or even "I'd call myself a Libertarian..." is part of the mythical "movement".

We are a small core of activists, with some larger influence on a diffuse group of punks/hippies, squatters, pacifists, trendy liberals and the rejects of half a dozen religions and political parties. To most of the population we are a bunch of freaks who are dangerous trouble-makers. But the potential is there for something more. We have the numbers, the propaganda tools and the experience. We have the contacts in industry and on the streets. It only needs a spark and the activists minority could snow-ball into something much bigger. Just imagine a couple of hundred conscious Anarchist miners or a Stop the City action linking with dissatisfied black youth or strikers. Fantasy? Perhaps, perhaps not.

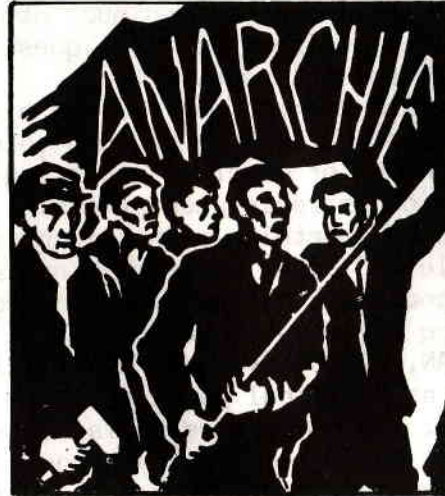
Now how would you go about discrediting and nipping in the bud any such danger? In our case they could do no worse than tarring us with the Nazi brush. Any Nazi mud that sticks & potential Anarchists would run a mile. Who would have anything to do with a bunch of Nazi lovers?

We can only guess that the so far low key approaches by certain Nazi groups are just the beginning. We've told them to fuck off but they refuse to accept the message. The next

What we can do to counter the plans of the State / Nazis is to be ever vigilant. We must avoid any ambiguity, RACISM and ANARCHISM are poles apart. We must denounce any signs of racism among animal lib/ecology/Anarchist circles, we must beware of any signs of confusion. Anarchists have always been active anti-Nazis, we must continue to be active. Any approaches from the Nazis must be given the two-finger treatment.

More importantly we must tighten up amongst ourselves, beware of infiltration. Be careful what you say and do. And for fucks sake if you're thinking of taking armed action be very careful not to be used.

One last word, to all Nazis reading this: FUCK OFF.



Leeds Women Attack "Art"

5 women with hammers stormed an "art" exhibition and smashed sculptures which were 'obscene and horrendous'. The plate glass window of Leeds Polytechnic and several 'art sculptures' such as a naked torso of a woman, wedged into a fridge were smashed up. Unfortunately they were caught, arrested and later released on bail. Several complaints were made to the college about the exhibition. There are no trial details as yet.

Askern pickets were chased into a wood by cops with dogs. 3 pickets climbed a tree. The cops told them to get down. The pickets refused, replying: "Piss off we are having a Branch meeting!"

An Askern pit miners wife who has just given birth to a baby has been told by the Welfare that unless there is coal in their striker's home the infant will be taken into State care.

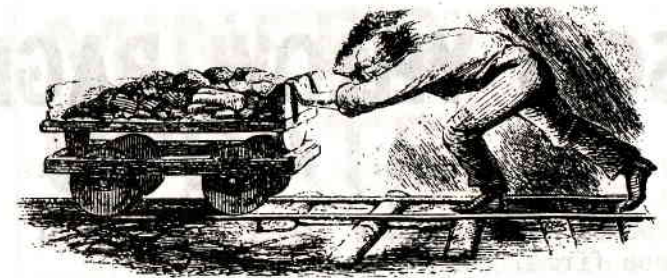
Deportation Threat

Manjit and Palbinder Kaur live in Ardwick Manchester. They are faced with the threat of separation by the Home Office. Manjit unwittingly fell foul of complex Immigration Laws and even though her daughter, Palbinder is a British citizen the Govt. want to deport her. She would have no way to support herself and her daughter in India and is therefore faced with leaving Palbinder here to go into care.

Manjit came to England in 1979 and successfully applied for supplementary benefit in 1981 just after she left her husband. The benefit soon stopped though so Manjit was forced to get a job as a clothing machinist. In December 1983 after 5 years here the Home Office told her she had 'no right to stay in England' because she did not have the correct papers on entry.

The present Immigration Laws mean that more than 50 people a week are deported and that many families have been separated. Send letters of support (to be given to the Home Office) to Manjit Kaur Defence Campaign, c/o Sikh Family History North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Manchester 15.

MINERS NEWS



Hatfield

On Thursday 8th November scabs went into Hatfield pit, this led to a pitched battle and the cop shop windows got smashed. A cop horse slipped & pickets were blamed for the possibility of it becoming blind.

Cops now taunt miners with "Why don't you go digging for coal & kill yourselves" - referring to recent deaths of people digging in slagheaps for fuel. Because people are out of fuel, many of those who have been picketing are now spending their time 'logging'. No time or energy for 'revolutionary' ferment when bases of survival are non-existent. Those who claim that if the miners weren't being given food they would be more 'revolutionary' please note!

Returning miners are still only a small percentage of all miners. Some of those who are down as 'returned' are those on sick.

The NCB's 'bonus' (sic) is merely wages without tax - no tax payable as no money earned so far this tax year.

Womens Action

On November 7th, 20 women took over the pit-head baths at Cynheidre Pit, near Llanelli, to stop scabs working. The women stayed there that night, and all the next day.

Racketeer Exposed

Nottingham's Chief Constable Charles McLachlan has been served with a total of

Cardiff Miners Support Group

A mixed group of students who have no formal structure, informal meetings which are open to anyone taking an active part in supporting the strikers has been busy: 7/11/84 5:15am. arrive at Nantgarw/Windsor colliery to stop a scab from crawling in. By 7am there were 200 pickets & as many cops (many 'hidden'), the scab arrived in late taking us but not the cops by surprise. In the resulting push 2 pickets were thrown onto a fire. The cops attempt to arrest a picket was stopped by 50 pickets piling in, they didn't try again.

Later that day the Uni MSG and Arts College MSG went to a Penrhiwceiber Womens MSG meeting and handed over £400 collected. Twinned with Penrhiwceiber colliery the women showed us how little each family has to survive on - approx. 3 lbs of potatoes and about 6 tins a week...if food parcels are above £4 the State will take that £4 off the family money (if they get any). Snoops look around. Single strikers get a bigger food parcel because they get no money at all. If there isn't enough of an item eg. jam, for everybody, distribution is withheld until there is enough for all. The women picket, fundraise, organise the publicity and entertainment...a bit more than soup kitchens. Their determination is strong and they are willing and able to continue for ever - your support is essential.

E.M. Cardiff

Blood Money

The parents of a Yorkshire miner who died on a picketline have ripped up and returned a £250 cheque sent to them by working miners, declaring it to be blood money. Parents of David Jones say they were deeply insulted to receive the cheque through the post along with a letter of condolence for the loss of their son who died on picket duty at Ollerton pit, Nottinghamshire in March.

Belgian Mines To Close

Much support for the miners strike here has come from Belgium, but the Belgian miners themselves are hard pressed. At the beginning of November Flemish, Welloon and Turkish miners came together to demonstrate against pit closures. Last month the last pit in the French speaking area was shut down. There are also plans to close pits in the Dutch speaking area at Genk, Weterschen and Winkerslag, cutting the workforce by 3,000. The Govt. and bosses are playing a 'softly softly' game because there are elections next year.

TUC vs THE MINERS

The tragedy of the miners strike is that although a TUC/Labour sell-out is brewing there will be few in the labour movement prepared to challenge the current establishment.

Oil Embargo

there will be few in the labour movement prepared to challenge the current establishment.

From the very beginning of the dispute the NUM wisely went over the heads of the TUC and appealed to other unions and the rank and file direct. Had they relied on TUC 'solidarity' the strike would have ended in defeat long ago.

Now the TUC are going all out to crush the NUM because they will not tolerate a victory based on direct action. Even more so, the TUC understands that if the NUM win through, the old reformist tactics will have taken a sound knocking.

Under these circumstances the TUC and the Labour Leadership are sticking close together, each backing the other in their hypocritical condemnation of 'violence'. The fact is that this complicity is a major factor in the inducement to scab.

Not surprisingly TUC General Secretary Norman Willis got the old noose treatment at one of the NUM rallies when he did his 'I deplore violence' bit. Needless to say his condemnation, as is Kinnock's, is part and parcel of the wider strategy to isolate the NUM and to eventually push for the rehabilitation of arbitration as a respectable means for ending the dispute.

Violence, as every miner knows from direct experience is basic to the class struggle and to any industrial action that avoids capitulation. The TUC/Labour Leadership knows that State violence has to be confronted and defeated, but that won't admit it publicly. For reasons of expediency. It goes without saying that so far the police have got off lightly.

As for the future, a non-reformist, non-hierarchical, syndicalist federation is a long way off from being organised but it has to come if our class is to avoid any more defeats. The support groups could form the basis of such a new alliance.

Oil Embargo

At West Thurrock and Tilbury an embargo has been placed on all future oil supplies to the stations by the T & G workers. Thurrock, as a result, has now been taken off the National Grid.

Other 'peripheral' power stations may follow suit. Already, however, the CEEB has begun lorry convoys to transport coal from scab pits to other blacked power stations, such as Didcot.

Latest news is that the TGWU, the NUS and the two rail unions have agreed to enforce the oil embargo too. The three unions will also be making joint representation to the International Transport Federation for trade unions in other countries to respect the ban.

What's The Damage?

A NCB computer was sabotaged at their Exploration Unit near Doncaster. All the terminals were smashed and the building wrecked causing over £100,000 worth of damage.

Spot The Hypocrite

Neil Kinnock some years back was in the lavatory at the Grand Hotel when a young man kicked him in the elbow. The shadow Education spokesman seized the attacker and pulled him in close so Neil 'I deplore violence' could beat the shit out of him. When Kinnock rejoined his companions at the bar he told them what had happened, one went to check and found blood and vomit all over the floor. A few hours later Kinnock boarded the train out of Brighton.

Nottingham's Chief Constable Charles McLachlan has been served with a total of 10 writs as a result of police action in the miners strike. Six of the writs allege unlawful detention without charge, two assault by Police Officers, one assault, wrongful arrest and false imprisonment & one unlawful detention following arrest for obstruction.

Meanwhile Nott's cops are declining. Compared to a year ago (2,245) regular officers are now down to 2,209. Why?

A fundraising campaign in Belgium by striking Notts miners raised £7,000.

Nott's Tory Council Policy and General Purposes Committee opposed an independent Inquiry into policing of the miners strike. They also turned down providing free meals during the last half term school holidays to the children of miners in hardship.

Sutton trades are being forced to the brink by the miner's strike. The town's Chamber of Trade says all businesses are down 20 per cent on last year's turnover.

