

# BLACK FLAG

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

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## RIOT IN WHITEHALL

On February 24th, a huge march of 80,000 miners and their supporters was held in London, in a festive atmosphere.

The feeling of solidarity was destroyed when plain clothes police and uniformed police arrested 2 Notts miners as their part of the March neared the Theatre of War in Whitehall. Police and miners were quick to respond, with skirmishes breaking out as police snatch squads went for people only to have them snatched back by the crowd, as sticks and bottle rained down on the police lines which had halted the demo. TV cameramen were pushed aside as they zoomed in for sensation, as a steward with a loudhailer told everyone to go to Trafalgar Square. Abused, and asked whose side he was on, he accused "outside agitators" of causing trouble which he later changed to "anarchists" and "students".

Meanwhile the march was staying put, determined not to move until the Notts miners were released. The police withdrew, while a large crowd gathered outside 10 Downing Street (chants of 'Maggie, we





want you...DEAD! echoed and bands played the catchy tune 'Here We Go, Here We Go!) and people milled around in Whitehall, which was clear of traffic.

Then in a new tactic and with new cops the police moved in again about 100 strong making arrests only to find themselves surrounded and given a good kicking. A Superintendent's hat was thrown up in the air, to cheers.

During the pushing and shoving, an elderly man was seen hitting the backs of cops legs with his walking stick! A cry of 'Horses' went up, and the helmets of the mounted police could be seen over the heads of the police lines.

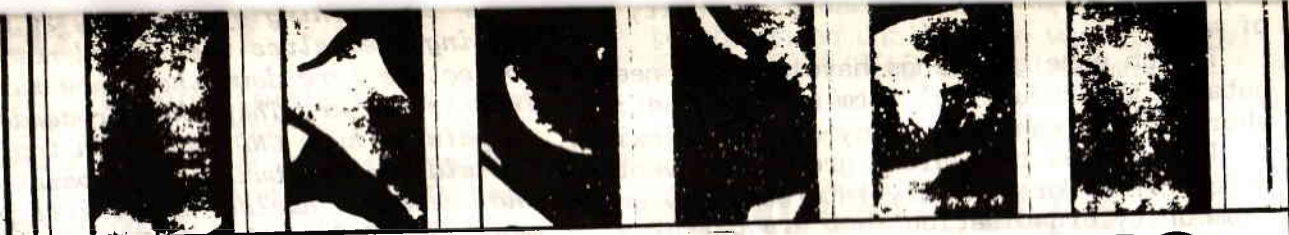
Then a crushing line of police moved forward, in a pincer style strategy to break up the crowd, forcing people into side streets off Whitehall. Children who were placed in safety on ledges, behind fences were dragged out by the cops, some people were viciously beaten as they were chased, jumped on and dragged to vans and into Whitehall buildings. One woman lost consciousness as her head was bashed on the pavement by the five cops arresting her. Stacks of crowd barriers were thrown off nearby trucks.

## Whitehall Demo

About 30 mounted police cleared whitehall, crushing people against railings and then charging into groups of marchers without warning. Some people arrested were taken into the Horseguards area, and beaten up.

There was a shortage of missiles to throw at the police - at one stage a pile of *Socialist Workers* (the papers not the individual Trots) got thrown at a police line, and someone said "best use for them yet!"

While being arrested a man got his leg trapped under a parked car - the police yanked him so violently that his leg broke. He is still in hospital.



# FREE THE HOSTAGES

There are now around 150 miners in prison and over 700 miners have been sacked because they actively supported the strike. They are political prisoners and, like all political prisoners, should be supported and freed.

And we can't just support them now. We must support them 1, 2, 5 or 10 years from now. We must support them until every last miner taken hostage during the strike has been freed and given back their job. Amongst those sacked are some of the most militant supporters of the strike. After the General Strike in 1926 the Government sacked and blacklisted "troublemakers". The same thing is happening now. Some people, including the Labour Party leadership, have attempted to separate those sacked and imprisoned during the strike into 'minor' offenders (whom they say, deserve to get their jobs back) and 'major' offenders (whom they say don't). This is dangerous rubbish. When you are being attacked and your future is being threatened you have every right to defend yourself by whatever means are available. The only criminals during this strike have been those who have tried to destroy jobs, communities and unions. They are the people who should be sacked and harassed. The strike may be over but the struggle continues!

**FREE JAILED MINERS! TOTAL AMNESTY FOR ALL THOSE SACKED!**

Ministry of Defence windows were smashed, and a police motorbike overturned, as crowds withdrew to Embankment, police in pursuit trying to give the impression that everything was under control.

There were 121 arrests in all, including some DAM members. Many people had to have hospital treatment, and 13 people were held overnight. Police were also hospitalised.

The general feeling was of amazement that a day for celebration of solidarity had been turned around so viciously by the police. And, on the other side, the police had learnt that these marchers weren't going to take attacks on them lying down.

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...AND LOTS MORE!!