

BLACK FLAG

No. 133 3-6-'85 40p

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

PRISONERS OF WAR

LIFE SENTENCES ARE POLITICAL

The sentencing of the two Welsh miners, Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland, was a political act as well as the charge of murder itself. And recognition of the political nature of the trial was shown when over 1,000 villagers from the mining community of Rhymney, where the two lived, marched through the streets with placards denouncing the verdicts.

Dean and Russell are not murderers, but working men who are known in their

SUPPORT
the
AMNESTY
NOW!
KENT MINERS

communities for the support they have given to their community and to their union. On the day they went to stand on the bridge over the motorway to look for scabs, their intention was not to kill, although their actions resulted in a death. Even by the standards of bourgeois Law they should have been tried for manslaughter and not murder. As it was the



... of Public Prosecutions instructed that Murder was to be kept and the judge ruled that only the maximum sentence — life — would suffice. They were to be made an example of and become the sacrificial lambs to atone for the violence that was used by the mining communities as a whole in their defence of union rights and the rights of the community to resist police occupation.

But the State has failed to criminalise Dean and Russell: to their own community and to their class, they are but victims, as was the taxi driver who foolishly (and consciously) took the side of the scab in a war of attrition, of which the Government and employers had organised.

In Rhymney, David Williams, the scab who had provided the circumstances for taxi driver Wilkies' death, is without a friend. At the march through Rhymney the demonstrators attempted to head to Williams' house, but were prevented by the police from getting anywhere near. Nevertheless the cry of 'scab' echoed through the Welsh air. Williams is now expected to return to work at Merthyr Vale pit now that the trial is over, but others expect that he will try to move out — perhaps to Nottinghamshire.

Meanwhile the community of Rhymney has sworn that both Dean and Russell will be supported until the day of their release, but until then every effort will be made to get an appeal under way against the sentence at least and perhaps the trial hearing too.



WELSH DEMONSTRATION

On Saturday 25th May, 1985, 1500 people including the family, friends and fellow miners marched in Wales calling for the freedom of Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland jailed for life recently. The protestors marched in Cardiff to the Welsh Office and held a vigil at Cardiff jail.

Three Wearmouth 'class prisoners' were released from jail last week and returned home to a hero's welcome. Our picture shows Gary Hopper being greeted by his father Dave (left) and Geordie Richardson embraced by his brother outside Rudgate Prison, Wetherby. Gary, Geordie and Gordon Miller all served three months of a four month sentence imposed on them for breaking the windows of a working miner during the dispute. All three had been held in open prisons. Gary and Geordie were together in Rudgate but Gordon was sent away to another jail near Preston. The lads were presented with miners lamps by Dave Hopper, Secretary of Wearmouth Lodge, at a ceremony and coming out party at Sunderland North Labour Club the day they were released. Gary Hopper said the worst time of their three month stint was in Durham jail where the prison warders called them 'underground savages'. The overwhelming message from the three jailed miners was that messages of support were very important for their morale while they were in prison. A LIST OF THOSE STILL IN JAIL IS ON PAGE 3

EVICTION POSTPONED

121 Bookshop was opened in January 1981 by Anarchists looking for an outlet for anarchist literature in South London. Since then it has housed a cafe, a libertarian documentation centre (the Kate Sharpley Library) and a Self-help Housing Information Resource Library. It is still used by several groups, including South London DAM-IWA as a meeting place and mailing address. Since 1982 the building has also been used as an advice and help centre for homeless people.

The bookshop is open 6 days a week and has always been run on a voluntary basis by the 121 Collective. It is a Squat and one of the few buildings to survive the Brixton riots in the Summer of 1981 unharmed. Since the 81 riots, a Secret Council Committee (headed by Ted Knight, the Lambeth Council Labour Group Leader) has supervised the destruction and partial rebuilding of the entire area around 121 Railton Road. By 1985 most of the shops, houses and clubs have been evicted and demolished. In 1984 a row of houses in Effra Parade, opposite 121 Bookshop, were evicted by 150 riot police in a 4am raid. The Squatters, mostly Anarchists, barricaded the street and fought the police but failed to stop the evictions and demolition.

Thousands of Anarchists from all over the world have visited 121 Bookshop since it opened and hundreds of public meetings have been held there. More recently the bookshop cellar has been used (for the first time) to hold regular

benefits. *Black Flag* is distributed from the premises every two weeks. In the past the building has also been used by a women's self-defence group, women from Greenham Common Peace Camp, prisoner aid and miner's support work.

The building was a derelict property owned by the local Lambeth Council before Anarchists occupied it. At the moment the 'Socialist' Labour Party control Lambeth Council under the leadership of 'Red' Ted Knight, a Marxist who was once expelled from the Labour Party as a result of his 'extreme' views. His hatred for Anarchists and local Squatters is no secret nor is his personal vendetta against 121. The Bookshop was raided by the police in 1984 (looking for guns) and attacked by right-wingers. Lambeth Council took 121 Collective to Court to obtain an eviction order in 1983, but then adjourned the case indefinitely. In June 1984, the Council again started eviction proceedings but the magistrate decided that the Collective had a right to a Civil Court case which was to take place on 17th and 20th May, 1985.

However, due to the impatience of the Council to get rid of the bookshop, Lambeth Council's Legal Department deliberately ignored the Bookshop's request for several documents in their possession relating to the eviction. Their failure to hand over these documents is illegal and when 121 Bookshop threatened to take Lambeth Council to court over this the Council had no choice but to

cancel the Court Case date in May and agree to provide 121 with all the necessary legal documents. This means 121 Bookshop will be around for a few more months, but the threat of eviction still stands.

Therefore send protest letters to:

1. Labour Group, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2.
2. G.A. Lewsey, Directorate of Administration and Legal Services, London Borough of Lambeth, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SE24.

Solidarity messages to:
121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, Herne Hill, London SE24. England.

PRICE WATERHOUSE TRIAL ENDS

The 12 Clydeside Anarchists arrested for occupying Price-Waterhouse* Offices in Glasgow during the Miner's Strike have been fined a total of £2,000. (2 were fined £300 each, 7 were fined £200 each, 2 have deferred sentences).

An appeal fund has been set up. We urge all our readers to donate generously. Why not organise a benefit? Make cheques payable to: **AUTONOMY BOOKS**, c/o Clydeside Press, 53 Cochrane Street, Glasgow G.1.

* Price-Waterhouse was the Company responsible for stealing NUM funds during the strike.

Photo - part of the large demonstration in support of victimised miners in Sheffield on March 3

MINERS NEWS

Court cases initiated by King Scabs to get the Miners Strike declared illegal began a whole series of wranglings which lately have resulted in Notts scabs trying to get two Notts strikers expelled for not paying NUM subscriptions while on strike! The case failed. Another case over rule changes on NUM area autonomy is pending.

Scabs produced 26.6 million tonnes of coal from Notts & Derbyshire according to the NCB. During the 12 months of the strike 800,000 shipments were made by lorries as sympathetic strike action of railway workers stopped coal trains.

Almost 20m tonnes went to the 15 power stations in the Trent valley. Before the strike Midlands pits loaded 565 trains per week, BUT by May '84 fewer than 200 were being loaded. Notts always had 100 trains a week while other areas often had no trains. The Notts North & South Areas will merge in August and become the centre of national strategy under the Director Albert Wheeler who as Scottish NCB boss refused to reinstate any miner sacked or arrested in the region. The new centre will be based in Edwinstowe.

Meanwhile at Thoresby Miners Welfare near Edwinstowe the 76 miners who lost their jobs for striking (only 4 were taken back) have been banned from having any meetings on the premises and even when they could use the place were banned from bringing people from London in. Could be renamed the Manager's Yes Club?

Finally Don Concannon, Mansfield MP for 19 years (yawn) and Ashfield MP Frank Haynes are supported by the Notts scabs. Up to 3/4 of election campaign expenses are paid for by NUM sponsorship instead of the candidate or the local Labour Party.

During the Miner's Strike, the Shirebrook, Langwith and Pleasley Women's Action Support Group, borne out of poverty and need, rose to become the backbone for many families. Continuing their work, the women opened a new Shirebrook Community Centre last month where they have held socials and jumble sales (with clothes donated from, amongst many places, Holland) for the families of miners in jail. A local women's training centre has been set up with a nursery and advice and information. A coffee bar, old folk's club, junior clubs for teenagers and children, after school activities and unemployed activities are catered for, they also plan to produce a local newspaper.

Meanwhile in Mansfield a new £1.45m Territorial Army Centre was opened by ex-Major Dennis Thatcher. It includes a miniature rifle range for use by A

A miner at Westoe colliery was sacked at the beginning of May for allegedly kicking a scab in a cage with over 50 men in it in total darkness. In response to the sacking the miners at Westoe immediately struck for 48 hours. Further action seems likely if the miner is not reinstated.

Joe Henry of South Kirby Colliery has been sacked for allegedly calling someone a scab. He denies it but the word of two scabs was good enough for the NCB.

Mick Aldrid was one of two miners who were sacked for allegedly causing criminal damage despite having been released from Maltby police station without charge.

4 miners at Silverwood Colliery have been sacked for allegedly causing damage to a dead tree before their cases came to Court.

Christine Brown, a cleaner at Harworth pit and chair of the Women's Support Group there, returned to work only to be told she had been sacked. No reason was given for her dismissal.

Since the end of the miner's Strike nearly 3 months ago around 20,000 jobs have been lost around the country by miners. The latest wave of redundancies are to be in the Doncaster area (2,500) while the closures of Bates and Horden collieries in North-East England will mean over 3,000 job losses.



THE BOSSES LAW

John Hunter the owner of a coal mine security company in West Virginia was accused last month of hiring an undercover FBI agent to break the arms and legs of a union organiser.

He is also charged with trying to smuggle a pistol into West Virginia as part of the plot to injure Manuel D. Williams, a United Mine Workers organiser at a mine Hunter's company protects.

On April 10, Hunter allegedly gave FBI Agent Richard Kemp a pistol and told him to make the attack look like armed robbery.

NO STRIKES ALLOWED? - IT MAKES YOU SICK!

Dutch air traffic controllers, legally banned from striking reported sick en masse to back a pay claim on Friday May 24th. They stopped flights of course but their bosses are still holding out. The workers returned back on the 25th and flights returned to normal. Imagination and direct action in industrial struggles can get results that the bosses have promised negotiation

IMPRISONED

DURHAM

GLEN BLACK: Dawdon - Two-year sentence from March 1985.

PETER GILES: Easington - Nine-month sentence from April 1985. Temporarily held in Durham Jail.

KEVIN HUGHES: Dawdon - Two-year youth custody sentence from March 1985 Durham Prison, Old Elvet, Leyland, Lancs PR5 3JH.

BARRY KENNEY: Easington - Nine-month sentence from April 1985. Temporarily held in Durham jail.

JOHN LITTLE: Dawdon - Two-year sentence from March 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

JOHN ANTHONY PARKIN: Easington - Nine-month sentence from April 1985. Temporarily held in Durham jail.

RAYMOND PATTERSON: Dawdon - Two-year sentence from March 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

MARK ROBSON: Easington - Nine-month sentence from April 1985. Temporarily held in Durham jail.

MARK ROCHESTER: Dawdon - Two-year sentence from March 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

D. SCOTT: Easington - Nine-month sentence from April 1985. Temporarily held in Durham jail.

Not miners but sentenced in connection with the miners strike:

STANLEY GREGORY: Dawdon - Unemployed. Two-year sentence from March 1985.

GARY KRISTONSON: Dawdon - Warehouseman. Two-year sentence from March 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

BRIAN LITTLE: Dawdon - Engineer. Two-year sentence from March 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

IAN STEPHENSON: Dawdon - Unemployed. Two-year youth custody sentence from March 1985.

NORTHUMBERLAND

NIGEL BIRCH: Bates - Three-month sentence from April 1985. Durham Prison, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU.

WILLIAM SMITH: Whittle - 2 1/2-year sentence from February 1985. Durham Prison, Old Elvet, DH1 3HU.

LANCASHIRE

STEVEN HUGHES: Wetherby - Six-month sentence from April 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

YORKSHIRE

ALAN BRIDGES: Armthorpe - Six-month sentence from March 1985. Wymott Prison, Wymott, W. Yorks. WF1 2JH.

MICHAEL BRIDGES: Armthorpe - Six-month sentence from March 1985. Wymott Prison, Wymott, W. Yorks. WF1 2JH.

TERRY CAPSTICH: Wetherby - Nine-month sentence from April 1985.

DAVE SCHOFIELD: Wetherby - Three-month sentence from March 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

CLIVE THOMPSON: Wetherby - Three-year sentence from March 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.

RAYMOND VANCE: Armthorpe - Six-month sentence from March 1985. Wymott Prison, Wymott, W. Yorks. WF1 2JH.

PAUL WRIGHT: Wetherby - 18-month sentence from April 1985. Preston, Lancs. PR1 2RA.

Not a miner but sentenced in connection with the strike:

ROBERT LATHAM: Kirkby - Nine-month sentence from April 1985.

STAFFORDSHIRE

WILLIAM BANNIS: Hem Heath - Two-year sentence from January 1985. Wymott Prison, Wymott, W. Yorks. WF1 2JH.

MICHAEL JONES: Hem Heath - Two-year sentence from January 1985. Wymott Prison, Wymott, W. Yorks. WF1 2JH.

STEVEN LOWE: Hem Heath - Two-year sentence from January 1985. Wymott Prison, Wymott, W. Yorks. WF1 2JH.

GARY MOULD: Hem Heath - Two-year youth custody sentence from January 1985.

RAYMOND PATTON: Hem Heath - Two-year sentence from January 1985. Wymott Prison, Wymott, W. Yorks. WF1 2JH.

NORTH DERBYSHIRE

KEVIN BEAL: Shirebrook - Two-year sentence from December 1984. Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU.

SIMON BROOKES: Wetherby - Three-month sentence from April 1985. Wetherby Prison, York Road, West Yorks. LS22 SED.