

No. 142

BLACK FLAG

30p

THE ANARCHIST

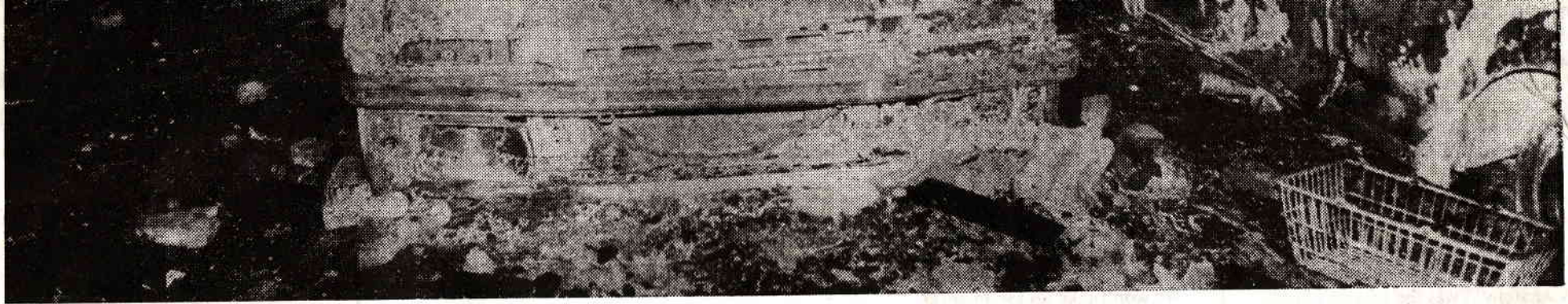


FORTNIGHTLY

21-10-85

TOTTENHAM SIEGE





On Sunday October 8th, the riot on Broadwater Farm Estate resulted in 1 cop dead and 220 cops being injured. Only eight rioters were arrested during the riot.

The seige of the Estate by police began after an angry public meeting there about the death of Cynthia Jarrett, aged 49, a black woman who died of a heart attack during a police raid on her home by cops looking for stolen property. Her family maintain the cops pushed her over and as she writhed in obvious pain, refused to help her, claiming she was 'shamming'.

As the meeting tried to march to the Tottenham Police Station, it ran into hundreds of police trying to seal off the area.

About 800 people began to stone the police lines, and the crowd then retreated into the entrances of the fortress-like Estate.

It was there that fierce fighting broke out as riot police charged into the 'award winning' Estate, to be met by furious resistance by the local youth, who hurled rocks pavement stones and petrol bombs at the cops, and aimed driver-less cars at the lines of baton-wielding cops.

The Post-office, the super-market in a nearby street were looted, and the super-market was soon on fire. As police and firemen were distracted by the blaze, a shotgun opened fire from the flats, thus injuring cops and journalists who had been skulking behind police lines.

As the supermarket blazed, PC Blake-lock waded in on a group of kids watching events. He was screaming racial abuse, and as the kids defended themselves, he was slashed across the neck, and bled to death on the way to hospital.

Not so quick to be taken to hospital were victims of the riot police's truncheons, who lay in their own blood in the streets until ambulances finally arrived.

As more riot police charged, shots rang out again, and as the whole scene was lit up by burning cars, police were hit by paving stones thrown from walkways and balconies.

Police were converging on the scene in commandeered vehicles, due to the rioters success in burning police cars.

At midnight, heavy rain set in, but it didn't dampen the jubilation of rioters in the area. 'That will teach the evil bastards' said one black youth.

The riot had been contained, but the defence of the Estate had been fierce and successful.

Newman (ex-top cop from Ulster/North Ireland) the London Police Chief did not dare put in an appearance until late and the Estate was not retaken by cops until 4 in the morning. Douglas 'brick me' Hurd the Tory's Law & Order Supremo has not showed his face locally yet. He got bricked in Handsworth after the uprising so he did a secret trip to Brixton on Friday 4th to avoid any 'Brixton confetti'.

MORE NEWS ON RIOTS INSIDE. . .

TOTTENHAM — THE WEEK AFTER

On Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, during the week after the riots, police got mail stopped for a week (to read it?) as a punishment for those on social security.

In the last few days, the police, mainly Special Patrol Group, have been invading the whole area, doing door to door questioning of locals, with search warrants for every flat on the Estate. When there is a cop killed its almost martial Law, if you are the victim of a fascist attack such as those Asian victims of arson murders, it seems to be the least of priorities. The police have kidnapped one 26 year old black man, four other 'juveniles' and of these four have charged one, a fifteen year old black youth with murder of PC Blake-lock. They are holding them in separate, secret locations for fear of reprisals on the kidnapers.

RIOTS & RUMOURS OF RIOTS

In Harrogate, West Yorkshire, 100 people were reported to have been involved in stoning police cars and attacks on building

In Welshpool, mid Wales, police tried to arrest someone in the town, only to be met by a group of 50 youths who resisted the kidnapping.

In Southall, on Saturday October 10th, 100 Asians threw stones and bottles at a passing police car. They overturned another car and built a barricade. Later 2 petrol bombs were thrown and seven people arrested. In 1981 it was police

harassment and a fascist 'night out' (ie. attacking Asian locals) in the area which was the spark for the July riots around the country.

HUNGER STRIKE OVER.

Anarchist Victor Armanious came off his hunger strike on Tuesday Oct 15th, after nearly two months without food. His demand to be released on bail was finally met by the Greek authorities after widespread protests by anarchists in Greece and abroad.

Anarchists in London held a demonstration outside the Greek Embassy in solidarity with Victor's demands on October 11th.



RIOTS - HOME AND ABROAD

WE IDENTIFY THE OUTSIDE AGITATORS

POLICE BLITZ — MAD DOG NEWMAN!

The rantings of Police Chief Newman on television during the past weeks are as extraordinary as anything seen in TV dramas. Speaking like the conquering Governor of a defeated city, he warned Londoners that if riots continued he would not stop at CS gas, water cannon or plastic bullets.

The threat of death if any of his loyal officers came to grief was reminiscent of Himmler (nazi founder of INTERPOL); and is commonplace in Belfast and Beirut. Gas knows no boundaries and nerve gas strikes the old and vulnerable rather than 'the enemy' — or perhaps it is all London that is the enemy? — while water cannon can be deadly to spectators, and plastic bullets kill children (as we know from the Belfast situation).

When did London submit to Newman? What makes Mrs Thatcher think it belongs to her? Is Newman to be the new Franco? These questions were answered by Newman when he made his attacks on 'anarchists and activists'. We do not suppose that when Newman attacked Anarchists he had real Anarchists in mind — he was attacking the whole left wing with what he thought was the stigma of anarchism. The Haringey councillors who declined to oppose their people weren't 'anarchists' but then perhaps Newman will argue he's not a 'fascist' either — he just happens to be an authoritarian rightist.

Mrs Thatcher *does* think she owns the whole country. Her new spokesperson has stated she is the 'chairman' of 'Great Britain Inc.'

London *has* submitted to Newman, and the sooner it wakes up and throws him out the better.

Over the last two weeks the Press and TV have engaged in a sustained and concerted campaign whose targets have been 'outside agitators' — named as the hidden evil behind the rioting in Brixton, Peckham, Tottenham and in other parts of the country.

Without wishing to shock the faint-hearted or the gullible, we have to state from the outset that these allegations about outside agitators are not crude attempts to deflect blame on to scapegoats but are, in fact, absolutely true. These outsiders are easily identifiable and have been roaming estates and inner city areas throughout the country, deliberately stirring up trouble. None of these extremists come from those areas; they are true outsiders. They are also part of a highly organised mobile force that is able to call upon vast reserves at a given notice to inflict even more violence upon the areas where they congregate. That they are practitioners of terrorism is beyond question. Known sometimes as the armed wing of government, they are more commonly known as the Police.

These thugs in uniform recently caused the death of Cynthia Jarrett and serious injury to Cherry Groce, in two separate incidents, and in the ensuing violence that followed many of these thugs experienced direct retribution and one of their kind was killed. The pattern for the future has been set: no member of this organised gang of killers shall act with impunity but instead will face directly the consequences of their collective actions. The violence of Tottenham and the other inner city areas has been a warning to these state terrorists: escalate the attacks on the communities and the communities will pay *like with like*, with the Police getting a taste of their own medicine. Bring in CS gas or plastic bullets and the communities will arm themselves with whatever they can get.

try and scare its readers about 'outsiders'. In this way the Press only show just how stupid they are: any 'outsiders' who come to assist in a strike or when a community is under attack are not turned away — unless, of course, they are recognised as police-paid agent provocateurs — but are welcomed. The real outsiders are those who ultimately seek to divide us. Here we mean the Police, obviously, and also all racists and lackeys of the State generally, journalists, political party hacks, etc. — but also those who exploit class anger for their own ends (e.g. muggers of the poor, rapists, scabs, arsonists who burn down working class homes etc.)

If there is a message of the 1985 riots — and there is every sign that more rioting is yet to come — it is clear and simple: *no working class community needs to fight alone*. Although the Police are highly organised and do have the reserves as well as the weaponry (to be met by our own weaponry), providing we all fight together, we stand a chance. The problem — and the solution — for the inner cities and working class communities generally, is the same problem and solution that faces the fight back within industry: mutual aid and how it can be organised better. The day when the institutions of the State are simultaneously fought on the streets in the housing estates in cities and towns throughout the land and when workers in industries strike together in solidarity — that is the day when we will begin to create revolution.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

FAU-IWA comrades contacted 121 Bookshop enquiring about the Brixton riot and 121 in turn sent a telegram to the FAU in Frankfurt which we have been told was read out at a public demonstration/meeting near the spot Gunter Sare was killed. *In Brixton they shoot us. There they run us down in the street. Down with police brutality. Down with the NDP fascists. Gunter Sare is not forgotten. International solidarity!* Tuesday October First, 1985.



the sooner it wakes up and throws him out the better.

BLACK SQUATTERS TO DEFY BAILIFFS – CULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

CAP are a new black group, based in the Brixton area, whose aim is to expose the oppression of culture, to 'educate, re-educate, motivate and activate'. The group was started off by the poet Spartacus R, and they began with a series of Sunday street meetings, which went down well. Then, on the night of the Brixton riot, they occupied an excellent building (left empty for 5½ years!) at 414-416 Coldharbour Lane, right in the middle of Brixton.

The next day, as sporadic rioting continued, 100's of people turned up for the street meeting, and were surrounded by riot cops. The meeting went ahead with at least 500 people at the old Front Line in Railton Road, despite heavy police pressure.

In their new centre the CAP are starting a variety of projects, a creche, music, African language, video, photography and martial arts workshops, poetry, drama meetings, Afro-Caribbean restaurant and Cultural Awareness Training Workshops. CAP is a black group, but they're not separatist as well as being non-Party, anti-sexist, etc. As squatters they have linked up with Brixton Squatters alarm list.

Stop the Eviction

The new CAP centre is owned by Toplands Holdings Ltd., a typical group of faceless big business that owns and exploits inner-city properties. They have refused negotiations and offers of rent and taken out a High Court Eviction case in the Strand for 17th October – 11am. The case will be picketed and the eviction resisted all the way – CAP see the eviction as an example of 'colonialism within the State' – the Colonisation of poor areas by the rich and the misuse of our resources.

Any attempt to evict the CAP will be fully resisted by all the squatters and the black community and is bound to lead to a new uprising.

Genuine helpers are welcome to call at the Centre, or ring 2740138 anytime. The Sunday programme runs from 2 to 7pm.

communities will pay like with like, with the Police getting a taste of their own medicine. Bring in CS gas or plastic bullets and the communities will arm themselves with whatever is at their disposal.

When the Press refer to 'outsiders' they, of course, refer not to the Police but to those outside the immediate riot area who come to provide solidarity to those in the communities under attack. The Press, predictably, come out with the 'outsiders' (a euphemism usually for anarchists) rubbish. on Police orders and also for propaganda reasons. Their twisted way of looking at things dictates that any mutual assistance to working class communities from comrades in other working class communities must be designated as the 'enemy without'. They attempt to stigmatise solidarity as a means of deflecting public criticism away from the Police. While it is alright for the Police, apparently, to deploy 'Mutual Aid' policing to further their own cause, any attempt to use similar tactics by working class communities, whether in picketing (as in the Miners Strike) or through mutual support between the inner city areas, then that is condemned by the Press on the simple grounds that the odds are being evened up.

The police can call in reserve forces from different parts of a city (as with the London inner city rioting) or from neighbouring constabularies (as with Handsworth or with the mass picketing of the Miners Strike) and seal off whole neighbourhoods or villages (as with the pit villages or the inner city areas of Brixton, and Peckham and when they laid siege to the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham after the rioting had ceased and on the following days).

The good news, though, is that police violence is now beginning to be resisted on a scale that such violence demands. In the Tottenham riot, for example, over 250 police officers were injured and there were only 15 arrests. The bad news is that the resistance in the working class communities and in the industries is not yet taking place *simultaneously*, not have divisions between white and black working class communities been fully overcome in the greater need for unity against a common enemy. . . but we're getting there.

It is the fear of working class solidarity or mutual aid that prompts the press to



Armed police agitators in Tottenham.

Police to Blame !

Youth fury against racist police murderers exploded in Tottenham on Sunday October 6, just a week after anti-police riots in Brixton. As in Brixton, the death of a black woman, Mrs Cynthia Jarrett, during a police raid was the trigger that unleashed years of hatred directed exclusively against police thuggery.

Being young in Britain is no longer an attractive prospect. It means unemployment or YTS slavery, run down housing estates, daily police harassment and no money to spend. If you're black there's the added humiliation of racism. With no voting or spending (i.e. economic) powers those in authority have deliberately ignored and walked over the young. Now they are paying the price. They thought they could cut benefits and force YTS schemes onto young people. After all, if they could defeat an organised body of workers like the miners, what hope would the dis-organised, inexperienced young have?

They were wrong! They forgot that when you treat people like animals they will resist and fight back. The sheer hatred directed at the police in Tottenham sent shivers down the spine of those in authority as that hatred runs far deeper

and is more profound than any amount of CS gas or plastic bullets will contain. In desperation and vengeance, the police are arming themselves in readiness for the next inevitable confrontation. As it becomes increasingly clear that the police exist to serve the ruling classes and to repress working class resistance, so the police get less bothered about their 'community' image and get ready to wipe out all political opposition.

The police aren't stupid. They didn't waste much time by taking advantage of the latest wave of riots to arm themselves with CS gas and plastic bullets. (Something they've wanted to do for years). And why not have a swipe at Anarchists by blaming them for the whole thing at the same time!

